

James M. Slay
Detachment Marine
Corps League

Richmond, Virginia

www.richmondmarines.net

- **Lou Seigel**
Commandant
- **Nick Wennberg**
Sr Vice Commandant
- **Rick Barden**
Jr Vice Commandant
- **Tim Taylor**
Adjutant
- **Bruce Russell**
Judge Advocate
- **Lonny Fry**
Chaplain
- **Jim Ralls**
Sergeant at Arms
- **Johnny Day**
Paymaster
- **Randy Abernathy**
Public Relations
- **Dave Jennings**
Legislative
- **David Charbonneau**
Quartermaster
- **Dan Sierra**
Web Sergeant
- **Rich Van Damme**
Scuttlebutt Newsletter
Editor :
rjv0402@gmail.com

The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

Marines,
Since Commandant Lou is recovering from surgery, I am filling-in on the newsletter. Plenty of stuff has gone on in the last month and plenty more for the rest of the year. Not mentioned here is the Purple Heart Golf Event which I am sure Lonny will cover. The Birthday Ball is just around the corner and I hope many will attend. Please read closely and pick out the tid-bits.
Rich Van Damme, Editor



Quartermaster Store Link:

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

MINUTES
JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
26 August 2023

***These are the minutes from the last meeting because
the September meeting was cancelled.***

0900 Call to Order

Sr. Vice Commandant Nick Wennberg 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. A sufficient number of members were present to establish a Quorum.

Roll Call of Officers

All officers were present, except Commandant Lou Seigel, excused, and Paymaster Johnny Day, excused.

Introduction of Guests

Emili Wennberg – Daughter of Nick Wennberg.

Roberta Roberts, former Air Force enlisted, desiring to join as an associate member of the MCL.

SSgt Dan Strong, Senior Enlisted Instructor at Goochland HS MCJROTC.

Rachael Tate attended to again promote her Goochland HS Veterans Mentor Program and ask for veterans to participate in the program which starts on 22 September.

Marine Quincy McCrae – Friend of Lonny Fry and new driver of the PHFT.

Application for New Members

Thomas House Jr. sworn in as a regular Member; Roberta Roberts sworn in as an Associate Member.

Reports of Officers

Junior Vice Commandant – Rick Barden

The one Tucker HS Scholarship recipient from last year that had not received his Scholarship funds last year because he had not yet enrolled, is now enrolled at VCU and his funds have been deposited with the school.

The \$500 support checks for each of the four MCJROTC units have been written and will be delivered next week.

Adjutant – Tim Taylor

The minutes from the July meeting were presented for approval. Motion made and seconded; approval passed by voice vote.

The July financial report is available for anyone would like to see it. We are still in the black against budget for the year to date.

New Computer for the Paymaster has been purchased and delivered to the Paymaster.

Paymaster – Johnny Day (absent)

Newsletter Editor/Historian – Rich Van Damme

Scuttlebutt went out earlier this week, but there are still a few changes to appointed positions that have yet to be updated. These should be complete by next month's issue.

Web Sergeant – Dan Sierra

Website is up to date except for a few updates for the Devil Dog section.

Still in the process of transitioning the Facebook Administrator for the James Slay Facebook page, which should be done soon.

Legislative Report – Dave Jennings

The Veteran's Service Organizations Legislative Committee is meeting on 20 September to elect new officers, then will be working on putting together the proposed legislative agenda for the next Virginia Legislative Session.

Senior Vice Commandant – Nick Wennberg - Committee Reports

Honor Guard – Bruce Russell

Have turned in just over \$3,000 in honorariums so far this year. Had two funerals in August and one scheduled on 9 September.

Two big things coming up are BLT 3/3 having their reunion in Richmond on 12 October and we are doing a Color Guard for them. There are only 20 left of those who were on Okinawa in 1960. On 23 October we will be at the War Memorial to commemorate the anniversary of the Beirut bombing.

Range Days - [Lou Seigel](#) (absent)

Range Day will be 4 September, Labor Day, and Colonial Shooting Academy B, B,&B on 13 September at 1800.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter – Joe Wadle

On 12 September our guest will be GySgt Aaron Thompson, who is currently with the 4th ANGLICO. He will be talking about Air and Naval gunfire support throughout the world. He will also address support provided to Ukraine.

Three more outstanding programs to finish out the year, concluding with Col. Jim O’Kelly (also our guest speaker at the Birthday Ball). He will be focusing on his three years as an Infantry Officer in Vietnam.

Military Order of Devil Dogs –Phil Hebner

There is a Growl after this meeting.

Chaplain – Lonny Fry

Marine Dennis Behling, who has terminal cancer, is now in Hospice and requesting your prayers.

