



# Jarhead News

Volume 25 Issue 5

May 2021

Keith Sheldon – Editor (412-486-5124 / keithbetsy1982@verizon.net)

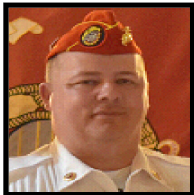
## The Newsletter of The Ohio Valley Marine Corps League Detachment No. 882

### WHAT'S NEW WITH THE 882

Detachment Meeting - May 25th, at 7:30, at the Valley Vets  
Northeast Division Conference - June 4th and 5th, Harrisburg, PA  
Department Convention - June 16th thru 21st, New Cumberland, PA

**"It isn't making mistakes that's critical; it's correcting them and getting on with the principal task." ~Donald Rumsfeld~**

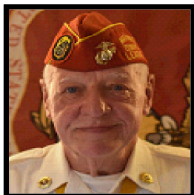
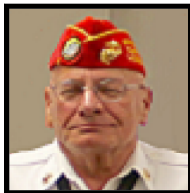
#### ELECTED OFFICERS



**Commandant  
Mike Shaffer**  
(724) 601-3890  
mshaffer@gmail.com

**Senior Vice  
Nick Rymarchyk**

(724) 816-3415  
nrymarchyk@outlook.com



**Junior Vice  
Tom Mann**  
(724) 252-5522  
tomcoco2@yahoo.com

**Judge Advocate  
Jim Dempsey**  
saltycruiser@yahoo.com



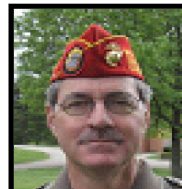
#### APPOINTED OFFICERS



**Adjutant  
Gary Farole**  
(412) 741-7898  
mgfarole@verizon.net

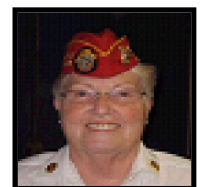
**Sergeant at Arms  
Carl Curtis**

(724) 869-0294  
cmdr26thdist@yahoo.com



**Chaplain  
Ray Tedford**  
(412)-771-8850  
sayrayt@yahoo.com

**Paymaster  
Marilou Farole**  
(412) 741-7898  
mgfarole@verizon.net



#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Detachment Officers - 1  
Department (State) News - 4

Reports - 2 & 3  
Devil Dogs - 4

MCL National News - 3  
Detachment Activities - 4 thru 8

**HONOR**

**COURAGE**

**COMMITMENT**



### Call to Order

The meeting of the Ohio Valley Detachment 882 was called to order at 1930 by Commandant Mike Shaffer at the Valley Vets.

### Officer's Roll Call

Showed Chaplain Ray Tedford and Sr. Vice Nick Rymarchyk absent.

### Introduction of Guests

Andy Burch, District 10 Vice.

### Application for Membership

None.

### Minutes

A motion was made by Carl Curtis to accept the minutes of last months meeting, 2nd by bob Fratangelo, motion carried.

### Correspondence

Adjutant reported on Department news received regarding the Convention dates and schedules, Leadership School on May 15th, hotel rates and deadlines.

### Report of the Paymaster

Marilou Farole gave the financial report for the month of March, a motion to accept was made by Carl Curtis, 2nd by Jim Dempsey, motion carried.

### Report of Members Sick and in Distress

Gary Farole reported that member John Williams passed away and service was done by the Marine Vets; Nick Ryarchyk has been

suffering from allergies.

### Rifle Matches

Commandant Mike Shaffer noted that he and Gary have continued to hold virtual meetings with the Department Marksmanship Reorganization Committee and the Pistol and Rifle SOP are just about finished. The Department match will be held again this year with Ohio Valley as host at the Millvale Club on September 18th & 19th if needed. Gary Farole reported that the Millvale club match season is now open with an offhand match on May 8th and NRA matches on May 16th & 23rd. Commandant Shaffer noted that the Camp Perry Match registration opened and 3 Detachment members are registered and have room for one more in the hut on the range.

### Pistol Matches

The Millvale club is now open for guests and we will schedule a shoot. Local matches will be held through the Department this year and scores will qualify for the Department awards.

### Color Guard

We will be participating with a firing detail on Memorial Day at the Sewickley Cemetery for the Laying of the Wreaths at 1:00 and a firing detail to follow at the Valley Vets memorial outside the building. We will also provide a firing detail on Sunday, May 30th at the Cranberry Veterans Memorial at 1:00, a rehearsal for this event will be held on Thursday, May 27th at 7:00.

### Quartermaster

Commandant Shaffer reported that he

will be sending in an order for supplies, and if anyone needs any items to let him know.

### Devil Dogs

Dog Pound Keeper Jim Brown reported that a Growl will be held on May 18th at 7:30.

### Old Business

Commandant Shaffer turned over the meeting to District Vice Andy Burch to install the officers. After administering the oath and obligation he declared that all Ohio Valley Detachment officers dully installed. Adjutant Farole noted again that anyone wanting to attend the Department convention June 16th through 21st, the Detachment will pay for 3 rooms for 3 nights. Commandant Shaffer again noted that our Grill Raffle is ongoing and we need to sell our tickets. He wants all sold and unsold tickets to be turned in at the May meeting.

### New Business

Commandant Shaffer reported that the Beaver County Marines have disbanded and gave us all of their Birthday Ball decorations.

### Good of the League

District Vice Andy Burch reported on the District 10 and Hospitality planning meeting to be held on May 23rd at 1:00 at the Allegheny Valley Detachment home in Springdale. The National MCL will be voting in August for possible convention in Pittsburgh in 2023. He also noted that Fred Neilen is doing badly and

Cont. on pg. 3.



**Minutes (cont.)**

probably will not make it. Carl Curtis reported on Veterans issues including Covid 19 vaccines are now available for spouses only at the Oakland VA hospital; VA claims are still back-logged, you may want to try on Thursdays at the Rochester Clinic; all VA copays are forgiven for 2020 and there are benefits available for Veterans passing away due to Covid.

**Announcements**

Next meeting is scheduled for May 25th, 2021 at 7:30, at the Valley Vets. The regular Meeting adjourned at 2035. 16 members were on board.

**MCL Activities Calendar****Detachment Meeting**

Tuesday, May 25th, 7:30 P.M.  
Glenfield Valley Vets

**Northeast Division Conference**

June 4th and 5th  
Holiday Inn Harrisburg / Hershey, Grantville, PA

**Department Convention**

June 16th thru 21st  
Clarion Inn Hotel & Conv. Ctr., New Cumberland, PA

**National Convention**

August 9th thru 13th  
Wyndham Springfield City Centre, Springfield, Illinois

**May Birthdays**

Richard Hahn    David J. Harris  
Joe Pucci       Elizabeth Wilson

**Dues Due**

Greg Cuthbert    Lukas Dennis  
Herk Platts       Bill Shaffer

**Upcoming Rifle and Pistol Shoots****Rifle**

The Millvale shooting schedule is:

May shoots:

50 Shot NRA - 23rd

June shoots:

50 Shot NRA - 6th & 27th

100 yard Offhand - 12th

**Pistol**

To be announced.

For shooting info, call Gary Farole at 412-741-7898 or Jim Dempsey at 724-266-7828.

**National Marine Corps  
League News**

The **2021 Northeast Division Conference** will be held on June 4th

and 5th at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg / Hershey at I-81 Exit 80 604 Station Road, Grantville, PA

Reservations: 717-469-1554

\$117/night -Deadline: 23 March 2021

The **2021 National Convention** will be held on Monday, August 9th through Friday, August 13, at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre at 700 E. Adams St., Springfield, Illinois 62701

Room blocks open August 17, 2020. When making reservations, please identify as "MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CONVENTION" to receive special group rate. Use reservation link: <https://bit.ly/mcl2021> or call (217) 789-1530 Cost is \$115 per night plus tax. Individuals are responsible for room, tax, and incidentals. Rates include 1 complimentary parking pass per occupied guest room. Rate includes two complimentary breakfasts per room per night.

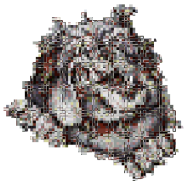




## Pennsylvania State Marine Corps League News

The **2021 Department Convention** will be held from June 16th thru 21st at the Clarion Inn Hotel & Convention Center 148 Sheraton Drive, New Cumberland, PA.

