

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

**Richmond, Virginia**

[www.richmondmarines.net](http://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**
- **Greg Edwards**  
**Sergeant at Arms**
- **Johnny Day**  
**Paymaster**
- **Randy Abernathy**  
**Public Relations**
- **Tim Taylor**  
**Legislative**
- **David Charbonneau**  
**Quartermaster**
- **Dan Sierra**  
**Web Sergeant**
- **Rich Van Damme**  
**Scuttlebutt Newsletter**  
**Editor :**  
[rjv0402@gmail.com](mailto:rjv0402@gmail.com)

# The Scuttlebutt

**NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2025**



Quartermaster Store Link:

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

**MINUTES**  
**JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT**  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**22 February 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. A sufficient number of members were present to establish a Quorum.

**Roll Call of Officers**

All present except:

**Introduction of Guests**

SSgt Strong-Goochland HS MCJROTC- Briefed the Detachment on the participation and activities of the unit.  
 Cadets qualified for the Nation Raider Competition in April. Camp Odyssey, PA.

**Application for New Members**

Daniel Strong-medically retired SSgt-USMC

**Reports of Officers**

Junior Vice Commandant – Joe Kelleher

One new member-SSgt Strong.

Adjutant – Phil Hebner

The minutes from the January meeting were presented for approval. Date of meeting amended. (approved)

Paymaster – Johnny Day

Updated the members on the financial report.

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

Newsletter Editor/Historian – Rich Van Damme

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

Working on the Detachment history.

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

Suffolk Veteran's Cemetery expansion moving along

If anyone has suggestions for next year's legislative sessions please bring them to Tim.

Reviewed the current docket of veteran legislation being presented by the Joint Legislative Committee to our state legislature. Please see Tim or the Adjutant for a summary of the initiatives.

Chaplain – Lonny Fry

Member Joe Krepp passed in February.

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 - Committee Reports**

Honor Guard – Spike Williamson

Joe Wadle presented with challenge coin for 100+ events

Keeping pretty busy.

Range Days - Lou Seigel

Indoor shoot at Green Top shooting range on the second Wednesday of every month. Need to sign a waiver to attend.

MCJROTC Liaison – Rick Barden, Phil Hebner, Fred Marotta, Tom Hastings

Nothing to report at this time.

Working on the Heilman Scholarship details and getting the recipients to attend the April meeting to present the awards.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter – Joe Wadle

March 11-Colonel Dave Smith-USA-Expert on Middle East-Will be addressing the current events in that theater.

Always looking for suggestions/connections for upcoming speakers. Please see Joe with information.

Fund Raising – Nick Wennberg

Lonny Fry -T15 Texan WWII trainer flight raffle was updated and we are well on the way to closing this out.

USO Program –Tom Hastings (Fred Marotta)

Large number of service members recently that had to spend the night in the overnight area of the lounge.

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 (excused)

Purple Heart Firetruck- Dave Charbonneau (excused)

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

MOY to Department- Rich Van Damme

The Detachment will be having its own Marine Corps Ball on Saturday November 8, 2025. Established a ball committee.

We are also working with the Recruiting Command to see if Marines who are interested in attending their ball on November 1, 2025 will be able to register separately. Details to follow.

Need a new VA representative to attend and report on ongoing affairs at the hospital.

Election committee established- Rich Van Damme is chairman. Paymaster and Sgt at Arms are needed for the upcoming term.

**Good of the League/Announcements**

We are hosting the Spring Dept Convention May 17 at Lakewood. The meeting is free to anyone who wants to attend but the dinner has to be paid for (\$45) by the attendee(s). Please register for any of the events you want to attend. Friday-Capital Ale House 1700-1900. Saturday-Breakfast/Meeting/Growl 0900-1600. Dinner 1700- (\$45)

Mid-East conference in Loudon County in June. Need people to help with various functions (fundraising...)

**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, 22 March 2025, at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phil Hebner, Adjutant

## Joseph Krepp 1941-2025

Joseph William Phillip Krepp, aged 83, went to be with the Lord on February 12th, 2025. He was born on November 27th, 1941, in Baltimore, MD, and lived for many years with his family in Chesterfield, VA. He was preceded in death by his parents, Louise Knecht (Doster) and John Phillip Knecht, and Joseph Krepp. He is survived by his wife, Carol Ann Krepp (Coupe'); his sister Martha Jane Jackson (David); his children Troy Krepp and wife Linda, JoAnne Ouelette and husband David, Chris Snyder and wife Kara, Dawn Ogle and husband Matt; and his grandchildren Amanda (Bryan), Ryan, Skyelar, Austin, Matthew, Brayden, Mason, Kaydence, Emily, William, Judd and a very large circle of family and friends.

Joe proudly served in the US Marine Corps Reserves for 10 years and spent most of his career in various sales positions until establishing his own business in the mid-1980's. Family was truly important to Joe and spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren were always his favorite thing to do.

A celebration of life will be held at Greenwich Walk Clubhouse (16001 Newham Crossing, Moseley, VA 23210) on Saturday March 15, 2025 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the [Alzheimer's Association](http://www.alz.org) at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](http://www.sympathy.com).

Published by Richmond Times-Dispatch on Feb. 23, 2025.



# Slay Detachment Elections

Slay Marines,

As chairman of the nominating committee, I am writing to our members to remind them of the upcoming elections for officers. We must fill the following leadership positions for the coming year. As of today, 18 March, 2025 we have vacancies for the following elected and appointed positions. See chart below.

If you are interested in serving in any of the below leadership positions, or any other leadership position, please contact me at [shipdad@comcast.net](mailto:shipdad@comcast.net) or Marine Bruce Steeley [rbsteeley@comcast.net](mailto:rbsteeley@comcast.net) or Marine Jim Barrett [jbarrett1966usmc@gmail.com](mailto:jbarrett1966usmc@gmail.com) as soon as possible. If you are nominating someone other than yourself, you must obtain their permission and verify they are a member in good standing (dues paid) and are willing to serve if elected or appointed.

If you have any questions about the duties of these positions, please contact me and I will send you the information.

Please give this request serious consideration. Marines lead from the front and we need to nominate some good leaders like yourself to lead our detachment.

Semper Fidelis, Rich Van Damme

[shipdad@comcast.net](mailto:shipdad@comcast.net) or [rjv0402@gmail.com](mailto:rjv0402@gmail.com) / 804.715.7685

As of this printing we have the following positions and interested candidates:

<b>Commandant</b>	<b>Nick Wennberg</b>
<b>Sr. Vice Commandant</b>	<b>Joe Shusko</b>
<b>Jr. Vice Commandant</b>	<b>Joe Kelleher</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Phil Hebner</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Bob Gilliam</b>
<b>Paymaster</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	
<b>Quartermaster</b>	
<b>Public Relations</b>	
<b>Legislative</b>	
<b>Honor Guard Commander</b>	
<b>Web Sergeant</b>	
<b>Scuttlebutt Editor</b>	<b>Rich Van Damme</b>
<b>VA Hospital Liaison</b>	
<b>Ft Gregg-Adams Marine Liaison</b>	
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Rich Van Damme</b>
<b>Toys-for-Tots Coordinator</b>	

## SHOOTING RANGE SCHEDULES FOR 2025

Green Top Shooting Range (GTSR). 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Reporting time is 1715 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

<del>January 8th</del>	May 14th	September 10th
<del>February 12th</del>	June 11th	October 8th
<del>March 12th</del>	July 9th	November 12th
April 9th	August 13th	December 10th

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 7th	May 5th	June 2nd	July 7th	August 4th
September 1st	October 6th (Rifle Shoot)	October 13th (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:

Cell—804-492-9202

Email; mrngny@gmail.com

Looking forward to a safe year of shooting.





