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DALE DYE

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A special thanks to Bill Artman of Bill Artman Photography (artmanphoto.com) for his excellent work photographing our officers at the Marine Corps League National Convention 2017.
ABOUT THE COVER

Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune, the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States.
One of the goals is to proceed from Gold to Platinum

MARINES: First, I want to thank the membership for all the support and confidence at the 94th National Convention in Overland Park, Kansas. We have challenges facing us, but as Marines we are up and willing to meet them head on. This is a continuation of the plan started under my predecessor to establish and organize the League as a Veterans Service Organization and set the corporate structure to operate and maintain the fiduciary responsibility for a non-profit organization. With our new Chief Operating Officer on board, we have already established goals and assessments of the everyday operations of Headquarters and divisions. When we opened the 94th Convention the National Marine Corps League was a Gold Star Non-Profit organization. One of the goals is to proceed from Gold to Platinum.

We will be creating quarterly reports to the membership so you know how we are doing on our metrics established by the Board of Trustees (BOT). We will be establishing a mentoring program for the BOT to begin training in order to manage the organization as officers move up through the chairs. As Commandant of the VSO, I am also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the corporation. The Senior Vice Commandant is the second in command of the VSO and the Corporate Secretary. The Junior Vice Commandant is the third in command of the VSO and the Corporate Treasurer. All Division Vices will have their VSO responsibility and also a corporate equivalent position.

New media and tools will be on board for “meet me calls” to manage the organization, and we’re also looking at holding Townhall meetings across the divisions. Communication and responsibility are required from all members who serve in the League. Yes, I said SERVE ... We all have a job.

Our subordinate organizations feed into our corporate structure. The Auxiliary and Devil Dogs are similar to some wholly owned subsidiaries and will be required to maintain their records and report to the Corporate Office. We also have other societies within the League that will become fiduciary responsible to corporate oversight. We have totally independent organizations outside our fiduciary oversight, but they carry the brand of the Marine Corps League. You will be seeing an organization chart of the Marine Corps League you have never seen before.

The new database contract was approved at the Convention and will be coming on board by the time you read this article.

The bottom line ... it is time we former active duty warriors enlist those leaving active duty into new MCL membership and become a Marine Alumni Organization that runs at high efficiency for our mission and corporate responsibility.

Semper Fi,
Wendell W. Webb
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Developing a Stronger Headquarters

**MARINES:** The Marine Corps League has such a strong leadership foundation, and the 94th National Convention brought together the best in our leadership traditions. What a remarkable group of people embracing our core values! The newly elected officers have taken their posts, and we look forward to seeing what the next year has in store.

The local and National Convention committees spent months planning, and we are all deeply appreciative. There is a great deal of work that occurs behind the scenes, and these volunteers really delivered. I hope each person enjoyed their stay.

The Convention provided significant motivation for the coming year. As your new Chief Operating Officer (formerly called Executive Director), I am honored to have been selected by our Board of Trustees. I will focus on leading with ethical leadership; to demonstrate conduct that is acceptable, moral and appropriate. Not just to set the example, but to be the example. Additionally, values such as servant leadership (Greenleaf, 1970) and failing forward (Maxwell, 2007) will be developed among our team.

We will foster individual productivity, team unity and organizational health. Professional best business practices will be developed in many different areas. The membership will be affected (in a positive way) by changes: better telephone connectivity, improved ship's store online, easier insurance form submission and other business developments. Our focus, in coordination with our new Commandant, Wendell Webb, is to develop a stronger Headquarters infrastructure, document and streamline processes and develop tools that will aid local detachment growth.

The detachments have showcased their volunteerism on social media. We will provide more social media engagement with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Additionally, we will update the website and enhance the database. Apple and Android applications will be created for greater mobile tools. While I am sure there are many other aspirations we could strive for, we must also consider our capabilities and adjust goals as we move forward.

The Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, Virginia is developing into a great event, and we hope to see you there.

Semper Fi,
Bob Borka
Chief Operating Officer
Marine Corps League

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**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**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

With Our Sincerest Apologies

To Bob Borka:
Thank you for writing this email in reference to this terrible event which has upset myself, my family and Members of Sunrise Detachment MCL in Massapequa, New York. I was informed of it by Past Commandant Joe Cope whom I have known for 50 years. I am a 44-Year Life Member of this MCL Detachment, and I served in the USMCR from 7/8/66—7/7/72 in HMM-768, MAG-46, 4th MAW and was Honorably Discharged as Sergeant (E-5). I served another 16 Years in the USAR and was a Platoon Sergeant SFC (E-7) and Retired with 22 Years of Service. I did an 8-Month tour in the Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, from 11/90—6/91 in the 766 Supply Company USAR.

My wife and I will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary on 11/12/17 with my Son Stephen and Daughter Traci and our four Grandchildren. They are sending my wife and me on a vacation to Aruba. I love the Marine Corps, and I was happy to meet Colonel Dave Severance whose Platoon put up the Flag on Iwo Jima in WWII. He was Marine Air Group 46 Commander, which my Helicopter Squadron was part of.

I am one proud MARINE AND ALWAYS WILL BE.

Please print this retraction in the Fall 2017 Issue in the “TAPS,” NEW YORK SECTION AT THE BEGINNING BEFORE THE 1ST NAME: STEPHEN J. CHIARELLO is alive and well.

Also, I would appreciate if you can print all of the above information in the “LETTER TO THE EDITOR” section of the Fall 2017 Semper Fi issue.

Semper Fi,
Stephen J. Chiarello

EXECUTIVE EDITOR’S RESPONSE

Dear Mr. Chiarello,
On behalf of the Marine Corps League, I offer sincerest apologies for the unfortunate error of including your name in the Summer 2017 issue TAPS section. Thank you for your amazing service to our Corps and devotion to family. It was also an honor to speak with you. The headquarters will ensure future notifications are on the correct form and signed by the detachment chaplain prior to acceptance.

Bob Borka,
Executive Editor / Chief Operating Officer

CORRECTION: The photo on page 67 of the Summer 2017 issue incorrectly identified the whole group as members of the MCL Det. 1131. The picture is actually of the Honor Guard of American Legion Post 120 of Seneca, South Carolina. The man on the left is Charlie Brickett, Sgt at Arms of Post 120, and the first rifleman is Josh Herring. Both are Marines and members of the MCL Lewis G, Watkins Detachment 1131, as well as Post 120.
MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

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

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

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

Members who expire in July 2017
Pay $20.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2018
Going forward all members who expire 1 September 2017 will pay $20.00 each year.

New Members:
Members who join between August 31–the last day of February
Pay $25.00 and expiration date will be 1 September (of following year)
Example: Member who joins August 31 (2017)–End of February 2018 will expire in 1 September 2018

Members who join between March 1–August 30
Pay $15.00 and expiration date will be 1 September (of current year)
Example: Member who joins March 1–August 30 (2018) will expire in 1 September 2018
Going forward all members will expire 1 September and pay $20.00 each year. 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 due and keep their length of membership—they 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 1 September 2018

Members with a reinstatement date of January 2017–June 2017
Pay $10.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2017
Going forward all members who expire 1 September will pay $20.00 each year for renewal.

MAL:
Members with an expiration date of July 2016–December 2016
Pay $30.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2017

Members with an expiration date of January 2017–June 2017
Pay $30.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2018
Going forward all members who expire 1 September 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. Go to www.mclnational.org/ceremonial-rifle-program.html. Instructions are listed here with links to the three required forms you will need in the next step. Information on requests for ammunition and clips are located here as well. The Army will check with the COO to verify if a detachment is in good standing.
USMC Semper Fidelis

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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

REUNIONS & EVENTS IN HISTORY

REUNIONS


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 1-800-554-5542. Contact Frank Miller at familler56@yahoo.com or 775-751-8076 and Vern and Janet Snodderly at Vsnodderly@comcast.net or 209-355-0966.

On November 1–5, 2017, VMA – 225 (Chu Lai ’65) is holding its annual Reunion in Tampa, FL. Contact Dave Shapleigh for details at dshapleigh@mi.rr.com or 1-248-347-1082.

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 951-541-8940 (Pacific) or email: DPHousemouse@gmail.com. Alternate Contact: Enrique Ortiz at 949-874-3636 (Pacific).


EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY

BY DR. CHARLES NEIMEYER

October 11, 1951
A Marine battalion was flown by transport helicopters to a frontline combat position for the first time, when Marine Transport Helicopter Squadron 161 lifted the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, and its equipment, during Operation BUMBLEBEE, northeast of Yanggu, Korea.

October 23, 1983
At 0622 an explosive-laden truck slammed into the BLT headquarters building in Beirut, Lebanon, where more than 300 men were billeted. The massive explosion collapsed the building in seconds and took the lives of 241 Americans—including 220 Marines. This was the highest loss of life in a single day for Marines since D-Day on Iwo Jima in 1945.

November 7, 1921
President of the United States Warren G. Harding directed the Marine Corps to assist in the protection of the United States mails.

November 10, 1775
An organization of Marines was authorized by the Continental Congress, thus creating the Continental Marines, the predecessor to today’s United States Marine Corps.

December 25–27, 1955
In close cooperation with the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, Marine Transport Squadrons 152 and 352 flew food, clothing and medical supplies to flood-stricken areas of northern California.

December 28, 1814
Marines participated as part of General Andrew Jackson’s force which repelled the British attack on American defenses before New Orleans.
SUBMIT YOUR MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION INFORMATION

If your organization is hosting a USMC Birthday Celebration and wants to get the word out, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation is compiling a national list of Birthday Celebrations. We’d be happy to include your organization.

The list can be found at: www.mca-marines.org/marine_corps_birthday

If you’d like to be included, please send information on your celebration to Kelly Vigil at k.vigil@mca-marines.org.

Visit The MARINE Shop at www.marineshop.net

For all Birthday Ball products and supplies.
Interview by Miles Vining

The following is an interview with Marine Corps League Member Dale Dye, a former Marine, turned Hollywood actor and technical military advisor who has worked with the likes of Steven Spielberg. Dale discusses how his military background prepared him for his future success and helped employ other military veterans in the movie industry.

Semper Fi: Can you tell us a little bit about your life before the Marines?

Dale Dye: I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and grew up south of there in a very rural part of the country. I had always been sort of an air-headed dreamer and loved listening to WWII tales from my dad and his buddies. I think I saw a great drama in military service, and that appealed to me. When the time was right and I thought I could make it, I asked to be sent away to a military school. Probably to get rid of me as much as anything else, they sent me away, and I was able to go to a military school from the end of elementary school to the end of high school, graduating from Missouri Military Academy, as a cadet officer. I had great visions of attending the United States Naval Academy, trying to get a commission in the Navy or Marine Corps. Unfortunately, I played more sports and didn't try as hard academically. I failed the entrance exam a couple of times. There wasn't any money or grants otherwise. I was at a loss—my father had passed away by then, so I couldn't really go for a regular college education. One dreary day in St. Louis I saw a recruiting sign. It showed a classic, rock-jawed Marine in Dress Blues, and he was looking at me with those steely eyeballs, and it just had one word: "Ready." I thought to myself, "Yes, I am!" I found the Marine recruiter, and the next thing I knew, I was on an airplane and headed to California for MCRD San Diego. That was in January 1964.

SF: Could you walk us through your time in the service?

DD: I went through Infantry training and became a Mortarmen, a 0341. But to be honest, I became a little bored of it in the Fleet. I knew, I was on an airplane and headed to California for MCRD San Diego. That was in January 1964.

SF: Can you walk us through your time in the service?

DD: I went through Infantry training and became a Mortarmen, a 0341. But to be honest, I became a little bored of it in the Fleet. I knew, I was on an airplane and headed to California for MCRD San Diego. That was in January 1964.

