

Chartered 1945



# Marine Corps League

## Serving Greater Springfield

# Scuttlebutt

Newsletter of Westfield River Valley Detachment 141

Westfield, Massachusetts

Volume 71 No. 7

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

July 2011



From the left, Donald Rivette, Gerald Boutin, Armand Riendeau, Warren Griffin, Bernard Heaney, Tony Garro, Mike Chouinard and Francis Curnow

Bernard J. Heaney of Baldwinville was elected as the Massachusetts Department, MCL Commandant on Saturday, June 4th at the 75th annual convention held in Tewksbury. Commandant Heaney succeeds Paul Porter to head the more than 2,200 member Marine Veterans organization made up of 28 Detachments scattered throughout the state from Pittsfield to Cape Cod. Heaney has served as the Mass. Department Sr. Vice Commandant, as well as Inspector General. He also served as the Adjutant, Quartermaster and Webmaster for the Pequog Detachment in Athol. He was also the Kennel Financial Officer for the Military Order of Devil Dogs, a fund raising arm of the Marine Corps League. He has been married to the former Nancy Ruggles of Hardwick for 41 years, and they have three grown children. Also elected to one year terms were Warren Griffin of Holliston, Senior Vice Commandant, Tony Garro of Salem, Junior Vice Commandant, Michael Chouinard of Dracut, Judge Advocate, Roger Hoffman of Peabody, Chaplain, and Francis Curnow of Feeding Hills, Donald Rivette of Ludlow, Gerald Boutin of Taunton and Armand Riendeau of Dracut serving on the Finance Committee.

## The Commandant's Corner

Summer is finally here and along with that comes all its adventures and hopefully a little less rain.

Once again, we had our flag pin sales in June and it was very successful. More volunteers stepped up to the plate this time around which makes it easier for everyone. Think about it for next year. It is a good way to recruit new members and it also allows the public to see a little bit of what we do.

The month of June also brought our state convention with new officers elected to the Department staff. Several of Detachment 141 officers were on hand to make sure our votes counted, and I would like to thank all the members who participated at the convention. Of course, our own photographer Matt Knas was on hand to do what he does best with a lot of candid shots, there is no way to hide from Matt.

Speaking of hiding, I would like to thank the kitchen staff for the wonderful Saturday morning wake-ups. It is now time for them to take a well earned summer vacation. Hopefully more people will help out in the fall to keep this great tradition going. Bill Chandler will still be here every Saturday through the summer with coffee and donuts.

Tickets for the pig roast went very well and I'm so looking forward to this delicious meal and seeing everyone on the 3rd of July. Don't forget to sell our calendar raffles which is a very important part for the pig roast to be a success. This year our very own Javish Garcia will be getting a special award from the National Staff. Don't miss that.

The 4th of July is also coming up and we will be marching in the Hampton Ponds parade along with the Young Marines. If you can't make the parade, I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable holiday on our nation's birthday. The board of trustees has been working hard on the 2012 budget and it should be ready for the July meeting. Thanks again for another successful month.

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



**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.

## Marines Pitch In To Aid Fellow Marine Devastated By Tornado

Marines Helping Marines, is a volunteer organization dedicated to helping injured U.S. Marines but it's name and goals epitomize the mind set of all Marines.

Take the case of former Marine Lance Corporal Javish Garcia of 44 Clark, Springfield, Mass., a hero in his own right for saving three lives. He lost his home as the result of the June 1 tornado that ripped through Western and Central Massachusetts leaving a massive path of destruction and killing four people.

Garcia, a member of the Westfield River Valley Detachment 141, Marine Corps League (MCL) and his family had the roof of their single family house blown off by the swirling winds damaging his property and devastating the entire neighborhood. "It looked like a bomb hit it." Garcia said.

The Marine's plight was brought to the attention of the Department of Mass, MCL, meeting in convention at Tewksbury June 4. "We voted to donate \$2,000 to his cause for openers," said Department Commandant Bernard Heaney. The matter was also referred to the MCL National Foundation for further financial assistance. He and his wife, Wallesa, and their five children, ranging in age from 5 to 21, rode out the storm on the first floor of their home. "We are lucky, none of us were hurt."

But one of his neighbors was not so lucky, Javish and his 17 year old daughter, Kaitlyn, heard cries for help from the wreckage of the house next door that was totally destroyed. A man was trapped under a beam and other debris. "My daughter and I dug him out from under a heavy beam that we lifted off of him." Springfield Patrolman J. B. Stern, also a MCL member, said Garcia dug the man out of what was just a pile of lumber. "He didn't hesitate to help his neighbor. It's in his nature."

The injured man suffered a broken clavicle and punctured lung. He was treated at the scene by emergency workers and hospitalized. He is now living in a shelter, according to Garcia.

This is not the first time Garcia has saved a life. On two occasions, he wrestled attempted suicides from committing the act while on his job as a security guard at Tower Square. He was scheduled to receive a MCL National Gold Heroism Award at the MCL state convention on June 4, but the ceremony was postponed because of his plight.

MCL Detachment 141, headquartered in Westfield, with members throughout the Greater Springfield area and surrounding communities, immediately set efforts in motion to assist Garcia with financial aid and survival items, according to Detachment Commandant Brian Dupee. "The main thing is my family is safe. We will make it," said Garcia. He added, he is grateful for the help he is receiving from his fellow Marines, his family and neighbors. "I can't thank them enough." Story by Frank Real, Public Affairs Officer, MCL.



## Upcoming Detachment 141 Events

July 3:	Detachment 141 pig roast at Westfield Fair Grounds
July 4:	Hampton Ponds Parade-Color Guard
July 11:	Detachment 141 meeting
July 31-Aug 6	88th MCL National Convention, Boise, Idaho
August 8:	Detachment 141 meeting
August 19-21:	84th Westfield Fair at Westfield Fair Grounds
September 12:	Detachment 141 meeting
September 18:	T4T Motorcycle 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 12:	Detachment 141 meeting

**\*\*No Breakfast during the months of July & August\*\***

**Kitchen will re-open in September**

**Bill Chandler will be serving coffee & donuts**

**while kitchen is closed for summer vacations**

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. We are looking for help at the Fair, sign up, it's a fun day. 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. I welcome any ideas on how to better our monthly newsletter, please submit your ideas to me at [MarcDunne@comcast.net](mailto:MarcDunne@comcast.net).

### 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

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## Marine Spotlight Michael Burke

<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>Westfield, MA.          Westfield High School, Class of 2002          No          Parris Island, 3rd Battalion, India Co.          5524          Camp Lejeune, North Carolina          Camp Lejeune, North Carolina          Went to Westfield State          Beef Goulash          Student at Westfield State          Not even a twinkle yet          George Bush, Jr.          Full Metal Jacket          Clint Eastwood aka Gunny Highway          Jeff Dunham          "The little train that couldn't, but tried"          Florida          Music          "Run, Marines, Now!"          Awesome!!          Graduating from boot camp          No          Yes          Yes          R. Lee Ermey</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**

## Upcoming Dues: July Dues

Santiago Bustos, Jr., Thomas Daly, Wayne Fisher, Jeffrey Hall, Donna Magdycz, Harry Mulliken, Karl Ozga, Ronson Sherman, Elizabeth Brewer, Bill Garen, Lou Johnson, Richard Macsisak, Vernon Morris, Michael Scheib, John Torrone

## August Dues

Michael Burke, David McColloch, Warner Robinson, Donald Wielgus, Joseph Wise, James Berrelli, Earl Brick

## Dues Reminder 2010

Jeffrey Hall, Donna Magdycz, Ronson Sherman, Joseph Wise, Isabel Paulsen, John Godfrey, Lisa Smith, Harry Mifflin

## 2011

Barry Szymojko, Thomas DelNegro

## 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

## Thank You!!

To the following members for their help in our successful flag pin sales at Wal Mart:  
Don Dorrington, Bill Garen, Roger Beers, Fred Shannon, Edwin Orwat, Francis Curnow, Dan Bishop, Joe Willis, Ben Surprise, Thomas Pirnie, Geoff Croteau, Brian Dupee, Lynn Dupee, Bill Fisher, Mike Burke, Matt Knas, Vinny Sulewski, Fredy Palacio, and Marc Dunne

## July Birthdays

2nd	George Daly
4th	Richard Stone
6th	Misty Phillips
7th	Robert Duffy
8th	John Sellig
11th	Leila Connolly, Roger Beers
14th	Santiago Bustos, Jr.
15th	Barry Szymojko, Thomas Walsh
16th	Mary Sankolewicz
19th	Justin Gelgut, John Kern
20th	Ella Balchunas
24th	David McBee



## This Month In History....

**4 July 1801:** President Thomas Jefferson reviewed the Marines, led by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, LtCol William W. Burrows and the Marine Band, on the White House grounds. The smartly uniformed Marines performed drills and fired various salutes in observance of the new nation's 25th anniversary.

**6 July 1990:** One of the oldest and most versatile attack aircraft in Marine Corps history, the A-4 Skyhawk, retired from the Corps' active aviation structure after over 30 years of service. The last two Skyhawks from MAG-32 flew their initial flight from Cherry Point to NAS Patuxent River on this date.

**7 July 1941:** The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW) was activated at Quantico, Virginia. Within a year of activation, the Wing would participate in the Marine Corps offensive at Guadalcanal. That bitter campaign would be the first in a series of legendary battles in which the Wing would add luster to its reputation. The 1st MAW would earn five Presidential Unit Citations for gallantry in campaigns spanning World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

**11 July 1798:** President John Adams approved "An Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps", and it became law. The following day, the President appointed William Ward Burrows the Major Commandant of the new Corps. In August, Major Burrows opened his headquarters in Philadelphia, at that time still the capital of the new nation.

**14 July 1993:** The USS Iwo Jima was decommissioned after over 30 years of service in a ceremony at Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia. The ship was named for the World War II battle during which three Marine divisions ousted 20,000 entrenched Japanese troops. The Iwo Jima was commissioned 26 August 1961, and it was specifically designed as an amphibious assault ship from the keel up.

**18 July 1918:** The 4th Brigade of Marines began an attack near Soissons, France, as part of a three-division counterattack against the Germans. In the first two days of battle, the brigade sustained 1,972 casualties.

**24 July 1944:** The V Amphibious Corps, commanded by Major General Harry Schmidt, landed on Taiwan, in the Mariana Islands. The following morning, the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions began a shoulder-to-shoulder southward sweep of the island. Organized enemy resistance faded within a week, and on 1 August, MajGen Schmidt declared the island secure.

**26 July 1947:** The National Security Act of 1947 became effective, reaffirming the status of the Marine Corps as a separate military service within the Department of the Navy. The Act provided for Fleet Marine Forces, and confirmed the Corps' mission of seizing and defending advanced bases, as well as land operation incident to naval campaigns.

**28 July 1918:** Brigadier General John A. Lejeune assumed command of the 2nd Division, U.S. Army in France, and remained in that capacity until August 1919 when the unit was demobilized. He was the first Marine officer to hold an Army divisional command, and following the Armistice, he led his division in the march into Germany.

**"I want you boys to hurry up and whip these Germans so we can get out to the Pacific and kick the shit out of those Japanese, before the Goddamned MARINES get all the credit!"**

**Lieutenant General George Patton, U.S. Army, 1945**

# Operation Purple Heart

From fighting which war did most Americans die in 2010? If you answered Iraq or Afghanistan you would be wrong. More Americans died in 2010 from friendly fire wounds received during the Vietnam War (1961-1975) from Operation Ranch Hand than were killed in Iraq or Afghanistan. In fact, more Americans died in 2010 from wounds received during Operation Ranch Hand than were killed in all other theatres of war combined in 2010. Even more startling is the fact that more Americans have died each year, since 1980, from wounds received during Operation Ranch Hand than were killed in all theatres of war combined.

The Vietnam War was controversial from beginning to end. The divisions it caused within the general populations of those countries involved was not only responsible for considerable public unrest and civil disobedience but also brought down governments. It is surely for these reasons, that the many tragedies of the Vietnam War are now taboo subjects within American main stream culture and school curriculum.

Consequentially, many tragic incidents which occurred during the Vietnam War, such as Operation Ranch Hand, which under any other circumstances would have been fully investigated by the militaries and governments of all countries involved, have somehow managed to be swept under the carpet. To finally honor and recognize all American and Allied troops who have died without recognition, from the latent effects of Operation Ranch Hand, and for those still living in its shadow, the wounds of Agent Orange, no matter how deep, or where they may lead, must once again be re-opened. And we must continue to re-open them until each and every one of those brave young men and women, wounded in the line of duty by "Tactical Herbicides", is finally presented their much deserved Purple Heart.

August 10th, 2011 will mark the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Operation Ranch Hand. A tactical defoliation program initiated during the Vietnam War. A war in which an estimated 58,000 American, and 7,500 Allied troops lost their lives. Sadly, an even greater number of Americans and Allied troops have lost their lives since the war's end, to the latent effects of defoliants, such as Agent Orange, used during Operation Ranch Hand, than were actually killed in combat from 1961-1975.

