



# "THE BULLDOG BULLETIN"



Jul. Aug. Sep. 2020 Edition

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

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

**YEARLY DUES REMINDER!**  
Yearly dues are due at the Detachment each **September**

## 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.

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**DUE TO THE PANDEMIC OUR COLOR GUARD WILL NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN:**

**0730 July 4th, Brentwood Independence Day Parade, Brentwood VFW, Rt. 51 unless changes occur.**

## **ENLARGED PHOTO OF A PARRIS ISLAND SAND FLEA**



State Convention  
October 15,16,17th at  
Department HQ  
Fort Indian Town Gap



## **MARINE CORPS BAR EXAM**

## The American Flag



*I hope you have noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American Flag 13 times. You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day! Be surprised at the following only because “they” quit teaching this around 1955 in public schools, some of you might remember.*

The **1st** fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The **2nd** fold is a symbol of our belief of eternal life.

The **3rd** fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The **4th** fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to him we turn in times of peace as well in time of war for His divine guidance.

The **5th** fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, “Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.”

The **6th** fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our hearts that, “We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.”

The **7th** fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The **8th** fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we may see the light of day.

The **9th** fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The **10th** fold is a tribute to the fathers. For they, too, have given their sons and daughters for the defense of the country since they were first born.

The **11th** fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrew’s eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The **12th** fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians’ eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The **13th** fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation’s motto, “In God We Trust.”

*After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance’ of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you’ll see flags folded and Now You Will Know.*



## COMMANDANTS CORNER

Fellow Marines, Marine families and Marine supporters,

I hope this Bulldog Bulletin finds you well and virus free. Times such as this recent pandemic (COVID-19) more commonly referred to as Coronavirus tend to make us graphically aware of our own fragility and gives us reason to be concerned for all of those around us. Some of the actions that have been taken may not make us overjoyed but, in essence may be saving lives all around us. Awareness of safety procedures, cleanliness, disinfecting common areas, masks to protect ourselves and others from the possibility of spreading a dangerous virus are necessary.

Pandemics are not new. They have been in existence since the middle ages. Coronavirus was discovered in 1965 and since 2005, 5 new coronaviruses have been identified. SARS in 2003 and MERS-COV in 2012. All have taken a highly noticeable toll on life throughout the world population. Enough about viruses!!!

Just like many other organizations, our activity level, our meeting schedules, our opportunity to gather in our support of others and planned gatherings have been interrupted and cancelled. Eventually we shall get back into a routine and continue on. I suspect we will witness some societal changes however. Improvise, adapt and overcome seems to be an appropriate quote to remember. Marines have been doing that since 1775 and shall continue long into the future. Seems to have become a part of what we are.

We hope to be able to continue with the annual Marine Corps League picnic on the first Sunday in August at Hamilton Park in Castle Shannon. Memorial Day events are questionable thus far but, we can be ready at a minutes notice if called upon to march in parades, provide color guards and provide community support. In fact we are eager to get back to those things we do so well. The Rose Program also may be affected due to the "social distancing" concerns.

The 75th Pennsylvania Marine Corps League Convention in Greensburg has been postponed. Possibly is being rescheduled to the first 3 days in October but at the League Headquarters in Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. We will provide more info on that as soon as final plans have been solidified. Hopefully, coronavirus will have run it's course by then.

We shall host the Marine Corps Ball this year at the Gianna Via's Social Hall 5311 McAnnulty Rd., Baldwin, PA. in celebration of the 245th Birthday of our beloved Corps. All are invited, bring family, friends and Marine Corps supporters. Invitations will again be sent out.

I encourage you all to read the articles in the Bulletin. Contact any of the officers if you need information or wish to add something for the next issue. We ask that those who have not provided a current email address and phone number please do so. Again, all it takes is a few minutes to do so. Voicemail is a good thing to use if our phone is not immediately answered. Leave your name and phone number so we may return your call. Stay safe, care for those around you and remain Always Faithful.

Semper Fidelis



Who is that masked man behind those "FOSTER GRANTS"?

## KEYSTONE YOUNG MARINES



### KEYSTONE YOUNG MARINES

Keystone Young Marines have been making their way through our current situation, thanks to the young leaders we have in our program who have done their part to keep the motivation a priority! Young Marine Sgt. Jaeden Mohring along with other NCO's have been staying in contact with members, offering classes via Zoom meetings over the last few weeks and reaching out to our group.

We were honored to assist in the recent memorial service at Bethel Cemetery via invitation of Mayor Jack Allen, performing the POW-MIA Table Ceremony and showing support to our veterans on Memorial Day.

The Marine Corps is gaining another good one –Young Marine Sgt. Richie Ingold has recently graduated from high school and will be leaving for boot camp June 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have four young marines currently serving the Corps and one serving in the Air Force. Proud to report this pandemic will not get us down!

Semper Fi

Bettina Radcliff/Adjutant Keystone Young Marines



Get 'em  
young and  
teach 'em  
right



### IT'S COMPLETE! THE 2021 "BULLDOG CALENDAR".

*A calendar designed by a Marine for Marines. There is a donation for one of \$15.00 unless one has to be sent by mail then the cost is \$20.00. It will bring back memories of your past. All donations go to our detachment for supporting Marines, there rehabilitation, family, youth organizations and communities. This project is new to our detachment and we look for your support to help others in need and times of distress.*

**SEMPER FI!**



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/Paymaster.....Joe Turba
- Young Marines.....Bettina Radcliff
- Judge Advocate.....Shawn Kane
- Sgt at Arms.....Joe Spinnenweber
- Historian.....Gary Woodside
- Color Guard.....Bob Malley
- Publisher.....Chuck Burrow



VISIT OUR WEB SITE  
<http://www.marinecorpsleague726.com/>

## 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](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

Take a self-check quiz at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Quiz](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Quiz) to learn whether stress and depression might be affecting you.

[Find a VA facility](#) near you.

Visit [MilitaryCrisisLine.net](http://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](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

Call: 800-273-8255 and Press 1

WOO HOO! It's Picnic time again!

Come join us for friendship and comradery and a hotdog of a good time Sunday, August 2ND starting @ 1230 hrs. Hamilton Park in Castle Shannon. Hope to see you there.



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*We are listening, waiting to hear from YOU! We would like your input on how you like the newsletter and any improvements you would like to see, your input is important to us.*



READ IT!... F#%&, I wrote it! Gunnery Sergeant, SIR!

Did you read the last edition of "THE BULLDOG BULLETIN"?



## TAPS

Ed Robinson...(associate mbr) Oct 2019

Dave Charnell.....April 2020

*Lest We Forget*



May 6, 2020 is National Nurses Day. We dedicate the May 2020 Historical article to the brave nurses who have served in our armed forces from the Revolutionary War (1775) to the current conflicts. During the earliest days, nurses were untrained but as the importance of their role became recognized, training programs were established. Today, nurses serve in all branches of the military as highly trained professionals.

**Revolutionary War 1775-1783:** During the Revolutionary War, women often followed the troops hoping for safety, food, and a chance to work. Some of those women worked as nurses. They were valued because of the traditional role women had as caretakers but also because if a woman was doing the nursing, that meant there was one more man available to fight. On July 27, 1775, a resolution was signed allotting payment of two dollars per month to women who worked as nurses. Women who supervised the nurses and acted as go-betweens to the surgeons received four dollars. The signing of this resolution was significant because it created the first organized system for the assignment and payment of nurses for the American military.

**Civil War 1861-1865:** When the Civil War broke out; there was no organized training system in place for nurses in America, which means there was still no such thing as a nursing degree. However, Florence Nightingale laid the groundwork in Europe. Women served as nurses in Union and Confederate hospitals. Many also worked closer to the battlefield. On June 10, 1861, Dorothea Lynde named “superintendent of women nurses,” created an organized unit of nurses for the Union.

**Spanish-American War -1898:** Between the time of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, mainly men filled the role of military nurses. However, as the war approached, the military began to realize that the scant number of male nurses who served in peacetime would not be enough to manage the needs during a war. In April of 1898, the surgeon general authorized the appointment of nurses who would serve under contract to the military. The authorization did not specify a required gender, so women applied. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) offered to serve as the examining board for nurses. The standard for appointment was set at having graduated from a training school and having recommendations from suitable sources. In a sense, this was an early form of the modern nursing degree.

**World War I 1917-1918:** When the United States entered WWI in 1917; nearly 600 nurses were active duty between the two Army divisions. By the end of the war, more than 22,000 nurses had served, including several hundred who had paid the ultimate price of their lives. Many nurses such as , Miss Jane I. Rignel, Miss Linnie Leckrone, and Miss Irene Robar were decorated for their bravery and actions and received the Citation Star (later converted to the Silver Star Medal).

**World War II 1942-1945:** Six months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, there were only 12,000 active duty nurses in the Army Nurse Corps, most of whom were young and inexperienced. The Army initiated an intense training program for the nurses that eventually inducted over 27,000 newly commissioned nurses for the war. As nurse anesthetists were also in short supply, the Army developed a specialized 6-month training that produced more than 2,000 nurses trained in anesthesia practices. Nurses could also choose a twelve-week program developed by the Surgeon General to manage care and medication for the overwhelming developed by the Surgeon General to manage care and medication for the overwhelming psychiatric population. World War II saw nearly 74,000 women serving as nurses across all areas of military campaigns, with the American Red Cross (founded by Civil War nurse Clara Barton) fielding most of the recruitment efforts. Many nurses ended up in direct combat zones or behind enemy lines caring for the ill and injured. The Japanese captured dozens of nurses become prisoners of war.

**Post-World War II (1947-50):** One year after the end of World War II, there were only about 8,500 nurses remaining in the Army Nurse Corps. On April 16, 1947, Congress established the Army Nurse Corps as part of the Medical Department of the Army and authorized having no fewer than 2,558 nurses on staff. Specialized courses for nurses began to appear on the scene, such as courses in anesthesiology and operating room technique.

**Korean War (1950-53):** Just as they did during World War II, nurses in the Korean War served on the battlefield, tending the wounds of the soldiers. They staffed mobile army surgical hospital (MASH) units and hospitals in both Korea and Japan. At the start of the Korean War, there were 22,000 women in the military; about 7,000 were medical professionals.

**Vietnam War (1965-72):** Southeast Asia saw many nurses deployed to during the Vietnam War. They worked at all of the major Army hospitals in the area. In 1955, the Army Nurse Corps beginning allowing male nurses. The Vietnam was the first war in which there was a major deployment of male nurses. Male nurses took areas considered too dangerous for female nurses. Due to the unprecedented style of the conflict, nurses were in greater danger than ever before, and several nurses died in Vietnam.

**Post-Vietnam (1973 to 2020):** During Operation Desert Storm, approximately 2,200 nurses served in forty-four hospitals. Two of every three nurses in the Arabian Gulf were from the Army National Guard or Army Reserves. This was the first major conflict using Deployable Medical Systems (DEPMED). Another unique feature was that Army hospital staff coexisted with host nation personnel in fixed facilities forming joint national professional organizations. Before, during, and after the 100-hour ground war, U.S. forces sustained a disease and non-battle injury rate that was the lowest ever recorded in a conflict.

Recent years have seen Army nurses active throughout the world in both armed conflicts and humanitarian endeavors. In 1983, they supported combat troops in Grenada; in 1989 in Panama; and in 1991 in the Middle East. Since December 1989, the Army has deployed nurses with medical units in support of NATO alliance troops in Haiti, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Kosovo. Nurses have continued to serve proudly during relief efforts following natural disasters such as Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

Today, the legacy of these military nurses lives on. Currently, Army nurses serve throughout the world in support of multiple military and humanitarian actions in support of the Global War On Terrorism.

G. Woodside  
Detachment 726 Historian  
5/15/2020

# DETACHMENT BIRTHDAY BALL

*Due to an unforeseen circumstance the venue for our Detachment 726 Marine Corps Ball will be held in a different location. This year it will be held at the **Gianna Via's Social Hall located at 5311 Mc Annulty Rd., Baldwin, PA 15236.***

Seating arrangements are based on the Current "CDC suggestions." If you are family and have been around and in contact with each other "ALL CAN SIT AT THE SAME TABLE (S) Groups of 8 not a problem.

TABLE FOR COUPLE'S: ONE TABLE = 3 COUPLES A TABLE WILL SIT A COUPLE SIDE BY SIDE AT 6FT. APART. IF We have a single we can sit them at the same table as well and the Staff will need to remove the chair or leave it empty and place the back of the chair against the table edge to designate it's not useable or taken if required.

Just in side the main entrance a coat room and coat check person will be on site to assist I keeping coats a part from each other.

A check in table will be set up to find out what table each Person, Couple and or Group is assigned to what table .

Cash bar on the far right side of the Room .

All ceremonies will be center stage, Cake Cutting, Young Marines and any thing else we add as we go forward.

The cost per person and guest is \$40.00.



# Canteen Cup Memoirs

By Shawn E. Kane

One event binding all veterans together is the enlistment. All stood up, raised our right hand and took the oath to defend our country against all enemies foreign and domestic. I would like to share two important ones with you, my first re-enlistment and my last.

The later part of 1987 I started considering re-enlisting. Do I want to get out? Do I want to make the Marine Corps a career? Is this for me? These questions swirled in my mind as I made an appointment with the career planner or as we affectionally called him, the career jammer. His office revealed a Marine steeped in tradition. The walls contained multiple pictures from Marine history to include a prominent one of Chesty Puller. Behind his desk hung a large Marine flag. SSgt Dennis J. DeNoi rose from his desk to greet me with a business-like smile. He had an oval face with dark hair parted to one side. Later, I discovered he had designed and created Marine Corps playing cards which he sold on the side. I still have a signed pack from him.

“So, you’re considering re-enlisting?”, he asked.

“Yes, I’d like to know my options.”, I said.

We both sat down and started discussing those options. The first item on the agenda would be if I wanted to change my MOS. He looked up the re-enlistment bonuses and the 0300 field had a large one. I decided to stay an infantryman. It would be the only re-enlistment bonus I ever received in my military career. If I re-enlisted for the bonus, the only other guarantee would be choice of duty station. I wanted the west coast so I chose Camp Pendleton. At some point during a follow up meeting we discussed the venue to re-enlist. I had heard all kinds of crazy re-enlistments such as jumping out of a plane and re-enlisting on the way down. I did want it to be special and being stationed in Hawaii afforded me a unique opportunity. SSgt DeNoi suggested we do the re-enlistment on the Arizona memorial.

Tia and I had been dating for some time and my decision would affect her as well. One evening in Waikiki while eating dinner I broached the subject with her. I explained what I wanted to do as she listened quietly but intently. “So what do you think?” I asked.

“I don’t know what to think, what does this mean for us?” She said as her brown eyes peered into mine.

I inhaled deeply and continued. “I’m sharing this with you because I want to continue our relationship. Would you be willing to go to Southern California with me? You’ll be close to your family in San Francisco and we’ll visit as often as we can.”

She paused and took in what I asked of her. She then said, “Yes, I’ll do it”. We embraced and from that moment our relationship deepened. I did not propose to her then, but I eventually did and we married before moving to Camp Pendleton in April 1988.

The day of re-enlistment came on a January morning, 1988. My good friend Homer Ruiz thought it a good idea as well and we both re-enlisted on the same day. We stepped aboard the naval craft at Pearl Harbor on a sunny morning and very little sea swells. Accompanying us would be Tia and Homer’s wife Emmy for the journey to Ford Island. Approaching battleship row, the memorial’s white façade eclipsed everything surrounding it. The flag pole in its center extends and connects to the U.S.S. Arizona’s flag pole sitting just underneath. Oil splotches in the water remind one of the ship with its entombed members lying just underneath and gives a sense of solemnity.

Once aboard we went to its center. As part of the ceremony, Homer and I were privileged to hoist a flag over the memorial. I raised my flag, then lowered it. A Marine Corporal unhooked it from the halyard. He and SSgt DeNoi properly folded it and presented it to me. After Homer and I were presented with our flags, we went to the rear of the memorial. The back wall contains a list of all Marines on the U.S.S. Arizona who perished that fateful morning. Here our company commander administered the re-enlistment oath.

Fast forward to 2019. My final deployment would be to Ali Al Salem in Kuwait. This time as an Air Force reservist. As a First Gulf War veteran who helped liberate the country it appeared fitting. I have 21 years’ service and had to extend for the deployment. If I re-enlisted for 4 years I would be going through the retirement process the next time my unit deployed. When I looked into re-joining the military, no one could ask for a more supportive wife than Tia. She asked me, “Is this the last one?” I told her it was. I witnessed many crumbling marriages due to deployments, but Tia stood by me through all the years and all the deployments. The time fast approached for me to unlace the boots, put away the dog tags and someone else take my place. Knowing these things made this deployment special.

The deployment went well and I enjoyed the work. As a senior NCO I had numerous responsibilities controlling Aerial Port operations. I had the opportunity to work with wonderful and professional airmen. During the course of the deployment I gave a lot of thought to the re-enlistment. One popular place to re-enlist was the inside of a C-17, the workhorse of Air Force logistics. Over the course of my career, most of my re-enlistments/extensions had been in someone’s office. This final re-enlistment had to be like the first one, special.

The Ali Al Salem Air Base juts above the surrounding flatlands and received the nickname 'The Rock'. The upper region of the base comprises the living quarters, headquarters and various supporting units. The lower portion of the base contained the airfield and operations. At the center of the base between these two areas stands the dining facility and across from there is a plaza. Within the plaza is a memorial for 9/11 as well as a large rock outcropping. This has a sword in it and is known by all as 'The Rock'. The plaza ends up being a meeting place for people. It is the center of the base. I decided I wanted to re-enlist at 'The Rock'.

I asked a young officer from our unit, Lt. Alexis Peterson to administer my oath. We had worked closely over the course of the deployment as I mentored her. She gladly accepted. It would be her first time administering the oath. I told her what I wanted and she made all the arrangements.

On a late morning in January 2020, we gathered at the plaza for the event. Lt. Peterson had invited quite a crowd and done a great job with all the arrangements. When the time came, two airmen from my unit unfurled a flag in front of 'The Rock' and Lt. Peterson and I took our places in front of it. I raised my right hand and declared the oath of enlistment one last time. Afterwards, the two airmen folded the flag and presented it to me. I spoke a few words to the gathered crowd and became a little overwhelmed having all of those people in attendance.

In my home office are both of those flags and they are some of my most cherished possessions. They remind me of the commitments that men and women give to this great country every time they raise their right hand and take the oath of enlistment.