# Marine Corps League

## James M. Slay Detachment #329

### Ride of your Life in 2025



### Support the Richmond Marine Corps League and win the “ride of your life!” in a historic T-6 Texan “You Fly It” Orientation Flig

Win this raffle and you can schedule a flight in this expertly restored 1943 T-6 Texan and you will have the flight experience of a lifetime. During the flight you get to take the controls of this historic WWII advanced trainer and enjoy your own personalized flight experience. Each flight is customized based on your input and experience. Your pilot will explain and demonstrate the operation of the aircraft and guide you through various maneuvers at your pace. Each flight will also include aerobatics if requested. Soaring above the beautiful Northern Virginia landscape you will be able to experience what it was like flying a fighter during WWII. No previous flight experience required! Book your flight May through Nov 2025

**Tickets \$20.00**  
**Limited to 300 tickets**  
**Drawing May 1st**

Need not be present to win

### **SUPPORT YOUR MARINE VETERANS**

Your contribution supports what we do - below are just a few examples:

\*The Bruce Hellman Scholarships to Marine JROTC cadets at Tucker, Hermitage, Highland Springs, and Hanover High Schools \*Military Honor Guard & Color Guard  
\*USO Richmond Airport \*Operation Purple Heart Truck \*HHS Veterans Forum.

**Contact \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_ to purchase!**



## Our Chaplain's Corner

Please consider putting this in the March Scuttlebutt under The Chaplain's Corner. In talking with Tom MRAZ, (discussion about the free scooter and tricycle) I ask Tom what he did in retirement. He told me about some volunteer work he has been involved in for some time. He expressed his compassion and the need to help bring respect to some 30,000 African American veterans and their families who have been forgotten in their final resting place in the Woodland Cemetery. I asked him to send me an email describing his story and involvement. I believe this is worth sharing with our detachment as one of the finest examples of the Spirit of American Volunteerism in caring for our Veterans. Check out the 10-minute video as well (worth your time), which includes Tom and his many years of service.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=P8pZ6WhOMQA&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks Lonny,

Ps - JROTC Liaison - They continue to need help besides the hundreds of volunteers as well as financial resources for fuel, equipment and tools. This would make a wonderful project to get our League and membership involved. It could also be a great service project for our **JROTC cadets**.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Thomas MRAZ <[trazz66@comcast.net](mailto:trazz66@comcast.net)>

**Subject:** Video and volunteer schedule of Woodland Cemetery

Lonny,

**"The enclosed video showcases some of the work many of us volunteers have done during the last 4years at Woodland Cemetery in Henrico County. I previously was volunteering at the VA hospital for about 4 years as a van driver for the DAV, picking up veterans and taking them to their doctor's appointments, until the covid hit hard. The VA turned away all the volunteers and never brought back the drivers but has since started requesting volunteers for within the hospital. The VA did away with the DAV driver program all together but still has the 5 cars and vans just sitting in the parking lot, doing nothing!!!**

**My wife and I stumbled upon Woodland Cemetery one day and were somewhat afraid to enter because the grass and weeds were taller than most of the tombstones, but we did see that Arthur Ashe's plot was cleared, so we ventured in. I returned about 3 months later and noticed that someone had started cutting some of the grass. On my way out I stopped when I noticed a gentleman near the gate. I introduced myself and he told me his name was Marvin Harris and that he was the head of a nonprofit group that purchased the cemetery. The group wanted to clean up and restore the grounds. I mentioned I would be willing to help sometime if needed, 3 days later he called me. That was going on for 5 years now! I'm usually there up to 3 days a week, cutting overgrown bush, cutting grass, locating buried tombstone or just being a team leader for our weekly volunteer groups. We have cleared 19 and 1/2 acres enough to cut the grass weekly. The grass cutting alone takes me 26 hours when no one can help me. We hopefully have some**



gentlemen agree to help this coming season. We have another 10 wooded acres and we estimate that there are about 5 thousand graves that need to be identified. We have been blessed to have many volunteer groups come out to help in the clearing of this area, but we have a long way to go. I'm also enclosing a recent schedule of some of the groups that will be coming out to help. You will notice that the Army sends 40 soldiers to help quite often. We have deceased veterans of all branches buried here that served our country all the way back to the Spanish-American War. It's my honor to show them respect by keeping their resting place clear."...Tom Mraz  
He closed with these final words:

