

the

March 2010



CUTTING EDGE

news for and about the members of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League

Pete Pervi, Commandant / Mac McNeir, Editor

<http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

Life Changing Moment

NOTE – The following essay was authored by *Jordan Blashek*, Princeton 2009, who decided to decline his acceptance to medical school to join the U.S. Marine Corps and enter its Officer Candidate School... from which he graduated in December 2009. Written originally as an explanation – for his high school classmates – of his decision. The essay appeared as part of the February 18, 2010 edition of the *Current Jewish Times* website.



“You Joined Us” – That phrase is carved into a steel plaque that tauntingly guards the entrance to the Officers’ barracks at Camp Barrett in Quantico, VA. As I hobbled inside, exhausted from another 15-hour day, my roommate half-jokingly pointed to the plaque, *“Why did we do that again?”* I smiled. Today had been a long day.

Waking at 4:00 AM, we spent the next 9 hours outside in the pouring rain learning hand-to-hand combat and outdated bayonet techniques. Without warming layers, hats or gloves, our hands quickly went numb and our bodies started shaking uncontrollably in the 30-degree temperature.

Finally, we were sent back inside to clean our rifles, which must be spotless before we can wash off our

bodies. As 8:00 PM rolled around and we were still cleaning on a Friday night – when my high school and college friends were out at Happy Hours – I thought about that plaque on the wall: *Why exactly did I join, again?*

It’s a question I have tried to answer many times for my family and friends, but never feel as though I have fully conveyed my reasons. I made the decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps at the start of my senior year at Princeton, turning down an acceptance to medical school in the process. I kept the decision to myself until I broke the news to my shocked parents over Christmas Break. I ran through the litany of justifications for them: I wanted to serve my country. I wanted the camaraderie and the pride of being in the Marine Corps brotherhood. I needed the challenge to test my true capabilities and strength. I would receive the best leadership training on the planet, which would help me in any future career I chose. I wanted adventure and the chance to be a part of history in Iraq or Afghanistan. I wanted to exude that same confidence that I saw in every Marine officer I have met. Whether I convinced them or not, in the end, none of these “reasons” alleviated my parents’ understandable anxiety.

When I told my plans to anyone else, I felt as though I were talking to a brick wall – the Military, especially the Marine Corps, was simply outside their reality. My closer friends would nod their heads and say something to the effect of “Wow, that’s cool;” but, since I was the perennial flake of the group, most did not take my decision very seriously. And to be honest, even I was not quite sure that I would follow through with the choice.

(see *Life Changing Moment* on page 9)

CONTENTS...

Book Review – <i>The Unforgiving Minute</i> ...	12
<i>Caught in the Lens</i>	9
Chaplain’s Corner	5
<i>Coming Events</i>	10
Commandant’s Message	3
<i>Corps History</i>	7
<i>Corps Humor</i> –	
<i>You might be a Jarhead if...</i>	10
<i>Corps Quotation</i>	10
<i>Devil Dogs</i>	6
<i>Ermev Behind Name Change</i>	3
<i>Face of America – Bike Ride</i>	9
<i>From the Editor</i>	2
<i>Have You Heard?</i>	5
<i>He Sat His Chopper Down</i>	13
<i>I Need To Ask! Should It Be Three?</i>	13
<i>JJ Update</i>	11
<i>Junior Vice Commandant</i>	4
<i>Keep A Marine Alive!</i>	14
<i>Legislative Report</i>	8
<i>Lest We Forget</i>	5
<i>List of Officers</i>	2
<i>Once A Marine</i>	12
<i>Public Information</i>	6
<i>Senior Vice Commandant</i>	4
<i>VA Volunteerism</i>	7

the **CUTTING EDGE**

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- Be sure to keep us advised of your current email address to ensure prompt delivery.



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Visit the Department of Maryland web site at...
<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

I recently received a letter that took issue with an article appearing in the January issue of *the Cutting Edge*. The article, which appeared in the **Public Information** column, was intended to be a light-hearted spoof of the comparative wording of the various service anthems (hymns) as well as the advertising slogans associated with those services.

Since receiving this letter, I have reviewed the maligned article several times and can honestly say that neither I nor the article's contributor had the intent to slander or disparage members of any of our country's military organizations. Having served multiple tours in Vietnam, I had many opportunities to serve and interact with members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force... opportunities that allowed me to witness their contributions and their sacrifices first-hand. The memories of those times will be forever etched into my mind.

I'd also like to point out that I have numerous heroes... many of whom wear different uniforms. Of course, a large number are Marines of many eras; however, I also have heroes, who wore uniforms of services other than my own. Among my personal heroes are stalwarts such as **Colonel David Hackworth** and **1st Lieutenant Audie Murphy** of the **Army**; many nameless **Navy Corpsman**, who exposed themselves to hostile fire in order to save countless wounded Marines or to provide the last comforting words that those Marines, who did not survive, would ever hear; daring individuals like Air Force astronaut **Lt. Colonel Virgil 'Gus' Grissom**, who was one of the seven original Project Mercury astronauts, who – along with **Lt. Commander Roger Chaffee**, USN and **Lt. Colonel Edward White**, USAF – perished in the flash fire that tragically consumed their command module during testing on the launch pad at the Kennedy Space Center.

