

26 June 2015

Members, Family & Friends of the L/Cpl Robert J Slattery Detachment from Whippany, NJ attended the Marine Barracks, 8th& I Evening Parade in Washington, DC on this Friday night. We were guests of Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen who represents the 11th District in New Jersey.

Approximately 37 of us attended this event and some took a bus down and a few of us made the trip by car. To name a few who attended were Detachment Commandant Bob Beck and his wife, former Detachment Commandants, Pete Gallo, John Andrews and Keith Butler along with many others who make our Detachment what it is today. We left New Jersey at 1230 on Friday afternoon and most of us got back home by around 2-3AM. We were all invited by the Congressman for all the work we have done for many years helping and supporting the men and women and their families who have wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan. We have also helped those injured and even those with medical problems who are serving in all branches of our Military who have been serving our country since September 11, 2001. This is one of those events that I tell people they need to see at least once while visiting Washington, DC. Every Friday evening in the summer, the Marines at the 8th & I Barracks put on the Evening Parade, a performance featuring the President's Own U.S. Marine Band, the Commandant's Own U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and the amazingly impressive Silent Drill Platoon. And always a crowd favorite, an appearance by Chesty XIII, the Marine Corps' English Bull Dog mascot.

Being an invited guest we were able to enjoy a cocktail party on the lawn of the Commandants house and get to meet many current Marines who are stationed at Marine Barracks. We were also able to meet with former Marines and those of the other Military services. The events starts at 2045 (military time), 8:45pm and approximately 30 minutes prior to the parade Marines who are part of Marine Barracks will stand and talk in front of the crowd and inform them on the history and traditions of the Marine Barracks. They also talk about where they are from, what their job or MOS is and inject a little humor too. A very Professional and worthwhile event for all to see. The Marine Barracks is the "Oldest Post of the Corps," it was established in 1801, and has performed military reviews and ceremonies since its founding. The present-day Evening Parade was first conducted on July 5, 1957.

I have listed below the website for the Marine Barracks with all the pertinent information for any of you interested in attending the Parade in the future. This is no charge to attend, but I recommend that you call and make reservations weeks out so you can be put on the list otherwise you will have to wait in line with the general public.

<http://www.barracks.marines.mil/Parades/EveningParade.aspx>

The Evening Parades are conducted on Fridays only beginning May 1 through Aug. 28, 2015. The start times are as follows: **8:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

There are pictures on our Detachment's web site taken during the parade and I have listed the link below.

<http://www.mclslatterydet.org/>

Again, a very impressive and worthwhile way to spend an evening. If you have never seen this Parade, I highly recommend that you make plans to do so, no matter what uniform you may have worn. It is an event enjoyed by all ages young and old. Semper Fi,