

# *Semper Fi*

## "THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

November 2018 Edition



*Don Elseroad, Editor*

355 Beaverview Drive  
Bristol, VA 24201-1880  
276-645-0482  
[53usmc73@bvunet.net](mailto:53usmc73@bvunet.net)



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

### DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2018 – 2019

*Commandant: Ed Elder*

Senior Vice Commandant: Norris Barnes

Junior Vice Commandant: Gene Powell

Judge Advocate: Clifford Fridlind

Junior Past Commandant: Bob Miller

Paymaster: Andy Bouma

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 December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 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

<u>December 7</u>	<u>December 21</u>	<u>December 25</u>	<u>December 31</u>

### 2019 Mid-Winter Conference

February 28-March 2, 2019 Fredericksburg, Virginia

Guests may call (540) 786-8321 to book their reservations. Be sure to mention the Marine Corps League to get the group rate of \$99 per night plus tax. Reservations can be made now. More info will be forthcoming.

Department of MD Convention  
 May 9, 10 and 11, 2019  
 Princess Royale Hotel  
 9100 Coastal Hwy,  
 Ocean City, MD  
 Hotel Website: <https://princessroyale.com/>  
 More info to come

2019 MCL National Convention  
 August 4 thru 9, 2019  
 Billings, MT

Register Online at: <https://mclnationalconvention2019.com/registration.php>  
 No further details at this time.

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members and/or family members Paul TOMKO, Karen MILLER, Rhuel GOSLEE, Ed ELDER, Gloria HOWARD, Walt 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)

<p align="center"><u>DECEMBER "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u>          7th Jeff MERRITT          18th Jim SIEGEL          18<sup>th</sup> Rodger MARTINSON          19th Gloria HOWARD          24th Paul WARD</p>	<p align="center"><u>DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</u>          None</p>
<p align="center"><u>DECEMBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u>          Don ELSEROAD (24 yrs)          Wayne LAWSON (16 yrs)          Richard CARRILLO (15 yrs)          Dena HOLLOWAY (6 yrs)          Lee HOLLOWAY (6 yrs)</p>	<p align="center"><u>WELCOME ABOARD</u>          Recruit...Recruit...Recruit</p>
	<p align="center"><u>MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED</u>          Rhuel GOSLEE    Williams HOBBS          Dena HOLLOWAY    Lee HOLLOWAY</p>

**DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE**

Check the expiration date on your membership card and if it reads September 2018 or earlier you are due to renew.

Andy Bouma, Paymaster  
 32175 Bonhill Dr  
 Salisbury, MD 21804-1464  
 410-341-4616  
[aboumajr@gmail.com](mailto:aboumajr@gmail.com)



**LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT**

**CMC 243<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Message**

<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-CMC-Marine-Corps-Birthday-MSG.pdf>

**William Kowalyk**

HOME OF RECORD: Detroit, Michigan



**Navy Cross**

GENERAL ORDERS:

Authority: Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals

CITATION:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lance Corporal William Kowalyk (MCSN: 2122016), United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism while serving with Battery G, Third Battalion, Twelfth Marines, THIRD Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, during operations against the enemy near Cam Lo, Republic of Vietnam, on 26 August 1966. During the early morning Lance Corporal Kowalyk and two other Marines were manning a foxhole on the battalion perimeter when it was breached by a company of North Vietnamese Regulars. In the initial onslaught, all three men were wounded by a hand grenade. Although painfully wounded in the chest, arms, and face, Lance Corporal Kowalyk assured the others that he was not seriously hurt and continued to fire his weapon. The others noticed that he could barely lift his rifle and attempted to evacuate him, but he refused to be moved and selflessly resumed firing. Now surrounded, the two less seriously wounded Marines again took up their positions. At this time, unknown to the two, a North Vietnamese soldier leapt into the foxhole and attempted to strangle the nearly helpless Lance Corporal Kowalyk with a rope. Summoning all his strength, he threw off the attacker and, with a heroic effort, killed him with his rifle. Again his companions rushed to him and, realizing how badly he was hurt, evacuated him still protesting to the aid station. Through his daring and resolute determination he was instrumental in thwarting the enemy attack. By his courage, selfless actions, and inspiring devotion to duty, Lance Corporal Kowalyk reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

**None of you have ever heard the name William Kowalyk, however I have and here is the rest of the story. For 13 months your editor had the privilege of being the Admin Chief of Golf Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Marines from New Year's Eve of 1965 through December 1966.**

When “Bill” Kowalyk joined Golf Battery he was a 3531 truck driver and when we weren’t on the road going to a new positions Bill worked as a clerk in my office.

On August 26, 1966 when our lines were breached Bill was in a foxhole with my other two clerks. That was when Bill took the majority of the blast from an enemy grenade with two pieces of shrapnel hit my other two Marines, one in the right shoulder and the other in his left arm as they were behind Bill.

When we finally evacuated Bill that morning I was not sure he would make it, but make it he did. He refused to be sent back to CONUS and upon recovering from his wounds he returned to Golf Battery some 3 months later.

I rotated back to CONUS in December 1966 and was assigned to Recruiting duty in my home town of Baltimore, MD. Some months later I opened up a newspaper from Cherry Point and on the front page I was astonished to see a picture of Bill outlined in the Navy Cross. It just so happened that before I left G/3/12 my Commanding Officer had me type-up the paper work nominating Bill Kowalyk for a Silver Star and somewhere along the line it was up-graded to the NAVY CROSS.

### Veterans Day: 75 years later, WWII Marine Corps war dog handler, still remembers his dogs

*Seventy-five years ago, on November 1, 1943, the 1st Marine War Dog Platoon stormed the beach at Bougainville, Solomon Islands. Twenty-four dogs landed with the Marines and the 2nd Marine Raider Regiment (Provisional) – three were German Shepherd messenger dogs, the other twenty-one were Doberman Pinscher silent scout and sentry dogs. Two of the messenger dogs, Thor and Jack, were handled by Pvt. Homer J. Finley, Jr. This is Homer’s story, now age 93, as told to Robin Hutton.*

I went into the Marine Corps in 1942 and signed up for a four-year hitch. I was 17-years-old when I went in, and stationed in Jacksonville, Florida – a long way from Elmira, New York.

I loved dogs my whole life, so when I heard that the Marines were looking for volunteers for a job involving dogs, I volunteered and moved to Front Royal, Virginia because that’s where all the dogs were coming in – and it was also closer to home.

You wouldn’t believe all the different dogs we worked with – a lot of them were pure bred and all sizes and shapes. The first thing we had to do was have the veterinarians check them over, and then we took care of their feeding, watering, cleaning up – everything.

Initially we started training them with the basic commands – down, sit, stay, come – and it was real exciting.

When we thought our dogs were well trained in the basics, they had us tell our dogs to “sit” and “stay” and we marched away from them.

Eventually I was shipped back to Jacksonville, Florida with three well-trained watch dogs who attacked on command. At night we’d take the dogs out on certain guard posts.

One day I was called into Marine Headquarters and was transferred to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Here’s where we got into serious dog training for combat, and that’s where the 1st Marine War Dog Platoon was originated.

The Marine Corps used German Shepherds and Doberman Pinchers. Our platoon had three German Shepherd messenger dogs – Caesar, Thor and Jack – and each had two handlers. That’s where I worked mostly. And that’s how I ended up going into combat.

At Camp Lejeune we had lessons on how to get the dogs off a transport and into a landing boat. They were preparing us for combat. That’s where we discovered dogs get seasick too. We were taken out in boats and we had to climb the cargo nets and they hoisted the dogs onboard with winches.

We went from LeJeune out to Camp Pendleton for further training on our way to the Pacific. While we were there they had professional dog trainers from the movies come into camp to watch what we were doing and give suggestions.

From Camp Pendleton we went on liberty ships to New Caledonia and joined up with the 2nd Marine Raider Regiment. Eventually we ended up at Guadalcanal as our base camp.

All of us handlers had the dogs up on deck when we sailed to Bougainville. We made the landing in the second wave. In fact, that was my only operation with the dogs.

All our dogs were extremely well trained when we went into combat.

Originally, I had Thor when we hit the beach, but I inherited Jack after one of his handlers was wounded. Jack was so easy to train, so easy to get along with. Jack was a good messenger dog – I couldn't say anything about him other than you had to keep him under control because he was a fighter and was missing from a dog fight.

Shortly after landing on Bougainville they took me from the war dog platoon and gave me a crash course in demolitions. I never worked with the dogs again.

At the end of the war I was stationed back at Camp Lejeune. The dogs also returned to the War Dog Training School to be "de-trained" before they could be sent home to their owners.

I was shown around the camp one day where the dogs were, and suddenly I saw Jack. I said "Oh, my God, there's Jack!" And the guy showing me around said, "Well don't get too close to him because nobody else can, he's vicious!"

And I said, "If I know Jack, he won't bother me one little bit." So bravely, I went to the gate and walked in, and it was just like a family reunion. He came up, put his paws on my shoulder and was licking my face.

And these guys were dumbfounded to think I could do that with Jack and nobody else could do that. That was the highlight of my war dog experience.

The fact that he remembered me close to two years from the last time I had seen him, and I had no idea what he'd been through in combat, was really something.

### **MARINE CORPS EXERCISE REGIMEN FOR PEOPLE OVER 60**

For those of us over 60 – this is a great exercise regimen – for you young'uns out there (under 60), just keep it in mind until you reach that magic 60 number!

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room on each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides. Hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags, and then eventually, try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm currently at this level.)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

### **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>, 2018 and must be viewed before December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 when it will be taken off-line.

[http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20181115%20\(PDF%20Edition\).pdf](http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20181115%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@bvn.net](mailto:53usmc73@bvn.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.foxnews.com/us/marine-veteran-80-receives-medal-of-honor-for-vietnam-bravery>  
[http://www.mcldeptn.org/detachment\\_officer\\_duties.htm](http://www.mcldeptn.org/detachment_officer_duties.htm)  
<http://www.virtualusmcmuseum.com/>  
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/tunedin/why-fall-back/vi-BBPbrJC?ocid=U143DHP>  
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3f3i1>

-- *Once a Marine, Always a Marine* –  
OOORAHHH !!!!!

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**



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

