

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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GUNG HO

*May - June 2026 * Vol. 30, No.3 * Editor Stuart Blair*

Maryland MCL Marines Quest __ MCRD Graduation Week

Tuesday 28 April: After arriving at the hotel at the MCAS Beaufort, SC, 9 MCL Dept. of Maryland Members traveled to the Parris Island MCRD and met with Chief D I SSgt H. Haffly, and Chief D I SSgt N. Freeman for introduction and then on to the base MCX, followed by a seafood experience at the Dock Side Restaurant for a seafood

Wednesday 30 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 SSgt Haffly 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 S^Sgt Haffly and two of the DIs at Brig & Brew where we bonded with them.

Thursday 30 April: with the early morning motivation run cancelled due to safety precautions. Later with the Family Day activities began at the AWTF. 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 MCX 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 the Command Dinner was held at The Lyceum for family to meet with the DIs

Friday 1 May; All were up at 04500 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. featuring a pass and review with Asst. Commandant General Bradford J. Gering. Afterwards we returned to the visitor's center then returned to the hotel, packed and were on our way home.

We thank PI Trip Coordinator Marine Harry Heistetter, 1stSgt J. Butler and Michele for the scheduling and arrangements of our visit.



Ruff Nominated . . . Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal

The 2026 planning process is underway, and when the criteria for Grand Marshal were released, one name stood out immediately—MCL 565 Detachment Commandant Earl Ruff (USMC 1969–1975). A proud Baltimore City resident, Ruff is widely respected throughout the community and maintains strong ties to the military, veterans, and public service sectors. His record of leadership, character, and commitment makes him an outstanding candidate for this important role.

Serving in two positions allows us to bring greater visibility to city opportunities while promoting the mission of the Marine Corps League. Time will tell who is ultimately selected, but we are confident we have put forward our best Marine.

As Jill Muth, Baltimore City Chief Veterans Commission Officer, noted, a Grand Marshal is the ceremonial leader and public representative of the parade, symbolizing service, sacrifice, patriotism, and community pride. Earl Ruff embodies those values with distinction.

Operational details are forthcoming.
Stand by for impact.

Jon Dewar

ARMED FORCES WEEK

In 2026, United States Armed Forces Week runs from Saturday, May 9, through Saturday, May 16, culminating in **Armed Forces Day on May 16**. This week-long observance honors the men and women serving in all six branches of the U.S. military.

Celebrated on the third Saturday of May, this day replaces separate service holidays to honor all active-duty military personnel.

Typical observances include military parades, air shows, and community receptions.

Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

I hope everyone is adjusting to this up down weather that we're experiencing. This daily changing in the weather seems to be causing a lot of different virus to be out there, so everyone monitor your health conditions and let's stay healthy.

Since the last newsletter I attended The Dept. Quarterly meeting where the focus was on fund raising to help support the department and discussion on selecting a new location for next year's convention. Moving forward the Department Convention is coming up on May 7th, 8th and 9th in Ocean City MD. There will be reports of Detachment activity throughout the State and this will be election year for new Department Officers. There will be more updates to follow.

I was in attendance at the Mideast Division Conference on April 17th and 18th, held in Rehoboth Beach Delaware. The main subject was the use of the use of the Database Portal by the Paymaster and Commandant. This will allow them to be able to edit member information and to be able to view and print the detachment roster. There was also a presentation on the use of the National Library for members. This is a resource for information on National HQ. policy and procedures. I'm encouraging members to browse the library to see what information may be of use to them.

*Semper Fi
Earl Ruff Jr
Commandant*

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Marines & Associates,

It's hot outside, birds chirping, weddings, graduations, summer vacations being scheduled and the Baltimore Detachment wishes health and success for all your plans.

It's a time to meet and greet and spread the word about our unit. Don't forget to pick up business cards at the fire house to pass out to all the Marines you run inside this summer. We grow through our efforts to introduce folks to the Detachment and the MCL.

Don't forget to check up on members we have not seen for awhile. Keeping our team involved and active is just as important as recruiting new members.

Semper Fidelis

Ray Vaughn
SVC

The Balto Det. & the Community

The Marine Corps League Baltimore Detachment actively supports its community through service, mentorship, and outreach. Members assist veterans, engage in youth programs, and participate in local events that strengthen civic pride. Their dedication promotes leadership, preserves military traditions, and builds meaningful relationships. Through consistent involvement, they create a positive impact across Baltimore's neighborhoods while inspiring future generations to serve, lead, and contribute to their communities. They collaborate with partners to expand outreach and support initiatives.

Jr. Vice Commandant Message

Hello Marines,

As we embark on the start of summer, I'd like to put out a quick safety reminder for everyone. Traffic will be heavier, the waterways will be busier, and campgrounds will be full—with increased use of grills, fires, and alcohol in all of these settings. Let's stay responsible, look out for ourselves, look out for each other, and be mindful of those around us.

Speaking of those around us, let's take the opportunity to break the ice with Marines who may not yet know what the Marine Corps League is, as well as other service members who may not be familiar with what we do. Invite them out to a meeting—let's continue growing the strength and reach of our detachment.

Summer also gives us a great opportunity to fundraise. Let's start thinking of ideas to support our detachment, Toys for Tots, or even hall rentals. I've already committed to being at Gus's Marina and Sno-Balls in Edgemere, Maryland, for their "Christmas in July" event on July 25. We'll have a table set up with Toys for Tots donation jug—come out and support if you can.

In closing, let's stay active, stay healthy, and continue looking out for one another. Make a phone call, conduct a wellness check, and bring someone new along to a meeting.

I'd also like to wish all mothers—including mine—a very Happy Mother's Day.

Semper Fi.

Michael D. Murphy Jr.
JVC

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm "**Welcome Aboard**" to **Marine Frederick M. Kellner Jr.** who recently joined our Detachment. Semper Fi!



**Semper Fi
Prayer Circle**

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

In Remembrance

*Heavenly Father, on Memorial Day we honor veterans—those fallen and living. Grant eternal rest to the departed, healing to the wounded, comfort to families, and strength to all who served. May their sacrifice inspire unity, gratitude, compassion, and enduring peace across our nation, today and always.
Amen forever in remembrance.*

Sick / Distressed

Donald Bennett, Jr., Donald Blum, John Clarkson, Walter Cwik, James Davis, 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, Jay Tallent, Louis Twigg Sr., Robert Walton Jr. 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 21 April 2026 @ MCVETS

Secretary, Ed Rothstein,
Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families
(DVMF) **REPORT:**

Update: Legislation
2026 DVMF Session Recap

As you know, the Maryland General Assembly has adjourned for the 2026 session. Receive a legislative update request by contacting me: thistleman@verizon.net.

Charlotte Hall achieved major quality improvements, rising from a one-star to four-star rating, enhancing care, staffing, and resident outcomes.

Benefits & Claims

A new VA claims center opened at the DMV in Frederick, expanding access to benefits and services.

Cemeteries

Maryland military cemeteries now welcome out-of-state veterans. Memorial Day ceremonies occur statewide, hosting speakers.

Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

the Trust Fund exceeds \$400,000 available.

Presentation:

* Misty Bruce, Executive Director
Maryland center for Veterans Education / Training

Presentation:

* Lauren Buckingham CTRS
VA Maryland Healthcare System Adaptive
Sports / Recreation Therapy

**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. Milton continues with his task of straightening up the museum area.

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.

Members Missing

HELP is needed in locating some of our members that we have not heard from for some time. See the back of the Calendar of Events handout for a complete list of names with last known addresses. As always, any information would be greatly appreciated.

NOTE

Accurate record keeping in Marine Corps League membership ensures accountability, effective communication, and proper recognition of members. It enhances mission readiness, preserves organizational history, tracks participation, and supports informed decision-making. Maintaining precise records strengthens efficiency, promotes transparency, and upholds the credibility and integrity of the League at all levels.

Military Order of the Devil Dogs

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



Woof, woof,

Merlin Pack Fund Raiser

The MODD Spring Fling 50/50 Raffle is here! Running from March 15th to May 15th, this exciting event offers a chance to win while supporting the Children's Hospital Fund. With 50% of the pot going to charity and 3 winners taking home substantial prizes, your participation can make a real difference. Let's grow the pot together for a greater cause! [#SpringFling](#) [#5050Raffle](#) [#Charity](#) [#Children](#) [#Community](#)
<https://conta.cc/4rwBuWQ>

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

Schedule

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

Hound Dog Pound 204 wil Growl at VFW Post 160,
Glen Burnie on 7 June 2026

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 February 2026:

01 Feb	Kelly Romeo	#132	\$25.00
04 Feb	Robert Gillespie	#717	\$25.00
06 Feb	Rina Galmore	#125	\$25.00
09 Feb	Phil Simmonds	#655	\$25.00
18 Feb	Tara Cutillo	#271	\$25.00
20 Feb	Irvin Berker Jr	#448	\$25.00
23 Feb	Robert Walton Jr	#710	\$25.00
25 Feb	Joan Hansen	#130	\$25.00
28 Feb	Mike Zierhoffer	#747	\$25.00
Received (17) Slips at \$20.00 each			+340.00

The fund received 17 new slips and had nine (9) winners. All won \$25.00, for a payout of \$225.00 leaving a balance in the fund at the end of February of \$6,595.00.

The additional 17 slips bring the total number of Calendars sold to 352.

The calendar fund winners for March 2026 :

02 Mar	John Savage	#560	\$25.00
04 Mar	Tiffany Gill	#718	\$25.00
06 Mar	Rina Galmore	#125	\$25.00
07 Mar	Pat Martino	#716	\$25.00
09 Mar	Kathy Maxwell	#975	\$25.00
11 Mar	Jamia Flowers	#237	\$25.00
15 Mar	Dave Wagner	#911	\$25.00
16 Mar	Pat Everett	#673	\$25.00
17 Mar	Tony Jackson	#605	\$50.00
(St. Patrick's Day)			
24 Mar	Samantha Taylor	#519	\$25.00
26 Mar	Ernie Disney	#427	\$25.00
30 Mar	Joe Casparriello	#580	\$25.00
Received (30) Slips at \$20.00 each			+600.00

The fund had a total of twelve (12) winners. Eleven (11) won \$25.00 and one won \$50.00 on St. Patrick's Day for a total payout of \$325.00, leaving a balance in the fund at the end of March of \$6,870.00.

The additional 30 slips bring the total number of Calendars sold to 382.

MCL Scouting America Award Program

Scouting . . .
Prepared for Life



Scouting and Community Service

Scouts strengthen their communities through service leadership and teamwork. They volunteer at food drives clean parks plant trees and assist during local events. By helping seniors supporting veterans and raising funds for charities

Scouts learn responsibility and compassion. Working side by side with neighbors they build trust and friendships while making a positive difference.

Their dedication shows young people can lead through action and inspire others to serve the community with pride everywhere by setting examples of kindness courage hope unity daily for future generations to follow always today together.

Good Citizenship Award Presentations

In the first two quarters (August 2025 – May 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”

May

LCpl Miguel Keith

May 8, 1970:

While serving in Vietnam, Lance Corporal Keith was mortally wounded during a fierce enemy ground attack but continued to fight, charging an estimated 25 enemy soldiers to break their assault. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The expeditionary mobile base *USS Miguel Keith* was commissioned in his honor on May 8, 2021.



June

PFC Dan Bullock

December 21, 1953 – June 7, 1969

On June 7, 1969, PFC Dan Bullock, a rifleman in the U.S. Marine Corps, was scurrying about to bolster the ammunition supply of the Second Platoon of Company F at An Hoa Combat Base outside Da Nang, under assault by the North Vietnamese, when he was mortally wounded by a burst of enemy small arms fire. He died shortly thereafter. He was fifteen years old.



PFC Bullock, the youngest American service member killed in the Vietnam War, was posthumously awarded the **Purple Heart**, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal for his service in the Marine Corps.

Members Birthdays

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

MAY – BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATIONS

Gerald W. Brown, Charles J. Luthardt, Jr., Edward R. Luthardt, Bruce A. Rund, Jr., Jay R. Tallent, Kevin E. Wesner, Jr., Helen Daniel & Theron Lamb.

JUNE – BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Charles W. Stickles, Franklin V. Brown, Stuart P. Blair, John M. Clarkson, Walter J. Alston, Sr., Edward J. Makowski Jr., John (Harry) W. Hierstetter, 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 on our list, please let Ernie Disney know at 410.547.7699, leave a message 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."

The Marine Corps Celebrates Flag Day

The Marine Corps celebrates Flag Day with deep respect and pride, honoring the Stars and Stripes as a symbol of freedom, sacrifice, and unity. Ceremonies often include color guards, the national anthem, and reflections on the Corps' legacy of service. Marines, both active-duty and veterans, reaffirm their oath to defend the nation and its values. The day serves as a reminder of those who gave their lives in service, inspiring continued commitment, patriotism, and devotion to duty under the American flag.