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MCLA National Flag Bearer Alima Zimmer, MCLA National Senior Vice President Evelyn Joppa, and MCLA National Banner Bearer Nila Caulder at the 2018 National Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11.

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CORRECTIONS

On page 33 of the Fall issue, we regret a misprint in “The Life of Master Sergeant Eric Roy England.” The affected sentence should read:

If readers 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 Cong due to his efforts against the enemy.

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.
Once a Marine, always a Marine

National Commandant’s Letter

Wendell W. Webb

We are looking for a new Mission Statement

Marines: This Semper Fi issue ends our first half of Fiscal year 2019!

As an organization, we are changing, whether we do nothing or try to positively influence the outcome. The future is our opportunity to reach out to all Marines, whether WWII veterans or recent boot camp graduates. Our mission is simple: we take care of our own. We have discussed making our Mission Statement more precise and focused. The top 50 non-profit mission statements vary from two to 28 words. We have over 100 words and are proposing to cut that at least in half. We’d like a quick, concise Mission Statement that can fit on business cards, footnotes on letterhead and easy for people to remember. Remember, the top 50 non-profits have less than 28 words in their mission statement.

Current statement:

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

Suggested new language:

Mission Statement. The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps, its history, and traditions; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

Suggested short form:

Promote USMC, history & traditions

Strengthen the fraternity of Marines

Serve Marines, FMF Corpsman and FMF Chaplains

Foster ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism

What are your thoughts? The Board of Trustees would like to hear from you.

Semper Fi!
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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER’S LETTER
BOB BORKA

We need to make a difference in Marines’ lives

MARINES: It is a great feeling to see our Marines in the community making a difference. Active, Reserve, Retired and Veteran Marines continue to help with natural disasters, funeral honors, Toys for Tots, transitioning Marines and their families and Marines in need. While the Marine Corps League adapts to the changing needs of our Veterans, our focus is ever-vigilant—to be the Tribe.

The Tribe is not about recruiting. It is about making sure our Marines know there is someone they can call after they hang up their uniform. Not to find a local watering hole. Rather, to find a realtor, a plumber, a Veterans Outpatient Clinic or VA Hospital, a Veterans Service Officer, a job, an elementary school for their children and most importantly a Brother or Sister Marine who will take the time to listen and simply be there. Someone who can sit in the silence and still understand the conversation.

We understand that Marines are a special breed. We are special because we were reborn as Marines into a family. My hope is that our family continues to find more unit cohesion, more talking and working out issues face-to-face even if they are tough. Less need for words like “Chapter 9.” I had never even heard those words until this past year. We are precious few and need to be there for each other and those Marines and their families as they transition back to our communities. Semper Fi!

EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY

BY ANNETTE AMERMAN

Special Historical Note
October 23, 1983
A suicide bomber drove a truck with the equivalent of 12,000 pounds of TNT into the Marine Barracks’ housing 24th MAU, killing 220 Marines, 18 sailors, and 3 soldiers. Most of H&S Company of BLT 1/8 was wiped out.

January 8, 1837
Archibald Henderson, Commandant of the Marine Corps, then in the field with his Marines in Florida, was given command of the 2nd Army Brigade. His command included the Marines, Army infantry and artillery, militia and friendly Native Americans.

January 20, 1942
Pursuant to an act of Congress, Major General Commandant Thomas Holcomb became Lieutenant General and became the highest ranking officer to command the Marine Corps.

February 2, 1920
The Armed Forces’ first correspondence school was established—Marine Corps Institute was activated at Quantico. The school deactivated in October 2015.

February 6, 1780
Continental Marines and harbor pilots destroyed the lighthouse and other navigational aids in preparing Charleston, SC, against British attacks from the sea during the Revolution.

February 24, 1902
Two thousand Marines turned out for honor guard duty for Prince Henry of Prussia during his visit to Washington, DC. One battalion greeted him at the railroad station with all appropriate honors while a second one performed similar functions at the White House.

March 1, 1960
Marines from the Marine Barracks at Port Lyautey, Morocco, assisted in rescue work following an earthquake at Agadir, Morocco.

March 10, 1968
The “Bronco School” at Camp Pendleton, CA, was activated. The school, named for the OV-10A “Bronco,” taught repair and maintenances of the OV-10A aircraft.

Editor’s Note: This is not an all-inclusive list. This is a selection of events that occurred in this timeframe that our readership may find interesting.
A proud statement of Marine Corps pride, this striking hoodie is crafted in a dark brown easy-care cotton blend. The front features a fully embroidered USMC emblem of the eagle, globe and anchor in gold-toned thread. The right sleeve has “USMC” lettering and the left sleeve proudly displays an embroidered American flag patch and an appliqué patch of the USMC emblem.

There’s plenty of custom detail throughout this apparel exclusive, like a comfortable brushed fleece interior and a beige thermal knit lined hood, generous kangaroo front pockets, knit cuffs and hem, a full front zipper, and bronze-toned metal tippets on the hood drawstrings. Imported.

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Calling All WWII Veterans!

I am preparing a book about Third Marine Division veterans of Bougainville, Guam, and/or Iwo Jima. Marines who are interested in sharing memories of these campaigns can contact me here:

Eric Ethier
51Front St., A-309, Cumberland, RI 02864
423-605-7906
ericethier@msn.com

Marines Hate Paperwork:
Veteran Administration Veteran Services (VAVS) Committee

By Michael Miller

I’m not sure who said it first, but Marines hate paperwork. Veteran Administration Veteran Services (VAVS) Committee member certifications are perfect examples of this. Every two years, Detachment Commandants who have VAVS Representatives and Deputies (VAVS Reps/Deps) on their staff have a paperwork responsibility. They MUST certify/re-certify members of their detachment who are members of a VAVS Committee. Certification by a member’s National Organization is a VA requirement. It seems like a paper drill, but it is a necessary step in making sure our veterans are given the best care.

By submitting the Certification form (MCL VAVS RC Rev 6, found on the MCL National website), the Detachment Commandant confirms to MCL National, and therefore the VA, that Marines recommended for VAVS Committee membership are MCL members in good standing.

It’s important to distinguish between volunteering at the VA and being a VAVS Rep. The VA has different and separate requirements for both. You can be a volunteer and not be a VAVS Rep. You can be a VAVS Rep and not be a volunteer. Each has its own eligibility requirements and reinstatement policies. Where a volunteer might have an indefinite term, MCL VAVS Certifications are good for two years only.

Why two years? Good question. When I started, there were 279 Reps/Deps on my roster. As I waded through “current” names, I found Marines who passed away, were replaced by another member or withdrew from the Committee. I had one on my list who was expelled from the MCL two years ago! Of the 220 Reps/Deps I still have on my list 87 certifications are expired. The current two-year term requires/allows the Detachment Commandant to review his/her selection and decide whether to re-certify or replace the VAVS Reps/Deps. You might argue with the two-year rule, but there’s no arguing the logic. Without some periodic review, the MCL looks like we can’t comply with our guidelines and/or keep track of our Rep/Deps.

“I didn’t know about this,” is the response often given when I talk to a Commandant. I get it. I am a Detachment Commandant and a few years ago was appointed as the VAVS Rep from our Detachment. Until I took this position, I didn’t understand VAVS Certifications either. Now I do and am out to inform others.

In my effort to update the MCL VAVS Rep/Dep list, I’ve contacted Division Vice-Commandants, Department Commandants, Department VAVS Reps, Detachment Commandants and the Marines themselves trying to update these out-of-date certifications.

Department VAVS Reps and Detachment Commandants: Please review your VAVS Rep/Deps Certification date. If it has expired, please fill out the form and send it to me: Michael Miller, VAVSRep@MCLeague.org.

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When signing up, please associate with “The Marine Corps League.”

www.veteransholidays.com
An Open Letter to the Marine Corps League Membership on Suicide Prevention

BOB BORKA AND LARRY HERRMANN wish to share with you our deep anger, frustration and yet hope for the future, over the recent death of one of our own. An exceptional, young, Marine Corps League leader in his early 30s with identified PTSD committed suicide. He was a single father with one child. As a dynamic Detachment Commandant, he attracted young new members through his understanding of what activities appeal to younger Veterans, such as athletic contests like mud-runs.

It is reported that just days before his suicide, this young Veteran went to his local VA Hospital to seek help and was told they did not have time for him. Also reported is that he recognized he needed help and placed a call to the VA Hotline that produced no response. The Secretary of the VA has been contacted, and he assigned staff to look into the incidents.

Within the League, we must ask what supports, if any, were available to our lost Marine and what supports should have been available to him and his generation of young Veterans suffering so many suicides, as they live daily at or near the edge of a precipice offering no climb back up.

What lesson and benefit should come out of this tragedy is the necessity of the Marine Corps League to develop an evolving guidance for PTSD detection and suicide prevention. Action is required, not just words. Any despair must lead to constructive solutions. It is recommended that an instruction booklet be carefully assembled, explaining PTSD symptoms such as despair and hopelessness symptomatic of suicidal ideation, as well as tendencies and treatment available.

Guidance must be sought from our National Commandant, Wendell Webb, with insights he has acquired through FOCUS Marines’ four week-long retreats he participates in that assist Veterans with PTSD. We can also count on members like Barbara DeAngelo who works at “Vets4Warriors” speaking with Veterans who need assistance. We should capitalize on the experience our members have and not turn a blind eye to the fact we all deal with it in unhealthy or healthy ways.

Help can also be sought from the staff of the Syracuse VA Hospital, where the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Program recently honored two female psychiatrists and eight nurses in the Psychiatric Unit who instead of sitting and waiting to be asked for help, spread out all over Central New York State to identify and respond to those Veterans with untreated PTSD and/or suicidal tendencies or symptoms and help them find the motivation and courage to seek help. They have prevented many suicides. Other experts must also be consulted.

Additionally, it is recommended that each detachment, department and division appoint at least two Suicide Prevention Officers (SPO) available by telephone or the internet 24 hours a day and provide access to a wallet-size card that can be printed and distributed to all members. The Monaco Detachment in Connecticut has a great program in place. The SPO should also receive guidance regarding programs available locally and nationally for professional suicide prevention. The contacts, in addition to the VA, and assets such as peer discussion groups and available VSO hotlines should be identified and made known to our membership. Recently at a Monaco Detachment fundraising hike for PTSD Awareness and Suicide Prevention in Connecticut, several combat Veterans with PTSD stated they would have committed suicide if it were not for their trained companion dogs provided by the local program Mutts Mending Military, supported by the Monaco Detachment.

The help available should be circulated among the MCL and MODD membership and hopefully to those local Veterans not qualifying for membership due to Discharge Under Less Than Honorable Conditions.

We, Bob and Larry, believe that such guidance would be in the best tradition of a League devoted to helping our Brother and Sister Veterans. We need to be more than family—we must be a tribe. Please put on your thinking caps, don’t wait for the Mid-Winter Conference, identify your local available assets including professional help and plan for expert guest speakers and discussion groups with those who have fought or are fighting to deal with invisible wounds every day. Plan and hold symposiums at any level with Veterans invited to interchange ideas and experiences with representatives of those public, private and non-profit groups and Chaplains and Clergy dealing with and treating PTSD and Suicidal Ideation.

Let us all fulfill our Legacy and our Mission of Service to our own. There is no time to waste. As the late Clay Hunt, the Veteran Congressional Lobbyist for whom the Suicide Prevention Act was named, said before his suicide, “Just because you take off the uniform, doesn’t mean you don’t continue to serve.”

It is time for action. #EmbraceTheTribe

Semper Fi.

Larry Herrmann
Legal Advisor
New England Division

Bob Borka
Chief Operating Officer
Headquarters Marine Corps League
MODERN DAY MARINE 2018

By Robert Bruce

It’s billed as “the world’s largest military exposition focusing on enhanced capabilities for expeditionary forces.” Kicked up a notch yet again under the leadership of Alex Hetherington, a veteran Marine Aviator, this year’s Modern Day Marine Expo was held from September 25 through 27 aboard Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia.

Co-sponsored by the base, the Marine Corps League and Marine Corps Systems Command, the 38th Annual MDM showcased the products and services of close to 400 entities that support military land, air and sea operations.

Wendell W. Webb, National Commandant of the Marine Corps League, emphasized his organization’s vision for this annual event. “The Marine Corps League is committed to the Modern Day Marine Expo as a program to share the development and awareness of the tools our future Marine Warriors will need for the next unknown conflict. This type of expo allows the industry team to interact with the planners, General officers, Staff NCOs, NCOs and the Warriors on the ground or in the air, sharing the needs and ideas of future weapon systems that turn into requirements then tactics.”

Exhibits at this year’s exposition filled three enormous, sparkling white, climate-controlled tents, as well as several others showcasing small business and housing the official briefings. These, and adjacent space in the outdoor display area, were packed with the latest operational equipment and technology, along with videos, models and prototypes of items soon to enter service.

Speaking at the opening ceremony for the 38th MDM Expo, three-star General Berger threw the door wide open for both close-range and leap-ahead technologies and ideas, recently enabled by significant budget increases after years of what many saw as intentional starvation under the previous presidential administration. And the Corps, with a deserved reputation as the most nimble and warfighting-focused of the U.S. Armed Forces, would shake up traditionally cumbersome acquisition processes by inviting and more seriously considering ideas from Marines of all ranks as well as businesses big and small.

Berger’s forceful commitment was energetically supported in all aspects of this annual Expeditionary Warfare extravaganza, where defense industry reps and Navy/Marine Corps program offices showed their wares and interacted with high-value attendees—not just generals, Pentagon potentates and allied military shoppers, but multitudes of muddy boots Marines with plenty of combat experience.

A full listing of exhibitors, their websites and other information may be found at marinemilitaryexpos.com. The full Modern Day Marine 2018 expo report by Robert Bruce may be found on smallarmsreview.com. Sf
“We’re going to go shopping; we’re going to put gear in the hands of Marines in order to figure out if we need it. That’s turning the world upside down ... we need to get Marines—junior Marines—together with industry in a conversation way earlier than we have been comfortable with in the past.”

—Lt. Gen. David Berger, Commanding General of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC)
MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

February 28 – March 2, 2019 Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center
2801 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Phone: (540) 786-8321                    $99.00 per night (Includes Breakfast)

ALL DEADLINES ARE FEBRUARY 8, 2019

To have your name tag printed and packet prepared prior to your arrival you must be pre-registered. Pre-registration is $10; registration at the conference is $12. Please print and complete the following information as you want it to appear on your name tag.

Name: ____________________________       Name: ____________________________
Title: ____________________________       Title: ____________________________
Det/Unit: ____________________________ Det/Unit: ____________________________
Street Address: ____________________________ Street Address: ____________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________ City/State/Zip: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________       Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________       Email: ____________________________

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

Program Book (place number of ads on the appropriate line)

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Banquet Meal Selection @$50 each

- Chicken Champagne
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- Vegan Alternative: ❑ Vegan ❑ Vegetarian Tower

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* For Visa, MasterCard and Discover; 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 is your CVV card security number. For AMEX, your CVV card security number is on the front.

Please mail to: National Marine Corps League, Attn: Mid-Winter Conference, 3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.
For credit card payment call 703.207.9588 or email forms and ad copy to lwilliamson@MCLeague.org

Please CC the Chief Operating Officer Bob Borka at bborka@MCLeague.org
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2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION

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- Early Bird Reception Chuckwagon Supper
- Commissioner’s Reception & Western Entertainment
- Banquet of Ribeye Steak, Walleye Fish, and Chicken

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1ST
For event updates and contact information, check out the convention webpage at:
MCLNationalConvention2019.com
Convention Questions - 406-534-9156

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

SUBJ: Registration of National Delegates(s)  
REF: (a) Article 3, National MCL Bylaws.  
(b) Chapter 2, Administrative Procedures, Sect 2020 (b) — Registration  

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

<table>
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<th>ALT</th>
<th>ASSOC MBR</th>
<th>DUAL MBR</th>
<th>GUEST</th>
<th>NAME(S)</th>
<th>6 Digit Membership Number (NOT PLM #)</th>
<th>ATTENDING Yes / No</th>
<th>FIRST TIMER Yes / No</th>
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2. Delegate strength is based on the number of regular members on the 30 June Strength report. See ref (b), section 2025(b).

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

PRINT NAME: ______________________________          _____________       ____________________________________        _______________

SIGN NAME: ______________________________          _____________       ____________________________________        _______________

Detachment Commandant  Adjutant/Paymaster Date

TOTAL MBRS / MAX AUTH DEL from June 30th Report
Keeping together is progress, working together is success

MARINES: Greetings to all Devil Dogs of the Order. Spring is just around the corner, and spring usually brings new life and growth. I am hoping that we can breathe some new life into our organization by recruiting new Devil Dogs in large numbers. Overall, the MODD is losing members faster than we have been bringing in new ones, so it is imperative that we invite eligible League members to join us this spring. Start seeking out those active and involved members of your detachments who are not yet Devil Dogs and invite them to join our great organization. And remind them that we are the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League.

The Mid-Winter Conference is upon us, and we have much work to do during this important gathering. In the very near future, many divisions will be holding their spring conferences and growls. Please try to participate in some of these events if your situation will permit. Share any successes you have had in securing new Devil Dogs.

We are now about six months out from the next Supreme Growl, which will be held in conjunction with the MCL National Convention in Billings, MT, this August. Now is the time to be thinking about those Dogs in your Pounds who are planning to attend and advance to the degree of Pedigree Devil Dog. Make sure that they consult the MODD bylaws and follow the requirements for advancement. There are deadlines to be met for application. All paperwork needs to be in the paws of the Kennel Dog Robber no later than July 1. Don’t be one of those Dogs who shows up without the proper paperwork and is denied advancement. You do not want to miss out on all the FUN!

If you have any questions, consult the MODD website, check with your Pack Dog Robber or contact one of the Kennel Officers for answers. We are here to help.

Semper Woofing!

- From the MODD Handbook

Chief Leonard Spicer, National Commandant
Wendell Webb and Auxiliary Sr. Vice President
Evelyn Joppa lay a wreath at Arlington Cemetery on Veterans Day.

Chief Leonard Spicer with the birthday cake detail following the cake cutting ceremony on November 10 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico.
Out-of-Uniform Marines “Share Their Legacy” with Graduating Recruits

By MGySgt George E. Hijar, USMC (Ret)

There is a group of “out-of-uniform” Marines who volunteer their time to pass on their legacy to graduating new Marines for a program called “Share the Legacy,” which began in 1996 and is supported by the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot’s G-3 Training, coordinated by Sgt Jacob R. Emerson, the Training Chief.

“The primary purpose of the program is to find volunteers who are willing to share their Marine Corps experiences,” said Sgt Emerson, “focusing on the Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Also, how their time in the Corps instilled these values and shaped their life.”

The program has 13 active volunteer speakers. They usually discuss various aspects of their experiences, hoping that new Marines take away an understanding of the importance of Core Values. At least half of the volunteers are members of the Marine Corps League Yellow Footprints Detachment 1154 of Beaufort, SC.

The speakers spend an hour with the new Marines from all four recruit battalions during graduation week. To make it more like a “fireplace chat,” the drill instructors are not present during their talks, which makes it easier for the new Marines to ask questions they normally wouldn’t ask.

“I always tried to emphasize some specific points,” said retired Col. Patrick A. Garrett, “like don’t ever be late for work or formation; keep your eyes and ears open and your mouth shut; take pride in your appearance; and conduct yourself as a Marine at all times.” He served as an Aviation Logistician and retired after 39 years of service.

Some of his advice includes understanding the responsibilities, consequences and impacts of marriage and considering postponing it until after their first enlistment.

Retired Sgt Maj James E. Moore emphasizes that “It’s not the ‘old Corps’ or the ‘new Corps,’ it’s the Marine Corps.” According to Moore, “…the Legacy program is a great way to connect Marines of the past with Marines of the present.” Moore retired after 27 years in the Corps and served as Sergeant Major for the Recruit Depot at Parris Island and the eastern recruiting region.

Unfortunately, the program doesn’t currently have women speakers, so the males have to do their best to relate their experiences when they speak at the 4th Battalion.

Retired MGySgt George E. Hijar easily relates to the women Marines. He was in the Public Affairs occupational field for more than 20 years, a field that has employed women since the 1950s. “If it hadn’t been for my experiences in Public Affairs,” said Hijar, “it would have been a bit more challenging trying to relate to the young women.” He worked for Brigadier General Margaret A. Brewer, the first woman Marine to be promoted to flag rank in 1978.

When Hijar became a Marine in 1960, women in the Corps weren’t numerous. “It is an honor for me to be able to pass on my legacy to all these new Marines,” Hijar said. “I always tell them that there is one thing that will determine their path, and that’s a ‘positive attitude.’” Hijar retired in 1993 and has been a program speaker since 2012.

“I always make it a point to let the Marines know that they are a part of the warrior caste,” said retired GySgt Anthony “Tony” Solomon, a Bluffton resident. “Once a Marine, Always a Marine” are not just words, it’s a way of life. He retired in 1994 and served in the infantry.

Sharing the Legacy engages with visitors at the Command Museum. On the day before graduation, the museum holds “Family Day” for the new Marines and family members who come for graduation. Legacy speakers meet the families of the Marines they spoke to days earlier.

The Legacy volunteers usually speak to the entire recruit company, but when two speakers are available the unit is divided into two groups. “When speaking to a smaller group,” said John Geymann, “I frequently stand by the door and gratefully accept a smile, a ‘Thank You’ and a handshake.”

Doug “Jake” Jaquays joined the Marine Corps in 1967 and served a tour in Vietnam as a rifleman. He said, “[The new Marines … ] are like sponges and soak up everything I say; they cannot believe some of the things Marines went through during Vietnam. "I tell them that it is their time to continue with the Legacy."

Each of the Legacy speakers has his own storytelling style and relays what he thinks are important messages to pass on.

“I’ve enjoyed … speaking in the Legacy program,” says John Keller, who served in the early 1950s and left active duty as a Corporal. “I was asked to join the program because of my experience in witnessing the testing of the hydrogen bomb in the Marshall Islands … I give the new Marines a detailed account of that major blast,” he says. “I also talk about their next phase of training after leaving Parris Island.”

All of the speakers believe that if they can reach one single Marine through their talks, they have done well. Sharing their Legacy may make his/her time in the Corps, and afterwards, more fulfilling. Contact Sgt Emerson at 843-228-3455 to become a speaker.

About the Author: MGySgt George E. Hijar started his career as a Marine Reservist in August 1960 and integrated into active duty in July 1967. He served in the Republic of Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, from October 1967 to November 1968 as an infantryman. Hijar was a drill instructor at Parris Island (1969-1971) and trained officer candidates in the Platoon Leaders Course at Quantico. He laterally moved into the Public Affairs field in 1972 and served as a print journalist, newspaper editor, community relations chief, media operations chief and public affairs chief. He retired in August 1993 from the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps.
Please look for National changes and new forms on the MCLA website

LADIES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY, sometimes life gets in the way of the best laid plans. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Modern Day Marine Expo or the National Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington as intended. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to National Senior Vice President Evelyn Joppa who traveled from her home in New Port Richey, FL, to represent me. She also worked at National Headquarters assisting our National Secretary while at Quantico. Thank you so much, Evelyn!

If you have not visited the MCLA National website for a while, please do so. Changes that were approved at the National Convention in August have been made and are posted. Please remember to use the new forms that are on the website and destroy any old forms that you have been using.

Let’s all renew our pledge to continue to serve our Marine families and reach out to those who need our assistance in 2019. Remember to spread the word about our wonderful organization and make every attempt to recruit new members who are like-minded about serving others.

Please especially remember those who have had their lives and livelihoods devastated by Hurricanes Florence and Michael and by Super Typhoon Yutu in the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan and Tinian, especially members of our Marine family. There are a number of excellent organizations listed on the internet that would very much appreciate your monetary donations to help rebuild these communities. Help wherever you can.

It seems very early as I write this in late October, but plans are already underway for our Mid-Winter Conference which will be held February 28–March 2 in Fredericksburg, VA, at the Hospitality House. All members are welcome to attend. This is an excellent opportunity to see the National Staff in action. Please get your reservations at the hotel as soon as possible. I hope to see many of you there!

Thank you for all you do every day for our veterans!

Semper Fi!

League Auxiliary Activities

HPNC Lynn LaBerge (4th from left) secured the Enlisted Awards and arranged for the recipients to be present at Modern Day Marine Expo at the end of September. The awards were presented by Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert Neller. Thank you, HPNC La Berge, and congratulations to all of the recipients.

MCLA National Flag Bearer Alima Zimmer, MCLA National Senior Vice President Evelyn Joppa, and MCLA National Banner Bearer Nila Caulder at the 2018 National Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11.
They serve our country and defend our freedom wherever challenged, with the always faithful commitment to the higher principles of the Corps. They are the few, the proud, the Marines. Now, you can show your unwavering love and support with the “Forever Faithful Marine” Diamond Ring. Hand-crafted in solid sterling silver with 18K gold-plated accents, this exclusively designed ring features a detailed multi-band look that leads to a central open heart sparkling with a pavé of seven genuine diamonds. At the center of heart is a sculpted Corps emblem—a beautiful expression of the forever love in your heart for the Marines. Adding to this meaningful expression of devotion are the words “Semper Fidelis” (Always Faithful) finely engraved inside the band.

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An Outstanding Value with Your Satisfaction Guaranteed
How the Foundation became what it is now

**MARINES**: I would like to share information about the Marine Corps League Foundation. It was founded in 1989 and operated through the MCL National Headquarters. Between 2006–2008, the process began to separate the Foundation from the umbrella and control of National Headquarters, and it became an Independent Organization and an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) Not for Profit organization. The MCL Foundation operates with a seven-member Board of Directors, with its elected officers coming from within the Board. The Foundation is chartered and governed by a set of Bylaws. All requests for assistance and business for the Foundation go through the Board. We conduct two meetings in person annually and are constantly communicating by email or phone in between meetings.

We held our first Board of Directors retreat this year, and in 3 days, got a lot of work done to build and make the Foundation stronger and to find ways to expand the mission of the MCL Foundation within the reaches of its Charter and Bylaws. The areas of assistance provided by the Foundation and allowed by its Charter and Bylaws are humanitarian and disaster relief, college scholarships (the Foundation only funds the scholarships, while the application process is handled by the MCL Scholarship Committee), Mothers of Marines (Gold Star Mothers) and currently the holder of funds for the Marines Helping Marines program. A large part of our mission is to boost youth programs. We are currently partnered with the Marine Military Academy, Marine Corps TECOM, MJROTC programs and other youth programs associated with the US Marine Corps and Marine Corps League.

With the above missions we ask for your support and donations to continue the tasks that ensure those in need are provided available assistance. Our online donations continue to increase through Facebook and other online sites using PayPal. We appreciate and are thankful for donations and gifts from across the country from not only MCL members but from 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 is running strong, and I’m proud to say we are seeing many requests coming in for the certificates. Please keep honoring our brothers and sisters by showing their families and loved ones we have not forgotten them.

The MCL Foundation is again listed among the best military, family and veterans’ service charities in the Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC number is 10145, so make sure your friends and families that participate in the CFC campaign know to donate to the Foundation. We are still listed under Amazon Smiles as a charitable organization.

To expedite the mail process, and since the MCL Foundation is an Independent Organization, the Foundation has a new mailing address: Marine Corps League Foundation, PO Box 180, Franklin, NC, 28744. All mail or inquiries for the Foundation should be going to this address to alleviate mail going to National Headquarters, getting sorted and readressed to the Foundation, which sometimes can take 2 weeks or more.

**Semper Fi!**

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

**BILL DAVIS**

Funds raised to “strengthen the lives of America’s youth”

**MARINES**: The Young Marines, a national youth organization, raised $45,000 at its annual golf tournament held September 24 at the Medal of Honor Golf Course at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA.

For more than a decade, vendors who are in town for the Modern Day Marine Expo, members of the MCL and Young Marines supporters, have been playing golf to raise funds for the 501(c)(3) youth education and service program for kids aged 8 to 18.

The sold-out event of 144 golfers joined six Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps including the current Sgt Major of the Marine Corps Ronald L. Green; the 12th Sgt Major of the Marine Corps Gene Overstreet; and the 17th Sgt Major of the Marine Corps Michael Barrett. Overstreet and Barrett are current Young Marines Board of Directors members.

In addition, patriotic vocalist Dave Bray performed the national anthem, and actor and producer Scott Levy signed autographs.

The NEC golf team won first place with a score of 55. Team NEC consisted of Peter Hebert, John Shroeder, Gary Gordon and Rob Anderson.

Sponsors of the event included: ADS; BAE Systems; BB&T; Datamin; Geisselle Automatics; iGov; Marine Plumbing; Military Historical Tours; NEC Corporation; Ocean Construction Services; Raytheon; Tampa Microwave; and YM National Foundation.

Many thanks to the companies that donated items: GLOCK; Black Rifle Coffee Company; Nine Line Apparel; Mission BBQ; Against the Grain Creations; Strong Art Works; TactiCool; CamelBak; AmeriPack; Marine Corps University Foundation; Xpert Media Management (XMM); Trish Jones; Brenda Davis; Wilson Lee; and Joe Lusignan.

**Semper Fi!**
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It’s our duty to be vigilant about suicide

MARINES: I want to talk about something we should all be concerned with, and that’s suicide. When we first started talking to General Neller about transitioning Marines and how we as the Marine Corps League could help, his biggest concern was suicide. If we could get transitioning Marines into the Marine Corps League he would know where they were, and we could help them with any problems, especially problems dealing with their demons. However, it seems like we don’t spot the more serious problems until it’s too late.

We recently lost a young Detachment Commandant to those demons. The VA let him down. He went to them, and they could not squeeze him in for an appointment. No time. He called the hotline, and no one got back to him. He dealt with his demons the only way he thought was left for him. We as Marines and the Marine Corps League need to take the lead and become proactive, and we should all have some idea of the signs that may tip us off to a problem.

We get these young Marines into our detachments and then if there is a problem with them the detachment looks to get rid of them, whether by suspension, ridicule or just ignoring them. I’ve heard members say, “We just got a new member, and he’s really out there.” We need to wake up and recognize these actions as not strange but as a Marine with possible problems. Instead of ignoring, ridiculing or agitating him, have someone take that Marine aside, become a friend and find out who he is and whether he needs anything.

We have some members who are involved with an organization known as Vets4Warriors, a 24/7, 365 days-a-year hotline. They’re ready to assist any Marine and any veteran with any problem. We need to utilize these people. See our website in the Library for their contact information or go online at Vets4Warriors.com or call 1-855-838-8255. Download the info on your phones or write it down and put it in your wallets; just get the information and use it.

The VA is dropping the ball; it’s our duty to pick it up and run with it. Let Vets4Warriors and their amazing staff be our instrument, our tool to help our Marines and any veteran deal with their demons and hopefully prevent them from thinking that ending their lives is their only out. Let’s make this a Marine Corps League mission. We need to open our eyes and be willing to help and save a brother or sister.

Semper Fi!

Formulate your own “aggressive program”

MARINES: Happy New Year! It is a time of reflecting back and a time to look forward. Sometimes it’s important to understand where we’ve been in order to move forward in a positive direction. We are growing in numbers, and that solely has taken place through every MCL member’s efforts. Recruiting will always be at the forefront of our success.

Recently, Raymond Morrell, Department of North Dakota Commandant, and I spoke about a Facebook thread that he and other MCL members were discussing. The discussion asked, “What is the future of the League? What is your detachment doing that is connecting with your membership, supporting increased retention and recruitment? What tools are you giving your members to engage with new Marines and your community? How are you shaping tomorrow’s detachment leaders to replace today’s leadership? What encouragement do you provide to your fellow members to attend department, division and National conferences and conventions, thus allowing them to identify a ‘bigger picture’ of what is going on in the League?”

Ray encouraged his detachments to “quantify the detachments’ success,” asking them to submit their “best practices” so that these principles and lessons learned could be applied. Ray further stated, “As Department Commandant, I am pushing a message of success through knowledge/training and empowerment—and have empowered my department officers to develop programs/training to support our detachments. The detachments cannot grow if they are constantly in the dark.” Finally, Ray has recruited over 125 new members in the past several years. He knows recruiting. Raymond finished by saying, “We need to remember that Marines were trained to be leaders, we were trained to do a lot with nothing, and we were trained to improvise, adapt and overcome. Success lies in how it’s communicated and how it’s applied.”

Please think about Marine Morrell’s statements and formulate your own “aggressive program.” I want each of you to remember why you joined the Corps and why you joined the League. When we volunteered to be leaders in the MCL, we volunteered to the obligations and responsibilities of being an officer and making our League stronger. What can YOU do to make our League stronger and more viable? What is the future of the League and what can each of you do to make it better?

Semper Fi!
Review your local bylaws and follow the procedures

MARINES: I hope everyone enjoyed the Birthday and had a chance to meet new Marines and tell them about the League. We do have a lot to offer.

