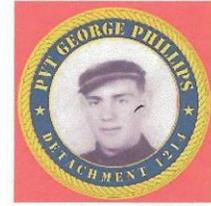




**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box #1
Ballwin, MO 63022**



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 January 20, 2026



January 2026
Volume XXII – Issue 1

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 December 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. Marines, we have an exciting new year to look forward to. On January 20 we will host a book signing event featuring Todd Nicely. On February 18 we hold elections for officers to lead the detachment. Please consider a position.

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



December 2025

- 1 – Pvt George Phillips Detachment chartered December 1, 2005. 20 Year Anniversary**

January 2026

- 8 – Battle of New Orleans, 1815**
- 14 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208**
- 20 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208**
Todd Nicely book signing see brochure
- 21 – Khe Sanh, Jan 21, 1968 thru July 9**

February 2026

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

April 2026

- 11 – Focus Marines Mess Night**
See brochure in Newsletter.

There was one Bible believing Marine who made it a point every January 1, to get up early and pray for every possible thing he could think of. The rest of the year he went get up in the morning and after he read the Bible. he would pray by yelling, DITTO!

Newsletter editor History

Pvt George Phillips Detachment 1214 of the Marine Corps League became 20 years old in December, 2025. Sadly and ironically, Jim Brooks, one of the key founders of the detachment, passed away January 1, 2016, when the detachment had just turned ten, but its birthday went unnoticed. Jim's passing over-shadowed almost everything going on in the detachment at that time because he filled so many several major roles in the Saint Louis Veterans Community. On the following page I will include his eulogy which appeared in the January, 2016 newsletter. The pass and review at Jim Brooks' funeral was the only time I ever saw so many veterans attend to pay tribute that they stood in two parallel lines to approach the casket. I first met Jim Brooks, who recruited me for the detachment, at my church in 2008 when my good friend Jim Tayon was organizing support for Franklin County Honor Flight and what would eventually become Greater Saint Louis Honor Flight.

Fast-forward ten more years and the detachment was approaching its 20th birthday, except many members didn't know exactly when that was. I as newsletter editor decided to find out—and I also noticed a mistake in the detachment newsletter volume numbers, which I initially tried to use to determine the detachment's age.

I finally determined the detachment's age and birthdate by locating a copy of the charter which contains a multi-page list of signatures of the original detachment members.

Then, with my curiosity thoroughly aroused, I went through the old newsletters to track down the source of the volume number

error. I had no paper copy newsletters for 2006, the first complete year of the detachment's existence. 2007, the second full year of the detachment had a complete set of newsletters, but with no volume or issue numbers. For January through May of 2007, the editor was Gene Richter. I found no issues for June and July. Jim Brooks became editor in August, 2007.

The newsletter sequencing of volume and issue numbers began in 2008, the third full year of the detachment with volume 4 and issues 1-12. So, the volume numbers began one number higher than one might think since 2006 was the first full year of the detachment. Jim Brooks served as editor through January, 2009, Volume 5, Issue 1. For the February, 2009 Volume 5 Issue 2, Larry Schwartz replaced Jim under the title publisher which lasted through April 2009. He was probably the person who established our printing relationship with Ralston Purina, in downtown Saint Louis. Jim Brooks returned as editor for May through June 2009. There was No July newsletter. Dennis Simpson then served as editor from August 2009 Volume 5 Issue 8 through January 2010 Volume 6 Issue 1. Don Aird was editor for the February 2010 newsletter and somehow changed the Volume number from 6 down to 5. He would serve through May 2011 Volume 6 Issue 5. I was recruited as editor for June, 2011 Volume 6, Issue 6 and has served to the present. Under my watch the next mistake came in in 2013. The October 2013 newsletter was volume 8 under Don Aird's sequence system. But I mistakenly made November 2013 Volume 9, which returned the newsletter volume sequence number system back to what it would have been if the original e system begun in 2007 had continued, namely one higher than it should have been. So, that's the story behind the newsletter volume sequence numbers being off by one.

Carl Ramsey, newsletter editor since June, 2011.

Jim Brooks Eulogy.

On 1 January 2016 Private George Phillips Detachment lost its Commandant. At age 69 Jim Brooks, completing his third tour as Commandant, went to his final duty station.

Jim was a Vietnam Veteran; a Marine who served from 1966 to 1970. While he spent thirty years working for Southwestern Bell, he spent most of his adult life serving the Marines, Veterans organizations and families of Veterans in need.

A founding member of Private George Phillips MCL detachment, he was also a member of VFW Post #6274, American Legion Post # 208, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the 1st Marine Division Association. He served as an officer at the State level of the Department of Missouri Marine Corps League and was an officer of the Devil Dogs Pound 66.

Jim worked tirelessly on the color guard for dozens of military funerals, often four to five a day. He was a driving force on the Greater St. Louis Toys for Tots program serving for many years dropping off boxes and picking up toys and working tirelessly at the warehouse where toys were sorted and prepared for delivery to less fortunate children.

Jim was the heart and soul of our Detachment, a mentor to many; a leader inspiring others to support the Marine Corps, our servicemen and women, and Veterans and their families. He cannot be replaced but his memory will surely inspire others to step up and continue his work. The word hero is often used lightly in describing those whose deeds are noteworthy. But Jim is a real hero to those who were fortunate enough to know him. And to those many whose lives he improved by his deeds.

Semper Fi, dear Brother. Rest in Peace.

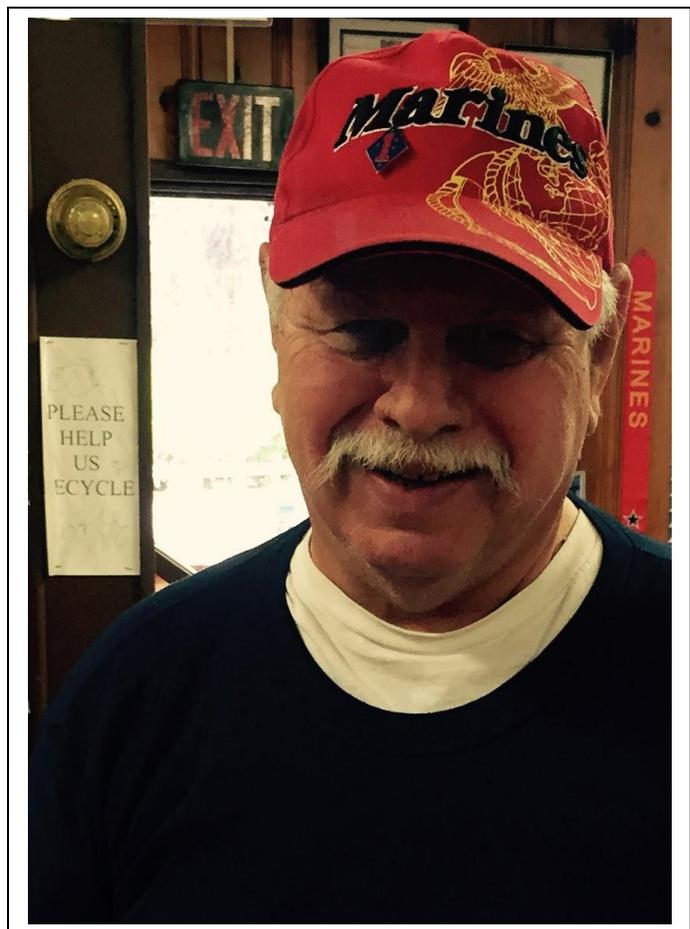
Anonymous

Jim Brooks Obituary

Brooks, James R., baptized into the hope of Christ's resurrection, **Friday, January 1, 2016** at the age of 69. Beloved husband of 43 years to Jamie Brooks (nee Schelstrate). Dear father of Joelle (William) Shockley, Jerald (Nicole) Brooks and the late Joshua Brooks. Grandfather of Maria, Elizabeth, Joshua, Michael, Eva, Annie and Scarlett. Loving son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend to many.

Jim was a 1965 graduate of Vianney High School and served his country as a U.S. Marine from 1966 until 1970. He worked for Southwestern Bell from 1970 until his retirement in 2000. In retirement he was a involved in numerous fraternal organizations to include a founding member of the Private George Phillips Detachment #1214, Marine Corps League, member of VFW Post #6274, American Legion Post #208, Vietnam Veterans of America, 1st Marine Division Association and State level member of the Department of Missouri Marine Corps League.

Source: Schrader Funeral Home.



Meet the guest speaker

On Tuesday January 6, I met our guest speaker at the St Louis Veterans in Media & Entertainment Meetup & Mixer, hosted by Air Force Veteran and TV personality B. J. Lange. I was promoting my latest family values adventure story which went live in the online bookstores December 23 and I was a guest of Mike Leblanc and B J Lange. But I also got to talk to fellow guest Todd Nicely.



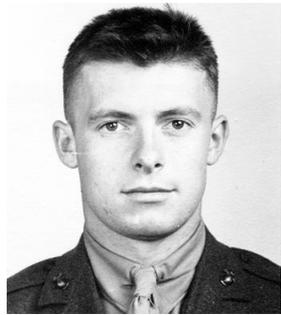
Todd Nicely and Carl E Ramsey

January Birthday Scroll

*David Campbell
Ray Cromer
David Edgar
Gary Keesling
Bradley McNeil
Philipp Petersen
Walter Suhre
Alfred Wallach*



**John Calvin
Atchison**



**Francis James
Pedrotti**



**Robert James
Windish**



**Everett Ray
Belt Jr**

With the anniversary of Pearl Harbor only a month ago, how many people know that all of the MIA Marines from Missouri were from Saint Louis and serve on the USS Arizona.

12/7/1941 Private John Calvin Atchison

MIA [St Louis, MO](#) [Pic 1 Up](#)

Additional Details John Calvin Atchison was born in Sparta, Randolph County, Illinois. He was the son of Xenophon Earl Atchison and Ethel Sarena Ragsdale. He was attending McKinley High School in St Louis, Missouri when he enlisted with the US Marines in 1940. He was born on 23 February 1922. According to our records Missouri was his home or enlistment state and St Louis county has been included within the archival record. We have St Louis listed as his city. Father, Mr. Earl Atchison, 2009 Oregon Ave., St. Louis, Mo

12/7/1941 Private Francis James Pedrotti

MIA [St Louis, MO](#) [Pic 2 Up](#)

Additional Details Francis James "Bud" Pedrotti was born in Catawissa, Franklin County, Missouri. He was the son of Dennis Joseph Pedrotti and Mary Jane Timlin. He was a cousin of the Barrett Boys who lost their lives during the war, all of them great grandsons of Irish famine immigrants Patrick and Mary Barrett. Six members of the Barrett family, siblings and cousins, were reported killed or missing. Barret Park in St Louis was dedicated to their memory in 1947. He was a member of the US Marine Whaleboat racing crew, serving aboard the USS Arizona. Of just over a dozen men on their team, only two would survive the attack at Pearl Harbor. Father, Mr. Dennis Pedrotti, 8024 Nola Ave., St. Louis County, Mo

12/7/1941 Private Robert James Windish

MIA [St Louis, MO](#) [Pic 3 Up](#)

Additional Details Robert James Windish was born and raised in the area of St Louis, Missouri. He was the son of Hungarian immigrants John Windish and Anna Buechler. He graduated in 1938 from Central High School where he was a star athlete in track. He competed in the 75-yard low hurdles, the high and broad jumps, the shot put and on the relay team. He worked as a clerk at an electric company before enlisting in the US Marines on 7 January 1941. Father, Mr. John A. Windish, 4265 Blair Ave., St. Louis, Mo

12/7/1941 Private First Class Everett Ray Belt Jr

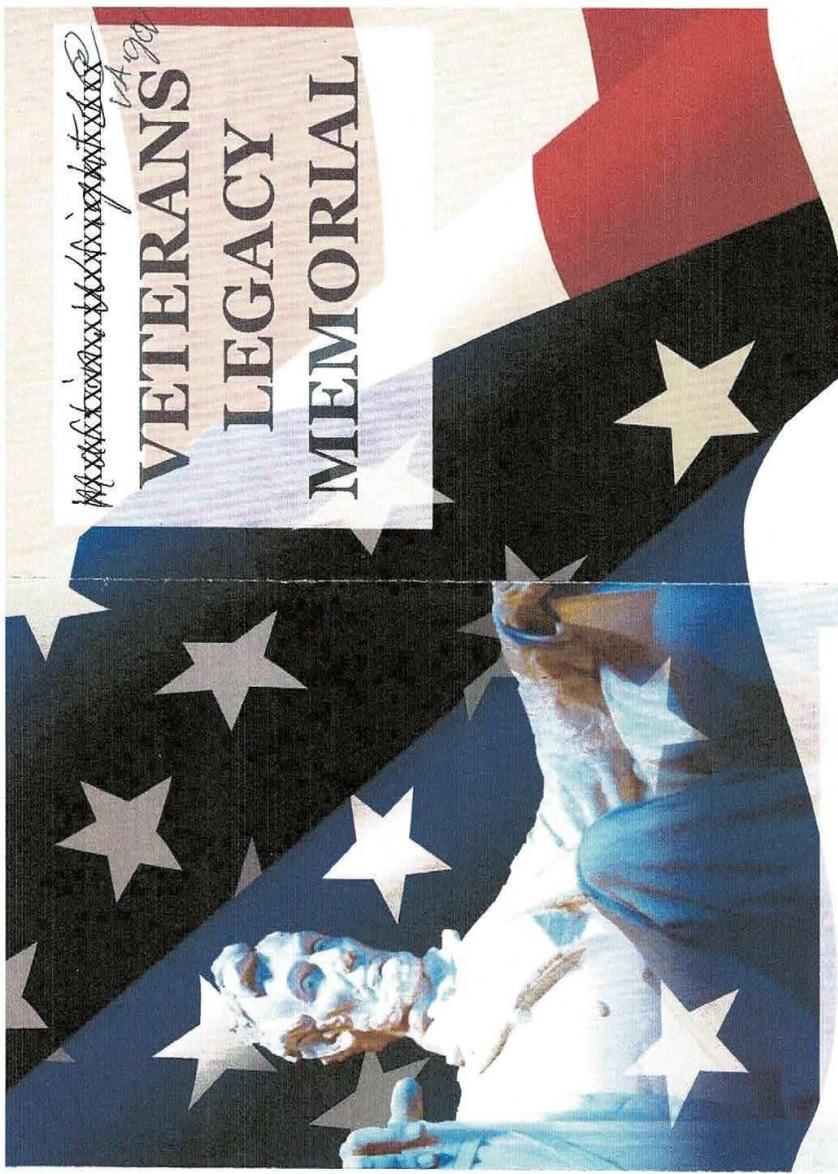
MIA [St Louis, MO](#) [Pic 4 Up](#)

