Revised July 2019

ONCE A MARINE



ALWAYS A *Marine*

JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT 329
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

INFORMATION GUIDE

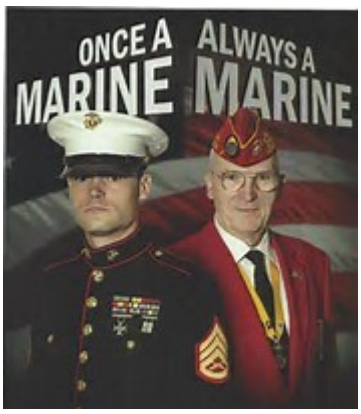
James M. Slay Detachment #329
Richmond, Virginia

We welcome you to the James M. Slay Detachment and the Marine Corps League. We Marines and FMF Corpsman and FMF Chaplains are a fellowship that is like no other. Every member of our Detachment is proud to have the opportunity to continue their service to our God, Country, and Corps. It is the combined efforts of our regular and associate members that we continue to expand upon the successes our Detachment has had in the Greater Richmond Community we serve.

We conduct our meetings the 4th Saturday of each month with the exception of November and December. In November we have our Marine Corps Birthday Ball in conjunction with the Marine Detachment at Fort Lee and in December we celebrate our annual detachment banquet.

Our regular meetings are held at the Lakewood Manor auditorium located at 1900 Lauderdale Drive in western Henrico County. We gather for breakfast at 0810, with our business meeting starting at 0900. Please come early and get to know everyone. Our camaraderie only grows stronger when we all put forth the effort to strengthen its bonds.

Without our members, there is no detachment. The more our detachment grows, the better we can serve our community, active duty, reserve, veterans, and their families. As Marines we believe strongly in our motto "Semper Fidelis."





Colonel James Martin Slay

In April of 1964 the Richmond Virginia Area Detachment of the Marine Corps League was formed and was named in honor of Colonel James M. Slay, United States Marine Corps Reserve. He was a scholar, a teacher, a churchman, a leader in the community, and an outstanding leader of Marines.

He was a native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Colonel Slay earned Bachelors and Master Degrees from Duke University and his Doctorate from Harvard University.

He began his military career in the Marine Reserves in 1936 and was called to active duty in 1941. From 1941 to 1944 he was an instructor of tactics for the Reserve Officers Classes at MCB Quantico. In late 1944 he was assigned overseas with the First Marine Division and later with the Sixth Marine Division. He was wounded at Peleliu and he received the Individual Commendation Medal for his outstanding performance of duty. He later served with the Sixth Marine Division during the invasion of Okinawa.

In 1954 he came to Richmond as the Vice President of Personnel for the Federal Reserve Bank and became Commanding Officer of the First 105 Howitzer Battalion. In 1961 he became Commanding Officer, Seventh Staff Group.

We are extremely proud to have our detachment named after such an outstanding Marine as Colonel James M. Slay.



About The Marine Corps League

Mission Statement

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service, that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and former Marines, their widows and orphans, and perpetuating the history of the United States Marine Corps by appropriate observation of the anniversaries and historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

History

The Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of all Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains, who proudly wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. It takes great pride in crediting its founding in 1923 to World War I hero, and then Major General Commandant, John A. Lejeune. It takes equal pride in its Federal Charter, approved by an act of the Seventy-Fifth Congress of the United States of America and signed and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937. The League is the only Federally Chartered Marine Corps related veterans organization in the country. Since its earliest days, the Marine Corps League has enjoyed the support and encouragement of the active duty and reserve establishments of the U.S. Marine Corps. Today, the League boasts a membership of nearly 76,000 men and women, officer and enlisted, active duty and Reserve Marines, honorably discharged Marine Veterans and qualified Navy FMF Corpsmen and FMF Chaplains.

The Marine Corps League is headed by an elected National Commandant with 14 elected National Staff Officers who serve as trustees. The National Board of Trustees coordinates the efforts of all department (state) entities and the activities of more than 900 local detachments throughout the United States and overseas. The day-to-day operations of the League are under the control of the National Executive Director with responsibility for the management and direction of all its programs, activities, and affairs, as well as supervising the National Headquarters staff.

Programs Financially Supported by the James M. Slay Detachment

The Richmond USO located at the Richmond International Airport.

The Department of Virginia Marine Corps League College Scholarship Fund.

Host an annual Marine Corps Birthday celebration for the patients and staff at the McGuire VA Hospital.

Provides financial and logistic support for the four high school Marine Junior R.O.T.C. Programs located in the Richmond Area.

Funds the Sergeant Bruce Heilman Scholarship awarded annually to the top MCJROTC cadet at each high school.

Provides monetary and logistical support for the Annual Leatherneck Patriots 5K Run.

Provides assistance to Marines and their families who may find themselves in financial distress.

The Leatherneck Club

The Leatherneck Club is a group of dedicated Slay Marines who go "above and beyond" to financially support the Slay Detachment's many charitable endeavors. Each of our members who donates $100 dollars or more annually becomes a member of the Leatherneck Club. Membership to the Leatherneck Club is strictly voluntary and plays a vital part in supporting our charitable donations.

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The Houston - Holicky - Sitter Luncheon

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.

This monthly event is well attended and enjoyed by all.

Dress: *Casual attire*

Cost: *Any food you voluntarily purchase in the store deli.*

Date: *The second Tuesday of every month.*

Chow: *1130 - Speaker - 1210 - Secure at 1245.*

Where: *The Publix Grocery Store Community Room (located on second deck)*
2250 John Rolfe Parkway, Henrico VA 23233

The store is located in the John Rolfe Shopping Center at the intersection of John Rolfe Parkway and Ridgefield Parkway

OTHER DETACHMENT ACTIVITIES



Troop Support

The Slay Detachment continues to support our deployed Marines serving in Iraq and Afghanistan with "Care Packages" from home. We have mailed dozens of boxes loaded with pogey bait, comfort items, and other necessities in support our Marines and Corpsman serving in harms way. This effort led by Marine Herb Delbridge, (804.513.7412 / hsdelbridge@hotmail.com) has been very well received by the troops. We have received numerous letters of thanks from our Marines who greatly appreciate receiving those creature comforts we here at home often take for granted.



Range Days

On the first Monday of the month, from April to October, the Detachment conducts open range days and firing competitions for it's members. The only requirements are that you bring your own ammo and weapon. If you don't own a weapon you can contact our Range Master Marine Lou Seigel (804-492-9202/mrngny@gmail.com) to make arrangements to borrow a weapon if one is available. Many of our members participate, enjoying the fun and camaraderie of shooting while upholding the tradition of "Every Marine a Rifleman".

A rifle and pistol competition (iron sights only) is conducted annually for those who wish to compete for the title of the Slay Detachment's "Top Shooter".



Ceremonial Honor Guard

The James M. Slay Detachment Honor Guard renders professional military funeral honors to all eligible veterans regardless of branch of service. The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is our way to show the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. The playing of Taps and the ceremonial folding and presentation of the flag is a moving tribute of lasting importance to the veteran's family. If you wish to participate or have any questions contact Marine Spike Williamson at biker9595@aol.com / 804.641.6203

THE MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS

The term "Devil Dog" was given to the Marines commanded by General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing at the Battle of Belleau Wood on 6 June 1918 by engaging the Germans in hand-to-hand combat. The battle was so intense that some of the Marines had lost their weapons and resorted to biting the Germans. As a result of the tenacity of the Marines, the German adversaries called the Marines "Teufelhunde" which literally means "Dogs of the Devil". This term is now known as "Devil Dogs".

The Military Order of the Devil Dog (MODD) was organized in 1939, in Boston, MA. The charter as a subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League occurred on 19 March 1940. The MODD is organized in nearly every state where the Marine Corps League has a presence.

The MODD is the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League is comprised of only regular members of the League who have been recommended for membership by two members of the MODD. Each member undergoes a series of initiations. First as a Pup, in their Pound (the local organization), then as a Devil Dog in their Pack (the State organization), and finally as a Pedigreed Devil Dog at the Supreme Growl held in conjunction with the National Convention of the League. Each degree must be held for one full year before candidacy for the next degree may be considered. Advancement is not automatic after one year, it must be earned, it is a privilege, NOT a right.

The MODD promotes good fellowship amongst the members of the different Marine Corps League Detachments. It provides amusement and entertainment at all gatherings of the League, when and where advisable, preserves and strengthens the principles and ideals of the League. The MODD is very active in raising funds for different charities with an emphasis on children's charities.

Our local pound is the Ralph A. Lewis Pound #139. We meet at the Lakewood Manor located at 1900 Lauderdale Dr. in Henrico County. Our pound leader, who's title is "Pound Keeper", is Marine Lou Siegel (804-492-9202 mrngny@gmail.com).

THE FUN AND HONOR SOCIETY OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Offices of the Slay Detachment

There is no rank or status within the League and the elected officers are representatives for the detachment to the community. The three levels of the League are (National,) State (Department) and local (Detachment) level. All major offices are the same at each level with exceptions for additional positions at each level. The below offices are the minimum required and represent the board of trustees for the detachment. All positions within the League are made up of volunteers who serve for the pleasure of the members and are elected by the members and are open to all regular members. There are also many volunteer positions for associate members. Volunteering is highly encouraged and even the smallest participation is greatly appreciated.

Officer Titles

Commandant

Senior Vice Commandant

Junior Vice Commandant

Judge Advocate

Junior Past Commandant

Adjutant

Paymaster

Sergeant-At-Arms

Chaplain

Quartermaster



Marine Corps League Covers

All members of the Marine Corps League are authorized to wear the Red cover and you are considered to be in uniform when wearing your cover.

<u>All other uniform items are optional</u>.

Members elected to National office, or appointed to National Staff/Committees are authorized to wear Gold covers Members elected or appointed on the Department (State) level are authorized to wear Red with Gold crown covers. Past Department Commandant, Past Detachment Commandant, Past Kennel Chief and Past National Director of Young Marines, with the years displayed for holding that office, are the only members who are authorized to wear their respective cover after their tour of duty is completed. All other personnel will revert back to what they were wearing before they were elected or appointed to office, removing past office identification strips. The only insignia authorized to be worn on Marine Corps League covers is the Enlisted Marine Corps Barracks Cover Emblem (EGA) on left side.

If eligible, the Devil Dog patch will be worn up front on the right side of the cover. The identification strips, i.e., the Department or Detachment strip or embroidering, will be centered on the right side. If the Life strip is worn, it will be to the rear of the right side. The Life Member strip will be worn the same as the identification strips are worn.

<u>NO Division pins or any other ornaments are authorized to be worn on Marine Corps League covers.</u>



James M. Slay Detachment Officers, 2019-2020

Commandant
Mark Moore
5343 Whetstone Road
N. Chesterfield VA 23234-4320
usmcmason@yahoo.com

Senior Vice Commandant
Phil Hebner
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Ashland VA 23005
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Junior Vice Commandant
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Glen Allen VA 23060
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Judge Advocate
David Schneider
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Midlothian VA 23113-6474
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Adjutant
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Paymaster
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Jr. Past Commandant
Joe Vass
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Sergeant -At -Arms
Rick Barden
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Chaplain
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Quartermaster
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Beaverdam VA 2315
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Web Sergeants
Rich Schollmann
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Glen Allen VA 23059
schollmann@gmail.com

Bob Gilliam
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Richmond VA 23238
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James M. Slay Detachment
Marine Corps League
PO Box 4561
Glen Allen, VA 23058-4561

Detachment Voicemail: 804.417.4569

Honor Guard Voicemail: 804.325.4199

Website: www.richmondmarines.net

Email: det329mcl@gmail.com

Regular Member Dues
$35.00 per year

Life Membership

To become a Life Member, you must already be a "Member in Good Standing". That means becoming a member and paying your initial dues first. According to the bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.

If you have any further questions about life membership, please contact our Paymaster Fred Marotta at paymaster329@gmail.com

2016 Life Membership Dues:

age to and including 35 years	*$ 500.00*
age 36 to and including 50 years	*$ 400.00*
age 51 to and including 64 years	*$ 300.00*
over 65 years	*$200.00*



Dick Branich Memorial Scholarship

The Department of Virginia annually awards a minimum $500 dollar scholarship to a worthy incoming college freshman. Any student who meets the following criteria is eligible to apply:

The son, daughter, grandchild, or stepchild of a Virginia Detachment Marine Corps League, or Virginia Unit of the Ladies Auxiliary member in good standing.

The son, daughter, grandchild, or stepchild of a Marine, or FMF Corpsman or Navy Chaplain, who lost his/her life in the line of duty.

A member in good standing in a Virginia based Young Marine Corps League Program with a minimum of two (2) years of honorable service.

A member in a Virginia USMC Jr. ROTC Program with a minimum two (2) years of honorable service.





Detachment Golf Shirts

The James M. Slay Detachment golf shirt is not a part of the official League uniform, but is purchased and worn by many of our members to meetings and other functions. It also serves as a great recruiting tool. Orders for these shirts are taken by our detachment quartermaster at our monthly meetings.

CARRY ON!

JOIN THE

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

SEMPER FIDELIS

★ Chartered by an Act of Congress ★

RETAIN CONTACT WITH YOUR BUDDIES
KEEP THE SPIRIT OF THE CORPS ALIVE

Oath of Membership
Marine Corps League

Your Name, in the presence of Almighty God and the members of the Marine Corps League here assembled, being fully aware of the symbols, motto, principles and purposes, of the Marine Corps League, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the Marine Corps League.

I will never knowingly wrong, deceive, or defraud the League, to the value of anything. I will never knowingly wrong or injure or permit any member, or any member's family, to be wronged or injured, if to prevent same is within my power.

I will never propose for membership, one known to me to be unqualified or unworthy to become a member of the League, I further promise to govern my conduct in the League's affairs and in my personal life, in a manner becoming a decent and honorable person, and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League.

So help me God.

