

# the CUTTING EDGE

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

Mac McNeir, Commandant & Editor / <http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

# Last WWI Vet Dies

*NOTE – This story by Vicki Smith (AP) appeared in the online version of the Marine Corps Times on Monday, February 28, 2011.*

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – Frank Buckles, who lied about his age to get into uniform during World War I and lived to be the last surviving U.S. veteran of that war, has died. He was 110.

Buckles, who also survived being a civilian POW in the Philippines in World War II, died peacefully of natural causes early Sunday at his home in Charles Town, biographer and family spokesman David DeJonge said in a statement. Buckles turned 110 on February 1st and had been advocating for a national memorial honoring veterans of the ‘Great War’ in Washington, D.C.

When asked in February 2008 how it felt to be the last of his kind, he said simply, “I realized that somebody had to be, and it was me.” And he told The Associated Press he would have done it all over again, “without a doubt.”

On November 11, 2008, the 90th anniversary of the end of the war, Buckles attended a ceremony at the grave of World War I Gen. John Pershing in Arlington National Cemetery.

“I can see what they’re honoring, the veterans of World War I,” he told CNN.

He was back in Washington a year later to endorse a proposal to rededicate the existing World War I memorial on the National Mall as the official National World War I Memorial. He told a Senate panel it was “an excellent idea.” The memorial was originally built to honor the District of Columbia’s war dead.



Frank Buckles receives an American flag during Memorial Day activities at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri in May 2008.

[File photo / The Associated Press]

Born in Missouri in 1901 and raised in Oklahoma, Buckles visited a string of military recruiters after the United States entered the “war to end all wars” in April 1917. He was repeatedly rejected before convincing an Army captain he was 18. He was 16½.

“A boy of that age... he’s not afraid of anything. He wants to get in there,” Buckles said.

Details for services and arrangements will be announced later this week. The family asks that donations be made to the **National World War One Legacy Project**. The project is managed by the nonprofit **Survivor Quest** and will educate students about Buckles and WWI through a documentary and traveling educational exhibition.

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Editor – Mac McNeir,  
P.O. Box 804  
Severn, MD 21144-0804

Phone ..... 410-437-4329

Email ..... [editor@mclaacdet1049.org](mailto:editor@mclaacdet1049.org)

Website ..... <http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

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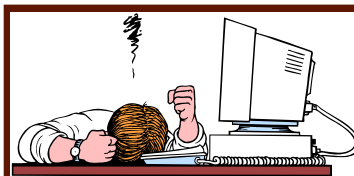
Commandant – Mac McNeir  
Senior Vice-Commandant – Chris Thompson  
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Paymaster – Ed Dahling  
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Young Marines Commander – George Martin



## 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

Not much to say this month, except that I hope that the newsletter is living up to your expectations. One question that I have concerns about is whether you, the reader, are pleased with the content. I try to maintain a 'mix' of *league related stories* with articles that are reflective of *present day Marine Corps activities*.

As always, I encourage everyone to provide me with relevant suggestions and inputs for future issues. You are also encouraged to keep me informed of new or changed email addresses, so that the electronic delivery of the newsletter, to those of you having email capability, remains uninterrupted.

On other notes, I encourage everyone to take part in and support the **Department of Maryland Convention** and the **6th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament** by selling convention ads and tee box signs, encouraging your friends to play, and of course volunteering to be part of the support crew... before, during and after the tournament.

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

The submission deadline for all **April** newsletter articles is **MIDNIGHT, Tuesday, April 12, 2011.**



## Membership Stats

Detachment Membership Stats – 2/28/2011			
Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	73	8	6
Annual Memberships	38	6	–
Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	3	1	–
New Members			
–	–	–	–
Sub-Totals			
114	15	6	
Total			
135			

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

RENEWALS		
April 2011	May 2011	June 2011
Oliver, Keith Stephens, Joseph	– None –	Harry Anderson Jeffrey Clark David Wells

Please consider a Life Membership as a potential cost reduction.

# Commandant's Message



Mac McNeir

Marines,

We are fast approaching the end of another detachment year, and as you know... at the last meeting, we held the initial nomination session for the detachment's elected officers, who will serve during 2011-2012.

Currently in nomination, we have:

Detachment Commandant ..... Joseph (Joe) Wright

Detachment Sr Vice Commandant ..... *no one nominated*

Detachment Jr Vice Commandant ..... *no one nominated*

Detachment Judge Advocate ..... Chris Kalwa

At our **March meeting**, we will re-open the nominating process before we conduct the elections.

## DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND CONVENTION

We still need a volunteer to be a **detachment delegate to the Department of Maryland Convention**. Currently, we have twelve of the thirteen delegates authorized for our detachment. Delegates will be electing the **Department of Maryland Officers** for the coming year as well as deciding the fate of other important items. **As a delegate – you will need to attend the Saturday, May 1st session**. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please give your name to our current Adjutant during the March meeting.

## APRIL MEETING

Our **April meeting** will be a joint MCL and MCL Auxiliary session, where the newly elected officers of both the Auxiliary and Detachment will be installed. Immediately following the meeting, there will be a joint get together to celebrate the installation of our new leaders.

So as you can see, **the next two meetings are very important** and **all members should make every effort to participate**.

## MARINES HELPING MARINES GOLF

This year's fund-raiser for **Marines Helping Marines** will take place on **Friday, May 13, 2011**. We need everyone's support in obtaining golfers, sponsors, tee box sign purchasers, etc. Please consider being part of the effort. See me if you need the flyers, entry forms, etc.

*Semper Fi,*

**Mac**

## Corps' Sergeant Major to Retire

*NOTE – This story by Dan Lamothe (staff writer) appeared in the online version of the Marine Corps Times on Tuesday March 8, 2011.*

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlton Kent will retire on June 9th after more than 35 years of military service, he told a crowd of Marines as he visited Marine commands in Europe.



Sergeant Major Carlton Kent, the Marine Corps' senior enlisted adviser, reflects on his 35-year-career at the headquarters for the Marine Corps Forces Europe and Marine Corps Forces Africa in Stuttgart, Germany. [Photo by Dan Lamothe / Staff]

"My day is numbered," he said at the headquarters of Marine Corps Forces Europe and Marine Corps Forces Africa. "Nine June, I will be finishing up. As I finish up, though, I can tell you Marines if I had to do it all over again, I would not do anything differently."

Kent, the 16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, will retire in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., he told Marine Corps Times. He declined to say who his replacement will be.

Kent cheerfully told Marines in Stuttgart that he never thought he would become the Corps' senior enlisted adviser, a common refrain for him when he speaks to crowds of Marines. "Never worry about your rank," he said. "Just worry about being a Marine and the rank will come. The Corps will take care of you."

A board comprising several generals convened for a week, reviewing credentials for potential successors for Kent, Marine officials said. The board was expected to nominate five Marines for additional consideration, with Commandant Gen. Jim Amos personally interviewing them in Washington before making a decision. The interview process is not yet complete, and it is anticipated that Amos will announce Kent's replacement sometime in April, Marine sources said.





From the desk of the

## Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Thompson

Hello Fellow Marines,

Spring is around the corner and we will be attending the **MCL Department of Maryland Convention** very soon. Also, please remember that the **Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament** will be taking place on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at Bay Hills Golf Course.

As detachment election time nears, you will notice that I will not be running for re-election. I just wanted to say thank you to all the members for all their support, and I'm sure that whoever becomes our next Senior Vice Commandant will be very successful. I will still be very involved – if needed – with any fundraisers, or general help with anything.

Semper Fi,

**Chris Thompson**

### Quotation

*The Marine Corps has just been called by the New York Times, 'The elite of this country.'*

*I think it is the elite of the world!*

**William 'Bull' Halsey**  
Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy



### Public Information

by Ed Dahling, Public Information Officer

## Flag Rules Change

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki announced changes that will allow flags to be placed on gravesites at national cemeteries on Memorial Day and any other day of the year on a case-by-case basis. Federal rules had previously prohibited placement of American Flags on any day other than Memorial Day, including Veterans Day. The rule change was made at the request of **Representative John J. Duncan, Jr.** (R-TN).

As a service member or military family member, you should become aware of your memorial benefits before you need them! You can learn more about memorial benefits at internet sites such as <http://www.military.com/benefits/>.



From the desk of the

## Junior Vice Commandant



Woody Bowman

Fellow Members,

As was pointed out at the February meeting, we are in need of nominees (volunteers) to fill the elected officer positions for the coming fiscal year. Should you be interested in filling one of these positions, please be sure to make your feelings known at the March meeting in order to have your name placed into nomination.

Detachment membership numbers remain in relatively good shape. We continue to attract new members (although at a slower than desired rate) and only have three Marines, who are currently delinquent in the payment of their dues.

The opportunity to serve as your Junior Vice Commandant for the past three years has been a very rewarding experience. I will cherish the memories!

