

The Chester County Marine

Chester County Detachment #286
P.O. Box 828, Downingtown, Pa 19335-0828
Detachment HQ's: 610-518-5375 (leave message)

Commandant Jerry Myers

Volume XVII, Issue 8 Dave Buckta, editor

August 2020



CCMarineNews@Verizon.net

www.chestercountymcl.com

From the Commandant's Desk

Welcome Marines, FMF Corpsman, FMF, Chaplains, Associates

Marines and Associates, I hope this letter finds each of you in good health. We all have had a tough time the past several months. I want to thank each member for their support in continuing to make the MCL a place for any member to request help in a time of need. We may not have the funds to help financially, however we have many willing MARINES that are here to donate time and effort to provide a helping hand if needed. If you are in need of help and or support, please contact myself or any Staff member in confidence and we will respond accordingly.

I want to thank all those members that are continuing to take the time to attend meetings and support our various functions. Each of us can contribute by volunteering our service. We are in need of additional Color Guard members and are looking for a new OIC, Doug Forsythe our current OIC has assumed additional responsibility as District 1 Senior Vice, due to the recent illness of George Souder. We are also in need of new ACTIVE MEMBERS. If you are aware of any potential members, please invite them to one of our meetings. We also need Associate Members and Auxiliary Members.

We have additional Duck Race tickets to sell at \$5.00 each. I am happy to say that we have sold 182 of the tickets to date. We need to sell 118 more to meet our goal of 300. We have 20 members and friends that have bought tickets. The race date has been extended to September 16, the original date was September 7. Please contact me for tickets. \$4.00 of each \$5.00 purchase goes to our Detachment. This is one of only two fund raising events scheduled this year. The second event is the Chicken BBQ which takes place on 10 October. Please see Bonnie Shaw or Doug Forsythe for your orders. We are requesting PRE-ORDERS for families, friends and places of business. We need each member to help with this event. If each member ordered just 4 meals for their family or friends, we would exceed our goal, Please place your orders EARLY.

A reminder on EXPENSES: We do not have money to spend on anything, but those items approved in our budget. We have provided a proposed BUDGET for the fiscal year 2021. Once this budget is approved NOTHING is going to be paid, without PRIOR approval. Please do not submit any invoice to be reimbursed unless it has pre-approval.

We will be starting our regular meetings at 1900 instead of 1930. If there are any concerns with this time change, please bring it up at the meeting. We have mentioned this in the past and I want to make sure that we are all in agreement. We will need to make changes in all future communications, if the motion passes.

Volunteer Hours: Please submit your hours to Dave Buckta. Your hours should include meetings, events including travel time, also any computer time in preparing documents for the MCL.

Semper Fidelis – Jerry

**Meetings: 4th Monday
of every month @1900**

430 Acorn Lane
Downingtown, Pa 19335
Entrance on Chestnut St.
Also park in rear of bldg

**Next Meeting:
September 28, 2020 @ 1900**

VA Welcome Kit

https://www.va.gov/va_welcomekit_color.pdf

**Dave Buckta is publishing the CC Marine Newsletter.
Please send all your newsworthy items, including
photos and links to CCMarineNews@Verizon.net**

NEWSLETTER POLICY

Chester County Marine, the only publication paid for by Chester County Detachment MCL #286, is published monthly as a service to the membership and other interested organizations. We will reprint any article deemed to be newsworthy and not political. The editor reserves the right to modify any items selected for printing.

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of National MCL, Inc., Pennsylvania MCL, Inc. or the Chester County Detachment. All members and other interested parties are invited to submit articles for publication.

Summer Uniform

Summer uniform is in effect as follows:

- Red Cover
- Short Sleeve White Shirt
- Black Trousers
- Black Shoes & Socks
- Red Blazer or Satin Jacket when appropriate

Marine Corps League Uniforms available online:

<https://www.mclnational.org/store.html>

Minutes From Meeting on – July 27, 2020

Meeting Opened: 7:01 PM

Roll Call of Officers:

Officer	Member	Present
Commandant	Jerry Myers	X
Sr. Vice-Commandant	Bonnie Shaw	X
Jr. Vice-Commandant		
Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland	X
Jr. Past Commandant	Doug Forsythe	X
Adjutant	Jack Meighan	X
Paymaster	Doug Forsythe	X
Chaplain	Dan Condron	
Sergeant at Arms	Ken Weaver	X
Service Officer		
Trustee	Chris Shaw	X
XTrustee	Pat Powell	X
Trustee	John Abitabilo	X

Eight officers present; John Abitabilo attended via zoom.

New Members:

Richard Keeley, who was a member in the Delaware County MCL for many years, said his membership lapsed in 2017 and he wanted to renew his membership with our detachment. He will be sworn in at the next general meeting in August.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes from the general detachment meeting on 6/22/2020 were not available so Adjutant Meighan read the minutes to the members. A motion to receive the minutes with one correction was made by Doug Forsythe and seconded by Bonnie Shaw. The motion passed.

Correspondence:

None.

Paymaster Report:

Paymaster Samples presented the paymaster's report. A motion to receive the paymaster's report subject to audit was made by Jim Copeland and seconded by Fred LeClair. The motion passed. Larry advised we will be closing the petty cash, scholarship and golf accounts and transferring the funds to one business account to make things easier for Doug. Credit cards will no longer be accepted.

Members or Family Members Sick or in Distress:

Doug reported that Jed Burns is still recovering from the loss of his wife, Cindy.

Report of Officers:

None.

Standing Committees:

None.

Special Committees:

Dennis Brown (Marksmanship): All matches have been canceled. The pistol match at Palmerton, Bucks County is still up in the air. The range at Kimberton is still scheduled for 9/13/2020. Dennis said he hopes to add another shoot on 8/9.

Unfinished Business:

The jar of sand from Iwo Jima has been retrieved from the VA Hospital and is now on display in our detachment.

New Business:

The Commandant Samuel Nicholas Memorial Ceremony was held on 7/5/2020. Sixteen representatives from our detachment, Marine Corps headquarters, the National Marine Corps League and other detachments participated. Though locked out of the cemetery, the ceremony was held in the parking lot.

Commandant Myers advised that because of the decline in fundraising opportunities due to the pandemic all purchases and expenditures must be pre-approved. Doug Forsythe and Bonnie Shaw have also been approved to sign checks.

The Pottstown Rotary Club Duck Race has been postponed to September. Commandant Myers has the tickets. The detachment has 300 tickets at \$5 each to sell; if we sell all 300 we will receive \$1,200 back and chances to win any of 100 prizes. In the past, the detachment has won a TV and other prizes. Commandant Myers asked for authorization to have the Paymaster write a check for \$1,200 to the Pottstown Rotary Club which we have done in the past. Doug Forsythe made a

motion to purchase the rest of the tickets in the name of the detachment, Pat Powell seconded the motion which passed.

Masks with Marine Corps insignia are available from the Brookline Labrador Retriever Club for a \$10 donation; see Larry Samples.

Good of the League:

Pat Powell advised he is assembling an AR-15 which he will donate to the detachment along with a sling and two magazines. Pat recommended that the detachment raffle off the weapon which will come with a case, bayonet and scabbard. The stock will be laser etched with the Iwo Jima flag raising. The tickets which will only be sold to Pennsylvania residents will cost \$20.00 with all money collected to go to the detachment's general fund.

Following the meeting, food and a Marine of the Year cake honoring Bob Campagna were made available to the members.

Announcements:

None.

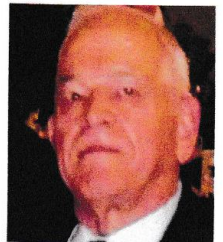
Closing: 7:40 PM

EVENT: Detachment Bingo **DATE:** None
LOCATION: CC MCL Chestnut Street
MEMBERS: Leo Burke, Jim Copeland, Dave Mundy, Mike & Jeanne Rapp, Joanne Brown, Dennis Brown, Pat Powell, Deb Allen Mundy, and Lisa Sundin, Doug Forsythe, Charmaine, Mario & Della Sheryl.
PURPOSE: Bingo operations are suspended during the pandemic.
SUBMITTED BY: Leo Burke

EVENT: Monthly Bingo - Shut Ins **DATE:** No bingo
LOCATION: VA Coatesville, Bldg 59A **SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke
MEMBERS: Dan Condron, Leo Burke, and Mike Rapp
PURPOSE: VA Popcorn and bingo suspended during the pandemic

EVENT: Funeral Service
DATE: August 08, 2020
LOCATION: D'anjolell Memorial Home Malvern, PA
SUBMITTED BY: Doug Forsythe
MEMBERS: Jim Copeland, Jerry Myers, Dan Fitzpatrick, & Doug Forsythe
PURPOSE: MCL provides honors at services, Casket watch, Bugler, Flag folding, Flag retirement
Note: Funeral home donated \$200.00 to CCMCL#286
16 volunteer hours

In Loving Memory of



Col. Frederick T. Walker

*May 4, 1939
August 8, 2020*

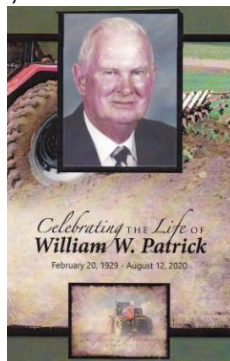
EVENT: Funeral Detail for Navy Corpsman Korea War Veteran **DATE:** August 18, 2020

SUMMARY: Chosin Reservoir survivor Navy Corpsman **Bill Patrick** recently passed away. Detach mbrs performed casket watch, EGA ceremony & gravesite formation with American Legion Rifle team & colors.

LOCATION: Oxford Church of the Nazarene, Oxford, PA

MEMBERS: Doug Forsythe & Ken Weaver (OIC)

SUBMITTED BY: Doug Forsythe



TODAY WE BURIED A HERO

August 18, 2020

Written by Henry A. Detering, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired

Nov, 1950: General Douglas McArthur was commanding United Nations forces in Korea, from his hotel in Tokyo, After a successful though ill-conceived landing at Inchon he proudly told reporters, "Our boys will be Home for Christmas." McArthur refused to believe intelligence reports that Chinese soldiers were massing along the China-Korea border, and preparing to support the North Koreans.

The country of Korea is a peninsula with the Sea of Japan to the east, and the China Sea on its west. Mc Arthur ordered an assault northward from both the east and west coasts. The U.S. Army X Corps would attack from the west, and the 1st Marine Division, commanded by General O.P. Smith, would attack from the Port of Hungnam on the east coast, along a single road (Rte 10) winding thru the mountains. General Smith was concerned with McArthur's plan and he believed the reports of Chinese. General Smith dragged his feet, disobeyed orders, and prepared for the worst.

General Smith's force of about 8000 Marines marched North and reached the Chosin Reservoir, but things did not look good. The only way in to the Chosin Reservoir, and the only way back out, was back down Route 10, and the enemy had already blown up the bridge that the Marines had crossed over at Funchillin Pass to the south

General Smith knew he had to preserve A WAY OUT. Captain William Barber, commanding officer of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, had been a platoon commander on Iwo Jima during the second world war. He and his 246 men got the job. They were told to hold Toktong Pass. The pass was to the east and south of the reservoir, and it was the key to protecting Route 10 and a possible retreat.

When Captain Barber saw the hill above the pass he started to sketch a defense plan. He stayed there, alone, sketching, and he sent his driver back to have his executive office march the men to join him. The men arrived at dusk, it was minus 40 degrees, and they were wearing unlined boots and did not have arctic clothing. Captain Barber made his men dig fighting holes in the frozen ground. Some complained, but it saved their lives.

At around 4 AM, Fox Company was attacked by thousands of Chinese. The fighting was fierce, and listening posts were over run. Private Hector Cafferatta, who received the Medal of Honor for his heroic defense, never had time to put on his boots. At least he survived. Others were not so lucky, the moisture in their breath froze to the zippers in their sleeping bags and they were trapped; bayoneted where they lie. It was a long and terrible night.

Men batted grenades with entrenching tools, blinded men loaded weapons for their buddies, and weapons froze. Corpsman kept morphine in their mouths, to keep it from freezing, and they stuffed plasma bottles in their pants. Fox Company soon lost radio contact with the main force of Marines. They were sniped at during the day, and attacked every night. And they were cut-off. On their own, Fox Company held the pass for 5 days and 5 nights. Back at Yudam-ni, near the reservoir, a fierce battle raged and it was one of the bleakest days in Marine Corps History. 8000 Marines were surrounded at by more than 60,000 Chinese and North Koreans. General Smith was going to have to retreat. So, he ordered his Marines to "Attack in the opposite direction." And to get out he was going to have to get his men through the Toktong Pass. No one had heard from Fox Company for four days, and they feared that Fox Company had been wiped out.

Lieutenant Colonel Ray Davis, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, was ordered to try and save Fox Company's position. His "Ridge-runners" did not expect to find any one alive. When they spotted the Fox Company position the Ridge-runners stopped in their tracks, and many men dropped to their knees. What was left of Fox Company was surrounded by thousands of dead Chinese, almost all of them facing the Fox Company lines. Ridge-runners could not get to Fox Company without walking over the bodies of the Chinese. And at the perimeter, which had been pulled back every night, bodies were piled up as shields. Some of the bodies that the Fox Company Marines had been hiding behind, the bodies on the bottom, were bodies of their fellow Marines.

Only 80 of the 246 men of Fox Company were still standing, and most of them were wounded. Thanks to Fox Company, the entire Marine Division was able to get out of the reservoir, but they still had rebuild a bridge and fight their way back to the coast. The Marines suffered 3600 dead and wounded, almost all of whom were carried out, and 3600 additional casualties, mostly to frostbite. The Army units, to the west, suffered similarly.

I tell you this story because today BILL PATRICK was buried in a simple ceremony in his home town of Oxford, PA. Bill was one of the Corpsman with Fox Company at Toktong Pass. He was one of the Corpsmen who stuffed morphine in his mouth and plasma in his pants. Bill treated the living, and he tried to make the dying comfortable.

Bill survived, and when the battle was over, Bill returned home, married his sweetheart, and got on with his life, QUIETLY. He moved to Oxford, and raised a family. After 31 years Bill retired as Supervisor at the Post office, but he started there delivering mail to the people of Oxford, and that was all most people knew about him. Bill was a letter carrier.

I recently watched the Speaker of our House of Representatives give an America Flag to the "grieving widow" of a career criminal who had abandoned her and his family six years ago. His funeral was a national event, attended by politicians and televised. He did not deserve to die, but neither did he deserve the recognition he received.

Bill Patrick DID DESERVE the American Flag that draped his coffin, he EARNED it. Bill Patrick is a true American HERO, and it is Bill Patrick's name that every American should know.

By Hank Detering

CC MCL Newsletter

8/27/2020

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Flag Trivia

This flag was recently seen flying in southern Chester County. Do you recognize it?

Ask Leo Burke or Al Harper. Or read below



History of the 34 star flag

A 34th star was added to the American flag to recognize Kansas as the 34th state, as it was admitted to the Union on January 29th 1861. The American flag would continue to bear 34 stars until West Virginia became the 35th state on June 20th 1863. Prior to June 14th 1923, when the US Flag Code was constructed, there were no official guidelines on displaying the American flag or any official specifications on the proportions of the length and width or the pattern in which the stars were to be arranged. As a result, American flags made prior to this could have been made in a number of different sizes shapes and star pattern arrangements. The American flag with the circular pattern as seen on this particular design as well as linear patterned flags were carried into battle by Union troops during the American civil war.

Volunteer Activity	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours (July)	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Jerry Myers	15	60
Staff Meeting	Jerry Myers	8	60
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	-	110
VA Bingo/ Popcorn	Dan Condron	-	43
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe	37	72
Golf outing	Bob Campagna	-	8
Chicken BBQ	Bonnie Shaw	-	-
Flag retirement	Leo Burke		2
Building maintenance – field day	Leo Burke		30
Membership	John Abitabilo		5
Financial	Larry Samples/John Abitabilo		26
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	8	32
Other	Doug Forsythe	-	2
Total		68	450

**Marine Corps League Chester County Detachment
Presents...**

21st Annual Chicken BBQ



**10 October 2020
(Noon to 5pm)**

\$12

Meals Ready to Eat will include: Fresh Lancaster Half BBQ Chicken, Petite Potatoes, additional side, dinner roll, dessert, and a beverage.

PREORDERS:

Available by attending one of our upcoming Detachment Events & reserving in person, or by mailing a check/money order to:

CCD #286 Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 828

Downingtown PA 19335

Please Include your Name, Phone, & payment for the # of Dinners x \$12ea

WALK-IN ORDERS:

Available until 4pm Day of BBQ

at our Detachment Headquarters located at 430 Chestnut Street, Downingtown (around the corner from Victory Brewing)

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST, so we encourage preorders if possible.

BBQ Contacts:

Doug Forsythe: 610-827-9281

Bonnie Shaw: 267-934-9583

Cash or Check Only



Prepared By:

Rockin' J BBQ

Jonathan Stolfus, Owner
Atglen PA

Semper Fi Marines and Thank You to our Community!

All proceeds benefit the Chester County Detachment of the Marine Corps League for its many community activities supporting veterans and their families.



Chester County Marine September 2020 EVENT Calendar

September 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Bingo??? 5:30pm Jim Copeland
6	7	8	9 VA Bingo Dan Condron ???????????? MOY Selection Committee CC MCL HQ 1800 Doug Forsythe	10 CC MCL Staff Meeting 6:30pm Jerry Myers	11	12
13 Pistol Team Practice Kimberton Dennis Brown MODD Growl CC MCL HQ 1430 Larry Samples	14	15	16	17	18	19 Bingo??? 5:30pm Jim Copeland
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 General Membership Mtg 7:00pm Jerry Myers	29 VA Popcorn Dan Condron ????????????	30			



Chester County Marine October 2020 EVENT Calendar

October 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Bingo??? 5:30pm Jim Copeland
4	5	6	7 VA Bingo Dan Condron ??????????????	8 CC MCL Staff Meeting 6:30pm Jerry Myers	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Bingo??? 5:30pm Jim Copeland
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 General Membership Mtg 7:00pm Jerry Myers	27 VA Popcorn Dan Condron ??????????????	28	29	30	31

2020 Department of
Pennsylvania Virtual--
Online Convention

End of Newsletter