

**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**

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**All annual dues expire on August 31st of each year. Our membership dues are \$40.00 a year and are due prior to George Phillips Detachment" and send to the Detachment address.**

**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 June 18, 2024**



**June 2024**  
Volume XX – Issue 6

**Commandant:**  
Brad McNeil  
636-225-2866

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

**Jr. Vice-Commandant**  
Joe Gentile  
314-488-9440

**Adjutant/Paymaster:**  
Dennis Simpson  
636-230-5976

**Judge Advocate**  
**Public Information**  
**Officer: Hugh Smith**  
636-484-4188

**Benevolence:**  
Open

**Sgt at Arms:**  
Gerald Gerling  
636-271-3778

**Chaplain**  
Carl E. Ramsey  
314-304-7915  
**Web Sgt: Brad McNeil**  
636-225-2866



**Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday**  
**of Every Month**  
**1930 – 7:30 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](mailto:PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com)

**Detachment Webpage**

<http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/>  
[bmcneil@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 April 30**

**76**

**Trustee 3Yr:**  
Mike Cicchese  
636-208-4676

**Trustee 2Yr:**  
Andrew "AJ" Neely  
314-550-8065

**Trustee 1Yr:**  
Open

**Jr. Past**  
**Commandant**  
Ed Rau:  
314-378-7627

**Ways & Means:**  
Open

**Quartermaster:**  
Open

**Eagle Scout**  
**Liaison:**  
Joe Gentile  
314-488-9440

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

## Commandant's Corner

### ATTENTION ON DECK



To all members and associate members of our Private George Phillips detachment, Marine Corps League. I am grateful for the honor and privilege to serve as your Commandant. Our June meeting is scheduled for the 18th at 1930 hours. I look forward to seeing all of you at that time, masks are optional.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out on our Memorial Day collection, it was a great success. And a special thanks to Hugh Smith for scheduling and handling this collection. Also, we need someone to fill in for our Quartermaster Tyler Gerling, who will be on leave during the spring and part of the summer. Please contact me or Dennis Simpson if you are interested in helping us out.

Also, our new shed has been purchased and [constructed].

I would once again like to welcome Jason Lehr to our detachment.

Hey Marines, we need a replacement for Ed Rau who transferred to the St. Charles detachment, to head up our Benevolence Committee. If you would be interested in taking on this task, please let either myself or Dennis Simpson know.

Also, our birthday celebration for Pvt. George Phillips will be held on July 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at

10:00 am, with more to come. An email will be sent reminding everyone of this important milestone.

Semper Fi Marines.....

Brad McNeil, Commandant  
Pvt. George Phillips Detachment # 1214  
Marine Corps League Semper Fi  
[bmcneil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmcneil@sbcglobal.net)

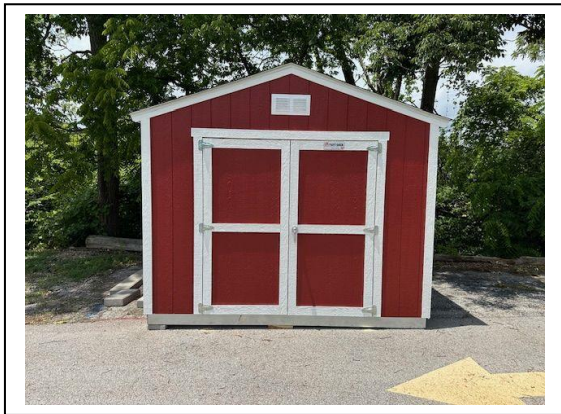


**Father's Day Thought from Chaplain.**  
**A father walking along with his son, saw a dead bird. He said, "Look Johnny, that bird died and went to heaven." Johnny stared at the bird as he replied, "Why did God throw it back?" The moral of story is God has a sense of humor hidden in his wisdom, and he allows fathers and sons to discover it together.**

## To All Members

We have purchased a Tuff Shed to use in place of a storage unit. There is a section of the accounting now designated as “The Shed Fund.” If you feel the need to give or send a contribution to Pvt George Phillips Detachment 1214 PO Box 1 Ballwin MO 63022-0001 (Same address listed on top of newsletter), Note Shed Fund in Memo.

