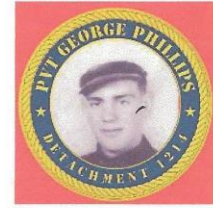


**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box #1
Ballwin, MO 63022**



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 August 18, 2026



June 2026
Volume XXII – Issue 6

Commandant:

John Cooper
314-712-0738

Sr. Vice-Commandant

Jason Lehr
314-800-4930

Jr. Vice-Commandant

Open

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](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 June 30 65**

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:**
Open

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

Commandant's Corner



Attention on deck. The detachment is undergoing changes, and we will meet the challenges. Commandant Joe Gentile has resigned and departed the detachment due to personal reasons. We will miss Joe and thank him sincerely for all his past efforts and hard work on our behalf. I am assuming the position of commandant and Jason Lehr will become the senior Vice Commandant. This leaves the position of Junior Vice commandant vacant for now. We will do what Marines always do, "Adapt and Overcome." As we rapidly approach the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of our Independence on the 4th of July. Please stay safe and have fun. The Private George Phillips Celebration will also be on July 18th, 2026, in Labadie, MO.

Semper Fi and God Bless
John Cooper, Commandant Pvt George
Phillips Detachment #1214
Marine Corps League
ccdmc2@msn.com

- 7/8 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 7/18 – Pvt George Phillips Birthday Memorial
1000 Bethel Cemetery, Labadie Missouri
- 7/21 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208
No Meeting this month
- 8/12 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 8/10-14 – **National Convention Indianapolis, IN**
See Calendar of Events June newsletter
- 8/18 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post 208
- 9/9 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 9/12– Detachment Picnic – Simpson Park
(Same place as 2025 if held this year)
- 9/15 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post 208

June Birthday Scroll

*Stephen Grgurich
Gary Harris (deceased)
Franklin Hawkins
Philip Kemp
Jason Lehr*

Father's Day Story. When I was a little boy my WW 2 Army father took me to visit my grandfather's sandwich shop in North Saint Louis, Missouri. I saw iron pans hanging on the wall and asked my grandfather, Clyde Ramsey, why they were black. He looked me straight in the eye and said he didn't have time to wash them. I turned to my father, Edward Ramsey, and asked, "Daddy, daddy, is that true?" He looked me straight in the eye and gave me a good veterans answer, "Ask a stupid question and get a stupid answer."

Chaplain's Article



A salute in remembrance to Joe Gentile, who recently resigned as our Commandant. Joe Gentile was elected detachment commandant at the March 2025 meeting, and was re-elected in March 2026, but resigned for personal reasons at the June, 2026 Staff meeting.

Although hard to contact because he lives in a rural electronic dead zone, he was known for his extreme generosity when providing meals for meetings and prizes for detachment activities. He also had a gift for communicating with younger people. I as an adult had difficulty digging information out of him for the members matter article (which appears below), but during History alive at Lindbergh Highschool on April 3, 2006, he held the attention of numerous students throughout the day with stories of his military service. That's where I learned he had received a Presidential Unit Citation, a Naval Unit Citation, and a Meritorious Unit Citation.

The following is Joe's Members Matter Article which appeared in the October, 2025 Newsletter.

Joe Gentile was born September 14, 1950 in Saint Louis City Hospital. Growing up he attended 16 different schools. This included one year in Hillsboro, two years at Cleveland Highschool, and two years at Roosevelt Highschool from which he graduated in 1968. Incidentally while growing up, he became an Eagle Scout.

He entered the Marines June 10, 1968 and went to OCS (Officer's Candidate School) in September. He qualified for OCS because of St. Louis Community College classes he completed while still in high school. After OCS he went to Vietnam, January 7, 1969, where he served as communications officer for 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines where he was also a platoon commander. He was responsible for installing and maintaining field communications for company and regiment headquarters. This lasted until August 4, 1969, when he left Quang Tri in a small convoy heading toward Hue to deliver communication equipment. He was in a communications jeep when he received a shrapnel wound which he said entered his side and came out somewhere on his upper chest, causing him to be medevacked to Okinawa. After his recovery he spent the next two and a half years at Quantico.

After the Marines, he married his wife in 1977. He worked for Judevine Center [for Autism] while finishing college. He began teaching in 1983, first at St Louis Academy, then the Special School district, then Northwest R1. He retired from teaching in 2015.

Joe Gentile first visited the Pvt George Phillips detachment as a guest in December 2015, then joined in February, 2016 (Picture). He received the Semper Fi Award in March, 2017 (Picture) and Marine of the Year in July, 2023 (picture). Note this award is always for service to the detachment and community for the previous year or years.

Carl E Ramsey, Chaplain and newsletter editor



Chaplain's visit to Joe Gentile's home in the electronic dead zone.

Jason Lehr Sr. Vice-Commandant

On Military Appreciation Day at Busch Stadium, May 16th, I had the opportunity to attend a St. Louis Cardinals game while proudly wearing my Pvt. George Phillips Detachment shirt. It turned out to be one of the most enjoyable games I've attended in years, not only because I was there with my kids, but because the weather was perfect, the Cardinals put on a great show, and the atmosphere was electric.

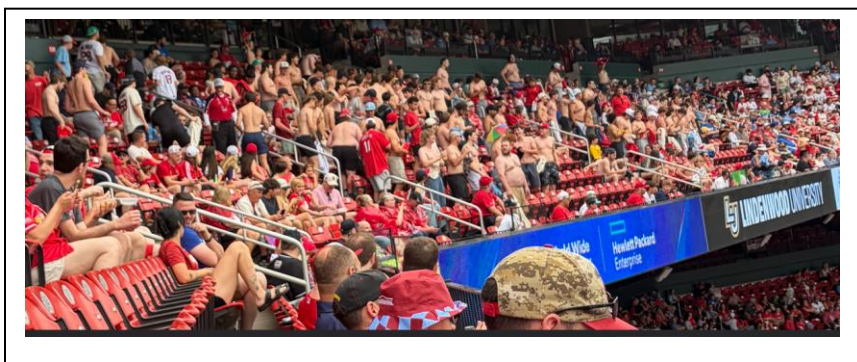
A major part of that energy came from a group of young fans known as the "Tarps Off" crew. These guys brought incredible enthusiasm to the ballpark. They led roll calls for Cardinals players, started creative chants, and kept the crowd engaged from start to finish. Their excitement was contagious and reminded me of a valuable lesson I learned during my time in the Marine Corps: when you find ways to make things fun, even difficult tasks become more manageable.

In the Corps, there were plenty of long days filled with training, drills, and challenging assignments. But when Marines brought humor, camaraderie, and positive energy to the situation, the hardship seemed a little less difficult. Sometimes, we even managed to make the "suck" enjoyable. And when that same group of Marines got together off duty, it often resulted in the kind of unforgettable, chaotic fun that creates lifelong memories. Watching those young Cardinals fans reminded me of that same spirit. Their enthusiasm lifted the experience for everyone around them and demonstrated how a little energy and camaraderie can positively impact an entire crowd.

I was proud to represent the Marine Corps League on a day dedicated to honoring military service. It was a great reminder that whether in uniform, at a ballgame, or serving in our communities, the bonds we form and the spirit we bring to others can make all the difference. Semper Fidelis!



Jason Lehr



What has happened since we last got together.



**Former National Commandant
Wendel Web addressed us at
our May Membership Meeting.**



**Mike Lee then addressed the detachment on
upcoming Department of Missouri Marine Corps
League events. John Cooper, who was at that time
our Senior Vice Commandant took charge of the
meeting, and is standing to the right.**

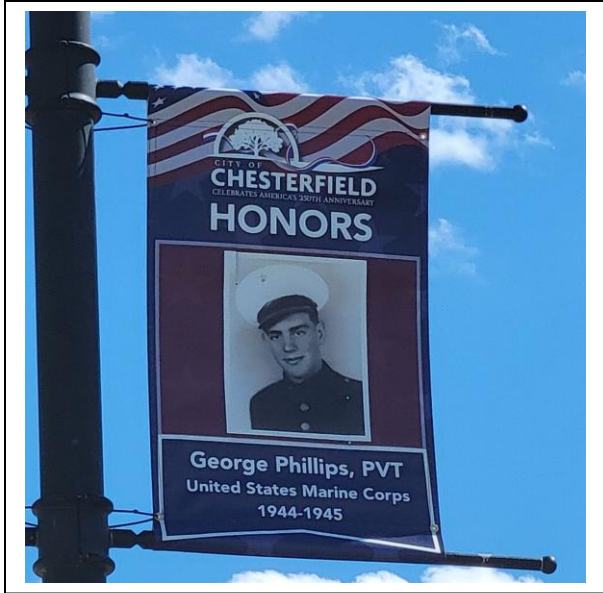


**Memorial Day at Labadie, Missouri,
May 25; Dennis Simpson, is asked to
speak representing, the Pvt George
Phillips Detachment.**



**2026 Memorial Day Labadie Attendees, left to right:
Michael Drake, Carl Ramsey, Mike Cicchese, Dennis
Simpson, Brad McNeil**

Speaking of Pvt George Phillips, the following photos provided by Dennis Simpson feature his representation at the Chesterfield Veterans Honor Park. There are also bricks with the names of two past commandants. Gene Richter's brick appears with the brick of Maryland Heights VFW Post 6211, to which Harry Hope recruited me as its last new member. Because of declining membership, it has since retired its charter and most of its remaining members, including me and Harry Hope, have transferred to VFW Post 3944 in Overland, Missouri.



Once last event, John Cooper and Carl Ramsey at the American Legion 208 Barbeque on Saturday, June 13.



Speaking of Pvt George Phillips, his annual birthday remembrance itinerary at Labadie, provided by Dennis Simpson, appear on the next page.

Private George Phillips Birthday Ceremony
1000 18 July 2026
Bethel Cemetery, Labadie, Missouri

Uniform of the Day:

- Marine Corps League Undress Short Sleeve Uniform (short sleeve MCL white shirt, dress blue trousers or black trousers), or
- Pvt. George Phillips red polo shirt

Order of Service

Call to Order:	Commandant
Post Colors:	Color Guard
Opening Prayer:	Chaplain
Pledge of Allegiance:	Sgt-at-Arms
Remarks:	Guest Speaker
March to Grave Site:	Color Guard, followed by all
Reading of MOH Citation:	Sr. Vice-Commandant
Placement of Wreath:	Commandant / Sr. Vice-Commandant
Sprinkling of Sand:	Commandant
Firing of Rifle Volleys:	Color Guard
Taps:	Bugler
Return to Post Colors:	Color Guard, followed by all
Closing Remarks:	Commandant
Closing Prayer:	Chaplain
Dismissal:	Adjourn to Hawthorne Inn

It is requested that Staff members arrive NLT 0930 to assist with set-up and to practice movements.

Lunch Location:
Hawthorne Inn
123 Front Street
Labadie, MO (636) 451-0004

Relatives of Pvt. George Phillips

Don and Karen Fleer
Julia Jones (foster sister)
Betty Klott (foster sister)

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

Labadie Candids, Pvt George Birthday 2025



Honor Guard at 2025 Event





★ AMERICAN LEGION ★

POST 208

— ★ VETERANS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY ★ —



HELP US FIRE UP OUR MISSION!



BACKYARD PRO CHAR-72SS

72" Heavy-Duty Stainless Steel Charcoal Grill with Adjustable Grates, Removable Legs, and Cover

We're raising funds to purchase a new heavy-duty charcoal grill that will be used for public events and fundraisers that support our veterans and our community.



SUPPORT

Helps us host events that bring our community together.



SERVE

Allows us to cook more food, better and faster for events and fundraisers.



GIVE BACK

Proceeds provide us with the tools we need to serve Veterans and our local community.

★ EVERY DOLLAR HELPS US REACH OUR GOAL! ★



**DONATIONS
ACCEPTED
AT THE BAR**

*Thank you for
supporting
American Legion
Post 208!*



**TOGETHER, WE SUPPORT
THOSE WHO SERVED AND
STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY.**

★ THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE A DIFFERENCE! ★