

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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BALTIMORE

GUNG HO



Marian James. Commandant*

*September – October 2018 * Vol. 22, No. 5 * Stuart Blair Editor*

*In Memoriam of * Marine R. Edgar Nippard, 31 July 2018 * Marine Bernard Balog, 9 August 2018*

***MCL 95th National Convention
Buffalo, NY
13 – 17 August***

Drawing several hundred Marine Corps veterans from around the country, the 95th annual Marine Corps League National Convention began Monday in downtown Buffalo at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and continued through Saturday.

Raising of the Colors Ceremony opened the convention on Monday. Four days of business meetings followed with guest speakers, bylaws amendments introduced, debates, elections and presentations of awards.

Later on Monday the service of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains was offered.

Wednesday the MODD Supreme Growl was held with the announcement of the presentation of a check for \$40,000 presented to a Buffalo, NY children's hospital from funds donated by Devil Dogs across the country.

On Thursday, awards of achievement were presented with the *Baltimore Detachment Gung Ho Newsletter* awarded third place in the MCL National Newsletter Competition. .

The convention attendees were treated to various activities. It's included a variety of area restaurants as well as visits to Niagara Falls, County Fair Country Music Show, the Pierce Arrow Museum, and golf outings

The week's high point was Friday night's banquet. The event featured keynote speaker Gen. Robert Neller, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps

Representing the Baltimore Detachment were Marines Jack Colleran and Howard Koontz with Baltimore Auxiliary Unit representatives Joan Hansen and Rosemary Koontz,



Commandant's Message

Greetings,

First, we would like to say "Thank You" to the individual who placed a half page ad in The Baltimore Sun on August 6, 2018. Mom and I were both excited when we saw the ad and we hope that Marines who are not member of the League accept the invitation to join our Detachment. In my message below, which was completed prior to this ad, you might think that the person who placed this ad was reading my mind.

Many of us belong to more than one organization and we try to support them to the best of our abilities. Some of our members live in the vicinity of the Detachment while other members live out-of-state which hinders them from attending monthly meetings. We would like for the Baltimore Detachment to be the best that we can be in the support of fellow Marines, Children and Youth, Eagle Scouts, ROTC Programs and Scholarships. However, in order to be the best, we need the help of members in the area who are able to attend meetings and lend a hand. Many of our members have been working on League projects for years and they need the assistance of Marines and Associates who are able to provide them some relief.

Also, we need younger members so that they can help with the enhancement of our programs. Additionally, we need to take an interest in the community so that our neighbors can gain knowledge of the Marine Corps League and what we are all about; we can do this by getting publicity from local and community newspapers/bulletins. Please call me at 410-736-9673 or send an e-mail to me at ehpierce@comcast.net if you have any suggestions or want to volunteer to assist in our endeavors.

We are still having Bingo at the VA on Greene Street on the first Tuesday evening of the month so please call the above number if you are interested in volunteering. The patients enjoy Bingo and it provides us with an opportunity to network and have some fun and fellowship. Volunteers are still needed at the various VA facilities and the training classes begin in August so if you are interested in volunteering, please contact me via e-mail and I will send you an application.

In closing, the members would like to express their Sympathy to the families of our Adjutant Paul Taylor and Colonel Nippard who lost loved ones. Members of our Detachment are asked to work together for the enhancement of our Marine Corps League by attending meetings whenever possible and by obtaining members. We need the support of members who are able to attend meetings because we need a quorum to transact business. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marian C. James
Commandant*

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Greetings,

I'm hoping everyone is having an enjoyable and safe summer; I have been keeping busy with representing the detachment conducting the monthly bingo at the V.A. Hospital. The patients have really been very responsive and very appreciative for this evening of fun and relaxation. Volunteers are still needed to help with the evening when our present volunteers aren't able to be there.

On July 26th the Commandant and I was able to honor a request from a hospice Marine. Marine Bruce Harrington, was at University Medical System thru the V.A. Hospital and made a request to have Marines in uniform visit him. Unable to get active Marines at such short notice, the V.A. representative with the help of Gold Star Mother Janice Chance was able to reach out to us and get his request honored. The patient was sedated during our visit but did acknowledge our presents at least once. His wife who was present also was very grateful for our being able to be present. Pictures were taken for memory sake and along with a Lt. from the Prince Georges County Police department (with whom he had been employed with) we presented a hand salute. Bruce Harrington passed away a week later, hopefully satisfied that fellow Marines were to muster for his final days. "Semper Fi" Bruce Harrington rest in peace.

On Aug 11th and 12th the detachment conducted memorial services for Col R. Nipper and Marine Bernard Balog. The services went well and were very appreciated by both families. Many thanks to Chief of Staff Jack Colleran for getting the word out and to all the members who were able to attend.

