

The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

James M. Slay
Detachment Marine
Corps League

Richmond, Virginia

www.richmondmarines.net

- **Nick Wennberg**
Commandant
- **Joe Shusko**
Sr Vice Commandant
- **Joe Kelleher**
Jr Vice Commandant
- **Phil Hebner**
Adjutant
- **Bob Gilliam**
Judge Advocate
- **Lonny Fry**
Chaplain
- **Thomas House**
Sergeant at Arms
- **Richard Klein**
Paymaster
- **Randy Abernathy**
Public Relations
- **Tim Taylor**
Dept Legislative
- **David Charbonneau**
Quartermaster
- **Vacant**
Web Sergeant
- **Rich Van Damme**
Scuttlebutt Newsletter
Editor :
rjv0402@gmail.com



Hermitage High School MCJROTC is hosting the Annual Drill Competition. It will run from 8am to 5pm on Saturday 28 February.

In attendance will be drill units from the following high schools: Louisa, JR Tucker, Highland Springs, Eastern View, Mountain View, Hermitage, and Garfield.

Quartermaster Store Link:

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

MINUTES
JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
25 October 2025

0900 Call to Order

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. Quorum was met.

Roll Call of Officers

Commandant (present), Senior Vice Commandant (excused), Past Commandant (present), Junior Vice (present), Adjutant (excused), Judge Advocate (present), Paymaster (present), Chaplain (present)

Introduction of Guest

Ms. Rachel Tate-Goochland Veterans Project-briefed about the success of the program and upcoming events.

Application for New Member

Kenneth Shelton-Marine Corps 1968-1973. Vietnam Veteran

Reports of Officers

Junior Vice Commandant – Joe Kelleher

Keep recruiting and talk to all the Marines you come across. Bring a prospect to a meeting.

GreenTop Expo event generated 10 new prospects. They will be sent the Scuttlebutt and followed up with.

Adjutant – Phil Hebner (excused)

Minutes from September were presented and passed

Paymaster – Rich Klein

Financials are available to review at any meeting or upon request.

Ended up in the positive hosting the Department Fall Convention

New mailing address for the Detachment: MCL 329, P.O. Box 27, Moseley, Va. 23120

Newsletter Editor/Historian – Rich Van Damme

Scuttlebutt went out on time. A lot of information in there for the Detachment. Unfortunately, two obits for members who passed in September.

Please submit any news or events to Rich for publication in the Scuttlebutt.

42nd Anniversary of Beirut bombing.

A couple of books available for members to take.

Web Sergeant – Dan Sierra (excused)

Website is current with the information he has received. Please send any updates/information to him for posting on the site.

Legislative officer-Tim Taylor

No new news

Chaplain – Lonny Fry (excused)

Please keep the Chaplain updated with any information that you may receive on our sick/shut in members to be passed on to the Detachment .

Senior Vice Commandant – Joe Shusko (excused) - Committee Reports

Honor Guard – Spike Williamson

Joe Kelleher and Dave Charbonneau earned an Honor Guard challenge coin for participating in 125+ events. Bruce Russell has earned a gold star for his ribbon signifying 260 events but was not in attendance to accept the award.

Always looking for volunteers

Range Days - Lou Seigel

November 12- indoor range at GreenTop. Second Wednesday of every month.

Outdoor shooting is done for this year.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter – Joe Wadle

November- HHSVf will be at Goochland HS where Bill Parrish will be the guest speaker 0930-1030 for their Veterans Day program.

December-James Madison impersonator accompanied by Jim O'Kelley dressed as George Washington

Always looking for suggestions/connections for upcoming speakers. Please see Joe with information
USO Program –Tom Hastings

We have a few regular volunteers from the Detachment and we support the USO with \$300/month to help procure items for the lounge. 1,000+ service members come through per month

We need more volunteers at the Airport USO Center to work 2–3-hour shifts. Free parking for volunteers. Please see Tom Hastings for more information

Quartermaster store- Dave Charbonneau

See Dave for nametags and shirts/swag. We have a link on our website to TSI to order any apparel.

Hats are in and available through TSI. Working on the hard front version.

Ball committee- Mary Anne Wilson (excused)

November 8 at 1700 at Lakewood. Only 20 members of the Detachment signed up. Still a few empty seats. \$55 per person. We have 89 total with capacity for 112.

Guest of Honor has been secured. MajGen Craig Crenshaw- USMC retired- Virginia Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Joe Wadle discussed the gift for the GOH and his attendance at 50+ Marine Corps Balls and made a VERY motivating pitch for more signups.

