



SCUTTLEBUTT NEWS

Published Quarterly -- Spring 2017

Three Rivers Leatherneck Detachment 310



EDITOR: Audrey Szmed
838 Village Drive
Pgh., PA 15237
412-225-4590
Szmeda@aol.com

2017 Elected Officers

COMMANDANT

- Karl Wilzer

SR. VICE COMMANDANT

- Matt Popovich

JR. VICE COMMANDANT

- Calvin Richhold

JUDGE ADVOCATE

- Dave Thens

PAST COMMANDANT

- Matt Popovich

2017 Appointed Officers

SGT. AT ARMS

- Edward Peters

CHAPLAIN

- Gerald Kunic

**ADJUTANT-PAYMASTER &
PISTOL TEAM CHAIRMAN**

- P. Philip Cerussi

AMERICANISM

•

QUARTERMASTER

- Rick Barzan

VETERANS HOSPITAL (VAVS)

- Robert Timet

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Richard Sanderson

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Richard L. Sanderson

SECRETARY

- Janet Lindner

HISTORIAN

•

WEBMASTER

- Frank Kelly

Three Rivers Members Attend A Korean Memorial Dedication At Quantico

On Thursday, May 4, 2017, a formal dedication was held at the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico to commemorate the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. The primary purpose of our members to attend was to share with Bill Howrilla, master wood carver, as he presented his carving depicting a Marine from the 'Chosin Few' Battle to the Museum. Also attending from our detachment was Karl and Donna Wilzer, Tom and Audrey Szmed, Joe Wadlow and Ed Peters.

Among the many distinguished speakers and honored guests, Lt. General Richard E. Carey, USMC (Ret) shared some of the events he experienced during the battle where he and his comrades endured the most treacherous winter conditions ever in the history of Korea.



Another honored guest speaker was General Joseph Dunford, Jr., Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Dunford is the nation's highest-ranking military officer, and the principal military advisor to the President, Secretary of Defense and National Security Council. Previously, he served as the 36th Commandant for the Marine Corps. Gen. Dunford graciously took time to meet our members who attended the dedication.



(left to right)
Past
Commandant,
Joe Wadlow, Sgt.
At Arms Ed
Peters, General
Dunford, Past Sr.
Vice Bill Howrilla,
Commandant
Karl Wilzer

THE BATTLE

OF THE CHOSIN RESERVOIR AND TOOTSIE ROLL SHARE A HISTORY

In the winter of 1950, with freezing snow and intolerable temperatures of minus 25 to 65 degrees F weather at night, 15,000 Marines of the 1st Marine Division with various other military allies were surrounded near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea by over 120,000 Chinese Communist troops whose only purpose was to annihilate all enemy forces.

Jeep batteries were frozen and split, C-ration cans frozen solid, morphine packets and blood plasma were frozen and useless, automatic weapons wouldn't cycle; resupply could only come by air.

The 60mm mortars were the only effective weapon during these battles and with supplies running dangerously low an emergency radio request was made for "tootsie rolls," the Marine code name for the ammunition. Unfortunately, the receiving operator did not have the code sheet and did not question the extremely urgent request from command authority. When supplies were delivered, dozens of parachutes with pallets of actual tootsie roll candy descended on the freezing and starving Marines.

The Marines turned a desperate situation into survival. They learned they could warm the candy in their armpits and plug bullet holes in fuel drums, gas tanks, cans and radiators and when refrozen became solid sealing the leaks and allowing the troops some much needed mobility. The tootsie rolls also provided energy and the only nourishment for many days.



This was the inspiration Bill Howrilla had to create masterful carvings of a typical Marine at this battle.

Bill is a life member of #310, past Sr. Vice and Master Wood Carver. Over the years, Bill has carved over 600 master pieces for various military, political, corporate and private organizations.

Bill's interests have always been in drawings. One Christmas years past, a family member received a small crude carving of a European style Santa. Family members remarked how unique it was but still very amateur looking. Bill knew he could make a

more detailed and professional looking carving which started his life-long passion.

Bill was invited to attend the dedication of the *Chosin Few Memorial* at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico where he would present and donate the Chosin Few Marine wood carving.

Third Annual Pasta Fund



Raiser for Three

Leathernecks

Pictured right is the new memorial dedicated to the Chosin Few located at Quantico.



Rivers



Janet Linder and Gerry Kunick getting things started.

The day started early with the Detachment members busily setting up under the supervision of Janet Lindner, Joe Wadlow, Karl Wilzer and Gerry Kunick.

Joe Wadlow, co-owner of Monte Cello restaurant, provided the food and instructed the members on how to be professional buffet line servers. Among the volunteers were the Washington Young Marines,

under the direction of Don Bailey and is currently being sponsored by the Three Rivers Detachment.



On display for sale were various Marine apparel items by Rick Barzen, Quarter Master and checked out by Jim Hughes. Dessert cakes were provided by Lincoln Bakery and distribution supervised by Rose Popovich and Karen Barzen. Greatly missed was life member, Rita Weiss, our chief baker, who was unable to attend.



Donna Wilzer (back ground) helps Janet Lindner arrange Chinese baskets. Janet coordinates and assembles all the baskets well in advance of the event.

The 50/50 raffle headed by Bob Timet drew a record number with \$475 going to winner John Ramusen. A special handmade quilt by master quilter, Donna Wilzer, was won by Betty Muschar.

Another special auction item was a metal art sculpture donated by award winning, Gene Lyle, and won by Phil Cerussi. At the end of the day, after serving nearly 300 people, Matt Popovich thanked all the member and volunteers who helped make this another big success and well worth the efforts.



Donna Wilzer, Lou and Darlene Duffy manning special auction item sales.



George Bigelow kept the hot drinks hot and the cold drinks cold.



Joe Wadlow, Don Bailey, The Washington County Young Marines, Karl Wilzer and Joyce Bailey.

Young Marines: Caleb Cypher, Logan Houston, Tyler Bresselsmith, Nathan Smith, Ben Perkins and Javone Hayes.



Commandant Karl Wilzer and Tom Szmed

Marine of the Year – 2017

Rick Barzen has been a member of the MCL #310 for five years and is a familiar face at all league functions. He and his wife, Karen, of 45 years have three children and seven grandchildren. A native of Pittsburgh Northside, Rick entered the USMC in 1967 and went to Parris Island for boot camp. Upon completion, he was transferred to Camp Pendleton, California, where he trained in recoilless rifles, flame throwers and rocket launchers. He spent a couple months in Okinawa training in jungle warfare and shipped to Viet Nam as a rifleman; he was honorably discharged in 1970.

Rick spends many personal hours a week visiting the residents at the VA Hospital in Aspinwall and is a regular volunteer at the MCL #310 sponsored bingo at the VA. For many years, Rick was a volunteer for the bowling and softball special Olympics. He also sponsored a dart league for the special Olympics. Rick participates in all the league functions including color guard, parades, rose campaign, various events at the VA and the first to volunteer when needed. Rick has accepted the position of Quarter Master for the Three Rivers Detachment and will be working with Ed Barron, Jr. to make the transition.



Rick and Karen live near their grandchildren and he finds this to be the joy of his life. He spends time nearly every day with the kids playing catch, fishing, hiking or just hanging out.

This year an addition to our colors is a Three Rivers Detachment #310 'guidon' made by Jim Hughes. (pictured at the right)



As with tradition, former recipients of the prestigious Marine of the Year award that were in attendance, gather to greet the new inductee; however, this year it was done electronically via Skype as Rick and Karen were on vacation in Myrtle Beach. Karen tactfully kept the secret and made the presentation of the plaque while all in attendance in Pittsburgh sent a hardy "hoo-rah".

Around Town with Three Rivers Leathernecks #310:

- Presented the colors on March 9th at the NCAA basketball tournament during March Madness.
- Participated in the Memorial Day mass and war memorial ceremony at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Saturday, May 27th.
- Presented the colors on the USS Requin submarine ceremony on Sunday, May 28
- Marched in the West View Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 29th.
- Provided the rifle salute at the Laurel Gardens Sgt. Caskey American Legion Post Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 29th.
- Sixteen of our Young Marines presented the colors at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.
- The Young Marines marched in the Memorial Day parade in Canonsburg.
- On June 6th, Commandant Karl Wilzer and Sr. Vice Calvin Reichhold attended the Ingomar Scout Troop 171 ceremony to observe four scouts being promoted to Eagle Scout. They presented them with a Good Citizen Award and a survival knife.
- Monday, June 12th was the monthly bingo games hosted by Three Rivers for the residents of the VA Hospital in Aspinwall.
- Twenty-eight members participated in the annual pistol match held at Indian Towne Gap on June 10th.



Marching at the West View parade



*Rifle salute at Laurel Gardens – Sgt. Caskey American Legion Post
Calvin Reichhold, George Bigelow, Dave Thens, Karl Wilzer, Rick
Barzen, Bob Timet, Matt Popovich.*



On behalf of the #310 Detachment, we wish to extend our sincere sympathy to:

- Jim Walters on the passing of his wife this past spring.
- Gerry and Mary Kunic on the passing of their family members.

- Get Well wishes to Bill Howrilla for a speedy recovery from his surgery.
- Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. George Bigelow on the marriage of their daughter.



Once a Marine, Always a Marine

Detachment Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each
month at **7:30 PM**

Our Detachment meetings are held at the **West View VFW Post 2754** at 386 Perry Highway which is close to the West View Shopper's Plaza (the old West View Amusement Park).

IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER

2ND Monday of each month
at **6:30 PM** - Help our
Veterans' by Volunteering at
the Aspinwall Hospital.
For More Information
Contact
VAVS Chairman Robert Timet
412-369-5188

DETACHMENT CALENDAR --- 2017

Rose Campaign – TBD
Contact – Bob Timet – 412-369-5188

Golf Outing – Friday, August 11th
Pittsburgh North
Contact Paul Cusek -- (412) 761-1021

Marine Birthday Dinner
November

Detachment 310 Picnic – August 27
Bob Timet (412) 369-5188