

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)

Hard-Charger Returns to Combat

Sergeant Ricardo Ramirez is the First Hand-Amputee to Re-Enlist in the Marine Corps

SOURCE – This is an edited version of an article by Cpl. Benjamin Crilly, which recently appeared on the 5th Marine Regiment website.



[Photo by Cpl. Benjamin Crilly, USMC]

“The word came out that non-commissioned officers were needed as combat replacements,” said combat replacement for 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, **Sergeant Ricardo Ramirez**. “Guys with experience who wanted to help out our brothers in Sangin.”

Ramirez, a veteran of Iraq, fit the description, answered the call and volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan. His previous combat experience shows right off the bat, and is one of the first things people notice about the warrior – he only has one hand.

In February of 2006, Ramirez was wounded in action while serving in Iraq with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment and two years later became the first hand-amputee to re-enlist in the Marines Corps. Since then he has served as an urban warfare instructor to train other Marines, attended a pre-sniper course to pursue a life goal, and as his present service demonstrates, a continuing refusal to leave his infantry roots. The example has been set for other wounded warriors: **fight for it and you’ll get it.**

(see Ramirez on page 6)

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the **CUTTING EDGE**

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

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Junior Vice-Commandant – *Ed Dahling*

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From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

The next few weeks mark a busy time for our detachment. We have our **Bull and Oyster Roast, Marine Corps Birthday Happy Hour** celebration, and of course our **Marine Corps Birthday Ball** on the 12th of November. For the golfers, we also have a fundraiser in the form of the **1st VFW Post 160 Golf Tournament** on the **21st of October** at **Bay Hills**. Hope to see many (if not all) of you at these events.

I am saddened that this is the last issue of *the Cutting Edge* that I will have the assistance of **Jim Le Gette**. Ever since I took over the responsibility for publishing our newsletter, Jim took a big load off of my shoulders by folding, sealing, affixing mailing labels and stamps, and transporting copies of *the Cutting Edge* to the post office for delivery. **Thanks Jim, your support was appreciated far more than I could ever express!**

The deadline for the delivery of **November newsletter** articles is **MIDNIGHT on Monday, November 14, 2011. Please do not wait until the last minute!**



Membership Statistics

Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	73	8	5
Annual Memberships	38	6	–
Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	7	–	–
New Members			
	–	–	–
Sub-Totals			
	118	14	5
Total			
	137		

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

Renewals (dues expire at end of indicated month)		
November 2011	December 2011	January 2012
Danielle Campbell Samuel Campbell James McCormick Kurt Osuch	Don Blanton Michael Lowman William Russell	Russell Bixler Scott Wood.
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

Leathernecks,

As Summer ends and Fall begins, preparations for our **Bull and Oyster Roast, Marine Corps Birthday** and **Marine Corps Birthday Ball** begin as well. It gets a little busy this time of year.

Sunday October 23rd is our annual **Bull & Oyster Roast** and we need to push these tickets, as this event is our main fundraiser for the year. See our **Senior Vice Commandant, Chris Kalwa** for tickets.

We are also sponsoring the **October 19th Marines Helping Marines Picnic** at the **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center** in **Bethesda, MD**... I am looking forward to attending.

On **Thursday, November 10th at 1800**, you are all invited to be my guest at the Post Canteen. We will raise our cups for the **236th Marine Corps Birthday**. We will share scuttlebutt, introduce ourselves to Marines we may not have met before, and tell stories about our time in the Corps.

The **Marine Corps Birthday Ball** will be on **Saturday, November 12th at VFW Post 160**. Invitations to attend the Ball should have arrived in the mail or will be shortly. If yours has not, please contact me as soon as possible! I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at the ball.

Our next detachment meeting is scheduled for **October 24th** and I hope to see everyone there.

Semper Fi,

Joe

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 **November** include:

Justin Asher	Rich Gonzales	Spike Miller
Jim Brady	Guy Hall	Frank Mondragon
Stephen Combs	James Hutton	Brian Nevil
Ed Dahling	Mac McNeir	John Ulrich



Stolen Valor Conviction Upheld

SOURCE – Associated Press article posted by The Marine Corps Times (online) on October 1, 2011

LAS VEGAS – A federal appeals court panel rejected an imprisoned Air Force veteran's challenge of the constitutionality of a law prohibiting the unauthorized wearing of military medals.

