

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 75 No. 2 • SPRING 2019

# SEMPER FI

The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



## Warrior. Pastor. Farmer.

An Interview with Captain Billy Vaughan

**Helping Veterans Learn to Shoot Again**

**HAVA's LTSA Program**



# STAY CONNECTED WITH **Leatherneck**

Magazine of the Marines

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](http://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*.



**MARINE CORPS**  
ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION  
EST 1913



Photo Courtesy of the  
Department of Defense

## YOU LEAD A MILITARY LIFE. WHY SETTLE FOR CIVILIAN LIFE INSURANCE?

When you choose Navy Mutual as your insurance provider, you're getting more than peace of mind. You're getting a resource that understands the realities of military service. Since 1879, we've been helping military families achieve financial security through high-quality, low-cost life insurance and annuity products with no active duty military restrictions, fine print, sales fees or commissions.

**To learn how we can safeguard your family and give you peace of mind, visit [NavyMutual.org](https://www.NavyMutual.org).**

The Navy Mutual logo features the word "Navy" in a white, sans-serif font above a white star, which is positioned to the left of the word "Mutual" in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font. A white horizontal bar is located above the "Mutual" text.

**Navy  
★ Mutual**

# SEMPER PARATI

The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

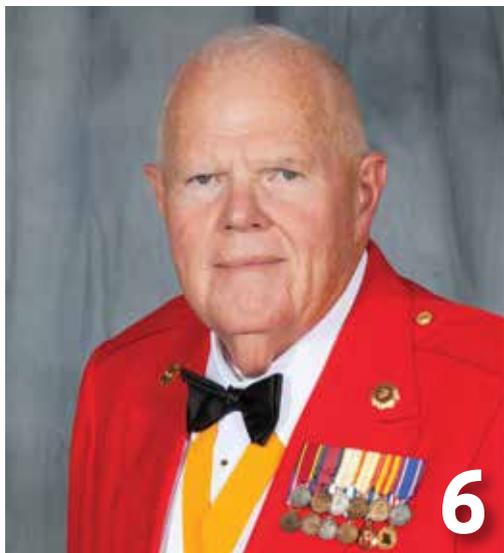


## FEATURE ARTICLES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>11</b> <b>HELPING VETERANS LEARN TO SHOOT AGAIN</b><br/><i>RICK CICERO</i></p> <p><b>16</b> <b>NATIONAL CONVENTION 2019 REGISTRATION INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>32</b> <b>INTERVIEW: WARRIOR. PASTOR. FARMER. CAPTAIN BILLY VAUGHAN LEADS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE FARM FIELDS OF ARKANSAS</b><br/><i>DAVID OSSIAN, NATIONAL CHIEF OF STAFF</i></p> <p><b>37</b> <b>MARINE WEST 2019</b></p> | <p><b>38</b> <b>THE MAKING OF A MARINE: HERSHEL W. WILLIAMS</b><br/><i>AN ESSAY BY ISABELLE BECHTEL</i></p> <p><b>55</b> <b>FROM IWO JIMA TO YOU: A SURVIVOR'S STORY</b><br/><i>MIKE HUTTNER</i></p> <p><b>58</b> <b>BAND OF AMERICA'S FEW: NON-PROFIT GROUP SEEKS TO PRESERVE MILITARY MUSICAL CULTURE</b></p> <p><b>59</b> <b>AMERICA'S SOUL</b><br/><i>A POEM BY GARY MANNING</i></p> |
|--|--|

## FORMS & RAFFLES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>17</b> <b>2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM</b></p> | <p><b>61</b> <b>MARINE CORPS LEAGUE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</b></p> |
|--|--|



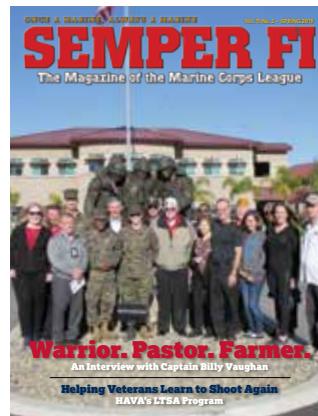
6

**ON THE COVER:**

League National Commandant Webb, National Judge Advocate Griffin, COO Borka, Marine Military Expos Show Director MajGen Regner and Senior Enlisted Advisor SgtMaj Houle visited the Wounded Warrior Battalion West on Camp Pendleton, CA. Battalion Commander LtCol Flatley, Capt Reiter, SgtMaj Fields and Command Advisor Paul Swanson provided a battalion overview and tour.

The League provided a \$12,000 scholarship via a Delta Dental grant to the non-profit Serving Those Who Serve who brought Breath-Body-Mind to Camp Pendleton. Doctors Patricia Gerbarg and Richard Brown of Breath-Body-Mind provided training to the Battalion. Deborah Alagna coordinated with the League to receive the scholarship.

At the facility, Marines receive medical care, mental health counseling and training as their next path is determined. The Wounded Warrior Regiment provides excellent care to our Tribe of Marines. The Marine Corps League is honored to assist with and is grateful for the care our Marines are receiving (see more on page 37). Photo by *Semper Fi* Staff.



C O L U M N S

**6 NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER**

WENDELL W. WEBB

**7 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**8 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S LETTER**

BOB BORKA

**8 EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY**

ANNETTE AMERMAN

**10 ATTENTION ON DECK**

**18 CHIEF DEVIL DOG**

LEONARD SPICER

**20 MCL AUXILIARY LETTER**

CAROL SMITH

**22 MCL FOUNDATION, PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

GREGORY HUNT

**22 YOUNG MARINES**

BILL DAVIS

**24 NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT**

DENNIS TOBIN

**24 NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT**

JOHNNY B. BAKER

**25 NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE**

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

**26 DIVISION REPORTS**

**36 JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT**

RICHARD D. GORE, SR., PNC

**40 ROLL CALL**

**50 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

PHILIP G. SHORT

**51 BOOK REVIEWS**

BOB BORKA

**52 THE SEMPER FI STORE**

**56 TAPS**

**58 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE UNIFORM GUIDELINES**

ROBERT "BUTCH" RAYNES

**59 BLAST FROM THE PAST**

**60 REUNIONS**

**60 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR**

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.



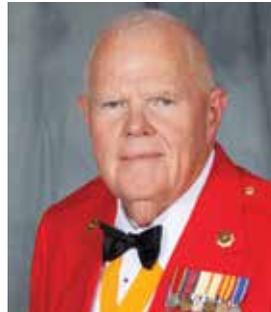


# NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

WENDELL W. WEBB

## Non-profit corporate and VSO Model for the League

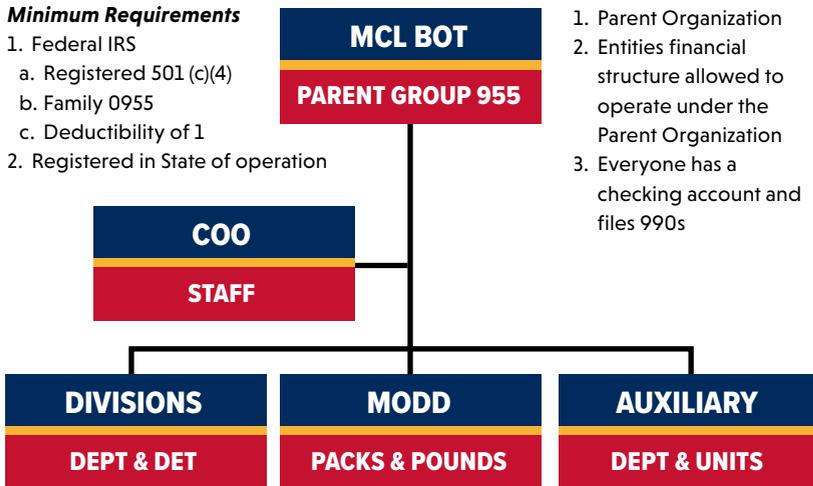
**MARINES:** My Tour of Duty is coming to a close, and not everything on my bucket list that the League needs to accomplish will be accomplished on my tour. Setting the stage to carry on is very critical for the body and upcoming leadership. We have accomplished a lot, thanks to the leadership by many of you working with our COO and BOT. Our non-profit model for our non-profit corporation is shown; it sets the stage for the organizational chart of the MCL Military Veterans Service Organization (VSO).



### The Non-Profit Corporate and VSO Model for the League

**Minimum Requirements**

1. Federal IRS
  - a. Registered 501 (c)(4)
  - b. Family 0955
  - c. Deductibility of 1
2. Registered in State of operation



1. Parent Organization
2. Entities financial structure allowed to operate under the Parent Organization
3. Everyone has a checking account and files 990s

Under the Divisions, MODD and Auxiliary are the boots on the ground working entities that carry the message and execute our Mission. We have accomplished the fiduciary responsibilities at HQ working to change operational SOPs allowing us to obtain the "GUIDESTAR RATED PLATINUM" level.

We have been working with the departments and detachments during the year, and we have found poorly administrated business practices. Some of these have resulted in legal issues and findings that need more attention. As we develop our Finance Committee recommendation on how we will handle, monitor, measure and spend our HQ assets for the future, we plan on scaling that process down to the departments and detachments. We will encourage this process to be used to improve department/detachment fiduciary operation whether they have small or large assets. Remember, all funds collected belong to the non-profit organization; they are not your individual funds even if they come from business contracts, donors or raised on the behalf of our organization to carry on the Mission. This also applies to the MODD and Auxiliary since they are part of our Parent Organization.

By the time you read this, we again will provide the IRS our **Parent List** of all the departments, detachments, all the MODD and Auxiliary entities which are in good standing and which will be part of our Parent Organization authorized to do business under National Marine Corps League for FY2020.

**Semper Fi!**



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

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

**CALL (703) 207-9588**  
for any issues related to Marine Corps League membership, *Semper Fi* subscriptions or changes of address.  
**To change your address, please contact your detachment Paymaster. Additionally, send an email to [info@mcleague.org](mailto:info@mcleague.org).**  
**To pay your dues, please contact your detachment Paymaster.**

**Executive Editor**  
Bob Borka

**Publisher**  
Megan Shea

**Art Director**  
Adam Bucci

**General Manager**  
Deborah L. Shea

**Editors**  
Lisa Weder / Megan Shea

**Editorial Coordinator**  
Lisa Weder

**Administration**  
Sara Lund

**Advertising Representatives**  
Megan Shea, Jayne Wynes  
[semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com](mailto:semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com) • Ph: (702) 565-0746

*Semper Fi* is published quarterly for the Marine Corps League by:  
Chipotle Publishing, LLC  
Ph: (702) 565-0746 • [www.chipotlepublishing.com](http://www.chipotlepublishing.com)

**Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League™**

(ISSN 1933-2327), copyright ©2019 by the Marine Corps League, is published quarterly (4 times per year) in January, April, July and October by Chipotle Publishing, LLC for the Marine Corps League. Marine Corps League Business Office: MCL National Headquarters, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554. Telephone: (703) 207-9588. Website: [www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org). Email: [BBorka@MCLLeague.org](mailto:BBorka@MCLLeague.org)

**Subscriptions:** Members' national dues include a free subscription to *Semper Fi*. For non-members, single-copy price is \$10; yearly subscription is \$30. Call (703) 207-9588 for any issues related to Marine Corps League membership, *Semper Fi* subscriptions or changes of address.

**Editorial Contributions:** Letters, manuscripts, stories, materials or photographs are welcomed but cannot be returned unless sender provides SASE. *Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League™* will not be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photos and drawings. Submission of articles and letters implies the right to edit and publish all or in part. Feature articles must be approved before submission. High-resolution digital photos preferred. For complete editorial and photo guidelines, contact Chipotle Publishing, LLC at [semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com](mailto:semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com) or (702) 565-0746.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to MCL National Headquarters, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

Periodicals postage paid at Stafford, VA and additional mailing offices.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and are not to be construed as those of the publisher nor as the official views of the Marine Corps League, the United States Marine Corps, the U.S. Department of Defense or any of its agencies, unless otherwise made manifest by writers or spokespersons acting on behalf of the foregoing. Advertising of products and services herein does not imply endorsement or approval by the Marine Corps League. No portion of the magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without written consent.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Suicide Prevention Recommendations

**I**n response to the letter "An Open Letter to the MCL Membership on Suicide Prevention" I have the following recommendations. First, a little bit about myself and my experiences/knowledge.

About 6 years ago I became involved with the Placer County Veterans Court as a Mentor. After about 1 year, I had a mentee call me at 0-dark early being suicidal. After about 2 hours talking him down and getting him to see a professional later that day, I realized I need more than the simple 8-hour training I was provided as part of the Veterans Court Mentor program. I did some research and found it. I called the place on a Monday morning, had an interview on Tuesday and was in training that Saturday. This was going to be about 160 hours of training at no cost to me; the only caveat is I have to volunteer 4 hours a week to answer the county crisis hotline. The request is 200 hours; this works out to be about 1 year at 4 hours a week. Like everything else I do, I jumped in feet first. Because of personal matters I stopped working the hotlines at about 350 hours. The experience and knowledge I gained while working the lines are priceless.

The problem I see with your plan and 90% of the ideas out there is people say call this number for help. The problem is there are too many numbers to remember. If I had my way, I would be plastering the National Suicide Hotline phone number across everything I could get my hands on. The difference between the National Suicide Hotline phone number and the Veterans Suicide Hotline is nothing other than once you dial, press a [different] number—they are the same phone number. If you don't get the VA you get the county crisis hotline. Most of the time, the county crisis hotline is better because they have lists and lists of local places to go and call for specific problems.

What I would recommend and put forward is the following.

- Get one to two people from each detachment.
- Have them contact their local crisis hotline and volunteer to work the line.
- Recommend each detachment make a donation to their local crisis hotline yearly.
- Contact the local crisis hotline and request to have them come out and give training to the detachment. The place I volunteered at had a 4-hour, 8-hour and 16-hour training.
- Require that every MCL business card has

the Veterans Suicide Hotline phone number printed on the back.

- Require the *Semper Fi* magazine include the Veterans Suicide Hotline phone number and it be no smaller than 1/16 of a page. It is not currently in the magazine; if it is, I could not find it, and I was looking.
- Reach out to other veteran groups and challenge them to do the same the MCL is doing.
- Start a national campaign to get the National Crisis Hotline phone number placed in every newspaper across the USA, with minimum size of 1/16 of a page.

The last and most important is this: when you see a fellow Marine, ask him how [he's] doing and listen to what he says. As a group we should not be whispering ideas in the dark but yelling ideas from the rooftops. This is an enormous problem that will take people who care to step forward.

No, I have not stopped working with veterans; I am still a Mentor with the Placer County Veteran Court. I am expanding. I am now working on the items I need to check off to become a Sacramento Sheriff Community Chaplain. If all works out the way I have it planned I will be in training this summer. One of the things I was doing while sitting on the hotline was reading books on crisis counseling. Every single book I found and read was about chaplains doing crisis counseling. I found and read others' books about communication, forgiveness and the power of spoken word. Because I am too old and already have a good job, there was no way I was going to become a professional counselor. A Community Chaplain is the next best thing and, in my opinion, a better way to help people.

**John Healy**  
**Chaplain, Folsom MCL, Department 940**  
**Chaplain, Roseville American**  
**Legion, Detachment 169**

John,

*Thank you for writing. I am encouraged that the letter published in our previous edition of Semper Fi magazine has been able to spark increased action (not just awareness) to this issue. As experts in the area come forward, we will continue to develop and formalize what our program looks like. I concur that we do not need to reinvent the wheel, but we do need action.*

**Semper Fi,**  
**Bob Borka**  
**#EmbraceTheTribe**

## Commend the League in Toys for Tots Efforts

**A**s a life member of the Marine Corps League of Aiken, SC, I have to say that I'm sure not many people know the voluntary work they [the League members] put into making Christmas a happy holiday for children.

Having said that, I didn't tell anyone I would write something on the League's behalf, but they should be commended for their efforts. One of my friends of some 20 years and former neighbor, the past Commandant of the Marine Corps League of Aiken, Lane Parker, has been working hard doing the Toys for Tots for many, many years.

We just had a conversation where over 1300 kids were registered to receive gifts from Santa. The League also collected some 400 new bicycles to give as gifts for those who are less fortunate. That doesn't include the toys that were collected through donations from good-hearted people and various stores who see the significance of giving to those who can't afford to see their children experience a bountiful Christmas.

I won't be shy in saying that I see my brothers in arms as heroes who still have our country and our children's best interests at heart so when you see a Marine sporting a hat or clothing that says they are Marines, thank him or her for going above and beyond.

**Gregory J. Topliff**  
**MCL Life Member**  
**USMC 1966-1969, 100% disabled**  
**Vietnam veteran**  
**Warrenville, SC**

Marine Topliff,

*Thank you for writing and your kudos to the Marines helping with the Toys for Tots mission. We are proud to work with the Marine Corps Reserve and Toys for Tots Foundation all across these great United States. I think most detachments are out there every year not only bringing smiles to children, but a huge relief to parents.*

*It surprises me when a Marine veteran calls and is not sure what to do for his children. One of the easiest and most reliable guidance is to have them get in touch with a Toys for Tots location.*

**Semper Fi,**  
**Bob Borka**  
**#EmbraceTheTribe**

# CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S LETTER

**BOB BORKA**

## Tell Marines their Tribe is still there

In the last issue of *Semper Fi*, we spoke of suicide among our veterans. Bravo Zulu to those detachments and departments who immediately stood up and acted. As some pointed out, we don't need to reinvent the wheel here, but we do need to tap into local resources. More progress will be made in the coming year, and it is important we reinforce our Tribe.

