



The Bulldog Bulletin



Commandants Corner

Oct, Nov, Dec 2024 Edition

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Although our Detachment was short on community activities, we had a very successful fundraising third quarter 2024.

Matt Popovich coordinated the September 14, 2024 Rose Campaign at Sam's Club, West Mifflin from 10 am to 2 pm. Bettina Radcliff provided a pop-up canopy. We collected \$1,775 for Wreaths Across America, National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. The National Cemetery of the Alleghenies needs 7,000 plus wreaths for the December 2024 Wreath laying. An outstanding team of Detachment 726 members including myself, Matt Popovich., Don & Joyce Bailey, Bettina Radcliff, Joe Turba, Chuck Burrow and Michael Sowko made this event so successful. A special thanks to Joe Turba for rounding the donations up to \$1,775. OORAH!

The Keystone Young Marines assisted with the September 1, 2024 South Park Car Cruise. Myself and Poole (recruit) James Lomuscio assisted with trash clean up at the Car Cruise. Between the two of us, we covered the event from 11 am to closing at 6 pm.

I completed a three-day August 2024 Young Marines School Director's Course at the Young Marine Headquarters, Dumfries, VA. My goal is to assist in increasing the number of Young Marine Leadership Schools on the East Coast to help our Young Marines advance in rank.

I was appointed Treasurer for the Federation of War Veterans Societies of Allegheny County in August 2024. I continue, to sit on the 2024 Federation's Veterans Day Parade Committee.

Marine Corps League, District 8, entered three vehicles and twelve Marine Corps League members in the November 11, 2024 Pittsburgh Veteran's Day Parade.

We are looking for a busy 4th quarter to end out 2024.

Please remember, to continue as a successful Detachment, we need membership participation.

Semper Fi,

Gary Woodside,

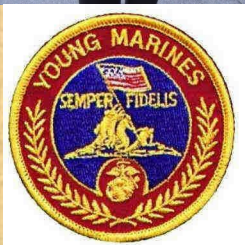
Commandant South Hills Detachment #726.

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ROSE PROGRAM IS ALIVE AND WELL

Saturday September 14, 2024, our detachment conducted the Rose Program, a few members were involved always a busy time.



Young Marines Mission Statement

The mission of the Young Marines is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle

What do we do?

- Provide Color Guard for parades and events
- Provide silent drill team for MCL Birthday Ball
- Assist veterans in different community outings
- Participate in physical fitness program
- Take Trips to various places of interest
- Take part in local and divisional encampments
- Eligible to participate in National Leadership Programs after 1 year
- Have fun together!



Picnic time arrived and departed and as usual a goodtime was had by all, we missed those who weren't able to attend, hope to see you there next year.



Our duty "burger flipper" and "hot dog roller", District Commandant Matt Popovich



alamy stock photo

XEAPB
www.alamy.com



Who let the Devil Dogs out!



On September 4, 2024 at our monthly detachment meeting we were honored to have Department Commandant Diana Henry and Chief of Staff Carol McIntosh on board and enlightened us on what happened at the National Conference. A few photos from the meeting.



Diana Henry, Michelle Propkopchak and Carol McIntosh



Joyce Bailey, Diana Henry, Don Bailey and Carol McIntosh



Bob Saunier, Michael Brown, Diana Henry

District 8 Commandant Matt Popovich and Detachment Senior Vice Chuck Burrow



Department Commandant Diana Henry

Marine Corps League



Celebrating the 249th Birthday of our Corps on Saturday November 9th, 2024

Come and join us in our celebration

LOCATION: *Gianna Via Social Hall, 5311 Mc Anulty Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236*

4:00 pm Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

5:00 pm Presentation of colors and National Anthem

** Escort guest speaker, Army Maj. Eric Gass*

** Opening Prayer*

** Those who have gone before*

** Cake cutting*

** Missing man Table Ceremony*

** Toast to the corps*

** Invocation and dinner, served buffet style*

** Announcements*

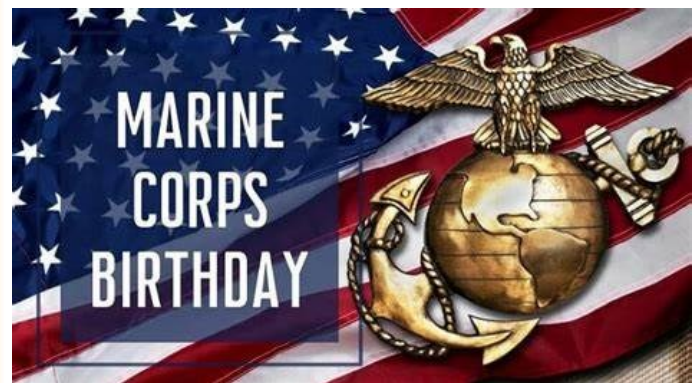
** Commandants message*

** Guest Speaker*

** Presentations*

** Closing*

** Entertainment*



COST: \$40.00 PER PERSON... INVITATION FORM IS ON THE BACK

DRESS: MILITARY UNIFORM / MCL UNIFORMS / FORMAL ATTIRE, APPROPRIATE ATTIRE.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT JOE SPINNENWEBER AT 412-670-0561

GUESTS ARE WELCOME AND THE PUBLIC IS INVITED



CONTINENTAL MARINES

America's marines were raised just a month after the Continental Navy had been established. They were to provide the sailors with armed support, defending the ships or going onshore as landing parties.

The Continental Marines were formed on 10 November 1775 in Tun's Tavern in Philadelphia, and were the only armed service of the United States to be founded in a bar. As Marine Corps tradition would have

it, the men were recruited in the traditional British manner, by way of the recruiting party, with a fifer and drummer, literally "drumming up" recruits in the streets of Philadelphia and leading them to the tavern where they were plied with drink by the recruiting officer or sergeant. They were then "primed", given a shilling (in this case not a king's shilling but undoubtedly one issued by Congress), signifying their voluntary enlistment. Whether or not any of them were allowed second thoughts or to express reluctance when they sobered up the next day is not recorded.

Organization

The marines were initially authorized as a battalion in strength, and generally kept at that level throughout the war. They were modelled on the British marines and their initial traditions, kept until the present time, were also modelled on their British forebears. They were a well-disciplined and trained arm of the service and served at sea as ships' detachments, and were also engaged at times on land with the Continental Army. They served ashore in the Trenton/Princeton campaign and were noted for their useful service by Washington.

Service Afloat

The Continental Marines performed the same function as that of the British marines. They served as detachments onboard warships that manned the



◀ OFFICER, CONTINENTAL MARINES, 1775

The Continental Marines were raised on 10 November 1775 at Tun's Tavern in Philadelphia. They were always a small organization, and were known for the smartness of their uniforms, their discipline, and their fighting ability. They served both at sea and ashore, and fulfilled the same duties as their British forebears. The officer's uniform was the same as that of the enlisted men, except for the headgear.



▲ PRIVATE, CONTINENTAL MARINES, 1775

Dark green was chosen as the marines' uniform colour, faced and lined with white. It was simple, elegant, and completely functional. The handsome round hat, jauntily turned up on one side, was an excellent choice for service at sea. More utilitarian and comfortable than the usual tricorne, it was also very military in appearance.

=====Detach here and return bottom portion with your payment=====

_____ I will attend the Birthday Celebration. Enclosed is my check for _____.

Member _____ Guest _____

Spouse _____ Guest _____

Guest _____ Guest _____

Guest _____ Guest _____

Sender Phone # _____ If we need to get in touch with you

Email _____ so we can email as well for future send out

_____ I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____.

Make check payable to: South Hills Pittsburgh Det. 726, MCL., Inc.

Mail to: MCL., South Hills Detachment 726, P.O. Box 533, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Born on January 21, 1926, in San Francisco, the slight-of-build Kurt Chew-Een Lee, all of 5-feet-6 inches tall and roughly 130 pounds, is believed to be the first Asian-American officer in Marine Corps history. Still, Lee “brought outsized determination to the battlefield,” according to an account in the New York Times.

Lee, who enlisted in the Marines at the end of World War II, told the Los Angeles Times in 2010 that he identified most with the Corps due to its reputation of being first into battle.

“I wanted to dispel the notion about the Chinese being meek, bland and obsequious,” he said.

Lee was assigned during WWII as a Japanese language instructor in San Diego. Swallowing his disappointment at not being sent to the Pacific, he chose to remain in the Marine Corps after the war and commissioned as an officer in 1946.

As the U.S. entered into the Korean War in June 1950, Lee was placed in charge of a machine gun platoon that was tasked with advancing deep into North Korean territory. The first lieutenant’s undertaking came during the vicious Battle of Chosin Reservoir, as tens of thousands of Chinese troops streamed in from North Korea and threatened to cut off an American unit.

Traversing five miles across treacherous mountainous terrain, Marines battled against blizzard conditions that cut visibility to almost zero. Temperatures oftentimes plummeted to 30 below.

Despite bullet wounds and a broken arm suffered during a previous engagement, Lee, along with his unit, went on to relentlessly engage the enemy while under intense fire. By the end, their exploits would help preserve a crucial evacuation route for American troops fighting as United Nations forces. Approximately 8,000 men were saved from certain death or imprisonment at the hands of the Chinese.

Lee’s Chinese ancestry, however, came as a boon on the night of November 2, 1950. Conducting a solo reconnaissance mission amid heavy snowfall, he began to lob grenades and fire rounds at the enemy with the intent of exposing the location of Chinese soldiers who were firing upon his men.

Undetected, Lee crept up on the enemy outpost and utilized his working knowledge of Mandarin to confuse the enemy combatants, who hesitated briefly as Lee called out in their native tongue, “Don’t shoot, I’m Chinese.”

Less than a month later, while Lee was still recovering in a field hospital from a gunshot wound to the arm he sustained during the early November fighting, the Chinese launched its Second Phase Offensive — aimed at driving the United Nations out of North Korea. Tens of thousands of Chinese forces converged on the mountainous region near the Chosin Reservoir, overrunning the nearly 8,000 American troops stationed there.

Undeterred by his wounds, Lee “and a sergeant left the hospital against orders, commandeered an Army jeep and returned to the front” to link up with the 1st Marine Battalion, according to the New York Times. Lee’s arm was still in a sling. Using only a compass to traverse the snowy mountain terrain, Lee and his 500 Marines managed to find and reinforce the surrounded Americans, repeatedly driving back Chinese soldiers, according to the Times, and ensuring “the vastly outnumbered Americans were able to retreat to the sea.”

The fighting was so fierce that roughly 90 percent of Lee’s rifle company was killed or wounded, but thanks to Lee’s indefatigable efforts, the evacuation route remained open.

Lee survived the war, retiring from the Marines in 1968 after serving in Vietnam as an intelligence officer. In addition to the Navy Cross, Lee was awarded a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

Chaplain's Corner



The Vietnam War

During the Vietnam War, Chaplains were resolute in offering compassion and connection to all service members. They were responsible for holding memorial services for those who were killed, conducting religious services, raising troop morale, lending an arm and offering spiritual counseling to service members under duress.

Peaking at 300 Chaplains serving in Vietnam in 1967, this number alone is not representative of amount of steadfast care and compassion these men were able to provide and danger they often faced.

There are 16 Chaplains with their names inscribed upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Navy Personnel who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.



TAPS

Norman Petrelli

9-8-2024