



The Scuttlebutt

The Award Winning
Monthly News Letter of Marine Corps League

Major B.F. Hickey Detachment #57

PO Box 15503, St. Petersburg, FL 33773



Volume: 7, Issue: 8

Date: August, 2015

Next Scheduled Meeting

Thursday August 13 at 7:00 pm

VFW Post #4364

5773 62nd Street N, Pinellas Park

If you need a ride to the meeting, arrangements can be made by contacting Phil Calhoun at (727) 744-9345 a couple of hours or more before the meeting and we'll get you there.

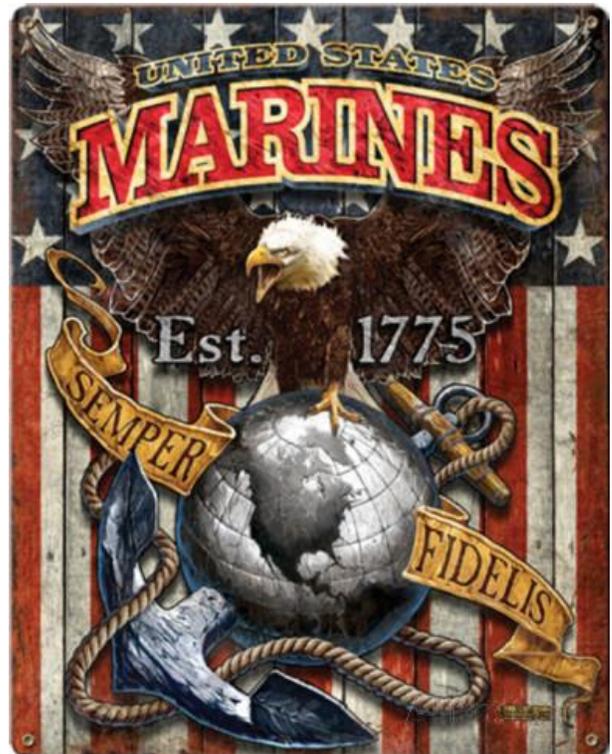
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Detachment 57, Officers for 2015

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Commandant | Penny Weston | wmweston68@gmail.com |
| Sr. Vice Commandant | George Cooper | cplcoop@tampabay.rr.com |
| Jr. Vice Commandant | Don Bostrom | DONABOS2@YAHOO.COM |
| Judge Advocate | Bob Morris | bobmor501@gmail.com |
| Adjutant | Javiar Centonzio | jcentonzio@hotmail.com |
| Sgt at Arms | Mike Garafalo | raesg@msn.com |
| Chaplain | Phil Calhoun | evyphil@verizon.net |
| Paymaster | Bob Decker | bdecker@bdeckerassociates.com |



Check us out at stpetemcl.org

Report on the July Fundraiser

The Detachment held a fundraiser last July 11-12 at the Publix-4th Street Station. The effort was determined a success in that we were able to raise approximately \$1700 towards our donations fund.

The Scuttlebutt commends those Marines who were able to get out and support the effort.

Semper Fi!

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Bob Decker | Walt Smyth |
| Don Gillis | Ken Friend |
| Mike Cashman | Top Flick |
| Penny Weston | George Cooper |
| Phil Calhoun | |

Your Help is Needed

Pistol Raffle

Even though the drawing is not until November it is not too early to get out and sell tickets for the Pistol Raffle. If each Marine on the roster sold 5 tickets we would be well along to having another successful fundraiser. Our web site now has all the details as well as the explanation of the upgrade options. www.stpetemcl.org/2015-pistol-raffle/

Veterans Salute Car and Truck Show

Arrangements have been concluded with Premium Productions and we await the final approval from the Provost Office at St Pete College for the Veterans Salute Car and Truck Show. When we get the approval it will be up to the Marines of the Detachment to get out and sell 86 Trophy Sponsorships. The show will be scheduled for Saturday Nov. 8 at the St Pete College, Seminole Campus. More information should be available at the July meeting and watch the web site.

Active Committees

Star Sale Fundraisers

Don Gillis (Saturday Market)
Bob Decker (Saturday Market)

Veterans Salute Car and Truck Show

CJ Oudendyk, Bob Decker, George Cooper

Marine of the Year Committee

CJ Oudendyk , Phil Calhoun,
George Cooper

Scout Committee

Don Bostrom , Dave Speegle

Birthday Ball

Top Flick , Jerry Wilkes, George Cooper

Newsletter Editor

George Cooper

Firing Range Contact

John Gluck

If your are inclined to volunteer to help out with any of these efforts feel free to contact the Marines listed.



WWAR Ride and Reception



The WWAR Alive Ride and Charity Reception will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 from 11:00 am to 2:00pm at Custom Mobility , 7199 Bryan Dairy Road, Pinellas Park.

Members of Detachment are requested to show support for Mike Delancey’s WWAR Project by attending in uniform of Red cap, Detachment shirt and black trousers.

Three Detachment 57 members will participate as riders. John Gluck representing Korean War vets, Bob decker for Viet Nam vets and Javier Centanzio for Gulf War vets.

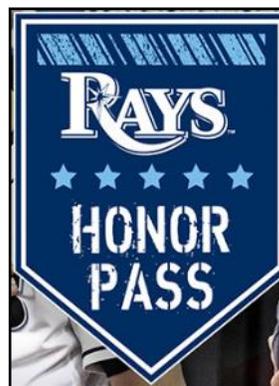
A reception will be held after the ride and food will be provided.

Join in to welcome the riders, share more about the Wounded Warriors Abilities ranch and celebrate Mike’s alive day.

Visit www.WoundedWarriorsAbilitiesRanch.org



Mike Delancey is leading the creation of The Wounded Warriors Ranch (WWAR), a place where military veterans can strengthen body and mind through exercise and experiences, from kayaking to fishing to specialized fitness equipment.



Rays Baseball free to Veterans

Now through the end of the season, active duty military and retired or honorably discharged veterans can get a Rays Honor Pass that entitles them to 2 free tickets to all 2015 regular season home games.

Visit www.RAYSBASEBALL.COM/HONORPASS for details and how to sign up.

Disability Review Set for Camp Lejeune Veterans.

The Department of Veteran’s Affairs has announced it will begin reviewing the disability status of Marines who developed cancers and other conditions due to exposure to chemicals that contaminated the water at Camp Lejeune for more than 30 years.

A statement from the VA said the move is in addition to the health care it provides for more than a dozen conditions to eligible veterans who were stationed at the North Carolina base for more than 30 days between August 195 and December 1987.

“Today’s announcement is a testament to the good things that can happen when Congress and the VA work together” said Mike Partain of Winter Haven who was born at Camp Lejeune and who suffered for male breast cancer.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said in a separate statement that the VA will begin the process of granting presumptive disability status, meaning veterans who say they were affected by the water will get the benefit of the doubt as long as they

Top Flick is the New District 7 Vice Commandant

At last June's Annual Dept. of Florida Convention, Top Flick of Detachment 05 was elected the post of District 7 Vice Commandant. Top was about to complete his second term as Detachment Commandant when the vacancy arose for the District post. The entire staff of the "Scuttlebutt" extends many congratulations and best wishes to Top in his new post. Semper Fi!

Since taking office Top has sent 2 messages. They are:

7 July, 2015

Commandants:

Recently I was elected District 7 Vice Commandant. I have finally gotten my act together and my E Mail w/your addresses sorted out and can now do the things a District Vice needs to be doing.

As time goes by I would like to attend your Detachment meetings and meet you and your Marines. I would contact you a day or so prior to your meeting and make arrangements.

My interoperation of my position is to be available to assist you in any way I can. This being the case you can contact me via Email,

top1@tampabay.rr.com or phone: 727-410-6682.

Looking forward to seeing you and your Marines.

Semper Fi,

Don (Top) Flick

This message was forwarded from Top

21 July, 2015

Marines,

We are in need of two Asst. Sgt at Arms for the Department.

If you know of someone who can assist our Sgt at Arms pleas advise me of their names and detachments..

It must be someone who comes to the conferences and the Convention already on a continual basis.. There is no stipend.

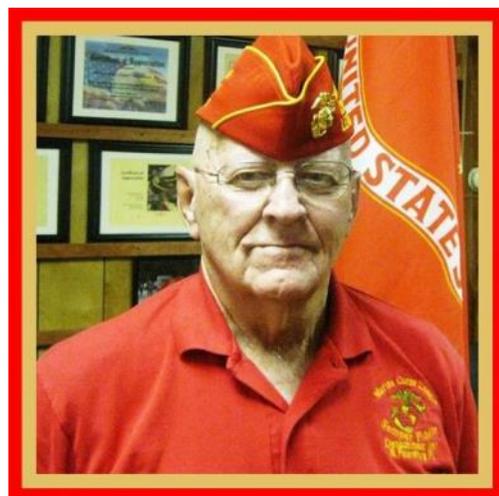
Semper Fidelis

Bill Cona

Marine Corps League

Dept. of Florida

Commandant



District 7 Vice Commandant

Don "Top" Flick

The Marines are slowly saying good-bye to the M16 rifle.

By [Thomas Gibbons-Neff](#) July 28

This article was originally printed in the Washington Post.



Marines with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, investigate a possible improvised explosive device while on a patrol during their deployment in Afghanistan in 2010. (Photo by Cpl. Tommy Bellegarde/ Marine Corps)

The Marine Corps' long, sometimes twisted, relationship with the M16 rifle is slowly coming to an end.

On Monday, the Marine Corps Times [reported](#) that the rifle is only a few signatures away from being phased out from front-line units and relegated to a support role. The move, which follows a similar one by the Army, comes as the Marine Corps implements its new small-arms modernization strategy.

"The proposal to replace the M16A4 with the M4 within infantry battalions is currently under consideration at Headquarters Marine Corps," Maj. Anton Semelroth, a Marine spokesman, told the Marine Corps Times in an e-mail.

The weapon replacing the M16, the M4, is a smaller, carbine variant of the M16. Aesthetically the M4 looks only slightly different, with a collapsible stock and shorter barrel. And while the M4 also shoots the same sized bullet as the M16

— 5.56mm — the real benefits come from its reduced weight and portability.

At 7.5 pounds — a pound lighter than the M16 — the M4 fits nicely with the age-old infantry adage: "ounces equal pounds, pounds equal pain." Additionally, the M4's smaller size is ideal for close quarters combat and vehicle operations. The Marine infantry's adoption of the M4, however, is not completely new. The weapon has been fielded for quite some time, just not every Marine has been lucky enough to have one. In the past M4's were generally issued to leadership while the average rifleman carried an M16.

Issuing the remaining Marine infantrymen with M4s will not cost the Marines a dime, as the Marines have the needed 17,000 M4s in stock, according to the Marine Corps Times.

The only drawback to using a M4 over the M16 is that the M4's shorter barrel sacrifices accuracy out towards the maximum effective range of the rifle—500 meters. That is largely a moot point because at 500 meters the 5.56mm bullet fired by both the M16 and M4 is next to useless. During the Vietnam war, when the M16 was first issued to U.S. troops, the Marines were some of the late adopters. In the early part of the war, Marine grunts hefted the M14, a grandson of sorts of the M1 Garand that was used in World War II and Korea.

The M16 of the Vietnam-era, though aesthetically similar, is not the M16 of today. The rifle of the 1960s was plagued with malfunctions due to issues with ammunition, corrosion resistance and other factors, as detailed in [this excerpt](#) from the book "The Gun." Today, the M16 is not without its skeptics, however after various upgrades and modifications it is vastly more reliable and generally well-liked among current troops.

Inseparable

Much is made of the bond among men at arms, but the unity between man and dog in a combat zone is very similar, perhaps stronger.



Such was the relationship between Spike, a young, spirited black Labrador retriever, and his young U.S. Marine handler, Lance Cpl. Jared Heine, who trained with

Spike from puppyhood and basic training to their deployment to Afghanistan in early 2011.

The two were inseparable from the moment they met. They slept in the same bunk when they were off-duty. When Heine would Skype with his mother, Mary, back home in Louisiana, he'd tilt the computer tablet so she could say hi to the dog.

United by an innate understanding of each other, Heine and Spike worked closely together, day after day, sniffing out explosives in the highly deadly environment of Afghanistan. Their objective was finding improvised explosive devices, or IED, the Taliban's most brutally effective weapons against American troops.

Each time he and Spike went out beyond the wire to clear routes for Marine patrols, they walked point, making themselves the first target as Spike combed the area for any whiff of nitrate that might signal a buried IED. This is what Heine tried not to dwell on: the risk asso-



ciated with the need to find bombs and with the possibility of missing one.

Three times they were in explosions. Many more times, Spike and Heine sniffed out

danger that saved their lives and those of the Marines in the patrols. But the dangerous work took a toll of Heine, both physically and emotionally. He was sent back to the U.S. with a series of traumatic brain injuries received in the third explosion. He also suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Heine returned home to Louisiana after being discharged from the Marines not knowing what happened to Spike. He found it hard not to think about his four-legged friend who was with since he was a puppy up until he was injured in the explosion. The only physical memento he had of Spike was a gold-and-purple Louisiana State University collar he had put on Spike when they first became partners.

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Inseparable

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Spike also returned to the states where he was reassigned to another dog handler and sent back for a second tour in Afghanistan. When he returned from his

second tour, he was taken to a facility in North Carolina that takes care of military animals. It offers the services of trained dogs that do not have homes or further military obligations to police departments for free. Dogs can also be adopted by their handlers, former Marines and eligible civilians.

Aware that service dogs were adopted by their former partners, Heine filled out the paperwork



to adopt Spike, who was in Heine's own words, "Like my brother, my kid. He slept with me every day. We were inseparable." That's when he discovered that his beloved Spike had already been given to a law enforcement agency but he could not learn its

name or where.

His mother, Mary Heine, was troubled by the son who came back from war so different than before he left. He was upset much of the time and almost never slept. When he did, he was often disturbed by reoccurring nightmares. She knew she

was losing him. She believed that if anything could change his life it would be finding the dog he loved so much.

Desperate to help her son, she sought assistance from friends and military working dog groups that might be able to help her locate Spike. A posting on one site resulted in learning Spike had returned to the states and was assigned to work with the Virginia Capitol Police. She immediately emailed Col. Anthony S. "Steve" Pike, Chief of the Capitol Police, and made plans for a reunion between her son and Spike.

Spike's history with the Virginia Capitol Police began in 2013 when K-9 supervisor Officer Sean Chaulklin traveled to North Carolina and picked out Spike for Taylor, a fairly new member of the police force who had just begun training as a K-9 officer. Spike was her first K-9 partner. It was love at first sight.



For about two years, they spent nearly every hour together on duty and at Taylor's home. Spike was always there for Taylor when she struggled on the job and in her personal life. Dur-

ing a difficult breakup with her former partner, Spike was at her side as a friend. He never lets her down and she depended on him to always to be there.

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Inseparable

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The days before the Feb 11, 2015 reunion had been exciting for Heine. He was going to see Spike again. He could barely wait and with that thought, his spirits picked up.

Several days before the reunion, Col. Pike wondered what to do with Spike, who had since been trained and bonded with Taylor. The question was, should Spike stay on as Taylor's partner or be returned to his original partner? That is when he shared with Taylor and told her he thought Spike had one more mission. Taylor knew it meant Spike would be returned to Heine. She also knew it would be hard to say goodbye to someone she loved and who loved her. She never expected not to be with

Spike until he was an old, old dog.

On Wednesday morning, Feb. 11, 2015, Heine and his mother Mary climbed the steps toward



the Capitol landing. Awaiting them were the Capitol Police honor guard, a

couple hundred state workers, lawmakers, some Marines and television crews. Standing in the middle of the Great Seal of the Commonwealth were Taylor and Spike.

Heine moved nervously toward them. At first he stood and gently petted the dog while speaking with Taylor. He then bent down on his knees to look directly in his old partner's eyes and embraced him calling him by his nickname "Spoik." Spike responded with excitement. For the next 15 minutes as Taylor and Heine conversed, Spike showed affection to both he and Taylor. At one point Spike jumped up on hind legs to give his old master a lick on his face. Taylor watched, dabbing the tears from her eye.

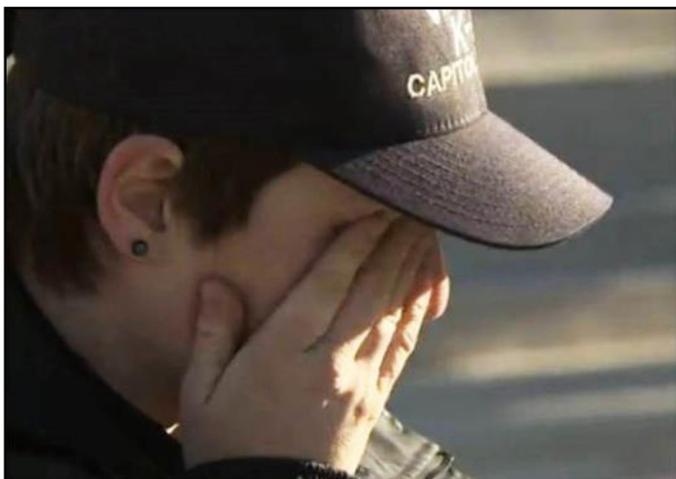
Once the public reunion was over, the group walked back to Capitol Police headquarters where Pike and Taylor told Heine of the plan to retire Spike in the next 30 days so he could again be his dog. Heine's eyes filled with tears as did those of everyone else in the room. Taylor knew it would not be easy, but she knows the power of love is what makes life worth living.

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Inseparable

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Taylor tearfully told Heine, "Take care of him. He means everything to me." "I promise I will," he answered.

On the trip back to Louisiana, Mary couldn't help but notice a marked improvement in her son's attitude. He was cheerful, hopeful and determined to give Spike all the love and caring he deserved once they brought him home.

Wednesday evening, March 4, 2015, the night before Spike would be returned to Heine, Taylor scattered all of Spike's favorite toys before



him and when they woke up on Thursday, Spike feasted on chicken nuggets. The two then drove to the Capitol Police headquarters, together for the last time. In her heart she knew it was the right thing to do but it wasn't going to be any easier to let Spike go to his forever home.

Minutes before the ceremony, Taylor got down on her knees and hugged Spike, burying her head in his soft black fur, lingering for a moments before standing up to wipe the tears from her eyes. She then directed Spike to sit down in a chair next to Heine while she stood behind him, holding his lease. Inside her whole body was shaking with emotion. Her thoughts went to the first time she met Spike. It was love at first sight. She was going to miss him terribly.

Col. Pike stood before those assembled and began by telling of the time Heine and Spike spent in Afghanistan on patrol to located IEDs. He then read a passage Heine had written about his time in the war zone with Spike. It read: "I think about how much responsibility I have and pray Spike listens and makes me look good. I pray that he finds an IED and I won't miss it and end up causing the death of someone"

Pike said he understood the love and commitment these two shared and the enormous responsibility they shouldered in such a dangerous environment. He also praised the remarkable bond and friendship Spike and Taylor shared during the past two years with the Capitol Polices.

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Inseparable

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Midway through Pike's remarks, Spike spontaneously stood up in his chair, turned to his old partner and began licking him on the face. A few minutes later he did it again.

Finished with his talk, Pike moved to Spike, removed his badge while Taylor unfastened his police dog vest. Pike then produced the LSU collar Heine had brought home with him and put it on Spike. Beaming from ear to ear, Heine then clamped a colorful leash on HIS dog.

After the ceremony Heine, with a broad smile, said, "I couldn't be happier. It just hasn't sunk in yet that it is real." He planned on keeping Spike active. Mary Heine had other plans. "He saved my son's life and I'm going to spoil him."

Taylor knows she will never forget Spike, her first partner. "I feel this is Spike's journey. There will be other dogs but there will never be another Spike."

In April, Taylor went to Alabama to pick out a newly trained dog with no previous owner. She now has her forever dog.

View videos of the first reunion and the ceremony when Spike is returned to Jared Heine:

<http://www.wdbj7.com/video/marine-reunited-with-service-dog-in-richmond/31219848>

<http://blog.theanimalrescuesite.com/spikeandjared/>



The 100th anniversary of the establishment of MCRD Parris Island, S.C. is being celebrated this year. While most Marines probably wish the earth would open up and swallow the place John Gluck seems to be genuinely happy it is still around. Maybe because he was one of the first recruits to go through "The Vacation Land of the Marine Corps'.

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