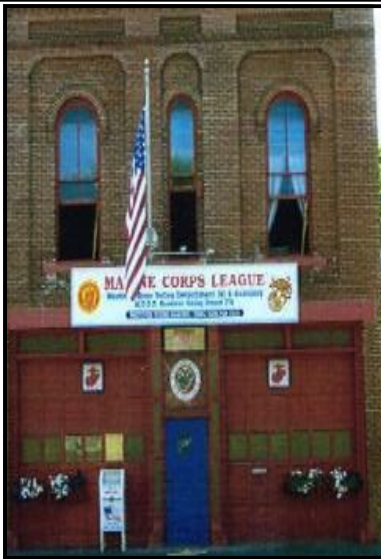


# Scuttlebutt

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



Commandant: *Brian P. Dupee*  
Volume 72, Issue 11

Chartered November 28, 1945  
Chartered May 23, 1949

Editor: *Marc S. Dunne*  
November 2011

## Message From The Commandant:

Recognizing, that the ultimate authority rests on the membership in good standing, it was pleasing to witness more than 50 members packing our headquarters for the October elections. They came to exercise that very right which their service to their Country had protected. They cast their ballots and now it's history. Now it's time to put the 6by into gear and move a truck load of fresh ideas forward, and keep an eye on the rear view mirrors that we not forget our History, and rest assured we have many good times ahead of us.

The transition of Board Officers was professional and in the spirit of the Corps. I thank the outgoing Officers for their many outstanding contributions to this Detachment, our Department and National. I also want to thank our Division Vice Commandant Richard Harrington, Department Commandant Bernie Heaney and Department Chaplain Roger Hoffman for going that extra mile for Detachment 141.

We have a few Irish pennants to trim and some cobwebs to vacuum, which means we're well ahead of the bell curve. The Saturday breaky will continue unabated thanks to Marine Dan Bishop, thanks Dan! Please remember and visit or call our older members who are convalescing or can't get about. In closing, may God bless and watch eternally over all our American troops where e'er they may be.

Semper Fi,

John S. Rutovich  
Commandant



Commandant John 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 third year, and last year we donated 100% of the proceeds (\$1500.00) 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 0700-1100.

**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.

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

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## Marine Spotlight Geoffrey Croteau

4

Where were you born?	Holyoke, Mass.
Graduated from? (High School)	Chicopee High School, Class of "97"
Married? Children?	No
Graduated from? (Boot Camp)	Parris Island, 1st Battalion
MOS	0352
First Duty Station?	Westover Air Reserve Base
Last Duty Station?	Camp Lejeune, N.C.
What did you do after leaving the Corps?	Moved to Miami, started a real estate company
Favorite meal?	Lobster
Current occupation?	Financial Advisor, Mass Mutual
Where were you on 7 December 1941?	Born in 1979
Favorite President?	Bill Clinton
Favorite movie?	Full Metal Jacket
Favorite actor?	Christian Slater
Favorite comedian?	Chris Rock
Favorite book?	Breath of Angels
Favorite vacation place?	Ogunquit, Maine
Favorite subject to talk about?	Fishing
Favorite quote?	"A goal is a dream with a deadline"
What do you think of today's Marines?	Very Proud of them
Most memorable lifetime event?	When I was handed my EGA after the Crucible
Did you make the Corps your career?	No
Would you do it all over again?	Absolutely!
Should politics be kept out of the military?	Yes
All time favorite Marine?	SSgt Poe



The 25th Marine Regiment is one of three infantry regiments in the 4th Marine Division. The 25th Marines was activated on May 1, 1943 at Camp Lejeune, N. C. The Regiment participated in the battles of Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. The Regiment won two Presidential Unit Citations and was deactivated on November 10, 1945. On July 1, 1962, the Regiment was reactivated as a Reserve Division. In February, 1991 the Regiment participated in Operation Desert Storm. The 25th Marines are based out of Ft. Devens, Mass. and are primarily a cold weather regiment. They are known as "The Cold Steel Warriors"

## Upcoming Detachment 141 Events

Sun. Nov. 6:	Veterans' Day Ceremony at 104th Regiment Memorial Park
Thur. Nov.10:	236th Marine Corps Birthday
Mon. Nov.14:	Detachment 141 meeting
Sun. Dec.11:	Kids Christmas Party at Barracks
Mon. Dec.12:	Detachment 141 meeting
TBA	Kids Skate Party at Amelia Skate Park
Mon. Jan. 9:	Detachment 141 meeting
Mon. Feb. 13:	Detachment 141 meeting
Mon. March 12:	Detachment 141 meeting

