



SITREP

LEHIGH VALLEY DETACHMENT 296

[HTTP://WWW.LVMCL.COM](http://www.lvmcl.com)

DETACHMENT MEETINGS:
Every 4th Wednesday @ 1930
EMAUS FIRE CO. No. 2
1017 Pennsylvania Ave
Emmaus PA 18049

CONGRATULATIONS

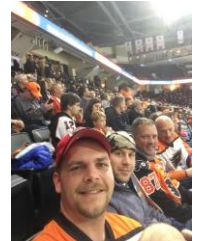
DETACHMENT 296 COMMANDANT

JASON SMITH

Lehigh Valley Detachment 296's very own Commandant Jason Smith was recognized as *HOMETOWN HERO* during the 14 December Lehigh Valley Phantoms hockey game. During the second period, play was stopped, and Jason and his family were brought onto the ice; he was presented with a personalized jersey and his daughter, Laney, an official puck. His dedication and selfless devotion to the Marine Corps continues with the countless time and energy he devotes to the Marine Corps League, making this a well-deserved honor. Jason is one of 38 heroes to be chosen for the season. This year, there were 1530 applicants. *CONGRATULATIONS COMMANDANT...* your detachment is very proud of you!

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

- *Commandant*
Jason Smith
- *SR Vice Commandant*
Howard Schaeffer
- *JR Vice Commandant*
Robert Hoffman
- *Judge Advocate*
William Stoudt
- *Adjutant/Paymaster*
Terry Keiser
- *Chaplain*
Joseph Malia
- *Sergeant at Arms*
Milton Solares



THE MONTH IN REVIEW

Date: Friday, December 14, 2018, two days before his 93rd birthday on December 16th

Mission: Visit with Clifford Benner – Life Member – MCL– Lehigh Valley Detachment 296

- Find out how he has been doing
- Deliver LV Detachment 'Polo'
- Photo for our Website Roster Picture lineup

Cliff has been a Life Member since November 2000; his actual MCL joining date needs some clarification. He has not been able to attend meetings for 20+ years, since his wife needed his care. Fred 'Fritz' Babcock and Chaplain Joe Malia traveled to Coopersburg to visit with Clifford Benner, a WWII Pacific theater Marine who participated in the Okinawa campaign. Being somewhat of a celebrity in Marine Corps parlances for his WWII action alone, we discovered that Clifford is also a Walking Talking history lesson, and if we had served with him, we may have given him the moniker of "Professor".

Clifford has a binder full of material about his life in the Corps and also print and pictures about his passions which were as a Revolutionary War reenactor, a Civil War reenactor and includes his portrayal of General Patton for a History event at Reading High School.

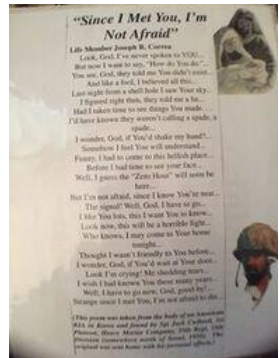
He has a binder full of information about the transportation of the "State Bell", (which eventually became known as the Liberty Bell), on its secreted trip from Philadelphia and eventually to Allentown, Pa. His material documents the route, the stops made along the way and who participated in this historic feat.

We reported at our December meeting about Benner's role as the Drummer for his Revolutionary War reenactor group and their Event in Norristown, that featured General Norman Schwarzkopf Jr. as the main speaker. As the Drummer Cliff would "Drum-In" each dignitary and honored guests. After the ceremonies and the Reenactors group picture with the General, Drummer Benner took exception with General Schwarzkopf, for not wearing his military attire. The General wore a tuxedo for the event. When Drummer Benner approached the General and said, "I have a bone to pick with you". The Secret Service agents or his guards, stepped between the General and Drummer. The General parted the guards and said, "Let this Marine speak". Rather taken aback, Clifford said to the General, "How did you know I was a Marine?". The General responded, "only a Marine would dare to talk to me that way".

I am hoping we can find some way for Clifford to pass on much more information. History the way it is supposed to be taught. Clifford is in good health for his age and his state of mind is something to marvel at.

Semper FI Clifford, job well done.

-Submitted by Chaplain Joe Malia



NEW MEMBERSHIP

ELECTION RESULTS



Rondell Anderson served from 1999-2003. He was a Machine Gunner, E CO, 2nd BN, 2nd Marines. He deployed to Iraq, Africa, Kosovo and Croatia.

**WELCOME
ABOARD
RONDELL!**

Officer elections were held during December's Detachment meeting.

Results as follows:

Commandant: Jason Smith
Senior Vice Commandant: Howard Schaeffer
Junior Vice Commandant: John Eyer
Judge Advocate: Bill Stoudt

Appointed positions as follows:

Adjutant/Paymaster: Ron Heckman
Chaplain: Joe Malia
Sergeant at Arms: Milton Solares
Web SGT: Jason Smith
Newsletter Editor: Ria Mattix

Installation will occur during January's meeting.

FROM THE EDITOR

**Just a short note to say "thank you" for all your kind wishes and card while I was recovering from my surgery. I am honored to be a part of this Detachment and to be in the company of such fine Marines - Ria*

SCUTTLEBUTT

FROM THE FLEET

Follow the link below to find out what is happening now in the FMF:

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2019/01/16/m72-law-rocket-firing-incident-at-infantry-officer-course-sends-two-marines-to-the-hospital/>

If you would like to submit something to *The Sitrep*, please contact me via email or text. I welcome any input you, as a Detachment, may have. My apologies in advance if I have omitted any matters of importance for this month's edition and ask that you let me know if I have done so.

Semper Fi Marines!

Ria Mattix

dumagirl4@gmail.com

484-788-2980

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Last month's meeting was held on Wednesday, 19 DEC 2018

Minutes are as follows:

Applications for New Membership:

Rondell Anderson served from 1999-2003. He was a Machine Gunner, E CO, 2nd BN, 2nd Marines. He deployed to Iraq, Africa, Kosovo and Croatia.

A vote was taken to accept Rondell into the Detachment.

In Favor: 17

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written. The vote was seconded.

In Favor: 19

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

Correspondence:

Dues should have been paid by 9/1 (except for Life Members). If you haven't paid your \$25.00, see Terry or Jason. Dues must go through either one of them. Jason has VENMO if anyone needs to pay in that manner.

Report of the Paymaster:

Money Market: \$3,376.15

Checking: \$654.78

A motion was made to accept the report. The motion was seconded.

In Favor: 19

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

Report of Members/Family Members Sick/In Distress:

Kim Fitzpatrick lost the man who was a father figure to her.

Shane Patton's step-grandmother is doing better since last meeting.

Ria Mattix is home recovering from surgery.

One of the veterans Fred Babcock visits at Heartland is not doing well.

Report of Officers:

Christmas Caroling at Mosser went well. There was a decent showing of Marines.

Joe Malia is trying to contact Marines that have not attended meetings for a while as well as trying to update photos.

Joe Malia and Fred Babcock had the honor of visiting with 94yr old Okinawa Marine, Clifford Benner.

Detachment members attended a 90th birthday celebration for a local veteran at South Mountain Memory Care Unit in Emmaus.

Standing Committees:

PR:

The website is up to date. Jason will update the roster. Jason is looking into creating a "donate" button and possibly Pay Pal, he is looking into the fees.

The Facebook page has been getting a lot of likes and is spreading. If you haven't already, please "like" the Detachment profile. Jason is also looking into creating a "donate" button for the Facebook page.

Business cards with the new meeting location are in. See Jason if you need some.

Jason will be submitting an order to the Ship Store. If you need items, please contact him.

If any member has pictures of their time in service that they would like to see in the newsletter, etc..., please get them to Jason or Howard and they can scan them.

The Marine Corps Ball Committee will need to convene soon to start planning.

Jason addressed the fact that there was a lot of wasted food left over after this year's picnic due-to-the-fact that more people had signed up than actually attended. Going forward, members will be free, family will be ½ price. Please talk to Jason or another officer with any last-minute additions. Joe Deddo will try to reserve the pavilion for the 17th of August.

Unfinished Business:

The gun raffle will be held at the March meeting. Jason applied for the license, we are unable to obtain a yearly due-to-the-fact that No. 2 has one and there cannot be two holders registered under the same location; despite the fact that we are an independent entity. There is an option for a monthly license. A letter from No. 2 stating that we rent the meeting hall is required.

Officers Election Results:

A vote was taken. Results as follows:

Commandant: Jason Smith

Senior Vice Commandant: Howard Schaeffer

Junior Vice Commandant: John Eyer

Judge Advocate: Bill Stoudt

Appointed positions:

Sergeant at Arms: Milton Solares

Adjutant/Paymaster: Ron Heckman

Chaplain: Joe Malia

Web SGT: Jason Smith

Newsletter Editor: Ria Mattix

New Business:

None

Good of the League:

Commandant Jason Smith was recognized as December's "Hometown Hero" during the Lehigh Valley Phantoms game. He was presented with a custom jersey. Jason is one of 38 heroes to be chosen out of 1530 applicants.

Adam Polster will be recognized on March 14th.

Announcements:

Shane Patton will have information coming soon regarding the blood drive on February 24th.

A moment of silence was observed for each of the 6 Marines lost in the training accident of an FA-18 and a KC-130 in the Pacific.

The meeting was declared officially closed until January 23rd, 2019.