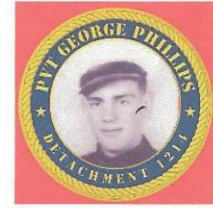


**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box #1
Ballwin, MO 63022**



FORWARDING AND ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE

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 February 20 2024



February 2024

Volume XX – Issue 2

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 3rd 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

Email

PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com

Detachment Webpage

<http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/>
bmcneil@sbcglobal.net

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 January 31

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:
Open

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



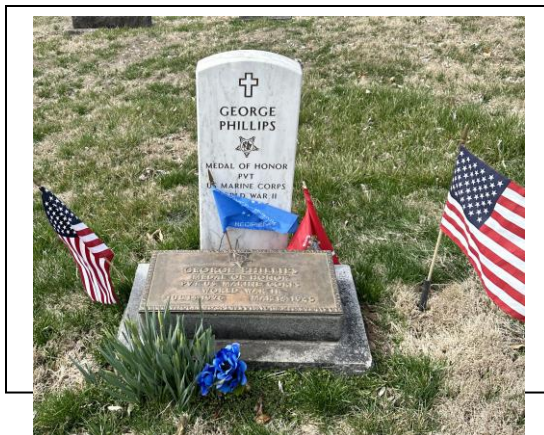
To all members and associate members of our Private George Phillips detachment, Marine Corps League. I am grateful for the honor and privilege to serve as your Commandant. Our February meeting is scheduled for the 20th at 1930 hours. I look forward to seeing all of you at that time, masks are optional.

First, I hope everyone is doing well after all of the holidays. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we won't have to cancel any more meetings.

We had a good year, and I look forward to 2024 to see what good we can accomplish. We also have our elections coming up real soon so if any of you would like to run for a position please contact me, it is rewarding to see what we can accomplish as a team.

I look forward see all of you at our next membership meeting.
As always Semper Fi Marines....

Brad McNeil, Commandant
Pvt. George Phillips Detachment # 1214
Marine Corps League Semper Fi
bmcneil@sbcglobal.net



The Private George Phillips Detachment #1214, Ballwin, Missouri was chartered in 2005 and is proud to honor a local Marine who, at age 18, gave his life so that his fellow Marines may live. For sacrificing his life on 14 March 1945, Pvt. George Phillips was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, and is buried at Bethel Cemetery in Labadie, Missouri. Since the Detachment received its charter, we have provided and continue to provide volunteer support and financial assistance to area Marines and their families as well as many veteran and Marine Corps related charitable organizations such as: Toys for Tots Campaign, FOCUS Marines Foundation, St. Louis and Franklin County Honor Flight, Missouri USO, Jefferson Barracks, Missouri State Veterans Home, Marine Corps Foundation, Fisher House, Heroes Care, St. Louis Warrior Support Foundation, and many others. In Fiscal Year 2016, our Detachment contributed over \$7,800.00 to these and other worthwhile causes. Our Detachment currently has 103 members, drawing from St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and Franklin County. General Membership meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1930 (7:30PM) at: American Legion Post #208, 225 Old Sulphur Spring Rd., Manchester, MO 63021.

Chaplain's Message

In the Christian life, sometimes things happen which scare the daylights out of you. You may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time and had bad luck, or you have done something contrary to God's will. In either case the result may be designated what 1 Peter 4:12 calls a *fiery trial*. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened to you."

So, what do you do? When I had fiery trials in my early Christian life some well-meaning people said, "There are other people in the same boat." Well, I didn't care who and how many were in the same boat, I wanted to know how to get out of it. Yet, sometimes one can't get out of that boat, but must learn how to operate it. In the movie and book, *The African Queen*, the missionary lady asked her companion, the practical man, how does one steer a boat in a fast-moving river. He said you make the boat go faster than the current. To apply that analogy to a person's Christian life, how does one make his personal boat go faster than the current of events in a fiery trial? He uses prayer and the reading of the Word to ask God for guidance and the power to move the boat faster than the situation. The Bible in Romans 10:17 says, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Faith is trusting in what God tells you *specifically to do* as written in the Word, or trusting God as he takes you by the hand, and guides through the situation via promptings from your conscience (which will not violate the written Word).

Getting through the circumstances may still be scary, but the final results will be the peace of God which passes all understanding.

Carl Ramsey, newsletter editor and chaplain



January 2024

16 – Membership Meeting – Was Cancelled

February 2024

14 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

19 – **Iwo Jima, 1945 thru March 16**

20 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

22-23 – Mid Winter Conference, Sheraton
Pennington City

23 – **Iwo Jima, 1945, Flag Raising**

March 2024

13 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

14 – **Iwo Jima, 1945, anniversary of
Pvt George Phillips falling on grenade**

19 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

23 – Department Meeting – 656 Jefferson
City

April 2024

5-6 – Mid West Division Conference
Capital Plaza, Jefferson City

415 W McCarty St 573-635-1234

10 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

16 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

May 2024

8 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

14 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

June 2024

7-8 – Department Convention hosted by 725
Sheraton Westport Chalet 191 W Poet Plaza
Dr St. Louis MO 63146 314 878n1500

Capital Plaza, Jefferson City

415 W McCarty St 573-635-1234

12 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

18 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

July 2024

9 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

14 – Pvt George Phillips Birthday

16 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

August 2024

12-16 – National Convention Rancho Mirage
CA. For further Information Contact Dennis
Simpson.

Officer Elections

Marines, it is that time of year where we decide who will lead our Detachment. We are in desperate need of Detachment members willing to step up and move our Detachment forward.

If you are interested in any of the elected or appointed positions, or would like to nominate someone for a position, please contact Ed Rau: 636-978-3522 thermalflyr@yahoo.com

We need new leaders with fresh ideas to keep our Detachment active and current. Please consider stepping up.

Elected Positions

Commandant

Leadership of the Detachment. Chief Executive Officer of the Detachment, responsible for the activities, financial standings, and the image portrayed in the community and the League. Presides over meetings, formulates and develops programs, appoints committees, and represents the Detachment.

Senior Vice-Commandant

Second in command of the Detachment and logical successor to the Commandant. Provides support to the Commandant, backs-up the Commandant in his absence, assists with the achievement of Detachment goals and operations.

Junior Vice-Commandant

Primarily responsible for the recruitment and retention of members. Assists the Commandant and Senior Vice-Commandant and presides in their absence.

Judge Advocate

Knowledgeable in National, State, and Detachment by-laws. Assures that the Detachment abides by those by-laws. Renders opinions and rulings during meetings on procedures.

Appointed Positions

Trustees

Acts as auditing committee. Conducts at least one financial audit of the Detachment yearly.

Adjutant

Corporate recording secretary for Detachment meetings and affairs. Maintains correspondence, documentation, written communications and provides other staff assistance. Keeps accurate minutes of meetings and prepares them for permanent record of the Detachment.

Paymaster

The Detachment's Chief Financial Officer. The Paymaster serves as treasurer, accounts for all funds received and expended, assists in the annual financial audits of the Detachment, and files all forms required by law. Maintains Detachment roster, submits new member transmittals, roster additions / deletions as required to the National MCL.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Responsible for setting up and maintaining order at business meetings.

Chaplain

Provides comfort and special service to members and families in time of need. Offers invocations and prayers for meetings, installations, ceremonies, and funeral services. Visits sick members or corresponds appropriately. Provides comfort and information to families of deceased members. Provides notification to Department, Division, and National on deceased members. Maintains the record of deceased Detachment members.

Quartermaster

Maintains the property of the Detachment. Ensures the Detachment has adequate supplies needed to perform its function and items necessary for the membership. Provides Marine, Marine Corps League, Veteran related, and other items for sale at Detachment meetings.

Public Relations Officer

Responsible for getting publicity about the Marine Corps League and the Detachment publicized and recognized in the public arena.