For any Departmental info, use the PA Department web site at: [www.pamcleague.org](http://www.pamcleague.org)



## Devil Dog Update Ohio River Devil Dogs, Pound 133

### **Devil Dogs and Marines!**

Listen up, Marines! Hope you made it to the 2nd **Spring Growl** on May 18th at the Valley Vets. Not to worry if you didn't. With every thing finally opening up, it won't be long until the next Growl I'll let you know of the date in plenty of time. Can't wait to see all you Dogs again. Also, try to invite a Marine who isn't a Devil Dog! We're sure to have a howling good time!

Until then, stay safe.

DD Jim Brown

Pound Keeper - Pound #133

Woof!  
Woof!



## **ATTENTION, MARINES!**

**To make this raffle a real success, we  
NEED sales help from every Member.  
Be sure to contact Gary or Marilou Farole  
to get your tickets and sell, sell, sell!  
Also, bring all your tickets, sold or unsold to  
the the May meeting or get them to Gary be-  
fore Memorial Day.**

*"If you're not making mistakes,  
then you're not doing anything.  
I'm positive that a doer makes mistakes."  
~John Wooden~*

## Detachment Activities Officer Installations



Commandant Shaffer (lt.) turns over the meeting to District Vice Andy Burch (rt.) to install the officers at the April meeting.

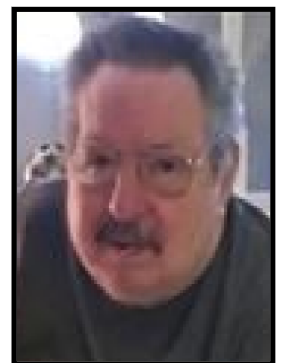


District Vice Andy Burch administers the Oath of Office to the officers. They are, from left to right, Paymaster Marilou Farole, Adjutant Gary Farole, Commandant Mike Shaffer, Jr. Vice Tom Mann, Judge Advocate Jim Dempsey, and Sgt. at Arms Carl Curtis.



## Passings

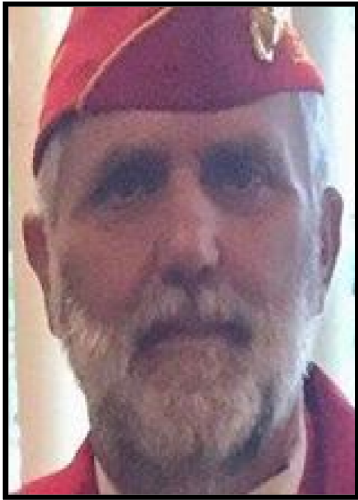
**John A. "Bud" Williams**  
PA, passed away on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Born on March 7, 1937, he was the son of the late John and Lillian (Ramming) Williams and the husband of Patricia (Ruckert) Williams for 62 loving years. John served our country in the United States Marine Corps. He spent time working



Cont. on pg. 5.

**Passings (cont.)**

as a police officer for the NYPD. He was a member of the Ohio Valley Marine Corps League Detachment #882, and one of his biggest joys in life was to spend time with his grandchildren. He enjoyed "singing the oldies, with his life-long friends". Along with his wife he is also survived by his children; John Williams, Jeff (Tina) Williams, Dawn Ann (Tony) Rugh, Robin (Jeff) Cook; grandchildren, Jesse, Sean, Jenna, Ethan and Haley.

**Frederick Alan Neilen**

A lifelong resident of Lower Burrell, Fred, 69, died peacefully in his home, surrounded by family, Wednesday, May 12, 2021, after a courageous six-month battle with cancer. Fred was born Oct. 30, 1951. On that same date in 1971, he married his soul mate and love of his life, Susan (Capiross) Neilen.

They would be celebrating 50 years of marriage this year. Fred was a proud Marine. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on his 17th birthday. He was a Vietnam veteran and was awarded a Purple Heart. He was the owner of Keystone Janitorial Supplies and owner of the Six Pence Bar. He retired from the New Kensington Post Office, where he worked for 30 years. He was the creator and founder of Tri-City Soccer. He held lifelong memberships to the VFW, DAV and the Marine Corps League. In 2017, he was awarded Marine of the Year, which was a great honor to him. He was also an active member of the Westmorland County Vietnam Veterans Association. Fred was a natural-born leader, and that shone through in the many volunteer positions he held. He was co-coordinator for Heroes on Water; District 10 vice commandant to the Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League; as well as the vice commandant to the local Allegheny Valley detachment 827 Marine Corps League. Fred took extreme pride in staying active in the Marine

Corps and took great joy in his position as the local regional coordinator for the Allegheny Valley Toys for Tots program. This is something he and his daughter, Jennifer, enjoyed doing together. He enjoyed traveling to Florida to spend time with his son, Jess, and his family. He loved to kayak and fish. He was a member of the River's Edge Fishing Club and a Hobie Kayak team representative. He enjoyed hunting and riding his quad. He especially enjoyed watching his grandson Logan's wrestling matches and rarely ever missed a match. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Susan; a son, Jess (Nicole) Neilen, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; his two daughters, Jacquelyn (Garth) Stewart, of Mercer, Pa., and Jennifer Neilen, of New Kensington; and his five grandchildren, Reagan, Angelina, Kennedy, Logan and Annabella. He is also survived by his three brothers, Bob Neilen, Brian Neilen and Robin Neilen; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nicole; and his parents, Marie Neilen Beers and Robert Neilen. He will also have a heavenly reunion with his best friend, Donnie Briscoe, whom he lost earlier this year.

**Legendary Marines****Sgt. Maj. Gilbert  
"Hashmark" Johnson**

Johnson was one of the first African-Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps. Born in rural Mount Hebron, Alabama, Johnson attended Stillman College in 1922, aspiring to become a minister. He left college the following year, however, and joined the Army. At the end of his enlistment in October 1929, Johnson was discharged as a corporal. After four years of civilian life, he decided to try the Navy. The Navy accepted Johnson into the steward's Branch, the only job available to blacks at that time, and he served for nearly 10 years. Johnson was aboard the USS Wyoming during the bombing of Pearl Harbor in

Cont. on pg. 6.

Legendary Marines Cont.)

December 1941. The following year, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the integration of the armed forces, Johnson requested transfer from the Navy to the Marine Corps. He went on to serve the last 17 of his 32-year military career in the Marine Corps. Throughout his Marine Corps career Johnson provided leadership to his younger and less experienced comrades. It was at Montford Point he was given the name "Hashmark," because of his age and many years of service.

In 1943, he was among the first black men to be trained as Marine drill instructors. He also served as field sergeant in charge of all recruit training at Montford Point. As a member of the 52d Defense Battalion on Guam in World War II, "Hashmark" asked that black Marines be assigned to combat patrols from which they were currently exempt. Once approved, he personally led 25 combat patrols.

Johnson later served in Korea with the 1st Shore Party Battalion, then later with 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, and finally as administrative advisor at the Headquarters of the Korean Marine Corps. Asked if he had experienced any problems as a senior black NCO serving in predominantly white units, Johnson characteristically said "I didn't encounter any difficulty. I accepted each individual for what he was and apparently they accepted me for what I was."

Johnson went on to become one of the first black sergeants major in the Marine Corps. He transferred to the Fleet Marine Force Reserve in 1957 and retired in 1959. On 5 August 1972 in Jacksonville, North Carolina, he died of a heart attack while addressing an annual meeting of the Montford Point Marine Association. On 19 April 1974, the Montford Point facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, was dedicated as Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, in honor of this outstanding Marine.



"To swear off making mistakes is very easy. All you have to do is swear off having ideas."  
~Leo Burnett~Of course I make mistakes.

"I'm human. If I didn't make mistakes, I'd never learn. You can only go forward by making mistakes."  
~Alexander McQueen~

At times, we found that we had to give up little pleasures that we had become accustomed to in civilian life.



*Your DI knocked off smoking too, huh?*

Learning from your mistakes can be painful. The least painful way to learn is to watch other people make mistakes, and not repeat what they did.  
Keith Sheldon



### This Month in Marine Corps History



**2 May 1946:** Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of W.O. Charles L. Buckner, aided in suppressing the three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay. WO Buckner, a veteran of the Bougainville and Guam campaigns, ably led his force of Marines without suffering a single casualty.

**5 May 1983:** In Beirut, Lebanon, a UH-1N helicopter carrying the commander of the American peace-keeping force, Colonel James Mead, was hit by machine gun fire. The six Marines aboard escaped injury. Colonel Mead and his crew had taken off in the helicopter to investigate artillery and rocket duels between rival Syrian-backed Druze Moslem militiamen and Christian Phalangists that endangered French members of the multinational force.

**8 May 1995:** In the wake of the most devastating storm to hit the New Orleans area in more than 200 years, a group of Marines and sailors from Marine Forces Reserve demonstrated the quick response synonymous with the Navy/Marine Corps team. Within 24 hours of being called, Marines assisted in the evacuation of 2,500 civilians, and Navy corpsmen treated scores of victims.

**10 May 1945:** The 22d Marines, 6th Marine Division, executed a pre-dawn attack south across the Asa River Estuary and seized a bridgehead from which to continue the attack toward Naha, the capital of Okinawa.

**15 May 1862:** Corporal John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service in the USS GALENA during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond.

**16 May 1945:** The 22d and 29th Marines continued the attack against Half Moon Hill, a day characterized by the 6th Marine Division as the "bitterest" of the Okinawa campaign. By the 18th, the famed "Shuri line" had been breached.

**22 May 1912:** First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham,

the first Marine officer to be assigned to "duty in connection with aviation" by Major General Commandant William P. Biddle, reported for aviation training at the Naval Aviation Camp at Annapolis, Maryland, and Marine aviation had its official beginning.



**23 May 1988:** The V-22 Osprey (above), the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas, facility. More than 1,000 representatives from the military, industry, and media, gathered to hear various speakers, including Gen Alfred Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps, praise the versatile rotor craft designed to meet the needs of 21st Century battlefields.

**26 May 1969:** Operation Pipestone Canyon began when the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and 3d Battalion, 5th Marines began sweeps in the Dodge City/Go Noi areas southwest of Da Nang. It terminated at the end of June with 610 enemy killed in action at a cost of 34 Marines killed.

**29 May 1991:** Elements of a joint task force that included the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade departed the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Bangladesh after nearly two weeks of disaster relief operations following a devastating cyclone. The joint task force delivered tons of relief supplies using helicopters, C-130s, and landing craft in Operation Sea Angel.



**"I think making mistakes and discovering them for yourself is of great value, but to have someone else to point out your mistakes is a shortcut of the process."**  
~Shelby Foote~



### Health Care Enrollment

Important reminder!

Don't forget that there is a Veteran's Outreach Center located in our area.

You do not have to go to a major Veteran's Hospital for service. The VA Primary Care and Outpatient Clinic office location has changed from Aliquippa, PA to 300 Brighton Rd. Rochester, PA. The telephone number is 724-709-6005.

Remember, now you can get your new VA identification card at the Veteran's Outreach Center in Monaca.

### Life Membership

**"Once a Marine,  
Always a Marine"**



We love to repeat this information because it never gets old. You may want to consider becoming a Life Member and avoid the yearly hassle.

Life Membership Information and Fees as of 2013.

These are the prices :

Ages up to 35	\$500.00	36 - 50	\$400.00
51 - 64	\$300.00	65 and over	\$200.00

You can contribute monthly smaller amounts towards a Life Membership at any time. That way you can become a life member without paying the large lump sum up front.

You can apply for a Life Membership after you have been a member for a minimum of one year. Also note, when your annual membership becomes due, and your Life Membership payment is not yet complete, you must make the annual payment as well.



### MCL License Plate Information

The Department is accepting applications for the Pennsylvania Marine Corps League Specialty License Plate. Show your pride for the Marine Corps League. For your convenience, a copy of the new application for the Pennsylvania Marine Corps League Specialty License Plate can be downloaded in PDF for-

mat by going to this website: <http://pamcleague.org/mcl-palic.htm>



### Military Funeral Services

Our Detachment will provide a service for any member. Family members may contact any Officer should the need arise.

Also, a funeral service is not automatic. A family member must request one.

### Detachment Website and Facebook Page

Be sure to check out our Detachment website at: <https://www.ohiovalleymcl882.com> and our Facebook Page at **Ohio Valley MCL Detachment 882**

**"If you have the guts to keep  
making mistakes, your wisdom  
and intelligence leap forward  
with huge momentum."  
~Holly Near~**

**"A life spent making mistakes  
is not only more honorable,  
but more useful than a life spent  
doing nothing."  
~George Bernard Shaw~**

### The Title

It cannot be inherited, nor can it ever be purchased. You and no one alive can buy it for any price. It is impossible to rent and it cannot be lent. You alone and our own have earned it with your sweat, blood and lives.

**You own it forever.**

**UNITED STATES MARINE**

*Keith Sheldon*