

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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BALTIMORE

GUNG HO



*Marian James. * Commandant*

*January – February 2019 * Vol. 23, No. 1 * Stuart Blair Editor*

*In Memoriam of Marine Walter "Gene" Fletcher, Jr. * 11 December 2018*



Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, 11 November 1918, the Baltimore Detachment conducted a ceremony on the observed Veterans Day, 12 November 2018, at Latrobe Memorial Park, honoring all branches of our military.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance

USCGC Taney, Baltimore * 7 Dec. 2018

The 77th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor was remembered aboard an historic vessel in Baltimore Friday 7 December 2018. Every year, Historic Ships in Baltimore hosts a ceremony aboard the Taney honoring those who served during WWI. Admiral Karl Schultz recalled the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Taney action at Pearl Harbor that day. Marine Stuart Blair participated in the ceremony; representing the Marine Corps Veterans with a presentation of U S military branches' colors were offered. A memorial sounding of the vessel's bell concluded the ceremony. A reception was held along with conversation with special guests, military officers, and government officials.



Commandant's Message

Greetings,

I hope this message finds you and your family have good health, wealth and happiness during the holiday season. Some of you have received cards or calls from me and before the end of my term; I hope that I can say that I have contacted all of you. When you read this message, we would have had our annual Christmas Party and the winding down of our 2018 Toys for Tots Program. To those of you who attended the party, we say "Thank You" for your support of our Detachment activities. If you donated a toy or got a family member to make a donation, we say "Thank You" because we are sure that this year's program is going to be exceptional. I say that because at the time of this message, we have not obtained the final figures from the Senior Vice Commandant. However, all that information will be in our next bulletin.

We would like to say that even though our Toys for Tots Program is chaired by the Senior Vice Commandant, it is a Detachment project and any help that you can provide will be greatly appreciated. If you know of a company in your area who might be receptive to supporting our project, please make personal contact or pass give that information to the Senior Vice Commandant.

I would like to express my concern that we have had to mail several cards to members who have not paid their dues. Dues are a very important part of the League because the greater our numbers, the more of a voice we have in Washington when it comes to making requests that affect veterans. If you want to belong to any organization, it is important that you are financial. Officers both elected and appointed should be the first to pay their dues because we are the ones who should be asking those members that we know about paying their dues. So if you have not done so and want to remain an active member of the Detachment or an Officer, please see that your dues are paid and at this late stage, you should also pay your dues for 2019 so that you will be ahead of the requests for payment.

Everyone who writes a message tries to convey a message that reflects their respective position and sometimes what is written is similar or very remote but what we try to show is that we are a team. With that said, we need the assistance of more members so that our team is stronger and we make a greater impact as a Detachment and as a member of our community.

We support France Scott Key Elementary School, the Eagle Scout Program, Toys for Tots, Bingo at the VA and some of us are regular and/or occasional volunteers at the VA. All these things and more are done by our Detachment and more, but we need members to come to our meetings to make sure that we are using our resources in a manner that is most beneficial as a Detachment. Some of our members have difficulty driving at night but maybe once a quarter, you might have a friend or family member bring you to the meeting so that you can take a firsthand look at what we are doing. If you ask, you might find out that a co-worker, friend or family is interested in becoming a member. Start the New Year differently by attending our January 25, 2019 meeting.

The detachment meetings will be expedited more efficiently to allow more time to socialize. Hope this will encourage you to attend meetings more often.

Marine of the Year

The nominations for Baltimore Detachment "Marine of the Year" are due at the January detachment meeting.

** Criteria / details are enclosed INSERT.*

Happy New Year

*Respectfully submitted,
Marian C. James
Commandant*

Inclement Weather

When WBAL Radio announces "SCHOOLS CLOSED" because of inclement weather, all MCL Baltimore Detachment activities are CANCELED. .

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Happy New Year Marines,

Here's hoping that everyone had a wonderful and festive Christmas holiday and that the New Year is getting off to a good start. The past months were active for the detachment as we celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday with a party at the detachment. There was the reading of Gen LeJeune's message and present Commandant Gen Neller's birthday message. This was followed by a cake cutting ceremony with the oldest and youngest Marines present exchanging a slice of cake. There was plenty of good food and a good time to be had by all. JVC Ray Vaughn and I also represented the detachment at the V.A. Hospital on the Marine Corps birthday along with the Gold Star Mothers giving out birthday tokens to inpatient Marines to help them celebrate the Corps's birthday.

On Veterans Day we were able to hold our Veterans Day ceremony at Latrobe Park and at the 11th Engineer Bn Memorial in Canton on Boston St. The turnout was light but the ceremonies were conducted with much respect and dignity. Looking forward to a larger member presents this year.

In December the detachment held its Christmas party and once again we had a good turnout, lots of good food and very good time eating and holiday socializing. Under the leadership of Commandant Marian James, JVC Ray Vaughn and I had successful Toys for Tots campaign. We collected nearly 1,000 toys and 900 dollars in donations from the detachment, 5 Below, Hooters, Cheesecake Factory, AARP Chapter 3090, and Vietnam Veterans of America just to name a few of the participants this year. Great job and Thank You to all who donated.

The month ended up on one sad note as we held our Fallen Marine Ritual for Life Member Walter Eugene Fletcher Jr. Rest in Peace Marine.

Looking forward to an active year and hop to see more members involved in detachment activities.

Semper Fi

Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way

Earl C Ruff Jr
SVC

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Greeting Marines,

A few weeks ago, waiting downtown for the #94 bus to Ft. McHenry and our Detachment meeting, a lady on the corner, collapsed, hit the ground, in slow motion. I'd seen that before, usually resulting in booze or drug excess. No one on the corner even gave her a second glance. I went over, shook her, turned her over on her back, so she wouldn't choke, and noticed she had her purse and cell phone but was not responsive. I called 911; hoping they would get there before my bus came and I could at least, make sure her purse and phone did not get stolen. Long story, short, when the EMT arrived, they asked who called. Simultaneously, I and another guy spoke up. We had called around the same time. While the medics were working on the lady, the guy looked up, noticed my raggedy Marine Corps baseball cap and hit me with a Semper Fi. It turned out, he was a Marine Corporal, home for the weekend, on leave from his duty ship, in Norfolk. We chatted awhile, I gave him the Detachment Info and my business card, encouraging him to drop by, hang out, have a beer and meet the crowd. He didn't make the meeting but he does have the info and hopefully will drop by when he is back in town.

What struck me was, there was at least 30 years age difference between us. We were the only 2 out of about 15 people on the bus stop or walking by, on both sides of the street, early evening I, in downtown Baltimore. Out of all those people, only we, two took the time to call for assistance. It was not the first time, won't be the last time I see an addict laid out on the sidewalk. To me, it was someone's mom, sister, daughter and they needed help. Of all the folks out there, only the 2 Marines had enough concern to call 911 and wait for the ambulance to arrive. I felt a great deal of relief when the EMTs showed up but also a surge of pride. Once again, Marines did what needed to be done. I had a flashback of villagers, a day after the Tet Offensive when they could come by our compound for medical aid. Unknown farmers to me but in need of help. We were glad to give any help we could. It felt the same way on that bus stop. We only knew the lady needed help and no one else cared enough to do it but us. Marines serve, it's what did, what we always do.

Semper Fi.
Ray Vaughn
Jr. Vice Commandant

Chaplain's Corner

A Prayer for the New Year

Supreme Commandant, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges.

In the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need.

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. *Amen.*

Semper Fi Prayer Circle

In Memoriam

Marine **Walter “Gene” Fletcher, Jr.**, was called by the Supreme Commandant on 11 December 2018 May he rest in peace and that their survivors attain peace during their sorrow and grieving process.

A Memorial Service was held on December 17, 2018 at Singleton Funeral Home in Glen Burnie; offered by members of the Baltimore Detachment.

Sick / Distressed

Prayers go to those on our “Sick and Distress” list: Al Schudel, 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



Maryland Veterans Commission

Change in Maryland State Tax Military Retiree Income

As the year grows to a close, this is a reminder that the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in the 2018 Legislative Session, which benefits Military Retirees. Here is the language from Chapter 573 of the 2018 Maryland Legislation:

(2) The subtraction under subsection (a) of this section includes:

(i) if, on the last day of the taxable year, the individual is under the age of 55 years, the first \$5,000 of military retirement income received by an individual during the taxable year; and

(ii) if, on the last day of the taxable year, the individual is at least 55 years old, the first \$15,000 of military retirement income received by an individual during the taxable year.

Federal

Veterans receiving disability pay and military retirees will see a 2.8 percent cost-of-living boost starting this past December, their largest increase in six years.

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

Noteworthy

US DVA Protecting Your Personal Security

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continue to team up to combat illegal robocalls targeting Americans, including Veterans and their families.

Each year, the FCC receives more than 200,000 complaints about unwanted calls. While this may seem like a big number, it pales in comparison to the millions of robocalls being made each day. The calls interrupt dinners and family time; they flood landline and mobile phones. Scam calls frequently solicit money for fake charities, including ones claiming to support America's Veterans - some even claiming to be VA representatives.

We know that scam activity increases during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, so the FCC and VA urge you to be vigilant. We offer the following tips to help you avoid unwanted calls and scams.

- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. Scammers may spoof their caller ID to display a fake number that appears to be local. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.
- Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, or passwords in response to unexpected or suspicious calls.
- Be sure to set a password for all voice mail accounts to avoid being hacked.
- Register your number on the Do Not Call List to block calls from legitimate telemarketers.
- Ask your phone company about call-blocking tools and services for your landline phone, and check for helpful apps that you can download to your mobile phone.

DONATIONS

It is not too late to send a tax deductible donation to your detachment. The funds will serve to benefit all members.

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 November / December Question

At end of WWI, when did the Marines participate in the march to the Rhine, where they became part of the Army of German Occupation ?

After the formal signing of the Armistice

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 ?

- a) Medina
- b) Trung tam Tinh II
- c) Keystone Eagle
- d) Deck House VI

History's Timeline

January 18, 1919 - The Paris peace conference (aka the Versailles peace conference) opens to draw up the treaties formally ending the Great War (WWI)Event of **Interes**

January 25, 1919 Founding of League of Nations, 1st meeting 1 year later

February 14, 1919 - United Parcel Service forms

February 25, 1919 - Oregon is 1st state to tax gasoline (1 cent per gallon)

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 27 October Pack Growl netted 553 bones with 173 of being for the kids. The next Pack Growl will be held following the Department of Maryland meeting on 9 February. The meeting is hosted by the SSgt Taylor Detachment which has not yet announced the location, but since they are located in the Jessup area, it will probably be in that vicinity. A separate email will be distributed when the location is announced.

The 9 December Pound Growl with the new Pound Keeper and Dog Robber went very well. We took in 423 bones with 166 of them being for the kids. The next Pound Growl will be announced when known.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

*Woof woof,
PDD Paul Taylor
Dog Robber*

Marine Corps Humor

Know Who You Are

As a group of Marine recruits stood in formation at the Marine Corps P I Base, the Drill Instructor said, "All right! All you idiots fall out." As the rest of the platoon wandered away, one recruit remained at attention. The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow. The recruit smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh, sir?"

Auxiliary

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



Greetings,

Our members enjoyed the annual Christmas party with the League on Friday December 14. Participants brought much good food to share. The hall was beautifully decorated with a tree, wreaths, bows, lights and center pieces. Milton Hazzard provided most of the decorations. 'Thanks, Milton'

Each person attending was asked to bring a toy for the Toys for Tots. The auxiliary contributed 5125 worth of toys to the *Toys for Tots* program.

The Christmas tree our auxiliary donated to the Festival of Trees for the Kennedy Krieger institute sold for over \$100. Our effort paid off. We hope to be able to contribute again next year.



In January we will continue to make cards using stars from our retired flags. The cards have a thank you to our service people and veterans. We will distribute them at community events.

We still have some cookbooks available. It would help our treasury if we could get donations for them.

Our next meeting is January 25. Hope to see there!

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

The monthly winners for October 2018:

11Oct	Joe Cristy	#001	\$25.00
14Oct	Thomas E. Bigham, Jr.	#323	\$25.00
15Oct	Tim Colleran	#123	\$25.00
16Oct	Lisa M. Hergenhan	#743	\$25.00
20Oct	Milton L. Hazzard	#957	\$25.00
24Oct	Dave Tyson	#277	\$25.00
25Oct	Kelly Colleran	#825	\$25.00
30Oct	William & Carol Shea	#068	\$25.00
31Oct	Sharon Scheurer	#198	\$25.00

*Donated Winnings to the General Fund.

Balance in the fund at the end of October 2018 is \$3,230.00.

The monthly winners for November 2018:

02Nov	Claude Mays	#937	\$25.00
03Nov	John W. Hierstetter	#910	\$25.00
11Nov	Chad Hilton	#033	\$50.00 Veteran's Day
13Nov	Robert C. Kernick	#531	\$25.00
14Nov	Raymond Vaughn	#018	\$25.00
15Nov	Olga Hansen	#107	\$25.00
16Nov	Kim Love	#813	\$25.00
19Nov	Marlin Johnson	#964	\$25.00
20Nov	Joe Cristy	#004	\$25.00
29Nov	Pam Merceron	#023	\$25.00
30Nov	Jessica Kipp	#216	\$25.00

Balance in the fund at the end of November 2018 is \$2,930.00.

Scholarships

Thanks to all who have contributed to this worthy cause. Through your generosity the **"POCKET CALENDAR FUNDRAISER"**, continues to make a difference. Remember all proceeds go to the Francis Scott Key School Scholarship Fund.

Fundraiser

The **2019** Pocket Calendars have been mailed. PLEASE make an effort to send in a donation!

This is the fund raiser for the **Scholarship Program**

Marine Family Assistance

The Baltimore Detachment's "Marine Family Assistance Program" emphasis is providing assistance to Marine families in our area,

Detachment Home Dispatch

Detachment Home Maintenance

I do hope 2019 will be a year of members being interested in their Marine Corps League. We do need to thank Milt Hazzard for all the decoration and his time putting most of them up. The basement was flood because the sump failed. Many thanks to Diamond Kimos, Milt Hazzard, Dick Lantz, Earl Ruff for their help installing a new pump and a well needed basement cleaning. We understand the detachment is going to shorting the meetings so there will be more time to socialize. Hope this will encourage you to come to the meetings. Hopefully everyone had a great holiday and WE WISH ALL A HEALTHY & HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Baltimore Detachment Hall Rental

The hall rental is our main source of income for the Detachment Home. Keep promoting the hall rental. Information call Diamond Kimos @ 443-462-1941 or Chuck Hilton @ 410-294-9135

Members Birthdays

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

* *A Belated Happy Birthday to **Marine Robert Kennick**, who celebrated a birthday in November*

January – Birthdays Celebrations

Dominic D. Deludos, Sr. John A. Cook, Israel Gudis, Donald J. Blum, Stanley S. Gumnit, Roy E. Higgs, Jr. Wesley T. Harper, Daniel J. Donnelly, Milton L. Hazzard, Richard L. Whitehead, Thomas J. O'Toole Jr., Carl G. Holland, George F. Dietsch, Walter H. Naylor, Jr., Christopher S. Chrisian, Gray S. Reif Sr. and George L. Kesselring.

Also celebrating this month
Associate Member Joan M. Hansen.

February - Birthday Celebrations

Alfred Karchem, George H. Barranger, Dominic J. Naples, Sr., Lloyd A. Emery, Jerome B. Milburn, Leandrew J. Morant, Sr., Michael M. Gajewski, Sr., William R. Morton, Dean B. Kone, Raymond L. Vaughn, James W. Sandoz, Welton C. McCallister, Joseph A. Crivello, III and Wesley L. Hipp.

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

BALTIMORE GUNG HO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE BALTIMORE DETACHMENT

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

Military Pay During World War I

During the Great War, now known as World War I, on May 22, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed, "*An act to temporarily increase the commissioned and warrant and enlisted strength of the Navy and Marine Corps, and for other purposes.*" The act provided for a temporary increase in pay for those enlisted in active service while also prescribing the pay of the Navy and Coast Guard enlisted men be the same.

Section 15 of the act reads, "*That commencing June first, nineteen hundred and seventeen, and continuing until not later than six months after the termination of the present war, all enlisted men of the Navy of the United States in active service whose base pay does not exceed \$21 per month shall receive an increase of \$15 per month; those whose base pay is over \$21 and does not exceed \$24 per month, an increase of \$12 per month; those whose base pay is over \$24 and less than \$45 per month, an increase of \$8 per month; and those whose base pay is \$45 or more per month, an increase of \$6 per month: Provided, That the increases of pay herein authorized shall not enter into the computation of continuous-service pay: Provided, That during the continuance of the present war, warrant officers, petty officers and enlisted men of the United States Coast Guard shall receive the same rates of pay as are or may hereafter be prescribed for corresponding grades or ratings and length of service in the Navy.*"