100TH ANNIVERSARY
BELLEAU WOOD

Once a Marine, Always a Marine
Vol. 74 No. 2 • Spring 2008
The Magazine of the Marine Corps League
MOST INSURANCE COMPANIES HAVE A BUSINESS PLAN.
WE HAVE A MISSION.

Insuring Those Who Serve

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

To learn how we can help protect you and your family visit NavyMutual.org
THE WORLD’S MOST BATTLE-PROVEN FIREARMS.

LEGENDARY HAS A NEW LOOK. INTRODUCING: THE FDE & BLACK SERIES BY FN.

THE WORLD’S MOST BATTLE-PROVEN FIREARMS.
Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller, marches alongside other Marines after the American Memorial Day ceremony at the Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery, Belleau Wood, France, May 29, 2016. Each Memorial Day weekend, U.S. Marines, French service members, family members and locals gather to honor the memory of the Marines killed during the battle of Belleau Wood.
ABOUT THE COVER
Marine For Life Network helps transition to civilian life

MARINES: A program started before Desert Storm One that was operating fairly well, then Marines went to war and the program was shelved for many years. That program is Marine For Life Network (M4L), and it is currently reaching out to Marines. It has become of significant importance in the Marine Corps' plan for transition from active duty to civilian life at any location the Marine Family settles. The goal here is to address family needs, invite them to the local Marine Family, encourage higher education, develop mentor relationships, network for employment and recommend registration with the local Veterans Affairs office.

If you go to the website (www.usmc-mccs.org/services/career/marine-for-life-network) you will find “Marine For Life Network (M4L) connects transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service.”

Marine Corps League (MCL) plays an important part in this Master Plan. Thirty-thousand-plus Marines transition from active duty to civilian life annually in towns all over America. The League has local detachments in over 1,000 locations coast to coast, where we can have one-on-one relationships, providing a continuing network from active to veteran Marines. The MCL has an optional solution for a locality that does not have a detachment, and that is starting a fireteam of Marines, FMF Corpsmen and FMF Chaplains. We will have a Standard Operating Procedure approved for starting and growing a fireteam into a detachment by the time you read this article.

MCL Leadership is working on the agreements allowing us to be part of the transition education program at local Marine facilities across the nation. The MCL will be generating material to share and allow modification for the local department and detachment to show their unique services, local network, mentoring and job opportunities in their community.

Excerpt from M4L website:

What can the Marine for Life Network do for me?

Did you know that 80% of jobs are found through networking? Marine for Life connects transitioning Marines, Veteran Marines, and Marine family members to employment resources and to other associations, such as education and community services that aid in career and life goals outside of military service. We facilitate networking through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.

How does the Marine for Life Network do that?

Virtual Network: Connect with the Marine for Life Network on LinkedIn, over 3,500 strong and growing daily. Marine for Life Network has four regional groups, allowing us to provide targeted resources, employment opportunities, and networking near you. To connect, start by setting up a profile, begin networking, and use the personal and professional connections of our Marine Corps Veterans in the community.

Face-to-Face Network: Focuses on connecting you to our field staff. We have four Regional Network Coordinators and over 50 Marine for Life Representatives who will help you build relationships and provide you with the opportunities to network with employment, education, and community resources in your current area or the area where you plan to move.

The Marine Corps League has a great opportunity to welcome Marines and their families back home or to a new home.

Semper Fi!
CONCEALED CARRY SOFT SHELL VEST
WITH DUAL INTERIOR LOOP PANELS – AND OPTIONAL HOLSTERS

This is likely the most comfortable vest you’ll ever wear. Its 3-layer construction is durable, with a lightweight polyester shell for maximum comfort – plus the waterproof, wind resistant, heat retaining features you want.

Free Gift!
We’ll send you an officially licensed Marine Corps Patch* which you may choose to affix to your vest. (As shown at right.)

Concealed Carry feature has two (Right/Left) interior loop panels to secure your holsters: Our optional holster is available for just $14.95 each. (Shown above right.)

Four interior mag pouches with flap and Hook & Loop secure closure.

NOTE: IF YOU DON’T CARRY A FIREARM YOU’LL STILL LOVE THIS GREAT VEST! USE THE POCKETS FOR EXTRA STORAGE AND TO PROTECT/CONCEAL YOUR VALUABLES.

To order call Toll free: 1-800-255-3048 or visit us online at www.VETCOM.com

Promotions available (while supplies last).

1. Enclosed is my check for the Total Due
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3. Charge my credit card in two equal monthly payments

Enclosed is my check for the Total Due
Credit Card #: __________________________
Card Security Code: ______________ Signature: __________________________

If you choose 1 or 2 above, please include your expiration date.

Shipping Address: (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.
Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ State ________ Zip __________
Phone # (_______) __________________________
Email __________________________

In case we have questions about your order

*Marine Corps patches purchased from Officially Licensed suppliers.

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R86500-MCL-0418
The last duty station – home

MARINES: It is quite amazing to see the history of the Marine Corps League’s magazine laid out on tables. Bravo Zulu to Bill Watson for his awesome help with this task. We have sorted through issues going as far back as 1925. Each is now chronologically placed and on a shelf in our conference room ready for members to visit. It is a journey that dates almost as far back as the Battle of Belleau Wood in France only seven (7) years earlier. The Marine Corps League was formed right after World War I, and we continue to honor and remember those who have served the cloth and fought for the person to the left and right. Marines today continue to uphold that commitment, and we stand ready for them to return to their last duty station—home.

We continue to strengthen the relationship with the Marine Corps and our efforts to assist fellow Marines as they transition to civilian life. The Marine Corps has strengthened programs such as Marine For Life Program, Transition Assistance Program, Education, Military Spouse Employment Program and other family support services. We are developing a plan to assist continuity to the families as they move home. Local detachments can guide and mentor Marines because they know their areas, realtors, tradesmen and employers, and can use their own experiences to help these Marine families as they return to civilian life.

Speaking of families, I would like to take a moment to tell you about a company that has been there for me for 25 years. No matter where I have been around the globe, USAA has been there for my family. I use their car buying service (free) to get guaranteed best pricing on car purchases. The best part is my children qualified for accounts. My son is in the Navy (Asian-Pacific aboard ship), and his USAA account is working for him. USAA used to be a program for military officers, and a little more than 10 years ago they began to allow enlisted members to join. They have been there for my family, and I hope you will give them a call. Tell them you are with the Marine Corps League.

Our Marine Corps family continues to mature and develop. We are working out the bugs on the new database system from MemberClicks and are also working on smartphone applications. Looking forward to a bright future.

Semper Fi!

EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY
BY ANNETTE AMERMAN

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 WWI or Vietnam (1968) history within the Marine Corps.

April 12, 1918: 314 officers and men of the 6th Regiment were evacuated after being gassed at Verdun, France.

April 18, 1968: 26th Marines was relieved at Khe Sanh and withdrawn to Dong Ha and Camp Carroll.

May 1, 1968: Captain Peter A. Kruger flew his 500th combat sortie setting a new Marine Corps jet combat record in Vietnam. Captain Kruger flew an A-4 Skyhawk.

May 18, 1968: The 7th Marines launched Operation MAMELUKE THRUST southwest of Da Nang.
A Salute to the United States Marines

JUST FOR YOU

Have your name embroidered on the jacket at no additional cost!

Versatile hoodie style crafted in easy-care, comfort knit

Contrasting lined hood with drawstrings

Available in five men’s sizes from Medium-XXXL

This classic hoodie has it all... it's practical, comfortable, and has custom designed graphics you won't find anywhere else. Crafted in easy-care black cotton blend knit with brushed fleece lining, it showcases artwork of a patriotic eagle carrying a flag with the Marine Corps motto “The Few. The Proud.” Boldly embroidered around the artwork is UNITED STATES MARINES along with star accents. A patch with the Marine Corps emblem adorns the front of the jacket. And best of all, you can personalize the front with a name (up to 12 characters) in handsome embroidery.

You’ll notice plenty of design detail throughout this apparel exclusive, like a flag patch on the left sleeve, contrasting gray lining in the hood, front pockets, knit cuffs and hem, a full front zipper, and even chrome-look metal tippets on the hood drawstrings. It is available in sizes medium to XXXL. Imported.

USMC Pride
Men’s Hoodie

A Remarkable Value... Satisfaction Guaranteed
The “USMC Pride” Personalized Men’s Hoodie can be yours now for $99.95*, payable in 3 convenient installments of just $33.32 each, and backed by our 30-day, money-back guarantee. To reserve yours, send no money now; just return your Priority Reservation today!

*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to bradfordexchange.com/use-tax.

www.bradfordexchange.com/usmc25691

A Custom-Crafted Exclusive

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PRIORITY RESERVATION  SEND NO MONEY NOW

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the “USMC Pride” Men’s Hoodie for me, personalized with the name and in the size indicated below. Max 12 characters per jacket.

☐ Medium (38-40)  ☐ XL (46-48)  ☐ XXL (54-56)
☐ Large (42-44)  ☐ XXL (50-52)  ☐ No Personalization

Mrs. Mr. Ms.  Name (Print Clearly)

Address

City  State  Zip

Email (optional)

01-25691-001-E26401

*Plus $12.99 shipping and service. See bradfordexchange.com. Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.
**ATTENTION ON DECK**

**DUES REMINDER**

We appreciate your membership and contribution to this organization. This is a reminder that annual memberships expire on August 31 each year. Please submit dues to your detachment Paymaster.

**JARHEAD JAVA HAS TEAMED UP WITH THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE!**

Jarhead Java has a new shopping page and is offering **FREE SHIPPING**! Please go to **www.jarheadjava.com** and select the flat rate box containing the items you desire and then use the coupon code MCL at checkout for **FREE SHIPPING**! We will then make a cash donation for each order placed using that code to the Marine Corps League—this as well as our regular donation of 50% of profits to the Semper Fi Fund/America’s Fund to support our wounded heroes from ALL branches of our military. Jarhead Java is 100% Colombian Arabica, “BOLD ROAST” coffee. Great coffee for a great cause!

**REUNIONS**

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@IwoJimaAssociation.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, 714-306-2239 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.

**Attention 323 Death Rattlers!** Plans are going full speed ahead for our squadron’s 75th birthday reunion in San Diego from August 2–5, 2018. 323 will turn 75 since its commissioning on August 1, 1943. Come and help us celebrate this event. All Death Rattlers, Rattlers snakes who served in VMF-323, VMA-323, VMF(AW)-323 and VMFA-323 are invited. Officers and enlisted alike should attend. Get on the list by emailing vmfa323reunion2018@gmail.com. This will help the planners to develop a great reunion.

**Platoon 1018 of San Diego**, a 1968 all-Oregon Platoon, is planning its 50th Anniversary Reunion in Salem, OR tentatively for June/July 2018. Please contact Dan Stombaugh at 541-606-0398 or email dwstombaugh@msn.com for information.

**1st Battalion 3rd Marines** (Vietnam & All Eras) is planning its reunion for September 11–16, 2018, in Colorado Springs, CO. Please contact Don Bumgarner at 562-897-2437 or email dbumc13usmc@verizon.net.

MARINES!

“Shuffle Off To Buffalo,“ New York for the
2018 Marine Corps League National Convention
Aug. 12 to Aug. 18, 2018

Brought to you by “The Marine Corps League Department of New York, the Marine Corps League Department of New York Auxiliary and Devil Dogs!” With a lot of help from Visit Buffalo, The Hyatt Hotel, the Buffalo Convention Center and the people of Buffalo, NY

Please book early to insure you get the accommodations you need to make your stay a pleasant one.
**2018 MCL NATIONAL CONVENTION • BUFFALO, NEW YORK**

**Detachment Name ____________________________________ Det # ________ DEPT. of _______
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

**95th NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**Buffalo, New York**

**Convention Dates: Aug 12 — Aug 17, 2018**

TO: National Credentials Committee

VIA: Chief Operating Officer

3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy Suite 115

Stafford, VA 22554

**SUBJ:** Registration of National Delegates(s)

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

(b) Chapter Two, Administrative Procedures, Sect 220 (b) — Registration

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.

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<th>NAME(S) Include any Nat’l and Dept Officers in your detachment who are attending</th>
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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).

**PRINT NAME:**

Detachment Commandant ___________________________                Adjutant/Paymaster ___________________________ Date ___________

**SIGN NAME:**

Detachment Commandant ___________________________                Adjutant/Paymaster ___________________________ Date ___________
Welcome to our guide to the Buffalo MCL National Convention.
Please visit the Convention website for all the updated news at: www.2018mclnational1convention.com

Location of Convention
Buffalo Niagara Convention Center
Convention Center Plaza | Buffalo, NY 14202
buffalconvention.com

Hotels & Camping Facilities
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Embassy Suites
Holiday Inn Express
Hotel at the Lafayette
Adam’s Mark Buffalo
Best Western on the Avenue
Hampton Inn
For more Hotel Info see the website listed above.
Buffalo/Niagara Camping' found on the camping page of the website

Event Services
1. Transportation from and to the Airport (10 miles from main hotel).
2. Scooter and medical equipment rentals available. See the website (pre-arrangements a must).
4. Daily lunches will be provided by local restaurants within walking distance of the convention center (ON YOUR OWN)
5. Concierge Services offered to members in the convention center.

Agenda
1. National will provide the agenda as soon as it is available.
It will be posted on the website.
Registration Form on the website and in the Semper Fi Magazine.

Events:
(Many of the events are still in the planning stage.)
Those being: Maid of the Mist, Cave of the Winds, Botanical Gardens, Historical Buffalo (Land and Water tour). Keep a sharp eye on the website and the Semper Fi Magazine for further events. Prices and purchasing information will be posted as soon as available.

Passports or enhanced drivers licenses required to go to Canada. (See website for information to obtain a quick passport in Buffalo.)

Early Bird Sunday August 12, 2018, 16:00
Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Military Park Meet on the fantail of USS Sullivan for a wonderful evening of Dining, Music, Dancing and Touring the Park. Getting back together with old and new friends. Transportation by foot (1 mile), Tram (Free) or Handicap Bus will be provided.

Daily Transportation
2 times a day (Mid-Morning and Evening) to the Casinos and attractions in Niagara Falls

Wednesday August 15, 2018 (Time TBA)
Wine Tour of the area with lunch included.

Other events (ON YOUR OWN)
Erie County Fair
Darien Lake Water Park (Children)

Please continue to consult the website for updates and subscribe to our e-mail update service.
Just request to be added and e-mail to jdsmith1945@gmail.com. You will be notified of updates monthly.

Questions or concerns you may contact the Web Sgt. Jeffrey Smith at jdsmith1945@gmail.com or the Convention Chairman James Ransom at jransom@uwtn-inc.com

YOU EARNED IT

Worthy of a Marine and Licensed by the Corps

Instantly recognizable, of the highest quality and made one-at-a-time from the finest precious metals. Mike Carroll’s USMC ring is heavy in weight, extreme in detail and 100% guaranteed. Isn’t it about time you try one on? Once you do, we’ll bet you’ll wear it forever and pass it down to your grandkids. Call today before the price of precious metals increases.

Free Brochure 888-512-1333

www.EagleRings.com
THE CARROLL COLLECTION

For information on placing an ad in the 2018 Marine Corps League National Convention Program Book, please see the Order Form on page 14.
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

2018 MCL NATIONAL CONVENTION • BUFFALO, NEW YORK

NATIONAL CONVENTION-BUFFALO, NEW YORK
AUGUST 12TH – AUGUST 17TH 2018

ORDER FORM FOR ADVERTISING IN THE NATIONAL PROGRAM BOOK

The 2018 Marine Corps League National Convention Program Book will be published by the National Headquarters in concert with the Buffalo, New York Local Convention Committee. Your support for this publication will not only help to commemorate this National Convention but will also help support the Marine Corps League’s many worthwhile National Programs such as: U.S. MARINES YOUTH PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM; YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE; SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS; LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS PROGRAM; VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM; VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM, AND TOYS-FOR-TOTS.

SIZE AND AD COSTS FOR MARINE CORPS LEAGUE RELATED ENTITIES

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Checks made payable to Marine Corps League along with a high definition copy of your ad should be sent to: Marine Corps League – National Headquarters – 3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 115 Stafford, VA 22554 – ATTN: CONVENTION AD BOOK – No later than July 8th, 2018. Please print or type the information below.

Name__________________________________________________________
Phone________________________Date________________________
Address________________________________________________________________________
City________________________State__________Zip_____________

EVERY DIVISION, DEPARTMENT, DETACHMENT, AUXILIARY UNIT, KENNEL, PACK AND POUND ARE ENCOURAGED TO PLACE AN AD IN SUPPORT OF THE 2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.
**SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

Solid Stainless Steel with Rich 24K Gold and Black Ion Plating

Featuring a powerful sculpted image of the proud Marine Corps emblem

Engraved inside the band with “Semper Fidelis”

Sculpted stars and stripes and the words HONOR and COURAGE stand out on each side of the ring

Dedicated Marines have made great sacrifices over the years to keep America strong and preserve freedom wherever challenged, giving us many reasons to stand tall. Now, you can show your allegiance to the United States Marine Corps and all it stands for with a bold statement of pride—our “Honor & Courage” USMC Men’s Ring.

**CUSTOM-CRAFTED IN AN EXCLUSIVE DESIGN**

This striking ring is individually hand-crafted in tough-as-a-Marine stainless steel. The ring’s original design features a centerpiece with a magnificently sculpted Marine Corps emblem of eagle, globe and anchor, ion-plated 24K gold accents, against a field of rich black ion-plating. A banner above is inscribed with “USMC”. Adding to this statement of Marine pride, both sides showcase a series of stars and stripes in raised relief, along with the Corps principles of “HONOR” on one side and “COURAGE” on the other side. And etched inside the band is the Marine motto “SEMPER FIDELIS” (Always Faithful).

**LIMITED-TIME OFFER**

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

**PRIORITY RESERVATION**

YES. Please reserve the “Honor & Courage” USMC Men’s Ring for me as described in this announcement. Ring Size (if known) __________

**SEND NO MONEY NOW**

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

To assure a proper fit, a ring sizer will be sent to you after your reservation has been accepted.

**AN EXCEPTIONAL VALUE... ORDER TODAY!**

Act now to acquire this handsome ring at the remarkable price of just $99*, which you can pay for in 4 easy installments of $24.75. Available in men’s whole and half sizes 8-15, your ring arrives in a presentation box with a Certificate of Authenticity, backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee.

To reserve your ring, send no money now; just fill out and mail the Priority Reservation. This ring is an exclusive design available only from The Bradford Exchange, and this is a limited-time offer. So don’t delay... let us hear from you as soon as possible!

www.bradfordexchange.com/26123

*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to bradfordexchange.com/use-tax.

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**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

To assure a proper fit, a ring sizer will be sent to you after your reservation has been accepted.

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*Plus a total of $9.98 shipping and service fee. Please allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for delivery. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.
The Marine Corps League’s welcome team greets visitors as they enter the expo’s complex, offering complimentary gift bags with the official show program and other promotional materials.

David Dawson explains the process for doing business with the Marine Corps.

Team Wendy’s new EXFIL Ballistic Helmet. teamwendy.com

Bobby Boatwright is an enthusiastic proponent of the APOBS (Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System) minefield clearing system. chemringordinance.com

General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems-The MK47 Mod 0 40mm GMG with the Next Generation Fire Control system. gd-ots.com
Once a Marine, Always a Marine

Gabe DePlano explaining the virtues of the APX handgun. beretta.com

The MARCO chemlight marking system with its handy dispenser that fits AR mag pouches. blueforcegear.com

Kristina DeMilt and Aaron Sims with a “Little Bird” helo equipped with a .50 cal HMG in FN’s Airborne Pod System. fnamerica.com

Jeff Speights holding the PIKE, the smallest member of the Raytheon rocket family. raytheon.com

(Left to right) Mike Thornton, Bernard Haertenstein, Robbie Reidsma. hk-usa.com
John Belanger explains launcher and ammunition upgrades that characterize the Carl Gustaf M4. saab.com

Karen Ballengee with ATS Armor’s pistol shield. southernpoliceequipment.com atsarmor.com

James Chintala with the Talon® V HAZMAT robot. qinetiq-na.com

Greg Essenlohr shows the Army Contract IMOD cleaning kit, pitched at the show to MARCORSYSCOM. otistec.com

In his Wednesday morning keynote address to an overflow crowd in the spacious Briefing Center, General Robert Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, provides his perspective on “Littoral Operations in a Contested Environment,” the recently developed official doctrine for near-future amphibious warfare. Briefing slides for his presentation and those of other presenters are clearly visible to all on twin giant screens. marine-corpsconceptsandprograms.com/concepts/littoral-operations-contested-environment

Once a Marine, Always a Marine (Left to right) Bernard Bledsoe and Frank Goalen recruiting for the League. Marshall Smith with the new XPRT® waterproof parka. General Robert Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, presents the Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock Award to Sergeant Narendra Sookdeo, standing tall along with eight fellow Marines and one Navy Corpsman, honored at Wednesday morning’s Enlisted Awards Parade. Sookdeo, the Program Manager, Marksmanship Doctrine and Programs Management Section, Weapons Training Battalion, was cited for “numerous improvements to combat marksmanship training, Marine Corps wide,” during calendar year 2016.
MODERN DAY MARINE 2017

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(Left to right) Bernard Bledsoe and Frank Goalen recruiting for the League.

