



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter

P.O. Box 416

Ashland, VA 23005

March 2021



U.S. Marine Corps Col. John Polidoro, Chief of Staff, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command, awards the Silver Star on Cpl. Salvatore Naimo, a Korean War Veteran in Sarasota, Florida on

JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING

*The Fourth Saturday Of Each Month
Ashland YMCA—See Page 3 for Details*

*Next Meeting **27 March 2021***

www.richmondmarines.net

(804) 417-4569



9 March 2021

Slay Marines,

On behalf of the Detachment Nominating Committee consisting of myself and past commandants Jim Barrett and Wes Pruitt, we are sending this letter out as an official posting of the nominees of election for officers for 2021-22. The election is scheduled for this April or as soon as we can hold an election due to the Covid situation. As of this writing it looks as if we may be able to gather for at least an outside meeting soon, but the situation is still fluid.

Per the detachment bylaws we are required to post the nominations prior to the election. We usually do this via the "Suttlebutt" newsletter but due to Kevin O'Connor recently having to resign his duties as editor we will handle it via email.

The current nominations for officers are as follows: Commandant: Phil Hebner

Senior Vice Commandant: Walter Cornett

Junior Vice Commandant: VACANT

Judge Advocate: David Schneider

Adjutant: Tim Taylor

All other officers are appointed positions. If you are interested in to serve in any of these positions, please contact Commandant Mark Moore.

The committee is also soliciting nominations for all positions and if you are interested in any of the above positions (especially Junior Vice) please contact me or any of the other members of the committee as soon as possible.

Take care and stay
safe. Semper Fidelis,

James M. Slay
Detachment Marine
Corps League

Richmond, Virginia

www.richmondmarines.net

The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

- **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

Due to the King Northam's restrictions, we are unable to meet at Lakewood Manor. However, Fred has secured an outdoor pavilion at the Ashland YMCA to have a detachment meeting. If you would like to come to the meeting, please contact Fred Marotta either by email paymaster329@gmail.com or telephone or text 804-572-7180 . The number is no more than 25 due to the Governors restrictions. He will put your name on a roster so we can have a head count of who is attending. We will have coffee and pastries provided and the meeting will start at 0900. In addition, if you are planning to attend, please bring a chair with you. Thank you and I look forward to seeing many of you next Saturday.

Also as my tour will come to an end, the detachment will have an election in April and installation in May. Attached is the Slay Nomination Letter 2021 for the new slated detachment officers. Currently, we have one vacancy as Junior Vice Commandant. Phil Hebner will move up to become our new Commandant and Walter Cornett will move up as Senior Vice Commandant. If you are interested in the position as Junior Vice, please contact me or Phil Hebner. It has been an honor to serve this detachment the last two years and I have thoroughly enjoyed leading this detachment. I will be sending out an email about our March meeting early next week so we can plan accordingly. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

(Nomination Letter also attached here on Page 2)

Quartermaster Store Link:

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



Rare Opportunity

In fact this unique opportunity has not come along for about 13 years. In 2008 I volunteered to “help” edit and publish the Slay Detachment Newsletter, *The Scuttlebutt*. This March edition is scheduled to be my last. I will be glad to assist a new editor to create a new and better newsletter. I don’t mind admitting that it has probably gotten a bit “boring” and repetitious. But a new editor has the opportunity to improve the look and enhance the content.

For example, the front page was created as a mailing label page as we used to snail mail it to all members. Now that we have gone digital and email with just a couple of exceptions that front page is available for more interesting content.

If you were to Google Marine Corps League Newsletters you would find many examples of League Detachment Newsletters from all over the country. Some are similar to ours but many are different. Many contain Officer Reports with their photos while ours are just contained in the meeting minutes. Many contain advertising, usually by businesses of Marine Vets and/or members.



Some of what I have included are stories or reports from members either on requested topics or current issues. We have featured “Corps Decisions” about reasons for joining The Corps, and “Family Military History” describing members family service going back many years.

I always try to include any Detachment activities including photos as provided.

There has always been more of this that I have missed.

Other resources include current Marine Corps stories from the News and from other Corps publications like the Marine Corps Times and Stars and Stripes. A better creative editor will find even more and better resources.

A good editor will be on top of current news but avoid bias or politically one-sided commentary. For example the recent story about an “Official Marine Corps Twitter Account” taking Fox News Commentator Tucker Carlson to task for criticisms of current administration policies. Whether as an editor I agree or disagree with a political side, taking a side needs to be avoided. By the way, I was surprised to see that there was, in fact, an Official Marine Twitter Account for a specific command unit.



Some of every issue is just a matter of “cut and paste” wit just some minor editing. For example, adjutant Tim Taylor does a great job of providing The Minutes of every meeting. Over the years different Commandants have provided essential information and communications that are also “cut and paste”. As an Editor you will appreciate that kind of Input.

The Houston-Holicky

-Sitter Luncheon provides the chance to publish the bio of the next months speaker as a regular update.

I have used Microsoft Publisher for the Scuttlebutt and it is included with any regular Microsoft App, but what program is used would be up to the editor.

You can also find lots of photos and graphics by searching the internet as well as the publications mentioned earlier—and even checking out other detachment newsletter. The cartoon on page 4 was just found by “Googling” Marine Corps cartoons.

Most important if you are considering taking the Editor’s job is that you will not be stranded with the task. I will work the first several months/issues with the new editor to smooth the transition.

But as I mentioned this is an opportunity for significant improvements and innovations to support the Slay Detachment. Please contact me with questions or suggestions.

Kevin O’Connor 804-387-1526 oconnorsix@verizon.net

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

Important Update

Planning continues to restart HHS gatherings on 11 May. Tentatively, the first meeting will be held at Lakewood Retirement Community. Details are still being coordinated at this time. The scheduled speaker for the May meeting is Adm Chris Grady, Commander US Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk. A final decision to hold the first meeting will be made on or about 15 April. All HHS members should be receiving email SitReps that have been sent out over the past several months. If you are not receiving them please email Bill Parrish to be added to the list, whparrish@comcast.net.

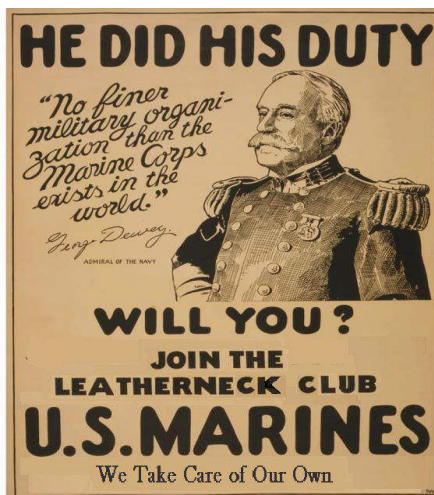
speakers address military history, national security issues, and other topics of interest to veterans.

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.

The Leatherneck Club began more than a dozen years ago as a way for Detachment members to support the functions of the Detachment beyond the payment of annual or lifetime dues. In recent years we have had other fund-raising events and programs to support the detachment such as Auctions and the Patriot 5K Run. But the Covid -19 Issues have limited some of those. The Leatherneck Club is NOT affiliated with any other group or organization- ONLY our detachment. The funds raised support the Detachment's endeavors to local support to and for Marines, JROTC programs, requests for funeral honors to a veteran of any branch of service, the USO at Richmond Airport, McGuire VA hospital and many more functions and duties of James M. Slay Detachment 329 of the Marine Corps League. So we need you to get back on board for 2021. Please mail your support to Paymaster Fred Marotta at P.O. Box 416, Ashland, VA 23005

2021 LEATHERNECK Supporters

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 John Beall
 John Clickener
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 Houston Holicky Sitter
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 Tom Mraz



Kevin O'Connor
 Carl Panebianco
 David Schneider
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 Bruce Steeley
 Tim Taylor
 Richard VanDamme
 Joe Wadle
 Spike Williamson

In Memoriam
 Chip Houston Buddy Smith



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