



BUCKTAIL DETACHMENT # 856
 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
 Post Office Box 175
 Renovo, Pennsylvania 17764-0175

DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER
 February 2009

ATTENTION ALL MARINES!!!

Our February Detachment meeting will be held at 1930, Thursday, 19 February 2009 at the **Sons of Italy** Building, 111 12th Street, Renovo, Pa. Plan to attend. Please mark your calendar now!!!

Check out our WEB Page on the Internet at:
<http://www.kcnet.org/~dmiller2/>

“The first Pennsylvania Detachment on the Internet”

Also, check out Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania’s Web page at:
<http://www.pamcleague.org>

DETACHMENT OFFICERS – 2008/09

Commandant	
John J. Tarantella, Sr.	923-2538
Senior Vice Commandant	
Ronald E. Hans	
Junior Vice Commandant	
Joseph M. Egger	923-2136
Judge Advocate	
Francis Van Kirk	748-8588
Adjutant	
Amy Snyder	748-6645
Paymaster	
Donald C. Miller	923-1731
Chaplain	
Arthur O. Kramer	923-1888
Assistant Chaplain	
Francis Van Kirk	748-8588
Sergeant-at-Arms	
John D. Hills	726-4193
Junior Past Commandant	
Donald C. Miller	923-1731

CHAPLAIN’S REPORT

If you know of a member or the family of a member who is in distress, sick in the hospital, or bereaved by the death of a family member please contact the Detachment’s Chaplain, **Art Kramer** at **923-1888**, and if he is not available, one of the Detachment officers with the appropriate details.

PAYMASTER’S REPORT

A summary of the Detachment’s financial status as of the end of January 2009 is attached for information. The detailed report for each of our financial accounts will be available for inspection at this month’s meeting.

EDITORS NOTES

It is almost a rule!! Every time we schedule a meeting in the months of December, January and February of each year the weather turns bad and our members can not turn out. Last month was no different. We did not have a quorum in attendance. For those that did show up we conducted an informal meeting. Let us hope we do better this month.

According to our Detachment Bylaws February is the month in which nomination are submitted for the officers who are to serve in the coming year. We nominate in February, elect in March, and install in April. Let’s all put on our thinking cap and come up with a good list of nominees.

The Detachment has been hit rather hard in recent months with regard to sickness, illness and the degradation of age, **Francis Van Kirk** was a candidate for hip surgery; **Joe Egger** for heart surgery; **John Mastriania** for a replacement pacemaker; **Dennis Kennedy** for crippling hip problems; **Don White**, **Art Gavlock** and **Paul Guizar** for heart problems; and **Bob Larson** for the infirmities of old age. Let us all say a prayer each night asking for the speedy recover of these great marines.

Last month we had another residential fire in the Beech Creek area and with the help of **Dan Hills** we were able to get the Detachment’s usual \$100.00 check to the burned out family shortly after the fire. The Detachment has already received a thank you note from them.

VETERANS AND YOUTH RAFFLE TICKETS

It is that time of year again. Your Paymaster is holding a couple of thousand raffle tickets that he will bring again to this month's meeting for distribution and sale. The sale of these tickets is the major fund raising event for the Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League and, as a by-product, a great fund raising event for the Detachment. The Detachment retains \$0.40 from each ticket sold.. The sale of these raffle tickets is a win/win for both the Department and the Detachment. Each member will be sent ten tickets in the near future. We ask that you either purchase these tickets yourself or get out there and sell them to someone else. .Please do your part. The drawing for this raffle is always conducted at the Department's annual Convention in June of each year.

.....

Governor Rendell's New Budget proposes to Close the Scotland School for Veterans' Children

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Pa. -- Gov. Ed Rendell wants to close the Scotland School for veterans' children in Franklin County.

The closing will be part of the Rendell's budget proposal, which was unveiled a couple of weeks ago.

The 113-year-old school serves 288 children in grades 3 through 12.

It costs \$13.5 million a year to operate.

A representative for the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs said officials decided it reaches too few students at too great a cost at a time when the state faces a budget shortfall of more than \$2 billion.

.....

NOTE:

This is a repeat from a previous Newsletter item but I mention it again. Your Paymaster needs a DD214 or its equivalent from all regular members who have not already provided him with one. National Headquarters Marine Corps League is pushing to ensure that all Detachments have on file the Form DD214 or its

equivalent for each of its regular members. Further, that each Detachment has in its possession the appropriate DD214 before a member is installed. Over the past couple of years, investigations have proven that some detachments have been operating with members who were not what they claimed to be to include not being Marines as well as wearing medals and ribbons for which they are not entitled. In support of this effort, your Paymaster requests that any regular member who has not provided the Detachment with a copy of his/her DD214 please do so as soon as possible. Send the copy to Don Miller, P.O. Box 526, North Bend, Pa 17760. Copies of the DD214 are dribbling in but your Paymaster is still missing a great many.

As a side note, I have learned that some of our members do not have a copy of their DD214 in their possession. If you fall into this category it is strongly recommended that you take steps to get yours immediately. Not only does your Paymaster need a copy but so does your family. The family needs one to insure that you and they received those benefits that are yours in the event of your demise. To get your copy, hop on your computer and go to the following web site.

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/get-service-records.html>

.....

TWO TO RECEIVE POSTHUMOUS NAVY CROSS MEDALS .

Two Marines who died thwarting an attack upon their standing post in Ramadi, Iraq, will receive posthumous Navy Cross medals in a Feb. 20 ceremony at Quantico Marine Corps Base, Va. The two Marines, Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter of Sag Harbor, N.Y., and Cpl. Jonathan T. Yale of Burkeville, Va., immediately recognized the potential threat when they saw a truck moving toward their position at an entry-control point on April 22, 2008. They fired upon the vehicle and stopped it before it could breach the checkpoint, but not before a suicide bomber could detonate the nearly 2,000 pounds of explosives it carried. The blast killed Haerter and Yale. Comrades credit them with saving their lives. Haerter was assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment; Yale served with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. Both units are

part of the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based 2nd Marine Division.

.....
CAMP LEJEUNE WATER STUDY

The below information was posted previously, but is repeated here again. The consulting firm engaged by the Department of Defense feels that only a small number of Marines and their families have registered.

- Did you live or work at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune 1987 or before? If so, please register with the Marine Corps by visiting www.marines.mil/clsurvey or by calling the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call Center at 877-261-9782, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. In the early 1980's, two solvents, trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE), both unregulated at the time, were found in two water systems serving the Tarawa Terrace and Hadnot Point areas. Certain drinking water wells were identified as the source of the chemicals and were taken out of service in 1984 and 1985. The Department of the Navy is funding two independent research initiatives. The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is determining if there is an association between exposure to the water and certain adverse health effects. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is evaluating specific health risks associated with exposure. Upon completion of the research, the Marine Corps will directly notify those on the registry through direct mail and email. Camp Lejeune water meets or exceeds all environmental standards today. Drinking water wells at Camp Lejeune are tested four times a year for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), in addition to monthly drinking water sampling. The base is in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations to ensure safe drinking water.

.....
Planner of Inaugural Ball Investigated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials and the Washington attorney general are investigating the promoter of a canceled inaugural ball.

The Washington Post reported that the promoter, Darryl Dante Hayes, advertised the Veterans Presidential Inaugural Ball as a fund-raiser for injured veterans at which [President Obama](#) would appear.

An official from the St. Regis Hotel, where the ball was going to be held, said a \$50,000 check for a security deposit bounced.

Officials said they wanted to know whether Mr. Hayes used Mr. Obama's name and sympathy for veterans groups to raise money and whether he actually intended to hold a ball.

Mr. Hayes, 52, said he canceled the ball because most of his corporate sponsors had pulled their support. He said he never meant to mislead donors and intended to give their money back.

.....
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY FAMILY MEMBERS

from Military.com - There are a couple of scholarships for military family member that are currently accepting applications:

- If you have a child who will be attending college or vocational school during the 2009-2010 school year, [click here](#) to learn more about the American Freedom Patriot Scholarship Award for Military Dependent Children.
- The [Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program](#), administered by the National Military Family Coalition, has extended the deadline for applications from the spouses of wounded and fallen military members until February 16th.
- The [Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation](#) offers scholarships to the children of current and former Marines.

.....
HBO Film Honors Marine's Aid to Family February 09, 2009
Military.com by Bryan Mitchell

The film premieres Saturday Feb. 21.

He may not have been able to endure the sand fleas of Parris Island or San Diego's "Grim Reaper," but actor Kevin Bacon has proven yet again he knows how to play a Marine.

"I'm good at a lot of things, but I couldn't have made it [through boot camp]. I don't think I would have made it very far," Bacon said at a recent news conference. "To me, that's what's great about being an actor. I get to walk in somebody else's shoes."

Bacon, who has twice previously portrayed a Marine, may have delivered his most memorable performance in uniform as Lt. Col. Michael Strobl in the HBO original film, *Taking Chance*.

The film is based on Strobl's experience escorting the remains of Pfc. Chance Phelps from Dover, Del., to the subdued vistas of Phillips' hometown in rural Wyoming. Phelps, 19, was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines when he was killed on April 9, 2004, in Iraq's Anbar province.

Strobl, now retired from the Marine Corps, wrote the story about the trip and helped pen the screenplay. The former Marine's skill as a writer is demonstrated in the opening paragraph of his original story.

"Chance Phelps was wearing his Saint Christopher medal when he was killed on Good Friday," Strobl wrote. "Eight days later, I handed the medallion to his mother. I didn't know Chance before he died. Today, I miss him."

From there, an emotionally powerful story follows of how ordinary Americans react to Strobl and the flag-draped casket as they make their way across the country.

"What ultimately struck me to the point that I was moved to write the story in the first place -- and that's the decency of every American," Strobl said.

Strobl, who was assigned to Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, Va., saw Phelps' death notice on Defense Department press release. He noticed they had the same hometown -- listed in DoD records as Clifton, Colo. -- and volunteered to escort Phelps' remains home.

"That's what I experienced on the trip and I wanted to personally remember that, and I hope that when other military families see the movie they'll be reminded how much goodness there is out there and how much people really care," Strobl added.

Bacon and Strobl recently spoke to Military.com about making the film, the story behind Strobl's odyssey and how the director went to great lengths to ensure the film was accurate in its portrayal of the Marine Corps and the escorting process.

Bacon -- who played Marine Capt. Jack Ross in *A Few Good Men* and Marine Lt. Col. Jack Brennan in *Frost/Nixon* -- said this role may be one of the most culturally significant of his career.

"Once in a while you do something where you feel as though there's a little bit more weight to it," Bacon said. "So when you come home from the work in the

course of shooting it there's something, you know, slightly different than just doing a regular movie. You know it just feels a little more important." Both Strobl and Bacon stressed it's not a film about the controversial war that has claimed the lives of more than 4,000 Americans.

"This story is not about Iraq," Strobl said. "It's about America."

Bacon was attracted to the film by its unique story and what he termed its "universality."

"It was a story that I hadn't really seen before. I thought what the character was going through was a great challenge for an actor. It was a very internalized conflict," Bacon said.

"This film could take place during Vietnam, Korea or next year in Afghanistan. It's not an Iraq movie. It says more about war and America than it does in the actual time we are living in."

Strobl acknowledged the film took a few liberties to compress time but said it remains astonishingly close to his actual experience.

"Everything that's in there it either happened that way or it captures the spirit, you know, or the effect of what had happened to me during the week that I escorted Chance," Strobl said.

Bacon said playing the part was made easier by studying Strobl's mannerisms and personal nuances. Strobl said Bacon was especially adroit at capturing the frustration of being a cubicle Marine at Quantico, Va., in a time of war.

"I think all Marines that are, you know, state side and are going home every night they probably feel a little bit guilty when ... so many of the guys that I knew, so many of the guys that all Marines know were over there," Strobl said.

"I do intellectually understand and believe that all of the jobs are important whether they are in you know Virginia or in Iraq, but ...at that point I had known Marines that were over there or had already been back and were starting to think about their next tour and, you know, I wasn't in that situation. So yeah, there was a little bit of conflict."

