INTERVIEW:
DR. BART P. BILLINGS
AUTHOR OF INVISIBLE SCARS

“OSCAR MIKE”
VETERANS-ONLY HIKES ACROSS THE NATION

EAGLE SCOUT
JONATHAN ISAAC DURHAM RECOGNIZED
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Are we ready to change and move forward or stay on the old path?

**Marines:** Of all the jobs I have had in my long career, being your Commandant and Chief Executive Officer has been a real eye opener in everything I have touched. There have been some very positive and proud moments and some less than positive situations. Within a week I’ll get emails and phone calls on what an awesome job your League members have done in our community, and in the same week I’ll get email about a non-flattering situation where Leaguers have not lived up to the standard expected when you are a US Marine. Both Commandant Neller and I worry about this every time the phone rings or a news flash has a Marine involved in whatever. We need to overcome a lot of things going on across the League and get back to the mission and purpose of why we exist.

The Marine Corps League has laid back and become a complacent organization in many areas. It will require better training, education and knowledge of what skills your support structure needs to execute its tasks. We must also always look at the organization as a whole unit, the Marine Corps League. You look at the Marine Corps as a force that brings everything to the fight, but it is made up of many cohesive units that bring a capability to the mission. We the Marine Corps League must follow that same example and bring capability to the mission.

In the past I have written articles on the leadership traits and principles of the Marine Corps.

**The traits are as follows:**

- **Integrity**
- **Knowledge**
- **Courage**
- **Decisiveness**
- **Dependability**
- **Initiative**
- **Tact**
- **Justice**
- **Enthusiasm**
- **Unselfishness**
- **Loyalty**
- **Judgement**

**The principles are as follows:**

- Take responsibility for your actions and the actions of your Marines
- Know yourself and seek self-improvement
- Set the example
- Develop your subordinates
- Ensure the job is understood, supervise and execute
- Know your Marines and look after their welfare
- Everyone should be informed
- Set goals you can reach
- Make sound and timely decisions
- Know your job
- Teamwork

Some people acquire these through childhood experiences, others through the workplace, corporate training and some through military training. We all have different exposure, but the Corps was the connection to bring it all together. When you hold that Eagle, Globe and Anchor in the palm of your hand, you see tradition, reputation and integrity of a title never given but earned. Do we as Marine Corps Leaguers, holding that Eagle, Globe and Anchor still meet the same criteria? Are we ready to change and move forward or stay on the old path? I know which way I am going...

**Semper Fi,**
Wendell Webb
National Commandant

---

**THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**
The Marine Corps League Inc. is a Congressionally chartered, non-profit organization.

**National Commandant:** Wendell W. Webb  
**Chief Operating Officer:** Bob Borka

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**Executive Editor**  
Bob Borka  
**Publisher**  
Megan Shea  
**Art Director**  
Adam Bucci
**Lead Designer**  
Ashley Powell

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

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TO: National Credentials Committee
VIA: Chief Operating Officer
3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

SUBJ: Registration of National Delegates(s)

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

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

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

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DETACHMENT COMMANDANT  ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER DATE

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DETACHMENT COMMANDANT  ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER DATE
We need to “be there” for our Marines

MARINES: Do you remember hearing the first notes of the Marine’s Hymn? Remember how it made you not only stand up without thinking, but stand at attention just a little taller? Our sense of pride and belonging to something greater than ourselves has been a powerful force on the battlefield and in our own lives. Our brother and sister Marines may be scattered across the globe, but we are “One Marine Corps.” We may belong to any number of Marine-related organizations, but we are “One Marine Corps” and need to build upon that. As a team, we should focus on the needs of Marines in uniform. Programs like Marine4Life and Transition Assistance Program (TAP) are directly helping Marines as they exit the military.

We need to “be there” for our Marines, FMF Corpsman and FMF Chaplains as they begin the transitional journey. This does not relieve us from our duty to all veterans regardless of branch of service. It took me several years to mentally transition out of the military, and I leaned on the shoulders of a Vietnam United States Navy Veteran, Mike Kezer. He was that person who I could sit and talk with or would smack me on the back of the head when I needed it.

Call a Marine today and ask how they are doing. Making time for someone else can make all the difference.
#WeAreTheMarineCorpsLeague

Semper Fi,
Bob Borka
Chief Operating Officer

2018 is the Centennial Year of the Marine Corps’ participation in World War I as well as the 50th Anniversary of Marines fighting in Vietnam. The entries below represent key dates in WW I or Vietnam (1968) history within the Marine Corps.

Jan. 9, 1918: The First Marine Aeronautic Company departed the United States bound for Ponta Delgada, Azores. This was the first fully equipped combat force of Marines to deploy for World War I operations; the unit conducted anti-submarine patrols from the island in the Atlantic.

Jan. 22-23, 1968: Two Marines, Cpl Steven D. Nelson and LCpl Michael R. Rohn, escaped from a North Vietnamese camp north of Da Nang. After escaping, they walked barefoot along the mountainous jungle trails until they arrived at the perimeter of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

Feb. 23, 1968: Khe Sanh Combat Base received more than 1,300 rounds of rocket and artillery fire. During the entire month of February the enemy fired 4,404 rounds at Khe Sanh.


March 17, 1918: The first Marine unit to occupy front line positions in France moved into position; the remaining portion of the 4th Brigade moved into position shortly thereafter.

March 31, 1968: Operation SCOTLAND ended in Quang Tri Province with 1,561 enemies killed and 204 Marines killed.
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Since its founding in 1923, the League continues its focus to preserve the traditions of the Corps. In the course of its long history, the League has also started several organizations to expand its reach and services to the nation. One of these is the Young Marines. The Young Marines was founded in 1959 and transitioned to an independent nonprofit organization by the 1980s.

With this background, we would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize our core values, provide a coordinated vision and detail several actions underway.

It's not our history alone that binds us. It is our core values of honor, courage and commitment. These values are not abstract and are demonstrated through action. These values are concretely demonstrated with the League's focus on its mission of camaraderie and fellowship. The Young Marines program demonstrates the values of discipline, leadership and teamwork passed to it by the League over 50 years ago, in a solid youth leadership program. Together, both organizations demonstrate these values through the hundreds of League volunteers who support Young Marines units across more than 40 states. Equipped with strong core values and dedicated to America's future, the Marine Corps League–Young Marines team is making a difference. We sincerely believe both organizations represent the best of American values.

We believe that we should, and can, make an even greater impact. To make an even greater impact, we need to increase League membership, expand the Young Marines program and continue to improve coordination between both organizations. In short, together everyone accomplishes more (TEAM) in making a positive impact across America.

We see two sources of synergy to expand membership and participation in both organizations. First, we believe that veteran Marines with children from eight years old through high school would strongly support their children's participation with the Young Marines program. In short, together everyone accomplishes more (TEAM) in making a positive impact across America.

We serve our country, and now we serve our community, with the final salute to our veterans.

We served our country, and now we serve our community, with the final salute to our veterans.

Semper Fi,
William L. Smith
Chairman, Board of Directors Young Marines

Wendell W. Webb
National Commandant/CEO
Marine Corps League
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“Suicide and Mental Health are two of the biggest issues facing Veterans of all ages.”
In the middle of the country where just six years ago the Marine Corps League was almost a ghost, a group of Marines and Sailors are changing the world, saving lives and maybe shifting the paradigm of what a Veteran’s Service Organization looks like.

Suicide and Mental Health are two of the biggest issues facing Veterans of all ages. Most Americans have heard the alarming suicide rates amongst the Military and Veteran’s community. Not many have heard of the 700% increase in mind-altering medication prescriptions. Instead of simply medicating our Warriors, perhaps we should use a more holistic approach to treat the mind, body and spirit.

Dr. Bart Billings (Colonel U.S. Army Retired) has written an outstanding book called Invisible Scars: How To Treat Combat Stress and PTSD Without Medication. Every Veteran and those who care for him or her should study this book. In the fall of 2016 the Midwest Division began a pilot program in Lincoln, Nebraska. Twenty Marines and Sailors began a Peer Support Group-Book Club and met every two weeks to discuss Dr. Billings’ book. In the short time since, the Department of Nebraska and the Cornhusker Detachment have purchased and distributed over 250 copies of Invisible Scars across the Midwest. The impact this mission has had is real. Its success is not complicated and can be duplicated. An added benefit, many studies show that book clubs reduce stress levels, boost serotonin, grow brain connections and even reduce the risk of Alzheimer’s.

Another mission to address these Mental Health issues is the Veteran’s suicide prevention hikes. To help spread the word of the suicide prevention mission and get our team on the move, two young Marines in Nebraska have joined forces with The Irreverent Warriors Organization and taken the MCL name to the streets. Robert Burks, 33-year-old Department Senior Vice, and Alex Bratt, 27-year-old Department Junior Vice, organized and led two different Silkes hikes for suicide prevention. The first was held in Lincoln in 2016, followed by one in Omaha in 2017. The most recent had over 150 Veterans attend, 90% being Marines.

Thousands of Marines have participated in these Veterans-only hikes across the country. The more the MCL gets involved, the more the younger Warriors will buy into our organization. I understand that many of the members across the country no longer have the ability to hike, but the opportunity to support the mission still exists. The detachments can set up water stations, provide safety or chase vehicles or fiscally support the event.

“Oscar Mike” is a term used by our modern Warriors. It means “On the Move.” Perhaps this phrase is key to some of our future missions. Many programs encourage the use of exercise, fellowship and time spent outdoors to battle depression and anxiety. It’s very important that we defeat the stigma of the broken Veterans and the misunderstanding of Post-Traumatic Stress. These two missions battle the suicide problem and have had a marked success in our area, and many at-risk Marines and Corpsman have been impacted. Some have even come aboard our team as a result. I suggest to you that if the Marine Corps League is going to thrive in the future we need to be Oscar Mike.

Semper Fi,
David T. Ossian
Asst. National Vice Commandant
Midwest Division

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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Marine Don Downer, Jr., MCL, Honored by Baltimore Detachment for Life’s Work

By Stuart Blair, PDC
Baltimore Detachment, Dept. of Maryland

On July 28, 2017, Marine Don Downer, Jr., MCL was honored by the Baltimore Detachment Comman. When Downer was 17, he quit high school to join the Marines and was sent to Tsingtao, China. His mom would send him care packages. “The most important item is what they put in their stomach, and if one person can do so much to keep the morale of the troops,” Downer, 88, of Colombia, MD, said. He spent almost $116,000. “It’s enlightening to know that one care package, it’s estimated that Downer has addressed to Capt. John Lefebvre who is currently serving in Afghanistan. At approximately $17.35 per care package, it’s estimated that Downer has spent almost $116,000. “It’s enlightening to know that one person can do so much to keep the morale of the troops,” Downer, 88, of Colombia, MD, said. “The most important item is what they put in their stomach, and if you can fill it, it’s very appreciative from their standpoint.” When Downer was 17, he quit high school to join the Marines and was sent to Tsingtao, China. His mom would send him care packages of chocolate chip cookies and Spam. In 1948, care packages were sent by boat and could take 30 days to arrive at their destination. “After 30 days on the boat ride, those cookies were just crumbs, but the Marines would gather around and wolf down those crumbs,” Downer told the Baltimore Sun. “Nothing was wasted; even the dust was poured into the coffee. And it got so I couldn’t even look at the Spam.”

His packages often contain items such as magazines, foot powder, Tabasco sauce, sausage, sunflower seeds, Pop Tarts, Cracker Jacks and his signature item: a can of Spam, earning him the nickname, the “Spam Czar.” Marines all over the world have sent their thanks and even gifts, including folded American flags and an Afghan rug or embroidered silk. “I know how important it is to get a care package from home when one is deployed overseas in the military. I am now compelled to ensure, in some small way, to make as many of these deployed service personnel a little happier when they receive a care package from someone back home that cares.”

3,000 Care Packages for the Troops Overseas

The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) is building a roster of all living Iwo Jima Veterans in order to contact them and their families about upcoming important events, especially the Battle’s 75th Anniversary in 2020. Email name and contact info of the living Iwo Jima veterans to: Director@Iwo-JimaAssociation.org.

2nd Battalion, 4th Marines 50th Anniversary of our Victory at Dai Do. April 30-May 3, 2018, Quantico, VA. Gold Star family members, 2/4 veterans of all eras, their families and friends are warmly invited. Contact Becky or Frank Valdez, 714-306-2329 or email fxala@hotmail.com.

1st Battalion, 27th Marines, 1st MarDiv FMF—50th Year After Vietnam (1968–2018) Reunion. Held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, 5000 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, VA, on July 18-22, 2018. All other 27th Marine Battalions’ (13th Arty, 2nd and 3rd Battalions) and supporting units’ personnel are welcome. Contact Felix Salmeron at 469-583-0191 or email him at mar463@aol.com.

REUNIONS

Photo Courtesy www.marcorengasn.org
According to United States Marine Corps legend, the term “Devil Dog” is a very common nickname for Marines of any age. The term was first used by German soldiers to describe U.S. Marines who fought in the Battle of Belleau Wood in 1918. The Marines fought with such ferocity that they were described as “Dogs from Hell.” As a historically well-accepted term of endearment, and noble title of honor, “Devil Dogs” have indeed become The Few and The Proud.

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MARCH 1 – 3, 2018 Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center
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Phone: (540) 786-8321 $95.00 per night (Includes Breakfast)

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Title: ___________________________ Title: ___________________________
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A program book will be printed. All units of the MCL, MODD, and MCLA are all encouraged to support the program book to help offset the cost of the Conference. It is recommended that you E-mail your ad for better resolution

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Please Cc the Chief Operating Officer Bob Borka at bborka@MCLeague.org
MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2018

DATES
March 1–3, 2018

LOCATION
Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel & Conference Center
2801 Plank Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

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Washington Reagan (DCA), Washington Dulles (IAD), and Richmond Intl. (RIC). NOTE: A Shuttle will be available at $25 each way from DCA to/from the hotel 4 times per day. Send your flight info to bborka@MCLeague.org

EVENT WEBSITE
www.mclnational.org/mid-winter-conference.html

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
Colonel Bart P. Billings, Ph.D. (see interview with Dr. Billings on page 34)

HOTEL RESERVATIONS
Guests may call (540) 786-8321 to book their reservations. Be sure to mention the Marine Corps League to get the group rate of $94.00 per night plus tax.

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION
Please fill out the Mid-Winter National Conference Registration form on Page 16 (opposite this page) and send it in by February 9, 2018. Submission instructions are at the bottom of the form.

95th NATIONAL CONVENTION 2018

DATES
August 12–18, 2018

LOCATION
Buffalo Niagara Convention Center
Convention Center Plaza
Buffalo, NY 14202

CLOSEST MAJOR AIRPORTS
Buffalo Niagara International Airport (BUF)

EVENT WEBSITE
www.2018MCLnationalconvention.com

HOTEL RESERVATIONS
The Hyatt Regency Hotel is the main convention hotel. Call (888) 421-1442 by July 9, 2018, and ask for the reservations for the Marine Corps League Convention 2018 to reserve the pre-negotiated rates of $113.00 per night plus tax (single occupancy with breakfast for one) or $130.00 per night plus tax (double occupancy with breakfast for two).

There are two overflow hotels—To book the Embassy Suites, call (716) 842-1000 by July 10, 2018, and use the group code MCL for a rate of $149 plus tax. To book the Holiday Inn Express, call (716) 854-5500 by July 9, 2018, and mention the Marine Corps League National Convention for a rate of $139 plus tax.

More information about rates, hotel cancelation policies and room availability can be viewed on the event website, www.2018MCLnationalconvention.com.

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION
Please fill out the National Convention form on Page 7 and send it in by July 27, 2018.

PARKING
Hotels do not have public parking; however, the City of Buffalo is covering the cost of all parking in the designated parking lot/deck, so parking will be at no cost to our membership. More information to follow.
Once a Marine, Always a Marine

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

PCDDS, PDDS, DDS and Pups:

The hot summer weather has continued in my neck of the woods. It is near the end of October in the Midwest, and temperatures are still in the 80s. Hopefully, cooler weather lies ahead.

I recently signed the Charter for the Morgan County Pound #321, Indiana Pack. Welcome aboard and Woof Woof! We need to continue to grow the M.O.D.D., so keep working on starting new Pounds and re-energizing those Pounds that may be flagging. Let’s bark out, “No Pounds left behind this year.”

It has been a busy few months since becoming Chief. I was unable to attend the Modern Day Marine Expo last Fall, but was backed up by my able Sr.Vice Chief, PDD Tom Hazlett. I attended the Midwest Division Fall Conference in St. Louis in late October, and I joined our National Commandant, Wendell Webb, for the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington on November 11. And, of course, I celebrated the 242nd Birthday of the Corps while I was there. Woof Woof!

Several emails have been received from MCL members asking, “What is a Devil Dog, and what do they do?” Sometimes we forget that new League members may not know of our storied past. We are proudly named after the hard fighting Marines of the 5th and 6th regiments who prevailed at the Battle of Belleau Wood and earned the title Teufel-Hunden. The Order, formed in Boston during the 1939 National Convention, engages in rendering service to the League, promoting Marine welfare programs and raising funds for children’s hospitals. Be sure to take time and explain that we are the fun honor society of the MCL. Fun... all work and no play makes a Jarhead a dull boy! After a day of business meetings, the Devil Dogs like to goof off a bit and bring a bit of levity to all MCL functions. And Honor... not everyone is a Devil Dog (yet). Members who get involved in their detachment activities and are recognized as “go getters” will soon be invited by a Devil Dog to join the Order. We are proud of our past, live it up in the present and look forward to more hilarious fun in the future. Working together, we can continue to increase the thousands of dollars we donate each year to children’s hospitals and other programs.

By the time you read this, many of you will have already helped with a local Toys for Tots program. I worked with members of my local Pound and detachment as we collected and distributed toys to about 2,000 children in the four counties we serve. This is another wonderful activity that brings joy and happiness to the less fortunate children in our communities. There is no end to what we can do as Devil Dogs—helping needy children wherever and whenever we can.

As we near the halfway point in this Dog year, I hope that all Packs and Pounds are making an effort to encourage extra donations of Big Bones. Working together as a team, we will be able to reach the goal we have set for the children in Buffalo, NY.

Finally, if you have not registered yet for the Mid-Winter Conference to be held the first weekend of March at the Hospitality House & Conference Center in Fredericksburg, VA, you need to get off your hind paws and get busy. The Mid-Winter Mini-Growl will be held on Friday evening, March 2. Remember that this is an opportunity for Devil Dogs and Pups to attend a Kennel Growl. Talk it up at your Pounds and Packs, and let’s have a record breaking attendance this year.

See you in Fredericksburg in March.

Semper Woof,
CDD Leonard Spicer
58th Chief Devil Dog

“It is a tradition born at Belleau Wood
In the year 1918, of a force in readiness
And the ‘first to fight.’ As a devil dog, I ask no quarter and give no quarter.”

- Excerpt from the Devil Dog’s Creed
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☐ My Check (Payable to Marine Corps Heritage Foundation) is enclosed
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CARD NUMBER

EXP DATE

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE PULLER SPONSORSHIP BRICK RESPONSE FORM

INSCRIPTION LINE 1

INSCRIPTION LINE 2

INSCRIPTION LINE 3

M C L  P U L L E R  S P O N S O R

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Each inscription may contain a maximum of three lines of text, with each line comprised of up to 20 characters each. The third line must remain exactly as listed. Characters, for the purpose of determining inscription length, include all letters, punctuation, and spaces. You may purchase as many bricks as you like–please copy this form to indicate purchase of multiple bricks for placement together. The registered purchaser will receive a proof copy of the requested inscription before it is engraved onto the brick.

All bricks purchased through the Marine Corps League’s Engraved Brick Program will be placed within the League’s named trail segment in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO:
Marine Corps Heritage Foundation
Attn: MCL Puller Statue Program
18900 Jefferson Davis Highway | Triangle, VA 22172
marineheritage.org
MARINES: Happy New Year! I hope that we are all making the resolution to strengthen and grow our Auxiliary. A fresh new year is a wonderful time for innovative ideas and renewed energy. We have so many wonderful members who work very hard to fulfill our purpose and meet the needs of our veterans. Wouldn’t it be great to see the number of volunteers increase and be able to do even more?

Remember that a great Unit starts with great members. It is so important to ensure that each member knows that their contribution is welcome and appreciated. Everyone has something to offer. Use those talents to increase membership, host successful fundraisers and aid those in need. The opportunities for growth and contributing to the well-being of others are endless if we utilize all the resources available to us.

You can help your Unit become and stay strong by getting to know each other. Spend time learning what each person has to offer and how he or she views the Auxiliary purposes and goals. Make sure each member knows that he is a valuable part of the organization and we depend on him.

Focus on the roles that each member plays and help those who may not fully understand their responsibilities by assisting them however possible. You should set goals and make it a challenge to reach those goals for the enrichment of the Unit and those we serve. Celebrate the successes of those challenges and use the failures as a learning tool for future ventures. There cannot be success without failure. Otherwise, how would you gauge your successes?

And most important of all, communicate with each other. Each member should be aware of all the things that make the Unit move and grow. Be sure to share what might have been discussed on the occasion when members were unable to attend the meeting or what plans have been made for any upcoming events. Effective communication is clear, concise and timely. It also allows for discussion and the fact that there may be differences of opinion. This will help us understand each other’s feelings on a matter and give the Unit the opportunity to work together for a solution.

As we move into the new year, let’s do so with renewed purpose and dedication. Every day there are more of our veterans who need assistance, as do their families. As you know, they could be dealing with a wide variety of issues at any given time. Let’s continue with our purpose to help ease that burden, both for the veterans and their loved ones.

Thank you for all you do to make the Auxiliary the great organization it is.

Semper Fi,
Karen Aune
National President, MCLA
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We are in the process of awarding college scholarships

MARINES: As we prepare and spend our days staying warm in this cold weather time of year, let’s not forget those in risk of losing that warm and comfortable place called home or those in need of assistance due to unexpected circumstances. We continue to need your donations to provide the “One Time, Life Time” grants of assistance to those in need.

We are in the process of awarding college scholarships and by the next edition, we’ll be able to report exactly how many scholarships were awarded and the total cost of those scholarships. The Memorial Certificate program continues to be the most honorable way to say “Thanks” to those who have received PCS orders to stand guard at the Pearly Gate. Remember for the low price of $25 per certificate, you can have the certificates on hand to provide immediate thanks and honoring.

Since the last edition, requests have slowed, and I take this to mean the local detachments and departments are stepping up to provide assistance to those in need within their local communities. Thank you for your service and being there for our fellow Marines, FMF Corpsman, FMF Chaplains and their families.

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

The MCL Foundation has entered into a partnership with American Airlines, the Air Power Foundation and the MOH Society to sponsor commemorative glasses for the attendees of the annual Sky Ball. I received a special invitation to attend the 2017 Sky Ball in Irving, TX, representing the MCL Foundation, but was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict with Veterans Day events with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians events honoring our veterans.

The MCL Foundation continues to appreciate and thank those of you who have made donations to the Foundation to assist those in need of humanitarian and disaster relief, scholarships, the Corrigan Fund (for Mothers of Marines) and to the youth funds so that we can continue our valuable and needed mission on your behalf. Shortly after the 2017 National Convention, the MCL Foundation started a Natural and Manmade Disaster Fund to provide immediate assistance to those affected by natural and manmade disasters. A Request for Assistance form has been created for those in need of immediate assistance to complete and to be vetted by the local detachments and departments. Please get with your local units if you are affected by a natural and manmade disaster to complete the form.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Fredericksburg, VA, for the 2018 Mid-Winter Conference. Until then, stay warm, safe and full of life within your local units and your communities as well.

Semper Fi (Nigohilvi’i uwohiyuhii),
Gregory Hunt
President, MCL Foundation Inc.

“We continue to need your donations to provide the One Time, Life Time grants of assistance to those in need.”
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**MARINES:** By now all Department Commandants should have the outline for the Department Commandants’ Council at the Mid-Winter Conference. Please look it over and answer the questions and email it to me at dtobin@MCLeague.org before Mid-Winter. Remember, if you have a complaint or have a problem please include a possible solution to that problem.

The entire BOT is working hard to make our League bigger and better. We are working to improve the communication from top to bottom, but we need help from every department and detachment. Communication is the key to make sure information flows smoothly. We must have correct contact information for all officers and members. Installation reports must have a good address for all officers; that means a good address, phone number and email. Detachment officers, if you meet in a building that is not your own please do not use that address on your installation reports. We need an address where the mail will get picked up every day for all officers and NO Post Office boxes. We need you to get your information from National on a regular basis. If you are going to your detachment meeting place only on meeting days, then odds are you’re getting information late. Emails are the fastest form of communication between everyone.

I can’t believe there are still members complaining that they knew nothing about the new renewal date. That was voted on over a year ago, and letters were sent out to all departments to go to their detachments. The info was put in *Semper Fi* magazine numerous times, and every National Officer spoke about it at every conference and convention they went to. The communication line is getting stalled either between department and detachment or between the detachment and its members. Another great source of information is *Semper Fi* magazine, and we get hundreds returned because of bad addresses. The issues get mailed to the address you put on the transmittal; if it’s wrong or unreadable the information goes into the database wrong and comes out wrong. Remember, in order to get you all necessary information we need good contact information. Make sure the information is right and readable on all forms you send to National Headquarters and use the printable forms on the National website.

I look forward to talking to you all at Mid-Winter and especially at the Department Commandants’ Council. Commandants please get me those questionnaires no later than February 1. Bring your questions, complaints and possible solutions. Thank You.

*Semper Fi,*

Dennis Tobin
National Sr. Vice Commandant

**NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT**

**JOHNNY B. BAKER**

Membership still is the “hallmark” of why we exist

**MARINES:** I hope that you and yours had a glorious holiday season and a happy new year. As the new year begins, we should rededicate ourselves to being a Marine and a Marine Corps League member. Take pride of who you are because we belong to the greatest veterans’ organization in America.

Membership still is the “hallmark” of why we exist. Without new membership, we will cease to exist. Membership and getting new members are the responsibilities of each of us. It is imperative that we continue to network and seek out other Marines in our communities. Every time we hold a meeting, an event or birthday ball, we are holding a reunion. The challenge to each of you is to recruit new members to attend our “reunions.” We are currently discussing ways that we can recruit more of the Marines who are leaving the Marine Corps every day.

It is important that we change our approach in what we offer new Marines coming to join our ranks. The young Marines leaving active duty today have different reasons of “why” they want to belong to the League. It is important that we embrace and welcome them into our Corps. We are working with Headquarters Marine Corps to create a new program to help those Marines returning to our home towns across America. All of us should be that important “why” they will become and stay Marine Corps League members.

I wanted to also give everyone an update on the new National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. If you were not aware, we did not consider any of the changes that were submitted at the National Convention in August 2017. We had missed the deadline of posting them on the National website, therefore we could not bring them up for vote.

We have been moving forward with completing the National Bylaws rewrite. As promised at the Convention, we will have had the rewrite out to the National Judge Advocate and the Bylaws Committee by the end of December 2017. We are moving all remaining parts of the old National Bylaws and placing them in the appropriate section of the new National Administrative Procedures. By the end of December, we will have had both documents ready for review. I sincerely believe that when we present the new National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, we will have two documents that will be more in line with what we should be doing in the Marine Corps League.

Finally, the Board of Trustees is working hard for each of you!

*Semper Fi,*

Johnny Baker
National Jr. Vice Commandant
MARINES, CORPSMEN, CHAPLAINS AND ASSOCIATES:
I am beginning to settle into my position as National Judge Advocate. I want to thank Johnny Baker for making the transition as painless as possible and also serving as the technology teacher for our new computer system.

It has been interesting for me to hear from the four corners of our country. Everyone is trying to make our organization the best veterans’ organization it can be. When problem areas begin to arise, we want to deal with them quickly and fairly. Our Bylaws are the bible by which we can all seek guidance in how to proceed. Everyone, in any leadership position, should be generally familiar with our Bylaws. “I see what the Bylaws say, but we’ve never done it that way in the past.” I’ve heard that quote a few times recently, but unfortunately it doesn’t hold water. Our Bylaws were put in place for a reason. Marines are the best, as we all know. When we need to change and regroup to get the mission accomplished we will. It is important; we do not operate as individuals but as a united body.

Commandant Webb has been tirelessly educating himself on the rules and regulations of the IRS, which specifically govern the Marine Corps League. Shortly, he will be imparting this knowledge to us so we will be able to be in the good graces of the beloved IRS. In the not too distant past, the IRS did not put a lot of time into overseeing non-profits. Many things were allowed to slide. Today is a new era. All of us must conform in every way the IRS dictates. They will not allow good guy exemptions.

As many of you know, there will be Bylaws and Administrative Procedures in a new format presented for a vote to the membership at our National Convention in Buffalo. Wendell, Johnny and many members have been working on these for over a year, and hopefully they will meet the needs of our League. We will be introducing these new proposed changes to you in the spring for your review.

I hope to see many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in Virginia. For those of us up north, the Hawk is coming, and the snow is not far behind. Semper Fi,
Warren “Griff” Griffin
National Judge Advocate

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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

DIVISION REPORTS

You are the face of the Marine Corps League

MARINES: I am just back from Modern Day Marine; the equipment available to our troops is amazing.

I am late on this, but a

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES!

As we are all aware, the new dues system is in place. Membership will run from August 30—not to September 30—if your dues are not in by 00:01 on September 1, you are delinquent. Paymasters, Jr. Vices and whoever is the committee for membership: The dues can be paid anytime during the year for the next year. Please get the transmittals into Headquarters ASAP. Do not hold onto them until you get a full transmittal. The transmittals are online. Use them, print off, then save an electronic copy for your records. Be sure to back this up on a thumb drive or the cloud—however you can, back up your files. The Marine Corps League is going to the next century on information.

Headquarters is currently working on the new computer system, with the Mid-West Division as the beta group.

During the holiday season, we were out in the public, working our annual Toys for Tots and various charities. It is important to remember that you are the face of the Marine Corps League.

How you act and present yourself will be how the public and potential members see you. This is not just during the holidays but also during the whole year. The public is watching you. Always be aware of that. How you act and look is very important.

Remember to reserve a room early for the Mid-Winter Conference, March 1-3, at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel & Conference Center. Guests may call (540) 786-8321 to book reservations. Be sure to mention the Marine Corps League to get a special rate.

I wish a safe and happy new year to you and your family.

Semper Fi,
Ray Dailey
NVC, Central Division

CENTRAL DIVISION

242 years of history coursing through our veins

MARINES: I look forward to these articles and communications with you about news pertaining to our National organization, as well as within our Division.

First of all, Happy 242nd Birthday Marines! I know that all of you celebrated our beloved birthday in some fashion. Whether retired or still active duty, toasts were made world-wide from formal settings with champagne glasses to tents with canteens. Status and location never stop us from feeling the pride of being a Marine and knowing we have 242 years of history coursing through our veins!

The Holidays have come and gone as well, and I truly hope that everyone had the opportunity to share them with family and friends, sharing old memories and making new ones. I also want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year! As with the beginning of every New Year, we have the opportunity to start “new” as well. With that said, our detachments have a fresh start to set goals and objectives to work on recruiting and retention. Seek out Marines who aren’t familiar with our League and invite them to meetings to get exposed to our organization with all its programs. Hopefully, they’ll share their enthusiasm with their Marine friends and then our numbers will exponentially grow!

Pertaining to retention, every detachment needs to be proactive when it comes to having members renew their annual memberships. All annual dues paying members have the same expiration date of August 31. Detachments should be ensuring that these dues are paid well before then. One suggestion is to have them all paid prior to the National Convention so that everyone can be shown in “good standing” when the September rosters are distributed.

In closing, I want to say “Thank You” to every member of our Division for your monetary donations to help Sophia Bettancourt, the daughter of two Marine parents, who was seriously injured in a bicycle accident in North Carolina. Through your generosity, over $8,500, received by the Department of North Carolina, was raised to help the family with financial relief. Sophia has since been released from the hospital and is slowly recovering at home. This is what we’re all about; Marines helping Marines!

I look forward to seeing you at the National Mid-Winter Conference. Until we meet again, 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

MIDEAST DIVISION
He showed us that the best leaders are those who listen

**MARINES:** The Midwest Division was honored to have the National Commandant, Wendell Webb, as our guest speaker at the division conference in St. Louis this fall. We are fortunate that the National Commandant and the Chief Devil Dog, Leonard Spicer, are both from our division. After a motivational speech, Wendell set an example for the group by opening the floor for questions. He showed us that the best leaders are those who listen to the needs of the people they serve. This concept also holds true at the department and detachment levels. What a wonderful challenge for those of us in leadership to try and match his passion and purpose.

The Midwest Division has experienced a great deal of success over the last several years by listening to the needs of their team members and the Veterans in their communities. Ray Morrell has resurrected the Marine Corps League in North Dakota, and they continue to grow and add new teams across the state. Shon Olson and his team in Nebraska have added two new detachments in just three years. The growth they have experienced is largely due to new programs they have created in response to the needs of the Marine and Navy Veterans in their community. They have hosted silties hikes and developed peer support groups to address the high rate of Veteran suicide. Most recently, they developed a program to help address Veteran’s homelessness and, as a result, have moved nearly 50 Veterans into homes.

Clearly, we learn from these leaders that this organization cannot continue to do the things we have always done and expect change. We must add new and relevant missions in order to grow. Our world has changed so dramatically since 9-11; we must adapt our organization to meet the needs of Marines and FMF Sailors of all ages.

Thanks to those whose hard work made the Midwest Division Conference a big success. It was encouraging to hear about the growth within our division and the impact that our teams are making across the Midwest. I encourage you all to listen to the needs of the Veterans in your community and think about how you might leverage the power of the Marine Corps League to affect positive change. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish between now and the spring conference in Omaha.

*Semper Fi,*
David T. Ossian
ADVC, Midwest Division

**Recruiting is the name of the game**

**MARINES:** For as long as I can remember the number one topic in each national commandants’ agenda has been recruiting new members; the second is fixing the fact that the Marine Corps League is a well-kept secret. National Commandant Wendell Webb and National Junior Vice Commandant Johnny Baker are making headway in introducing new marketing strategies for the MCL. We must assist them by marketing our divisions, departments and detachments within our states and communities by publicizing all events through local newspapers and radio and TV cable stations. The detachments’ leadership should promote the MCL by contacting the local government leaders, community veteran’s agents, Marine Corps recruiters and local Young Marine units. As a representative of your local MCL detachment you have an opportunity to introduce yourself and the MCL to those notable individuals hosting the event. This gets your name and position known and increases the MCL name recognition.

When introducing yourself, remember that you are a reflection of a U.S. Marine and the MCL, and as such you must carry yourself with a positive and self-confident manner. Engage in conversations with those individuals who show by their attire (Marine Corps shirt, cap, motto or emblem) a common bond with the Marine Corps in order to build a sound networking foundation for your detachment within the community and take the opportunity to mention your detachment name and the MCL’s mission. During my conversations I always ask the individual if he is currently an MCL member. If not, I always ask him why and extend the invitation to join our detachment. In some cases where an individual may become hesitant about an association with the MCL you may want to invite him to accompany you to the next detachment meeting or event.

During a recent detachment golf tournament, I spoke with some younger Marines who were in their 20s. I thanked them for their service and for raising the bar of excellence for the Marine Corps. I asked if they were MCL members; they were not. These Marines explained that they stumbled upon this detachment event solely by accident and that they had never heard of the MCL before. This is a statement we have all heard many times before. I inquired as to why they chose this event to attend and was told that this organization had the name “Marine” in it. I learned during this conversation that we (the senior group) need to reach out to younger Marines and thank them for their continued contribution in keeping the Marine Corps’ traditions. I invited these Marines to join the MCL, and I’m happy to say the invitation was met with enthusiasm. They all accepted and paid their dues on the spot. It’s not about us anymore—today’s Marines have certainly raised the bar of excellence at least two notches.

*Semper Fi,*
PNC James “Jim” Laskey
NVC, New England Division, PNC
With a new year we can work to make things better

MARINES: I attended and participated in MDM at Quantico, and like so many of you, started our Toys for Tots campaign with the holidays arriving shortly thereafter. Our 242nd birthday came, and our detachments partied and remembered those Marines before us. My Division Vice, Joe DeAngelo, attended each of our department’s membership meetings during the past quarter while I was only able to attend New York’s.

The one thing that came up repeatedly was why the detachments must work on their delinquent memberships (annual dues help to pay current operating expenses) and its own renewals. Membership is our life blood, and our detachments are the smallest and most important units we have. They know or should know their individual Marines and what works for them as far as recruiting and retention. To save money, and with the memberships’ approval at National Convention, we agreed to stop printing multi-part documents that were used to report things like dues transmittals, death notices, etc. and reverted to one renewal date for all annual members with the intention of leaning towards electronic communication. As we progress to that end, the detachments will be able to do a lot more with their own rosters as needed and be able to print their own membership ID cards. No more blaming National for everything; they will have a bigger say in their own destiny.

With a new year we can work to make things better for our League and each other. I challenge our members to become more active and attend their departments’ meetings and conventions. Each department has information available on its website. Upcoming events for New Jersey include a membership meeting on January 14, 2018, at Red Bank and a Leadership School on March 10, 2018. New York has a membership meeting on January 12-13 in Albany and is working hard toward hosting the 2018 National Convention in Buffalo. Pennsylvania has membership meetings on January 19-20 (Harrisburg) and March 16-17 (HDQS). Our National Mid-Winter Conference is set for March 1-3, 2018, in Fredericksburg, VA. Our 2018 Northeast Division Conference will be held on April 13-14, 2018, in Binghamton, NY. Information on our conference will be posted on our website as it becomes available. The division now has a Facebook page that DVC Joe DeAngelo set up for our departments and members to post appropriate events/pictures, and we conducted our first Division Teleconference this past quarter. Keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers and thank a Veteran for his service.

Semper Fi,
Tim Forbes
NVC, Northeast Division

Be in compliance with our uniform code

MARINES: Here are my two cents worth on some important issues with our uniform code. It must be said that over the years our uniform code has been adapted to meet our needs. We are our own VSO. We are Marines so we need to be that way now as we were while we were active duty. Nothing wrong with other VSOs; they have their standards, we have ours.

In the recent past, our uptick has been on the social media end of things. That’s how you will be successful in recruiting younger members and keeping our Marine Corps League growing. No if, ands or buts about it. Having said that, it is more and more evident that there are some egregious violations out in our division, and they are being pointed out in pictures from social media. Why is that? I clearly don’t have the answer, but it’s time for every member to make the effort to be in compliance with our uniform code. Don’t know where to find it? Look no further: mclnational.org. Click under the programs tab and scroll down. You will find it under National Bylaws and Uniform Code.

There have been too many complaints from National and from inside our division. If you see something, do something. We need to police ourselves here. Help a member out and tell him/her that his/her cover can’t have pins on it. Help a member out when he or she is wearing a MOY medallion without being in a red blazer. Wearing pins on your lapel? Make sure they are the right ones, and yup, there is a list of them right on the uniform code. I don’t think the uniform code talks about American flags or Marine Corps flag pins because that is a given. What is listed are specialty pins. When in doubt contact your JA. They should know the bylaws and uniform code inside and out.

I will be attending the Mid-Winter Conference as usual and will pass on all the new intel I get. Then after that we go right into out department conventions. I will be attending all of them again. I have a great time visiting all of you. I will be looking for your support again at National for my last run at another two years on the BOT. I still have unfinished business that is on my plate before I pass on the reins to the next NVC.

Semper Fi,
T.J. Morgan
NVC, Northwest Division
The biggest challenge we have is membership

MARINES: As this is being written, we are preparing for our various birthday balls and preparing to "mothball" our parade floats for the season. Toys for Tots is ramping up, and we're all looking forward to the holiday season. When you read this it will be 2018, but I am going to wish you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year and hope you had a great Marine Corps birthday.

Since I last had the opportunity to communicate with you this way, I had the opportunity to attend the Modern Day Marine Expo at Quantico, VA. I hadn't seen Quantico since I was stationed there in 1966 and was amazed both at how much it changed and at how much it hadn't. This is one experience on a Marine base which I truly enjoyed. Just to see all the advancements in conducting Marine business is overwhelming. The young warriors in the Marine Corps today are afforded the best technology available and the training to go with it. It makes me proud to be a part of an organization (Marine Corps League) which supports the USMC and its mission.

As you read this, you're preparing for the next year's challenges. As usual, the biggest challenge we have is membership. A lot of Marines I talk to think that all we do is go to meetings, drink beer and tell war stories. That's why we need exposure. Build a float and participate in parades; volunteer at the VA hospital or clinic close to you. Get a rifle squad together and render final salutes to all of our veterans. In other words, get some public exposure and let them know that we are a vital part of the community, and they should come out with us and get involved. The next thing to come up is the Mid-Winter Conference and after that, all of the department conventions. I'm looking forward to attending all of your conventions. Until then ...

