



# Jarhead News

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Keith Sheldon – Editor (412-486-5124 / keithbetsy1982@verion.net)

## The Newsletter of The Ohio Valley Marine Corps League Detachment No. 882

### WHAT'S NEW WITH THE 882

Detachment Meeting - July 28th, 7:00 P.M., at Glenfield Valley Vets

Devil Dog Growl - August 18th, 7:00 P.M., at Jim Brown's Resort

"Always remember,  
your focus determines your reality."  
~George Lucas~

#### ELECTED OFFICERS



**Commandant  
Mike Shaffer**  
(724) 601-3890  
mshaffer@gmail.com

**Senior Vice  
Nick Rymarchyk**

(724) 816-3415  
nrymarchyk@outlook.com



**Junior Vice  
Tom Mann**  
(724) 252-5522  
tomcoco2@yahoo.com



**Judge Advocate  
Jim Dempsey**  
saltycruiser@yahoo.com



#### APPOINTED OFFICERS



**Adjutant  
Gary Farole**  
(412) 741-7898  
mgfarole@verizon.net

**Sergeant at Arms  
Carl Curtis**  
(724) 869-0294  
cmdr26thdist@yahoo.com



**Chaplain  
Ray Tedford**  
(412)-771-8850  
sayrayt@yahoo.com

**Paymaster  
Marilou Farole**  
(412) 741-7898  
mgfarole@verizon.net



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**HONOR**

**COURAGE**

**COMMITMENT**



### Call to Order

The meeting of the Ohio Valley Detachment 882 was called to order at 1930 by Commandant Mike Shaffer outside at the Valley Vets.

### Officer's Roll Call

Showed Chaplain Ray Tedford and Sr. Jr. Vice Tom Mann absent.

### Introduction of Guests

None

### Application for Membership

None.

### Minutes

A motion was made by Scott McBride to accept the minutes of last months meeting, 2nd by Carl Curtis, motion carried.

### Correspondence

Adjutant read correspondence consisting of email from the Department of PA regarding the changing of the convention; email from District Vice Fred Neilen regarding the Department Convention Hospital-ity planning meeting to be held on July 19th at Allegheny Valley Detachment home at 1300 hours.

### Report of the Paymaster

Marilou Farole gave the financial report for the month of May. Motion made by Nick Rymarchyk to accept 2nd by Jim Brown, motion carried.

## Minutes of Ohio Valley Detachment 882 Detachment Meeting of June 30th, 2020

### Report of Members Sick and in Distress

Gary Farole reported that Bob Wagner had surgery for a knee replacement and the rehab at this time is not going well.

### Rifle Team

Jim Dempsey reported that the Millvale Club is open to members and family members only at this time. Scheduled group matches are being held with social distance. The Ohio Valley Department match is still on for September 5th and 6th.

### Pistol Matches

No matches will be scheduled until the club reopens for guests.

### Color Guard

No report.

### Quartermaster

No report.

### Devil Dogs

Dog Pound Keeper Jim Brown reported that the next Growl will be scheduled for August 18th at Jim Brown's resort on Neville Island.

### Old Business

The Detachment Marine of the Year nomination will be conducted by email to all Past marine of the Year sending in their selection to Gary. Commandant Mike Shaffer asked members if we want to consider delaying the family picnic due to the upsurge in the Coronavirus cases. All agreed and Gary will seek a new date later in August. Commandant Shaffer noted that while the Department Convention is moved to October 15th-17th at Indiantown Gap, District 10 will still be hosting the hospitality room and will

need help.

### New Business

Commandant Mike Shaffer discussed fundraiser ideas. While a summer cookout package of a grill and steaks is a good idea it would be difficult to sell tickets at this time due to the Coronavirus. Carl Curtis suggested something like the Poppy sales. Gary Farole noted that the league has a Marine Rose program that is similar to the Poppies. Gary noted that he has several dozens of the roses and we could buy them locally and make up the roses.

### Good of the League

Carl Curtis gave a thorough Service Officers report to include VA and Veterans Legislation matters:

- \* Va is only seeing emergency cases face to face; drive through Covid-19 testing at the Pittsburgh facility. 100% masking policy is in effect.
- \* Vet Text required to check in and remain in vehicle until notified.
- \* Board of Appeals canceled until August 1st.
- \* Commissary, all service connected are eligible to use and must present ID.
- \* Health Care, major overhaul will send some Non-Military patients to private providers.
- \* Tri-Care, starting January 1, 2021 Tri-care Select Group A retired must pay a monthly enrollment fee to maintain coverage.
- \* VA Cancer Treatment, VA Affairs teamed with Bristol Myers to build

Cont. on pg. 3.

**Minutes (cont.)**

programs for specialists to provide access to cancer care.

\* Claims backlog is up to 119,000 cases.

\* COLA, Senate passed on June 4th an increase tied to Veterans Benefits equal to that of Social Security guidelines.

\* Veterans Assistance, Carl has met with numerous Veterans over the past several months in discussing their situations and providing advice.

**Announcements**

Next meeting is scheduled for July 28th, 2020 at 7:30, hopefully at the Valley Vets.

**Adjournment**

The regular Meeting adjourned at 2030. 11 members were on board.

**MCL Activities Calendar**



**Detachment Meeting**

Tuesday, July 28th  
Glenfield Valley Vets, outside, 1900 hrs

**Devil Dog Growl**

August 18th, 1900 hrs  
Jim Browns resort on Neville Island.



**August Birthdays**

Candace Aspeotes    Kitty Curtis  
Greg Cuthbert    Felix DeLuca Jr.  
Tony Hetzer    Bob O'Brien  
Mike Swadlo

**Upcoming Rifle and Pistol Shoots**



The Millvale Sportsman's Club shooting schedule is:  
**Rifle / Pistol**

Presently, the Millvale Club is only open to members and family members and no rifle shoots or pistol shoots are

scheduled for June, July, or August. The Ohio Valley rifle match scheduled for September 5th and possibly 6th is still on schedule and will count for the Department's Rifle match awards.

For shooting info, call Gary Farole at 412-741-7898 or Jim Dempsey at 724-266-7828.



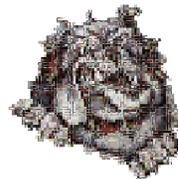
**National Marine Corps League News**

The National Convention has been cancelled and all other meetings are either cancelled or on hold. For any National info, their website is: [www.mclnational.org/Home/tabid/569/Default.aspx](http://www.mclnational.org/Home/tabid/569/Default.aspx)

**Pennsylvania State Marine Corps League News**



The Department Convention has been rescheduled to October 15th, 16th, and 17th at Indian-town Gap Headquarters building. All meetings are either cancelled or on hold. For any other Departmental info, use the Department website at: [www.pamcleague.org](http://www.pamcleague.org)



**Devil Dog Update  
Ohio River Devil Dogs, Pound 133**

**Devil Dogs and Marines!**

Listen up, Marines! As you probably know, the Valley Vets has only opened to outside meetings, so I decided that our next Growl will be held on August 18th at my resort on Neville Island. It'll be great to see all our Dogs again! Can't wait!

Until then, stay safe.

DD Jim Brown  
Pound Keeper - Pound #133



**These Marines Still Owe Dues**  
Greg Cuthbert    Lukas Dennis    Bill Shaffer

**Detachment Activities  
Detachment Meeting**



Adjutant Gary Farole (lt.) and Commandant Mike Shaffer prepare for the first non-virtual meeting since the onset of the pandemic.



J.R. Dempsey, (from left), Senior Vice Nick Rymarchyk, and Scott McBride practice social distancing while enjoying the meeting. 🇺🇸

*We discovered that a "Field Day" in the Marine Corps was not a track meet.*



Standing in for the Chaplin, J.A. Jim Dempsey begins the proceedings as Gary Farole and Mike Shaffer officiate.



Sgt. at Arms Carl Curtis (lt.) informs the Members of the recent changes at the VA. (See meeting notes.)

**"Focus on remedies,  
not faults."  
~Jack Nicklaus~**



"Seems like a funny way to clean the deck - throwing sand on it!"

**HONOR**

**COURAGE**

**COMMITMENT**

## Legendary Marines

**Corporal Tony Stein** was a member of the elite Paramarines from the end of his recruit training until the Paramarines were disbanded in 1944. Assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Parachute Battalion, 1st Parachute Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Stein fought in the Vella Lavella and Bougainville Campaigns, shooting five snipers in a single day during the latter operation.



After the Paramarines were disbanded, Stein returned to Camp Pendleton, California, where he was promoted to corporal and assigned as an assistant squad leader to Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Marines in the newly formed 5th Marine Division, which took part in the amphibious landings at the start of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Because Stein was a toolmaker prior to the war, he assisted with the customization of a .30 caliber AN/M2 Browning machine gun from a wrecked Navy fighter plane to make it into a highly effective personal machine gun nicknamed the "Stinger". It is believed that Stein was assigned a Stinger because of his assistance. On Iwo Jima, Stein used his Stinger to destroy enemy pillboxes after pillboxes by charging them alone and destroying the crew inside while firing into the small gun openings. The Stinger could fire 100 rounds in 5 seconds, creating a hailstorm of shrapnel inside the pillbox. The extremely high rate of fire caused Stein to run out of ammunition quickly. He kicked off his shoes, threw his helmet down, and ran back to the beach to get more ammo. As he ran, he picked up a wounded fellow Marine and carried him back to the beach to get aid. He repeated this feat no less than 8 times, bringing a wounded man back to the beach, grabbing a few belts of ammunition, firing into another Japanese pillbox, and then returning with his smoking Stinger and another wounded Marine.

It was for his actions on this day, February 19, 1945, that he was later awarded the Medal of Honor. Sadly, he was killed in action ten days later.

## Legendary Marine Corps Weapons

**The Stinger** is a rare example of a field modified weapon that was



officially recognized and even considered for adoption by the military. But the story of this hacked machine gun actually started as Allied forces battled for control of the Solomon Islands. It was a Browning .30 caliber AN/M2, salvaged from a crashed or otherwise inoperable aircraft, that was modified for use by infantry.

The AN/M2 in turn was a totally new weapon based on the venerable 31-pound M1919 light machine gun, which is still in use around the world. The AN/M2 was designed for use as an aircraft mounted weapon and as such was much lighter (by some 30%) and also had a high rate of fire of about 1200 rounds per minute vs. the stock M1919 rate of fire of about 500 rounds per minute.

To make the AN/M2 a hand held weapon, spare stocks for the M1 Garand rifle were cut down to size, fitted to the machine gun's rear buffer tube and bolted to the back of the gun, a trigger assembly was fashioned from scraps of sheet metal, and an adapter was fabricated so the bipod and carrying handle from the far smaller Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) could be added. Simplistic front and rear sights were also fashioned (or in some cases, taken from a BAR) so the operator would have an idea of where their shots would land. But since the Stinger was meant to be used as a suppressive weapon, pinpoint accuracy was never really the goal.

With a 100-round belt carried in a magazine made from an aluminum box, it weighed some 25 pounds. It was considered by some to be the best squad automatic weapon of WWII. Six Stingers were produced, and at least on a Battalion level, were officially approved for use in combat.

After seeing how successful the weapon was during the invasion of Iwo Jima, there was even some talk of putting the Stinger into larger scale production and distributing them. But the war ended before such a plan could be put into place.

This Month in Marine Corps History

**4 July 1801:** President Thomas Jefferson reviewed the Marines, led by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, LtCol William W. Burrows and the Marine Band, on the White House grounds. The smartly uniformed Marines performed drills and fired various salutes in observance of the new nation's 25th anniversary.

**6 July 1990:** One of the oldest and most versatile attack aircraft in Marine Corps history, the A-4 Skyhawk, retired from the Corps' active aviation structure after over 30 years of service. The last two Skyhawks from MAG-32 flew their initial flight from Cherry Point to NAS Patuxent River on this date.

**7 July 1941:** The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was activated at Quantico, Virginia. Within a year of activation, the Wing would participate in the Marine Corps offensive at Guadalcanal. That bitter campaign would be the first in a series of legendary battles in which the Wing would add luster to its reputation. The 1stMAW would earn five Presidential Unit Citations for gallantry in campaigns spanning World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

**11 July 1798:** President John Adams approved "An Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps", and it became law. The following day, the President appointed William Ward Burrows the Major Commandant of the new Corps. In August, Major Burrows opened his headquarters in Philadelphia, at that time still the capital of the new nation.

**14 July 1993:** The USS IWO JIMA was decommissioned after over 30 years of service in a ceremony at Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia. The ship was named for the World War II battle during which three Marine divisions ousted 20,000 entrenched Japanese troops. The Iwo Jima was commissioned 26 August 1961, and it was the first ship specifically designed as an amphibious assault ship from the keel up.

**18 July 1918:** The 4th Brigade of Marines began an at-

tack near Soissons, France, as part of a three-division counterattack against the Germans. In the first two days of battle, the brigade sustained 1,972 casualties.

**24 July 1944:** The V Amphibious Corps, commanded by Major General Harry Schmidt, landed on Tinian, in the Mariana Islands. The following morning, the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions began a shoulder-to-shoulder southward sweep of the island. Organized enemy resistance faded within a week, and on 1 August, MajGen Schmidt declared the island secure.

**26 July 1947:** The National Security Act of 1947 became effective, reaffirming the status of the Marine Corps as a separate military service within the Department of the Navy. The Act Provided for Fleet Marine Forces, and confirmed the Corps' mission of seizing and defending advanced bases, as well as land operation incident to naval campaigns.

**28 July 1918:** Brigadier General John A. Lejeune assumed command of the 2d Division, U.S. Army in France, and remained in that capacity until August 1919 when the unit was demobilized. He was the first Marine officer to hold an Army divisional command, and following the Armistice, he led his division in the march into Germany.



"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."  
~Socrates~

"To conquer frustration, one must remain intensely focused on the outcome, not the obstacles."  
~T.F. Hodge~

"Focus is a matter of deciding what things you're not going to do."  
~John Carmack~



**Health Care Enrollment**

Important reminder!

Don't forget that there is a Veteran's Outreach Center located in our area.

You do not have to go to a major Veteran's Hospital for service. The VA Primary Care and Outpatient Clinic office location has changed from Aliquippa, PA to 300 Brighton Rd. Rochester, PA. The telephone number is 724-709-6005.

Remember, now you can get your new VA identification card at the Veteran's Outreach Center in Monaca.

**Life Membership**

***"Once a Marine,  
Always a Marine"***



We love to repeat this information because it never gets old. You may want to consider becoming a Life Member and avoid the yearly hassle.

Life Membership Information and Fees as of 2013.

These are the prices :

Ages up to 35	\$500.00	36 - 50	\$400.00
51 - 64	\$300.00	65 and over	\$200.00

You can contribute monthly smaller amounts towards a Life Membership at any time. That way you can become a life member without paying the large lump sum up front.

You can apply for a Life Membership after you have been a member for a minimum of one year. Also note, when your annual membership becomes due, and your Life Membership payment is not yet complete, you must make the annual payment as well.



**MCL License Plate Information**

The Department is accepting applications for the Pennsylvania Marine Corps League Specialty License Plate. Show your pride for the Marine Corps League. For your convenience, a copy of the new application for the Pennsylvania Marine Corps League Specialty License Plate can be downloaded in PDF for-

mat by going to this website: <http://pamcleague.org/mcl-palic.htm>



**Military Funeral Services**

Our Detachment will provide a service for any member. Family members may contact any Officer should the need arise.

Also, a funeral service is not automatic. A family member must request one.

**Detachment Website and Facebook Page**

Be sure to check out our Detachment website at: <https://www.ohiovalleymcl882.com> and our Facebook Page at **Ohio Valley MCL Detachment 882**

*"The direction of your focus  
is the direction your life will move.  
Let yourself move toward what is good,  
valuable, strong and true."*

*~Ralph Marston~*

*"What you stay focused on will grow."  
~Roy T. Bennett~*

*"Concentrate all your thoughts upon the  
work at hand. The sun's rays do not burn  
until brought to a focus."  
~Alexander Graham Bell~*

**The Title**

It cannot be inherited, nor can it ever be purchased. You and no one alive can buy it for any price. It is impossible to rent and it cannot be lent. You alone and our own have earned it with your sweat, blood and lives.

**You own it forever.**

**UNITED STATES MARINE**

*Keith Sheldon*