



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter

P.O. Box 4561

Glen Allen, VA 23058-4561

**August 2018**



**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 25 August 2018**

**0830 Breakfast - 0900 Meeting**

**[www.richmondmarines.net](http://www.richmondmarines.net)**

**(804) 417-4569**

### The James M. Slay Detachment Honor Guard

has grown and evolved into an outstanding part of the military community. They are disciplined and highly trained and, as we know, have been in great demand and constantly requested and “deployed”.

We probably take them for granted. But to demonstrate how appreciated they are I would like to give you some excerpts from a 4 page, beautifully hand-written thank you letter from May 2018. The deceased, Buddy Arbogast, was an Air Force veteran. This is also an example of our Marines Honor veterans of all branches with equal ceremony and respect. His wife wrote the letter on behalf of herself and their family.

“Our sadness, that we feel is softened by knowing that he is whole again and he is watching down on us, our Guardian Angel and seeing the wonderful military flag service that all of your Honor Guard Servicemen performed in honoring him for serving his country in the Air Force. Your special love for what you all do, giving such details to the service you perform for each serviceman that is being honored with such respect and dignity. .. The winds did blow but each serviceman stood tall and straight, handsome and brave in their crisp uniforms, with each detail just right honoring their country and another serviceman.”

*Thank you and two small words that only start to begin to express our deep appreciation for such an honor for a man who loved life, his family, friends, his church, his God, his Heavenly Father, and his country, and being an American soldier serving in the Air Force of the United States of America!*

*Sincerely yours,  
Mrs. Judith Arbogast and all  
The Arbogast Family*



The James M. Slay Detachment Honor Guard at Detachment Member John Hunt's funeral in July.



**James M. Slay**  
**Detachment Marine**  
**Corps League**

**Richmond, Virginia**

[www.richmondmarines.net](http://www.richmondmarines.net)

# The Scuttlebutt

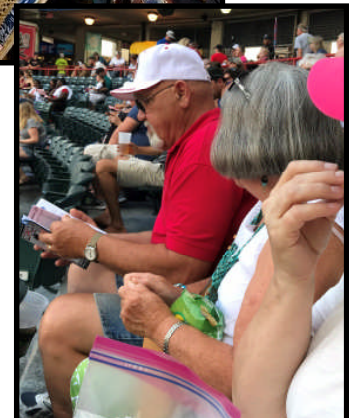
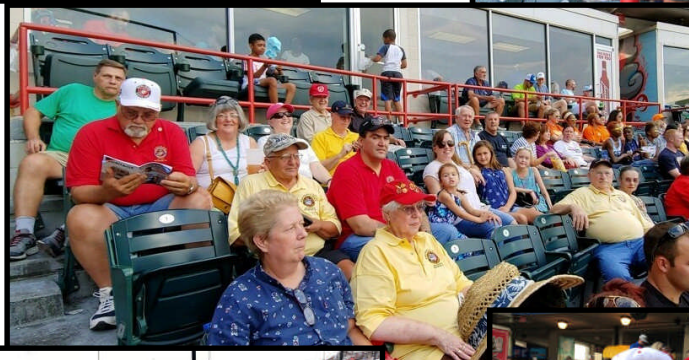
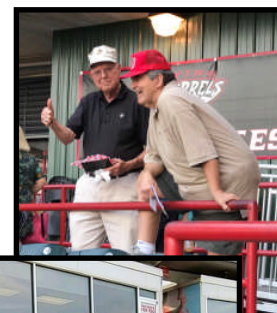
**NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2018**

- **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](mailto:oconorsix@verizon.net)



The Detachment is always active: Above: photo was from the July Range Day. Range day has been drawing up to 20 participants. Below: Devil Dogs and families enjoyed a Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball game on Saturday, 11 August.



**MINUTES**  
**JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT**  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**28 JULY 2018**



**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 for Senior Vice Commandant Mark Moore, Junior Vice Commandant Phil Hebner and Adjutant Bruce Russell.

**Committee Reports**

Honor Guard - Spike Williamson  
Busy. 20 Funerals so far this year.

USO - Lee Smith  
Busy. 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 288,000 visitors since opening.

McGuire VA – Cecil McNair  
Parking deck construction continues. New Marine liaison is now on deck.

Henrico MCJROTC Programs - Cecil McNair  
Meeting scheduled with Hermitage to see what we can do to assist in future.

Range Day - Lou Seigel  
18 members attended Range Day in July. Next Range Day is August 6.

Fort Lee - Ron Echols  
Good participation in the 5k Run and the HHS Luncheons.

Military Order of Devil Dogs - Lou Seigel  
No Growl today.  
There was an outing (Growl Prowl) to the Revolutionary War Park in Yorktown on 17 July; 6 DD's made the trip. An outing is planned for 11 August to attend a Squirrels baseball game.

Houston - Holicky - Sitter Luncheon - Joe Wadle  
August luncheon will feature Dr. Jimmy Simms, Jr. (Russia expert) as the guest speaker.

Virginia War Memorial - Bruce Steeley  
Construction continues and is on schedule to open spring 2019.

Quartermaster – Spike Williamson  
Challenge coins now for sale.



Past State Commandant – Jim Barrett

The Detachment will host the State Department Fall Conference on Oct 12-13 in Ashland.

Needs donations of beverages, alcohol and Marine Corps memorabilia.

There will be a Devil Dog Growl at the state conference.

Starting in October 2018, you can get a Virginia Driver's License issued with "Veteran" marked on it.

### **Reports of Officers**

Commandant – Joe Vass

Paymaster – Fred Marotta

\$16,725.21 balance in checking.

Patriot 5k Race netted the Detachment over \$5600; thanks Kevin!

Hank Ragland is now a Life member.

Detachment had 141 members at end of 2017; we now have 151 members.

All MCL memberships expire 31 August. Renewals are paid to our Paymaster.

Chaplain – Jim Ralls

Email sick report sent out to membership; sick list is getting smaller.

Newsletter Editor – Kevin O'Connor

Need Range Day photos and personal bio articles for newsletter.

Web Sergeant – Rich Schollman

Need to add list of the Detachment's Officers to our website.

### **Old Business**

Motion made, seconded and passed to add the section dealing with the Honor Guard to the Detachment's By-Laws.

### **New Business**

A VA Clinic is planned for Petersburg.

Two upcoming golf tournaments sponsored by veterans' organizations are 10 Sept at Brandermill and 4 Oct at Sycamore Creek.

### **Good of the Order**

We collected \$14 today from members not having their challenge coins.

### **Closing Ceremony**

By order of the Commandant the Colors were retired, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, 25 August 2018 at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bruce Russell, Adjutant



## Ramblings of An OLD MIND

I found this timely, because today I was in a store that sells sunglasses, and only sunglasses. A young lady walks over to me and asks, "What brings you in today?" I looked at her, and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator." She didn't quite know how to respond.

I decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age and calling it 'Pumping Rust.'

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" Just once I want to say, "No, it's for company!"

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'An ambulance.'

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells 'Theirs...'

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it. Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

May you always have Love to Share, Cash to Spare, And Friends who Care.



## Paymaster Report

**Fred Marotta** ([fredlmarotta@gmail.com](mailto:fredlmarotta@gmail.com))

I am happy to report that our membership renewal program has gotten off to a great start.!

One hundred forty (140) "TIME TO RE-UP" cards were mailed to active and inactive members. We've had 22 members renew in less than two weeks. Three of those changed to "LIFE" memberships and an inactive member came back into the Ranks.

Please talk-up our detachment to ANY Marines you meet. Let them know that we support Marine high school JROTC programs, the Quantico Wounded Warrior Regiment, Virginia Veterans and Family Services Foundation and the USO at the Richmond airport. Our annual dues membership is still only \$35.00 !!!!!

As of mid August our available balance is \$16,500.00 but our income thru mid August only exceeds our expenses by \$2,100.00.

KEEP THOSE RENEWAL CHECKS COMING!!  
YOUR PAYMASTER



## Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon Tuesday 11 September 2018 Bob Gilliam Slay Detachment and Vietnam Marine

I grew up in Upper Nyack, a small town on the west side of the Hudson River in 'upstate' New York and attended Hamilton College in Clinton, NY as a pre-medical student.

During my junior year, I decided my GPA wouldn't be good enough to get into medical school, and I didn't have the energy at that point to change majors. The war in Vietnam was escalating and most still considered serving in the military, as their parents had during World War II, a rite of passage and a duty. I decided to enlist, rather than be drafted or miss the opportunity to serve during wartime.



In the fall of 1966, I enlisted in the Marine Corps for 4 years. After boot camp at Parris Island and ITR at Camp Geiger, I continued on to NAS Jacksonville to Aviation Ordinance School. My first duty station was with MAG 32 at MCAS, Beaufort, SC as a 6511.

It was there that my third application for OCS was finally approved. When I was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt in October of 1968, I was simultaneously given an Honorable Discharge as a Corporal. After The Basic School for 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants, I was given a crash language course in Vietnamese, and then headed for Vietnam where I was assigned as 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Commander, Fox 2/4, in Northern I Corps.



