



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter  
P.O. Box 4561  
Glen Allen, VA 23058-4561  
**November 2018**



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

***Virginia Society of CPA's  
4309 Cox Rd, Glen Allen VA  
I-64 Exit I78B***

**Next Meeting | December 2018  
0900 Breakfast - Meeting  
[www.richmondmarines.net](http://www.richmondmarines.net)  
(804) 417-4569**



**THE  
JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT  
LADIES AUXILIARY**

**CORDIALLY INVITES YOU AND YOUR GUESTS  
TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018 AT 9:00 A.M.  
VIRGINIA CPA BUILDING  
4309 COX ROAD, GLEN ALLEN VA**

**GIFT BASKET RAFFLE**

**AWARDING  
OF  
THE JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT  
MARINE OF THE YEAR AWARD  
DEVIL DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD**

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

**Richmond, Virginia**

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

# The Scuttlebutt

**NEWSLETTER**

**NOVEMBER 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)

## *Happy 243rd Birthday Marines*

There are a number of Marine Corps Birthday Celebrations that our members take part in including a large contingent with the Ft. Lee Marine Detachment, Defense Supply Marine Logistics Unit, Hotel Battery 3/14, Richmond District Marine Recruiters, Marine JROTC units at several High Schools and of course, our Cake Cutting Birthday Celebration at McGuire Veterans Hospital. {Some photos here and on page 6). The detachment also provides awards for the Ft. Lee Instructor of the Year, Marine District Recruiter of the Year and Hotel Battery Marine of the Year.

There are also Veterans Day programs at churches, businesses and public events such as those put on by the Virginia War Memorial. That program in particular was appropriately held at the World War I Memorial, Carillon, in Byrd park. The ceremony, that included the Governor, was held at **11am on the 11th day of the 11th Month—the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice in 1911.**



Detachment Commandant Joe Vass as the Oldest Marine in the Cake sharing with the Youngest Marine.



Lonnie Fry, Thanks for the photos



Slay Marines looking sharp.



One of our Detachment Tables

**MINUTES      JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT      MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**27 OCTOBER 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 Sr. Vice Commandant Mark Moore (excused) and Jr. Vice Commandant Phil Hebner (excused).

**Applications for New Members**

Austin Brockenbrough III has applied for membership (not present). Chris Belcher is an “at-large” member that has transferred in.

**Reports of Officers**

\* Commandant – Joe Vass

\* Adjutant – Bruce Russell

September meeting minutes have been submitted to the Scuttlebutt for publication. Motion made, seconded and a vote taken to approve the minutes.

\* **Paymaster** – Fred Marotta

We have just surpassed the 2017 total-year Income levels. We have met and surpassed membership renewals (102%) when compared to 2017.

**Greentop Expo** event went very well. We talked with a lot of people and distributed several MCL membership applications. We raffled two \$250 Greentop Gift Cards. We made \$550 from raffle sales on Saturday and \$185 on Sunday.

**The State Convention** in Ashland went very well. We made about \$1500 from Friday night’s auction. Checks to cover the costs of Marine Corps birthday cakes are on the way to the four USMC JROTC high schools that we support. One of our members gave the Detachment \$700 for the cakes. Each high school received \$100 to cover the cost of two cakes.

**The Detachment and Devil Dogs raised over \$800 for hurricane relief** for Camp Lejeune. Camp Lejeune can’t accept the money. It was suggested we give half the money to the MCL Foundation. It was also suggested we donate the other half of the money to the Dept. of North Carolina. Fred has formed a financial “Fire Team” to help him manage the finances and review who our money is distributed to. There are three organizations we support on a monthly basis. Fred and the Fire Team will review those organizations and make recommended changes to the Detachment.

**Name Tags** we provide our members cost us \$12 each; we give them to new members free. We may want to consider raising the membership dues in 2019; tabled to be discussed next year.

\* **Chaplain** – Jim Ralls

Three names were on the latest Sick Report.

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

Kevin appreciates the pictures and materials provided to him for the Newsletter.

Cost of printing the newsletter keeps going up. Last year printing costs were \$640 for the year. This year our printing costs have just risen to \$77 per month (\$924 annually).

Plus, we pay postage on the newsletters we mail. Kevin proposes we consider the newsletters be distributed electronically; this would save the detachment over \$1000 annually.

\* **Legislative Relations** – John Clickner (new position)

Please vote “YES” on the second Constitutional Amendment. The Amendment is sponsored by the MCL.

**Committee Reports**

\* **Honor Guard** – Lee Smith for Spike Williamson (Excused)

We have been busy and need more volunteers.

Annual re-certification inspections are no longer required by the Army.

Hopkins Gun Shop is closing at year end. Hopkins is where we store the Honor Guard’s rifles.

Currently looking of a new location to store our weapons.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to provided up to \$250 to move the gun safe to a new location.

\* **USO** - Lee Smith

Busy and can use some help.

\* **McGuire VA** – Cecil McNair

Coat Drive ends 4 December.

Birthday cake cutting will be at 1200 hours on 9 November in the hospital cafeteria.

\* **Henrico MCJROTC** Programs - Cecil McNair

\* **Goochland MCJROTC** Program - Joe Wadle

Veterans Day celebration will be on 12 November at the school.

\* **Range Day** - Lou Seigel

The Rifle and Pistol Competitions were held on 1 and 8 October respectively. Both events were well attended. Results were read and will be posted in the next Scuttlebutt.

\* **Fort Lee** - Ron Echols Marine Corps Ball will be 3 Nov at the downtown Marriott. 1800-cocktails, 1900-ceremony and 2000-dinner.

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

Growl today after this meeting.

