

**Marine Corps League  
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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**BALTIMORE**

**GUNG HO**



*January - February 2021 \* Vol. 25, No.1 \* Editor Stuart Blair*

*In Memoriam \* Marine LeAndrew J. Morant, Sr. / 19 June 2020 \* Marine Francis D. Miller / 3 December 2020  
\*Marine Jack C. Cammarata / 26 December 2020*

**VA releases COVID-19 vaccine  
Distribution plan,\* 15 December**

**Who will get a COVID-19 vaccine first?**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has authorized the first COVID-19 vaccine. We have a limited amount of this vaccine to start.

We've worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to develop a phased plan that will help us do the most good for the most people during this time. Under this phased plan, we'll first offer vaccines to Veterans in our long-term care facilities and frontline VA health care workers.

Vaccinating our health care workers first helps us continue providing care for Veterans.

After 2 groups, we'll begin to offer vaccines to more Veterans who are at high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19. Your VA health care team will contact you if you're eligible to get a vaccine during this time.

We will follow CDC guidelines for determining who is considered to be at high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19. Factors that may influence the risk of severe disease include the following:

- **Age.** The risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 increases with age.
- **Existing health problems.** People with certain health problems (like diabetes, heart disease, or obesity) have a higher risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19.
- **Other factors** that raise a person's risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19, such as living in a nursing home or other group living facility.

More questions answered at:  
[www.va.gov/covid-19-vaccine/](http://www.va.gov/covid-19-vaccine/)

**Grunt Check**

**How ya doin' ?**

As Marine Corps League members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow Marines. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the GRUNT CHECKS especially during this pandemic. However, All MCL members are encouraged to perform this vital function whenever it possible.

The idea is to reconnect with our Marine brothers and sisters who may need assistance, especially during this pandemic, but don't know where to go or who to ask.

These contacts may be made by a personal phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to Marine veterans in our detachment to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. Other VSOs use this program with great success.

*We can do this too . . .  
Check on a Marine Grunt today!!*

## Commandant's Message

Greetings,

We honored and remembered those who lived and those who lost their lives on December 7th at Pearl Harbor. Also, during the month of December, we celebrated birthdays of members, Hanukkah, U. S. National Guard's Birthday, Bill of Rights Day, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Proclamation Day, and New Year's Eve.

There are many more days that are celebrated during December but most of them are unknown unless you look them up. The point is, whatever day or days you celebrate, we wish you the best as we end this year and begin 2021 in January.

We wish you good health, happiness, and wealth during the New Year. Our hope is that you and your family remain well as we continue to deal with COVID-19. To keep our members and their families safe, we are holding virtual meetings. If you want to participate in these meetings, please send your name and e-mail address to [ehpierce@comcast.net](mailto:ehpierce@comcast.net) and I will see that it is added to our e-mail list. The good news is that a vaccine is currently being administered to medical personnel and will later be administered to persons who serve in other vital positions. We are not sure when we will be able to get access to the vaccine.

However, it is our hope that as the medicine is administered there will be fewer deaths and we can get back to what we consider normal. Until that happens, we must continue to follow the safety guidelines in our respective areas.

The 2020 dues year occurs at the end of July and if you have not already paid your dues, we encourage you to submit payment immediately so that our Paymaster will not have to constantly contact you regarding payment. If your address is changing or has changed, please forward that information to me so that it can be forwarded to the proper individuals.

Our 2021 Calendars have been mailed and we ask members of the Detachment and Auxiliary to purchase and assist with the sale of the calendars. Activities that help us with our meals and other projects that support our Detachment have been extremely limited this year. Therefore, it is imperative that we support our 2021 Calendar Fundraiser which provides us with funds that allow us to donate to others.

Volunteers still are not allowed to visit/work at the VA because of COVID-19. However, VA is in the process of implementing a program where volunteers make calls to veterans. If anyone is interested, please contact me at the above e-mail address and I will send you additional information.

It looks as though we will not be able to celebrate Valentine's Day 2021 at Loch Raven with the Gold Star Mothers. We get frequent e-mail notices from the VA am if you are interested, we will forward the announcements. It should be noted that using e-mails saves us postage.

We would like to "Thank" everyone who participated in the 2020 Toys for Tots Program. We were able to donate \$900.00 and some toys from the Detachment and the organizations that are our regular supporters. More detailed information will be given later. We are pleased that our report will include donations from Maryland Detachments, American Legion Posts, American Legion Auxiliary Units, and the Sons of the American Legion. It has been a difficult year for fundraising activities since we have been confined for most of the year, but we are sure that our Toys for Tots Program will make many children happy during these difficult times. Fewer people wanted to shop so there will be more monetary donations this year which will allow the Reserve Coordinator to purchase items that are needed for distribution.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marian C. James, Commandant

### ***2021 Marine of the Year Nominations***

*The nominations for Baltimore Detachment "Marine of the Year" are due at the January detachment meeting.*

*Period of performance for consideration:  
28 February 2030 through 31 January 2021*

#### **Criteria of Award**

\* Detachment Marine who during the period of consideration has demonstrated by leadership and performance an **extraordinary** contribution to the Detachment, Marine Corps League and Community.

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

\* **Lifetime achievements are NOT considered**

*If you have a nomination for Detachment Marine of the Year, write an explanation as to why the Marine deserves the award, mentioning the Marine's accomplishments and **place the letter in a sealed envelope**. Please give the nomination to Adjutant Anthony Jackson by the end of the January Detachment meeting.*

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

Greetings Marines,

I hope this message finds everyone in good health and safe. As of this writing everyone will have experience a different type of holiday celebration, but one that was safe yet still connected to family.

There has not been much activity taking place over the past few months. For Halloween Howard Koontz and I were judges for a Halloween Pet Parade that was sponsored by the Coffee Cafe across the street from the Detachment and held along Fort Ave. in front of the detachment. The event was very interesting and enjoyable judging the dogs and some owners in custom.

As of now the detachment is attempting to conduct meeting on line using zoom, hopefully more members will be able to attend. With the vaccine for the virus being distributed we are looking forward to being able to hold meetings in person.

There are National and Division Conference being scheduled, as well as the Maryland Department Convention.

Please continue to follow CDC restrictions and remain safe for the New Year.

Semper Fi,  
*Earl C Ruff Jr*  
SVC

### **MCL National Mid Winter Conference**

Host: Hunterdon County Bulldogs

Date: 25 - 27 February, 2021

Place: Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel.

777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

Phone: 757-622-6664

Cost: \$129.00 per night (Includes Breakfast)

## **Jr. Vice Commandant Message**

Greeting Marines,

Happy New Year, Marines and Auxiliary members, I am hoping each of you had an enjoyable and safe Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanza celebration despite the COVID problems we have all been dealing with over most of 2020. 2021 has come in with a ray of hope for everyone. The good news on the release of coronavirus vaccines inoculations should have all of us looking to a better year for America and the entire world. Hopefully, things will return to normal soon. I am sure we are all looking forward to resuming our normal activities in the Marine Corps League and all other endeavors. It will not be a swift recovery but we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. People returning to full-time work, schools back to normal and family gatherings should be able to resume before too long. 2020 was a year, in which, we and the entire planet took a lot of bad hits, a year that seemed like it would never end but thankfully, has passed. We have survived and the future looks positive. It won't be instant but we can look toward things getting better in the coming months.

With the hope of our eventual return to the regular way of doing things, we can once again concentrate on important League actions and step up our efforts to highlight the high principles of the Marine Corps League and the Auxiliary. It's time to work on recruiting new members, reconnecting with Marines we have not seen for months, returning to our many volunteer programs and showcasing the organization's values and good works in Baltimore City, the State of Maryland and the Nation, in general. We have a lot to do but I am confident, we will get back to where we were before COVID 19.

Semper Fi.  
*Ray Vaughn, JVC*

### **Recruitment**

*I am sure that each one of you knows a Marine that would be a great benefit to YOUR detachment. So try and help YOUR detachment by asking them to attend a meeting to see if they might be interested in being part of our team.*



**Semper Fi Prayer Circle**



**Maryland Veterans Commission**

***Many Blessings to all this New Year***

**Prayer:**

What shall I ask for the coming year  
What shall my watchword be  
What should thou do for me, dear Lord  
What can I do for thee?  
Lord, I would ask for a holy year  
Spent in thy perfect will  
Help me to walk in thy very steps  
Help me to please thee still.  
Lord, I would ask for a year of love  
O let me love thee best  
Give me the love that faileth not  
Beneath the hardest test.  
Lord, I ask for a year of hope  
Looking for thee to come  
And hastening on that year of years  
That brings us home to you.

**Taps**

**Marine LeAndrew J. Morant** was called by the Supreme Commandant on 19 June 2020, Marine **Francis D. Miller** reported to the Supreme Commandant on 3 December 2020 and **Marine Jack C. Cammarata** on 26 December 2020. May LeAndrew, Francis, and Jack rest in peace. Blessings and Prayers to each Marine and their families. May each family be able to grieve so as to gain peace and acceptance.

**Sick / Distressed**

Prayers go to those on our "Sick and Distress Betty Thompson, Vince Cerniglia, Harry Carroll, George Adams, Rick Gurly, Jerry Brown and wife Cass, and Frank Rucci.

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 Gary Roundtree, Sr.* 443-929-7045 Email: *groundtreesr@hotmail.com*

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

*Gary Roundtree, Sr., Chaplain*

***Message from MDVA Secretary George Owings:***

As the year ends, we here at the MDVA would like to thank all who have supported veterans in Maryland; everyone who has volunteered to help at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and with the Cemetery & Memorials Program; and the many who have donated to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund and to the residents at Charlotte Hall. Your kindness, your willingness to help and your generosity are appreciated.

The MDVA Mission will continue in 2021 - to assist Maryland Veterans and their families. If we may be of help to you as you file a claim for compensation or pension or have a question about benefits, please contact the MDVA Service & Benefits Program staff. The Outreach & Advocacy Program staff stand ready to provide benefits briefings and to keep you informed through social media and this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to personally thank the women and men who work at the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. MDVA is a small agency, with a dedicated staff who work tirelessly to assist those who contact us for help. This year, knowing that so many in Maryland have been touched by job loss and illness, the MDVA staff strongly supported the Maryland Charity Campaign, surpassing our target fundraising goal by more than 40%. I am proud to lead this team of caring and generous individuals who supported charities throughout Maryland.

Next MVC meeting will be Tuesday 19 January, 2021 @ 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD

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

## Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof woof,

Sunday 13 December Hound Dog Pound 204 Growl was held with a minimum Dogs attending. Pound keeper Hierstter led his first Growl with the society's creed followed by recognizing all VIPs in attendance while also acknowledging the return of HCDD Jack Severn and PDD Leonard Stielper recovering from serious health issues.

The pound keeper showing no mercy was very liberal issuing fines on many dogs for just about anything. Many bones were collected along donations to worthy causes.

A mongrel was introduced to the pound keeper for initiation to a Pup. The Pup passed his test with flying colors while wagging his tail with joy. No dog biscuit was offered for his reward

Next Hound Dog Pound #204 Growl  
Sunday 14 February 2021 @ 0900.

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Support the Military Order of the Devil Dogs  
Please consider donating and helping us support the Children's Hospitals and Veterans Hospitals that we dentate to every year. All Donations are Tax Deductible.

Contact Info:  
3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy.  
Suite 115  
Stafford, VA 22554

**Don't forget \_\_\_\_\_**  
*Kennel Mini Growl \* Mid Winter Conference  
25 - 27 February 2021*

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

*Woof woof,  
PDD Stuart Blair  
Barking Dog*

## Auxiliary



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

Greetings,

There is very little news to report as we have not met for several months. But we do have some good news for us. Because Mountainside auxiliary is ceasing its operations we are gaining one of their Members, Gloria Reese Mathews. We want to welcome her to Baltimore.

We were misinformed about The Festival of Trees, one of our main projects for the year being put on hold because of the virus. This is a large money making activity for the Kennedy Krieger Institute for Children was held virtually. We gave a monetary donation in lieu of a decorated tree. Next year we hope to decorate a tree.

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

We wish all of our members and friends . . .  
A Happy and Healthy New Year!

*God bless America,  
Joan Hansen, President*

## Detachment Home Dispatch

We had the roofer back to do more sealing of our roof & the one next were the flashing against our building come loose. YOUR home is neat & clean. Milt & and Ernie have done a lot of cleaning and getting rid of stuff. Looking forward to seeing you as soon as we can have a meeting. We do hope all are well and had a nice holiday. Again would some of you please consider helping for three (3) hours on a Saturday, 9am to 12noon.

### Electric Wheelchair

We have an electric wheelchair for anyone in need. Give us a call @ 410-547-7699. IT'S FREE

### Baltimore Detachment Hall Rental

*Bookings are beginning to pick up again. We have had a few in the month of November and a couple more in December. Keep promoting the hall rental. Information call Earl Ruff, Jr. @ 410-917-0578 or Will Priest @ 410-736-8531*

## 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 issue.***

### Answer to November - December Question

On December 20, 1989, an operation was launched in Panama to protect American lives, restore democracy to the country, preserve the integrity of the Panama Canal Treaty, and remove dictator General Manuel Noriega from power. One Marine, Corporal Garreth C. Isaak, was killed and three other were wounded during the operation. What was the name of the operation ?

## Just Cause

### January - February Question

On January 18, 1951, Marines with the 1st Division began operations against guerrillas near Pohang, South Korea, following the Division's return from its monumental battle with Chinese Communist forces at the Chosin Reservoir. Who was the commander of these Marines ?

- a) Maj. Gen. Gerald C. Thomas USMC
- b) Brig. Gen. Chesty Puller USMC
- c) Brig. Gen. Graves B. Erskine, USMC
- d) Maj. Gen. Oliver P. Smith, USMC.

## History's Timeline

- **January 7, 1782** - The first U.S. commercial bank opened as the Bank of North America in Philadelphia.
- **January 23, 1907** - Charles Curtis of Kansas became the first person of Native American ancestry to serve in the U.S Senate. He later served as vice president under President Herbert Hoover from 1929-33.
- **February 14, 1849** - Photographer Mathew Brady took the first photograph of a U.S. President in office, James Polk.
- **February 24, 1582** - Pope Gregory XIII corrected mistakes on the Julian calendar by dropping 10 days and directing that the day after October 4, 1582 would be October 15th. The Gregorian, or New Style calendar, was then adopted by Catholic countries, followed gradually by Protestant and other nations.

## Noteworthy Marine / Navy History

### Remembrance: Marines and Navy Medicine at Korea's Chosin Reservoir

Seventy years ago the 1st Marine Division was fighting in the mountains around Korea's Chosin Reservoir. It was a brutal winter – by some reports the coldest on record – and Marines were facing subzero temperatures, frostbite, hypothermia, and dehydration. The temperatures were so unbearable that Marines who served at the reservoir said the cold "would sink right to your bones."

It was so cold that weapons were malfunctioning and at times Marines were fighting hand-to-hand, using rifle butts, their teeth and anything they could get their hands on to fend off the relentless attacks.

Against all odds those Marines did what Marines do – they fought. Despite being surrounded by eight determined enemy divisions, the Marines broke through in one of the most epic acts of survival and determination in history.

We take considerable pride in the fact that embedded with those units at Chosin were Navy physicians, dentists and hospital corpsmen who embodied that eternal bond Navy Medicine has with the Marine Corps and the fundamental values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.



**Navy medical personnel assist Marines at Chosin Reservoir \* December 1950**

## 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 October 2020 monthly winners were:

10/03	Chris Glinos	#955	\$25.00
10/04	Brandon Antonishek	#003	\$25.00
10/06	Randy Parsons	#714	\$25.00
10/12	Willie Gregory	#513	\$25.00
19/17	Margo Walker	#333	\$25.00
10/20	Trudy Smith	#827	\$25.00
10/25	Mark Jordan	#454	\$25.00
10/26	Carol Shea	#349	\$25.00 *
10/29	Ella Pierce	#913	\$25.00

The fund had nine (9) winners in the month all winning \$25.00 for

A total payout of \$225.00 leaving a balance of \$3,240.00.

\*Donated to the General Fund.

#### The November 2020 monthly winners were: :

11/04	Charles Weigman	#947	\$25.00
11/08	Jack Colleran	#305	\$25.00
11/10	Marie Thompson	#928	\$350.00
	USMC Birthday		
11/13	Marie Thompson	#928	\$25.00

The fund had four (4) winners during the month. Three (3) won \$25.00 and one (1) won \$350.00 on the 245<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States Marine Corps Resulting in a total payout of \$425.00 and leaving a balance in the fund of \$2,815.00.

*\*\* The Pick Three Lottery Colander makes a great gift. For just \$20 your gift will give a family member or friend a chance of winning each & every day for the whole year\*365 days. \$25.00 is the smallest amount they would win.*

### Scholarships

#### Pocket Calendar Fundraiser

Much gratitude goes out to everyone who participated in the Francis Scott Key School Scholarship Program. Your generosity will make a few children happy for their recognition and reward. Thanks again\_\_\_ Jack

## Members Birthdays

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

### JANUARY - Birthday Celebrations

John A. Cook, Donald J. Blum, Wesley T. Harper, Daniel J. Donnelly, Milton L. Hazzard, Richard L. Whitehead, Thomas J. O'Toole Jr., Carl G. Holland, George F. Dietsch, Walter H. Naylor, Jr., Christopher S. Chrisian, Gray S. Reif Sr. and George L. Kesselring.

Also celebrating this month is Associate Member Joan M. Hansen.

### FEBRUARY - Birthday Celebrations

Alfred Karchem, George H. Barranger, William L. McFadden, Dominic J. Naples, Sr., Lloyd A. Emery, Jerome B. Milburn, Michael M. Gajewski, Sr., William R. Morton, Dean B. Kone, Raymond L. Vaughn, James W. Sandoz, Welton C. McCallister, Joseph A. Crivello, III and Wesley L. Hipp.

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)**

### Newsletter Mailing Notice

The Gung Ho Newsletter is mailed electronically to all persons currently listed on our USPS mailing roster that have an email address.

If you wish to be on the electronic mailing list and are not listed at present, please send your EMAIL ADDRESS to Stuart Blair, newsletter editor.

Persons that have no listed email address will still receive the newsletter via U.S. Postal Service.

Any person that will be receiving the newsletter electronically that desires a hard copy, mail your request to:

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



*Hope for the New Year 2021*

*To all our military veterans and their families, learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow with a New Year 2021. Happy New Year! Let's toast to yesterday's achievements and tomorrow's bright future. Wishing you health, and happiness and Godspeed in the New Year ahead.*