



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter
P.O. Box 416
Ashland, VA 23005
November 2020



JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING

NOTE: NEW LOCATION—

LAKEWOOD

**1900 Lauderdale Drive
Richmond, VA 23238**

***The Fourth Saturday Of Each Month
No Meetings in November or December
Next Meeting 23 January 2021
www.richmondmarines.net
(804) 417-4569***

Masks, Lockdowns, Quarantines, Marine Corps Birthday, Veterans Day lost for this year—We need a few laughs

God does an experiment with US Marines...

One lofty Sunday God looks down and sees a boat of six Marines paddling in the ocean, chanting; ONE-TWO-THREE-FOUR...United States Marine Corps.

Impressed by their focus and intensity he ponders; "What would happen if I removed half their brain powers" and does so. "ONE-TWO-THREE-FOUR...United States Marine Corps" chants the men with 50% brain power.

Very impressed God decides to push it and remove 3/4's of their brain powers; "ONE-TWO-THREE-FOUR...United States Marine Corps" Scream the men with the same focus and intensity as they row their boat through the ocean.

God clearly bemused thinks "Something has to change if I take away 100% of their brain's capacity to think" POOF.

Meagerly the Marines start chortling; "...be all that you can be..."

A former Sergeant in the Marine Corps took a new job as a high school teacher.

Just before the school year started, he injured his back.

He was required to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. Fortunately, the cast fit under his shirt and wasn't noticeable.

On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school. The smart punks, having already heard the new teacher was a former Marine, were leery of him and he knew they would be testing his discipline in the classroom.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher opened the window wide and sat down at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he picked up a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

There was dead silence... the rest of the year went quite smoothly.

CHANGE

The buzzword of this election is "CHANGE." Candidates toss it around without saying what they want to change to. Just that we need CHANGE! This brings to mind the following illustration... Years ago, there was an old tale in the Marine Corps about a lieutenant who inspected his Marines and told the "Gunny" that they smelled bad. The lieutenant suggested that they change their underwear. The "Gunny" responded, "Aye, aye, sir. I'll see to it immediately." He went into the tent and said, "The lieutenant thinks you guys smell bad, and he wants you to change your underwear. Smith, you change with Jones, McCarthy, you change with Witkowskie, Brown, you change with Schultz..." "Change, now get on with it!" And the moral is: A candidate may promise change in Washington... but the stink remains!

James M. Slay
Detachment Marine
Corps League

Richmond, Virginia

www.richmondmarines.net

The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

- **Mark Moore**
Commandant
- **Phil Hebner**
Sr Vice Commandant
- **Walter Cornett**
Jr Vice Commandant
- **Tim Taylor**
Adjutant
- **Dave Schneider**
Judge Advocate
- **Lonny Fry** Chaplain
- **Rick Barden**
Sergeant at Arms
- **Fred Marotta**
Paymaster
- **Steve Farmer**
Quartermaster
- **Bob Gilliam**
Web Sergeant
- **Kevin O'Connor**
Scuttlebutt Newsletter
Editor
oconorsix@verizon.net

Marines

The COVID 19 experience is hitting us in the detachment harder.

Many of our members are beginning to test positive or to have associated with others who have tested positive. Our Leatherneck golfer group has had several positive experiences either within the group four with people who will interact with a group. Even those that test negative would have been involved with those who have tested positive have been forced to quarantine for two weeks. We have had to cancel the Marine Corps birthday ball and Toys-for-Tots is a bare minimum this year and there has been no way to have a detachment meeting in November or December.

Thanksgiving travel and family gatherings have been extremely curtailed due to the virus.

As Marines we'll deal with

Improvise.
Adapt,
Overcome.

in the meantime our detachment officers are still active in keeping everything on pace to 2021 only hoping everything will be getting back to near normal.



Semper Fi

Quartermaster Store Link:

<https://jamesmslay.itemorder.com/sale>

MINUTES
JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
24 OCTOBER 2020



0900 Call to Order

Commandant Mark Moore called the meeting to order, ordering the securing of quarters, posting of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, opening prayer, and directing the Sargent at Arms to declare the meeting Open.

Roll Call of Officers

All officers were present except Joe Vass (Past Commandant, excused), and Phil Hebner (Sr. Vice Cmdt., excused).

Introduction of Guests

There were no guests present.

Application for New Members

There were no applications for membership.

Reports of Officers

Commandant – Mark Moore

Junior Vice Commandant – Walter Cornett, No report.

Adjutant – Tim Taylor

Requested approval of Minutes published in September Scuttlebutt for the August meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved by acclamation.

Announced that the Flagpole requested for the VA Hospital had been reviewed and researched and forwarded to the Commandant without objection.

Announced that the requested Flagpole for the front of Lakewood Manor, which will be split with the American Legion post that also meets here, was forwarded to the Commandant with a recommendation for approval.

Paymaster – Fred Marotta

During 2020 we have added 6 new members

Currently, we have had 62 annual membership renewals out of 81 on the books from last year, for about a 75% renewal rate two months into the renewal period.

Yesterday, 127 mailers went out to the Life members and renewed members for the Toys for Tots/Marine Corps Birthday celebration on November 7th. Tickets are \$25 and Toys are recommended up to \$25. If you don't want to shop for a toy, you can send a check to the Paymaster and his wife and daughter will enjoy shopping for you.

So far, 16 members have secured their reservations for the Ball. Remember that the Ball is Members only up to 56 this year.

Chaplain – Jim Ralls for Lonny Fry

Sick Call report sent out yesterday by email reviewed. Several members or family members in need of prayers for various afflictions. Fred Marotta's wife is back to full health again after her collapsed lung last month.

Marine Lou Seigel's wife passed away and was buried this past week. The Color Guard acted as pall bearers for her funeral. Marine Richard Zimmer's wife also passed three weeks ago and was buried in Maryland.

Web Sergeant – Bob Gilliam – No Report

Historian – Rich Van Damme

37 Years ago yesterday, October 23, was the Beirut barracks bombing resulting in 241 Marines and Sailors killed.

Legislative Report – Jim Barrett

One of the Bills passed by the legislature this year as part of the Gun Control efforts included a provision that it is a class 5 felony for anyone in the state of Virginia to teach another how to use a firearm. In addition to preventing a father from teaching his son or daughter to use a firearm, even the act drilling the Honor Guard could be construed to be in violation of this statute. The Joint Leadership Council has enlisted the help of Senator Bryce Reed to sponsor an amendment to exempt the Honor Guard/Color Guard, or to have the entire bill repealed. The reference for this statute is in the Code of Virginia section 18.2-433.2. Members are encouraged to contact their Representative and Senator in the Legislature to voice their concern and support for correction of this statute.

Public Relations Officer – Randy Abernathy

Reminder of the American Legion Post 90 Veterans Day ceremony in Beaverdam, VA on November 11 previously communicated.

Senior Vice Commandant – Walter Cornett for Phil Hebner - Committee Reports

Honor Guard – Spike Williamson

As of today, in about an hour, we will do out fifth funeral in the last 10 days.

Maguire VA Hospital – Hallie Oxley, Jr.

Still no volunteers allowed in the Hospital due to the Virus restrictions.

Christy Day, the Volunteer Services Coordinator was to be at this meeting to speak about volunteering at the VA and will provide a 30-minute training after the meeting, but was not authorized by the VA to do that at this time. She is planning to be at the January meeting for this purpose.

Will get a headcount of Marines in the VA Hospital so we can deliver cupcakes for the Marine Corps Birthday to be distributed by the Hospital Staff.

JROTC – Joe Wadle – No Report

Houston-Holicky-Sitter – Joe Wadle

Luncheons still on hold until January when the Admiral from Norfolk will be speaking.

Care Packages – Herb Delbridge

At present we have no names of deployed military members to send packages to, so if anyone has a name of one, let us know and we will send them out.

Military Order of Devil Dogs – Jim Barrett

There will be a Devil Dog Growl at Lakewood on 21 November at 1030.

Virginia War Memorial – Bruce Steeley

Veterans Day celebration will be virtual, no on-site activity.

The Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration will occur on December 7th.

Fund Raising Committee – Jim Ralls

Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Marine John Thompson for selling the most tickets for the Rifle raffle that raised over \$5,000 this year.

Push-up Challenge fund raiser announced. Sponsor is Fred Marotta. Details of how the challenge will be conducted was sent out by email last week.

Putting out the call for members or others to donate rifles or pistols for raffles in future.

Quartermaster – Steve Farmer (not present)

The website JamesMSlay.itemorder.com has shirts, jackets, etc., for Det 329.

Past State Commandant – Jim Barrett

Mark Moore was elected as the Senior Vice Commandant at the Fall Staff meeting on 17 October.

Newly appointed Department Sgt at Arms is our own Rick Barden, who we will swear in at the end of this meeting.

National Mid-Winter Conference at Sheraton Waterside in Norfolk on the 24th - 28th of February 2021.

State Convention on April 30 – 1 May will be hosted by the Slay Detachment.

Mid-East Division Conference will be held 16-18 April at Rehoboth Beach, DE.

National Convention is 9-13 August in Springfield, IL.

Looking for Detachment Marine of the Year nominations. Fill out the form on the Website and send to me by the 1st of November. Award will be presented at the Birthday Ball/Toys for Tots Dinner.

Unfinished Business

The Flagpoles for VA and Lakeland Manor were brought up, but there is not a quorum present, so we were unable to vote on these expenditures. In order to ensure that we do not lose the opportunity for the VA Flagpole, Marine Wes Pruitt volunteered to provide a check for the full amount to the Paymaster so the purchase of the flagpole can move forward and once a quorum is available in the January meeting to approve this purchase, the paymaster will refund Marine Pruitt.

The Lakeland Manor flagpole is tabled until the January meeting.

Commandant will appoint a Bylaws committee to review the feasibility of a modification to the Bylaws to reduce the possibility of this type of issue in the future.

New Business - None

Good of the league

Jim Barrett chosen at Department Staff Meeting as Department Marine of the Year.

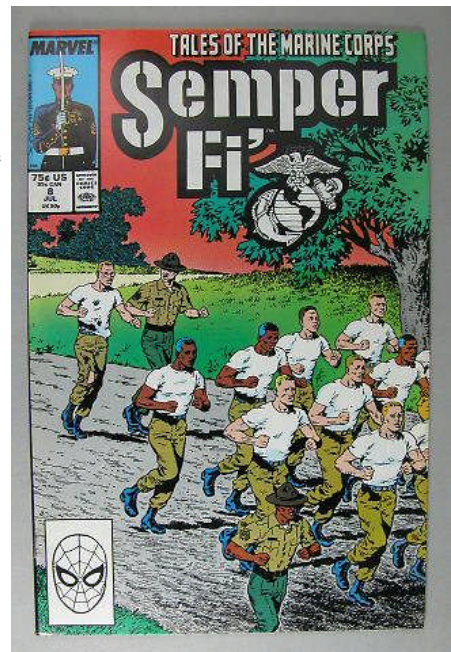
Rick Barden called forward and sworn in by Jim Barrett as Department Sergeant at Arms.

Announcements - None

Closing Ceremony

By order of the Commandant, the Colors were retired, the Marine Corps Hymn was sung, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, November 7, 2020, at 1700 on the occasion of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Respectfully Submitted,
Timothy Taylor, Adjutant



New DoD Adviser Has Made Controversial Proposal: Get Rid of the Marine Corps



The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon marches in front of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial on their way to perform for the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C., April 13, 2014. (U.S. Marine Corps/Sgt. Bryan Nygaard)

12 Nov 2020

Military.com | By [Richard Sisk](#) and [Gina Harkins](#)

Retired [Army](#) Col. Douglas Macgregor, newly-appointed as a senior adviser at the Pentagon, has a track record of making controversial statements. But his most provocative of all might be a proposal to do away with the U.S. Marine Corps.

In a 2012 opinion piece for [Time Magazine](#), Macgregor, a decorated veteran of the Gulf War, argued that the Corps was living on its past glories and was unsuited for combat on today's battlefield, with the possible exception for pushover enemies.

He went further, too, suggesting the acronym "USMC" should really stand for "Under-utilized Superfluous Military Capability."

"Most of today's Marine force consists of airmobile light infantry," Macgregor wrote. "This Marine force is designed for use in the developing world against incapable opponents from Haiti to Fiji, but not much else."

Retired Army Col. Douglas Macgregor. (BMG-2048/Wikimedia Commons)

He took exception to previous remarks from then-Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos on the future of the Corps as "America's shock force" of agile and adaptable units vital to the nation's defense against evolving threats. The Pentagon announced Wednesday that Macgregor "will be serving as a Senior Advisor to the Acting Secretary of Defense. Mr. MacGregor's decades of military experience will be used to assist in the continued implementation of the president's national security priorities."

Macgregor, a frequent guest on Fox News, has argued for the imposition of martial law at the U.S.-Mexico border with orders for troops to "shoot people" if necessary to stop illegal immigration.

He has also criticized European countries for being too welcoming to "Muslim invaders."

There is a historical precedent for arguing to disband the Marine Corps. Presidents Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower both attempted to do away with the amphibious service. But these arguments have always been brushed aside by furious pushback from the Marines and their allies in Congress.

The enduring future of the Marine Corps was seen from a Navy ship offshore of Iwo Jima by then-Navy Secretary James Forrestal in February 1945.

When he saw the flag go up atop Mount Suribachi, Forrestal said that "means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years."

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Dakota Wood, senior fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank, said Macgregor's new Pentagon assignment is likely a non-issue for the Marine Corps.

"I do not think it will cause any notable problems," Wood said.

In the short time before the inauguration of the next president, "there isn't any opportunity to make significant changes to the [National Defense Authorization Act] or any key documents that would materially affect the Corps," Wood said.

"Plus," he said, "the Corps is well-supported in Congress and any big changes in role, funding or programs would be driven from there."

From the Editor: I have been having a bit of a vision problem. I'm going to see a fourth specialist this week. Prognosis is hopeful and I'm learning to talk to my computer. Unfortunately when I curse at my finger screw-up's or verbal errors it picks up those words too. I plan to have my wife proof read, but who knows. Got to laugh at oneself.

A blind man walked into a bar one night...

One of the patrons at the bar saw him and helped him get to a barstool and get a drink. After a few minutes, the blind man leaned over to his new friend and said, "I just heard the world's best blonde joke. Would you like to hear it?"

The other man said, "Friend, before you say another word, there's something you need to know."

"What's that?" the blind man asked.

"There are five people besides you in this bar. The bartender is blonde. The bouncer is blonde. There are two women sitting at the end of the bar. One is an off-duty police officer, and the other is a **Marine Corps gunnery sergeant**, and they're both blond. I'm six-foot-four, two hundred and sixty pounds, and I've got a third degree black belt in karate, and I'm blonde.

"So," the man concluded, "Are you sure you really want to tell that joke?"

The blind man thought about it for a minute and said, "No, not if I'm going to have to explain it five times."

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.

Date: **Still on hold until at least January 2021**

Speaker:

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

Where:

**"IMPORTANT" Location — Publix (Formerly Martins)
2250 John Rolfe Parkway, Henrico, VA 23233**

2020 LEATHERNECK

Bill Akers
Jim Barrett
John Beall
Mike Boudreau
Herb Delbridge
Kimo Caprara
Ron Echols
Lonny Fry
John Clickener
Phillip Gee
Bob Gilliam
Tim Godbey
Clint Harrington
Bob Hartley
Phil Hebner
Susan Houston
Houston Holicky Sitter
Luncheon Group
Bill Jeffress
Ed Kemp
Greg Lee
Fred Marotta



In Memoriam
Chip Houston Pat O'Hare
Bill Lyell Buddy Smith

Tom Mraz
Tom Milhausen
Kevin O'Connor
John O'Connor
Carl Panebianco
Jim Ralls
Bruce Russell
David Schneider
Lou Seigel
Charlie Slay
Bruce Steele
David Taylor
Tim Taylor
John Thomas
Richard VanDamme
Ken Varndell
Joe Wadle
Bill Wagner
Joe Washington
Jerry Wells
Spike Williamson
Richard Zimmer



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership for 2020. Your \$100 annual membership fee supports the activities and efforts of the James M. Slay Detachment, a not-for-profit 501c4 Veteran's Service Organization. Contact Detachment Paymaster Fred Marotta at: Paymaster329@gmail.com