

the

CUTTING EDGE

January 2010

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/>

Toys for Tots - A Recap

Hopes for the 2009 Christmas season were tempered with the impact of a depressed national economy, diminished disposable income at the family level, and an uncertain future for most American citizens. One of the few things that did not change was the fact that many children would probably not experience the joy of the holiday season simply because their families could not afford to buy them toys.



Marines from Fort Meade and members of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 distribute toys to needy children at the Maryland City Elementary School. [Photo by Pete Pervi]

Fortunately, a number of ersatz elves disguised as Toys for Tots volunteers stepped up to the challenge of keeping the wonders of Christmas alive for many of those children. Locally, the challenge was borne by the members of two Marine Corps League Detachments (Anne Arundel County and Howard County), augmented by spouses, Marines from Fort Meade, as well as Navy and Marine Corps permanent personnel and midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy. These dedicated individuals worked tirelessly from approximately mid November through Christmas and accomplished what this reporter had believed to be impossible – they obliterated our previous record by collecting approximately 15,000 more toys than last year and making this year’s effort a resounding success.

Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 teamed with Howard County’s SSgt Karl G. Taylor, Sr. Detachment 8097 and distributed toys to 14,890 needy children in their assigned counties – 837 of those children were military dependents.

(see Toys for Tots on page 7)

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NOTE: The **Young Marines** column was received too late for publication in this issue. Please see the MCL bulletin board for a copy of this year’s winning essay in the annual **Patriot’s Pen** contest. The winner, for the second consecutive year, was Skyler Wisomierski, a Staff Sergeant with the Annapolis Young Marines.

the **CUTTING EDGE**

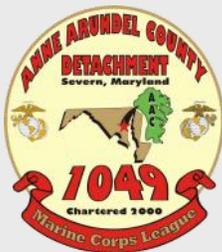
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- Be sure to keep us advised of your current email address to ensure prompt delivery.



Commandant – *Pete Pervi*

Senior Vice-Commandant – *James T. Brady*

Junior Vice-Commandant – *Woody Bowman*

Judge Advocate – *Manny Airey*

Adjutant – *Mac McNeir*

Auxiliary President – *Desiree Curtin*

By-Laws Committee Chairman – *Danny Fischio*

Chaplain – *Ken Rollins*

Color Guard Commander – *Woody Bowman*

Historian – *Victor Halme*

House Chairman – *Ken Rollins*

Legislative Officer – *Jim Le Gette*

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Public Information Officer – *Ed Dahling*

Quartermaster – *Fred Kaminski*

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain – *Michael R. Hadley*

Sergeant-at-Arms – *Chris Kalwa*

Toys for Tots Coordinator – *Pete Pervi*

VAWS Officer – *Ed Dahling*

Web Sergeant – *Michael R. Hadley*

Young Marines Commander – *George Martin*

Embroidered detachment patches are available for purchase from the Adjutant and Judge Advocate for the bargain price of \$3 each.

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



From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

Well, 2009 is a memory and a hectic schedule of events for the next few months is about to begin – the Mid-Winter Conference, Detachment Elections, Department and Division Conventions, and the 2010 edition of the Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament. Our detachment has a track record of involvement and success and I know that our members will continue to be involved and build upon that record.

On the subject of Detachment Elections, I wish to make it known that due to personal obligations, I would like to limit my role for the coming fiscal year to that of newsletter editor. I do plan to continue to provide ‘grunt labor’ for the various detachment activities as I have in the past. Bottom line, I am asking each of you to consider the assumption of my current role as either Detachment Paymaster or Adjutant. I will make myself available to each of my successors to ensure a smooth transition and to provide help on an as-needed basis.

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

Since it is our goal to have a copy of the newsletter in the hands of our membership prior to the meeting, the submission deadline for all February newsletter articles is **MIDNIGHT, Thursday, February 11, 2010!**



Chaplain's Corner

from Ken Rollins, Detachment Chaplain

Brandon Kalwa, son of our own **Chris** and **Erica Kalwa**, is scheduled to come home from the Johns Hopkins/University of Maryland rehabilitation facility on February 20th. Your prayers for his continued improvement would be sincerely appreciated.