SF: After Hue, you were involved in an action for which you received the Bronze Star with Combat "V" and your second Purple Heart?

DD: Yes, that was with Echo 2/3, while we were conducting a sweeping mission during a battalion-sized operation. Myself and a machine gunner were trapped in a field due to the nature of the fighting and had to defend ourselves in the open, surrounded by dead and wounded. We consolidated the position as much as possible, firing back at the bunkers facing us, sort of making an Alamo last-stand situation. The company was able to move because of the fire we provided in support. It was one of those days that it really was just luck we weren't killed and did what we had to do to survive. SF: Where did your service take you after Vietnam?

DD: I was transferred to a number of commands—Okinawa, Europe, stateside duty. In 1975, I was stationed at K-Bay in Hawaii, and that was when the Commandant was bound and determined to "Clean up the Marine Corps" from the Vietnam generations. They needed SNCOs to become officers to help with this effort, and I was

some tests, I passed and I was able to get out of the Infantry MOS and get transferred to become a Combat Correspondent. I really got to learn about the Marine Corps and see what it was, see who the people were. I was loving it, and it wasn't the same old thing every day.

Then in 1967, I got my orders to Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division based at Da Nang. There I ran with the craziest bunch of guys I have ever met in my life, probably my best friends in the world today, the Combat Correspondents of the 1st Marine Division. It never had more than a dozen guys, but we prided ourselves on our yearning to be with the Grunts and tell their stories. We only came back to the rear to write a few stories, then we'd go right back out. I really loved it because it was a matter of shining a light on that little guy out there with a rusty rifle fighting in Vietnam. It was a tough job, and we often got labeled as POGs, but that wasn't at all the case. We ran to the sound of the guns or else we couldn't complete our mission. But it got tough at times, especially in Tet of 1968 when I got sent to Hue. We had all been trained to fight in the jungle, and we were good at that, but here we were in the middle of this major urban sprawl, going house to house. The gangbangers in our outfit were the ones who really led the charge because they knew about fighting in the streets. At that point, I began to really understand the nature of the Marine Corps, and that is the little guy out front with his rifle and bayonet who gets it done, often in the most horrible of situations. In addition to being at an absolute worst disadvantage, and that was Hue.

SF: Where did your service take you after Vietnam?

DD: I was transferred to a number of commands—Okinawa, Europe, stateside duty. In 1975, I was stationed at K-Bay in Hawaii, and that was when the Commandant was bound and determined to "Clean up the Marine Corps" from the Vietnam generations. They needed SNCOs to become officers to help with this effort, and I was
a Master Sergeant by then. I put in a package for the Warrant Officer Program and was accepted. I was sent to Okinawa to run the Armed Forces Radio Station there, managed to get myself a college degree in English Literature from the University of Maryland and was able to commission as an officer. I was assigned to the 8th Marines and was deployed to the peacekeeping forces in Lebanon from 1982 to 1983, leaving right before the Marine Barracks was bombed. I lost an awful lot of friends there, leaving me very disappointed in the whole situation.

SF: At this point, you retired—how did that play into entering Hollywood?
DD: So I retired and went to work for Soldier of Fortune magazine. I thought that journalism experience would help with that and eventually went on a number of trips to South America where I ended up as a trainer for anti-Sandinista forces in Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. That job terminated because here I was in the thick of things again, taking all those chances, and it was good for my ego, but I didn't really know where it was going. I really began to think about what I wanted to do for a second career. Back in those days there really wasn't any sort of transitioning experience. It was you got out and thanks for your service; let us know if you want to join the Reserves or the Marine Corps League. I sat around for a while and figured out that I have to do something that tickles my creative side. If I don't, I'll turn into a bar fly at the nearest VFW. Being a cop or working in security was something I toyed with, but I didn't really want to get shot again. The defense industry was beckoning, and I really didn't want to be sitting in a cubicle, selling stuff back to the government.

Something that I eventually came up with was that I had always been a military movie fan. I realized that although there were some good ones, the vast majority just pissed me off because they didn't reflect how soldiers are, how we act, how we relate to each other. I said that's odd because if you look at the credits, there's always a military technical advisor, but they still aren't realistic. So I came out here to L.A. and started trying to find people in the movie business. I had this inkling that maybe I could be that technical advisor that would set things right. I got a little job on a science fiction film called "Invaders from Mars." They hired me to train the actors playing Marines to make them more realistic. I had no qualms about killing Martians, and in the 3 months I had on that job, I learned an immense amount about how movies are made.

SF: This was how you cut your teeth in the industry?
DD: I really learned how movies are made. Here I found out what the problem was with Hollywood's depiction of soldiers. The problem was that the main movers and shakers in Hollywood never had military service. There was a feeling that no one from the military could possibly have a creative bone in their body, or if they did, they
wouldn’t be in the military. I had to convince them that I had a better idea. One of the issues was that these movie makers didn’t think anyone knew the difference between the reality of warfare and what was seen in the movies. I knew that was wrong because we’re in a media-saturated society. People see images of actual warfare on the TV, and if they don’t see that in Hollywood, they disconnect. The other issue is that actors couldn’t accurately portray a military character on set if they didn’t have any military experience to begin with. How could they even come close to portraying us correctly? The light bulb came on, and I realized these actors needed to live through some of what we’ve been through so that they understand the situations we’ve been in. Only then will their portrayal be honest and real. Most of these Military Advisors were working on a very superficial level. They corrected ribbon stacks, showed actors how to load weapons, but they didn’t go further than that because they weren’t allowed to. I said to myself, “To hell with that.” They need to walk a Klick in our boots so to speak. But it was very difficult to get that idea across to those in Hollywood. No one would listen to me because he or she had been so successful before. I was about to give up when I saw a notice for Oliver Stone’s new movie based on his experiences as an Infantryman in Vietnam. So I called him up and told him exactly what I wanted to do. If it had been anyone other than Oliver Stone, they probably would have hung up on me right there or called the cops.

SF: This is what would later become “Platoon?”
DD: Yes, in the end, he gave me 33 actors and let me take them into the mountainous jungles of the Philippines for three weeks. They dug fighting holes, they lived in them, they ate C Rations, and I had them up for radio watch and go on patrols. They began to really understand it from a number of angles. Low and behold, that helped bring the film home, and it won numerous awards all over the industry. That really catapulted my entry into the industry, establishing Warriors Incorporated. Now we’ve done upwards of 50 some films, “Band of Brothers,” “The Pacific,” “Saving Private Ryan.” I was able to work with a number of producers and directors in the business who really taught me a lot about how to be a filmmaker, specifically military films.

SF: And this became a full-time occupation?
DD: Military films come and go so I knew that I had to keep myself viable, I had to expand. So I began to look around, and we got into themed entertainment, video games and even music videos. I also decided to start my own publishing company, Warriors Publishing Group. It has been one success after another really.

SF: What do you find the most challenging about working in the business?
DD: It is much easier now than it was in the past because I’ve been established in the industry. The hard part is trying to convince movie makers that there is a better way by going with a more realistic depiction. That scares some directors and scares some writers. But eventually, you are usually able to show them it works in the end. Building your credibility so that they will adopt you as a contributing and important member of the filmmaking team.

SF: How did your new idea for a movie, “No Better Place to Die” start?
DD: I took a story that I had been studying for a while since I was in uniform, and that is the story about the paratroopers and glider Infantrymen who took and held a vital bridge at La Fière on D-Day. They did it against all odds. It was one of those things of which the plans of the great generals and little hands on big maps, one of those times that every combat veteran realizes and recognizes that the big plans have gone down the drain. Then it’s the Corporals, the PFCs, the Second Lieutenants who just come together, and they understand the Commander’s intent and find a way to get it done. That to me is the absolute spirit of the American fighting men and women. This to me is a microcosm of what the American military is all about. So that battle at La Fière actually saved the D-Day landings; I don’t think that is an overstatement. Had those paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division not taken and held that bridge, the Germans would have blown right through onto the landing beaches and thrown the invasion right back into the sea. So it was really crucial.

I wondered for a long time why nobody had made a movie like
this, and it's a classic. Well, cut to 20 years later, and I decided well to hell with it, I’m going to do it. And so I wrote a script; everybody loved it, but I just couldn't get it done because I insisted on directing it. It’s going to cost some money, and people weren’t willing to turn it over to this old retired fart who says he is a filmmaker. “Sure you wrote a great script, but let’s get some guy who is 26 years old and just out of film school.”

**SF:** You weren't going to allow that to happen.

**DD:** Well, no I'm not going to do that. When I decided I wanted to do it my way, here was another benefit to this plan. If I can get it done, I can use it as a showcase for these young veterans who want to get into this business. I can use that to give them an opportunity to demonstrate great talent, showing Hollywood that these folks are talented. You just have to trust them and give them a shot. So I made a commitment to use as many real veterans in front of and behind the camera as possible. For instance, my producer is a veteran, from the 82nd Airborne. My cinema photographer was a platoon leader in Vietnam. I’m searching out these guys, and we’re trying to get it done. The strategy is kind of strange because this is completely out of the standard Hollywood box.

We’ve created a Crowdfunding page for “No Better Place to Die.” We’ve raised an extraordinary amount of money, but not enough because this film is going to cost around $30 million to get done. I am experiencing what I knew was out there, and that was there is a huge ground swell for this kind of film. What I’m hoping is that the big-bucks guys will see and feel all the contributions from the buzz and enthusiasm from this film and that they will jump in and fund what we need. I started thinking about this just before and shortly after our national election, where a populist ground swell put a person in the White House. That means that “Fly over America” between L.A. and New York is tired of “Spiderman” and tired of “Transformers” if they aren't 12 years old. They want this kind of inspiring film like “Dunkirk;” that there is an appetite for this sort of thing, it’ll put butts in seats if you do it right, and I intend to do it right. “No Better Place to Die” is a film about veterans, for veterans, by veterans.

**SF:** What advice would you give to veterans looking to get into the business today?

**DD:** One word, “focus.” Here is the problem. People say, “I want to be in the movies.” Yes, but what do you want to do? Movies are a synergistic effort. There are thousands of things you can do in the industry, so what exactly is it you want to do? You cannot be a generalist to start with, you have to know the end game. You have to know where you are going, and then you can identify the trail to get there. Young men and women say, “I want to be in the movies, I want to...” and then it peters off. It’s a problem. One of the issues as an example is tattoos. People have them all over their bodies. And they want to be an actor. Do you realize how much we have to go through to cover that up? That’s an extra two to three hours in a makeup chair, every day. Who is going to hire you? Unless the role demands it, but then you are selling your ink; you’re not selling talent. Just an example: Someone like Vin Diesel only got all those tattoos after he became famous. In “Saving Private Ryan” he had a couple, but they were easily covered up.

**SF:** What specific traits do military veterans bring to the table in filmmaking?

**DD:** Self-discipline, work ethic, understanding of a system and a process. I think American veterans in particular and those who have been to combat. They understand that at war, you see the entire gamut of human behavior. From the absolute worst to the absolute best. Men and women who serve recognize that. They know what synergy is. They understand that it’s not about them, it’s about the unit and the mission. Anybody wants that kind of attitude. Men and women who have worn the uniform know that. They don’t care about how many hours they have to put in today; they are going to put in the hours until the mission is accomplished. They understand the value of training. That is one of the things I'm looking forward to in “No Better Place to Die.” I want to bring that kind of spirit to the set. I really think those are the primary assets that men and women in uniform bring. They also bring an enormous amount of talent. The creative talent pool out there in the veteran community is deep. We just need to give them a shot at displaying it. They understand emotions—they get that. They’ve dealt with intense emotions in their experiences.

**SF:** What was involved in some of the movie magic of “Saving Private Ryan” that made it work so well as a military movie?

**DD:** I trained all the actors, and we trained 1,000 Irish National Guard folks to put on the beach. We trained all the boat crews of the Higgins boats. When we were getting ready to do that film, Steven Spielberg and I were walking around the Normandy cemetery overlooking the beaches, and Steven said: “I need your perspective on this thing.” And I told him the perspective he needed is “Asses and Elbows.” That’s what a soldier in combat sees for the most part. All you see is asses and elbows because you are on your belly trying to crawl forward, lucky if you can get anything beyond the guy in front of you. And that is part of the fear of combat and what makes it so difficult. Because you try to be situationally aware as the maxim goes, but there is so much crap flying that you can’t get your head up and figure out what is going on. That is the nature of the combat beast. I think Steven certainly did that and took it to heart.

**SF:** What is your involvement with the Marine Corps League?

**DD:** I’m a member, and I really wish I could be more active. I guess it is because I’m more high profile than I need to be, and I sometimes think I’m viewed as America’s duty veteran; I get invited to talk everywhere. I guess it’s because it’s accessible, I believe I’m doing a service to veterans. The Marine Corps League to me is doing every day what I’m trying to do with “No Better Place to Die.” I think it’s an example of what I always believed. I believed this as a Lance Corporal. Once you are a Marine, once you’ve gone through the crucible of service, you are never not a Marine. The Marine Corps League does that on a daily basis.

Executive Editor’s Note: Special thanks to Scott Levy, USMC veteran, actor and a producer for “No Better Place to Die,” for connecting us with Capt Dye.
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PCDDs, PDDs, DDS and Pups:

We had an awesome National Convention and Supreme Growl in Overland Park! Thanks to all those who worked so hard to be sure everything ran smoothly. There were 88 candidates who advanced to PDD. Congratulations to these new PDDs and kudos to the initiation team for making it enjoyable and fun. Congrats also to PDD Jeffery Jones who was selected as the 2017 Kennel Dog of the Year.

We had a very interesting election during the Supreme Growl, with many nominations and lots of seconds. Thank you for choosing me to serve as your Chief for the coming year. I promise to work hard as we continue to improve the Order, have fun and do great things for the kids.

A new benchmark was set this year in terms of our donation to a local children’s hospital. PCDD Smith presented a check for $50,000 Big Bones to Children’s Mercy Hospital of Overland Park, Kansas. Thanks to all of the Packs, Pounds and individuals who sent in Passport bones and personal contributions. It will be a challenge for us to match that amount in the coming year, but I am going to set a new goal and challenge of $51,000—let’s work together to reach that and more in 2018.

Speaking of 2018, this will be a historic year for the MODD as we celebrate the heroics of the Marines who fought at Belleau Wood in 1918 and earned the title of “Teufel Hunden,” or Devil Dogs. We are working on designing special anniversary items to commemorate the event. There will be more information on the various recognition activities as this year progresses.

As I mentioned, I am honored to serve as your Chief for the 2017-2018 year. During our staff Growl after the election, I presented a few goals that I would like to see us accomplish together. These are:

1. Recognition of our hardworking Dogs. Each Pound and Pack needs to submit candidates for Pound/Pack/Kennel Dog of the Year, and Pack/Kennel Dog Robber of the Year. We had no submissions for Kennel Dog Robber this year, yet I know there are many, many worthy Dogs out there.

2. Increase membership. All we need to do is ask those motivated MCL members who are qualified.

3. Keep our Growls interesting and fun. This will help us keep the Dogs we already have. As my Sr. Vice Chief says, “If you keep it fun, they will come!”

4. Consider hosting a Christmas in July party. This can take the form of a fundraiser, as well as a social gathering for your Pound Dogs.

5. Collect $51,000 Big Bones for our donation to the children in Buffalo, NY next year.

I will detail all of these goals in the next issue of the Woof-O-Gram.

Finally, remember that each Pound must hold one annual assembly to be held during the three months following the month of the Supreme Growl of the Kennel. At this annual Growl of the Pound, the full order of business shall be called and acted upon, including the nomination, election and installation of officers, and at which Growl, the outgoing officers shall make full and proper reports and accounting to the Pound. The Installation Report must be submitted to the Honorable Kennel Dog Robber no later than the end of the month immediately following the Growl. The Installation Report must be submitted via the Worthy Pack Dog Robber, if there is such, and a copy shall be sent to the respective Division Vice Chief Devil Dog (Refer to MODD Bylaws, Article II - POUNDS, Section 205-GROWLS-Regular, Annual, Special and Staff).

In closing, I urge you to remember that we are the FUN Honor Society of the Marine Corps League and to embrace your commitment to holding the title, Devil Dog.

Excerpt from the Devil Dog’s Creed

“I am an American,
I was born in
France. I hold the
title of United
States Marine, and
understand the
commitment of
holding the title,
Devil Dog.”

—Excerpt from the Devil Dog’s Creed

Leonard Spicer
58th Chief Devil Dog
This Year We Celebrate 80 Years of Support

MARINES: The National Convention in Overland Park, KS, was a huge success, as we knew it would be. On behalf of the members of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, we extend our thanks and appreciation for all your hard work, dedication and hospitality. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers of both the MCL and MCLA. I was very honored to be re-elected to the office of National President of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. A huge thank you to those who accepted the appointed positions that make what we do possible. Your hard work is very appreciated by all!

We extend our commitment to the Commandant and all MCL members, your programs and our Marines who the Auxiliary will continue to support. And for those detachments that have do not currently have an Auxiliary, please consider doing so in the very near future.

You will find that an Auxiliary increases participation in events, adds to your ability to do much more and provides many other benefits. Please feel free to contact me or any other Auxiliary member for information on starting a unit.

This year we celebrate 80 years of supporting the Marine Corps League, the US Marine Corps, Marines and their families and our communities, and we could not be prouder of these accomplishments.

The number of hours spent volunteering, the miles driven and the monetary contributions are tremendous, all for the benefit of our Veterans. No greater cause exists! Providing comfort, care and kindness to our Veterans is the very least we can do to show our gratitude for the sacrifices they and their families have made for us and our families. They deserve this and so much more.

I would like to wish our Marines a very Happy 242nd Birthday! Very soon we will celebrate this occasion, and it is the perfect opportunity to connect with potential members. Be prepared! Have an application and information available and ready. Good luck.

In the coming months we will begin preparing to celebrate the holidays we each may participate in. Please take the time to reach out to those who are in need, regardless of Veteran status, and do what you can to make life a little easier. Sometimes the very smallest gesture can make all the difference to someone who is suffering. No Act of Kindness, No Matter How Small, Is Ever Wasted.

I wish for you all a warm, loving and happy holiday season. Please say a prayer, daily, for the safety of those serving at home or abroad and their families as they work to ensure ours.

Semper Fi,
Karen Aune
National President, MCLA

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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

The Indiantown Gap National Cemetery MCL Honor Guard was established in 2010 with 13 charter members: Lew Alston, John Botchie, John Cialone, Allen Ferguson, Tony Flaynik, Mike Gilberg, Al Malhrey, Tom Minchin, Bob Orendorf, Bill Schweigler, Walt Sral, Fritz Whitman and Bill Woods.

We provide the “final salute” to honorably discharged veterans who served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. Included in the final salute is the rifle salute, playing of taps and the folding of the flag. Our MCL Honor Guard is on voluntary duty every third week, Monday through Friday from 0900 to 1500. We start each day of duty with an opening prayer. We are there for one internment or 12 internments per day, no matter what Mother Nature is offering up that day!

The Army National Guard folds the flag for each interment. As of 2016, the duties were changed. Now each military service must provide their own flag folders. The MCL Honor Guard “stepped-up” by having the Army National Guard teach us the proper procedure for flag folding, in case we were called upon.

Our MCL Honor Guard currently has 29 members including: Robert Anderson, Robert Carpenter, Gary Cassell, John Cialone, Jim Clouse, Richard Coleman, Brian Dorman, Allen Ferguson, Anthony Flaynik, Bob Ford, Mike Gilberg, John “Doc” Gillespie, Francis Junto, Fred Krom, Victoria McCoy, Michael McDuffie, Michael Miller, Steven Miller, Tom Minchin, Gregg Myers, Curt O’Brien, Bob Orendorf, Bill Schweigler, Bob Shifflet, Leroy Summers, Ralph Tuckey, John Vickinovac, Lester Whitman, Gail Wise and Bill Woods, from five detachments—Bob Smith, P.W. Milano, Lancaster, Lewis B. Puller Jr. and Lebanon. Some members travel 80 miles round trip per day to take part in the honored duty.

When requested, we participate in other functions including the final salute for Marine Frederick Shepperly in Berwick, PA. Shepperly drew the blueprints for the “Stuart Tank” that was used in WWII in the Pacific by the Marine Corps—a memorial for Marine Adam Schoeler from Boiling Springs, PA, whose 53-foot chopper crashed in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. We also provide a rifle salute in the Memorial Day and Veterans Day events held at the PA Veteran’s Memorial at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. POW MIA, Army Cpl. Martin King, whose remains were finally identified, was laid to rest with full honors including our National Cemetery MCL Honor Guard. We were part of the memorial of Marine Michael Horrocks, who was the co-pilot on the jet that crashed into Tower 2 on 911. Our MCL Honor Guard also takes part in the opening ceremonies of athletic events and parades.

We served our country, and now we serve our community, with the final salute to our veterans. Our team leaders, Allen Ferguson and Bill Woods, show their thanks each year with an Appreciation banquet to honor our MCL Honor Guard members who show their committed service to our fallen comrades. We attend the John Basilone Parade in Raritan, NJ, and we attend the Marine Expo in Quantico, VA.

As a member of the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery MCL Honor Guard, I am honored and proud to be part of this special Marine family. Once a Marine, Always a Marine. God Bless each member of the National Cemetery MCL Honor Guard and God Bless America!

Semper Fi,
Marine Gail Wise

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery MCL Honor Guard

By Gail Wise

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE
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**NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT**

**DENNIS TOBIN**

**Working Together We Can Move Our League Forward to Make It the Best**

**MARINES:** Another great convention. I want to thank everyone for their support during the past two years and for your support in this election. I’m honored to now serve as your National Sr. Vice Commandant. I will serve with honor and distinction. The Marine Corps League and all our members are and always will be my main concern!

I will continue to work with our new Jr. Vice Commandant on increasing our membership and on any assignment given to me by our new Commandant. We all need to continue to work together on moving our League forward to make us the best veterans organization in the country.

Will we have problems? Yes, we will, but if we communicate and send out suggestions on how to fix the problems it will get done. One big problem that still exists is communication. For some reason it seems to stop at the departments. The majority of complaints come from the detachments not receiving the information that is sent out. We need to do a better job at tracking all information to see where the problem actually starts and stops.

I think one solution will be a mandatory reply. If all information is sent with a receipt requested then we will know who is getting the information and who isn’t and then we can work to correct the problem right away. The entire Board of Trustees is committed to making sure that all information is sent and received in a timely manner. Our detachments are the eyes and ears of the Marine Corps League. They are our boots on the ground. National has to know that you are receiving all necessary information, and if you do not, you have to reach out to us immediately. Without proper communication we cannot function.

I’m a firm believer in the chain of command, but if you have a problem contact anyone in your chain of command; I will always be available to assist in any way possible. We had a great convention; the attendance at all the meetings was fantastic. Let’s keep it up. Keep sending your ideas, and we will succeed. Our new Commandant has some great plans, and with the help of our new COO and the new Board, and you of course, we will continue to move forward.

There’s not much else to report right now, but as the new database comes on line and we progress forward we will get the information out to you. Keep up the good work and Semper Fidelis!