See you at the next meeting,

**Woody**

**We Need Golfers...  
Sponsors... & Volunteers!**

Please Support Our

## 6th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament

Friday,  
May 13, 2011  
9:00 AM



Bay Hills  
Golf Club  
Arnold, MD

For more information, contact either  
Manny Airey, or James Brady

# New Helmet for Corps?

*NOTE – This story, by staff writers Dan Lamothe and Lance Bacon, appeared in the online version of the Marine Corps Times on Sunday March 6, 2011.*

After months of setbacks, development of a new helmet that stops point-blank rifle rounds has reached a milestone, Army officials say, though Marine Corps officials won't say what their plans are to use them.

The joint **Enhanced Combat Helmet (ECH)** program, led by the Corps, reached a development milestone in December, said **Army Col. William Cole**, project manager of soldier protection and individual equipment, a milestone that allows the services to begin low-rate production.

The new helmet has stopped zero degree rifle bullets at point-blank range, and has stopped 7.62mm rounds, too, Army officials said.



Acquisition officials heading the program at Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va., have declined to comment on the program, saying they want to brief senior leadership first. But in a recent briefing of contractors, military officers and media in Arlington, Va., MARCORSYSCOM officials provided a timeline indicating fielding could begin as early as this year.

The program has faced a number of setbacks. The Corps tested five helmet designs from four companies in September 2009, and all failed to provide adequate protection from bullets, blunt force, or both. Last spring, Marine officials said they were 'cautiously optimistic' that upgraded models would be more successful.

Army and Marine officials declined to say which company or companies made the grade in testing, but Cole said that beginning this fall, the Army is planning to field new helmets to replace its existing **Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH)**. The Army will initially buy about 200,000.

"We had hoped for a 35-percent improvement over the ACH in terms of ballistic protection, and its way better than that," Cole said. How much better is hard to say. A helmet's capability can be tested in laboratories through a V-50 test, in which bullets are fired at higher and higher velocities until they start to penetrate the helmet. The velocity at which half of the bullets fired penetrate the helmet is considered the V-50 rating, and used to assess the breaking point for the helmet. Test guns in labs were not able to shoot fragments fast enough to penetrate the new helmet, Army officials said.

Cole described the ECH as "a huge leap forward." Its shape is identical to the existing Army helmet, which differs slightly from the Lightweight Helmet currently used by Marines.



## Legislative Report

*by Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer*

The drum beat continues in Annapolis regarding a variety of bills of possible benefit to Veterans.

**Slot Machines** – Non-Profit organizations are represented by **HB 39** and **HB 735** as well as **SB 4** and **SB 249**, which continue to struggle through the system.

**Subtraction Modification/Military Retirement Income** – As previously reported, **SB 190** continues to work its way through the system and is now joined by **HB 774**. These two bills increase the existing deduction from **\$5,000** to **\$10,000** relative to military retirement pay. Two additional bills, **HB 11** and **SB 346** propose a **\$3,500** deduction as associated with members of the **Maryland Defense Force**.

**Credit Towards State Retirement** – Bills **HB 335\*** and **HB 356** center on the consideration of the capability of a credit of 10 years of military service towards the **State Retirement and Pension System**. **HB 515** states the same credit for military service (different formula) for Reserve Units.

\* HB 335 was passed with a vote of 136 to 0 and is now set for consideration by the Senate on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Lottery** – **HB 1073** proposes that the **State Lottery Agency** conduct two lotteries a year from which a part of the benefits would be given to the **Maryland Veterans Trust Fund**.

There seems to be a great deal of support for Veterans... just hope these bills will pass.



## Young Marines

The **Annapolis Young Marines** will be holding a '**Quarter Auction**' on **May 6, 2011** at **VFW Post 2462** in Pasadena. Admission tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased beginning March 20<sup>th</sup>. Just call or email me if you want to buy tickets.

We have also started a new recruit class with 5 recruits and if anyone should know of a young person, who might be interested in joining our program, please provide me with the name and contact information for that prospective recruit.

Respectfully,

**George Martin**

Young Marines Commander



## Chaplain's Corner

by Mac McNeir for 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)

**Linda Kearny**, an MCL Auxiliary member, recently had surgery at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center. She is now at home recuperating from the procedure.

**Desiree Curtin** recently gave birth to fraternal twins on February 16, 2011. Son **Dillan** weighed in at 5 pounds 9.4 ounces and measured 17 ¾ inches in length; while, daughter **Delanie** weighed in at 4 pounds 12 ounces and measured 18 inches in length. All were reported to be doing well at the time of this report.

**Maureen Stallard** of the Harford County Detachment has passed away at her home in Bel Air MD. Maureen was one of the first WMs... enlisting in 1943.

See the '**Lest We Forget**' column for additional information.

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



## Lest We Forget...

*NOTE – This memoriam is based upon an online obituary appearing in the online version of the Baltimore Sun.*

**Stallard, Maureen Molly** On February 17, 2011, Maureen Molly (nee Marino ) of Bel Air, died at her daughter's home; the beloved mother of **Lorraine Bazzell** and husband **Bob**, and **Maureen Adele Cohen** and husband **Harvey**; cherished grandmother of **Brent R. Bazzell** and **Lauree L. Woodring** and husband **Michael**; loving great-grandmother of **Alexander R. Bazzell** and **Rainn E. Woodring**. Loving daughter of the late **Daniel C. Marino** and **Adeline** (nee Germano). Preceded in death by ten loving siblings. Survived by many loving nieces, nephews and dear friends.

She was a proud member of the **Harford County Detachment of the Marine Corps League** and a member of the **Military Order of Devil Dogs**.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the **Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund**, 825 College Blvd, Suite 102, PMB 609, Oceanside, CA 92057 or **Fisher House Foundation**, 111 Rockville Pike, Suite 420, Rockville, MD 20850.



## Veteran's Affairs

by Ed Dahling

### TRICARE Co-Pays Likely to Increase

Under the proposed **2012 DoD Budget**, TRICARE prescriptions filled on base will remain free, but, co-pays for medications purchased at retail pharmacies will increase.

- Generic drug co-pays at retail outlets will increase to \$5.
- Brand name drug co-pays will climb to \$12.
- Non-Formulary (Tier 3) drug co-pays will be raised to \$25 for both mail-order and retail purchases.



**Marine Corps League**  
Department of Maryland

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



**Marine Corps League**  
Department of Maryland



Support Your

## 2011 Department Convention

Princess Royale  
Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center  
Ocean City, Maryland

1-800-4-ROYALE

**5 - 7 May 2011**

Reservation Deadline – Thursday 7 April, 2011

Be sure to state that you are with the  
Marine Corps League Convention



# WWI Vet Dies... (continued from page 1)

More than 4.7 million people joined the U.S. military from 1917-18. As of spring 2007, only three were still alive, according to a tally by the Department of Veterans Affairs: **Frank Buckles, J. Russell Coffey** of Ohio and **Harry Richard Landis** of Florida.

The dwindling roster prompted a flurry of public interest, and Buckles went to Washington in May 2007 to serve as grand marshal of the national Memorial Day parade.

Coffey died on December 20, 2007, at age 109, while Landis died on February 4, 2008, at 108. Unlike Buckles, those two men were still in basic training in the United States when the war ended and did not make it overseas.

The last known Canadian veteran of the war, **John Babcock** of Spokane, Wa., died in February 2010.

There are no French or German veterans of the war left alive.

Buckles served in England and France, working mainly as a driver and a warehouse clerk. The fact he did not see combat didn't diminish his service, he said: "Didn't I make every effort?" An eager student of culture and language, he used his off-duty hours to learn German, visit cathedrals, museums and tombs, and bicycle in the French countryside.

After Armistice Day, Buckles helped return *prisoners of war* to Germany. He returned to the United States in January 1920.

Buckles returned to Oklahoma for a while, then moved to Canada, where he worked a series of jobs before heading for New York City. There, he again took advantage of free museums, worked out at the YMCA, and landed jobs in banking and advertising.

But it was the shipping industry that suited him best, and he worked around the world for the White Star Line Steamship

Co. and W.R. Grace & Co.

In 1941, while on business in the Philippines, Buckles was captured by the Japanese. He spent 3½ years in prison camps.

"I was never actually looking for adventure," Buckles once said. "It just came to me."

He married in 1946 and moved to his farm in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle in 1954, where he and wife **Audrey** raised their daughter, **Susannah Flanagan**. Audrey Buckles died in 1999.

In spring 2007, Buckles told AP of the trouble he went through to get into the military.

"I went to the state fair up in Wichita, Kansas, and while there, went to the recruiting station for the Marine Corps," he said. "The nice Marine sergeant said I was too young when I gave my age as 18, said I had to be 21."

Buckles returned a week later.

"I went back to the recruiting sergeant, and this time I was 21," he said with a grin. "I passed the inspection ... but he told me I just wasn't heavy enough."

Then he tried the Navy, whose recruiter told Buckles he was flat-footed.

Buckles wouldn't quit. In Oklahoma City, an Army captain demanded a birth certificate.

"I told him birth certificates were not made in Missouri when I was born, that the record was in a family Bible. I said, 'You don't want me to bring the family Bible down, do you?'" Buckles said with a laugh. "He said, 'OK, we'll take you.'"

He enlisted August 14, 1917, serial number 15577.





**Established 1943**  
Garrison Rifle & Revolver Club, Inc.  
is a  
Charter Member  
of the  
Associated Gun Clubs of  
Baltimore Inc.

The Club offers training and classes in most of the shooting sports and promotes shooting sports for all ages and abilities. Garrison hosts the following events:

- ✓ Spring Pistol League
- ✓ Bullseye Pistol Championship
- ✓ Trap Shoot
- ✓ JR's Club Shoot
- ✓ 4H State Match
- ✓ Club Crab Feast
- ✓ Club Christmas Dinner

Affiliated with the National Rifle Association and Civilian Marksmanship Program.

Garrison Rifle & Revolver members have the following facilities available for their use:

- ✓ Covered bench rest-equipped rifle, black powder, and pistol range (25, 50, 75 & 100 yds.).
- ✓ Indoor air rifle range
- ✓ Fifty point covered outdoor pistol range (25 & 50 yds.)
- ✓ Ten point covered high power rifle range (200 yds with butts)
- ✓ A four field, lighted, outdoor trap range w/automatic and manual trap house.
- ✓ Messick Hall club house w/ kitchen & restrooms.
- ✓ Lower range house/meeting hall.



Club meets every second Tuesday of each month (except January which is the first Tuesday)  
11818 Monroeville Road  
Monroeville, Maryland 21104-1226

For more information contact club secretary  
Brian Severly, at (410) 437-4884  
E-Mail: garrisonrec@yahoo.com

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## Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **June of 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).*

### Department of Maryland Staff Meeting,

Saturday, 26 March 2011 @ 0900 – Paul Taylor  
Harford County VFW Post 8672  
1714 Morse Road, Forest Hill, Maryland, 21050

### MODD Maryland Pack Growl,

Saturday, 26 March 2011 following Staff Meeting – Ed Ross  
Harford County VFW Post 8672  
1714 Morse Road, Forest Hill, Maryland, 21050

### Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting

(Officer Elections)  
Monday, 28 March 2011 @ 1900 – Mac McNeir

### Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting

(Joint Meeting with MCLA / New Officer Installations)  
Monday, 25 April 2011 @ 1900 – Mac McNeir

### Department of Maryland Convention

5 through 7 May 2011 – Bud Raines  
Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center  
Ocean City, Maryland  
1-800-4-ROYALE

### Detachment 1049, Friday Night Dinner

Friday, 6 May 2011 @ 1800 – To Be Determined

### 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 Monthly Meeting

Monday, 23 May 2011 @ 1900 – TBD

### 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](mailto: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

### FLAG DAY

Tuesday, 14 June 2011

### MCL Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting

Monday, 27 June 2011 @ 1900 – TBD



## Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

### Elections

At the end of February's meeting, a few of our detachment members came up to the podium and inquired about the open positions (those for which there were no nominations) and what the associated duties entailed. Hopefully, we will be able to obtain at least one nominee for each of the offices prior to the elections being conducted at our March meeting.

On a related note, we still have a need for the following positions – **Historian, Public Information Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Toys for Tots Coordinator, and Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services Representative.**

*It's time for a resurgence of some Esprit de Corps!*

### Rifle & Pistol Team

If you have not heard, **Jake Jahelka** has assumed the position of **Rifle & Pistol Team Captain**. Jake is an avid shooter, who will hopefully inspire our shooters to new heights.

I would be remiss for not extending the sincere appreciation of our detachment members to our previous captain **Mike Hadley**, whose teams brought many trophies home from the competitions in which our teams competed.

### Friday Nite Dinner

**Joe & Chasity Wright** prepared a lasagna dinner for our detachment's bi-monthly fund-raiser, which was well received by the diners. Assisted by the normal dinner crew – Ken Webster and Mac McNeir – they were able to generate a \$301 profit. Thanks to Joe and Chasity for filling in for our scheduled 'chef' Pete Pervi, who is still recuperating from surgery.

### Department Convention

Ads are beginning to come in and we have passed the \$300 threshold, beyond which the proceeds are shared equally by the Department and our Detachment. However, we are approximately \$2,200 behind last year's effort. We will need to come on strong to equal the profits realized in 2010. Remember, this is one of our major fund-raising efforts where our share of the proceeds go solely to our detachment's general fund.

### Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament

We have a few tee-box signs sold, and two sponsors who will cover the cost of breakfast and the beverage cart. Beyond that, we have very little else. We really need to increase our efforts, if we are to come close to last year's donation to Marines Helping Marines! Flyers, sign-up sheets (for golfers & tee-box signs) as well as sponsorship letters are available for those who need them.







## SHAMROCK AWARDS & ENGRAVING

Telephone: (410) 766-4866

FAX: (410) 766-7277

Monday / Wednesday / Friday ----- 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Tuesday / Thursday ----- 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday ----- 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

900 Crain Highway North  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Tina Todd  
Assistant Manager

[shamrockawards@erols.com](mailto:shamrockawards@erols.com)

## Corps Humor

### A Homeless Man's Funeral

After retiring from the Corps, I became an accomplished bagpiper and have played many gigs.

Recently, I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. The man had no known family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods and I did not come across anyone who could give directions, I got lost.

Finally, I arrived... an hour late and noticed that the funeral director had already departed... as had anyone else who might have been there. The hearse was nowhere in sight.

In fact, the only people that I could see were the gravediggers, who were having lunch prior to filling in the grave. I felt badly and apologized to those men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and saw that the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do; so, I started to play my bagpipes... it was the least I could do.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around the grave-site. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends.

I played for this homeless man as I had never played before.

As I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished playing, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car.

Though my head hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothing like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for more than twenty years."



## 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 **April** include:

Charles Albo

Charles Fisher

George Owings

Jack Severn

Gary Barr

Chris Kalwa

John Reistrup

Lawrence Shiflett

Franklin Wood

Nicholas Dubich

Bill Merrill

Kenny Rollins

James Terry



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 the 20th of February, at the Pound Dog House, as usual. The Anne Arundel County MCL Detachment provided a good breakfast and VFW Post 160 had a bartender on duty with two gallons of *Bloody Marys*. What more could a Dog ask for? And while enjoying the camaraderie and frolic, we raised \$269.12 for the Kennel's handicapped children's hospital project. This brings our total, so far, to \$936.19! Well done Dogs. And we still have one more Growl to go prior to the Supreme Growl. No other Pound will come close to our total.

Pound 204 will Growl again on the 10th of April.

The Maryland Pack will growl on 26 March at the Jarrettsville VFW Post 8672, sometime after the Department Staff Meeting, usually around 1300. Be there to enjoy the camaraderie and good times. The Harford County MCL Detachment is hosting the Department Meeting and always puts on a good spread and brings in lots of Dogs. It will be a fun time for all. Try to be there.

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

# 2011 Convention Book Ads

In order to avoid the 'too many chiefs and not enough Indians syndrome...' I am respectfully requesting that **all convention book ads and the payments for those ads be routed through me.**

This will ensure that all ads are delivered to **Jack Severn** and that all monies collected are appropriately split between the **Department of Maryland** and **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049.**

The intent of this decision is to eliminate duplication of effort and to avoid incorrect allocation of ad revenues.

Thanks for your cooperation and remember... Jack and I would sincerely appreciate ad submissions be made as soon as possible to ensure that none of the ads sold by our detachment encroach upon Jack's printing/production deadlines.

For your convenience, I have repeated the prices and dimensions for convention book ads below.

**Prices for Department Ads:**

Full-Page – 7.5 x 10 inch .....	\$100. <sup>00</sup>
Half-Page – 7.5 x 5 inch .....	\$55. <sup>00</sup>
Quarter-Page – 3.75 x 5 inch .....	\$35. <sup>00</sup>
Business Card – 2 x 3.5 inch .....	\$25. <sup>00</sup>
Patron's List – 1 Line (SEE NOTE 2) .....	\$5. <sup>00</sup>
Outside Back Cover .....	\$200. <sup>00</sup>
Inside Front Cover .....	\$135. <sup>00</sup>
Inside Back Cover .....	\$135. <sup>00</sup>

## NOTES

1. Be sure that your ads **adhere to the size constraints** prescribed above. Failure to do so could result in the distortion of the ad.
2. To ensure accuracy in the **composition of patron ads**, be sure that the name of each patron is printed (preferably typed) and spelled correctly.
3. To avoid confusion, **all monies collected for ads should be made payable to Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049, MCL.**  
Subsequent payment will be made to the Department of Maryland by our Detachment Paymaster.
4. Also, all payments and artwork submissions should be routed through me to minimize the chance for any problems with the transmission of ads and monies to the Department of Maryland.

If you have any questions... either email or call me.

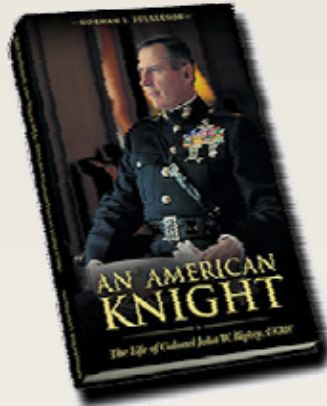
*Thanks & Semper Fi,*

*Mac*

# AN AMERICAN KNIGHT

*The Life of Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC*

The focus of the book is **Colonel John W. Ripley**, regarded by many – especially Vietnam era Marines – as a Marine of legendary stature. **Norman J. Fulkerson**, the author, takes just over 200 pages to chronicle the evolution of Colonel Ripley from birth in 1939 through his death in 2008 from what is believed to have been a heart-attack.



This biography is not a traditional war story focusing solely upon the exploits of the *Hero of Dong Ha*; it explores his upbringing as a member of the Catholic minority in rural Virginia, his youth as a rambunctious young boy, his evolution to a scholarly student during his time as a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, his military training and service around the globe, and his life after retirement from the Corps.

Many things will become obvious to the reader... probably most important was that John Ripley was a man of character, courage, and commitment. He was a renaissance man, who spoke from the heart and genuinely cared for those under his charge. This is probably why the author likened John Ripley to the knights of old, who were the mythic personification of courage and chivalry.

Knowing that he did not share a number of politically correct causes that were in vogue, Colonel Ripley was never the less an outspoken critic of women in combat and gays in the military. Two appendices at the end of the book deal with these hot button issues in the Colonel's own words.

Once, while serving as Senior Marine at the U.S. Naval Academy, he happened upon a number of female middies working-out to a Jane Fonda exercise video. Incensed at the sight, he ejected the video tape from the VCR and stomped it to pieces on the gymnasium floor. He then explained to those middies that Jane Fonda gave aid and comfort to the enemy during the Vietnam War and as such her tapes were offensive to all who support the American military. He subsequently found them a suitable replacement exercise tape and then went to the Navy Exchange and had all of the Jane Fonda tapes removed from the shelves.

***This book is a must read for all Marines past and present!***

Although this book was originally released in 2009, it is still available for purchasing via both bookstores and other online (Internet) sources.



## Corps History

*by Vic Halme, Historian*

### **3 March 1776**

First Marine landing on hostile shores in the Bahamas.

### **3 March 1809**

Five-year enlistments in the Corps replaced the previous three-year terms.

### **6 March 1932**

John Philip Sousa dies at age 79 in Reading, Pennsylvania.

### **8 March 1928**

Captain **Merritt Edson** sets out on epic CoCo River patrol in search of Nicaraguan rebel leader Sandino.

### **8 March 1965**

**9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade** lands at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam – first U.S. ground combat troops committed to that conflict.

### **11 March 1778**

Marines aboard the frigate **BOSTON**, assisted in the engagement and capture of the British merchant ship **MARTHA**. Future **President John Adams** seized a musket and joined the Marines on deck until the frigate's commanding officer, **Captain Samuel Tucker**, sent him below for safety.

### **12 March 1824**

Marines quell prison riot in Boston. Story published in *McGuffey's Reader* spreads Marine Corps fame.

### **12 March 2003**

President George W. Bush signed an executive order establishing two new awards – the **Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal** and the **Global War on Terrorism Service Medal** – to recognize sacrifices and contributions made by military members since 11 September 2001.

### **13 March 1943**

First Women Marine officer candidates arrive at U.S. Midshipmen School at **Mount Holyoke College**.

### **16 March 1927**

**4th Marines** land in Shanghai, China and remain for fourteen years.

### **21 March 1945**

General **A.A. Vandegrift**, 18th Commandant, becomes first Marine four-star general on active duty.

### **25 March 1804**

Secretary of the Navy approves first formal Marine Corps uniform.

### **26 March 1945**

**Iwo Jima** secured. Marines suffer 25,851 casualties.

### **31 March 1801**

Lt. Colonel Commandant **William W. Burrows** & President **Thomas Jefferson** select site for Marine Barracks, 8th & I.







Your detachment needs...  
***NOMINEES***  
 ...willing to serve!



