



Greater Greensboro
Detachment 260
Marine Corps League

DETACHMENT 260
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



GREENSBORO, NC

mcl260.info

Once a Marine, always a Marine



Greater Greensboro Detachment 260 Marine Corps League

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INTRODUCTION

When writing the history of Marine Corps League, Detachment 260, no better starting point could be found than the home page of the 2015 website.

Detachment 260 of the Marine Corps League was founded on September 2, 1972 by 32 charter members. The founding Commandant was Bill Moss who, to this day, still actively serves as an advisor to the current staff and members.

In 2005 the detachment was nicknamed "The Fighting 260," reason being the 260 has members who have served in every conflict the Marines have participated in since WWII. We have members who served in every conflict of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, The Gulf and most all expeditionary missions of the Corps.

Today, the 260 is experiencing continued growth. Most of our success is due to the many members who band together to not only help each other but work together to help the community through the many successful programs we promote.

"Once a Marine always a Marine" is a standard we all know is true!

Respectfully submitted
Harry Thetford
Detachment
Historian



FOUNDING

Detachment 260 of the Marine Corps League was formed 02Sep1972. The organizational meeting at the O'Henry Hotel in downtown Greensboro, NC consisted of 32 Marines who no longer wore the uniform.

It was only after General James F. Amos became our 35th CMC that the term, "Ex-Marine" become officially banned. Per order from Amos, **"Once a Marine, always a Marine."**

The roots of 260 go back to 14Jun1972 as recalled by Bill Moss, "I was Chairman of Flag Day Ceremonies at the Greensboro Elks Lodge. Joe Lamb, an active duty Marine Recruiter served in the Honor Guard of the day. Joe told me he was retiring soon and would like to start a Marine Corps League Detachment. He said at least 20 Marines would be required before a new Detachment could be chartered. I helped him recruit towards that goal and at the time we were chartered, 32 Marines were aboard.

Goldsboro's Bill Page was Department Commandant and authorized our charter."



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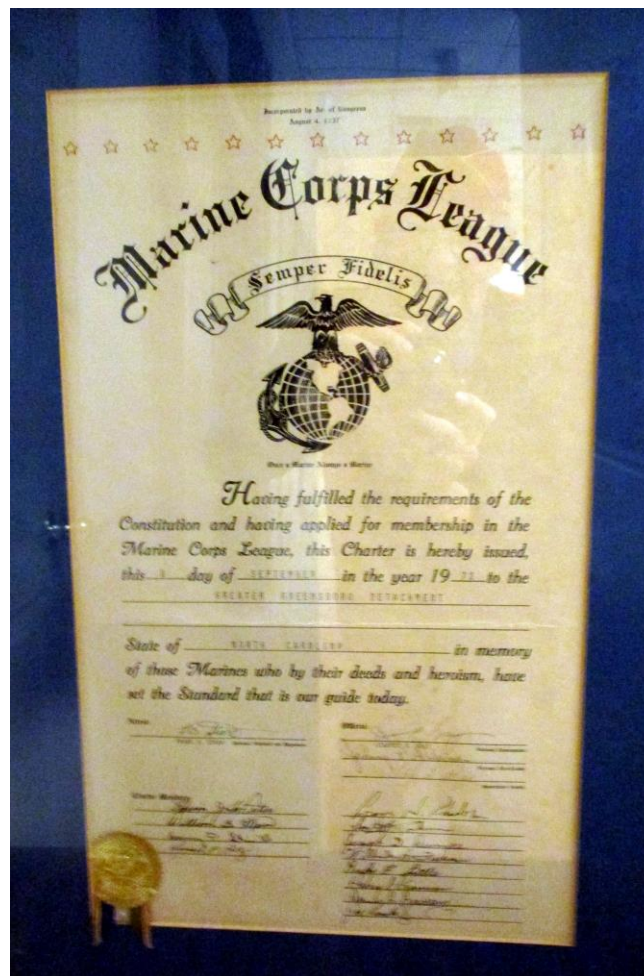
Cleghman H. Whittington
Richard C. Neal
Robert S. Bentley, Jr.
David H. Dorsett
Robert D. Bryant
Stanley P. Purnman
Donald H. Faulkner
John J. Higelow
Bill King Jr.
Richard H. Hance
Frank J. Smith
Harry W. Bole
David P. Crawley
Virginia B. Ballester
Charles D. Reynolds
Don J. Scott
James E. Anderson
David G. Gustafson
Frank E. Smith
Lester E. Jenkins
James J. Whitton
Thomas K. Hargrove
Carl H. Hargrove
Lester E. Jenkins
Lester E. Jenkins



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Charter members documented as of this 2016 writing include Bill Moss -- Commandant, Dusty Rhodes – Senior Vice Commandant, David C. Crawley – Junior Vice Commandant, Joe Lamb – Adjutant/Paymaster, Joe Dungee – Chaplain, and Ron Loy – Sergeant at Arms. Loy and Moss co-edited THE GRAVEL CRUNCHER, the Detachment newsletter.

Other names listed on the Charter: Cleighton G. Whittington, Richard C. Beal, Robert F. Gentry, Jr., David H. Dorsett, Robert D. Bryant, Howard W. Bowman, L. W. Keese, Jr., Richard J. Nance, Grnat G. Smith, Harry W. Poole, Virginia B. Pendleton, Don J. Scott, James C. Cockman, David G. Gustafson, Frank G. Smith, Charlie E. Jenkins, Ames J. Valentine, Walter K. LNU, Carl LNU, and Ernest Harris, Jr.





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An official Marine Corps League Charter was signed by charter members and Department Commandant – Detachment 260 was birthed.

ORAL HISTORY OF DETACHMENT 260

During the 10Sep2012 monthly meeting of Detachment 260, Bill Moss shared his recollections of our Detachment's origins. Bill was assisted with his presentation by past Commandant Joe Dungee and founding member, Ginny Bull.

A fair amount of this is repetitive, but posted here for a capsular overview of historicity.

Moss' comments are generally paraphrased, without quotation marks. Editorial comments are parenthesized.



FOUNDING COMMANDANT BILL MOSS

In 1972, five Marines met at the O'Henry Hotel tasked to form a new Marine Corps League Detachment in Greensboro, NC. As Detachment 260 celebrates its 40TH Anniversary, five founding members survive, with two of them residing in Care Centers.



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(An earlier MCL Detachment existed in Greensboro, but no records are available other than a newspaper clipping provided by Bill and Virginia Kirkman. In fact, the Detachment was named for a Kirkman Marine KIA on Guadalcanal – no relation to Bill Kirkman. For historical perspective and creditability, efforts are on-going to document information about the earlier Detachment.)

All Marines in the O'Henry meeting were under fifty years of age – Moss was thirty-seven. Moss attributed Joe Dungee as a moving force behind the Detachment's formation, with Joe Lamb being another prominent Marine of the Detachment's early days.

From 1972 until 1977, the fledgling Detachment met in Moss' shop. Not everything went smoothly, according to Moss. In the heat of a 'one for one' recruiting campaign, someone called the police regarding behavior during a Detachment meeting.

Sirens blasted, and officers broke into the meeting with weapons drawn. After all issues were settled, the Detachment came away with two new Marine members.

Ron Loy and Dave Crawley led a fund-raising project to sell Christmas trees. A detail was dispatched in a truck to the NC Mountains to broker the purchase of trees. A case of beer went along to keep morale at a high level. Anti-freeze and hotel reservations should have gone along instead.

The four Marines were snowed in and spent the night on the singular front seat of the truck. Moss pointed out that the beer did absolutely nothing towards improving morale and that the Marine Corps camaraderie was not the best on their buying trip to the mountains.

A friendly mountaineer farmer with an obliging John Deere tractor pulled the Marines from their snow bank and pointed them to a Christmas tree vendor who might offer them a good deal.

The Marines were thrilled to purchase the trees at a cost much lower than anticipated, even though they were two-week-old trees. They quickly envisioned raising more funds, seeing that costs would be lower.



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What was not anticipated was that since the trees had gone without water for two weeks, all the fir started to fall out. After a nice bonfire of dried out Christmas trees, the Marines counted their funds raised – minus \$400.

Moss was quick to commend Joe Dungee for serving five years as Commandant. Joe said in an earlier interview, “No one else would take the job!”

During the early years, Associate Members were not invited into the Detachment as members, but around 2000, Moss motioned to accept Associate Members. Although the motion was voted in, it caused some dissension within the organization. From eight to ten Maries left the Detachment, and Moss said they had a lot of ‘patching up’ to do.

(I believe he said they had five Commandants during one twelve-month span, but that needs to be verified.)

(Bill and Ginny appealed to the Board, and a lady Judge helped???)

Moss went over several highlights of Detachment 260’s history: A Disaster Response Team responded to help with Hurricane Hugo, we have one of the finest Young Marine Programs in the country, we are third among MCL Detachment with the presentation of Boy Scout Eagle awards, we have the #1 Pistol Team in the MCL, we hosted the largest and finest MCL National Convention in 2010, utilizing over seventy volunteers, and we have grown in the face of other military organizations experiencing decline or plateaued.

In the Detachment’s very special USO-oriented meeting of May2007, Moss first breached his Carolina Field of Honor Veteran’s Memorial vision. Destined to become the largest, finest and most expensive Veteran’s Memorial outside Washington, D.C., this \$5 million project is well underway, and could be breaking ground within twelve to fifteen months.

(The CFOH was dedicated 31May2014 – it has met and exceeded all expectations.)



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MEETING PLACES

For the first five years, Detachment meetings were held at Lighting Creations, Inc., on Enterprise Road. This building was owned by Greensboro businessman and founding Commandant of Detachment 260, William B. "Bill" Moss.

From Moss' retail store, the Detachment meeting location moved to the USMC Reserve Center, 7838 McCloud Road. According to former Department Commandant Sudsbury, the Detachment also met at the USMC Reserve Center at its prior location before relocating to McCloud Road.

In addition to two tenures at the USMC Reserve Center, a series of moves involved the Elks Lodge on Cornwallis Drive, the American Legion Building on American Legion Street off Yanceyville Street, the American Legion Post 53 on Creek Ridge Road, the VFW Building at 2805 South Elm/Eugene Street, the Guilford Grange Building (2007) 4909 Guilford School Road, the Moose Lodge on New Garden Road, and finally the Knights of Columbus Lodge on Horse Pen Creek Road – Greensboro locations all.

The possibility of additional meeting locations comes to light from Don Sexton, "I joined in 1985, along with Charlie Tsui (Charlie Two Shoes). That meeting was in the back room of a store on East Market Street. Only a few members were there, and they were all WW II veterans, as I recall: Tom Culkin, Don Sexton, Charlie Tsui, Charles Monnett, Joe Dungee, and Joe Lamb. The Detachment voted to pay \$400, which was Charlie's monthly rent.

A short time later, the Detachment moved to the VFW Building on Bagley Street. They said we could meet there, just keep it clean and take care of it. I wrote an article about Charlie which was published by the national MCL magazine, and Charlie was invited to be our speaker at one of our regular meetings. I was elected Chaplain and invited, along with Charlie, to be flag-bearers in the July 4 parade. Charlie carried the Marine Corps flag, but due to recent hand surgery, I could only walk along the parade route – Howard Coble walked with us."

As this history is being compiled in 2017, a precise list of meeting places is still under construction.



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COMMANDANTS

Short a documented list, Detachment members recall the following Marines serving as Detachment 260 Commandants: Bill Moss (1972-73), Dusty Rhodes, Dave Gustafson, Dave Crowley, Joe Dungee, Tom Caulkin, Tom Sheppard, Randy McKelvey, Percy Sudsbury, and Dave Pickler, all serving between 1972 and the 2000s.

During the 2000s, Commandants were Cecil Pickler, Tommy Thorne, Don Schoppe and Richard Wood (2005-07).

Danny Bracken was Commandant 2007-10, followed by Scott Matthews, 2011-2013, Ralph Farthing, 2013, and the current Commandant of 2014-16, Alan Atwell.

Following Atwell was Roger Stockton in 2016 and Rich Carerra in 2017.

DETACHMENT SPIN-OFFS

Detachment 260 has spun off several Marine Corps League Detachments, including those in Asheboro, Winston-Salem, High Point, Graham/Mebane, Wentworth and Stokesdale.

LEADERSHIP TURNOVER

The decade of 2006-2016 was not without a considerable number of personnel changes. Some passed away, some relocated, while others chose to associate with other MCL Detachments.

Noticeable was a complete turnover of the 2006 officers: Commandant-Richard Wood, Senior Vice-Commandant-Randall Alspaugh, Junior Vice-Commandant-Floyd Wulfectk, Judge Advocate-Vern Sieg, Adjutant-Bill Nick, Jr., Pay Master-Tracey Langley, Chaplain-Charlie Monnett (deceased), Supply Officer- Howard Lefler, Sergeant-at-Arms-Dan Hines and Historian-Mike Brunette.



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Even with this significant turnover of personnel and leadership, Detachment 260 hosted the largest MCL National Convention in history in 2010 – at the halfway point of the decade.

► Officers for 2017 were: Rich Carerra-Cmdt, Jim Hayes-Sr. Vice Cmdt, Sharon Reddick-Jr. Vice Cmdt, Harold Turner-Judge Advocate, Jack Masarie-Adjutant, Rebecca Tyree-Paymaster, Gerald Peek-Sgt-at-Arms, Winston Shearin-Chaplain, Roger Stockton-Past CMC, Harry Thetford-Historian, Ben Craven-Asst. Chaplain, Gary Beaver-Chair HFTW Golf Tournament.

DET. 260 PRECEDED BY ADRIAN LONDON KIRKMAN DETACHMENT

Prior to the chartering of Detachment 260 there was another Marine Corps League Detachment in Greensboro, the Adrian London Kirkman Detachment. Virginia Kirkman (wife of Saipan and Okinawa Marine, Bill Kirkman – no relation to Adrian Kirkman) first brought this to surface. Her newspaper clipping was the first evidence, but no one in today's Detachment recalls the Kirkman Detachment.

Kirkman was born 09Jan1921, and was a member of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, when he enlisted 22Oct1939 in the Marine Corps and assigned serial number 276625.

He was killed in the Solomons on 14Sep1942. According to his obituary in the 20May1948 GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS, Kirkman was the first Guilford County resident to be killed in WW II action. HE WAS PROVIDED FULL MILITARY HONORS AT HIS FUNERAL BY MARINES OF THE ADRIAN L. KIRKMAN DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, WHICH WAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR.

He was a member of 1st Parachute BN, A CO, Unit7, 1st MAR DIV. His father, Adrian Linden Kirkman, died in 1934, but his mother, Alvis Annie Kirkman, lived at 203 Summit Avenue. On 06Aug1948, Kirkman's remains were reentered in Lot 1, Grave 67, at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Interestingly, Adrian Kirkman's older brother, Alvis London Kirkman, also served in the Marine Corps during WW II.



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WORLD WAR II MARINES OF DETACHMENT 260

The number of surviving World War II Marines in 260 has decreased commensurately, based on life expectancies. In 2005, the Detachment 260 roster included these known WW II veterans: **Charles Beal**, **Bill Bennett**, **Calvin Berg**, **Roger Brunelli**, Bruce Chamberlain, Jack Connors, Arthur Davis, **Jim Filipiski (Army)**, Robert Ford, **Joe Dungee**, Tom Gibbs, **William Gibson**, Edward Grondzik, Coy Hennis, Michael Kozakewich, Howard Kelly, William H. Kirkman, James McDermott, Tom McGough, **Charlie Monnett**, **Mary Nicko**, Charles Pauquette, Herman Phillips, Harold Price, Carney Ritter, Jim Rumley, William Sexton, Don Sexton, Lonnie Smith, **Curtis Spach**, **Andrew Symmes**, **Thomas Walker**, George Weitzman and H. Lloyd Wilkerson.

