



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

THE CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS



DETACHMENT OFFICERS

• *Commandant*

Jason Smith

• *SR Vice Commandant*

Howard Schaeffer

• *JR Vice Commandant*

John Eyer

• *Judge Advocate*

William Stoudt

• *Adjutant/Paymaster*

Ron Heckman

• *Chaplain*

Joseph Malia

• *Sergeant at Arms*

Rondell Anderson

• *Web Sergeant*

David Guldin

The Four Chaplains, also referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains" or the "Dorchester Chaplains," were four WWII Chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel as the troop ship USAT Dorchester sank on February 3, 1943. Reverend George L. Fox, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode (PhD), Father John P. Washington, and Reverend Clark V. Poling heroically sacrificed their own lives when the Dorchester was torpedoed by the German submarine U-223 off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic by helping the other soldiers board lifeboats and giving up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains then joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship. Each of the four chaplains was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart; the chaplains were nominated for the Medal of Honor but were deemed ineligible as they had not engaged in combat. Congress created a medal for them, The Four Chaplains' Medal, which carries the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. On 6 February, Detachment members SR Vice Commandant Howard Schaeffer, Cory Shellhamer and Ria Mattix attended the 2020 Chapel of Four Chaplains Awards Banquet Dinner in Philadelphia. SR Vice Commandant Schaeffer, who also serves as The Chairman of the Board of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation, awarded the Humanitarian and Gold Medallion Awards to this year's recipients. June Robbins, who worked in Philadelphia's Navy Yard during WWII becoming one of the infamous "Rosie the Riveters", was recognized as the 2020 Humanitarian of the Year. She dedicated her life to volunteering in such organizations as the Red Cross and USO along with the Girl and Boy Scouts and PTA. June co-founded the Humor Cart Program at Children's Hospital where she spent every Wednesday and after attending a 10 week clown class went on to perform at veterans' hospitals. Gold Medallion recipients, Wreathes Across America founders Morrill and Karen Worcester, started the tradition of placing wreathes to honor our country's veterans in 1992. That year wreathes were placed in one of the older sections of Arlington National Cemetery. Since then the Wreathes Across America vision of placing wreathes on veteran's graves has grown to include over 2,000 locations across the US. In 2019, more than 2.2 million wreathes were delivered.

THE MONTH IN REVIEW



Detachment 296 changed it up a bit in February. After conducting business, the Detachment hosted a “game night” where Detachment members and veteran guests were able to socialize while playing some of the traditional military games and enjoying some good food and drink. It was a nice way to get together and enjoy some comraderie.



-A NOTE ABOUT CORONAVIRUS-

AAAHHH...the cursed word that has come to plague our world. March's Detachment meeting was thwarted by an unseen enemy...but as we all know, it takes more than some COVID-19 to defeat a bunch of Marines. But seriously, as the current situation of the Coronavirus pandemic continues, I wanted to take some time to remind everyone of the strength and unity of our brotherhood. Please check in on each other and offer support, as our Corps values call us to do. Remember to practice social distancing and go out only when necessary. I'm sure we're all going a little bit stir crazy by now but the sooner we defeat this enemy, the sooner we can get back to business as usual. These are some crazy times, but we are resilient and adaptable (adapt and overcome). I'm looking forward to the time when we can all meet again. Until then, stay strong...stay healthy.

Semper Fi 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/coronavirus/2020/03/30/parris-island-halts-arrival-of-new-recruits-over-covid-19-concerns/>

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

riamcl296@gmail.com

484-788-2980

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Last month's meeting was held on 26 FEB 2020

Minutes are as follows:

Previous meeting minutes were read. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Correspondence:

-VET FEST will be taking place 11/12 July 2020 at the Steel Stacks in Bethlehem. While there is no entrance fee for non-profit organizations, it is requested that a donation of \$75.00 be made in the form of a full page add. Set up will begin at 0830, break down may not take place before 1800. A motion was made for the Detachment to participate as one of the vendors. The motion was seconded

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

-Girl Scout Cookie Share Program: Emmaus local Girl Scout Troop 602, and Laney Smith's Troop 81133 both participate in what is called the Cookie Share Program. It is a program in which you can purchase boxes of cookies, either directly or through monetary donation, which are then sent to troops and first responders. A motion was made to donate \$200.00 to the program with each troop receiving a \$100.00 donation. The motion was seconded

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

-The Emmaus Youth Fitness Team is hosting their home meet at Emmaus High School on 14 March 2020 at 1300. The Detachment will be presenting a \$1,000.00 donation at the event. Volunteers are needed to oversee and escort visiting teams to the different stations.

-St Anne's Cemetery flag/marker replacement and clean-up will be held 16 May 2020 at 0930

-Rose sales are set to take place at the Emmaus Farmer's Market 17 May and 28 June 2020

-Emmaus Historical Society will be hanging banners of local Veterans down Main Street in Emmaus. Banners will be hung for a two-year period. Cost for each banner is \$150.00. A motion was made for the Detachment to cover the cost of a banner for Detachment member Hank Brokate. The motion was seconded

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The meeting was closed until 25 March 2020