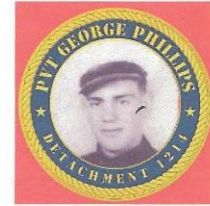


**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box #1
Ballwin, MO 63022**



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 April 21, 2026



April 2026
Volume XXII – Issue 4

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

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Detachment Webpage

<http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/>
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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 March 31 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 Marines. Thanks to Brad McNeil and John Cooper for helping with the Easter Egg Hunt on March 28. Hope to see you at the membership meeting on Tuesday, April 21. Join us on Sunday, April 26, for a tour of the Saint Louis Soldiers Memorial Museum. [Detachment member Chris Ketcherside, whose uniform is on display has offered to be the tour guide.] Meet at American Legion #208 at 8 am for transportation. Keep Memorial Day in Labadie in mind. [Memorial events begin at 8 am followed by a GI breakfast.] We hope to have a dance social in June. Semper Fi and God bless.

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



April 2026

USMC disbanded April, 1783. Reactivated March 27, 1798 for Naval war with France.

- 8 – 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.**
- 18 – Detachment member Chris Ketcherside: Civil War as the First Modern War. St Louis Civil War Museum 1300 222 Worth Rd St. Louis. MO
- 18 – **Gold and Scarlet become official USMC Colors, 1925.**
- 21 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 26 – St Louis Soldiers Memorial Museum trip – 0800 Post #208 for transportation
- 27 – **US Marines capture Derne, Tripoli, 1805.**
- 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
- 6/25 – **Memorial Day at Labadie**
– 800 Bethel Cemetery
See Calendar of Events page 12
- 7/18 – Pvt George Phillips Birthday Memorial
1000 Bethel Cemetery, Labadie Missouri
- 8/10-14 – **National Convention Indianapolis, IN**
See Calendar of Events page 12
- 9/12– Detachment Picnic (Simpson Park
Same place as 2025)

Chaplain's Article



Looking back on Easter, the detachment Easter Egg Hunt is one reminder which has been established for children of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. An egg from which a chicken can emerge symbolizes Jesus coming out of the tomb. Without his departure from the tomb, our Christian faith would be meaningless. It validates his messianic claims, proves the victory over sin and death, and guarantees the future resurrection and eternal life of believers. Without the resurrection of Jesus, symbolized by the egg, faith (believing what God and Jesus says) is deemed useless, forgiveness is not secured, and there is no hope beyond physical death. Once again to participate in the victory of Jesus over the grave, someone needs to confess and repent from his sins and sinful nature, and accept the gift of Jesus's death on the cross in payment, as well as the sealing of the deal by his resurrection, symbolized by the easter egg we provide for little children. The prizes inside the plastic eggs also represent the gift of Jesus.

Carl E Ramsey, Chaplain



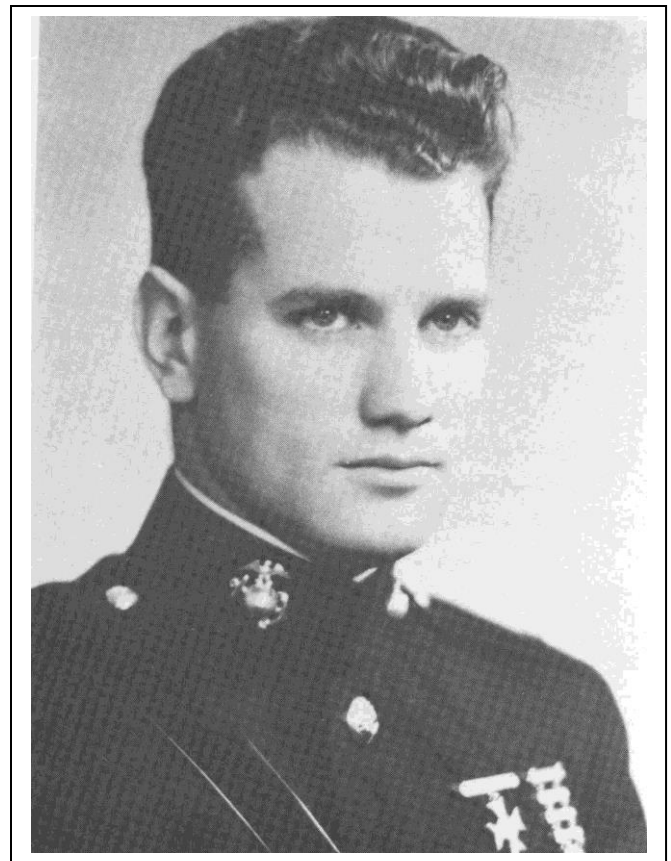
On March 14, anniversary of Pvt George Phillips falling on the grenade on Iwo Jima, Newsletter editor Carl E Ramsey visited the Saint Louis Soldiers Memorial Military Museum to provide a copy of the March newsletter in I which attempted to provide Medal of Honor Stories of all St Louis Area Marines That's because the museum displays the story of only one of them.



