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# Marine Corps League

Serving Greater Springfield

# Scuttlebutt

Newsletter of Westfield River Valley Detachment 141

Westfield, Massachusetts

Volume 72 No. 8

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

August 2011

**Young Marines Gain First Place** for being the Best Marching Unit in the annual Hampton Ponds Association July 4th Parade. The West-over Young Marines unit is sponsored by the Westfield River Valley, Detachment 141 of the Marine Corps League headquartered in Westfield. The Detachment color guard was lead by Commandant Brian Dupee with Fred Shannon, Marc Dunne, Michael Burke and Edwin Orwat. Photos by Matt Knas, story by PAO Frank Real.



**"Marines I see as two breeds, Rottweiler's and Dobermans, because Marines come in two varieties, big and mean or skinny and mean. They are aggressive on the attack and tenacious on the defense. They've got really short hair and they always go for the throat." RAdm. "Jay" R. Stark, USN; 10 November 1995**

## The Commandant's Corner

Just another month in New England with the never ending changing weather. I hope some members got to go to the beach or pool to relax a little because here we are in August already with full steam ahead.

Some of us spent the early part of July at a fabulously wet, but fun packed pig roast. I couldn't ask for a more bountiful feast. If anybody went home hungry, it was their own fault. Some lucky winners even went home with their pockets full. Praise to all that prepared and made this a success again, and also to the mighty set up and clean up crews.

The very next day, many participated in the 4th of July parade at Hampton Ponds. We were even honored by the Young Marines marching with us and keeping us in step. I was very honored to accept their first place trophy for them. Congratulations, Young Marines of Westover. The July meeting brought up our budget, which passed unanimously. Another Marine Corps League year has begun with the Westfield Detachment as active as ever.

The Westfield Fair is fast approaching. It will be here before you know it. The committee is already meeting and desperately needs more volunteers to man the booth. The sign up sheets are at the barracks. Please make yourself available for a few hours.

My wife Lynn and I along with Mike Burke will be leaving for the National Convention this weekend to the great state of Idaho. We'll be back just in time to report to everyone what went on at the August meeting and to add our names to the list for the Fair. Looking forward to seeing you all at the August meeting.

In closing, let's remember our men and women in harms way. We shall keep faith with them and their families and ask God to watch over them in their everyday duties.

Semper Fidelis,

Brian P. Dupee



**Commandant Brian P. Dupee**



### Detachment 141 Officers

Sr. Vice	Dan Bishop
Jr. Vice	Bill Penkala
Judge Advocate	Don Rivette
Paymaster	Marc Dunne
Adjutant	Mike Burke
Sgt. at Arms	Aldo Mancini
Chaplain	J.B. Stern

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

### **Fundraisers:**

The Detachment and Auxiliary work close together in support of the principles of the Marine Corps League. We hold several annual fundraising events including: a scholarship dinner, flag pin sales on Mother's Day and Father's Day, July 4th pig roast, a baked potato and chili booth at the Westfield Fair, a motorcycle run and a July 4th and Christmas calendar raffle. The Detachment hands out 4 scholarships totaling (\$1200.00) every year. Our motorcycle run is entering its third year, and last year we donated 100% of the proceeds (\$1500.00) to the Marines Helping Marines/Wounded Warriors Fund.

### **Financial Support:**

Our organization provides financial support to the following:

- The Chapel of Four Chaplains
- Toys for Tots
- Tree of Lights
- Marines Helping Marines
- Wounded Warriors
- Holyoke Soldiers Home
- Veterans Hospital—Leeds
- Westover Young Marines
- Marine Corps League Youth Fitness Program
- Korean War Memorial
- Local Boy's and Girl's Clubs
- Westfield Veterans Council
- Americanism Program

In addition, we host a Children's Christmas Party at the barracks, along with serving breakfast for all veterans every Saturday morning from 0700-1100.

### **Community Involvement:**

Our members are actively involved in the Greater Springfield area. We provide:

- Color Guards for Memorial Day and Veterans Day services, parades and other patriotic occasions.
- Honor Guards for funerals of military veterans.
- Care packages to deployed Marines and FMF Corpsmen.
- Toys for Tots programs.
- Speakers for local and area schools for patriotic occasions.
- Certificates of Appreciation to leaders of community organizations and private citizens who demonstrate patriotism.
- Good Citizenship Awards to Boy Scouts who attain the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Flag Retirement Ceremonies.
- Marine Corps Birthday Ceremonies.
- Assistance to Marines, families and Marine Units.

The Detachment also sponsored the 2010 Department of Massachusetts Convention at Westover Air Reserve Base.

## Upcoming Detachment 141 Events

August 8:	Detachment 141 meeting
August 19-21:	84th Westfield Fair at Westfield Fair Grounds
September 12:	Detachment 141 meeting
September 18:	T4T Bike run, cook-out at Westfield Fair Grounds
October 9:	Pulaski Park Memorial Ceremony
October 10:	Detachment 141 meeting, nominations of Officers
November 10:	236th Marine Corps Birthday
November 14:	Detachment 141 meeting, election of Officers
December 11:	Kids Christmas Party at Barracks
December 12:	Detachment 141 meeting
TBA:	Kids Skate Party at Amelia Skate Park
January 9:	Detachment 141 meeting

Come see us every Saturday for breakfast, hours are from 0700-1000. (depending on food) For a small donation our menu includes eggs, sausage, biscuits, toast, SOS, hash, grits, juices, milk, coffee, (regular and decaf), donuts, pastry, and breakfast bars. Enjoy the company of your fellow members, watch the news on the big screen TV or mingle with the vets from the Soldiers Home or Leeds. Why watch history on TV when you can sit right next to it at the barracks.

If you changed your email address, see Fred Shannon for updates. If you know of any potential sponsors, see Dan Bishop. Sign up sheets are in the back for all upcoming activities, so get your uniforms ready and participate in your Detachment. Still looking for help at the Westfield Fair, bring the family and enjoy the Fair. Matt Knas is our official photographer, but we need more pictures from the events, Matt can't be everywhere. If you have a camera keep it close, we may need you.

### Scuttlebutt

Scuttlebutt is the official newsletter of the Westfield River Valley, Detachment 141, Marine Corps League, and is intended only for the information of its members. Articles and photos do not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Marine Corps or the Marine Corps League. Detachment Headquarters is located at 71 North Elm Street, Westfield, MA. 01085. Items for publication should be dropped off at headquarters or by contacting the editor. For current events and up to date calendar items, go to our Web Site at [www.mclwrv141.com](http://www.mclwrv141.com). The Detachment phone number is 413-562-4850

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## Upcoming Dues: August Dues

Michael Burke, Donald Wielgus, Warner Robinson, James Berrelli, Earl Brick

## September Dues

Joseph DeLeo, Michael Kuzdzal, Thomas Johnson, Patricia Matthieu

## October Dues

Morris Cave, Neil Smith, Richard Rutowicz, John Haley

## Dues Reminder

Remember, if you are delinquent for more than 1 year, you can and will be dropped from the Detachment roster. You will need to pay ALL dues in arrears in order to be considered a member in good standing, or you can become a NEW member again and pay the initiation fee.

### 2010

Jeffrey Hall, Donna Magdycz, Ronson Sherman, John Godfrey, Harry Mifflin

### 2011

Barry Szymojko, Thomas DeINegro, George DeBarge, Francisco Duncan, Ella Balchunas, John Kern, Stanley Strempek, Robert Potito, James Bouchard

## Life Membership Dues

Members age 35 and younger.....\$500

Members age 36-50.....\$400

Members age 51-60.....\$300

Members age 61 and over.....\$150

## August Birthdays

2nd Richard Greene  
 3rd "Doc" Rivette  
 4th Jacques Racine  
 5th Lisa Smith  
 8th Richard Tyrell, Donald Whitehead  
 11th Larry Barrett, Wayne Cartwright  
 17th Joe Willis, Robert Dittrich  
 19th Thomas Pirnie  
 21st J.B. Stern  
 22nd Roger Butler, Javish Garcia  
 25th Wilbur Greene, Ron Hamel, Jason Laverty  
 27th Bruce Rogers  
 29th Donald Withee



## Marine Spotlight John Foley

<p>Where were you born?          Graduated from? (High School)          Married? Children?          Graduated from? (Boot Camp)          MOS          First Duty Station?          Last Duty Station?          What did you do after leaving the Corps?          Favorite meal?          Current occupation?          Where were you on 7 December 1941?          Favorite President?          Favorite movie?          Favorite actor?          Favorite comedian?          Favorite book?          Favorite vacation place?          Favorite subject to talk about?          Favorite quote?          What do you think of today's Marines?          Most memorable lifetime event?          Did you make the Corps your career?          Would you do it all over again?          Should politics be kept out of the military?          All time favorite Marine?</p>	<p>Holyoke, Mass.          GED          2, 1 son, 1 daughter          Parris Island, 2nd Battalion, Platoon 249          2100          Pollocksville, N.C.          Cherry Point, N.C.          General Electric, Holyoke Police Dept.          Saturday morning breakfast at barracks          Retired          Globe Theater          John F. Kennedy          The Pacific          Humphrey Bogart          Red Skelton          Guadalcanal Diary          Oahu, Hawaii          Women          Semper Fi          "A" one          March 10, 1945          No          Yes          Yes          Joe Foss</p>
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**The Marine Corps has just been called by the New York Times, "The elite of this country". I say "They are the elite of the world." Adm. William "Bull" Halsey, U.S. Navy**

## This Month In History....

**1 August 1944:** After nine days of fighting in a battle termed “the perfect amphibious operation of World War II,” Major General Harry Schmidt, commander of V Amphibious Corps, declared the island of Tinian secured. The combination of surprise, heavy pre-assault bombardment, and effective logistical support was responsible for Tinian’s capture with a much lower casualty rate (344 killed and 1550 wounded) than had been experienced in previous landings.

**3 August 1950:** Eight Corsairs of VMF-214, the famed “Black Sheep” squadron of World War II, launched from the USS Sicily and executed the first Marine aviation mission in the Korean War in a raid against enemy installations near Inchon. After the F4Us delivered their incendiary bombs and rockets on their targets, the Marines concluded their greeting to the Communist troops with a series of strafing runs.

**7 August 1990:** President Bush ordered U.S. military aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to defend that nation against possible Iraqi invasion. One week later, the Marine Corps announced the commitment of 45,000 troops to the Persian Gulf area as part of Operation Desert Shield which would become the largest deployment of U.S. forces since the Vietnam War.

**9 August 1942:** With the Guadalcanal airstrip secure after fighting with the Japanese, the 1st Engineer Battalion commenced work on the runway using captured equipment. Three days later, on 12 August, the first plane landed on Henderson Field, a Navy PBY which evacuated two wounded Marines. Nearly 3,000 wounded Marines would be evacuated from Henderson Field during the battle.

**17 August 1942:** Just prior to dawn, the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion under Lt. Col. Evans F. Carlson landed on Makin Island from the submarines Nautilus and Argonaut. The next day, the Marines left the island after destroying a seaplane base, two radio stations, a supply warehouse, and killing about 100 Japanese soldiers.

**21 August 1968:** Pfc. James Anderson, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy, Paul R. Ignatius, for heroism in Vietnam while serving as a rifleman with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines in February 1967. This was the first Medal of Honor presented to an African-American Marine. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson, Sr., received the award during ceremonies at Marine Barracks, 8th and I.

**23 August 1984:** The last Marines to serve peace-keeping duty in Lebanon arrived home. The 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) arrived off the coast of Lebanon on 9 April to relieve Marines of the 22nd MAU who were guarding the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The 24th MAU left Beirut on 31 July, marking the last presence of U.S. combat troops in Beirut since Marines entered almost two years earlier.

**24 August 1814:** Captain Samuel Miller’s 100-man detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, fought in the battle of Bladensburg for the defense of the national capital. After helping to fight back three British charges, Captain Miller was wounded and the enemy began to work around both flanks of the American force. Almost encircled, the force of sailors and Marines was forced to retire to avoid capture. The Marines lost 8 killed and 14 wounded.

**Warriors by Day, Lovers by Night, Professionals by Choice and Marines by the Grace of God.**



Flag officer John Rutovich hands Peter Platanitis, Jr. an award for publicly displaying the U.S. Flag in front of his family-owned business of 26 years Century Auto Service located at 1615 Riverdale Street in West Springfield, MA.



On Father's Day weekend, Detachment 141 held it's annual flag pin sales at Wal-Mart in Westfield. Thanks to 19 Marines standing post during the 3 day weekend, it was a huge success. Below are Vinnie Sulewski and Dr. Thomas Pirnie. Photos by Matt Knas







On Sunday, 12 June, Detachment 141 members from L-R Robbie “Mac” McRobbie, Marc Dunne, guest speaker and Eagle Scout Thomas Bailey, Flag Officer John Rutovich, Fred Shannon, Edwin Orwat, Amanda Bailey and proud mother Carrieann Bailey-Dymon presented the annual Flag Day ceremonies at Parker Memorial Park. Other members attending the ceremony were Commandant Brian Dupee and wife Lynn, Michael Burke who played TAPS and Vinnie Sulewski who attended the fire pit. Mayor Knapik, Rep. Donald Humason as well as members from the Westfield Fire and Police Departments, EMS, VFW #1847, American Legion Post #454, the Young Marines, and Westfield’s Boy’s and Girl’s Scouts attended the event. MCL member Joe Knapik was also there with the Westfield Sportsman Club black powdered shooters. Pictured below left are Young Marines Jeremy Friedrich and James Samson. Below right is Vinnie Sulewski. Photos by Matt Knas





On June 8th, Detachment 141 presented the West Springfield Fire Department with flags for their apparatus. L-R are Bill Grassetti, Flag Officer John Rutovich, Chief Bill Flaherty, Marc Dunne and Jeff Joseph. All photos by Matt Knas.



On 21 June, the Holyoke Fire Department received flags for their apparatus, rescue boat and station houses. Pictured above are Fire Chief Bill Moran and Group B at Fire Headquarters.

## 2011 Detachment 141 Pig Roast



Let's Eat



Detachment 141 held it's annual Pig Roast on July 3rd at the Westfield Fair Grounds. Top left, getting ready to serve, Tom Pirnie, Jack Ramsey, Bill Garen, Mary Sankolewicz and Carrieann Bailey-Dymon, Javish Garcia and family, below left, Jack Ramsey and wife Helen, Lisa Smith and J.B. Stern. See you again next year!



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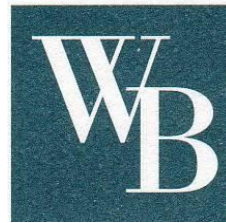
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Detachment 141 would like to thank all our sponsors for their continued dedication and support of this monthly newsletter.

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