

the CUTTING EDGE

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

Joe Wright, Commandant (cmdt@mclaacdet1049.org) / Mac McNeir, Editor (editor@mclaacdet1049.org)

236th Celebrated in Every Clime & Place



MCAS Cherry Point – (Right to left) Marines, dressed in uniforms worn during the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and the Boxer Rebellion, stand at parade rest during the 236th Marine Corps Birthday Cake-cutting Ceremony and Historical Uniform Pageant in front of the Christian F. Schilt building on November 8th. Marines and Sailors participating in the ceremony were dressed in different uniforms the Marine Corps and Navy have worn throughout history ranging from Continental Marines to present day Marines.

[Photo by LCpl Cory D. Polom]

As every Marine knows, November 10th is a very special occasion that is celebrated each year by all Marines, whether serving on active duty, serving as reservists, or simply recollecting special times shared with other Leathernecks – which for some, took place a long, long time ago. Regardless of where they might find themselves – in training commands, major bases like Pendleton and Lejeune, reserve units, VFW halls, or combat zones – they continue the tradition begun in 1921 by our 13th Commandant, General John A. Lejeune. As the editor of this publication, I would like to take this opportunity to tell my fellow detachment members that it is an honor to know each and everyone of you and to have been able to celebrate this occasion with you!

Happy Birthday & Semper Fi!

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

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Commandant – Joseph Wright

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Junior Vice-Commandant – Ed Dahling

Judge Advocate – Charles Luthardt Jr.

Adjutant – Dave Wells

Auxiliary President – Dawn Parker

By-Laws Committee Chairman – Danny Fischio

Chaplain – Ken Webster

Color Guard Commander – Woody Bowman

Historian – Victor Halme

House Chairman – Vacant

Legislative Officer – Vacant

Newsletter Editor – Mac McNeir

Paymaster – Ed Dahling

Public Information Officer – Vacant

Quartermaster – Fred Kaminski

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain – Jake Jahelka

Sergeant-at-Arms – Ray Sturm

Toys for Tots Coordinator – Vacant

VAWS Officer – Vacant

Web Sergeant – Michael R. Hadley

Young Marines Commander – George Martin



Award Winner

Marine Corps League
National Newsletter Competition
(Detachments of More Than 100 Members)

Visit the Department of Maryland web site at...

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

Most of us are still recovering from **Thanksgiving** and those of you who share my beliefs are currently immersed in those hectic activities associated with preparing for the **Christmas** and **New Year** holidays. Please pause to **remember the less fortunate** by donating to **Toys for Tots**, the **Salvation Army**, or the philanthropic organization of your choice.

Our next major fund-raising effort for the detachment is the selling of advertisements for our **Department Convention Book**. Think about those merchants and individuals with whom you regularly interact and ask those you believe might be potential supporters to purchase an ad. Remember, **we are only able to support our charitable endeavors because of monies raised by our members!** If you've sold ads in the past ... please keep on contributing. If you haven't sold ads in the past ... make 2012 the year that you join us in raising the monies necessary to help out the **Marines Helping Marines Program**, the **Young Marines**, and those **Marines (past and present) who find themselves in need**.

The deadline for **January** articles is **MIDNIGHT** on **Monday, January 9, 2012**. **Please do not wait until the last minute to submit your article(s)!**



Membership Statistics

Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	72	8	5
Annual Memberships	34	5	–
Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	11	–	–
New Members			
	–	–	–
Sub-Totals			
	117	13	5
Total			
135			

Renewals are approaching for the following non-delinquent members...

Renewals

(dues expire at end of indicated month)

January 2012	February 2012	March 2012
Russell Bixler Scott Wood	Charles Albo Frank Fleishman James Hutton David Reyes	Robert A. Eckardt
Please advise the editor of any errors/omissions in this listing.		

Please consider a **Life Membership** as a potential cost reduction.

Commandant's Message



Joe Wright

Marines,

Well, another memorable Marine Corps Birthday has passed and for those who were able to attend, we celebrated with an amazing Marine Corps Ball. I was particularly impressed with **Sergeant Nate Wolbert's** *Fallen Comrade Ceremony*. It sent chills up my spine and really made me stop and remember those who could not attend because they made the ultimate sacrifice. It was a job well done!

Please note that our December meeting has been moved to December 19th due to the Christmas holiday. After the meeting, we will have a Christmas gathering. It would be appreciated if those who are able, would please bring a covered dish or other food/beverage item. Regardless, please come and spread some holiday cheer with your fellow detachment members.

For those of you who will not be able to attend the meeting, I wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season.

Semper Fi...

Joe

From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Kalwa

Fellow Marines,

My family and I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. And don't forget about all our troops overseas at this time of year.

Semper Fi,

Chris Kalwa

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

Iwakuni 'Mama-san' Made Honorary Marine

NOTE – This story by Matthew M. Burke was published in Stars and Stripes on November 9, 2011

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Machiko “Mama-san” Hamamoto, 82, now has something in common with Medal of Honor recipient Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, actor Chuck Norris, and 72 politicians, doctors, judges, celebrities and terminally ill youth.

During a ceremony Tuesday afternoon at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Hamamoto became an Honorary Marine, the third civilian of Japanese descent ever to receive the honor, according to Iwakuni spokesman Gunnery Sgt. Bryce Piper.



Cpl. Matthew Doyle, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 community relations coordinator, escorts Machiko Hamamoto, Honorary Marine recipient, during awards ceremony at Strike Fighter Squadron 94's hangar at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. [Photo – USMC]

Hamamoto was presented with a certificate signed by Commandant of the Marine Corps General James Amos for a term of service to the Marines and sailors of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 that has spanned more than half her life. The award can only be bestowed by the Commandant and recognizes civilians who have made extraordinary contributions to the Marine Corps, Piper said.

(See 'Mama-san' on page 13)

Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

Hello Marines,

I hope everyone is well and enjoying this holiday season with family and friends.

Our next meeting is on December 19th and it will be a very short meeting with a Christmas party to follow. Everyone should bring a covered dish if possible. You know how fast food disappears when a bunch of hungry Marines are around. I hope to see all of you at the meeting. If you can't make it, I would like to wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season and hope that you can join us in the New Year.

Semper Fi

Ed Dahling

Be part of the action at the League's

2012 Mid-Winter National



Staff Conference



at the Tysons Corner Marriott in Vienna, VA
on 16, 17 & 18 February 2012.

Band of Brothers...

NOTE – I found the following to be especially appropriate for this period of time. As an anonymous source pointed out, this quotation is in part based upon a quotation from Shakespeare's Henry V, Act IV, Scene III although I suspect that he may have stolen it from some Marine...



Whoever does not have the
stomach for this fight,
let him depart.
Give him his money to speed his
departure since we wish not to
die in this man's company.
Whoever lives past today
and comes home safely will rouse
himself every year on this day,
show his neighbor his scars,
and tell him embellished stories
of all their great feats of battle.
These stories he will teach his son
and from this day until the end of
the world we shall be remembered.
We few, we happy few,
we band of brothers;
for whoever has shed his blood
with me shall be my brother.
And those men afraid to go will think
themselves lesser men as they hear of
how we fought and died together.



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Ken Webster

Please contact me at either of the following numbers as soon as you learn of any member or family member, who is sick, in distress, etc.

410-255-0741 (home) or 443-618-9641 (cell)

Tosha Pazzola, daughter of detachment member **Albert 'Sonny' Bell** has Cancer and is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

Edward R. Sies, beloved husband of Margaret (Peggy) Sies (nee Murphy) and cousin of our detachment **Chaplain Ken Webster**, died on Friday, November 25, 2011 at St. Joseph Hospital. Born on August 8, 1936 in Baltimore, MD, he was a Marine who served in the Korean War. In addition to his wife, he is survived by seven children, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Ed was interred at the Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville, KY.

PDD 'Wild Bill' Collins, is still recovering from a very bad car wreck a couple of weeks ago; but, things are looking better even though he still has a long way to go. He talks well enough to understand – unless he gets tired or becomes excited.

