

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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BALTIMORE

GUNG HO



Marian James. Commandant*

*March - April 2019 * Vol. 23, No. 2 * Stuart Blair Editor*

*In Memoriam of Marine Vernon Leubecker * 12 January 2019*

Commandant's Message

Greetings,

We hope that everyone is experiencing good health and happiness this year as we approach March. However, before you know it, we will be attending our department convention in Ocean City and making arrangements to recognize the top three students in the 5th and 8th grades at Frances Scott Key Elementary/Middle School. But before these things happen, members are encouraged to attend the next several meetings to participate in the nominations, elections and installation of officers for the ensuing year.

Department Officers will be invited to our installation and hopefully some of you will be there to meet and greet them. Our Detachment has quite a few officers serving in various department positions and they too will be selecting new officers soon.

Please consider getting involved because like all organizations, we need members to survive and most importantly, we need members who are willing to serve in an elected or appointed capacity.

On Valentine's Day, Earl Ruff and I along with Janice Chance, President, Gloria Crothers, Donna Robinson and Deirdre McMahon of the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland; Betty Armstrong of Northeastern Unit 285 and Vanessa Jackson-Frazier, Federal Unit 19, American Legion Auxiliary visited Loch Raven to honor our Heroes. Afghans, "Thank You" cards and personal items were given to the female veterans.

A "Thank You" card, canteen coupon book and personal items were given to all of the male veterans at the facility. We will visit the veterans at the VA Hospital on Greene Street on Saturday, February 16, 2019 as a result of an invitation from the Gold Star Mothers.

Renovations are still going on at the VA on Greene Street and the traffic pattern of the lobby will change once the renovations are completed. The new outpatient facility in Rosedale is now open. The Hospice Unit at the Loch Raven VA Medical Center is currently being designed and the lower and upper areas will be connected by a walkway. Loch Raven is soliciting donations to purchase new televisions. If any member is interested in making a personal donation, please let me know via e-mail or telephone if you want to attend the meeting to make your donation in person or I can make the presentation for you. Your check should note Loch Raven TV Account in the memo section.

As of November 1, 2018 all 75 Units in our HELP Veterans Village at Perry Point are occupied. HELP USA manages the facility and all donations go directly to this non-profit organization. Bids for the new Community Living Center should have been received at the end of October and they are probably being reviewed.

Recently our Detachment has participated in many Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremonies in the Baltimore area. On 17 February we attended an Eagle Scout COH Ceremony in Hyde, MD, where three scouts from Troop #38 obtained Eagle Scout Status. It is a pleasure to see our future veterans and leaders of our country achieve such a high honor.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marian C. James
Commandant*

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

Hoping this message finds everyone doing well. The year has started with only a few activities as the Commandant and I attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Odenton for Raymond Boyer of Troop 447.

The month of Feb was a lot more active as I along with the Commandant Marian James, Marine Howard Koontz, Aux. member Rosemary Koontz and Chaplain Alex Radzius attended the Four Chaplains Service at National Shrine of St. Alphonsus Liquori in Baltimore.

We are still conducting BINGO at the Greene St. V.A. Hospital on the first Tuesday of each month and still looking for volunteers to help out every now and then.

I attended a memorial service in Barnesville, MD for Marine Bob Rossi called by the Supreme Commandant on 2 February. Marine Rossi was a dual member of the Sgt. Jack Hettchen Detachment of Rockville and LCpL Deane Detachment of Mt Airy.

I participated with Antietam Detachment Color Guard presenting colors for the Special Olympics event in Hagerstown. Commandant Marian James and I also participated as volunteers for the event representing the MCL.

A Super Bowl party was held at the detachment. The turnout was light this year but a good time was had by all that was in attendance. I'm still looking for suggestions for social events that we can have for members at the detachment. The idea is to get together to socialize on days other than monthly meetings. We have a detachment home let's use it.

Semper Fi

Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way

Earl C Ruff Jr
SVC

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Greeting Marines,

We are a "Band of Brothers", united in peace and war. Our history spans centuries, beginning with the birth of our nation. From the halls of Montezuma, to the shores of Tripoli, in Haiti, Nicaragua and Central America, from Belleau Woods, to Iwo Jima, from the frozen Chosin to Khe Sanh, from Libya to Fallujah, to Kabul. Each and every time, the call has gone out, the United States Marine Corps has risen to the task and the world expects us to continue that service far into the future. We owe a ton of gratitude to our modern Marine Corps, with new weaponry, new technology that has taken a devastating toll on our enemies around the globe. That being said, our newest young men to wear that eagle, globe and anchor, even with great advancements in warfare, are suffering the greatest challenges that Marine Corps vets have ever faced. The suicide rate for Iraq and Afghanistan vets of all branches exceeds the suicide rates of all American wars combined.

Today, only one percent of the population steps up to military service. Suggestions offered have been a softer society, unable to handle the stress of war, the horror of war, and the repeated deployments to combat zones. All branches of the military are currently facing stress levels, as well as their families, to conditions far beyond what past defenders of liberty have undergone. Homelessness, failure to find decent employment, serious depression and mental problems and horrible suicide rates plague our veterans on a daily basis. All the US veteran organizations and the Veteran's Administration are tackling the problems, doing as much as they can to help those younger and older vets, falling in line with the concept of a band of brothers, we know we need to do as much as we can. We can reach out to all former and current Marines, with camaraderie, job searches, guidance to the VA and other groups that can help them find avenues of escape from the problems they face now. It's our duty to enlist new members, younger members and do what we can to alleviate the problems. Younger Marines are reluctant to join groups like ours. That fact has been attested to by Jewish War Vets, the American Legion, and the VFW, all saying the same things. I urge each of you, each of us, to do their utmost to recruit these younger and older Marines in distress, to bring them into an organization that cares because we have a common bond. To lose any one is to lose one too many

Semper Fi.
Ray Vaughn, JVC

Judge Advocate Report

The National Flag of the United States of America, the Marine Corps League Banner, the *United States Navy Ensign*, and the Detachment Charter, or facsimile thereof, will be properly displayed at all meetings of the Detachment.

At the last meeting the requested bylaw change was adapted to decrease the membership quorum at meetings from 15 to 12. It was accepted and the bylaw change to Article Five (5) Sec.525 will be made.

Since I became a member of the MCL I have disagreed with the lack of wording in our preamble about the Navy. It states FMF Corpsmen and FMF Chaplains. Since this mentions the US Navy, I looked up the requirements for the Officer Corps to hold FMF status. I found that both the Chaplain Corps and the Medical Corps rate the FMF pin. In fact Admiral Brent W. Scott currently serves as the 27th Chief of Chaplains of the United States Navy. He previously served as the 19th Chaplain of the United States Marine Corps and the Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains wear the FMF pin. Don't forget the Dental Techs who are the opposite number for the Corpsmen. They too can wear the FMF pin.

In the past, CHC, MD, NC could not wear the FMF pin. That changed October 2006 with the approval of OpNav Instruction 1414.6, which outlines the qualification standard for Medical Officers and Nurse Corps Officers.

Your writer researched the pin and who is eligible and Marine Bill Shea contacted the MCL OCC, and sent an official request for the Medical and Nurse Corps officers to be included in the preamble and can be brought into the MCL as full members. We are waiting to see if our request is granted.

If this is submitted and passed at the National Convention, it opens up membership to hundreds of naval personnel.

*Howard Koontz
Judge Advocate*



Maryland Veterans Commission

MVC Quarterly Meeting On Tuesday 15 January the Maryland Veterans Commission held their quarterly meeting at Fleet Reserve Association Club, Annapolis. Representing veteran organizations of Maryland were in attendance. Representing the Marine Corps League was Commissioner Stuart Blair, PDC and Bernadine Blair, MCLA DM PP.

Agenda

- Secretary George Owings, III presented the MDVA Annual Report for review and an overview / update on programs. Veterans cemeteries Maryland sources and distributions of the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund Status of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home with future planning of additional home Update on 2018, Maryland Veterans Cemeteries
- Maryland Veterans Services 8 Presentation Guest Speaker: Br Gen Dave Blackledge Executive Vice President Presented psychological issues associated with combat experiences of all veterans and available healing services at no cost to the veterans Explained registration process for services Continued follow up program

Commissioners Reports Presentation / Discussion

- ✓ Women Veterans Information
- ✓ Veterans Day * Jessup Correctional Institution
- ✓ Senior Veterans Luncheon
- ✓ FRA Veterans Day Program
- ✓ Maryland Military Coalition
** Reports available
* Commissioner S. Blair

Next Maryland Veterans Commission meeting
Tuesday 16 April 2019, AMVETS Post #9,
Middletown, MD

S/F,
*Stuart Blair, Commissioner, MCL
Maryland Veterans Commission*

Chaplain's Corner

Chapel of the Four Chaplains

A Four Chaplains Prayer

Lord, we know the story we remember today is just one fine example of the many times men and women have sacrificed themselves for others. And, we know this story is one among many examples of true brotherhood. Yet, we single out and hold it before us as a reminder that all persons – of all faiths and colors and creeds – are capable of showing such courage and such compassion. Such has been true of so many who have served in all branches of service, in time of war and peace. Such has been true throughout the generations. Help us to see, even today, the times that we might stand up for that which is most important and to do so with more concern for others than for ourselves. Help us to recognize the times when we might overlook the insignificant differences between people, and respond to the needs of someone just because he or she is a person in need. Forgive us for those times in which we participate in the freedoms of our land, yet fail to honor the rights of all Americans. Help us to learn how to show justice in our lives, to love mercy in our relationship with others and to walk humbly with you at all times. Thank you, Lord, for watching over us and comforting us in grief. May we also feel your presence in the joy of celebrating your love – as it shines through the human spirit of the four chaplains we remember today; as it shines through all who truly love justice and peace. May all who are present at this service gain wisdom and compassion from worshipping together this day. Amen

Semper Fi Prayer Circle

In Memoriam

Marine Vernon Leubecker was called by the Supreme Commandant on 12 January 2019. May he rest in peace and that his survivors attain peace during their sorrow and grieving process.

Sick / Distressed

Prayers go to those on our "Sick and Distress" list: Al Schudel, Diamond Kimos, Vince Cerniglia, Harry Carroll, Rick Gurly, Bobbie Hawkins, Bill Wheeler, Jerry Brown and wife Cass, Frank Rucci, Carol Shea, and Joe Humberson.

If you know of anyone sick or in distress, please call me, if I'm not there, leave a message.
Cell 410-215-4880

As always may God's blessing be with all military and their families

*Alex Radzius,
Chaplain*

William G. Bunkelman – last survivor of USAT Dorchester, the WWII transport ship made famous by four Army Chaplains who gave up their life jackets and sacrificed their own lives so that others might live- has died at the age of 98. Bunkelman pulled 54 men from the waters of the icy Atlantic after Dorchester was torpedoed. In his official US Army written account of the event, he wrote about seeing the Chaplains "without regard for their safety going about the deck giving the men encouragement and trying to calm their fears." The article states that survivors in the rafts could see the four Chaplains- arms linked and braced against the slanting deck offering prayers. One survivor states that it was "the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

** The American Legion Magazine March 2019*

S/F

Howard Koontz
Representative * Mid East
Chapel of the Four Chaplains

Noteworthy

Marine Downer Retires Care Package Program

Don Downer last Care Package was given to the driver of the Food Bank van; it was Care Package#3,435.

The Howard County Food Bank loaded all the remaining Care Package inventory and now have the snacks and comfort items to go along with the Food Bank items for those who are in need

Marine Downer expressed that "It has been my **honor** and **pleasure** serving those in Harm's Way for the last 10 years."

*** MCL License Tag Program began February 1991**

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

*The Fun and Honor Society
of the Marine Corps League*



Woof woof,

The Baltimore Detachment still has two Dogs who are in arrears for their 2019 dues and therefore cannot attend Growls or hold office. If you are one of them, remit 15 big bones ASAP to get back in the good graces of your Dog Robber.

