

# The Chester County Marine

Cpl Brandon Hardy, Chester County Detachment #286

P.O. Box 828, Downingtown, Pa 19335-0828

Detachment HQ's: 610-518-5375 (leave message)

Commandant Larry Samples

[www.chestercountymcl.com](http://www.chestercountymcl.com)

[CCMarineNews@Verizon.net](mailto:CCMarineNews@Verizon.net)

Volume XXIII, Issue 4



## April 2024



### A Message from the Commandant

The Detachment provided the Rifle Detail for the interment of MSgt Howard D. Palmer at Rolling Green Memorial Park in West Chester on 7/30. MSgt Palmer served a distinguished career and honorably for 20 years.

The Detachment's 50th anniversary will be coming up on July 4, 2024. A celebration is schedule for 7/13. Details will follow. Mark your calendars.

The Villanova Navy ROTC will be celebrating the Spring Parade and Graduation Ceremonies on April 19th. The Detachment will honor Michael Franchi with our "Semp Fi" award and Samantha Mercurio with our "Gung Ho" award.

Women Marines: "Fewer and Prouder"!

#### April/May Calendar:

4/26: Brandon Hardy Highway Dedication: Octorara High School, 1000 (Arrive at 0930)

4/27: MCL-PA Leadership Training at Detachment

4/28: Albert E. Smith & John Mackie Memorial Ceremonies (Muster at 1000 at Detachment)

4/28: "Beers for Brandon" 1845 at Hardy's Residence

4/30: Chester County's Women Veterans Luncheon/Seminar 1200-1500

5/4: Bingo 1700

5/9: Executive Board Meeting, 1800

5/11: Walmart Parkesburg Fund Raiser, 0900-1700

5/12: Mother's Day

5/18: Mission BBQ, King of Prussia: 1130, Color Guard (Armed Forces Week)

5/18: Bingo, 1700

5/20: General Membership Meeting, 1900 (Potluck 1800)

5/23: Memorial Day Celebration, Lionville Middle School, Color Guard/Rifle Detail 0830

5/24: Veterans Recognition Event for Hospice 1030

5/26: Samuel Nicholas Ceremony – Philadelphia

5/27: Memorial Day Activities:

Applecross County Club: Memorial Golf Outing, Color Guard 0845

Northwood Cemetery: Color Guard, Rifle/Detail 0800

St. Joseph's Cemetery: Color Guard/Rifle Detail 0900

Downingtown Memorial Day Parade: 1000 (Muster at Beaver Creek Elementary)

Memorial Day Ceremonies – Kerr Park 1100

z\VFW AppleCeremonies: 1200

5/29: Hogg Scholarships: Downingtown East High School, 1830-2030

TBD: Marshallton Parade and Ceremonies

Semper Fi,

Larry Samples, Commandant

**Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
of every month @1900**

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



**Next Meeting:  
May 20, 2024 @ 1900**

**VA Welcome Kit**

[https://www.va.gov/va\\_welcomekit\\_color.pdf](https://www.va.gov/va_welcomekit_color.pdf)

**Dave Buckta (editor) is publishing the CC Marine Newsletter. Please send all your newsworthy items, including photos and links to [CCMarineNews@Verizon.net](mailto: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>

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA  
25 MARCH 2024**

**OPENING CEREMONIES:**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT): 12 Present – 2 Excused**

P	Commandant	Larry Samples
P	Sr. Vice Commandant	Chris Shaw
E	Jr. Vice Commandant	Rich Corbit Jr.
P	Jr. Past Commandant	Bonnie Shaw
E	Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland
P	Chaplain	Phil Sears
P	Adjutant	Bonnie Shaw

P	Paymaster	Doug Forsythe
P	Sergeant at Arms	Lawrence Garcia
P	Quartermaster	Chris Shaw
P	Trustee	Emil Messikomer
P	Trustee	Bob Whetstone
P	Trustee	Pat Powell
P	Trustee	Joe Rubin

**Awards Ceremony:** Jeff Smith Southern Montgomery and Chester County Toys for Tots Coordinator

**ACKNOWLEDMENT OF GUESTS AND DIGNATARIES:** First District Vice Commandant Dennis Brown, Second District Vice Commandant Gene Irvin, 1ADVC Bonnie Shaw, 2ADVC Sue Irvin, and 1D Aide de Camp Chris Shaw, Associate of the Year Mike Rapp, and Marine of the Year Chris Shaw

**APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Associate Member Ken Plumber (Navy Aviation Structural Engineer) Found a Russian Sub on a P3. Accepted for membership by affirmative vote.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Newsletter):**

- Motion to accept the minutes, subject to corrections. Gene Irvin
- Second. All those in favor, say aye. Bonnie Shaw
- Motion passed, subject to corrections.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** VA Letters for Donations

**REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Forsythe):**

- Motion to accept Paymaster’s Report, subject to audit. Gene Irvin
- Second. All those in favor, say aye. Chris Shaw
- Motion passed subject to audit.
- Audit status

**SICKNESS AND DISTRESS (Chaplin):**

- Report of any members or member’s family sick and in distress. Nancy LeClair is in therapy recovering. Mike Rapp recovering from open heart surgery. Chris Shaw back to work after his double-hernia surgery. Brian Brody’s wife Deborah has stomach cancer and began chemo last week.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

- Commandant (Larry Samples)
- Senior Vice/Quartermaster (Chris Shaw):
- Junior Vice (Rich Corbit)
- Junior Past Commandant/Adjutant (Bonnie Shaw): 1 June American Legion Morgantown Bike Show 12-1800
- Judge Advocate (Jim Copeland)
- Sgt. at Arms (Lawrence Garcia) 28 present
- Trustee (Emil Messikomer) N/A

- Trustee (Pat Powell) NROTC Class on Apr 7<sup>th</sup>, (@ Detachment 1000) familiarization fire on Apr 9<sup>th</sup> (@ Kimberton 1300)
- Trustee (Joe Rubin) Shady Maple TBD. Checking with Yoder's as well.
- Trustee (Bob Whetstone) Met with Whitford CC about the Ball Details.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- Rifle/Pistol (Dennis Brown) Cancelled 24 March Live fire due to lack of participation. Next Live Fire April 28th.
- Bingo (Jim Copeland)
- Rifle Raffle (Bonnie Shaw) – 4 winner pulled and will be called after the meeting. Caitlin DiGian (Rifle), Rey Contigene (\$100), Travis Miller (\$300), and Bob O'Donnell (\$500)
- Scholarships (Emil Messikomer) N/A
- Building Maintenance (Emil Messikomer)
- Golf (Don Ascolese) Golf Outing August 5<sup>th</sup>. Swag bag sponsored by two vendors. Need Swag for the Bags.
- AED/CPR/FA Classes (Joe Rubin)
- Fund Raisers:
  - Walmart Parkesburg: 5/11, 1000-1700
  - Yoder's to be determined.
  - Shady Maple Dates TBA

#### **UNFINISHED BUISNESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Certificates and Awards Presentations

#### **GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

- Request for Rifle Detail (MSgt Palmer funeral) in West Chester: Saturday 3/30/24, around 1200
- If you are a dual member in another detachment and unpaid in one of your detachments, you are not in good standing unless you are a life member in one of your detachments.
- Steve Annan passed out Funeral Support contact Sheets. Asks for volunteers list for upcoming ceremonies.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Bingo: 4/6 & 4/20, 1700
- Executive Board Meeting; 4/11, 1800
- Gungho Award Villa Nova (Devil Dog Coin and K-Bar)
- General Membership Meeting: 4/22, 1900
  - Mission BBQ 1800
  - Mike Rapp AOY Roast
- Brandon Hardy Highway Dedications: Octorara High School, 1000
- MCL-PA Leadership Course: 4/27 at the Detachment
- Albert E. Smith & John Macie Memorial Ceremonies: 4/28 Arlington Cemetery in Upper Darby
- "Beers for Brandon": 1800 at Hardy's residence
- Chester County's Women veterans Luncheon/Seminar: 1200-1500
- Dept Scholarship applications due 31 May. No means test. Must follow through on enrollment verification from the college by 31 December.
- Please get your Dept Awards submitted before June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Cpl Brandon Hardy Hwy Dedication April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**CLOSING CEREMONIES:      Next Meeting: 22 April 2024 @ 1900**

**EVENT:** VA Bingo  
**PURPOSE:** Bingo was not held.

**DATE:**

**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo  
**MEMBERS:** Bingo was held two weekend in March. Jim Copeland, Leo Burke, Steve Annan, Polly and Patti, Don Ascole, Ruth, and Beverly provided logistical support and Bonnie and Chris Shaw, Dennis and Joanne Brown ran culinary operations. Jackpot paid \$750 on 4/6.

**DATE:** April 6 and 20, 2024

**EVENT:** Female Head Renovations  
**PURPOSE:** The stall bulkhead was moved to widen the business area. Participants were Joe Rubin, Emil Messikomer, Doug Forsythe and Leo Burke.

**DATE:** Apr 20, 2024



## Cpl Brandon Hardy Chester County Detachment #286 Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary!

Founded 4 July 1974

430 Chestnut Street  
Downingtown, PA  
ccmarinenews@verizon.net  
chestercountymcl.com  
610-518-5375



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Chaplain Phil Sears  
Paymaster, Doug Forsythe  
Sergeant at Arms, Lawrence Garcia  
Trustee, Pat Powell  
Trustee, Emil Messikomer  
Trustee, Bob Whetstone  
Trustee, Joe Rubin



### Continue Your Service With US!



**EVENT:** Msgt Palmer Funeral Service

**DATE:** Mar 30, 2024

**PURPOSE:** The Det 286 provided a firing detail for the funeral/ Members include Pat Powell (OIC), Fred LeClair, Chris Shaw, Bonnie Share and Dennis Brown.



**From the Quartermaster's Corner  
We have plenty of Cpl. Brandon  
Hardy patches and the 250th  
anniversary challenge coins for  
sale at the detachment.  
Patches five bucks coins 10 bucks**



**Corporal Brandon Hardy Chester County  
Detachment #286  
Coatesville VA Hospital  
Food/Goods Drive**



**VA** U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

The Coatesville VA has requested food/goods for use by our veteran patients. Take a look in your pantries or grab a few at the store and bring them to the Detachment on the dates/times below and we will make sure they receive them. We will continue to collect and deliver as necessary through April. Every little bit adds up fast. Monetary donations (see QR code below) will be immediately turned around to purchase these needs as well.

They are looking for shelf stable/non-refrigerated and household items:

- Beef Stew, Soups, Baked Beans, Canned Tuna, Chicken, etc. (Canned, Kit or Pouch)
- Cereal, Instant Oatmeal, Cereal Bars, Pancake mix, Cream of Wheat, etc.
- Milk (Shelf Stable), 100% Juices, Protein Shakes, Coffee (non-Flavored)/Teas, etc.
- Canned Collard Greens, Spinach, Carrots, Mixed Veggies, Yams, etc.
- Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jam, Condiments, Cooking Oil, etc.
- Snack Crackers, Peanut Butter Crackers, Trail Mix, Nuts, Jerky, Granola Bars, etc.
- Dish Soap, Hand Soap, Cleaning Wipes, Body Wash, Deodorant

We will be at the detachment on the below dates:

Monday, March 25th at 1800 General Meeting (6pm).  
Saturday, April 6th (Bingo Night) 1500 (3pm)  
Thursday, April 11th at 1800 Staff Meeting (6pm)  
Saturday, April 20th (Bingo Night) 1500 (3pm)  
Saturday, April 27th 12 to 1500 (3pm)

While we will continue to receive these items year around, this particular drive is for the month of April to replenish their pantry. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Contact Steve Annan through the detachment email [cmarinenews@verizon.net](mailto:cmarinenews@verizon.net) or call 610-518-5375 and leave a message.



# Membership Update

April 6, 2024

Currently we have 171 members in our Detachment. This includes Life, Multiple Detachment, Annual Dues Paying and Honorary members all of whom are in "Good Standing".

I'd like to introduce our newest members; Kenneth Plummer (Chester Springs) and Donald Bailey (Canonsburg). Please congratulate and welcome Ken and Don into the Marine Corps League and our Detachment at your earliest opportunity.

## Current Detachment Life Members

John Abitabilo	Rogers C. Flanigan	Jim McIlhenney	Chris Shaw
Stephan Annan	Gary N. Fay	Charles G. McMahon	Raymond E. Sheldon
Cheryl Armstrong	Daniel V. Fitzpatrick Jr.	Emil Messikomer	William F. Shields
Tony C Armstrong	Douglas R. Forsythe	David B Messinger	Walter W. Simcox, Jr.
Lee C. Beyer	Eric Fussenegger (M)	Dave Mundy	Andrew Smyles
Brian L Brody	Lawrence Garcia	Phillip Murray	James G. Snyder
Dennis Brown	Jamie W. Goncharoff	Jerry D. Myers	Bob Spano (M)
Shaun Brown	Donald Goodwin	Louis Stephen "Lou" Netta	William E Stellfox
Daniel W. Bullock III	Bob Gross	John F. O'Brien	Robert G. Stone
Leo Burke	Louis Guernsey Jr MD	George R Partridge Jr	Robert L. "Bob" Strehl
Gerard (Jed) F. Burns	Michael Guyer	Mark A. Peterson	Ryan Strehl
Thomas Cain	David Hetrick	Micheal Pollock	Peter R. Supplee
John J. Ceschan	John E. Hinckley	Patrick B. Powell	Steven W. Talley
Daniel J. Condron	Mark Holton	Michael Rapp	Tom Tanner
James Copeland	Eugene Irving Jr. (M)	Jack Ribble	William H. Tomlinson
Richard Corbit Jr.	Leif Jacobsen	John M Ross	Kathy A. Van Gorder
William J. Corcoran	Steven Jackson	Les Rouse (M)	Elmer S. "Van" Van Gorder
Kay M. Croll	Joseph J. Kay	Joe Rubin	Robert D Wagner III
Henry A. "Hank" Detering	Walter Kutz	Patrick Rundle	Mark A. Wahn
John DiMatteo	Fred LeClair	Robert Saenz Jr.	Dennis P. Walsh
Gerry DiNunzio	Glenn Lewiski	Larry L Samples	Kenneth Weaver
Dominic DiSciullo	Bill Mackey	Jeff Sanders	Charles T. Wertz Jr.
James Donegan	Michael B. Maginnis	Mario M. Scherl	Robert Whetstone
Robert F. Donovan	George March	Kenneth Schweitzer	William E. Woodward
Robert L. Dormer	James Mazzone (M)	Phil Sears	James Yocum
Joseph E. Dulin Jr.	Mike McCarty	Bonnie Shaw	Allen Yusko
Craig S. Evans	John "Jack" Meighan		

(M) Denotes member of "Multiple" Detachments (per National)

If you're in good standing and interested in becoming a Life Member, please contact Bob Strehl (Membership Chair) at (215) 421-2465, [strehlrl@gmail.com](mailto:strehlrl@gmail.com) or Doug Forsythe (Pay Paymaster) at (610) 656-1389, [dforsythe007@gmail.com](mailto:dforsythe007@gmail.com)



<b>Volunteer Activity Apr 2024</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Monthly Hours</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Monthly Meeting	Larry Samples	4	12
Staff Meeting	Larry Samples	4	12
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	60
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron		6
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe	12	22
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw		
Flag retirement	Leo Burke		
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	12	18
Membership	Robert Strehl	3	9
Financial	Doug Forsythe	3	9
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	3	9
Fundraising	Larry Samples		24
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp		
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe		
<b>Total</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>181</b>

# Coffee Cup Veterans Breakfast Dates

- ◆ January 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 @7am
- ◆ February 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ March 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ May 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ June 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ July 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ August 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 @7am
- ◆ September 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ October 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ November 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 @ 7am

SPONSOR A VETS BREAKFAST FOR  
\$10.00!

Note: breakfast begins at 7 am for those who would like to join in the camaraderie with other veterans. For those who do not, the breakfast will be honored all day on the assigned date!