

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)

Fight to the Finish

A snapshot of Corporal Dakota Meyer, the Corps' next Medal of Honor recipient

SOURCE – This is an edited version of an article by Cpl. Reece Lodder, which appeared in the online version of Marines Mag on August 16, 2011.



Sergeant (then Corporal) **Dakota Meyer** deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Ganjgal Village, Kunar province, Afghanistan. Meyer will be receiving the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, from President Barack Obama in Washington, September 15, 2011. he will be the first living Marine recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War. [Photo by Sgt. Sneden]

Removed from an ambushed platoon of Marines and soldiers in a remote Afghan village on September 8, 2009, his reality viciously shaken by an onslaught of enemy fighters, **Corporal Dakota Meyer** simply reacted as he knew best – tackling what he called *extraordinary circumstances* by “**doing the right thing... doing whatever it takes.**”

The White House announced on August 12, 2011, that the 23-year-old Marine scout sniper from Columbia, KY, who has since left the Marine Corps, will become the first living Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor in 38 years. Retired **Sergeant Major Allan Kellogg, Jr.** received the medal in 1973 for gallantry in Vietnam.

Meyer is the second Marine to receive the medal for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. **Corporal Jason Dunham** was awarded the medal posthumously for covering a grenade with his body to save two Marines in Iraq in 2004. **President Barack Obama** will present the award to Meyer at the White House on September 15, 2011.

(see *Dakota Meyer* on page 6)

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the CUTTING EDGE

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

Editor – Mac McNeir

P.O. Box 804

Severn, MD 21144-0804

Phone410-437-4329

Emaileditor@mclaacdet1049.org

ListServer:

e-mail:

aa-county-detachment1049@lists.mclaacdet1049.org

web page:

<http://lists.mclaacdet1049.org/mailman/listinfo/aa-county-detachment1049>



Detachment Website

<http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

Detachment Staff:

Commandant – Joseph Wright

Senior Vice-Commandant – Chris Kalwa

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 – Jim LeGette

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

VAVS Officer – Vacant

Web Sergeant – Michael R. Hadley

Young Marines Commander – George Martin

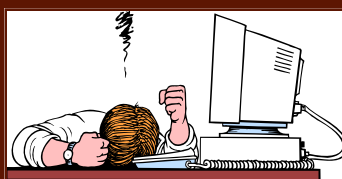


Award Winner

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 (Simply my opinion!)

by Mac McNeir

This month marked the **10th Anniversary of 9/11**... a day of four coordinated attacks on **New York's World Trade Center**, and the **Pentagon**; as well as a *defeated* attack that many believe was aimed at either the **Capitol Building** or the **White House**. If you have not already done so, please pause to remember the innocent victims, their families, the first-responders, and all those potential victims who bravely reversed roles and did all in their power to rescue and comfort their fellow victims.

It is equally as important that we realize that many of the recommendations of **The 9/11 Commission** – such as *common communication channels/frequencies* for **The Police, The Fire Department**, and **EMTs** – have yet to be implemented! Let us also not forget that over the intervening years, our elected officials have countered the continuing threat of future attacks on America by making it difficult for Americans to travel by air; while being seemingly more concerned about the civil rights of aspiring terrorists who would destroy us... allowing our territorial borders to be breached daily by illegal aliens, criminals, and potential terrorists. With the 2012 elections coming, this event should cause you to more closely scrutinize those running for office and cast your vote as you deem appropriate.

The deadline for the delivery of **October newsletter** articles is **MIDNIGHT on Monday, October 10, 2011. Please do not wait 'til 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)

October 2011	November 2011	December 2011
Albert Bell James Galvin Scott Neff Ray Sturm	Danielle Campbell Samuel Campbell James McCormick Kurt Osuch	Don Blanton Michael Lowman William Russell

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

Commandant's Message



Joe Wright

Marines,

Now that the summer season, an earthquake, and Hurricane Irene are behind us, it's time to start thinking about future events. I hope we have a good showing for these events.

- September 17th is our Department of MD Staff Meeting and Pack Growl in Oakland, MD.
- October 23rd is our Bull & Oyster Roast, and our Senior Vice will have more info on this for everyone. This is one of our key fund-raisers, so I hope to see everyone there.
- October 26th Detachment 1049 is sponsoring the Marines Helping Marines Picnic at Bethesda Naval Hospital.
- November 10th is our observation of the Marine Corps 236th Birthday with a Happy Hour at VFW Post 160, starting at 1800.
- November 12th is our Marine Corps Ball... more information will be made available shortly.

I would like to congratulate **Mac McNeir** for our newsletter being judged #1 in its division at the National Convention. Great Job!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on September 26, 2011.

Semper Fi,

Joe

Retiree Pay Dates to Change

SOURCE – Excerpt from the Military.com web page of September 5th.

Paydays for military retirees and those who receive portions of retired pay are changing for **September** and **December**, as the **Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)** changes its pay schedule to comply with the **2011 National Defense Authorization Act**. This year, payments normally scheduled for **October 3, 2011** will be issued on **September 30, 2011** and payments normally scheduled for **January 3, 2012** will be issued on **December 30, 2011**. For the calendar year 2011, this means military retirees will receive 13 rather than the normal 12 payments. *Customers should speak with a tax advisor, the Internal Revenue Service, or their state tax authority to determine if their tax withholding will satisfy federal and state income taxes when they file returns next year.*



DOJ Wants Faker Law Upheld

SOURCE – Associated Press article posted by The Marine Corps Times (online) on August 19, 2011

The **Department of Justice** has asked the Supreme Court to uphold a law making it illegal to lie about being a war hero. Government lawyers formally filed an appeal late Thursday. The move was expected.

The law has been challenged in California and Colorado.

In California, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the law violated the First Amendment. That is the ruling the government appealed to the Supreme Court.

The 10th Circuit in Denver is also reviewing the law after a lower court ruled it was unconstitutional for the same reason. The 10th hasn't issued a ruling.

The law makes it a crime to falsely claim to have received a military medal. Conviction carries a sentence of up to a year in jail.



Marine Corps League
Department of Maryland

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>

Phony Marine Sentenced

SOURCE – Associated Press article posted by The Marine Corps Times (online) on September 8, 2011

GREENVILLE, NC – An Onslow County man has been sentenced to 16 months in prison after he was convicted earlier this year of portraying himself as a Marine, who served in Vietnam.

The Daily News of Jacksonville reported that 68-year-old **Michael Delos Hamilton** of Richlands was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Greenville on Wednesday.

Hamilton was convicted in April of false statement to the government, larceny of government property, unauthorized wearing of a military uniform, and unauthorized wearing of Congressionally authorized military medals.

Officials say Hamilton improperly received more than \$37,000 in disability payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Hamilton attended a veterans gathering in Jacksonville last year in a Colonel's dress uniform, wearing combat decorations that included two Navy Crosses, four Silver Stars and eight Purple Hearts.



From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Kalwa

Fellow Marines,

I hope everyone is safe and has recovered from Hurricane Irene.

Everything is now set for the **Bull & Oyster Roast** and tickets are now available. Please contact me to purchase them.

Preparations for our detachment's commemoration of our **Corps' 236th Birthday** are still ongoing. Also note that we will be getting together on **November 10th** at the Post Canteen to celebrate our Corps' birthday with cocktails, stories, and good old camaraderie.

Hope to see a lot of you at the next meeting.

Semper Fi,

Chris Kalwa



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



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)

I am currently unaware of any members or members of our extended family being in distress.

Please keep the memories of our departed members, their families, and friends in your thoughts and prayers.



New Marine Corps Museum Exhibit



New York Fire Department Battalion Chief Joe Downey stands behind a steel I-beam that was retrieved from the World Trade Center wreckage and donated to the National Museum of the Marine Corps as part of the museum's **9/11 - We Remember** exhibit at a dedication ceremony on September 7. The exhibit will open on September 9. [Peter Cihelka / The Free Lance-Star via the AP]

From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

Hello to all my fellow members of Detachment 1049,

I hope your summer has been a great one. We are doing pretty well on membership. We're up to **131 paid**. Unfortunately, there are still a few members, who have not remitted their renewals... one of whom has been delinquent since **August 2010**. So please check your membership cards to see if your dues are current; if they are not, please send your dues to me as soon as possible. That will allow me to get them into the League's Department and National Headquarters and prevent you from being dropped from our roster.

Remember if each one of us can bring in a new member, it will really help our detachment.

For our new members and old, the address to write for information on getting MCL tags for your car is:

**Jack Colleran
440 Benfield Road
Severna Park, 21146-2737**

You could also either (1) give Jack a call at **410-647-3877** or (2) go to our detachment web site under **Public Information** for instructions on obtaining MCL license plates. Be advised that in order to acquire MCL tags, you must be a member in good standing, i.e. your dues must be up to date.

Semper Fi,

Ed Dahling



Military Order of the Devil Dogs

The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

Pound 204 had a very successful Growl on August 14th at the Pound Dog House. It was well attended and many bones were collected for the Kennel's Children's Hospital Fund, as we start a new Devil Dog year. We also welcomed three new Pups to the Order... one was our very own **Detachment Adjutant, Dave Wells**.