Bill is now being cared for at the **Manner Care** facility on Ridge Road (off of Philadelphia Road, across from the VFW and Royal Farms) and is in room 128. Visiting hours are from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Make sure you call first because all of his medical appointments are still at the University of Maryland, Shock Trauma Unit.

Please keep the members of our extended family, who are mentioned above, in your thoughts and prayers.



Members' Birthdays

NOTE – Please advise the editor of any errors/omissions in the following birthday listings.

Members of our detachment, who will be celebrating birthdays during the month of **January** include:

Sam Campbell	Bill Creager	Charles Dorn
Fred Downey Jr.	Gerald Grimes	Warren Lindgren
David Reyes	Harold Van Buskirk Jr.	Philip Werner





Military Order of the Devil Dogs



The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

Pound 204 will Growl at the Pound Dog House at 1000 on 11 December, with the **Anne Arundel County Detachment** providing a Marine breakfast at 0900, and the VFW providing *Bloody-Marys* at 0800.

The Pound still has three Dogs who haven't paid their dues for 2012. Fortunately, neither is from Anne Arundel County Detachment. In the meantime, they are listed as "*not a member in good standing*" and ineligible to attend Growls or hold office.

DDs desiring to advance to PDD in Mobile, Alabama next August must attend two Pack of Maryland Growls prior to then.

The next **Pack Growl** will be on 14 January 2012 in Centerville, immediately following the Department of Maryland Staff meeting.

Pups desiring to advance to DD at the Grand Growl in April must attend two Pound Growls prior to then. Don't wait. Attend those Pack and Pound Growls.

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

Woof-Woof,

Paul Taylor

PDD & Dog Robber



Young Marines

The **Annapolis Young Marines** had a great, cold, and wet camping experience on Halloween weekend.

I am proud to say that **American Legion Post 226** and its **Auxiliary** has awarded the **Americanism Medal 1st Class** (Gold) to the Annapolis Young Marines for all of the ceremonies they have been part of over this past year.

The Annapolis Young Marines were also recently awarded a **Distinguished Unit Citation**, by National Headquarters, for their support of and participation in commemorative ceremonies during the period from Memorial Day through Veterans Day of this year.

It also gives me great pleasure to announce that the Annapolis Young Marines *have adopted a local family of 5* as their holiday project (Thanksgiving and Christmas) and will provide that family with food, clothes, and toys.

The Young Marines collected toys for this year's **Toys for Tots** campaign during their last two drills and turned them over to **Dawn Parker**, President of our Auxiliary, for distribution.

We continue to look for new recruits for our next class.

As always, thanks to Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 for its support.

Respectfully,

George Martin

Young Marines Commander

Lauer's Supermarket & Bakery	
Chesterfield Plaza 8095-A Edwin Raynor Blvd. Pasadena, MD 410-255-0070	Riviera Plaza 8479 Fort Smallwood Rd. Riviera Beach, MD 410-437-4800

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Color Guard

by Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman

The Detachment Color Guard performed at the following events during the first week of December.

- Posting of the colors on December 4th at the **Food Lion** on Mountain Road, in Pasadena.
- Posting of the colors for **Pearl Harbor Day** at the **World War II Memorial** overlooking the Severn River in Annapolis on December 7th.





Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

Free BBQ for Veterans...

Many local restaurants provided free meals to past and present members of the military as part of **Veterans Day** festivities on November 11th. One such restaurant was **Mission BBQ**. In addition to feeding a large number of active duty military and veterans of many eras, a *welcome home ceremony* for **Corporal Andrew Kraus, USMC** recently returned from Afghanistan was also held. Cpl. Kraus is the son of Mission BBQ co-owner and proud Dad, **Bill Kraus**. Past Detachment Commandant **Mac McNeir** helped mark the occasion by presenting a Marine Corps flag to Cpl. Kraus.



Detachment Chaplain Ken Webster preparing to say grace before sampling the tasty offerings at Mission BBQ on Veterans Day. [Photo – Mission BBQ]



USMC flag presentation to Marine returning from Afghanistan – (from left to right) are **Major David Hyman**, CO of Recruiting Station Baltimore; **Mac McNeir**, Past Detachment Commandant; **Cpl. Andrew Kraus**; and proud parents **Bill and Rosemarie Kraus**. [Photo – Mission BBQ]

October Football Game...

