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636-458-4168

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Jack Heitzler
636-458-3767

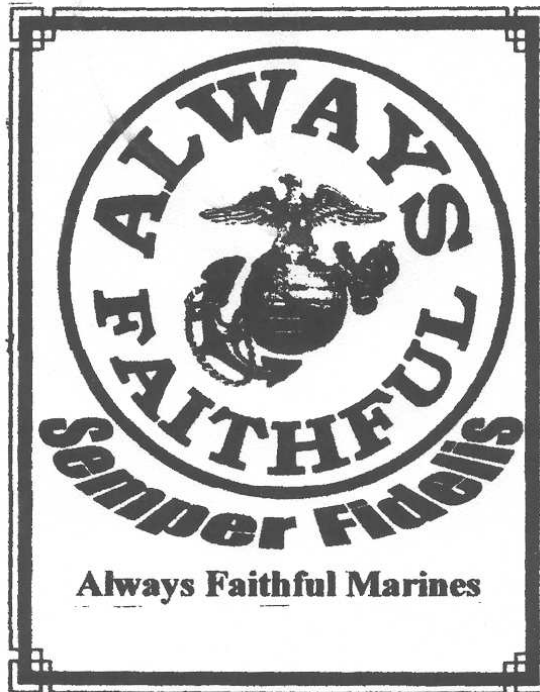
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George Phillips
Detachment
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 1
Ballwin, MO 63022

Monthly Meetings 3rd
Tuesday monthly at 19:30
Walter LePere Post #208
American Legion
225 Old Sulfur Springs
Rd.
Manchester, MO

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SEPTEMBER 2007

News and Reflections by and for Marines – and other patriotic Americans

**The Detachment Newsletter is now available by Email!
To receive it electronically, email the Editor.**

MEETING NOTICE: See Calendar on following Page.

Ray Timm will be our guest speaker for September. He will talk to his experience growing up with and later working for the VA.

Kirkwood Parade

Be at Post #208 by 0730 on 15 September

Transportation will be provided to Kirkwood H.S.

We must be at the H.S. prior to 0800.

Commandants Message:

WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT!

Recently I received a phone call from member Don Gutmann telling me about an Iwo Jima Marine who lives in our area and has terminal cancer. He is not a member of the Marine Corps League but had requested through his Son that he wanted to talk with some Marines before his number is called.

I called Bill Bragg, another Iwo Jima Marine veteran and Detachment member, and asked him to visit the dying Marine. Bill, along with Don Gutmann and Harry Hope, visited this Marine at his home in Des Peres. They found him in a dazed condition due to the medication to reduce his pain. Bill was in uniform and presented him with a Marine Corps League cap and saluted him. The Marine opened his eyes and returned the salute then lapsed back into unconsciousness.

The Family expressed their gratitude. Our Marines explained to his relatives their options for a military burial when the time comes. Bill, Don and Harry came away with a feeling of "a job well done."

Marines - that is what being a member of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League is all about.

Note: The Marine recently passed away. Arrangements were made and he was buried with full Marine Corps Military Honors.

SEMPER FIDELIS!

Gene Richter

Detachment Calendar

September 2007

- 08 – Department of MO Commandant's Meeting – Jefferson City
- 15 – Kirkwood Parade - Assemble at Post 208 - 0730
- 17 – Staff Mtg. – Gene Tichacek's House - 1030
- 18 – Membership Meeting – 1930 – Post #208

October 2007

- 05, 06 &
- 07 – Midwest Division Conference – Dubuque, IA
- 15 – Staff Mtg. – 1030 Location to be announced
- 16 – Membership Meeting – 1930 – Post #208
- 20 – Detachment Charter Picnic – Mike Erxleben's

November 2007

- 09 & 10 – Injured Marine- Semper Fi Fund
- 10 – Marine Corps Birthday Celebrations
- 19 – Staff Mtg. – 1030 Location to be announced
- 20 – Membership Meeting – 1930 – Post #208

December 2007

- 01 – Department of MO Commandant's Meeting Jefferson City
- 17 – Staff Mtg. – 1030 Location to be announced
- 18 – Membership Meeting – 1930 – Post #208

January 2008


- 11, 12 &
- 13 – Quinn Conference – Double Tree at St. Louis
- 15 – Staff Mtg. 1030 Location to be announced
- 16 – Membership Meeting – 1930 – Post #208

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Senior Vice-Commandant:

This past month the Detachment has done a good job in supporting the Community.

We donated \$8700 which we collected since Memorial Day for the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund. A check for that amount was presented to the Funds Director at the Golf outing on 26 August. We will continue have our collection bucket at our meetings. Bring your wallet or check book and lead by example. Our next solicitation of the public will be on 9 & 10 November. Plan a little time to work at one of our locations. I want to extend a big Oohrah to all who contributed time, material and money to this worthy cause.

On 07 Sept. the Detachment participated with Post 209 and the City of Manchester in the dedication of a park bench to Lance Cpl. Matthew Pathenos who gave his life for freedom of others in Fallujah last February. It was a rainy night but several members of the Detachment and our Color Guard participated. If you couldn't attend, go by Schroeder Park and see the bench.

We participated in the Manchester Home coming parade on 08 Sept. and even with rain clouds in the sky we had a fun time and showed our colors to the neighborhood. Our next parade is 15 Sept. at the Kirkwood Greentree Festival. The weather is forecast to be great so come and walk with us or ride in a Hummer graciously provided by *Lynch Hummer* if you can't walk.


Finally, a note on the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The two tables we have reserved for the Ball sponsored by 3/24 are nearly full. Get your reservation and money in soon as it is filling up fast.

Semper Fi!

Jack Heitzler

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Junior Vice-Commandant:

Congratulations Marine recruiters, your efforts are paying off. We should reach membership strength of over one hundred members by the end of the year. This is exemplary for an outfit barely two years old.

It is time to bring in the heavy artillery, the contest ends on 9/18/07, at the monthly meeting. We have a dead heat right now between Judge Advocate, John Bradford and Marine John Bickford. The winner calls the shots on the boat ride. It should be FRI, SAT or SUN. The colors peak along the bluffs of the Mississippi & Illinois rivers the weekend of 10/19/07. The weather starts to get iffy after the 5th. There will be drinks and snacks for two on boat, then dinner and drinks at the yacht club afterwards.

Recruiting doesn't stop with the contest.

TIPS:

- You should wear something with USMC, or have it on your vehicle (See the Quartermaster); it is amazing how many former/current Marines will approach you and start a conversation.
- Carry an application and usually they will consider signing up. If they don't, give me their name and phone number and I will follow up.

EXAMPLES:

I was in Wal-Mart the other day and I think I picked up two. One had a retired Marine cap on (Tom Brown, Korean Vet, and one in uniform, Sgt.

Ray Ursery, Recruiter at Manchester sub-station).

The other day the Commandant and I followed a car down Geyer Rd. with a USMC emblem on the rear window. We pulled up in back of him in his driveway. Ed Plants is the pastor at Geyer Rd. Baptist Church.

A number of contacts were made at the Semper Fi Fund golf tournament. Hopefully, these will result in members.

The more members we have the greater recognition we get at the MCL, in the community, members beget members, which enhances our financial position and strengthens our position when contributing and collecting. Let's make a concerted effort the next two weeks

Frater Infinitas!

Gene Tichacek

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Member Spotlight

At the August meeting of the Detachment, Marine Larry Schwartz gave a presentation on the service of Dennis Conner as related to him by Dennis. Due to space limitations, this is a condensed version of that presentation.

Dennis' great-grandfather brought his family to America from County Kerry in the mid-nineteenth century to escape the Irish famine. They settled in central Missouri's Pettis County, near La Monte, where Dennis was born and raised.

He was taught to read by his mother and loved to read the adventure stories in the *Saturday Evening Post*. It was there that he read exciting articles about the China Marines. One of the stories he read was about a young Lieutenant of Horse Marines in Peking, China named J. P. S. Devereaux. His brother had told him that "the U.S. Marine Corps is the best military organization in existence."

After graduating from high school and a couple years at various jobs, Dennis move to St. Louis to live with his sister and find better employment. He eventually visited the Marine Recruiting Station in the Federal Building at 12th & Market. He passed the physical and convinced his parents to sign for him. On 29 December 1939 he arrived at MCRD San Diego where he began his journey to become a Marine.

Dennis was first assigned to H&S, 5 inch Artillery, Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Force (FMF) at Marine Corps Base San Diego. On 1 Feb. 1941 the battalion left the U.S. for Pearl Harbor. During his first time at Pearl, Dennis trained on tracking ships. One of these vessels was the Nitta Maru. Their paths would cross again.

4 July 1941 Dennis, his long time friend Benny Benjamin and approximately 100 other Marines of the 1st Def. Bn. Deployed to Midway Island. He was trained in the operation of the 50 cal. machine gun while at Midway. After a short time on Midway, they returned to Pearl then deployed to Wake Island on 18 Oct. 1941.

It was 0605 on 8 Dec. 1941 while sitting on his bunk cleaning his rifle that Dennis heard about the bombing of Pearl from a "wild-eyed Army Sargent." It was 7 Dec. in Pearl which is 2,200 miles east of Wake and on the eastern side of the International Date Line.

His C.O. on Wake was none other than James P. S. Devereaux, the China "Horse Marine" now a Major. Upon hearing about Pearl Maj. Devereaux remarked in

anger "the audacity of those Japs thinking they could get away with bombing Pearl Harbor!"

On 08 December 1941 the Japanese attacked Wake and sustained the attack until 23 Dec. at which time Devereaux ordered the Marines to surrender. They were out of ammo and surrounded by the sizable Japanese Special Landing Force.

After surrender, the Marines were shoved into a concrete bunker. Then a Japanese soldier opened fire with an automatic weapon. The ricocheting bullets killed or wounded many inside the bunker.

Prior to leaving about half of the American civilians on Wake were executed. The remaining Americans were loaded on a ship 12 Jan. 1942; ironically it was the Nitta Maru. While on board this ship three Sailors and two Marines were executed. Eventually Dennis and the others were taken to an old Chinese military prison in China.

In late 1942 Dennis and about 69 other Marines were taken to a slave labor camp at Mogi. Here they were subjected to the elements, tortured and forced to weld without facemasks. During American air raids they were forced to remain outside and kept from protective shelter.

After the bombing of Nagasaki just 90 miles from the prison camp at Mogi, Dennis eventually was repatriated and flown to Okinawa. There he was interviewed and a tape of that interview was broadcast in the States. His parents heard it and finally knew he had survived the camps.

Eventually he arrived in the states where he spent several months in hospitals recovering from his injuries sustained at Wake and the 44 months as a POW. He was honorably discharged on 14 June 1946.

He eventually returned home to Missouri and worked as a Conservation Agent for the State, retiring in 1977.

In 1997 Dennis finally received the Purple Heart, fifty-three years after being wounded.

The saying states that "War is Hell." As a POW, Dennis and the other Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and civilians were thrown into the deepest bowels of that Hell. The fact that any of them survived and retained the slightest bit of sanity is truly a miracle.

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Wanted Dress Blues

Detachment member Bob Howard is looking for a set of Dress Blues. They will be used in a display at the VFW Post 3416 in Wappapello, MO. A set of Blues is the only Marine uniform not on display. To donate or for further information please contact Bob direct at:
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American Legion Post 208

Post 208 has been very supportive of our Detachment during the last year. They can always use help at their Bingo night and other events. Please remember to show our appreciation by helping out.

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Daughter of Marine Killed in Iraq Need Your Help

A local girl, Taylor Heldt of Washington, is raising funds for *Good Greif Camp*. Taylor is the daughter of Lance Corporal Erik Heldt. He was killed by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in June 2005 while serving in Iraq.

