



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter

P.O. Box 4561

Glen Allen, VA 23058-4561

February 2019



**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 23 February 2019

0830 Breakfast - 0900 Meeting

www.richmondmarines.net

(804) 417-4569

Paymaster Report 2018

In 2018 we donated the largest amount of money in the Detachment's history to VSO's, hurricane disaster relief to Marines in N.C., Marine JROTC programs at four(4)high schools,made emergency aid to a local Marine, the USO, McGuire V A Hospital, the Fort Lee Marine Detachment and Care packages to Marines overseas.

Through the efforts of many individuals the Detachment 329 membership grew to 152 members an increase of 14% over previous years.

the Detachment hosted a very successful conference for the M.C.L.,Department of Virginia in October.

I personally want to thank ALL members, The 2018-2019 membership renewal efforts were started in August and completed by the end of October.

that was months ahead of the first cycle conducted by the Detachment in 2017!

I don't want to list names because then someone is always left of solely by error.

Several individuals have taken on the tasks of RnR (not Rest and Relax) Recruiting n Retention and fund raising projects. Our Honor Guard and Color Guard rendered Funeral Honors and presented the Colors at over 70 events in 2018 , Others visiting the sick, members mentored young Marines and others took time to speak to Navy and Marine JROTC high school cadets.

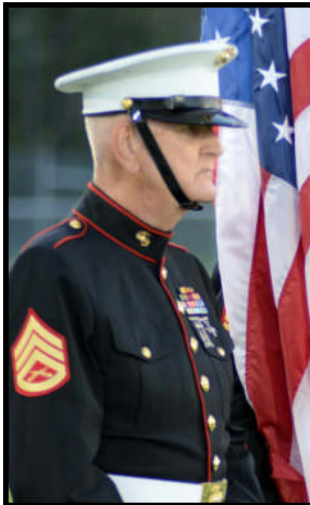
The list of the additional duties the Marines of the James M. Slay Detachment of the Marine Corps League have taken on and accomplished is long.....

Thank you all for a very successful 2018 and looking forward to a better 2019.

Fred Marotta

My CORPS Decision

Jack Bell



Jack's entry into the Corps is not so different but his three discharges are special.

Jack was a 1948 high school graduate. The main reason he chose the Marine Corps was because a Master Sgt friend of the family talked him into it. Of course, it was just a few years after the end of WWII and the Master Sgt was undoubtedly a veteran. But since Jack was only 17 years old his family had to sign for him.

But it wasn't the regular Marine Corps but the reserves. It was probably a time when the Corps was still in the wind down of the war years from full numbers. So, he went into the reserves. At that time the reserves didn't go to boot camp, so Jack was sent to Camp Lejeune for two weeks training and then to Little Creek in Virginia for amphibious training. At that time Little Creek was an Army installation.

But in October 1949 Jack got his **1st Honorable Discharge** from the Marine Reserves and was inducted into the regular Marines. The Cold War was about to get hot in Korea and the Marines were getting ready.

When Jack, this time, reported to Parris island he showed up in his Reserve herringbone utilities with his PFC stripe on the sleeve. At the time rank on the sleeve was not sew on but inked.

When the DI saw this new Marine with a stripe, he went ballistic. As Jack tells it, the DI took his uniform blouse and scrubbed off the stripe almost putting a hole in the sleeve. He was actually issued new utilities soon after and earned that stripe again upon graduation in June 1950.

Jack was soon in Korea as an MOS 0811 Field Artillery Cannoneer. His active duty was supposed to be three years, but they kept him for one extra.

Jack received his **2nd Honorable Discharge** from the regular Corps in 1954 and again became an Active Reservist. Four years later, in 1958, Jack left the Reserves with his **3rd Honorable Discharge**.

Today Jack in his late 80's still looks great in his Dress Blues with the Marine Veterans Color!