Various Committee Chairmen

- Toys for Tots
- Marine Corps Birthday Ball
- Ways and Means
- Benevolence Committee
- Memorial Day Committee
- Private George Phillips Birthday Committee
- Color Guard
- By-Laws

February Birthday Scroll

*Paul Brown Jerry Bryant
Dan Covert Dominick Delia
Chris Ketcherside Eugene Kroenung
Michael Moss Andrew Stone*

Marine Corps Humor

As we think of the snows of far-off northern lands where detachment members like **Harry Hope** marched to victory with the frozen Chosin, Saint Louis weather sometimes seems in line with the following story submitted in the February 2012 newsletter by **Lyle Mcfarlin**:

I just got an email from a friend in northern North Dakota near the Canadian border. He said that since early this morning the snow has nearly reached waist high and is still falling. The temperature is dropping way below zero and the north wind is increasing to near gale force. His wife has done nothing all day but look through the kitchen window and just stare.

He says that if it gets much worse, he may have to let her in.

Iwo Jima Remembered: Missouri Marines With updates from March 2012 newsletter.

The land battle of Iwo Jima took place on February 19 through March 26, 1945. That was seventy-nine years ago, consisting of thirty-five of the bloodiest, yet most heroic days in United States Marine Corps history.

However, before joining our detachment, I had never heard of its namesake, **Private George Phillips** and his Medal of Honor sacrifice at Iwo Jima. Also, as a Viet Nam era veteran who did well in Marine Corps History in boot camp, I just knew slightly more about the battle of Iwo Jima than the average person. (That included knowing who was there other than John Basilone). On the other hand, I could mention by name most of the famous Americans present at the siege of the Alamo which took place on some of the same days, one hundred-nine years earlier (February 23 through March 6, 1836). I decided to correct that under-sight by writing a special article for this edition of the newsletter; especially after I learned our detachment contains four Iwo Jima veterans. This includes **Bill Bragg**, who was awarded the Bronze Star for his action at Iwo. The other three are **Del Hoffarth**, who celebrated his 19th birthday, Monday, March, 8, during the battle; **Elmer Dapron**, who has been back to Iwo on two occasions; during one he returned to Saint Louis with several pounds of the sands of Iwo Jima (that he then had to fight to protect from confiscation at the airport; he ceremonially sprinkles some on Pvt Phillips' grave each year); finally, **Walter Zmaila**, who I have not been able to reach.

(Note: from the editor. I later met and visited **Walter Zmaila**, who presented me with some sands of Iwo Jima. I also was contacted by **Phil Muzik**, a Navy Corpsman, who had the distinction of being blown up on the first day of Iwo Jima. After he woke up four days later on a

hospital ship, he was rushed back into the fight. Then in 2015 I met a sixth Iwo Jima veteran at a church concert in Saint Charles named **Deward Terry**), who became a remote member of our detachment until he passed away in 2021. Actually, all six have reported to their next duty station.)

In dedication to these six and as well to the rest of us let me mention some of the Medal of Honor and Navy Cross Missouri Heroes of Iwo Jima.

The first Navy Cross was awarded months before the main battle to **Lt William Morton Miller** USNR of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, October, 12, 1944. He was commander of a Navy Patrol plane in VPB-117 in action against the Japanese in the vicinity of Iwo Jima. He and another plane, whose commander also received the Navy Cross, searched for survivors of a downed plane while aiding in the destruction of six out of eight opposing aircraft.

The Medal of Honor was awarded for actions on February 19, 1945, the first day of the land battle, to **Sergeant Darrel S. of Cole** of Park Hills, Missouri. As a leader of a machinegun section of Company B, First Battalion, Twenty-Third Marines, Fourth Marine Division, Sergeant Cole single-handedly destroyed five enemy positions with hand grenades before being killed with a hand grenade. He is buried in Parkview Cemetery, Farmington, Missouri and is the namesake of the destroyer USS Cole which was attacked by Osama bin Laden's followers in Yemen.

A Navy Cross was awarded for actions on February 19, 1945, to **Captain Dwayne E. Mears**, USMCR, born in Ava, Missouri. Commanding Officer of the Assault Company, First Battalion, Twenty-Eighth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, Captain Mears, armed with a pistol, rallied his two assault platoons, destroyed four stubborn installations, and within ninety minutes of landing cut seven hundred yards through resistance, cutting the narrow neck of the island in half, and isolated Mt Suribachi. He succumbed the next day.

A Navy Cross was awarded for actions on February 19 through March 17, 1945, to **Pvt Charles M. Sheehan** USMCR of Belleville, Illinois. Serving as a flame thrower operator in Company K, Third Battalion, Twenty-Fifth Marines, Fourth Marine Division, he silenced three enemy guns on February 22. On another occasion when his flame thrower was hit, he grabbed an automatic rifle from a wounded comrade and finished destroying a bunker.

A Navy Cross was awarded for actions on February 19, 1945, to **Pvt Delbert B. Maupin** USMCR of Hannibal, Missouri. A rifleman serving in Company I, Third Battalion, Twenty-Fifth Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in close combat he saw a grenade fall near his squad leader. He jumped in-between and received the full blast. Although seriously wounded, he then annihilated the attacking enemy with rifle fire.

A Navy Cross was awarded for actions on February 23, 1945, to **First Lieutenant Harold George Schrier** USMCR, of Corder, Missouri. Executive Officer of Company E, Second Battalion, Twenty-Eighth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, Captain Schrier led a forty-man patrol up Mt Suribachi AND RAISED THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG.

The Medal of Honor was awarded to **Pharmacist's Mate Third Class Jack Williams** for action on March 3, 1945. Attached to Third Battalion, Twenty-Eighth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, Williams went to the aid of a wounded Marine during a grenade battle. He administered first aid while being hit three times. He remained in the area to tend to another Marine; when he went to get aid for himself, he was killed by a sniper. Born In Harrison, Arkansas, he's buried in Springfield National Cemetery, Springfield, Missouri.

A Navy Cross was awarded for actions on March 13, 1945, to **PFC Donald E. Schmille** USMCR, of Kansas City, Kansas. Serving in Company C, First Battalion, Twenty-Seventh Marines, Fifth Marine Division, Schmille took out an eight-inch gun that was blasting his company's night position; he walked twenty yards ahead of his lines during a grenade barrage and scored a direct hit on the gun with his rocket launcher.

The Medal of Honor was awarded to **Pvt George Phillips** for his action on March 14, 1945. Serving in Second Battalion, Twenty-Eighth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, Phillips stood guard alone while his squad rested after a night of bitter hand grenade fighting. He was the only person alerted when a grenade was tossed into their midst. He shouted a warning, and then fell on the grenade, absorbing the full force of the blast. Born in Bates County, Missouri, he's buried in Bethel Cemetery, Labadie, Missouri. He is the namesake of the Pvt George Phillips Detachment of the Marine Corps League, for who I have the honor of writing this article for this newsletter.

A Navy Cross was awarded for actions on March 15, 1945, to **Pvt Frank L. Palmer** USMCR, born in Aurora, Missouri. Serving as a radio operator in Company D, Second Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, Palmer used grenades in more than one assault to annihilate or route enemy concealed in spider traps and pillboxes.

In conclusion, this is not all of the Missouri related Marines and is certainly not all of the stories of Iwo Jima. But it is the best I could learn about the Medal of Honor and Navy Cross stories and it does fill in some necessary spaces to me of who was at Iwo Jima.

Carl E Ramsey, newsletter editor

Pvt George Phillips Iwo Jima Veterans



Bill Bragg, 1945



**Del Hoffarth with Bill Bragg, August 20 2011
Dell Hoffarth deceased April 2, 2013
Bill Bragg deceased Oct 26, 2015**



**Bill Bragg and Elmer Dapron July 14 2012
Elmer Dapron Deceased Aug 16, 2019**



Elmer Dapron, 1945



Del Hoffarth with wife and daughter



Phil Muzik, 1945



**Phil and Gwen Muzik, 2013
Phil Muzik deceased Dec 11, 2015**



Deward Terry sworn in August 2019



Deward Terry 4th from right back row, 1945



Walter Zmaila July 13, 2013



Walter Zmaila



**Deward Terry,
Deceased May 25, 2021**

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

Marine Corps League Application for Membership



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Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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