

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)

Cherished Member Lost

At approximately 10:00 pm, on the evening of April 27th, **Kenneth R. Rollins** – known to many of us as Kenny – passed away after having been discharged from Harbor Hospital. Kenny had just been discharged from his most recent hospitalization of nine days and was transported by ambulance to the home of one of his daughters in Dallastown, PA. He had been under hospice care since Monday, April 25th.



Kenny Rollins
April 18, 1930 – April 27, 2011

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Kenny was a member of various organizations, Marine Corps League, Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049; Military Order of Devil Dogs, Pound 204; 1st Marine Division Association; Marine Corps Heritage Foundation; VFW Post 160; Military Order of the Cooties, Pup-Tent 3; Masonic Lodge 209; Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America, Annapolis Forest 126; Sojourners; American Legion Post 276; and Cherry River Navy of West Virginia.

Kenny is survived by his two daughters, Karen of Dallastown, PA; Kathleen of Pasadena, MD; and two sons, Karl currently residing in California and Kevin currently residing in Florida. Karl and Kevin are twin brothers and both served four years in the Marine Corps during the same period of time.

Kenny served as a Master Sergeant with the Maryland National Guard after his discharge from the Marine Corps. Kenny was a very well experienced carpenter and metal worker with a keen eye for detail and a drive for perfection in the work he performed aboard a roving working tender repairing damaged ships and piers along the eastern seaboard. He was later employed as a supervisor responsible for the maintenance of all state owned buildings within the state of Maryland until his retirement. Among his service decorations were the Korean Service and United Nations Medals.

Per his request he was returned to Anne Arundel County, MD and cremated. His ashes were subsequently interred at the Crownsville Veterans' Cemetery.

NOTE – Also see 'Remembering Our Dad' on page 6 and 'Remembering Kenny...' on page 7



the **CUTTING EDGE**

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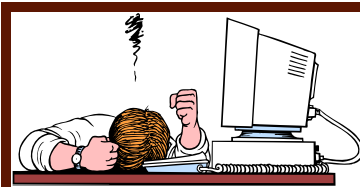
Commandant – *Joseph Wright*
Senior Vice-Commandant – *Chris Kalwa*
Junior Vice-Commandant – *Ed Dahling*
Judge Advocate – *Charles Luthardt Jr.*
Adjutant – *Vacant*
Auxiliary President – *Dawn Parker*
By-Laws Committee Chairman – *Danny Fischio*
Chaplain – *Ken Webster*
Color Guard Commander – *Woody 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*



2010 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

Before speaking of anything else, I must comment on the tragic loss of our previous Chaplain, **Kenny Rollins**. I had the privilege of visiting with him during his many hospital stays, as well as those times when we traveled as representatives of this detachment. I'll simply say that we have lost a fine man, a steadfast friend, and fellow Marine.

With everything that is going on this month, I have not had much time to reflect upon my less hectic life as the detachment's newsletter editor and Junior Past Commandant. What I will say is that I firmly believe that my successor, **Joe Wright**, is a highly capable individual, who will lead us well!

I will soon be submitting three 2010-2011 issues of *the Cutting Edge* for this year's newsletter competition. I think that we can improve our chances in next year's competition if some of you would occasionally supply some human-interest items focusing on our detachment and its members.

Once again, I look forward to sitting amongst you and playing '*can you top this*' at the bar – both before and after our next monthly meeting!

The submission deadline for all **June** newsletter articles is **NOON** on **Tuesday, June 14, 2011.**



Membership Stats

Detachment Membership Stats – 12/31/2010			
Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	74	9	6
Annual Memberships	40	6	–
Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	2	2	–
New Members			
	3	–	–
Sub-Totals			
	119	17	6
Total			
	142		

Reflects 3 new members who are yet to be sworn in

Renewal dates are fast approaching for the following members...

RENEWALS		
May 2011	June 2011	July 2011
– None –	Harry Anderson Jeffrey Clark David Wells	James Terry

Commandant's Message



Joe Wright

Marines,

A hearty OORAH goes out to all of you. I am truly honored to have been voted in as your Commandant for the upcoming year. I have some big shoes to fill with overseeing the day-to-day operations of Detachment 1049, as I consider us to be one of the finest detachments out there. I am also privileged to be surrounded by outstanding Detachment officers to assist with ensuring that Detachment 1049 rains successful and that we continue to grow. In addition to myself, your Detachment officers for fiscal year 2011–2012 are identified below.

Senior Vice Commandant Chris Kalwa

Junior Vice Commandant Ed Dahling

Judge Advocate Charles Luthardt Jr.

Also I want to thank everyone who agreed to give of their time to the Detachment by serving in the various staff positions. I am also still in need of an Adjutant to replace **Tom Maiorana**. Anyone interested is encouraged to give me a call or talk to me at the next meeting.

I will be working on increasing attendance at our Detachment meetings by bringing back some of you members that have stopped coming for one reason or another, and by bringing in new members. I have also personally tasked myself with improving the *esprit de corps* of the *detachment* as a whole! We have great members, and I would like to see everyone on a regular basis. So make the detachment stronger by attending our monthly meetings, a battalion is much stronger than a fire-team alone.

This year's Department Convention was a success as usual and a great time was had by all. If you have never attended the Department Convention, you are missing out on a great time. It's a great opportunity to be a part of the workings and policy decisions of your Marine Corps League, as well as share in the camaraderie through time spent with other Marines from around Maryland. Congratulations go out to **Ed Ross**, who was elected as both **Department Commandant** and **Pack Leader**.

A highlight for me was meeting **National Commandant, Vic Voltaggio** and talking with him about his 24 years umpiring Major League Baseball. He is a very interesting man to talk to and he is a great leader, the Marine Corps League is safe under his leadership.

I intend to bring the **Toys for Tots** program back to the Detachment; explore the logistics of the **Adopt-A-Highway** program to get our name out in the community and implement the utilization of *social networking services* to aid those interested in finding information about the Marine Corps League in Anne Arundel County. For us to grow, we have to become more visible in the community.

I look forward to serving as Commandant for Detachment 1049.

Semper Fi,

Joe



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Ken Webster

Please keep our extended family members, mentioned below, in your thoughts and prayers. 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)

Francis L. DeSirant, Lt. Colonel, USMCR (Retired) and member of the Shangri-La Detachment of the Marine Corps League died on Monday, April 11, 2011. He was 57. See the ***Lest We Forget*** column for more information.

Kenneth R. (Kenny) Rollins, member of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League died on Wednesday, April 27, 2011. He was 81. See front page of this issue for more information.

Please keep the persons noted above and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Kalwa

Fellow Marines,

First off, I would like to thank the members of Detachment 1049 for having the confidence in me to elect me to the office of Senior Vice Commandant. I plan to work as hard and with the same pride as I did as the detachment's Sergeant-At-Arms. Finally I look forward to working with our new **Commandant Joe Wright** this upcoming year to make our Detachment the best that it can be.

Semper Fi,

Chris Kalwa

A Ship for Woody?

NOTE – The following is based upon a letter reproduced in the online American Courage Newsletter (#251) published by SGT Grit on 28 April 2011.

The **3rd Marines** are requesting your help in a campaign to have a US Navy Ship named in honor of **Marine Hershel "Woody" Williams** recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Williams received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions "above and beyond the call of duty" on Iwo Jima in 1945. Please read his citation given him by President Harry S. Truman in 1945 by going to:

<http://www.shadowwolf.org/woody.html>

There you'll find a petition asking for your help in getting signatures submitted to the **Secretary of the Navy**. Marines, we have a rare opportunity to help this 88 year old Medal of Honor recipient who has served our country with honor in war and peace.

Therefore, please go to the above listed web-site and print out the petition, sign it and send it to:

Office of the Secretary of the Navy
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

Marines, by taking the time to help Woody, we will be in keeping with the phrase, "**Semper Fi.**"

Oo-Rah!

Rich Lee
Judge Advocate
Daniel J. Daly Detachment 1002
Hernando Beach, Florida



From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

Hello Marines,

During last month's meeting, no action was taken regarding new members due to the installation of new officers. However we have three new applicants for membership this month – **John Vogel, Gabriel Gutierrez, and Vernon Maher**. If you would like to meet them, please come to this month's meeting.

Memberships seem to be progressing and we now have 139 members. So, if you know of anyone who has served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days and has been honorable discharged, either have them contact me or bring them to one of our monthly meetings.

In closing, I look forward to serving you as your new Junior Vice Commandant for 2011-2012

Semper, Fi & Woof, woof



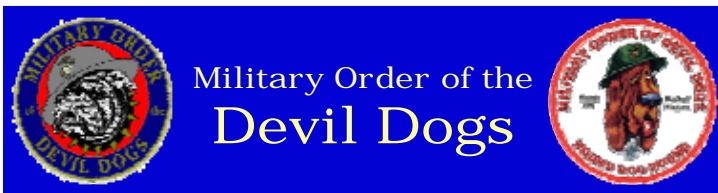
Legislative Report

by Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

The *military retirement system* is under scrutiny by a review board that may have recommendations to assist the Secretary of Defense's plan to combat future budget deficits. One advisor suggests that the military will have to choose between the current pension system and major weapons programs. Various elements under consideration are: Delay pension checks until a later age after retirement (could be several years); End the 20-year vesting, to be extended; offer postponement of pension check in order to gain a larger payback after age of 62 and offer of military to contribute up to 5% matching funds of member's pay towards a retirement fund under the control of the service member. These are ideas effecting future retirees.

The sad news, regarding the processing of VA disability claims, is the numbers continue to climb as to numbers of claims; processing time and final award decisions. There are several complaints stated as to why the delay of processing has increased from four months to eight or nine months. One obvious concern is the inability of the VA to anticipate the number of claims as the result of our two major wars and Viet Nam. The VA continues to attempt to lessen the delay time for the benefit of the veteran.

(See Legislative Report on page 5)



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 10 April, hosted by the Anne **Arundel County Detachment 1049** at the Pound Dog House, VFW Post 160.

