Semper Fi
The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

Interview:
Bill Davis
CEO Young Marines

Goin’ to Kansas City!
Your 2017 National Convention Guide

Reunion Attendance
Important in helping prevent suicides

Spotlight: Marine Corps Association & Foundation
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ABOUT THE COVER

Members of the Marine Corps League place a lei during a commemoration ceremony at Barber’s Point Golf Course in Kapolei, Hawaii, Dec. 6, 2016. The commemoration was to honor the four Marines killed in the attack at Marine Corps Air Station Ewa Dec. 7, 1941, during the attack on Pearl Harbor and Oahu. The U.S. military and the State of Hawaii are hosting a series of remembrance events to honor the courage and sacrifices of Pacific Theater veterans. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Casbarro)
Since we have held our Mid-Winter Conference before this was written for this issue of Semper Fi, I would like to talk about a few of the events that will be coming up in the next few months that all have to become aware of.

By the time we all meet again at our next convention in Overland Park, KS, a lot of attention should be paid to the upcoming elections to be held at the convention. A lot of hard work, effort and thought has been applied to bring us to the position we are in just a two-year span of time. Your Marine Corps League is not just a club for Marines; it is a business and needs to be thought of in just that manner. The future depends on who you, the membership, decide to put into the offices that make up the “Board of Trustees,” who make the important decisions on your behalf. It is a job which requires maximum participation and effort at all times, with seriousness and resolution being tantamount in due diligence. Use extreme vetting when you cast your vote during caucus at the convention.

I also want to urge members to begin engaging more at the conventions so the information that is being passed around gets out to everyone, instead of a few who do come. During the last three conventions we have noticed a remarkable upswing in attendance, and I mean a large increase. We had 500 persons at our banquet in Tulsa, OK, to welcome Commandant Neller, and believe me, he knew you were there. He stated to me that he felt welcome and really had no idea we were that large a group. I also want to point out this Mid-Winter, when once again we were there. He stated to me that he felt welcome and really had no idea we were that large a group. I also want to point out this Mid-Winter, when once again we had probably the largest turnout in years with over 300 in attendance. The whole primary hotel was sold out, and a large amount of members were at the overflow.

Keep up all your good work on our behalf. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone in the next few months.

Semper Fidelis,
Richard D. Gore, Sr.
National Commandant

THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
The Marine Corps League Inc. is a Congressionally chartered, non-profit organization.
National Commandant: Richard D. Gore, Sr.
Executive Director: Thomas W. Hazlett

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ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.
JOIN THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ALL MARINES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S LETTER

THOMAS W. HAZLETT

MARINES:

Marine West was a huge success and my thanks to the detachments that assisted in filling the bags and distributing them to those in attendance as well as manning the booth inside the Expo; as always, you did a great job!

By the time you read this article, Mid-Winter Conference for 2017 will have come and gone. I hope those of you in attendance took back the information and passed it on to your departments and detachments. Since this article was written several days before the Mid-Winter Conference kicked off, I am not sure how many of our membership were in attendance, but at writing, it appears that we will have a very large conference, and I hope you all enjoyed your stay in Fredericksburg.

To all detachments, departments and divisions: We need to police up after ourselves; we have got to start acting responsible when it comes to the use of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor in fundraisers. It is time to stop using the Marine Corps League as the recipient of funds if the detachment is benefiting from the money made during the fundraiser. Stating that the Marine Corps League is the benefactor indicates that National MCL Headquarters is receiving the funds. I am meeting soon with attorneys from Headquarters Marine Corps to discuss if we can even keep the EGA on our uniforms as well as on shirts and other type of garments. Creating a name for a fund and stating that it is a Marine Corps League Fund is both wrong and possibly damaging to us. If you are running a raffle or fundraiser, use your detachment name and do not use verbiage that might indicate the raffle or fundraiser is approved by or is benefiting the National MCL Headquarters. Recently I’ve had several complaints about rogue Toys for Tots programs being conducted using the name “Toys for Tots,” using the Toys for Tots logo, wearing Toys for Tots shirts, hats, etc. and then collecting both toys and money and not turning it over to Toys for Tots. This is a serious problem and can result in serious punishment. In order to run any Toys for Tots program you must have the official approval of the Marine Corps National Toys for Tots. Please do not set up unauthorized programs that use the Toys for Tots name but do not follow the Toys for Tots program requirements. Collecting either toys or money under false pretense is a crime, and it must be stopped. If you are issued a cease and desist letter from National Toys for Tots, there will be no second warning if you fail to do just that, cease and desist. Please read the National Judge Advocate column on page 25 for more details.

I would like to close by thanking all of the members who go the extra mile and support your detachments, departments and divisions. You do great work for our fellow Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains, and you spend countless hours doing so. Please keep up the great work!

Remember our deployed Marines, especially those in harm’s way. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers and may they soon be reunited with their families and loved ones.

As always, I remain Semper Fi,

Thomas W. Hazlett
Marine Corps League Inc.
National Executive Director
Recently I've had several complaints about Toys for Tots programs being conducted. Rogue Toys for Tots programs are being conducted by detachments that are not approved by the National MCL Headquarters. The raffle or fundraiser is not approved by or is not associated with the Marine Corps League Fund. I have received complaints indicating that National MCL Headquarters is receiving the funds. I am meeting soon with attorneys from Headquarters Marine Corps to discuss if we can even keep the funds. Stating that the Marine Corps League is the benefactor made during the fundraiser. Stating that the detachment is benefiting from the money is both wrong and possibly damaging to us. If you are running a raffle or fundraiser, use your detachment name. EGA on our uniforms as well as on shirts and other type of garments. Creating a name for the Marine Corps to discuss if we can even keep the funds from the fundraiser. If you are issuing a cease and desist letter from National Toys for Tots, there will be no second warning if you fail to do just that, cease and desist. Please read the program requirements. Collecting either toys or money under false pretense is a crime, and it must be stopped. If you are issued a cease and desist letter from National Toys for Tots, you must have the official approval of National MCL Headquarters. I am not aware of any divisions not following the program requirements. You do great work for our fellow Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains, and you spend countless hours doing so. Please keep up the great work!

As always, I remain reunited with your detachments, departments and divisions. Since this article was written several days before the conference, I am not aware of any divisions not following the program requirements. You do great work for our fellow Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains, and you spend countless hours doing so. Please keep up the great work!

THOMAS W. HAZLETT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Marine Corps League Inc.
Semper Fi is currently at 68 pages, and there are only so many items we can fit into this quarterly print publication. We appreciate your patience and understanding if you make a Roll Call submission or submit an article idea and it does not get chosen for the print publication. Some calls are made by the League, others by us, the publisher, but all calls are made to line up with the vision we have for the final, printed magazine.

Once we have a website up and running, overflow submissions will be considered for online content. This way, we will be able to recognize more contributions than we ever could in a print format.

A few helpful hints are below regarding our processes moving forward. Full information is available on our website at www.chipotlepublishing.com/semperfi.cfm.

**Please DO NOT MAIL editorial submissions to us unless they are in digital format on a CD. This includes Roll Call submissions. We will only accept digital submissions moving forward. Rare exceptions may be made for historical documents.**

NEW FEATURE OPPORTUNITY!

- We’re starting a new regular Feature on Marines recently out of the Corps that have done well for themselves (started a business, etc.). Please follow the Feature Article process below for pre-approval of your submission.

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COLUMN SUBMISSIONS

- Only members of the Marine Corps League may make submissions.
- This category applies to Roll Call, regular columns and Reunions.
- We will soon have a new, custom online upload system for all of your submissions. In this online system, you will create a username and password and then follow the simple steps to upload your text and photos.
- There will be a minimum file size required for photo quality. Please ensure that you upload the highest resolution photo you can (ideally, 300-dpi). Photos under print-quality standards will be rejected automatically by the upload system.

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- We will then let you know if the MCL approves your article and, if it’s approved, tell you how many words and photos we’d like you to submit to us.

PHOTOS - DIGITAL ONLY

- “Image is everything.” “A picture is worth a thousand words.” These are clichéd statements, but they are true. We want each photo in Semper Fi to tell a story and we’re asking for your help in that.
- Please submit pictures that include people when possible.
- Photos that show action are much better at telling a story than staged photos. A photo of an MCL member handing a child a toy for the Toys for Tots program is a much more powerful image than a group photo.
- Photo quality: Each image size must be at least 1MB, preferably over 3MB. Always submit the largest photo size you can. Photos must be no smaller than 5”x7” in size.
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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

NEW EDITORIAL

PROCEDURES

OVERVIEW FROM YOUR NEW PUBLISHER

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Miles Vining: Could you tell us some of your background growing up?

Bill Davis: I was born on Camp Pendleton; my dad was a Sergeant at the time. He retired in 1980 as an 0369 First Sergeant. Between my dad doing recruiting tours and combat tours, we grew up on the West Coast, so I lived in California, Montana, Oregon and then he retired in Washington State. I started at the University of Washington less than a year after he graduated from it on the GI Bill.

MV: So what year did you commission, and where did you go from there?

BD: I graduated in 1987, commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Course program and went to the Basic School. I started out as a Ground Supply Officer and then moved into general logistics after promotion to Captain. My first tour was in Hawaii with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade. I deployed from there with Combat Service Support Detachment 131 for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. I transitioned to the Active Reserve program in 1995 after the big USMC cuts in the mid-90s. Following tours included 24th Marines, Marine Forces Reserve, Marine Corps Systems Command, Headquarters Marines Corps, U.S. Northern Command, and final tour back at MARFORRES as the head of facilities during the last BRAC round. At Northcom I worked with an amazing group of scientists, ready to support any combatant command, anyone in the world.

MV: Would you say that was one of the highlights of your career?

BD: Definitely, the work was fascinating, the global travel was exciting, and I worked with some of the top professionals in the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical arenas along with some special operators and interagency. That’s the one job where, thank God, we never had to execute the mission.

MV: How did you end up retiring to work in youth programs?

BD: Some of my former Commanders lived in the New Orleans area and approached me in December 2010 to see if I was willing to retire early—they had this vision to build an all-Marine Corps JROTC charter high school. The educational landscape in New Orleans is challenging, especially for military families. They had a kindergarten-8th grade school at the Navy base, but they never had a high school. The community wanted a military-themed charter
high school to add to the mix of choices. I was challenged by the offer and thought “That’s a good mission. Build a school, help kids out, help families out.” This is an area I felt strongly about; it would help the community out and it was a great opportunity to continue public service in another way. I worked on the New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy (NOMMA) part-time on the weekends and evenings, as we had little time to be ready to open the summer of 2011. Concurrently, I had to lead the completion of the new MARFORRES HQ building and other BRAC projects. We cut the new HQ ribbon and the next day I went full time at the school. I was extremely fortunate to hire Dr. Cecilia Garcia as principal; she was an excellent choice for that job. I was the CEO/superintendent. And between the two of us, we were able to block and tackle all the issues. She worked on curriculum and hiring teachers, and I was worried about contracts, construction and facilities. Between the two of us we were able to get that school up and running. In April 2011, we had five applications, no building, and no staff. Four months later we opened that school in August with 120 students and a full staff.

**MV: Starting a school must take a tremendous amount of work, but is this how you got into the Young Marines program?**

**BD:** My older son Matthew was in the Young Marines 1998-2000, when we were in Louisiana. I had met my predecessor Mike Kessler soon after he became National Executive Director of the Young Marines in summer of 1999. We have pictures of him presenting Matthew an award. When we got back to New Orleans in ’06, we were again in touch with the Young Marines as both Brenda and I provided some support to local units. In summer of 2014, the local Young Marines leaders let me know Mike was retiring and they encouraged me to apply. I thought, “At NOMMA I have an opportunity to impact hundreds of lives, but now there is the opportunity to impact thousands of lives,” but that was also a real tough decision—we were in New Orleans for nine years so that was a big move for us; we thought we were going to stay there forever—so the challenge and opportunity to have an impact on all these kids across the country really drew me to apply for the job and then successfully get it.

**MV:** Throughout all of this transitioning from New Orleans, to the school, to the Young Marines, can you explain a little bit about that transition from a military mindset to an educational one?

**BD:** Yes, it’s interesting. My wife and I were also involved with our boys’ education. We really engaged while at Quantico from 2000-2004 and I was elected to the Quantico School Board for 3 years. But really it was my career that prepared me for the school, to come from a logistics background and [the] unique things I did in my career really did translate well to running the school system outside of curriculum. I really have to say the Lord blessed me to have put me in positions that gave me the skillsets to let me do what I do today. It was building the school that opened that door to the Young Marines. I wouldn’t have known about Mike’s retirement had I not worked with the Young Marines down in the area. And now my daily balance is being the leader of the Young Marines Program, being out there with the Young Marines and adult leaders and keeping them excited and motivated while simultaneously balancing that out with being the corporate CEO of a $7 million/year non-profit entity.

**MV:** So how would you compare that educational structure to the Marine Corps?

**BD:** One, of course it’s kids, so it is different. But education is continuous, which is something I preached to the JROTC cadets at NOMMA and continue to press with the young men and women in the Young Marines Program. Education is continuous as well as fitness and other aspects of life. Whenever I had a guest speaker or whenever I talked I had to remind them education doesn’t stop once you leave high school—you are or should always continue your education, whether it’s going through the Bachelors-Masters-Doctoral or getting trade school education, or professional educational reading. I will often tell people about the Marine Corps model, [that] as an officer or as a staff NCO you are going to go to your MOS schools, then concurrently professional military educational schools for your rank, and your other training or personal educational goals. So there’s this constant education going on throughout your career, so that is what I stress to all the young men and women I work with.
Education doesn’t stop—it’s continuous, and you need to seek it out to be successful.

The Young Marines program is doing the same thing. We are developing computer-based training to complement the face-to-face training we have. We start with the 26-hour recruit training but then we have week-long junior leadership schools for the Lance-Corporal/Corporal Types, senior leadership schools for the kids in mid-range, and then for the kids in Staff Sergeant, Gunny and above, you are going to what we call the Advanced Leadership School. And so for the junior leadership and senior leadership schools we have them regionally and around the country. Each of our divisions tries to run their own school so that plenty of kids have a chance to go because that school is part of getting promoted as well. But we run a national leadership academy every year. This is the only opportunity to attend the advanced leadership school. We have been offering 50 seats/year for the advanced course, but we’re expanding it to 75 because I’m hoping to expand the demand for the older kids. Along with the schools are various ribbons to be earned through education and application. These activities lead to or support promotion in our program.

MV: What are some of the key foundations that the program relies on?
BD: Of the three pillars, the first is leadership, based on the Marine Corps model including education and training we provide. Second, there is community service or, as I like to call it, citizenship. I always say we preach leadership, citizenship, and a healthy drug-free lifestyle. Citizenship for us though—we also include history of our country, the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, the nature of our government, so they get some civics education there—but we act that out through community service. A good portion of our community service is directed towards veterans. If you look at the Young Marine’s magazine (Esprit), we do Wreaths Across America, putting the flags up at cemeteries, support various veteran’s organization events, and other patriotic support in the community. Our best partner continues to be the Marine Corp League, who were the founders of this program. We also work to support the VFW and the American Legion, and we do color guard, parades and a lot of events—the Young Marines are out there to help out. Whether it is guiding people in, carrying their things, helping with parking, whatever is appropriate, the Young Marines are out there helping. Then there is Toys for Tots where we annually partner with the Marine Corps League to make sure every child gets a toy at Christmas throughout the country. So you see the Young Marines out there doing this civic duty. And other things you will see nationally are events we do every year and we’ve been doing for years—every summer August 14th we support the Navajo Code Talkers down in Arizona, we provide key support to the National Memorial Day and Pearl Harbor parades. Those are really large-scale events, drawing units from across the organization to support. We have over 270 units across 39 states, and almost all of them are involved in something on Veterans Day or Memorial Day; whether it’s a color guard, parade, or showing up for a ceremony, they are out there supporting, doing whatever we need to do.

MV: Wow, that’s amazing. What parts of your job do you find the most challenging?
BD: It’s a geographically dispersed organization, so you can’t be everywhere at the same time—we have over 2,500 adult volunteers across the country, they are trying to do a good job, and we are trying to help them. So the challenging thing is to provide the right materials and support to everyone to keep all those units on track. The biggest challenge with this is the management of resources—money, time and people—to get the job done as this organization runs on 10 paid employees taking care of 2,500 adults and 9,200 kids as of end of last year.

MV: What do you like the best as a veteran working with the Marine Corps League?
BD: I am hard-pressed to remember a Young Marines drill that I visited that did not have a Marine Corps League member present. And remember, I’ve been to a good number already in 2 years. Almost everywhere I went...
there were gentlemen in red jackets, red covers, in some form of support to help or Marine Corps League members who are adult volunteers who are in their Young Marines adult uniforms, but they were Marine Corps League members. So it’s really great to have an organization that supports us so well across the country, heart and soul. I go to the major national Marine Corps League events; winter and summer conventions along with the Marine Expos. Attending these events is always nonstop interaction. Marine Corps League members stop by our booths and talk about the Young Marines in their area and the activities they share in support of each other and the community. We get this mutual generation of excitement going over the work that we are doing together. And like I said, you can’t get the job done without volunteers, and that volunteer family isn’t just the Young Marine volunteers, they’re the thousands of Marine Corps League detachments across the country that are in deep support of this program and have been for decades.

**MV:** What would you say to Marines who are currently getting out, either enlisted or commissioned, and are at a loss for good employment prospects?

**BD:** Plan ahead and network as early as possible for a start point. Everyone wants to do something really fulfilling as a career, some of us are lucky enough to get these dream jobs. However, you’ve got to put food on the table and a roof over your head so sometimes you’ve got to take the job you can get. Maybe that’s where the volunteering comes into play in a different way. If you have a job that you’re not very passionate about you, volunteer for something that you are very passionate about and enjoy that, it can help bring balance into your life. You never know what may come of that. It can also be your inroad to networking—volunteering is networking, you never know the connections you will make through volunteering. And through those connections you never know what opportunities may arise that are more suitable and more motivating than your present employment. We were at the Winter Conference a few weeks ago, and I was talking with a Marine Corps League member who told me this exact story. A young veteran Marine just got out and was looking for a job. A Marine Corps League member linked him with somebody in his network looking for new help. Please remember that volunteering is always in your best interests, emerging studies show it’s a solid part of good quality of life as we grow up. In either case that is what we should always do—be good leaders, be good citizens, and help each other out. **SIF**

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**THE UNITED STATES JOINS THE GREAT WAR!**

On 6 April, 1917 the United States of America declared a state of war to exist with Germany, and armed forces were mobilized to France to engage the enemy. The USMC was composed of a total of 13,725 officers and enlisted on active duty at the start. To meet the call, the Corps never lowered its standards yet very quickly built to an actual strength of 75,101 officers and enlisted. On 14 June 1917, the first USMC section of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) set sail. This was the vanguard of the Fifth Regiment, a total of 70 officers and 2,689 Marines, split into three groups on the Henderson, De Kalb, and Hancock troop ships headed to France. They landed later in June, and earned the title of “First in France,” a dubious honor due to there not being enough machine guns and support weapons for them. They entered combat almost immediately, equipped with hand-me-down French machine guns such as the 1914 Hotchkiss. Marines totaled fully one-fifth of the first part of the AEF. Over the course of the Great War (World War I) United States Marines totaled over 31,000 who went into combat with the AEF.
GOIN' TO KANSAS CITY!
YOUR 2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION GUIDE

August is approaching quickly, and it is never too early to start planning your trip to the Marine Corps League National Convention, which will be held in Overland Park, KS. The convention is hosted by the General Larry Oppenheimer MCL Detachment and M/SGT Luis Romero, Jr. MCLA Unit, Lenexa, KS. Follow the yellow footprints to Kansas, and we'll see you in Overland Park this summer!

**DATES**
August 13-18, 2017

**LOCATION**
Overland Park Convention Center
6000 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66211

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**
- Chase Suite Hotel Overland Park
- Courtyard Kansas City Overland Park/Convention Center
- Hilton Garden Inn Overland Park
- Holiday Inn Convention Center
- Sheraton (sold out)

For more hotel information including rates, websites, phone numbers and special MCL rate codes, please go to www.2017mclnationalconvention.com/hotel.html.

**AGENDA**
For a complete 2017 agenda, visit www.2017mclnationalconvention.com and go to Registration Hotel & Events, then Registration & Agenda.

**EVENT SERVICES**
- Airport: Kansas City International Airport (Airport Code: KCI)
- Transportation: Shuttle service to and from the airport can be arranged with Agenda Kansas City. See website for booking link when event registration opens on May 1. You can also find information on taxi services and rental cars.
- Scooter Rental: Scooter rentals are available through Chuck's Mobility, call (913) 859-0290 or go to: www.chucksmobility.com/scooters/1930765.
- Daily Lunch Packages: For your convenience, the Convention Center will be offering daily lunch packages. See the daily menus and order your package beginning May 1. (Must be ordered in advance. No on-site purchases available.)
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EVENTS RESERVATIONS
Events reservations will now be open by May 1. Events include:

- **Early Bird**
  The National WWI Museum and Memorial will welcome the Marine Corps League for the early bird, which will include museum and tower tours and dinner. The Museum will be featuring the 100th Anniversary to WWI.

- **Kansas City BBQ**
  If authentic Kansas City BBQ is what you want, plan to attend the Monday evening BBQ where you will be treated to some of the metro’s finest at the OP Convention Center featuring fares from Fiorella’s Jack Stack.

- **Dinner Theatre Show & Dinner**
  “Great balls of fire!” Catch the personas of Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis in the Broadway hit musical “Million Dollar Quartet!” Indulge in a legendary night of rock ‘n’ roll at the nationally-acclaimed dinner theatre, New Theatre Restaurant. After the five-star buffet and inspired jam session, you will leave looking for some “Blue Suede Shoes!”

- **Casino Night & Buffet Dinner**
  You’re sure to have a night of “more fun” when the Ameristar Casino opens its doors to host a night of dinner and play at more than 2,500 slot machines and 57 table games.

- **Convention Banquet with Music and Dancing**
  Enjoy an evening of celebration at the 2017 Banquet. The 2017 event will feature music and dancing.

- **Other Notable Events**
  Shop ‘til you drop at the Legends Outlets. As part of the festivities, plan to participate in PB&J event for Harvesters Food Network. Don’t miss the 78th Supreme Growl Luncheon.

To help you plan your visit, go to [www.visitoverlandpark.com](http://www.visitoverlandpark.com) to learn more about local attractions, dining, events and more!
Military Order of the Devil Dogs
Supreme Growl Sweepstakes

RULES FOR ENTERING THE SWEEPSTAKES:

1. Anyone over 18 years of age may enter.
2. Need not be a member of the MODD nor need not be present to win.
3. No money is required to enter; however, we do request minimum donations as listed on the tickets.
4. Entries must be completed on this form. Additional forms may be requested through the Jr. Vice Chief Devil Dog, PDD Tom Hazlett cell # (717) 420-0623.
5. Entries must be filled out completely with name, address, and phone number along with your MODD number, if you have one. Mailing labels may be used and add a phone number.
6. There will be three drawings in each category of tickets with the following amounts to be awarded:
   - 1st Place - 20% of category income
   - 2nd Place - 10% of category income
   - 3rd Place - 5% of category income
7. Total income in each category will be announced at the 2017 Supreme Growl in Overland Park, Kansas.
8. In each category, 1st Ticket drawn is 1st Place, 2nd ticket drawn is 2nd Place, and 3rd ticket drawn is 3rd Place. Any ticket drawn that is not legible by any of the drawing members will be discarded and another ticket will be drawn in its place.
9. Make all checks or Money Orders payable to "MODD KENNEL".
10. All mailed tickets must be received by Jr. Vice Chief PDD Tom Hazlett no later than Monday, July 24, 2017.

Please support the MODD Kennel because...

IT'S AN HONOR TO BE A DEVIL DOG!!!
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

CHIEF DEVIL DOG
C.O. SMITH

PCDDS, PDDS, DDS AND PUPS:
“The achievements of an...”

FOR $1 DONATIONS
Use these tickets
$1 per ticket or
6 tickets for $5

Name ____________________________
Address _________________________
Ph# _____________________________
$1

Name ____________________________
Address _________________________
Ph# _____________________________
$1

Name ____________________________
Address _________________________
Ph# _____________________________
$1

Name ____________________________
Address _________________________
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Name ____________________________
Address _________________________
Ph# _____________________________
$1

Name ____________________________
Address _________________________
Ph# _____________________________
$1

Military Order of the Devil Dogs Supreme Growl Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes Tickets for the Supreme Growl to be held during the 2017 National Convention in Overland Park, Kansas

Six ticket donation requested at $1 per ticket or six tickets for $20 donation

Send completed tickets and donations to:

PDD Tom Hazlett
Jr. Vice Chief Devil Dog
41 Englewood Dr
Palmyra, VA. 22963
717-420-0623

Mailed tickets and donations must be received no later than Monday, July 24, 2017.

Drawing to be held at the 2017 National Convention.
I would be remiss if I didn’t begin by mentioning that we buried a great Devil Dog a few months ago. PCDD George Barrows, the 50th Chief, passed away in January. I drove to Jacksonville, NC, to attend his visitation and funeral. There were many Leaguers and Devil Dogs who showed up to pay their respects. PCDD Barrows, I learned while there, was not only a great Devil Dog but was also a very community-minded citizen. His casket was placed on a horse-drawn wagon, and a full funeral procession passed by reverent crowds through downtown Jacksonville enroute to the cemetery. The Honor Guard consisted of active duty Marines. I must say he had a great send off. Rest in peace, Brother.

Near the end of February, I called Bingo at the Illinois Veterans’ Home in Quincy, IL, for my detachment. The following day, I traveled to Peoria, IL, for a growl of Grand Pound 1000 during which PDD Bob Whitledage was honored for his 50 years of membership in the Order. Central Division VCDD PDD Dale Munson, IL Pack WPL PDD Greg Baker and IL Pack WDR PDD Mike Malmstrom were also in attendance. It was a fun afternoon full of camaraderie and shenanigans followed by a nice meal. Thank you to Grand Pound 1000 SPK PDD Jack Ford (an old boot camp buddy and “hooch mate” of mine at MCRD San Diego) for planning the special celebration, and congratulations to PDD Whitledage on his many years of service to the Order!

By the time you read this article, the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference and MOOD Mini-Growl will be in the record books. For those of you who made it to Fredericksburg, I hope you were not disappointed. For those who were unable to attend, make plans early for next year! It is now that time of year when the divisions will be holding their conferences. I will be in attendance at my own Central Division Conference in Richmond, IN, in just a few short weeks. I look forward to growing with many of the Central Division Devil Dogs there.

For those planning to advance at the Supreme Growl in August, the deadline for advancement papers to be in the Kennel Dog Robber’s paws is July 1, 2017. Once you have submitted the required information, check the list of those candidates whose papers have been received and recorded on the Kennel website (look under “Growl Info”). If you don’t see your name within a few weeks, you need to check with your Pound Dog Robber and/or your Pack Dog Robber to make sure they are doing their jobs. This is your responsibility, and, as several members learned the hard way last year, there will be no exceptions after the deadline; if you miss the deadline, you will not advance this year! And, don’t forget to keep a copy of your paperwork and bring it with you to Overland Park in August.

The proposed bylaw amendments, which will be voted on during the Supreme Growl, will appear in the Spring Woof-O-Gram along with the Junior Vice Sweepstakes tickets. Please sell the tickets or purchase them yourselves. In addition, registration information will be out soon for the 2017 National Convention and Supreme Growl. Please make sure you sign up for the Devil Dog luncheon to be held on the Thursday of convention week. This is an opportunity to recognize several worthy Dogs who will be recipients of the coveted awards from the Past Chief Devil Dogs Society.

As always, keep up the good work. If you have any questions or concerns, my contact information is on the Kennel website.

Semper Woof,
CDD C.O. Smith
57th Chief Devil Dog
MARINES:
The National Convention in Tulsa, OK, was a huge success, and if you weren’t able to be there, you missed a great time.

More importantly, we missed you! It was so good to see and meet lots of new members and some who just haven’t been to a convention lately. We were able to take care of all the Auxiliary business and still have lots of fun. I am very excited about the coming year and working with the Marine Corps League.

Now that we have moved into our new year, I want to thank you again for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and thanks to all those who accepted a committee position. This organization is great, but like anything, it can always be better.

And the best place to start is with membership. The responsibility of membership retention and growth belongs to each of us. There are so many positive and encouraging things happening at the unit and department levels that we can share with potential members, in hopes that such activities will encourage them to join. And, of course, the purpose of working to keep and grow our membership numbers is to do more to help our Marines, their families and our communities. On our website, www.nationalmcla.org, you will find a brochure “What is the Marine Corps League Auxiliary” along with a blank application. This can be a helpful recruiting tool.

Please remember our servicemen and women daily and what they endure to keep our freedoms. We are so fortunate to have these dedicated individuals looking out for us. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to repay.

Thank you for all that you do every day and know that you are why this Auxiliary is so great!

Semper Fidelis,
Karen Aune
National President, MCLA
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE
NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCLA
KAREN AUNE

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
AUXILIARY
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554-7771
Phone: (571) 482-4139  |  Email: mclahq@aol.com

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Karen Aune
NATIONAL SR. VICE PRESIDENT
Carol Smith
NATIONAL JR. VICE PRESIDENT
Evelyn Joppa
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE
Colleen English
JR. PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Deborah Evans
DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS:
CENTRAL DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Judy Blackmer
MIDEAST DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Judy Horensky
MIDWEST DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Darlene Mac Cubbin
NEW ENGLAND DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Elaine Schieffer
NORTHEAST DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Linda Chamberlain
NORTHWEST DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Susan Douglas
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Debby Krueger
SOUTHEAST DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Joyce Brickett
SOUTHERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Viola Trevino
SOUTHWEST DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT

KEY STAFF PERSONNEL & PROGRAM DIRECTORS:
NATIONAL CHAPLAIN
Barb Nobile, PNP
VAVS REPRESENTATIVE
Nancy Calleja
NATIONAL REGENT
Dorcas Simpson
NATIONAL BIG FLEA
Rogene Hackbarth

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
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Semper Fidelis,
Karen Aune
National President, MCLA
Once a Marine, Always a Marine

National Sr. Vice Commandant

Wendell Webb

Marines:
The Spring Edition of Semper Fi will mark the 100th anniversary of the United States entering into World War I.

The U.S. President went before the congressional body asking for a declaration of war against Germany on April 2, 1917. On April 6, both houses concurred, and the U.S. began mobilization across the nation. Recruiting and training of Marines across the nation was in full swing. On November 11, 1918, at the eleventh hour, the fighting stopped, but the treaty was not completed until June 29, 1919. We, the Marine Corps League, became a product of this conflict. Our founder MajGen John A. Lejeune, the Marine Corps Commandant, founded the Marine Corps League in 1923. The Congressional Charter was approved by the 75th U.S. Congress and signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937. We claim the founding year 1923 as our official beginning thanks to the 13th Marine Corps Commandant John A. Lejeune.

National Jr. Vice Commandant

Dennis Tobin

Marines:
Mid-Winter is over, and we are only a few months away from our National Convention.

During the first week in July, I will be finalizing our membership numbers for the membership awards. I go by the final summary in our database. If you have any discrepancies between your membership numbers and National’s you, need to let me know well in advance. Once I have the awards made up it’s too late to come and tell me there’s a problem. As of February 2017, our membership is down over 11,000 from February 2016, and our unpaid numbers are up over 8,000. I hate to keep beating a dead horse, Marines, but recruiting and retention has to be more than just talk. Every department and detachment has to have a solid program in place to stay on top of both recruiting and retention.

It’s hard for me to put out one specific recruiting plan because every department and detachment area is different. As for retention, it comes down to putting in the time and effort. Once you have a system in place it becomes easier to stay on top of it. Put together a committee, divide up your delinquent list, and each member reaches out to the ones on their list via phone call, letter or email. If you get no response or a negative response send me their information, and I will have them removed from the National roster. Is it easy? No. Will it take some work? Yes, but it has to get done. In the past year and a half I’ve only had three to four detachments actually send me names of delinquent members they were unable to contact or members who refused to be members any more. All have been removed. Marines, I can only do so much—you, Marines, are responsible for your membership; I’m here to help in any way possible.

Back to recruiting—it’s also time for every detachment and department to start thinking about those members who have recruited five or more members between July 1 and June 30. The guidelines are in the By-Laws/Admin Code on page 17 of enclosure 4, and the form used for submittal is on page 19 of enclosure 4. Do not send me names on plain paper or by email; I will only accept the form in the by-laws. Print it out and make as many copies as you need, one form per member. Please type or print very clearly so I can read the members’ names.

Semper Fidelis,
Dennis Tobin
National Jr. Vice Commandant
Once a marine, always a marine

Dennis Tobin
National Jr. Vice
Marines:
National Sr. Vice
Commandant

awards made up it’s too late to come and tell
to let me know well in advance. Once I have the
membership numbers and National’s you, need
If you have any discrepancies between your
awards. I go by the final summary in our database.
our membership numbers for the membership
During the first week in July, I will be finalizing

The mission of the “U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots
Program” is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October,
November and December each year and distribute those toys as
Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in
which the campaign is conducted.

The principal Toys for Tots activity which takes place each year is
the collection and distribution of toys in the communities in which
a Marine Corps Reserve Unit is located. In communities without a
Reserve Unit, the campaign can be conducted by a Marine Corps
League detachment or group of men and women, generally veteran
Marines, authorized by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to
conduct a local Toys for Tots campaign. The local Toys for Tots
Campaign Coordinators are responsible for all Toys for Tots
activities in their service area to include all donations.

With this being said, the most important aspect of the above
information is the fact that all “Marine Toys for Tots Programs” must
have an area “Coordinator.” This Coordinator is responsible to the Toys
for Tots Foundation. If a local Marine Corps League detachment does
not have a “Coordinator” or is not working under the supervision of
an area Coordinator, that Marine Corps League detachment CANNOT
advertise or collect toys under the Toys for Tots name.

Marines, I cannot over stress the importance that ALL Marine
Corps League detachments only use the “Toys for Tots” name if,
and only IF, they have a trained Coordinator or are working under
the direct supervision of a Marine Corps Reserve Center or an area
Coordinator. Failure to comply with this guidance could result in the
detachment and/or detachment members being held responsible
by the Toys for Tots Foundation as well as by the Marine Corps
League. Illegally using the “Toys for Tots” name could jeopardize the
“Charter” for that detachment that conducted an illegally or
unsanctioned “Toys for Tots” program. If you need assistance, feel
free to contact Major Brian Murray at the Marine Corps Reserve
Toys for Tots Foundation or me for guidance and assistance to
properly conduct the Toys for Tots program.

Marines, we were trained in boot camp or OCS to have the moral
ethics to always do what is right. The Marine Corps has given
the Foundation the responsibility for overseeing independent,
local community organizations, but this program belongs to the
Marine Corps. The Foundation is the organization supporting this
Marine Corps program (carrying out activities that government
agencies are not allowed to do: signing contracts with corporate
sponsors; accepting monetary donations; affording donors the
opportunity to take charitable deductions by contributing to an
IRS-recognized, not-for-profit, public charity and so on), so we
want all to conduct their local campaigns in accordance with
published Marine Corps Orders AND the Foundation SOP. Do
what is right and ensure that you are conducting your Toys for
Tots programs legally. If in doubt, ASK!

Semper Fidelis,
Johnny Baker
National Judge Advocate
PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION INC.

GREGORY HUNT

M A R I N E S:

We’ve survived the snow, ice and winter temperatures. Now as we spring forward, let us remember those within our communities that are members of the Marine Corps League or are eligible to become members who are in need.

The MCL Foundation has stepped up and assisted several Marines and their families in the past few months—thanks to all the detachments and departments that have helped alleviate the fears and troubled times for those who have reached out for help. The Marine Corps League Foundation has many missions, and as the 501(c)(3) subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League, the Foundation is a daily task-oriented unit assisting those Marines and their families in need with Humanitarian and Disaster relief, scholarships, providing financial support for the Youth Physical Fitness program, providing financial support for a cadet at the Marine Military Academy and providing assistance to the Mothers of Marines through the Corrigan Fund.

We continue to appreciate and are thankful for the donations and gifts from across the country from not only the MCL membership, but our brothers and sisters of the American Legion and VFW. Even though we’ve received a plethora of donations recently, the MCL Foundation mission is never done; we still need your support to continue our mission.

Scholarship checks were sent to 133 approved applicants in the amount of $500 each for a total of $66,500. This amount may seem small, but for a college student any amount helps. I just want to remind our members and their families, the Foundation has nothing to do with the application process—the Foundation only funds the approved applicants. I continue to receive so many calls asking about the scholarships and have to redirect them to the Scholarship Committee. So, please pass the word if they are seeking information regarding the process to contact Chairman Dave Hatfield of the Scholarship Committee.

It’s important to make contact with the Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains and their families who are struggling to make ends meet and offer assistance or guidance. Let’s be proactive and not reactive. Often times when the Foundation is contacted for assistance it’s within days of them being evicted, vehicles being repossessed or utilities being turned off. If we are proactive and stay in contact with our Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains in the community, we can fend off such actions and take care of our brothers and sisters. After all, we are Marines Helping Marines.

If the detachment, department or division is contacted to help verify true need pertaining to requests for assistance, it’s imperative to reach out as soon as possible. We want to take care of those who can in a timely manner to prevent further late fees, reconnect fees and penalties. I’ve received sincere thanks from those we’ve been able to assist, and it makes this old Marine proud to know we are still living the true Marine spirit of not leaving anyone behind. Remember any assistance from the MCL Foundation is a “One Time, Lifetime” grant. For those of you who have assisted the Foundation in verifying information and helping our Marines before it gets to the Foundation, we thank you.

The Memorial Certificate program is alive and doing well. I’m glad to see so many donations come in requesting a certificate to be sent to a family member to say “thanks for your loved one’s unselfish dedication to our beloved Marine Corps,” but it also saddens me to know so many of our brothers and sisters have received final PCS orders to the Supreme Commandant’s residence to stand guard. If you would like to purchase blank certificates to have on hand for immediate personal delivery to the family, contact me, and I will be more than happy to get them to you. For the low price of $25 per certificate, you would be amazed how much it means to the families to receive the certificate and know their loved one is not forgotten. We applaud those of you who either have a good certificate program in place or have reached out to the Foundation with purchases of the certificates.

Since becoming the President of the MCL Foundation, I’ve discovered how many red hats have no idea who the MCL Foundation is or what we do. It’s imperative that at division, department and detachment meetings you mention and educate the membership on the MCL Foundation and what we do on their behalf and with their donations.

For those of you who have sent in donations and requests for Memorial Certificates, and there has been a delay in receiving the certificates or acknowledgement of the donations, I apologize. With the move of the National Headquarters and our address changing, there was a delay in mail being forwarded then sent to me. We have worked out a detailed plan, and all Foundation mail arriving at National Headquarters is being mailed to me weekly. Remember, the easiest and quickest way to have and present a Memorial Certificate is for your detachment or department to purchase the blank certificates; all you have to do is fill in the name. This way you will be able to immediately present the certificate to loved ones.

Once again the MCL Foundation is listed among the best military, family and veteran’s service charities in the Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC number is 10145, so make sure your friends and families who participate in the CFC campaign know to donate to the Foundation.

The Foundation Board members continue to work for you, so please remember to thank them for their dedication and to donate generously to the Humanitarian & Disaster Relief Fund, Scholarship Fund, the Corrigan Fund (for Mothers of Marines) and to the Youth Funds so that we can continue our valuable and needed mission on your behalf.

Semper Fidelis,
Gregory Hunt
President, MCL Foundation Inc.
REUNION ATTENDANCE
Important in Helping Prevent Suicides

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller has emphasized that reunions are an important tool in curbing suicides, and now the Corps has launched a website to help currently serving Marines and veterans keep connected. The “Year of the Reunion” website is meant to help Marines organize reunions and announce upcoming events, Neller said in a recent message to the Corps. “We learn, share, mourn, celebrate and protect each other by coming together and telling stories,” Neller said in ALMAR 006/17. “Reunions, and the connections strengthened by them, offer an environment in which we are reminded of who we are.” The website is meant to provide a template to help arrange the logistics and planning for reunions, Neller wrote in the message. He also encouraged Marines and veterans to post photographs, anecdotes and after-action reports from their reunions on the website. “I ask all Marines to get connected,” Neller said in the message. “Find your fellow Marines, Reach out, catch up, and when needed, help others. One way to enhance our bonds is through hosting or participating in reunions. While hosting a reunion may be a complicated undertaking, I know Marines are up to that task.”

The “Year of the Reunion” website is: www.usmc-mccs.org/reunion. On this website you’ll find a link to submit reunion info, helpful guides on planning successful reunions and much more!

For Marine Corps League reunion announcements, turn to page 45.

If you would like to submit a reunion announcement to be published in Semper Fi, please email the information to semperfri@chipotlepublishing.com with the subject REUNION. SIF
DIVISION REPORTS

CENTRAL DIVISION

It is finally spring; I hope you had a safe winter. By now, all elections at detachments and departments should be finished.

Do not forget to send in the Report of Officer Installation to your department and to National Headquarters—this must be in by June 30. If not reported, the detachment or department loses voting rights at the department and National conventions. Congratulations to the newly elected officers.

Officers and every member in the League must be acquainted with the by-laws of the detachment, department and National. Everyone should read about the "Professional Development Program." This is a fantastic training program for all members.

