



# The Cutting Edge

The official newsletter of the Anne Arundel Co Detachment



## 17th Annual Charity Golf Tournament



A Huge Success

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Thank you to our  
Golfers  
Sponsors  
&  
Volunteers





### Midwest Division Conference Notes

### MCL 100th Anniver- sary

### MCL phone app

### Bass Pro

### Department of MD 50th Anniversary

## FROM THE EDITOR

### ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT.. AND SOME THAT ISN'T

As you know, the MED Con-  
ference was held 23-24  
June. Some items to consid-  
er...

**Division Officers:** Our  
Div Vice Commandant re-  
mains **Rick Thomason**.  
**Craig Reeling** was elected  
as the Div Ass't Vice Cmd.

The **2024 conference** will  
be in Princeton, WV at a  
TBD location.

The **MCL 100th Anniver-  
sary ribbon** was approved  
and will be available at the  
National Convention in  
OKC. All members will rate  
the ribbon. Those who at-  
tend the convention will  
rate a gold frame.

The Ship's Store will be sell-  
ing the 100th Anniversary  
coin.

The **2024 Midwinter  
Conference** will be 8-10

Feb in Pentagon City.

There is a new MCL  
app for smart phones.

On another note..  
leadership is still re-  
viewing options for re-  
locating the detach-  
ment. A meeting has been  
scheduled with the Ameri-  
can Legion Post 276 com-  
mander in July. More on  
that to come.

The commandant is looking  
at options for a recruiting/  
fundraising drive, perhaps  
at **Bass Pro Shop** in Au-  
gust, before hunting season.  
The idea is to man a tent  
outside and sell hotdogs and  
MCL yellow roses. We  
would need some assistance  
with this.

The **Department of MD  
50th Anniversary rib-  
bon** (this year) is being pro-  
duced.

Semper Fi,

Ray Sturm



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## Detachment Dinner

The detachment will have its second friendship dinner on **21 July** at **Casa Della Nonna**. We will meet there at **6:00 PM**. The address is 8141 Telegraph Rd, Severn, MD.

This is a very informal event. We just order off the menu and have a good time.

Hope to see you there.

## COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Marines,

Well first off, by the time you read this, the Mideast Conference will be over and Downs Park recruitment drive completed. We had some people asking questions about us at the Park. Hopefully, it leads to a new member or two.

Next up, moving the detachment. I have discussed this before. I feel if we don't move and recruit, the detachment is in danger of folding. My questions to the membership are:

1. How long do we stay at our present location?
2. Do we want to keep the Young Marines and MCL under the same roof?
3. The MODD is separate and not part of this conversation.

We need a recruitment drive and it has to be highly visible. I would like to suggest working an event or location such as Bass Pro or a local gun show. I am open to ideas, and we would need help with either function.

Finally, I would like to discuss a detachment gathering, such as a shrimp feast or bull & oyster roast..or maybe just a family style picnic. Let's get this set in stone.

Semper Fi,  
Burt



*Detachment Colors*

### YOUR DETACHMENT

#### STAFF

Commandant	Burt Helmka
Sr Vice Cmdt	Ben Wells
Jr Vice Cmdt	vacant
Judge Advocate	Ray Sturm
Jr Past Cmdt	Ben Wells
Adjutant	Norm Huffman
Chaplain	Jim Sanchez
Sgt-at-Arms	Jim Galvin
Color Guard Cdr	Woody Bowman
Newsletter Editor	Ray Sturm
Paymaster	vacant
Quartermaster	vacant
Public Affairs	Vacant
Marksmanship	Ray Sturm
Web Sergeant	Joe Wright
Young Marines	Ray Sturm

#### WEBSITE

<http://mclaacdet1049.org>

#### FACEBOOK

Anne Arundel County Detachment  
1049, MCL

#### MEETINGS

The detachment meets the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Harry L. Cooper VFW Post 160, 2597 Dorsey Rd, Glen Burnie, MD

#### SOCIAL HOUR

Social hour commences immediately after the meeting. Come join us for a beverage and the telling of sea stories.

#### SUBMISSIONS

Submit articles, photos, or suggestions to Ray Sturm at [Bandit6A@gmail.com](mailto:Bandit6A@gmail.com) by the Saturday following the detachment meeting.

## Famous Marines— Rob Riggle

Comedian and actor Rob Riggle—who appeared on *Saturday Night Live*, *The Daily Show*, and in dozens of films, sitcoms, and commercials—retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 2013. His deployments included tours in Kosovo and Afghanistan.



## SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT

Marines,

The Mideast Division Conference is now in the books and was a great success. The MCL National Convention set for Oklahoma City in August, if you have not registered, please do this soon.

As most have seen or heard the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Marines Helping Heroes golf tournament was a great success and I would like to thank everyone who gave up their day to help us out. We are already planning for next year. We will start meeting soon for next year's golf tournament and once again we will need volunteers for this event.

I am going to work with Mrs. Jane to start some fundraisers so standby. We are also working on our Bull and Oyster Roast in March of 2024. As we get closer, more information will be released.

Semper Fi

Ben Wells



## JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT

### **Vacant**

If anyone would like to assist by becoming the next Jr Vice Commandant please contact Commandant Burt Helmka or any member of the staff.

We need to fill this critical position.

The primary responsibility is MEMBERSHIP.



## CHAPLAIN

### New Chaplain

The detachment welcomes Marine **Jim Sanchez** as its new Chaplain. Many of you know Jim from the VFW and his tenure as the Post Commander. He will be a welcome addition to the team. - The Editor

Our former Chaplain, **Bill Collins** is doing well and hopes to re-engage with detachment activities as soon as he can.

Please keep Marine **Jim Brady** in your prayers. Jim recently had a health scare and surgery but is back home driving his lovely wife crazy.

## EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR

No report



A few photos from the golf tournament. Additional photos can be found on our Facebook page

[Facebook.com/mclaacedt1049.org](https://www.facebook.com/mclaacedt1049.org)

Search for us, Like us, Follow us.



## Message from Secretary Anthony Woods:



Dear friends,

May and June are months of both excitement and remembrance. As we look ahead with anticipation to sunny days and warm weather, we begin the summer with Memorial Day — a sacred tradition of reflection. During events at the Gold Star Family Memorial and World War II Memorial in Annapolis, I spoke about its origins and true meaning.

Memorial Day emerged from the ravages of the Civil War when thousands of Black Americans in Charleston, South Carolina decorated the graves of Union soldiers and marched in their honor on May 1, 1865. They raised a fundamental question that remains with us today: What do we owe to those who've fought — and in many cases died — to uphold our most sacred values? This question animates our work every day at the MDVA. Our answer is this: Those who are willing to serve this country in uniform — to suffer injury, to change forever, or, in some cases, give their own life — deserve the best when they come home. As do their families and caregivers.

We're upholding that promise in our work to transform the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. On June 6, we transitioned to a new management contractor as our partner in overhauling the facility and are instituting new processes to ensure the home is worthy of the service and sacrifices made by its residents. You can read more about our efforts in [my recent op-ed](#).

June is also Pride Month, another moment to celebrate progress and thank those whose bravery and activism made our country better. Last week, LGBTQ+ Veterans, Service Members, and Midshipmen joined the Department at the first ever Pride celebration hosted at Government House with the First Lady, Lieutenant Governor Miller, and Governor Moore.

This week, [on Women Veterans Day](#), the Department kicked off its statewide listening tour with a panel of women veteran entrepreneurs. We will be traveling around the state, listening to veterans about their experiences and working hard to bring forth positive change in their lives.

Yours in service,

Tony



**VA Sexual Assault and Harassment Report Hotline:** Veterans can now call 1.800.MYVA411 (1.800.698.2411, option 9) to report sexual assault or sexual harassment at VA facilities. The call center is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors are also encouraged to report any incident of sexual harassment or sexual assault as soon as it occurs while still at the VA facility. These incidents can be reported directly to VA police, VA staff, local law enforcement, or by calling the hotline.

## Deadline looms for vets to get retroactive toxic exposure benefits

Veterans Affairs officials plan a public awareness blitz over the next five weeks to get as many individuals as possible to sign up for new military toxic exposure benefits ahead of an August deadline for retroactive payouts.

The Summer VetFest is part of a year-old, \$11.4 million effort connected to the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (better known as the PACT Act), sweeping benefits legislation approved by lawmakers last summer. As many as one in five veterans living in America today could receive new health care or disability payouts as a result of the measure.



# ~ Our History ~ Customs ~ and Traditions ~

## Revolutionary War

Continental Marines played a crucial part in the fight for independence from Great Britain, serving both aboard military ships and on land. The clothing and equipment they were issued varied among Marine detachments. Much of what was available was surplus from previous conflicts in the colonies, items seized from Englishmen and loyalists or locally manufactured goods. In the early part of the war, Marines wore civilian clothing due to the lack of uniforms. It wasn't until September 1776 that the Continental Congress authorized a uniform for enlisted Continental Marines to distinguish them from personnel in other military services.



The standard headgear referred to as the **round hat** was a cut-down version of the military tricorne hat. It was made of black felt edged in white wool tape and folded up on the left side with a cockade, or knot of ribbons, and small pewter button. The purpose of folding up one side of the brim was to accommodate the height of a musket when a bayonet was attached.

*Long hair or wigs were a part of the military uniform and civilian fashion. If soldiers had long hair, they would tie it back in a style resembling a modern ponytail. Often, especially in the naval services, service members would cut their hair short and wear a wig. For formal occasions, Marines often greased and powdered their hair white or wore a white wig. British soldiers added curls on both sides of their hair or wig. For example, one curl represented an enlisted soldier, two curls represented a line officer, and three curls represented a general officer. Initially copied by the U.S. services, the fashion was later dropped.*

The standard pattern regimental coat typically followed the European design. It was made of green wool with white facings and had white lining and plain, white buttons. It included round cuffs with several buttons sewn around the cuff.

The remainder of the uniform covered by the coat included a collared shirt, typically a white or unbleached natural linen pullover. However, some enlisted Marines received green-colored shirts. The waistcoat (long vest) was bleached white linen or wool cloth. A black linen cravat (neckband) was often worn around the neck over the shirt's collar to give a neat appearance.

The **breeches** (knee-length trousers) were either off-white wool or natural linen. They were worn over white or gray long stockings. Narrow, leather garters held up the stockings.

**Gaiters** (long leggings) were designed to be worn over the stockings and came above the knee. As seen on the model, **half gaiters** (spatterdashes) were sometimes worn, replacing the long leggings. The half gaiters reached a few inches below the knee. Both gaiters protected the feet and legs in rough terrain and kept dirt out of the shoes during shore duty.



# MODD

## Hound Dog Pound 204

<b>Pound 333/Family day</b>	5 Aug
<b>Supreme Growl</b>	16 Aug
<b>Pack Growl</b>	9 Sept
<b>Pound 204 Growl</b>	10 Sept

The next Pack Growl will be in Jarrettsville, MD

### Hound Dog Pound 204

#### Mer-lin Pack

#### Officers

- Pound Keeper Paul Gunther
- Sr Vice PK Pat Sharkey
- Jr Vice PK Howard Koontz
- Smart Dog Ray Sturm
- Dog Trainer Leonard Steipler
- Mad Dog Woody Bowman
- Police Dog Norm Huffman
- Watch Dog Burt Helmka
- Barking Dog Stuart Blair
- Dog Robber Joe Wright

#### Next Growl

4 June

#### Dog House

Harry L. Cooper VFW Post 160





# *Young Marines*

## *Upcoming Events*

1 July	JLS Graduation	Cheltenham, MD	1130
4 July	4th of July Parade	Severna Park, MD	1000
9 July	YM Drill	Am Leg Post 276	1330
22 July	Color Guard—Retirement Cer	Rosedale, MD	1200
23 July	YM Drill	Am Leg Post 276	1330
22-24 Sept	Sandy Point Encampment	Sandy Point, MD	

# VFW 160 Car Show



The Young Marines assisted at the VFW Post 160 annual car show. Additionally, the YMs presented Colors, helped with parking, and assisted with the prizes. For the second year, the YMs presented their “Kids Choice” award to their favorite entry.



2023 The Young Marines “Kids Choice” winner

# Flag Day Flag Retirement Ceremony Bowie Elks Club





# Gold's Gym Community Service Project



Special thanks to the staff at Gold's Gym.



Items found during the clean up. Anne Arundel Police took custody of the items for proper disposal. They also spoke with the YMs regarding drug use in the county.

**17 June:** Training Officer **Mike Mager** coordinated a special community service project with Gold's Gym on Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie. The YMs cleaned the parking lot and perimeter recovering numerous bags of trash and miscellaneous items.



# Junior Leadership School

YM LCpl Hudson Mager attending Junior Leadership School in Cheltenham, MD.

Day 1: Knocking out the PFT. Oooh Rah !!



