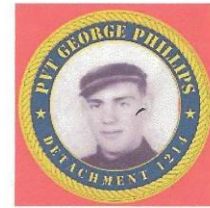


**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box #1
Ballwin, MO 63022**



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



July-August 2026

Volume XXII – Issue 7-8

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 July 31 **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. Fellow Marines. We had our annual ceremony on 07-18-2026: the celebration of our namesake Pvt. George Phillip's Birthday. This was a special year as it was 100 years since his birth and 250 years since the birth of our nation. It was a hot and humid day, but Mother Nature was kind, and we did not have rain. It was well attended by George Phillips relatives, Labadie American Legion Post 565 members, and of course our members. A wonderful speech was delivered by our Mike Cicchese. The VVA Honor Guard provided military rifle salute and Taps. When the ceremony was finished, we all went to the Hawthorne Inn for a fine lunch. It is really good that we honor a hero who gave his life for our country.

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

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

9/15 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post 208

July Birthday Scroll

*George Casey
Ronald Frechette
Harry Hope
John Koch
Patricia Powell
Ron Sansone*

August Birthday Scroll

*Michael Cicchese,
Kenneth Hale,
Dennis Simpson*

Mike Cicchese's Address commemorating the 100th birthday of our detachment's namesake, Pvt George Phillips. July 14, 1926-July 14, 2026

Good morning, To the Phillips family, members of the Labadie community, my fellow Marines, veterans, and honored guests:

It is a privilege to stand with you today as a member of the George Phillips Marine Corps League Detachment to celebrate the 100th birthday of Private George Phillips, United States Marine Corps, Medal of Honor recipient.

We gather here, where this American hero rests among his family, friends, and neighbors. It is here, in the community that helped shape him, that we remember not only the Marine who earned our nation's highest award for valor, but also the young man from Labadie whose character was formed long before he ever wore the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor.

The Marine Corps is founded upon three enduring values: Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Honor is doing what is right, even when the cost is great. George Phillips honored his fellow Marines by placing their lives before his own. **Courage** is not the absence of fear. It is acting when everything is on the line. On Iwo Jima when an enemy grenade landed among the sleeping Marines, George did not hesitate. In a single selfless act, he gave his life so that others might live. **Commitment** is faithfulness to duty, to country, and to one another. George Phillips fulfilled that commitment completely. His sacrifice reminds us that freedom has always depended on ordinary Americans willing to do extraordinary things. To the Phillips family, thank you for sharing George with our nation. While his life was far too short, his example has endured for years. His name is spoken with reverence by Marines who never had the privilege of knowing him, but who strives every day to live up to the standard he set.

To the people of Labadie, you have every reason to be proud. This community gave America a young man whose courage became part of our nation's history. His legacy belongs not only to the Marine Corps, but also to this town and to every generation that will come after us.

As members of the George Phillips Marine Corps League Detachment, we are proud to carry his name. We accept the responsibility to keep telling his story, to serve our fellow veterans and our communities with honor, and to ensure that future generations know what one young Marine from Labadie did for his country.

On this 100th anniversary of his birth, we do not simply remember how George Phillips died. We celebrate how he lived - with honor, courage, and commitment.

Private George Phillips, your family remembers you. Your community remembers you. Your fellow Marines remember you. And your Nation remembers you.

Happy 100th Birthday, Marine.

Semper Fidelis.



The ceremony: John Cooper, Mike Cicchese who delivered the address, Jason Lehr



Chaplain Carl Ramsey delivered the prayer



The wreath laying



John Cooper sprinkles the sands of Iwo Jima at the grave site

Pictures of People who attended



**American Legion post commander,
Mike Cicchese & Ron Sansone
(Back Center), Hugh Smith**



Philipp Petersen



Brad McNeil



Rick Meyer and Michael Drake



Donna Murdock And Lois Kessler



George Phillips Family Members



George Phillips Family Members

7.17-26
Dear Marines -
Thank you for honoring the
Memory of our 'Uncle' Junior
O'Brien - George Phillips -
We sincerely appreciate -
Julie Jones
Jodie Fleer
Don & Karen Fleer

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)

Chaplain's report: the passing of Tom Heintz

It is with sorry that we report the passing of Pvt. George Phillips Detachment member Tom Heintz. Tom passed away on Sunday, June 28, 2026 in Springfield, MO surrounded by family. Tom was a life member of the MCL and an active member of our Detachment until his health prevented him from participating. Tom was 90 years old and moved to assisted living in Springfield, MO a couple years ago to be closer to family. Tom's hobby was woodworking and he was famous for making flag display cases for presentation to the family of deceased Detachment members. May God Rest His Gallant Soul.

Condolences may be sent to Tom's daughter: Laurie Brown ,1345 East Anthony St. Springfield, MO 65807. A memorial service for Tom Heintz was held at 10:00 AM, Saturday, July 25, 2026 in St. Clair, MO. Detachment members were invited to attend. The family arranged for military honors/flag presentation at this memorial service.



Thomas Heintz

Thomas Heintz Members Matter April, 2017

I was born in our home at 4857 St. Louis Avenue, St. Louis Missouri on May 2nd, 1936. I grew up in St. Louis and graduated from Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in May 1950. In July of 1951 we moved to Jennings Missouri.

I started in my first job in the 6th grade. I delivered groceries by balancing the box of goods on the handle-bar of my bicycle.

I attended and graduated from William Cullen McBride Catholic High School in June of 1954. All through High School I worked after school and on Saturday at the local Tomboy Store on Jennings Road. Later in 1954 I went to work at Orchard Paper Company. On November 18th 1954, I joined the U.S. Army Reserve, 102nd Ozark Division in St. Louis. In doing so, I was obligated for eight years. After fourteen months and a lot of ribbing from my Marine Brother, I joined the U.S. Marine Corps for a period of three years. Later, I extended my enlistment for three months, so I served a total of 39 months on active duty. The remainder of my 8-year obligation was Class III Ready Marine Corps Reserve.

After Boot Camp at MCRD, San Diego, I got my infantry training at Tent Camp 2, Camp San Onofre, MCB Camp Pendleton. From there I was assigned to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines at Camp Margarita on MCB Pendleton. I spent the entire remainder of my enlistment there. For two months I was a rifleman in the 1st Platoon. I never paid any attention to the MOS I was given out of Boot, just figured I was an 0311, Rifleman. Later, I was taken to the Company Office and told my MOS was 0141, Clerk Typist. Evidently, I did too well on the typing test in Boot. Later on in my enlistment I was given a Secondary MOS 0311.

The Company Chief Clerk was due to be separated in a couple months. So, I was trained to take his place. One of the main jobs of the Chief

Clerk was typing up the Unit Diary every day. Sounds easy, but it was graded at Division Headquarters and mistakes were not permitted. The good part of this job was the T/O called for a Staff Sergeant. In September I finally got my PFC (E2) Stripe, but then in October I was given a Meritorious Promotion to Corporal (E3). In January of 1957 I was sent to Personnel Administration School located at Camp Delmar outside of Oceanside. I came out first in the class. In May of 1957 I was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant (E4) as a result of a Letter of Commendation for my PA School achievement.

I was fortunate in that my Company Commanders always gave me the chance to go to the field with the Company on the many Division Operations. Thereby I was able to experience going over the side of the U.S.S. Okanagan (APA), and off the deck of the U.S.S. Thetas Bay (Helicopter Carrier). Not so much fun were the two trips to Pickle Meadows: Once in the summer for mountain leadership training and once for Cold Weather Training.

Our Regimental Commander was Colonel David Smuck. He commanded a Battalion during the fight out of the frozen Chosen. He liked to take the Regiment on a 110 mile hike every year. I managed to complete both of them. We would hike 2 days down, beer party and bar-b-que on the third day and two days back.

In January of 1958 I married my first wife. Our first child, Tommy, was born at the Oceanside Hospital on December 27, 1958.

I have to say this in closing. I never considered myself a veteran because there was no war in the entire 8 years of my obligation. I was approached by Gunny

Eberle who at the time lived in my subdivision in St. Clair. He had a wooden statue of a Marine in his front yard. One day as I was walking my dog, I stopped and told him that I was an ex-Marine. That is when I learned that “once a Marine, always a Marine”. He corrected me and told me about the Marine Corps League. I became a Charter Member and found out from a couple Iwo Jima Veterans at my first meeting that they considered me as much a Marine as them. They were Bill Bragg and Elmer Dapron. I was floored by that. I love being a Marine and am now proud of my time served.

Semper Fi Brothers.

My name is Tom Heintz.

Note: by the editor, Tom Heintz makes the folded flag & brass holder for the families of deceased Marines. According to Jim Tayon of Franklin County Honor Flight, who attends the First Baptist Church of Village Ridge with Tom, after Tom presented one his holders at the December, 2015 meeting, deceased Commandant Jim Brooks asked him to make one for him. Jim passes away a few weeks later on January 1, 2016. One last note to Tom Heintz, I grew up in Jennings, Missouri too.



Thomas Heintz, November, 2013

The Siege of Peking during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 lasted 55 days from June 20 to August 14. As a boy I first heard about it reading the story of Dan Daly in book about Medal of Honor heroes. As a teenager I was fascinated by the Charlton Heston movie, 55 Days at Peking. However, the Heston movie which in retrospect looks like a continuation of his Civil War Cavalry movie, Major Dundee in which he rides into Peking on a horse with John Ireland, another Western Cavalry actor (Little Bighorn), is a mixture of fact and fiction. For one thing that movie doesn't mention a single Medal of Honor Hero, and *all* of the Marines marched in on foot from the train station led by two captains, Newt Hamill Hall and Jack Twigg Meyers. (Meyers inspired Heston's Major Matt Lewis in 55 Days at Peking and Captain Jerome played by Steve Kanaly in The Wind and the Lion). There were 25 Marines from the USS Oregon under Captain Jack Meyers who joined 23 Marines, five sailors and US Navy Assistant Surgeon Lippett under the command of Captain Newt Hall. The five sailors included a Navy Colt machinegun team led by Gunners Mate Joseph Mitchell. During the siege Marine private Oscar Upham kept a diary which has become a primary history source.

They arrived by train on 31 May at the Peking station. First days were uneventful, but when the Boxers burned train stations on June 6, Captain Meyer sent a wire requesting to his Naval superior McCalla, requesting 25 more men. One June 7 the senior British Marine officer called a meeting to set up a defense plan. On June 11 the Japanese chancellor went to the train station and was murdered. On June 20 the German minister was murdered. That's when the siege of Peking officially began.

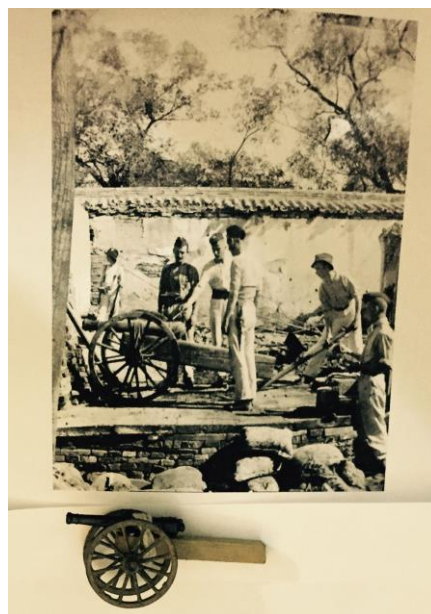
One event in the siege which inspired an incident in the movie, took place when Chinese converts found an old rusty cannon barrel from an earlier war. Gunners Mate Joseph Mitchell cleaned off the rust, it was mounted on an Italian gun carriage, and the defenders figured out a way to fire Russian ammunition, cut in half. It was called the International Cannon, or Betsy. It Currently sits in the Marine Corps Museum. Mitchell must have been quite a character, for on another occasion he single-handedly captured a flag and thumbed his nose at the enemy. Note: I have pictures of many of the medal of honor recipients and their graves, but I don't' room to show them in this newsletter. Carl Ramsey



Newt Hamill Hall



John Twigg Myers



Betsy, the International Cannon and my replica

Siege of Peking Medal of Honor Recipients

Rank and Organization: Chief Machinist Carl Emil Petersen, U.S. Navy. **Place and Date:** Peking, China, **28 June to 17 August 1900**. **Entered Service at:** New Jersey. **Born:** 24 August 1875, Hamburg, Germany. **G. O. No.:** 55, 19 July 1901. In the presence of the enemy during the action at Peking, China, 28 June to 17 August 1900. During this period Chief Machinist Petersen distinguished himself by meritorious conduct.

Rank and Organization: Seaman Axel Westermarck, U.S. Navy. **Born:** 8 April 1875, Finland. **Accredited to:** California. **G. O. No.:** 55, 19 July 1901. In the presence of the enemy during the battle of Peking, China, **28 June to 17 August 1900**. Throughout this period, Westermarck distinguished himself by meritorious conduct.

Rank and Organization: Gunner's Mate First Class Joseph Mitchell, U.S. Navy. **Born:** 27 November 1876, Philadelphia, Pa. **Accredited to:** Pennsylvania. **G. O. No.:** 55, 19 July 1901. In the presence of the enemy during the battle of Peking, China, **12 July 1900**, Mitchell distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. Grave

Rank and Organization: Hospital Apprentice Robert Henry Stanley, U.S. Navy. **Place and Date:** China, **13, 20, 21, and 22 June 1900**. **Entered Service at:** Aboard U.S.S. Vermont. **Born:** 2 May 1881, Brooklyn N.Y. **Accredited to:** New York. **G. O. No.:** 55, 19 July 1901. For distinguished conduct in the presence of the enemy in volunteering and carrying messages under fire at Peking, China, 12 July 1900.

Rank and Organization: Private France Silva, U.S. Marine Corps. **Born:** 8 May 1876, Haywards, Calif. **Accredited to:** California. **G. O. No.:** 55, 19 July 1901 in the presence of the enemy during the action at Peking; China, **28 June to 17 August 1900**. Throughout this period, Silva distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. Picture and Grave

7/21/-8/17/1900, Private Erwin Jay Boydston, U.S. Marine Corps. In the presence of the enemy at Peking, China, 21 **July to 17 August 1900**. Under a heavy fire from the enemy during this period, Boydston assisted in the erection of barricades. Grave

7/21/-8/17/1900, Private William Charlie Horton, U.S. Marine Corps. **Place and Date:** Peking, China, 21 July to 17 August 1900. In action against the enemy at Peking, China, 21 **July to 17 August 1900**. Although under heavy fire from the enemy, Horton assisted in the erection of barricades. Picture and Grave

Private Albert Moore, U.S. Marine Corps. In the presence of the enemy during the battle of Peking, China, **21 July to 17 August 1900**. Although under a heavy fire from the enemy, Moore assisted in the erection of barricades. Grave

7/21/-8/17/1900, Private Oscar J. Upham, U.S. Marine Corps. In the presence of the enemy at Peking, China, **21 July to 17 August 1900**. Although under a heavy fire from the enemy during this period, Upham assisted in the erection of barricades. Picture and Grave

7/21/-8/17/1900, Private William Louis Carr, U.S. Marine Corps. In action at Peking, China, 21 July to 17 August 1900. Throughout this action and in the presence of the enemy, Carr distinguished himself by his conduct. Grave

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) Grave

7/21/-8/17/1900, Drummer John Alphonsus Murphy, U.S. Marine Corps. In the presence of the enemy during the action at Peking, China, 21 July to 17 August 1900, Murphy distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. Grave

7/21/-8/17/1900, Private Herbert Irving Preston, U.S. Marine Corps. In the presence of the enemy during the action at Peking, China, 21 July to 17 August 1900. Throughout this period, Preston distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. Grave

7/21/-8/17/1900, Private David John Scannell, U.S. Marine Corps. In the presence of the enemy during the action at Peking, China, 21 July to 17 August 1900. Throughout this period, Scannell distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. Grave

7/21/-8/17/1900, Private William F. Zion, U.S. Marine Corps. In the presence of the enemy during the battle of Peking, China, 21 July to 17 August 1900. Throughout this period, Zion distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. Grave

7/21/-8/17/1900, Private William H. Murray (aka Henry W Davis), U.S. Marine Corps. In the presence of the enemy during the action at Peking, China, 21 July to 17 August 1900. During this period, Murray distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. No Pictures

***Rank and Organization:* Private Albert Moore, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 25 December 1862, Merced, Calif. *Accredited to:* California. *G. O. No.:* 55, 19 July 1901. In the presence of the enemy during the battle of Peking, China, 21 July to 17 August 1900. Although under a heavy fire from the enemy, Moore assisted in the erection of barricades.**

Boxer Rebellion, August 14, 1900 (Last day of Siege of Peking)

***Rank and organization:* Private Daniel Daly, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 11 November 1873, Glen Cove, Long Island, N.Y. *Accredited to.* New York. *G.O. No.:* 55, 19 July 1901. *Other Navy Awards:* Second Medal of Honor, Navy Cross. In the presence of the enemy during the battle of Peking, China, 14 August 1900, Daly distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. Grave & Picture**

***Rank and Organization:* Musician Calvin Pearl Titus, U.S. Army, Company E, 14th U.S. Infantry. *Place and Date:* At Peking, China, 14 August 1900. *Entered Service at:* Iowa. *Birth:* Vinton, Iowa. *Date of issue:* 11 March 1902. Gallant and daring conduct in the presence of his colonel and other officers and enlisted men of his regiment; was first to scale the wall of the city. Picture and Grave**