Kazuco Bynum, (wife of **Denny Bynum**) is scheduled for surgery on the 27th of this month. Please keep her and the members of her family in your prayers.

Dick Savage, is continuing his recovery from double-pneumonia. Doctors were pleased with the results of his recent check-up and Dick is now trying to regain his strength. Keep Dick in your prayers.

Hershel ‘Woody’ Williams, Medal of Honor winner is now at home, doing well, and back on the road to recovery.

Please notify me if you are aware of any Marines or Marine family members, who are either sick or in distress; as well as, any Marine or family member, who may have passed-away.



Commandant's Message



Pete Pervi

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

With the new year, comes an opportunity to start thinking about several matters that should be of interest to you... my fellow detachment members. Each of you should take the time to think about these topics and then make your feelings known to the appropriate individuals.

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND MARINE OF THE YEAR – 2010

This detachment will be submitting one (1) name for this award on 24 February 2010. So if you believe that there is an individual who deserves statewide recognition as the Department of Maryland Marine of the Year, you need to do the following:

- On a piece of paper, provide the individual's name and a minimum of three (3) reasons as to why that individual deserves the award. Please note that you can recommend any member of the Marine Corps League, who is a member in good standing in any Maryland Detachment.
- You must sign your recommendation – unsigned recommendations will not be considered!
- Place your recommendation within a sealed envelope, address the envelope to the Detachment Adjutant (Mac McNeir), and place it in the Detachment mailbox at the Post.

Names will be accepted until 12 February 2010. After that, the Adjutant, Senior Vice Commandant, and the Judge Advocate will review all nominees and select one candidate for submission to the Department.

The Department of Maryland Marine of the Year will be announced at the 2010 Department Convention, which will be held at the Princess Royal Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland (29 April to 1 May).

DETACHMENT 1049 MARINE OF THE YEAR – 2010

Nominations for the Detachment Marine of the Year will be accepted until 22 March 2010. If you wish to nominate an individual, you will need to do the following:

- On a piece of paper, provide the individual's name and a minimum of three (3) reasons as to why that individual deserves the Marine of the Year award.
- You must sign the paper. Unsigned recommendations will not be considered!
- Seal your recommendation in an envelope.
- Mark the envelope with 'DET. 1049 MOY' and place it in the Detachment mailbox at the Post.

The members of the Detachment Marine of the Year Committee will collect the envelopes, review the nominees, and then select the winner. The Detachment 1049 Marine of the Year will be announced at the Detachment Meeting scheduled for 26 April 2010.

DETACHMENT 1049 ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2010

It is time for you to start thinking about who you would like to lead the Detachment during the fiscal year 2010 – 2011. Candidates are needed for the following positions. Please remember, that any **regular member in good standing** may run for office.

- Detachment Commandant
- Detachment Senior Vice Commandant
- Detachment Junior Vice Commandant
- Detachment Judge Advocate

(see *Commandant's Message* on page 5)

From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



James T. Brady

Greetings and Woof-Woof:

I trust all of you had a very special Holiday Season and made it through the snow storm OK.

I am sure that all of you are aware of our successful **2009 Toys for Tots Campaign**; so, I'll just say *Ooorah!* – for a job well done. Remember Pete Pervi is looking for someone to fill his shoes for the 2010 toy drive, so step up and help.

Nominations are needed for both the **Detachment 1049 Marine of the Year** and **Pound 204 Dog of the Year**. Any member of Detachment 1049 can nominate a fellow Marine for the Detachment Marine of the Year Award; however, nominations for the Pound 204 Dog of the year can only be made by Devil Dog's belonging to our pound.

Nominations need to be made in writing and should include the *name of the nominee* as well as a brief list of that individual's *contributions and accomplishments*. Your written nomination may be either formal or informal, sealed in an envelope, and either placed in the detachment mail slot at the Post or presented to the **Adjutant (Mac McNeir)** for appropriate routing. All nominations received will then be submitted to the appropriate review committee for consideration. The committees for both awards consist of the last three award recipients (other recipients can sit in on the consideration of nominees as well). If you forget any of this you can just give me your selection as I am on both committees and I will make sure your candidate is given due consideration. After all, you all know how trustworthy I am... ha ha ha!

