



"THE BULLDOG BULLETIN"



Apr. May Jun. 2020 Edition

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*Marine Corps League
South Hills Detachment 726
2409 Bethel Church Rd.
Bethel Park, PA 15102*

Meetings are held the first
Wednesday of each month at
7:30 pm at the listed address.



Brothers and sisters of the "EGA"



Only **ONE** can understand the
meaning

YEARLY DUES

REMINDER! Yearly
dues are due at the
Detachment each

September

PLEASE NOTE

As our lives change on a
daily basis so does technol-
ogy. We are constantly
updating our files with
Names, Addresses, Phone
Numbers and Emails so
please send yours to the
Adjutant!

DETACHMENT'S MISSION STATEMENT

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.



"Take me to the Brig. I
want to see the real
Marines."

Lewis "Chesty" Puller

FUTURE EVENTS OUR COLOR GUARD IS PARTICIPATING IN:

May 16th, @ 0900 Community Day Opening at Upper St. Clair flag Plaza.

May 24th, @ 1315 Carnegie Memorial Day Parade, Carnegie Municipal parking lot.

May 25th, @ 0700 Bethel Park Memorial Day Parade, Bethel Park Municipal Building.



Jim is second from the right, also known as the
"BULLDOG" of which the newsletter was named.



Biographical Sketch

Of

James E. Treher

James E. Treher, a USMC veteran and graduate of Duquesne University, was born and raised in Pittsburgh. He retired after 25 years with the FBI, during which career he served as an administrative assistant to Director Hoover, as a staff instructor at the FBI Academy, as Resident Agent in Charge of the Youngstown office of the FBI and in investigative and supervisory positions in San Francisco, Detroit, New Orleans, Pittsburgh and FBI HQ, Washington D.C.

He is married and has two children including a son who recently retired as an FBI Agent who was assigned to the New York Office. Mr. Treher, an expert in Firearms and Explosives, and was an authority on Executive Protection and Anti-Terrorism for three years after his retirement, Director of the Allegheny County Police Training Academy, and is currently President of Corporate Investigations Inc., a Pittsburgh firm specializing in pre-employment investigations.

Mr. Treher is a member of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI; the University Club of Pittsburgh; the FBI National Academy Associates; Western PA. Chief of Police Association; the American Legion Post 760; VFW Post 5012; American Society for Industrial Security; the International Association for Identification; the National Rifle Association ; B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge 2213; the international Police Association; the Former Intelligence Officers; and the Marine Corps League.

He served as Councilman in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania for four years and was the first Commandant of the South Hills Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

THE REST OF THE STORY

By Jim Treher

U. S. Marine Corp, 1946-1948

In the summer of 1941, I was 12 years old. The depression was just ending, it was the last year before the war, and our extended family was embarking on the family's first real vacation together. My uncle, was a musician, had an engagement playing in a band at an old lakeside hotel just a few hours bus ride and had persuaded the family to come see the place, which we did, much to my boyish delight.

The old hotel had seen better days but was a veritable Taj Mahal to us, with its curving white-pillared veranda and turn-of-the-century grace. Among the bandsmen was a dapper, trim-mustached clarinet player named Tommy Battles-much admired by all the young ladies in my family and herein lies the story.

The hotel's high point of the week was Saturday night when the dance band was accompanied by a floor show, which included a "Swami", a turbaned fortune teller replete with a crystal ball. That evening the Swami dramatically intoned a weird and wild prediction that "before the snow flies, we will be at war with the Japanese in the Pacific, and they will capture Guam, Wake and the Philippines." What a nutty prediction!

Little did we dream. A few years later, in the mist of WWII, at a family gathering someone recalled the last summer of peace, the week at the old resort, and the Swami's eerie foresight. Each time the clan met over the years, the memory was revisited.

With the return of my uncle, who spent the war as a radio gunner flying the "Hump" in the CBI Theatre, the tale emerged once again, among reflections of the boys in the band and the seer's grim foreboding which would soon drastically change our lives. With his return also came the poignant revelation that Tommy Battles had been killed while serving in the Marines in the Pacific. This sad tidings dismayed us all and in turn, became a part of the family legend through the ensuing years, the vacation of yore, the uncanny prediction and the somber passing of Tommy Battles.

Fast forward to some forty years after my time in the Corps, to around 1986. At the bar in our local American Legion, I met a fellow named Salvatore "Tom" Battaglia. During our conversation, we discovered that we both had been Marines. I also learned that he was a clarinet player, who, of all things, had known my uncle, a saxophone player named "Nifty" Kleber. Apparently, they had played together in a band. Surprisingly, their last gig was at a summer resort in Ohio just before the war. I asked him if he remembered the guy in the band named Tommy Battles, who was killed in the Marine Corps while in the Pacific. His stunning response was, "No, I wasn't killed even though I was hit in Saipan." It seems the moniker "Tommy Battles" was bestowed on him since "Battaglia" was too long to fit on his bandstand nameplate.

As the famous radio personality would say, "That's the rest of the story."

Here's the List of Military Clinics That Will No Longer Serve Retirees, Families

Facilities closing to non-active duty patients include:

Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, outpatient clinic	Navy Weapons Station Earle, New Jersey, Colts Neck Earle clinic	Naval Air Station Belle Chasse, Louisiana, outpatient clinic
Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, outpatient clinic	San Onofre Marine Corps Base, California, San Onofre Health Clinic	Naval Support Activity Mid-South, Tennessee, outpatient clinic
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, outpatient clinic	Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Joel clinic and Robinson clinic	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, New Hampshire, outpatient clinic
Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, outpatient clinic	Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Georgia, Naval Branch Health Clinic Albany	Fort Detrick, Maryland, Barquist outpatient clinic
Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts, outpatient clinic	Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, Virginia, Naval Branch Health Clinic Dahlgren	Defense Distribution Center in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, outpatient clinic
MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, outpatient clinic	Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut, Naval Branch Health Clinic Groton	Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, outpatient clinic
Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, outpatient clinic	Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Maryland, outpatient clinic	Fort Lee, Virginia, Kenner-Lee outpatient clinic
Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, outpatient clinic		Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, Kirk Army Health outpatient clinic
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, outpatient clinic		

Facilities that have either already transitioned to active duty-only, or are in process:

Fort Riley, Kansas, Farrelly Health Clinic	Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, Rancho Bernardo clinic	Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, outpatient clinic
Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Hood Medical Home and Charles Moore clinic	Presidio of Monterey, California, outpatient clinic	Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Okubo Medical Home
Naval Support Activity Lakehurst, New Jersey, Naval Behavioral Health Clinic Lakehurst	Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, outpatient clinic	Fort Carson, Colorado, Robinson-Carson outpatient clinic
	Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, outpatient clinic	
	Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island, Naval Health Clinic New England	

Facilities that will close completely to all users:

MacDill Air Force Base's Sabal Park community clinic in Brandon, Florida	clinic
Fort Benning, Georgia, North Columbus-Benning	Fort Irwin, California, Department of Behavioral Health

Facilities that could see upgrades:

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, upgrade to Level II	Trauma Center Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, could be closed	to non-active duty patients if officials determine that the local community can handle providing the necessary medical care.
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Facilities slated for downgrade:

Fort Meade, Maryland, Kimbrough, Ambulatory Care Center to downgrade to a clinic	Naval Hospital Beaufort downgrade to ambulatory surgery center	to an outpatient clinic
Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina,	Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, downgrade to an ambulatory surgery center and outpatient clinic; McDonald clinic downgrade from ambulatory surgery	Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, downgrade from ambulatory surgery to an outpatient clinic

Facilities that may continue to see active-duty families:

Naval Technical Training Center Meridian, Mississippi, outpatient clinic	Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), Miami, Florida, Gordon outpatient clinic
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For those who have internet access, the complete information and others can be found utilizing the link below:

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/02/19/pentagon-releases-list-health-clinics-closing-retirees-military-families.html?ESRC=marine-a_200226.nl

COMMANDANTS CORNER

We are approaching Spring 2020 with great anticipation. Your Detachment has already begun scheduling events for the year, our membership is growing, and more tenured members are becoming interested in participating in Detachment activities. The "Bulldog Bulletin" has been successful in rekindling interest and communication with Our Marine Corps Family.

We have yet to receive responses to the request for **YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES**. Having this information and whether you would prefer email newsletters or hard copy ones will be very helpful in our ability to better serve you. This edition has the names and phone numbers of your Detachment Officers. Call to give us this information so we can continue to update your current information and preference. Please leave a message if we do not answer immediately as other activities occasionally keep us from answering at times.

Our 75th State Marine Corps League Convention will be held in June at the Ramada Inn in Greensburg June 24th through 28th, Our District 10 Leadership has already begun extensive planning for this event. **YOU ARE ALL INVITED**. A few hours of volunteering in various capacities (if you desire) can be very uplifting in celebrating your Marine Corps History. More details to follow. Take time to thoroughly read this newsletter. It is full of interesting information to be shared. Until next time,

SEMPER FIDELIS MARINES



Gotta luv our "Devil Pups"



KEYSTONE YOUNG MARINES

Our Mission

The mission of the Young Marines is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Our Moto

The Young Marines strengthens the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building and leadership and promotes a lifestyle that is conducive to being productive members of society.

Bettina Radcliff/Adjutant/Keystone Young Marines



Installation of our Commandant, Dave Luikart and Sr. Vice, Matt Popovich for year 2020.



Our Jr. Vice,
Commandant
and
Adjutant/
Paymaster
Formulating a
Plan of
Attack!

PLEASE NOTE! From the Publisher,

The next few pages are important. As a Marine veteran and a member of a Honor Guard I have been asked many questions and most I did not have an answer for. I hope this will answer some of yours and remember all of this is very important in the event of a veteran or family member passes into the light.

SEMPER FI

DEATH NOTIFICATION CHECKLIST

When a family member or friend has died, it is important to notify various government agencies, banks, creditors and credit reporting agencies of the death. To reduce the risk of identity theft, these notifications should be made promptly after the death.

To expedite notification, you should initially make the contact by telephone followed by written verification. For many of the government agencies and financial entities, you will need the decedent's social security number, a copy of the death certificate, and, if you are a personal representative (executor) of the estate, your appointment form from the probate court. Make sure to retain copies of all notices that you send.

Below is a checklist of possible agencies and businesses that should be notified of the death. Because each individual case is unique, the list may not be complete. Also, the funeral home may have notified some of the government agencies on your behalf. Please consult with the funeral director when you receive this list so you can check off those agencies which have been notified by the funeral director.

I. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- A. Social Security Administration, 800-772-1213 (everyone).
- B. Veteran's Administration (if decedent was formerly in the military).
- C. Defense Finance and Accounting Service, 800-269-5170 (military service retiree receiving benefits).
- D. Office of Personnel Management, 888-767-6738 (if decedent is a retired or former federal civil service employee).
- E. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, 800-375-5283 (if decedent was not a U.S. citizen)
- F. State Department of Motor Vehicles (if decedent had a driver's license or state ID).

II. FINANCIAL COMPANIES

- A. Credit card and merchant card companies.
- B. Banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions.
- C. Mortgage companies and lenders.
- D. Financial planners and stockbrokers.
- E. Pension providers.

CREDIT REPORTING AGENCY NOTIFICATION

1. **Credit Agencies:** Check below each Credit Reporting Agency you wish to send this Notification. It is recommended that you send the Notification to each Credit Reporting Agency with copies of the death certificate and, if you are the personal representative of the estate, your appointment papers from the Probate Court. Prior to sending, make copies for your records.

Experian
P.O. Box 9701
Allen, Texas 75013

Equifax
P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, Georgia 30348

TransUnion
P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92834

2. **Identification Information:** Fill in the information below for yourself as Requesting Party and for the Decedent.

<u>Requesting Party</u>	<u>Decedent</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____ _____	Date of Death: _____
Phone Nos.: _____ (w) _____ (h)	Date of Birth: _____
	Location of Birth: _____
	Social Security No.: _____

3. **Prior Addresses of Decedent.** List the addresses of all residences of the Decedent over the past five years starting with the most recent:

(a) _____
(b) _____
(c) _____

4. **Relationship of Requesting Party to Decedent:** Please identify your relationship to the Decedent.

Spouse Personal Representative of Estate Other: _____

5. **Directions to Credit Agency:** Please initial each request you wish to make to the Credit Agency receiving this Notification.

_____ Post on the Decedent's credit report: "Deceased. Do Not Issue Credit."

_____ Please forward to me at the address listed above the current copy of the Decedent's credit report.

Date: _____

Signature of Requesting Party

III. INSURANCE AND ANNUITY COMPANIES

- A. Life insurers and annuity companies.
- B. Health, medical and dental insurers.
- C. Disability insurer.
- D. Automotive insurer.
- E. Mutual benefit companies.

IV. CREDIT REPORTING AGENCIES

There are three national credit reporting agencies which you should notify of the death and instruct them to list all accounts as: "Closed. Account Holder is Deceased." You may also request a credit report to obtain a list of all creditors and to review recent credit activities. A sample notification letter is available for your convenience.

- A. Experian, 888-397-3742, P.O. Box 9701, Allen, Texas 75013.
- B. Equifax, 800-525-6285, P.O. Box 105069, Atlanta, Georgia 30348.
- C. TransUnion, 800-680-7289, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, California 92834.

V. MEMBERSHIPS

- A. Professional associations and unions.
- B. Health clubs and athletic clubs.
- C. Automobile clubs.
- D. Video rental stores.
- E. Public library.
- F. Alumni clubs.
- G. Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Veterans' organizations and clubs.

VI. DO NOT CONTACT LISTS

For a fee of \$1.00, you can list the decedent's name on the Deceased Do Not Contact List which is maintained by the Direct Marketing Association. All members of the Direct Marketing Association will delete the decedent's name from their mailing lists once the name is posted. A website for registering the name is set forth below:

- A. Direct Marketing Association (register at www.ims-dm.com/cgi/ddnc).

VETERANS CRISIS LINE



The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that's available to anyone, even if you're not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. The caring, qualified responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances.

Send a text message to **838255** to connect with a VA responder.
 Start a confidential online chat session at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.
 Take a self-check quiz at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Quiz to learn whether stress and depression might be affecting you.
[Find a VA facility](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) near you.
 Visit MilitaryCrisisLine.net if you are an active duty Service member, Guardsman, or Reservist.
 Connect through chat, text, or TTY if you are [deaf or hard of hearing](#).
www.veteranscrisisline.net

Call: 800-273-8255 and Press 1

FROM THE PUBLISHER

As my wife and I were talking she asked me if I remembered a poem that a good friend, police officer with Pittsburgh police dept., Sheila Hickenbotham wrote for me just prior to my retirement during the first gulf war. Simple, meaningful and heart felt. Sheila passed away many years ago with cancer, we had such respect for one another she is missed.

Subject: SHEILA'S POEM

Untitled original Poetry

October 7, 1990

Sheila Larkin Hickenbotham

Respectfully dedicated to Chuck and his fellow Marines

I lifted my head from the sand and I did not like what I saw.

The hands of my chosen ones so bloody and raw.

I lifted my arms down from the sky, for my children had cried and asked me, Why?

The hearts of my chosen ones pierced with a scythe.

I lifted my feet from the hot burning sand, reached out my arms and lowered my hands, my chosen people within its span.

Fear not this creature of man, for God he doth reign with you in the sands.

My people we have taken our stand.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

<http://www.marinecorpsleague726.com/>

Lest We Forget



Has anyone seen my "AIRCREW WINGS"? Probably the only wings I will have ever earned.



TAPS

Andrew Gavel.....Dec 2019

This newsletter was compiled, edited and produced by members of the committee of the Marine Corps League South Hills Detachment 726.

Commandant.....Dave Luikart

Sr. Vice Commandant.....Matt Popovich

Adjutant.....Joe Turba

Young Marines.....Bettina Radcliff

Judge Advocate.....Shawn Kane

Sgt at Arms.....Joe Spinnenweber

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Color Guard.....Bob Malley

Publisher....Chuck Burrow...."flightmech352@hotmail.com"



FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Historian Gary Woodside

Flash Back Heroes ;

February 1968, eight Marines volunteered for a suicide mission to retrieve the remains of Pfc Michael Kelly, Charlie Company, 7th Marine Division, killed in action during Operation Pursuit. The objective of Operation Pursuit was to prevent enemy rockets from entering the “Rocket Belt” in the mountains above Da Nang.

Thousands of North Vietnamese Army troops from the 31st NVA Regiment and the 368B Artillery Regiment trekked down the Ho Chi Minh Trail in eastern Laos and moved through South Vietnam’s A Shau Valley making their way into the highlands overlooking an area known as Happy Valley and the Marine positions to the east.

The “Rocket Belt” was an arc running north to south around the western side of Da Nang at the ideal range for NVA forces firing Soviet-made 122 mm and 140 mm rockets at Da Nang Air Base, Marble Mountain Air Facility and vital ammunition dumps and fuel depots. Each battalion of the 7th Marines was responsible for a section of the belt, making sure no enemy rockets got inside the arc and within firing range.

The area was one of the toughest jungle/mountain terrains in the battalion’s assigned territory. The Marines had a slow exhausting task hacking out a trail with machetes. During the second day Charlie Company was ambushed by NVA soldiers. Pfc Kelly, a member of the point squad who had been with the company for only two months, was hit by an enemy bullet that struck a grenade on his cartridge belt. The detonation killed Kelly, severing a leg in the process.

Medevac helicopters flew in to evacuate the casualties, the jungle was so dense the choppers had to lower extraction harnesses for the pickup. After five hours of battle and medevac efforts under heavy NVA fire from rocket-propelled grenades, AK-47 assault rifles and 12.7 mm machine guns, Charlie Company got out all its casualties except Kelly. Kelly’s body was wrapped in a poncho and placed in a crater for latter extraction.

Regimental commander Col. Ross R. Miner order troops to go back and get Kelly’s body. Charlie Company was the logical choice since they the location of Kelly’s body.

The patrol had only a few hours to prepare. The decision was made to use a handful of volunteers. Eight marines volunteered. No one can remember exactly who dubbed the volunteers the “Doom Patrol”.

The patrol was suited for a short recon patrol, no helmets, flak jackets or cartridge belts. They were to make no contact with the enemy, travel by stealth in the dark, get the body and return.

A senior staff sergeant told patrol leader: “None of you will probably return alive, but to increase your chances, if things get hairy you can just bring back a leg.”

At 2am on Feb 17, the patrol after an hour out spotted NVA soldiers moving toward their position. One of the marines opened fire and killed one of the NVA, but the patrol was now compromised. The patrol leader spoke with battalion command center and was told to proceed. No One wanted an empty casket sent to Kelly’s family and the volunteers knew their mission and the odds.

The patrol made their way through the night and at around 5 am they cleared the open rice paddy areas and started into the dense jungle. Three hours later they were in a flat area above the bomb crater where Kelly’s body lay, covered with a poncho.

There they waited for Phantom F-4 II fighter bombers to make napalm drops about 100 yards in from of the patrol. The patrol was told to take three deep breaths, exhale and hold their next breathe. One marine still remembers the intense heat and dust being sucked past his face into the inferno. The shock wave seemed to raise him off the ground.

After the napalm flames diminished, the patrol saw NVA soldiers emerging from bunkers and spider holes. The patrol leader worried the enemy troops would quickly move against them yelled, “Get the leg, and let’s get the hell out of here!” Two marines dashed into the crater, grabbed a severed leg and quickly strapped it on to another’s backpack. The patrol ran down the hill under heavy enemy fire. A final strafing by F-4 Phantoms silenced the firing.

After reaching the flatlands, the patrol came upon Charlie Company’s 1st Platoon send to assist the patrol and escorted back to base. Within 10 hours of the patrol’s return, the B-52s from Andersen Air Force Base on Guam devastated the high grounds of the area. Heavy fighting took place the following month during Operation Worth and in August during Operation Mameluke Thrust.

Marines from E Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines found Kelley’s body on March 25 during Operation Worth. A funeral with a casket containing Kelly’s keg was held in his hometown of Findley, Ohio in March 1968. A second funeral, with the rest of his remains, was held in April 1968.