SHOW REPORT
MARINE SOUTH
2017

INTERVIEW:
JOHN BRYANT
PRESIDENT OF OSHKOSH DEFENSE

MARINES FOR LIFE:
MCL NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY

WHAT THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEANS TO ME

NATIONAL CONVENTION COUNDOWN
Great Rates For Drivers
Auto loan rates as low as:

1.49% APR
NEW CAR & NEW CAR REFINANCING

1.99% APR
USED CAR

Earn Points Wherever You Shop
The PenFed Platinum Rewards Visa Signature® Card

5X POINTS on gas purchases at the pump

3X POINTS on groceries

1X POINT on all other purchases

Visit PenFed.org/MCL or call 800-247-5626.

To receive any advertised product, you must become a member of PenFed Credit Union.

1. Rates and offers current as of June 5, 2017, and are subject to change. Your actual APR will be determined at the time of disbursement and will be based on your application and credit information. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate. Rate also depends on amount borrowed and term. Other restrictions, including vehicle age and mileage, may apply. Vehicle weight restrictions apply. Up to 110% financing is available to qualified members for vehicle purchases. One hundred percent financing available for refinanced vehicles. New vehicles are where you are the original owner and the vehicle is a current (2017) or prior model year (2016). New vehicle payment example: $20,000 loan with rate of 1.49% APR, 36 monthly payments of approximately $568.41. Maximum used car loan advance will be determined by PenFed using a NADA value. Used car loan example: $20,000 loan with a rate of 1.99% APR, 36 monthly payments of approximately $572.76. PenFed does not permit internal refinances of an existing PenFed auto loan.

2. Offers current as of June 5, 2017, and are subject to change. Cash advances, credit card checks, and balance transfers are excluded from earning Platinum Rewards points. Visa® USA determines which transactions are classified as gas paid at the pump and which stores are classified as supermarkets. Military commissaries are supermarkets. Fuel purchases for airplanes and boats receive 1 point per dollar spent.

© 2017 Pentagon Federal Credit Union
THE NEW STANDARD.

INTRODUCING THE NEXT GENERATION
FN 15™ II FAMILY

THE WORLD’S MOST BATTLE-PROVEN FIREARMS™
Re-thought and re-engineered, the FN 15™ II family features the all-new FN Handguard System with M-LOK and a unique barrel nut that eliminates the need for gas tube alignment. Born of the battlefield and trusted by the U.S. Military, these latest versions of the FN 15™ platform have no equal. Own authentic. Own dependable. Own legendary. Own one of the world’s most battle-tested firearms.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIREARMS RETAILER OR VISIT FNAMERICA.COM.
# Table of Contents

## Feature Articles

- **12** WHAT THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEANS TO ME
- **14** INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BRYANT, PRESIDENT OF OSHKOSH DEFENSE
  MILES VINING
- **32** MARINE SOUTH 2017
  MEGAN SHEA
- **39** MARINES HELPING MARINES: MARINE CORPS LEAGUE BRINGS ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS INTO THE FOLD
  RANDY GADDO
- **43** CONVENTION COUNTDOWN
- **45** 93-YEAR-OLD WWII VET LEADS WILMINGTON, NC DETACHMENT
  HANK PHILLIPS

## Forms & Raffles

- **19** DEVIL DOGS RAFFLE FORM
- **37** MARINE CORPS LEAGUE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
- **44** 2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
- **64** TREE OF LIGHTS DONATION FORM
- **65** 2018 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE FORM
44

COLUMNS

6
NATIONAL COMMANDANT’S LETTER
RICHARD D. GORE, SR.

8
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S LETTER
THOMAS W. HAZLETT

10
ATTENTION ON DECK

21
CHIEF DEVIL DOG
C.O. SMITH

22
MCL AUXILIARY LETTER
KAREN AUNE

24
NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT
WENDELL WEBB

24
NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT
DENNIS TOBIN

25
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE
JOHNNY BAKER

26
MCL FOUNDATION, PRESIDENT’S LETTER
GREGORY HUNT

27
DIVISION REPORTS

36
JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT
JAMES “JIM” LASKEY

42
REUNIONS

42
EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY
DR. CHARLES NEIMEYER

46
THE SEMPER FI STORE

49
ROLL CALL

60
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT
R. BOB BECKER, JR.

62
TAPS

67
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR

ABOUT THE COVER
MODERN DAY MARINE 2016:
U.S. Marine Corps SgtMaj Charles R. Williams, base sergeant major, Marine Corps Base Quantico, speaks with Retired SgtMaj Durham, National Chairman for the MCL Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) program. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by LCpl Cristian L. Ricardo)
Semper Fi, The Magazine of 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

CALL (703) 207-9588
for any issues related to Marine Corps League membership, Semper Fi subscriptions or changes of address.

Semper Fi is published quarterly for the Marine Corps League by Chipotle Publishing, LLC. 631 N. Stephanie St. #282 Henderson, NV 89014
Phone: (702) 565-0746
Website: www.chipotlepublishing.com

Executive Editor | General Manager
Thomas W. Hazlett | Deborah L. Shea
Publisher | Editors
Megan Shea | Lisa Weder / Megan Shea
Art Director | Editorial Coordinator
Adam Bucci | Lisa Weder
Graphic Designer | Administration
Ashley Powell | Danielle Del’Arco

Advertising Representatives
Megan Shea, Jayne Wynes
semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com
Phone: (702) 565-0746

Semper Fi is published by Chipotle Publishing, LLC at semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com or (702) 565-0746.

Subscriptions: Members’ national dues include a free subscription to Semper Fi. For non-members, single-copy price is $10; yearly subscription is $30. Call (703) 207-9588 for any issues related to Marine Corps League membership, Semper Fi subscriptions or changes of address.

Editorial Contributions: Letters, manuscripts, stories, materials or photographs are welcomed but cannot be returned unless sender provides SASE. Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League,™ will not be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photos and drawings. Submission of articles and letters implies the right to edit and publish all or in part. Feature articles must be approved before submission. High-resolution digital photos preferred. For complete editorial and photo guidelines, contact Chipotle Publishing, LLC at semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com or (702) 565-0746.

Postmaster: Send address changes to MCL National Headquarters, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22564. Telephone: (703) 207-9588. Website: www.mclnational.org. Email: mclexecutivedirector@gmail.com.

Periodicals postage paid at Fairfax, VA and additional mailing offices.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and are not to be construed as those of the publisher nor as the official views of the Marine Corps League, the United States Marine Corps, the U.S. Department of Defense or any of its agencies, unless otherwise made manifest by writers or spokespersons acting on behalf of the foregoing. Advertising of products and services herein does not imply endorsement or approval by the Marine Corps League. No portion of the magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without written consent.

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

NATIONAL COMMANDANT’S LETTER

RICHARD D. GORE, SR.

MARINES: This will be my last article sent to you as your National Commandant, and it is sent with a great deal of pride over what we have accomplished in the last two-plus years.

We still have a ways to go to fulfill our goals, and I believe that with the new leadership coming on board after the National Convention elections we will report a job well done within the next four years. The stepping stones continue to be put in place, and the overall plan is beginning to emerge. With the membership’s assistance, we will have overcome many obstacles and persevered.

The process of interviewing candidates for selection of our Executive Director, or Business Manager, is going forward, and it is believed we will make our selection by the middle of June and have the individual in the training process in time for our National Convention in August 2017. An announcement will be made when the selection is final.

Your Board of Trustees and leadership have accomplished much, and more will follow. Accomplishments include: a new headquarters, located where Marines are present daily, and the sale of the old building; money invested in a Morgan Stanley building fund; a new Semper Fi magazine dedicated to our League and what is important to us; continued improvement of our membership data entries; and finally, being in the black and not the red as was the problem for too many years. Sacrifices were made, but they were necessary—the proof is in the spreadsheet.

I want to personally thank every member for all the courtesy you have extended during my many visits, and I will forever hold all of you with the greatest respect and admiration for what you accomplished with us at an extremely difficult time.

As stated previously, “There is no ‘I’ in T.E.A.M., and we are a TEAM.”

Please remember our warriors who are in harm’s way and pray for their safe return!

Semper Fi,
Richard D. Gore, Sr.
National Commandant
MOST INSURANCE COMPANIES HAVE A BUSINESS PLAN.
WE HAVE A MISSION.

At Navy Mutual, our guiding principle is to serve our Members the same way they serve our country — with integrity, passion, and commitment. Helping military families achieve financial security is more than our business. It’s our duty. That’s why we are non-profit. It’s why we never take commissions. And it’s why our products are free of fine print or military restrictions.

To learn how we can help your family visit NavyMutual.org
MARINES:

It has been my privilege to serve as your Executive Director for the past two-plus years.

In this time, we have come a long way as an organization and have accomplished many things as a Headquarters. Two years ago, the Commandant stood before you and stated that the Marine Corps League was in need of repair. We were financially in trouble; we had pending legal action against us; the Executive Director had just been released by the Board of Trustees; and the Headquarters was failing to do their mission which was to support the MCL’s daily operation.

The Commandant stated the issues we faced would not be resolved quickly. Today, we still have pending legal actions against us. We are still dealing with some of the database’s issues. On the good side, we have paid off all the debts owed to the Paid Life Membership fund and lines of credit and are able to meet Headquarters’ payroll. I promised the membership that Headquarters would be restructured and would once again support the League. We have reduced the database’s problems and the paperwork processing time from weeks to a few days. We will continue to work towards a paperless Headquarters, lowering operational costs. Our bylaws will be completely restructured.

We changed publishers for the Semper Fi magazine and moved Headquarters out of a deteriorating building. Our Ship’s Store has improved its day-to-day operations. We have lowered our inventory and are once again providing a good quality blazer. We’ve introduced some new items that we hope the membership will enjoy. We’ve continued to improve our IT support and will have a surprise or two to present at the National Convention. We are working hard to support the Commandant of the Marine Corps in his Marine for Life Program and have developed a great relationship with the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League.

As I leave in August, I know we are turning over a revitalized Headquarters to our newly elected National Commandant. I’m happy to state that we are currently employing four Marine Corps spouses and two retired Marine veterans, counting myself. I cannot thank the staff enough for all they’ve done to eliminate many of the League’s problems. Our new Executive Director will have a much better organization to work with.

I encourage you to ask questions and vote in officers who have the League’s best interest at heart and urge you to work hard in recruiting; if you keep it fun, they will come! We also need to give both current and former members a reason to stay or come back.

As always, I remain forever Semper Fi.

Thomas W. Hazlett
Marine Corps League

Executive Director’s Letter

Thomas W. Hazlett

Honorary National Commandant
Alfred M. Gray
General, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)
29th Commandant of the Marine Corps

Marine Corps League National Board of Trustees
National Commandant
Richard D. Gore, Sr.
103 Beneventum Rd.
Georgetown, SC 29440
trprgore@hotmail.com

National Sr. Vice Commandant
Wendell W. Webb
18598 Royal Dr.
Warrenton, MO 63383
mwdmcl@w-cubeassociates.com

National Jr. Vice Commandant
Dennis Tobin
27 Cypress Loop
Staten Island, NY 10309
mrd727@gmail.com

National Judge Advocate
Johnny B. Baker
905 Country Rd. 106
Leesburg, AL 35983
mclnja@yahoo.com

Jr. Past National Commandant
James “Jim” Laskey
60 Birch Rd.
Cumberland, RI 02864
jlaskey@verizon.net

NVC, Central Division
Raymond L. Daxley
159 Kittle St.
Williamstown, WV 26187
mclain@suddenlink.net

NVC, Midwest Division
Harvey L. Harris
149 S.W. Meadow Ln.
Topeka, KS 66608
harvey.harris@att.net

NVC, New England Division
Warren C. Griffin
45 Shaw Farm Rd.
Holliston, MA 01746
griffcher@juno.com

NVC, Northeast Division
Leanna L. Dietrich
17 E. Cook Ave.
Glenside, PA 19036
mclnedivvicecmdt@gmail.com

NVC, Northwest Division
T.J. Morgan
4204 W. Broad Ave.
Spokane, WA 99205
0311groundpounder@gmail.com

NVC, Mideast Division
Michael L. McLain
199 Kittle St.
Williamstown, WV 26187
mclain@suddenlink.net

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division
Charles D. Davies
9912 Glacier Dr.
Greeley, CO 80634
mcl_hossmarine@yahoo.com

NVC, Southeast Division
James L. Hackbarth
3345 Lazy Acres Ln.
The Villages, FL 32163
marinejim@comcast.net

NVC, Southwestern Division
Randall Rigg
5906 Sheffield Dr.
Tyler, TX 75703
randyrigg@suddenlink.net

NVC, Southwest Division
Richard Hoery
4210 E. Springwood St.
Pahran, NV 89048
hoery@veawb.coop
**Veterans Commemoratives™ presents Officially Licensed Products**

**To Honor Your Service To Country As a Proud Member of the United States**

**MARINES**

1. **U.S. MARINE CORPS VETERAN HAT**
   - Featuring an embroidered Globe & Anchor insignia and "U.S. Marine Corps Veteran" text on the front panel.

2. **DELUXE LOW PROFILE CAP WITH USMC GLOBE & ANCHOR LOGO**

3. **VINTAGE USMC EMBROIDERED LOW PROFILE CAP**

4. **MARINES GLOBE & ANCHOR INSIGNIA LOW PROFILE CAP**

**HATS**

5. **USMC GLOBE & ANCHOR HOODED SWEATSHIRT**

6. **BLACK INK MARINES FIRST TO FIGHT T-SHIRT**

7. **MARINES PULLOVER HOODED SWEATSHIRT**

8. **MARINES PHYSICAL TRAINING SWEATPANTS**

9. **AQUAFORCE MARINES WATCH**

**APPAREL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>SKU</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Hat*</td>
<td>R9266</td>
<td>17.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Deluxe Low Profile Cap w/ USMC Logo*</td>
<td>R9327</td>
<td>22.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Vintage USMC Embroidered Low Pro Cap*</td>
<td>R9738</td>
<td>22.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. USMC Globe &amp; Anchor Hooded Sweatshirt</td>
<td>R222</td>
<td>49.99</td>
<td>S, M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Marines Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt</td>
<td>R188</td>
<td>49.99</td>
<td>M, L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Black Ink Marines First to Fight T-Shirt</td>
<td>R1280</td>
<td>19.99</td>
<td>S, M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Aquaforce Marines Watch*</td>
<td>R4377</td>
<td>49.99</td>
<td>S, L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**To Order Call Toll-Free**

1-800-255-3048

**Or Visit Us Online At**

www.vetcom.com

**I PREFER TO PAY AS follows:**
- Enclosed is my check payable to Veterans Commemoratives for the Total Amount.
- Charge my Credit Card for the Total Amount Due

**Credit Card:**
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express
- Discover

Card # ___________________________ Exp. Date: ___ / ___

Card Security Code (CSC): ________ Signature __________

**Shipping Address:** (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Name _____________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _______ Zip ___________

Daytime Phone# (______________)

E-Mail __________________________

*PA Residents Add Sales Tax*

**Calculate Shipping Costs:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub Total Amount:</th>
<th>Cost:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 - $24.99</td>
<td>$4.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25 - $74.99</td>
<td>$9.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75 and over</td>
<td>$12.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sub Total**

**Shipping (see costs at left)**

**Total Amount Due**

© ICM 2017 USMC-MCL-0717
ATTENTION ON DECK

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

Please note: August 31 is not recognized by the Database; it defaults to September 1 as the renewal date. Your membership expires as of September 1, not September 30.

Renewals:

Members with an expiration date of July 2016–December 2016
Pay $20.00 and new expiration date will be September 1, 2017

Members with an expiration date of January 2017–June 2017
Pay $10.00 and new expiration date will be September 1, 2017

Members who expire in July 2017
Pay $20.00 and new expiration date will be September 1, 2018

Going forward, all members who expire September 1, 2017, will pay $20.00 each year.

New Members:

Members who join between July–December
Pay $25.00 and expiration date will be September 1 (of following year)
Example: Member who joins July–December 2017 will expire in September 1, 2018

Members who join between January–June
Pay $15.00 and expiration date will be September 1 (of following year)
Example: Member who joins January–June 2018 will expire in September 1, 2018

Going forward, all members will expire September 1, 2017, and pay $20.00 each year for renewal. This will be the New Member guidelines going forward, this is not temporary.

Reinstatements:

Members who are reinstating (Reinstating members are members who have been delinquent more than a year and do not want to pay all back dues and keep their length of membership; these members will get a new enrollment date.)

Members with a reinstatement date of July 2017–December 2017
Pay $20.00 and new expiration date will be September 1, 2018

Members with a reinstatement date of January 2017–June 2017
Pay $10.00 and new expiration date will be September 1, 2017

Going forward, all members who expire September 1, 2017, will pay $20.00 each year for renewal.

MAL:

Members with an expiration date of July 2016–December 2016
Pay $15.00 and new expiration date will be September 1, 2017

Members with an expiration date of January 2017–June 2017
Pay $30.00 and new expiration date will be September 1, 2018

Going forward, all members who expire September 1, 2017, will pay $30.00 each year.

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.
USMC
Embroidered Leather Duffel Bag
A Custom-crafted, Versatile Travel Essential
Available Only from The Bradford Exchange

Always ready to serve—in the air, on the land and on the sea—The United States Marines have always been there to defend freedom. This distinguished group of individuals have earned their courage, honor and the right to carry it with them no matter where they go. Now, Marines and all those who support them can express their pride with the “USMC Leather Duffel Bag,” a distinctive yet practical travel essential that's available only from The Bradford Exchange.

A Great Look Faithfully Salutes Leatherneck Spirit
Custom-crafted of durable genuine brown leather with black leather trim and handles, the bag is expertly embossed with the United States Marine Corps logo of eagle, globe and anchor, along with stars and Est. 1775, on the front. Designed with traditional double handles, this go-anywhere duffel features a removable, adjustable padded shoulder strap for versatility and comfort. Plus, to keep your belongings organized and protected, the duffel features an interior zippered pocket and 2 accessory pockets, an exterior slip pocket and a top double zip closure with 2 leather zipper pullers. Antique gold-toned hardware finishes the look.

A Remarkable Value... Available for a Limited Time
This handsome duffel is a remarkable value at $249.95*, and you can pay for it in 5 easy installments of $49.99 each. To order yours, backed by our unconditional 90-day guarantee, send no money now, just mail in your Priority Reservation. This genuine leather bag is not available in stores, so don’t miss out... inspire USMC pride wherever you go and reserve yours today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/USMCDuffel
©2017 The Bradford Exchange   01-24559-001-BIBR

**Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps

*Plus $19.99 shipping and service. Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Signature

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Address

City State Zip

Email (Optional)

01-24559-001-E26401
What the Marine Corps League Means to Me

MCL Headquarters Reached Out to Former Marines to Get Their Take on What Makes the League Special to Them

Get Involved, Make a Difference

My name is Clinton Buell, and I served in the United States Marine Corps from 1999 to 2003 as a 1371 Combat Engineer. I am currently serving as the Commandant for the Whitewater Valley Marine Corps League Detachment 096 and just recently turned 36 years old. Recently, I attended the 2017 Marine Corps League Central Division Conference in Richmond, IN. While in attendance, I had the honor to meet the Marine Corps League National Commandant Richard Gore. During one of our meetings, Commandant Gore chose to take notice of two “younger” Marines (Rob Mendenhall Detachment 547 Commandant and Brett Lawson Detachment 096 Jr. Vice) and myself in attendance. He spoke about how the Marine Corps League is in need of more involved “young” Marines. He then asked us, “What does it mean to us to be a part of the Marine Corps League?”

For me, after my active service I felt that I no longer served a purpose and that I had lost that strong bond that we as Marines are so very proud of; there was a void that could not be filled. Then I found the Marine Corps League; helping others gave me the feeling of making a difference again. The Marine Corps League filled the void that went missing once my tour of duty ended. That being said, I encourage all Marines to join their local detachments. Get involved. Make a difference in your community, with your peers and join your fellow Marines. I promise you will not be disappointed. You will find that “something missing” cure that you lost after your tour of duty.

Semper Fidelis,
Clinton Buell
Commandant Detachment 096
“The Marine Corps League filled the void that went missing once my tour of duty ended.”

Clinton Buell

Even Though We Are Out of the Marines, We Remain Marines

While attending the Marine Corps League Central Division Conference, two other Marines and I were asked to write an essay. We were asked, “What is it like to be a member of the Marine Corps League?” It took me a little while to understand this. As I continued to think on it, I just kept thinking that to me the Marine Corps League is just a place I go to visit with friends and family. Then one day it dawned on me—the place I go to visit really is more of a home with brothers and sisters of arm. There are so many generations there. The Marine who recruited me into the League was also a GySgt for the same battalion I was in just 20 years apart. I have learned a lot from him. I have watched that same man also guide our current commandant and still be a big part of why we are able to keep our heads above water.

When I got out of the Marines, I felt I lost my sense of purpose. I found work rather quickly and continued to go forth and learn everything I could. Then I hit a wall, not from my own doing but due to the company not hiring at the current time. I then found a better job and kept moving along. When the GySgt found out I am a Marine, he extended me an invitation to the Marine Corps League. I kept thinking about it and putting it off. Finally, he was able to get me down there, even if it was just for the monthly meetings. As time progressed, I was asked if I wanted to try and enter into an officer’s position. I turned down the aspect of it because I wanted to just sit in the back and watch what the Marine Corps League was about. As I sat there, watched and learned, I saw that even though we are not still in the Marines, we still are marines, and we can give more back to the community. For me joining the Marine Corps League is what allowed me to find my sense of purpose again. So I ask you to check out the Marine Corps League. If you like it then join. The only thing that can hold one’s self back is you. Semper Fidelis,

Brett Lawson
Whitewater Valley Marine Corps League Detachment 096

Being Commandant Allows Me to Make an Impact

My name is Rob L. Mendenhall III. I spent four years in the Marine Corps serving with 2nd Battalion 9th Marines from 2009 to 2013. I went on three deployments to Afghanistan and filled multiple leadership roles. When I got out of the Marine Corps, I moved to Indiana and didn’t have any family or friends to assist me in my transition. I joined the Marine Corps League in 2014 to be able to spend time with like-minded individuals who had/have similar experiences.

After being a part of the Marine Corps League for a few months, I saw the impact that I could have on the community and other veterans, being able to assist those who went/are going through the same situation that I was in when I got out. I started to put together events, such as 5Ks and birthday balls, and found with these new events I was able to recruit more Marine veterans of my generation. Our detachment has grown faster than anyone could have anticipated, and the money we have raised has only grown, which in turn helps us put on more community events and help more veterans in the community. Helping these veterans keep their electricity on throughout the winter, make sure their house is heated or that food is on their table was the impact that I wanted to leave, and we were/still are doing an exceptional job. Marine Corps League to me is much more than just a nonprofit organization; it is the same Brotherhood that we had when we were active duty, only instead of covering each other’s back on the battlefield we are making sure that our families are well taken care of in the civilian world. Using the same leadership skills I used when I was in the corps, but now through a non-profit, and giving back to the community and veterans is an amazing feeling. Taking over David M. Shoup Detachment 547 in Lafayette, IN, as commandant is an indescribable feeling because I am now able to get back to leading Marines and make an impact on our society. In the last year we have helped support a local FFA, baseball teams, schools with educational funding and the countless number of veterans to find work, pay bills and keep a roof over their families’ heads. The Marine Corps League helped me through my tough times, and I hope that I can have the same impact to help as many veterans as I can through their tough times.

Semper Fidelis,

Rob L. Mendenhall III
David M. Shoup Detachment 547
Semper Fi: Could you tell us some of your background before the service?

John Bryant: I grew up just south of Boston, MA, in Weymouth. It was a neighborhood composed of mostly World War II veterans who built their houses using their VA loans. So all the dads of the neighborhood were World War II vets who began that Baby Boomer generation.

SF: So what was some of your educational background?

JB: I went to public schools in Weymouth while growing up, graduated from a local high school, then applied for an NROTC Marine Corps Option scholarship. I was fortunate enough to be accepted and went to Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. We did our training during the summers and after Junior year attended OCS at Quantico. There we had the enjoyment of lots of good training with Drill Instructors for many weeks. As soon as we graduated college we began our active duty time as Second Lieutenants at TBS in Quantico.

SF: What MOS were you assigned after TBS?

JB: Halfway through, we were allotted three MOS choices, and I was fortunate enough to be picked for Tanks as that was my first choice. That was MOS 1802.
Q&A

SF: Could you walk us through your career in the Corps?
JB: Like most combat arms officers, I would bounce back and forth between a tour of duty in the Fleet and then a billet throughout my career. I started out as a tank platoon commander and then a TOW platoon commander in Camp Pendleton, CA, in 1st Tank Battalion. I was also a TOW company executive officer back when we had TOW companies. Then as a First Lieutenant I was a tank company commander, also at Pendleton. My first B billet was Officer Selection Officer back in my hometown in Massachusetts.

Following that, I went to the career school for tankers—the Armor Officer Advanced course located in Fort Knox, KY. I was assigned to Twenty-Nine Palms, CA, where I was the H&S company commander, then tank company commander again. As most Marines did in those days I followed that with a tour on Okinawa where I was a Division and MEF inspector for a year.

When that was complete I became an Inspector Instructor for what was then the Detachment Company C, 4th Tank Battalion in Amarillo, TX. While I was there in Amarillo our reserve Marines mounted out to Desert Shield/Desert Storm. I deployed with them but then was attached to 8th Tank Battalion.

SF: 8th Tanks?
JB: Yes, I’m kind of an odd case because I served in 1st Tanks, 2nd Tanks, 3rd Tanks, 4th Tanks and 8th Tanks. Not all of those battalions exist anymore. So after the Gulf and I&I duty, I was assigned to officer candidate school in Quantico where I was a student company commander, then the S-4 and finally the Operations Officer. From there I went down to Camp Lejeune with 2nd Tank Battalion where I was the Operations Officer, then the battalion Executive Officer. As I rotated out of that, I went back to Quantico where I was Program Manager for tanks. Then back to the Fleet to be the battalion commander for 1st Tank Battalion in Twenty-Nine Palms. There I was selected for Colonel and moved on to become Program Manager for Light Armored Vehicles at Warren, MI. My last tour was Program Manager for Advanced Amphibious Assault in Woodbridge, VA. There I retired in 2008 after coming on active duty in 1980.

SF: Twenty-eight years of active service?
JB: Yep! My friends give me a hard time saying the only reason why I didn’t do 30 was because I didn’t want to make a career of it.

SF: So leaving the Marines, how did you make the jump to Oshkosh Defense?
JB: I had an interesting opportunity between the two careers. After I retired I went to work at Defense Acquisition University as a government civilian where I was the course manager for the Executive Program Manager course. It’s a course that all Major Program Managers have to attend at Fort Belvoir, VA. While I was working at DAU, we used to bring in industry speakers. Later on, one of these speakers went on to become the president of Oshkosh Defense. It was through my interactions with him that I ended up transitioning out of the government and coming to work with Oshkosh Defense in 2010.

SF: Did you look at other career paths as well?
JB: Well, for most of my adult life, I was very happy in the Marine Corps. I never thought too much beyond the Marine Corps. As I got along with my career I often thought that I could continue service as a government civilian and that could be my work progression. Moving over to industry was something I had not been really considering. I had been looking at other career paths within government service, particularly within acquisition programs, research and development. But then when Oshkosh gave me the opportunity to do defense acquisition from the other side, to me that was a heck of a challenge. I was wondering whether I could actually perform defense acquisition from the industry side; would I be any good at it?

Stepping out of the more familiar government work I went to Oshkosh in 2010. I started then as Vice President and General Manager for Marine Corps programs. And since then I was given the responsibility for joint programs, following that I was promoted to Senior Vice President where I was oversaw U.S. programs within Oshkosh Defense. Then just last summer I was fortunate enough to be selected to be President of Oshkosh Defense, which is my role right now.

SF: Can you explain the transition process of a military mindset to a corporate mindset and some of the complexities that it entails?
JB: Indeed, it’s funny when I talk to Marines or Soldiers that are thinking about getting out, probably the biggest point I have for them is that it’s not as difficult a transition as people make it out to be. In the Marine Corps we have a very defined chain of command, very defined roles and responsibilities, missions, and we become pretty good at operating within our chain of command. Then as Marines look at getting out we see the civilian world as this strange and different place. What I found was that there were definitely differences in moving into civilian business, but the skills that we all use as Marines to a great extent are the exact same skills that are highly valued in the civilian business community.

I was surprised at what great preparation for my second career the Marine Corps actually was. But some of the transition experiences really involve changing the language and lexicon that we’re used to speaking. You know, we normally speak in Marine Corps acronyms or we talk as if we were speaking on the radio from our tank. In the civilian world it’s a different jargon that you have to become accustomed to. I would say that in the civilian industry the roles and responsibilities are not always as crystal clear as they are in the Marine Corps. In the Corps you know that if you have this job and someone else has their job, you stay within your lanes, and you know what to expect from each other. In the civilian world I found that to be a little bit fuzzier and a little bit less well defined or as automatically understood by everybody.

I would say that in the civilian world there are fewer layers to the chain of command. The decision making process tends to be a little bit quicker than the Department of Defense program management/defense acquisition process, for example. It’s more like the decision process of Marines in the tactical environment—very similar to that speed of decision making.

Of course, in civilian industry you have different stakeholders. As a publicly traded company, at Oshkosh we answer to shareholders and a board of directors as well as our government customer. Similar to the Marine Corps, we have incredibly dedicated people and we spend our time trying to accomplish the mission. That is something that would ring very familiar to any Marine.
**SF:** What parts of your job today do you find the most challenging?

**JB:** To me the most challenging parts of the job involve dealing with the normal uncertainties of defense contracting. We worry about where the federal budget is going to go; we worry about whether, in our case tactical wheeled vehicles will be funded at the levels that we are used to. Unlike a commercial business where you can make great products and be pretty sure they are likely to sell, in the defense industry we watch the political process very closely to see how the defense budget looks. As we try to plan for the future, what we worry about most is instability. I worry about budgets going up one year, then down the next. We need to work through that in order to provide our own stability to the great people that work here at Oshkosh Defense.

**SF:** What advice would you give to Marines looking to improve their job prospects in corporate America?

**JB:** That’s a great question, I’ve thought about that a little bit as my friends get ready to retire and seek new positions in industry. The first thing I would advise is not to sell yourself short. Rest assured that your time in the Marines has done great things to prepare you for a civilian career. That discipline, that mission focus, that leadership that we value so much in the Marines, recognize that those things will stand you in great stead in the civilian world as you try to transition as you try to move up in civilian jobs. Related to that, I would also advise Marines to reach high. I see Marines who are retiring and getting out of the Corps and they see the civilian world as very different. Often they will set their sights too low. Don’t set your sights low. If there is a civilian opportunity and it looks challenging, you don’t think you can do it, it’s a big job, makes you nervous, I’d say go for it because you can probably do it, and you’ll probably do great.

My last piece of advice would be to leverage the leadership and ethos that we see and grow up with in the Corps, of always accomplishing the mission, always taking care of your people. Within civilian industry that leadership orientation and that culture of leadership probably isn’t as well developed overall as it is within the Corps. It is something we Marines take for granted but is highly valued within the civilian sector. Leverage what you’ve learned, seen and lived with regard to Marine Corps leadership, because it will really stand you in great stead there.

**SF:** Would you call this bringing the “Mission, Men, Me” spirit into the workplace?

**JB:** Yes, Marines are typically accustomed to putting themselves last, and that mindset and approach are not very present in civilian industry. And that mindset and approach are not very present in civilian industry.

**SF:** Have you had any involvement in the Marine Corps League?

**JB:** Yes, I have. Obviously my day job here at Oshkosh Defense keeps me pretty busy but I’ve been a member of the Marine Corps League for a while. Coincidently I shared a building with the Marine Corps League in Quantico, VA, for a while so we did some events together. I haven’t been as active off duty as I’d like to be. But I am definitely a member in good standing.

**SF:** Please tell us how Oshkosh supports the Marine Corps on a regular basis? We know the JLTV is a fine program, but give us a few more examples of your support.

**JB:** Our number one commitment is the protection and safety of our nation’s warfighters. We are committed to building the best vehicles for them so that they can accomplish the mission and return home safely. From a vehicle standpoint, we support the USMC with a whole family of platforms—from the P-19R to the LVSR, MTVR, M-ATV, JLTV and EBFL. We have designed, built and sustained vehicles for the USMC for over 30 years.

**SF:** How many military veterans are employed by Oshkosh? Do you have the Marine number?

**JB:** Total employed by Oshkosh Defense? ~ 3,224 (Domestically)
Total veterans employed by Oshkosh Defense? ~ 246 (Domestically)

We don’t require folks who apply at Oshkosh to list a veteran status or which service they were with, but I can tell you we have quite a few Marines who work here at Oshkosh Defense. Each year we host a Veterans Day Breakfast for all those who serve or have served in our nation’s military—the sheer volume of men and women who show up to those kinds of events is overwhelming to say the least. We at Oshkosh are very humbled by our ability to employ so many proud military veterans.

**SF:** Does Oshkosh offer fellowships or internships for military veterans?

**JB:** Oshkosh Defense views US military veterans as an exceptionally strong pool of talent that aligns well with our core values. Veterans provide us with varied skills sets and display strong work ethic and leadership attributes. Employing veterans has always just come naturally to Oshkosh Defense. However, we have recently committed resources to formalize our veterans’ employment programs for Oshkosh, which will include both fellowships and skills specific training and intern programs. Oshkosh is:
- Listed #19 in G.I. Jobs, 2016 Top Jobs in Defense
- 2016 and 2017 World’s Most Ethical Companies list
- 2015 Extraordinary Employer Support Award from DOD

**SF:** Does Oshkosh have any scholarships for our wounded, ill and injured service members’ children?

**JB:** Oshkosh does award scholarships to family members of employees; however, it is open to all employees and their families.

I’d also like to point out our deep connection with several large charitable organizations that directly impact those currently serving and their families as well as retired veterans and their families:
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
- Fisher House Foundation
- Disabled Sports USA: Warfighter Sports
- Military Child Education Coalition
- Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation
- Old Glory Honor Flight
- National Guard Youth Foundation
- USO Wisconsin

**SF:** Do you foresee an increase in funding for Marine programs given the new administration’s comments on increased funding?

**JB:** I can’t comment on the decisions the administration will or will not make, but what I can tell you is that no matter the administration, Oshkosh remains committed to providing our US military with the best vehicles and technologies on the planet, so that they can complete their missions and return home safely. That is our number one concern and our number one goal: the safety and protection of our troops and Marines.
ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.
JOIN THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ALL MARINES

Marine Corps
Association & Foundation

www.mca-marines.org - 866-622-1775
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 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!!!
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 $5 donation

Six ticket donation requested at $5 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
A t this writing, I have my bags packed and am preparing to leave in the morning for several department conventions and Grand Growls. First, I will make a short run (6 hours) north to Neenah, WI, for the Department of Wisconsin Convention. I will then head west to Post Falls, ID (24 hours), for the Department of Idaho Convention and from there, I will head back east to Ocean City, MD (38 hours), for their annual convention. Since the trip will last for at least 16 days, I will share any exciting news from these events in my next article.

The Mid-Winter National Staff Conference was a huge success ... big attendance, big ideas, big FUN and big bones collected at the Mini-Growl. Thank you to all who contributed to the big Fun and big Bones! I look forward to returning to Fredericksburg next year as your Junior Past Chief.

Following the conference, Major General Michael Regner, USMC (Retired), MCL Executive Director Tom Hazlett and I attended a meeting with the USMC Trademark Attorneys at the Pentagon with regard to our MODD Trademark. I mentioned this in my article in the last edition of the Woof-O-Gram; however, we have been granted permission to continue to use it.

Later in March, I attended my own Central Division Conference in Richmond, IN. National Commandant Richard Gore was the Keynote Speaker at the banquet. Our 45th Chief Devil Dog, PCDD Bill Taylor, was also an honored guest which made for some especially fun times and a fun growl! The IN Pack collected some BIG bones as a result of our frivolity. I know they will put them to good use.

I know that, in spite of our Kennel Mad Dog’s “boo-boo’s,” he has exciting plans for the advancing dogs during convention week. Make sure you arrive early ... you must be registered with the League before checking in with the Kennel. All candidates for advancement must be registered in the Dog House prior to 17:00 on Monday of convention week. Once again, and this is your final reminder, 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 01 July 2017. 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. Check our website for further details: www.moddkennel.org.

The proposed bylaw amendments which will be voted on during the Supreme Growl appear in the Spring Woof-O-Gram along with the Junior Vice Sweepstakes tickets. The WOG is already posted on the Kennel website and should be in your mailboxes well before you receive this publication. In addition, this year, for the first time, the Junior Vice Sweepstakes tickets also appear in the Spring 2017 edition of Semper Fi magazine. Please read the bylaw proposals in order to make an informed vote at convention, and please sell the sweepstakes tickets or purchase them yourselves. In addition, registration information is now posted on the MCL National website for the 2017 National Convention. We will be headed to Overland Park, KS, before we know it. As you complete the “activities” form for convention week, please make sure that you sign up for the Devil Dog luncheon to be held on 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.

Thanks for all you do! 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
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCLA

KAREN AUNE

M AR I N E S:
Soon we will be gathering for the National Convention in Overland Park, KS. As always, it will be a great time of renewing friendships and making new ones.

At the same time we will take care of the business of taking care of our Marines and veterans. And the Auxiliary will be celebrating something extra special!

This year, on September 4, the Auxiliary will celebrate 80 years of promoting the interests of the U.S. Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League and helping to protect and advance the welfare of Marines and their dependents.

Today our members continue to dedicate many hours and miles for these same principals, and we continue to be committed to these ideals:

• Preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps while perpetuating the history of the same
• Maintaining a true allegiance to American institutions
• Holding sacred the history and memory of the men and women who have given their lives to this nation
• Creating a bond of comradeship between the Auxiliary and the Marine Corps League, Inc.
• Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and their families
• Striving for the passage of legislation favorable to the United States Marine Corps personnel and to the Marine Corps League, Inc.
• Always fostering love of Honesty, Loyalty and Truth and a reverence to our God, our Country, our Family and our Home.

As we carry on these works, for at least another 80 years, you can be assured that these principals and our commitment, the love and respect we have for our Marines and the kindness and care that we provide to veterans, their families and our communities will never waver.

We thank those whose dedication keeps this country free and safe from those who would seek to harm us. May God bless you always.

Semper Fi,
Karen Aune
National President, MCLA

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554-7771
Phone: (571) 477-2780 | Email: mclahq@aol.com
www.nationalmcla.org

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
No Division Vice

KEY STAFF PERSONNEL & PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN
Barb Nobile, PNP

VAVS REPRESENTATIVE
Nancy Calleja

NATIONAL REGENT
Dorcas Simpson

NATIONAL BIG FLEA
Rogene Hackbarth
POW/MIA: HONORING AMERICA’S HEROES

ZIPPO® LIGHTER COLLECTION

CUSTOM LIGHTED DISPLAY CASE

LIVING ON IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER

This stirring tribute collection presents nine gleaming, chrome-finished ZIPPO® lighters with powerful POW/MIA imagery and patriotic messages—a potent reminder of those who have made the greatest sacrifice, all in the name of our freedoms. It includes an illuminated display case with a raised-relief, sculptural metal POW/MIA centerpiece and hinged glass cover. A $100 value, the display is yours for the cost of a single lighter. 

STRICTLY LIMITED TO 9,000 COMPLETE COLLECTIONS

Order the 10 limited editions (9 lighters plus display) at the issue price of $39.99* each, payable in two installments of $19.99. Your purchase is backed by our unconditional, 365-day money-back guarantee. You’ll receive one edition about every other month; cancel at any time by notifying us. Send no money now. Just return the coupon today.

www.bradfordexchange.com/904617

©2017 BGE 01-25218-001-BDSP17

Distinctive bottom stamp authenticates each lighter as a genuine ZIPPO® windproof lighter

A portion of the proceeds from each sale will be donated to help the families of POWs and those missing in action.

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please accept my order for the POW/MIA: Honoring America’s Heroes ZIPPO® Lighter Collection. I need send no money now. I will be billed with shipment. Limit: one per order.

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

*Plus $8.99 shipping and service per edition. Display will be shipped after your second lighter. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 9,000 complete collections. Please allow 4-6 weeks for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.
MARINES:
The Marine Corps League has two major tasks to accomplish as we go forward: replace members who have passed on and spread the organization’s vision and brand to next-generation Marines leaving active duty.

New detachments are the greatest growth vehicle to adding membership, new ideas and programs. The fiduciary operating procedures must be in place to establish a long-range, solid financial plan with the monitoring and metrics to maintain compliance for the privilege of being a non-profit veterans’ service organization (VSO).

The Board of Trustees must make a deep dive assessment of our organization and develop programs to address the findings and members’ needs. This cannot be done without the membership’s help and the divisions’, departments’ and detachments’ leadership. The first task will be passing the newly proposed bylaws at the National Convention, which our National Judge Advocate is addressing. The fiduciary process begins with the detachment and ends with National; the Devil Dogs and Auxiliary organizations must also follow the same fiduciary processes since they are subsidiaries of the parent organization.

Accomplishments are being made to make our League a stronger organization during visits to several division conferences and department conventions. We are seeing an effort from all entities to accept and understand the fiduciary responsibilities to make our organization compliant.

The MCL Team must become a well-tuned VSO—our Mission is to attract all Honorable Discharged Marines, corpsmen and chaplains as they transition from active duty to Marine Corps League.

Semper Fi,
Wendell Webb
National Sr. Vice Commandant

MARINES:
I’ve been to a number of conferences and conventions this year, and I’ve seen a great deal of attention put toward membership.

Everyone is working hard to recruit new members and bring back delinquent members. There have been new detachments formed around the country, and I’m hopeful that our final quarter numbers will show that the hard work paid off.

I will look at all divisions, departments and detachments for increased and 100%-retained membership in the final June 30 summary. Detachment awards will be broken down by size—15-50, 51-100, 101-200 and 200+ members. Plaques will be given to the top three in each category and to the top three departments and divisions.

I will also give out individual recruiting awards. The rules for this award are in the by-laws with the proper form for submission. The award request must be submitted to me by July 10, 2017. The member who recruited the most Marines for the past year earns National Recruiter of the Year.

Marine South was a large success regarding active duty. Our members stopped every Marine who tried to walk past our tables, inside and outside our welcome tent, to sign them up. We recruited 253 active duty Marines!

I’ve enjoyed these last two years as Jr. Vice Commandant and thank everyone for their help. I will complete my term as your Jr. Vice at our National Convention and look forward to serving you as Sr. Vice Commandant.

Semper Fidelis,
Dennis Tobin
National Jr. Vice Commandant
MARINES:

It is that time of year that departments and detachments are holding their annual officers’ elections—a requirement of the National Bylaws (Sections 405 and 510).

The National Bylaws also state that the “Report of Officer Installation” must be sent to National within 15 days after the installation. These requirements are a must!

Because each department and detachment normally has a major turnover of officers each year, please allow me to encourage all elected and appointed officers to read and be knowledgeable of their new responsibilities. I cannot impress on you enough to read the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, the MCL Ritual Manual and the Guidebook for Detachment Officers. These three documents will ensure that each of you knows your duties and responsibilities for each office.

Finally, the documents are not worth the paper they are printed on if you do not use them as a meeting guide as well as to enforce the MCL rules and regulations. As your National Judge Advocate, many of the cases that appear on my desk are often the results of detachment officers not following the National Bylaws and the Ritual Manual. They are your Bylaws for the Marine Corps League. Use them and you will see favorable results in the daily operation of your detachment. Marines are taught “structure” right in boot camp; it never leaves us. I have often said, “Marines do the right thing.” It is who we are—United States Marines.

Semper Fi,
Johnny Baker
National Judge Advocate
As we transition from Spring to Summer and are all so busy planning or thinking about our vacations and the upcoming 2017 MCL National Convention, let us remember those Marines and their families who are in need.

Since the Mid-Winter Conference, the Marine Corps League Foundation has been there for several Marines and their families. I give a heartfelt thanks to those who donated at the Mid-Winter Conference passing of the hat. With your generosity we collected over $1,200. We continue to appreciate and are thankful for the donations and gifts from across the country from not only the MCL membership, but from our brothers and sisters of other associations. No matter the amount or sizes of donations the MCL Foundation receives, we still need your support to continue our mission.

As always we are here for those in need of a helping hand and not a handout. Just a reminder, all assistance from the MCL Foundation is a “One Time, Life Time grant of assistance.”

The Memorial Certificate Program continues to be the most honorable way to say “Thanks” to those who have received PCS orders to stand guard at the Pearly Gate. Remember for the low price of $25 per certificate, you can have the certificates on hand to provide immediate thanks and honor.

I implore the National, division, department and detachment officers to continue enlightening our members about the Foundation’s mission, how they can get involved and discover those in their communities who are either in need or on the verge of being in need of assistance. I also ask detachments and departments to please vet any and all requests for assistance. Having to wait for document or information verification after it reaches my desk can sometimes slow down the process. If they have already been vetted by the detachment and department to be truly in need of assistance, we generally have a turn around on the request within 48 to 72 hours.

Once again the MCL Foundation is listed among the best military, family and veterans’ service charities in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Our CFC number is 10145, so make sure your friends and families who participate in the CFC know to donate to the Foundation. We are also listed under Amazon Smiles as a charitable organization. So, if you shop on Amazon, please list the MCL Foundation as your charitable organization. Doing so brings in funds donated by Amazon to assist in our mission of helping those in need. You do not pay extra for the donations, Amazon calculates a percentage of your payment, and they donate that percentage.

By the time you receive this issue of Semper Fi, I will have attended the annual Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) competition at MCRD, San Diego, and presented monetary awards to the top three girls and boys and to the top two schools. Congratulations to all participants of the YPF! It is a truly remarkable event to observe.

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.

I’ll see everyone in Overland Park, KS, at the 2017 MCL National Convention. Remember to stop by our table to pick up your coins and other items for a small donation to further our mission or to just say hello.

Semper Fi,
Gregory Hunt
President, MCL Foundation Inc.
**DIVISION REPORTS**

**MARINES:**

The National Convention is just a few weeks down the road.

Many great changes are on the horizon. We have a vote on revising the 250 some pages of the National bylaws to 22 pages, the rest will be in administrative procedures, a new computer system.

The new deadline for membership dues is August 31, 2017; this change will give us a better handle on our membership numbers. (See page 10 in this issue of *Semper Fi* for more information on Membership in the Attention On Deck column.)

By the National Convention in August, the Board will be able to announce who we are bringing on board as our new Executive Director.

Through the work of the Board of Trustees, I am happy to say we have a balanced budget. We will be running the Marine Corps League as a business. As such, we must abide by IRS rules. This is just one reason we must separate the bylaws from the administrative procedures.

I want to congratulate the newly elected officers of the detachments and departments. I know you will do a good job. Thanks to each of you for taking the responsibility.

I will be running for the position of National Judge Advocate at the National Convention. I am well suited for the job. I served for 10 years at the National level, the last three as National Vice Commandant. I will work for you and the League—not monthly, not weekly, but every day. Thank you for your support.

Have a good summer—you and your family be safe. See you all in Overland Park, KS, August 13-18, 2017!

Semper Fi,
Ray Dailey
NVC, Central Division

**MARES:**

The administrative changes in National Headquarters’ (HQ) membership department have enhanced the processing of dues transmittals.

Many of our departments report that the Paymasters receive their copies in about two weeks. MCL forms can be completed and downloaded.

The Department of West Virginia has compiled an excellent Guidebook for Detachments, outlining all required activities and reporting.

Departments are having their annual conventions during this quarter, and I look forward to attending them and installing their new officers. Departments need to maintain an up-to-date detachment roster and build a database of contact emails, including an email address for Commandants, Adjutants and Paymasters so that requested information or action can be tended to in a matter of minutes.

Notify Marines of the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. If they were stationed there for 30 days or more from August 1, 1953, through December 31, 1987, and have no conditions related to the water they should complete the forms in the water register for future reference.

The VA has approved a presumptive list of conditions, and commencing March 14, 2017, compensation will be granted. Inform widows of Marines who passed away from a presumptive condition approved after their death that they can file a claim for benefits. Once the claim is approved, they can receive an increased burial compensation of $2,000.

Please register for the National Convention through your detachment; the Paymaster has the Delegate Registration form, and the National HQ site has a link: mcnational.org, click on Programs and then National Convention. The 2017 Modern Day Marine Expo will be September 19-21, 2017, at MCB, Quantico, VA, and we need volunteers in our recruiting and MCL booths.

My tour as the Commandant of the Mideast Division closes with the National Convention. I have enjoyed every minute. The division will be in capable hands with Bruce Rakfeldt as the NVC and Roger Ware as the ANVC.

Keep our deployed Marines in your prayers.

Semper Fi,
Mike McLain
NVC, Mideast Division
**MARINES:**

The Midwest Division (MWD) is increasing the Division strength by hopefully five new detachments.

At present, the Department of Nebraska is working on two detachments in central Nebraska. The Department of Iowa has requested a starter kit for one new detachment in eastern Iowa. North Dakota is in the process of chartering the Red River Raiders Detachment in Fargo and working on a Fire Team or larger in Dickinson. North Dakota recently chartered the John M. Joyce Detachment 1445 in Minot. With the addition of new detachments, North Dakota is in the process of submitting paperwork to become a department.

Due to the increase of new detachment officers, a training session has been scheduled in Bismarck, July 15, 2017, with instructors: Ray Murrell, the interim North Dakota Department Commandant, Jr. Past Commandant, Dakota Leathernecks Detachment; John Byrnes, MWD Training Officer, Commandant of the General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment, Department of Kansas; and Harvey Harris, Division Vice Commandant. Topics covered: Goal setting, MCL general awareness, leadership development, financial planning, volunteer management and specific officer duties. Due to the new membership database going online soon, updated Paymaster training will be available.

The time is approaching for Department Conferences:

- **Department of Iowa**
  June 16-18, 2017
  Hosted by Dubuque Detachment at the Holiday Inn Dubuque/Galena, 450 Main St., Dubuque, IA

- **Department of Kansas**
  June 3, 2017
  Hosted by Air Capitol Detachment, Best Western Airport Inn, 6815 W Kellogg Dr., Wichita, KS

- **Department of South Dakota**
  June 10, 2017
  American Legion Building, Pierre, SD

For additional information on MWD Department Conferences go to: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org.

Semper Fi,
Harvey L. Harris
NVC, Midwest Division

---

**MARINES:**

Here we are again: the time of year when we hold department and division conventions all culminating with our National Convention in August in Overland Park, KS.

For all attending members this is a time to reflect on what goals have been met and what future accomplishments we hope to attain. The benefit of these conventions is the fun of being with other Marines. This is the time questions are asked: When were you in? Who were you with? These questions generate hours of tales (all of which are 100% true as can best be remembered).

I had the honor this year of attending conventions in California, New Jersey, Alabama and most recently, the Quad State in Rhode Island. It was a joy listening to Marines present ideas and successes. The more we get together, the more we help each other. I am looking forward to attending more conventions in the near future.

A benefit of being a Marine Corps League member is helping other Marines, Corpsmen and our Chaplains. We are well-organized and can disseminate information and benefits to our people. Our newly discharged Marines often don’t know about their local and federal benefits. I am sure that there is a procedure of presenting some of their benefits when they are getting out, but I am also sure that many of those Marines are looking at the clock thinking, “I’m out of here in 2 hours.” This is where we can help. Ask newly discharged Marines if they know of a local benefit; this begins positive dialogue that helps our Marines and introduces the benefits of joining the League.

I hope to see many of you in Kansas for the changing of the guard. Commandant Gore has gone above and beyond in leading our League so that we will have a future. Our new leaders have big shoes to fill, but I am confident our future is bright. I hope to be a part of that new leadership. I ask for your support and vote—I am running for the office of National Judge Advocate.

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

---

**NEW ENGLAND DIVISION**

**MIDWEST DIVISION**
MARINES:

As we move through the last few months of this year we need to remember just how far we have come as an organization.

We have weathered squalls and storms and have still managed to keep the ship afloat and moving forward. To keep the momentum we must work together as a united membership. Yes, we all have different ideas on how to accomplish the mission, but that is what makes our organization great. Our differences make us stronger, we build on our strengths and diversity.

The Marine Corps League has made significant progress; the road ahead of us is long, and we will still have many obstacles to overcome as we work toward our goal. We have to set obtainable milestones celebrating each as they are obtained, then turn around and work toward the next milestone.

The Board of Trustees you elect at the National Convention will be making decisions to guide our future. But it is our responsibility as members of this organization to offer the Board guidance and support. Not all plans or ideas will work the way we want them to; remember a step backwards is not a failure. A step backwards is an opportunity to adjust the game plan and move in a new direction. Remember “adapt and overcome.”

It has been a true honor to serve the membership of the Northeast Division and the Marine Corps League over the past two years. I have learned a lot from the membership, and my fellow Board members. Reflecting on the past two years, there were no negatives. There were many “How To’s” and “How Not To’s,” and for that I say THANK YOU! I look forward to serving the membership and supporting the National Board of Trustees as we work together to advance the Marine Corps League and our mission.

Have a great summer. See you in Overland Park, KS.

Semper Fi,
PDC (PCDD) Leanna L. Dietrich
NVC, Northeast Division

MARINES:

The Northwest Division is hard at work for its MCL Membership.

One of the great things we are working on, and by the time you read this we will have voted on, is the new membership database, which I think in time will change the efficiency of the League. My hat goes off to Wendell Webb, the design team and to all the members who took the time to attend the many webinars we had on the database. It will take time to merge everyone and correct some of the data in the merger, but in the end we all will be in a better place.

Can you believe Toys for Tots is just around the corner? Seems like we just finished working on the last one. I can tell you the NWDIV does an outstanding job in the T4T’s drive, from working warehouses and collecting toys to holding fundraisers. Seems like every year there is more demand, and we answer the call with our MCL membership.

I also would like to thank our Jr. Past Commandant Richard Gore. You, my brother, took the League out of a hole and made it better for all of us. We in the Northwest Division thank you for that. Lots of work to remain, but we are in a better place because of your great leadership. Salute!

In closing I would like to say I have really enjoyed my first year as the NWDIV NVC. Thank you to all of the members in the division for your trust in me to represent you. It is an honor and a privilege to do that!

Semper Fi,
T.J. Morgan
NVC, Northwest Division
**M A R I N E S :**

Hello Rocky Mountain Division Marine Corps League family: This is my last article as your National Vice Commandant of the Rocky Mountain Division.

I’d like to thank everyone for the input and support throughout my Tour of Duty. I feel with your input and help, I was able to handle many issues throughout the division and throughout the League as a Board of Trustee member. Thank you all!

In August a new National Vice Commandant and Assistant National Vice Commandant of the Rocky Mountain Division will be installed, and I wish them both the best of luck. As you are reading this, most of the department conventions have been completed along with the Rocky Mountain Division joint convention. To the newly elected officers, I say congratulations and welcome aboard. To these newly elected officers, I believe I’ve had a good working relationship with most department officers and detachments; I hope the newly elected officers and National Vice Commandant and the Assistant will also have that same cooperation and support. Without the detachments and the departments, National would not be needed, so we need to keep up the good work and keep a good working relationship between all detachments, all departments and National. But please remember there is a chain of leadership for the Marine Corps League that should be followed—it is there for a reason; please use it first and not jump straight to the top four National Officers.

Please stay on top of recruiting and retaining members. Also make sure that your 990s and EINs are both up-to-date. We are losing a lot of our members due to their age and health so we need to keep up with the families—we don’t forget our members. There is a new database coming so maintain the rosters accurately and keep them current.

Once again I’d like to thank everybody for his or her assistance and support during my term of office. I hope to see you all at the National Convention in Overland Park, KS.

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

**M A R I N E S :**

Our division is making small gains in starting new detachments—three in the last two quarters.

The members’ dues have confused some, but I feel everyone will understand them soon.

Retention and recruitment still remain problematic, although I know the department and detachment commandants understand this issue’s importance. It seems we can get Marines to join but not keep them within our ranks. Sponsor the new members and stay with them until they feel comfortable. Attempt to answer any of their questions, and if you don’t know the answers, find out. I met a new member at the Department of Florida Spring Conference who didn’t know what was going on at the meetings. I sat with him in instruction classes and assisted him with the format that was presented. He thanked me afterwards, which is the greatest reward for something we all should be doing. We have all sat in that seat and wondered why no one came over and welcomed us. I will tell you that if this should happen, you may see him at a few meetings and then he will be GONE! This is the last thing we need in our beloved Marine Corps League.

I attended Marine South at Camp Lejeune and Department of Florida Spring Conference. The Marine South Expo vendors displayed some very high-tech equipment. As to the Spring Conference, we had over 60 attendees in the Professional Development Program for the morning and evening classes. All received a certificate and a CD concerning Safety Planning for Suicide Prevention—I know we have all heard the terrible news that over 20 veterans commit suicide every day! If you think someone is considering suicide, call 911 or the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1 for veterans. To chat, you can email VeteransCrisisLine.net or text: 838255.

Remember to always keep our service men and women in all your thoughts. Until next time, “I’LL C U ON THE BEACH!”

Semper Fi,
Jim Hackbarth
NVC, Southeast Division
MARINES:

This is my last article as your Southern Division Vice Commandant.

I will be stepping down from that office in Overland Park as of August. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the division these past four years; with your help, we have made the Southern Division an example of what a Marine Corps League division should be. For those of you who were not at the Southern Division conference, your new NVC is Charles Ynman from Texas. I will be turning over my records to him some time during the convention so that he can proceed with the division’s business right after he takes office.

We had a record turnout at the Southern Division conference in Tyler, TX; the Northwest Arkansas detachment in the Springdale-Rogers area is scheduled to host the 2018 conference. One of my goals has been to increase participation from all division detachments and departments within the division, and I am happy with the results I have seen over the past four years.

I was really pleased to hear about the Gold Star Family monument project that is underway in Arkansas with support of local detachments. We can add this to the Gold Star Family monument project in Tulsa, OK, and the work on several monuments taking place around Texas. These are all very important projects, and I hope that every local detachment located in the areas around these monuments supports them.

As you may know, I am seeking the office of National Judge Advocate, and should the membership select me to serve in the office I will continue to serve in the same manner as you have come to expect.

I was really pleased to hear about the Gold Star Family monument project that is underway in Arkansas with support of local detachments. We can add this to the Gold Star Family monument project in Tulsa, OK, and the work on several monuments taking place around Texas. These are all very important projects, and I hope that every local detachment located in the areas around these monuments supports them.

I was really pleased to hear about the Gold Star Family monument project that is underway in Arkansas with support of local detachments. We can add this to the Gold Star Family monument project in Tulsa, OK, and the work on several monuments taking place around Texas. These are all very important projects, and I hope that every local detachment located in the areas around these monuments supports them.

Semper Fi,

Richard Hoery
NVC, Southwest Division

MARINES:

I hope this article finds all Marine Corps League members of the Southwest Division in high spirits and excellent health.

The Mid-Winter Conference was very informative, particularly regarding future Marine Corps League events. I attended the Department of Nevada Convention, which was held in Carson City, NV, May 17-18, 2017. It was an excellent convention, and the new Department of Nevada officers were elected and installed into office. Congratulations and well wishes to the newly installed Commandant of the Carson City Detachment, Gary Anderson. Good luck during your tour of duty.

I am looking forward to attending the Department of Arizona Convention to be held at the Desert Diamond Hotel and Casino in Tucson on June 2-4, 2017, and the Department of California Convention to be held at the Grand Vista Hotel in Simi Valley on June 15-17, 2017. I hope both departments have an excellent convention. I also look forward to attending the 94th Marine Corps National Convention being held in Overland Park, KS, on August 13-18, 2017. I welcome the chance to meet with old friends and look forward to also making many new friends. I am confident it will be an excellent convention.

I am very pleased to report the Southwest Division has had NO disciplinary cases to report for this period.

I hope all Marine Corps League members are in excellent health and enjoy our meetings and Conferences.

Semper Fi,

Richard Hoery
NVC, Southwest Division
On April 12, 2017, active-duty Marines, Marine Corps League members and defense industry attendees gathered in the crisp sunshine of a North Carolina morning to take part in the opening ceremony of the Marine South Expo. Held annually, Marine South is a League-sponsored exposition at Camp Lejeune that creates a forum for manufacturers and service providers to showcase their newest, state-of-the-art technologies and products directly to the Marine Corps.

MajGen Walter L. Miller, Jr., thanked the League in his opening ceremony speech stating, “I also want to thank Mr. Dick Gore and the Marines of the Marine Corps League, represented in the red uniforms, as they continue to serve; even after hanging up their utilities, the Eagle, Globe and Anchor remains branded in their hearts. Thank you for con-
On April 5th, MajGen Miller sent the following message to Semper Fi magazine: “We’re thankful to the Marine Corps League for helping bridge the gap between our partners in industry and the needs of the Marine Corps. The Marine South Expo is an excellent example of the invaluable resources and opportunities made available by industry that can help us continue to be expeditionary, austere and lethal.”

Go to www.marinemilitaryexpos.com for more information about the Marine West, Marine South and Modern Day Marine expos. Upcoming event dates can also be found in the Marine Corps League Event Calendar on page 67.

The Semper Fi Fund provides immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to post-9/11 wounded, critically ill and injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families, ensuring they have the resources they need during their recovery and transition back to their communities. www.semperfifund.org

MWD (Ret.) Nico, Explosives Detection Canine, takes a break from checking out the Marine South vendors.
Massachusetts State Trooper (Ret.) Mr. Richard D. Gore, Sr., Commandant of the Marine Corps League, speaks during the opening ceremony.

Exhibitor Brian Shaver of Quantico Tactical demonstrates a product for a Marine attendee.

Marine Corps League member Lisa Ciesielski speaks of the many benefits of joining the League.

Exhibitor Oshkosh Defense shows Marine attendees their JLTV (Joint Light Tactical Vehicle) Utility Truck. Oshkosh Defense was recently awarded a U.S. Marine Corps order valued at more than $33 million for an additional 54 P-19R Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) vehicles. www.oshkoshdefense.com

Marine Corps Color Guard presents the colors.
Time to Honor the Valor of a Very Special Marine

USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock

Golden banner plaque on the rich, wooden base can be personalized FREE to create a one-of-a-kind tribute

Quartz-accurate desk clock paired with indoor thermometer emblazoned with “THE FEW THE PROUD”

Eagle, Globe and Anchor symbol hand-painted with precision in gleaming gold and silver hues

PERSONALIZED

with custom NAME or MESSAGE

Shown smaller than actual size of appr. 9½ inches high

TIME FOR A SALUTE!

Now you can display your pride in the timely action of the United States Marine Corps with the USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock, exclusively from The Bradford Exchange. Standing tall at 9½ inches high, this distinctive wooden desk clock features an ever-faithful quartz-accurate analog timepiece and matching indoor temperature thermometer. Rising powerfully above the instrument set is a hand-sculpted, three-dimensional USMC Eagle, Globe and Anchor symbol, boldly finished in shining silver and gold tones flanked by two flags. The golden banner on the base can be personalized free with name and rank of your own hero or with your family name. (up to 20 characters.)

Act now to get yours in four installments of only $32.49 each, for a total of $129.95*. Our 365-Day Guarantee assures your complete satisfaction.

To order, send no money now. Just complete and return the Reservation Application and don’t forget to include the name for personalization!

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Mrs. Mr. Ms.
Name (Please Print Clearly)
Address
City State Zip
Email (optional)

SEND NO MONEY NOW

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock for me as described in this announcement. Print the name to be personalized below (limit 20 characters):

______________________________

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Mrs. Mr. Ms.
Name (Please Print Clearly)
Address
City State Zip
Email (optional)

SEND NO MONEY NOW

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock for me as described in this announcement. Print the name to be personalized below (limit 20 characters):

______________________________

NOW AVAILABLE

Time to Honor the Valor of a Very Special Marine

USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock

Golden banner plaque on the rich, wooden base can be personalized FREE to create a one-of-a-kind tribute

Quartz-accurate desk clock paired with indoor thermometer emblazoned with “THE FEW THE PROUD”

Eagle, Globe and Anchor symbol hand-painted with precision in gleaming gold and silver hues

PERSONALIZED

with custom NAME or MESSAGE

Shown smaller than actual size of appr. 9½ inches high

TIME FOR A SALUTE!

Now you can display your pride in the timely action of the United States Marine Corps with the USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock, exclusively from The Bradford Exchange. Standing tall at 9½ inches high, this distinctive wooden desk clock features an ever-faithful quartz-accurate analog timepiece and matching indoor temperature thermometer. Rising powerfully above the instrument set is a hand-sculpted, three-dimensional USMC Eagle, Globe and Anchor symbol, boldly finished in shining silver and gold tones flanked by two flags. The golden banner on the base can be personalized free with name and rank of your own hero or with your family name. (up to 20 characters.)

Act now to get yours in four installments of only $32.49 each, for a total of $129.95*. Our 365-Day Guarantee assures your complete satisfaction.

To order, send no money now. Just complete and return the Reservation Application and don’t forget to include the name for personalization!

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Mrs. Mr. Ms.
Name (Please Print Clearly)
Address
City State Zip
Email (optional)

SEND NO MONEY NOW

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock for me as described in this announcement. Print the name to be personalized below (limit 20 characters):

______________________________

NOW AVAILABLE

Time to Honor the Valor of a Very Special Marine

USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock

Golden banner plaque on the rich, wooden base can be personalized FREE to create a one-of-a-kind tribute

Quartz-accurate desk clock paired with indoor thermometer emblazoned with “THE FEW THE PROUD”

Eagle, Globe and Anchor symbol hand-painted with precision in gleaming gold and silver hues

PERSONALIZED

with custom NAME or MESSAGE

Shown smaller than actual size of appr. 9½ inches high

TIME FOR A SALUTE!

Now you can display your pride in the timely action of the United States Marine Corps with the USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock, exclusively from The Bradford Exchange. Standing tall at 9½ inches high, this distinctive wooden desk clock features an ever-faithful quartz-accurate analog timepiece and matching indoor temperature thermometer. Rising powerfully above the instrument set is a hand-sculpted, three-dimensional USMC Eagle, Globe and Anchor symbol, boldly finished in shining silver and gold tones flanked by two flags. The golden banner on the base can be personalized free with name and rank of your own hero or with your family name. (up to 20 characters.)

Act now to get yours in four installments of only $32.49 each, for a total of $129.95*. Our 365-Day Guarantee assures your complete satisfaction.

To order, send no money now. Just complete and return the Reservation Application and don’t forget to include the name for personalization!

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Mrs. Mr. Ms.
Name (Please Print Clearly)
Address
City State Zip
Email (optional)

SEND NO MONEY NOW

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock for me as described in this announcement. Print the name to be personalized below (limit 20 characters):

______________________________

NOW AVAILABLE

Time to Honor the Valor of a Very Special Marine

USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock

Golden banner plaque on the rich, wooden base can be personalized FREE to create a one-of-a-kind tribute

Quartz-accurate desk clock paired with indoor thermometer emblazoned with “THE FEW THE PROUD”

Eagle, Globe and Anchor symbol hand-painted with precision in gleaming gold and silver hues

PERSONALIZED

with custom NAME or MESSAGE

Shown smaller than actual size of appr. 9½ inches high

TIME FOR A SALUTE!

Now you can display your pride in the timely action of the United States Marine Corps with the USMC “Semper Fi” Personalized Thermometer Clock, exclusively from The Bradford Exchange. Standing tall at 9½ inches high, this distinctive wooden desk clock features an ever-faithful quartz-accurate analog timepiece and matching indoor temperature thermometer. Rising powerfully above the instrument set is a hand-sculpted, three-dimensional USMC Eagle, Globe and Anchor symbol, boldly finished in shining silver and gold tones flanked by two flags. The golden banner on the base can be personalized free with name and rank of your own hero or with your family name. (up to 20 characters.)

Act now to get yours in four installments of only $32.49 each, for a total of $129.95*. Our 365-Day Guarantee assures your complete satisfaction.

To order, send no money now. Just complete and return the Reservation Application and don’t forget to include the name for personalization!

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Mrs. Mr. Ms.
Name (Please Print Clearly)
Address
City State Zip
Email (optional)
This is a new beginning from an old warrior. It won’t be long before we once again elect a new slate of officers.

In discussions I have had with Marine Wendell Webb, I have been very impressed with his business savvy and his operational skills. I see his leadership propelling us to the next plateau of our development as an organization. We have come a long way over the last two years. Each of those upward milestones has been hard fought. We improve and continue to improve each day; there isn’t a minute that goes by that doesn’t present a challenge to your national staff and yet they continue to persevere. Your national Commandant Richard Gore and his Board of Trustees have done an excellent job of rebuilding the integrity and mission of this great organization. As an organization we are stronger today than we have ever been, and we continue to be dedicated to our mission. The membership of United States Marines, naval corpsman and naval chaplains has drawn us closer together in camaraderie and fellowship. We will continue to preserve those precious traditions of our United States Marine Corps. Our active duty Marines continue to forge new chapters in Marine Corps history. It is incumbent upon all of us to assist and help these Marines once they have hung up their uniforms. It is time for us to hand over our “guide on” to this exceptional generation of Marines. It is this younger generation of Marines that will continue to promote those ideals that were instilled in each of us during our service as Marines. Preserving our legacy, history and traditions is still as important as it ever was to these Marines of today; go out of your way to welcome your Marine brothers home.

As I think back some 40+ years ago in Quincy, Massachusetts while on recruiting duty, I was introduced to the Marine Corps League by an old China Marine, Leo Cardarelli—a gruff individual, just what you would expect of an old China Marine to be if you were to draw a mental picture of a salty Marine veteran. To Marine Cardarelli I would like to say thank you so much for introducing me to the Marine Corps League.

The William R. Caddy Detachment was made up of a wide range of influential Marines. Let’s just say the corps had its roots firmly planted in Quincy. The city mayor, the city clerk and a number of Councilmen were members. Prominent members of the city’s police and fire departments were well represented, as were prominent business and community leaders. I never knew what the term “networking” really meant until I had an opportunity to interact with such a diverse assortment of individuals. As the old timers used to say, “I know a guy,” which usually meant that they could put you in touch with someone who could solve your problem or give you the advice you needed. This is what we need to do for our Marines transitioning out of the corps.

I would like to continue to say a few words about our Young Marine Program. The article in the Spring 2017 Semper Fi on Colonel Bill Davis was spectacular—just another example of the leadership of our veterans once they have left active duty. I would encourage detachments, departments and divisions to become more involved with the local Young Marine units. The adult leaders whom I have met throughout the country continue to do an excellent job with the youth of America. Marines transitioning out of the Marine Corps would be an excellent asset to any Young Marine unit. In doing so we present an opportunity for these Marines to become acquainted with the Marine Corps League detachments.

I will continue to express my opposition to the easing of laws that promote mind-altering stimulants. Our children and young adults must be given the opportunity to pursue a drug-free lifestyle. We as adults owe it to our children to set the example. So much has changed in our culture through the acceptance of gateway drugs such as ecstasy, marijuana and other mind-altering stimulants. It is up to us to teach our children the dangers of illicit stimulants. Remember they do listen to you.

Semper Fidelis,
James “Jim” Laskey
Junior Past National Commandant
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name ___________________________________________ Phone (_____) __________
Street Address _______________________________________ City ____________________
State ______ Zip _______ +____

Date of Birth ___/___/____ Email Address ______________________________

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning __________________ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ________________ Service# or SS#________

Type of Application — New () Renewal () Membership Type — Regular () Associate () Dual ()

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ( ) YES ( ) NO If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

( ) I hereby apply for membership in the __________________ Detachment, Marine Corps League and
endorse $ _______ for one year’s membership.

( ) I hereby apply for membership in the Marine Corps League as a Member-at-Large (MAL), and enclose $30 for one year’s membership.

*Includes free subscription to Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

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) days 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 FMC Unit in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon, authorized for Corpsman or have served or are currently serving as a U.S. Navy Chaplain and have earned the FMC 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 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)

(Sponsor where applicable)

© 2017 Marine Corps League, Inc.
For Official Marine Corps League use only
All other use is prohibited.

Applicant’s Signature (see reverse side)

Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment. Applicants for MAL Membership, remit this form with check or money order in the amount of $30 to Marine Corps League, National Headquarters, 3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name ___________________________________________ Phone (_____) __________
Street Address _______________________________________ City ____________________
State ______ Zip _______ +____

Date of Birth ___/___/____ Email Address ______________________________

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning __________________ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ________________ Service# or SS#________

Type of Application — New () Renewal () Membership Type — Regular () Associate () Dual ()

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ( ) YES ( ) NO If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

( ) I hereby apply for membership in the __________________ Detachment, Marine Corps League and
endorse $ _______ for one year’s membership.

( ) I hereby apply for membership in the Marine Corps League as a Member-at-Large (MAL), and enclose $30 for one year’s membership.

*Includes free subscription to Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

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) days 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 FMC Unit in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon, authorized for Corpsman or have served or are currently serving as a U.S. Navy Chaplain and have earned the FMC 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 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)

(Sponsor where applicable)

© 2017 Marine Corps League, Inc.
For Official Marine Corps League use only
All other use is prohibited.

Applicant’s Signature (see reverse side)

Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment. Applicants for MAL Membership, remit this form with check or money order in the amount of $30 to Marine Corps League, National Headquarters, 3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554
OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – REGULAR MEMBERS

I, ____________________________ , in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of the Marine Corps League here assembled, being fully aware of the symbols, motto, principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the Marine Corps League. I will never knowingly wrong, deceive or defraud the League as to the value of anything. I will never knowingly wrong or injure or permit any member or any member’s family to be wronged or injured if to prevent the same is within my power. I will never propose for membership one known to me to be unqualified or unworthy to become a member of the League. I further promise to govern my conduct in the League’s affairs and in my personal life in a manner becoming a decent honorable person and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League, so help me God.

Signature ____________________________

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

I, ____________________________ , in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of the Marine Corps League here assembled, being fully aware that, as an Associate Member, I will not be permitted to hold an elective office or to vote on Marine Corps League policy, a membership application, or an election of officers, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the Marine Corps League. I will never knowingly wrong, deceive or defraud the League as to the value of anything. I will never knowingly wrong or injure or permit any member or any member’s family to be wronged or injured if to prevent the same is within my power. I will never propose for membership one known to me to be unqualified or unworthy to become a member of the League. I further promise to govern my conduct in the League’s affairs and in my personal life in a manner becoming a decent honorable person and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League, so help me God.

Signature ____________________________
Marines Helping Marines

Marine Corps League Brings Active Duty Members into the Fold

By Randy Gaddo

The Marine Corps League (MCL) is now offering free Honorary–Active Duty (H-AD) memberships to all active duty Marines and FMF (Fleet Marine Force) Corpsmen or FMF Chaplains and their Chaplain’s Assistant.

This unique and vital initiative, initially driven by a request for support from the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), brings qualified active duty men and women into the MCL and follows them through their service and beyond.

“We take this mission very seriously, and it will be accomplished from the national, department and detachment levels,” says National Jr. Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin, who notes that there are five areas of concern that motivate this program to help qualified transitioning, or already-transitioned, service members. These areas are: 1) suicide awareness and prevention; 2) homelessness; 3) housing and relocation assistance; 4) employment; and 5) education.

Failure to deal with issue numbers 3, 4 and 5 can lead to number 2 which ultimately can lead to number 1, notes Tobin. Bringing active duty members into the League will eventually build a nationwide base of information that will facil-
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

italize communication and contact with transitioning or transitioned service members.

“We should have a good idea what these transitioning Marines and other qualified members need in the way of employment, housing and education,” says Tobin. “We must stop areas number 1 and 2 from happening.”

Since starting the H-AD program in October 2016, about 1,000 active duty members have joined the League.

The H-AD initiative follows in the footsteps of the “Marine For Life” (M4L) program. M4L has been a Headquarters Marine Corps-led program since 2002 to prepare Marines for the transition from military service to civilian life, whether it was one tour or a career. Instructional sessions literally start at a Marine’s first duty station and follow them through to their last day on active duty and on to their home of choice after service.

The Marine Corps Reserves have Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs) who serve as M4L Network Representatives spread across the country. Some cover entire states or regions while others focus on large metropolitan areas. Their task is to establish networks of businesses, schools, veterans’ service organizations and other resources to help Marines more smoothly transition.

Local MCL detachments can be one of those resources, and the H-AD program can help guide transitioning Marines into the M4L network.

According to Tobin, by now all division, department and detachment commandants should have received written instructions on how H-AD will work and how active duty members will be followed through transition. “If this is done right, we should have a good idea what these Marines are transitioning into and what they may need,” says Tobin.

The task now is setting up a League-wide base of information and points of contact, starting with contacts for housing, employment and education. “We start at the national level,” Tobin explains. “The top four officers develop a list of anyone they know in these categories and pass it to the divisions. The division commandants add any contacts they may have, send it to departments who do the last day on active duty and on to their home of choice after service.

Tobin says he is working on a plan to list the annual MCL convention as a reunion. “The Marine Corps can then send active duty members as long as they attend classes and seminars,” he says. “This would put Marines in direct contact with the League and enable us to pass information about the services we offer.”

Tobin emphasizes that the majority of hands-on work with H-AD will be done at the detachment level with “boots on the ground” in local communities. “We leave it up to the local detachments to determine how they can best execute the plan,” he says.

The P.L. Wilson Detachment #447 in Mobile, Ala., has taken action that is producing results. According to A.B. Grantham, Department of Alabama’s Senior Vice Commandant and a member of the Wilson Detachment, they have gone back to school.

“One of the things we’ve done in Mobile is to focus on student veterans organizations on college campuses,” says Grantham. He cites the University of South Alabama “Jaguars” as an example. Student veterans there have organized as “Jag Vets.”

Younger members of the Wilson Detach-
Once a Marine, Always a Marine

With a distinguished history of more than 200 years, the United States Marine Corps is America’s mightiest fighting force. Also recognized for years of rugged capability, outstanding performance and dependability are USA-built Ford trucks.

Now, Hamilton unites these proud icons in a first-ever handcrafted collectible ... the “Semper Fi” truck.

Ford trucks feature the artistry of James Griffin!

Master Artists sculpt every detail of this limited-edition 1953 Ford truck in 1:36 scale, including the truck’s big front grille ... white-rimmed wheels ... official emblems ... chrome-colored trim ... and much more! Then, they use metallic and high-gloss paints to create an ultra smooth surface to proudly showcase the stirring patriotic artwork of artist James Griffin.

Act now and reserve your FREE 30-Day Preview!

“Semper Fi” is hand-numbered, and includes our Certificate of Authenticity. Demand will be strong, and we assure your satisfaction or your money back. Send no money now to reserve a FREE 30-Day Preview in your name!

After your FREE 30-Day Preview, your credit card will be billed $69.95 plus $9.99 shipping and service charges, making the total $79.94. After that, the balance of $119.99 will be billed in two installments of $19.99 each, and you’ll be billed nothing more. (Deliveries to FL and IL will be billed appropriate sales tax.)

Dear Mr. / Ms.:

Send no money now to reserve a FREE 30-Day Preview. Hamilton guarantees your satisfaction or your money back. After your FREE 30-Day Preview, you will be billed $69.95 plus $9.99 shipping and service charges, making the total $79.94. After that, the balance of $119.99 will be billed in two installments of $19.99 each, and you’ll be billed nothing more. (Deliveries to FL and IL will be billed appropriate sales tax.)

Name__________________________
Address________________________
City_________________ State_____ Zip______
Signature________________________________

Send to:
Hamilton Collection
9204 Center For The Arts Drive, Niles, Illinois 60714-1300

Yes! Please accept my order for “Semper Fi,” payable in two installments of $19.99 each. Send no money now. I will be billed only my first installment with shipment.

©2014 HC. All Rights Reserved. Ford Motor Company Trademarks and Trade Dress used under license to The Bradford Exchange. Distributed by The Hamilton Collection. TM or ® Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps.
REUNIONS

- First Marine Division Association’s 70th Annual Reunion to be held July 31 to August 6, 2017, in Norfolk, VA. Contact June Cormier at 760-763-3267 or email: june.old-breed@fmda.us.

- 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 Vietnam Veterans Reunion announces its planned reunion for 2017. The reunion will take place August 3 to 6, 2017, in Cape Girardeau, MO. The point of contact for this reunion is Jim Stroman. Contact Jim at (home) 573-645-3901 or (cell) 949-610-7888. 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” Ferrel at tacid5@gmail.com or call 707-497-9663 for details.

- Forgotten Hero’s, Eastern Recruiting Region, Recruiters Reunion 2017, August 17 to 19, 2017, at Parris Island, SC. Hotel accommodations will be at the Quality Inn, 2001 Boundary St., Beaufort, SC 29902. 843-524-2144. Tell them you are with the Forgotten Hero’s Recruiters Reunion to get the special price of $69.99 per night. Contact Larry Risvold at larryrisvold@att.net or call at 803-760-4576. Please support us as this is our first reunion.

- 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: kaasfamly4@gmail.com.

- The Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 is holding a reunion for HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (ALL ERAs) commemorating the 50th 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: ruffinch3@gmail.com.

- Marine Air Base Squadrons 43 and 49 are holding a reunion of former members to be held in Earlville, MD, on September 9, 2017. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle (Ret.) at 609-291-9617 or email: mabsreunion@comcast.net.

- The First Marine Airwing —Vietnam Service 29th Anniversary Reunion 2017 will be held at The Embassy Suites San Diego at The Bay Downtown on September 14 to 17, 2017. For information please contact Al Frater at 201-906-1197 or email: teanal@optonline.net.

- 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 delta-companyvietnammarines.com or contact 505-514-9499 or email: zffil@hotmail.com.


- The Marine Corps Air Transport Association (MCATA) is having its annual VMR/VMGR Reunion and Membership Meeting October 19 to 22, 2017, in Pensacola, FL. For more information please go to: www.mcata.com. Email: President@MCATA.com or call: 817-657-7768.

- 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 1-800-554-6542. Contact Frank Miller at familler56@yahoo.com or 775-751-8076 and Vern and Janet Snodderly at vasonodderly@comcast.net or 209-355-0966.

- MCRD San Diego Platoon 2041, August 3, 1967, 50th Year Reunion in Las Vegas, NV, on November 9 to November 12, 2017. Contact Daniel Palacios (house mouse) at 951-
CONVENTION COUNTDOWN!
YOUR 2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION GUIDE

August is approaching quickly, and we hope to see you at 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 in a few weeks!

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: MCI)
• Transportation: Shuttle service to and from the airport can be arranged with Agenda Kansas City. See website for booking link. 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 on the convention website. (Must be ordered in advance. No on-site purchases available.)

EVENT RESERVATIONS
Events reservations are now open. 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
“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 to learn more about local attractions, dining, events and more!
94th NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detachment Name</th>
<th>Det #</th>
<th>DEPT. of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARINE CORPS LEAGUE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94th NATIONAL CONVENTION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overland Park Kansas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Convention Dates: Aug 13 – Aug 18, 2017

TO: National Credentials Committee

Via: MCL Headquarters

3619 Jefferson Davis Highway Suite 115

Stafford, VA 22554

Registration of National Delegate(s)

SUBJ: Registration of National Delegate(s)

REF: (a) Article One, National MCL Bylaws.

(b) Chapter Two, Administrative Procedures, Sect 220 (b) – Registration.

In accordance with reference (b), registration fees to the National Convention shall be six ($6.00) dollars. Advance registration fees shall be five ($5.00) dollars provided that such fee, accompanied by properly executed Official Credential form, is received at National Headquarters not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the opening date of the National Convention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEL</th>
<th>ALT</th>
<th>ASSOC</th>
<th>DUAL</th>
<th>PRIV</th>
<th>NAME(S)</th>
<th>5 Digit Membership Number (MCL)</th>
<th>ATTENDING</th>
<th>YES/NO</th>
<th>PERMIT</th>
<th>TMFR</th>
<th>YES/NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. Delegate strength is based on the number of regular members on the 30 June Strength report. See ref (a), section 105 (a).

2. Enclosed is a check/M.O. ( ) in the amount of $ , made payable to National Headquarters, MCL, to cover the registration fee of the delegate(s), alternates & other attendees to the MCL National Convention as per by ref (b).

3. Print Name: __________________________________________________________________________

   Detachment Commander Date ______________________________________________________________________________

   Adjunct/Paymaster Date ______________________________________________________________________________

   SIGN NAME: __________________________________________________________________________

   Detachment Commander Date ______________________________________________________________________________

   Adjunct/Paymaster Date ______________________________________________________________________________

   (53 per delegate/alternate if mailed before July 27, 2017, otherwise 36).

   Remember to include any Natl and Dept. Officers in your detachment who will be attending. Also include names of guests.
93-Year-Old WW II Vet Leads Wilmington, NC Detachment

By Hank Phillips

The newly elected Commandant of Detachment 1070, Marine Corps League in Wilmington, NC, is 93-year-old Bob Ochs, a WW II Marine combat veteran who served as a platoon sergeant on Okinawa in 1945. Ochs is the oldest detachment commandant in the Department of North Carolina Marine Corps League.

Ochs was an 18-year-old second semester student at Rutgers University in New Jersey when he joined the Marines in Spring 1942. Ochs noted, “Joining the corps was the easy way out after learning the hard way that the university placed academic success over football ability.” When he told his Dad he was joining the Marines, “I vividly recall seeing a seldom-observed emotion from him. He had served in WW I as an Army sergeant, and now his older son was going to war.”

Ochs’ unit landed on Okinawa in the third wave shortly after Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945. “The final weeks of the campaign were the worst I experienced. We were climbing up the mountains, and the enemy was shooting down on us. When it rained, the terrain became slick as ice, and one often slid down an area that had taken several hours to climb up. The final weeks on Okie allowed me to witness real Marine heroes—simply the best fighters in the world.”

“I proudly served as just an ordinary ‘grunt,’ privileged to hold the rank of sergeant. My three sons can attest to the ‘joys’ of being raised by a former Marine platoon sergeant!”

Following his service, Ochs returned to Rutgers where he played three years on the varsity football team and earned a Master’s degree in 1951. He served the university for more than 30 years as its first director of public safety where he commanded a 100-person police department. Ochs now leads a 100-member Marine Corps League detachment in Wilmington, NC.

Marine Ochs is a charter member of Detachment 1070. He and his wife Alice reside in the Porter’s Neck area of Wilmington.

For further information please visit the detachment’s website at capefearmel.org.

Hank Phillips lives in Wilmington, NC. He was a founder and first Commandant of Cape Fear Detachment 1070, Marine Corps League in Wilmington, NC. His great-great uncle, Colonel Commandant John Harris, was the sixth commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.
THE SEMPER FI STORE

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

**TIE TACK**

EAGLE, GLOBE, & ANCHOR

**Item Code:** g342
**Price:** $15.00 (limited quantities)
**Description:** Letter Opener

**RED GOLF SHIRT**

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE WITH EGA

**Item Code:** wa121
**Price:** S-XL $23.00, 2XL $26.00, 3XL $26.00, 4XL $28.00
**Description:** Red MCL Golf Shirt

**WHITE WICKING T-SHIRT**

WITH USMC LOGO

**Item Code:** wa313
**Price:** $25.00 (limited quantities)
**Description:** White Wicking T-Shirt, M, L, XL

**CAMOUFLAGED KNIFE**

USMC GLOBE & ANCHOR ETCHED ON BLADE

**Item Code:** g340
**Price:** $17.00
**Description:** Camo Knife

**LETTER OPENER**

USM

**Item Code:** g342
**Price:** $15.00 (limited quantities)
**Description:** Letter Opener
USMC BASEBALL CAP
WITH USMC EMBROIDERED

Item Code: wa180
Price: $10.00
Description: Olive USMC Baseball Cap

GRAY MARINES T-SHIRT
EXCLUSIVELY FOR WOMEN

Item Code: tshirt08
Price: $10.00 (limited quantities)
Description: Gray Womens’ “MARINES” T-Shirt, LG, XLG, 2XLG, 3XLG

MCL RITUAL
NOW IN LARGE PRINT

Item Code: s13
Price: $6.00
Description: Ritual, Large Print

MCL PATCH
EMBROIDERED

Item Code: patch05
Price: $2.00
Description: MCL Round Patch, 3 1/2”

LAPEL PIN
EAGLE, GLOBE, & ANCHOR

Item Code: j09
Price: $5.00
Description: Eagle, Globe & Anchor Lapel Pin

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

Name ___________________________________________ Date __________________
Street ___________________________________________ Apt.# __________________
City __________________________ State ____________ Zip ___________________
Membership# __________________________ Telephone# ( ) __________________ Email ___________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE NO.</th>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>ITEM DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>PRICE EA.</th>
<th>TOTAL COST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HANDLING & POSTAGE

AMOUNT OF ORDER................... CHARGE
UNDER $10......................... $4.99
$10.01-$25.00.................... $6.99
$25.01-$35.00.................... $8.99
$35.01-$50.00.................... $9.99
$50.01-$65.00.................... $10.99
$65.01-$85.00.................... $11.99
$85.01-$100.00................... $12.99
$100.01-$200.00............... $14.99
$200.01 AND UP................ $16.99

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 # ___________________

EXPIRATION DATE ___________ CVV NUMBER

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, Mastercard or Discover) is your CVV card security number. For AMEX, your 4-digit CVV code is on the front.
On March 12, 2017, members of the West Hudson Detachment led the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Kearny, NJ. Back row left to right: Ed-wardo Soriano, John Healy and Jack Engdahl. Front row left to right: (Color Guard) Cesar Huaman, Adam Tegge, John Cleary and Sean Glennon.

Installation of Officers, North Lake Detachment 662, Leesburg, FL. Left to right: Dick Edwards, Sgt at Arms; Charles Smrcina, Jr. Vice Commandant; Don Streeter, Commandant; Jim Huntzinger, Sr. Vice Commandant; and Merle Moritz, Judge Advocate. Installing Officer: Past Commandant, Bill Bell.
Pete Palestina coordinated a welcome-home reception for Army Specialist Jeffrey Vogel and holds Vogel’s flag while he addresses the 70 people on hand for the event.

Members of the Jacksonville Marine Corps League Detachment 059 held a weekend fundraiser and collected members’ personal donations to support the Five Star Veteran Center. They presented Col. Loving, CEO of the Five Star Veterans’ Center, a check in the amount of $4,000.00. Pictured are: Jim Keene; Joyce Enos; Bedell Toro; Mike Jenkins; Randy Brynildsen; Al Winters; Mike Brynildsen, PAO; Charlie Myers, SVC; James Thomas, Chaplin; Jerry Jesonek, Commandant; Col. Loving, CEO Five Star Veterans Center; John Leisman, JVC; Dayton Warfle, Adj/Paymaster; Thelma Thomas; Judy Hession, Sgt Arms; Cliff Redfield.

A presentation of the Good Citizenship Award to Eagle Scout Ethan Aragon on March 6, 2017, by Union Colony Marines, Greeley, CO, and Department Jr. Vice Commandant Clem Schuette.
Northampton County Detachment 298 receives 1st place award for Americanism. Pictured left to right: Comm. Brian Natali, Chairman Cam, received by Detachment Comm. John Mitzak.

On April 27, 2017, Devil Pups, Jeff Stouffer and Antesha Tate and Les Covey, Devil Pups Advisor, chat with B.T. Blade, match coordinator during a break at the Four Corners Regional competition shooting match.

On April 29, 2017, the Firing Detail and Field Music of Marine Corps League Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 await opportunity to render honors.

The PFC Bruce Larson Detachment 1242 Huntersville, NC, award their first ever scholarship to Army Cadet Alexander Hronek of Hopewell High School. Alex will attend UNC in the fall of 2017. Alex is the Battalion Commander of the JROTC Cadets and was chosen for his leadership and outstanding contributions to the program. Congratulations to Alex and his family.

Jim O’Neill, Paymaster of the Rockland County New York Detachment, travelled to Troop 29 in Marietta to present a Good Citizenship Award to his grandson Christopher for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. He was supported by Cobb County Commission Chairman Mike Boyce in presenting 12 Certificates to new Eagle Scouts of Troop 29. Commissioner Boyce is a retired Marine Corps Colonel.
The Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment of the Marine Corps League held their annual picnic and installation of officers at the home of Fred and Rehtse Regenhard on Saturday April 22, 2017. The installing officer was the Department of Florida Commandant Ronald Ashley assisted by the Department Sr. Vice George Lamont. The newly installed detachment officers are Commandant Brian Frank, Sr. Vice Rob Becker, Jr. Vice Ron Essick, Judge Advocate Walter Raysick, Jr. Past Commandant Edward Becker, Paymaster Larry Westcott and Adjutant Jack Skelding. Following the installation all those in attendance enjoyed the afternoon with hot dogs, hamburgers, brats and an assortment of salads and desserts.

Left to right: Walt Raysick, Ron Essick, Larry Westcott, Brian Frank, Ed Becker, Rob Becker and Jack Skelding.

Margaret B. Davis, President and CEO of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, is shown with Harion Enervold, Commandant of Detachment 1372. Since 1962, the Foundation has been providing scholarships for children of severely injured Marines and Navy Corpsman to pursue post-high school education. “Honor Marines by Educating Their Children.”

www.mcsf.org.

Presenting NCO sword as a retirement gift from the Fremont Area detachment. Left: Retired Master Gunnery Sergeant Jody Brott, 30 Years, Sr. Vice Commandant. Right: Commandant Jason House.
The Riverview Detachment of the Marine Corps League is now the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment. The name was officially changed to honor Walter P. Ryan who died in office while serving as the detachment’s seventh commandant.

Left to right: Department of Florida Jr. Vice Frank Glassford, Detachment Commandant Brian Frank, Department of Florida Sr. Vice George LaMont and Department of Florida Commandant Ron Ashley.

Department of Pennsylvania Commandant Brian Natali presenting Department of PA Recruiter of The Year Award to Jim Mineo, Northampton Co., Detachment 298 and Donald Bailey Three Rivers Leatherneck Detachment 310. Both members were tied for the Recruiter of The Year Award, and subsequently dual awards were presented.

Marine Richard Kuyper, Order of the Arrow, and Roland (Skip) Myers, Commandant Kankakee Detachment 1253, presented the Eagle Scout Award to Nicholas Mark Fraser, the fourth Eagle Scout in the Fraser family, March 5, 2017.
On March 13, 2017, the Commandant, Roger Stockton, and Jr. Vice Commandant, Jim Hayes, of the Marine Corps League Greater Greensboro Detachment 260 of the North Carolina Department, presented this check for $13,600 to Jack Marin, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hope For The Warriors, an organization founded by military families aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC, in 2006. Nationally, Hope For The Warriors provides comprehensive support programs for service members, veterans and military families who are focused on transition, health and wellness, peer engagement and connections to community resources. This check represented the proceeds from the Detachment 260 Golf Tournament held in October 2016. The detachment conducts a golf tournament each fall beginning in 2008. In nine years the tournament has raised more than $90,000 to benefit various warrior support programs.

The Department of Florida’s 62 graduates received certificates of completion at the conclusion of the all-day Professional Development Program’s Leadership School on April 28, 2017. The Instructor Staff stood below the graduates. From left to right: Leadership School Instructors: David Harris; Frank Glassford; Jerry Cecil; Janice Beal; School Director/Instructor Bill Cona; George LaMont; Dept. of Florida Commandant Ron Ashley; Cary Haerlin; George Wanberg; John Gionet; Scott Westervelt; Mike Stewart; graduate David Kirk; and Instructors Tony Akers and D. Robin Barker (photo courtesy of DoF photographer Trisha Marsh). For more information on our department’s resources, please visit: www.mclf1.org.
On February 5, 2017, members of the West Hudson Detachment attended the Mass in Memory of the Four Chaplains held at St. Stephen’s Roman Catholic Church in Kearny, NJ. Left to right: Adam Tegge, Cesar Huaman, Adam Waldron and John Cleary.

Below: Marine Bill Wingate, a 20-year veteran of Huntington, NY, Detachment 792 at the 2016 Birthday Ball. His goal was to lose 65 pounds so he would fit into his 1960 uniform, and he did. Retiring to Florida, he was hit by a passing car on his bicycle and passed away. He held posts in the League as Adjutant/Paymaster as well as Jr. Vice Commandant.

Marines waiting on deck for casket guard, funeral at Wolf Lake, MN. Left to right: Ron Mattson, Howard Maninga, Ron Masanz and Ardell Johnson. Star of North, detachment 1109, Park Rapids, MN.

Picture taken on April 18, 2017, at Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Left to right: Ed Hacket (Bethlehem Detachment 284, Herschel Woodrow “Woody” Williams (last surviving Congressional Medal Of Honor recipient of Iwo Jima and MCL member) and John Heenan (Patriots Detachment 1230). The Washington Crossing National Cemetery is a United States National Cemetery located in Upper Makefield Township (830 Highland Rd., Newtown, PA 18940), in Bucks County. It opened in late 2009 and occupies approximately 205 acres. At 2PM on the last Thursday of every month, a military funeral service with full honors is given for the burial remains of unattended veterans.
The Northampton County Detachment 298 Marine Corps League was pleased to present a check in the amount of $1,000.00 to Gracedale Nursing Home Volunteer Director, Michael Colon, for disbursement to Veteran’s accounts. Left to right: Ann Marie Hansen, Joseph Pokojni, Commandant John Mitzak, Robert “Doc” Hockenbury, Robert Gavin, Michale Colon, Robert Sarisky, Joseph Cuvo and Thomas Hess.

On April 27, 2017, Local Devil Pups, Jeff Stouffer, 17, and Antesha Tate, 16, volunteered to assist at the Dixie Desperados Shooting Club’s hosting of the Four Corners Regional Cowboy Action Style competition.

On April 29, 2017, detachment Commandant Col. Dave Waters (retired) greets on-lookers as Tuffy Ruth of Mesquite and the restorer of the 1948 Marine Jeep drives and pulls a trailer loaded with detachment members.

On April 29, 2017, the Color Guard provided by Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 Marine Corps League. Left to right: Rick Massey, Gary Boothroyd, Bryan Butas and Billion Johnston.

Sample of the highway Gold Star designation signs people will see traveling along NC Hwy 24, which was unveiled by Associate Member, Director of Ft. Bragg Fisher House and Gold Star Mom, Lorie Southerland in white and Alicia Wood, Gold Star Spouse. Behind Lorie is Past Commandant Eno River Detachment 872 and Secretary, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Larry D. Hall.
Recognizing the achievement of Eagle Scout Jason Mathew Voshell, the Jacksonville Detachment 059 attended Mathew’s Court of Honors to congratulate and present him the Marine Corps League’s Good Citizen Award. The detachment members presenting this award were (from left to right): Dayton Warfle, Adj/Paymaster; Jim Keene; Charlie Dimech; Mike Brynildsen, PAO; Jerry Jeserneck, Commandment; Eagle Scout Jason Mathew Voshell; James Thomas, Chaplin; Dean Holder, JAG; and Charlie Myers, Sr. Vice Commandant.

Northampton County Detachment 298 preparing to distribute Memorial Day flags for Veterans’ graves in the Arnt Cemetery, Easton, PA. Left to right: Robert Gavin, Robert Sarisky, Josh Worman and son, Thomas Hess, David Ayers, Robert Hockenbury, James Mineo and John Mitzak.

Marines of Utah Dixie Detachment 1270, Marine Corps League provide military honors for fallen Marine PFC Marcel Pace. PFC Pace, a WWII Marine who served on Okinawa, the last battle, was given proper military honors on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The interment was at Hurricane Cemetery in Hurricane, UT. Bryan Butas presents the Flag to the family.

From left to right: Past Commandant, Lancaster County, PA, and Adjutant Shawn Knisley Detachment, Spencer Sikes; Associate Member and Toys for Tots Coordinator, Don Bennett; Detachment Commandant Jack Morgan; Past Department of NC and Detachment Commandant, Andres Bedeis; Past Commandant Eno River Detachment 872 and Secretary, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Larry D. Hall; and Detachment Chaplain, Thurman Smith, Jr.
Members of the Richard L. Pittman Marine Corps League Detachment 1230 of Urbana, IL, present its most recent contribution to The Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. To date, the group has donated more than half of its total pledge of $40,000 over five years—the most contributed from among all of the local veterans’ organizations. Left to right: MCL member Keith Eveland; MCL associate member, UI graduate student and Iraqi Army veteran Garrett Anderson; detachment Commandant Bob Kappas; MCL member Dustin D. Lange, associate director of the center; Justin Seno, associate director of advancement for the UI College of Applied Health Sciences; and former detachment Commandant Chris Hanson. The detachment has been active with the center and its leadership since its inception, spreading the word of its existence and services throughout the state of Illinois during fundraising activities.

Patriot Detachment 1230 members were on hand for a welcome-home reception for Army Specialist Jeffrey Vogel at his home. Vogel recently returned from his deployment in the Middle East. On hand and shown in the group photo with Vogel were: John Frain, Mike Lecker, Pete Palestina, John Koutsouros, Gus Cales, Dick Weaver and Neil Clark. Not in photo but also attending was Jimmy Clendenen.

Pictured are Marines Doug Essinger and Joshua Frye with 14 of the 93 Eagle Scouts of the Sequoyah Council, BSA, recipients of the Marine Corps League Eagle Scout Awards at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA, on Thursday, March 9, 2017.
Fox Valley Marines Detachment 1233, Aurora, IL. Eagle Scout Honor Court—Al Scott, Robert Thornton, Steve Rashkow and Gordon Dodge—presents K-Bars to all Fox Valley Eagle Scouts.

Three young men in Cottonwood, AZ, earned scouting’s highest award, Eagle Scout, at the same time. Steve McCoy, Commandant of the Verde Valley Detachment, Department of Arizona, had the honor of awarding these new Eagle Scouts with the “Good Citizen” award and a commendation letter from Marine Corps League National. Congratulations to our Eagle Scouts. Pictured are Chaz Taylor, Commandant Steve McCoy, Dwaillin Gordon, Keith Vogler and Crue Taylor.

**Join Roll Call!**

All Marine Corps League members may submit Roll Call entries. Our new Roll Call Upload System is now live!

1. Go to [semperfi.chipotlepublishing.com](http://semperfi.chipotlepublishing.com)
2. Create an account using your email address, first name, last name and a password.
3. Verify your account by clicking the link in the email our system sends to you.
4. Log in, click on the “Upload Your Files” box and then follow instructions.

**Captions**—Photo captions should briefly describe the event and list persons present in the photo(s). Captions should be no longer than 60 words. Please do not include information about persons not present in the photo(s).

**Photos**—We cannot use photos that are inserted into a PDF or MS Word document, please make sure each photo is a separate file in the highest resolution possible (specific criteria are in the instruction on the upload site).

**Sorry**—There are no guarantees of publication. The most common reasons for Roll Call rejection are: 1) the photo was blurry or too small in size, and 2) the uniforms in the photo did not meet regulations.

The next Roll Call deadline is August 5, 2017 for the Fall 2017 issue.
Independent Budget

The independent budget report lists some critical issues facing the veteran community and provides recommendations to Congress, the Administration and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

- Reform the VA claims and appeals process.
- Strengthen, reform and sustain the VA health care system.
- Improve the comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of severely injured veterans.
- Ensure the VA provides high-quality, effective programs and services to meet the unique needs of women veterans.
- Resolve budget restraints that negatively impact veterans’ programs.

Bills Passed into Laws

Public Law 114-188—The Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act (S. 2487) evaluates its mental health and suicide prevention programs by adding a specific focus to include the needs of women veterans.

Public Law 114-292—Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016. The DOD is required to identify certain severance payments to veterans with combat-related injuries paid after January 17, 1991, from which DOD withheld amounts for tax. You have to file an amended tax return to recover such amount.

Concerning Issues

In support of:

- S. 2596—This bill would afford priority to totally disabled veterans for transportation on scheduled and unscheduled military flights within the continental United States and on scheduled overseas flights operated by the Air Mobility Command, on a space-available basis.

In opposition of:

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

As we look forward, our country has some issues to work out. We, the veterans of this great nation, need the Congress to start working together as a team for the betterment of this Nation. Stop the in-house fighting. Americans are waiting for Congress to show their colors.

As we look forward, our country has some issues to work out. We, the veterans of this great nation, need the Congress to start working together as a team for the betterment of this Nation. Stop the in-house fighting. Americans are waiting for Congress to show their colors.
THE DC-3 CLASSIC
MEN’S WATCH

MULTI-FUNCTION CHRONOGRAPH WITH 2 SUB DIALS AND STOP WATCH FUNCTION

IMAGE OF DC-3 PLANE ON WATCH FACE

GENUINE LEATHER STRAP

PREMIUM GRADE STAINLESS STEEL CASE BACK
ETCHED WITH DC-3 AND IMAGE OF THE PLANE

INNOVATIVE DESIGN AND THE BOLD DETAILS OF A CLASSIC

This distinctive multi-functional watch features a vintage white dial adorned with an image of the plane along with “DC-3” and “1937”, the year the aircraft first went into service. The solid stainless steel case back also features an image of the plane and DC-3. Numerals are in contrasting black as are the two sub dials indicating minutes and seconds. Special functions include a chronograph with a stop watch feature and a date display at the 6:00 marker. A genuine leather strap completes the classic look. This quality timepiece has a precision quartz movement and a quartz mineral lens... and it is backed by a full-year limited warranty and our unconditional, money-back, 120-day guarantee.

COLLECTOR’S EDITION - LIMITED TO 5000!
This hand-crafted collector’s watch is a remarkable value at $179*, payable in 5 installments of $35.80. The watch arrives in a custom case along with a Certificate of Authenticity. Send no money now, just return the Priority Reservation below. This is a limited edition watch—only 5,000 will ever be made! So don’t miss out—order today!

A CUSTOM-CRAFTED WATCH DESIGN FROM THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

PRIORITY RESERVATION
SEND NO MONEY NOW

Mrs. Mr. Ms. Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City State Zip

E-Mail (optional) 01-25429-001-E26401

Signature

YES. Please reserve the “DC-3 Classic” Men’s Watch for me as described in this announcement.

*Plus $11.98 shipping and service. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your jewelry after we receive your initial deposit. Sales subject to product availability and credit approval.

Limited-Time Offer
Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Respond as soon as possible to reserve your watch.

©2017 The Bradford Exchange  01- 25429-001-BIB

www.bradfordexchange.com/25429

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO JUST MIGHT CHANGE THE WORLD

The DC-3 airliner will go down in history as the plane that gave passengers their first transcontinental flights, and changing the face of travel forever. Now you can wear a custom collector’s watch that is destined to become as popular as the aircraft that inspired it— “THE DC-3 CLASSIC” Men’s Watch.
TAPS

CANADA
GRANT NUTTALL

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA
J.D. COOPER
MACK R. HERRIN
AMY P. JEFFRIES
STEPHEN C. KLINGER
LUTHER P. LINTON
JOHN W. LYNN
DILLAS C. MOORE
JEANETTE DRUMMOND
PHILLIPS
CLIFFORD E. RAY

ALASKA
GENE FREEMAN

ARIZONA
JAMES M. ATCHLEY
MICHAEL V. PAPKA
KENNETH B. PATZER
ALFONSO SANTILLAN, JR.
LEE SUNDBERG
A. IVAN SWANSON
B. DOUGLAS WHITSON

ARKANSAS
DAVID R. DUBOIS
LESLIE J. SAUMWEBER
CHARLES C. WRIGHT

CALIFORNIA
VERN ALLRED
JOHN J. BENTEROU
ELTON A. FRAZIER
HOWARD L. MARSH
ROBERT H. MCKINNEY
WALTER C. PIEPER
REX T. RICE

COLORADO
CHARLES C. BROWN
RICHARD R. BURNS
HENRY W. BUSS
ELBERT F. FLOYD
JOSEPH S. GORDY
SAMUEL G. RAUDENBUSCH
LLOYD D. SEEKAMP
C.G. “BUD” STEARNS
JAMES J. WIESE

CONNECTICUT
STANLEY E. DABROWSKI
ALBERT M. NUNES

DELAWARE
LEONARD E. EGNOR
BENJAMIN B. EWING
WILLIAM D. FORESTIERI

FLORIDA
WILLIAM H. ADKINS
PETER S. BALCUNAS
MATTHEW L. BLAKELY
EDWARD C. BURNS
WILLIAM F. BUTTERWORTH
JOHN G. CARTER

GEORGIA
WILLIAM R. CHADNEY
THOMAS W. CLAVIN
JOSEPH DONAHUE
WENDELL W. JONES
OLENN E. PAIR
E.B. STOLLENWERCK
JOE W. STONE
STEVEN R. VANTYLE

IDAHO
GENE R. CHRISMER
JOSEPH F. COVELLA
LEONARD F. DUBE
GEORGE E. DUNCAN
BILL HECTOR
JOHN J. KLEEMAN
BENNY J. KOMAK
RICHARD J. LACHARITE
NORMAN M. LUCAS
JAMES G. MACDONALD
HENRY MARKOVICH
ARMAND MARQUIS
RUSSELL J. MESSERSMITH
GERALD MOREL
EDWARD J. MORSE
CHARLES L. OSBORN
FRED A. PULLEN
LAWRENCE E. RIESENBECK
WALTER P. RYAN
ALAN M. SCARNAVACK
ROBERT SCHLOESSER
EDWARD TOMON
MONTY VELLA
RICHARD G. WARREN
WILLIAM W. WILCOX

ILLINOIS
EDWIN L. CAULK
EDWIN HALDEMAN
DOUGLAS A. HARTSELL
DONALD D. HUGENS
DONALD J. HUNT
HARRY MILKERT
ROBERT E. REED
TIMOTHY J. RYAN

INDIANA
RONALD AUSDERAN
MARY HAMADY
NORBERTO C. HARDIN
JUNE KEGEBEIN
D. CHARLES KINGSBURY
CHARLES A. NORRMAN

IOWA
JOHN D. CROSMAN
FLOYD H. DRAFAHL
ERNEST J. EICKELBERG
CHARLES E. HARRIS

KENTUCKY
LINDELL C. HACK
JOHN T. NOONAN
MARVIN E. SAVLOR
THOMAS B. WILSON

LOUISIANA
CHARLES J. THIBODEAUX
CHARLES J. VICARI

MAINE
GEORGETTE CAIN

MARYLAND
THOMAS F. CORCORAN
JOHN G. DICKERSON
BRENT A. FERREE
CALVIN M. HOWES
CLARK MAYER
JOHN B. ROBINSON
WILLIAM H. WELLS

MASSACHUSETTS
ANTHONY DIGIACOMO
RICHARD D. GATES
THOMAS MALONEY
GABRIEL N. SIMON
MADELINE B. SWAIN

MICHIGAN
JERRY E. ALLEN
THOMAS C. BEAUDRJE
NORBERT P. BUCKLEY
ROBERT M. CATANZRITE
JOHN L. CHATTERTON
LLOYD W. CONNER
Tree of Lights

Tree Lighting Ceremony, 11:00am, Tuesday, December 5th, 2017
at the Marine Corps League National Headquarters

Each year, individual Marines, Marine Corps League Detachments (all across America) and Friends of the United States Marines Youth Foundation, can sponsor lights on the Christmas tree that will be displayed at the National Marine Corps League Headquarters during the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Typically, lights are given:

❄ In memory of fallen comrades or loved ones
❄ To honor troops, a family member, mentor, or friend
❄ As a year-end gift to help support the programs of the United States Marines Youth Foundation

As a light sponsor, your name (or the name of your organization) will be listed on a special Scroll of Honor to be displayed at the ceremony and to be posted on our website: usmarinesyouthfoundation.org throughout the year of 2018. For more information, please call (703) 207-9588.

Person or Organization giving the Light __________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

City __________________ State _____ Zip ________ Phone __________________

❖ TYPE OF GIFT:
❖ IN HONOR OF ________________________________________________________

(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

❖ IN MEMORY OF _______________________________________________________

(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

YEAR-END GIFT to the United States Marines Youth Foundation

TYPE OF LIGHT: ___ $500 Red    ___ $250 Gold    ___ $100 Blue    ___ $50 Green    ___ $25 White    ___ $10 Clear

You will, of course, receive a Thank-you Letter. If you would also like to have an Acknowledgement Letter sent to the family of the person you are honoring, please tell us who you would like the Acknowledgement Letter sent to:

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________

City __________________ State _____ Zip ________

Proceeds to benefit the
United States Marines Youth Foundation

Send with your check payable to:
U. S. Marines Youth Foundation
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

Forms should be received prior to December 1st to guarantee inclusion on the Scroll of Honor that will be displayed at the Tree Lighting Ceremony. However, we will continue to accept donations through December 31st, at which time the final Scroll of Honor will be placed on display at the National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League and on the website of the United States Marines Youth Foundation (http://usmarinesyouthfoundation.org).

Questions? Please call (703) 207-9588
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.

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!

### 2017/18 MCL RAFFLE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 – 28 Jul</td>
<td>50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War “Delta to the DMZ”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Jul – 3 Aug</td>
<td>“Bloody Tarawa”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 12 Aug</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of WWII Operation Watchtower – Guadalcanal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Aug – 1 Sep</td>
<td>50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War – Dak to 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 – 14 Sep</td>
<td>50th Anniversary of Operation Swift I-Corps 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 – 20 Sep</td>
<td>Spain - Military &amp; Cultural History Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 – 27 Sep</td>
<td>All of Ireland for WWII U.S. Marines, Soldiers &amp; Sailors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Oct – 8 Nov</td>
<td>Israel Military &amp; Cultural History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued Next Page
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.

---

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.

---

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.

---

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.
National Convention
August 13-18, 2017
Overland Park, KS
www.2017mclnationalconvention.com

Modern Day Marine Exhibition
September 19-21, 2017
Quantico, VA
www.marinemilitaryexpos.com

Northwest Division Conference
September 29-30, 2017*
Spokane Valley, WA
www.mclnwdivision.org
*Since the Spring issue’s release, this date has changed.

Marine West Exhibition
February 7-8, 2018 (tentative)
Camp Pendleton, CA
www.marinemilitaryexpos.com

Mid-Winter Conference
March 1-3, 2018
Fredericksburg, VA
www.mclnational.org

Marine South Exhibition
April 11-12, 2018 (tentative)
Camp Lejeune, NC
www.marinemilitaryexpos.com

2018 National Convention
August 12-17, 2018
Buffalo, NY
www.mclnational.org

Modern Day Marine
September 25-27, 2018 (tentative)
MCB Quantico, VA
www.marinemilitaryexpos.com

When I set out to design a ring worthy of a U.S. Marine, I knew it had to be beyond comparison. It had to be instantly recognizable, affordable to all ranks and of the highest quality. It is just that.

Mike Carroll
Made one-at-a-time in the USA and licensed by the Corps. Available in 18K, 14K and 10K gold or sterling silver. Free Brochure.
www.EagleRings.com

U.S. Army Reserve photo by SSgt. Ken Scar
CLEMSON, SC: Members of the Marine Corps League Det. 1131 execute a 21-gun salute during a Memorial Day observance in Clemson University’s Memorial Park, May 28, 2017.
Save a bundle.

USAA members can save when they bundle USAA home and auto insurance.¹
Find out how to get your savings.

Get a quote.

usaa.com/mcl • 855-622-1775

¹Multiple product savings do not apply in all states or to all situations. Savings subject to change. Restrictions apply.