What I am trying to say is that the article in question was never intended to demean any member of any service or to impugn their integrity. I take my role as editor of *the Cutting Edge* very seriously. Neither I nor the contributors to this newsletter would ever purposely publish anything that we believe to be in poor taste. We respect everyone, who has provided honorable and faithful service to America, to believe otherwise – because of the article noted above – would be truly regrettable.

To those who nominated me to be the Detachment Commandant for the coming year... I am honored by your nomination and if elected, I will endeavor to prove worthy of your trust!

As always, I look forward to seeing all of you at our next monthly meeting!

The submission deadline for all **April** newsletter articles is **MIDNIGHT, Thursday, April 15, 2010!**



*New members are our life's blood!
Recruit a new member.*

Commandant's Message



Pete Pervi

Marines,

Once again we are approaching the end of another detachment year. Last month we held preliminary nominations for the detachment officers, who will server during 2010-2011.

Currently in nomination, we have:

- Detachment Commandant Wayne (Mac) McNeir
- Detachment Sr Vice Commandant Christopher Thompson
- Detachment Jr Vice Commandant Elwood (Woody) Bowman Jr.
- Detachment Judge Advocate Joseph Wright

At our **March meeting**, we will open the floor once more for nominations prior to conducting the elections.

We will also be selecting **detachment delegates to the Department of Maryland Convention**. Delegates will be electing the Department of Maryland Officers for the coming year as well as voting on other important items. **As a delegate – you will need to attend the Saturday, May 1st session**. If you are interested in serving as a delegate – please give your name to our current Adjutant during the March meeting.

Our **April meeting** will be a joint MCL and MCL Auxiliary session, where the newly elected officers of both the Auxiliary and Detachment will be installed. Immediately following the meeting, there will be a joint get together to celebrate the installation of our new leaders.

So as you can see, **the next two meetings are very important and all members should make every effort to attend**.

Semper Fi,

Pete Pervi

Commandant
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049,
Marine Corps League

Ermey Behind Name Change

NOTE – The following is a reproduction of a Marine Corps Times article (dated Feb. 25, 2010) by James K. Sanborn

Retired Gunnery Sgt. R. Lee Ermey, widely known for his performance as the sadistic drill instructor in the 1987 film “Full Metal Jacket,” headlined a Thursday news conference in Washington, D.C., calling to rename the Department of the Navy the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.



The event, at the Longworth House Office Building, was aimed at drumming up support for House Resolution 24, a bill authored by Rep. Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., that formally proposes the name change.

“We’re not asking for a promotion. We’re not asking for more money. We don’t want a uniform change,” Ermey said. “The only thing we want is for future Marines, who shed blood for their country, to at least get respect and receive honorable mention in the department they fall under.”

Jones has introduced a version of his resolution, which now has 367 co-sponsors, every year since 2001. Despite widespread support in the House, it has failed in the Senate each time.

For the eighth year, the language of the resolution was included in the National Defense Authorization Act, unanimously approved by the House Armed Services Committee in June.

Each year since 2001, however, the Senate has stripped Jones’ name change from the legislation. Jones is now waiting to see if it will happen again, but remains hopeful.

“I think we have a chance. We really do,” Jones said when asked if he thought the measure might pass the Senate this year.

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., introduced a sister bill in the Senate, but it has just two co-sponsors — Sens. Richard Burr and Kay Hagan from North Carolina.

(see Ermey on page 11)



From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



James T. Brady

In life, there are times of sorrow and there are times of joy; then in my case, there are times when both are manifested at the same moment.

March is now coming to an end and May is right around the corner... meaning that my tenure as Sr. Vice Commandant is coming to a close... definitely a time of sorrow!

However, a new, exciting, thoughtful, and caring individual with fresh ideas – **Chris Thompson** – has been nominated to replace me... truly a time of joy!

During this past year, as your Sr. Vice Commandant, I have had the pleasure of being in the shadow of **Pete Pervi**. So no matter what, even I looked good. The detachment has done well in fund raising, community activities, helping out at our VFW Post 160 home, and eating up a storm. Lord knows, no one in Detachment 1049 will ever go hungry.

I leave my position as Sr. Vice Commandant with the full knowledge that I did my best; more importantly, I leave this role in capable hands... hands that will carry on and do even better.

Now for some short business items. The **Detachment 1049 Marine of the Year Committee** has selected a nominee and again it seems that the award winners get better and better each year. I really did think that after me, the committee could never find another as worthy as me but it seems that they did and will continue to do so every year.

Woof Woof stuff, the **Pound 204 Dog of the Year Committee** has also selected a worthy candidate, who again, seems to be better than me – as implausible as it might seem. Is there a pattern developing here, where everyone is better than me (ha ha ha)?

I know some of these next items have been mentioned before and are addressed throughout this newsletter; but, some of them warrant being mentioned again – by me. The **5th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament** is coming up on May 3, 2010. We, in Detachment 1049, came up with the idea of having golf outing fund-raisers, which have proven to be a lot of work; but, rewarding undertakings which are a lot of fun as well. For those of you who don't play golf, I encourage you to assist in the running of the tournament as we can always use a few more good men and women. Your participation will go a long way in making the tournament a success... it will also allow you to share in the camaraderie of the moment and provide much needed assistance for the latest generation of wounded Marines... a most rewarding experience.

(see Senior Vice Commandant on page 12)

From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Woody Bowman

Fellow Members,

I am again focusing upon two topics – **membership** and **Color Guard** activities.

MEMBERSHIP

This month, we are welcoming three new members to our detachment: **Sinamin Stone** (currently on active duty), **David Reyes**, and **Frank Fleishman**. We also are acknowledging the addition of a new Life Member, **Joseph Jones**.

COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard will soon be participating in two events.

- The 14th Annual Confederate Navy Marine Corps Day, being commemorated on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 11:00 AM at St. Anne's Cemetery in Annapolis.
- The Ferndale Day Parade & Car Show, which will take place at 12:00 NOON on Sunday, May 2, 2010. The parade will start at North County High School. Participants should arrive by 11:00 AM.

Please plan on being present at the March meeting; so, you can participate in the nomination and election of detachment officers for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Semper Fi!

Woody

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Lest We Forget...

Richard Allen Baxter Sr., cousin of our own Kenny Webster and fellow Marine, joined the heavenly guard detachment of our Supreme Commander on February 15, 2010.

Born on September 6, 1946 in Baltimore, MD, Corporal Baxter served in the Corps from September of 1970 until September of 1972, when he was honorably discharged from VMFA-312 at MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina.

During his service, Corporal Baxter's performance earned him a Meritorious Mast. He was authorized to wear the National Defense and Good Conduct Medals.

He was predeceased by his father, Richard; and two brothers, Paul and Steven Baxter. He is survived by his mother, Rose Law of Mikado, MI; his wife of 40 years, Virginia Lee Baxter; son, Richard and his wife Juliana; son, Edward and his wife Laura; grandsons, Tristen and John; brothers, John and Tommie Baxter; and his sister, Bonnie Kennedy of Harrisville, MI.

Corporal Baxter was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 with members of his family and members of the Marine Corps League's Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 in attendance.

NOTE – Through an element of pure chance, Cpl. Baxter's interment coincided with that of Alexander Haig – a retired four-star General of the U.S. Army, former Secretary of State, and top adviser to three presidents.



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Chaplain's Corner

by Ken Rollins, Detachment Chaplain

Please keep all of the following members of our detachment family in your thoughts and prayers.

The Bynums – Denny has been transferred to the **Kernan** rehabilitation facility to continue the healing progress. As stated previously, he seems to react to voices and sounds but is still uncommunicative.

Kazuco is at home after her recent procedure and has an appointment with her Oncologist at the end of this month.

Frenchy Verrier was recently found to have a golf-ball sized tumor in his neck, which fortunately has not metastasized. He will begin chemotherapy next week and will likely alternate between chemo– and radiologic– therapy in the immediate future. Frenchy says he will initiate contact with all of his friends, once he feels ready.

The Dorns – As you know, **Charlie** has been at home for a while and is continuing to do well. **Beatrice** returned home this week and is improving daily.

Keep all of these fine people in your prayers and please notify me if you are aware of any Marines or Marine family members, who are sick, in distress, etc.



Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

Members of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 (Pete Pervi, Jim Brady, Chris Kalwa, and me) attended the interment of Kenny Webster's cousin, **Corporal Richard Allen Baxter Sr.** in Arlington National Cemetery. The service was conducted by the same Chaplain who presided over the interment of Kenny's cousin, **Corporal Paul Baxter** in Arlington on November 17, 2009.

At the same time, **General Alexander Haig** was being interred just a few 100 yards away. The only differences in the respective services were that General Haig had a band and cannon fire while Corporal Baxter had a lone bugler and a rifle salute. Except for those differences and the manner in which the remains were conveyed to their individual grave-sites, both services were essentially identical and conducted in a dignified and impressive manner.

(see Have You Heard on page 6)



Military Order of the Devil Dogs

The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

Pound 204 had a very successful Growl last month. We had a good showing and a very good donation of bones for the children's hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina. Last year, the Pound contributed \$280.03. With one more Growl to go, we have already contributed 385.02. If you recall, one Pound contributed \$19.97 more than we did last year. I think we will take the prize (pride and prestige) this year. We are determined not to be outdone. Please attend the next Growl and donate generously when you get your passport stamped.

The Pound still has three hounds who are in arrears for their 2010 dues. Get them paid soon. We really don't want to lose you. Send 15 big bones to the Dog Robber at **7944 Oakwood Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21061**. Make the check payable to **MODD, Pound 204**.

As always, keep the fleas at a safe distance.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog!

