

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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GUNG HO

*March - April 2026 * Vol. 30, No.2 * Editor Stuart Blair*

Balto Detachment Teams with MCJROTC Program

The Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC) develops young leaders through discipline, citizenship, academic excellence, and meaningful community service. At Parkville High School and Franklin High School, cadets consistently demonstrate pride, teamwork, respect, and an unwavering commitment to service.

Their accomplishments extend well beyond the classroom, reflecting strong leadership, character development, and dedication to school and community initiatives throughout Baltimore County. Through drill competitions, academic achievement, and volunteer efforts, these young men and women embody the core values of honor, courage, and commitment.

Through regular communication and collaboration with Marine instructors and school leadership, the Marine Corps League - Baltimore Detachment 565 actively supports and encourages both programs.

Each year, the Detachment proudly recognizes and awards an Outstanding Cadet for academic excellence, leadership, and dedication. This recognition reinforces Marine Corps values while inspiring continued growth, responsibility, confidence, and achievement among these exceptional future leaders.

Zack Blanchard Reinvigorates the Baltimore City Veterans Commission

The Baltimore Detachment 565 proudly recognizes Councilperson Zack Blanchard for his leadership in restoring purpose and direction to the Baltimore City Veterans Commission.

Representing Baltimore City's 11th District, including Locust Point—the home of Detachment 565—Blanchard reinstated the Commission in 2025, reaffirming the City's commitment to those who served.

Originally from South Louisiana and a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Blanchard served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps, concluding his active duty mentoring future officers while teaching American government at his alma mater.

Before his election to the Baltimore City Council, he served as President of the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association and held leadership roles supporting economic development across Mount Vernon, Madison Park, Bolton Hill, and Charles North. His renewed focus ensures Baltimore's veterans and their families receive the advocacy and support they deserve.

Jonathan Dewar

From the Editor's Desk

Leadership

Leadership within the Detachment is the foundation of its strength, unity, and continued success. Effective leaders lead by example, demonstrating integrity, accountability, and clear, consistent communication in every action. They uphold the core values of the Marine Corps League, ensuring that honor, courage, and commitment remain at the forefront of all activities. By setting high standards and maintaining professionalism, leaders inspire members to participate actively and serve the community with pride and purpose.

Strong leadership fosters teamwork and builds an environment where mutual respect thrives. It ensures conflicts are addressed promptly and professionally, preserving harmony within the Detachment. Well-organized, mission-focused programs and events reflect disciplined planning and dedicated oversight. By mentoring junior members and recognizing individual contributions, leaders cultivate confidence and prepare the next generation for greater responsibility. Transparency in decisions and openness to constructive feedback strengthen trust and unity.

Ultimately, effective leadership sustains morale, safeguards traditions, reinforces camaraderie, and guides the Detachment toward steady growth and meaningful service to veterans, their families, and the community it proudly serves.

*S/F,
Stuart Blair*

Ductus Exemplo "Lead by Example"

Mission First, Marines Always,

Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

During the past months there has not been any activities taking place. I was able to join the Gold Star Mothers to give out gift bags to veterans at The Loch Raven VA Medical Center, for Veterans Appreciation Week.

I will be attending some upcoming events during the next week. The Department Quarterly meeting will be taking place in Ocean City, the Marine Corps League National Midwinter Conference will take place in Arlington Va., and the Mid East Division Conference will be held in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware...

I plan to attend these events and hope to be able to report some of the things going on at the upper levels of the Marine Corps League. Another event taking place is The Modern Day Marine Expo, April 28-30 2026 at the Convention Center Washington D.C. This is a chance to see and experience some of the new equipment and technology being used by the Marine Corps.

I'm still looking for ideas for activities to be held at the Detachment Home (The Fire House) to be able to have members get together for something other than meetings.

*Semper Fi
Earl Ruff Jr
Commandant*

**MIDEAST CONFERENCE
Rehoboth Beach, DE
April 17 – 18**

*** Check website for details**

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Marines & Associates,

Welcome to Spring, time to spruce up the garden, put away the snow shovel, get all shiny and bright for Easter Sunday and enjoy the sunshine and warmth. It's also time to get our feet wet and get back in the Marine Corps League mode.

