

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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BALTIMORE
GUNG HO



*May - June 2023 * Vol. 27, No.3 * Editor Stuart Blair*

In Memoriam of Associate Member Bobbie Dixon Hawkins * 8 April 2023

Commadant's Message

Greeting Marines,

Well Spring is here and this Spring a chance to return to the outdoors. For the Green Thumbs out there it's time to visit those flower bed, began turning that soil adding some peat moss and getting seeds and new plants in the ground. For some this will be a welcome change after the COVID virus shut down. Some like me will be able to dust off their canoe and kayaks and get back to the water along with boaters who will be scrubbing decks and checking supplies preparing for a nice day trip. If you're able check out the State and Federal Parks, a great way to discover the great outdoors. As Veterans the State and Federal Governments offer life time passes for federal and state parks. For federal parks there is the Interagency Military Lifetime Pass which can be purchased at the U.S. Government Store (store.usgs.gov/military-pass). For use at state parks there is Maryland State Park Golden Age Pass which can be purchased at the Maryland Department of Natural Resource Outdoor Store (shopdnr.com/goldenagepass.aspx).

It's hoped that you can plan your visits around your attendance of Department of Maryland Annual Convention in Ocean City May 11th thru the 13th. There are some great sights to be found on the Eastern Shore. In June there will be the Mid East Division Conference June 22nd thru 24th in Pikesville Maryland. The Gettysburg Battlefield National Park is a reasonable drive and great park to explore. Then head west for the Marine Corps League National Convention August 14th thru 18th in Oklahoma City.

This year celebrating the Marine Corps League's 100th Anniversary. Come celebrate the long history of the Marine Corps League and along the way discover some of our countries natural treasures and parks.

Memorial Day will be approaching May 29th and I hope we will have a good turnout for our Memorial Day Ritual to pay our respects to those who did not return from battle.

This summer there is hope that we will have more members stopping by the detachment home a.k.a. The Firehouse not just for a monthly meetings and building maintenance but to initiate some new activities and socialize with each other. Our detachment is lucky enough to have our own home, complete with a small museum and we need to come together and make use of it and begin to interact with the community. Let's see if we can make a difference this year by recruiting some new faces and becoming an active group in the Locust Point community.

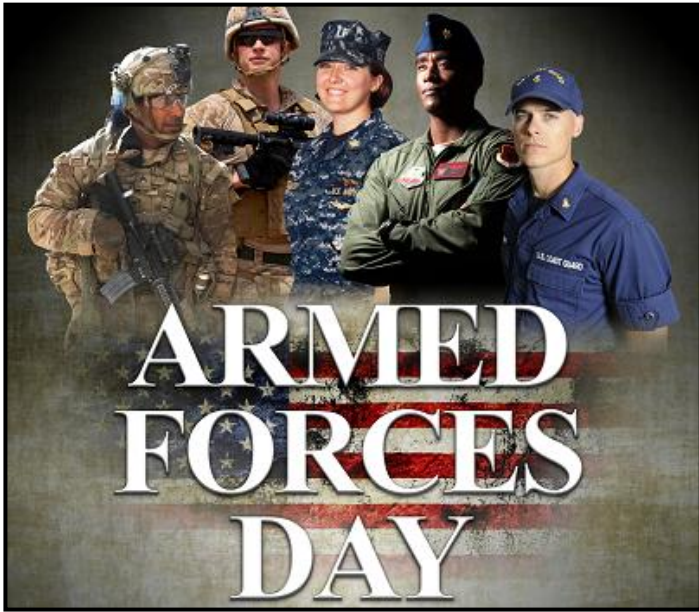
Semper Fi
Earl Ruff

Coming Soon

2023 Mideast Division Conference

2023 Mideast Division Annual Convention will be held June 23/24, 2023 at the Doubletree by Hilton Baltimore North, Pikesville, MD 21208. Phone (410) 653-1100. Please mention our event when booking your room. Rooms must be reserved by 05/24/2023. Room rates are \$119 per night. There is complimentary WiFi in the guest rooms and banquet rooms.

There will be a banquet on Saturday night and we plan to keep the cost below \$50. However, we have not settled on a menu. Expect an update as we get closer to the event date. We do have a hospitality area, but are not allowed to bring our own alcohol or major food items. However, there will be Sodas, Water, and snacks.



Saturday 20 May 2023

Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. Thanks to President Harry S. Truman, it's a day to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces. President Truman led the effort to establish a holiday in order for citizens to unite and honor our military heroes for their patriotic service in support of the United States of America.

Armed Forces Day USA will be celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 2023.

We like to think every day is Armed Forces Day. We are grateful for the service and sacrifices of those men and women who have put the uniform on to protect and defend the freedoms of Our Country.

Each year, Armed Forces Day has a new theme. The very first theme was "Teamed for Defense." Over the years, other themes have included Appreciation of a Nation; Arsenal of Freedom and Democracy; Dedication and Devotion; Deter if Possible, Fight if Necessary; Freedom; Freedom Through Unity; Guardians of Peace; Lasting Peace; Liberty; and Patriotism.

Thank you very much for your service! Thank you for your time, bravery, and sacrifice for this country. We are forever grateful for the you've done to maintain America's freedom.

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Greetings, Marines,

It's Spring and we are looking forward to the great weather and the opportunity to get out and about, relax and enjoy the season. As always, we encourage the membership to actively recruit new members for the Detachment. It's just as important to check on members we have not seen during the colder, messy winter and urge them to come on out to upcoming meetings and events. The power of the Detachment is our shared love for our Corps and our devotion to Marine Corps League goals in general. All the things we need and want to do require a united effort from each of us. Recently, we built inroads with the 4th CEB's new Commanding Officer at the Battalion Change of Command ceremony and the new OIC welcomes a closer association with the Detachment. If that happens, we should embrace the chance to recruit and retain any and all new members from the 4th CEB. Our aging and declining membership declares a serious need for new people, ideas and energy to keep us strong and viable in the community. It will be a big boost to enjoy the experience of connecting us Old Corps Marines and the vibrant energy of the younger Marines. The bond between Old Corps and the Modern Corps benefits all of us in multiple ways.

Semper Fidelis is not just a slogan, it is a mission.

Ray Vaughn, JVC

Recruiting new members:

If you want to recruit Marines,. you need to go. where marines are'. American Legion. VFW / DAV. VA system. local vet council. recruiters. Reserve centers.

What to say . . .

"Become active in the Marine Corps League and you can make a difference! Here is a link to the National Recruitment Form."



Semper Fi Prayer Circle

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

We Give Thanks

Supreme Commandant, we give thanks and remember that each day we waken rested. We remember those who pray for a one night's sleep without nightmares. We give thanks that for each step we take with our legs; there are those who have sacrificed their mobility. We give thanks that for each vision we see, every time we are able to look at our loved ones, have the ability to revel in their joy. There are those returning without sight and will never see their loved one's smile.

Most of all, we give thanks that we are blessed. Blessed to be a part of a nation that is so prosperous. Blessed that we have our families and shelter and food. We are also blessed to have the ability to pray for ourselves that we have the strength and courage to maintain our awareness of our brother's sacrifice — to give to our community in any way we can — as they are giving in service to their call. This is our duty — to give thanks, to pray, to remember. Amen

Taps

Sandra Blum, 14 March 2023, former Auxiliary member, wife of Marine Michael Blum. Former Associate member Bobbie Dixon Hawkins, 8 April 2023 were called by the Supreme Commandant. May they rest in peace and that his survivors attain peace during their grieving process.

Sick / Distressed

Prayers go to those on our "Sick and Distress Marian James, Will Priest, Nelson Dickerson, and Rose Mary Koontz.

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*

MCL Baltimore Honors Fallen Marine

22 April 2023

Holly Hills Memorial Gardens, Middle River

Baltimore Detachment 565 assisted in a graveside burial of Marine Pvt Robert Bruce Lloyd, 8th Marines Marine Lloyd was a member of Anne Arundel Co. Detachment 1049,

Family and friends were in attendance.

Participating in the last rites ceremony was firefighter Lt Harwell, son-in-law from North Carolina, with Howard Koontz, as the ceremonial speaker, along with Harry Hierstetter playing taps. The colors were presented to Marine Lloyd's wife.



Memorial Day: Honoring Those Who Died in Military Service

Memorial Day, which is celebrated on the last Monday in May, honors service members who have died in military service to the nation. The holiday has roots dating back to the post-Civil War era, when citizens would informally place spring flower memorials on the graves of fallen soldiers.

Memorial Day was first observed as Decoration Day on May 30, 1868. On that day, people decorated the graves of the Civil War soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Throughout American history, brave service members have loved our country so deeply that they were willing to risk their lives to defend the land we love and the freedoms we believe everyone should have.

Detachment Home Dispatch

Maintenance

The T-Mobile has replaced their equipment in the attic and is waiting for a part and some rewiring to complete the work.

Big thanks to Jon Dewar and Dave Bednar, one of his employee, for their help and the use of Jon's trucks, along with Milton Hazzard, Earl Ruff, Ernie Disney and Pat Davis in cleaning out the basement. The old metal and piping was sold for scrap. Upon returning from the recycling site the detachment provided a pizza lunch.

We are currently working with Baltimore City Department of Public Works to find out why our water use has skyrocketed in the last two months (Feb. & March).

Milton Hazzard has completed moving the old lumber stored in the 2nd floor kitchen to the first floor. To be taken to the city dump later this month.

With warmer weather coming help will be needed to install the new AC window unit in the museum area.

Milton, Ernie, and few others have been taking care of the general maintenance to keep the firehouse clean and in good shape for the upcoming rentals.

Please consider helping us with any of our upcoming projects around the firehouse, just three hours or so on Wednesday or Saturday between 9 am and 12 noon.

Ernie

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.

Mission BBQ Honors Armed Forces Week

At MISSION BBQ, we make Armed Forces Day a very special day and we are excited to celebrate Our Heroes all week long. To conclude the week, as a small gesture of appreciation, all Veterans and Active Duty Military are able to come back to Our Restaurant to receive a Free Sandwich on Saturday, May 20th from 11am-2pm as part of our Armed Forces Day Lunch with the Heroes. At Noon, we will have a live version of the National Anthem in our parking lot and we will recognize all members of the Armed Forces present.

It would be our privilege to SERVE you.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me! Spread the word! Our Team cannot wait to serve Our Heroes!

Proudly Serving Those Who Serve,

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof, woof,

Marines at Belleau Wood were called "Teufelshunde" or "Devil Dogs" by their German opponents. The nickname endures today as part of the Marine Corps' legacy.

Today, the name lives on and is a testament to the legacy of the Marine Corps. This legacy lives on through the contribution of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs to the children of America.

Coming Soon

GATHERING OF THE DOGS

Host Midwest Division MODD

Sheraton Westport Chalet

5-7 Oct. 2023 191 Westport Plaza,
Maryland Heights, Missouri 63146

Details: Jul / August Gung Ho NL

Schedule

Merlin Pack Grand Growl

*Dept. of Maryland Convention

Ocean City, MD

Friday 12 May

Vice Supreme Growl

Mideast Division Conference

Baltimore, MD

Friday 23 June

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

Woof woof,

PDD Stuart Blair

Barking Dog

MCL Scouts BSA Award Program

"On My Honor"



*Scouting . . .
Eagle Scout for Life*

The Marine Corps League Good Citizenship award was designed to congratulate and give recognition to members of the **SCOUTS BSA** who have fulfilled the requirements and obtained the highest award in their respective Scouting organization, Scouts, and to have the Eagle Scout become aware of the skills that he/she has mastered to become an Eagle Scout are also held in very high regards by the Marine Corps and Corporations throughout the United States. As such, the BSA and the MCL are a team working together to initiate a plan of mutual support to foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism among America's youth.

Good Citizenship Awards Presented

In the past two months there have been (6) six presentations of the GCA by the Baltimore Detachment.

***NOTE**

If you know of or part of a Scout BSA Troop in your area, inform the Scout leaders of the MCL Eagle Scout Award Program. Access on line @ Marine Corps League, Dept. of Maryland or Contact me: Phone 410-665-6440
Email: thistleman@verizon.net

Stuart Blair, Chairman
BSA Eagle Scout Awards Program, MCL



Cmdt. Earl Ruff & MCL Scout BSA Liaison Stuart Blair presents MCL Good Citizenship Award to Ryan Cummings, Scout BSA Troop 124, Kingsville
16 April 2023

Auxiliary

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



Greetings,

"BE THE ONE"

Our auxiliary unit is in need of a new president for the coming fiscal year, as I must step down because of health reasons. We have tried to contact all our members to ask for help. We need someone to become president or we will have to turn in our charter to National headquarters. Its your turn to step up Now.

We have our next 2 meetings planned and then we will have to close if we do not have a new president. PLEASE!! Contact Joan Hansen at 410-647-3877 if you can "BE THE ONE!"

Our next meeting we will be making soft fleece tie blankets to donate to a Veterans' hospital. The ideas and material for this project was donated by our member Debbie Shives. We hope our members Will come and help

God bless America,

*Joan Hansen
President*

MCLA Dept. of Maryland Staff Meeting 25 March 2023

The MCLA Dept. of MD Staff Meeting was held at Hosted by Garrett County Detachment 1234 Proctor Kildow American Legion Post, Oakland, MD with the leadership of Dept. President Mary Lee Kolich.

Apparently the new MCL unit that is being formed in the OC area is called the 'Peacekeepers' and they have lots of questions for Joe Fay about fundraising and interpreting their national rules. That's the end of my intelligence (?????). See you in OC.

Coming Dept. Events:

Dept. of MD Convention * 11-13 May

Midwest Division Conference

* Hosted by Dept. of Maryland * 23-24 June

**Details of events – Calendar of Events



Maryland Veterans Commission

VA Benefits * Supplemental

MDVA Offers Assistance with Benefits Questions and Filing Claims for Compensation & Pension

Recently, the MDVA Service & Benefits staff assisted the widow of a Vietnam War Veteran obtain her long overdue Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits. The Veteran applied for compensation benefits during his lifetime, because of an illness he suffered related to exposure to the defoliant, Agent Orange. However, because he was stationed in Thailand, he was not awarded compensation by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs before he passed away.

After the United States Congress passed the PACT Act, and the President signed the legislation into law, the widow attended the Claims Clinic and PACT Act Information Fair held at the Perry Point VA Medical Center. A MDVA Benefits Specialist assisted her in filing a claim, because under the PACT Act, Veterans who served in Thailand, Laos and some other locations are now considered eligible to file claims for compensation related to Agent Orange exposure. Not only was she awarded a monthly benefit of more than \$1,800 per month, she also received a retroactive monetary payment of over \$100,000.

If you are considering filing a claim for compensation benefits, the MDVA Service & Benefits staff stand ready to help you and there is never a charge for MDVA assistance with claims. It is a free benefit provided to you as a Veteran in Maryland.

Request a VA Home Loan Certificate of Eligibility

If you're interested in a VA direct or VA-backed home loan, the first step is to access a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). VA home loans help Veterans, active-duty service members, and eligible survivors to buy, build, improve, or refinance a home with little or no down payment. Request your COE online with a new user-friendly portal on VA.gov.

New VALife Program

VA's newest life insurance program, Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife), increases access to life insurance for more service-connected Veterans than ever before. Enrollment for VALife opened on Jan. 1, 2023, for Veterans age 80 or under with any level of service-connected disability (0-100%). Veterans age 81 or over may also qualify if they meet certain conditions.

In most cases, VALife premium rates are competitive with, or better than, similar private sector guaranteed acceptance programs. VALife rates will not increase for the life of the policy and are not based on medical conditions. Instead, rates are based on a Veteran's age upon enrollment and the coverage amount selected. Learn more about VALife coverage and how to apply today!

MVC Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday 18 April 2023 the Maryland Veterans Commission held the Spring quarterly meeting at Veterans Service Center, Frederick, MD. in person and by phone with 24 Commissioners representing VSOs and congressional districts, representing the Marine Corps League was Commissioner Stuart Blair, PDC and Bernadine Blair PDP and MCLA PP Bernadine Blair.

Military Veterans legislation which passed the Maryland General Assembly 2023 session announced by Secretary Anthony Woods is available by contacting Stuart Blair, Email: thistleman@verizon.net

Updates of the following were reported by Secretary Anthony Woods

Maryland Veterans Trust Fund Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Update on the Second Veterans Home:

- Sykesville completion 2026
- Construction cost \$180,000,000

Service and Benefits Program Presentations

- Military Veterans / Families Service Assistance, Platoon 22
Presenter: Niki Falcone
- Shepherd Pratt Veterans Services
Presenter Jeff Nash / Josh Lubin

***Detailed information by Contacting Commissioner Stuart Blair. thistleman@verizon.net**

Sub Committee Report

Homeless Veterans Resources

NOTE:

All topics presented here are available in detail
Contact Stuart Blair: thistleman@verizon.net

Next MVC meeting will be Tuesday 18 July 2023
Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic, 1420 Spring St., Silver Spring, MD..

S/F,
Stuart Blair
Commissioner, MCL

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 March - April Question

On April 5, 1947, five Marine guards were killed and eight more were wounded during an attack by Communist Chinese forces near the ammunition depot in northern China. This was the last major clash between the 1st Marine Division and Communist Chinese forces and occurred just four days after the 1st Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing had received their withdrawal and redeployment plans from China. What was the name of the ammunition depot ?

Hsin Ho

May - June Question

On June 10, 1898, the First Marine Battalion landed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The next day, Lieutenant Herbert Draper raised the American flag over Camp McCalla where it flew for the next eleven days.

Who commanded the First Marine Battalion ?

- a) Lt Col George W. Collier
- b) Lt Col Robert Huntington
- c) Lt Col John H. Higbee
- d) Lt Col George F. Elliott

Members Birthdays

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

MAY - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Evert Sarapik, Donald G. Downer, Jr., Gerald W. Brown, Charles J. Luthardt, Jr., Bruce A. Rund, Jr., Irvin L. Becker, Jay R. Tallent, Michael L. Hess, Kevin E. Wesner, Jr., Daniel A. Everett and Theron Lamb.

JUNE - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Charles W. Stickles, Franklin V. Brown, Stuart P. Blair, John M. Clarkson, Walter J. Alston, Sr., John W. Hierstetter, Michael R. Smith, Philip J. Simmonds, Brian R. Hunter and Anthony Jackson.

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 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 calendar fund winners for the month of January 2023 are listed below:

01/10	Robert C. Kennick	#832	\$25.00
01/11	26 slips received		+\$520.00
01/12	Robert Lockart	#455	\$25.00
01/14	Marie Frederick	#553	\$25.00
01/16	Jason J. Vaughn	#493	\$25.00
01/14	Bernadina Blair	#406	\$25.00
01/21	John Nelson	#880	\$25.00
01/23	Jean Ingram	#961	\$25.00
01/26	Joseph Schvimnier	#870	\$25.00
01/27	7 Slips received		+\$140.00

The fund had (8) eight winners, all won \$25.00 resulting in a payout Of \$200.00 leaving a balance in the fund at end of January 22023 of \$5,060.00.

The calendar fund winners for the month of February 2023 are listed below:

02/02	Marck McClean	#516	\$25.00
02/04	Joan Hanson	#586	\$25.00
02/06	Jean Ingram	#931	\$25.00
02/20	Marine Thompson	#365	\$25.00
02/15	Pearl Kettles	#044	\$25.00
02/17	Marian James	#924	\$25.00
01/24	Philip J. Simmonds	#641	\$25.00
02/18	Jason J. Vaughn	#493	\$25.00
02/21	Jon M. Mekeal	#534	\$25.00
02/27	Michelle Hahn	#123	\$25.00

The fund had (10) ten winners all won \$25.00 resulting in a payout of \$240.00 leaving a balance in the fund at the end of February 2023 of \$4,810.00.

BALTIMORE
GUNG HO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
BALTIMORE DETACHMENT

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

Remembering Our Heroes

Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them. Our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay. Never throughout history has a man who lived a life of ease left a name worth remembering. Without memory, there is no culture.

We recognize the sacrifice of others who have gone before us. We stand upon their shoulders, on the broken appendages that these military heroes gave the ultimate sacrifice for us, Let us remember ____ Honor our heroes on Memorial Day.