On May 31, 1969, my 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday, I met my platoon on Hill 691 near FSB Cates, in the northwestern corner of South Vietnam, a few clicks south of the DMZ. Ironically, it was primarily for actions that night that I was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V," Combat Action Ribbon, and RVN Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. Just 5 months later in November 1969, the 4<sup>th</sup> Marines were withdrawn from combat and redeployed to Okinawa where I was XO and then CO of Fox 2/4 as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

When I returned to the "World," I was assigned to the Marine Corps Supply Activity in Philadelphia, PA where I was selected by its CO, a Major General, to be his Aide-de-Camp. A year into this great duty, I was granted a 'school cut' to attend Columbia University as an economics major on the G.I Bill. In 1973 when I resigned my commission, I received an Honorable Discharge as a Captain.

I worked for three very large banks in New York City. All were subsequently acquired by larger domestic or international banks and no longer exist as I knew them. Following graduation from Columbia, I was hired by Bankers Trust Company for its Executive Training Program and was assigned to cover the automotive industry in Michigan. Five years later I was recruited by Irving Trust Company to manage its business with Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Chicago. Two years later, I found myself heading up its business with multinational corporations headquartered in New York City. A string of assignments followed where I was responsible for its business with foreign multinational corporations headquartered abroad. Irving Trust Company was acquired by The Bank of New York in a hostile take-over. My last assignment with The Bank of New York was as Manager of International Corporate Finance and a member of its International Management Steering Committee.



During the last ten years of my career in finance, I worked for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company as a financial planner and salesman. It was during those years that I learned about personal finance as opposed to corporate finance and practiced religiously what I preached to my clients. While I had my fair share of misfortune, on balance I attribute my ability to retire early to lessons learned as a Leatherneck, to leading a frugal life, to planning responsibly for the future, to investing prudently, and to some lucky but educated guesses on major moves in the stock and bond markets.

My autobiography, *Navigating with A Few Good Men*, is a tribute to the Marine Corps.

## Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.

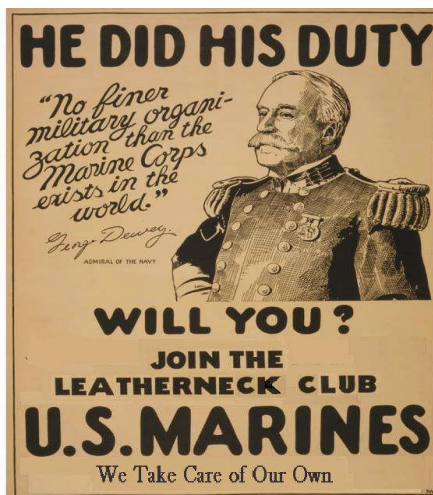


The Holicky-Sitter Luncheon was started to help support the local Active Duty Marines serving in the Richmond Area and Fort Lee. Our goal is the support of the local Marine Reserve Unit, the Marine Detachment at Fort Lee, Marine Corps Recruiters and the Marines assigned to Defense General Supply Center. 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 and available from the Publix Deli  
 Date: Tuesday 11 September 2018 (The second Tuesday of every month )  
 Speaker: Bob Gilliam, Marine Vietnam Vet and Slay Det. Member  
 Chow: 1130 - Speaker - 1210 - Secure at 1245.  
 Where: **"IMPORTANT" Location — Publix (Formerly Martins)**  
**2250 John Rolfe Parkway, Henrico, VA 23233**

## 2018 LEATHERNECK CLUB

Bill Akers  
 Jim Barrett  
 John Beall  
 Mike Boudreau  
 Herb Delbridge  
 Bob Gilliam  
 Tim Godbey  
 Clint Harrington  
 Bob Hartley  
 Phil Hebner  
 Houston Holicky Sitter  
 Luncheon Group  
 Bill Jeffress  
 Ed Kemp  
 Greg Lee  
 Annebel Lewis  
 Tom Milhausen



Kevin O'Connor  
 John O'Connor  
 Wes Pruitt  
 Jim Ralls  
 David Schneider  
 Lou Seigel  
 Fred Smith  
 Bruce Steeley  
 David Taylor  
 John Thomas  
 Richard VanDamme  
 Joe Wadle  
 Bill Wagner  
 Joe Washington  
 Jerry Wells  
 Spike Williamson

### In Memoriam

Chip Houston Pat O'Hare Bill Lyell  
 Tom Burton Fred Neurohr



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership/Support for 2018. 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](mailto:fredmarotta@gmail.com)