



Semper Fidelis—Always Faithful  
The Westfield River Valley Detachment 141  
Monthly Newsletter

# Scuttlebutt

Serving Greater Springfield

Chartered in 1945

Volume 64 No. 4

[www.mclwrv141.com](http://www.mclwrv141.com)

April 2009

## Get Well Frank



**Marines Earn DSA Awards**

*Don Rivette, left, and Art Fisher, center, receive Distinguished Service Awards from Detachment 141 Commandant Francis J. Curnow in ceremonies at the March meeting. Both were cited for “meritorious service” to the Marine Corps League and U.S. Marine Corps. (MCL photo by Frank Real)*

# Commandant's Corner . . . . .

Happy Easter (Belated)...Hope everyone enjoyed some time with family and friends. I'm just back from the warm (rainy) parts of Northwest Florida. I'll not be sporting a tan...can't get one in the rain you know. So this will be brief.

Just got the word that Frank Real was doing some nights in the hospital, so Marc Dunne will cover this month's Scuttlebutt.

Welcome back to Don Dorrington from his winter over...be careful around him...He came into contact with some weird flesh eating animal and is recovering now....A real survivor, but we already know that. Tom Pirnie is still working on his conditioning program at the V.A. Don't let them get ya down!!

Fred Hoekstra led a color guard in the Springfield Viet Nam Veterans Memorial...Well done! And for general info, the Agawam Veterans Honor Guard is still working on their rifles which are in need of help.

Devil Dog Pound Keeper Dupee advises that a brief growl and breakfast at the Detachment will be followed by a lunch at the Holyoke Soldiers Home on Sunday May 3rd....Join up at the Detachment 0830...(Breakfast time)

Looking forward to Patriots Day activity in Westfield on Saturday April 18th (TBA) 1300? Dept. of MA meeting for all involved on Sunday next 19 April 12:00 BOT followed by meeting at 13:30 in Fitchburg.

Planning on Memorial Day Parade in progress....need marchers, riders and Barbeque grillers for feeding the marching troops. Plan on 25 May and show the City who we are!! Need Color Guard at Agawam...note Chicopee and W. Springfield have requested our participation also...Can't be everywhere, but let's do the best we can...if Dorrington and Mucha can do it we can all help in some way.

Finally, a Happy 50th Anniversary to the Young Marines who will celebrate on the 24-26 April in their birthplace, Waterbury, CT. Westover contingent will be there showing their best....there may still be tickets left for a banquet on the 25th at the Holiday Inn in Waterbury. Check the website or call for info.

That's it for now...  
Semper Fi  
Fran C.



**Commandant Francis J. Curnow**

### April Birthdays

<b>April 1</b>	<b>Terry Paige</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Bill Lacey III</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Micheal Schieb</b>
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Kevin Leary</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>James Ross</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Earl Brick</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Joe Mucha</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Brian Dupee</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>Arthur Riordan</b>
<b>April 30</b>	<b>Donald Gadoua</b>

### Detachment 141 Officers

<b>Commandant</b> _____	<b>Fran Curnow</b>
<b>Senior Vice</b> _____	<b>Brian Dupee</b>
<b>Junior Vice</b> _____	<b>J.B. Stern</b>
<b>Paymaster</b> _____	<b>John Rutovich</b>
<b>Adjutant</b> _____	<b>Marc Dunne</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b> _____	<b>Sean Sullivan</b>

**Detachment 141 meets monthly on the second Monday at 1900. Social hour is at 1800 hours.**



**Young Marines formed in Waterbury, CT, in 1959 by the Brass City Detachment of the Marine Corps League**

April 2009 Events:

- April 4: Phase 2 SW PA JLS Washington, PA. POC: Dave Cummins  
DaveCummins@consolenergy.com
- April 10: National Headquarters closed for Good Friday
- April 18-19: Phase 3 SW PA JLS at Tomlinson State Park, WVA. POC: Dave Cummins  
DaveCummins@consolenergy.com
- April 24-25: 50th Anniversary Celebration of Young Marines in Waterbury, CT.



**Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)**

**Founded in 1946**

VAVS Chairman-Brian Dupee  
Assistant-Joe Willis  
Assistant-Dan Bishop

Assistant-Joe Mucha  
Assistant-Lynn Dupee

VAVS Chairman Brian Dupee would like to thank Chaplain Dan Bishop for his “generous” donation of 160 DVD’s to the Veterans.

**Wish List—April**

Popcorn oil for Ward 4 & 8  
Big Y gift cards  
Art supplies  
Disposable razors

Walmart gift cards  
Recently released DVD’s  
Kareoke music, CD’s  
Phone cards

## **Westfield River Valley Detachment 141 Marine Spotlight**



**Thomas Pirnie**

Thomas Pirnie was born on August 19, 1945 and graduated from West Springfield High School. Upon realizing what I had wanted to do, I enlisted on the delayed entry program for the military in January 1965. After graduation from High School, I worked that summer and on 26 August 1965, I took the oath and off to Parris Island I went. Boot camp was short due to the Marine Corps needing bodies in Viet Nam. January of 1966, I met up with a unit titled 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines 1st Marine Division. On our way to Viet Nam we trained in the Philippines. 3/5 went on float phase and would participate in Viet Nam. We finally landed at Chu Lai and began our participation in the Viet Nam conflict and would make our mark in the history of the Corps. Deckhouse I/Nathan Hale, Deckhouse II/Hastings (1st Purple Heart, shrapnel in abdomen on 4 August 1966). Colorado, Napa (2nd Purple Heart, gunshot in left arm on 8 September 1966. Was shipped back to Chelsea Naval Hospital and then to Bethesda Naval Hospital where I met a

First Sergeant who offered me a position at Guard Company at Quantico. My left arm was still not working properly and so I taught Marine Corps etiquette and then taught other stuff with training units for OCS and then for the regular troops. I traveled from Quantico to Bethesda Naval Hospital on a regular basis so the Doc's could check on the status of my arm. When I re-qualified on the range, I was given the present of going back to Viet Nam as part of the Vietnamization of the war, teaching the Vietnamese how to do combat tactics. Because I did not get along with the Vietnamese I was given the opportunity to participate in Operation Dewey Canyon (FSB Cunningham) in support of the 9th Marines. I ran patrols of the mountain. On 7 March 1969, the CH-46 blew up shortly after take off (3rd Purple Heart) which resulted in my final trip home ( I mean Chelsea Naval Hospital). On 22 October 1969, I was honorable discharged from the Green Machine. Tom made PFC in Dec. 65, L/Cpl in July 66, Cpl. In Sept. 66 and Sgt. in March 67. Besides the Purple Heart (3 stars) Tom has the Good Conduct, National Defense Service Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal (4 stars) Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry, Republic Of Viet Nam Meritorious Unit Citation, Republic Of Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon Gold Star, Army PUC (Dewey Canyon), PUC 1 Bronze Star (Hastings). In between Chelsea and Quantico I met this really neat lady who became my wife on 27 February 1967. After returning home, with a little push, I went back to school earning a Bachelor Degree in teaching, I also earned a Masters Degree, CAS and finally a Doctorate in Hypnosis which is my current occupation. After 28 years teaching in Southwick, West Springfield and Westfield I retired. Our three children live in the Western Mass area with our 5 grandchildren. I currently teach at Holyoke Community College and enjoy a semi country life in Westfield. Semper Fi! Tom

# Spotlight!!

Last Duty Station?	Chelsea Naval Hospital
Favorite Meal?	Not Seafood
What did you do after leaving the Corps?	Worked for a wholesale florist
Current Occupation?	Consulting Hypnotist
Where were you on December 7, 1941?	Flowing through time & space (ha ha)
Favorite President?	Chesty
M-1, M-14 or M-16?	M-14 and M-16
Favorite military movie?	Sands of Iwo Jima
Favorite actor?	My wife
Favorite vacation place?	Home
Favorite book?	The Forgotten Man
Last book read?	6 Blind Elephants
Favorite subject to talk about?	Hypnosis and The Corps
What do you think of today's Marine Corps?	Awesome!!!
Favorite quote?	Adapt & Overcome
Most memorable lifetime event?	Being blown out of a CH-46
Would you have been a Young Marine?	No
Would you, if you could do it all over again?	Depends
Should politics be kept out of military decisions?	Depends



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