

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

CCMarineNews@Verizon.net

Volume XXIII, Issue 12



December 2024



Appointed Officers

Adjutant	Bonnie Shaw
Service Officer	Doug Forsythe
Paymaster	Doug Forsythe/Phil Sears
Chaplain	Phil Sears
Sgt. at Arms	Lawrence Garcia

A Message from the Commandant

Greetings! We hope everyone is doing well and is looking forward to the holiday season.

Our upcoming, general membership meeting is scheduled for December 16th. Mission BBQ will be catering the dinner. Many of our members will also be bringing desserts. This will be an abbreviated, short meeting with emphasis on the nominations and elections for 2025. Volunteering to serve is a great opportunity as one of your New Year's Resolutions. Our Christmas Party will be held after the closing of the meeting.

A "Flag Retirement Ceremony" is scheduled for Wednesday Dec. 18, weather permitting. We will muster at the detachment at 1000, load up and proceed to West Chester for the ceremony.. Wear old clothing. This is another opportunity to volunteer.

The Oaks Christmas Gun Show is scheduled for December 20-22. A signup sheet will be available for "volunteering" your time. The expo is at the Oaks Expo Center. This is an important fund-raiser for the detachment.

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." Ralph Waldo Emerson.

And to add some fatherly advice . . . "Don't raise your voice. Improve your argument."

Please accept our warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and for this Holiday Season. Cheers to the New Year and another chance to get it right!

Semper Fi,

Larry Samples - Commandant

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

12/18: Flag Retirement Ceremony, 1000 Muster (Joe Rubin)

12/20-22: Oaks Christmas Gun Show

12/21: Bingo, 1700

01/09: Executive Board Meeting, 1800

01/17-18: MCL-PA Department Meetings: Indiantown Gap

01/27: General Membership Meeting: 1900 (Potluck 1800)

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

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



**Next Meeting:
January 27, 2025 @ 1900**

VA Welcome Kit

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**

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.

Winter Uniform

Winter uniform is in effect as follows:

- Red Cover
- Long Sleeve White Shirt with Tie
- 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, DET. 286
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA
18 NOVEMBER 2024

OPENING CEREMONIES: 1900

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT): 14 Present

P	Commandant	Larry Samples
P	Sr. Vice Commandant	Chris Shaw
P	Jr. Vice Commandant	Rich Corbit Jr.
P	Jr. Past Commandant	Bonnie Shaw
P	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	Dave Hetrick

ACKNOWLEDMENT OF GUESTS AND DIGNATARIES: District One Vice Dennis Brown and his Aid de Camp Joanne Brown, MOY 2024 Chris Shaw, MOY 2025 Emil Messikomer, AOY 2024 Mike Rapp, and AOY 2025 Phil Sears.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Frank Marshall coming from the P.W. Molano Detachment and renewing his membership with us. Vetted, approved, and sworn in as membership. **Motion to accept his membership passed.**

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Newsletter):

- Motion to accept the minutes, subject to corrections. Rich Corbit Jr.
- Second to motion. Dave Hetrick
- All those in favor, say “aye”.
- Motion passed, subject to corrections. Dennis Brown mentioned the Nominations were not in last month’s minutes. Will be corrected by the Adjutant.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters from the Coatesville VA Hospital.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Forsythe):

- Motion to accept Paymaster’s Report, subject to audit. Jim Copeland
- Second to motion. Pat Powell
- All those in favor, say “aye”.
- Motion passed, subject to audit.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS (Phil Sears):

- Report of any members or member’s family sick and in distress. Dan Fitzpatrick condolence card signed by members. Funeral is Friday, 22 November, muster 0945 at the St. Peters Church, 2835 Manor Road Coatesville.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

- Commandant (Larry Samples) Dept Calendars for Sale \$30 each.
- Senior Vice/Quartermaster (Chris Shaw)
- Junior Vice (Rich Corbit) NR
- Judge Advocate (Jim Copeland) NR
- Junior Past Commandant/Adjutant (Bonnie Shaw) Nominations
- Sgt. at Arms (Lawrence Garcia) NR
- Trustee (Pat Powell) Need 10 shooters to come out to the next Shoot and we’ll have a competition with prizes.
- Trustee (Emil Messikomer) NR
- Trustee (Bob Whetstone) NR
- Trustee (Dave Hetrick) NR
- District #1 Vice (Dennis Brown) Get your paperwork in on time and make sure your rosters are up-to-date.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- Golf Outing 2025: **Applecross Sep 15th. \$165/pp. Need 2 more volunteers to take the final quadrant.**
- Membership:
- Rifle/Pistol:
- Bingo: **Small group but good funds.**
- Building Maintenance: **New Charter will be hung this week. Two museum pieces (Uniform and Boots) from Brandon Hardy's family will be displayed in the Detachment. Our 50th Anniversary Senatorial Commendation will be displayed and has been framed.**
- Marine Corps:
- Fund Raisers:
 - Raffle Ticket Sales (Bonnie Shaw); tickets on sale Sept.-Apr **Sales Slow but it will pick up.**
 - Oaks Gun Show (Dec. 20-22, 2024): **NEED VOLUNTEERS!**
 - Friday, 12/20: 1300-1900
 - Saturday, 12/21: 0900-1700
 - Sunday, 12/22: 0900-1600 **Chris & Bonnie All day with Jim Copeland in the AM.**
- Other Committee Reports

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: **Nominations no change from last months nominations. The Jr/Sr Vices remain unfilled. Need nominations for those positions.**

NEW BUSINESS: **None**

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: **Steve Annan requested additional items for the VA Pantry. Email encourage members and bingo players to bring non-perishable food. Mike Guyer suggested a note on the email with the newsletter for these food donations to all meetings and Bingo.**

Steve Annan: **With the open elected positions, new members should be aware of what these positions require and do for the detachment. Steve will help with these endeavors.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

12/05: Courthouse 1445 Lawyers Luncheon Toy Sales/Collection

12/07: Bingo, 1700

12/07: Mission BBQ Bruch, Toys for Tots (Chris Shaw) **0900**

12/07: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

12/08: Limoncello Chester Springs, Toys for Tots, 1200-1700 (Doug Forsythe) **Two New Unwrapped Toys for coupon for four Dinners.**

12/12: Executive Board Meeting, 1800

12/14: MODD Growl, 1400

12/14: Army/Navy Game, 1500

12/16: General Membership Meeting, 1900 (Mission BBQ **meal 1800**)

12/18: Flag Retirement Ceremony, muster 1000 (Joe Rubin)

12/20-22: Oaks Gun Show **SIGN UP**

12/21 Bingo, 1700

CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Next Meeting 16 DECEMBER 2024 @ 1900

EVENT: Casket Watch Guard

DATE: Nov 22, 2024

A casket watch and EGA ceremony was held for MCL Life Member Dan Fitzpatrick. Numerous detachment members attended as well as neighboring detachments.

EVENT: Detachment Bingo

DATE: Dec 7, 2024

MEMBERS: Jim Copeland, Leo Burke, Steve Annan, Polly and Patti, Don Ascole, Ruth, and Bonnie and Chris Shaw. Doug Forsythe, Dennis and Joanne Brown ran culinary operations.

EVENT: Toys for Tots

DATE: Dec 8, 2024

MEMBERS: Doug Forsythe and Emil Messikomer collected toys at Limoncellos Chester Springs.



Buck Miller (1921-2018) @... · 1d

#OTD 1950 Medal of Honor recipient Marine Hector Cafferata carried out a one man battle at Chosin Reservoir. According to witnesses, nearly 100 Chinese soldiers were found dead near the ditch where Cafferata defended his position, wounded and suffering from frostbite. **#USMC**



Buck Miller (1921-2018) @... · 1d

#OTD 1950 the Chinese launched an attack surrounding Marines at Chosin Reservoir.

“All right, they’re on our left, they’re on our right, they’re in front of us, they’re behind us...they can’t get away this time” - Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller.
Good night Chesty. Wherever you are.



68 1422 2K 20.4K

On 13 November, 2024 LtGen Cal Worth cut a piece of cake, and with an 18-year old Lance Corporal by his side, walked that piece of cake across a ballroom filled with over 1000 Marines, Sailors, and Families of II MEF and II MSB. The narrator spoke beautifully, “Our oldest Marine present is Charles “Chester” Clapper. He was 18 years old on Guam. He was 19 years old when he carried a flamethrower on Iwo Jima. (the crowd rose) By the end of that battle he was one of only 7 Marines remaining from his Company of 200. He was born on 25 December 1925! (the crowd THUNDERED). They wouldn’t sit down. They stood. They stood, like we all symbolically stand on the shoulders of such giants.

Chester ate his piece of cake, washed it down with a Miller Lite, and asked for another. The crowd was still standing as our Lance Corporal was presented her piece. She was born on 22 December 2005. She got her own ovation.

It was a beautiful moment, and I am so grateful to have been a witness. How lucky are we?

Thanks a ton to Hope Fiorvanti and SgtMaj Zane Moorman for helping to make that moment happen.



**USMC Birthday Ball
Nov 13, 2024**

**Chosen Reservoir
Nov 26, 1950**

U.S. Naval Institute @NavalInstitute

#OTD in 1941, USS Ward fired the first American shots of the war in the Pacific when the destroyer sank a sub trying to enter Pearl Harbor. The 14th Naval District HQ believed the action was a false report, not recognizing that the sub was part of an incoming Japanese attack.



10:32 · 07 Dec 24 · 8,396 Views

65 Reposts 10 Quotes 326 Likes



Hung Cao @HungCao_VA

2,043 Americans lost their lives 83 years ago in Pearl Harbor. Navy divers raised every ship back up, except for USS Arizona and USS Utah (seen here), refit them for war and sent them back out to chase the same Japanese Fleet that sank them. That's the American spirit: Fight, fight, fight!



U.S. Naval Institute @NavalInstitute

The photo of the explosion of USS Shaw's forward magazine is one of the most iconic images from the attack on Pearl Harbor that occurred #OTD 1941. Despite the heavy damage, the Shaw was repaired by 1942 and served in the Pacific for the rest of the war, earning 11 battle stars.



J&L Historical @Jason_R_B...

The stunning view over the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor. 🇺🇸



U.S. Naval Institute @NavalInstitute

#OTD in 1941, men across the country lined up to volunteer for military service following the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Navy ordered all recruiting stations to stay open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These men enlisting in the Navy in Boston look ready to fight.



Jack Posso Here is a sole Navy diver covered in oil

U.S. Naval Institute @NavalInstitute

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter 37 (formerly USCGC Taney) is the only ship still afloat that fought in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor #OTD in 1941. Cutter 37 is now a museum ship in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.



J&L Historical @Jason_R_B...

In 1918, the USS Arizona moves through the East River in New York near the Brooklyn Bridge on her way to sea trials...She's glorious. 🇺🇸

The Arizona was sunk in the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor 83 years ago today. 🇺🇸

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, 83 years ago today, he dove down again and again to save as many of his fellow sailors as possible at severe risk to his own life

These were the Americans who won the 2nd World War



Buck Miller (1921-2018)

#OnThisDay December 7, 1941 1stLt George Cannon was the first Marine of WWII to receive the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on Midway Island. Mortally wounded he refused to leave his post until his injured men had been evacuated. Semper Fidelis #USMC #DevilDogs #Marines



J&L Historical @Jason_R_B...

The last living survivor of the USS Arizona who passed away last April at 102 years old. 🇺🇸

Rest in Peace, Lou Conter. 🇺🇸




103 585 6K

J&L Historical @Jason_R_B...

83 years ago today, Lt. Colonel Daniel Fox was the ranking member of the 88 Marines and one of the 72 Marines killed aboard the USS Arizona, during the attack on Pearl Harbor. 🇺🇸



J&L Historical @Jason_R_Burt

1d 5 months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Navy Mess Attendant 2nd Class Doris Miller just after having the Navy Cross pinned on him by Admiral Chester Nimitz during a ceremony onboard the USS Enterprise at Pearl Harbor. 🇺🇸

@PieceJake on the colorization



CHALLENGE COINS

By MICHAEL RHODES, PRESIDENT,
RICHARD HENRY LEE CHAPTER
VIRGINIA SOCIETY, SAR

Challenge coins are coins or medallions that bear images on both sides, such as an organization's insignia, portraits of important people, places, things or dates.

These coins are symbols of participation in various groups. They can help build camaraderie and are often given out as awards or recognition of outstanding contributions by individuals. Today, they are often used for promotional and fundraising purposes.

Challenge coins are typically 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter. The coin can be made from inexpensive materials to 24K gold. They may have simple imprints or exotic finishes, such as raised finishes in soft or hard enamel with an epoxy coating. They may be multi-colored and have various shapes.

What's the cost? Any of the variations described above contribute the cost of the finished product. Most coin manufacturers today charge a combination of diecast/design setup charges and a per-coin cost based on purchase volume. As a point of reference, set-up charges run around \$100, and coin costs per hundred run roughly \$4 each. If you want "100 percent Made in the USA," be prepared for higher prices.

HISTORY VS. TRADITION

There are many stories about the origin of the challenge coin concept. What follows are some of the more intriguing. You be the judge.

The Roman connection: During the Roman Empire, soldier achievements, such as valor in a particular engagement, were rewarded with a bonus coin in addition to their day's wages. These bonus coins may have been specially minted and featured

the marks of the specific legions, prompting some to perhaps keep these as mementos.

During the Renaissance period: In Italy, as early as the 1400s, "portrait medals" were produced to herald an increased awareness of individual human excellence. People wanted to be remembered for posterity, and one way to achieve this was to create small, durable medals that depicted the patron on one side and contained family, house or lineage information on the reverse side. They were often meant as a gift to show admiration and affection for a fellow human being.

The French connection: The French Protestants, called Huguenots, were probably the first people to use a coin as a "challenge coin." During the Renaissance, France was, in essence, a Catholic nation. Protestantism was seen as heresy, and those who practiced it were greatly persecuted. In 1598, King Henry IV of France signed the Edict of Nantes, which offered amnesty and reinstatement of civil rights to Huguenots.

In 1685, France's King Louis XIV renounced the Edict of Nantes, and persecution of Huguenots returned. Many fled the country. Those Huguenots who remained were under constant threat of persecution and, of necessity, were forced to conduct their religious services in secret. To avoid infiltration by state spies, the Huguenots began using their circular communion token coin, a *méreau*, to prove allegiance with the Protestant church and gain admission to church services when challenged.

The World War I connection: One of the most prevalent stories about the origin of the challenge coin concerns World War I. As the story goes, a

wealthy flying squadron lieutenant had solid bronze medallions made for his American squadron. One pilot placed his medallion in a leather pouch worn around his neck.

This pilot was shot down behind enemy lines and captured. To discourage escape attempts, the Germans took all his identification but allowed him to keep the leather pouch. The pilot managed to escape, donning civilian clothes to aid in the escape and making it back across no-man's land to a French outpost.

The French decided that he was a saboteur and made ready to execute him. The American pilot showed them his only identification - the squadron medallion. One of the French captors recognized the squadron insignia and convinced the others to delay his execution long enough to confirm the pilot's true identity.

When the pilot was finally able to return to his squadron and tell his story, it became a tradition that all the squadron members always carried their medallion. When "challenged" to show their medallion, if they didn't have it on them, then they bought the drinks.

The oldest challenge coin in existence: A US Army officer, Colonel William "Buffalo Bill" Quinn, had coins made up for his soldiers who served in the 17th Infantry Regiment between 1950 and 1958. This coin, the oldest existing challenge, has the 17th Infantry patch with the dates 1950-1958 on one side and a picture of a buffalo with 1812 (the year the unit was formed) on the other side. This coin has the



distinction of being one of the oldest and most valuable challenge coins in circulation. Very few of them are available today, with most thought to be in private collections.

Vietnam-era challenge coin: While researching this article, a fellow SAR compatriot shared a challenge coin and its backstory with me.



During the Vietnam conflict, soldiers could have a challenge coin handmade by Vietnamese artisans or vendors. The process was to provide the artisan with a coin, typically a U.S. silver dollar. The artisan would eradicate the original coin stamp and restamp the blank coin with an engraved die or stamp designed to show the soldier's unit.

CHALLENGE COINS OUTSIDE OF THE MILITARY

Over the years, challenge coin production has exploded. It is no longer just in the realm of the military. To list just a few non-military challenge coin applications:

- The U.S. Congress has produced them to give to constituents.
- U.S. Presidents have given out and received challenge coins since the late 1990s.
- Challenge coins have been made and exchanged in every venue from NASCAR to the NFL to Eagle Scouts to the World Series of Poker.
- Challenge coins are abundant in the media industry, the business world and education.
- Challenge coins are popular within fraternal organizations, police departments, security and fire department personnel.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY, SAR CHALLENGE COINS

The first exclusive VASSAR president's challenge coin was issued in 2017 by then-President Michael J.



Elston to celebrate being the 97th president of the Virginia SAR.

Succeeding VASSAR Presidents have followed suit.

Many coins have been issued within VASSAR over the last several years to celebrate participation in groups (e.g., Color Guard) and events.

- If there needs to be a ranking of the challenge coins, refer to the following guidelines entitled: "How are challenge coins ranked?"
- Each participant can be challenged only once.

Note: The formal way to bestow a challenge coin is by passing the coin in the palm as part of a handshake. Many organizations also rule that challenge coins are disallowed if defaced (as in hole-punched) or used as a belt buckle or key-chain fob.

WHAT ARE THE BASIC CHALLENGE RULES?

1. Anyone can initiate a coin challenge, anywhere, anytime.
2. The initiator must show their coin first, state specifically who is being challenged and what the aim of the coin challenge is about (who buys the drinks, for friendly bragging rights, etc.).
3. If everyone challenged produces a coin, the challenger pays for the drinks. Anyone challenged who does not have their challenge coin buys the drinks.

HOW ARE CHALLENGE COINS RANKED?

Suppose the challenge is issued and everyone pulls a coin? Then you take it to the next level by determining which is the highest-ranking coin. My research revealed several "definitive ranking systems."

Examples of the Virginia Society Challenge Coins



Current Detachment Life Members

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 or Doug Forsythe (Pay Paymaster) at (610) 656-1389, dforsythe007@gmail.com

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

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

Volunteer Activity December 2024	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Larry Samples	6	48
Staff Meeting	Larry Samples	6	48
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	327
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron	3	45
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe	12	98
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw	2	112
Flag retirement	Joe Rubin/Leo Burke		32
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	2	40
Membership	Robert Strehl	3	30
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	34
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	3	30
Fundraising	Larry Samples		108
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp		15
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe	24	29
Total		95	996