Woof-Woof,

Paul Taylor

PDD & Dog Robber



21% Medicare/TRICARE Cut

Unless Congress changes current law, Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors will be reduced 21% effective March 1, 2010. (The cut was originally scheduled for January 1, but legislation approved in December deferred the effective date for 60 days.) Without relief, these dramatic payments cuts will cause many doctors to stop seeing Medicare and TRICARE patients.

Congress must act IMMEDIATELY to stop the 21% cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to physicians now scheduled to take effect on March 1, 2010. Fixes were planned in national health reform legislation, but cannot wait while politicians figure out what to do with that massive, troubled package. Unless Congress acts now, millions of seniors and military beneficiaries risk having their doctors stop seeing them, and thousands of stroke/accident victims will start bumping against the therapy cap. Congress needs to reverse the 21% payment cut and preserve essential health care access for millions of seniors and military families.

Editor's Note –

I recently talked to representatives of both Maryland Senators and Congressman Ruppertsberger. I've asked for documentation on their specific stance on this issue. I was told that they all supported a delay until the end of March, which is now in effect and that they are working to keep this dastardly act from being enacted – at least for the immediate future.



Have You Heard?

(continued from page 5)

Captain Marco Le Gette (son of our own **Jim & Rita Le Gette**) and two other Marines from the Seal Beach Naval Depot will be running in the Los Angeles Marathon (26 miles) on March 21, 2010. They are running on their own, with no ties to programs like Wounded Warriors or other similar groups.



Please Support Our

5th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament



Monday,
May 3, 2010
9:00 AM

Bay Hills
Golf Club
Arnold, MD

For more information, contact
Rich Gonzales, Manny Airey, or James Brady



VA Volunteerism

by Ed Dahling, VAVS Officer

We need volunteers because there is always something we can do to help hospitalized veterans. Pushing patients in wheelchairs to their clinical appointments, serving coffee or delivering mail are just a few things we can do to show veterans, both men and women, how proud and grateful we are for their sacrifices.

We gladly listen to them, when they want to talk about their experiences, and they are so grateful for anything we do for them. They deserve help and attention from all of us. As citizens of this country, we should do all we can to show our support and gratitude for the many sacrifices made by the members of our military... past and present. They have gone beyond the call of duty to make this country safe and free for all of us. May god bless each and everyone of them!

Let us keep volunteering for veterans and when we volunteer we can be proud of our service. I recommend that anyone who is thinking about volunteering does so through the VA's Voluntary Service program. Young or old, the time you are able to spend talking to veterans and hearing their stories will more than validate your decision. You truly will enjoy what you do, and you will be proud to be a VA volunteer.



Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

3 March 1776

First Marine landing on hostile shores in the Bahamas.

6 March 1932

John Philip Sousa dies at age 79 in Reading, Pennsylvania.

8 March 1928

Captain Merritt Edson sets out on epic CoCo River patrol in search of Nicaraguan rebel leader Sandino.

8 March 1965

9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade lands at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam – first U.S. ground combat troops committed to that conflict.

9 March 1847

Captain Alvin Edson leads Marine battalion ashore with Army forces at Veracruz, Mexico.

11 March 1778

Marines aboard the frigate BOSTON, assisted in the engagement and capture of the British merchant ship MARTHA. Future President John Adams seized a musket and joined the Marines on deck until the frigate's commanding officer, Captain Samuel Tucker, sent him below for safety.

12 March 1824

Marines quell prison riot in Boston. Story published in **McGuffey's Reader** spreads Marine Corps fame.

13 March 1943

First Women Marine officer candidates arrive at U.S. Midshipmen School at Mount Holyoke College.

16 March 1927

4th Marines land in Shanghai, China and remain for fourteen years.

21 March 1945

General A.A. Vandegrift, 18th Commandant, becomes first Marine four-star general on active duty.

25 March 1804

Secretary of the Navy approves first formal Marine Corps uniform.

26 March 1945

Iwo Jima secured. Marines suffer 25,851 casualties.

31 March 1801

Lt. Colonel Commandant William W. Burrows & President Thomas Jefferson select site for Marine Barracks, 8th & I.



Semper Fidelis

Marine Corps League

Department of Maryland




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Legislative Report

by Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer



Caught in the Lens

Current Bills Update

Where to begin? There are numerous bills proceeding through the Maryland General Assembly that may be of interest to us.

A few but not all are summarized as follows:

HB's 1 & 43 and **SB's 1, 433 & 1052** deal with the *Subtraction Modification Allowance* – they seek to increase the current military retirement income tax deduction from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

HB's 56, 663, 1049 and **SB's 4 & 919** address the use of *slot machines* by non-profit organizations – these bills are still under consideration.

HB's 679 & 807 focus upon *military service credit* related to *state retirement and pensions*.

HB 722 explores the possibility of *Income Tax Exemption* relative to *Military Health Care Retirement*.

According to **Katie Sonntag**, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maryland Commitment to Veterans wants to hear from you. Veterans are being asked to complete a short online survey for feedback about Veterans health services at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/VeteransMCV.