**"The hundreds of volunteers that showed respect for the thousands of lost souls, buried at Woodland Cemetery, by helping with this restoration project is the real story." Thanks...Tom Mraz**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=P8pZ6WhOMQA&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2LHog-vOAKhS211E-tEUgOpEzuSFct1YkXJpLggieJ2ddraJV7zTYEEt4\\_aem\\_H5AcFMgDwb7taTxsoLR-ww](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=P8pZ6WhOMQA&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2LHog-vOAKhS211E-tEUgOpEzuSFct1YkXJpLggieJ2ddraJV7zTYEEt4_aem_H5AcFMgDwb7taTxsoLR-ww)



## HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER VETERANS FORUM

*MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.*

HHS Veterans' Forum meets next on Tuesday **April 8, 2025**.

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

The guest speaker will be Eric Carlson, LtCol, USMC (Ret) and his topic will be Volume 3 of the life of General Al Gray.

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

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.

LtCol Eric Carlson  
USMC, Ret



Lt. Col. Eric Carlson, USMC (retired) Lt. Col. Carlson describes himself as a “run-of-the-mill” U.S. Marine Corps infantry officer who retired in 2003 as Director of Operations (G-3) for Marine Corps University. He was Chief of Plans for 2nd Marine Division in the liberation of Kosovo and has a Master’s degree in military studies from the Marine Corps University. His other assignments include: Weapons Company Commander with BLT 3/1 in the liberation of Kuwait, Rifle Company Commander (Lima 3/1) with Joint Task Force 6, Infantry Officer Course Instructor and Basic School Tactics Instructor, S-3A for BLT 2/6 and BLT 1/8 in Beirut, and Weapons and Rifle Platoon Commander with Fox 2/6 in Beirut. In retirement, Lt. Col Carlson helped gather the official oral history of General Alfred M. Gray, Jr. through 17 recorded interview sessions with Al Gray, Scott Laidig, Paul Otte, and J.D. Baker, which also supported the publication of the Al Gray, Marine series of biographies.

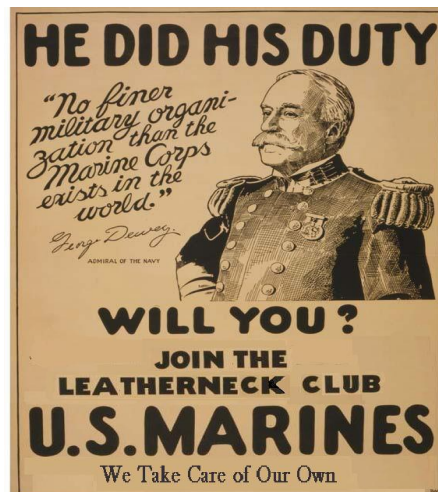
## Marine Corps Reading

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.usmcu.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

## 2025 WES PRUITT LEATHERNECK CLUB

Bill Jeffress  
 Tim Taylor  
 Bruce Steeley  
 Thomas Mraz  
 Jack Bell  
 Charles Slay  
 Jim Strawn  
 David Taylor  
 Phil Hebner  
 David Charbonneau  
 Annel Lewis  
 Michael Robinson  
 Randy Abernathy  
 Lonnie Fry  
 Tabitha Sierra



Lou Seigel  
 Bill Wagner  
 Robert Gilliam  
 Gustav Gyllenhoff  
 Boyce Williamson, Jr  
 Timothy Godbey  
 Rich Van Damme  
 Timothy Sharpe  
 Carl Panebianco  
 John Thomas, Jr  
 Richard Zimmer  
 Fred Marotta  
 Jamie Pleasants  
 Joe Waddle  
 Thomas Milhausen



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership for 2025. 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 Johnny Day at: [Paymaster329@gmail.com](mailto:Paymaster329@gmail.com)