

# Finnegan's 411



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**Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month except July and August** at the BPO Elks Lodge, 30 Haven Ave. Port Washington, N.Y. **2000 hrs (8:00 PM)** We value your membership! Your support, input and participation in the detachment's affairs are important to our success! Come to the meeting, get involved!

**Support Your Detachment!**

February 2011

## The Official Newsletter of Marine Corps League Detachment 614 Port Washington, N.Y.

Home of Major Douglas T. Jacobson  
U.S.M.C.

Medal of Honor Recipient, 1945

## Ahoy Leathernecks!

We honored two special guests at the January meeting; Retired NYPD Detective **Ming Li** and his partner Detective **Patrick Lee**, who took the time and energy (several months of research and bureaucratic red tape) to make sure that a deceased, homeless former Marine did not wind up in some anonymous Potter's Field gravesite, but received a proper Marine Corps burial.

Initially it was reported that Detective Li was a former Marine. This turned out to be untrue. Neither he nor his partner is a former Marine. They did what they did simply out of respect for the Corps and that former Marine. For what they did we are grateful and we salute them.

Paymaster **Stan Derby** presented his Christmas Party after action financial report. As a result of the generosity of all who attended and participated in the party, coupled with donations made by others not present, we will be sending the Wounded Warrior Regiment in Quantico, VA. another substantial donation. Thanks to all for your support!

Unfortunately, it's been reported that **Les Kent** suffered an aneurism. He will be undergoing at least six (6) weeks of rehab. We wish him well and our thoughts go out to him. Get well soon Les!

As you may or may not know, on October 22, 2010 General **James F. Amos** assumed duties as the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, replacing General **James T. Conway**. General Amos, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing Birthday Ball on November 6, 2010 stated the following; "I set the policy about two weeks ago-there's no such thing as a former Marine. You're a Marine, just in a different uniform and you're in a different phase of your life. But you'll always be a Marine because you went to Parris Island, San Diego, or the hills of Quantico. So there's no such thing as a former Marine." So there you have it. There are no "ex" Marines or "former" Marines. Only Marines.

## Up Coming Events



Monday

**February 7, 2011**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Port Washington M.C.L.  
Detachment Charter*

**Thursday**

**February 10, 2011**  
**Detachment Meeting**

2000 Hrs (8:00 PM)

Elks Lodge

30 Haven Ave.

Port Washington, N.Y.

**Monday**

**February 14, 2011**  
**Valentine's Day**

*Do Not Forget!*

You have been warned!

Recruiting new members for the detachment should be a priority for all of us. If any of your friends are former Marines who know you're in the League, explain to them who we are and what we do. Bring them to a meeting, introduce them to the detachment and get them interested in joining us!

"Once A Marine, Always A Marine"

[www.orgsites.com/ny/port-washington-marines/index.html](http://www.orgsites.com/ny/port-washington-marines/index.html)

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*There's no such thing as an "ex" Marine!*

All Marine Corps League members and their families are now eligible to join the Pentagon Federal Credit Union, one of the largest credit unions in the country.

League members can now sign up for "PenFed's" checking accounts, certificates of savings (CDs), IRAs, money markets as well as investment products. They also offer auto loans at very low rates, RV and boat loans, personal lines of credit, and so on.

Many of us are aware of and enjoy the benefits of credit union membership. But since credit unions are "member owned" not all of us have qualified to join one. Now as a result of your MCL membership you can. To learn about all the services they offer and to become a member, go to their web site [www.PenFed.org/MCL](http://www.PenFed.org/MCL) or call 1.800.247.5626.

We still have members who are delinquent in paying their dues. If you're not sure of when your dues are expiring, contact **Stan Derby** and find out. In addition, if you haven't already, get a copy of your DD214 discharge papers to Stan for him to keep on record for you. In the event you or a family member needs a copy of it some time in the future, it's considerably easier for Stan to provide you a copy, than to wait several months to receive one from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO.

Congratulations to **John Burke** the winner of the January 50/50 drawing!

**VA CONTACT NUMBERS:** Call VA Benefits: 1-800-827-1000 for: Burial, Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), Death Pension, Dependency Indemnity Compensation, Direct Deposit, Directions to VA Benefits Regional Offices, Disability Compensation, Disability Pension, Education, Home Loan Guarantee, Life Insurance, Medical Care, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment.

*Beneficiaries in receipt of Pension Benefits:* 1-877-294-6380, *Education (GI Bill):* 1-888-442-4551

*Health Care Benefits:* 1-877-222-8387, *Income Verification and Means Testing:* 1-800-929-8387

*Life Insurance:* 1-800-669-8477, *Mammography Helpline:* 1-888-492-7844

*Special Issues - Gulf War/Agent Orange/Project Shad/Mustard Agents and Lewisite/Ionizing Radiation:* 1-800-749-8387

*Status of Headstones and Markers:* 1-800-697-6947

*Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD):* 1-800-829-4833

For health care services, contact the VA medical facility nearest you.

## **MEMBER MILESTONES: FEBRUARY 2011**

**Jim Buatti** celebrates his birthday February 14<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday!

**Stan Derby** enlisted in the Corps 54 years ago February 1, 1957. Where does the time go?

**Bernie Dunn** celebrates his birthday February 12<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday!

**Matt Falcone** celebrates his birthday February 23<sup>rd</sup> Happy Birthday!

**Al Hoovis** celebrates his birthday February 24<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday!

**Mike Kummer** celebrates his birthday February 26<sup>th</sup> and his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the League, February 1986. Congratulations!

**Ed Knizewski** celebrates his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the League, February 1986. Congratulations.

**Wilson Mead** celebrates his birthday February 6<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday!

**John Meehan** enlisted in The Corps 45 years ago on February 15, 1966 and celebrates his 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the League, February 1987 Congratulations!

**Brian Mohr** celebrates his 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the League, February 2003 Congratulations!

**Brian J. More** also celebrates his 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the League, February 2003 Congratulations!

**Jim O'Hara** celebrates his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the League, February 1986 Congratulations.

**Justin Restivo** enlisted in The Corps 12 years ago on February 1, 1999. Seems like just yesterday!

**Charles Shuh** celebrates his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in The League, February 1986. Congratulations,

If you wish to be included in the **Member Milestones** column or if there is incorrect or incomplete information indicated, notify Tom Kenney and the proper adjustments will be made.



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There's no such thing as an "ex" Marine!



## **THIS MONTH IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY:**

**1 February 1967:** "Operation Prairie II" was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed.

**2 February 1944:** The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.

**3 February 1953:** "Operation Clambake" jumps off when Marines from Able Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Reg't (A 1/5) 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Div. Assault the Ungok Hill mass on the western front in Korea. At first light when the Marines jumped off, the temperature was 2° below zero (F). As a result of the operation, 90 Chinese soldiers were confirmed KIA with another 400 probable. Marine casualties were 14 KIA and 90 WIA, all of whom eventually recovered. One of those wounded Marines was our own, **John Donovan**. There was one Medal of Honor awarded to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Raymond "Jerry" Murphy. Two Navy Crosses were also awarded to Marines as a result of their heroic actions during the fight.

**6 February 1968:** Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house-to-house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.

**15 February 1898:** 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship MAINE was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. Though no definitive evidence linked the Spanish with the sinking, the cry went up, "Remember the Maine!", and by late April the U.S. and Spain were at war.

**19 February 1945:** "Operation Detachment" the invasion of Iwo Jima began at 08:59, one minute ahead of schedule. The first of an eventual 30,000 Marines of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions, under V Amphibious Corps, landed on the beach. Before the operation was over, more than 20,000 of the island's 21,000 Japanese defenders would be killed. Only 216 were taken prisoner.

**23 February 1945:** Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short fire-fight with Japanese defenders emerging from several caves, the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island. Later that day, Joe Rosenthal would snap his history-making photo of the second, larger flag being raised on Suribachi

**24 February 1991:** The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of "Operation Desert Storm". The 1st and 2d Marine Divisions stormed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses while heavily armored allied forces attacked the Iraqi defenses in Iraq from behind. In 100 hours, U.S. and allied forces defeated the Iraqi Army.

**28 February 1991:** "Operation Desert Storm" ended when the cease-fire declared by President George H.W. Bush went into effect. I Marine Expeditionary Force had a strength of more than 92,000 making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history. A total of 24 Marines were killed in action during the Gulf War

## **Quotable Quotes:**

*"The raising of that flag on Suribachi means a MARINE CORPS for the next 500 years."*

**James Forrestal**, Secretary of the Navy, February 1945

*Semper Fi*

*Tom*

**Good night Chesty, where ever you are!**

Questions? Comments? Sound Off! [USMC7585@verizon.net](mailto:USMC7585@verizon.net) Do we have your E-Mail address? If not, send it and we'll add you to our mailing list.

No computer? No E-Mail address? NO PROBLEM! Contact the newsletter editor, Tom Kenney at: 226-49B Kingsbury Ave. Bayside, N.Y. 11364. Telephone: (718) 776-2045 (Home) (516) 456-9186 (Cell)

*"Once A Marine, Always A Marine!"*