



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter

P.O. Box 416

Ashland, VA 23005

September 2020



**JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
MEETING**

NOTE: LOCATION BACK AT

LAKWOOD

**1900 Lauderdale Drive
Richmond, VA 23238**

The Fourth Saturday Of Each Month

Next Meeting 26 September 2020

www.richmondmarines.net

(804) 417-4569

Patriots 5K Run/Walk ——— Canceled

The Detachment event scheduled for 27 September, had to be canceled due to additional untenable Covid-19 restrictions by the location venue. They wanted participants to run/walk 10 feet apart and to wear masks during the event if possible.

This added additional insurance issues that were a problem.

The plan is to reschedule for sometime in 2021 and, if necessary, to hold it in a different location.



Marine veteran Tom Seaver, heart and mighty arm of Miracle Mets, dies at 75

NEW YORK — Tom Seaver transformed a franchise and captivated a city, setting enduring standards as he whipped his powerful right arm overhead for the Miracle Mets and dirtied his right knee atop major league mounds for two decades. Seaver, the galvanizing force who steered the New York Mets from the National League cellar to a stunning World Series title in 1969, has died. He was 75.

He credited his time in the Marine Corps reserves for giving him the discipline to succeed.

One of the biggest reasons Seaver became “Tom Terrific” with the Mets, he told [the New York Post back in 2003](#), was because he served in the Marine reserves before embarking on a Cooperstown career.

“There’s one transition point in your life, and that was it,” Seaver said then. “If I’m to credit anything, it was the Marine Corps.

“I was a good student after that. I had focus and an objective. And I grew and I matured.”

Editors note:

In 1966 I had a spring and summer job selling beer at Shea Stadium (now Citi Field). I lived less than 4 miles from the stadium and was a Mets fan because I never forgave the Brooklyn Dodgers for leaving NY. Seaver started pitching for the Mets in 1967. In June of 1967 I was home on leave before reporting for duty at Pensacola. Four of my “beer hawking buddies” from 1966 dragged me to a Mets game against the Cincinnati, Reds.

Tom Seaver pitched a 9 inning 7-3 win that Tuesday. Although I returned home from Vietnam on September 9, 1969, I never got to see that Marine steer them to the World Series Title.

Quartermaster Store Link:

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

The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

James M. Slay
Detachment Marine
Corps League

Richmond, Virginia

www.richmondmarines.net

- 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



Take Notice:
Detachment Meeting 9/26 is back
at Lakewood.

Masks Required upon entry.
Arrive 0800—Breakfast 0830
Meeting, promptly, 0900

STARS AND STRIPES

I wish I had saved some copies from my time in Vietnam!

Stars and Stripes, an independent military newspaper had been expected to end this month after the Pentagon decided in February to cut its funding. The US government "will NOT be cutting funding to @starsandstripes magazine under my watch," Mr Trump tweeted. According to a report in The Atlantic magazine, Mr Trump cancelled a visit to a US cemetery outside Paris in 2018 because it was "filled with losers". The president has denied the report as "made up fake news". The Pentagon order obtained by US media on Friday called for Star and Stripes - which needs \$15.5m (£11.7m) to continue operations - to be completely dissolved by the end of January 2021. On Wednesday, a group of 15 Democratic and Republican senators wrote to Secretary of Defence Mark Esper to oppose the Pentagon's plan to kill off the paper. They argued the money allocated to Stars and Stripes would have a "negligible impact" on the Defence Department's \$700bn budget. Mr Trump tweeted on Friday afternoon: "It will continue to be a wonderful source of information to our Great Military!"



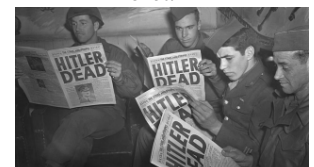
WW I



Vietnam



Korea



WW II

*MINUTES
JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
22 AUGUST 2020*

0900 Call to Order

Commandant Mark Moore 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 Joe Vass (Past Commandant, excused), Walter Cornett (Junior Vice Commandant, excused), and Dave Schneider (Judge Advocate, excused).

Introduction of Guests

No guests were present

Application for New Members

There were no new members eligible for swearing in present.

Reports of Officers

Commandant – Mark Moore

Adjutant – Tim Taylor

Requested approval of Minutes published in August Scuttlebutt for the July meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved by acclamation.

Paymaster – Fred Marotta

Transfer of accounts from Towne Bank to Bank of America is completed and the establishment of the brokerage account with Schwab is also complete.

There are three signatories on the BOA accounts – Paymaster, Adjutant, and Senior Vice Commandant.

National shows us with 80 annual memberships and so far, 40 of those have renewed for this year. Continuing to pursue the remainder for maximum renewals.

Chaplain – Lonny Fry

Bruce Strong still in Hospice at home.

Jerold Evans in VA Care Center with limited visitors allowed. Keep him in your prayers.

Newsletter Editor – Keven O’Connor –

Still looking for someone else to help with Scuttlebutt – one individual has expressed interest and currently in discussions.

Web Sergeant – Bob Gilliam

Web Page is now up to date, but if anyone has any suggestions, please send me an email and I will try to incorporate them.

Legislative Report – Jim Barrett

The SLC has put in a suggestion to have military honor/color guards be exempted from the new law prohibiting the brandishing of weapons. As currently written, it could be interpreted to include honor/color guards as subject to arrest and prosecution under the law.

Senior Vice Commandant – Phil Hebner - Committee Reports

Honor Guard – Spike Williamson

The eighth funeral for the month will be Monday

Received two letters from the Department of Veteran’s Services thanking us for our participation in the Memorial Day Celebration and video, as well as the donation and dedication of the bench at the Amelia Cemetery.

Received donations totaling \$500 to the Honor Guard this month.

John Edmundson and Lonny Fry presented with a certificate for participating in 100 events.

USO – Lee Smith

The Airport USO has not reopened yet but they are hoping to do so soon and will need volunteers when they do.

Fort Lee – Ron Echols

Still have not been able to meet the new CO of the Marine detachment, but they have expressed interest in the Patriot run in September.

On another note, the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico will reopen the day after Labor Day.

Range Day – Jim Barrett

Next Range Day will be Sept. 7, Labor Day. Meet at Courthouse Grill Restaurant at 8:30, move to range at 9:30am.

Maguire VA Hospital – Hallie Oxley, Jr.

Presented request for sponsorship by the Detachment for a new flagpole (one of five to be erected at the VA Hospital) at a cost of \$1,975 to the Commandant for review and consideration by the Finance Committee. Leadership indicated that it would likely be positively considered but had to go through the process for approval and be voted on by the membership next meeting.

Currently no volunteers allowed in the Hospital due to the Virus restrictions.

Recommend that Christy, the Volunteer coordinator, come to the October meeting and conduct a training (about an hour after the meeting) for anyone who wants to volunteer after restrictions are lifted.



As of now, due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will not be a Marine Corps Birthday Cake cutting ceremony at the VA this year.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter – Joe Wadle.

HHS luncheons through the end of the year have been cancelled. Four-star Admiral Chris Brady from Norfolk will be the speaker in January. We also have the Commander of the Marine Corps Recruiting Command (2-Star) set up for one of the luncheons in the first half of the year after we restart.

Displayed the Shadow Box that will be presented to Sgt Maj Cecil McNair at some point when the Covid-19 situation abates.

Care Packages – Herb Delbridge

At present we have no names of deployed military members to send packages to, so if anyone has a name of one, let us know and we will send them out.

Military Order of Devil Dogs – Jim Barrett

October 16-17 Department of Virginia will hold a Fall Conference at the Holiday Inn in Virginia Beach which will include a Growl after meeting where up to 11 pups will advance.

Fund Raising Committee – Jim Ralls – No Report

Quartermaster – Steve Farmer

Have received two rebates totaling about \$27 from Item Order as our percentage from Slay Det sales.

The website JamesMSlay.itemorder.com has shirts, jackets, etc., for Det 329. The detachment gets a cut of the price on each item sold.

Past State Commandant – Jim Barrett

Mid-Winter Conference at Sheraton Waterside in Norfolk.

Marine of the Year is coming up so if you have any suggestions for recipients, fill out the form on the Website and send to me. Past Detachment MOYs will vote and award will be presented at the Birthday Ball/Toys for Tots Dinner.

Public Relations Officer – Randy Abernathy

Unfinished Business

Amendment to the Heilman Scholarship fund procedures final draft presented and discussed. Motion made to approve as written, seconded and approved by the membership.

Request from a member for financial assistance. Original request for more than \$400 but able to reduce the total to about \$300. Thanks to another Member's personal generosity, the total requirement was reduced to about \$160. By authority of the Commandant, who has the ability under the By-Laws to approve up to \$100 in assistance, we directly paid the \$65 Gas bill for this member. Request approval for \$95 to be paid directly to creditor. Motion proposed, seconded, and approved.

New recruiting cards and pamphlets available with correct address and phone for the detachment.

Patriot 5K race is on for September 27 with some modifications due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we still need more sponsors.

Good of the league

ID Me program for military veterans can get you many discounts online.

There are companies that claim they can re-open VA claims to increase the percentage of disability award. Marine Oxley shared that in his case they were able to increase his from 40% to 90% but be aware that there is a cost if they do manage to get your disability increased.

Announcements

Bullets, BBQ, and Beer night on September 2. 6:00pm at the Colonial Range – about 7:00pm at Mission BBQ.

September meeting will be at the Lakewood facility with Social Distancing and masks required. Breakfast will be available but may be limited due to Virus restrictions.

Birthday Ball/Toys for Tots dinner will be held at Lakewood facility on November 7.

September 14th the Families of Combat Wounded charity golf tournament will take place at Brandermill Golf course and will include at least 5 teams from our detachment. There are still slots available for additional teams and players.

Presently looking for a larger venue for the Ball/Toys for Tots dinner. If anyone has any ideas on a venue that can handle up to 150 with the restrictions let us know.

Members Only Rifle/Pistol raffle raised a total of \$660. Rifle winner – Jim Barrett, Pistol winner – J.P. Meade.

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, September 26, 2020, at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,
Timothy Taylor, Adjutant



Turbocharging Donations

by Bob Gilliam

Uncle Sam has left in place, for the time being at least, several tax incentives to encourage charitable giving. Whether you itemize deductions or take the currently generous standard deduction, two tax saving techniques can turbocharge your contributions to charities, 501c3 organizations, and 501c4 Veterans Service Organizations such as the James M. Slay Detachment.

Thanks to the Detachment's new commission free account with Charles Schwab, you can now donate marketable securities, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and exchange trade funds, to the Detachment. If they are Appreciated Securities (those subject to capital gains tax on your profit when sold) and if you itemize deductions, you can deduct their full market value at the time of your donation and avoid paying capital gains tax on your profit.

If you take the standard deduction, you still avoid the capital gains tax, but you cannot take an additional deduction.

For example, assume you itemize deductions and your effective Federal Ordinary Income Tax rate is 20% and your Capital Gains Tax rate is 15%. You desire to donate Apple stock you bought at \$10/share in 2009 which is now hypothetically worth \$392/share (before the recent 4:1 stock split). You could sell 3 shares for \$1,176, pay a capital gains tax of \$172 and deduct \$1,004 for a net cost to you of \$975. Or donate 2.55 shares directly for a net cost to you of only \$800. Either way the Detachment gets about \$1,000.

Alternatively, if you don't itemize deductions, you could sell 3 shares at a cost to you of \$1,176 and pay a \$172 capital gains tax or donate 2.55 shares and avoid the capital gains tax at a net cost to you of only \$1,000. Either way the Detachment gets about \$1,000.

