



Westfield River Valley Detachment 141 Scuttlebutt



*Serving the Greater Springfield Area
Hampden & Hampshire Counties*

Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aetern, Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever

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March 2017

Chartered November 28, 1945



Marine Corps League



141 Upcoming Events

**Detachment 141 Meeting in September
March 13, 2017 @ 1900**

Scholarship banquet—April 22

Flag Pin Donations at Geisslers—May 12-14

Flag Pin Donations at Walmart—June 16-18

Saturday Breakfast

Since September 2015 the Saturday breakfast is offered on the second and fourth Saturday of the month

**Get Involved, Volunteer!!
Uniform Up!**



Elected Officers:**Commandant:**

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Judge Advocate:

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Commandant's Corner....

I have been working on our membership roster and pleased to report that all 30 delinquents are accounted for. Twenty three are paid up, Six dropped & One died. Our total membership is 132.

It's now the Detachments job to remind all members that their dues date is August 31 each year.

I would encourage Life membership.

At our last (postponed) regular meeting (02-20-17) the membership voted to support the Easthampton American Legion baseball program. We'll be getting their

games schedule a/s/a/p.

The Carl Butler Scholarship Fund Raiser is in full **Bloom**. We need Chinese raffle items. Enthusiastic members are encouraged to procure items and get them to the Committee by 03-18-17. Buffet Tickets are on sale for \$20. ; Little people under 10 & big people over 90 eat free. American Legion Post 224 Easthampton is donating their hall once again. Saturday April 22, 2017: 6:PM ~ 9:PM. Please participate and bring the whole clan.

The Independence Day calendar tickets are now being distributed to members with sales-person ability.

This year's goal is to beat Dan.

Were locked in for Mother's Day pin sales at Geissler's Supermarket Agawam (12,13,14 May 2017) and Walmart Westfield for Father's Day (16,17,18 June 2017) Sign-up sheets will be at Barracks soon.

Semper Paridis

John S. Rutovich, Commandant

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Detachment 141 meets monthly on the second Monday at 1900. Social hour at 1800. Detachment phone number is 413-562-4850.

Appointed Officers:**Paymaster:**

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Jr. Past Commandant:

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THANK YOU SPONSORS***Happy Birthday
to our following
members:***

March

***(10) Robert McRobbie, (11) Patricia Mat-
thieu, (13) Aldo Mancini, (16) Samuel Ad-
ams, Vincent Sulewski, (17) John Bartoluc-
ci, (20) Douglas Link, (21) William Wil-
lette, (23) Michael Martin, (26) Bennie For-
ester, (28) Peter Pitoniak, (29) John Hur-
ley, (31) Edward Mitrook, Steven Sklarski***

Need money for tuition?

In addition to Detachment 141's outstanding scholarship commit-
tee, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation can help. It awards
scholarships of up to \$10,000 a year to the children and grand-
children of Marines and Navy Corpsmen for post-high school,
undergraduate and career and technical education. Applications
are being accepted from Jan. 1 to March 1 for those who meet the
eligibility standards. Find out more here: <https://www.mcsf.org/>

From the Paymaster:

Scuttlebutt sponsorships are for one year. We ask that our spon-
sors donate \$100 to the detachment to continue their inclusion in
our newsletter.

We ask our members to remember their generosity by mentioning
them to friends and family.

Memories From the Corps by Bill Federman

Life is full of choices but the ones we make as Marines can have especially dire consequences. That is why I, and the rest of platoon 2019 at MCRD San Diego (Where Marines Are Made) were silently praying that Pvt. Dean would please, please not raise his hand in response to our drill instructor's question.

It was a Sunday morning in July of 1968 and we had been in boot camp for 6 weeks or so. On Sundays after morning chow, if I remember correctly, we were granted some down time to write letters before being herded to the parade deck or the obstacle course or the PT field. Sgt. Newby, one of our drill instructors, had ordered us into platoon formation so he could, he hinted, give us some important news.

Sgt. Newby seemed almost human that morning, which immediately put the more perceptive among us on guard. After we were standing tall to his satisfaction he told us, in a soothing tone and with a benevolent look in his eye, that recruits in every platoon in our battalion were being given the opportunity --- a one-time chance, so it was now or never --- to transfer to the Navy. If any of us felt that we had made a mistake by enlisting in the Corps, now was the time to rectify the situation. Buses were standing by, Sgt. Newby told us, to take anyone who raised his hand to the Navy boot camp across the bay to begin the process of becoming --- here Sgt. Newby couldn't keep a note of disdain from his voice --- a sailor. Just raise your hand, he said, and the Marine Corps will soon be a distant memory.

Pvt. Dean was one of those guys who did nothing right. He couldn't drill, he couldn't do a pull-up, he couldn't tear down an M-14 or put it back together. He was pretty hopeless all the way around and as a result he was singled out for, uh --- *special attention* --- more than the rest of us. He also wasn't, as far as anyone could tell, very bright. So we knew that Sgt. Newby's obviously absurd pitch probably sounded pretty good to Pvt. Dean. But no one wanted Pvt. Dean's stupidity to be the cause of his demise before he had the chance to more usefully die in combat. Hence our collective but silent prayer.

Of course he raised his hand and of course Sgt. Newby took him behind a quonset hut for some one-on-one instruction in the importance of loyalty to Corps, country and God, in that order. Pvt. Dean eventually recovered and I don't recall him volunteering, for anything, again.

Pvt. Dean had his faults but he taught me that taking what looks like the easy way out of an unpleasant situation isn't always the best choice. It's a lesson I've never forgotten.

Thanks, Pvt. Dean, wherever you are.



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