**\*\*\*Saturday Breakfast is back\*\*\***  
**Chef J.R. is back also**

Come see us every Saturday for breakfast, hours are from 0700-1000. (depending on food) Donations are greatly appreciated to offset the costs of operating the kitchen and feeding our veterans from the hospitals. Our menu includes eggs, sausage, biscuits, 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](http://www.mclwrv141.com). The Detachment phone number is 413-562-4850

#### Detachment 141 Officers:

Commandant:	John S. Rutovich		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@hotmail.com	413-583-8931
Paymaster	Michael Burke	mapabarkingdog@aol.com	413-568-3689
Sgt. at Arms	Aldo Mancini	manscruffy@comcast.net	413-789-0830
Chaplain:			
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: November Dues**

Alan Bonifaz, Shelly Perry, Fredy Palacio, Donald Liptak, Lowell Lloveras, Patrick Pompei, James Ross, Ernestine Stowell, Isabel Paulsen, Lynn Dupee

## **December Dues**

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

## **Dues Reminder 2010**

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

## **2011**

Thomas DelNegro, George DeBarge, Francisco Duncan, Robert Potito, 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:**

Marcelle Daly (1), Marianne Kenney (3), Karl Rexer (4), Michael Kunz (5), Gail Curnow (7), Stephen Jemiolo (9), Bernard Mandeville (11), Dennis Ostrander (15), Mitchell Kuzdzal, Michael Burke (16), Joseph Snopek (18), Lynn O'Neil (20), William Federman (21), Daniel Walsh III (29), William Leventis (30)

## **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:**

Kevin Scarborough, Manny Marrero

**The Detachment 141 officers would like to say "Thank You" to the membership for the outstanding turn-out last month for the elections.**

## This Month In History....

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**1 November 1983:** 300 Marines of the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit staged an amphibious and helicopter landing on the island of Carriacou, 15 miles northeast of Grenada, in a search for Cuban military installations or personnel. 17 Grenadian soldiers were captured, and arms, ammunition, and training sites were found. The next day the 22nd MAU left the Caribbean area and proceeded to Beirut, Lebanon to replace the 24th MAU.

**8 November 1990:** President Bush announced that he planned to add more than 200,00 U.S. troops to those already deployed in Operation Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf area. The number of Marines in the area would be doubled by the addition of II MEF units from the Corps' east coast bases, and the 5th MEB from California. Within the next two months, Marine strength in the objective area would increase to nearly 90,000 Marines.

**10 November 1921:** This date marked the first formal commemoration of the birthday of the Marine Corps as 10 November. On 21 October 1921, Major Edwin McClellan, OIC of the Historical Section, HQMC, sent a memo to MajGen. Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday of 10 November 1775 be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps. Accordingly, on 1 November 1921, Gen. Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47 summarizing the history, mission and tradition of the Corps, and directed that it be read to every command each 10 November.

**13 November 1982:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated this date at the Memorial site in Washington, D.C. The dedication and parade that proceeded it were part of a week-long National Salute to Vietnam Veterans.

**17 November 1918:** The 4th Marine Brigade, as part of the 2nd Division, American Expeditionary Force, began its march to the Rhine River, passing through Belgium and Luxembourg, as part of the American forces occupying a defeated Germany.

**20 November 1943:** The 2nd Marine Division, commanded by Major General Julian C. Smith, landed on Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands. After seventy-six hours of bitter fighting during which almost 1,000 Marines died, and more than 2,000 were wounded, MajGen Smith declared the island secure.

**24 November 1992:** Marines lowered the flag at Subic Bay, U.S. Naval Facility, Republic of the Philippines, for the last time during ceremonies to turn over the facility to the government of the Philippines. The withdrawal ended almost a century of U.S. presence in that nation.

**25 November 1968:** The conclusion of Operation Lancaster II ended 10 months of action against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops in the west-central sector of the demilitarized zone region. Over 1,800 enemy were killed, 42 captured, and 913 weapons seized during the operation.

**27 November 1950:** In a carefully planned assault, eight Chinese Communist Divisions in Korea launched a massive attack which had as its expressed purpose, the destruction of the 1st Marine Division. This action led to the successful southward Marine Corps attack out of the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir to the coastal port of Hungnam.

## Marine Honored at the Big E Dr. James J. Dowd



Westfield's contingent in Thursday's Westfield Day at the Big E was led by Parade Marshall, Dr. James J. Dowd, a Westfield native and retired college professor and administrator. At left, MCL Department of Mass. Commandant Bernie Heaney presents Dr. Dowd, a league member with a Distinguished Citizen Silver Award. For the last twenty years, Dr. Dowd has served as Master of Ceremonies for various patriotic functions and organizations. Included in this list would be Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, Armed Forces Day, Patriots Day, POW-MIA Day and Vietnam Veterans Day. Picture and column by PAO Frank Real.

### A Summary of the Life and Activities of Dr. James J. Dowd

Born on October 3, 1933 in Westfield, Massachusetts  
 Attended Westfield Public Schools, Grades 1-8  
 Graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1951  
 Bachelor of Education, Westfield State College-1958  
 Master of Education, Westfield State College-1963  
 Doctor of education, University of Massachusetts-1981  
 Married to Sally Dowd (deceased) from 1956-2007  
 Served in United States Marine Corp, 1954-1957  
 Served in East Longmeadow Public Schools, 1968-1973  
 Served at Springfield Technical Community College, 1973-2002  
 Served on Westfield School Committee, 1968-1975  
 Served on Westfield City Council, 1977-1989  
 Served as president of the Blandford Club for two years  
 Served multiple terms as Chairperson of Westfield Democratic Committee  
 Member of MCL, Westfield River Valley Detachment 141  
 Member of American Legion, Post 124  
 Earned Black Belt (First Degree) in 1997  
 Scored hole-in-one, Blandford Club, 2004

## Detachment 141 Election of Officers

Detachment 141 held its annual election of Officers last month. A total of 52 members showed up to cast their votes for the nominees. Dan Bishop and John Rutovich were nominated for Commandant. John Rutovich (J.R.) received 26 of the 42 votes cast to become the new Commandant of Detachment 141. Marc Dunne and Frank Real were nominated for Sr. Vice Commandant, and Marc Dunne received 33 of 39 votes to become the Sr. Vice Commandant. Roger Beer was elected the Jr. Vice Commandant, Michael Burke is the new Paymaster and Geoffrey Croteau was elected the new Adjutant. Our own "Doc" Rivette will be our Judge Advocate for another term. Brian Dupee will now become the Detachment's Jr. Past Commandant, and take his seat among the other six Past Commandant's that attend the monthly meetings. Our Department Commandant Bernie Heaney, and Department Chaplain Roger Hoffman were in attendance, as well as the New England Division Vice Commandant Richard Harrington. It was a busy night, with the swearing in of 2 new members Paul Rubera and Dennis Ostrander, the introduction of 2 new members Manny Marrero and Kevin Scarborough, the elections and the best part of the night was I got to see my recruiter Wayne Cartwright after 36 years. Finally, I have proof that I was a skinny kid before now. It was great to see you Wayne, don't be a stranger at the Detachment. Again, congratulations to all my fellow officers and let's get to work Marines



L to R are Donald "Doc" Rivette, Judge Advocate, Roger Beer, Jr. Vice Commandant, Marc Dunne, Sr. Vice Commandant, John (J.R.) Rutovich, Commandant, Geoffrey Croteau, Adjutant and Michael Burke, Paymaster. Photo by Matt Knas

## Detachment 141 Member Wins Award



Patrick DeFalco, (left) Chairman of the Federal Employees Association of Western Massachusetts hands the Federal Employees Association of Western Mass Volunteer of the Year Award to Detachment 141 member Samuel Adams. Samuel served in the U.S. Army from 1964-1966, and has been an Associate member since 2009. Great job, Sam!

**West Springfield is having it's 10th Annual Veterans' Breakfast on Saturday, November 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Thomas School Auditorium, Westfield Street, (Rt. 20) West Springfield. There will be raffles. Tickets are adults \$10.00, Children-12 & under \$5.00. This event is sponsored by the West Springfield Veterans Council.**

**"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**



*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.

**Pound 276 would like to welcome it's newest litter of pups:**

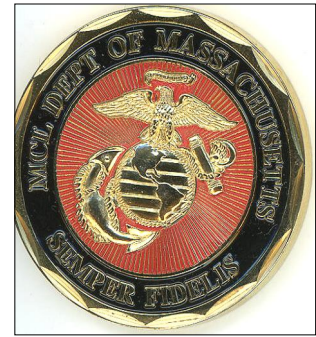
**Pup Javish Garcia  
Pup Geoffrey Croteau**

**Woof! Woof!**



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