

**Marine Corps League  
Baltimore Detachment #565**



1426 East Fort Avenue (#17 Fire House)  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-5247  
Phone: 410-547-7699  
<http://www.mclbaltimore.org>  
email: [mclbaltimore@hotmail.com](mailto:mclbaltimore@hotmail.com)



**BALTIMORE**

**GUNG HO**



*Earl Ruff, Jr.\* Commandant*

*March - April 2017 \* Vol. 21, No. 2 \* Stuart Blair Editor*

***Vietnam Era Veterans Honored***

In recognition of a chapter in our Nation's history that must never be forgotten, let us renew our sacred commitment to those who answered our country's call in Vietnam and those who awaited their safe return. The Federal Government has partnered with local governments, private organizations, and communities across America to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War—a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced. While no words will ever be fully worthy of their service, nor any honor truly befitting their sacrifice, let us remember that it is never too late to pay tribute to the men and women who answered the call of duty with courage and valor. Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned.

On 27 January at the Baltimore Detachment meeting, John Henkel, DoD Veterans Advocacy Representative in a Vietnam Era Veteran Commemorative Ceremony, acknowledged 20 veterans who served in that era. Veterans who were unable to participate were acknowledged also.



***Maryland Veterans Legislative Day***

9 February: Representatives from Maryland VSO's met in Annapolis at the Miller Senate Office Building for the first Annual Maryland Veterans Day. Hosted by Delegate C. T. Wilson, Chairman Veterans Caucus.

MDVA speakers presented topics on Veterans Workforce Development and Center for Veterans Education.

Following the presentation, we navigated to the State Central Building, sitting in General Assembly sessions while being introduced as testimonial VSO representatives for the many veteran bills proposed.

After returning to the senate office building for lunch, we were addressed by MDVA Secretary George Owings III. A discussion followed on the activity of the veteran bills proposed. Two of the bills discussed are stated here. Stuart Blair, PDC, Commissioner MVC represented the Marine Corps League.

**Military Retiree Tax Relief**

Governor Hogan's Proposed Legislation Would Exempt Military Retirees From State Income Tax On Their Military Retirement Income. "The extent included in federal adjusted gross income, the amounts under this section are subtracted from the federal adjusted gross income of a resident to determine Maryland adjusted gross income... All military retirement income received by an individual during a taxable year beginning after December 31, 2019." ("Senate Bill 321," Maryland General Assembly, 1/20/17)

Senate Bill 579

**POW / MIA Flag**

This bill requires the Secretary of General Services and Secretary of Transportation to cause the POW/MIA flag to be flown on the grounds of all state Buildings under their control whenever the U.S. flag is flown.



### ***Commandant Earl Ruff, Jr. Honored Marine of the Year***

The Baltimore Detachment Marine of the Year Award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a regular member of the Marine Corps League. Earl Ruff, Jr. recipient of this award was nominated by the Marines who know him best; the Marines of this detachment and selected by the Past Marine of the Year Committee. As the new Marine of the Year, Earl was introduced and honored at the detachment meeting 24 February.

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

His 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 Marine*

### **Commandant's Message**

Greetings Marines,

The New Year got off to a good start as members turned out to take down and pack away the Christmas decoration for the year. A big thanks goes out to those members who came out.

On February 5 a good time was had by all at the Super Bowl party held at the detachment home. There was plenty of good food and desert and plenty of fun cheering on the favorite team (Atlanta Eagles) even though they lost. Associate Member Chad was the happy member cheering for the winning team (New England). Maybe next year we'll get to cheer for the home town team the Ravens.

During the month of January and February I attended two Eagle Scout Court of Honor. On Sunday Jan. 15 I presented the Good Citizenship Award to Eagle Scout Robert Soucy of Troop #97. This Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held at the Chapel at Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore. On Sun Feb 26 I presented the Good Citizenship Award to Eagle Scout Henry Riggs O'Connor of Troop #927. This Court of Honor was held at Idlewyde United Methodist Church.

I received a request this month from the Social Worker at Genesis Cromwell Center; she is trying to reach out to members of the Marine Corps League to visit with Veterans at the center. I'm asking for volunteers who can provide visitation either weekly or monthly. We're also looking for volunteers for BINGO at the V.A. Hospital in Baltimore.

Along with volunteers, we're still trying to recruit new members so that our detachment can continue our mission of providing assistance and services for fellow Marines and Military Veterans.

*S/F  
Earl Ruff, Jr.,  
Commandant*

## **Sr. Vice Commandant's Message**

Greetings,

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Happy Valentine's Day by sharing it with loved ones, family and friends. Fortunately the snow bypassed us so that we could get out and celebrate in style. Now we are preparing for Saint Patrick's Day where we will enjoy corned beef with cabbage and green beer. In addition to these days of celebration, we will be celebrating Easter and we ask that you remember our veterans who are still serving our country and their families.

For the 2017 Toys for Tots Program, we want to expand our request for donation area by sending letters to the local businesses in the area in our with the hopes of making the businesses aware of our Detachment and what we do while gaining more participants to donate to our program.

We are fast approaching the time to honor our elementary, middle school and ROTC students. It will be great to see who the top students are this year and we hope that more Detachment members will join us at the Graduation Ceremony. We are in the process of coming up with some events which may help us raise funds that will support these types of projects and we hope you will join us in our endeavors.

The Loch Raven Assisted Living Facility is still looking for volunteers. So if you have a few hours to spare and want to do something different, visit the facility and talk to some of the veterans. Our veterans enjoy talking to visitors and volunteers; you might be surprised at how much you enjoy visiting the facility. Many of us are in numerous organizations and we know that going into March 2017, there have been a lot of calls and e-mails about "Marine Down" or "Sad News". Please remember those families who have lost their loved ones and contact them sometimes to let them know that they are not forgotten.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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

## **Jr. Vice Commandant Message**

Greeting Marines,

The weather is getting warmer, by the day. The days are growing longer, with more daylight, to get things done. Most of us will be out and about a lot more. Let's take advantage of the long overdue coming of Spring and renew our recruiting practice. Marines always seem to sport more branch of service gear than any other military members. We always seem to show a bit more pride in our days in boots, the Eagle, Globe and Anchor catches the eye of a lot of people, young and old, male and female, who willingly "thank us for our service".

Even more welcome are the greetings of Semper Fi when another Marine vet spots your USMC cap, tee shirt or bumper sticker, your license plate. That's our cue. Jump right on it. I always return the greeting, adding my own Semper Fi or Oorah and if time permits. I engage in a bit of conversation. Simple topic things, like when did you get out. Based on the apparent age of the person, I'm talking to, I ask about their service, WWII, Korea, Vietnam or Sandbox duty. Most are more than willing to spend a few minutes reminiscing about their years, in the Corps and best or worst duty stations. This is our opportunity to talk up our Detachment, pound our chest about our history museum, our excellent meeting hall and encourage them to drop by, on that 4th Friday of the month. And if, the greeter is a woman, we can brag about the Women's Auxiliary and their role in the Detachment. Or when they are Army, Navy or Air Force, invite them just the same. Or a parent or grandparent invite them also, as supporter of young family members who are now in the Corps, as Associate Members. Some of our strongest members are Associate Members, just because they respect the Corps or they miss the camaraderie of folks who share a common experience of military service. Let's all take advantage of every greeting, meeting, opportunity to spread the word and add to the Baltimore Detachment membership.

Semper Fi

*Ray Vaughn  
JVC*



## Chaplain's Report

## Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service

Spring is upon us. Trees and flowers will bloom in their own good time. Man also is affected by the change of season. Let's see what the Bard has to say about the feelings of man...

### William Shakespeare Sonnet 116

*Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds.  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark.  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me prov'd,  
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.*

### Senper Fi Prayer

Remember our sick in your thoughts and prayers for Dorothy White, Charles Luthardt, Roose Nippard, Jack Dickerson, Diamond Kemos, Bill Wheeler, Dominic Naples, Irv Becker. Fran Miller, Ceil Handschuh and Kathy DeVage wife of Glen DeVage, Bill Wells, Howard and Rosemary Koontz, 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

---

### A Prayer for Military Families

*Dear Lord,  
Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the men and women who serve our country, and for the sacrifices their families make so that we can all enjoy the blessing of freedom. We praise you for calling them to help protect us, and for giving them the courage and ability to do their jobs well. Guide their choices and their actions, Lord. Help them to see you working in their daily lives, whether in the field, at home, or abroad. Surround them with your mighty angels; protect them in your mercy; cover them with your grace. Guard their hearts while they are far from loved ones, and bless them with moments to cherish when they are together. Hold these families close, Lord. May they look to You for the strength and peace that only You can give.  
Amen*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing Veterans with quality, safe and compassionate health care in a timely manner. To that end, we are amending provider regulations to permit full practice authority to three roles of VA advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and certification, regardless of State restrictions that limit such full practice authority, except for applicable State restrictions on the authority to prescribe and administer controlled substances, when such APRNs are acting within the scope of their VA employment.

“Advanced practice registered nurses are valuable members of VA’s health care system,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Amending this regulation increases our capacity to provide timely, efficient, effective and safe primary care, aids VA in making the most efficient use of APRN staff capabilities, and provides a degree of much needed experience to alleviate the current access challenges are affecting VA.”

The proposed rule stated that VA would grant full practice authority to the four APRN roles. Though VA does have some localized issues, we do not have immediate and broad access challenges in the area of anesthesia care across the full VA health care system that require full practice authority for all Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Therefore, VA will not finalize the provision including CRNAs in the final rule as one of the APRN roles that may be granted full practice authority at this time. However, VA CRNAs that are granted full practice authority by their state license will continue to practice in VA in accordance with their state license and subject to credentialing and privileging by their VA medical facility’s medical executive committee. VA will not restrict or eliminate these CRNAs’ full practice authority.

VA will request comment on the question of whether there are current anesthesia care access issues for particular states or VA facilities and whether permitting CRNAs to practice to the full extent of their advanced authority would resolve these issues.

“CRNAs provide an invaluable service to our Veterans,”

S/F,  
Gary Roundtree, Sr.  
VAVS Representative



## Auxiliary

Reaching Further . . .  
. . . Touching More



Greetings,

Nila Caulder and Rosemary Koontz represented the Baltimore Unit at the Department of Maryland MCLA meeting held in Centerville MD on January 21, 2017. The Department President, Judy Horensky shared important information which will affect the entire membership both on the Department of Maryland level and every member that belongs to the Baltimore unit.

The next Department of Maryland MCLA meeting will be held Antietam/Hagerstown on March 25, 2017. Other important upcoming meetings are as follows: National Mid-Winter Conference March 2-4 Fredericksburg, VA, Department of Maryland Convention, May 11 – 13, Ocean City, MD and the Mid-East Division Conference, June 23-25, Durham NC.

President Horensky reminds everyone to read the on-line National Newsletter and discuss the information contained in the issues with the members during the monthly unit meeting.

President Horensky emphasized the importance of each unit having regular monthly meetings, even if the unit President is unable to attend. All officers should have a designated backup if the principal person is unable to attend the meeting. She requested that the Unit Secretaries of the local units send the minutes out to the members as soon as possible after the meetings, with copies sent to the Department and National Secretaries.

At the March 25<sup>th</sup> Spring MCLA department meeting at Hagerstown MD, plans will be made for the hospitality rooms at the annual Ocean City convention. Chris Fay offered to prepare raffle baskets for the Ocean City convention. She asked that every member of every unit consider donating items with a Marine Corps theme which can be used for the baskets, and brought to the Hagerstown meeting so she has time to make the baskets ready for the raffle. If the member cannot attend the March meeting, their donation should be collected / brought to the meeting.

At the next Department of Maryland MCLA Quarterly meeting at Hagerstown, we will be discussing the upcoming election of officers at the Department level. President Horensky will not be able to hold the office of President next year. The only officers unable to hold two positions are President and Judge Advocate. She asked that each member consider taking a turn at holding an office, and making a commitment to understand their job description(s). She suggested that a committee be formed to prepare job description orientation materials for new officers to ensure a smooth transfer of positions.

Karen Grady is the new secretary for the MCLA at the new MCL headquarters in Quantico Virginia. She is working with National President Aune to get our new office organized.

Ms. Jean Austin of St. Martin's House in Ridgley MD. gave a presentation outlining the works of St. Martin's Ministries. St. Martin's House is a transitional residence and sometimes provides a sheltered environment for women and children in need. The Baltimore unit donated a \$25.00 gift certificate to Wal Mart and \$45.00 of goods purchased from the facilities wish list.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Rosemary Koontz, Senior Vice President*

To contact the Baltimore MCL Auxiliary Unit  
EMAIL [mcl565aux@gmail.com](mailto:mcl565aux@gmail.com)

## Military Order of the Devil Dogs

The Fun and Honor Society  
of the Marine Corps League



Woof woof,

Things are starting to pick up in Dogdom. If you were at the Department meeting in January you heard of the great success the League did during the Toys for Tots 2016 campaign. A huge success. Thanks to all who participated.

The Pack had a good growl last month raising \$148.00 for the kids, but we must do better if we want to stay number one in the Kennel.

Pound 204 just held another successful Growl raising \$325.00 for the kids.

he Pound has picked up a new Dog Chef who did a super job with breakfast for all those hungry Dogs.

We still have two 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.

All Pups remember that you must attend two Pound Growls in the year prior to the Grand Growl in May if you want to advance to DD. If you haven't attended a Pound Growl this year, it is already too late to be advanced to DD as we only have one Growl left prior to the Grand Growl on 12 May.

The next Pack Growl will be on 25 March at the American Legion Post in Williamsport, Maryland. DDs planning to advance to PDD must attend two Pack Growls in the year prior to advancement. There are two Pack Growl left prior to the Supreme Growl in August.

