

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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BALTIMORE
GUNG HO



*July - August 2022 * Vol. 26, No.4 * Editor Stuart Blair*

*Memoriam of Marine Stanley Gumnit * 1 June 2022*

***Maryland Marines and Associates
gather in O.C. for their Annual Assembly
6-8 May***

The MCL Dept. of Maryland held the Annual Convention at the Holiday Inn, Ocean City. Despite the inclement weather, all events came off without a hitch.

Upon arrival Thursday, after check in, most made their way to local restaurants: followed later with a visit to the MCL Hospitality room.

Friday morning began with a joint meeting featuring guest speakers, Secretary George Owings, III, MDVA presenting an update on the state's veteran affairs and acknowledgement citations to Department Commandant HOWARD Koontz, Jr., and Dept. Auxiliary president Mary Beall. Also **Dr. JoAnn Fisher** the CEO and founder of the **Women Veterans** United Committee, Inc. discussed Empowering Women Veterans. The meeting concluded with the League officials talk on MCL issues.

Friday afternoon included the MODD Initiation followed by the Grand Growl.

Saturday morning began with the department business meeting concluding with election and installation of officers for 2022-2023 of which Joe Fay was selected as the Department Commandant.

Saturday evening the convention banquet was held with annual awards presented, * Craig Reeling, MD Marine of the Year, * Ben Wells, MD Pack Dog of the Year, *Don Benson, Lifetime Achievement and *Alison Noger, the 1st recipient of our newly created Department Associate of the Year Award.

***Those who gave the ultimate . . .
. . . Remembered on Memorial Day
Latrobe Memorial Park, Locust Point * 30 May 2022***



*The MCL Baltimore Detachment Members
Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony 30 May 2022*

We must remember

Memorial Day is about remembering. It has 'memory' in it. It's easy to forget the price that was paid for our freedoms.

The meaning of Memorial Day is that almost 1.5 million men and women have died so that you and I might enjoy our freedoms. We look to Thanksgiving as a day when we pause to give thanks for the things that we have. Memorial Day is a day when we pause to give thanks to the people who fought and died for the things we have.

We must remember that freedom isn't free. People died so that we could live. We have the opportunity to make decisions today because of the sacrifice of people yesterday!

We must remember

Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

I hope this message finds everyone doing well and getting off to a good start for the summer season. We send a special greeting to Sr Vice / Past Commandant Marian James, at this time she is recovering very well and I wish her continue successful recovery.

I attended the Department of Maryland Convention in May and would like to send out thanks to the members of Detachment 565 for their attendance and support representing the detachment. I would also like to send out thanks to those members who able to attend our Memorial Day Ritual at Latrobe Park, Thanks for another successful event.

Later this month I will be attending the Mid East Division in North Carolina. I hope to bring home some useful and updated info from the Marine Corps League.

The latest task that needs to be worked on is the updating of members information for the National Data base. We need all members to check and make sure that their contact information is up to date. This information can be sent to commandant565@gmail.com.

Semper Fi

Earl Ruff Jr.

Baltimore Detachment Associate of the Year

Judith Hoffman

We have many Associate Members that help the Marine Corps League in different ways. They may be appointed or volunteer there countless hours of support for the good of the league. An Associate Member of the Year award recognizes our Associate Members at the Baltimore Detachment.



The Baltimore Detachment Associate of the Year Award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an associate member of the Marine Corps League. The candidates for this award are nominated by the people who know them best; the Marines of our own detachment. The recommendations are screened by the commandant and the staff of the Detachment. The Associate of the Year is honored in a ceremony at a designated detachment meeting.

Judith Hoffman, the 2022 Associate of the Year, the first Associate Member to receive the award at the Baltimore Detachment, was honored by Commandant Marian James. and her staff at the detachment meeting 25 March.

- Life Member
- Held numerous positions at the same time
- Always willing to take on a new task
- Works with the Detachment Officers, members, and Auxiliary to ensure projects successful
- Attends all levels of MCL functions

Judy has demonstrated by leadership and performance an extraordinary contribution to the Detachment, Marine Corps League and Community.

Her personal conduct has reflected favorably on and has brought credit to the Detachment, Marine Corps League and the United States Marine Corps

*Congratulations to an outstanding . . .
MCL Associate Member*



Associate Judith Hoffman is presented the "Associate Member of the Year" Award by Cmdt. Marian James and Staff

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Greeting Marines,

Unfortunately, it was my intention to travel with Mother and work on the Birthday Ball but as you can see, my health had other things in mind. Mom and I would like to thank the newly elected Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant for the assistance they provide. The weather got colder; it was raining and very windy. We got up early so that we could get a cart to put our luggage into the van, but it appears as though everyone had the same idea. Mom and I want to thank the newly elected Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant for all their assistance. The trip was the same until I arrived in Dover, and the pain began. We parked so that I could take some pain pills and I took a short rest. Several days later, I was in intensive care at Union Memorial Hospital.

Hopefully, someone on the Scholarship Fund will contact the Principal of Frances Scott Key Elementary and Middle School to see if this year, we will implement our fund for the top three students in the specified classes. If in my absence you are temporarily assigned this task, please, make sure that you provide Pat and the Commandant with the information.

Thank the individuals who have been attending the Eagle Scout Court of Honors. This is something that I really enjoy attending because it lets me know that we have more good children doing good things than we have bad students.

It is an honor being on the VAVS Committee. My problem is that I have not been volunteering but I guess that is one of the hidden things this body was keeping from me but hopefully, I will be able to get back in stride soon. A lot of things have changed at the hospital, which means that we will have to come up with some other personal things to give our patients. However, we will think about what we can do discuss the new policies at our regular meeting. Thank you for your prayers but I am sure that in my pain, you and I were not praying for the same thing – God Knows Best and He Handles All His Own Way,

Respectfully submitted,

Marian C. James, SVC

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Greeting Marines,

Summer's here, the weather has not been too horrible and most of us are moderately enjoying life despite all the normally less than perfect evening news. I am hoping all of our members are doing well, getting out and about. If you are, don't forget to do your best to recruit new members, to help build our Corps' new blood. It helps when we introduce new members to activities and give them a chance to participate as in our recent annual Memorial Day Tribute at Latrobe Park. Even though we were shorthanded by minor illnesses and work schedules, new members Dewars and Simmonds were on hand and gladly did the flag half-masting for the event helping us pay our respects to Marines who passed away recently.

It's important to keep traditions alive. There was no Korean War Memorial event held this year, the venerable Old Breed of veterans is thinning out. Participation at the Vietnam Vets Memorial was minimal this year too, with only about 50 or so attending. Remember your fellow vets, family and friends and keep them in comradeship and especially those younger veterans, so many have succumbed to suicide, the figures are staggering, growing. If you know any, stay in touch. They need to know there are open hearts and listening ears from a lot of guys that have been through the same kind of things they have.

Semper Fidelis.

Ray Vaughn, JVC

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm "Welcome Aboard" to **Marine Philip J. Simmonds** who recently joined our Detachment. Semper Fi!



Semper Fi Prayer Circle

*"And the Prayer of Faith
shall save the sick,
and the LORD shall raise him up"*

*"Greater love has no one than this, to lay
down one's life for his friends." John 15:13*

Independence Day Prayer

*God, source of all freedom,
this day is bright with the memory of those
who declared life and liberty are your gift to every
human being.*

*Help us to continue a good work begun long ago.
Make our vision clear and our will strong:
that only in human solidarity will we find liberty,
and justice only in the honor that belongs to every life
on earth.*

*Turn our hearts toward the family of nations:
to understand the ways of others, to offer
friendship, and to find safety only in the common good
of all.*

We ask this through our heavenly Father.

Amen.

Taps

Marine Stanley Gumnit, 1 June 2022 was called by the Supreme Commandant. May he rest in peace and that his survivors attain peace during their grieving process.

Sick / Distressed

Prayers go to those on our "Sick and Distress" list: Marian James, Jack Burke, Betty Thompson, Don Rollete, Dorris Rollete (wife of Marine Don Rollete), Will Priest, Harry Carroll, George Adams, Jerry Brown and wife Cass, and Rick Gurly.

Most High God, god that Liveth, Heal and deliver all of us that are in need of your healing, mercy and grace Amen.

If you know of anyone sick or in distress, please call:
Chaplain Harry Hierstetter. & Judith Hoffman
410-296-1088 / Email: 1stsgtjwhusmc@comcast.net

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

Harry Hierstetter / Judith Hoffman
Chaplains

Baltimore Det. Marines Honor Korean War Vet. __ A Marine, a friend

4 June, Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, on a beautiful sunny morning, a memorial ceremony was held by St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore in honor of Alfred Schudel and wife Donna. Both Al and Donna passed away May 2020.

The memorial ceremony included family, friends, and representatives of organizations that Al was a member, the St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore, St. Georges Society, and the Marine Corps League.