It is significant that transitioning Marines know their Tribe is still there for them in the civilian world. Our transition support network is growing as more detachments identify their Liaison. We each have our own transition story, and mine is not unlike yours. I had the coolest job in the world as a Marine, but I didn't know how to express my qualifications in civilian terms. My transition was light years away from my expectations, and I didn't know where to go or how to get there. Our Vietnam veterans did not receive a proper welcome home from the war, but they made certain that future generations receive a proper welcome. Our approach to Marine For Life should be similar.

We are continuing to work on enhancements to the League Library [mcleaguelibrary.org](http://mcleaguelibrary.org). Please visit the site. We now have a Veterans Service Officer page as well as Helping Marines & Family page. The website should not overwhelm with information but should contain good resources for our Membership. We have also added a Travel Planner to the site [mcleague.hotelplanner.com](http://mcleague.hotelplanner.com). This is primarily for individual travel but can also be used when planning large events such as a department conference.

For detachments in areas without a Young Marines unit, consider starting one. It would be great planning to check out the program and determine if you are able to start a Young Marines unit near you. The unit will absolutely make a positive difference in the lives of young Americans by teaching discipline, leadership and teamwork with a healthy dose of fun. When people in the community hear about youth mentorship, they will have their children join. You will find that often the parents served in the Marine Corps—an avenue for recruiting into the Marine Corps League. - *Semper Fi!*



### Honorary National Commandant

Alfred M. Gray  
General, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)  
29th Commandant of the Marine Corps

### Marine Corps League National Board Of Trustees

#### National Commandant

Wendell W. Webb  
[WWebb@MCLeague.org](mailto:WWebb@MCLeague.org)

#### National Sr. Vice Commandant

Dennis Tobin  
[DTobin@MCLeague.org](mailto:DTobin@MCLeague.org)

#### National Jr. Vice Commandant

Johnny B. Baker  
[JBaker@MCLeague.org](mailto:JBaker@MCLeague.org)

#### National Judge Advocate

Warren C. Griffin  
[WGriffin@MCLeague.org](mailto:WGriffin@MCLeague.org)

#### Jr. Past National Commandant

Richard D. Gore, Sr.  
[RGore@MCLeague.org](mailto:RGore@MCLeague.org)

### National Vice Commandants

#### Central Division

Phil Zamora  
[PZamora@MCLeague.org](mailto:PZamora@MCLeague.org)

#### Mideast Division

Bruce R. Rakfeldt  
[BRakfeldt@MCLeague.org](mailto:BRakfeldt@MCLeague.org)

#### Midwest Division

Harvey L. Harris  
[HHarris@MCLeague.org](mailto:HHarris@MCLeague.org)

#### New England Division

David Porter  
[DPorter@MCLeague.org](mailto:DPorter@MCLeague.org)

#### Northeast Division

Tim Forbes  
[TForbes@MCLeague.org](mailto:TForbes@MCLeague.org)

#### Northwest Division

T.J. Morgan  
[TMorgan@MCLeague.org](mailto:TMorgan@MCLeague.org)

#### Rocky Mountain Division

Allen W. Brink  
[ABrink@MCLeague.org](mailto:ABrink@MCLeague.org)

#### Southeast Division

Archie H. Sweet  
[ASweet@MCLeague.org](mailto:ASweet@MCLeague.org)

#### Southern Division

Johnny Gothard  
[JGothard@MCLeague.org](mailto:JGothard@MCLeague.org)

#### Southwest Division

Bill Ebright  
[BEbright@MCLeague.org](mailto:BEbright@MCLeague.org)

## EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY

BY ANNETTE AMERMAN

**April 1, 1936:** The Division of Aviation was created at Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) under the command of Col Ross E. Rowell. This elevated aviation within HQMC from the formerly "Marine Aviation Section."

**May 4, 1959:** Two Marine Corps A4D-2 "Skyhawks" jets of 2d Marine Aircraft Wing flew 2,270 miles non-stop from Argentia, Newfoundland, to NAS Rota, Spain. The flight was the first of single-engine jets to cross the Atlantic using the "buddy system" of in-flight refueling.

**May 6-8, 1937:** Marines under the command of LtCol W.T.H. Galliford carried out rescue and riot control duties at Lakehurst, NJ, after the crash of the German airship *Hindenburg*.

**May 18, 1984:** Col Jerome G. Cooper, USMCR, was advanced to the rank of BGen Cooper and became the first black Marine general officer in the Marine Corps Reserve, only the second black Marine general officer in the Corps.

**June 12, 1948:** The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 authorized 100 regular Women Marine officers, 10 warrant officers and 1,000 enlisted in a gradual build-up over a 2-year period with regular candidates coming from the Reserve Women Marines.

**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.*

# WEAR YOUR MARINE CORPS PRIDE FOR ALL TO SEE



Back View

Shimmering  
with Over  
30 Genuine  
Swarovski  
Crystals!



*Always Faithful*  
USMC  
Pride Pendant

Set with Genuine  
Diamonds!



USMC  
*Women's Embrace Ring*

  
GREAT GIFT

**CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF THE USMC TODAY!**

**SEMPER FI SUBSCRIBERS  
SAVE OVER 20%  
WHEN YOU ORDER BOTH THE PENDANT AND RING NOW!**

This special offer is available ONLY by mail or by phone —  
use the Priority Reservation below or call 1-866-768-6517

*Fine Jewelry Exclusives Available Only from The Bradford Exchange*

## COMMAND ATTENTION WITH SEMPER FI STYLE!

Our Marines serve our country with an always faithful commitment to the higher principles of duty, honor and courage. They are the few and the proud of our United States Marine Corps. Now, you can show your unwavering pride and support for the Marines, with our exclusive *Women's USMC Pride Jewelry Collection*.

### *"Always Faithful" USMC Pride Pendant*

This graceful oval shaped pendant is surrounded with a pavé of over 30 clear genuine Swarovski crystals. Within the oval is the USMC emblem of eagle, globe and anchor with 18K gold-plated accents. On either side of this proud symbol are two hearts—to show your love—both shimmering with more Swarovski crystals, and the hearts, oval and even the bail gleam with 18K gold plating. The reverse side is engraved with *Semper Fi*, and is finished with an 18" chain.

Shop the Full Collection at [bradfordexchange.com/USMCpride](http://bradfordexchange.com/USMCpride)

### *USMC Women's Embrace Ring*

Hand-crafted from solid sterling silver, this ring features twin bands—one silver and one plated in 18K gold. At the center is a sculpted Corps' emblem of the eagle, globe and anchor adorned with 18K gold-plated accents. The bands are embraced with two dazzling pavé ribbons set with a total of 4 genuine diamonds. The inside is engraved with *Semper Fidelis*.

***An Outstanding Value... Available for a Limited Time!***  
Our pendant and ring are priced at just \$99\*, payable in 4 easy installments of \$24.75. And if you order both now, you'll pay just \$159\*—that's a savings of 20% payable in 5 interest-free installments. To reserve the pendant, ring, or both, send no money now; just mail the Priority Reservation... Or order today online or by phone! But don't delay this is a limited-time offer.

\*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to [bradfordexchange.com/use-tax](http://bradfordexchange.com/use-tax)  
™ Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps. ©2019 The Bradford Exchange 01-23334-001-BIMPOVT

**PRIORITY RESERVATION**

**SEND NO MONEY NOW**

**THE  
BRADFORD EXCHANGE  
JEWELRY**

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the following item(s) in the **Women's USMC Pride Jewelry Collection** for me, as described in this announcement, as checked below.

USMC Pride Pendant 01-23334-001  **Both the Pendant and Ring**

Women's Embrace Ring 01-19310-001 **SAVE OVER 20%** 01-31876-001

Ring Size \_\_\_\_\_ (If known)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Mr. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

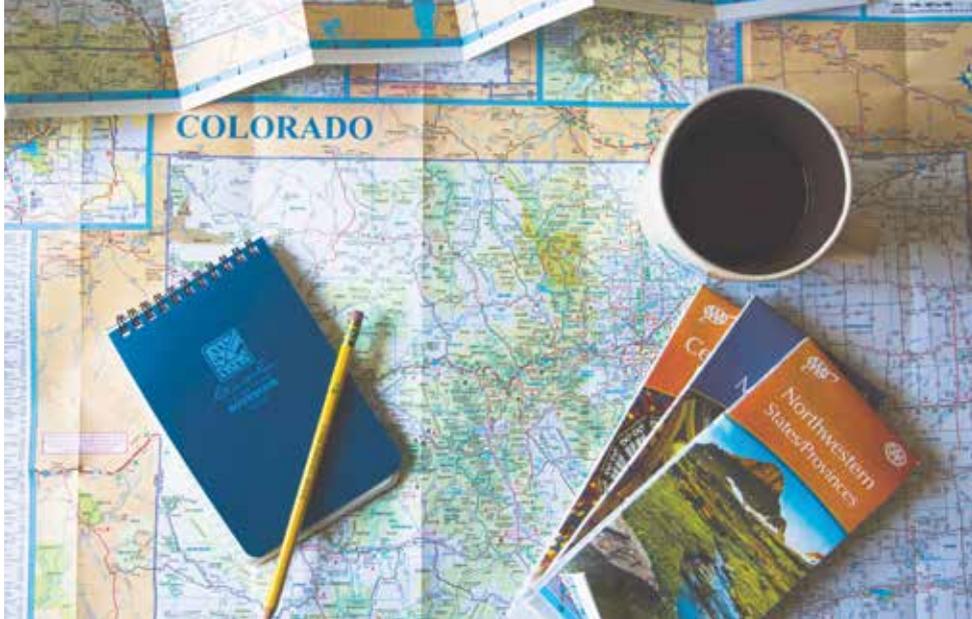
\*Plus a total of \$9.98 for shipping and service per item (\$11.98 for the set), plus sales tax (see [bradfordexchange.com](http://bradfordexchange.com)). Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your jewelry item after we receive your initial deposit. All sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.** To assure a proper fit in women's whole and half sizes 5-12, a ring sizer will be sent to you after your reservation has been accepted.

**E10021**

# ATTENTION ON DECK

## Let the Marines Help Plan Your Trips Again



**Members now have** access to over 600,000 lodging options worldwide, and at rates up to 65% off or more. The Marine Corps League Travel Planner sources rates from dozens of supplier channels to bring you the best rate



and terms for your hotel for your specific dates. You can also book flights and other travel services right from the site. Make the Marine Corps League Travel Planner your one-stop shop for travel and SAVE Now.

**GROUPS/MEETINGS**—You can get unmatched group lodging rates for weddings, reunions, team sports or any of your special events.

[mcleague.hotelplanner.com](http://mcleague.hotelplanner.com)

Still is...  
**The Finest  
Marine Corps Ring  
Out There.**



When I set out to design a ring worthy of a U.S. Marine, I knew it had to be beyond comparison. It had to be instantly recognizable, affordable to all ranks and of the highest quality. It is just that. *Mike Carroll*

Made one-at-a-time in the USA and licensed by the Corps. Available in 18K, 14K and 10K gold or sterling silver. Free Brochure.

[www.EagleRings.com](http://www.EagleRings.com)

  
THE CARROLL COLLECTION  
OF U.S. EAGLE RINGS  
888-512-1333

## Veterans Crisis Line

The **Veterans Crisis Line** is a free, confidential resource that's available to anyone, even if you're not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. The caring, qualified responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping veterans of all ages and circumstances.

- Send a text message to **838255** to connect with a VA responder.
- Start a confidential online chat session at **VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat**.
- Take a self-check quiz at **VeteransCrisisLine.net/Quiz** to learn whether stress and depression might be affecting you.
- Find a VA facility near you.
- Visit **MilitaryCrisisLine.net** if you are an active duty Service member, Guardsman or Reservist.
- Connect through chat, text or TTY if you are deaf or hard of hearing.



**CONTACT THE VETERANS CRISIS LINE  
800-273-8255 & PRESS 1**



Teamwork at its best in an LTSA class.

# Helping Veterans Learn to Shoot Again

# A Tool for Overcoming Physical and Mental Disabilities

Story & Photography  
By Rick Cicero

## Impetus for Learn to Shoot Again Program

In August 2010, I lost my right arm and leg from injuries sustained in Afghanistan. Six months later, after learning to walk again, a trip to the range with my Dad rekindled my love of shooting. Over the next several years via trial and error and with guidance from other shooting professionals in the military and police, I developed new shooting techniques to work within my physical “limitations.” I was my own worst student. I knew what a proper stance and all the fundamentals should look like, I found myself shooting well, yet I would look down and see that my stance and grip were not what would traditionally be correct. That’s when I finally came to the realization that I had to learn to shoot again using different techniques to suit my abilities.

Advancements in technology, including the SIG SAUER Brace, have been instrumental in honing my skills. Each new success is built on previous successes. After attending an Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA) Family Day event, I became involved in supporting such activities. This organization created associations with other accomplished shooters such as Trevor Baucom and Chris Fleming, also injured veterans. The true success of that day was when I began taking fellow wounded veterans to the range, which was the impetus for what is now the Learn to Shoot Again program—LTSA.

Immediately following SHOT Show 2016, we assembled a team of combat veterans—most of whom sustained and recovered from major injuries including paralysis, loss of limbs and spinal injuries that would have



Rick Cicero instructing.

sidelined most. With the support of the NRA and HAVA, the entire team became certified NRA Instructors. Additionally, SIG SAUER Academy has been instrumental in advancing the skills of the LTSA instructors by offering advanced pistol instructor and advanced carbine instructor courses. One

of the main focuses of LTSA training is not only to perform, but to perform to the highest standards of the able-bodied shooter without any special considerations and in all environments. All of which lead to the most important benefits: teamwork, esprit de corps, return to a known work ethic, visual



One of the classes of LTSA.

success and HAPPINESS!

LTSA has established monthly classes in Florida. Additionally, we work diligently to travel the country and bring the classes to those who will benefit from them the most. Our class format develops shooter skills to compete in pistol, carbine, 2 and 3 gun, and most recently long range.

The positive feedback within the veteran community and firearms industry has been nothing short of amazing. The industry stepped up immediately with optics provided by Leupold and SIG SAUER and rifles provided by Savage. When Kestrel offered to help, they provided directed training, products, shooting opportunities and fundraising; all of which was far beyond our expectations.

### Beyond Expectations

This past April, we conducted the first full Long Range Class at the Peacemaker National Training Facility, where Katie Godfrey was a remarkable asset. Kestrel sent her with knowledge, rifles, ammo and Kestrel devices. Katie conducted her full classroom presentation followed by days on the range using the Kestrels to maximize every shot.

A unique challenge was offered to every student—those who hit a three-shot group on a Kestrel zero target at 400 yards would be given one. Even with stiff winds, every student completed the challenge and left with a Kestrel. All of these students now use the devices regularly to compete and or hunt; two of the students have become

LTSA instructors.

Kestrel further surprised us by making HAVA/LTSA the benefactor of the Kestrel Challenge Precision Rifle Series (PRS) match at Peacemaker in August. Not only did Kestrel donate product, time and money, they coordinated with other industry support. Ruger donated two rifles, Leupold and Vortex donated scopes, Hornady donated ammo, and the list goes on. The funds raised from that event and match supported multiple classes for our veterans.

The greatest value of that match was to have two of our students compete and learn to be Range officers that weekend. Both Justin and Tyler have overcome significant limb and internal injuries that would have stopped most veterans. However, both of these men raised the standard by completing the match, assisting with the fundraiser and working as Range Officers for the match. Nothing can put words to the expressions on fellow shooters' faces when they see these men in shorts and realize the injuries that no one noticed.

The secondary benefit from that match was the number of shooters who approached us throughout the day and thanked us, not for our service, but for motivating them. We have learned the unique aspect of providing a perspective to the able-bodied shooter that they often forget: it is about the team and not the individual.

Conducting training for our veterans exposes students and staff to so much

more. We have encountered and overcome different physical personal challenges I would have never expected. Each student is unique in his or her own way and identical in so many others. We all come from the military whether it is the student with one leg and only two fingers on one hand, the legally blind man who can see through a very narrow field of vision or the man who comes to class in a wheelchair.

### Sasquatch, a Defined Success

The success that counts the most for me is confidence and happiness in life. The particular student who comes to mind sustained a gunshot wound in combat and has significant challenges. Unlike most, he completed his tour and was discharged without a full retirement and wanted to go on as a civilian. Unfortunately, his challenges caused him severe pain and loss of consistent ability to hold a regular job. He fell into a depression like so many and expressed to me how he felt a failure.

After attending some of our classes he became a dedicated student in every way. When he told me how much our classes improved his outlook, daily habits and overall quality of life, I was left speechless. We all have demons, and this is the best medicine for so many. Who would have thought that? In true military form we all have nicknames; his is "Sasquatch" (his profile in a shadow is priceless!). He is the great giant of our team. He was among the students in the April Long



The LTSA Instructors.

Range Class and a coach at the Long Range Class just last month. He has competed in several matches and attended the NRA Instructor course. Just last week, he put those skills to work at the HAVA Family Day in San Antonio and the three day class for our veterans in that same area.

As the "Director" of LTSA, it is not a title of management, but a title of responsibility. For students and teammates like the Squatch, the resources, tasks and organization are all worth it. The trust we have in our instructors is exceptional because they are exceptional people. Often the visual prosthetic device or chair gains attention, while others are overlooked. Sasquatch raises that bar and has volunteered to be a leader. Many of us lead in the military, but so many fail to lead in the civilian world. Sasquatch has stepped up and is the remarkable example of this program for so many to follow.

### LTSA Tool Box

We create tools to maintain every aspect of our lives—the LTSA tool box is no different. As firearms have advanced over the last several years, we have taken advantage of those that are most practical. We strive to train our students with readily available items that can give them the skills to be as confident and safe as other shooters.

The first tool to provide a significant benefit was the "SIG SAUER Brace," proving to give stability to the one-armed or impaired shooter to build long-gun skills for stance, grip, sling, balance and flexibility for various platforms and calibers from a .22 to a .300BO.

The advent of ambidextrous pistols like the new SIG SAUER P320, Smith & Wesson M&P, Glocks and more are making one-handed shooting much more accessible—even for those with only a left hand or with great impairment to their right hand. Every advantage our students have helps to overcome their challenges.

Within our long range program, the benefits of left-handed bolt rifles create an option that is efficient and nothing short of a blessing. We have Savage and Remington to thank for such rifles. Even a vertical fore grip on a rifle is a huge benefit to those with prosthetic arms or limited abilities; their control improves drastically.

The Quick Clip provides multiple benefits for those with upper extremity impairments to safely change magazines, clear malfunctions or just walk while maintaining their balance. It also maintains the rifle in a safe orientation for wheelchair users while in motion. And even those with all of their appendages but who have balance issues

can maintain control while walking with free arm swing.

Several other manufacturers have supported us by providing unique adaptations to firearms for better access, ergonomics and control.

As our industry develops these unique tools, our community realizes what is already available to expand their abilities. The greatest honor LTSA has is to continue to serve our country and communities through one of the best commonalities our veterans have.

### Our Program is Growing

Over the last three years LTSA has trained over 300 students in classes from Florida to California and New Hampshire. We are offering classes for pistol, carbine, shotgun and even long distance rifle to 900 yards and beyond. In 2019 we will be teaching in Arizona, Florida, Maryland, West Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and more. We will also be at events like HAVA Family Days and shooting matches around the country to Coach, RO, Compete and Inspire our veteran community to get out and join us! If you are interested in attending such a class or know a veteran who could benefit from our classes please call Rick Cicero at 434-294-5883 or email at [LTSA@honoredveterans.org](mailto:LTSA@honoredveterans.org). **SIF**

# WEAR YOUR ALLEGIANCE WITH PRIDE



## THE FEW, THE PROUD USMC MEN'S HOODIE

Officially Licensed by  
the  
U.S. Marine Corps

Embroidered USMC  
Emblem on Back

Embroidered USMC  
Insignia on Front



### PAY TRIBUTE TO THE ALWAYS FAITHFUL

Once a Marine, always a Marine! Now you can wear your unwavering support for the USMC with our "The Few, The Proud" USMC Men's Hoodie, an exclusive design available only from The Bradford Exchange. Crafted in black knit fleece, the hoodie features a large appliqué patch of the USMC emblem on the back, framed with the revered motto, the famous slogan and the year established, all in golden embroidery. An embroidered Eagle, Globe and Anchor is proudly displayed on the front. Detailing continues throughout this apparel exclusive, like an embroidered flag patch on the left sleeve, light gray thermal knit lining in the hood, kangaroo pockets, rib knit cuffs, hood drawstrings and a full front zipper. Your hoodie is available in 5 sizes, medium to XXXL. Imported.

### A Remarkable Value

#### Available for a Limited Time

"The Few, The Proud" USMC Men's Hoodie can be yours now for \$99.95\*, payable in 3 convenient installments of just \$33.32 each, and backed by our 30-day, money-back guarantee. To reserve yours, send no money now; just return your Priority Reservation. But don't delay! This custom hoodie is only available from The Bradford Exchange, and this is a limited-time offer. So order today!

\*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to [bradfordexchange.com/use-tax](http://bradfordexchange.com/use-tax).

™ Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps. ©2019 The Bradford Exchange 01-30478-001-B1B

Order Today at [bradfordexchange.com/30478](http://bradfordexchange.com/30478)

PRIORITY RESERVATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE  
BRADFORD EXCHANGE  
- APPAREL & ACCESSORIES -

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve "The Few, The Proud" USMC Men's Hoodie for me as described in this announcement.

- Medium (38-40) 01-30478-011     XXL (50-52) 01-30478-014  
 Large (42-44) 01-30478-012     XXXL (54-56) 01-30478-015  
 XL (46-48) 01-30478-013

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

**E26401**

\*Plus a total of \$11.99 shipping and service, plus sales tax; see [bradfordexchange.com](http://bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for delivery. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION

FORGE YOUR OWN PATH, INTO MONTANA  
AUGUST 4TH-10TH / BILLINGS, MONTANA

- Scenic Tour through the Beartooth Mountains
- Brew Walk, Local Brew Sampling
- Guided History Tour of Bighorn Battlefield
- Historic Tour to the Trail of Lewis and Clark
- 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](http://MCLNationalConvention2019.com)

Convention Questions - 406-534-9156

VISIT *Billings*  
MONTANA'S TRAILHEAD

[VisitBillings.com/veterans](http://VisitBillings.com/veterans)



## CHIEF DEVIL DOG

### CDD LEONARD SPICER, 58TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG

*The German soldiers said of the Marines, “Wie sind die teufel hunden?” Which means “Who are these devil dogs?”*

—France, World War I

## Let’s have another birthday party!



“The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League.”

- From the MODD Handbook

**MARINES:** Last June we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood, during which the defeated German soldiers honored the Marine Corps’ ferocious fighting by naming us “Teufel Hunden,” or Devil Dogs. So I ask, do we really need to wait another 100 years to celebrate again? Woof No!!

We, as current day Devil Dogs, continue to exhibit that fighting spirit which has been displayed by all Marines over the years. While not on a battlefield, we have found new challenges within our communities that we agreed we can all get behind. One of these challenges is helping to make a difference in the lives of children. We are protectors, and we have chosen to help the children of the cities in which we gather. With this in mind, we have an opportunity to have some fun, let the public know who we are and raise some money for the children.

What I am proposing is that, in the month of June, we hold another birthday party! This time, make it an opportunity for your Pound to get together with a

local group (preferably something dog-related) such as the humane society, a local dog groomer or pet store. Be creative. You can have a pet costume contest, sponsor a BBQ and take donations or whatever else your local laws will allow.

As previously stated, this gets our organization out there in the community, but it is also a way to raise money for the kids. The timing of this event is perfect for one last opportunity to raise money for the Kennel’s big donation for the children’s charity at the Supreme Growl, as the Big Bones need to be turned in before July 1.

This is an event that has the potential to be an ongoing activity that could be done each June, as well as to be a great recruiting opportunity for the MODD and the League. I hope you will give it serious consideration. You have plenty of time to make this happen. Feel free to send me your progress reports.

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

**Semper Woof!**



Chief DD Spicer and members of Pound #330 collected toys and donations for the Toys for Tots program in Cape Girardeau, MO.

# Chicago Doctor Shakes Up Hearing Aid Industry

## ADVANCED HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY... **For Less Than \$200!**

Chicago – A local board-certified physician has done it once again with his newest invention of a medical-grade, affordable hearing aid.

This new hearing aid is packed with all the features of traditional hearing aids found at clinics for a mere fraction of the cost. **Now most people with hearing loss are able to enjoy crystal clear, natural sound — in a crowd, on the phone, in the wind — without suffering through “whistling” and annoying background noise.**

### FDA-Registered MDHearingAid® Outperforms Expensive Competitors

This sleek, fully programmed, light-weight, hearing aid is the outgrowth of the technology revolution that is changing our world. While demand for new technology caused most prices to plunge (consider DVD players and computers, which originally sold for thousands of dollars and today can be purchased for less), the cost of a medical-grade hearing aid remains out of reach.

The doctor knew that many of his patients would benefit but couldn't afford the expense for these new hearing aids. Generally they are *not* covered by Medicare and most private health insurance plans.



Nearly Invisible!

#### SAME FEATURES AS EXPENSIVE COMPETITORS

- ✓ Behind-the-ear for a nearly invisible profile
- ✓ Accommodates Mild, Moderate, and Moderately-Severe hearing loss
- ✓ Amplifies the critical frequencies of the human voice, without amplifying background sounds
- ✓ Multiple sized ear domes allow for the perfect size
- ✓ 2-Programs for customized hearing. Decrease background noise and choose the best program for your hearing loss.

The doctor evaluated the high priced hearing aids on the market, broke them down to their base components, and then created his own affordable version, called the MDHearingAid, for less than \$200.

### Affordable Hearing Aid Technology

Using advanced technology, the MDHearingAid adjusts to your listening environment — prioritizing speech and de-emphasizing background noise. Experience all of the sounds you've been missing at a price you can afford. This doctor designed and approved hearing aid comes with a full year's supply of long-life batteries. It delivers crisp, clear sound all day long and the soft flexible ear domes are so comfortable you won't realize you're wearing them.

### Can a Hearing Aid Delay or Prevent Alzheimer's & Dementia?

A study by the National Institute on Aging suggests older individuals with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop Alzheimer's and dementia over time than those who retain their hearing. They suggest that an intervention — such as a hearing aid — could delay or prevent this by improving hearing!

### Try It Yourself at Home 45-Day Risk-Free Trial

Of course, hearing is believing and we invite you to try it for yourself with our RISK-FREE 45-day home trial. If you are not completely satisfied, simply return it within that time period for a full refund of your purchase price.

#### Compare MDHearingAid to High-Priced Store-Front Clinics

FEATURES	MDHearingAid® >>>	Hearing Aid Clinic
FDA-Registered Hearing Aid	Yes	Yes
Feedback Cancellation	Yes	Yes
Speech Enhancement Noise Reduction	Yes	Yes
Appointments Needed	None	3-4
Phone Support and 24-7 Email Support	Yes	NO
45-Day Risk Free Trial	Yes	Rarely
100% Money Back Guarantee	Yes	Rarely
1-Year Supply of FREE Batteries	Yes	Rarely
Time to Receive Your Hearing Aids	Just 1-5 DAYS	3-5 WEEKS
Hearing Aid Price	Under \$200	\$2,400+

#### Buyers Agree, “MDHearingAid is the Best Value!”

*“I am hearing things I didn't know I was missing. Really amazing. I'm wearing them all the time.”*  
— Linda I., Indiana

*“Almost work too well. I am a teacher and hearing much better now.”* — Lillian B., California

*“I would definitely recommend them to my patients with hearing loss.”*  
— Amy S., Audiologist, Indiana



## MDHearingAid® >>>

For the Lowest Price Plus FREE Shipping Call Today!



45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL



Proudly assembled in America!



**Call: 1-800-730-0989 or Visit: [www.GetMDHearingAid200.com](http://www.GetMDHearingAid200.com)**

**Use Offer Code JH49 to Get FREE Shipping and FREE Batteries for a Full Year!**

# NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCLA



CAROL SMITH

*“There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.”*

– Gen. James H. Doolittle



## LADIES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY:

As I wrote this article, west central Illinois experienced record cold weather with wind chills of 45 degrees below zero! After just a few days, we had a high temperature of 40+ degrees. I know many of you have had equally strange winter weather. By the time you read this, spring will be here!

Hopefully, most of you were busy helping with Toys for Tots and paying visits to veterans this past winter. In December, I assisted with our local Toys for Tots program and helped host a Christmas party for

Marines and FMF Corpsmen at the Illinois Veterans’ Home in Quincy, IL. It was a fun and rewarding afternoon.

Our unit members also joined the local detachment in hosting Bingo at the Quincy Veterans’ Home for all residents. The veterans as well as our members always enjoy this afternoon activity.

I would like to welcome our newest unit, the PFC Boyd A. Lewis Unit in Utah! It was such a thrill to sign their Charter, my first as your National President. Congratulations, ladies. I wish you every success. This is a good time to remind all of our members to work hard to maintain your membership in your units and to continue to recruit others who are volunteer-minded and would be assets to your units. If you don’t ask, they won’t join!

How do Auxiliary members serve our Marine veterans? A request was made of us for help in obtaining transportation of a motorized wheelchair from the James H. Quillen VA Hospital in Johnson City, TN, to Manteno Veterans’ Home in Illinois. Kankakee (IL) Unit President and Marine Margaret “Peg” Myers put out a request on Facebook, and, in less than four days, a gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Randy Rogers, delivered the chair free of charge. What a wonderful example of an Auxiliary member reaching out to help a veteran! As thanks for Mr. Rogers’ generous act of kindness to a Marine veteran, our National Memorial Fund donated \$300 to the Manteno Veterans’ Home to purchase a coat, boots and other clothing items for this veteran.

Thank you for all you do every day for our veterans and your communities!

**Semper Fi!**

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

**National President**  
Carol Smith

**National Sr. VP**  
Evelyn Joppa

**National Judge Advocate**  
Dotty Sanning

**National Jr. VP**  
Linda Chamberlain

**Jr. Past National President**  
Karen Aune

## DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS

**Central Division DVP**  
Mary Brief

**Northwest Division DVP**  
Vickie Brown

**Midwest Division DVP**  
Patricia Walker

**Rocky Mountain DVP**  
Karen Bressler

**Midwest Division DVP**  
Darlene Maccubbin

**Southeast Division DVP**  
Terri Gothard

**New England DVP**  
Susie Lee

**Southern Division DVP**  
Carol Mazzara

**Northeast Division DVP**  
Sydney Minchin

**Southwest Division DVP**  
No Division Vice

## KEY STAFF PERSONNEL & PROGRAM DIRECTORS

**National Chaplain**  
Barb Nobile, PNP

**National Regent**  
Elaine Schieffer

**Vavs Representative**  
Karen Bressler

**National Big Flea**  
Dotty Sanning

3619 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY, SUITE 115  
STAFFORD, VA 22554-7771  
PHONE: (571) 477-2780  
EMAIL: MCLAHQ@NATIONALMCLA.ORG  
WWW.NATIONALMCLA.ORG

## League Auxiliary Activities



West Central Illinois Leathernecks Unit and Detachment hosting Christmas party for Marines and FMF Corpsmen at Illinois Veterans’ Home in Quincy, IL.



Marine veteran’s power wheelchair transported from James H. Quillen VA Hospital in Johnson City, TN, to Manteno Veterans’ Home in Manteno, IL. *Left to right:* Margaret “Peg” Myers, a Marine and President of the Kankakee (IL) Unit who made arrangements, Randy Rogers, the gentleman who delivered the wheelchair, and Sharon Beegle, Social Worker at Manteno who made the request.

LIMITED  
TO 5,000  
WORLDWIDE!

# SWORD OF HONOR USMC TRIBUTE

*"To observe a Marine is inspirational.  
To be a Marine, is exceptional."*

—GySgt. Charles F. Wolf, Jr.

A shining symbol of hard-won achievements, the Marine NCO sword is also a proud point of connection to the Marines of the past. Now The Bradford Exchange celebrates the *Semper Fi* spirit with the "Sword of Honor" USMC Tribute.

- ★ Hand-cast sword is hand-finished in silver and gold-plated to recall the NCO sword's intricate designs
- ★ Grand 2-foot high museum-quality wall display with a rich wood-grain finish and golden Marine emblem
- ★ The Marines' Hymn, an inspiring quote, and artist Glenn Green's Marine portrait complete the effect

## Bradford Exchange exclusive—order now!

"The Sword of Honor" is issued in a limited edition of **only 5,000** worldwide. Claim yours at four installments of \$32.49 for a total of \$129.99\*, backed by our unconditional, 365-day money-back guarantee. Send no money now. Mail the Reservation Application today!

\*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to [bradfordexchange.com/use-tax](http://bradfordexchange.com/use-tax)



Meticulously hand-cast and hand-finished

Measures an impressive 2 feet high!

Shown much smaller than actual height of 24 inches

Replica sword is for decorative use only; not for use as a toy or weapon

RESERVATION APPLICATION    SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE  
**BRADFORD EXCHANGE**  
—HOME DECOR—

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the "Sword of Honor" USMC Tribute for me as described in this announcement.

Limit: one per order.

Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

**01-16627-001-E26493**

© Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps.

[www.bradfordexchange.com/usmcword](http://www.bradfordexchange.com/usmcword)

©2018 Glenn Green  
©2018 BGE  
01-16627-001-BIL

\*Plus a total of \$17.99 shipping and service; see [bradfordexchange.com](http://bradfordexchange.com)  
Limited-edition presentation restricted to 5,000 worldwide. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

## PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION INC.

GREGORY HUNT

### We're here to offer a hand up, not a hand out

**MARINES:** As we begin to thaw out from the long, hard winter, it's time to look around the house and our community for damages caused by the cold weather. As we know, ice and snow can cause havoc on homes. They also cause heating bills to increase. A lot of our Marines and their families may be struggling to pay those higher winter bills. Reach out to Marines and their families in your communities and vet their situations to head off problems before they receive cut-off or eviction notices. Within the past 6 months, we've received three requests for mortgage assistance but not until they received eviction notices or had court appearances for eviction. If we know our communities, we'll know these Marines' situations and help them before it's too late.

Donations are down; we haven't received any donations earmarked for scholarships in over 6 months. With awarding of the 2018-2019 scholarships, we've had to dip into reserves. If the donation level continues to decline, for the first time in over 4 years, the Foundation will have to reach into investments to cover the costs of humanitarian/disaster relief, scholarships and youth program fund-



ing. If you have begun making recurring donations, thank you, and if you haven't made a donation in a while, please consider the MCL Foundation.

The Memorial Certificate and Challenge Coins programs continue to be our strongest funding streams and for that I thank you. Remember, the easiest way to pay honor to a fallen brother or sister is with one of the Memorial Certificates.

The Foundation has a new mailing address: **Marine Corps League Foundation, PO Box 180, Franklin, NC 28744.**

Let's keep marching forward to the 2019 National Convention and maintain strong relationships with one another and our communities. Don't forget, "We never leave a brother or sister behind."

**Semper Fi!**

## CEO, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

### Let's make 2019 as phenomenal as 2018

**MARINES:** Greetings! The Young Marines program has ended another phenomenal year. From events such as the National Young Marines Leadership Symposium to the countless hours of veteran appreciation events, our youth rounded off 2018 embodying our program's values. All indications are that 2019 will be equally as fulfilling thanks to the support of our volunteers and organizations such as the Marine Corps League.

Annually, Young Marines across the country support the Marine Corps and the MCL in the Toy for Tots campaign. From collecting toys and donations to sorting the thousands of toys for distribution, the Young Marines work hand-in-hand with these organizations. In 2018, between the 264 units, the Young Marines were able to raise thousands of dollars while completing over 20,000 hours of volunteer time thanks to the nationwide support of the League.

Sadly, we have lost a few avid supporters of the Young Marines. Samuel Beamon, Sr. (an original member of the Brass City Young Marines), Daniel Long (a prominent volunteer for the East Central Alabama Young Marines) and R. Lee Ermey (the official spokesman of the Young Marines) are men who made huge impacts on our organizations and will not be forgotten.

We ended 2018 in Hawaii for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance events where we were honored to have the presence of the MCL Aloha Detachment 363 at the wreath laying ceremony at the Punchbowl National Cemetery. This was the first year that we held a joint ceremony with wreaths laid by the Young Marines, MCL Aloha Detachment 363, American Legion, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Oahu Chapter 858. The combined support of these orga-



Wreath laying ceremony at the Punchbowl National Cemetery in Hawaii for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance. The MCL Aloha Detachment 363 was joined by members of Young Marines, American Legion and the Vietnam Veterans of America Oahu Chapter 858.

nizations only shows how important our veterans are in influencing the younger generation to preserve history.

Our spring events included: Young Marines Public Affairs Course (February 14-17); Iwo Jima Association Symposium and Banquet (February 16); Board of Directors meeting and Mid-Winter Conference (March 2); and Annual Reunion of Honor trip to Guam and Iwo Jima (March 17-25).

We look forward to another great year working with the League and seeing you all face-to-face at the Marine Corps League National Convention in Billings, MT.

**Semper Fi!**

# CONCEALED CARRY SOFT SHELL VEST

WITH DUAL INTERIOR LOOP PANELS – AND OPTIONAL HOLSTERS

Mandarin Collar

### FREE GIFT!

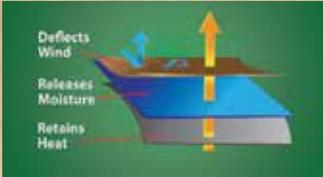
We'll send you an officially licensed Marine Corps Patch\* which you may choose to affix to your vest. (As shown at right.)

Two Front Slash Zippered Chest Pockets

Front Zipper Closure

Two Side Slash Zippered Pockets

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



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

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



**OPTIONAL HOOK & LOOP HOLSTER JUST \$14.95 EACH!**

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

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

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

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

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

Your satisfaction is guaranteed or you may return your vest within 30 days for replacement or refund. So, order today!

### WAR VETERAN AND FLAG PATCHES MAY BE PURCHASED FOR JUST \$10 EACH

(Other Patches Available - call for details.)



U.S. FLAG



VIETNAM



DESERT STORM



AFGHANISTAN



IRAQ

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

## TO ORDER CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-255-3048 OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.VETCOM.COM

OR, MAIL TO: Veterans Commemoratives Order Center • Two Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087-4599

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

**COLOR:**  Black  Coyote Brown

**SIZE:**  S (34-36)  M (38-40)  LG (42-44)  XL (46-48)  2XL† (50-52)  3XL† (54-56)

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

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

War Veteran & Flag Patches (add \$10 each) check choice(s) below:..... \$

U.S. Flag  Korea  Vietnam  Desert Storm  Afghanistan  Iraq

†Sizes 2XL to 3XL (add \$10) ..... \$

Plus Shipping & Handling ..... \$ 19.95

**TOTAL DUE:** ..... \$

**I PREFER TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**CREDIT CARD:**  Visa  MasterCard  AMEX  Discover Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*In case we have questions about your order*

\*Marine Corps patches purchased from Officially Licensed suppliers.

©2019, ICM

R86500-MCL-0419

## NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

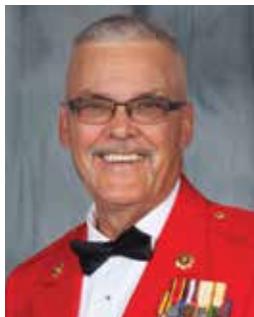
DENNIS TOBIN

### We need to be one unit, working one mission

**MARINES:** We are U.S. Marines, “NOT AS LEAN, NOT AS MEAN, BUT STILL UNITED STATES MARINES.” At some point in our lives we decided we wanted more, we wanted back in, we wanted to continue the legacy and traditions of the United States Marine Corps. So, we joined the Marine Corps League. Why? Because as a Marine Corps veteran’s organization it’s our mission to do just that, carry on the traditions and legacy of the Marine Corps and to assist all Marines and their families, active, reserve and veteran. Which brings me to a question, “Why are there detachments that are fighting against our mission by not wanting to bring transitioning Marines into our organization?”

We need to be one unit, working one mission. It may be done in different ways, but the mission must be the same. Ours is an open-ended mission—as long as there is a Marine Corps our mission will remain the same. We have to bring in new members, and those members will continue what we do. These transitioning Marines, no matter what age or rank, know and understand what today’s Marines want and need. It is a top priority that we adapt to new Marine veterans and not expect them to adapt to us.

We talk about the mentoring program but barely use it. Too many Marines join a detachment, sit ignored and then he/she is not seen anymore. Every new member should be assigned a current member of the detachment who stays with the new member until he/she



feels comfortable, introducing them to other members and making sure they are aware of upcoming events. Keep one new member, he’ll bring in more. I realize every area is different and that some have very few if any Marine veterans; if you are in one of those areas, we have the Fire Team method, which works great in large areas (see our website). We cannot survive as an organization without new Marine veterans.

From National, departments to detachments we have to work together to make our League bigger and better. For the past few years the National Officers and staff have been working very hard to do just that, and we will continue to do so into the future. There are some detachments that insist on playing their own game outside the rules and regulations. If there are any complaints, please feel free to voice them but provide a solution to the problem.

In closing, I want to say that in my last article, I was not denouncing the VA or suggesting you go elsewhere. I was just offering other solutions and asking for awareness in regards to suicide.

**Semper Fi!**

## NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

JOHNNY B. BAKER

### “All they needed to do was make me feel ... welcome”

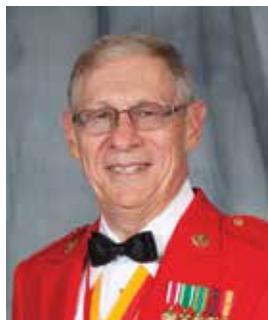
**MARINES:** New membership and retention continue to be our primary focus. To continue our growth, we must seek out and embrace new members. Once we have those new members, we must strive to keep them in the League. The following is just one scenario that I have heard too often.

*“I’m the Marine who asked to join the Marine Corps League. I’m the Marine who paid his dues to join. I’m the Marine who stood up in front of all of you and promised to be faithful and loyal. I’m the Marine who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to. I tried several times to be friendly to some other Marines, but they all had their own buddies they talked to and sat next to.*

*I sat down several times, but no one paid any attention to me. I hoped very much that somebody would have asked me to take part in a fundraising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered.*

*I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn’t be there. No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been. I guess it didn’t matter very much to the others whether I was there or not. The next meeting, I decided to stay home and watch TV. The following meeting that I attended, no one asked me where I was when the last meeting was held.*

*You might say I’m a good Marine, a good family man who holds a*



*responsible job, loves his community and his country. You know what else I am? I’m the Marine who never came back.*

*It amuses me when I think back on how the leadership of the detachment and the members were discussing why the detachment was losing members. It amuses me now to think that they spent so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time. All they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted and welcome!”*

—Author unknown

Marines, how does your detachment embrace your new members? How do you get them involved and motivated to stay with the League? The above letter was from an “unknown author,” but it can happen to any of us if we become complacent. It’s a challenging task, but it is the responsibility of the leadership of our detachments to ensure that all members feel welcome and useful. The challenge is yours, will you accept?

**Semper Fi!**

# NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

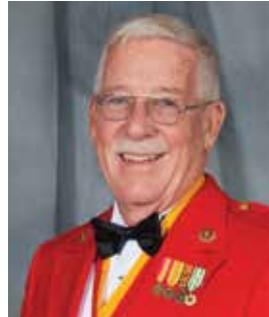
## This is the time for learning

**MARINES:** Our League is now in the season of department and Division Conferences throughout the country. This is the opportunity for our new members to learn what it means to be a League member; camaraderie is first and foremost.

This is also the time for learning. The easiest way to run a detachment is to follow the National Bylaws and Procedures. Don't deviate. In the long run, following our rules makes it easy for everyone. Those detachments that report, "We don't do that in our detachment," eventually wind up having problems. Deviations, once begun, tend to increase, and this usually is not a positive growth.

When detachments are installed the leaders are asked to lead to the best of their ability for the detachment and their community, but the membership is also asked to step up and support the detachment's efforts. The most productive and fun detachments are the ones that have many hands participating. These are the detachments that do not have need of chapter nine proceedings. The Gung-Ho spirit of working together is in our DNA.

A few departments have had questions related to detachments not being up-to-date with such things as Reports of Installations and/or with their annual filings to the IRS. These are two of the more



important requirements that must be maintained to remain as a viable MCL detachment. I would ask that the detachments police themselves first with these matters. If you are not in compliance, work to get there immediately. Eventually, whatever has been amiss will come out into the light of day. If you are not sure how to go about fixing a problem, please contact us. Problems can be fixed. In some cases the reason for noncompliance is just

that there is no one left to take responsibility, and in this case the detachment will be required to turn in their charter. Fortunately, when one window closes another one opens. We are continuing to grow nationwide.

Enjoy your conferences and conventions. I hope to see all of you in Billings in August.  
**Semper Fi!**

**BRADFORD EXCHANGE CHECKS**  
QUALITY AND ARTISTRY IN A NAME YOU CAN TRUST

# BUY ONE...GET ONE FREE!

box of checks      box of checks

**FREE**  
Standard  
Shipping

**U.S. Marines w/verse "Semper Fidelis" - 00305**  
One image. Leather Cover and Labels - 00305 ☆

**USMC w/verse "Honor" - 00455**  
Leather Cover and Labels - 00455 ☆

**Honoring Our Veterans w/verse "Land of the Free, Because of the Brave." - 00588**  
Leather Cover and Labels - 00588 ☆

**USMC Semper Fidelis - 00893**  
Leather Cover and Labels - 00455 ☆

**Imperial - 00185**  
Leather Cover and Labels - 00185 ▲

**God Bless America - 00096**  
Leather Cover and Labels - 00096 ☆

### SAVE UP TO 70% OFF BANK CHECK PRICES ON OVER 800 AVAILABLE DESIGNS!

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>TO ORDER:</b></p> <p><b>1. PHONE 1-800-323-8104</b><br/>Phone Hours: Mon-Fri 7:00 am to 10:00 pm (CT)<br/>Sat/Sun 7:00 am to 8:00 pm (CT)<br/><small>Mention offer code to receive this special offer. 2-box minimum and processing fee apply. See table caption. Call for Signature Required Delivery option.</small></p> | <p><b>2. INTERNET—SAFE SECURE SITE</b><br/><a href="http://www.BradfordExchangeChecks.com">www.BradfordExchangeChecks.com</a></p> | <p><b>3. MAIL—Send completed Order Form</b><br/><small>Also include</small></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Payment check or money order (no cash please)</li> <li>2. Voided Check with changes noted OR Reorder Form</li> <li>3. Deposit Slip from source account (read in address at the top of coupon)</li> </ol> | <p><b>*LIMITED-TIME OFFER FOR NEW CUSTOMERS</b><br/>Please respond promptly!</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BRADFORD EXCHANGE CHECKS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9305 N. Milwaukee Ave. Niles, IL 60714</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>E-MAIL _____</p> <p>PHONE ( ) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> Evening</p> <p><small>*If no check start number is specified, 1001 will be used. Only one check design per order.</small></p> <p>Check Design # _____ Start Checks of # _____</p> <p><b>Distinctive Lettering \$2-80 each</b> <input type="checkbox"/> COORDIAL <input type="checkbox"/> GRAND <input type="checkbox"/> script <input type="checkbox"/> (Only English) <b>FREE</b></p> <p>Matching Cover Code No. _____ add \$19.99 \$</p> <p>Matching Labels Code No. _____ <small>(If name and address other than checks, please indicate separate paper)</small> \$</p> <p><small>Add \$6.99 for DUCKNER ▲ Add \$7.99 for CHOICE + or MASTER + Labels</small></p> <p><small>See <a href="http://BradfordExchangeChecks.com">BradfordExchangeChecks.com</a></small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHOICE TOP TEAR CHECKS</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Single Checks</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Duplicate Checks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Box \$17.95</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Box \$20.45</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Boxes <del>\$36.90</del> \$17.95</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Boxes <del>\$39.90</del> \$20.45</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 4 Boxes <del>\$74.80</del> \$35.90 <b>2nd and 4th Box Free!</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 4 Boxes <del>\$79.80</del> \$40.90 <b>2nd and 4th Box Free!</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>EZShield® CHECK FRAUD PROTECTION PROGRAM®</b> \$2.50 x # of Boxes = \$</p> <p><b>EZShield® PRO®</b> Add \$8.00 total \$</p> <p><small>(Must also purchase EZShield Check Fraud Protection above)</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to <a href="http://www.BradfordExchangeChecks.com/use-tax">www.BradfordExchangeChecks.com/use-tax</a></p> <p><small>*Limited-time offer for new customers only when you buy 2 or 4 boxes. Prices and offers subject to change. ©Susan Winget ©USMC ©2019 Bradford Exchange Checks 19-00235-001-ZM25</small></p>	Single Checks	Duplicate Checks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Box \$17.95	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Box \$20.45	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Boxes <del>\$36.90</del> \$17.95	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Boxes <del>\$39.90</del> \$20.45	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Boxes <del>\$74.80</del> \$35.90 <b>2nd and 4th Box Free!</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Boxes <del>\$79.80</del> \$40.90 <b>2nd and 4th Box Free!</b>	<p><b>REQUIRED SERVICE/HANDLING†</b> \$2.95 x # of Boxes/Items = <b>Required</b> \$</p> <p><b>SECURESHIP™</b> <b>Trackable - Guaranteed Delivery</b> (4-5 box, 6day) Check boxes shipped together. Includes <b>FREE In-Plant Rush</b> (40) Add \$8.95 total \$</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>IN-PLANT RUSH</b> (checks only) Saves 1-3 Days (40) \$5.99</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Untrackable delivery:</b> Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. All items shipped separately. Delivery to Banks and Retail may take longer. <b>FREE</b></p> <p><b>OFFER CODE 22350XUV</b> SUBTOTAL \$</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Add your sales tax \$</p> <p><b>Payment GRAND TOTAL \$</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Make Your Checks Even More Secure with EZShield® Protection Programs</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EZShield®</b></p> <p><small>†EZShield Check Fraud Protection Program® (Paper Packaging) fully guards your checks from fraudulent uses of up to \$25,000 per card \$2.95 per box. See order form. To learn more, visit <a href="http://ezshield.com">ezshield.com</a>.</small></p>
Single Checks	Duplicate Checks									
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Box \$17.95	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Box \$20.45									
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Boxes <del>\$36.90</del> \$17.95	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Boxes <del>\$39.90</del> \$20.45									
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Boxes <del>\$74.80</del> \$35.90 <b>2nd and 4th Box Free!</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Boxes <del>\$79.80</del> \$40.90 <b>2nd and 4th Box Free!</b>									

## DIVISION REPORTS

### No MCL member is better than any other



**Phil Zamora**

**NVC, Central Division**



**MARINES:** Wow! Where has all the time gone? When you read this the National Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA, will have passed; a great time was had by all, and the Central Division Conference in Rock Island, IL, was a huge success. Next we are all looking forward to our Department Conventions and then the National Convention in Billings, MT.

