

# The Cutting Edge



The Official Newsletter  
of the Anne Arundel County Detachment



## New Officers Installed



20 April 2026. Department Commandant Tony Rust presents the gavel to new Detachment Commandant John Dunker and congratulates him on his new post.



The detachment meets the 3rd Monday of the Month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion Post 175 at 832 Manhattan Beach Rd, Severna Park, MD.

**ALL MARINES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**



# From the Editor



Greetings all,

We have been rather busy lately. I know this edition is a few days late.

First, congratulations to Burt Helmka for his successful 3 year tour as our commandant.

We are looking forward to fresh ideas from the incoming staff now being led by Commandant John Dunker. I know we will give John the same level of support that is typical of the Anne Arundel Detachment.

There is a new page in this edition. Please read the article by YM Cpl Charlie Knott. She wrote the article to earn a Communications Ribbon. The requirement is being published in a magazine or newsletter with a readership greater than fifty.

As you read this edition, your leadership is at the Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City. I'm sure they will have some great word to pass soon.

S/F

Ray

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## FROM THE PAST COMMANDANT

This is my last article as commandant. It has been my pleasure to serve you. I'm sure John Dunker will be an excellent commandant.

I attended Mideast Division Conference. Biggest thing is there are 33 proposals for by-laws online. There is a MC Link, that's suppose to enable commandants, paymasters/Jr. Vice Commandants to see detachment rosters, paid & un-paid and other things. It's suppose to be like the KMA, but for the league.

Next our monthly American Legion dinners are very profitable. We have cooked 3 dinners and we have made around \$700. The Pick 3 monthly lotto is projected to raise around \$1,500. Finally, our Bull & Oyster Roast made \$1,800 dollars. That's not a bad haul for a couple of months' work.

A few dates for you to mark down. First, 23 May is our recruitment drive at Bass Pro from 1000-1400 (10-2:00). Our monthly dinner is moved from 8th of May to the 29th of May. We do need volunteers to help set up, cook, and serve. We also do a 50/50 board.

Burt Helmka  
Jr Past Commandant

## FROM OUR NEW COMMANDANT

Marines & Auxiliary Members,

Thank you for your confidence in me to lead the Anne Arundel Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League. I especially want to thank Commandant Helmka for his leadership of the Detachment and especially for being a mentor over the past few years while I was Senior Vice Commandant.

My "Agenda" is simple, make Det 1049 the BEST it can be to the benefit of its members and the Marine Corps League. To that end, I will be leading a discussion at May's meeting on our activities, for the detachment and the community. My goal is to agree on what we want to do and then move out and "Get It Done!!"

John Dunker  
Commandant

## DETACHMENT STAFF

Commandant	John Dunker
Sr Vice Cmdt	Joe Peacy
Jr Vice Cmdt	Jeff Glover
Judge Advocate	Ray Sturm
Jr Past Cmdt	Burt Helmka
Adjutant	Dan Ryan
Chaplain	Jim Sanchez
Sgt-at-Arms	Jim Galvin
Color Guard Cdr	Woody Bowman
Paymaster	Jeff Glover
Quartermaster	Dan Ryan
Public Affairs	Vacant
Marksmanship	Ray Sturm
Web Sgt	Joe Wright
Young Marines	Ray Sturm

## WEBSITE

<https://mclaacdet1049.org>

## FACEBOOK

Anne Arundel County Detachment  
1049, MCL

## MEETINGS

The detachment meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 Pm at American Legion Post 175 at 832 Manhattan Beach Rd, Severna Park, MD

## SOCIAL HOUR

Commences immediately after the meeting. Join us for a beverage and the telling of sea stories.

# Next Pistol Shoot



**21 May  
6:00 PM  
to  
8:00 PM**

**Cindy's Hot Shots**  
115-C Holsum Way  
Glen Burnie, MD 21060

No experience required.

Some shooters bring several firearms to share. Bring ammo or purchase on site.



**DINNER**

**SOCIAL**

Our next dinner is

**TBD**

**All Marines and Families are Welcome**





## Senior Vice Commandant

As our out-going commandant mentioned, we are continuing our efforts to raise funds to support our detachment's community service. I would especially like to acknowledge the work of **Jane Huffman**. She is the driving force behind several of our fundraisers. We can't thank her enough.

Semper Fi

Joe Peacy



Norm and Jane Huffman working the table at the Bull & Oyster Roast

## Junior Vice Commandant

As your new Jr Vice Commandant, I have only one thing to say.... Recruit, Recruit, and Recruit. (Oops, that was three things.)

I am open to new ideas for recruiting and retention. Let's build the detachment together.

Semper Fi

Jeff Glover

## Quartermaster

We still have coins available for \$10. Shirts in various sizes, baseball caps, and uniform covers are available as well. All uniform covers have been monogrammed with our detachment name.

Any questions, contact Dan Ryan





## Chaplain

While not a member of the Anne Arundel County Detachment, I would like our members to remember **Marine Craig Reeling** who passed on April 29, 2026. Craig was originally a member of the Dept of NJ prior to his move to MD. He was a member of the Harford Co Det (now the Cpl Pete Arnold Det) where he served in numerous roles and billets. He was our Department Commandant and started the Department of MD Leadership College. Many of us watched his children grow up attending our conventions. His leadership and friendship will be missed.



## Color Guard

No report.

Next event: Memorial Day

Semper Fi

Woody



## Scouting Liaison

No report

Jim Galvin, Sgt-at-Arms







# Installation of Officers



Installation photos by **Jane Huffman**



# From Around the Corps



## Marines on shaving waivers may face discharge after 1 year

By Lydia Godon

STARS AND STRIPES ~ April 29, 2026

Marines with medical conditions requiring shaving exemptions will be evaluated for possible separation if they cannot meet grooming standards within 12 months, according to an updated message to the force.

The directive clarifies the timeline and counseling process for Marines with medical shaving waivers, including those for pseudofolliculitis barbae, a condition that can cause a person to experience painful inflammation after shaving. Commonly known as razor bumps, the condition disproportionately affects Black men.

The one-year limit is intended to give commands time to monitor Marines' conditions and progress. Those whose conditions are not resolved within that period "will be evaluated for administrative separation," the message states. Interim changes were announced last year, when the service introduced the possibility of separating Marines who remain on shaving waivers for more than a year.

The update issued Friday sets requirements for commands to monitor a Marine's progress, including formal counseling at six months. It also says no administrative separations under the policy will be approved before Oct. 1. Failure to meet grooming standards within the period may be considered adversely affecting good order and discipline, the message says, adding that such cases are not classified as disabilities.

The update aligns with a broader Pentagon effort to tighten enforcement of grooming standards across the services. That effort follows guidance from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who in September directed service leaders to review grooming and physical fitness standards.

"No more beardos," Hegseth told senior military officials at a symposium last year. "The era of rampant and ridiculous shaving profiles is done. Simply put, if you ... don't want to shave and look professional, it's time for a new position or a new profession."



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



News You Can Use

**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one identification and three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II.



PRESS RELEASE | April 29, 2026

## Marine Accounted For From World War II (Reed, R.)

WASHINGTON –

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced today that U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Roy L. Reed, 24, killed during World War II, was accounted for March 24, 2026.

In May 1944, Reed was assigned to B Company, 2nd Amphibious Tractor Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, stationed on board Landing Ship, Tank 353 in Hawaii. He was killed when a series of explosions sunk LST 353 in the West Loch of Pearl Harbor. Despite a search for survivors in the immediate aftermath, Reed was not found. Soon after the incident, the War Department issued a Report of Death, listing Reed as "killed in an explosion."

This is an initial release. The complete accounting of Reed's case will be published once his family receives a full briefing.



Edward C. Rothstein

Secretary

[Edward.Rothstein@maryland.gov](mailto:Edward.Rothstein@maryland.gov)

<http://veterans.maryland.gov>



No report this month

# History ~ Customs ~ Traditions

## April in the History of our Corps

### 4th Marine Brigade Attacked in Verdun, France

During the late night and early morning hours of April 12-13, 1918, the 4th marine Brigade suffered its first gas attack by German forces. In the attack, German forces bombarded the 74th Company, 6th Marines near Verdun, France with mustard gas. Nine Marine officers and 305 enlisted Marines were gassed during the attack and evacuated. 30 Marines were killed in the attack.



To the Shores of Tripoli

\*Image info: Presley O'Bannon.  
(USMC image/released)

### American Flag Raised Over Derne

On April 27, 1805, First Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon and seven other Marines, along with Greek and Arab forces, who were under the command of American Consul William Eaton raised the American flag over the fortress at Derne, a pirate stronghold in Tripoli. This was the first time the American flag had been raised over a conquered fortress in the Old World. Two Marines were killed and another was injured in the assault on the city.



**Hound Dog Pound 204**

**Mer-lin Pack**

**Officers**

- Pound Keeper    Howard Koontz
- Sr Vice PK        Bobby Lee
- Jr Vice PK        Wayne Miller
- Smart Dog        Ray Sturm
- Dog Trainer      Leonard Steipler
- Mad Dog          Glen Tabler
- Police Dog        Harry Hierstetter
- Watch Dog        Burt Helmka
- Barking Dog     Stuart Blair
- Dog Robber      Burt Helmka

**Dog House**

Harry L. Cooper VFW Post 160



# MODD

Hound Dog Pound 204

## Next Pound 204 Growl

7 June 2026                  VFW Post 160

## Other Pound Growls

Pound 404    14 June

## Grand Growl of the Pack

8 May 2026

The Grand Hotel

Ocean City, MD





The Young Marines is a national youth group for boys and girls ages eight through high school. It is focused on leadership, citizenship through community service, self-discipline, and living a healthy drug-free lifestyle.



## ***Upcoming Events***

1-3 May	Encampment	Downs Park	Pasadena, MD
9 May	Fundraiser & Membership		Green Valley, Pasadena, MD
23 May	Joint Fundraiser with MCL		Bass Pro Shops
24 May	Drill		American Legion Post 276
25 May	Memorial Day Parade		Annapolis, MD
6 June	Down's Park Family Day		Pasadena, MD
7 June	Drill		American Legion Post 276
20 June	Color Guard—BaySox		BaySox Stadium, Bowie MD

## ***Special Events***

Bushel of Crabs Fundraiser	Tickets Available	See Ray Sturm	Drawing 16 May
Poker Run Fundraiser	TBD		

**[AAYoungMarines.org](http://AAYoungMarines.org)**

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# ***Young Marines***

***Article written by Charlie Knott***



My name is Young Marine Corporal Charlie Knott, and I am a proud member of the Anne Arundel Young Marines. I joined the program at the age of 8 and currently travel approximately 100 miles round-trip from Queen Anne's County to participate in drills and activities.

In my home community, of Queen Anne's County, the 2026 population is estimated at 55,215. We have a program called Queen Anne's County Goes Purple, which educates individuals of all ages about drug use and substance abuse. I encourage others to learn more about this important program by visiting [qacgoespurple.org](http://qacgoespurple.org).

I am the child of a parent who passed away from a drug overdose. Through my involvement in the Young Marines, I have gained valuable knowledge about the dangers of drugs and the impact they have on individuals and families. While I cannot say that this knowledge would have changed my parents' outcome, it has given me the tools to better understand, recognize, and cope with substance abuse.

The Young Marines program has taught me the true meaning of leadership—integrity, accountability, teamwork, and respect. These values guide me in my daily life and in my service to others.

I plan to remain active in the Young Marines through high school and hope to pursue a future in military service.

Semper Fidelis,  
YM Corporal Charlie Knott





# Spring Encampment

## Downs Park



Eating well, thanks to our amazing volunteers.



Making fire with a flint.



Our newest member, Poolee Jaden Slocum celebrates his birthday.





# Just Another Drill



Recruit Graduation ~ 29 March 2026





# UPCOMING EVENTS

# CALENDAR

28-30 Apr	Modern Day Marine	Convention Ctr	Washington, DC
7-10 May	Dept of MD Convention	Grand Hotel	Ocean City, MD
17 May	Detachment Meeting	AL Post 175	Severna Park, MD
23 May	Fundraising & Membership	Bass Pro Shops	Hanover, MD
15 June	Detachment Meeting	AL Post 175	Severna Park, MD

The detachment meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion Post 175 at 832 Manhattan Beach Rd, Severna Park, MD.

**Bass Pro Membership Drive — 23 May 2026**

**Volunteers are needed to assist at these events.**



# **HEAR YE, HEAR YE**

Minutes not available at the time of publishing.



## Crisis Signs



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**

**DIAL 988 then PRESS 1**

**These signs require immediate attention. If you are experiencing any of these and need medical attention, call 911 now. For immediate help in dealing with a suicidal crisis, contact the Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 then Press 1.**

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse, risky use of weapons, etc.

**It's okay to ask directly: "Are you thinking about taking your own life?"**



## Warning Signs

**These signs may indicate that a Veteran needs help. If you or a Veteran you know is experiencing any of these, contact the Veterans Crisis Line now: Dial 988 then Press 1.**

- Appearing sad or depressed most of the time
- Hopelessness
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling as if there is no reason to live
- Feeling excessive guilt, shame, or sense of failure
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug misuse
- Losing interest in hobbies, work, or school
- Neglecting personal welfare and appearance
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Showing violent behavior, like punching a hole in the wall or getting into fights
- Giving away prized possessions
- Getting affairs in order, tying up loose ends, or writing a will



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**

**DIAL 988 then PRESS 1**

**Asking about thoughts of suicide doesn't increase their suicide risk.**



