

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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BALTIMORE
GUNG HO



*September – October 2020 * Vol. 24, No.5 * Editor Stuart Blair*

Commandant's Message

Greetings,

We hope that this message finds our members, their families, and friends well and safe. Our Detachment has been mostly inactive because of COVID-19 and the restrictions that have been implemented by the Governor and Mayor. The virus has prevented us from volunteering at our VA Hospitals and kept us from visiting our family and friends who were hospitalized. Our Detachment Bingo is on hold and we cannot make any donations of clothing, old or new to the VA and other Veterans facilities. We can make monetary donations which the VA can use because they must buy everything. Since there is no physical volunteering at the VA, a new program called Volunteer In-Home Visitor Program's Compassionate Contact Corps Program which is done by telephone. If anyone is interested in this program, please contact me at ehpierce@comcast.net for additional information.

Members should note that we require masks at our meeting and practice social distance. We are not serving food at our meetings, but attendees are encouraged to bring a snack if they so desire. Hopefully, we will be able to resume our normal type of food service once COVID-19 numbers drop or be able to find some type of individually packaged meals.

The kick-off for our Toys for Tots Program is October 1, 2020 and some individuals may have reservations about shopping for toys. If donors are concerned, please let them know that we are more than delighted to take a monetary donation. Many of the programs that were in place to raise funds for Toys for Tots did not happen this year and we will have to work hard to have a successful program this year. As the Department Toys for Tots Chairman, I will be sending a letter to the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans and other outside organizations that participated with us in the past.

As of this date, I do not have an end date for the Toys for Tots Program, but I hope to be able to publish the date in the next bulletin.

The Marine Corps will be celebrating its 245th Birthday on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 and we want to thank all of you for your service to God and Country. The sacrifices that you and your family made to keep our country free are not forgotten. Since we cannot visit, please call a Marine or the family member of a Marine who may be with our Heavenly Commandant and let them know that you Remember!

Additionally, there is probably concern about what we will do for our Christmas Party. This too will be put in the next bulletin after we have discussed this at the meeting. However, if you have some suggestions about either our Birthday Celebration or Christmas Party, please feel free to send me an e-mail so that we can discuss it at our meeting.

We will need a Detachment Adjutant to replace Paul Taylor who is retiring so please call me if you are interested in the position. This is a critical position which we must fill because our minutes and other activities are recorded by the Adjutant. Also, the Adjutant is responsible for sending important documentation to the Department and National. Please call me at 410-358-5727 (Home) or 410-736-9673.

We want to acknowledge that Jack Colleran and members of his committee have been performing tasks at the Detachment during this time and for that we would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks.

Respectfully,
Marian C. James

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

Hopefully this message finds everyone healthy and safe as we continue to with the pandemic that has been ongoing for the past few months. This has been a real adjustment to everyone's life style and hopefully everyone has been able to make the adjustment without much hardship. As Marines remember our saying "Improvise, Adapt, and Over Come".

Once again there have been very little League activities taking place. In the month of August Marine Stuart Blair and I were able to attend an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. We made presentation of Marine Corps League Good Citizen Award to two newly promoted Eagle Scouts. It was a pleasure to see an alumnus of the troop, who is presently serving in the Marine Corps, present to make presentation to the new scouts.

At this time I would like to mention that there should be information coming soon concerning future Department meetings and about the National Convention 2021. Until then please stay safe and remember we are all in this together.

Semper Fi,
Earl C Ruff Jr
SVC

National POW/MIA Recognition Day *Display your Flags*



Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Greeting Marines,

It's been a dismal Spring and Summer for MCL members nationwide and it looks like autumn will be no better. Keep up with your Semper Fi magazine to keep track of how other detachments around the country are doing and how they are handling the social distancing elements of COVID - 19. We are all pretty much in the same boat, tethered at the dock, waiting for sailing orders to resume our mission. Keep in touch as much as you can with your fellow members and if you know some that are single and living alone, do a phone call or email to boost spirits where needed and just show you are concerned. We are all at an impasse. We have not done bingo in months at the VA Hospital in Baltimore. I have not even been allowed to work in the greenhouse at Loch Raven Rehab Center.

This pandemic will not last forever, though it may be many more months before a vaccine or other worthwhile proven medical information or procedure is available. Keep your spirits high, as much as possible. Stay occupied, we have all found projects that need doing at home and now have the time to do those things, from vegetable gardening to finally cleaning out those garages, sheds and basements. Stay strong, mentally active and remember to observe the recommended precautions to keep yourselves, your family and friends safe and free from the spread of this virus. Be respectful of those who are now considered "essential", from hospital personnel to grocery clerks to postal workers and delivery service folks, all of whom place themselves and their loved ones in jeopardy, on a daily basis, just doing the jobs we depend on them to do. They are all true American patriots.

Semper Fidelis.
Ray Vaughn, JVC



Semper Fi Prayer Circle

Comfort Our Souls

Many of you have heard the statement, "Bless are those who mournful for they shall be comforted." Those words are from the Bible [Matthew 5:4].

Those words cause us to reflect a bit. While it is apparent that the comfort mentioned is God's comfort, by extension, it suggests that the members of our detachment should be comfort-givers to our members and their families as well.

For many years you have been offering comfort to the sick and grieving, it is a practice not only to be admired but conscientiously continued by all of us.

Then let us continue to offer that comfort to our Marine brothers and sisters. Remember, too, those who are recovering from surgery and illness. The comfort they receive from our contact will certainly be welcome.

By whom should comfort be given?
. . . .How about by all of us?

Sick / Distressed

Prayers go to those on our "Sick and Distress Betty Thompson, Fran Miller, 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*

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof woof,

Pound 204 held its last two Growls in July and August. At the 16 August Growl elections of officers for the 2020-2021 MODD year were held. Marine Harry Hierstetter was elected Pound Keeper Also two pups were sworn in.

All annual-dues paying members' dues expire on 31 August. Send 15 big bones to your friendly Dog Robber to get ahead of the rush.

The next Pound Growl will be in December at our Dog House at VFW Post 160, Glen Burnie.

There will be a Pack Growl held at the dog house, VFW Post 160, Glen Burnie e, Saturday 5 September @1200. Chief Devil Dog Tom Hazlett will be in attendance.

October 1-4 the Kennel will host a "GATHERING" at the Princess Royal Hotel in Ocean City. A casual gathering for Devil Dogs from Packs around the country. This will not be a Supreme Growl, just a FUN TIME for all you dogs.

- Workshops will be offered. Spouses will be welcomed to attend.
- No charge for the Hospitality Room. Donations welcome
- A Banquet is planned for Saturday. Casual wear for the buffet style Banquet.
- Daytona coins and T shirts will be offered to the dogs.
- A Passport Stamp made for the event will be used.

*** No Uniforms. "P" cutter and MODD Collar only thing required.*

SEEYA HOUNDS AT THE OCEAN HUN !

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

*Woof woof,
PDD Stuart Blair
Barking Dog*



Maryland Veterans Commission

The Maryland Veterans Commission meeting Monday
20 July 2020 * 10:30 am

A participate by phone or attend in person,
@ 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD

* Due to COVID19 health restrictions a limited number
of 22 persons were allowed to attend

MDVA UPDATE

Secretary Owings –End of Fiscal Year report.

Service & Benefits Program –

- *Benefits Specialists continued to help Maryland Veterans by phone and by email, even when offices were closed to the public*
- *We end the year with 1,000 less claims than MDVA processed last year, but I consider that excellent work, considering Marylanders weren't leaving their homes for three + months*
- *MDVA now has three offices located in Motor Vehicle Administration buildings – Glen Burnie, Salisbury and Hagerstown, and a fourth one will open in Bel Air this year*
 - *The partnership between MDVA and MVA has benefitted us and veterans – providing better office space, good access and parking*
- *We hired a Benefits Specialist for the Montgomery County office during the shut-down, but that individual decided to resign before starting, so that position is about to be re-posted again*
- *For the Fiscal Year we just completed, the Service Program successes were:*
 - 129,788 public contacts*
 - Filed 3,953 claims on behalf of veterans and dependents*
 - Brought in almost \$5 Million (\$4,798,478) to Maryland veterans for new claims filed*
 - Achieved \$32,394,088 in retro and recurring benefits*
 - MDVA received 1, 210 Discharge Certificates/DD-214s for Marylanders retiring or being discharged*

