



# John Basilone Detachment Marine Corps League Detachment Newsletter



Volume 7 Issue 5

August 2009

Detachment Web Site: [www.johnbasilonedetachment.org](http://www.johnbasilonedetachment.org)

Detachment E-Mail: [johnbasilonedetachment@gmail.com](mailto:johnbasilonedetachment@gmail.com)

NJ MCL Web Site: <http://donjmcl.org/index.htm>

National MCL Web Site: [www.mcleague.com](http://www.mcleague.com)

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FIRST (1ST) MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 25, MILLTOWN, NEW JERSEY @1930

## SPECIAL MID SUMMER EDITION

### Our Next Meeting is August 3rd., 2009

#### Detachment Picnic August 16, 2009

The picnic will be held in Burkes Park on Washington Avenue in Sayreville, parking will be at the High School right near the park. The picnic this year will be held along with the PBA of Sayreville.

The charge is \$20.00 per adult if paid in advance, and \$25.00 if you pay at the picnic. The children's price is \$5.00 if under the age of 13. The picnic will start at 12:30 PM

For reservations and information please contact

Milt Fisher at 732-238-0005 or Email: [joycenmilt@yahoo.com](mailto:joycenmilt@yahoo.com)

**Milt will be collecting reservations at the August 3rd meeting**

If we have enough going. We can reserve tables in advance for the detachment.

Newsletter Editor

Doug Rattazzi

732-690-7100 / [drattazzi@att.net](mailto:drattazzi@att.net)





# 234th. Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Where: The Victorian Room  
Knights of Columbus  
775 Washington Road  
Parlin, NJ 08859

When: Saturday 7 November 2009

Time: 1800 to 2300  
Cocktails at 1800  
Dinner served at 1900

Cost: 70.00 per person.

Deadline: 5 October [no reservations will be accepted after this date]

If you have any questions please call Ray at 732-257-4582

Make all checks payable to the: John Basilone Detachment, MCL

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ or Chicken Cordon Blue \_\_\_\_\_

How many persons? \_\_\_\_\_. Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_. Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Any special dinners? \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Ray Skarzynski, 82 Deerfield Road, Sayreville, NJ 08872

[Include check and tear-off]

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The following was sent in early July to The NJ Highway Authority.  
They have acknowledged the letter and will follow up.....

Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Executive Director  
New Jersey Highway Authority  
P.O. Box 5042  
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095-5042

Dear Director Scaccetti;

John Basilone, a United States Marine and a native of Raritan, N.J., was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism at the WW II battle of Guadalcanal. Later in the war while assigned to recruiting and war bond drive appearances, he volunteered to return to a combat unit. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for heroic action at Iwo Jima that cost him his life.

When the New Jersey Turnpike was constructed in the 1940-50's, the Turnpike Authority dedicated the bridge crossing the Raritan River at milepost # 84 to John Basilone and a sign indicating the dedication and the honors bestowed on Marine Gunnery Sergeant Basilone was prominently posted at that bridge.

It has come to our attention and we have observed that this sign(s) have been removed. We question whether this is a temporary removal and if so when will the sign be restored. If it is a permanent removal we question why this sign honoring a World War II hero, a native of New Jersey has been removed. This in view of the fact that the Highway Authority has named service areas in honor of prominent New Jerseyans from throughout history is unfathomable. Certainly John Basilone, who gave his life so that we can enjoy our freedom, deserves recognition and acknowledgement for his sacrifice.

We would appreciate a reply with an answer or explanation as to why this action has been taken. Please respond to:

The Marines of the John Basilone Detachment  
Marine Corps League.

George T. Coyle Sr.  
Chaplain,

## The Chaplains Corner

We have reports on several of our Basilone Marines who are recovering from recent physical problems; Marine Eugene Wojciechowlski had a rotator cuff repair and is recovering at home; Marine Donald Murphy, underwent a heart procedure is also recovering at home; Mike Caprio has undergone recent heart surgery and is recovering at home. Marine Gil Castro has been ill and should be remembered and given a call.

Let us also keep in mind Joseph Ziembra, recovering at Brier Wood Rehabilitation in Sayreville also Sam Elacqua and Dave Miller who are unable to attend our meetings anymore due to physical frailties of age.

We recently celebrated the birth of our Nation, July 4<sup>th</sup>. We should all celebrate this but remember those who have given their lives since that birth to protect the freedoms given to us arising out of that birth which sadly, some take all too casual. In all the wars fought since then Americans have given their lives so that this way of life continues in the greatest Nation in history.

George Coyle

## Veterans of America Day

### Operation Jersey Cares

Will host the 7th annual  
Veterans Of America Day &  
Welcome Home Iraq Veterans

WHEN: Sunday August 30., 2009 4:00 PM

WHERE: TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, NJ

COST: Veterans \$0.00 (free)  
Family and Friends \$5.00 each

Guest of Honor is Sergeant Major Edward Neas, Sir (USMC 1966-1996) 30 years active and Reserve

Following a tribute to all Veterans at 5:05 PM ALL guests are invited to stay and enjoy the game between the Somerset Patriots and the Sharks At the TD Bank Ballpark home of the Somerset Patriots

All discounted tickets must be ordered in advance. Please contact : Mark Russinoff VP of Public Relations for the Somerset Patriots. Phone: 908-252-0700 ex. 215 or email Mark at [mrussinoff@somersetpatriots.com](mailto:mrussinoff@somersetpatriots.com)

**FREE TICKETS ARE FOR VETERANS ONLY**

## Mel's Toast for Flag Day

HERE'S TO ALL THE FLAGS THAT HAVE FLOWN BEFORE US:

HERE'S TO ALL THE FLAGS THAT HAVE FLOWN WITH US:

HERE'S TO ALL THE FLAGS THAT FLY TODAY...'GOD BLESS OLD GLORY'

LONG MAY SHE WAVE ORE THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE.

## Corporate Sponsors for John Basilone Detachment MCL

### SCHIAVONE CONSTRUCTION CO.

CONSTRUCTORS & ENGINEERS  
150 MEADOWLANDS PARKWAY  
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(201) 867-5070



### Ironworkers Local 373



Dedicated to the memory of our  
Fallen Marines

Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home  
15 Cherry Lane  
Parlin, NJ 08859

732-721-1290

Christine O. Spezzi Manger.  
Lic. No. 3674

### Booster's for 2009

Main Liquors of South Amboy  
Frog Hollow Swim & Tennis Club, So. Amboy