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Our subject was born in Baltimore, Maryland in March of 1948. His high school years were spent at Glen Burnie High School, where he was a member of the Pep Club and 'Partners in Peace.' As a member of the latter group, he helped raise funds to build a school in Brazil... he subsequently was part of a ceremony where he personally presented the monies collected to the Brazilian Ambassador.

Immediately after graduation, he worked as a swimming instructor at both Fort Smallwood and Fort Meade as well as the manager of a baseball team in the Glen Burnie Recreational League. Then, in December of 1968, he embarked on his Marine Corps career by travelling to Parris



Island and being assigned to the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion's Platoon 3061. While undergoing his rebirth as a Marine, our subject also participated in several relay races as a member of both a 220 and 440 relay team.

After recruit training and infantry training at Camp Geiger in 1969, our young Marine was trained as an *Optical Instrument Repairman* and attained the rank of PFC at Quantico, Va. In 1969. He served the remaining

portion of his two year active duty commitment at Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton. Upon his separation from active duty in 1970, he served as a Marine Corps Reservist until being honorably discharged in December of 1974 having attained the rank of Corporal. His only foreign service was a brief six hour incursion into Tijuana, where he witnessed things that men of his age should never be forced to watch. He left the Corps having earned the National Defense and Good Conduct Medals as well as the Rifle Expert marksmanship badge.

The majority of his post Marine Corps employment was served as a Senior Water Plant Operator for Anne Arundel County. A member of AFSCME, he also served as a union Shop Steward for 24 years. He was the founder of and a participant in a youth education program that familiarized county children with the function of the Water Department. Our subject also served as a safety observer as well as Chairman of the Union County Safety Committee until he retired in 2005.

Our Marine married the former Jean Huntington on April 25, 1970. They have one son, Darren, who with the aid of his wife Nickie, have made our Marine and Jean proud grandparents of two lovely granddaughters – Abigail and Isabelle.

(see *Caught in the Lens* on page 12)

Life Changing Moment

(continued from page 1)

In the comfort of my college dorm, the decision to become a Marine Corps officer seemed glamorously abstract. However, on October 1, 2009 my decision suddenly became very real when I arrived at the Marine Corps' Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, VA.

My OCS experience was surreal. Along with 407 other "Candidates" – all college graduates with newly shaved heads – I ran around for 10 weeks carrying an M16 rifle, while the Marine Corps' famous drill instructors screamed increasingly creative insults at us. In reality, we were beginning the painful, yet deliberate process of transforming from civilians into Marine officers through some of the most intense training that exists in the US military. Meanwhile, the drill instructors continually evaluated our leadership potential as part of the time-honored tradition whereby enlisted Marines select the officers that will eventually lead them in combat. After nearly half of the officer candidates were dropped or dropped out on their own, we emerged from OCS standing a little taller and a little straighter on graduation day, December 11, 2009. That afternoon, I raised my right hand to swear the oath of office and receive my commission as a second lieutenant. That oath obligates me to serve a minimum of four years in uniform.

Ultimately, I joined the US Marine Corps because I believe that officers bear the most solemn responsibility in our nation, and that was a duty I could not, and should not, leave for others to assume. To say that I *wanted* that responsibility is not quite right, because being a Marine officer is not about one's self, wants or needs; it is about guiding the young 18 and 19 year-old Marines fighting this country's wars on our behalf. I decided that serving them was the highest honor and responsibility I could have at this point in my life. As one speaker at my commissioning ceremony explained:

"As second lieutenants, you must have a strong sense of the great responsibility of your office; the resources which you will expend in war are human lives. This is not about you anymore. This is about the young Marines who will place their lives in your hands. It is your job to take care of them, even when that means placing them in mortal danger. That awesome responsibility – the weight which now rests on you – is reflected in those gold bars which you will soon place on your shoulders."

That is why the plaque hangs in every portal through which we pass – *You Joined Us*. We chose to bear this responsibility and we must make absolutely sure we are prepared to fulfill it, because young American lives are at stake. If that means being cold and miserable; studying for ungodly hours; and going for days without sleep, then so be it. That is the price of the salute we receive from our Marines.

Five months into my service commitment, I have not regretted my decision for a moment. I already have unforgettable memories from my experience and new friendships with diverse and exceptional peers from all over the country. We have had moments of pure fun together and laughed harder than I ever thought possible. We have also been humbled by the stories and portraits of brave Lieutenants – those who fought and died after roaming the very halls where we now stand and their portraits hang. Most of all, I am immensely proud to bear the title of 'United States Marine,' an honor that I will carry with me my entire life. *Semper Fi*.



<http://www.operationwelcomehomemd.org/>



Please Support Lisa and Chris Le Gette, who will be riding with injured servicemen and women as part of the **Face of America 2010** bicycle ride on **April 24th & 25th**.

http://www.worldteamsports.org/index.php?option=com_civicrm&task=civicrm/contribute/pcp/info&reset=1&id=44



Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through June 2010. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at VFW Post 160, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 (410-766-9802).

