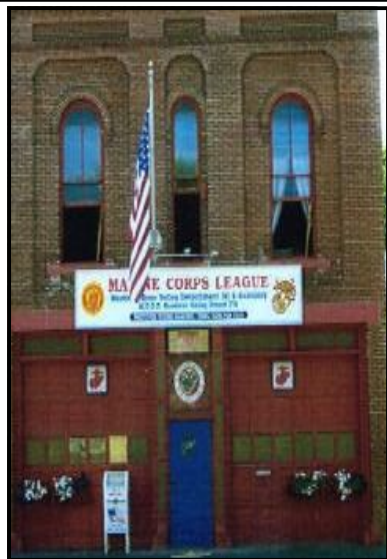


# Scuttlebutt

Newsletter of the Westfield River Valley Detachment 141  
Serving the Greater Springfield Area  
Hampden & Hampshire Counties



*Commandant: John S. Rutovich*  
*Volume 72, Issue 12*

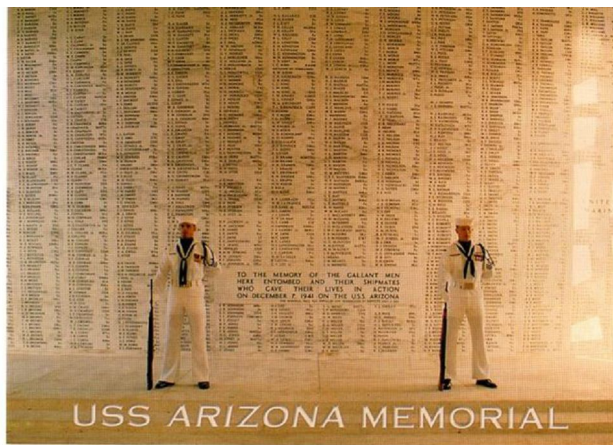
*Chartered November 28, 1945*  
*Chartered May 23, 1949*

*Editor: Marc S. Dunne*  
*December 2011*



View of Battleship Row

December 7, 1941  
We Shall Never Forget



Detachment 141 photographer Matt Knas on vacation in Hawaii. While there Matt paid a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial. Photos by Matt Knas.

**About Us:**

The Westfield River Valley, Detachment 141 and Auxiliary are located in Westfield, Massachusetts. The Detachment's Charter was signed on November 28, 1945. The Auxiliary unit received its Charter on May 23, 1949, but was misplaced and on October 25, 1979 received their new Charter.

**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 fourth year, and this year we donated 100% of the proceeds (\$5700.00) to the Marines Helping Marines/Wounded Warriors Fund.

**Financial Support:**

The Detachment provides and has provided financial support to the following:

- Captain John Maloney Fund
- Sgt. Joshua Desforges Fund
- 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 December, we host a Children's Christmas Party at the barracks and a Kid's Skate Party at Amelia Skate Park during school vacation, along with serving breakfast for all veterans every Saturday morning from 0700-1200.

**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.

**Detachment Awards:**

- Distinguished Detachment Award (2006)
- National Jr. Vice Commandant's Citation for 100% Membership (2007, 2009)
- Meritorious Unit Commendation (2009)
- Honorable Mention for Americanism Book (2011)
- Certificate of Participation, National Newsletter (2011)

**Detachment 141 Marines of the Year:**


The following members have been honored as Detachment Marines of the Year:

1998-99	Arthur Fisher
2006-07	John S. Rutovich
2007-08	Thomas D. Pirnie
2008-09	Frederic R. Hoekstra
2009-10	Daniel J. Bishop

**Meetings:**

Detachment meetings are held at 1900 on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Marine Barracks located at 71 North Elm Street, Westfield, MA. Social hour is at 1800.

