



# THE BULLDOG BULLETIN

Jan, Feb, Mar 2022 Edition



## Commandant's Corner

Here we are the New Year; finally we can put the virus behind us. NOT. We still have this pesky thing hanging around and we are waiting for COVID to release its grip on us. Let us hope this is the year.

It is time for a little forensics of our past year. We have had a good year keeping the detachment engaged in the things that make us proud to be Marines and engaged in the community. We have brought back our Rose campaign and had 2 events with the proceeds going to the Guardian Angel dogs for Veterans. We have representation at the food bank and have been very busy giving food to the needy in our community. Although we have had some sorrow in losing part of the best of us in the passing of our valued members we carry on like Marines do.

The things we accomplished are a tribute to the commitment of the membership and I thank you all. These next few months are a slowdown of things we usually do but that doesn't mean we stop being engaged. I urge the membership to still attend the monthly meetings and help us plan for the spring and summer with new ideas. We need to use this time to recharge and have a good start for the coming year.

Oh and let us not forget we had a Marine Ball this year and from what I can tell everyone in attendance had a great time. I want to thank the Ball committee and also the membership. I challenged everyone to supply baskets for the Chinese auction and you came through. Thanks to Ralph and Debbie Jedd for what you do. We brought back an old tradition of Marine of the Year and Chuck Burrow was this year's recipient. Congratulations Chuck. If you did not attend the Ball it was a good one. I hope those who couldn't make it come next year.

So here is to looking for a great year for our detachment and I hope everyone has a happy and healthy New Year.

Matt Popovich

Commandant

South Hills Det#726

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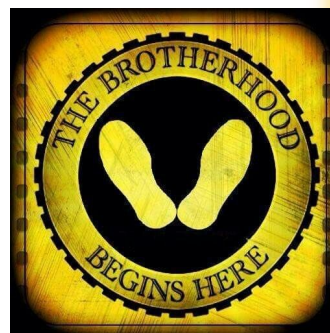
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In the last analysis, what the Marine Corps becomes is what we make of it during our respective watches. And that watch of each Marine is not confined to the time he spends on active duty. It last as long as he is "proud to bear the title of United States Marine."

Louis H. Wilson, Jr.

quaterman





*Celebrating the 246th Birthday of the Marine Corps*



**OFFICERS OF MCL SOUTH HILLS PITTSBURGH DETACHMENT 726**

L-R First row.. Joe Spinnenweber, Sgt-At-Arms.. Gary Woodside, Sr, Vice Commandant.. Matt Popovich, Commandant.. Chuck Burrow, Jr. Vice Commandant.. Joe Turba, Adjutant.. Michelle Prokopchak, Judge Advocate.. Second Row.. Ralph Jedd, Chaplain.. David Luikart, Past Commandant.. Bob Malley, Color Guard Coordinator.. Harry Schreiber, Quartermaster.



Keystone Young Marines escorting the Birthday Cake



Cutting of the cake by, Jim Christman and assisted by Commandant Matt Popovich





Guest of Honor

PA State Senator and Marine

Devlin Robinson and Stephanie Yagatch





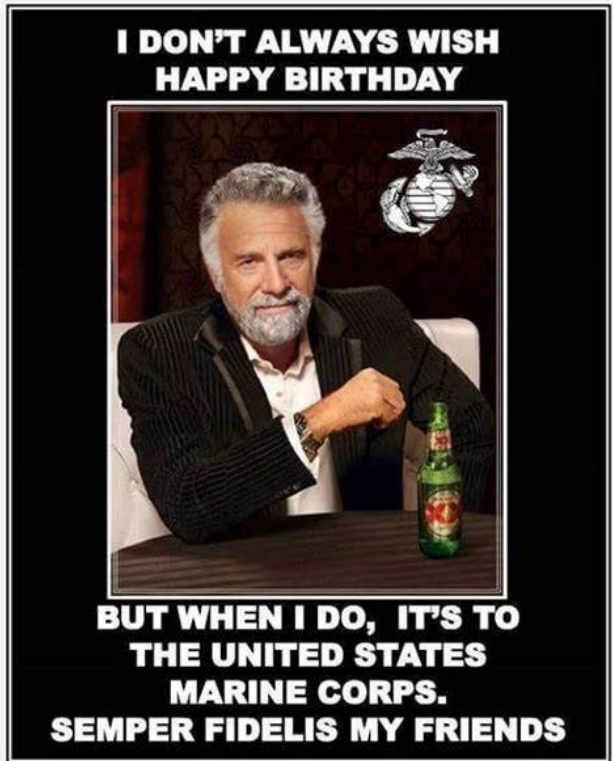
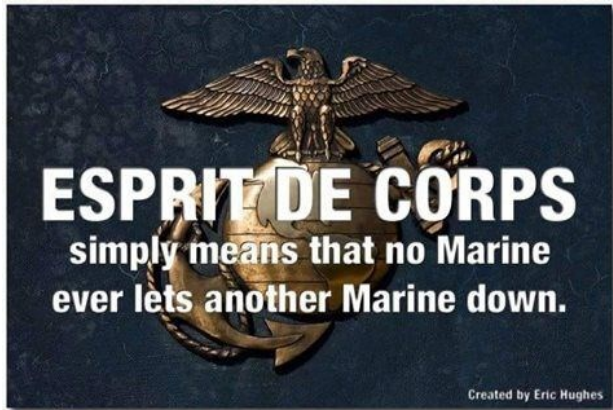


**Keystone Young Marines Silent Drill Team**

L-R: YM Sgt Dakota Arroyo.. YM Sgt Anthony Babeaux.. YM Lcpl Dominic Rocco.. YM Lcpl Antonin Rocco.. YM Pfc Gavin Callender.. YM Cpl Silvana Rocco



The **Young Marines** is a youth education and service program for boys and girls, age 8 – 18. We focus on Leadership, Honoring Veterans, Community Service, and Living a Healthy Drug-Free Lifestyle. Do you have what it takes to be a **Young Marine**?



*Presentation of Marine of the Year Award South Hills Detachment  
726*

*Commandant Matt Popovich (L)*

*Presenting to Jr. Vice Commandant (R)*

*Chuck Burrow for*

*Outstanding Service to the Detachment*

*Presentation was held during the MCL Birthday Ball Celebration held  
at Giana Via's Social Hall on November 13, 2021*



## Biography of Robert J. Priganc

When I graduated high school I thought about going into the Air Force with other friends, if I was smart I would have been preparing for the Air Force Academy and become a pilot but really didn't prepare for that option, I chickened out to make the next move.

Since the draft existed you had to be thinking of being drafted or enlisting in the branch of service that you wanted to be part of. I thought I'd have my draft pushed up so I could go into the Army and pick Airborne as my MOS. That would make me feel tough, aggressive, fearless and it really present some adventure, I gave up the thought of jumping out of planes on my second day at Parris Island.

The Marine Recruiters must have heard about us hanging out at Tubby's (we were part of Tubby's gang, a far fetch from the gang members of today) and they started sharing what being a Marine would be like and invited us to the recruiting station on Brownsville Road (over the years they made Mount Oliver a real hot spot for Marines as if it was the only branch of service to be in)

Well, I heard the stories about Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Iwo Jima and many other battles of WWII and Korea. I knew some things about the Korean war and when the truce was signed as kids and getting out our flags and marching up and down Walcott Street thinking this could be the same as the end of WWII, it wasn't. Only the kids thought it would be as of the same caliber and that's what we wanted to do, celebrate the success of our wars and welcome our veterans home. Of course it wasn't to be that way, it wasn't a war, it was a police action.

The Marines kept pressing on of the pride of being a Marine, the Recruiters had a job to do and did it well. They did come to our home and loved to shoot the breeze, eat and drink and not just in any order. My Dad was a Army vet and they all shared their experiences.

When I signed up I went home and told my Mom I had joined the Marines. She broke down and cried, maybe she felt she was going to loose her oldest son to war, she lost her daughter, my sister in 1949 at 2 1/2 years of age. Maybe it was my uncle Mike's death in the Philippines, he died after the Bataan Death March at Camp O'Donnell or Uncle Pitt's was July 24, 1957 death and all that stuff he had visualized at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 or Korea, or Indo China as aircrew flying on a C-119 aiding the French, cousins were getting wounded at Saint Lo or to his wounds that left him paralyzed for his lifetime. I only speculate because I never asked and my Mother and she didn't share. She did learn to love me in my dress blues.

My enlistment started September 15, 1960 as I was in the delayed entry program. I had four months to make my move to active duty. I was ready to go before Christmas but I'm glad I waited because I would not be home for Christmas until 1964.

I signed up for the team, I made it through thirteen weeks at Parris Island, four weeks at Camp Geiger at the Infantry Training Regiment then home for 30 days.

I was assigned to Marine Barracks 8 & I (SE) Washington, DC Ceremonial Guard Company, then transferred to 2nd Motor Transport Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, then transferred to NS Naval Air Station, Argentia, Newfoundland. I had a Top Secret Clearance to clear me for guard duty at Camp David. It was needed in Argentia to guard the Advanced Underwater Weapons Shop. It was a great assignment, met lots of great Marines who went on to great careers. Then came back to M/3/2 at Camp Le June then a Med Cruise, September 1963, that was the time when the Kennedy assigation happened as we had made landing with the Spanish Marines in Spain. One month extended in Cypress as the Greeks and Turks were fighting and we showed a force, we were relieved to come back and assigned to Parris Island as a Marksmanship Instructor Weapons BN. Put up for Sergeant and the Gunny said I would not make Sergeant under his watch, (attitude differences) I was undecided of staying in the Marines or not so, I pulled out a coin, heads I stay, tails I go, so, I went.



### ***A tidbit from the editor***

***I would like to give special recognition to the photographer who took such fantastic photos during our Marine Corps Ball Celebration on Saturday November 13, 2021. (I have found my replacement for taking photos) His name is Carl Truss and I will let you read a little about him and he is a Brother Marine.***



About three years ago, Diane Richard and I launched The Veterans Channel and to date, we have close to 100 videos on You Tube, PCTV, VTVN.TV a Pittsburgh channel devoted to veterans' issues. I am a Marine Corps Vietnam, a Veteran who served, in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967 with Hotel company 2/3. Presently, I'm a freelance TV cameraman who works for the Steelers, Penguins, Riverhounds and the Pittsburgh Panthers. Although my enlistment in The Marine Corps was brief, 1966 to 1969, I am very proud to have served as a Marine.

If you would like his services he can be reached at 412-512-4551.

A promotional graphic for the Marine Corps Dress Blues uniform. It features a background image of Marines in dress blues. The text is overlaid on the right side.

**DRESS BLUES**

## **THE MOST DISTINCTIVE UNIFORM IN THE MILITARY**

Every detail of the dress blues uniform reflects the proud legacy of Marines who have served for more than two centuries:

The buttons featuring the eagle and anchor have been on the uniform since 1804, making them the oldest military insignia in continued use.

The "blood stripe" runs down each trouser leg of the dress blues worn by noncommissioned officers, staff noncommissioned officers and officers. The solid red stripe became part of the uniform in 1849. Today, it serves to honor the memory of fallen comrades.

The collar of today's dress blues reflects the original Marine uniform of the American Revolution, which had a high leather neck to help protect Marines from sword blows.

Because it embodies Marine Corps history, rigorous standards apply to wearing this uniform and every Marine upholds those standards with pride.

## Marine Corps League, Detachment 726

### Quarter 1, 2022 Historical

#### The 1914 Christmas Truce

On Christmas Eve 1914, in the muddy trenches on the Western Front of the first world war, a remarkable thing happened. It came to be called the Christmas Truce. And it remains one of the most storied and strangest moments of the Great War—or of any war in history.

Although the Christmas Truce was referred to as the “alleged Christmas Truce”, descriptions of the Christmas Truce appear in numerous diaries and letters of the time.

The Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers’ threats of disciplinary action—but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers’ essential humanity endured.

The Christmas Truce occurred on and around Christmas Day 1914, when the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in several places along the Western Front during World War I in favor of holiday celebrations. During this unofficial ceasefire, soldiers on both sides of the conflict emerged from the trenches and shared gestures of goodwill.

Starting on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops fighting in World War I sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man’s-land, calling out “Merry Christmas” in their enemies’ native tongues.

At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed, they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. Some Germans lit Christmas trees around their trenches, and there was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.

Today, a memorial stands in England’s National Memorial Arboretum commemorating the Christmas Truce; it was dedicated by Prince William of England. On the 100 anniversary in 2014, the English and German national soccer teams staged a friendly match in England in remembrance of the soldiers’ impromptu soccer games in 1914. (England won 1-0.)

What stands out most today, however, are the memories of the soldiers themselves, preserved in their own penmanship. One rifleman of Britain’s 3 Rifle Brigade recounted a German soldier saying, “Today we have peace. Tomorrow you fight for your country. I fight for mine. Good luck!”

G. Woodside, Historian.

11/22/2021



## 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.



## TAPS

**Shawn Eric Kane, October 9, 2021**

Shawn served in the Marine Corps and during the Persian Gulf War, he was well decorated as he was awarded:



Good Conduct Medal  
Navy Achievement Medal  
Kuwait Liberation Medal  
Southwest Asia Service Medal  
Humanitarian Service Medal  
National Defense Service Medal  
Armed Forces Expeditionary medal  
Navy unit Citation  
Combat Action and Sea Service Ribbons



**Question:**

**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE AN AVERAGE PERSON TO BECOME A UNITED STATES MARINE?**

**Answer:**

**AN AVERAGE PERSON WILL NEVER BECOME A UNITED STATES MARINE**

Leatherneck Lifestyle