The **Mid-Winter Conference & Growl** will be taking place in **Falls Church, Virginia** from **11 to 14 February 2010**. Our detachment was well represented at last year's conference and a great deal of useful information was obtained by those in attendance. Please give some consideration to joining many of your fellow detachment members, who are planning to attend this year's conference. You won't regret it and you will definitely have a good time.

On a similar note, it's not too early to start making your reservations at the **Princess Royal Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland** for our **Department Convention & Pack Growl** scheduled to take place from April 29th through May 1st. This is definitely another *not to be missed* event!

(see *Senior Vice Commandant* on page 9)

From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Woody Bowman

Fellow Members,

This month's article focuses upon two topics – **membership** and **Color Guard** activities.

MEMBERSHIP

I recently mailed out **delinquent dues notifications** to 13 members of our detachment. Most are only behind in their current year's dues while a few others still owe dues for both 2008 and 2009.

Our current membership figures are summarized below.

LIFE MEMBERS	
Regular	73
Associate	10
Multiple.....	6
Total	89
ANNUAL MEMBERS	
Regular	32
Associate	8
Total	40
DELINQUENT MEMBERS	
Regular	12
Associate	1
Total	13
TOTAL ROSTER	
142 Members	

COLOR GUARD

During the past year, our Color Guard – augmented by other members of our detachment – played a significant role in approximately 30 events. These events included veteran's ceremonies, school presentations, fraternal organization rites, and numerous other civic events. I would like to thank the following members for their contributions to these events!

Manny Airey	Ray Gonzales	Pete Pervi
Charles Dorn	Chris Kalwa	Charles Quick
Paul Downey	Tom Maiorana	Ed Ross
Fred Downey	Mac McNeir	Charles Young
	Spike Miller	

Semper Fi!

Woody

Live or work at Camp Lejeune before 1987?

You may
have been
exposed to
contaminated
drinking water.

Register with the
Marine Corps
by calling
(877) 261-9782
Monday – Friday
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
or by going online to
www.marines.mil/clwater



Registered individuals
will be mailed
summary results
when independent
research initiatives
are complete.

Commandant's Message (from page 3)

The process for nominating/electing detachment officers is described as follows:

- During the meeting on **22 February 2010**...
 - We will accept initial nominations from the floor.
- During the meeting on **22 March 2010**...
 - We will accept final nominations from the floor.
 - Once the nomination process is completed, regular members of the detachment, who are present at the meeting, will cast their vote for each detachment officer position.
- During the meeting on **26 April 2010**...
 - The newly elected officers will be sworn in and assume their posts.

Remember this is your detachment!

This is the perfect time to make your wishes known.

- If you believe an individual deserves recognition as 'Marine of the Year,' let the appropriate people know!
- If you believe that one of your fellow members would make a good detachment officer and lead the detachment in a direction that you prefer, make the effort to vote him or her into office!
- If you want to make a difference or simply want to be more involved... run for office!

Department of Maryland Convention

As you know our annual Department of Maryland Convention is coming up at the end of April. One of the ways we try to cover the cost of the convention is to sell advertisements in the convention book. To help our members show their support, we will be purchasing a **Patrons' Ad** for **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049**. Please show your support for our Detachment and our Department by putting your name and your spouse's name in the ad. The cost is **\$5.00 per name**.

To participate in this endeavor, provide your name and/or your spouse's name – spelled the way you want it/them to appear in the ad and the appropriate fee – to the Adjutant at our next Detachment meeting.

Semper Fi,

Pete Perui

Commandant
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049,
Marine Corps League





VA Volunteerism

from Ed Dahling, VAWS Officer

A new online version of the **VA Application for Health Benefits**, VA Form 10-10EZ, is now available. This new and improved online application makes it easier for Veterans to complete the form. Also, Veterans will now be able to save a partially completed form on their computer, and return to finish it at a later time. Previously a Veteran was required to start all over if they were unable to finish an application because of an interruption or needing time to find additional documents. For more information, go to the Improved Online 10-10EZ application at the following URL.

<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>

With the recent **Priority Group & Enrollment Relaxation**, and other ongoing evaluation and changes by the VA, you may now be eligible to enroll with the VA for health care services. You can apply for care by completing the online **VA Form 10-10EZ**, Application for Health Benefits, and the VA will identify those health care benefits for which you qualify.

If you need assistance, call the VA's toll free number – **1-877-222-VETS** (8387), Monday through Friday, between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM, Eastern Time.



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
87th National Convention
KOURY CONVENTION CENTER
Greensboro North Carolina
GREENSBORO NORTH CAROLINA

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
SEMPER FIDELIS

A Tribute to
Lt. General John A. Lejeune

MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOG

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
SEMPER PARATUS

Time Out
Bar & Grill

7774 Outing Avenue
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-255-1180



Public Information

from Ed Dahling, Public Information Officer

What Makes a Marine a Marine?

Ask a Marine what's so special about the Marines and the answer would be *'Esprit de Corps'*, an unhelpful French phrase that means exactly what it looks like – the Spirit of the Corps. But what is that spirit and where does it come from?

The Marine Corps is the only branch of the U.S. Armed Forces that recruits people specifically to fight. The Army emphasizes personal development (*'An Army of One'*); the Navy promises fun (*'Let the journey begin'*); and the Air Force offers security (*'It's a great way of life'*). Missing in all of those advertisements is the hard fact that a soldier's lot is to take lives at the risk of his own and perhaps to suffer and die for his country.

Even the thematic music of the services reflects this evasion. The Army's *Caisson Song* describes a pleasant country outing over hill and dale, lacking only a picnic basket. *Anchors Aweigh*, the Navy's celebration of the joys of sailing, could have been penned by Jimmy Buffet. The Air Force's song is a lyric poem of blue skies and engine thrust. All is joyful and invigorating, and in the main, safe. There are no snipers in the hills or land mines in the dales, no torpedoes or cruise missiles threaten the ocean cruise, and no bandits are lurking on your 'six' to shoot you out of the sky in the wild blue yonder. The Marines' Hymn, in contrast, is all combat. *'We will fight our country's battles... first to fight for right and freedom... we have fought in every clime and place where we could take a gun... in many a strife we have fought for life and never lost our nerve.'*

The choice is clearly made. You may join the Army to go to adventure training, or join the Navy to go to Bangkok, or join the Air Force to go to computer school. You join the Marine Corps to go to war! But the mere act of signing the enlistment contract confers no status in the Corps. The Army recruit is told from his first minute in uniform that, *'You're in the Army now, soldier!'* The Navy and Air Force enlistees are sailors or airmen as soon as they get off the bus at their recruit training center. The new arrival at Marine Corps boot camp is called a *recruit*, or worse... a lot worse; but, never, never, ever a Marine. Not yet... maybe never. A Marine recruit must earn the right to claim the title of UNITED STATES MARINE – failure to do so results in a return to civilian life without hesitation or ceremony.



Toys for Tots (from page 1)

The rest of this article will focus upon some facts and figures about this year's drive.

TOTAL TOYS (MONIES) COLLECTED

Nationally

Toys16.7 million
 Money\$12 million
 (does not include donations made directly to the foundation)
 Children Served7.5 million

Locally

Howard County22,746
 Anne Arundel County23,767
 TOTAL46,513

ELVES

Marine Corps League, Auxiliary & Spouses

Manny Airey	Jim Legette	Phil Schwarzenberg
Woody Bowman	George Martin	Chris Thompson
Nila Caulder	Mac McNeir	Michelle Thompson
Desiree Curtin	Dawn Parker	Ken Webster
Bob Foley Jr.	Patty Robidoux	Joe Wright
Ray Gonzales	Ed Ross	Chasity Wright
Guy Hall	Dick Savage	Joseph Wright Jr.