Semper Fi,
Dennis Tobin
National Sr. Vice Commandant

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**NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT**

**JOHNNY B. BAKER**

**Our GOAL is GROWTH!**

**MARINES:** This is my first article as YOUR National Junior Vice Commandant. First, please allow me to “Thank” each of you for allowing me to be your National Judge Advocate for the past two years. It was an educational experience that I will always treasure. It sincerely was humbling to be elected as your National Junior Vice Commandant at the National Convention in Overland Park, KS.

As your National Junior Vice Commandant, the National Bylaws state that the “National Junior Vice Commandant shall create and promulgate such membership incentives and programs as well produce enthusiastic response resulting in continuous membership growth.” This same guidance applies to ALL Junior Vice Commandants at the detachment and department levels. Our GOAL is GROWTH!

It is my intent to accomplish this mission by ensuring that the detachments are provided the tools and resources to assist them in accomplishing the goals of GROWTH. Marines, our League cannot grow without our personal involvement and without our utmost dedication and motivation. All Marine Corps League members are RECRUITERS. It is extremely important that OUR League continues to grow and prosper for us to remain relevant. This mission is our FUTURE!

Marines, I am here for you to assist in all membership issues. As many of you know, by the end of the year, we are purchasing a new database. This new database will be more intuitive, as the detachment and department paymasters will have more responsibilities, and all will have the need of a computer. I want to end my tour of duty on a positive note. We have many, many great Marines in our League who are doing the “right thing.” You have heard me use that phrase many times in reminding everyone that as Marines, we always should strive to do “the right thing, it is who we are, United States Marines.” So, Marines, I ask that each of you re-dedicate yourself to always doing the “right thing.” Regardless if we are at a detachment meeting or just representing the League at any function, the world holds us to a higher standard. You have the moral obligation of upholding that higher standard. It is who we are, United States Marines.

Semper Fi,
Johnny B. Baker
National Jr. Vice Commandant
The Future of our League is Looking Very Bright

MARINES: Corpsmen, Chaplains and Associates: Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend our National Convention in Overland Park, Kansas. Our National Convention is now in the record books. We will begin a new season with our new leadership. Commandant Webb is well prepared to lead us forward. We need to listen and when asked, follow through with what is required of us on every level. The Marine expression “Gung Ho”—working together in harmony—is what has best worked for us throughout our history. Continuing on with our Gung Ho spirit, the future of our League is very bright.

I want to sincerely express my gratitude to our members, who voted to allow me to serve as your National Judge Advocate. In my opinion, the position of National Judge Advocate acts as the moral compass of our League. It should help to guide us in the proper direction and refocus us when we are traveling on a different path.

Randy Rigg and Ray Daily ran honorable campaigns, and I know they will be great assets to our League in the future. We are all working in concert for a common goal.

The transfer of office from Johnny Baker to me will be flawless as Johnny has been a meticulous Judge Advocate. Those awaiting decisions will be presented within the proper timeframe. If we all act like good Marines, we will have few cases to determine. Time will tell.

I am excited to be a part of your elected National leadership joining Wendell, Dennis Tobin, Johnny Baker and our Board of Trustees. I respect our League and hope this will come across to you as we move forward. All of our staff is very competent, and hopefully we will serve you well; you deserve nothing but the best.

Junior Past National Commandant Goren, thank you for charging into the battlefield with all of your spirit and heart; it was a successful effort.

Thank you all again—let’s enjoy our future together.

Semper Fi,
Warren “Griff” Griffin
National Judge Advocate
“Just a reminder:
All assistance from the MCL Foundation is a One Time Life Time grant of assistance.”
MARINES: As we return to work after attending the National Convention, I want to welcome the newly elected Officers of the League. In addition, I want to say a big “thank you” to all of the membership who supported me with my campaign for National J.A. Even though I was not elected, we never know what the future will bring. I will still be a member of the Board of Trustees for 12 more months, looking after your best interests every day.

We have changes coming in the next year; nevertheless, they are not problems but opportunities.

We are installing a new database with features the memberships have been asking for. We will have the ability to pay by credit card online and instantly print your new membership card. The option of paying your paymaster with a check for him to send in to National will still be there. In addition, paymasters will have the ability to check the rosters at National with the Department roster.

In 2017-2018, we must all work on membership to grow the League. We must all remember to represent the League in the best way we can. You represent the Marine Corps League every day. How we present ourselves with our appearance, our actions and respect matters toward not just the public but also to our membership.

Semper Fi,
Ray Dailey
NVC, Central Division

MARINES: Greetings to all members of the Mideast Division! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for electing me as your new National Vice Commandant at the 94th National Convention in Overland Park, Kansas. It is an honor to serve all of you in this position as well as represent you wherever I travel. I want to also take this opportunity to recognize Past NVC Mike McLain for his four years of service and dedication to our division. He is an outstanding Marine and a great friend. We look forward to seeing him at future division conferences and national events.

I, along with your newly elected Assistant Division Vice Commandant, Roger Ware (DoWV), look forward to continuing the positive momentum our division has created in performing the mission of the League. One of my goals is to combine the strengths of all our departments and to cross train and learn each other’s techniques for our collective success. In addition, I will be working with every department and off-shore detachment to ensure we are collectively in “good standing” with all the requirements expected of us per our National Bylaws as well as achieve our objectives set to improve our division. Communication is the key to any successful organization, and I plan on communicating with all of our Department Commandants to ensure they have all the information and tools they need to perform their jobs as well as keep them informed with updates pertaining to our national organization.

Our outgoing National Commandant, Richard Gore, along with the assistance of his National Board of Trustees and National Executive Director Tom Hazlett, did an outstanding job over the last two years in strengthening our national organization. They all deserve our gratitude and thanks for all of the hard work they put in and the dedication they have for our beloved Marine Corps League.

Looking ahead, the Modern Day Marine Expo will be held in September in Quantico. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. As in past years, let’s continue to provide all of the assistance we can to make this event successful as well as enjoy the camaraderie of each other’s company.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve as your National Vice Commandant for the next two years. As I visit your departments and detachments, I look forward to meeting old friends and always making new ones. Take care of yourselves and each other and let’s always keep our overseas Marines and Corpsmen in our thoughts and prayers.

Semper Fi,
Bruce R. Rakfeldt
NVC, Mideast Division
I do not remember having anything like it 52 years ago in Chu Lai

MARINES: The Midwest Division was proud to be the host Division for the 94th National Convention. We hope everyone enjoyed their stay in Overland Park. I would like to thank the Convention Committee, General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment and the Department of Kansas, for all their work in getting the Convention ready to welcome the MCL and MCLA members. A job well done!

The Midwest Division would like to thank Executive Director Thomas Hazlett for the past two years of service as the Executive Director and look forward to seeing him around the League in the future on his endeavors with the Devil Dogs. We also would like to welcome to the League our new Chief Operating Officer (COO) Mr. Robert J. Borka and his wife Patricia. We look forward to working with Mr. Borka to ensure the League continues to grow and improve.

One additional item that will have a significant impact on the League is the implementation of the new database. When it is up and running, the Detachment and Department Paymasters will have the ability to enter and maintain all member information. Having the ability to change or correct member information at the local level should make it easier for all concerned.

On September 19-21, 2017, we will have enjoyed Modern Day Marine at Quantico, VA. I am amazed to see the quality of equipment available for the Marines in the field today; I do not remember having anything like it 52 years ago in Chu Lai.

Semper Fi,
Harvey L. Harris
NVC, Midwest Division

We cannot help our Marines if we don’t understand their concerns

MARINES: The vision of your new National Commandant Wendell Webb is to professionalize the Marine Corps League.

I wish to thank all the members of the New England Division for their support. As we move forward, professionalism, transparency and strategic planning will continue to be the hallmark of our National Commandant. The time has arrived for the New England Division to update our strategic plan—a project I will be working on over the next year. One of the essential elements that must be improved is our ability to communicate with all our departments and membership. I asked for your assistance in holding steadfast our motto, “Once a Marine Always a Marine.” With that in mind, I challenge each New England Division department to increase its membership. The National Commandant has instructed all vice commandants to share with their departments that it’s important to strive for a 50/50 membership—50% of the membership is to be under 50 years old. Marines we need younger members to assist us in generating new ideas and to help those of us who are of the older generation understand the daily problems they encounter. Our active duty Marines have endured many overseas deployments and combat tours. We cannot help our Marines if we don’t understand their concerns. It’s up to us to reach out to these Marines who have raised the Corps’ image and prestige. I urge you to reach out to your local Marine Corps recruiting staff and offer any assistance they may need. Invite them to detachment functions, such as cookouts. Be available to introduce them to your community leaders. Remember our Marines on active duty may join the MCL free of charge.

If you haven’t seen our new web page, please take a minute to go online and enjoy a web page you can be proud of, compliments of Marine Tom Hazlett. I cannot impress on you enough to practice the statement located on our new web page—this is who we are and what we’re about:

“Members of the Marine Corps League join in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving traditions, promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service. Effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy. Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen and their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.”

Semper Fi,
James “Jim” Laskey
NVC, New England Division, PNC
MARINES: First, I would like to thank the Departments of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania for their confidence and support in my bid to be National Vice Commandant. We are the biggest and best division because of all they do collectively. We were a major force at the National Convention in Overland Park, Kansas. We had around 225 delegates representing over 3,000 votes in the elections. Our members exchanged information and ideas at the convention and each Commandant has vowed to communicate and help each other when possible.

Upcoming events include a Department of NJ Staff Meeting at the Reserve Center in Red Bank, NJ, on September 17, 2017. A Staff/Membership meeting for the Department of NY on October 13-14 at Ronkonkoma, Long Island and a staff meeting for the Department of Pennsylvania at their Headquarters building located in Fort Indiantown Gap on October 21, 2017. Each of our departments has their own website with all the information on the meetings posted. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Past Commandant Richard Gore and the outgoing Board of Trustees for all they accomplished during the last three years. They were charged with righting a sinking ship, and they performed admirably. Financially, we’re debt-free and in the black for the first time in years with a great new building near our Marine Corps Museum and MCB Quantico. We are aligning with other Marine organizations to support one another and the Marine Corps in many ways. The best is yet to be. Together we can do almost anything. Remember our troops throughout the world and thank a fellow Veteran when possible.

Semper Fi,
Tim Forbes
NVC, Northeast Division

Can you believe Toys for Tots is just around the corner?

MARINES: It is a Pleasure to Serve the Northwest Division. 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 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.

Modern Day Marine will be in the books by the time you read this. If you ever get a chance to go to an Expo, please do so. It will make you see that we are still Marines young and old.

Can you believe Toys for Tots is just around the corner? It 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. It is our goal to fill every request that we get.

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. There is lots of work remaining, 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. I will keep up the fight for the next year and, as you know, keep you all up-to-date with ZERO delays!

Semper Fi,
T.J. Morgan
NVC, Northwest Division
I believe that if we don’t grow, we will die on the vine

MARINES: This is my first article for the Semper Fi magazine, and I’d like to thank the Division for electing me to be your National Vice Commandant for the Division. I’ll do my best to represent you to the best of my ability. While in office, I will strive to keep you informed of everything I can as soon as possible, and I ask that you keep me informed as well about what is happening in your Departments. My main focus will be on recruiting and retention. I believe that if we don’t grow, we will die on the vine.

I know that many of you have floats and are attending parades all summer. Right now is a busy time for parades because of all the county fairs; we are busy in many of the small towns around the Division. This is a great opportunity to recruit and to get our members involved. Many of us have booths at these events, and I know you’re doing your best to find new members this way.

We have to remember that we are a pretty large Division geographically, but our population is not so much. Because of this and the natural attrition rate, it really hurts to lose anyone. Let’s try to get everyone involved and let members know about all of our programs. You might have some sleeper members who just need to find something right for them.

