

**Marine Corps League  
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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**BALTIMORE**

# GUNG HO



*March - April 2023 \* Vol. 27, No.2 \* Editor Stuart Blair*

In Memoriam of Marine Michael J. Piechocki / 14 January 2023 \* MCLA Member Lucy Kelly / 29 December 2022

## Commandant's Message

On a chilly day in February, The Department of Maryland met for the Quarterly Staff Meeting on Saturday 11 February, hosted by the Pax River Detachment @ the VFW Post 2632 in California, MD... Department Commandant Joe Fay presided over a very productive meeting with most staff present and others by virtual communication.

The Department's recent chartered detachment The Peacemakers, Ocean City, was introduced. Reports from department officers, programs, and detachment reps. were presented with much interaction from the staff. A great deal of essential information was shared with a lively discussion about the problems of the veterans' benefits and legislation.

Our next Dept. of MD Staff Meeting will be hosted by the Garrett County Detachment 1234 at the American Legion Post 71, Oakland, MD on 25 March. Details of venue on insert: Calendar of Events.

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to - prepare for MCL Dept. and National events. By the time you receive this newsletter I would have already attended the National Midwinter Conference Feb 23-25 in Norfolk VA. In the next NL I will share with you info of concern for all members..

The Dept. of Maryland Convention will take place in Ocean City MD. May 11-13. I'm looking to see a good turn out from the Baltimore Detachment for this event. Also the Department will host the Mid-East Division Conference at the Double Tree Hotel in Pikesville Md. In June. Please plan to attend this conference to get informed and network with leaguers from the East Coast.

I had the honor of attending the 78<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Banquet sponsored by the Iwo Jima Association of America. This was part of a Reunion Commemorating the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. There were seven survivors of the battle in attendance and the Guest speaker was the 38<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps General David Berger. This was a great affair as I had the opportunity to talk to Marines who were a part of this battle. There was also a Tribute to the late Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, who served in this battle and was a member of this organization.

I hope to see members getting out, attending meetings, and becoming involved in detachment activities.

Semper Fidelis,  
Earl Ruff, Jr.

**NATIONAL  
VIETNAM WAR  
VETERANS DAY  
29 MARCH**

*Join the Nation...  
Thank a Vietnam Veteran  
for Service to our Nation*

A poster for National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29. It features a circular emblem with an eagle and the text "NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY" around the border. The background is a dark green with a red and white stripe at the top.

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

Greetings,

I would like to say that our winter has been mild, and it has allowed us to do many things outside. Since our last meeting, I volunteered for the Special Olympics of Maryland Plunge, where we prepared the packages that are given to the plungers. Next, I attended the Marine Corps League State meeting which was held in California, Maryland; did not arrive early enough for the opening but I was in attendance. The Department has not been able to fully recover from the financial obligations that were incurred with last year's State Convention. If anyone desires to assist financially, I am sure that your donation will be greatly appreciated. Fundraisers are in progress, so if you are interested in what they are, feel free to contact the Senior Vice Commandant, or if you are only interested in volunteering your services to assist in the raising of funds or making a donation. We do not have a lot of members attending the State Convention from the Detachment, approximately 15 in the last several years. The Registration Fee is used to purchase items that are necessary to make a successful convention and the more people you have in attendance, the more money you have to make it successful.

On Monday, February 13, 2023, the Commandant, and I joined the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland at the Loch Raven Medical Center to present gifts to our Veterans. For safety reasons, only one individual was allowed to enter a room at a time. There were approximately eighty (80) patients at the facility, and every one of them was given a token to show our appreciation for their devoted service to God and Country. Thirty-three (33) Veterans received a handmade Afghan which ranged in size from 46 x 46 to 53 x 53 from Baltimore Detachment 565. Unfortunately, I was not able to make enough Afghans so that everyone could receive a gift from the Detachment. Those members who attended the State Meeting are aware that we were not able to receive a donation for the Medical Center this year because of lack of funding. However, the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland are going to donate yarn for me to make Afghans for next year and I will have a tag placed in each one to show that they are being donated by the Gold Star Mothers, and I will continue to make Afghans for the Detachment. If anyone is interested in making either knitted or crocheted Afghans, please contact me at 410-736-9673 because your help will be greatly appreciated. The Loch Raven Medical Center is asking individuals who hosted BINGO and other games to consider starting up again as soon as possible. We will find out if we can begin our BINGO at Greene Street. However, if you are interested in volunteering, please let me know by texting or calling the above referenced phone number. Also, since our funds are not the best at this time, you might want to consider having a cookout at Loch Raven this summer with members making the food, drinks and volunteering time to prepare and work the grill. Just something to think about since it seems as though the same three (3) or four (4) people always volunteer. We need new volunteers at the VA and new members in the Detachment. The only way our Det. can continue to survive is if we recruit younger members.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marian C. James, SVC*

## **Jr. Vice Commandant Message**

Greetings, Marines,

Spring has almost sprung and we will be out and about. I am hoping the change of seasons finds all of us hale and hearty. The Detachment has been actively seeking Marines and Navy Corpsmen to join our group and have added a few new members over the winter. I can proudly report they have jumped in and already become strong additions. We are always looking for new members. As you move around the city and the State this Spring, wear your USMC gear and be willing to invite Marines and Navy men that you meet to drop by the firehouse for one of our monthly meetings. Our hope is that they will enjoy the chance to hobnob with folks who share the same histories and love of our Corps. We should never miss an opportunity to use that very familiar "Semper Fi" greeting as a way to encourage visitors.

It's also our duty to keep in contact with members we haven't seen in a while. Make the call, send the text or email. We are a Brotherhood, in every sense. Every Marine and Corpsman is a part of our elite family. Seeking new members is important but it's just as important to retain those who have already joined the Detachment. Keep the family strong.

Semper Fidelis.

*Ray Vaughn, JVC*

### ***Why you are a member of The MCL***

#### **\*Mission Statement**

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism. Semper Fi!



## Semper Fi Prayer Circle

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

### ***A Prayer to thank you for all you do***

Prayer is a good way to express our thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and the veterans who protect them. Answer a few simple questions and we'll craft a prayer that will help express your gratitude and thanksgiving for the veterans in your life.

*Dear Lord, We honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us. We thank our veterans for all they do. Amen*

### **Taps**

Marine Michael J. Piechocki 14 January 2023 and Auxiliary Member Lucy Kelly (wife of Marine Joe Kelly) 29 December 2022 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, Joan Hansen, Don Rollete, Dorris Rollete (wife of Marine Don Rollete), Will Priest, and Harry Carroll.

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*

## Detachment Home Dispatch

### **Maintenance**

The contractor for T-Mobile will hopefully be starting the attic construction by the end of this February or early part of March.

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. Waiting on warmer weather and some help in moving the trash currently stacked in the 2nd floor kitchen to the dump.

Please consider helping us with any of our upcoming projects around the firehouse, just three hours on Saturday 9am to 12 noon. We offer all the free coffee you can drink.

THANKS

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.



## Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof, woof,

### ***For the Children***

Many people think that we are all just about fun and games and our own Marine machismo, however, we are not. It is the underlying purpose of what we do that gives meaning to all of it. Every year we gather in a different part of the country and present our donation to different hospitals, we donate to Children's Hospitals and Veteran's Hospitals.

These Donations are designated for medical equipment purchases, which will keep giving year after year, long after the donations are made. And we endeavor to increase these donations every year, to give more, in an effort to help support the medical need. In the previous year, at Daytona Florida, the MODD gave an \$83,000 donation to the Halifax Health. That donation will go far in helping improve the care that children will receive. If that isn't worth some Bones, I don't know what is.

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### **Schedule**

Merlin Pack Growl

25 March

\*Following DM Staff Meeting

\* *Worthy Pack Leader Tony Rust presiding*

Merlin Pack Grand Growl

\*Dept. of Maryland Convention

Ocean City, MD

Friday 12 May

**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.

### ***Why is it called Scouts BSA?***

Scouts BSA (previously known as Boy Scouts, the official name until February 2019) is the flagship membership level of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) for boys and girls between the ages of typically 11 and 17. SCOUTS BSA offers a treasure trove of adventure for all youth

### ***Good Citizenship Awards Presented***

In the past two quarters there have been (79) seventy-nine presentations of the GCA by the Department of Maryland.

### ***Remember the "Square Knot Award"***

*This Award is presented annually to a MCL member directly associated as leader / counselor with a BSA Troop. Criteria/Registration form - online*

[mclnational.org/youthdevelopmentprograms](http://mclnational.org/youthdevelopmentprograms)

Stuart Blair, Chairman  
BSA Eagle Scout Awards Program, MCL





## Maryland Veterans Commission

DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

### MVC Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday 17 January 2023 the Maryland Veterans Commission held their quarterly meeting in person and by phone with 21 Commissioners representing VSOs and congressional districts, representing the Marine Corps League was Commissioner Stuart Blair, PDC and Bernadine Blair PDP.

Welcome Anthony Woods, selected by Governor-Wes Moore as the new MDVA Secretary. Major Woods is a graduate of West Point, and a well-qualified Army officer who will bring new energy to MDVA.

### **Introduction of Anthony Woods, MDVA Secretary**

### **MDVA Deputy Secretary Bon Finn Report:**

### **Updates of the following were reported**

#### **Maryland Veterans Trust Fund**

- Funds available \$600,000
- Veterans income determines granted funds

#### **Charlotte Hall Veterans Home**

- Modernization plans scheduled
- Dialysis Center planned for home

#### **Update on the Second Veterans Home:**

- Architect plans on schedule / construction begins upon approval
- Construction cost \$180,000,000

#### **Service and Benefits Program**

- VA Centers incorporate additional sites.  
Veterans can receive disability and health care benefits for eight presumptive disease conditions associated Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan
- Agent Orange claims
- Gulf War era and post 9/11 Veterans eligibility
- All claims filed with the issue shown cannot be duplicated on a VA claim

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

### **Cemetery and Memorials Program**

- Maryland five veteran cemeteries. Most in U.S.
- \$893 for all eligible dependents of the veteran; this cost is inclusive of casketed and cremated interments, liner cost for dependent spouse(s) or children, and perpetual care. \$893 will be charged for veterans, dependent spouse(s) or children for disinterments or re-interments of casketed or cremated remains
- Proposed bill, Maryland veterans cemetery interment  
of veteran dependents at NO COST

### **Presentations**

Marty Schwartz, Vehicles for Change  
Veteran' motor vehicle skill programs  
Entry level occupation training  
Vehicle ownership availability  
\* Program info available through S. Blair,  
Commissioner

Katie Kilby, Reveille Ground  
Veteran Resource placement

### **Sub Committee Report**

Incarcerated Veterans Resources

### **NOTE:**

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

Next MVC meeting will be Tuesday 18 April, 2023  
100 Community Place, Crownsville.

S/F,  
Stuart Blair  
Commissioner, MCL

## VA Benefits \* Supplemental

### Prepare Your Taxes with Free AARP Aide

With tax season here, prepare now with the AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide Service. The volunteer-run program helps the military community file state and federal tax returns. Trained Tax-Aide volunteers are nationwide and IRS-certified each year to ensure they understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. Tax-Aide is free and available either virtually or in-person (*by appointment only*) to all Veterans, service members, and their families regardless of age or whether they are AARP members.

### New Law Helps Survivors Get VA Benefits

A new law makes it easier for survivors of Veterans exposed to toxic material, including burn pits, to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), tax-free benefit payments available for certain surviving spouses, children, or parents. They may also now be eligible for a one-time payment for accrued benefits, burial benefits, education and training, home loan certificates of eligibility, or health care

### New Toxic Exposure Screening for Veterans

Veterans who enroll or are enrolled in VA health care, can now receive the toxic exposure screening at VA medical centers and clinics across the country. During your screening, if you believe you experienced toxic exposures during your military service, you may be connected to resources and encouraged to file a disability claim

### Education Benefits for Survivors & Dependents

If you're the child or spouse of a Veteran or service member who has died, is captured or missing, or is rated permanently and totally disabled, you may be able to get help paying for school or job training through the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program, also called Chapter 35.

## Auxiliary



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

Greetings,

We are happy to welcome a new member to our auxiliary, Katherine Pratt, known as Kate. She is located in DC where she will be able to attend our meetings. We will appreciate any new ideas she can contribute. We need new ideas for ways we can be of service this year.

