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Retired Master Sergeant Mark D. Munger is not only the Judge Advocate of his detachment and a member of the MODD, he’s the Southeast Regional Network Coordinator for the Marine for Life Network.
NATIONAL COMMANDANT’S LETTER
WENDELL W. WEBB

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER’S LETTER
BOB BORKA

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NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT
DENNIS Tobin

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT
JOHNNY B. BAKER

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE
WARREN C. GRIFFIN

DIVISION REPORTS

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT
RICHARD D. GORE, SR., PNC

NATIONAL SGT-AT-ARMS
LISA SOLARCZYK

ROLL CALL

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT
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THE SEMPER FI STORE

TAPS

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR

REUNIONS

ON THE COVER:

TOP: Officer group photo at the 2018 MCL National Convention Banquet, Buffalo, NY. Back row, left to right: David Porter (NVC, New England Division), Allen Brink (NVC, Rocky Mountain Division), MajGen William F. Mullen (Commanding General, Training and Education Command, MCL National Convention Banquet Guest of Honor), MajGen Mike Regner, USMC (Ret.), Bruce Rakfeldt (NVC, Mideast Division), Phil Zamora (NVC, Central Division), Middle row, left to right: Richard D. Gore, Sr. (Jr. PNC), LtGen William M. Faulkner, USMC (Ret.) (Pres. and CEO of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation), Archie Sweet (NVC, Southeast Division), Young Marine SgtMaj Lauren Loria (2018-2019 National Young Marine of the Year), Johnny R. Gothard (NVC, Southern Division), Tim Forbes (NVC, Northeast Division), T.J. Morgan (NVC, Northwest Division). Front row, left to right: Warren Griffin (National Judge Advocate), Wendell W. Webb (National Commandant), Dennis Tobin (National Sr. Vice Commandant), Johnny B. Baker (National Jr. Vice Commandant). (Photo by Patricia Borka)

MIDDLE LEFT: MCL National Convention 2018 in Buffalo, NY. Officers of the MCL Auxiliary swear in during the National Convention. Front row, left to right: National Judge Advocate Dotty Sanning, National Senior Vice President Evelyn Joppa, National President Carol Smith, National Junior Vice President Linda Chamberlain, National Junior Past President Karen Aune. Behind them are the National Vice Presidents of Divisions and their assistants. (Photo by C.O. Smith)

BOTTOM LEFT: David Webb, host of the David Webb Show on SiriusXM Patriot 125, interviews National Commandant Wendell W. Webb about the Marine Corps League during the 2018 MCL National Convention in Buffalo, NY. (Photo by Alison Noger, Dept. of MD)

BOTTOM RIGHT: MCL National Convention 2018 in Buffalo, NY. 58th Chief Devil Dog Leonard Spicer presents the Honor Dog award to Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran Michael Vernon for his Platoon. Michael advanced to the degree of PDD at the Supreme Growl. Woof woof! (Photo by Barbara DeAngelo, Dept. of NJ)

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.
Where are we on the elephant?

MARINES: We just completed Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, and as of July 1, 2018, we are now working on FY2019. The 95th National Convention is behind us, and we are continuing to work on restructure of the Marine Corps League.

FY2018 brought many challenges especially in our fiduciary responsibility and learning where the roadblocks are to corporate efficiency and decisions. The audit for FY2017 (actually 2004-2017) will show what we have accomplished as an organization. A HUGE THANK YOU to all who helped move us forward.

FY2019 brings a new set of challenges and tasks to be addressed before the 96th National Convention. Some of the areas that are already being worked on or in the planning stages:

1. Continue fiduciary responsibility as we close out the FY2018 books and audits.
2. FY2019’s implemented budget, audit and bookkeeping measures to move us forward.
3. Update and renegotiate contracts to improve revenue stream and solicited funds owed to us.
4. Partner with organizations to improve our brand and business exposure.
5. Establish review teams to address problem areas and offer recommendations to the BOT in order to solve current problems.
6. Start mentoring programs to train the future leaders of the League.

This coming year is another challenge and opportunity to continue to improve and grow the League.

Our organization is unique:

Detachments: The local community organization that engages in positive things, solicits membership and does projects to benefit the local veteran families in good and bad times. Establish leaders to serve locally and move up the chain of command.

Departments: The local area within our geographic location that provides links to the state government and veterans organizations. This is where local legislation is enacted and can advance up the chain. All of the detachments should make this a powerful body at the state level. This also includes the Marine at Large community.

Divisions: Made up of the geographic areas by dividing those departments into regions. Opportunity for a larger group to influence those regional states in their areas and also national support for the betterment of the body.

National: This organization provides the structure for the non-profit status and outreach to other Marine and non-Marine organizations. It is the entity that provides the organizational needs, structure and influences at the National government level.

As a TEAM we grow and guarantee the success of the organization and impact the lives of all U.S. Marine veterans.

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

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

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

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□ YES, I wish to order my CONCEALED CARRY VEST for the “Thank You” price of just $99.00 as follows. (And, please send me a FREE MARINE CORPS PATCH*)

COLOR: □ Black □ Coyote Brown
SIZE: □ S (34-36) □ M (38-40) □ LG (42-44) □ XL (46-48) □ 2XL (50-52) □ 3XL (54-56)

CONCEALED CARRY VEST (WITH FREE MARINE CORPS PATCH*): ........................................ $99.00

□ Holster(s) (add $14.95 ea.) ................................................................. $ ........................................

□ War Veteran & Flag Patches (add $10 each) check choice(s) below: ........................................ $
  □ U.S. Flag □ Korea □ Vietnam □ Desert Storm □ Afghanistan □ Iraq

□ *Sizes 2XL to 3XL (add $10) ................................................................. $ ........................................

□ Plus Shipping & Handling ................................................................. $ ........................................

TOTAL DUE: ................................................................................................. $ ........................................

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

CREDIT CARD: □ Visa □ MasterCard □ AMEX □ Discover Exp. Date: __/____

Card Security Code:_________________ Signature: __________________________

SHIPPING ADDRESS: (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Name______________________________
Address______________________________
City________________ State_____ Zip________
Phone # (________) __________

Email______________________________

In case we have questions about your order

*Marine Corps patches purchased from Officially Licensed suppliers. ©2018, ICM

OPTIONAL HOOK & LOOP HOLSTER
JUST $14.95 EACH!

6” x 2” hook back attaches to loop surface on your vest. Adjustable hook & loop design fits most handguns, elastic bungee cord to secure gun.

4 Inside Mag Pouches w/ Flap and Hook & Loop Closure

Right & Left Interior 6”x11” Loop Panel for Attaching Optional Concealed Carry Holsters

Four exterior zippered pockets (two side slash and two front slash) for convenient and secure storage complete the vest.

Color choice of Black or Coyote Brown, in sizes from Small to 3XL.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed or you may return your vest within 30 days for replacement or refund.

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

NOTE: IF YOU DON’T CARRY A FIREARM YOU’LL STILL LOVE THIS GREAT VEST! USE THE POCKETS FOR EXTRA STORAGE AND TO PROTECT/CONCEAL YOUR VALUABLES.
We appreciate your volunteerism—keep it coming!

**MARINES:** Our Marine Corps League continues to foster relationships with the Marine Corps and our brother and sister Marine associations. This presents more opportunities to help Marines as they transition out of the military, provide funeral honors for veterans and support the Toys For Tots mission. Our League continues to adapt to the future while maintaining our mission. We appreciate your volunteerism to the community and dedication to our Marines. Please continue to send in articles and photos for the magazine. One of our members, Bob Shannon from Detachment 1407 in Swansboro, NC, wrote to bring attention to the Roll Call section. I appreciate Bob’s points to include a greater detail about photographs. The photos should include an identification of the people in the photo, the detachment name and number, as well as the city and state. This helps us provide a more robust Roll Call section. Many detachments have a robust social media presence. There are photo collections of events, and it is a place to share the fun. Please look for the Marine Corps League on social media.

*Semper Fi!*

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**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.

**October 26, 1968**

Major David L. Althoff was named Marine Aviator of the Year and received the Alfred A. Cunningham Award. While serving in Vietnam, Major Althoff earned three Silver Stars, three Distinguished Flying Crosses and 50 Air Medals. He completed 1,000 combat and combat-support missions in Vietnam and made numerous rescues of Marines.

**November 11, 1918**

Private George W. Budde of the 17th Company, 5th Regiment was killed in action; he was one of the last six Marines killed in action in World War I.

**November 25, 1968**

Marines entered the DMZ after spotting North Vietnamese troop concentrations inside the zone. This was the first time Americans went into the DMZ after President Johnson’s 31 October order that ended air attacks on North Vietnam.

**December 2, 1918**

Marines advanced into Germany to conduct occupation duty along the Rhine River and near Koblenz.

**December 11, 1918**

The Marine Corps reached its maximum strength of World War I with 75,101 officers and enlisted on active duty and 269 Women Marine Reservists.

**December 28, 1968**

Marine combat base Camp Carroll in north Quang Tri Province was deactivated after more than two years of existence.
Our “USMC” Reversible Hoodie offers 2 looks in 1 to help show off your Marine Corps pride! Practical and comfortable, this hoodie is crafted in an easy care cotton blend knit that reverses from black to gray. Custom-designed patriotic artwork features a banner with “HOME of the FREE BECAUSE of the BRAVE” on the back of the black side. The USMC eagle, globe, and anchor insignia and “UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS” created in embroidery enhances the design. An appliqué patch of the Corps’ emblem decorates the front. The back of the gray side is printed with “The UNITED STATES MARINES SEMPER FI Established 1775” and is accented with an embroidered American flag patch. The front features another embroidered USMC emblem. A full front zipper with reversible puller, kangaroo pockets, lined hood, and black knit cuffs and hem completes the look. Imported.

An Outstanding Value... Not Available in Stores
Available in five men’s sizes M-XXXL, this reversible hoodie is a remarkable value at just $129.95*, payable in four installments of $32.49 each, and backed by our 30-day money-back guarantee. This is a limited-time offer, so don’t delay. To acquire yours, send no money now; just return the Priority Reservation today!

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

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The Broken Veteran Myth

It is a fact that the military suicide rate is actually lower than the civilian population’s suicide rate which runs against the widespread mythology that says veterans are weakened by military service and doomed to failure. Statistically the opposite is true.

Census and FBI data suggests military veterans are better employed, less incarcerated, less mentally unstable and more home-owning than average Americans, which makes sense since participating and surviving military service makes us stronger, not weaker. But this truth makes it difficult for those who profit by presenting veterans as objects of fear and pity. This also allows those who have avoided military service to feel vindicated by saying military service turns good people into broken, bad ones. Many panhandlers lie about being veterans, and some organizations that solicit for donations for veterans encourage the helpless, damaged veteran image because pity prompts people to donate to them.

Yes, some veterans do need help. Yet, by all measures, military veterans are better, stronger and more reliable than the general civilian population. We need to debunk and educate the population about these false myths of the “broken veteran” and encourage Americans to see and treat military veterans not with pity but with honor and respect.

Michael L. Emerson
Proud U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

Mr. Emerson,
While serving in the Marine Corps, we had our brothers and sisters on our team to share the positives and negatives. We were a tribe, and this comes with some important support elements. As Marines exit from military service, they still hold the values and traits but lose their tribe. We need to strengthen our Marine Veteran tribe to support our fellow Marines. This will have an impact on those at risk of suicide.