John Cooper Senior Vice Commandant



## Messages from the Junior Vice Commandant, Joe Gentile

On May 1, 2024, Jerry Gerling, John Cooper, and Joe Gentile attended Pacific High School Jr. ROTC graduation program. Twelve seniors graduated out of 54 cadets. Two entering the USMC received certificates.

Save the date for the next detachment picnic: September 8, 2024, Simpson Park in Valley Park, Fishing and boat rentals available, Time is noon to 8 pm. Theme is Fiesta Time. (That should make you think of the Halls of Montezuma). Food and drinks provided along with a pinata for kids. Contact Joe Gentile to RSVP and for questions

### June 2024

7-8 – Department Convention hosted by 725 Sheraton Westport Chalet 191 W Poet Plaza Dr St. Louis MO 63146 314 878n1500

Capital Plaza, Jefferson City

8-9 Saint Louis Air Show

415 W McCarty St 573-635-1234

12 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

18 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

### July 2024

10 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

14 – Pvt George Phillips Birthday

16 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

20 – Pvt George Phillips Birthday

Observance 10:00 in Labadie, Missouri

### August 2024

12-16 – National Convention Rancho Mirage CA. For further Information Contact Dennis Simpson.

14 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

20 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

### September 2024

11 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

17 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

27 – Pat McCormick Golf tournament

See Brochure Last Page

### October 2024

9 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

15 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

### November 2024

13 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

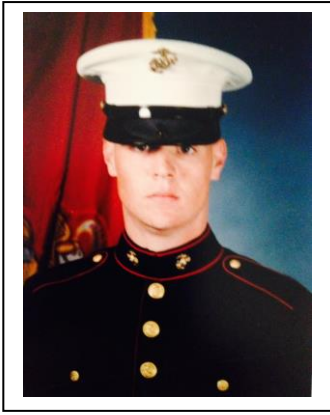
19 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

### December 2024

11 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208

17 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

## MEMBERS MATTER Jason S. Lehr



Jason S. Lehr was born June 26, 1980, and grew up in Florissant, Missouri. He graduated from Hazelwood Central High School, and served in the Marine Corps from January 19, 1999 to April 30, 2004. He served five years, three months, eleven days, and received a Medical Discharge. He went to Boot Camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, followed by Hydraulics A School at Pensacola, Florida, and C School at Virginia Beach, Virginia. After graduation from C School in September, 1999, he was stationed at NAS (Naval Air Station) New River, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where he would spend the majority of his enlistment, with one exception. One week after 9-11 (September 11, 2001), on September 18, 2001 he was deployed to Afghanistan for seven months. During one stretch he was shipbound on the USS Bataan for 118 days, which he said was a naval record. He performed intermediate maintenance on CH 53E rotor craft and the AV8B Harrier. (I told Jason, Colonel Jack Jackson, the last Harrier test pilot, was a member of our detachment). The following is Jason's story in his own words.

I initially planned to become a Military Police (MP) Officer when I joined the Marine Corps, but shortly before signing the contract, the personnel officer asked if I was interested in a career as an Aviation Mechanic. I excitedly took the aviation option, a choice that turned

out to be perfect for me. I served on active duty from January 19, 1999, to April 30, 2004. My journey began at Marine Corps Recruit Depot - San Diego for boot camp, followed by specialized training at NAS Pensacola and NAS Virginia Beach.

Upon arriving at MCAS New River as a Private First Class, I was assigned to the Airframes division of MALS 29 (Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 29) as a Hydraulics/Pneumatics Mechanic. MCAS New River, a rotorcraft base, hosts several rotorcraft squadrons operating the CH-53E, CH-46, Hueys, and Cobras.

