

# *Semper Fi*

## "THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

August 2019 Edition



*Don Elseroad, Editor*  
355 Beaverview Drive  
Bristol, VA 24201-1880  
276-645-0482  
53usmc73@bvunet.net



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

### DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2019 – 2020

*Commandant: Ed Elder*

Senior Vice Commandant: Andy Bouma	Junior Vice Commandant: William Jones
Judge Advocate: Thomas Kellar	Junior Past Commandant: Bob Miller
Paymaster: Clifford Fridlind	Adjutant: Richard Hyson
Sgt-At-Arms: Jeff Merritt	Chaplain: Rhuel Goslee
Web Sergeant/Scuttlebutt Editor: 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 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.

### Upcoming Holiday's & Events

<p><u>September 2</u></p> <p>Labor Day</p>	<p><u>September 8</u></p> <p>Happy Grandparents Day</p>	<p><u>September 20</u></p> <p>POW/MIA YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN</p>	<p><u>September 23</u></p> <p>First Day of Autumn</p>	<p><u>September 29</u></p>
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THE 2020 NATIONAL CONFERENCE PREVIOUSLY CALL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

February 27-29, 2020 Norfolk, Virginia

**SHERATON NORFOLK WATERSIDE HOTEL**  
**777 WATERSIDE DRIVE, NORFOLK, VA 23510**  
**RESERVATIONS: 1-800-325-3535 OR CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT AT (757) 622-666**  
**SEE BELOW LINK FOR COMPLETE INFO**  
<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/conference/>

**"Sick or in Distress"**

MCL Members and/or family members Richard HYSON, Paul TOMKO, Rhuel GOSLEE, Ed ELDER, Gloria HOWARD, Don ELSEROD, Carl EBAUGH and Jeanne COHEE 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)**

<b><u>SEPTEMBER "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u></b> 9th Sandra BOUMA      10th Sharon MILLS 17th Danny PARSONS    19th Ray GRANT	<b><u>SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</u></b> None
<b><u>SEPTEMBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u></b> Louis JONES (13 yrs)      David MILLS (10 yrs) Diana MERRITT (8 yrs)	<b><u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWED</u></b> Ralph CAPEN (LIFE) Carl EBAUGH

**DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE**

**ALL DETACHMENT MEMBERS THAT ARE NOT "LIFE" MEMBER'S OF THE DETACHMENT NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY THE END OF AUGUST.**

**Make your check for \$24.00 payable to "MCL Det 115" and send it to our paymaster ASAP**

Clifford Fridlind, Paymaster  
26267 Evesboro Lane  
Eden, MD 21822-2112  
410-742-7505  
[plcmlind@juno.com](mailto:plcmlind@juno.com)

**GEN. DAVID H. BERGER BECOMES 38TH COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS**

11 Jul 2019

WASHINGTON, D.C. –

General David H. Berger received the battle colors of the Marine Corps from Gen. Robert B. Neller during a passage of command ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington on July 11, signifying his new position as the 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Berger, a Woodbine, Maryland native and 38-year Marine veteran, assumes responsibility as the senior ranking officer of the Corps.

"This is a special generation of Marines and Sailors, and I am quite confident that we will continue to be the force the nation needs us to be," said Berger. "I am honored for the opportunity to continue serving in this cloth."

Neller, an East Lansing, Michigan native, relinquished command of the Marine Corps after serving in the top post since 2015.

During his time as the 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Neller moved forward to meet challenges with his planning guidance stressing innovation, adaptation and winning America's battles.

“Thanks to all Marines, Sailors and their families that I have had the honor and privilege to serve with,” said Neller. “Your efforts and sacrifices as warfighters and citizens make the nation proud. Every day strive to be men and women of virtue and honor. Protect what you’ve earned.”

**Definition- / Politics:**

“Poli” a Latin word meaning "many" and "tics" meaning "bloodsucking creatures"

**BARACK OBAMA 5TH BEST AMERICAN PRESIDENT**

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS EXCELLENT WORK BY A FINE INSTITUTION. TEXAS A&M STUDY NAMES BARACK OBAMA 5TH BEST AMERICAN PRESIDENT

A&M'S PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE RELEASED THIS STATEMENT,

"FROM A TOTAL OF 45 PRESIDENTS, AFTER 8 YEARS IN OFFICE, PRESIDENT

OBAMA IS RATED THE 5TH BEST PRESIDENT EVER."

THESE ARE THE DETAILS ACCORDING TO TEXAS A&M:

1. LINCOLN, KENNEDY, REAGAN AND TRUMP TIED FOR FIRST,
2. TWENTY TWO PRESIDENTS TIED FOR SECOND,
3. SEVENTEEN OTHER PRESIDENTS TIED FOR THIRD,
4. JIMMY CARTER CAME IN FOURTH, AND
5. OBAMA CAME IN FIFTH.

GOD BLESS TEXAS A&M! AND THINK ABOUT THIS VERY CAREFULLY.  $1 = 4, 2 = 22, 3 = 17, 4 = 1$  AND  $5 = 1$ . NOW DO THE MATH.  $4 + 22 + 17 + 1 + 1 = 45$

**Coming Home from the Second World War**

Returning the troops home after WWII was a daunting task

The *Magic Carpet* that flew everyone home.

The U.S. military experienced an unimaginable increase during World War II.

In 1939, there were 334,000 servicemen, not counting the Coast Guard.

In 1945, there were over 12 million, including the Coast Guard.

At the end of the war, over 8 million of these men and women were scattered overseas in Europe, the Pacific and Asia.

Shipping them out wasn't a particular problem but getting them home was a massive logistical headache.

The problem didn't come as a surprise, as Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall had already established committees to address the issue in 1943.

Soldiers returning home on the *USS General Harry Taylor* in August 1945

When Germany fell in May 1945, the U.S. Navy was still busy fighting in the Pacific and couldn't assist.

The job of transporting 3 million men home fell to the Army and the Merchant Marine.

300 Victory and Liberty cargo ships were converted to troop transports for the task.

During the war, 148,000 troops crossed the Atlantic west to east each month; the rush home ramped this up to 435,000 a month over 14 months.

Hammocks crammed into available spaces aboard the *USS Intrepid*

In October 1945, with the war in Asia also over, the Navy started chipping in, converting all available vessels to transport duty.

On smaller ships like destroyers, capable of carrying perhaps 300 men, soldiers were told to hang their hammocks in whatever nook and cranny they could find.

Carriers were particularly useful, as their large open hangar decks could house 3,000 or more troops in relative comfort, with bunks, sometimes in stacks of five welded or bolted in place.

**Bunks aboard the Army transport *SS Pennant***

The Navy wasn't picky, though: cruisers, battleships, hospital ships, even LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) were packed full of men yearning for home.

Two British ocean liners under American control, the *RMS Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, had already served as troop transports before and continued to do so during the operation, each capable of carrying up to 15,000 people at a time, though their normal, peacetime capacity was less than 2,200.

Twenty-nine ships were dedicated to transporting war brides: women married to American soldiers during the war.

**Troops performing a lifeboat drill onboard the *Queen Mary* in December 1944, before *Operation Magic Carpet***

The Japanese surrender in August 1945 came none too soon, but it put an extra burden on *Operation Magic Carpet*.

The war in Asia had been expected to go well into 1946 and the Navy and the War Shipping Administration were hard-pressed to bring home all the soldiers who now had to get home earlier than anticipated.

The transports carrying them also had to collect numerous POWs from recently liberated Japanese camps, many of whom suffered from malnutrition and illness.

**U.S. soldiers recently liberated from Japanese POW camps**

The time to get home depended a lot on the circumstances. *USS Lake Champlain*, a brand new *Essex*-class carrier that arrived too late for the war, could cross the Atlantic and take 3,300 troops home a little under 4 days and 8 hours.

Meanwhile, troops going home from Australia or India would sometimes spend months on slower vessels.

**Hangar of the *USS Wasp* during the operation**

There was enormous pressure on the operation to bring home as many men as possible by Christmas 1945.

Therefore, a sub-operation, *Operation Santa Claus*, was dedicated to the purpose.

Due to storms at sea and an overabundance of soldiers eligible for return home, however, Santa Claus could only return a fraction in time and still not quite home but at least to American soil.

The nation's transportation network was overloaded: trains heading west from the East Coast were on average 6 hours behind schedule and trains heading east from the West Coast were twice that late.

**The crowded flight deck of the *USS Saratoga*.**

The *USS Saratoga* transported home a total of 29,204 servicemen during *Operation Magic Carpet*, more than any other ship.

Many freshly discharged men found themselves stuck in separation centers but faced an outpouring of love and friendliness from the locals.

Many townsfolk took in freshly arrived troops and invited them to Christmas dinner in their homes.

Still others gave their train tickets to soldiers and still others organized quick parties at local train stations for men on layover.

A Los Angeles taxi driver took six soldiers all the way to Chicago; another took another carload of men to Manhattan, the Bronx, Pittsburgh, Long Island, Buffalo and New Hampshire.

Neither of the drivers accepted a fare beyond the cost of gas.

Overjoyed troops returning home on the battleship *USS Texas*. All in all, though, the Christmas deadline proved untenable. The last 29 troop transports, carrying some 200,000 men from the China-India-Burma theater, arrived to America in April 1946, bringing *Operation Magic Carpet* to an end, though an additional 127,000 soldiers still took until September to return home and finally lay down the burden of war.





### RAO Bulletin

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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

<https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/cflnewschat/rao-bulletin-15-august-2019-t2919.html>

"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."

**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.

LINKS TO CHECK

Many of you if not all skip over these links. If you do you are missing out on some good stuff.

<https://www.usmcmuseum.com/>

[http://www.mcldeptn.org/detachment\\_officer\\_duties.htm](http://www.mcldeptn.org/detachment_officer_duties.htm)

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/bxR1tZ08FcI?rel=0>

-- *Once a Marine, Always a Marine* --

**OOORAHHH !!!!!**

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**



Saepius Exertus, Semper Fidelis, Frater Infinias  
Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever