

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

<http://www.mcltraecoheedet115.org/>

August 2013 Edition



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SSgt Walter F. "Trae" Cohee III
Detachment # 115
Salisbury, MD

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2013 - 2014

Commandant: Ed Elder

Senior Vice Commandant: Jim Siegel
Judge Advocate: Ed Hearthway
Paymaster: Andy Bouma
Sgt-At-Arms: Walt Cohee

Junior Vice Commandant: Bob Miller
Junior Past Commandant: Bill Marsich
Adjutant: Richard Hyson
Chaplain: Rhuel Goslee

Web Sergeant: Don Elseroad

Original Charter Date May 10, 1970

MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 11th, 2013 at 1900 (7:00 P.M.) at the American Legion Post 64, 1109 American Legion Road, Salisbury, MD 21801. Please make every effort to attend.

Important Upcoming Dates & Events

September 2nd	September 11th
Labor Day 	<i>In Remembrance</i>  9-11-01 <i>Patriot Day</i>

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members Bob HORTIE, Jimmy Lee HOWARD, and Joseph BACHTLER are having or have recently had various health problems. Please keep these folks and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

"Membership Happenings"

(Please advise the Editor of any errors or omissions)

<p align="center"><u>SEPTEMBER "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 9th Sandra BOUMA 10th Sharon MILLS 17th Danny PARSON</p>	<p align="center"><u>SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</u> 5th Jeanne & Walter COHEE (42 yrs) 11th Sally & Terry HERLING (44 yrs)</p>
<p><u>SEPTEMBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> Bob MILLER (11 yrs) Louis JONES (8 yrs) David MILLS (5 yrs) Diana MERRITT (3 yrs)</p>	<p align="center"><u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN</u> <u>SEPTEMBER</u> Louis JONES Diana MERRITT Bob MILLER David MILLS</p>
<p align="center"><u>WELCOME ABOARD</u> None reported to your editor</p>	<p align="center"><u>MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED</u> None reported to your editor</p>

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE

Please send your \$22.00 checks made payable to "MCL Det 115" to our paymaster. Also note we have a new paymaster....

Andy Bouma, Paymaster
32175 Bonhill Dr
Salisbury, MD 21804-1464

Initial dues for a new member are \$27.00 for the first year, thereafter yearly renewal dues are \$22.00.



DON'T DELAY...JOIN TODAY
THEN CONSIDER GOING 'LIFE'
NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT

"Home of the Brave" Founder Tina Pearson Honored
Berlin, MD



Congratulations to Tina Pearson, founder of "Home of the Brave", in Berlin Maryland on being honored with the May 2013 WMDT / Mountaire Better Delmarva Award.

The Better Delmarva Award is a monthly honor designed to highlight local individuals, businesses, civic organizations or classrooms who are going above and beyond in their effort to assist others in the community or to improve and protect the local environment.

The Home of the Brave's mission is to support America's returning combat veterans and their families by providing a relaxing environment where they can reconnect after military service.

Inspiration for Home of the Brave came in 2009 after a conversation between founder Tina Pearson and a friend who had served in Iraq. This Army veteran shared the difficulties of getting to know her young son again after she returned home from deployment. The soldier's story made Tina wonder what could have been done to make the transition easier. What if she offered her quiet country home as a getaway for service families to share a week of relaxing time together?

After talking with people at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, she was assured this idea could benefit many veterans – even those recovering from injuries. As a result, Tina worked with a local contractor who built a separate residence for her and renovated the existing house – making it handicapped accessible. The 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom residence is located near the beach and offers backyard grilling and games as well as bikes for those who wish to enjoy the areas scenic beauty.

Through the hard work of Tina Pearson, volunteers and community donations Home of the Brave is available and booked year-round at no cost to those returning combat veterans who meet the application criteria which can be found online at www.thehomeofthebrave.us.

It's for these efforts in supporting our troops and helping bring families back together that Tina Pearson and her Home of the Brave were honored with the WMDT/Mountaire Better Delmarva Award for May 2013.

The SSgt Water F. "Trae" Cohee III, Detachment 115 of the Marine Corps League is PROUD and HONORED to have Tina as a member of the detachment.

COINS LEFT ON TOMBSTONES

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave.

These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect. Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

In the US, this practice became common during the Vietnam War, due to the political divide in the country over the war; leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war.

Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire.

IN CASE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN

Common Terms for U.S. Marines: (excerpt from *Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines*, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

Leatherneck: The nickname *Leatherneck* has become a universal moniker for a U.S. Marine. The term originated from the wide and stiff leather neck-piece that was part of the Marine Corps uniform from 1798 until 1872. This leather collar, called *The Stock*, was roughly four inches high and had two purposes. In combat, it protected the neck and jugular vein from cutlasses slashes. On parade, it kept a Marine's head erect. The term is so widespread that it has become the name of the Marine Corps Association monthly magazine, *LEATHERNECK*.

Gyrene: Around 1900, members of the U.S. Navy began using *Gyrene* as a jocular derogatory reference to U.S. Marines. Instead of being insulted, the Marines loved it. The term became common by World War I and has been extensively used since that time.

Jarhead: For roughly 50 years, sailors had little luck in their effort to insult Marines by calling them *Gyrenes*. So, during World War II sailors began referring to Marines as *Jarheads*. Presumably the high collar on the Marine Dress Blues uniform made a Marine's head look like it was sticking out of the top of a Mason jar. Marines were not insulted. Instead, they embraced the new moniker as a term of utmost respect.

Devil Dogs: The German Army coined this term of respect for U.S. Marines during World War I. In the summer of 1918 the German Army was driving toward Paris. The French Army was in full retreat. In a desperate effort to save Paris, the newly arrived U.S. Marines were thrown into the breach. In June 1918, in bitter fighting lasting for weeks, Marines repeatedly repulsed the Germans in Belleau Wood. The German drive toward Paris sputtered, fizzled, and died. Then the Marines attacked and swept the Germans back out of Belleau Wood. Paris had been saved. The tide of war had turned. Five months later Germany would be forced to accept an armistice. The battle tenacity and fury of the U.S. Marines had stunned the Germans. In their official reports they called the Marines "teufel hunden," meaning *Devil Dogs*, the ferocious mountain dogs of Bavarian folklore.

Soldiers of the Sea: A traditional and functional term for Marines, dating back to the British in the 1600's

Myths & Misconceptions: Vietnam War Folklore by Michael Kelley July 1998

Your Editor has been publishing 13 myths and misconceptions about Vietnam as written by Michael Kelley for several months. Numbers 1 through 12 have previously been published and the following is the last in this series. We hope you have enjoyed them.

Myth #13: Enlisting in the Military Was a Patriotic Gesture **Fact #13? Enlisting In the Military Was a Patriotic Gesture:**

It is common knowledge that many minor (and more than a few major) criminals were given a choice between jail or military service by judges familiar with the rehabilitative qualities of military life. Apart from that aspect of "voluntary" service, the least understood and most under-reported aspect of the war is that many men enlisted in the military in order to escape combat. That is right, joined the military to avoid combat!

To some extent, that reality helps explain the high rate of voluntary service throughout what became a very unpopular affair.

One way to accomplish that feat was to join a National Guard or Reserve unit, only a handful of which were ever called to active duty during the war. A more common strategy was simply to enlist for three, four or six years of active duty in order to qualify for specialized jobs that would keep a soldier out of direct combat. That did not mean a soldier would be spared from serving in a combat zone, only that his MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) would keep him out of the shooting. After experiencing actual combat in Vietnam, it was also not uncommon for, frightened, sobered or burnt-out infantrymen to re-enlist or extend their tours in order to qualify for safer, rear area job. Draftees were obligated only two years of active duty, and the

military was understandably reluctant to invest significant resources in training men who would only be on the job for such a short time. According to Ronald H. Specter, DOD stats reveal that a draftee's chance of being sent to Vietnam "were never less than 50% and sometimes as high as 80%." Perhaps 90-95% were assigned to Infantry units no matter where they were sent. Infantry training simply required the smallest investment and had the highest turnover rates of other specialties. There was little doubt about it, if someone who didn't want to be a soldier allowed themselves to be drafted, the Infantry and its attendant high risk of death and injury would be their lot. Such people could either avoid the Draft by whatever means necessary, or, they could enlist in the military in order to drastically minimize the odds of becoming an Infantryman. Having been in the Military and having served in Vietnam is not necessarily a measure of one's patriotic fervor. There were probably as many cowards and charlatans in uniform as there were in the peace movement.

RAO Bulletins

Each month your editor attempted to review all RAO Bulletins and put articles deemed important to veterans into our newsletters.

However, what may be important to me may not be important to you and I may very possibly overlook something you as a veteran might like to know about, so I am providing a link below that will take you to the current bulletin so that you might look it over. The below bulletin is dated August 15th, 2013 and needs to view before September 1st or the link will no longer work.

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20130815%20PDF%20Edition.pdf>

EVERY DAY PRAYER REQUEST

Life in Afghanistan is very difficult to bear right now. Our troops need our prayers for strength, endurance and safety. Stop for a moment each and every day and say a prayer for our troops around the world.

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen."

The Final Roll Call



The following Marines and/or Corpsman paid the ultimate sacrifice for God, Country and Corps since the last Newsletter
None Thank God

If You Are Not Willing To Stand Behind Our Troops,
Please, Please Feel Free To Stand In Front Of Them!

On behalf of a grateful nation.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE
Support Our Troops



I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands,
One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

From your editor

If you are receiving this newsletter via "Snail Mail" and have email capability, please email me at 53usmc73@bvunet.net so that I can add you to my address book and cut down on the postage.

Any comments or suggestion on what should be in our newsletter! Articles/information you need! Let me know! The newsletter will go to press on or about the weekend following each meeting.

Don Elseroad, Editor

Quotes about Marines

There are only two kinds of people that understand Marines: Marines and the enemy. Everyone else has a second-hand opinion.

Gen. William Thornson, U.S. Army

LINKS TO CHECK

<http://stg.do/ZRVc>

<http://www.youtube.com/v/6TPgJSZf5Vw?version=3&autohide=1&autoplay=1>

http://www.youtube.com/embed/ywug11nLFfg?feature=player_detailpage

LINKS TO CHECK

God Bless America

-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --