
Marine Corps League



Housatonic Detachment #1129

Volume 7 Issue 3

March 2009

Welcome to Housatonic Detachment 1129's Newsletter



Well, we made it through the Holidays, our Installation, Awards Night and the Super Bowl. We can now focus on what the detachment will be doing this year. We hope to be more active in supporting functions at VFW Post 9460 and the Marine Reserve unit in New Haven.



I still have Membership Lapel Pins for Dave Ellis and Don Pavia. In addition to those, we have a number of 5 Year Lapel Pins for members that joined in 2003 & 2004. The down side is you'll have to attend a meeting to receive yours. Contact me to let me know you want to pick it up because you can't attend a meeting for some reason. The



following members have lapel pins coming to them:

Member
Bachman, Stephen E. (5Y)
Barber, Orrie F. (5Y)
Bogash, Louis F. (5Y)
Caviness, Eli A. (5Y)
Chenoweth Sr., Robert J. (5Y)
Cox, Timothy K. (5Y)
Dougherty, John J. (5Y)
Dowd, James T. (5Y)
Evers, John L. (5Y)
Goetz, Robert J. (5Y)
Howe, Harry P. (5Y)
Hoyt, Robert D. (5Y)
Jarusinsky, James (5Y)
Kinney, Frank J. (5Y)
Kirby, Scott T. (5Y)
Kubik, Joseph A. (5Y)
LaBrecque, John H. (5Y)
LaBrecque, Marc E. (5Y)
Piczko, Joseph S. (5Y)
Ray, John N. (5Y)
Riccio, Hank (5Y)

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Rodriguez, Francisco (5Y)
Rosenberg, Ruth J. (5Y)
Sota, James R. (5Y)
Sperling, Gregory A. (5Y)
Verrilli, Eugene R. (5Y)
Vitale, Robert R. (5Y)
Alexander, James M. (10Y)
Ellis, David G. (MEM)
O'Neil, Matt (MEM)
Pavia, Donald D. (MEM)
Steele, Richard (PLM)

We also have a few members that we are not sure what their member status is as far as how long they have been members of the League. They transferred into our detachment and date back to when National did not keep accurate records of membership and depended on individual detachments to keep those records. I'd like those members to contact me to let me know when they joined the League so we can update our records and determine what pin they rate.

As a result of me sending out an email Semper Fidelis to acknowledge the landing on Iwo Jima on February 19th 1945, I got an email back from Matt Blakely with some interesting info. Matt said:

Thanks, Jack ----- 64 short years ago!
Semper Fidelis to all Marines!

Of note: I landed with RCT 25 in the first wave on Blue Beach about 9:15 am, was sent out to 4th Div Command ship with a top secret Jap document found on the beach, then returned to the beach about 11 AM - the only Marine to hit the beach twice on D-Day morning?

Thanks for remembering the Day!!

Matt

I also posted that Semper Fidelis on a few Marine forums on the internet. I got an email thanking me for it from Jim Stockton, who is an old friend of mine and is also an Iwo Jima Survivor. Some of you 50's Marines may have even been recruited by Jim as he was one of the Recruiters in this area in the mid 50's.

I finally took the step to transfer my American Legion Life Membership to AL Post 196 in Milford. Post 196 is the AL Post that has supported our Packages for Marines program and is also the Post that Marilyn "Mickey" Greene and Frank Rodriguez are members.

If anyone out there needs to get their DD-214 corrected because of an error or missing information, I

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have Form DD-0149 which is the form to be submitted to request a correction. I have it as a fillable PDF file so you can fill it out on your computer, print it out, sign and send it in.

Paymaster Request:

When you make out a check to the detachment, please make it out to "**Marine Corps League**" as that is the primary name on our account. And, even if the check is for a Quartermaster order, make out the check to the "**Marine Corps League**" as quartermaster merchandise is paid for by the detachment funds.

Quartermaster Stuff



It's good to see that a number of our members are ordering MCL caps either through me or directly from the MCL Ship's Store. It is the minimal MCL uniform. The Ship's store recently raised the price for the cap. It is now \$23 and the EGA cap emblem is \$3.50.

Ribbon Bars: I have a number of uniform ribbon bars. Anyone that needs an upgrade can simply exchange their old ribbon bar for a new one or pay for a new one.

Membership applications can be downloaded and printed out from our website at:

<http://www.orgsites.com/ct/housatonic/index.html>

For those that are computer challenged, you can contact me to send you some or pick them up at one of our meetings.

