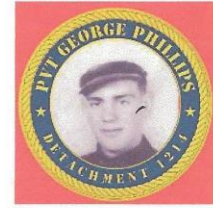


**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box #1
Ballwin, MO 63022**



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 March 17, 2026



March 2026
Volume XXII – Issue 3

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 February 28

66

Trustee 3Yr:
Gerald Gerling
636-271-3778

Trustee 2Yr:
Brad McNeil
636-225-2866

Trustee 1Yr:
Mike Cicchese
636-208-4676

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. Join us March 17 as we install and celebrate elected and appointed officers, Refreshments afterwards. Bring kids or grandkids to Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th. Over 200 eggs to find. Some will have special prizes, Hope to see you then. Semper Fi and God bless.

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



March 2026

- 7 – Exploit of James E Swett, 1943. Shot down 8 planes in one day.**
- 11 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208**
- 14 – Iwo Jima, 1945, anniversary of Pvt George Phillips falling on grenade**
- 17 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208**
- 21 – Dept of MO Quarterly Meeting**
See Calendar of events page 12
- 26 – Iwo Jima, ends, 1945.**

April 2026

- USMC disbanded April, 1783. Reactivated March 27, 1798 for Naval war with France.**
- 3 –History Alive at Lindbergh Highschool**
- 9 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208**
- 11 – Great Locomotive Chase, 1862 resulting in First Medals of Honor awarded in Civil War.**
- 11 – Focus Marines Mess Night See brochure.**
- 14 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208**
- 18 – Gold and Scarlet become official USMC Colors, 1925.**
- 27 – US Marines capture Derne, Tripoli, 1805.**
- 28 – Easter Egg Hunt – 1200 Post #208.**
- 30-May 2 – Midwest Conference Des Moines IA**
See Calendar of Events page 12

American Wars which began in April

Revolutionary war, April 19, 1775

American Civil War, April 12, 1861

Spanish American War, April 21, 1898

Second Samoan Civil War, Battle of Vaialele, April 1, 1899

WW I, April 6, 1917

April-August 2026

- 6/12-13 – Dept of MO Annual Convention**
See Calendar of Events page 12
- 8/10-14 – National Convention Indianapolis, IN**
See Calendar of Events page 12

Chaplain's Article



As I write the chaplain's article with Easter coming up, in which we remember the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, I first wish to remember Gary Harris and Carl Martin whose obituaries appeared in the February newsletter. At the end of February, I had a long conversation with Gary's daughter, Carrie Harris, who owns and operates Odditeas Cafe and the Crack Fox, both located at 1116 Olive Street, in downtown Saint Louis. She has rescheduled her father's celebration of life to a Sunday afternoon in May from 1-7 pm. There is a public 24-hour parking near her combined establishments. She will provide an official date as May approaches. Now to mention Carl Martin. This month his name would have appeared on the birthday scroll. But now his space is also empty. Eventually all of our spaces will become empty, because we are all destined to die like Gary and Carl. But all of us who have accepted Jesus as our savior, won't stay dead. We will rise to everlasting life just as Jesus did. So, if you have never accepted Jesus as your savior, do it now. Pray the following. Jesus, I confess my sins and sinful nature, and I accept your free gift via your death on the cross as payment. Amen. Carl E Ramsey,
Detachment Chaplain



Gary W. Harris



Carl Martin

March Birthday Scroll

Norman Franklin,

Michael Gollon,

Lawrence Schwartz

The following is from the Crack Fox Odditeas website. Visit the Crack Fox in St. Louis for the best cocktails St. Louis has to offer. Located in the heart of downtown STL, we specialize in hand-crafted cocktails that are sure to delight. Whether you are into performance art, comedy, or vibrant dance parties. There's always something happening here.

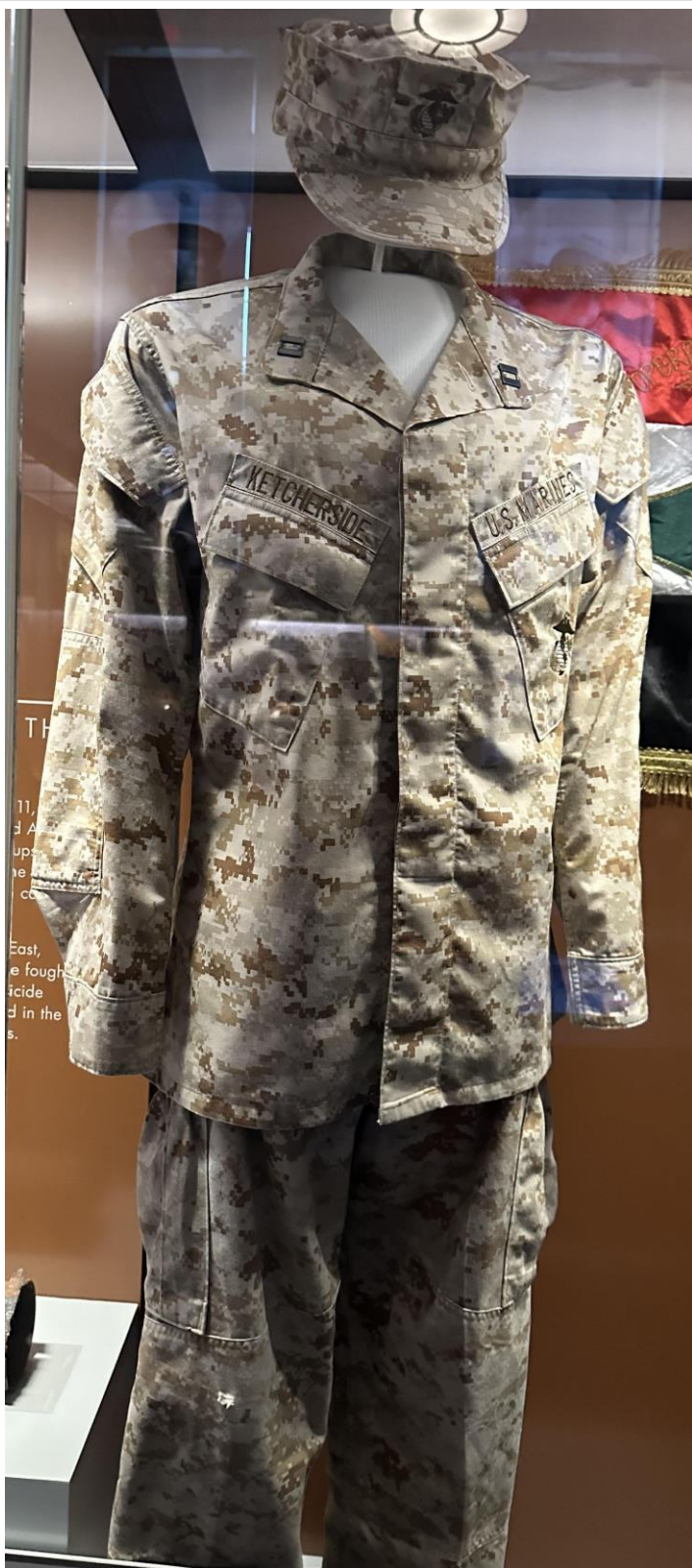
**February guest speakers from Sant Louis Soldiers Memorial Military Museum:
John Ermold and Herschal Williams**



A decision was made for members of the detachment to visit the museum as a group on a Sunday afternoon. Because I work on Sunday I can't attend. However, on the following pages are some highlights of the museum I saw when I visited during the VMFA 115 Fighter Squadron Reunion in 2024. Also the stories of Saint Louis area Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipients.



6/14/1898, Cuzco, Cuba, Sergeant John Quick signaled the U.S.S. Dolphin on 3 different occasions while exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy. (Raised the flag over Vera Cruz in 1914. He's buried in Memorial Park Cemetery Jennings, MO, on the east side of Lucas & Hunt down the road to the south from Lutheran High School North.). Cemetery visible from Interstate 70. Picture and Grave

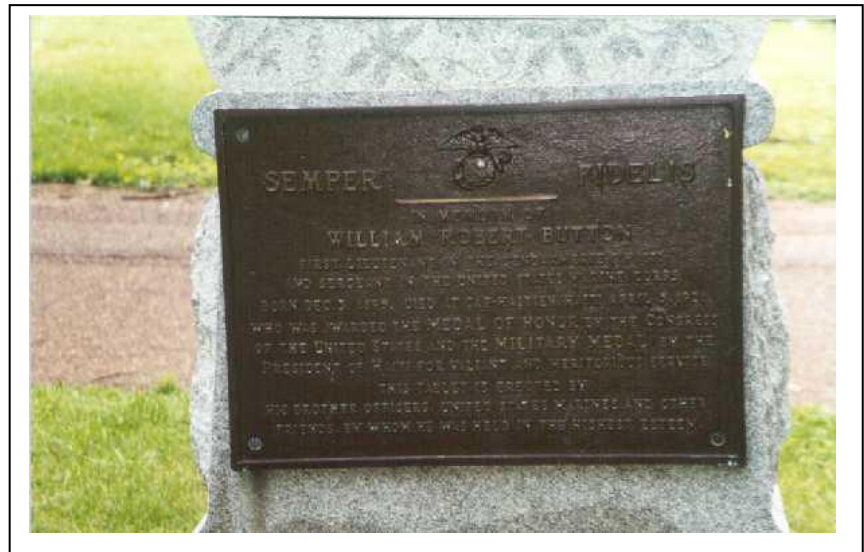
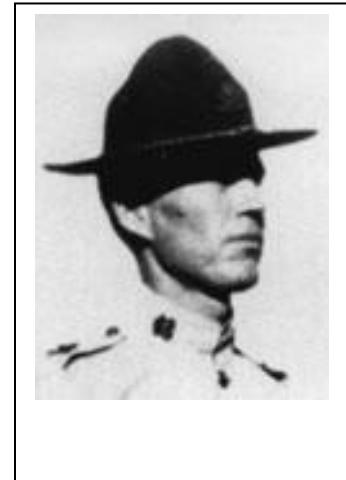
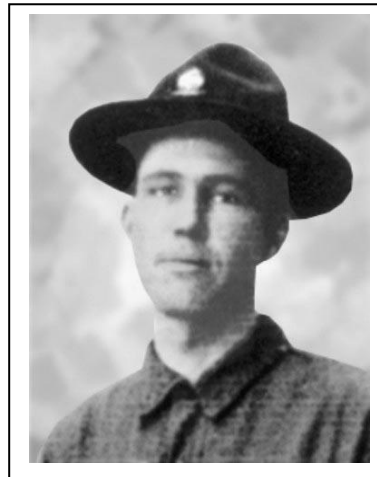


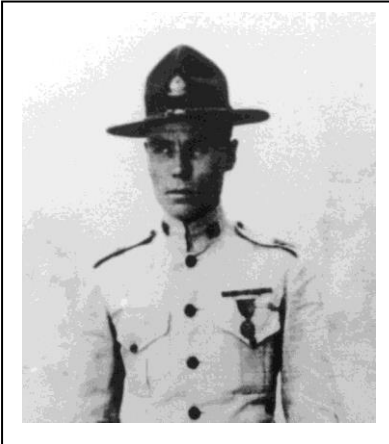
Detachment Member Chris Ketcherside's uniform From the War on Terror is on display at the museum

7/21/-8/17/1900, Private Louis Rene Gaiennie, U.S. Marine Corps. In the presence of the enemy during the action at Peking, China, 21 July to 17 August 1900, Gaiennie distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. (Calvary Cemetery, Saint Louis, MO) Picture and Grave



10/ 31/-11/1/1919. Cpl William R. Button (Pictures 1-3) & Sgt Herman H. Hanneken (Pictures 4-6 next page) from St. Louis, Missouri; from their citations: GRANDE RIVIERE, Republic of Haiti, on the night of Oct 31st-Nov 1st, 1919, resulting in the death of Charlemagne Peralte, the supreme bandit chief in the Republic of Haiti, and the killing and capture and dispersal of about 1200 of his outlaw followers. William Button is buried in Valhalla Cemetery, St. Louis, MO, off St Charles Rock Road, near Ritenour High School.





