

**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 December 19 Cancelled**



**December 2023**  
Volume XIX – Issue 12

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

**Sr. Vice-Commandant**  
John Cooper  
314-712-0738

**Jr. Vice-Commandant**  
Joe Gentile  
314-488-9440

**Adjutant/Paymaster:**  
Dennis Simpson  
636-230-5976

**Judge Advocate**  
**Public Information**  
**Officer: Hugh Smith**  
636-484-4188

**Benevolence:**  
Ed Rau:  
636-978-3522

**Sgt at Arms:**  
Gerald Gerling  
636-271-3778

**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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**Mail:**

Pvt George Phillips Detachment  
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 November 30**

**76**

**Trustee 3Yr:**  
Andrew "AJ" Neely  
314-550-8065

**Trustee 2Yr:**  
Ed Rau:  
636-978-3522

**Trustee 1Yr:**  
James Hubbard  
314-578-0798

**Jr. Past**  
**Commandant**  
Ed Rau:  
636-978-3522

**Ways & Means:**  
Elliot Glassman  
314-434-4868

**Quartermaster:**  
Tyler Gerling  
636-252-6528

**Eagle Scout**  
**Liaison:**  
Joe Gentile  
314-488-9440

**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.

I would like to Thank everyone that attended our Marine Corp Birthday Party. The food was great and prepared by our own Jr. Vice-Commandant Joe Gentile. And a big *thank you* to our special guest speaker (Gunny) Paul Campos.

And thanks to everyone that helped during our collection. Our donations were down a bit compared to other times, so we will have to tighten the belt a bit for now. Hopefully we will do better at our next collection.

I don't have a lot to say about the Toy-for Tots campaign except the Reserve Unit was to distribute the boxes and we were to pick them up once they were ready. I haven't heard any feedback on this, but hopefully there is more to come.

And in closing I would like to take this time to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking

forward see all of you at our next meeting [which will be in January].

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)



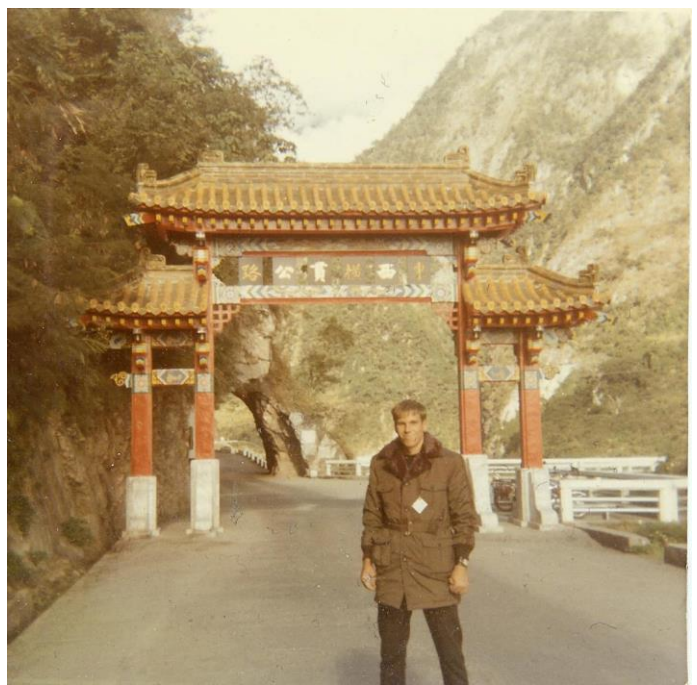


## Chaplain's Message

Christmas Eve, 1970, Danang, Republic of South Vietnam, I sang Christmas carols with a half dozen other Christian veterans in the Danang Airport. The next day I went on R and R (Rest and Recreation) to Taipei, Taiwan where I visited Christian Chinese. On New Years Eve, I returned to Danang with other veterans where I was checked back into the country by an Air Force Security Police Staff Sergeant. He was crusty to everyone until he got to me and gave a big smile. He said, "I missed your singing." I found it amazing he recognized me out of all those other returning veterans because I wasn't even wearing the same clothes. On Christmas Eve I sang Christmas carols wearing camouflaged jungle utilities, and I returned to Danang in civilian clothes. But it showed that singing songs with all my heart announcing the arrival of the Christ child to save the world from its sin, overshadowed my outward appearance, including my clothes. A sign on my wall reads, Judge not according to the appearance (John 7:24). The rest of that Word says, but judge righteous judgement.

