

# *Semper Fi*

## "THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

March 2011 Edition



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*Detachment # 115*  
*Salisbury, MD*

### MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 13th, 2011 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.

### DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2011 - 2012

*Commandant: Andy Bouma*

Senior Vice Commandant: Bob Miller  
Junior Past Commandant: Jim Siegel  
Paymaster: Jim Siegel  
Sgt-At-Arms: Walt Cohee

Junior Vice Commandant: Ed Elder  
Judge Advocate: Ed Hearthway  
Adjutant: Richard Hyson  
Chaplain: Jim Siegel

Web Sergeant: Don Elseroad

### Important April Dates

April 1st



April 24th



### "Calendar of Events"

Department of Maryland  
*SPRING STAFF MEETING*  
Hosted by Harford County Detachment 1198  
Jarrettsville VFW Post 8672  
1714 Morse Rd  
Forest Hill, MD 21050  
Saturday, March 26, 2011

May 5 thru 7, 2011: The Department of MD convention will be held at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center in Ocean City, MD. Additional information on the Princess Royal is on the following link:

<http://www.princessroyale.com/>

All forms and information on the convention are available on the following links:

[http://deptofmdmcl.org/Other/DptMD\\_2011\\_ConventionAnnouncement.pdf](http://deptofmdmcl.org/Other/DptMD_2011_ConventionAnnouncement.pdf)

Entertainment Special Event May 6 -- "Magic Man & Patti"

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Should anyone desire to place an Ad in the convention book, please contact your Editor or Marine Ed Hearthway for instructions as they need to be processed through the detachment. By doing this the detachment receive 50% of all Ad proceeds over and above \$300.

**June 3 thru 5, 2011:** Mid-East Division Conference. Complete information and forms may be viewed and downloaded from our web site:  
<http://www.mcltreacoheedet115.org/calendar.htm>

**July 31, 2011/August 6, 2011:** 88th National Marine Corps League convention is to be held in Boise, Idaho. Full information is not available; however hotel reservations can be made and the sooner the better if you even think you will be attending as the main hotel normally fills up quickly. You can always cancel your reservations if need be. Room rates are \$86.00 per night plus taxes. For reservations call (208) 343-1871 and go to <http://www.boiseriverside.doubletree.com> for more information on the hotel. BE SURE TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS WITH THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TO RECEIVE THE GROUP RATE. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members Ed MIHALIK, Paul WARD, Jr., Louis SLOWIK, Ralph SMITH, Jimmie Lee HOWARD, Gloria HOWARD is having or has 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)

APRIL "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"

6th Kevin GRIFFIN  
19th Richard HYSON  
27th Ed ELDER  
29th Jeanne COHEE

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

None

APRIL MCL ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph BACHTLER (16 yrs)  
'Josh' KELLEY (7 yrs)  
Danny PARSONS (1 yr)

Paul TOMKO, Sr. (Unk)

WELCOME ABOARD

*Recruit None Recruit*

Membership's Renewed

None Reported

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN APRIL

Joseph BACHTLER  
'Josh' KELLEY  
Danny PARSONS  
Paul TOMKO, Sr.

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE

Please send your \$22.00 checks made payable to "MCL Det 115" to our paymaster  
Jim Siegel, Paymaster  
30245 Southampton Bridge Rd  
Salisbury, MD 21804-2475

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**

Life Membership Dues

AGE GROUP	As of 01/01/2009
0 - 35	\$500
36 - 50	\$400
51 - 60	\$300
61 - Over	\$150

To become a Life Member, you must already be a "Member in Good Standing". That means becoming a member and paying your initial dues first. Yes, according to the Bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.

**REMEMBER:** Membership is not limited to just MARINES and FMF Corpsmen. There are family members, friends, etc., out there that have served in other branches of our Armed Forces or for one

reason or another never served in the Armed Forces. Talk to them!!! They can become "Associate Members" in the Marine Corps League and we would be honored to have them join us.

### OPERATION WE CARE

OWC is a local organization that supports our troops in harm's way by sending them care packages.

Jeff Merritt will be hosting the first "Packing Party" for 2011 at the Powellville Fire Hall on May 22nd. Volunteer help is needed on that date from 10:00 a.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m.

Donations are needed for these 'Care Packages' as well as monetary donations which are used for the postage involved in mailing the packages.

Full information on the "What", "When" "Where" "Why" and "How" is now available on OWC new web-site. PLEASE check out their web-site to see how you can help.

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

### EVERY DAY PRAYER REQUEST

Life in Iraq and 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."

### *Speaking of Prayer how many remember*

#### THE MARINE CORPS PRAYER

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold. If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me

strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me the wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.

### Esprit de Corps

Ask a Marine what's so special about the Marines and the answer would be "esprit de corps", an unhelpful French phrase that means exactly what it looks like - the spirit of the Corps. But what is that spirit, and where does it come from?

The Marine Corps is the only branch of the U.S. armed forces that recruits people specifically to fight. The Army emphasizes personal development (an army of one), the Navy promises fun (let the journey begin), and the Air Force offers security (it's a great way of life). Missing from all of these advertisements is the hard fact that it is a soldier's trade to suffer and perhaps to die for his country, and to take lives at the risk of his own. Even the music of the services reflects this evasion. The Army's Caisson Song describes a pleasant country outing over hill and dale, lacking only a picnic basket. Anchors Aweigh, the Navy's celebration of the joys of sailing, could have been penned by Jimmy Buffet. The Air Force song is a lyric poem of blue skies and engine thrust. All is joyful and invigorating, and safe. There are no landmines in the dales nor snipers behind the hills, no submarines or cruise missiles threaten the ocean jaunt, no bandits are lurking in the wild blue yonder.

The Marines' Hymn, by contrast, is all combat. We fight our country's battles, first to fight for right and freedom, we have fought in every clime and place where we could take a gun, in many a strife we've fought for life.

The choice is made clear. You may join the Army to go to adventure training, or join the Navy to go to Bangkok, or join the Air Force to go to computer school. You join the Marines to go to war.

By signing the enlistment contract grants no status in the Corps either. The Army recruit is told from his first minute in uniform that "you're in the Army now, soldier". Navy and Air Force enlistees are sailors or airmen as soon as they get off the bus at the training center. The new arrival at Marine Corps boot camp is called recruit, or private, or worse (much worse), but not Marine. Not yet; maybe not ever. He or she must earn the right to claim the title, and failure returns you to civilian life without hesitation or ceremony. During the Vietnam era when the Marines were

taking a many as two hundred casualties a week drill instructors had no qualms about weeding out a quarter of their recruits, graduating only the best. Note that this was post-enlistment attrition; every one of those who were dropped had been passed by the recruiters as fit for service. But they failed the test of boot camp, not necessarily for physical reasons (at least two were outstanding high-school athletes for whom the calisthenics and running were child's play). The cause of their failure was not in the biceps or the legs, but in the spirit. They had lacked the will to endure the mental and emotional strain, so they would not be Marines. Heavy commitments and high casualties notwithstanding, the Corps reserves the right to pick and choose.

The normal boot camp was a twelve-week course of training. Chemical warfare training, swimming classes, hand-to-hand combat, close order drill, the ultimate discipline builder; marksmanship training, the heart of combat effectiveness; and classes on the history, customs and traditions of the Corps.

History classes in boot camp? Stop a soldier on the street and ask him to name a battle of World War One. Pick a sailor at random to describe the epic fight of the Bon Homme Richard. Everyone has heard of McGuire Air Force Base, so ask any airman who Major Thomas B. McGuire was, and why he is so commemorated. I am not nit-picking, and there is no scorn in this criticism. All of the services have glorious traditions, the point I'm making is that no one teaches the young soldier, sailor or airman what his uniform means and why he should be proud to wear it.

But ask a Marine about World War I, and you will hear of the wheat field at Belleau Wood and the courage of the Fourth Marine Brigade. Faced with an enemy of superior numbers entrenched in tangled forest undergrowth, the Marines received an order to attack. It was insane. Artillery support hadn't been invented yet, so the Brigade charged German machine guns with only bayonets, grenades and a determined fighting spirit. A bandy-legged little barrel of a gunnery sergeant, Daniel J. Daly, rallied his company with a shout. "Come on, you sons a bitches! Do you want to live forever?" and they would have given him the Medal of Honor except for a technicality. He already had two. French liaison officers, hardened by four years of trench bound slaughter, were shocked as the Marines charged across the open wheat field under a blazing sun and directly into enemy fire. Their action was so outdated on a twentieth-century battlefield that they might as

well have been swinging swords. But the enemy was only human; they couldn't stand up to this. So the Marines took Belleau Wood.

Every Marine knows this story, and dozens more. Stories that include names like Tripoli, Okinawa, Pelilu, Iwo Jima, Kae Shan and most recently names like Falluja, Nasiriya, Najaf, and Tikrit. We are taught them in boot camp as a regular part of the training. Every Marine will always be taught them. You can learn to don a gas mask anytime, even on the plane en route to a war zone, but before you can wear the emblem and claim the title you must know of the Marines who made that emblem and title meaningful. So long as you can march and shoot and admire the legacy of the Corps, you can take your place in the line.

And that line is unified in spirit as in purpose. A soldier wears branch of service insignia on his collar, and metal shoulder pins and cloth sleeve patches to identify his unit. Sailors wear a rating badge that identifies what they do for the Navy. Marines wear only the eagle, globe and anchor, together with personal ribbons and their prized marksmanship badges. There is nothing on a Marine's uniform to indicate what he or she does, or what unit the Marine belongs to. You can't tell by looking at a Marine whether you are seeing a truck driver, a computer operator, or a machine gunner. The Corps explains this as a security measure to conceal the identity and location of units, but the Marines define that differently. No, the Marine is nebulous, even anonymous (we finally agreed to wear nametags only in 1992), and by conscious design. Every Marine is a rifleman first and foremost, a Marine first, last and always. You may serve a four-year enlistment or even a twenty-year career without seeing action, but if the word is given you'll charge across that wheat field. Whether a Marine has been schooled in automated supply, or automotive mechanics, or aviation electronics, is immaterial. Those things are secondary - the Corps does them because it must. The modern battle requires the technical appliances, and since the enemy has them, so do we. But no Marine brags perfection of them. Our pride is in our marksmanship, our discipline, and our membership in a fraternity of courage and sacrifice.

The Marines have become a wholly American institution -- like baseball players, cowboys, and astronauts -- in the eyes of most Americans. Marines indeed may be extreme, but America loves them, extremism and all. And fortunately for America, her enemies in the war against terror will continue to shudder upon hearing, "the

Marines have landed."

"For the honor of the fallen, for the glory of the dead", Edgar Guest wrote of Belleau Wood, "The living line of courage kept the faith and moved ahead." They are all gone now, those Marines who made a French farmer's little wheat field into one of the most enduring of Marine Corps legends. Many of them did not survive the day. But their action has made them immortal. The Corps remembers them and honors what they did, and so they live forever. Dan Daly's shouted challenge takes on its true meaning - if you hide in the trenches you may survive for now, but someday you will die and no one will care. If you charge the guns you may die in the next two minutes, but you will be one of the immortals. **All Marines die, in the red flash of battle or the white cold of a nursing home. In the vigor of youth or the infirmity of age all will eventually die, but the Marine Corps lives on. Every Marine who ever lived is living still, in the Marines who claim the title today. It is that sense of belonging to something that will outlive your own mortality that gives people a light to live by and a flame to mark their passing.**

#### Last living US WWI vet dies in W. Va.

Repeatedly rejected by military recruiters Frank Buckles got into uniform at 16 after lying about his age. But Frank Buckles would later become the last surviving U.S. veteran of World War I.

Buckles, who also survived being a civilian POW in the Philippines in World War II, died of natural causes Sunday February 27, 2011 at his home in Charles Town, biographer and family spokesman David DeJonge said in a statement. He was 110.



The following Marines/Corpsman paid the ultimate sacrifice for God, Country and Corps since the last issue of 'The Scuttlebutt' was published.

[Pyeatt, Cpl Lucas](#)  
West Chester, OH

[Swanson, Lance Cpl Aaron](#)  
Jamestown, NY

[Carpenter, Lance Cpl Andrew](#)

Columbia, TN

[Devoung, Sgt Matthew](#)

Talent, OR  
[Taylor, Cpl Johnathan](#)  
Homosassa, FL  
[Stanton, Cpl. Jordan R.](#)  
Rancho Santa Margarita,  
CA

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

Links to check out

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dvn/content/article/2011/03/01/AR2011030106355\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dvn/content/article/2011/03/01/AR2011030106355_pf.html)

[http://www.v-prod.com/trailer\\_vietnam.html](http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BV\\_xZbCTR4&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BV_xZbCTR4&feature=related)

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/qH2ybYs6ebc>  
<http://www.thewarriorsong.com/video.html>

<http://www.tailsp.in/aircraft-carrier-uss-john-c-stennis-launching-aircraft>

# Semper Ji

and good night "Chesty" wherever  
you are



-- Once a Marine, Always a  
Marine --

## God Bless America

If you can read this thank a Teacher.  
If you're reading it in English thank the Military.

All gave some...  
Some gave all

Two more local Marines who gave their all in Viet Nam. You can click on each Marine's full profile for complete information on when, where and how they died.

If you lost a relative or friend in Viet Nam all you need know is their name and home state and you can look them up on the 'Virtual Wall' link below.  
<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

## Robert Wilson Brown, Jr

Captain  
US AGENCY FOR INT DEVELOP, AMEMBASSY RVN  
United States Marine Corps

Centreville, Maryland  
September 04, 1941 to February 26, 1968  
**ROBERT W BROWN Jr** is on the Wall at [Panel 41E](#)  
[Line 036](#)

See the [full profile](#) for Robert Brown



## Harvey Raymond Watson

Corporal  
W BTRY, 2ND BN, 11TH MARINES, 1ST MARDIV,  
III MAF

United States Marine Corps  
Hebron, Maryland  
April 13, 1949 to July 26, 1969  
**HARVEY R WATSON** is on the Wall at [Panel 20W](#)  
[Line 052](#)

See the [full profile](#) for Harvey Watson



*You cannot exaggerate about the Marines. They are convinced to the point of arrogance, that they are the most ferocious fighters on earth- and the amusing thing about it is that they are.*

Father Kevin Keaney  
1st Marine Division Chaplain  
Korean War