

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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BALTIMORE GUNG HO



Earl Ruff, Jr. Commandant*
*September 2016 * Vol . 20, No. 9 * Stuart Blair, Editor*
*In Memory of Marine Frederick A. Miller * 25 July 2016*

Marine Corps Vets ascend on Tulsa for 93rd Annual Convention 8-13 August

Drawing several hundred Marine Corps veterans from around the country, the 93rd annual Marine Corps League National Convention began Monday in downtown Tulsa 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.

Wednesday was devoted to the MODD initiations with the advancement of Devil Dog Diamond Kimos to PDD. A Kennel Growl followed.

The service of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains also offered.

The convention attendees were treated to various activities. It's included a variety of area restaurants as well as visits to the Tulsa Air & Space Museum, Cherokee Nation headquarters and Wolaroc Museum.

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

Significant Proposed BL and AP, Enclosures approved during the MCL National Convention.

Bylaws

- Listing for implementation of Honorary Active Duty Member. Detachments may, issue free of charge Honorary Membership. They do not count as delegates and cannot hold an elected office. Would not be issued a printed publication but will be eligible to obtain free copy of the official publication on line. - Referred back to the Committee
- Would change to have all annual dues expire on Aug 31 and change membership fees for new members joining between 1 Mar and Aug 30 to \$10.00 plus \$5.00 initiation fees.

Enclosure 3 changes - Uniform code

Authorizes American flag as lapel pin. - Approved with amendment for size of pin. (3/4" x 3/8")

One of the National Bylaws that was approved is that all dues will expire on August 31, yearly. If anyone has dues that expire this year then go forth and have them pay as their time frame will be adjusted to expire AUGUST 31, 2017. Just because their dues expire on that date, does not mean that they can pay their dues anytime before that date. National desires that members send in their dues early so there is not a huge influx of dues transmittals in August. Please pass on this info to all detachments

National is going to move to a new location on Highway 1 south of the back gate at Quantico. It's about a mile past the present location of the Globe and Laurel Restaurant. There is no firm date yet for this movement and it will be announced when the transition takes place.



*MCL Commandant Richard Gore and wife
with USMC Commandant Gen. Robert Neller*

Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

Hoping everyone is having a great summer and gearing up for the end of summer celebration on Labor Day.

The past month has brought some new info and changes as changes and revisions were made to the National By Laws at the National Convention. The one that I wish to emphasize is the change to membership renewal.

Going forward membership renewal for every member will be Aug 31. Be advised that you can pay your renewal before that date, but it must be in by that date. More details should be found in this issue of the Gung Ho.

I wish to once again send out condolences to Marine John Davis, on the loss of his wife, and many thanks to the members who were able to attend the memorial in her honor. In closing I would like to add that I hope more of our members can participate in Detachment activities and remember to recruit more new members.

S/F
Earl Ruff Jr,
Commandant

Marine Corps League's POLITICAL PARTICIPATION POLICY

During this time of political campaigning and rallies in support of political parties or specific candidates for public office, Patriot Members are reminded that the Bylaws of the Marine Corps League specifically prohibits the endorsement of a particular political party, candidate, or elected official, or attendance at political events in any manner

Subject taken from the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures,

Chapter One, Section 110: SECTION 110 POLICY (b) The Marine Corps League shall never take part in Any labor or management dispute or issue, and it shall be ever non-sectarian, non-political, and non-partisan; nor shall it be based on the grounds of race, color, creed, nationality, or sex; nor shall it be used as a medium of political ambition or preferment; nor shall former or present military rank or former or present civilian position be used as the basis for special consideration or preferment. The Marine Corps League wants and strongly encourages ALL its members and families to exercise their Constitutional right and duty to vote. With that said, our membership cannot give the impression that the League supports or opposes ANY one candidate or political party.

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Greetings,

As you know, it will soon be time to start on our Toys for Tots I want to speak on a problem that all VSO's are faced with and it is that we often do not receive notifications of an illness or death until that person returns to a meeting or the day before a funeral or two years or more later when a member dies. In most cases, I have found that most family members have no idea who to contact in organizations that we belong to because we never provide them with that information. So if we write that information down with a note asking them to notify the respective organizations should something happens, the information is available. Something to think about which might be useful for our family members in the future.

