

WESTFIELD RIVER VALLEY MARINE CORPS
DETACHMENT 141 WWW.MCLWRV141.COM

THE SCUTTLEBUTT



Next Meeting is June 9, 2008. Social Hour at 1800. Meeting starts at 1900. Please attend your Meeting



Members of the Marine Corps League during the Ceremony at Parker Park after the Marching of the Memorial Day Parade 2007.

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday that is observed on the last Monday of May (observed in 2008 on May 26). It was formerly known as Decoration Day. This holiday commemorates U.S. men and women who have died in military service to their country. It began first to honor Union soldiers who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, it was expanded to include

those who died in any war or military action. One of the longest standing traditions is the running of the Indianapolis 500, which has been held in conjunction with Memorial Day since 1911. It is also traditionally viewed as the beginning of summer by many, for many schools are dismissed around Memorial Day.

On Memorial Day in Westfield, MA veterans,

local schools band, and other organizations will march down Elm Street to Parker Park. Following the parade, a brief ceremony will be held at Parker Park.

For all those members who are willing to attend, please sign-up at the league on the sign up sheets on the Sergeant of Arms desk. Please participate in the Memorial Day Event.

**MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

	Date	Time	Location
Westfield River Valley Marine Corps League.	Monday, May 19	0930	Highland School
Charter on Nov. 1945. We have members consisting of Former and Present Marines and FMF Corpsmen, and Associate Members Consisting of other military branches. We are a non-profit organization that supports many activities within our area. We are the host Detachment to the Westover Young Marines. Attend a meeting as our guest of a member and consider joining us as a member. Come visit us any Saturday morning. Meet your fellow Marines and Corpsmen. Enjoy the Continuation of our Brotherhood.	Monday, May 19	0930	St. Mary's Elementary School
	Monday, May 19	1300	Abner Gibbs School
	Tuesday, May 20	1300	Juniper Park Elementary School
	Wednesday, May 21	0930	Munger Hill School
	Wednesday, May 21	1300	Franklin Ave School
	Thursday, May 22	0930	Paper Mill School
	Thursday, May 22	1400	Moseley School
	Editor: Michael J Burke Mikebgft@aol.com 413-301-2792	Friday, May 23	0815
	Friday, May 23	0930	Southampton Road School
	Friday, May 23	1300	Westfield North Middle School

Attend the Meeting and win a prize....

Bring this coupon with you to the Next Meeting on June 9th, your name will be entered into a raffle for a great prize.

Name: _____

EVENTS OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, May 25	0930	St. Mary's Church	Services
Monday, May 26	1000	Westfield, MA	Memorial Day Parade
Monday, June 2	1930	Westfield, MA	Detachment Aux. Meeting
June 5-8		Hyannis, MA	Department of Mass. Convention
Sunday June 8	1300	Parker Park	Flag Cremation Ceremony
Monday, June 9	1900	Barracks	Westfield River Valley Marine Corps League Meeting
Thursday, June 12	1900		Westfield Veterans Council Meeting
Saturday, June 14			Flag Day
Sunday, June 15	ALL DAY		Fathers Day
Tuesday, July 1	1930		Detachment Aux Meeting
Friday, July 4	1000	Hampton Ponds	Hampton Ponds Independence Day Parade
Sunday, July 6		Westfield Fair Grounds	Pig Roast
Thursday, July 10	1900		Westfield Veterans Council Meeting
Monday, July 14	1900	Barracks	Westfield River Valley Marine Corps League Meeting
Sunday, July 20	1300		Department of Mass Meeting



Commandant Francis Curnow

A Message from Commandant Francis Curnow, Commandant Westfield River Valley Detachment 141, Marine Corps League

May 8, 2008

Memorial Day is fast approaching and hoping for fair weather and a high turnout of Marines for the Parade. Don G. is leading the color guard for us and a 2nd assigned in Agawam. I'm looking for all that can march to be part of the parade. If there are those that intend to be in vehicles we need to know who you are. Call in so we can verify the car requirements.. no call maybe no ride..!! Just so you know..let us know!

As it stands now the Young Marines will be with us again and a detail from the reserves at Mass-6 Westover also. Let's get out and make a great showing.

Don't forget the 6th of July will be our 3rd/2nd annual pig roasting picnic. Planning on some raffles and the winners on the 4th of July calendar raffle will be announced. need help with some volunteers on the serving /cleanup crew. Find some donations for the raffle table and help make this another great success.

Sign up sheets in Det for Parade and June Flag pin sales ...Let's git'er done!

Semper Fi,
Fran C
Commandant



Marine Corps League Awards Scholarships

WESTFIELD, Mass.---Four Scholarships totaling \$1200 have been awarded to area high school seniors and college students by the Westfield River Valley Detachment 141, Marine Corps League headquartered here.

Detachment Commandant Francis Curnow presented the Carl P. Butler Scholarships, assisted by Mrs. Nancy Butler, widow of Carl Butler who was a league officer at the time of his death, to:

Michael Burke , a junior at Westfield State and a member of Detachment 141, and Angelica Wzorek, sophomore at WPI, both of Westfield; Ashley Blom, of West Hatfield, a junior at Wellesley College; and Christopher Fontaine of Holyoke, a junior at Westfield State.

High school seniors and college students from Western Mass. who live in communities in which Detachment 141 members live are eligible to apply for the annual scholarships, according to Dupee.

“These are difficult decisions as all who apply are highly qualify,” Scholarship Committee Chairman Brian Dupee, senior vice commandant of Detachment 141, said.

Carl P. Butler of Westfield was junior vice commandant at the time of his death.

Photo Caption

Nancy Butler, right, congratulates Carl P. Butler Scholarship winners, from left, Angelica Wzorek, Christopher Fontaine, and Michael Burke. The annual scholarships are a memorial to the late Carl P. Butler of Westfield, an officer of Detachment 141

Veterans Benefits that you might not had know about in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts found on <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/EN/Benefits/FactSheets/Regional/MA/>

Education Benefits:

Welcome Home Bill: Exempts Guard members from paying any fees while attending a Massachusetts public college or university. Already, they receive free tuition, but fees can account for as much as three quarters of the cost of a college education. The state, not the schools, will pay for the cost of the waivers.

Tuition and Fee Waivers for Guard Members:The Massachusetts National Guard Education Assistance Program provides a 100% tuition and fee waiver for Massachusetts National Guard soldiers attending a state college, university, or community college program. Generally, these state-supported programs are offered during the day as part of a degree program. Your assistance can continue as long as you are in good standing academically and until you have reached 130 semester hours.The fee waiver program is a benefit of the Welcome Home Bill (HB 4469) signed on November 11, 2005. The fee waiver is effective July 2006 and is not retroactive.

Upward Bound Program: The Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston provides a unique opportunity for veterans of all ages to gain access to information about college and career awareness, acquire the academic skills required for entry into higher education and/or to acquire the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Eligibility: Veteran must have served at least 181 days of active duty military service. Discharge must have been 'other than 'dishonorable', must be considered low income and first generation college attendance. (You may also be eligible if you meet all the former requirements and are solely low income or solely a first generation college student. Applicants must present an academic need.)

State Employment Hiring Preference for Veterans, Prisoners of War, and National Guard Members: Massachusetts veterans receive veterans' preference for open competitive civil service exams, receive extra points for promotional exams, and are placed at the top of the registry for labor service. Veterans who are employed by state government may be eligible to buy back up to four years of active service.

Eligibility: All veterans as defined by M.G.L. c.4, s.7, clause 43 are eligible for veterans' preference in civil service positions. Veterans are given preference in the eligibility lists of civil service positions in the following order:

1. Disabled Veterans
2. Veterans
3. Spouses or single parents of veterans who were killed in action or died from a service connected disability incurred during wartime service, provided that the spouse or parent has not remarried.

Veterans who apply for civil service jobs, for which there is no exam, and therefore no list, receive preference over non-veterans. If there is more than one veteran, it is up to the appointing authority to make the choice between or among them. If an authority wants to by-pass this law, it has to get the Human Resource Division's (HRD) approval. HRD's civil service unit also maintains lists of state agencies with vacancies and will notify interested veterans of openings. M.G.L. c. 31, s. 12

Job Protection: State law protects the jobs of Massachusetts National Guard members called to active duty and provides tenure for certain veterans in non-civil service positions.

Public Service Reemployment: Under state law, if you are a public employee who resigns to serve in the military, you are considered on a leave of absence, and can be reemployed so long as you return within two years of military service. You are entitled to all seniority rights so long as you return to public service within two years. Your employee pension is protected and your military service is credited to it.

Eligibility: National Guard and Reserve Service members.

Military Leave: 17 days paid military leave per year.

Eligibility: National Guard

Health and Insurance Benefits:

Medical Benefits: Disability, injury or disease the compensation is determined by a medical board, benefits include expenses.

Eligibility: National Guard for line-of-duty on State Active Duty.

Group Insurance: Up to \$250,000.00 term life insurance, spouse coverage up to \$250,000.00, child coverage up to \$15,000.00 under various plans. Massachusetts pays half the monthly life insurance premiums for Guard members.

Eligibility: National Guard Active Duty

Injury: Active duty: \$25.00 per week for 200 week or lump sum payment of \$5,000.00.

Eligibility: National Guard Active Duty

Death Benefits: \$100,000.00 death benefit paid to families of Guard members killed in the line of duty.

Eligibility: National Guard veterans, members of the Massachusetts National Guard and their families.

Worker's Compensation: Actual costs

Eligibility: National Guard Active Duty

Hunting and Fishing Licenses:

Hunting and Fishing Privileges: Resident hunting and sport fishing licenses are available at no charge.

Eligibility: Honorably discharged veterans with a 50% or greater service-connected disability and Massachusetts residency.

Veteran Bonuses: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides a bonus to veterans who were domiciled in Massachusetts immediately prior to entry in the armed forces. In case of the death of a veteran, the spouse and children, mother or father, brother or sister or other dependents of the deceased veteran (in that order) are eligible for a bonus noted below.

Vietnam War: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides a bonus to veterans who were domiciled in Massachusetts immediately prior to entry in the armed forces. In case of the death of a veteran, the spouse and children, mother or father, brother or sister or other dependents of the deceased veteran (in that order) are eligible for a bonus. Vietnam veterans who performed six months active duty from July 1, 1958 and prior to April 1, 1973 are eligible for a bonus according to the following stipulations: Those veterans who served six months or more active duty are eligible for a \$200 bonus. Those veterans who served on duty in Vietnam are eligible for a \$300 bonus. Ch. 646 of the Acts of 1968

Persian Gulf War: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides a bonus to veterans who were domiciled in Massachusetts immediately prior to entry in the armed forces. In case of the death of a veteran, the spouse and children, mother or father, brother or sister or other dependents of the deceased veteran (in that order) are eligible for a bonus. Persian Gulf veterans who performed thirty days or more during the period of August 2, 1990 to April 10, 1991 and whose service was under honorable conditions are eligible for a bonus according to the following stipulations. Those veterans who were called to active service in support of said war including as members of the Army National Guard or Air National Guard or as reservists in the armed forces of the United States in an area other than the Persian Gulf area are eligible for a \$300 bonus. Those veterans who performed active service in the Persian Gulf area (war zone or contiguous waters) and who are in receipt of the Southwest Asia Service Medal established by executive order of the President on March 13, 1991 are eligible for a \$500 bonus. Ch. 153 of the Acts of 1992

Welcome Home Bonus: The State Treasurer's Office, Veterans' Bonus Division, will administer the Welcome Home Bonus to veterans of the Global War on Terrorism. You are eligible if you meet the following criteria: six months domicile in Massachusetts immediately prior to entry into the armed forces service, beginning September 11, 2001, and discharge under honorable conditions. Service members who served active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan receive \$1000. Service members with six months or more active service, stateside or outside the continental limits of the United States, receive \$500.(Note: Active service shall not include active duty for training in the Army or Air National Guard, or active duty for training as a Reservist in the armed forces of the United States.) Ch. 130 of the Acts of 2005

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