At the August 14th Growl, the Pound also elected new officers... sort of. All officers remained the same except for the **Dog Trainer, PDD Halme**, who had to step down for health reasons. **Devil Dog Joe Wright** was unanimously elected to replace him.

PDD Jack Severn brought back news from both the **Supreme Growl** and the **National Convention**. *Once again, Pound 204 donated the most passport bones of any Pound in the Kennel with a total of \$1,610, which is 9.94% of all bones forwarded.* Sadly, 65 MODD Pounds forwarded no passport bones at all. The Kennel Dog Robber did a superb job of reporting passport bones collected in his annual report. He listed all Pounds and the last year they forwarded passport bones. Can you believe, some Pounds have not forwarded any bones since 2002? And many have not forwarded any since 2003 and 2004. And why do they still have their charter, you may ask? I ask the same thing!

All annual dues expire on August 31st! If this pertains to you, please remit 15 big bones to your friendly Pound Dog Robber (me) ASAP. Make checks payable to **MODD, Pound 204**.

The **Pack of Maryland** will Growl on **September 17th** in Oakland, following the conclusion of the Department Staff Meeting. *If your dues are not paid, you may not attend the Pack Growl as you will not be a member in good standing.* This is very important if you are a **DD** planning on advancing to **PDD** next year. *You must attend two Pack Growls between now and the Supreme Growl in August 2012.*

Pups, remember, in order to be advanced next year in Ocean City, *you must have one year-time-in grade and attend two Pound Growls prior to the Grand Growl.* So don't delay. Attend all the Pound Growls.

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

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 **October** include:

Harry Anderson	Michael Mullikin	Donald Quinlan
Buddy Cadle	Keith Oliver	Steve Salanik
Dee Cline	George Perez Sr.	Richard Savage
Tom Hancock	Roger Pirkey	Sinamin Stone
Vernon Maher		Keith Thorburn



Public Information

by Ed Dahling, Public Information Officer

Uniform Materials / Retirement / Don't Ask...

Here is one for the books: The **Senate Armed Services Committee** has asked the **Department of Defense** to consider recycled material as an acceptable fabric for military garments. A uniform shirt (blouse) can be made out of five (5) plastic soda bottles. Also, under consideration would be old uniform material. Private companies are already producing a variety of items by combining recycled plastic and rayon. Question: would the garments be fire resistant?

A **Radical Retirement Overhaul** is under way for the military. The 20-year retirement package may become a benefit of the past. As reported, there are many new and different elements of the retirement program being considered by the **Defense Business Board**: enlistment times; self-investment; reduction in value for some categories (*officer versus enlisted*); partial grandfathering for those already in the ranks, and a whole myriad of new elements. There seems to be a negative response by those who plan to stay in the military, seeking full retirement and a more positive acceptance by those who do not plan to stay in. One might think there is an element of how to avoid keeping our higher paid experienced members and rely on less experienced personnel to protect us.

A court ruling striking down the **Don't Ask – Don't Tell** (DADT) law as unconstitutional has been opposed by the **Justice Department** (DOJ), which is required to defend the laws of our nation. The position of the DOJ is counter to the current administration's decision to repeal the law. But fear not, congressional action is in the works to eventually repeal the DADT law.



“The award honors the men who gave their lives that day, and the men who were in that fight,” Meyer said. “I didn’t do anything more than any other Marine would. I was put in an extraordinary circumstance, and I just did my job.”

Though bleeding from shrapnel wounds in his right arm, Meyer, aided by fellow Marines and Army advisors from **Embedded Training Team 2-8**, braved a vicious hail of enemy machine-gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire in the village of Ganjgal to help rescue and evacuate more than 15 wounded Afghan soldiers, and recover the bodies of four fallen fighters – **1st Lt. Michael Johnson, Gunnery Sgts. Aaron Kenefick and Edwin Johnson Jr., and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class James Layton.**

ETT advisor **Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Westbrook** died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC, on October 7, 2009, from wounds sustained in the firefight.

Meyer charged through the battle zone five times to recover the dead Marines and injured Afghan soldiers, risking his life even when a medical evacuation helicopter wouldn’t land because of the blazing gunfire.

“There’s not a day – not a second that goes by where I don’t think about what happened that day,” Meyer said. “I didn’t just lose four Marines that day; I lost four brothers.”

Author **Bing West**, a retired Marine infantry officer and combat veteran of Vietnam, detailed Meyer’s actions in the battle in *“The Wrong War,”* and praised Meyer for taking command of the battle as a Corporal – the most junior advisor in this firefight.