Besides the camaraderie and good fun enjoyed by all Dogs in attendance, we raised **\$254.01** for the Kennel's children's hospital fund, and **\$37.00** for **St. Baldrick's Foundation**. Since last August's Supreme Growl, Pound 204 has contributed a grand total of **\$1,190.20** for the Kennel's children's hospital fund. Again, I am sure no other Pound or Pack will come close to that. Great job Dogs!

Remember, the **Department Convention** takes place on the first weekend of May. There are always good times to be had in Ocean City. We will have several Pups advancing (if they can pass the test) and one or two mongrels coming into the Order. Be sure to come poolside around noon on Friday to see the festivities. After the fun and frolic at the pool, be sure to attend the Grand Growl where we will have elections to pick the leaders for the upcoming year. Throw your hat into the ring and seek a leadership position. None of the positions are very hard and all are necessary. You will have plenty of help with any job you pursue.

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



<http://deptofmdmcl.org>

Legislative Report

(continued from page 4)

The Young Adult Tricare insurance coverage has been extended to under the age of 26 for dependents. The cost will be approximately \$200 per month for those young people, who are not married and do not have access to health insurance through their employer or school.



Lest We Forget...

NOTE – This memorial is based upon an online information provided by Stauffer Funeral Homes of Frederick, MD.

Francis L. DeSirant, Lt. Colonel, USMCR (Retired), 57, died on Monday, April 11, 2011, at Frederick Memorial Hospital. He was the loving husband of **Cynthia A. DeSirant** for twenty-eight years.

Born on June 9, 1953 in Lorain, Ohio, he was the son of the late Francis Lewis and Doris Jean (Jedlick) DeSirant.

He was an avid hunter, a member of the Marine Corps League's Shangri-La Detachment, and a member of Faith Baptist Church in Knoxville, MD, where he served as a deacon and was active in the music ministry program. He was currently working for N.I.S.T.



He is survived by his wife Cynthia and their children: Elizabeth Whicker (husband, Jacob) of Frederick; Kathryn White (husband, Aaron) of Salt Lake City, UT; Lauren Lunde (husband, Joshua) of Denver, CO; and, Thomas DeSirant of Frederick, MD; and their five grandchildren: Halee, Karis, Jett, Joshua and Ryan. He is also survived by his brothers Ronald, Darryl and Jay DeSirant and a sister, Rene Howard, all of Florida, as well as by his mother and father-in-law, Lyle and Frances Stanley of Spokane, WA.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 16, 2011, at the **Faith Baptist Church**, 2212 Jefferson Pike, Knoxville, MD, 21758, with an open lunch reception immediately following. Pastor Ed Jordan officiated. Internment will be in **Arlington National Cemetery** at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the **Faith Baptist Church Music Program** at the above address or to the **Wounded Warrior Project**, c/o Marine Corps League, Shangri-La Detachment, P.O. Box 3357, Frederick, MD 21705.



Remembering Our Dad...

*The following comments were made by Karl R. Rollins during memorial services for his father, **Kenneth R. Rollins**, at the Crownsville Veterans Cemetery.*

Our dad, **Kenneth R. Rollins** was born the oldest of five siblings in Greenville, Tennessee. His mother died at the age of twenty-five, when he was eight years old. When he was fourteen, his dad moved them to Odenton, Maryland. His father went into the Army during World War II.

Kenneth (my dad) worked at the United States Naval Academy Farm in Gambrills, Maryland. In 1949, at the age of nineteen, he joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve. On 25 August of 1950, he was called to active duty and fought in the Korean War. He attained the rank of Sergeant before being honorably discharged on 12 April 1952. Subsequently, he joined the Army National Guard, where he attained the rank of Master Sergeant. He worked for the federal government's General Services Agency (GSA) until his retirement.

Our dad was the master of many trades... skilled in carpentry, plumbing, electrical projects, masonry, lock-smithing, automotive maintenance/repair, etc. He helped many people by fixing or building things for them. Dad belonged to many organizations, which kept him busy throughout his retirement.

I know that all of us who knew him will miss him very much.



Manny, Woody,
Tom Maiorana (?),
and Kenny



George Martin,
George Perez,
Kenny Rollins,
mystery member,
Bill Creager,
Manny Airey,
and Gary Frye

New Pedigreed Devil
Dogs – Kenny, Steve
Salanik, Manny Airey &
Tom Maiorana



The late Denny Bynum
& Kenny



Kenny and Phil
Schwarzenberg at
the 2010 Department
Convention – Ocean
City, MD

Remembering Kenny...

"Ken Rollins was a great friend and Marine. He did not know what the words *"cannot"* and *"will not"* meant. If it could be done at all, Kenny would accomplish whatever you requested and never ask for anything in return. He really enjoyed being a member of the **Marine Corps League** and was very proud to be a brother. He liked the attention that surrounded him... and appreciated the friendships bestowed on him."

Guy Hall, First Detachment Commandant



"Kenny was one of the first Marines to welcome me into the detachment when I joined. He always had great things to say about the *"Young Marines."* He especially admired the eight to ten year old Young Marines and always complimented them whenever they met. It was an honor to know him and he will be missed."

George Martin, Commander, Annapolis Young Marines

"I really got to know Kenny after I became Detachment Commandant last year. Among his proudest achievements was having been awarded the **Chapel of the Four Chaplains Award**. Even after his 'retirement' from his role as our Detachment Chaplain, Kenny continued to be a presence at funerals and memorials for fellow Marines and other service members... even after his health began to fail. He had an impish quality manifested by an ever-present twinkle in his eye and smile upon his face. I will miss him!"

Mac McNeir, Detachment Commandant 2010-2011

"Kenny was my dear friend and I will really miss him. We were both in the **Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Garrison Rifle and Revolver Gun Club, Marine Corps League Detachment 1049**, so we had a lot in common. He built my wooden gun range box and I treasure it, because it is a true work of craftsmanship. After I had used it a few times, I complained to him, 'Kenny, your gun box isn't any good at all. It hasn't made my pistol shooting scores improve at all!' He would laugh and reply, 'I can't help that, John! I only made the box!' Rest in Peace, Kenny!"

John Purcell, Detachment Member

"Every time Mr. Kenny came into the canteen he'd smile and say 'What a good girl you are,' because I always had his *Michelob Lager* ready for him and always presented it to him as if it were a bottle of wine. Of course, he was very sensitive to the tale, often repeated by detachment Marines, that chided him about the infamous *gravy incident*. He will truly be missed."

Cheryl Ann Lipscomb, Post Canteen

"One day, while sitting at the bar in the Post's canteen and conversing with Kenny, I let it slip that I really wanted to get a hold of a nice challenge coin rack. Unbeknownst to me, Kenny took it upon himself to craft a beautiful wooden challenge coin rack for me. Being that we were both from Tennessee, he also went out of his way to get some wood native to Tennessee from which the rack would be made. That was Kenny... always willing to go out of his way to help everyone! I for one will miss him!"

Vic Halme, Detachment Member

"In response to my request, Kenny came to my house to repair some electrical receptacles. He was fast at work, when all of sudden sparks shot out of the receptacle. Kenny turned to me, smiled, and said 'Don't worry, this happens from time to time' and went back to work. Kenny was a great guy... always ready to help a friend."

Jake Jahelka, Detachment Associate Member



88th Marine Corps League National Convention

(Hosted by **Treasure Valley Detachment 878, MCL**)

Sunday July 31, 2011 - Saturday August 6, 2011



Riverside Doubletree Hotel

2900 Chinden Boulevard
Boise, Idaho 83714



For reservations:

Phone 208-343-1871 or

Website <http://www.boiseriverside.doubletree.com>

Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the
Marine Corps League to receive our group rate of
\$86.00 per night plus taxes

For more info – Go to <http://www.tvdmcl.org/>



Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

VFW Post 160 Cleanup

On Saturday, 23 April, a number of our members spent several hours in a misty rain removing the remains of the tree that was cut down in front of the post home as well as the vast pile of prunings that lined the drive to the post's parking lot. **Michelle Thompson, Kiara Thompson, Danny Fischio, Paul Taylor, Rob Echardt, Gil Campion, James Sanchez**, and yours truly provided the trucks and labor necessary to get this job done.

Chris Thompson Turns Chicken

On Saturday, 23 April, **Chris Thompson** – aided by **Joe Wright** – spent a good part of the day in front of his recently acquired *mobile BBQ grill and smoker* turning chickens over the coals. Proceeds from this fund-raiser will cover part of the costs associated with our detachment's sponsorship of the **Marines Helping Marines Cook-Out**, which will be held at the **National Naval Medical Center** in Bethesda, Maryland on the 4th Wednesday in October.

Change in Friday Nite Dinner Scheduling

The date of our detachment's **Friday Nite Dinner** has been shifted from the first Friday of this month to the last Friday of the month (**27 May**). This change was necessitated by the fact that a large number of our members were in Ocean City, Maryland for the **Department Convention** during 5 through 7 May. Be sure to note this change on your calendars.

Kenny Rollins

I would like to thank everyone involved with setting up the hall for the get-together honoring Kenny Rollins after the memorial service held at **Crownsville Veterans Cemetery** on May 4th. A very special thanks to **Guy Hall** for taking on the tasks of coordinating everything and assisting the family in their time of need. Thanks should also be extended to all of our members and the VFW organizations, who made the effort to be present at the memorial services despite the inclement weather.

Department of Maryland Convention

The 2011 Department of Maryland Convention took place in Ocean City Maryland on the first weekend of May. Coverage of the event will be provided in the June edition of this newsletter; however, photos of the Devil Dog initiations are provided on the adjacent page.

Your Detachment Needs Your Help!

We still have a need for individuals willing to serve in the following positions – **Adjutant, Historian, Toys for Tots Coordinator, Public Information Officer**, and **Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services Representative**.

Commandant's Farewell

On April 25th, the out-going Commandant, **Mac McNeir** presented the members of his staff with the following commemorative items and awards.

Distinguished Service Award

Ed Dahling ■ Fred Kaminski ■ Jim Legette ■ Ken Webster
George Martin (not in attendance)

Meritorious Commendation

Chris Kalwa ■ Tom Maiorana ■ Ed Ross ■ Chris Thompson
Joe Wright ■ Woody Bowman (not in attendance)

Distinguished Citizen Bronze Medal

Manny Airey ■ Guy Hall

Commandant McNeir also presented the detachment with a commemorative plaque, to be known as the **Commandant's Award**. It will be inscribed with the name of the Marine who proves to be greatest asset to the currently serving Commandant. The inaugural winner was out-going **Senior Vice Commandant Chris Thompson**, who received a down-sized version of the plaque.

The commandant also presented mementos to the following detachment members.

Staff Memento – Coffee Cups emblazoned with original art work created by Jack Severn

Manny Airey ■ Ed Dahling ■ Chris Kalwa ■ Tom Maiorana
Ed Ross ■ Jack Severn ■ Chris Thompson ■ Ken Webster
Joe Wright

Woody Bowman, Jim LeGette, Pete Pervi, and George Martin were not in attendance.

Challenge Coin Mementos

Vic Halme ■ Charles Luthardt ■ Ray Sturm

Jim Brady, Mike Hadley, Tommy Hancock, Earl Parker, and David Wells were not in attendance.

Framed Certificate of Thanks

Pete Pervi (not in attendance)

Newly Elected/Appointed Officer Installations

Dawn Parker installed the newly elected (appointed) Auxiliary officers (Photos on back page).

Sr Vice President – Chasity Wright ■ Jr Vice Pres. – Stephanie DeValle
Secretary – Kathy Krutzfield ■ Treasurer – Nila Caulder
Judge Advocate – Anita Jennings ■ Guard – Patty Robidoux

Jack Severn, Past Department of Maryland

Commandant, installed the newly elected (appointed) detachment officers (Photos on back page).

Commandant – Joe Wright ■ Senior Vice Commandant – Chris Kalwa
Junior Vice Commandant – Ed Dahling
Judge Advocate – Charles Luthardt Jr. ■ Chaplain – Ken Webster
Sergeant-at-Arms – Ray Sturm ■ Historian – Vic Halme



2011 Pack of Maryland Devil Dog Initiations

All photographs on this page were taken by Mac McNeir.



Chasity and Joe Wright with Ken Webster



Chris Thompson & Manny



Jim Brady & Joe Wright



Mongrel Ray Sturm



Pup Ray Sturm & Ed Ross



Pup Charles Luthardt



DD Charles Luthardt



Pup Chris Thompson



DD Chris Thompson & Ed Ross



Pup Joe Wright



DD Joe Wright & Ed Ross



PDD Ed Ross & a "Floosie"



PDD Pete Pervi & Pup Wright



PDD Pete Pervi congratulating new Devil Dogs & Pups



Young Marines

The Young Marines graduated 5 recruits with **Jonathan O'Dea** being deemed an *Honor Recruit* and receiving a promotion to PFC.

A perfect PT score of 500 was achieved by **PFC Cameron Granger**... he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

It saddens me to report that the Annapolis Young Marines will be losing **1st Sgt Michael Imann**... he is graduating from high school and in accordance with regulations, he will retire. However, I am proud to say that although we will be losing him, the Marine Corps will be gaining him as a recruit. He has told us he will continue as an assistant in training until he departs for boot camp. Michael has been with the program for eight years. He was presented with a 'mounted' Young Marine rifle.

The Young Marines wish to thank **VFW Post 160** for allowing us to conduct their **Armed Forces Day** and flag retirement ceremonies on May 21. We will have also conducted the **Memorial Day** ceremony at Kalis's Funeral Home in Edgewater on May 28th

The Young Marines wish to express their appreciation to Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 and its Auxiliary for their support and our hope that they had a great Department Convention.

Respectfully,

George Martin

Young Marines Commander



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Baltimore, MD 21226
410-255-4395

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Veteran's Affairs

by Ed Dahling

The Department of Defense (DoD) plans to ask Congress to enact a law to permanently peg the rate of increase for **Tricare Prime** premiums to the **National Healthcare Expenditure (NHE) Index**. This increase targets military retirees under age 65.

A DoD official told the press that the decision to use the NHE Index was made because it was transparent, easy to understand, and fair. But, the NHE Index was 3.1 per-cent in 2009; and over the past 25 years, the average annual increase has been 6.4 percent.

This 6.4 per-cent average increase is huge when compared to the cost-of-living-adjustment for military retiree pay.

Many veterans' organizations have been pushing to peg the TRICARE Prime premium increase to the annual COLA, which is tied to the Consumer Price Index. **Jimmie L. Foster**, national commander of The American Legion said that the *"DoD plan is unacceptable. Many of our military retirees live on fixed incomes and their COLA just doesn't keep up with the National Health Expenditure Index."*

Over the last 25 years, the COLA increase has averaged 2.8 percent; 3.6 per-cent less than the rise in national health expenditures. This will mean more out-of-pocket expenses for military retirees and their families.

Is this a "fair" increase for retirees who have not seen a COLA increase since 2008? Let your elected officials know how you feel about this issue.



Color Guard

by Woody Bowman

Our Color Guard will be participating in **Flag Day** ceremonies at **American Legion Post 277** in Pasadena, MD. The date and time of the event is 14 June 2011 @ 7:00 PM (1900).





Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **August 6, 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 organization (point of contact).

Detachment 1049, Golf Tournament

(Fund-Raiser for Marines Helping Marines)

Friday, 13 May 2011 @ 0800 – Manny Airey & Jim Brady
Bay Hills Golf Club, 545 Bay Hills Dr Arnold, MD

Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary Monthly Meetings

Monday, 23 May 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Detachment 1049, Friday Night Dinner

Friday, 27 May 2011 @ 1800 – Pete Pervi

Memorial Day

Monday, 30 May 2011

MCL Mid-East Division Convention

(Hosted by the Department of Delaware)

3-4 June 2011 – Fred Wise, fwise@ococean.com or (410) 289-8181
Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel & Conference Center,
2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.
Telephone – 540-736-1006 / 800-682-1049

VFW Monthly Breakfast

Sunday, 5 June 2011 @ 0800 to 1200 – Pete Pervi

FLAG DAY

Tuesday, 14 June 2011

Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary Monthly Meetings

Monday, 27 June 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Detachment 1049, Friday Night Dinner

Friday, 1 July 2011 @ 1800 – TBD

Howl, Military Order of Devil Dogs

Sunday, 17 July 2011 @ 1300 to 1700 – Bob Rossi

Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary Monthly Meetings

Monday, 25 July 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Detachment 1049 Auxiliary, Friday Night Dinner

Friday, 29 July 2011 @ 1800 – Dawn Parker

VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Crab Feast

Saturday, 30 July 2011 @ 1500 to 2000 – TBD

88th Marine Corps League National Convention

(Hosted by Treasure Valley Detachment 878, MCL)

31 July through 6 August – <http://www.tvdmcl.org/>
Riverside DoubleTree Hotel
2900 Chinden Boulevard
Boise, Idaho 83714
(208) 343-1871 or <http://www.boiseriverside.doubletree.com>

VFW Monthly Breakfast

Sunday, 7 August 2011 @ 0800 to 1200 – TBD



Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

2 May 1946

Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of Warrant Officer Charles L. Buckner, helped suppress the three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay.

3 May 1898

Marines from the U.S.S. Baltimore raise the Stars and Stripes over the Cavite Naval Station.

6 May 1937

Marines at NAS Lakehurst helped rescue Hindenburg survivors.

6 May 1946

Commandant Archibald Vandergrift tells Senate Naval Affairs Committee that 'the bended knee is not a tradition of our Corps.'

10 May 1945

The 22nd Marines, 6th Marine Division, executed a pre-dawn attack south across the Asa River Estuary and continued the attack toward Naha, the capital of Okinawa.

15 May 1862

Corporal John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service on the USS GALENA during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff, which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond.

16 May 1945

The 22nd and 29th Marines continued the attack against Half Moon Hill, a day characterized by the 6th Marine Division as the 'bitterest' of the Okinawa campaign. By the 18th, the famed 'Shuri line' had been breached.

22 May 1912

First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine officer to be assigned to 'duty in connection with aviation' reported for aviation training at the Naval Aviation Camp at Annapolis, MD.

23 May 1988

The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter facilities in Arlington, Texas.

26 May 1969

Operation Pipestone Canyon began when the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines began sweeps in the Dodge City/Go Noi areas southwest of Da Nang. It terminated at the end of June with 610 enemy killed in action at a cost of 34 Marines killed.

31 May 1900

Marines reach Chinese capital to defend Legation Quarter from Boxer rebellion.



About the Education Center at the Wall

For many, the Vietnam War is from the distant past. Some 40 percent of the 4 million people who visit **The Wall** today are too young to remember. To them the long list of names cut in the smooth black granite are faceless; they have no context, no connection.

- By sharing the faces and stories behind every name, officers and infantry alike, the Education Center at The Wall will help future generations understand the courage, sacrifice and devotion of those who fell, those who returned, and those who waited.
- The Education Center project is headed by Jan C. Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
- And like The Wall itself, the second most visited site in Washington, DC, the Center will be built entirely with private funds donated by the American people.



To preserve the hallowed nature of The Wall and all the memorials gracing the National Mall, the two-story learning facility will be built entirely below ground.

Exhibits will include a wall of photographs of those whose names are on The Wall, a selection of the over 100,000 items that have been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a timeline of key military events of the Vietnam War and a history of The Wall. The Center will celebrate the values embodied by all of America's service members—loyalty, duty, respect, service, honor, integrity and courage—and an exit exhibit will show images of those who served in all of America's conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to Iraq.

Over \$20 million has been raised for The Education Center, including the lead gift of \$10 million from Time Warner. It is estimated that the Center will cost \$85 million to build.



