

**Marine Corps League
Baltimore Detachment #565**



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GUNG HO

*March - April 2025 * Vol. 29, No.2 * Editor Stuart Blair*

In Memoriam of Marine Harry R. Carroll, January 2, 2025

MCL Honors Gold Star Mothers

The Marine Corps League honors Gold Star families, including mothers who have lost a child in the service of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Marine Corps League also provides assistance programs to Marines and their families.

How the Marine Corps League helps families

- Humanitarian aid: The Marine Corps League provides grants to Marines and their families who are in need due to circumstances beyond their control.
- Events: The Marine Corps League hosts events to honor Gold Star families.

Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

This day is observed on the last Sunday in September.

It honors the sacrifices of surviving families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty.

The day began as Gold Star Mother's Day, but the focus expanded to include all surviving families.
Gold Star families

The term "Gold Star" comes from the practice of replacing a blue star on a service flag with a gold star when a service member died. The families of those who died in service became known as Gold Star families.

Gold Star and Surviving Family Member Representatives

These representatives are available to help survivors who are not satisfied with the casualty assistance provided by their service.

Helping Marines & Family - Marine Corps League

MCL assisting the foundation provides Humanitarian Aid through grants to individual Marines and families of Marines in need.

MCL Balt1more Detachment and the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland distributing handmade afghans made by Marian James and Mrs. Gordon, wife of deceased Detachment member and other volunteers for Valentine's Day at the Loch Raven VA Rehabilitation Center.



Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

The start of this year has been a challenge as the weather has been rather strange. We have seen wild fires and flooding on the west coast and snow in the South, Mississippi, Georgia and Florida. Here in Maryland it has been hit and miss. If you are affected by this usual weather events and need assistance I hope you will reach out to the Detachment for possible help.

Activities at the Detachment got started as we hosted the wedding reception for one of our own, Marine Jonathan Dewar. We congratulate Jon on his journey into matrimony and welcome his bride Abby as a Marine League Spouse.

The last quarter saw the Department of Md. Quarterly meeting hosted by the Cpl. Pete Arnold Detachment. There was general information passed on and updates for the Department Convention scheduled for May 08-11 in Ocean City. We hope that everyone who can will attend. Other events will be the Modern Day Marine Expo scheduled for April 29 – May 10 at the Washington DC Convention Center. You can register on line it's free and come see some of the latest gear, weapons and equipment being used by the Marine Corps.

I would like to piggy back on our Jr Vice Commandant about recruiting, new members are needed and welcomed and I'm looking for some ideas on social events that can be held at the detachment to bring members together for activities other than our monthly meeting. I'll be looking for those ideas to start coming in soon.

Semper Fi

*Earl Ruff Jr
Commandant*

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message

Greetings,

I want to say that by the time you receive your Gung Ho, we will have celebrated Veterans Appreciation Week at Loch Raven and our Commandant will have visited other VA facilities with the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland. The attendances for the Detachment were: Commandant Earl Ruff, Senior Vice Commandant Marian C. James, Junior Vice Commandant Raymond Vaughn, Chaplain James A. Scott, and Auxiliary Member Mrs. Charles LaHatte. President Paula Davis, Theresa Karlson, and Chaplain Janice Chance represented the Gold Star Mothers. The Pray Shawl Ministry, of which Mrs. LaHatte is a member, donated thirty-four (34) prayer shawls, and I made twenty-nine (29), size 53x53 in an assortment of colors, and one hundred (100) cards were handwritten to be given to the veterans. A total of seventy-three (73) patients were at Loch Raven when we gave out gifts and salutes to all the hospital veterans at Loch Raven. We were delighted to have two first-time members from our Detachment attend Veterans Appreciation Week. To our new participants, we say "Thank You" for coming out in the snow to show our veterans how much they are appreciated. Since I am the Chair, I also want the Commandant and Junior Vice Commandant to know that I am happy that they continue to support this project, and this was the first time that we have had harsh weather in years.

By now, most of you know that funding for the Veterans Administration and other agencies has been frozen, and no new people can be hired or volunteers appointed, until further notice. That does not mean that you cannot put in your paperwork so that it will be completed when the freeze is lifted. Also, last year the training was done by mail. If you were volunteering prior to COVID or were unable to work because of the construction, mention that when you ask about the test or your Id renewal. Even though you may not be able to accomplish all these tasks now but ask to be placed on a list and notified when the freeze is lifted.

Do not forget to make your reservation for the Marine Corps League Dept. of Maryland Convention before they run out of rooms. It is hoped that everyone had a beautiful celebration on Valentine's Day. A nice evening out, dinner, flowers, and a lot of chocolate. If you did not do any of these things, remember that you can still share love and happiness with your family and friends. Love to all from me to you and "Thank You" for your prayers for me and my mother. God Bless You All.

