



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter
P.O. Box 4561
Glen Allen, VA 23058-4561
July 2019



JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING

NOTE: NEW LOCATION—

LAKEWOOD

**1900 Lauderdale Drive
Richmond, VA 23238**

**The Fourth Saturday Of Each Month
Next Meeting 27 July 2019
www.richmondmarines.net
(804) 417-4569**

Notes from the June Meeting



Although we don't have minutes from the last meeting I think it is worthwhile and important to note that our new location at Lakewood has proven to be an outstanding venue with great food and comfortable accommodations.



Commandant Mark Moore had invited (as mentioned in his message on page 3) the Leashes of Valor to make a presentation. They were an excellent start to the new program of inviting speakers, periodically, to our meetings.

Photos courtesy of Walter Cornett

There were also multiple certificates of recognition for members for their contributions over the past years. I don't have the specifics of each citation, as they say, "a photo can be worth a thousand words" - so here are some of the presentations.



James M. Slay
Detachment Marine
Corps League

Richmond, Virginia

www.richmondmarines.net

The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019

- **Mark Moore**
Commandant
- **Phil Hebner**
Sr Vice Commandant
- **Walter Cornett**
Jr Vice Commandant
- **Bruce Russell**
Adjutant
- **Dave Schneider**
Judge Advocate
- **Jim Ralls** Chaplain
- **Rick Barden**
Sergeant at Arms
- **Fred Marotta**
Paymaster
- **Spike Williamson**
Quartermaster
- **Rich Schollman**
Web Sergeant
- **Kevin O'Connor**
Scuttlebutt Newsletter
Editor
oonorsix@verizon.net

Commandant's Message

Marines, this month has flown by and we are preparing for August. I hope everyone had a Happy 4th and enjoyed spending time with your family. I know many grilled out enjoying the day's activities and saw fireworks to top off the evening.

I hope everyone got the chance to take just a few minutes to reflect on what a great country we live in. Since 1775, Marines have fought in every war to ensure FREEDOM! There are many holidays I cherish and July 4th ranks next to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

At our last detachment meeting, Danique Masingill and Jason Haag from Leashes of Valor gave a tremendous presentation on what they do. Jason's story was really heart felt and what they do for the community is nothing short of extraordinary. I believe it was well received by the membership and I hope we can have them back in the future.

Our detachment has been invited out to their facility. Danique and I have been trying to coordinate a Saturday that would work so we can take a tour. If anyone is interested please let me know. In July, we will have Major James Giudice USMC as our special guest. He is the Marine for Life Liaison and will be giving a presentation about this wonderful program. In addition, we need a detachment representative for this program. If you are interested please contact me so I can forward your information.

As many know we are hosting the fall conference and our Conference Fire Team has been hard at work. So I am pleased to announce that our conference will be held at the Hyatt House Richmond West in Short Pump, VA. We will also have some special guests with us Friday evening and Saturday morning. Trust me when I say this, you need to make every effort to be there. You will not be disappointed I assure you. The detachment officers have worked extremely hard on putting this together.

I believe this conference will be the best one yet and the venue is spectacular. We are working on the final touches which everything should be in place in the next couple weeks. I want to thank the detachment officers for the countless hours of hard work to ensure this conference is memorable. Be on the lookout for more information to follow.

Our detachment is steadily at work and I want to thank everyone for the outstanding job everyone is doing. We have some of the finest members and I believe great things will continue. So I would like to take this opportunity to salute everyone for what they do for this detachment. Your dedication, Esprit De Corps, and devotion to duty shows we are MARINES!

That is all for now and I look forward to seeing you at our next detachment meeting. Until then...

Semper Fidelis

Lou Seigel—My “Corps” Story

At the tender age of 6 one hardly knows what he/she is going to do or be when they grow up [an interesting term], but when I placed into foster care with Sgt & Elizabeth Beckwith I knew then I too wanted to be a Marine, that was in 1943 and Buster [as he was called but NOT by me } was still in the Pacific, at this point I had never met him, he was a Nicaragua and China Marine, but I did not know this until years later .

I'll skip to 1953, this was truly a bad year for me, I quit school over a stupid and idiotic thing, none the less a year later , at 17 ,I joined the Marine Corps and arrived in the sleepy town of Yamasee, S.C. around 11:30pm, I got my FIRST taste of what was to be for the next 13/14 weeks, this short Red Headed Staff Sergeant [the OLD CORPS Staff Sergeant] grabbed me by the throat shoved my head against the train car and said Swallow that GUM Girl, I knew I was in trouble, of course the Elvis hair style did not help matters I'm sure.