Marine Corps – Fort Meade

LtCol Aaron Low	Sgt Quinn Le	LCpl David Cooper
Capt Miriam Moore	Sgt Lisa O'Connor	LCpl Frederick Grant
MGySgt Mark Sherman	Cpl Brian Elm	LCpl Jonathan Krull
GySgt Michael Britton	Cpl Justin Lefkowitz	LCpl Brian Nelson
Gysgt Antwaun Gibson	Cpl Paul Maloney	Lcpl Sarah Novotny
GySgt Jefferson Mass-Rodriguez	Cpl Jacob Medley	Lcpl Chelsea Steinbrecher-Hoffman
SSgt Nancy Aguilar	Cpl Laura Oluich	Lcpl Merideth Watts
SSgt Craig Erie	Cpl Mindi Rival	Pfc Bruno Bego
SSgt George Frese	Cpl Aaron Schmitz	Pfc Justin Boling
SSgt Richard Kellis	Cpl Dwayne Smith	Pfc Tyler Bolken
SSgt Shane Lisowski	Cpl Philip Underwood	Pfc Elizabeth Cisneros
Sgt Andrew Bayers	Cpl Derwent Vaughan	Pfc Jacob Lamar
Sgt Sean Ferraro	LCpl Tyler Bochman	Pfc Michael Petersheim
Sgt Catherine Funke	LCpl John Brewington	Pfc Garry Welch
Sgt Brian Griffith	LCpl Mary Connolly	Pfc Vincent White

United States Naval Academy

Col John Kennedy (USMC)	Midn Christina Danai
Maj Cory Murphy (USMC)	Midn Christopher James DeMatteo
Maj Dan Rubel (USMC)	Midn Kellye Renae Denney
GySgt Carl Myers (USMC)	Midn Julie Devlin
MA1 Michael Moseley (USN)	Midn Robert J. Dixon Jr.
MA1 (SW/AW) Michael Mann (USN)	Midn Sean Q. Dzierzanowski
MA2 Joshua Ragusa (USN)	Midn Michele Lynn Gisoni
MASA Hanna Benge (USN)	Midn Sarah Elise Grant
Midn Caroline Page Barlow	Midn Ethan Andrew Harvey
Midn Leshay Lillian Bernstein	Midn Michael Anthony Hopp
Midn Kerry Kathleen Brady	Midn John Alfred James III
Midn Amanda Jane Buckley	Midn Blaine Andrew Lander
Midn Benjamin Edward Clark	Midn Kristin Marie Lein
Midn Timothy Paul Cline	Midn Nathan Philip Liversedge

(next column →)



Corps History

by Vic Halme

4 January 1991

Marine helicopters evacuate 281 people from U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia.

10 January 1995

2,600 U.S. Marines deployed to Somalia (Operation United Shield) to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops from Somalia.

18 January 1951

Marines of the 1st Marine Division begin mop-up operations against guerrillas in the Pohang, South Korea region, following their epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir.

19 January 1929

Brigadier General Smedley Butler's 3rd Marine Brigade disbanded at Tiensin, China.

20 January 1968

The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North.

22 January 1969

Operation Dewey Canyon began with the airlift of the 9th Marines and supporting artillery into the A Shau/Da Krong Valleys.

25 January 1856

Marines and seamen from the U.S.S. DECATUR went ashore at the village of Seattle, Washington, to protect settlers from Indian raids.



United States Naval Academy – continued

Midn Kendra M. McClain	Midn Samantha Anne Smith
Midn Catherine McHone Crum	Midn Stephanie Nicole Stamm
Midn Hans Antoon Nowak II	Midn Danielle Marie Steele
Midn Matthew Joseph Olson	Midn Brook Mason Stevens
Midn Kristin Rae Otterson	Midn Nicole Marie Stockham
Midn Astrid Rivas	Midn Amanda Kristine Taylor
Midn Michael John Sheehan	Midn Kara Lynn Yingling

As you can see, there were many individuals who contributed significantly to the success of this year's drive; however, often overlooked are the actual contributors of the toys. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the generosity of individual donors, corporate donors (and their employees), and many other selfless people – some of whom I have undoubtedly overlooked. To all of these very generous people... a very sincere **THANKS!**

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to our local Santa – none of our success over the past few years would have been possible without his initiative, his dedication, and his patience. On behalf of all of us who benefited from his leadership...

Thanks, Pete Pervi!





Legislative Report

from Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

The **Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP)** is available to a wide array of DOD related members, both military and civilian. HAP is administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers in order *‘to assist eligible homeowners who face financial loss when selling their primary residence (home) in areas where real estate values have declined...’*

Inquiries can be made via: <http://hap.usace.army.mil/> or for Maryland: **1-800-861-8144**.

House Bill **HR-24**, a resolution to *rename the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps*, now has 362 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives with minimal support within the Senate. Senator Pat Roberts (R-Kansas) has introduced a sister bill in the Senate. Congressman Walter Jones (R-NC) continues to press his resolution.

The **Inquiry Routing and Information System (IRIS)** maintained by the Department of Veterans is available online – Connect via your Internet browser (www.va.gov) and then click on the *Contact the VA* option. Once posted, your question(s) will be automatically routed to the appropriate office and a response will be forwarded to you.



A Day in a Grunt’s Life...



U.S. Marine – loaded with his heavy pack, mortar equipment, ammo, food, and water – pauses in the heat, to rest in the Nawa district of Afghanistan’s Helmand Province on July 4, 2009.

NOTE: I received this photo in an email – Source of the information and the identity of the photographer are unknown.



Devil Dogs



The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof woof,

The Snow Dog shed its white fur all over the place the weekend prior to Santa Dog's visit. Consequently, the Pound Dog House was inaccessible and we were unable to hold our quarterly Growl. The biggest setback of that was that we were unable to collect passport stamp fees, which are collected for donation to a children's hospital in the vicinity of the Supreme Growl. Not to worry! The Pound Police Dog has assured me that we will make up for it at the next Growl on 21 February.

A great big doggy thanks for all you Dogs who helped the League collect Toys for Tots this season. That is another very worthy endeavor.

The Pound still has about a dozen 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!

Paul Taylor

DD & Dog Robber

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



SHAMROCK

AWARDS & ENGRAVING

(410) 766-4866

FAX: (410) 766-7277

M/W/F 9:00 - 4:30

T/T 9:00 - 7:30

SAT 9:00 - 1:00

900 Crain Highway North
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

TINA TODD
Assistant Manager

shamrockawards@erols.com

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

Have You Heard?



by Mac McNeir

This month's column focuses upon **Ken Webster's** stepson, **Thom Stranger**, who selflessly demonstrated the ultimate spirit of giving during this holiday season. In December 2009, Thom donated a kidney to his brother-in-law, **Mike Mullen**.



Michelle, James, Thom, and Justin Stranger
(Photo provided by Webster Family)



Mike and Amy Mullen
(Photo provided by Webster Family)

Mike's health began to decline in 2005 and it was not until 2006 that he was diagnosed with a kidney disorder known as **IgA Nephropathy**. Two years later, Mike's kidney function had significantly worsened and he ultimately became unable to work. In July of 2009, Mike's doctor informed him that he would need a kidney transplant; so, the search for a donor began immediately. Although many family members were tested as potential kidney donors, none matched Mike's O-Negative blood type.

Knowing that he was classified as a 'universal donor' because of his blood type... Thom decided at that point to donate one of his kidneys to his brother-in-law. In September of 2009, Thom was determined to be an acceptable match and the transplant approval process began. Finally, on December 11, 2009, Thom's left kidney was removed and subsequently implanted into Mike. Both Thom and Mike are recovering well and have developed very positive feelings about the experience.



Senior Vice Commandant *(from page 4)*

Moving right along, the **Marine Corps League's 87th National Convention** will be taking place in **Greensboro, North Carolina** from **8 to 13 August 2010**. Detachment 1049 & Pound 204 will be very well represented and a number of Dogs will be obtaining their pedigrees. This is another opportunity to have a great time and gather a lot of very useful information.

Everyone benefits by being part of these events... the Marine's who participate as well as their respective Detachments and Pounds. Any Marine or Dog who would like to attend any of these events but requires more information in order to make up their mind should see me... at any time.

As I mentioned in the last issue of our newsletter, I highly encourage all of our members – especially the younger amongst us – to think about seeking an office within the detachment. I know it's hard to believe, but some of us older members are ready to relinquish leadership to the 'new breed' of energetic individuals armed with fresh, innovative ideas. April will be upon us real soon; so, consider running for office armed with the knowledge that you will receive the full support of our members... (at least mine). **Remember! All Marines are born leaders, who embrace each opportunity to show their stuff.**

Lead, Follow or get out of the way!

Jim Brady



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

25 January 2010 @ 1900 – Pete Pervi

MCL National Mid-Winter Conference, Falls Church, VA

11,12 &13 February 2010 – MCL National Website

MODD Pound 204 Growl

21 February 2010 @ 0900 – Jack Severn

MCL Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting

22 February 2010 @ 1900 – Pete Pervi

MCL Detachment 1049 Friday Night Dinner

5 March 2010 @ 1800 – Pete Pervi

MCL Department of Maryland General Meeting, Bowie, MD

6 March 2010 @ 0900 – Paul Taylor

MODD Maryland Pack Growl, Bowie, MD

6 March 2010 @ 1300 – Mike Hadley

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 Humor

You Might Be A Jarhead If...

- Your dream home is located in base housing.
- You've ever rolled pennies to buy beer on a weeknight.
- You've ever sold blood to buy beer.
- You met your wife at a strip joint.
- Your kid has a high & tight.
- You still have your full basic issue.
- You refer to McDonald's food as "chow."
- You've ever read the "Guidebook for Marines" for fun.
- You still know all eleven General Orders.
- You call your friends "Devil Dog."
- Your picture is outside the Career Planner's office.
- You have whitewalls on your head, but not your car.
- You don't drink on duty section.
- You think that officers fly planes because they are too stupid to work on them.

(continued in next issue)



Corps Quotation

"When word got around that the bombs had forced the Japanese surrender, we knelt in the sand and cried. For all our manhood, we cried. We Were going to live!"

Unidentified Army Veteran,
who had been scheduled to be part of
the invasion of Japan

Marine Awarded Navy Cross

for Afghan Heroics

NOTE – This is a reprint of an article by **Matt Orr** appearing in the online edition of the **Stars and Stripes** for December 20, 2009

CAMP SCHWAB, Okinawa — A 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion Marine here received his nation’s second highest award for valor.

In a ceremony at Recon Point, **Gunnery Sergeant John Mosser** was awarded the Navy Cross medal for his actions during a deadly battle in Afghanistan in June.



Major Danny Strelkauskas, now the commanding officer of Company F, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., attended the ceremony to pin on Mosser’s medal.

Strelkauskas was Mosser’s team leader during that firefight in Afghanistan and has received the Silver Star for his part in the battle. The two of them were leading a team of more than 20 Marines of Company H, 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, when the small unit was attacked.

General James B. Laster, commanding general of 3rd Marine Division, also was present for the ceremony.

“Where do we find such men?” Laster said. “It is my opinion that we don’t find them. They find us. They hear the sound of guns, and they respond.”

Mosser was the leader of a Marine patrol that was pinned down by heavy sniper and automatic-weapons fire in a small valley on June 26.

“I had been in firefights before but not like that,” Mosser said Friday. “It was unique. The enemy was well entrenched and firing at us from a high angle above. We were just reacting. There wasn’t much thinking — just return fire and take cover.”

Mosser’s Navy Cross citation said the Gunnery Sergeant’s reaction was gallant, that he helped save Marines during the bloody battle.

“He single-handedly dragged a wounded Marine over 35 feet to a covered position and administered first aid,” the citation said in part, describing one of Mosser’s heroics during the firefight. “With the entire patrol desperately pinned down, one Marine killed, and five more severely wounded, he devised a plan to break contact and extract his team.”

He then called for and adjusted close air support, dragged that wounded Marine a second time to safety and directed the Marines still in the fight.

Continually exposing himself to enemy fire, he maneuvered the remaining members of his team still trapped in the ambush, all the time constantly engaging the enemy until everyone was safe.

“I wasn’t the only one doing things that day,” Mosser said. “The other Marines and Sailors that were with me are some of the bravest people I have had the honor of serving with.”

Strelkauskas said the Gunny was humble.

“There should have been a lot more of us that died that day,” Strelkauskas said, “but because of his heroic actions, we made it out of there.”



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Roy Grinnell's painting of a Marine 'Wildcat' scoring a kill over Henderson Field on Guadalcanal. Note that the red ball that once appeared in the center of the white-star insignia has been eliminated to prevent on American planes from being mistaken for Japanese. [An excerpt from **Semper Fi**, by Col. H. Avery Chenoweth, USMCR (Retired) with Col. Brooke Nihart, USMC (Retired) and published by Main Street, a division of Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. of New York.]