To all Marines:
The December meeting will be on the 3rd. Meetings are held at the Teaneck American Legion Post 128, 650 American Legion Dr., Teaneck, NJ 07666

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and
Happy New Year to all!

Commandant’s Message

The holiday season is upon us and winter will soon be setting in. The committee did an excellent job in making our Marine Corps Ball a success. Congratulations to Jim Biringer on receiving The Commandant’s Award and Phil Sullivan for the Distinguished Service Award. This year’s Guest Of Honor, Sgt. Maj. Dan Bradley was outstanding.

On November 10th, we attended the 240th Marine Corps Birthday in Rockland, NY and on Veterans Day our color guard attended the ceremony in New Milford. Our Toys for Tots drive is going strong and on December 19th, our annual Cedar Lane tent with Santa is an event everyone looks forward to.

December 5th is the Toys for Tots at Applebee’s with the Hotsie Totsie Red Hats of Glen Rock later that day. We’ll have a color guard at The USS Ling for a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony on December 6th and December 12th we’ll gather for our annual Christmas party. Many thanks to Gil Kociolek for organizing it for us.

Last, I’d like to convey my view on an important issue. The “Gooney Bird” Detachment has changed dramatically. The Detachment of today is vastly different from the one that was charted 37 years ago. We must make a greater effort to make it more attractive to potential members. Involvement from everyone is crucial to improve our public image and, foremost, the perception of “Gooney Bird”.

Happy Holidays,
Semper Fi
Ron Vrablic
Commandant
Attention on Deck!

The installation of our new officers will be held at the meeting of December 3, 2015. This meeting will be formal (Red Blazers, etc). Family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend. There will be a reception after the meeting.

Detachment News

Membership
The end of the year is coming soon. Please review your annual membership and send your dues of $40 to the Gooney Bird Detachment to ensure your membership is up-to-date.

Thank you.

Semper Fi
Jim Biringer
Membership Chairman

USS Ling
The Detachment has been invited to the annual Pearl Harbor Day Observance at the USS Ling memorial. This year's ceremony will be on Sunday, December 6 at 1:00 P.M. The ceremony will consist of Massing of the Colors, Tolling of the Boats, Guest Speaker, Taps and a Firing Squad. We will discuss this ceremony at our December meeting.

Lunch Meeting
The next lunch meeting will be on December 18, 2015. The venue will be announced at our December meeting and by email. We encourage all to attend. Our November Lunch Meeting was very successful. Many ideas were discussed and we hope to have more at our future Lunch Meetings. These meetings also provide a good time with fellow Marines.

Boy Scouts
Our next Eagle Court of Honor will be on December 12, 2015. Two Scouts from Troop 91/349 in Woodcliff Lake, Thomas Hofbauer and Daniel Currier, will be awarded their Eagle Badge on that day. Anyone interested in attending this event should contact Scout Chairman Al Frater.

Gooney Bird Christmas Party

December 12, 2015
6:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 128
650 American Legion Dr.
Teaneck, NJ 07668

Plenty of good food.
Music provided by the Cristal Band starting at 5:30 PM
Cash bar – bar will open at 5:00 PM
Cost: $25.00 per person
Bring a toy for Toys for Tots
For information call
Gil Kociolek - 201-836-1906
Ron Vrablic - 201-342-6649

Gooney Bird Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gooney Bird Committees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Peter 201-837-1071 <a href="mailto:carlpeter@verizon.net">carlpeter@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Biringer 201-384-2062 <a href="mailto:goo22ney@optimum.net">goo22ney@optimum.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Finkeldie 201-868-4759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Biesel 201-387-1529 <a href="mailto:d.biesel@verizon.net">d.biesel@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Sullivan 201-261-6319 <a href="mailto:osbears902@verizon.net">osbears902@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys for Tots:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Frater 201-906-1197 <a href="mailto:teanal@optonline.net">teanal@optonline.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parades and Ceremonies:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Stoichkov 201-280-9452 <a href="mailto:ak3083@aol.com">ak3083@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Frater 201-906-1197 <a href="mailto:teanal@optonline.net">teanal@optonline.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Vrablic 201-289-6389 <a href="mailto:ronnietino@yahoo.com">ronnietino@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Journal:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Biesel 201-387-1529 <a href="mailto:d.biesel@verizon.net">d.biesel@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Gooney Bird Detachment Celebrates the Marine Corps 240th Birthday

On November 6, 2015 the Gooney Bird Detachment held its annual Marine corps Birthday Ball. This year’s Ball was held at the St. John’s Council #1345, Knights of Columbus, Dumont, NJ.

After the presenting of the Colors the Marine Corps Birthday Cake was brought forward. The first piece of cake was presented by our guest of honor Sergeant Major Daniel John Bradley (Retired) to our oldest Marine, Maybelle Schneider who in turn passed the cake to the youngest Marine Mark Hilb.

This year’s Marine of the Year Award was presented to Ron Vrablic for his service to the Detachment and to the Marine Corps League. The Marine of the Year Award is the Highest honor that can be bestowed upon a regular member of the Marine Corps League.

The Distinguished Service Award was given to Phil Sullivan. As indicated by its name, this award is given to a Marine Corps League member who has exhibited distinguished service.

Last, but not least, we were also honored to have members of the Korean Marines attend our Ball.

The Missing Man Table, is a place of honor, set up during occasions such as service branch birthday balls, in memory of fallen, missing, or imprisoned military service members.

Happy Birthday Marines

Our Guest of Honor
Sgt Maj. Daniel Bradley

This year’s recipient of the Marine of the Year award
Ron Vrablic
presented by last year’s Marine of the Year
Shelly Levy

Our oldest Marine
USMC Women Reserve
Maybelle Schneider

Advancing the Colors.

Presenting the Birthday Cake.

The Guest of Honor Sgt Maj. Bradley presents the first piece of cake to our oldest Marine Maybelle Schneider.
240th Birthday Ball—Continued

Our Korean Marine friends paying tribute to US Marines who served during the Korean War

Veterans of the Korean War—“Brothers All”

Rockland County Detachment USMC Birthday Luncheon

On November 10, 2015 Gooney Bird members Gil Kociolek, Alex Stoichkov, Ron Vrablic, Al Frater, Phil Sullivan, and Carl Peter attended the Rockland County Detachment’s USMC Birthday Luncheon at the Platzl Brauhaus in Pomona, NY. We had a great lunch and celebrated our Corps Birthday in a grand style. We all look forward to attending Rockland County Detachment’s Iwo Jima luncheon in February.

Veterans Day in New Milford

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2015 Gooney Bird members Phil Sullivan, Mike Perrone, Al Frater, Alex Stoichkov, Carl Peter, and Commandant Ron Vrablic participated in New Milford’s Veterans Day Ceremony, honoring military service members who gave their all for our Country. Mike Perrone gave the keynote address. The service was attended by town officials, other veterans organizations, and the New Milford High School Chorus which sang an inspiring rendition of *America the Beautiful*. The ceremony ended with the sounding of taps.

Keynote speaker Mike Perrone
The History of the Korean War

September 1951: In another helicopter first, HMR-161 transports 224 men of the division reconnaissance company, reinforced by a heavy machine gun platoon of 2/7, to occupy Hill 884. September 29th: The draft calls of November and December are supposed to provide a total of 19,900 men for the Corps, which has grown to 211,000 personnel since June 1950. October 11th: In 156 sorties, HMR-161, makes the first battalion sized troop lift in history. October 25th: For the first time a flight of Corsairs on a mission over North Korea encounters enemy MIG jets.

November 15th: The 1st marine Division finishes issuing the new thermal boots to all its personnel. December. The announced draft call for February of 55,000 men will provide 14,000 to the Corps.

March 1952: The Marine Corps announces that it will no longer take draftees after June because voluntary enlistments are again beginning to meet its requirements. March 1st: Marine Division receives orders to prepare to shift its position from the east-central front to the west. April 1: Chinese forces launch attacks against the KMC portion of the 1st Marine Division line and are repulsed. May 9th: Most of 1/5 conduct a raid to destroy Chinese forces that have occupied an outpost abandoned earlier by the division. Marines lose seven killed and 66 wounded, but inflict greater losses on the enemy. June, Chinese forces attack several platoon-sized daylight only outposts of 2/5, using artillery and mortar fire to pin them in place for an evening infantry assault. All of them manage to hold. The strength of the Marine Corps on active duty is 16,413 officers, and 215,544 enlisted. Next newsletter: I will continue with the Korean War, 1952 to the truce in 1953.

Semper Fi,
Russ

Chaplain’s Corner

We are saddened to report the passing of Louise Levy on November 15, 2015, the wife of Shelly Levy and the passing of Lucille Bann on November 23, 2015, the wife of Don Bann.

The Gooney Bird Detachment wishes to express its condolences to the Levy and Bann families during these difficult times.
Nota Bene

The deadline for submission of articles for the January 2016 Gooney Bird News is December 20, 2015.

As another year comes to an end, I would like to especially thank Phil Sullivan and Don Bann for their never-failing help in the production of the Gooney Bird News. I also thank all those who helped with articles and suggestions with which this newsletter would not be as good as it is.

As we move into 2016 let’s all support our Detachment and our Newsletter to make 2016 a banner year!

Semper Fi

Carl Peter
Newsletter Editor
carlpeter@verizon.net

Visit us at www.gooneybird.org or follow us on Facebook

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

Newsletter Supporters

A special thanks to the following members for their support of the Gooney Bird News

Shelly Levy  Richard Allen  Frank Doyle  John F. Smith  Harry Meade  Norman Menz  Jim & Marge McCall  Tom Malone  Maybelle Schneider