Fred Marrotta announced that he has a young Marine attending with the CO and SgtMaj of the recruiting command

Drink tickets will be sold for \$5.

Practice for the ball will be held on November 1 at 0900.

MCJROTC

Trying to get instructors in and give brief on their programs as well as present our \$500 support check.

Nick briefed the Detachment on future requirements for MCJROTC instructors to receive the checks. There will be a SOP drafted and voted on at the next meeting. Scholarships will not be affected.

Hope to hear soon on the formation of a new program in Louisa.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

MOY and AOY nomination email will be sent out soon.

Elections are in April and will need nominations in the first part of next year. Need everyone to step up and serve, not the same people all the time.

Good of the League/Announcements

November 8- Detachment Marine Corps Ball at Lakewood

November 7- Veterans Day event with cake cutting at the Richmond VA. Near the cafeteria in the multipurpose room. 1100-1300.

Working on golf outing at Federal Club November 10 for MC Bday

December 13- Christmas breakfast at Lakewood.

December 15-Henrico concert band Christmas performance. See Randy Abernathy perform his last show as conductor.

We hosted the Department convention in October with 10 Detachments present.

When sending Detachment related emails please copy commandant329@gmail.com so that records can be kept for future commandants.

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, 24 January 2026, at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phil Hebner, Adjutant

Lester Gillenwater

We are sad to report the passing of Member Les Gillenwater earlier this month. It is hoped that more information will be passed in the next meeting.

Detachment Elections

The Slay Detachment will hold elections at the April meeting for new officers. All positions are open for candidates. Now is an opportunity for you to step up and assume a leadership position and guide the Detachment into the next year. Please, seriously consider running for office.

New Member Application Form

National has issued another new member application form. They will not accept any of the old forms that may still be floating around. I've asked Dan to update the website. I know several members keep hard copies with them. all previous forms are invalid will not be accepted. It's down to one page now so they did improve it. Copy of thr form is on the next page.

Wes Pruitt Leatherneck Club

Remember it is a new year, let's not forget to make your donation to the Leatherneck Club. Your \$100 annual membership fee supports the activities and efforts of the James M. Slay Detachment. Details are on the last page of this newsletter.

Purchase Your USMC 250th Anniversary Cap while supplies last

We will have at the meeting the remainder of the Marine Corps' 250th Anniversary caps. Colors are red and blue. See photo on page 7 of this newsletter. Cost is \$27 to the paymaster.

New Mailing Address for the James M. Slay Detachment 329

MCL 329
PO Box 27
Moseley, VA 23120

Marine Corps League Application for Membership



Full Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Email Address: _____

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning: _____ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation: _____

Type of Application-- New Renewal Membership Type-- Regular Associate Dual

Have you ever been convicted of a Felony? YES NO If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

I hereby apply for membership in the _____ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$ _____ for one year's membership.

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety(90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor;* or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy FMF Sailor who has earned the FMF Device or FMF Ribbon. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I further authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an unredacted copy of my latest DD form 214 from the Marine Corps Custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) or the National Archives, and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP-REGULAR/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

"I, _____, In the Presence of Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will _____ upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps League. Help me God.

SIGN HERE

Sponsor (Where Applicable)

SIGN HERE

Applicant's Signature

Please locate a Detachment using the locator on The Marine Corps League National website. Upon completion submit this form and attach a copy of your last DD-214 (Service 2 or Marine 4)*, as well as any applicable fees as defined by the Detachment. If you desire to join as a Member At Large, please go to The Marine Corps League National website and apply using the online form.

*Regular Member applicants only

Calendar of Up-Coming Events 2026

February 28	Detachment Meeting
February 28	MCJROTC Annual Drill Competition at Hermitage High School
March 10	HHSVF: Guest Speaker Mr. Greg McQuade of WTVR/CBS-6
March 11	Detachment Shooting at Green Top
March 21	Salute to Service, Virginia War Memorial, https://na.eventscloud.com/website/84228/
March 28	Detachment Meeting
April 6	Detachment Shooting at Cavalier Range
April 8	Detachment Shooting at Green Top
April 14	HHSVF: Guest Speaker President James Monroe (Dennis Bigelow)
April 25	Detachment Meeting and Officer Elections
May 4	Detachment Shooting at Cavalier Range
May 7	Hermitage MCJROTC Awards Night, 1800-2000, Hermitage Ace Center
May 12	HHSVF: Guest Speaker LtCol Mike Schoelwer, USMC (Ret)
May 13	Detachment Shooting at Green Top
May 23	Detachment Meeting
May 29-30	Department of Virginia Spring Convention: Host Jack Moss 1379, Fredericksburg
June 10	Detachment Shooting at Green Top
June 27	Detachment Meeting
August 10-14	National Convention in Indianapolis, IN