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reports that the **9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** panel in San Francisco characterized **David M. Perelman** as legitimately convicted for deceptively wearing a military medal and collecting benefits with it.

Perelman is 58. He was sentenced to prison in December after pleading guilty to *felony theft of government funds* and *misdemeanor unlawful wearing of a service medal*.

Prosecutors say Perelman fraudulently wore a **Purple Heart** medal and used it to obtain more than **\$180,000** in disability benefits.

The case against Perelman was the first known Nevada prosecution under the *Stolen Valor Act of 2005*.



Color Guard

by the Editor for Woody Bowman

Unfortunately, there is no information to share at this time as Woody was called out of town before he could provide the necessary input.



Need A Ride?

This message is for any of our members, who have not been able to attend our monthly meetings because they are in need of transportation.

If you would like to attend future detachment meetings; but, are in need of transportation, please contact either our Chaplain or me and we will attempt to arrange a ride with a detachment member living near you.

We Take Care of Our Own!

The Editor

From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Kalwa

Fellow Marines,

I only have a few items to report.

Since our monthly detachment meeting is the day after our **Bull & Oyster Roast**, I will deliver a report on the results of the fundraiser at that time.

Preparations for our **Marine Corps Birthday Ball** are still ongoing. I will have more details about the birthday ball at our detachment meeting on 24 October. Feel free to call me should you have any questions.

Don't forget to join us on **10 November** at **1800** for to celebrate of our **Corps' 236 Birthday** at **VFW Post 160's** canteen .

Hope to see many of you at the **Bull & Oyster Roast** as we need the support of as many members as possible to make our annual fundraiser a success.

Semper Fi,

Chris Kalwa

From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

Fellow members of Detachment 1049,

As your Junior Vice Commandant, it will be one of my goals to contact both members and associate members, who have been delinquent in the payment of their dues for more than two years. There are currently 104 members in this category and one more will be added to that list by the end of this year.

So if you know that your dues are coming up for renewal and you have already received your notice to renew them please pay them as soon as possible. Headquarter does not send out reminders.

Also, if you know of a member, who has a new address or is now deceased, please notify me.

Semper Fi, & Woof,woof

Ed Dahling



Chaplain's Corner

by the Editor for 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)

Rita Le Gette, wife of associate member **Jim Le Gette**, is undergoing chemotherapy for a recurrence of cancer, which she has been fighting for some time. She is now home from the hospital and under Jim's watchful eye.

Madge Hicks, mother of our **Senior Vice Commandant Chris Kalwa**, recently underwent gastro-intestinal surgery. She is now home recuperating from that surgery as well as a post-operative infection.

Brandon Kalwa, eldest son of our **Senior Vice Commandant Chris Kalwa**, is currently in the hospital for treatment of pulmonary problems associated with his muscular dystrophy. He will hopefully be transferred to a rehabilitation unit in the near future.

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



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Military Order of the Devil Dogs

The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

The Pack of Maryland had a very successful Growl on 17 September at American Legion Post 71, in faraway Oakland, MD. Being so far away, it was not very well attended, but we did manage to collect quite a few bones and had a very good time with our western counterparts.

At the Pack Growl we had four of the 32 otherwise eligible-for-advancement DDs in attendance. They now only need to attend one more Pack Growl to be eligible for advancement in Mobile, Alabama in August. The rest of you DDs have three more growls before the Supreme Growl, and you must attend two of them before your advancement paperwork goes in. Don't wait. Attend those Pack Growls.

The Fall edition of the **Woof-a-Gram** is on line and it recaps the actions taken of the proposed by-law changes, although you have to backtrack to the spring edition in order to find out what they are talking about. So I did that and here is the skinny on that:

- The proposal to **increase passport stamps to two bones** was defeated.
- The proposal to **split passport bones with other charitable organizations** was defeated.
- The proposal to **delete the requirement for Pack and Pound annual reports to the Kennel** passed.
- The proposal to **allow clerical corrections to the bylaws without full consent of the body** was withdrawn by the originator.
- The proposal to **amend the bylaws to cause Pack and Pound Dog Robbers to submit passport bones immediately after each Growl, vice twice annually**, was defeated.

Dues for all annual dues paying members expired on 31 August. If this pertains to you, and there are 13 Dogs in this Pound who haven't paid, please remit 15 big bones to your friendly Pound Dog Robber (me) ASAP.

Make 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



Legislative Report

by Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

The President's administration has proposed a **\$4.4 Trillion Deficit Reduction Plan** that would raise health costs for many active-duty and retired military members and their families, particularly relative to prescription drugs. Also, the administration is proposing a change in the **Military Retirement Program** (20 Years) as previously reported in this column. At this writing, current military personnel and retirees would not be affected.

There will be retroactive payments made to military members who suffered "**Traumatic Injuries**" outside a combat zone between 2001 and 2005 under the **Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Program**. Also, injuries not service related will be considered.

There are several major concerns regarding future legislation, which will cause the **Corps to draw-down the over 200,000 man strength to less than 187,000**. Many ranking general officers are struggling with various innovations in order to maintain the Corps as a viable and dynamic fighting force.

Personal Note – Because of several responsibilities, I notified Commandant Wright and those of you at the last meeting that I would be giving up the honor of being your Legislative Officer. It has been a pleasure to be accepted by all of you and being given a minor role in the League. All of you are to be honored and respected for your service (with the greatest fighting force) and the immeasurable support that you give to our military and their families each year.



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Ramirez *(continued from page 1)*

“When I first got to 1st Platoon I happened to be sitting in the *combat operation center* when I heard Marines on post,” recalled Ramirez. “It came over the radio ‘*Hey we just got our combat replacements and damn! One of them is missing a hand.*’ and then all you hear is ‘*What? Are you serious?*’”

The **Commandant of the Marine Corps** annulled would-be skeptics, of his ability to return to the battlefield, by granting Ramirez's requests to re-enlist and ordered him to full-duty status.

“A man or a Marine should not be measured by how they look, what they are missing or what they don't have,” said Ramirez, from Quebrillas, Puerto Rico. “A Marine should be measured by experience, their work ethic, how they carry themselves and, of course how they lead their Marines. That is what everyone should be looking at.”

“I am a Marine and have been a Marine for a long time,” said Ramirez, who has served in the Marine Corps for 10 years. “If you were to ask me if I can lead Marines in combat: I will absolutely be able to despite the loss of my hand.”

When he found out that he would be able to be a combat replacement for a sister battalion, 1/5, he jumped at the chance. Despite his full recovery and range of abilities as a hand amputee, people had reservations, Ramirez had his own. Ramirez was concerned his deployment as a combat replacement would restrict him to a large base with the duties of permanent Sergeant-of-the-Guard.

“Like I told the commanders, I have practiced everything and anything possible that a Marine might be called on to do on the battlefield,” said Ramirez. “People may think of something that they believe I can't do or would be impossible. I have figured how to do everything, whether it is tightening a tourniquet or conducting reload drills.”

The screws in his rifle grip, strategically placed to allow him to use his prosthetic claw in any situation, are just one testament to Ramirez's determination to see combat. Where most people can simply adjust their hand placement, Ramirez has installed screws on either side of the rifle attachment to enable him to apply pressure and adjust the angle at which he steadies his weapon. It paid off when he was assigned to 1st Platoon.

“I am all about putting the best team on the field,” said **1st Lieutenant Charles Poulton**, the Platoon Commander for Ramirez's unit. “When I first heard about the combat replacement, I wanted him because anyone who has one hand and has been fighting to get over here to the fight, wants to be here.”

“I knew I wasn't going to just put him on the shelf,” said Poulton. “I was going to give him his chance, which he deserves, for what he did to get here. I am putting him in play.”

Ramirez, with a desire to pave the way for all wounded warriors, got his chance and took full advantage of it.

The amputee goes *outside the wire* multiple times a day on patrols; he strives to learn all he can about the area he operates in. He was made the platoon guide after joining 1st Platoon and was later pulled by the company to be a section leader for Bravo Company's Mobile Assault Platoon.

“My being outside the wire and on patrol every single day is really, really, really important because the voice of a successful deployment will spread,” said Ramirez. “Handicapped and amputee Marines will see that this is only a limitation if they make it a limitation.”

Ramirez's future goals in the Marine Corps are to become a Marine Corps Scout Sniper and to serve as an ‘*operator*’ in the Marine Corps Special Operations Command. He still wants to influence others who have been wounded in action to pursue their fullest potential, even after he gets out of the Marine Corps.

Editor's Note: 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment is a subordinate unit of Regimental Combat Team 8 that is currently assigned to 2nd Marine Division (Forward), which heads Task Force Leatherneck. The task force serves as the ground combat element of Regional Command (Southwest) and works in partnership with the Afghan National Security Force and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to conduct counterinsurgency operations. The unit is dedicated to securing the Afghan people, defeating insurgent forces, and enabling ANSF assumption of security responsibilities within its area of operations in order to support the expansion of stability, development and legitimate governance.



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Bush Hosts 'Warrior Open' for Injured Troops

SOURCE – The following is an extract from an article by Jamie Stengle (for the Associated Press) that was posted on The Marine Corps Times website on October 8th.



DALLAS – **George W. Bush** says that after eight years in the White House, he's happy to be back home in Texas and out of the spotlight.

But the former Commander-in-Chief tells The Associated Press there's one aspect of his presidency he still misses: interaction with U.S. troops. And Bush, who sent them to wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, says that despite his desire to remain largely out of the public eye, he wants to make sure veterans and military members know they still have his support.

"I was a little concerned that our veterans don't think that I still respect them and care for them a lot," Bush told the AP. He added later, "There's nothing as courageous in my judgment as someone who had a leg blown off in combat overcoming the difficulties."

Bush is hosting next week's **Warrior Open Golf Tournament** in suburban Dallas, an event featuring members of the U.S. Armed Forces wounded while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, including those who lost limbs and suffered brain injuries. Bush joined more than a dozen wounded military members in the **Warrior 100** – a 62-mile mountain bike ride he hosted in West Texas last Spring.

These public appearances are the exception to the lifestyle Bush has led in his post-presidency.

After leaving office two years ago, Bush and former first lady **Laura Bush** bought a house in Dallas and started work on the **George W. Bush Presidential Center**, slated to open in 2013. He has attended select events relating to the center, as well as a ceremony with **President Barack Obama** marking the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. But he has largely remained out of the public eye.

Bush said he doesn't want veterans to mistake his private nature with a lack of appreciation for what they've done on the battlefield.

"They hadn't seen me and they hadn't seen me with the troops," he said. "So therefore I am using mountain biking and golf to stay connected with the military, people who served during my presidency."

Military members and veterans groups have generally held Bush in high regard, despite the nationwide protests and international controversy that grew more fervent as the American death toll grew in Afghanistan and Iraq under his command.





Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

Well Earned Recognition...

At the detachment meeting on September 26th, our **Department Commandant, ED Ross** presented awards/certificates of appreciation to members of our detachment and its auxiliary for their tireless efforts and dedication, which were significant factors in the success of our **2011 Department Convention** in Ocean City. It should be noted that for the first time in a number of years the budget for the event was not exceeded.

Those present to receive their awards:

Nila Caulder	Anita Jennings	Dawn Parker
Stephanie Del Valle	Kathy Krutzfeldt	

Those not present to receive their awards:

Bernadine Blair	Roger Johnson	Chris Thompson
Anna Elmendorf	Chris Kalwa	Michele Thompson
Chris Fay	Mary Lee Kolich	Berry Wild
Joan Hansen	Priss Reed	Chasity Wright
Marie Jahnigen	Patti Robidoux	Joe Wright
	Ray Sturm	

News from September's Staff Meeting

- **Jack Severn** announced that the deadline for *submission of ads* for the **2012 Department Convention Book** is **March 31, 2012**.
- Our detachment received a certificate & plaque for being judged as the **Best 2011 Detachment Newsletter** for detachments having more than 100 members.
- A *certificate of appreciation* from the **L/Cpl Robert W. Deane Detachment** was presented to a member of our detachment for his support of the Deane Detachment's **20th Anniversary** celebration.
- Our detachment received a **Meritorious Service Citation** from **Marine Corps League National Headquarters** for exceeding previous year's membership figures.
- It was announced that the **2013 National Convention** will be held in **Grand Rapids, Michigan**.
- Next **Department Staff Meeting** will take place at the **Cpl Mileo Detachment** in Centreville.

Bull & Oyster Roast

Senior Vice Commandant, Chris Kalwa, announced that tickets are now on sale for **\$35**. He also stated that he still needs assistance in obtaining **door-prizes** for the event.

Photos Needed

Quartermaster, Fred Kaminski, would like photos taken during the time of service for as many detachment members as possible. These photos will be placed on a *display board* to give credence to the fact that those pictured looked far better a number of years ago than they do today.

Marines Helping Marines Picnic

Volunteers are needed to assist with the **Marines Helping Marines Picnic** at the **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center** in Bethesda, MD on **October 19th**. Except for some set-up/tear-down activities, most volunteers will serve as hosts, who will interact with the wounded Marines and their families. Contact **Commandant Joe Wright** should you have any questions.

2012 National Convention

Past Commandant Pete Pervi made the recommendation that anyone planning to attend the **2012 National Convention in Mobile, Alabama** make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. Traditionally, hotel room availability becomes increasingly scarce as the date of the national convention approaches... in other words, if you don't want to *wind up with a room in the boonies*, make your reservation as soon as possible.

Mission BBQ

Junior Past Commandant Mac McNeir and **Chaplain Ken Webster** attended 'Wounded Warrior Night' at **Mission BBQ** on September 16th. Owners/Operators **Bill Kraus** (father of a currently serving Marine) and **Steve Newton** went out of their way to make us feel at home, which is not surprising when you consider their desire to give back to those who selflessly serve – fire-fighters, police, and members of the military.

Currently, there isn't a lot of Marine paraphernalia on display at Mission BBQ. For that reason, I would like to request that anyone, who has any Marine gear, patches, etc. suitable for display – that they would be willing to donate to the restaurant – to please contact me.



November is fast approaching, as is the

236th Marine Corps Birthday Ball



Plan to share the ceremonies and social activities with your fellow detachment members on
November 12, 2011!

F-35B Makes First Vertical Landing at Sea

SOURCE – This article by Dave Majumdar recently appeared on the Marine CorpsTimes website.

A Marine Corps **F-35B** made its first vertical landing on an amphibious assault ship Monday, Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program officials confirmed.



A Marine Corps F-35B prepares to vertically land for the first time at sea on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship **Wasp** on October 3, 2011. [Photo by Joint Strike Fighter Program Office]

The aircraft, called **BF-2**, made the landing at 3:20 PM Eastern time over the Atlantic onboard the amphibious assault ship **Wasp**.

Over the next two weeks, the JSF program hopes to conduct 67 landings while the **Wasp** is underway, according to **Tom Burbage**, Lockheed Martin's F-35 Program Manager.

The Marine Corps' Deputy Commandant for Aviation, **Lt. General Terry Robling**, said last week that the **Wasp** is available for six weeks should there be any anomalies in testing.

BF-2 is the second short take-off vertical landing variant test aircraft.





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Bull & Oyster Roast

Sunday, October 23, 2011
1300 to 1800 - Joe Wright
\$35 per Person

Corps Humor

There was a Sergeant Major, who had an exceptional gift for fixing all things mechanical. After serving in the Marine Corps loyally for over 30 years, he happily retired.

Several years later, the Marine Corps contacted him and sought his help in solving a seemingly impossible problem that they were having with one of their multimillion-dollar machines. They had tried everything and everyone imaginable to get the machine to work but to no avail.

In desperation, they contacted the retired Sergeant Major, who had solved so many of their problems in the past.

The Sergeant Major reluctantly took the challenge. He spent a day studying the huge machine. At the end of the day, he marked a small 'X' in chalk on a particular component of the machine and stated, "***This is where your problem is located.***"

The part was replaced and the machine once again worked perfectly. Shortly thereafter, The Marine Corps received a bill for **\$50,000** from the Sergeant Major for his service. Of course, the Marine Corps demanded an itemized accounting of his charges.

The Sergeant Major responded briefly:

"One chalk mark - \$1. Knowing where to put it - \$49,999."

The bill was paid in full and the Sergeant Major once again retired in peace.

Meyer's Medal of Honor Citation



SOURCE – Online version of Marine Corps Times published on September 15, 2011.

Awarded for actions during the Global War on Terror

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Corporal Dakota L. Meyer, United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the repeated risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a member of Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8, Regional Corps Advisory Command 3-7, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, on 8 September 2009. When the forward element of his combat team began to be hit by intense fire from roughly 50 Taliban insurgents dug-in and concealed on the slopes above Ganjgal village, Corporal Meyer mounted a gun-truck, enlisted a fellow Marine to drive, and raced to attack the ambushers and aid the trapped Marines and Afghan soldiers. During a six hour fire fight, Corporal Meyer single-handedly turned the tide of the battle, saved 36 Marines and soldiers and recovered the bodies of his fallen brothers. Four separate times he fought the kilometer up into the heart of a deadly U-shaped ambush. During the fight he killed at least eight Taliban, personally evacuated 12 friendly wounded, and provided cover for another 24 Marines and soldiers to escape likely death at the hands of a numerically superior and determined foe. On his first foray his lone vehicle drew machine gun, mortar, rocket grenade and small arms fire while he rescued five wounded soldiers. His second attack disrupted the enemy's ambush and he evacuated four more wounded Marines. Switching to another gun-truck because his was too damaged they again sped in for a third time, and as turret gunner killed several Taliban attackers at point blank range and suppressed enemy fire so 24 Marines and soldiers could break-out. Despite being wounded, he made a fourth attack with three others to search for missing team members. Nearly surrounded and under heavy fire he dismounted the vehicle and searched house to house to recover the bodies of his fallen team members. By his extraordinary heroism, presence of mind amidst chaos and death, and unselfish devotion to his comrades in the face of great danger, Corporal Meyer reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



POW Memorial Unveiled

SOURCE – Article by Gidget Fuentes, which appeared in the online version of the Marine Corps Times published on Friday, September 16, 2011.

Veterans gathered Friday morning at a San Diego national cemetery to commemorate a new bronze, steel and concrete statue that honors the sacrifices of the U.S. prisoner-of-war.

The seven-ton statue, topping 15 feet, 7 inches tall, depicts an emaciated POW emerging from captivity, his right hand blocking sunlight. A pair of dog tags hangs from his neck as barbed wire and fencing surround his bare feet. The statue, "*The Liberation Moment*," is designed by Poway, CA, sculptor **Richard Becker**.



*The Liberation Moment at Miramar National Cemetery.
[Photo by G. Fuentes]*

The **San Diego Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War** covered the cost of the statue, which sits near the entrance to the 313-acre **Miramar National Cemetery**.

Department of Veterans Affairs officials joined veterans and local officials in the dedication ceremony, said **Bill Heard**, a spokesman for the **Fort Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation**.

A plaque affixed to the concrete base describes the statue and states the POW depicted "*portrays the hundreds of thousands who were bound in captivity by the infamy of foreign enemies. This is to stand as an eternal legacy for our community by reminding visitors of the sacrifice of veterans during America's efforts to keep alive the hopes and dreams of freedom for the oppressed around the world.*"



Quotation

*"We Marines are truly blessed.
We get to enjoy the sweet taste of freedom,
because we know its price!"*

John Chipura

Marine Veteran and survivor of the 1983 Beirut Marine Barracks Bombing.

After first serving as a member of the NYPD for 12 years, he subsequently followed in the footsteps of his father and brother and became a New York Fireman. He was one of the 343 first responders, who perished on September 11, 2001 attempting to rescue victims trapped within the World Trade Center's Twin Towers.



Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **December 30, 2011**. 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.

VFW Golf Fundraiser

Friday, October 21, 2011 – Pete Pervi & Jim Brady
Registration begins @ 0730 / Shot-gun Start @ 0900
Bay Hills Golf Club, 545 Bay Hills Dr Arnold, MD

Detachment 1049 Bull & Oyster Roast

Sunday, October 23, 2011 from 1300 to 1800 – Chris Kalwa

Monthly Meetings, Detachment & Auxiliary

Monday, October 24, 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Marines Helping Marines Picnic

(Sponsored by A. A. Co. Det. 1049 & the Devil Dogs)
Wednesday, October 19, 2011 – Tony Begenwald (301-262-4869)
Mercy Hall, Bethesda National Naval Medical Center

Children's Halloween Party, VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 1300 to 1500 – Jennifer Sacks

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049

Friday, November 4, 2011 from 1800 to 2000 – Joe Wright

Monthly Breakfast, VFW

Sunday, November 6, 2011 from 0800 to 1100 – Gil Campion

USMC Birthday Observance, Detachment 1049

Thursday, November 10, 2011, starting @ 1800 – Joe Wright

236th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Detachment 1049

Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 1800 to MIDNIGHT – Chris Kalwa

Monthly Meetings, Detachment & Auxiliary

Monday, November 28, 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Monthly Breakfast, VFW

Sunday, December 4, 2011 from 0800 to 1100 – Gil Campion

Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 1300 to 1500 – Jennifer Sacks

MODD Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, December 11, 2011 @ 1000 – Paul Taylor

Monthly Meetings, Detachment & 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



<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

1 October 1880

John Phillip Sousa named 17th leader of the Marine Corps Band.

1 October 1997

Colonel Gilda A. Jackson becomes first African-American female Colonel in the Marine Corps.

1 October 2001

General Peter Pace becomes first Marine to serve as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

5 October 1775

Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the 2nd Continental Congress used the word "Marines" on one of the earliest known occasions, when it directed General George Washington to secure two vessels on "Continental risque and pay", and to give orders for the "proper encouragement to the Marines and seamen" to serve on the two armed ships.

6 October 1945:

Major General Keller E. Rockey, Commanding General, III Amphibious Corps, accepted the surrender of 50,000 Japanese troops in North China on behalf of the Chinese Nationalist government.

14 October 1918

Marine flyers, 2nd Lieutenant Ralph Talbot and Gunnery Sergeant Robert G. Robinson, win Medals of Honor.

16 October 1820

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Gale, 4th Commandant of the Marine Corps, having been found guilty of habitual drunkenness and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman by a General Court Martial, was dismissed from the Marine Corps.

17 October 1820

Archibald Henderson appointed Commandant...a position he held until his death, a period of 38 years.

18 October 1859

86 Marines, under 1st Lieutenant Israel Green, USMC and Lt. Colonel Robert E. Lee, USA, capture abolitionist John Brown at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

20 October 1926

Because of the brutal murder of a mail truck driver, President Calvin Coolidge orders the Marine Corps to guard the U.S. Mail.

23 October 1983

At 0622 an explosive-laden truck slammed into the BLT headquarters building in Beirut, Lebanon, and took the lives of 241 Americans – including 220 Marines. This was the highest loss of life in a single day for Marines since D-Day on Iwo Jima in 1945.

24 October 1915

Marine Corps Recruit Depot was moved from Norfolk and re-established at Parris Island, South Carolina.

31 October 1955

Lieutenant General Lewis B. 'Chesty' Puller, who earned five Navy Crosses – and an Army Distinguished Service Cross – retires.





Marine Corps League
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049
PO Box 804
Severn, Maryland 21144-0804

(Address Correction Requested)



Featured Foto



PFC's Greg Zecher and Nicholas Roberts, machine gunners with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, illuminate the night sky by firing tracer rounds and then reloading their weapons during Exercise Clear, Hold, Build 3 on Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twenty-Nine Palms, CA, September 21, 2011. The two-day evolution - part of the Enhanced Mojave Viper training exercise - enabled America's Battalion to improve its capabilities as the ground combat element of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force. The exercise is their final pre-deployment training event before deploying to Afghanistan's Helmand province next month to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

[Photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder that appeared on the website <http://www.marines.mil/Pages/Default.aspx>.]