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

Quotation

"Life's tough... It's even tougher if you're stupid."

John Wayne

American Actor, Patriot & Man of Honor

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 **June** include:

Troy Bryant	Danielle Campbell	Walter Cooper
Robert Di Lauro	Garland Downey Sr	Scott Mione
William Russell	Rudolph Snyder	Joseph Stephens
Ray Sturm		



Public Information

by Ed Dahling, Public Information Officer

Help All Americans Think about Memorial Day...

Memorial Day is one month away. Below are six instructions to help you make sure that every American who sees you or your home thinks about the significance and importance of Memorial Day.

1. If you are a veteran, please wear one of your military ribbons on your collar or lapel.
2. If any member of your family died in any war, please hang a Gold Star in your living room window, or wear a Gold Star pin on your collar.
3. If you did not serve in the military, please wear an American flag pin on your collar.
4. Send a letter, not an email, to your local newspaper asking them to publish the names of all known local military personnel who died during wartime.
5. Send a letter, not an email, to both of your federal Senators, asking them to publish a list of all known military personnel in the Congressional Record or other Memorial archive.
6. Send a letter, not an email, to the Directors of all Cemeteries in your city asking them to publish a listing of all known military personnel gravesites in their custody.

You are strongly encouraged to also send a copy of your letters to The War Library for confirmation archive.

You are encouraged to ensure that your name and the names of all of your military family members – past and present – are listed in The International Military and Veteran Database. The International Database was established on July 4th, 1988. It remains the oldest and largest online international listing of former and current military and military-related names, information and personal military photos from all Service Branches and all Nations.



World War I Memorial

NOTE – The following is based upon a Washington Post article by John Kelly published on 31 March 2011.



It all started when **Edwin Fountain** jogged past a small but oddly moving structure hidden by trees on the south side of the Mall, not far from the Tidal Basin. The Arlington lawyer discovered that the domed marble temple was a memorial honoring the 499 D.C. residents killed in World War I. Edwin thinks the memorial, dedicated in 1931, should honor more than just those 499 people. He is the founding director of the **World War I Memorial Foundation**, which has as its aim, the *rededication of the monument as a national World War I memorial*.

No less a figure than **Frank Buckles**, the last surviving U.S. World War I veteran, who recently passed away, lent his name to the effort. **Joe Grano**, president of the **Rhodes Tavern – D.C. Heritage Society** says he has a better idea. Make a national World War I memorial out of Pershing Park at 15th and Pennsylvania NW. After all, **General John J. Pershing** was the head of U.S. expeditionary forces in Europe. Add a doughboy statue (modeled, perhaps, on Buckles), maybe a Navy sailor statue and some signage, and you'd have a dandy World War I monument. – “He makes some interesting arguments that I am not unsympathetic to,” Edwin said. “The odd position we find ourselves in is there is no perfect solution to this. Every proposal has its pros and cons.”

Chief among Edwin's cons for Pershing Park is the location. He thinks the streets around it are too busy and difficult to cross. Besides, everyone wants to be on the Mall. Only there would it be near memorials to our other major 20th-century conflicts: World War II, Korea, Vietnam. Said Edwin: “When you put World War I someplace else – whether in Kansas City or Pershing Park – you are diminishing it somehow, saying it was not as profound an event.” Grano thinks there's nothing shabby about being a block from the White House. But here's what's really going on: Just as Edwin wants the D.C. World War I memorial to symbolize more than the District, Grano wants it to symbolize more than World War I. The monument has become a rallying place for some supporters of D.C. voting rights. As Grano wrote in a letter to the foundation: “The D.C. memorial now represents to District of Columbia citizens not only what we have given to our beloved country, but also what our country has not given to us.”

Edwin's response? “I think they're reaching to use that memorial for that purpose in the first place,” he said. Even so, he wants the National Park Service to include wording that the memorial is also a local one. And he's all for D.C. voting rights advocates lobbying to get something on there about their issue, too.

Edwin predicts that if this bill goes through, there is zero chance the renamed memorial will include anything about the District's lack of representation. One of the main proponents of the bill in the House has been **Representative Ted Poe** (R-TX). Edwin called for his opinion on D.C. voting rights. A spokeswoman e-mailed back: “Rep. Poe is not going to comment on this issue at this time.” In 2007, he voted against a bill to give the District a vote in Congress. In 2009, the D.C. Council issued a resolution in favor of the name change. There were no public hearings. Both **Jack Evans** and **Eleanor Holmes Norton** are honorary trustees of the foundation. I guess in the grand scheme of things, recarving some marble isn't a big deal. But it grates, just as it grates that a petulant Congress won't let the District have statues in the U.S. Capitol. As Grano put it: “You deny us any equality with the 50 states, and you just come in and take over our war memorial?” Edwin is adamant the memorial won't be ‘*federalized*.’ He said the new name would be the District of Columbia and National World War I Memorial. To me that ‘*and*’ makes it sound as if the District is something separate, something not quite national, not quite American.



