



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter
P.O. Box 4561
Glen Allen, VA 23058-4561
July 2017



JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING

**Virginia Society of CPA's
4309 Cox Rd, Glen Allen VA
I-64 Exit I78B**

**The Fourth Saturday Of Each Month
Next Meeting 22 July 2017
0830 Breakfast - 0900 Meeting
www.richmondmarines.net
(804) 417-4569**

PAYMASTER REPORT



The James M. Slay Detachment has had income of \$14,500.00 for the period of 01 January 2017 through 30 June 2017. Much of our income comes from the members themselves in their support and participation of events such as the monthly Saturday breakfast meetings, 50/50 raffles, donations and members joining the "Leatherneck" roster.

Expenses for that same period were \$11,900.00. The vast majority of those expenses were in the form of gifts and donations to state and national service organizations that support Marines, their families and veterans of other branches of the service and their families also.

The Slay Detachment hosted the May 2017 Department of Virginia Convention for the installment of new State Officers. Our expenses for that event were a little over \$2,700.00 but that cost was more than offset by grants, private donations, banquet reservations and a FANTASTIC auction which netted a return to the Det of over \$2,200.00.

Members of the Detachment's Honor Guard volunteer their own time to render proper respect and honors at the funerals of not only Marines but also those who served in other Branches of the U S Military. Their efforts are often acknowledged by the families with a monetary donation to the detachment.

The Honor guard is "LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN and WOMEN" .
Members who joint the Honor Guard will receive a initial clothing allowance of \$100.00.

All figures shown above have been rounded off for the purpose of simplification.

Submitted BY:
Fred Marotta



Detachment Member Ron Echols enjoys directing the Marines in doing push-ups before the Patriots 5K. One of the unusual features of the run is that any participant who does push-ups before the run can have 30 seconds deducted from their finish time. The Marines do them in unison while other runners, Males 30 push-ups, Females 15 push-ups do them at check in.



Young Marines in the photo on the left and slightly older Marines in the photo above with Miss Virginia at the Flying Squirrels 4th of July Game. Color Guard members Clint Harrington, Tom Milhausen, (Mis Virginia) Kevin O'Connor and Wes Pruitt.

James M. Slay
Detachment Marine
Corps League

Richmond, Virginia

www.richmondmarines.net

Joe Vass
Commandant

Mark Moore
Sr Vice Commandant

- **Greg Lee**
Jr Vice Commandant
- **Greg Cavalli**
Adjutant
- **Dave Schneider**
Judge Advocate
- **Jim Ralls**
Chaplain
- **Janie Pleasants**
Sergeant at Arms
- **Fred Marotta**
Paymaster
- **Spike Williamson**
Quartermaster
- **Rich Schollman**
Web Sergeant
- **Kevin O'Connor**
Scuttlebutt Newsletter Editor
oonorsix@verizon.net

The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2017

Slay Marines,

We have lost one of the great ones.

Chip Houston was a great friend to me, as he was to most all of us in the Detachment. As the saying goes, "He was a Marines, Marine". Over the years with a small group of Marines, I had the good fortune to share some great times with him at our weekly breakfast.



We would enjoy listening to his numerous sea stories about his exploits as a Marine. He would make up hilarious tales, like how he was recommended for the MOH, but it was later downgraded to a National Defense Ribbon, or the many times he realized he was not going to become the Commandant of the Marine Corps after committing one of his greatly exaggerated screw ups. He was a great storyteller with an excellent self-deprecating sense of humor.

Chip was raised in Fredericksburg Virginia and attended school at the Randolph-Macon Academy. An excellent quarterback, he led his football team their first undefeated team in the school's history. Upon his graduation Chip entered Virginia Tech in 1957, graduating in 1961. While there he became a lifelong "Hokie". Chips love for Tech and the Corps soon became apparent to anyone who ever met Chip.

Upon his graduation from Tech, Chip was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps, following in the footsteps of his father, a highly decorated Marine Colonel who served in World War II. In addition, he had two uncles, a cousin and a son who served in the Corps. One of his uncles, Major Otto Osmondson, was a 45-year Marine veteran who served alongside Marine legends Lewis "Chesty" Puller and William "Bill" Lee.

Chip entered The Basic School in Quantico in June of 1961. Upon graduation, he spent the next four years serving as a motor transportation officer. After completing active duty, he remained in the Marine Corps Reserve until July 1982, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In civilian life Chip had a very successful career in the trucking industry. He began in 1966 as a terminal manager, later being promoted to a district manager, and ultimately to the position vice-president of operations for a major trucking firm. In 1992, he retired and started his own highly successful transportation consulting and logistics firm.

"Once a Marine, Always a Marine" was not just a slogan to Chip, it was his lifelong dedication. He remained very involved with the Corps thru his membership in the Marine Corps League and other veterans groups. He was one of the founding member of the Families of the Wounded Fund, serving on the Board of Directors for many years. During that time, he worked tirelessly raising funds to support our combat wounded.

Continued on page 4

Chip Houston continued...

Chip was also one of the most sought-after speakers in Richmond and beyond when it came to the Marine Corps. He gave countless talks to schools, community groups and active duty Marines. He was invited on numerous occasions to speak at the Basic School in Quantico. His talks were always inspiring, humorous and very well received. All of this was done without compensation and on his own time despite his maintaining a very busy schedule.

I cannot go without mentioning what he has meant to the veterans of what is now known as the Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon Group. For many years Chip was not only its master of ceremonies, but was truly the heart and soul of the HHS. When the founders of the group, Colonel Joe Holicky and Colonel Carl Sitter were unable to continue, Chip stepped forward and took over the reins. During his tenure, the luncheon became one of the most successful veteran's groups ever in the Richmond area. I always looked forward to Chips opening remarks. They usually covering the most recent developments in the Corps and whatever hilarious stories he chose to share with us. It really didn't matter that much who the speaker was, most of us just came to hear what Chip was going to say next. We will be forever grateful for his leadership, saving the HHS from extinction and making it the success that it is today.

Chip is survived by his devoted wife Susan McCulley Houston, his two sons and four grandchildren. He was a great friend to all that knew him.

He was one hell of a man and one hell of a Marine. If I'm lucky enough to ever look on heavens scene, I hope I have the privilege of serving under the command of one Lieutenant Colonel L.W. "Chip" Houston.

January 1938—July 2017

Semper Fidelis,

Bruce Steeley

June Business Meeting Minutes

0900 Call to Order

Opening Ceremony -Secure Quarters, Post Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, Chaplain Opening Prayer

Roll Call of Officers

,all present

Guests

Eddie Jenkins, former member

Applications for New Members

Rick Barden (former member) – Rick served three years active duty as an 0311. Duty stations included Iceland, Camp Pendleton, Cambodia, and NAS Jacksonville. He is employed by the City of Richmond
Michael J. Lipscomb (not present), Chris Heckenberg (not present)

Honor Guard (Lee Smith)

The Honor Guard has served at, to date, 92 funerals, 6 ceremonies at the Virginia War Memorial, and 24 at other locations. Lee stated that they can always use new members. There are no dues, and there is a \$100 stipend if needed to assist members with uniform purchases. The Honor Guard will be present at the funeral of Trooper Michael Walter, a Marine corporal, on July 5th in Amelia. Lee also asked that even members not on the Honor Guard attend large ceremonies, particularly those at the War Memorial, wearing their covers to show a Marine Corps League presence.

USO Richmond Airport (Lee Smith)

Lee reported that things remain busy with the USO at the airport. They need more volunteers, particularly "gap" volunteers who serve on an on-call basis for a minimum 2 hour shift when regular volunteers are unable to be present.

Goochland High School JROTC (Joe Wadle, SSgt Daniel Strong)

The major and sergeant major with the Goochland program have left. A recently retired lieutenant colonel and sergeant major will be coming in to replace them. The changeover will take place in July.

Minutes Continued**Range (Lou Seigel)**

The next range day will be on Monday, July 10th. Breakfast at 8:15, head to the range around 9. Any firearm – rifle, pistol, or shotgun – may be fired. No magnum ammunition is permitted.

Goochland High School JROTC (Joe Wadle, SSgt Daniel Strong)

The major and sergeant major with the Goochland program have left. A recently retired lieutenant colonel and sergeant major will be coming in to replace them. The changeover will take place in July.

Military Order of the Devil Dogs (Lou Seigel)

The MODD traveled to Bedford last week to visit the war memorial there. Their next trip will be to the Air and Space Museum in Washington DC. The next growl will be next month.

Houston Holicky-Sitter Luncheon (Joe Wadle)

Retired Col. Tim Mundy, the director of the Marine Corps Association Foundation, will be the speaker for July. His father, Gen. Carl Mundy, was Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1991-95.

Care Packages (Herb Delbridge)

Three care packages were shipped in June. If anyone knows the names of the reserve unit getting ready to leave out of Fort Lee, Herb asked to be informed so that we can ship to them.

Quarter Master Store (Spike Williamson, Lou Seigel, Stan Balducci)

A new supply of short-sleeved shirts is on order and should be in soon, as numbers had gotten low.

Junior Vice Commandant (Greg Lee)

Greg has conferred with Fred, Mark, and Joe regarding overdue membership dues. Twelve are currently in a seriously delinquent status. Three members have decided not to renew their membership. He requested that members pick up recruiting cards from Spike or Lou so that all can participate in generating new members for the detachment. The phone number on that card, which currently goes to Bruce Strong's personal phone, was discussed, with consensus being that the number should go to the commandant. A motion was proposed that the bumper stickers be provided to members free of charge. It was seconded and approved.

Adjutant (Greg Cavalli)

Greg Lee proposed that the minutes for May be published in the next Scuttlebutt. The motion was seconded and approved.

Paymaster (Fred Marotta)

Fred presented a chart of the detachment's spending, with a breakdown of income to come next month. From a starting balance of approximately \$8000 at the end of last year, the detachment has added about \$2000 over the fix six months of this year, almost all of which was generated by the memorabilia auction. He stressed the need to be creative in increasing the amount of income from outside sources, as most of the income currently comes from the members. The fundraising committee will be meeting to discuss that further.

Standing Committees**Chaplin's Report (Jim Ralls, Assistant Carl Panebianco)**

Jim and Carl continue to send out the sick call report e-mail to stay informed of the health of ill members and to arrange rides for members unable to drive.

New Business

Bill Akers and Fred emphasized to the members the need to keep the room in good order, clean with the trash taken out, at the conclusion of the meeting. The detachment currently receives a sizeable discount on the use of the room. Losing that discount due to carelessness would result in increased expenses.

Bruce will be updating contact information in July and asked that anyone whose information has changed let him know.

The Henrico Concert Band will be playing a Salute to Veterans concert Monday night at 7:30 at the Henrico Theater.

Announcements

Joe was given a letter Bruce received from a lady who collects used cell phones, which she reprograms and gives to disabled veterans. She will be at the July meeting.

The Mideast Division National Vice Commandant sent the detachment ten applications for scholarships at American Military University for Marine Corps League members for postgraduate degrees.

Fred announced that he has a sample of the shirt for the Patriot Run for anyone who wanted to see it.

There will be a short meeting of the staff officers after the meeting to determine a time for a regular meeting of the staff officers.

**Retire Colors, Closing Prayer, Declare Meeting Closed
Adjourn**

PATRIOTS 5K JULY 4, 2017

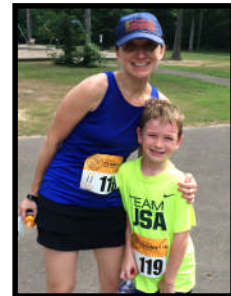
We held the 10th Annual 5K Run/walk again at Robious Landing Park in Midlothian. It was hot and humid, as expected, and we had 148 enthusiastic entries. This is a trail run and has it's challenges. We had a few injuries mostly from falling. But it was one of the best events we've had in years and resulted in more than \$2000 to support the Slay Detachment and our veterans programs.

We could not have managed it without our detachment volunteers: Bill Akers, Bill Jeffress, Wes Pruitt, Lou Seigel, Ron Echols, Dave Jennings, and the support of donors and sponsors like the Mighty Pen Project (Det member Carl Panebianco) Operation Enduring Warrior and especially the Houston Holicky Sitter Luncheon Group.



2017 Awards

We have all kinds of participants like 7 year old Palmer Frazier and his mom, Katie



Every year we invite the Marine Detachment at Ft. Lee to send some of their Marines in training to run for free. It's meant to give those Marines something to do on the 4th of July while they're "stuck" at this temporary assignment. This year we had 16 of those Marines and 6 more from the Training Command (photo below).

Semper Fi—See you next year!



Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon Tuesday 8 August 2017 Operation Enduring Warrior Veterans Cemetery Services

The **Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon** will be a little different. Normally we have a single speaker, most often a veteran or active military discussing their past and or current experiences.

This month we will have two speakers. First will be SgtMaj Scott Miller, USMC, Ret. Will review and clarify the programs and services of the Virginia Veterans Cemeteries and the differences and comparisons with the National Cemeteries program. There is some confusion about who is eligible and how services can be accessed.

Our other speaker is from Operation Enduring Warrior.

Operation Enduring Warrior (OEW) is a veteran-founded non-profit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to honor, empower, and motivate our nation's wounded veterans through a physical, mental and emotional rehabilitation. Our program helps participants overcome adversity and hardship through innovation, teamwork, and perseverance. This ultimately enables the lives of wounded veterans to go in directions they may have once thought were impossible.

Athletic events with our OEW Team Athletes offer wounded veterans the opportunity to physically challenge themselves through overcoming seemingly insurmountable feats. OEW Team Athletes, Community Ambassadors and Veteran supporters join alongside our Adaptive Athletes in a variety of physically challenging events. In addition, we encourage our Community Ambassadors to lead independent events in an effort to help raise awareness of OEW.

OEW is a completely volunteer run organization. Donations go directly towards operational support of the organization and its different programs.



One of our own -
John Hunt,
totally blind Marine Veteran
from Richmond participating
in the Rugged Maniac Obstacle Course in May with the
OEW Program.



Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.



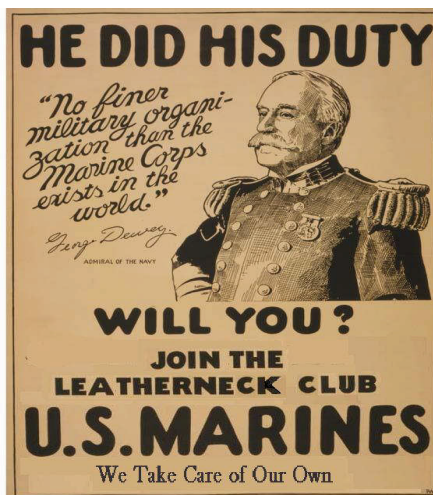
The Holicky-Sitter Luncheon was started to help support the local Active Duty Marines serving in the Richmond Area and Fort Lee. Our goal is the support of the local Marine Reserve Unit, the Marine Detachment at Fort Lee, Marine Corps Recruiters and the Marines assigned to Defense General Supply Center. We are also now taking a very active roll in working with and supporting the families of the wounded from all the services at McGuire Veterans Hospital.

Uniform: Whatever you want to wear.
 Cost: **The chow: Optional but fixed Price Buffet around \$10.00**
 Date: Tuesday 8 August 2017 (The second Tuesday of every month)
 Program: Virginia Veterans Cemetery Services and Operation Enduring Warrior (info page 7)
 Chow: 1130 - Speaker - 1210 - Secure at 1245.
 Where: **"IMPORTANT" Location — Golden Corral,
 4050 Gaskins Rd. Just off Broad St Richmond VA 23060**

2017 LEATHERNECK CLUB

Bill Akers
 Jim Barrett
 John Beall
 Mike Boudreau
 Norm Carney
 Clyde Childress
 Herb Delbridge
 Bob Gilliam
 Tim Godbey
 Clint Harrington
 Bob Hartley
 Bruce Heilman
 Houston Holicky Sitter
 Luncheon Group

Bill Jeffress
 David Jennings
 Greg Lee
 Annebel Lewis
 John McCann
 Cee Cee Mickens
 Tom Milhausen
 Kevin O'Connor



John O'Connor
 Carl Panebianco
 Jamie Pleasants
 Wes Pruitt
 Jim Ralls
 David Schneider
 Lou Seigel
 Fred Smith
 Lee Smith
 Bruce Steeley
 David Taylor
 John Thomas
 Ken Varndell
 Joe Wadle
 Bill Wagner
 Joe Washington
 Jerry Wells
 Spike Williamson
 Christopher Word
 Russell Wyatt
 Richard Zimmer

In Memoriam
 Chip Houston Pat O'Hare
 Tom Burton Fred Neurohr



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership/Support for 2017. 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. Pay Fred Marotta at : fredmarotta@gmail.com