

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

May 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 June 12th, 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



2013 MCL National Convention (August 4 through 9, 2013) will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 187 Monroe Ave NW in Grand Rapids, MI. Reservations: 1-800-253-3590. Rooms \$110 plus 14% tax per night includes free hot breakfast, self-parking and Internet in guest room. Complete information will be made available at a later date.

"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. For

those of you that may not know our detachment lost two Marine's recently. Part of their obituary follows. Please keep James and Ralph's families in your thoughts and prayers. We all know that Once a Marine, Always a Marine and they will never be forgotten.



Cprporal James Alan Henderson (1976 - 2013)

DELMAR, MD—After a 21-month heroic battle with brain cancer, James Alan Henderson, 37, departed this life and entered eternal peace on Friday, April 19, 2013. He was born on Feb. 16, 1976, in Morris, IL.

James grew up in Morris, ILL., and later moved to Gettysburg, Pa., where he graduated from Gettysburg High School in 1994. After high school, he joined the United States Marine Corps. He served for eight years and was Honorably Discharged achieving the rank of Corporal. He was a member of The Marine Corps League SSgt Walter "Trae" Cohee III Detachment #115 in Salisbury.

He is survived by his wife, Alice; children, Jacob Hartman and wife, Jessica of Laurel, Del., Justin Hartman, Jonathan Hartman, Olivia Hartman and Nathaniel Henderson of Delmar, Md; parents Robert & Evelyn Henderson and brothers, John & Jeffery Henderson and grandmother Virginia Henderson of Morris.



Ralph Smith (1925 – 2013)

Princess Anne, —"Sarge" Ralph Smith, 88, Peacefully passed at his home on May 6, 2013. He was born on February 25, 1925 in Hickory, N.C. to Joseph and Bessie Holman Smith.

He attended school through the 8th. grade and worked various jobs along with his farm work until age 18 when he entered the USMC and served active duty for 20 years during WWII, Korean War, and the Vietnam War retiring June 30, 1965, then transferred to the USMC Fleet Reserves for 10 years officially retiring in 1975.

In 1965, Ralph and his family moved to Princess Anne where he farmed with his father-in-law, J. Lewis Warwick for 30 years, retiring at age 70. Then he worked as the grounds keeper at the American Legion Post 94 until age 80 and then maintaining his own farm and gardens until his death. Ralph loved gardening and sharing his bounty with others. He loved to travel, especially to Hawaii and his greatest joys were his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ralph's love of serving others was evident by his community involvement. He was a lifetime member of Manokin Masonic Temple, The Scottish Rite, Crisfield Elks Lodge #1044, American Legion Post 94, Boumi Shrine Temple, Eastern Shore Scottish Rite, Eastern Shore Forest #53, Wicomico Chapter #91 O.E.S., Ocean City Shrine Club, Moose International, Eastern Shore Shrine Club, Somerset County Ruritan Club, Maryland Farm Bureau, The Marine Corps League SSgt Walter "Trae" Cohee III Detachment #115 and Antioch United Methodist Church.

Ralph is survived by his daughter, Melody Nelson and husband, Rick; grand-daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Nelson of Washington, D.C.; grandson, Chris Nelson and his wife, Ashleigh and great-grandsons, Alexander and Everett Nelson of Portland, OR. He is survived by his God-daughter, Sarah Lynn Brooks, husband Mike and son, Ian Brooks. He is also survived by his brother, Clyde H. Smith of Land O' Lakes FL, sister-in-law, Marion Smith of Valley Lee, MD, and Ruby Smith of Hickory, N.C., and his dear friend and companion Patsy Wilson of Princess Anne, MD. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Warwick Smith; brothers, Claude W. Smith and Bill Smith; and sister-in-law, Betty Smith.

"Membership Happenings"

(Please advise the Editor of any errors or omissions)

<p><u>JUNE "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 4th Tina PEARSON 9th Helen TOMKO 21st Cecelia SIEGEL 24th Eric WILK</p>	<p><u>JUNE ANNIVERSARIES</u> 10th Cindy & Kevin GRIFFIN (7 yrs) 13th Missy & Richard HYSON (55 yrs) 20th Leslye & John BRENNER (38 yrs)</p>
<p><u>JUNE MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> Gloria HOWARD (28 yrs) Andy BOUMA (7 yrs) William WHEATLEY (3 yrs)</p>	<p><u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN JUNE</u> William WHEATLEY</p>
<p><u>WELCOME ABOARD</u> None reported to your editor</p>	<p><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**

MCL Organizational License Plates

The Department of Maryland has updated our current plate design. The round 2½" logo is being replaced with a 3" Eagle, Globe and Anchor (EGA). If you desire new plates please contact the new Dept License Plate Chairman Craig P. Reeling at 443-477-0670 or CPR@MarylandMarines.org. Cost is \$30 (\$25 to MVA + \$5 fee to Department of MD). This is a onetime fee to MVA. You continue to pay your normal registration in whatever month/year it is currently due.

If you currently have MCL plates and want the new ones, you will get a new number and will be required to surrender your old plates to MVA.



Distinguished Warfare Medal cancelled

The proposed military honor will become a device and not a medal

WASHINGTON (April 15, 2013) -- Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced today that the proposed military decoration which honors drone pilots and cyberwarriors, the Distinguished Warfare Medal, has been cancelled and will be replaced by a distinguishing device that can be affixed to previously awarded medals.

The American Legion's national commander, James E. Koutz, protested the Distinguished Warfare Medal's proposed ranking, which placed it higher than the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Combat "V". Last month, he said that placing the medal above those given for valor and courage under fire was "wholly inappropriate."

Hagel halted production of the medal on April 5 and directed Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey to conduct a review of its ranking.

Koutz said that Hagel's decision kept the evolving roles of military combat in proper perspective. "Cyber and drone warfare have become part of the equation for 21st-century combat, and those who fight such battles with distinction certainly deserve to be recognized. But The American Legion still believes there's a fundamental difference between those who fight remotely, or via computer, and those fighting against an enemy who is trying to kill them."

A Vietnam War veteran, Koutz served with Company C in the U.S. Army's 169th Engineer Battalion and was honorably discharged in March 1971.

MAKIN ISLAND

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF MAKIN ISLAND AND THEIR GESTURES FOR WHICH THERE ARE NO WORDS! THIS IS QUITE A STORY!! FOR THE VIDEO CLICK ON THE SITE AT THE END OF THIS PARAGRAPH ~

Makin Island: A true story about 19 Marines killed on an island (defending against the Japanese). They had to retreat, so asked the islanders to please bury them for us. Years later, they checked and found a man who was a teenager then and remembered where they were buried. They sent a C130 and an honor guard over there and found all 19 had been buried with their helmets on, their rifles in their hands, in perfect condition. The islanders had really done a wonderful job. As they were loading the bodies, a voice from out of nowhere started singing "The Marine Hymn".....gave everyone goose bumps. Turns out, the voice was from a man who spoke no English but remembered a song the Marines taught him when they landed. Very touching. They got all 19 Marines and their photos are at the end. This of course was WW2!

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=C6f_FvZpm3g



The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

The Spring 2013 issue of the Woof-O-Gram can now be viewed on the following link. Woof Woof PDD 02-281 Don Elseroad <http://moddkennel.org/Portals/11/Woof-O-Gram%20Spring%202013%20Complete.pdf>

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

Note Editor's: Each edition of the "Sand-Flea" will now contain at least one of the 13 myths and misconceptions as written by Michael Kelley. Numbers 1 through 7 have previously been published.

Myth #8: 30% of the Homeless are Vietnam Veterans

Fact #8: 30% of the Homeless are Vietnam Veterans:

There should be serious doubt regarding the veracity of this oft repeated but otherwise unsubstantiated claim. Like the suicide myth, it appears to owe its origins more to folklore than fact.

Its inherent flaw is the vague and widely varying definition of the word "veteran." The press tends to regard anyone who served in the military as a veteran. That is an incorrect and misleading usage of the term in its formal sense. Technically speaking, to be a Vietnam veteran, one must have served within both the geographical and chronological boundaries specified in the Presidential order defining the Vietnam combat zone. Unfortunately, it is common to hear the terms "Vietnam vet" and "Vietnam era vet" used interchangeably. The former saw service in the actual combat zone (and is therefore a Vietnam veteran) while the other merely served in the military outside the combat zone during the same period. Now it certainly may well be that 30% of the homeless at one time served in the military, but to suggest 30% of the homeless are "Vietnam veterans" is another matter altogether. And while I have little doubt 30% of the homeless might claim to be Vietnam veterans, their motives for doing so may reflect the desperate nature of their circumstance more than their allegiance to the truth.

No doubt some hope the tag will be rewarded with sympathy and support of one form or another. That is simply a matter of survival. Consider also this: just how could such a statistic ever be accurately measured in the first place? Do the homeless routinely carry their military discharge papers (DD-214 form) in a back pocket? That seems highly unlikely. But how else could any researcher be certain such a claim was truthful unless a DD-214 was available to verify the claim?

It would be wise to scrutinize any report of homeless veteran status. Ask how the word "veteran" was defined for the study and also how veteran status was verified. While the author has not conducted any serious study into this particular topic, he was nonetheless able to find the text of a comprehensive, 1996, New York State study on the internet that yields some surprising statistics that should disquiet the notion that 30% of the homeless are Vietnam Veterans.

Of the total single homeless population in New York City (6,492), approximately 17% (1,075) are veterans. The men's single shelter system in New York City establishes the veteran population to be approximately 20 percent (1,056) of the total population. The women's single shelter system, also in New York City, recognizes a veteran population of approximately 2 percent (19) of the total. A recent report from Westchester County indicated that, as of November 30, 1995, 711 homeless single individuals utilized the County's emergency shelter system, 149 or 20 percent of whom were homeless veterans."

Note that the total veteran homeless population in 1995 for NYC was estimated at between 17%, and 20% of all homeless. That 17%-20% range embraces the entire veteran population, including anyone who served in the military in peacetime or in any prior period of war, including WWII, Korea, Vietnam, The Gulf War and so on.

Certainly Vietnam Veterans represent something less than the total number of homeless veterans in New York City based on those who claimed to be veterans, so for a fact, in 1995 at any rate, the Vietnam Veteran population in NYC was had to be significantly less than 17%. Just exactly how much less than 17% is difficult to say, but if we presume that for all practical matters the WWII and Korean War vets are too old for the homeless lifestyle and make up only a very small fraction of the total, then we can make a better guess.

The approximate ratio of Vietnam Era veterans to actual Vietnam veterans is roughly 4 to 1, or in other words, Vietnam vets are about 20% of all those who served in the military during the Vietnam war. If the entire 17% figure unearthed by the NYC study had included only Vietnam War and Era vets, then we could estimate that something less than 4% of the homeless in NYC were Vietnam Veterans at that time. But it is also true that 17% figure includes all military veterans from the period between 1973 and 1995, another 20 years of Americans who served in the military" It would seem fair to speculate that given what we know, the total number of Vietnam vets that were homeless in NYC back in 1995 might even be less than 2%!

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 links below that will take you to the current bulletins so that you might look them over. The below bulletin is dated May 1st, 2013.

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20130501%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



For the fifth month in a row we had NO Marines and/or Corpsman pay the ultimate sacrifice in our war on terrorism.

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

For over 221 years our Corps has done two things for this great Nation. We make Marines, and we win battles.

Gen. Charles C. Krulak, USMC (CMC); 5 May 1997

LINKS TO CHECK

http://www.youtube.com/embed/8emP0_xDP2Q?feature=player_detailpage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQCoNX4uMms>

God Bless America

-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --