Remembering R. Lee Ermey

100 YEARS

WOMEN SERVING IN THE MARINE CORPS
While much has changed in the past century, the compass that guides us never has.

Insuring Those Who Serve

The world is a very different place than it was in 1879 when we first began supporting military families. But our commitment to serve as their guide has remained a constant. At Navy Mutual, our guiding principle is to serve our members the same way they serve our country — with integrity, passion, and commitment.

To learn how we can help protect you and your family visit NavyMutual.org
1 MILLION ROUNDS OF TESTING IS HERE.

Over 128 years of heritage. Over one million rounds of testing. Now ready for the real world. Experience the intuitive grip angle, enhanced grip texture, and incredible recoil control. The handgun always points naturally and stays on target for fast, accurate follow-up shots. It’s the handgun you’d expect to come from the makers of the world’s most battle-proven firearms.

Learn more at FNAMERICA.com or visit your local dealer.

FN 509™ STRIKER-FIRED 9MM PISTOL

THE WORLD’S MOST BATTLE-PROVEN FIREARMS.
U.S. Marine LtCol Elizabeth D. Perez, the chief of staff for Task Force Southwest, Afghanistan, March 6, 2018. Perez deployed to Helmand province to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces to expand the security belt and to deny the enemy freedom of movement around central Helmand.

**FEATURE ARTICLES**

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The Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States. Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune, the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States.

ABOUT THE COVER

2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of women in the USMC. Opha May Johnson was the first female to enlist in the USMC in August 1918. Shown here are some of the brave women who followed in her footsteps and then became MCL members. Pictured clockwise from upper left corner: Barbara DeAngelo, Barbara Swain, Leanna Dietrich, Mary Archey, Lisa Solarczyk, unknown, Evelyn Remines, Victoria McCoy, Virginia Rueber, Christine Toneyatto-Salo, Cyndy West, Carol Hayes, Myriam Charriez and Sharon D. Sir.
Every member is a volunteer and should work for the common goal

MARINES: If you carry a membership card in our non-profit corporation, you are a stockholder in our organization. In fact, your entire Board of Trustees (BOT), Department BOT and Detachment BOT are all volunteer members who have stood up to become responsible for leading the organization. Every member is a volunteer and should work for the common goal and not be an obstructionist. Everything a member does in a meeting, in the community and with Veteran families is a reflection on the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League.

The Marine Corps League is the only Congressionally Chartered United States Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States. Its Congressional Charter was approved by the 75th U.S. Congress and signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937.

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 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 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 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 and honorable person and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League so help me, God. (reprint from Revised Feb 2015 Ritual)

Every one of us stood up in front of the Detachment Commandant, witnessed by all in attendance and pledged to adhere to the oath of membership. Whether you have been a member for many decades or joined yesterday, we are Marines who took this Oath to work together and function as a Team. We will always have differences, but as an organization we only have one goal and that is to take care of our own. We adjudicate the differences into a common goal. The Team must now support and execute the Common Goal.

We are at a time when the Marine Corps League can become an organization above and beyond our dreams and establish a solid future for the next-generation members.

The restructure of our By-Laws and Administrative Procedures is a key to us moving forward. Our relationship with the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Association & Foundation, Young Marines, Women Marines Association and engaging in new programs like Marine for Life will enhance our strength.

I volunteered for the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League, and with both came consequences of service and stockholder positioning in both organizations.

Semper Fi!
Jarhead Java has teamed up with the Marine Corps League to support our wounded heroes!

Our mission is simple: provide exceptional 100% Colombian Arabica gourmet coffee, while providing support and assistance to those who serve our great nation. With your purchase, Jarhead Java will donate 50% of all profits to the Semper Fi Fund.

Right now when you order our coffee online at jarheadjava.com and use the coupon code MCL at checkout, you will receive FREE SHIPPING and Jarhead Java will also make a cash donation to support the Marine Corps League, too.

Marines supporting Marines!

Available at your local MCX and online at jarheadjava.com
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER’S LETTER

BOB BORKA

The rite of passage into the Marine Corps binds us together forever

MARINES: “... From this day to the ending of the world, but we in it shall be remembered; we few, we happy few, we band of brothers ...” This is a well-known line from the St. Crispin’s Day Speech of Shakespeare’s “Henry V” in 1598. Okay, to be perfectly honest, I thought it was from Marine Bob Knight (Korean War Machine Gunner), who would stand after every detachment meeting and give a roaring toast to all Marines. His eyes would tear up each time as well, because he meant it and he remembered. I was motivated by the toast every time and will never forget my dear friend who is guarding the gates.

From 1775 to 2018, Marines have honored, sacrificed, fought and served to create a reputation worthy of Shakespeare. The rite of passage into the Marine Corps binds us together forever, and we shall not forget those who have gone before us. We, as a Marine Corps League, must also look ahead and focus.

Our present and future need to include a focus for Marines transitioning to our communities. They will be looking for positive mentors in their life. They are looking for a place for their family as they find their own place in society. Your detachment’s family values are an important part of our League’s future. Thank you for all you do.

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 some of the battles in Vietnam. The entries below represent key dates in WWI or Vietnam (1968) history within the Marine Corps.

July 6, 1968 Marine Observation Squadron 2 (VMO-2) at Dong Ha received OV-10 “Broncos” as the first planes arrived in Vietnam.

July 30, 1918 The First Marine Aviation Force landed at Brest, France, for service in anti-submarine patrols over the English Channel and Belgian countryside.

August 12, 1918 The Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, authorized the Marine Corps to enroll women in the Marine Corps reserve. The next day Opha May Johnson became the first Woman Marine.

August 21, 1968 Private First Class James Anderson, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by the Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius for action in Vietnam in 1967.

September 2-11, 1968 3d Marines took Mutter’s Ridge, north of the Rockpile near the DMZ, and then secured Hill 461.

September 29, 1968 In an attempt to slow enemy infiltration across the DMZ, Marines established Fire Base Sandy on a peak 2,100 feet high. It was the highest military position in South Vietnam.
Celebrate the treasured heritage and symbols of the U.S. Marine Corps—from its beginning to modern day—with our “USMC Semper Fi” Leather Aviator Jacket. Commanding attention wherever it goes, this authentically detailed, quality crafted leather bomber jacket is a custom designed apparel exclusive available only from The Bradford Exchange.

With our exclusive distressed leather jacket in dark brown, we’ve captured the look of a vintage bomber jacket down to the last detail. The first thing that you’ll notice are the sleeves, both decorated with replica patches representing the legacy that unites all Marines—from the historic battle of Iwo Jima, to the life motto Semper Fi, and the positive response of OOH-RAH. On the front, a gold-toned metal plaque is handsomely embossed with USMC.

The custom styling includes a detachable faux shearling collar, two front-zip breast pockets, two front flap pockets with additional side-entry pockets, cuffs with snaps, knit hem, comfortable quilted woven lining, and even a hanging loop on the back.

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE... SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

With its custom design and quality craftsmanship, this leather bomber jacket is a remarkable value at $299.95*, payable in 5 easy installments of $59.99 each. Your purchase is backed by our unconditional, 30-day guarantee. To order yours in 5 men’s sizes, M-XXL, send no money now; just return the Priority Reservation. Don’t delay... order today!

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

www.bradfordexchange.com/USMCaviator

®Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps
©2017 The Bradford Exchange 01-26716-001-BIBR

YES. Please reserve the “USMC Semper Fi” Leather Aviator Jacket for me as described in this announcement in the size indicated.

☐ Medium (38-40) 01-26716-011 ☐ XXL (50-52) 01-26716-014
☐ Large (42-44) 01-26716-012 ☐ XXXL (54-56) 01-26716-015
☐ XL (46-48) 01-26716-015

*Plus a total of $19.99 shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for shipment. All sales are subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Signature

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

Address

City State Zip

Email

E26401
New Members:

Members who join between August 31–the last day of February
Pay $25.00 and expiration date will be August 31 (of following year). Example: Member who joins August 31 (2018)–End of February (2019) will expire in August 2019.

Members who join between March 1–June 30
Pay $15.00 and expiration date will be August 31 (of current year). Example: Member who joins March 1 (2018)–August 30 (2018) will expire in August 2018.

Members who join between July 1–August 31
Pay the full amount of the current National Dues + $5.00 Initiation Fee and will have a membership expiration date of the following year.

Going forward all members will expire August 31 and pay $20.00 each year for renewal. This will be the New Member guidelines going forward; this is not temporary.

Reinstatements:

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

Members with a reinstatement date of August 31–End of February
Pay $20.00 and the new expiration date will be August 31 of the following year.

Members with a reinstatement date of March 1–August 30
Pay $10.00 and new expiration date will be August 31 of the current year. Then each member will owe $20.00 each year each following August 31.

MAL:

Members who join between August 31–the last day of February
Pay $30.00 and expiration date will be August 31 (of following year). Example: Member who joins August 31 (2018)–End of February (2019) will expire in August 2019.

Members who join between March 1–August 30
Pay $15.00 and expiration date will be August 31 (of current year). Example: Member who joins March 1 (2018)–August 30 (2018) will expire in August 2018.

Going forward all members who expire August 31 will pay $30.00 each year.
"Shuffle Off To Buffalo,"

New York for the

2018 Marine Corps League National Convention

Aug. 12 to Aug. 17, 2018

Buffalo Niagara Convention Center
Convention Center Plaza
Buffalo, NY 14202

Please visit the Convention website for all the updated news at
www.2018mclnationalconvention.com
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: ______________________________          _____________       ____________________________________        _______________
SIGN NAME: ______________________________          _____________       ____________________________________        _______________

Remember to include any Nat. and Dept Officers in your detachment who will be attending. Also include names of guest.
Welcome to our guide to the Buffalo MCL National Convention

Please visit the Convention website for all the updated news at: www.2018mclnationalconvention.com

Event Services
Transportation: to and from the Airport $40.00 round trip. Send in flight information form on website.
Concierge Services offered to members in the Convention Center room 101-B.
Registration: Form on the website and in Semper Fi Magazine.

Event Schedule
Early Bird, Sunday August 12, 2018, 16:00
Daily Round Trip Transportation to Niagara Falls, August 13—17
Erie County Fair Oak Ridge Boys Concert, Monday, August 13
Buffalo Double Decker Bus Tour, Tuesday, August 14
Niagara Wine Trail Tour of the area with lunch included, Wednesday, August 15
MODD Hospitality Room, FREE! Wednesday, August 15, 1700—?
MODD and Flea Luncheon, Thursday, August 16
Pierce Arrow Museum & Cookout, Thursday, August 16
National Convention Banquet, Friday, August 17
Transportation for all events will be provided.

Events
Order tickets through PayPal or by check. For more information see the Events Page on website. Pick up tickets in New York Command Center in Convention Center room 101-B.
Please continue to consult the website and subscribe to our e-mail update service. Just request to be added and e-mail jdsmith1945@gmail.com.
For questions or concerns you may contact the Web Sgt. Jeffrey Smith at jdsmith1945@gmail.com or the Convention Chairman James Ransom at jransom@uwt-inc.com.

State of New York and Concealed Carry Hand Guns
The Marine Corps League National Convention Committee and the Department of New York Convention Committee are required to inform the attendees of the 95th Convention that the State of New York will not honor Concealed Carry permits for hand guns from any other state in the USA. Please refrain from transporting any weapons into New York State.

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

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
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.
DISTINCTIVE STYLE FOR THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE MARINES

GENUINE DIAMOND AT 12 O’CLOCK MARKER

STAINLESS STEEL CASE BACK

DRESS WATCH WITH CUSTOM DESIGN FEATURES

USMC MEN’S DRESS WATCH

The United States Marine Corps is always ready to serve… to protect our freedoms… and to set an example of faithfulness, strength and courage. Our USMC Men’s Dress Watch is a bold and handsome tribute to the few, the proud, the Marines.

SUPERBLY CRAFTED IN AN EXCLUSIVE DESIGN

This beautiful new design offers a distinctive dress watch that is perfect for a Marine who always looks his best. The watch is crafted with a durable premium grade stainless steel case back and has an adjustable c-clasp on the band. Custom features include a hand-crafted eagle, globe and anchor emblem and the words UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS on the watch face, which is ion-plated in a gleaming golden tone. A matching golden stripe runs through the middle of the band which is expertly etched with “USMC” above and below the face. A genuine diamond sparkles at the 12 o’clock marker and the sides of the watch case are accented with 4 etched stars. Plus the case back is etched with “HONOR COURAGE COMMITMENT” and “SEMPER FI” flanked by stars. Not only does this watch offer a dynamic look, it is also a quality timepiece featuring a precision quartz movement, and a mineral lens. And the watch is backed by a full-year limited warranty against defects, as well as our unconditional, money-back, 120-day guarantee. It’s everything a Marine looks for in a watch… and more.

A REMARKABLE VALUE

This hand-crafted watch is a remarkable value at $149*, payable in 5 installments of $29.80. The watch arrives in a custom case along with a Certificate of Authenticity. Send no money now, just return the Priority Reservation below. Don’t miss out—order today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/25461

*Plus $11.98 shipping and service. (See bradfordexchange.com) Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your jewelry after we receive your initial deposit. Sales subject to product availability and credit approval.
A Call to Protect Military Quality of Life Programs and Service-Earned Benefits

MARINES: I want to say first how honored I am to continue to serve our Marine Corps and Marine Corps League as the newly appointed Chairman of the National Legislative Committee. I extend my sincere gratitude to Commandant Webb, Chief Operating Officer Borka and the National Board of Trustees for the opportunity to serve in this important role. I also want to thank all of the members of my home detachment, Jack Maas Detachment 1379, Department of Virginia for according me the honor of serving as their Commandant for the past two terms. Now moving forward, we have a big job to do together in the legislative arena to protect our military pay, force levels, combat readiness, health care and retirement benefits, veterans’ affairs services, wounded warriors and other quality of life areas (including Marine for Life and Transition Assistance Programs). The remainder of 2018 likely will hold more surprises on Capitol Hill. Mid-term elections are coming in November, and the turnover in Congress could be significant. With partisanship on the rise, the political transition likely will pose interesting challenges.

America has now endured 16 years of war with a great impact on our Service members and their families. Overarching the challenges that are facing today’s forces and the veteran community is the constant competition for fewer dollars, as budget caps are the center of discussions at every level. These growing budget pressures prompt efforts to erode service-earned benefits through reduced pay raises, significant changes to housing allowances and increased health care fees. Our job is to engage with the myriad of other veterans’ service organizations to successfully deflect these. Our job requires that we must remain vigilant and engaged at the national level and in every state.

In engaging at the national level, I want to report to you some of the events and legislation that affects us all in some way or another. First, we’ll talk tax reform. While this is not only a military/veterans’ issue, it will certainly change the way all of us will respond to the tax laws in 2018 and beyond. April 2018 is the last time that taxpayers will ever have to deal with the old, overly complex tax code. The old tax code was a drag on the economy and was attributed to holding America back from reaching its potential. The new tax code, created under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (2017), will be a very different experience for most Americans. Next year there is much to look forward to (if one can say that about taxes). First, there will be lower tax rates for Americans at all income levels. They will be able to keep more of their hard-earned money to save or spend as they see fit. The new code will increase the standard deduction to $12,000 for individuals and $24,000 for married couples—nearly double that which was available under the old tax code. This will protect more of every paycheck from taxes and make tax filing easier. The higher standard deduction is also important to retirees as a large percentage of older taxpayers do not itemize and normally claim the standard deduction. Therefore, those taxpayers are going to see major relief as single filers over 65 can claim an additional $1,600, and married filers over 65 can claim an additional $2,600. The new code will also help younger families. Starting next year, the Child Tax Credit doubles from $1,000 to $2,000. This credit will be available to more families across the country as they deal with the increasing costs of raising a family. In addition, it preserves the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and Adoption Tax Credit. The new tax law also improves saving options for education by allowing families to use 529 accounts to save for elementary, secondary and higher education—whether it’s college or a vocational school. Starting now, families won’t have
What can WE do? As members of the Marine Corps League, we can support the Commandant’s legislative priorities and all of our service brothers and sisters and their families on the matters and issues that I have presented in the article and others that Congress will act on by being active in the legislative arena.

to dread filling out tax forms under the old, overly complex tax code only to be unsure if they will receive a refund. According to the U.S. Treasury and IRS, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has lowered taxes for 90% of Americans and significantly cut taxes on small businesses. Thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, nearly 9 out of 10 Americans will be able to file their taxes in a simple, straightforward way. For your use, I have included the website for the IRS 2018 withholding calculator, www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator, so you can determine the appropriate withholding amount if you have not already done so.

Second, attending the April meeting of The Military Coalition (TMC) was an opportunity to focus on building and presenting a common perspective to Congress on legislation affecting military members across the board and building an effective and united voice of advocacy on behalf of military members and their families. The Military Coalition is a group of 32 military, veterans and uniformed services organizations (your Marine Corps League is an active member) in joint pursuit of the following goals: Maintaining a strong national defense provided by recruiting and retaining skilled and highly capable personnel in the seven uniformed services; Maintaining uniformed services compensation and benefits at levels sufficient to attract and retain professional uniformed service members for careers of service to the Nation; Representing the interests of the entire uniformed services community, including members’ families and survivors, and responding to assaults upon the compensation and benefits earned by members of that community through years of dedicated service; and Educating the public on the extraordinary demands and sacrifices associated with a career in uniformed service and the need to maintain a similarly unique system of compensation and benefits to attract and retain the kinds and numbers of high-quality personnel needed to meet the Nation’s short- and long-term defense requirements.

The TMC has adopted the following legislative goals:
1. Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care and avoids disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
2. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.
4. Protect military retirement and COLAs.
5. Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support.
6. End financial penalties to disabled service members.
7. Ensure the Guard and Reserve system adequately support requirements for an operational reserve.
8. End financial penalties to survivors.
9. Recruiting and retention of an all-volunteer force require alignment of spouse and family support programs.
10. Ensure timely access to VA health care and preserve veterans’ earned benefits.

The philosophy of TMC is that, by working together on issues of mutual agreement, the participating organizations can harness the grassroots support of more than 5.5 million members plus their families and accomplish far more than by working on these initiatives separately.

Finally, I had the opportunity to attend the April meeting of the Marine Corps Council (MCC). The council members are all of the veterans’ organizations that are Marine-Corps-based; e.g., Marine Corps League, Marine Corps Aviation Association, Marine Corps Association and Foundation, Young Marines, the Marine Divisions Associations and others. On the agenda for this meeting is a briefing from the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) that facilitates a shared understanding between the Marine Corps and Congress in order to ensure support for the Commandant’s legislative priorities and requirements and maintains the Corps’ unique role within the Joint Force as the Nation’s premier force in readiness. The presentation included the Commandant’s Legislative Priorities as General Neller has laid them out to Congress for the FY-19 Presidential Budget. I am passing them on to you so that we may be prepared to support our fellow Marines through engagement with our respective Congressional delegations in our home states. The Commandant’s posture of the U.S. Marine Corps PB19 is summarized here:

“PB19, Modernizing for the Future Force, focuses on three budget priorities—modernization, readiness and manpower—directly aligning with the Secretary of Defense’s guidance to improve warfighting readiness, achieve program balance and increase lethality. Driven by Marine Corps Force 2025 (MCF 2025), the capability investment strategy which modernizes the force toward implementing the Marine Operating Concept (MOC), we plan to rebuild a more lethal, maneuverable and resilient force able to operate in the emerging strategic environment.

Modernization—The Foundation of Our Future Readiness: Our Marine Corps must be modernized to meet the demands of the strategic environment. What we desire to achieve is a Corps capable of exploiting, penetrating and destroying advanced adversary defenses in all domains in support of naval or Joint Force operations. That modernized force
would deter adversaries, prevent conflict and provide capabilities required to ‘... suppress or contain international disturbances short of large-scale war;’ thus, preventing the consumption of readiness from the larger Joint Force. PB19 is synchronized with MCF 2025, specifically investing in areas such as: Information Warfare, long-range precision fires, air defense, C2 in a degraded environment and protected mobility/enhanced maneuver. These capabilities support building a Next Generation Marine Corps across Active and Reserve components.

Readiness—The Core of Our Ethos: The Marine Corps is unique among the Armed Services because your expectations require Marines to be a fight-tonight, forward deployed force, ready and capable of acting with minimal preparatory time. We must address four primary challenge areas:

Aviation: Our priority remains building aviation readiness for combat by balancing modernization with readiness recovery. PB19 supports our aviation recovery plan that, if sufficiently resourced and supported by our industrial base, recovers the force to acceptable readiness levels by FY20 with a ready bench by FY22.

Amphibious, Maritime and Expeditionary Ships: The Joint Force must maintain access to and the ability to maneuver through the global commons, project power and defeat a competitor attempting to deny freedom of action via the employment of A2AD capabilities. To meet these challenges, the naval force must be distributable, resilient and tailorable, as well as employed in sufficient scale and for ample duration. Today, the operational availability of the amphibious fleet is insufficient to meet global demands, negatively impacting the unit training necessary to recover full spectrum readiness, and does not support CCDR requirements for power projection. Consequently, the strategic risk to the larger Joint Force and mission is increased.

Deployment to Dwell: A majority of the Active Force is experiencing a deployment to dwell (D2D) ratio that is unsustainable and limits time to train to our full naval mission sets. We must return to a 1:3 D2D force to have the time required to train for the high-end fight and achieve balance with our Marines and their families. High operational tempo is affecting our ability to retain Marines and sustain our career force. PB19 supports an 186,100 Active and 38,500 Reserve component end-strength force while maintaining an approximate 1:2 D2D ratio. Funding at a 1:2 D2D ratio, although not sustainable, is a conscious, short-term decision we must make to balance modernization while meeting current demand and simultaneously recovering our readiness. This must not become the new normal.

Infrastructure: We must prioritize Infrastructure Reset, improve infrastructure lifecycle management, enhance its resilience and ensure infrastructure investments are aligned with Marine Corps capability-based requirements to support the warfighting mission, contributing directly to current and future Force readiness. PB19 funds the Infrastructure Reset Strategy with realized long-term cost savings through a reduction of 1,056 failing structures (14 million square feet) during the FYDP and yield savings in Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization accounts.

Manpower—Growing and Sustaining Our High Quality People: Our people—Marines, civilians and their families—are the foundation of all that we do; they are our center of gravity. PB19 provides $15.7 billion towards our manpower accounts, over 36% of our total request as it begins to implement MCF 2025. It also supports building a more experienced, better trained and more capable force by increasing the number of Marines we have with special skills. Our Marines want to deploy, serve our Nation and protect our country from threats overseas. As Marines, we pride ourselves on being ready and on training for combat in conditions that are as close to reality as possible to enable success when called to fight. To ensure their success in future conflicts, we continue to build upon our lethality as we adapt our training, driving changes in our programs."

What can WE do? As members of the Marine Corps League, we can support the Commandant’s legislative priorities and all of our service brothers and sisters and their families on the matters and issues that I have presented in the article and others that Congress will act on by being active in the legislative arena. It is true that “all politics is local,” meaning that your voice to your federal and state legislators on key issues is essential to the passage of legislation that is positive towards the military community and goals. Your Marine Corps League engages at the national level only on issues and with all members of Congress, regardless of party—every vote counts! There are several things to remember as you engage: be informed, make no enemies, engage the Congressional staffers and balance party interaction; relationships are key, so develop them over the long run and write, phone or email your member of Congress.

In this article, I have attempted to set the base plate on legislative issues and activities that we must support and engage in on behalf of the Marine Corps and our members and their families—indeed all military service members everywhere. Why is this important? Consider that on February 23, 1945, Secretary Navy Forrestal, upon seeing the U.S. Flag being raised on Mount Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima, said that the Marine Corps had earned its future for the next 500 years. Within 15 months the Marine Corps was in mortal peril. The Truman Administration actively tried to eliminate the Marine Corps as a fighting force and reassign its assets to the Army. Only through the concerted efforts of General Vandegrift, a team of field grade officers (known as “The Little Mens Chowder and Marching Society”), two veterans service organizations, the National Rifle Association and civilians lobbying key Congressmen did the Marine Corps become codified in law which formed the basis for the National Security Act of 1947. It guaranteed the continued existence of the FMF, Marine aviation and the amphibious warfare mission. Will that threat occur again? Probably not, but other issues concerning the military in general and the Marine Corps specifically will continue to arise, and we are a part of the grand coalition that must argue on behalf of our Marine Corps, military service members and their families. We all must do our part. Until next issue, we’re leanin’ forward in the trenches.

For more legislative information, see www.mcleaguelibrary.org/legislation.
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CHIEF DEVIL DOG
CDD LEONARD SPICER, 58TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG

Barking out to all PDDs, DDs and Pups:

We are in the homestretch leading up to the 79th Supreme Growl in Buffalo, NY, this summer! It’s time to get out of your Doghouse and start making preparations to attend the signature event of the MODD. It is our duty as Devil Dogs to bring fun and enjoyment to the MCL National Convention, and that is what we will do. I anticipate a large number of Devil Dogs going through initiation and advancing to the rank of Pedigree, so if you are one of those advancing, be sure to show up on time. Check in with the Marine Corps League first, then come to the Kennel ready to have fun!

In addition, as the Honor society, we have a tradition of providing financial help to the children in those communities where we convene our Supreme Growl. We have a lofty goal to present a significant gift to the children’s hospital in Buffalo, and only a few weeks remain for us to raise the funds needed. Remember to have some type of social event this summer as a fundraiser for the kids.

A few weeks ago, I attended the Midwest Division Spring Conference in Omaha, NE. On Saturday afternoon before the Growl, I had the opportunity to conduct a special PDD advancement for a local DD by virtue of him being a Korean-War-era veteran. Because he is the caregiver for his wife, he is unable to leave her alone for any length of time. So Midwest Division Vice Chief Devil Dog Steve Michalski, Jr. Vice Chief Devil Dog Alan Sanning, my Aide-de-Kamp Richard Bollwerk and I advanced DD Sonny Marko to PDD with a ceremony in the living room of his home, with his wife watching. It was a great experience for all of us.

That being said, most of you are aware of the special advancements which are permitted in our Bylaws. Those Dogs who served in WWII and/or Korea are eligible to request a special advancement to PDD, as are those who may have medical issues which make it difficult or impossible to travel to our Supreme Growls. Over the last several months, some requests have not been submitted with the proper documentation and have been denied advancement. I will be discussing this concern in greater detail in the next issue of the “Woof-O-Gram.” Stand by.

If you have been following my articles, you will recall that I have quoted excerpts from the Devil Dog’s Creed in each of the past three issues. As I write this article, we are very close to the 100th anniversary of the battle that earned us the title, and those words should have special significance to all of us and to our organization. The date of the battle was June 6, 1918. My hope is that you were able to gather with some other Devil Dogs on June 6 this summer and raise a toast to those great Marines of the Fifth and Sixth Marine Regiments who fought in the Great War. We owe them our legacy.

A few last minute reminders: Please take time to nominate a Dog from your Pound for Pound Dog of the Year, Pack Dog of the Year and Dog Robber of the Year. Remember to schedule your summer fundraiser to collect a few more big bones. And finally, the 2018 proposed amendments to our Bylaws have been posted on the MODD website. Please take a look at them.

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 (moddkennel.org). Semper Woof!

“The military order of the Devil Dogs is the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League.”
- From the MODD Handbook

FROM THE EDITOR—CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATION

We apologize for the following errors in the Spring 2018 issue of Semper Fi:

In “Events in Marine History” on page 8 it was incorrectly stated that it was the 50th Anniversary of Marine’s involvement in the Vietnam War. This should read: “50th Anniversary of some of the battles in Vietnam.”

On page 13 the website for the National Convention should read: 2018mclnationalconvention.com

In the Southern Division letter on page 31 we regrettably printed that Detachments Herbert A. Littleton 1261 and Northwest Arkansas 854 were located in Mena and Springdale “AK,” which should have read “AR.”
Every U.S. Marine Is First a Rifleman.

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The Year of the Women!

Please join me in celebrating and congratulating those women who, 100 years ago, laid the path for the Women Marines of today. And the women who, today, carry on the exemplary traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

Through the years there have been many “firsts” for women in the Corps: Pvt. Opha May Johnson, the first known woman to enlist in the Marine Corps Reserve; Capt. Anne Lentz, the first commissioned officer; first African-American woman, Annie E. Graham of Detroit, MI, enlisted, followed the next day by Anne E. Lamb in New York City; Col. Katherine A. Towle, Director of Women Marines, was the first woman line officer to retire on reaching the mandatory retirement age of 55; Staff Sgt. Barbara Olive Barnwell, first female Marine to be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps medal for heroism; and Gilda Jackson was the first African-American female Marine Colonel and the first woman to command the Naval Aviation Depot in Cherry Point, NC.

There are many more “firsts” that are worth highlighting, but amid all the firsts, these women, and the ones who followed, enlisted to become a Marine and to honor God, Corps and Country. They are the women who, alongside their male counterparts, ensure our freedoms with their sacrifices and the love of our Country.

THE WOMEN OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY SALUTE YOU!

And give thanks every day for your dedication. We stand ready to assist you and your family in any way possible.

I, personally, am very honored to know all the Women Marines in my life and can say without a doubt that I should strive to be so worthy.

This will be my last article in Semper Fi, as my term of office ends in August, and I couldn’t be more proud to be a part of the MCL and MCLA than I am today. I hope that I have honored the members and the Marines in my family with my service and will continue to do so for a long time.

Semper Fi!

League Auxiliary Activities

Attending the National VAVS Conference, Tampa, FL, left to right: Karen Aune, National President, Karen Bressler, National MCLA VAVS Chair and Evelyn Joppa, VAVS Rep at James A. Haley VA.

Flint, MI Unit presents $200 to the Freedom Center at Detroit Airport to assist with purchasing water for traveling veterans and their families.
The Young Marines was founded in 1959 by the Brass City Detachment of the Marine Corps League in Waterbury, Connecticut, and for nearly 60 years, a synergetic mutual respect has existed between the two organizations. Thanks to the involvement of many MCL detachments, today there are 270 Young Marines units across the country.

Youth members thoroughly understand Marine Corps values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Part of the Young Marines’ mission is honoring veterans, community service, and living a drug-free life. Young Marines consider it an honor to help their local MCL detachment by supplying honor guards, assisting with the annual Toys for Tots campaign, and supporting Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day events.

Headquarters Young Marines
17739 Main Street, Suite 250
Dumfries, VA 22026
Ph. 800-717-0060
jeremy.jones@youngmarines.com

www.youngmarines.com
Celebrating 100-Year Anniversary of Belleau Wood with Coin #5

MARINES: Summer is the time of year to check our communities to see if there are brothers or sisters who are beginning to see need arise. The MCL Foundation is here as a safety net with the ability to ward off someone stepping on the verge of eviction, utilities being shut off or autos being repossessed. Know your community and don’t let your brothers and sisters fall victim when help is just a phone call or email away. Our website is mclfoundation.org.

I attended the MCJROTC National Drill Meet and I have to say, the young men and women in the MCJROTC program are assurance that America is going to be in fine hands. The Foundation became a partner with the MCJROTC in 2017 in line with our charter in providing for and helping Youth Programs. Another one of our annual youth programs is the US Marine Youth Foundation YPF, and I had the pleasure of attending the event to present monetary awards to the top athletes and schools. The athletes came prepared and fought for their schools until the end. Becoming more involved in youth programs is the drive of the MCL Foundation, thus upholding its original charter and mission. We are in the MCL Scholarship season where college students and sponsors have applied and are in the approval process. The final approved listing will be received by the MCL Foundation this fall, and the goal is to have scholarship checks out to the students soon after that. Please remember the MCL Foundation has nothing to do with the application and approval process; the Foundation only funds the scholarships approved by the MCL Scholarship Committee. Any questions regarding the scholarship and its process can be directed to the Scholarship Committee Chairman, David Hatfield at rockytopministor@bellsouth.net.

We encourage the purchase of the Memorial Certificates to show our brothers’ and sisters’ loved ones that we honor and cherish their loved ones who lived in Honor, Courage and Commitment.

The fifth challenge coin celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Belleau Wood will be unveiled at the 2018 MCL National Convention in Buffalo, NY, and it looks outstanding. If you have reserved coins in a numerical sequence and have not picked up coins one through four, you have until August 13 to get them, or they will be released to the public for sale.

The MCL Foundation has received the 2018 GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest honor bestowed upon a non-profit organization for its openness and transparent operation. We continue to be listed by major resources for charitable non-profits for the work and difference we make in the lives of our veterans and their families.

Without you, the Marine Corps League family, public donations, grants/donations left in estates, living trusts and other avenues, the MCL Foundation could not help so many individuals and families annually.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Buffalo, NY, for the 95th MCL National Convention. Please stop by the MCL Foundation to say “hi,” or to personally present your donation to further our mission. Semper Fi! (nigohlv1 uwolhlyuh!)

Young Marines appreciates the Marine Corps League

MARINES: It’s an honor to provide you with an update of the Young Marines program at the Mid-Winter Conference. The Young Marines Board of Directors’ 2nd Quarter Board meeting coincides with the Mid-Winter, allowing us to attend the dinner and share our appreciation for your dedicated support of the Young Marines. As a bonus, Col Bill Smith, USMC (Ret), Chairman of our Board, was presented with his Vietnam Service pin by MajGen Fields.

I had the privilege to attend both the Marine West and Marine South Expos with members of the Young Marine Staff and local units. We enjoy meeting with the great League members who host Young Marine units. I love to hear the stories about our combined successes in helping our veterans and local communities. As a team, our organizations accomplish amazing events all through the year. This last year alone, the Young Marines performed over 650,000 hours of community service including Drug Demand Reduction, support to veterans and Toys for Tots.

Sadly, we lost a great supporter and hero, GySgt R. Lee Ermey. We were fortunate to have Gunny at our 2017 Golf Tournament before Modern Day Marine and work with him again at the Glock “Gunny Challenge.” The Gunny Challenge was his last public event, and we were so happy to spend this time with him. I know the Marine Corps League and Young Marines had a great time with the Gunny in Talladega along with John Schneider. If you have not seen it, please go to the Young Marines Facebook page for a special video tribute. His memorial service was truly inspirational, and we know he would have appreciated the celebration of life with family, friends and support. As fitting, Young Marines and the Marine Corps League were there in true Semper Fidelis.

It is going to be another motivating and busy summer. We will be running camps, special events and leadership schools across the country. I look forward to seeing all of you again in Buffalo to celebrate all you do for our country. We will also celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our sisters in service, the Women Marines, who strengthen our ranks of the few and the proud.

Semper Fi!
Col Bill Davis, CEO Young Marines of the Marine Corps League
We are the Marine Corps’ go-to organization

MARINES: I want to follow-up on my last article and repeat its message until we are all working toward the same goal and mission.

Are we an all-volunteer organization? Yes we are. We took a voluntary oath of membership; it included obeying the League’s Bylaws and Regulations. Some of you chose to stay at the detachment level and take part in detachment functions and events; some decided to take their involvement to the next level and VOLUNTEERED to seek either an elected or appointed office. When we were elected or appointed we again took an oath, this time to voluntarily fulfill the duties of our new office or appointed position. I, for one, am tired of hearing the complaints of how National is forcing more and more on the departments and detachments. Before you decide to run for any office or position read the officers’ guide and handbook; know its duties; if it seems to be too much, don’t take the job. If you get into office and it proves to be too much, step down.

Our relationship with the Marine Corps Headquarters is the best it has been in the last 10 years thanks to our past National Commandant Richard Gore and our current Commandant Wendell Webb. When the Marine Corps Commandant asks for National’s help with a specific mission, we say yes, and we pass that request down through the ranks to assist with the mission’s completion. We are the Marine Corps’ go-to organization when they need something done. Detachments seem to have gotten away from our mission and refuse to follow the program. It’s every officer’s duty to lead his or her detachment in the proper direction. For those of you who are not officers or staff, it’s your job to make sure your officers are doing what’s right for the detachment. If they aren’t, it’s your job to vote them out.

The detachments are our boots on the ground for pushing our mission in the communities. When we put on the MCL uniform to attend any event, we are the most squared away veterans’ organization out there. As General Neller said, he does not want his Marines transitioning to civilian life; he wants them transitioning to the Marine Corps League. That should make us proud of who we are and what the Marine Corps expects from us. Remember Marines as long as there is a Marine Corps, there needs to be a Marine Corps League working together. Semper Fi!
All Junior Vice Commandants are “recruiters”

**MARINES:** As we prepare for the National Convention in Buffalo, NY, let’s not forget how important our growth and retaining members are to the League. As members of the Marine Corps League, it is every member's mission to be recruiters. Our membership in the League requires each of us to do what we can to make our institution stronger and viable. As the National Junior Vice Commandant, I am tasked with “membership growth.” That same mission applies to all Junior Vice Commandants.

Webster's Dictionary gives the definition of “membership” as the “state of belonging to or being a part of a group or an organization; the state of being a member.” Thus, our “membership” in the League makes us part of something bigger than us as individuals. Since we all are “recruiters,” we have the obligation and responsibility to make the “membership” grow by seeking new members. Marines, there is not a magic fix in recruiting and retention. Each detachment must be proactive in determining what works best in your area. We are working on some national programs to increase membership, but the detachments must be creative in their local recruiting efforts.

Retention continues to be just an important issue as recruiting. In my last *Semper Fi* magazine article, I reported that as of January 2018, the League had about a 45% delinquent rate of our Marines who had not paid their annual dues since September 1, 2017. Our delinquency rate as of now is about 34%. I am asking that all Detachment Commandants and Paymasters continue to work hard to get this rate down. As another reminder, all members must pay their annual membership fees by **September 1** each year. I challenge each detachment to work their list of members and ensure that all members pay their dues each year. It is a never-ending evolution that demands command attention 365 days a year.

Finally, I have been discussing the “fire-team” concept with several detachments. This program allows a detachment to assist Marines who are not close enough to attend detachment meetings. This concept allows a fire team to meet and plan their future formation of a detachment. While they are doing that, they are already part of a detachment. When they have enough Marines to form a detachment, they will transfer into the new detachment and be charter members. Just send me an e-mail, and we will send more precise information on the fire-team concept. It is always great to assist other Marines; that’s our Mission. Marines assisting Marines.

**Semper Fi!**

Younger members may have ideas we have not dealt with before

**MARINES:** We are making our shuffle to Buffalo an active Convention. Hopefully with the restructuring of our Bylaws and procedures the future conventions will not need to spend as much time focused in this area.

Now that these Bylaws are readable and workable, we need at least all Commandants and Judge Advocates to have a general understanding of them. You wanted to accept the position so you have to accept the work that goes with it. Following procedures just makes it easier on everyone and makes for a smooth-running detachment. For the most part, when there is a problem, members understand and will accept a ruling based on the Bylaws. This prevents issues being escalated into needless conflict which can destroy even the best of detachments.

Access to the League’s Bylaws will be found on the National website, so no longer will you have to buy a copy and carry it with you. Please do not assume that new members or new detachments know how our League operates. More senior members need to educate the new people.

The Chapter 9 cases have slowed down from the beginning of this League year. I wish I could pinpoint a reason for this, but I cannot. Perhaps old grudges have been cleared away. Chapter 9 cases should be a last resort in solving a problem. As Marines we are a special breed and can work things out Marine to Marine.

As Judge Advocate I hope to be able to continue to guide and assist in bringing together Marines at odds with each other. We don’t want to lose members, and we definitely don’t want to discourage new prospective members with in-house fighting.

Let’s all have a great new year, and let’s continue to grow. Younger members may have ideas that we have not dealt with before, but because it’s new doesn’t mean it’s wrong. We used to have massive expensive mailings to get the new Bylaws out to every detachment; now it’s done with a click. Enjoy the new year!

**Semper Fi!**
DIVISION REPORTS

Last letter as National Vice Commandant, Central Division

MARINES: As I write this (my last as Division Vice Commandant), spring proved busy for the Board of Trustees in traveling to Department Conventions. I had the honor to attend four out of the six departments in the Central Division. I congratulate the new and re-elected Officers of the Detachments and Departments. Thank you for stepping up. As is part of the installation, the members cannot step away from the responsibility they have. They must support and help the leadership move the detachment and department forward.

We know that it is time for dues, and National has stopped sending out notices. Detachments ask, “You mean we have to keep records of our membership? What is National doing for us?” The question we should ask is, “What are we doing to help ourselves?” It is the responsibility of each Jr. Vice, Paymaster, Adjutant and especially the Commandant to police the detachments’ and departments’ own membership recruiting and retention records, not National’s.

National has been very involved with the Military coalition, along with the VA. We have a part-time person tracking bills coming before the Congress. The League has signed on with the military organization to support many of these. We are also working closely with the Marine Corps Association as we are with the Women Marines Association.

I am very proud to say the Marine Corps League has presented the award for Heroism—the first one that I’m aware of in the Central Division. This award was presented to LtCol Jalyn Burroughs of Owensboro, KY. She is currently an Air Force ROTC student attending Apollo High School. In early September 2017 she saw a car coming toward her, flipping end-over-end and thought it would land on her. She stopped immediately. When it came to a stop, she ran to the accident to start rendering assistance to the two people trapped inside. She broke the windows, extracted the victims and, in the process, incurred minor injuries in the way of cuts to her arm. She stayed with them until help arrived. This act was accomplished with no regard for her own safety.

At the Convention this year we will vote to approve the Bylaws’ new format. You will find them on the library page of the National website. This is a long-needed rewrite. I support operating as a company with legal standing and catching up to the world in how we should operate.

Hope to see everyone at the Convention in Buffalo, NY. The incoming NVC will be Phil Zamora from Michigan. Semper Fi!

It has been a very active quarter in the Mideast Division!

MARINES: It has been a very active and enjoyable quarter for me! It started with attending Marine South. I want to personally thank all of those members who volunteered their time to help make it a success, as well as those who made the trip to review all of the exhibits and represent the Marine Corps League by wearing their uniforms. You may have heard some scuttlebutt about your National Senior Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin and I running in “The Battle Challenge” obstacle course that they had there. We both completed the course and are looking forward to beating our times next year! Just the feeling to be a part of anything like that makes me wish I could wear the active duty uniform again!

May was a busy travelling month; I attended four Department Conventions (West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia) in the first three weeks. They were all great events, and I always look forward to the camaraderie of fellow League members! I also look forward to the newly Installed Department Officers and working with them over their tenure. North Carolina’s convention is being held the last week of June and should just be concluded when this summer Semper Fi edition is mailed out. In rounding out events, our Division Conference, hosted by the Department of Maryland June 15-17, will certainly be a stellar event, and I know their hospitality and hosting will raise the bar for the other host Departments.

As I have stated, communication is key to any successful organization. I want to take this opportunity to recognize Division Adjutant Frank Matthers (DoDE) and Division Web Sergeant Robin Kennedy (DoVA) for their dedication in ensuring every communication is emailed throughout the Division and our website (mclmideast.com) is always up-to-date with the latest information for our members. Thank you, as well as every staff member, for your loyalty and service to all of our members this past year.

We’re all looking forward to our National Convention in Buffalo, NY, August 12-18. Many of you may have realized in speaking with me that I’m not native to North Carolina; I was born and raised in the Buffalo area. I truly look forward to visiting “home” and being flooded with memories of my youth when I lived there. I hope that many of you have already made plans to attend and make memories of your own! I look forward to seeing you there.

Take care of yourselves and each other, and let’s keep our overseas Marines and Corpsmen in our thoughts and prayers. Semper Fi!
DIVISION REPORTS

Time for Conferences and new officers

MARINES: Well, here we are again; the snow has melted in North Dakota and Minnesota, and summer has arrived. National Commandant Wendell Webb installed the Department of North Dakota on May 5, 2018. At the time of this writing the following people planned to attend the installation: Past Division Commandants, Erling Larson (1985–1988), Jerry Moorhead (2002–2006), Bryson Allen (2006–2010), Wendell Webb (2010–2014), David Hunter (2014–2016) and current Division Vice Commandant Harvey Harris (2016–Present); also representing the Auxiliary was Midwest Division Vice President, Darlene MacCubbin. During the past two years North Dakota became eligible to become a department due to the diligent work of MCL members in North Dakota and the newly elected Department Commandant, Ray Morrell. Also in the past two years, North Dakota has chartered three new detachments in addition to the Dakota Leathernecks Detachment located in Mandan: John M. Joyce Detachment, Minot, Red River Raiders Detachment, Fargo and newly chartered GySgt Ronald Rankin Detachment, Northwest North Dakota/Northeast Montana Williston area. Additional Midwest Division members in attendance included South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota.

The Midwest Division is working toward getting all roster information current. Several problems were found when attempting to update the new system. One problem found when attempting to renew a delinquent member was the database would search the system and apply the renewal amount to an old invoice that remained as open on the system. Instead of showing the member as current on the roster, National’s roster would show the member’s dues as overdue. This information was not available to paymasters and did not jive with the expiration date as listed on the National roster which caused several headaches with paymasters and members. By the time this article is in print hopefully that problem will have been corrected.

It is time for detachments and departments to have their conferences and elect new officers. Remember to send your Report of Officer Installation (ROI) to the Department Paymaster as soon as the installation is complete. Most detachments and departments will also be due for their Secretary of State Not for Profit renewal along with the IRS 990-N form. Have a great summer! See everyone as we shuffle off to Buffalo.

Semper Fi!

I applaud the new initiatives and continued efforts

MARINES: I am happy to report that the Department Commandant of Vermont, Herbert Drew, did an excellent job in hosting the New England Division Conference this year.

The highlight of the Conference was the introduction of the New England Division Strategic Plan for the upcoming 2018–2019 year. The Commandants of the six New England states were given outlines of the New England Division missions and objectives. One of our important missions is to come together, recommit as Marines and improve our MCL organization.

It is incumbent upon you as Department Commandants to stress to your Detachment Commandants the importance of calling delinquent members and asking them to renew their membership. The issue of recruiting and retaining MCL members has come up for as long as I can remember; our very existence depends on it. We need to get the word out to those discharged or transitioning Marines and their families in our hometowns and invite them to MCL events.

I applaud the improvements made by our National Commandant Wendell Webb and your Board of Trustees in rewriting many of the new MCL initiatives and their efforts to improve programs and policies. I feel these new initiatives have brought us to a higher plateau. Please continue to support Commandant Webb, your Board of Trustees and our COO Robert Borka and his staff on their efforts to breathe new life into the MCL.

At the New England Division Conference I announced I will be stepping down as of the National Convention in Buffalo, NY. As many of you know I suffer from an affliction known as “MG” or myasthenia gravis. It is a chronic weakening of muscles, which includes breathing and occasional double vision. Over the past few months my condition has gotten worse, and I am having trouble walking, talking and breathing. I feel for the good of the Division and the MCL that the National Commandant take my recommendation to appoint my Assistant Division Vice Commandant David Porter to fill in for the remainder of my term. I’m also recommending to the National Commandant that my Chief of Staff Joseph Messina be appointed as the Assistant Division Vice Commandant for that same period of time. It seems only fitting that on my 50th year as an MCL member, I reduce my workload and work on my health. I wish to thank you for many years of camaraderie and friendship extended to both my wife and myself.

Semper Fi!
A busy time for the Northeast Division

**MARINES:** We held a successful Division Conference in April with Marines from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania coming together to discuss our plans for the upcoming year. Dues renewal was first and center again with our Division numbers at about 12% unpaid as of the March 31 Roster. Many of our detachments have really worked hard and are at 100% paid membership. We will be sending out dues reminders in June, July and August with annual dues owed as of September 2018. Confused? Look at your membership card to verify when dues are owed. The Memorial Day parades and events get us out into the community again after a very long winter, and we want to look our best uniformwise.

Each of our departments held their Annual Conventions in June with the Department of Pennsylvania reaching the 75th Anniversary milestone. New Jersey is leading our charge on the Social Media front, and all our departments are continuing to learn by their example. The Department of New York has been busy finalizing the special events and happenings for the Buffalo National Convention. The attendance numbers being reported are HUGE; this will be the biggest National Convention ever. A special 100th Anniversary of Belleau Wood patch is being created for the Devil Dogs along with a few other surprises from the Department of New York.

After the National Convention we will once more be at Modern Day Marine and supporting our Marines. The Military Funeral Honors Program is still being formulated in conjunction with the Marine Forces Reserve Staff. Remember, it is their program and responsibility, so we will have to earn their recognition to go forward. NVC T.J. Morgan has created a Facebook page to help pass along news and share ideas from those who already participate with Funeral Honors in one way or another. It is our Duty and Honor as United States Marines to pay tribute to those who pass before us.

_Semper Fi!

Too much work to do, too little time!

**MARINES:** That’s my theme for this year. Here in the Northwest we are hard at work. By the time you read this we should be well on our way to a visit to Buffalo and then to the great Northwest for the 2019 Convention. Billings, MT, is hard at work to make sure you have a good time. I have seen some of the things going on, but I swore to secrecy. If you have never been to the Big Sky state, you’re in for a treat. (I hear Dennis Tobin, your National Sr. Vice, is getting fitted for chaps and a 10-gallon cowboy hat!)

All of our department conventions are in the books, and a lot of information was passed on at each of them! I want to thank the Department of Idaho for having me as their guest of honor and key note speaker. I drove to Bozeman this year for their convention. Congratulations to Daniel Ritter for receiving this year’s NW Division Marine of the year. You do an excellent job for your detachment and for your community.

I want to invite everyone to the NW Division Conference on September 14–15. There is no registration for this event. We try and keep the cost as low as we can. We will be having an auction again this year to help fund next year’s event, so if you have a worthy item to donate, bring it! We love having this Conference just after National Convention so we may give the latest news from the MCL. More information including room rates, dates and location may be found on the NWDIV website at mcl-nwdiv.org.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank you for another 2 years as your NVC. I have worked hard the first two and will continue to work hard the next two. Remember one thing—I push all the information out to your Department Commandants as soon as I get it, so it’s important that you take the time to read it when it gets to you. I’m always amazed at the amount of info I push out and then get a comment of “I never heard that.” Time to end that trend. If you are an up- and-coming officer and Board of Trustees member of your detachment or Department, it’s your obligation to keep your members informed.

Be safe and smart and mentor anyone who needs it. I am still being mentored!

_Semper Fi!
MARINES: It’s that time of the year again. All the departments are either getting ready for their respective conventions or have already held them. A big thank you goes out to all those responsible for organizing these events. I know from experience that this is not an easy task.

Although recruiting and retention is still at the top of my priorities, I believe involvement is a close second. All of us started out in a detachment and noticed that everything was being handled by just a few volunteers who were everywhere and were willing to do anything that was needed. This involvement includes accepting an appointed position, serving on a committee, helping arrange the meeting place, accepting the nomination for an elected office and much more. Exactly how to get Marines involved in the everyday operations of the departments and the detachments is something we all struggle with. I think that one important thing we can do is to get new members involved as soon as possible. If they feel that they’ve accomplished something meaningful, it might be the impetus they need. The younger members have jobs and families so their time is limited, but if they can be involved in a small way, they will eventually become more involved. If you have been successful integrating new members and encouraging your members to be more active, I would love to hear from you.

A big “thank you” goes out to the Department of New Mexico for holding a very successful convention last week. They are enthusiastic about the mission, and the professionalism of their committee was evident. It was a special honor to meet a code talker who attended the banquet. It was worth the 6-hour drive through some very beautiful country. I enjoyed myself very much, and it was great seeing old acquaintances and making new ones. Right now I’m preparing for Colorado’s convention in a few days, then Wyoming two weeks later and Utah two weeks after that.

All of this work is in preparation for the National Convention in Buffalo, NY. I encourage all of you who are able, to attend. You will never regret attending a National Convention. If you didn’t have a chance to go on a honeymoon, Niagara Falls is right there. The Convention Committee always does a great job, and there will be many fun things to do. I look forward to seeing you in Buffalo.

Semper Fi!

With department and detachment elections completed, now is the time to plan our Marine Corps League 2018–2019 activities

MARINES: One of the best ways for a detachment to attract and retain more members is to have planned activities for member participation. It is very easy for members to fall into the routine of attending regular monthly meetings and simply forget the Marine Corps League until the next monthly meeting comes around. Over time, members can become bored with the same routine and decide to skip the meetings altogether. It’s called atrophy. Our muscles atrophy if we don’t exercise them through moderate activity, and likewise, our detachments can atrophy if we do not have some planned regular activities to keep them strong.

Some good activities include: attending your Department Quarterly Meetings and Convention and your Division Convention, the National Convention and Mid-Winter Conference, when possible; recruiting and fundraising, which should be planned multiple times each year by the Detachment Commandant; calling or visiting with sick and disabled members; and attending the funerals of veterans in your area and attending members’ funerals within your Department. Attending our members’ funerals is one of the best acts of loving kindness we can show for our brother and sister Marines and to their families.

Last, I want to ask every Detachment Commandant to make a firm commitment to his office. Take the responsibility of your office seriously, diligently perform the job to which you were elected and remember that you swore an oath that includes, “I will subordinate myself to the best interests of my fellow Marines and the Marine Corps League.”

To accomplish that part of your voluntary oath, you should attend all Department Conventions and meetings for the information and instruction they can provide you and your members. You must immediately pass on information and emails received from your Department Commandant to your members, and you must take responsibility for seeing that all required Marine Corps League, state and federal reports are correctly filed in a timely manner. You are responsible for your Detachment’s proper conduct. The MCL must have the enthusiastic and well-informed leadership of each Detachment Commandant for continued growth and service to our members.

Semper Fi!
The Southwest Division has been busy!

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

I have just returned home from the 2018 Department of Nevada Convention which was held at the Eastside Cannery Hotel and Casino located in Las Vegas, NV. The Department Convention and the Pack of Nevada Growl were both excellent, informative meetings, and all hands had a good time. The newly elected Commandant for the Department of Nevada is Paul Bowen, who was sworn in by the Assistant Vice Commandant, Southwest Division, Bill Ebright. Paul accomplished an excellent record during his prior term as Commandant.

I had the pleasure of attending the local Boy Scout troop meeting in Pahrump, NV, on April 25, 2018. During this meeting I was pleased to award the Marine Corps League Good Citizenship Award to two local young men who have completed the requirements for advancement. They both attained the Rank of Eagle Scout. Congratulations to them—this was a first for the local Boy Scout troop.

The Departments of Arizona and California each held their Spring Conferences which I was unable to attend for health reasons. The Assistant Vice Commandant for Southwest Division, Bill Ebright, has filled in for me whenever and wherever necessary. Thank you Bill!

At this writing, I plan to have attended both the Department of Arizona and the Department of California Conventions. The Department of Arizona held its Convention on June 8-9, 2018, at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa in Glendale, AZ. This Convention was sponsored by the White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246 of Surprise, AZ. The Banquet was held on the evening of June 9, 2018. The following week the Department of California held its Convention on June 14-17, 2018, at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District hall in Clovis, CA, and the Department Banquet was held at the Best Western Clovis Cole Hotel. This Convention was sponsored by Fresno Detachment 014 (Fresno, CA).

**Semper Fi!**
“Answering the Nation’s Call for 100 Years”

LtCol Beth M. Wolny, 0402
Service: 18 years, 2000–Present
MOS: Reserves, I MEF G-4

Originally employed as an emergency wartime measure, women have grown from “Free a Marine to Fight” to fighting alongside those male Marines as equal partners. They receive the same pay as their male counterparts while discovering opportunities, freedom and camaraderie serving in an institution where other women had not gone before. They have contributed to the nation’s security in unique ways. As Lionesses and Female Engagement Team (FET) members, women gave back to the nation in ways that men simply could not. Without women, this would not be the most powerful military in the world.

In World War I, extreme manpower shortages drove Josephus Daniels, then Secretary of the Navy, to consider women as more than nurses (Hewitt, L.L., Captain, USMCR, Women Marines in World War I (Washington, DC: History Division, USMC, 1974), p. 3). Naval law that referred to enlistment of “persons,” instead of Army law that referred to enlistment of “male persons,” enabled the Navy and Marines to enlist women as reservists to serve temporarily in administrative positions (Ibid, p. 9).

Twenty-five years later, another world war and the urgent need for combatant Marines instigated the enlistment of women again, this time in dramatically larger numbers. The Marine Corps welcomed more than 20,000 women in the Marine Corps Women’s
Reserve (MCWR) (Ibid, pp. 2–6). Though still primarily to “Free a Marine to Fight,” they found themselves serving in more than 200 job classifications—as truck drivers, electricians, mechanics, aerial photographers, cryptographers, painters, parachute riggers, paymasters and aviation technicians. (The mission of the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve was “to provide women trained and qualified for duty in the shore establishments of the Marine Corps, thereby releasing additional male Marines for combat duty.” In Pat (Major) Meid, Marine Corps Women’s Reserve in World War II, Marine Corps Historical Reference Series 37 (Washington, DC: Marine Corps Historical Branch, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1964), p. 1.)

When the war ended, the Marine Corps expected the women to return to their pre-war roles. Congress legislated women a permanent position in the 1948 Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, in the first of what would become a pattern of continued recognition for their national service.

The Vietnam War and the women’s movement ushered in more dramatic changes. A January 1966 Parade article quoted, “Women fought as hard as men to build this country … you’d think we were a bunch of sissies”(Anderson, J., “Should We Send Our Women Soldiers to Vietnam?,” Parade, Jan. 1966) in protest of male protectionism. A growing number of servicewomen demanded the opportunity to serve in Vietnam—and got it.

Their service, Congressional passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, alongside the transition to an All Volunteer Force, led to the first non-wartime expansion of opportunities. A new generation of women found equal pay for equal work as well as exciting careers. The Defense Department claimed to be on the “frontlines of the war on sexism” as the “equal opportunity employer of choice” (Rustad, M., Women in Khaki: The American Enlisted Woman (New York, NY, United States: Praeger Security International, 1982), pp. 61–72). Women helped the AVF by countering the idea of “an army of the poor.” High quality men did not need to join the military, while low quality men struggled with new, increasingly complex, weapons systems. Women, usually with more education, offset the balance with brains (Ibid, pp. 86–7).

Commandant Louis Wilson believed in women’s ability to serve. He opened the operating forces, professional military schools and a host of military occupational specialties. Women suddenly (again) became truck drivers, aviation mechanics, combat engineers and logisticians. Over the next four decades, women qualified on rifles, learned defensive and then offensive tactics. They deployed and went to war. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan witnessed women leading logistics convoys, standing watch, searching women as Lionesses and conducting infantry patrols as Female Engagement Team (FET) members. Women have received nearly 450 combat action ribbons since 2001.

As women have answered the nation’s call to serve, they have upended previously held social norms and replaced them with new ideas about what women can and should do for the nation. Today, the military could not operate as the most powerful military in the world without its women. The significance of women in the military has always been a two-way relationship—the nation needed women as much as the women wanted the opportunity to serve, to be treated as equally important in the nation’s defense as its men.

“The Significance of Women Marines: A Warfighting Capability”

Captain Jessica R. Giusti
Served: 2006 to Present
MOS: Signals Intelligence/Electronic Warfare Officer

Women have distinguished themselves as Marines for 100 years and continue to do so ever-expanding ways. The last two decades have seen momentous change: women have fought shoulder-to-shoulder with men on the battlefield against extremist organizations around the world. The success of Lioness program and Female Engagement Teams (FET) in Iraq and Afghanistan unlocked opportunities for women serving in the Marine Corps. Lioness and FET missions provided tangible, repeated proof that women could withstand and thrive in the rigors of combat on a larger scale than previous conflicts. The operational success of Lioness and FET missions directly influenced the Corps and the American people to begin to accept women in combat roles and solidified a role where women could use gender to the Corps’ advantage. Women in the Marine Corps will continue to be vital to mission success in future operating environments because they improve the Corps’ ability to use information as a weapon.

In the future operating environment described in the Marine Corps Operating Concept, the complexities of human terrain in megacities, combined with the advancement of the information age, will evolve warfare and expand the need for the Marine Corps to succeed in a “three-block war.” The civilian population affected by operations across the range of military operations must be engaged and protected. Women throughout the Marine Corps, especially in combat roles closest to the civilian population in an area of operations, are a crucial element of using information as a weapon to achieve tactical and strategic victory. Counterinsurgency operations depend on the friendly force’s ability to influence human terrain to their advantage, starving an insurgent force of anonymity and freedom of maneuver.

As Lioness and FET Marines did over the last two decades, women Marines will continue to provide a unique capability in conducting maneuver warfare through information operations. MCDP 1 Warfighting states: “The essence of maneuver is taking action to generate and exploit some kind of advantage over the enemy as a means of accomplishing our objectives as effectively as possible.” Information operations and strategic messaging are increasingly important as the world becomes more interconnected than ever. Furthermore, in messaging campaigns, the person communicating the message is part of the message: Women can influence portions of the population unreachable by their male coun-
terparts because they are women. The inverse is also true. Integrated teams of men and women, therefore, increase the Corps’ ability to maneuver because they help gain the trust of the civilian population while respecting cultural and religious norms. The Marine Corps is better poised for the complexities of modern warfare because of the expanded roles available to women and their integration at the tactical edge of the battlefield.

As they have for 100 years, women Marines will continue to serve with distinction and provide a necessary capability to the Marine Air Ground Task Force across the range of military operations. Diversity in every portion of the Marine Corps offers commanders more flexibility to weaponize information in accordance with the Marine Corps Operating Concept. Thanks to the trailblazing women of the Lioness and Female Engagement Teams of the last 17 years, the Marine Corps is better prepared to maneuver in the information age. For 100 years, women have not just been allowed to be Marines; women Marines have proven they are a vital component of the Corps’ warfighting capability and will continue to do so in perpetuity.

“Gender-Neutral Training Standards: The Final Barrier for Women in the Marine Corps”

Captain Nicole M. Kreis
Expeditionary Warfare School, Marine Corps University

Over the past 100 years, women from all walks of life have contributed to the Marine Corps’ legacy. Original trailblazers such as Opha May Johnson and Barbara Jean Dulinsky paved the way for young women to earn title of Marine and proved women were capable of performing alongside men in combat (History Division, USMC, “Selected March Dates of Marine Corps Historical Significance,” This Month in History, March 17, 1967. Archived from the original on Nov. 28, 2010. Retrieved Dec. 15, 2017). However, even after 100 years of service, women still struggle to earn the same respect as their male peers in the Marine Corps. Now, as the Marine Corps approaches its centennial of women serving in the Corps, women are empowered more than ever to become advocates for change. Gender-neutral performance standards and integrated training must be adopted to enforce a culture where men and women in the Marine Corps view each other as equals.

One of the most noticeable ways women lose credibility and respect from their male counterparts is through gender-specific physical fitness test (PFT) and combat fitness test standards. The Marine Corps is culturally and doctrinally tied to physical fitness, therefore, “when ... [men] can see that women are held to lower standards and have a much lower fitness requirement to max out the PFT, [it] causes cultural reverberations down the line,” says retired Lieutenant Colonel Kate Germano (J. Bennett, “Worries Escalate That Lower Marine Corps Fitness Standards for Women Could Result in Disrespect,” The Daily Caller, May 22, 2017, http://dailycaller.com/2017/05/22/worries-escalate-that-lower-marine-corps-fitness-standards-for-women-could-result-in-disrespect). Simply put, a perfect fitness test of 10 pull-ups, 110 sit-ups and a 21-minute 3-mile for a woman equates to a second class PFT for a 26-year-old man. Gender-specific standards do not afford women the same opportunity to prove themselves as physically equal in the most uncomplicated and culturally significant way. Gender-neutral fitness standards would give Marines the chance to judge one another based on their true physical capabilities and respect one another as equally capable warfighters.

Similarly, gender-segregated recruit training does not allow male Marines to realize men and women are trained equally. Recruit training fosters collective suffering and growth which allow teams to be built anew as United States Marines. Segregated training in the formative weeks of a Marine’s career breeds a cultural divide. Women are subconsciously seen as something other than a Marine because both genders did not experience the transformation together. Consciously realized or not, this is another way Corps-wide policies reinforce a gender-divided culture amongst Marines. The Marine Corps’ warfighting philosophy demands that all Marines trust one another in order to execute mission tactics (Headquarters, USMC, MCDP 1 Warfighting (Washington, DC: 1997)). Segregated training does not teach male Marines that female Marines are worthy and capable in basic Marine skills. This not only creates limitation in what the collective team can accomplish on and off the battlefield, it puts women at a disadvantage because male Marines do not instinctively consider women to be reliable in combat.

Conversely, women can create a self-fulfilling prophecy of cultural imbalance by believing “I am a woman, so I am not as strong as a man.” Though in 2017, when pull-ups were added to the women’s PFT, women rose to the challenge. The Marine Corps can mitigate the reinforcement of gender stereotypes and empower women to be competitive with men by integrating training and continuing to evolve physical fitness standards over time. This evolution makes the institution more cohesive, reduces gender-related conflict and draws the focus of the Marine Corps back to its mission: Warfighting.

For almost 100 years, women have been breaking barriers and challenging gender bias within the Marine Corps. Gender-neutral standards and training are the final frontiers for gender equality within the Corps. Enforcing an equal, merit-based Marine Corps will greatly increase mutual respect amongst Marines and aid women in future retention and career ascension in years to come. As our first female infantrymen emerge, we must exploit the momentum of these tremendous accomplishments and encourage women to continue such courageous endeavors. Male and female Marines standing shoulder to shoulder, respecting one another as equals, would set a powerfully stated standard for our entire country and would challenge Women Marines to continue a legacy of greatness. Sf
A Ship for Patrick Gallagher

By Martin Durkan

Last Fall John Shanwick was driving through the west of Ireland on a short break from his native New York. As he drove into the small town of Ballyhaunis in County Mayo he calculated that he had another hour to his hotel. As he refocused on the road ahead a small pub on his left caught his attention; it was Delaney’s, but what really got his attention was the Marine Corps flag flying over its door.

John parked his car with the intention of taking a short five-minute break, but Gareth Delaney soon turned that short break into a three-hour lesson of how a small town in Ireland launched a 5-year campaign to have a U.S. Navy ship named after one of its sons, Cpl Patrick Gallagher USMC NC, PH.

Patrick was born in 1944 just outside of Ballyhaunis. He grew up on the family farm and loved the countryside. In 1962 Patrick immigrated to Lynbrook on Long Island to live with his aunt and uncle. He worked days and attended college at night; he campaigned for Bobby Kennedy. In 1966 Patrick joined the Marines, and upon completing basic training he returned home to Ireland to see his family. They were stunned when Patrick appeared unannounced. He stayed for three weeks before returning to the U.S. Before he left, he told his family he would be based in San Diego for the next 12 months, but the truth was he already received orders for Vietnam. He later explained that he did not tell them this to save them the worry.

Patrick arrived in Vietnam Spring 1966. In July he took part in Operation Hastings, and on one of the first nights he committed a very brave and selfless act. While other members of his unit slept, enemy fighters infiltrated the area and threw grenades into their position. Patrick kicked a grenade out of the area before it exploded and, as the citation for the Navy Cross he was later awarded read, “another enemy grenade followed and landed in the position between two of his comrades. Without hesitation, in a valiant act of self-sacrifice, Corporal Gallagher threw himself upon the deadly grenade in order to absorb the explosion and save the lives of his comrades.” As the three other Marines in the area ran for safety, two further grenades landed in the position and exploded without causing injury. Patrick then threw the grenade he was still lying on into a nearby river where it exploded.

Patrick continued to serve in Vietnam through the rest of 1966 and into 1967. In January he was told that he was to be awarded the Navy Cross for his bravery the previous July and that the press in the U.S. and Ireland would cover the story. Patrick quickly wrote home to his parents in Ireland, “I hope you won’t be too mad with me for the news I got for you. When I was home last year I had my orders for Vietnam when I got back to the U.S. I have been in Vietnam since last April, and I will be leaving here in 60 days. Now don’t be worried. Everything is going fine here, and I am enjoying it very much.”

Patrick made light of his heroism and the upcoming Navy Cross award; he described his selfless act of valor humbly by writing, “it was not much, but they (the military) made a big thing of it.” Patrick was presented with the Navy Cross by General Westmoreland, a moment captured in a photo which appeared on the front page of the Sea Tiger newspaper.

Patrick told his mother he would return to Ireland in early April 1967 upon completion of his tour. True to his word he arrived home on the promised day, but sadly it was to be buried—Patrick was killed right at the end of his tour along with eight of his comrades.

Patrick was one of at least 30 Irish citizens who died in Vietnam, two served with the Australian forces. At Patrick’s funeral were the Nevin and Freyne families who also lost sons in Vietnam—Chris Nevin (1966) and Brian Freyne (10 days before Patrick).

Gareth explained the story lay still from a mixture of time and respect for the family’s privacy.

A Series of Fortunate Events

In the mid-1990s Patsy McGarry of the Irish Times wrote an article about Gallagher, Nevin and Freyne. In the late 1990s, former Marine Donald O’Keefe came across
Patrick's story and shared it with friends and neighbors in his native Bronx, NY, while around the same time Martin Durkan saw the Irish Times article while living in Dallas, TX. Like O'Keefe, who later became one the campaign's leaders, Durkan recounted the story whenever he could, and in late 2013 while having lunch at a Dallas Irish Pub the idea to launch a petition to have a U.S. Navy ship named after Gallagher was born. The pub's owner Marius Donnelly sponsored the petition and built a website with a goal of 10,000 signatures. Marius was first to sign and Martin the second, but they soon realized they needed the media to tell the story.

A phone call to the Irish Echo newspaper in New York reached the paper's editor, Ray O'Hanlon, who believed in their cause and dedicated its front page to Gallagher.

In 2016, Kathy Raftery, a radio broadcaster, visited her mother in the same area of Ireland. While going through old photos from her mother's school book a young boy caught her attention. Kathy's mother explained that this classmate was Patrick Gallagher who was later killed in Vietnam. Unaware of the petition, Kathy approached the Gallagher family about doing a radio documentary on Patrick; they agreed. She travelled to the U.S. and met with Patrick's comrades, and in December 2016 Kathy's documentary, "Mayo Boy Vietnam Hero," aired on Radio One in Dublin.

In early 2017 Patrick's hometown of Ballyhaunis planned a Memorial Day parade on the 50th Anniversary of his death, March 30. Marines serving with the U.S. Embassy in Dublin escorted Brigadier General Mike Neil USMC NC PH, also a Vietnam hero and Navy Cross and Purple Heart recipient, and the Irish Army provided an honor guard. The Irish defense minister, Paul Keogh, attended as did General Brennan of the Irish Army. Patrick's nephews headed the parade, carrying the U.S. and Irish flags; all marched a mile to Patrick's grave.

BGen Neil's parents arrived in Dublin two days earlier to attend the Memorial parade and were met at the airport by Patrick's younger sister, Pauline, who was just three when Patrick was killed. Pauline mentioned how Patrick's commanding officer, Capt Walter Boomer, wrote to Patrick's parents shortly after his death. BGen Neil's father told Pauline that he knew now General Boomer USMC (ret.). Just over a year later, General Boomer and Pauline finally spoke. The General recounted how he incorporated Patrick's bravery into many of his speeches over the last 50 years.

In Summer 2017, the petition goal of 10,000 signatures was reached. In early September, Senator Chuck Schumers Chief of Staff, Martin Brennan, was in Ireland visiting his father's hometown of Kiltimagh, near Delaney's. Brennan stopped in at Delaney's and heard Patrick's story directly from his younger brother, Peter Gallagher. Upon returning to his New York office, Brennan brought the story to Sen. Schumer, with recommendation that he endorse the USS Patrick Gallagher drive. Sen. Schumer wrote the U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Charles Spencer, and asked that a future ship be named after Patrick Gallagher. The senator's call was followed by several letters from New York-area politicians.

On March 12, 2018, Sen. Schumers announced that DDG127, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, was to be named after Patrick Gallagher. Sen. Schumers read the announcement aloud as he stood beside the USS Intrepid in New York.

As Gareth Delaney finished the story John looked at his watch and realized that several hours had gone by. He got back in his car and drove further west as Ballyhaunis’ street lights disappeared into the night. $F

The Marines and the Christmas Angels

By Jamie B. DePaola

I am an Area Director for the Women Marines Association. As a result of this position, I’ve met many sister Marines who needed a friend and others who needed a lot of help. The week before Christmas 2017 I saw a Facebook post from a Marine pleading for help. As busy as I was, I reached out to her to see what she needed.

She is a mom of five young children, and all she needed was a refrigerator so DCF would allow her to have her children back. She had been homeless for a few months and just found a two-bedroom apartment, in a “not-so friendly” part of the city. She couldn’t resume custody of her children until she had a refrigerator, so I promised her that I would see what I could do. After all, “Marines take care of their own.” I wasn’t sure how I was going to help, but the words flowed out of my mouth anyway in my promise to her. I have learned many times in my life that in order to receive a miracle, sometimes I have to let myself be the miracle, as my destiny may be connected to helping others.

After several days, one of my brother Marines from the Marine Corps League said he had a full-size refrigerator in his garage that he’d be happy to donate. My sister Marine will have a refrigerator for Christmas and have her children home again! A miracle!

But the story doesn’t end here. How do I get this wonderful gift to her when she lives over an hour away? By this time, I was now four days away from Christmas! Marines are known to adapt and overcome obstacles. I made phone calls to arrange the pick-up and delivery of the donated refrigerator, which turned out to be a very large one, weighing nearly 300 pounds.

I have a 4-wheel drive SUV that can tow. My husband (Marine veteran) was willing to help me with this mission. A friend was willing to loan us his trailer. My son (also a Marine veteran) was willing to help load the refrigerator onto the trailer. I had a plan, and we were ready to execute the plan the next morning to give my Marine her miracle.

My husband left to go pick up the trailer only to find out it was a commercial-grade trailer and too big for our SUV to pull. He came home with no trailer. After a few calls, we found a place to rent a trailer for the day, and we were marching forward again.

We rolled into the Marine sister’s neighborhood, a little nervous, but on schedule—trailer and fridge in tow. I don’t know where either of us got the strength that day, but we managed to get the fridge moved off the trailer, across the road, up the curb and to the porch with six steps yet ahead of us. As much as we were pushing and pulling, it wasn’t moving. My miracle just got stuck! I thought, “After all we’ve been through this week with making this miracle real, we were going to end up stuck before getting it into her apartment.”

As I continued to push this beast with all my might, I prayed for a miracle of strength. Then I looked up to see these four big “thugs” walking down the street toward us. Before I could blink, one of them said, “Hey, do you need some help?” All I could say was, “You’ve just become our Christmas Angels!” I was elated that my miracle was back in play. The refrigerator finally made it into my Marine sister’s small apartment. I followed the refrigerator inside and checked on her five children. The oldest child told me he was so excited to be with his mom and to have this refrigerator. I don’t know if this little boy will ever know the miracle that just happened for his mom that day.

This one gift involved many Christmas Angels acting without hesitation over the course of a week to help just one veteran. I asked my Marine sister about the guys who showed up unexpectedly and helped for over an hour, and she said she’s never seen them before. As these strangers left, I said, “Thank you for being a Christmas miracle.” $F
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Marines need to work together

**MARINES:** Isn’t it amazing how fast time goes by when you are having a great time growing older and hopefully smarter. Almost 1 year has gone by since we last met at our National Convention, and here we are about to meet again in Buffalo, NY, to conduct the business of our League in earnest. I am looking forward to once again renewing friendships and furthering the foundation we have embarked upon to make the League the premiere Veterans Organization in the Country and assist the Marine Corps in helping our veterans take their place in the transition to the civilian workforce.

It is with pleasure that we can look forward to having all Marine Corps-related organizations working together to advance all causes and not just their own. There is strength in numbers, and combined we are a much more potent group as everyone brings all issues to the table for helpful dialogue. As Marines we are used to working together, and that should become a tradition that we are proud of.

There are way too many disciplinary issues coming to the table because of lack of attempts to resolve at the detachment level. This only makes recruiting harder because petty bickering among ourselves creates personal animosity towards other members, and potential recruits are quick to pick up on the tension and back out of membership. Remember, you have the DD-214 in your hand before a person is accepted; vet the person properly—if you don’t, blame yourself for allowing a potential problem to become a member. Voting for membership is the responsibility of the detachment, use that vote wisely and lessen your problems.

There are still a lot of members who have not paid their dues; some for as long as 2 years. This is unacceptable! The yearly dues for the League are still the lowest of any veterans’ organization that I know of. The excuse most often heard is, “I don’t know when they are due,” or “I’m on a fixed income.” Problem solved! Dues are all due on September 1 after the National Convention for everyone. And I hate to be cruel, but most people who are on a fixed income, like me, have income that is yours to use for entertainment. My disposable income is used to be a member of a great organization that I love, the Marine Corps League. No excuses.

I hope everyone has a great summer and that our beloved Corps continues to prosper and serve the U.S.  
**Semper Fi!**
**IN MEMORIAM**

**R. LEE ERMEY (“THE GUNNY”)**

Every Man’s “Gunny”

Ronald Lee Ermey was born in Emporia, KS, March 24, 1944. He served 11 years in the Marine Corps (1961–1972), including serving as a USMC Drill Instructor in 1968 and serving 14 months in Vietnam. R. Lee medically retired as a Staff Sergeant and was honorarily promoted to Gunnery Sergeant by Commandant James Jones in 2002. R. Lee was married 38 years to Marianila, and together they had 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. His first film role was “Apocalypse Now” in 1979; R. Lee has over 60 film and television credits. He passed away on April 15, 2018.

Statement from R. Lee Ermey’s long-time manager, Bill Rogin (April 15, 2018)

It is with deep sadness that I regret to inform you all that R. Lee Ermey (“The Gunny”) passed away this morning from complications of pneumonia. He will be greatly missed by all of us. It is a terrible loss that nobody was prepared for. He has meant so much to so many people. And, it is extremely difficult to truly quantify all of the great things this man has selflessly done for, and on behalf of, our many men and women in uniform. He has also contributed many iconic and indelible characters on film that will live on forever. Gunnery Sergeant Hartman of “Full Metal Jacket” fame was a hard and principled man. The real R. Lee Ermey was a family man and a kind and gentle soul. He was generous to everyone around him. And, he especially cared deeply for others in need.

There is a quote made famous in “Full Metal Jacket.” It’s actually the Riflemen’s Creed: “This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine.”

There are many Gunnies, but this one was OURS. And, we will honor his memory with hope and kindness. Please support your men and women in uniform. That’s what he wanted most of all.

Semper Fi, Gunny. Godspeed.

Harold G. Overstreet, 12th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps (Letter Dated April 25, 2018)

I just attended Gunny Ermey’s funeral yesterday; hard to believe he’s gone. I was talking to him less than a month ago. Even though he hasn’t been doing too much this year, we had a lot of things planned for the rest of the year: motorcycle rides, golf tournaments, shooting events, speaking engagements and a couple of events helping Young Marines and Veterans, not to mention attending the NRA convention and the Drill Instructor reunion. The Gunny and I always had a great time when we were together and tried to bust one another’s (you know what) every time we got a chance. (I would have to remind him of his pay-grade every once in a while.)

Last year, after his triple by-pass, I called him the day he went home from the hospital. He said to me, “O, if you have to have open heart surgery—just die!” The next week when I called him, he was more motivated—a completely different person. He said, “Sergeant Major, the doctor said I’m goin’ to be 10 years younger.” I said, “Gunny, if you’re insinuating you’re going to hit a golf ball farther than me, you’re on some serious drugs! I hope they’re legal.”

He and I were at Bike Week in Daytona several years ago where we had invited a bunch of veterans to “Ride with Heroes.” We had all kinds of distinguished veterans at the event. After a week, the Gunny and I flew back to San Antonio. We got off the plane, Mrs. “O” picked us up and said we looked like something between Hells Angels and refugees (we looked a little scruffy) in our leathers. She asked if we were hungry; we said yes. She assumed the Gunny would like to go to an up-scale restaurant. I said to Lee, “Want to go to Cracker Barrel?” He said he loves “CB.” We went to lunch (had a great lunch) and talked about everything under the sun—hunting, fishing, guns, shooting, tractors, pick-ups and politics might have even come up a time or two. About the time lunch was over a line of people was forming; by that time they had recognized it was the Gunny and wanted an autograph and a photo with him. Each person had to tell him a story. We were there for a good while. The Gunny was very gracious to each one until all had a chance to take a flick with the Gunny. At one time the Gunny was feeling bad because I was taking all the pictures. He said to one guy, “This is Sergeant Major Overstreet (the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps); he is quite famous in the Marine Corps.” The guy looked at me, smiled and said, “That’s nice” then handed me his phone and asked me to take a picture of him and the Gunny. I loved it!

I can’t describe in words how much we will miss the Gunny or how much we loved him.

But for me, Gunny stories will go on as long as I can tell them. The Gunny will truly be missed.
Bernie Henkel, associate Member of Utah Dixie Detachment 1270, learned that he’s suffering from heart and kidney failure. On March 27, 2018, Bernie’s “last request” of going to the range to shoot various weapons that they all had handled during their time of service was granted. Left to right: Bernie Henkel and Steve Handy, Detachment Chaplain.

Gooney Bird Detachment Members Gina Pollut and John Hernandez receiving their certificates from the Department of NJ Leadership School.

Above: ET Brisson Detachment 063, Naples, FL, presented Good Citizenship Award to Detachment Member and Eagle Scout, Robert Foster, Troop 24, Lansing, MI, approximately 1950s.

Left: Iwo Jima Traveling Memorial in St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Naples, FL, with Iwo Jima Survivor, Harold “Pappy” Wagner, ET Brisson Detachment 063 Member.

More photos at: marinecorpsleagueconutahas.com/PhotoGalleryParades.html
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Dave Free and Howard Maninga, Star of The North, Park Rapids, MN, present the American Flag to the widow.


Verde Valley Detachment 1176 inaugural color guard parade.

Larry Westcott, Paymaster for the Sgt Walter P. Ryan Detachment, was presented with the Chapel of Four Chaplains, Legion of Honor Award at the Department of Florida Spring Conference in recognition of the many contributions he has made to the League. Pinning on his award is Jack Skelding the Detachment’s Adjutant.
Niagara University John P. Bobo Field Dedication April 7, 2018 where the University’s ROTC Color Guard and the MCL 2ndLt John Paul Bobo Detachment 1118 present arms during the singing of the National Anthem. Inset left: John’s brother Bill Bobo throws out the first pitch. Inset right: John’s brother in law Joe Colosi, Tim Bobo, Bill Bobo and John’s sister Mary Colosi by the plaque dedicating the field.

Detachment members left to right: Honor Guard Chairman Bill Talarico, Historian Dick Bird, Sgt at Arms John McDougall, Sr. Vice Commandant Rick Downs and Paymaster/ Chaplain John Attanasio.

MCL business meeting. Front row, left to right: Dept. of MO MODD Chief Devil Dog Leonard Spicer; Dept. of IL Judge Advocate Ron Burns; Dept. of GA Sr. Vice Commandant Al Yates; Dept. of NY Commandant Ricardo Sheppard; Dept. of NC Ret. Chairman SgtMaj Bull Durham, Jr. Back row, left to right: Dept. of IN James Dixon; Dept. of NY Aide-de-Camp Carlton Richardson; SC Dept. Historian Frank Faulkner.
Above: On March 24, 2018, veterans and their families took part in the annual Reunion of Honor in remembrance of the 73rd Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima as part of the Military Historical Tours group. Shown here is Samuel Anderson who, in 1945, survived a land mine blast that killed fellow Marines.

Right: First Capitol Detachment 521 of York, PA, provided the Color Guard as a highway was named in honor of USARMY PFC Donald Gise, KIA in Vietnam. The ceremony was held on March 29, 2018, Vietnam War Veterans Day.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Sgt J.R. Tijerina Detachment 1295 in Katy, TX, presented Good Citizenship Awards March 17, 2018. Left to right: Commandant Mark Oldmixon, Joshua Carl Mendez, Marcus Andrew Marsh and Sr. Vice Frank Miner, III.

Gooney Bird Detachment of Teaneck, NJ, donating $500 to Scout Troop 1345 of Dumont, NJ, for their assistance at the Marine Corps Ball.

Left to right: Tom Risley, Scouting Chairman, George Belz, Marine father, Aaron Belz, Chris Watts, Ryan MacAdams and Joan Pianka, Quarter Master.

On April 29, 2018, Jerry VanHecke, Eagle Scout Liaison for ET Brisson Detachment 063, presented a Good Citizenship Certificate and Detachment Challenge Coin to Vincent Laz, Jr., Troop 165, on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout at this Court of Honor, Naples, FL.

The Department of Florida’s Professional Development Program’s Spring Conference “Leadership School Class.”

At the JC Paul Detachment 1448 monthly meeting, Commandant Greg Sims presented Whitley & Knox County Sheriffs with stuffed animals from their Toys For Tots Campaign to aid Deputies in calming children who encounter stressful events, such as traffic accidents, house fires or domestic violence.

Hangtown Detachment 697, Placerville, CA members Bob Villalobos, left, and Bob Prestwich, right, meet Pacific Crest Trail hiker Marine veteran Tim Tuomey at Echo Lake. He was on his southbound journey to raise donations for the Semper Fi Fund in support of wounded Marines at Camp Pendleton, CA.

Pappy Boyington Detachment 966 presented a check for $2500 to Eric Swanbeck, Director of Veteran Services, at Saint Vincent De Paul in Coeur d’Alene Idaho on April 13, 2018. Present are Eric Swanbeck, Commandant Bill Maroney, Paymaster Dennis Oliver and Jr. Vice Terry Blessing.
The Illinois MCL Burbank Detachment 072 and its Ladies Auxiliary Unit hosted a Bingo Party for over 100 veterans at the Manteno VA Home in Manteno on April 15, 2018. Veterans were also given mementos from their branch of service.

On April 16, 2018, the James M. Slay Detachment Honor Guard assisted a Funeral Honors detail from the I&I Staff from Hotel Bty. 3/14 at the funeral of Retired Marine MGySgt James L. Williams.

Detachment 363 Commandant Scott Bryan and Past Detachment 363 Commandant Maggie Gaukler present 3/3 Battalion Commander LtCol Steve Eastin with a check for $600.00 for the purchase of K-BAR knives to be presented to the NCO and Sailor of the Quarter.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

On February 27, 2017, Staff Sergeant Karl G. Taylor Sr. Detachment 1084 welcomed new member, Marlin Benton, Jr. Marlin is a former EA-6 Prowler aviator. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan before retiring as a Colonel.

After our April 24, 2018, meeting, retired Lieutenant Colonel Ed Hall and retired Colonel Lou Schott broke open a bottle of “Maker’s Mark” Kentucky straight bourbon whiskey. The bottle was dedicated to Lou Schott, who is believed to be the last man standing from his unit during the battle of Okinawa in 1945. At Ed Hall’s request, Makers Mark specially made the label to read: “Last Man Standing/ Lou Schott/A Company Okinawa 1945.”

Below: Marines of the NE Division had a very successful conference in April in Binghamton, NY. Also present were National Sr. Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin and Nation Judge Advocate Warren Griffin.

Virginia Johnson, MCLA Past National President as well as Past Department President for Michigan, receives her 50-year service pin during Central Division Conference held in Lansing.

Peggy pinning 50-yr service pin on Virginia Johnson.
New York State Women of Distinction Recipient – Gail Goodson

Gail Goodson served her country in the United States Marine Corps from 1978 until 1984. She calls serving her country the honor of a lifetime, and her experience in the military helped inspire her to become more involved in her community and honoring veterans.

Following her service in the Marine Corps, Ms. Goodson volunteered with the YMCA as a swimming instructor as well as with her local Little League and Chester Youth Football.

Gail was an Adult Leader with the Boy Scouts of America, Hudson Valley Council for 15 years and was the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award as well as a James E. West Fellowship Award holder. Always humble, Ms. Goodson states that, "I never got involved as a volunteer to receive recognition; I simply love giving back."

Currently a member of the Marine Corps League, Ms. Goodson serves as the Adjutant/Paymaster of the Bear Mountain Detachment 1135 and also is a member of the American Legion Post 1168 where she served as a Past Adjutant. Ms. Goodson is also a proud member of the Women Marines Association.

Most recently, Ms. Goodson has had the honor of being a part of the Hudson Valley Honor Flight. The organization has successfully flown more than 750 World War II and Korean veterans to Washington, D.C., on an all-expense paid flight to visit their memorials and give them a day of honor that they so rightfully deserve. Ms. Goodson has been a volunteer since the inception of the organization up until its most recent flight, serving as a Guardian and as a Bus Leader.

Detachment 1420, Salida, CO, members present a $1000 donation check to the Chaffee County Search & Rescue-South, an all-volunteer organization serving the southern portion of Chaffee County, CO. These volunteers help others who are lost or hurt in the backcountry of the Rocky Mountains.

Join Roll Call!

ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES

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Captions—Photo captions should briefly describe the event and list persons present in the photo(s) along with detachment number and location. 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
Niagara Falls, 1931, on July 4, 1958, in Olongapo City, Zambales, Central Luzon, Republic of the Philippines. Olongapo was the liberty town bordering the U.S. Naval Base Subic Bay. Left to right: PFC Martinez, unknown, Sgt Butts and PFC Dennis R. Smith, who submitted this photo. These Marines were stationed at Separate Guard Company, Naval Air Station Cubi Point.
TREE OF LIGHTS

Tree Lighting Ceremony, 11:00am, Tuesday, December 4th, 2018
at the Marine Corps League National Headquarters

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

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

As a light sponsor, your name (or the name of your organization) will be listed on a special Scroll of Honor to be displayed at the ceremony and to be posted on our website: usmarinesyouthfoundation.org throughout year of 2019.

For more information, please call (717) 420-0623.

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

Questions? Please call (717) 420-0623.
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<th>Item Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C30</td>
<td>Certificate Frame, Wood and Glass, Double-Matted in Red and Gold with Gold Embossed MCL Logo and &quot;MARINE CORPS LEAGUE&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A51</td>
<td>Bumper Sticker 11.5&quot; c 3&quot; Quote from President Ronald Reagan, White Background with Black and Red Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>P02</td>
<td>Plaque, Wood with Marine Corps League Adhesive Metal Disc on Gold Wreath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GF T1</td>
<td>Fidget Spinner with MCL Logo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patch06</td>
<td>New MCL 10&quot; Patch Black, Red and White</td>
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<tr>
<td>S15</td>
<td>Copy of the Charter for the Marine Corps League 8&quot; x 14&quot;</td>
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Description: 8 ½” x 11” Recruiting Poster with “Carry On!”

8. Roses
Item Code: roses
Price: $35.00
Description: Marine Corps League Fundraising Roses, One Gross (144ct)

9. Bookmark
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Price: $1.00
Description: MCL Logo Bookmark with Calendar and Hymn

10. Marine Corps League Polo—Red
Item Code: WA121-WA112F
Price: $27.00–$30.00
Description: New Red MCL Logo Golf Polo, S—4x

11. MCL Logo 10” Red
Item Code: WA21
Price: $8.00
Description: MCL logo Patch 10” Red and Gold

12. Ratchet Belt with Gold MCL Buckle
Item Code: U40B-E
Price: $45.00
Description: New Ratchet Belts with Gold MCL Buckle. M (up to 35”); L (up to 38”); XL (up to 42”); XXL (up to 56”)

13. Black Satin Jacket with MCL Patch on Back
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BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES

The Adventures of a Helicopter Pilot
Flying the H-34 Helicopter in Vietnam for the United States Marine Corps

By Captain Bill Collier, USMCR
Paperback: 214 pages
Publisher: CreateSpace
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1500936138

Marine Captain Bill Collier is a life member of Marine Corps League Detachment 1110 in Sandpoint, Idaho. His love of flying the H-34 helicopter is expressed in a clear and easy to read journal of his experience in Vietnam. These pilots performed amazing feats and supported ground operations for Marines providing medical evacuations and supply drops all over the area of operations. The writer’s first-hand account brings the reader right into the action with an appreciated explanation of the maneuvers, mechanical attributes and acronyms. The reading experience was like sitting on a porch listening to stories. (MSRP: $20)

Pearl Harbor’s Hidden Heroes
The 18 Medals of Honor Awarded for Bravery in the Hawaiian Islands During World War II: 1941, 1942, and 1945

By Colonel Charles A. Jones, USMCR (Ret)
Paperback: 556 pages
Publisher: Charles A. Jones
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0692780742

Marine Colonel Charles A. Jones USMCR (Ret) is a member of the Marine Corps League Detachment 260 in Greensboro, North Carolina. The author has put together an excellent resource of Medal of Honor recipients. It is amazing that 16 were awarded for December 7, 1941. These Americans, like thousands of others, volunteered to serve and found themselves in extraordinary circumstances. The book includes information on a Medal of Honor recipient for the Battle of Midway and a noncombat rescue operation in 1945. This is an honorable source portraying American heroism. (MSRP: $25.95)

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WILLIAM R. FLYNN
JOSEPH R. GODDARD

TAPS
LANCE CPL CAITLIN BEVEL, USMC

56  SF SUMMER 2018
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.
2018

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.


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.

Marine Corps Mustang Association (MCMA), 32nd Reunion and Muster, August 8–12, 2018. Menger Hotel, San Antonio, TX. Contact LtCol Richard J. Sullivan, USMC (Ret.) at 508-954-2262 or email sul824@verizon.net. Detailed reunion information can be found at the MCMA website: marinecorpsmustang.org.

Marine Barracks, MCSFCo, FASTCo NWS Yorktown Reunion. August 10–12, 2018, at Yorktown, VA. Contact David Greene at marinebarracksyorktown@gmail.com for information.

39th Annual Marine Reunion on Saturday, August 18, 2018. The event will be held at 6:00pm to midnight at the Saxon Club, 710 S. Meridian Rd., Youngstown, OH 44509. For more Information call: Chesters Kaschak at 330-533-6084 or Ed Levisure at 330-720-4513. At this early date a speaker has not yet been confirmed; past speakers included: MajGen David Bice, MajGen Dennis McCarthy, BGGen Roger Machut, LtCol David Undeland, Major James Chambers III, SgtMaj Clifford Fincham and SgtMaj Mike (Iron Mike) Mervosh.

Marine Squadron, VMFA-115 Reunion Association, September 7–9, 2018, in Cleveland, OH. Contact Patti Kaas at 717-422-6796 or email kaasfamily4@gmail.com or see website for full information: 115marinerenueion.com.

Reunion of former members of the Marine Air Base Squadron-49 to be held in Earville, MD, on September 8, 2018. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle (Ret.) at 609-291-9617 or 609-284-2935 or email mabsreunion@comcast.net.

Echo Co. 2/3 (RVN), September 9–13, 2018, San Antonio, TX. Contact Bill Smith at 925-997-8041 or email da190@aol.com.

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.

The 3rd Marines 3rd Recon Battalion/Vietnam will be having a reunion on September 25–30, 2018, in San Antonio, TX. Please contact Bob Hoover at 843-302-2151 or Gene Haux at 520-631-4922 or email ghtsno1@yahoo.com. See our website for more information: www.3rdrecon.org.


Fifth Marine Division Association’s 69th Annual Reunion to be held October 16–21, 2018, in Champaign, IL. Contact Ray Elliott at 217-840-2121 or email rayelliott23@att.net.

2019

Attention VMA(AW)-225 Squadron members! Plans are underway for the Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 225’s “50th Year After Vietnam (1969–2019)” anniversary reunion. Officers and enlisted (and their families) alike who served in VMA(AW) 225 while it was deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam from January 1969–April 1971. The reunion is scheduled for May 15–19, 2019, in Morehead City, NC. For more details please contact Maurice “Mo” Chevalier at 252-240-1965 or email mochev@twc.com.

Special Notice

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.

ZELL MILLER
Marine, Governor, Senator

On March 23, 2018, larger than life political player Zell Miller passed away peacefully at his home in Young Harris, GA, surrounded by family and friends. Born in Young Harris, in the mountains of North Georgia, on February 24, 1932, Miller graduated from Francis College with an Associate’s Degree in 1951 and served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1953 to 1956, attaining the rank of Sergeant. In 1958 he graduated from the University of Georgia with a Master’s Degree in History and began a career as an educator at Young Harris College.

Miller’s political career began as Mayor of Young Harris in 1959, and he served in the Georgia Senate from 1961 to 1964. He was Georgia’s Lt. Governor from 1975 to 1991 and served two terms as Governor from 1991 to 1999. Miller represented Georgia in the U.S. Senate from 2000 to 2005. Two of his most notable achievements as Governor were the “Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) Scholarship,” which has provided more than $9.4 billion of financial assistance for educational programs beyond high school, and Georgia’s Pre-K program, which has sent more than 1.6 million 4-year-olds to Pre-K programs throughout the state per the Georgia Lottery for education.
2019 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE

THE MCL GEARS UP FOR THE MARCH DRAWING!

In 2019, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (www.miltours.com) will again offer the battlefield tour of a lifetime to two lucky League members as the grand prizes in the League’s 95th Anniversary Tour Raffle.

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

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

Raffle tickets cost $5 per single entry or five tickets for just $20! That’s right, the more you buy, the more you save and the more you help the League. The drawing will be held at our annual Mid-Winter Conference Banquet in 2019.

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

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

2018/19 MCL RAFFLE SCHEDULE

2 – 11 Aug
Guadalcanal 76th Anniversary Operation Watchtower Pre-tour Tarawa

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

19 – 31 Aug
50th Anniversary of I-Corps 1968 Operation Mameluke Thrust

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

30 Sep – 12 Oct
50th Anniversary of I-Corps 1968 Operation Maui Peak

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

2 – 13 Nov
WWI 100th Anniversary 1918 End to the War to End All Wars

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>17 – 23 Nov</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of Tarawa Landing 1943</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 – 12 Dec</td>
<td>Vietnam Holiday Tour plus Laos &amp; Cambodia</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 – 9 Dec</td>
<td>77th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 15 Dec</td>
<td>Israel—Military &amp; Cultural History</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 – 21 Feb ’19</td>
<td>Vietnam 50th Anniversary of Operation Dewey Canyon I-Corps—1969 plus Battle of Hue City &amp; Tet Offensive</td>
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<td>9 – 17 Mar ’19</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of Bougainville &amp; Battle of Munda—Solomon Islands WWII</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 – 25 Mar ’19</td>
<td>74th Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor—Guam</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 – 26 Apr ’19</td>
<td>Turkey Gallipoli WWI Campaign &amp; ANZAC Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Apr – 10 May ’19</td>
<td>50th Anniversary of Operation Apache Snow—1969 &quot;Delta to the DMZ&quot;</td>
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<td>18 – 27 May ’19</td>
<td>WWI Doughboys &amp; Devil Dogs in France</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 May – 9 Jun ’19</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of D-Day, WWI Overview &amp; Battle of the Bulge plus Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 – 9 Jun ’19</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 – 19 Jun ’19</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Saipan</td>
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<td>26 Jun – 6 Jul ’19</td>
<td>Russia “Eastern Front” 75th Anniversary Kursk, Moscow &amp; Stalingrad</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Jun – 12 Jul ’19</td>
<td>50th Anniversary of Operation Scotland II/Robin—I-Corps 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 16 Jul ’19</td>
<td>Spain—Military &amp; Cultural History Exploration Madrid</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 – 25 Jul ’19</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam &amp; Tinian</td>
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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name ___________________ Phone (______ ) ____________

Street Address ___________________ City ___________________ State ______ Zip ______ + ______

Date of Birth ___/___/____ Email Address ___________________

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ___________________ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ___________________

Service# or SS#

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

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

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

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

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

Applicant’s Signature (see reverse side)

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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#

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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
I SERVED FOR
my family’s safety

USAA members who bundled Auto and Home Insurance saved over $519 million combined last year.1
Bundle today to help protect what matters to you and what you have worked so hard to build. With USAA insurance, enjoy an unrivaled level of service because we know what it means to serve.

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Salute
TO VETERANS
GLOCK DISCOUNT PROGRAM

MEMORIAL DAY – LABOR DAY

Any honorably discharged veteran is eligible to purchase one GLOCK Blue Label pistol through our LE Distributors or Sub D Dealers. A copy of your DD 214 and driver’s license can be used as credentials.

See your local GLOCK dealer for more information
us.glock.com/dealer-locator