At this time we are trying to make plans for a Marine Corps Birthday Party, such as the one held last year. The date will be Saturday Nov. 10th with tentative time being 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Looking for input on this time frame (agrees or disagrees). Also looking forward to suggestions for other activities that detachment members can become involved in.

S/F
Earl Ruff Jr
SVC

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Greeting Marines,

Labor Day Weekend has come and gone by the time you read this article. Summer is done; the squirrels have started storing away acorns for the winter. Most of us are cleaning those gutters, picking the last of our tomato crop, mowing our lawns for what should be the last cut of summer. I hope you had a chance to hit the Boardwalk in Ocean City or saunter through the exhibits, enjoy a few of the rides at the State Fair., with family and friends before the kids head back to the classroom.

I also hope you had the time and the opportunity to single out folks wearing Marine Corps caps, shirts or sporting USMC gear. If you did, I hope you did your best to introduce them to our Baltimore Detachment, Marine Corps League. A lot of folks won't give a second thought to joining the American Legion or VFW but their eyes light up when you mention a Marine Corps veteran's group. And so many vets have no idea that our organization even exists. I encountered a young man, late 40's, early 50's at the rifle range recently. He noticed my Marine Corps cap and started a conversation. He had been active duty, served in the Middle East and had also been a Marine Reservist, at 4th Engineer Battalion and had never heard of the Marine Corps League or the Baltimore Detachment. I quickly gave him info on our meeting date, location and hope to see him at our September meeting with an open invitation to stop by on the 4th Friday, of any month at 7:30 pm, to sit in on the meeting and enjoy a meal with us afterwards. And because he was at the rifle range, I filled him in on the Detachment Pistol and Rifle team. I hope that is the bait needed to draw him in. All vet organizations are suffering from failing membership and we need to seek any and every device we can muster to swell our ranks. I encourage each member, to be outgoing, friendly and welcoming towards potential new Leaguers. We are a stronger group when we are growing. Our numbers are our strength.

Semper Fi.
Ray Vaughn
Jr. Vice Commandant

Chaplain's Corner

Father, in the name of Jesus, I pray for those who have been taken captive in war. Give them the courage to persevere and also the knowledge that they have not been forgotten.

May our nation find ways to rescue them safely and quickly. Guide our political negotiators in their resolute efforts to gain the freedom of these courageous people.

I pray that they will not be used as pawns to the advantage of our enemies.

When their freedom is restored, let our POWs walk with pride and dignity because of the suffering they have endured.

I ask for more efficient ways of tracing and identifying those who are missing in action. Let them not be forgotten, fill them with the hope of freedom and the knowledge that their loved ones and comrades anxiously await their return.

Lord, I pray that You give each missing soldier courage and strength to persevere. Give them peace in knowing You'll never leave them. I pray that You clear their minds of any worry or anxiety so they may focus on finding their way to safety. Amen.

Semper Fi Prayer Circle

Taps

Blessings and prayer go out to the families of Marine R. Edgar Nippard, who was called by the Supreme Commandant on 31 July 2018 and Marine Bernard Balog called by the Supreme Commandant on 9 August 2018.

Sick / Distressed

Prayers go to those on our "Sick and Distress" list: Rick Gurly, Will Priest, Bobbie Hawkins, Bill Wheeler, Jerry Brown and wife Cass, Frank Rucci, Carol Shea, Diamond Kimos, Joe Humberson, and Vince Cerniglia.

Keep the above named in your prayers

If you know of anyone sick or in distress, please call me, if I'm not there, leave a message.
Cell 410-215-4880

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

Alex Radzius
Chaplain

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof woof,

The Maryland Pack will Growl on 25 August immediately following the Department of Maryland meeting at the Jarrettsville VFW Post 8672, 1714 Morse Road, Forest Hill. This is a change of venue from previous announcements. By then we should have several more PDDs who, no doubt, enjoyed the initiation process in Buffalo, New York.

The next Pound Growl will be on Sunday, 26 August at our Dog House at VFW Post 160, Glen Burnie. All annual-dues paying members' dues expire on 31 August. It is not too early to send 15 big bones to your friendly Dog Robber to get ahead of the rush. If you haven't forwarded your dues by 26 August, have 15 extra big bones handy.

At this upcoming Pound Growl, we will be electing officers to lead the Pound for the next year(s?). So far, Doc Gunther has thrown his hat in the ring for Pound Keeper. If you feel like leading a motley bunch of Dogs, throw your hat in the ring. We also need others to step up for the remaining officer positions. Don't be afraid to get noticed.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

*Woof woof,
PDD Paul Taylor
Dog Robber*

Marine Corps Humor

As a group of Marines stood in formation at a Marine Corps Base, the Drill Instructor said, "All right! All you idiots fall out." As the rest of the squad wandered away, one recruit remained at attention.

The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow. The recruit smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh, sir?"

Auxiliary

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



Greetings,

Hopefully all regular members have received a letter regarding dues being due by the end of August. Please return your current information and check for \$20 to Julie Silverstein 1426 E Fort Ave Baltimore MD 21230.

Several of our members, Rosemary Koontz and Joan Hansen attended the national convention in Buffalo, NY. There were some changes made to the administrative procedures and by laws which resulted in several forms being updated. The new forms can be found on the MCLA web site and downloaded for use by the units. The new forms are to be used as soon as they appear on the website.

Our members are currently making cards using stars from flags ready to be eliminated because of tatters from flying over our detachment. The cards include a "thank you" to our current and former troops. The cards can be kept in memory of all who have served their country.

We still have cookbooks for sale. Don't forget they make great gifts! Call Joan Hansen 240-460-9229.

God bless America,

*Joan Hansen,
President*



Maryland Veterans Commission

MVC Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday 17 July the Maryland Veterans Commission held their quarterly meeting at *Helping Up Mission, Baltimore, Maryland*. Commissioners representing veteran organizations of Maryland were in attendance. Representing the Marine Corps League was Commissioner Stuart Blair, PDC and Bernadine Blair, MCLA DM PP

Agenda

- A Tour of Helping Up Mission which provides hope to veterans experiencing homelessness, poverty or addiction by meeting their physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs.
- *Deputy Secretary Bob Finn presented an overview / update on programs of the MDVA*
- *Outreach and Advocacy / Denise Nooe*
 - ✓ *Honoring Korean War Veterans - Annapolis*
 - ✓ *Request of event proclamations / Declarations*
 - ✓ *Event Briefs timely report*

MDVA Commissioner Reports

- *Presentation / discussion on forming The Maryland Military Coalition consisting of 75 VSOs.*
- *Discussion: VSOs participation in National POW / MIA Recognition Day, 21 September with appropriate flags presented and ceremonies.*
- *Commissioner Blair presented an update on Camp Lejeune Toxic Water Study.*

*Next Maryland Veterans Commission meeting
Tuesday 16 October 2018,
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Charlotte Hall, MD.*

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

Camp Lejeune Toxic Water Study Report

Submitted by Stuart Blair, PDC, MVC

On April 24, 2018, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released its completed "Morbidity Study of Former Marines, Employees, and Dependents Potentially Exposed to Contaminated Drinking Water at USMC Base Camp Lejeune: A Summary of Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Study Design and Results." The enclosed information, prepared by ATSDR, provides a summary of what was studied and features of the study, as well as conclusions and key results. ATSDR will follow up on these findings in a cancer incidence study that will involve state cancer registries nationwide, as well as federal cancer registries.

This study shows that contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune was linked to increased risk for bladder cancer, kidney cancer, and kidney disease.

- Exposure to both TCE and PCE was associated with an increased risk for kidney cancer in both Marines and civilian employees
- Exposure to both TCE and PCE was associated with increased risk for bladder cancer and kidney disease in civilian employees

Exposure to PCE was associated with increased risk for bladder cancer and kidney disease in Marines Risk increased with increasing levels of exposure to the contaminants for kidney cancer (TCE and PCE in Marines and TCE/PCE in civilian employees) and kidney disease (PCE in Marines and TCE/PCE in civilian employees). These results are consistent with results found in previous studies.

The results of this study add to the scientific literature on the risk of cancer and other diseases associated with TCE and PCE in drinking water. ATSDR will follow up on these findings in a cancer incidence study that will involve state cancer registries nationwide, as well as federal cancer registries.

Benefits for Camp Lejeune Veterans and family members include health care for 15 conditions listed in the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. In addition, Veterans can receive disability and health care benefits for eight presumptive disease conditions associated with contaminants in the water at Camp Lejeune.

Veterans, National Guard and reserve members, and family members who lived on the base for at least 30 days (cumulative), between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 are eligible.

Detachment Home Dispatch

Detachment Home Maintenance

The repairs are moving along slowly & unfortunately it is because the same few are still doing their best. This month they have installed another flat screen TV, made some adjustments to the down spout next door. Also have cleaned out under the stairs in front & gotten rid of a lot of stuff. **WE HAVE TWO 30" FLOOR SCRUBBING & POLISHING BUFFERS.** One has been used about 8 times, like new, also all the scrubbing & buffing pads. If you know anyone in that business it is a great deal.

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 @ 410-294-9135

Members Birthdays

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

September – BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATIONSWe

Edward L. King, Donald L. Rollette, Sr., Joseph R. Lantz, Nelson J. Dickerson, George H. Keen, Sr., Harvey C. ThiBault, Charles J. Cooper, John F. McCurdy, Richard J. Koel, Bobbie Hawkins, Michael J. Ratajczak, Jr., Darrell N. Truesdale, Sr. and Calvin L. Johnson.

October – Birthday Celebrations

Ralph W. Souder, Paul E. Taylor, David C. Mioduszewski, Howard R. Gurley, Bronson W. Sweeney, Rodger F. Weeden Sr., Howard S. Koontz Jr., Marlin B. Johnson, William S. Holland, Samuel A. Evans Jr., and Donald G. Harrison.

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 monthly winners for June 2018:

06/07	George L. Kesselring	#032	\$25.00
06/10	Keith Bailey	#509	\$25.00
06/11	Don Blum	#706	\$25.00
06/22	Gary Reif	#389	\$25.00
06/23	Ernest Disney	#252	\$25.00

Balance in the fund at the end of June 2018 is \$4,055.00.

The monthly winners for July 2018:

07/02	John McCurdy	#736	\$25.00
07/05	Calvin Green	#751	\$25.00
07/06	Lillian Barr	#160	\$25.00
07/10	Doris Rollette	#967	\$25.00
07/11	Ginny Hage	#111	\$25.00
07/13	James L. Davis	#992	\$25.00
07/23	Lloyd Emery	#260	\$25.00
07/30	Jackie Cenci	#452	\$25.00

Balance in the fund at the end of July 2018 is \$3,855.00.

Scholarships

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

Fundraiser

New **POCKET CALENDARS** will be coming out in a few months. If you have not received a pocket calendar in the past and would like one or two please let me know

Marine Family Assistance

The Baltimore Detachment's "Marine Family Assistance Program emphasis is providing assistance to Marine families in our area, specifically the Marines of 4th CEB

Marine Corps History Question of the Month

In each month's "GUNG HO" we will feature a question about U.S. Marine Corps history. The question will test your knowledge of well known facts of Marine Corps.

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

Answer to July / August Question

July 1993 a Navy ship was decommissioned after over 30 years of service in a ceremony at Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia. The ship was named for the World War II battle during which three Marine divisions ousted 20,000 entrenched Japanese troops. This ship was commissioned 26 August 1961, and it was the first ship specifically designed as an amphibious assault ship from the keel up. What was the name of the ship ?

USS Iwo Jima

September / October Question

September 1956: Eleven Marines from the 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division, stationed near Naha, Okinawa, were killed off shore. What caused this tragedy?

- a) Sharks
- b) Ammo dump explosion
- c) Typhoon
- d) Landing craft sunk

History's Timeline

September 13, 1814 - The Battle of Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor occurred, observed by Francis Scott Key aboard a ship. He watched the British attack overnight and at dawn saw the American flag still flying over the fort, inspiring him to write the verses which were later coupled with the tune of a popular drinking song and became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

October 28, 1886 - The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor. The statue was a gift from the people of France commemorating the French-American alliance during the American Revolutionary War. Designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, the entire structure stands 300 feet (92.9 meters) tall. The pedestal contains the words: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Noteworthy

MDVA and MDOT MVA Announce Redesigned Disabled Veteran License Plate

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA), announced today the release of its redesigned Disabled Veterans license plate. The new plate adds color and prominently features red, white, and blue stripes with stars to symbolize service to country. It continues to feature the letters "DV", to designate the driver as a disabled veteran, however "Disabled Veteran" is now spelled out in red along the bottom of the plate.

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary George Owings. "I look forward to seeing the newly issued Disabled Veteran Plates and to creatively finding new ways to honor Maryland's veterans."

Korean War Veterans Honored by Maryland Governor and First Lady

Governor Larry Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan hosted a Welcome Home, Korean War Veterans reception at Government House. They were joined by Korean Ambassador to the United States, Cho Yoon-je; Secretary of Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, George Owings III; Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Jim Fisher; and members of the Korean Embassy and Korean War Veterans Association

Discharge Upgrading

Any military personnel, who received a Bad Conduct Discharge for infraction other than incarceration, may request a review through a board of their branch of service

Discharge Review

Are you a veteran who needs to change, correct, or modify your discharge or dismissal? If you qualify and take the proper steps you can apply for a review of discharge and possibly have it changed.

Navy / USMC Service discharge review boards conduct hearings in Washington, D.C. Traveling review boards also visit selected cities to hear cases. Each case will be looked at for remission for overturn to an Honorable Discharge.

Questions regarding the review of a discharge may be addressed to the appropriate discharge review board at the following address:

Navy and USMC

Secretary Of The Navy
Council of Review Boards
Attn: Naval Discharge Review Board
720 Kennon St Se Ste 309
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023

BALTIMORE GUNG HO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BALTIMORE DETACHMENT

1426 East Fort Avenue (#17 Fire House)
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-5247



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ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO. 5964

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

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Friday 21 September 2018

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. It is traditionally observed on the third Friday in September each year. Many Americans take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, all VSO facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House.