The 9 February Pack Growl netted 292 bones with 140 of them being for the kids. We can do better than that.

The next Pack Growl will be the Grand Growl in Ocean City on 10 May. Nomination, election and installation of officers will be held at that time. Additionally, all Pounds should have its Dog of the Year presentation at the Grand Growl with the Pack Dog of the Year being presented at the evening banquet.

The Pack Grand Growl is the normal time for Pups to advance to DD. If any Pups in Baltimore wish to advance, remember that you must have attended two Pound Growls within the last year to be eligible. If you think you are eligible and want to advance, see me ASAP in order to get the paperwork done properly.

The next Pound Growl will be held on 28 April.
BRING BONES.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

*Woof woof,
PDD Paul Taylor*



Auxiliary

**Reaching Further . . .
. . . Touching More**



Greetings,

There will be no auxiliary meeting in February. We will reconvene in March to work on our stars project. We use tattered flags that have been flying over our detachment to make cards saying "thank you" to our troops currently serving and our veterans.



We will also be asking for nominations for officers for the coming year. Elections will be in April.

Some of our members went to the state quarterly meeting in Ellicott City. Plans were made for the state convention in May. Our unit will help out as requested by the state commandant as usual. Our unit contributes money toward the hospitality room and helps with set up. The auxiliary also contributes items and or money to a shelter for abused spouses and children in the Ocean City area.

Get Well Wishes to all members sick or in distress.

God bless America,

*Joan Hansen,
President*

Detachment Programs

Detachment General Fund

Pick Three Lottery Calendar Fundraiser

The proceeds from this are used for detachment general expenses, assistance to a detachment Marine or family member in need and the Baltimore Green St. VA Medical Center Project

Balance in the fund at the end of November 2018 was reported as \$2,930.00. A donation of a winning slip of \$25.00 was donated to the fund making the balance \$2,955.00.

The monthly winners for December 2018:

10Dec18	Marian James	#429	\$25.00
18Dec18	Patti Cortina	#671	\$25.00
19Dec18	Robert Gillespie	#717	\$25.00
20Dec18	George L. Kesselring	#032	\$25.00
22Dec18	Rose Crivello	#800	\$25.00
23Dec18	Krista Freehely	#711	\$25.00
26Dec18	Gabriella Hilton	#922	\$25.00
29Dec18	Gary Reif	#389	\$25.00

Balance in the fund at the end of December 2018 is \$2,755.00

The year end report for the 2018 Calendar Fund Raiser is as follows:

Sales	\$ 5,340.00
Payments(105 winners)	-2,755.00
Surplus	\$ 2,585.00
Less Expenses;	
Printing	-345.00
Postage	-52.50

Surplus to General Fund \$ 2,187.50

Thank you to all members and family members for your continued support of the Baltimore Detachment #565

2019 Pick Three Lottery Calendar Prize Distribution Schedule

01Jan19 New Years Day \$50.00
14Feb19 - Valentine's Day \$50.00
18Feb19 - Presidents' Day \$30.00
17Mar19 - St. Patrick's Day \$50.00
21Apr19 - Easter Sunday \$30.00
12May19 - Mother's Day \$50.00
18May19 - Armed Forces Day \$30.00
27MAY19 - Memorial Day \$100.00
14Jun19 - Flag Day \$30.00
16Jun19 - Father's Day \$50.00
04Jul19 - Independence Day \$100.00
02Sep19 - Labor Day \$100.00
10Nov19 - 244th USMC Birthday \$350.00
11Nov19 - Veteran's Day \$50.00
28Nov19 - Thanksgiving Day \$100.00
07Dec19 - Pearl Harbor Day \$30.00
25Dec19 - Christmas Day \$350.00
31Dec19 - New Year's Eve \$30.00

ALL OTHER DAYS \$25.00

Marine Corps Humor

Aged to Perfection

The average age of people living in our military retirement community is 85. Recently, a neighbor turned 100, and a big birthday party was thrown. Even his son turned up.

"How old are you?" a tenant asked.
"I'm 81 years old," he answered.

The tenant shook her head.
"They sure grow up fast, don't they?"

History's Timeline

Marine Corps History Question of the Month

In each month's "GUNG HO" we will feature a question about U.S. Marine Corps history. The question will test your knowledge of well known facts of Marine Corps.

The answer to each question will be published in the following month's issue.

Answer to January / February Question

1967 from 17 February until 3 March, a Special Marine Landing Force operation was conducted near Quang Ngai city. The Marine operation consisting of (BLT Y4 and HMM-363) accounted for 280 enemy killed. What was the name of this operation ?

Deck House VI

March / April Question

On 21 April 1951 Marine carrier-based airplanes made their first aerial contact with enemy planes over the Korean front lines. One Marine pilot shot down two YAK fighters and another, 1st Lieutenant Harold D. Daigh destroyed one more and damaged another in the heavily defended Pyongyang-Chinnanpo area. Both pilots were with VMF-312 flying from the USS Bataan. Who was the Marine pilot that shot down two YAK fighters ?

- a) Major Michael M. Day
- b) Captain Philip C. DeLlong
- c) Major Donald P. frame
- d) Captain Edward J. McGee



March 11, 1918 - The 'Spanish' influenza first reached America as 107 soldiers become sick at Fort Riley, Kansas. One quarter of the U.S. population eventually became ill from the deadly virus, resulting in 500,000 deaths. The death toll worldwide approached 22 million by the end of 1920.

March 15, 1895 - The Baltimore City firehouse on 1426 Fort Avenue opened as Engine #17.

April 14, 1828 - The first dictionary of American-style English was published by Noah Webster as the *American Dictionary of the English Language*.

April 22, 1864 - "In God We Trust" was included on all newly minted U.S. coins by an Act of Congress.

Members Birthdays

We would like to wish the following Marines a "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" and many more:

March – Birthdays Celebrations

Robert J. Holmes, William S. Shea, Charles G. Richter, William P. Davis, Louis R. Twigg, Sr., Philip P. Sullivan, John Donnelly, Robert E. Walton, Jr., Earl C. Ruff, Garry M. Simms, Joseph W. Meyer, Ernest G. Disney, Michael A. Lewis and Jerard Sweetwine.

April - Birthdays Celebrations

Thomas F. Petty, Robert S. Funk, John L. Voigt, William C. Wheeler, Errol M. Markowitz, William B. Lotman Sr. and Merrill R. Cohen.

Marines, if you had a birthday this month and your name did not appear, please let me know.

Stuart Blair, 410-665-6440,
Email: thistleman@verizon.net

Inclement Weather

When WBAL TV or Radio announces "SCHOOLS CLOSED" because of inclement weather, ALL MCL Baltimore Detachment ACTIVITIES CANCELED.

BALTIMORE GUNG HO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BALTIMORE DETACHMENT

1426 East Fort Avenue (#17 Fire House)
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-5247



NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE MD
PERMIT NO. 5964

"To observe a Marine is inspirational, to be a Marine is exceptional."

USMC WW2 Service Uniform Leather Belt

WWII enlisted (and prewar also) on the dress greens enlisted uniform - Marines were issued a dark, almost black leather belt - called a "Garrison Belt" or "Fair Leather Belt", and had a large heavy brass buckle. What makes this so significant is that during these times it not only made a sharp looking uniform accessory, but came in mighty handy if one got into a fight - especially when outnumbered.

The belt buckle was put between the thumb and forefinger and the belt was wrapped around ones hand a couple of times and the end was grasped with the fist creating the ultimate "equalizer"! To make matters even worse for the opponent - some Marines sharpened the backside of the belt buckle to aid in the cutting process!

Now, I don't know "why" they outlawed the belt and went to cloth eventually - maybe it was too costly to produce, the Navy was too cheap to buy us a good belt, maybe it was landing too many Marines in the brig or the C.O. was just getting tired of busting everyone - don't really know that one!

Anyway - this is just part of our "heritage" that I always marveled at.