

**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. 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 February 17, 2026**



**February 2026**  
Volume XXII – Issue 2

**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 January 31**

**66**

**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**



Marines, thanks to all who came to Corporal Nicely's book signing. Thanks to Dennis Simpson for arranging it, and for Brad McNeil for a great job on the program. Join us in February for officer elections. Consider running for positions. A shout out to Jason Lehr for taking on the role of the youth fitness program. Semper Fi and God bless.

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



**November - December 2025**

**27 Nov-13 Dec, 1950**

**Battle of Chosin Reservoir 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**January 2026**

**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.**



**Harry Hope with Honor Flight Colleague**  
**at William Ken Luttrell's visitation,**  
**January 13. Luttrell was last living Iwo**  
**Jima veteran in the Saint Louis area.**

Ch



This past month a WW II Iwo Jima Marine, William Ken Luttrell who was a member of the South St. Louis Detachment, and two members of the Pvt George Phillips detachment, Gary Harris and Carl Martin, all passed away. One thing significant to me as a seventy-six-year-old Vietnam veteran, sometime in the next twenty-plus years or less, my turn to die is going to come. I remember the joke I heard growing up, there are two things in life no one avoids: death and taxes. Although death does cancel out taxes for the departing soul; but not necessarily for his survivors.

Let's move on from taxes and focus on what the Bible says about death. First, it's not the end for a human, because his soul doesn't die. His physical body will decompose until it returns to dust. But his soul will live on and either go into the presence of Jesus, or to a place where Jesus isn't present. The place apart from Jesus is a place of suffering called Hell or Hades. It is a place to be avoided at all costs.

Let's switch back to the positive and discuss what we must do to enter the presence of Jesus when we die. This is done by accepting his never ending offer of salvation and eternal life. In Revelation 3:20 Jesus says, "Behold I stand at your heart's door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with him." So, the thing to do if you have never

accepted Jesus as your personal savior is to pray this simple prayer: "Jesus, I confess that I was born a sinner, and need your salvation. So, I ask you to come into my heart and become Lord of my Life." That's all there is to it to begin your eternal life during this life. Otherwise, after you die as a Marine, you won't find yourself guarding the streets of Heaven. Rather you will find yourself in a location separated from God called Hell where something evil may be guarding you.

Note: William Ken Luttrell's obituary [Obituary information for William "Ken" Luttrell](#) Our Detachment Obituaries will begin next page.

Carl E Ramsey,  
Detachment Chaplain

### *February Birthday Scroll*

*Paul Brown*

*Jerry Bryant*

*Dan Covert*

*Dominick Delia*

*Chris Ketcherside*

*Eugene Kroenung*

*Andrew Stone*

**Gary W. Harris**, family man, craftsman, a storyteller and Marine Veteran, passed away on January 1st, 2026, leaving behind a legacy shaped by creativity, patience, and an enduring devotion to his family and his work.

Gary was a master of art glass, carrying forward a family tradition that stretched back generations. For decades, he created works that now live on in homes, churches, and businesses throughout St. Louis and beyond.

Gary's generosity extended far beyond his craft. He was a teacher by nature — patient, thoughtful, and always willing to share his knowledge. He took pride not only in what he made, but in what he passed on.

He proudly served as a United States Marine, completing two tours during the Vietnam War, attaining the rank of Corporal (E-4) before his honorable discharge in 1968.

Gary is survived by wife of 57 years, Carolyn Wilks Harris, daughters Carrie Harris & Katie Harris Belakhoua and grandchildren Lily, Dalia & Ryan, as well as countless friends & family touched by his work and his quiet kindness.

A Celebration of Life for Gary will be held at Odditeas Cafe on March 1st. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Wounded Warriors Project.

To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers to the family in memory of Gary W. Harris, please visit our [flower store](#).

[Gary W. Harris Obituary January 1, 2026 - Cremation Society of Missouri](#)



**Gary Harris Obituary Picture**



**May 20, 2017**



**Gary Harris with  
Rod Greenman,  
May 25, 2013**



**Bill Bragg, Rod Greenman, Gary Harris Feb 28, 2015**

## **Carl Martin** Obituary

**Martin, Sr. Carl E., 88, went to be with his Heavenly Father with his wife by his bedside, Wednesday, January 21, 2026.**

**Beloved husband of Rita A. Martin for 44 years; devoted father of Susan Martin (deceased), Tracy Martin, and Carl E. Martin, Jr.; cherished grandfather of Todd, Nathan, Tanya (deceased), and Dominique; dear brother of Rosemary Leach, dear brother-in-law, uncle, cousin, and friend to many.**

**Carl was a retired Police Captain with the City of Woodson Terrace and a former member of the Greater St. Louis Area Major Case Squad. He served his country as a United States Marine. He was a member of the Private George Phillips Marine Corps Detachment. Carl was a member of Fee Fee Baptist Church. He enjoyed traveling, especially his annual monthly trips in Longboat Key, Florida. Carl was an avid John Wayne fan. He was loved and will be greatly missed, especially by his wife and best friend, Rita.**

**Services: Memorial gathering to be announced at a later date. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to [The Backstoppers, Inc.](#) or [St. Louis Area Foodbank](#).**

**As a service of the SCHRADER Funeral Home and Crematory, friends may sign the family's on-line guestbook at [Schrader.com](#).**

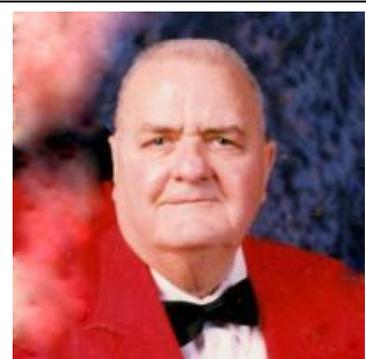
**[Obituary | Carl E. Martin, Sr. of Chesterfield, Missouri | Schrader Funeral Home, Inc.](#)**



**Carl Martin  
January 17, 2017**



**Carl Martin with Harry Hope  
August 20, 2013**



**Carl Martin  
Obituary picture**

## **Elections for Detachment Officers will be held at our February 18, 2025 meeting.**

Any and all members are greatly encouraged to volunteer to hold an elected or appointed office and/or serve on special committees. New ideas and fresh perspectives are desperately needed to keep your Detachment strong, viable, and relevant. A description of elected and appointed positions along with special committee options is attached.

Anyone wishing to self-nominate or nominate someone else who has agreed to serve can respond directly to this email or contact Senior Vice-Commandant John Cooper at (314) 712-0738. Nominations must be received by February 11, 2025.

Below is the current slate of candidates. Many of these officers have served for several years and continue serving only because no else has stepped up. All would welcome a fresh slate of candidates willing to take over.

### **Elected Positions**

Commandant:

Senior Vice-Commandant:

Junior Vice-Commandant:

Judge Advocate:

Trustee - One Year:

Trustee - Two Year:

Trustee Three Year:

### **Appointed Positions**

Adjutant: Dennis Simpson

Paymaster: Dennis Simpson

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jerry Gerling

Chaplain: Carl Ramsey

Newsletter Editor: Carl Ramsey

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Joe Gentile

### **Committees:**

Benevolence Fund

Toys for Tots

Pvt George Phillips Birthday memorial

committee

Ways and Means Committee

Recruitment and Retention Committee

Activities Committee

An organization can only survive when its members are actively engaged and committed to ensuring it succeeds to carry on its mission.

Semper Fi. Dennis Simpson

Paymaster / Adjutant Pvt. George Phillips

Detachment #1214 Marine Corps League

P.O. Box 1 Ballwin, Missouri 63022

[PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com](mailto:PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com)

[www.PvtGeoPhillips.org](http://www.PvtGeoPhillips.org)

## **Description of 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.

## **Trustees**

**Acts as auditing committee.**

**Conducts** at least one financial audit of the Detachment yearly.

## **Appointed Positions**

### **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.

## **Historian**

**Responsible** for the historical records of the Detachment. **Obtains** member history for inclusion in official Detachment historical records.

## **Newsletter Editor**

**Responsible** for putting together the Detachment monthly newsletter, publishing it, and disseminating it to members and other interested parties.

## **Web Sgt.**

**Responsible** for maintaining and updating the Detachment website.

## **Public Relations Officer**

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

## **Eagle Scout Coordinator**

**Responsible** for maintaining the Detachment's Eagle Scout program. Presenting MCL certificates to new Eagle Scouts, and submits quarterly reports on those presentations to the Department, Division, and National MCL.

## **Various Committee Chairmen**

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

## January Meeting Highlights



**Dennis Simpson receives Distinguished Citizen Award**



**Todd Nicely's presentation and book signing event.**



### 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 28, 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](http://www.PvtGeoPhillips.org)  
[PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com](mailto: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

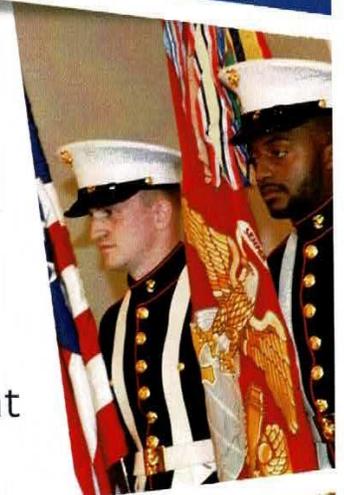
### We are looking for sponsors

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](http://www.focusmarines.org)  
501 c 3 ID#27-2081900

Holly 314-712-5192  
[onecau.se/focusmessnight](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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

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

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\*Regular Member applicants only