James M. Slay
Detachment Marine
Corps League

Richmond, Virginia

www.richmondmarines.net

The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

- **Joe Vass**
Commandant
- **Mark Moore**
Sr Vice Commandant
- **Phil Hebner**
Jr Vice Commandant
- **Bruce Russell**
Adjutant
- **Dave Schneider**
Judge Advocate
- **Jim Ralls** Chaplain
- **Rick Barden**
Sergeant at Arms
- **Fred Marotta**
Paymaster
- **Spike Williamson**
Quartermaster
- **Rich Schollman**
Web Sergeant
- **Kevin O'Connor**
Scuttlebutt Newsletter
Editor
oconorsix@verizon.net

Our Military Will Always Carry the True Burden

At the February Houston-Holicky- Sitter Luncheon Dr. (Sgt) Bruce Heilman made an outstanding presentation. He related his Iwo Jima experience but even more poignantly read the description by another Iwo Jima veteran of the terrible sounds and smells, not simply of battle, but of people - desperately wounded, dying and dead.

These were not just Americans but Japanese as well. Although some in the audience may have similar experiences in other wars, most do not, and the details were carefully graphic. I hope the young Marines from Ft. Lee came away appreciating the heritage they saw and heard from Dr. Heilman and the other veterans.

One of the things this presentation brought home to me is that most of today's Americans have become jaded and stuck in the frame of mind about "War" from a 1940's perspective.

A recent Opinion Column from a syndicated columnist pointed out that both former President Obama and current President Trump have referred to the burden of "Endless War". They were talking about the Middle East, of course, Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq but could have also added wherever American troops, air power and intelligence are deployed to assist against or to counteract hostilities.

The constant conversation among the Politicians, Pundits, the Media and the Press is about how to end these "Wars", how to win the "War", how to achieve an exit "strategy".

What is "War"? *War has historically been defined as a state of armed conflict between two or more groups, including states or nations.* But there also has been a metaphorical use of the term - "War on Poverty", "War on Drugs", "War on Crime", "Cold War", "Trade War" etc.

The problem with this is that we are not dealing in 1945 terms. War since 1945 has not been the clear-cut issue of overwhelm an enemy, defeat that enemy completely and return to normal at home. It is probably a blessing that we don't have the National Power vs National Power, territory capture and hold or mass destruction leading to surrender.

Leaders need to acknowledge that today's world conflicts (I avoid the "War" word) are not start date/end date, strategic end goal, win vs lose. I also dislike the term "asymmetric" as too sterile and a cop-out for terrorists and criminal groups.

Linking back to Dr. Heilman's presentation: our Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard will deal with the realities and horrors while the politicians and pundits think and talk in terms suited not to 2019 but 1945.

**MINUTES
JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
26 JANUARY 2019**



0900 Call to Order

Commandant Vass declared the meeting open. Ordering the securing of quarters, posting of colors, Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer.

Roll Call of Officers

All Officers were present except Sr. Vice Commandant Mark Moore (excused).

Introduction of Guests

The following guests were introduced: Nick Longobardo, Dan Durette, Dawson Reeves, Steven Williams and Bill Henson. Joe Wadle introduced Brian & Dan Smith (sons of Col. Fred “Buddy” Smith). They presented a \$1,600 check to the Detachment as a Gift on behalf of their father.



Reports of Officers

* **Commandant** – Joe Vass

Special recognition of Jim Ralls (Chaplin). Presented Jim with the MCL Distinguished Service Award.



* **Junior Vice Commandant** – Phil Hebner

One recruiting event in 2018 at the Greentop Expo. He has made up some recruiting cards and brochures; he will bring them to the February meeting. We are currently at 152 members in the Detachment. Plans are to revamp the website in 2019.

Adjutant – Bruce Russell

October meeting minutes have been published in the Scuttlebutt. Motion made, seconded and a vote taken to approve the minutes.

* **Paymaster** – Fred Marotta

Passed out financial reports recapping 2018. Checking account balance at the end of 2018 was a little over \$16,000. Total income in 2018 was a bit over \$31,000; approximately \$29,000 was spent during the year.

National HQ is totally up to date on Dues renewals and Life memberships.

Fred has a special email account set up by National – paymaster329@gmail.com

* **Chaplain** – Jim Ralls

Sick Report was recently emailed to all members.

* **Newsletter Editor** – Kevin O’Connor

Submit your stories of your MC Enlistment Decision to Kevin for publication in the Scuttlebutt. Several stories have already been published and he has several more awaiting publication.

* **Legislative Relations** – John Clickener

Seven veterans’ indicatives introduced into the Legislature. National Guard bills focusing on compensation; state duty pay versus active duty pay.

Committee Reports

* **Honor Guard** – Spike Williamson

Expressed his gratitude at being named the Detachment’s “Marine of the Year”.

Honor Guard did 63 events in 2018; 53 were funerals. Honor Guard ribbons were handed out to four members.

Honor Guard brought in \$2700 in gifts/donations during 2018. Our Honor Guard is the most active unit in the state.

* **USO** - Lee Smith

Busy and can use some help. Looking for people to do “gap filling”.

* **Henrico MCJROTC Programs** - Cecil McNair

Drill Competition on 9 February. Recommends a \$150 donation to Hermitage HS for the Drill Competition; motion was approved.

Recommendation made for the Detachment to receive a MCJROTC Annual Budget from each school.

The Detachment could then make one annual lump sum donation to each school.

* **Goochland MCJROTC Program** - Joe Wadle

The Cadet Corps visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps in January. Their military ball will be the first weekend in March. They are also planning a trip to Parris Island sometime this year.

* **Range Day** - Lou Seigel

Range Days start on 1 April. Last year we averaged 18 Marines attending each month.

* **Fort Lee** - Ron Echols

Marines at Ft. Lee regularly attend our HHS luncheons.

* **Military Order of Devil Dogs** - Lou Seigel

Growl today after this meeting. Luncheon today at Lakewood for the Honor Guard and the MODD.

Elevation from Pup to Devil Dog can only happen if you attend the Growl at the state convention (per Russell Wyatt).

* **Houston - Holicky - Sitter Luncheon** - Joe Wadle

Bruce Heilman will be guest speaker at the February luncheon. He will talk about his experiences on Iwo Jima during WWII.

* **Virginia War Memorial** - Bruce Steeley

Memorial Day ceremony scheduled for 27 May.

* **Care Packages** - Herb Delbridge

Package to a Marine in Syria.

* **Purple Heart Truck** - Herb Delbridge

Advise Herb if you have any occasions for the PH truck.

Mission BBQ will offer free BBQ's on Vietnam Veterans Day (29 March). Opening new location in Bon-Air; Herb will have the PH truck at the new location on 29 March.

* **Quartermaster** - Spike Williamson

Doing a store inventory. He has Challenge Coins for sale.

* **Past State Commandant** - Jim Barrett

State Convention in VA Beach 17-19 May.

* **Judge Advocate** - David Schneider

Completed the Annual Audit of the financial records; found no issues.

Members are not filling out the Expense Reimbursement Form; recommends use of the form be mandatory.

Old Business

The Detachment will need a new meeting location by the end of 2019; the VSCPA building will be going through extensive remodeling starting this year.

There is a committee looking at new locations and will present a report at the February meeting.

The Honor Guard's weapons safe and meeting location has moved to Colonial Shooting Range.

Joe Wadle "hyped" the custom-made swagger sticks; \$35 each.

New Business

Second Wednesday of February, informal dinner at Mission BBQ in Midlothian from 6-8 PM.

Therapeutic Adventures has a veteran's event at Massanutten ski area; next one is 15-16 February. Over \$400 was collected from members during the meeting for this event; the Detachment added enough funds to make the amount raised an even \$500.

Effective immediately, there will be quarterly staff meetings for all Detachment officers.

Good of the League

Jim Ralls talked about a money raising Raffle; we would raffle a western-style revolver (six-shooter). Raffle tickets would be obtained from an on-line vendor. Raffle would generate approx.. \$2000 for the Detachment. One member who is an FFL, offered to be the source of the pistol to be raffled; he also offered to donate a second pistol as the second-place prize. Motion made and approved to postpone a final decision until the February meeting.

Closing Ceremony

By order of the Commandant the Colors were retired, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, 22 February 2019 at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce Russell, Adjutant



It was a special opportunity for these young Marines from Marine Detachment Ft. Lee to meet and hear Dr. (Sgt) Bruce Heilman relate the experience of Iwo Jima and to have their photo taken. **The Connection and Continuity of The Corps spanning more than 70 Years**



Standing Room only turn-out for Dr. Heilman's presentation.

