

# The Bulldog Bulletin



**Jan, Feb, Mar 2024 Edition**

**Commandants Corner**

Our detachment survived 2023 with several accomplishments right through December 2023. Pittsburgh South Hills Detachment #726 and the Keystone Young Marines represent the Marine Corps values of Honor, Courage and Commitment to the community.

Color Guard Coordinator Bob Malley directed the detachment Color Guard consisting of myself, Joe Spinnenweber and Chuck Burrow at the 2 Dec 23 Upper St. Clair Veterans Day Celebration. Thank you, Bob, Joe and Chuck for participating in the Veterans Day Color Guard. WE ARE STILL IN SEARCH OF A PARADE COORDINATOR TO TAKE OVER FROM BOB MALLEY. If you are interested in the Parade Coordinator position, please let me know.

We had an extremely successful 2023 Birthday Ball thanks to the endless planning efforts of our Sergeant-At-Arms Joe Spinnenweber including securing our guest speaker Commander Frank J. Weissner. A special thank you to Debbie and Ralph Jedd for organizing our Chinese Auction, Bettina Radcliff and Debbie Jedd for manning the welcome table and selling Chinese Auction tickets and to the Keystone Young Marines for all their efforts.

The Keystone Young Marines did an excellent job as our Birthday Ball Color Guard, escorting the Ball Cake to the Cake cutting ceremony and conducting the POW/MIA Table Ceremony. Several Keystone Young Marines assisted in distributing the Chinese Auction gifts to the winners.

The Keystone Young Marines led the 2 Dec 23 Dormont Christmas Parade with a Color Guard. The Keystone Young Marines continue to proudly display Teamwork, Leadership and Discipline. Oorah Young Marines and to Bettina Redcliff for all your efforts!

During the Marine Birthday Ball, Sergeant-At-Arms Joe Spinnenweber was awarded the 2024 Marine of the Year. Well deserved, Spinn!

At the 1 November 23 MCL Meeting, Don Bailey was presented the 2nd place Recruitment Award. Oorah! Don, please keep up your outstanding recruiting efforts.

Did I mention WE ARE STILL IN SEARCH OF A PARADE COORDINATOR TO TAKE OVER FROM BOB MALLEY. If you are interested in the Parade Coordinator position, please let me know.

We provided three community services at the end of 2023:

- (1) On 27 Sept 23, Detachment 726 presented the Roberto Clemente Plaque to the Roberto Clemente Museum (refer to details below).
- (2) On 13 Oct 23, Detachment 726 presented a \$250 book stipend check to Maurice Bey, Marine veteran at the Allegheny County Community College (refer to details below).
- (3) On 24 Nov 23, Detachment 726 replaced the American and USMC flags for the Martha Greiner, widow of Col John Greiner, USMC Retired (refer to details below).

Please remember, to continue as a successful Detachment, we need membership participation.

Semper Fi,

Gary Woodside, Commandant

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## Presentation at the Roberto Clemente Museum



Roberto Clemente was a Marine Reservist he served from 1958-1964, he was a Pittsburgh Pirate also a great humanitarian. He was the first ever to receive the Presidential Citizens Award, also received the Congressional Gold Medal (posthumously) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Those attending and presenting the plaque were members of South Hills, Pittsburgh, Detachment 726.

(L-R) Recording Secretary Haya Eason, Commandant Gary Woodside, Sr. Vice Commandant Chuck Burrow receiving the plaque was Dwayne Reader, Vietnam Veteran Carl Truss and Sgt-At-Arms Joe Spinnenweber.



As our detachment reaches out to support others in the communities that require assistance and this one we are proud to assist with funding from the "Rose Program", a Marine who is bettering himself through the Community College of Allegheny County of Pennsylvania who was presented a check for \$250 for books to better assist him with his endeavor. Maurice Bey, he was selected by Stephanie Green who is the Student Success Facilitator of Military and Veterans Services at CCAC. Congratulations Maurice as the recipient and a special thanks to Stephanie of letting us know and continued awareness that veterans do need assistance, the presentation was by our Commandant Gary Woodside. Semper Fi Maurice and way to go, "Skipper"!



Breaking through for improvement and success.

OOHRAH!



## Detachment 726 Birthday Ball Celebration



Guest speaker Commander Frank Weisser USN (Ret). Commander Weisser has many accomplishments including the pilot in the movie TOPGUN, Maverick with low level flights and maneuvers, an outstanding speaker.



"Belle of the Ball"



Keystone Young Marines



Chinese Auction



A great venue for a Birthday Ball



Oldest Marine Harry Schreiber. Youngest Marine Alex Papiernik

Those who  
have gone  
before.

SVC

Chuck

Burrow



Masters of Ceremony for  
the event were Sgt-At-  
Arms Joe Spinnenweber  
and Recording Secretary  
Haya Eason.







**Detachment Marine of the Year, Sgt-At-Arms Joe Spinnenweber presented by Commandant Gary Woodside**



**State Senator Devlin Robinson was onboard**



## Continuing Service to the Community

As we are always searching and looking for new ways to help service our community. Haya Eason, our Recording Secretary came up with a great way at our detachment meeting. When someone is driving through a neighborhood and spots a frayed American and/or worn Marine Corps Flag, send out a detachment letter along with a contact's business card so we can help them get it replaced.

Here is a story of how we were able to help an 93 year old lady that requested to have her Flags changed. Martha the widow of Col John Greiner (USMC, Ret) made a call to SVC Chuck Burrow. She has not had her flags replaced since the passing of her husband of 10 years now. A date was set to come out and review the situation, all we needed was her house address and everything went into play. Chuck responded and checked to make sure the telescoping pole and clips were in good condition. Chuck told Mrs. Greiner that he would be back in touch soon.

When Chuck got home, he fired up the detachment distribution list and notified others of the situation, shortly a team was established. Chuck notified Mrs. Greiner and a date and time was set for Friday November 24th. The team arrived at 1030 hours and began to replace the Flags. Once the task was completed and the Flags were waiving in the breeze we did our hand salute for Old Glory and our Corps. One more thing, when saluting, a member of our team noticed a neighbor out on his front porch with his cap on saluting as well. *How heart warming is that?*



Before



During



(L-R) Front row, Great grandson Cody (who wants to be a YM), SVC Chuck Burrow, Martha Greiner. Great grandson Gunner. Second row. DVC Matt Popovich, Recording Secretary Haya Eason., Grand Daughter and Det. Member Kevin Gaughan.



A  
F  
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E  
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## Editors after thoughts of past memories of days gone by at Christmas

Year 1991, sister squadrons were deployed to the middle east during Christmas a time when parents were unable to be with their families. A training squadron stood up to assist the families of other squadrons to give the children a Christmas. Low and behold Santa arrived by Harrier Jet as the reindeer were resting for the night of travel all around the world and yet Santa had a duty to perform. (wasn't his favorite mode of travel)



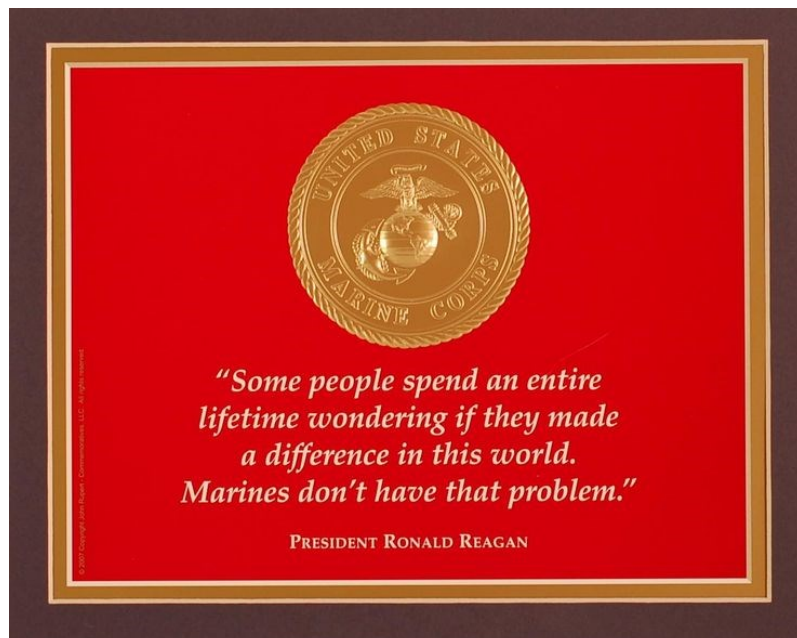
VMAT-203, Cherry Point, NC

Once the Elves assisted in getting Santa out of the jet with a bag of toys, Santa went to his house to meet the good girls and boys and pass out presents.



Check presentation to the Young Marines received a \$200 check from the Sons of the American Legion Post 935 for community service in assisting with their Post.

(L-R) Commandant Gary Woodside, presenter SVC Chuck Burrow and YM Coordinator/Adjutant/ Instructor Bettina Radcliff.



## HISTORICAL SECTION

Jimmy Stewart was the movies' quintessential everyman, a uniquely all-American performer who parlayed his easy-going persona into one of the most successful and enduring careers in film history.

James Maitland Stewart was born in Indiana, Pennsylvania, on May 20, 1908. The son of Elizabeth and Alexander Stewart, he achieved so much in his lifetime. Growing up in a small town with his two sisters, Virginia and Mary, instilled values that he would carry with him throughout his life.

The Stewart family tradition of serving in the military goes back to Jimmy's third great grandfather, Fergus Moorhead, who served in the Revolutionary War. Jimmy's maternal grandfather was a general for the Union in the Civil War. His father Alex, served in both the Spanish-American War and World War I. Jimmy Stewart entered the Army as a private and at the end of WWII was a colonel in the Army Air Corps, fully decorated as the result of the 20 combat missions he flew over Germany as leader of a squadron of B-24's. Among the medals, he was awarded were two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the Croix de Guerre.

Stewart continued his military career after WWII by serving in the Air Force Reserves and rose to the rank of Brigadier General. President Reagan awarded him the Medal of Freedom, which is the highest award that can be awarded to a civilian in the United States.

Following the war, Stewart got right back to the business of making movies. His first post-war performance in the movie It's "A Wonderful Life" earned him an Academy Award nomination. Initially, this film was a box office bust, it has become the most famous Christmas holiday film in Hollywood history. It was also Stewart's and Frank Capra's favorite films.

Stewart served 27 years in the US Army Air Corps / US Army Air Force / US Air Force Reserve, 1941–1947 (Army) and 1947–1968 (Air Force). He rose to Brigadier General (O-7).

Stewart was awarded thirteen notable military awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, Croix de Guerre and Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Stewart went into semi-retirement when health began to fail him. He retired permanently from public life after his beloved wife of forty-five years passed away.

James Maitland Stewart (Jimmy) died on July 2, 1997. He will be remembered as a talented actor, brave military hero, loving husband, good father, and a giant among men. He leaves a legacy of honesty, hard work, and strong values. He was a good man, a loyal citizen, and had a wonderful life. He indeed earned his wings!



Gary Woodside

Commandant South Hills Detachment #726

12/6/2023





## Mission Statement

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.



## REMEMBER!

As our meeting time has changed we start at 7 pm (1900 Hrs.) and if you are late, by protocol, you must salute the Sgt-At-Arms and then salute the Flag prior to signing in and taking a seat. If an emergency arises and you have to leave you salute the Flag first and then the Sgt-At-Arms prior to exiting.



**Just a Heads Up!**  
**Dues are now**  
**\$30.00 as the De-**  
**partment of PA**  
**raised their dues**  
**and so we must as**  
**well, this will start**  
**in 2024.**



## TAPS

*Clifford Morton..... 9-28-23*

*Paul T. Kirsch..... 11-6-23*