Representing the MCL were Jack Colleran, Milt Hazzard, Stuart Blair, and Ernie Disney. As part of the memorial, several people spoke of life experiences with Al and Donna. Jack Colleran spoke about his youth friendship with Al before their Marine Corps life.

The conclusion of the memorial included the playing of taps by Ernie Disney, followed by a toast with single malt, a reception and music by the Baltimore City Pipe Band.

Detachment Home Dispatch

Maintenance

Milt & Ernie are still hard at it, they are making repair in the museum and more help is needed. Again, I am asking you to please consider coming in and helping on a Saturday. Your help will surely be appreciated and what a difference it would make. PLEASE TRY, THANK YOU.

The contractor started work Tuesday, June 14th on the catwalk around the roof A/C unit.

Baltimore Detachment Hall Rental

If you know of someone who is looking for a hall to rent, please keep your Detachment Hall in mind. We can seat 100 comfortably. Keep promoting the hall rental. Information call: Ernie Disney @ 410-977-7975.



**Maryland Veterans
Commission**

Auxiliary

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



Veterans Home Owner Benefits

VA Home Loan Benefit Can Save You Money

For more than 75 years, the VA home loan benefit has helped millions of eligible Veterans and service members buy a home. A VA home loan means lower-than-average interest rates, limited closing costs and no down payment. For more information, contact VA (<https://www.va.gov/homeloans> or 1-800-MyVA411 press 5 for benefits, then 3 for home loans) or talk to a lender of your choice.

Lower Your Monthly Mortgage Payments with an Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan

If you have an existing VA-backed home loan and want to reduce your monthly mortgage payments—or make your payments more stable—an interest rate reduction refinance loan (IRRRL) may be right for you. Refinancing lets you replace your current loan with a new one under different terms. Find out if you're eligible and learn more about how to apply

Apply for a Specially Adapted Housing Grant for Veterans

VA offers housing grants for service members and Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities to buy or change a home to meet their needs and live more independently. Changing a home may involve installing ramps or widening doorways. Find out if you're eligible and learn how to apply for a disability housing grant

New VA Insurance Program Coming

In January 2023, VA will launch a new program offering, Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife), which provides guaranteed acceptance whole-life insurance coverage to Veterans ages 80 and under with any level of service-connected disability. Although, some Veterans aged 81 and older may also be eligible. Learn more about VALife and whether it's the right choice for you and your family.

Next MVC meeting will be Tuesday July 21, 2022
MCVETS, High Street, Baltimore

S/F,
Stuart Blair
Commissioner, MCL

Greetings,

At the state convention in May, our officers for the year were installed by our National President Evelyn Joppa. The following officers were installed: Joan Hansen – President, Rosemary Koontz – Sr. Vice, Betty Thompson – Jr. Vice, Bernadine Blair – Judge Advocate, Anita Ullery – Guard & Chaplain, and Julie Silverstein – Secretary & Treasurer. We had to double up on some jobs due to lack of attending members. We would like to thank all members willing to serve.

There is very little news to report as we have not met in a few months. We are starting to work on the Festival of Trees for the Kennedy Institute. Judy Hoffman is helping us again this year with the marine decorations. We really appreciate all she has done to make our tree special.

When we can meet again we will work on our star cards, a reminder of the sacrifice our service men and women give to protect our country. We hope to have more available after our next meeting.

DUES ARE DUE BY THE END of AUGUST.

You will be sent a self addressed stamped envelope. Please respond as soon as possible.

God bless America,

*Joan Hansen
President*

**99th MCL National Convention
Daytona Beach, Florida
15 – 19 August**

*** Details Calendar of Events**

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof woof,

Merlin Pack Grand Growl

Maryland Pack Grand Growl was held 6 May Dept. of Maryland Convention, Holiday Inn, Ocean City, MD. Several Dogs completed their initiation feat with howling success. Pack Officers were elected for 2022-2023 with PDD Tony Rust as the Maryland Pack Leader. PDD Ben Wells of Hound Dog, Pound 204 was honored at the Convention Banquet as Maryland Pack "Dog of the Year."



Hound Dog Pound 204 Growl

Sunday 19 June Hound Dog Pound Keeper Paul Gunther conducted a growl at VFW Post 160 in Glen Burnie after consuming the SOS breakfast. The growl collected many bones with fines of several infractions.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

Schedule

Merlin Pack Grand Growl

*Dept. of Maryland Staff Meeting
Baltimore Detachment
Saturday 27 August*

*Woof woof,
PDD Stuart Blair
Barking Dog*

MCL Boy Scout Program

"On My Honor"



**Scouting . . .
Eagle Scout for Life**

During May through June the Baltimore Detachment Marines Attended three Eagle Scout Court of Honor Events in which five Eagle Scouts were presented the MCL "Good Citizenship Award."

Memorial Weekend American Flag Placement

On Saturday 28 May, Marine Stuart Blair coordinated with Boy Scout Troop 828, an American flag placement on military graves @ Prospect Hill Cemetery, Towson. Given the ideal weather the project was quite a success.
"For God and Country"

S/F,
Stuart Blair, Chairman
Boy Scout Program
MCL Dept. of Maryland



*BSA Troop 828 Scouts place American Flags on
military gravesites @ Prospect Hill Cemetery, Towson
"In Remembrance" * 29 May*

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

Monthly calendar winners for April 2022:

04/03	Carey Webb	#483	\$25.00
04/06	James Cornish	#829	\$25.00
04/08	Tim Colleran	#123	\$25.00
04/09	Paul Taylor	#400	\$25.00
04/19	Michael R. Smith	#801	\$25.00
04/22	Daryl Baylor	#721	\$25.00
04/25	Andy Lynch	#550	\$25.00

During the month the fund had seven (7) winners all won \$25.00 resulting in a payout of \$175.00, leaving a balance in the fund at the end of April 2022 of \$4,910.00.

Monthly calendar winners for May 2022:

05/04	Alesha Parker	#629	\$25.00
05/05	Herbert Sanders	#859	\$25.00
05/06	Pattie Robinson	#127	\$25.00
05/07	GySgt Dean Kone	#737	\$25.00
05/09	Don Blum	#802	\$25.00
05/13	Don Blum	#562	\$25.00
05/16	Kim Hausherr	#704	\$25.00

During the month the fund had seven (7) winners all won \$25.00 Resulting in a payout of \$175.00, leaving a balance in the fund at the end of May 2022 of \$4,735.00.

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 in the following issue.

Answer to May - June Question

On June 10, 1898, the First Marine Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Huntington, landed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The next day, Lieutenant Herbert Draper raised the American flag over a strategic location where it flew for the next eleven days. Huntington later sent the flag to Colonel Commandant Charles Heywood informing him (Heywood) that, "[w]hen bullets were flying, ...the sight of the flag upon the midnight sky has thrilled our hearts."

Camp McCalla

July - August Question

On August 3, 1950, eight Corsair fighter planes launched from an escort carrier and carried out the first Marine aviation mission in the Korean War. The raid targeted enemy installations with incendiary bombs, rockets, and strafing runs near Inchon, Korea. What was the name of the escort carrier the planes took off from ?

- a) USS Sicily
- b) USS Bastogne
- c) USS Mindoro
- d) USS Paleu

Members Birthdays

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

JULY - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Jack C. Colleran, Norman M. Pepersack, Jr., Walter S. Cwik, Michael Gordon, Jr., George P. Adams, Don B. Reier, Edward C. Mattson, Jr., Robert R. Staab, John E. Renzo, Charles W. Hilton, Jr., James A. Scott Alfonso V. Cahill, Gerald D. Wilson, Jr. Frederick M. Kellner, III. and Nefertiti Winters

AUGUST - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Hugh H. Mills, Jr., Wayne C. Yealdhall, Martin M. Lynch, Diamond G. Kimos, Loy L. O'Berry, Byron E. Milam, Audie B. Gamble and Steven M. Sarmiento.

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.”

Independence Day and the Marine Corps

On 4 July 1776, the original 13 colonies asserted the independence of a new nation with the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Every year on the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the American people unite to celebrate “the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” that the founders of our great Nation risked everything to secure.

From the very early days of our Republic, the Marine Corps has cemented its role as America’s elite expeditionary force in readiness. Independence Day to a Marine is not just about parades and barbeques, it’s a time to reflect on what it means to serve, and how we can incorporate the Marines Corps core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment into this day.

Honor – honor the founders, as well as the Marines who fought and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our liberty and freedoms. Courage – have the courage to act against those who seek to do us harm. Commitment – stay committed in your service, to your fellow Marines, your family, and the people of this great country. As Marines, we remain vigilant and ready to defend our liberties and freedoms when the Nation calls.

This year’s celebration will look a little different. As our nation begins to reopen, opportunities to participate in traditional 4th of July celebrations may become accessible. Continue to be on guard to the health hazards we face and follow established guidelines throughout this holiday period.

To all Marines, Sailors, and families, I wish you all a happy 4th of July.

Semper Fidelis,

*General David H. Berger
U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps*