

**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 March 18, 2025**



**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 – 7:00 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](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 February 28**

**69**

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

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

**Trustee 1Yr:**  
Open

**Jr. Past**  
**Commandant**  
Open

**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 March meeting is scheduled for the 18th at 1900 hours. I look forward to seeing all of you at that time, masks are optional.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for allowing me the honor and pleasure of being your Commandant for the past three years. As we prepare to swear in a new Commandant and Officers we couldn't be going in into better hands than Joe Gentile he has served as our Jr. Vice-Commandant for the past 3 years he has done an excellent job. I would like to also give a big shout out to the rest of our officers.: John Cooper has served as our Sr. Vice-Commandant for the past 3 years he has handled our Toy-for-Tots campaign and headed up our shed project which will save the detachment storage cost. And Hugh Smith has served as our Judge Advocate for the last 3 years keeping the detachments by-laws up to date and Charing our collections. And a shout out to Gerry Gerling who has served as our Sgt of Arms for as long as I can remember, and he is always ready to lend a hand. And a thank you

to Carl Ramsey who wear mini hats, he serves as our Chaplin, our Detachment Historian and our Newsletter Editor. And finally, a special thank you to Dennis Simpson who has served as our Adjutant/Paymaster for as long as I can remember. He does a heck of a job and has helped me out for the past 3 years. I want to thank you for your guidance and patience.

As I step away, I'm looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the coming year.

As always Semper Fi Marines.....

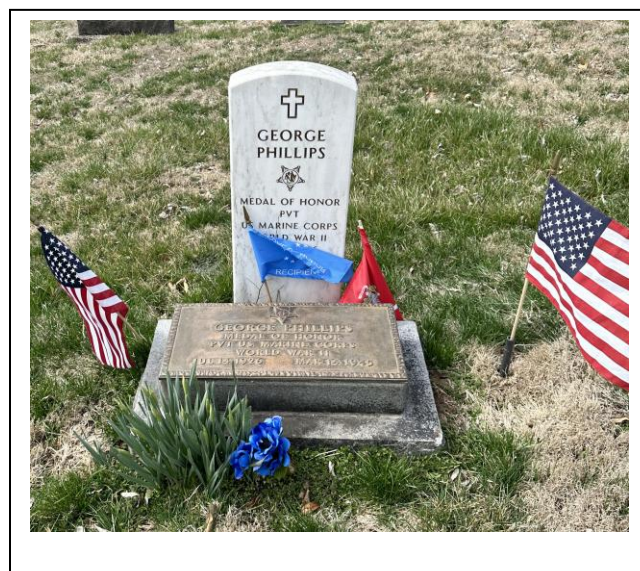
Semper Fi Marines.....

Brad McNeil, Commandant

Pvt. George Phillips Detachment # 1214

Marine Corps League

[bmcneil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmcneil@sbcglobal.net)



**Marine Corps Humor, During the Korean War former member, now deceased, Gunny Bill Tunny was asked by some members of the Air Force if his men had accidentally taken some of their beer. He replied truthfully, "We did not **accidentally** take some of your beer."**

## **Elections for Detachment Officers will be held at beginning of our**

**March 18, 2025 meeting.** Any and all members are greatly encouraged to volunteer to hold an elected or appointed office and/or serve on special committees. New ideas and fresh perspectives are desperately needed to keep your Detachment strong, viable, and relevant. A description of elected and appointed positions along with special committee options is attached.

Anyone wishing to self-nominate or nominate someone else who has agreed to serve can respond directly to this email or contact Senior Vice-Commandant John Cooper at (314) 712-0738. Nominations must be received by February 11, 2025.

Below is the current slate of candidates. Many of these officers have served for several years and continue serving only because no else has stepped up. All would welcome a fresh slate of candidates willing to take over.

### **Elected Positions**

Commandant: Joe Gentile  
Senior Vice-Commandant: John Cooper  
Junior Vice-Commandant: Jason Lehr  
Judge Advocate: Hugh Smith  
Trustee - One Year: A. J. Neely  
Trustee - Two Year: Mike Cicchese  
Trustee Three Year: Brad McNeil  
Quartermaster

### **Appointed Positions**

Adjutant: Dennis Simpson  
Paymaster: Dennis Simpson  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Jerry Gerling  
Chaplain: Carl Ramsey  
Newsletter Editor: Carl Ramsey  
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Joe Gentile  
Quartermaster Brad McNeil

### **Committees:**

Benevolence Fund

Toys for Tots

Pvt George Phillips Birthday memorial committee

Ways and Means Committee

Recruitment and Retention Committee

Activities Committee

An organization can only survive when its members are actively engaged and committed to ensuring it succeeds to carry on its mission.

Semper Fi. Dennis Simpson

Paymaster / Adjutant Pvt. George Phillips

Detachment #1214 Marine Corps League

P.O. Box 1 Ballwin, Missouri 63022

[PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com](mailto:PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com)

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

## **Description of Elected Positions**

### **Commandant**

**Leadership** of the Detachment. **Chief Executive Officer** of the Detachment. **Responsible** for the activities, financial standings, and the image portrayed in the community and the League. **Presides** over meetings. **Formulates and develops** programs. **Appoints** committees, and **represents** the Detachment.

### **Senior Vice-Commandant**

**Second in command** of the Detachment and **logical successor** to the Commandant. **Provides** support to the Commandant. **Backs-up** the Commandant in his absence, **Assists** with the achievement of Detachment goals and operations.

### **Junior Vice-Commandant**

**Primarily responsible for the recruitment and retention** of members. **Assists** the Commandant and Senior Vice-Commandant and **presides** in their absence.

### **Judge Advocate**

**Knowledgeable** in National, State, and Detachment by-laws. **Assures** that the Detachment abides by those by-laws. **Renders opinions and rulings** during meetings on procedures.

## **Trustees**

**Acts as auditing committee.**

**Conducts** at least one financial audit of the Detachment yearly.

## **Appointed Positions**

### **Adjutant**

**Corporate recording secretary** for Detachment meetings and affairs. Maintains correspondence, documentation, written communications and provides other staff assistance. Keeps accurate minutes of meetings and prepares them for permanent record of the Detachment.

### **Paymaster**

**The Detachment's Chief Financial Officer.**

The Paymaster serves as treasurer, accounts for all funds received and expended, assists in the annual financial audits of the Detachment, and files all forms required by law. **Maintains** Detachment roster, **submits** new member transmittals, roster additions /deletions as required to the National MCL.

### **Sergeant-at-Arms**

**Responsible** for setting up and maintaining order at business meetings.

### **Chaplain**

**Provides comfort and special service** to members and families in time of need. Offers invocations and prayers for meetings, installations, ceremonies, and funeral services. **Visits sick members or corresponds** appropriately. **Provides comfort and information** to families of deceased members. **Provides notification** to Department, Division, and National on deceased members. Maintains the record of deceased Detachment members.

## **Quartermaster**

**Maintains** the property of the Detachment. **Ensures** the Detachment has adequate supplies needed to perform its function and items necessary for the membership. **Provides** Marine, Marine Corps League, Veteran related, and other items for sale at Detachment meetings.

## **Historian**

**Responsible** for the historical records of the Detachment. **Obtains** member history for inclusion in official Detachment historical records.

## **Newsletter Editor**

**Responsible** for putting together the Detachment monthly newsletter, publishing it, and disseminating it to members and other interested parties.

## **Web Sgt.**

**Responsible** for maintaining and updating the Detachment website.

## **Public Relations Officer**

**Responsible** for getting publicity about the Marine Corps League and the Detachment publicized and recognized in the public arena.

## **Eagle Scout Coordinator**

**Responsible** for maintaining the Detachment's Eagle Scout program. Presenting MCL certificates to new Eagle Scouts, and submits quarterly reports on those presentations to the Department, Division, and National MCL.

## **Various Committee Chairmen**

- **Toys for Tots**
- **Marine Corps Birthday Ball**
- **Ways and Means**
- **Benevolence Committee**
- **Memorial Day Committee**
- **Private George Phillips Birthday Committee**
- **Activities Committee**
- **By-Laws**

## Chaplain's Article

### I am sad to report the passing of detachment member Robert "Bob" Howard February 26, 2025



**Bob and Louise Howard at the 2021 Pvt George Phillips Marine Corps League Birthday Celebration**

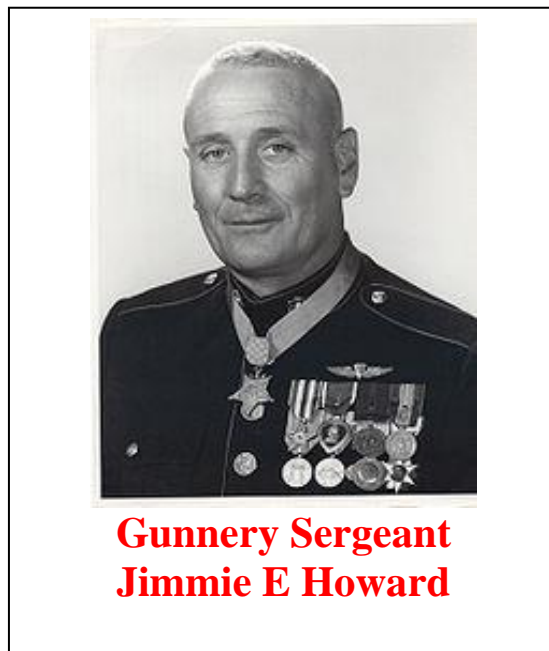
Detachment member Robert "Bob" Howard, who passed away 2/26/2025, served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War as a radio operator in Force Recon. We never had the opportunity to interview him for the Members Matter Column, but when I the newsletter editor talked to him on more than one occasion, I learned he had personal contact with various Medal of Honor recipients. He followed my daily Medal of Honor stories on Facebook and shared additional information on three heroes. The first was Navy Chaplain, and Catholic priest Lt Vincent R Capodanno. On September 4, 1967, he was killed in action trying to save a Navy Corpsman. Capodanno would have a ship named after him, and be recommended to the Vatican for Sainthood. One of Bob's friends carried Capodanno off the battlefield. The second was Marine Gunnery Sergeant Jimmie E Howard, who on June 16, 1968 led 17 Marines against 300 in a 1200-hour battle for Hill 488, resulting in 200 enemy casualties, with the loss of 6 Marines. When Howard passed away, Bob and his wife Louise voluntarily took care of his tombstone, keeping the weeds and grass from covering key

information. The third involved an autographed biography of Pvt Mitchell Paige, who on October 26, 1942, at Guadalcanal held off a Japanese attack and led a charge. Bob met Paige and got his biography autographed by as many Medal of Honor Recipients as possible. One night after the monthly membership meeting, he took me aside to show me this marvelous book. In conclusion I learned a lot about Bob by the company he kept, including members of our detachment, and I shall miss his feedback to my daily Medal of Honor Stories on Facebook

### Carl E Ramsey, Newsletter Editor, Chaplain, and Detachment Historian



**Chaplain Vincent R Capadanno**



**Gunnery Sergeant Jimmie E Howard**



**Pvt Mitchell Paige**

**Obituary** Howard, Robert "Bob", passed away, Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at his home surrounded by his family at the age of 81. He was born in St. Louis, a son of James B. and Alvera (nee Konecy) Howard. Bob was a proud and decorated United States Marine serving in Vietnam and honorably discharged at the rank of Corporal. He was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1028, Marine Corp League, Veterans of Foreign War, and the American Legion. Bob was a long-time and talented Mechanic and retired from TSA. He loved being outdoors, especially on the lake in his boat. Bob loved animals, especially his Pekingese, Molly girl. He loved music and getting together with friends.

Bob is the beloved husband of Louise Reuther-Howard (nee Goeddel); loving father of Todd (Julanne) Howard; proud grandfather of Natalie Howard and Paige Howard; and uncle and friend to many. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Betty, and a brother Danny.

**Services:** The family will receive friends at the **SCHRADER Funeral Home and Crematory, 14960 Manchester Road at Holloway, Ballwin, Thursday, March 6, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon, with procession departing at 12:15 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. roadside service at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, with Military Honors.** If desired, contributions may be made to the [Humane Society of Missouri](http://www.humane.org). Friends may sign the family's on-line guestbook at [Schrader.com](http://Schrader.com).

March 2025

- 12 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 14 – **Iwo Jima, 1945, anniversary of  
Pvt George Phillips falling on grenade**
- 18 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 22 – Vietnam War Era Veterans Anniversary  
–1300 Woodson Terrace Community  
Center (See Brochure to RSVP)
- 26 – **Iwo Jima ends, 1945.**
- 30 – Accent Care Hosting Welcome Home  
Vietnam Veterans Lunch (More  
Information forthcoming)

April 2025

**USMC disbanded April, 1783**, reactivated  
March 27, 1798 for Naval War with French

Republic

- 7 – **Exploit of James E Swett, 1943,  
Shot down 8 planes in one day.**
- 9 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 12 – Veterans Resource fair in O Fallon Mo  
10:00-14:00 1163 Tom Ginnever Av
- 12 – Focus Marines Mess Night (Brochure)
- 15 – Membership Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 18 – **Gold and Scarlet become official  
USMC colors 1925**
- 25 – **Lindbergh High School History Alive**
- 27 – **Marines capture Derne, Tripoli, 1805**

**American Wars that started in April**

Revolutionary War, April 19, 1775.

Civil War, April 12, 1861.

Spanish American War, April 21, 1898.

Second Samoan Civil War Battle of Vaialele,  
April 1, 1899.

WW I, April 6, 1917.

***March Birthday  
Scroll***

***Norman  
Franklin,***

***Michael Gollon,***

***Carl Martin***

***Lawrence  
Schwartz***

***Former  
Auxiliary  
Members***

***Jennifer  
Johnson,***

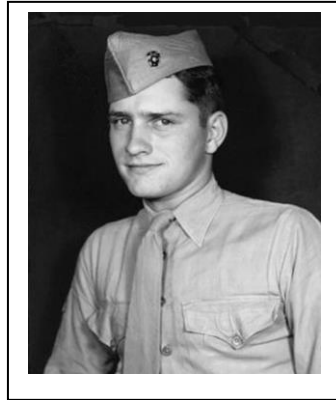
***Donna Murdock***

***Donnas Eberley***



## **March Iwo Jima Medal of Honor Hand Grenade Heroes**

**3/3/1945, Corporal Charles J. Berry & Private First Class William R. Caddy (Pictures 1 & 2) fell on grenades, both KIA 3/8/1945, Private First Class James D. La Belle fell on grenade, KIA (Picture 3 Below); 3/14/1945, Iwo Jima, Private George Phillips (Picture 1 Row 2 below) fell on grenade, KIA. 3/26/1945, Last Day of Iwo Jima, First Lieutenant Lt Harry L. Martin (Picture 2, Row 2 Below), rescued surrounded men, single-handedly captured position, KIA by grenade charging enemy.**





Let's Us Honor & Recognize Your Service

## **Vietnam War Era Veterans**

\*November 1, 1955 - April 30 1975\*

Please Join Us for Our 2025  
50th. Commemorative Anniversary  
Operations Homecoming

When: March 22, 2025

Where: Woodson Terrace Community Center  
4300 Calvert Ave.

Woodson Terrace, MO 63134

*Veteran will be Presented*

*a Vietnam Pin*

Doors Open at 1:00 PM

Lunch Provided & Veteran Can Bring One Guest

Please RSVP to:

Caroline at 314-324-6883



# Marine Corps League Application for Membership



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application--- New  Renewal  Membership Type--- Regular  Associate  Dual

Have you ever been convicted of a Felony? YES  NO  If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

I hereby apply for membership in the Pvt. George Phillips #1214 Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$40.00 for one year's membership.

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety(90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor;\*or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy FMF Sailor who has earned the FMF Device or FMF Ribbon. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

## OATH OF MEMBERSHIP-REGULAR/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, In the Presence of Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will never bring discredit upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps League, so help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor (Where Applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

Please locate a Detachment using the locator on The Marine Corps League National website. Upon completion submit this form and attach a copy of your last DD-214 (Service 2 or Marine 4)\*, as well as any applicable fees as defined by the Detachment. If you desire to join as a Member At Large, please go to The Marine Corps League National website and apply using the online form.

\*Regular Member applicants only

# Marine Corps League Application for Membership



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application--- New  Renewal  Membership Type--- Regular  Associate  Dual

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I hereby apply for membership in the \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for one year's membership.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sponsor (Where Applicable)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant's Signature**

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