Cemetery & Memorials Program

- *Korean War Memorial - Walk-way lighting upgrades, delayed by supply chain problems during the pandemic have finally been completed*
 - *Lighting was delivered on July 1st and work done the week of July 6th*
- *Resumed normal burial schedule*
- *Cemetery shelters are open at 50% capacity for services, which follows the Governor's guidelines for road to recovery*

Trust Fund – had a very good year

- *Awarded \$130,000 in grants to 43 veterans and 4 widows for FY2020*
- *We just received the first Casino check since the shutdown has began*
 - *\$136 from Hollywood Casino in Perryville*
- *Considering recent events and the resulting economic stresses, we expect even more applications to the Trust Fund for help in FY2021*

Guest Speakers

Dana Burl, MDVA **Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention** presentation on

Mallory Lass presented information on the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic

Chairman Thornton presented \$2,000 check to Secretary Owings for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Donation is from Korean War Veterans Association Chapter #33

Commissioners Reports:

Secretary Owings presented Proclamation from Governor Hogan and a state flag flown over the state Capitol to outgoing Chairman Shinbur

Secretary Owings called on former Delegate Clarence "Tiger" Davis t introduced incoming Chair KT Tyler to the Commission

Next meeting will be Wednesday 21 October, 2020 at American Legion Cook-Pinkney Post #141 in Annapolis

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

MCL Boy Scout Program



The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the Marine Corps League (MCL) have agreed to initiate a plan of mutual support to foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism among America's youth.

We encourage Councils to expand their involvement of support for causes specific to the Marine Corps League and our nation's veterans at large. The Marine Corps League will encourage and expand their involvement of Detachments in support of BSA programs toward our mutual goals for a better and more patriotic America.

The Marine Corps League believes strongly that our youth are our future and that it is our responsibility to prepare them for that future. The Scout Oath and Law that the BSA instills in youth is a strong foundation for future success. The Boy Scouts of America and Marine Corps League are excited about formalizing and strengthening our relationship and the future opportunities for us to work together to support America's youth!

Update

Saturday 8 August, at St. Ursula Church in Parkville, DM Camdt. Earl Ruff and BSA Liaison Stuart Blair presented MCL "Good Citizenship Awards" to Eagle Scouts Eric Sabatino and Benjamin Ostrowski

NOTE

Along with the Eagle Scout GCA there is a Boy Scout award presented to a Marine Corps League member directly involved with Boy Scouts
* Square Knot Award.

The Square Knot Award is meant to recognize the dedication and work required by a Marine Corps League member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in the Marine Corps League. Details for Boy Scout Square Knot Award criteria, application, etc. contact me @ 410-665-6440

For God and country

S/F,
Stuart Blair
Chairman
Boy Scout Program
MCL Dept. of Maryland

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 June 2020 monthly winners were:

06/14	Joseph McGeady	#618	\$30.00*
06/24	Bernadine Blair	#124	\$25.00
06/27	John C. Flanigan	#117	\$25.00

The fund had three (3) winners in June. One (1) won \$30.00 on Flag Day* and two (2) won \$25.00 for a total payout of \$80.00. The balance in the fund at the end of June 2020 was \$3,870.00.

The July 2020 monthly winners were:

07/07	Bonnie Shuman	#713	\$25.00
07/12	Bernadine Blair	#279	\$25.00
07/22	John A. Cook	#934	\$25.00
07/29	Charlie Puckett	#803	\$25.00
07/30	Maryann Berger	#582	\$25.00

The fund had five (5) winners in July, all won \$25.00 for a total payout of \$125.00. The balance in the fund at the end of July 2020 is \$3,745.00.

Scholarships

Pocket Calendar Fundraiser

We do want to thank the few that made a donation. It will make a few children happy at our school across the street. Thanks again ___ Jack

Auxiliary



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

Greetings,

It is time to pay our dues for another year, Regular members will be receiving a letter in the mail asking you to return a check for \$20 for this year's dues. We will not be raising our dues as we made a profit on our cook books and we have enough money to cover our expenses for the year. Also we have some cook books left. They make good Christmas presents. If you are interested, call Joan Hansen at 240-460-9229 to purchase them. Be sure to send a check back in the enclosed envelope for your dues.

It has been a very quiet spring & summer as we have had no meetings. Hopefully by the time you get this newsletter we will have been able to meet.

Look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

*God bless America,
Joan Hansen, President*

Detachment Home Dispatch

Not too much different from the last news letter we are doing our best to keep everything clean & straight. Milt Hazzard & Ernie are doing their best to keep YOUR home neat & clean. Milt has done a lot of cleaning and getting ride of stuff. Looking forward to see you at the August meeting. We do hope all are well and staying healthy.

POCKET CALENDARS

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

At this time there are NO hall rentals and what was posted for in this time frame are canceled.

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 July - August Question

On July 25, before 1955, Lieutenant Lewis "Chesty" Puller won the first of five Navy Crosses at what battleground ?

Nicaragua

September -October Question

8 September 1942, the Marine Corps 1st Raider Battalion and the 1st Parachute Battalion, supported by planes of MAG-23 and two destroyer transports, landed east of Tasimboko, advanced west into the rear of Japanese positions, and carried out a successful raid on a Japanese supply base. Where did this occur ?

- a) Wake Island
- b) Guadalcanal
- c) Peleliu
- d) Tawara



Paramarines WWII

History's Timeline

- **September 2** VJ Day, WWII
- **September 7** Labor Day First Monday of month
National Salami Day
- **September 9, 1950**- Captain L.E. Brown flew the first Marine combat jet mission.
- **September 11** 911 Remembrance
- **September 12** Defenders Day
- **September 13, 1990**- The 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment arrived in Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield.
- **September 17** Citizenship Day
- **September 20** National Pepperoni Pizza Day
- **September 21** International Peace Day
- **September 28** Ask a Stupid Question Day (one of my favorite days)

- **October 1** International Day for the Elderly
- **October 3** Virus Appreciation Day

- **Oct. 8, 1899**
A force of 376 Marines captured the insurgent town of Novalleta, Philippines
- **October 9** Moldy Cheese Day
- **October 12** Columbus Day
- **October 14** Be Bald and Free Day
- **October 18** National Meatloaf Appreciation Day
- **October 20 1926**- President Calvin Coolidge ordered Marines to guard the US mail.
- **October 22** National Nut Day
- **October 25** Mother-In-Law Day
4th Sunday in October
- **October 27** Navy Day

Members Birthdays

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

SEPTEMBER - Birthday Celebrations

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 Koel, Michael J. Ratajczak, Jr., Darrell Truesdale, Sr. and Calvin L. Johnson.

OCTOBER - Birthday Celebrations

Ralph W. Souder, Charles J. Esler, 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 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

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm **"Welcome Aboard"** to **Marine Ashton Smith Jr.** who recently joined our Detachment. Semper Fi!

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 Buddy 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 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 buddy today!!*

BALTIMORE
GUNG HO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
BALTIMORE DETACHMENT

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

National POW/MIA Recognition Day * September 18, 2020

In the United States, **National POW/MIA Recognition Day** is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). It is most associated with those who were POWs during the Vietnam War.

This day was established by an Act of Congress, by the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act. It is one of six days that the POW/MIA Flag can be flown. The POW/MIA flag was first recognized by Pub.L. 101-355 and made into 36 U.S.C. § 189 in 1990.

The POW/MIA Flag should fly below, and not be larger than, the United States flag. It is generally flown immediately below or adjacent to the United States flag as second in order of precedence.