West said Meyer should have been killed, but he dominated the battlefield by fearlessly exposing himself to danger and pumping rifle and machine gun rounds into the enemy fighters.

“When you leave the perimeter, you don’t know what’s going to happen, regardless of what war you’re fighting in,” **Sergeant Major Kellogg**, who now lives in Kailua, Hawaii, said. *“Once you get to a point where you make the decision – ‘I’m probably going to die, so let the party begin’ – once you say in your mind you aren’t getting out of there, you fight harder and harder.”*

Beginning his career with the same regiment from which Kellogg retired in 1990, Meyer deployed with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, to Fallujah, Iraq, in 2007, and earned a meritorious promotion to Corporal in late 2008 after returning from the deployment.

Before leaving for Iraq, Meyer completed the Marine Corps’ 10-week *Scout Sniper Basic Course*, and committed to preparing himself and his snipers for combat. They attended lifesaving classes taught by Navy Corpsmen and honed their skills with myriad weapons systems, such as light machine guns. Meyer also spent time in his battalion’s communications section learning how to call for mortar and artillery fire.

“I devoted my whole life to making the best snipers in the Marine Corps,” Meyer said. “They’re a direct reflection of your leadership. If you fail them in training, it could get them killed on the battlefield.”

In February 2009, Meyer volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan’s dangerous Kunar province and mentor Afghan soldiers as part of an embedded training team, the type of role usually filled by U.S. Special Forces.

“A Marine who seeks the challenge of joining his unit’s scout sniper platoon has to have a lot of drive and determination,” said **Colonel Nathan Nastase**, Commanding Officer of 3rd Marine Regiment and formerly Meyer’s Battalion Commander at 3/3. “Being assigned to the ETT was a huge vote of confidence in his abilities.”

Meyer deployed to Afghanistan with the ETT in July 2009.

“Our mission was to help prepare the Afghans to take over their own country and provide security for themselves,” Meyer said. “ETTs make a huge impact on the outcome of the war.”

In Kunar province, Meyer and another ETT advisor would lead squads of 15 Afghan soldiers on patrols. Since he could speak Pashto, the local language, so well, Meyer often separated from the element along with his Afghan trainees.

When his patrol fought to rescue another from an ambush September 8, 2009, Meyer’s focus on advising gave way to surviving, and on what he had to do to keep himself and his men alive.

“I lost a lot of Afghans that day,” Meyer said. “And I’ll tell you right now – they were just as close to me as those Marines were. At the end of the day, I don’t care if they’re Afghans, Iraqis, Marines or Army; it didn’t matter. They’re in the same shit you are, and they want to go home and see their family just as bad as you do.”

Thrown into unimaginable circumstances, Meyer said the Afghan soldiers and his sniper training “saved my life” during the battle.

Jacody Downey is a close friend of Meyer’s from Kentucky. He’s seen his friend grow from a *fun-loving jokester* in high school to a driven Marine who deeply respected both elders and subordinates.

(continued on next page)

Dakota Meyer *(continued from previous page)*

“Dakota has always cared more about others than he does himself,” Downey said. “Even if he’s not with his Marines now, he’s still constantly thinking about them, worrying about them and calling to check on them. He still considers them brothers.”

Corporal David Hawkins grew as a Marine under Meyer’s leadership in 3/3’s Scout Sniper Platoon.

“Meyer was an ideal leader,” Hawkins, from Parker, CO, said. “He knew everything about the Marines underneath him – how they’d respond to every situation, not only on a Marine Corps level but also on a personal level.”

Hawkins said he was deeply humbled by Meyer’s concern as a friend, especially after being injured in Afghanistan last year. Hawkins was severely wounded by an *improvised explosive device* in Afghanistan on September 24, 2010. Four days later, he lay static in a stark hospital room, riddled with shrapnel. After groggily emerging from anesthesia into a blurry reality, Hawkins’ phone rang – the first call from a friend. Without fail, Meyer’s jovial drawl broke through the speaker.

“In the Marine Corps, you always hear that if something’s broke, you’ve got to work to fix it, but you never really see the Marine who does it,” Hawkins said. “Meyer is that Marine. If he had something to say, he’d say it, and he wasn’t really afraid of repercussions for what he said. If it needed to be changed, he changed it.”

Hearing his friend would receive the Medal of Honor didn’t surprise Hawkins. In light of the “character” and “country boy” Hawkins knows, Meyer’s actions were simply the manifestation of how he lived and led.

“Meyer was destined for the Medal of Honor,” Hawkins said. “If you got to work with him, you’d see it.”

Meyer completed his tour on active duty last June. He went home to Kentucky, where he’s found purpose working with his hands in a family business.

“Pouring concrete is kind of like the Marine Corps,” Meyer said. “When you wake up in the morning, you’ve got a job... like a mission. There’s no set standard on how to do things, but you just have to go out there, make decisions and get it done – and that’s like the challenge of the Marine Corps. Once you’re satisfied with what you’ve done, you stop getting better.”

Meyer is the 86th living Medal of Honor recipient, and he joins a small, elite group of heroes, a reality that will often require him to conjure up haunting reminders of the battles he has fought, the friends he has lost and the painful regret he bears.

“I’m not a hero, by any means – I’m a Marine, that’s what I am,” he said. “The heroes are the men and women still serving, and the guys who gave their lives for their country. At the end of the day, I went in there to do the right thing... and it all boils down to doing the right thing... whatever it takes. All those things we learn stick in your head, and when you live by it, that’s the Marine way.”

Though Meyer will receive the Medal of Honor for what he did in Ganjgal, he insists he will wear the five-pointed medallion and blue silk ribbon to honor his fallen brothers, their families and his fellow Marines.

“Being a Marine is a way of life,” Meyer said. “It isn’t just a word, and it’s not just about the uniform – it’s about brotherhood. Brotherhood means that when you turn around, they’re there, through thick and thin. If you can’t take care of your brothers, what can you do in life?”



Quotation

“The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it!”

Albert Einstein

German-born theoretical physicist, generally regarded as the father of modern physics and the recipient of the 1921 Nobel Prize.



Color Guard

by the Editor for Woody Bowman

Our Color Guard took part in the ***Lost in the Fifties Car Club*** gathering on **Saturday, September 10, 2011** in the **Marley Station Mall** parking lot.

The next scheduled event for our Color Guard will be the **Annual Pasadena Thanksgiving Day Parade**, which is scheduled for **2:00 PM** on **Sunday, November 6th**. The parade will assemble at **Tick Neck Park**, proceed to **Tick Neck Road**, turn right onto **Mountain Road**, turn right onto **East Shore Road**, turn left onto **218th Street**, turn left onto **Outing Avenue**, and end at **George Fox Middle School**.

I would also like to take this opportunity to belatedly thank the members of our Color Guard (both past and present) for their contributions to the following events/accomplishments.

- Receipt of a **Maryland General Assembly Citation** for their selfless dedication, patriotism, and service to Maryland’s Veterans and the Community – Awarded December 4, 2005.
- Receipt of a **Veterans Award** from the **Glen Burnie Improvement Association** for being the **Best Appearing Veterans’ Unit** in the 2011 **GBIA Memorial Day Parade**.





Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

Back at ya...

On a recent trip to San Francisco, **Chaplain Ken Webster**, a Vietnam Era Veteran and our Detachment Chaplain recalled the disrespect heaped upon us – during our travels to and from Vietnam – by the **Peaceniks & Flower Children**, who infested the west coast and most notably the Haight-Ashbury district. So, he felt obliged to give a belated sign of recognition to those miscreants of yesteryear by positioning himself in the center of the Haight-Ashbury intersection and rendering his own salutation to any elderly Peaceniks & Flower Children who might still be inhabiting the area.



October Picnic...

Our Detachment, as well as the Devil Dogs, have volunteered to sponsor the October **Marines Helping Marines Picnic** at the **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center**, which was formerly known as the **Bethesda National Naval Medical Center**. While servers are not generally needed, we do need volunteers to help with (1) setting up, (2) cleaning up, and most importantly (3) interacting with the patients and their families. Volunteers who do not have military credentials (vehicle sticker/military ID) will need to provide

either our **Detachment Commandant Joe Wright** or our **Junior Past Commandant Mac McNeir** with their names (as they appear on their driver's licenses) as soon as possible. We need to have this information in the hands of **Tony Begenwald**, East Coast Coordinator for Marines Helping Marines, prior to **NOON on Thursday, October 20th**.

Highlights of August Meeting

A copy of the recently modified **Marine Corps League Cover Regulations** has been posted on the detachment's bulletin-board. The changes detailed are only pertinent to newly acquired covers. Existing covers have been 'grand-fathered' and are acceptable as long as they are maintained in a serviceable (presentable) condition.

Commandant Wright asked for volunteers to assist with the organization and execution of this year's detachment hosted **Marine Corps Birthday Ball**.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the **Marines Helping Marines Picnic** at Bethesda on **October 26th**. 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 **Junior Past Commandant McNeir** should you have any questions.

Bull & Oyster Roast – Senior Vice Commandant, Chris Kalwa, announced that tickets were in the process of being printed and will be going on sale before the September 26th meeting. Cost per person will be **\$35**. Chris is also in need of volunteers to assist with obtaining **door-prizes** for the event.

Color Guard Commander, Woody Bowman extended his thanks to all those detachment members, who took part in the memorial services and interment of member **Dave Boschert**, who passed away in June.

Detachment embroidered golf (polo) shirts remain available for purchase by detachment members. Please see the ad at the back of this newsletter for details.

Department Commandant Ed Ross, encouraged all detachment members to attend the **Navy versus Southern Mississippi** football game; as well as, endorsing full participation in our detachment's **Birthday Ball**, commemorating 236 years of dedicated service by Marines across the centuries.

Mission BBQ

A new restaurant in the **Harundale Mall – Mission BBQ** – hosted a special fundraiser on **Friday, September, 16th** from **5:00 until 9:00 PM**. One hundred percent of the profits of the event are to be presented to the **Wounded Warriors Project**.

After the grand-opening at **NOON on September 19th**, **10%** of the restaurant's profits will be earmarked for members of the police and fire departments, as well as the military.



Corps Humor

‘Nuts’ Rummel's Hole in One...Sort of

NOTE – This article, which appeared in the Marine Corps Association online blog on July 21, 2011, was written by Allan C Bevilacqua. I have not made up my mind as to whether this is a fairy tale that should have begun with the phrase ‘Once upon a time...’ or a Sea-Story which we all know begins with the phrase ‘This ain’t no sh-t...’ you be the judge. ’

In the pantheon of Marine Corps eccentrics “**Nuts**” **Rummel** stands alone without peer. Back in the late ‘40s when he was standing Sergeant-of-the-Guard watches with the Marine Barracks at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA, Nuts pulled off one of the Corps’ all-time classic loonies. Solely on its own merit, it was an escapade that should guarantee Nuts’ enshrinement among the legends of the Marine Corps.

There was in those days, a local tradition having to do with the daily firing of a sunset gun to accompany the lowering of the color at the closing of the day. Every evening at colors, in addition to the duty field music sounding “Retreat,” a firing party from the Guard-of-the-Day would fire one blank round from an old 3-inch deck gun, one of a pair that formed the saluting battery flanking the flagpole in front of Marine Barracks. Old-time residents of the community could not recall a time when it had not been so.

Its execution never varied. Each evening at the appointed time the color detail and the firing party would march to the flagpole and take their positions under the supervision of the Commander-of-the-Guard. The duty field music would take his post to the rear of the color detail; the Officer-of-the-Day would appear from within the Marine Barracks to stand smartly at the head of the steps leading down to the street; and the Commander-of-the-Guard would count down, “**Five, four, three, two, one, EXECUTE!**”

BOOM! Would go one, blank, 3-inch round. Hands would come to the salute, and the duty field music would sound the lingering, melancholy notes of “Retreat” as the flag was slowly lowered. Except for the precise, clockwork movements of the color detail all else was a scene carved from marble, fading sunlight reflecting from glistening shoes, polished brass and sparkling silver. As the last notes of the salute faded away into nothingness, a hush settled upon the motionless figures silhouetted against the sun's last rays. It was a most impressive ceremony.

And then, one moonless night in the waning hours of the mid-watch, a shadowy figure emerged from the gloom and stole silently up to the saluting battery. Carefully, ever so carefully, the mysterious figure eased open the breechblock of the No. 1 gun and produced from inside his shirt a ‘*diaphragm*’ fashioned from a bit of cardboard. The figure then stealthily inserted the device into the breech, seating it all the way forward in the chamber. Glancing furtively about to make certain he was still unobserved, the man of mystery quietly eased the breechblock shut and tripped the firing mechanism.

The click of the trigger was barely audible in the stillness of the night. To the silent figure, though, it sounded like the crack of doom on Judgment Day. He waited a moment to see whether this faint noise had attracted anyone’s attention. Confident that he remained undetected, the intruder slipped noiselessly to the muzzle of the gun and filled it from breech to muzzle with golf balls from a large paper bag. With one last precautionary look about for curious sentries, the dim figure slipped back into the shadows and anonymity.

In due time “Reveille” sounded; the barracks square reverberated to the routine of roll call and physical drill under arms. The morning chow formation marched off to the mess hall, trailed by the usual persistent stragglers, who would attempt to evade the watchful eyes of the Sergeant-of-the-Guard and slip into line. Another day was beginning, and the sun’s appearance above the horizon was marked by the raising of the colors, the old Officer-of-the-Day was relieved by the new, and the ceremony of guard mount flashed to the roll of drums and the clarion call of bugles.

The day wore on, and the myriad tasks of a busy shipyard were tended to. In dry-docks, steel-grey ships of the line, in for overhaul and refitting, swarmed with safety-helmeted workers readying them for their return to the fleet. Across the Elizabeth River, the hull of the battleship USS Kentucky, destined not to be completed, stood. The reliefs of the guard waxed and waned; sentries were inspected, marched off and posted by meticulous Corporals-of-the-Guard.

Eventually, as the day drew to its close, the evening color detail, immaculate in crisp, starched khaki, gleaming leather, sparkling brass and dazzling white accouterments, took position as it did each day throughout the year, fair or foul. A blank 3-inch round was loaded smartly into the chamber of the No. 1 gun, and the Commander-of-the-Guard intoned, “**Five, four, three, two, one, EXECUTE!**”

(see Corps Humor on page 10)

Corps Humor... *(continued from page 9)*

KABOOM! Golf balls filled the evening sky like a meteor shower. The duty field music stood dumbstruck, the silver bugle poised at his lips silent. The Officer-of-the-Day froze with mouth agape, his sword arrested halfway into the salute. Only the voice of the Commander-of-the-Guard broke the awesome silence. “*Jeezus!*” he murmured, as a cloud of golf balls obscured the setting sun.

It was spectacular in the manner that only truly amazing occurrences are spectacular. Some golf balls cleared the reservation, to bounce about in adjacent residential streets. Others soared completely out of sight, to land who knows where. Most, however, in the manner of all projectiles, landed in a beaten zone, the maximum density of which lay immediately across the grass parade ground that fronted the Marine Barracks. Specifically, they pretty much blanketed the building that stood directly downrange. This was a stately, handsome, three-story brick example of classic Georgian architecture. Its entire first-floor front elevation was taken up by a magnificent glassed-in porch. It was the residence of the Admiral commanding the Fifth Naval District.

The carnage was stupendous. With one huge crash the porch disintegrated in a shower of broken glass. Inside, golf balls with plenty of zip still in them shattered picture frames, smashed lamps and ricocheted through interior windows. A *Ming Dynasty* vase, prize possession of the Admiral’s lady, exploded in a spray of vermillion shards. Upstairs, the Admiral, who had been present during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, wondered if it was somehow happening all over again.

If the wreckage was mind-boggling, it was nothing compared to the Admiral’s wrath. According to the Admiral’s steward, the “Old Man” thundered for 15 minutes with a broadside of profanities that could have dissolved an anvil, never once repeating himself. The steward, a seasoned Chief Petty Officer with an armful of gold hash-marks and no stranger to salty language himself, was speechless with admiration. Somebody, the Admiral promised, was headed for the other Portsmouth, the one in New Hampshire that was the home of the United States Naval Prison.

Early the next morning Nuts Rummel found himself standing at attention before the Commanding Officer of Marine Barracks. “Sergeant Rummel,” the Colonel growled, “*I know you did it. If I can ever prove it, I’m going to lock you up from now until the Commandant of the Marine Corps wears bell-bottomed trousers.*” He then chased Nuts from the office, and, according to the Sergeant Major, the Skipper, the Exec, and the Adjutant all laughed themselves silly.

In later years Nuts Rummel, by then a Sergeant Major himself, took up the game of golf, becoming a regular on the links and in the clubhouse at Camp Pendleton, CA. When asked, he always said he first became interested in the game of golf when he was stationed at the Naval Shipyard at Portsmouth.

Was there a golf course there? No. A driving range? Not so far as he knew. “*But that’s where watching the flight of a golf ball really got me way down deep.*” Nuts always smiled a bit when he said that.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

On September 27, 28, and 29, the *Modern Day Marine Expo* will be held at Quantico, Virginia. The Expo allows Marines to see the latest technology through exhibitor displays of new equipment prototypes, computer simulation, etc. that will enable Marines to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

This event is sponsored by the Marine Corps League, the Marine Corps Systems Command, and Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia. We need many volunteers from the MCL to help with stuffing give away bags, welcoming visitors and handing out those bags, and other tasks that will come up. When not working, you will have an opportunity to visit the exhibits, talk with vendors, and meet fellow Marines of many eras. It is a great experience that will make you glad you volunteered. If you would like to volunteer for one day (or multiple days), please let me know as soon as you can. You can contact me either by leaving me a note at the post, telephoning me at 410-375-0564, or emailing me (papervi@verizon.net).

Thanks and Semper Fi,

Pete Pervi



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.

Monthly Meetings, Detachment & Auxiliary

Monday, September 26, 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049 Auxiliary

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

Monthly Breakfast, VFW

Sunday, October 2, 2011 from 0800 to 1100 – Pete Pervi

VFW Golf Fund-Raiser

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

Detachment 1049 Bull & Oyster Roast

Sunday, October 23, 2011 from 1300 to 1800 – Joe Wright

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 26, 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 – Pete Pervi

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 – Pete Pervi

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



Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

1 September 1936

Mitchell Paige – Medal of Honor recipient for heroism during Guadalcanal campaign – enlists as a Marine in Baltimore, MD.

2 September 1945

Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship **MISSOURI** in Tokyo Bay. The senior Marine Corps representative at the historic ceremony was Lt. General Roy S. Geiger, CG, FMF Pacific.

6 September 1983

Two Marines killed and two wounded when rockets hit their compound in Beirut, Lebanon. Heavy fighting continued for the 24th MAU peacekeeping force near the International Airport.

8 September 1942

1st Raider Battalion and the 1st Parachute Battalion, supported by planes of **MAG-23** and two destroyer transports, carried out a successful raid on a Japanese supply base on Guadalcanal.

9 September 1950

Captain L. E. Brown flew the first Marine combat jet mission in Korea.

10 September 1813

Marines serve with Commodore Matthew C. Perry during the Battle of Lake Erie.

11 September 1990

4th MEB arrives in the Gulf of Oman to support Operation Desert Shield.

12 September 1917

General John J. Pershing selects the 7th Marines to guard his Headquarters in France.

13 September 1847

Marines help seize Mexico City fortress of Chapultepec.

13 September 1942

Marines repulse Japanese attack in Battle of Edson's Ridge on Guadalcanal.

29 August 1916

The Marine Corps Reserve was founded.

15 September 1950

The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines landed on and secured Wolmi-do Island in Inchon Harbor prior to the main landing. The 1st MarDiv, commanded by Major General Oliver P. Smith landed at Inchon and began the Inchon-Seoul Campaign.

16 September 1814

A detachment of Marines under Major Daniel Carmick from the Naval Station at New Orleans, together with an Army detachment, destroyed a pirate stronghold at Baratavia, on the Island of Grande Terre, near New Orleans.

18 September 1990

A new 40-acre training facility for Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) was dedicated at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, by General Alfred M. Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps.



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Embroidered Detachment Shirts

Golf shirts – embroidered with the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor with Marine Corps League embroidered above and Dept of Maryland, A A Co Det 1049 embroidered below the emblem – are now available for purchase by detachment members.



- Colors – Wide range of color choices
- Pockets – order either with or without pocket
- Materials – Pique or Jersey
- Sizes – Small through 6XL are available
- Cost – sized based...
 - \$18.80 each – for sizes Small through XL
 - Sizes larger than XL are an additional \$4 for each size increment. For example: a 2XL costs \$22.80, a 3XL costs \$26.80, etc.
- Embroidery Charge – \$6.60

*Contact either **Commandant Joe Wright** or **Adjutant Ben Wells** to obtain additional information and/or place an order.*



Mark Your Calendars!

so you won't miss out on
the **Annual A. A. Co.**
Detachment 1049

Bull & Oyster Roast

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

Sunday Breakfast

VFW Post 160

1st Sunday of Every Month

0800-1100



MENU

- Scrambled Eggs
- Home Fries
- French Toast
(assorted toppings)
- Toast & Butter
- Sausage Gravy / Biscuits
- Bacon
- Ham
- Sausage Links
- Fruit Cocktail
- Coffee / Milk / Juice

PRICE

\$8 for Adults / \$3 for Children (age 12 and under)

Food prepared by Pete Pervi & his 'Pantry Posse'

Plan to be part of our

236th Marine Corps Birthday

Happy Hour



VFW Post 160 Canteen

November 10, 2011

1800 until ...

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!

*Ball details will be forthcoming in the
September issue of the Cutting Edge.*

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



American Resolve...



Terrorist Shame!

The above photographs were obtained from a photo essay titled *The Day The Twin Towers Fell* featured on the website <http://iconicphotos.wordpress.com/>. These photos are intended to refresh the memories of those who witnessed *the barbaric events... the unbridled treachery of religious zealots... and the heroism of Americans from all walks of life*. They are also intended to make the reader ever mindful of the threats to our way of life that will always be there as long as America stands as a symbol of *individual and religious freedoms, self-determination, and liberation* that are unacceptable to those who feel the need to prolong archaic, two-class systems, where a powerful few take advantage of an enslaved majority. As stated in our nation's oath of office... *we must maintain our vigilance for signs of enemies both foreign and domestic and safeguard the 'American Dream' for posterity!*