

*Serving our detachments and their members everywhere*

## Department of New York Newsletter

Number 2 –17

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# “The Ground Pounder”

[www.mclnewyork.net](http://www.mclnewyork.net)



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*For a complete list refer to the  
Department Staff Roster*

## The Fallen Marines of Yankee 452

On July 10th, 2017, a marine KC-130T refueling tanker crashed in Mississippi during a training mission.

The Marines and Corpsman enlisted from all over the United States. Their families were in need of assistance and South East area Vice Mike Piscioti stepped up to the plate.

Making over 100 phone calls to Detachments, veterans groups and other agencies looking to for help for these families to not only meet the returning remains but finding transport for them to attend the funerals of their loved ones. Contact was made by the Department staff to the Commandants of all Departments involved and each offered whatever help they could be.

Various officers of the Department attended the wakes of some of these Marines in New York stepping in with the local Detachments who were rendering honors to them.

A Marine Master Gunnery Sgt. From MAG 49, 4th MAW thanked the league members in attendance saying “that his young Marines needed to see this and how our loyalty goes on past their enlistments”.

For Sgt. Julian Kevianne, whose funeral was held in Washington, NY, The Greater Newburgh Detachment, Karl Conboy—Commandant, were present. Also, in attendance were members from the Bear Mountain detachment including the man who put all this together, Mike Piscioti, South East Area Vice Cmdt.

For Gunnery Sgt. Mark Hopkins, laid out in Montgomery, NY. Again members from the Greater Newburgh & Bear Mountain Detachments were present.

And for Sgt. Owen Lennon, whose funeral was laid out in New City, NY, present were members of the Rockland Detachment including their Vice Commandant, Jim O’Neil, Jr. Members from Westchester and Ulster detachments also attended. This Rockland Detachment was honored by performing the League ritual wake service at the funeral home. Both the Metro Area Vice Cmdt and the Department Senior Vice Cmdt were honored to attend and be a part of this.

In all members from Rockland, Greater Newburgh, Carmel, Staten Island, Putnam & Ulster Detachments honored these fallen Marines.

Our Members showed great respect to their fallen brothers.

Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful, and we are!



## **PDD Edwin F. Gallagher, PCDD, PKDR**

**25 June 1931 – 16 August 2017**

I had the sad duty of representing the MODD at the viewings and funeral for the 36th Chief Devil Dog, PDD Edwin F. (Ed) Gallagher on Long Island New York in August of this year. Ironically, Ed passed from this life during the 78th Supreme Growl. Many of you Marines may not have had the privilege of having known Ed; but, to me he was a friend, a mentor and stalwart Devil Dog for more than forty years.

I first met Ed at the 1976 Supreme Growl at the National Convention in Arlington, Virginia, where we were both initiated and obligated as Pedigreed Devil Dogs. Ed wore many hats in the Devil dogs and in later years was content to simply attend Growls in his home Pound 11, on Long Island, New York Pack Growls and an occasional Supreme Growl.

After Joan, his wife of 50+ years retired, they moved fulltime to New Port Richey, Florida, where they lived contentedly until Joan passed away in January 2017. Ed then moved back to Long

Island and lived with his daughter, Joan Marie and her husband Gerry until his death on 16 August 2017. In the 40+ years I had the privilege to call him a friend.

At the viewing for Ed, at 3:00 pm, the day before the funeral; the New York Department Commandant – Ricardo Sheppard – the New York Pack Junior Vice Pack Leader – Tom Wortmann – and about twenty Devil Dogs from all around Long Island plus members of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary joined together in a joint Marine Corps League, Marine Corps League Auxiliary and Military Order of Devil Dogs Memorial Service honoring Ed and his decades of service to the League and the Devil Dogs. Included in this group were a Past National Commandant (Lew Loeven) of the League and a Past National President of the Auxiliary (Marilyn Loeven). These Leaguers, Dogs and Auxiliary members asked me to speak on their behalf about Ed.

At the funeral, the next morning, the officiant, Father Regan, said something that stuck with me.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## **WTC Memorial thanks to the Staten Island Detachment**

The 6th Comm Batt is a USMCR unit stationed at Floyd Bennet field in Brooklyn. Many of it's Marines participated in the recovering of the 9-11 attack on NYC.

Two Marine reservists, Sgt. Major Curtin who was also a NYC ESU Police Officer and GySgt Garvey who was a FDNY Firefighter. Both being first responders, died that terrible day in separate towers.

The unit had envisioned some type of monument dedicated to all three groups and planned were set down. But red tape is red tape and the commanders of the unit figured it would take years to build. Approve for this and funds for that and so on. When the Staten Island Detachment Commandant Al King heard about their plans and their problems, He, the Senior Vice, Butch Sarcone & Associate members Jim McGukin, Don Lanastra & Tom Compton decided to step in and help. The material was donated by JR Construction of NJ. The antenna is even made from World Trade Center Steel. Even the landscaping was done by their members.

Colonel Shea then I&I OIC was shocked to hear it would take a week, not years or even months to get it all done and with the help of the detachment that is exactly what happened. From start to finish the entire project took 3 weekends to complete and today stands over 6 foot tall. The base was named after these two marines, believed to be the first to die in the war on terror.

Before the unit knew it, it was done and a dedication ceremony was held and it stands today.



With out the help of the Staten island Detachment, this same area would only be a cleared area today and nothing more.

## The 2017 National Convention, Kansas City Kansas



Here are some Department of New York members enjoying the banquet at the National Convention just held in Kansas City this past August. And of course there's always one guy, well, you know what he's doing and no matter what, they won't take him back, but if you too want to meet brass. A national convention is the place to be.

## MORE DETACHMENT HAPPENINGS

### Bear Mountain Detachment

Nathan Allanach (Bear Mountain Member) and I, attended the wake of Marine William T. Schaefer 83 of Campbell Hall, NY. Mr. Schaefer served during the Korean War. His Family welcomed us and were very happy that we attended the Service. His son shared some great stories about his Father. He told us one story about how his father was forgetting stuff and it got really bad towards the end, but he remembered that he was a Marine and even remembered his rifle number. His father also woke up every morning and the first thing he wanted to do was put on his red USMC baseball cap.

Michael A. Piscioti

South East Area Vice Commandant

*Paying respect to any fellow Marine is not only the right thing to do but it reflects a good light upon the Detachment and the league itself.*

### Yankee Detachment

The detachment attended a street renaming in Honor of the first female Marine killed in Combat. Corporal Ramona Valdez, just three days short of her 21st birthday when she was killed in Iraq.

The people of the Bronx honored her by renaming the street on the corner of Grand Concourse and E. Fordham

Road and the Yankee Detachment was proud to there.



## One Marines Unique Story

One Marine's Unique Circumstance of Enlistment into the Marine Corps and Membership into the Marine Corps League, and more...

One of our nation's newest Marines is also one of the Marine Corps League's newest members. PFC Kenneth W. Read enlisted into the Marine Corps on 12 December 2016 and graduated from Parris Island on 10 March 2017. While home on "boot leave", PFC Read joined the Sunrise Detachment, Marine Corps League on 15 March 2017. Congratulations PFC Read! Welcome to the Corps and to the League. OOHRAH!

There happens to be a very unique commonality to PFC Read's enlistment into the Corps and membership into the League. The uniqueness: Ken's Oath of Enlistment and Oath of Membership was administered by the same person—his father, Bill Read. That happens to be me—proud father, retired military reserve officer and currently Commandant of Sunrise Detachment #248.

As a retired military officer, I am empowered to administer the Oath of Enlistment; and with the assistance of the staff at the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) at Fort Hamilton, NY, I enjoyed the privilege of swearing Ken into the Marine Corps in a private ceremony witnessed by my wife Linda. It was indeed a proud moment to personally administer the Oath of Enlistment and I will forever remember the privilege of having a formal role in Ken's entry into the Marine Corps in this very special "family affair" experience.

Just a couple of hours later, we wished Ken well as he departed Fort Hamilton. Destination: yellow footprints at Parris Island. I knew exactly what Ken was thinking and feeling—facing the unknown with some degree of anxiousness, but excited about the journey that would transform him into a United States Marine. What is boot camp like? How tough is it? How well prepared am I for this? All those questions and more, including the universally asked question, "What the F... am I doing here?", would all be answered during the next thirteen weeks.

Returning to Parris Island for Ken's graduation was an incredible experience. The island has very much been modernized and things look quite a bit different than when I was there, but in some respect it's like going home. I may have been more proud at Ken's graduation than my own—if that's possible! Five days later, as Commandant of the Sunrise Detachment, I swore Ken into the League.

I suspect this unique situation may be the only instance in which a father had the honor and privilege of swearing his son into the Marine Corps and Marine Corps League, in the span of just over three months. If there's anyone out there in Marine Corps League land with similar circumstances, I'd love to hear it. Semper Fi!

And a little current events commentary...

The Corps is under a microscope as a result of some unfortunate incidents occurring at Parris Island and San Diego. Once again, the Corps must confront the challenges of how best to transform thousands of recruits into combat ready Marines via the intense rigors of basic training.

Let us be forever cognizant of the historical and incredibly demanding role Drill Instructors have had in shaping our culture. For it is this unmatched culture that serves as the basic foundation of our very being and what differentiates the Marine Corps from the rest of our Armed Forces—making the Marine Corps the finest military organization in the world.

Extending this thought, it is the Marine Drill Instructor who contributes so mightily to the national security of our nation by providing the Marine recruit the training he/she needs to carry out the Marine Corps' mission—to fight battles and win wars!

Boot camp is tough—it needs to be! I personally feel a case can be made that it's not tough enough. Oh sure, while we were there we may have dreaded some of our experiences, but the Corps knows how to train its Marines. Fear of our DI's slowly, but surely, evolved into incredible respect and appreciation for what they have done for us—not to us. When we completed boot camp, we were all a lot tougher; however, I believe most of us had the sense that "boot camp wasn't that tough" after all!

As a Marine, I am forever grateful to my drill instructors for preparing me for life in the Corps; and as the father of a recruit, I wanted nothing short of maximum preparedness through intensive physical, emotional and psychological training for not only my son, but for all those who must trust and rely upon each other for what life in the Corps might bring. The justification for these sentiments? Shall we remember a couple of phrases, such as ("The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war"

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## **GRANTS OF THE M.C.L.FOUNDATION N.Y.**

Applications for the Uncommon Valor Scholarship Fund are Closed for this year, and will open again on January 1st 2018 and close April 1st 2018 when the board will be meeting to review and approve the students who have filed for a Grant and the amount of the Grant will be decided on. The award winners will be notified and a full report will be given at convention, Also at Convention a Golf Tournament will be held as a fund raiser for the Foundation and each Detachment and Pound is expected to Sponsor a hole at this event to show their support.

Also at Convention we, (the Foundation ) will continue our Fund raising campaign to support the Purpose of the Foundation for it is only with their support that the Foundation can exist that is a \$5.00 contribution once per year per member and YES that includes Life members as well.

When the Foundation receives a request for financial aide the Foundation Board and the Department Commandant are notified and a vetting of the request is started and the vetting of the one asking for grant are vetted, it is the policy of the Foundation that only members of the Dept. of N.Y. and their families and Active Duty Marines stationed in New York after proper vetting and approval are eligible for a ONE (1) time Grant The Amount of grant varies on the needs of recipients and amount reserved in our fund for that purpose and based on the amounts of DONATIONS received and then with the approval of the Treasurer and the Foundation Board the Grant is paid.

The Foundation is not a insurance firm It is a 501C(3) Charitable fund that helps Marines and their family's when a need arise and supports the UNCOMMON VALOR SCHOLAR SHIP FUND.

RESPECTFULLY  
PDC Ken O'Brien  
PRESIDENT MCL FOUNDATION N.Y.

*(Unique Story, continued from page 4)*

and "Let's be damn sure no man's ghost will ever say, "If my training had only done its job"".

So, to Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sergeant Rhoden and Drill Instructors Staff Sergeant McGilvray and Sergeant Allen, Platoon 2086 graduated 4 October 1977; and to Senior Drill Instructor Aguillon, and Drill Instructors Staff Sergeant Davis and Sergeant Slover, Platoon 2021 graduated 10 March 2017, I say thank you for doing an outstanding job!

The current environment of scrutiny and oversight at our recruit depots may well have the unintended detrimental consequence of deterring drill instructors from performing the job that needs to get done. Anecdotal evidence suggests drill instructors are operating with a fear that one mistake, one allegation, one mishap, etc. may have career impairment or career ending implications for them, as well as for personnel up the chain of command. The result may well be that boot camp is going soft.

Going soft at boot camp does not toughen and prepare young men and women for what they may face in their future assignments and engagement in Marine Corps missions. For the sake of our Marines, for the Marine Corps itself, and for our country, it is my hope that the Marine Corps can continue their mission of training Marines the way Marines, past and present, know how to do it.

So that's my opinion. What's yours?

Semper Fi, Bill Read, Sunrise Detachment

Here's a picture of Detachment 1201 with the help from fellow Marines from the Thurston Detachment at the Strawberry Festival parade in Owego, NY  
Semper Fi, Dean Lawton Sr.



## FOUNDATION BOARD OFFICERS

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### FOUNDATION WEB MASTER

KEVIN O'BRIEN

<http://www.mclfoundationny.com>

(PDD Gallagher, from page 5) He said that what he was going to say about Ed is generally called a "homily" as opposed to a eulogy. He then said that a eulogy begins the moment two or more of the deceased friends gather together, re-counting the life of their friend. Believe me when I tell you that I heard some stories at the viewing that I'd never heard about Ed, he captured Ed's personality perfectly, emphasizing Ed's love of his wife, his family, and his fellow man. A nice tribute to a good and decent man.

Ed also served two terms as the Commandant of the Department of New York, Marine Corps League; and, it was around this time that he discovered that he could make a difference; and, man did he ever! He was the prime instigator of the Marine Rose Program which raises significant amounts of money every year. Ed's contributions to both the League and the Dogs have been tremendous and have become folklore when Leaguers and Dogs get together. He was the supplier of the roses to all NY Detachments and that will continue without missing a beat thanks to Ed's daughter, an auxiliary member and son in law, an associate member of the league. All, because he decided to make a difference!

In the past few years, Ed and I have crossed paths only a few times. Living in retirement and leaving the veterans' work to the younger folks, that's how our lives have been. Now, Ed has moved on to a better place to be with his Joan and make sure that, as the Marine's Hymn says – "they will find the streets are guarded by the United States Marines".

Paul L. Sutton

37th CDD, PKDR, PKDOY

## Deadlines

Marines, the Department would like to publish this newsletter four times a year.

July 1st, Oct 1st, Jan 1st, & April 1st.

Cut off dates shall be as follows:

June 10th, Sept 10th, Dec 10th & March 10th.

*"KNOWLEDGE HAS NO VALUE UNLESS IT IS SHARED",*

Share your detachments events with us.

We'd all like to know.

## DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

October 13-14th, 2017 Dept. Membership Meeting, Clarion Hotel, 3845 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Ronkonkoma NY 11779

January 12-13th, 2018 Department Membership Meeting. The Desmond, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany NY 12211

April 13-14th, 2018 Northeast Conference, Holiday Inn, 2-8 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901 .

April 20-21st, 2018 Department Membership Meeting, Akwesasne Mohawk Casino, 873 STRT 37, Hogansburg, NY

June 7, 8 & 9th 2018 Department of NY Convention, Embassy Suites 6646 Old Collamer Rd S. East Syracuse, NY 13057

August 12-18th 2018 Buffalo NY, MCL National Convention

*The department reserves the right to select what is inputted into the newsletter. There will be times when we cannot print everything right away due to space limitations. For that we apologize and thank you for your submission.*