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MATTERHORN

Top 10 Bestseller published in 2010
A Novel of the Vietnam War
written by Karl Marlantes

Review by a Vietnam era Marine, Rodger Clemons

I am not qualified, so I will not attempt a literary review of the book "Matterhorn."

What I am qualified to comment on is the authenticity of this novel. I was in Vietnam at the same time the author was, our experience differed mainly in the name of our units.

Marlantes was in Charlie 1/4, I was in Alpha 1/4. It's all so accurate, so real, and brought back a flood of memories from my time in the jungle. If a person wants to know what it was like to be a grunt in a Marine Corps rifle company in I Corps in the Republic of Vietnam in the late 60's, then read "Matterhorn." I cannot express how impressed I was by this novel. Mr. Marlantes nailed it. He wrote my story, and the story of the men I humped those jungle trails with, the men I fought, cried, and died with. Thank you Sir



About the Author – Karl Marlantes



1st Lieutenant Marlantes receiving the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving as Executive Officer of C Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division (Reinf.) in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. [Photo – Provided by K. Marlantes]

A graduate of Yale University and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, Karl Marlantes served as a Marine in Vietnam, where he was awarded the **Navy Cross**, the **Bronze Star**, two **Navy Commendation Medals** for valor, two **Purple Hearts**, and ten **Air Medals**.



Corps Humor

Marine Helicopter Pilot and Priest

A priest dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud Hawaiian shirt, leather jacket, jeans and sandals.

Saint Peter addresses this cool guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Bill, a retired United States Marine Corps helicopter pilot from Conroe, Texas."

Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the Marine pilot, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom."

The pilot goes into Heaven with his robe and staff. Next, it's the priest's turn.

The priest stands erect and booms out, "I am Father Bob, pastor of Saint Mary's parish for the last 43 years."

Saint Peter consults his list. He then says to the priest, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom."

In a rather loud voice, the priest says "Just a minute, that man in front of me was a Marine helicopter pilot and he gets a silken robe and golden staff and all I get is cotton and wood. How can this be?"

Saint Peter responds "Up here, we go by results! When you preached... people slept. When he flew... people prayed."



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Next Top Enlisted Marine

NOTE – The following article by staff writers Dan Lamothe and Gina Cavallaro appeared in the online version of the Marine Corps Times on Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

Sergeant Major Micheal Barrett, the top enlisted Marine in Afghanistan for the last year, will serve as the **17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps**, Commandant General Jim Amos told Marine Corps Times on Monday.

Barrett, Sergeant Major of 1st Marine Division, out of Camp Pendleton, CA, was chosen to serve as Amos' senior enlisted adviser. He also was the Sergeant Major of Pendleton's I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), which oversaw more than 20,000 Marines in southern Afghanistan until it was replaced with II MEF (Fwd.), out of Camp Lejeune, NC, last month.

"He's the best of the best, it's as simple as that," Amos told Marine Corps Times in a brief, exclusive interview. The Commandant said he interviewed seven other finalists for the position, and characterized them as "superstars" serving under two- and three-star generals.

"Sergeant Major Barrett, through his long and distinguished service to our nation, has demonstrated that he is particularly well-suited to serve as my senior enlisted adviser through the challenges ahead," Amos said. "My wife Bonnie and I welcome him and his wife Susan, and look forward to serving with them."

Barrett, a 30-year Marine, is expected to replace Sergeant Major Carlton Kent in a ceremony to be conducted on June 9 in Washington. He will bring extensive infantry experience to the position, including a stint as platoon sergeant and scout sniper during the Gulf War with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, out of Lejeune

More recently, Barrett served as the top enlisted adviser for 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, out of Twenty-Nine Palms, CA, during two combat tours in Iraq. He became the Sergeant Major for the 1ST Marine Division in June 2009, and served as the top enlisted adviser to Major General Richard Mills, commander of Marine forces in Afghanistan. Mills, who was later succeeded by Major General John Toolan.

Barrett also has a wide range of experience outside the combat zone. Notably, he served as the Company Gunnery Sergeant and Marine liaison to the U.S. Secret Service at the presidential retreat at Camp David, MD, from September 1996 to August 1998. He also has served as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, a chief instructor at the Scout Sniper Instructor School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA, and as the top enlisted Marine at Recruiting Station Cleveland.



Sgt. Maj. Micheal Barrett is expected to take up new post in June. [Defense Department]



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Featured Fotos

All photographs on this page were taken by Chasity Wright.



Detachment Commandant Joe Wright, Sgt.-at-Arms Ray Sturm, and Chaplain Ken Webster being sworn in for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.



Sr. Vice President, Chasity Wright; Jr. Vice President, Stephanie DeValle; Secretary, Kathy Krutzfield; Treasurer, Nila Caulder; Judge Advocate, Anita Jennings; and Guard, Patty Robidoux being sworn in for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.



Historian, Vic Halme; Judge Advocate, Charles Luthardt; Jr. Vice Cmdt & Paymaster, Ed Dahling; Sr. Vice Cmdt, Chris Kalwa; and Commandant Joe Wright being sworn in for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.