



# THE BULLDOG BULLETIN



Oct, Nov, Dec 2021 Edition

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES  
SEND THEM IN NOW!**

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## *From the Editor*

As Jr. Vice since assuming this position I try to fulfill the duty and responsibilities the best that I can. There is still so much more to be accomplished. The pandemic was not a friend to our detachment and others, it may be a hinderance but, we will continue to move forward. As you will see in this newsletter of some accomplishments and congratulations are in order as some have been made and still more to come as we continue to strive forward in getting information out, communication and support is the key to success and we will succeed. I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Please do visit our Detachment Website and Facebook pages as they are updated frequently by our Social Media Director, Shawn Kane.

## *Commandants Corner*

Well, it's the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and it seems we are still behind; corona virus is still ahead, and humanity is trying desperately to catch up. As we continue to claw back it seems the virus is dictating what we can do, and we still struggle with restrictions. We as a detachment are still marching forward as Marines always do. We were able to bring back a few traditions that have fallen dormant over the past years, we had our annual picnic this year and seeing some new faces as well as the old guard was well worth the wait. If you were not able to attend, you missed a good time and I hope you can make it in the future.

Some of the other institutions brought back, the Eagle Scout court of Honor, the Jr. Vice and I awarded 4 scouts that obtained this rank presented them with distinguished certificates and a gift it was an inspiring event. We were able to have a Rose campaign although we did not collect what we were hoping to we did get our faces back in the community and made some inroads with the South Park Shops. I believe we can get this campaign going again. I would like to see more of the members be involved in this event, if you can speak to strangers and have an outward personality this is right up your alley. It's a good way to get our story out. By the way the proceeds from this event will go to Guardian Angel Dogs for Vets.

As I write this article and it gets to your hands A major event is taking place in September, as a seasoned veteran of life there are 2 events that always pose the question "where were you when Kennedy was shot" and "where were you on 911" most of us do remember the latter fresher in our mind. As we do not have any events scheduled, we must still remember how 911 has shaped this country. I will devote that day to remembrance for that event has led us to conflict that cost us many of our brothers in arms. Please join me in a prayer for healing and peace though we never forget.

Matt Popovich

Commandant

South Hills Det. #726



# CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER OF AWARDS RECEIVED

## 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE



Bernard Hoffman



Joseph Spinnenweber

Not pictured is,  
Raymond  
Bodner  
The third  
recipient

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Shawn Kane

1. Certificate for Web Master
2. For the Web Site, 3rd place
3. Certificate of participation
4. Plaque for 3rd place of our detachment



### STREAMERS

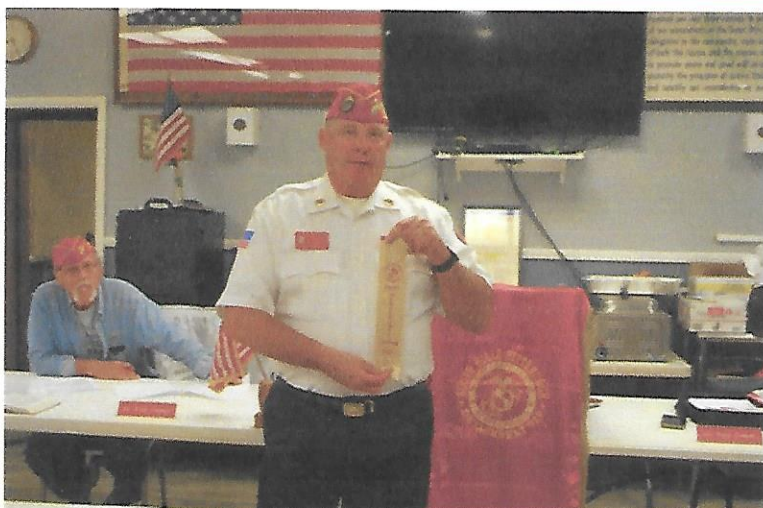
Commandant Matt Popovich

1. Meritorious Unit Commendation from the Department
2. Division 10 convention
3. Membership @ 101.5 %

### DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER

Chuck Burrow

Certificate for the publishing of the  
**"BULLDOG BULLETIN"**





# OUR DETACHMENT PICNIC



**It was an enjoyable event, we missed the ones who were unable to attend**





On Sunday August 8, 2021 it was an honor and privilege for our Commandant and myself to participate in supporting a organization and to attend a Eagle Scout Court of Honor. There were four young men who achieved that rank and that is not always easy to accomplish. As a past scout troop Committee Chairman and assistant scout master I know what the young scouts go thru and some do not make it that far and that is a shame. Our Detachment presented the scouts with a Certificate of Achievement and a present of a Marine Corps knife. (no, it wasn't a bayonet either) Congratulations are in order for; Brandon Kerper Smith, Carson Allen Hellerman, Michael Brenden Walsh and Jeremy Ethan Blocklin for there achievement, A position well earned. Congratulations.



## YM/SgtMaj Mario Koch Selected as 2021-2022 National Young Marine of the Year

**YM/SgtMaj Mario Koch**, 17, of North Olmsted, Ohio, is a member of the Greater Cleveland Young Marines from Fairview Park, Ohio, under the command of Dan Dotson. Koch is a junior at North Olmsted High School.

"I am so honored to earn the title of National Young Marine of the Year," Koch said. "I am very grateful to the Young Marines for teaching me how to be a leader. The program has helped me improve my work ethic, and it has helped me be a positive example for other Young Marines. I am excited to motivate and inspire all the youth in our program."

Koch joined the Young Marines at age nine and is in his eighth year in the program. He joined because he wanted to make friends and learn to be a leader. "When I was eight years old, I saw some Young Marines in uniform, and I thought they were amazing," he said. "I wanted to be in that uniform. I wanted to be a Young Marine."

As a Young Marine, he has earned the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) device, been named Top Ten at the Advanced Leadership School, received ribbons for attendance for six consecutive years, and earned 43 ribbons for additional accomplishments.

Outside of the Young Marines, he plays varsity basketball and football for his high school. After graduating, he plans on attending college to study sports medicine to become a sports medicine physician.







## 2021 Marine Corps League Birthday Ball Celebration

Marine Corps League, Inc  
South Hills Pittsburgh Detachment #726  
P.O. Box 533  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the South Hills Pittsburgh Detachment 726 Marine Corps Birthday celebration at **Gianna Via's Social Hall located at 5311 McAnulty Rd., Baldwin, PA. 15236 on Saturday November 13, 2021.**

### Time and Events

4:00 p.m. Arrival and Cash Bar  
5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance  
Those who have gone before  
Presentation of Colors  
Presentation of guest of honor  
Turned down glass  
Cake cutting  
Toast to the Corps  
Invocation and Dinner  
Keystone Young Marines silent drill team  
Announcements  
Entertainment  
Closing

**Cost:** \$40.00 per person

**Dress:** Dress Blues/MCL Mess Dress (Red Blazer)

MCL Uniform (white shirt w/ blue or black trousers)

Appropriate civilian attire

**Reservations required:** No Later than Friday October 29, 2021

**Guest are welcome.** For more information call Matt Popovich at 412-225-4420

===== Detach here and return bottom portion with your payment=====

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the Birthday Celebration. Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my Contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to:** South Hills Pittsburgh Det 726

**Mail to:** MCL, South Hills Detachment 726, P.O. Box 533, Bethel Park, PA 15102



## **Marine Corps League, Detachment 726**

### **Quarter 4, 2021 Historical**

Do you remember what you were doing at 8:45 am Eastern Standard time on September 11, 2001? I was starting my workday at 5:45 am (Mountain Time) on the 17<sup>th</sup> Floor of the prior Qwest Building at 1801 California Street Denver, Colorado.

On September 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. The 19 terrorists easily smuggled box-cutters and knives through security at three East Coast airports and boarded four early-morning flights bound for California, chosen because the planes were loaded with fuel for the long transcontinental journey. Soon after takeoff, the terrorists commandeered the four planes and took the controls, transforming ordinary passenger jets into guided missiles. Almost 3,000 people were killed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which triggered major U.S. initiatives to combat terrorism and defined the presidency of George W. Bush. The terrorists attacked the following three sites:

1. World Trade Center, at 8:45 am, two Boeing 747 planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, New York City.
  - a. 2,763 died after the two planes slammed into the twin towers. That figure includes 343 firefighters and paramedics, 23 New York City police officers and 37 Port Authority police officers who were struggling to complete an evacuation of the buildings and save the office workers trapped on higher floors.
  - b. American Airlines Flight 11 collided into the North Tower leaving a gaping, burning hole near the 80th floor of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in higher floors.
  - c. United Airless Flight 175 collided into the South Tower causing a massive explosion that showered burning debris over surrounding buildings and onto the streets below.
2. Pentagon, Washington D.C., at 9:45 am, the third plane, American Airlines Flight 77, hit the Pentagon just outside Washington, D.C.
  - a. 189 people were killed, including 64 on the airliner and 125 military personnel.
  - b. Jet fuel from the Boeing 757 caused a devastating inferno that led to the structural collapse of a portion of the giant concrete building, which is the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense.
3. Shanksville, Pennsylvania, United Airlines Flight 93, at 10:10 am, the fourth plane, crashed in a field in Shanksville.
  - a. 44 people died when the plane crash-landed in Pennsylvania.
  - b. Because the plane had been delayed in taking off, passengers on board learned of events in New York and Washington via cell phone and Airfone calls to the ground. Knowing that the aircraft was not returning to an airport as the hijackers claimed, a group of passengers and flight attendants planned an insurrection.
  - c. The passengers fought the four hijackers and are suspected to have attacked the cockpit with a fire extinguisher. The plane then flipped over and sped toward the ground at upwards of 500 miles per hour, crashing in a rural field near Shanksville in western Pennsylvania at 10:10 a.m.
  - d. Its intended target is not known, but theories include the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland or one of several nuclear power plants along the eastern seaboard.

On December 18, 2001, Congress declared September 11 "Patriot Day" to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In addition, there are three memorials in honor our fallen American

1. The National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City.
2. The Pentagon Memorial, a permanent outdoor memorial, is located just southwest of the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia
3. The Flight 93 National Memorial commemorates the crash of United Airlines Flight 93, located in Stonycreek Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Gary Woodside, Detachment Historian, 8/23/2021



**The Marine stood and faced God  
Which must always come to pass  
He hoped his shoes were shining  
Just as brightly as his brass.**

**"Step forward now, you Marine,  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My Church have you been true?"**



**The Marine squared his shoulders and  
said, "No, Lord, I guess I ain't  
Because those of us who carry guns  
Can't always be a saint.**

**I've had to work most Sundays  
And at times my talk was tough,  
And sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough.**

**But, I never took a penny  
That wasn't mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime  
When the bills got just too steep,  
And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear,  
And sometimes, God forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.**

**I know I don't deserve a place  
Among the people here,  
They never wanted me around  
Except to calm their fears.  
If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn't be so grand,  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't, I'll understand."**

AMERICAN WAR 1775-1783 \* FRENCH NAVAL WAR 1798-1801 \* TRIPOLI 1801-1805 \* WAR OF 1812-1815 \* FLORENCE

**There was a silence all around the throne  
Where the saints had often trod  
As the Marine waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God,**

**"Step forward now, you Marine,  
You've borne your burdens well,  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell."**





## TAPS

*Bernard E. Hoffman, September 6, 2021*

Bernie Hoffman from Scott Twp.

Served WW II, enlisted at the age of 16, from 1942-1946, I company 22nd Marines, In Okinawa, Marshall Islands, Guam, Purple Heart recipient Volunteers at the VA Hospital and is a member of the South Hills Marine Corp League



So lift a glass  
and pour the wine  
and toast a mighty  
few  
who stood the test  
and were the best  
standing for the red  
white and blue.

Semper Fi!

## 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.

## Toys for Tots

Remember the unfortunate

