

the CUTTING EDGE

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

Joe Wright, Commandant (cmdt@mclaaudet1049.org) / Mac McNeir, Editor (editor@mclaaudet1049.org)

Wounded Marines Continue To Fight



The graduating class of the first Wounded Warrior Detachment Corporal's Course at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda, MD, on January 16th. The detachment's goal is to continue professional development classes to wounded warriors throughout the Marine Corps.
[Photo by LCpl. D. A. Wetzel, HQMC]

NOTE – The following article by LCpl. Daniel A. Wetzel, USMC appeared in the January 20th on-line edition of the *Marine Corps Times*.

Marines, who want to progress through the ranks of non-commissioned officer and staff non-commissioned officer, frequently have the opportunity to go through leadership courses such as Corporal's and Sergeant's courses. These courses provide the basic fundamentals essential for Marines to lead their subordinates and provide structure and stability both in combat and in garrison. For Wounded Warrior Marines, the possibility of attending leadership courses wasn't previously an option. Today, the Corps is bringing the courses directly to the Marines. A group of Marines, who sustained injuries during deployments, graduated [from] the first **Wounded Warrior Corporals Course** at the **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda, MD** on January 17, 2012.

"The detachment staff wanted something to help these Marines continue their professional development," said **Gunnery Sergeant Boris Peredo**, instructor with the **Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy** at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA. Peredo was one of three instructors who volunteered to teach the two-week course.

(see *Still Fighting* on page 7)

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the CUTTING EDGE

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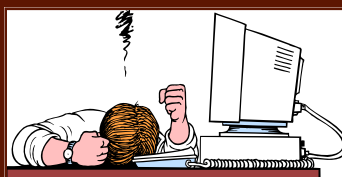
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Award Winner

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

I would again like to call your attention to the **2012 St. Baldrick's Campaign**, which generates funds to find cures for the various forms of children's cancer. Donation info/forms are located in the newsletter rack at VFW Post 160.

I also wish to again remind you that our next major fund-raising effort for the detachment is the selling of advertisements for our **Department of Maryland Convention Book**. We need the help of all our members!

If you are not receiving *the Cutting Edge* via email, please consider doing so. Providing your email address will allow us to reduce postage costs.

Attendance at the past two detachment meetings has been on the meager side. Please make an effort to attend future meetings and be a part of the upcoming detachment elections and other important activities.

Detachment Marine of the Year selection will soon be taking place. *Don't remain silent if you know of a deserving member!*

The deadline for **March** articles is **MIDNIGHT on Tuesday, March 6, 2012. Please do not wait until the last minute to submit your article(s)!**



Membership Statistics

Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	72	8	5
Annual Memberships	32*	5	–
Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	15	–	–
New Members			
	–	–	–
Sub-Totals			
	119	13	5
Total			
137			

* 1 new member still needs to be sworn in

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

Renewals

(dues expire at end of indicated month)

March 2012	April 2012	May 2012
Robert A. Eckardt	Keith Oliver Joseph Stephens	Gabriel Gutierrez Vernon Maher John Vogel
Please advise the editor of any errors/omissions in this listing.		

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

Commandant's Message



Joe Wright

Marines,

The items specified below, require your attention in the coming months.

Detachment 1049 Marine of the Year – 2011...

We will continue to accept nominations for our *Detachment's 2011 Marine of the Year* until **19 March 2012**. Members of the *Detachment Marine of the Year Committee* will select the most deserving nominee after reviewing all of the nominations received. Instructions for making nominations are spelled out in the *January issue* of this newsletter. The *2011 Detachment Marine of the Year* will be announced at the April detachment meeting.

Election of Detachment 1049 Officers...

At the meeting on **February 27th**, we will begin accepting nominations for *Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, and Judge Advocate*. We will also be looking to fill vacant staff positions. We have several vacant positions that need to be filled, so if you are interested in any of these positions please let us know. We will also accept nominations at the March meeting with elections being conducted immediately after the nominating process. Newly elected officers will be sworn in and assume their posts during the April meeting.

Friday Nite Dinners...

Our next *Friday Nite Dinner* is **March 2nd** and **I am looking for someone to step up and be the 'Master Chef' for the evening**. I will be there to help, but would like to take a break from the actual cooking for this dinner. Anyone interested, let me know. Please remember, the number of people we have at the dinner dictates how much money we put back into our general fund.

Marines Helping Marines (MHM) Picnic...

Detachment 1049 will be joining forces with the *L/CPL ROBERT W DEANE Detachment 770* on **September 19th** to co-sponsor the Marines Helping Marines cookout. These cookouts typically run approximately **\$1,400.00**, so we have to start planning a few fund raising activities to raise funds for the cookout. All ideas will be accepted and are welcome. Member participation at the cookout to assist with preparation and serving is very important, so please start planning now.

This Years Golf Tournament Benefiting MHM...

Members should also plan to lend a helping hand at our annual golf tournament benefiting the *Marines Helping Marines Program* on **Friday May 18th**. Volunteers are extremely important for the success of the tournament.

Semper Fi,

Joe



Marine Corps League
Department of Maryland



Support Your

2012 Department Convention

Princess Royale
Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center
Ocean City, Maryland

26 - 28 April 2012

Hotel Reservation Deadline – Sunday 1 April, 2012

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



Marine Corps League
Department of Maryland

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



Marine Corps Body Bearers from Marine Barracks Washington begin folding the flag from the casket of **General Samuel Jaskilka** (1919-2012), the 16th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, during his funeral service at Arlington National Cemetery on January 26. Jaskilka joined the Marine Corps reserves as a second lieutenant in 1942 and served as Assistant Commandant from 1975 until he retired in 1978. His awards include the *Navy Distinguished Service Medal*, two *Silver Star Medals*, a *Legion of Merit*, a *Bronze Star Medal* with a valor device, a *World War II Victory Medal*, seven *Vietnam Service Medals* and a *United Nations Korea Medal*.

[Photo by Cpl. Austin Hazard, USMC]



Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

I've just completed a review of the *dues status* of our 137 members – that status (as of **31 December 2011**) is as follows:

PAID

Regular Members...85 Paid Members...37 Total...122

UNPAID (Late)

Members...15 (2 delinquent for more than 1 year)

I would like to speak with the following members:

Campbell, Danielle	Campbell, Samuel	Clark, Jeffrey
Cooper, Walter	Cunningham, George	Dell Acqua, Jeffery
Dubich, Nicholas	Elswick, Carl	Hutton, James
Neff, Scott	Owens, John	Terry, James
Thorburn, Keith	Verrier, Fernand	Werner, Phillipp.

If you know any of the above Marines, please have them contact me. Also, if you know of any member, who is currently either uninvolved or contemplating becoming uninvolved with our detachment, please have them contact me. We don't want to lose members.

Semper Fi,

Ed Dahling

Rumor Control

Corps To Lose 20,000

NOTE – The following information is an edited version of an article by Dan Lamothe (staff writer), which appeared in the January 26th on-line edition of the Marine Corps Times. Contrary to misinformation that might have been overheard at our January meeting, our Corps is in fact slated to lose 20,000 Marines in the coming years.

The Marine Corps will slash 20,000 Marines as part of the Defense Department-wide budget cuts, reducing its end strength to about 182,000, top Pentagon officials announced.

The manpower reductions will leave the Corps smaller than **Commandant Amos** advocated for over the last year, but larger than some defense analysts had projected.

What isn't immediately clear is how the Corps will cut an additional 4,800 Marines to drop below the 186,800 end strength planned for in its recent force structure review. That study, released in March, called for a 13 percent drop in ground combat forces, a 16 percent drop in fixed-wing tactical aviation squadrons, a 9 percent drop in logistics, a 7 percent drop in Marines assigned to non-operational jobs and a 12 percent cut to its civilian work force.



Military Order of the Devil Dogs



The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

The **Pack of Maryland** held a very successful growl last month in Centreville, producing an additional **\$129.00** to be donated to the children's hospital in Mobile, Alabama next August.

The **Cpl. Mileo Detachment** hosted the **Department Staff Meeting** and **Growl** and provided a very good Marine SOS breakfast and hot dogs, sauerkraut, and chili for lunch – all at a very modest price. Several members took advantage of the slot machines in the basement bar. From what I heard, everyone won – *you never hear about the losses*.

This was the second Pack Growl in which DDs desiring to advance in Mobile next August could have attended to qualify for advancement. Unfortunately only 10 of the 32 DDs in the Pack were there. **Anne County Detachment 1049** has 8 DDs who can advance in Mobile, provided they attend the required two growls. The following DDs have fulfilled that requirement: **DDs Rossi and Wright**. The following DDs have attend one Pack Growl and therefore need to attend at least one more: **DDs Bowman, Luthardt and McNeir**. There will be another Pack Growl on **10 March** in **Carroll County** and the **Grand Growl** in Ocean City on 27 April. So there are still two more growls to take advantage of the opportunity to qualify for advancement.

Pound 204 has seven Pups eligible to advance to DD at the Grand Growl in April, provided they attend two Pound Growls prior to that time. The following Pups have already attended two growls and are ready to advance: **Pups Dahling, Sturm, and Webster**. There are still two Pound Growls scheduled prior to the Grand Growl, and some Pups must attend both in order to advance.

Don't wait. Attend those Pack and Pound Growls.

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

Woof-Woof,

Paul Taylor

PDD & Dog Robber

Quotation

*"Poor is the nation that has no heroes...
Shameful is the one that, having them...forgets."*

– Unknown –



Lest We Forget...

Six Marines Killed in Helo Crash

NOTE – The article appeared in the January 21st on-line edition of the Marine Corps Times. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

The Defense Department, on Saturday, identified the six Marines killed earlier this week in a helicopter crash in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

The Marines were identified as:

- Captain Daniel B. Bartle, 27, of Ferndale, Washington. The *Baltimore Sun* reported Saturday that Bartle was a recent graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Captain Nathan R. McHone, 29, of Crystal Lake, Illinois.
- Master Sergeant Travis W. Riddick, 40, of Centerville, Iowa.
- Corporal Jesse W. Stites, 23, of North Beach, Maryland.
- Corporal Kevin J. Reinhard, 25, of Colonia, New Jersey.
- Corporal Joseph D. Logan, 22, of Willis, Texas.

The Marines died Thursday when their helicopter went down in Helmand. The Taliban claimed it shot down a helicopter Thursday, but coalition forces said there is no indication the helicopter was hit by enemy fire.

German **Brigadier General Carsten Jacobson**, a spokesman for the **NATO** coalition in Kabul, said Friday that officials were looking at a *'technical fault'* as the possible culprit.

"The helicopter is one of the safest forms of transport," said Jacobson .

The Marines were assigned to **Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363**, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

HMH-363's 'Red Lions' deployed to Afghanistan in August, replacing Hawaii's **HMH-463**. The squadrons have performed medium-lift missions, ferrying troops and equipment around the battlefield.

Lt. Colonel Mark Revor, Commanding Officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, confirmed in a statement Friday that the Marines were from HMH-363.



**WE DON'T HAVE
AN ATTITUDE...
WE'RE JUST THAT
GOOD!**

A Marine's Son



This is **Landon**. His father, **Marine LCPL Andrew Carpenter**, was on his second deployment with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, when he gave his life defending our country in Afghanistan earlier this year – a month before Landon was born. Baby Landon's Mom, **Crissie**, wants his story to be known. Take a moment to share this photo with your friends and reflect on the price of freedom. Never forget the price of freedom.

Semper Fi

[Source – The website '*One Marine's View*']



Color Guard

by Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman

There are no events scheduled for our Color Guard in the near future; however, you are reminded that...

- The ranks of our color guard have severely diminished and **we need a few (two or more) volunteers** to meet our anticipated commitments. See the ***Have You Heard*** column for more information.
- The schedule of future color guard activities will be published as soon as we have firm dates.



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 **March** include:

Albert Bell	Woody Bowman	Butch Cavey	Paul Downey
Frank Fleishman	Gary Frye	James Hayes	Scott Neff
	Jack Seal	Chris Thompson	





Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

December Detachment Meeting Recap...

As was the case with the December meeting, our January 2012 meeting was sparsely attended. A recap of the actions taken by members in attendance are summarized as follows:

- A *pass-the-hat* collection was conducted and the monies collected were presented to a member of our auxiliary who is currently in need.
- Past Commandant **Mac McNeir** made contact with representatives of the *L/Cpl Robert W. Deane Detachment* to explore the possibility of both our detachments joining together to co-sponsor one of this year's **Marines Helping Marines** cook-outs. An agreement to co-sponsor the September picnic was reached – details will be worked out by the detachment commandants.
- Past Commandant **Pete Pervi** has volunteered to be the chairman of this year's **Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament**. He is currently in the preliminary stages of setting up the tournament and will be seeking volunteers to assist him in making this year's tournament a success.
- Commandant **Joseph Wright** needs the names of those who are planning to attend the **Department Convention** and are willing to serve as detachment delegates.
- Junior Past Commandant **Mac McNeir** solicited donations for the **2012 St. Baldrick's Children's Cancer Campaign**. He pointed out that additional information is available via posters affixed to the various post bulletin boards and the availability of donation forms in the newsletter rack.
- Department of Maryland Commandant **Ed Ross** solicited a \$100 donation from the detachment for **St. Baldrick's**. Motion to make a \$100 donation to **St. Baldrick's** was made, seconded, and passed by voice vote.
- Junior Past Commandant **Mac McNeir** announced that league member **Tony Begenwald** will be honored as the **Maryland Joint Veterans Commission Veteran of the Year** at a banquet being held on **St. Patrick's Day** at the **Bowie Elk's Club** from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. It would be appreciated if as many Marine Corps League members as possible showed their solidarity by attending the banquet.
- Color Guard Commander **Woody Bowman** is in need of a few volunteers to serve as members of our detachment color guard. No past experience as a member of any color guard is necessary – all you need is the *ability to march, a pair of dress blue trousers (with blood stripe), a web belt, a white uniform shirt, and your Marine Corps League cover*. At least two new members are needed as soon as possible.

(continued in adjacent column)

- The newsletter editor solicited articles, pictures, etc., which have a detachment focus for publication within *the Cutting Edge*.
- **Jim Brady** mentioned that the large screen TV in the bar area had recently died and that all tenant organizations of **VFW Post 160** are contributing towards its replacement. A motion to contribute \$100 was made, seconded, and passed by voice vote.
- A trip to the **Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina** is being put together and sponsored by the *Cpl. Mileo Detachment* and will take place in October of this year. Anyone interested in going to Parris Island as part of this trip should contact **Al Athey (410-490-2889)**. See the *Department of Maryland News* column (on page 9) for additional information. A deposit will be required by 15 July.
- After some discussion by the members in attendance, a member of **Arundel County Detachment 1049** was selected as our nominee for the honor of being recognized as the **2012 Department of Maryland's Marine of the Year**. A motion was subsequently made, seconded, and passed by voice vote to submit our nominee to the detachment selection committee.

2012 Mid Winter Conference...

The **Marine Corps League Mid-Winter National Staff Conference** will be held on **February 16, 17 and 18, 2012** at the **Tysons Corner Marriott in Vienna, Virginia**. Call no later than **January 20, 2012** to make your reservation(s) (1-703-734-3200).

2012 Dept. of Maryland Convention...

The **Department of Maryland Convention** will be held on **April 26, 27 and 28 2012** at the **Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center in Ocean City, Maryland** (1-800-4-ROYALE).

2012 National Convention...

Members planning to attend the **2012 National Convention in Mobile, Alabama**, should make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. Usually, hotel room availability becomes increasingly scarce as the date of the convention approaches. Hotel information is provided below.

- The **Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa**
26 North Royal Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602 (1-866-316-5957)
- **Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel**
64 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602 (1-800-922-3298)



51 Mountain Road
Pasadena, MD 21122
1-800-556-8113

Mazda • Lincoln • Mercury



Rich Morton Auto Group



1013 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
1-800-500-7337

Lincoln • Mercury

Still Fighting... *(continued from page 1)*

"The biggest thing I try and get across to Marines is it's not about them; it's about the Marines they lead," Peredo said. "It's about putting their needs aside and being able to talk to other Marines and setting them up for success. Being able to say you're down but not out is a big part of leadership."

For many of the Marines taking the course, it gave them the opportunity to remember why they joined the Marine Corps and motivated them to continue their career in the Corps.

"The course challenged me to get back in the mindset of being an NCO," said **Corporal Rory Hamill**, who sustained injuries to his right leg while deployed to Afghanistan with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. "We can lose that mindset easily here since the focus is on recovery instead of being a Marine."

The course was identical to other corporals courses, including periods of instruction on [the] sword and guidon manual, mentoring, counseling, and how to effectively lead junior Marines.

"Obviously some stuff was altered, such as field operations and regular running, lifting weights or other activities our injuries prohibit," said **Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter**, who sustained injuries to the right side of his body from an enemy grenade in Marjah, Afghanistan in 2010 [while serving] with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment.

Physical training wasn't the only aspect of the course altered for these Marines. Many events such as land navigation and sword manual were discussed in detail as opposed to performed due to the injuries of some of the students. Despite the challenges, the instructors ensured training topics were covered in detail so the Marines would be able to confidently train and mentor their junior Marines.

"They had to adapt a lot of the training schedule to the wounded Marines because, obviously, there are guys missing arms, guys missing legs who can't do everything," Hamill said. "They adapted but made sure we understood."

The Marines were thoroughly taught and tested throughout the course. The challenges they faced brought the Marines together and helped them embrace the fact that they remain a band of brothers.

"Not everyone was excited to come to class everyday but I think it makes the guys think about reenlisting and it puts the Marines priorities in order," Carpenter said. "It lifted morale and increased our motivation these two weeks we were together."

Although the wounded Marines signed up for the opportunity, many were admittedly apprehensive in the beginning but were appreciative of the experience by graduation day.

"I chose to take the course because I plan on staying in the Corps," Hamill said. "I love this organization. Being here and all the help I received, even after my injury, has motivated me even more. This is my family and I love it."

With the course now complete, these Marines can concentrate on their goals and their future in the Corps.



LCpl Tony Mullis and LCpl Derrick Stevenson recently raced down the court during an improvised wheelchair soccer game at the Walter Reed NMMC at Bethesda, MD. They were among the 17 Marines who recently graduated from the first Corporal's Course for the Wounded Warrior Detachment.
[Photo by LCpl. Daniel A. Wetzel, USMC - HQMC]

"Getting injured puts things in perspective and makes you grow up in your professional and personal life," Carpenter said. "I definitely consider reenlisting more now since before I was injured."

Although the experience was unique for the Wounded Warrior Regiment, it was a learning and growing experience for the students, the staff and everyone involved.

"Teaching these Marines makes you realize who you are as a Marine; I think I needed this more than they did," Peredo said. "It hits home because I'm able to stand; I'm able to move around and they're not. These are good Marines and now they realize they have something to offer back."

Peredo said they got through to most of the class and reminded them [of the] things they forgot while being isolated from the Corps at the medical center.

"A lot of Marines treat this like a petting zoo, they come here because they feel sorry for the wounded Marines," Peredo said. "They don't need that, they need to be taught and trained like Marines."

The detachment's goal is to continue corporal's courses and other professional development for wounded warriors with classes at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA, Camp Pendleton, CA, and Camp Lejeune, NC.



Be part of the action at the League's

2012 Mid-Winter National Staff Conference

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

Book Review

by Mac McNeir

Ride the Thunder

by Richard Botkin

*A former Marine infantry officer with 15 years of service
(active & reserve, 1980 – 1995).*

This book presents the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of several U.S. Marine Corps Advisers ('Covans') and the men of the Vietnamese Marine Corps with whom they served during the 'Easter Offensive' of 1972 and the difficult times that followed. In my eyes, it is a complete and far more honest portrayal of the Vietnam War – its heroes, its villains, the political climate which lead to the betrayal of the South Vietnamese by our government – than presented by the *agenda-driven* journalists of the time.



Like many of us who served in this war, I developed relationships with a number of Vietnamese citizens and this book has rekindled memories of them and reawakened my heartfelt concerns for their fate once the communists invaders filled the void created by the departure of U.S. forces.

This book also begs the question of why the *press corps* exacerbated public perceptions through their seemingly never-ending focus on incidents such as *My Lai* while almost totally ignoring countless North Vietnamese atrocities, which were far more egregious...atrocities such as the artillery shelling of thousands of fleeing civilian refugees during their exodus from Dong Ha.

Extracts from a few notable reviews provide a sampling of opinions about his book.

"...a brilliant account of the bravery and skill of a small group of American Marine advisors and the courageous Vietnamese Marines who fought to the end."

General Anthony C. Zinni, USMC, Retired

"...places the reader in the middle of the war through the experiences of several U. S. Marine officers who served as advisors to the Vietnamese Marines – a Corps that, like our own, was one of the elite units of the Vietnamese Armed Forces."

General Carl E. Mundy Jr., USMC, Retired

"... a great contribution toward correcting the myths that still prevail about the Vietnam War. This is a powerful book, one that every veteran and patriotic American should read."

Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton, USN Retired (Vietnam POW)

"...an account of the politics and economics of that sad episode in American warfare."

**Major General John S Grinalds, USMC Retired,
President of the Citadel (1997 – 2005)**

This book is not a quick read; but, it is a factual, 'warts and all' portrayal of the war and those who fought it...a book that dispels myths and is worthy of readers in search of the truth.



The M1 Garand



*Do you wonder why that rifle
is hanging in my den?
You know I rarely take it down;
but I touch it now and then.*

*It's rather slow and heavy
by standards of today;
but, not too many years ago
it swept the rest away.*

*It's held its own in battles
through snow, or rain, or sun;
and, I had one just like it...
this treasured old M-1.*

*It went ashore at Bougainville
in Nineteen Forty-Three.
It stormed the beach at Tarawa
through a bullet-riddled sea.*

*Saipan knew its strident bark,
Kwajalein, its sting.
The rocky caves of Peleliu
resounded with its ring.*

*It climbed the hill on Iwo
with men who wouldn't stop
and left our nation's banner
flying on the top.*

*It poked its nose in Pusan,
screamed an angry roar,
and took the First Division
from Chosin Reservoir.*

*Well, time moves on
and things improve
with rifles and with men;
and that is why the two of us
are sitting in my den.*

*But sometimes on a winter night,
While thinking of my Corps,
I know that if the bugle blew
We'd be a team once more.*

– Unknown Author –



Department of Maryland News

A number of our detachment members, including the current and several past commandants, attended the **Department of Maryland Staff Meeting** held on January 14th, which was hosted by the **Cpl. Mileo Detachment** in Centreville, Maryland. The highlights of that meeting are summarized as follows.

- Motion passed to take out a full page ad in the *Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland* banquet book and to fund the purchase of a plaque honoring league member **Tony Begenwald** as this year's *Maryland Veteran of the Year*.
- Motion passed to have the Department fund the *17 October Bethesda Marines Helping Marines Cook-Out* for a sum not to exceed \$1,500.00.
- Motion passed to purchase a full-page ad in the *MCL Mid-Winter Conference* book.
- Convention hand-outs containing explicit instructions on registration and other topics were distributed to each Detachment Commandant present for dissemination to their membership. Hopefully this will lessen past confusion about the registration of delegates and non-delegates.
- **James Brady** proposed renting a bus for the trip to the **National Convention and Supreme Growl** in Mobile, Alabama in August for consideration by the membership. Details have been forwarded to all Department Marines via email.
- **Commandant Ed Ross** and Marine **Jim Schat** discussed the start-up of a new detachment in **Montgomery County**.
- Member **Ray Chatary** noted that the **DAV** chapter in Bowie, MD paid for the *2011 Christmas Dinner* served to the wounded warriors being treated at Bethesda and stated that they will also sponsor one of the monthly *Marines Helping Marines Cook-Out* to be held this year.
- Member **Al Athey** (410-490-2889) of the *Cpl Mileo Detachment* described a proposed **Parris Island Bus Trip** to take place from 9 to 15 October. Call for reservations – a deposit of \$100 is required by **no later than 15 July**.
- Next *MCL Leadership Class* will be conducted on **14 April** at **VFW Post 160** – home of **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049**. Contact **Craig Reeling** (443-477-0670) to register.

The next Department of Maryland Staff Meeting will be held on **March 10th** and be hosted by the **Carroll County Detachment** at **American Legion Post 31, 2 Sycamore St., Westminster, MD 21157**.

NOTE – Departmental Staff Meetings are generally open to all members of the league in good standing...you do not need to be an elected or appointed officer of the league to attend.



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)

At this time, the only individuals known to be either sick or in distress are **Chris Kalwa's** son and father-in-law, and **Patty Robidoux**.

Please keep those members of our extended family, who may be suffering silently, in anonymity, in your thoughts and prayers.



Humor

Proper use of the "F"

We all know that it isn't polite to use the 'F' word; however, during the course of history, there have been ten occasions where use of the 'F' word has been deemed appropriate:

10. "What the f - - - was that?"
The Mayor of Hiroshima, 1945
9. "Look at all them f - - - ing Indians!"
Custer, 1877
8. "Any f - - - ing idiot could understand that."
Einstein, 1938
7. "It does so f - - - ing look like her!"
Picasso, 1926
6. "How the f - - - did you work that out?"
Pythagoras, 126 BC
5. "You want WHAT on the f - - - ing ceiling?"
Michelangelo, 1566
4. "Where the f - - - are we?"
Amelia Earhart, 1937
3. "Scattered f - - - ing showers...My ass!"
Noah, 4314 BC
2. "Aw c'mon. Who the f - - - is going to find out?"
Bill Clinton, 1999

The Number 1 – most appropriate use of the 'F' word –
(drum roll)...

1. "Geez, I didn't think they'd get this f - - - ing mad."
Saddam Hussein, 2003





Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **May 18, 2012**. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at **VFW Post 160**, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 (410-766-9802).

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

MCL National Mid-Winter Conference

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

MODD, Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, February 26, 2012 from 1000 to 1200 – Mike Hadley

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary

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

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049

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

Department of Maryland Staff Meeting

Saturday, March 10, 2012 – @ 0900 – Ed Ross
American Legion Post 31, 2 Sycamore St., Westminster, MD 21157

MODD, Maryland Pack Growl

Saturday, March 10, 2012 (after Depart. Staff Meeting) – Ed Ross
American Legion Post 31, Westminster, MD

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary

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

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049 Auxiliary

Friday, March 30, 2012 from 1800 to 2000 – Dawn Parker

MCL Leadership Training

Saturday, April 14, 2012 – Joe Wright

MODD, Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, April 15, 2012 from 1000 to 1200 – Mike Hadley

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary

(Joint Meeting / New Officer Installations)
Monday, April 23, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

2012 Department of Maryland Convention

Thursday, April 26 – Saturday, April 28, 2012 – Ed Ross
Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center
Ocean-front at 91st Street, Ocean City, Maryland
(1-800-4-ROYALE)

MODD, Maryland Pack Grand Growl

Friday, April 27, 2012 – Ed Ross
Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049

Friday, May 4, 2012 from 1800 to 2000 – Joe Wright

Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament

Friday, May 18, 2012 @ 0900 – Joe Wright
Bay Hills Golf Club, Arnold, MD



Corps History

by Historian Vic Halme

1 February 1967

Operation Prairie II began in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3rd Marine Division. During the 46 day search-and-destroy operation, 93 Marines and 693 enemy combatants were killed.

2 February 1944

The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.

2 February 1968

Operation Hue City, Tet Offensive began in Vietnam.

5 February 1918

1st Marine Replacement Battalion sails for France (WWI).

6 February 1968

The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines with three companies, recapture Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house-to-house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marine casualties, before the imperial city was secured.

11 February 1922

BGen John H. Russell appointed U.S. High Commissioner and personal representative of the President to the government of Haiti. This nine-year assignment placed this future Commandant in supreme command of both the occupying American force and the Haitian Gendarmerie.