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




**Bill Taylor**  
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 MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS  
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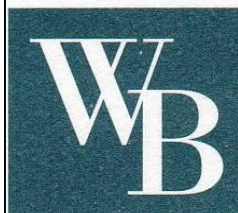
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## Upcoming Detachment 141 Events

Wed. Dec. 7:	Pearl Harbor Ceremony (meet at barracks for 0900)
Sun. Dec. 11:	Kids Christmas Party at Barracks 1300 hrs.
Mon. Dec. 12:	Detachment 141 meeting
Sat. Dec. 17:	Christmas Party at Holyoke Soldiers Home 1830 hrs.
Wed. Dec. 28:	Kids Skate Party at Amelia Skate Park 1500-1600 hrs.
Mon. Jan. 9:	Detachment 141 meeting
Mon. Feb. 13:	Detachment 141 meeting Scholarship Dinner TBA

### \*\*\*Saturday Breakfast is back\*\*\* Come on down

Come see us every Saturday for breakfast, hours are from 0700-1200. (depending on food) Our menu includes eggs, sausage, toast, SOS, home fries, hash, juice, 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.

### Scuttlebutt

Scuttlebutt is the official newsletter of the Westfield River Valley, Detachment 141, Dept. of Mass. 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

#### Detachment 141 Officers:

Commandant:	John Rutovich	sakejack61@comcast.net	413-222-2684
Senior Vice:	Marc Dunne	MarcDunne@comcast.net	413-250-5515
Jr. Vice:	Roger Beer	rbeer4@comcast.net	413-437-7542
Adjutant:	Geoff Croteau	geoffcroteau@gmail.com	413-222-4883
Judge Advocate:	Don "Doc" Rivette	devildoc734@hotmail.com	413-583-8931
Paymaster:	Mike Burke	mapabarkingdog@aol.com	413-568-3689
Sgt. at Arms	Aldo Mancini	manscruffy@comcast.net	413-789-0830
Jr. Past Commandant:	Brian Dupee	bdupee6281@charter.net	413-527-6281
Chaplain:	J.B. Stern	jarhead2squid@hotmail.com	413-530-2391
Asst. Chaplain:	James Bouchard	jamesbouchard@comcast.net	413-687-9262
Photos:	Matt Knas	tatra@charter.net	413-525-6270
PAO:	Frank Real	fgreal@aol.com	413-348-7885

## Upcoming Dues:

### December Dues

Steven Jones, Joel Nelson, Bill Penkala, Mike Redfern, Donald Savageau, Lisa Smith, J.B. Stern,  
Vincent Torrone, Barbara Dymon, Carriann Dymon-Bailey

### January Dues

Richard Stone, Barry Szymojko, Robert Dittrich, Jr.

### February Dues

Sophia Bartosik, Steve Christenson, Leila Connolly, Thomas DelNegro, Bennie Forester, Jr., James  
Lavery, Peter Pitoniak

## 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

Thomas DelNegro, George DeBarge, Thomas Daly, Lou Johnson, Earl Brick

## 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

## Happy Birthday to the following members:

Thomas Walsh, Patrick Pompei (3rd), Isabel Paulson (6th), Joel Nelson, Carroll Arnold (10th), Lynn  
Dupee (11th), William Kana, Francis Curnow (12th), Joseph Hart (13th), William Daley (15th),  
Klaus Maurer (18th), John Rutovich (23rd), Fred Shannon (30th)

## Congratulations to our 2011 New Life Members:

Vincent Sulewski, Stephen Donoghue, Joshua Bouchard, Phillip Martin, Joseph Hart, Paul Tessier  
and Samuel Adams

## Welcome Aboard to our New Members:

Manny Marrero, Kevin Scarborough

## Marine Spotlight Roger Beers

Where were you born?	Plymouth, Mass.
Graduated from? (High School)	University of Nebraska-Extension
Married? Children?	Yes, 1 son, Thomas
Graduated from? (Boot Camp)	Parris Island, Class of 62, 1st Battalion
MOS	2841, Ground Radio Repairman
First Duty Station?	Camp Pendleton, California
Last Duty Station?	Camp Pendleton, California, 1st Marines
What did you do after leaving the Corps?	Attended college
Favorite meal?	Wide variety
Current occupation?	Retired
Where were you on 7 December 1941?	Not born yet
Favorite President?	JFK
Favorite movie?	George Washington
Favorite actor?	Don't have one
Favorite comedian?	None
Favorite book?	Team of Rivals-Doris Kearns Goodwin
Favorite vacation place?	Anywhere to travel
Favorite subject to talk about?	Traveling, Hiking, History
Favorite quote?	"Ask not what your country can do for you, Ask what you can do for your country"
What do you think of today's Marines?	I would like to see their radios
Most memorable lifetime event?	My son's birth
Did you make the Corps your career?	No
Would you do it all over again?	Assuming the same circumstances, sure
Should politics be kept out of the military?	Yes
All time favorite Marine?	None



History of 1st Marine Regiment-The 1st Marine Regiment is an Infantry Unit of the USMC based at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California. The Regiment, sometimes known as "Inchon" falls under the Command of the 1st Marine Division and the I Marine Expeditionary Force. The Regiment comprises four Infantry Battalions and one Headquarters Company. Some of the notable Commanders of the Regiment are, Clifton Cates, Chesty Puller, Paul Kelley and Cliff Stanley. Their motto is, "No better friend, No worse enemy". Eighteen Marines from the regiment have been awarded the Medal of Honor, WWII (6), Korea (10) Vietnam (2)

## This Month In History....

7

**4 December 1950:** LtCol Raymond G. Davis led his battalion into Hagaru-Ri, Korea after four days of intense fighting in the mountain passes against a numerically superior hostile force. His battalion, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, helped clear the way for the 5th and 7th Marines, and LtCol Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

**6 December 1928:** A small detail of Marines under Captain Maurice G. Holmes defeated Nicaraguan bandits near Chuyelite. GySgt Charles Williams was mortally wounded during the fighting. Capt. Holmes was later awarded the Navy Cross for gallantry, and a posthumous award was given to GySgt Williams.

**8 December 1941:** Japanese aircraft attacked Wake Island within hours of the fateful attack on Pearl Harbor. Marines of the 1st Defense Battalion and Marine Fighting Squadron 211 resisted Japanese invasion attempts for over two weeks before finally succumbing to an overwhelming force.

**9 December 1992:** Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations capable) landed in Somalia kicking off Operation Restore Hope, the largest humanitarian relief operation of its kind.

**10 December 1995:** In Bosnia, 22 Marines from Marine Corps Security Force Company from Naples, Italy were among the first American troops to arrive. They provided the security for Allied Forces Southern Europe headquartered at Sarajevo. About 2,500 NATO troops would be in place by 19 December taking on the task for peace enforcement in former Yugoslavia from the U.N.

**15 December 1948:** The Secretary of the Navy signed a "Memorandum of Agreement" with the State Department which laid the basis for the modern Marine Security Guard program at U.S. Embassies around the world.

**19 December 1972:** The Marine Detachment for the USS Ticonderoga provided shipboard security for three U.S. astronauts, Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, Harrison Schmitt, and their Apollo 17 space capsule. The astronauts successfully completed a (then) record lunar stay of more than 75 hours.

**20 December 1989:** Operation Just Cause was launched in Panama to protect American lives, restore the democratic process, preserve the integrity of the Panama Canal Treaty, and apprehend dictator General Manuel Antonio Noriega. One Marine, Corporal Garreth C. Issak, was killed and three others were wounded in the operation.

**23 December 1941:** Japanese forces launched a pre-dawn invasion on Wake Island and Wilkes Island, while their carriers launched air strikes against Wake, Wilkes and Peale Islands in support of the landing force. After nearly 12 hours of desperate fighting, the three islands were surrendered.

**26 December 1957:** Twenty helicopters from Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162, were rushed to Ceylon on board the USS Princeton where Marines participated in the rescue and evacuation of flood victims.

**There are only two kinds of people who understand Marines: Marines and the enemy.  
Everyone else has a second-hand opinion. General William Thornson, U.S. Army**

## Korean War Remembered



It started 61 years ago last June that resulted in four young men being ordered to fight in a place they never heard of, Korea. Their job was to stem the almost unstoppable North Korean Army that pushed our troops to a small perimeter at Pusan. At a recent forum for students and guests at Westfield State University, they recalled their combat experiences in the three year war the see-sawed up and down the Korean Peninsula only to end in a truce. Above, Marine Jack Ramsey of Easthampton; Captain James P. McInerney, USMC (retired), of Chicopee; Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., USN (retired), of Concord, holder of the Medal of Honor; Guest Speaker James G. Berrelli, West Springfield Veterans Service Officer; and Marine Fred Shannon of West Springfield. History Professor Ron Savoie, not shown, narrated the forum, "The Forgotten War." Ramsey, Berrelli and Shannon are members of the Westfield River Valley Detachment 141, Marine Corps League. All donations benefited the Wounded Warrior Project. Photo by Don Weilgus. Story by Frank Real.

During the Korean War, units of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing flew more than 125,000 sorties in support of the United Nations Forces. Almost 40,000 of these sorties were close air support missions. Marine helicopter squadrons evacuated more than 10,000 wounded personnel, and greatly increased the survival rate for wounded Marines. The price of liberty in human costs is always high, and the Korean War was no exception; Marine casualties totaled over 30,000; just over 4,500 Marines gave their lives in Korea. Forty-two Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism above and beyond the call of duty in Korea; twenty-seven of these awards were posthumous.

**"We've been looking for the enemy for several days now, We've finally found them. We are surrounded. That simplifies our problem of getting to these people and killing them." Col. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller during the Chosin Reservoir campaign in Korea, November, 1950.**

## Message From The Commandant:

I trust all have digested their Thanksgiving meal by now and are ready to tackle December. All is well on the Western Front; Irish pennants trimmed and cobwebs vacuumed. The 141 troops are stepping up to the plate and getting the job done for the Good of the League. We will have a color guard attending the Pearl Harbor Ceremony. Muster at Headquarters on 7 December at 0900. The Detachment will attend the Westfield Veterans Council at 1900 on 8 December.

Sr. Vice Dunne has the Kids Christmas Party ready to rock & roll on 11 December at 1300. I shall request all Appointed Officers to be in uniform for photos at the next meeting on 12 December. Capt. Thomas Johnson will have a Firefighters informal dinner & hoedown at the barracks on 16 December. Detachment 141 members are welcome. Doc Rivette & his elves are working up a super party for our Veterans at the Soldiers Home on 16 December at 1830. Let's give Doc some volunteer time to make this a memorable Christmas for all our Vets.

The Kids Skate Party is all set for Wednesday, 28 December from 1500 –1600. If anybody wants to bring treats, feel free. I want to thank Jr. Past Commandant Brian Dupee for your selfless support and devotion to the Detachment. This is the time of the year to make that extra effort to visit our Veterans who are home bound or convalescing away from home. Show them WE care. 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 where e'er they may be.

Semper Fi,

John S. Rutovich  
Commandant



Commandant John S. Rutovich



**Don't forget to get your Christmas Card Calendars,  
See J.R. or stop by for breakfast on Saturdays,  
If you can't sell some, then buy some**

**"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**

## In Life, and Death, A Marine's Pride Endures By Bill Federman

I recently came across a photo on the Web of three smiling young Marines in front of a sandbagged bunker during the Vietnam War. The caption named two of the Marines. For the third, it said something like, "Can't remember his name. He was KIA on May 19."

The unnamed Marine is dead and long gone, but he'll never be forgotten. He was immortalized on the day he was accepted into the Marine Corps, which elevated him from the ranks of the ordinary to his eternal inclusion in the Few, the Proud, the Marines.

I know; the description sounds like a trite, sentimental, overused recruiting motto.

But it's true, as true as life and as certain as death. Memories fade with our youth and the names of comrades are lost as they recede into the past. But that young Marine's flame will never be extinguished because of his membership in a fraternity that steels itself for future trials by exalting its past. His name may not be remembered but his identity—a Marine—lives on.

That faithfulness—and a certain amount of arrogance—will be on full display today, the 236th anniversary of the founding of the future United States Marine Corps at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, where a committee of the Continental Congress met to draft a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines able to fight for independence at sea and on shore.

That resolution was approved on November 10, 1775, officially forming the Continental Marines. On that day, a tradition of pride, excellence and commitment began.

Marine Corps pride is often bewildering to the uninitiated, but it shouldn't be. Marines are held to a higher standard in everything we do. Our history, traditions and training reinforce those values and forge a pride that lasts a lifetime. And if that isn't enough, the fear of letting down a fellow Marine or tarnishing the image of the Corps that gave us an opportunity to excel spurs us onward. Being a Marine isn't all self-sacrifice; we receive as much as we give.

Having something greater than ourselves to believe in is a blessing. Marines know this. In the words of an anonymous Navy admiral: The Army and the Navy are run like traditional military services. The Air Force is run like a corporation. But the Marine Corps is a religion." I say, Amen, and Semper Fi!

Bill Federman is an Albany, New York Times Union editor. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968-1971. He is a member of the Westfield River Valley, Detachment 141 Marine Corps League, Department of Mass.

**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**



*Military Order of the Devil Dogs  
Pound #276, MA Pack  
Pound Keeper: Mike "Speedy" Burke*

**WHAT IT IS**

The Military Order of Devil Dogs is the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League.

**1. WHAT IT DOES**

It promotes good fellowship amongst the members of different Marine Corps League Detachments. The Order provides amusement and entertainment at all gatherings of the League, when and where advisable. It assists in the accomplishment of all programs and objectives of the League, preserves and strengthens the principles and ideals of the League, and maintains true allegiance to the United States of America and its Constitution and laws. It fosters and extends American institutions of freedom and defends America against all enemies whatsoever. The Order is also VERY active in raising funds for different charities.

**WHO BELONGS**

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is made up of only members of the Marine Corps League. The Order accepts only the most worthy of League members.

**HOW TO JOIN**

You must be a paid-up member and in good standing in the Marine Corps League with at least one year's membership. The applicant must be active in his or her Detachment in the League, and must request membership in the Order. He or she must be recommended by his or her Detachment Commandant and be sponsored by two Devil Dogs or Pedigreed Devil Dogs. The applicant is then interviewed by the members of the Pound at the Pound Growl. (A meeting is called a Growl.) If accepted, the applicant must undergo an initiation and swearing-in ceremony. Then he or she becomes a Pup in the Order.

**ORGANIZATION**

The Pound is on a local level and is usually made up of members of different Marine Corps League Detachments. On the State level there is the Pack, and on the National level there is a Kennel. There are three different degrees in the Order. The lowest degree is that of Pup. The next degree is that of Devil Dog. The highest degree is that of Pedigreed Devil Dog. The Pup wears a black ribbon, the Devil Dog wears a red ribbon, and the Pedigreed Devil Dog wears a gold ribbon. The ribbon is worn around the neck and a Dog Tag is attached to it.

The head of the Pound is called the Pound Keeper. The head of the pack is the Pack Leader. The head of the Kennel is also the head of all Devil Dogs and is called Chief Devil Dog.

The Order's many charitable donations not only help people in need, but also build good public relations for the Order, the League, and the United States Marine Corps.

**Woof! Woof!**



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