For those who have known me for a while you know that my wife Wendy is also a Marine and has been our Detachment Commandant and also our Department of Michigan Commandant; I have to say she did a great job while holding those positions. One of the things I want to talk about in this article is something I read back in January as it upset me that there are some with this attitude. A Corpsman asked the question on one of the many Marine Corps League social media Facebook pages, "Can a Navy Corpsman hold the Commandant's job?" Of course, the majority of us answered correctly and said, "Yes, as long as you are a regular member then you can hold that position." Here comes the part that upset me: A Marine said "NO," and when asked why, he said, "Because they're medical and not tactical." WHAT!!! Of course, plenty of League members straightened this Marine out and even posted the Bylaw that states that Corpsmen and Chaplains who served in FMF units are regular members and can hold elected positions.

If you have members in your detachments who think one type of member is better than another type of member, just remember this: We all went to boot camp whether it was San Diego, Parris Island, Montford Point or wherever you called boot camp. No regular member is better than the other and shouldn't be denied a position in your detachments that they can rightfully hold per the National Bylaws.

Lastly, be ready for huge changes soon with the new database. At the Mid-Winter Conference we had some classes, and hopefully the departments and detachments will have access soon as long as the beta testing goes according to plans.

Just remember! Put your hand out to fellow Marines, Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains, explain to them what you do in your detachments and ask them to join you to help not only veterans but your communities so they know who the Marine Corps League is.

**Semper Fi!**

### Thanks to every detachment for its constant hard work



**Bruce R. Rakfeldt**

**NVC, Mideast Division**



**MARINES:** Springtime is a busy time for our Division! All of our department conventions take place between May and June, as well as our Division Conference hosted in Princeton, WV, on June 21-23. All of the conference information has been published, and I expect this to be one of the most attended conferences we've had.

Our Division is growing; specifically in West Virginia! The Sgt Mecot Camara Detachment 1461 was officially chartered on December 15, 2018. This is West Virginia's 14th detachment! My congratulations to newly elected Detachment Commandant, Danny Yancey, as he and his staff mold and grow this new detachment to accomplish the League's mission.

I have reviewed the recently published December 2018 Division roster. I'm very excited to see how our Division has stepped up and continues to work on achieving a Target Zero unpaid status. My thanks to every detachment for its constant hard work and diligence to make this happen. Remember, every annual-paying member's dues must be submitted to National no later than September 1 of each year. To ensure your membership shows "current" on the annual September roster, always pay your dues prior to the annual National Convention, keeping in mind that you can certainly pay earlier in the year as well.

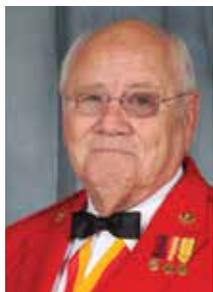
Our national Marine For Life (M4L) program, headed by David Ossian, has really taken off over the past several months. All of our departments have appointed M4L Liaisons, and Mike Lynon (Dept. of WV) has been recently appointed as the Division Liaison for this program. The majority of our detachments are onboard with representatives, as well. I am excited to know that the Mideast Division is ready to assist all of our transitioning Marines to civilian life. This in turn helps the detachments and Division grow by recruiting these newly separated Marines.

"Thank You" to the Department of South Carolina of the Southeast Division. North Carolina suffered East Coast damage due to the hurricanes that occurred in 2018. South Carolina provided monetary support to both the department and the Pack. This generosity is appreciated by North Carolina and by the whole Mideast Division.

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

**Semper Fi!**

## Time to advance the Marine Corps' goals



**Harvey L. Harris**

**NVC, Midwest Division**



**MARINES:** Now that the Mid-Winter Conference is complete, it's time for all members to advance the Marine Corps' goals. As you are aware, the SOP was released during the Mid-Winter Conference for funeral detail. T.J. Morgan, National Vice Commandant of the Northwest Division, did an outstanding job in gathering information and writing the SOP. Detachments that have a detail now will have the official uniform and training requirements available to properly follow procedures during funeral detail. The main items are the uniform requirements and the section on how to conduct the service.

The Midwest Division Mid-Winter report, with three of seven departments responding, stated a total of 601 Funeral Honors for 2018. The Department of Missouri reported that it conducted a total of 9,087 funerals, a total of 474 for 2018, since the initiation of the department's Funeral Honor program. St. Louis Detachment 183 performed 217 Funeral Honors during 2018 and reported a total of 8,660 for all veterans since initiation of the program. OUTSTANDING!

Jan Denney, Past Department of Kansas Commandant, Tri-Rivers Detachment 730 initiated a new program, Kansas Veterans Project, Inc. (KVP, Inc.; [kansasveteransproject.org](http://kansasveteransproject.org)), a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) that provides the necessary items for military veterans to transition from homelessness to living in housing provided by the HUD-VASH voucher program. Veterans must be honorably discharged, be enrolled in the Veterans Affairs system and meet the government's definition of "homeless." Since June 2018 the program has provided assistance to nine veterans including providing them new beds and bedding, household furniture, kitchenware, personal care items and \$100 gift cards for food.

It will soon be time for department conferences and election of officers. Hopefully a good number of members will come forward with the desire to assist their detachment and departments with new ideas on how to recruit and retain members, assist their Marine For Life representatives in maintaining a healthy relationship with the League and assist young Marines who for whatever reason chose to leave the Corps after one tour. Remember once a Marine, always a Marine.

**Semper Fi!**

## We need inspiration to fire-up that Esprit De Corps



**David Porter**

**NVC, New England Division**



**MARINES:** We have started 2019 on solid ground with positive gains as 2018 ended and 2019 began. Toys for Tots had another successful season, with Marines working within the community helping to bring smiles to children during the holidays. Marines, if you have not taken part in this program, I challenge you to do so next year. It is extremely humbling and rewarding to give back in this way. Our collaborative work on this program with the Marine Corps Reserves is another tool to keep people aware that the Marine Corps League is out there to help!

The Mid-Winter Conference has passed, but the motivation carries over as we get ready for the National Convention in Billings, MT, this summer. August will be here before we know it, and we have a lot of work before us. As General Neller enters his last year as Commandant of the Marine Corps, we continue to work hard under his incredible leadership.

Once again I would like to highlight the "Marine For Life Network" which helps Marines connect to resources as they transition to civilian life. This program is connected nationally, and its sole purpose is to help our own. We need to continue to strengthen our camaraderie among Marines and be there for our brothers coming home! We stood on the same yellow foot prints, we took the same oath, and we must continue to mentor to those transitioning to civilian life.

The League is maintaining its membership, but we are looking forward with a serious eye to what our future holds. Our senior officers hold a wealth of knowledge, and we need to ensure this information is passed down to carry on the strength of the MCL. We need to challenge ourselves to step up and allow the older generation to pass on their knowledge so that the younger generation can wisely lead and ensure the Marine Corps League will persevere and remain strong in the future.

In New England, the Quad State Convention was held in New Hampshire with a great turn out. We are looking forward to the Department of Massachusetts Convention, May 30 to June 2 located at the Doubletree in Hyannis, MA, and the Department of Connecticut Convention the following weekend. Please check out the Massachusetts Department's website: [mcldep.tofmassachusetts.com](http://mcldep.tofmassachusetts.com) as well as the New England Division's site: [mclnedivision.com](http://mclnedivision.com).

**Semper Fi!**

## DIVISION REPORTS

### We have an obligation to do the right thing



Tim Forbes

**NVC, Northeast Division**



**MARINES:** Our rosters came out in January as promised, and the Northeast Division has about 91% of its members renewed. Our Department Commandants will be reaching out to detachments to get that number up. Membership is our lifeblood and shows our support for the many programs that our League participates in.

Two very important programs will have been highlighted at this year's National Mid-Winter Conference in March. The Military Funeral Honors and Marine For Life Programs. Both help to bridge the gap between the Marine Corps and our League. As I've written before, the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps are very interested in our progress. We cannot and will not let them down.

Our Division Conference was held April 4-5 in Binghamton, NY, and at this writing, looked to be a good one. We will have National Staff on hand as well as a few Marines running for National Office in August to hear their vision of where we need to go as a League and what they plan on doing.

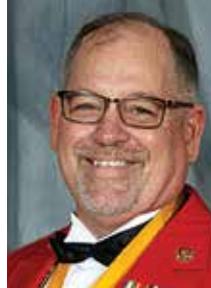
The department conventions and membership meetings are all posted on our website, [nedmcl.org](http://nedmcl.org). The Membership meetings are intended for all members and give each of us a say in what we do and a chance to hear firsthand what is going on in our department.

Social media continues to be a challenge for units. Once posted, it's out there for all to see. We must be in proper uniform for any pictures and stay away from politics or controversial issues that could discredit our League. As leaders at the detachment, department, Division and National levels we have a fiduciary obligation to do the right thing.

Spring is always a rebirth and a chance to grow our League with parades and events that honor our military. Look your best, take part in our communities—people are watching.

**Semper Fi!**

### Marine For Life Network is vital to Marines EAS



T.J. Morgan

**NVC, Northwest Division**



**MARINES:** Hello Spring! It's almost time to say, "Welcome to Billings, Montana!" The Mid-Winter Conference is finished, and the Northwest Division's department conventions are under way or completed. I will be the guest speaker again at the Department of Idaho convention. Not sure if I was that good last year or you couldn't find anyone else! We will have a great time regardless!

We are also ushering in a few new Department Commandants here in the Northwest. I wish you all the best, and we will work together to make our Division grow.

Part of some new duties I have taken on at the National level is the Marine For Life (M4L) program ([usmc-mccs.org](http://usmc-mccs.org)). This is a vital piece to Marines EAS and getting them the resources they need at the local level. This means housing, employment and education. We are working closely with the Marine Corps and are there to assist in any way possible. The Division has one Liaison, and each department and detachment also has a Liaison. Get to know all your resources in your area and don't forget to take a look at what Dave Ossian has put together to assist you all in the M4L program on the National website ([mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)) and in the library.

We will again host the Northwest Division Conference in Spokane, WA, September 13-14. Last year our attendance was down, so again this is an open invitation to come and check it out. It's just after the National Convention so most of the information is hot off the press!

Lastly for all of the Funeral Honor Guard members, SOP-10 is in the library and has some great information on it. It was a very long process and a hard one to find a standard for the entire League. I ask that everyone look at it and apply it to your detail. We are there for the veterans and their families. The way you present yourself will be a special memory for them. Be humble and professional and be proud of the job you do.

**Semper Fi!**

## Convention and conference planning underway



**Allen Brink**

**NVC, Rocky Mountain Division**



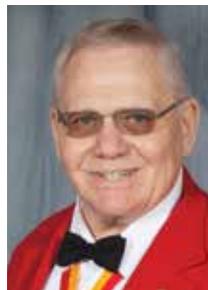
**MARINES:** In every detachment I have ever belonged to, no matter how many members, there were six or seven members who did all the work. This isn't a Marine Corps League exclusive. I belong to many other veteran service organizations, and it's the same in all of them. This is a problem with not only committees but also with members willing to run for elected offices and volunteering for appointed offices. One thing we can do is welcome new members and put them to work. The sooner they become involved the more likely they are to stay active.

In the Rocky Mountain Division, the departments are planning their conventions which start in April. I'm looking forward to attending them all to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. I would encourage all members of the Division to visit other departments' conventions to learn what's going on with our brothers and sisters in neighboring states and exchange ideas. The Division conference will be hosted by the Department of Colorado in conjunction with their department convention in Greeley, CO, the first weekend in May. Please visit the Department of Colorado's website, [mclco.org](http://mclco.org), for details. It's important for all departments to attend since you'll be electing a new National Vice Commandant and an Assistant National Vice Commandant to a 2-year term. I explained when I was elected that I would only serve one term in office, and the end of my term is in August at the National Convention in Billings, MT. I'd like to see a good representation from this Division since it's so close to our homes.

I'll take this time to thank all of you for your support during my tenure. I won't name all of you individually because I'm sure to miss someone, but I'd like to thank all the Department Commandants and my aide de camps for all their work to get me information and help me pass it on. I would also like to thank my assistant for all he's done; I'm sure he will be a very successful National Vice Commandant. I encourage anyone who's interested in National Office to attend the Division conference and throw his hat in the ring. I've learned more in the last 2 years about how the League works than in all the years prior. Please continue to support your Division National Vice and continue to grow.

**Semper Fi!**

## It is Springtime ... we're headed into our busiest time



**Archie H. Sweet**

**NVC, Southeast Division**



**MARINES:** There is always much activity in our detachments and departments during the spring months. Elections are held, and with warmer temperatures, we can get out to work on fundraisers and recruiting new members. The membership year for annual dues ends August 31, so it's not too early to start collecting and transmitting the 2019-2020 annual dues. Please continue to contact any members who are in arrears on their 2018 dues. We don't want to lose any of them. My sincere thanks go out to the detachments that are at 100% paid.

Speaking of elections, I'm very thankful for our Department Commandants and their staffs who have served the Southeast Division this past year. Each has done a fine job assisting the Division. I will be attending most of the department conventions of the Southeast Division this year. I look forward to meeting, and in some cases installing, the newly elected officers. I hope that all the department conventions will have strong member and Detachment Officer participation.

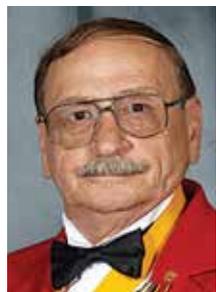
As mentioned in my last column, Florida was hit by a devastating hurricane on October 10, 2018. Hurricane Michael was reportedly the third most powerful hurricane in recorded hurricane history to hit the U.S. Some areas of the Florida panhandle still look today as they did the day after the hurricane came through. The Department of Florida is assessing the needs of our Marines in that area.

Finally, our younger Marines use social media much more than those of us over 60. One article on the internet states there are 57 social media platforms that everyone should know, so most of us may want to investigate a few of those. Using social media for recruiting members, announcing meetings/civic activities, discussing USMC history or keeping in touch with fellow members are good uses of social media, and it may be one of the best ways of connecting with younger potential members. Social media should never be used by any member to publicly discuss the private business of the League, such as finances or personal disagreements.

**Semper Fi!**

## DIVISION REPORTS

### Membership continues to improve in the Division!



**Johnny R. Gothard**

**NVC, Southern Division**



**MARINES:** Department of Arkansas held their Winter Conference in Conway, AR, January 19, 2019, hosted by Dale W. Langford Detachment 1323. Their new Bylaws were presented for review by the membership for consideration and corrections and to be voted on in June at the department's 2019 Convention.

I would like to welcome and congratulate a new detachment in the Department of Texas; the Lake Ray Hubbard Detachment 1465 was chartered on Saturday, January 26, in Rowlett, TX. I was not able to attend because of a conflicting engagement; however, the Assistant National Vice Commandant David Niemann and National aide-de-camp Lonnie Young attended.

By the printing of this article, the Southern Division Conference will have been held March 21-23 in Lawton/Fort Sill, OK, hosted by the Boomer Detachment 1288. I hope you all enjoyed your time there. The National Mid-Winter Conference will also have taken place February 28-March 2, 2019, in Fredericksburg, VA. A report on these events will be included in my next article.

Membership continues to improve in the Division; judging by the December 2018 Rosters there have been noticeable improvements in Oklahoma—good job Marines! Arkansas and Texas have shown some improvement also! A job well done everyone! Please keep up the good work.

I would like to say at this time it has been a high Honor and challenging to serve as your Southern National Vice Commandant these past two years and that I am seeking re-election for a second and final term in this Office serving the Marines Auxiliary and Associate. There are many more things I would like to see done in a second term and a few that I have seen started and would like to help become reality. I would hope I have earned your respect and trust and would appreciate your support.

**Semper Fi!**

### We cannot afford complacency and lack of leadership



**Bill Ebright**

**NVC, Southwest Division**



**MARINES:** By the time you read this article Marine Expo West and the Mid-Winter Conference will be history. We now look forward to our Southwest Division meeting and the 2019 National Convention in August in Billings, MT.

I am pleased to announce the scheduling of the Southwest Division Meeting in Henderson, NV, April 26 and 27, 2019. Our hotel, the Eastside Cannery, is providing members with a favorable rate of \$89.99 per night. To get this rate tell them you are an MCL member. Devil Dogs, be aware that there will be a Grawl on April 26 evening at 7:00pm hosted by the Arizona Pack. Be sure to view the announcement flyer on the Southwest Division's website: [mclswdivision.org](http://mclswdivision.org)

All Detachment Commandants and Judge Advocates should be aware that the revised Bylaws and Administrative Procedures passed. These are available on the National website. Click on the Library section and scroll down to see them. National Judge Advocate Warren C. Griffin asks that all detachments make sure that their Detachment Bylaws are in compliance with National's. Please review and make any required changes. When your review and changes are made and voted on by members, please send a copy of your Bylaws to your Department Judge Advocate for review.

