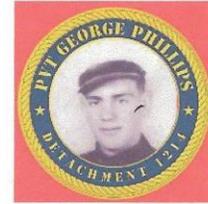




**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214  
Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box #1  
Ballwin, MO 63022**



**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**TO:**

**ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE**

---

**All annual dues expire on August 31st of each year. Please renew prior to that date. Send dues of \$40.00 to Pvt George Phillips Detachment PO Box 1, Ballwin, MO 63022.**

**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 September 16, 2025**



# September 2025

Volume XXI – Issue 9

**Commandant:**

**Joe Gentile**

314-488-9440

**Sr. Vice-Commandant**

**John Cooper**

314-712-0738

**Jr. Vice-Commandant**

**Jason Lehr**

314-800-4930

**Adjutant/Paymaster:**

**Dennis Simpson**

636-230-5976

**Judge Advocate**

**Public Information**

**Officer: Hugh Smith**

636-484-4188

**Benevolence:**

**Mike Cicchese**

636-208-4676

**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  
1900 – 7:00 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](mailto:PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com)

**Detachment Webpage**

<http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/>

[bmcneil@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 August 31**

**68**

**Trustee 3Yr:**

**Brad McNeil**

636-225-2866

**Trustee 2Yr:**

**Mike Cicchese**

636-208-4676

**Trustee 1Yr:**

**Andrew "AJ" Neely**

314-550-8065

**Jr. Past**

**Commandant**

**Brad McNeil**

636-225-2866

**Ways & Means:**

**Open**

**Quartermaster:**

**Brad McNeil**

636-225-2866

**Eagle Scout**

**Liaison:**

**Joe Gentile**

314-488-9440

**Editor/Historian:**

**Carl E. Ramsey**

314-304-7915

## Commandant's Corner

### ATTENTION ON DECK



Attention on deck. Thanks to all who attended the picnic. A good time was had by all. Join us on September 16<sup>th</sup> for the monthly membership meeting, dinner, and fellowship. A big shout out to Dennis Simpson for his outstanding work in keeping the detachment up to date. Remember that we have collections in November. A big thank you to Hugh Smith for his efforts in working with Sam's Club stores.

God bless and Semper Fi.

Joe Gentile Commandant  
Pvt George Phillips Detachment #1214  
Marine Corps League  
[jgentile5550@gmail.com](mailto:jgentile5550@gmail.com)



### September 2025

- 6 – Detachment Picnic  
Simpson Park in Valley Park 1200-2000
- 10 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 15 – 1950 – Inchon Landing
- 16 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- September 18, 1947 – Air Force Birthday
- 18 – George Vitela fundraiser– 1100 1500  
Post #208 See Brochure

### October 2025

- 8 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 10-12 – Freedom Fest (See July Brochure)
- 13 – 250<sup>th</sup> US Navy Birthday
- 14 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208

### November 2025

- 7 – STL Veterans Ball – 1815 Westport  
Chalet (See brochure)
- 8 – 250<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball  
(See brochure)
- 10 – 250<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday
- 12 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 18 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 20-23 – **Tarawa, 1943**
- 27 – **Chosin Reservoir, 1950 thru Dec 13.**

### December 2025

- 7 – Pearl Harbor, 1941
- 10 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 16 – No Membership Meeting –

**College thoughts from Carl. When I served at MCAS Yuma, I remember when an 18-year-old Marine went into town, got drunk, returned to the barracks where he got sick and threw up all over the floor. Someone had to put him to bed and clean up the mess. I then got out of the Marines and went college in Nebraska where an 18-year-old student went into town, got drunk, and returned to the dormitory where he also got sick and threw up all over the floor. Once again someone had to put him to bed and clean up the mess. I always wondered if those 2 guys were related.**

## **Marine Corps Heroes in our midst**

**As we approach the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marine Corps and talk of Marine Corps Legends, we have one serving in our own detachment. This is none other than Harry Hope, veteran of Chosin Reservoir, and president emeritus of Greater Saint Louis Honor Flight, which he has led since 2011 (About the same time I became newsletter editor.) He has become so renowned, in a picture dated 2/23/22 he was invited to meet with Woody Hershel Woody Williams, the last living Medal of Honor recipient from WW2. The Marines listed in the following picture are as follows: LtCol Bellman, SgtMaj Flynn, Harry Hope, Hershel Woody Williams.**



**More recently, despite his illness mentioned in last month's newsletter, on Sunday August 24, 2025, he was invited to Saint Albans, Missouri, to have supper with the current Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, General Eric M. Smith. When Harry told me this as I drove him to the American Legion Meeting on Monday, August 25, I said, "Harry, if this keeps up you're going to become so famous I'm going to have to buy a ticket to sit next to you at veterans' meetings."**



**39<sup>th</sup> Commandant  
of the Marine Corps,  
General Eric M. Smith.**

**On a separate note, on Tuesday, August 25, I went to Jefferson Barracks Hospital to visit brother Marine George Vitela. He's not a member of our detachment, but he's the very Godly chaplain of the American Legion Post 208 where we meet. He's had both legs amputated due to an infection. There will be a fund raiser for him on Saturday. September 20, 1100-1500 at American Legion Post 208. See brochure.**



**George Vitela and Carl Ramsey**

**And Just when I thought there was nothing more to say about getting together with well-known Marines, on Friday, September 5, at the POW MIA Remembrance event at Hillsboro High School, I was reunited with fellow Marine Sergeant Rocky Sickmann. He was our guest speaker in July, 2022.**



***September Birthday  
Scroll***

***Carl Brown  
Michael Erxleben  
Joe Gentile  
Tyler Gerling  
Rodney Greenman  
Rick Meyer  
Charles Scott III  
Hugh Smith***

***September 6 Picnic  
at Simpson Park***



**Mike and Harlene Cicchese**



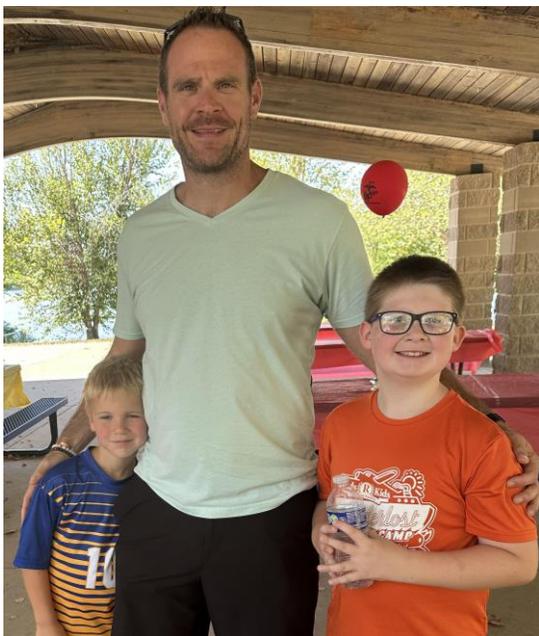
**Rick Meyer and Connie**



**Brad McNeil Jr, Sandy McNeil, and  
Brad McNeil**



**John and Denise Cooper**



**Oliver Lehr, Jason Lehr,  
Jackson Curtis**



**Jerry Gerling**



**Joe Gentile and Carl Ramsey**



**Bryan Meyer who is  
related to Joe Gentile**

# **BENEFIT BBQ FOR U.S. MARINE VETERAN GEORGE VITELA**



**American Legion Post 208 hosts a fundraiser to benefit one of our community's U.S. Marine Veterans, George Vitela. George proudly served our country and has been serving the West St. Louis County community for decades.**

**Now, the community has a chance to thank him and provide financial assistance. George recently had both legs amputated and his home has to be renovated to accommodate his needs.**

## **ABOUT GEORGE VITELA**

George was born and raised in St. Louis, attending the Rockwood School District (Woerther Elementary, Selvidge Middle, Lafayette High School). Immediately after graduating, George joined the United States Marine Corps on June 3, 1977.

After Boot Camp at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California, his military career took him to various locations, including:

- Twenty-Nine Palms, California (Motor Transport Training)
- Camp Pendleton (Motor Transport Dispatch Operator)
- Okinawa, Japan (Motor Dispatch Operation Chief)
- Camp Pendleton (Operation Maintenance Chief, Road Master)

George was responsible for transporting cargo and military personnel across the southern United States. He received numerous citations and awards before being released from active duty on May 29, 1990.

George and his wife Laura currently live in Ballwin. He stays busy with his five grandchildren - three grandsons and two granddaughters - who play hockey, bowl and dance.

George volunteers with numerous community organizations, including:

- West Saint Louis County Lions Club
- President of the Men's Club at the Salem United Methodist Church in Ballwin
- Nearly 30 years on the Ballwin Days Homecoming Committee
- Walter LePere American Legion Post 208, serving on the Bingo Committee and as the Post's Chaplain

