

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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BALTIMORE
GUNG HO



Earl Ruff, Jr. Commandant*
*December 2016 * Vol . 20, No. 12 * Stuart Blair, Editor*

MCL Celebrate USMC 241st Birthday

Saturday 12 November 2016

On a cool fFall day, Marines and friends gathered at Columbus Gardens in Nottingham, MD to celebrate the Marine Corps birthday.

The evening began with the social hour. and greetings by Marine Jack Colleran The MIA / POW Ceremony was conducted by Marines Evie Remines and Don Benson followed by the invocation by Chaplain Howard Koontz.

MCL officers and special guests were introduced along with posting of the colors. Marine Harry Hierstetter read Gen. Leuerne's Birthday Message followed by a video of Commandant General Robert Neller's Message.

The Cake Cutting Ceremony featured the oldest Marine Bob Kennick and the youngest Marine from the 4th CEB. Dinner followed by dancing along with music by the Central Ave Band.

A well planned event, the 2016 USMC Birthday Ball was overwhelmingly enjoyed by all. The results of great team work Marines are known for. ____Thank you.

Semper Fi



*Baltimore Detachment Marines and friends celebrate
The 241st Marine Corps Birthday at Columbus Gardens
* 12 November 2016*



VIETNAM ERA VETERAN LAPEL PIN

"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"

The Commemoration is providing Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins to Commemorative Partners for dignified public presentations to living U.S. military veterans who served during the Vietnam War period as a lasting memento of the nation's thanks.

Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

Attention

On 27 January, MCL Baltimore Det. Meeting, John Henkel, Veteran Advocate will make a special presentation of a 'Vietnam Era Veteran' Commemorative Pin to all Marines who served in the U S Armed Forces from 1955 to 1975.

If you served during this time period and wish to participate in this presentation, contact Stuart Blair @ 410-665-6440.

Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

As we enter this holiday season I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday. And may everyone celebrate this holiday by spending time with family, love ones and close friends.

Remember Detachment activities coming up. We will be putting up our Christmas tree on Saturday Dec. 3rd; we will meet at 9am at the detachment home. So come on out and join in the fun as we take on mission impossible in setting up the tree and stringing the lights. On Friday Dec 9th at 7:30pm we will be having our Detachment Christmas party (Pot Luck) Bring a dish or desert and come enjoy the company of our detachment members as we spread some holiday joy.

Looking forward to seeing all who can make these holiday events and once again "Happy Holiday to Everyone"

S/F
Earl Ruff, Jr.
Commandant



Happy Holidays Marines

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Greetings,

We hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving and wish everyone a happy holiday season as we move closer to celebrating a New Year. However, before we move into next year, let us remember that we are still working on our Toys for Tots Program. We have received some toys and several monetary donations but we are looking forward to more members and friends participating in our 2016 Toys for Tots Program. Please make your donations so that we can have most of our toys turned in prior to December 16, 2016. Our next meeting will be on December 9th and we hope that you will bring your toys or monetary donations at that time. Thank you in advance for your donations and we look forward to making a lot of children smile this holiday season.

Our VAVS meeting was held at Towson American Legion Post Number 22 on November 15, 2016. We were informed that the Emergency Room at the Greene Street facility is being renovated and should be completed by June 2017. The start of the parking garage renovations have been rescheduled to begin in late December 2016 at level P3. Volunteers will receive detailed instructions as to what they will need to do with regards to parking at the Metro West Garage. There will be shuttles which will take them from the parking lot to the hospital. It is hoped that the parking facility will be completed by April 2017. We were also informed that there will be a Fisher House at Perry Point. The mansion at Perry Point should be completed by the end of the year and hopefully, construction of the homeless facility will begin soon. The Gristmill building will be a museum and the mansion will become a conference center.

The VA had a lot of VSO's visit the facilities during the week of Veterans Day and they participated in the Veterans Day Parade which was held downtown. On December 15, 2016 there will be an invitation only party for volunteers at the Essex Elks home. December 16th is the last day that the hospital will be accepting donations for the holidays. The holiday distributions will be held on December 23, 2016 and will begin at 10 am. The VA is asking for funds for the Homeless Shelter so that vouchers can be given to the homeless to get meals. VSO's made donations to the Social Worker Account, Homeless Account, All Purpose Account and the Multi-Purpose Account.

The Detachment has a Bingo at Greene Street and would appreciate your participation. As always, the VA is looking for volunteers so if you have some time to spare, please think about becoming a volunteer because our veterans would love to have a conversation with you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marian C. James, SVC
Toys for Tots Chairperson*

Jr. Vice Commandant Message



Chaplain's Report

Greeting Marines,

We are nearing the end of the year, time for family and friends to celebrate what our blessings have been. We may have had setbacks and problems but if we take the time to look deep and examine 2016, we can find all multiple things to be thankful for. And in noting those things that have been a blessing this year, we can look to future and the possibilities for a better forecast, for the coming year.

In keeping with the spirit of thankfulness and joy, we can do a little something for those who are not as fortunate as us. When we see Salvation Army bell ringers, drop a few coins (or bills) in the pot. Or folks collecting for holiday meals for the poor, open your hearts and wallets because their needs are real. The Marine Corps Reserves collects for Toys For Tots, a cause near and dear to every Marine, especially if you have served in a combat zone and seen the pain of children all over the world. Think of your children and grandchildren and what Christmas means to them. We would hate to see a Christmas morning with nothing under their trees. I can't think of a time when Marines did not go out of their way to bring a little joy to children we encountered in dire situations. Even if we did not speak their language, we had no problem translating the joy and smiles on their faces when we presented them with a special meal or a gift. Perhaps one of the best ways to recruit new members and retain present memories is to unite in sharing and giving to those who have so much less. Make it a personal pledge to donate, to helping charities and Toys For Tots in the coming weeks. We are Marines, known as fighters for freedom but also known for our compassion and willingness to serve the needs of those less fortunate that us.

Semper Fi

Ray Vaughn, JVC

Merry Christmas, My Friend

*Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
and to see just who in this home did live
As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.
I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,
so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.
He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?
His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.
I soon understood, this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night,
owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.
Soon around the Nation, the children would play,
And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,
because of Marines like this one lying here.
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.
He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."
With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,
with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.
I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,
said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.*

Semper Fi Prayer

Condolences to the family of Marine Mike Pezzella who was called by the Supreme Commandant on 12 November 2016. Remember our sick in your thoughts and prayers for Dorothy White, Charles Luthardt, Roose Nippard, Jack Dickerson, Diamond Kiemos, Bill Wheeler, Dominic Naples, Irv Becker, Fran Miller, Ceil Handschuh and Kathy DeVage wife of Glen DeVage, Bill Wells, and Bob Flick. And a general prayer of intercession for those who have aches and pains but Marine on through the day.

God Bless Us, Our Nation and the Marine Corps
Howard Koontz, Chaplain



Maryland Veterans Commission

*Submitted by Stuart Blair, PDC
Commissioner*

Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Dedicated on Veterans Day

A beautiful day and a view of the Severn River was the setting for dedication of the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument in Annapolis.

Governor Larry Hogan, Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, Secretary George Owings and Ms. Janice Chance, President of the Gold Star Mother of Maryland & Delaware participated in the ceremony.

The audience of this well-attended event included other Gold Star Families, Elected Officials, Veterans and Supporters.

Veterans Legislative Day

On February 9, 2017 the Veterans Caucus and AARP MD will be holding a Veterans Legislative day in Annapolis. We will have veterans come to Annapolis to learn how to work in the legislative body to get the veterans bills passed. Right now veterans' bills die in committee and never see a vote because veterans do not come and tell the legislators that these bills are needed to be passed.

The day will be a talk with Delegates, education, tour and always with AARP MD, food. Limited transportation will be provided at no cost to our veterans.

VA Salutes Caregivers

November is National Caregivers Month, and VA salutes those who care for those who served.

VA is now offering a free, on-line workshop for family caregivers.

*S/F,
Stuart Blair, PDC
Commissioner*

Noteworthy

Operation Welcome Home

Servicemen and service women continue to arrive at BWI Airport from deployments overseas. Information on times of flight arrivals can be obtained by calling the Operation Welcome Home hotline 410-630-1555.

American Red Cross

*** 77 DRIVERS NEEDED**

The American Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region needs 77 drivers to make trips e.g. deliver and pick up blood products within the Region. Red Cross provides vehicles and fuel. Volunteer drivers are asked to devote a minimum of four hours, one day per month. For additional information please contact Joe Miletti @ 410-624-2023.

Income Tax Relief . . .

End of Year Donation

Think about this, would you rather give money in taxes to the government or make a tax deductible donation to your Detachment. No matter what amount it will be greatly appreciated. If you should make a large donation we have a form to give you to verify your donation if needed. Thanks.

Detachment Home Dispatch

Your building committee wishes all of you . . .

**MERRY CHRISTMASS
&
HEALTHY & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

PICK THREE LOTTERY CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

The 2017 fund raiser forms were in the October newsletter. There were two mailed to all members, we are hoping you will take at least one and be sure to mail the unused one back with the one you took. These also make good Christmas gifts for that some one that has everything.

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

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof woof,

There is not a lot happening in Dogdom at this time, so it is an excellent opportunity for all Dogs to support the Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots drive. If you don't know what to do, ask Marine James as she is leading the way for the Baltimore Detachment in this very worthy endeavor.

Pound 204 will Growl at 0900 on 11 December at the Dog House, with breakfast and bloody marys at 0800. Pups and mongrels should report to the Mad Dog at 0800.

We still have a few Dogs in the Pound who are in arrears of their dues and therefore cannot attend a Growl or hold office. If you are one of the delinquents, get with the program and send 15 big bones to your friendly Dog Robber (me) ASAP. A few extra bones, for the kids, from those of you who never attend a growl would be greatly appreciated. When you are two years in arrears, you will be dropped from the roles of the MODD. Don't let this happen. Pay your dues now.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

*Woof woof,
PDD Paul Taylor
Dog Robber*

Marine Humor

A Marine remembers everything

There was this Marine-in-training, and his superiors were asking him questions

"What happened on February 23, 1945?"

"We stormed the beach at Iwo Jima, which we raised our flag on Mt. Suribache, sir!"

"What was the turning point in the Pacific of WW2?"

"Battle of Midway, sir!"

"What's is the importance of April 18?"

The Man thought and thought "I don't know, sir!"

The superior then said "Well, I'll tell your wife that you forgot her birthday"

Auxiliary

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



Greetings,

Our auxiliary met in November to finish up the ornaments for the tree that will be decorated for the Festival of Trees held every year at the Timonium Fair Grounds for the benefit of the Kennedy Krieger Institute. The festival is held on the week end of Thanksgiving. There are over 700 trees and decorations for sale one of which will be our tree decorated with red and gold balls, white lights and pictures of marine activities. Hopefully our tree will bring a lot of money for the benefit of the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

We would like to say welcome to Kathleen Rollins one of the members who recently transferred from the Anne Arundel County unit. We are so happy to have you at our meetings.

We would like to express our condolences to Rosemary Koontz who recently lost her mother.

NOTE:

Error: Last month I reported that our December meeting will be on the 3rd Friday in December.

Correction: The meeting will be on December 9th and will be a pot luck dinner. Bring along your favorite dish and the recipe for our cookbook.

Next month we will continue our crochet lessons so we may become proficient enough to make items for a veteran's hospital.

God bless America,

*Joan Hansen,
President*

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 existence.

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

Answer to November's Question

In celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday, we are reminded of our beginning. The location was Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, PA.

1686 the Tun was erected on the caraway that led to Carpenter's Wharf. Tun Tavern was named for__?

"tun," meaning a barrel or keg of beer

December's Question

On 20 December 1989 Operation Just Cause was launched in a Central American country to protect American lives, restore the democratic process, and apprehend Dictator General Manuel Antonio Noriega. One Marine, Corporal Garreth C. Isaak, was killed and three other were wounded during the operation. What was the name of this country?

- a) Nicaragua
- b) El Salvador
- c) Honduras
- d) Panama

GOOD LUCK



Marines in Central America 1989

Dates of Interest

- **December 1, 1950**
The 1st Marine Division began its bitter withdrawal from Yudamni, North Korea.
- **December 3, 1944**
1st and 2nd Marine Aircraft Wings arrived in the Philippines to support Army forces.
- **December 9, 1968**
The 1st, 5th, 7th and 26th Marine Regiments participated in Operation Meade River in Vietnam.
- **December 11, 1941**
VMF-211 Wildcats sank the Japanese destroyer Kisaragi during the defense of Wake Island.
- **December 17, 2001**
Marines raised 9/11 World Trade Center flag over Kandahar airport.
- **December 20, 1989**
The 2nd Marine Division began combat operations in Panama.
- **December 26, 1943**
The 1st Marine Division landed in the assault of Cape Gloucester, New Britain.
- **December 28, 1901**
Major L. W. T. Waller's ill-fated march across Samar began.

Members Birthdays

DECEMBER – BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

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

Herbert White, Joseph F. Alder, Carl F. Santmyer, Howard E. Scott, John M. Davis, Sr., Harry R. Carroll, Robert T. Cianelli, Larry R. Smith, Marian C. James, Aleksandras Radzius and Ryan V. Bowerman.

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**

Detachment Activities

VA Medical Center Bingo

Tuesday 1 November 2016

Autographed pictures of George Washington were presented to patients winning bingo games that evening at the Center. Auxiliary members of the Detachment presented the pictures as well as organizing and distributing the refreshments.

Anyone from the Detachment and Auxiliary who would like to help provide a fun evening to the patients first Tuesday of the month 1730-1930, please contact Bill Shea 410-338-0737.

Monument Dedication

* Fallen Balto Co Military

Towson

On **5 November**, Marine Stuart Blair, PDC accompanied by Bernadine Blair, MCLA attended the dedication ceremony at the Towson Courthouse of a monument honoring the 27 Baltimore County residents who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraq.

The hour-long dedication ceremony included 4th CEB color guard presentations, an Army band, government dignitaries, and a key note speech from retired U.S. Marine Corps Col. Steven McKinley.

Veterans Day Ceremony

Friday 11 November 2016

On a cool and sunny Fall morning military veterans were honored at Latrobe Memorial Park with a ceremony presented by the Baltimore Detachment. Many members participated in the event, along with local residents.

Baltimore Detachment Marines and guests also attended the Korean War Memorial Veterans Day Ceremony at 1100 followed by a 11th Engineer Battalion dedication to fallen Marines in the Korean War. The ceremony was led by Marine Dick Lantz.

USMC Birthday Ball

Saturday 12 November

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Festival of Trees

MCLA Baltimore Unit decorates for fundraiser of Kennedy Krieger Institute

26 November

**Summary in Auxiliary Article*

Coming Events

Christmas Party

Baltimore Detachment "Firehouse"

9 December

1930 hrs – 'til

Bring your favorite "COVERED DISH" or dessert to share with us

COST; A new unwrapped toy

*** "TOYS FOR TOTS"**

*Nothing like being with your family
... during the Christmas Season.
Come and enjoy some of it
... with your Marine family.*

Army * Navy Football Game Party

Baltimore Detachment "Firehouse"

Saturday 10 December

Show-up Time: 2:00 pm

Game Time: 3:00 pm

Game Location: M&T Bank Stadium

Televised: CBS

Food: Pot Luck (bring your own)

Cash Bar

MCL Department of Maryland

Winter Meeting

21 January:

Hosted by Cpl Mileo Detachment

Meeting Time: 0900

Location: American Legion Post 18

Address: 2619 Centerville Road, Centerville, MD

Phone: 410-262-9464

*Coffee / Donuts 0800

*MODD Pack Growl follows 1 hour after meeting

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."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6 DEC	TUES	-	VA Medical Center – Bingo
7 DEC	WED	1830	Trustees, Staff and Officers Meeting
9 DEC	FRI	1930	Baltimore Detachment Christmas Party
10 DEC	FRI	1930	Army * Navy Football Game Party
3 JAN	TUES	1830	VA Medical Center – Bingo
21 JAN	SAT	0900	MCL Dept. of Maryland Winter Meeting Centerville, MD
25 JAN	WED	1830	Trustees, Staff and Officers Meeting
27 JAN	FRI	1930	Baltimore Detachment & Auxiliary Meeting