



## OUR HOUSE

Quarterly Newsletter

*October, November, December '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

**October-** The month began with our staff meeting. Laying the foundation for upcoming events. Lots to do, and time's flying!

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, at the General Membership meeting, voting was completed for staff membership. Swearing in ceremonies to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Plans under way for the Marine Corps ball and other upcoming events. Ticket sales ongoing.

Then, on the 13<sup>th</sup>, West Hudson held our S.O.S. breakfast. It was a decent turnout, and once again, troops enjoyed fine cooking.



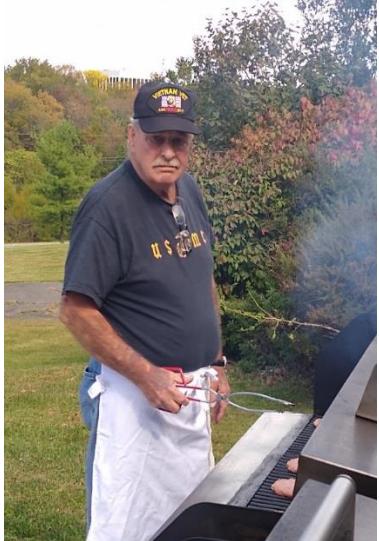
Later in the day, our Color Guard led the way for the annual Belleville Columbus Day parade. As always, Marines leading the way, and enjoying a beautiful day of fun and celebration.



Then, on the 19<sup>th</sup>, West Hudson Marines and families gathered in Menlo Park, N.J. to provide our annual cookout for the veterans.



It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed plenty of food and snacks. As always, our honor to give back to those who served before!



Then, on the 20<sup>th</sup>, West Hudson Detachment held its induction ceremony for the incoming staff. Again, families and friends were witness to the swearing in, and then a fun celebration, afterward. The new staff: Comdt. J.F. Healy, Sr. V.C. A. Waldron, Jr. V.C. J. Engdahl, Sgt. At Arms: J. Comacho, Paymaster: C. Huaman. Judge Advocate: S. Glennon



Also, during the ceremonies, our Ladies Auxiliary conducted their swearing in ceremonies, as well. Congratulations to all.



**HISTORY:** Remembering the Attack in Beirut

On October 23, 1983, 220 Marines were killed at a Marine compound in Beirut, Lebanon. This attack has been deemed the deadliest attack against US Marines since the battle of Iwo Jima during WWII. On the morning of the 23rd, a truck carrying 2000 pounds of explosives drove onto the Marine base and crashed into the barracks. The origins of the attack was traced back to Hezbollah--a militant and political group that was established in 1982 in Lebanon. As the car entered the compound, no one questioned its presence, it wasn't until it suddenly veered off course--plowing into a wire barrier and between two guard posts. By that time, however, it was too late to do anything to prevent the coming attack. The entire building was destroyed, flattening the structure and all of those that were trapped within; in total there were 241 US military personnel--220 Marines, 18 Navy sailors, and 3 Army soldiers--were killed, with 100 more injured. For an event rarely talked about in today's world, it signaled the beginning of a new norm of warfare that the United States would be facing.



**NOVEMBER-** The month began with the staff meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Discussions held for items on the General Meeting next week. Again, plans continuing for the ball. As always committee members doing a phenominal job of organizing the event.

On the 10<sup>th</sup>, our beloved Corps celebrated its' 244<sup>th</sup> birthday. From Tun Tavern, on 10 November, 1775 to the present, the Corps has been the elite fighting force known world wide. Happy Birthday Marines everywhere!

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, West Hudson Marines enjoyed an evening of fun, and comaraderie at the Brownstone, in Paterson, N.J. to benefit the Friends and Family for Freedom Foundation. This event has become a yearly event and benefits military and families during the care and rehabilitation period of wounded troops. The beefteak dinner was delicious and totally filling! Later, the tricky tray awards were a great plus.





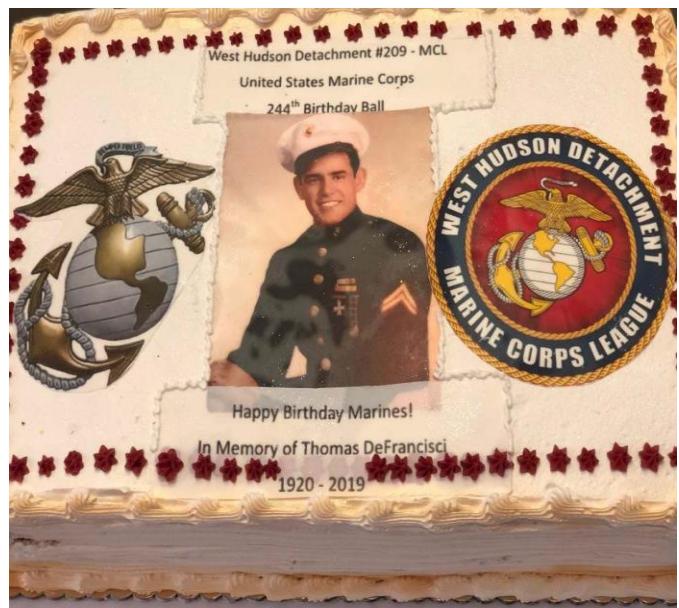
On the 13<sup>th</sup>, at the General Meeting, along with plans for the ball, etc., we received a request from P.C. Tegge's son, Lucas, to erect a firepit out back, as a memorial to past members of the detachment. The work would be completed by members of the Boy Scouts, and funded by support from them and outside fundraisers. A great idea, and hopefully a project to commence in the spring. Thank you, Lucas, for your dedication and spirit of patriotism.



On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the BIG event: our Marine Corps Ball at the Graycliff Manor. Once again, the evening was a celebration of Marines! Semper Fi, all Marines. This year's ball, although a celebration, was bittersweet, in that it was a commemoration of Tommy "D". His sons presented us with a flag/plaque, and we displayed the new Hall marker for the house, in his memory.





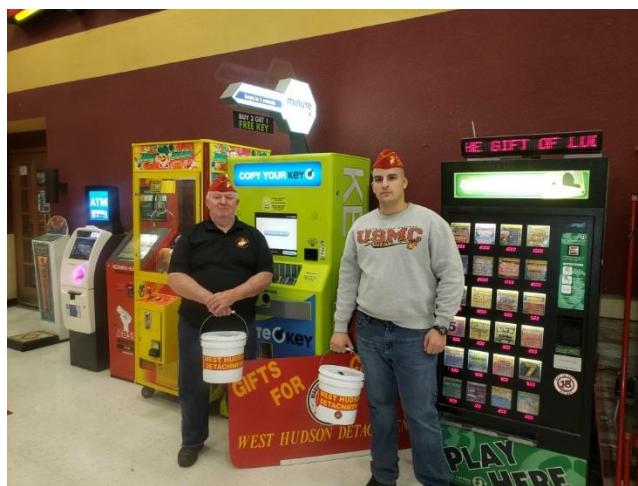


**On the 21<sup>st</sup>, Marines held our monthly VAVS Bingo at the Menlo Park veterans' home. As always, a good time, joking, exchanging stories, and giving a few bucks to the patients.**



**December-** On the 4<sup>th</sup>, at the staff meeting, members were on hand making final preparations for the “shake the can” collections at Shop-Rite, Belleville. Also, results being put together from the ball, which was a big success.

Then, on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>, Marines manned their posts in the Shop-Rite, collecting for our annual Gifts for Children fund. Due to cut backs, we were only collecting at one venue, but we made a good turnout just the same.



It was an amazing turnout....all the slots were filled with Marines lending their time to help the children. And a big thanks to Jack and Walter for helping get us permission to collect there. Well done!



On the 11<sup>th</sup>, we had our General Membership meeting. Once again, members shared info on the final event....the Gifts for Children distribution. We were also invited to share a special event....the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Kristian Tegge, at the American Legion, Kearny.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, P.C. Roger Maccagnano joined Paymster Cesar Huaman and troopers from New Jersey State Police on their trip to Harmony House, Newark, N.J. There they delivered some Christmas cheer to children and families there. Outstanding work by our Marines and State Police, bringing joy in the holiday season.





Merry Christmas to all the children and families at the Harmony House, from West Hudson Detachment, Marine Corps League and the New Jersey State Police.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Santa and his helpers appeared at the Menlo Park veterans' home. The monthly BINGO was enjoyable and Santa dished out some money to the participants, after they enjoyed the childrens' choir in their center auditorium. It was a beautiful day!





Finally, on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the big night....Gifts for Children distribution. As always, OUR HOUSE is transformed into Santa's workshop, with tables loaded with toys and games for children of all ages. Like a well oiled machine, packages are filled and labeled for families to give to their children. The true meaning of Christmas....GIVING!



As the families arrive, they receive their package, and in return they get to meet us...so they can see, we're part of the community, and here for them. They, in turn get a look at OUR HOUSE, seeing where we come from and what we're all about. A perfect partnering!



Like the song goes: Making a list,  
checking it twice!!!! Merry Christmas  
to all!!!

Later the same evening, P.C. Cleary and Cmdt. Healy left to attend the Court of Honor for Kristian Tegge. The event was a proud moment for P.C. Adam Tegge, witnesssing and officiating the ceremony for his son. Also a proud moment for West Hudson as well, since Kristian and Lucas have been involved with projects here at Our House.





Congratulations Kristian, you have earned a very distinguished title that will be yours forever> Eagle Scout! Keep up the outstanding work! We'll all be watching.

***Odd Trivia-*** Recently, an inquiry was made through social media about the origin of our motto: *Semper Fidelis*. Oddly enough, not much was found.

Col. Charles Grymes McCawley, the eighth commandant of the Marine Corps.

The son of a Marine captain, McCawley served in the Mexican-American war at the Battle of Chapultepec and later during the Civil War. He held the Marine Corps commandant post for 15 years until retiring in 1891 and is credited with a number of lasting advances for the service. He was instrumental in raising training standards, securing a quota for Marine officers from the Naval Academy, and enforcing Corps-wide uniform regulations. He also made the Marines early adopters of cutting-edge technology, like the typewriter and the telephone.

In 1883, McCawley made “Semper Fidelis” the official Marine Corps motto. Beyond that, details are pretty scant.

That's as much as we know. We could know more, but for a Marine, McCawley kind of sucked at writing things down with his ink stick.

“The problem is, McCawley’s papers and everything else, they’re not complete,” Patrick Mooney, a researcher with the National Museum of the Marine Corps, told Task & Purpose. “We don’t have a full accounting of the deliberations for why he chose Semper Fidelis. I’ve never read anything, or seen a document. I’ve never seen anything. It may have been an arbitrary choice by the commandant.”

So there you have it, the Marines don’t know why Semper Fi is their motto, because the commandant of the Corps failed to keep an accurate logbook. Cue chuckles from enlisted Marines across the globe.

And, finally, ending our year: the birthday of our own, P.C. Roger Maccagnano, on the 31<sup>st</sup>. As always rounding out the year, and ringing in the new, Roger will always be our New Years baby...Hahahah.



*Happy birthday Roger, and best wishes to all our Marines and families for a healthy Happy New Year. Semper Fidelis!*