The next Pound Growl will be on 9 April.

**Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog**

Woof woof,

*PDD Paul Taylor*  
*Dog Robber*

## Noteworthy

### 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

### Detachment Home Maintenance

- Window was repaired in the Auxiliary's Meeting Room by removing both channel slide assemblies and repairing one and replacing the other. A jamming problem was also corrected so the window will completely close.
- One of the two spotlights for the flags atop the front of the building became misdirected and was corrected. Also, one of the halogen tube bulbs was burned out and replaced. (These operations are not as easy as they sound.)
- The heating/air handler system has been giving us problems. A technician was brought in to work on the matter, but the situation hasn't been resolved as of this writing.
- General house cleaning and various maintenance is an on-going necessity that requires help from whomever will come to the building and volunteer their time. The few old timers on the building committee are not getting any younger and sure will be grateful for all the help they can get. (Don't take them for granted.) The building is open between 9AM and 12 Noon Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

### 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 @ 443-627-3487 or Chuck Hilton @ 410-547-7699

## Detachment Programs

### Detachment Member Assist / VA Hosp Bingo Pick Three Lottery Calendar Fundraiser

**The 2017 fund raiser forms are still available !**

We are hoping you will take at least one from the mailing and/or pick up more at the detachment. Mail them back with your check as soon as possible in 2017. Remember the numbers a good throughout the year whenever you submit the form.

*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*

### **2016 Pick Three Calendar Monthly Winners**

#### December;

12/01/16	Zack Smith	#420	\$25.00
12/09/16	Carol Shea	#481	\$25.00
12/15/16	Marie Smit	#435	\$25.00
12/23/16	Mary Burns	#888	\$25.00
12/26/16	Jack Hansen	#913	\$25.00

Total sales for the 2016 Calendar Fund amounted to \$4,320.00. During the calendar year the fund had seventy-five (75) winners and paid out \$2,315.00. In addition the fund had expenses of \$195.00 for printing and Postage of \$35.00 for a surplus of \$1,775.00 which is designated for the General Fund.

### **2017 Pick Three Calendar Monthly Winners**

#### January

01/02/17	Marlin Johnson	#974	\$25.00
01/04/17	Betty Thompson	#405	\$25.00
01/11/17	Pattie Robinson	#115	\$25.00
01/12/17	Tara Cutello	#271	\$25.00
01/16/17	James L. Davis	#493	\$25.00
01/18/17	Vince & Ellen Cerniglia	#154	\$25.00
01/27/17	Andy Lynch	#550	\$25.00
01/30/17	John Cook	#223	\$25.00

There were eight (8) winners in the month of January. All won \$25.00 for a total payout of \$200.00.

### VA Medical Center BINGO

#### **Tuesday 3 January and 7 February 2017**

Patients at the Center enjoyed the games, prizes and refreshments provided by the Detachment and Auxiliary. Marines Marian James and Ray Vaughn were able to add to the setting with their presence.

## 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 January / February Question

In January 1991 the first serious ground fighting of Operation Desert Storm broke out when Iraqi troops mounted an attack on a port city six miles south of the Saudi border. The 1st Marine Division and attack helicopters and other allied coalition aircraft recaptured the town two days later. What was the name of this town ?

***Khafii***

### March / April Question

Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 with its Sikorsky UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon. What was the date?

- a) 22 March 1959
- b) 26 March 1961
- c) 15 April 1962
- d) 7 April 1963



*HMM - 362*

## Dates of Interest

- **March 7, 1951**  
The 1st, 7th and 11th Marine Regiments Commenced operations against the enemy at Hongcheon, Korea.
- **March 17, 1918**  
The 5th Marine Regiment was the first Marine unit to move into WW I front line trenches.
- **March 23, 2003**  
The deadly Battle of Nasiriyah was joined in the Iraq war.
- **March 26, 1944**  
Marines of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landed on Kili Island and Namorik Atoll, Marshall Islands.
- **April 5, 2004**  
Units from I MEF launched Operation Vigilant Resolve in Fallujah, Iraq.
- **April 11, 1904**  
One officer and twenty enlisted became the first Marines to garrison Midway Island.
- **April 19, 1778**  
Marines participated in USS Ranger's capturing and sinking of a British schooner off Ireland.
- **April 27, 1805**  
Lt. Presley O'Bannon raised the American flag over Derna, Tripoli.

## Members Birthdays

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

### MARCH – BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Matt Eddins, Jr., Donald J. Perkins, 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, Roger A. Dietrich and Michael A. Lewis.

### APRIL - BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATIONS

Thomas F. Petty, John L. Voigt, Robert S. Funk, Bernard A. Balog, 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](mailto:thistleman@verizon.net)**

**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."*

*Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Flag*