Military Order of the Devil Dogs and Honor Guard Luncheon



**Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon
12 March 2019
Scott Laidig, USMC (Ret.)
Author**

Scott Laidig is a 1965 graduate of the NROTC program at Ohio State, and served as an infantry platoon leader in 2/4 in Vietnam, 1966-67. He was one of the *Magnificent Bastards of the Second Battalion, 4th Marines*. Then LtCol P.X. Kelley, the future 28th CMC, was his first Commanding Officer.

After Vietnam he was assigned to Comm School, and subsequently volunteered for Russian language school. He was then assigned to cryptologic billets in Japan, from which he deployed 7 times aboard submarines of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. His first 15 seconds of fame came in Sherry Sontag's book, *Blind Man's Bluff: The Untold Story of American Submarine Espionage*.

He resigned from the Marine Corps in 1974 and co-founded two DoD-related businesses before retiring in 1997. Scott and his wife Susan recently moved from Montana to North Carolina. He is the author of *Al Gray, Marine, Volumes 1 & 2*.

Not "OLD CORPS"



The Marine Corps continued its experimentation push through the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, working through new concepts and new technologies that can best set up the Marine Corps to fight a future war involving unmanned systems, cyber and information warfare, artificial intelligence, additive manufacturing and other new technologies.

A year into the Sea Dragon experimentation series, the Marine Corps announced in February it was beginning to implement changes already – fielding small unmanned aerial systems, restructuring the rifle squad to include an assistant squad leader and a tech manager, and drawing up new tactics and procedures for a high-end battlefield. MCWL has two more years of experimentation mapped out for the service.

The Marine Corps has been using a combination of experiments, technology demonstrations, fleet exercises and other training venues to all chip away at the problem of how to make the Marine Corps more lethal in a high-end fight.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.

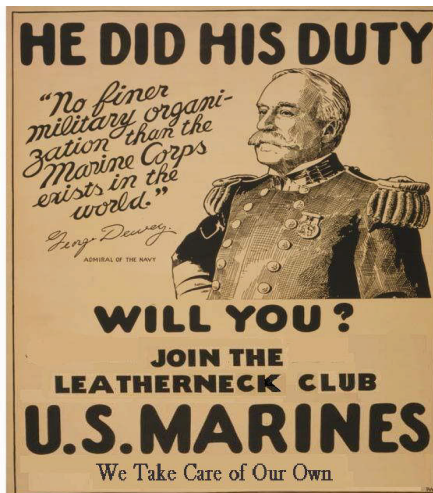


The Holicky-Sitter Luncheon was started to help support the local Active Duty Marines serving in the Richmond Area and Fort Lee. Our goal is the support of the local Marine Reserve Unit, the Marine Detachment at Fort Lee, Marine Corps Recruiters and the Marines assigned to Defense General Supply Center. 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 available at the Publix Deli on Main floor.**
- Date: Tuesday 12 March 2019 (The second Tuesday of every month)
- Speaker: Scott Laidig, USMC Veteran and Author (bio page 7)
- Chow: 1130 - Speaker - 1210 - Secure at 1245.
- Where: **“IMPORTANT” Location — Publix (Formerly Martins)
2250 John Rolfe Parkway, Henrico, VA 23233**

2019 LEATHERNECK CLUB

- Bill Akers
- Jim Barrett
- John Beall
- Mike Boudreau
- Tim Godbey
- Bob Hartley
- Houston Holicky Sitter
Luncheon Group
- Bill Jeffress
- Ed Kemp



- Tom Milhausen
- Tom Mraz
- Kevin O'Connor
- Jim Ralls
- Lou Seigel
- Bruce Steeley
- Richard VanDamme
- Joe Washington
- Spike Williamson

This list may need updating, but if you have forgotten to renew you Leatherneck Club Membership please do so soon.

In Memoriam
Pat O'Hare



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership/Support for 2019. 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. Paymaster Fred Marotta at : fredmarotta@gmail.com