

Loudoun Detachment 1205 News

2020 In Review



Officers' Swearing-in

- Due to weather, we had a split swearing in this year, since half the newly elected officers couldn't make this meeting. We swore the rest in at the following one.



New Color Guard Uniforms

- Member by member, our color guard is assembling their own Marine Corps League's official color guard uniform.
- Looks pretty damned good, doesn't it?



2020 Officers

Stirling Rasmussen	Commandant
Michael Davis	Sr. Vice Commandant
Thomas Quigley	Jr. Vice Commandant
Chuck Lewis	Paymaster
Steve Hildner	Adjutant
Thomas Dougherty	Judge Advocate
Eddie Johnson	Chaplain
Vince Marino	Sergeant at Arms
Ron Clark	Detachment Service Officer
Rich Klein	Community Events Coordinator
Joeseph Newcomer	Marine for Life Liaison

Mother's Day



- We received a request from a Marine in Texas who wanted help delivering Mother's Day flowers to his mother in Purcellville. Due to the Covid-19 lockdowns, he couldn't do it himself.
- The detachment swung into action to get the flowers and to deliver them with the proper MCL ceremony.



- Involved in this Mother's Day activity were Rich Klein, Herb Vale, Rita Sartori, Joe Newcomer, Frank Holtz, and Stirling Rasmussen.
- A nice touch was that Rita had a cell phone on FaceTime that our Texas Marine and his mother used to say hi to each other.



Our New Guidon

- When Rich Klein, our Community Outreach Coordinator, took possession of the parade gear, he found an unused flag staff. That gave him the great idea of using it as the basis of a guidon. With detachment approval, he did just that.
- Looks good, doesn't it?



Our Corpsman Willie Dow



- Two years ago we joined Loudoun County Veterans Affairs Coordinator Tom Grant in supporting a Vietnam War Corpsman who had just lost a leg. He needed assistance in making a weekly grocery run.
- Detachment members not only helped with that, but also linked him up with an excellent local prosthesis physician and, several times, held a field day on his third-floor apartment.
- At the beginning of this year Tom and Loudoun County Social Services found Willie a new, ground-floor apartment, and our last act was to move him to his new quarters, hauling five pickup trucks of accumulated debris to the landfill as part of the move.



Left: Materials on the way to the dump, launched by Joe Newcomer and Frank Holtz.



Right: The new apartment, with Willie flanked by Rich Klein, Frank Holtz, and Stirling Rasmussen. Michael Davis, Rob Jones, Eddie Johnston, Rita Sartori, and Chuck Lewis were also in the moving crew.

Round Hill Salute to Veterans

Last year



- In the past this salute was part of the Round Hill Days celebration. Not this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions. Rich Klein was asked to represent us and to give the Veterans Salute address, which he did admirably. 



Memorial Day

- Not as many Memorial Day events this Covid-19 year, but we did find one, the flag placement activity at Leesburg's Union Cemetery. Participating were Frank Holtz, Rita Sartori, Tom Quigley, Rich Klein, and Patti and Stirling Rasmussen.
- Once more, our guidon was a standout symbol of our presence.



Independence Day

- The George C. Marshall House asked us to provide the color guard for their Four Freedoms Event, which we were honored to do, this time wearing our sharp-looking new color guard uniforms. This is our second color guard event at the Marshall House. Oohrah!



Graduation Recognition

- Our Chaplain, Eddie Johnston, was thinking that the cancellation of all the high school graduation ceremonies cheated seniors of a well-deserved recognition, so he went in his detachment gear to a neighbor house and gave a Bravo Zulu to the graduate there. That gave him the idea that we should do more of that, so we did. The lower left picture is Eddie and Rich Klein recognizing the daughter of one of Eddie's friends. The other three are of us doing the same for detachment member Rich Oakley's grand daughter.



A Farewell to Detachment Member Horace "Mutt" Lassiter

- Longtime member, Montford Point Marine, and Korean War Veteran, Horace Lassiter passed on to heavenly guard duty, so Stirling Rasmussen and Rich Klein attended his funeral, as did long-time friend and detachment member, Ron Clark. Fortunately, Rich and Stirling were wearing their color guard uniforms, since the funeral director asked if they would cover the flag ceremony. Aye, aye sir. Consider it done. Fair wind and following seas, Horace.



Zoom Meetings

- Covid-19 adjustment at first meant meetings went all-virtual, and then morphed into a hybrid, with some in physical attendance with others still Zooming in.



Answering the Call

- The Ashburn American Legion Post put out a call for Marine representation at the funeral of one of their Marine Corps members, so Vince Marino and Frank Holtz answered the call.
- Semper Fidelis will always be fulfilled.



A Different Kind of Kiwanis Halloween Parade

- After many years of heading off as the color guard for the Leesburg Kiwanis Halloween Parade as it made its way through downtown Leesburg, the pandemic scrubbed that action.
- However, the Kiwanis had a solution: a motorcade parade that wound its way through the residential areas of Leesburg...a many hour driving proposition.
- Fortunately, Sven Johnson and Rich Klein were able to keep our parade leadership intact.
- Certainly a lot easier on the feet, but a bit wearying on the butt.



November Library Display

- Every November we set up a month-long display at the Purcellville Library to promote the Detachment, the Marine Corps, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps.
- This year we were able to make use of our new guidon to make an unmistakable presence there.



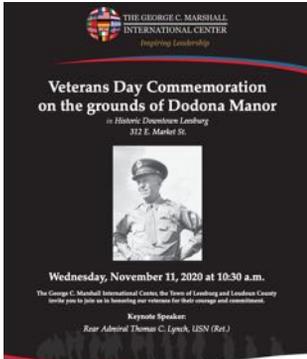
More Memorial Duty

- Who knew that our acquisition of Honor Guard uniforms would be put to such active use in 2020?
- A friend of Frank Holtz' memorial service provided not only Frank, but also Vince Marine, Ralph Horan, and Rich Klein an opportunity to render some farewell honors.



Veterans Day Activities

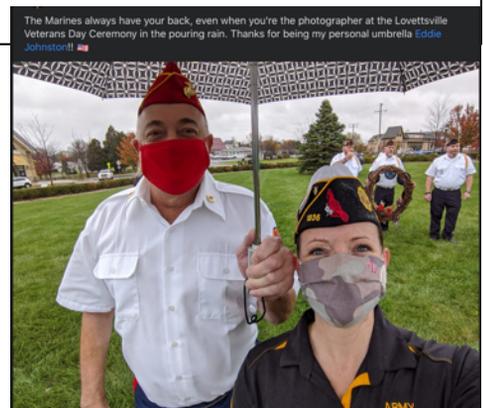
- Maintaining our developing relationship with the George C. Marshall International Center, we were honored to once again provide the Color Guard for their Veterans Day Commemoration. Frank Holtz, Rich Klein, Vince Marino, and Stirling Rasmussen comprised the Color Guard. Michael Gauvreau was the vocalist, and Joe Newcomer and Rita Sartori recorded the event for the detachment.



This event is free, open to the public and will be held on the grounds of Dodona Manor. Guests are asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing. RSVP's are required at events@georgemarshall.org | Call 703.779.1888 for more information.



- Elsewhere, in Lovettsville, another member, Eddie Johnston, was providing good Marine Corps cover.



Toys for Tots

- Due to the pandemic, Rita Sartori and Frank Holtz had to come up with a plan for the 2020 season that would make it safe for all involved and still provide toys to children in need. Requirements for touch-free toy acquisition and prevention of close-contact sorting operations meant our normal operations were not possible.
- Their solution was to solicit and then use donations to purchase the toys, feeding them to the community service organizations that distribute them out to the families.
- Advertising and collection events, supported by detachment members such as Rich Klein and Richard Oakley, brought in the donations, and Rita and her volunteers purchased. It worked!!



- We still need a stash of pre-positioned toys for November distribution, so once again our donated storage space at Interstate Moving and Storage was stocked by Eddie, Wesley, both Riches, and Frank.



Closing Bits and Pieces

- Normally this year end review would close with a whole page about our annual Marine Corps Ball.
- Due to Covid-19 we couldn't have one this year.
- So on 10 November those of us who had been practicing for the next day's Veterans Day event walked on over to the Loudoun Brewing Company to have a beer and to share a bit of cake, cut with an OKC-3S bayonet.



New Officer Pinning



- We were asked to attend the pinning of a new Marine Corps Officer, Nick Furman.
- That was a first for us, but now having correct uniforms for the occasion, we were happy to assist.



Change of Command

- We closed out 2020 with elections of new officers, which included a change of command.

2021 Officers

Rich Klein	Commandant
Tom Quigley	Sr. Vice
Wesley McCaskill	Jr. Vice
Joe Newcomer	Paymaster
Steve Hildner	Adjutant
Thomas Dougherty	Judge Advocate
Eddie Johnson	Chaplain
Vince Marino	Sgt at Arms
Ron Clark	Service Officer
Rich Klein	Honor Guard
Joe Newcomer	M for L Liaison
Stirling Rasmussen	Web Sergeant.
Stirling Rasmussen	Historian
Frank Holtz	TfT Coordinator
Rita Sartori	TfT Coordinator
Richard Oakley	TfT Warehouse Mgr.