"Once A Marine Always A Marine," is MajGen John A. Lejeune's inspired motto we proudly repeat. This leads into the important topic of the Marine For Life (M4L) program that connects transitioning Marines and their families to education resources, employment opportunities and other veterans' services. The last edition of *Semper Fi* magazine shows the importance being placed on this program. On page 36, Junior Past Commandant Richard Gore informs us that Marine Corps Commandant General Neller and our Commandant Wendell Webb have weekly discussions on ways to make Marine For Life benefit all Marines, active duty and separated. Thus, it's important that each detachment have an M4L coordinator, one devoted to carrying out the important mission of Marine For Life.

Finally, Assistant Southwest Division Commandant Pat Connell and I remind all members of the dedication to duty required of all Detachment and Department Officers. Just as when we served as active duty Marines we could not afford complacency and lack of leadership, so too, serving as MCL Officers we must be mindful of the leadership responsibility to our brother and sister Marines and our League. Therefore, we urge members not to run for any office without a resolute desire to benefit their detachment, their department and the League or without a determination to act as leaders.

**Semper Fi!**

# The Spirit of the Marines Shines Bright

Show your pride in the United States Marine Corps with the “U.S.M.C. Esprit de Corps Lamp,” a shining tribute to the world’s mightiest fighting force, exclusively from Hamilton!

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

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

**Urgent Note!** The edition is limited to only 95 production days and, given the time-intensive handcrafting, demand could exceed availability. Please act now to acquire the “U.S.M.C. Esprit de Corps Lamp” for the issue price of \$149.95, payable in five convenient installments of \$29.99\*.

**Your prompt response is critical.** Send no money now we’ll bill your first installment prior to shipment. Return your Reservation Application today!



**Our 365-Day Guarantee assures your satisfaction!**



*The rendition of the famous Marine Corps War Memorial is fully sculptured!*

*Shown much smaller than actual size of 15" high*

TM or ® Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps. ©2019 HC. All Rights Reserved.

**Fastest way to order:**  
[HamiltonCollection.com/USMCLamp](http://HamiltonCollection.com/USMCLamp)

LIKE US ON 09-00448-001-B16

## RESERVATION APPLICATION

MAIL TO:

**The Hamilton Collection**  
 9204 Center For The Arts Drive, Niles, Illinois 60714-1300

**YES!** Please reserve the “U.S.M.C. Esprit de Corps Lamp” for me as described in this announcement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print clearly.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Orders subject to acceptance.

**09-00448-001-E10029**

\*Add \$21.00 total for shipping and service, and sales tax; see [HamiltonCollection.com](http://HamiltonCollection.com).

Allow 6 to 8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. **Send no money now.**

## THE *SEMPER FI* INTERVIEW

# Warrior. Pastor. Farmer.

## Captain Billy Vaughan Leads from the Battlefield to the Farm Fields of Arkansas

Learning how to drive a tractor is not much different from a Humvee.



By David Ossian, National Chief of Staff

**C**aptain William (Billy) Vaughan, a native of Pocahontas, Arkansas, retired from the Marine Corps in May 2010 after 21 years of service, including 11 years as an enlisted man. He deployed six times, three of which were combat tours including Operation Desert Shield/Storm and the Battle of Fallujah, Iraq in 2004. His awards include the Navy Commendation Medal

with “V” and the Navy Achievement Medal with “V.”

After retirement, Billy attended seminary and focused on pastoral care and counseling. For the last 8 years he has served people struggling from the effects of trauma, addiction, homelessness and mental illness. During that time, he served as a chaplain on Skid Row in Los Angeles. That experience was very formative and com-



Captain  
Vaughan  
Platoon  
Commander  
at The Basic  
School in  
Quantico, VA.

pelled him and his wife, April, to buy a farm in Arkansas and start a non-profit called The Sanctuary Farm & Rest House ([sanctuaryfarm.org](http://sanctuaryfarm.org)). They plan to grow and sell organic farm products, have therapy animals and help

rehabilitate men and women who have experienced trauma by teaching them organic farming and other self-supportive skills. They hope to welcome their first guests in 2019.

**David Ossian:** Your first step after the Corps was semi-nary. What guided you towards serving others?

**Billy Vaughan:** I suppose I have always been drawn to helping others. As a teenager I helped a stranger who was having car trouble, and I wasn't sure I would be able to get his car going. I went home to get more tools and asked my mom if he could stay the night if I wasn't able to fix his car. We did get it going, and he was able to make it home. Looking back, that probably wasn't a very wise decision to invite a complete stranger into our home, but I was compelled to help him. For me, it originates from taking the teachings of Jesus very seriously. Jesus claimed the world would be able to identify his followers based on how they loved each other, and he encouraged his followers to love strangers and even enemies. I take his words very seriously and try to love whoever I come into contact with. That includes people who may look, talk and believe differently than me. That includes people from different countries with different ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. That includes people who have been through the ringer and have come out the other side with the very life squeezed out of them (haven't we all been there?). And it even includes people I might not naturally get along with. Jesus' teachings press me to love when it's difficult. In fact, he said that is kind of what makes love valuable—to love those who cannot necessarily love me back. That is how I try to serve on a daily basis.

**DO:** Why did you choose this direction in your life?

**BV:** In almost every stage of my life, I have seen people make poor decisions because they lacked options, opportunity and education. Growing up I saw people caught in the cycle of poverty, not seeing any way out. As a Marine, I saw people in other countries choose poorly because they lacked the opportunities that Americans have. On Skid Row I saw people choose to remain in their addiction and state of homelessness because of past trauma, mental illness and an inability to break powerful cultural cycles. In prison where I volunteer once a week, I see a high rate of recidivism because of lack of education. With veterans, my experience is that many who need help choose not to get help because they feel isolated and alone after getting out of the military. They are missing the camaraderie they once had in the military and cannot find anywhere else. It seems there is a common thread among these groups of people—strong community is helpful in cultivating connection with options, opportunity and education. That is what I want the farm to be—a place where people can experience community and feel supported in moving forward in their lives, whatever that may look like.

**DO:** Can you share a Marine Corps story that led you to become the kind of leader you are?

**BV:** I had a blessed experience in bootcamp. My Senior Drill

Instructor talked to us often about leadership. He talked to our Platoon about serving and not taking advantage of your position of authority. And not only did he speak plainly about this, he led that way and trained the Junior Drill Instructors to lead this way—sometimes for us to witness. I'm grateful from early on to have leaders like that who set the example, even when the situation was hard. Not just talk. This helped guide me through more challenging times when the waters were murkier and doing the right thing wasn't quite as clear. That early experience, and others, eventually led me to pursue becoming a Marine Officer. I felt if I could lead Marines well and they responded to me positively, I could contribute more by being an Officer.

**DO: Can you speak to experiences that lead you to continue on a path of service?**

**BV:** It definitely originates from how I was raised, from many experiences as a Marine and specifically when I was a Lt. I served with three other Platoon Commanders for two deployments, including the Iraq Invasion in 2003. We became very close and continue to be to this day. Those Marines are all still serving in different capacities outside the Corps, and they continue to encourage me to serve in ways specific to who I am and the need around me. My relationship with them continues to cultivate a longing in me for what the American Christian Church should and could do better—an environment that encourages people to explore how they can lead, grow and create together based on who they are, their gifts and the needs around them. These Marines and I continue to check in with one another and encourage each other, and we'd do anything to help each other. I really value their friendships and support, and I have found that type of support to be integral in serving others long-term. Without support, the burnout rate is high. It isn't very helpful to become a casualty while helping the wounded.

**DO: Tell me about the Veteran Farmer Training Program?**

**BV:** It's a program aimed at veterans who would like to transition to organic farming and focuses on vegetable production, working with animals, compost and many other areas of farming. I went there mainly to learn about treatment-free beekeeping and vegetable farming, which I got a lot of in the two months I was there. And I was able to bring back some bees with me that are alive and well in my backyard. I also brought back a chicken named Miss Elly, but perhaps that's a story we can talk about later. If you want to learn more (and see my ugly mug on the webpage), you can go here: [rodaleinstitute.org/education/training-programs/veteran-farmer-training](http://rodaleinstitute.org/education/training-programs/veteran-farmer-training)

**DO: How can the Sanctuary Farm & Rest House help veterans?**

**BV:** I learned many valuable lessons during my time in combat, and one of the most valuable was the necessity to be flexible in rapidly changing environments. I relearned this lesson—to some degree the hard way—when I returned to Iraq in 2004 and found that fighting an insurgency is very different than fighting the conventional force of the previous year. I had to relearn what success meant because it looked very differently than it did during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. That lesson continues to serve me when working with people who have experienced the effects of trauma, addiction, mental illness and homelessness. Helping people who have suffered does not mean their lives have to look like mine or some other picture. Helping involves creating space for them to learn, grow and improve in ways they want to. Progress can be

painstakingly slow, sometimes unnoticeable and elusive. But success can happen—you just have to look for it differently and possibly change your mind about what it looks like.

By coming to our farm, veterans could work in whatever capacity they can handle and benefit from being outside. With time to think and process both what they are learning and also past experiences, they can form new bonds with fellow workers and animals. I have lots of experience with creating spaces for people to share without condemnation. I have observed that people can heal from sharing their stories in safe environments, and I enjoy hearing peoples' stories.

**DO: Do veterans have to have training prior to coming there? How do they apply or get more information?**

**BV:** No prior training is required, just a willingness and openness to learn. They can email me for an application at: [billy@sanctuaryfarm.org](mailto:billy@sanctuaryfarm.org)

Personally, I love a challenge. Farming is one of the most daunting challenges I have faced—there is so much to learn that it can be overwhelming. Also, I love to cheer people on. When I was a brand-new Second Lieutenant at The Basic School, my Staff Platoon Commander called me a cheerleader because I made up songs about people to encourage them and sounded reveille in the field in creative, funny ways. I'm not sure he meant it as a compliment, but I took it as one—I like rooting for people!

**DO: How does farming aid PTS?**

**BV:** There is some strong evidence that being in peaceful environments outdoors can improve the effects of trauma. I am interested in how farming can improve creativity, which I think can reduce depression, anxiety and other negative effects of trauma. In Florence Williams' book, *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative*, she says the threshold for boosting creativity is seven outdoor sessions a month, with each session lasting at least 30 minutes. I think a person can benefit from being outside every day, and tending to animals while bonding with them and other people can also be helpful. Simply put, I want the farm to be a safe place to land for people who need a respite.

**DO: Looking at the different ways you have chosen to help others, would you say that you are in favor of integrated treatments for Mental Health?**

**BV:** Integration is important because we are complex beings. We function on different levels—spiritual, physical, emotional and relational. It's important to pay attention to our different layers. Exposing people to integrative treatments can lead to deeper healing. Not necessarily faster—if we move through the healing process too quickly, it could mean we simply are covering something up so we don't have to deal with it. If this is the case, we may be triggered later on when we're not expecting it. These unexpected symptoms can lead to coping in unhealthy ways, which can then lead to addiction, depression and other problems. It is no secret that suicide is an immense problem among veterans. From my experience, there are many factors to a person becoming suicidal—mental illness, coping in negative ways and self-critical thought patterns are the ones I've seen the most. I believe integrated treatments are among the best ways to break these dangerous and tragic cycles.

**DO: You have helped so many different kinds of people.**



Captain Vaughan with his 1st Sgt on deployment.

### **Do you find yourself having a deeper connection when you are helping veterans?**

**BV:** I do feel a deep connection with veterans—those I have served with and the ones I randomly meet now. I still get calls from Marines who served under my command—sometimes to catch up, sometimes for advice, sometimes just to vent. As an Officer, I felt my prior service as an enlisted Marine gave me credibility when working with younger Marines. But that credibility would only last so long if I didn't genuinely care for them and listen to them. I believed I could learn from my Marines because their perspectives were usually different than mine. They could problem-solve in different (and often better) ways because of their experiences and perceptions—it was my job to create space for them to engage their intellects to deal with problems and make decisions. Whether working with veterans or with people struggling with addiction or even in the prisons working with the inmates, this is what I try to do. I'm not trying to be the Bible answer man when I teach, because I've found I learn about God in new and profound ways when I listen to people. Their experiences often are so very different from mine, and sometimes their experience of God is quite astounding. That's why I like to hear people's stories—you can learn so much when you listen to someone's story.

### **DO: What's next for you, Sir? Perhaps leading a church?**

**BV:** I have preached quite a bit during and after seminary, but being a full-time Pastor of a church is just not a good fit for me. In fact, my doctoral project is an examination of how recovery communities (specifically ones that are 12-Step-based) are addressing some of the real problems in our culture in ways the American Church should be but has been falling short. This has just been my experience over and over again within the cul-

tural Christianity that is prevalent in America. And that statement—that the American Church has been falling short—will be rejected by some, but others know exactly what I'm talking about. So, continuing to develop and run the farm is my priority, along with working on a way to eventually turn it over. My wife and I have talked about creating an environment that's not solely dependent on our personalities. We've seen where a church loses its Pastor who might have been the heart and soul, the life blood of the church and then the church struggles because it was tied too closely to that individual and the way they led. I want to approach it more like the Marine Corps model where a unit will take on the persona of the Commander to some degree, but if something happens, or it is time for that Commander to move on, the next Commander takes over typically without the unit skipping a beat. This is something I really took away from the Marine Corps. As a leader, you never want to be that single point of failure. When you are, there is a high probability that many people will get hurt, and mission accomplishment will suffer. Yes, I still try to balance troop welfare with mission accomplishment. I was taught that any good Marine should. **SIF**

### **Author's Notes**

Tragically the suicide numbers are at a 10-year high. We must increase our efforts to develop new treatments and share information on current modalities that are available to our veterans. Certainly, there is no "magic pill" that will work for every case. Stories like Captain Vaughan's must be shared. This Marine stepped out on faith and is making a difference. It's imperative that more of us follow his example. For more information on programs to assist Marines and their families please visit our National website: [mcleaguelibrary.org/helping-marines-family](http://mcleaguelibrary.org/helping-marines-family)

# JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

**RICHARD D. GORE, SR.**

## Becoming an officer doesn't mean becoming a dictator

**MARINES:** What I am going to discuss in this article is a subject that everyone in the League should read and take to heart for the future of the organization. This is the time of year when election of officers takes place and your decisions in this respect affect the future of your detachments and departments for the next year, and sometimes even longer.

It has been brought to my attention, in several instances, that some of the elected officers are of the opinion that once the oath is taken that gives them free rein to start the dictatorial process which they wish to impose upon their Marines who elected them. As I have stated numerous times, there is no "I" in the word "team." You were chosen to work together with the entire membership, not just your cadre, to fulfill the wishes of the membership. Our members are mostly composed of fellow Marines who endured the same hardships as we all did to be among the best and recognized as such. Don't try to destroy their pride to make you feel good. Every member has a right to voice an opinion and a vote will decide the decisions made.

Further, all meetings are to be conducted according to the Bylaws as established and voted upon at the National Convention by the membership in attendance at that Convention after debate and amendments are held and a majority vote accepts or declines. These then become the format upon which your meetings are conducted; not interjecting your own rules and policies. Members expect to



come to our meetings and have uniformity and a feeling of well-being prevail. Dissension and bad feelings at meetings will destroy any organization unless you have fair and equal leadership. *The idea is to strengthen your detachment or department, not destroy it.*

My suggestion to all is to read the National Bylaws and understand them; only then will you understand what makes our

League a success. It is the TEAM, not the individual who is on a power trip.

What destroys unity is when one, and then more individuals, break away from the majority to have a controlling group and not be TEAM players. Be careful of your choices and vote wisely. If unhappy with your selections read your Bylaws; there are ways to make corrections. Hopefully, you don't have to use such a method to get good leadership. Everyone, including Associate Members, has the right to seek out new members to make our membership stronger so we can become the organization we deserve to be.

I also want to thank Commandant Neller for his successful tour and wish him, "Fair winds and following seas" on a job well done. Enjoy your retirement; I enjoyed our 2 years working together.

**Semper Fi!**



"Ranger Rock" - Ireland



**MILITARY™**  
HISTORICAL TOURS, INC.



13198 CENTREPOINTE WAY  
STE 202 WOODBRIDGE, VA 22193

703-590-1295 \* [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com)  
[mhtours@miltours.com](mailto:mhtours@miltours.com)

### UPCOMING TOURS

- JUL 4 – 14  
Russia WWII Eastern Front  
Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad
- JUL 18 – 25  
75th Liberation of Guam  
Post Tour: Saipan & Tinian
- AUG 3 – 12  
Guadalcanal "Turning the Tide"  
Pre-Tour: "Bloody" Tarawa
- AUG 4 – 12  
Morocco—WWII Operation Torch  
Patton enters WWI & French  
Foreign Legion
- AUG 11 – 20  
75th Anniversary of 2nd D-Day:  
Op Dragoon South of France
- AUG 28 – SEP 9  
VN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Operations in I-Corps 1969
- SEP 7 – 15  
Evolution of the Western Front  
World War I Battlefields & Weapons
- SEP 10 – 22  
VN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operations
- in I-Corps 1969
- SEP 12 – 19  
75th Anniversary of Peleliu Landing
- SEP 17 – OCT 1  
Ireland—LtGen Bill Maloney, USMC  
Emerald Isle Memorial Tour  
U.S. WWII Military Sites
- OCT 3 – 13  
Imperial China-Three Jewels  
Beijing - Xian - Shanghai
- OCT 13 – 25  
Rise and Fall of the Third Reich  
Munich - Nuremberg - Berlin
- NOV 2 – 13  
WWI Armistice Day France  
U.S. Battlefields
- DEC 3 – 9  
77th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor  
WWII Sites & Waikiki Hotel
- NOV 30 – DEC 11  
Vietnam Holiday Tour

**10% MCL  
MEMBER DISCOUNT**

USMC Veteran Owned & Operated since 1987

# MARINE WEST 2019

## MCL Visits Wounded Warrior Battalion West Facility, February 2019



MajGen Regner and National Commandant Webb speaking with Dr. Patricia Gerbarg from Breath-Body-Mind.