Additional Details Everett Ray Belt, Jr was born in Cimarron, Gray County, Kansas. He was the son of Everett Belt Sr and Margaret Mae Pucket. He enlisted in the US Navy in August, 1940. He was born on 17 May 1917. According to our records Missouri was his home or enlistment state and St Louis County has been included within the archival record. We have St Louis listed as his city. Mother, Mrs. Margaret M. Belt, 842 Big Bend Rd., Kirkwood, Mo

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- Submit Photos
- Add Historical Information
- Link to Facebook 
- Share to X (Twitter) 

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www.cem.va.gov
or call
National Cemetery Scheduling Office
800-535-1117



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery
Administration



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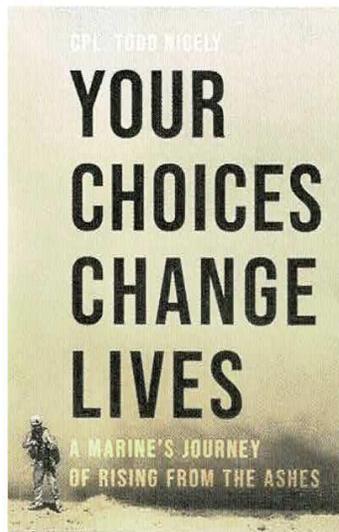
#P97090

BOOK SIGNING EVENT

Hosted by Marine Corps League Detachment #1214

Join us as we host Cpl. Todd Nicely, USMC (retired) at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at American Legion Post #208, 225 Old Sulphur Spring Rd., Manchester, MO 63021

On March 26, 2010, Cpl. Todd Nicely's life changed forever while on patrol in Afghanistan. Hear Cpl. Nicely tell his incredible story about overcoming the challenges of being one of only two other modern-day veterans that have endured battlefield injuries resulting in the loss of all four limbs (both legs and both arms) and survived.



In *Your Choices Change Lives*, Todd shares his story of grit, perseverance, leadership, sacrifice, and service, providing a lifeline to vets who may be struggling and reminding readers—military and beyond—the power our actions hold.

Books will be available for purchase and signing by Cpl. Nicely.

Date: **January 20, 2026**

Time: **7:00 PM**

Location: **American Legion Post #208
225 Old Sulphur Spring Road
Manchester, MO 63021**

www.PvtGeoPhillips.org
PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com



FOCUS MARINES FOUNDATION

HONOR * COURAGE * COMMITMENT

MESS NIGHT GALA

April 11, 2026 Sunset Country Club

Since 2010, nearly 1,200 Veterans have participated in our 7-Day program designed to support their transition to successful civilian lives after military service. FOCUS equips veterans with the tools and strategies they need to build the life they deserve, all at no cost to them. The Mess Night Gala serves as our annual fundraiser to support these sessions.

Guest Speaker: John O'Leary

Author, Motivational Speaker, Podcaster,
Soul on Fire Movie Inspirator

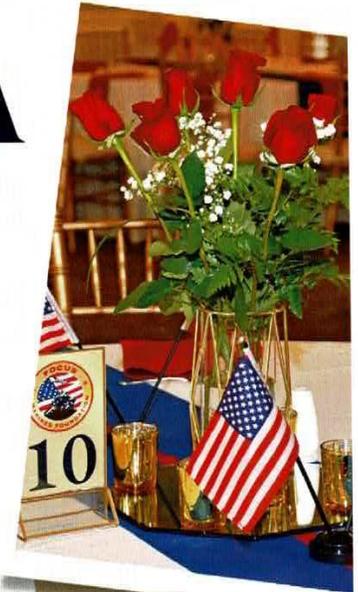
We are looking for sponsors

Sponsorship includes advertising & acknowledgment with the \$5K and \$10K levels receiving a table.

- NTL Defense \$250
- Silver Star \$2,500
- Purple Heart \$500
- Stars & Stripes \$5,000
- Bronze Star \$1,000
- Combat Valor \$10,000

www.focusmarines.org
501 c 3 ID#27-2081900

Holly 314-712-5192
onecau.se/focusmessnight



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: _____

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