# Midwest Division Conference

24 June 2023



At the invitation of YM HQ, the Anne Arundel YMs presented Colors at the MCL Midwest Division Conference on 24 June 2023.

The training provided by Sgt Michael Darrington, USMC, the Color Sgt from MCSB, Fort Meade paid off. The YMs received numerous accolades for their “snap and pop” at the event.

Bravo Zulu!

MED Vice Cmdt Rick Thomason recognizes the Anne Arundel YM Color Guard





Col Bill Davis, USMC (ret), YM LCpl Skylar Hiatt, YM SSgt Timothy Clingenpeel, YM SSgt Bladen Wheatley, YM LCpl Hudson Mager, UC Ray Sturm



National Director of the Young Marines, Col Bill Davis, addresses the Anne Arundel Color Guard. Col Davis was kind enough to spend time talking to the YMs and discussed a wide range of topics affecting our nation's youth.

# Swim Quals

Swim Qualifications were held on **25 June** at the **North Arundel Aquatic Center**. All YMs earned at least the Swimmer 3rd Class ribbon.



# Water Park Fun



After qualifications were complete, the YMs enjoyed the water park at the North Arundel Aquatic Center. The slide was particularly popular.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

# CALENDAR

4 July	4th of July Parade	Severna Park, MD
21 July	Detachment dinner	Casa Della Nova
23 July	Detachment meeting	Post 160
14 Aug	National Convention	Oklahoma City, OK
28 Aug	Detachment meeting	Post 160
9 Sept	Dep of MD meeting	Jarrettsville, MD

*Please send calendar additions to Ray Sturm at [Bandit6A@gmail.com](mailto:Bandit6A@gmail.com) NLT the Saturday following the detachment's monthly meeting.*

## HELP

If you are aware of a community event, and would like to see the Detachment set up a table or tent, please let us know. We are looking for recruiting events. We need new members.

### **Examples:**

Festivals	Family Days
Street Fairs	Art Shows
Gun Shows	Church Events
Food Festival	Home Shows

# May Minutes



Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049  
Marine Corps League  
May 23, 2023

## OPENING BY RITUAL:

Meeting called to order by Commandant Burt Helmka at 1900 hours.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by prayer by Sr. Vice Commandant Ben Wells.  
Members in attendance: 12

## ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Commandant	Burt Helmka	P
Sr. Vice Commandant	Ben Wells	P
Jr. Vice Commandant	Joe Wright	E
Judge Advocate	Ray Sturm	E
Jr. Past Commandant	Ben Wells	P
Adjutant	Norm Huffman	P
By-Laws Committee Chairman	Danny Fischio	A
Chaplain	James Sanchez	P
Color Guard Commander	Woody Bowman	P
Historian	Joe Wright	E
Newsletter Editor	Ray Sturm	E
Paymaster	Joe Wright	E
Public Information Officer	Vacant	
Quartermaster	Bill Collins	E
Rifle Pistol Team Captain	Ray Sturm	E
Sgt-at-Arms	James Galvin	E
Web Sergeant	Joe Wright	E
Young Marine Commander	Ray Sturm	E

**APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** None

**ADJUTANT'S REPORT.** Minutes for April were distributed by Detachment web site and copies on table.

**PAYMASTER:** Joe Wright absent. Financial report for minutes:

Checking	\$9,628.90
<u>Savings</u>	<u>2,268.23</u>
Total	\$11,897.13

**CHAPLAIN REPORT:** James Sanchez was appointed Chaplain since Bill Collins has been undergoing health issues and is currently participating in therapy to strengthen his legs.

**COMMANDANT:** Commandant Burt Helmka reported

- Danny Fischio has been in contact and will have the bylaws ready for the June meeting.
- Department MCL Convention was held May 11-13, 2023 in Ocean City. The convention went well. Three Pups were brought into the Devil Dogs. Talk about long-term contract with the Grand Hotel for future Conventions. Registration fees have been raised from \$10 to \$20.
- Our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf tournament will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Walden's Country Club.

- Marine Corps League asked the Detachment for \$100 for the Foundation.
- Requested all Detachments update their rosters.

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT:** Ben Wells reported the Department is in poor financial shape. Detachment 1049 won the 1<sup>st</sup> Place raffle of \$500. Due to the Department's financial health, Ben made the decision to donate the monies back to the Department. This encouraged the remaining winners to do the same. Ben stated he would write a personal check to the Detachment if anyone was opposed to this. All agreed. Approximately \$4,000 was profited on the rifle raffle.

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT:** Absent.

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:** Absent.

**JR. PAST COMMANDANT:** Absent.

**HISTORIAN / WEBMASTER:** Absent.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Absent.

**QUARTERMASTER:** Absent.

**BY LAWS:** Still waiting on Danny Fischio to complete the bylaws.

**COLOR GUARD:** Commander Woody Bowman gave the following report:

- July 4 – Participate in Severna Park July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, with Young Marines. Ed will be participating in this parade with Woody.

**YOUNG MARINES:** Absent.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Are we moving?

Jim Sanchez gave an update on VFW's renovation progress. Received \$500K grant for renovations.

Politicians suggested submitting for additional funds.

- Roof almost complete – Removed old roof. \$400K – Jim reported a year was wasted waiting on small companies. Had to acquire a larger company, Cole Roofing to do the job.
- HVAC and heat will be the next project.
- Planning on slots but must have the roof completed first.
- Electronics are installed. Mike Hadley is the POC on electronics.
- Ben Wells reported he would do the electrical updates if progress is shown. He will only charge for parts and labor of his workers. No extra.

Jane Huffman and Debbie Deene are working on the auction raffle fundraiser. Jane Huffman will hold a \$500 raffle in the meantime.

The recruitment drive will be held at Downs Park on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Setup by 11am.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Upcoming Shrimp Feast plans are in the works.

VFW Car Show will be held on June 11, 2023.

Jane Huffman asked that all keep her brother John Harrington (a Marine) in prayer, as he is now on home hospice due to cancer.

**CLOSING CEREMONIES:** Acting Sgt. at Arms Matt Prial closed the meeting with IAW MCL rituals. The next meeting will be held on June 26, 2023. The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Jim Sanchez.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Huffman - Adjutant – Marine Corps League – A.A. County Detachment 1049

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## **PAYMASTER'S REPORT**

According to the Paymaster we have the following balances in our accounts.

Checking      \$9,911.12

Savings        \$2,268.33





**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

Harry L. Cooper VFW Post 160  
2597 Dorsey Rd  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

The VFW Post 160 is a Veterans organization that stands for Veterans of Foreign Wars. We were founded on May 5th 1936, we moved to our current location in June 1958. We also have an auxiliary who are family of a Veteran.

The Marine Corps League Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 is based here, as is the Fleet Reserve Association branch 212. Our members are from Marines, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Air Force.

We come together to help Veterans, their families, and community in our area. Why not see if you are eligible to join any of our organizations. ~ *VFW Post 160 website*

**VFW EVENTS**

- VFW House Committee                      2nd Monday @ 6:00 PM
- VFW/VFWA                                      2nd Monday @ 7:00 PM
- MOC/MOCA                                    2nd Friday @ 7:30 PM
- Fleet Reserve Assn                          2nd Saturday @ 10:00 AM
- Marine Corps League                        4th Monday @ 7:00 PM

 <b>Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States</b> <small>Col. Harry L. Cooper Post 160 2597 Dorsey Rd Glen Burnie, MD 21061-3268</small>	
<b>SNACKS</b>	<b>PIZZA</b>
CHEESE BURGER      \$4.50	<b>LARGE PIZZA</b>
CHICKEN BITES        \$3.50	CHEESE PIZZA        \$7.50
CHICKEN TENDERS    \$4.25	PEPPERONI PIZZA    \$7.80
CHICKEN WINGS (12) \$9.55	3 MEAT PIZZA        \$7.80
CHICKEN WINGS (6) \$5.30	THIN PEPPERONI PIZZA \$7.80
HOT DOG                \$1.50	<b>PERSONAL SIZE</b>
MOZZARELLA STICKS \$2.00	CHEESE PIZZA        \$4.25
FRENCH FRIES         \$1.90	PEPPERONI PIZZA    \$5.30
CHIPS  \$1.25	

**Canteen Hours**

- Sun                      12-6 PM            Unless football. We could be open later.
- Mon—Thur    12-8 PM
- Fri-Sat            12-10 PM

Wednesday and Friday night dinners: 6-8 PM



We would like to thank all of

## Our Sponsors, Supporters, & Friends

For your commitment to our community and charitable causes throughout the year.



**U.S. Structured Cabling,  
Inc**



**Stromberg Metal Works, Inc.**