**SHOOTING RANGE SCHEDULES
FOR 2026**

Green Top Shooting Range (GTSR). 2nd Wednesday of each month.
Reporting time is 1700 so you can get checked in and be ready for our bay assignment. Range time ends at 1830. Range Fee is \$12.50.

Range Dates

January 14	May 13	September 9
February 2	June 10	October 14
March 11	July 8	November 11
April 8	August 12	December 9

Cavalier Rifle & Pistol Range. Dates are the FIRST Monday of the month starting with April 7th. For those who wish to partake, we will meet at the Goochland Restaurant for breakfast at 0800. Place your order when you arrive so you will receive your food in a timely manner. If you do not wish to join us for breakfast then meet us at the gate to the range.

Range Dates

April 6th	May 4th	June 1st	July 6th	August 3rd
September 7th	October 5th (Rifle Shoot)	October 12th (Pistol Shoot)		

Remember to obey the Speed Limit on Boon Dock Lane of 10 mph. Please refresh yourself on the range rules and regulations.

Any questions contact Lou:
Home: 804-492-9202
Text: 804-391-5909
Email: MRNGNY@gmail.com

Looking forward to a safe year of shooting.

Virginia Honor Guard Grant Program

[Virginia House Bill 108 \(2026 Regular Session\)](#), introduced by Delegate Jason S. Ballard, establishes an [Honor Guard Grant Program](#) within the Department of Veterans Services. The program provides grants to veteran service organizations to offset expenses (training, transportation, food, equipment) incurred while providing military funeral honors to veterans.

Key details of HB108 as of February 2026:

- **Purpose:** To support the, often volunteer, honor guards that provide burial details for veterans.
- **Funding:** The Department of Veterans Services will manage the grant program to assist with costs like equipment and transportation.
- **Status:** The bill passed the House unanimously () on February 12, 2026, and was referred to the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology on February 13, 2026.
- **Implementation:** The program is designed to recognize and support the essential service provided by these organizations.

This bill is aimed at ensuring veterans receive appropriate funeral honors by alleviating financial burdens on the organizations providing them.

Announcement: **Annual MCL Dept of VA MOY and AOY Award 2026**

Eligibility: All MCL Detachments active within the Dept of Virginia who meet criteria below

Submission: **All nomination letters must be submitted in a sealed envelope no later than 15 May 2026. Nominations, with any attachments, must be mailed to the address below.**

Mailing address for the MOY & AOY Nominations:
Richard Van Damme, President of the MOY Society
4604 Foxwood Rd
Chester, VA 23831-8012

Nominations:

A letter of nomination for the Department Marine of the Year or Department Associate of the Year Award shall be submitted in the following manner:

Letters of nomination will only be accepted from a Detachment.

All letters of nomination shall contain a statement of certification from the Detachment Commandant and Adjutant (or Adjutant/Paymaster) stating the Nominee, for the Department Marine of the Year and/or the Department Associate of the Year, was approved by the Detachment by a majority vote. In the event the nominee is the Detachment Commandant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Senior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant (or Adjutant/Paymaster). In the event the nominee is the Detachment Adjutant (or Adjutant/paymaster) the letter of Nomination shall be signed by the Department Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant.

Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to either the "President, Department of Virginia MOY Society" or the "President, Department of Virginia AOY Society", and forwarded to the Department President by first class mail and shall be post marked not later than 10 days prior to the Department Spring Convention. No nominations received after the above deadline will be considered.

*****IMPORTANT:** Mail both the MOY and AOY nominee packages to the MOY Society President who will collect them all and bring them to the Department Convention. Ensure the envelope is clearly addressed to the Dept MOY or AOY Society.

Contents:

All letters of nomination shall contain the following information:

State that the nominee has been a member in good standing for a minimum of Two (2) years and has maintained a minimum 75% attendance rate at the Detachment Meetings.

Active participation in the Detachment affairs (meetings, events, committees, recruiting, retention, etc.)

Has held or is holding an elective or appointed office in the Detachment or the Department.