Good Greif Camp is organized by the *Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)*. The camp is held each year on Memorial Day for children like Taylor.

She will be participating in the *Team TAPS Kids Fun Run* and the *32nd Marine Corps Marathon* on October 27th & 28th respectively. She will present the funds at the marathon.

To make a donation in Taylor's name, you can go to www.taps.org/marathon/mcm2007, then click on "Taylor Heldt" or mail a check to Taylor Heldt, 1212 E. Third St., Washington, MO 63090. Checks should be made payable to "TAPS."

Chaplains Corner

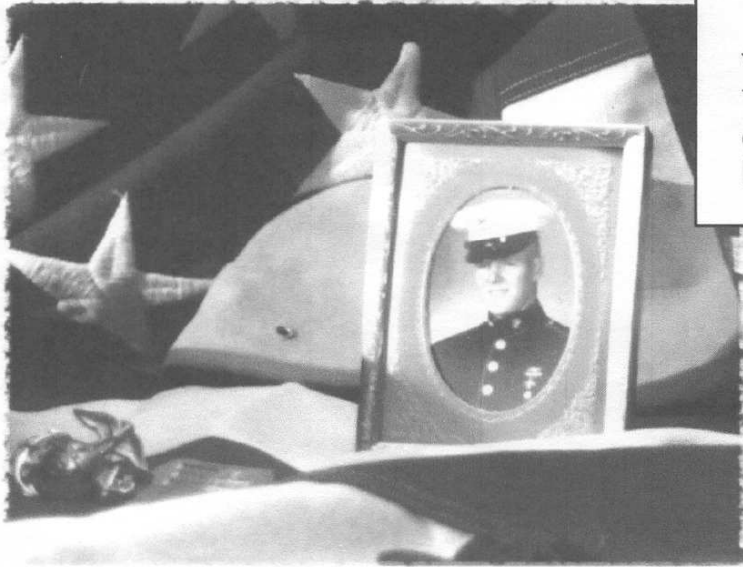
We Marines of the Pvt. George Phillips Detachment are quite fortunate. We have the ability to give of our time and fortune to help others in need. Whether it is a Marine in need of financial help, an aging Marine looking for someone to just talk with about the Corps, to receive and return a salute or a spectator at a parade that is reminded of sacrifices of so many so that they can be there to enjoy it.

Our motto is *Semper Fidelis*, Latin for *Always Faithful*. We learned that it has an extended meaning in the phrase "Always faithful to our God, to our Country, to our Family and to Our Corps."

In this the month of September, let us pray for those in harms way and their families. Those, who like so many before, stepped forward to protect the oppressed and guard our liberties. Let us also pray for our leaders so that they are guided to bring those brave young men and women home safely and with honor.

Dave Anderson

Semper Fidelis...



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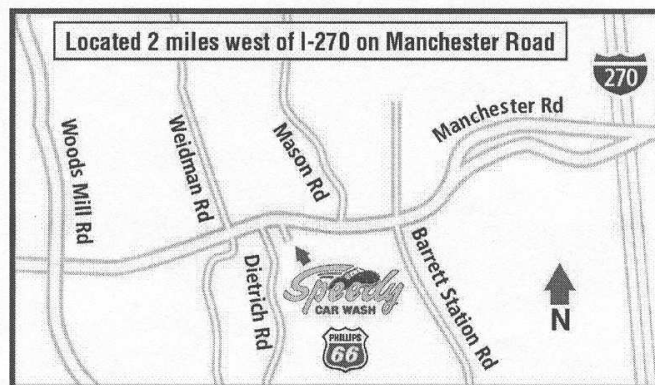
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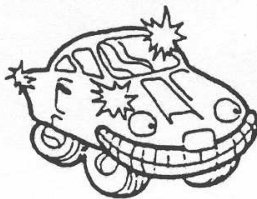


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