I noticed we have a problem getting information to the detachments from the departments. I know your Division Vices are passing this to the department officers. However, is the information passed to the membership? During a recent visit to a detachment, we discussed the new dues system. This was the first time they heard of it. This was 6 months after the roll out—information must be given to the membership. We are keeping the League a well-kept secret even from our own membership. How will information get to nonmembers to let them know about the Marine Corps League? Communication at all levels from National, departments and detachments is the key to moving our League forward. Have a safe summer. See you at the convention.

Semper Fidelis,
Ray Dailey
NVC, Central Division

MIDEAST DIVISION

As you read this article many of us will be reflecting on the recent Mid-Winter National Staff Conference.

We talked to some national officers and exchanged ideas on recruiting and retaining members, received comments about the new National Headquarters and an update on several issues concerning the League and administrative functions at our National office. Attending conferences or conventions is almost like homecoming or being at a reunion—reconnection with Marines makes it rewarding. These are great opportunities to learn more about the League as well.

Most of our detachments and departments in the division will be nominating and electing new officers. This is a great time for Board members to plan out an agenda for the pending year. Please read over your respective Detachment, Department and National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures to be more informed. Detachments and departments need to reinforce their professional development and leadership training to prepare prospective officers for leadership roles.

Take time to fully grasp your role so you can perform all your duties, including fundraising events, recruiting and retaining members. The Board of Trustees wants to ensure that all events are approved by the membership so they’re covered under the corporation and the insurance umbrella provided by the League. The Board members must ensure that proper administrative, clerical and financial functions are being performed as necessary by all elected and appointed officers. A tickler file should be set up to monitor all required reports with a due date. The Board of Trustees’s responsibilities are not only limited to these duties but all others that arise. They must be proactive to ensure their detachment officers complete all required administrative and financial duties.

The 2017 Marine South Expo will be April 12-13, 2017, at Camp Lejeune, NC, and National Sgt-at-Arms Neil Corley needs help at our recruiting and MCL booths.

The 2017 Mideast Division Conference will be June 23-25, 2017, hosted by the Department of North Carolina at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel Raleigh-Durham Airport in Durham. Are you getting ready for the 2017 National Convention? Here’s the link through the National Headquarters site: mcnational.org, click on Programs and then National Convention. The primary hotel is filled; there’s an overflow, so call to get a room close to the site.

Marines, spread the word that the VA has approved some presumptive conditions for the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. See more information in the National Legislative Report on page 60. We have Marines deployed around the world. Let’s keep them in our prayers that they complete their missions and come home safely.

Semper Fidelis,
Mike McLain
NVC, Mideast Division
M I D W E S T  D I V I S I O N

In reviewing the Midwest Division (MWD) rosters over a 10-year period (2006-2016), I found some discouraging things. The MWD has decreased by over 2,300 members. The number of overdue members increased from 265 in 2006 to 617 in 2016. Why is this?

Prospective members often want to know what “bennies” they will get by joining the League. The departments and detachments within the division are doing their part to retain and recruit new members, but it is becoming difficult to recruit new members as fast as our brothers and sisters are going to guard the pearly gates.

Dakota Leathernecks, specifically Commandant Ray Morrell, and other detachment officers are working hard to increase membership in North Dakota. The John M. Joyce Detachment, Minot, ND, has recently chartered, and shortly a new detachment will form in Fargo, ND. To date, Fire Team are forming in Dickinson, ND.

Jr. Past MWD NVC David Hunter and I were present at the Dakota Leathernecks Year-End awards/reception banquet on February 9, 2017, for a review of the past year’s successes. During the banquet, awards were given out to detachment members for Distinguished Service, Detachment Marine of the Year, Life Membership, League Membership awards and the swearing in of new members. Certificates were also presented to local businesses for donations of money, equipment and material in support of the Marine House. The Department of Nebraska is currently working on two additional detachments as well.

The MWD Fall Conference will be held April 21-23, hosted by the Homestead Leathernecks Detachment at the Holiday Inn Express, in Beatrice, NE. The 2017 National Convention will be held at the Overland Park Convention Center in Kansas, August 19-18, 2017.

Semper Fidelis,
Harvey L. Harris
NVC, Midwest Division

N E W  E N G L A N D  D I V I S I O N

The comradeship and support that we as a League provide is now going to be enjoyed by more of our brothers and sisters. Congratulations Vermont and thank you Jim and Fred.

The Marine West Expo was interesting. At the final dinner, a few hundred Marines stood up to sing “Happy Birthday” to our National Commandant Richard Gore, who was a little taken aback. Visiting the Southwest Division was enjoyable. Their efforts all seem to be running smoothly. They deserve the best.

I anticipate that our budget review during the Mid-Winter Conference will have been fruitful. Thank you to all involved with this effort. We will not be too far from our new headquarters in Stafford, VA.

Our Quad State Conference will be held April 21-23, in Coventry, RI; the Department of Connecticut Convention is June 2-3; and the Department of Massachusetts Convention is June 9-10. Sal Sena of Connecticut has been working overtime trying to keep that state’s honor guard funding in place in the State budget.

In New Hampshire, Cherie Monnell has been doing a great job leading the Granite State and making sure Frank Diekmann stays on the road to recovery. Good leadership is the key to any organization, and both of these Marines have provided needed direction for New Hampshire.

Massachusetts has many activities. League member Andy Biggio will be hosting the “They Fought We Ride” motorcycle run on May 21. This national bike run raises funds for those who have suffered traumatic injuries in the War on Terror. Thousands of bikers join in this event, and the difference it makes in the lives of these veterans is life changing. Iwo Jima Day at the State House in Boston was well received, paying tribute to six of our Iwo Jima Veterans. It is upon the shoulders of these Marines that the rest of us stand tall. Thank you to John MacGillivray for again serving as the chairman of this event.

I hope to see more of you at or before the National Convention in August. I will be running for the position of National Judge Advocate 2017 and am asking for your vote; any and all support is deeply appreciated.

Semper Fidelis,
Warren “Griff” Griffin
NVC, New England Division

M A R I N E S :

By the time you read this Semper Fi article, Mid-Winter Conference will be completed, and we will be getting ready for our department conventions.

Welcome aboard to our new detachment, the Strong-Muller Detachment of St. Johnsbury, VT. League members Fred Gorman and Jim Chase have worked tirelessly to make this detachment a reality.

Iwo Jima Veterans. It is upon the shoulders of these veterans that the rest of us stand tall. Thank you to John MacGillivray for again serving as the chairman of this event.
MARINES:
The wild winter is behind us, and the activities of spring have started. Division conferences are well under way, and department conventions are gearing up.

This is a critical time of year for the membership; we elect the department and division leadership that will lead and guide us for the coming year. We earned our Eagle, Globe and Anchors; they were not given to us. We should not give our leaders a job; we should not expect those around you to do your job but be willing to ask for help to get over a difficult task of situation. Don’t take the office just to wear the cover or to ensure there is a full slate of officers. This does not help the League or yourself grow; it may have an adverse effect for all. Being an officer or a member of the staff is not always easy; earning the right to wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor definitely was not, but you did it. Enjoy what you do in the League, and everyone, the organization and the membership, will be better for it.

TEAM—Together Everyone Achieves More—these are not just words to make things sound good; they are the means to achieving solid results.

Please keep all members of our Armed Services, those serving in harm’s way or in support roles in your prayers as they protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

Semper Fidelis,
PDC (PCCD) Leanna L. Dietrich
NVC, Northeast Division

MARINES:
Ooh Rah Marines! What a pleasure it was to attend Marine West at Camp Pendleton, CA.

The weather was good, and the expo was even better. It is always such a great experience meeting the DOD contractors and learning about what is out there for the Marine Corps. I had the great pleasure in meeting and talking with the 17th SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Barrett and Warrior Marine SgtMaj Kasal (see photo, page 51). Both exemplify our Marine Corps and Marine Corps Values. I also had the pleasure talking with many other Marines about our Marine Corps League and what our mission is. I can tell you that engaging with these Marines has not changed over the years, and the thought of old Corps vs. new Corps was nowhere to be found.

I also attended the Department of Oregon’s Mid-Winter Conference and what a great bunch of Marines! If you ever get a chance to attend an Oregon function, do so, you won’t be disappointed.

By the time you read this, the Mid-Winter Conference will be over, and spring will be in the air. I would like to take just a moment to thank our Commandant and Executive Director for leading us to a stronger and more prosperous League. I salute both of you and your dedication.

It will also be department convention time, and I will attend all of my divisions’ conventions. Idaho will be May 4-7; Montana will be May 19-21; Washington will be June 8-11; and Oregon will be June 15-18. Please help support our division. All of the registrations are on the NWDIV website at mclnwdivision.org.

Semper Fidelis,
T.J. Morgan
NVC, Northwest Division
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

I hope many of you could make the Mid-Winter Convention. There were a lot of things that we accomplished out there this year. As we move into springtime and time for department conventions, I hope many of you will be able to attend not only your own department convention, but possibly another department’s convention as well.

Here’s a list of the department conventions that are in the Rocky Mountain Division: The Department of Colorado Convention will be held on May 4th through the 6th and will be held in Colorado Springs. The Department of Wyoming Convention will be held in Gillette, on May 19 and 20. The Department of Utah Convention will be held on June 9 and 10. And lastly, the Department of New Mexico and the Rocky Mountain Division’s Joint Convention will be held in Roswell, New Mexico on the 16th and 17th of June. I truly hope many of you will be able to make this convention. This year the Rocky Mountain Division will be voting in a new National Vice Commandant Rocky Mountain Division and an Assistant National Vice Commandant Rocky Mountain Division as well. I’m in hopes that there are several candidates wanting to advance to these positions and represent our division at the National Level. I would also like to remind you all to ensure that your 990s and your EINs are updated and complete. I want to thank you all for working so hard on retention and recruitment. Keep up the good work.

Semper Fidelis,
Charles D. Davies
NVC, Rocky Mountain Division

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

MARINES:
The Southeast Division is struggling to get the late members’ dues up-to-date, and everyone in the departments are trying very hard to get this accomplished.

I just requested a starter kit for Alabama and was happy to do so. With all the tornadoes and flooding we have had, it is very difficult to get some of the tasks finished. I must say that whenever we have a weather situation, all the departments roll up their sleeves and help wherever they can. It still comes down to the fact that we have anywhere from 15% to 18% of late dues. We lost a charter in Louisiana but were able to transfer most of the members to another detachment.

While I am mulling this over in my mind, this will be my last Mid-Winter report due to the fact that I will be stepping down after the National Convention in August. I would like to thank all the department Commandants, members and everyone for their support during my tenure. It has been a great experience, but due to some health issues I don’t feel I would be able to give 100% for the upcoming two years. I am confident that the organization will continue growing and prospering, and I am grateful that I was a small part of it. Again, my heartfelt thanks to all of you.

I am looking forward to our new Mid-Winter meeting hotel in Fredericksburg and getting the work of the League accomplished. I have had a few complaints on the time it takes the store to get the merchandise to members, but other than that it seems that the National Headquarters is coming along nicely in its new location. I am anxious to see how many new members we get from Quantico when the Marines find out we are there. I am confident that any problems that they have at Headquarters, they will get solved in a short period of time.

In closing, I would ask everyone to always keep our Marines who are in harm’s way in all your thoughts and prayers. Until next time, “I’LL C U ON THE BEACH!!!”

Semper Fidelis,
James L. Hackbarth
NVC, Southeast Division
It’s a new year, and I have finished reporting to the Southern Division membership on how well we accomplished our 2016 goals.

business as expected they will see little change because they are running their detachments according to the Marine Corps League by-laws and their local state laws.

I want to congratulate the following detachments for their work in meeting the Southern Division’s goals and being named “Detachment of the Year 2016” in their membership category:

- Under 50 Members—North Texas Detachment #862 with an average of 1% unpaid membership
- 51 to 90 Members—Captain John Yancey #631 with an average of 8% unpaid membership
- Over 91 Members—Jacksonville Detachment #1381 with an average of 5% unpaid membership.

By the time you read this article we will be completing the Southern Division conference in Tyler, TX, known as the “Rose Capital of the World,” and I want to thank the members of the Rose City Detachment #1354 for the excellent job they did in hosting the conference. In 2018 it will be hosted in Arkansas, which means we will also have an excellent conference.

Our new Southern Division website went online in late February. I want to thank my Assistant NVC Johnny Gothard for heading up this assignment and our Web Sgt. Nick Weidenkopf for the fine job he has done on the website. Please visit the site at http://www.southernmcl.org.

We in the Southern Division will have the opportunity to attend the Marine Corps League National Convention in Overland Park, KS, and I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you there that week. This will be an excellent opportunity for a lot of our membership to again attend a national convention and be part of the decision-making process of the Marine Corps League.

Semper Fidelis,
Randall Rigg
NVC, Southern Division

In opening, I wish to thank all the Marines, dependents and friends who attended the Marine West Expo on February 1 and 2, 2017, at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA, and the Southwest Division Conference that was held on February 2, 2017, in Oceanside, CA. They were a great Expo and Conference.

by hosting three Division Vice Commandants who are each seeking a term as the National Judge Advocate, Marine Corps League.

I am getting ready to attend the Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA. I will depart Nevada on February 28 and return March 6, 2017. I will then be going to the Department of California Spring Conference on March 16-18, 2017, in Clovis, CA, and then on to the Department of Arizona Spring Conference on March 23-25, 2017, in Sierra Vista, AZ. I am very confident that both of these conferences will be a great success.

Then on May 17-18, 2017, I will be attending the Department of Nevada Convention in Carson City. This convention will start the convention season for the rest of the Marine Corps League.

I am looking forward to seeing all my old Marine friends and also for the chance to meet some new friends. I hope all League members are in good health and enjoy our meetings and conferences.

Semper Fidelis,
Richard F. Hoery
NVC, Southwest Division
1. **WWI HELMET**

World War I helmet that belonged to Private Abian A. “Wally” Wallgren (1891-1948) of the U.S. Marine Corps, 2nd Division, 5th Marine Machine Gun Company. Insignia of that unit is a purple square denoting the 5th Marine Machine Gun Company with the 2nd Division Indian head in white star, hand-painted to the front of the helmet with an applied period USMC EGA collar device affixed above. Also hand-painted all around the helmet is a belt of machine gun bullets and the name of the artist and owner: “Wally.” Behind the helmet is a booklet of hundreds of humorous cartoon drawings featuring events during World War I by famous U.S. Marine Corps private Abian A. Wallgren, known as Wally. He was the staff cartoonist for Stars and Stripes, the official newspaper of the A.E.F. This collection of his favorites was published after the war by Stars and Stripes in 1919 and sold for 5 francs. The profits from the original sale of this book went to aid the Stars and Stripes French War Orphans Fund. Enlisting in the Marines in 1917, Wallgren was among the first to see service in France as a buck private and regimental sign painter, a post which Army logic assigned him on his “professional” record. For nine months he painted “Latrine” and “Officers Only” signs up and down France. His great opportunity came when the Stars and Stripes was started as the official newspaper of the A.E.F. in 1918, and Wally was placed on the staff as cartoonist and drew cartoons for this doughboy newspaper throughout the war until the final issue in June 1919.

2. **PORTRAIT MONTAGE**

3. **SHOULDER PATCHES**

A trio of shoulder patches for the U.S. 5th Marine Brigade attached to the 2nd Infantry Division during World War I. (Left) 13th Marine Regiment Machine Gun Company denoted by a red diamond background with black eagle, globe and anchor with a purple “V” (Roman numeral for number 5) in the center. (Middle) U.S. 5th Marine Brigade Machine Gun Battalion Headquarters denoted by a red circle with black eagle, globe and anchor with purple “V” to center. (Right) U.S. 5th Marine Brigade, 11th Marine Regiment, Machine Gun Company denoted by a red square with black eagle, globe and anchor with purple “V” to center. Most believe that the 5th and 6th Marine regiments were the only Marine units in France during World War I. Less well known but also serving in France was the 5th Marine Brigade consisting of a brigade headquarters and the 11th and 13th Marine regiments that supplied replacements to the 5th and 6th Marine regiments. The 11th and 13th Marine regiments also acted in a police duty roll.

4. **COLLIER’S MAGAZINE**

Front cover of Collier’s magazine from May 4, 1918, with artwork by famed illustrator Herbert Paus (1860-1944) depicting U.S. Marines attached to the 2nd Division in France firing their Hotchkiss Model 1914 machine gun in anti-aircraft operations mounted on an Omnibus Model 1915 mount.

5. **U.S. MARINES**

Group photograph of 11 U.S. Marines of a Lewis gun section training with the Lewis guns circa 1917. When the Marines went to France their Lewis guns were taken away from them, and they were issued the French M1915 Chauchat light machine gun.

6. **PEWTER SCULPTURE**

Pewter desk sculpture. The title plaque reads, “U.S. Marine Corps Wake Island 1941.” Depicting the heroic stand by the Marine defenders of Wake Island, it has the image of a Marine running by a palm tree stump with an M1928 Thompson submachine gun. Made in 1991 for the 50th anniversary of World War II by Chilton Pewter and signed by the artist (David) La Rocca, it is number 116 of a limited edition of 1,941. Mounted on a wood base measuring 6 1/4 x 5 1/4 inches, it stands 5 inches tall.
The first-ever “Backbone of the Corps” Statue

Marine NCO’s are legends... they are the bravest and best and have led by example for more than 200 years. Now, The Bradford Exchange is thrilled to present “Backbone of the Corps,” a hand-cast and hand-painted sculpture of impressive size and stature that puts the spotlight on the special contributions of NCOs.

This statue is individually crafted to realistically capture the look of a modern Marine NCO saluting with his M1859 NCO sword on a ceremonial occasion. Officially licensed, “Backbone of the Corps” authentically recreates the dress uniform of these revered Marines including a real metal sword.

Exceptional value; satisfaction guaranteed

“Backbone of the Corps” comes with a 365-day money-back guarantee and is issued in a limited edition of 5,000. Act now to obtain it in four installments of $24.98, for a total of $99.95*. Send no money now. Just return the Reservation Application today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/usmcstatue
JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

JAMES “JIM” LASKEY

MA R I N E S:

A NEW BEGINNING. As we approach another National convention, you as members will choose those officers to lead us onto the next plateau of our development. So please take into consideration what has transpired over the last three years.

This year’s selection of the right candidates is therefore very important to our growth as the Marine Corps premier veterans’ organization. I ask you to take into consideration the backgrounds of each of our candidates seeking office or reelection. Please choose wisely and continue to be an active part of this organization. You as members expect and deserve your elected members to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. As always there will be tough decisions ahead, some requiring recommendations from outside of the Board of Trustees.

The correct course of action will always be successful when the board has options to choose from. Common sense and knowledge always have been a winning recipe when confronted with diverse and acute problems. Remember it will be your choice of leaders that will take us to new heights or place us into a downward spiral of turmoil and finally extinction. Presently it has taken a lot of help and foresight from a lot of members in order to stabilize the League’s mission and financial situation. Again my thanks to the National Commandant Richard Gore, the nationally elected Board of Trustees, the National Executive Director Tom Hazlett and all our employees. All have sacrificed so much to ensure our Marine Corps League will be around for years to come.

As your Marine Corps League liaison to the Young Marines youth organization, I am asking all divisions, departments and detachments to set up liaisons with the Young Marine divisions and units throughout the country. It is incumbent upon us as Marine Corps Leaguers to reach out and support this vital program. A program like this could be a great benefit to both organizations through mutual assistance. Think for a moment about those transitioning Marines resettling into the communities. Many will be married and have children who could benefit from a program like this. It is also an opportunity for them to become a Marine Corps League member and network with other Marines about available benefits and programs while at the same time bringing them closer to their family. The youth of America is our most cherished possession. The Young Marine National staff and its Board of Directors are constantly updating and improving this great program. The adult leaders should be especially commended for the amount of time and energy that they spend mentoring and educating our children. Many of these children come from single-parent homes and the positive influence from your adult leaders has become an integral part of their life. I cannot emphasize how critical the role of an adult leader is to this program.

How many times have we heard “my child just fell in with the wrong crowd” when children get into trouble? As we all know, parenting is also a full-time job. I understand that many family priorities must focus on making an income to support the family, but in this fast-paced world, keeping an open dialogue with children is a must. Studies have shown that parents should be encouraged to talk with their children about the dangers and myths of mind altering drugs, tobacco and alcohol. With all the news circulating on the legalization of recreational marijuana are we as a nation willing to support the use of this mind altering drug? In doing so, will we setting our children up to pay the price for this new legislation? I can’t help thinking of what has happened to this nation over the many past decades of trying to reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Have we forgotten the lessons learned concerning the development of adolescence minds and what that effect does it have on adolescent and teenage minds that have not fully matured? The use of marijuana has been around for a long time. The 1960s became a time when marijuana use was considered to be an act of social defiance and the risks were not considered to be health threatening. The marijuana of the 1960s is not the same as the marijuana currently being distributed throughout our country today. The increased use of newer highbred plants produces extremely high concentrations of the mind altering drug “THC.” In fact, the increases in “THC” potency may account for the rise in the emergency room visits involving marijuana use.

Additionally, many states are contemplating laws which will allow the recreational use of marijuana. Most often cited is the increase in revenues generated by the addition of new taxes, licensing fees and the expansion of a side industry that deals with drug implementation and paraphernalia. Proponents of this legislation have claimed that cited stricter laws and licensing will decrease the use of illicit drugs. All we have to do is look at how well stricter laws and licensing of alcohol, tobacco and drugs has gotten us in the past three decades. In legitimizing the use of recreational marijuana, we open the door for adolescent and teen abuse to increase. Once again the question becomes will our children and up paying the price. This is food for thought on a subject that will impact our country and programs.

Take care of each other.

Semper Fidelis,

Jim Laskey

Past National Commandant
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

to their family. The youth of America is our
while at the same time bringing them closer
opportunity for them to become a Marine
will be married and have children who could
Marines resettling into the communities. Many
Think for a moment about those transitioning
both organizations through mutual assistance.
incumbent upon us as Marine Corps Leaguers
divisions and units throughout the country. It is
to set up liaisons with the Young Marine
all divisions, departments and detachments
Young Marines youth organization, I am asking
As your Marine Corps League liaison to the
Corps League will be around for years to come.
have sacrificed so much to ensure our Marine
Director Tom Hazlett and all our employees. All
elected Board of Trustees, the National Executive
National Commandant Richard Gore, the nationally
to stabilize the League's mission
taken a lot of help and foresight from a lot of
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be tough decisions ahead, some requiring
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I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety (90) day and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Unit in excess of ninety (90) days and the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon, authorized for FFM Corpsman or have served or are currently serving as a U.S. Navy Chaplain and have earned the FFM Badge serving with Marines; If discharged, I am in receipt of DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". "Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received. General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

(*Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws, Article 6, Section 600)

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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

MARINEWEST 2017

Sunny California weather greeted the vendors and attendees of Marine West 2017 in Camp Pendleton, CA. Held on February 1-2, 2017, the Marine West exhibition showcased potential new products and technologies for the Marine Corps.

For more information on the Marine Military Expositions, visit www.marinemilitaryexpos.com.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next exhibition dates:

April 12-13, 2017
MARINE SOUTH, CAMP LEJEUNE

September 19-21, 2017
MODERN DAY MARINE, MCB QUANTICO

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- **April 12-13, 2017**  MARINE SOUTH, CAMP LEJEUNE
- **September 19-21, 2017**  MODERN DAY MARINE, MCB QUANTICO
Employees of CECOS Group demonstrate virtual reality applications in training. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Ryan Kierkegaard)
A proud tribute to America's bravest.

It's been said that a soldier doesn't fight because he hates what is in front of him; he fights because he loves what he left behind. Every year, more than 180,000 men and women enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces, selflessly answering the call of duty. The sacrifices they make to defend our country, our interests, and our allies are no small feat. For that, we humbly recognize, applaud and support their service.

Now, please join The Hamilton Collection in demonstrating our gratitude and appreciation for our service men and women with a patriotic tribute to the fearlessness of American soldiers.

Introducing “Providing Security”

This powerful figurine inspired by our country's frontline defenders is meticulously crafted and painted by hand with a “cold-cast” bronze finish. From the sleek rifle he boldly clutches to the expression of determination on his face ... from the bulging pockets of his combat fatigue loaded with essential gear to the rugged pieces of protective armor that provide him with an extra layer of defense from head to toe. Not a single detail is missed. Send no money now!

Reserve “Providing Security” today for yourself, or to salute a proud patriot in your life, for just four installments of $24.99.

Only your first installment will be billed prior to shipment. Satisfaction guaranteed — or your money back. Reply now!

LIMITED EDITION!
For Fastest Service, Order Online Now At HamiltonCollection.com/USASoldier

SEND NO MONEY NOW!

YES! Please accept my order for the “Providing Security” tribute to our armed services as explained in this announcement.

Name ________________________________

Address _____________________________________________

City ______ State ______ Zip ________________

Email (Optional) ___________________________

Signature ________________________________

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The Marine Corps Association & Foundation is the professional association of the United States Marine Corps, founded more than 100 years ago by General John A. Lejeune. The original mission of the Marine Corps Association was to “publish the history of the Marine Corps and disseminate information concerning the aims, purposes and deeds of the Corps, and the interchange of ideas for the betterment and improvement of its officers and men.” Today’s Marine Corps Association & Foundation continues to fulfill this critical mission in a variety of ways which support the needs of today’s Marines.

Like the Marine Corps League, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation is a member-based organization, and much like the League, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation is dedicated to preserving the history, traditions and esprit of the Corps. Other goals of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation are complementary to the League’s efforts including the professional development of Marines and the recognition of excellence in today’s Marines. We accomplish this in a variety of ways including providing two iconic publications, the Marine Corps Gazette and Leatherneck Magazine of the Marines and by hosting professional dinners and award ceremonies for Marines and friends of the Corps.

In addition, our supporting charitable arm, the Marine Corps Association Foundation, provides valuable resources to Marines through every step of their Marine Corps journey. Thanks to our generous donors, we provided almost $1 million in resources in 2016 alone to support leaders throughout the Corps. Our programs that encourage the professional development of Marines include:

- Commanders’ Forums—Providing professional speakers and tours of battlefields from Belleau Wood to Okinawa are just a few of the ways that the Marine Corps Association & Foundation supports leaders’ efforts to train and educate their Marines in preparation for the next fight.
- Excellence Awards—More than 9,000 Marines are recognized annually at the Corps’ schools and training detachments with awards provided by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. The most well-known of these awards is the Chesty Puller Award presented to the honor graduate at every recruit training graduation at both Parris Island and San Diego. In addition, awards are presented to Marines at our professional dinners in recognition of outstanding performance within select military occupational specialties including combat arms, logistics, intelligence and communications fields.
- Marine Writing Program—The same skills Marines display on the battlefield are recognized by our Marine Writing Awards Program. This program encourages open discussion on topics important to Marines and ensures today’s warriors will excel in tomorrow’s complex environment. In addition to providing academic writing awards at the Corps’ top schools, including our Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academies and Sergeants and Corporals Courses, we sponsor numerous essay contests on topics ranging from innovation to future conflicts. Contests specifically focused on the professional development of enlisted Marines include the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Writing Award and the Leatherneck Writing Contest.
- The Marine Corps Gazette and Leatherneck Magazine of the Marines are two of the most important membership benefits of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. As a forum for discussion and debate on the issues facing the Corps since 1916, the Gazette features articles written by active duty and reserve Marines, civilian subject matter experts and industry leaders. Marines of all ranks read the Gazette each month, and senior leaders have been known to contact Gazette authors to discuss their articles.
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Leatherneck Magazine of the Marines, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year, continues to provide articles of interest for all who love the Corps. Accounts of battles from throughout the Corps’ history, stories of veteran Marines who continue to serve the Nation and letters from our faithful readers are a few of the features in every issue. One of our most popular features, “Corps Connections,” regularly showcases the good work Marine Corps detachments do all over the country.

Marine Corps Association & Foundation members can access a treasure trove of articles on all things Marine Corps through our Archives where every article ever published in both Gazette and Leatherneck are stored—including articles written by LtCol John A. Lejeune in 1916 and then LtGen Robert B. Neller in 2011.

Much like the Marine Corps League, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation also has a retail component. The MARINE Shop, located in both Quantico, VA, and Camp Lejeune, NC, and our on-line store (www.marineshop.net) assist Marines with all their uniform requirements, provide books from the Commandant’s Reading List and offer many Marine Corps-themed gifts and apparel. And as most members of the Marine Corps League know, we offer Marine Corps League items including patches, evening dress and other items.

Few other organizations have the history and traditions of the Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps Association & Foundation! Although our missions may differ, we share the same goal of supporting Marines and our Corps and connecting with our fellow Leathernecks. We invite all members of the Marine Corps League to join the Marine Corps Association & Foundation (www.mca-marines.org) and help us strengthen the partnership between our two outstanding organizations!
The Marine Corps Association was established in 1913 when the Marine Corps’ population barely numbered 10,000 Marines. Since that time, both the Corps and its Association have grown together.

On April 25, 1913, the officers of the 2d Marine Brigade at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba formed the Marine Corps Association; Lieutenant Colonel John A. Lejeune chaired the first executive committee. The goal of the new association was the professional advancement of Marines and the preservation of the Corps’ history and traditions. Those simple but vital goals remain to this day.

The Marine Corps Association remained an integral part of the Corps for 60 years after its founding. Board meetings were held in the office of the Commandant of the Marine Corps who served as the senior member. In 1972, when the Department of Defense prohibited the assignment of active-duty personnel to military-related associations, the Marine Corps Association shifted from an organization staffed largely by active-duty Marines to a civilian work force, but the focus on supporting Marines continued.

Gen Louis H. Wilson, the 26th Commandant, was the Marine Corps Association’s last active-duty leader, and retired Marine Col Bevan G. Cass became the first executive director.

The Marine Corps Gazette, the professional journal of Marines, has been an integral part of the Marine Corps Association almost since its inception—Col Lejeune himself wrote the Gazette’s first article in 1916. The Gazette became a monthly publication in the mid-1940s, and Marines have continued to exchange ideas and participate in professional debates on the issues facing the Corps on the pages of the Gazette to this day.

The Marine Corps Association & Foundation’s other iconic magazine, Leatherneck, was created in 1917 when two Marines, with permission from Brigadier General Lejeune, the Quantico commander, began publishing a base newspaper. Incorporated as the Leatherneck Association in 1943, Leatherneck grew to a 64-page monthly publication with a peak circulation of 300,000 during World War II. The Leatherneck Association was incorporated in 1943, but by 1975, the loss of its active-duty staff necessitated significant changes. The Leatherneck Association merged with the Marine Corps Association in 1976, and today both magazines play a crucial role with the organization.

In 2007, the Marine Corps Association purchased The MARINE Shop, well-known for its high quality uniforms and equipment, and has continued to provide exemplary service and support to Marines throughout the world through both the on-line store and the stores at Quantico and Camp Lejeune. The Marine Corps Association’s retail operations are also an outstanding resource for veteran and retired Marines and friends and family of the Corps.

The Marine Corps Association established its supporting Foundation in 2009 to assist the Association’s continued efforts in advancing leadership and recognizing excellence in today’s Marines. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Foundation assists in leadership development and the recognition of professional excellence of Marines at all stages of their active careers. The Marine Corps Association & Foundation helps preserve our rich traditions and history by providing the resources leaders need to train and educate their Marines.

For over 100 years, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation has played a vital role as the professional association for all Marines. At this critical time in our Nation’s history as Marines fill positions of leadership in both our Corps and in the highest levels of government, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation will continue to support the professional development of today’s Marines secure in the knowledge that they too will become the leaders and warriors this country needs throughout the 21st century. Sf
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

REUNIONS

- HMH-772 Reunion (all detachments), May 20, 2017, at 1800 hours, American Legion, Willow Grove, PA. For reservations: Email CWO Don Geesaman at MarineGeesaman@gmail.com, phone 717-713-5685, or contact Gunny Pat Carroll at Patsinfo@comcast.net, phone 717-676-8617, for a reservation form.

- 1st Battalion 3rd Marines (ALL ERAs), August 1 to 6, 2017, Savannah, GA. Contact Don Bumgarner at 562-897-2437 or email: dbumc13usmc@verizon.net.

- The “G” 2-7 Viet Nam Veterans Reunion announces its planned reunion for 2017. The reunion will take place August 3 to 6 in Cape Girardeau, MO. The point of contact for this reunion is Jim Stroman. Contact Jim at (home) 573-545-3901 or (cell) 949-510-7888. You can find information on our website, golf2-7vva.com, or see “G” 2-7 Vietnam Veterans Reunion Association on our Facebook page.

- 5th Communications BN Reunion to be held in Piercy, CA, on August 16 to 18, 2017. Contact Brian “Sparky” Ferret at tacid5@gmail.com or call 707-497-9663 for details.

- The “Forgotten Heros” Eastern Recruiting Region, Recruiters Reunion 2017 will be held on August 17-19, 2017, at Parris Island, SC. Hotel accommodations will be at the Quality Inn, 2001 Boundary St., Beaufort, SC 29902. Contact hotel at 843-524-2144 and mention the Forgotten Heros Recruiter Reunion to get a special price of $69.99 per night. You may also contact Larry Risvold at 803-760-4575 or email him at larryrisvold@att.net.

- The VMFA 115 Reunion Association is holding its reunion on September 7 to 10, 2017, Norfolk, VA. Contact: Patti Kaas at 717-422-6796 or email: kaasfamily4@gmail.com.

- The Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 is holding a reunion for HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (ALL ERAs) commemorating the 60th anniversary of September 3, 1967, HMM-361 Dong Ha, Vietnam. September 7 to 10, 2017, Arlington, VA. Contact John Ruffini at 850-291-6438 or email: ruffini63@gmail.com.

- Delta Co, 1/7 Vietnam Marines (1965-1970) is having a reunion September 21 to 23, 2017, in Arlington, VA, at the Sheraton Pentagon City. For more information, see deltacompanyvietnammarines.com or contact 605-614-8499 or email: ztfii@hotmail.com.

- FLC FLSG A/B Command and all sub units are having a reunion on October 29 through November 1, 2017, at the Hotel Pacific, Monterey, CA. For a discounted rate call 1-800-654-6542. Contact: Frank Miller at familler56@yahoo.com or 775-751-8076 and Vern and Janet Snodderly at vasnodderly@comcast.net or 209-355-0966.

ATTENTION ON DECK

CEREMONIAL RIFLE PROGRAM

Any detachment in good standing can request ceremonial rifles and blank ammunition through the Marine Corps League’s National Headquarters, for use with color guards, parades, burial details, etc. The beginning steps are as follows:

**STEP 1:** Go to www.mclnational.org, scroll over DOCUMENTS and click on Ceremonial Rifles. Instructions are listed here with links to the three forms you will need in the next step. Information on requests for ammunition and clips are located here as well.

**STEP 2:** Send these 3 forms to U.S. Army TACOM to the address in the instructions: 1) Qualification Checklist for Ceremonial Rifles Veterans’ Organizations, 2) Certificate of Compliance with 10 USC § 4683, and 3) Certificate of Arms Storage.

**STEP 3:** A letter, requesting approval from National Headquarters, signed by the Detachment Commandant must be sent to MCL Headquarters, ATTN: Executive Director.

For more detailed information and for the next steps of the procedure, go to www.mclnational.org, scroll over DOCUMENTS and click on Ceremonial Rifles.

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Questions about new membership applications must first be directed to your department, then to your division. If your question is still unanswered, then move up the chain of command and send your questions to National.

EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY

BY DR. CHARLES NEIMEYER

**April 5, 2004**
Marines from 2d Battalion, 1st Marines and 1st Battalion, 5th Marines close access to the city of Fallujah as Operation Vigilant Resolve progresses (1st Battle of Fallujah).

**April 15, 1968**
The 77-day siege of Marine combat base at Khe Sanh ends as Operation Pegasus terminates.

**May 6-8, 1937**
Marines under the command of LtCol W. T. H. Galliford conducted rescue operations and riot control at Lakehurst, NJ, after the crash of the German airship Hindenburg.

**May 15, 1862**
Corporal John Mackie served aboard the USS Galena and engaged Confederate shore batteries at Drewry’s Bluff, Virginia. Mackie rallied the Marine Guard to continue serving a naval gun after its crew had been killed or severely wounded by an exploding enemy shell. For his actions he was awarded the Medal of Honor; the first for any U.S. Marine.

**June 6, 1918**
Marines of the 5th and 6th Regiments and 6th Machine Gun Battalion begin an offensive against the Germans at a place called Belleau Wood. After nearly a month of bitter fighting, the woods are declared, “U.S. Marine Corps, entirely.”

**June 15-July 9, 1944**
The U.S. 2nd Marine Division, 4th Marine Division and the U.S. Army’s 27th Division defeated the 43rd Infantry Division of the Imperial Japanese Army during the titanic struggle for the island of Saipan.
THE SEMPER FI STORE

(703) 207-9588
http://semperfistore.org

LOGO DECAL
WHITE, BLACK & RED

Item Code: a05
Price: $0.50
Description: Marine Corps League
Logo round 4-1/2-inch decal White, Black, and Red

CHALLENGE COIN
MCL

Item Code: cc07
Price: $7.00
Description: Challenge Coin MCL,
1-3/4" On one side enameled blue border
with "Once A Marine" on top and "Always
a Marine" on Bottom with the Iwo Jima in
the center in bronze with red enameled
background. On second side enameled
white border with "Marine Corps League"
on top “Semper Fidelis” on the bottom,
silver & gold in Eagle, Globe, & Anchor in
the center with darker background.

BUMPER STICKERS

Item Code: a02
Price: $0.50
Description: Bumper sticker, 11.5" x 3" white background with red and black
lettering "A BAND OF BROTHERS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE" and the MCL logo

GRILLE ORNAMENT
EAGLE, GLOBE & ANCHOR

Item Code: a12
Price: $18.00
Description: Grille Ornament, 4" 3-D
Eagle, Globe, & Anchor, gold, includes
Hardware to attach

SILICONE TECH POCKET
WITH MCL LOGO

Item Code: cell01
Price: $5.00
Description: Silicone Tech
Pocket Red with MCL Logo

NOTE CARDS
EMBOSSED GOLD EAGLE, GLOBE, & ANCHOR

Item Code: ST02
Price: $7.00
Description: Note Cards, large embossed gold Eagle, Globe, & Anchor on the front, blank inside. Each package contains 10 cards & 10 envelopes

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CARDS
EMBOSSED GOLD MCL LOGO

Item Code: ST21
Price: $7.00
Description: Cards, Get Well, 4-1/2 x 5-1/2" Gold embossed MCL logo on front. 10 cards/10 envelopes in shrink wrapped plastic

Item Code: ST22
Price: $7.00
Description: Sympathy, 4-1/2 X 5-1/2" Gold embossed MCL Logo on front 10 cards/10 envelopes in shrink wrapped plastic

Item Code: ST23
Price: $7.00
Description: Cards, blank inside, 4-1/2 X 5-1/2". Gold embossed Logo on front. 10 cards/10 envelopes in shrink wrapped plastic

MAGNET
EAGLE, GLOBE, & ANCHOR

Item Code: G94
Price: $1.50
Description: Magnet, Eagle, Globe, Anchor, USMC

SILICONE TECH POCKET
WITH MCL LOGO

Item Code: cell01
Price: $5.00
Description: Silicone Tech Pocket Red with MCL Logo
**NOTE CARDS**

**EMBOSSED GOLD EAGLE, GLOBE, & ANCHOR**

Item Code: ST02  
Price: $7.00  
Description: Note Cards, large embossed gold Eagle, Globe, & Anchor on the front, blank inside. Each package contains 10 cards & 10 envelopes

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CARDS**

**EMBOSSED GOLD MCL LOGO**

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Item Code: ST22  
Price: $7.00  
Description: Sympathy, 4-1/2 X 5-1/2” Gold embossed MCL Logo on front 10 cards/10 envelopes in shrink wrapped plastic

Item Code: ST23  
Price: $7.00  
Description: Cards, blank inside, 4-1/2 X 5-1/2". Gold embossed Logo on front. 10 cards/10 envelopes in shrink wrapped plastic

**AL GRAY, MARINE; THE EARLY YEARS, 1950 – 1967 Vol 1**

**BY SCOTT LAIDIG**

Item Code: B08  
Price: $49.95  
Description: Limited Supply of Books signed by General Gray, 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps

**BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY**

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN THIS TIME OF LOSS**

**PLASTIC TRAVEL MUG**

**WIDE BASE MUG**

Item Code: G148  
Price: $18.00  
Description: USMC Wide Base Mug

**MAGNET**

**EAGLE, GLOBE, & ANCHOR**

Item Code: G94  
Price: $1.50  
Description: Magnet, Eagle, Globe, Anchor, USMC

http://semperfistore.org
## THE SEMPER FI STORE

### ORDER FORM

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Ste 115 • Stafford, VA 22554 • (703) 207-9588

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**HANDLING & POSTAGE**

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**SUBTOTAL**

**6.0% VA SALES TAX**

**HANDLING & POSTAGE**

**TOTAL**

**CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED**

**WE GLADLY ACCEPT**

- [ ] VISA
- [ ] MASTERCARD
- [ ] DISCOVER
- [ ] AMERICAN EXPRESS

NAME

AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD #

CVV CARD SECURITY NUMBER

(LAST 3-4 NUMBERS ON THE BACK OF THE CREDIT CARD)

SIGNATURE

How to find your card security code. Please look in the signature strip on the back of your credit card. In the signature strip, there are several numbers, some of which may be part of your credit card number. The last 3-digit number (Visa or Mastercard) is your CVV card security number. For AMEX, your CVV code is on the front.
The Patriot Detachment Marine Corps League was pleased to present a Marine Corps League Distinguished Service Award to former Congressman Michael G. Fitzpatrick at its meeting of January 18, 2017. The award was presented by Detachment Commandant Dick Weaver along with other Officers. The award recognized the former Congressman for his devoted service and appreciation for all he had done on behalf of Veterans. As a recognized leader, he helped bring the National Veterans Cemetery to Bucks County, fought military tuition cuts, held the VA accountable and tirelessly helped Veterans in need.

Left to right: John Frain, Mike Lecker, Dick Weaver, former Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick, Pete Palestina, Neil Clark, Jimmy Clendennan and Gus Cales.

Top Photo: Detachment 1372 Officers shown with General Mattis. Left to right: Commandant Harion Enervold, General Mattis, Sr. Vice Art Chavez and Jr. Vice Al Love. General Mattis is going to make a great SecDef.

Bottom Photo: Fox Valley Marines Detachment 1233, Aurora, IL. Gold Star Member A. Delatorre and S. Rashkow are two of the many who turned out for Carson’s Community Days Events in the fall and in February.

Bear Canyon Young Marines hosted by Jerry Murphy Detachment 381 meet three WWII Navajo Code Talkers at the dedication of the Code Talkers Memorial in the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park in Albuquerque, NM.

Marines of Newark, Ohio Detachment 602 assisted at the Chillicothe, Ohio VA Hospital Christmas party last December. Left to right: Jim Martin, Joe Kinser, Commandant Mike Kirk, Dana (Bucky) Hopkins and Gary Evans. Also sharing their support were League members from the Belleau Wood, Circleville and Lancaster Detachments.

Members of the Landis-McCleaf Auxiliary Unit Chambersburg, PA, received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. There were various levels of the award given including the Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented to Pat Engel. These awards were presented by the Department of PA MCL District 6, Vice Commandant Bill Foster. Front row, left to right: Brenda Earnest (Gold), Tracey Killinger (Gold), Pat Gilbert (Gold), Janet Cramer (Bronze), Lises Schmaltz (Gold); Back row, left to right: Tina Webb (Bronze), Alice Wagner (Gold), Kathy Hoffman (Gold), Teena Engle (Gold), Bill Foster, Pat Engle (Life Time Achievement Award), Pat Bulger (Silver), Diana Talhelm (Silver). Not pictured—Karen Norcross (Gold), Tanya Brown (Silver), Sam Beepath (Bronze) and Sue Cummings (Bronze).

More than 14,000 toys were distributed to 2,014 children in 1,003 families during the 2016 Toys for Tots campaign sponsored by Leland D. “Crow” Crawford Detachment 956 of Elkins, WV. Members and volunteers participating in the detachment’s 14th Toys for Tots distribution. In front: Lynn Ware; Left to right: Roy Wood, Tyler Gum, Ryan Gum, Tawnya Gum, Scottie Gum, Judy Gum, Ron Bodkin, Tom Domingo, Roger Ware, Anita Tacy, Donna Marteney and Jack Marteney. Not pictured: Pete Tacy, Harvey Gum, Todd Hess, Dave Rice, Sherry Ware, Jessica Yokum, Larry Brown, Roger Allman and Judith Ware.
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On December 14, 2016, PLM Frank Partridge high-ticket seller and Mike Moore winner of the Smith and Wesson M&P .40 Pistol and Knife of the Marine Corps Birthday Raffle with William Heyob, Commandant of Treasure Valley Detachment 878, at the presentation of the prize. The pistol included custom grips with EGA logo, and the funds raised went to support the Fred V. Kee College Scholarships for Young Marines.

February 2, 2017, on the left is Northwest Division National Vice Commandant, T.J. Morgan, and the 17th SgtMaj. of the Marine Corps SgtMaj. Barrett. This was taken at Marine West at Camp Pendleton.
The Jacksonville, FL, Detachment 059 was very busy this year helping Bravo Co., 4th AAV Bn. with their 2016 Toys for Tots drive. Members of the detachment volunteered with over 150 hours collectively to assist with toy pick-ups, sorting and distributing toys at their local distribution center. In addition, the detachment dedicated a fundraiser collection at a local gun show and donated $1,000 for Toys for Tots. The following members, not all pictured, assisted with our efforts to support Bravo Co. with their 2016 Toys for Tots drive: Dwayne Enos, Jr. Past Commandant; Charlie Myers, SVC; Dayton Warfle, Adj/Paymaster; Randy Brynildsen; Ed Verrill; Jackie LeVan; Mike Brynildsen, PAO; and Tammy Brynildsen.

B Co., 4th AAVBN, Jacksonville, FL, transported toys to the distribution center from their warehouse on a LVS.

On October 30, 2016, MCL member Gary Rooney of the Franklin Township Devil Dogs of the South Jersey Detachment ran in the Marine Corps Marathon in a time of 5:01:41.

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Once a Marine, Always a Marine

Roll Call
Around the League

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Jacksonville, FL, Detachment 059 member at the Jacksonville Toys for Tots distribution center. Left to right: Dayton Warfle, Adj/Paymaster, Charlie Myers, SVC, Mike Brynildsen, PAO and Tammy Brynildsen.


B Co., 4th AAV BN, Jacksonville, FL, transported toys to the distribution center from their warehouse on a LVS.

Cpl. Philip A Reynolds Detachment 203, Freehold, NJ. Left to right: Marines Pat Lawlor, Bob Kubinak and Zach Delacruz, along with two members from the Colt’s Neck High School Navy ROTC program.


On October 30, 2016, MCL member Gary Rooney of the Franklin Township Devil Dogs of the South Jersey Detachment ran in the Marine Corps Marathon in a time of 5:01:41.
Once a Marine, Always a Marine

Detachment 002, based out of Post #41, Phoenix, AZ. Marine Associates holding banner. From left: Marcy Fuentes and Tisha Treveno. Followed by Color Guard Dress Blues: Richard Pompa. Commandant Michael Lemos is in the truck. Andrew Sisters are on the trailer dancing to Bugle Boy Company B and other historic music.

December 9, 2016, Marine Corp League based out of Post #41, Phoenix, AZ. Awards banquet at Pera Club Tempe, AZ. Ira Hayes Marine Corp League Detachment 002, awarded First Place Veterans Day Parade, November 11, 2016. Right side: Arizona Veterans President Aaron Dudney. Middle: Marine Associate: Mercy Fuentes. Left side: Color Guard Captain: David M. Yrigoyen.


Celebrating its 50-year anniversary, Ira Hayes Detachment 002 Marine Corp League, based out of Post #41, Phoenix, AZ. Joined with Ira Hayes is Old Breed Detachment from Glendale, AZ, and Commandant Rodriguez from Tucson.
Awarded First Place Color Guard, Marine Corp League Ira Hayes Detachment 002, based out of Post #41, Phoenix, AZ. Left Dress Blues: Richard Pompa. Left to right: Edward Saucedo, Oscar Santa Cruz, Frank Candeleria aka (Sgt) and Art Gonzales. Right in Dress Blues: Marine Sgt. David Yrigoyen and Color Guard Captain. Holding the banner are Marine Associates Mercy Fuentes and Tisha Trevino.

Shawn Knesley Detachment, Past Commandant Larry Ashton served with 2nd Recon Battalion in 1963. He rotated over to US Army Special Forces from where he retired. Pictured with him are Sgt. Major Leon Thornton (Ret) and Special Forces MSgt Newton. Both uniformed men represent the branches of the military in which Commandant Ashton served.

Best Overall Parade entry at the Thanksgiving Parade, Ira Hayes Detachment 002, Post #41, Phoenix, AZ. Commandant Michael Lemos holding Trophy. Left sitting: Veterans Hall of Fame Rita Perini. Far right, standing: Commander Post #41 Louie Garcia. Far left: Color Guard Captain David Yrigoyen.

Members of the Shawn Knesley Detachment #983, Fayetteville, NC, along with two members from the Raleigh Recruiting Command (RC), held a Toys for Tots drive at Nashville Star award winner, Chris Young’s concert at the Crown Coliseum. Left to right: SSgt Matthews (RC), SgtMajor Capper (ret), Cpl Timothy Quach, PFC Matthews (RC) and MSgt Thurman Smith Jr.(ret).
The seven adult children of the (Larry) Ashton family presented a marble paver for their Dad, who unfortunately was not able to travel to the National Marine Museum. The paver was installed at the base of the Iron Mike statute at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOM) in Fayetteville, NC. His condition is terminal, and the family wanted to honor him while he was able to enjoy. He tries to continue to be acting in veteran efforts.

On February 15, 2017, the detachment officers for the 2017 year were sworn in by Division 2 Assistant Vice Commandant Gene Irvin at the Patriot Detachment’s Installation Ceremony. Left to right: Mike Lecker (Adjutant), John Koutsorous (Junior Vice Commandant), Neil Clark (Senior Vice Commandant), Richard Weaver (Commandant), Pete Palestina (Paymaster), John Frain (Chaplain), Gus Cales (Sergeant at Arms) and Gene Irvin (Div. 2 Assistant Vice Commandant) administering the oath of office. The detachment meets the third Wednesday of each month, 7:30pm at the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad building located 140 Township Rd, Richboro. All Marine Corps veterans and active Marines are invited to join the detachment.

Marines from Central Wisconsin Marine Corps League Detachment 350 met with Nick Peskie, representing the Wisconsin Veterans Home-King, to donate $2500 worth of clothes, toiletries, slippers and other needed items for our Veterans. The funds were raised through generous donations and our Marine Corps League Rose Fund. Left to right: Jerry Wojcik, Dan Johnson, Nick Peskie and Rollie Johnson.

On January 16, 2017, the MGySgt John W. Zaengle Detachment Installation held its 2017 Installation of Officers. The installation ceremony was presided over by the National Northeast Division Aide-de-Camp Bill Miller and Department of PA District “2” Vice Commandant Joe Kier, with Detachment Member John Nalence serving as Chaplain for the Ceremony. From left to right, in front of the table: Service Officer Liz McCleaster, Sr. Vice Bob Cannon, Trustee Tom Brady, Trustee Charlie Green, Adjutant/Paymaster Tim Illingworth, Commandant Phil Amann, Jr. Vice Pat Geiser, Jr. Past Angelo Mercado, Trustee Matt Thomas, Judge Advocate Steve Irwin and Sgt-at-Arms Wayne Atherholt. Chaplain Reuben Abraham was not present due to visit to the Holy Land.
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On February 18, 2017, Tuffy Ruth, under a Marine Corps poncho, in a down pour fills his friend’s last request to be taken to the cemetery in his restored Marine Corps jeep.

The Northeastern Detachment 304, Scranton, PA, recently awarded a 25-year membership plaque to member Elmer Pencek, a resident at Gino Merli Veterans Center. Front, left to right: Commandant Joel Sofranko, Elmer Pencek and John Brogna. Second row, left to right: member Gerard Taylor, Chaplain Tom Rummerfield, Jr. Vice William Coolbaugh, Sr. Vice James McLain, Sgt at Arms Scot Hartman, members John Glucksnis, Vince Carden and Judge Advocate Rich Kane.

On February 12, 2017, the 2016 Glenside-area “Toys for Tots” campaign wrapped up with a big “Thank You” lunch. The Glenside Area Campaign is run by MGySgt J.W. Zaengle Detachment, MCL, but would not succeed were it not for the inestimable help of our friends—all divisions and Valley Forge Detachments and the United Young Marines Unit, along with many community members. Thousands of children were treated to a Christmas of cheer, and dozens of volunteers poured their time and their strength into the program to insure the continued success of the Campaign. To express the Campaign’s heartfelt gratitude, all workers/volunteers were treated to a sumptuous lunch, where many were acknowledged with the presentation of citations and plaques. What a privilege to come to know so many fine people.
On February 19, 2017, Detachment 246 Ceremonial Rifle Team fires three volleys to honor the Marines and Sailors who fought on Iwo Jima.

**Top Left Photo:** GySgt Lyons, LCpl Hendricks and LtCol Fitts from 3rd Marines, 23rd Battalion, St. Louis, accepted a check for $20,000 from South St. Louis Detachment 185, St. Louis, MO, for the 2016 Toys for Tots Campaign. Left to right: Commandant Robert Scannell, Director of Facilities, David Winkler and Judge Advocate Michael Lee.

**Middle Photo:** On December 9, 2016, Commandant Ed Stutler along with members John Kingsley, John Kingsley, Jr., Anik Wallace and Jim Simpson traveled to the Mississippi State Veterans Home in Oxford to help the director, Amanda May, celebrate the 104th birthday of Mr. Phang, a WWII Navy Veteran.

**Bottom Photo:** On February 18, 2017, at Black Forest Brew Haus, Farmingdale, NY, three WWII women Marines from New York were surprised to be recognized at the anniversary luncheon hosted by the Women Marines Association with certificates of Special Congressional Recognition awarded from U.S. Congressman Lee Zeldin. Barbara Kruse of East Northport, NY, enlisted on February 20, 1943, just seven days after the Marine Corps authorized women to enlist in the Marine Corps. Josephine Cerbelli of Suffern, NY, and Annabelle Weiss of Lindenhurst, NY, both enlisted in 1944, and they all served for the duration of the War and were discharged in 1946. These Trailblazer Marines were once ordinary women who chose to do something extraordinary by becoming a United States Marine.
On February 19, 2017, Detachment 246 Ceremonial Rifle Team fires three volleys to honor the Marines and Sailors who fought on Iwo Jima.

Middle Left Photo: Over 30 Marines and FMF Corpsmen, members of Lake County (IL) Detachment 801, participated in 10 Toys for Tots fund raising events this past fall to raise $16,500, which was presented on December 19, 2016, to Col. Paul Weaver, Commanding Officer of MACG 48, Great Lakes, IL, and GySgt Chris Smith, Toys for Tots Coordinator, on behalf of the Toys for Tots Foundation. In addition to the donations collected, Detachment 801 collected over 100 boxes of toys for MACG 48 to distribute.

On December 4, 2017, MGySgt J.W. Zaengle Detachment past Commandants Angelo Mercado and Steve Irwin arrived at the Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House in Pennsylvania (http://www.philadelphiaveteranshouse.org) to present a donation in the amount of $1,150.00. The donation is from the detachment’s “Operation Warrior Relief” Fund (OWR). The Veterans Comfort House serves Veterans transitioning from homelessness with everything from clothing to temporary shelter, to meals. Located in close proximity to the Philadelphia VAMC, it’s poised to provide the best opportunities for these Veterans and their families. For information on the OWR Fund, please contact Liz McCleaster at lmccleaster@hotmail.com.

Left Photo: On March 4, 2017, MGySgt J.W. Zaengle Detachment past Commandants Angelo Mercado and Steve Irwin arrived at the Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House in Pennsylvania (http://www.philadelphiaveteranshouse.org) to present a donation in the amount of $1,150.00. The donation is from the detachment’s “Operation Warrior Relief” Fund (OWR). The Veterans Comfort House serves Veterans transitioning from homelessness with everything from clothing to temporary shelter, to meals. Located in close proximity to the Philadelphia VAMC, it’s poised to provide the best opportunities for these Veterans and their families. For information on the OWR Fund, please contact Liz McCleaster at lmccleaster@hotmail.com.

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On December 14, 2016, Gordon Leiter, a Corpsman with Utah Dixie Detachment 1270, hands off a bag to be loaded on a truck headed to Dixie Center and the Coins for Kids program.
This is our country, and we need to work together as a TEAM! There is too much fighting amongst us, and it needs to stop! We all need to support our president to make America greater than ever. We all should come together to bring America back to the people as well as work so our voices are heard and the president can make decisions the people want. We all need to work for a better life and AMERICA!

The new year brings opportunities and challenges. The Marine Corps League’s legislative agenda (issues) for this year cover a lot of programs. We do have big challenges, and your help is needed with the following:

**Military:**
- Budget, funds for personnel, equipment and training
- Pay
- Housing and maintenance
- Quality of life
- Education
- Health care
- Commissary/PX
- Survivors’ benefits
- National defense

**VA Funding:**
- Health care and services
- Funding
- Female veterans’ health
- DOD and VA working together

**Military Retirees:**
- Concurrent receipt
- Health care
- Benefits.

What is going on in Congress? The FY2017 Defense Budget includes commissary cuts and Tricare fee increases. We are working to change Congress’ views.

**Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water—VA Expands Health Care Eligibility for Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Veterans**

The VA finalized a new rule in January 2017 to consider eight diseases as presumptive for service connection. This presumptive service connection provides VA disability benefits to veterans who have one of the eight diseases and who have served for no less than 30 days (consecutive or nonconsecutive) on permanent or temporary duty at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987. The eight diseases covered under the new rule are:

1. Adult leukemia
2. Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
3. Bladder cancer
4. Kidney cancer
5. Liver cancer
6. Multiple myeloma
7. Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
8. Parkinson’s disease.

For more information about these efforts, or to update your contact information, please see http://www.marines.mil/clwater/ or contact the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call Center at (887) 261-9782 or email clwater@usmc.mil. Go to the web page http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune.

**Toxic Exposure**

The bill H.R. 1769 would establish, within the Department of Veterans Affairs, a national center for the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces. Scientists for the Agency of Toxic Substance and Disease Registry have said their work studying the health effect of the water will continue. They noted they are planning a comprehensive cancer study on toxins, such as Agent Orange. Studies have shown that Agent Orange can cause birth defects in the children of military personnel who came into contact with it, either during the Vietnam War in storage or transportation of these toxins or by riding in aircrafts that had been used to transport the toxins. Up to a million veterans were exposed to what scientists consider the worst episodes of water contamination.

**Burial National Cemeteries**

The VA announced it has changed policies and will now allow veterans to apply prior to their deaths for burial in a veteran cemetery. Interested individuals may submit VA form 40-10007, application for Pre-Need determination and a copy of your DD form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling office by toll-free fax (865) 840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreeNode@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510643, St. Louis, MO 63151.

Major legislation remains to be finished, including bills that would make major changes to the VA National Defense Authorization Act, which would overhaul the military health care system.

**ISSUES WE ARE CONCERNED WITH**

**In support of:**

- Legislation to remove the offset of survivor benefits plan payment and VA dependency and indemnity compensation.
- Legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation.

**In opposition of:**

- All attempts to change the basics of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities from the "average impairment of earning capacity" standard.

We as members of the Marine Corps League need everyone’s support on all of these issues and legislations. Congress is working on some of the following issues: downsizing of our Corps; Veterans’ benefits backlog; COLA reductions for retirees; and many other issues that will have some effect on all veterans, our military families and National Defense. Please take the time to contact your Congressional leaders and let them know your concerns and ask them to support our issues. You can make a difference for our nation. Thank you!

Semper Fidelis,
Robert Becker
PNC Chairman
The eight diseases covered under the new rule are:

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3) Bladder cancer
4) Kidney cancer
5) Liver cancer
6) Multiple myeloma
7) Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
8) Parkinson's disease.

Eligibility for Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Veterans

Eligibility for Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987.

Congress' views.

What is going on in Congress? The FY2017 Defense Budget includes following:

- **a. Budget, funds for personnel, equipment and training**
- **b. Pay**
- **c. Housing and maintenance**
- **d. Quality of life**
- **e. Education**
- **f. Health care**
- **g. Commissary/PX**
- **h. Survivors’ benefits**
- **c. Female veterans’ health**
- **b. Funding**
- **a. Health care and services**

The Marine Corps needs your help with the people want. We all need to work for a better life and AMERICA! There is too much fighting amongst us, and it needs to stop! We all need to work together as a TEAM! There should come together to bring America back to the people as well as support our president to make America greater than ever. We all need to be united and let them know your concerns and ask them to support our issues.

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### ISSUES WE ARE CONCERNED WITH

#### In support of:
- Legislation to remove the offset of survivor benefits plan payment and VA dependency and indemnity compensation.
- Legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation.
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- Agent Orange. Studies have shown that Agent Orange can cause birth defects in the children of military personnel who came into contact with it, either during the Vietnam War in storage or transportation of the toxins. Up to a million veterans were exposed to what scientists consider the worst episodes of water contamination.
- To support our president to make America greater than ever. We all need to be united and let them know your concerns and ask them to support our issues.

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Arthur G. Robins

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Texas

Les Beasley

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James Blackstock

Cathy Carver

Kenneth R. Early

Linda G. Harvey

John F. Huffhines

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Jack E. Sandersen

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Elias T. Tallas

Roy Thompson

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Robert R. Allman

Speros A. Daglas

E. Ray Kempf

West Virginia

Lawrence E. Bowser

Peter A. Carna

James P. Keith

Jack R. Sergent

Wisconsin

Donald F. Arne

Elaine Atamian

Richard Brurok

Walter F. Huf

John C. Leitke

Thomas H. O’Brien

Franklin M. Osanka

William C. Ziebell

Pat Connell

James W. Gillum

David Lamar Hetzler

Silas W. Jessup

Robert R. Lemley

Donald E. Leuteritz

Woodrow C. Lukeke

Jean P. Lushin

Dana D. Parrott

James C. Somy

Steven H. Sprouse

Iowa

James L. Mcclintock

Patrick Morgan

Erik W. Nykkanen

Kansas

James V. Scott

Willis D. White

Chuck Wright

Kentucky

Al J. Baron

William B. Gray

Carlos L. Hafley

Glen G. Hatton

Gerald W. Pearson

Louisiana

Glen E. Comeaux

Stanley L. Currier

Hubert J. Gaude

Warren A. Gettys

Anthony M. Hooker

Allen Ortego

Lloyd J. Romero

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Gerard Biedronski

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Harry G. Kesecker

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Melvin J. Setzer

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John Silvestri

Charles P. Steiger

William A. Stokes

Paul L. Tessier

Leonard J. Upgard
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

TAPS

SERGEANT MAJOR ELSEMERE (BUD) RANDALL, JR.

Sergeant Major Elsemere (Bud) Randall, Jr., USMC (Ret.), 85, currently of Woodstown, NJ, formerly of Stafford, VA, passed away on December 8, 2016. Born in Avoca, PA, to the late Elsemere Randall, Sr. and Mildred Zoe (nee Adams) Randall, Bud’s life was entirely devoted to his family and to the Marine Corps. He spent 30 years active duty in the Marine Corps, serving one tour in Korea and two tours in Vietnam, retiring in 1981 as Sergeant Major (nee Adams) Randall, Bud’s life was entirely devoted to his family and to the Marine Corps. He spent 30 years active duty in the Marine Corps, serving one tour in Korea and two tours in Vietnam, retiring in 1981 as Sergeant Major MCDEC (now MCDCC) Quantico. After a full career in the Marine Corps, Bud continued to serve his country and his fellow Marines in a second 29-year career as the National Director of Veterans Services for the Marine Corps League, a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of those who served. When at home, he left his work behind and was the ultimate family man, truly loving the time with his wife, children and grandchildren. He enjoyed working on his lawn and in the garden and was an avid cyclist in retirement.

Bud is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jean Shirley (nee Gustavson) Randall; his sons Jeff (Nancy Miller-Randall) of Pittsford, NY and David (Tom Richardson) of Philadelphia, PA; his daughters Zoe Ann Marie Caravas (Jimmie) of Richmond, VA, Karen Mathewson (Mike) of Granite Falls, NC, and Jackie Kelty (Mark) of Woodstown, VA; his grandchildren Lindsey and Carolyn Randall, Dylan and Jared Mathewson, and Shane and Devon Kelty; his brother Harry Robert Randall of Augusta, GA; and several nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, he was predeceased by his brother John Zoe Randall.

Sergeant Major Randall will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with Full Military Honors on July 6. Service prior to interment will be held at the Fort Myer (VA) Post Chapel at 9:00 AM. SIF
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

second 29-year career as the National Director career in the Marine Corps, Bud continued to MCDEC (now MCDCC) Quantico. After a full in Vietnam, retiring in 1981 as Sergeant Major Corps, serving one tour in Korea and two tours He spent 30 years active duty in the Marine (nee Adams) Randall, Bud's life was entirely late Elsemere Randall, Sr. and Mildred Zoe December 8, 2016. Born in Avoca, PA, to the Sergeant Major Elsemere (Bud) Randall, Jr., SERGEANT MAJOR ELSEMERE (BUD) RANDALL, JR.

2017/18 MCL RAFFLE

19 – 30 May 100th Anniversary of WWI American Battlefields – 1917 “The Yanks Are Coming!”
27 May – 9 Jun 73rd Anniversary of D-Day: “The Longest Day” Normandy to Paris
1 – 13 Jul 50th Anniversary of Operations Union I/II & Buffalo – I-Corps 1967
15 – 28 Jul 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War “Delta to the DMZ”
29 Jul – 3 Aug “Bloody Tarawa”
3 – 12 Aug 75th Anniversary of WWII Operation Watchtower – Guadalcanal
19 Aug – 1 Sep 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War – Dak to 1967
2 – 14 Sep 50th Anniversary of Operation Swift I-Corps 1967
9 – 20 Sep Spain – Military & Cultural History Exploration
14 – 27 Sep All of Ireland for WWII U.S. Marines, Soldiers & Sailors

Raffle tickets cost $5 per single entry or five tickets for just $20! That’s right, the more you buy, the more you save and the more you help the League. The drawing will be held at our annual Mid-Winter Conference Banquet in 2018.

You do not need to be present to win. Winners will be notified within three days of drawing if they are not present, and arrangements will be made with Military Historical Tours for selection of their tour prize.

Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to Marine Corps League, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554. You may buy as many tickets as you like. Please feel free to make additional copies of these raffle tickets if you wish to purchase additional chances!

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 94TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR RAFFLE
Two Grand Prizes: Individual Free Tour to anywhere MCL’s tour partner (Military Historical Tours) travels.

2018 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE: THE MCL GEARs UP FOR THE MARCH DRAWING!

In 2018, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (www.miltours.com) will again offer the battlefield tour of a lifetime to two lucky League members as the grand prizes in the League’s 94th Anniversary Tour Raffle.

These trips span the globe and military history. See the list below for a complete lineup.

Everyone who enters lends their support to League programs including Marines Helping Marines, Legislative Programs, Toys for Tots and more.

You need not be present to win. Drawing will occur at the 2018 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to: Marine Corps League, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
94TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR RAFFLE
Clip coupon and return along with your check made payable to:
Marine Corps League, Inc.
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

You need not be present to win. Winner will be notified within three days of drawing if not present, and arrangements will be made for coordination with Military Historical Tours for selection of tour prize.

Name
Address
City
State Zip Code
Phone
Email

29 Oct – 8 Nov  Israel Military & Cultural History

2017/18 MCL RAFFLE
(CONTINUED)

2 – 8 Dec  75th Anniversary of Midway & Pearl Harbor – 1942
2 – 13 Dec  Vietnam Holiday Tour
28 Jan – 9 Feb ‘18  50th Anniversary of Tet Offensive, Battle of Hue & Operation Houston
2 – 12 Feb ‘18  75th Anniversary of Operation Watchtower – Guadalcanal
19 – 26 Mar ‘18  73rd Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor – Guam
7 – 19 Apr ‘18  50th Anniversary of Operation Pegasus I-Corps – Tch Sanh Cbt Base –1968
21 Apr – 3 May ‘18  50th Anniversary of the Battle of Dai Do & I-Corps
28 Apr – 11 May ‘18  50th Anniversary Operations Resolve To Win & Toan Thang I/II Saigon to the DMZ
25 May – 3 Jun ‘18  Devil Dog Exclusive 100th Anniversary of WWI American Battlefields – 1918
27 May – 9 Jun ‘18  74th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris
23 Jun – 2 Jul ‘18  70th Anniv of the Berlin Airlift 1948-49/WWII Stalags
5 Jul – 17 Jul ‘18  Poland & Czech Republic WWII Concentration Camps
USAA members saved an average of

$3,443

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