David Schneider now in Charlottesville Rehab center for 30 – 60 days still recovering from his recent fall.

David Hopp has medical tests next week.

Fund Raising – Nick Wennberg

There will be a MCL #329-Veterans Athletes United (VAU) Golf Tournament at Birkdale Golf Course, 20 May 2024. Would like to do T-shirts for the participants with MCL logo, along with the VAU Logo. The use of the MCL Logo requires a vote of approval from the Membership. These shirts will not cost us anything as they will be covered by the proceeds of the Tournament. Motion to approve made and seconded; approved by unanimous voice vote.

Unfinished Business

Slay Det #329 will be hosting the Department Fall Conference on 6-7 October at the Comfort Suites in Innsbrook. We will have a Hospitality Room Friday evening, 6 October, a business meeting from 9 – 12 on Saturday, 7 October, and a Devil Dog Growl Saturday afternoon.

The VA Hospital is hosting the Marine Corps Birthday celebration on November 10th right after the Veteran’s Day celebration at the VA.

Good of the League/Announcements

Annual Marine Corps Golf Outing and Cake cutting at the Federal Club on November 8th.

Green Tops Expo will be 7-8 October. Need Marines to come out and man the booth. More info next month.

August Birthdays recognized by Sgt at Arms.

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, 23 September 2023, at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Taylor, Adjutant



MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL AND TOYS FOR TOTS DINNER

11 November 2023

Time: 1700 to 2100

Where: Lakewood Retirement Community
Lakewood Auditorium
1900 Lauderdale Drive
Henrico, VA 23238

Guest Speaker: Col. Jim O'Kelley, USMC Ret.

Cake Cutting Ceremony

Dress Code: Mess Dress, Dress Blues, Red Blazer with MCL cover
or Civilian Coat and tie.

Cost: \$40.00 per person - RSVP by 03 November

Please make check payable to the James M. Slay Detachment, MCL
Note "Dinner" on memo line

Menu: Prime Rib, Fish, Salad, Assorted Vegetables, Bread, Dessert
Adult Beverages Available

Toys for Tots Support: A new toy with a max value of \$25.00 or
a monetary Donation

Please make check payable to James M. Slay Detachment, MCL
Note "Toys for Tots" on memo line

Mail Checks To:

J.M. Slay Detachment 329
P.O. Box 245
Charles City, VA 23030

For any questions or inquiries, please contact paymaster329@gmail.com

Birthday Ball Guest Speaker

Col. James T. (Jim) O'Kelley was born in Asheville, NC. March 24, 1941.

He received his BS in Civil Engineering from Duke University in 1964, his MS in Systems Management, and his Doctorate in Public Policy Analysis from The George Washington University in 1971 and 1976, respectively.

Col. O'Kelley retired from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve after 36 years of accumulated service including tours of duty in Vietnam in 1966, 1967, and 1968. His last duty was as Director of the Marine Corps Logistics Readiness Center at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

Dr. O'Kelley served as an Adjunct Professor of Business and Public Administration at George Mason University from 1976 to 1996. He retired from the US Geological Survey in 2006 with 40 years of US Government service. Jim recently retired after 11+ years as a part time Albemarle County Deputy Sheriff and the Chairperson of the Charlottesville/Albemarle TRIAD. He also just retired after three years each as the President of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Commandant of the Bradley T. Arms Marine Corps League Detachment.

Col. O'Kelley's education spanned his entire military career beginning with USMC Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico VA, to the Naval War College in Newport R.I. in 1991-92 and then to numerous Armed Forces Command and Staff Colleges across the U.S, Canada, and England. He then went on to serve as a member of the faculty of many of the aforementioned colleges between numerous executive and command assignments including Adjunct Professor of Leadership, Marine Corps University where he developed and taught "Moral and Ethical Aspects of Military Leadership".

In Vietnam, he served as a 2nd Lieutenant Platoon Commander, then an advisor to the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, then to a 1st Lieutenant Executive Officer, and then a Captain, Company Commander, with the USMC 9th Engineer Battalion. He has co-authored a book *"The 9th Engineer Battalion, First Marine Division in Vietnam"*.

Col. O'Kelley's numerous personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with "V" device, the Purple Heart Medal, the Air Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and over a dozen other awards.

He is married to Jan Smart, whom he met while stationed at Quantico Marine Corps Base when he had the privilege to escort her when she was representing Kentucky at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC. They have two daughters, Tara and Colleen of Albemarle County, Virginia and one son James III, of Sykesville, MD. They have also been blessed with six grandchildren. Jim and Jan live in Keswick, VA.



James M. Slay Detachment 329
Richmond Virginia



Greetings Happy Birthday for the Month of October

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 **28 October 2023.**

Jim Ralls Oct 11
Joe Hefferon Oct 13
Pete Finamore Oct 22
Tim Taylor Oct 22
Bill Parrish Oct 23
Clint Harrington Oct 28
Joe Washington Oct 30

Enjoy the rest of your Day
YOU EARNED IT

Semper FI

Lou Siegel
Commandant

If you do not see your Name and Born this month please forward your Birthday to:
jimralls002@gmail.com, we don't want to miss an opportunity to congratulate YOU.

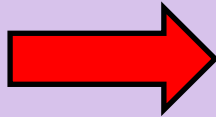
We will be honored to add you to our Happy Birthday list.

See You Soon Hopefully at the Next Meeting!

Department Conference, Oct. 6 & 7
Jim Ralls was recognized as the Department's Associate Member of the Year for 2023-2024.



Oops, see anything wrong here?



Jim Rawls
2023 - 2024
Associate Member of the Year
Department of Virginia



Around the League



Some of our members and friends at the “Travis Manion 9/11 Heros Run” Kevin O’Connor, Donna Schultz, Sid Busch and Stewart May.



Paymaster Brief (Johnny Day)

The transfer of the Detachment’s US Mail from the Ashland PO Box to the Charles City PO Box did not go well. Some of the mail addressed to the Ashland PO box could have been returned to the sender during the transition. I have been working with the US Postal System to correct and we believe the situation has been resolved. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The detachment has a new mailing address:

P.O. Box 245, Charles City, VA 23030

The old address will remain active for one year and mail will be forwarded to Charles City.

All officer positions in the Detachment will remain the same until Lou has a chance to review them.

Have I missed putting something in the Scuttlebutt that you were expecting to see or read? I'm sure I have. If so, please let me know. When I put the SB together I am usually doing it in a hurried state. I scan through my emails trying to find items I was supposed to include and some I know are there but I can't find them. My apologies.

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, compliments of the Slay Detachment. These will be delivered to the VA.

Richmond Marines, James M. Slay Detachment #329

Richmondmarines.net

This is your location on the net to keep track of what is going on with your detachment. Between this and the *Scuttlebutt Newsletter* you should be well informed.

The website will grow if you help. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to the webmaster (Dan Sierra) at 329WebSgt@gmail.com



HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER VETERANS FORUM

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.

HHS Veterans' Forum meets next on Tuesday **November 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 Major General Craig Crenshaw, USMC (Ret). His bio is published on the following 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.

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.

**CRAIG CRENSHAW, SECRETARY OF VETERANS AND DEFENSE AFFAIRS
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

Craig has over 30 years of leading robust logistics products and services organizations across a global network. He previously served as the president of Claxton Logistics Services. He spent many years in leadership roles as a Senior Executive in Logistics and Supply Chain Management in the United States Marine Corps and retired as a Major General. Craig was the Director of Manpower Management prior to his retirement from Marine Corps.

Craig also served as the Commanding General of Marine Corps Logistics Command and the Director of Logistics Plans and Policy at Headquarters United States Marine Corps. Additionally, he served as the Vice Director for Logistics at the Joint Chiefs of Staffs.

Craig received his B.A. in Political Science from Southern University and A&M College. In addition, he has an M.A. from Webster University and an M.S. from the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy.



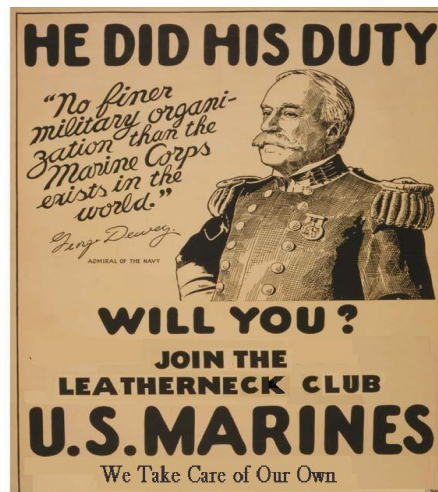
Marine Corps Reading

Do you enjoy reading about Marine Corps history? How about military history in general? If you do then I have a web site for you. It's the Marine Corps History Division. Posted are many publications which are in PDF format for you to open and download. Here is the address (I hope the link works). <https://www.usmcu.edu/Research/History-Division/>

Open the link, then click on Publications, then click on Books by topic, and then choose a topic. Then just pick a book and click on the image. Enjoy

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

Timothy Sharpe
 Bill Wagner
 Greg Edwards
 John Thomas

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 Wennberg
 Kevin O'Connor
 Lonny Fry
 Gregory Edwards
 Lou Seigel
 Rich Van Damme



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership for 2024. 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 Johnny Day at: Paymaster329@gmail.com