

Aug 2016

The Sitrep

Editor: Jason Smith (jmsmith91081@yahoo.com or 484-553-5237)

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**Next Detachment
Meeting:
Emmaus VFW
#7088
316 Main St.
Emmaus, PA
Aug 24th @ 1930**

**Current
Elected/Appointed
Officers**

- Commandant-
Jason Smith
- Sr. Vice
Commandant-
Michael Donatacci
- Jr. Vice
Commandant-
Robert Hoffman
- Judge Advocate-
Howard Schaeffer
- Adjutant –
Terry Keiser
- Paymaster –
Terry Keiser
- Chaplain-
Joseph Malia
- Sgt. at Arms-
Anthony Reed
- Web Sgt. –
Jason Smith



Message from the CP

This past month Detachment 296 lost a major piece of our unit. Henry Brokate passed away on July 20th. He will be sorely missed. One of our members put it best when he said that Hank was like a grandfather to the members. Not because of his age, but because he was someone that was there for anyone at any time. Whether it be advise our just to have a friendly chat. Another reason was that he would get all of us riled up and then send us home. He never judged anyone and helped look out for us by doing things like helping us find a new home. I for one will miss him dearly. You could also tell how much he meant to everyone in the Emmaus Community simply by the fact that people waited in line for over an hour and a half to pay their final respects.

On a lighter note, we just had our detachment picnic. I was very pleased with the turnout. It was not just a member's only event and it showed. We had spouses, mothers, fathers, kids, aunts, and uncles show up. This is one of the many reasons why I am so proud to be your Commandant. We are not just a veteran's organization, but also a full-fledged family, willing to do anything to help each other. It was nice to be able to thank the spouses and families for their support of our mission. We would not be able to do what we do without it. There were a lot of bonds formed and stories shared. We were even able to raise some money to help us with future endeavors.

It is time for you as members to start thinking about whom you want to elect as officers. The election process will begin in October. If you think you would like to run for an officer position or would just like to know more about what is involved please speak up. All of the current officers are more than happy to share our knowledge and keep our membership informed. I in no way am saying that I am not happy with everything our current officers are doing, but sometimes a change in pace is a good thing, and it can help to keep us fresh.

Meeting Minutes

- ❖ It was announced that the Brokate family was in attendance
 - Mrs. Brokate and Hank's children all thanked the detachment for the support they have been given.
- ❖ The Detachment was reminded of the Veterans Brotherhood charity softball game being sponsored by the Gold Star Mothers.
 - Detachment 296 will be providing the Color Guard.
 - Sr. Vice Commandant Mike Donatacci, Sgt. At Arms Tony Reed, Fred Babcock, and Robert Jann volunteered for the duty. Sr. Vice Donatacci will be the P.O.C. for this event.
 - Judge Advocate Howard Schaeffer made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the event
 - The motion was passed: **26 For: 0 Against: 0 Abstentions**

This Month's Birthdays/Anniversaries

- John Balliet joined the MCL in Aug. of '99

- Shirley Keller joined the MCL in Aug. of '71

- Charlie Kresge joined the MCL in Aug. of '71

- Richard Stoudt joined the MCL in Aug. of '71

- Anthony Ross turns 20 on Aug. 1st

- William Waelchli turns 59 on Aug. 2nd

- Joe Deddo turns 67 on Aug. 9th

- Kim Fitzpatrick turns 31 on Aug. 13th

- Richard Cuth turns 79 on Aug. 18th

- William Remo turns 73 on Aug. 19th

- John Eyer turns 66 on Aug. 19th

- Fred Babcock turns 71 on Aug. 28th

- On Aug. 20th Commandant Smith and his wife Bethany will be celebrating their 5-year wedding anniversary.

Meeting Minutes Cont....

- ❖ Commandant Smith reported that there was a veteran family in Emmaus that was being harassed to the point of taking down their military flags. Numerous veterans organizations showed up to their house to show their support. During the event, it was noticed that they did not have a Marine Corps Flag. Detachment 296 donated a Marine Corps Flag to show are support as well.
- ❖ Commandant Smith also reported on the Color Guard the detachment preformed at the Mission BBQ Grand Opening. Mission BBQ is a new restaurant in Whitehall on Grape Street. The inside motif is all veteran and first responder related. In addition, every day at noon they stop business and the Star Spangled Banner is played.
- ❖ A reminder was given about the Detachment Picnic, which will be held on August 14th, from 1200-1900, at the Moser Pavilion in the Emmaus Community Park.
 - Children are welcome
 - If you hadn't RSVP yet please contact Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci
 - There will be a 50/50 drawing and Kimberly Fitzpatrick's sister is donating a custom quilt to be raffled off
 - Additional items to auction off would be appreciated
- ❖ Sr. Vice Donatacci mentioned that he has finished his Hospice training and has been assigned his first patient
 - Other members are currently in the process of completing their training and if you would like to take the training to please contact him
 - In addition, any of the members undergoing the training Heartland Hospice is offering free Hep B vaccinations. This is a three-phase process.
- ❖ A report was given on the July 2nd fireworks show in Breinigsville.
 - The show was very entertaining and the detachment was able to raise \$379.00 in donations.
- ❖ Judge Advocate Schaeffer donated a large picture to hang in the VFW in memory of Hank.
- ❖ There was a reminder of the Walmart Rose Drive, which will be held on Sept. 17th and 18th.
 - We will be doing this event in shifts, which will be determined at the August meeting.
- ❖ Commandant Smith announced that August 20th will be the 5-year anniversary between him and his wife.



Paymaster's Report

- ❖ There were several checks sent out bringing the checking account balance to \$1984.16.
 - A check was made for \$30.00 to National for delegate registration for the Convention
 - A check was made for \$192.00 for the website payment
 - A check was made for \$60.00 for supplies
 - A payment was made for \$366.99 to Ship Stores for 10 gross of the Marine Corps League Roses
- ❖ As of 7/27/16, the money market account had a balance of \$3,373.68. This included a deposit of \$34.51
- ❖ The report was accepted: **25 For: 0 Against: 0 Abstentions**



Welcome Aboard

Detachment 296 would like to welcome John Eyer to the family. John served from 1968-1972 in the Corps, being deployed to Vietnam in 1970 with the Air Wing. He is a long time Emmaus resident, and at one point coached the female varsity softball team. Several members know John and believe he will be a great addition.

After Action Reports



Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza

<http://www.lvmcl.com/breinigsville-independence-day-fireworks-extravaganza-1/>

This year's Independence Day Fireworks were held on July 2nd at the Earl Adams Memorial Park in Breinigsville. The Schmoyer Family were gracious hosts. Michael Donatacci, Howard Schaeffer, Joe Malia, Fred Babcock and

Bob Jann were in attendance all day, having great conversations with wonderful people during our Rose Drive for donations. The Rose Drive helps our Detachment and in turn helps Marines and Veterans in our community. - **Senior Vice Commandant Michael Donatacci**



Weidman Visit

<http://www.lvmcl.com/weidman-visit-1/>

One of our main missions in the Marine Corps League is to support our local veterans. On July 11th we were able to show our support to a local veteran couple, David and Sylvia Weidman. A few of the detachment members paid them a visit and donated a Marine Corps flag for them to hang on the front porch. We spent a couple hours talking with them and sharing stories. The members present enjoyed themselves and we

look forward to hearing updates from the family. - **Commandant Jason M. Smith**



Mission BBQ Color Guard

<http://www.lvmcl.com/mission-bbq-color-guard/>

On July 18th Detachment 296 provided the Color Guard for the Whitehall Mission BBQ. It was a nice ceremony beginning with us marching out to the main flagpole, a call to colors, the main colors of the building risen, and followed by the national anthem. The support that Mission BBQ provides for veterans and first responders is second to none. The entire interior of the store is

designed with various photos and decor depicting that support. All of the staff wear and Mission BBQ uniform that includes a ball cap of either a military branch or one of the first responders organizations. If that isn't enough every day at noon, work stops and the national anthem is played. - **Commandant Jason M. Smith**

- Monthly detachment meeting to be held Aug. 24th and is set to begin @ 1930
- Detachment Rose Sale at the Trexlertown Wal-Mart on Sept. 17th and 18th from 1000 - 1500

After Action Reports Cont.....



Annual Detachment Picnic

<http://www.lvmcl.com/detachment-picnic-81416/>

Detachment 296 held our Annual Picnic on August 14th. Members and their families joined together for a day fun, food, and sun. We were even able to raise a little money with a 50/50 drawing and auctioning off a couple of donated items. A custom-made quilt, donated by Kimberly Fitzpatrick, and a K-Bar, donated by Bill Stoudt. We were all surprised by a presentation to the detachment. "The Sitrep", the detachment newsletter, won 3rd place at the National Convention. Nicholas Jorge Quiñones Werkheiser, a newly graduated marine and detachment member's grandson, was presented with a photo taken of him during his Crucible. Also in the shadow box was the first Eagle, Globe, and Anchor that he was presented while in boot camp. A wonderful time was had by all. - **Commandant Jason M. Smith**

Department Commandant's Outgoing Message

As my tenure as Department Commandant ends I would like to thank everyone that supported me and the Board of Trustees for the past 2 years. Together we have been through some tough times and have stuck together as a Department to help shape the changes taking place at the National level. We should be proud that we took the lead in that endeavor and we should stay vigilant to make sure the League stays on the correct path forward.

This has also been a busy quarter. I attended the Northeast Division Conference in Wilkes-Barre along with many other Department officers. I also attended a couple of installations and several State Veteran Committee meetings. A lot of my time was also taken up being at my wife Cindy's side as she went through some serious health issues. Thankfully she is on the mend and as I write this article she is starting back to work again. I'd like to sincerely thank those who called, sent cards, and had her in their thoughts and prayers.

Like most of the League, our Department seems to have the same problems as far as membership is concerned. We are slightly down again. As everyone knows, recruiting and retention is the lifeblood of our organization, so we must work hard to get new members and keep the rest interested in staying. We must do a better job if we are to grow the League.

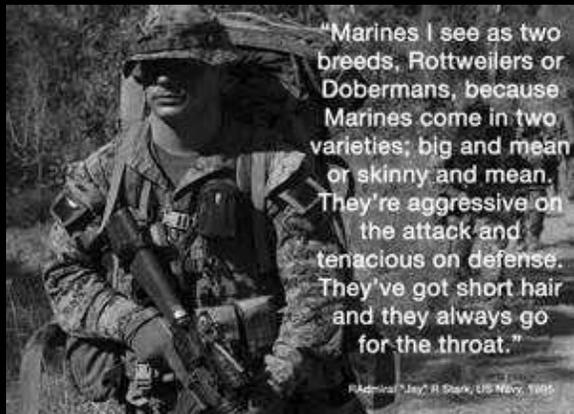
I would like to thank our District Vice Commandants, their Assistants and the other appointed Department Officers that do an excellent job representing the Department and me around the State. I believe they are to be commended for the outstanding service they provide to our members.

Finally, I would ask everyone to support the incoming Officers of the Department in the same way I received your support. It is imperative if we are to continue to move forward. And as we do, I will stay available to provide any help that I can to the Department and its members.

- Semper Fi
Jim Powell
 Commandant, MCL Dept. of PA. Inc.



*HENRY "HANK" BROKATE
NOV 21 1942 – JULY 20 2016
"SEMPER FIDELIS MARINE"*



"Marines I see as two breeds, Rottweilers or Dobermans, because Marines come in two varieties; big and mean or skinny and mean. They're aggressive on the attack and tenacious on defense. They've got short hair and they always go for the throat."

Admiral "Jay" A. Stark, US Navy, 1995

Marine Corps League Detachment 296

Official Website:
<http://www.lvmcl.com>

Commandant Jason M. Smith
(484) 553-5237
Jmsmith91081@yahoo.com

Sr. Vice Commandant Michael Donatacci
(908) 217-3512
Donatacci@gmail.com



Visit with Opha Mae and Reckless

Opha Mae and Reckless are English bulldogs, whom are available to visit veterans of all branches of the United States Armed Forces. The English bulldog is the United States Marine Corps mascot. It was only fitting that they both have names steeped in Marine Corps history. Opha Mae was named after the first woman who enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Opha Mae Johnson joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1918. Reckless was named after Staff Sergeant Reckless, a Mongolian mare, whose heroic endeared her so much to the Marine Corps that there was a statue of her place at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico Virginia. She was also buried with full military honors at Camp Pendleton in California. Both Opha Mae and Reckless are

available to visit veterans in hospitals, nursing homes, or private residences. They will wear one of their four Marine Corps uniforms; Dress Blues Uniform, Service Charlie Uniform, Green Camouflage Uniform, or Desert Camouflage Uniform. The choice is yours. There is no cost for this service as these men and women have already given enough. Opha Mae's certifications are available upon request, Reckless is currently undergoing training for his, and their license and shot records are available upon request. Anyone interested in requesting Opha's services can either go to the following link (<http://www.lvmcl.com/visit-with-ophma-mae-and-reckless/>) or e-mail Commandant Jason Smith.



Emmaus Veterans Committee

The Emmaus Veterans Committee is made up of veterans from the Catholic War Vets, the VFW, the American Legion, and the Marine Corps League. The purpose of this committee is for all Emmaus veterans organizations to gather and ensure the needs of local veterans and their families are being taken care of.

The committee's activities include, but are not limited to:

- replacing the flags at veterans gravesites, multiple times a year
- organizing the Emmaus Memorial Day Activities
- Once a year a flag retirement ceremony is held, in which old and tattered flags collected from gravesites, veterans groups, and civilian contributors are properly retired. The ashes of those flags are later collected and spread around the veterans cemeteries.

The Emmaus Veterans Committee also has an Honor Guard. This is a group of local veterans, which volunteer their time to perform military funerals for fallen veterans at the gravesite, including the playing of taps and a gun salute. They will also perform services inside the funeral home per the request of the family. There is no payment requested but donations are accepted. If you would like a military service at a loved one's funeral, please let the funeral director know and contact the committee either at the following link, (<http://www.lvmcl.com/emmaus-veterans-committee-honor-guard/>) or email Commandant Jason Smith.