**NOMINATE** a candidate of your choice and **VOTE**

Nominations - February & March Meetings  
 Elections - March Meeting  
 Installation of Officers - April Meeting

Your Detachment Needs  
***YOU!***

**Rich Morton Lincoln  
Mercury Mazda**



**51 Mountain Rd.  
Pasadena, MD 21122**  
 Phone: 800-577-1658

# Bombastic Bumper-Snicker:



God bless the Grunts...  
 ...especially the Snipers!

# Lightweight Drone Set for 1st MEU Deployment

*NOTE – This story by Gidget Fuentes (staff writer) appeared in the online version of the Marine Corps Times on Tuesday March 8, 2011.*

SAN DIEGO – The 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed in late February with the **ScanEagle** unmanned aircraft, marking the first time any MEU has taken the combat-proven drone out to sea for an operational assignment, officials said.



A ScanEagle unmanned aircraft is launched from a test range in Dahlgren, Va. The 13th MEU commander has high hopes for the system during its deployment to the western Pacific and Persian Gulf.

*[Photo by John F. Williams, USN]*

The lightweight ScanEagle is based aboard the LSD Comstock, part of the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, and will support both the MEU, based at Camp Pendleton, Ca., and the Navy strike group it's partnered with, said Navy Captain Curtis Shaub, Amphibious Squadron 1 commander.

Developed by a Boeing Co. subsidiary, ScanEagle has been used extensively since 2004 to support ground combat operations and other missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. At roughly 40 pounds, depending on its payload, it can operate at high or low altitudes for almost 24 hours per flight.

The aircraft must be launched from a large catapult. Marines and sailors can recover it on a ship's flight deck by catching a hook affixed to the wing. When airborne, ScanEagle's onboard sensors and electro-optic or infrared camera system can capture and relay imagery to ships, other aircraft and ground stations.

Navy units have operated the ScanEagle from ships before. The 13th MEU took it to sea as part of an ongoing experiment to determine whether the drone should be incorporated into the Marine air-ground task force's regular inventory. Some see it as another potential arrow in the quiver, so to speak, that would expand capabilities when MEUs and their air combat elements and battalion landing teams train and operate from amphibious ships at sea.

Col. David Coffman, who commands the 13th MEU and was recently nominated for promotion to Brigadier General, noted that his peers – colonels who command infantry and artillery regiments or Marine air groups – already have the

option of using ScanEagle to broaden their unit's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. Within MEUs, the drone will be useful during maritime raids and other missions by providing "eyes in the sky" and relaying real-time information and imagery to commanders.

"An organic (unmanned aerial system) would allow us to gain or maintain contact," Coffman said, speaking by telephone from the ARG's flagship, the amphibious assault ship Boxer. The capability, he said, would "get MEUs in the game," giving MEU commanders and their subordinate units a proven intel-gathering tool.

Coffman expects that eventually MEUs will be equipped with next-generation unmanned systems. However, there are some kinks that will need to be worked out. Marines deployed aboard the Comstock, for instance, don't yet have the means to operate ScanEagle ashore. "It's a suboptimal solution..." Coffman said, "but we are going to demonstrate the good of a sea-based UAS."

Marines operated ScanEagle during several at-sea pre-deployment training exercises late last year, although the 13th MEU missed out on an additional week to train at sea in January when the Comstock remained at San Diego Naval Base for some maintenance work.

A UAS technical team is aboard the ship to assess and work with the Marines as they operate ScanEagle.

"We are working through how to fly it," Coffman added. "It's a pretty good step."



## 38th Annual East Coast Military Vehicle Rally

Premier show of privately owned military vehicles – WWII Jeeps, Weapons Carriers, Motorcycles through modern armor, HMMWVs, and more! Flea Market featuring vehicles, tents, militaria, insignia, collectibles, knives, bayonets, gun parts, electronics, surplus items, uniforms, etc.

12 through 14 May 2011 (RAIN OR SHINE)

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Daily

Ripken Stadium, Aberdeen, MD

More Information

Phone ..... 800-730-6621

Email..... [ecr-info@militaryvehicleshow.com](mailto:ecr-info@militaryvehicleshow.com)







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

(Address Correction Requested)



# Featured Foto



General James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, initiates a tip-off to retired Marines competing in wheelchair basketball at Camp Pendleton's Paige Field House. Amos paid a visit in an effort to boost the morale of those competing in the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment's first Marine Corps Trials. The trials will result in the selection of the top 50 Marine athletes to compete in the games as the All-Marine team for the Paralympics-style competition slated for May 2011.

[Photo – LCpl. Michelle S. Mattei]