

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

November 2019 Edition



Don Elseroad, Editor

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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

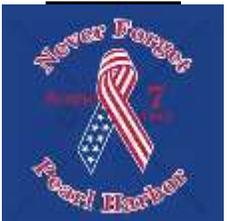
Original Charter Date May 10, 1970

MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on December 11th, 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

<u>December 7</u>	<u>December 21</u>	<u>December 25</u>	<u>December 31</u>
			HAPPY NEW YEAR EVE

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/>

2020 Mideast Division Conference - Hosted by the Department of Virginia June 19, 20 & 21, 2020
 Holiday Inn, 5655 Greenwich Rd, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/virginiabeach/orfgr/hoteldetail>

1-757-499- 4400, once answered hit O to get reservations. Toll Free 1-800-567-3856 Code-MED \$138.00 a night total 15% discount on breakfast, Parking included. If ADA type of room is required, make sure you mention it when making reservations

97th National Convention

August 9 through 15, 2020

Hosted by Department of Florida

Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront 100 N Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL

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

More info will be provided when it becomes available

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members and/or family members Richard HYSON, Paul TOMKO, Rhuel GOSLEE, Ed ELDER, Gloria HOWARD, Don ELSEROAD, 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><u>DECEMBER "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 7th Jeff MERRITT 18th Jim SIEGEL 18th Rodger MARTINSON 19th Gloria HOWARD 24th Paul WARD</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</u> None</p>
<p><u>DECEMBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> Don ELSEROAD (25 yrs) Wayne LAWSON (17 yrs) Richard CARRILLO (16 yrs) George MURRAY, Jr. (11 yrs) Dena HOLLOWAY (7 yrs) Lee HOLLOWAY (7 yrs)</p>	<p><u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWED</u> Roger MARTINSON</p> <p><u>WELCOME ABOARD</u> Whitely C. QUILLEN, Jr. (Snow Hill, MD)</p>

ONE LAST REMINDER

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO

David MILLS Danny PARSONS
 Gene POWELL William WHEATLEY

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE

ALL DETACHMENT MEMBERS THAT ARE NOT "LIFE" MEMBER'S NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NLT AUGUST 31 EACH YEAR

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

Clifford Fridlind, Paymaster
 26267 Evesboro Lane
 Eden, MD 21822-2112
 410-742-7505
plcmlind@juno.com

Lemon Pickers Needed in Florida

Only US citizens or legal immigrants need apply

The newspaper ad read: "*Lemon Pickers Needed...*"

Ms. Sally Mulligan of Coral Springs, Florida read it and decided to apply for one of the jobs that most Americans are not willing to do. She submitted her application for a job in a Florida lemon grove, but she seemed far too qualified for the job.

She has a liberal arts degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Michigan State University.

For a number of years, she had worked as a social worker and also as a school teacher.

The foreman studied her application, frowned and said, "I see that you are well educated and have an impressive resume. However, I have to ask you, have you had any actual experience in picking lemons?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, I have," she said "I've been divorced three times, owned two Chryslers, voted twice for Obama and once for Hillary."

She started work yesterday.

Marines correct 74-year-old Iwo Jima error



The list of heroes immortalized in the iconic photo of the U.S. flag being raised over Iwo Jima has been revised again.

The Marine Corps admitted on Wednesday that for 74 years, it had misidentified one of the six fighting men who appeared in the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal.

The admission came after three historians, using film footage from atop Mount Suribachi and photos taken by other soldiers who were there, concluded that Cpl. Harold "Pie" Keller — not Pfc. Rene Gagnon — was one of the flag-raisers in the photograph.

The findings of historians Stephen Foley, Dustin Spence and Brent Westemeyer were confirmed by a special investigative board convened by the Marines and by investigators from the FBI's Digital Evidence Laboratory.

"Without the initiative and contributions of both private historians devoted to preservation of our history and the FBI's Digital Evidence Laboratory, the Marine Corps would not have this opportunity to expand on the historical record of the second flag rising on Mount Suribachi," the Marine Corps said in a statement. The addition of Keller's name comes three years after an earlier Marine Corps inquiry concluded that Pfc. Harold Schultz was one of the six flag-raisers, not Navy hospital corpsman John Bradley as had been believed for seven decades.

"Regardless of who was in the photograph, each and every Marine who set foot on Iwo Jima, or supported the effort from the sea and air around the island is, and always will be, a part of our Corps' cherished

history," the Marines' statement read. "In the words of General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, 'they are all heroes.'"

The discovery that Keller, a Purple Heart winner who fought in the biggest battles of the Pacific theater, was in the Rosenthal photo came as a shock to his family in Brooklyn, Iowa.

"He never spoke about any of this when we were growing up," Keller's daughter, Kay Maurer, 70, told NBC News. "We knew he fought in the war, we knew he was wounded in the shoulder at one point...But he didn't tell us he helped raise the flag on Mount Suribachi."

There was evidence Keller was there hanging in plain sight on the family's living room wall — a framed photo of another renowned Rosenthal photo from Feb. 23, 1945, the so-called Gung Ho shot of 18 Marines on the summit with the flag in the background, Maurer said.

"Now we know he's in that photo, too," Maurer said of her father, who got his nickname after he ate too much pie before a football game and threw up in front of his friends. "When I would ask him about the photo on our wall, he would say something like, 'That group raised a flag.' He just never spoke much about this when we were growing up."

Keller and Gagnon both died of heart attacks in 1979. Keller was 57 and there was no mention of Iwo Jima in his obituary. Gagnon was 54 when he died seven months later and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His obituary on the cemetery site refers to him as an "Iwo Jima Flag Raiser."

There were actually two Iwo Jima flag-raising on Feb. 23, 1945, to signal that one of the bloodiest battles of World War II was won. The first flag was deemed too small by military brass and replaced a few hours after it went up with a second, larger flag. Rosenthal's prize-winning picture was of the second flag-raising.

"Private First Class Gagnon played a significant role in the flag rising on Mount Suribachi and his role will never be diminished," the Marines said in a statement. "He was directly responsible for getting the larger second flag to the top and returning the first flag for safe keeping. Without his efforts, this historical event might not have been captured, let alone even occurred."

Spence, Foley and Westmeyer are military historians who have long had a keen interest in Iwo Jima and what happened there.

Foley, who is Irish, was one of the two historians who worked on confirming that Schultz was in the Rosenthal photo, not Bradley. Bradley was the subject of the bestseller "Flags of Our Fathers," which was written by his son, James Bradley. It was later turned into a movie by Clint Eastwood.

Maurer said Westmeyer had long harbored suspicions that Gagnon was not one of the six flag raisers. "The first time he thought it might be my dad was because of his stature," she said.

Keller was a strapping, square-jawed Marine while Gagnon was more slender and had a distinctive mole on this face, Westmeyer said.

Westmeyer's suspicions hardened into certainty in 2014 after he immersed himself in the film footage that was taken on the summit by Sgt. Bill Genaust, a Marine cameraman who was killed in action a week later.

"After watching Genaust's footage a thousand times over, I was a 100 percent certain Gagnon was not in the number two position," Westmeyer said.

Westmeyer was referring to the position of the men who appear in the Rosenthal photo, which until Wednesday was, from left to right, Ira Hayes, Schultz, Michael Strank, Franklin Sousley, Gagnon and Harlon Block.

Of the six figures in the photo, the man in the position second from the right is the most obscured in Rosenthal's photo.

Westmeyer, who lives in Iowa, said he shared his belief with Foley via an Iwo Jima forum to which they both belonged. Foley, in turn, had been in contact with the California-based Spence.

"I started peppering Steve, 'It's Harold 'Pie' Keller,'" Westmeyer said.

They compared stills from Genaust's footage with photographs of the scene taken from different vantage points by other photographers who were there, including Army Pft. George Burns. Spence tracked down the Burns photographs at Foley's urging and after reading an NBC News article in 2016 about Burns and another forgotten military photographer, Marine Sgt. Louis Burmeister.

Foley then tracked down a photograph in 2017 taken by Marine Pvt. Bob Campbell, which showed two men saluting as the six men are raising the flag.

Also, a closer look at Rosenthal's prize-winning photo revealed what appeared to be the "reflection of a ring" on the left hand of the man in the second spot, Spence said.

"Keller was married, Gagnon wasn't," Spence said.

In fact, Keller met and married his wife, Ruby, in a "whirlwind romance" while home on leave in February 1944, Spence said.

There were other clues in the photographs they collected, Spence said, like the camouflage pattern and creases on Keller's helmet matching that of the man in the second spot.

But it was a Campbell photo that shows Gagnon, with his telltale mole visible, reaching for the first flag while Keller and the others are raising the second flag on the summit that sealed it for the historians.

"Campbell's Exchange photo was made public many, many moons ago," Westemeyer said. "We simply did not focus on who was lowering number one."

Keller was slated to go to officer training school at Quantico, Virginia, when the war ended and he decided, instead, to go home. He returned to his job as a telephone lineman and raised two sons and his daughter, Kay.

"I think he just came home and wanted to put it all behind him," Maurer said. "Just carry on."

Maurer could recall only a couple of other tidbits from the war that his father told her.

"Once he told me what jungle rot was," she said. "The other thing we knew about was that he got to see Eleanor Roosevelt when she visited the troops."

Maurer said she learned from her mother that her father had nightmares from time to time when he first came home from the war. She said that, in time, they stopped. But habits her father picked up in the service stuck with him.

"When he ate, he would always leave a little food on his plate," Maurer said. "We were always told to clean our plates but he never did. Finally I asked him why and he said: 'When I was in the war, we weren't always sure when we would get our rations. So I would save a bit. I can't break that habit now.'"

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 November 1st, 2019.

[http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20191101%20\(PDF%20Edition\).pdf](http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20191101%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.

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

GOD BLESS AMERICA



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

Good night "Chesty" wherever you are



Update from your editor

It's ironic but the day before last Thanksgiving is when I was transported to the ER, than spent 66 days in the hospital and rehab returning home on January 25, 2019 with a colostomy. On November 27, 2019 the day before this Thanksgiving I will again be going into the hospital for surgery to reverse the colostomy except that if all goes well I will be back home this time within 3 to 4 days but it could be as long as 8 to 9 days. Please keep me in your thoughts and prays. Thank you, Don