



Number 2-18

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*For a complete list refer to the  
Department Staff Roster*

*Serving our detachments and their members everywhere*

## Department of New York Newsletter

July 2018

# “The Ground Pounder”

[www.mclnewyork.net](http://www.mclnewyork.net)

## AW-KEAY-SAUCE-NEH,

The land where the Partridge drums. That is where we held our Spring Staff Meeting. Yep, Akwesasne NY, an Indian reservation so far upstate the USA ends and Canada begins. In fact when you are on the reservation, one can walk between the US and Canada with ease. No passport required.

We had our staff meeting in the Hotel Casino and we had a great time. The tribes hosted us and this is the only detachment in the country, (that we know of,) on tribal land.

The meeting went well, a lot was discussed and accomplished. And afterwards, we had a wedding. Actually a member was renewing his vows after 50 year. And we needed a wedding party. Below is a photo of the brides maids and Rev. Sheppard who officiated the event. (I just think the bridesmaids should have

shaved.) but other wise all went well.

The native Americans who hosted us gave out door prizes of wine, food and syrups. And afterward we boarded a bus that took us to a American Indian monument of those who served in the US Armed Forces. Then we headed for an American Legion Post where the Detachment meets for free drinks and later food. All had a good time, some Marines had a ball and danced all night (Nuff said). Some of us opted for a tour of the reservation which was quite eye opening to say the least and we had to honor to meet the last living Army wind talker from WWII. Yes I said Army. While Marines had wind takers in the pacific, the Army had the same in Europe. Yes, it was a 7 hour drive one way for some of us, but we all had a good time.



## Aw-Kway-Sauce-Neh

(this is how you pronounce it)



(Right & Left)  
Here we are at  
the staff meeting  
at the hotel.

Area Vices in  
front on the left  
and our Commandant on the right.

Notice all the  
happy faces,  
hmm, must be a  
camera issue as  
they were all hav-  
ing a ball. (really)



(Above), we visited the Akwesasne memorial to all tribal members who died in the service.



(Above) Here is Commandant Sheppard and some of the staff at the American Legion Post on the reservation. After we ate, we were given a nice tour of the entire reservation.



(Left) including Levi Oaks, his fine young man of 94 years, the last living Army vet who served as a Wind Talker in Europe during the Second World War.



And lastly the entrance to the place where many of us left our money. (Don't know why).



## One Members Hobby

Here's 93 year old WWII Marine Jerry Vessichio (Life member MCL) 7th Degree Black Belt Judo throwing George Pasiuk (Life member MCL) both of the Yankee Detachment, Bronx, NY. Jerry started judo in the Marine



Corps in 1943 and has been involved ever since. Last time he competed in judo was last year at the age of 92. In the Corps he fought in the Pacific, Marshall Islands, Marianas and was wounded on Saipan. George fell in love with Judo on Parris Island in 1960 and never stopped. Trained In Charleston, SC and Camp Le Jeune, NC, later in NYC and still teaches today in the Bronx at Bronx Judo, with Jerry. Jerry says judo keeps him young. It is our love. Submitted by George Pasiuk

Who says your too old?

## Let's talk Uniforms

In the last issue I spoke of the proper uniform to wear to the wake of a member. While that is correct, remember, your detachment Commandant has the authority to select the uniform he or she may want the members to wear. Especially if the weather is foul. Some detachment have a certain way of performing the ritual and whatever uniform your Commandant requires is fine. The big thing is that we all look the same. And that if you are wearing the blazer, don't wear medals or a lot of pins on your lapels. In fact wear no more then two on your right lapel please.

Remember when we attend a wake, a funeral, a parade or any formal event as a unit, we want to look uniform, we want to look like we know what we are doing and - and we want to look sharp.



Marine Skip Diamond of the Troy Detachment, received the Four Chaplains Humanitarian Award at the last Northeast Division Conference in Binghamton this past April. Pictured with Skip is (left) Sydney Minchin, National Vice President Marine Corps League Auxiliary, and (right) Tim Forbes, National Vice Commandant, Northeast Division.



(above) Westchester County Detachment #254 Jr. Vice Commandant Donald O'Keefe with LCpl Craig Wyche Marine Memorial Scholarship 2018 awardee Olivia Lenaghan. Ms. Lenaghan will be attending Georgia Tech, majoring in Engineering.



# MEMORIAL DAY PICTURES

Every Memorial Day Marines all over the world pay tribute to fallen Marines and fallen veterans. Leaguers are no different. Detachments all over NY did the same. Here are photos from just a few who did.

(center), Department Junior Vice Commandant Tom Arcuri and a unidentified Marine.



(below) Members of the Leather Stocking Detachment render honors to the fallen.



(above) Members of the Akwesasne detachment march with their American Legion hosts.



(middle and below)

Staten Island Detachment on parade. And Marines, Sean Torres Sr. and PFC Sean Torres Jr, Father and son, place the Memorial Wreath at the Detachment.



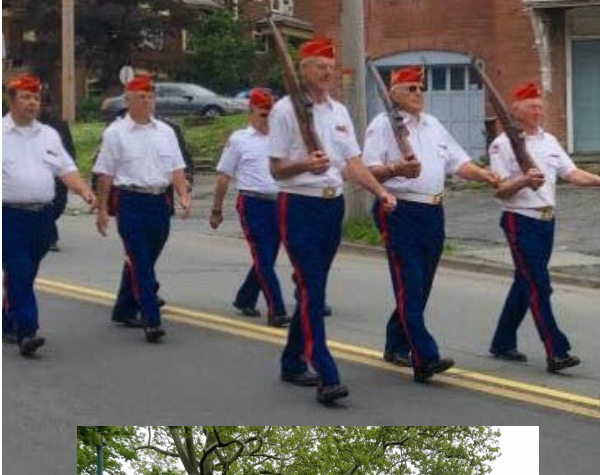
(above) Members of the Memorial Day #2 Detachment on parade.



(Bottom center) Jr. Vice Commandant Bob Geronimo is about to step off with the Staten Island Detachment.



## MORE MEMORIAL DAY PICTURES



(left & top right)

Middletown Detachment on parade and rendering honors.



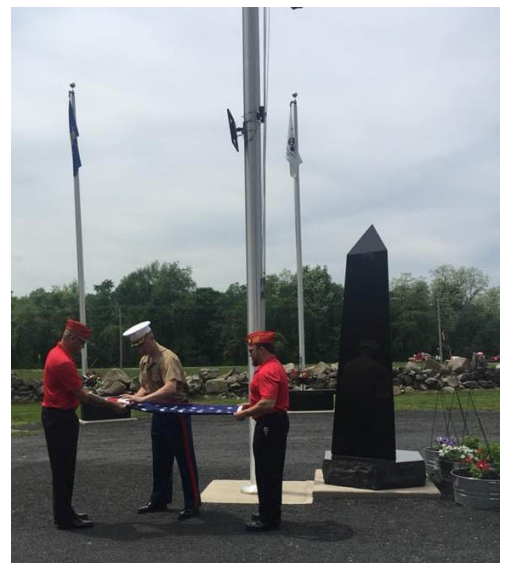
(middle left & right)  
Westchester County Detachment with the help of Area Vice Mike Piscioti and Detachment Adjutant Paymaster Steve Topilnycky work at Rye Playland for Veterans Appreciation Day



(above) My Granddaughters Lia & Juliette honor Memorial Day at their dance school recital with their Grandpa. It is important that patriotism be taught at young age.



(lower left) Greater Newburgh Detachment's Marine Vincent Serrano, Lt.Col. Stu Smith, of 6th Communication Battalion Marine Forces Reserve, Marine Sean Kinsley, and Greater Newburgh Detachment Commandant Steve Martinez.



(above) Greater Newburgh, assisting with the Colors on Memorial day Ceremonies in the town of Platterkill, NY



## MORE MEMORIAL DAY PICTURES



Every year, members of the Yankee Detachment replace the worn out flags in the Bronx cemeteries.



(above & below) Members of the Captain Wm Dale O'Brien Detachment parade through Albany. They bring their Toys for Tots truck too. (bottom)



(above) Chris Potter Past Commandant of the Jim Hatch detachment honors the fallen.





# MEMORIAL DAY IN WASHINGTON DC By AVC James Seaman



My wife and I attend the TAPS seminar for Gold Star Family's with a MCL member Ron Steiner and wife Lucy, a Gold Star Family in Washington DC for Memorial Day week-end.



(below) Crowds at the ceremony listen to the speakers.



(left) A Navy Chief blows Taps for all fallen service members, not just at Arlington by everywhere.



We also attended the wreath laying and speech with the CMC & President Donald Trump.

I actually bumped in to National Commandant Wendel Webb and former director Tom Hazlet while they were preparing to lay the MCL wreath at the tomb.



## Who is Cpl. Patrick “Bob” Gallagher?

By Steve Topilnycky (Westchester County Detachment)

Patrick Gallagher, who was known as “Bob” lived in Derintogher, three miles from Ballyhaunis in County Mayo, Ireland. He was one of nine children born to Mary and Peter Gallagher. At the age of 18 Patrick left his home and immigrated to Long Island, NY to live with his aunt and to build his new life in America.

In 1966 Patrick was drafted and joined the US Marine Corps and in April of that year he shipped out to Vietnam with Hotel Company, 2 Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, taking part in Operation Hastings. In the early morning of 18 July 1966, while manning a defense position near Can Lo near the border with North Vietnam, it was attacked by Communist forces. Enemy fighters infiltrated the area and on approaching his unit’s position they threw grenades in on top of his squad. Patrick kicked a grenade out of their position before it exploded, and another enemy grenade followed and landed in the position between two other Marines. Without hesitation, in a valiant act of self-sacrifice, Corporal Gallagher threw himself upon the deadly grenade in order to absorb the explosion and save the lives of his fellow Marines. The grenade did not explode. The three Marines with him were ordered out of the fighting hole. While they were scrambling for safety, two more grenades landed in their position and exploded-still no one was injured. Gallagher rolled off the grenade he was lying on, and threw it into the nearby river where it exploded. For his actions, he was awarded the Navy Cross (The Navy’s award is second only to the nation’s highest award, The Medal of Honor, recognizing combat valor). As noted in his citation, “Through his extraordinary heroism and inspiring valor in the face of almost certain death, he saved his comrades from probable injury and possible loss of life”. The medal ceremony was conducted personally by General Westmoreland, US Army. “It is a pleasure to pin this on your breast,” said Gen Westmoreland, commander of all US forces in Vietnam, at the awards ceremony on 19 February 1967. The combina-

tion of raw courage and the traditional “luck of the Irish” was too much for odds makers as not only was no one killed – there were no injuries as a result of the Viet Cong grenade attack. Only months after receiving this prestigious award, Cpl Patrick Gallagher was killed in action in Vietnam.

A public campaign was launched and petitions to the Secretary of the Navy, Congressmen and Senators were initiated to name a ship in Patrick “Bob” Gallagher’s honor, remembering a young Irishman, US Marine, and American Hero who died in service to his adopted country at the age of 23. Westchester County Detachment’s Jr. Vice Commandant Donald O’Keefe worked tirelessly with the family and friends on



FOR HEROISM—Marine Cpl. Patrick Gallagher, of County Mayo, Ireland, is congratulated by General William C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, for receiving the Navy Cross.

this effort. On 12 March 2018, 50 years after Patrick’s death in action in Vietnam, the US Navy directed that DDG 127, an Arleigh-Burke class destroyer, be named USS PATRICK GALLAGHER in honor of Cpl. Patrick “Bob” Gallagher, whose estimated service date will be 2024. The Arleigh-Burke class destroyers conduct a variety of operations from peacetime presence and crisis response to sea control and power projection. The future USS Gallagher (DDG 127) will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously,



and will contain a combination of offensive and defensive weapons systems designed to support maritime warfare, including integrated air and missile defense and

vertical launch capabilities. The ship will be constructed at Bath Iron Works, a division of General Dynamics in Maine.

## Department Calendar

August 12-18th 2018 Buffalo NY, MCL National Convention [www.2018mclnationalconvention.com](http://www.2018mclnationalconvention.com)

October 5th & 6th, Fall Department Meeting, Suffern NY.

*The department reserves the right to select what is inputted into the newsletter. There will be times when we cannot print everything right away due to space limitations. For that we apologize and thank you for your submission.*