

**NJ 206  
OFFICERS  
2016 ~ 2017**



**William Freeman\***  
Commandant



**Thomas Miller\***  
Senior Vice  
Commandant



**Anthony  
Fiorentino\***  
Junior Vice  
Commandant



**Bob Stalzer\***  
Judge Advocate



**James Lozides**  
Adjutant/Paymaster



**Dan Danzi**  
Chaplain



**Anthony  
Oszmianski**  
Sergeant at Arms



**Artie Williams**  
Quartermaster



**XXXXXX**  
Recording Officer

\* = Detachment  
Trustees

# Slattery Sidelines

## Welcome To Your OnLine Newsletter - Feb 2017

Volume #5

Issue 2

Links: [Slattery Detachment 206](#) ~ [Marines Care Foundation](#) ~ [Legacy of a Hero](#) ~ [Dept NJ MCL](#) ~ [MCL National](#)

This newsletter is interactive while online, highlighted links work & sometimes open a new screen. You can print each page separately or all, the page number is at top right of page. Officers & members wishing to post in the newsletter, please send info to [Pete Gallo](#).

Feel free to forward this newsletter & web site. Editors: Don Patterson ~ Pete Gallo



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

**L/CPL Robert J. Slattery**  
Marine Corps League, Detachment #206  
Marines Care Foundation, Inc.,  
In Memory of L/CPL Chris Cosgrove, III  
Whippany, New Jersey  
P.O. Box 566, West Caldwell, NJ 07007-0566



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

## 2017 Schedule

Detachment monthly meetings 1st Wednesday of the month - starts 1930 \*\*\*UPSTAIRS HALL\*\*\* at Post #155 American Legion Home 13-23 Legion Place Whippany 07981 phone# 973- 884- 2494

**Feb 1st** - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany

**March 1st** - meeting - 1930 legion home Whippany

**April 5th** - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany

**May 3rd** - meeting - 1930, Legion Home Whippany

**June 7th** - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany

**June 14th** - at dusk - Flag retirement ceremony Legion Home (Flag day)

**July 5th** - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany

**Aug 2nd** - meeting - 1930, nomination of officers - Legion home Whippany

**Sept 6th** - meeting - 1930, election of officers - Legion home Whippany

**Oct 4th** - installation of officers - 1900 Legion home Whippany yes at 1900 food served

**Nov 1st** - meeting - 1930, Nominations for Detachment Marine of the Year - Legion home Whippany

**Nov 11th** - Veterans day ceremony - 1100 meet at Legion Home Whippany at 1030

**Dec 6th** - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany

**Dec 7th** - 2000 Pearl Harbor day ceremony, Legion Home Whippany

## Immediately after my engine stopped the propeller froze

Prior to my squadron leaving the Marine base at Pusan I was assigned a night mission to North Korea when my plane was hit by ground anti-aircraft firing over the front lines.

Immediately after my engine stopped the propeller froze. Everything was jet black with no moon. The mountains were at 8000 Plus feet and my plane was at 9000 feet and I had to act fast. I set my plane in a steep enough dive so my plane wouldn't stall and I bailed out. Luck and God's good graces were with me as I could see from the light of my plane exploding in the next valley that my parachute had opened quite a bit lower than the two adjacent steep mountain peaks. My chute was swinging wildly from the wind gust from a gale between these two mountains. On one of the undulations the parachute swung me into a steep cliff where the chute collapsed and I tumbled over and down the steep cliff losing my helmet. At some point I blacked. Out. When I came to, I was at the base of the mountain bleeding from cuts and bruises with the sharpest pain coming from my right shoulder.

I, was very apprehensive since I was not sure my location was on the friendly side of the front line. Fortunately an American Army squad saw the explosion of my plane and started a search in case the pilot had successfully bailed and they found me. I was then taken to a forward medical unit where I spent four and a half months recovering. I was very lucky to be alive.

Marine George Johns; biography. Go to Page #6.

### This Month In USMC History: FEBRUARY

- **1 February 1967:** Operation Prairie II was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed.
- **2 February 1944:** The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.
- **6 February 1968:** Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.
- **11 February 1922:** BGen John H. Russell was appointed U.S. High Commissioner and personal representative of the President to the government of Haiti. This nine-year assignment placed this future Commandant in supreme command of both the occupying American force and the Haitian Gendarmerie.
- **15 February 1998:** One hundred years ago this date, 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship MAINE was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. Though no definitive evidence linked the Spanish with the sinking, the cry went up, "Remember the Maine!", and by late April the U.S. and Spain were at war.
- **17 February 1967:** The first full day of Operation DECKHOUSE VI, which lasted until 3 March, was conducted near Quang Ngai city. The Special Landing Force (BLT Y4 and HMM-363) accounted for 280 enemy killed.
- **23 February 1945:** Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short fire-fight with Japanese defenders emerging from several caves, the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island.
- **24 February 1991:** The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm. The 1st and 2d Marine Divisions stormed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses while heavily armored allied forces attacked the Iraqi defenses in Iraq from behind. In 100 hours, U.S. and allied forces defeated the Iraqi Army.
- **28 February 1991:** Operation Desert Storm ended when the cease- fire declared by President George Bush went into effect. I Marine Expeditionary Force has a strength of more than 92,000 making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history .A total of 24 Marines were killed in action during the Gulf War.

### 2016 Detachment Marine of the Year

2016 Detachment Marine of the Year Domenic Monaco Presents  
2017 Marine of the year award to Keith Butler



### Gunny Monaco Presents Eagle Scouts Awards



Gunny Mario Monaco, (Ret) Presents the Detachment Eagle Scout Certificate and the Department NJ Eagle Scout Patch to the new Eagle Scouts.

Scouts: Ashvin Nagarajan, Jean-Baptiste Mollet & Jordan Whiting

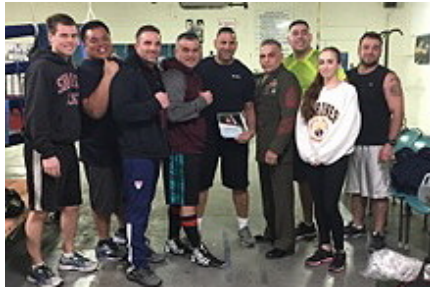


### Temperatures sometimes 30-40 degrees below zero

Shortly after we arrived at K-16 winter was upon us with temperatures sometimes 30-40 degrees below zero. This cold weather made it very difficult for our mechanics to service our planes and impossible to meet our assigned mission. My commanding officer checked records and found out that I was an architect and ordered me to build six airplane hangers for our mechanics. The squadron was very pleased with my success along with the help of the marines selected in building these hangers ahead of schedule.

Marine George Johns; Biigraphy. Go to Page #6.

### Anonymous Donor donates \$2,500 to Marines Care Foundation



An anonymous donor provides financial support for Veterans working their way through PTSD. By paying for their membership dues in the True Warriors Boxing and Fitness club, Paterson, NJ.

On January 2nd 2017 Marines Care Foundation President Mario Monaco presents a \$1,500 check and certificate of appreciation to manager Jose Concepcion and boxing trainer Tony Tribio.

### Party Time



Marines, Join Slattery Team Here 

## Commandants Corner

Marines,

What a great evening we had at The Annual Holiday Social held Wednesday, January 11th at The American Legion Hall in Whippany.

We were honored by the presence of Gold Star parents Shirley and Nino Parrello and Siobhan Fuller.

The Slattery Detachment and Marines Care Foundation presented BAYER CORPORATION with a plaque in recognition of our partnership in support of Toys For Tots and our support for the Wounded and their Families. We also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to The Bayer Employee Volunteers. Representing Bayer and receiving the awards were Lorraine Zales, Director of BRAVE, an employee Veteran's organization, Billi Catelli, a Bayer Volunteer and VP Communications, Steve Kadin.



We also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Hermann, President of the National Glass Corvette Association for their continued support.

The Slattery Detachment presented the NJ State Dept of MCL a check for \$1600 for their new K9 Warrior

Program. On hand to receive the check for the State Dept NJ was SVC, Don Mack. Also attending State Dept of NJ Officer's Bob Beck and Hector Schorno and their wives.



Other Honored Guests attending were Barbara O'Hagen, widow of Col. Peter O'Hagen, a former member of this Detachment and an inspiration to us all. Mayor Ron Francioli, Deputy Mayor John Ferramosca and Twsp Committeeman and head of the Veterans Alliance, George Coppola.

Bob Sturla attended representing our Partners, The Friends and Family For Freedom Fund who we team up with every month to provide financial assistance to the severely Wounded and their Families.

The food was great thanks to Past Commandant John Andrews. Others who worked hard providing printing, paintings, beverages and set-up, Tom Miller, Tickets, reservations, greeter Jimmy Loizides. Other Committeemen and volunteers were Bob Stalzer, Anthony Fiorentino, Tony Ozmianski, Dan Danzi, Art Williams, Father Mike, Rita McCabe. We also want to thank Guests Brian Pillon and Mike McCorry of The American Legion for the use of their Hall and help setting up and clean up. My apologies to anyone I may have missed. Thanks to all who attended. Those that didn't missed out on a great evening. We sorely missed Pete and Marie Gallo, Don Patterson and Art and Charlene Bowie. Hope to see you soon



I also look forward to seeing our members at our next monthly meeting being held February 1, 2017 starts 1930 at the American Legion Hall Whippany

Semper Fidelis!  
Bill Freeman, Commandant.

## FEATURE STORY OF DETACHMENT MEMBER Marine George R.A. Johns

US Marine Corps captain fighter pilot four combat tours: over 250 combat flights.  
Awarded five Distinguished Flying Crosses, Served in World War II & Korea

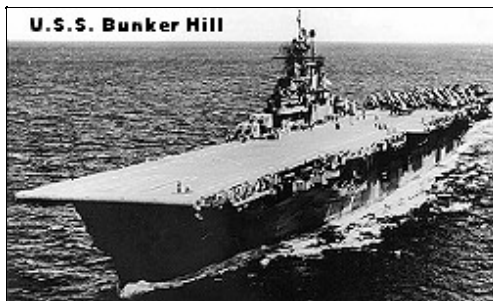
### **WW II**

I joined the Navy in 1942 as a cadet for pilot training. Prior to a pilot's graduation, senior Navy officers reviewed each pilot's instructor's reports.

I was able to choose to stay in the Navy and graduate as an ensign or join the Marines and graduate as a Second Lieutenant, I chose the Marines. I then joined VMF 221 Fighting Falcons as the youngest Pilot by three years.



### **PACIFIC THEATER**



My squadron was assigned to the Essex class aircraft carrier Bunker Hill. The carrier was assigned to task force 88.3 the middle fleet of five fleets whose purpose it was to follow a hurricane up to Japan to make the second carrier raids on Japan after General Doolittle's raid in B25's from the Hornet. The Bunker Hill was the Flag ship for Admiral Mitchner who was in charge of the five fleets.

I volunteered to escort the photo plane on the first attack. The high fighter cover (12 planes) was instructed to stay on target long enough after the bombers dived to protect the photo plane. Just prior to reaching the target the high fighter cover was engaged in a dog fight with over 100 Japanese fighter aircraft. The fighter cover dived with the bombers. Now all hell broke loose as the Japanese fighters attacked the photo plane and my plane. My wing-man was shot down when the photo plane turned towards the target. I could not help as I had to protect the photo plane single handed I was unable to weave with my wing-man. The photo plane had no guns. The pilot had to fly very straight and level at about 400 miles per hour to take the proper photos of the damage to the aircraft factory.

We received numerous attacks by the Japanese fighters from the rear, top, bottom and sides. Fortunately we received no head-on attacks which would have easily shot down the photo plane. I was able to do large loops and other radical untaught maneuvers in a wild skid which kept the Japanese fighters away from the photo plane and unable to kill their very elusive target. Just as we passed the largest aircraft factory, I told the photo plane pilot to fireball that SOB and I dove near vertical heading for the tree tops and escaped.



Later I learned that the order to obtain photo came from Admiral Mitchner. The Navy pilot of the photo plane gave me glowing reports of my activities during his debriefing and much appreciation for saving his life. We were the only two pilots during our combat tour to be immediately summoned to Admiral Mitchners combat office to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross pinned on by the Admiral.



## Marine George R.A. Johns; Part Two: Korea!



My third tour of duty during the Korean War was with VFM(N) 513 a night fighter squadron. The mission of VFM (N) was to destroy the enemy's night truck convoy's carrying ammunition and supplies to their troops at the front line. The squadron nickname was the "Flying Nightmares".

The enemy needed truck convoys at night as it was easy for the day fighters to destroy all of the enemy's trucks as they were visible behind the front line.

The responsibility of night fighters was to rendezvous at 9,000 feet with the multi engine flare plane at 10,000 feet. The flare plane would drop 3 million candle light power flares attached to parachutes in the selected 8,000 +/- foot deep valley. The pilot would then dive down into the valley to just above the treetops and drop a napalm bomb to stop the front group of trucks in the convoy.

It was impossible most of the times to climb out of these deep valleys so we would do a wing over and come back in the opposite direction. During the return trip we would drop delayed action bombs as well as strafing. Often the enemy would be using machine guns while firing at you from the both sides of the mountain. I became very good at this maneuver and received glowing reports from the flare ship lead pilots.

These reports were sent to my commanding officer who, at different times, presented me with three Distinguished Flying Crosses for special achievements. During the winter months I also flew a TBM torpedo Bomber (turkeys) carrying cold weather gear to US Marine troops in North Korea.



This story was compiled from the words of Marine George Johns taken from his 11 page biography.

Editor's note: I would like to give special thanks to Tom Miller, Marie Gallo and Don Patterson for their help in compiling this story. Of course our gratitude and thanks to Marine Captain George R.A. Johns, a true Hero from the Greatest Generation.

