The “Grapevine” is a quarterly newsletter published by the Department of Massachusetts Marine Corps League and is posted on the Department of Massachusetts web site at www.deptofmassmcleague.org

Commandant’s Corner
Warren Griffin, griffcher@juno.com

For those who were not at the Convention in Worcester, I want to repeat the pledge that I made to all members. I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your Department Commandant for another year. It is an honor that I do not take lightly and I hope to serve you well with respect and dignity. The members whom you chose to serve along with me, Sr. Vice Tony Garro, Jr. Vice Mike Chouinard and Judge Advocate Carlos Viera complete a great cohesive team that should produce a product we can all be proud of.

We join together in Worcester to celebrate our 77th Department Convention. This past year has been one of growth in a positive direction. We have welcomed aboard our newest detachment, The Greater New Bedford Detachment #1399. They have proved to be a great asset to the League and their future is bright.

We have added a new officer to our staff, OEF/OIF Liaison Andrew Biggio. Welcome to our latest warrior and thank you for all you have done carrying on our great tradition.

There is nothing better than Marines getting together with more Marines to recall their time in the Corps. Hope to see you at the 78th Department Convention in Hyannis next year. Semper Fi and God Bless us all!
The Sr. Vice Sector
Tony Garro, Ynot69@comcast.net

I WANT TO THANK everybody for supporting me at the State Convention. I would like to thank everyone for making our Department Convention a great success. I’m looking forward to another year working with a GREAT Staff, GREAT Marines, Corpsmen and Associates. I will do the best that I can as your Sr. Vice Commandant, and I look forward to seeing everyone at next year’s convention in Hyannis. It’s always a great time at the Cape. Semper Fi! Marines

The Jr. Vice Log
Michael Chouinard, papakringle@comcast.net

THANK YOU ALL FOR your support as your Jr. Vice. I will commit to make your every effort to justify your confidence. When we assume these positions we must never forget where we came from and what makes up our beloved Marine Corps League. I have always believed that the most important entity is our individual Detachments, for without their support we would not exist. My primary effort during this term will be to assist the individual Detachments in their efforts to obtain new members and retain those that we have. I believe this will require better communications between the individual member and the department staff. I encourage each of you to contact me with any suggestions you may have and I, in turn, will do the same.

VRAP UPDATE
VRAP Counter as of June 20, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications Received</th>
<th>Applications Approved</th>
<th>Applicants Enrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>124,514</td>
<td>107,569</td>
<td>53,468</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First of all, I would like to say thank you to the membership for allowing me to serve another term as your J.A. I would like to make an observation, or two upon the more technical, and sometimes confusing, aspect of membership in the Marine Corps League.

**National By-Laws, Section 600, Membership Eligibility, Paragraph (c) Honorary Member** states, “Detachments….may at the discretion of the Commandant, issue honorary membership to those who have been of extraordinary service to the Nation, to the United States Marine Corps, or the Marine Corps League.” Certainly, the Honorary Member may receive a membership card and a certificate from National Headquarters recognizing the award. There are no dues required, but here is the important part: they have no official capacity within the League whatsoever. I have heard of Leaguers who wanted to make an Honorary Member, and then allow them to vote in Detachment affairs, and even hold an office.

As Paragraph (c) goes on to explain, “The honorary member will not be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits entitled to a regular or associate member.” As you well know, those “rights, privileges, and benefits” not only include a monthly copy of *Semper Fi*!, but voting and holding office as well. As I have said before, everything you need to know in order to do it correctly is in your oath, or in the National and Department By-Laws and Administrative Procedures. Until next time, Semper Fi!

**FROM THE DETACHMENTS**

Westfield River Valley, Detachment #141 will be at Wal Mart in Westfield on June 14-16 for their annual flag pin sales. The Detachment’s Pig Roast at the Westfield Fair Grounds is scheduled for July 7. Besides the pork; chicken, corn on the cob, baked potatoes (with all the fixings) tossed salad and plenty of desserts will be served. Chinese raffles, and the popular detachment calendar card raffle will be called. The Westfield Fair will run from August 16-18, and the Detachment will have it’s booth open selling the usual American chop suey, hotdogs with chili and the best baked potato you’ve ever tasted along with root beer floats. We can’t forget the 4th of July Parade at Hampton Ponds. The detachment holds a breakfast every Saturday morning from 6-11 a.m., so drop on in and visit chef JR.

Oak Ridge Detachment #628 does a breakfast every third Sunday of the month, and for $7 per person enjoy a great menu of SOS, pancakes, sausage, eggs and Texas French Toast, coffee, juice and tea.

The LCpl John J. Van Gyzen Detachment #1285 is having a cook-out on Saturday, June 29th at the Brockton VA Hospital from 12-2 p.m. Menu includes: hamburgs, hot dogs, chips, salads and soda and is free for everyone.

The Cape & Islands Detachment #955 is having a Korean War Armistice Observance on Saturday, July 27 at 9:00 a.m. at the Korean War Memorial in Hyannis.
The Honorable Few Detachment #1302 is having their 4th Annual Ride to Fight Breast Cancer on Sunday, August 11, (rain or shine). The ride starts at the American Legion Post 227 in Middleton. Registration is from 9:00-10:30, kick stands up at 11:00. $20 per rider and the ride is approximately 60 miles. All riders are encouraged to wear pink, and there will be food and raffles following the ride. Contact Wayne at 508-641-8943. The 6th Annual Captain Jennifer Harris Ride is planned for Sunday, October 6, registration is from 9:30-11:15, kick stands up at 11:30. $20 per rider, $10 per passenger, there will be a BBQ lunch with DJ, vendors and raffles following the ride.

The MA Pack celebrated the Grand Growl on Friday, June 8 at the Worcester Detachment. A great clam bake went on before the Growl. It was a soggy day but food and drink brought out a bunch of people. Six Pups were sworn in as Devil Dogs, Marty Tessier, Roger Beer, Dan Synan, John Hines and Mike Sabo received their red collars. The MA Pack had some very special guests at the Grand Growl including The Honorable 45th, Bill Taylor, The Honorable 49th, Doug Fisk, CT Pack Leader Jack Dougherty, Kennel Bookkeeper, Bill Schmidt, N.E. Division Vice Chief Devil Dog, Frank Diekmann, National Judge Advocate, Ben Cero, National Vice Commandant New England Division, Rich Harrington. Elections were held and PDD Brian Dupee was elected to a second term as MA Pack Leader, PDD Mike Chouinard will be the Sr. Vice with PDD Tony Garro as the Jr. Vice. PDD Marc Dunne stays the Dog Robber as well as PDD Rich Broadnax as the Barking Dog. PDD Joe Messina, Police Dog and PDD Bob Steadman, Smart Dog. Several positions remain unfilled for the Pack so if anyone is interested in stepping up give our Pack Leader Brian Dupee a call. In all 48 Dogs were in attendance and a total of $515.50 bones were collected for 2 hours of fun. The Pack Leader PDD Brian Dupee handed out the following awards. Woof Woof

Distinguished Service Award
Jon Zwirblia
Donald Rivette
Marc Dunne

Pack Leader Commendation
Mike Chouinard
Tony Garro
Paul Manna
Massachusetts Grapevine Summer Issue

Packed Dog House

MA Pack Officers

Past National Commandant James Laskey
And National Vice Commandant, New England Division, Rich Harrington

Department Commandant Warren Griffin, Sr.
Vice Tony Garro and Kennel Book Keeper Bill Schmidt

Five new Devil Dogs being sworn in

Waiting for the shuttle bus to the Worcester Detachment
Blackstone Valley Detachment #911
Color Guard

Department Officers being sworn in

Guest Speaker SgtMaj. Alfredo Franco and Young Marine of the Year SgtMaj. Pierce Gilman

VAVS awards were given to Warren Griffin and Brian Dupee for the work they do with Veterans

Department Marine of the Year Roger Hoffman with Gerard Boutin

The calm before the storm, a good turnout of Marines from across the state
Convention Awards

**Distinguished Citizens Gold**
Roger Hoffman

**Distinguished Citizens Silver**
Bernie Heaney
James Laskey
Tony Garro
Mike Chouinard
Marc Dunne
James Hastings
John MacIntegart
Art Enos
Bruce Aldrich

**Distinguished Citizens Bronze**
Jon Zwirblia
Donald Rivette
Lori Kaiser
Carlos Viera
Brian & Lynn Dupee
Marc Connolly
Edward Carr
Richard Broadnax
John Rutovich
Marty Tessier
Edward Jolley
Paul Carew
John MacGillivary
Rick Coffman

**Meritorious Unit Commendation**
Cape Cod Detachment
Cape & Islands Detachment
Capt. William Glynn Detachment
Burlington Detachment
Blackstone Valley Detachment
Greater New Bedford Detachment
Honorable Few Detachment
Oak Ridge Detachment
LCpl Van Gyzen Detachment
Metro South Detachment
Metro West Detachment
Plymouth Detachment
Shutt Detachment
William Caddy Detachment
Worcester Detachment
Essex County Detachment
Leo T. Fortier Detachment
North Central Detachment
Pequiog Detachment
Ware Detachment
Westfield River Valley Detachment
Norfolk County Detachment

**Community Service/VAVS Award**
Roger Hoffman
Dave O’Connell
Brian Dupee
James Hastings

**Distinguished Service Medal**
Edward Aucoin
Rick Seguin
John Rice
Rick Morrell
Orville Antilla
Brad Hutchenrider
Dave Epps
Paul T. O’Reilly
Matt Knas

John Murray
Bill Taylor
Gerard Boutin
Donald Rivette
Francis Curnow
Dominic Ricci
Dave Brooks
Steve Stefan
Louis Naple

Joseph McParland
Andrew Del Rossi Biggio
Robert Mulhearn
Mike Whalen
Gerald Skeeann
James Sottile
Neil Ryan
Tom Rudder
Gerard Portier

Edward Freidrich
Linda Mulhearn
{Five things}  
Every Marine Should Know About  

The Mayaguez Incident:

1. **The Hijacking,** On May 12, 1975, Khmer Rouge swift boats forced the Mayaguez to stop as the ship traveled in international waters near Cambodia. About 20 Khmer soldiers boarded, intent on piloting the ship to mainland Cambodia.

2. **The Rescue Attempt,** After attempts to negotiate the ship’s release through Chinese diplomats failed, President Gerald Ford ordered U.S. forces to prevent the Mayaguez from moving to Cambodia. U.S. aircraft sank multiple Khmer ships and fired shots in front of and behind the Mayaguez, eventually forcing Khmer forces to move the hostages to Koh Tang, a heavily fortified jungle island about 27 miles off the mainland. A rescue attempt was hastily planned and on May 15, Marines boarded helicopters bound for the island where they would face about 100 well-entrenched Khmer fighters.

3. **The Human Toll,** Marines covered the Mayaguez in tear gas before boarding the ship, but no one was aboard. Meanwhile, other Marines raced toward Koh Tang aboard CH-43s and HH-53s. Shortly after 6 a.m., as pilots attempted to put Marines on the sand, four helicopters were badly damaged, including one code-named Knife 31. As it came in to the beach it was hit by multiple rocket-propelled grenades and went down in the ocean killing a pilot, five Marines and two Navy corpsmen on impact. Another Marine drowned, three others were gunned down as they swam for the beach and a 10th died of his wounds while floating on wreckage. Eventually, more than 100 Marines would land on the island, but after the Khmer put the Mayaguez crew aboard a Thai fishing boat and freed them, Marines were ordered to withdraw. By then 15 had been killed and 41 wounded. In the confused withdrawal, three Marines were left behind and later executed.

4. **Recovering The Fallen,** The remains of those aboard Knife 31 were missing for decades, but the fall of the Khmer Rouge made recovery possible. In 1991, Joint POW?MIA Accounting Command began looking for fallen Marines and sailors and the airmen. Twelve of the 13 missing were recovered between 2000 and 2004; the 13th was found in January.

5. **Laid To Rest,** The commingled remains of the 13 fallen service members — mostly Marines — killed in the last armed action of the Vietnam War were laid to rest on May 15 at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. Those buried were: Privates First Class Daniel Benedett, Lynn Blessing, Walter Boyd, James Jacques, James Maxwell, Richard Rivenburgh, Antonio Sandoval and Kelton Turner; Lance Corporals Gregory Copenhaver and Andres Garcia; Navy Corpsmen Bernard Gause Jr. and Ronald Manning; Air Force 2nd Lieutenant Richard Vandegeer.
Marine Corps Legends

John Basilone was born on November 4, 1916 in Buffalo, New York. He grew up in the small town of Raritan, New Jersey. As a child, John was restless and had a sense of adventure from the beginning. After he graduated from 8th grade, (St. Bernard Parochial School) John elected not to go to high school. He told everyone that he was looking for adventure. However, after working as a golf caddy at the local country club, he had not yet found his adventure. So in 1934, he joined the Army, serving in the Philippines at the U.S. base in the city of Manila with the 31st Infantry. It was during his tenure in the Army where John discovered a mechanical talent for guns, especially machine guns. He also learned to be a leader of men—with the ability to motivate and lead other soldiers. After his 3-year stint in the Army ended in 1937, John returned home to Raritan, New Jersey, but after a couple years, he found himself restless and again searching for adventure. He decided to re-enlist in the service, but this time he would join the Marines.

In August of 1942, (10 months into World War II for the U.S.) his group, Dog Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division was sent to the island of Guadalcanal. The U.S. and Japanese were battling for the island. The U.S. had secured an important airstrip called Henderson Field, which the Japanese were determined to take. The Marines had only a fraction of the troops compared to the Japanese. Only a single U.S. Battalion stood between the readying Japanese Sendai Division and Henderson Field. John Basilone was in charge of 16 men. They set up a defensive position with 4 heavy machine guns in front of Henderson Field. On October 24th, the Japanese launched a massive attack. John set the strategy for his unit. He told his men to let the enemy get within 30 yards and then “let them have it.” They fired at the first group of attacking Japanese, successfully wiping them out. This first charge was only the beginning of the overall enemy attack. They charged several more times. Eventually this attack took it’s toll. John, while running the left two machine guns, heard a loud explosion come from the right setup of the machine guns. Moments later, one soldier from the right side crawled over and informed him that both right guns were knocked out and that the crew was all dead or injured.

John knew he had to get to the knocked out guns to see if he could get them working. The first gun was beyond repair, but the second gun had a chance. There was no light to aid in examining the damaged gun. John would have to troubleshoot the problem in the dark, by feeling the parts to find out what was causing the gun not to fire. John quickly had the gun working again. As soon as it was back in action, the enemy charged. With the extra gun now working, Basilone and his unit easily beat back the Japanese attack. The attacks kept coming. John told two of his remaining soldiers to keep the heavy machine guns loaded. John would roll to one machine and fire until it was empty, then roll over to the other one that had been loaded while he was firing the first one. At about 3 a.m. they were almost out of ammunition. The Marines had stored ammunition about 100 yards away. However, this would be a difficult 100 yards. There were enemy troops on both sides and behind their position. John ran and crawled through the jungle. Bullets flew off over his head and grenades exploded around him. But he continued and made it to the ammo dump. John threw six heavy cartridge belts over his shoulder. As he started back to his men, bullets were whizzing all around him again. But he made it back and soon he found another challenge. One machine gun had been smashed. John took parts from another knocked out gun and fixed it quickly. Later in the night, the ammunition ran low again. John would need to go for more, but this time it would be to another ammunition dump, 600 yards away.
Once again the Japanese threw everything at him, but he snaked through the grass well enough so the Japanese could not find a clear target. John made it back with the much needed ammunition which held off the enemy attacks.

Finally the attacks ended around sunrise. The daylight revealed a scene of utter carnage on the ground. Hundreds of bodies laid dead in front of the American positions, in fact, the entire Japanese regiment, around 3,000 men, had been “annihilated.” On this night of October 24, and 25 the U.S. had turned the tide of the war and the previously undefeated Japanese were on their way to defeat. For his heroics that night, John Basilone was awarded The Congressional Medal of Honor.

In July of 1943, John was informed that he was being sent home, but there was a catch to it. John would have to go on a “bond drive.” As John loaded up to go home, he told his buddies he would be back, but they did not believe him. His men figured that with his medal, he could get a safe assignment at home for the rest of the war. His home town of Raritan planned a homecoming parade in his honor. It was held on Sunday, September 19th, 1943. The people of the small town of Raritan were amazed that such a big event was coming to their town. There were 30,000 people, including many politicians, numerous celebrities, and the national press. Life Magazine ran a four page story on the parade. Even the Fox Movie tone News video taped the event making a newsreel that was shown at movie theatres throughout the country. As a hero, John was worshipped and wined and dined. John said that the admiration and attention was appreciated, but he was a soldier, and that he had given his word to his men that he would be back. John officially asked to go back to his men, but was initially denied. He was told that they needed him more on the home front. He was offered a commission (an officer’s job), but he turned it down, saying, “I ain’t no officer, and I ain’t no museum piece. I belong back with my outfit.”

He was offered a job as a Gunnery Instructor, and to John these soft easy assignments did not seem right. He had a strong sense of purpose, and a safe easy job while there was a war going on was not his idea of being a Marine. After a few months, he asked again to go back overseas and this time he was granted his wish. On December 27th, 1943, John left the easy life of a hero on the home front to return to duty, he was assigned to Charley Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California to train with a group that was preparing to invade Iwo Jima, an island in the Pacific. While there at Camp Pendleton, John met his future wife, Lena Mae Riggi, who was a Sergeant in the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve as a field cook. They were married at St. Mary’s Star of the Sea Church in Oceanside on July 10, 1944, with a reception at the Carlsbad Hotel. They honeymooned at her parents’ farm in Portland, Oregon.

On February 19, 1945, he was serving as a machine gun section leader in action against Japanese forces on Red Beach II. During the battle, the Japanese concentrated their fire at the incoming Americans from heavily fortified blockhouses staged throughout the island. With his unit pinned down, Basilone made his way around the side of the Japanese positions until he was directly on top of the blockhouse. He then attacked with grenades and demolitions, single-handedly destroying the entire stronghold and its defending garrison. He then fought his way toward Airfield Number 1 and aided an American tank that was trapped in an enemy mine field under intense mortar and artillery barrages. He guided the heavy vehicle over the hazardous terrain to safety, despite heavy weapons fire from the Japanese. As he moved along the edge of the airfield, he was killed by Japanese mortar shrapnel. His actions helped Marines penetrate the Japanese defense and get off the landing beach during the critical early stages of the invasion. For his valor during the battle of Iwo Jima, he was posthumously approved for the Marine Corps’ second-highest decoration for bravery, the Navy Cross.

John Basilone remains the only Marine (non-officer) in U.S. History to be awarded both The Congressional Medal of Honor and The Navy Cross. He is also the only Medal of Honor winner to go back into combat and be killed in action. The Navy honored John by naming a ship after him, an anti-submarine Navy destroyer, the U.S.S. Basilone was commissioned on July 26, 1949. His home town of Raritan honors him every year with a parade rain or shine.
This column will run through the next several issues and is intended to remind us of why we call the FMF Corpsman our Brothers. Thanks Doc and Enjoy!

Continued from last issue……

Marine Down! Corpsman Up!

“There are often only two doctors for an entire Marine battalion,” explains Corpuz, “so the HMs are pretty much on their own a lot of the time. When I went through Field Medical Training, we learned to treat the troops for shock, stop bleeding, things like that. Today they’re learning more advanced trauma treatments, including invasive techniques like needle thoracentesis, a procedure that involves inserting a needle and catheter through the chest wall to release accumulated pressure within the pleural space. More advanced equipment also plays a part in HMs’ ability to help wounded.”

And the physical requirements are equally demanding, with a focus on physical conditioning, small arms training and basic battlefield tactics. “As a Doc, you have to hang with the Marines and do what they do,” emphasizes Corpuz. “That means you need to be able to endure long hikes, and learn things that all Marines are trained to do, such as mounting assaults, how to prepare for ambushes and know your role in a firefight.”

The days of Corpsmen being non-combatants ended during WWII and today’s HMs also learn to use weapons during FMF training. “HMs didn’t used to carry weapons, but the enemy got smart,” Corpuz continues, “They learned that if they shot they guy with the red cross on his arm first, there’d be nobody to take care of the other Marines who got wounded. It was like wearing a target.”

The red crosses were replaced with the caduceus in WWII, and they weren’t red for this reason, explains Shipmate Charles Daniel, who enlisted in 1941 and served as a Corpsman in the South Pacific during WWII. “In the early days of the war, Corpsmen weren’t supposed to carry weapons; only our medical gear…but sometimes we cheated,” chuckles Daniel, who is a member of FRA Branch 283 in Erlanger, KY. “If we were on patrol with a rifle unit, for example, the sergeant might say, “Hey, Doc. My pack's pretty heavy. Would you mind carrying this pistol for me?” “Thankfully, I never had to use one in combat.”

Today’s HMs carry the same weapons as the Marines with whom they serve, usually an M-4 or a 9-mm. They are authorized to wear Marine uniforms and look essentially the same as the Marines.

Upon graduation from Field Medical Training, FMF, FMF Corpsmen may serve on a medical ship or a medical ward on a Navy vessel, or they may be assigned to be part of a Marine unit. “If they are assigned to a Marine Division, they can be in the heat of battle with Marines on the ground. These HMs provide immediate medical aid to those who are injured or wounded on the front lines,” explains Corpuz.

“Or they might go to Medical Logistics and provide medical support, possibly as part of a Shock Trauma Platoon (STP) or a Field Resuscitative Surgical Suite (FRSS). These are medical personnel who are in the combat theater, but not on the front lines,” Corpuz continues. “STP personnel stabilize the wounded after they are brought from the front lines. The patients may then need to go to an FRSS, if they need more advanced surgical procedures to stabilize them enough for the trip to a better equipped hospital in Kuwait or Germany, for example.”

Training, Training and More Training

Preparing for the battlefield doesn’t end after Field Medical Training. Junior HMs who are assigned to a Marine unit get additional training at a Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) unit before they deploy. These special facilities recreate the sights, sounds and smells of a combat zone.

“TCCCs are mock war zones and very realistic,” says Corpuz, who served back-to-back tours in Iraq in 2003 and 2004. “There’s blood, smoke, screams, sirens, explosions, the instructors are yelling, it’s very stressful and forces the students to overcome their fears and focus on the Marines who need their help.”

And although he feels his training prepared him well, Corpuz feels nothing can fully prepare an HM for
It’s critical that HMs understand what they’re doing. If a ‘blue-side’ HM, a Corpsman who’s only served in a hospital and never in the field with Marines, were thrust into the green side without training, it would be a disaster. Marines are a different breed and if an HM looks like he’s lost, the Marines won’t trust him. The best training I got was an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and in the field, particularly when I was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. When I understood the procedures and advanced trauma techniques that I needed.”

“There’s nothing simple about combat and when you get into a combat situation, you need to think like Marines think,” Daniel advises young HMs. “Otherwise, you’ll become a liability instead of an asset. Being called ‘Doc’ is an honor and you need to do your best to live up to that honor.”

Experience in the field also develops an HMs leadership capabilities, explains Atkinson, who says he learned a lot about being a leader while serving with Marines. “A Sonarman grows up learning to run the sonar; a Machinist Mate grows up learning to fix engines and other equipment. The crew is an HM’s ‘gear’ and you can’t help but learn how to keep that gear operating properly. HMs cut their teeth on leadership by working that gear every day.”

**IDCs**

There are some duty assignments that require Hospital Corpsmen to work alone in very specialized environments. Independent Duty Corpsmen (IDCs) are highly motivated and specially trained to serve without the immediate supervision of a medical officer. They may be assigned to isolated shore activities, a surface ship or submarine, diving commands, with Fleet Marine Force or SEABEE units, or special operations commands, where they are solely responsible for ensuring their crew is medically ready to face any threats they may encounter.

Each type of IDC duty requires unique training with emphasis on a particular area of expertise. For example, a Deep Sea Diving IDC will become an expert in the use of scuba gear, hyperbaric chambers and treatments for the bends and other diving-related complications, while an IDC trained to serve with Marine Corps Special Forces will acquire scuba diving, parachuting and other highly specialized skills.

Shipmate Al Atkinson of FRA Branch 20 in Groton, Conn., is a retired Submarine IDC, who spent 24 years on nuclear submarines. He was serving as a Search and rescue Corpsman at NAS Key West when he realized he wanted to be an IDC.

“Being able to help downed pilots or stranded boaters was a great feeling, explains Atkinson, “but it also gave me an opportunity to see what IDCs do. I was so impressed and knew then that I wanted to be one.”

HMs who want to become IDCs must be at least an E-5 and have a minimum of six years in service. They must submit an application package, meet certain physical requirements and then undergo a screening process. According to Atkinson, if selected for the Submarine IDC program, they report to Basic Enlisted Submarine School in Groton, Conn.”

“It’s a six-week course where young Sailors learn how submarines work,” explains Atkinson. “They learn fire fighting, flood control and things like that. That’s followed by Submarine IDC School at the Naval Undersea Medical Institute. This is a C School that’s also located in Groton, Conn.”

IDCs have been described as part doctor, nurse, pharmacist, health inspector, psychologist and health physicist, and all IDCs receive basic training in laboratory and pharmacy protocols, anatomy and physiology, examination techniques and record keeping. Those who go on to be Submarine IDCs also take specialized courses in radiation health, which accounts for nine or ten weeks of the 12-month program.

“Because all navy submarines are nuclear powered, they must learn the medical aspects related to exposure to ionizing radiation, factors that would physically disqualify Sailors, and decontamination techniques, plus all the paperwork related to monitoring radiation exposure,” Atkinson says.

To be continued……..
“What we have done for ourselves alone
dies with us; What we have done for
others, and the world, remains…..immortal

Albert Pike

TO OUR DEPARTMENT OF
MASS BROTHERS

Westfield River Valley Detachment
Vernon Morris....................... 11-11-12
Frank Real.......................... 12-29-12
Isabel Paulsen....................... 01-04-13
William Fisher...................... 03-02-13
Wilbur Greene...................... 03-05-13
William Lacey...................... 05-27-13

Cape & Islands Detachment
Andrew Kalinick.................... 07-21-12
Paul Hoban......................... 08-27-12
Bernard Beriau.................... 02-20-13
George Henderson............... 01-05-13

Metro South Detachment
Frederick Flammini............... 02-26-13

Essex County Detachment
Donald Michaud..................... 02-06-13

Metro West Detachment
Darrel Hamlet...................... 06-12-12
Walter Himebaugh............... 06-23-12
William Tupper.................. 07-15-12
John Garabedian.................. 08-17-12
John Wigglesworth.............. 11-28-12
Ron Hester......................... 12-17-12
Stanton Kelley.................... 12-30-12
Bruce Cameron..................... 01-15-13
**Ware Detachment**

Joseph Murray ................................. 08-27-12  
Gerald Jamilowski ............................... 12-16-12  

**Oak Ridge Detachment**

Farrell Sanborn ................................. 06-28-12  

**Pvt. Charles Shutt Detachment**

Gary Mackin ................................. 08-08-12  
Donald LaPierre ................................. 01-14-13  

**William R. Caddy Detachment**

David Beakey ................................. 06-06-12  
Mark Ahearn ................................. 10-21-12  
Dennis Flaherty ................................. 01-27-13  
Richard Larner ................................. 02-01-13  

**L/Cpl John J. Van Gyzen Detachment**

James Sullivan ................................. 11-06-12  
Peter McCaffrey ................................. 01-01-13  
Alvin Souza ................................. 04-28-13  

**Burlington Detachment**

Theodore Szymanski ............................. 11-11-12  

**Plymouth Detachment**

Robert Barrus ................................. 04-28-13
“I’m The Guy”

I’m the guy who was asked to join your organization,
I’m the guy who paid his dues to you,
I’m the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to,
I’m the guy who tried several times to be a friend, but they all had their own buddies to talk to and sit next to,
I’m the guy who came several times, but no one paid any attention to me,
I’m the guy who was left out when I volunteered to help with fund raising projects and membership recruitments,
I’m the guy who missed a few meetings because I was sick, but at the next meeting no one asked where I had been. I guess it didn’t matter very much to others whether I was there or not,
I’m the guy who decided to stay home and watch TV one meeting night. The following meeting I attended, but no one asked where I had been,
You might say I’m a good guy. A good family man who holds a responsible job, loves his country and his community,
You know who else I am? **THE GUY WHO NEVER CAME BACK**!!!!!!!!!!
It amuses me to think that they spend so much time looking for **NEW** members when I was there all the time,
All they needed to do was to make me feel needed, wanted and welcome.

WHERE ARE YOU

IN THIS PICTURE?

Thanks to Gerry Schaller from the Department of Arizona MCL for allowing me to copy this. It speaks volumes of what we do; we’re always looking for new members, when our first priority is to **maintain** the members we already have.
Department of Massachusetts Mission Statement

The Department of Massachusetts Marine Corps League, is a band of brothers consisting of Marines and FMF Corpsmen as regular members and other persons interested in the traditions and ideals of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps League as associate members. The Massachusetts Department is organized into a Department staff and 28 Detachments located throughout the state. Joined together they are bonded in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of our beloved United States Marine Corps. The Massachusetts Department and its Detachments voluntarily aid and render assistance to all Marines, Veteran Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and to their widows and orphans. In addition, the Department takes pride in supporting causes such as the injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, and The Wounded Warriors Fund and other worthy causes with monetary contributions. In so doing, the entire Department of Massachusetts perpetuates the history of the United States Marine Corps through fitting acts by celebrating and observing the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and all our associated members.

Upcoming Events

MCL National Convention
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, MI
August 4th—9th, 2013

Modern Day Marine
Marine Corps Base • Quantico, VA
September 25th—27th, 2013

Deadline for the Fall Edition of the Massachusetts Grapevine will be September 15th. Send any and all Detachment activities/ Pound Growls to MarcDunne@comcast.net.