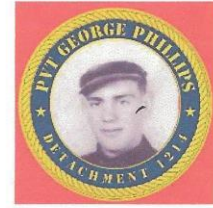


**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214  
Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box #1  
Ballwin, MO 63022**



**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 July 16, 2024**



**July 2024**  
Volume XX – Issue 7

**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:**  
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 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 June 30**

**75**

**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

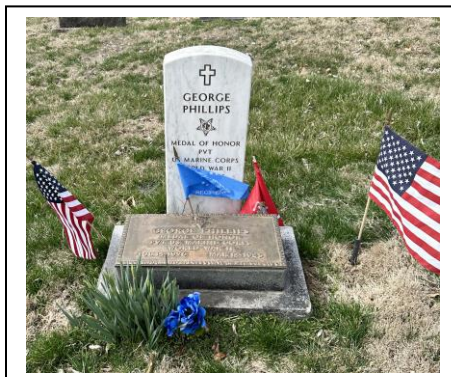
**Editor/Historian:**  
Carl E. Ramsey  
314-304-7915

## Commandant's Corner

### ATTENTION ON DECK



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



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 July meeting is scheduled for the 16th at 1930 hours. I look forward to seeing all of you at that time, masks are optional.

I would like to Thank John Cooper, Dennis Simpson, Mike Cicchese and Bradley Jr. for their help moving all of our stuff from the storage unit to our new shed. We had 4 pickups and it took a little over 4 hours to complete. So, thank you for your time and effort.

**We will be putting a work party together once it gets a bit cooler to organize the shed and throw away things that we no longer need. More information to come.**

And a big thanks, to Mike Cicchese for stepping to head up our Benevolence Committee along with Jack and Jason.

Also, I would like to remind everyone that our birthday celebration for Pvt George Phillips will be held on July 20 starting at 10:00 am, with lunch to follow at the Hawthorne Inn. An email will be sent reminding everyone of this important milestone. Pvt. George would have been 98 on July 14, 2024.

Semper Fi Marines.....



**Members: Don't forget the date, Sunday, September 8, 2024 12:00 Noon to 8 pm, or as we say in the Marine Corps: 1200 to 2000.**

**Detachment Picnic. Simpson Park in Valley Park** Fishing and boat rentals available, Theme is Fiesta Time. (That should make you think of the Halls of Montezuma). Food and drinks provided along with a pinata for kids.

**For more information contact Joe Gentile, Jr Vice Commandant to RSVP and for questions.**

**314 488 9440 [jgentile5550@gmail.com](mailto:jgentile5550@gmail.com)**

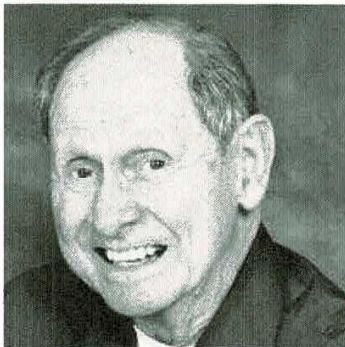
**Chaplain's Message.** One of my most memorable experiences as a young Christian occurred when I was a high school teacher living in apartment complex and a Christian social worker who lived next door to me called on the phone and asked me to get to her apartment fast. In other words—HELP! I quickly got next door where my neighbor introduced me to a young man who had been sent to her by her sister who said he was being bothered by an evil spirit. I prayed with him and my neighbor and I began by asking if he knew Jesus as his personal savior. He said yes but had made the mistake of practicing astral projection. I told him not to do that again. Then I had him, me and my neighbor rededicate our lives to **Jesus**, to make sure **Jesus** was Lord of this situation. Then myself and my neighbor asked **Jesus** to cast the spirit out of the young man. That worked and the young man ended up okay and he left in peace. In summary, if something unusual happens in your Christian life and you have to improvise, adapt, and overcome God's way, **start with prayer**. In response God will either show you the best safe thing to do, or he'll take you by the hand and guide you through it. Semper Fi. Carl Ramsey, detachment chaplain.

## Obituary

### Frank J. Kekeisen

August 8, 1940 - February 20, 2024

Frank Joseph Kekeisen passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024.



He was born on August 8, 1940 in Decatur, Illinois, graduated from Bishop DuBourg High School and then from St. Louis University. He joined the marines in 1962 and was stationed at Camp Pendleton in San Diego. In 1966 he met Regina Gloria Granicke and they married on New Year's Eve that year. Frank was an avid Cardinals fan, a member of many local singing organizations, the lector at Holy Spirit Church in Maryland Heights, MO, had a 25 year career at the Veterans Administration and was a devoted father of his two sons John and Mark. He was predeceased by his sister Janet, brothers William and Robert and survived by his two boys and older sister Louise.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Wounded Warriors Project or Shriners Hospital for Children.

Reprint of Frank Kekeisen's Members Matter article  
from September 2017 appears on next two pages

I was born on August 8, 1940 (which I believe was the day Germany began bombing England), in Decatur, Illinois. I was named Frank Kekeisen, like my dad and my grandad, and my great grandfather, who came from Bern, Switzerland.

I had two brothers and two sisters, but only one sister is still alive. We lived in Decatur until 1952, then moved to Webster Groves, Missouri. My oldest brother, Bill, and my dad's brother, Bob, were Priests.

I graduated from Dubourg High School in 1958 and then entered Kenrick Seminary, planning to become a priest. They had great classes and discipline; we dressed like priests. But, after a year in the seminary I realized I wanted to marry and have kids. While studying in the library I found a recruiting pamphlet for the Marine Corps. So, at the end of my year I told my dad I wanted to join the Corps. To my surprise he said he would not support me in that decision, unless I finished college and became an officer. He introduced me to an assistant in his company who had been a Marine officer. So, I finished college and in 1959 I entered the Marines under the Platoon Leaders Program. I went to two boot camps at Quantico from 1960 to 1961, trading a Bible for a rifle. Under the PLC Program you had to be able to command a platoon, drill troops, and give orders to others.

After graduating from St. Louis University in 1962 I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and attended Basic School for eight or nine months. I learned military strategy, all the weaponry, and how to be a platoon commander. As a Marine officer, I also had to buy an officer's sword. To my surprise only two companies made them, one in Germany and the other in Japan. I chose the German company.

Many of my fellow officers were from the

South. Being from Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, I had to adjust to my new comrades. (My great grandmother worked as a pantry maid for Abe Lincoln in his home.) We also had exchange students from South Vietnam and Taiwan.

I loved jogging with my buddy Jim, who had run with another Marine, Billy Mills, an Olympian who won the 10,000 meters run in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics

I graduated in 1963 and went to Communications School. Then I was transferred to the First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. I worked in the First Marine Division Communications Office where I processed and sent messages from the General. At that time, many requests for officers and NCO's interested in being advisors in South Vietnam were coming through. Of course, this was the year President Kennedy was assassinated. A very sad time indeed.

I then was transferred to the 11th Marines HQ, working as Asst. Comm. Officer for Captain Reilly, a mustang officer. Ironically, my three-year tour ended in July, 1965, or I would have been sent to Danang. So, I returned to St. Louis.

I tried law school for one year, but it didn't work out. Not a good idea to try after being gone for three years. So, for ten years I taught seventh grade at Ladue schools, then junior high for Parkway schools,

I married Gloria, in 1966, and she agreed that I should work at the VA. So, in 1976 I was hired by the Veterans Administration office in St. Louis as a Claims Examiner. It was a very fulfilling job, and seemed fitting since I didn't make it to Vietnam. At the end, I paid benefits to widows and orphans of deceased veterans. I retired in August, 2000.

Along the way, Gloria gave birth to our two sons, John and Mark. John is six feet eight inches tall and was second team All-State at Chaminade in 1984-85. Mark also played high school basketball, then graduated from Kansas University.

It was 1995, and Mark said rank was too slow in the Corps, so he chose the Navy. He served twenty years as a Navy pilot flying the C-2 aircraft on and off carriers. That turned out okay because he ended up a Commander and a pilot instructor. He also served in Japan where he met his wife. They have three children.

My lovely wife, Gloria passed away in 2013 from cancer.

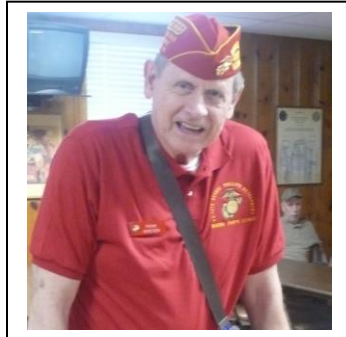
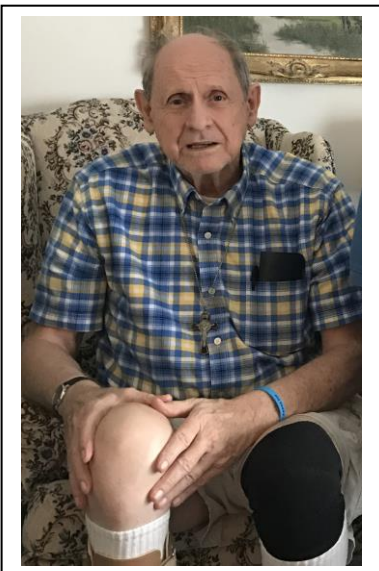
Now in my old age, my hobby is drawing portraits in colored pencil.

In February 2017 I fell, injuring my left knee. After the surgery, I became homebound. But I eventually plan to resume singing with my chorus, the St. Louis County Community Chorus and help at my church by doing the readings.

I hope to sing tenor again in a large chorus, and I love classical music.

Also, I sincerely believe I am obligated to make donations to charities and groups such as the Shriners Hospital, the USO, Paralyzed Veterans and the DAV. I continue in the American Legion and the Marine Corps League.

I am Frank Kekeisen.



#### 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

10 – Camp Lejeune Claim Deadline  
(See Brochure)

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

8 – Detachment Picnic – 1200 -2000  
Simpson Park in Valley Park

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

## From the Paymaster

Annual dues notices will be going out in July. All annual dues memberships expire on August 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are an annual dues member, please save your Detachment a stamp and submit your \$40.00 Detachment membership dues for 2025. Checks/money orders should be made payable to the Pvt. George Phillips Detachment and mailed to:

Pvt. George Phillips Detachment  
Marine Corps League  
P.O Box 1  
Ballwin, MO 63022

If you are interested in a life membership, submit the appropriate age category life membership amount to same address. Once a life member you will pay no additional membership fees. Semper Fi.

### Life Membership rates

#### Age

0 – 35: \$1,000  
36 – 50: \$ 800.00  
51 – 64: \$ 600.00  
65 – 84: \$ 400.00  
85+ \$ 100.00

## 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



### *July Birthday Scroll*

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

**Camp Lejeune Administrative Claims Deadlines are**  
**Approaching**

**File Administrative Claims by August 10, 2024**

The Deadline to file an Administrative Claim (NOT VA) with the US Navy is August 10, 2024. The Deadline is August 10, 2024. File before August 10, 2024. I strongly recommend obtaining legal representation for this.

The US Navy put out a paper entitled “Public Guidance on Elective Option for Camp Lejeune Justice Act Claims” You can access that document with the QR code below:



This is a separate option from filing for benefits with the VA. You may be entitled to both. You can pursue both. Filing with the Camp Lejeune Registry DOES NOT protect you, nor is it considered filing an Administrative Claim.

This Administrative Claims process also applies to FAMILY MEMBERS who meet the criteria. The deadline is the same: August 10, 2024. This administrative claim does not replace the VA process (which I am told is broke) for Family Members to access VA Health Care for exposures at Camp Lejeune.

**File your Administrative Claim no later than August 10, 2024.**



## MISSOURI Korean War MIA Marines during July

### 7/19/1953 Cpl James Albert Richardson MIA MO I Co 3/7 1 Mar (Picture 1)

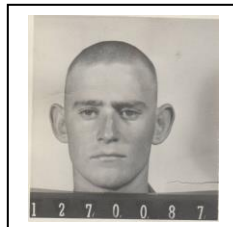
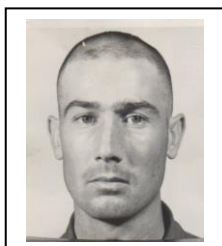
In the second week of July 1953, the U.S. 7th Marine Regiment's 3rd Battalion had moved in to replace the 2nd Battalion at two outposts, known as Berlin and East Berlin, along the Main Line of Resistance in Korea. Heavy rains had halted supply trucks and reduced the effectiveness of Marine ground patrols. On July 17, the 7th Marines ran into a Chinese unit as they approached an abandoned outpost south of Berlin and East Berlin, and a brief firefight ensued before both sides withdrew. Two days later, on the evening of July 19, the Chinese struck back at the Berlin outposts. The Marines put up a stiff resistance but could not withstand the multiple waves of Chinese troops, and a few hours after midnight on July 20 the outposts were declared lost. The 7th Marines reorganized and launched a counterattack the next morning; however, it was unsuccessful, and the outposts were not reclaimed. Over 100 Marines went missing or were wounded or killed during the action. (Above also applies to Cpl Seesengood) Corporal James Albert Richardson entered the U.S. Marine Corps from Missouri and was a member of I Company of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. On July 19, 1953, he was killed in action during the heavy fighting at Outposts Berlin and East Berlin, though the exact circumstances of his loss remain unknown. His remains were never recovered, and he is still unaccounted-for.

### 7/19/1953 Cpl Herman Joseph Seesengood MIA MO I Co 3/7 1 Mar (Picture 2)

Corporal Herman Joseph Seesengood entered the U.S. Marine Corps from Missouri and was a member of I Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. On July 19, 1953, Cpl Seesengood was killed in action during the fighting at Outposts Berlin and East Berlin, though the exact circumstances of his loss remain unknown. His remains were never recovered, and he is still unaccounted-for.

### 7/25/1953 PFC Robert Charles Barnhart MIA MO G Co 3/1 1 Mar (Picture 3)

On July 24th, Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) attacked U.S. Marine positions on Hills 119 and 111, which were on the eastern end of the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) in the Korean Peninsula. For two days, the CCF launched wave after wave of mortars and troops against the Marines, who called in reinforcements and managed to hold onto their positions. Private First Class Robert Barnhart, who joined the U.S. Marine Corps Missouri, served with G Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He was reported missing in action during fighting on July 25, as his unit fought off repeated Chinese attacks against the Marine defensive positions on Hills 119 (Outpost Boulder City) and 111. A year later his status was amended by virtue of a presumptive finding of death. He was not identified among remains returned to U.S. custody after the war.





# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Patt McCormick Golf Tournament

\*\*\*\*\* Friday September 27, 2024 \*\*\*\*\*

07:30 am Registration

08:00 am Shotgun Start – 4 Person Scramble

Entry Fee - \$125.00 per player

All Tournament Applications & Payments must be submitted to  
Frank Remsik – Tournament Organizer before Friday September 13, 2024

## TOURNAMENT LOCATION:

### Paradise Valley Golf & Country Club

1005 Lochmoor Dr.  
High Ridge, Mo 63049  
(636) 225-5157 — parvalgolf@aol.com

### INCLUDES:

- Green Fees & Cart
- Beverages & Hot Dogs on Course
- Prizes for A, B & C Flights
- Prize for longest drive
- Prize for Closest to Pin: 2, 12, 17
- Awards and Meal (cash bar) @  
Paradise Valley Golf Club House

### Option:

- Meal only \$24.00

Player / Sponsor Applications  
Coming Soon

### CONTACTS:

Frank Remsik – 636-751-3204

[frankremsik.post208@gmail.com](mailto:frankremsik.post208@gmail.com)

Harold Isom – 314-749-2702

[isomh@charter.net](mailto:isomh@charter.net)

Make Checks Payable to:

AMERICAN LEGION WALTER LE PERE POST 208

225 OLD SULPHUR SPRING RD.

MANCHESTER, MO 63021

636-391-9424

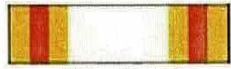
[www.legionpost208.org](http://www.legionpost208.org)

501 (C) 19 Veterans Organization



# Marine Corps League Awards

## Order of Precedence



MCL Hero Medal



MCL Distinguished  
Citizen — Gold Medal



MCL Distinguished  
Citizen — Silver Medal



MCL Distinguished  
Citizen — Bronze Medal



MCL Distinguished  
Service — Bronze Medal



MCL Marine of the Year  
Ribbon — National



MCL Associate Member of the  
Year Ribbon — National



MCL Marine of the Year  
Ribbon — Division



MCL Associate Member of the  
Year Ribbon — Division



MCL Marine of the Year  
Ribbon — Department



MCL Associate Member of  
the Year Ribbon —  
Department



MCL Marine of the Year Ribbon  
— Detachment



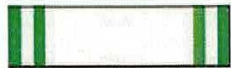
MCL Associate Member of the  
Year Ribbon — Detachment



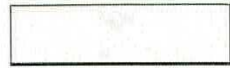
MCL National Recruiter —  
Gold Medal



MCL National Recruiter —  
Silver Medal



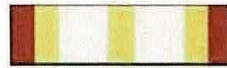
MCL National Recruiter —  
Bronze Medal



MCL Past National  
Commandant Medal



MCL National Staff  
Elected Medal



MCL National Staff  
Appointed Medal



MCL Past Department  
Commandant Medal



MCL Department Staff  
Elected Medal



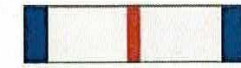
MCL Department Staff  
Appointed Medal



MCL Department Recruiter —  
Silver Medal



MCL Past Detachment  
Commandant Medal



MCL Detachment Staff  
Elected Medal



MCL Detachment Staff  
Appointed Medal



MCL Detachment Recruiter —  
Bronze Medal



MCL Community / VAVS Ribbon



MCL Board of Trustees  
Commendation Ribbon  
(Victor T. Fisher Award)



MCL National Meritorious  
Commendation Ribbon



MCL Department  
Meritorious Commendation  
Ribbon



MCL Individual Meritorious  
Commendation Ribbon



MCL Ceremonial Guard Ribbon



MCL Marksmanship  
Rifle Ribbon



MCL Marksmanship  
Pistol Ribbon



MODD Kennel Dog of the  
Year Medal



MODD Chief Devil Dog  
Meritorious Commendation  
Ribbon



MODD Pack Dog of the Year  
Medal



MODD Pack Leader Meritorious  
Commendation Ribbon



MODD Pound Dog of the Year  
Medal



MODD Pound Keeper  
Individual Meritorious  
Achievement Ribbon



MODD Past Chief Devil Dog  
Medal



MODD Past Pack Leader Medal



MODD Past Pound Leader  
Medal



MCL Membership Medal



MCL 100th Anniversary  
Ribbon  
(gold frame for convention attendees)



MCL 75th National Convention  
— Silver Medal  
(elected / appointed)



MCL 75th National Convention  
— Bronze Medal  
(attendee)



MCL 50th National Convention  
— Silver Medal  
(elected / appointed)



MCL 50th National Convention  
— Bronze Medal  
(attendee)

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