

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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GUNG HO

*September - October 2026 * Vol. 30, No.5 * Editor Stuart Blair*

*Memoriam of Marine Louis R. Twigg Sr. * 2 July 2026 / Marine Ronald H. Donoho, Sr. * 20 August 2026*

MCL 565 attend War Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony



Members of the Marine Corps League Detachment 565, civilians, and U.S. Marines attend the wreath-laying ceremony as part of SAIL250 in Baltimore, Maryland, June 28, 2026. SAIL250 Maryland and Airshow Baltimore celebrate America's maritime heritage and the nation's 250th anniversary by bringing together U.S. and international ships, Marines, Sailors, and community partners throughout Baltimore's waterfront.

A Christmas in July . . . Toys For Tots Fundraiser

On a sunny, humid Saturday, July 25, Gonce Marina in Sparrows Point hosted its annual Christmas in July Craft Fair. Marine Corps League Baltimore Detachment Marine Mike Murphy added to the festive atmosphere by dressing as Santa Claus while promoting the Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots fundraising efforts. Marines from the Baltimore Detachment also attended, supporting the event and interacting with local residents, vendors, and visitors. The lively fair provided a wonderful opportunity to bring Christmas cheer to the community during the summer while raising awareness and support for Toys for Tots.

Mike's Santa appearance attracted attention and helped remind attendees of the importance of supporting children and families during the holiday season. Community events such as this allow the Marine Corps League to keep the Toys for Tots mission in the public eye, encourage donations, and strengthen relationships with local communities.

The Baltimore Detachment was proud to participate and help spread holiday spirit while promoting Toys For Tots.

From the Editor's Desk

A Marine's Bond

A Marine's brotherhood bond is a connection unlike any other, forged through shared service, sacrifice, discipline, and trust. From the moment a Marine earns the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, a lifelong commitment begins. Marines understand that while the uniform may eventually be removed, the bond of brotherhood never ends. Whether serving side by side in combat,

Supporting one another through difficult times, or gathering years later at a Marine Corps League event, Marines remain connected by common experiences and enduring values. This powerful bond reaches across generations, bringing together young Marines and veterans who served decades before them. It creates a unique understanding that often requires no explanation, because every Marine shares in the same proud legacy.

The Marine brotherhood is built upon honor, courage, commitment, loyalty, and the willingness to stand beside a fellow Marine whenever called upon. It reminds every Marine that no matter how many years have passed, no Marine should ever feel alone.

Friendships formed during military service often last a lifetime. They continue through reunions, community service, mentoring, and fellowship. Semper Fidelis—Always Faithful—is more than the Marine Corps motto. It is a lifelong promise and a powerful reminder that once a Marine, always a Marine, and forever a member of the Marine Corps family.

Semper Fidelis

S. Blair

Honor Courage Commitment

2026 Marine Corps League National Convention

The 2026 Marine Corps League National Convention was held August 10–14 at the Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. Marines, veterans, families, and guests from across the nation gathered to celebrate Marine Corps traditions, history, and the enduring brotherhood of Marines.

The convention included opening ceremonies, business sessions, workshops, fellowship activities, and discussions about the future of the Marine Corps League. Members conducted important League business, strengthened relationships among detachments and departments, and recognized the dedication and service of Marines and League members.

A major highlight was the election of the National Commandant, who will provide leadership and guidance for the League during the coming year.

The convention concluded with the formal reception and Grand Banquet, honoring accomplishments and celebrating the League's continuing mission of service to Marines, veterans, their families, and communities.

The Indianapolis convention demonstrated that the Marine Corps spirit remains strong. Regardless of when or where they served, Marines continue to live by the values of honor, courage, commitment, and **Semper Fidelis**.

Commandant's Message

Greeting Marines,

I
Hope everyone is having a good summer and enjoying this vacation time. Me I'm still in the recovery mode, outpatient rehab is working me back into shape (sometimes bringing back memories of boot camp)

I was able to attend the July meeting and the Christmas in July, Toys for Tots event the next. I attended the Department Quarterly Staff Meeting held in Garrett County on August 22nd. I was unable to make it to the National Convention. A summary of convention is included in the newsletter.

In next month's members of the detachment will be discussing upcoming events, the Marine Corps Birthday celebration, preparing for the Veterans Day Ritual and the start of the Toys for Tots campaign. We also hope to get member turn out for The Locust Point Festival, where we will have a tent and table setup for Toys For Tots collection and membership recruiting. We will be looking for member suggestions for future activities.

Semper Fidelis

Earl Ruff, Jr.

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Marines & Associates,

Summer is over, Labor Day and all of the autumn work begins from prepping for winter to the endless task of leaf bagging and getting your gear ready for the grandson's football season.

I am hoping all is well and we are keeping in touch with fellow Detachment members and seeking new recruits. We, as Marines, have a bond that stretches throughout all combat eras.

Recently, Joe Crivello III, an Associate Member and valued member of our rifle and pistol team, gave me an item for our museum that emphasizes that forever bond. We were gifted with a flag that was flown over a Marine Corps desert base, a gift to a Marine who survived as one of the "Chosin Few" from Marines, sweating it out in The Sandbox. It's going to stand in a special place as a reminder to all who enter the museum that our Corps is long lived and the bonds are alive and consistent.

With that in mind, please remember to check in on those that we haven't seen over the summer or the past year. Encourage them to get involved again and make their presence known to all. Check in with the sick and homebound members, let them know that we care and value each and every member.

Semper Fidelis

Ray Vaughn SVC

Our Buddy Check

Keeping in touch with our Marine Corps League Detachment members strengthens the bonds of brotherhood and ensures that no member feels forgotten. Regular phone calls, emails, newsletters, meetings, and personal visits help us share important information, offer support, and maintain friendships. Staying connected keeps our Detachment strong, active, and united.

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Marines,

Welcome to another edition of "Gung Ho, It's Amazing!" the newsletter published by our hard-charging team of journalists here at the Detachment.

I want to take a moment to thank all the Marines who make this newsletter possible. Your hard work and dedication keep our members informed about what's happening throughout the Detachment, in our neighborhood, and around the community. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

As we embark on a new fall season, we're going to continue staying busy around the firehouse and throughout our communities. We recently had successful Toys for Tots fundraiser in July.

We have another great opportunity coming up at the Locust Point Festival in September. Bring your friends and family, support the local vendors, enjoy plenty of food trucks, and stop by to visit your friends from the Marine Corps League. Come out, have some fun, and help support our Detachment and the community!

On 24 October, We will kick off our Firehouse Bake Sale. We're looking forward to having plenty of delicious homemade baked goods available. More importantly, this is another opportunity to open the doors of our firehouse to friends, family, fellow Marines, and members of our community. Derails for these events in our "Calendar of Events.:

And as we always do . . . ,
Let's continue looking out for one another.

If you know a fellow Marine who hasn't been around the firehouse lately, give them a call. If someone is sick, struggling, or going through a difficult time, check on them. Sometimes a simple phone call, text, or invitation can make all the difference.

And while we're at it, let's keep inviting new Marines through the doors of our firehouse. Let's continue building our Detachment, strengthening our brotherhood, and making sure every Marine knows there is a place here for them.

Semper Fidelis

Michael D. Murphy Jr. JVC



**Maryland
Veterans
Commission**

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

A prayer for MIA/POW personnel often focuses on remembering their sacrifice, their families, and the hope for their return. It acknowledges their absence and the pain of their families, while also expressing faith in their eventual return and God's protection.

Heavenly Father, we pause to remember our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War. We honor their courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to our nation. Watch over those who remain missing, comfort their families, and give strength to those who continue searching for answers. May we never forget their service or sacrifice. Bless our veterans, active-duty service members, and their loved ones. Grant us hope, faith, and the determination to keep their memory alive. Amen.

Taps

Marine Louis R. Twigg, Sr., 2 July 2026 and Marine Donald H. Donoho Sr., 20 August 2026 were called by the Supreme Commandant. May they rest in peace and that their survivors attain peace during their grieving process.

Sick / Distressed

Donald Bennett, Jr., John Clarkson, James Davis, Nelson Dickerson, Ronald Donoho, Sr., Joan Hansen, Marian James, Rosemary Koontz, Jon Mekeal, Walter Naylor Jr., Loy O'Berry, William Priest, Earl Ruff Jr, Robert Walton Jr. and Wayne Yealdhall.

**My apologies to 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 j16scott@gmail.com

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

James A. Scott
Chaplain

MVC Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday 14 July 2026 the Maryland Veterans Commission held the Summer quarterly meeting at Veterans Service Center, Frederick, MD. In person and by phone with 24 Commissioners representing veteran organizations and congressional districts, representing the Marine Corps League, Commissioner Stuart Blair, PDC.

The Maryland Veterans Commission meeting focused on strengthening advocacy, improving coordination, and modernizing operations. Chair Mike Bowers and Vice-Chair Mike Moore emphasized sharing information about veteran services and gathering community feedback to advise state leadership.

A unified legislative advocacy model was discussed to give Veterans Service Organizations a stronger, consistent voice. During the recent session, 93 bills were tracked, 46 support letters submitted, and 15 hearings attended. Accomplishments included the Military Family Inclusion Act, Purple Star school improvements, the JJ Peters Scholarship, and updated civil-relief laws.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home earned a five-star rating, while the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund welcomed Director Anessa Walker and reported no application backlog. The One Maryland Model seeks better coordination and measurable outcomes. Commissioners also addressed rural transportation, mental-health provider shortages, benefits access, and military records. TAPS presented Gold Star Families Compact recommendations, while the commission advanced improved outreach, record keeping, and commissioner training.

Next MVC meeting will be Tuesday 20 October 2026
American Legion Towson Post 22, Towson, MD

*Stuart Blair
Commissioner, MCL
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.

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

Baltimore Detachment Hall Rental

Please keep the Detachment Hall in mind. We can seat 100 comfortably. For hall rental information please call Ernie Disney at 410-977-7975.

Annual Dues for 2027 membership, if your mailing label is highlighted in yellow your dues of \$30.00 are now due.

Please remit your check to:
BALTIMORE DETACHMENT#565,
1426 E. FORT AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MD. 21230
Attn: Paymaster. Any questions please contact Ernie Disney at 410-547-7699 or 410-977-7975.

NOTE: Also include your phone number when remitting your check

The Pick Three Lottery Calendar for 2027 will go on sale at the end of October, two random tickets will be included in the November-December Gung-ho Newsletter. If you would like a pacific number or numbers, please e-mail (MCLBaltimore@gmail.com) or call Ernie Disney and we will do our best to get that number for you

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof, woof,

Supreme Growl

At the 86th Supreme Growl in Indianapolis in August 2026, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs donated **\$110,000** to the Riley Children's Foundation for the children's hospital, alongside an additional **\$7,000** donated to Indy Humane, totaling \$117,000 raised from their auction fundraiser

Merlin Pack Growl

The Merlin Pack growled on 22 August at American Legion Post 71. PDD Crist Burns led the Pack in a fun and active gathering of Devil Dogs. Moments of dog brain farts might have caused PDD Burns lost for barking out fines for dog infractions. Many bones were stuck to our paws.

Pups were presented to the Pack Leader by the Mad Dog, reporting with infractions. The Pack Leader offered challenges of chance to dogs of selected Pounds. The Growl closed with a suggestion of a bylaw change. The Dogs were generous with many bone collected.

Schedule

Hound Dog Pound 204 Growl
VFW Post 160, Glen Burnie
27 September
Breakfast 0800
Growl 0900

Merlin Pack Growl
7 November
American Legion Post 86
Rockville, MD
*Following DM Staff Meeting

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 June 2025

03 June	Received (2) Slips		+40.00
04 June	Ernie Brandt	#017	\$25.00
08 June	Joe Crivello III	#440	\$25.00*
12 June	Kevin Moore	#164	\$25.00
14 June	Jason Vaughn	#525	\$30.00
	(Flag Day)		
19 June	Robert Walton	#710	\$25.00
21 June	Uncashed winnings		+50.00
27 June	Jo Schull	#059	\$25.00
30 June	Ray Chatary	#825	\$25.00

The fund had a total of seven (7) winners. Six (6) won \$25.00, one won \$30.00 (Flag Day). Joe Crivello donated* his winning back to the fund for a total payout of \$155.00, leaving a balance in the fund at the end of May of \$6,295.00

The additional 2 slips brings the total Calendars sold to 386.

The calendar fund winners for July 2026

03 July	Joseph Disney	#612	\$25.00
04 July	Robin Simmonds	#761	\$100.00
05 July	Elise Woodyard	#219	\$25.00
08 July	Gerald Brown	#905	\$25.00
09 July	Nichole Thompson	#402	\$25.00
12 July	Milton Hazzard	#314	\$25.00
14 July	MaryAnn Berger	#590	\$25.00
15 July	Dean Kone	#597	\$25.00*
18 July	Anthony Jackson	#605	\$25.00
20 July	Krista Feehey	#810	\$25.00
21 July	Lynnette Ruff	#138	\$25.00
23 July	Janeen McClean	#202	\$25.00
27 July	Dave Wagner	#911	\$25.00
28 July	Virgil New	#241	\$25.00
29 July	Jean Sampson	#014	\$25.00
30 July	Michelle McNair	#127	\$25.00

Received (1) New Slip +20.00

The fund had a total of sixteen (16) winners. One won \$100.00 on 4th of July, and (15) won \$25.00. The following Marines have donated their winnings back to the fund. Don Bennett (\$30.00), Joseph Meyer and Dean Kone each donated \$25.00 for a total payout of \$375.00, leaving a balance in the fund at the end of July of \$5,920.00.

The additional 1 slip brings the total number of Calendars sold for 2026 to 387.

MCL Scouting America Award Program

Scouting . . . Prepared for Life



The MCL believes that Scouting's principles, particularly the Scout Oath and Law, align with their own values of patriotism, leadership, and service. The MCL sees Scouting as a valuable program for developing future leaders and contributing to a better America.

Honoring a Scout's Achievements

The Court of Honor is an important tradition in scouting organizations, as it provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the hard work and dedication of Scouts who have demonstrated their commitment to the values and ideals of Scouting. It is also a way to motivate and inspire other Scouts to strive for excellence and achieve their own goals in Scouting. The MCL provides Eagle Scouts with a certificate and sometimes additional gifts like K-BARs or coins.

MCL Good Citizenship Award Presentations

On 1 August, Marine Mike Murphy Presented the Good Citizenship Award to Eagle Scout Jabili Pembamoto, Troop 475, Hiss Methodist Church.

Reported at the 2026 National Convention that our primary focus continues to be presenting **1,674** Good Citizenship certificates to deserving youth.

The Mideast Division has reported 322 presentations of certificates for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Congratulations to the Department of Maryland for 66 ESGCA presentations for 2055-2026;

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

Historic Marine of the Month



“Uncommon valor is a virtue”

September

Corporal Dakota Louis Meyer, Medal of Honor

On September 8, 2009, Marine Corporal Meyer displayed extraordinary courage during the Battle of Ganjgal in Afghanistan. Under intense enemy fire, Meyer repeatedly entered the danger zone, rescued wounded personnel, and recovered fallen comrades.



He killed at least eight Taliban fighters, evacuated 12 wounded Americans, and provided cover that helped 24 Marines and soldiers escape certain death.

October

Daniel Joseph Daly: A Marine Legend Medal of Honor

Dan Daly was one of only 19 Americans awarded the Medal of Honor twice. A Marine legend, he earned his first Medal of Honor during the Boxer Rebellion and his second in Haiti at Fort Dipitié. During World War I for action



on **24 October 1915**, Daly also earned the Navy Cross and Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary bravery at Belleau Wood. General Smedley Butler called him the “fightingest Marine” he ever knew.

Members Birthdays

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

Belated wishes to Brendan Donnelly on Aug 12th

SEPTEMBER – BIRTHDAY

Donald L. Rollette, Sr., Joseph R. Lantz, Nelson J. Dickerson, George H. Keen, Sr., Charles J. Cooper, John F. McCurdy, Keith Custard, William (Ernie) Brandt, Sr., Darrell N. Truesdale, Sr., Calvin L. Johnson and Eugene (Terry) Gill.

OCTOBER – BIRTHDAY

Ralph W. Souder, Paul E. Taylor, David C. Mioduszewski, Howard S. Koontz Jr., Marlin B. Johnson, William S. Holland, Samuel A. Evans Jr., Benjamin L. Luster, Natasha Clendenin-Bay 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.

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

Your Marine Corps League Detachment and the Community

Marine Corps League detachments are the heart of the League's connection with local communities. Located in communities across the nation, detachments bring Marines, veterans, families, and supporters together to preserve Marine Corps traditions while serving others. Their mission extends beyond fellowship, with members actively supporting veterans, military families, youth programs, schools, civic organizations, and community events.

Detachments regularly participate in ceremonies, color guards, memorial services, scholarships, Scouting activities, and programs that recognize outstanding young people. They also assist veterans in need and help connect former Marines with valuable resources and support. One of their most visible community efforts is Toys for Tots, through which authorized Marine Corps League detachments help collect and distribute toys to children during the holiday season. (toysfortots.org)

Through volunteer service, patriotism, and camaraderie, Marine Corps League detachments strengthen the communities they call home. Their commitment demonstrates that the Marine Corps spirit of service continues long after active duty end.

