

**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 May 19, 2026



May 2026
Volume XXII – Issue 5

Commandant:
Joe Gentile
314-488-9440

Sr. Vice-Commandant
John Cooper
314-712-0738

Jr. Vice-Commandant
Jason Lehr
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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

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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 April 30 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
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Ways & Means:
Open

Quartermaster:
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636-225-2866

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314-488-9440

Editor/Historian:
Carl E. Ramsey
314-304-7915

Commandant's Corner
ATTENTION ON DECK



Attention Marines. A big thanks to Chris and Jerry who went with me to the Saint Louis Soldiers Memorial Museum on April 26. I hope you can attend our May 19 Membership Meeting. Wendel Webb, past MCL commandant will be our guest speaker. Dinner will be served. Please plan to attend Memorial Day event at Bethel Cemetery in Labadie, Missouri. A Veterans breakfast will follow. We need members to attend our events. The detachment is in serious trouble [from declining attendance at events]. Once a Marine, always a Marine. Semper Fi and God bless.

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



- 5/9/1926 Richard Byrd & Floyd Bennett supposedly flew over the North Pole, 100 years ago.**
5/13 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
5/19 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208
5/25 – Memorial Day at Labadie
0800 Bethel Cemetery, Labadie Missouri
6/6-7– 0900 thru 1700 6/7
Spirit of Saint Louis Air Show
Spirit of Saint Louis Airport.
General Admission 64.00
Tickets go to event.attendstar.com
6/12-13 – Dept of MO Annual Convention
See Calendar of Events page 12
6/14 – Veterans Free Fishing – Meramec Springs Park. See brochure
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)

***May Birthday
Scroll
Thomas Heintz
William Tyler Jr.***

Chaplain's Article



**Chu Lai Rocket
Attack. 0600
May 4, 1970**

1970 and 2026 have the same calendar. It's a pattern that occurs every 28 years. 1998 and 1942 also share the same calendar as the previous. I'm especially aware of the 1970 calendar because it was on Sunday, May 3, 1970, I landed in Vietnam and would be assigned to VMFA 122 ordnance shop at Chu Lai. On the mornings of the 4th and 5th of May, my first two waking mornings in Vietnam, Chu Lai experienced major rocket attacks at 6 A.M. Myself and other new arrivals said to ourselves, "Welcome to Vietnam." Going back to Sunday, May 3, when I arrived at Chu Lai, the first thing I did was visit the chapel where I met other Bible believing Marines. Through that chapel I would go out witnessing at night when I wasn't on duty and I made friendships with other Christian Marines which have lasted to this day. One of them, Fred Speckman, a member of the Radar Shop who would eventually serve with me in two different squadrons, one later at Danang, and one at Yuma, Arizona, went on to become a science teacher for missionary kids in Africa. I would reunite with him at the VMFA 115 reunion, in 2024, put together by Andy Riggle, who I served with in the ordnance shop at Danang. Military Service in Vietnam, if you walked with the Lord Jesus, became a time of blessing and opportunity for the future. However, if you chose not to walk with Jesus, you could end up with a disease. I

recently talked with Mike Leblanc, who served as a Navy Corpsman at the very end of the war in Vietnam. He had to treat chaplains who went on R and R and caught venereal disease. Some of them bought medicine on the black market to avoid reporting their condition and have it placed in their service records. They told Mike, they got so drained helping others deal with emotional problems, they went on R and R to deal find a way to deal with their own. They should have taken their emotional needs to the Lord in prayer. Proverbs 5: 7-14 mentions this very situation. Verse 11 mentions a disease

So now my sons listen to me. Never stray from what I'm about to say: Stay away from her! Don't go near the door of her house! If you do you will lose your honor and will lose to merciless people all you have achieved. Strangers will consume your wealth and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor. In the end you will groan in anguish when disease will consume your body. You will say how I hated discipline! If only I had not ignored all all the warnings! Oh, why didn't I listen to my teachers? Why did I not pay attention to my instructors? I have come to the brink of utter ruin, and now I must face public disgrace.

My conclusion is service in Vietnam provided you with an opportunity to choose God or not choose God. If you chose God you got blessed. If you didn't you gambled with your life and your health

Carl E Ramsey, Chaplain

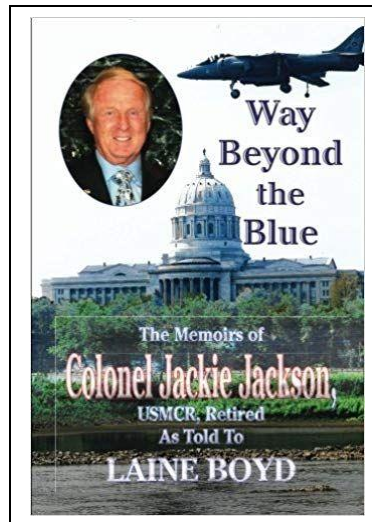


History Alive Lindbergh High School April 3, 2026

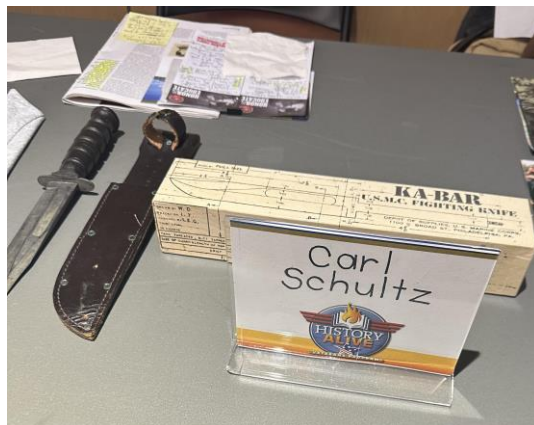
The Four Marines. Joe Gentile, Carl Schultz, Mike Erxleben, Carl Ramsey
 Joe told the students he had received a Presidential Unit Citation, a Naval Unit Citation, and a Meritorious Unit Citation. I (Carl Ramsey) was only in a unit that received the third one. I never learned how many citations Carl Schultz and Mike Erxleben received.