MCL Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting

(Officer Elections)

22 March 2010 @ 1900 – Pete Pervi

MCL Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting

(New Officer Installations)

26 April 2010 @ 1900 – Pete Pervi

MCL Department of Maryland Convention, Ocean City, MD

29 April through 1 May 2010 – Bud Raines

MCL Detachment 1049, Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament

3 May 2010 @ 0700 – Richard Gonzales

MCL Detachment 1049 Friday Night Dinner

7 May 2010 @ 1800 – Pete Pervi

Memorial Day

31 May 2010

MCL Mid-East Division Convention

10 & 11 June 2010 – Rudy Garcia

Flag Day

14 June 2010

MCL Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting

28 June 2010 @ 1900 – TBD



Corps Quotation

“Desperate circumstances require desperate measures... We called in artillery so close that the shrapnel landed among us.”

Lt. Colonel William Weise
CO, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines
Republic of Vietnam

Corps Humor – You might be a Jar-head if...

(continued from last issue)

- You have a subscription to ‘Leatherneck.’
- You think your unit doesn’t PT enough.
- You think Motrin cures things.
- You wear your dog-tags to the beach.
- You’ve ever worked on a Harrier and truly wanted to fix it.
- You’ve ever been on a 3-day work detail picking up dead fish by hand out of a rancid lake under the hot August sun in Iwakuni.
- All your underwear still has your laundry number on it.
- You stencil your name on your jeans.
- You refer to regular clothes as ‘civvies.’
- You’ve ever ironed your sheets for field day.
- You practice rifle manual with a swab.
- You get your hair cut once a week.
- You’ve been to Whisper Alley.
- You’ve ever worn out an ironing board.
- You hang your dirty laundry from the foot of your bed.

(continued in next issue)

ESTABLISHED 1943
Garrison Rifle & Revolver Club, Inc.
is a
Charter Member
of the
Associated Gun Clubs of
Baltimore, Inc.

The Club offers training and classes in most of the shooting sports and promotes shooting sports for all ages and abilities. Garrison hosts the following events:

- Spring Pistol League
- Bullseye Pistol Championship
- Trap Shoot
- Jr's Club Shoot
- 4H State Match
- Club Club Feast
- Club Christmas Dinner

Garrison Rifle and Revolver members have the following facilities available for their use:

- Covered bench-rest equipped rifle, track position, and pistol range (25, 50, 75 & 100 yards)
- Indoor air rifle range
- Fly pistol, covered, outdoor, pistol range (25 & 50 yards)
- Ten point, covered, high power, rifle range (200 yards with butts)
- A live field, lighted, outdoor, trap range (automatic and manual trap feeds)
- Maxxon Hall club house with kitchen and restrooms
- Lower range house/meeting hall

Club meets every second Tuesday of each month except January which is the third Tuesday
12314 Montross Road
Montross, Maryland 21084-1220

For more information contact club secretary
Brian Beverly at (410) 437-4864
Email – garrisonclub@yahoo.com

JJ Update

NOTE – The following is reproduction of a letter (dated Feb. 12, 2010), which was sent to Pete Pervi by Mary James, the mother of John James (affectionately known as JJ), updating us on JJ's current condition. For those who may not know, Devil Dogs from Hound Dog Pound 204 have been providing JJ with diapers made necessary by his incontinence.

Hi everyone

We have had a few long months and it seems like we have a few longer months ahead of us. JJ has been having a few problems and it looks like the only way to help some of his problems is to put him through surgery. His legs and hips have been hurting, I took him to the see doctor and found out his hips are popping out and he will need surgery before long to place them back in place. JJ has been getting Botox on his legs and also releases done to get his legs and feet to loosen up, but it isn't working any more so now we are looking on placing a *Baclofen Pump* to help him with his muscles. Next week he has the first test to see if the pump will work, if it does we will go to the surgeon and set a surgery date for it. It will be a major surgery and we will have to stay in the hospital for between one and two weeks, plus another one to two when they do the hips. We are becoming very familiar with the *Pediatric ICU (PICU)* as JJ has to go there after every surgery, his *blood pressure* and *heart rate* have been giving him problems in general but it gets worse after surgery.



JJ & Thyme

Last week, right before the storm JJ had to go through surgery. He had some complications with his blood pressure and heart rate and we ended up in the PICU to control his problem. After fighting with some doctors and making a few threats, Thyme (JJ's service dog) was able to go into the PICU and stay right by JJ. She was very helpful every time the nurse came in to check JJ's blood pressure and his incision site. As a result, Thyme is now welcome in the PICU... any time no questions asked. JJ is doing a little better now as far as his surgery goes, but his ear seems to be having some problems and we are hoping he doesn't get sick this weekend and can hold until Tuesday when we go to see his doctor.

We are waiting for Tricare to approve the equipment JJ needs and right now they are taking their time and we are in great need of a lift and new activity chair for him. I have been fighting with Tricare and EFMP for a while now as we are only getting 40 hours a month for respite care and JJ and I are starting to need a little more than that! He is getting really big and I now need a lot more help to care for him. We will see what happens with that.

