

**Marine Corps League  
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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**BALTIMORE**  
**GUNG HO**



*September / October 2021 \* Vol. 25, No.5 \* Editor Stuart Blair*

*Memoriam of \*Marine Vincent P. Cerniglia\* 5 August 2021*

**MCL 98<sup>th</sup> National Convention  
Springfield, IL 8-14 August**

The Department of Illinois of the Marine Corps League was proud to host the Marine Corps League 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in historic Springfield, Illinois.

With several hundred Marine Corps veterans from around the country, the 98<sup>th</sup> annual Marine Corps League National Convention began Monday at the WYNDHAM Springfield City Centre and continued through Saturday.

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

Later on Monday the service of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains was offered. Dept. Of Maryland Chaplain Leonard Stielper was the recipient of the Legion of Honor.

Wednesday the MODD Supreme Growl was held with the announcement of the presentation of a check for \$70,000 presented to a Springfield, Illinois children's hospital from funds donated by Devil Dogs across the country. Also representing the Maryland Pack was Pack Leader PDD Craig Reeling with Craig and Evie Remines recipient of a DD Special Award.

The convention attendees were treated to various activities. which included a variety of area restaurants.

On Friday, MCL national officers were elected with Johnny Baker as our National Commandant. The week's high point was Friday night's banquet.

Representing the Dept. of Maryland were Howard Koontz, Jr. Dept. MD Cmdt., with Baltimore Auxiliary Unit representative Rosemary Koontz,

**Dept. of Maryland  
Summer Staff Meeting  
21 August 2021**

The Dept. of Maryland Summer Staff Meeting was hosted by the Baltimore Det. 565 on Saturday 21 August.

The Dept. Staff Meeting led by Cmdt Howard Koontz, Jr. conducted the business meeting with representatives from detachments around the state. Dept. Chaplain Stielper reported on sick deceased members with reports presented by dept. officers, standing committees, and detachment reps.

Dept. Staff voted in favor of donations to the Peace Cross Project and veteran agencies including MCL Foundation, Maryland Veteran Homes, VA hosp. centers.

Announcements of special and fundraising events

Upon adjournment, lunch was offered followed by the Merlin Pack Growl.



## Commandant's Message

Greetings,

It is hoped that you, your family, and friends are well when you receive this Gung Ho. Even though we have been confined and under various restrictions from the COVID-19 Virus, it appears as though we are not out of the woods. The new variation of this virus is causing much damage to both old and young but mostly to individuals who have not been vaccinated. There is much speculation about whether to take the shots, if they are safe, if they help and who should or should not take the vaccines. Some individuals who have taken the vaccine have caught COVID-19 but it appears as though the cases have been less severe than those who have not been vaccinated. If you have not taken one of the vaccines, now is the time to give it some serious consideration.

For those of you who do not know our Auxiliary member, Janice Chance who is the Past President of the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland was honored at a parade at Arlington National Cemetery and some member of our Detachment had the privilege of being there to see her receive this recognition. It was an honor to see Janice, her family and friends and other Gold Star Mothers during the ceremony. We congratulate Janice Chance as she continues to work and enhance the programs of the Gold Star Mothers. Our Detachment is elated that she is a member of the Baltimore Detachment, and we are sure that she will receive other accolades for her dedicated service to Marines and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian C. James  
Commandant



**LOCAL TOY COLLECTION BEGINS  
OCTOBER**

**DELIVERING  
HOPE  
SINCE 1947**

## Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Greetings All,

I hope this message finds everyone enjoying the summer weather despite the heat. I had plan to be reporting on the activities from the Marine Corps League National Convention this month but due to some unforeseen misshapes I was not able to attend the convention. At this time I'm looking forward to next year's convention at Daytona, Florida and some good and helpful information to pass on.

As of this writing we are preparing to host the Department of Maryland Quarterly meeting at the Baltimore Detachment. One of our own, Howard Koontz is presently serving as Department Commandant and we hope to represent and make a good impression on the attending detachment from across the state.

Detachment activities are nonexistent at this time and we hope that will change soon. In the mean time we look forward to seeing more members at the detachment home so that we can begin to plan future activities. It would be nice to see the Baltimore Detachment involved in veteran and community activities.

Summer is winding down, enjoy the end of the season be safe and be on the lookout for new members and associate members, none Marines are welcome.

Here is one last Summer event that you may want to participate:

On Friday September 3, the MDVA will honor all Military and First Responders @ the Maryland State Fair, Timonium Fair Grounds on FRIDAY 3 September as "Military and First Responders Appreciation Day"

Let's overflow the Maryland State Fair stands with our beloved servicemen and women as we celebrate and honor those who give so much to keep us safe at home and abroad. Secretary George Owings, Dept of Veteran Affairs, is one of our honored guests and will be leading our SHOUT OUT parade with the 229th Army Band as we explore the amazing impact horses have had on our lives through history~ exhibitions will include the cavalry, carriage, racing and Roman Riding and so much more. All military and first responders with ID receive free entry to the Maryland State Fair.

A parade of active duty members, veterans and first responders will kick off our celebration, and organization should contact **Dawn Leung at 410-472-3682 or [horseandstatefair2021@gmail.com](mailto:horseandstatefair2021@gmail.com)** for more information on how to be part of the Shout Out Parade.

Semper Fi,  
Earl Ruff, Jr.  
SVC

## Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Greeting Marines,

Our Detachment is adjusting to changing COVID policies and the Delta variant and welcomes all of our members to fully participate in meetings and other activities as much as possible. A lot of things are affecting how members engage but we respect misgivings and cautions. With that in mind, we still seek to enlist new members to grow our group and support those who are current members. Reaching out and staying in contact is important. Assuring current members that we are taking the necessary cautions is paramount, that mask wearing and vaccinations are a personal choice and we respect that. We are apolitical but respect the medical science and encourage safe procedures, as well as supporting VA Hospitals in the process. Just as we enlisted to serve and protect our Nation, we honor that patriotic dedication and extend that service and protection during this ongoing pandemic as it appears to be on the uptick again. We value our membership and their families and take every step warranted to safeguard them. We want to grow the organization, not contribute to the trauma of losing members, many of whom are older and more susceptible or younger and concerned about the safety of their spouses and children.

Recent events in Afghanistan involving the withdrawal of US troops and evacuation of US Embassy personnel and Afghans who assisted us over the last 20 years is sure to bring mental distress on all veterans from all periods of war and conflict whether they agree with or are upset by the current situation. Folks who have manned a foxhole hold feelings that most civilians can never know. Reaching out and being supportive of veterans who participated in that 20 year stint of conflict is vital. Potential new members who were a part of that combat need to know we welcome them and can understand their feelings. Talk to them; let them know we are a willing sector of their support system. More Sandbox warriors have committed suicide than the combined numbers of veterans, in all past wars. Invite them to the Detachment, to share the camaraderie of like-minded individuals, who have experienced war and the aftermath. We are a place for them, men and women who have been in their shoes over the past decades. As Marines, we always have their back for anything that matters to them that affects them. We are here for them.

Semper Fidelis.

*Ray Vaughn, JVC*

### New Members

We would like to extend a warm "Welcome Aboard" to **Marine Eugene (Terry) Gill** who recently joined our Detachment. Semper Fi



## Semper Fi Prayer Circle

"Pride goes before destruction  
and haughtiness before a fall."

### **Reflection:**

Self-confidence is necessary, but when it becomes self-aggrandizement it is dangerous. Nothing leads more easily to ruin than pride in one's own power. And nothing protects more efficiently from ruin than humility.

Pride is dangerous, Proverbs 16:18, Peter 5:5-6, TLB. "You younger men, follow the leadership of those who are older. And all of you serve each other with humble spirits, for God gives special blessings to those who are humble, but sets Himself against those who are proud. If you will humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, in His good time He will lift you up."

The proud will be disappointed. Matthew 23:12, .  
"But those who think themselves great shall be disappointed and humbled; and those who humble themselves shall be exalted."

*Amen.*

### **Taps**

Marine Vincent P. Cerniglia 5 August 2021 was called by the Supreme Commandant. May he rest in peace and that their survivors attain peace during their sorrow and grieving process.

### **Sick / Distressed**

Prayers go to those on our "Sick and Distress Betty Thompson, Will Priest, Harry Carroll, George Adams, Rick Gurly, Jerry Brown and wife Cass, and Charles LaHatte.

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*



## Maryland Veterans Commission

- Staff to veteran ratio will be 4:1
- Dialysis will be provided onsite
- Approx cost of construction \$160 million

### Service and Benefits Program

- All but one Service office is open to the public now
- All other Service offices are open for in-person appointments

### Cemetery and Memorials Program

- Burials are continuing as usual, and never slowed even during the worst of the pandemic

### Guest Speakers

Dr. Marsden McGuire from VA Central office presentation ;  
VA Mental Health Direction / Assisting veterans / families

Mark Hendricks, Maryland Veterans Trust Fund presentation

- The MDVA Trust Fund is a non-profit within a state agency. There is a committee which reviews all completed applications.
- Trust is a one-time only program. Do not have the staffing and infrastructure to follow the construction process. There are other programs, including the VA who helps with adaptive housing. Commissioner Reuter added that there is a Fund in Delaware that PVA manages, which will help with these expenses

Mr. Gregory Adams for his presentation

- Chaplain with the Baltimore City Police Department and a Real Estate Professional.  
\*Homes for Homeless Veterans

### Peace Cross Project

- Commissioner Patrick Guibao representing the American Legion, Peace Cross Project update acknowledging the Marine Corps League for their support, Garret County Det. 1234

Sub-Committee Reports:

- Homeless Veterans
- Incarcerated Veterans
- Substance Abuse

Commissioners Round Robin

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm

Next MVC meeting will be Tuesday October 18, 2021  
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032,

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

### MVC Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday 20 July the Maryland Veterans Commission held their quarterly meeting at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 22 Commissioners representing veteran organizations of Maryland were in attendance. Representing the Marine Corps League was Commissioner Stuart Blair, PDC and Bernadine Blair, MCLA DM PP.

### MDVA Secretary George Owings III Report:

#### Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

- For the 2021 FY the Trust awarded over \$232,000 to Maryland Veterans, averaging almost \$20,000 per month

#### Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

- As I reported at the previous meeting in April, applications and new admissions have resumed at Charlotte Hall, The census is increasing and we had 310 residents last week but we are not back to pre-pandemic numbers yet, so please help spread the work that Charlotte Hall is open and accepting new residents

#### Second Veterans Home

- Sharon Murphy, Charlotte Hall Director is preparing the application for the federal VA and discussions are taking place for site design and layout of the facility
  1. The Deputy Secretary and I recently visited a new Virginia Veterans Home to see the latest in design and innovation
- The Board of Public works recently voted to approve a vendor to prepare Part I & II documentation for 2<sup>nd</sup> home in Sykesville
- We are planning on a 128-bed small home concept implementing the latest technology and best practices learned from the COVID 19 outbreak
- Secretary Owings called on Deputy Secretary Finn to say more about the second Veterans Home
  - The trip to Virginia was helpful to see best practices and new plans for Veterans Homes
  - The plan for Maryland is a two story facility, smaller footprint, 128 beds
  - Initial plan had to be redesigned to allow for wheelchair turning radius

## Auxiliary

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



Greetings,

Hope our members have paid their dues for another year and are ready to attend our meetings this New Year. We need new ideas for ways we can be of service this year. We plan to contribute to Toys for Tots and the Festival of Trees. We need to start in October on the Festival of Trees to have tree and decorations ready in November when the festival begins. Hope our members will join us.

The detachment and auxiliary hosted the state quarterly meeting on August 21. We had a chance to show off our meeting room. We are the envy of the state.

Since we are off this summer there is not much news to report. We hope everyone has had a great relaxing summer and will look forward to our meetings in the fall.

*God bless America,  
Joan Hansen, President*

### **Detachment Home Dispatch**

Milt, Ernie, and Ray are still hard at it. The attic will be so clean soon we could have a meeting up there. We will be asking for help, real soon because of all the stuff they have brought down from the attic, some to the salvage yard & some to the dump. If anyone needs sheets of insulation, we have it, 4ft fluorescent bulbs plenty

### **Baltimore Detachment Hall Rental**

If you know of someone who is looking for a hall to rent, please keep your Detachment Hajj in mind, we can seat 100 comfortably. Keep promoting the hall rental. Information call Earl Ruff, Jr. 410-917-0578 or Will Priest 410-736-8531.

## Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof woof,

### **Military Order of the Devil Dogs Donates \$70,000 to HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital**

AUGUST 10, 2021

The Marine Corps League Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD) donated \$70,000 to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. MODD members visited the hospital August 10 to present the check. The Honorable 59<sup>th</sup> Chief Devil Dog CDD Tom Hazlett said it is the group's largest donation to date. "This is a testament to the hardworking Dogs of our Order, especially during a pandemic," Making donations to children's hospitals is something the MODD has been doing for more than 30 years. As this year's Marine Corps League's national convention is in Springfield, the MODD selected the NICU at St. John's Children's Hospital as the recipient of this year's funds. The MODD is holding its 81<sup>st</sup> "Supreme Growl" – or anniversary meeting – this year.

"Every year we make a donation from our special hospital fund, or 'Passport Fund,' and that money goes to the local hospital of our choice

***Melin Pack Growl*** was held following the Dept. of MD Meeting 21 August. Pack Leader Craig Reeling was hospitalized. Sr. Pack Leader conducted the Growl with regular business followed by swearing in of pups to the order

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### **Schedule**

*Melin Pack Growl  
Saturday 20 November  
following the Dept. of Maryland Staff Meeting*

*Hound Dog Pound 204 Growl  
Sunday December @ 0900 @ VFW Post 160*

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

*Woof woof,  
PDD Stuart Blair  
Barking Dog*

## MCL Boy Scout Program

*“On My Honor”*



### **Court of Honor Events Outlook**

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!

This past fiscal year there have been very few Court of Honor presentations due to the health issue pandemic. In the past few months, the request for GCA has been increasingly positive. Our primary focus continues to be presenting Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Award certificates.

### **Good Citizenship Awards presented Fiscal Year: July 2020 – June 2021**

National: 1142

Mideast Division 213

Dept. of Maryland: 48

Remember the “Square Knot Program”

Contact me for details:

Phone: 410-665-6440 or

Email: [thistleman@verizon.net](mailto:thistleman@verizon.net)

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*

Monthly calendar fund winners for May 2021;

02/01	John Renzo	#246	
	\$25.000		
05/01	One (1) New Ticket		
	+25.00		
05/07	John W. Hierstetter	#190	\$25.00
05/16	Brian Horn	#510	\$25.00
05/28	Janice Cornish	#825	\$25.00
05/29	Junious Lee Lewis	#006	\$25.00

During the month of May 2021 we received one (1) new Slip and we had five (5) winners for a total payout of \$125.00 leaving a balance in the fund at the end of May at \$3,525.00.

Monthly calendar fund winners for June 2021;

06/08	Dayrl Baylor	#519	\$25.00
06/14	Robert Pettis	#220	\$30.00
	Flag Day		
06/21	Received twenty-six (26) new slips		
	+\$260.00		
03/09	Janice Cornish	#177	\$25.00
06/14	Frank Caldwell	#712	\$25.00
06/20	Wendy Lynch	#406	\$50.00
	Father's Day		
06/22	Collin Hayward	#410	\$25.00
06/28	Janice Cornish	#120	\$25.00

During the month of June 2021 we received twenty-six (26) NEW SLIPS and had seven (7) winners. One (1) won \$30.00 on Flag Day, one (1) won \$50.00 on father's day and five (5) won \$25.00 for A total payout of \$205.00 leaving a balance in the fund at the end of June 2021 of \$3,580.00,

## 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

By the Spring of 1813 a detachment of twenty-four U.S. Marines were assigned at Fell's Point to guard the Baltimore naval yard where the U.S. sloops of war were to be completed that fall. What were the names of the two sloops ?

**Erie & Ontario**

### September - October Question

In 1915, the Commandant of the Marine Corps authorized the creation of a Marine Corps aviation company consisting of 10 officers and 40 enlisted men. The Marine Aviation Company was commissioned as the first official Marine flying unit, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. What date was the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aviation Squadron and 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aeronautic Company formed ?

- a) October 1915
- b) February 1917
- c) September 1923
- d) November 1927

## Members Birthdays

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

### SEPTEMBER - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Donald L. Rollette, Sr., Joseph R. Lantz, Nelson J. Dickerson, George H. Keen, Sr., Harvey C. ThiBault, Charles J. Cooper, John F. McCurdy, Richard J. Koel, Keith Custard, Michael J. Ratajczak, Jr., Darrell N. Truesdale, Sr., Eugene (Terry) Gill 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, Charles H. Obitz III, William S. Holland and Ashton Smith Jr.

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)

## National POW/MIA Recognition Day

**Friday, September 17, 2021**  
**Display your flags**



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. National Vietnam War Veterans Day is March 29, the date in 1973 when the last US combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam.

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.

**BALTIMORE**  
**GUNG HO**

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**BALTIMORE DETACHMENT**

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

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

*Marines Helping Heroes 5K Challenge \* October 2021*

**The Marines Helping Heroes 5k Challenge is back** as an **in-person** fundraising event, and due to the popularity of last year's virtual event, you can once again **RUN FROM HOME**. This new hybrid event was created by Marines Helping Heroes Foundation and the Anne Arundel County Detachment of the MARINE CORPS LEAGUE to support our local military and veterans. Funds raised will benefit our local military, veterans, the Semper Fi & America's Fund and Treat NOW. Information regarding these two great organizations can be found at <https://SemperFiFund.org> and <https://TreatNOW.org>. Marines pride themselves on fitness and place a great emphasis on overall conditioning. This event consists of a 5K run with optional push-up and sit-up challenges. The Challenge is designed to replicate the US Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test.



The Marines Helping Heroes Foundation is an IRS non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your donation may be tax deductible. For additional information regarding the foundation, please visit our website at <https://MarinesHelpingHeroes.org>