

Westfield River Valley Detachment 141 Scuttlebutt



*Serving the Greater Springfield Area
Hampden & Hampshire Counties*

Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aetern, Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever

Editor/Publisher: Roger Beer
January 2023

Chartered November 28, 1945

January

Marine Corps League



141 Upcoming Events

**Four Chaplains Ceremony
Veterans Administration Leeds
February 4 at 1:30**

**Mother's Day fundraising at Geisslers
May 12 - 14**

**Father's Day fundraising at Walmart
June 16—18**

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



Elected Officers:

Commandant:
Chris Cekovsky
ccekovsky@gmail.com
413-427-8456 (cell)

Sr. Vice:
Joe Delaney
msgtjoed@gmail.com
413-527-9901 (H)

Jr. Vice:
Sophie Bartosik
gunnysfb@gmail.com
413-539-6528 (H)

Judge Advocate:
Keith Buckhout
kbuckhout@hotmail.net
413-230-4882 (cell)

Commandant's Corner



Hello Detachment 141,

I hope you are doing well and had a great holiday season. As we finish January, it's time to plan for springtime events with fundraising and recruiting. Our flag pin fundraisers are right around the corner, and we need your help to secure funds and new members. Uniform up and represent your Marine Corps League Detachment.

Also, we have the Four Chaplains ceremony at the VA chapel in Leeds at 1:30 on February 4th.

Commandant
Chris Cekovsky

Semper Fi,
Chris Cekovsky
Commandant

THANK YOU SPONSORS

PROSPECT BUILDERS, INC. FIRE & FLOOD RESTORATION
 "WE CAN HANDLE ALL YOUR EMERGENCY NEEDS!"

- Temporary Housing • Estimates
- Entire Rebuilding & Repairs • Cleaning
- Emergency Securing of Property

Dean LoMascolo - President

P.O. Box 302 • East Longmeadow, MA 01028
 (413) 525-3270 • Fax (413) 525-8126 • 1-800-486-4976
 dean@prospectbuilders.com • www.prospectbuilders.com

Aquarius Residential & Commercial
Plumbing and Heating Inc.
 www.aquariusplumbingheating.com
Daniel Bishop
 President

Phone: (413) 527-6771 P.O. Box # 603
 Fax: (413) 527-5453 Southampton, MA 01073
 Email: bishopdan@aol.com Master's License #8460

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

Appointed Officers:

Paymaster:
Roger Beer
rbeer4@comcast.net
413-437-7542 (H)

Adjutant:
Bill Federman
billfederman@gmail.com
413-552-6085

Chaplain:
Dan Bishop
bishopdan@aol.com
413-237-5360

Sergeant-At-Arms:
Aldo Mancini
manscruffy@comcast.net
413-789-0830 (H)

Web Sergeant:
Carriann Dymon Bailey
skitterto@yahoo.com
860-335-7456 (cell)

Jr. Past Commandant:
Keith Buckhout
kbuckhout@hotmail.net
413-230-4882 (cell)

From the Paymaster:

Annual renewals are now due. The year begins September 1 for annual members.

Please submit your dues to the paymaster and stay current/

PIGNATARE & SAGAN LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

CHARLES E. SAGAN, CPA
CSAGAN@AJPCPA.COM

1089 ELM ST
W. SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089
TEL: (413) 746-9465
FAX: (413) 746-3330

6 MAIN ST
WESTFIELD, MA 01085
TEL: (413) 562-9676
FAX: (413) 562-9723

Batchelder
ASSOCIATES
P.O. BOX 248 EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027

Income Protection and Employment Benefits

EDWARD D. BATCHELDER

Registered Representative of Grove Point Investments, LLC

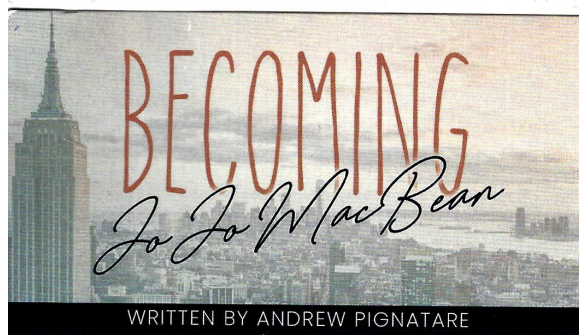
Phone 413-527-9168

Cell Phone
413-531-6261

Fax
413-529-1858

ed@batchelderassociates.com • www.batchelderassociates.com

THANK YOU SPONSORS



Frankie

By Bill Federman

My wife was tidying her desk in our home office when she came across a folder containing newspaper travel articles, lists of books, old tax statements and other ephemera; when she picked it up a small photo fluttered to the floor. I stooped down to retrieve it and said, "Who's this?" as I studied the headshot of a handsome, dark-eyed, gap-toothed adolescent.

"That was my cousin," she said. "Francis; Frankie, his family called him. They moved away when we were children. He died in Vietnam."

"I didn't know that," I said. "What happened?"

"The details are in this report I printed out about 10 years ago. It's so sad," she said.

Indeed it is. Frankie was a soldier, a member of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. According to Task Force Omega, which tracks POWs, he was wounded and taken prisoner in a fierce firefight on Jan. 8, 1968, in Happy Valley, south of Danang, along with others in his unit. In a stunning coincidence, I was reading an account of his capture on the 55th anniversary of that sorry event. It was grim. Frankie was wounded in the back and neck in a mortar barrage and dragged away by the VC after intense hand-to-hand fighting. Tortured and starved in a jungle prison, Frankie, who was described by a fellow soldier who survived his captivity as "hard-core," died from his untreated wounds in September of 1968. He was, essentially, murdered.

(continued on page 5)



**CULVERINE
FIREARMS**

BUY / SELL QUALITY FIREARMS

www.culverinefirearms.com

(413) 789-7466 • Fax: (413) 789-7467
29 Southwick Street • Feeding Hills, MA 01030

THANK YOU SPONSORS

**Paul's
Auto Repair**



Domestic, Foreign
High Performance

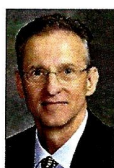
981 River Road
Agawam, MA 01001

Phone (413) 746-9031

Frankie (continued)

Because I didn't know him, my view of Frankie is entirely imaginary; I can only guess what he was like. I *do* know that he was six feet tall and handsome, with dark, deep-set eyes, and he was called "hard as nails" in a newspaper article. He enlisted in the Army when he was 22 and he must have known that doing so gave him a first-class ticket on the Vietnam Express; but, no doubt buoyed by the natural optimism of youth as well as, he surely assumed, as we all did, that it would be a round-trip. Frankie was 24 when he was killed. I must have been near to where he was held captive and died when I was in-country two years later. I'm glad I didn't know it then.

I'm having trouble sorting out my feelings about Frankie. Sadness about his short life and miserable death and a healthy dose of survivor guilt are my primary emotions; but anger toward his murderers seems useless and the question without an answer – why? – will always be there, unfathomable. I imagine Frankie as I was then – young, unburdened by disappointment, eyes on a bright and shining future. Although our lives ran parallel in some ways they never intersected; I've come to know Frankie only in death, an attachment that runs deeper than I could have known, and in my innocence I've endowed him with all the attributes and none of the faults he would have had if he'd lived. But that's OK. If I pay homage to an idealized version of Cpl. Francis Eugene Cannon it's still Frankie, the gap-toothed kid in an old photo looking out at me from across all eternity. I never knew him and I'll never forget him.



Michael Markiewicz
Financial Advisor

The Mill 180 Building
180 Pleasant St Suite 212
Easthampton, MA 01027
Bus. 413-203-5850 Cell 413-875-5642
Fax 888-817-1654
mike.markiewicz@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com/mike-markiewicz

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Joseph LaFreniere

Office: (413) 887-3267
Cell: (413) 244-4805
Email: Joe@revampitpros.com



WE BUY HOUSES

WEBUY413.COM