



# *Holcomb Gazette*

## General Thomas Holcomb Detachment Marine Corps League



Commandant Ray Snyder

September 2011

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### **Commandant's Report for September 2011 for the Holcomb Detachment.**

Thank you to Pat Fakis (Greenstein) for getting the Gazette up and running again after us being without it for five months. Pat is now the Administrative Assistant to the Commandant.

Thanks to all who supported our fund raising efforts at Blue Rocks games. And to those who may not be able to work the games but contribute in other ways to the Detachment functions.

Thank you to Carl Hauser for the great reframing job on our Charter. Now it looks like it belongs to a group of Marines. And, Carl is still storing all of our furniture at his property until ????????

Speakers on various subjects of interest to Veteran Marines are now scheduled for the Sept. and Oct. 2011 meetings. November will see the Birthday Celebration and one more speaker should be lined up for Dec. This will give you a reason to attend meetings and learn something. We hope to continue to have something of interest at next year's meetings also.

Thank you from my entire family for all the cards, letters, flowers, online condolences and attendance at the viewing/service for my Granddaughter on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Those who were able to attend in their red MCL blazers made quite a statement. People inquired about you.

SEPTEMBER'S MEETING LOCATION WILL BE AT THE RESERVE CENTER. We don't have a permanent room of our own but we will hold meetings there. The Toys for Tots location as of this time is undetermined. Hopefully, it will be in the gym at the Reserve Center.

Our Eagle Scout program has two presentations scheduled. One was presented on 21 August and the other on 31 August (this one at the Blue Rocks). See Detachment web site for scheduled events. Thank you to Frank Mather for updating our site as we do not have a "Web Sgt."

Warner Jester and Pat and Neil Greenstein continue to improve, health wise, as does Katy Gryniewicz.

Neil is working with Paymaster Cathcart to complete this year's audit. Thank you Neil. Thank you too to Rocky for the excellent job he does with our Detachment funds.

To John Murphy for running the Blue Rocks program, thank you isn't nearly enough. John must be a saint to put up with this headache. We will recognize the workers when the season ends.

Semper Fi,  
Ray Snyder  
Commandant

# CURRENT OFFICERS

Commandant	Ray Snyder	328-1662	Oilworks32@msn.com
Sr. Vice Commandant	Dave Gryniewicz	378-2006	grunidr@aol.com
Jr. Vice Commandant	Roy Edler	995-2461	SilverFxx123@aol.com
Judge Advocate	Neil Greenstein	547-8500	<a href="mailto:Jneil22@gmail.com">Jneil22@gmail.com</a>
Adjutant	John Murphy	832-9569	Johnmurphy553@comcast.net
Paymaster	Roy Cathcart	636-0369	Rocky Cpt@live.com
Chaplain	Rev. John Bailey	652-4424	<a href="mailto:Jbailey70@yahoo.com">Jbailey70@yahoo.com</a>
Sgt At Arms	Myron Smith	397-8956	GJSmith45@peoplepc.com
VAVS Representative	Lee Taylor	328-9340	<a href="mailto:ltaylor1919@yahoo.com">ltaylor1919@yahoo.com</a>

**Holcomb Detachment WebSite:** [www.HolcombDet.org](http://www.HolcombDet.org)

**Holcomb Detachment email:** [THDet-MCL@hotmail.com](mailto:THDet-MCL@hotmail.com)

## Minutes of Regular Business Meeting - 11 July 2011

Meeting called to order by Cmdt. Snyder at 1900. Opening ceremony as per MCL Ritual conducted by Acting Sgt.-at-Arms Murphy and Chaplain Bailey. Roll Call- All Officers present, except P/M Cathcard and Sgt.-at-Arms Myron Smith, both of whom were excused.

Application for New Membership was presented by WILLIAM P. BRAINARD, JR. All required documents presented and approved. Motion to accept application, etc. approved, and Marine Brainard was sworn in by Cmdt. Snyder.

Minutes of 13 June 2011 meeting read by Adj. Murphy, and accepted. Paymaster's Report not available due to his excusal. Neil Greenstein was welcomed back, after his long illness. Cmdt. Snyder reported that Pat Greenstein (Neil's Wife) is presently preparing the "Gazette" for future distribution. Cmdt Snyder distributed limited supply of Detachment Roster, remainder will be forthcoming.

Cmdt. Snyder acknowledged the donation of \$50 received from Member Oric Olsen.

A future "Eagle Scout Recognition event" is still being prepared at a future Blue Rocks game. A letter John Murphy submitted to the "Sound Off" section of 'LEATHERNECK' magazine, in reply to their "book review" of David Ulrich's book, "Preparing for Victory", i.e., General Holcomb's career, etc., was read by Adj. Murphy.

Cmdt Snyder described an appeal from "Hagley Museum" for support of a young people's endeavor to send packages, etc. to Servicemen in Afghanistan. In response, a motion by Adj. Murphy to donate \$500 was

seconded by Jr.Vice-Cmdt. Edler, and carried by those present. "Home of the Brave" pamphlets were available. Chaplain Bailey suggested Detachment arrange more activities, i.e., trips to various places, to attract new members. Cmdt. Snyder explained his intention in the future to contact all Business in the area, explaining OUR purpose, with view of receiving financial support from them.

Carl Hauser gave account of an occasion he had, to explain the phrase "shellback". This led to other explanation of his experiences on New Caledonia, etc., This was followed by "Humorous"(now) experiences by Adj. Murphy on Parris Island, and later on Guam.

Following the playing of "Taps", in memory of Deceased Members, meeting adjourned at 2000.

Respectfully submitted:

John Murphy  
Adjutant.

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## **Minutes of Regular Business Meeting 13 June 2011**

Meeting called to order by Sr.Vice-Cmdt. Dave Gryniewicz at 1900. Opening Ceremony as per MCL Ritual was conducted by Sgt.-at-Arms Myron Smith, and Chaplain John Bailey. All Officers present, except Cmdt. Snyder, who was excused.

There were no new applications for Membership, and no correspondence to be read. Minutes of May Meeting were not available. Garry Greenstein gave an update of Neil Greenstein's condition. At this time, Neil was confined to Christiana Hosp., with what was thought to be a leg infection. It was not, and he was expected to go home, Tuesday, 14 June. Chaplain Bailey reported that he had received a "Thank You" phone call from Charlie Smith's Wife,(Eleanor), for the "Card of encouragement " she received from the Detachment. She reported she was feeling comfortable, and there was no change in her condition.

Adjutant John Murphy reported that the Detachment was represented at the "New Castle Separation Day" Parade, by Cmdt. Snyder; P/Cmdt. Warner Jester; Lee and Bill Taylor, and himself. They rode in P/Cmdt. Jester's truck, which was equipped with appropriate signs on its sides identifying the "GENERAL THOMAS HOLCOMB DETACHMENT, MCL)". The rear of the truck was equipped with Three Flags, i.e., the American Flag, The Marine Corps Flag, and the "POW/MIA" Flag., in an erect position.

John Ricevuto, Paymaster of the "YOUNG MARINES", reported that the YOUNG MARINES were arranging a trip to "8th & I", in Washington, D.C., on Friday, 26 August 2011. There were approximately 30 Bus seats still available. The cost will e \$25 or \$30 per person, depending on how many people go, to defray the cost of the Bus transportation.

P/Cmdt. Joseph Fitzgerald commented on the good "turnout" of Detachment Members, at the Memorial Day Ceremonies, at the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

Sr. Vice-Cmdt. Gryniewicz gave a brief report of the recent Mid-East Convention in Virginia. Besides items of a "National Level", a lot of time was given to the "Proper Use and Wearing" of the Marine Corps League Uniform Sr. Vice-Cmdt. Gryniewicz also mentioned a possible future trip to the USS New Jersey, and Aberdeen, MD would be looked into. It was announced by Sr.Vice-Cmdt. Gryniewicz, that now that Summer is here, except for Detachment Officers, the wearing of Detachment Uniform, at meetings, is not mandatory.

With the playing of Taps, in Remembrance of Deceased Members, meeting was closed appropriately, at 1945.

Respectfully submitted;

John Murphy  
Adjutant

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## **Special Luncheon to Veterans at the Community Living Center, Elsmere, DE August 26, 2011**

On Friday, 26 August 2011 Members of the VAVS Staff offered a "Special Luncheon" to the Veterans at the "Community Living Center"(Nursing Home), Elsmere, DE.

The menu consisted of Roast Beef "Melt" sandwiches from Arby's; Macaroni Salad from "Shop-Rite"; "water ice" from Rita's Italian Ice", and Diet Soda.

Approximately 28 Veterans were served in the Dining Room, and approximately 12 Veterans in their rooms. In addition several members of the CLC Staff, and in addition, 8 VAVS Members, were also served.

VAVS Members present were; Mary Ann & Bob Palute; Mary Sowden; Lee Taylor; Al Sosienski; Pete Grandell; John Murphy and his Grandson, Jason Bowser.

The next "Special Luncheon" is tentatively scheduled for 22 October 2011. The next VAVS Committee "get-together" at Hunters Den is scheduled for Friday, 2 Sept. 2011.

Respectfully submitted:

John Murphy  
Adjutant

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## **Pictures from the Thomas Holcomb Celebration on 22 May 2011**



**1 Members of Young Marines of New Castle County and members of The Thomas Holcomb Marine Corps League Detachment.**

More pictures can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/63235129@N02/?saved=1>

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## POW/MIA CEREMONY

***If any Marine Corps League members wishes to attend, he/she should consider wearing the red blazer uniform if they possess it.***

We are inviting your organization to the dedication of the POW/MIA Memorial at the Dover AMC Museum on Sunday Sept 18<sup>th</sup> at 1300 hours. For the past 5 years we have honored a Delaware POW or MIA from the State of Delaware. This year we will be honoring Gunnery Sgt. Edward A. Willing USMC MIA from Vietnam. We felt it would be fitting for a representative from your organization to be invited to this ceremony. If you have a representative that would like to set with the dignitaries please provide us with a name and title. Please feel free to contact me if you need more detailed information.

Thanks,  
Tom Redden

### **6th Annual Delaware POW MIA Remembrance**

Honoring Gunnery Sergeant  
Edward Arlo Willing  
MIA Vietnam

Ceremony to be held on Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:00 at the Dover AFB AMC Museum  
Museum is located off of Route 9 on the  
south side of Dover AFB

**Join us for the much awaited  
Delaware**

**POW/MIA  
Memorial dedication**

Guest Speaker Retired Brigadier General Jon A. Reynolds  
Ceremony will include participation from the following organizations

Dover AFB Honor Guard  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
American Legion  
AMVETS

Vietnam Veterans of America  
Patriot Guard Riders

For information please email [thomasredden@gmail.com](mailto:thomasredden@gmail.com)  
Refreshments will be available



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### **Home of the Brave in Milford**

We can always use household items to take down to the Home of the Brave in Milford. Contact Ray Synder at 328-1662 if you have anything to donate.

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## Military & Veterans Expo 2011

The Delaware Suicide Prevention coalition presents in collaboration with Delaware National guard, Department of Veterans Affairs, Delaware Commission of Veteran Affairs and the Mental Health association, will be hosting Delaware Military and Veterans Expo for veterans, service members, families & concerned support members on September 7, 2011 at Sheraton Dover Hotel. This year's expo theme is entitled, "**Prevention Works**" as we provide information and resource tables as well as informative and video sessions to increase awareness about the importance of suicide prevention. Come out and learn about suicide prevention! Gather information, tips and tools that can help you or your loved ones.

DATE: Wednesday, September 7, 2011

TIME: 1:00 – 4:30 PM

PLACE: Sheraton Dover Hotel  
1570 N. DuPont Highway  
Dover, De 19901

For more information contact Victoria Chang  
(302) 654-6833 ext.18 or [vkim@mhainde.org](mailto:vkim@mhainde.org)

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## Why Join the Marines?

Is it the benefits and bonuses that motivate people to join the Marines over other services? No. The truth is that the armed forces all offer similar basic benefits and bonuses. For most who choose the Marines, it's the Marine's core values of honor, courage, and commitment, along with a sense of tradition and the Corps mission that attracts them.

### The Corps - "Core Values"

Since 1775, the Corps has strived to produce not only the best warriors, but also the best people. They live by a code, which forms the foundation of good character. Above all else Marines value Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

**Honor** - Marines are held to the highest standard of honesty, honor, and respect for others. Each Marine is expected be mature and dependable and every Marine is accountable for his or her own actions.

**Courage** - Courage is not the absence of fear. It is the ability to face fear and overcome it. It is the mental, moral, and physical strength ingrained in all Marines. It steadies them in times of stress, carries them through every challenge and aids them in facing new and unknown confrontations.

**Commitment** - Commitment is the spirit of determination and dedication found in Marines. It is what impels Marines to serve our country and the Corps. Every aspect of life in the Corps shows commitment, from the high

standard of excellence to the vigilance the Marines show for training.

## **A Sense of Tradition**

From their motto to their uniform, a sense of tradition runs deep in all Marines. Semper Fidelis, adopted in 1883, is the Marine Corp motto. In Latin it means "Always Faithful." But it is more than just a motto for Marines; it is a way of life. It is a commitment that each Marine has to our country, to the Corps, and to each other. This is why there are no ex-Marines, only former Marines.

The three elements on the official Marine Corps insignia - The Eagle, Globe and Flag - are rich with history and meaning. The eagle with spread wings represents a proud country, the globe represents worldwide service, and the fouled anchor stands for maritime tradition. This insignia has been proudly worn on the Marine Corps uniform since 1868.

## **The Corps Mission**

The Marine Corps has two missions – to make Marines and to win battles. Comprised of smart, adaptable men and women, the Corps serves as the aggressive tip of the American military spear. Often thought of as "First to Fight", the Marines are a smaller, more dynamic force than any other in the American arsenal. The Corps is also the only U.S. force designed to be expeditionary in nature and able to operate in a state of "forward

deployment". This means Marines are stationed around the world, ready to act whenever the need arises. The Marine Corps accomplishes great things for our nation and its people, and they do it together.

If you are considering serving in the military and Honor, Courage, and Commitment are what you value most, then you should talk to a [Marine Corps recruiter](#) and see if you have what it takes to be a United States Marine.

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## **Water Survival Qual Changed**

**December 10, 2010**

Marine Corps News|by Lance Cpl. Heather N. Choate

CAMP BUTLER, OKINAWA, Japan — The Marine Corps implemented a new qualification system for the combat water survival training that went into effect for all Marines Nov. 10. The new system focuses on safety and effectiveness while reforming qualification requirements. "Marines are inherently amphibious by nature and are expected to operate in aquatic environments," said Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, in Marine Corps Order 1500.52D, in reference to the new swim qualifications.

The old swim program was created and based on the needs of the battlefield in the 1940's during World War II, according to Staff Sgt. Nicholas Reyes, the maintenance management chief for Communication Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force and a Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival.

"The needs of combat have changed, along with the gear as well. The program now has all the gear we use in combat. The fundamentals will remain the same, but the tasks the Marines execute will be more realistic to

today's combat," he added.

The new system includes changes to the course as well as the qualification levels. "The new Marine Corps Water Survival Training Program benefits today's Marines because it is going to show them what to do if they fall into water with all of their gear on," said Reyes. "It will also teach them how to strip their gear while in water and how to use their gear in order to save themselves as well as a fellow Marine."

The new program consists of three qualification levels: Water Survival Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. All Marines are required to be qualified to at least the Water Survival Basic level.

"The Marine Corps Water Survival Training Program employs water survival skills of increasing levels of ability designed to reduce fear, raise self-confidence and develop Marines with the ability to survive in water," Amos said.

The billets of Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival and Marine Corps Instructor Trainer of Water Survival will still be in place, but instructors must be trained on the new system. The new training will be available to Marines as instructors are certified to teach the new curriculum. Marines who have a current swim qualification do not need to qualify through the new program until then.

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### **Excerpt from News Journal Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 : REGIONAL SCOUTING**

In May, an innovative Scouting opportunity was offered to non-adjudicated youth at New Castle County Detention Center on Faulkland Road, near Ferris School.

So far about 65 young people, ages 11 to 20, have signed up for Boy Scouts and Venturing Crew, a co-ed life skills program.

Longtime Scout leader Benton Garrison of Newark helped create the program. Garrison is a deputy superintendent at the center and saw the activity as engaging young people with onsite camping, outdoor cooking and fun.

Activities to earn merit badges -- along with solid adult feedback -- are aimed at strengthening character too.

"My hope is that when they leave us for home we'll find a way to help them continue with Scouting and find more that's positive," Garrison says.

**Congratulations to Ben who is a member of the General Thomas Holcomb Detachment and is a leader of the detachment's Young Marines Program.**

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## Calendar of Events

### September 2011

2	Friday	1130 hours	Detachment Get-together Luncheon, Hunter's Den Restaurant
2	Friday		VAVS Committee "get-together" at Hunter's Den
5	Monday		Labor Day no scheduled detachment participation in events
7	Wednesday	1300 hours	Military & Veterans Expo 2011, Sheraton Dover Hotel
11	Sunday		World Trade Center Remembrance Day
12	Monday	1900 hours	Holcomb Detachment general membership meeting. THE RESERVE CENTER , Kirkwood Hwy
18	Sunday	1300 hours	Dedication of the POW/MIS Memorial at Dover AMC Museum

### October 2011

3	Monday	1900 hours	Detachment Officers meeting.
7	Friday	1130 hours	Detachment Get-together Luncheon, Hunter's Den Restaurant
10	Monday	1900 hours	Holcomb Detachment general membership meeting. THE RESERVE CENTER , Kirkwood Hwy
10	Monday		Columbus Day
22	Saturday		Tentative date for next SPECIAL Luncheon to Veterans

### November 2011

4	Friday	1130 hours	Detachment Get-together Luncheon, Hunter's Den Restaurant
6	Sunday		Veteran's Day Story Telling at Pike Creek Park
7	Monday	1900 hours	Detachment Officers meeting.
10	Thursday		Marine Corps Birthday
11	Friday		Veteran's Day
14	Monday	1900 hours	Holcomb Detachment general membership meeting. THE RESERVE CENTER , Kirkwood Hwy

### December 2011

2	Friday	1130 hours	Detachment Get-together Luncheon, Hunter's Den Restaurant
5	Monday	1900 hours	Detachment Officers meeting.
10	Saturday		Detachment Holiday Party Cranston Heights Firehouse, Kirkwood Hwy
12	Monday	1900 hours	Holcomb Detachment general membership meeting. THE RESERVE CENTER , Kirkwood Hwy

Marine Corps League

Gen. Thomas Holcomb Detachment

3920 Kirkwood Hwy

Wilmington, DE 19808

**Address Correction Service**

**Requested**



If you have pictures or written material that might be used in future Gazettes, please send to [THDet-MCL@hotmail.com](mailto:THDet-MCL@hotmail.com). We usually need material to fill five double sided pages.

Does the Detachment have your current email address? Providing your email address allows you to receive *The Holcomb Gazette* electronically ( and saves the Detachment money!). You will also be able to receive any special notices for the Detachment members. We do not share your email address with anyone else, so you will not receive any spam.

Please send you current email address to:

[THDet-MCL@hotmail.com](mailto:THDet-MCL@hotmail.com)