Right now I’m getting packed for the Marine Corps League 2017 National Convention in Overland Park, KS. I hope to see many members from the Rocky Mountain Division in attendance and am looking forward to meeting members from all around the nation as well as renewing old acquaintances. I have attended several National Conventions in the past and have thoroughly enjoyed all of them. I’m sure this one will not be the exception although I’ll be very busy learning my new job. Glad to have seen you in Kansas!

Semper Fi,
Allen W. Brink
NVC, Rocky Mountain Division

We are, by necessity, going to become a more professional organization

MARINES: Our Marine Corps League is changing, and we need better participation.

First, a quick “Thank you!” to the members of the Southeast Division for their support of me as their new Southeast Division National Vice Commandant. I am very excited to begin my tour as a member of the National Board of Trustees.

As those of you who have attended the past two National Conventions know, a lot of great things have happened in our Marine Corps League on the National level over the past 2 years, but it appears that those improvements may be eclipsed by the necessary changes that will be happening in the next few years. Many of the things that the members of the Marine Corps League were promised years ago are either now in place or coming online in just a few months, thanks to the hard work of our National officers and staff.

We are, by necessity, going to become a more professional organization. For those on the detachment and department levels to take advantage of the current and coming improvements at National, our members and officers will also have to become more professional. Officers of detachments and departments will need to own computers and be computer-literate, especially those elected to the offices of Commandant, Paymaster and/or Adjutants, in order to reduce the use of paper forms and speed up our communications.

With the changes being made, and the potential to grow our organization, each MCL member should rededicate him/herself to participating as much as possible at the detachment, department, division and National levels. If you are an elected or appointed officer of a detachment or department, commit yourself to attending all meetings and conventions. All members, even the newest, are encouraged to attend meetings and conventions as often as possible. I can assure you that the more you participate, the more you will enjoy being a member.

I am looking forward to visiting with each of the Southeast Division departments over the coming months and hopefully to attending some neighboring division conferences. You could also plan to visit another department or division convention. Of course, we have the Southeast Division Conference coming in March 2018, which by the time you’re reading this, is only a few months away. Please plan to join us in Pigeon Forge, TN, and make your reservations now.

Semper Fi,
Archie H. Sweet
NVC, Southeast Division
I'm looking forward to the Southern Division Conference

MARINES: As your new Southern Division Vice Commandant, I would like to introduce myself—I am currently a member of the Department of Oklahoma, Cpl Joshua J. Ware Detachment 1403. I joined the League in 2006 with the Department of Arkansas River Valley Detachment 1248. I served as their Commandant for 3 years; was elected Department of Arkansas Commandant in 2008-2010; was Department Paymaster in 2010-2012; was past Pound Keeper for Pound 346 from 2012-2015; am currently a member of Pound 308 in Tulsa; elected Assistant National Vice Commandant 2015-2017; and now elected National Vice Commandant for Southern Division at the 94th National Convention in Overland Park, Kansas, August 18th 2017.

I would like to welcome aboard the new Assistant National Vice Commandant David Niemann, a member of the Department of Arkansas Northwest Arkansas Detachment 854 and Lonnie Young, the new National Aide DE Camp for the division and a member of the Department of Arkansas Northwest Arkansas Detachment 854; all other division staff will remain on board. I would like to personally thank the past National Aide DE Camp George Simpson for his outstanding service to the division over the years—he has decided to stand down for now.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Southern Division Conference in Northwest Arkansas March 23-24, 2018, at the Four Points Sheraton, Bentonville, AR, as well as at your department meetings over the next year.

We are looking forward to working with our 62nd National Commander Wendell Webb. From my first meeting with him and the Leadership team of line officers I know there will be a lot of positive changes yet to come in the next 2 years for the League.

The Southern Division website should be updated by the time this report is published, thanks to Nick Weinkopf; we thank him for staying on board for this term. If you have any events or announcements you would like to place on the website, please feel free to contact Nick or myself, and we will see that they are published. Nick is hungry for input from the departments and detachments, so give it to him.

I would also like to thank the past Division Vice Randy Rigg for his leadership and his friendship for the past 5 years—he will be a tough act to follow. The division is much better because of him, and I hope the same can be said when I leave the post.

Semper Fi,
Johnny Gothard
NVC, Southern Division

There are no problems that need to be addressed by the division

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

I have just returned from the 2017 National Convention held at Overland Park, Kansas. It was a very informative convention. Many plans were discussed on the direction the Marine Corps League will take under the supervision of Commandant Webb. I am sure all members will see some changes in the way things are accomplished. I am also certain everyone is eagerly awaiting the new revision of the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures to be approved.

Since my last article, I have visited and had discussions with each of the department Commandants of Arizona, California and Nevada. Each of the Commandants has assisted the division in any way they can. At the present time there are no problems that need to be addressed by the division.

Since the last article I have attended the Department of Arizona Convention which was held on June 2-5, 2017, at the Desert Diamond Resort in Tucson. The Department of California Convention was held on June 16-17, 2017, at the Grand Vista Hotel in Simi Valley. Both conventions were very informative, and a great time was had by all attendees.

The Department of California voted and approved they would no longer hold a Fall meeting.

On a personal note I haven’t been doing very much on my computer lately as I had eye surgery on June 28 and July 5. I now have very limited eyesight and will have additional surgery on October 9 and November 13, 2017, at which time I hope I will be able to see well again. I hope to be able to have a much more informative article in the next issue of Semper Fi.

Semper Fi,
Richard Hoery
NVC, Southwest Division

Semper Fi,
Johnny Gothard
NVC, Southern Division
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

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

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- Features include your choice of black or brown leather, tailored with outside storm flap, pleated bi-swing back, knit cuffs and waistband, two side-entry double welt pockets, two large front-flapped cargo pockets, nylon inner lining with fiberfill and heavy-duty jacket zipper.
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  - □ Vietnam Veteran Patch on chest (add $20) ............................. $  
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  - □ Sizes 2XL to 3XL (add $25) .................................................... $  
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**CREDIT CARD:** □ Visa □ MasterCard □ AMEX □ Discover
- CC#: ___________________________ Exp. Date: _____ / _____
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**SHIPPING ADDRESS:** (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
- Name ________________________________
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*Marine Corps patch obtained from an officially licensed supplier. © ICM 2017 ELITE-MCL-1017

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The United States Marines Youth Foundation

The Solution to a Drug-Free America™

By Thomas W. Hazlett

The United States Marines Youth Foundation was incorporated in 1967 to endow the Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) Program and others like it benefiting American Youth. Major General Walter Churchill, USMC (Ret.) saw the need to help guide America’s youth down the right path. His vision was to give every child in this country a chance to succeed in life and have an opportunity to live a healthy lifestyle—free of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Though General Churchill is no longer with us, his will to help America’s youth lives on through the Youth Foundation under the present guidance and direction of General Alfred M. Gray, USMC, (Ret.), the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

From a one-high school test program in 1958, the Marine Corps’ Youth Physical Fitness Program has grown into a major national athletic event. Recruiting Station New York City conducted the first program and patterned it after the Marine Corps’ physical fitness test administered at recruit depots. School administrators enthusiastically received the program and the late Lieutenant Colonel John A. Dowd, officer in charge of Recruiting Station New York City, began plans to encourage more high schools to participate. These plans were immediately successful and the Marine Corps’ Youth...
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FOR THE DISTINGUISHED FEW

The few, the proud, the Marines. Whether active duty, retired, or one of the many that support them here at home, our proud U.S. Marines and the families and friends that support them remain always faithful—Semper Fidelis—to the noble principles of honor, courage and commitment. Now, you can show your pride in the Marine Corps and all it stands for with a new jewelry exclusive that makes a very personal statement—the “USMC Semper Fi” Leather ID Bracelet.

A DISTINCTIVE STATEMENT

This bold design features a braided genuine leather bracelet, with a gleaming cylinder at the center in durable solid stainless steel showcasing a sculpted Marine Corps emblem of eagle, globe and anchor, and the Marine motto SEMPER FI. The reverse side of the cylinder is personalized with the 3 etched initials of your choice... at no extra cost, along with the Marine corps values of HONOR COURAGE COMMITMENT. Two stainless steel and black enamel beads emblazoned with USMC frame the cylinder on each side, and ion-plated 24K-gold accents add to the dramatic effect. The Men’s bracelet is sized at 8½" and the Women’s is sized at 7". Both bracelets close with a stainless steel magnetic clasp, making it easy to put on or take off.

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This custom-crafted bracelet is a remarkable value at $89*, payable in 4 convenient installments of just $22.25 and is backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. It arrives in a jewelry pouch and gift box along with a Certificate of Authenticity. To reserve yours, send no money now; just mail the Priority Reservation. This limited-time offer is only available from The Bradford Exchange. So don’t delay... Order today!

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Physical Fitness (YPF) Program was born. What started out as primarily a high school program, the YPF today encompasses students from elementary school through high school. Students can earn up to 8 certificates, one for each school year they participate. Additionally, the Foundation mails several thousand participation certificates (designed for those students who don’t attain a minimum score within the program). The Foundation also began offering the Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence to male and female band students in recognition of their outstanding achievements in their high school band. It is the policy of the Foundation to ensure that every child who participates in the programs receives the appropriate recognition. The Foundation also supports the schools with Program Books as well as individual and team awards for high school competitions at state, regional and national meets.

The United States Marines Youth Foundation’s major fundraiser is the annually held Tree of Lights program; this program is a donation-based fundraiser which allows donors to recognize family and friends in one of three ways: In Memory of, In Honor of or as a Year-End Gift. The event is held the first Tuesday in the Month of December and the funds raised help support the Youth Physical Fitness program; a program conducted by the Marine Corps League. The United States Marines Youth Foundation’s Executive Director Thomas W. Hazlett, a retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant, encourages all Marine Corps League members to donate to this most worthy program. Hazlett states, “To be able to assist our youth of this great country is both an honor and a privilege; our youth need a program which encourages participation and steers our youth towards a drug- and alcohol-free life.”

The program provides a mental, moral and physical challenge and establishes reachable goals. The fitness program also provides important recognition, which leads to pride in one’s self and is in many cases a building block for future self-improvement; it is being offered to every school and youth organization free of charge.

Many of the youth in this country are not physically able to meet the challenges of everyday life. Poor eating habits, lack of physical exercise and low self-esteem contribute to this desperate condition. Through the National Youth Physical Fitness Program and the National High School Physical Fitness Championships, the Foundation has been able to help thousands of kids turn their lives around. Many of the young men and women who participate in these programs are exposed to positive role models for the first time in their lives. Many have never had to meet a challenge, attain a goal, or have an opportunity to dream a dream. The United States Marines Youth Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Not for Profit Organization, is keeping those dreams alive...one school and one child at a time.

The Solution to a Drug-Free America™ is the registered trademark of the United States Marines Youth Foundation and it’s no secret ... the future of this country rests solely in the hands of today’s youth and what we do as a society to provide direction, instill discipline and offer hope to our young citizens will have a direct reflection on the future course of this country. Hazlett encourages every Marine Corps League Detachment and Department to establish a YPF Program and to continue to take part in directing and guiding today’s youth.

Please visit our website, usmarinesyouthfoundation.org to see how you too can help support our program and help shape the future of our youth. The US Marines Youth Foundation holds a Platinum Rating through GuideStar (the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations), which is the highest rating a nonprofit organization can receive. You can check us out on GuideStar at guidestar.org/profile/23-7022480.

You can also go to page 32 and support the United States Marines Youth Foundation by sending in the Tree of Lights donation form. $F
"Never Forgotten:"

Bringing Home Our Tarawa Marines, Over 70 Years Later

By Patrick J. Hughes

On July 29, 2014, at Arlington National Cemetery in Section #60, I attended the burial of Tarawa repatriated Marine PFC Randolph “Bud” Allen. Why did I go to this funeral? First he was a fallen Marine from a famous World War II battle, and I never had the privilege to attend a “full honors” burial. As a photographer it was a great opportunity for me.

On that same warm July day I met Mark Noah of “History Flight” and learned of his NGO (non-governmental organization). Noah is the man responsible for bringing Home “Bud” Allen. On December 15, 2014, Commandant General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., appointed Mr. Mark Noah the title of Honorary Marine, United States Marine Corps for his unyielding support and devotion to Corps and Country. This award was formerly presented to Mr. Noah at the National Museum of the Marine Corps on July 24, 2015.

While speaking with Mark Noah, I learned he was making a life mission of repatriating all Marines who are still resting on Betio, Tarawa. Almost 500! Noah’s objective is to research and help locate the remains of American service members still missing in action (MIA) from World War II. At the end of our conversation I gave Noah my card, mentioned I would send some images of this funeral and would gladly volunteer my professional services should he ever need them.

Battle of Tarawa

In November 1943, Bud Allen was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division which landed on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll, in an attempt to secure the island against stiff Japanese resistance. Tarawa is a coral reef atoll and the capital of the Republic of Kiribati, in the central Pacific Ocean. It comprises North Tarawa, which has much in common with other, more remote islands of the Gilberts group with a population of about 29,000. It is about halfway between Hawaii and the Philippines sitting just above the equator. Their sunrise, sunsets always came around 6:30, with very hot tropical weather.

November 20, 1943, was the start of this naval amphibious assault and three-day battle for Tarawa’s Red Beach 1, 2 and 3. By the end of the first day of battle the 2nd Battalion Marines held 70 to 200 yards of beach with about 1,500 dead or wounded. Approximately 1,000 Marines were killed, and more than 2,000 were wounded. As a result of these attacks, Allen was reported killed in action on the first day of the battle.

There were 2,600 Japanese Imperial Marines along with 4,100 Korean conscripted slaves on Tarawa at that time protecting the 4,000-ft airstrip. The Japanese built massive fortification with 10 8-inch guns and numerous anti-aircraft guns. Rear Admiral Keiji Shibazaki was the 49-year-old Japanese officer in charge of the island. He was an experienced combat officer from the campaigns in China. While continuing the defensive preparations right up to the day of the invasion he encouraged his
troops, saying, “It would take one million men 100 years” to conquer Tarawa. It took just three days and 18,000 Marines to conquer the island. That first night of the battle, the Rear Admiral Keiji Shibazaki was killed when a 5-inch shell landed near his position.

At 13:12 on November 23, 1943, the Marines secured the island of Tarawa at a cost of 1,113 Marines KIA and 2,290 wounded. The total dead were over 5,500. Only one Japanese officer, two enlisted and 14 Korean laborers survived.

There are 43 cemeteries on Tarawa. The 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division grave site #27 (now the KSSL shipyard) MOH Lt. Alexander J. Bonnyman, Jr., led the attack against a bunker with 150 Japanese soldiers. His remains were recovered in May 2015 by Mark E. Noah and “History Flight.”

Locating Battle of Tarawa Marines

The Army Corps of Engineers recovered only 392 sets of remains brought back to the U.S., leaving almost 500 bodies still unaccounted for on Tarawa.

For “History Flight” this was a very long drawn out process, going through old burial maps, bringing in cadaver dogs to these sites along with special equipment to detect buried human remains and then getting needed supplies half way around the world.

In May 2015 the call came from Mark Noah stating that they were close to a big discovery and were in need of my professional services. Unfortunately, at that time, I was not able to go due to prior Memorial Day weekend commitments—Rolling Thunder® Inc. demonstration, “Ride for Freedom” to bring a full accounting for our “still missing” POW/MIA.

On this mission “History Flight” recovered over 30 sets of Marine remains along with MOH 1st Lt. Alexander “Sandy” Bonnyman, Jr. (May 2, 1910–November 22, 1943). Bonnyman was a combat engineer. He received the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars and the World War II Victory Medal posthumously for his actions during the strategically important assault on a Japanese bombproof shelter during the Battle of Tarawa. There were four MOHs awarded during this three-day bloody battle, with only one surviving the battle. Besides 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Jr., there were 1st. Lt. William Dean Hawkins and SSgt William James Bordelon. Only Col. David Monroe Shoup came home alive.

Missing this recovery mission was a big disappointment for me, but I would be given another chance later that same year. I sent Mark Noah a Christmas e-mail greeting, and he immediately replied saying they have located some additional Marines’ remains to recover, but they were buried under a two-story building. What an undertaking this journey would be and one of my best Christmas presents ever!!

From January 26 through March 1, 2016, I was part of a “History Flight” recovery team in Betio, Tarawa. Much prep work was required prior to going on this recovery mission. A structural engineer had to be sent to the burial site to determine how to support the building while safely digging beneath it. He remained with us for the entire five-week recovery mission. Incredibly the building structure never moved an inch! When finished we had to restore the grounds and property by hand, pouring new cement to replace what we had previously broken up, painting and making repairs to the deplorable bathrooms we worked under.

Our engineer Kevin Jordan from Escondido, CA, visited the site in 2015 to examine the building and determine how to excavate our Marines while keeping our archaeologists safe in lifting the building. Because the water table was only about 4 to 5 feet, an artisan well was put in to remove most of the water from under the building during the recovery.

Upon landing in Kiribati, traveling on three different airlines that covered over 6,800 miles, the trip felt much like going back to
Vietnam. The airstrip was small, only two flights in and out each week. We took a 30-minute, slow bumpy ride along unpaved, puddle-filled dirt roads to our lodging. The heat, humidity, heavy rains, very little electric adding in little or no internet became inconveniences that we managed, but at least it appeared to be clean.

Every morning after breakfast around 7:30a.m. we would have a meeting discussing the agenda for that day. Our group was divided into teams working at various possible grave sites. We had to drive in rented SUVs to our dig sites, along the way seeing interesting sites. Young children walking to school, individuals bathing at a well outside of their homes (shacks) and many on bikes and mopeds trying to avoid the huge puddles on the mud-covered roads were common sites. We were looking for Marines’ remains but also found many Japanese and Korean conscript remains which were eventually turned over to their governments. We had a six-day work week with Sundays off until we found our first Marine, Individual #36, at the KSSL shipyard aka Cemetery #27. We worked long hours every day until our last Marine, Individual #43, was safely removed from under the building and into the lab.

Medically we were well taken care of by Doc Jacobs, a medically retired Navy Corpsman, and Dr. Lu. They would purchase ice and bottled water every morning and deliver them to our sites and cared for cuts, bruises and my bout with food poisoning. They were life savers. During our lunch hour, I would sometimes go off on little adventures to see what interesting images I could capture along the way. Or I would go back to our lodge to look at images or charge batteries when the generator was working, or just try to relax.

There were numerous setbacks along the way. The ship was late in arriving in Tarawa, then we had trouble accessing our container and finally on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, we had to unload everything by hand from the on-board container to a rented truck making three trips to get everything needed to start excavating in Cemetery #27. Then the rains came, and it was two days later before we could really start our recovery mission.

NO remains were found in the hallway. To the right of the hallway were bathrooms that were not very sanitary. So a number of Marine remains were desecrated when this building was built. Why?

About 10a.m. on Friday, February 12, 2016, Individual #36 was discovered. Remains recovery is a long and delicate process. Each bucket of sand has to be hand sifted looking for bone fragments, teeth and camo burial coverings. Once these remains are uncovered the archaeologists then use fine brushes to remove the sand from the skeletal parts, also looking for personal items that may have survived over 70 years underground. This was a long but very rewarding day. Then on Saturday, a set of partially readable dog tags were found containing the name and serial number of this Marine. After DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) positive identification of each individual all found personal items would be turned over to the immediate family survivors.
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

On Thursday, February 18, 2016, around 1:45 p.m., Tarawa Marine #41 was carried out of the building on a 2x5-ft sheet of plywood. Later that day our Doc Jacobs helped carry out Individual #42. On Friday morning February 19, 2016, our last Marine #43 was recovered from under the building in the KSSL shipyard (Cemetery #27). He was positively identified by DPAA on April 21, 2017, as 2nd Lt. George S. Bussa who died sometime on the first day of battle, November 20, 1943. Bussa was awarded the Silver Star for actions on Guadalcanal.

After the final recovery, I interviewed Dr. Meredith Tise, one of the lead forensic archaeologists for “History Flight.” I asked why she was digging in that horrible trench under filthy bathrooms in a broken down building. Meredith said that these men were Never Forgotten. Having a brother serving in the Air Force she now realized if anything happened to him people would search day and night for his safe return. So being able to find these Marines and bring them home to their families is her reward for being here.

Once all remains had been removed and taken to the lab for preliminary ID, the I-beam was removed and struts were carefully placed along with sand filling the area. Part of the agreement with the owner of this property was to restore everything as it was originally, including plumbing and painting. Our finished product was quite an improvement over the original structure.

Most of the concrete had to be mixed by hand in wheelbarrows. There were only a few of us left to finish this work. Vietnam Marine Glenn Prentice kept our generator-powered mixer going while Kevin and our local helpers spread and smoothed out concrete.

“If you should forget my death, then I died in vain.”

What an honor it was being a part of this “History Flight” recovery team. Everyone was so helpful and committed to the mission of bringing home our fellow Marines. The dedication they have is unmistakable and working with a large number of former military personnel made it even easier for me to fit in with this young group of professionals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
“History Flight”; historyflight.com/nw.
Patrick J. Hughes U.S.M.C. ChuLai 67-68
Rolling Thunder® Inc. National Photographer
Upper Darby Detachment #884 Marine Corps League
www.patrickjhughes.org
YouTube: mag12chulai
Twitter: @Patrickmag12chu
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What’s going on in Washington, DC (Congress)? With all the fighting amongst the leadership, Congress still continues to put some good legislation bills out. We all need to support our leadership to make America greater than ever. Your voices will be heard so the correct decisions can be made for the people.

**ISSUES WE SUPPORT**

**Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act (H.R 333) and Retired Pay Restoration Act (H.R. 303; S. 66–S. 170) (Concurrent Receipt).** We support these legislative bills. For more than a decade the Marine Corps League and other veterans’ organizations have worked to win relief from the 19th-century law that reduces military retired pay by amount of disability compensation received from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We believe that retired pay and veterans’ disability compensation are two ENTIRELY different things: Retired pay is earned by a career of uniformed service; VA disability compensation is for pain and suffering, due to service-connected disabilities.

**Defense.** U.S. House Representatives passed a $696 billion defense authorization bill July 2017. This is for targeting improved military readiness, buying more ships and equipment. We support this budget.

**Honor Guardsmen and Reservists Act (H.R. 3195).** The House Veterans Affairs committee has introduced H.R. 3195. This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to make available for purchase a memorial headstone or marker for the marked or unmarked graves.

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION PENDING**

**Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2017 (S. 700).** This bill serves to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their spouses or partners.

**Housing Our Heroes Act (H.R. 2733).** This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to begin a 3-year pilot grant program to assess the feasibility of awarding grants to eligible entities to purchase and renovate abandoned homes for homeless veterans.

**Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017 (H.R. 1329).** To increase, effective as of December 1, 2017, the rate of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

**MILITARY COMMISSARY CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SERVICES**

The strength of the voice of organizations like the Marine Corps League depends on the size of the membership and concern for issues. What is lacking is your cooperation as a member to stress your opinions on veterans and our military issues. The above information notes just a few things taking place in Congress. Only you can make a difference. If we don’t let our Congressional leaders know of our concerns, we have let ourselves down. Please take the time to contact, visit, write or email your Congressional representatives to ask them to support our issues. Remember today’s soldiers are tomorrow’s veterans, and they will continue to need our support and help.