Bob Borka
Chief Operating Officer/Headquarters Marine Corps League
Executive Editor/Semper Fi

Blast from the Past

I wrote a letter to Megan Shea, of Chipotle Publishing, submitted a photo, and mentioned to her to write the Editor of Semper Fi Magazine to form a new column that I created called “Blast from the Past.” This new column was to be for all MCL members and detachments to submit old photographs, with a write-up, for publication in future issues of the magazine. The photo appeared in the Winter 2018 issue of the Semper Fi Magazine with the title “Blast from the Past.”

S/F
Stephen J. Chiarello, MCL #248

Mr. Chiarello,
We appreciate your suggestion to create a column in the magazine. In the summer issue of Semper Fi we were able to include “Blast from the Past” as a section with the proper heading. I would like to hear from our readers. Would you like to see a Blast from the Past section and would you submit old photographs? Perhaps even our History Committee would like to be involved.

Note regarding the Summer Issue of Semper Fi, page 50. The photo of the Marine Corps Color Guard has the American Flag to the left of the Marine Corps Flag. Although the flag was improperly displayed, this photo was used because it was found to be of historical significance.

Bob Borka
Chief Operating Officer/Headquarters Marine Corps League
Executive Editor/Semper Fi

Editor's Reminder
If you would like to submit a letter to the editor for publication here, please send it to semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com and mark it “Letter to the Editor.” We look forward to hearing from you.
**ATTENTION ON DECK**

**DUES DATES**

**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 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.

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**HAPPY 243rd BIRTHDAY MARINES!**

On November 10, 1775, the Continental Marines was created as a resolution of the Second Continental Congress in response to the American Revolutionary War. The Continental Marines’ conducted ship-to-ship fighting, shipboard security and land force assistance. This original group was disbanded when the Revolutionary War ended in 1783 with the Treaty of Paris. However, on July 11, 1798, President John Adams signed into law a congressional act which established the United States Marine Corps as its own separate service branch.

Major Edwin N. McClellan, officer in charge of the Marine Corps’ Historical Section, suggested to then 13th Commandant, John A. Lejeune that the anniversary of the establishment of the Marine Corps be celebrated based upon its first inception. Thus, on November 1, 1921, Commandant Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, which declared that in memory of the thousands of men who served as Marines after November 10, 1775, “It is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.”

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Please remember to donate to the Tree of Lights, which benefits the National Youth Foundation. See page 31 more information.

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**SFE THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**
Mark Munger Teaches Us ‘Semper Fidelis’ Has No Expiration

There is No Better Assistance for Transitioning Marines than the Marine for Life Network
Retired Master Sergeant Mark D. Munger is not only the Judge Advocate of his detachment and a member of the MODD, he’s the Southeast Regional Network Coordinator for the Marine for Life Network. Based in eastern North Carolina, near Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River and MCAS Cherry Point Mark are positioned perfectly to effectively connect transitioning Marines with a network of employment, education and other community resources.

Mark spent 25 years in the Corps before beginning this new mission with the Marine for Life Network. This amazing mentor of Marines and I recently spent some time discussing the Marine for Life Network and the Marine Corps League.

OSSIAN: Tell us about the Marine for Life Network.

Munger: The Marine for Life Network works to provide connections to opportunities for those transitioning Marines, veterans and their families who are requesting to join the Marine for Life Network. Those connections to opportunities might be employment, education or community resources. The Marine for Life Network has USMCR SNCOs and Officers in various locations across the Country as a face-to-face resource for those requesting to join the Marine for Life Network. We also utilize electronic networks to facilitate networking opportunities. One of the main avenues is throughLinkedIn, where there are five main Marine for Life Groups; a national group and then a group for each region: Southeast, Northeast, Central and West. Everyone who requests to join the Marine for Life Network is connected with opportunities relating to their individual request.

Requesting assistance through the Marine for Life Network is as simple as going to www.marineforlife.org.

OSSIAN: We know the Marine for Life Network assists with employment. What other services do you provide?

M: The Marine for Life Network is continually growing. We strive to grow potential networking connections by having active LinkedIn groups. The Marine for Life Network makes referrals to the American Job Centers, provides guidance for how to find a VA certifying official or veterans’ resources on a college campus and ways to locate community resources.

The Marine for Life Network is about more than assisting with employment. Employment is the most frequent request for assistance. When a Marine is preparing to transition out of the Marine Corps and asks a question, many times they can be referred to an asset on their installation. Personal and Professional Development Advisors, education services, financial questions.

The Marine for Life Network does not directly assist with certification, but I frequently recommend transitioning Marines utilize the credentialing opportunities found here www.cool.navy.mil/all_about_cool.htm There are also Skill Bridge Programs like Veterans in Piping and others that Marines can find out about through their installation Personal and Professional Development Advisors.

OSSIAN: What outreach does the Marine for Life Network have in local communities or is it just at Marine Corps bases?

M: The Marine for Life Network does reach out to local communities. Not only through our Marine for Life Representatives, but through networking. Resources provided by the Marine for Life Network are individualized, so someone requesting to go to Jackson, MS, can get the same type of resource information as someone requesting to go to Charleston, WV. Another great opportunity is Veterans Service Organizations, like the Marine Corps League being active in the Marine for Life LinkedIn groups to be able to connect with transitioning Marines coming to their area.

OSSIAN: Part of your mission with the Marine for Life Network is helping Marines transition. When you went from the Marine Corps to civilian life, what was the transition like for you?

M: It was a challenge for me. One of the things I loved about the Marine Corps was talking with Marines about their future and how they could utilize the resources on the installation to help meet those goals. So being away from that was a challenge, but the role I found with MCCS immediately made me feel at home by allowing me the fantastic opportunity to assist Marines and their families.

OSSIAN: What is the most challenging part of your job?

M: There are times when it is challenging due to the fact the Marine requesting assistance might not provide much detail to their request. I find my job very rewarding, and it is an honor to provide information which I hope empowers an individual to meet their needs.

OSSIAN: What Marine Corps experience do you often draw upon in your life now? Who influenced you the most?

M: I look back and appreciate the opportunities I had through the musical message I used to provide veterans. Today, I am able to make what I hope is a positive impact by listening and providing resources for active duty Marines and veterans alike.

One of my biggest influences happened early in my career. My first Band Officer in the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band was CWO2 Roxanne Haskell. I have her to thank for developing my genuine love of not just Sousa, but all of the march kings. She trained me to be very proficient at my MOS and provided me with the opportunities to grow as a Marine.

OSSIAN: In your opinion what is the Marine Corps League’s role in assisting Marines Transition to civilian life? What more can we do?

M: I believe the Marine Corps League can play an important role for the transitioning Marine. When a Marine family arrives at their chosen destination, when they depart the active ranks, the presence of a Marine Corps League detachment can provide a spirit of camaraderie, access to local resources, access to a Veteran Services Officer.

I think the Marine Corps League can expand the current capabilities for this type of outreach by becoming active with social media. In particular, LinkedIn; more and more LinkedIn is utilized for networking. Networking is more than simply networking for employment; networking is about gaining a connection to assist with a need or providing exposure to opportunities. I believe that with a larger presence on LinkedIn, Marine Corps League detach-
The Marine for Life Network

The Marine for Life Network has re-established a viable partnership/relationship with the Marine Corps League to provide resource assistance to transitioning Marines, veterans and family members within the M4L network. This partnership has led to the MCL hosting multiple Marine For Life Employer/Veteran networking events held at the MCL Headquarters in Stafford, VA. The latest Networking event held June 13, 2018, hosted at the MCL Headquarters was a major success. National and regional employers, Marines, veterans and spouses all came together to network. Also in attendance were M4L Representatives from around the country. The evening was electric!

You could hear those seeking employment opportunities master their 30-second pitch. As the evening came to a close you could see the excitement on many faces knowing they just put together that winning drive with many of the employers present.

Herrick Ross, Veterans Director with Starbucks, is familiar with the transition process. He transitioned from the Marine Corps after 23 years of honorable service and continues to serve Marines with employment resources to help level the playing field.

OSSIAN: What’s your favorite thing about being in the League?

M: My favorite thing about the League is being able to share the common bond. Young or old, there is a common bond shared. This shared bond goes further than just the Marines in the detachment; there is a genuine desire to help Marines, active and veteran.

AUTHOR’S NOTE

Mark is one of the four Regional Coordinators for the Marine for Life Network. They also have 50 Marine for Life Representatives allowing them to assist Marines and their families all over the country. Considering 80% of jobs are found through networking this makes Marine for Life Network an amazing ally in the battle young Marines face while transitioning out of the Marine Corps.

For more information on the Marine for Life Network go to www.MarineForLife.org.

AUTHOR’S COMMENTS

As we move this League forward, embracing Marine for Life and supporting it at every level of our organization is a must. Imagine, if you will, how much easier the shift to civilian life can be for the veteran and his or her family knowing there is a network of Marines standing by to guide them. On a National level it certainly has been challenging for us to recruit Marines and Sailors under the age of 50. As we work toward solving this issue I would suggest to you that at times we forget how challenging it was to transition from active duty to the civilian world.

I’m only 49 years old, but I don’t recall having anything as outstanding as Marine for Life to assist me when I left active duty. This impactful group exists now, and we can help them reach and assist this Nation’s great veterans and their families.

Semper Fi!
Surround yourself with the heroic pride of the always faithful spirit of the United States Marine Corps—with our “USMC Semper Fi” Men’s Spinning Ring.

**A Magnificent Achievement in Craftsmanship and Design**

Individually crafted of Marine tough solid stainless steel ion-plated with 24K-gold accents, this contemporary “spinning” ring features a bold and original design. The center band of the ring is finely engraved with the Marine motto “Semper Fi” (Always Faithful). The Marine Corps emblem of eagle, globe and anchor is featured on the outer band along with the word “Marines.” Plus, the ring actually spins when you turn it! It’s a distinctive look of USMC pride that you can take with you wherever you go.

**A Fine Jewelry Exclusive from The Bradford Exchange**

Act now to acquire this handsome USMC spinning ring at the remarkable price of just $79*, which you can pay for in 4 easy installments of $19.75. Available in men’s whole and half sizes 8-15, your ring arrives in a presentation box with a Certificate of Authenticity and the “To Forever Be... A United States Marine” card, backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. To reserve your ring, send no money now; just fill out and mail the Priority Reservation today!

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

**LIMITED-TIME OFFER**

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

**PRIORITY RESERVATION**

YES. Please reserve the “USMC Semper Fi” Men’s Spinning Ring for me as described in this announcement.

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

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

*Plus a total of $9.98 shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for shipment of your jewelry. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.
‘Transition’—It’s Not Just a Word, but A Process!

Getting Left of Transition
Taking the steps to prepare for transition, Sgt Tyler Haas transitioned out of the Marine Corps in May 2018. Sgt Haas sat down with Mark Munger the Southeast Regional Network Coordinator and shared information on how the Marine For Life Network helped as he prepared for transition.

How did Sgt Haas become aware of the Marine For Life Network? “I sat next to the Career Planner in the S-1 for a long time and always heard him preaching to other Marines about the Marine For Life Network. So, when I decided to transition out of the Marine Corps, I knew exactly where to go.”

How did Sgt Haas get connected? “I called Mr. Munger and requested a meeting to get connected with employers in the Raleigh, NC, area.” Then, “Marine For Life connected me with Jason Kemp at PIKE in Raleigh, NC.” Sgt Haas was able to make favorable impressions as he went through the interview process. When asked what his plans were following his EAS, “I plan on working on power lines with PIKE in Raleigh.”

Sgt Haas has shown the value of taking the initiative to ask for assistance through the Marine For Life Network. When asked if he would recommend the Marine For Life Network as a resource for his fellow Marines, Sgt Haas said, “Yes, I would tell any Marine in a similar situation as myself to get a hold of Mr. Munger and the Marine For Life Network.”

What Can We Take Away from This?
1. Join the Marine For Life Network and connect with a local M4L Representative.
2. Make a plan for Transitioning. Visit your installation’s Transition Readiness office and talk to a Personal and Professional Development Advisor.
3. Pay it forward! If you are in a position to provide mentoring, employment opportunities or other community connections for Marines and family members, connect with the Marine For Life Network today!

Still searching for more in-depth assistance with networking? Contact your installation’s Marine and Family Programs Transition Readiness staff and join the Marine For Life Network by completing the form.
You can also follow the Marine For Life Network on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. $F

FOR MORE INFORMATION

"Transition and A Career Beyond the Call of Duty"
usmc-mccs.org/articles/transition-and-a-career-beyond-the-call-of-duty

"7 Tips for Effective Face-to-Face Networking"
usmc-mccs.org/articles/7-tips-for-effective-face-to-face-networking

“Eight Ways to Spring Clean Your Career”
usmc-mccs.org/articles/eight-ways-to-spring-clean-your-career-in-2018
Marine For Life Network Connects Marines to Valuable Resources

At the heart of the Marine For Life Network (M4L) are our M4L Representatives. These Reservists are passionate about assisting transitioning Marines and family members. Here is the testimonial and thank you from Capt Josh Browning, a transitioning Marine who received assistance from LtCol Thomas Leahy, our Maryland M4L Representative.

The Value of a Marine For Life Network Representative

The heart of the Marine For Life Network are our M4L Representatives. These Reservists are passionate about assisting transitioning Marines and family members. M4L Reps are embedded in communities throughout the US and build and sustain networks of Marine-friendly employers and local resources. They wear many different hats as M4L Reps, but their ultimate goal is to connect Marines and family members to relevant resources that support their personal and professional goals after service.

Here is the testimonial and thank you from Capt Josh Browning, a transitioning Marine who received assistance from LtCol Thomas Leahy, our Maryland M4L Representative.

“First and foremost I want to say thank you. The fact that this outlet exists to benefit transitioning Marines is why I became a Marine, camaraderie. Immediately upon requesting access via LinkedIn, I received your [Lt Col Leahy, Maryland M4L Representative] request to speak. The process was transparent and seamless.

That is exactly what a Marine who has no clue what to do or where to start needs to get the ball rolling. The tyranny of distance was made irrelevant with the ability to email any time and schedule phone calls. I greatly appreciate that.

As well, the leadership and mentorship provided is paramount. Whether giving excellent advice on transitioning and milestones associated, providing contacts to network or to listen to stressors, the mentorship is genuine, concise and greatly appreciated.

Every Marine I meet that transitions or that I interview for their EAS, I tell about this network and tell them my successful interactions with yourself. And in all honesty, every Marine I tell that to gets excited and says they will sign up (I cannot force them too, but I just hope they do it!).

Thank you again, Sir for all of your time invested in me. I hope this program continues to flourish, and I look forward to paying it back one day once I am established.”

The Marine For Life Network cannot promise a Marine or family member a job, but through our network of Marine For Life Network Representatives we can connect you to valuable resources to support your transition!

What Can We Learn from Josh?

1. Join the Marine For Life Network and connect with a local M4L Representative.
2. Visit your installation’s Transition Readiness office and talk to a Personal and Professional Development Advisor who can provide career counseling and a range of transition workshops.

Still searching for more in-depth assistance with transition? Contact your installation’s Transition Readiness staff. Join the Marine For Life Network by completing the form.

You can also follow the Marine For Life Network on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter.

Upcoming Networking Events

Below are dates of professional networking events taking place throughout the country (listed by region), in which you can attend free of charge.

Southeast Region
• October 2-3, 2018: Hiring our Heroes Transition Summit, Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, NC
• October 5, 2018: Hiring our Heroes Hiring Summit, MCAS Cherry Point, Havelock, NC

FOR MORE INFORMATION

“Once a Marine, Always a Marine: Career Resources for Veterans” usmc-mccs.org/articles/once-a-marine-always-a-marine-career-resources-for-veterans

“How Marine For Life Helped Smooth One Marine’s Transition” usmc-mccs.org/articles/the-marine-for-life-network-hooked-up-ssgt-jenkins

“From Excavator to Assistant Superintendent” usmc-mccs.org/articles/from-excavator-to-assistant-superintendent

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Too Many Suicides

By a Person Who Cares About You

"Are you thinking about suicide?"

Over the past year and a half I have been volunteering for a suicide hotline a few hours every week. I want to pass on a few nuggets of information to help people and to lower the number of people taking their own life. Be it a veteran who cannot take the pain any longer, a young person who is being bullied at school and cannot see how life can continue or even someone who just broke up with the love of his life and doesn’t see how he can possibly live without that person.

First, if you are hurting and thinking of killing yourself or doing self-harm, I can truly say that I care about you, and I want you to call the national number now, 1-800-273-8255—the line is active 24/7/365. I can say that there will be someone on the other side of the line who wants to talk to you and that people do care about you no matter what is going on. Your life matters.

This part of my message is for the people around the person who is hurting. For every person who is hurting there is at least one person (or even more people) in that person’s life who knows what is going on, and they do not know how to help. First and foremost ask the person if he or she is thinking about suicide or self-harm—just come out and ask it. Then ask if he has done something that would end his life. If the answer to the latter of the question is yes, stop right there and call 911. By asking this question you will not make the person suddenly start to think about suicide. He or she has more than likely been thinking about suicide for a while now. Sorry to burst your bubble.

I don’t know how many times people have called the hotline while I was working saying I have a friend who is hurting, and I don’t know what to do. The answer is simpler than you may think—talk and listen to the person hurting. What I mean by talk to the person is ask them open-ended questions: get the person to tell you what is going on. What do I mean by open-ended questions? Questions that cannot be answered in one word. When I say to the person talks and you summarize what he just said to you. This way the person gets the feeling that you are listening to him, and you get to confirm what you think you heard. You may think this is way too simple, but it is not.

One of the main things I have come to understand talking to people on the hotline is one person can make all the difference in the world as long as that one person is willing to listen.

If the person says yes, he or she has been thinking about suicide and has a plan, ask what the plan is? Make that person be specific. Keep asking questions. Then talk with him to help break the plan. By this I mean if the person says the plan is to take a bunch of pills, it could be as simple as asking him or her to give you the pills.

Now that you have an idea of what is going on, it is time to help the person come up with a safety plan. This means what the person is going to do right now to stay safe. It may be as simple as talking to people or going to the ER to get help. A safety plan is a simple set of items or ideas the person can do to stay safe right now. It is also good to help the person come up with a backup plan as well—this way if the first plan does not work the other one will. Don’t forget you can always have them call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) as part of any plan.

If the person cannot tell you he’ll be safe right now, it is ok to call 911 or take him to an ER. It is okay that your help did not make him safe; you actually were helping because you were able to get him to the professional people who can help.

If more people in this world took the time to care for their friends and ask a simple question like, “Are you thinking about suicide?” to someone who is hurting, I know the numbers of people who take their own life would be greatly reduced.

If you want to receive training on suicide prevention you can always call the hotline (1-800-273-8255) and request the local business line and leave a message asking when the next training will be. They will be more than happy to help you get the training you are looking for.

Because I still plan to answer the hotline as long as the person in charge allows me or I find my next calling, I cannot tell you my name. I must stay anonymous. So from a complete stranger, I can truly say I do care about each and every person, and if you are hurting and thinking about suicide please reach out and talk to someone even if it is on a phone to a complete stranger. $IF

Baltimore Detachment Hosts Veteran Suicide Awareness Walk-a-Thon

By Stuart Blair

Ten members of the Baltimore Detachment arrived at the detachment hall at 7 a.m. on April 21, 2018, to host approximately 140 members (both male and female) of the Irreverent Warriors Walk-a-Thon. The main hall was filled with this boisterous bunch who were treated to hot coffee and delicious donuts. The Gung Ho Museum was open for anyone who wanted to see it. The members’ apparel was attention-getting for their 14-mile hike that started at 9 a.m. into the city. There were flags and banners, 4 large dogs (decked out in vests) and paraphernalia with everything from a Viking helmet with horns to an ancient-type Roman helmet. The entire entourage was accompanied by two eye-catching vehicles. The public within earshot could not be unaware of this noisy bunch (which was an important part of it). Some participants came from as far as Texas and Ohio.

The mission of Irreverent Warriors is to bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to heal their mental wounds through events and entertainment in order to reduce PTSD and veteran suicide. Their vision is to provide all U.S. veterans with a very strong veteran-based support network, reduce the impact of PTSD and eliminate veteran suicide.

They unanimously expressed their appreciation for the detachment’s hospitality and for a Baltimore base from which to operate. $IF
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 militaryjavagroup.com
ATTENTION ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS ... I normally address my comments in this column to those who belong to the Military Order of Devil Dogs. However, I do not want MCL members to skip past this page, thinking it does not pertain to them. Every MCL member is important to the MODD because you are our potential members. Without the MCL, the Devil Dogs would not exist. So please take time to read and consider this information.

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League. The Order is comprised of only regular members of the League (USMC, FMF Corpsmen or FMF Chaplains) who have been recommended for membership. You must be active in your detachment, must be invited to join the Order, must be recommended by your Detachment Commandant and be sponsored by two Devil Dogs. Each new member undergoes a series of initiations/advancements and then they can begin to participate in Pound, Pack and Kennel activities.

The MODD promotes good fellowship amongst the members of the MCL detachments. The Order provides amusement and entertainment at all the gatherings of the League, when and where advisable, preserves and strengthens the principles and ideals of the League and maintains true allegiance to the United States of America and its Constitution and laws. It fosters and extends American institutions of freedom and defends America against all enemies. The Order is also very active in raising funds for variety of different charities.

Each year, during our Supreme Growl at the MCL National Convention, the Devil Dogs make a sizable donation to a local children’s hospital. This year, we donated $40,000 to the Children’s Hospital of Buffalo Foundation in Buffalo, NY.

If you are interested in joining us, please talk to the members of your detachment who are already Devil Dogs. I am sure that you will enjoy becoming a member of the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League.

If you have any questions or want more information about the MODD, please visit 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

Growls Around the Country

The Missouri Pack Leader Bob Reed and the Chief present a check for $5,000 to representatives of the Cottonwood Residential Treatment during their Grand Growl.

Midwest Division VCDD Craig Reeling poses with members of the Jessie O. Price Pound 210 (NC Pack) after their recent Growl.
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When a Marine gives you their word, you know it’s forever. And especially when those words are “I do.” Through good times and bad, you can count on your loyal partner to always be there, standing proudly by your side.

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“Always Faithful” is meticulously handcrafted in fine bisque porcelain, then hand-painted in soft pearlescent hues and metallic touches. Every detail is perfect, from the bride’s golden USMC emblem hair pin to the groom’s dapper uniform ... his patriotic colors are as rich and vibrant as your love for one another!

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Limited to only 120 firing days, “Always Faithful” can be yours for just three payments of $33.33*; with only the first payment due prior to shipment. Our 365-Day Guarantee assures your satisfaction for one year or your money back. Quantities are limited and demand will be strong, so reserve now and honor your most loving commitment — today and always!

“Always Faithful” is Officially licensed by the US Marine Corps!

Tried and true in my love for you!
Thank you for all you do

What a great honor it is to serve as National President of such a wonderful organization! Thank you for your support, and thank you to Junior Past President Karen Aune who represented us with such grace and dignity during the past two years. I believe we have a dedicated and knowledgeable elected staff who is more than capable to serve our members’ needs. Thank you to all of the faithful members who have stepped up to serve alongside of us in very important appointed positions on the National Staff during the next year. Together, I am confident that we will succeed and grow.

If you did not “shuffle off to Buffalo” for the National Convention in August, you missed a wonderful week of camaraderie with our Marine family and a unique opportunity to acquire new ideas for fulfilling our mission to serve others and for sharing with your unit and department members. Thank you to all who were involved in the planning of this event. For those who attended, I hope you were able to enjoy the city of Buffalo and visit Niagara Falls.

I enjoyed attending the Modern Day Marine Expo at Quantico, VA, in September. I have been to several of these expositions and am always amazed at the new equipment and technology on display that is available to our Marines. I never thought I would see a drone that fits in the palm of one’s hand or a robotic animal that can traverse any terrain at an amazing speed—two great examples of artificial intelligence being used to save the lives of Marines throughout the world. While on the East Coast, I also spent a day working at National Headquarters.

Happy Birthday, Marines! November 10 will be the 243rd birthday of the USMC. I hope that you are able to celebrate the occasion with your Marine family and attend a Veterans Day service the following morning. I will be celebrating the USMC birthday at the Marine Corps War Memorial and representing our members at the National Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery the following day.

Thank you, Ladies, for all that you do. Please continue to recruit new members who are also inspired to serve our Marines, their families and your communities as you do so well.

“There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.” —Gen. James H. Doolittle

Semper Fi!
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MCL Foundation assistance “One Time, Life Time ...”

**MARINES:** We shuffled off to Buffalo and had a great time. Getting to see our membership having a great time and enjoying the cuisine and beverages that originated in the Buffalo/Niagara area was memorable. The MCL Foundation presented the annual educational award to the Young Marine of the Year at the National Convention, while announcing many other youth programs supported by the Marine Corps League Foundation per our Charter and Bylaws. I give a heartfelt thanks to those who donated at the National Convention with passing of the hat and purchasing of coins, patches, pill holders, flavorful popcorn and sponsor shirts. We also thank those of you who purchased raffle tickets to help our mission. Online donation opportunities have been expanded so you can now donate through Facebook and other online sites using PayPal. Without continued support through donations, the MCL Foundation will be hard pressed to maintain funds to assist those in need. We continue to appreciate and am thankful for the donations and gifts from across the country from not only the MCL membership, but from our brothers and sisters of other associations. Just a reminder, all assistance from the MCL Foundation is a “One Time, Life Time grant of assistance.”

The Memorial Certificate program continues to be the most honorable way to say “Thanks” to those who have received PCS orders to stand guard at the Pearly Gate. Remember, for the low price of $25 per certificate, you can have the certificates delivered in a red MCL certificate holder, and for $150, a framed memorial certificate will be sent. Having the certificates on-hand at the detachment and department levels is the fastest way to provide immediate thanks and honoring, so purchase the blank certificates and be ready.

**CEO, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

**BILL DAVIS**

Over 1,300 Young Marines attended summer events

**MARINES:** Teamwork, leadership and discipline are the core values of the Young Marines that units across the country and abroad teach their Young Marines. This summer, over 1,300 Young Marines were able to take advantage of unique opportunities that only the Young Marines program offers by participating in activities that allowed them to put our values into practice. S.P.A.C.E.S. events (Summer Programs, Adventures, Challenges, Encampments and Schools) are the culmination of a year of learning within the Young Marines program. This past summer, the Young Marines were offered a total of seven S.P.A.C.E.S. events ranging from a WWI/WWII Adventure touring European battle sites and historical monuments, to the Cowboy Experience on a cattle ranch in Montana, to our National Leadership Academy where Young Marines met with 300 other kids from around the country to advance their leadership and teamwork skills. These programs last between one and two weeks and are rotated every year to offer a wide range of experiences. Young Marines can also take advantage of local events such as weekend camping trips which are more accessible for our younger members.

Throughout these events, Young Marines can expect to be physically and mentally challenged while still having fun and working with other Young Marines from across the country. This especially applied to the Young Marines who attended the National Outdoor Leadership School in Alaska this year. This school tested the survival skills that units teach locally and added more advanced skills such as whittling and making bow drills to the Young Marines’ field skills repertoire.

Providing these programs not only gives Young Marines practical application experience to bring back to their local units, but equally importantly, allows our youth to create life-long bonds and share experiences that they may not have otherwise had the chance to in their home states.

These programs cost a small fee to the Young Marines, and the rest is borne by the Young Marines program funding, but the benefit to each Young Marine cannot be measured. National and local scholarship programs and sponsors are also available, helping everyone have an opportunity to attend.

All events, whether locally run or sponsored by National Headquarters, are designed to have Young Marines from different locations and backgrounds work together to learn, build comradery and take further steps toward our goal of living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.
There are solutions to every problem

**MARINES:** The Convention is over, and I’m still your National Sr. Vice Commandant. I’m looking forward to a busy and productive year. This past year we’ve accomplished a great deal in moving our League forward. I am looking forward to continuing the progress; I will be spending more time at Headquarters this year to focus on the inner workings of the League.

We still have a lot of work to do with the database, 990s and the IRS, and membership. As you were told at the Convention the problem with the new database is the old one. Getting information out has become virtually impossible, but we will solve the problem. We’ve come a long way with the IRS and our 990s, but the job is not done. We need more compliance from the detachments to help solve the issues.

That all being said, I will continue to reinforce the fact that we are all volunteers in this organization. When you volunteer for any office, elected or appointed, remember the oath you took to fulfill the duties of your office to the best of your ability. As I’ve said before and will continue to say, if the job proves to be too much or you just don’t want to do the job properly, step down. If you disagree with the way something is being done or with a particular Bylaw or regulation, voice your opinion by submitting a change in writing.

There are solutions to every problem. Refusal to properly do your job or to constantly complain is not the answer. If you have a problem, provide a possible solution. We all need to work together toward the same goal. Your National Board of Trustees is working very hard to improve the way we operate and to make things easier for every detachment and department.

I want to thank those of you who are on board and trying to help and continue to work according to the current Bylaws. To those of you whose only plan is to resist, try working with us; it’s not that hard. **Semper Fi**
Let's all concentrate on the future

MARINES: We just finished our National Convention in Buffalo, NY, which was another great event. It was our opportunity to showcase our League and make a positive impact for our members and America. I appreciate the efforts of the Buffalo Marines and the Department of New York. Job well done Marines. I also sincerely appreciate you re-electing me as your National Junior Vice Commandant. I am humbled by your support and confidence.

At the National Convention, we discussed the Marine for Life Network. The Marine Corps League is working with the Marine Corps in hopes of creating a relationship between the League and their program. What a great opportunity not only to fulfill our mission of “assisting Marines,” but this program truly gives each detachment the ability to assist Marines as they leave active duty. Contact your Detachment Liaison and get involved with the Marine for Life Network. Not sure what it is? Google “Marine for Life.”

During the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, we had a positive growth of about 2,000 new members. During the National Convention, I had the pleasure of passing out the National Junior Vice Awards Citations and Streamers to about 650 detachments, 37 departments and all 10 divisions that had a positive growth over 100% over the previous year. This is outstanding, but we must continue to recruit and retain our Marines since our members age out.

Vet applicants and encourage new detachments

MARINES: I hope everyone enjoyed their time in Buffalo. Our New York League members certainly went to a lot of effort to showcase their state, and it was well appreciated.

One of the main events at the Convention was the restructuring of our current bylaws and administrative procedures and the acceptance of new bylaws/procedures voted on by the Convention delegates. These were the results of many, many hours, meetings, writing and rewriting of these bylaws this past year with the bylaws committee’s efforts. Thank you all! These changes will hopefully benefit the League for years to come.

One issue that baffles me is the number of issues involving false information on applications. When a person applies for membership into our League, the detachment is charged with properly vetting the applicant. If the proper paperwork is not presented with the original application including a proper DD-214, delay of action on the applicant needs to take place rather than to assume everything is indeed proper. Allowing in those said applicants, who may have misrepresented themselves, causes all involved great embarrassment. We do not want to bring the Marine Corps League or for that matter the Marine Corps into any circumstance where the brand is dishonored.

Throughout many veterans’ organizations today, there is a disparity of members when it comes to age. Our young veterans are not of the same mindset as many older veterans. Chapter 6 in our administrative procedures clearly details how to go about establishing a new detachment. As a suggestion, if at all possible, meet with young Marine veterans and see if they would be interested in forming their own detachment. This would allow them to avail themselves of the benefits of the League as well as establish a working group to continue on our legacy. These younger veterans are committed to helping others. They love the Marine Corps as much as anyone—check out their many tattoos. Impressively, they all volunteered to serve.

I want to thank everyone for their help and support this past year. I have enjoyed stepping into this position and the ability to meet so many of our members throughout the country and gaining insight from listening to their input as to how we can improve our League.

Semper Fi!
Take on new roles–pave the path for other members

**MARINES:** As I have travelled around our Division, I’ve noticed many detachments that have elected and/ or appointed Officers holding those positions for an indefinite number of years or are recycled to different positions after their terms have expired. Many of these detachments are medium-sized with healthy membership attendance at their monthly meetings. I have to ask the question “why?” Every member has been taught leadership skills and traits throughout their time they served whether on active or reserve duty. We have all been tasked, at some point or another, to take charge and complete objectives. We all stepped up, without hesitation and confidently met or exceeded those goals that were given to us. That flame of leadership beamed in us! When we separated from the Corps, many of us picked up civilian jobs. For many of us, those leadership skills were shelved during those working years as we learned to integrate into a different style of work with a different leadership structure. Over time, that flame in us got a little smaller, but it never went away. Within the Marine Corps League, every one of us has an opportunity to make our detachments better by utilizing our leadership talents and stepping up to become an Officer; one who has visions and goals, not only to benefit the Detachment, but the community as well. In these positions, you will find that flame within you grower larger and remember all that you have been taught. You will spread a positive contagiousness throughout your Detachment for each member to want to bring out the best in himself as well. Fresh eyes and ideas are essential in our continuous growth at the Detachment level, which ultimately strengthen our whole organization. I encourage every member to consider stepping up and taking on a position that he or she has an interest in. Remember, you are not alone. You have the assistance of your fellow Officers, as well as the membership, to help you obtain your goals and objectives. I truly hope that this article positively pushes many members to take on new roles in the coming years. Every one of you has something to contribute, and you also pave the path for other members to follow. Until we meet again, take care of yourselves and each other.

*Semper Fi!*

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**DIVISION REPORTS**

Information from the National Convention

**MARINES:** I want to thank the Central Division for electing me as your National Vice Commandant for the next two years. Second, I want to thank Ray Dailey for all that you have done the last four years as National Vice Commandant of the Central Division. And lastly, I thank my wife Marine Wendy Zamora for supporting me all the time.

A lot happened at the Convention. There are some trademark issues that are being addressed right now with the Marine Corps. If you are going to use the Eagle, Globe and Anchor (EGA) to make money, then you will need to contact the trademark office of the Marine Corps to see if you are allowed to use it; but if you use the Marine Corps League logo, then check with National Headquarters, and they will be able to give you a Yay or Nay.

All detachments, and there are NO exceptions, NEED to be a 501(c4) with the exemption code of 0955. I know the IRS may say that you need to be a (c19) or (c3), but it is a (c4). So if you need to change this, then get with National and see if they can help you get this changed. Also make sure your fiscal year is the same as National’s, which is July 1—June 30; please make sure this gets done soon.

And now to the Paymaster issues: please make sure that all detachments get the Life Membership audits in before December 31 and have the required signatures of the Commandant and Paymaster. If you don’t get these signed and turned in to your Department Paymasters, who will forward these to National, then you will not get your cut of the Life Membership dues. During the Convention we found out that all the transmittals since July 1 were retained but not processed into the database. The reason is simple; National is in the process of moving to a new database. If they had placed the information in the old database, then it would have slowed the process of moving all the information from the old to the new database. Please be patient and inform your accepted members to also have patience and that cards are on the way.

New Bylaws that have passed or were denied are on the League’s Library page at mcleaguelibrary.org on the National website, mclnational.org. Just look for the link.

Next year’s National Convention is in Billings, MT, on August 4-9, 2019. If you want to attend, then you should call the hotel right now if you would like to be in the Main Hotel. Rooms are $99.50; you won’t find this price in many places.

I will work to keep you updated on our Central Division website.

*Semper Fi!*
Updated rosters and registration with Secretary of State should be completed

MARINES: Hope everyone had an exciting time in Buffalo. Now that the 95th National Convention is history, the Midwest Division welcomes the newly elected National and Division Officers. Now is the time to concentrate on membership retention. With the change in the renewal process, overdue members may now be allowed to renew their memberships without the problem of not knowing if there were outstanding invoices that would now allow the member to be carried as a member in good standing. Maybe with this change, the League will regain members and put us around 65,000 members again.

Detachment and department rosters should be completed with the updated members’ information and compared with the latest National Roster. The bylaws that were passed in August at Buffalo should reduce the number of pages required to define the Marine Corps League. The Midwest Division Fall Conference was hosted October 5-6, 2018, by the newly chartered Department of North Dakota and the Dakota Leathernecks Detachment 1419 at the Quality Inn in Bismarck, ND. Training sessions covered a review of state and federal laws regarding IRS and Secretary of State requirements for the detachments and department, social media and a special presentation: “(What’s your MOS?) Military Occupational Stress—Panel presentation discussing the positive influences of military mental health and suicide awareness.” A job well done to the members of the Department of North Dakota and the Dakota Leathernecks 1419.

Now is the time to verify that all departments and detachments have registered with your Secretary of State for the not-for-profit registration; Form 990-N (Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990EZ) should have been received by now for all detachments and departments. It is a little early but go ahead and send your Life Member Audit to National to be sure they are received on time; it does not hurt to get ahead of the December reporting deadline. In a very short time it will be time to celebrate the 243rd Marine Corps Birthday and the many scheduled Veterans Day activities that follow; holiday activities will arrive a few short days later. Remember our brothers and sisters who remain in harm’s way and will be unable to be with their families during the upcoming holidays.

Semper Fi!

No time to slow down, continue moving forward to strengthen the mission

MARINES: I would like to start off by saying thank you to Commandant Webb and the Board of Trustees for accepting PNC Jim Laskey’s recommendation on his replacement. It’s an honor, and I am truly humbled to be in this position. I am extremely proud to continue the hard work and follow in the footsteps of PNC Jim Laskey. He has been a great mentor, and I will not let him or the New England Division down.

The 95th Marine Corps League National Convention held in Buffalo, NY, was a great success. Congratulations to the League Officers for being elected for a second term. I would like to thank all the delegates who attended the Convention from New England. Spending time at this Convention and seeing everyone from across New England help to strengthen our bond as we continue to grow in our efforts to be a contributing Division and help the Marine Corps League prosper.

This is going to be a busy fall and winter. 2018 Modern Day Marine was my first expo this past September in Quantico, VA, and I am looking forward to returning. We are celebrating the 243rd Marine Corps Birthday in Boston, MA, hosted by the Semper Fidelis Society. I am, of course, waiting for the Toys For Tots program to kick off. The New England Division will continue to strongly support our younger generation, not to recruit but to let them know the Marine Corps League is here to support not only them but also their families. Great programs are out there: Young Marines, Youth Physical Fitness, MCJROTS and Eagle Scouts.

I have complete faith that the New England Division will continue to grow stronger. The Division has a great team to help support the issues that come forward. Please welcome Assistant Division Vice Joe Messina. Joe has a lot of knowledge that was gathered over the years!

Happy Birthday Marines! God Bless.

Semper Fi!
MARINES: With this article’s publication the National Convention will be history. It was dubbed as the biggest and the best MCL Convention ever. I know that the Dept. of New York worked hard to ensure its success. I hope by the attendance numbers that more Marines are taking an active interest in their association with the League. As of the June 2018 roster the Northeast Division had 13,789 members of which 91% dues are paid. Our dues collection should be a little easier this year as the detachments and members become more familiar with the dues cycle. Still confused, just look at your membership card and see your paymaster with any questions.

The Dept. of Pennsylvania held its 75th Annual Convention in June and had a great time. They live-streamed some segments of their Convention onto Facebook and had instant communication with people from other departments as well as their own.

We installed and welcomed newly elected Commandant Robert Ziltz and his staff into Office and look forward to working with them in the future. PDC Brian Natali is to be commended for an outstanding tour of duty. Commandants Rattazzi and Sheppard still lead the Dept. of New Jersey and New York respectively. As a Division Vice Commandant having leaders such as they make my job much easier. I’m into my second year as NVC, and I want to thank my Asst. Vice Commandant, Joe DeAngelo, for all he does.

Our beloved Marine Corps will be 243 years old come November 10, 2018. Celebrate and honor our history. For many of our detachments, October, November and December will find us in our Toys-For-Tots-mode helping to make a needy child’s Christmas a little brighter. Upcoming events are posted on the individual department websites which include membership meetings in October for New York and Pennsylvania.

We talk often of our Marine Corps League family, and we are one. Try to look out for each other and be there for one another if needed.

Have a great Thanksgiving and a special Holiday Season whatever your beliefs.

Semper Fi!
We need you!

MARINES: Why do people join the Marine Corps League? Some are in the League to hang around and converse with other Marines, but I think all of us are here to give back to the community by volunteering at places like the Veterans hospitals or cemeteries, Toys For Tots and all the other great things that we do as members. No matter the reason you are in the League, we need you. We need members to help with floats, march in parades and to get the word out about who we are and what we do.

Keeping members interested in the detachments’ activities is very important, but we also need members who are willing to assume leadership roles. Members who accept nominations for elected offices as well as appointed offices are critical to the survival of the League. If you are active in your detachment why don’t you take the next step and take a position in the department level? When you were in the Corps you were taught how to be a leader, and I’m sure you remember the fundamentals. Just step up, we need you.

If you are thinking of increasing your responsibilities in the League, just remember that we need members at the National level on various committees. There are many numbers of ways in which you could contribute to help the League out. There are uniform committees, scholarship committees, VAVS and many more. If you really want to get involved at a higher level, just ask. If you are already involved at the detachment level, it’s not a big step to get involved at the department level. I would really enjoy seeing this Division start taking a bigger role in the League and its subsidiaries.

Though it was great to see you all at the National Convention in Buffalo, I’m disappointed that all the departments in the Division were not represented. This was addressed at the Division Conference, and I hope some of the incentives we talked about there will help us improve our representation next year in Montana.

Semper Fi!

Improvement continues at HQ

MARINES: As I start my second year as your Southeast Division Vice Commandant, I am excited to again have seven outstanding Marines leading the departments of our Southeast Division. Working with the Division Commandants, I hope to get every Detachment Commandant in the Division interested in the activities of the Marine Corps League at every level. As you heard at our National Convention in Buffalo, many improvements have been made at Headquarters, and improvements in the League will continue.

We now have a much closer working relationship with the United States Marine Corps and the Commandant of the Corps. The Marine for Life Network (M4L) has been revitalized, and as a result, the Marine Corps League will have better opportunities to help Marines transition back to civilian life and to talk to these Marines about membership in the Marine Corps League. The Southeast Division M4L liaison is available to help all department M4L liaisons train detachment M4L liaisons. If your detachment does not have an M4L liaison, appoint one and notify your department.

We also heard some information about changes that are in process for the League membership files. As we move forward, more of our communications will be electronic, instead of paper and snail mail.

Communications are changing, and we must have members who are familiar with all forms of emerging electronic communications and social media to connect with the younger Marines of today, who we so urgently need to join our detachments.

Now is the time to be looking into which conferences and conventions you will attend in 2019. I strongly urge everyone to attend all that your finances and other commitments will allow. Most, if not all, departments will offer training and assistance to elected and appointed officers at quarterly meetings as well as the annual Convention. At the Southeast Division Conference in March 2019 we will offer training sessions for officers, but these sessions are also open to all members attending. The National Mid-Winter Conference in Virginia is a good opportunity to attend your first National MCL event and to learn about the operation of the League in a more relaxed atmosphere and shorter time length than a National Convention. I look forward to attending all department, division and National conventions and conferences and hope to see you there too.

Semper Fi!
New additions to the Division

MARINES: A lot has happened in the League and Division since my last report to the membership of the Southern Division.

First, all three departments have held successful department conferences starting with the Department of Arkansas on May 4-6 in Mena, hosted by the Herbert A. Littleton Detachment 1261, with Doug Blair reelected and installed as Commandant. The Department of Oklahoma’s Conference was June 7-9 in Bartlesville, hosted by the Osage Detachment 669, with Ken Price elected and installed as the new Department Commandant. The Department of Texas Conference was held June 21-23 in Bastrop, hosted by the Lost Pines Detachment 1384, with Chuck Bones elected and installed as new Department Commandant. All three were well-attended and very well-conducted conferences; I would like to congratulate all the new, reelected and appointed Officers and wish them all a successful term.

There have been some new additions to the Southern Division staff as well our new Web Sergeant, Marine Bud Cornwell (bud.cornwell@outlook.com), and he has hit the ground running with our new website—southernmcl.org. Be sure to check it out, and please feel free to submit articles, events and photos of what’s going on in the Division. A new position has also been created for a Division Marine for Life Coordinator and the new appointee is Marine Richard Torres; he has also hit the ground running with quickly getting a hand on this new restart for this important program. There will be more information to follow as it gets off the ground and a new Standard Operating Procedure is handed down from National soon.

A new SOP has been adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees in July for Marine Corps League Funeral Honors and will be published and distributed in the near future as well. I think you will find it meets the basic needs of the League and will be easy to implement due to the adoption of current uniform standards, with only minimal adjustments such as only Red Covers being used. A great job done by T.J. Morgan NVC Northwest Division.

Membership has improved as well—from March 2018 we had 1,477 (PLM); as of June 30, 2018, we have 1,487. Also in March we had 1,010 paid memberships; as of this writing, it is 1,132. In March there were 535 unpaid members, which is now down to 437 for a total of 2,619 members in good standing. Great job, keep it up! Semper Fi!

A new face, a new name

MARINES: “All leaders provide those in their charge sincere and concerned assistance with problems.” So said Marine Commandant Gen. Robert Neller in his 2015 message to Marines. It is with this spirit of sincerity and concern that I am humbly honored to have been elected your National Vice Commandant for the Southwest Division. As you see, a new name and face; yet more than that, one highly motivated to provide you sincere and concerned assistance in order to make your Division the finest of our Marine Corps League’s divisions.

Due to the vast geographical area and with more than 90 detachments in our Division, I have asked Marine Pat Connell to assist me as Assistant Vice Commandant. Pat has a long history of devoted service to our League, including succeeding me as Commandant of the Department of Arizona. Working as a team with Pat over the past 4 years, I have found him to be extremely competent, outgoing, affable, quick to smile, yet, like me, uncompromising in upholding the Bylaws and Procedures of our League. Recognizing that I have the large boots of Richard Hoery to fill, I want to thank him for his devoted service to our Division and our League.

In closing, let us hear from you with your problems, Marines! Our detachments and divisions are only as good as “working all together” (“Gung Ho”) we make them. To this end, I, Pat, Adjutant Kathy Reese, Ron Donaldson, Chaplain, John Crawford, “Marines For Life” Coordinator and Frank Miller, Sgt-At-Arms, are here to provide you our sincere and concerned assistance. Semper Fi!
“I’m Not a Glory Hound”

The Life of Master Sergeant Eric Roy England

By Miles Vining

In April of this year, the “Phantom of Phu Bai” passed away and was laid to rest among the honored few at Arlington National Cemetery. Master Sergeant Eric Roy England was many things throughout his life. A tough Georgia boy, Scout Sniper, Drill Instructor, Distinguished Shooter, Father and Husband. But in an interview recorded in 2017, there was one title that he held extremely close to his heart. That of “Marine.”

When discussing Marine Scout Snipers that continue to captivate the minds of young protégés today, Carlos Hathcock and Chuck Mawhinney tend to take centerpiece as early pioneers (along with Major Jim Land) in the history of Marine Snipers. But along with these names is that of Master Sergeant England with a tally of 98 confirmed kills during the Vietnam War, officially taking the place of the third highest count in the war (of course, the unconfirmed body count tended to be much higher). Although this places him in the annals of Marine Corps lore, he saw his service as his duty to his country instead of one of war records and national shooting match honors.

As one close friend put it in a semi-biographical work about his life, "He could have wiped out an entire regiment of NVA and would not have batted an eye; nor would he so much as boast of it to a single person."

England was born on April 15, 1933, in the tiny town of Blairsville, Georgia, that boasted a population of 652 in 2010. A country boy, he grew up hunting and learning how to shoot as a way of life, a means of putting good venison on the table. In fact, he came from a family of marksmen. His great-granduncle was a Confederate sharpshooter who was killed at the Battle of Antietam. England's cousin, Harry Turner, would enlist in the Corps before England enlisted in 1950 and coincidentally helped him on the rifle range (currently the Starlite, Chosin and Inchon ranges) at Boot Camp with the M1 Garand service rifle. Later in life, England always insisted that his cousin was an important inspiration not only to become a Marine but also in his precision marksmanship abilities.

However, what had previously worked with bagging squirrels or deer might have been sufficient in the Appalachian woods, but when it came to long-range accuracy more experience was needed. Before England probably ever even heard of the country of Vietnam, he quickly became involved in the interservice marksmanship competitions on the Marine Corps Shooting Team, eventually becoming involved in the prestigious President’s Hundred Rifle Matches in the late 1950s. Despite some of this success, at one point in 1954 he was considering leaving the service as his contract was up, but after some heartfelt advice from cousin Harry, England re-enlisted. It was to be a wise choice for the future of American military history.

Match after shooting match, the awards, records and honors came pouring in, even to the point of England disqualifying him-
Eric Roy England, center, receiving marksmanship awards.

“When you go up to get that one shot off, you try to put yourself in another world, you try to put yourself in a little bubble and you cut the world out, and you work on them things that you’ve got to do to get a good shot off. Because if you don’t, you could be dead.”

- Eric Roy England

ers are familiar with the legendary tales of Carlos Hathcock, then one can imagine a similar trajectory with the experiences that England undertook and encountered in Vietnam, even receiving a significant bounty on his head by the Viet Song due to his efforts against the enemy.

But what was more significant than his actual shots against the enemy was the legacy that England left behind for the Scout Sniper community thereafter. England was often part of long-range reconnaissance teams due to his role as a precision shot and a Marine that could be self-sustainable for days or even weeks on end with his spotter. This particular aspect of sniping was still in its infancy, not really practiced in the Second World War or the Korean War several years beforehand. In fact, what was started in Vietnam continues to this day with the formal Scout Sniper Schools at Camp Geiger, Pendleton and Quantico, in addition to how Scout Snipers are viewed as an asset on the battlefield in a forward intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capacity. England, along with such others as Hathcock, Land and Mawhinney, were making sniper history every day during the war if they realized it or not.

The other impact that England left in his service was that of working in the rudimentary schools established at some of the forward operating bases in Vietnam and later on at Okinawa. He would help train budding snipers and was insistent on taking them into the field where he would continue to mentor them in skill craft of being a sniper. Halfway through his tour he contracted a hernia and had to be sent home. Once back in the United States he recovered at a hospital in San Francisco. Thereafter, he was assigned to the Marksmanship Training Unit at Quantico but continued to suffer side effects from his illness.

Finally, on May 31, 1974, the Master Sergeant retired, after 24 years in the Marines. Going back to his childhood home in Blairsville, England spent his time away from the shooting competitions that had defined him and the war that had brought him forever into history. He took up his old pastimes of hunting, fishing and being an all-around outdoorsman, living with his wife, Glenda England, and their stepson, Howard. He stayed current with his former life though. He helped teach marksmanship in local 4-H clubs, in addition to working with some of the teams at the famous Palma Match. He even mentored NASCAR driver Bill Elliot in private shooting clinics.

As time passed into the 1980s and 1990s, people started recognizing the efforts that England and others were a vital part of in regards to the Scout Sniper programs in the Marine Corps. In the 1950s and 1960s he received awards for marksmanship, but later on these awards were benchmarks of his contributions, coming from the Army, Marine Corps, the National Rifle Association and even the Georgia Governor in 2017 when he was inducted into the Georgia Military Hall of Fame. S&F

SOURCES

Sniper Hunter Vietnam: Eric England, The Phantom of Phu Bai – Available from Amazon for the Kindle, and Barnes & Noble for the NOOK

“A Sniper’s Distance: USMC Documentary” – www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzdEnkWVGQo

THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
HEROES

By Lee Anaya

I look at the sea of crosses
And the endless walls of names
Of men who died in combat
But who didn't die in vain

So many young men full of hopes and dreams
Dreams that would never come true
Because they gave their lives
For our red, white and blue

I try to imagine yesterday
When these men were alive and well
Before they all went away
To fight in a war of hell

Some of them died unknown
While some they died in glory
But each and every man to his own
Had his special story

Not all of those men won medals
But as far as I’m concerned
If they died for our country
A medal they should have earned

You may say they were warmongers
And will burn for eternity
But you want my opinion,
They’ll always be heroes to me.

I served proudly in the United States Marine Corps, and I would sacrifice myself again. Semper Fi and love to my family and friends.
To receive any advertised product, you must become a member of PenFed. Rate and offers current as of August 1, 2018 and are subject to change.
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On September 17-19, 1931, League members visit Niagara Falls at the Marine Corps League National Convention in Buffalo, New York.

**Blast From The Past**

In September 17-19, 1931, League members visit Niagara Falls at the Marine Corps League National Convention in Buffalo, New York.

**Truckin’ Down the Highway**

Hy-Vee Honors Veterans

By Marti Kline

If you’re traveling in the Midwest and see a Hy-Vee Food Stores semi-trailer on the highway, you might do a double-take. MCL Larry Nehring Detachment 103 member Patrick J. (PJ) Pins, GySgt (Ret) was selected to appear on a special Hy-Vee Homefront trailer as recognition for his years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps before joining the Hy-Vee team. Highlighting employees on the Hy-Vee trailers began in 1997, with the Homefront features beginning in 2013.

Hy-Vee Homefront facilitates partnerships with customers and communities to increase awareness for important veteran and active duty military support efforts. The program honors veterans with jobs, special benefits and events and provides support to organizations that serve our nation’s military members, veterans and their families (hy-vee.com/homefront).

PJ served in the Corps from 1964–1984, with tours that included 29 Palms, Vietnam, Parris Island and El Toro, along with recruiting stations in Iowa. He served as a Recruiter and as Mess Sergeant, at one point overseeing three meals a day for 3600 Marines at Parris Island. He met his wife while they were both stationed at El Toro.

A League member since 2009, PJ has served as Commandant and can be found volunteering at just about every League event. His career at Hy-Vee included being a kitchen manager, catering manager and executive chef at the corporate offices. Hy-Vee has more than 240 stores and 82,000 employees.

PJ’s best advice for Marine recruits? “Do what you’re told and don’t complain.”
Frozen Chosen
A Chance Meeting at Wilson Tobs Baseball Game

By Megan Oteri

On June 5, 2018, I met a Marine Corps vet at a baseball game who fought in the Korean War like my dad. I shook his hand and thanked him for his service. He was wearing his hat.

We got to talking some. He asked where my father served. I said, “Inchon. One of the Frozen Chosen.” He nodded; he understood. He asked when my dad got out of the service. I said, “Shortly after the war. He went straight to Mexico where it was warm.” The Marine understood.

He said I had a great smile. I said, “Thank you, Sir.” His wife was funny, adorable and a true Southern Belle. He had a gentle nature to him. His wife, Lilian, was the talker. She grabbed my hand after I shook his and said, “We met June 5, 1951 at Carolina Beach.” You could tell it was love at first sight for them. They were sitting behind home base watching the local minor league team play. It was a cool summer evening. The kind of night baseball is made for.

After she grabbed my hand, she commandeered me over to her, demanding the attention her story deserved. “I married a Damn Yankee from Hartford, Connecticut. He’s a Duke Devil, Hunt and Damn Yankee. I’m a Southern Belle, Tarheel and Fike.” Hunt and Fike High Schools are rivals.

You could tell they had more stories to tell. How do you live that long and not tell them? The sometimes quiet backdrop of baseball seemed to be the perfect net to capture some like fireflies on a summer night.

The Marine told me to say hello to my father. I pointed at the heavens and said, “He’s up there.” He looked at me with the same blue eyes the Southern Belle must have fallen for and said, “Tell him ‘hi’ anyway.”

It was a moment. Baseball is like life. Nothing really interesting happens for a while and then suddenly a base hit down the left field line brings in two runs.

I could almost hear the crackle of the AM dial playing a ballgame as my father sat in his chair outside, tending to his garden, and turning—as if to let me know he was watching. A ball game on an AM transmitter radio was the backdrop of my Chicago childhood; even more, a Marine I call Dad was the pitcher tonight throwing curveballs into the future into his grown daughter’s mitt.

A perfect pitch. A perfect hit. Connection with the ball as it sails over our heart. $\&$
JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

RICHARD D. GORE, SR.

Start planning a Marine Corps Birthday Ball

MARINES: As we approach the time of the year when days get shorter, and colder weather makes bones ache, let’s put our thinking caps on and start making plans for the celebration of our beloved Corps Birthday Ball.

Every year this is an opportunity for all Marines to meet and remember those of us who gave the ultimate in defense of our country and Corps. We have a proud and glorious heritage that demands that we acknowledge the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters in arms who came before us. We do this by recognizing the birth of our Corps as well as remembering the many members of our Corps who have gone on to meet our creator. This is an obligation that we owe to them and ourselves, to always be faithful and remember our proud lineage of duty, courage and sacrifice, against all odds.

I remember when I was finally deemed good enough to be called a Marine how it felt to bear the mantle of those who had gone before me. I realized that though the Corps has many heroes who we honor, the reality was, in our own way we are all special people simply by having the fortitude to be willing to defend our great country if and when the call came. I think the old adage, “Many are called, but few are chosen” has special meaning to those of us who served honorably.

Time has passed, we have grown older, and still we have the feeling we’re able to fight one more battle, simply because of one thing: “WE ARE MARINES.” We will proudly carry that title with us until the day we die and never stand aside and deny our heritage. Every day of my life, the words, “Honor, Courage, Commitment” ring in my brain and ensure my memories of our Corps as I remember it.

To ensure that you end up with a great event start planning right now. Put together a committee of people who are willing to put in the time and effort required to attend to all the details. Arrange for a location, Color Guard, meals, dance band, birthday cake, POW-MIA table and don’t forget the Guest of Honor. You may have to secure lodging for the Guest of Honor as well as pay for his and his guests’ meals. Be sure to send him an invitation specifying the time, date and location and assign a member to meet and assist him with any requests he may have. Also it may be a good idea to present him with a gift of the occasion. You also have the all-important job of decorating the hall appropriately to signify that this is a “Marine Corps” Birthday Ball to impress civilians and other military members who will be in attendance. Also figure the expenses involved so you charge the right price for admission. It’s a lot of work, but it our Birthday comes only once a year!

When November 10 shows up on your calendar, make an effort to put aside some time to honor our country and Corps and at least meet together or attend a celebration and honor your service and those who came before us as “United States Marines.” Semper Fi!

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

LISA SOLARCYK

Being National Sgt-at-Arms has been a great experience

MARINES: I hope everyone enjoyed their department conventions and accomplished everything they wanted to.

By the time this article goes to print, the 2018 National Convention will be over with. I hope everyone had a great time and enjoyed all that Buffalo and the surrounding areas had to offer and had safe travels to and from the National Convention! It will also be my first National Convention as your National Sgt-at-Arms. I hope I did the job as well as my predecessor Neil Corley. I have been his Assistant Sgt-at-Arms since my very first National Convention in 2010–Greensboro, NC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Neil for being my mentor, my friend and fellow Marine and for all that he has taught me along the way. You are everything one could look for in a great mentor. It truly has been a great learning experience. You made working with you interesting, memorable and an enjoyable experience. I will always be thankful, grateful and appreciative to you for your guidance, leadership, support and kindness. Thank You Neil!

These word have stuck with me all these years from PNC Vic Voltaggio from one of his past articles in the Semper Fi magazine in 2012 on the Sgt-at-Arms and the Assistant Sgt-at-Arms: “Often times we see these Marines at the hatch or on the floor distributing reports and such and take them for granted, we shouldn’t. They do a masterful job, and I thank them.” I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my Assistant Sgt-at-Arms Ken Parker and Rick Thomson. For those who help volunteer every year at the Mid-Winter Conference and National Convention to stand in front of the American Flag–thank you all. It is greatly appreciated! And we are always looking for volunteers to stand in front of the American Flag. It truly is an HONOR to do so. It is proper that when entering or leaving the meeting room, face the American Flag and render a salute whether it is from your seat or at the hatch. At times, this goes undone.

God Bless all our service men and women and please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Semper Fi!
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Detachment 567’s Pistol Team worked on various fundraising activities providing revenue for the building fund. Looking for veterans groups in central Florida to hold competitions. Contact Richard Browne at 727-848-1688; Facebook page @MCL567. Back row (left to right): Joe DeCosta, Bill Durnell, Steve Janakas, Tom Beukelaer, Carlos Baez, Richard Morrell, Bob Ferguson, Jack Scherer, Team Captain Richard Browne, Lloyd Dettor, Brian Bumstead. Kneeling: Mike Donovan, Mitch Jakubza, Bill English, Rick Florez.

Bob Walker, who was in the 4th Division 24th Marines assault on Iwo Jima, turned 98 June 25, 2018. He received a Purple Heart for injuries from an explosion while on guard duty. Pictured is Bob (left) shaking hands with Leonard Nederveld of the 5th Marine Division during the breakfast.

Howard Maninga, Cliff Branham standing casket guard. Star of The North, MCL, Park Rapids, MN.
Brass City Young Marines Sgt Christiana Morley receiving the 2018 Dept. of CT MCL YMOY along with (left to right) Brass City UC Eric Berthel; Dept. of CT Commandant Col Adel Hodges USMC (Ret); NE DIV MCL NVC James Laskey and NE DIV MCL Young Marines Liaison Patrick McMahon.

Gunny Edison C. Occhi, from the Southington Memorial Detachment in Berlin, CT, Memorial Day 2018.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Troop 379 in Palisades Park, NJ. Pictured are Al Frater from the Gooney Bird Detachment of Teaneck, NJ, with new Eagle Scouts Rishi Krishnan, Jerasimos Theodorides and Matthew Wrightington.

Marine of The Year for the State of Delaware was awarded to Marine Frank Conlon of the First State Detachment at the Delaware State Convention, May 2018.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Above: The Indiantown Gap National Cemetery MCL Honor Guard, attending the Frederrick Shepperly event in Berwick, PA. Shepperly worked on the WWII Stuart Tank’s blueprints. Left to right: Gail Wise, John Gillespie, Anthony Flaynik, Mike Gilberg, William Woods, Allen Ferguson, Curt O’Brien, Fred Krom, Gregg Myers, Mike McDuffie and Steve Miller.

Detachment 525 Commandant John Gingrich, Sr. and Adjutant Gail Wise from the Memorial Day Wreath laying ceremony at Mt. Lebanon cemetery in Lebanon County, PA, where more than 200 local Civil War veterans are buried.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE


At its meeting on June 19, the Delaware, OH, MCL, Sgt. Justin F. Hoffman Detachment 1437, Commandant Jim Halter presented the Detachment Marine of the Year Award to retired MSgt Mike Schuette for his voluntary efforts in providing over 30 wheelchairs to disabled veterans. Mike refurbishes and distributes old wheelchairs to Harley Davidson dealers throughout Ohio.

On June 9, 2018, the New Mexico MCL honored 92-year-old Marine Fred Balleck as New Mexico Marine of the Year. He is a member of Zia Detachment 850, serving Lincoln and Otero counties. Marine Balleck served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.
AROUND THE LEAGUE

Flint Detachment 155 members PNC James Tuohy, Flint Detachment Commandant Richard Monroe and Dept. of MI Chaplin Fred Green present a Good Citizenship award to a new Eagle Scout at his court of honor.

Rockland County Detachment marching in their sixth event of a very busy Memorial Day weekend in New City, NY.

On May 25, 2018, U.S. Congressman Mike Bishop (far left) presented the David Murninghan Detachment 161 Honor Guard Members with Challenge Coins and Certificates for their voluntary service to honor our fallen veterans.
Eagle Scout Thayer Yates of Troop 360 received the MCL Good Citizenship Award at his Eagle Court of Honor in Marquette, MI. Pictured: retired GySgt and Scoutmaster Jim Yates, Thayer Yates and Vietnam Veteran Bob Bannon. Bob and Jim are members of Lake Superior Detachment 764.

On June 23, the Dept. of PA held its Convention Banquet. Lisa Solarczyk, 2018 Dept. of PA Marine of the Year recipient, stands with Depts of PA, NY, NJ and MA Dept. Marines of the Year. Left to right, first row: Anthony Stabile; James Mineo; Lisa Solarczyk; Vincent “Hank” Fiola; Leanna Dietrich; Tim Forbes (NY); Gordy Sherrif. Second row: Dave Braden; Warren Griffin (MA); Bob Ziltz; Brian Natali; Jim Powell; Joe DeAngelo (NJ); Joe Pokojni.

Members of the Shawn Knisley Detachment 983 lead by Commandant Thurman Smith, Jr., presented Certificates of Appreciation to The Salvation Army of Fayetteville, NC, Captains Christina and Matthew Trantham, who are transferring to Salisbury, MD, to continue their ministry. Pictured are Toys For Tots Coordinator Don Bennett, Jr. Vice Commandant Jerome Bell, Commandant Thurman Smith, Jr., Captain Christina Trantham and Captain Matthew Trantham.

Detachment 819, Beverly Hills, FL, Santas' Toys For Tots team prepping in temperatures in the 90s and humidity levels off the charts. Left to right: Paul Pliny TFT Coordinator, Dennis Gibson, Clarence Peres, Walt Cleveenger, Ana Gibson and Maryilyn Peres.
ROLL CALL
AROUND THE LEAGUE

In May 2018, members of the All Divisions Detachment and Auxiliary assisted by the United Young Marines Unit placed over 1200 flags on the graves of veterans at Sunset Memorial Park in Feasterville, PA.

51st CDD Garland, 54th CDD English, PDD Weber and JrVCDD Sanning in Belleau Wood by the monument.

Members of the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment enjoy a complimentary lunch at Mission BBQ, Brandon, FL, in celebration of Armed Forces Day.
ROLL CALL
AROUND THE LEAGUE

Laramie Detachment 777 raffle, Laramie, WY. Queen of the Silver Dollar. Left to right: Tanner Rogers, McKenzie Bonner, Marine Tim Brooks, Queen Jenielle Kohl and Rachel Derner.

At its June 2018 meeting, the Jack Maas Detachment 1379, Fredericksburg, VA, celebrated the 96th birthday of Marine Ralph Wilcox on June 4. Here’s Ralph with a 1903 Springfield rifle. Ralph joined the Marine Corps in 1939.

Oregon Vietnam Memorial Celebrated

Members of U.S.S. Oregon Detachment 470 of Portland, OR, presented a wreath to the Cpl Richard A. Janigian Vietnam Memorial Wall at the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Beaverton Veterans Park in celebration of 50 years of the wall’s existence. This wall was the first installed Vietnam Memorial wall in the U.S.
On June 24, 2018, the West Hudson Detachment, Kearny, NJ, color guard participated in the memorial dedication for the Medal of Honor recipient, GySgt Fred Stockham for his self-sacrificial valor during the Battle of Belleau Wood. Members include Cesar Huan man, Adam Tegge, George Sona and Sean Glennon. Pat Hinds played the bagpipes.

Muskegon Detachment Commandant 71-year-old Kevin Magin completed a 2-day, 16-hour, 221-mile bike ride from Muskegon to Port Huron across Michigan to the Department’s Annual Summer Convention raising funds for the MCL Dept. of MI Foundation. Left to right: Lennie Brooks, Dept. of MI Commandant David Masunas, Muskegon Detachment Commandant Kevin Magin, Dept. of MI Jr. Vice Al Pearson and Department Sr. Vice Jon VanTol.

Vasiliy “Bill” Petruniak has slowly customized his truck into the “Marine Machine” shown at the Dept. of PA Convention. Left to right: Commandant Brian Natali; Vasiliy “Bill” Petruniak of Conemaugh Valley Detachment 287, Johnstown, PA; Thomas Hazlett, Sr., Senior Vice Chief Devil Dog; Bob Lohr of Conemaugh Valley Detachment 287, Johnstown, PA.

Members of the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment 1226 from Riverview, FL, attended the 2018 Dept. of FL Convention June 7-10. Left to right: Larry Westcott, Ron Essick and Jack Skelding.
ROLL CALL
AROUND THE LEAGUE

Join Roll Call!

ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES

Our new Roll Call Upload System is now live!

• Go to semperfi.chipotlepublishing.com
• Create an account using your email address, first name, last name and a password.
• Verify your account by clicking the link in the email our system sends to you.
• Log in, click on the “Upload Your Files” box and then follow instructions.
• You may also submit photos with short captions in email to semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com.

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 rejection are: 1) the photo was blurry or too small in size, and 2) the uniforms in the photo did not meet regulations.

In May 2018, members of the All Divisions Detachment and Auxiliary assisted by the United Young Marines Unit placed over 1200 flags on the graves of veterans at Sunset Memorial Park in Feasterville, PA.

Members of the Sgt Walter P. Ryan Detachment participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Hillsborough County Veterans Park in Tampa, FL. Left to right: Boris Parker, Larry Westcott, Jim Maines, Jack Skelding and Rob Becker.
NDAA and the DoD Defense Appropriations Act

MARINES: Earlier this summer, we established a Legislative section on the Marine Corps League National Headquarters website, mclnational.org. It is there for your information and use so that you can follow the legislative process and see the issues and activity of your Marine Corps League in this important area. Just go to the “Marine Corps Library” and hit “Visit Now.” Go to “Legislation,” and there you will be able to get information on the Legislative Committee, Messages and Reports from the Legislative Chairman, the Legislative action center (where you can see the MCL positions on legislative issues) and resource links. Feel free to use these resources to become more effective and active in participating in the legislative process at all levels. You are encouraged to engage your respective Senators and Representatives on key issues as is your right as a constituent.

H.R. 5515: John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019. The NDAA authorizes and prioritizes funding for the Department of Defense (DoD) and military activities and construction and prescribes military personnel strengths for FY-2019. The bill authorizes $639.1 billion in base funding, $69 billion for overseas contingency operations and $8.9 billion for mandatory defense spending, for a total of $717 billion. Key provisions are a full 2.6% pay raise, increased end-strengths for the services, restoring readiness, including readiness at sea, a strong naval construction program and key warfighting areas which include emerging threats. At this writing the NDAA is on track to be finalized and go to the President for signature.

The NDAA is only half of the story. Without a corresponding Defense Appropriations Act enacted into law, the NDAA is dead in the water. Article I of the Constitution clearly states: “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.”

The FY-2019 DoD Appropriations Act is H.R. 6157. The world is an increasingly dangerous place and, having assessed those threats, our legislators must now provide the funding necessary to ensure we can defeat our adversaries and keep America safe. This defense bill includes funding that will allow the United States to rebuild military readiness. Appropriately, the bill also funds the pay raise for service members. The timely passing of this funding bill sends a strong signal that the United States is dedicated to the safety and security of all Americans, the well-being of our economy and the men and women who protect our nation.

Therefore, it is critical that Congress complete this legislation in order to avoid another harmful continuing resolution (CR) situation as occurred last year. When the Congress and the President fail to agree and pass one or more appropriations bills, then a CR may be passed which continues pre-existing appropriations at the same levels as the previous year for a set amount of time. CRs not only waste money, but they undermine the budget process and introduce uncertainty into government agencies and programs. In defense terms, CRs harm readiness, procurement, contract execution and chip away at our service members’ ability to fight, win and survive.

What Can We Do?
As citizens, we must engage with our elected representatives to urge them to pass timely appropriations legislation that can be enacted into law. In FY-2019, there is great opportunity to put readiness back on track and provide service members with the resources they need. Your active participation will help to bring some more accountability to government.

S.2372: Department of Veterans Affairs MISSION Act of 2018. Signed into law by President Trump on June 6, 2018, this historic veterans’ legislation consolidates and reforms the VA’s community care programs; extends funding for the current Veterans Choice Program for one year; strengthens the VA’s ability to recruit, hire and retain quality medical personnel; reviews, realigns and modernizes VA’s health care infrastructure; and extends eligibility to VA’s comprehensive caregiver assistance program to aging and disabled veterans injured before September 11, 2001. As a result, the VA health care system will improve while relying on the private sector when needed, in order to make sure veterans have the best care possible. Your Marine Corps League strongly advocated passage of this veterans’ legislation in coordination with The Military Coalition of some 56 veterans’ organizations.

Until next time, leanin’ forward in the trenches. Semper Fi!
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.

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

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

Questions? Please call (717) 420-0623.
THE **SEMPER FI STORE**

(703) 207-9588  www.mclnational.org/store

**MCL Logo Knife**  
**Item Code:** Knife03  
**Price:** $35.00 each  
**Description:** Black Folding Knife with MCL Logo, Fire Starter and Flash Light

**White Gloves**  
**Item Codes:** Gloves S; Gloves M; Gloves L; Gloves XL  
**Price:** $5.00 pair  
**Description:** White Slip-On Gloves

**Bookmark**  
**Item Code:** S17  
**Price:** $1.00 each  
**Description:** MCL Bookmark with Marine Hymn and Calendar

**MCL Sign Magnet**  
**Item Code:** Sign11  
**Price:** $12.00 each  
**Description:** MCL Metal Magnetic Sign – 4” dia.

**MCL Christmas Ornament**  
**Item Code:** Orn2017  
**Price:** $5.00 each  
**Description:** Red Christmas Ornament with MCL Logo
**THE SEMPER FI STORE**

(703) 207-9588  www.mclnational.org/store

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**MCL Logo Patch**
- **Item Code:** patch06
- **Price:** $12.00 each
- **Description:** Large 10” MCL Logo Patch

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**Guidebook**
- **Item Code:** S14
- **Price:** $8.00 each
- **Description:** Guidebook for MCL Detachment Officers

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**MCL Recruitment Poster**
- **Item Code:** recruit1
- **Price:** $0.25 each
- **Description:** Recruiting Poster – NEW SIZE – 8 1/2” x 11” with “CARRY ON, “Join the MCL ...” (w/information) 80# White Gloss Text

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

---

**Marine Corps League Wine Glass/Votive Holder**
- **Item Codes:**
  - wv1 – $9.50 each
  - wv2 – $18.00 Set of 2
  - wv4 – $34.00 Set of 4
- **Description:** Stemless High Standard Material Wine Glass with Laser Engraved Logo. Also functions as a candle holder. Tapered design. Made in USA.

---

**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”)

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THE SEMPER FI STORE

ORDER FORM

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3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Ste 115 • Stafford, VA 22554 • (703) 207-9588

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City State Zip Code

Billing Address

Name

Street

City State Zip Code

Phone Number

Phone Number

Code# Quantity Item Description Size Price Total Cost

HANDLING & POSTAGE

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

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

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NAME ________________________________ AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

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*How to find your card security code. Please look in the signature strip on the back of your credit card. In the signature strip, there are several numbers, some of which may be part of your credit card number. The last 3-digit number (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) is your CVV card security number. For AMEX, your 4-digit CVV code is on the front.
Join the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Each month you’ll receive Leatherneck—Magazine of the Marines where you can connect with Corps history, those who served alongside you, and the Marines of today.

Join today at www.mca-marines.org

Read about the Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Wendell W. Webb, in September’s Leatherneck
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LLOYD C. SHOWALTER
CALIFORNIA
CHARLES D. ERLY
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JOHN F. O’NEILL
DAVID E. WELBORN
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**

**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.

**The Marine Corps Air Transport Association (MCATA)** is having its annual VMR/VMGR Reunion and Membership Meeting October 18-21 in New Orleans, LA.
For more information please go to: www.mcata.com or email President@MCATA.com or call 817-657-7768.

**Sasebo Marines Reunion** on November 6-9, 2018, Golden Nugget Hotel (844-468-4438), 129 Fremont St, Las Vegas, NV. Rooms are $72.32 and $94.92 for King or Double, ask for “Sasebo Marines Reunion.”
Contact Herman Cospy at 1co_spy@sbcglobal.net; Bob McCarthy at coach430@aol.com; or Ruben Chavira at bngrm@aol.com.

Contact Dan Steiner, 618-567-4077 or email him at dsteiner49@yahoo.com.

**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.

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**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR**

**2018**

**Midwest Division Conference**
October 5-7
Bismarck, ND
mclnational.org

**Tree Lighting Ceremony**
December 4
Marine Corps League National Headquarters, Stafford, VA

**Tree of Lights Donation Form** on page 51.

**2019**

**Marine West Exhibition**
February 7-8
MCB Camp Pendleton, CA
marinemilitaryexpos.com

**Mid-Winter Conference**
February 28 to March 2
Fredericksburg, VA
mclnational.org

**Southeast Division Conference**
March 21-25
North Charleston, SC
sediv.org

**Marine South Exhibition**
April 11-12
MCB Camp Lejeune, NC
marinemilitaryexpos.com

**96th National Convention**
August 4-9
Billings, MT
mclnational.org

**Modern Day Marine Exhibition**
September 17-19
MCB Quantico, VA
marinemilitaryexpos.com
**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**

**2019**

9 – 21 Feb
Vietnam 50th Anniversary of Operation Dewey Canyon I Corps 1969 plus Battle of Hue City & Tet Offensive

9 – 17 Mar
75th Anniversary of Bougainville & Battle of Munda—Solomon Islands WWII

Continued Next Page

Continued From Previous Page

19 – 25 Mar
74th Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor—Guam

3 – 13 Apr
WWII in the Philippines “Ghost Soldiers of Bataan & the Hellships”

21 – 26 Apr
Turkey Gallipoli WWI Campaign & ANZAC Day

27 Apr – 10 May
50th Anniversary of Operation Apache Snow—1969 “Delta to the DMZ”

18 – 27 May

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**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 95TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR RAFFLE**

Two Grand Prizes: Individual Free Tour to anywhere MCL's tour partner (Military Historical Tours) travels.

$5 per entry or 5 entries for $20

You need not be present to win. Drawing will occur at the 2019 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to: Marine Corps League, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
95TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR RAFFLE
Clip coupon and return along with
your check made payable to:
Marine Corps League, Inc.
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554
You need not be present to win. Winner
will be notified within three days of
drawing if not present, and arrangements
will be made for coordination with Military
Historical Tours for selection of tour prize.

Name
Address
City
State Zip Code
Phone Email

WWI Doughboys & Devil Dogs in France
27 May – 9 Jun
75th Anniversary of D-Day, WWI Overview & Battle
of the Bulge plus Paris
1 – 9 Jun
75th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris
12 – 19 Jun
75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Saipan
4 – 14 Jul
Russia "Eastern Front" 75th Anniversary Kursk,
Moscow & Stalingrad
18 – 25 Jul
75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam & Tinian
1 – 10 Aug
Guadalcanal—77th Anniversary of Operation
Watchtower
1 – 11 Aug
Imperial China: Beijing, Xian & Shanghai
17 – 29 Aug
50th Anniversary of Operations Georgia Tar/Durham
Peak—I Corps 1969
11 – 20 Sept
75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Peleliu
11 – 25 Sept
All of Ireland: The "Irish Marines" of WWII both North &
South Counties
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name __________________________ Phone __________________________
Street Address ______________________ City ______________________ State ______________________ Zip ______________________
Date of Birth ______________________ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ______________________ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ______________________ Service# or SS# ______________________
Type of Application - New ( ) Renewal ( ) Membership Type - Regular ( ) Associate ( ) Dual ( )
Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ( ) YES ( ) NO If yes Is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership In the Marine Corps League.
( ) I hereby apply for membership in the ______________________ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose $ _______ for one year’s membership.*

-OR-

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

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

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

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

(Applicant’s Signature)

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

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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – REGULAR MEMBERS

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

Signature

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

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