



**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 October 21, 2025



October 2025
Volume XXI – Issue 10

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 3rd 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

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 September 30

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

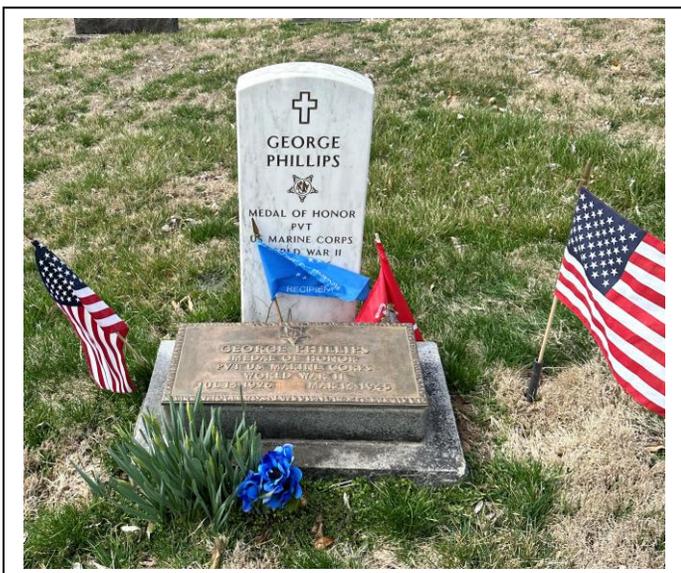
ATTENTION ON DECK



Attention Marines, your help is needed at collections on November 13th, 14th, and 15th. Three shifts are available: 9 am-12 pm, 12 pm-3 pm, and 3pm-6 pm. [Don't forget November 10, 2025 as the Marine Corps becomes 250 years old.] At the meeting on November 18, we will celebrate with dinner and a guest speaker. I want to give a big Oohrah to Dennis Simpson and Carl Ramsey for all they do.

God bless and Semper Fi.

Joe Gentile Commandant
Pvt George Phillips Detachment #1214
Marine Corps League
jgentile5550@gmail.com



October 2025

- 8 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 10-12 – Freedom Fest (See July Brochure)
- 13 – 250th US Navy Birthday
- 21 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 31-11/1 – **Cpl William R. Button & Sgt Herman H. Hanneken of St. Louis MO end Caco Bandit War in Hait, 1919.**

November 2025

- 7 – STL Veterans Ball – 1815 Westport Chalet (See brochure)
- 8 – 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball (See brochure)
- 10 – 250th Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 – Veterans Day
- 12 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 18 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 20-23 – **Tarawa, 1943**
- 27 – **Chosin Reservoir, 1950 thru Dec13, 75th Anniversary.**

December 2025

- 7 – **Pearl Harbor, 1941**
- 8-23 – **Wake Island, 1941**
- 10 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 16 – No Membership Meeting

January 2026

- 8 – **Battle of New Orleans, 1815**
- 14 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 20 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208
- 21 – **Khe Sanh, 1968 thru July 9**

February 2026

- 11 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 17 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208
- 19 – **Iwo Jima, 1945 thru March 16**
- 23 – **Iwo Jima, 1945, Flag Raising**

March 2026

- 11 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 14 – **Iwo Jima, 1945, anniversary of Pvt George Phillips falling on grenade**
- 17 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

**Members Matter: Joe Gentile
as reported to Carl Ramsey**

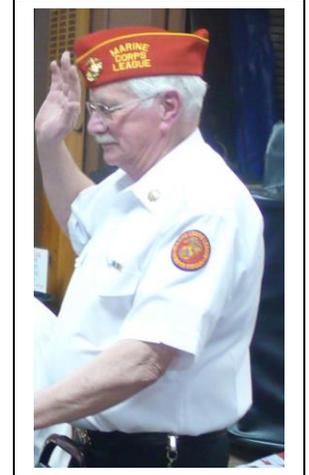
Joe Gentile was born September 14, 1950 in Saint Louis City Hospital. Growing up he attended 16 different schools. This included one year in Hillsboro, two years at Cleveland Highschool, and two years at Roosevelt Highschool from which he graduated in 1968. Incidentally while growing up, he became an Eagle Scout.

He entered the Marines June 10, 1968 and went to OCS (Officer's Candidate School) in September. He qualified for OCS because of St. Louis Community College classes he completed while still in high school. After OCS he went to Vietnam, January 7, 1969, where he served as communications officer for 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines where he was also a platoon commander. He was responsible for installing and maintaining field communications for company and regiment headquarters. This lasted until August 4, 1969, when he left Quang Tri in a small convoy heading toward Hue to deliver communication equipment. He was in a communications jeep when he received a shrapnel wound which he said entered his side and came out somewhere on his upper chest, causing him to be medevacked to Okinawa. After his recovery he spent the next two and a half years at Quantico.

After the Marines, he married his wife in 1977. He worked for Judevine Center [for Autism] while finishing college. He began teaching in 1983, first at St Louis Academy, then the Special School district, and finally at Northwest R1. He retired from teaching in 2015.

Joe Gentile first visited the Pvt George Phillips detachment as a guest in December 2015, then joined in February, 2016, where

he was sworn in in by Commandant Jerry Gerling (Pictures 1-2). He received the Semper Fi Award in March, 2017 (Picture 3) and Marine of the Year in July, 2023 (Picture 4). Note this award is always for service to the detachment and community for the previous year or years. He was elected detachment commandant at the March 2025 Meeting.



**Joe Gentile receives Semper Fi Award
from Commandant Jerry Gerling**



**Commandant Brad McNeil
presents Joe Gentile with
Marine of the Year Award**

Chaplain's Message

Once again, my name appears on the birthday roster, but this year as I turn 76 the Marine Corps turns 250. I have the opportunity of displaying the Spirit of 76 as the nation also prepares for its 250th birthday. How do I do that? I begin by thanking Jesus for giving me years many people in earlier generations didn't receive. I compared myself with the presidents on Mount Rushmore and notice George Washington (67) and Theodore Roosevelt (60) died younger than me. Thomas Jefferson (83) and John Adams (90) so far have outlived me. However, my WW 2 Father only got 67 years (same as George Washington) and my WW2 mother got 72. With that to think about no one knows how many years he as an individual will get so he must thank the Lord for them and use them wisely in his service.

Carl Ramsey

Detachment Members who attended Marine George Vitela's fundraiser.



Carl Ramsey with George Vitela

George Vitela's fundraiser Continued.



Brad McNeil, Brad McNeil Jr, Sandy McNeil

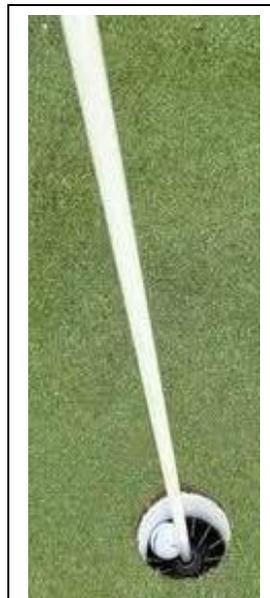


Gary Keesling and his guest at the fundraiser

Other Marine Corps Veterans News



On September 29, Mike Leblanc Navy Corpsman and director of the St Louis Veterans Business Group celebrates the upcoming Navy birthday on October 13 by hitting a Hole in One.



Day after Mike's Hole in One, Harry Hope attends the monthly St Louis business brunch to entertain Mike Leblanc and everyone else lucky enough to be present with the most complete eye witness account possible of the part tootsie rolls played in assisting the Marines at Chosin Reservoir, especially with 75th anniversary coming up. Left to right Amanda Schmidt of Assistance Home Care, Harry Hope, and Carl Ramsey.