*Semper Fi,*
R. Bob Becker, Jr., PNC
MARINES: I don’t know if everyone enjoyed our National Convention as much as I did, but I can say: “Job Well Done!” The hosting Detachments put in an awful lot of work, and it was obvious from the get-go that things would run as they should.

The introduction of the new website was impressive, even though it was long in the making and implementation, and was very successfully presented to the body. Semper Fi Store items are all on pages which are easy to surf and make selections from. All subordinate organizations are on-site and readily accessible to any who wish to contact them. We have a detachment site where any detachment we have can be located quickly and easily. In other words, we have come a long way in a short time and will continue to move steadily forward and organize our future to guarantee we remain prosperous.

With the guidance of the new C.O.O. Robert Borka and newly elected Commandant Wendell Webb and the new Board of Trustees, I urge every member to be patient and watch us as we grow and overcome the past in order to move into the future.

The only words of advice that I have to offer are: “Let’s work together as a T.E.A.M. and successfully bring our ship into port in fantastic shape and ready for fair waters.”

Semper Fi,
Richard D. Gore, Sr.
Junior Past National Commandant
Winner of Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Detachment’s fundraising raffle for a Remington Model 1911 R1 Commander was John Schleifer from La Cross, WI. After completing the background and registration paperwork, he is pictured holding his prize 45 pistol with congratulations from Commandant Dennis Beattie May 21, 2017.

On May 21, 2017, Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 joined with American Legion Post 90 in a presentation of Service Flags for Armed Forces Day recognition.

Myriam Charriez, Commandant of John Basilone Detachment 190, Milltown, NJ, presents a flag to 100-year-old WWII Army veteran, Carmela “Millie” Epifanio on May 18, 2017. Sgt. Mascaro (maiden name) served from 1943-1946 in the 3rd Service Command as foreman of the base warehouse in Camp Pickett, VA.
Newest member of the Captain Jack Holland Detachment, Mike Bryant. His membership is a direct result of our detachment’s very active Facebook page.

Richard Gore participated in the ribbon cutting at the Young Marines new headquarters in Dumfries, VA. Left to right: Bob Borka, COO of the MCL, William P. Davis, National Executive Director and CEO of the Young Marines; Richard Gore, former National Commandant of the MCL; and William L. Smith, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Young Marines.

In May 2017 the new “Chosin Few” Memorial near the National Museum of the Marine Corps, not far from MCB Quantico, was dedicated to all Korean combat Veterans during the Changjin Lake Campaign.

Jim Maevers, Jake Castleman and Past Department of Missouri Commandant Richard Bollwerk.
On May 20, 2017, members of the All Divisions Detachment and Unit, United Young Marines Unit, family members and friends placed 1,000 flags on the graves of our Veterans at Sunset Memorial Park in Feasterville, PA.

On May 24, 2017, scholarships were presented to area students in the amount of $4,000 at a recent E.T. Brisson Detachment 063, MCL of Naples, meeting. The selected students all have a 4+/5 GPA and will begin their college career in Fall 2017.

Rifle detail for the Memorial Day Ceremony at New Beginnings School in Naples, FL. Left to right: Jack Fulmer, Asst. Quartermaster; Joe Bellanti, Sgt-At-Arms; Jim Buchholz, Commandant; and Nick Marsit, Past Commandant.

Good Citizenship Certificate and E.T. Brisson Detachment 063 Challenge Coin presented to Andrew Mizell, Troop 2001, on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout at his Court of Honor.

The JC Paul Detachment 1448 commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Flag.
COMMANDANT JIM MAEVERS OF DETACHMENT 1081 PRESENTING THE MARINE CORPS OFFICER SWORD TO JAKE CASTLEMAN.


THE WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION HAD THE HONOR OF BEING SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TASTE OF THE JETS EVENT IN NEW YORK CITY ON MAY 18, 2017. THE TASTE OF THE JETS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT THAT THE NY JETS HAVE HELD THE LAST 13 YEARS TO SUPPORT THE NEW YORK JETS FOUNDATION TO TACKLE HUNGER.

ROUND ROCK HIGH SCHOOL JR. ROTC MCL SCHOLARSHIP APRIL 21, 2017. LEFT TO RIGHT: CADET ELIJAH GREEN, MAJOR JACKIE SCHILLER AND JR. VICE COMMANDANT AL MCCLYMonds.
Marines from Camp Lejeune in New York for Fleet Week visit with the Marines of Staten Island Detachment 1. They marched in the annual Memorial Day Parade and participated in the detachment’s annual ceremony.

Hendrickson HS Awards were held April 20, 2017. Left to right: Past Commandant Joe Pondrum, Cadet Michael Maxwell and Commandant William Hoch.

Members of the Shawn Knisley Detachment presented on behalf of late Past Commandant Larry Ashton’s family a food donation to the Person Street United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, NC. Left to right: Toys for Tots Coordinator Don Bennett, Commandant Thurman Smith, UMC member Prudence Inderbitzen and Sgt-At-Arms Robert Jenkins. Photo by Spencer R. Sikder Jr., PDC/PDD.

On May 27, 2017, members of the MGySgt John W. Zaengle Detachment 1023 family members, guests, and joined together with members of the United Young Marines Unit, Boy Scout Troops #72 and #437, the DAR for the detachment’s annual American flag placement at the graves of our deceased military branches at the George Washington Memorial Cemetery in Whitemarsh, PA.
**ROLL CALL**

**AROUND THE LEAGUE**

Bill Howrilla, past Sr. Vice Commandant of MCL 310 3 Rivers Leathernecks, Pittsburgh, PA, is a nationally acclaimed wood carver and cartoonist who has been involved with the Marine Corps since his service back in the mid-1950s. Bill is shown here with 22 hand-carved “Semper Fi Walking Sticks,” which were presented to the original members of the Wounded Warrior Battalion.

Major General Warren R. Johnson Detachment 1311 of Woodstock, GA, Vietnam War Silver Star recipient and Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame inductee John David Blair is the keynote speaker at the Woodstock, GA, 2007 Memorial Day ceremony.

The LCpl Robert W. Deane Detachment members attended the Dept. of Maryland MCL Convention in Ocean City, MD. The detachment received the 2016 Detachment of the Year Award. Left to right: Ed Sullivan, Jerome Bujanowski, Joe Clemente, Paul Gunther, Craig Reeling (Commandant Dept. of MD), Clark Beall (Commandant LCpl Deane Detachment 2016), Jack Severn, Billy Wagner, Al Jahnigen, Harry Wolfe and Breeze Reed.

Roy Wood (fifth from left), Paymaster of Leland D. “Crow” Crawford Detachment 956 and Sergeant-At-Arms for the Department of WV, receives the 2017 Department Marine of the Year Award during the Department Convention Banquet in Charleston, WV, on May 6, 2017. Past Department MOY recipients include, from left: Rick Shank, Mike McLain, Ben Fett, Steven Sweenton, John Nanny, Chuck Cooper, Hershel “Woody” Williams and George Gill.
The Five Star Veterans Center recently worked with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) and the University of North Florida to secure funding for and begin delivering on-site mental health counseling to its residents. Front row (left to right): Mike Brynildsen, PAO; Col. Loving, CEO Five Star Veterans Center; Dayton Warfle, Adj/Paymaster. Back row (left to right): James Thomas, Chaplin; Charlie Myers, SVC; Jerry Jesonek, Commandant; and John Leisman, JVC.


SgtMaj Paul Siverson USMC (Ret) hosted his annual cookout to welcome the Marines from MCL Staten Island Detachment 246. The event was supported by members from the MCL Swansboro Detachment 1407.

Veteran Marines and MCL members Lamar Scott (left) and Buddy Simpson stand in the midst of their militaria collection that covered 28 tables and dressed 55 mannequins at the MCL's Southeast Conference held March 30 and April 1 at the Mobile Marriott in Mobile, AL. The two militaria collectors, both members of Detachment 1339 in McDonough, GA, combined their collections several years ago and started taking it on the road.
2nd Lt. John Paul Bobo Detachment 1118 Chaplain John Attanasio hands a snack bag that was prepared by detachment members to 102-year-old, WWII pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps Sydney D. Cole, a patient at the Buffalo, NY, Veterans Hospital. His mission was to give air support for the Battle of the Bulge.

HCDD Jack Severn was first the recipient of the Jimmie Lee Howard Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is for a member who has exhibited a lifetime of meritorious service at every level of the MCL and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. Left to right: Craig Reeling, Commandant Department of Maryland MCL, Jack Severn.

Salem County Detachment 523 MCL’s 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on April 23, 2017, was held at the Town and Country Golf Links, Woodstown, NJ. Over $8,000 was raised by the detachment. Right to left: Jose Aldana, Charles Beatty, Tom Lynn and Pam Garrison greeting a registering golfer. Photo by Bob Hill.
On June 11, 2017, the Burbank Detachment 072 Color Guard members participated at a Flag Day Ceremony hosted by the Elks Lodge. Representatives from more than a dozen Military/Veteran Groups were in attendance, along with several local Boy/Cub Scout Organizations.

On July 9, 2017, members of the Northampton County Detachment 298 Easton, PA, witnessed the reenactment of the reading of the “Declaration of Independence” by the town Cryer for the third official reading at Easton, PA.

Al Frater and Shelly Levy from the Gooney Bird Detachment of New Milford, NJ, at Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Troop 2295 in River Edge, NJ, for new Eagle Scouts Jacob Campbell, Mark Edelstein, Robert Garcia, Kenneth Mason, Christopher Pasinski and Timothy Tchou.

Color Guard members of the Cpl. Pete Arnold Detachment 1198 lead off the 4th of July Parade in Bel Air, MD, followed by the detachment’s Toys for Tots Train. Last year the detachment collected over 55,000 toys and serviced 11,000 deserving children in the community. Left to right: Dave Narango, Evie Remines, Mike Gnall, Tim Shepard and Lou Cassard.
On June 10, 2017, Colorado Department Commandant Garry Gibson, Pikes Peak Detachment Commandant Paul Hinojosa and Jr. Past Commandant Russ Miller presented a plaque and a check for $100.00 from the MCL Department of Colorado to the National Young Marine of the Year, SgtMaj Angel Luiz Orozco of the Pikes Peak Unit in Colorado Springs.

Commandant Gerald D. Hardig and the warriors of MCL Detachment 017, MCAS El Toro, CA, planning their “Summer Assault” on Omaha Beach.

Members of Smoky Mountain Detachment 973 receive a Certificate of Appreciation from Louise Womack, President of the American Legion Post 907 Auxiliary, for their assistance with the annual Christmas Card program. Last year Louise Womack and the ladies auxiliary sent over 10,000 cards to active duty members deployed.
On May 27, 2017, the Herbert A. Littleton Detachment 1261 in Mena, AR, hosted a veterans “Troop Train” ride in downtown historic Van Buren, AR. This station was made famous in scenes filmed for the movie “Biloxi Blues.” This ride was started to promote a sense of “espirit de corps” among veterans, their families and civilians alike.

First Capitol Detachment 521 of York, PA, was invited to celebrate WWII Marine John Peyser (seated right) on his 101st Birthday. His roommate, Navy vet Wayne Fair (seated left) contacted Commandant Phil Frigm (standing center) to arrange the visit. Marine Peyser was presented with an Honorary Membership and an MCL cap. Also attending were SVC Dave Brady, Adjutant John McQuain, Associate Member Carol McIntosh and JVC Jimmy Fissel.

Fox Valley Marines Detachment 1233 in Aurora, IL, takes part in Aurora’s July 4th Parade. Hope yours was great, Marines.

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Fox Valley Marines Detachment 1233 in Aurora, IL, takes part in Aurora’s July 4th Parade. Hope yours was great, Marines.

Join Roll Call!

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

- Go to semperfi.chipotlepublishing.com
- Create an account using your email address, first name, last name and a password.
- Verify your account by clicking the link in the email our system sends to you.
- 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 an email, 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.
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!

Continued From Previous Page

27 May – 9 Jun ’18 | 74th Anniversary of D-Day, WWI Overview & Battle of the Bulge plus Paris

2 – 9 Jun ’18 | 74th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

23 Jun – 2 Jul ’18 | 70th Anniversary of Berlin Airlift 1948-49/WWII Stalags


TBD Jul ’18 | Russia “EasternFront” 75th Anniversary Battle of Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad

TBD Jul ’18 | Imperial China–Beijing (Peking Marines), Xian (Terra Cotta Soldiers) & Shanghai

5 Jul – 17 Jul ’18 | Poland & CzechRepublic WWII Concentration Camps

7 – 16 Jul ’18 | WWII Italy–75th Anniversary of Op Husky Invasion of Sicily
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94TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR RAFFLE
Clip coupon and return along with your check made payable to:
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Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

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

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CITY ____________________________
STATE _______ ZIP CODE ____________
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7 – 16 Jul ’18  WWII Italy–75th Anniversary of Op Husky Invasion of Sicily
7 – 16 Jul ’18  Spain–Military & Cultural History Exploration Madrid & Post Tour: Barcelona
14 – 27 Jul ’18  50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War “Delta to the DMZ” I-II-III-IV Corps
2 – 11 Aug ’18  Guadalcanal 76th Anniversary Op Watchtower Pre-tour Tarawa
18 – 31 Aug ’18  50th Anniversary Op Nevada Eagle “Delta to the DMZ”
1 – 13 Sep ’18  50th Anniversary of Op Mameluke Thrust/Maui Peak I-Corps
7 – 18 Sep ’18  WWII Italy–75th Anniversary of Op Avalanche
12 – 26 Sep ’18  Ireland–Complete Emerald Isle plus WWII U.S. Marines, Soldiers & Sailors Sites
30 Sep – 8 Oct ’18  Korean War Tour–Seoul, Pusan & Battlefields
21 – 27 Oct ’18  35th Anniversary of Beirut Peace Keeping Mission
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1. 2017 ORNAMENT
RED CHRISTMAS BALL
Item Code: ORN1
Price: $8.00
Description: 2017 Red MCL Christmas Ornament

2. MCL SEALS
MCL GUM BACK SEALS
Item Code: G30
Price: $0.10
Description: Seals, MCL gum back, sold individually

3. BUMPER STICKER
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN QUOTE
Item Code: A51
Price: $0.50
Description: Reagan Quote Bumper Sticker, 11.5” x 3” white with black IWO JIMA holding a red, white and blue flag and red and black lettering “SOME PEOPLE SPEND AN ENTIRE LIFETIME WONDERING IF THEY’VE MADE A DIFFERENCE TO THIS WORLD ... THE MARINES DON’T HAVE THAT PROBLEM - PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN”

4. SEMPER FI PATCH
SEMPER FI RED PATCH
Item Code: WA21
Price: $8.00
Description: Patch, round 10” MCL log, printed in gold and white on red background

5. RED GOLF SHIRT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE WITH EGA
Item Code: WA121
Price: Small-Xlarge $23.00 / 2XL-3XL $26.00 / 4XL $28.00
Description: MCL Polo Golf Shirt, red without pocket, Marine Corps League with EGA
Item Code: A12
Price: $18.00
Description: EGA Grille Ornament, 4”, 3-D Eagle, Globe and Anchor, Gold. Includes the hardware to attach to automobile grille.

Item Code: YETI
Price: $25.00
Description: MCL 30 oz Large Cup Silver or Gold

Item Code: YETI
Price: $23.00
Description: MCL 20 oz Small Cup Silver or Gold

Item Code: CC27
Price: $7.00
Description: Pewter MCL Coin Challenge Coin, Antique Silver (zinc alloy), 2-sided, Marine Corps League and United States Marine Corps logos

Item Code: BB20
Price: $15.00
Description: US Marines Baseball Cap, Black with UNITED STATES MARINES in red and white, shooting star, made in the USA

Item Code: A118
Price: $5.00
Description: Decals, “Proud Marine Family” vinyl sticker Pack, 13 pieces include parents, 6 kids, 2 dogs and 2 cats and “PROUD Marine Family” banner.

Item Code: A12
Price: $18.00
Description: EGA Grille Ornament, 4”, 3-D Eagle, Globe and Anchor, Gold. Includes the hardware to attach to automobile grille.
### ORDER FORM

**THE SEMPER FISTORE**

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

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#### HANDLING & POSTAGE

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**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**

**SUBTOTAL**

6.0% VA SALES TAX

**HANDLING & POSTAGE**

**TOTAL**

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*How to find your card security code. Please look in the signature strip on the back of your credit card. In the signature strip, there are several numbers, some of which may be part of your credit card number. The last 3-digit number (Visa or Mastercard) is your CVV or card security number. For AMEX, your 4-digit CVV code is on the front.*

**SIGNATURE**

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**NAME**

As it appears on credit card

**CREDIT CARD #**

**EXPIRATION DATE**

**CVV NUMBER**

**SUBTOTAL**

6.0% VA SALES TAX

**HANDLING & POSTAGE**

**TOTAL**

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*How to find your card security code. Please look in the signature strip on the back of your credit card. In the signature strip, there are several numbers, some of which may be part of your credit card number. The last 3-digit number (Visa or Mastercard) is your CVV or card security number. For AMEX, your 4-digit CVV code is on the front.*

**SIGNATURE**
ALABAMA
JOHN R. JORDAN
JAMES L. RAGAN
SAMUEL B. VAUGHN

ALASKA
SALLY DEFRANCESCO
ROXIE SCHADE

ARIZONA
DAVID A. ARTHUR
JEFF BOGGS
JERRY W. FITCH
ROBERT L. GALLOWAY
MIKE J. KRAVEC
JEFF BOGGS
JERRY W. FITCH
ROBERT L. GALLOWAY
MIKE J. KRAVEC

ARIZONA
DAVID A. ARTHUR
JEFF BOGGS
JERRY W. FITCH
ROBERT L. GALLOWAY
MIKE J. KRAVEC
JEFF BOGGS
JERRY W. FITCH
ROBERT L. GALLOWAY
MIKE J. KRAVEC

CALIFORNIA
JACK H. BEAL
CHARLES E. COMPTON
LESLIE HARROLD
VINCENT N. LOMBARDI
PATRICIA MOHR
RICHARD B. POWERS
LELAND SMALLWOOD

CONNECTICUT
JOSEPH F. CAPORALE
EDNA J. JUAN-WELLS
JOHN J. NIEWINSKI

DELAWARE
PAUL A. HANLEY
GEORGE F. KRAUSS

FLORIDA
ROGER M. ANDERSON
KENNETH J. AUNE
WILLIAM C. BLEDSOE
LEE BOYER
JOSEPH C. BRADDOCK
GALE E. BRUCE
CHARLES E. CANNON
PETER D’AVANZICO
JOHN C. DEAN
FREDERICK J. DOMINI
DONALD GILLIS
TED GROSE
GEORGE HÄRTIGAN
ALBERT LACOSSE
JOHN F. MCMAHON
CHARLES H. MEYERS
S. OLSZEWSKI
HARRY I. PARSELL
JOSEPH A. SCHLOSSER
PETER SHANKS
RONALD STARK
WALTER W. SULLIVAN
VERNON O. WEAND
EDWARD J. WEBER
BILL WHITE

GEORGIA
ROBERT KITCHEN
WALTER H. MAY
ROBERT G. MCEWEN
WILLIAM S. NEWMAN
MICHAEL A. PRESLEY
JACK RUNNINGER
SADIE P. SIMPSON
CHARLES F. WALLER
GARY L. WHEELER

IDaho
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RICHARD R. MORRIS
ALBERT P. PAGOAGA

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ANDRYSIAK
MICHAEL T. DECKER
JAMES A. EBBESON
ROBERT GAGNON
JESSE W. HINKLE
RICHARD A. JOHNSON
FRANK S. KISH
WESLEY M. RUSH
DONALD R. TYER
JOHN C. WALTREIP
GERALD W. WISEMAN

INDIANA
ANDREW T. ATESKI
PAUL E. CHAPPELL
THOMAS M. COOMES
FRANK E. COUNTS
FRANCIS R. EBERKAMP
ANTOINE FILERF
CHARLES J. HAYES
STEVE J. HIGGINS
JOSEPH J. KOCH
BERNARD R. LOECHER
TERRY MAHALEK
CLARENCE W.
MITSUARFFER
BYRON O. PARVIS
BERNARD S. PERRETTE
PAUL L. SOWDERS
LARRY THIEL

KENTUCKY
MARIAN PYLE ALLEN
TOM L. BODNER
TROY BOWLING
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JERRY HAYES
RICHARD HEAD
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LEWIS E. MUTTERS
JERRY V. STAHL

LOUISIANA
CECIL J. JARREAU
FRANK J. KERN
JOHN P. REILMAN
ROBERT L. SMITH
NORMAN M. SUTTON

MARYLAND
MARY K. CHAPLINE
CHARLES E. DARLINGTON
GLENN A. DEVAGE
W. HEARTHWAY EDWARD
SAMUEL F. GARDNER III
CALVIN M. HOWES
RICHARD C. KNOEBEL
WAYNE G. LAWSON
GERALD L. MACKENZIE
MILDRED S. ROBY
THOMAS C. TALBOTT
ANDREW V. ZACHARY

Photo: Lance Cpl Caitlin Bevel, USMC
### Death Notification Policy

Headquarters Marine Corps League receives frequent calls regarding the passing away of members. Calls vary from loved ones who wish to stop the magazine delivery to detachment members looking to help. The policy has been that a detachment chaplain fills out, signs, and submits a death notification form to headquarters’ membership department. This policy has not changed but will be better adhered-to in the future. It is the only way a person’s name will appear in the TAPS section of the Semper Fi magazine.

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<td>In the Volume 73, Number 3 (Summer 2017) issue, STEPHEN J. CHIARELLO was mistakenly included in TAPS. The Marine Corps League apologizes to Mr. Chiarello and his family for this incorrect inclusion. STEPHEN J. CHIARELLO is alive and well. Please see Page 9 for a letter from Mr. Chiarello to the Executive Editor.</td>
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<td>ROBERT M. WARE</td>
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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

EVENT CALENDAR

Northwest Division Conference
(NEW DATES!)
September 29-30, 2017
Spokane Valley, WA
www.mclnwdivision.org

US Marines Youth Foundation
Tree of Lights Ceremony
December 5, 2017
Stafford, VA
www.USMarinesYouthFoundation.org

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

2018 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—95th National Convention
August 12-17, 2018
Buffalo, NY
www.2018mclnationalconvention.com

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

2019—96th National Convention*
August 4-9, 2019
Billings, MT
www.mclnational.org
*Please note that hotel reservations for the 2019 National Convention cannot be made until the 2018 National Convention closes.


2018 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

The Mid-Winter host hotel is the same as in 2017: the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel & Conference Center. Guests may call (540) 786-8321 to book their reservations. Be sure to mention the Marine Corps League to get the group rate of $94 per night plus tax. Reservations can be made now. Please use this link if you prefer to book online: reservations.travelclick.com/15003?groupID=1650125
**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

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I, ________________________________, in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of the
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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

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I, ________________________________, in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of the
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WE SERVE YOU BASED ON MILITARY VALUES.

Since 1922, USAA has been proud to serve the unique financial needs of the military community. The values we share with the Marine Corps League are the same values that inspire everything we do, from insurance to banking, investing to advice and more. To learn how USAA can help with your financial needs, visit usaa.com/mcl.

INSURANCE • INVESTMENT • RETIREMENT • ADVICE

IT’S AN HONOR TO SERVE YOU.

USAA is Proud to Serve the Marine Corps League
ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.