



Marine Corps League

Scuttlebutt

Newsletter of Detachment 141, Westfield, Mass.

Volume 2, No. 11

November 2006

State Commandant Swears In New Officer Suite

The detachment's officers for 2006-2007 were sworn in at a the October meeting of the Massachusetts Department, Marine Corps League held here.

State Commandant Richard Gore conducted the swearing in ceremony.

Sworn in were: Colonel Francis J. Curnow, USMCR, retired. Commandant; Gunnery Sergeant Brian Dupee, USMC, retired, senior vice commandant; Roland J. Dymon, junior vice commandant; Joseph S. Rutovich, adjutant/paymaster; and Thomas P. Pirnie, judge advocate.

Dymon was elected to fill the seat of Ronald Hamel as junior vice commandant.

Curnow of Feeding Hills, who served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in 1967, is a graduate of American International College.

Following his active duty tour, he was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility as maintenance and operations officer in the Marine Reserve and served as commanding officer of the reserve's Maintenance and Logistics squadron.

(Continued on Page 2)



State Commandant Richard Gore, left, assisted by state Sergeant of Arms Liz Thompson administers oath of office to detachment officers, from left, Adjutant/Paymaster John Rutovich; Judge Advocate Thomas Pirnie; Commandant Francis J. Curnow; Senior Vice Commandant Brian Dupee; and Junior Vice C316commandant Roland J. Dymon at October Department of Mass. meeting.



Job Well Done

Detachment members welcome members of the 25th Marines stationed at Fort Devens home from a seven month tour of duty in Iraq. The troops arrived at Westover by chartered jet after a week's layover at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Commandant's Corner . . .



Commandant Francis J. Curnow

Thank you for keeping me on board for another go. Congratulations to the re-elected officers and welcome to our new JR Vice, Joe Dymon.

Lots of activity coming up including Veterans' Day and Marine Corps 231st Birthday activities. Planning special ceremony at this month's meeting on the 13th with proper cake and appropriate words.

Officers Installed.....

(Continued from Page 1)

Prior to retirement, he served his final assignment as a colonel on the staff of the at, Norfolk, Va.

Dupee, a Westfield native ,and 1977 graduate of Westfield High School, completed boot camp that year .

He served with the 1st,2nd, and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wings and on his promotion to gunnery sergeant he was assigned as quality control assurance

Look for you there. We are looking for help with the Christmas raffle and the children's Party on December 10th. Raffle tickets can be obtained at detachment hq or from JR.

For all you computer savvy folks check out our new web site Joe Dymon has been working on.

Semper Fi, Fran.

Inspector at Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, SC. He retired in 1998.

Dymon, who also serves as the detachment's web sergeant and is in the process of developing a new web site for the detachment, joined the U. S. Marine Corps in 1968, serving a four year tour.

In 1974, he joined the Agawam Police Department, serving 19 years in uniform at 10 as a detective. He retired in December 2003 after 29 years service.

Since joining the detachment in December 2005, he has been active as a member of the firing party for military burials at the Agawam Veterans Cemetery.

Rutowich, aka JR, assumed the duties of adjutant/paymaster on the retirement of veteran Thomas Walsh, and is serving his first full term in the position.

JR joined the U.S. Marines in December 1959, and served with the 1st Marine Air Wing and the Marine Corps School at Quantico, Va. He received an honorable discharge in 1964.

Pirnie, a double Purple Heart recipient for wounds inflicted during two tours in Vietnam, was medically discharged from the Corps in 1969.

He is retired as a school adjustment counselor and serves as the detachment's master of ceremonies at public events.

Calendar of Events

Nov. 10 : 231st Marine Corps Birthday.

November 11: Veterans' Day Parade 10 am To Parker Park.

November 11: Marine Corps Birthday Party at American Legion, Bridge St., Haydenville. Social hour 5 to 6 pm. Roast Beef Dinner at 7. Tickets \$10.00 per person

November 13: Regular Meeting 1900 hours Birthday cake to follow.

December 7: Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony 10 am at Wojkiewicz Park, Westfield. All veterans welcome.

December 11: Regular Meeting 1900 hours

December 20: Children's Christmas Party 1 pm at Detachment Headquarters. Christmas Raffle .