October of last year we started on the Festival of Trees project to have a tree and decorations ready in November when the festival began. Our tree sold successfully for \$150.00. These funds go directly to the Kennedy Krieger Institute for handicapped children.

We plan to contribute the Festival of Trees project a Kennedy Krieger Institute fundraiser and Toys For Tots which begins in the Fall.

This is our contribution to the community. Hope our members will join our meetings to help with these activities.

*God bless America,*

*Joan Hansen  
President*

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### MCLA Dept. of Maryland Staff Meeting 11 February 2023

The MCLA Dept. of MD Staff Meeting was held at VFW Post 2632 in California, MD. with the leadership of Dept. President Mary Lee Kolich. Representing the Baltimore Unit were Bernadine Blair and Rosemary Koontz.

Topics discussed included recruitment, members holding elected offices at both the unit and department levels, and planning Dept. Convention Hospitality with Tony Rust Sr. Vice Cmdt.

### Coming Dept. Events:

Dept. of MD Staff Meeting \* 25 March  
Dept. of MD Convention \* 11-13 May

\*\*Details of events – Calendar of Events

## 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 January - February Question

On January 21, 1918, the 1st Aeronautical Company arrived on an island off the coast of Portugal, for anti-submarine duty. The unit was one of the first completely equipped American aviation units to serve overseas in WW I. What was the island where the Marine aviation unit arrived for duty?

### *Ponta Delgada, Azores*

### 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?

- a) Cuiheng
- b) Huai Yin
- c) Shangfeng
- d) Hsin Ho

### MCL Dates of Interest

February 20, 1992 –  
MCL Dept. of Maryland License Tag first issued

The Marine Corps League was established by Major General John A. Lejeune, Commandant of the Marine Corps, in 1923. Its federal charter was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on 4 August 1937. In turn, Detachment 14 received its national charter on 15 April 1944.

## 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*

During the month of December the fund had thirteen (13) winners, twelve (12) won \$25.00 and one won \$350.00 on Christmas Day for a total payout of \$650.00 leaving a balance of \$2,895.00 at the end of December 2022.

#### FINAL REPORT FOR 2022

Sales	\$6,120.00
Payments (112 Winners)	(3,225.00)
Surplus	\$2,895.00

Less expenses of:

Printing, Slips & Envelopes	(320.00)
Postage	(61.60)

Surplus to the General Fund \$2,513.40

We would like to thank all members, their families and their friends who participated. Semper Fidelis.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Davis,  
Paymaster

### Members Birthdays

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

#### MARCH - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Robert J. Holmes, William S. Shea, William P. Davis, Louis R. Twigg, Sr., Philip P. Sullivan, Robert E. Walton, Jr., Earl C. Ruff Jr, Garry M. Simms, Joseph W. Meyer, Ernest G. Disney and Michael A. Lewis.

#### APRIL - BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATIONS

Thomas F. Petty, Robert S. Funk, John L. Voigt, Errol M. Markowitz, William B. Lotman Sr, Steve R. Kunaniec, Merrill R. Cohen and James G. Saufley.

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**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

***“Semper Fidelis” (“Always Faithful”)***

The motto of the Corps. That Marines have lived up to this motto is proved by the fact that there has never been a mutiny, or even the thought of one, among U.S. Marines.

Semper Fidelis was adopted about 1883 as the motto of the Corps. Before that, there had been three mottoes, all traditional rather than official. The first, antedating the War of 1812, was “Fortitudine” (“With Fortitude”). The second, “By Sea and by Land,” was obviously a translation of the Royal Marine’s “Per Mare, Per Terram.” Until 1848, the third motto was “To the Shores of Tripoli,” in commemoration of O’Bannon’s capture of Derna in 1805. In 1848, after the return to Washington of the Marine battalion that took part in the capture of Mexico City, this motto was revised to: “From the Halls of the Montezumas to the Shores of Tripoli” – a line now familiar to all Americans. This revision of the Corps motto in Mexico has encouraged speculation that the first stanza of “The Marines’ Hymn” was composed by members of the Marine battalion who stormed Chapultepec Castle.

It may be added that the Marine Corps shares its motto with England’s Devonshire Regiment, the 11th Foot, one of the senior infantry regiments of the British Army, whose sobriquet is “the Bloody Eleventh” and whose motto is also Semper Fidelis.