

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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GUNG HO

*May - June 2025 * Vol. 29, No.3 * Editor Stuart Blair*

MCL Dept. of Maryland Quest * Parris Island Graduation Week

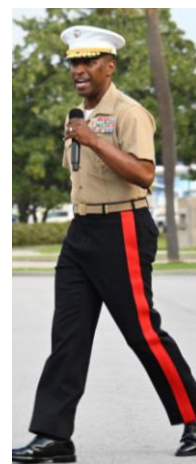
Tuesday 1 April: After arriving at the hotel at the MCAS Beaufort, SC, 10 MCL Dept. of Maryland Members traveled to the Parris Island MCRD and met with acting 1stSgt. GySgt McClain for introduction and then on to the base PX. On to the parade deck to observe the battalion march practice. Later we dined at a popular local seafood restaurant.

Wednesday 2 April: MCL members attended the visitor center for family orientation. Following the orientation, we toured the base on a tram, then over to the golf course for lunch at the Sand Trap Grill. After lunch we were greeted by BnSgtMaj Joseph Howard and to GySgt McClain for a tour of Kilo Co. barracks. We were treated to the welcoming speech delivered by one of the DIs. Later we met with the 1stSgt and two of the DIs at Brig & Brew where we bonded with them.

Thursday 3 April: all attended the early morning motivation run. Later with the Family Day activities began at the parade deck. The presentation was followed by recruit dismissal for a liberty with family until 1500. We were the family for nine Marine recruits upon which we took them by tram to Traditions Restaurant for luncheon. Afterwards we went to the PX to allow the recruits some time treating themselves. Later they were returned to meet up with their DI and Platoon the Marines to the AWT Center for continued practice at the parade deck. Later a dinner was held for family to meet with the DIs

Friday 4 April; all were up at 040 and arrived headquarters for Morning Colors. Commanding General BGen Ahmed T. Williamson addressed all present recognizing the veterans present. On to the parade deck stands preferred seating where we observed the graduation ceremony. Afterwards we returned to the visitor's center where we met up with a Marine just graduated and his family, you see here. We returned to the hotel, packed and were on our way home.

We thank PI Trip Coordinator Marine Harry Heistetter, SgtMaj Joseph Howard and Mrs. Heather Rogers for the scheduling and arrangements of our visit.



Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

I have been traveling with a group of League members to Parris Island. This was a very good trip as we were able to interact with Drill Instructors and get a tour of the barracks housing the recruits.

I found the barracks to be very impressive when compared to the barracks of days gone by. We also were able to interact with Recruits who did not have family coming to the graduation as well as families who were there for graduation.

We also got to meet the Base Commander, Brigadier General Ahmed T. Williamson, who is from Maryland.

At this time I am preparing for the Department Convention in Ocean City. The convention will be May 8-10 2025. I'm hoping that as many members as possible will be able to attend and interact with members from around the state. Also in May, we will be attending the SCEB Change of Command of the reserve unit and I&I on the 17th.

The summer season is almost upon us and I'm hoping that everyone is preparing for an enjoyable vacation season. June will have the Mideast Division Conference being held in Fredericksburg, VA. This is a good time to network and see what other Departments and detachments are doing. I will be trying to have more information from the upcoming conference and conventions during the summer.

Semper Fi

Earl Ruff Jr
Commandant

A Memorial Day Message

"On this Memorial Day, we remember and honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Their courage and dedication will never be forgotten."

"As we celebrate Memorial Day, let's also take a moment to remember and honor those who have given their all for our freedom."

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Greetings,

Summer's almost here, I am seeing the daffodils and forsythia blooming and it's the perfect time to remind our members to cast off the winter coats, the winter blues and start coming out to our regular monthly meetings. Our strength is in our camaraderie and getting together here at the Firehouse on Fort Avenue. We have plenty of activities in the future and the more Marines that want to participate, the more we can do within the Marine Corps League and within the local community. Jon Dewar has set up a new Facebook page for the Detachment, conventions are coming up, the rifle team has shot their first match of the season and there have a few presentations to Scouting America Eagle Scouts in the area.

If you have been away, please plan on getting back in fellowship with the Detachment and if you know any Marines that may be interested in joining the Baltimore Detachment, pass the word. We have Baltimore Detachment business cards available at the Detachment home. Grab a few and stick them in your wallet for those occasion when you get greeted by a hearty Semper Fi or notice a tee shirt or bumper sticker on a Marine you may encounter in your travels. The cards work a heck of a lot better than putting Detachment info on a scrap of paper that usually gets lost and we never see the prospective new member. As always, stay strong, stay safe.

Semper Fidelis.