Our new Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, passed at the National Convention, are now available on the National website. Click on the Library section and scroll down. The leadership of each detachment and department needs to read through these, review local bylaws to make sure they are all in compliance with National’s. Now is the chance to get this done. If changes need to be made to local bylaws, this gives you the time to make corrections before your conventions. If you are in doubt, please feel free to contact me.

Once a detachment’s bylaws have been reviewed and changes have been made and voted on by the members, the new bylaws must be submitted to the Department Judge Advocate for review. If viewed to be proper, they will be accepted. Department Judge Advocates then need to send a letter to the submitting detachment stating that their new bylaws are accepted. This is the final step in this process. Detachment bylaw revisions are not approved by the Department Judge Advocate. Department bylaw revisions need to be submitted to the National Judge Advocate for approval. Again, this is a good time to work on in house procedures.

To maintain your detachment, your Commandant, Senior Vice, Junior Vice and Judge Advocate must be Marines. I have had questions about the need for an associate to fill one of these positions due to a lack of Marines willing to step up. They have been recycled too many times and are just tired. My answer would be to get the young Marine veterans in and let them take over their way. They’ve done great things as Marines. They will do great things as Marine Corps League members. You will be proud to see your detachment carry on and not become defunct.

Closing up the year, there were many holiday gatherings. I hope you took the opportunity to let other Marines know about the Marine Corps League. Meeting many active Marines at the Modern Day Marine Expo reinforces how great our Corps truly is. Semper Fi!
**PAY YOUR DUES AND FOLLOW ELECTION PROCESS**

**MARINES:** Hello Fellow Marines, Corpsman and Navy Chaplains. Wow! We should be close to getting together for the National Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA. Hopefully everyone reading this had a Happy 243rd Birthday, great holidays and a Happy New Year.

It has been a busy time since the National Convention. I traveled from Michigan out to Stafford, VA, to our National Headquarters for a Board of Trustees meeting and then looked around the headquarters building. I have to say that the employees there are top notch and were working very hard processing transmittals. And as usual, every time I get near the ship store, I have to buy something new. I think my wife Wendy expects me to bring home something new after each new visit.

The rest of the week was spent in Quantico at Modern Day Marine. If you have never been to one of these expos, you should make time to attend one. I worked with NVC Dave Porter in the registration tent helping keep everyone in the right lines. We walked around thanking all the vendors that brought their goods to show off. There was some outstanding equipment that helps us continue to be the world’s finest fighting force.

Members if you haven’t paid your dues get them in now; you are already 4-6 months delinquent so get them to your Detachment Paymaster. Make sure your fiscal year mirrors National’s, which is July 1 through June 30. As we are in the time of year when elections will be happening for all detachments and departments, here is just a quick reminder that every detachment is required to elect four officers; they are the Commandant, Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate. You can elect more, but those four are required by the National Bylaws and cannot be any less.

Let’s get this year started with a BANG! Put your hand out to fellow Marines, Corpsman and Navy Chaplains and explain to them what you do in your detachments and to join you to help not only veterans but your communities so they know who the Marine Corps League is.

*Semper Fi!*

**TAKE STEPS TO DOCUMENT AND SHARE OUR HISTORY**

**MARINES:** Happy New Year! I trust that all of you enjoyed your holidays and all of the fun that goes with them to include time with your family and friends. Happy 243rd Birthday to all of our Marines as well!

In the recent months, I have had many conversations with members discussing the history of our League, but more importantly, the achievements of our members. We were taught history when we were in boot camp and on active duty. These stories are remembered by us all and continue to be shared with, and passed down to, each new generation of Marines. Our history is what has made our emblem and title so meaningful. As League members, it is important for us to also document our history so that we have stories to share with our members. It is so important to remember all of our Past Commandants, Marine of the Year Recipients and others who have achieved recognition for promoting the mission of our League. More notably, we need to always remember those Marines that many detachments have proudly chartered themselves by, as well as our members who have gone to be with the Supreme Commandant.

I encourage every detachment and department to perform the research and create history pages on your websites honoring and remembering all of these people. This information could also be published in your newsletters and shared at meetings and events. All of our detachments, departments and divisions have a lot to be proud of by those who placed the stepping stones which have ultimately shaped who we are as a League, and that history gives us inspiration to continue on with our mission and growth.

Our National Mid-Winter Conference is quickly approaching. I truly look forward to this event; not just for the information shared but also for the camaraderie. The Mideast Division is always well-represented at this Conference, and our attendance continues to grow every year. I encourage every detachment to have at least one member attend!

Take care of yourselves and each other and let’s always keep our overseas Marines, FMF Corpsmen and FMF Chaplains in our thoughts and prayers.

*Semper Fi!*
New member signing strategy ... let’s make an impact

MARINES: Marines, Corpsmen and Chaplains, what a great year the League has had! Now that our 243rd birthday and the holidays have passed and 2019 has arrived, it is time to concentrate on our future. I would like to thank the Department of Minnesota for their hard work in applying for a new detachment, the Buffalo Ridge Leathernecks Detachment. Department of Nebraska is also in the process of forming a new detachment in western Nebraska. The Midwest Division grew slightly in 2018, and hopefully during 2019 we will see additional detachments being formed.

In review of the Division roster I see a potential problem. That being the number of Life members. It seems as we reach the age of 65 and can purchase a Life membership at the lowest cost, the number of regular members is reduced by that number. To offset this we as Marines, Corpsmen and Chaplains need to set a goal of seeking out and signing up two new members for each new Life member. I think this would help maintain an ongoing and increasing regular membership for the League. As we get more mature, we need to insure our future by having younger members join the League. By giving support to David Ossian, Chairman, and members Mark Munger and T. J. Morgan, your local detachment department liaison of the Marines for Life program, hopefully the League could contact many of the approximate 30,000 discharged Marines, many being one-term. With the ability to make contact and render the assistance the Marines for Life program has to offer, the League could make an impact. By giving Marines a choice to leave the Corps after the first hitch, any assistance to ease their transition back to civilian life could make a measurable gain in younger League membership. This will ensure a stable growth for the Marine Corps League.

Upcoming events include the Mid-Winter Conference, February 28-March 2, Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Hotel

To a motivational new year! See National website for updates!

MARINES: Happy New Year! Congrats to the Boston Red Sox for winning the World Series! The Red Sox Foundation is the official charity of the Boston Red Sox, partnered with Massachusetts General Hospital’s Run to Home Base Program, which is dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for Post-9/11 veterans, service members and their families through world-class clinical care, wellness, education and research.

We continue to support the Young Marines and Marine JROTC. This not only helps bridge the generations together, but also gives back to the community. Both organizations are strong in New England, but we must continue to positively support and encourage the younger generation!

The Marine for Life program has new life and has the complete support from the Marine Corps and the MCL. The Marine for Life program will be looking for representatives from each detachment and department. This program assists Marines who have been honorably discharged from the service to transition into the civilian world. This is solely about helping our fellow Marines, a way to inform them that not only are we here, but we are here to help.

As a reminder, we need members to assist in filling roles as elected and appointed officers to strengthen the League. Members cannot stay in rank forever. We need bodies to move up, take on new roles and bring in new ideas. New blood sparks new excitement, new excitement motivates the machine!

On the communication front, our newly redesigned website is up and running: mclnedsion.com. We continue to work on all forms of communication to reach out in the best, most effective ways. The National webpage is doing its best to keep us updated with forms, procedures and other tools. I encourage any detachments that don’t have a webpage to investigate your options and get one up and running.

To finish up, here are some important upcoming dates:

- **Mid-Winter Conference** (February 28–March 2) Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Hotel
- **Quad State Convention** (April 26–28) Best Western Plus Manchester, NH
- **Department of Massachusetts Convention** (May 30–June 2) Double Tree Hyannis, MA
- **Department of Connecticut Convention** (Early June) Location TBD

Thank you for doing a great job, God Bless!

Semper Fi!
Use social media but with caution ... use Division website

**MARINES:** I hope everyone had a nice holiday season with a happy safe New Year. After the Toys for Tots Campaign we get a little breather to catch up on things. Dues renewals continue to be a challenge. If your ID card shows anything other than 2019, you’re in arrears. Consult with your Detachment Paymaster first as he or she transmits the dues to your department which in turn sends them to National.

I attended membership meetings in New York and Pennsylvania this past quarter and can report that they are hard at work on renewals and looking towards their department conventions and the National Convention already.

Each discussed social media as a tool towards communication and getting “younger” members. Pictures posted to Facebook pages should show correct MCL uniforms and should conform to general rules of decency, keeping religion and politics out of the conversation.

Like other things nowadays there is a chance for bad people to use the platform to create bogus funds or problems to try to take your money. Be wary of those platforms and unsolicited email asking for money or help.

Membership meetings for the departments will be posted to their respective websites, and our Division Conference will be held in Binghamton, NY, on April 4-5, 2019. Information for that will be released and posted on the Division website by the New Year.

The newly released Bylaws and Administrative Procedures were posted, and detachments should review their individual bylaws and submit them to their Department JA for review to verify that they comply with the National Bylaws.

*Semper Fi!*

A lot in store for 2019 ... Marine for Life committee appointment

**MARINES:** Winter is on like Donkey Kong! Mid-Winter Conference is upon us, and it’s our last one in Fredericksburg. We will be moving down to Norfolk in 2020, and I’m sure it will continue to grow there as well. Our Division is growing! We lost a couple of detachments, however: one in Washington and one in Oregon. I ask that when these things pop up that you all rally around the detachment and try to save it. Sometimes I notice that we give up too quickly.

I wanted to give a shout out to Alaska. Although you are in the upper north end of the Division, we still think about you, and this year I will be working with the membership up there to get you all back into the active status of the League. Detachments like K-Bay and Fairbanks are two detachments that have reached out to me; I’ll try my best to get you where you need to go. Looking forward to serving you and the great state of Alaska.

As usual you all have done great work with the 2018 Toys for Tots drive. Thanks for stepping up to make a family’s Christmas just a bit brighter.

In Buffalo I was blessed to be appointed to the new Marine for Life committee. You are going to be hearing a lot from the League on this. I have appointed John “Moose” Moysiuk as the Division M4L liaison. He’ll be in contact with all the department M4L members as well as all the detachment Marines. Its our mission to help transitioning Marines. Please contact Moose or myself if needed.

Lastly, I thank all of you for the confidence you have in me for a second 2-year term. Working with this Board on issues that affect you has been one of the best things I have done. The rough path we were on a few years ago has been cleared, and we are heading in the right direction. Our partnering with the Marine Corps has never been stronger, and with your support, there is nothing we can’t do!

*Semper Fi!*
To lead you must get into the 21st Century

MARINES: We had a very successful and productive Convention—Buffalo was one for the books, and I think everyone had a great time. Many thanks go to our hosts for all the hard work involved in hosting a National Convention. A lot was accomplished during the Convention, and I thank everybody who was able to attend. As you all know, the next National Convention will be in Billings, Montana, and we should be able to have a large representation from the Rocky Mountain Division. This will be the closest one geographically to our Division for a while so I think we can help fill the hall.

In my last column, I talked about stepping up and accepting leadership roles. Communication goes hand in hand with leadership. Why is the League such a secret? It’s because we don’t communicate with the public about our outfit. This is the same reason we have disputes in our detachments and departments. If everyone knows what’s going on, we won’t be blind-sided with anything. Newsletters are one of the best ways to communicate, and you can do it online so it doesn’t cost anything in postage and printing. Newsletters are so important that National gives awards for the best ones.

Speaking of doing things online, I’ve heard many times from some of our members that they don’t own a computer and refuse to get one. I’ll tell you again that the only way to do an effective job in a leadership role is to get into the 21st Century and get a computer. I’ve also heard, “I’m too old to learn how to work a computer.” I really don’t think that’s the case. I was a construction worker all my adult life and never worked a computer until after I retired. I’m 74 now, and if I can learn it, anyone can. Just get your grandkids to help you, if they have the patience; otherwise you can take classes nearly anywhere. I know we are always stressing membership and recruiting younger members, but we also need us old guys to show them the ropes. So hang in there.

I’ve said enough for now so I’ll just say Happy New Year!
Semper Fi!

2019 is here … new year, new commitment? Represent at events

MARINES: This was my second year of working the Modern Day Marine Expo at Quantico. The weather was a little damp, but I again enjoyed meeting the vendors and seeing the new equipment being developed and offered to our Marine Corps. If you have never attended an Expo, you should consider doing so. It is well worth the time and money.

As was the case last year at this time, Florida has again been hit by a devastating hurricane. At the time I write this column, the damage and assessments of what we can do to help those affected by Hurricane Michael’s damage in the Florida Panhandle are still being made. I am totally confident that, as was the case last year, all needs of those affected will be met through the generosity of our members. Again, this year, I say, “Thank you!” to each person, detachment and department sending a donation to the Marine Corps League Foundation, the Department of North Carolina and/or the Department of Florida hurricane relief funds, after Hurricanes Florence and Michael struck multiple states in the Southeast.

I hope everyone is planning to attend the Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA, February 28–March 2, 2019, and is already registered. The Mid-Winter Conference is very informative and a great educational venue for those members who have never attended a national conference or convention. Again, I would remind everyone that we need better attendance at all our meetings, conferences and conventions on all levels.

The 73rd Southeast Division Conference will be held this year on March 21-24, 2019, at North Charleston, SC. I urge all members of the Southeast Division to attend this conference, and I specifically ask that all department and detachment elected and appointed officers attend.

Detachments and departments will be electing officers in the coming months. I urge all prospective candidates to consider the time and financial obligations of attending all detachment and department meetings, conferences and conventions before announcing for office. Holding office requires a higher commitment than just being a member. Representing your detachment or department at all such events is an obligation, not an option.

Great improvements to the Marine Corps League have been made by our National elected officers, and all members and officers of subordinate units must commit to properly following the rituals and Bylaws of the League and to implementing and accepting those changes. We must embrace change to continue to grow and follow our mission statement.
Semper Fi!
DIVISION REPORTS

Steady progress being made; Southern Division honored

MARINES: It has been a very active few months since my last report to the membership of Southern Division. There have been several significant milestones reached—the 100th anniversary of the Historic Battle of Belleau Wood and the 100th anniversary of Women Marines in our Marine Corps, Happy Birthday to all our Marine Sisters.

The 95th National Convention was held in Buffalo, NY, and was very successful with many productive meetings and important votes. The new National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures were voted on and passed with a few amendments, along with a new budget and revised format, also adopted with a very good surplus for the first time in years. Congratulations to the Budget Committee for all their hard work and due diligence in this matter. Also, there were some very high Honors awarded to Departments and Members of the Southern Division, such as the Department of Arkansas which was presented with 1st place in Membership for a Department; Southern Division was awarded 2nd place for a Division; and for the first time ever, a Marine from the Department of Texas, Sean P. Downey is the 2018 Recruiter of the Year with 34 members. Sean was not at the National Convention, but I was able to present the Award plaque, certificate and Medal to him at the Fall Conference held in San Antonio, TX, October 20.

Modern Day Marine, September 19-21 in Quantico, VA, was again bigger and more successful than last year with a 30% increase in vendors with displays and a new section dedicated to small business. The staff and management of Emerald are the most hardworking, competent and skilled I have seen in recent memory.

The Department of Texas held their Fall Conference and training in San Antonio, TX, October 18-21. Hosted by the Alamo Detachment 315 of San Antonio, the Conference was very well-conducted with productive and well-presented classes and meetings. Assistant National Vice Commandant David Niemann also attended.

Membership is continuing to improve. I am very impressed with all the work and steady progress being made across the Division—keep up the good job Marines!

Semper Fi!

Southwest Division ranked #1 in recruitment percentage

MARINES: I hope everybody enjoyed the holidays! I am happy to report to you that our Southwest Division ranked #1 in percent growth of new member recruitment over the past fiscal year. That is truly outstanding, perhaps proves that our Marine Corps mantra, "Adapt, Improvise and Overcome" remains infused in our DNA! Special thanks for this impressive result is due to Richard Hoery, Past National Vice Commandant, Southwest Division, for his untiring effort, as well as the efforts of our detachment Commandants and their staffs.

Speaking of adapting and improvising, you will have access to our new, improved website. You can check it out at: mclswdivision.org. Webmaster Mark Dennis has been working very hard to get this up and running. Thank you, Mark, for your above and beyond effort.

Assistant Southwest Division Vice Commandant Pat Connell and I have been very busy assembling a complete roster of Division Officers for display on this website. We welcome suggestions about what you need to assist you that can be displayed on this website; we’ll make every effort to accommodate reasonable requests.

Moving forward, we’ve added a Southwest Division Social Coordinator. Thanks to Russell Mascari who has undertaken this task. He is extremely knowledgeable and already has the Lake Havasu Detachment on Facebook with great results. The goal is to have every one of our departments and detachments on Facebook.

Some important reminders: Marine West is scheduled for February 7–8, 2019, at Camp Pendleton. You are encouraged to check our Division’s website for hotel reservation information. We are arranging a group dinner for those arriving February 6. Last year we had more than 30 people enjoying the camaraderie. Don’t miss out! Watch for announced details. The Marine West Division meeting will be on Thursday, February 7.

The National Mid-Winter Conference is planned for February 28–March 2, and our Division Meeting is being planned for Las Vegas—dates and locations TBA.

Finally, let’s keep in mind that, we Marines, working together, must continue to Adapt, Improvise and Overcome in order to assure a great Southwest Division!

Semper Fi!
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THE SEMPER FI INTERVIEW

From Defeat to Victory

Sgt John Peck

In using technology, John has been able to become particularly adept at tasks that others might deem impossible for a double amputee to accomplish, such as playing video games or using a cell phone. In fact, among John’s social group he has been known to be able to send text messages faster than able-bodied individuals.

By Miles Vining

In the course of the American intervention in Afghanistan, few service members have sacrificed as much as Marine Sergeant John Peck has when it comes to the extensive injuries they received during combat operations. Sergeant Peck became a quadruple amputee in 2010 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province. His survival despite immense damage and pain is nothing short of a miracle. But that was only the beginning of John’s post-war struggles, and his path to recovery had only just started. Through physical and emotional therapy, even intense pain, John was able to fight through some of the worst obstacles that a veteran could go through. And he has come out triumphant, even surviving a double-arm transplant in the process. We were fortunate enough to catch up with him at his home in Maryland and able to interview him in person.
Miles Vining: John, you have an amazing story of turning near defeat into victory, thank you so much for sitting down with us here at Semper Fi magazine and telling us your story. Could we begin from the start?

John Peck: So I was a Mortarman with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines in Camp Pendleton, originally training up as a forward observer but ended up being tasked out in a number of different jobs while we were deployed to Al Anbar Province in 2007. I ended up as the lead machine gunner in our mounted convoy behind an M240 in the turret of a Seven Ton. Towards the end of one particular mission my vehicle hit a pressure plate IED. Luckily, it didn’t penetrate the vehicle, and no one was killed; but when it happened I got blown out of the turret enough so that when I came back down, I hit my head on the machine gun in front of me. I was extremely rattled and instead of coming down through the turret, I jumped outside of it, onto the hood and jumped straight onto the ground. It ended up that myself and the driver had some bad concussions from the blast. Upon further evaluation, it was decided to send both of us back to the States because I had suffered such bad memory loss. I had a tear in my frontal lobe; my long-term and short-term memory was completely erased. I had forgotten that I was married; I developed speech impediments that I still suffer with to this day. When I got back to the States I couldn’t recognize my family members when they showed up at the bedside.

MV: But despite the loss of your memory, you still wanted to reenlist?

JP: After two years of therapy, yes, I wanted to continue being a Marine, still wanted to go on another deployment. I reenlisted in April of 2008, back with 3/1, and we went to the Sangin district of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Still a Mortarman, having to re-learn my entire job since the memory loss, but again like in Iraq, we were tasked with patrolling and not working the mortars. During the course of the deployment I became a sweeper, using a Valon mine detector. On one particular patrol (May 24, 2010) we went to go search this compound that had been suspected of insurgent activity. We had actually cleared the entire complex when I was just about to step outside and tell my sergeant that I was going to go post security when I stepped on the IED and was flung onto the ground.

MV: Do you remember anything in particular about the blast when it happened?

JP: I find it funny, others find it gruesome, but the last feeling that I had was that of my detached foot flying into my face and essentially kicking myself in the head. My right arm was above the elbow, my left arm had a “de-gloving” incident, one of my legs was above the knee, another one below the knee. I was immediately a triple amputee. The platoon started working on me as fast as possible, tourniquets were applied, and the Medivac came and airdropped me out. The whole time I was in and out of consciousness, really not becoming completely aware of everything until almost three months later. On the way back to the States the medical team tried to save my left arm, but it became such a futile effort that the decision was made to amputate it to a point where it could be salvaged. I also contracted a flesh-eating virus that affected my abdominal tract and left leg.

MV: What was it like when you finally woke up from the “Sedation Holiday” as it is termed, and how did you return to life from there?

JP: At the time my mother actually informed me what had happened and what had been lost. To be honest, the actual injury wasn’t what really hurt me the most. What was extremely painful was the harsh verbal treatment from those who I had thought loved me the most. Combined with the injury, it was almost unbearable to be in that frame of mind. When it came to the physical issues, the initial hurdle was dealing with all the medical equipment at the hospital. I had tubes sticking out of my arms, my chest, a feeding tube into my mouth, even into my throat as a tracheotomy was administered on me so I could breathe easier. Wound vacuum devices were clamped to me in several places as well, in addition to dealing with numerous burns on my legs from the IED explosion. It was incredibly uncomfortable while being in the hospital. Two years went by of finally getting out of the initial care stage and then transitioning to a prosthetic arm. There was a chance at developing prosthetic legs that I could fit into, but this turned out to be extremely impractical due to the amount of strain that it required me to go through, so I made the decision to stick to a wheelchair.

MV: Where did you go after the hospital, and how did the arm transplant process begin?

JP: Initially I moved into a house in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and there I was semi-independent with my mother as a caregiver. That was a boost to my spirits, especially when I finally accepted and became adept at using my prosthetic arm. But at one point in November 2014 I got sick and tired of using prosthetics. Previously I had seen a man in Spain that received a double leg transplant. Doing some research I found out about a hospital in Boston that was seeking candidates for limb transplants. I went up there with my then-girlfriend to get tested for all sorts of potential issues that might crop up when a deceased person’s limbs are attached to you.

MV: Now the wait for a potential limb begins ...

JP: It took around five months, but amazingly in August 2016, we got the call for the arm transplant. Myself and my future wife went up to Boston as soon as possible. Going into surgery the day after we arrived, the doctors began the work of transplanting both arms, leaving me sedated for almost an entire day. Since then it’s been a long process through therapy and even potential rejections of the arms by my own body. It isn’t as simple as attaching the arms to your body and having them immediately work. You have to really work with
MV: Has all that extra work been worth it to you, as opposed to not going through the operation and continuing with the prosthetic?

JP: In my experience I’ve only met a couple people in the States who have had a successful limb transplant. One has apparently been doing very well with his life, while another who I met had a lot of issues. And I think this is due to his personality, which is something people tend to forget. Me, personally, maybe it’s the Marine in me, but I will continue to push until I can push no longer when it comes to making this transplant work as best it can.

MV: What about a leg transplant, is that something you’ve considered?

JP: No, I don’t think so. Of course, it is technically possible, but for transplanted legs to support my body weight, I don’t think it would be worth the ordeal that I went through earlier with my new arms. Just looking at my medication, I used to be consuming 40 pills a day in the early stages of the arm transplant. In addition, it could only be a right leg transplant due to my left leg being amputated up to the hip. I’ve already spent six years in some kind of hospital setting, and I’m done with that part of my life if I can avoid it. My entire 20s were spent doing what someone in their 20s shouldn’t be doing.

MV: Between the two injuries and the transplants, where have you found time to yourself for your own passions?

JP: In my experience I’ve only met a couple people in the States who have had a successful limb transplant. One has apparently been doing very well with his life, while another who I met had a lot of issues. And I think this is due to his personality, which is something people tend to forget. Me, personally, maybe it’s the Marine in me, but I will continue to push until I can push no longer when it comes to making this transplant work as best it can. Someday I want to be able to do pull-ups and maybe even bench-presses. I won’t give up until I absolutely know that it is not going to be achievable. But each individual is different, it is on that person. The doctors can help, but ultimately it is that person that makes that crucial difference.

MV: You are extremely passionate about getting your story out there and being a beacon of support to other wounded veterans, what drives you in this?

JP: Part of it is dealing with the VA throughout all of this process in addition to trying to show those who might be dealing with similar wounds that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The arm transplant operation was entirely funded by private donors, for example. Because it was an experimental surgery the VA wouldn’t fund it. I don’t want future generations of veterans to have to go through that ordeal when they get wounded in combat, in addition to it dissuading those same generations as to how they might get treated if that happens. Another point that I’m passionate about are the amount of fraudulent VA claims that are clogging up the VA system for actual patients. That really infuriates me when I see veterans who get away with it while others are being denied for legitimate issues they need help with.

MV: Could you let us in on some details about your upcoming book?

JP: The book covers much of the arm transplant process, covering some of the injury and service time but really delves into the recovery much more. It will be out on March 9 of 2019, Rebuilding Sergeant Peck. There is also the potential for a documentary with a company we are working with.

MV: How can readers stay updated with you and know more details about the book?

JP: I’m very active on my Facebook page: John Peck’s Journey, which can be found at Facebook.com/JohnPecksJourney.
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Strengthened relationships, Marines for Life and new Bylaws

MARINES: I would like to discuss what is being accomplished within our Marine Corps League to make us a much more serviceable and effective VSO for the veterans we service: Marines.

In the last few years we have begun servicing our entire associations and service specialty groups as if we are all one big group and all working towards a common goal which will benefit the great service we are honor-bound to support, the United States Marine Corps. By working closely with The Marine Corps Association & Foundation, The Heritage Foundation, Marine Corps Tankers Association, Division Associations, Women Marines Association, and many more, we strengthen our numbers to help us and them grow. When we are fragmented we lack the cohesiveness required to be strong and nurture one another and confront all issues as a group. This is a work in progress, and I for one am looking for continued success.

Our Commandant, General Neller, and Commandant Webb, have weekly discussions on ways to make Marines for Life benefit all Marines, active duty and separated, in and out of the Corps. It takes time and effort to form these bonds; good results come when the effort is sincere. MajGen Mike Regner and his wife Mary have contributed greatly to the MCL and Auxiliary since joining us as members. These individuals give so much of themselves and never ask for anything in return. They have truly lived their lives with the “Semper Fi” spirit.

We are a “service organization” that is supposed to take care of our brothers and sisters and assist them in their trials through life, not condemn and destroy them for perceived mistakes. Please use common sense and not mob mentality in dealing with members with problems. Chapter 95 should be for stolen valor or those qualified to be MCL members, and the detachments control that at the time of acceptance. Make sure you vet new members for our sake as well as theirs.

Everyone should be aware that the new Bylaws and Administrative Procedures are in the library and ready to be copied for use nationwide for all JAs and detachments. These are the updated versions approved at the National Convention on August 17, 2018, by vote of the membership. Retire all of your other Bylaws and Administrative Procedures; they are no longer valid. We must use the new rules so all detachments and departments are on the same page. We do not want to take a backward step for failure to comply.

I hope everyone had a great New Year and that all detachments have a fabulous recruiting drive to boost their numbers. I read somewhere that there are over 1 million former Marines in America; you should be able to find a few to join us. Semper Fi!
“MARINE OVERWATCH”  
Ernest Smith, Sgt USMC 1969–1973

Please, do not mourn for me because my life on earth is done. There is much more for me to do, although I am only one. I have received a much higher calling, And I now know how this is to be done.
I have become a quiet and watchful guardian for a Marine, old or young.
I will be the one who hears the family’s call to protect the husband, father, wife, daughter or son.
I make sure your Marine’s rifle is working, clean, dry and never jams;
But just in case it ever does, the backup weapon is very close at hand.
I am the breeze that makes the trees and leaves and the forest sounds
When your Marine needs to advance unheard upon hostile grounds.
I am the sun that shines through the clouds and warms feet and hands,
As your Marine is fighting in a cold and distant land.
I am the rain that falls and cools the parching jungle heat
And the just found, dry pair of socks for your Marine’s wet feet.
I am that small tree or stump or depression in the ground
When shrapnel flies through the air from the incoming mortar round.

I am the dark and starless night when your Marine needs to be concealed.
I will also be the bright moonlight so the enemy will be revealed.
I will be the cherished letter from your Marine’s loved ones at home
And no matter how many times it is read, it never gets tattered or worn.
And when your Marine is tired and alone, in the fighting hole or leaning against a rock or tree,
I will always be there to give your Marine a glimpse of what has been, or still may be.
And when your Marine’s time on our earthly home has run,
and he has met his fate,
And this Marine is now standing straight and tall at Heaven’s Gates,
I will be one of many to greet him, along with The Father and Holy Son,
“Welcome Aboard, Marine! You’ve lived your life for others and for that, Well Done!”
But although your mortal life on Earth is through,
You and I, Marine, we have much more work to do,
We two!
For now, you will have your Marine to protect and guard, and
I will teach you what to do, Just as I was taught, after I arrived, how to protect, guard and watch over you!

Composed 2014, revised 2015, 2016, 2017

“THE TATTOO”
Vickie Weiner

What to get a man who has it all,  
And really asks for nothing t’all.  
How to celebrate eighty years upon this Earth,  
Eighty years since your birth.  
It truly must be something of worth.

So I ask, “Dad what would you like as a birthday gift”?  
“Anything, name it.” He gets my drift.  
Then a gleam appears in his eye.  
I don’t understand it so I ask why.  
To which he simply replied Semper Fi.  
“I’ve wanted something for sixty years,  
I believe I’ve earned it with my blood, sweat  
and tears by serving my country  
For those few years.”

“I’m an Eagle, Globe and Anchor for which I hanker.  
Will you make my ancient dream come true?  
Can I have my Marine Tattoo?”

Now I take a moment, his request to ponder.  
How this birthday gift go over with my mother?

Off to “Under the Gun,”  
Where we definitely had some fun.  
Even at eighty the chicks really swarmed  
To see the art emerging, his arm to transform.  
A few hours later the masterpiece complete,  
He can barely contain the joy on his face or the spring in his feet.

An Eagle, Globe and Anchor to make a MARINE proud;  
Now it’s time to reveal it to the crowd.  
As he rolls up his sleeve I am so glad to see  
this beautiful tattoo staring at me.  
Happy eightieth birthday MARINE!  
I wonder what eighty-one years will bring,  
guess we will have to wait until spring.

Vickie’s father, Fenton D. McVannan, is a Life Member of the John W. Thurston Detachment 250 in Binghamton, New York.
Detachment 1419
Headquarters
Renovation

By Commandant Raymond Morrell

It started as a gift—a gift from a local businessman of a dilapidated, dormant 101-year-old building that was being occupied by a hoarder. The mission—“to make it come alive.” After three years of straight-up gutting and renovation, more than 5,000 volunteer Marine Hours and over $300,000 in community support, this 1915 construction was revived as a Marine House for the Dakota Leathernecks Detachment 1419 of the Marine Corps League.

Originally constructed in 1915 as the Price Consolidated School, this iconic structure served its original mission until 1943. After sitting vacant since then, it was moved approximately 30 miles to its current site, 2 miles west of Mandan, ND, in 1959 where it served the local VFW Post #707 through the late 1980s. It spent the past 25 years in a state of dilapidation and disrepair until being acquired by Fred Berger who made the gift to the Dakota Leathernecks Detachment. The Detachment’s efforts are giving this landmark building a third rejuvenation.

With several special meetings before obtaining final membership approval, a Building Committee was established to oversee and direct the scope of work, and it now oversees the building operations and management. Community outreach exceeded expectations with tremendous solicited and unsolicited donations that were received, addressing the needs of the building renovation. Being gutted to its core, the Dakota Leathernecks’ Marine House is equipped with all new electrical, plumbing, complete HVAC system, roof trusses, floor trusses, ADA bathrooms and more—including Wi-Fi, Sonos sound system and multiple smart TVs with surround sound, used for movie nights as well as presentations.

The building renovations engaged more than 50 percent of the Detachment’s membership with various hands-on activities. Planned use of this Marine House involves outreach efforts, internally and externally, in addition to rental use.

The Detachment’s inaugural event hosted a posthumous Silver Star presentation for a local Marine who was killed in action in 2003 in Afghanistan; the event was attended by and witnessed by countless Marines. A Grand Opening of this three-year reconstruction is scheduled for September 13, 2018. For more information, log on to dakotaleathernecks.com.

“Teufelhunde”

By Aleksandras Radžius/Detachment 565

Some may be surprised at not finding “Teufelhunde” (Devil Dogs) in a German dictionary. And, they might very logically conclude that there is no such word in the German language. This would be a mistake. The German and English languages function from different core foundations. The English readily adopt and absorb foreign words, even when they have a perfectly acceptable word already; for example: pig (from the Celtic “piga”), swine (from the German “schwein”) and pork (from the old French “porc” and Latin “porcus”). Thus, the English language is an amalgam of Germanic, Celtic and Romance languages.

In contrast, the Germans disdain foreign influences and would rather make up their own words, often joining together existing words into a single compound word. The unintended consequence from these differing modus operandi is that the dictionary is not the final authority for the Germans as it is for the English.

I know of a university language professor who marked down a student for using a compound word in a German language paper because the professor claimed that there was no such word. The student produced a German publication with the word.

Personally, I had an experience with the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Baltimore, MD. The pastor could not figure out a compound word in a letter I received from the curator of the Königsberg Secret Archive in Berlin. Turns out the problem word described photographic reproduction of a document.

So, if there is documentation that German soldiers in WWI described the Marines as fighting like “Teufelhunde”—go with it! That is a sufficient foundation for legitimizing the word.

S F W I N T E R  2 0 1 9
Follow “Uniform Code-Marine Corps League, Enclosure 3”

MARINES: Many features about MCL uniforms clearly resemble USMC uniforms. It is very likely that an unknowing public may see that we are Marines. When today’s Marines see us wearing uniforms that are similar to theirs they will recognize us as one of their own. Our appearance reflects upon the Marine Corps and Marines everywhere. We should ever be aware of that responsibility. Uniforms prescribed in the “Uniform Code-Marine Corps League, Enclosure 3” (mcleaguelibrary.org) are considered appropriate to preserve the respect and dignity of the MCL and the USMC.

Many photos have been found with MCL members wearing the wrong uniforms and various items on those uniforms that are NOT authorized. Therefore, before submitting photos to Semper Fi magazine be sure that members of your detachment are in compliance with the Uniform Code-MCL Enclosure 3. Steps are now being taken to ensure photos submitted are in compliance with the Uniform Code. It is up to YOU as MCL members to ensure members of your detachment are squared away.

Once A Marine, Always A Marine. We took great pride when we wore the Marine Corps uniform and followed the rules and regulations related to uniforms. We should also take great pride when we wear the MCL Uniform and follow the rules and regulations that are outlined in the Code.

For complete MCL Bylaws, please visit the MCL homepage. Click on “VISIT NOW” next to MCL Library. Scroll down to “Corporate Documents” where you will find Bylaws & Administrative Procedures and Uniform Code-Enclosure 3. Please discard all past copies of the MCL National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures Manual/Uniform Code/MCL Ribbons Order of Precedence/Proposed Bylaw changes earlier than 2016 when corrections and/or layouts were changed.

If you are unsure about anything concerning the MCL uniform, please feel free to contact any National Uniform Committee member for any questions.

In future issues we will cover parts of our uniforms in detail.

Keep all our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. God bless the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps and our Marine Corps League!

Semper Fi!
Detachment 1435 Pride and Purpose hosted a Pancake Breakfast for the Veterans of the Shepherd’s House in Fort Wayne, IN, on September 22, 2018. During the breakfast a $4,000 check was presented to help the non-profit home continue to serve veterans in need. The Shepherd’s House transforms the lives of those homeless veterans who struggle with addictions, PTSD, TBI, depression and suicidal ideations.

On September 16, 2018, the Southeast Division of the MCL hosted a MODD Growl. Shown is Dog Trainer of Pound 258, Jack F. Strong, Past Commandant and Korean War Veteran.

Veterans Memorial in Missouri Dedication. The project was chaired by Wendell Webb. Left to right: MSgt Tim Gates, Cadet PO1 Kal-el Green, Cadet PO1 James Scott, Wendell Webb, Cadet PO1 Tres Stirrat and Cadet PO1 Toby Miller.
Marines from the Southern Maine Detachment 1324 help Sgt James Hughes of the Frozen Chosin celebrate his 90th birthday. Left to right: Senior Vice Commandant Jay McKenna, Sgt Hughes, Fred Monsen and Commandant Dave Close.

Devil Dogs Dedication

On November 8, 2018, Marine Forces Europe and Africa in Böblingen, Germany, dedicated its parade ground as "Devil Dog Field" and unveiled a memorial comprised of stones from Belleau Wood with a bronze plaque and helmet. The event marked the 100th anniversary of the end of WW I and the role of the Marines, sailors and soldiers that served in Marine Corps units during that conflict. Col Andrew Gillan USMC (Ret.) and Col David Jones (Ret.) unveiled the memorial stone during the ceremony which was presided over by MajGen Russell A. Sanborn. Both retirees work at MARFOREUR/AF and spearheaded the effort to create the memorial via a "go fund me" campaign. The memorial and field will be a daily reminder to Marines of the crucial role of WW I to Marine Corps and the nation’s history.
On September 3, 2018, the Color Guard from Marine Corps League Detachment 1270 presented the colors for the national anthem at the first screening for DOCUTAH’s “Dreams of the Black Echo” film. Left to right: Marines Henry Franz, Larry Mineer, Clyde Johnston and Billion Johnston.

Members of Hiram I. Bearss Detachment 089, Indianapolis, IN, former Marines and their family members visit the Bulldog Fountain in Belleau, France, for the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood.

Ret. LtGen Carol Mutter receiving a gift from the Kokomo Indiana commemoration committee. Presented by Jeff Handy, an Albert E. Shockey Detachment 960 member.

Department of Michigan Sr. Vice Commandant Jon Vantol (left) presents the gavel to newly elected Commandant, Flint Detachment 155, Major (ret.) Jeff Salzeider (right).
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

411 pounds of dog food was collected for canines that were affected and displaced by Hurricane Florence at the Jesse O. Price Pound 210 Growl of the NC Pack on October 6, 2018.

Members of the MCL, North Georgia Mountains, Detachment 1280, Jasper, GA, at the Dedication of the Pickens County Veteran’s Memorial in Jasper.

Members of the West Hudson Detachment place 1st in the team competition of the Semper Fi 5k hosted in Seaside Heights, NJ. Left to right: Robert Pinero, Cesar Huaman, Lukas Tegge, Adam Tegge, Sean Glennon and Jack Engdahl.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Marine for Life Event in Lincoln, NE. Left to right: Alex Bratt, Cornhusker Detachment Senior Vice Commandant; GySgt Kyle Bonnstetter, USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment; Susanne Ricketts; Governor of Nebraska Pete Ricketts; GySgt Abby Wheeler, Marine for Life; David Ossian, MCL Chief of Staff.

MODD Officer Installation 2018.

MCL member Don Penchous along with his Buddy Oliver Moore and Wayne Griep, Sr. Vice Commandant, Detachment 790 in Quincy, IL.

Members of Sunrise Detachment 248 donated funds so that Marines of the Eastern Dist. Recruiting could attend the Marine Corps Ball. A total of 26 free tickets were presented to them in person. Left to right: Gate Security Sgt Mitchell; John Scott; Jay Pulis; Maj Joshua Ambrose; Jerry Rogers; Richard Gresser; William Read; and Gate Security Sgt Ortizquinones.

On October 27, 2018, Jerry Van Hecke, Eagle Scout Liaison and Sr. Advisor for ET Brisson Detachment 063, presented a Good Citizenship Certificate & Detachment Challenge Coin to Kevin William Steward, Troop 243, on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout at his Court of Honor, Naples, FL.
Detachment 183 member, Leonard Bruno Sendlein (aka Mike Sendlein), celebrated his 101st birthday this year. Mike served in WWII as USMC PFC 1941-1946. Mike saw action on Pelieu on the 5th wave, as well as on the invasion of Okinawa on the 1st wave.

The NJ Central Leathernecks Detachment honored Cpl Carl A. Hokanson (SVC), recipient of the Four Chaplin’s Award. Left to right: Mary Morley, CJL Paymaster; Angel G. Estrada, Union County Freeholder; Cpl Carl A. Hokanson; Anita M. Hokanson; Sergio Granados, Union County Freeholder/Chairman.

Tim Daudelin (left) of the Barker Detachment, who discovered the connection to his hometown of Belleville, NJ, to GySgt Fred Stockham MOH, WWI, stands with Marine Pat Hinds during the monument dedication ceremony where he served as the Master of Ceremonies.

On September 10, 2018, Westfield River Valley Detachment 141, Westfield, MA, congratulated Marine Peter Pitoniak, who received the Distinguished Citizen Award, one of the highest honors from Commandant Keith Buckhout and Past Marine of the Year Sophie Bartosik.

Right: Past Marine of the Year Sophie Bartosik and Commandant Keith Buckhout present Marine of the Year Roger Beer with his award.

On September 11, 2018, the Cpl. William H. Smith Detachment of NJ was presented with a certificate and encased flag from Crestwood Village Community for presenting the colors and playing taps. Left to right: Bill Pivarnick, Chuck Swiers, Jim Barrow, Larry Migliorisi, Bob McGonegal and Bob Meola.

West Hudson Detachment’s Judge Advocate, 98-year-old Tommy DeFrancisci served as one of the honored dignitaries during the annual Basilone Parade hosted in Raritan, NJ, in September 2018. The parade honors John Basilone, a WWII machine gunner who earned the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart. The Detachment’s Auxiliary President, Alima Zimmer (left) and Senior Vice President, Linda Kaplarczuk (right), escorted Tommy.

Retired Marine SSgt & Paul E. Ison Detachment 060 Commandant Oscar A. Rauda left the SW FL Military Museum in Cape Coral, FL, on September 30 and walked 140 miles across Florida to the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott, where the Department of Florida 2018 Fall Conference was being held to raise PTSD awareness. Oscar was accompanied in various sections of his trek by Vernon Trice, Commandant of Holiday Detachment 567; John Castle, SVC of Paul E. Ison Detachment 060; Alex Hagen, DoF WebMaster; Don Proto, Jr. Past Commandant of Paul E. Ison Detachment 060. Several MCL members joined Oscar for the final segment and his arrival on October 5.
Local resident Robert Steinour shows respect for veterans by presenting the Patrick W. Milano Detachment with a patriotic poster he produced. *Left to right*: Anthony Flaynik, Paymaster; Robert Steinour; Michael (Toter) Fuhrman, Commandant; Richard Bronstein, Sr. Vice; and Benjamin Cero, Adjutant.

Department of Michigan President Amy Ellis (*left*) presents the gavel to incoming Flint Unit President Mary Brief (*right*) at the Flint Detachment building.

Pictured *left to right* are Howard Schaeffer, T.J. Morgan, Lisa Solarczyk and 12th SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Overstreet enjoying the Modern Day Marine Enlisted Awards Banquet.


Howard Schaeffer (*left*) and LtGen Reynolds (*right*) at the Modern Day Marine Enlisted Awards Banquet.
LtGen Reynolds (left) and Lisa Solarczyk (right) attend the Modern Day Marine Enlisted Awards Banquet.

Jim Stone, SC Department Commandant presents Jeffery Jones, NC Commandant with a $2500 check for hurricane disaster relief.

Weary travelers on Interstate 81 are greeted at the rest stop by MODD Pound 31 members and The Marine Riders. Travelers were provided with free hot dogs, coffee and fruit. Left to right: Ben Cero, Stephen Smalley, Marlene Tremmel, Tony Flaynik and Ron Nye.