Some people have asked me where to get embroidery done locally (Caps, jackets, etc.). A good place is:

All League Embroidery

171 Bruce Ave
Stratford, CT 06615
203-377-7215

The above info is the updated address and name info of the same place we've had in previous newsletters. They do a decent job with our MCL caps and give us a good price.

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I put up announcements and other info on our detachment on the Marine Corps League Announcement Forum on <http://www.YellowFootprints.com> ; our website at <http://www.orgsites.com/ct/housatonic/index.html> and on our webpage on National's website at <http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/userpages/HOUSATONIC-914.php>

We also have a listing on the Department of Connecticut's website at <http://www.mcldeptct.org/pages/detachments8.html>

Jack LaBrecque – Web Sergeant.

My email address is:

JITB@att.net

Other contact info is:

Jack LaBrecque, 2288 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615

(203) 380-0303

Commandant's Column

Monday Feb 9 was our first "business meeting" with me as commandant. I prepared carefully for the meeting & we discussed a lot of issues. This was necessary, as I said, because we were unable to have a real business meeting for the past two months.

I think the meeting went reasonably well but I think I can do a better job as I become more experienced in my new position. Please bear with me. I thank you for the excellent attendance. Your attendance is appreciated & inspiring & elevates us to an elite level.

After the Meeting, coffee & dessert was well received. We will do it again next month. Jim Hussey has volunteered to bring dessert. I will bring the coffee & perhaps add tea & instant decaf.

At our meeting, I brought up the Rose Fund & Life Members Booster Club. as you know, the Rose Fund is used 100% to support deployed troops, scholarships & other deserving charities at the discession of the membership. Donations in ANY AMOUNT will get your name listed in the monthly newsletter.

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The Life Members Booster Cub is a new idea used by many Detachments to help subsidize their General Fund. To be a Life Member requires a \$10.00 donation. Your name will be listed in the monthly newsletter.

Donations for either of these programs should be given or mailed to Jack LaBrecque, our Paymaster. Checks should be made out to Marine Corps League.

Both programs are voluntary.

See you next meeting. Let's continue to persue new members.

Semper Fi!
Jim Alexander

Detachment News & Info

2009 Staff:

Commandant: Jim Alexander

Sr. Vice Commandant: Jack Dougherty

Jr. Vice Commandant: Matt O'Neil

Judge Advocate: Jim Jarusinsky

Jr. Past Commandant: Harry Howe

Adjutant: Colleen Sullivan

Paymaster: Jack LaBrecque

Chaplain: Harry Howe

Sgt. At Arms: Mickey McGovern

Web Sergeant: Jack LaBrecque

Newsletter Editor: Jack LaBrecque

Public Relations: Bob Vitale

Color Guard Commander: Jack Dougherty

Scholarship Chairman: Jim Alexander

Detachment Historian ~ TBA

Detachment Librarian ~ Ruth Rosenberg

VA-VAVS ~ Jim Alexander/Colleen Sullivan

Youth Liaison ~ Mickey McGovern

Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast ~ Harry Howe/

Mickey McGovern

Toys for Tots Coordinator ~ Mickey McGovern/

Jack LaBrecque

Detachment Activity Coordinator ~ Orrie Barber

Quartermaster ~ Jack LaBrecque

Detachment Address:

Marine Corps League
Housatonic Detachment #1129
Post Office Box 281
Stratford, CT 06615-0281

Detachment Meetings are at:

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VFW Post 9460
100 Veteran's Blvd (Off of Barnum Avenue Cut-Off)
Stratford, CT



**Our next meeting will be on
Monday, March 9th, 2009 at 1930**



The Marine Corps League Cover

Every member should have MCL cover as it is the minimal Marine Corps League uniform.

A Happy Birthday this month to:

Eli "Chief" Caviness ~ March 18th

1 Song "[Who?](#)" by George Olsen

Bob Chenoweth ~ March 27th

1 Song "[Moonlight Cocktail](#)" by Glenn Miller

John Evers ~ March 19th

1 Song "[Heartaches](#)" by Ted Weems

Bob Goetz ~ March 26th

1 Song "[The Ballad of the Green Berets](#)" by S/Sgt. Barry Sadler

Bob Hoyt ~ March 8th

1 Song "Linger Awhile" by Paul Whiteman

Frank Kinney ~ March 16th

1 Song "[Oh! What It Seemed to Be](#)" by Frankie Carle

Above indicates the # 1 Billboard Song on the date they were born

Membership Dues

Membership dues renewals should be sent to our address:

Marine Corps League
Housatonic Detachment #1129
Post Office Box 281
Stratford, CT 06615-0281

Or to:

Jack LaBrecque
2288 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06615

You can use the Renewal Form that National sends you or the Application/Renewal form available at our

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website at:

<http://www.orgsites.com/ct/housatonic/index.html>

Make checks out to the "Marine Corps League". You also can just send a check with "Renewal" printed in the Memo section on the check.

Marine Rose Booster Members

2009

Bob Goetz ~ January

Bob Chenoweth ~ February

Jim Alexander ~ February

Jack LaBrecque ~ February

It's not mandatory that you become a Marine Rose Booster but it does focus certain funds towards worthwhile charitable projects of the detachment.

Life Member Booster

Jim Alexander ~ February

Jack LaBrecque ~ February

March USMC History

- 1 March 1960: The Beaufort (South Carolina) Auxiliary Air Station was re-designated a Marine Corps Air Station.
- 2 March 1776: Raid on New Providence, Bahamas.
- 2 March 1867: Jacob Zeilin, Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps from 30 June 1864, was this date promoted to the rank of Brigadier General Commandant, the first time Congress authorized this rank for the Marine Corps. The statute, however, was repealed in June 1874 so that the rank of Commandant would again revert to colonel upon Zeilin's retirement.
- 3 March 1809: Five-year enlistments in the Corps replaced the previous three-year terms.
- 3 March 1871: Navy Medical Corps established.
- 3 March 1931: Star Spangled Banner made U. S. National Anthem.
- 3 March 2002: Marine helicopter pilots, crews and support personnel from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) provide the quick reaction force and muscle required to conduct deliberate air assaults on enemy mortar positions and hide-sites in Khowst and eastern Afghanistan's Shah-e-Kot Valley near Gardez, Afghanistan.
- 4 March 1801: The Marine Band performed at a Presidential Inauguration for the first time.
- 5 March 1942: U. S. Navy Construction Battalions (Seabees) formed.
- 5 March 1947: The 7th Marine Regiment disbanded at Camp Pendleton following their return from China. Personnel and equipment were transferred to the 3rd Marine Brigade.
- 6 March 1932: Marine Band leader John Philip Sousa died at age 79 in Reading, Pennsylvania.
- 6 March 1944: Marines assault Talasea on New Britain (secured 8 March 1944).
- 6 March 1965: Beginning of Vietnam Defense Campaign.
- 7 March 1945: U.S. troops took Remagen Bridge and crossed the Rhine.

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7 March 1951: The 1st, 7th, and 11th Marine Regiments commenced operations against enemy forces at Hongchon, Korea.

8 March 1942: Japan invaded New Guinea (Lae, Salamaua, Finschhafen).

8 March 1944: Japanese launched counteroffensive on Bougainville, smashed by Marines 24 March.

8 March 1965: The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to that conflict. The 3,500 men arrived both across the beach with Battalion Landing Team 3/9, and at DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1/3.

9 March 1782: Marines served with General Clark.

9 March 1847: Expeditionary Marines landed and seized Vera Cruz, Mexico, during the Mexican War.

9 March 1942: Java fell to Japan concluding Netherlands Indies Campaign.

10 March 1783: Marines in fighting tops of the USS Alliance helped defeat HMS Sibyll.

10 March 1945: Mindanao in Southern Philippines invaded.

11 March 1778: Marines participated the action when the Continental Navy frigate BOSTON, enroute to France, sighted, engaged, and captured the British merchant ship MARTHA. As the drum of the BOSTON beat to arms, John Adams seized a musket and joined the Marines on deck until the frigate's captain, Samuel Tucker, sent him below for safety.

11 March 1853: Marines from the USS Cyane landed at San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua.

12 March 1824: Marines of the Boston Barracks quelled a Massachusetts State Prison riot.

13 March 1911: Atlantic Landing Force of 688 Marines landed at Guantanamo Bay.

13 March 1943: The first group of 71 Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The Navy's willingness to share training facilities enabled the Marine Corps to begin training Marine Corps Women's Reserve officers just one month after the creation of the MCWR was announced.

13 March 1945: The 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 9th Marine Regiment attacked through "Cushman's Pocket," Iwo Jima. This was the last strongpoint of enemy resistance on the island.

14 March 1905: The first Marine military attaché was appointed to Legation at Peking, China.

15 March 1944: Marine medium bombers struck Japanese positions at Rabaul.

16 March 1922: Marines guarded the U.S. mail during a national crime wave.

16 March 1945: Iwo Jima secured.

17 March 1918: The 5th Marine Regiment was the first Marine unit to move into WW I front-line trenches.

17 March 1967: The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon. MSgt Dulinsky and the other officer and enlisted Women Marines that followed were assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) based in Saigon. Most worked with the Marine Corps Personnel Section providing administrative support to Marines assigned as far north as the DMZ, but two Lieutenant Colonels, Ruth Reinholz and

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Ruth O'Holleran, served as historians with the Military History Branch, Secretary Joint Staff, MACV.

18 March 1945: MAG-14 flew air support for U.S. Army landings at Panay, Philippines.

19 March 1928: Marine planes bombed a bandit group at Nueve Segovia, Nicaragua. This was the first use of close air support.

19 March 2003: The war against Iraq begins 20 March 2003 5:30 AM Baghdad time (9:30 PM EST, March 19), when the U.S. launches Operation Iraqi Freedom.

20 March 1943: Marine "Avengers" conducted the first aerial mine-laying mission.

20 March 1944: Marines seized Emirau Island in Bismarck Archipelago.

21 March 1945: General A. A. Vandergrift, 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, became the first Marine four-star general on active duty.

21 March 2003: Marines from the 15th MEU, attached to 3 Commando Brigade and the [Polish](#) Special Forces unit [GROM](#), crossed the border into Southern Iraq and secured the ports of [Umm Qasr](#) and [Az Zubayr](#).

21 March 2003: First KIA by hostile fire in Iraq was U.S. Marine 2nd Lieutenant Therrel Shane Childers, 1st Bat. 5th Marine Reg., 1st Mar. Div. Lieutenant Childers was from Harrison Co., Mississippi.

22 March 1952: Six new Marine battalions and Marine air groups were activated on the West Coast, giving the Corps the full authorized limit of three divisions and three wings.

23 March 1815: Marines assisted the USS Hornet's capture of the HMS Penguin off Tristan de Cunha.

24 March 1944: The 22nd Marine Regiment captured Ebon and Namu Atolls in the Marshall Islands.

25 March 1804: The Secretary of the Navy approved the first formal uniform of the Marine Corps.

25 March 1863: Marines with Farragut's squadron engaged Confederates at the Battle of Vicksburg in Mississippi.

25 March 1945: After 35 days of bitter fighting, the amphibious assault on the rocky fortress of Iwo Jima finally appeared over. On the night of 25 March, however, a 300-man Japanese force launched a vicious final counterattack in the vicinity of Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees and Marines of the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the fanatical Japanese force till morning but suffered heavy casualties --more than 100 killed and another 200 American wounded. Nearly all of the Japanese force was killed in the battle.

26 March 1943: Battle of Komandorski Island, Aleutians.

26 March 1944: WW II, Marines of 1stProMarBrig landed on Kili island and Namorik Atoll, Marshall Islands.

26 March 2002: In support of the coalition effort in Afghanistan. Marine helicopters completed more than 400 combat sorties in Operation Anaconda.

27 March 1953: The 5th Marines, supported by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the first full day of fighting after the Chinese assault the previous evening of Outpost Vegas on Korea's western front, counterattacked to regain enemy-held positions. Companies E and F of 2/7, down to only three platoons between them, managed to regain partial control of Outpost Vegas that day.

28 March 1870: 129 Marines seized and destroyed illicit distilleries in "Irishtown" (Brooklyn), New York.

28 March 1918: Marines were placed under the command of French Marshall Foch in WW I.

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29 March 1917: Marines garrisoned St. Croix to deny harbor to German submarines.
30 March 1966: The 7th Marine Regiment terminated Operation Indiana in Vietnam.
31 March 1801: On this date, LtCol Commandant William W. Burrows rode with president Thomas Jefferson to look for "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." President Jefferson was a personal friend of the Commandant, and deeply interested in the welfare of the Corps and accompanied Burrows on horseback on the morning of 31 March. They chose a square in Southeast Washington, bounded by 8th and 9th streets, and 8th & I streets, because it lay near the Navy Yard and was within easy marching distance of the Capitol.

PICTURES

A few more pics from Awards Night. Do you think the draw might be food?



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Above picture is from the Pasta Night at VFW Post 9460 of our members showing support for VFW functions. Many waistlines were a notch larger after that meal!



One final note: Please get those dues renewals in.