Mike Erxleben's presentation



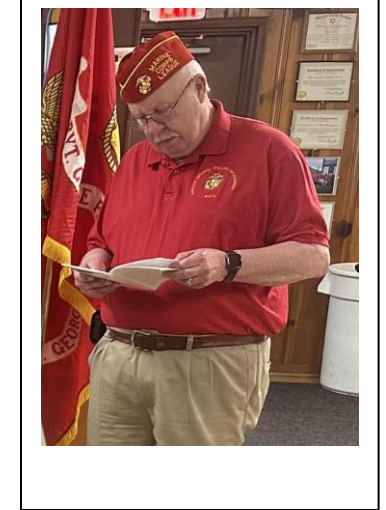
Speaking of Vietnam War experiences. I recently ran into a distinguished lady while buying gas at Sams on Manchester who saw my Marine Corps hat and thanked me for my service. When I said I worked on F4's in Vietnam, she told me how many planes her husband flew and tested, including Harriers at Boeing. I said he must know Colonel Jack Jackson. She said that was her husband. His book is listed above.



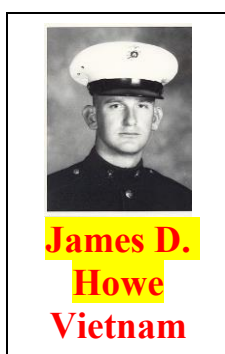
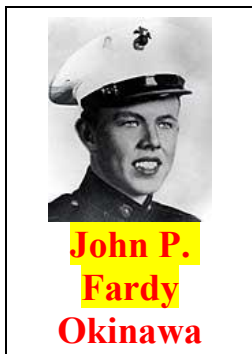
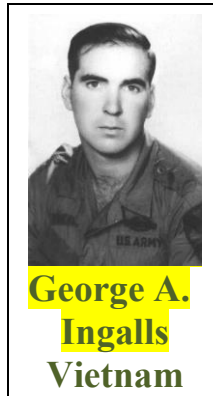
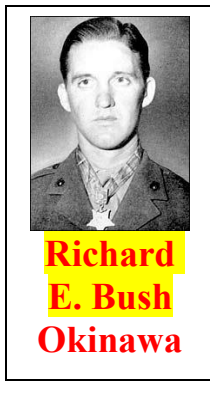
Carl Schultz's presentation



April meeting oath of office for elected positions.
 Hugh Smith, , John Cooper, Dennis Simpson, and Joe Gentile.
 Administered by Jack Bickerton



Days of the Hand grenade. Since our detachment is named after Medal of Honor Grenade hero who sacrificed himself on Iwo Jima, I thought I'd list some of the others, several of whom did their deed on the same date, but in a different war. April 14 in particular had 3 Medal of Honor hand grenade heroes spread out over three wars. May 5 had two in different wars **4/14/2004, Cpl Jason Dunham**, Iraq, near Syrian Border; fought hand-to-hand, then fell on grenade, KIA. **4/15/1945, PFC Harold Gonsalves**, Okinawa, fell on a grenade, KIA. **4/16/1945, Cpl Richard E. Bush**, Okinawa, fell on grenade & survived (In WW II 4 of 27 Marines who survived grenades and were awarded the Medal of Honor were **Richard Bush, Jacklyn H. Lucas, Carlton R. Rouh, and Richard K. Sorenson.**) **4/16/1952, Cpl Duane E. Dewey**, Korea, fell on grenade & survived. **4/16/1967, Sp4 George A. Ingalls** smothered grenade, KIA. **5/6/1945, Okinawa, Cpl John P. Fardy** smothered grenade, KIA. **5/6/1970, LCpl James D. Howe** fell on grenade, KIA.





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Join our
Volunteer Teams!

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:

- **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](#)

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. For Additional information see April Newsletter.

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

Veteran's Free Fishing

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Maramec Springs Park

Free parking and tags to all Veterans.

Hot coffee in the morning and Lunch will be available.



Prizes will be given out for tagged fish and attendance to all Veterans.

21880 Maramec Springs Dr., St. James MO 65559 Park Hours 0630-1800

Dominick 314-280-7014 or Sherry 314-303-5504
For more information or donations please call





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314-359-9948

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MIKE LEBLANC

STLVETERAN@YAHOO.COM
314-363-3715
STLVETERAN.COM

VETERANS MUSEUM



ST CHARLES COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

410 E ELM ST O'FALLON, MO 63366

WWW.STCHARLESCOUNTYVETERANSMUSEUM.ORG

636-294-2657

PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS.



CALEB WILTSE

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636-696-4064



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KATIE MASON

SOUNDMINDMASSAGEANDWELLNESS@GMAIL.COM

636-989-7942



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OUR QR CODE

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COMBINED VETERANS SOLUTIONS

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