



THE QUARTERDECK

December 2008

Marine Corps League-West Hudson Detachment #209
286 Belgrove Drive Post Office Box 1775 West Hudson Station Kearny, NJ 07032

COMMANDANT'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

I am excited about being elected as Commandant of this fine organization. I appreciate all of the members and who have offered their advice and look forward to working with you. I am calling on all of our members to participate in our detachment events, especially in the parades, ceremonies and as we honor our fallen comrades.

Semper Fi Marines!
Joe Longo

MEETING DATES

Dec. 3 1930 hours Staff Meeting
Dec. 10 2000 hours Regular Meeting
Dec. 10 8:00pm Ladies Auxiliary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 5-7 Gifts for Children Drive
Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor Ceremony
Jersey City
Mar. 29, 2009 MCL Leadership School

WELCOME ABOARD

Bill Freda was made an honorary member of the detachment. Bill has volunteered much of his time in developing and maintaining our web site.

Marine Nicholas B. Mejia fresh out of boot-camp was home for a short leave before reporting to Camp LeJeune for Marine Combat training. His friend, Fernanda, accompanied him. PC Perry Piwowarski gave him a membership form and encouraged him to join.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Our Installation Meeting was held on Sunday October 25 at the Marine House. The new officers are:

Commandant	Joe Longo
Sr. Vice Cmdt	Joe Melione
Jr.-Vice Cmdt	Roger Maccagnano
Judge Adv.	Thomas De Francisci
Paymaster	Cesar Huaman

G COMPANY, 2/25 BIRTHDAY BALL

Due to the recent deployment of Marines to Iraq, the detachment was invited to the G Company Ball. Commandant Joe Longo and other detachment members attended in support of these brave Marines.

WEST HUDSON DETACHMENT BIRTHDAY BALL

This year marked the 233rd Birthday of the United States Marine Corps and the Detachment's 33rd year for hosting our Ball. I thank all who attended, and extend a special thanks to PC Ron Leminelle, Jerry Spager, Sal Marotti, Frank Buffardi, PC John Cleary, and PC Perry Piwowarski for all of their help and hard work organizing this year's Ball. Color Guard members PC John Cleary, PC Perry Piwowarski, and Cesar Huaman were present and did an outstanding job! Pipers Kevin and Michael McGonigal did a great job as well. Finally, on behalf of all of us, I extend a special thanks to Mr. James Saloczy and his staff at the Holiday Inn of Carteret for all their efforts for making our ball an event to remember.

FAREWELL COMMANDANT CLEARY

As I bid farewell as having served as your Commandant, I wanted to take a moment to thank my fellow officers and staff members for a job well done during my tenure. I would like to thank each and every member of the WHD for entrusting us to serve our Detachment to the best of our abilities. Every member of the West Hudson Detachment should be proud of the accomplishments we have achieved in these past few years. None of it would have been possible if not for the enduring devotion the membership has towards our Detachment. As I now join the ranks of our fellow Past Commandants, I do so with ease knowing that Commandant Joe Longo and his Officers and Staff will only continue our journey, improving our Detachment every step of the way.

Semper Fi Marines!
John Cleary

Chaplain's Corner

Frank McKeown underwent bypass surgery and is recovering at home. Gabe Viggiani is ailing at home while being treated for his cancer and nursing his wife who is recovering from a bad fall. Arthur Thun is going to be hospitalized. Charles Staugaitis is in Sloan Kettering Hospital for treatment of prostate cancer.

If you know of members who are sick or in distress, call Chaplain Charlie Norris (973)694-7177.

In Memoriam

It is our sad duty to inform you of the passing of Past Commandant Bill McDonough. P.C. McDonough served as commandant from 1999 to 2000. The Marines of the West Hudson Detachment extend our deepest condolences to P.C. McDonough's family.

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

We are preparing for our annual Gifts for Children drive on December 5, 6, and 7. Chow will be served at the Marine House following each shift. Volunteers are needed to man positions at the stores. A sign up sheet will be available at the Marine House at the staff and regular meetings.

WHD SHOOTING TEAM



There are no shooting events scheduled until Feb. 2009. All are invited to practice with the team at the "Bullet Hole" every 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month.

If you are interested in joining the team contact Gene Patzer at (973) 770-1749.

CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS

The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation exists to further the cause of "unity without uniformity" by encouraging goodwill and cooperation among all people. The organization achieves its mission by advocating for and honoring people whose deeds symbolize the legacy of the Four Chaplains aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester in 1943.

One of the primary sources of new nominees is from nominations made by persons like yourself. There is a nominating sheet at <http://donjmcl.org/id18.htm>. It is important that the nominating statement specifically describes the nominee's selfless service. This may include, but is not limited to, service to community, place of worship, and civic, fraternal and veterans organizations. In all cases, the selfless service must go above and beyond that required by professional or organizational position. Nominees need not be members of the Marine Corps League, they need only be worthy of the Legion of Honor, male or female, and have not previously received the award.

There are many Leaguers, spouses and other members of your local communities that are worthy of this honor and they should be recognized.

VAVS

After a plea from PC Sklar on the need for a leader to maintain WHD visitation to the vets at the Menlo Park Nursing Home PC Perry Piwowarski and PC Roger Maccagnaro graciously volunteered to accept the position. Former regular and Auxiliary member attendees pledged their support. Perry and Roger deserve a great OOH-RAH.

UVO

Frank McKewon/Bob Gast/Perry Piwowarski: Perry reported that there was a VAVS Vet Day service at St. Stevens Church at 11:00 AM Nov. 11th. He also said the Kearny Town Hall will be redoing the memorial plaque and highlighting medal winners from the bronze star to the Medal of Honor.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

Check out the West Hudson Detachment web site for pictures of events, up to date calendars, or even to email staff members.

www.whdmcl.com



PAYMASTER'S REPORT

As of January 1, 2009, annual memberships and renewals have increased to \$31.00 annually; and new memberships will be \$36.00. Please submit the correct amount when renewing your membership.

The fees for becoming a lifetime member have increased:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Jan 1, 2009</u>
0 - 35	\$400	\$500
36 - 40	\$350	\$400
41 - 50	\$350	\$400
51 - 60	\$250	\$300
61 - Over	\$125	\$150

Any member who is over one year behind in their dues can be reinstated as a member in good standing via the MAPS program. Contact Paymaster Cesar Huaman at (201) 923-3088 to get the process started.

To become a Life Member you must already be a Regular Member in good standing.

The NJ Motor Vehicle Commission will recall any MCL Plates issued to a member that fails to renew their annual dues.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Sal Marotti reported: PC Perry Piwowarski presented an Eagle Scout Award to Aaron Aldridge.

PC John Cleary has started on the next issue of the Americanism Book and contributions are welcome.

Matt and Liz Bucceri have a baby girl Lorena Amore.

An invitation was received to have "Breakfast with Santa" from the "Applebee" chain the proceeds are donated to the "Toys for Tots" drive.

Holiday Lighting Ceremony at the NJ Vietnam Memorial, Homdel for services and wreath laying by WHD.

John Staugaitis had 15 wheelchairs donated in the name of WHD to the Elks.

PSC Rich Basille recommended PC Perry Piwowarski for the "Chapel of Four Chaplains" award.

Joe McLaughlin reported the "Waterhouse Museum" will close Dec. 31st.

COLOR GUARD

Requests for our Color Guard at various events have drastically increased as of late, and the Color Guard is desperately in need of more members now then ever before. Understanding the difficulty our current uniform can be for some of our members such as costs, etc., the Color Guard is considering utilizing a "League" uniform instead of the traditional Dress Blues for some of our events.

Dependant on member feed-back, those interested in joining the ranks of the Color Guard may wear the League uniform, which comprises of blue trousers with blood strip, Long-sleeved Khaki shirt, and windbreaker for the winter season, and short-sleeved khaki shirt for the summer season; along with the Detachment cover and web belt.

Again, the success of our Detachment has partially been achievable because of the reputation of our Color Guard. It would be a shame to allow such a traditional component of our Detachment wither to the point of extinction.

If you know anyone who may be interested, have them call PC Perry Piwowarski.

2008 WHD Gifts for Children Collection Drive

*Volunteers are still needed to man positions at the stores.
Contact PC Perry Piwowarski (201) 955-1176 to sign up to fill the open slots*

Chow will be served at the Marine House following each shift.

Friday, December 5, 2008

Time	Location	Name
1700 - 1900	Stop & Shop	Joseph McLaughlin and Gene Patzer
	ShopRite	Ron Leminelle and Matty Vitale
1900 - 2100	Stop & Shop	Joseph McLaughlin and J.D. Potter
	ShopRite	Bob Gast and Bill Magai

Saturday, December 6, 2008

Time	Location	Name
0900 - 1100	Stop & Shop	Murray Sklar and <i>OPEN</i>
	ShopRite	Joe Piperato and <i>OPEN</i>
1100 - 1300	Stop & Shop	Ceasar Huaman and John Cleary
	ShopRite	Gene Patzer and Dottie & Charlie Norris
1300 - 1500	Stop & Shop	Roger and Tom D.
	ShopRite	John Holle and Charlie Roussel
1500 - 1700	Stop & Shop	Wilmer Morales and <i>OPEN</i>
	ShopRite	Fred Stecher and <i>OPEN</i>
1700 - 1900	Stop & Shop	Joe Longo & Maria Longo
	ShopRite	Frank Buffardi and <i>OPEN</i>
1900 - 2100	Stop & Shop	Joe Longo and Bill Freda
	ShopRite	Bill Maskal and <i>OPEN</i>

Sunday, December 7, 2008

Time	Location	Name
0900 - 1200	Stop & Shop	Rich Centi & Debbie
	ShopRite	Perry & Valerie