We are fast approaching October when we kick off our Toys for Tots Program. This year, I am working to get more Fire Department Companies involved in our program. I have also talked to some city agencies about having our box in their offices and received positive response. So this year, we hope to get more toys so that we can help but smiles on more children's faces. There will be a VAVS meeting soon and I will be able to tell you what is happening in the VA Medical Centers. Until then, I hope that you consider attending our monthly bingo at Greene Street or volunteering some time there or at the Loch Raven facility, I am on my way to Cincinnati, Ohio for my fourth convention this year. Hope that you all enjoy your Labor Day and I will see you when I return.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Marian C. James, SVC*

MCL National Recognition . . . Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Awards presented

The Department of Maryland was eighth out of twenty three Departments that have reported presentation of the Marine Corps League Good Citizenship Award certificates to 150 deserving young men who have achieved the Boy Scouts of America rank of Eagle Scout since 01 JUL 15 to 30 JUN 16 and have received our special certificate. The National Boy Scout Committee highly commends the Department of Maryland for their outstanding community service in this program

**2015-2016 NATIONAL REPORT TOTAL:
2,949 Eagle Scouts**

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Greeting Marines,

We've all heard the phrase, "Each one, teach one"? Let's step it up Marine Corps League style and say "Each one, reach one". At the last Detachment meeting, 2 things struck me as being rather telling. The first was death notices for 2 members and only one or two members knew who they were. One death was only discovered because the family wanted us stop sending our newsletter, Gung Ho, since he had passed away over a year ago. The second thing was that, out of our huge membership list, we had less than 2 dozen members in attendance. Even if we chalk it up to summer vacations, the number attending seems depressing to me.

Detachment memberships are slacking off throughout the State and conversations from members who attend regional and national conventions also say the same is happening nationwide. I notice it as a member of the Detachment Pistol and Rifle team. From a past group of 3 full teams, we are lucky to get 4 or 5 guys together to compete in a match. Other detachment teams are feeling the same effect. I constantly seek Marines or Associates to keep our teams competitive. We are an aging and distracted population. There is always going to be a need to bring in younger members and new ideas.

Even allowing for that factor, we still need to retain the members we have. The idea of staying connected is something to consider. If we keep members in mind, those we haven't seen in awhile, those who share our same interests, we help the Detachment in two very important ways. We never lose track of our fellows and we can remind them of meetings and events, on a timely basis. One other thing comes to mind, in the way of older members. They may need a ride or a reminder beyond our monthly newsletter. Checking with them on a regular basis, perhaps a week before the next meeting may ensure that we get a chance to see their smiling faces. The same applies to younger members that we recruit. Many of them have young families, busy jobs and need a reminder from time to time. We also need to not just keep them in the loop but to solicit ideas and energy from the younger recruits, as well as from members who have been around for a long time. Still the basis of a consistent, growing program is new membership and new ideas. We have to have that, along with binding to some older traditions and routines, if you know someone that you've been missing, dial them up, send a text before the next meeting or event and see if you can bring them out. It's for the good of the Corps.

Semper Fi
Ray Vaughn, JVC

Chaplain's Report

'Tis the last rose of summer

Thomas Moore 1779-1852

'TIS the last rose of summer,
Left blooming alone ;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone ;
No flower of her kindred,
No rose-bud is nigh,
To reflect back her blushes,
Or give sigh for sigh.
I'll not leave thee, thou lone one !
To pine on the stem ;
Since the lovely are sleeping,
Go sleep thou with them.
Thus kindly I scatter
Thy leaves o'er the bed,
Where thy mates of the garden
Lie scentless and dead.
So soon may I follow,
When friendships decay,
And from Love's shining circle
The gems drop away.
When true hearts lie wither'd,
And fond ones are flown,
Oh ! who would inhabit
This bleak world alone ?

Semper Fi Prayer

Please remember Patricia Davis, wife of Marine John Davis who passed away this month. Also, please keep in your prayers the family of Marine Frederick A. Miller who was called by the Supreme Commandant on 25 July 2016.

Remember our sick in your thoughts and prayers for Dorothy (Dotty) White, Charles Luthardt, Roose Nippard, Bill Wheeler, Dominic Naples, Irv Becker. Fran Miller, Ceil Handschuh and Kathy DeVage wife of Glen DeVage.

And a general prayer of intercession for those who have aches and pains but Marine on through the day.

God Bless Us, Our Nation and the Marine Corps

Howard Koontz
Chaplain



Legislative

What is going on in Washington D.C. with CONGRESS ? The Congressional Leaders are on a break, they are back in their congressional district working on their election.

Defense Budget FY 2017 Defense Budget includes Commissary cuts, Tricare Fee increases: The Department of Defense (DoD) has released its FY 2017 budget request (\$582.7 billion). This budget is not limited to Sequestration spending caps. The budget includes a \$221 million cut in commissary funding. Also in the budget is a request that provides a 1.6 percent pay increase in active duty pay.

Concurrent Receipt: Congressional Leaders Bishop and Bilirakis have both reintroduced their bills that would allow the remaining longevity military retirees to collect BOTH their retired pay and their VA disability pay, bills H.R 333 and H.R 303. This is a vital issue Congressionally created Commission on Care issued its final report on how the nation should transform veterans' health care.

Establishing high-performing, integrated community-based health care networks:

Retaining existing VA specialty care resources and expertise in fields like spinal cord injury, blind rehabilitation, mental health care, and prosthetics:

Allowing veterans to choose primary care providers and/or specialty care providers in VHA care system:

Establishing leadership succession strategy and management system:

Let's hope our Congressional Leaders can fulfill the above issues.

Appeals Process - Must be Fixed - Congress, White House, VA Agree. More than 444,000 veterans have appeal cases pending in the benefits system. The average appeals decision takes three (3) years to reach at the VBA level from beginning to end. The appeals backlog has risen steadily in recent years. The VA is failing our veterans, it is time we make changes for the good. Time we get something done NOW.

VA Health Care for Women Veterans — H.R. 2054 — Women veterans are the fastest growing cohort in the VA's current treatment population, but VA program have not kept pace with the rate of growth

Suicide — Today the rate of veterans suicide is 22+ lost per day. That's over 150 veteran suicides per week, over 600 per month, and over 8000 per year. These staggering numbers in perspective. It is estimated that more veterans take their own lives each year than have been killed in action since 9/11. This growing epidemic should have all of us concerned and how we can help.

Detachment Home Dispatch

Detachment Home Maintenance

Hope all remembered that Sat the 27 work day was cancelled in order to attend the viewing for Patricia Davis. A few showed up to pay their respects. It is a shame that the rest of you able body so called members don't make an effort to pay your respects. Remember one day you will be in John's shoes.

Again if any of you able body members could see your way clear to give 2 to 3 hours a **MONTH**, on Wed. or Saturday, 9 till 12 noon it would make a big difference in the condition of the building & grounds and you would be surprised how well things go, you might even like it. While you are there and you see something that needs fixing please let one of us know. (Chuck, Dick, Diamond or me). **Please do your best if you drop or spill something clean it up or let one of the above know to help you.**

Hall Rentals

Hope all of you know that 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



Pick Three Lottery Calendar * 2016

This month you will see winners by name and amount won. I hope this will gain more of you interested for next year. The first time you win, you get your money back plus more and you could win again.

2016 Pick 3 Lottery Calendar Monthly Winners:

July 2016:

7/17	Lloyd Emery	#240	\$25.00
7/18	Trevor Merceron	#282	\$25.00
7/20	Jake Wilson	#727	\$25.00
7/26	Milton L. Hazzard	#414	\$25.00
7/30	Betty Lou Walsh	#756	\$25.00

The fund had five (5) winners for July. All won \$25.00 for a total payout of \$125.00 leaving a balance in the fund of \$3,065.00.

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof woof,

The 77th Supreme Growl is history and from what I hear, it was a very good one. We donated \$29,000.00 to the children's hospital, but we can do better. The Maryland Pack and Pound 204 were recognized for donating the most bones among the many Packs and Pounds of the Kennel. And again this year, the Pennsylvania Pack vowed to beat us next year. Time will tell.

PDD Evie Remines was named the Kennel Dog of the Year! Congratulations Evie, you are most deserving.

DD Diamond Kimos survived the grueling initiation process and has been advanced to Pedigreed Devil Dog! Congratulations Diamond.

Pound 204 held its annual election of officers in August with the following results: Pound Keeper, PDD Sturm; Senior vice PDD Ben Wells; Junior vice, PDD Don Benson; Dog Trainer, PDD Hierstetter; Mad Dog, PDD Bowman; Police Dog, DD Pat Sharkey. The Pound Keeper made the following appointments: Dog Robber, PDD Paul Taylor; Watch Dog, Pup Bill Collins; Barking Dog, PDD Diamond Kimos.

The Dog Robber did not collect a lot of dues at the August Growl. Remember that your dues expired on 31 August. Get off your lazy duff and send 15 big bones to your friendly Dog Robber (me) ASAP. Members in arrears cannot attend Growls or hold office.

The next Pack Growl will be on 1 October at American Legion Post 71, 423 Memorial Drive, Oakland, Md 21550 (telephone: 301 334 2228).

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

*Woof woof,
PDD Paul Taylor
Dog Robber*



Auxiliary

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



Greetings,

Our national convention was held in Tulsa OK this August 6th through 13th. The new national officers are Karen Aune, President, Carol Smith, Sr. Vice from Illinois, Evelyn Joppa, Jr. Vice from Florida, Colleen English from Texas and our mid east division vice president, Judy Horensky from Delaware. As you will note we have representatives from all around the country. Three of our members, Bernadine Blair, Rosemary Koontz and Joan Hansen, were able to attend. The daily meetings were interesting as they revealed how other units in our country conduct their meetings and activities. The convention also gave the attending members the opportunity to learn about the bylaws of the auxiliary. By laws and administrative procedures are modeled after the leagues procedures. The national convention provides the opportunity to update current practices. This year they modified the wording in one of the administrative procedures to allow the installation of officers to take place after the final business of the convention as well as at the final banquet. Previously the installation could only be held at the final banquet. When presented for a vote all members present voted to accept this change. This was one of the administrative procedures brought up for change this year. Changes in the bylaws are only considered for change every 3 years. A change in this procedure will be brought up next year.

We still need more recipes for our cookbook. We can use some recipes for main dishes that include fish and/or seafood, soup, salads and bread. Hopefully we will have all the recipes that we need by the end of next month. Please help us out.

AUXILIARY DUES ARE DUE NOW!
Please send your payment to:
Julie Silverstein, Treasurer, MCLA Baltimore
Unit, 1426 E Fort Ave. Baltimore, MD 21230.

God bless America,

*Joan Hansen,
President*

When you invite someone you know to join the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, you do more than increase our ability to help America's Veterans and their families; you could be helping that new member live a longer, more fulfilling life.

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 existence.

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

Answer to August's Question

The Battle of Iwo Jima (February 19–March 26, 1945) cost 6,500 American dead and another 20,000 wounded. Four Medals of Honor were awarded to Navy corpsmen and one to a Navy officer for actions on Iwo Jima, one-third of all Medals of Honor awarded to the Marine Corps during WWII. How many Medals of Honor were awarded to Marines from The Battle of Iwo Jima ?

Twenty Two

September's Question

As Fleet Marine Officer in the famous expedition to Japan, serving with the Marine Detachment in which this future USMC Commandant cruised to Japan with the expedition. With elaborate ceremonies, the Marines under his command took a prominent part in the expedition on shore at the formal landing of the naval forces at Kurihama, Yokosuka, Japan. Who is he ?

- a) Archibald Henderson
- b) Jacob Zelin
- c) Charles G. McCawley
- d) Randolph M. Pate

GOOD LUCK



Dates of Interest

- **September 9, 2010**
U.S. Marines boarded and seized control of a German-owned vessel that pirates had captured the day before off the coast of Somalia.
- **September 10, 1813**
Marines served with Commodore Matthew C. Perry during the Battle of Lake Erie.
- **September 11, 1990**
The 4th MEB arrived in the gulf of Oman in support of Operation Desert Shield.
- **September 15, 1950**
The 1st Marine Division landed at Inchon, Korea and moved on to capture Seoul.
- **September 18, 1924**
After seven years of occupation, the last Marines departed the Dominican Republic.
- **September 22, 1945**
The 5th Marine Division landed at Sasebo, Japan, for occupation duty.
- **September 26, 1915**
"Horse Marines" engaged Haitian bandits near Petite Riviera.
- **September 28, 1900**
Marines withdrew from Peking after the Boxer Rebellion.

Members Birthdays

SEPTEMBER – BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We would like to wish the following Marines a "**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**" and many more: Edward L. King, Donald L. Rollette, Sr., Joseph R. Lantz, Nelson J. Dickerson, George H. Keen, Sr., Harvey C. ThiBault, John F. McCurdy, John F. McCurdy, Richard J. Koel, Bobbie Hawkins, Keith Custard, Michael J. Ratajczak, Jr., Darrell N. Truesdale, Sr. and Calvin L. Johnson.

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 Activities

VA Medical Center Bingo

Tuesday 2 August 2016

Thanks to members of the Detachment and Auxiliary, patients enjoyed an evening of games, prizes and refreshments.

MCL 93rd National Convention

Tulsa Oklahoma

8-13 August

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Representing the Baltimore Detachment were Dept. of Maryland Stuart Blair PDC, Det. Chaplain. Howard Koontz, Jr., Marines Jack Colleran, Diamond Kimos, MCLA Mid East Division Assist. President Bernadine Blair, Balto Unit Pres. Joan Hansen, and MCLA member Rose Mary Koontz

Coming Events

4th Combat Engineer Battalion

Family Day

Sunday 11 September * 0900 - 1430

We will have an EXPO of resources once again, combined with "Employers Seeking Vets". Our event will take place aboard our Reserve Training Center in Baltimore, MD. Please take a moment to save the date on your calendars and/or let me know if you are not able to participate this year.

CRAB FEAST & BULL ROAST

Gold Star Mothers Maryland Chapter, Inc.

Sunday, September 18, 2016

3:00 – 7:00 PM

Location: American Legion Post 60
2 Main Street
Laurel, MD 20723

\$55.00/per person

Contact Mary Wiley at goldstarmothersmd@gmail.com
to purchase tickets

MODERN DAY MARINE

27 -29 September 2016

Quantico, VA

Modern Day Marine is co-sponsored by Marine Corps Base, Quantico, the Exposition's home base. MCB Quantico, home to the Combat Development Command and the Marine Corps Systems Command, is responsible for setting requirements, developing equipment and systems and purchasing the equipment and systems that the Marine Corps will rely on in the years to come.

MCL Department of Maryland Fall Meeting

Saturday 01 October 2016

Hosted by Garrett County Detachment

Location: American Legion Post #71

423 Memorial Drive

Oakland, MD 21550

Tel; 301-334-2228

Meeting begins: 0900

Coffee, fruit juice, and pastry served at 0800

Veterans Muster @ Senior Expo

Timonium Fairgrounds

26 & 27 October

Wed. 26 Oct. 9AM – 6PM

Thu. 27 Oct 9AM-4PM

Baby Boomer and Senior Expo is partnering with Secretary George Owings III of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and the Baltimore County HomeFront Committee to offer a Veterans' Muster for all ages within North Hall of the Cow Palace both days of Expo: October 26 and 27. Baltimore County is committed to gathering all appropriate programs and benefits to aid veterans and their families.

Free admission for all veterans

In honor of the service veterans have given our country, all veterans will receive free admission to both days of Expo.

The MCL Baltimore Detachment will offer an exhibit booth for the Marine Corps League display and recruitment.

Volunteers are requested to man the booth. If you wish to volunteer for this event, contact Stuart Blair @ 410-665-6440.

Coming Soon !

2016 USMC BIRTHDAY BALL

12 November 2016

Only two months to go....

Mark your calendars

Come, invite your friends and celebrate a great tradition with us

*Premier Dinner * Open Bar * Live Music*

Make checks payable to:

Baltimore Marine Veterans, Inc.

Attire: military dress or coat & tie.

DETAILS ENCLOSED FLYER

BALTIMORE
GUNG HO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
BALTIMORE DETACHMENT

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6 SEPT	TUES	-	VA Medical Center – Bingo
11 Sept	SUN	0900 - 1430	4 th Combat Engineer Battalion Family Day Expo USMCR Center, Baltimore
21 SEPT	WED	1830	Trustees, Staff and Officers Meeting
23 SEPT	FRI	1930	Baltimore Detachment and Auxiliary Meeting
27-29 SEPT	TUES - THURS	-	Modern Day Marine Expo Quantico, VA
1 OCT	SAT	0900	MCL Department of Maryland Fall Meeting Oakland, MD
4 OCT	TUES	1830	VA Medical Center – Bingo
26 Oct	WED	1830	Trustees, Staff and Officers Meeting
28 Oct	FRI	1930	Baltimore Detachment and Auxiliary Meeting
26-27 Oct	Wed - Thur	0900	Veterans Muster / Senior Expo Timonium Fairgrounds