

Westfield River Valley Detachment 141 Scuttlebutt



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March 2022

Chartered November 28, 1945

January

Marine Corps League



141 Upcoming Events

Detachment 141 Meetings have resumed

**Patriots Day Ceremony
April 18**

**Geissler's Flag Pin Donations
May 6-8**

**Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony
May 30**

**Walmart Flag Pin Donations
June 17-19**

Saturday Coffee

Saturday coffee is due to be suspended soon

**Get Involved, Volunteer!!
Uniform Up!**



Elected Officers:

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Commandant's Corner



Commandant
Chris Cekovsky

On March 23rd I had the honor of being the escort for Master Chief Ed Byers, as he was the guest speaker at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church's Lenten Speaker Series. He spoke about his faith during combat and his dedication to St. Michael the Archangel, the Patron Saint of Military and Police.

Master Chief Byers was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the rescue of an American doctor who was taken hostage by the Taliban in 2012. He is the highest decorated living Navy SEAL, and is a true American hero!

Early in his career, he served with the Marines in 2/2 as a Navy

Corpsman before being selected to attend BUDS training to become a SEAL.

During the day he spoke with the veterans and staff at the Holyoke Soldier's home, then spent time with the Soldiers and Airmen at Barnes Air National Guard Base.

In our travels I thoroughly enjoyed our conversations about our Catholic faith, our families, and our military careers.

Donning my Marine Corps League cover, I "coined" him with our Westfield River Valley Detachment 141 coin for his service with 2/2 Marines and his service to this great nation. He "coined" me with an absolutely incredible challenge coin that is a symbol of his highly decorated career and service to this great nation! (see photos)

Semper Fi,
Chris Cekovsky
Commandant

Detachment 141 meets monthly on the second Monday at 1900. Social hour at 1800. Detachment phone number is 413-562-4850.

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Chris and Master Chief Ed Byers

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Jo Jo MacBear
WRITTEN BY ANDREW PIGNATARE



Ed Byers
Challenge
coin



But We're Still the Marines

By Bill Federman

Attention on deck! The few and the proud are in the process of becoming the fewer and the prouder. A recent article in the Washington Post highlights changes in the makeup and mindset of our beloved Marine Corps that Gen. David Berger, commandant, began in 2019 (Opinion | The Marines are establishing a beachhead for needed change at the Pentagon - The Washington Post). He is working to modernize the way the Corps goes about its business, with a focus on being more nimble and better able to quickly respond to military challenges around the globe. To do this, new technology will be employed and new systems will be used that are small, elusive and sometimes unmanned.

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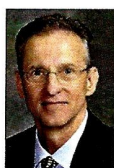
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We've heard this before, right? But Gen. Berger's vision for the Corps is prevailing against a hidebound bureaucracy to become reality. One result is that fewer Marines will be needed and they will be in smaller, quick-responding units in forward bases. The Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, for example, was reduced from 18,000 Marines to 15,000. It also gave up its bridging and engineering units and a sizable chunk of its tanks and armor in an effort to become more nimble.

Plans now call for creating littoral brigades that can operate quickly and stealthily, with many Marines replaced by unmanned systems — and using electronic-warfare tools that can hide their presence and find the enemy. "This is the biggest change in 70 years for the Marine Corps, but we're still the Marines," said Brig. Gen. Eric Austin, director of capabilities development at the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory at Quantico, Va.

The Marine Corps must evolve to survive. Gen. Berger's plan is intended to ensure that the Corps will not only carry on, but thrive. Change, even for a Marine Corps that reveres its past, is often difficult but eventually becomes necessary. Marines will embrace the new realities while honoring their heritage; and that's something that will never change

Semper Fidelis



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