

# *Semper Fi*

## "THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

October 2011 Edition



*Don Elseroad, Editor*  
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*SSgt Walter F. "Trae" Cohee III*

*Detachment # 115*

*Salisbury, MD*

*Original Charter Date May 10, 1970*

### 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

### MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 9th, 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.

#### Important November Dates

November 6



November 10



November 11



November 24



**February 16 thru 18, 2012:** The Marine Corps League Mid-Winter National Staff Conference will be held at the Tysons Corner Marriott in Vienna, VA.

The room rate is \$95 per night, single or double. Please make your room reservation directly to the *Tysons Corner Marriott* no later than January 20, 2012 at (703)734-3200. Be sure to tell them you are with the Marine Corps League.

More information will be provided when it becomes available.

**August 12 thru 18, 2012:** The P.L. Wilson Detachment #447 of the Marine Corps League will host the 2012 National Convention in Mobile, AL. Initial information can be found on the following link.  
<http://www.mobilemarines.org/2012Natl.html>  
More information will be provided as it becomes available.

### "Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members Don ELSEROD, 'Missy' HYSON wife of our Adjutant Richard HYSON, and Barbara MERRITT mother of member Jeff MERRITT are 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)

### NOVEMBER "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"

3rd Bob MILLER  
7th Alanel CAPEN  
10<sup>th</sup> USMC 236<sup>TH</sup>  
10th Tom PRICE  
11th Warner SUMPTER  
13th Dorothy HORTIE  
30th JoAnne MIFFLETON

### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

8th JoAnne & Tom MIFFLETON (3 yrs)  
21st Joan & John ROBINSON (13 yrs)

### NOVEMBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES

Jimmie Lee HOWARD (41 yrs)  
Paul WARD (22 yrs)  
Jim SIEGEL ((13 yrs)  
Ralph CAPEN (6 yrs)  
Louis SLOWIK (Unk)

### WELCOME ABOARD

None

### MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED

None

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN NOVEMBER

Ralph CAPEN  
Louis SLOWIK

### 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.

### BACK IN TIME WITH MARINE ROBERT HORTIE A MEMBER OF THE DETACHMENT SINCE 2003

It was in October 1946 that Robert Hortie, at 17 years of age enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. The country was at war but by the end of December, World War II had ended and Hortie, now 81, is still considered a WWII veteran.

After the war, he was assigned to Camp Lejeune, N.C., until 1949, and then sent to Korea in 1950,

where he saw his first combat. He and his wife, Dorothy, were married three days before he left for Korea. It was 1951 where the 20 years old, near Ascom City, Korea, on the way to Seoul with fellow troops was wounded in the head and leg when a hand grenade exploded.

"We got into a firefight with the enemy. I was walking. We ran into the enemy. They were shooting at us. I decided I was going to attack. I threw a hand grenade," he said.

I don't think it was patriotism that made me do it, no. When you're in a situation like that, you are inclined to be very alert. You aren't anxious to lay there. You need to be moving. It was our responsibility. We were there to attack the enemy. We were going to attack Seoul, to take Seoul. You know the enemy is shooting at you," he said.

His wounds were treated aboard a naval ship that was a personnel carrier set up as a hospital; he was in a hurry to leave.

I couldn't stand it. They were all Navy. I convinced the commanding officer I was well enough to leave. I had a gash in my head. I wasn't thinking about being in pain because there is too much adrenaline and anxiety, I guess," he said one recent afternoon at the kitchen table of the Salisbury home he shares with his wife. The couple has eight children.

He was decorated for his bravery. His many medals, including the Purple Heart for injury and Bronze Star for valor, are neatly framed with other medals and his dog tags. A U.S. Marine Corps flag flies in front of the U.S. flag at his home and he was wearing a red U.S. Marines polo shirt.

Hortie, who was in four campaigns, was one of the first in his company to come back to the U.S. after the Korean War. The entire time he was there, he was in combat, battle after battle, for nine months.

