

# the CUTTING EDGE

news for and about the members of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League  
Ed Dahling, Editor / <http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

## Semper Fidelis!

### Merry Christmas Marines



### Arlington National Cemetery at Christmas



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**National Award Winner**

3rd Place Winner 2017  
2nd Place Winner 2018  
Marine Corps League  
National Newsletter Award

# the *Cutting Edge*

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

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**Detachment Website**  
<http://mclaaacet1049.org/>

### Detachment Staff:

- Commandant** .....Ray Sturm
- Senior Vice-Commandant** .....Ben Wells
- Junior Vice-Commandant**..... Chris Wise
- Judge Advocate** .....Pat Sharkey
- Junior Past-Commandant**.....Ed Dahling
- Adjutant** .....Joseph Wright
- By-Laws Committee Chairman** Danny Fischio
- Chaplain** .....Bill Collins
- Color Guard Commander** .....Woody Bowman
- Historian** .....Joseph Wright
- House Chairman** ..... **Vacant**
- Legislative Officer** ..... **Vacant**
- Newsletter Editors** ..... Ed Dahling
- Paymaster** ..... Ed Dahling
- Public Affairs (Information) Officer** Guy Hall
- Quartermaster** .....Bill Collins
- Rifle & Pistol Team Captain** ...Ray Sturm
- Sergeant-at-Arms** .....Jim Galvin
- VAWS Officer** ..... **Vacant**
- Web Sergeant** .....Joseph Wright
- Toy For Tots Chairman**.....Chris Stevens
- Young Marines Commander** ...Dallas Cooper

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

## National Award Winner



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner 2017**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner 2018**  
**Marine Corps League**  
**National Newsletter**  
**Award**

## Membership Statistics

### Good Standing (Dues Paid)

Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Member-	76	9	6
Annual Member-	17	8	—



### New Members

			-
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### Sub-Totals

93	17	6	
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### Total

116		
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## Members' Birthdays

Members of our detachment, who will be celebrating

Birthdays during the month of December includes

Mike Lowman Scott Stevens Robert Foley Jr.  
Eugene Punte Ben Wells

**NOTE** – If you were born in December and your name is not listed above, please contact the editor to be included in the future.

## Quotation

“I am more afraid of an army of 100 sheep led by a lion than an army of 100 lions led by a sheep”

Charles Maurice de Talleyrand  
French Diplomat/Statesman





As you read this, the detachment's 2018 Toys for Tots Drive is in full swing. I would like to thank all of our staff as well as all of the volunteers, who unselfishly assisted us in this most worthy effort.

After the meeting, we will have a Christmas gathering. It would be appreciated if those who are able, would please bring a covered dish or other food/beverage item. Regardless, please come and spread some holiday cheer with your fellow detachment members.

For those of you who will not be able to attend the meeting, I wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season.

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

The deadline for all December newsletter articles is NOON on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Please do not wait until the last minute!



The following events are scheduled to occur through **February 2019**. 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.

**Color Guard 8th** December Posting Colors at the Food Lion on Mountain Rd.

**December 9th** Pound 204 Growl @ 0800 Breakfast 0900 Growl (Ray Sturm) at VFW Post 160 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060

**Monthly Meetings**, MCL Detachment 1049 Monday, 17th December @ 1900 (Ray Sturm)

**VFW Post 160 Closed**—Christmas Day, 25 December 2018 And News years Day 2019

**Monthly Meetings**, MCL Detachment 1049 Monday, 28th January @ 1900 (Ray Sturm)

**Department Meetings**, 9th February 2019 @ 09:00 With Pack Growl after the Department Meeting.





# Commandant Ray Sturm

Greetings all,

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah.

Our range night was successful last month. Those who came had a great time punching holes in targets. I certainly hope to see more of you at this month's shoot on 20 December.

On 3 December, Woody Bowman and I had the pleasure to attend the promotion ceremony for Sgt Walker at Fort Meade. Sgt Walker has assisted the detachment on numerous occasions as a member of the MCSB Color Guard. We wish him much success in his new leadership role.

Unfortunately, I must inform the membership of the passing of Ray Gonzales. Ray was a long-time member of the detachment and served on our Honor Guard for countless events over the years. He will be missed.

Toys For Tots is well under way and Santa's arrival is imminent. We still have a huge need for volunteers to assist in collecting toys around the county. If you can help, please contact Christine Stevens.

As a reminder, December's detachment meeting will be on 17 December. We will have food, deserts, and yes, an open bar. Please come and enjoy some holiday fellowship with your fellow Marines. If you can bring something to add to the festivities.. please do so. I will be making rice pudding for Tommy.

In closing, please have a very safe and happy holiday season.



Rifle & Pistol Team  
Ray Sturm



Thanks for all who came out to shoot last month. Our next range night is 20 December at On Target in Severn, MD. I will be there at about 7:00 PM. No experience required. We will have extra pistols. Lessons and coaching available.

MARINE  
**TOYS FOR TOTS**  
 FOUNDATION

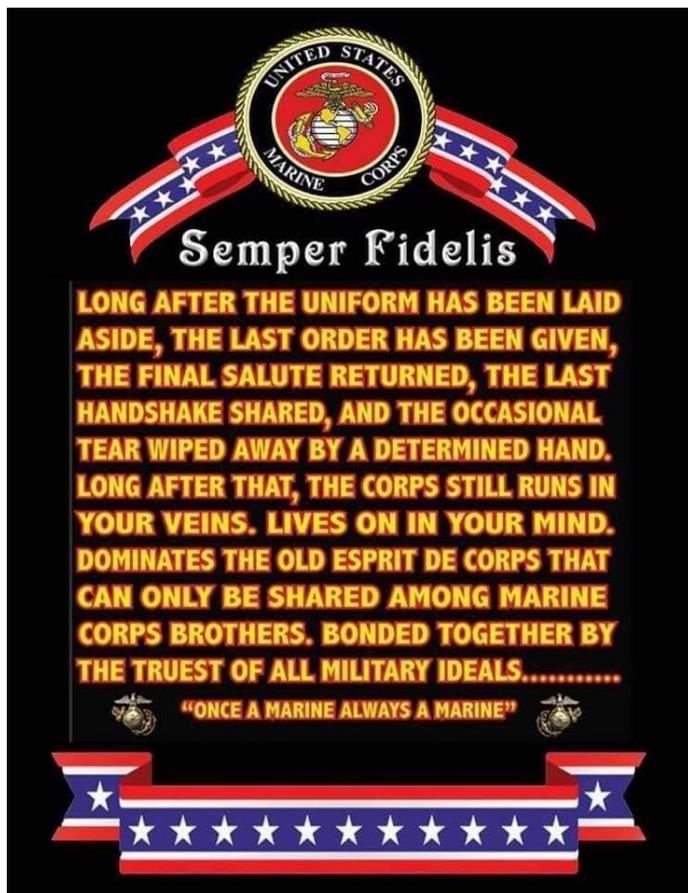
Marine Toys for Tots - Every Child Deserves A Christmas

Well, it's that time again. Looking for help and volunteers to start dropping off the box's

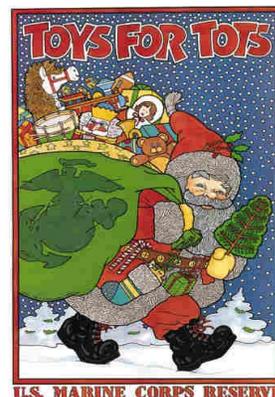
. I will need help at the Warehouse and to pick up toy's form the drop off locations. If you can want to volunteer you may e-mail .

My Toys for Tots email is [chris@aatft.org](mailto:chris@aatft.org).

Thanks,  
 Christine Stevens  
 Anne Arundel County Toys for Tots Co-Coordinator  
[cmsstevens@comcast.net](mailto:cmsstevens@comcast.net) or [chris@aatft.org](mailto:chris@aatft.org)



**Anne Arundel County  
 Detachment 1049**





# Corps History

by Ed Dahling for Joe Wright, Historian

## 1942

### 2 December

Carlson's Raiders neared the end of an epic 26 day patrol on Guadalcanal.

## 1943

### 26 December

1st Marine Division lands on Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

## 1947

### 1 December

The Corps' first helicopter squadron, HMX-1, was commissioned at Quantico, VA.

### 15 December

The Secretary of the Navy signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Department which laid the basis for the modern Marine Security Guard program at U.S. Embassies through-out the world.

## 1950

### 1 December

The 1st Marine Division began its bitter withdrawal from Yudamni, North Korea.

### 4 December

Lt. Colonel Raymond G. Davis led the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines into Hagaru-Ri, Korea after four days of intense fighting in the mountain passes against a numerically superior hostile force, clearing the way for the 5th and 7th Marines. Lt. Colonel Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

### 24 December

Last elements of the 1st Marine Division departed Hungnam, North Korea.

## 1965

### 20 December

Operation Harvest Moon ended for Task Force Delta (2/7, 3/3, and 2/1). More than 400 Viet Cong were killed in action.



## Senior Vice Commandant Ben Wells



Marines,

December is a month of heart ache and joy, remember Pearl Harbor and Christmas. Never forget the men and women and their families who will not get to spend Christmas together.

I had the pleasure to attend two Marine Corps Balls this year and to spend the day at Cookies Tavern in Philly for the Marine Corps birthday. If you missed any of this you missed a really great time.

Our MCL Detachment 1049 meeting has been rescheduled for December the 17th because of the Christmas holidays. Do not forget to bring a covered dish to this meeting. Please remember to support VFW Post 160 which is our home.

Semper Fi!  
Ben





# Color Guard

Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman

## - COMING EVENTS -

December 8th, Posting Colors at the Food Lion on Mountain Rd. This is our last color guard event for this year.

Want to volunteer? Want to be part of the future of this valuable group? If the answer to any of these questions is **YES**, Call **Woody Bowman** at the following number **(410) 647-9655**



## Marine Corps League License Plates

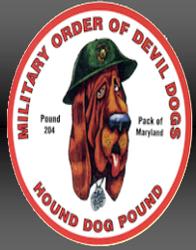
Marine Corps League License Plates are available for a one time fee of \$30. You continue to pay your normal registration fee at the time it is normally due.

You must be a member in good standing and either the registered owner or co-owner of the vehicle.

Contact the Department License Plate Chairman, Craig Reeling, at 443-477-0670 or [Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org](mailto:Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org)



# Military Order of the Devil Dogs



## Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD) The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof,woof

Surely all you Dogs are through gnawing on those Thanksgiving bones by now and ready to give up a lot of bones for the kids in Billings, Montana.

By the time you read this, we should have had a very successful December Pound Growl.

Toys for Tots is in full swing at this time and it is our duty as Leaguers to support them in this endeavor. Chris Stevens is always needing help so step up and help her make some kids happier this Christmas.

Our host, VFW Post 160, also needs help in filling Christmas basket for those less fortunate. Give them a hand when you can. There is a sign-up list at the bar on the many items needed prior to 21 December.

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

Woof, woof  
PDD Paul Taylor  
Dog Robber



Marine Corps League  
95<sup>th</sup> National Convention  
Buffalo, New York  
12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2018



MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS  
79<sup>th</sup> SUPREME GROWL



# Pearl Harbor and the Road to War

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise, but Japan and the United States had been edging toward war for decades. The United States was particularly unhappy with Japan's increasingly belligerent attitude toward China. The Japanese government believed that the only way to solve its economic and demographic problems was to expand into its neighbor's territory and take over its import market; to this end, Japan had declared war on China in 1937. American officials responded to this aggression with a battery of economic sanctions and trade embargoes. They reasoned that without access to money and goods, and especially essential supplies like oil, Japan would have to rein in its expansionism. Instead, the sanctions made the Japanese more determined to stand their ground. During months of negotiations between Tokyo and Washington, D.C., neither side would budge. It seemed that war was inevitable. But no one believed that the Japanese would start that war with an attack on American territory. For one thing, it would be terribly inconvenient: Hawaii and Japan were about 4,000 miles apart. For another, American intelligence officials were confident that any Japanese attack would take place in one of the (relatively) nearby European colonies in the South Pacific: the Dutch East Indies, for instance, or Singapore or Indochina. Because American military leaders were not expecting an attack so close to home, the naval facilities at Pearl Harbor were relatively undefended. Almost the entire Pacific Fleet was moored around Ford Island in the harbor, and hundreds of airplanes were squeezed onto adjacent airfields. To the Japanese, Pearl Harbor was an irresistible target.

## “A Date Which Will Live in Infamy”

The Japanese plan was simple: Destroy the Pacific Fleet. That way, the Americans would not be able to fight back as Japan's armed forces spread across the South Pacific. On December 7, after months of planning and practice, the Japanese launched their attack.

At about 8 a.m., Japanese planes filled the sky over Pearl Harbor. Bombs and bullets rained onto the vessels moored below. At 8:10, a 1,800-pound bomb smashed through the deck of the battleship USS [Arizona](#) and landed in her forward ammunition magazine. The ship exploded and sank with more than 1,000 men trapped inside. Next, torpedoes pierced the shell of the battleship USS [Oklahoma](#). With 400 sailors aboard, the Oklahoma lost her balance, rolled onto her side and slipped underwater. By the time the attack was over, every battleship in Pearl Harbor—USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma, USS [California](#), USS [West Virginia](#), USS [Utah](#), USS [Maryland](#), USS [Pennsylvania](#), USS [Tennessee](#) and USS Nevada—had sustained significant damage. (All but USS Arizona and USS Utah were eventually salvaged and repaired.)

In all, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor crippled or destroyed 18 American ships and nearly 300 airplanes. Dry docks and airfields were likewise destroyed. Most important, almost 2,500 men were killed and another 1,000 were wounded.

But the Japanese had failed to cripple the Pacific Fleet. By the 1940s, battleships were no longer the most important naval vessel: Aircraft carriers were, and as it happened, all of the Pacific Fleet's carriers were away from the base on December 7. (Some had returned to the mainland and others were delivering planes to troops on Midway and Wake Islands.) Moreover, the Pearl Harbor assault had left the base's most vital onshore facilities—oil storage depots, repair shops, shipyards and submarine docks—intact. As a result, the U.S. Navy was able to rebound relatively quickly from the attack.



## Junior Vice Commandant By Ed Dahling For Chris Wise

### Marines,

First and foremost, I'd like to wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season. As we gather around our tables to celebrate with friends and family, please pause and take a moment to remember those in harm's way... for it is this new generation of warrior that has kept our shores safe.

Your attendance and participation are important. Please note, that nominations will be opened for the 2019 Detachment Marine of the Year in January.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone for their support this year I'm looking forward to making 2019 our best yet.





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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:

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- Club Crab Feast
- Club Christmas Dinner

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- Indoor air rifle range
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- 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.

For more information contact club secretary  
Thomas Betty, at (443) 850-5737  
E-Mail: secretary@garrisonr.org  
Website: <https://www.garrisonr.org>

Club meets every second Tuesday of each month  
Except January which is the third Tuesday.  
11515 Marriottville Road  
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## Chaplain's Corner Bill Collins

As I am writing this article it occurs to me that the date is December 7, 2018, the seventy-seventh anniversary of the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. It reminds me that when an adversary believes that we are weak or that our guard is down that they are most likely to attack us. Millions of our veterans who fought and won the war that resulted from that attack promised that our country would never again be caught off guard. All who have served since that tragic day in 1941 have helped to keep that promise. During the past seventy-seven years there have been continuous conflicts ranging from cold to warm to hot, each with its own victories, defeats and casualties. Let us hope and pray that the coming years are free from conflicts of any temperature and that nation's, cultures and religions find ways to peacefully coexist. Until then we must be vigilant and strong.

Our detachment has enjoyed another great year. Because of our successful fund raisers we were able to make significant contributions to our two primary charities, The Semper Fi Fund and TreatNow. Our Commandant, Ray Sturm, his merry group of officers and all who volunteer have earned a big Bravo Zulu for a year well done. If you are inclined to squeeze in some volunteer time before the end of the year...TOYS for TOTS is now hiring and would appreciate your help.

Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season

Semper Fidelis



**SEMPER FI  
FUND**

Join our team and get involved! Use your creativity and passion to take an active role by fundraising, donating or spreading awareness for our cause.

Go to the following website to gain additional information and become involved with this important effort!

<http://semperfifund.org/>

**Semper Fi... It's more than a slogan!**



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# Have You Heard?

by Ed Dahling Editor Emeritus

## *November 25th Meeting Highlights . . . . .*

### **OPENING BY RITUAL:**

Meeting called to order by Commandant Ray Sturm at 1900 hours.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by prayer by Chaplain Bill Collins.  
Members in Attendance: 15

- Edward Dahling Department of MD Paymaster, Past Detachment Commandant, Detachment Marine of Year (2016)
- Joe Wright Past Detachment Commandant, Detachment Marine of the Year (2015)
- Ben Wells Detachment Marine of the Year (2017)
- Ray Sturm Detachment Marine of the Year (2018)
- Woody Bowman Detachment Marine of the Year (2014)

**APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** There were no applications for membership.

### **READING OF THE MINUTES**

- Minutes of the August meeting (with corrections) were posted on the detachment website and included in the detachment newsletter

### **PAYMASTER:**

Ed Dahling gave a hardcopy report:

### **CORRESPONDANCE:**

- None

### **SENIOR VICE:**

- No Report

### **JUNIOR VICE:**

- No report.

### **JUDGE ADVOCATE:**

- No Report.

### **Chaplain REPORT:**

- Charter was draped in honor of Ray Gonzalez.
- Arrangements for Ray Gonzalez are being made and will get the word out when he knows something

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

- Please let Ed know if you have anything you would like to add to the newsletter.

### **QUARTERMASTER:**

- No Report

(continue on page 12)



# Have You Heard?

by Ed Dahling Editor Emeritus

(Continue From Page 11)

## **COLOR GUARD:**

- December 8th, Posting Colors at the Food Lion on Mountain Rd.

## **HISTORIAN/ WEB SERGEANT:**

No Report

## **TOYS for TOTS:**

- Need warehouse help and people to drop off boxes and collect toys from boxes.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- No Report

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Motion was made to spend no more than \$650.00 to upgrade the bookshelf/Trophy Case area. Motion was voted on and approved

## **GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

- Received a Letter of Appreciation from the Ft Meade Marines for our outstanding working relationship.
- Chris Stevens received a Meritorious Commendation from Commandant Ray Sturm.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Boy Scout Troop Christmas Party – December 12th at the Columbian Center on Ritchie Highway.
- Detachment meeting moved up one week to December 17th since the 24th is Christmas Eve. (Bring a Dish)
- Department Meeting February 9th. Location will be announced shortly

## **CLOSING CEREMONIES:**

Commandant Sturm closed the meeting IAW MCL rituals. The next detachment meeting will take place on December 17, 2018. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bill Collins.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Dahling For  
Joseph Wright, Adjutant  
Marine Corps League - A. A. County Detachment 1049





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

(Address Correction Requested)



The attack on Pearl Harbor, also known as the Battle of Pearl Harbor, the Hawaii Operation or Operation Al by the Japanese Imperial General

Casualties: 1,247 (United States of America: Military - Wounded), 2,402 (United States of America: Military - Dead), , 35 (United States of America: Civilian - Wounded), 57 (United States of America: Civilian - De