Has been a past or is a present Detachment "Marine of the Year" or "Associate of the Year".

Has participated in community service which reflects positively upon the MCL and the member in the past two years.

Participated in patriotic programs which espouse good citizenship and strong moral values.

Participation in activities which provide help and relief to the underprivileged such as Toys for Tots, Young Marines, VAVS, Little League, etc. and others.

Has attended a Department Staff Meeting or has attended at least (1) Department Convention as a delegate from their Detachment in the past (2) years.

Criteria:

There are no minimum criteria to be eligible for this award, but consideration will be given to members who have demonstrated contributions in the following areas:

Commitment: This is defined as a member's active participation in the Detachment affairs, such as attendance at monthly meetings, working on committees and projects, taking a leadership role in detachment affairs and functions, and supporting the various MCL programs sponsored by the Detachment. Also considered is the commitment to perpetuate membership through recruiting and retention efforts.

Service: This is defined as a member's participation in community service which reflects positively upon the MCL and the member's character in the past two years. This includes but is not limited to participation in patriotic programs which espouse good citizenship and strong moral values or activities which provide help and relief to the underprivileged and other activities such as Toys for Tots, Young Marines, VAVS, Little League, etc. and others.

Judging will be conducted by the MCL Dept of VA MOY and AOY Society.

The winners will be announced at the upcoming MCL Dept of VA Spring Convention banquet on 30 May 2026 to be held in Fredericksburg, VA. (Exact Location is TBD).

Detachments do not need to be present at the Convention to win the award but are HIGHLY encouraged to attend.

Please contact Dept MOY Society President Richard Van Damme (rjv0402@gmail.com) or Dept AOY Society President Karla Hord (kjhord99@gmail.com) with questions.



HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER VETERANS FORUM

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.

HHS Veterans' Forum meets next on Tuesday **March 10, 2026**.

Location will be the Publix, 2250 John Rolfe Pky, Henrico, VA 23233. We will be in the Community Meeting Room on the 2nd floor.

Speaker will be Mr. Greg McQuade, broadcaster with WTVR-6 in Richmond. You may read his bio on the next page.

Doors open at 1115, the program begins at 1150 and will conclude by 1300. Lunch may be purchased from the Publix Deli on the 1st floor.

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.



WTVR's Greg McQuade is living his dream. If you flip through the pages of his high school yearbook you will find "News Broadcasting" under his career goals. The Boston native moved to Richmond and joined CBS6 in October of 2000. Greg produces "I Have a Story" and "Heroes Among Us" segments weekly.

Greg has earned 88 Emmy Awards, 52 Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards and 5 National Edward R. Murrow Awards. In 2023 Greg was inducted into the Silver Circle which is Emmy Awards Hall of Fame. Greg's alarm clocks ring at 3:30am every Saturday and Sunday morning. He has been anchoring the CBS6 Saturday and Sunday Morning program with his good friend and meteorologist Mike Stone for 14 years. Greg has worked at television stations in Boston, Bangor, Maine and Providence, Rhode Island.

Greg also hosted a radio program at KLHI-FM on the island of Maui, Hawaii. He studied in Dublin, Ireland and Belfast, Northern Ireland. He graduated from Bunker Hill Community College and Northeastern University in Boston.

When he is not producing stories for television, Greg loves traveling the globe and hunting for relics at Civil War sites in Richmond. His biggest passion is interviewing the WWII veterans from his late grandfather's 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, organizing their annual reunion and preserving their legacies.

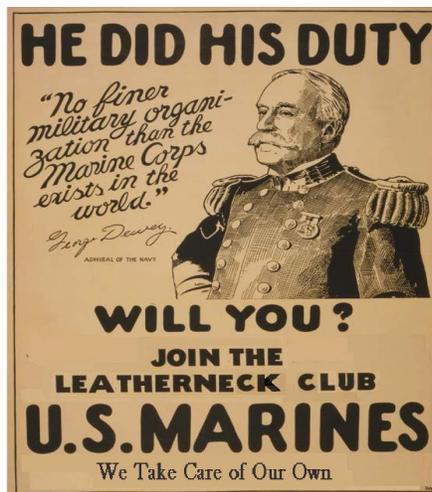
Marine Corps Reading

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.usmcm.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

2026 WES PRUITT LEATHERNECK CLUB

Bill Jeffress
Spike Williamson



Timothy Godbey
Rich Van Damme

2026



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership for 2026. 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 Richard Klein at: Paymaster329@gmail.com