

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)

Head of Code Talkers Association Dies



Keith Little, the long-time president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, died on January 3, 2012. He was 87. [Photo – The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer via AP]

NOTE – The following article by Felicia Fonseca of the Associated Press appeared in the January 4th on-line edition of the Marine Corps Times.

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona – Keith Little envisioned a place that would house the stories of the Navajo Code Talkers and where people could learn more about the famed World War II group who used their native language as a weapon.

His family now hopes to carry out his dream of a museum in Arizona that also will hold wartime memorabilia and serve as a haven for veterans. Little, one of the most recognizable of the remaining Code Talkers, died of melanoma Tuesday night at a Fort Defiance hospital, said his wife, Nellie. He was 87.

Little was 17 when he joined the Marine Corps, becoming one of hundreds of Navajos trained as Code Talkers. They used a code developed by 29 tribal members that was based on the then-unwritten Navajo language. Their code helped confound the Japanese and win the war.

(see Code Talkers on page 7)

CONTENTS...

- 1st UAV Cargo Delivery 9
- Advertisements:
- Blue Grass Jam
 to benefit Fisher House 13
- Department of Maryland Convention 3
- Mid-Winter National Conference 3
- St. Baldrick's Campaign against
 Kid's Cancer 12
- Super Bowl Party 7
- Birthdays 9
- Bombastic Bumper Snicker 11
- Chaplain's Corner 4
- Color Guard 9
- Coming Events 10
- Commandant's Message 3
- Corps History 10
- Corps Humor 9
- Devil Dogs 4
- Featured Foto 14
- From the Editor 2
- Have You Heard? 6
- Junior Vice Commandant 4
- Lawmaker Wants Marines Recognized 5
- List of Officers 2
- Marines Save Afghans... 8
- Membership Stats & Renewals 2
- Need A Ride? 7
- Pearl Harbor Honors (Photo) 4
- Photo Quiz 7
- Quotation 9
- Tony Begenwald Being Honored 6
- Welcome Aboard – Norm Huffman 5

the **CUTTING EDGE**

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

Editor – Mac McNeir

P.O. Box 804
Severn, MD 21144-0804

Phone410-437-4329

Emaileditor@mclaacdet1049.org

ListServer:

e-mail:

aa-county-detachment1049@lists.mclaacdet1049.org

web page:

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



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

Detachment Staff:

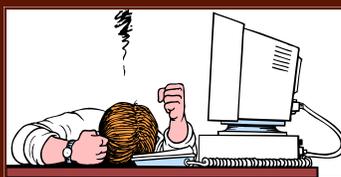
- Commandant – *Joseph Wright*
- Senior Vice-Commandant – *Chris Kalwa*
- Junior Vice-Commandant – *Ed Dahling*
- Judge Advocate – *Charles Luthardt Jr.*
- Adjutant – *Dave Wells*
- Auxiliary President – *Dawn Parker*
- By-Laws Committee Chairman – *Danny Fischio*
- Chaplain – *Ken Webster*
- Color Guard Commander – *Woody Bowman*
- Historian – *Victor Halme*
- House Chairman – *Vacant*
- Legislative Officer – *Vacant*
- Newsletter Editor – *Mac McNeir*
- Paymaster – *Ed Dahling*
- Public Information Officer – *Vacant*
- Quartermaster – *Fred Kaminski*
- Rifle & Pistol Team Captain – *Jake Jahelka*
- Sergeant-at-Arms – *Ray Sturm*
- Toys for Tots Coordinator – *Vacant*
- VAVS Officer – *Vacant*
- Web Sergeant – *Michael R. Hadley*
- Young Marines Commander – *George Martin*



Award Winner

Marine Corps League
National Newsletter Competition
(Detachments of More Than 100 Members)

Visit the Department of Maryland web site at...
<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

I would like to call your attention to the **2012 St. Baldrick's Campaign**, which generates funds to finance laboratory research with the intent to find cures for the various forms of children's cancer. I sincerely hope that those of you who supported me in this effort last year will support me again this year. It is also my hope that some of you, who did not participate in the past, will consider supporting me this year. Please see the ad on page 12 of this newsletter. The actual event will take place at **Dougherty's Pub** in Baltimore on **24 March** at approximately **5:00 PM**. Instructions sheets about how to donate are located in the newsletter rack at VFW Post 160.

I wish to again remind you that our next major fund-raising effort for the detachment is the selling of advertisements for our **Department Convention Book**. If you've sold ads in the past ... please keep on contributing. If you haven't sold ads in the past ... make 2012 the year that you join us in raising the monies necessary to allow our detachment to fund its many charitable efforts.

The deadline for **February** articles is **MIDNIGHT** on **Tuesday, February 7, 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 | 36* | 5 | - |
| Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster) | | | |
| Type | USMC | Associate | Multiple |
| Annual Memberships | 11 | - | - |
| 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)

| February 2012 | March 2012 | April 2012 |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Charles Albo Frank Fleishman James Hutton David Reyes | Robert A. Eckardt | Keith Oliver Joseph Stephens |
| 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,

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and an outstanding New Year. With that being said, it is time to get back to business. I, along with several other members of the Detachment, will be attending the **Marine Corps League Mid-Winter National Staff Conference**, on February 16, 17 and 18, 2012 at the **Tysons Corner Marriott in Vienna, VA**. It is also time to start thinking about several items that affect us all as members of the Marine Corps League.

Department of Maryland Marine of the Year – 2011

This detachment will be submitting the name of one (1) nominee for this award tentatively on **24 February 2012**. If you have someone in mind that you believe to be deserving of statewide recognition as the Department of Maryland Marine of the Year, you need to do the following:

- Write your nominee's name on a piece of paper along with and a minimum of three (3) reasons as to why that individual deserves the award. Please note that you can recommend any member of the Marine Corps League, who is a member in good standing of any Department of Maryland Detachment.
- Sign your recommendation – unsigned recommendations will not be considered!
- Place your recommendation within a sealed envelope, address the envelope to our Detachment Adjutant (David Wells), and place it in the detachment's mailbox at the Post.

Names will be accepted until **10 February 2012**. After that, the Adjutant, Senior Vice Commandant, and the Judge Advocate will review all nominees and select one candidate for submission to the Department of Maryland.

The Department of Maryland Marine of the Year will be announced at the 2012 Department Convention Dinner, which will be held at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center in Ocean City, Maryland on **28 April 2012**.

Detachment 1049 Marine of the Year – 2011

Nominations for the Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 Marine of the Year will be accepted until **19 March 2012**. If you wish to nominate an individual, you will need to do the following:

- Write your nominee's name on a piece of paper along with and a minimum of three (3) reasons as to why that individual deserves the award.
- Sign your recommendation – unsigned recommendations will not be considered!
- Seal your recommendation in an envelope.
- Place your recommendation within a sealed envelope, write 'Detachment 1049 Marine of the Year – 2011' on the envelope, and place it in the detachment's mailbox at the Post.



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**



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 .*

The members of the Detachment Marine of the Year Committee will review all of the nominations received and then select the most deserving nominee. The Detachment 1049 Marine of the Year will be announced at the Detachment Meeting scheduled for **23 April 2012**.

Detachment 1049 Election of Officers for FY 2011 – 2012

It is time to start thinking about who you would like to lead the Detachment during fiscal year **2012 – 2013**. Candidates (nominees) are needed for the following positions. Please remember, that any **regular member in good standing** may run for office.

- Detachment Commandant
- Detachment Senior Vice Commandant
- Detachment Junior Vice Commandant
- Detachment Judge Advocate

Semper Fi,

Joe

From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

Goodness gracious! The year 2012 is already here. Who would have ever...thought the New Year would already be upon us? I hope that each of you had a Wonderful holiday season and spent some extra time with your family and fellow Marines.

I would also like to welcome our detachment's newest members, **Roland Miller** and **Norman Huffman**. This brings our detachment up to 137 Members.

As always, recruiting is the most important function to keep our Detachment growing and thriving, so I'd like to remind all members, whether you attend regularly or not, to keep recruitment in mind. Please do your part and when the opportunity arises, encourage those Marines you meet to consider joining.

Semper Fi, & Woof-Woof

Ed Dahling



A Marine honor guard prepares to greet the family of **Pfc. Frank Cabiness**, who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, as they carry his urn aboard the **USS Arizona Memorial** on December 23rd. Cabiness is the second Marine survivor, whose remains have been returned to Pearl Harbor to be subsequently buried with those of his shipmates. [Photo by Sgt. Brian Tuthill, USMC]



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)

Have not received any information with regard to either detachment members or members of our extended family, who may be under the weather or recovering from injuries.

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



Military Order of the Devil Dogs



The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

Pound 204 held a very successful Growl in December, producing **\$220.00** for the children's hospital in Mobile, Alabama.

The **Maryland Pack** will Growl on **14 January** in Centreville immediately following (or soon thereafter) the Department Staff meeting. This is the second Pack Growl in which DDs desiring to advance in Mobile next August can attend to qualify for advancement. There will be another one on 10 March and the Grand Growl on 27 April. DDs desiring to advance to PDD must attend two of these Growls.

The Pound still has two Dogs who haven't paid their dues for 2012. Fortunately neither is in the Anne Arundel County Detachment.

Pups desiring to advance to DD at the Grand Growl in April must attend two Pound Growls prior to then, and the Pound only has two Growls left. Some Pups haven't attended any Growls since the Supreme Growl in August. 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

U.S. Lawmaker Wants Marines Recognized for Libyan Operations

NOTE – The following article by Gidget Fuentes (staff writer) appeared in the December 10th edition of the on-line Marine Corps Times.

Eight months after Marine Corps aviators first flew missions in Libya – including the rescue of a downed Air Force pilot – a California representative wants to know why no Marine has been honored with awards for their combat actions.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-CA, directed his question to **Navy Secretary Ray Mabus**, who has the primary awarding authority for awards such as the *Distinguished Flying Cross* and *Air Medal*.

“It has come to my attention that no awards or recognition have been approved for Marine aviators who flew combat missions over Libya,” Hunter wrote in a recent letter to Mabus.

The missions included a *tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel operation to rescue the pilot of an F-15E Strike Eagle jet that crashed* on March 21 in a rebel-held area of northeast Libya.

That call went to the **26th Marine Expeditionary Unit**, which sent its **TRAP** (*Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel*) force – which included two MV-22 Ospreys, two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters and two AV-8B Harrier jets, along with a KC-130J tanker – from the amphibious assault ship **U.S.S. Kearsarge** for the nighttime mission to recover the pilot and co-pilot who safely ejected from the jet. While the co-pilot got shelter from rebels, the pilot evaded capture and hid until the TRAP platoon assigned to the MEU grabbed him and put him into an Osprey.

Awards could be forthcoming. The Navy’s assistant secretary for manpower and reserve affairs has been considering a request submitted by U.S. Naval Forces Africa to designate the Libya area as authorized for combat awards.

“A decision is expected in the near future,” said **Lt. Matt Allen**, a Navy spokesman at the Pentagon.

In his letter, Hunter, a Marine veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, highlighted the dangers the rescue force faced.

“Pilots of the Harrier jet provided close-air support by dropping two 500-pound bombs in the area between the downed pilot and a sizable force that was quickly closing in on the F-15 pilot,” Hunter wrote. “There is no doubt that the actions by these Marines during this mission, and throughout the entire U.S.-led operations in Libya, deserve some type of recognition.”

“I am concerned that in the effort to downplay the combat role involved in the U.S. operations in Libya, political sensitivity has trumped American courage and bravery,” Hunter said.

Although Libya wasn’t a designated combat zone, the Defense Department approved Libya and neighboring

Tunisia for imminent danger pay. But service members don’t have to be in a designated combat zone to rate a combat medal, said Doug Sterner, a military historian.



Norman Huffman was welcomed as our newest member at our detachment’s December meeting.

He joined the Marine Corps Reserves’ 1st Engineer Battalion in Baltimore, Maryland, while a student at Glen Burnie High School. After graduation from high school in 1957, Norm underwent recruit training at Parris Island, SC. He received an honorable discharge in 1963 after having served in the Marine Corps Reserves for eight years.



Norm married his high school sweetheart **Barbara Dodson** in 1960 and had 2 children – **Norman Edward** and **Laura Marie**. Sadly, his wife Barbara succumbed to cancer in 1977.

Four years later, in 1981, Norm married **Jane Harrington**. They will be celebrating their 31st anniversary in February 2012. The Huffman’s have five grandchildren – 3 granddaughters and 2 grandsons.

Prior to his retirement, Norm worked as an automobile mechanic and had been the manager of **Wilson’s Service Station** (Mountain Road in Lake Shore) for twenty years at the time of his retirement in 2004. Norm says that he thoroughly enjoyed working at Wilson’s, a fact which is surely attested to by his almost 48 years of service there.

His hobbies include fishing on the Chesapeake Bay, shooting pool, performing volunteer work in his community and serving with his local fire company.

If you were not in attendance at our last meeting, please take the opportunity to introduce yourselves to Norm and welcome him aboard when you meet him at one of our detachment’s activities.





Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

Lowering the Bar...

No, **Jim Brady** isn't pretending to be educated, or posing as a new appointee to the judicial bench, he just had a whim to dress appropriately for his position as 'Smart Dog' for the **Military Order of the Devil Dogs' Pound 204** at its recent growl. It should be noted that Jim was 'fined' for not being in the appropriate uniform.



December Detachment Meeting Recap...

A short meeting to accommodate the swearing in of new member **Norman Huffman** was held prior to adjourning for our annual combined Christmas celebration. Members of both our detachment and the auxiliary attended the celebration. A special thanks to the ladies of the auxiliary for their setting up the buffet and all of the associated activities. Thanks also to the many individuals who contributed the tasty treats that we all enjoyed.

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 reservations (1-703-734-3200).

2012 Dept. of Maryland Conference...

The **Department of Maryland Conference** 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 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)



Tony Begenwald Being Honored

The **Maryland Joint Veterans Commission (JVC)** has selected **Tony Begenwald**, a life member of the **Marine Corps League**, as its **2012 Veteran of the Year**. Tony, who is the **East-Coast Director of the Marines Helping Marines (MHM)** program, was selected because of his many years of dedicated service to the Marines Helping Marines organization and other veterans service organizations. The selection committee considered five nominees before selecting Tony as this year's recipient of their prestigious award.



Neil Duncan (USA) & Corpsman Elmer Dinglasan (USN) received a set of orthopedic canes from Tony Begenwald [Photo by Don Patterson, MCL]

The honor will be officially bestowed upon Tony at a banquet to be held at **Bowie Elks Lodge #2309** – located at **1506 Defense Highway, (Rt. 450) Gambrills (Crofton), Md**. The banquet will take place on **Saturday, March 17, 2012** from **4:00 – 8:00 PM**.

Members of the Marine Corps League are encouraged to attend the banquet as a sign of support for Tony and solidarity with the initiatives of the JVC. Since the JVC is comprised of many veterans service organizations – *AMVETS, Catholic War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars* – it is highly desirable to have as many Marine Corps League members in attendance as possible.

Tickets for the event are **\$35** per person. Anyone interested in attending should contact **Bob Flick** at **410 451-1529** to purchase tickets. The deadline for purchasing banquet tickets is **Sunday, March 11, 2012** – *No Tickets Will Be Sold at the Door!*

If you have any other questions, please call **Jerry Devlin, Banquet Chairman** at 301-262-1696.



Photo Quiz



There is a detachment member in this photo. Can you find and identify him? Hint – He is not the one being carried. The answer may be found at the bottom of page 11.

Need A Ride?



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

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

We Take Care of Our Own!

The Editor



Super Bowl Party

VFW Post 160



Sunday, February 5th

6:00 pm until after the game

- Happy Hour Prices
- Prizes awarded during each television commercial break
- Raffle Drawing for Ravens Photo
- Food... Food... Food... (covered dishes would be appreciated)

Code Talkers... *(continued from page 1)*

“My motivation was to fight the enemy with a gun or whatever,” Little told The Associated Press in a July 2009 interview. “When I went into the Marine Corps ... I knew nothing about the Navajo code. It was really astonishing to me to get to Camp Pendleton and there were a bunch of Navajos there, and they were working with a Navajo code.”

Little, the longtime president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association until his death, traveled the country seeking funding for the museum that is expected to cost up to \$30 million. He preached about the preservation of Navajo traditions, culture and the language that the federal government tried to eradicate before he and others were called on to use it during the war.

It was a story he never tired of telling, association secretary Yvonne Murphy said.

“That was his life. That was the drive behind him,” Murphy said. “It didn’t matter where he was. If there were people who came and wanted to sit and talk with him, he would share with them.”

Nellie Little said her husband hoped the museum would be open by 2014 at its proposed location just outside the Navajo Nation capital of Window Rock. But she said more money is needed.

She is asking people to send museum donations rather than flowers for his memorial.

Keith Little’s health had been deteriorating over the past year, as he went in and out of hospitals between speaking engagements and appearances in parades – the last time in New York in November for Veterans Day, the association said.

A video on the association’s website features Keith Little speaking about the importance of the unbreakable code. Fellow platoon members referred to the Navajos as “walking secret codes,” with each message having to be memorized and destroyed after it was sent or received, Keith Little says.

“That is something that in itself was marvelous,” he said in the AP interview. “It was so proficient and safe.”

A public memorial is planned for Friday in Window Rock, with funeral services scheduled Saturday in nearby Fort Defiance. Navajo President Ben Shelly has ordered flags lowered across the reservation from Thursday through Sunday in Keith Little’s honor.



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

Marines Save Afghans in Daring Canal Rescue

NOTE – The following article by James K. Sanborn (staff writer) appeared in the January 2nd on-line edition of the Marine Corps Times.

A routine combined Afghan-Marine foot patrol was thrown into chaos on December 2, 2011 when a car traveling more than 40 mph struck the point man, plunging both car and soldier violently into a nearby canal.



LCpl. James Blomstran and his war dog, Sage; Sgt. Matt Garst; and Lance Cpls. Ryan Gerrity and Nicholas Dumke saved nine Afghans from raging waters on December 2, 2011.
[Photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder USMC]

Fortunately for all involved, the grunts on scene took swift action.

Sgt. Zaheed, of the Afghan National Army, was sweeping for improvised explosive devices along a dark road when the fast-moving vehicle approached. He tried to wave the car to stop, but it didn't slow. Caught between this threat and the rest of the patrol, Zaheed went for his weapon as a warning and waited until the last possible moment to step aside. It was too late.

In the dark night, the driver had not seen the troops, who were returning to Patrol Base Barcha in Helmand province after a resupply mission to a nearby outpost. When the driver finally spotted Zaheed's desperate warnings, he panicked, swerved and struck the soldier.

Without pause, **Sgt. Matt Garst**, 23, a squad leader with 2nd Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, ordered his men to drop their gear and dive into the frigid, fast-moving canal. Meanwhile, three ANA soldiers and another Marine with an IED dog – **LCpl. James Blomstran**, 22 – pulled security on the road.

The rescue was difficult, and there was an entire family in the car. Making matters worse, the December night-time temperature in southern Afghanistan hovers around 35 to 40 degrees, and the canal was about 20 feet across and more than 12 feet deep.

"The current was extremely fast," Garst wrote in an email to Marine Corps Times. "The vehicle was under water in a matter of seconds. Just swimming out you had to fight against it."

With the floodgates open to supply water to fields during wheat season, the Helmand canal was more akin to a swift

river. So swift, in fact, that **LCpl. Nicholas Dumke**, 20, couldn't make it to the car. He had to head back to shore but was able to pull a child and a man to safety with a 4-foot piece of cloth.

LCpl. Ryan Gerrity, 21, zeroed in on Zaheed and pulled him to safety.

Garst located two women and an infant drowning. Panicked, they fought him, but he was able to push them above water, wrap his arms around them and get them to shore.

Gerrity, now on shore, worked with Blomstran to pull another woman and child to shore while Garst returned to the car and pulled another man to safety.

All eight members of the Afghan family plus Zaheed had been rescued. The family was shaken but for the most part unharmed. One boy had minor cuts on his head.

"They were scared. Really scared. And I wanted to make sure everybody got out," Garst wrote.

With everyone ashore, Gerrity and Garst treated Zaheed, who, although awake, was slurring his speech, upset and seriously injured. He had head lacerations and swelling, his ankle was shattered and he was hemorrhaging. But the Marines' swift action kept him from going into shock. Gerrity elevated Zaheed's feet and Garst fashioned a splint out of two antennas and gauze. A passing driver accompanied by an ANA soldier took Zaheed back to base. He was airlifted to Camp Dwyer within the hour.

The Marines advised the family to rest at the nearby home of a family friend.

"Talking with the people who live where I sent them to, they were highly grateful," Garst said, "and called us saviors." Garst downplayed the heroics. "We aren't lifesavers," he said. "We're Marines." Garst said he and his men from the Hawaii-based unit did not anticipate a river rescue as part of their deployment but said they were compelled to act. "If we would not have jumped in, that family would've drowned," he said. "Each Marine who went in risked his own life."

Zaheed is reportedly doing well and should be back on his feet in two to three months, Garst said, adding, "He was a good soldier. He was an awesome point man and a friend to the squad."

Garst is no stranger to close calls or freak accidents. Not only has his unit seen its share of firefights since arriving in November, but in the summer of 2010, he stepped on an IED in Helmand and lived to tell about it. Then a corporal leading a patrol, he was flung above an 8-foot wall by the blast but suffered little more than the worst headache of his life.

"My first thought was, 'Oh s---, I just hit an IED,'" he said. "Then I thought, 'Well, I'm standing. That's good.'"



Corps Humor

The Marine General was inspecting the platoon. The Platoon Commander and the Platoon Sergeant stepped smartly as they led him through the ranks of immaculate Marines. The General stopped in front of one of the Marines and asked, “*Where are you from Marine?*”

“*Iowa City, Iowa, Sir!*” the young Marine barked. The General nodded and moved on. He then stopped in front of a very young looking Marine Pfc. The General smiled and looked down at him, “*When is your birthday Marine?*”

“*May 5th, sir!*” the young Marine barked.

The General then asked “*What year son?*”

The young Marine looking a bit perplexed replied, “*Why, every year sir!*”

The General brought himself back to attention and smartly continued with the inspection.



1st UAV Cargo Delivery

NOTE – This story by James K. Sanborn, appeared in the on-line edition of the Marine Corps Times on January 1, 2012.

Resupply missions just got safer for Marines in Afghanistan with the first delivery of goods by an unmanned helicopter.



The K-MAX completed its first unmanned aerial system cargo delivery in a combat zone to Combat Outpost Payne in Helmand province on December 17, 2011. [Photo by Cpl. Justin Boling / Marine Corps]

A detachment from **Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1** out of Twentynine Palms, Ca., completed the first combat flight on December 17th using a K-MAX helicopter to deliver 3,500 pounds of food and supplies from Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, to Combat Outpost Payne in Helmand province, according to a Marine news release.

“We delivered cargo today that was supposed to be delivered by convoy,” said **Major Kyle O’Connor**, the officer-in-charge of the squadron’s unmanned helicopter resupply operations. “Now that convoy has three pallets that it does not have to carry.”

With improvised explosive devices (IEDs) the biggest killer of Marines in Afghanistan, reducing the amount of supplies carried by ground convoys is a priority.

The December 17th flight kicks off a six-month field test. At the end of the test, the Marine Corps could decide to press more of the helicopters into service.



Color Guard

by Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman



There are no events scheduled for our Color Guard until March of this year; but, you are reminded that...

- our color guard is always looking for new volunteers to join their ranks, and
- the schedule of future Color Guard activities will be published in the February issue of this newsletter.



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 **February** include:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Don Blanton II | Louis Dasch Jr. | Robert Ebberts |
| Joseph Jones | Michael Lettau | Robert Lloyd |
| James McCormick | Pete Pervi | Ed Ross |
| Phil Schwarzenberg | James Walker | Scott Woods |



Quotation

Victory was never in doubt. Its cost was...What was in doubt, in all our minds, was whether there would be any of us left to dedicate our cemetery at the end, or whether the last Marine would die knocking out the last Japanese gun and gunner. (In reference to the Battle of Iwo Jima)

Major General Graves B. Erskine, USMC



Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **March 26, 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.

Department of Maryland Staff Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 2012 @ 0900 – Ed Ross
American Legion Post 18
2619 Centreville Road, Centreville, MD 21617

MODD, Maryland Pack Growl

Saturday, January 14, 2012 (after Dept. Staff Meeting) – Paul Taylor
American Legion Post 18
2619 Centreville Road, Centreville, MD 21617

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary

Monday, January 23, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

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 19, 2012 from 1000 to 1200 – Paul Taylor

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 (date TBD), 2012 – @ 0900 – Ed Ross
Location TBD

MODD, Maryland Pack Growl

Saturday, March (date TBD), 2012 – Paul Taylor
Location TBD

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 – Paul Taylor

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary (Joint Meeting / New Officer Installations)

Monday, April 23, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker



Corps History

by the Editor for Historian Vic Halme

4 January 1991

Marine helicopters evacuate 281 people from U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia.

7 January 1969

Medal of Honor awarded posthumously to 1st Marine Division Chaplain, Lt. V.R. Capodanno, U.S. Navy, who was killed in action in Quang Tin Province, Vietnam on 4 September 1967.

8 January 1815

Marines, with Andrew Jackson's help, repulsed British forces at New Orleans.

9 January 2002

All seven Marine crewmen were killed when their KC-130R crashed near a forward operating base at Shamsi, Pakistan. Enemy ground fire was not suspected in the crash. These Marines of VMGR-352 were the first to die in the war on terrorism.

10 January 1995

2,600 U.S. Marines deployed to Somalia (Operation United Shield) to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peace-keeping troops from Somalia.

11 January 2007

President George W. Bush presented the Medal of Honor to Corporal Jason L. Dunham's family during a White House ceremony. Corporal Dunham, who died of wounds sustained in combat in April 2004, was not only the first Marine to receive the nation's highest military award for valor for Operation Iraqi Freedom, but also the first Marine to receive the award for any action since 1970.

13 January 2003

General James L. Jones relinquished duties as the 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps to General Michael W. Hagee during a ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy. General Jones was the first commandant in 40 years not to retire from the position as he became the first Marine to assume duties as the head of U.S. European Command on 16 January 2003 and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe on the following day.

18 January 1951

Marines of the 1st Marine Division begin mop-up operations against guerrillas in the Pohang, South Korea region, following their epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir.

20 January 1968

The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North.

22 January 1969

Operation Dewey Canyon began with the airlift of the 9th Marines and supporting artillery into the A Shau/Da Krong Valleys.

25 January 1856

Marines and seamen from the U.S.S. DECATUR went ashore at the village of Seattle, Washington, to protect settlers from Indian raids.



Bombastic Bumper-Snicker:



**Tough times don't last...
but tough Marines Do!**

In business since 1975

HARBOUR LIQUORS

8140 Fort Smallwood Road
Baltimore, MD 21226
410-255-4395

Ardent Supporter of the Marine Corps League

Lauer's Supermarket & Bakery



Chesterfield Plaza

8095-A Edwin Raynor Blvd.
Pasadena, MD
410-255-0070

Riviera Plaza

8479 Fort Smallwood Rd.
Riviera Beach, MD
410-437-4800

QUALITY BUILT HOMES, INC.



Sales and Marketing Department
5341 Ketch Road, Suite 100
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Phone: 410-414-6995
Email: dougsmith@qbhi.com
<http://www.qbhi.com>

Please patronize the next

VFW Sunday Breakfast

Hosted at VFW Post 160 on

Sunday, February 5th

0800-1100

MISSION BBQ
The American Way.



Web: Mission-BBQ.com

Phone: 410-773-9888

7748 Governor Ritchie Hwy.
Glen Burnie MD 21061

*Committed to giving back
to our uniformed heroes!*



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

Exceptional Service & Quality

900 Crain Highway North
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Tina Todd
Assistant Manager

shamrockawards@verizon.net

Photo Quiz Answer

The body-bearer second from the left in the back row, is none other than our own Adjutant Ben Wells.



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



Toll Free (U.S. only) 888.899.BALD
626.792.8247
StBaldricks.org

**SUPPORT
FISHER HOUSE**

**Third Annual
Mostly Bluegrass
MARATHON JAM**

Saturday, February 25, 2012

American Legion Post 276

8068 Quarterfield Rd, Severn MD 21144

12PM – 12AM

12 HOURS of Non Stop Music

ALL MUSICIANS/SINGERS & TOE TAPPERS WELCOME!!

Acoustic Instruments Only Please

All proceeds will go to **FISHER HOUSE™ FOUNDATION**

Providing a "home away from home" for military families, allowing them to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury.

FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS ACCEPTED, AND APPRECIATED

Great Food – Cold Beverages – Silent Auction

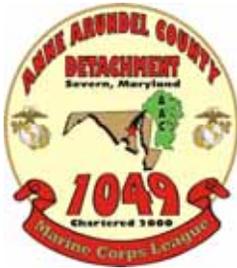
Good Music, Good Friends, Good Times
Hosted by the

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
GARAGE JAMMERS**

<http://justbecausebluegrass.com/MarathonJam/index.htm>

For more information contact us at MDJam4fisherhouse@comcast.net

or Neil at 443-875-8797



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

(Address Correction Requested)



Featured Foto



The 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, and staff, board a CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter at Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan. These leaders traveled to Afghanistan to visit deployed service members throughout Regional Command (West) and Regional Command (Southwest) for the Thanksgiving holiday. [USMC photo by Sgt. M. S. VanderSchans]