Thousands of Allied and American troops were undoubtedly wounded by defoliants containing the contaminate TCDD2, 3,7, and 8 used in Operation Ranch Hand are rightfully deserving, of honorably receiving, a "Purple Heart", from the thankful people of their respective nations.

To heal the wounds of decades of isolation, legal battles and exclusions surely felt by those brave young men and women who were wounded by Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, all governments involved, should stage on August 10th 2011, 50th Anniversary Commemorative Memorial services to honor those young men and women who were wounded or killed by Operation Ranch Hand from 1961-1972. This could be achieved by presenting all who are still able to attend, and to the children or families of all those who are not, at official ceremonies staged in every town in America, Australia, Korea etc., their well-deserved, and long overdue Purple Hearts for wounds suffered while answering the call of duty, of their respective countries.

The question of whether or not American and Allied troops should or should not receive the Purple Heart seems to rest on whether or not the defoliants used during Operation Ranch Hand can be classed as agents that were sprayed to inflict damage upon the enemy. (Please read Friendly Fire) If we can categorize them as such, then most definitely, American and Allied troops were wounded by Friendly Fire, undertaken to inflict damage upon enemy positions, while fighting for their respective countries. Hence, they should be awarded the Purple Heart (or equivalent) by the thankful governments of their respective countries.

For those who would argue that the Purple Heart should only be given to those who receive "blood" wounds, I would say, in light of the extreme number of American casualties resulting from the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam from 1961-1972, (an estimated 300,000 to 500,000) the President of the United States has the power to put an end to any such petty arguments, by awarding all who have suffered in the line of duty for their respective countries, their long overdue Purple Hearts, via a Presidential Decree.

**Note: Friendly Fire is the inadvertent firing towards one's own or otherwise friendly forces while attempting to engage enemy forces, particularly where this results in injury or death.**

## Marine of the Year



At left is MCL National Judge Advocate, Richard Gore, Paul Porter receiving his MOY medal from guest speaker LtCol. Tim Grattan. Photo by Matt Knas.

Paul B. Porter of Lunenburg was named the Marine Of The Year (MOY) by the Department of Massachusetts, Marine Corps League, at its 75th annual convention held in Tewksbury, Mass. On Saturday, he completed two terms as Commandant that began with the sudden death of the State Commandant Joseph Summers on 28 May, 2010.

“Paul stepped in and took the reins of office providing a smooth transition and led the Department without any interruptions,” said his successor as Department Commandant, Bernie Heaney. “Despite several personal issues, including a serious illness in his family, Paul was devoted to his duties as Department Commandant.

Porter, 69, a Vietnam era Marine veteran, is a graduate of Lunenburg High School and Wachusett Community College with a degree in criminal justice. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1959-1965. He retired as an assistant director of the legal department at New England Telephone Co., now Verizon, after 25 years service and also retired from the State Bureau of Special Investigations after 16 years service.

Porter is a charter member of the North Central Detachment 1076, headquartered in the Fitchburg Armory, and has held several officers positions before being elected Commandant. He was chairman of the Mass. Dept.’s Finance Committee, Department Judge Advocate, and Junior and Senior Vice Commandant. His other activities include a supporting role in the Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots annual campaign working with the 25th Marines at Fort Devans. Porter is also a member of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, a fund raising arm of the Marine Corps League.

Paul is married to the former Caroline Fisher of Littleton. They have two daughters and five grandchildren. Semper Fi! Paul for a job well done.

## Change of Command



Westover Marines participated in a change of command ceremony on the base ellipse on Friday, June 3. Lt. Col David G. McCulloh relinquished command to Major Robert A. Hubbard. "The transfer of unit colors signifies the passing of responsibility, authority, accountability and command from one commanding officer to the incoming commanding officer," according to the Marine unit. Top left photo, the transfer of colors, top right Fran Curnow, Jr. Past Commandant of the Westfield River Valley Detachment 141, MCL awards Lt. Col David McCulloh a plaque for his support of the Detachment. Above, Lt. Col McCulloh cutting the cake. Lt. Col McCulloh is headed to Marine Air Control Group 38 ( MACG 38) based in Miramar, California. Major Hubbard came from the Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion (3rd LADD) at Camp Pendleton, California. We at Detachment 141 wish both officers continued success in their future commands. Semper Fi!

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