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

Pat Mooney will speak about Marines in WWI at 13 November lunch. Displays tables will be set up an hour before lunch.

\* **Virginia War Memorial** - Bruce Steeley -Veterans Day ceremony will be held 11 November @ 1000 hours at Dogwood Dell. Ceremony will not be at the Memorial due to construction.

\* **Detachment Marine of the Year** committee will meet at the end of today's meeting. Winner announced at the Christmas Breakfast in December.

\* **Care Packages** - Herb Delbridge - **Purple Heart Truck** – Herb Delbridge

Attended Peanut Festival in Emporia. Attending the Oyster Festival in Urbana on 3 November. Going to a parade in Gordonsville on 10 November.

\* **Past State Commandant** – Jim Barrett

Thanked members for their help at the Fall Conference.

We made \$1500 for the Detachment at the auction.

### **Old Business**

Greentop Expo - Found out Greentop's CEO is a retired Marine Colonel.

Fall Conference Auction - We sold 6 Swagger Sticks. Joe Wadle knows the gentleman that made 10 Swagger Sticks for the detachment free of charge.

### **New Business**

A motion was made, seconded and approved to donate \$300 to Wreaths Across America.

### **Good of the League**

### **Announcements**

Detachment Staff meeting will be held on 12 January at Cold Harbor restaurant @ 0830 hours.

### **Closing Ceremony**

By order of the Commandant the Colors were retired, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, 26 January 2019 at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,

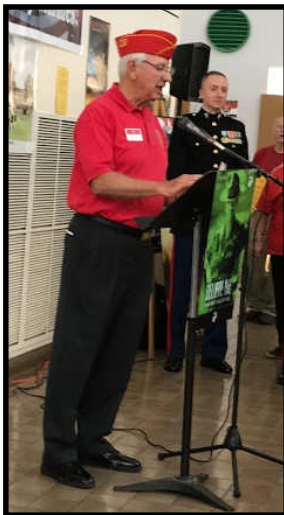
Bruce Russell, Adjutant







There's a New Mission BBQ on the Southside at 12630 Stone Village Way in Chesterfield County, Stonehenge Shopping Center on Midlothian Turnpike. All Marines and their families are invited for an informal social gathering on Wednesday, 12 December from 6 to 8pm.



Above: Marine Bill Wagner was the MC for the McGuire Birthday Celebration. We had an excellent turnout of hospital staff, patients and visitors. Marine WWII Veteran Earl Tatum was there, too,  
Below: Commandant Joe Vass and wife Bobbi, serious portrait and also dazzling the crowd on the dance floor.



## Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon 11 December 2018 Kyle Watts, Contributing Author Leatherneck Magazine

Kyle Watts is a former Marine Captain. He served on active duty from 2009 to 2013 as a Communications Officer with Marine Aircraft Group 39, out of Camp Pendleton, CA. Since leaving active duty, Kyle has worked as a contributing author for Leatherneck Magazine, covering a wide variety of current events and historical topics. He lives in Richmond, VA with his wife, Bridget, and their three children.

I am originally from Zanesville, OH. Attended Bob Jones University in South Carolina and graduated with a BA in History prior to getting my commission in 2009.

Also, in case you might be interested, I have written several articles for Leatherneck in years past. Below is a list of everything I've written for them so far.

"John Moses Browning's Impact on the US Marine Corps", published July 2013

"Gunpowder in Their Blood: Four Generations of George Van Orden", published August 2014

"Mayhem From The Heartland: The Warriors of 2d Battalion, 24th Marines", published August 2016

"Hail to the Chief: The President's Own Supports the Inauguration", published April 2017 (Cover Story)

"First to Fight: 1st Force Recon in Hue City", published February 2018

"The Flying Ladder: Emergency Extractions and the Lifesaver from the Sky" and "Flying Ladder: Reunion", published April 2018 (Cover Story)

"Chosin Twins: The Service and Sacrifice of the Thosath Family", published June 2018

I currently have a story about Corpsmen who served with Force Recon in Vietnam pending publication in March 2019. Also, a story on the veterans of 2/26, their experience at LZ Margo in September of 1968, and their 50th anniversary reunion of it this past September, is pending publication in May 2019.



## Bernie Barak

## Rest in Peace

**Longtime Slay Detachment member, Color Guard member, Bernie died on Veterans Day. There will be a Memorial Service at the Amelia Veterans Cemetery on Monday, 10 December at 1000 am.**

## Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.

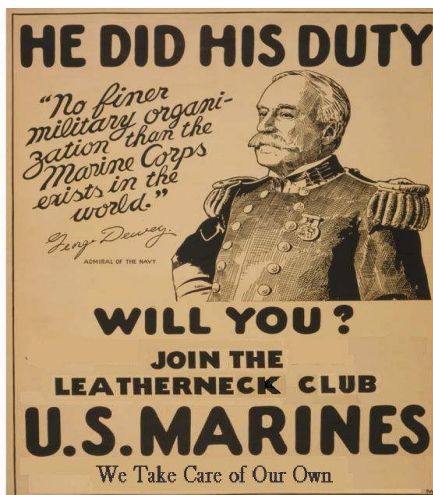


The Holicky-Sitter Luncheon was started to help support the local Active Duty Marines serving in the Richmond Area and Fort Lee. Our goal is the support of the local Marine Reserve Unit, the Marine Detachment at Fort Lee, Marine Corps Recruiters and the Marines assigned to Defense General Supply Center. 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 11 December 2018 (The second Tuesday of every month)  
 Speaker: Kyle Watts, Marine Veteran, Contributing Author, Leatherneck Magazine (bio page 7)  
 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)