



## OUR HOUSE

Quarterly Newsletter

**JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER '19**

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**Principles:** The members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps. Those who belong have the respect of a nation, the loyalty of their own, and the pride of being a part of history

**JULY-** The month began with our staff meeting being held on the 4<sup>th</sup>, prior to the town festivities. As always, much to get in order, new month, new issues. Afterwards, Marines and families joined the festivities outside, enjoying a warm day of sun, fun, and camaraderie.





A beautiful day, the families and friends were fed by the grillemaster of the day, our own Cesar Huaman. And the burgers were delicious, handcrafted by Commandant A. Tegge. Thank you Sirs!



And, of course, adding to the day's Celebration: Happy Birthday Jonathan! Even though working, he was able to Make an appearance and enjoy the day with his Marine family!





Of course, Jheremy Valderama was sharing Our colors: Old Glory! Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to all our family and friends!

Followed by the proper folding of the flag! Handled with dignity and RESPECT! Semper Fi !

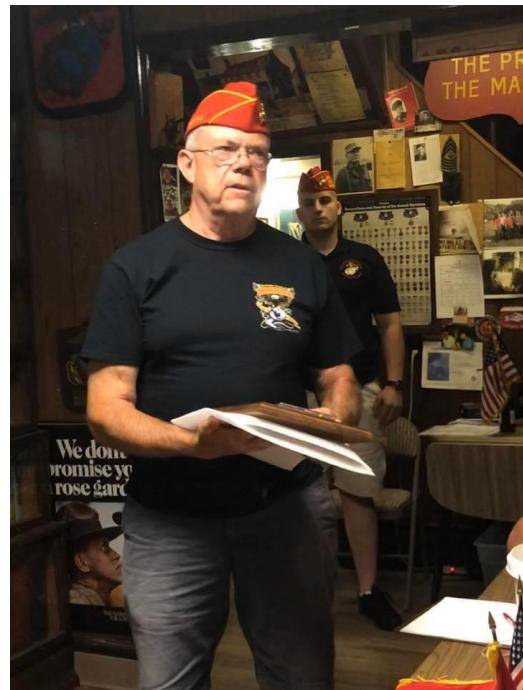


Finally, sun down. Everyone settling in for the evening display.



And then the fun!!! The fireworks. Lots of OOHS and AHHS as the sky was lit up with several different displays going simultaneously.

At the regular meeting, on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a belated award was given to our own Jack Engdahl. An award well deserved and earned throughout the year: **Marine of the Year!** Congratulations and well done Jack!



On the 19<sup>th</sup>, troops assembled and the caravan was underway to the annual camping trip. Although the weather was HOT, members and fellow Marines enjoyed plenty of stories, laughs, and of course Chef Cleary's gourmet cuisine!





*HISTORY:* **July 11, 1798: Marine Corps Becomes Independent Branch of U.S. Military**

## **On this day in Marine Corps history, 1798, President John Adams signed into law a bill that would make the Marine Corps an independent branch of the U.S. military.**

Nov. 10, 1775, may be the commonly celebrated birthday of the Marine Corps, but it wasn't actually established as its own branch until about 23 years later.

On July 11, 1798, U.S. President John Adams signed "An Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps," effectively creating a new branch of the military.

"The act further stipulated that when at sea the Marines would be under the command of the Navy, and on shore, the Army," wrote military historian Chester Hearn in an email to Camp Pendleton Patch. "This peculiar compromise plagued the Corps for years to come."

The end of the American Revolution was marked by the signing of the Treaty of Paris on April 11, 1783. With that, the Continental Congress dissolved the Marines and Continental Navy.

"The government auctioned off warships, and the Continental Marines ceased to exist," Hearn wrote. "Major Samuel Nicholas, the first Marine officer, returned to his former occupation as owner of Tun Tavern in Philadelphia."

In 1794, the first Continental Congress began to address the issue of pirate attacks on American merchant ships sailing near the North African coast. With no Navy or Marines to protect them, and a Congress unable to pay pirate ransoms, the merchants were at the mercy of the pirates.

"Congress reactivated the navy and authorized the construction of five ships, each to carry a compliment of Marines," Hearn wrote. "For four years a legislative battle ensued over the organization of the Marines Corps."

**RIP- A tragic loss came on the 24<sup>th</sup>, with the passing of our own Tommy D. His passing will be felt by most of our members who remember his smile and his "no nonsense" attitude. He will most certainly be missed.**



**Thomas J. DeFrancisci**  
USMC veteran, great-grandfather, former Cedar Grove resident  
Thomas J. DeFrancisci, 99, of Little Falls, N.J., formerly of Cedar Grove, N.J., passed away on July 24, 2019.  
Services will begin on Saturday, July 27, at 8:30 a.m. at Shook's Cedar Grove Funeral Home, 486 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove, N.J. Funeral Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church, Little Falls, N.J. Interment to follow at Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Upper Montclair, N.J. Visitation will be on Friday, July 26, from 3 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memories and condolences may be shared at shookscedargrove.com  
Born in Newark, N.J., to Michael and Anna (nee Alexander) DeFrancisci, Thomas was raised in East Orange, N.J., then lived for most of his life in Cedar Grove before settling in Little Falls.  
Thomas proudly served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War. He held various job titles throughout his career, including working as a toll booth operator for the Garden State Parkway, a crossing guard for the Cedar Grove school system and a mechanic for Singer Sewing Machine Co. He was past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, Fr. James J. Kelly Council 3632, Cedar Grove/Verona, and judge advocate of the West Hudson Marine Corps League, Kearny, N.J.  
Predeceased by his beloved wife, Carol (nee Yacullo); and caring siblings, Michael and Lillian, he is survived by his loving sons, Patrick (Deborah) and Michael (Wilma); cherished grandchildren, Peter, Patrick, Dominique, Dylan and Tommy; and treasured great-grandchildren, Daniella, Stella and Luna.  
In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Marine Corps League West Hudson Detachment, 286 Belgrave Dr., Kearny, N.J. 07032.

*Rest in Eternal Peace, Marine ! Semper Fi !*



Later, members met back at the house and celebrated his life with one last toast!



On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Marines from numerous organizations, led by members of Leatherneck Nation M.C./N.J. met at the Meadowlands Track for a fundraiser dedicated to the Fallen 7. A great day of fun, sun, music, and Marines.



**AUGUST:** The month started with the staff meeting, discussing upcoming events to be handled. That same day, Jack Engdahl was a participant in Purple Heart Day. Jack, a member of Chapter 366, Military Order of the Purple Heart, along with other recipients took part in their ceremonies.



On the 14<sup>th</sup>, at the general Meeting, members took part in the discussion about upcoming events and plans for attendance. Upcoming events: SSG Oliveira 5K in Kearny, Semper 5, in Seaside Heights, and the Basilone Parade. Lots to do, and still more to come.

**RIP-** Another sad day came with the passing of Marine Art Thun, on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Art joined the West Hudson detachment in 1993, and was a frequent attendee of the annual Marine Corps ball. Art was born September 3, 1923 and passed August 17, 2019. Another of our seniors gone to Heaven's Gate.



***Rest in Eternal Peace and Semper Fi!***

Later in the month, on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Marines and family met for the Kearny 5K run, in memory of SSG Oliveira. The day was great for a run and was well attended. Along with our Marines, P.C. Schmidt's daughter Kim took part, representing us well. Also, Commandant Tegge and son put up good numbers for their run! Way to go, Marines!



**Outstanding Job, Kim! 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in her group! Way to represent!**

Later in the day, the West Hudson Color Guard attended a special ceremony at Yogi Berra Ball Park. The park was dedicating a POW/MIA seat in their stadium. Truly a special event and an honor to participate.



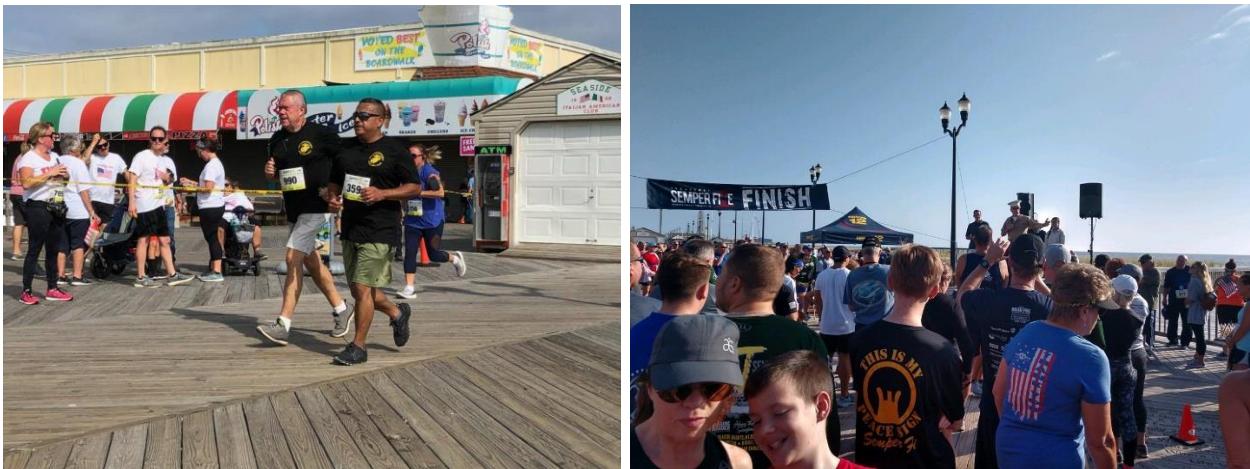
**SEPTEMBER-** The month started with the General Membership meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Final plans for the upcoming Basilone Parade, and the Semper Five 5K in Seaside Heights.

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, West Hudson Marines and participants from throughout the area met on the boardwalk at Seaside Heights for the annual SEMPER FIVE 5K. Another beautiful day, another amazing event.



*Once again, the troops put forth an amazing effort.*





Finally, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Basilone Parade in Raritan, N.J. Marines and groups from throughout the state and elsewhere met to commemorate WW II hero, Gy. Sgt. John Basilone.



Just an eye opener, to start the day!



West Hudson Color Guard! Looking sharp, leading the way!





Well, another quarter in the books. We've been through a lot of ups and downs. No matter what, we are here for each other! Now, on to the next big event: The 244<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps birthday ball! See you all there. Semper Fi, Marines!

Once again, any comments or suggestions to better the newsletter are greatly appreciated and welcome. Contact Sr. V.C. Healy.