



# DISPATCHES

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

ISSUE 4 – 2009

PO Box 983 Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0983

December 2009

### ***Detachment gains honor for work on Marine Week***

The Northwest Suburban Detachment has been awarded a national-level Meritorious Unit Commendation for its contribution to the success of Marine Week in Chicago May 11-17.

In addition, individual Distinguished Service awards went to John Colas, Dan Flynn, Jake Gallagher, John McDermott Sr., Dick Ohman, Phil Wicklein and Dick Whitney.

Jim Murray, Chuck Shields, Bob Sturlini, Jess Zuno and Fred Foy received individual Meritorious Service awards.

District 2 Commandant Marty Smith presented the awards at the detachment's regular meeting Oct. 21. As a result, all who were members of the detachment during the period of Marine Week in Chicago are authorized to wear the National Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon.

"Headquarters Marine Corps sprung Marine Week on us with not much advance warning," Smith said. "But I had to make only one phone call and you guys came through."

Marine Week brought 2,000 Marines from bases around the country to present displays, demonstrations and performances throughout the Chicago area.

Detachment members helped with events at O'Hare International Airport and Arlington Park Racetrack. And in its own contribution to Marine Week, the detachment dedicated a stone marker and plaque honoring Marines who fought in the battle of Belleau Wood in France in June 1918. The ceremony, organized by John Colas, took place at the Belleau Wood monument site in DesPlaines.

***Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year***



*At the Toys for Tots kickoff dinner, Judge Advocate Dick Whitney (center), is flanked by Sgt. Michael Kacanowski (left) of Calumet City, IL, and LCpl. Joseph Kline of Verona, VA, both members of MACG 48 at Naval Station Great Lakes.*

### ***Toys for Tots***

The 2009 Toys for Tots campaign is winding down, with pickups from at least 10 drop boxes at area locations scheduled for Friday, Dec. 18. Those who want to help should meet at the Arlington Heights American Legion post at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 18.

About 75 detachment members and guests generated \$500 and more than 100 toys at the campaign's kickoff dinner Oct. 2 at Manzo's, DesPlaines. The affair was organized by Dick and Gloria Ohman, with assistance from Hormel Company and Gourmet Food Brokers.

Speakers were Col. Roy Arnold USMCR, president of Arlington Raceway, and Maj. Matthew Tracy USMC, commanding officer, Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Chicago. Items donated for a silent auction were a K-Bar knife and an American flag that has flown over Marine Corps headquarters in Baghdad. Raffle prizes included a television set, boom box, GPS device and luggage.

More photos from the dinner are on page 5

## **Detachment officers**

**Commandant:** Bob Sturlini 847-259-1730  
**Sr. Vice:** Dick Ohman 847-817-8477  
**Jr. Vice:** Fred Foy 847-577-1337  
**Judge Advocate:** Dick Whitney 847-253-7077  
**Paymaster:** Chuck Shields 847-398-2316  
**Adjutant:** Vacant  
**Sgt-at-Arms:** John McDermott 847-253-3258  
**Chaplain:** Sam Tzakis 847-549-0935  
**Quartermaster:** Al Kolodziej 847-827-9321

### **Trustees**

**Past Commandant** Jake Gallagher 847-692-4797  
Woody Hughes 847-537-4559  
George Westwood 847-670-0232  
Ken Parrish 847-541-0981  
Jim Murray 847-392-3410  
**Dispatches editor:** Fred Foy  
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The Detachment meets at Merle Guild Post 208, American Legion, 121 N. Douglas Ave. at Miner Street, Arlington Heights. General meetings begin at 1930 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Staff meetings begin at 1900 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month.

## ***Commandant's message***

As we end the year 2009, the Northwest Suburban Detachment looks forward to participation in two new projects in 2010: the Eagle Scout Program and the Wounded Warrior Regiment. I am pleased to announce that John McDermott Jr. has volunteered to coordinate the Eagle Scout Program. Through this program the detachment honors members of local Boy Scout troops who have achieved the rank of Eagle by presenting them with a Certificate of Commendation from the United States Marine Corps. The detachment will be notified of upcoming Eagle Scout ceremonies, and will ask for your attendance and participation in recognizing these young men who have attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

The second program is the Wounded Warrior Regiment, which assists wounded Marines and those wounded in support of Marines. This nationwide project can give specific purpose to our fundraising events. SSgt. Rhome Gozun, staff NCO, Midwest District Injured Warrior Cell, USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment, will give a presentation at our December meeting.

In closing, I wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and wonderful holiday season.

*Semper Fidelis*  
*Bob Sturlini*

## ***In Memoriam***

Twenty detachment members attended the memorial service for longtime member and former Commandant Ron Fenton Oct. 7 at the Ahlgrim funeral home, Palatine. Ron, who served during the Korean conflict, died Oct. 2 at the age of 75. Near the end of the service, each member individually approached the urn containing Ron's ashes, rendered a slow salute and placed a flower. Dick Ohman played taps.

The detachment has received the following letter from Susan Kovitz-Tasky, Ron's daughter:

*Gentlemen,*

*What an amazing display of brotherhood you all provided at my Dad, Ron Fenton's, funeral service on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009 at the Ahlgrim Funeral Home in Palatine, IL.*

*The flower presentation ceremony that you provided was so moving to watch as each veteran proudly saluted the American flag then turned to present the "slow salute" to my Dad as you placed a red carnation in his honor. When you played "taps" at the end of your ceremony the emotion of the moment was truly moving. The guests at the service have told our family how patriotic your ceremony was to watch.*

*I know my Dad, with all his heart, enjoyed each one of you and he was SO PROUD to be a part of your company. I wish each one of you all the best and I know you all proudly carry on in the "Semper Fi" legacy of the Marines.*

*I salute each one of you with a proud "OO-RAH."*

Sadly, no detachment honors were rendered for member John J. Kaplafka, who died last January. We did not learn about John's death until his name appeared in the "taps" column of the November/December 2009 issue of *Semper Fi* magazine. The detachment has made a donation in his memory to the Arlington Heights Lions Club. Please inform Chaplain Sam Tzakis or another officer if you learn of the death or illness of any detachment member.

## ***Chaplain's report***

Commandant Bob Sturlini is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Judge Advocate Dick Whitney has been in and out of the hospital for a month, undergoing tests.

If you are interested in visiting Marine patients at the hospital at Naval Station Great Lakes, please contact Sam Tzakis at 847-549-0935. Patients appreciate the companionship. Marine Corps League members are the only visitors that some of them ever see.

## **Wounded Warrior Regiment**

The detachment is considering a major donation to the Wounded Warrior Regiment, a Marine Corps project that helps wounded Marines recover by grouping them together in Wounded Warrior Barracks. Members of other armed services wounded in action while serving with Marines are also eligible.

SSgt. Rhome Guzon of 2/24, Waukegan, is scheduled to explain the program at the detachment's December regular meeting. SSgt. Guzon is NCO in Charge for the Midwest region of the Injured Support Cell for the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

The detachment will listen to SSgt. Guzon's presentation before voting whether or not to approve a donation. The detachment's financial status will also be considered before a final decision is reached.

LtCol. Timothy Maxwell helped found the Wounded Warrior Barracks in 2005 after suffering a severe brain injury in 2004, when his base in Iraq was mortared. While being treated for his injuries, LtCol. Maxwell decided that wounded Marines would recover easier if housed together as Marines. A story about LtCol. Maxwell's retirement from the Marine Corps is in the September/October 2009 issue of *Semper Fi* magazine.

## **Hearts of Valor Ball**

The Heart of a Marine Foundation's annual Hearts of Valor Ball is scheduled for Feb. 13, 2010 at the Stonegate Conference & Banquet Centre, Hoffman Estates.

The foundation, which provides assistance to members of all branches of the armed forces, was established in 2005 by Roy and Georgette Frank of Elk Grove Village in memory of their son, LCpl. Phillip E. Frank, who was killed in action in 2004 near Fallujah, Iraq.

The foundation's contributions to veterans' hospitals include computer software to promote speech, language and cognitive development for victims of traumatic head injuries.

The Hearts of Valor Ball will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, opening ceremonies, dinner, dancing and entertainment, a silent auction, raffles, and a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$85 a person. Register by Jan. 29, 2009 by calling 847-621-7324, e-mailing [theheartofamarine@comcast.net](mailto:theheartofamarine@comcast.net), or mailing a check to The Heart of a Marine Foundation, P.O. Box 1732, Elk Grove Village IL 60007.

## **Attention life members**

Once again the detachment is asking for a voluntary \$10 yearly contribution in January from each life member to help defray administrative costs. For more information, see Paymaster Chuck Shields.

## **New uniform regulation outlaws khaki shirts**

National headquarters has directed that khaki shirts may not be worn with any variant of the Marine Corps League uniform.

In addition, only the EGA emblem and patches indicating detachment office and/or life membership status may be worn on the red cover. No other badges, pins or patches are permitted on covers. Gen. James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, has threatened to deny permission for the use of the EGA on Marine Corps League uniforms if these regulations are not followed.

Here are the uniform regulations:

-- Undress short sleeve: cover; white pilot-style short-sleeve shirt with name tag, MCL collar sunbursts, shoulder patches, standard ribbons; no medals and no tie. Black flat-front trousers (optional Blues trousers with NCO stripe) and black leather belt with EGA buckle. (khaki web belt with optional Blues)

-- Undress long-sleeve: cover; white pilot-style long-sleeve shirt with name tag, MCL collar sunbursts, shoulder patches, standard ribbons; no medals. Black tie with USMC tie bar. Black flat-front trousers (optional Blues trousers with NCO stripe) and black leather belt with EGA buckle (khaki web belt with optional Blues).

-- Casual: cover; red blazer with MCL crest, optional medals and a maximum of two lapel pins; white dress shirt with no MCL collar sunbursts, ribbons, shoulder patches or name tag. Black flat-front trousers and black leather belt with EGA buckle.

-- Formal: evening dress (red blazer optional); no cover; formal pleated (NOT RUFFLED) shirt with no collar sunbursts, patches or ribbons; maximum two lapel pins; black bow tie; black tux trousers (optional special no-pockets Blues trousers); gold MCA vest or cummerbund; suspenders or black leather belt.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division unit plans Vietnam memorial ceremony**

The Chicago chapter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division Association will hold an assembly program "Remembering Vietnam" on 27 March 2010 at Wellington of Arlington, Arlington Heights. For more information, see John Raftery 847-439-6069.



*At the Eagle Scout Court of Honor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect are (from left) GySgt. Michael Doyle, Trustee Jake Gallagher, Sergeant-at-Arms John McDermott Sr., Eagle Scout Luke Goodman and Senior Vice Commandant Dick Ohman*

## ***Detachment joins program to honor Eagle Scouts***

Two new Eagle Scouts were recognized by the detachment on Nov. 28.

Jake Gallagher, John McDermott Sr. and Dick Ohman presented a K-Bar knife to Eagle Scout Luke Goodman of Troop 155, Mount Prospect, at a Court of Honor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and GySgt. Michael Doyle of Marine Corps Recruiting Station Chicago presented the new Eagle Scout with a certificate of achievement from the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Luke, a graduate of Prospect High School, is a freshman in the College of Business at the University of Illinois.

Meanwhile, Woody Hughes and Chuck Shields presented a certificate of achievement and a K-Bar to new Eagle Scout Brian Gates at a Court of Honor at Kingswood United Methodist Church, Wheeling. Brian, a member of Troop 401, is a senior at Buffalo Grove High School.

"The Court of Honor is a very impressive ceremony," Woody reported. "And the scouts were very interested when I told them how I carried my K-Bar at my side throughout the war in the Pacific."

The detachment agreed with Woody's suggestion that each K-Bar presented to an Eagle Scout be accompanied by a history of the knife. K-Bars are not presented without the approval of the scout's parents.

Eight Eagle Scout Courts of Honor are scheduled for January, and volunteers are needed to attend. John McDermott Jr. has agreed to serve as coordinator of the program.



*Paymaster Chuck Shields (left) with new Eagle Scout Brian Gates and Trustee Woody Hughes at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor at Kingswood United Methodist Church, Wheeling*

# ***Kickoff dinner, 2009 Toys for Tots campaign***



*Maj. Matthew Tracy, commanding officer of Marine Recruiting Station Chicago, welcomes detachment members and guests at the 2009 Toys for Tots campaign kickoff dinner.*



*Col. Roy Arnold, USMCR, president of Arlington Raceway, was the featured speaker at the dinner.*



*Senior Vice Commandant Dick Ohman, Maj. Tracy and Commandant Bob Sturlini.*



*The color guard prepares to post the colors.*



*Sgt. Michael Kacanowski and Lcpl. Joseph Kline, both of MACG 48, with a box of toys donated by detachment members and their guests at the kickoff dinner.*

# LOOKING AHEAD

- 16 December, detachment regular meeting/Christmas party, 1930, Arlington Heights American Legion
- 18 December, Toys for Tots pickup, meet at Arlington Heights American Legion, 0830
- 4 January 2010, detachment staff meeting, 1900, Arlington Heights American Legion
- 20 January 2010, detachment regular meeting, 1930, Arlington Heights American Legion
- 1 February 2010, detachment staff meeting, 1900, Arlington Heights American Legion
- 13 February 2010, Hearts of Valor Ball, Stonegate Conference & Banquet Centre, Hoffman Estates
- 17 February 2010, detachment regular meeting, 1930, Arlington Heights American Legion
- 1 March 2010, detachment staff meeting, 1900, Arlington Heights American Legion
- 17 March 2010, detachment regular meeting, 1930, Arlington Heights American Legion
- 27 March 2010, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division Assn. Vietnam remembrance, Wellington of Arlington, Arlington Heights

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