October Birthday Scroll

*John C. Cooper
George Dragan
Gregg Follmer
Buck Freeman
Erik Nielsen
Carl Ramsey*

One of the Saddest POW MIA Stories of WW II. Arisan Maru (POW Ship)

(Source Wikipedia)

On October 24, 1944, *Arisan Maru* (**Picture 1**), by then traveling alone, was steaming in the Bashi Channel between the Philippines and Taiwan with 1,781 POWs, mostly Americans. Being an unmarked ship because Japan as well as the Allies had rejected in 1942 the proposal of the International Red Cross to mark ships with POW's - it was hit by a torpedo from USS Shark (**Picture 2**), at about 5 p.m. in the No.3 hold. The ship buckled amidships, the engines stopped and the aft mast fell, but the freighter stayed afloat. She finally sank around 7:40 p.m. at 20°46'N 118°18'E. In response to the torpedo, the destroyers Take and Harukaze sank the USS Shark. After dealing with the American submarine, the two destroyers returned to *Arisan Maru* to look for survivors. No POWs were killed by the torpedo strikes and nearly all were able to leave the ship's holds but the Japanese did not rescue any of the POWs that day, only Japanese. Only nine of the prisoners aboard survived the event. Five escaped and made their way to China in one of the ship's two lifeboats. They were reunited with U.S. Forces and returned to the United States. The four others were later recaptured by Imperial Japanese naval vessels, where one died shortly after reaching land. The *Arisan Maru* tragedy resulted in one of the greatest losses of American life in maritime history Below are some of the Marine and Navy POW MIAs on the Arisan Maru.

10/24/1944 Private First-Class Robert Lee Hale

10/24/1944 Private First Class Roy Franklin Barnes Jr

10/24/1944 Private First Class Russell Pershing Barker

10/24/1944 Machinist's Mate Third Class Edgar Henry Goslin

10/24/1944 Carpenter's Mate Third Class Benjamin Franklin Coon

10/24/1944 Ship's Cook Third Class Charles Aclé Bishop

10/24/1944 Seaman First Class Harry Edward Adams

10/24/1944 Hospital Apprentice First Class Robert William Baer

10/24/1944 Signalman Third Class Burl Dwain Fager

10/24/1944 Pharmacist's Mate Third Class Luther H Godwin

10/24/1944 Pharmacist's Mate Third Class George Marvin Arnold

10/24/1944 Pharmacist's Mate Second Class Maxwell Albert Mariette

10/24/1944 Pharmacist's Mate Second Class Edward Douglas Harrington

10/24/1944 Coxswain Richard Eugene Bell

10/24/1944 Gunner John William Bennett

MIA Turner, KS

MIA Chicago, IL

MIA Bridgeport, TX

MIA Horton, KS

MIA Des Moines, IA

MIA St Mary's, KS

MIA Dayton, OH

MIA Delphi, IN

MIA Hugoton, KS

MIA WV

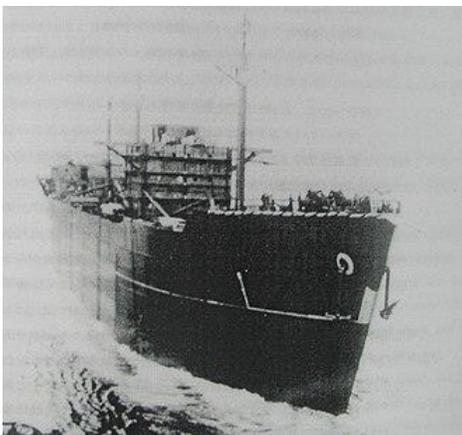
MIA Corpus Christi, TX

MIA WY

MIA Franklin, NE

MIA Hannibal, MO

MIA Mulberry, IN



Arisan Maru



USS Shark




2025
Veterans Day
Commemoration

Co-sponsored with the MAC and St. Louis Rotary Club

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**

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 250th 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

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

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