

Scuttlebutt

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



Commandant: John S. Rutovich
Volume 73, Issue 7

Chartered November 28, 1945
Chartered May 23, 1949

Editor: Marc S. Dunne
July 2012

Message From The Commandant:

We've had several sick bay commandos in the past weeks and they seem to favor the 7th floor of the new Bay State wing. Joe Oleskiewicz, Jim Ross and Frank Real. Joe is back at Heritage Hall, Jim is home and Frank is at Wingate in Wilbraham. Jack Ramsey was in Cooley Dickinson Hospital for surgery and was transferred to Loomis rehab in Holyoke and is doing well. I'm sure there are more members with ailments that we don't know about, so let us know if you hear something, eh!

The Department of Mass. Convention was conducted very well at the outstanding Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA. It's great to meet up with old friends and the new ones from our 27 Massachusetts Detachments and Pounds. Marc and Matt got some great photos (see: The Convention Issue) which got raving reviews state wide.

No lobsters survived the clam bake and no one lost weight for the three days at the convention. There are multiple members of the 141 doing community services in Western Mass., and they should be commended. Keep up the good work. It's a direct reflection on the Marine Corps League. Thanks from your Commandant.

May God be with the Warriors of yesterday and today as they serve the United States of America.

Semper Fi,

John S. Rutovich
Commandant



Commandant
John S. Rutovich

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



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 last year we donated 100% of the proceeds (\$5500.00) 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 Desforages Fund
- The Chapel of Four Chaplains
- 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 -1100.

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.

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.
- 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 (2010, 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:

1969, 77	Fred Scholpp
1998	Arthur Fisher
1999	Don Dorrington
2005	John S. Rutovich
2008	Thomas D. Pirnie
2009	Frederic R. Hoekstra
2010	Daniel J. Bishop
2011	Brian P. Dupee

Detachment 141 Associate of the Year:

2010	William Chandler
2012	Matt Knas

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
 45TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG
 MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS
 Email: the45thpcdd@comcast.net

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Marine Spotlight Wayne Cartwright

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Where were you born?	Buffalo, N.Y.
Graduated from? (High School)	George Washington, "65"
Married? Children?	No
Graduated from? (Boot Camp)	MCRD, San Diego, California
MOS	0331, 0321
First Duty Station?	Beaufort, S.C.
Last Duty Station?	Springfield, MA.
What did you do after leaving the Corps?	Worked at Westfield Detention Center
Current occupation?	Counselor at Sabis International Charter School
Favorite meal?	Pot Roast
Where were you on 7 December 1941?	Not born yet
Favorite President?	John F. Kennedy
Favorite military movie?	
Favorite actor?	Anthony Hopkins
Favorite comedian?	George Carlin
Favorite book?	Dream catchers, by Stephen King
Favorite vacation place?	Bahamas
Favorite subject to talk about?	Military History
Favorite quote?	"It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog"
What do you think of today's Marines?	A lot more technical, not as tough
Most memorable lifetime event?	Hill 881
Did you make the Corps your career?	No
Would you do it all over again?	Yes
Should politics be kept out of the military?	Yes
All time favorite Marine?	William Jackson



The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (1/9) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps. During the Vietnam War, 1/9 earned the name "The Walking Dead" because it sustained the highest casualty rate in Marine Corps history. During the Battle of July Two, in 1967, Companies A & B were ambushed on Highway 561 by elements of the North Vietnamese 90th Regiment, the North Vietnamese Army using mortars and small arms fire prevented Alpha & Bravo from linking up; when the fighting had ended, Alpha & Bravo Company were badly decimated, 1/9 had suffered 118 dead and 190 wounded in the highest single day loss in Marine Corps history in Vietnam. Among those killed were 8 Navy Corpsmen.

Upcoming Detachment 141 Events

Sun. July 1:	Detachment 141 Pig Roast @ Westfield Fair Grounds
Wed. July 4:	Hampton Ponds Parade at 10:00 a.m.
Mon. July 9:	Detachment 141 meeting
Fri. July 20:	Flag pin sales @ Wal Mart in Chicopee (Fri. & Sat. only)
Sun. Aug. 12:	MCL National Convention, Mobile AL
Mon. Aug. 13:	Detachment 141 meeting
Fri. Aug. 17:	85th Westfield Fair (Fri. Sat. Sun.)

*****Note! Flag pin sales at Wal Mart in Chicopee on July 20th, 21st, Friday & Saturday only, same shifts for this 2 day event. If interested call Marc Dunne at 413-250-5515. All money collected will go to the scholarship fund, get involved.*****

Saturday Breakfast

Come see us every Saturday for breakfast, hours are from 0600-1200. (depending on food). Our menu includes eggs, sausage, toast, SOS, hash, juices, milk, coffee, (regular and decaf) and donuts. 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. The Detachment phone number is 413-562-4850

Detachment 141 Officers:

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

Upcoming Dues:

July Dues

Bustos Santiago, Thomas Daly, Bill Dion, Wayne Fisher, Harry Mulliken, Karl Ozga, Peter Szarkowski, Elizabeth Brewer, Bill Garen, Lou Johnson, Richard Macsisak, Vernon Morris, Michael Schieb, John Torrone

August Dues

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

Membership—184

Marines/Corpsmen—91

Associates—31

Paid Life Members—60

Honorary—2

Happy Birthday to the following members:

(2nd) George Daley PLM, (4th) Richard Stone, (7th) Robert Duffy, (11th) Leila Connolly, Roger Beer PLM, (14th) Bustos Santiago, (15th) Barry Szymojko, Brian Whitten, Thomas Walsh PLM, (16th) Mary Sankolewicz, (19th) John Kern, (20th) Ella Balchunas, (23rd) Paul Rubera, (31st) James Hibert



And may you have many more....

Congratulations to our 2012 New Life Members:

J.B. Stern, William Federman

Welcome Aboard to our New Members:

Karl Rexer, Robert Wargo, Frederick King

1940's

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Decade began with 19,432 Marines (18,052 enlisted, 1,380 officers)

Decade ended with 85,965 Marines (78,715 enlisted, 7,250 officers)

17th Commandant: LtGen Thomas Holcomb (1936-1943)

18th Commandant: General Alexander A. Vandegrift (1944-1947)

19th Commandant: General Clifton B. Cates (1948-1951)

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) was activated in Quantico, VA. In 1941, the 1st MAW aided Marine forces for the first time during the battle of Guadalcanal. The MAW has been awarded five Presidential Unit Citations for gallantry in wartime, including WWII, The Korean War and the Vietnam War. Today the famed unit is stationed at MCB Butler in Okinawa, Japan and continues to be an integral part of air operations in the Marine Corps.

The transportation of Marines and equipment from anchored ships to docks and beaches proved difficult during the first half of the twentieth century. But the resolve and persistence of Marines soon led to the adaptation of a new invention by Andrew Higgins, a New Orleans-based boat builder. Originally built for trappers along the Gulf Coast, Higgins' barge-like boat featured a special bow that enabled it to ascend up a beach for a dry landing. After several tests and design modifications in 1941, the Higgins Boat carried Marines, heavy machinery and weapons without requiring Marines to debark into water.

In 1942, as desegregation in America progressed, the Commandant of the Marine Corps issued formal instructions to recruit qualified African-American men. The men who enlisted completed recruit training at Montford Point in North Carolina. Between 1942-1949, approximately 20,000 African-American men completed recruit training and became known as "The Montford Point Marines." By 1949, training was desegregated, and all recruits trained side-by-side at Parris Island and San Diego. Montford Point was renamed Camp Johnson in 1974 and is now home to the Marine Corps Combat Service Support School at Camp Lejeune.

During WWII, coded radio transmission was the fastest way to deliver commands to units overseas. Cryptographers on both sides became adept at decoding and intercepting their opponents' transmissions. In 1942, the Marine Corps found a new way to keep their communications secure with the Navajo Code Talkers. Since only a small group of Americans spoke Navajo, it was impossible for the enemy to gain intelligence from any intercepted messages. Additionally, the Navajo Code Talkers proved faster and more accurate than Morse Code or any machine. The program was highly classified for 25 years and, to this day there is no indication that any intercepted Navajo code was successfully deciphered.

Women have been proving their strength as Marines since Opha Mae Johnson enlisted in 1913, but it wasn't until 1943 that the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was officially established. By the end of World War II, more than 20,000 women had served in the Marine Corps. While their predecessors did mainly clerical work, these Marines took on additional roles, including parachute riggers, mechanics, mapmakers and welders. In 1948, women were officially integrated into all United States Armed Forces.



Our own "Doc" Rivette and Fran Curnow.

Who said it was all business at the Convention? The 49th PCDD Doug Fisk won the Big Dog raffle, pictured with him is the 2012 Dept. of Mass. Young Marine of the Year GySgt. Abby J. Dangleis. Brian Dupee (that's really his beer) with Paul O'Reilly. A good old fashioned New England Clambake was served. PDD Bob "Squid Fine" White was in rare form and the Booze Bucket was won by you guessed it, The 49th Doug Fisk. If you haven't attended a convention, you don't know what your missing. Hope to see some NEW faces next year in Worcester.

Commandant Warren Griffin and wife Cheryl



Warren Griffin, a Vietnam veteran and retired Boston school teacher, was elected and installed as Commandant of the Department of Massachusetts, Marine Corps League, Saturday at the 76th annual convention of Marine Corps Veterans held in Boxborough, Mass.

Born in Boston on October 5, 1949, Griffin graduated from Natick High School in 1967 and after attending Framingham State College for a year, he joined the U.S. Marines in 1968.

Following graduation from boot camp at Parris Island, S.C. and infantry training at Camp Geiger, N.C., Warren was selected to attend Naval gunfire school at Little Creek, VA., and Defense Language Institute at Monterey, California., to learn Vietnamese. With these skills, he was assigned to the Me-kong Delta, Vietnam, with the 1st ANGLCO Sub Unit 1 as a forward Naval gunfire observer for the 21st ARVN Division.

Since 2007, Griffin's presence is well know on Beacon Hill and state executive offices as he serves as MCL legislative representative.

Prior to his election as Department Commandant, Griffin, a member of the Metro West Detachment 1037 where he served in all the chair positions through Commandant as well as all Department offices. He also serves as a VAVS representative.

Warren is married to the former Cheryl Souza of Medfield. They have five children and 3 grandchildren and live in Holliston, Mass. Granddaughter Autumn Rose was thrilled to be present when "Papa" was elected. Let's all support our new Department Officers, Sr. Vice Tony Garro, Jr. Vice Michael Chouinard and Judge Advocate Carlos Viera. Thanks to Mat Knas for all the pictures.

Memorial Day Parade
Westfield, Mass.



The Young Marines, Best marching unit again.



Det. 141 color guard, l-r John Rutovich, Marc Dunne, Vinnie Sulewski and Brian Dupee with Don Dorrington looking good as always.



Is this bus going to the parade?
Commandant J.R. Rutovich.



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*Military Order of the Devil Dogs
Pound 276, MA Pack
Pound Keeper: Mike 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.

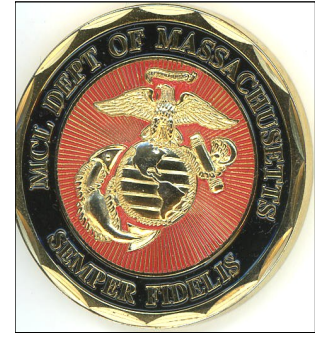
The Order's many charitable donations not only help people in need, but also build good public relations for the Order, the League, and the United States Marine Corps.

**Next Pack Growl
Tentative October 2
Worcester Detachment @ 1300**

Woof! Woof!!



Visit our website at
www.mclwrv141.com



From the East, take Exit 3 off the Mass Pike, thru toll booth and stay right on Rt. 202, N. Elm Street. Go down the hill thru the lights and straight ahead. Stay right, 1st building on left after parking lot.

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



Westfield River Valley Detachment 141
Marine Corps League, Inc.
71 North Elm Street
Westfield, MA 01085

