

**James M. Slay**  
**Detachment Marine**  
**Corps League**

**Richmond, Virginia**

[www.richmondmarines.net](http://www.richmondmarines.net)

- **Phil Hebner**  
**Commandant**
- **Lou Seigel**  
**Sr Vice Commandant**
- **Spike Williamson**  
**Jr Vice Commandant**
- **Tim Taylor**  
**Adjutant**
- **Dave Schneider**  
**Judge Advocate**
- **Lonny Fry**  
**Chaplain**
- **Jim Ralls**  
**Sergeant at Arms**
- **Fred Marotta**  
**Paymaster**
- **Randy Abernathy**  
**Public Relations**
- **John Clickener**  
**Legislative**
- **Steve Farmer**  
**Quartermaster**
- **Bob Gilliam**  
**Web Sergeant**
- **Rich Van Damme**  
**Scuttlebutt Newsletter**  
**Editor :**  
[rjv0402@gmail.com](mailto:rjv0402@gmail.com)

# The Scuttlebutt

**NEWSLETTER**

**F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 3**



Marines,

What a motivating meeting we had in January!!! We had 6 new members join our Detachment (4-Marines and 2-Associates) and attendance was so strong, an additional table had to be set up to accommodate everyone. It not only shows the strength and camaraderie that our Detachment has but it is GREAT to see everyone taking part in the Detachment's activities. On another note, I am happy to say that the Wes Pruitt Memorial Leatherneck Club/Platoon has seen very strong participation thus far and has helped the Detachment meet our financial obligations to start the year. This fund was started to recognize members who donated to the Detachment outside of the annual dues (which the majority goes to Department and National fees). The customary contribution is \$100 (any more is appreciated) and is tax deductible if requested. Thank you to all who have contributed and if you would still like to donate, please see Paymaster-Fred Marotta. The strength and growth of our Detachment is also due to the strong leadership we have had over the years and with elections fast approaching, we need to foster the talent and motivation of our members to keep our organization strong moving forward. Please see me or any other officer of the Detachment to discuss any skill set that you may have so that we can utilize those talents. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meeting and please stay safe, healthy, and committed to our God, Country, and Corps.

Semper Fidelis  
Phil Hebner  
Commandant

Quartermaster Store Link:

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

***MINUTES***  
***JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT***  
***MARINE CORPS LEAGUE***  
***28 January 2023***

**0900 Call to Order**

Commandant Phil Hebner 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 Jr. Vice Commandant Spike Williamson, excused, and Judge Advocate David Schneider, excused.

**Introduction of Guests**

Bobby Fulgrum, Chris Harrington, Cynthia Fussell (wife of member), and Victoria Kelly (wife of member).

**Application for New Members**

Marines Mirron Harris, Jr., Thomas Hastings, Joseph Shusko, Gregory Salamone, and Robert Rogers; Associate members Donna Schultz and Toni Gaskins. All were sworn in by Commandant Hebner.

**Reports of Officers**

Junior Vice Commandant – Spike Williamson (absent)

Adjutant – Tim Taylor

Since this is the first meeting since July that we have had a quorum, the minutes from August, September, and October were offered for acceptance. Motion was made and approved by vote to accept all three.

The Budget for 2023, as approved by the Executive Board was discussed and offered for approval by the membership. Motion for approval was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

The final Finance Report for 2022 is available if anyone wishes to review it following the meeting with me.

I sent out a new Contact Roster a week ago, but if you did not get it, see me later and we will check your email address in the roster. Also, check your junk/spam folder because some email clients will send emails with multiple addresses there assuming it is spam.

Paymaster – Fred Marotta

Provided additional detail on the Budget and how the Heilman Scholarship program works.

Chaplain – Lonny Fry

Dave Schneider, our Judge Advocate, has been in and out of the hospital several time over the past several weeks, but is at home recuperating now. Linda Delbridge is finally home from 5 weeks in the Hospital and 2 weeks of rehab. We are looking for members who can take meals out to Herb and Linda. Contact Lonny for details.

Newsletter Editor/Historian – Rich Van Damme

Scuttlebutt has been a bit light over the past couple of months since we weren't having meetings, but now that we are back, please send any Marine Corps stories/experiences you would like to share and I will try to get in. If you are not getting the newsletter, let me know and I will get you on the list.

Nothing for History this month – looking for a new way to approach history items.

**Senior Vice Commandant – Lou Seigel - Committee Reports**

Honor Guard – Bruce Russell

We have done two events so far this year.

Focused this year on recruiting as we only have about 20 members with an average age of about 74, so we need some new blood. See me if you are interested.

Range Days - Lou Seigel

I have sent out (email) with the schedule for Range Days at Cavalier and the Bullets, BBQ, and Beer nights at Colonial Shooting Academy and Mission BBQ.

Will be sending out maps and detailed directions in the next month or so.

Richmond VA Medical Center – Johnny Day

Attended the Monthly VSO roundtable with the Hospital Director. As of yesterday (27 Jan) the screening process at the front door has been discontinued. Masks are still required, but there will be no screeners at the door. Flu Shots are available for free for all Veterans. The official name of the Richmond VA has been changed to "The Richmond VA Medical Center." It is no longer the McGuire VA Hospital and was changed due to DOD Policy.

The COMPACT Act of 2020 was fully implemented as of January 17 of this year and allows Veterans in a suicide emergency to go to any VA facility, or any health care facility, to receive free emergency care, including ambulance transportation cost, inpatient care for up to 30 days, or outpatient care for up to 90 days. This care is free for all Veterans, regardless of whether you are signed up for VA care. I will send all the details to Rich to put in the next Scuttlebutt, along with the links to find out more about it.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter – Joe Wadle

Dick Camp will be the speaker on 14 February. He has spoken to us several times before and has been very popular.

General Harry Dinkins will be speaking in May. Meetings are at the Publix (second floor) at 2250 John Rolfe Parkway on the second Tuesday of each month.

Purple Heart Truck – Lonny Fry

Last year we did 15 events.

Looking for more 3 drivers, and 6 more support volunteers to fill out the up to 25 event schedule we expect to have for this year. Can be from any service, not all Marines.

Virginia War Memorial – Bruce Steeley

Currently sharing experiences of Vietnam Veterans through audio interviews.

Military Order of Devil Dogs – Jim Barrett

There will be a Growl next month right after the Detachment Meeting here in the Lakewood facility.

Past State Commandant – Jim Barrett

National Marine Corps League Mid-Winter Conference will be held 23 – 25 February at the Sheraton Waterside in Norfolk.

National Convention is at the Oklahoma City Omni on 14 – 21 August 2023.

State Department convention 19-20 May 2023 at Dumfries, hosted by the Mickey Finn Detachment.

I have reserved this room for 11 November for the Birthday Ball if we decide we want to hold it here again.

Fund Raising – Nick Wennberg

Looking at holding several gun raffles to include some dedicated to Toys for Tots and Heilman Scholarship.

Will try to hold the Patriot 5K again sometime this year.

### **Good of the League**

Marine Rich Van Damme presented with the First-Place plaque for the Rifle competition.

Detachment Marine of the Year Award for 2022 presented to Ron Echols.

Motion made and seconded to forward a nomination recommendation for the Detachment Marine of the Year to the Department Marine of the Year Board, passed by voice vote. A motion was also passed to nominate the 2021 Marine of the year, John Clickener, to be the Department Marine of the Year. Also passed the motion to submit Jim Ralls, the 2021 Detachment Associate of the Year to be the Department Associate of the Year.

### **Announcements**

Officers' election in May and there are several positions which will be open. If you would like to become involved in the Detachment leadership, please let the nominating committee know.

### **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, 25 February 2023, at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Timothy Taylor, Adjutant

## Around Town and the Corps

Lou requests that you bring to the detachment meeting any issues of you Semper Fi magazine you no longer need. They are going to put new labels over your address label, complements of the Slay Detachment. These will be delivered to the VA.



As a reminder, there will be a Gun Show on March 18 and 19 at the Richmond Raceway Complex. Please attend and support your 2nd Amendment rights and also buy something for yourself. Get some ammo, range days will be starting soon.

In May we will have a guest instructor in the art of self-defense called Cane Fu Tom Ashmore has been doing this for many years at NO COST to anyone, the course is only about 3-4 hours long and you are given a good old American Oak Cane . I have had the class as has David Schneider. The only thing is he has a few health issues and cannot be dragging his equipment around as he used to so the class is taught at the Legion Post in Powhatan,

If we have enough interest and the members are willing to travel to Powhatan I will be glad to set the program up and have him come to the May meeting and then set a date and time for the course to be taught at his place.

Tom is a Marine W/Three Purple Hearts for service in Viet Nam, I can personally vouch for him and his wife Betty who helps with the class. The class is open to all men and women.

See the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

### James M. Slay Detachment 329 Richmond Virginia

#### Greetings Happy Birthday for the Month of February

You were first greeted by your loved ones. Now the Officers of Slay Detachment and fellow Members wishing you a Happy Birthday.  
We sincerely invite you to attend the next meeting on **25 February 2023.**

Chris Long 20 Feb  
Jim Barrett 19 Feb  
Rick Barden 24 Feb  
John Clickener 24 Feb  
Robin Kennedy 24 Feb  
Robert Buren, Jr 29 Feb

Enjoy the rest of your Day  
**YOU EARNED IT**

Semper FI

We would like to Celebrate Your Birthday also please forward this special occasion to: [jimralls002@gmail.com](mailto:jimralls002@gmail.com), we don't want to miss an opportunity to congratulate YOU. Notice, we do not add the number of candles.  
We will be honored to add you to our Happy Birthday list.

*See You Soon Hopefully at the Next Meeting!*

# News from Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Hospital

Submitted by Johnny Day-VAVS Rep

## Change in Screening Process

Effective Friday, January 27, Central Virginia VA Health Care System (CVHCS) has removed the contracted screener company from the entrances at all locations.

Masks are still mandatory for everyone, and the safety of everyone is our highest priority. Mask stands will be placed at the entrances in lieu of screeners, and all Veterans, visitors and employees who enter CVHCS facilities must put on a mask upon entering.

## Flu Shots

Flu Shots are still available. Ask your Primary Care Team during your next appointment. If you've already received your Flu Shot out in the community, we'd like to know.

We just need to know the location and date you received your Flu Shot. You can let your Primary Care Team know during your next visit, or call us at 804-675-5000. Also, you can send your Primary Care Team a secure message through MyHealtheVet.

## Name Change – Richmond VA Medical Center

The Department of Veterans Affairs has renamed the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, to the Richmond VA Medical Center.

The renaming aligns with the Department of Defense's efforts to remove and rename symbols commemorating Confederate figures. The change comes after a letter sent to VA by the late Representative Donald McEachin in 2022, which requested that VA remove the McGuire name from the VAMC.

"After considerable discussion and review of the issue, and with the support of local Veterans, community members, leaders, and VA employees, I have decided to rename the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center to the Richmond VA Medical Center," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "VA will continue to serve *all* Veterans with dignity and respect, at this facility and every facility."

VA has limited authority to rename its facilities; however, statute 38 U.S.C. § 531 permits the VA Secretary to change the name of a facility for the geographic area in which it is located so long as the previous name was not set forth in public law.

## COMPACT Act

Starting January 17, 2023, Veterans in suicidal crisis should go to a VA or community health care facility to receive free emergency health care – including ambulance transportation costs – and be eligible for inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work.

The following hyperlinks provide much more information regarding the new law.

[Emergency Medical Care - Community Care \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/compact)

[Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for free emergency health care](https://www.va.gov/compact)

## This Month in Marine Corps History

### 20 February 1962, First American to Orbit the Earth

Glenn entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in March 1942. He graduated and was commissioned in the Marine Corps in 1943. After advanced training, he joined Marine Fighter Squadron 155 and spent a year flying F-4U fighters in the Marshall Islands. He flew 59 combat missions during World War II.

After the war, he was a member of Marine Fighter Squadron 218 on the North China patrol and served on Guam. From June 1948 to December 1950 he served as an instructor in advanced flight training at Corpus Christi, Texas. He then attended Amphibious Warfare Training at Quantico, Va.

In Korea he flew 63 missions with Marine Fighter Squadron 311. As an exchange pilot with the Air Force Glenn flew 27 missions in the F-86 Sabre. In the last nine days of fighting in Korea, Glenn shot down three MiGs in combat along the Yalu River.

Glenn attended Test Pilot School at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Md. After graduation, he was project officer on a number of aircraft. He was assigned to the Fighter Design Branch of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics (now Bureau of Naval Weapons) in Washington from November 1956 to April 1959. During that time he also attended the University of Maryland.

In July 1957, while he was project officer of the F-8U Crusader, he set a transcontinental speed record from Los Angeles to New York -- 3 hours and 23 minutes. It was the first transcontinental flight to average supersonic speed.

Glenn accumulated nearly 9,000 hours of flying time, about 3,000 of it in jets.



After his selection as a Mercury astronaut, Glenn was assigned to the NASA Space Task Group at Langley, Va., in April 1959. The Space Task Group was moved to Houston and became part of the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center (now Johnson Space Center in Houston) in 1962. Before his 4-hour, 55-minute flight in the Friendship 7 capsule, Glenn had served as backup pilot for astronauts Alan Shepard, the first American in space who flew on May 5, 1961, and to Virgil "Gus" Grissom, who followed Shepard on a suborbital flight of his own.

When astronauts were assigned to provide pilot input for the design and development of spacecraft, Glenn specialized in cockpit layout and control functioning, including some of the early designs for the Apollo Project.

Glenn was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on six occasions, and holds the Air Medal with 18 Clusters for his service during World War II and Korea. Glenn also received the Navy Unit Commendation for service in Korea, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the China Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy's astronaut Wings, the Marine Corps' Astronaut Medal, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, and the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.



Detachment Marine of the Year  
2022

Ron Echols

1st Place Rifle Shooter  
Score: 254-2X

Rich Van Damme



## ORIGIN OF THE PATCH



- ★ The shape represents my old outfit. The 2nd Battalion 4th Marines "The Magnificent Bastards"
- ★ The Scarlet (Red) and Gold are Marine Colors.
- ★ The Blue represents not only the waters we have crossed and fought in but being true blue to our country.
- ★ The Purple represents the Purple Heart.
- ★ The Red letters represents the blood that has been shed.
- ★ Yin & Yang represents the balance in life.
- ★ The Umbrella represents the Lord protecting us and, to help him, the umbrella becomes a protection device.
- ★ As we get older the canes represent our badge of courage NOT weakness. It gives us support and strength and becomes a formidable protection device when needed.

**CANE LOYALTY, IF YOU ARE LOYAL TO YOUR CANE AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT, YOUR CANE WILL BE LOYAL TO YOU SHOULD YOU EVER NEED IT TO DEFEND YOURSELF.**

Our course covers Stretching, Strength Building, Balance and Self-Defense with your walking cane. The course has been developed to include working with various types of mobility issues including people in wheel chairs. Many of the moves and strength building routines can be performed standing, sitting or even laying down.



INFO@CANELOYALTY.COM

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# CANE LOYALTY



## Get Stronger Live Longer

P.O. BOX 924 POWHATAN, VA 23139

(203) 788-8466

## OUR 5 STEP APPROACH



**1** Situational Awareness: Why is this so important? Avoiding danger, no matter what it is, is far better than recovering from it. By seeing trouble coming you are better prepared to take evasive actions.

**2** Stretching: This is one of the most beneficial exercises for your body. Keeping your body supple will help you defend against slips, trips or falls and will also aid you in defending yourself.

**3** Balance: Unfortunately our balance degrades as we age. The good news is we can tune it up. Using your cane to do some very simple balance exercises will improve your balance. Most people see great results in a week to 10 days.

**4** Strength training: This helps to shape and tone your muscles, increase your metabolic rate and strengthen your bones. Resistance training is beneficial for the elderly because it is one of the only exercises that can slow and reverse the decline of muscle mass, bone density and strength loss.

**5** Defense with the cane: Remember - your best defense tool is the one between your ears. Situational awareness is key! Only fight as a last resort. However, if you have no other choice and must fight, you must fight to win. With proper techniques, the cane can help provide the advantage you need.

## WHAT IS CANE FU?



Cane Loyalty is based on Cane-Fu, a system founded by Grand Master Shuey Sr. from Cane Masters, part of the American Cane System. Created to give an advantage to those who carry a cane, either due to age or disability, Cane-Fu teaches the use of the cane both for self-defense, and self improvement. Incorporating stretching, strength training and balance training, carrying a cane is no longer a symbol of weakness; it's a source of confidence and strength.



[WWW.CANELOYALTY.COM](http://WWW.CANELOYALTY.COM)  
[INFO@CANELOYALTY.COM](mailto:INFO@CANELOYALTY.COM)

## ABOUT TOM

I started my Martial Arts training at the age of 14 with Judo. I continued until I entered the United States Marines at the age of 17. I excelled in hand to hand combat training and was asked to help train my fellow Marines in Hand to Hand and Bayonet Fighting.

While serving my country, I was stationed in Japan where I had the opportunity to study under several great Masters.

I then deployed to Vietnam, where I experienced real life hand-to-hand combat for survival. I received 3 Purple Hearts while serving my country in Vietnam.

Following my service in Vietnam, I was in the Philippines and studied Arnis, the Philippine Martial Art of Stick, Knife and Open Hand fighting.

At the conclusion of my military career, I became a Police Officer and attended many Defensive Tactics Training classes. Believing there was something missing in the training

classes I attended, I started my own training business in the late 60s to educate others using real-life scenarios. Since then I have trained hundreds of Police Officers in knife defense, unusual weapons defense, and basic street survival.

-Tom Ashmore





## New Associate Members of the Detachment



## HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER VETERANS FORUM

*MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.*

HHS meets next on Tuesday **March 14, 2023.**

**Location will be Publix, 2250 John Rolfe Pky, Henrico, VA 23233. We will be in the Community Meeting Room on the 2nd floor.**

Guest speaker is Mr. Peter Behr. See his bio on the next page.

Doors open at 1115, the program begins at 1150, and the program will conclude by 1300. Lunch may be purchased from the Publix' Deli.

All attendees must be "FULLY" vaccinated for Covid-19.

The Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veterans' Forum 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.



Peter Behr is senior energy reporter for Politico's E&E News, an online news report that covers energy, environmental and climate news.

At E&E News, Pete has reported on cybersecurity threats to critical energy infrastructure; advanced nuclear reactors including fusion energy; power blackouts and extreme weather challenges to energy delivery, and climate policy and transitions to carbon-free electricity and electric vehicles.

Before joining E&E News, he was a reporter and editor at The Washington Post for 24 years, including five years as assistant managing editor in charge of business and financial coverage. As business editor he oversaw an investigative reporting project on insider stock trading on Wall Street that won a Pulitzer Prize. His articles have also appeared in the online New York Times, Scientific American, CQ Global Researcher, the Environmental Law Journal, and the New Yorker magazine.

He was part of a Washington Post investigative team that wrote a 25,000-word account of the fall of Enron Corp., in 2002, which was selected as one of the "Best Business Crime Stories of the Year" in 2002, and was nominated by The Post for a Pulitzer Prize.

Before joining The Post, he was a Washington correspondent for the Baltimore Sun, a congressional reporter and White House correspondent for the Gannett News Service's Washington Bureau, and a news reporter for The Times-Union newspaper in Rochester, N.Y., the Gannett Co.'s headquarters.

While working for the Rochester paper, he was assigned to write a series of "Hometown Reports" about American servicemen from Rochester and other Gannett newspapers who were serving in Vietnam, spending six weeks there in January-March 1966. He returned for another month of reporting in Vietnam in 1967, and went a third time, in 1973.

He graduated in 1962 from Colgate University, joining the Rochester paper. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1963 and later received a commission as a Second Lieutenant. He was married in 1962 to his high school sweetheart, Marty Nettleton. They have three children and six grandchildren.

He received a Nieman Fellowship in 1975 for an academic year of study at Harvard University, and was a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Institute in 2004.

He is the co-author of "The Leading Edge," profiles of U.S. business leaders published by McGraw Hill, and wrote an updated version of "Outline of the U.S. Economy" for the State Department.

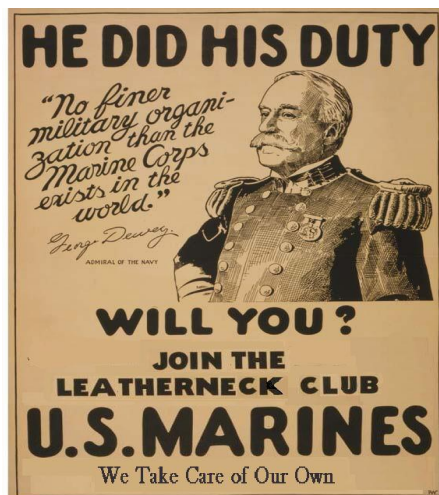
He has served on the board of the Falls Church Education Foundation, the Society of American Business Editors and Writers, and the Washington Revels performing arts group.



### New Members

## 2023 WES PRUITT LEATHERNECK CLUB

Jamie Pleasants  
 Bob Gilliam  
 Fred Marotta  
 Austin Brockenbrough  
 David Charbonneau  
 John Clickener  
 Reese Haller  
 Harold Jinkins  
 Joe Kelleher  
 James Meade  
 Thomas Mraz  
 Anonymous  
 Wm. Hartley  
 Clint Harrington  
 Thomas Milhausen  
 Tim Godbey  
 Wm. Akers  
 Bruce Steeley  
 Joe Wadle  
 Tim Taylor



**In Memoriam:**  
 Colonel James M. Slay    Wes Pruitt

John Beall  
 Henry Ragland, III  
 Anthony Rhyne, Sr  
 Tabitha Sierra  
 David Taylor  
 Stan Williams  
 'Spike' Williamson  
 Richard Zimmer  
 Charles Slay  
 David Schneider  
 Ken Verndell  
 Bill Jefferess  
 Phil Hebner  
 Nick Wrenburg  
 Kevin O'Connor  
 Lonny Fry  
 Gregory Edwards  
 Lou Seigel  
 Rich Van Damme



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership for 2023. 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](mailto:Paymaster329@gmail.com)