Ray Vaughn
SVC

Website:

www.mclbaltimore.org

Facebook page:

United States Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Greeting Marines,

Spring is starting to show its face—longer days, a bit more sunshine, and fewer gray skies. The chill in the breeze is softening, and the season is slowly shifting. We've already marked President's Day and Valentine's Day, and Easter is just around the corner.

If you've been AWOL during the winter months, we missed you! It's time to head back to the Firehouse, attend our meetings, and gear up to represent Baltimore Detachment #565 with pride at upcoming Memorial Day events.

Now's also a great time to check in on fellow League members we haven't seen over the winter months. A simple call or visit could lift someone's spirits—and maybe even bring them back to our monthly meetings. And remember, whenever you hear a "Semper Fi," respond with enthusiasm—it's more than a greeting; it's a bond.

If you come across someone not yet part of the Marine Corps League, hand them one of our business cards (kept at the Firehouse). It's a simple gesture that could open the door to new friendships and stronger support for our mission.

Recruiting new members, both young and seasoned, strengthens our Detachment. It brings fresh perspectives from current Marines and preserves the legacy of those who served before. Let's keep building our ranks—for each other, for our fellow Veterans, and for the community we proudly serve.

Semper Fidelis,

Michael Murphy, JVC

A FEW RECRUITING TIPS

Always be ready with a 2-3 minute 'elevator pitch' on the importance and benefits of the Marine Corps League. .

Procure door hangers or Detachment cards (for handing out or placing on car windshields) with your Detachment information. You're now ready to reach out to potential members even if you're not face-to-face.

Keep several membership applications handy.

Communicate through a channel that the member has said they prefer. By allowing members to specify their preferred way of communicating, then being able to tailor your communication with them in that format, you're more likely to get a level of engagement back from them. Whether it is email, text message, telephone, or letter, make sure you're communicating with them how they've requested.

Build and maintain a relationship with military installations.

Build and maintain a relationship at local college campuses with the person in charge of veteran admissions and/or veteran student organizations.



**Semper Fi
Prayer Circle**

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

The True Meaning of Memorial Day

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead: Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved: and now we lie
In Flanders fields!*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields*

Sick / Distressed

Prayers go to those on our "Sick and Distress" list: Marian James, Jack Colleran, Rosemary Koontz, Will Priest, and Joan Hansen.

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

James A. Scott
As always may God's blessing be with
all military and their families

James A. Scott
Chaplain

Detachment Home Dispatch

Maintenance

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

This two-man crew faithfully comes in to take care of any administrative or Maintenance work that has to be done. Even Jack Collier at ninety-five years of age comes in to do what he can. They take care of all minor maintenance and cleaning. Some specialized plumbing work is done by Tony Jackson, and some construction type work is done by Jon Dewar since that is their profession. We are thankful for their assistance.

A contract had been signed for the replacement of some second-floor windows. Items have been relocated from around the windows for the workers easy access.

Ernie and Milt did a bit of spring cleaning and found lots of no longer used items that could be recycled or taken to the dump. The recyclable items were loaded up and taken to the recycle facility by Ernie. A very heavy air conditioning unit was removed down two flights of stairs by Ernie and Milt with the help of a young man passing by our building, and taken to the dump.

The widows or family members of deceased Marines often donate no longer needed medical type items to our detachment. We have for your use crutches, canes, walkers; lift assist items, toiletry items for the infirmed, even a wheelchair available for your use at no charge. Just ask.

The home committee is floating the idea of a monthly luncheon or dinner at different area restaurants. If you would like to chair this or be on a committee, contact us at (MCL) 410/547-7699 or Ernie at 410/977-7975.

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

NOTE:

We wish to give recognition to Marine Don Rollette for his generous donation.



**Maryland
Veterans
Commission**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AND MILITARY FAMILIES**

MVC Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday 15 April 2025 the Maryland Veterans Commission held their quarterly meeting @ Reveille Grounds, Baltimore, MD 21230 with 21 Commissioners representing VSOs and congressional districts, representing the Marine Corps League was Commissioner Stuart Blair, PDC.

Deputy Secretary, Ross Cohen, Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families (DVMF) **REPORT:**

Update: Legislation
2025 DVMF Session Recap

As you know, the Maryland General Assembly has adjourned for the 2025 session. You can receive a legislative update request by contacting me thistleman@verizon.net.

Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

\$300,000 available * Grants awarded this year \$15, 000

Veterans Homes

Charlotte Hall _Less than capacity * Owings Mills construction begins * Perry Point- Property acquired

Cemetery / Memorials

2431 interred fiscal year * Memorial Day ceremonies in place

Presentations:

Jessica Lafave,
Community Engagement & Partnership Coordinator
VA Deflection Committee

Michael Baker
U.S. Vet Center

Subcommittee Reports

- Homeless Subcommittee

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

Next MVC meeting will be Tuesday 15 July, 2025
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD

*Stuart Blair
Commissioner, MCL
Maryland Veterans Commission*

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof, woof,

Marines at Belleau Wood were called "Teufelshunde" or "Devil Dogs" by their German opponents. The nickname endures today as part of the Marine Corps' legacy.

Today, the name lives on and is a testament to the legacy of the Marine Corps. This legacy lives on through the contribution of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs to the children of America.

Schedule

Merlin Pack Grand Growl
*Dept. of Maryland Convention
Ocean City, MD
Friday 9 May

Hound Dog Pound 204 Growl
1 June 0900 * Breakfast Chow 0800
VFW Post 160, Glen Burnie

Vice Supreme Growl
Mideast Division Conference
Holiday Inn, Fredericksburg, VA
Friday 27 June

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

NOTE:

Devil Dog dog tags are not permitted to be worn at funerals and memorial services

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog

*Woof woof,
PDD Stuart Blair
Barking Dog*

MCL Scouting America Award Program

**Scouting . . .
Prepared for Life**



What is an Eagle Scout?

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest achievement in the Scouting America program, signifying a young person's dedication, leadership skills, and commitment to community service. It's a symbol of personal growth, character development, and making a positive impact, going beyond just acquiring merit badges or outdoor skills.

Here's why the Eagle Scout rank is special:

1. Symbol of Achievement and Dedication:

It represents the culmination of years of effort, starting from the very beginning as a Scout.

Earning the rank requires a significant commitment to personal growth, leadership, and community service.

2. Leadership and Service:

Eagle Scouts demonstrate leadership through their service projects, which are planned, organized, and led by them.

3. Character Development and Values:

The Eagle Scout program emphasizes the Scout Oath and Law, promoting qualities like trustworthiness, loyalty, helpfulness, and more.

4. Competitive Advantage:

Earning the Eagle Scout rank can provide a competitive edge in college admissions, job applications, and military service.

5. Lifelong Benefits:

In essence, being an Eagle Scout is about more than just earning a rank; it's about becoming a well-rounded individual with strong leadership skills, a commitment to service, and a deep sense of responsibility to their community.

The Marine Corps League's Good Citizenship Award is a certificate given to Eagle Scouts who have earned the Scouts of America's highest rank. The award recognizes the Eagle Scout's accomplishments and the skills they've learned, which are valued by the Marine Corps League and other organizations.

Good Citizenship Awards Presented

In the fiscal year 2024 - 2025 there have been (71) seventy-one to date presentations of the GCA by the Dept. of Maryland.

*Stuart Blair
Chairman, Eagle Scout Awards
MCL Dept. of MD*

Detachment Programs

Marine Family Assistance

Marine families in need from the community are given financial assistance. The Marines are selected by the 4CEB Reserve unit and / or detachment program coordinator.

Francis Scott Key Middle School Scholarship

June of each year students of the 5th and 8th grade Francis Scott Key Middle School selected for their outstanding academic achievements are presented with a monetary award along with a certificate of achievement by the MCL Baltimore Detachment.

MCROTC

MCROTC Programs offered by high schools in the community select an outstanding cadet. These cadets are honored at graduation with awards from community organizations. The Baltimore Detachment presents the outstanding cadet with a plaque of recognition and a monetary award.

Scouting America * Eagle Scout Award

Scouts achieving the rank of Eagle Scout are honored at their court of Honor with the "Good Citizenship Award" by the Marine Corps League.

Toys For Tots

Each year from October into December, the Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps Reserve collect new toys and monetary donations for children in need at Christmas.

** These programs are part of the Marine Corps League commitment to serve the community. We are unable to make this commitment without funds to do so. Your contribution is request to make this possible. Make your contribution payable to MCL Baltimore Detachment 565 (note specific program) All donations are tax deductible.*

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 calendar fund winners for January 2025:

01 Jan	Bob Walton	#884	\$25.00
10 Jan	Emma Dunson	#425	\$25.00
12 Jan	Benjamin Luster	#343	\$25.00
13 Jan	Jayina Davis	#103	\$25.00
15 Jan	Benjamin Luster	#343	\$25.00
18 Jan	Bernadine Blair	#069	\$25.00
19 Jan	Jo Schull	#337	\$25.00
22 Jan	Jahmal Davis	#712	\$25.00
29 Jan	Beatrice Whiting	#408	\$25.00
30 Jan	David Galmore	#331	\$25.00

The calendar fund winners for February 2025:

02 Feb	Aline Becker	#265	\$25.00
10 Feb	Emily Martin	#238	\$25.00
11 Feb	John Savage	#175	\$25.00
16 Feb	Bob Shaffer	#013	\$25.00
17 Feb	Marian Kames	#796	\$30.00
18 Feb	Received (8) Slips		+160.00
19 Feb	Tim Colleran	#235	\$25.00
24 Feb	Received (18) Slips		+\$360.00
26 Feb	Received (2) Slips		+\$40.00

The calendar fund winners for March 2025:

01 Mar	Received (1) Slip		+\$20.00
01 Mar	Meg Galuardi	#822	\$25.00
03 Mar	Bernadine Blair	#124	\$25.00
04 Mar	Milton Hazzard	#214	\$25.00
05 Mar	Colin Hergenhan	#210	\$25.00
06 Mar	Marie Frederick	#853	\$25.00
09 Mar	Kathy Maxwell	#279	\$25.00
10 Mar	Received (2) Slips		+\$40.00
10 Mar	Alan Chaney	#198	\$25.00
12 Mar	Phil Simmonds	#874	\$25.00
13 Mar	John Savage	#175	\$25.00
17 Mar	Received (10) Slips		+200.00
15 Mar	Kathryn LaHatte	#867	\$25.00
18 Mar	Bonnie Freeman	#068	\$25.00
19 Mar	Marian James	#654	\$25.00
21 Mar	Kris Magnani	#515	\$25.00
24 Mar	Dotty Markwood	#243	\$25.00
26 Mar	Ella Pierce	#456	\$25.00
28 Mar	Received (5) Slips		+100.00
30 Mar	Viral New	#910	\$25.00

As of 31 March, the fund has sold a total of 339 tickets slips for a total of \$6,780.00.

The fund also had a total of thirty-two (32) winners. Thirty won \$25.00, one won \$50.00 on New Year's Day and one won \$30.00 on President's Day for a total payout of \$830.00 leaving a balance f \$5,950.00.

Historic Marine of the Month



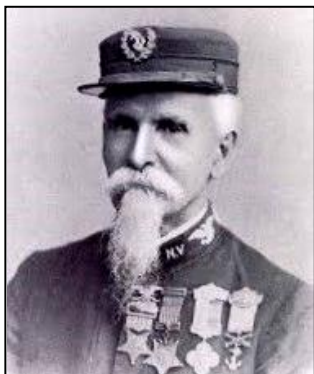
“Uncommon valor is a virtue”

May

Marine Corps Corporal
John F. Mackie

In May 1862,
Corporal John F. Mackie
became the **first** Marine to
receive the Medal of Honor..

He was awarded the
nation's highest military
decoration for valor—the
Medal of Honor, for his
actions aboard the USS
Galena during the battle
with Confederate Marines
and artillery batteries at Fort
Darling near Richmond,
Virginia, on May 15, 1862



June

On June 26, 1918,
Major Maurice E. Shearer,
commanded the 3rd
Battalion, 5th Marines
during the battle of Belleau
Wood. The 3rd Battalion,
under Shearer's command,
successfully cleared the
Belleau Wood of German
troops, with Shearer
reporting that "Belleau
Woods now U.S. Marine
Corps entirely".



Members Birthdays

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

MAY – BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATIONS

Donald G. Downer, Jr., Gerald W. Brown, Charles
J. Luthardt, Jr., Bruce A. Rund, Jr., Jay R. Tallent,
Kevin E. Wesner, Jr., Daniel A. Everett and
Theron Lamb.

JUNE – BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Samuel Walker Jr., Charles W. Stickles, Franklin V.
Brown, Stuart P. Blair, John M. Clarkson, Walter J.
Alston, Sr., Edward J. Makowski Jr., Michael R.
Smith, Philip J. Simmonds, Brian R. Hunter and
Anthony Jackson

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.

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

1426 East Fort Avenue (#17 Fire House)
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"To observe a Marine is inspirational, to be a Marine is exceptional."

In Flanders Fields

A war poem in the form of a rondeau, written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae.

It is one of the most quoted poems from the war. As a result of its immediate popularity, parts of the poem were used in efforts and appeals to recruit soldiers and raise money selling war bonds. Its references to the red poppies that grew over the graves of fallen soldiers resulted in the remembrance poppy becoming one of the world's most recognized memorial symbols for soldiers who have died in conflict. The poem and poppy are prominent Remembrance Day symbols throughout the Commonwealth of Nations, particularly in Canada, where "In Flanders Fields" is one of the nation's best-known literary works. The poem is also widely known in the United States, where it is associated with Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

The Poem

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.