Several years ago, I substitute taught a fifth-grade music class, in a Saint Louis County School district. I had them for only fifteen minutes before Christmas break. So, I asked, does a music singing class ever make a difference for the average person, who may not be a great singer. I told the above story, and said no matter your level of singing ability, if you sing something worthwhile like Christmas carols with all of your heart, you will make a difference—and you never know who might be listening. The kids then unanimously requested to sing the Star-Spangled Banner. That's one of my best Gospel War Stories

Carl Ramsey, newsletter editor and chaplain



Newsletter Editor Carl Ramsey in his 1970 Taipei, Taiwan, Christmas R and R clothes

### December 2023

- 1 – Chosin Reservoir, 1950, O.P Smith, "I'm advancing in a new direction."
- 7 – Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
- 8 – Wake Island, 1941 thru Dec 23
- 11 – Wake Island, "Send us more Japs!"
- 13 – Chosin Reservoir, 27 Nov 1950 thru Dec 13
- 13 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 16 – Police and Fire Department Meet and Greet – Time 08-1200 Post #208
- 19 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208 Cancelled
- 20 – 1813, US assumes control of Louisiana Purchase (Where We Live).

**Lyle McFarlin, who passed away February 4, 2022, started the Members Matter Column in 2016. His birthday would have been this month. This is a reprint of his story from January, 2020.**

### **Lyle McFarlin by Lyle McFarlin**

I was born on 27 December, 1939, in Le Mars, Iowa, population 6,000, because my grandmother wanted me to be born in a hospital. (our town at the time, Hawarden, Iowa, population 2,000 had no hospital). Because jobs were scarce, my parents moved to Omaha, Nebraska, when I was eleven months old. I have one sibling, a younger brother who never listened to me. He joined the Navy and served in Vietnam.

I was raised in Omaha, attending local public schools. I spent four years in Army ROTC during high school, but late in my senior year I enlisted in the Marine Corps. After graduation in 1957, I went to MCRD for boot camp in August, then to Camp Pendleton, California, for advanced infantry and finally to Camp Elliot for rifle qualification. I was then sent to Okinawa on the U. S.S. Anderson for an eighteen-month tour. When we arrived I was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> (FMF) Fleet Marine Force.

I began as a loader on Patton M-48 tanks; then moved on to gunner and finally my favorite job, driver. Halfway through my tour we were assigned the newer Patton M-49 tanks, much better armed with a larger 110 MM main gun. We initially had 800 horsepower, twelve-cylinder gas engines that got three gallons to the mile. The newer M-49 version had diesel engines.

At the end of my tour, I was shipped to Treasure Island, San Francisco, California, where I was released from active duty. I worked during the summer and then enrolled at

the University of Nebraska at Omaha. My proudest achievement was in 1961 when I was elected “Ugliest Man on Campus”. It was an event to raise funds for a local charity. Penny a vote, and a cute sorority girl joined me as “Cutest Pan”. Hence, “Ugliest Man, Cutest Pan”.<sup>1</sup>

I graduated in 1963 and accepted appointment as an investigator with the U.S. Civil Service Commission, St. Louis Region. After a year I was transferred to the San Francisco office. Near Christmas, 1964, I returned to Omaha and transferred to the Department of the Air Force at Strategic Air Command, Offutt AFB, as an Employee Relations Specialist. Meanwhile my wife to be, Kathy, was completing her degree in education.

When Kathy graduated in 1965, we married, and began a family. We had two daughters by 1968, when I became Personnel Officer for the St. Louis Region, U.S. Civil Service Commission. In a year I accepted assignment as Senior Employee Relations Specialist with the U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command in St. Louis. And not long thereafter I accepted promotion to Senior Grievance and Appeals Examiner with the U. S. Army Civilian Appellate Review Agency in St. Louis. I worked there for four years and had the first of two sons. I went to night school and in 1974 got my MA Degree in Public Administration at Webster University in St. Louis. Shortly thereafter I accepted an overseas assignment as Chief, Management and Employee Relations for the U.S. Forces in Nuremberg, Germany. My wife and three young children and I spent three years there, able to travel Europe in a relatively safe period (1974-1977). After our three-year tour, we returned

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<sup>1</sup> When I first asked Lyle McFarlin what a Cutest Pan referred to; he said Pan rhymed with Man, but had nothing to do with Peter Pan. He also said the Ugliest Man Cutest Pan Contest has since been dropped; which meant its meaning might remain a mystery; however, he later told me his daughter said Cutest Pan referred to Panhellenic, and meant a sorority girl. The Editor.

to St. Louis. In 1978 I was promoted to Regional Director, St. Louis Region, U.S. Army Civilian Appellate Review Agency. My wife gave me a second son in 1980. I attended St. Louis University School of Law at night in the late eighties, for a year but didn't finish my Law degree due to family concerns and work load during the day.

I retired from the Federal government in 1995, but continued working as a subcontractor, investigating civil rights complaints in a variety of Federal military and civilian agencies for twenty years, until age 75. I volunteer at the USO of Missouri at the St. Louis Airport, and have just received my 1,000 hour service pin after ten years. My beloved wife, Kathy, passed away suddenly three years ago but my four kids and four grandkids keep me going.

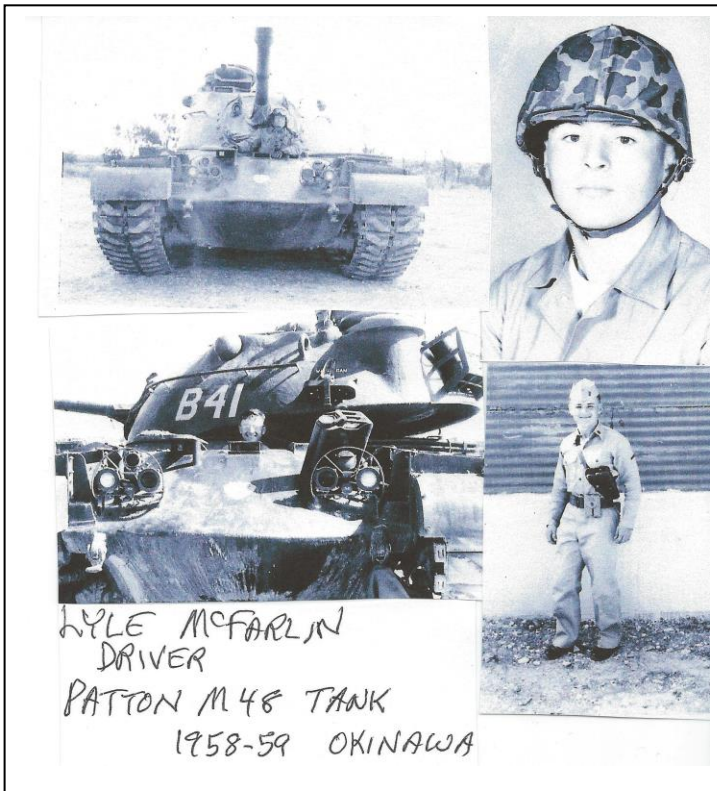
I joined the Private George Phillips Detachment #1214 in 2006 and have served as Junior Vice Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Commandant, and currently as Detachment Chaplain.

I am Lyle McFarlin

Foot Note: Over the last few years I have attempted to write this "Members Matter" column in our monthly newsletter. Some members cooperated; others declined to be interviewed. I encourage all members to share their story, your life experiences and your service to our country. If you are willing to share via a fifteen-minute phone interview at your convenience, please phone me, 314, 630-5647. Thus, we can learn more about you and your service to our country.



Vets Roll 8/18/2014



Lyle McFarlin, 6/21/2016





November Marine Corps Birthday guest speaker (Gunny) Paul Campos from South Side Detachment.



Commandant Brad McNeil Got the birthday party going.



Ed Rau watches as youngest Marine Tyler Gerling and oldest Marine Harry Hope cuts the Marine Corps birthday cake.



The December 16 Meet and Greet consisted of the world's best tasting bacon, scrambled eggs, pancakes and coffee . . . but no policemen or fire-fighters showed up to enjoy this wonderful bounty—only the newsletter editor who took pictures of the following detachment members and guests.



Joe Gentile (who provided the feast) and John Cooper (who beat the bushes, highways, biways, police departments, and fire houses for last minute guests).



George Casey



Donna Murdock and Lois Kessler



## *December Birthday Scroll*

*John Bauer III*  
*Sean Jackson (New Member)*  
*Edwin Rau*  
*Rita Martin*

**First Lieutenant George Ham Cannon, USMC, (November 5, 1915 – December 7, 1941) was the first U.S. Marine in World War II to receive the nation's highest military award — the Medal of Honor. (from Webster Groves, Missouri).** For distinguished conduct in the line of his profession, extraordinary courage, and disregard of his own condition during the bombardment of Sand Island, Midway Islands, by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. Lieutenant Cannon, Battery Commander of Battery "H", Sixth Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, U. S. Marine Corps, was at his Command Post when he was mortally wounded by enemy shell fire. He refused to be evacuated from his post until after his men, who had been wounded by the same shell were evacuated, and directed the reorganization of his Command Post until forcibly removed, and as a result of his utter disregard of his own condition he died from loss of blood.



Marine Korean War MIAS from Missouri in December.

**12/2/1950 PFC George Joseph Reitmeyer MIA MO I Co 3/7 1MarD (Picture 1)**

**Private First Class George Joseph Reitmeyer** entered the U.S. Marine Corps **from Saint Louis, Missouri** and served in I Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He was killed during this action on December 2, 1950, while fighting the CCF in the Chosin Reservoir area, though the exact circumstances surrounding his loss are unknown. His remains have not been identified among those returned to U.S. custody after the ceasefire, and he is still unaccounted-for.

**12/8/1950 Sgt Jim Harvey Thompson MIA MO Wpns Co 1/7 1MarD (Picture 2)**

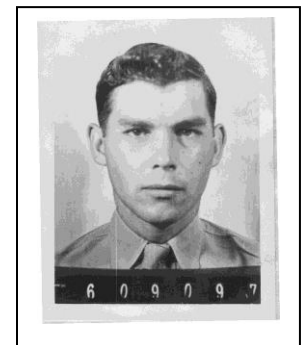
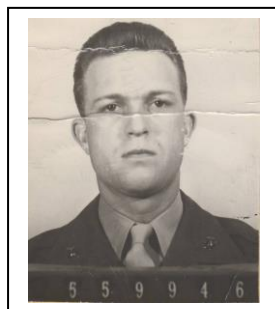
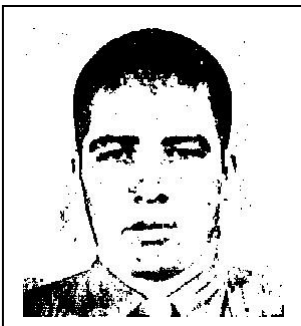
**Sergeant Jim Harvey Thompson** joined the U.S. Marine Corps **from Nevada, Missouri** and was a member of the Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He was killed in action against the enemy during the withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir on December 8, 1950. The exact details surrounding Sgt Thompson's death are unknown, and his body could not be recovered at the time of his loss; his comrades reportedly gave him an isolated burial in the vicinity of the Funchillin Pass. He was not identified among remains returned to U.S. custody after the conflict's ceasefire, and he is still unaccounted-for.

**12/26/1950 Capt Jerry Elmer Albro Miller MIA MO VMF 311 MAG 12 (Picture 3)**

**Captain Jerry Elmer Albro Miller, who joined the U.S. Marine Corps from Missouri,** served with Marine Fighter Squadron 311, Marine Air Group 12. On December 26, 1950, piloting an F9F Panther (bureau number 123533), he departed Pohang Air Base on a close air support mission against enemy targets north of Anju. While making a rocket attack pass thirty miles north of Anju, his aircraft struck the crest of a small hill. The aircraft disintegrated on impact, and no parachute was seen to emerge before the plane went down. Captain Miller was never reported to be a prisoner of war, and his remains were not identified among those returned to U.S. custody after the ceasefire.

**12/27/1952 Cpl David Glenn Duren MIA MO E Co 2/1 1MarD (Picture 4)**

**Corporal David Glenn Duren, who joined the U.S. Marine Corps from Missouri,** served with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He was lost during the patrol to Outpost Harlow, and his body could not be recovered. The area where he fell did not revert to U.S. control before it became part of the Demilitarized Zone, and he is still unaccounted for.



**New Membership Forms on last two pages**



# Marine Corps League Application for Membership



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application--- New  Renewal  Membership Type--- Regular  Associate  Dual

Have you ever been convicted of a Felony? YES  NO  If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

I hereby apply for membership in the Pvt. George Phillips #1214 Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$40.00 for one year's membership.

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety(90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor;\* or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy FMF Sailor who has earned the FMF Device or FMF Ribbon. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

### OATH OF MEMBERSHIP-REGULAR/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, In the Presence of Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will never bring discredit upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps League, so help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sponsor (Where Applicable)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant's Signature**

Please locate a Detachment using the locator on The Marine Corps League National website. Upon completion submit this form and attach a copy of your last DD-214 (Service 2 or Marine 4)\*, as well as any applicable fees as defined by the Detachment. If you desire to join as a Member At Large, please go to The Marine Corps League National website and apply using the online form.

\*Regular Member applicants only

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Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Regular Member applicants only