

THE SCUTTLEBUTT

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL



The Official Publication of the
Stanly County Detachment 1021
Marine Corps League
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Editor
L. D. Roush

March, 2018

2017-2018 OFFICERS

Paul Hummel, Commandant

Senior Vice Commandant	William T. Pressley
Junior Vice Commandant	Russell T. Aronis
Past Commandant	Edgar S. Watson
Judge Advocate	John M. Smith
Adjutant/Paymaster	Gary L. Bryan
Chaplain	Eli E. Galloway
Sergeant-at-Arms	Larry L. Shoe
Historian	Lawrence D. Roush

COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

MARINES and ASSOCIATES,

I want to thank all the Troops that attended the meeting and provided their input and support for this year's events. It is with great pleasure that when an objective is achieved all who participated can be proud of their accomplishments. Our schedule is quite full for this year and the motivation displayed by Marine Corps League Personal has not gone unnoticed.

I'm pleased to announce that we have had Marine Wooten displaying his skills at the BUNKER by installing shelves etc. One part completed now to paint the exterior with a suitable color; any ideas on which would be best, please let me know.

I have had Troops from the VFW clean up the outer perimeter to provide a clean and honorable look to our meeting establishment. More to be done.

An article in the Stanly News and Press about the Purple Heart and Veterans Signs has again spotlighted our presence in the community. Marine Burris has exhibited exceptional prowess as evidenced by the number of these signs displayed by area establishments.

Marines Bryan and Burris have also acquired sponsorships for the 15 AUGUST, 2018 VETERANS GOLF TOURNAMENT at the PINEY POINT GOLF CLUB.

Flyers are being developed for sponsors and golfers announcing all the particulars and should be ready for review at the 26 March meeting. Thanks in advance to our troops that will be out and about selling hole sponsorships to area businesses for this year's fund raiser.

I have been in contact with Marine Burleson's wife on his progress to date; he is in the hospital and they are seeking a transfer to the Salisbury Veteran's facility. We wish them well and told her to contact the Detachment if any help is required.

I also want to provide well wishes to Marine Bryan on the surgery this week, hoping for a speedy recovery.

I want to remind the Troops that your recommendations for Officer positions within the Detachment are due by our 26 March meeting. If you desire a challenge and would like an opportunity to serve please notify Larry Shoe. You know the Drill ("A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN...").

The VFW has started the Tuesday NITE BINGO and I want our detachment to support their efforts. The first two were very successful with good attendance. SUPPORT OUR VETERANS.

The Veterans Council of Stanly County will again be conducting the Memorial Day observances by hosting a breakfast for the Troops placing AMERICAN FLAGS on the graves of our County Veterans. The breakfast will be held at the VFW POST # 2908 at 0700 and like previous years the Detachment will assist are providing assistance in this by serving breakfast to our young patriots that will be out placing flags. Thanks in advance for your help and support.

My thoughts on Leadership:

Leadership is lifting a person's vision to higher sights, raising a person's performance to a higher standard, building a personality beyond its normal limitations. With that said I add for your information: The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist simply adjusts the sails.

And you folks thought that I was just another pretty face.

SEMPER FI

Paul Hummel

Commandant

**MARINE CORPSLEAGUE
STANLY COUNTY DETACHMENT 1021
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
26 FEBRUARY 2018**

Prior to the start of the meeting Mr. Bill Sorenson asked to speak in regards to his position and candidacy for NC Senate District 33. His primary concern is the need to improve the educational system in Stanly County and to push for housing for homeless veterans. He specifically hopes to gain National and State support for a Veterans Victory Village. Mr. Sorenson is the son of 'Doc' Sorenson a 32 year retired Army veteran known to many of us, and a nine year Navy disabled veteran himself. Mr. Sorenson is currently a teacher in Stanly County.

OPENING – Commandant Hummel called the meeting to order and appropriate customs and form were carried out.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS – Senior Vice Commandant Pressley was absent. Members in attendance 21, and DVC D. Mathias.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – A prospective new associate member, Samantha Stone, was proposed for Membership by Junior Vice Commandant Aronis

BALLOTING ON APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP Ms. Stone membership was unanimously approved.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – A motion was made to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in "The Scuttlebutt" and seconded. The motion passed.

PAYMASTER'S REPORT – Paymaster Bryan presented the following report.

RECEIPTS:

50/50	\$	65.00
Donation (Watson/Hitchner)	\$	100.00
New Member Dues (J. Johnson)	\$	35.00
Parking Signs (Friendly Chevrolet)	\$	100.00
<u>Parking Signs (City of Locust)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>125.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	425.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Storage Building	\$	2,200.00
Postage (L. Roush)	\$	50.00
Donation (Sherri Colson)	\$	100.00
Parking Signs (5 PH & 5 5 Vet)	\$	200.00
MCL Shop Tucker, Batten & Det.	\$	483.59
<i>Note: \$193 for MCL Blazer, \$225 due fm Batten, \$32.99 due fm. Tucker, \$33 Det.</i>		
National Dues (Johnson)	\$	25.00
<u>Department Dues (Johnson)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	3,063.99

Certificate of Deposit (Bank of North Carolina)	\$10,000.00
Checking Account Balance	\$14,828.30
Cash on Hand	\$ 16.60
Due from Parking signs	\$ 125.00
Members Owe	\$ 257.99

Outstanding Checks	\$	70.00
TOTAL	\$	25,157.89

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS	
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$ 0
CONTINGENCY FUND	\$ 6,255.54
MARINE CORPS BALL	\$ 0

A motion was made to accept the report, it was seconded and the motion was passed.

MEMBERS/FAMILIES IN DISTRESS - The Commandant reported that he had been contacted regarding a Johnny Burleson, a former Marine now living near Mt. Gilead. Mr. Burleson has cancer that is associated with the water contamination at Camp Lejuene, and has recently been hospitalized with a broken leg. The Burleson's need a ramp built so that he can get in and out of his house to continue to receive care. The Commandant is coordinating with a church in Mt. Gilead to build a ramp and he may need some strong backs who can drive a nail straight to help the church with their efforts. The Commandant has been in touch with Gracia Pack, the Montgomery County VSO, to coordinate for VA benefits and services. More next month.

Marine Wooten's father is home and doing very well.

Marine Aronis reports that his father has had to be hospitalized and is having cognitive problems. We wish him well.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Toys for Tots – No activity reported

Marine Corps Ball – Members are reminded to suggest alternate locations for this year's Ball.

Scholarship – Marine Watson reported that the Scholarship Committee is prepared to move forward and that it is anticipated that \$3,000.00 will be available to fund scholarships this year. A formal motion will be made at the next meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Building - The Commandant reported that our storage container's hinges and securing bars have had a generous dousing of WD 40 and are working fine. The shelving will go in shortly and we will finally have a central place to maintain all the Detachment's things.

NEW BUSINESS – The Commandant made a recommendation that the sale of Parking Signs be increased to \$35.00. Following a short discussion a motion was made to increase the cost to \$35.00 and seconded. The motion passed. A motion was made to order 5 more Purple Heart and 10 Veteran Parking Signs for the Detachment. The motion was seconded and passed.

We will be accepting nominations the election of Officers at our next meeting. Your involvement in the Detachment only makes us stronger and all of these positions come with a great sense of satisfaction. If you have a nominee, or want to put your own name forward, for Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, or Judge Advocate please let

Sergeant at Arms Shoe know. We must hold elections at the April 30th meeting, so give this some consideration.

The Paymaster reported that we are about to have six members dropped from our roster by National for non-payment of dues. All those in default have been notified, in writing, by the Paymaster. In response to a question from the floor those members to be dropped are Marines Burgess, Francis, Frank, Measimer, Oliver, and Runyon. All members are reminded that dues are now due on September 1st for everyone, except Life Members. National stopped sending out reminders last year.

OLD BUSINESS – Marine D. Burris reported on his findings regarding the Memorial Board approved at a previous meeting. He is suggesting a black metal plate about 1 and a half inches by two and a half inches to be engraved with the person's name, date of birth and date of death, and area/conflict they participated in. The plates cost about \$8.00 plus engraving. In as much as the first eight are charter members it was suggested they be mounted on the frame around the Detachment's charter. A motion was made to proceed with the first eight names and it was seconded and passed.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE – Marines Shields and Butler were presented with their Life Member card.

The Commandant reported that the VFW is having financial difficulties and that as a cost cutting measure they are no longer paying the bartenders; they are just working for tips. A motion was made to donate the Detachments share of tonight's 50/50 to the bartenders. The motion was seconded and passed. Note from the Paymaster: \$50.00 was donated.

Remarks from DVC Mathias: The Honor Flight out of Charlotte will be in May if you are interested contact DVC Mathias.

Marine Week is scheduled to be held in Charlotte September 2nd thru the 9th, 2018. It is not clear what this will involve, but Marine Week is held once a year in different cities to highlight the Marine Corps. This is a Headquarters Marine Corps event, not Marine Corps League. Any suggestions on how we as a Detachment might capitalize on the publicity leading up to, or during this event, would be appreciated.

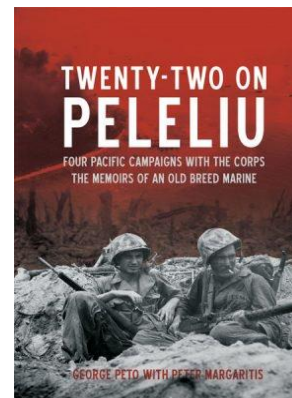
Closing – The appropriate customs and form were carried out and the meeting was closed until 26 March.

Addresses and Phone numbers; Members are asked to notify the Adjutant if your address or phone number changes. Address changes need to be reported to National to keep the record straight and ensure you continue to receive the Semper Fi and Scuttlebutt. Same goes for email.



Lance Corporal Breanna Brown, volunteered for and passed the men's field course.

Marine Smith Recommends



The following extract is taken from *Twenty-two on Peleliu* by George Peto with Peter Margaritis, about George's experiences as an Old Breed Marine on four Pacific campaigns in World War II. Here, he describes what it was like to approach the beach at Peleliu in which more than 2,000 American soldiers would give their lives to secure.

Our amtrac slowly moved into position with the others, to make their three-mile run to the beach. With our amtrac bobbing up and down on the waves, some of us began to get unsteady from that rocking and rolling. Between moving around in the water and just plain being nervous, a few of the guys got really ill and ended up chucking that beautiful navy breakfast.

It was now around 7:45 a.m. Our amtrac joined others as we pattered around in a circle, with more coming over to join us. Then someone gave the signal, and we formed up in a line and began to move towards the island. As we headed toward the beaches, I could see a lot of smoke rising. The warships had been pounding the Jap positions for the last few hours. I liked seeing those battleships firing, like the USS Iowa, with her 16-inch shells whooshing overhead.9 Supposedly, the navy had hit them pretty hard over the last few days, but I knew better. This was not going to be a cake-walk.

I was in one of the lead amtracs, along with K Company commander Capt. George Hunt, and our mortar platoon leader Lt. James Haggerty, with his bright red hair

The following photo and information was submitted by Marine Clontz.

showing under that damn blue baseball cap that he always wore.

I went over again in my head what I was to do when we landed. My job was forward observer for the 81s, so I would have to make contact with them as soon as I could to set up fire missions.

We kept going in, the amtracs all moving slowly. The navy was still keeping up their bombardment and we were grateful for that. As we came nearer to the island, I could see in front of us a few hundred yards offshore white waves crashing onto the coral reef that surrounded the island. Our amtracs were supposedly designed to be able to waddle up to the reef, crawl over it, and keep going until they hit the beach, where they could creep up onto the sand and let us out onto dry land.

When we were about a half a mile from shore, we heard an artillery round whizz in from the island and pass low over our heads. We looked at each other and hunkered down into the amtrac, as the driver began to speed us up. We now approached the coral reef at a faster pace, about four knots. I began to notice splashes in the water around us. The Jap reception.

"That's Jap stuff," one guy said.

"You ain't kidding!" somebody else said.

We came up to the coral reef. Although we seemed to be plodding along, we were going faster than I realized, because when the amtrac hit the reef, it felt like we were ramming a brick wall, and we all staggered forward, slamming into each other, trying to keep from falling. As the tracks began to grind into the coral, the amtrac slowly began to crawl over the reef, the engine straining as we inched forward. A shell landed nearby, and the driver shifted gears into low. Our nose began to creep up as the treads took hold and we moved onto the reef, to the point where we began to have trouble standing.

The amtrac kept climbing up and we struggled to keep from falling backward, until finally the stern was so low, sea water began to splash up over our tail and into the well. Cold water starts to swish around our ankles and we started to stumble as we moved forward. Finally, thank goodness, we made it over the top of the reef and fell forward with a crash. We cleared the reef, and then began our final run to the beach, about 300 yards away. We just looked at each other and shook our heads.

As we approached the shore, Jap artillery and mortar rounds intensified, and I could see geysers spew up as they hit around our landing craft. Looking ahead, I could see that a couple amtracs had already been hit on the reef and were now burning furiously, and there were men around them desperately trying to make it to land. So far, we were the lucky ones.

The temperature climbed and more shells occasionally landed close by as we approached the shore, and sometimes a pew-pew-pew as machinegun bullets hit the water nearby. We finally made it to the beach, as the amtrac crunched up onto the sand and stopped

with a jolt. Our battalion was the first to hit the shore, landing on the left flank at exactly 8:32 a.m., about two minutes after the scheduled H-Hour. We were followed shortly by the rest of the regiment, then the 5th Marines in the center, and the 7th Marines on their right.

We had finally made it to the beach. To get out, we had to climb out of the passenger well and go over each side. The eight-foot drop was not fun, especially if you had to land on something like sharp coral. A few moments after we landed, and with an occasional bullet clanking into the amtrac, we started to get out. I slid over the side and crunched down on a spongy, sandy coral surface. The jump was bad enough, but the guy that followed me landed partly on my back, driving me into the coral.

After I shook my head and got my eyes focused and back into their sockets, I stood up and ran forward as bullets zipped above us and occasional mortar rounds landed here and there. A bunch of us moved up the beach about 30 yards and dove into a tank trap that ran parallel to the shore. The tank trap quickly filled with other guys like me, and we all crunched down. More guys came ashore and those not immediately hit came up behind us, hitting the dirt and then starting to dig in along the sand. I looked around and saw a number of bodies that were just lying on the beach or floating in the surf.



George on his back porch with Trixie the dog, 2015.
(Author's Collection)

George Peto passed away peacefully in his sleep on the Fourth of July 2016.



The burial at sea off Peleliu aboard the U.S.S. Pinkney, October 3, 1944.

Source: "War History On Line"

EDITORS NOTE: At the 29 January meeting Adjutant/Paymaster Bryan reported that the Detachment has purchased Mourning Bands and White Gloves for members to wear at funerals and wakes of members. In addition Gary offered the following "Discussion Paper", suggesting ways to standardize and improve our "Honor Guard" appearance when we render our final salute to a comrade. Pass comments, suggestions, etc. to Gary.

Proposed Final Honors

When a member of this Detachment is called to his/her final reward the family often asks for fellow Marines to attend the wake and/or funeral to acknowledge their love of the Corps. It is strictly the family's discretion to request this mark of respect, but it is our tradition to honor their request. To uphold our tradition of sharpness and military discipline we adopt the following procedures.

When the time comes for a member of this Detachment to be called to their last duty station it is appropriate that we demonstrate a Marine-worthy presence. While we do not practice a specific ceremony the following procedures should be ingrained into all of us so that we can provide a suitable observance. These procedures must be adapted to the physical conditions and arrangements that are found at the Funeral Home or Church. Normally you will find the coffin along a wall with the receiving line to the left of the coffin. Members of the Detachment will meet prior to the service and agree on a suitable location to post a guard. Normally this will be a position adjacent to the coffin or urn. Care must be given to not interfere with the family's receiving line, or the position of funeral home personnel or religious requirements. An optimum location would be at the head or foot of the coffin or behind the coffin or urn. Care must be given to need for movement to and from the guard position.

The appropriate uniform for final honors will be the Formal Dress Uniform with Mourning Band and white Gloves. The Mourning Band should be positioned mid way between the left shoulder and the elbow.

The guard should take his post before mourners arrive and stand at attention, or physical condition being considered, parade rest is acceptable. The guard should be relieved every 10 to 15 minutes to avoid fatigue.

The relieving guard should march smartly to his post and face the guard. The guard being relieved will come to attention, execute a right or left face as necessary, and face his relief. They will salute each other to effect the relief, and the relieved guard will step back or to the side as appropriate so the new guard can step up to assume his position. The new guard will render a salute to the coffin/urn, and assume the duties until relieved.

Normally the honor Guard will not be posted during religious services. The last guard on duty prior to the start of religious services will come to attention, render a hand salute to the coffin or urn, and march smartly to rejoin the Detachment