2/19/1945, Iwo Jima, Sergeant Darrell S. Cole successful 1 man attack against 2 gun emplacements, killed by grenade (buried in Farmington, MO, USS Cole named after him). [Sergeant Darrell Samuel Cole](#) (July 20, 1920 – February 19, 1945) was a [United States Marine](#) who posthumously received the [United States'](#) highest military decoration, the [Medal of Honor](#), for his "conspicuous gallantry" at the [Battle of Iwo Jima](#) during [World War II](#). From Park Hills, Missouri, buried at Farmington, Missouri. Although he was originally assigned to play the [bugle](#), Sergeant Cole repeatedly requested that his rating be changed from field musician to machine-gunner. Although rated as a bugler he fought as a machine-gunner in several major campaigns of [World War II](#) including [Guadalcanal](#), [Tinian](#), [Saipan](#). On his fourth request to change his rating to machine-gunner the request was approved 4 months before he was sent into combat again on [Iwo Jima](#). During the battle, Cole made a successful one-man attack against two gun emplacements impeding the advance of his company. Upon returning to his squad, he was killed by an enemy grenade. In 1996 the [United States Navy](#) named the [USS Cole \(DDG-67\)](#), a [destroyer](#), in his honor. This destroyer was damaged in a suicide attack in [Yemen](#) but subsequently repaired and is currently in service. Medal of Honor Cole was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, which was presented to his widow on April 17, 1947.^[1] The citation reads as follows.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Leader of a Machine-gun Section of Company B, First Battalion, Twenty-Third Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault on Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands, 19 February 1945. Assailed by a tremendous volume of small-arms, mortar and artillery fire as he advanced with one squad of his section in the initial assault wave, Sergeant Cole boldly led his men up the sloping beach toward Airfield Number One despite the blanketing curtain of flying shrapnel and, personally destroying with hand grenades two hostile emplacements which menaced the progress of his unit, continued to move forward until a merciless barrage of fire emanating from three Japanese pillboxes halted the advance. Instantly placing his one remaining machine gun in action, he delivered a shattering fusillade and succeeded in silencing the nearest and most threatening emplacement before his weapon jammed and the enemy, reopening fire with knee mortars and grenades, pinned down his unit for the second time. Shrewdly gauging the tactical situation and evolving a daring plan of counterattack, Sergeant Cole, armed solely with a pistol and one grenade, coolly advanced alone to the hostile pillboxes. Hurling his one grenade at the enemy in sudden, swift attack, he quickly withdrew, returned to his own lines for additional grenades and again advanced, attacked, and withdrew. With enemy guns still active, he ran the gauntlet of slashing fire a third time to complete the total destruction of the Japanese strong point and the annihilation of the defending garrison in this final assault. Although instantly killed by an enemy grenade as he returned to his squad, Sergeant Cole had eliminated a formidable Japanese position, thereby enabling his company to storm the remaining fortifications, continue the advance and seize the objective. By his dauntless initiative, unfaltering courage and indomitable determination during a critical period of action, Sergeant Cole served as an inspiration to his comrades, and his stouthearted leadership in the face of almost certain death sustained and enhanced the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.¹

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Leader of a Machine-gun Section of Company B, First Battalion, Twenty-Third Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault on Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands, 19 February 1945. Assailed by a tremendous volume of small-arms, mortar and artillery fire as he advanced with one squad of his section in the initial assault wave, Sergeant Cole boldly led his men up the sloping beach toward Airfield Number One despite the blanketing curtain of flying shrapnel and, personally destroying with hand grenades two hostile emplacements which menaced the progress of his unit, continued to move forward until a merciless barrage of fire emanating from three Japanese pillboxes halted the advance. Instantly placing his one remaining machine gun in action, he delivered a shattering fusillade and succeeded in silencing the nearest and most threatening emplacement before his weapon jammed and the enemy, reopening fire with knee mortars and grenades, pinned down his unit for the second time. Shrewdly gauging the tactical situation and evolving a daring plan of counterattack, Sergeant Cole, armed solely with a pistol and one grenade, coolly advanced alone to the hostile pillboxes. Hurling his one grenade at the enemy in sudden, swift attack, he quickly withdrew, returned to his own lines for additional grenades and again advanced, attacked, and withdrew. With enemy guns still active, he ran the gauntlet of slashing fire a third time to complete the total destruction of the Japanese strong point and the annihilation of the defending garrison in this final assault. Although instantly killed by an enemy grenade as he returned to his squad, Sergeant Cole had eliminated a formidable Japanese position, thereby enabling his company to storm the remaining fortifications, continue the advance and seize the objective. By his dauntless initiative, unfaltering courage and indomitable determination during a critical period of action, Sergeant Cole served as an inspiration to his comrades, and his stouthearted leadership in the face of almost certain death sustained and enhanced the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.¹



3/14/1945, Iwo Jima, Private George Phillips fell on grenade, KIA.

Private George Phillips (July 14, 1926 – March 14, 1945) was a [United States Marine](#) who was [posthumously](#) awarded the [Medal of Honor](#) for sacrificing his own life to save the lives of fellow Marines on [Iwo Jima](#) by throwing himself over an activated [hand grenade](#). **Initially buried in the 5th Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima, Pvt Phillips' remains were reinterred in Bethel Cemetery, Labadie, Missouri, in 1948.**

Medal of Honor citation

The [President of the United States](#) takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

PRIVATE GEORGE PHILLIPS
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Second Battalion, Twenty-eight Marines, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the seizure of Iwo Jima in the [Volcano Islands](#), on 14 March 1945. Standing the [fox-hole watch](#) while other members of his squad rested after a night of bitter [hand grenade](#) fighting against infiltrating Japanese troops, Private Phillips was the only member of his unit alerted when an enemy hand grenade was tossed into their midst. Instantly shouting a warning, he unhesitatingly threw himself on the deadly missile, absorbing the shattering violence of the exploding charge in his own body and protecting his comrades from serious injury. Stouthearted and indomitable, Private Phillips willingly yielded his own life that his fellow Marines might carry on the relentless battle against a fanatic enemy and his superb valor and unfaltering spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflect the highest credit upon himself and upon the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.



We invite you to

FOCUS MARINES
F O U N D A T I O N
MESS NIGHT GALA

Join us for an evening of tradition, camaraderie, and support for the veterans we proudly serve. Enjoy an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction, followed by a formal dinner at 7 PM.

We are honored to welcome **John O'Leary** as our keynote speaker. A celebrated motivational speaker, bestselling author, and the subject of a major motion picture, John is a vital part of the FOCUS program and an inspiration to our graduates.

5:30
until 9:00 pm

11
APR

SUNSET
COUNTRY CLUB
9555 S. GEYER RD,
63127

\$150 per individual or \$1,500 for a table of ten

For tickets, donations, silent auction or sponsorship,
please visit: onecau.se/focusmessnight

ANN WAGNER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
2ND DISTRICT, MISSOURI



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

November 10, 2025

Pvt George Phillips Marine Corps League - #1214
American Legion Post 208
225 Old Sulphur Spring Road
Ballwin, Mo 63021

Greetings,

Congratulations on the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps!

Since the founding of this great nation, the Marines have exemplified honor, courage, and commitment. The safety and security of our nation is fortified by their tenacity and fighting spirit. When duty calls, the United State Marine Corps always answers with unparalleled selflessness and determination.

As the member of Congress representing Missouri's 2nd District, you have my immense gratitude and deep respect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Wagner".

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

JOSH HAWLEY
Missouri



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510-3903

November 10, 2025

Dear Pvt. George Phillips Marine Corps League,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps! I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your role in making this milestone possible.

When I think about the sacrifices that come with a career as a Marine—the deployments, the time away from family, the physical and mental tolls—I am reminded of the selflessness of those who serve. As you continue to champion our great Marines, please know that the people of Missouri, and this nation, are eternally grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Hawley', written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Josh Hawley
United States Senator

March 21, 2026

Department of Mo. Quarterly Meeting:

Central Missouri Detachment #656

4925 Bus 50 W, Jefferson City, MO 65109

Breakfast 08:00 / Meeting starts 09:00

April 30- May 2, 2026

Midwest Division Conference 2026:

Hosted by: Larry Nehring Detachment #103

Embassy Suites by Hilton, Des Moines Downtown

101 East Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

515-244-1700

June 12-13, 2026

Department of Mo. Annual Convention:

Hosted by: St. Charles County Detachment #725

Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel St. Louis

191 W Port Plaza Dr, St. Louis, MO 63146

314-878-1500

August 10-14, 2026

National Convention 2026:

Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel

2544 Executive Drive,

Indianapolis, IN 46241

317-248-2481