We are looking forward to seeing more of you at meetings and special events. Check on the folks we have been missing over the winter. We want to see their smiling faces in the place. The more of us participating, the more we can contribute to the community, the more honor we can bring to our beloved Corps and the visibility increases the opportunity to recruit new members and associates.

Semper Fidelis

Ray Vaughn
SVC

Gilchrist will host _____ Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration

Sunday, March 22,

The event will occur from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Martin's West (6817 Dogwood Rd, Baltimore, MD). It will feature a resource fair, lunch, and a program.

This event is **NO COST**

Register online

We look forward to seeing you there!

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Hello Marines,

As we approach the spring season—a time always known for new beginnings—let's take inspiration from the world around us. New flowers bloom, animals are born, and the fresh scent of cut grass and mulched gardens reminds us that it's the perfect time for renewal.

Let's channel that spirit into revitalizing Baltimore Detachment 565 and the work we do for our community, our detachment, and the Marine Corps League as a whole. I encourage each of you to help brainstorm activities we can take on together—projects that strengthen our bond, support our mission, and make a positive impact where we live.

When you're out in the neighborhoods, take pride in who we are and what we represent. Share our story sincerely and confidently so others understand the commitment and service that define us.

Let's plant some seeds this spring—both literally and figuratively—and remember our senior Marines. A simple phone call or visit can mean more than we realize and reflect the brotherhood and sisterhood we stand for.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service, Marines.

Semper Fi.

Michael D. Murphy Jr. JVC

A MCL Member's Responsibilities

Every Marine Corps League member upholds Marine Corps values, supports fellow Marines and veterans, serves the community, honors fallen heroes, promotes patriotism, mentors youth, maintains camaraderie, participates actively, and preserves the traditions, history, and esprit de corps of the United States Marine Corps.



**Semper Fi
Prayer Circle**

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

As Spring greets veterans

*Heavenly Father, as spring awakens the earth
with new life, warmth, and promise, we thank You
for the courage and sacrifice of our veterans.
Bless them with renewed strength, lasting peace,
and steadfast hope. Heal the wounds seen and
unseen, calm troubled hearts, and restore joy to
their spirits. Surround their families with comfort,
unity, and unwavering love. May this season of
growth remind them daily that their service is
deeply honored, cherished, and never forgotten.
Amen.*

Sick / Distressed

Donald Bennett, Jr., Donald Blum, John Clarkson,
Jack Colleran, Walter Cwik, Nelson Dickerson, Ronald
Donoho, Sr., Chris Glinos, Joan Hansen, Marian
James, Rosemary Koontz, Jon Mekeal, Walter Naylor
Jr., Loy O'Berry, William Priest, Charles Stickles and
Wayne Yealdhall.

**My apologies for anyone I missed.*

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 James A. Scott
410.271.2560 / Email j716scott@gmail.com

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

James A. Scott
Chaplain



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AND MILITARY FAMILIES

**Maryland
Veterans
Commission**

MVC Quarterly Meeting Report
On Tuesday 20 January 2026 * **Virtual**

Ed Rothstein, Acting Secretary, **Maryland Department
Veterans & Military Families (DVMMF) Report**

Legislation

One key priority this session is the **Military Family
Inclusion Act (HB270/SB0192)**, which modernizes
several boards and commissions to better reflect the lived
experiences of Maryland's military-connected community.

Tax Session

Maryland's 2026 tax session includes proposals for
veterans, like introducing a Veterans' Day sales-tax-free
day and expanding disabled veteran property tax credits,
plus ongoing property-tax exemptions statewide.
(legiscan.com)

DVMMF Programs Updates

Presentation 1

Pansy Watson, Asst Counsel, Maryland Ethics
Commission

The Maryland State Ethics Commission safeguards
integrity by enforcing ethics laws, regulating lobbying, and
ensuring the Maryland Veterans Commission serves
Maryland's veterans transparently, ethically, and
responsibly.

Presentation 2

David Dragics
Maryland Military Coalition

The Maryland Military Coalition unites military and veteran
organizations to advocate policies supporting service
members, veterans, families, survivors, and caregivers.

**Commission Discussion
Quarterly Reports of events**

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

S/F,
Stuart Blair
Commissioner,
Maryland Veterans Commission

Detachment Home Dispatch

Maintenance

Milton and Ernie continue to make small repairs as needed along with the weekly upkeep and maintenance of the building.

Big thanks to Jon & Abby Dewar for keeping the hall's sidewalks shoveled and salted during the recent snow and ice storms. Mike Murphy for hauling away the old A/C units, lighting fixtures, scrap metal and tin cans to the reclaim center. And Milt Hazzard for sorting and creating up the old paint cans in the basement to be taken to the dump.

As always, any help would be greatly appreciated. Wednesday and Saturday 8:30 am to 12 noon.

Baltimore Detachment Hall Rental

If you know of anyone who is looking for a hall to rent, Please keep the Detachment Hall in mind. We can seat 100 comfortably. For hall rental information please call Ernie Disney @ 410-977-7975.

Annual Dues for 2025/2026 membership of

\$30.00 is now due.
Please remit your check to:

BALTIMORE DETACHMENT #565
Attn: Paymaster
1426 E. FORT AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MD.
21230.

Any questions please call Ernie Disney at 410-547-7699 or 410-977-7975

NOTE

The first Marine Corps League License Tags were issued 20 February 1992

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof, woof,

A "Devil Dog" is a proud nickname for a United States Marine. The term originated during World War I, particularly after the Battle of Belleau Wood in 1918. According to legend, German soldiers referred to Marines as "Teufel Hunden," meaning "devil dogs," because of their fierce fighting spirit and determination. Today, the nickname symbolizes courage, toughness, loyalty, and the relentless warrior ethos that defines the United States Marine Corps.

Merlin Pack Growl was held @
American Legion Post 166, Ocean City, MD
21 February, 2026
*Following DM Staff Meeting

Schedule

Hound Dog Pound 204 wil Growl at VFW Post 160,
Glen Burnie on 1 March 2026

Vice Supreme Growl
Mideast Division Conference
Atlantic Sands Hotel, Rehoboth Beach, DE
Friday 17 April

Merlin Pack Grand Growl
*Dept. of Maryland Convention
Ocean City, MD
Friday 8 May

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

*Woof woof,
PDD Stuart Blair
Barking Dog*

Detachment Programs

Detachment General Fund

Pick Three Lottery Calendar Fundraiser

The proceeds from this are used for the detachment general expenses, assistance to a detachment Marine or family member in need and the Baltimore Greene St. VA Medical Center Project.

The calendar fund winners for December 2025

During the month of December, the fund had a total of eleven (11) winners. The following names won \$25.00: Viral New, Robert Loskot, Myiesha Scott, David Alfera, Stuart Blair, Marian James, Kathy Maxwell, John Sanders and Herbert Sanders. Carey Webb \$30.00 on Pearl Harbor Day and Beatrice Whiting \$30.00 on New Year Eve for a total payout of \$285.00 leaving a balance of \$3,010.00.

Thank you, Jon Mekeal (\$100) and Stuart Blair (\$25) for donating their winnings back to the General Fund.

FINAL REPORT FOR 2025 Calendar Fundraiser

The year-end report for the 2025 Calendar Fundraiser is as follows:

Sales for 2025 (339 slips)	\$6,780.00
Payouts (118 winners)	- \$3,495.00
Donated winnings back to Gen. Fund	<u>+ 325.00</u>
Surplus	\$ 3,610.00

Less Expenses for:

Printing – Slips	- \$200.00
Envelopes	- \$100.00
Postage stamps	- \$151.00
Post Office yearly permit fee	- \$370.00
By-monthly mailer charge	<u>- \$250.00</u>
	- \$1,071.00
Surplus to General Fund	\$2,539.00

Thank you to all members, family members and friends for your continued support of the Baltimore Detachment #565.

The calendar fund winners for January 2026

2026 Calendar sold to date (317)	+\$6,320.00
06 Jan Pha Wilson	#602 \$25.00
09 Jan Kay Lahatte	#638 \$25.00
12 Jan Virgil New	#943 \$25.00
17 Jan Phil Simmonds	#655 \$25.00
18 Jan Douglas Barnes	#944 \$25.00
19 Jan Nicole Thompson	#402 \$25.00
30 Jan William Lotman	#152 \$25.00
31 Jan Lexi Myers	#222 \$25.00
Total of 18 slips @ \$20.00 each	+\$360.00

The fund received 18 new slips and had eight (8) winners all won \$25.00 for a payout of \$200.00, leaving a balance of \$6,440.00 in the fund at the end of January.

MCL Scouting America Award Program



Scouting . . . Prepared for Life

The final phase of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout . . . The Service Project

The final phase in achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in Scouting America is the completion of the Eagle Scout Service Project. During this milestone, the candidate plans, develops, and leads a meaningful project that benefits a school, religious institution, or community organization. The Scout must demonstrate leadership by organizing volunteers, managing resources, and overcoming challenges. This project reflects initiative, responsibility, and a lasting commitment to serving others beyond oneself.

The Marine Corps League proudly honors Eagle Scouts for their exceptional leadership, dedication, and steadfast service to others. Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout reflects years of hard work, integrity, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to community and country. These young men exemplify the highest ideals of Scouting and demonstrate the character, discipline, and responsibility also cherished by the United States Marine Corps. Their accomplishments inspire confidence in the next generation of principled, service-minded leaders.

Good Citizenship Award Presentations

In the first two quarters (August 2025 – February 2026), the Dept. of Maryland has presented **25** Good Citizenship Awards

S/F,
Stuart Blair
Chairman, Eagle Scout Awards
MCL Dept. of MD

Historic Marine of the Month



“Uncommon valor is a virtue”

March

Cpl Hershel “Woody” Williams

During the Battle of Iwo Jima in March 1945, Cpl. Hershel "Woody" Williams, serving with the 3rd Marine Division, heroically operated a flamethrower to destroy Japanese pillboxes. Despite being wounded by fragmentation on March 6, 1945, he continued to fight, earning the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle.



April

Corporal Jason Dunham November 10, 1981 – April 22, 2004

Cpl Dunham was a U.S. Marine who posthumously received the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Iraq War. On April 14, 2004, in Karabilah, Iraq, he shielded fellow Marines from an enemy grenade with his body and helmet, dying of his injuries eight days later



Members Birthdays

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

MARCH – BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Robert J. Holmes, Louis R. Twigg, Sr., Philip P. Sullivan, Robert E. Walton, Jr., Earl C. Ruff Jr, Garry M. Simms, Joseph W. Meyer, Ernest G. Disney, Michael A. Lewis, Nicole E. Kelly and Gabriela L. Cantarero.

APRIL - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

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

Marines, if you had a birthday this month and your name did not appear on our list, please let Ernie Disney know.

410.547.7699 leave a message, please or Email: mclbaltimore@gmail.com

A Marine has two birthdays !

A Marine is considered to have two birthdays: their personal birthday and the Marine Corps birthday, which is celebrated on November 10th each year, marking the founding of the Continental Marines



BALTIMORE
GUNG HO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
BALTIMORE DETACHMENT

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If you have received this Newsletter by mistake or no longer wish to receive one, please call 410-547-7699 or email us at mclbaltimore@gmail.com to have your name removed from our mailing list.

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

A Marine’s Sacrifice

A Marine’s sacrifice is measured not only in moments of combat, but in quiet acts of courage, discipline, and devotion to others. From the first day of earning the title in the United States Marine Corps, a Marine commits to honor, courage, and commitment—placing mission and country above self. Sacrifice may mean time away from family, enduring hardship, or facing danger without hesitation. It is standing the watch when others sleep, defending freedoms never personally enjoyed, and carrying the weight of responsibility with unwavering resolve. A Marine’s sacrifice reflects love of country, loyalty to fellow Marines, and faithfulness to duty.