

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

March 2016 Edition



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

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2015 - 2016

Commandant: Ed Elder

Senior Vice Commandant: Bob Miller

Judge Advocate: Ed Hearthway

Paymaster: Andy Bouma

Sgt-At-Arms: Walt Cohee

Junior Vice Commandant: Gene Powell

Junior Past Commandant: Bill Marsich

Adjutant: Richard Hyson

Chaplain: Rhuel Goslee

Web Sergeant: Don Elseroad

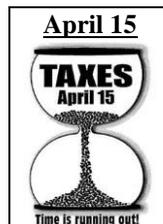
Original Charter Date May 10, 1970

MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on April 13th, 2016 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



Department of Maryland Convention

April 28, 29 & 30, 2016

Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center

9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842-2745

Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-4-ROYALE or 1-410-524-7777

For hotel information click here: <http://princessroyale.com/>

Complete convention information with fillable form can be found on the following link

<http://www.deptofmdmcl.org/Conventions/default.htm>

2016 Mideast Division Conference

June 24 through 26, 2016

To be held at the Wilmington- Christina Hilton, 100 Continental Drive, Newark DE 19713.

Telephone to make reservations at 800-348-3133 or 302-454-1500

It is conveniently located off I-95 exit 4B

<http://www.hiltonchristiana.com/>

Room rate is \$124.99 a night and includes full breakfast buffet

Banquet is \$34.00

If you need a registration form, you can email Evie Remines at mclchick@hotmail.com

All registrations forms are also available on the following link:

<http://mclnational.org/Portals/11/Documents/DVC/Mideast/MideastDivConference2016RegistrationEnterable.pdf?ver=2016-02-06-174416-677>

A few unique destinations nearby include Delaware Park Raceway & Casino, Longwood Gardens, Delaware Museum of History, the Christiana Mall and Colonade

93rd Annual National Convention – Tulsa, OK

August 7 through 12, 2016

Hyatt Regency Tulsa, 100 East 2nd Street, Tulsa, OK (918) 234-1234

Online reservations: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/14080583/owner/55460/home>

More information coming soon!

Overflow Hotel

8 - 12 August 2016

Courtyard by Marriott - Tulsa Downtown

415 South Boston Avenue, Tulsa, OK

(800) 721-7033 or (918) 508-7400

Online reservations

Rate \$107.00 per night (plus tax)

Standard King or Double Queen

includes valet parking and breakfast

Group code is MCL

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members Gloria HOWARD, Walt & Jeanne COHEE and Tom CORCORAN 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)

<u>APRIL "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 19th Richard HYSON 27th Ed ELDER 29th Jeanne COHEE	<u>APRIL ANNIVERSARIES</u> 19 th Tina & Ric LINDSTROM (1 yr)
<u>APRIL MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> 'Josh' KELLEY (12 yrs) Danny PARSONS (6 yrs) Paul TOMKO, Sr. (Unk) Kathleen HASTINGS (1 yr)	<u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN APRIL</u> Kathleen HASTINGS 'Josh' KELLEY Danny PARSONS Paul TOMKO, SR.
<u>WELCOME ABOARD</u> None reported to your editor	<u>MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED</u> None reported to your editor

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE

Please send your \$24.00 checks made payable to "MCL Det 115" to our paymaster.

Andy Bouma, Paymaster

32175 Bonhill Dr

Salisbury, MD 21804-1464



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

We Just Lost One Of The Last Native Americans That Help Win Okinawa

Note: for more on this story click on the 3 hyperlinks you come across in blue underlined font

One of WWII's greatest heroic stories in the Pacific Theater was that of the Navajo Code Talkers. They were Marines with a very special skill that baffled the Japanese and gave their brother Marines a strategic advantage in their island hopping battles in the South Pacific. That unique skill was their own ancient language: Diné bizaad.

The Story Of Yahze

[Yahze joined the Marine Corps in 1942 at the age of 19.](#) Ernest Yahze was one of the early recruits to the Marine's Navajo Code Talker units. The Code Talkers were first formed in the spring of that year and he joined them the following September. After boot camp and further infantry training he and several other Navajo Code Talkers were sent to the island of New Caledonia in the South Pacific where they learned the skills of radio communications and the use of their native language to pass on vital and strategic information. In 1943, Yahze and a handful of Code Talkers went to Guam where they participated in the [three-week battle to take Guam](#) from the Japanese. After a period of rest, he went with his Marines to the Battle of Okinawa, which was one of the bloodiest, most challenging battle of the Pacific Theater. The Code Talkers' use of their native language for communicating orders and movements over the radio completely flummoxed the Japanese.

The Brilliance Of The Code Talkers

The Japanese were never able to figure out the “code” language that they were hearing the Americans use. They were the ones who used the term “Code Talkers” to describe what they were hearing.

It was not a complex, arithmetical code. It was not based on some sophisticated computer algorithm. It was simply the power and the beauty of a spoken language.

This ancient language, which had been spoken by the Navajo peoples for centuries, was the “code” that confused the Japanese. It was as simple and as profoundly powerful as that; a unique, living, and ancient language spoken by an ancient and proud people. It was the language that those Navajo men had spoken in their own homes since childhood. The use of the Diné bizaad proved to be pure genius.

Yahze's Return

On his return home from the WWII, Yahze was discharged from the Marines as a corporal. He moved to Utah, met and married his wife, Katie Trujillo, and together they raised seven children. He worked for Kennicott Utah Copper for 38 years.

Ernest Yahze's older brother, Harrison, was also a Code Talker. He passed away in 2004. Their younger brother, Silas, had joined the U.S. Army and died in combat in Italy, 1944. The Yahze family, the Navajo Nation, and thousands of Native Americans came from long respected and honored warrior traditions. The Navajo Code Talkers in the Marines forged a remarkable chapter in the military history books with their courage, their ingenuity, and their remarkable language.

The Vice President of the Navajo Nation, Jonathan Nez, [said of Ernest Yahze at his funeral:](#)

“Our heroes are passing away and we must take time to honor and preserve their legacy. We need to share their heroic deeds with our children, our grandchildren.”

And so we should.

These men from the Navajo People, the Diné, are part of the Greatest Generation. Their heroism in war was matched by their commitment to hard work and to raising families at home over the course of the rest of their lives.

Fred Cherry, POW in North Vietnam for seven years, dies at 87

By Bart Barnes

The Washington Post

Published: February 20, 2016

Fred Cherry, an Air Force fighter pilot, was downed by enemy fire over North Vietnam in 1965, and he spent more than seven years a prisoner of war.

He had grown up in the Jim Crow South, and his captors made it clear he could mitigate the harshness of his incarceration, including routine torture, and improve his living conditions by speaking out against the racial injustice and discrimination that he had faced as an African American in the United States.

When beatings failed to bring him around, his jailers tried another tactic. They assigned a self-described "Southern white boy" as his cellmate, hoping that racial antipathy between the two men would weaken his resolve and produce a propaganda triumph for North Vietnam.

The plan failed.

Instead, the two men, Cherry and a Navy fighter pilot, then-Ensign Porter Halyburton, became fast and lifelong friends. Each would credit the other with having saved his life.

Cherry died Feb. 16 at a hospital in Washington. He was 87. The cause was heart ailments, said his companion of 24 years, Deborah Thompson.

He was a major when he was taken prisoner and had more than 100 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam behind him on the day — Oct. 22, 1965 — that his F-105 Thunderchief fighter-bomber was hit by enemy antiaircraft fire.

"The plane exploded and I ejected at about 400 feet at over 600 miles an hour," Cherry wrote in a 1999 collection of war stories by POWs and Medal of Honor recipients. "In the process of ejection, I broke my left ankle, my left wrist, and crushed my left shoulder. I was captured immediately upon landing by Vietnamese militia and civilians."

"I spent 702 days in solitary confinement," he added, with the longest period lasting 53 weeks. "At one time I was either tortured or in punishment for 93 straight days."

Early in his captivity Cherry was matched with Halyburton, a North Carolinian who had been shot down Oct. 17, 1965. For eight months they would live together. But whatever mutual animosity their captors may have hoped for never materialized.

"I guess they thought if they had a Southern white boy taking care of a black man it would be the worst place for both of us," Halyburton said in a telephone conversation from North Carolina. "It turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to me."

For eight months, he changed dressings on his cellmate's infected wounds, fed him, bathed him, and watched over him. "He said I saved his life, and he saved my life. ... Taking care of my friend gave my life some meaning that it had not had before."

The two men lived in a succession of fetid 10-by-10-foot cells, sleeping on straw mats, benches or the floor.

"I was so inspired by Fred's toughness," Halyburton said. "He had grown up in the racial South (and) undergone a lot of discrimination and hardship. But he was such an ardent patriot. He loved this country. It inspired me, and it inspired a lot of others."

For 2,671 days, Cherry was held in captivity before his release on Feb. 12, 1973, with the first group of U.S. prisoners of war to come home.

Fred Vann Cherry Sr. was born in Suffolk, Virginia, on March 24, 1928. His parents were farmers. He attended racially segregated public schools and graduated in 1951 from Virginia Union University, a historically black college in Richmond.

He then joined the Air Force and during the Korean War flew more than 50 combat missions over North Korea.

In the summer of 1966, after eight months of sharing a cell, Cherry and Halyburton were separated. Halyburton remembers it as "one of the saddest days of my life." They did not see each other again until 1973, when they met at a military hospital at Clark Air Base in the Philippines following their release from captivity.

Cherry, who later attended the National War College and the Defense Intelligence School in Washington, retired from the Air Force in 1981 as a joint staff officer assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency. He was a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland.

His medals included the Air Force Cross, awarded, according to the citation, for "extraordinary heroism in military operations against an opposing armed force as a Prisoner of War ... extremely strong personal fortitude and maximum persistence in the face of severe enemy harassment and torture, suffering critical injuries and wounds."

But Cherry's homecoming was painful. His wife, the former Shirley Brown, reportedly deserted him soon after he went missing, cleaned out his life savings and bore a child with another man. The officer endured years of legal proceedings and negotiations with the military over issues involving back salary, child-support payments and allowances.

Survivors include his companion, of Silver Spring; four children from his marriage, Deborah Cherry-Jones and Donald Cherry, both of Norfolk, Virginia, Cynthia Cherry-Leon of Woodbridge, Virginia, and Fred Cherry Jr. of Springdale, Maryland.; a son from another relationship, Frederick Stein of Los Angeles; 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Cherry and Halyburton, who retired from the Navy at the rank of commander, gave joint talks at military institutions and colleges. In 2004, they toured to promote a book about their story, "Two Souls Indivisible: The Friendship That Saved Two POWs in Vietnam," by James S. Hirsch.

Cherry was also featured in a public television documentary narrated by Tom Hanks, "Return With Honor," about Vietnam fighter pilots held as POWs.

"I know that the faith in God, love and respect for my fellow man that my parents and family instilled in me during my youth carried me through some very difficult years as prisoner-of-war in Vietnam," Cherry wrote in the 1999 collection of POW war stories.

"I was always taught to love and respect others and forgive those who mistreat, scorn or persecute me. ... (This) allowed me overcome the damages of discrimination, Jim Crow, and the social and economic barriers associated with growing up a poor dirt farmer. ... My standard for making decisions is based on doing what is right."

Is there a '13th hand' on the Marine Corps War Memorial?

By Ken-Yon Hardy
Stars and Stripes

Published: February 11, 2016

For more than 60 years, a story has persisted that 13 hands can be seen on the [Marine Corps War Memorial](#), the beloved sculpture in Arlington, Va., that depicts six service members raising the U.S. flag on Mt. Suribachi during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima.

"Thirteen hands. Who needed 13 hands?" sculptor Felix de Weldon once remarked after being asked if he put an extra hand in the memorial. "Twelve were enough."

No one is quite where it all started, but Sarah Gamble, a park ranger with the National Park Service, said the rumors of the 13th hand began as soon as the statue — based on Joe Rosenthal's famous photo — went up in 1954.

"It's the 'hand of God' theory," Gamble said. "People wanted to think that there was a little extra help on the day this flag was raised. You know, they say 'there were six men struggling to get to the top, so they must have had some kind of help.'

"... I'm sorry to say, it's just not true."

Watch the video link at the end, and decide for yourself. <https://youtu.be/nFbYwxqxJGI>

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 March 1st, 2016 and needs to view before March 15th, 2016 or the link will no longer work.

[http://www.nhc-ul.com/Bulletin%20160301%20\(PDF%20Edition\).pdf](http://www.nhc-ul.com/Bulletin%20160301%20(PDF%20Edition).pdf)

EVERY DAY PRAYER REQUEST

"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.

From your editor

If you are receiving this newsletter via "Snail Mail" and have email capability, please email me at 53usmc73@bvnnet.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

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.dropbox.com/sh/4zkp7hvrghbcd7gd/DqPNsG9ym?preview=Laffey+Enhanced+vo+3.wmv>

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ezcHy8Dkrme?rel=0>

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ehwvZXVKmPU>

-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --

GOD BLESS AMERICA



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ARISES, CHECK THEM OUT.**

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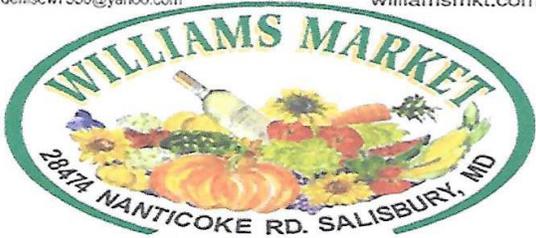
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