Semper Fi,
Allen Brink
NVC, Rocky Mountain Division

Are you ready for the coming conventions?

MARINES: October’s Modern Day Marine Expo at Quantico was my first as your Southeast Division Vice Commandant, and I really enjoyed working at it. I enjoyed meeting the vendors and seeing the new equipment being developed and offered to our Marine Corps. If you have never attended an Expo, you should consider doing so.

Also, I want to say, “Thank you!” to each person, detachment and department that sent a donation to the Marine Corps League Foundation or the Department of Florida Hurricane Relief fund after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma struck multiple states on the Gulf Coast. The speed and generosity of those donations were very impressive.

Here we are at the opening of a new year, and I can’t believe that 2018 is already upon us. We have the Mid-Winter Conference to attend in March, and I do hope you are planning to attend and already have registered. As I said in my last column, we need more attendance at our detachment and department meetings, conferences and conventions. On the heels of the National Mid-Winter Conference, we have the 72nd Southeast Division Convention, being held this year on March 22–25, at Pigeon Forge, TN. I urge all members to attend this conference, and I especially ask all department and detachment officers of the Southeast Division to attend.

In October, ADVC Michael Clark and I visited the Convention Hotel and met with Convention Chairman Ken Cioffi, Detachment 1206 Commandant Ron Russell and other Marine Corps League Detachment 1206 members who are working hard to make this 72nd Southeast Division Convention one of our best. The hotel itself has two units, both on the same property, and about 50 steps apart. Remember, the parking and the breakfast buffet are free for hotel guests.

Pigeon Forge is an outstanding destination for families. The area is loaded with attractions for all ages, and if shopping is your interest, you might want to come a day early, or stay a day longer, just to visit some of the area outlets and attractions. As for food in Pigeon Forge, you have your pick of almost anything you want. While there, I had lunch at the Bullfish Restaurant, which is owned by the caterer for our banquet, and the food is excellent. I hope to see everyone at Pigeon Forge and urge you to get your reservations early for the National Convention and your department conventions.

Semper Fi,
Archie H. Sweet
Fixing IRS issues in the division

MARINES: Since my last article, we have closed the books on another successful Modern Day Marine, held September 18-21, 2017, in Quantico, VA. It was my first time at MDM, and it was fun and informative and was a chance to network with my fellow NVC and other people in and out of the Marine Corps, with more exhibitors and participation than we have seen in the last few years. The Arkansas Fall Conference was held in Fort Smith, AR, hosted by River Valley Detachment 1248. The Texas Fall Training Conference was October 19-22 in Houston, TX, hosted by Galveston County Detachment 668. Both meetings were very informative and productive.

One of the top topics for the division this year will be addressing and fixing IRS issues in the division as well as ways to prevent such issues in the future in order to make our division even more effective in our communities. The Mid-Winter Conference will be held March 1-3, 2018, in Fredericksburg, VA, and the Southern Division Conference will be held March 30-31, 2018, hosted by the Northwest Arkansas Detachment 854 in Springdale, AR, at Holiday Inn & Convention Center, 1500 S. 48th St., (479)751-8300. This is a new date and location since the last Semper Fi issue. Contact me or David Niemann (gunny95@gmail.com) for registration information or questions.

We are also planning on some telephone conferences with the Southern Division Staff and all three departments. I will be contacting each department and staff members about setting times and dates. It’s important that the lines of communication with the division staff and the departments be kept open, and between departments as well; this helps the sharing of problems and solutions along with new ideas. Hopefully this will become a frequent event in this division in the future.

I would like to thank all the Marines in the division who helped with disaster relief in Texas earlier this year; we have not heard all the reports yet, but the ones I have seen are nothing but outstanding. There were Marines in Texas who had hardships of their own but still worked tirelessly to provide for the communities and their fellow Americans. I would like to commend Marines with the Departments of Oklahoma and Arkansas for their personal and material support of the efforts to help Texas. I would like to commend the Sooner Detachment in Oklahoma City, OK, for their $4,000.00 contribution to the MCL Foundation for Disaster Relief.

Semper Fi,
Johnny Gothard
NVC, Southern Division

MCL members get the discount rate

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

I attended the Marine Corps Expo at Quantico, VA, and the Board of Trustees meeting on September 18, 19 and 20, 2017. The Expo and meeting were excellent, and it was great to see old friends. After my return to Nevada, I had back surgery and all did not go well. I was unable to attend the Department of Arizona Fall Conference in Peoria, AZ, on October 20 and 21, 2017. I am much better at this time, and I am presently making plans to attend the Department of Nevada Mid-Winter Conference in Tonopah, NV, during the second week of January 2018. Next comes the Expo at Camp Pendleton, CA, on the 7th and 8th of February 2018. The Southwest Division Conference will be held in Oceanside, CA, on February 7, 2018. Lodging for the Expo and Conference may be obtained at the INNS of the Corps’ Pacific Views Lodge at Camp Pendleton and the Days Inn in Oceanside. The rates at the INNS are $99.00 per regular room and $139.00 for a suite. The contact phone number is 1-760-763-7805. The rate at Days Inn for a single room is $60.00 plus tax, and a double room is $75.00 plus tax per night. The Days Inn contact phone number is 1-760-722-7661. When calling the hotels, tell them you are MCL members for the discount rate.

At the present time there are no problems that need to be addressed by the Division.

Semper Fi,
Richard Hoery
NVC, Southwest Division
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“Today, Tomorrow, Always”

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BOOK REVIEWS
BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES

Goodnight Marines
by David R. Dixon
Series: Goodnight Heroes (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Marines) (Book 1)
Hardcover: 40 pages
Publisher: Callsign Enterprises; 1st edition (2016)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1941698026

Illustrations by former Disney artist Phil Jones grace every page.

A Marine’s Memoirs

Marine Corps League (Belleau Wood Detachment #508) Member George Peto has shared his memoirs with the help of writer Peter Margaritis. This eloquent book depicts George’s youth in the Depression, eventual joining the Marine Corps, exploits at duty stations, experiences in combat operations in four World War II Pacific Campaigns and life after the war. He was honorably discharged in late 1945 and had sacrificed a part of himself that those of us who have worn the cloth understand. It was an honor to read the history of this American and to have it preserved forever in this book.

This motivated Marine passed away on Independence Day 2016. Fair winds and following seas Brother.

This 434-page hard cover book is available on Amazon.com for $32.95.

Twenty-Two on Peleliu: Four Pacific Campaigns with the Corps: The Memoirs of an Old Breed Marine by George Peto with Peter Margaritis
Hardcover: 368 pages
Publisher: Casemate; 1st edition (July 10, 2017)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1612005276

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By Lewis W. Rice III

Eagle Scout Recognized

On October 29, 2017, Jonathan Isaac Durham was honored at an Eagle Scout Ceremony held at Victory Church in Raleigh, NC. During his ceremony, Jonathan was presented a certificate from NC House Representative Donna White as well as an Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Award from the National Marine Corps League Commandant Wendell Webb and the Department of North Carolina Marine Corps League Commandant Jeff Jones. Johnston County Marine Corps League Eagle Scout Coordinator Lewis Rice presented Jonathan with a Good Citizenship Award.

Early Involvement

Jonathan was born in Iwakuni, Japan in the Yamaguchi prefecture. He joined scouting in 2011 with Pack 24, Clayton Civitan as a Bear Cub in Den 1 and worked his way up to Webelos. While still a Cub Scout, Jonathan earned his Arrow of Light, the heavy shoulder award, Webelos Super Achiever and the Supernova award.

While in elementary school, Jonathan achieved straight A's receiving the Principle A-Achiever medal in 5th grade. He participated and performed in Cooper's Got Talent, JCC Showcase of Stars and All County Chorus and was selected for the NC Honors Chorus in Winston Salem. In 2012 and 2013 he tried out for Clayton Idol and became one of the finalists both years with singing “Proud to Be an American” and “Man in the Mirror.”

In his middle school years, he served as the Vice President of both the Beta Club and Fellowship of Christians at Riverwood Middle School. He participated in band throughout his middle school years playing the clarinet, alto saxophone and tenor saxophone. He achieved the Academy Excellence award by maintaining an average of 95% or above each year.

In January 2013, Jonathan was nominated to attend the National Young Scholars Program. In 2014, Jonathan was selected to be part of the All-State Chorus for 6th graders. Jonathan participated in All-County Chorus in 2016 and 2017 and participated in Showcase of Stars in 7th and 8th grade, having the solo each year for the songs “Man in the Mirror” and “Truly Brave.” In November 2016, Jonathan was selected to be part of the North Carolina Honors Chorus being one of two who were picked from Riverwood Middle. Jonathan was selected into the Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) program. He participated in the National Beta Club Convention in Greensboro.

Jonathan has also been very heavily involved with community events throughout the years with the Johnston County Marine Corps League, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs (the Honor Society of the Marine Corps League) and the American Legion Leonard Moore Post 71 of Clayton, NC.

Present Day Activities

Jonathan now serves on Victory Kid’s Worship Team, the Youth Band and serves as a teacher and helper in the toddler class and Kid's Church. He has assisted in the 3rd to 5th grade Pioneer Clubs.

Jonathan also serves as Troop 33 Scribe. Recently he received his Fellowship in the Order of the Arrow, attended Conclave, completed the National Youth Leadership Training course and attended the 2017 National Jamboree.

Currently, he is a freshman at Wake Christian Academy. He is a member of the Marching Band playing the Tenor Saxophone. He is a member of the Wake Christian Praise Team and will be trying out for the track team in the spring.

Although Jonathan has not decided on where he will be attending college, upon graduation at Wake Christian Academy, Jonathan desires to attend NC State and pursue a career in Forensic Chemistry. He plans to major in Forensic Science and minor in Music.

Jonathan is the son of Devell and Tina Durham of Clayton, NC. Congratulations Eagle Scout Jonathan Isaac Durham! Once a Marine, Always a Marine. Once an Eagle Scout, Always an Eagle Scout. SIF
A Conversation with Col. Bart P. Billings, Ph.D.

By David T. Ossian—Chief of Staff

Dr. Bart P. Billings is a retired Army Veteran who has been working in the field of Mental Health for 50 years. In February 2014 he received the International Human Rights Award from the Citizens Commission on Human Rights. He is also the author of two best-selling books, the first of which is the catalyst for the following conversation. The book is titled, Invisible Scars—How to Treat Combat Stress and PTSD Without Medication.

Other than serving as a Psychologist, what else did you do during your 34 years in the Army?

Actually, I was drafted out of Graduate school as a Private First-Class to be a Combat Engineer. Among other things, I trained Soldiers out of Fort Ord getting them ready for Vietnam. I was tasked with teaching them how to avoid booby traps. When I was drafted I had just finished my Masters and was planning to get married and go to the University of Arizona to finish my Doctorate. The chairman of the draft board was a butcher by trade, and he said “No, you’re going to be in the military.” Then after being trained as a Combat Engineer, one day someone went through my records and saw all my education. They gave me a Commission and a set of 1st Lt. bars and said report to the hospital.

What is the difference between PTS and PTSD?

PTS is a normal reaction to being in an abnormal environment. The “D” being added to PTS, meaning “disorder,” gets added if the individual has problems living a productive life and needs help in the form of professional treatment. In prior wars, this same reaction existed, but vets had the opportunity to spend months making the transition from military duty to civilian life. In WWII, it was called “Battle Fatigue” not “Battle Fatigue Disorder.” Now people are starting to recognize PTS is a normal reaction to combat or even military training. Today if I see someone with the label of PTSD, I see the “D” standing for “drugged,” since most psychiatrists administer brain altering psychiatric medications to people having a normal reaction to an abnormal experience.

What is the most effective treatment for PTS or PTSD?

Integrative treatment, i.e., peer groups, bio-feedback, guided imagery, yoga, exercise, nutrition, vocational training, canine therapy, equine therapy, hydrotherapy, relaxation therapy, etc.—there are many more that help a person deal with PTS. Research on anti-depression psychiatric medications shows that they are no more effective than a placebo sugar pill for mild and moderate depression. There is no science showing any psychiatric medication is effective with so-called PTSD. When multiple psychiatric medications are taken together, the adverse reaction risks increase. For example, a Marine who was seen here at the San Diego Veterans Affairs Hospital (VA) who committed suicide a few years ago at a shooting range was on multiple medications, and the Inspector General (IG) for the VA, who investigated the case, stated that there were multiple errors made in the treatment of this Marine in terms of standard of care. Basically, he was given multiple psychiatric medications with little integrative therapy, if any. Another Marine in Carbondale, PA, was treated similarly, and he broke into a pharmacy and was out of control. Fortunately, he survived and sued the VA. He was awarded approximately $7 million by the government for inappropriate standard of care.

Can you talk about the link between PTS and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)?

Let’s put it this way. My definition of Post-Traumatic Stress is having a normal reaction to an abnormal situation. Brain damage is an abnormal situation. If you experience TBI one of the normal reactions you’re going to have is PTS. They go together every time. One of the things you have to understand about people with a head injury, whether it’s from combat, a car accident or football (CTE), etc., they are four (4) times more likely to commit suicide than the general population. The worst thing you can do with a person with a head injury is send them to someone who is going to give them brain altering psychiatric medication—“black box warning” medication with suicide being the first adverse reaction listed. Now you multiply 4 exponentially by who knows how much. It is not a psychiatric disorder. The person needs to learn that their behavior is from the head injury and learn how to deal when frustrated, depressed, anxious, etc. There are so many different strategies to deal with this. Every medication a person receives from a doctor, no matter how simple it seems, you need to google it and look up the adverse reactions before taking it and make sure there are no black box warnings on it.

What is a BLACK BOX WARNING on a medication? Do all brain altering psychiatric drugs have this warning on them?

It is the most severe warning the FDA places on a medication, which means that the drug could have serious side effects, including death. Pretty much all anti-depression, anti-psychotic and anti-anxiety medications have this warning.

When you first started the International Military and Civilian Combat Stress Conference, what was your goal?

I was the Commanding Officer (CO) of a reserve general hospital section at the time. This was during the first Gulf War. My whole hospital got deployed. When my people came back they said they were not prepared to be deployed. I asked why don’t we have a Conference
putting together a readiness protocol so people will be determined to be ready to be deployed at a moment’s notice? So, we developed a Combat Stress Conference to initially put together the Human Assistance Rapid Response Team (HARRT) program. The program was accepted by the DOD in 1997 but never fully implemented. People from all branches of the military came to the Conference, plus civilians from SWAT teams, Fire Departments and many others. We learned that integrative treatments were the key. Psychiatric medications were not working and actually were very destructive. During the 15th year of the Conference, Military psychiatrists present said they weren’t going to continue to come if we don’t support psychiatric drugs. We told them we couldn’t, since they don’t work as well as integrative treatment without brain altering medications. The Conference over the past 24 years has revealed, numerous times in the past, that psychiatric medication is generally ineffective and may cause very serious side effects.

**How did the Marine Corps get involved?**

The first Conference was at Camp Pendleton in the early 1990s. Without the Marine Corps the Combat Stress Conference wouldn’t have survived. They received me with open arms. I had received permission from my Command to do the Conference but no support or funding. I went to the Marines with empty pockets. I explained to them what my goal was in helping people understand the residual effects of combat stress. Also, how to be ready for deployment. They provided untold resources in terms of staff, funds and everything else. In the 5th year we had a huge exercise at Combat Town. We had people being held hostage by terrorists and being rescued by Marines. Then the combat stress teams would fly in and debrief the hostages. Afterwards my Commanding General came to me and said, “We did a great job.” Meaning the Army. I asked, “Can I speak freely, General?” I was a Major at the time. He said go ahead. I said, “The only assistance the Army gave was two truck drivers to drive the Marine Corps buses to Combat Town, and they got lost. If it wasn’t for the Marines and the Navy this Conference wouldn’t have happened.” After that the General said, “Whatever you need you come to me and you’ll get it. You don’t even have to write a budget.” So, we got better support after that. The first 15 years of the Conference were at Camp Pendleton. So, when I met you and the Marine Corps League it was just an extension of what I already knew in terms of how effective Marines can be at implementing these programs.

**What prompted you to write the book Invisible Scars?**

After running the Conference for so many years I had people who came to the Conference who were asking me to write a book about this material. They said to me you can’t travel across the country and be at every therapy group, but we need you there. Your thoughts, your suggestions. Your knowledge is saving lives, but a book could save more lives. Like Gorgias the Greek Philosopher said about 2500 years ago, “Medicine cures diseases of the body, wisdom liberates the soul of sufferings.” That’s what you’re doing with the Peer Support Groups. You’re doing today what a Greek Philosopher said 2500 years ago, providing wisdom.

**In your book you talk about Dead in Bed syndrome. Can you explain this and how it happens?**

You know yesterday I had a mechanic come to adjust something on my car. He was a young man around 30 or so, and we talked about the book Invisible Scars and the adverse effects of medication. I was saying to him that there is substantial evidence that when you’re taking a combination of psychiatric meds, anxiety meds, anti-depressants, etc., it could actually result in somebody dying in his or her sleep. After that he went silent for about a minute and half. When he started talking again he said, “Doc, that was my father.” He was a Vietnam Vet who was on multiple medications, and he went to bed one night and died in his sleep. And he said, “They killed him.” So, this young man has to live the rest of his life without his father because they medicated him to the extent that when he went to bed his heart stopped. It happens more than you know. A neurologist, Fred Baughman, MD, in San Diego, CA, has researched Dead in Bed. He has listed over 400 cases in the military. Remember when you called me and said, “You’re scaring the hell out of my Marines?” You were reading Chapter 4 about Dead in Bed. We discussed how some of the peer groups were really scared about this possibility.

In Nebraska, Marines and Sailors have used your book Invisible Scars to start a Peer Support Group–Book Club. What are your thoughts on duplicating the model across the country?

Basically, I wrote the book as a guide to saving lives. You came up with the idea of having it as part of your peer group. That idea was solid, and I think it happened because you had a guide to start with. I have written articles on how to do group therapy. When you do group therapy you have to have a protocol. A guide. You have to have leaders who understand where you are going. That’s what the book did for you. One Chapter every two weeks. When people left the group, they had homework. They had a reference. When I did therapy, I had patients take notes so a year from
now they wouldn’t forget what we talked about. It’s effective. Basically, this is better than notes. They have a guide when they leave your group. You should also have another group called “Training for Trainers.” So, when a new group starts you can send them out for one or two sessions. To train the new trainers on how to utilize the book. A lot of people running groups at the VA and other places aren’t qualified to run groups. They don’t have direction. They get hung up talking about the past. You don’t want to do that. What you guys are doing is basic reality therapy. Choice theory psychology. That’s what the book is all about. You can talk about how the past is affecting you now and how you need to move forward and make better choices and how you need to continue to march.

What more can the Active Duty do to deal with PTS?

Integrative Treatments are absolutely the way to go. Senator John McCain is working on a bill that anyone getting psychiatric treatment would have to have explained to them what the side effects of the medication are and what the alternative integrative treatment is instead of the drugs. And that is what our Veterans need to ask. If they are experiencing any difficulty with combat-related stress issues, which I have said are normally reactions to abnormal environments and they are offered brain altering, black box warning medications, the first thing they should say is “I don’t want to take that.” Tell me what alternative treatment modalities I could get involved with instead of these drugs? That’s what they should insist on. You have to own your own healthcare.

Let’s face it, post-traumatic stress affects your soul. Your ability to think and to function. The way to help yourself is through wisdom and knowledge. And that’s what the Marine Corps League is doing now. They are doing peer groups and using wisdom to heal the psychological wounds of combat. That’s a very good direction you’re going.

Can you share with us one of your favorite success stories working with Veterans?

When I owned a restaurant, which was accidental. Veterans found out. Marines mostly. I used to have people come in and sit down at the bar and say, “Can I talk to you, Sir?” I remember one Marine Veteran who came in. He was going to the VA, and he was on multiple psychiatric medications. He told me, “I’m on all these medications, and my red blood cells are all messed up.” He said the VA advised it was from PTSD. I had really never heard of PTSD causing issues like that. I gave him the name of a physician and said, “Maybe you should check with him and see if you have a blood parasite from deployment.” I didn’t see him for a while, but when he came back he seemed happier, and he said, “I’m not on any of those drugs anymore.” I asked what happened, and he said they found a blood parasite in his system and they took care of it. He could have been on psychiatric medication the rest of his life. There are many stories like this in my book.

But one of the most important conversations I had with a patient; I asked her when she was leaving the hospital, “What did I do that was helpful to you while you were here in the hospital?” She said, “You never gave up on me. Everybody in the world gave up on me, but you didn’t. No matter how I tried. Because if I could get you to give up on me I could finish my suicide. But you never gave up.” You have to let people know that you’re not going to quit on them. I’m not going to give up on my fellow Veterans.

Suicide appears to be the final stages of lack of purpose, depression, no one listening. The solution becomes self-medication and eventually taking one’s own life. Your thoughts …?

There are approximately 22 suicides a day committed by Veterans. This may actually be an underestimate number because some states don’t report suicides by Veterans. Medication, alcohol or illegal drugs are never the solution and contribute to suicide. The solution is always other people and integrated programs. You can take Yoga, get a dog, guided imagery, etc. … there are all kinds of help out there where you don’t have to take a brain altering medication. When you take a brain altering drug it interferes with the wisdom you need to better your life. Wisdom liberates the soul from suffering. You don’t want to do anything that interferes with your ability to be wise.

With all that you have accomplished, Officer, Psychologist, author, restaurant owner, what are you working on now?

I just finished a new book; it came out recently, and it’s an extension of Invisible Scars. It’s a #1 best-seller on Amazon. It’s part of an integrative treatment modality including Nutrition. This is extremely important for a person’s overall health, mental and physical. The book is called Unhealthy or Healthy Eating—It’s Finally Up to You! Be Enlightened: The Psychology of How We Choose to Eat. So many foods are destructive to our physical and mental health. One of the things I have been saying forever is if you watch two things in your life you can live to be very happy, and that is what you put into your mouth and what comes out of your mouth. So, if you watch what you eat and watch what you say you can lead a decent life. The book talks about the dangers of certain foods and about the propaganda the media spreads and about the food industry. Over 70% of the people in the United States are overweight, 35% of that number are obese. Where does that come from? It’s kind of like in Invisible Scars where we talk about “Black Box” warnings on some of the medication—there should be “Black Box” warnings on some foods. The food industry spends as much money as the pharmaceutical industry does on advertising. Stop and think about a triangle or triad. At the top is the media. On the bottom left side is the food industry and on the right-hand side the pharmaceutical industry. These three industries feed each other. They are all making money, but not in a good way.

Walk down the aisle of any military commissary, and you will see the majority of foods on the shelf are high in unhealthy amounts of salt, sugars and unhealthy fats. Then look around at the people purchasing these foods. We need to educate the public from a health viewpoint what foods are good for them and their families and insist on more shelf space for these types of foods. SIF
Today, Tomorrow, Always

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JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

RICHARD D. GORE, SR.

Having one due date, everyone’s dues should be paid on time

MARINES: As my tour as your Junior Past National Commandant starts, I want everyone to understand that in this position it is still incumbent upon me to be your voice on the Board of Trustees and speak out on your behalf. If you feel you wish for me to talk on your behalf, contact me at rgore@MCLeague.org, and I will present your ideas or complaints to the proper authority and seek out answers for you or your detachments.

One of the major issues that has to be addressed is the payment of dues. Membership dues for the entire Marine Corps League are due at the end of August. No exceptions. By having just one due date, everyone should be able to pay on time and not wonder what their joining date was. In the past, the excuse for not paying dues was, “I forgot when I joined.” Now there is no reason to worry about it because everyone is due to pay dues at the same time every year, right after National Convention.

It is my intention to work with the National Leadership and Board of Trustees, if my assistance is requested, to further the rebuilding of the Marine Corps League into the premiere veterans’ organization that we should be. I have learned in my time with the League that talk does not always equate to the necessary actions it takes to guarantee success, and we should not fall into that trap. We need to set our own goals and reach for the stars that sometimes seem beyond our grasp.

Semper Fi,
Richard D. Gore, Sr.
Junior Past National Commandant

The Remembered Man in the Forgotten War

By Kaley Aurand


My grandfather fought in ‘52-’53
He fought with his comrades so South Korea could be free
They pushed through the pain, the death, and the bitter cold

Some of his buddies were overly bold
He ended up holding them, dying in his arms.
“Lord, deliver me.”
This was his plea

He wanted to make it home—this was his goal
At age 17, his innocence was no longer whole
But he made it home loving the U.S.A. and the U.S.M.C.
Later he reminisced and told stories about his past

About how long their marches would last
About how they marched from the DMZ to the Yalu River
All day long they would shiver
Many men died from frostbite on their feet and their fingers.

He talked of the places Marines fought and died like Reno, Vegas, Carson, and Dodge
Curl to the bitter cold his fighting hole was his lodge
The BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) was his weapon of choice
He didn’t talk much and some people thought he had no voice
A Purple Heart he did receive—
he was honored by his country …
especially by me.

Editor’s Note: The “Nevada Cities” were outposts north of the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) during the Korean War in 1953.
Cpl. Gerald Max Rich Detachment 1352 Cache Valley (Logan), UT, is fortunate to have Toys for Tots Coordinator, Ron Hamilton, who managed the detachment’s highly successful 2015 and 2016 Toys for Tots campaigns. Ron is a member of the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas (IBRBS) and Utah Santas and has loved serving as a Santa in nine states for over 26 years.

The Northampton Township Welcome Home Flag Exchange on August 23, 2017, was held for Army Specialist Austin Sypek, who recently returned from a deployment in Afghanistan. Patriot Detachment 1230 program coordinator Pete Palestina was assisted by eight other detachment members. In back of Pete, left to right: Neil Clark, Dick Weaver, John Koutsouros, John Heenan, Gus Cales, Jimmy Clendennen, Mike Lecker and John Frain.

On August 25, 2017, a flag certificate ceremony was held at Howdy Honda in Austin, TX.

Housatonic Detachment 1129’s Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast in Stratford, CT. Pictured from left to right: Dave Rosa (Commandant), Louise Caruso (baker) and Bob Vitale (Chairman).
US House of Representatives Honor Alan Love with Congressional Veteran Award for 2017. Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) made the presentation. Alan is a Vietnam Veteran, Charter member of and Past Commandant of Grundy County Detachment 1372, Morris, IL.

On August 30, 2017, the Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition was held at the Richboro Swim Club, Richboro, PA. US Army Major General Thomas Mathews (Ret) pinned veterans and thanked them for their service. General Mathews also presented special pins to surviving spouses and family members. Participating members are Mike Clark, Pete Palestina, Neil Clark, Gus Cales, John Koutsouros, Jimmy Clendenen and Dick Weaver.

Commandant Art Chavez (left) and Sr. Vice Harion Enervold (right) of Detachment 1372, Morris, IL, met with TV personality Bill Kurtis. Bill MC’ed another great Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation Dinner in Chicago. Go to www.MCSF.org to add your support.

A “purr-ecious” first honors the steadfast loyalty of the Marines!

For decades the Bulldog has served as the mascot for the United States Marines. But why should the Bulldogs have all the fun? We invite you to “paws” and celebrate the legendary Honor, Courage and Commitment of the Marines with “Sem-purr Fidelis,” a faithful cat outfitted in Dress Blues to convey the unwavering “cat-itude” of The Few, The Proud!

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Available only from The Hamilton Collection, “Sem-purr Fidelis” is carefully handcrafted and hand-painted, boasts a fearless gaze, dress hat and uniform with realistic Eagle, Globe and Anchor insignias, red piping and more. No detail is overlooked! Plus this exclusive premiere is limited to 95 casting days, hand-numbered and includes a Certificate of Authenticity.

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Michigan's Upper Peninsula Detachment 444 took part in the dedication of a memorial in honor of member Richard Morrison, an Iwo Jima Veteran who had spent over 25 years working as Veteran Service Officer. Richard had served on many post, district and department committees and was heavily involved in Veteran advocacy.

Winnebago Detachment 357 Sgt-At-Arms Dan Hurley presents a plaque to a class winner of the Inaugural PFC Brent Vroman Memorial Car & Bike Show. Proceeds from the benefit went to Journey Together Service Dog, Inc., which provides PTSD service dogs to members of the community at no charge.

The Department of Florida's (DoF) 2017 Fall Conference conducted a special event for Vietnam War Era Veterans after past Department Commandant Lou Calleja facilitated the DoF to be a "Commemorative Partner" of the DoD-sponsored 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration' Committee. Retired Marine Major General Arnold Fields honored and "pinned" Vietnam War Era Veterans at the MCL's Fall Conference.
The Department of Florida (DoF), MCL, hosted its latest bi-annual Professional Development Program’s (PDP) “Leadership School” during its 2017 Fall Conference on October 6, 2017.

One year anniversary of the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument, Port Saint Lucie, FL. Jack Ivy Detachment Marine Corps League Honor Guard.

Detachment 729’s September members who joined the Life Member roles. Pictured are: John Bishop, Pank Mattingly, Mike Rice, Mike Hart, Steve Hall, Phil Cease and George Buck. Photo courtesy of John Wesley.
Marines of Westmoreland County 1416 observed the unveiling of the 9-11 Monument at Lower Burrell American Legion. Left to right: Cam Kulick, Jim Walters, Tony Pallatto, Charles Anderson Commissioner, Sam Love and Bob Uzmack. The Monument contains a rectangular piece of steel from the New York City iconic World Trade Center, enscribed, “We Shall Not Forget.”

Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 Marine Corps League held a special recognition for the Southern Utah Devil Pups September 9, 2017, for their participation in a physical fitness program that started in spring and finished with a 10-day competition at Camp Pendleton, CA, among youth from all over the country.

Brazos Valley Detachment 1391 Senior Vice Commandant Doug Tennis presented Nicholas Romer, a Texas A&M graduate, the 2017 Harry Bruce “Retreat Hell” Award. The award, a Mameluke sword, is awarded to the top Marine senior studying at Texas A&M who is seeking an officer commission. The award is sponsored by Detachment 1391 and named in honor of Harry Bruce who participated in the liberation of Seoul, South Korea and the Chosin Reservoir Campaign in 1950.
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

ROLL CALL
AROUND THE LEAGUE


The Union Colony Marines, Detachment 1093, Greeley, CO, supports "Helping Heroes Fly," an organization that helps Military members with expenses for emergency leave, namely airfare. Here Commandant Mike Buck presents a check for $2,000 to Pam Matt and Teri Keeny, the organization's founders.