The statue in front of Wounded Warrior Battalion West Facility honoring the iconic Fallujah photo (by Lucian Read) was sculpted by Gold Star dad, Navy Vietnam veteran John Phelps.



State-of-the-art rehabilitation facility and grounds.

Wounded  
Warrior  
Battalion West  
Facility, Camp  
Pendleton, CA.



# The Making of a Marine

## Hershel W. Williams

An Essay by Isabelle Bechtel



As the Marine amphibious assault vehicles climbed the ashy, sulfuric sands, they were mowed down by the Japanese forces who were contained within an intricate underground tunnel system, safe from the American air support. As described by Ralph Wilcox, retired Marine and World War II veteran, "The landings were the most memorable. Being sent out from the back of the ship into huge waves that would soak everyone and everything inside, all the while, being fired at by the enemy." At the end of the first day of the Iwo Jima invasion, over 5,000 Marines were killed.

Just a few short months before, a dark-haired, blue-eyed junior Marine, known to his superiors as "Corporal," but to his peers as Hershel "Woody" Williams, maintained his combat training on recently captured Guam. The first time this young Corporal had seen action was on Guam, which he would later describe as the most challenging aspect of his military experience, "scaring him beyond explanation." He would go on to board a ship, and it was on this ship he discovered that he and his company were being sent to Iwo Jima. From the troops' perspective, the fighting that was going to take place was expected. They knew what was coming and did not seek to differentiate between the two.

Hershel W. Williams was born on a dairy farm in Quiet Dell, WV, on October 2, 1923. Williams described himself as being a "shy, bashful boy, with very little self-confidence," so shy, in fact, that in elementary school, he had difficulties getting to know other students. When Williams was 11 years old, his "father died of a heart attack. He absolutely worked himself to death. He was running a dairy farm, dawn to dusk, with 35 dairy cows, which provided our living." Williams described "seldom ever getting to town. We'd get to go to town in the winter, when the crops were in, for a movie or a hot dog." In his teenage years, Williams recalled having two major influences, law enforcement and his older brother. Law enforcement stood out in the community, and he could always rely on them to be his protectors. He was especially



Hershel W. Williams

inspired by his older brother by two years, who was "determined and could always finish what he set his mind to."

"I did not plan to be in the military, a country boy on a farm, with no previous military influence. But when our country was threatened by someone I had never heard of, I was determined to defend my freedom and country." When Williams decided to enlist, he was majorly influenced by the Marine Corps Dress Blues. He laughed a little as he said, "There was a kid in my town who joined the Marines, and when he came home, he always looked so neat and squared away, and I thought to myself, I want to look like that." When Williams originally attempted to enlist as an adult, he was denied because he only stood as 5'6" tall, which at the time, was considered too short for active duty.

Later, when the military lowered their height standards, Williams successfully enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was sent to San Diego, CA, to receive recruit training, in which all Marines were trained in being riflemen, despite their designated military occupational specialty (MOS). Soon after finishing basic recruit training, Williams was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 21st Marine

Regiment, 3rd Marine Division at Guadalcanal. He was later assigned to Headquarters Company and saw his first action in Guam.

After Guam, his unit was assigned to be backup ground support on Iwo Jima. Their mission was Operation Detachment: to capture the entire island, including three Japanese controlled airfields, and to provide a staging area for attacks that were to be made on the Japanese mainland. With his flamethrower, a 75-pound piece of equipment equivalent to half of his own body weight strapped to his back, he began to move across the Japanese "BB volcanic sands." In his words, he had been prepared in training for the jungle warfare that had been on Guam, but the fighting that took place on Iwo Jima was all in the open. Williams credited his training for properly preparing him for the marks of war, but he has also said that it helped keep him going, even when he was scared half out of his mind. Williams' Medal of Honor actions were above and beyond the call of action. On February 23, 1943, Williams, protected only by four riflemen, crossed between enemy and base lines multiple times, taking out multiple Japanese pillboxes, or in-hill bunkers, and protecting the lives of many Marines, with no regard for his own. While Williams fought on, the famous second flag raising was taking place on Mount Suribachi, symbolizing America's control over the island and immortalizing the heroism of the Marines who fought there.

When Williams described his Medal of Honor, his voice was filled with a pained pride. He said that, at the time, he actually didn't know what it was or even why he was selected to receive it. He didn't know what it was based on until after his citation had been read on the steps of the White House on October 5, 1945 as he was receiving the award from President Harry S. Truman. Williams recalled not recognizing the difference between his actions and those who served on the left and right of him. In every interview that Williams has given, when asked what his Medal of Honor means to him, he answers that, "Eventually, I came to realize that the only reason why I received

*“They showed us it on the map, 2.5 miles wide and 8 miles long. We didn’t know until the end of the first day that we were going to be involved on Iwo Jima, didn’t know that they’d need 60,000 Marines to capture that wee piece of land. It took 36 days, which surprised us all.”*

–Hershel W. Williams

the Medal of Honor was the sacrifices made by others, and I wear it in their honor, not mine.” The moment he received the Medal, however, he knew that his life was changed forever. He was no longer able to be the shy, quiet country boy but was instead thrust into the limelight to be a fluent and impactful public speaker.

Coming back had its downfalls. Williams suffered from PTSD, a term and diagnosis that did not exist at the time, for nearly 17 years after the war, especially regarding the number of lives he had taken. He found peace through his wife’s Methodist Church, committing himself to God and to his family. Williams retired from the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves after 20 years of faithful service. He would go on to work as a Veterans Affairs counselor for 33 years, where his service to the military and its service men and women continued. He would also serve as chaplain of the Medal of Honor society for 35 years. He continues to work for the benefits of all veterans, serving on his home state of West Virginia’s Governor’s Military Advisory Board and has written dozens of letters prompting help for veterans throughout West Virginia and the rest of the United States.

In 2010, at the age of 87, Williams started his Hershel Woody Williams Congressional Medal of Honor Education Foundation; a foundation dedicated to honoring the ultimate sacrifices made by service members and their families. At the age of 18, Williams had a job delivering death notices to families who had lost their loved ones to the war. The anguish and heart-break felt by these Gold Star families, families who have lost a loved one to a war, left a tremendous impact on Williams, and his respect for their sacrifice grew.

Williams, too, had his own story of loss.



President Harry Truman congratulates Hershel Williams on being awarded the Medal of Honor.

He’d had a friend as a boy named Leonard Brown, and they would walk to and from school together, elementary through high school. Brown joined up in the services, and Williams lost track of him, but after Williams had returned from the Pacific, he had learned that Brown had been killed in action. It was the memories of those deliveries and of Leonard that drove Williams to start his foundation.

“We needed to do something to recognize the sacrifice of the families and their loved ones. We did it primarily to honor our own West Virginians and then it began going viral throughout the country. They want to honor their families, too.” The foundation sets up Gold Star Memorials throughout the country with the names of lost loved ones and is now responsible for setting up over 33 Gold Star Family memorials throughout the United States with over 40 under construction in 36 states.

Today, Williams is honored throughout the

United States, including an honor granted by one of the highest ranking officers in the military, the Secretary of the Navy, who named T-ESB 4 (Expeditionary Sea Ship Base 4) the USNS Hershel “Woody” Williams mobile-base sea vessel. He is also honored in his own Fairmont, WV, with the only National Guard Facility to be named after a Marine, Hershel “Woody” Williams Armed Forces Reserve Center. He was also honored at the most recent Super Bowl, where he was the official coin tosser.

Williams, today, is one of only four living World War II Medal of Honor recipients and the only living recipient to have served in the Pacific Theatre of the war. Williams has a truly incredible story. It was his courage, pride in his country and respect that shined in every American heart during World War II. It was qualities like these that made America strong and great in times of trouble and qualities like these that make Marines. **SIF**

## Sources

Alexander, Joseph, Col. “The Battle of Iwo Jima: A 36-day Bloody Slog on a Sulfuric Island.” *Military Times*. Accessed March 29, 2018.

Corbin, Cristina. “Medal of Honor Recipient, 91, Works to Expand Monuments for Gold Star Families.” *Fox News*, Sept. 23, 2015.

“Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation.” Accessed Mar. 28, 2018.

Tuthill, Matt. “Living Legend: The Story of Hershel ‘Woody’ Williams.”

*Robert Irvine Magazine*, Nov. 10, 2017. Accessed Apr. 13, 2018.

Wilcox, Ralph. Phone Interview. April 4, 2018.

Williams, Hershel W. “Hershel ‘Woody’ Williams, WWII Medal of Honor Recipient, on surviving Iwo Jima.” Interview by Joe Gromelski. *Stars & Stripes*, Feb. 18, 2015, Accessed Mar. 23, 2018.

Williams, Hershel. Phone Interview. April 5, 2018.

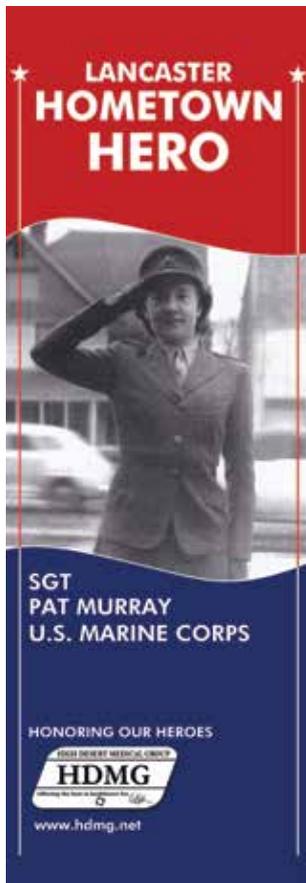
# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



The Cpl Gerald Max Rich Detachment 1352, Cache Valley, Logan, UT, distributed Toys for Tots to Shoshone children at the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation annual Tribal Meeting in Brigham City. Detachment members Commandant Duane Smith, Ernie Blankenship, Jerry Cokely and Michael Soholt posted the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Marine Veteran Pat Murray was recently featured on a banner in Lancaster, CA, with a photo taken at boot camp. She is a Life Member of Antelope Valley Detachment 930. On December 1, 2018, Pat turned 101 years old. The City of Lancaster created the "Hometown Hero Banner Program" in an effort to celebrate local military heroes who have served our nation to maintain our freedom. (Courtesy City of Lancaster)



Members of MCL 1284 Road Detachment at a pre-Christmas fundraiser for the wounded and needy on December 16, 2018. *Left to right:* Ed Clancy, Jim Lindsay, John Reimer, Tony Del Rocco and Joe Gonzalez.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



MODD Pound 288, Flint, MI, held its annual Children's Christmas Party on December 15, 2018. 27 children and their families attended. *Front row, left to right:* Jack Porn, Ron Anderson, Santa, PNC John Tuohy, Dave Clark. *Back row, left to right:* PNC Jim Tuohy, Jack Trosko, Ted Leclair, Warren Tracey, Bob Larson, George Granberry, Mike Mullally.



During an annual Coins for Kids event, UT Dixie Detachment 1270 members volunteer to help with the logistics of transporting toys and gifts December 18, 2018. JoAnn is in the truck receiving a gift bag from Steve Handy.



JC Paul Detachment 1448, South Central, KY, completed the 2018 Toys for Tots campaign. The detachment provided "A Little Christmas" to 2,976 low-income children, with 11,868 toys and 8,901 books. This is an 86% increase over the 2017 Campaign. Jr. Vice Commandant Connie Lee Taylor playing Santa.



Don Geesaman, Jr. Past Commandant, Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Detachment 524, Carlisle, PA, presents a certificate of appreciation to Tracie Rollins, Sales Mgr. for the Raddisson Hotel Harrisburg, PA, for its longstanding support of the Toys for Tots Program.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Commandant John Stump (*right*) presents Commander Carl Barr of the AmVets, Post 70 of Port Royal, SC, with a certificate of appreciation for the post's continuing, substantial support of the Yellow Footprints Detachment 1154's Dept. of South Carolina Marine Corps League.



*Above:* On January 9, MajGen William Mullen III, commanding general of the Training and Education Command, spoke with the USMCL 1062 of the Northern Neck of Kilmarnock, VA, of the current "state of the Corps." He was invited by MCL Commandant David Pere, who was in OTC with the General. Kevin Maloy, Dennis Spillane, Jason Heming, MajGen Mullen, Joanne Maloy (Associate), David Pere, John Balko Ken Latham and Robert Jones. *Left:* MajGen William Mullen III's greeting the photographer's service dog, Sgt Rusty!



The CT Women Marines Association (WMA) and the Young Marines from the Brass City Detachment in Waterbury, CT, partnered together on December 18, 2018, to present a check for over \$2,000 along with 4 bins of new socks and t-shirts for homeless veterans. Vince Santilli, CEO/Executive Director for "Homes for the Brave" in Bridgeport received the gifts on behalf of the residents. *Left to right:* Young Marine PFC Ryan Spring, Jennifer Jackson, Vince Santilli, Bill Spring, Jamie DePaola and Young Marine SSgt Tanner Linhard.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Oldest Marine Donald Swift and youngest Marine Antonio Agaya with Commandant Steve Chavez of Detachment 1204, Benson, AZ.



The JC Paul Detachment 1448, Whitley County, KY, was on hand to accept a check for \$545 from Center Target Firearms and Indoor Range for its Toys for Tots campaign. Center Firearms sponsored a pistol competition, and all proceeds went to the campaign. *Left to right:* Dan Smoot (Center Target), Greg Sims (Commandant), Cathy Sims (Paymaster/Adjutant) and Ken Hayes (Sr. Vice Commandant).



Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Detachment 1363 from Black River Falls, WI, Charter member (2010) #21 Bob Grassi attends his daughter Dani's graduation from 4th RTBN, Co. O, PLT 4001 on January 4, 2019. Dani is currently the youngest Marine for the Unit's Formal Birthday Ball set for November 9, 2019.



Detachment 1363 Black River Falls, WI, observed the Marines' 243rd birthday on November 12, 2018, at the request of a local Walmart in honor of an employee and Guest of Honor Delmar Dahl (in dress blues). Commandant Dennis Beattie narrates history before cutting cake. Korean War vet Dahl's picture is on the store Wall of Heroes. Store manager Josh (in blue) provided cake and beverages. Detachment members served employees and customers.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Capt. Jack Holland Detachment 735 presented a \$10,000 check to Mid-South Toys for Tots! Accepting the check is Carrol Howard, Ret. MSgt and Coordinator for Mid-South Toys for Tots.



Marines of the Jack Maas Detachment 1379, Fredericksburg, VA, pose for a group photo during their December 2018 meeting at the National Museum of the Marine Corps where they met for lunch at the Tun Tavern.



On January 9, 2019, the MODD Desoto Pound 377 ("ConquistaDawgs") of Bradenton, FL, gathered at its Pound Growl to advance Ret. Col Robert Warren age 95 to the degree of Devil Dog. Col Warren was a fighter pilot during World War II earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, flying F6F Hellcats at the battles of Okinawa and Saipan.



2018 Toys for Tots representative John Gingrich Sr. Commandant of Detachment 525 Lebanon, PA, has been coordinating Toys for Tots for 28 years. Pictured are Detachment 525 members, Leatherneck riders and volunteers.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



The Color Guard stands behind the World War II veterans as follows: Captain Llewelyn Jenkins, U.S. Army; Captain Vince Lacy USMC; Sgt Clyde Brandt USMC; Cpl Jerry Clarelli, U.S. Army; Cpl James Head, USMC; Cpl Mario Mobilia, U.S. Army; Corpsman Robert E. Morris; PFC Dennis Kavanaugh, USMC; and PFC Glen Thompson, USMC.



Eddie Cranford awarded the Marine Corps League Meritorious Commendation (Individual) by Detachment 1311, Woodstock, GA, for continually and directly contributing to the detachment's on-going success.



Walter Modler, Commandant, Treasure Valley Detachment 878, presents the Idaho State Veterans Home (Boise) with an MCL flag accepted by Amber Goodchild, representative of the home. The lightweight, single-sided flag was created for this event and is a replica of the national MCL flag.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



DeSoto County Veterans Park in Southaven, MS, honors all U.S. veterans, beginning with the Revolutionary War to the present War on Terror, including the Middle East & Caribbean Conflicts and also contains the flags and bronze emblems for each branch of the military.