December 25: Merry Christmas

Det. Meets Second Monday of Each Month
at 1900

A Message From The Commandant Of The Marine Corps



General Michael W. Hagee

On November 10th, 1775, our Corps as born as the Continental Congress raised the “first and second battalions of American Marines.” Each year as we celebrate our birthday, we pause to reflect on the Marines of yesteryear who fought in our touchstone battles and forged the modern Marine Corps with their courage, integrity, and undying commitment to their fellow Marines. Each of our storied battles is a link to the long chain that binds all Marines together—from the Continental Marines at Bunker Hill to the *Teufelhunden* crossing the wheat fields of Belleau Wood. This chain binds us to the Marines on the crest of Mount Suribachi, it passes through the ice and snow of the Chosin Reservoir and the steaming jungles of Vietnam, and it anchors firmly today in the desert sands of Iraq.

All Marines are making a difference. Regardless of where you are serving, you are adding new chapters to the legacy that was earned with sweat and blood on old battlefields. Just as previous generations of Marines shaped today’s Marine Corps, your deeds are molding the Corps of tomorrow. Our Corps has never been stronger, and all Americans are extremely proud of your magnificent performance and unwavering commitment to serve our Corps and country. With high-caliber Marines like you, our future has never been brighter.

Another irreplaceable element of our success as Marines is in the terrific support we receive from our families. Through the long hours, the exercises, and the combat deployments, their support is unconditional and firm. They give us love and devotion, providing us with the strength to drive on when duty calls. Today we should all acknowledge our loved ones for their patient, steadfast service.

To all who earned the title Marine, to the superb Sailors who serve with us in every clime and place, and to our precious families—I wish every one of you a heartfelt *Happy 231st Birthday*:



Welcome Home Marines

Western Mass members of the 25th Marines are welcomed home from Iraq by Det, 141 Chaplain Jack Ramsey Oct. 25 at Westover.

Semper Fidelis and Keep Attacking

/ss/ Mike Hagee

M. W. Hagee

General U.S. Marine Corps

'Rocky' Nominated to Baxter Donation Hall of Fame By Red Cross

Officials at the American Red Cross Blood Donor Center in Springfield have nominated Rocky Snow of Westfield to The Baxter Donation Hall of Fame sponsored by Baxter Healthcare Corporation of Chicago, Ill., according to Donnie Mastroianni, nurse supervisor at the Birnie Ave., Springfield facility.



Rocky Snow

"It's a fitting tribute to one of our most dedicated donors," Mastroianni said. "He has selflessly given the gift of life to patients in need and is a hero to our community."

Rocky is a 'hero' to more than just the Red Cross Donor Community. In April he unselfishly donated one of his kidney's to JoAnne Dion, a 50-year-old West Springfield woman who is a licensed practical nurse volunteer at the center,

"Each and every donor inducted into the Donation Hall of Fame is an amazing individual, and we are honored to thank them with this award," said Kevin McCulloch, general manager for Baxter's Transfusion Therapies division in North America

A combat veteran of Vietnam, he is West Mass coordinator for the Marine Reserve's Toys for Tots effort.

Taps



Two detachment members have reported to the Supreme Commandant for assignment.

October

Leonard T. Forish, 86, of Southwick, Oct. 24. Served with 1st Marine Division in South Pacific during WW2. Charter Member Det. 141.

Thomas J. Langlois, 77, Westfield. Oct. 28. Served in South Pacific during WW2.

Sick Bay

Wayne Cartwright, surgery Nov. 15:
Peter Patoniak, home recovering; and
Herbert Page, Bay State Med. ICU.
Auto accident



Scuttlebutt

Scuttlebutt is the official newsletter of Westfield River Valley, Detachment, 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 at 71 North Elm St., Westfield, MA 01085. 413--562-4850. Items for publication should be dropped off the headquarters or by contacting the editor. Commandant Francis Curnow, 413- 786-0855.
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Final Tribute

Detachment 141 and Westover Young Marines joined hundreds of Marines, family and the public to honor the memory of Lance Corporal Phillip A. Johnson of Enfield, Conn., killed in action in Iraq, at his burial September 15 with full military honors in Hazardville (Conn.) Cemetery. Young Marine Gunnery Sergeant Mackenzie Godbout renders taps, above. At top left. Det. 141 public tribute to LCpl. Johnson remains on display.