

# Semper Fi

## "THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

November 2013 Edition



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*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 December 11<sup>th</sup>, 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



The Marine Corps League Mid-Winter National Staff Conference will be held February 14, 15 at the [Fairview Park Marriott](#) in Falls Church, VA. The room rate is \$99 + tax per night, single or double. Please make your room reservation directly to the [Fairview Park Marriott](#) no later than January 20, 2014 at (703) 849-9400 or (800)228-2900. Request a "Marine Corps League Winter Conference" room at the [Fairview Park Marriott](#). If booking online - use the code "LWCLWCA" in the "Group Code" field. Conference information will be available soon.

**May 8 thru 10, 2014:** Department of Maryland Convention to be held at the 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. Complete information is on the following link. [2014 Convention Announcemen](#) For hotel information click here. <http://princessroyale.com/>

2014 Mideast Division Conference will be June 27-29, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV hosted by Eastern Panhandle Detachment 1143. More information will be made available at a later date.

**2014 MCL National Convention**

August 3 - 9, 2014, Charleston, WV

Town Center Marriott \$119.00/night plus 12% tax, (304-345-6500)

Embassy Suites \$114.00/night plus 12% tax (304-347-8700)

**Note: All of the above rooms have all been booked.**

Here are two additional hotels which have a block of rooms for the 2014 MCL National Convention in Charleston, WV. Each has free parking, wi-fi and breakfast.

Fairfield Inn, 1000 Washington Street East, Charleston, W.V. <http://www.charlestonwvhotel.com/>  
Telephone: 304-343-4661. This hotel is 5 blocks from the Marriott and Embassy Suites. Room rate is \$89.00 plus room tax. Mention Marine Corps League when making reservations. This hotel has no shuttle service.

Holiday Inn Express, 100 Civic Center Drive, Charleston, W.V. Telephone: 304-345-0600.  
<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/charleston/crwc/hoteldetail?&stopredirect=true> This hotel is about 2 blocks (easy walk) from Marriott and Embassy Suites.. Room rate is \$107.00 plus room tax. Mention Marine Corps League when making reservations. This hotel has a van and will shuttle guests to the airport and convention site  
Reservations commenced August 20, 2013  
More details when available.

**"Sick or in Distress"**

MCL Members Jimmy Lee HOWARD, and Joseph BACHTLER are having or have recently had various health problems. Bob Hortie, GySgt USMC(Ret) answered the "Final Roll Call" on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Please keep these folks and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

**"Membership Happenings"**

**(Please advise the Editor of any errors or omissions)**

<p><b><u>DECEMBER "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u></b> 7th Jeff MERRITT      18th Jim SIEGEL 19th Gloria HOWARD      24th Paul WARD</p>	<p><b><u>DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</u></b> 11th Tara &amp; Richard CARRILLO (9 yrs)</p>
<p><b><u>DECEMBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u></b> Don ELSEROAD (19 yrs) Richard CARRILLO (10 yrs) George MURRAY, Jr. (5 yrs) David CHERRY (3 yrs)      Wayne LAWSON (Unk)</p>	<p><b><u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN DECEMBER</u></b> Richard CARRILLO      David CHERRY Wayne LAWSON      George MURRAY, Jr.</p>
<p><b><u>WELCOME ABOARD</u></b> None reported to your editor</p>	<p><b><u>MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED</u></b> 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**

*True Story*



**6 BOYS AND 13 HANDS**

Each year I am hired to go to Washington, DC with the eighth grade class from Clinton, WI where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capital, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the Iwo Jima memorial. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world and depicts one of the most famous photographs in history -- that of the six brave soldiers raising the American Flag at the top of a rocky hill on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan, during WW II

Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, 'Where are you guys from?'

I told him that we were from Wisconsin. 'Hey, I'm a cheese head, too! Come gather around, Cheese heads, and I will tell you a story.'

(It was James Bradley who just happened to be in Washington, DC to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there that night to say good night to his dad, who had passed away. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, DC but it is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night.)

When all had gathered around, he reverently began to speak. (Here are his words that night.)

'My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin. My dad is on that statue, and I wrote a book called 'Flags of Our Fathers'. It is the story of the six boys you see behind me.

'Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team.. They were off to play another type of game. A game called 'War.' But it didn't turn out to be a game. Harlon, at the age of 21, died with his intestines in his hands. I don't say that to gross you out, I say that because there are people who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were 17, 18, and 19 years old - and it was so hard that the ones who did make it home never even would talk to their families about it.

(He pointed to the statue) 'You see this next guy? That's Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene's helmet off at the moment this photo was taken and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph...a photograph of his girlfriend Rene put that in there for protection because he was scared. He was 18 years old. It was just boys who won the battle of Iwo Jima. Boys. Not old men.

'The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the 'old man' because he was so old. He was already 24. When Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, he didn't say, 'Let's go kill some Japanese' or 'Let's die for our

country' He knew he was talking to little boys. Instead he would say, 'You do what I say, and I'll get you home to your mothers.'

'The last guy on this side of the statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes was one of them who lived to walk off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, 'You're a hero' He told reporters, 'How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only 27 of us walked off alive?'

So you take your class at school, 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only 27 of your classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes carried the pain home with him and eventually died dead drunk, face down, drowned in a very shallow puddle, at the age of 32 (ten years after this picture was taken).

'The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky. A fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, 'Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn't get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Those cows crapped all night.' Yes, he was a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of 19. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother's farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. Those neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

'The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley, from Antigo, Wisconsin, where I was raised. My dad lived until 1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite's producers or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say 'No, I'm sorry, sir, my dad's not here. He is in Canada fishing.

No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don't know when he is coming back.' My dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually, he was sitting there right at the table eating his Campbell's soup. But we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn't want to talk to the press.

'You see, like Ira Hayes, my dad didn't see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, 'cause they are in a photo and on a monument. My dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a combat caregiver. On Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died. And when boys died on Iwo Jima, they writhed and screamed, without any medication or help with the pain.

'When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that, he looked at me and said, 'I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. Did NOT come back.'

'So that's the story about six nice young boys.. Three died on Iwo Jima , and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7,000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time.'

Suddenly, the monument wasn't just a big old piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heartfelt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero for the reasons most people would believe, but a hero nonetheless.

We need to remember that God created this vast and glorious world for us to live in, freely, but also at great sacrifice

Let us never forget from the Revolutionary War to the current War on Terrorism and all the wars in-between that sacrifice was made for our freedom...please pray for our troops.

Remember to pray praises for this great country of ours and also ...please pray for our troops still in murderous places around the world.

STOP and thank God for being alive and being free due to someone else's sacrifice.  
God Bless You and God Bless America.

REMINDER: Every day that you can wake up free, it's going to be a great day.

One thing I learned while on tour with my 8th grade students in DC that is not mentioned here is . . . that if you look at the statue very closely and count the number of 'hands' raising the flag, there are 13.

When the man who made the statue was asked why there were 13, he simply said the 13th hand was the hand of God.

### IN CASE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN

Marine Corps Rifleman's Creed: (excerpt from *Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines*, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

In boot camp at Parris Island or San Diego, and in the Basic School at Quantico, no one escapes from the Rifleman's Creed. Every Marine is trained, first and foremost, as a rifleman, for it is the rifleman who must close with and destroy the enemy. The rifleman remains the most basic tenet of Marine Corps doctrine. All else revolves around him. Marine Aviation, Marine Armor, Marine Artillery, and all supporting arms and warfighting assets exist to support the rifleman. It is believed that MGen. William H. Rupertus, USMC, authored the creed shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. It is commonly known as the Rifleman's Creed, but it has also been called "My Rifle: The Creed of a United States Marine." Every Marine must memorize this creed. And, every Marine must live by the creed.

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life. Without me my rifle is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than the enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will. My rifle and I know that what counts in war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, or the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit.

My rifle is human, even as I am human, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its weaknesses, its strengths, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready. We will become part of each other.

Before God I swear this creed. My rifle and I are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life.

So be it, until victory is America's and there is no enemy.

### 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 November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and needs to view before December 1<sup>st</sup> or the link will no longer work.

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20131115%20PDF.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

[Grant, Lance Cpl. Christopher O.](#)

Richwood, LA

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](mailto: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

MILITARY WISDOM

"Tracers work both ways."

U.S. Army Ordnance

"Five second fuses only last three seconds."

Infantry Journal

"Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything."

U.S. Navy Swabbie

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid."

David Hackworth

"If your attack is going too well, you're walking into an ambush."

Infantry Journal

"No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection."

Joe Gay

LINKS TO CHECK

<http://www.wbir.com/story/news/local/2013/11/08/medal-of-honor-convention-2014-knoxville-flag/3478855/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGMiQwImfFQ&feature=youtu.be>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KGFHhEJdfFM&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KGFHhEJdfFM&feature=player_embedded)

[http://www.youtube.com/embed/rKsW6c\\_CgFY?feature=player\\_detailpage%20%5b1](http://www.youtube.com/embed/rKsW6c_CgFY?feature=player_detailpage%20%5b1)

**God Bless America**

-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --