

# Semper Fi

## "THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

October 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 November 13<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 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.

**"Membership Happenings"**

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

<p><b><u>NOVEMBER "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u></b> 3rd Bob MILLER      7th Alanel CAPEN <b>10<sup>th</sup> USMC 238<sup>TH</sup></b>      10th Tom PRICE 11th Warner SUMPTER 30th JoAnne MIFFLETON</p>	<p><b><u>NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</u></b> 8th JoAnne &amp; Tom MIFFLETON (5 yrs) 21st Joan &amp; John ROBINSON (15 yrs)</p>
<p><b><u>NOVEMBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u></b> Jimmie Lee HOWARD (43 yrs) Paul WARD (24 yrs)      Jim SIEGEL ((15 yrs) Ralph CAPEN (8 yrs)      Louis SLOWIK (Unk</p>	<p><b><u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN NOVEMBER</u></b> Ralph CAPEN Louis SLOWIK</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**

**MISSION UNIMAGINABLE**

The events of Sept. 11, 2001, put an F-16 pilot into the sky with orders to bring down United Flight 93

By Steve Hendrix, Friday, September 09, 1:20 AM

Late in the morning of the Tuesday that changed everything, Lt. Heather “Lucky” Penney was on a runway at Andrews Air Force Base and ready to fly. She had her hand on the throttle of an F-16 and she had her orders: Bring down United Airlines Flight 93. The day’s fourth hijacked airliner seemed to be hurtling toward Washington. Penney, one of the first two combat pilots in the air that morning, was told to stop it.



“I genuinely believed that was going to be the last time I took off,” says Maj. Heather “Lucky” Penney, remembering the Sept. 11 attacks and the initial U.S. reaction.

The one thing she didn’t have as she roared into the crystalline sky was live ammunition. Or missiles. Or anything at all to throw at a hostile aircraft. Except her own plane. So that was the plan. Because the surprise attacks were unfolding, in that innocent age, faster than they could arm war planes, Penney and her commanding officer went up to fly their jets straight into a Boeing 757.

“We wouldn’t be shooting it down. We’d be ramming the aircraft,” Penney recalls of her charge that day. “I would essentially be a kamikaze pilot.” For years, Penney, one of the first generation of female combat pilots in the country, gave no interviews about her experiences on Sept. 11 <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/9-11>> (which included, eventually, escorting Air Force One back into Washington’s suddenly highly restricted airspace). But 10 years later, she is reflecting on one of the lesser-told tales of that endlessly examined morning: how the first counterpunch the U.S. military prepared to throw at the attackers was effectively a suicide mission.

“We had to protect the airspace any way we could,” she said last week in her office at Lockheed Martin, where she is a director in the F-35 program. Penney, now a major but still a petite blonde with a Colgate grin, is no longer a combat flier. She flew two tours in Iraq and she serves as a part-time National Guard pilot, mostly hauling VIPs around in a military Gulfstream. She takes the stick of her own vintage 1941 Taylorcraft tail-dragger whenever she can.

But none of her thousands of hours in the air quite compare with the urgent rush of launching on what was supposed to be a one-way flight to a mid-air collision. First of her kind.

She was a rookie in the autumn of 2001, the first female F-16 pilot they’d ever had at the 121st Fighter Squadron of the D.C. Air National Guard. She had grown up smelling jet fuel. Her father flew jets in Vietnam and still races them. Penney got her pilot’s license when she was a literature major at Purdue. She planned to be a teacher. But during a graduate program in American studies, Congress opened up combat aviation to women and Penney was nearly first in line.

**“I signed up immediately,” she says. “I wanted to be a fighter pilot like my dad.”**

**On that Tuesday, they had just finished two weeks of air combat training in Nevada. They were sitting around a briefing table when someone looked in to say a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York. When it happened once, they assumed it was some yahoo in a Cessna. When it happened again, they knew it was war. But the surprise was complete. In the monumental confusion of those first hours, it was impossible to get clear orders. Nothing was ready. The jets were still equipped with dummy bullets from the training mission.**

**As remarkable as it seems now, there were no armed aircraft standing by and no system in place to scramble them over Washington. Before that morning, all eyes were looking outward, still scanning the old Cold War threat paths for planes and missiles coming over the polar ice cap. “There was no perceived threat at the time, especially one coming from the homeland like that,” says Col. George Degnon, vice commander of the 113th Wing at Andrews. “It was a little bit of a helpless feeling, but we did everything humanly possible to get the aircraft armed and in the air. It was amazing to see people react.”**

**Things are different today, Degnon says. At least two “hot-cocked” planes are ready at all times, their pilots never more than yards from the cockpit. A third plane hit the Pentagon, and almost at once came word that a fourth plane could be on the way, maybe more. The jets would be armed within an hour, but somebody had to fly now, weapons or no weapons.**

**“Lucky, you’re coming with me,” barked Col. Marc Sasseville.**

**They were gearing up in the pre-flight life-support area when Sasseville, struggling into his flight suit, met her eye. “I’m going to go for the cockpit,” Sasseville said. She replied without hesitating, “I’ll take the tail.” It was a plan. And a pact. ‘Let’s go!’**

**Penney had never scrambled a jet before. Normally the pre-flight is a half-hour or so of methodical checks. She automatically started going down the list. “Lucky, what are you doing? Get your butt up there and let’s go!” Sasseville shouted.**

**She climbed in, rushed to power up the engine, screamed for her ground crew to pull the chocks. The crew chief still had his headphones plugged into the fuselage as she nudged the throttle forward. He ran along pulling safety pins from the jet as it moved forward.**

**She muttered a fighter pilot’s prayer — “God, don’t let me [expletive] up” — and followed Sasseville into the sky.**

**They screamed over the smoldering Pentagon, heading northwest at more than 400 mph, flying low and scanning the clear horizon. Her commander had time to think about the best place to hit the enemy.**

**“We don’t train to bring down airliners,” said Sasseville, now stationed at the Pentagon. “If you just hit the engine, it could still glide and you could guide it to a target. My thought was the cockpit or the wing.”**

**He also thought about his ejection seat. Would there be an instant just before impact?**

**“I was hoping to do both at the same time,” he says. “It probably wasn’t going to work, but that’s what I was hoping.”**

**Penney worried about missing the target if she tried to bail out.**

**“If you eject and your jet soars through without impact . . .” she trails off, the thought of failing more dreadful than the thought of dying.**

**But she didn’t have to die. She didn’t have to knock down an airliner full of kids and salesmen and girlfriends. They did that themselves.**

**It would be hours before Penney and Sasseville learned that United 93 had already gone down in Pennsylvania, an insurrection by hostages willing to do just what the two Guard pilots had been willing to do:**

Anything. And everything. "The real heroes are the passengers on Flight 93 who were willing to sacrifice themselves," Penney says. "I was just an accidental witness to history." She and Sasseville flew the rest of the day, clearing the airspace, escorting the president, looking down onto a city that would soon be sending them to war. She's a single mom of two girls now. She still loves to fly. And she still thinks often of that extraordinary ride down the runway a decade ago.

"I genuinely believed that was going to be the last time I took off," she says. "If we did it right, this would be it."

### IN CASE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN

Corps Values: (excerpt from *Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines*, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

Why U.S. Marines are considered the world's premier warriors? Why? What puts the Marine Corps above the rest? Other military services have rigorous training and weapons of equal or greater lethality. So, why do U.S. Marines stand head and shoulders above the crowd?

The truth lies in the individual Marine. He (or she) did not *join* the Marines. Roughly 40,000 try each year. Those who survive the crucible of Marine basic training have been sculpted in mind and body. They have *become* Marines.

Once he has *earned the title* and entered the Brotherhood of Marines, a new warrior must draw upon the legacy of his Corps. Therein lies his strength. In return, the strength of the Corps lies in the individual Marine. The *character* (often defined as "what you are in the dark") of these warriors is defined by the three constant Corps Values: honor, courage, and commitment.

Honor: Honor requires each Marine to exemplify the ultimate standard in ethical and moral conduct. Honor is many things; honor requires many things. A U.S. Marine must never lie, never cheat, never steal, but that is not enough. Much more is required. Each Marine must cling to an uncompromising code of *personal integrity*, accountable for his actions and holding others accountable for theirs. And, above all, honor mandates that a Marine never sully the reputation of his Corps.

Courage: Simply stated, courage is honor in action -- and more. Courage is moral strength, the will to heed the inner voice of conscience, the will to do what is right regardless of the conduct of others. It is mental discipline, an adherence to a higher standard. Courage means willingness to take a stand for what is right in spite of adverse consequences. This courage, throughout the history of the Corps, has sustained Marines during the chaos, perils, and hardships of combat. And each day, it enables each Marine to look in the mirror -- and smile.

Commitment: Total dedication to Corps and Country. Gung-ho Marine teamwork. All for one, one for all. By whatever name or cliché, commitment is a combination of (1) selfless determination and (2) a relentless dedication to excellence. Marines never give up, never give in, never willingly accept second best. Excellence is always the goal. And, when their active duty days are over, Marines remain reserve Marines, retired Marines, or Marine veterans. There is no such thing as an ex-Marine or former-Marine. Once a Marine, always a Marine. Commitment never dies.

The three Corps Values: honor, courage, commitment. They make up the bedrock of the character of each individual Marine. They are the foundation of his Corps. These three values, handed down from generation to generation, have made U.S. Marines the Warrior Elite. The U.S. Marine Corps: the most respected and revered fighting force on earth.

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

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20131001%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*



The following Marines and/or Corpsman paid the ultimate sacrifice for God, Country and Corps since the last Newsletter

**Collins, Lance Cpl. Jeremiah M.**  
Milwaukee, WI

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

"If the enemy is in range, so are you."

Infantry Journal

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed."

U.S Air Force Manual

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

General Douglas MacArthur

"Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo."

Infantry Journal

"You, you, and you .. Panic. The rest of you, come with me."

U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant

LINKS TO CHECK

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=LemllfcAY8A&sns=em](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=LemllfcAY8A&sns=em)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaiMASPSrw>  
<http://voxvocispublicus.homestead.com/morrow.html>

# **God Bless America**

*-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --*