



John Basilone Detachment
Marine Corps League

Detachment Bi-Monthly Newsletter



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Doug Rattazzi —Editor

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NJ MCL Web Site: njmcl.org

National MCL Web Site: www.mcleague.com

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

To John Basilone Detachment Marines:

In reflecting on the last two years as your Commandant it has been both a pleasurable and challenging tour. It gave me the opportunity to learn more about our members and their needs, and the workings of the John Basilone Detachment and the Marine Corps League.

The support and direction I received in the early days from the past Commandants helped me immensely in planning my goals and objectives, for this I thank them. The staff of Officers (Elected and Appointed) that I worked with were very knowledgeable and did their jobs with ease, thus making my work seem effortless. At meetings the members took turns challenging my leadership skills, and I'm happy to say we came out with very few casualties. I will miss one member who would always wait for the right time to ask me a question or make a statement that was guaranteed to get a rise out of the members and myself and make the meeting worth while. (Thank you Gene W>>>>>>>>>>ski)

One person that had my back for the entire time was my wife of 47 years Carol, She put up with a lot of Marine B...S... and supported the detachment and jumped in as my companion at most public functions as well as Detachment and League functions. She also learned a lot about our Marines and Families, If we had not relocated to Little Egg Harbor she wanted me to stay as Commandant for another year.

As we go forward as a detachment, we can't lose sight of the goals and mission of the Marine Corps League. On November 7th Our new Commandant Mel Meszaros will be sworn in, Mel has been in the league for many years and like me when I started as Commandant will need your help. I have pledged to Mel that I will assist him when possible to stay on the straight and narrow to help grow the John Basilone Detachment.

To all my fellow Marines I say Thank you for a great two year tour!

Semper Fi,

Douglas Rattazzi PC

**“NEW” Officers and Staff
November 2011- November 2012**

Commandant:..... Mel Meszaros 732-716-6460
Chief of Staff: Douglas Rattazzi 609-296-2345
Sr. Vice Com:..... Rudy Persaud 908-783-7325
Jr. Vice Com:... Vincent Schlesier 732-710-0418
Judge Advocate: Louis Goldstein 609-409-9280
Adjutant:..... Douglas Rattazzi 609-296-2345
Paymaster:..... John Heacock 609-924-0074
Chaplain:..... George Coyle 732-254-6646
Sgt. At Arms:..... Gil Castro 732-248-1915
Food For The Needy: Harriet Sosley 732-469-0005
Membership:John Heacock 609-924-0074
Historian:Ray Skarzynski 732-257-4582
Honor Guard: Norm Bloomfield 609-409-1110
Service Officer: John Heacock 609-924-0074
Fund Drives: Stan Szumel 732-752-3846
Phone SquadJoe Duh 732-885-5135
Quartermaster:.. Norm Bloomfield 609-409-1110
Aid De Camp. Rosemary Fleming 908-526-9089
Aide De Camp:..... Ruth Lincoln Menlo Park
Eagle Scouts.....Ray Skarzynski 732-257-4582
Web Sergeant:..... Cliff Walling 732-613-0441
Newsletter:..... Doug Rattazzi 609-296-2345
Detachment Recruiter..... To be confirmed

WHAT YEAR?



**Was this a
“Salty”
Private First
Class?**

John Basilone Challenge Coin



Call Quartermaster for coins.

November / December Events

- November 5th USMC Ball
- November 7th Officers Installation Meeting
- November 10th USMC Birthday
- November 11th Veterans Day
- November 12th USMC Birthday at Drumwacket
- November 24th Thanksgiving
- November 25th Toys for Tots Starts (East Brunswick)
- December 5th Detachment Meeting
- December 19th Last day of Toys for Tots
- December 25th Christmas

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

David Cramer	Nov. 11	Robert Imbriaco	Dec. 18
Vincent Schlesier	Nov 21	Robert Retmanski	Dec 18
James Jurewicz	Nov 22	Douglas Rattazzi	Dec. 21
Norm Bloomfield	Dec 2	Gerald Bauer	Dec. 25
Peter Patti	Dec. 9	Robert Gardiner	Dec. 28
Ruth Lincoln	Dec. 12		
Jon Grossweiler	Dec. 16		

ANNIVERSARY

Anthony & Leanne Sodono November 14
 Ralph & Irene Lauro November 22
 Jim & Mary Sal Phillips November 26
 Larry & Francis Slaski December 2
 Robert & Peggy Retmanski December 2
 Douglas & Judy Breen December 14



Memorial at Newport Naval Base in Newport Rhode Island

In front of USMC Administration Building named
"The Beirut Battalion Building"

Commandant PX Kelley speaking at Camp Lejeune to the Eighth Marines in 1983 who had survived the bombing in Beirut.

"When I met the first flight of your fallen comrades as they arrived at Dover, Delaware, after the mass murder of 23 October, I asked the question, Lord, where do we get such men? As you stand here today I ask the same question. Where do we get such men of courage — such men of patriotism—such men of pride? The simple answer is that we get them from every clime and place, from every race, from every creed and from every color."

Commandant Kelly spoke through the bitterness of the deaths of so many young men. He knew the cost of terrorism at this point. The world would never be the same.

Semper Fidelis

Submitted by Cliff Walling

From our New Commandant

As Commandant I want to assure all members my main objective as Commandant is and will be for the duration of my tour is to follow the "course" taken up first by Charles Sullivan our first Commandant in 1946.

The "course" I'm referring to is the mission of the Marine Corps League. The "course" Commandant Charles Sullivan set was followed and maintained up and until 2011 by Doug Rattazzi our 33'rd Commandant.

Now it is my turn to keep true the "course" set by the 33 Commandants that preceded me. And with your help and support I will do everything in my power as your 34th Commandant to follow and maintain the "course" for the good of the John Basilone Detachment and its members.

Semper Fi,

Mel Meszaros

Commandant Elect.

John Basilone Det. #190

MEMBERSHIP

First of all I would like to thank our members who keep their dues current, your dues are very important to the future of the Marine Corps League at all levels.

Your \$31.00 is divided between National Hq. Dept. of N.J. and the Basilone Detachment. National Hq. gets \$18.00, Dept of N.J. gets \$3.00 and our detachment gets \$10.00. So as you can see your dues are important to many.

Be advised that Life Membership is available ---

Age under 35 --- @ \$500.00 / Age 36 to 50 ---- @ \$400.00

Age 51 to 60 ---- @ \$300.00 / Age 61 and over-@ \$150.00

As you can see Life Membership isn't a bad deal, do the math !!

Any questions about your membership you can contact me at j.c.heacock@comcast.net or my home phone

609/ 924-0074.

One other thing, we have lost several members over the past year, if you know of a Marine Vet., or someone that would like to be an associate member call me direct.

Semper Fi.

John Heacock



Some of the damage from hurricane Irene to our storage shed showed that they had 12" of flood water in the American Legion Parking lot.

Thanks to the work party of Norm Bloomfield, John Heacock, Ed Sphatt, Gil Castro, and John Centofanti who took the time and replaced the walls to the shed with new sheathing.



**Metuchen POW/MIA
Ceremony September 2011**



**PSE&G Children's Hospital, New Brunswick
Dedication of Butterfly Garden October 2011**



**Norm Bloomfield informal inspection of
Troops in front of USMC ROTC**



John Basilone Parade September 25, 2011



**Union NJ Picnic for disadvantaged kids
Stan Szumel, Ruth McArthur,
Carol Rattazzi & Joy Szumel**



**Commandant Rattazzi places wreath at
John Basilone Monument
(John Basilone Parade)**

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Ironworkers Local 373



Frog Hollow Swim & Tennis Club, So. Amboy



Our Current strength is
192 members.

REMEMBER

We are always looking for
Good Marines
to join our ranks.
“Keep Looking”



**“Do You Understand
Meeeeeee”**