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On October 21, 2017, Sedona Detachment 1237 donated $1,000 to Marines Helping Marines and $4,000 to Arizona Marines Assisting Marines. Since 2008, Sedona has donated $103,027 to these programs. Pictured are: Pat Connell, Commandant, Department of Arizona; Ray Ojeda, Senior Vice Commandant, Sedona Detachment; Lloyd Dellacort (Sedona), Chairman of MHM and AzMAM, Department of Arizona; and Mike Bellard, Co-Chair and Paymaster, Department of Arizona.

The Department of Massachusetts initiated a new policy of providing $1,000 in goods and supplies for a women's shelter in the city or town that hosts our convention. This first donation went to a shelter in Hyannis, MA. Pictured are: Frank Serra, a Marine Corps Leaguer, Carlos Vierra, Warren Griffin, Autum Rose, Cheryl Griffin (coordinator), Lynn Roar (shelter manager), Jim Laskey, Roger Hoffmann, Fran Curnow, Dave Porter and Tony Garro.
Detachment 1385 was happy to help Dalton Tefteller, September 13, 2017, with a $200 donation. The money will help the family get Dalton to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia to be included in a new clinical trial. Dalton has battled health issues his entire life and was recently diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder Aicardi-Goutiieres. To learn more, you can go to the www.gofundme.com site setup by the family. Left to right: Marine Dave Strowmatt, Dalton Tefteller, Commandant Chris Gutierrez and Paymaster Gary Doss.

Awards ceremony at the 38th National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in Cincinnati, OH, during July 17-22, 2017. Left to right: Representative from Senator Portman’s Office, National PVA Secretary Mr. Larry Dodson, Cincinnati Councilmember Mr. Kevin Flynn, Marine Corps League Awards Committee Member Chris Clunk, UPS Representatives. The 39th NVWG will occur July 29-August 4, 2018, in Orlando FL.

Fremont Area MCL 1275 member Dale Kinney presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Last Second Saloon owners Mace and Sheldon Curry for their support of the League’s activities. Revenue from the League’s pickle tickets sold at the Last Second finance scholarships and other charitable League initiatives.

At the September 24, 2017, Basilone Parade in Raritan, NJ, recruiters with Poolies along with Jim Mineo and John Mitzak of the Northampton County Detachment 298, Easton, PA.

Toys for Tots drive at the Spokane Chiefs Hockey game. Left to right are Sgt Rich Gonzalez, NVC NWDIV TJ Morgan and PFC Robert Jarrao. The two Marines are from Papa Battery 5/14, Spokane, WA.

The Trenton MCL Detachment 207 presented former Hamilton Township Councilman Kevin Meara a Certificate of Appreciation in appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service in the interests of the US, the United States Marine Corps and the MCL. Presenting the certificate from left to right: Sgt-At-Arms Ken Enderle, Commandant Chuck Bitner and Kevin Meara.
On September 23, 2017, Detachment 1347, Los Angeles, paid homage to their name sake, PFC Eugene A. Obregon—Medal of Honor. Obregon attended Theodore Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles before enlisting in the USMC on June 7, 1948, at the age of 17. On September 26, 1950, Obregon was killed in action saving fellow Marine, PFC Bert Johnson, during the Korean War.

Marines of Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 Marine Corps League helped out at the Cub Scout Day Camp Saturday, October 7, 2017. The scouts gathered at the Quail Creek Scout Camp with 664 participating in shooting BB Guns in a “range” setting.
Join Roll Call!

All Marine Corps League members may submit Roll Call entries

Our new Roll Call Upload System is now live!

- Go to semperi.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.
2018/19 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!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tour</th>
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<tr>
<td>28 Apr-11 May</td>
<td>50th Anniversary Operations Resolve to Win “Saigon to the DMZ”</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 May-3 Jun</td>
<td>MCL Devil Dog Exclusive 100th Anniversary of WWI American Battlefields—1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 May-9 Jun</td>
<td>74th Anniversary of D-Day, WWI Overview &amp; Battle of the Bulge plus Paris</td>
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<td>1-9 Jun</td>
<td>74th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris</td>
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<td>26 Jun-6 Jul</td>
<td>Russia “Eastern Front” 75th Anniversary of Battle of Kursk, Moscow &amp; Stalingrad</td>
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<td>30 Jun-12 Jul</td>
<td>50th Anniversary of Operation Scotland II/Robin—1 Corps 1968</td>
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<td>7-16 Jul</td>
<td>WWII Italy—75th Anniversary of Operation Husky Invasion of Sicily</td>
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<td>7-16 Jul</td>
<td>Spain—Military &amp; Cultural History Exploration Madrid</td>
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<td>2-11 Aug</td>
<td>Guadalcanal 76th Anniversary Operation Watchtower Pre-tour Tarawa</td>
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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.

2-12 Aug
Imperial China—Beijing (Peking Marines)–Xian (Terra Cotta Soldiers)–Shanghai

19-31 Aug
50th Anniversary of Operation Mameluke Thrust/Maui Peak I-Corps 1968

7-18 Sep
WWII Italy—75th Anniversary of Operation Avalanche

12-26 Sep
Ireland—Complete Emerald Isle plus WWII U.S. Marines, Soldiers & Sailors Sites

26 Sep-9 Oct
German, Poland & Czech Republic WWII Concentration Camps

30 Sep-8 Oct
Korean War Tour—Seoul, Pusan & Battlefields

5-13 Oct
Israel—Military & Cultural History

21-27 Oct
35th Anniversary of Beirut Peace Keeping Mission Lebanon

2-13 Nov
WWII 100th Anniversary 1918 End to the War to End All Wars

10-17 Nov
Burma 75th Anniversary of the Chindits—Allies Strike Back

17-23 Nov
75th Anniversary of Tarawa Landing Nov 20, 1943

1-12 Dec
Vietnam Holiday Tour plus Laos & Cambodia

2-8 Dec
77th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

19-31 Jan ’19
51st Anniversary of Battle of Hue City & Tet Offensive

16-28 Feb ’19
50th Anniversary of Operation Dewey Canyon I-Corps—1969

18-25 Mar ’19
74th Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor—Guam

21-26 Apr ’19
Turkey Gallipoli WWII Campaign & ANZAC Day

4-16 May ’19
50th Anniversary of Operation Oklahoma Hills I-Corps—1969

continued from previous page
THE SEMPER FI STORE
(703) 207-9588 www.mclnational.org/store

1. Fidget Spinners
   Item Code: GFT1
   Price: $6.00
   Description: MCL Fidget Spinners

2. MCL Christmas Ornament
   Item Code: ORN1
   Price: $6.00
   Description: 2017 Red MCL Christmas Ornament

3. Gold License Plate
   Item Code: A135
   Price: $10.00
   Description: EGA Gold License Plate

4. Band of Brothers Bumper Sticker
   Item Code: A02
   Price: $0.50
   Description: Band of Brothers Bumper Sticker / 11.5”x3”, white background with red and black lettering: “A BAND OF BROTHERS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE” and the MCL logo.

5. USMC Decal
   Item Code: A83
   Price: $5.00
   Description: Decal, silver background with red lettering: “Property of USMC”
6. Flag Pin
- **Item Code:** Lapel02
- **Price:** $1.50
- **Description:** US Flag pin, rectangle gold ¾”

7. Signed Book
- **Item Code:** B08
- **Price:** $30.00
- **Description:** Al Gray, Marine: The Early Years, 1950-1967 Vol. 1— Signed copy

8. Recruiting Poster
- **Item Code:** Recruit01
- **Price:** $0.25
- **Description:** Recruiting Poster—NEW SIZE-8 1/2” x 11” with “CARRY ON,” “Join the MCL…” (with information)

9. Decals
- **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

10. Charter of the MCL
- **Item Code:** S15
- **Price:** $1.00
- **Description:** Copy of the Charter for the Marine Corps League, 8”x14”
THE SEMPER FI STORE

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

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Billing Address

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Name

Street

Street

City State Zip Code

City State Zip Code

Phone Number

Phone Number

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6.0% VA SALES TAX

VIRGINIA RESIDENTS ONLY

HANDLING & POSTAGE

TOTAL

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

*COL. WESLEY FOX (RET.)
Medal of Honor recipient and Marine Corps League Life Mem-
ber, Colonel Wesley Fox (Ret.) passed away November 24, 2017,
in Blacksburg, VA.

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.

THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 57
BLAST FROM THE PAST

1976—BICENTENNIAL YEAR: The Sunrise Detachment, Massapequa, New York Color Guard from a Memorial Day Parade in May 1976. This photo is very unique because there are seven members of the Color Guard who have three flag bearers and four riflemen. The third flag in the middle is the U.S. Bicentennial Flag to celebrate our Nation’s 200th Anniversary (I am the second rifleman in from the right side of this photograph). –Stephen J. Chiarello, Sunrise Department, Massapequa, NY
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

GLOCK RAFFLE!

A great Pistol for fun or everyday carrying needs!
Various models are available to the winner. Do not let this opportunity slip away. Details can be found on the back of the ticket. Drawing to be held at the Mid-Winter Conference 2018 Marine Corps League is an IRS 501 (c) 4.

$25.00 PER TICKET
SEND BY 2/1/2018

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3619 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY SUITE #115
STAFFORD, VA 22554

NAME

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STAFFORD, VA 22554
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name ___________________________ Phone ( __ ) ________
Street Address ___________________________ City ___________ State _____ Zip _______
Date of Birth __/__/____ Email Address ___________________________
Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ___________ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ___________ Service# or SS# ___________

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

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

( ) I hereby apply for membership in the ___________________ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose $ _______ for one year's membership.*

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

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

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon, authorized for FMF Corpsmen; or have served or are currently serving as a U.S. Navy Chaplain and have earned the FMF Badge serving with Marines; if discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge Indicating "Honorable Service." ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

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

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Applicant’s Signature (see reverse side)

Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment. Applicants for MAL Membership, remit this form with check or money order in the amount of $30 to:

Marine Corps League, National Headquarters, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

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Full Name ___________________________ Phone ( __ ) ________
Street Address ___________________________ City ___________ State _____ Zip _______
Date of Birth __/__/____ Email Address ___________________________
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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP - REGULAR MEMBERS

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

Signature

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP - ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

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Signature
IT’S YOUR LEGACY. PASS IT ON.

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ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.

As a Marine Corps League member, your dedication to our Marines and the Corps is indisputable! We invite you to join the Marine Corps Association & Foundation and continue to support our beloved Corps.

JOIN TODAY AT WWW.MCA-MARINES.ORG