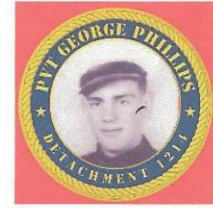


**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214  
Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box #1  
Ballwin, MO 63022**



**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**TO:**

**ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE**

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**All annual dues expire on August 31st of each year. Our membership dues are \$40.00 a year and are due prior to George Phillips Detachment" and send to the Detachment address.**

**This newsletter and previous issues can be obtained from the **new** Detachment Website. <http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/>**

**Please contact the Editor to receive future issues electronically.**

***As a suggestion, anyone wishing to provide material *should try* to have it to the editor no later than the *fourth Friday* of previous month. (This doesn't mean don't submit anything at all if you need more time, instead please contact the editor.)*** If sent via email, please note that newsletter submission should appear the subject line.



**Next Meeting November 21, 2023**



**November 2023**

**Volume XIX – Issue 11**

**Commandant:**  
**Brad McNeil**  
**636-225-2866**

**Sr. Vice-Commandant**  
**John Cooper**  
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**Jr. Vice-Commandant**  
**Joe Gentile**  
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**Adjutant/Paymaster:**  
**Dennis Simpson**  
**636-230-5976**

**Judge Advocate**  
**Public Information**  
**Officer: Hugh Smith**  
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**Ed Rau:**  
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**Gerald Gerling**  
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**Chaplain**  
**Carl E. Ramsey**  
**314-304-7915**

**Web Sgt: Brad McNeil**  
**636-225-2866**



**Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday**  
**of Every Month**  
**1930 – 7:30 PM**



*News and Reflections by and for Marines*  
*And other Patriotic Americans*

**Published Monthly By**

**The Pvt George Phillips Detachment**  
**Marine Corps League**

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**Marine Corps League**  
**P.O. Box #1**  
**Ballwin, MO 63022**

**Meeting Location:**

**225 Old Sulphur Springs Road**  
**Ballwin, MO 63021-5356**

**Detachment**  
**Membership as**  
**of October 31**

**76**

**Trustee 3Yr:**  
**Andrew “AJ” Neely**  
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**Trustee 2Yr:**  
**Ed Rau:**  
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**Trustee 1Yr:**  
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**Jr. Past**  
**Commandant**  
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**Editor/Historian:**  
**Carl E. Ramsey**  
**314-304-7915**

## Commandant's Corner

### ATTENTION ON DECK



To all members and associate members of our Private George Phillips detachment, Marine Corps League. I am grateful for the honor and privilege to serve as your Commandant. Our November meeting is scheduled for the 21st at 1830 hours. [It will be our Marine Corps Birthday celebration] I look forward to seeing all of you at that time, masks are optional.

I would like to send out a special shout out to our members that helped the American Legion Post 208 with their fundraiser for Sgt. Meredith Absolon of the Manchester Police Department.

Also, I would like to send out a warm welcome to our newest member Aaron Kent; his story was featured in last month's newsletter.

I would like to extend an invite to everyone to our Marine Corps Birthday party. Our guest speaker will be the Commandant of Detachment 183 (Gunny) Paul Campos. The menu will feature pork steaks, mashed potatoes and gravy, and salad prepared by our own Jr-Vice Commandant Joe Gentile. Dessert will be our Birthday Cake which will be cut by the oldest and youngest Marines present.

Our collection in November will be on the following dates: 8th, 9th, and 10th. We sure could use your help; so, if you can spare an hour or two, the detachment would really appreciate it. Please contact Hugh Smith. It's again time for the Toys-for-Tots campaign. We could use your help to distribute the

donations boxes. I have asked John Cooper, Sr.-Vice Commandant, to oversee this mission. More will come in an email outlining what needs to be done.

Marines, mark your calendars for December 16. We are having a meet and greet with our local Fire and Police departments. This will be open to all members and your families. There will be food. More will come on this activity.

Last but not least I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and I hope you all spend time with family and friends.

As always Semper Fi Marines.....

Brad McNeil, Commandant  
Pvt. George Phillips Detachment # 1214  
Marine Corps League Semper Fi  
[bmcneil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmcneil@sbcglobal.net)



## Chaplain's Message

In the Bible the Christian life is frequently symbolized by mountains and valleys. Mountain tops represent a place where the presence of God may be found. In Genesis 29:6 Jesus is foreshadowed as "The Desire of the Everlasting Hills." Christian scholar and author Thomas Cahill wrote a book with that title. Psalm 121:1-2 says, "I will lift my eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made Heaven and Earth." One of the most significant mountain top experiences in the New Testament was the transfiguration of Jesus in Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. The inner circle of the disciples witness the God part of Jesus in all his magnificence. Then they leave the mountain top and Jesus heals a demon possessed boy. A valley on the other hand is often associated with death. Psalm 23:4 says, "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: For thou aren't with me; they rod and thy staff they comfort me." That's also true in secular life, literature and geography. In the Charge of the Light Brigade, the 600 rode into the valley of death. Two of the lowest places on Earth are the Dead Sea in Israel and Death Valley in California.

In our Christian life one of our missions is to take Jesus with us from the mountains of our good times, where we know him like when he is in his transfiguration, and share him with people in the valley of their bad times, like the demon possessed boy, the disciples met after they traveled with Jesus from the mountain-top. In one on my recent personal examples, I had completed a mountain top experience where I had volunteered as historian at the POW MIA Museum at Jefferson Barracks (which is now open Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am-2:00 pm). I was on my way to the fundraiser for the police officer at American Legion Post 208

with stage 4 breast cancer, when I was flagged down by a young black man on the outer road of Jefferson Barracks Park. He said he was homeless, hadn't eaten for a while, and wanted a ride to a nearby casino where he could get out of the rain. He then asked if I could put him up in a hotel. I couldn't help with a hotel, but I fed him twice, shared Jesus with him, got him a tent and sleeping bag from a pastor I know from New Life Evangelistic Center, and three hours later eventually let him off at Carondelet Park. That's after I drove him downtown to the homeless encampment near city hall, which he wanted no part of. I finally showed up at American Legion Post 208 at 5:15 pm in time to make a donation to the Police sergeant. However, all of the fund raiser food was gone. So, on that day I had left my comfortable mountain top at the POW MIA Museum, and helped two people instead of one, each who was in in his personal valley. To me this sequence of events seemed unusual and confused in a messy way. But that's how the kingdom of God works. What looks messy and confused and uncomfortable to you, is how Jesus likes to present himself through you, as he rewrites your schedule for sharing him with people.

Carl Ramsey, newsletter editor and chaplain

### November 2023

8 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

9-10-11 – Collections at Sams, De Peres  
– 0800-1800

10 – **Marine Corps Birthday, 1775**

20-23 – **Tarawa, 1943**

21 – Membership Meeting – 1830 Post #208

27 – **Chosin Reservoir, 1950 thru Dec 13.**

### December 2023

13 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

16 – Police and Fire Department Meet and  
Greet – Time TBD Post #208

19 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

**Staff Meetings are now on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS 2023

For 248 years, Marines have earned a reputation as the most disciplined and lethal warfighters in the world. This legacy of honor, courage, and commitment passed on to us was paid for in sweat, blood, and sacrifice. From Belleau Wood to Inchon and Tarawa to Sangin, Marines have stepped forward to defend our Constitution when others either could not or would not. Our history is filled with heroes like Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hershel "Woody" Williams, Private First Class Hector Cafferata Jr., Sergeant Major Dan Daly, and thousands of others who performed acts of bravery which went unseen in the heat of battle. We stand on the shoulders of these Marines, and we owe it to them to earn our title "Marine" each and every day.

Marines have given, and have been willing to give, their lives for Country and Corps in every fight our Nation has entered. Our actions turned back the tide of tyranny in Europe during the Great War, defeated fascism in Asia during World War II, fought for democracy in Korea and Vietnam, and offered the hope of self-determination in the Middle East. We go to war whenever our Nation calls, and in the interwar periods we train, we prepare, and we innovate. We have chosen a life of service and sacrifice — an honorable life that has meaning. We sacrifice so our fellow citizens don't have to, and we seek nothing in return but a chance to be first to fight. Most will never understand why we choose to attack when others do not, why we revel in being covered in mud, why we snap to attention when "The Marines' Hymn" is played, or why we say, "Ooh Rah." We understand it, and this message is for us, for the Marines.

As Marines, we live on a war footing because someone must. This means that we ruthlessly adhere to our standards of excellence — Marine standards — as we know this will best prepare us for the wars of the future. Our high standards are a prerequisite of professional warfighting, and how we keep our honor clean in the cauldron of combat. They prepare us for the most difficult mission there is: fighting from and returning to the sea. Most importantly they shape our unique Marine culture which is respected at home and across the globe.

Sergeant Major Ruiz and I are proud of all that you have done this past year to protect and enhance our reputation as America's best warriors. We hope you know that we will be with you every step of the way as we prepare for the fights ahead. We ask that every Marine - active, reserve, and veteran - honor the legacy of those who went before us by continuing to uphold our high standards. Protect your fellow Marines and our shared legacy. Happy Birthday Marines!

**Semper Fidelis,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps**

## MEMBERS MATTER

**This month is a reprint of deceased member, Elmer Dapron from September, 2019. He's the only member of our detachment who served on Iwo Jima and Chosin Reservoir. For unrelated government work he even was given a knighthood by a descendent of Lord Kitchener of Khartom. He also provided the sands of Iwo Jima we sprinkle on Pvt George Phillips grave.**



Early on Saturday morning, August 17, 2019, Elmer “June” Dapron, beloved uncle and decorated marine, passed away at age 94.

Elmer was born on January 14, 1925, in Clayton, MO to Elmer and Suzannah Dapron. He found a home and a second family early in life when he joined the Marines in 1943. In 1977 he married Sharon, and spent 10 years with the woman he has always called the love of his life.

Elmer, along with his brother Robert, started life facing seemingly insurmountable challenges. Although their family was

comfortable in the beginning, the Great Depression hit, and things took a drastic turn. They were homeless from a young age, living in the woods with their alcoholic father, while their mother stayed in St. Louis with their two sisters. Elmer worked as a laborer for the railroad with his father from age 14, cutting down trees and making ties. As the boys progressed through their teen years, they took their fate into their own hands, and walked dozens of miles to the city to find a better life. Hunting, fishing, and eating out of dumpsters to survive, they worked on plans to get an education in order to leave a life of homelessness and poverty behind. Throughout these early hardships, Elmer was determined to make something of himself and of life. He taught himself to read by pulling magazines and newspapers from trash cans and dumpsters. Through the help and kindness of others, they found a family with the Hughes, who took them both in. They worked on the family farm and in the kitchen, developing a love for food, family, and the joy those two things can provide.

As WWII became an inevitability, both young men enlisted in the military. Elmer chose the US Marine Corps as his new family. He fought honorably and bravely, eventually fighting on Iwo Jima during

the fateful final battle that culminated in the iconic raising of the American flag.

His years after the war are full of some pretty grand tales of adventures in Alaska, travels all over the US as a laborer, and there is always something in there about working for the CIA. He is a pretty great storyteller, so his friends and family just listen, enjoy and assume there are some embellishments for effect.

After years as a civilian, he was called back to duty for the Korean War. Once again, he bravely served the United States and the Marines, ending up at the battle of the Chosin Reservoir and going down in history as one of the 'Frozen Chosin'. When he told the story of that time, his family would get chills hearing about the terror, the cold, the hunger, and the exhaustion. The lives of the refugees Elmer's company and other UN military forces saved were forever changed for the better because of their service and sacrifice.

Although many people don't know about the battle at Chosin, Elmer described Iwo Jima as "a cake walk

in comparison!" The Marines reported battle casualties of 4,385, and 7,338 non-battle casualties due to the cold weather. For the rest of his life, Elmer couldn't stand being cold, and was often found wearing long sleeves on a hot summer day. He and the other Marines, soldiers, and UN forces helped to save more than 86,000 refugees from Huginam. The evacuation was made possible by a declaration of national emergency by President Truman issued on December 16, 1950, and is known as the Miracle of Christmas. Elmer spent his life as a devotee of President Truman.

Elmer made it home safely, but the stresses war put on his body earned him a 'disabled' status upon discharge. Never one to let life keep him down, he worked hard and made a name for himself in the advertising field. In the years before and after the Korean war, from 1948-1956, he worked for the McDonnell Douglas Corporation as a technical writer and editor. Imagine a man who had no formal education and who taught himself to read, working as a writer. This one example completely sums up his grit, determination, and intellect.

In 1954 Elmer took a "contract" with a government agency and ended up doing some work for the British government. Through this work and his success, the

Queen sent Lord Kitchener to the Anglican Church in Creve Coeur to visit Elmer. On this visit Elmer was knighted, Sir Elmer Dapron!!

Although he would never tell any details, he often alluded to 'work done for the CIA'. Although he was quite the fantastical storyteller, there was always a heavy dose of truth mixed in with each story.

Elmer was clearly an incredibly talented writer, but he was also a lover of adventure. He spent 1957 as a freelance journalist, living in Paris, Havana, and Belize. In 1958 he began his long and impressive career in the advertising field. Elmer spent decades in the advertising industry and became known as an expert in food and agriculture. He was the go-to man and coordinated campaigns for a number of multi-national corporations, all while continuing to travel and amassing an incredible amount of awards for excellence in his field.

It was during this time that he met his beloved wife Sharon. She was his secretary, and 20 years his junior, but Elmer was never one to let social convention stop him from pursuing a beautiful woman. Although he was a well known ladies' man, and enjoyed

relationships with a number of special women throughout his lifetime, he would always say that Sharon was his one true love. Sharon began working as a photographer in the advertising field, and they traveled the world together working on various campaigns. In 1977 they eloped in Guam, and eventually travelled to more than 34 countries together. They did not have children, and Sharon passed away in 1987.

In 1977, Elmer conceived of Elmer's Grocery List, one of his proudest career accomplishments. Elmer's Grocery List was a radio segment which provided information about food and agriculture along with recipes and shopping advice. It was heard on 70 radio stations from Maine to Hawaii, and also aired three times a day every 24 hours over all 385 stations of the Armed Forces Radio Network, garnering a loyal audience in 57 countries. The love and comfort of food he learned so many years ago while working on the Hughes' farm was now forging a path for him in life and career.

Elmer continued his career in business and advertising, and eventually ran for Governor of Missouri in 1992. Although he did not win, this was an incredible accomplishment for a homeless kid with no formal education who taught himself to read. Elmer truly embodied the



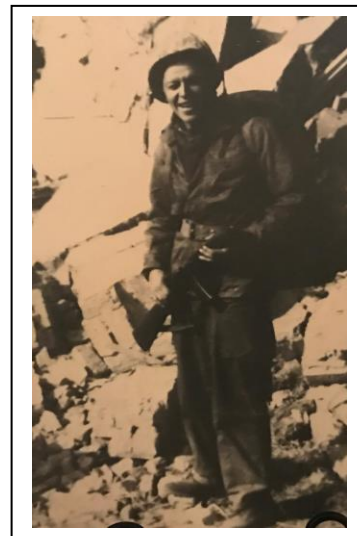
American Dream. Throughout his desire to always better himself by reaching further in his career and life, to his incredible service to his country with the United States Marine Corps, to his incredible adventures while traveling the world, Elmer had a nearly unmatched zest for life.

Although no longer on active duty after the Korean war, Elmer was a Marine to the end. He joined his first Marine Corps League group around 1953. Although he switched between different attachments over the years, he was always active with his Marine Corps family. One of his most passionate projects was the Korean Task Force, a project focusing on long term peace, respect, and friendship between the USA and South Korea.

His family, especially his nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews, grew up hearing the true tales of his incredible life. He was always, and still remains, a treasured member of the Dapron family. Many of the family can tell the stories with almost as many details as he did, from having the privilege of hearing them at family gatherings and holidays over the last 70 years. Just

ask them about the possum pie!

Elmer is survived by his nieces and nephews, as well as many great nieces and great nephews.

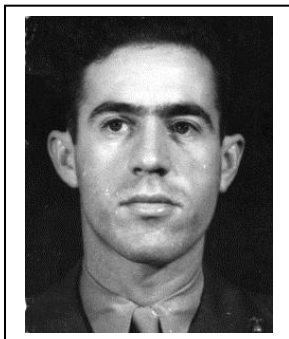


## November Korean War MIA Marines from Missouri

**11/27/1950 Sergeant Jack Lee Gaines (No Picture) who joined the United States Marine Corps from Missouri**, served with G Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Marine Division. During the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, his unit defended Hill 1426 from the CCF. He was killed in action on November 27, and due to the tactical situation on the hill at the time, his body was buried near where he fell. After the war, his remains were not identified among those returned to U.S. custody.

**11/28/1950 Private First Class Donald Earl Eichschlag (Picture 1 Below)**. On September 25, 2017, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of **Private First Class Donald Earl Eichschlag**, missing from the Korean War. **Private First Class Eichschlag joined the U.S. Marine Corps from Missouri and was a member of D Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.** He was killed in action on November 28, 1950, while engaged with Chinese Communist Forces on Hill 1240 near Yudam-ni, North Korea. Because U.S. forces withdrew from the area a short time later, PFC Eichschlag's remains could not be recovered. In September 1954, PFC Eichschlag's remains were returned to U.S. custody; however, they could not be identified using methods available at the time, and were buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific as unknowns. Advances in forensic techniques eventually prompted the reexamination and identification of PFC Eichschlag's remains.

**11/30/1950 Sergeant Elton Thomas Henry (Picture 2 Below)**. On the evening of November 27, 1950, a huge Chinese force launched an attack against the U.S. and United Nations (UN) troops stationed in the Chosin Reservoir area in north-east North Korea. The resulting seventeen-day conflict became known as the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. After a fierce defense, U.S. and UN forces attempted to withdraw south from the Chosin Reservoir to the port of Hungnam. A single seventy-eight-mile roadway connecting the reservoir to Hungnam offered the only retreat route, and the withdrawing men faced significant enemy resistance as they traveled down it, attempting to avoid encirclement. After suffering heavy casualties, the U.S. and UN troops eventually broke through Chinese lines and reached Hungnam. **Sergeant Elton Thomas Henry entered the U.S. Marine Corps from Montana (other sources say Saint Louis County Missouri) and served in D Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.** On November 30, 1950, Sgt Henry was killed in action during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir and buried near Yudam-Ni, North Korea. His remains have not been identified among those returned to U.S. custody and he is still unaccounted-for.



## *November Birthday Scroll*

*Donald Aird      Michael Drake*  
*Christy Duval    Gerald Gerling*  
*Robert Howard   James Hubbard*  
*Jack Jackson     Phillip Schroeder*  
*Alan Taylor      Bernard Widdis, Jr.*

*Lois Kessler     Marie Kosewicz*



**October Meeting, new member,  
Aaron Kent**



**Veterans Day Humor. What do you call a  
Marine who goes back in time on a motor  
cycle to King Arthur's Court?**

(Picture courtesy of the newsletter  
editor's toy soldier museum, located in the  
historic Rock House in Overland, Missouri)

**November Collections at Sams Club**



**Aaron Kent (left) and Hugh Smith (right) tower over 6-foot Carl Ramsey (Center)**



**Mike Moss and Ed Rau**



**Joe Gentile (left) and Hugh Smith (Right)**



**Finally, on Veterans Day the newsletter editor ran into Elliot Glassman at Applebees**