My tasks involved repairing and overhauling hydraulic components, as well as maintaining aircraft tires and wheels, which I found rewarding. During my time, I had the opportunity to serve on the USS Bataan (LHD-5) from September 19, 2001, to April 2002, participating in Operation Bright Star and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The deployment was marked by significant achievements, including 118 consecutive days off the coast of Pakistan supporting the War on Terrorism. The majority of the aircraft and Marines were deployed to Kandahar Airport in forward support of the war on terrorism. I was one of few Marines that remained on the ship and was part of the crew that didn't touch land for 118 days and participated in two steel beach parties. A steel beach party takes place after 90 days without a port call; the Navy issues two beers to personnel and we celebrated with sunning and playing sports on the deck and/or swimming in the aft end of the ship where the LCACs (Landing Craft Air Cushions) are generally stowed.

Following my Marine Corps service, I joined The Donaldson Company, assembling helicopter inlets for both commercial and military rotorcraft. Starting as an hourly assembler, I progressed to become the Plant Manager before transitioning to the Boeing Company in 2018. Presently, I work as a Logistics Integrator supporting the Swiss Airforce F/A-18. As an Integrator I provide aircraft sustainment support for any non-technical challenges, concerns or efforts

contracted through the US Navy. I have a MBA (Webster University) and an undergrad (Fontbonne University) in Business Administration.

Outside of work, I treasure spending time with my family. My wife Becky and I have been married since July 2010, sharing two wonderful children, Grace (11) and Oliver (6), and my oldest son Matthew (20) from a previous marriage. Matthew is set to begin his senior year at Missouri State University in the Fall. I find joy in outdoor activities and watching my children excel in sports—I even coach soccer and baseball. Recently, I attended the FOCUS Marine Foundation in May 2024, where I connected with several chapter members and eagerly anticipate contributing to the Marine Corps League and the Pvt George Phillips Detachment.



USS Bataan (LHD-5)



On board the USS Bataan



MALS 29 (Jason far right Back Row)



NCOs MALS 29 (Jason Second from Left)



Picture on Left, Left to Right: Jason Lehr and his family: Matthew, Oliver, Jason, Becky, Grace.

*June Birthday Scroll*

*Stephen Grgurich--Gary Harris,  
Franklin Hawkins--Philip Kemp*



**Memorial Day at Labadie**



**June 9, 2024, newsletter editor Carl Ramsey, visits  
USS Yorktown in Charleston South Carolina**

## AMERICAN FREEDOM FESTIVAL SPEECH

Provo, Utah June 2023

Sgt Ken Luttrell

1<sup>st</sup> JASCO, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division

TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS EVENINGS EVENT AND ALL ATTENDEES. I WAS HUMBLERED TO RECEIVE THE COVETED FREEDOM AWARD, HOWEVER, I DON'T THINK THAT I DESERVE IT AS IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR SO MANY OF MY FELLOW MARINES WHO NEVER MADE IT BACK TO OUR GREAT NATION TO RECEIVE IT.

WORLD WAR II WAS A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN OUR CIVILIZATION. THE WORLD'S FREEDOM LAY IN THE BALANCE AS UNCHECKED TYRANNY LED TO UNTHINKABLE SLAUGHTER ON BOTH SIDES OF THE GLOBE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BETWEEN 60 TO 70 MILLION LOST THEIR LIVES IN THIS CATASTROPHIC GLOBAL CONFLICT.

MANY WOULD SAY THAT THEY KNOW WHAT FREEDOM MEANS, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR FREEDOM ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO TRULY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF FREEDOM. ANOTHER WAY TO CHARACTERIZE FREEDOM IS TO EVALUATE THE COST OF FREEDOM, WHICH I WILL PURSUE WITH RESPECT TO MY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARINE DIVISION COMRADES IN FOUR CAMPAIGNS IN THE PACIFIC.

ON FEBRUARY 1, 1944, AFTER 3 DAYS OF BOMBARDMENT, THE 23rd AND 24th MARINES STORMED THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, **ROI AND NAMUR**, IN THE BATTLE OF KWAJALEIN, WHICH CONTINUED FOR 4 DAYS. OUR CAPTURE OF ROI AND NAMUR HELPED ME START TO UNDERSTAND THE COST OF FREEDOM AS WE LOST 190 MARINES AND CORPSMEN AND OVER 500 WOUNDED.

THE ISLAND OF **SAIPAN**, PART OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS, WAS FORTIFIED WITH NEARLY 32,000 JAPANESE TROOPS. IN ADDITION, THE INHABITANTS WERE INDOCTRINATED TO EXPECT A BARBARIC INVADER. SAIPAN WOULD REPRESENT A CRITICAL STAGING BASE FOR B-29 BOMBERS TO LAUNCH RAIDS ON THE JAPANESE HOME ISLANDS. THEREFORE ON JUNE 16, 1944, SAIPAN WAS INVADDED BY THREE DIVISIONS AT THREE SEPARATE LOCATIONS: THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MARINE DIVISION ON THE WEST COAST, THE 27<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION IN THE MIDDLE AND THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MARINE DIVISION ON THE EAST COAST. ON SAIPAN, I WITNESSED AT MARPI POINT THE SENSELESS SUICIDE BY CIVILIANS WHO WERE MISLED BY FALSE STORIES OF MARINE BRUTALITY. THE BATTLE OF SAIPAN LASTED 23 DAYS, COSTING OVER 3,000 KILLED IN ACTION AND 11,000 MARINE AND ARMY CASUALTIES.

ON JULY 24, 1944, THE ISLAND OF **TINIAN** WAS INVADDED BY THE 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> MARINE DIVISIONS, LEAVING 384 MARINES KILLED IN ACTION AND 1,961 WOUNDED OVER 9 DAYS.

ON FEBRUARY 19, 1945, THE INFAMOUS INVASION OF **IWO JIMA** BEGAN. IWO, DEFENDED BY 20,000 JAPANESE SOLDIERS, WAS INVADDED BY THE 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> MARINE DIVISIONS IN A MONTH-LONG CAMPAIGN TO WIN A VITAL LINK IN THE CHAIN OF BASES ULTIMATELY NEEDED TO LAUNCH 2,400 BOMBERS. ALTHOUGH I WAS WOUNDED FEBRUARY 21 AND NOT THERE TO SEE IT, ON D-DAY + 4, FEBRUARY 23, 1945, OUR FLAG FLEW ATOP MT SURIBACHI. HOWEVER, THE BATTLE RAGED FOR 36 DAYS AND HAD A DEVASTATING TOLL AS 6,800 MARINES MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR FREEDOM AND OVER 19,000 WERE WOUNDED. I FELT THE ANGUISH OF LOSING MANY OF MY FELLOW MARINES, LIKE PFC COTTLE, ANOTHER ST. LOUISAN, WHO I SAW LAYING ON THE INVASION BEACH AND CORPORAL RUGIERILLO WHO WAS NEXT TO ME WHEN WE WERE HIT BY ARTILLERY ON D-DAY + 2. TO PARAPHRASE ADMIRAL NIMITZ, "*AMONG AMERICANS WHO SERVED ON IWO ISLAND, UNCOMMON VALOR WAS A COMMON VIRTUE.*"

IN SUMMARY FOR ALL FOUR ISLANDS, THE COST OF FREEDOM IS CLEARLY UNDERREPRESENTED BY THE CATASTROPHIC LOSS OF NEARLY 11 THOUSAND MARINES. ALTHOUGH WE ACHIEVED MILITARY SUCCESS IN THE PACIFIC, THE OVERWHELMING COST OF FREEDOM HAD A TRAUMATIC IMPACT FOR MORE THAN 100,000 PARENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, GRANDPARENTS AND CLOSE FRIENDS TO THOSE NEARLY 11 THOUSAND MARINES. BASED ON THESE NUMBERS, AS MANY AS 7 MILLION AMERICANS, OR 5% OF THE US POPULATION AT THE TIME, SUFFERED BASED ON THE NEARLY 700,000 GIs KILLED IN ACTION.

THESE SOLDIERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO RETURN TO THEIR SWEETHEARTS, GET MARRIED AND ENJOY THE SIMPLE YET EXTRAORDINARY PLEASURES OF MARRIAGE AND PARENTHOOD, NEVER GOT TO SEE THEIR CHILDREN PLAY AND GROW AND HAVE THEIR OWN CHILDREN. THESE SACRIFICES BEST CHARACTERIZE THE TRUE COST OF FREEDOM THAT WAS PAID BY SO MANY SOLDIERS, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER WORLD WAR II, TO ALLOW OTHERS TO LIVE LIFE FULLY WITHOUT TYRANNY IN OUR GREAT NATION AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THEREFORE, I HUMBLY ACCEPT THIS AWARD ON BEHALF OF MY FELLOW MARINES AND ALL OF THE GREAT AMERICAN CITIZEN SOLDIERS WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR FREEDOM.



Sgt Ken Luttrell was born in St Louis in Jan Brentwood High School where he ran track. join his friends while his brothers enlisted in (Arthur Tennison). After being inducted in completed basic training at the Marine Corp Luttrell completed radio school and was Signal Company) which consisted of 9 Battalion), each team consisting of five completing Scout School at Camp training at Boat Basin – Oceanside with Island and radio operator training aboard 1943, Sgt Luttrell in the radio squad of pursued maneuvers along with west coast 1944, the APA-42 linked with a convoy at Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 1944, Stg Luttrell's squad stormed Luttrell first felt the impact of battle while Japanese pillbox filled with ammo that sent into assault force landing craft. On Roi- than directing naval gunfire. The 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Haliakila). In late May, they departed for Luttrell's squad were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of the attacked the west coast of the island while both divisions subsequently moving north devastating naval gunfire from battleships shells" to illuminate the sky during several several Marine buddies in Saipan and themselves off of Marpi point cliff based on July 24<sup>th</sup>, Sgt Luttrell's squad was in the first wave of the invasion of Tinian 9 miles away. Sgt Luttrell remembers blowing up a post-office filled with invasion money and during the rainy first evening, he covered his foxhole with corrugated metal to prevent entry of shrapnel. The 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Div was then transferred back to Maui for 3-4 months for training and reinforcement with replacements. The 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Div then embarked on their voyage to participate in the infamous invasion of Iwo Jima on Feb 19 1945 and were transferred from to LSTs four days prior to the invasion. Sgt Luttrell's team was on the first wave of the amphibious assault of yellow beach with Motoyama airfield as their objective. His team inched forward on yellow beach and in the valley between Mt Surabachi and the airfield through frequent artillery shelling from large guns embedded into the mountain which traversed at various levels for each bombardment. Sgt Luttrell was able to direct naval gunfire on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day to specified targets. At 7 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day (Feb 21<sup>st</sup>) as he was setting up a 20 ft naval telescoping radio antenna, Sgt Luttrell was hit at high velocity by a piece of shrapnel that ripped through his left cheek to exit out his right cheek. Although semi-conscious and without vision, he struggled to get to the beach with the assistance of Cpl John Johnson "Johnny" who used semaphore flags to call in a boat. After being strapped down on a stretcher and loaded onto a landing craft, Sgt Luttrell nearly drowned in his own blood until he managed to flip himself onto his stomach allowing the blood to drain out of his airway. He was taken to Saipan on the USS Solace and then to Hawaii on a PBY2Y. He required 9 operations to rebuild his facial bones in four separate hospitals with the initial operations performed by a fellow St Louisan, Dr Guerdan Hardy, an EENT specialist. He was honorably discharged on Nov 21, 1945 at Great Lakes Naval Station and was employed as a stereotyper for 20 years and opened a Nursery in Sunset Hills. He married Rae and they have a caring daughter, Nancy Rae. Sgt Luttrell's charge to Americans is to strive to keep our country great and to preserve liberty. Sgt Luttrell was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, American Campaign Medal, Asian-Pacific Campaign ribbon with four bronze stars, WWII Victory Medal and rifle sharpshooter badge.



Roi – Namur (3<sup>rd</sup> Wave)  
 Saipan (2<sup>nd</sup> Wave)  
 Tinean (1<sup>st</sup> Wave)  
 Iwo Jima (1<sup>st</sup> Wave)  
 Yellow Beach

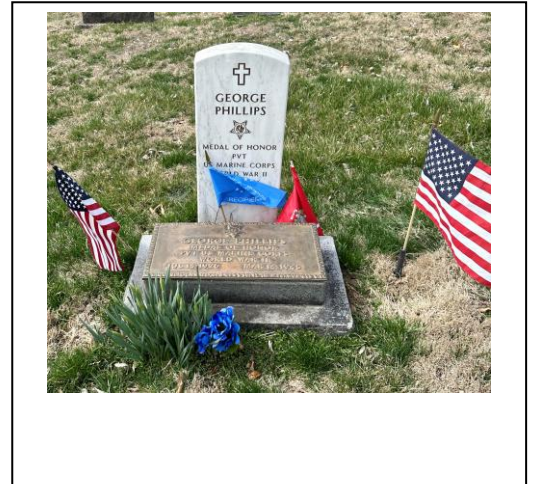


1924 and graduated in 1942 from Sgt Luttrell enlisted in the Marine Corps to the Navy (James Walter) and Army Air Corp December 1942 at the Old Mark Building, he base in San Diego. Three months later, Sgt assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> JASCO (Joint Assault Teams (one team assigned to each squads with 9 marines per squad. After Pendleton, Sgt Luttrell completed landing landings at Aliso Beach and San Clemente the destroyer USS Hughes. On Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Team 2.2 (1<sup>st</sup> JASCO, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Div), on USS Elmore (APA-42). In mid-January Hawaii en route to the Martial Islands. On the beaches (3<sup>rd</sup> wave) of Roi – Namur. Sgt on his LCVP when naval gunfire exploded a large chunks of concrete flying 400 yards Namur, Sgt Luttrell managed coms rather Div then trained & refit on Maui (Mt Saipan for the invasion on June 16 1944. Sgt invasion who with the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Div the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Div attacked from the east; in parallel. On Saipan, Sgt Luttrell directed Texas and California and directed "star nocturnal bonsai attacks. Sgt Luttrell lost witnessed the suicide by civilians who threw false propaganda of Marine savagery. On

Pvt. George Phillips Birthday 2024



Pvt. George Phillips  
July 14, 1926 - March 14, 1945



Pvt. George Phillips Birthday

Call to Order: Commandant Brad McNeil

Opening Prayer: Detachment Chaplin Carl Ramsey

Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance: Gerry Gerling

Welcoming: Commandant Brad McNeil

Introduction of Phillips surviving family members:

Opening remarks: Sr. Vice-Commandant John Cooper

Placement of wreath: Commandant/Sr. Vice-Commandant

March to grave site

Reading of MOH Citation: Jr. Vice-Commandant Joe Gentile

Sprinkling of sand: Commandant Brad McNeil

Firing of rifle volley: Color Guard

Taps:

Return to top of hill

Closing Remarks: Commandant Brad McNeil

Closing prayer: Detachment Chaplin Carl Ramsey

Dismissal: Adjourn to Hawthorne Inn

Luncheon Location

Hawthorne Inn

123 Front Street

Labadie, MO



PRIVATE GEORGE PHILLIPS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVED

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 the 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the seizure of Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands, on 14 March 1945. Standing the foxhole watch while other members of his squad rested after a night of bitter hand grenade fighting against infiltrating Japanese troops, Pvt. 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, Pvt. Phillips willingly yielded his own life that his fellow Marines might carry on the relentless battle against a fanatic enemy. His superb valor and unflinching spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflect the highest credit upon himself and upon the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Harry S. Truman