Members of the Fremont Area Detachment 1275 moving in a homeless Marine. The Detachment supplied the Marine with a brand new couch and supplied his kitchen with all the necessities to get him back up on his feet!
Marines gathered from MA, RI, and CT at the American Legion, Post 40, in Plymouth, MA, on October 20, 2018, to recognize and celebrate Henriette Sununu Kramp as she received her WWII Victory Medal and American Campaign Medal for the first time. Henriette enlisted in the USMC on November 8, 1943, and served until August 28, 1946.
Engage your new Congress Members

MARINES: On November 2, 2018, I had the privilege of attending the “Glory to the Corps” birthday lunch at Marine Barracks 8th&I. The guest of honor was the 35th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Gary L. Thomas. Also present were the Marines of the Commandant’s Office of Legislative Affairs. General Thomas briefed the group on the Commandant’s legislative priorities: manpower, modernization, readiness and increased lethality of our Marines. (See the Commandant’s priorities on our MCL website in the library under the legislation heading–just scroll down to the Marine Corps Office of Legislative affairs link.) I also took something else away from the luncheon which pertains to the sponsoring group, “Mack’s Marines.” The group gets its name in honor of Sergeant Major Mack McKinney, U.S. Marine Corps. The Sgt Major served in three wars (WWII, Korea and Vietnam) and was a distinguished military legislative advocate for over 30 years. He was the driving force behind the creation of The Military Coalition (TMC), comprised of 36 veterans’ organizations (MCL is a member organization). Above and beyond his enviable work ethic and accomplishments, Sgt Major McKinney was well known at military retiree and transition seminars where he constantly implored service members to stay abreast of the issues that affected their quality of life, remarking often that “what Congress gives, Congress can take away.”

As we move into 2019, his words take on fresh meaning as the Members of the 116th Congress take their seats in the respective chambers of the House of Representatives and Senate. Although more than 100 veterans won election in November 2018, Congress is now divided with the Democrats in the majority in the House and the Republicans in the majority in the Senate. This could mean tougher times passing a defense budget and other military-related key legislation. What it does mean is that all of us must engage our legislators on Capitol Hill and in their home states and districts. We have a freshman class of Congress Members who must be informed and encouraged to support the defense budget and the myriad of quality of life initiatives. There is new, Democratic leadership on key military and veteran committees: Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Appropriations, to name a few. We must constructively engage them to support the Commandant’s and the TMC and MCL legislative agendas. (For more on this, see our library under the legislative tab on the MCL website.)

One area that has great potential for improvement is veterans’ healthcare. We must actively monitor and engage in support of the implementation of the VA Mission Act (John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Outside Networks Act, Public Law 115-82). We will actively engage with the VA, Congress and the Administration as necessary to ensure that the four main pillars of the Act are implemented as intended by Congress:
1. Consolidating VA’s community care programs.
2. Expanding VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) to veterans of all eras.
3. Providing VA the necessary flexibility to align its infrastructure footprint with the needs of our nation’s veterans.
4. Strengthening VA’s ability to recruit and retain quality healthcare professionals.

Overarching the VA Mission Act are some larger considerations as we work to preserve and improve veterans’ healthcare and benefits.

They are:
1. Promote national recognition and understanding of military service and how healthcare and benefits are earned through service and sacrifice in defense of the nation and are qualitatively different from programs normally described as “entitlement” or “social welfare.”
2. Oppose deficit-driven or political decision that would erode foundational services and benefits delivered through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) or decisions which would align earned veterans’ medical or benefits with unrelated federal or civilian benefit programs.
3. Oppose proposals that would eliminate or diminish veterans’ healthcare and benefits to overcome national economic or federal agency financial deficiencies.

The good news is that the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs is being proactive in making many positive changes. The VA Secretary has stressed the importance of VA and DoD collaboration in addressing matters of toxic exposures to current conflict veterans, specifically when it comes to their healthcare and benefits.

Until next issue, we’re leanin’ forward in the trenches.

Semper Fi!
BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES

WWII Battle Brilliantly Detailed and Illustrated

Renowned historian and writer Eric Hammel offers an excellent read in this story of the two flags on Iwo Jima. This Japanese island presented a huge challenge to American operations in the Pacific during World War II. The iconic flag raising photographs are branded into the ethos of Marines. This book captures many details surrounding the effort and sacrifice made to accomplish the mission. There are 96 photographs spread throughout the book. The author included many award citations of Marines and Sailors who fought on the island. This book is available to purchase in October 2018.

Two Flags Over Iwo Jima
By Eric Hammel
Hardcover: 172 pages
Publisher: Casemate Publishers
Language: English
ISBN: 9781612006291

What It Takes to Lead

“Leadership” and “Sergeant Major” of the Marine Corps are synonymous with each other. This book focuses on the leadership and success of the 14th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major Alford L. McMichael. Simply put, this book is a “must read” to fully understand Marine Corps Leadership at the highest level.

Sergeant Major McMichael writes about principles and lessons that were developed, honed and put into practice throughout his 36-year career, serving from Private to Sergeant Major, serving as the 14th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and finishing his military service as the first Sergeant Major of NATO under the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, General James L. Jones. Sergeant Major McMichael provided an inside view into one man's journey through the Corps leadership-training program and hopes that others learn and use these strong leadership principles that he lived.

Sergeants Majors of the Marine Corps are a different breed of Marines, and Sergeant Major Alford McMichael truly fulfilled the duties and responsibilities of that billet in the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps. Semper Fi Sergeant Major McMichael.

Leadership —Achieving Life—Changing Success from Within
By Sergeant Major Alford L. McMichael, USMC Retired
Paperback: 208 pages
Publisher: Threshold Editions, Simon & Schuster, Inc.
Language: English
ISBN: 978-1451697087

NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS & AUTHORS
For consideration for review, please send books to:
MCL National Headquarters, ATTN: COO, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

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12” Decal
Item Code: A23
Price: $5.00
Description: 12” Decal with Marine Corps League Logo

Coffee Mug
Item Code: CUP1
Price: $5.00
Description: Coffee Mug with Marine Corps League Logo

Rain Zip Cover
Item Code: RC
Price: $4.50
Description: Rain Zip Cover for MCL Uniform Covers

ZIPPOs
Item Codes: GFT2, GFT3
GFT2
Price: $25.00
Description: ZIPPO Black with Gold MCL Logo
GFT3
Price: $25.00
Description: ZIPPO Green with Colored MCL Logo

MCL Logo Magnet
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USMC Desk Flag
Item Codes: G97, G98, G99
G97
Price: $3.00
Description: USMC Desk Flag
G98
Price: $3.00
Description: USA Desk Flag
G99
Price: $1.50
Description: Base for Desk Flags

USMC 3x5 Flag
Item Code: G42
Price: $13.00
Description: USMC Flag 3x5

Flag Patches
Item Codes: WA36, WA13
WA36
Price: $3.00
Description: Flag Patch for Shoulder
WA13
Price: $3.00
Description: MCL Patch for Shoulder

Wood Plaque
Item Code: P02
Price: $38.00
Description: Wood Plaque with Gold Wreath and MCL Logo

12” Patch
Item Code: WA21
Price: $8.00
Description: Red MCL Logo Patch 12”

Fidget Spinner
Item Code: GFT1
Price: $5.00
Description: Fidget Spinner with MCL Logo
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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 one Marine’s dedicated efforts to ensure the heroism of Sergeant Major John Canley was appropriately recognized in December’s Leatherneck.
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

LANCE CPL CAITLIN BEVEL, USMC

TAPS

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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 detachment chaplains fill out, sign and submit a death notification form to their respective department chaplains who then forward it on 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 Semper Fi magazine.
REUNIONS


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.

The National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., a veteran’s group that celebrates the legacy of America’s first African American Marines, will celebrate their 54th National Convention August 28-31, 2019, at the Charlotte Renaissance Suites in Charlotte, NC (704-357-1414). The convention is open to all veterans and supporters from all branches of the Armed Services. For more information, please visit the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. website at: montfordpointmarines.org or call the convention director, Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant USMC (ret.) Ron Johnson at 504-202-8552.

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.
# 2019 Battlefield Tour Raffle

**The MCL Gears Up for the March Drawing!**

In 2019, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours ([miltours.com](http://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!

## 2019 MCL Raffle Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3–13 April</td>
<td>WWII in the Philippines “Ghost Soldiers of Bataan &amp; the Hellships”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–26 April</td>
<td>Turkey Gallipoli WWI Campaign &amp; ANZAC Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>18–27 May</td>
<td>WWI Doughboys &amp; Devil Dogs in France</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 May–9 June</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of D-Day, WWI Overview &amp; Battle of the Bulge plus Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–9 June</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–19 June</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Saipan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tour Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4–14 July</td>
<td>Russia “Eastern Front” 75th Anniversary Kursk, Moscow &amp; Stalingrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–25 July</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam &amp; Tinian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–12 August</td>
<td>Guadalcanal - 77th Anniversary of Operation Watchtower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–20 August</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon: D-Day South of France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 August–9 September</td>
<td>50th Anniversary of Operations Georgia Tar/Durham Peak-I-Corps 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–22 September</td>
<td>Ireland: LtGen Bill Maloney, USMC Memorial Tour “Irish Marines” of WWII</td>
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<tr>
<td>12–19 September</td>
<td>75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Peleliu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September–11 October</td>
<td>WWII Concentration Camps–Amsterdam, Auschwitz, Prague, Berlin &amp; Nuremberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–13 October</td>
<td>Imperial China: Beijing, Xian &amp; Shanghai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13–25 October</td>
<td>Rise &amp; Fall of the Third Reich Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–13 November</td>
<td>WWII French Battlefields–Armistice Day Paris “End of the War to End All Wars”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–17 November</td>
<td>Burma 75th Anniversary of the Chindits–1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 November–11 December</td>
<td>Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 11-16 Dec Laos &amp; Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–9 December</td>
<td>Pearl Harbor &amp; WWII U.S. Military Sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name ____________________________ Phone ____________________________

Street Address ____________________________ City ____________________________ State __________ Zip __________

Date of Birth / / Email Address ____________________________

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning / / Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation / / Service# or SS# __________

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

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

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

-OR-

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

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

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, “ON ACTIVE DUTY,” for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine 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 Corpsmen; or have served or are currently serving as a U.S. Navy Chaplain and have earned the FFM 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)

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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Signature
To receive any advertised product, you must be a member of PenFed Credit Union.

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1. Cash advances, credit card checks and balance transfers do not earn point rewards.
2. Rewards are available only for new purchases made with the card: cash advances, checks drawn from the account, and balance transfers are excluded and do not earn credit toward rewards. Certain restrictions may apply. Visa® USA determines which transactions are classified as gas purchases paid at the pump and supermarket purchases based on Merchant Category Codes. Military commissaries are supermarkets. Fuel purchases for airplanes and boats receive 1 point per dollar spent. Your card account must be open and in good standing to earn rewards.
WHEN YOU’RE CALLED TO SERVE, YOU NEED GEAR THAT’S READY TO SERVE WITH YOU. STREAMLIGHT’S HANDHELD AND GUN-MOUNTED LIGHTING TOOLS ARE DURABLE AND DEPENDABLE. BACKED BY OVER 45 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO OUR MILITARY, OUR LIGHTS ARE ALWAYS READY FOR DUTY.

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TLR-8®