It was the next morning that I got another shock, my FIRST lesson on shaving, noticing the Peach fuzz on my face [these guys never miss a trick] so into the head [you all know what that is] we went , he found a nice rusty, beat up Gillet Razor and BLADE , needless to say I was plastered with toilet paper on emerging from the battle front , my first lesson in the Corps , how to shave properly.

The bus ride was most interesting, every one lost their power to speak, a rare disease you suffer from your landing on the Island. Having made many mistakes , like admitting my foster father was a Marine ,I was one of the object's of constant, ridicule , harassment , and in general getting your ass kicked for opening your mouth.

Having successfully completed the riggers of Boot Camp, it was home for a couple days [another moment of great ensnarement when seated at the dinner table and speaking in Marine tongue, a language unto it's self and you cant understand why your sister and foster mother sit there with there mouth open surprised at the language you now speak, then when you realize what you MAY have said , you turn RED and apologize but to late the dead is done].

Our Devil may care bunch know as, Platoon 451, Third Battalion QUANSIT Huts { spelling again } rejoined the training at Camp Geiger for Mud Marine training, that was another interesting time but to much to talk about here. From here I went to NAS Jacksonville Fla for Aviation prep school, to find out what I would be suited for, From here I was sent to Cherry Point for assignment and wound up at MCAF New River N.C, at last a HOME. I was assigned to HAMS 26, then to HMR 261, where I it my first taste as a Helicopter Mech and Crew Chief. I was then sent to join HMR 161 where I became a full fledged C.C and had my own HRS Helicopter to care for, AND learned to fly. It was during this time that [1977] I earned my Sikorsky Winged S Rescue WING for saving a pilot that had to bail out at 14 miles out to sea , of course the Co & Zo were the pilots I just lowered the hoist and reeled him in, funny thing I heard the Co tell the XO to cut off that RED LIGHT it was bothering him, of course on landing back at our pad the engine quit, we ran out of gas, it was the 30 minute warning light that he wanted off.

From her It was back to new river, then to Quantico, then to Okinawa and back to New River> was assigned as C.C. to one of HMRM 461 twin engine HR2S. We had started on testing was to recover the Mercury Capsules, THAT was , in it's self a fastening period of testing and recovery, while we never made a recovery, that was the job of and HUS Squadron HMR 262.

So what did these 10 years in the Corps do for me, EVERY THING, made me a man, gave me an education I may well not have gotten other wise as a school drop out, the confidence to do any thing and every thing that I wanted to ever do, all because of an OLD CORPS MARINE, that set mt feet on the right path, to Master Sergeant BECKWITH & ELIZABETH, and to the CORPS, thank you from the bottom of my heart to have had the opportunity to Serve my COUNTRY as a MARINE, the CORPS and to have served with some of the finest men I have ever had the privileged to Know and stand beside.

New Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger Strategic Guidance to the Marine Corps

The Commandant's Planning Guidance (CPG) provides the 38th Commandant's strategic direction for the Marine Corps and mirrors the function of the Secretary of Defense's Defense Planning Guidance (DPG). It serves as the authoritative document for Service-level planning and provides a common direction to the Marine Corps Total Force. It also serves as a road map describing where the Marine Corps is going and why; what the Marine Corps force development priorities are and are not; and, in some instances, how and when prescribed actions will be implemented. This CPG serves as my Commandant's Intent for the next four years.

As Commandant Neller observed, "The Marine Corps is not organized, trained, equipped, or postured to meet the demands of the rapidly evolving future operating environment." I concur with his diagnosis. Significant change is required to ensure we are aligned with the 2018 National Defense Strategy (NDS) and DPG, and further, prepared to meet the demands of the Naval Fleet in executing current and emerging operational naval concepts. Effecting that change will be my top priority as your 38th Commandant.

This CPG outlines my five priority focus areas: force design, warfighting, education and training, core values, and command and leadership. I will use these focal areas as logical lines of effort to frame my thinking, planning, and decision-making at Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC), as well as to communicate to our civilian leadership. This document explains how we will translate those focus areas into action with measurable outcomes. The institutional changes that follow this CPG will be based on a long-term view and singular focus on where we want the Marine Corps to be in the next 5-15 years, well beyond the tenure of any one Commandant, Presidential administration, or Congress. We cannot afford to retain outdated policies, doctrine, organizations, or force development strategies.

The coming decade will be characterized by conflict, crisis, and rapid change – just as every decade preceding it. And despite our best efforts, history demonstrates that we will fail to accurately predict every conflict; will be surprised by an unforeseen crisis; and may be late to fully grasp the implications of rapid change around us. The Arab Spring, West African Ebola Outbreak, Scarborough Shoal standoff, Russian invasion of eastern Ukraine, and weaponization of social media are but a few recent examples illustrating the point. While we must accept an environment characterized by uncertainty, we cannot ignore strong signals of change nor be complacent when it comes to designing and preparing the force for the future.

What is abundantly clear is that the future operating environment will place heavy demands on our Nation's Naval Services. Context and direction is clearly articulated in the NDS and DPG as well as testimony from our uniformed and civilian leadership. No further guidance is required; we are moving forward. The Marine Corps will be trained and equipped as a naval expeditionary force-in-readiness and prepared to operate inside actively contested maritime spaces in support of fleet operations. In crisis prevention and crisis response, the Fleet Marine Force – acting as an extension of the Fleet – will be first on the scene, first to help, first to contain a brewing crisis, and first to fight if required to do so. The Marine Corps will be the "force of choice" for the President, Secretary, and Combatant Commander – "a certain force for an uncertain world" as noted by Commandant Krulak. No matter what the crisis, our civilian leaders should always have one shared thought – Send in the Marines.

Editor's Note: The specific details of this Commandant's Guidance is available on line at the Us Naval Institutes website:

<https://news.usni.org/2019/07/17/gen-bergers-strategic-guidance-to-the-marine-corps>

James M. Slay Detachment 329

Great to have two Winners in the Firearms Raffle

The James M. Slay Detachment has two raffle winners with smile their faces; they both stopped by the office of A&K Firearms to see Kimo. They were to complete necessary paperwork and to pick up their weapons after requirements are met.

The First Prize Winner of the Heritage – Big Bore Revolver 45 Cal went to:

Mike Coyle

The Second Prize winner of the Smith & Wesson, M&P Bodyguard 380 went to:

Joe McGregor

Congratulations to both winners

Thanks again to A&K Firearms James Caprara aka “KIMO”.

Thank you, Detachment for your support. S/F

Leatherneck Patriots 5K Run/Walk

The 12th Annual event was held on July 6th at Robious landing Park. It was held on the 5K trail course along the James River. Although the numbers were down from last year it was still a fun and profitable event for the detachment. Even more gratifying was the great turnout of detachment members both participating and volunteering. It was interesting that the overall winner was also the first “military” winner—

Mathew Marshall, US Army from Ft. Lee.

We also had a special “celebrity” who was the subject of an article in Runners World magazine in May. Sid Busch from South Carolina, a 73 year old Navy retiree who has run over 200 marathons, carrying the Stars and Stripes to recognize specific veterans who have given their lives for their country.



Patriots Walkers: Phil Hebner on the far right with Sid Busch next to him.



Walter Cornett with Sid Busch.
Walter, Thanks for all your photos!

Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

13 August 2019

General Al Gray, USMC



Gray was born on June 22, 1928 in Rahway, New Jersey, the son of Emily and Alfred Mason Gray.^[1] The family moved to the Jersey Shore community of Point Pleasant Beach.^[2] He transferred from Rahway High School to Point Pleasant Beach High School, where he played baseball, basketball and football, graduating as part of the class of 1946.^[3]

Gray studied at Lafayette College, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from State University of New York. He has honorary degrees from Lafayette College, Monmouth University, Norwich University, the National Defense Intelligence College, and Franklin University.^[4] He married the former Jan Goss of Burlington, Vermont on July 20, 1980.

Gray enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1950. He served overseas with Fleet Marine Force (FMF), Pacific, attaining the rank of sergeant before being commissioned a second lieutenant in April 1952. By definition, serving in the enlisted ranks prior to becoming an officer makes Gray a "mustang," which generally commands more respect in the Corps because of the combination of officer smarts and enlisted practicality. His early tours included service with 11th Marines and 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division in Korea, the 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., during which he saw service in Guantanamo Bay and Vietnam.^[6]

As a major, Gray joined the 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division in South Vietnam in October 1965, serving concurrently as regimental communications officer, regimental training officer, and artillery aerial observer. He took command of the Composite Artillery Battalion and United States Free World Forces at Gio Linh in April 1967. In September, Gray was reassigned to the III Marine Amphibious Force in Da Nang where he commanded the 1st Radio Battalion elements throughout I Corps until February 1968. Following a brief tour in the United States, he returned to Vietnam from June to September 1969 in conjunction with surveillance and reconnaissance matters in the I Corps area.

After his Vietnam War tour, Gray served as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, Battalion Landing Team; the 2nd Marine Regiment; the 4th Marine Regiment; and Camp Commander of Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan. While commanding the 33rd Marine Amphibious Unit and Regimental Landing Team-4, and concurrently serving as Deputy Commander, 9th Marines Amphibious Brigade, Gray directed the Operation Frequent Wind evacuation of Saigon in April 1975. Advanced to brigadier general in March 1976, Gray served as Commanding General, Landing Force Training Command, Atlantic, and the 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade.

promoted to major general in February 1980, he assumed command of the 2nd Marine Division, FMF, Atlantic, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in June 1981.^[7] While in the position, he was a confidant to Vice-Admiral Arthur S. Moreau Jr., finding marines for a covert team which targeted terrorists and drug traffickers.^[8]

Following his promotion to lieutenant general on August 29, 1984, Gray was reassigned as Commanding General, FMF, Atlantic/Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force, and Commanding General, FMF, Europe. Gray was promoted to general and became Commandant of the Marine Corps on July 1, 1987. His appointment as Commandant of the Marine Corps was recommended by Jim Webb, then Secretary of the Navy.^[7] Gray presided over changes in training in the 1970s with an emphasis on large-scale maneuver in desert and cold-weather environments, and changed Marine doctrine to one of maneuver warfare in the 1980s. This transformation from the Vietnam War-era is sometimes called the second enlightenment of the Marine Corps (the first being under Major General John A. Lejeune), and included development of a robust maritime special operations capability, emphasis on the education of leaders, establishment of Marine Corps University, and development of a long-range desert operations capability. As a reminder that the primary role of every Marine is a rifleman, he had his official photograph taken in the Camouflage Utility Uniform, the only commandant to have done so.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.



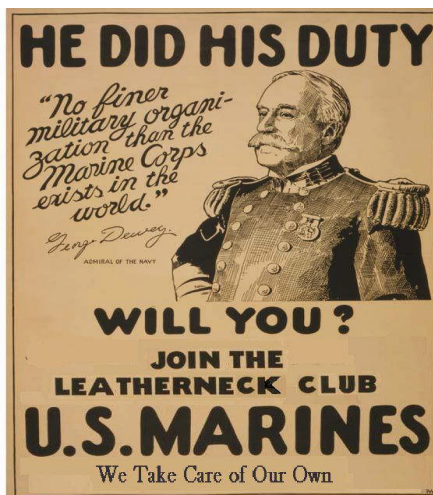
The Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veterans' lunch group is an informal forum for veterans of all branches of the armed forces. Col. Joseph J. Holicky, Jr. (USMC, ret.) and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Col. Carl L. Sitter (USMC, ret.) began having lunch together in the mid 1970's following their retirements. Over the years other veterans and local active duty Marines joined them for lunch. In the early 1980's Lt. Col. L.W. "Chip" Houston (USMCR, ret.) became part of the leadership team and served as its Master of Ceremonies for over 25 years. Today nearly 100 veterans meet each month to carry on the HHS tradition and to hear prominent guest speakers address military history, national security issues, and other topics of interest to veterans.

HHS is apolitical, and promotion of political interests is prohibited. HHS is a not-for-profit group, but it is neither a 501c3 nor a 501c4 organization.

Uniform: Whatever you want to wear.
 Cost: The chow: Optional but available at the Publix Deli on Main floor.
 Date: 13 August 2019 (The second Tuesday of every month)
 Speaker: General Al Gray, USMC Ret. Commandant - Bio page 7
 Chow: 1130 - Speaker - 1210 - Secure at 1245.
 Where: **"IMPORTANT" Location — Publix (Formerly Martins)**
2250 John Rolfe Parkway, Henrico, VA 23233

2019 LEATHERNECK

Bill Akers
 Jim Barrett
 John Beall
 Mike Boudreau
 Herb Delbridge
 Ron Echols
 John Clickener
 Phillip Gee
 Bob Gilliam
 Tim Godbey
 Clint Harrington
 Bob Hartley
 Phil Hebner
 Houston Holicky Sitter
 Luncheon Group
 Bill Jeffress
 Ed Kemp
 Greg Lee
 Annebel Lewis



Tom Mraz
 Tom Milhausen
 Kevin O'Connor
 John O'Connor
 Wes Pruitt
 Jim Ralls
 Bruce Russell
 David Schneider
 Lou Seigel
 Fred Smith
 Bruce Steeley
 David Taylor
 John Thomas
 Richard VanDamme
 Joe Wadle
 Bill Wagner
 Joe Washington
 Jerry Wells
 Spike Williamson
 Richard Zimmer

In Memoriam
 Chip Houston Pat O'Hare
 Bill Lyell



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership/Support for 2018. For a contribution of \$100 you will support our standard monthly donation to: , Virginia Dept. of Veterans and Family Services Project, USMC Wounded Warriors Project, USO Gift Cards in Richmond, and the Slay Det. Ladies Auxiliary.
 Contact Det. Paymaster Fred Marotta at : fredmarotta@gmail.com