15 February 1898

28 Marines and 232 seamen lose their lives when the battleship USS Maine is mysteriously hit by an explosion and sunk in the Havana, Cuba harbor.

19 February 1945

4th and 5th Marines Divisions assault Iwo Jima...raise flag on Mount Suribachi four days later.

20 February 1815

Captain Archibald Henderson leads Marines in the USS Constitution's capture of HMS Cyane and HMS Levant, which occurs 3 days after the end of the War of 1812.

20 February 1962

Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn Jr. orbits the earth in first manned American space capsule.

23 February 1945

Men of the 5th Marine Division raise flag on Mount Suribachi.

24 February 1991

The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm.

1st and 2nd Marine Divisions breach Iraqi defensive positions.

26 February 1991

A Marine recon unit was the first U.S. force to enter Kuwait City and retake the American Embassy.

28 February 1991

Operation Desert Storm ends. I Marine Expeditionary Force, with a strength of more than 92,000 for the operation, becomes largest Marine Corps operation in history. 24 Marines were killed in action during the Gulf War.

28 February 1967

PFC James Anderson Jr. is first black Marine to win the Medal of Honor.



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Joint Veterans' Commission

2012 Veteran of the Year Tony Begenwald

By Attending the Presentation Ceremony/Banquet

Bowie Elks Lodge #2309
1506 Defense Highway (Rt. 450)
Gambrills (Crofton), Md.

\$35 per person

Saturday, March 17, 2012
from 4:00 – 8:00 PM

\$35 per person

Contact Bob Flick @ 410 451-1529 for tickets
Ticket Deadline – Sunday, March 11, 2012
No Tickets Will Be Sold at the Door!

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Riviera Plaza

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Riviera Beach, MD
410-437-4800



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Be Part of the Effort to Conquer Kid's Cancers

Should you wish to support the **St. Baldrick's Foundation** in its fight against children's cancer, you can make a donation by one of the methods described below. Whichever method you chose, **please be sure to include (mention) my name and participants number (P-502959)** either on your check, as part of the form that is used for on-line (Internet) donations, or over the phone.

Regardless of the method you chose, your donations will be tax deductible!

METHOD 1 – You can contribute directly online, as a member of my personal team at the following URL – <https://www.stbaldricks.org/donate/>

- *Select the Participant button.*
- *Enter Wayne into the First Name field.*
- *Enter McNeir into the Last Name field.*
- *Select the Shavee check-box.*
- *Be sure to select 2012 from the Event Year drop-down list.*
- *Click on the SEARCH button.*

<My participant's page will appear after a brief delay>

- *Click on the black DONATE button in the upper-right-hand side of my page.*

*<The **MAKE A DONATION** page will appear after a brief delay>*

- *Click on the DONATE without logging in button.*
- *Complete the form that is now displayed.*

METHOD 2 – You can write a check – please make it payable to the **St. Baldrick's Foundation**. Either mail your check to the **St. Baldrick's Foundation, 1333 Mayflower Ave., Suite 400, Monrovia, CA, 91016** or get it to me. I'll forward checks given to me to St. Baldrick's and update their website to reflect your generosity! Be sure to provide me with information such as...

- The name you wish to appear in the donor list...you may want to donate in someone else's honor;
- or, the term '**anonymous**' if you wish to remain unnamed.

METHOD 3 – Call the toll-free number 1-888-899-BALD and make your pledge over the telephone.

On behalf of some very special kids, thank you for your support and your generosity!

Wayne (Mac) McNeir



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

(Address Correction Requested)



Featured Foto



Japanese Soldiers with the Western Army Infantry Regiment, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force conduct amphibious training at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, January 22nd. The JGSDF are here to participate in ***Exercise Iron Fist*** with the **15th Marine Expeditionary Unit**, a unique training opportunity for both services. Boats are one of many amphibious means the Marine Corps uses to move troops ashore in an expeditionary manner. Marine Expeditionary Units are responsible to our nation as a 911 force in readiness. [USMC photo by Cpl. John Robbart III]