Marshall Smith with the new XPRT® waterproof parka. 511tactical.com

(Left to right) Bernard Bledsoe and Frank Goalen recruiting for the League.
CHIEF DEVIL DOG
CDD LEONARD SPICER, 58TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG

Plan now for the 79th Supreme Growl

“I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO UPHOLD THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS, AND TO CARRY OUT MY DUTIES TO A SWIFT AND SATISFACTORY COMPLETION.”
- Excerpt from the Devil Dog’s Creed

Visit the MODD Kennel website. The Kennel Staff has gathered all of the information you need in order to know what is going on and how to participate properly.

As I begin writing this article, I have also been working on the agenda for the Mid-Winter Conference. I have developed a severe case of “cabin fever” due to being cooped up in my doghouse, recovering from neck surgery, as well as a lengthy stretch of “deep freeze” winter weather. I am anxious to get out amongst the Dogs and bark up some fun! However, by the time you read this, the MODD Mini-Growl will be over and done, and those few days of fun will be long past. For those of you who traveled to Fredericksburg, I hope you enjoyed the Growl as much as I did. If you didn’t make it, there’s always next year. Plus, there are many other opportunities to get out and enjoy good times with the Dogs of your Pound or Pack.

Many divisions will be hosting their Division Conferences in the coming weeks. My own, the Midwest, will meet in Omaha, Nebraska in April, so I am eagerly looking forward to growling with Dogs from the seven states comprising that division.

I am also looking forward to my trip to Belleau Wood in late May for the 100th Anniversary of the battle there, during which the Marines were referred to as “Teufel Hunden” by the Germans, for their fierce fighting. It will be a tremendous honor for me to walk on that hallowed ground and pay tribute to the original Devil Dogs. Those great Marines earned the name that we so dearly cherish. We honor them daily through the many charitable and social functions of the Order, and we keep that name alive for those who follow in our footsteps. And so, as we profess in our Creed, we must “do everything in our power to uphold the objectives” of this great Military Order of the Devil Dogs.

During the slack periods of time between Pound and Pack growls, I would encourage you to visit the MODD Kennel website. The Kennel Staff has gathered all of the information you need in order to know what is going on and how to participate properly. From manuals and rosters, to the calendar of events and the WOG—information is at your fingertips. Use it!

That being said, please go to the website ASAP and then to the Publications heading on the menu. Click on Obedience School, and then click on Awards. Pound Dog of the Year, Pack Dog of the Year, Dog Robber of the Year and nine other awards are listed there. Take time NOW to nominate one of the hard-working Dogs you growl with for one of these prestigious awards. In a few short weeks, Growls of the Pound, Grand Growls and the Supreme Growl will be taking place. Wouldn’t it be great for one of your Dogs to be recognized?

For those of you planning to advance at the 79th Supreme Growl in Buffalo this August, the deadline for advancement paperwork to be in the Kennel Dog Robbers’ paws is July 1, 2018. Once you have submitted the required information, check the Kennel website under “Growl Info.” If you don’t see your name listed there within a few weeks, you need to check with your Pound Dog Robber and/or your Pack Dog Robber to make sure they have forwarded the paperwork. This is your responsibility, and there will be no exceptions after the deadline is passed. And don’t forget to keep a copy of your paperwork and bring it with you to Buffalo. These steps will ensure that you will get to participate and advance as planned.

Some proposed bylaw amendments have been submitted, and these will be printed in the Spring Woof-O-Gram, along with the Jr. Vice Chief’s Sweepstakes tickets. Please sell the tickets or purchase them yourselves. Finally, remember to collect a few extra big bones at each Growl for the children’s hospital in Buffalo, NY.

Keep up the good work and continue to have fun. If you have any questions or concerns, my contact information is on the Kennel website.

Semper Woof!
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What can the Marine Corps League Auxiliary do for you?

The Marine Corps League Auxiliary is a group of dedicated volunteers who strive to assist veterans and their families with the daily struggles they may face and provide support to our Marines. However, one of our most important purposes is to support the Marine Corps League. We do this by helping them fulfill their commitments to fellow Marines and veterans, assisting with fundraisers to support their efforts or working with them to build relationships within and outside the organization. For many of us, supporting our Marines has been a lifelong commitment that we continue today.

Marines, does your detachment have an Auxiliary? If so, thank you for the opportunity to work together and provide the services our veterans and their families are so deserving of. If not, let us help you get one started! We are ready and willing to stand together and work jointly for the benefit of all veterans. You can contact your Department President, and they will happily get the process started.

The members of the Auxiliary spend thousands of hours and drive thousands of miles each year to provide comfort and support, share a smile or hold a hand, help with small tasks, give them a treat, drive to appointments, or whatever might be the need at the moment. We spend time at the VA Medical Centers, community-based outpatient clinics and the veterans’ homes daily, doing what we do best!

We share a strong bond, and by working together we can strengthen and grow our relationship.

I would like to thank all those that were able to attend the Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA. I hope that you found it informative and encouraging. It was also a fun time! Ladies, we count on you to make YOUR Auxiliary grow by recruiting new members, letting them see what a great organization we are and how much they are needed to help carry out our work—work that may go undone except for us. Increasing our membership is how we continue to provide the care and support that we are known for.

Before long we will be at the National Convention in Buffalo, NY. I am hoping to see many of you there. It is a terrific way to meet new friends, gather with old friends and be involved in the decision-making process that keeps the organization always moving forward!

Thank you for all that you do each day to care for our veterans, their families and communities. Always remember no kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted (Aesop). Your kindness puts smiles on Marines’ faces and hope in their hearts.

Semper Fi!

CORRECTION
In the National President, MCLA letter of the Winter 2018 issue, we regretfully printed the third paragraph to read:

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.

The correct verbage should read:

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 she views the Auxiliary purposes and goals. Make sure members know that they are a valuable part of the organization and we depend on them.
Show your pride in the United States Marine Corps with the “U.S.M.C. Ésprit de Corps Lamp,” a shining tribute to the world’s mightiest fighting force, exclusively from Hamilton!

Sure to be a dramatic addition to your décor, this magnificent lamp features a wealth of special touches — from the Corps’ values of Honor, Courage and Commitment emblazoned around its shade to the fabric American flag on the base. Both the Marines’ eagle, globe and anchor emblem and a stunning rendition of the Marine Corps War Memorial are handcrafted and plated in a striking combination of golden and silvery finishes. Plus the entire vignette is finished with a handsome wooden base, enhanced with a decorative brass plaque inscribed with “Semper Fi.”

This stunning lamp shines with the extraordinary spirit of the U.S. Marines — and is truly an impressive tribute to the unfailing loyalty and uncommon valor of the Corps.

Urgent Note! The edition is limited to only 95 production days, and given the time-intensive handcrafting, demand could exceed availability. Please act now to acquire the “U.S.M.C. Ésprit de Corps Lamp” for the issue price of $129.96*, payable in four convenient installments of $32.49.

Your prompt response is critical. Send no money now. You’ll be billed your first installment prior to shipment. Return your Reservation Application today!

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Allow 6 to 8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Send no money now.
Charitable donations continue to pour into the MCL Foundation

MARINES: We’ve survived the winter cold and concluded another great Mid-Winter Conference. As we move into Spring and warmer weather, let’s not forget those in need and those finding themselves falling behind to make daily ends meet due to the higher than usual cost of living during the harsh winter we just escaped. The MCL Foundation continues to be the lighthouse in the storms of life for those floating and looking for a hand reaching out to bring them to safety.

We awarded 115 college scholarships at the amount of $700 each for a total of $80,500. The Memorial Certificate program continues to be the most honorable way to say “Thanks” to those who have received PCS. Remember all inquiries regarding the MCL Scholarships need to be directed to the Scholarship Committee. The MCL Foundation only funds the scholarships and has nothing to do with the application process. Another area the MCL Foundation provides support to our youth and their continued endeavors is the annual attendance and presentation of awards at the US Marines Youth Foundation, National Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) competition. This year the YPF moved from MCSD San Diego to Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, and again the MCL Foundation will be there to present monetary awards to the top high school competitors.

Memorial Certificates continue to be a huge success among our membership looking for a way to say thanks for someone’s honorable service. They also serve as an uplifting and appreciative recognition to families that our Marines are still with them and honoring their loved ones.

The MCL Foundation continues to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign, Amazon Smiles, is registered with GuideStar with the Platinum Seal of Transparency and just recently received accreditation with the Project Initiative. We are still receiving donations from individuals and companies through organizations that the MCL Foundation has an A rating with such as America’s Best Charities, Network for Good, PayPal Giving Fund and Give with Liberty, as well as being listed in Estates’ and company donation plans. All donations are appreciated and go to help those in need.

The MCL Foundation continues to appreciate and thank those of you who have made donations to the Foundation to provide funds for those in need of Humanitarian & Disaster Relief, Scholarships, the Corrigan Fund (for mothers of Marines) and the Youth Funds so that we can continue our valuable and needed mission on your behalf.

I was happy to see everyone in Fredericksburg, VA, for the 2018 Mid-Winter Conference. Stay warm, safe and full of life within your local units and your communities as well.

Semper Fi (nǐghəlɪvˈi uwəhlıˈyuɬ)!

Congratulations to our Division Young Marines of the Year for 2018 - 2019

YM Sgt Maj Enrique Herrera
Tri State Young Marines
Follansbee, West Virginia

YM Sgt Maj Lauren Loría
Col Wesley Fox Young Marines
Sterling, Virginia

YM Sgt Maj Samuel Styres
Rocket City Young Marines
Harvest, Alabama

YM Sgt Maj Kayla Colacion
Tarrant County Young Marines
Fort Worth, Texas

YM Sgt Maj Robert Brushaber
Monroe County Young Marines
Temperance, Michigan

YM Sgt Maj Jascha Ely
East Valley Young Marines
Phoenix, Arizona

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NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT
DENNIS TOBIN

If you volunteer for an office, live up to its oath

MARINES: I want to talk about the word “volunteer.” I’ve been told hundreds of times we are a volunteer organization; yes, we are. Just as we volunteered to join the Marine Corps and fulfill a mission, we volunteered when we joined the Marine Corps League (MCL). We took an oath when we joined to uphold the Marine Corps’ traditions and to move the League’s mission forward. Some members joined to be active and assist in our mission; others joined but are not active beyond attending meetings. That’s ok, as volunteers we do what we can.

Some of us take the next step and volunteer for and accept an elected or appointed position. This is where volunteering becomes a bit more difficult. Every volunteer-elected and appointed position has its own set of guidelines and its own mission within the MCL’s mission at every level—Detachment, Department and National.

For now, let’s deal with the four main elected offices: Judge Advocate, Junior Vice, Senior Vice and Commandant. Most of us start at the Judge Advocate position and work our way through the chairs to Commandant. Once elected, we take an oath of office to fulfill the office’s duties to the best of our abilities.

The Judge Advocate’s job is to hold the Bylaws, Detachment, Department or National, and to handle any grievances and/or charges that may arise. The Junior Vice (at any level) is responsible for member-ship, including recruiting, retention and delinquents. Senior Vice is kind of like the free safety; your job is to do whatever the Commandant needs you to do, including assisting the Commandant in making sure the officers under you are doing their jobs. The Commandant’s position is the biggest volunteer officer position at any level. As the Commandant, you volunteered to take charge and make sure everything is being run properly to the best of your ability.

For any of us who volunteer to become National Commandant, well, we have to make sure the entire MCL is operating properly.

Those of us currently at the National level have been volunteering for a very long time. If you volunteer for an office, live up to its oath to the best of your ability and complete your mission. If you have a problem we’ll help in any way possible. Find out what the job entails before taking it. If you take the job and find out it’s too much, please step down and let someone else do it. This article is going to upset some members, but one thing I’ve learned is that you can’t make everyone happy.

Semper Fi!

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Semper Fi!

Marine Corps League must ensure members are represented

MARINES: We just finished our Mid-Winter Conference, and we are headed into the summer months preparing for our division conferences and department conventions. These conferences and conventions are a key element in our mission. They should be used for training and communicating with the detachments and our members. It is a venue to get the word out and establish policy and procedures throughout the divisions and departments. I want to encourage all members to participate in these events. They aren’t just for the officers.

These conferences and conventions should be a catalyst for membership growth as well as retention. It is imperative that each detachment is represented at these events. We, as the leadership of the Marine Corps League, have the responsibility and obligation of ensuring the members are represented and have a voice in the operations of both the departments and the divisions. Without your participation at these meetings, the members may not be getting the information back down to them to be successful.

Marines, let’s not forget about our “retention” issues facing us. Early in January, we had about a 45% delinquent rate of Marines who had not paid their annual dues since September 1, 2017. I know that most of the detachments are working hard to get this rate down, but we must continue to emphasize to our members to pay their annual dues. All annual membership fees become due every year on August 31. I will encourage all detachments to start collecting these annual dues about July and August each year. It isn’t necessary to wait until after August 31. Get the dues all paid before that August deadline, and the detachment will not have to worry about dues and transmittals for a year.

Finally, recruiting continues to be a never-ending process. Without growth, our detachments will eventually age themselves out. But the key is keeping our members once they join. Every new member needs a great mentor. There should be at least three criteria in being a great mentor to a new Marine. A good mentor will always have time for you. Mentors are never assigned, they always volunteer. And lastly, building a mentor relationship is like building a friendship—it develops over time. Both mentors and Marines need to invest in the relationship because, believe it or not, both are learning from it. Did you have a mentor? What did you learn? Are you ready to be a mentor? Our new Marines need you now as a mentor.

Semper Fi!

New Bylaws will be presented at National Convention

MARINES: Hello Marines, Corpsmen, Chaplains and Associate Members. Our Marine Corps League is moving forward in a positive direction. All of you are making this move possible. I have been presented with many areas of discussion by our members with the hope of rectifying problems that have been found within their detachments and departments. Communication is the key to solving many, if not all, of these problems. Unfortunately, this solution was not present with some members which only enhances a negative situation. For others, sitting down and discussing a point of contention within a detachment could eliminate further elevated action. Some are just too quick to immediately write up a Chapter Nine grievance or disciplinary charge. There is a timeframe which must be followed. This has proven to serve as a benefit to all; the emotions of, “I am filing a charge” with time, changes to “I understand and can live with that”—problem solved.

At this year’s National Convention we will be presenting a new set of Bylaws. You will soon be presented with these so that you can read and discuss them with members of your detachments and departments. Basically what we are doing is reformattting the current Bylaws. The current Bylaws that explain how to do something will be moved to the procedures section of the Bylaws. The procedures section is the “how to” of our Bylaws. Hopefully, when we read our new Bylaws they will make more sense and be easily understood.

I have enjoyed hearing from most of you with your various questions. Hopefully I have been able to help you in a timely and honest manner. In this position you are just not going to please everyone, but that point is understood beforehand.

We will work together to make our League one in which Marines from all generations want to join and support our mission. Our veterans’ population is declining and will continue to do so unless there is another war to end all wars. We need each other’s support to make sure our voice is heard. Improving the tenor of brotherhood within the detachments is where it all begins.

Semper Fi!
Inform new members of the dues that are required by August 31

MARINES: The Board of Trustees has been busy since the Convention in our drive to improve the Marine Corps League. You may have noticed the new (proposed) Bylaw changes are posted on the web page. Please read these; remember they are the proposals. These need to be discussed at your detachment and department conventions then voted on at The National Convention 2018. The Bylaw Committee has worked hard long hours and days to present this to you. What is not in this copy are the Administrative Procedures. The Committee is working to accomplish this by the Convention also.

Recruiting, as always, is a main topic. I presented a change to the transmittals, which at least the Paymasters have noticed. On the transmittal form, we have added payment for March 1 to August 31 of $15.00 to simplify the form. This is used for new membership. Don’t forget to inform the new members of the dues that are due by August 31. These dues can be paid any time as long as the member has paid the current year’s dues. So, get your next year’s dues in EARLY.

I hear from detachments and departments that we don’t have any recruiting tools. Well, why not use the “Fire team” procedure to raise membership? I hope we have not forgotten this tool. Also, why do we have detachments (the backbone of the League) tell prospective members that they are not welcome to be in their detachment? This is very, very counterproductive. Welcome the new members, make them feel welcome, include them, talk to them. You’ll be helping a Marine who needs the company of fellow Marines in his life. Marines that miss the comradery. You just may save a Marine’s life by doing this.

For back dues, if a member is behind on dues of 2 years or more, suggest they pay the current year, be reinstated as a new member, without paying the new member fee. The only down side is they will have broken service with the start date of membership as of the payment of dues. Also, Paymasters use the RI code for these members.

The computer (data system) should be operational by this coming Convention. I say “should” because we know things happen that sit us back.

We have partnered with “Together We Served” and “Jar Head Java” coffee. Please check the National MCL web page for details, along with Semper Fi magazine.

The League is working on an Understanding agreement with HQ Marine Corps to have representatives on bases to inform the Marines of the Marine Corps League.

During the time between, this issue and the last, I hope everyone enjoyed the Division Conferences, National Mid-Winter and Marine South.

Have a safe spring/summer. Be well, see you at the National Convention in Buffalo, NY.

Semper Fi!

Annual dues must be sent in no later than August 31

MARINES: Spring is here, and the weather is starting to get warmer. It’s also time for Department Conventions to take place. I’m happy to say I am expecting to be able to attend all five of them this year.

Our Mideast Division Conference information has now been officially distributed. The host Department of Maryland has done an outstanding job in getting information out in early February so every member has an opportunity to attend it from June 15-17.

As I write this article, I have reviewed the December 2017 rosters that were recently published. I have communicated with all of the Department Commandants and tasked them to work with their Detachment Commandants to reduce the amount of unpaid members we have in our Division. Remember, every annual-paying member’s dues must be submitted to National no later than August 31 of each year. To ensure your membership shows current on the annual September roster, dues are to be paid to your detachment Paymaster no later than August 1; keeping in mind that you can certainly pay earlier in the year as well.

As you all know, Puerto Rico is included in our Division. I have been in contact with a hard-charger down there who already has 20 members signed up to charter a new detachment! This is growth for our Division, and the Division staff will work with them to ensure they stay motivated and in close communication with the rest of our Division. There has not been any chartering date set yet, but you will be informed when that happens.

I want to thank every member of our Division for the continued support that you have given to me and the rest of our Division staff. We are here to serve YOU. Don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

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!
Non-life members need to renew by August 31

MARINES: Where does the time go? Mid-Winter Conference is history; the amount of information presented at the Conference will keep the League busy for a long while. As always, it seems the recruiting and retention is a big topic. With the expiration date for all non-life members being August 31 the renewal date will be August 31 of each year. For an unknown reason the large number of members who have become overdue is unacceptable. There are cases where the membership is 50% or more over due. Why is this? All non-life members need to renew their membership no later than August 31. As we attempt to recruit new members we must not forget the members we currently have; let’s get their memberships renewed. Department election and installation of officers is between September 1 and June 30. Detachments are between September 1 and May 15. Report of Installation must be received at National no later than May 31 to establish credentials for the National Convention.

One large item that remains is the completion of the Marine Corps League roster. The change over to the new system was more difficult and time consuming than planned, but we shall overcome. The minor problems that remain will be solved soon, and completion will be near. Training scheduled for the Paymaster is still in the works and should be completed by early summer. It is imperative that those of us who have email addresses use them. Today, email is the norm for communication. Receiving requested information may improve with the use of email over the telephone or snail mail.

Midwest Division Spring Conference is scheduled for Omaha April 13-14, 2018, at the Courtyard by Marriott La Vista, NE (hosted by the Greater Omaha Detachment).

Interim North Dakota Department Commandant Ray Morrell, in the last 18 months, has been instrumental in recruiting and chartered detachments in Minot, John M. Joyce Detachment, Fargo, Red River Raiders Detachment and a pending charter application for GYSGT Ronald Rankin Detachment in the Watford City/Williston and the NW North Dakota/Eastern Montana area. Outstanding effort pays dividends for the North Country. May 5, 2018, North Dakota is set to become a DEPARTMENT, thanks to Ray Morrell’s challenging work. National Commandant Wendell Webb will install the newly elected officers at the Baymont Inn, Mandan, ND. The first Department Conference is scheduled May 4-5, 2018, at the Baymont. OOHRAH!!!

Semper Fi!

Marine Corps recruiters’ mission difficult, time-consuming

MARINES: The New England Division is continuing to rebuild its infrastructure and devise a new system of community involvement. One important aspect of this project is the ability to assist Commandant General Neller and our MCL Commandant Wendell Web in building a secure foundation within our communities prior to the onset of the USMC “Marine for Life Program.” An integral part of this program is our ability to work closely with the local Marine Corps recruiters. The MCL currently has a program in which active duty personnel can become members of the League at no cost to them. If we utilize this program we can facilitate an open dialogue with our Marine Corps recruiters. This will certainly pay dividends to our local detachments through increased membership. Our MCL detachments can certainly assist the local recruiters through our community contacts. As members of our local detachments, we have over the years established a close relationship with many of our national, state and community leaders. The Marine Corps League members have an opportunity to introduce our Marine Corps recruiters to a host of local government leaders such as mayors, community representatives, educational representatives and law enforcement/fire and emergency services personnel.

Marines, I know firsthand, having been a former Marine Corps recruiter in the late 60s, the value and help that the members of the William R. Caddy Detachment, Quincy, MA, gave me while on recruiting duty—I was able to establish and maintain vital community contacts throughout my entire recruiting area. Marine Corps recruiters have a very difficult and time-consuming mission. The stress and long hours put an enormous strain on personal relationships. Our Marine Corps recruiters can usually assimilate into a community very easily; however, it is much more difficult for our recruiters’ families. The local Marine Corps League and Young Marine Units should make every effort to include not only the recruiters but their families and their activities. I would further suggest that your local detachments drop off a copy or two of our magazine Semper Fi! to the local Marine Corps recruiting office.

Moving forward, your Division has embarked on updating and developing a new and exciting website. We need the ability to be able to communicate with our state commandants, all detachments and our entire membership. For those of us who served in Korea and in Vietnam, we remember the homecoming we received when our tours ended. It is time for us to go out of our way to welcome home and assist our brave warriors returning from battlefields around the world. Listen to what this generation of Marines are saying and be supportive of their needs.

Marines, I was brought up to respect my elders, but it’s getting harder to find someone older than I am. It’s time for the older generation to pass the torch to our younger Marines. These Marines are smarter and have kept up with the advances and the new age of technology. It will be the younger generation that moves the MCL forward.

Semper Fi!
Detachments need to actively go after their unpaid members

**MARINES:** Greetings Marines, and welcome to Spring in the Northeast. The Northeast Division website domain address has changed to www.nedmcl.org, and we are mapping out the pages with an eye to the future.

My AVC Joe DeAngelo, the Aide-De-Camp-NJ Mike Waluk and I attended each of the Department Membership Meetings held in January. Three things came up at each meeting: our unpaid members’ dues, taxes and social media.

We talked of the need for the detachments to actively go after their unpaid members. Like we always say, our membership is the life blood of our League, and it starts at the detachment level. Without them we have no reason for existence. Our detachments must get better at reaching out to their members, and the departments have all vowed to tackle the problem head on.

Joe talked taxes and stressed the importance of complying with our bylaws and the IRS rules and regulations for nonprofit entities. Being able to accept donations is crucial to our efforts.

The subject of Social Media was talked about at length as younger Marines use it extensively, and we are behind in our efforts to attract them to the League. Mike talked of our division and NJ pages from his firsthand experience.

Since our meetings, each of our departments has a Facebook page and Twitter account. It’s an important learning experience and much-needed tools for our future. Make sure you review and like our pages. They’re a social format so we monitor what gets posted so as not to be embarrassed by inappropriate postings later.

The National Mid-Winter and our Division Conferences will be history when this is published. Upcoming events are the department conventions and our National Convention in August. Our Division Webpage has links to each department to retrieve their information.

The Department of New Jersey’s convention is to be on May 31 to June 2, 2018, at the Seaview Hotel & Golf Resort, Galloway, NJ.

The Department of New York’s convention is on June 7-9, 2018, at Embassy Suites, East Syracuse, NY.

The Department of Pennsylvania will be holding their convention on June 20-23, 2018, at the Wyndham Garden located in York, PA.

We encourage all members to attend their department conventions and have a say in what we do in the future. Our membership is our voice. Are you being heard?

The National Convention will be held on August 12 to 17, 2018, in Buffalo, NY and looks to be one of the biggest events in our League’s history. I know the Department of New York is working hard to ensure its success.

Remember our troops and thank a veteran when you can.

_Semper Fi!

Everyone should be able to be in any Honor Guard

**MARINES:** It’s that time of year again! Wow, where does the time go? By the time you read this I will have traveled to Marine West in beautiful Camp Pendleton and made my way back to Fredericksburg, VA, for the Mid-Winter Conference. Then I’ll be off to Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon for my divisional department conventions. The good part about that is I get to see long-time Marine friends and have the chance to make new friends.

It’s been very busy for me. As most all of you know I was asked to start a new committee for the MCL. As Funeral Honors chair, I have gathered information from around the League in order to standardize our Honor Guards. The Marine Corps is asking us to take more of the work load from them, and I for one never back down from a mission. The committee presented their facts and findings at Mid-Winter and will work with the Commandant and the Marine Corps to provide you direction and an SOP that you can appreciate. Everyone should be able to fit into any Honor Guard across the League with little issues and provide our departed the funeral honors that they and their family deserve.

The National Convention as you know is in Buffalo, NY, and I’m sure they have many great things planned for us and maybe, just maybe I can take a bit of time from BOT meetings and being on the floor to see Niagara Falls. I hope to see a few of you there too!

_Semper Fi!

**MARINES:**

_NVC. Northeast Division_
We have to let people know who we are and what we do

**MARINES:** “The Marine Corps League is the best kept secret in the world.” How many times have you heard that? I know I’ve heard it many times, and the question comes to mind, WHY? I’ve spoken to many active duty Marines and recently discharged Marines, and I’d say half of them never heard of us and that’s the USMC business, but a lot of the blame is looking at us in the mirror every day. We know what we do for our communities, but do we get the word out? I know it’s been said that “The meek shall inherit the earth” but we are Marines. The meek can have the earth because I’ll be guarding the streets of heaven with my fellow Marine brothers and sisters.

We have to let people know who we are and what we do—all the hours we volunteer at the VA, the toys we collect for underprivileged children, all of the funerals we provide an honor guard for, the help we give not only to Marines but to all veterans and also our local communities. I’m not talking about articles in The Leatherneck or Semper Fi magazines. Our communities don’t read those so we have to do our bragging in a more public venue. There are small town festivals and fairs where we could set up recruiting booths. There are newspapers, radio stations, small local television stations which would cover our participation in the local communities.

So, I challenge all of you to do a little PR work for your detachments and departments.

As a member of my local detachment’s honor guard, I approached a young Sergeant from the local reserves who was on flag folding duty and asked him if he had ever heard of the Marine Corps League. His reply was, “Isn’t that a club for old men?” Sadly, that’s the truth right now. We have to get more young Marines involved, and I need your help. Let’s ask our younger members what we can do to get the younger generation of Marines involved.

**Semper Fi!**

Get out and start collecting renewals to grow and improve our Marine Corps League!

**MARINES:** “Members of the Marine Corps League join in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving traditions. Promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service. Effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy. Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains, and their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.” That is our Mission Statement, and we cannot carry it out if we do not have sufficient finances and sufficient active detachment members.

Spring is here, and the weather is warming. Now is the time to start getting outdoors for fundraising events to replenish our funds and for membership drives to increase our membership. The public is enjoying the nice spring weather, so they are more likely to contribute money to a good cause, and if they are Marines, probably more likely to consider joining the League. Good weather lifts everyone’s spirits.

Fundraising and new member recruiting should be ongoing detachment and department projects. Every detachment benefits from having new members, especially younger Marines who have recently transitioned back into civilian life. The only way to get new members is to go out and recruit them. You cannot continue to sit in a monthly meeting hoping that a Marine will walk in and ask to join. On the department level, more detachments are needed. Department Commandants should set up a committee to find areas that do not currently have detachments and then assist those Marines in forming new detachments.

I am asking that you start collecting renewals now on your 2018–2019 annual memberships. Annual memberships expire at the end of August, so all renewals need to be collected no later than the month of August. You can start forwarding the dues now, without causing any problems. It would be great if we could have all annual renewals to the National office by mid-August.

On another note, I had some comments that the Semper Fi Store was “out of stock” on many important items, but COO Borka reports that the store has now been restocked. Go to the website and order those items that you need.

**Semper Fi!**
Join Together We Served for discounts on life memberships

MARINES: Greetings Marines, Corpsman, Navy Chaplins and Associates: There are a couple points that I would like to inform the membership about. One is that those who are members of Together We Served (TWS), the Marine Corps League and the Admin for TWS have entered into a partnership from which many of you will be receiving an email asking you to join the Marine Corps League, and the Marine Corps League will publish an ad in the Semper Fim magazine asking you to join the TWS. They will be offering discounts on life memberships in the TWS and reduced fees for joining. It may very well be a great thing for both organizations as the TWS has a membership of over 400,000 members that the League can offer membership to present and veteran Marines, Navy Corpsman and Navy Chaplins. The MCL can promote the TWS.

Second is the membership in the Division has slipped dramatically from last year, but I have to say we have done slightly better than the national average of 50% unpaid as of the December 31 report. The Division had 762 unpaid members of 821 paid and 1,467 life members, a total of 2,288. What this means is we have to contact these unpaid members at the detachment level and find out if they wish to renew and if not, why not, so we can correct the problem, because as we needs work at all levels to correct the problem. If this continues the League itself may be in serious trouble going forward.

But overall the Division is doing much better in other areas, such as Timely Officer installation reports and P.L.M. reports; good work by all in these areas. Also there has been progress in the IRS issues as well.

In other events in the Division the Department of Arkansas held their Winter Staff meeting on January 20 in Conway Arkansas hosted by the Dale Langford Detachment 1323, myself, the Division Assistant Vice Commandant David Nieman and National Aid De Camp Lonnie Young.

By the time this article is published the Southern Division 2018 Conference will have been held, 29 100% membership Streamers will have been awarded, and the top three detachments will have been awarded “Detachments of the Year” with a plaque. They are the under 50 members of Herbert A. Littleton 1261, Mena, AK; the 51 to 90 members of Northwest Arkansas 854, Springdale, AK; and the over 91 members of Eastex 779, Conroe, TX. Great job Marines—keep up the good work.

Semper Fi!

The Southwest Division Conference was a success!

MARINES: Since my last article, we have attended another Marine West Expo held at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA. It was held on February 7-8, 2018. The Expo was very informative and a great success. The exhibitors displayed many of the new items of equipment which are being considered for purchase by the Marine Corps. On February 6, 2018, many members from the Southwest Division came together at the Expo West compound and stuffed bags of goodies for handout to all attendees. This was a great time to meet old friends again and discuss old times. On February 8, 2018, the Southwest Division Conference convened at 1200 hours in the VANC Veterans Center located in Oceanside, CA. We had a great meeting. The National Junior Vice Commandant Johnny Baker was in attendance and gave a short talk concerning Detachments’ and Divisions’ IRS reporting responsibilities.

The election of new officers was held. Marine Bill Ebright of the Department of Arizona was elected Vice Commandant, Southwest Division, and Marine Pat Connell, also from the Department of Arizona, was elected Assistant National Vice Commandant, Southwest Division. They will be sworn in and assume their duties at the National Convention in Buffalo, NY, in August 2018.

I congratulate Marine Bob Wallace from the Department of Arizona on being selected as the Southwest Division Marine of the Year. What a great honor.

The Conference was followed by a Division Devil Dog Growl which was hosted by the Department of CA. It was well attended, and all present had an enjoyable time.

I personally would like to thank all Marines who were in attendance at the Expo, Conference and Growl for taking the time to attend these Marine Corps League events. We had a great number in attendance at all events; I think the largest attendance in many years.

The next event I am looking forward to will be the Mid-Winter Conference on March 1-3, 2018, in Fredericksburg, VA.

At the present time the Southwest Division has no problems that need to be addressed by the Vice Commandant.

Semper Fi!
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

When one mentions the Battle of Belleau Wood to a bunch of Marines, usually the first thing that is said is “Devil Dogs.” True, the story goes we got our nickname from the Germans’ “Teufel Hunden” (Devil Dogs) at this battle because of the ferocity of our fighting, but there is so much more to this story. It is actually a story of survival, of a city, a country, maybe a continent.

World War I started in 1914 for Europe, but not until 1917 did the United States get involved. We were woefully underprepared to go to war, but we plucked up our courage, rallied around the flag, loaded up the ships and called in the men to go fight. The Marine Corps’ strength at the start of WWI was 511 officers and 13,214 enlisted personnel; however, we had men with combat experience because of the Banana Wars. They would prove invaluable to the successes in WWI fields of battle.

The 5th Regiment of Marines was organized in Philadelphia in June 1917 and was first assigned to the 1st Infantry Division of the United States Army. Later that year, in October, they were reassigned to 4th Brigade of Marines under the 2nd Infantry Division. The 6th Marine Brigade, organized in Quantico in July 1917, made its way to France and regimental increments arrived in France during late 1917 and early 1918. Upon arrival, the 6th Marines joined the 5th Marine Regiment and the 6th Machine Gun Battalion to form the 4th Brigade, U.S. 2nd Division (Regular), American Expeditionary Force. They were collectively known as the “Marine Brigade.”

In March 1918, their baptism of fire occurred at Verdun. They lost 33 men, mostly to gas. May 1918 saw the 4th Brigade advancing on Château-Thierry. On June 1, Château-Thierry and Vaux were lost by the French, and German troops moved into Belleau Wood. In response, the U.S. reserve, consisting of the 23rd Infantry Regiment, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and an element of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, conducted a forced march of 6.2 miles to plug the gap in the line, which they achieved by dawn. The commander of the Marine Brigade, Army General James Harbord, ordered the Marines to “hold where they stand.” With bayonets, the Marines dug shallow fighting positions from which they could fight from the prone position. In the afternoon of June 3, German infantry attacked the Marine positions through the grain fields with bayonets fixed. The Marines waited until the Germans were

Belleau Wood—More Than Devil Dogs

Story by Gregory R. Ciesielski | Photos by Marine Staff Sgt. Gabriela Garcia

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller, gets water from the Devil Dog fountain after the American Memorial Day ceremony at the Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery, Belleau Wood, France, May 29, 2016. Each Memorial Day weekend, U.S. Marines, French service members, family members and locals gather to honor the memory of the Marines killed during the battle of Belleau Wood.
within 100 yards before opening deadly rifle fire which mowed down waves of German infantry and forced the survivors to retreat into the woods. From June 4-6, Marines continued to repulse wave after wave of German attacks.

At dawn, June 6, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines were ordered to take Hill 142, but only two companies were in the right positions. They attacked, advancing with bayonets fixed across open wheat fields through withering machine gun fire, and by the time it was over, Marines had captured Hill 142, but it cost them nine officers and almost 325 enlisted men. From this action, Gunnery Sergeant Ernest A. Janson would earn the Medal of Honor (the first by a Marine in WWI), and Marine Gunner Henry Hulbert would earn the Distinguished Service Cross, although this was not Belleau Wood, just a neighboring area.

After intelligence gathering behind German lines on June 4, the motive of the gathering troop strength of the German Army was clear; Paris. On June 6, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines advanced from the west into Belleau Wood. Through waist high grain fields the Marines advanced, and they were met with the same German machine gun fire just like the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines had experienced. They kept advancing through this gunfire and barbed wire, and soon it was hand-to-hand fighting, but the Marines prevailed. It was at a heavy cost though; 31 officers and 1,056 men were casualties, but we had a foothold in Belleau Wood.

Attacks and counter attacks would continue for the next 20 days with both sides losing many men, but on June 26 the message was sent by Major Maurice E. Shearer, CO of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, “Woods now U.S. Marine Corps entirely.”

From the 6th Marines, Gunnery Sergeant Fred W. Stockham and Regimental dentist Lt. (jg) Weedon Osborne were awarded posthumous Medals of Honor for their valor above and beyond during the battle of Belleau Wood.

Paris was 49 miles away. The Germans almost had it except the Marines stood in the way.

In the aftermath of the battle, it was determined the Marines attacked the Germans a total of six times going up against parts of five Divisions of Germans often using just bayonets or hand-to-hand fighting.

The French renamed the woods “Bois de la Brigade de Marine” or “Wood of the Marine Brigade.”

The French government also later awarded the 4th Brigade the Croix de Guerre with Two Palms and One Gilt Star. This is why the 5th and 6th Marines wear the Fourragère on their uniforms.

In July 1923, Belleau Wood was dedicated as an American battle monument. Then Major General James G. Harbord, USA, was made an honorary Marine and attended the event. He was also the first Honorary Member of the Marine Corps League (1923).

Two U.S. Navy vessels have been named for the battle. USS Belleau Wood CVL-24 and USS Belleau Wood LHA-3. Major General James Harbord was promoted to Lieutenant General during retirement in 1947.
Semper Fi: What is your favorite part of being a Marine Corps League member?  
Bergman: It is the comradery. We join the Marines for individual reasons. It is something inside each of us that draws us to serve and be a part of the Corps. We stay Marines because of the brotherhood. It is that comradery that continues into the Marine Corps League as we transition into civilian life.

SF: Tell us about your life before joining the Marines  
B: I was a typical child growing up, but I was influenced by my father and uncles. My dad was a World War II Navy Veteran, and my uncles also served in the military (Army, Navy, Marines); so, there was always this service component after the service that existed in our family. 

I was a high school quarterback and in 1965 decided to attend the Coast Guard Academy to play football for (then) Coach Otto Graham (All-American Football Quarterback and 1965 inductee to the Pro Football Hall of Fame). I learned a great deal about the military, discipline and pride in one’s uniform. After a year, I realized the Coast Guard was not the right fit for me and returned home to go to college. That same year Coach Graham was hired by the Washington Redskins.

SF: What inspired you to join the United States Marine Corps? 
B: I was walking in a hallway at college and heard a man’s voice yell to get my attention. In October of 1966 I saw a Marine Corps Captain in dress blue deltas who had recently returned from Vietnam. My conversation with him provided a path for a career that spanned 40 years. He was an excellent recruiter and signed me up for the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) Aviation package. I called home to tell my parents. It was about 5:30pm, and in 1966 people were generally watching the news about that time and the highlighted subject was Vietnam. Mom answered the telephone, and it struck her as odd that I was calling. You just did not call home in those days. I told her I had joined the Marine Corps, and she screamed. I told her that I would not be leaving until I finished college. My dad came to the phone and asked what was going on. When I told him what I had just done, he said, “Good” and added a salty Navy comment after it.

SF: Walk us through your time in the Corps  
B: I was commissioned in July 1969 and went to my primary Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) school at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida. I chose the CH-46 Sea Knight as my helicopter as I like the mission it served. This aircraft served primarily for troop movement. In Vietnam, I flew the CH-46 primarily moving South Vietnamese troops. A positive take away from that experience is that it could always be worse.

My favorite experience in the military was in 1988 when I had the opportunity to become the first commanding officer of VMGR-452 at Stewart Air National Guard Base (ANGB) Newburg, New York. It was an awesome experience to stand up the C-130 squadron.

The Marine Corps offers us a unique opportunity. We serve the Marine Corps and our Marines to the left and the right. What we take from the Corps is pride. The
most important lesson I learned from the Marine Corps was to make it about others. If you lose sight of that and make it about yourself, then you will miss the mark.

(Congressman Bergman's last duty was as Commanding General Marine Forces Reserve/Marine Forces North from 2005 to 2009, retiring in December 2009 as Lieutenant General.)

**SF:** What inspired you to go into politics?

**B:** I am not into politics. I am an elected official. I was frustrated with politics. In November 2015, I was on a trip to Washington, D.C., with my grandchildren and we were standing in this very building only one floor above (Cannon House Office Building). We were in the office of Congressman Dan Benishek and learned he would not be running for another term. My wife and I spoke later that evening and decided to run for the position.

**SF:** What is the most challenging part of being a Congressman?

**B:** The most challenging part is helping our constituents separate what they hear and see through the media’s lens and what is truth. I spend a great deal of time debunking rumor and falsehood. This takes away time that could be spent working with...
THE SEMPER FI INTERVIEW

them on issues.

SF: Are there any specific veteran’s issues that are most important to you?

B: Veterans have served this Country, and we are better off for it. I do not want our veterans dependent on Veterans Affairs (VA) and other systems and lose their pride. I do not have a problem calling out bad behavior or policy on the part of the VA. The VA should never forget why it exists. I also do not have a problem calling out veterans who try to falsely work the system.

I feel it is important for veterans to have jobs. It feels good and dignified to do a job and have a sense of purpose.

SF: What advice would you offer to members of our military returning to civilian life?

B: There is a very unique difference between the military and civilian life. There is no plan of the day. Do not try to make your civilian life emulate your military life.

SF: Could you describe the House of Representatives Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program?

B: This is a great program. We have received authorization to hire and are looking forward to employing wounded warriors in our local offices. SF

About the Wounded Warrior [Fellowship] Program

The Wounded Warrior [Fellowship] Program was established to create employment opportunities for veterans within the House of Representatives. These two-year fellowships provide veterans with experience and exposure to broaden career opportunities. Positions are available in congressional Member District Offices nationwide. Wherever possible, those selected for the program will be given the opportunity to transition into full-time employment. However, full-time employment is not guaranteed at the conclusion of the two-year fellowship.

Applicants must be honorably discharged veterans, released from active duty within the last five years, at or below the pay grades of E-5 or O-3. Applicants must also have a 20-percent or more service-connected disability rating. Purple Heart Recipients are exempt from the service-connected disability rating requirement but must meet all other requirements to receive consideration. Veterans who are in receipt of a 20-year or Temporary Early Retirement Authorization (TERA) retirement are not eligible for the program. No waivers will be granted. If a fellowship is located within a Representative’s District, the appointment is contingent on the Representative’s continuous representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition to a current résumé, applicants must submit a copy of their last DD 214 (Member 4) issued and a civil service preference letter confirming that they have at least a 20-percent or more service-connected disability rating (not required for Purple Heart Recipients).

E-mail housewoundedwarriors@mail.house.gov. Please be sure to indicate the position for which you are applying. https://cao.house.gov/wounded-warrior
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Proudly assembled in America!
Changes abound in the framework of the MCL

**MARINES:** After our National Convention in August, my wife and I went on a trip to Ireland, both as a vacation and as a way of verifying that my wife is indeed Irish and has not been pulling my leg all these years. The trip was with “Military Historical Tours,” who are advertisers in our magazine and offer us two raffle prizes per year, of an opportunity to participate in the drawing, and two lucky individuals can win the dream trip of their life to many famous Military sites. There have been many such winners who have gone to such locations as, Iwo Jima, World War I battlefields in France and Vietnam, just to name a few. The tours are well-managed with many savvy veterans acting as tour guides and many docents who know the subject matter of which they speak. I have yet to meet anyone who has been on one of these trips who came back and had any major complaints, except maybe, “Why did I not take advantage of this sooner?” You may use the trip at whatever destination you choose, and shame on you if you do not enjoy yourself. The drawing takes place at our Mid-Winter Conference, and if you’re a winner, I hope you have a great time and play the raffle every year. Oh, and by the way, my wife is Irish and also Scottish, and she fit in with the natives quite well. I on the other hand--Great Guinness!

There continue to be changes taking place in the framework of the MCL, and progress may appear to be slow, but it is just being fine-tuned to hopefully perfection. I cannot stress enough the importance of detachments and departments contacting your Division Vices and being kept up-to-date. They are your contact points on all the matters that pertain to issues in the League.

Remember to look for new ways to raise funds for your detachments to be able to bring the message of the League to your communities and grow and prosper as we should. You the membership are the driving force behind all things in the detachments, and seeking new members is, or should be, your biggest goal.

Please continue to assist our active duty service members in these difficult times and make the offers of help and friendship from the bottom of your heart and not in a bar where problems can arise.

**Semper Fi!**
AROUND THE LEAGUE

New 2018 WWI Centennial Silver Dollar

The United States Mint opened sales for their new 2018 WWI Centennial Silver Dollar. This new coin honors the 100th Anniversary of American participation in WWI. The first official purchase was made by Colonel Gerald York, grandson of WWI hero, Sergeant Alvin York. Colonel York then gifted a first-purchase coin to LtGen Mark Faulkner, Chief Executive Officer of the Marine Corps Association, and to Mr. Bob Borka, Chief Operating Officer of the Marine Corps League. Joining them is David Hamon, Veterans Liaison for the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission. A surcharge from the coin supports the Centennial Commission’s education and commemorative programs. The new World War I Centennial Silver Dollar can be purchased at www.usmint.gov

On February 9, 2018, 11 WWII women Marines were recognized at the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs by Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman and Commissioner of the Veterans Affairs Thomas Saadi who thanked them for their service during WWII and presented them with the WWII Victory Medal, which they never received. Colonel Adele Hodges, USMC (Ret), presented the medal. (Front row, left to right) Veronica (Ronnie) Bradley, Dorothy (Dot-tie) Dee and Julia Lynch Slocum. The Marines in the back row are assigned to Recruiting Station, Springfield, MA.
Gregory Hunt (standing), MCL Foundation President, bestows the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion upon former Principal Chief Robert S. Youngdeer during a ceremony at the Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post 143 headquarters.

Gen. Neller with Tina and Patrick Moriarty III, both members and past Commandants of the Southern Indiana Leathernecks.

Gregory Hunt, President of the Marine Corps League Foundation presents Warren Dupree, Post 143 service officer, with the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor award.
Vietnam Veteran members of Larry Nehring Detachment 103 (Des Moines, IA) met for a ceremonial firing and memorial at the Glendale Cemetery gravesite of the detachment’s namesake, Larry Nehring, who was killed in action in Vietnam on January 9, 1967, at age 20.

Standing Stone Detachment 1117, Huntingdon, PA, was instrumental in establishing an Armed Forces Room at Hoss’s Restaurant in Huntingdon. With the assistance of the restaurant’s designer, Detachment Adjutant Elaine Buchanan and Commandant Jaiy Buchanan (pictured) created the room to honor all veterans in the area.

Orlando, FL, Detachment 064 Commandant John Gionet (far right) congratulated the detachment’s top pistol shooters. Left to right: Col. Walt Yates (3rd Place), Dwight Hall (2nd Place) and Dex Conrad (“TOP GUN”).
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Marine Corps Birthday. Left to right: Zachary Mayo (youngest), Herb Long (oldest—100 years old); Tim Baranzyk, Past State WI Commandant and Commandant, Badger Detachment 348.

Cpl. G. Salcido in Benson, AZ. Detachment 1204 presented a 45 to a lucky winner. Pappy Martin, Charlie Moore, Mary Elis and Steve Chavez.

Department of Florida, MCL, Commandant George LaMont, Florida Keys-based Detachment 1216’s Commandant Michael Rhine and Vietnam Marine veteran Johnny Maddox, who was one of several MCL Members adversely affected by Hurricane Irma’s fury, was provided with recovery assistance funds distributed by Commandant LaMont. (Photo: MCL Associate member Anita LaMont)

The Commandant (left) and Sr. Vice (right) of Sgt Foster L. Harrington Detachment 1449, Mobile, AL, lead a group of about 50 veterans (Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard) across the Mobile Bay Bridge, on the first leg of the Gulf Coast Silkies Ruck on Dec. 9th, 2017. The 22km Ruck helped network struggling veterans and raised community awareness about veteran suicide. Photo credit: detachment member M.J. McCorvey.


2017 MCL member Gary Rooney of the Franklin Township Devil Dogs of South Jersey Detachment ran the Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, VA, in a time of 4:29:36.

Patriot Detachment 1230 provided a Color Guard and Firing Squad on December 2, 2017, at the Union Cemetery, Richboro, PA, for a Hometown Heroes Wreath Laying Ceremony.

Lincoln County Marines Detachment 1405 (MO) new member Gy. Sgt. Tim Erickson, USMC, meets Charter Member Gy. Sgt. Ray Lopez USMC (Ret.), and that is the Tall and the Short of It.
The Black Mountain Detachment of Henderson, NV, held its second Marines’ Memorial 5K. Over 200 runners participated in the event and subsequent cake-cutting ceremony.

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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

West Hudson Detachment in Kearny, NJ, recognizes the youngest and oldest Marine present during their birthday ball celebration. Tommy DeFrancisci is 97 years young and is joined by his two sons, members of the detachment and representatives from Mission Transition.

Members of the Department of New Jersey and West Hudson Detachment participated in the annual Semper Five charity 5K in Seaside Heights, NJ. Left to right: Jack Engdahl, Roger Maccagnano, Joe DeAngelo, Barb DeAngelo, Cesar Huaman, Robert Pinero, Adam Tegge and Dan Hoffman.

Helping make dreams at Christmas are Sgt. Jim Woodard, Maj. Phil Beckerich and Sgt. Aaron Bialek.
On February 24, 2018, the Marines of Devil Dog Pound 183, a resident unit within the Holiday Detachment 567, held a successful Rose Fund at a local Walmart Supercenter. The funds will support a Jr. ROTC youth program scholarship fund and provide some health and comfort items to veterans in our community. Left to right: Marine Bob Wilson, PDD Steve Janakas, Sr. Vice Pound Keeper DD Jack Scherer, Marine Mike Lattuca, Jr. Vice Pound Keeper DD Bob Back, Sharon Back, Pup Bill English, Pup Richard Browne and Marine Ron Speer.

Jeremey Blizard and James Anderson of Troop 88 Epworth United Methodist Church, Charleston, SC. Margaret Blizard, grandmother, presented the Good Citizenship Award. Jeremey presented Tom and Margaret the Grandparent Eagle pin.

For over 25 years EVERY Marine patient in the Birmingham, AL, Veterans Administration Hospital gets a visit each week from Marines of the Birmingham MCL “Howlin’ Mad” Smith Detachment 592. Pictured: Rufus “Whitey” Glanton, Douglas Dunn, Brian Gierlato-wicz, John Whitmire, Wayne Odell, Henry Williams and Gene Hopper.

MOH recipient “Woody” Williams was in Springfield, IL, to dedicate the Gold Star Families Monument in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Woody received the MOH for actions on Iwo Jima. Meeting with local Marines, left to right: C.O. Smith, 57th Chief Devil Dog, Jerry Lowe, who also served on IWO Jima, MOH Recipient Woody Williams and Tim Ritzo, MCL Sr. Vice.

Senior Vice Commandant, Bill Hardisty, Longhorn Detachment 1069, awarded its Associate Member of the Year plaque to Alisha Drapper for her unending and diligent support of the detachment during 2017. Her supervision of the support team for the 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament allowed the detachment to raise $9,000 for its charities.

Detachment 790, Quincy, IL. Wayne Griep presented these Eagle Scouts of Scout Troop 1, Blessed Sacrament School, with their Good Citizenship Certificate. Left to right: Scout Master, Brent Costigan, Eagle Scouts Evan Deters, Jadan Sangoi and Jack Secrest along with Wayne Griep, Senior Vice Commandant, Gem City Marine Corps League.

Cpl Vincent “Vic” Shuterra, Guadalcanal Marine, turns 100 in April.
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Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 made a $2,500 donation to Switchpoint because of its remarkable success with funds donated last year.


Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 made a $2,500 donation to Switchpoint because of its remarkable success with funds donated last year. The JC Paul Detachment 1448 was on hand to accept the donations from the generous employees of Hearthside Food Solutions of London for the 2017 Marine Corps’ Toys For Tots Campaign. Hearthside raised funds to purchase 16 bicycles and toys by hosting a dinner and selling t-shirts. Left to right: Mike Ward, Cathy Sims Adjutant/Paymaster JC Paul Detachment, Greg Sims Commandant JC Paul Detachment and TFT Coordinator, LeeAnn Dearner, Carol Roark, Michele Thompson, Pennie Mize, Connie Miller, Vince “Doc” Edwards JC Paul Detachment and Ken Hayes Sr., Vice Commandant JC Paul Detachment.
FOCUS Marines Foundation provides life-transforming assistance to Marines and FMF Navy Corpsmen who have been wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan and are struggling with their return to civilian life. Wounded Marines and Navy Corpsmen are brought to a beautiful, private setting outside of St. Louis, MO for a one-week session where they are given tools on how to succeed in life. Over 120 volunteers administer the one-week program. Pictured are some of the MCL members who volunteered their time and talent for these injured Marines on December 7, 2017.

Join Roll Call!

ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES

Our new Roll Call Upload System is now live!

- Go to semperfi.chipotlepublishing.com
- Create an account using your email address, first name, last name and a password.
- Verify your account by clicking the link in the email our system sends to you.
- Log in, click on the “Upload Your Files” box and then follow instructions.

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

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

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

Our main website is a great place to visit. We have added a significant resource to it—the Marine Corps League Library. This isn’t just a place for books—though we have a tab for that. Visit www.mcleaguelibrary.org and take a look around.

- **Documents Library Tab** – A great resource for documents you no longer have to search for.
- **Conference Documentation** – Check out the photos, reports and presentations from the 2018 MCL National Conference in Fredericksburg, VA (see you there in 2019).
- **Announcement Tab** which contains a blog that members can post to. All posts are approved by the COO prior to becoming publicly visible. This is being used to broadcast upcoming events such as department conventions.
- **The About Us Tab** contains a short description of our League.
- **Leadership Tab** showcases our Board of Trustees Members.
- **Recommended Reading Tab** including titles reviewed in the Semper Fi Magazine, the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ (CMC) Reading List and other excellent titles with web links for every title to where they can be found.
- **Gallery Tab** includes photos from around the League, and we look forward to continuous growth of this tab.
- **Contact Us Tab** that sends emails to the COO’s inbox for action.
- **Coming soon** – 2018 National Convention tab to host our reports and presentations in Buffalo, New York.

www.mcleaguelibrary.org
#WeAreTheMarineCorpsLeague

Local police officers (left) who shopped with the kids for the Lower Nazareth Township Toys For Tots “Shop with the Cops” event, funding the cost of the toys the children choose which are shared with the MCL to be distributed to other children.

More than 100 Vietnam War era veterans participated in a special ceremony commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War hosted by the Marine Corps League, Col. Phillip C. Delong Detachment 1267 at the SeaBreeze Recreation Center.

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE
BOOK REVIEWS
BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES

Post-War Transition

**Sebastian Junger**, a combat journalist, provides a variety of insights to the importance of tribes. Readers will find a significant piece of logic regarding transition integration from war to home. The author sheds light on the importance of safety found in a military unit and the significance of helping veterans find continued contribution in the civilian world. Examples are used from many different interviews and personal experiences by the author. Tribe reminds us of how it felt to be part of a small team and go through adversity as both the best and worst of times. It is recommended for adult readers. This 168-page hardcover book can be found on Amazon.com for $12.85.

**Tribe**
By Sebastian Junger  
**Hardcover:** 168 pages  
**Publisher:** Twelve Books  
**Language:** English  
**ISBN:** 978-1-4555-6638-9

Combat Veteran’s Post-War Journey Told Using “Haibun”

**Navy Corpsman** and Marine Corps League Member, D.S. Lliteras uses a Japanese-style of writing called “haibun” to express the journey of two combat veterans who struggle living life after war in *Syllables of Rain*. They find unexpected help in each other along the way and in those moments, the comradery among veterans crystalizes in importance. “Constant rebirth must be endured; salvation must wait for reality.” (Lliteras, p. 137). We must learn, grow and be reborn from our experiences in life as they are a part of us. The author offers a glimpse of the struggle many seek to overcome. Many veterans do not find a way to deal with the struggle and a glimmer of hope can mean a great deal. This is an easy read with direct and eloquent text that can be found on Amazon.com for $16.95.

**Syllables of Rain**
By D.S. Lliteras  
**Paperback:** 155 pages  
**Publisher:** Rainbow Bridge Books  
**Language:** English  
**ISBN:** 978-1-937907-52-5
THE SEMPER FI STORE
(703) 207-9588 www.mclnational.org/store

1. Gavel
Item Code: G09
Price: $24.00
Description: Gavel with Engraveable Brass Plate

2. USMC Flag
Item Code: G42
Price: $12.00
Description: Flag USMC 3 x 5

3. Desk Flag USA
Item Code: G98
Price: $3.00
Description: Desk Flag USA

4. Desk Flag USMC
Item Code: G97
Price: $3.00
Description: Desk Flag USMC

5. Desk Flag Stand
Item Code: G99
Price: $1.50
Description: Desk Flag Stand

6. Ribbon Bar
Item Code: M13bar
Price: $1.25
Description: Ribbon Bar for Membership
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<td>Color Guard (belt fits up to 42&quot;)</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Color Guard (belt fits up to 54&quot;)</td>
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<td>MCL Plaque 8 x 10 Wood with Gold MCL Casting</td>
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<td>Cookbook</td>
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<td>Frontline DVD Front-line Rules of Engagement</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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### ORDER FORM

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

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**HANDLING & POSTAGE**

- **AMOUNT OF ORDER**
  - UNDER $10: $7.99
  - $10.01-$25.00: $8.99
  - $25.01-$35.00: $10.99
  - $35.01-$50.00: $11.99
  - $50.01-$65.00: $12.99
  - $65.01-$85.00: $13.99
  - $85.01-$100.00: $14.99
  - $100.01-$200.00: $16.99
  - $200.01 AND UP: $18.99

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- [ ] **MASTERCARD**
- [ ] **DISCOVER**
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- **6.0% VA SALES TAX**
- **VIRGINIA RESIDENTS ONLY**

**TOTAL**

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**STANDARD SHIPPING:** Shipping and handling charges for orders with Standard Shipping are calculated using the SUBTOTAL of the order. Some very heavy or oversized items may have a shipping surcharge which will be reflected in the item description.

**NAME**

**AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD**

**CREDIT CARD #**

**EXPIRATION DATE**

**CVV NUMBER**

**SIGNATURE**

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*How to find your card security code. Please look in the signature strip on the back of your credit card. In the signature strip, there are several numbers, some of which may be part of your credit card number. The last 3-digit number (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) is your CVV card security number. For AMEX, your 4-digit CVV code is on the front.*
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| ARIZONA     | JACK A. FROST   | CHARLES R. FULK     |
|             | ED HOLLAND      | ROBERT M. HARBICK  |
|             | CARL N. JOSEPH  | MARY A. HILDEBRAND |
| CALIFORNIA  | CHARLES H. ANDERSON | LEE B. HORTON     |
|             | THOMAS A. CAMPBELL | JOSEPH J. HORWATT  |
|             | WILLIAM D. CATHCART | WILLIAM ISALY      |
|             | CALVIN DUNBAR   | GOODLOE H. RODGERS |
|             | CHARLES P. ERIKSEN | WALTER H. ROUNTREE |
|             | RALPH P. HERNANDEZ | KIRBY STEWART     |
|             | ALAN J. HIBNER  | KIRK W. STIMPSO    |
|             | DENNIS JENSEN   | GREG TALMAGE       |
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| COLORADO    | DOUGLAS M. MARTIN | GEORGE R. ABRAMS  |
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|             | JOHN W. MINTON  | DAVID CONKLE       |
|             | JOHN O. OLSEN   | JOHN W. DELION     |
| FLORIDA     | A.L. ROMERO     | GEORGE V. GERBERT  |
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|             | WILLIAM J. WASSON | DONALD L. ROBERTS |
|             | GEORGE H. SHELDON | FRANK SCOTT       |
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|             | PENNSYLVANIA    | DAVID CHORZEMPA   |
|             | ARTHUR MCPHILLIPS III | RICHARD R. SEWARD |
|             | JOHN E. MCNEAL  | ILLINOIS           |
|             | JOSEPH C. CHARNAWSKAS | GARY BERGMAN     |
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| GLOUCESTERS | HARRY ARMSTRONG  | LAUREN H. KAHN     |
|             | JOHN A. FRENCH  | BRUCE HUTCHINSON   |
|             | WILLIAM E. MARSHALL | JAMES F. MCNAY   |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | GERALD E. MILLAY   |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | ROBERT M. PAYNE    |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | TOM RAY            |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | ROBERT G. TAYLOR   |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | LOUISIANA          |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | RICHARD G. TRUMAN  |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | JOHN W. BROWN      |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | ROBERT M. CAMPBELL |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | WILLIAM E. FRISCH  |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | HENRY J. LETOURNEAU|
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | PAUL V. MULLANEY   |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | RONALD SAMARA      |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | GEORGE H. SHELDON  |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | MICHIGAN           |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | LUIS A. ANGLERO-   |
|             | JOHN H. MURRAY  | FERNANDINI         |
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.
ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.
JOIN THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ALL MARINES

Mid-Winter Conference, National Marine Corps League was held in Fredericksburg, VA, March 2018.

Left to right: MajGen Arnie Fields (Ret); MajGen Fred Padilla; Commandant MCL Wendell Webb; LtGen Rex McMillian; MajGen Mike Regner (Ret); LtGen Rex McMillian, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve and Commander Marine Forces North briefed the Board of Trustees of the Marine Corps League about our new partnership between the I&I Staff and Marine Corps League Units supporting more Funeral Honors, Color Guard and Toys for Tots activities in the communities relieving Marines to maintain readiness of the reserve component. In addition this will provide the communities with these activities if the reserve component is deployed.
Mid-Winter Conference

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“Need I Say More?”

By former Corporal, Bob Concordia

Twenty-Four Seven,
From Hell to Heaven,
The President’s Nine Eleven,

Marines, Leathernecks, Devil Dogs, Jarheads, Uncle Sam’s Misguided Children, Gyrenes,
Whatever you choose to call us?

Our reputation throughout history precedes us.

In any terrain, we will eventually reign.
In every invasion, we rise to the occasion.

In every challenging place, the Marines Corps is never a disgrace.

In every nook and cranny, we fight to protect Mothers, Fathers, Sons, Daughters,

Grandchildren, Old Glory and even your salty, old Granny.

Whether you like it or not, we are the Devil Dogs on the spot.

The United States Marine Corps will prevail and endure, Forevermore, Forevermore, Forevermore.

Need I say More about our Beloved Corps?

Bob Concordia is a former Corporal, U.S.M.C., October 2, 1956, October 2, 1958, retired Philadelphia School Teacher and currently a freelance writer from West Chester, PA.
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.*

-OR-

( ) 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)

(Sponsor where applicable)

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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.

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 ( )

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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.

Signature

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – REGULAR MEMBERS

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

Signature

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

Signature
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