



THE QUARTERDECK

January 2009

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

(201)992-4492

COMMANDANT'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

Happy New Year Marines! As the new commandant I hear stories of the great work we have done historically. I realize that some of our members are slowing down and that others are busy raising families and with our careers, but we must ask ourselves why we joined the Marine Corps League. I joined primarily because I wanted to support the active duty Marines fighting for our freedom. Having participated in detachment events like parades and funerals has rekindled the pride I had as a young Marine many years ago. I believe that we owe it to the warriors that founded our detachment as well as the warriors defending our freedom on active duty to continue our mission with enthusiasm. Therefore I would like to ask each and everyone of you to consider going the extra mile for our detachment. Let's march a platoon behind our color guard in the next parade and fill the room for the next Marine who passes away. That's what separates Marine from the rest of the world!

OLD BREED? NEW BREED? THERE'S NOT A DAMN BIT OF DIFFERENCE SO LONG AS IT'S THE MARINE BREED!

OOH-RAH!
Joe Longo

MEETING DATES

- Jan. 7 7:30 pm Staff Meeting
- Jan. 14 8:00 pm Regular Meeting
- Jan. 14 8:00 pm Ladies Auxillary

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 20 TBA VAVS Bingo Menlo Park
- Feb. 1 12:00 pm Father Washington Mass
St. Stephen's Church, Kearny
- Mar. 8 TBA St. Patrick's Day Parade
Woodbridge, NJ
- Mar. 15 TBA St. Patrick's Day Parade
Kearny NJ
- Mar. 29 8:00 am Dept NJ Leadership College
Sea Girt, NJ

Chaplain's Corner

Frank McKeown underwent bypass surgery and 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 found his tests at the hospital were good. Charles Staugaitis is in outpatient care at Sloan Kettering Hospital for treatment of prostate cancer. Fred Stecher has again been hospitalized at Clara Maass Hospital with a foot infection. *If you know of members who are sick or in distress, call Chaplain Charlie Norris 973-694-7177.*

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Cmdt. Longo extends his thanks to all of the members who solicited for the WHD "Gifts for Children" drive. Special thanks to PC Perry Piwowarski for riding around collecting, PC Ron Leminielle for cooking, and Ed Pflugi for standing duty to tally the collections all weekend. Gift certificates will be purchased from the stores which permitted WHD collections for distribution to families in need this holiday season. Excess undelivered toys collected will be donated to the "Family Services" of Nutley.

Angelo Rosa, former WHD member, sends his Holiday greetings to all.

Marine Pvt. Mejia who visited the detachment in November is undergoing advance infantry training on IED's and urban fighting at Camp LeJeune in preparation for duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. If he's home for the holiday he will stop by the house. Members are encouraged to write to Pvt. Nick B. Mejia, MCT Btl. Fox 20 3rd Plt. PSC Box 20161 Camp LeJeune, NC 28542-0161

The detachment will make a donation to the MCL Dept NJ and Devil Dog Pack Scholarship Fund.

Al Roulette, chairman of the Homeless Veteran, request for a donation to help at the "Stand-Down" was reviewed and approved by the staff.

Cmdt. Longo reported again that PSC Rich Basille will be holding a "Chapel of Four Chaplains" induction ceremonies and PC Perry Piwowarski is being recommended. He asked the members for anyone the members could recommend and read about a teacher he was submitting for the honor.



PC John Cleary with Tobacconist Tony Santana (left). Santana is the creator of the custom blended WHD cigar.

WHD SHOOTING TEAM



The team ranked 4th among 35 entrants at the 4th Annual Rifle Match at Pennsylvania. Team member Ralph Oltero took 1st Place in his event. All WHD members are invited to practice with the team at the Bullet Hole in Belleville every 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month. *If you are interested in joining the team contact Gene Patzer at (973) 770-1749.*

FATHER WASHINGTON MASS

Father John P. Washington was one of four military chaplains on the torpedoed SS Dorchester who sacrificed their lives by giving away their life preservers during World War II. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross. Father Washington was a priest from St. Stephen's Parish in Kearny. In addition the father of WHD member John Holle's also went down with the ship. This event is a beautiful spectacle in remembrance of American heroism. We request that you mark the date on your calendar and join us at the mass.

February 1, 2009 Noon
St. Stephen's Parish
676 Kearny Avenue, Kearny, NJ 07032

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 Piwowski.

VAVS

The first Bingo game for the veteran's at Menlo Park under new leaders, Perry Piwowski and Roger Maccagano is scheduled for Tuesday January 20, 1:30 PM and every third Tuesday of the month thereafter. The day and time have been selected to accommodate retired members of the detachment who are able to volunteer for this committee. Perry and Roger are proposing that we plan a trip for these veteran's to the USS Intrepid or some other point of interest this spring. Volunteers will be needed for this as well. *If you are interested in helping with VAVS contact PC Perry Piwowski at 201-955-1176*

QUARTERMASTER

The Quartermaster section of our website is nearly up and running. When completed the detachment will be able to accept orders for merchandise and payments for things like tickets for our Annual Birthday Ball, Membership Dues or any other payments or purchases via PayPal. We are also in need of a glass front display case. *If you have one or know where we can get one contact PC Perry Piwowski at 201-955-1176*

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.



WHD CUSTOM CIGAR

The detachment has developed a custom blended cigar with the help of tobacconist Tony Santana. This cigar is well-packed and offers a rich and well-balanced woody flavor with a note of sweetness in the mix. It picks up in spiciness in the third act, but overall, the cigar is medium-bodied with a pleasantly round finish.

The proceeds from the sale of the cigars will benefit the WHD scholarship fund. There will be two offerings initially, a Churchill and a Robusto. The cigars are packed 20 per box of either size and a 10 cigar gift box will be offered. The price is \$80.00 per box for either size and the gift box price will be announced at a later date. Sr. Vice Cmdt. Joe Melione, is taking the lead on this program and is doing an outstanding job. *If you would like to purchase cigars call the Marine House 201-992-4492.*

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