If you have a Traditional IRA, whether you take the standard deduction or itemize deductions, and have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), you could have your broker/custodian mail a check directly to the Detachment for \$1,000, for example, to satisfy \$1,000 of your RMD, and you would avoid income tax on this Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) which would have the same tax effect as a deduction. Note that QCDs are not tax deductible, because this would be double counting. IRA custodians such as Schwab, Fidelity, Vanguard, and others can even provide you an IRA checkbook so you can write checks yourself directly to a charity which also qualify as QCDs. In a 20% bracket, the cost of this \$1,000 donation is only \$800. You could also make a \$100 contribution to the Leatherneck Club in this way which would only cost you \$80. Although under the Cares Act, RMDs have been temporarily suspended; if you haven't suspended your charitable giving, QCDs still reduce taxes.

In all of these scenarios, you'll need to get a receipt from the charity detailing your donation. Unfortunately, payment of Detachment or MCL dues this way wouldn't receive these tax benefits.

For instructions, click the red "Donate" button on the home page of <http://www.RichmondMarines.NET>
For more information visit: <https://www.fidelity.com/learning-center/personal-finance/retirement/qcds-the-basics>
<https://www.schwabcharitable.org/non-cash-assets/appreciated-public-traded-securities>

None of the above, which are for generic illustrative purposes only, should be considered tax advice on your specific situation. Tax laws are constantly changing and each individual's financial situation is unique. Before making any financial decisions, always consult your financial advisor.

Before becoming a Chartered Financial Consultant and retiring, Bob Gilliam managed The Bank of New York's International Corporate Finance Department.

Families of the Wounded Fund 14th Annual Golf Tournament

Marines know deep inside once they complete Boot Camp & Infantry Training, or Officer Candidate School and The Basic School that they will never be the same. They know that they are not better than others, but they sure are different and forever unique. Service to others becomes part of their DNA and they manifest that care for others in everything they do for eternity. They TEAM (Gung Ho) better than any group of people on earth and they take great pride in that FACT. When Marines leave the Corps, there becomes a void they all recognize and they seek to fill, but most never do, unless they get lucky and happen upon a Marine Corps League outfit that is well led and active. Marine veterans in the Richmond area are just plain lucky, or I would call it, being blessed! The James M. Slay Detachment has a great deal going for it, above all outstanding leadership and enthusiasm, both force multipliers with which you just can't fail. When you think of all the services and benefits this lash-up provides, The Honor Guard precedes all else we do. We cannot render a greater honor and service to America's veterans than providing military honors to our veterans as they depart their service here on earth and move to their celestial reward working directly for Saint Peter. With the myriad of activities and great services the Marines & FMF Sailors of the Slay Detachment provide, it is appropriate to recognize another that has been ongoing for years, but never to the extent seen in 2020.

In 2005 three Marines while having morning chow at an area restaurant, Chip Houston, Cal Esleek and Pat O'Hare, overheard two ladies discussing their great stress at temporarily moving to Richmond to be of 24/7 support to their husbands, combat wounded service members undergoing months of treatment at McGuire VA's Polytrauma and Spinal Cord Injury Wards. Following conversations with these wives and follow on actions, within weeks, with assistance from Dr. Bruce Heilman, Paul Galanti and others, the creation of The Families of the Wounded Fund as a 501C-3 was well under way. During the first several years, upwards of 60 families per year were receiving checks of \$8k (now \$9k) when they needed it most and this financial support was making a huge difference for these families in their ability to focus of direct care for their combat wounded warrior. Because the board is all volunteer with no paid staff and the banking support was completely donated by Village bank, every dollar donated went to the families. While the initial focus was central Virginia and McGuire, FOTWF expanded support to Northern Virginia including Bethesda, Belvoir, Walter Reed and Quantico and a second board was created in Fredericksburg while the Richmond board spread out to the coastal area including Norfolk and Hampton. FOTWF has since provided donations of over \$5.7M to more than 700 families and the mission continues assisting about 30 families per year.

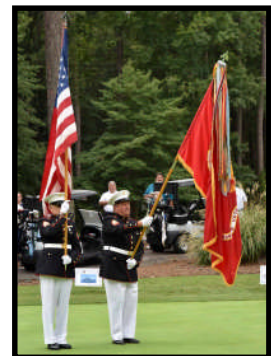
This week, the FOTWF major fund raiser, the 14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Brandermill Country Club was held. Of the maximum of 30 teams enjoyed the event, 6 of those teams were the Red, White, Blue, Crimson, Gold and Green providing Corporate Sponsorships advertised at holes on the course and in the Player Program along with the Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veteran's Luncheon Group. Marine Bill Wagner kicked off the program with an Invocation & Blessing followed by Clint Harrington and Kevin O'Conner presenting Colors and a wonderful and talented singer Linda Pomfrey provided via Jim Barret's assistance sang a beautiful Star-Spangled Banner in the most traditional way. The MCL White Team of Parris, Gilliam, Steeley and Wagner kicked up their heels and played some mighty good golf along with the other teams. The service and financial support for the FOTWF by members of the Slay Detachment simply cannot be understated. The tradition of service was apparent to all 140 attendees and will mean a great deal to the families that FOTWF will assist in the future.



Joe Wadle, Tournament Honcho (masked, of course) presenting flowers to National Anthem Singer Linda Pomfrey

God Bless You Great Marines of the James M. Slay Detachment, Marine Corps League!

Chip, Cal & Pat sure are PROUD!



Detachment Members O'Connor and Harrington Present the Colors

Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.



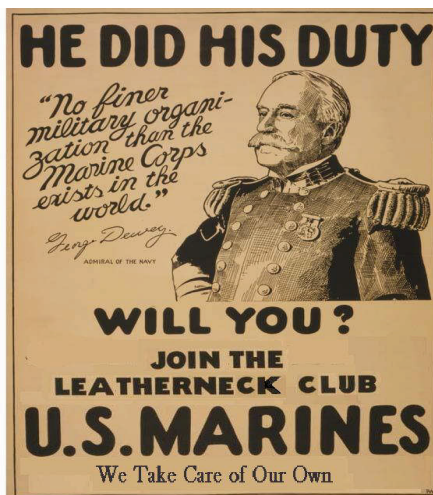
The Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veterans' lunch group is an informal forum for veterans of all branches of the armed forces. Col. Joseph J. Holicky, Jr. (USMC, ret.) and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Col. Carl L. Sitter (USMC, ret.) began having lunch together in the mid 1970's following their retirements. 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 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.

HHS luncheons through the end of the year have been cancelled. Four-star Admiral Chris Brady from Norfolk will be the speaker in January. We also have the Commander of the Marine Corps Recruiting Command (2-Star) set up for one of the luncheons in the first half of the year after we restart.

2020 LEATHERNECK

- Bill Akers
- Jim Barrett
- John Beall
- Mike Boudreau
- Herb Delbridge
- Kimo Caprara
- Ron Echols
- Lonny Fry
- John Clickener
- Phillip Gee
- Bob Gilliam
- Tim Godbey
- Clint Harrington
- Bob Hartley
- Phil Hebner
- Susan Houston
- Houston Holicky Sitter
Luncheon Group
- Bill Jeffress
- Ed Kemp
- Greg Lee
- Fred Marotta



- Tom Mraz
- Tom Milhausen
- Kevin O'Connor
- John O'Connor
- Carl Panebianco
- Jim Ralls
- Bruce Russell
- David Schneider
- Lou Seigel
- Charlie Slay
- Bruce Steeley
- David Taylor
- Tim Taylor
- John Thomas
- Richard VanDamme
- Ken Varndell
- Joe Wadle
- Bill Wagner
- Joe Washington
- Jerry Wells
- Spike Williamson
- Richard Zimmer

In Memoriam
 Chip Houston Pat O'Hare
 Bill Lyell 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