"You don't think about it. You don't think about being afraid. Later you think, 'That was terrible,' "he said.

He asked for a leave, was granted 30 days and filled them by working with a carpenter.

"I needed something to do," he said.

Afterward, he requested an additional 30 days, then went back into the service.

During his military career he worked as a sentry, or security guard, manning gates at the Naval

Ammunition Depot in Indiana, was a military police chief in the late 1950s, operations chief at a supply depot and an instructor who taught second lieutenants and drill sergeant.

Following his discharged in Arlington, he then transferred to the Fleet Marine Force, part of the reserve force, for 10 years.

Afterward, he sold life insurance, sold and installed window covering products and built houses. He and his wife, who is from Indiana, moved to Salisbury in 1996.

"I came from a farm in Massachusetts and it was not what I wanted. I just wasn't happy with life on the farm. Being in the Marines taught me self-discipline, a good work ethic. I tried to instill that in all my children," he said. "Being in the Marine Corps was the best experience of my life."

### REUNION 2<sup>ND</sup> Battalion 1<sup>st</sup> Marines Korea

SSgt Ralph Smith (Ret. 1965), GySgt Bob Hortie (Ret. 1966) joined fellow Marines of 2-1 at Quantico Va. the week of Oct 3-7<sup>th</sup> for their 2011 reunion. Some highlights of the week: We stayed at the Crossroads Inn which is across the street from the Officers and Staff NCO clubs. Prices are very reasonable with continental breakfast provided each morning.

*Mon Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> -*

Registered followed by a meet and greet time with fellow Marines in Hospitality room.

*Tues Oct 4<sup>th</sup> -*

We boarded buses for a trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. This museum is a beautiful work of art. Several of the galleries can create an emotional and moving experience. After five hours of touring we were tired and hungry. The mess hall is on the second deck next to an active replica of Tun Tavern. We enjoyed a nice lunch at a very reasonable price. And then visited the huge gift shop where the prices are approximately 20 – 30 % higher than the Marine Corps Exchange (PX).

We enjoyed dinner that evening on the patio of the Globe and Laurel Restaurant in Stafford Va. The restaurant is owned by Ret. Major Spooner who is 86 yrs. old. Ralph, I and my son Ron joined the Major, the battalion commander of 2/8, his company officer's and the battalion Sgt Major for a three hour bull session of war stories and other topics. Wine, beer, scotch and bulldog cigars were enjoyed by all. (Note: 2/8 has just returned from Afghanistan and is reorganizing at Quantico.

(Ralph is a friend of the Major so we had an inside track to meet with him.)

*Wed Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> -*

The group boarded buses for a two hour trip to Saluda Va. to pay tribute to Lt Gen Chesty Puller. Saluda is Chesty's hometown and also his and family's resting place. A memorial service was held in a small church which was built in 1666. Memorial services were conducted by Col. George Van Sant (Ret) and Rev Paul Anderson rector of Christ Church. Color Guard was provided by Det 1062 MCL. Bag Pipe music and taps provided by Lt. Col. Jeff Christman (Ret). Singing of the Lord's prayer was by SSgt Bill Chain. Graveside services by Rev Anderson. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. memorial gifts were presented by Col Van Sant. Following the services a delicious lunch was served in the parish hall.

*Thurs Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> -*

Today was a guided bus tour of Quantico Marine Base, mainside and the Basic School. The morning highlight was visiting the archives where the historical records of the Corps are stored and maintained. Following the mainside tour we went to Camp Barrett where the Basic School is located. The Basic School is where all new Second Lieutenants receive six month of leadership training and to further become well versed in all aspects of the Marine Corps. Lunch was served in the Officers' mess hall and we stood in a regular chow line for food. We slowly made our way to a table. There are approximately forty to fifty, eight person tables and at each table were at least two Second Lieutenants who socialized with us throughout lunch. At our table one Lieutenant had been there about four months and the other Lieutenant had been in the Corps for 9 yrs. and recently returned from Iraq, where he had received a field commission and was now receiving his six months of officers training. Both officers were from Austin Texas. Following lunch was a martial arts demonstration, actually hand to hand combat. It was an excellent and exciting demonstration by four enlisted instructors. Our Marines today are far better prepared for combat than we were sixty years ago. But that is the Corps, always making 'em better.

*Friday Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> -*

Today we are taking a guided bus tour of Washington DC. Our first stop was the Iwo Jima Statue. We visited there for about 30 minutes, took several group photos and a lot of individual shots. We then moved on to the Korean War Memorial where a twenty minute wreath laying ceremony was planned and carried out by Bill Alli and Col Van Sant. Conducting the ceremony was

a challenge because there were literally thousands of visitors on the mall grounds but, we got 'er done. We then boarded our buses and headed to the Capitol Visitors Center. We drove by the humongous World War II Memorial and then on to the west side (front) of the Capitol Building, where we were dropped off. The cafeteria however is on the east side of the building, about half a mile from our drop off point. We were able to catch a shuttle to the entrance. Getting to the cafeteria was another challenge for some. You must go through security quite similar to the airport security except we did not have to remove our shoes. We ordered two ham sandwiches, one wrap, two waters and a soft drink for \$38.00. (Only thirteen dollars for sandwiches and water), this was not a good deal. We then returned to our buses for the trip back to Quantico. The ride back to Quantico took about one and half hours, which gave us plenty of time to catch some zzzzz's. A good marine never misses an opportunity for zee time.

This evening is our farewell banquet at the officers club with cocktails at six and dinner at seven. Our guest of honor was Mary H Nihart age 90, wife of Col F. Brook Nihart, former commanding officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 1<sup>st</sup> Marines (died in Korea).

All things considered 2/1 had an excellent reunion thanks to George Coyle, Dan Savino, Bill Alli and Col Van Sant.

Our next reunion is scheduled for 2013 in Reno Nevada. Dates TBD later in George's Newsletter.

Semper Fi & Warm regards to all,  
Bob Hortie



Official Christmas Collector's Ornament's  
From The Charleston Mint, Brevard, NC.  
24K gold-on-brass.

For years the Charleston Mint has been helping Marines celebrate Christmas with a special Toy for Tots tree ornament. There has been a different ornament each Christmas and the SSgt Cohee Detachment has purchased a number of ornaments each year at a cost of \$7.50 and sold them for \$10.00 each. All proceeds from sales have gone to our Toys for Tots campaign and will continue to do so.

At the present time, there are a number of ornaments for various years remaining. If you are interested in purchasing one or more ornaments, please contact Marine Ed Hearthway our Judge Advocate /Toys for Tots coordinator at 410-860-0167 or by email at [Hearthway@aol.com](mailto:Hearthway@aol.com) All proceeds from the sale of the ornaments goes to the SSgt Cohee Detachment and without their support, Toys for Tots would not exist. The cost of each ornament is \$10.00 and there is no charge for shipping for those Marines living in the "hinterlands". Should anyone want an ornament from one of the years where none are available, we may be able to order for those years. Please have all requests to Marine Hearthway by November 10, 2012. All checks should be made payable to: SSgt Cohee Detachment; cash is also accepted.

The following years and number of ornaments are available:

2011 (1 ornament)  
2010 (8 ornaments)  
2009 (None)  
2008 (5 ornaments)  
  
2007 (6 ornaments)  
2006 (10 ornaments)  
2005 (6 ornaments)  
2004 (2 ornaments)  
2003 (None)  
2002 (1 ornament)

### RAO BULLETINS

Each month your editor attempts to review all RAO Bulletins and put articles deemed important to veterans into our newsletters and I will continue to do so. 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 ALL current bulletins so that you might look them over. These bulletins are up-dated on or about the 1st and 15th of each month.

[http://post\\_119\\_gulfport\\_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html](http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html)

### Military Retiree COLA Watch

Week of October 10, 2011

According to the Military Officers Association of America, the inflation rate rose 0.3% in August. This may result in a 2012 Military Retiree COLA rate of 3.7% - and a similar increase in social security, survivor benefit plan and veterans disability compensation. This will likely mean that 2012 will bring the first increase in two years. However, there are some other factors that could change that forecast.

Read the [Military Advantage blog](#) to learn more.

### TRICARE Script Rates to Change

In an effort to encourage beneficiaries to use the Home Delivery option, TRICARE will soon change their pharmacy copayments. As of Oct. 1, 2011, copayments for generic prescription medications will be free of charge for 90 day supplies through TRICARE Home Delivery; while the copayment for the same medication will increase from \$3 to \$5 at retail pharmacies. Other rates will also change.

### Statistics of the Vietnam Wall

#### Our society teaches us that nothing important happened before yesterday.

"Carved on these walls is the story of America , of a continuing quest to preserve both democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream."

SOMETHING to think about - Most of the surviving Parents are now Deceased

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010. The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties. Beginning at the apex on panel 1E and going out to the end of the East wall, appearing to recede into the earth (numbered 70E - May 25, 1968), then resuming at the end of the West wall, as the wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W - continuing May 25, 1968) and ending with a date in 1975. Thus the war's beginning and end meet. The war is complete, coming full circle, yet broken by the earth that bounds the angle's open side and contained within the earth itself.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth , Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger. The largest age group, 8,283, were just 19 years old; 3,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old. 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.  
Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.  
54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School  
in Philadelphia .... Wonder why so many from one  
school?

8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.  
244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor  
during the Vietnam War—153 of them are on the  
Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475, lost 6 of  
her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per  
capita in the nation. There are 711 West  
Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the  
scrappiest high school football and basketball  
teams that the little Arizona copper town of  
Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and  
cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In  
quieter moments, they rode horses along the  
Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache  
National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie  
typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine  
graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in  
the Marine Corps. Their service began on  
Independence Day, 1966. Only three returned  
home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy  
Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends  
and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale,  
Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They  
lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at  
the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went  
to Vietnam ... In a span of 16 dark days in late  
1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed  
on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of  
John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less  
than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom  
was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7,  
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on  
January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was  
May 1968 ~ 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only  
see the numbers that the Vietnam War created.  
To those of us who survived the war, and to the  
families of those who did not, we see the faces, we  
feel the pain that these numbers created. We are,  
until we too pass away, haunted with these  
numbers, because they were our fellow servicemen  
and women, friends, fathers, husbands, wives,  
sons and daughters.

There are no noble wars, just noble warriors

#### 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."



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

Lundy, Petty Officer 'Doc' Brian K.

Austin, TX

Dutcher, Cpl. Michael J.

Asheville, NC

Wright, Lance Cpl. Terry C.

Scio, OH

Watson, Lance Cpl. Franklin N.

Vonore, TN

Wimpey Cagle, Lance Cpl. John R.

Tucker, GA

Sprovtsoff, Staff Sgt. Nicholas A.

Davison, MI

Diaz, Sgt. Christopher

Albuquerque, MN

Schmidt, Cpl. Benjamin W.

San Antonio, TX

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

### Quotes about Marines

The wonderful love of a beautiful maid,  
The love of a staunch true man,  
The love of a baby, unafraid,  
Have existed since time began.

But the greatest of loves, The quintessence of  
loves,  
even greater than that of a mother,  
Is the tender, passionate, infinite love,  
of one drunken Marine for another.

"Semper Fidelis"

### LINKS TO CHECK OUT

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDOzF7B2Kg&feature=share>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KGHhEJdfM>

# Semper Ji

and good night "Chesty" wherever  
you are



-- Once a Marine, Always a  
Marine --

God Bless America