Respectfully submitted,
Marian C. James, SVC

Jr. Vice Commandant Message



**Semper Fi
Prayer Circle**

Greeting Marines,

It's beginning to look like Spring. The weather is changeable, a bit more sunshine showing, a few less gray cloudy days; the cool breezes are not quite as cool. We've celebrated President's Day, Valentine's Day and Easter is on the horizon. We gifted local Veterans at a number of sites for Veterans' Appreciation Week along with Maryland Gold Star Mothers and it was a tearful but happy event for those hospitalized and us.

Veterans deserve more than a week, it should be a year round effort and we can always play a part. Check in on League members that we have not seen over the Winter, to lift their spirits or just to ramble on and encourage them to come on out to our monthly meetings again.

Every chance we get, every time we get a "Semper Fi", responds cheerfully. If our greeter is not a member of the Marine Corps League, give him one of the business cards we keep on hand at the Firehouse, that gives them meeting times and contact sources. We can help more veterans if we are stronger. Recruiting new members, young and old, gives our Detachment insights into current Marine's issues and older Marine's history. Let's grow our Detachment for our benefit and that of all former Marines, Navy Corpsmen and the community

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm "**Welcome Aboard**" to **Owen I. Fields** who recently joined our Detachment. Semper Fi!

Annual Dues for 2024/2025 membership of \$30.00 is now due. Reminder letters were mailed out in August. Please remit your check to the BALTIMORE DETACHMENT #565, 1426 E. FORT AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MD. 21230 Attn: Paymaster. Any questions please call Ernie Disney 410-547-7699 or 410-977-7975

Semper Fidelis.
Ray Vaughn, JVC

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

A Prayer For Vietnam Veterans . . .

"Almighty God, we come before you today to remember the brave men and women who served in Vietnam, carrying the weight of war on their shoulders. We pray for healing of their wounds, both visible and unseen, and for peace in their hearts. May they find comfort in the memories of their fallen comrades and know that their service is deeply appreciated. Guide them through the struggles they face and grant them strength to move forward with dignity. In your loving embrace, may they find solace and a renewed sense of purpose. Amen."

Taps

Marine Harry R. Carroll, age 89, was called by the Supreme Commandant on 2 January 2025.

May he rest in peace and that his survivors attain peace during their grieving process.

Sick / Distressed

Prayers go to those on our "Sick and Distress Mike Murphy, 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.

The Home Committee has been collecting bids to replace some of the second floor and attic windows. When a company is selected help will need to remove the clutter in front of those windows. 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.

VA Announces New Flag Display Policy

The Department of Veterans Affairs 12 February 2025 instituted a new flag policy limiting the display of certain flags on VA premises. The policy will establish consistent and clear guidance across the department and among all employees.

The policy, which can be viewed, outlines a list of flags — in addition to the American flag — that may be displayed at VA facilities.

VA's new guidance follows a longstanding Department of Defense policy instituted during the first Trump Administration and kept in place during the Biden Administration.

“This policy will bring consistency and simplicity to the display of flags throughout the department, which now has a singular focus: serving the needs of Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors,” said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AND MILITARY FAMILIES**

**Maryland
Veterans
Commission**

MVC Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday 21 January 2025 the Maryland Veterans Commission held their quarterly meeting virtual (zoom) 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, DVMF Programs

Presentations:

Cori Carfagno, Director
Jason Marshall, Regional Manager
Serving Together
Connecting Veterans, Service Members
and their families to resources

Eric Johnson, Director
Lei Ellingson, Deputy Director
VAMSA
Critical Resources Needed for
Veterans, Military and Their Families

Subcommittee Reports

- Homeless Subcommittee
- Combating Substance Misuse

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

NOTE:

Tax Season Reminders for Veterans

Are you preparing to file taxes? VA is here to help with some helpful reminders for Veterans and beneficiaries.

- * VA benefits are tax free.
- * There is no federal income tax on VA insurance proceeds
- * Veterans with a service-connected disability rating may benefit from local property tax exemptions.

You may qualify for free assistance with filing from [MiiTax](#) or [IRS Free File](#).

Next MVC meeting will be Tuesday 15 April, 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,

Merlin Pack

The Merlin Pack Growl, led by PDD Pat Sharky, and hosted by Cpl Pete Arnold Detachment 1198 was held 8 February 2025.

Due to pending inclement weather, the growl was brief. Infractions were fined with donations of many bones. Grand Growl agenda for May was discussed.

Hound Dog Pound 204

Sunday 16 February, Hound Dog Pound Keeper PDD Howard Koontz conducted a growl at VFW Post 160 in Glen Burnie. Morning treats of dog biscuits and java was offered. The dawgs maintained their mischievous conduct throughout the growl, collecting many bones from fines of several infractions. A monetary donation was presented for school supplies to a local school The Dawgs manage to screw up, contributing more bones. The children thank you. "Bow Wow! "

Schedule

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

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**



Importance of Scouting to the Eagle Scout

Scouting is important to Eagle Scouts because it represents a significant achievement that signifies dedication, leadership development, community service, and the acquisition of valuable life skills like problem-solving, teamwork, and personal responsibility, all while instilling strong ethical values through the Scout Oath and Law, which can positively impact their lives long after they leave the program; earning the Eagle Scout rank is considered a mark of distinction and personal accomplishment.

Key points about why Scouting is important to E



The Eagle Scout promise is to do one's best to serve God and country, obey the Scout Law, and help others. It also includes a commitment to improve Scouting and citizenship.

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 past two quarters there have been (58) fifty eight presentations of the GCA by the Department of Maryland.

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

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

During the month of December, the fund had a total of eleven (11) winners. The following names won \$25.00:

John Colleran, Troy Bryant, Bernadine Blair, Sharon Scheurer, Cel Hopkins, Emma Dunson, Ella Pierce, Jerome Scott, Yvette Dubose and Janeen McClean. Kathy Maxwell won \$350.00 on Christmas Day for a total payout of \$600.00 leaving a balance of \$3,010.00.

FINAL REPORT FOR 2024 Calendar Fund Raiser

The year-end report for the 20234Calendar Fund Raiser is as follows:

Sales for 2024 (366 slips)	\$ 7,320.00
Payments (154 winners)	(4,435.00)
Surplus	\$ 2,885.00

Less Expenses of:

Printing – Slips & Envelopes	(200.00)
Postage	(216.20)

Surplus to General Fund	\$ 2,468.80
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Thank you to all members, family members and friends for your continued support of the Baltimore Detachment #565.

Those members who have not sent in their Pick 3 Calendar fundraiser ticket are encouraged to do so.

Historic Marine of the Month

“Uncommon valor is a virtue”

March

Marine Corps Master Sergeant
Barbara Jean Dulinsky

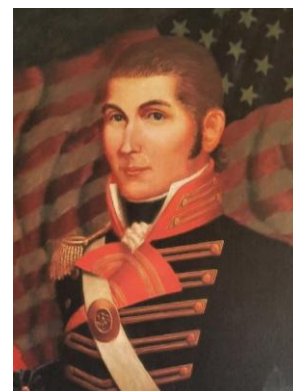
On March 18, 1967, the first female Marine to serve in a combat zone reported for duty in Ho Chi Minh City (commonly known as Saigon), a city in southern Vietnam.



Barbara J. Dulinsky served at the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam headquarters in Saigon, providing administrative support to the Marines. Dulinsky is credited with taking a major step toward promoting women's duties in the Marine Corps.

April

On April 27, 1805, First Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon and seven other Marines, along with Greek and Arab forces, who were under the command of American Consul William Eaton raised the American flag over the fortress at Derne, a pirate stronghold in Tripoli. This was the first time the American flag had been raised over a conquered fortress in the Old World



1st Lt. Presley O'Bannon

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

Thomas F. Petty, Robert S. Funk, John L. Voigt, Errol M. Markowitz, William B. Lotman Sr, Steve R. Kuaniec, Merrill R. Cohen, James G. Saufley and Brendan C. Donnelly.

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

Noted Coming Event



April 29 - May 1, 2025

***Ready Today,
First to Fight Tomorrow***

The "Modern Day Marine" event in April takes place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington D.C., typically running from late April to early May,

MDM will be showcasing the latest military equipment and technology specifically focused on the Marine Corps needs.

Attendee Information & Registration

Modern Day Marine is the largest military equipment, systems, services and technology exposition exclusively targeted to Marines and the Corps. The show floor hosts more than 300 exhibitors displaying the latest warfighting innovations and technology, briefings from influential Marines and DoD personnel, the *OBJ1 Wargaming Convention*, and more.



*Marine Corps latest Amphibious
Combat Vehicle (ACV)*

BALTIMORE
GUNG HO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
BALTIMORE DETACHMENT

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

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

***Join us on 29 March,
National Vietnam War Veterans Day,
as Americans unite to thank and honor
Vietnam veterans and their families
for their service and sacrifice.***

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 was signed into law by U.S. President Donald J. Trump, designating **every March 29** as ***National Vietnam War Veterans Day***.

This special day joins six other military-centric annual observances codified in Title 4 of the United States Code §6, among them Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

29 March is a fitting choice for a day honoring Vietnam veterans. It was chosen to be observed in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished and also the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. In addition, on and around this same day Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration honors all veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, and their families.