I will keep everyone posted on whatever happens with JJ in the next couple of months, I hope everyone is doing well.

Love to all

Mary (JJ's Mom)



ErmeY

(continued from page 3)

“Why can't we call it the Department of Navy and Marine Corps?” Roberts asked. “Why can't we add three words to right an injustice? Why can't we add three words to remind the Secretary of the Department of Defense and the world that the Marines are second to none?”

ErmeY said he struggles to see logic in those who oppose the name change.

“I can't imagine anyone looking one of these wounded veterans without arms or legs in the eyes telling them no.” ErmeY said. “How do you reason that?”

Other speakers included Gen. Anthony Zinni, former commander of U.S. Central Command; former Commandant Gen. Alfred M. Gray; Bronze Star recipient Sgt. James Eddie Wright, a Marine who lost both hands in combat in Iraq yet went on to become a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor; Michael Blum, the Marine Corps League's executive director; Tracy Della Vecchia, founder of MarineParents.com; and Dick Linn, whose son was killed in Iraq in 2005.

After the conference, ErmeY made his way to Bullfeathers of Capitol Hill, a nearby bar where he planned to hold a rally to drum up additional support and publicity for the departmental name change.



Senior Vice Commandant

(continued from page 4)

Purchasing **Department of Maryland Convention** raffle tickets is another good way to support our organization, even if you are not going to the convention. It isn't simply a social event in Ocean City – we do a lot of work behind the scenes. The \$10.00 or \$20.00 you spend will help to offset expenses associated with the purchase of office supplies, printing material, extra rooms for guests, and awards for Department level Marines. Don't forget about the Woof Woof stuff, every little bit helps... so help a little bit.

Before I close, I would like to make one last special plug for the **October Bull and Oyster Roast**. The food will be fantastic, the music will be outstanding, the location and time will be excellent; but, without you the membership attending, it will be a hollow and shallow event. So plan on attending and swapping some war stories, because I am running out of stories to tell about me and I would like to hear about you and you and you... well maybe not about Manny Airey.

That's all folk's, signing off as your Senior Vice Commandant and PDD

Jim Brady



Once A Marine...

Retired Sgt. Major fights off home intruder

NOTE – The following article appeared as a staff report in the March 10th online version of the Marine Corps Times.

A 63-year-old, retired Marine Sergeant Major fought off an intruder on March 5th in his Jacksonville, NC home.

Retired Sgt. Major George Shea said he awoke at 4:00 AM to his granddaughter crying out that someone was breaking in. Shea said he walked out of his bedroom to see a man up against a wall and the man appeared to be armed with a knife.

"He was standing there with a ski mask over his face," Shea said. "The first thing I did was grab for the mask and pull it off his head." The two men fought to the ground and the intruder fled, Shea said.

Police have arrested his granddaughter's ex-boyfriend Alan James Webster, 22, who has been charged with burglary and assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill. He was placed in Onslow County Jail with no bond.

"The Constitution says a home is a man's castle and I spent too much time defending our freedom to think that I was going to leave or surrender to some young punk," said Shea.

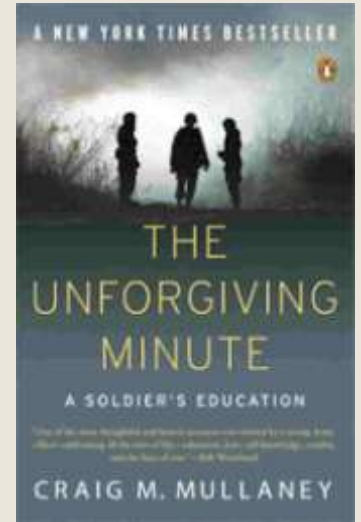


Book Review

The Unforgiving Minute

NOTE – I have ordered the following book because of the reviews I've read and heard – which includes the one that follows – and from personal examination of an excerpt that I found on the Internet. The following brief review is intended to do nothing more than engender your consideration of this book for your personal reading list.

The Unforgiving Minute is the extraordinary story of one soldier's singular education. From a hilarious plebe's-eye view of the author's West Point experience to the demanding leadership crucible of Ranger School's swamps and mountains, to a two-year whirlwind of scintillating debate, pub crawls, and romance at Oxford, Mullaney's winding path to the battlegrounds of Afghanistan was unique and remarkable. Despite all his preparation, the hardest questions remained. When the call came to lead his platoon into battle and earn his soldiers' salutes, would he be ready? Was his education sufficient for the unforgiving minutes he'd face? A fascinating account of an Army Captain's unusual path through some of the most legendary seats of learning straight into a brutal fight with Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, *The Unforgiving Minute* is, above all, an unforgettable portrait of a young soldier grappling with the weight of his hard-earned knowledge while coming to grips with becoming a man.



Caught in the Lens

(continued from page 8)

Our Marine is a Life Member of this detachment, where he has served in several positions – elected and appointed.

He is also a member of the Optimists, United Veterans of Anne Arundel County, American Legion Post 40, and is a stalwart member of the community! He was recently cited as the **Pasadena Voice's July 2009 Volunteer of the Month**.

We are proud to count this fine individual among our number!

Who is this detachment member?

The answer is at the bottom of page 13.





He Sat His Chopper Down

NOTE – The following is the reprint of a letter to the editor of the Sgt Grit Newsletter dated 11 March 2010.

I cannot for the life of me understand why some Marines look down their nose on USMC *Air Wingers*. I served with Bravo Company, 1st Bn., 9th Marines, III MAF – *The Walking Dead* – in Vietnam from November 13, 1965 to June 13, 1966 as a Navy Corpsman – exactly seven months. I have nothing but the highest praise and admiration for Air Wingers. They brought us everything we needed to conduct our ground operations against the VC/NVA. Food, ammo, mail, medical supplies, and even beer on occasion. Without them, a lot of Marines and Corpsmen would not be walking this earth today! We were based out of Marble Mountain, and supported by the magnificent pilots and air crewmen of MAG-16.

From my own personal perspective, I would not be alive today if not for their bravery. On June 13, 1965, a platoon of Marines, including attached members of Third AmTracs, became trapped in a mine field, and sustained numerous KIA's and WIA's. We were on the Ky Lam campaign at the time. Hearing the explosions, I grabbed another Corpsman (Doc Jim Gordon) and headed out. There were no engineers with us to sweep for mines, so we had to enter the area on our own. Both of us were WIA from separate mines at almost the same exact instance. I have no idea how long we laid there, bleeding out, but just as I was about to lose consciousness, a medevac helicopter magically appeared overhead. I watched in amazement as the pilot sat his chopper down right next to my body, in that mine field! They loaded the most serious of us WIA's aboard, and flew us to Charlie Med, and we were immediately triaged and sent to surgery. Doc Gordon was WIA yet again while laying in his rack at the hospital and the NVA sent B-2 rockets and mortar rounds into it in July, 1966. I had been med-evac'd to Clark AFB hospital in the Philippines just prior to the attack. Now flash forward to February 27, 1967, and after 8 1/2 months in various military hospitals, I was medically retired on a 70% disability rating. I have no regrets at all. I loved serving with Bravo 1/9, and if you were to ask me, I would tell you that they were the bravest Marines ever. As for those MAG-16 pilots, I hope they all received the DSC!

Semper Fi,

Ken 'Doc' Brooks

HM3/USN, Ret.
Senior Corpsman, Bravo 1/9 (1965-1966)



I Need To Ask! Should It Be Three?

Prior to 1915, the Medal of Honor was only authorized to enlisted sailors and Marines. Marine Corps officers who performed gallantly in combat were rewarded with **Brevet** promotion, a practice dating back to the American Revolutionary War in all branches of service. In 1921, **Marine Corps Order Number 26** established the Marine Corps Brevet Medal. The award was a one time issuance and retroactively recognized living Marine Corps officers who had received a brevet rank between the years 1861 to 1915. It was only issued to twenty Marine Corps active, retired, and discharged personnel.



The Brevet Medal was considered to be the equivalent of the Navy Cross, although in precedence it ranked just behind the Medal of Honor since those receiving it had received field commissions as Marine Corps officers, under combat conditions, and had performed feats of distinction and gallant service. The scarlet ribbon closely resembled the star-studded blue ribbon of the Medal of Honor.

In 1940, the Marine Corps declared the Brevet Medal obsolete, since the concept of brevet commissions was phased out of the United States military to be replaced by temporary and field commissions which were awarded

much more frequently than brevet ranks. One of the Marine officers earning this award was **1st Lieutenant Smedley Butler** for his service during China's Boxer Rebellion.



As we all know, **Smedley Butler** (officer) and **Dan Daley** (enlisted) are the only Marines to have won two medals of Honor. Given that the Medal of

Honor could not be awarded to officers during the era of the Boxer rebellion,

I feel obligated to ask... *Should Major General Smedley D. Butler – the only person to be awarded the Brevet Medal and a Medal of Honor for two different actions – be considered as having the equivalent of three Medals of Honor? What's your opinion?*



– Caught in the Lens Answer – Woody Bowman –



Marine Corps League
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049
PO Box 804
Severn, Maryland 21144-0804
(Address Correction Requested)



Urgent Help Needed to Keep a MARINE Alive!



Chuck Campbell is a former Marine who is an employee at Pohanka Automotive Group in Salisbury, MD. He told his boss he would soon quit because he would die. **He needs one million dollars to replace both of his lungs and to get on the waiting list.** Chuck is married with 4 teenagers and is still working with less than 20% lung capacity. The Salisbury Chamber of Commerce organized a raffle for a \$120,000.00 Mercedes and a condo in Florida at \$50.00 a ticket – drawing to be held on March 31, 2010. However, it now looks doubtful that they will sell enough tickets to save Chuck and have asked veterans to please help by either buying tickets or selling tickets to friends so Chuck can live.

To buy tickets call **443-614-6077** or go to www.newlungsforchuck.com.



Marine Corps League
Department of Maryland

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>