



# Marine Corps League

Westchester County Detachment

PO Box 505 • White Plains • New York • 10602-0505

<https://www.mclwestchester.org>

## NEWSLETTER



Commandant Wilfredo Muniz Jr. (571) 201-5115

February - August 2017

### MEETING NOTICE:

**First Wednesday of the Month**

**Next Meeting:** 6 September 2017

**Location:** American Legion Post 135  
57 Mitchell Place,  
White Plains, NY 10602

**Muster:** 7:30 PM      **Meeting:** 8:00 PM

### MEMBERSHIP

FY 2016 (July-June): We are at **383 Members** with **283 Life Members**. Invite those Marines to associate with our Detachment.

**Renewal** = \$36      **New** = \$40  
**Active Duty:**    **Renewal** = \$15      **New** = \$20

### *Think Life!*

**Life Member Dues:**

To age 35 = \$500;    36-50 = \$400; 51-64 = \$300;  
65+ = \$200

You can pay our dues online at

<https://www.mclwestchester.org/renew/>

It's quick and, easy, save a stamp and envelope and the check writing time. Try it, you'll like it!

### Welcome Aboard!

**New Members:** **James Johnson** of Patterson, NY and **Timothy Fitzpatrick** of the Bronx, NY sponsored by **Donald O'Keefe**.

**New Life Members:** **Michael Acevedo**, **James Johnson** and **Joseph Vale**

### SICK & DISTRESS

**Contact:** [chaplain@mclwestchester.org](mailto:chaplain@mclwestchester.org)

### TAPS

Detachment Life Member Anthony Riccio passed away on 19 March 2017.

Detachment Life Associate Member Emily Shchur (Szczur) passed away on 27 July 2017. She is the mother of Detachment Life Member Taras Szczur and Detachment Life Associate Member Lou Shchur.

Detachment Life Member Rev. Solomon Phifer Sr passed away on 19 August 2017. Marine Phifer is the father of Detachment Associate Member Rev. Mary Phifer.

### CALENDAR

**12 November 2017: Birthday Brunch-** The Detachment Birthday brunch celebrating the 242<sup>nd</sup> Birthday of the United States Marine Corps will be held at the Westchester Manor, 140 Saw Mill River Rd, Hastings-On-Hudson, NY 10706. 11am - 2pm. \$50 per person. Guest of Honor MGen Robert Wolf, NYNM (ret).

### MEMBER NEWS

Member **Peter O'Keefe** reports that he attended the 50th reunion of TBS-1/66 in Quantico this past October. The event was a three-day reunion of two Marine Officer training companies that graduated in December 1965. All of the Marine officers are veterans of Viet Nam. The three days included a tour of Camp Upshur training facilities, main side Quantico officer candidate training facilities and the Marine Corps Museum. Among the reunion attendees were Generals Richard Neal (one of his platoon mates) and Anthony Zinni.

Member **Brian Horner** reports that he is getting ready for Deployment to the Middle East.

Member **John Gonzalez** started his new job as a Biomedical Equipment Technician at White Plains Hospital.

Detachment Commandant **Wilfredo Muniz Jr.** started a new job as a mental health counselor.

Member **Carla Lucchino** started a new job with CACI International as a Senior Consultant.

Member **Mario Garcia** has recently graduated and received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and undergoing his MPA in Government. He is also seeking employment in any positions that can help him build his resume towards Administration

Once A Marine, Always A Marine



Honor • Courage • Commitment • Tradition



Semper Fidelis

March 6<sup>th</sup> was named **Geno Egziaco** day in honor of Detachment Life Member **Geno Egziaco** by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. Marine Egziaco celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Member **Rev. Ricardo Sheppard** has been elected as Commandant for the Marine Corps League - Department of New York at the 86<sup>th</sup> Department Convention. He has appointed Detachment member **Steve Topilnycky** as his Department Adjutant.



## MARINE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

*"Lest We Forget"*

In memory of former Marine and fellow Detachment Member

**SGT Anthony Kalladeen NYARNG**  
**KIA Iraq 8 Aug 2005**  
**Young Marines of White Plains**

In memory of Westchester County Marines who were killed in the terrorist bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon October 23, 1983.

**LCpl Craig Wyche USMC**  
**Ossining HS**

2017 Awardee: Ramiro Miranda

**Cpl James J. Jackowski USMC**  
**John Jay HS**

2017 Awardee: Avi Shulman

**Support our Scholarship Fund**, donate today! You can send your donation to the Detachment PO Box with Marine Memorial in the memo section or donate online <http://www.mclwestchester.org/programs/donate.asp>.

## DETACHMENT ACTIVITIES

### Detachment Nominations and Elections:

Commandant: **Wilfredo Muniz Jr.**  
 Sr. Vice Commandant: -Open  
 Jr. Vice Commandant: **Donald O'Keefe**  
 Judge Advocate: **Drew McFadden**  
 Adjutant: **Steve Topilnycky**

**GEW Rupprecht** was appointed Sergeant at Arms and **Steve Topilnycky** was appointed as Paymaster by Commandant Elect Muniz. The newly elected and appointed officers were installed into officer by Department of New York South East Area Vice Commandant **Steve Topilnycky**.

Jr. Vice Commandant **Donald O'Keefe** was an escort on Honor Flight in May

Adjutant Paymaster **Steve Topilnycky** presented the Mameluke sword to the honor graduate Liam at SUNY Maritime at Fordham University.

Detachment Member **Glen Sadowski** presented 2 Eagle Scout Certificates of Merit at the Court of Honor Ceremony in Crestwood, NY.

Commandant **Wilfredo Muniz** presented 12 Eagle Scout Certificates of Merit at the Court of Honor in Ossining NY.

Commandant **Wilfredo Muniz, Jr.** Vice Commandant **Donald O'Keefe**, Judge Advocate **Drew McFadden** and Adjutant Paymaster **Steve Topilnycky** along with Rockland County Detachment Members George Rath, John Leighton, Mary Leighton, Gene Sullivan, Candance Robinson, and Dale Robinson, and Angela Watford from the VAMC Staff, held our annual picnic for the patients of Ward C & D of Building 6 at the FDR VAMC Montrose on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## YOUNG MARINES



Support our Young Marines!

**White Plains Young Marines**  
 Eddie Lopez, Commanding Officer  
<http://www.youngmarineswp.org>

**Rivertowns Young Marines**  
 Lu Caldara, Commanding Officer  
<http://youngmarinesrivertowns.org/>



Westchester County  
Veterans Service Agency  
914-995-2145 / 2146

Yonkers  
Veterans Service Agency  
914-377-6700

## Veterans in Crisis

Free confidential support to Veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends. Save this number to your phone: **1-800-273-8255** (press 1 for Veterans). You can also chat online or text professional responders at 838255.



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<https://www.facebook.com/t4twestchester>  
<https://www.twitter.com/t4twestchester>

## Obituaries

### John R. Riccio

John R. Riccio, 72 Years, of Eastchester died on March 19, 2017. Companion of Diann Buro. Father of Gina Riccio, grandfather of Giovanna and Giulianna Riccio. Brother of the late Robert. Uncle of Anthony, Sean and Ciera.

The family receive friends at the WESTCHESTER FUNERAL HOME, INC. EASTCHESTER Saturday March 25 4-8 pm. A prayer service was held at 7pm. Interment on Monday March 27th at Kensico Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, friends who wish may contribute to [www.daws.org](http://www.daws.org).

### Emily Shchur

Our dearest Mom & Dad, Baba & Dido were reunited again in spirit Thursday, July 27th, 2017.

Emily Shchur (Szczur) of Yonkers, NY passed into eternal life peacefully, surrounded and supported by her family and pastor Kiril Angelov.

Emily, known to all as Millie, was born in Ebensee, Austria to Katharina Meindl and Adolf Keller.

She was an adventuresome and spirited young woman.

As a teenager, she bicycled from her hometown in the Austrian Alps to Rome, Italy to get a Papal Blessing prior to embarking on a life changing job. That being accomplished, she set off to the U.K. by herself, on a work contract in post-war England.

She was indeed blessed as it was in England that she literally met the man in her dreams, Wolodymyr (Walter) Szczur who wound up in England after release from a POW-DP camp. Interestingly enough, they did not share a common language yet somehow they communicated, fell in love and committed their lives to each other. They were married November 3rd 1951 just 2 days before her 21st birthday. The marriage ceremony took place in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Todmorden, Lancashire by a Ukrainian Catholic priest, Father Hawryluk. There they raised a family, having 5 children, 4 surviving. They worked alternating shifts in factories as weavers. She attended Calder College and learned English fluently and simultaneously learned Ukrainian. It was in Todmorden that they built their family while also building a strong, vibrant, engaged Ukrainian community with their friends. Millie embraced Ukrainian culture and made it her own. People were often surprised that she was not a native Ukrainian. She would often translate German, Ukrainian and English forms and documents for their friends and those in need. She and Walter loved to sing and often they would sing harmoniously the same song, he in Ukrainian and she in her native Austrian. We, their children, were the fortunate beneficiaries of their love for each other, their respective cultures and communities. Both being far from their original homes and families, they found strength and courage through their religious faith and their newly formed communities.

In 1964, in another adventuresome move, they immigrated to the USA with 4 rambunctious children (including an infant) in tow, sailing across the Atlantic on the HMS Sylvania. We always celebrated July 28th, the day we arrived in the Port of New York as it was also my father's name sake day, St. Volodymyr. We settled in Manhattan's Lower East Side. Walter worked in the meat packing industry (he would never eat bologna after that!) and Millie worked cleaning offices at night. Again, they immersed themselves in the Ukrainian community. Eventually they bought a small Mom & Pop business on 7th St. between Ave's B & C. In 1968 they packed us up and moved to Yonkers where they bought Walter's Restaurant on Saw Mill River Road and ran it successfully for 12 years. Later they bought Saw Mill Market and then Saw Mill Liquors. In between businesses they were managers of the Ukrainian Youth Center for many years, hosting hundreds of weddings, christenings, funerals and other events. Both Walter and Millie were very much a part of the strong fabric of the Yonkers Ukrainian community as were their contemporaries, a unique generation of hard working immigrants working tirelessly together to uphold their



cultural traditions, values and to build a better life for their children. Even though they worked hard and seemingly endlessly, they always had time for family gatherings which they loved the most. By the end of the evening both would be singing together harmoniously as they loved to do, not only Ukrainian and Austrian melodies but also loved singing traditional English, Irish, Scottish and Italian.

folk songs. It was not unusual that a word or phrase made in conversation would trigger a melody and they would break into a song.

Millie was strong in her faith, never forgetting to say her prayers before going to bed. She always prayed for her husband, her children and grandchildren, her family in Austria, Walter's family in Ukraine and the dear friends they left behind in England. Together they were parishioners of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church. She was a member, then president of the Mother's Guild at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic School and later became a member and president of the Golden Agers organization, serving as the 'Sunshine Girl' visiting the sick and hospitalized parishioners, even though she did not have a car to get around.

In her later years she dedicated herself to taking care of Walter until his passing in 2008.

Millie was known for her sense of humor, sharp wit, and her shoot-from-the-hip responses. She was honest and never minced words, you knew exactly where you stood with Millie. She loved a lively discussion as well as a passionate argument. She could spot a dishonest person a mile away and could figure people out on her first encounter. If you crossed her you would suffer consequences. Millie was fiercely independent, strong and brave. She had a heart of gold and was very generous to those needing help. She loved to make you laugh and found humor in life's situations no matter how difficult it got. The challenges she endured and the courage she displayed this year are a testament to her strength, tenacity and spirit. It was a privilege and inspiration to be part of her life.

Millie is survived by her children & their spouses: Lubomyr Shchur & wife Lesia, Sophia Scarpelli-Shchur and her husband Vasyl Zarubayko, Taras Szczur, Steven Schur & his wife Sonya. Her grandchildren: Natalie Mithqal and husband Amjad, Emilie Scarpelli and wife Natalie, Stefan & Damian Shchur, Mykola, Nina & Marko Schur and the absolute apple of her eye, her great-grandchild Adam Mithqal. Millie also has a niece Karin Wenty and her family in Vienna, as well as nieces and nephews and their families in Bad Goisern; Robert, Doris, Klaus, and Ulrike Stüger. She is predeceased by her parents, brother Rupert, her husband Walter and their infant son.

We are extremely grateful for the competent and compassionate care of her physicians, St. John's

Hospital, Visiting Nurse Service of Westchester and to all family members who rallied around her to make her final months at home pain free and dignified. We also express our sincerest gratitude to Very Reverend Kiril Angelov for providing a spiritual anchor in difficult times, praying for and with Millie and for being with us during her final earthly moments. Thank you to all who have kept her in their prayers.

Rest in Peace. Вічна'я пам'ят. Ruhe in Frieden.

Donations in her memory may be made to St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church.

### **Rev. Solomon C. Phifer, Sr.**

Solomon Crooms Phifer, Sr., 86 of Ossining, NY passed away on August 9, 2017. Solomon was born on July 12, 1931, to his parents Mary Jane Crooms and William Phifer.

He served in the Marines during the Korean War. He was a graduate Howard University with a BA in History, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa and an MA in Divinity.

On November 12, 1962, Rev. Phifer married Elizabeth Tracy. Rev. Phifer moved his family to Ossining, where he pastored St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. Then in 1978, Rev. Phifer founded Faith New Testament Fellowship Church renamed the Holy Spirit Church

Rev. Phifer was the Prophet who answered the question, "Is there any word from the Lord?" Although he retired from the pastorate when he became ill, he continued his life's work ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ until the day he died.

Prophet Phifer is survived by his devoted wife, Elizabeth Tracy Phifer and their eight (8) loving children: Solomon Jr. (Gabrielle), Angela Phifer Ford, Christopher (Wanda), Lisa Phifer Silver, Mary, Lori (James) McDowell, Jr., Gabriel (Janet), and Elizabeth (Ernest) Thompson, III.; 17 grandchildren; and 6 great grandchildren. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews, church family and friends. Prophet Phifer was predeceased by his parents, his twin brother Samuel, his sister Nettie Lane, and brother Henry Crooms.

Visiting hours will be held on Thursday, August 17 at The Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, 304 Spring St. Ossining, from 10 am-12pm and 1-3 pm. The Homegoing Service will be held from 3-5 pm. There will be a repast following the service. The interment will take place Friday August 18, at 11:00am at the Calverton National Cemetery, 210 Princeton Blvd., Calverton, LI, NY 11933.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Holy Spirit Church, 164 Spring St., Ossining, NY 10562.