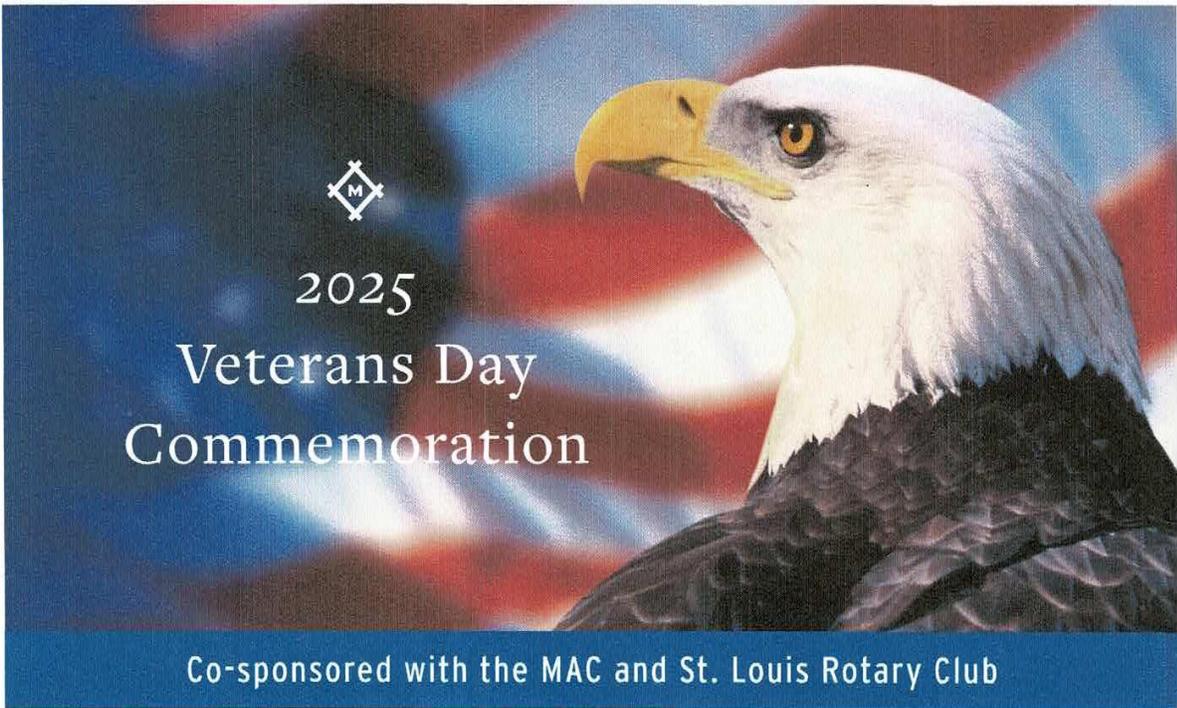
Our friend has honorably served our country and our community for many years. Now it is our grateful community's turn to assist George Vitela.

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 20**

**11 AM - 3 PM**

**WALTER LEPERE AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 208**

**225 OLD SULPHUR SPRING RD  
MANCHESTER, MO 63021**



**THURSDAY, NOV. 6 | DOWNTOWN CLUBHOUSE**

11:15 a.m. Reception and Military Exhibits | 12 p.m. Lunch and Program

*\$35 per person*

*Business attire is required.*

Join the Missouri Athletic Club and the St. Louis Rotary Club for the annual Veterans Day Commemoration. The event will honor all those who have served our country, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The MAC will honor the Veteran of the Year, a retired or former member of the U.S. military from the St. Louis area who demonstrates support of veterans and the U.S. in everyday life and who serves as a role model for other citizens.



**MAC members: Scan the QR code or call 314-539-4470.  
Registration closes on Nov. 2 at 5 p.m.**

**Non-MAC members:  
Register online at [2025veteranscommemoration.eventbrite.com](https://2025veteranscommemoration.eventbrite.com)**

Members must cancel their reservations 72 hours prior to the event to avoid a one-third charge. Members who no-show will be charged in full. All event billing is applied to member account. Members must cancel on MAC app or contact the Catering Department.



**2025  
STL VETERANS BALL**



**HONORING 50 YEARS OF VALOR  
A TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 07 | 6:15 PM**

**LOCATION : WESTPORT CHALET,  
ST. LOUIS**

**TICKETS \$35 EACH.  
SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE**

**CAMARADERIE | CUSTOMS | COURTESIES | TRADITION**

**[HTTPS://STLVETERANSBALL.ORG/](https://stlveteransball.org/)**



**PHONE: 314-717-1745**



1775



2025

# United States Marine Corps 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball Celebration

Saturday, 8 November 2025 • 1800 to 2300 Hrs  
Marine Corps League South St. Louis Detachment 183

## Orlando's Event Center

4300 Hoffmeister • St. Louis, MO

Dinner • Open Bar • Dancing

MCL 183 Members and Ladies Auxiliary 454 (plus 1) \$65 each

Non-Members \$75.00

Reservations Required

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

Names of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MCL South St. Louis Detachment 183

7922 Croydon St. Louis, MO 63123

attn.: Ed Dodson

Reservations 314-604-6254

# 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



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 \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ 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