However, in the March newsletter I forgot to include the story of George Cannon.

First Lieutenant George Ham Cannon, USMC, (November 5, 1915 – December 7, 1941) was the first U.S. Marine in World War II to receive the nation's highest military award — the Medal of Honor. (from Webster Groves, Missouri)

For distinguished conduct in the line of his profession, extraordinary courage, and disregard of his own condition during the bombardment of Sand Island, Midway Islands, by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. Lieutenant Cannon, Battery Commander of Battery "H", Sixth Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, U. S. Marine Corps, was at his Command Post when he was mortally wounded by enemy shell fire. He refused to be evacuated from his post until after his men, who had been wounded by the same shell were evacuated, and directed the reorganization of his Command Post until forcibly removed, and as a result of his utter disregard of his own condition he died from loss of blood.



Installation of officers at the March Meeting



April Birthday Scroll

*John Bickerton
Charles Corpening, Jr.
Elliot Glassman
James Grgurich
Aaron Kent
Jerry Kisner
Steven Lind*

Saturday Speakers Series is Back
We are very excited to announce that the Saturday Speakers Series in the historic 1918 Building is finally resuming this March! Each month, **the Missouri Civil War Museum** will host various historians who will present their research on topics related to the American Civil War. All events start at 1:00pm and we will have refreshments and light snacks for all attendees.

April 18 - Chris Ketcherside, The Civil War as the First Modern War

May 30 - Barbara Kay, The USS Sultana Disaster

June 13 - James & Vickie Erwin, The Missouri Love Story of Ulysses and Julia Grant

August 15 - Julie Nicolai, Emancipation and the Underground Railroad in Missouri & Illinois*

This is a FREE event for members and only \$10 for the general public. Please RSVP by calling the museum at 314-845-1861. Space is limited, so make sure you reserve your spot today!

In 2016 and 2021, PTF and their brother organization, Shark Fitness Training, stood with the St. Louis community to honor those who sacrificed for our freedom. In 2026, they are honored to serve again. The 25th anniversary of September 11 will be commemorated with the Flags of Valor Memorial, in partnership with America's Heartland Remembers. Art Hill in Forest Park will be transformed with approximately 7,650 American flags, each representing lives lost on 9/11, fallen first responders, service members killed in the War on Terror, and those lost to PTSD and 9/11-related illnesses.

Volunteer Opportunities Include:

- Flag Assembly (April/May)
- Flag Installation – September 5
- Overwatch/Maintenance – September 5–13
- Flag Removal – September 14

To participate, you must complete the volunteer form to join a team, receive your t-shirt, and get scheduling details.



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ST LOUIS ART HILL

Flags OF VALOR

AMERICA'S HEARTLAND REMEMBERS
9/11 • 25TH ANNIVERSARY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

From **September 5-13, 2026**, America's Heartland Remembers will honor these fallen heroes with a breathtaking display of approximately **7,650 AMERICAN FLAGS ON ART HILL** - the iconic site in St. Louis' Forest Park.

SIGN UP

Dear Patriot Training Foundation Community,

In 2016 and 2021, PTF and our brother organization, [Shark Fitness Training](#) stood alongside the St. Louis community to honor those who have sacrificed everything for our freedom. As we approach 2026, we are once again called to serve.

2026 marks the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. This milestone is a sacred tribute not only to the **2,977 innocent lives** lost that day, but to every brave soul who rose in response. To honor them, the Flags of Valor memorial in partnership with America's Heartland Remembers will transform Art Hill in Forest Park into a breathtaking display of approximately **7,650 American flags**.

Each flag represents a personal story of extraordinary courage:

Each flag represents a personal story of extraordinary courage:

- **2,565 victims and 412 first responders** who perished on 9/11.
- **7,113+ U.S. service members** killed in the War on Terror.
- The many others lost to PTSD and 9/11-related illnesses.

As a proud beneficiary and long-time participant, **Patriot Training Foundation needs your help** to manage our designated portion of this memorial.

How You Can Help

[You MUST fill out the linked form to join one of our teams, receive your volunteer t-shirt and get additional schedule details.](#) We are looking for dedicated volunteers to join our teams for the following four critical components (Ideally, you can help with each phase, but we understand if you can't.):

5. **Flag Assembly (Guarantee Electrical):** A Saturday or Sunday in **April or May**. Our team will assemble approximately 260 flags.
6. **Flag Installation (Art Hill): Saturday, September 5.** Our team will install two rows of flags.
7. **Overwatch/Maintenance (Art Hill):** From **September 5–13**, our teams are responsible for maintaining the flags from sunrise to sundown. Shift sign-ups will be available for team members as the dates approach.
8. **Flag Removal (Art Hill): Monday, September 14.** Our team will remove two rows of flags.

Take Action Today

The weight of 25 years is carried by these 7,650 flags. Help us ensure that every hero is honored with the reverence they deserve.

By volunteering, you are supporting the Patriot Training Foundation's mission to provide vital tactical training to our regional law enforcement and future military members. More communication will follow regarding specific shift times and dates as they are finalized.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us keep the promise to never forget.

Respectfully,

The Patriot Training Foundation Team

[SIGN UP FOR A TEAM](#)

RECA

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

www.hawley.senate.gov/reca



RECA Hotline: (202) 228-4388



***“To all the radiation survivors and nuclear veterans across the country:
WE DID IT. Your country thanks you and honors your sacrifice.”
- Senator Hawley on the expansion of RECA***

WHAT IS RECA?

RECA is a federal law that provides compensation to those harmed by radioactive waste from the U.S. nuclear weapons program.

Senator Hawley secured an expansion of RECA to Missouri in 2025.

Individuals adversely impacted by nuclear waste may be eligible to receive a one-time payment of \$50,000 or reimbursement of total out-of-pocket medical expenses (whichever is greater).

Surviving beneficiaries (spouse or children) may be eligible for a one-time payment of \$25,000 in equal shares.

JOSH HAWLEY
U.S. SENATOR FOR MISSOURI

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility extends to those who:

- Lived, worked, and/or attended school for at least 2 years (24 months consecutively or cumulatively) in an impacted zip code: 63031, 63033, 63034, 63042, 63043, 63044, 63045, 63074, 63102, 63114, 63121, 63134, 63135, 63138, 63140, 63145, 63147, 63304, 63341, 63367, or 63368;
- AND contracted one of the following diseases: any leukemia (provided initial exposure occurred after age 20), multiple myeloma, lymphoma (excluding Hodgkin's), primary cancers of the bile ducts, bone, brain, breast (male or female), colon, esophagus, gall bladder, liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated), lung, ovary, pancreas, pharynx, renal [kidney], salivary gland, small intestine, stomach, thyroid, or urinary bladder.
- Surviving beneficiaries – spouse OR children – are also eligible to apply in cases where the claimant is deceased.

FILE ONLINE

1. Visit www.justice.gov/civil/reca and click the "RECA Claim Portal" icon to access the filing portal and create an account. You MUST have an active email address to file online. Each applicant must have a separate email address. Safari, Chrome, and Edge are the only recommended browsers. Download and review the Online Portal User Guide before starting the claim process.

2. Complete all relevant sections of the claim form. Read each section carefully and upload all required documentation. Your work saves after you have completed ALL pages of a section. If you need to edit a previous section, complete and save the current section before returning using the tabs at the top of the portal. Do not use the back button of your browser. This will erase your work.

3. After completing each relevant section of the claim, e-sign and hit "Submit".

Tip: Make a note with your username and password and your application number. You will receive your CLAIM number separately. Be sure to save that, as well.

FILE BY MAIL

1. Download and print a copy of the Manhattan Project Waste Claim Form: www.hawley.senate.gov/reca. Copies are also available at your local library.

2. Complete each section of the claim form. Self-claimants should complete Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 15 (p.13-15) and Parts 13 & 14 (if applicable). Surviving beneficiaries should complete Parts 1, 2, 3, 5 or 6 or 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 15 (p.13-15) and Parts 13 & 14 (if applicable).

3. Place the entire claim form (all pages) and required documentation (vital records, medical records, and proof of physical presence, either original or certified copies) in an envelope and mail to the Department of Justice.

Tip: Do not write on records and use a paperclip to combine documents. Clearly separate multiple claims and provide copies of required documentation for each one. We suggest mailing USPS Priority so that you have a tracking number.

The deadline to file online or by mail is December 31, 2027.

SUPPORT

Senator Hawley RECA Support:

202-228-4388

RECA_information@hawley.senate.gov

www.hawley.senate.gov/reca

DOJ RECA Support:

1-800-729-7327

Civil.RECA@usdoj.gov

www.justice.gov/civil/reca

Mailing Address:

Radiation Exposure Compensation Program

U.S. Department of Justice

P.O. Box 146

Ben Franklin Station

Washington, D.C. 20044-0146

We invite you to

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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
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314-363-3715
STLVETERAN.COM

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410 E ELM ST O'FALLON, MO 63366
WWW.STCHARLESCOUNTYVETERANSMUSEUM.ORG
636-294-2657

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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