Many Marine Corps League members from our detachment, as well other detachments within the **Department of Maryland**, attended the **Navy / Southern Mississippi**

football game, which took place on October 8th at **Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium** in Annapolis. Among those attending that game were our **Adjutant Ben Wells**; **2nd Lieutenant Erich DeHart, USMC**; and **Sergeant of Arms Ray Sturm**. Lieutenant DeHart, who graduated from the Naval Academy and was sponsored by Ray Sturm, is currently undergoing flight training in Pensacola, Florida. Despite Navy's crushing loss to Southern Mississippi, a good time was had by all. A special thanks to **Jeff Hampton** and **Mountainside Detachment 1071** for coordinating the outing.



Ben Wells, Erich DeHart (2nd Lt, USMC), and Ray Sturm at Navy - Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. [Photo – Ray Sturm]

Marking the Corps' 236th Birthday...

As is our tradition, Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 recently marked the 236th birthday of our Corps with two events at VFW Post 160 – a **'Happy Hour'** for Marines past and present on the evening of November 10th and a **'Birthday Ball'** on the evening of November 12th. Both events were hosted by **Joe Wright**, our detachment's Commandant. With regard to the ball, we were indeed fortunate to have **Captain Kathy Thorp, USN (RC)** – founder of **Operation Welcome Home Maryland** – as our guest of honor. Photos of both events are located on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter.

December Meeting Reminder...

Due to the Christmas holiday falling on the day before our next scheduled meeting, that meeting has been moved and will now take place on **Monday, December 19th**. A pot-luck dinner will follow this meeting. It would be greatly appreciated if members planning to attend would consider contributing a covered dish, food, beverages, etc. Your participation and contributions are necessary to make this gathering a success!



Corps Humor

The Secretary of Defense directs one of his staff to gather together a Navy Lieutenant and Captains from the Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force and attempt to *discover why their services have trouble communicating with each other.*

Upon gathering representatives from each of the services, the DoD staffer explains to them that their first project task is to *'secure a building.'* The staffer then asks each of them to go home and prepare an appropriate plan and to bring it to the meeting the very next morning.

Their plans are summarized as follows:

Army Captain's plan...

- Assemble the company
- Appoint a guard detail and a Sergeant of the Guard
- Take control of all exits
- Make sure no one gets into the building without a pass

Navy Lieutenant's plan...

Have the Senior Chief Petty officer tell his sailors to:

- Unplug the coffeepots
- Turn off the computers
- Turn out the lights
- Lock the doors and leave the building unoccupied

Air Force Captain's plan...

- Contact real estate agent
- Negotiate 1-year lease
- Be sure to get option to buy

Marine Corps Captain's plan...

- Assemble the platoon and procure supplies
- Approach the building along three axes
- Bring the building under mortar and SAW fire
- Assault the building under covering fire
- Establish a perimeter defense
- Establish lanes of fire
- Prepare artillery calls
- Repel counterattacks



Quotation

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war...shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

General George Washington, 1789

Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army & 1st President of the United States

Happy Hour Photos USMC Birthday

Photos by Mac McNeir



236th Marine Corps Birthday Ball Photos

Photos by Jon Garrison



Past Detachment Commandant Pete Pervi & his wife, Sue.



Detachment members and their guests taking advantage of the social hour preceding the ball.



Guest of Honor Captain Kathy Thorp being greeted by Past Detachment Commandants Manny Airey and Mac McNeir and Department of Maryland Commandant Ed Ross.



Fort Meade Marines post the colors.



Sergeant Wolbert performing the 'Fallen Comrade' ceremony.



Cake Escort (Ray Sturm, Chris Kalwa, Ben Wells & Woody Bowman) post the 236th Marine Corps Birthday Cake as guests and detachment members look on.



Detachment Commandant Joe Wright and the most highly decorated member of our detachment, Dick Savage, bridge the generation gap as Dorothy Savage enjoys the birthday cake.



Detachment officers (Adjutant Ben Wells, Sergeant at Arms Ray Sturm, and Commandant Joe Wright) and Guest of Honor Captain Kathy Thorp momentarily interrupt their conversation to have their photo taken.

Marine Corps Recruiting Status Report

NOTE – The following report was forwarded to me for benefit of detachment members, who might be interested in current recruiting trends/results. Bracketed information was provided by the editor to promote reader understanding.

Generals, Ladies, and Gentlemen;

MCRC (Marine Corps Recruiting Command) had a very successful year in accessing young men and women to fill our ranks. Your recruiters and officer selection officers routinely put in 60+ hour weeks to not only meet the induction numbers, but also to constantly strive for individuals of the highest quality. This is particularly important now, given the demands of the counterinsurgency fight on a dispersed battlefield. The recruiters/OSOs [Officer Selection Officers] understand the need for the effort – over three-quarters of them have come from combat to recruiting.

I know that many of you mentor and provide advice to men and women who would like to enter the service. I've included some statistical averages and results below to help in that mentorship.



BGen. J. L. Osterman, USMC, CG,
Marine Corps Recruiting Command
[USMC Photo]

Enlisted FY11 Results:

- Total force enlisted contracting = 34,019
- Tier I (high school graduates) = 99.9%;
DoD standard is 90%
- Mental category I-III A (highest ASVAB category) = 74.4%
DoD standard is 60%

Officer FY11 Results:

- Total officers accessed: 1663
- Averages (PLC/OCC)
 - SAT - 1210
 - GPA - 3.1
 - PFT - 280

FY12 Accession Requirements:

- Officers - 1450
- Enlisted (total force) - 34,200

Other Information:

- Diversity accessions were the highest in the last 10 years
- The pool build for FY12 is strong and represents the same quality as FY11
- Historical data predicts accessions will increase to 43,000 for an end strength of 186,000 active and 40,000 reserve - rebound effect from drawdown

MCRC Background Information for General Officers:

- Due to 202K build and current end strength reductions, there is no PLC [Platoon Leaders Class] combined program (college juniors) for FY12 or FY13
- OCC [Officer Candidate Course] program is significantly reduced, due to large PLC pools
- Approximately 30 new commissionees from August/October 2011 will have to wait roughly 12 months to attend TBS [The Basic School]; this number will grow next year to approximately 100 officers during FY12 who will have to wait 12-14 months to attend TBS. This is due to the 202K officer build exiting the pipeline at the same time that we are drawing down.
- Generally speaking, a young man/woman has to wait approximately 7 months after enlistment to attend recruit training.
- Sincerely appreciate the GO [General Officer] assistance with speaking engagements and community events as we continue to engage and promote the Marine Corps to communities across the country. These engagements have been a key part of our success to date. As we all know, the recruiting dynamic is subject to change, and given historical trends, accession requirements will increase significantly over the next several years. Despite our success right now, we can't afford to be complacent. Thank you for your continued support in helping us recruit high quality young men and women into our ranks.

Brigadier General J. L. Osterman, USMC
Commanding General,
Marine Corps Recruiting Command
Quantico, VA



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Marine Corps League
Department of Maryland

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **March 26, 2012**. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at **VFW Post 160**, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 (410-766-9802).

NOTE – The dates and times listed below are subject to change. Please verify the information with the indicated organizational point of contact.

MODD, Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, December 11, 2011 @ 1000 – Paul Taylor

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary

Monday, December 19, 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Christmas Day – Post Closed

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049 Auxiliary

Friday, December 30, 2011 from 1800 to 2000 – Dawn Parker

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049

Friday, January 6, 2012 from 1800 to 2000 – Joe Wright

Department of Maryland Staff Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 2012 @ 0900 – Ed Ross
American Legion Post 18
2619 Centreville Road, Centreville, MD 21617

MODD, Maryland Pack Growl

Saturday, January 14, 2012 (after Dept. Staff Meeting) – Paul Taylor
American Legion Post 18
2619 Centreville Road, Centreville, MD 21617

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary

Monday, January 23, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

MCL National Mid-Winter Conference

February 16 - 18, 2012 (see National website for info)
Tysons Corner Marriott Hotel
8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA (1-800-228-9290)

MODD, Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, February 19, 2012 from 1000 to 1200 – Paul Taylor

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary

Monday, February 27, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049

Friday, March 2, 2012 from 1800 to 2000 – Joe Wright

Department of Maryland Staff Meeting

Saturday, March (date TBD), 2012 – @ 0900 – Ed Ross
Location TBD

MODD, Maryland Pack Growl

Saturday, March (date TBD), 2012 – Paul Taylor
Location TBD

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary

(Officer Elections)
Monday, March 26, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker



Corps History

by the Editor for Historian Vic Halme

1 December 1947

The Corps' first helicopter squadron, HMX-1, was commissioned at Quantico, VA.

4 December 1950

Lt. Colonel Raymond G. Davis earns the Medal of Honor for his heroism while leading the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines through the mountain passes of Hagaru-Ri, Korea to combat numerically superior hostile forces.

5 December 1929

Marine Captain A. N. Parker was the first person to fly over unexplored Antarctica.

6 December 2006

Major Megan McClung, a 1995 Naval Academy graduate, became the 1st female Marine officer to be killed in Iraq and the fifth female Marine to die in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom & Enduring Freedom.

7 December 1941

Marines defend against Japanese 'sneak-attack' on U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor. Over 3,000 Marines and Sailors were killed in that action.

8 December 1941

Marines of the 1st Defense Battalion and Marine Fighting Squadron 211 resisted Japanese attempts to invade Wake Island for over two weeks before finally succumbing to an overwhelming force.

10 December 1941

With no weapon larger than the .30 caliber machine gun, 153 Marines defended Guam until overwhelmed.

10 December 2001

CIA agent Mike Spann, the first American killed in action in Afghanistan, was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Spann had previously served as a Marine Artillery Captain.

10 December 2003

Marine Sergeant Christopher Chandler, who lost his left leg to a land mine in Afghanistan in December of 2001, becomes first service member retained on active duty with a prosthetic limb to graduate from the U.S. Army Basic Airborne Course. He was also the class' NCO Honor Graduate.

15 December 1948

Secretary of the Navy signs a 'Memorandum of Agreement' with the State Department which laid the basis for the modern Marine Security Guard program at U.S. embassies throughout the world.

19 December 1972

The Marine Detachment of the USS *Ticonderoga* provides shipboard security for U.S. astronauts, Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, Harrison Schmitt, and their Apollo-17 space capsule.

23 December 1941

Japanese forces launched attacks against Wake Island, Wilkes Island, and Peale Island. After nearly 12 hours of desperate fighting, the three islands were surrendered.

26 December 1776

Marines participated in the second Battle of Trenton (NJ) as part of General George Washington's force.



Volunteers Needed!

Members of **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** are encouraged to become part of the **Operation Welcome Home** experience.

Given our close proximity to **BWI Airport**, our detachment should be represented by some of its members far more often than has been demonstrated recently! I am asking that my fellow detachment members – *especially those of the Vietnam era* – consider meeting returning veterans on a regular basis for as long as we have members of the United States military serving in hostile environments. Given the number of flights into BWI each month, there should be a time and date amenable to most everyone's schedule.



What to Do...

The following information is provided in an attempt to make your participation most enjoyable:

- All events occur in the **International Terminal (Pier E)** of the BWI Airport.
- All scheduled flight dates and times are posted on the **EVENT SCHEDULE** page of the **Operation Welcome Home Maryland** website.
<http://www.operationwelcomehomemd.org/>
- A hotline (**410-630-1555**) is also available to learn of our next scheduled (or unscheduled) event. Please be sure to check it for the latest event info.
- Please note that *the times provided indicate when the volunteers should arrive at the airport – NOT actual flight arrival times* (when the troops arrive).
- The extra time is used to *decorate the lobby* and *make goodie bags*.
 - Volunteers are encouraged to help with these preparations before the soldiers arrive through Customs.
 - Please do not assemble goodie bags prior to coming to the airport!

Very Important...

- On the day you plan to attend, *please call the hotline before you leave home or work* to verify that the event is still on, and on-time.
- Wear something patriotic and feel free to bring signs welcoming the troops home and thanking them for their service.
- If you wish to bring something for the goodie bags, please consider bringing handmade *'Thank You'* cards from children or pre-packaged/ single-serving snacks (cookies, crackers, granola bars, and candy) and ½ liter bottles of water for the goodie bags.
- Please do not bring homemade cookies, fresh fruit, or other perishable food items!
- Please do not assemble goodie bags prior to coming to the airport. The bags are assembled prior to each flight's arrival.
- Park on **Level 3** of the airport garage in **Section 3H**. Use the crosswalk from Level 3 to cross over to the airport (be careful about traffic). You will enter the airport near the **USO Lounge**. Once inside the airport, go left towards the **International Terminal** – we meet in the lobby of that terminal.
- To avoid paying for parking, you must turn in your ticket for to an **Operation Welcome Home Team Leader** for validation **NO LATER than 30 minutes after the volunteer report time**. Your validated ticket will be returned to you prior to the conclusion of the event.

You will need a validated ticket to avoid parking fees!

What to Wear...

- Members of the military are encouraged to wear their uniforms.
- Members of the Marine Corps League (or other veteran's organization) are encouraged to wear clothing that indicates their affiliation.
- Civilian clothing (with or without military pins, embroidery, etc.) is of course also acceptable.

What you wear is not important ... your presence is!

A Soldier Died Today

NOTE – All inter-service rivalries aside ... this poem is truly appropriate for members of the U.S. Military ... without regard to their era, without regard to their branch, without regard to whether the nation was at war or at peace. Take time to reflect on those who served and those who are no longer with us.



He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier –
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
***Our Country is in Mourning,
a Soldier Died Today!***

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'Mama-san' *(continued from page 3)*

"It's like a dream," Hamamoto said last week of receiving the honor. "I have done nothing special to deserve this honor. I just did what needed to be done."

Hamamoto was born in January 1929 in the city of Osaka, Japan. She worked at the Asahi Newspaper Company until at age 29, met the man who would become her husband, Takakazu Hamamoto. After they wed, the couple moved to Iwakuni in 1968.

It was during the Vietnam War and the Marines were opening a coffee mess, Hamamoto said. She took the job, often staying up to provide support to Marines and sailors working a late shift.

It was not long before she was offering up her home and some hospitality to homesick Marines and sailors. The MALS-12 leadership took notice and began sending her servicemembers who were in need of a home-cooked meal and a tour of the community, she said. It's something that continues to this day.

Cpl. Marcie McWaters said that Hamamoto took her, a self-proclaimed "country girl," to a horse farm after she arrived at her first duty station in 2009 and discussed missing her horses back home.

"Mama-san definitely embodies unselfishness," McWaters said.

"She's like a mother figure to the Marines here," another Marine, Cpl. Matthew Doyle, added.

Over the years, Hamamoto's role changed from running coffee mess to community relations. She had always been involved in local charities, but began to integrate the Marines and sailors more in her work with the disabled and at orphanages as the years went on. She has also spurred the Marines into action to aid Japan's victims of disaster, from the Hokkaido earthquake in 1993 to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami earlier this year. She is tireless, Marines said, working 12 hour days organizing the collection of supplies and even the travel and logistics.

"She's the epitome of being a Marine," retired Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey Fleming said.

For years, Marines have attempted to repay Hamamoto for all she has done for them in her 43 years of service to the Corps and the community by buying her a new bicycle a few years back when hers broke, or naming everything from their children to a community service award after her.

McWaters said that she gets calls from Marines and sailors who have long since left the base asking about Hamamoto or asking to speak with her. Over the years, Hamamoto's office on the base has become like a museum, filled with personal items and gifts from service members.

"She's a very humble woman, never takes, but always gives," said retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Richard Reddick Sr. "We almost had to force her to take that bike by the way."



Bombastic Bumper-Snicker:



Combat — spurts of momentary insanity...
followed by long periods of boredom and inactivity



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(Address Correction Requested)



Featured Foto



A Marine with 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, helps a squad member out of a muddy canal during Operation Eastern Storm. The Marines and sailors of Bravo Co. are working to remove the insurgent threat along Route 611 from Sangin to Kajaki. [Photo by Courtesy Photo]