Beal, Bennett, Berg, Dungee, Monnett, Walker and others whose names are emboldened are known to be deceased 2017.

Dungee, Kirkman, Monnett, Don Sexton, Spach, Symmes, Wilkerson, Gibbs and Price are among those the Greensboro News & Record has published columns written by Detachment Historian, Harry Thetford.

IDENTIFICATION

No particular “handle” was placed on Detachment 260 in its early years. In 2009, however, it became known as THE FIGHTING 260 to honor those who had fallen. Also bearing on the name change was the desire to recognize and acknowledge Detachment Marines who had participated in each and every conflict since WW II and those who had served in peacetime as well.

PUBLICATIONS

From 1972 into the 2010s the official newsletter of Detachment 260 was THE GRAVEL CRUNCHER, edited by Trish and Steve Winsett. In addition to other awards, in 2008, the CRUNCHER was recognized as the number one Detachment Newsletter by Marine Corps League Headquarters.



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A series of Marines editing the GRAVEL CRUNCHER circa 2005 included Norb Howe, Mike Brunette and Mike Sieg.

For a few years the newsletter did not function. When publication resumed in 2014, the newsletter became known as THE GRINDER, edited by Alan Atwell.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The decade between 2007 and 2014 saw two significant achievements by Detachment 260: Hosting the 87th National Convention of the Marine Corps League 08Aug-14Aug2010, and dedication of the Carolina Field of Honor 31May2014.



**RIP FOR TWO WW II MARINES
TOM WALKER & CHARLIE MONNETT**

Either of these achievements would stand alone as quintessential accomplishments of any Marine Corps League Detachment – to accomplish both in less than one decade – with distinction, certainly sets the litmus high for other Detachments or for Detachment 260 going forward.



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CAROLINA FIELD OF HONOR

At the Detachment meeting of 31May2007 at the USMC Reserve Center, Bill Moss motioned that the Detachment build a military memorial in the Triad that would preserve our military history. The motion made no mention of location, budget, or how the estimated \$6 million cost of land and construction might be raised. As short as the motion was on specifics, it was long on vision. It was unanimously approved.

Exactly seven years after the specific-less motion, the Carolina Field of Honor was dedicated. Although the Carolina Field of Honor was founded through the non-profit cooperation, NORTH CAROLINA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, it was hard to miss the work of Detachment 260.



THE CAROLINA FIELD OF HONOR @ TRIAD PARK



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Founding Detachment 260 Commandant Bill Moss also created the Foundation. He was also the founder of the Carolina Field of Honor. In addition to serving on the Board himself, he appointed seven other Marines of Detachment 260 to the original NCWMF Board of Directors (Jim Burgio, Danny Bracken, Bruce Davis, Scott Matthews, Rob O'Hanlon, Fred Sisley and Roger Stockton.) Hank Hennings and George Orfenedes came on the Board at a later date.

Other Detachment 260 Marines closely involved with creating the Carolina Field of Honor were Lloyd Wilkerson, Rich Carrera, Jim Hayes, Chuck and Nancy Stoltz, Tom Gibbs, Rebecca Tyree, Nat Reed, Steve and Patricia Winsett, Jim Stinson, Ginny Bull and Harry Thetford.

Although financial and inkind support came from many sources, these 260 Marines were particularly responsible for a large amount of CFOH income: Jim Burgio, Bruce Davis, Bill Moss, Rob O'Hanlon, Scott Matthews, BGen Fred Sisley (Ret), Jim Hayes, George Orfanedes, MajGen Lloyd Wilkerson (Ret) and Roger Stockton.

Accolades accorded the Carolina Field of Honor in its first few months of existence include, "The largest veterans memorial on the east coast, largest veterans memorial outside Washington, DC, a Top Ten tourist attraction of North Carolina, the largest project undertaken by a local Marine Corps League Detachment, etc."

For his vision and leadership, Bill Moss was accorded more accolades than can be catalogued here. Not the least of these tidings came from a friend of the MCL, U.S. Representative Mark Walker, shown here with Moss at the opening of the new Veterans Memorial downtown.



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**FOUNDING DETACHMENT 260 COMMANDANT BILL MOSS &
CONGRESSMAN MARK WALKER**



87TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



The Carolina Field of Honor wasn't the only project for which Detachment 260 was well accoladed – the 2010 National Convention of the Marine Corps League comes to mind. This was the first time the National Convention was held in North Carolina – arguably the state with more Marine Corps connections than any other. It was the best attended Convention in the history of the Marine Corps League. Over 80 Marines from 260 volunteered to help with the Convention – and may have had a small part in consuming some of the \$25,000 in beer which was donated and consumed.

While Department 260 did what they had to do to make the Convention the biggest and best, local efforts were not matched by certain national leaders whose leadership fell far short of Marine Corps expectations.

It is unfortunate that staff and Marines on the national level were given a pass for the vile and dastardly treatment accorded Danny Bracken, our past Detachment Commandant and local leader of our Convention activities.

This abusive leadership behavior and manipulation on the national level should have been recognized for what it was – a harbinger of a criminal nature which was discovered and rectified less than five years later.



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OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ Detachment 260's history is filled with an infinite array of accomplishments, awards, recognitions, and honors. The Pistol Team has been very active and consistently won many national awards.
- ▶ The GRAVEL CRUNCHER, started by Joe Lamb and Bill Moss as a one-page newsletter, has won many national awards and was perennially ranked among the best of Detachment Newsletters across the country. The GRINDER, new in 2014, proposes to achieve the same level of excellence in communication.
- ▶ Detachment 260 does well with the Eagle Scout Award program, ranking among the top three on Department and National levels. As of 2017, D/260 had awarded 20 scholarships to Scouts over the past six years. Committee members in 2017 were: Ron Medder, Kathy Medder, Gen. Fred Sisley, George Orfanedes, Scott Mathers, Jim Hayes, and Ron Boylston.
- ▶ Our Detachment's Young Marine Program has been among the best in the Department and ranks high nationally. Greg Ross lead our program, supported by a faithful group of 260 Marines who have risen to equip and train Young Marines. Many of these youngsters have had life-changing experiences due to this involvement. In 2014, eleven new boys and girls came into our Young Marine program, bringing the total to 51.
- ▶ Detachment 260 Marine, Percy Sudsbury, served as Department Commandant.
- ▶ Ralph Farthing serving as Department Sergeant at Arms 2015-16.
- ▶ Chuck Stotz is serving on the Department level in 2017.
- ▶ Detachment has hosted numerous Department quarterly meetings.
- ▶ Detachment 260 Marine, Bill Moss earned the National Recruiter's Award in 2006 and 2008. Roger Stockton won this award in 2016.
- ▶ In 2006, Detachment 260 was number one in size and treasury in North Carolina and number four in the nation.
- ▶ The Detachment 260 Drill Team, composed of Will Harris, Richard Wood, Dan Heinz and Bill Woods, led the Jaycee's Christmas Parade 10Dec2005.



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- ▶ The Detachment was ranked number one nationally in recruiting in 2008 and 2010, 1st and 2nd place rankings in Pistol Team competition, two 1st place awards for membership, and a 1st place award for Americanism.
- ▶ Bill Moss was awarded the National Chapel of Four Chaplains Award in 2004, James Luther received the Chapel of Four Chaplains Award in 2007.
- ▶ Moss continued to reap honors for his work with the League and other veterans advocacies. He was awarded the Order of the Royal Pine in 2014, Greensboro's Voices of a City Local History Award for 2015, and the American Red Cross Outstanding Citizen Award in 2015.
- ▶ The Honorable Bruce Davis, GYSGT USMC (Ret) Guilford County Commissioner, was awarded the American Red Cross Outstanding Citizen Award in 2016.
- ▶ In addition to founding the Detachment 260 Color Guard Marine Bill Wood provided an Iwo Jima Float for the Detachment's use in parades.
- ▶ Associate Members were first admitted into Detachment 260 in 2000. Associate Members have served the Detachment across the spectrum of activities, projects and leadership. Uniquely, Associate Member Ed Rothrock, a blood donor extraordinaire, has given over three barrels of blood during his lifetime – and continues to give every two weeks!

FLAG RAISINGS

Detachment 260 has long set the pace for community-wide flag raisings with their well respected Friendly Center mainstay, which consists of a 21-flag array in addition to the post flag flown at Friendly Center's entrance.



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CLYDE DUNGEE – FLAG RAISING SQUAD LEADER





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According to the GRAVEL CRUNCHER, 2007 flag raisings were held on Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Mothers' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fathers' Day, Pre-July 4th, July 4th, Labor Day, Patriots Day, Columbus Day, Marine Corps Birthday, and Veterans Day. As of 2014 flag raisings are done on Memorial Day, July 4th, and Veterans Day.

Upon the opening of Carolina Field of Honor, the Detachment's flags were moved to Triad Park, where they were posted along the drive to the Memorial on patriotic holidays. The DAR picked up on the missing flags and donated new flags for use at Friendly Center – first used 04Jul2015.



RECRUITING EFFORTS

Hopefully, every Detachment 260 Marine is a recruiter. While most new members have come into the League upon the invitation of a current Marine, the Detachment has made corporate recruiting efforts as well.

Primarily, these efforts have been centered around events such as the Fun Fourth downtown, the Greensboro Agriculture Fair, Winston-Salem Air Show and Family Day at

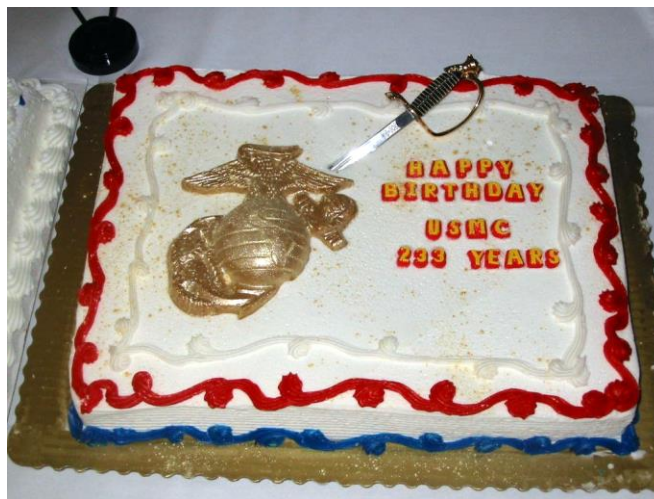


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the I&I Center. The Detachment has also conducted storefront recruiting in cooperation with Harris-Teeter and Wal-Mart.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAYS

These events have been among the high-lights of every year for Detachment 260. Pomp and circumstance, mixed with camaraderie, tradition and esprit de corps, has defined the time-honored season of celebration.



The 2005 Birthday was celebrated at Koury Convention Center, 2006 at Grandover Resort. In 2014, the Birthday was celebrated at Embassy Suites.

Detachment Marines have long history of participating in Marine Corps Birthday Events sponsored by the I & I Marines.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Camaraderie is a Marine Corps tradition and is not lacking with the Fighting 260. Christmas parties are always highly anticipated and well attended. Among other sites,



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these events have taken place at Greene's Supper Club, Holiday Inn, Moose Club, Barn Dinner Theater, Clarion Hotel, Holiday Inn Airport, and Airport Marriott.

Summer picnics, most recently at Triad Park, have kept interest going during our long hot summers.

Once-a-month Wednesday evenings at Cooper's Ale House is a favorite gathering place for many 260 Marines and their guests. In 2017, the Wednesday gatherings were moved to Triad Lanes.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

▶ Marines helping Marines has dovetailed into more humanitarian efforts than have been recorded or can be cataloged. Shipping charges were covered for gift boxes to troops in Iraq from students at Southeast High School.

▶ Marine veterans -- homeless or otherwise down and out -- have been helped with housing, clothing, food, medical supplies, finances, vehicles, handicap ramps and employment.

▶ Marines even help Marines after their death – WW II Corpsman Bill Bennett's memorial service (at his personal request) was conducted entirely by Detachment 260 Marines. After Bennett was transferred to his final duty station, the family requested Marines to sing the hymn to close the ceremony. That did not go well – the Marines thought they were to sing the Marine's Hymn – the pianist started playing the Navy Hymn. It was the worst case of lip-syncing in history! The Bennett children agreed their Dad couldn't have planned a better finale.

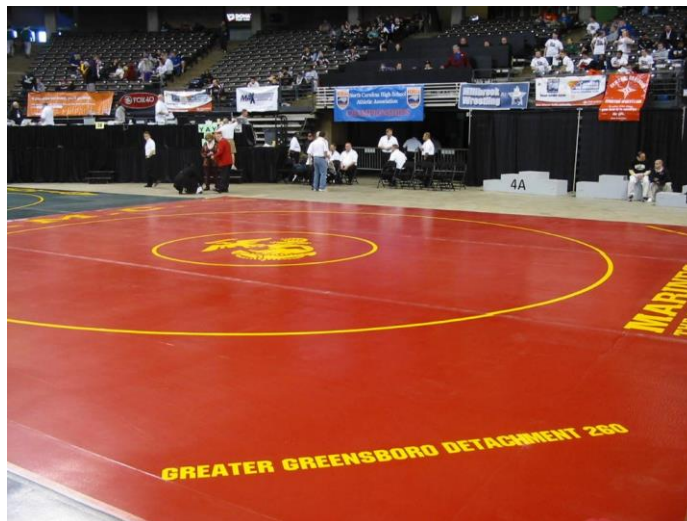


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RIP PAUL TALBERT – HIS GREAT-GRANDSON TOOK OVER PAUL'S INTERMENT FLAG

- ▶ An Appreciation & Awards program honored over 35 World War II survivors at the USMC Reserve Center in May, 2007.
- ▶ A wrestling mat was presented to Southeast Guilford High School. On one side was the EGA with SEGHS logo on the other side. It was presented and first used for the State Wrestling Championships held at Lawrence Joel Coliseum in February, 2009.



- ▶ Past Department Commandant Percy Sudsbury led a Disaster Relief Team to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It should also be noted that Marine Sudsbury is the



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long-time adjutant of his American Legion Post. Among other achievements, he leads his Post's efforts in Saturday morning hot dog sales – a Greensboro tradition of iconic proportions.

► Additionally, Sudsbury leads the Post's "Pop/Pull Tabs" collection campaign in support of the Ronald McDonald House. They have collected as much as 3000 pounds of tabs in one year – they have led the state for 10 consecutive years.



**MARINE PERCY SUDSBURY – PAST DEPARTMENT
COMMANDANT & POP/PULL TAB CHAMPION**

► Marine veterans in the VA cycle have been assisted with transportation to VA Hospitals in Durham and Salisbury, personal visits with gifts of books, socks and pajamas, Christmas visits and Poinsettia deliveries, and help with submission of VA claims. The Detachment also served wounded Marines at Bethesda.



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- ▶ Steve Winsett, with his Gunny Claus program has reached thousands of Marine children over the years at Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point and other military installations. Gunnery Sergeant Gunny S. Claus is a member of the Tactical Sled Group, 1st Reindeer Division, Marine Corps Base – North Pole.
- ▶ In addition to securing donated space for collection and storage and strong participation in the Toys for Tots Program, Detachment 260 has supported the Special Olympics, Shephard Center and Servant Center.
- ▶ The 260 Color Guard was first on the field for the New Bridge Ballpark Grand Opening. Subsequent fund-raising activities at the Ballpark have been helpful to the stadium and to 260 fund-raising coffers.
- ▶ Membership reached 325 in 2008, including Regular, Life, Request, and Associate Members.
- ▶ Detachment 260 made the largest dollar amount award to Wounded Warriors East -- more than any other Detachment in North Carolina.
- ▶ We made the largest dollar amount award to the Museum of Marines at Jacksonville, NC – more than any Detachment in the nation.
- ▶ We partnered with Food Lion to support the Dollars for USO Food Bank in Jacksonville, NC.
- ▶ Detachment Marines sent letters to military personnel deployed to the Gulf Wars, and facilitated civilian personnel to do the same.
- ▶ Detachment 260 donated and installed two computer systems in the Servant Center, a transitional housing alternative for homeless veterans.

FUND RAISING

The dynamics of fund raising sets the course for Detachment 260. Obviously, without funds, Marines can't help Marines. In the 1990s, 2000s and 2010s, the Detachment



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enjoyed a very positive cash flow. This enabled 260 to successfully complete any mission they accepted.

Fund Raising venues are numerous and include storefronts such as: Wal-Mart, Harris Teeter, Best Buy, Big Lots and Golden Corral. In 2005 alone, funds were raised from advertisements in Gravel Cruncher and Membership Directory amounting to \$6500.

Funds came from numerous auctions, raffles, cake auctions, yard sales and flea markets. By September, 2008, the Detachment's bank account balance was \$75,000.

Pancake breakfasts at O'Charley's and Bratwurst sales at Earth Fare raised funds. We sold Christmas trees, mistletoe, Christmas hams, lapel rose pins, and 260 Anniversary Challenge Coins.

Friendly Center donated funds to us for our Flag Raisings at their campus. Belks permitted us to solicit customers to purchase a \$5 coupon for a future sale. With the customers' knowledge, we were allowed to keep the entire \$5 for our projects and the customer got their \$5 back on the sale date.

The Belks fund raising project, thanks to the leadership of Sharon Reddick, surpassed all prior efforts during her 2017 Belks Charity Sale campaign. Final figures are unavailable at this writing, but should exceed \$15,000. For Belks' corporate support, the Detachment donated two wheelchairs to the Friendly Center store.

Wal-Mart gave us a \$1000 grant.



Greater Greensboro Detachment 260 Marine Corps League



Reddick, Stotz and volunteer from Jim Burgio's company

Sizeable funds were derived from volunteer help with the Wyndham Golf Tournament. Even more funds were raised through our multi-year Hope for the Warriors Golf Outing, first at Bryan Park and continuing in 2009 at Grandover Resort.





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During Chrysler Classic Golf days, the Detachment raised \$4000, which included income from handling parking lot chores and working beer trailers. Over time, Golf Tournament income increased dramatically, permitting annual contributions of \$10,000 to Wounded Warriors, which later increased to \$15,000.

General Fred Sisley was a pioneer leader with the Hope for the Warriors Golf Fundraiser, "We always scheduled the tournament for the 1st Friday in October (2015 & 2017 were moved to 2nd Fridays). First tournament was 03Oct2008 @ Bryan Park Champions course. All others since that time were at Grandover Resort. The 2017 event was held on Friday, October 13 – it was our tenth golf fundraiser.

Number of players has varied between 100 and 128. Last year players were 116, if I remember correctly. One year we exceeded 128 and it was quite a logistical challenge!!!

A player's donation to HFTW of \$125.00 included a round of golf with cart, unlimited range balls, a 'goody' bag, lunch, reception after golf, and various awards at the conclusion of play."

Gerald Peek is a pioneer supported of the HFTW golf fundraising efforts. His connection with the Ka-Bar organization has been particularly effective. This is a summary of his comments from the historical aspect of the events: *"First contingent of Wounded Warriors came up for the 2013 event. I had met a SSgt Ryan Harshman at a Ka-Bar event while a Lejeune and we talked about Marines in rehab at the Barracks joining us for our tournament. Got in touch with Scott Matthews who chaired the event and he said why not. Worked with the Barracks and they came up with five candidates and our plan was to invite all five, however two had scheduled VA appointments that day of the tournament and had to drop out. If they had opted to come up they would have had to wait four or five months for another VA date. The three who came were GSgt Don Hopkins, Sgt John Blansett and Cpl. Derek Mages. All three received complimentary OEF Afghanistan Ka-Bars. For the 2014 event, we had three golfers come up, SSgt's Thomas Stephens, Brent Sharpe and LaQuinn Andrus, and all got the special KaBars. For the 2015 event we had a complete foursome, SSgt Chris Battles, Sgt's Brian Hawthorne, Chris Hand and Jon Wolfrom, Ka-Bars presented and last year we had two who could come up, MSgt Torrey Kidder and Cpl Quinn Tamez. They received engraved Ka-Bars depicting the 9th annual event at Grandover resort. Major Robert Williams very much wanted to come up but was transferred to Houston for treatment for brain cancer. He told me at the time his prognosis was, maybe 3/5 months and he wanted to play as much golf as possible in the time he had left. I learned later that he passed in November."*

2016 March 2017 donation of \$13,500.



2015 January 2016.....\$10,000.

2014 November 2014.....\$10,300.

2013 May 2013.....\$11,000.

2012 January 2012.....\$20,000.

GRAND TOTAL FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS OF 64,800.

Detachment Communications Chief composed this Article for News and Record and a portion of it was submitted to SEMPER FI MAGAZINE as well:

March 13th 2017: The Commandant, Roger Stockton, of the Marine Corps League Greater Greensboro Detachment 260 of the North Carolina Department presented a check for \$13,600 to Jack Marin, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hope For The Warriors, an organization founded by military families aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC in 2006. Nationally, Hope For The Warriors provides comprehensive support programs for service members, veterans, and military families that are focused on transition, health and wellness, peer engagement, and connections to community resources. This gift came from the proceeds of the Detachment's Hope For The Warriors Golf Tournament held Oct.13th, 2016

Since 2008 Detachment 260 conducts a golf tournament each fall. In 9 years the tournament has raised more than \$90,000 to benefit various warrior support programs. The original committee, organized by Alan Atwell, included MajGen. Lloyd Wilkerson, BGen. Fred Sisley, William Moss and Joan Brunelli. They held their first meeting in 2007 to plan what the tournament was to achieve. The event was named the Wounded Warriors Golf Tournament though not affiliated with the Wounded Warrior Project. Later the name changed to Hope for the Warriors with permission of HFTW board of directors so as to not infringe on the copyright of national organization named the Wounded Warrior Project.

The first tournament was held on Oct. 3, 2008 at the Bryan Park Champions Course. Since that first tournament all others have been held at Grandover Resort. Annually more than 100 players participate. Each year a contingent of Marines from the Wounded Warrior Battalion East at Camp Lejeune are invited to attend and play in the event. Opening ceremonies are held prior to tee off including the



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pledge of allegiance, recognition of guest Wounded Warriors and recognition of sponsors.

Over the years the tournament has been blessed with many sponsors. The Lenny Peters Foundation at Bethany Medical Center, VF Jeanswear Limited Partnership, Advanced Technology, Inc., The UPS Store, Foreign Accents and Pierce Jefferson Funeral Home were the prime sponsors for the 2016 event. Battleground KIA and Bill Black Auto made cars available as Hole-in-One prizes to increase excitement at the tournament. Other businesses such as Belk, Lowes and Ace Hardware made product available as prizes. The 2017 tournament has been scheduled for Oct 13, 2017, at the Grandover Resort. The cost to each player is \$125.00. Registrations can be made online at www.mcl260.info by clicking on golf tournament.

The Greensboro Detachment 260 of the Marine Corps League supports many causes affecting many in our community. We offer aid to local Marines and their families as well as homeless veterans. We honor youth through special presentations and scholarships to Eagle and Gold scouting program honorees. The Marine Corps League also sponsors the Young Marine Program whose mission is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The Marine Corps League seeks membership from those who have served the United States Marine Corps or Navy Corpsmen who have served in the Fleet Marine Force. The League also seeks anyone interested in our mission to join as Associate members. If you have an interest in serving area veterans you may contact the detachment by calling Jim Hayes, 336-299-7448, or email jimhayes76@gmail.com). Also, any interested party can learn more about the Marine Corps League by visiting our web site mcl260.info.

We sponsored 5-K runs and participated in Wreaths Across America. One of our most profitable fund-raising activities was helping with concessions at New Bridge Ball Park. A Detachment 260 Color Guard participated in Grand Opening Ceremonies.

Belk's invited the MCL to work with them in a fund-raising activity in 2016 that has become the most productive, efficient and rewarding fund-raising in our arsenal. JR. VICE



Greater Greensboro Detachment 260 Marine Corps League

COMMANDANT Sharon Reddick has almost single-handedly made this program a success – 2017 results of the Belks campaign are mentioned elsewhere.

TRAVEL

The Detachment has sponsored several trips, including: Parris Island, Camp Lejeune, Quantico, Miller-Coors Brewing Company in Eden, and several VA Hospitals.

SITE RENOVATIONS

Hopefully, Detachment 260 has left all sites in better condition than when we landed. We painted, carpeted, landscaped and installed ceiling fans in the American Legion Building on Yanceyville Street.

We painted the interior and landscaped the exterior of The Grange Building. We also installed an American Flag and new lighting.

We did a major clean-up of the VFW Building on Elm/Eugene Street as well as interior painting and exterior lighting.

We installed an American Flag at Woodland Place Assisted Living Center.

PARADES

Detachment 260 Color Guard participated in the Greensboro Fun Fourth Parade and the Christmas Parade. It joined the High Point Veterans Day Parade and Christmas Parade, and the Memorial Day Parade in Thomasville.



Greater Greensboro Detachment 260 Marine Corps League



IWO JIMA FLAG-RAISING APPEARS OFTEN IN TRIAD PARADES

MCL participation in at least one parade (High Point Veteran's Day Parade in the early 80s) was exciting but not legal. Detachment Marine Jack Austin was denied a permit to enter the parade, but rode his Harley-Davidson up and down Main Street with American and Marine Corps flags waving freely – until he was stopped by High Point Police. A parade permit was granted the following year.



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DETACHMENT EQUIPMENT ROSTER

Our Detachment armory includes four parade rifles for Color Guard use and nine M-1 Garands. Additional equipment includes a large metal ceremonial EGA, a Fallen Warrior Monument and our Marine Corps League Charter.

POSTLOGUE:

This ends the 2017 edition of the HISTORY OF DETACHMENT 260. As far as records indicate, it is the first official log of the Detachment's history from 1972 through 2017.

Without argument – and sadly -- many significant bits of history have likely been overlooked. But they are not forgotten.

Periodic updates will be made, at least annually, going forward. Hopefully, those overlooked bits of history can be added as they are discovered.

As of this writing, the Detachment has existed for 45 years.

As of this writing, the Detachment stands on the Marine Corps mantra –
SEMPER FIDELIS!

**Harry Thetford
Detachment Historian
31Dec2017**



**Greater Greensboro
Detachment 260
Marine Corps League**