Seven members of Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Detachment Black River Falls, WI, raise funds and recruit at a Gun Show. *Left to right:* Dennis Beattie, Jerry Kilde, Aubrey Olson and an IHC M1 Garand, Springfield 1911A1 and M1A. Three other members of the Landing Team were held in reserve.



Jr. Vice Commandant Ken "Doc" Honaker of the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 in Simi Valley, CA, presents a check from the detachment to Blake and Janet Steele on February 1, 2019. The Steeles have lost everything in the Woolsey Fire that ravaged Southern California in 2018.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



On January 5, 2019, UT Dixie Detachment 1270 presented the High School Coaches of the Year Awards to six veterans who are now High School coaches. Marine LtCol Jack Stanfill presents the "Bomber Jacket" to Utah Coach of the Year Les Hamilton of Summit Academy as Marines and fellow coaches look on.



*Left to right:* Thane Marshall from Milford High, Mike Grejake from South Summit High, Les Hamilton from Summit Academy, Jeremy Hill from Orem High, Erick Kjar from Comer Canyon High. Bart Brockbank of Loan Peak High was not present.



Toys for Tots 2018—SSgt Jean (Toys for Tots Coordinator) and Black Sheep 412 Commandant Lisa Solarczyk at the MWSS 472 Detachment, a Toys for Tots warehouse.



Black Sheep 412 Sr. Vice Commandant Frank Ciappio, Jr., with his service/therapy dog Crystal, which is also the Black Sheep 412 mascot, at the Black Sheep 412 Toys for Tots event at a Walmart in Pittson, PA.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Over 30 Marines and FMF Corpsmen, members of Lake County, IL, Detachment 801, participated in 10 Toys for Tots fundraising events in 2018 to raise \$16,000 which was presented on December 17, 2018, to Col Scott Gondek, Commanding Officer of MACG 48, Great Lakes, IL, and SSgt Potter, Toys for Tots Coordinator, on behalf of the Toys for Tots Program.

Commandant Dick Jennings of the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 offers a piece of birthday cake to the detachment's oldest member, Ms. Jean Irving, 95 years old who enlisted April 1943. Looking on is SgtMaj Ramona Cook (USMC Ret.) who was the guest speaker for the evening.



Pound 188's Pound Keeper Joseph Kier initiated Pup Robert M. Sundling (*left*) and advanced Pup Phil Amann (*right*) to Devil Dog at the Pound's Growl held in February 2019.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



From left to right: Emerald Empire Detachment Commandant Dave Huber; Emerald Empire Young Marines Cpl Austin W. Bradley; Austin's mother Jennifer Toney; Austin's step-father Victor Hansen; Austin's grandmother Sandy Toney; Austin's grandfather Mike Toney; and Emerald Empire Detachment Senior Vice Commandant Peter Bock (in attendance but not shown: Emerald Empire Young Marines Commander Brandon Mathews). The Jess M. Wise, Jr., Young Marine of The Year–2018 Award Presentation took place during Detachment 917's February 2019 monthly meeting. The Award citation was read by Detachment SVC Peter Bock, and the plaque was presented by Detachment Commandant Dave Huber to Emerald Empire Young Marines Cpl Austin W. Bradley. The Award was created by Emerald Empire Detachment 917 as a remembrance of our deceased member Jess M. Wise, Jr. Jess was a Charter Member of the detachment, a retired Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and a strong supporter of the Young Marines program. The Young Marine of each quarter receives a certificate, and the Young Marine chosen from those 4 receives the Young Marine of the Year Plaque.



The Bethlehem 284 and Lehigh Valley 296 Detachments 2018 Toys for Tots, Allentown, PA. Over 1200 families received toys.



Veteran Marines and volunteers helped on distribution day: Roz Schroeder, Jeff Weiner, Amy Zanelli, Carl Schroeder, Joe Malia, Bill Remo, Nick King, Colyer James, Fred Babcock and Rob Neill.

## Join Roll Call!

### ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES

Our new Roll Call Upload System is now live!

- Go to [semperfi.chipotlepublishing.com](http://semperfi.chipotlepublishing.com)
- Create an account using your email address, first name, last name and a password.
- Verify your account by clicking the link in the email our system sends to you.
- Log in, click on the "Upload Your Files" box and then follow instructions.
- You may also submit photos with short captions in email to [semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com](mailto:semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com).

**Captions**—Photo captions should briefly describe the event and list persons present in the photo(s) along with detachment number and location. Captions should be no longer than 60

words. Please do not include information about persons not present in the photo(s).

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

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



# NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PHILIP G. SHORT

## Ensuring continued progress made in last year's budget process

**MARINES:** As we enter into the Fiscal Year 2020 budget cycle, it is important to recognize that there is much to do to keep the 116th Congress focused on military defense and quality of life requirements. Significantly, the House of Representatives and Senate are split between political parties, which has added an additional dynamic into the passage of authorization and appropriations legislation—in a posture that the President will sign. The good news is that in the 116th Congress, more veterans serving than in some 20 years. There are 96 total veterans in the 116th Congress: 19 serve in the Senate, 77 serve in the House, and 48 served in the military after 2000. We have a duty to communicate with them to encourage them to support our legislative goals for the active, reserve, veteran, retiree communities and their families. Additionally, the 116th Congress includes nine first-term Senators and some 89 new Representatives—all of whom can benefit from our input on matters affecting the military.

As the President's FY2020 budget works through the House and Senate Armed Services Committees in the annual budget process, the Marine Corps League and its members must engage to ensure that the progress made in the last year's budget process is continued this year. As General Neller, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps says in his Message to the Force 2019:

"Continue the Attack. This year, I call on all of us to continue the attack—to advance on multiple lines of effort in preparation for future conflicts. We are in a fast-paced, exciting time in our Corps' history as we create additional specialties to fight in new domains, modernize our aging equipment, up our game in training against thinking foes, continue to take the fight to our Nation's adversaries and prepare for the unknowns of the future fight. We are responsible for remaining the Corps the Nation needs, expects and wants—we control our destiny. But we have to continue the attack because the only thing holding us back is ourselves."

While this strong advice and admonition is directed at the Active and Reserve Force components, it is very germane to the effort that we need to also apply in the legislative goals for the veterans, retirees and families in terms of quality of life.

There are specific areas that we need to focus on to support all service members and their families, whatever their status:

1. Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care. Access to quality care is paramount for all beneficiaries in TRICARE programs and the VA Community Network.



Likewise, ensuring the continued implementation of the VA MISSION Act by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is essential to fixing the "broken" parts of the VA health care system. Major health care and benefit system reforms have been implemented in recent years but require an ongoing commitment and investments to meet demand and ensure timely access.

2. Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently introduced, as a potential option, TRICARE For Life enrollment fees and minimum out-of-pocket requirements as ways the federal budget could escape red ink. Military retirees, through their service and sacrifice, have paid in full for their TRICARE For Life benefits.
3. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector. Any pay raise set by the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) must match the Employment Cost Index (ECI) increase of 3.1 percent—anything lower will make the pay gap wider.
4. Stop erosion of compensation and non-pay quality-of-life benefits. Other components of compensation are equally essential to recruiting and retaining the all-volunteer force. We must continue to oppose proposals to reduce compensation and undermine long-term retention.
5. Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts. Achieving pay and benefits parity with active duty forces is vital to recruiting, retaining and sustaining forces for the Guard and Reserve supporting our nation's defense strategy.
6. Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies. Military and veteran family quality of life is critical to recruiting and retaining the all-volunteer force. We must engage members of Congress and their staffers on the importance of military family readiness and issues affecting military and veteran families.

There is much to do to ensure that the prior year's progress is continued. You can find out more about the legislative priorities at the Marine Corps League website library at [mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org).

Until next time, leanin' forward in the trenches.

*Semper Fi!*

# BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA

## A Family's Solemn Journey

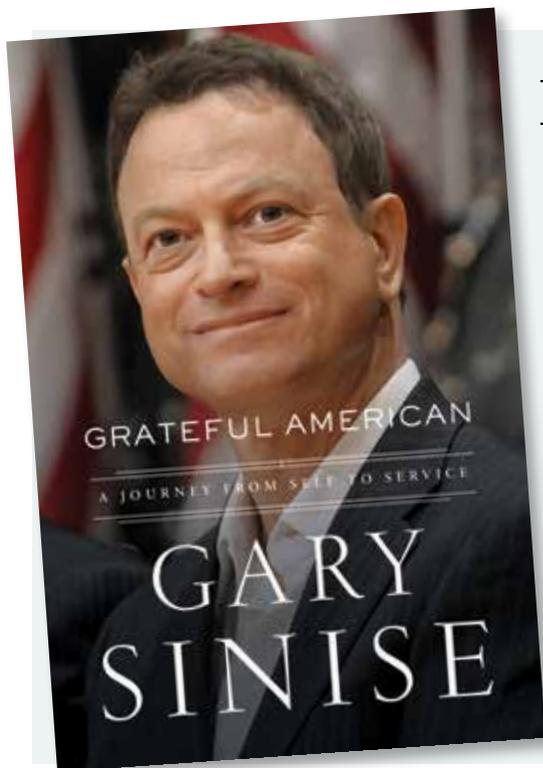
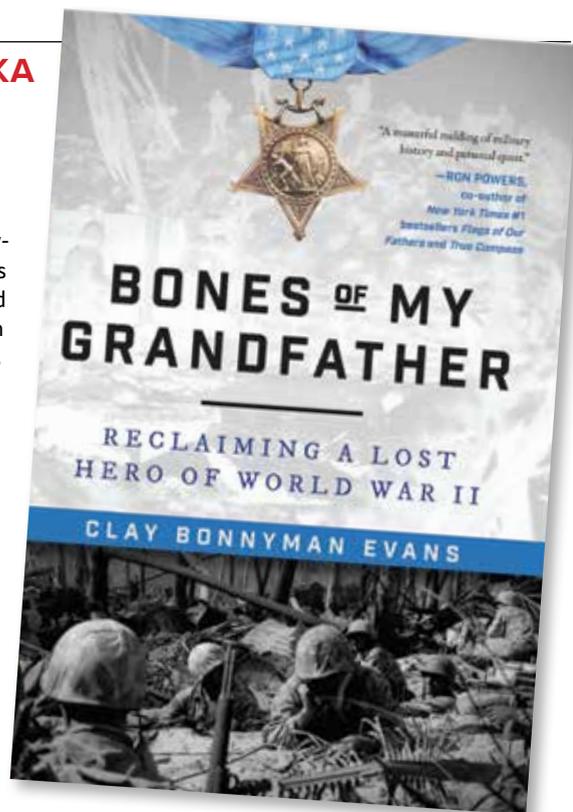
Simply put, this book is a “must read.” MOH recipient Alexander “Sandy” Bonnyman, Jr., Lt/USMC, was killed in action at Betio, Tarawa, 1943. Many Marines know this name and the place because we value the history of our Marine Corps. I have cherished the opportunity to experience this book from a different perspective. Clay Bonnyman Evans is the grandson of Alexander Bonnyman, and he takes us through the family's journey and his personal quest to locate and bring home his grandfather's remains. On September 27, 2015, with Marines from 8th and 1, Cobra helicopters overhead, Col Robert Couser and MajGen Burke Whitman in attendance, Lt Bonnyman was laid to rest in Knoxville, Tennessee (Evans, 2018). I was grateful that he was brought home, but after reading this book, I am deeply moved to know the honor, courage and commitment shown by this family.

God bless our Gold Star families. Semper Fidelis, Marines.

### ***Bones of My Grandfather*** ***Reclaiming a Lost Hero of World War II***

By Clay Bonnyman Evans

**Hardcover:** 300 pages  
**Publisher:** Skyhorse Publishing  
**Language:** English  
**ISBN:** 978-1-5107-3061-8



## Dedicated to Those Who Serve Our Country

**Moments in time guide our future**, often in ways we could never imagine. Gary Sinise shares with readers his life story and moments that lead to his tireless dedication to our service members. The actor, director and musician shares, “My mission is one of respect, of honor, of gratitude. ... It's a mission of serving other people. ... Of helping us never forget” (Sinise, 2019, page 270). This biography and autobiography explores the life of Gary Sinise, including playing in a band at an early age and how his career as an actor has provided a stage for music to serve our military.

### ***Grateful American—A Journey from Self to Service***

By Gary Sinise and Marcus Brotherton

**Hardcover:** 280 pages  
**Publisher:** Thomas Nelson Books  
**Language:** English  
**ISBN:** 978-1-4002-0812-8

### **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

# THE SEMPER FI STORE

(703) 207-9588 [www.mclnational.org/store](http://www.mclnational.org/store)



## Wooden Gavel

Item Code: G09

Price: \$24.00

Description: Wooden Gavel with Engraving Plate



## MCL Patch (Not a Uniform Item)

Item Code: Patch05

Price: \$2.00

Description: Round MCL Patch Black and White



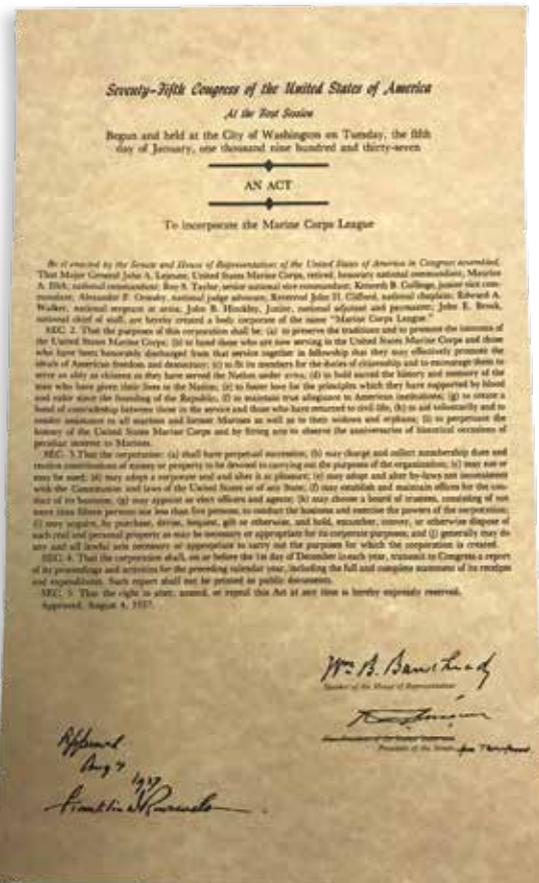
## Lapel Pin

Item Code: J13A

Price: \$4.50

Description: 5 Years

Service Lapel Pin



## EGA Lapel Pin

Item Code: J09

Price: \$5.00

Description: EGA Lapel Pin



## Blank Cards

Item Code: Card03

Price: \$12.00

Description: Blank Stationary Cards

## MCL Charter

Item Code: S15

Price: \$1.00

Description: Copy of Marine Corps League National Charter

# THE SEMPER FI STORE

(703) 207-9588 [www.mclnational.org/store](http://www.mclnational.org/store)



## MCL Jacket

**Item Code:** Wa116

**Price:** Prices vary with sizes

**Description:** Lightweight Black and Red Jacket. Comes with MCL Patcho6 on Back. Sizes include:

- SM** \$55.00
- MD** \$55.00
- LG** \$55.00
- XL** \$55.00
- 2XL** \$59.00
- 3XL** \$60.00
- 4XL** \$62.00



## Dress Vest

**Item Code:** U28A

**Price:** \$45.00

**Description:** Gold Dress Vest Size Fits All 37"-49"

**Item Code:** U28B

**Price:** \$45.00

**Description:** Gold Dress Vest Size 2XL 50"-60"



## Blazer Crest Patches

**Item Code:** U23A, U24A, U26A

**Price:** \$12.00

**Description:** Regular Member Blazer Crest Patch; Life Member Blazer Crest Patch; Life Member/Past Commandant Blazer Crest Patch



## Blazer Crest Holder

**Item Code:** Wa25A

**Price:** \$5.00

**Description:** Blazer Crest Holder, Small, Made for U23 and U23A

**Item Code:** Wa25B

**Price:** \$7.00

**Description:** Blazer Crest Holder, Large, Made for U24, U24A, U26 and U26A



## Cummerbund

**Item Code:** U27

**Price:** \$29.00

**Description:** Five-Pleat Gold Cummerbund



## Membership Ribbon

**Item Code:** M13bar

**Price:** \$1.25

**Description:** Membership Ribbon



## White Gloves

**Item Code:** Gloves

**Price:** \$5.00 (SM-XL)

**Description:** White Slip-on Gloves

# THE SEMPER FI STORE

# ORDER FORM

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

**Delivery Address**

**Billing Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Street**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City State Zip Code**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Street**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City State Zip Code**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number**

Code#	Quantity	Item Description	Size	Price	Total Cost

HANDLING & POSTAGE	
AMOUNT OF ORDER.....	CHARGE
UNDER \$10.....	\$6.99
\$10.01-\$25.00.....	\$7.99
\$25.01-\$35.00.....	\$9.99
\$35.01-\$50.00.....	\$10.99
\$50.01-\$65.00.....	\$11.99
\$65.01-\$85.00.....	\$12.99
\$85.01-\$100.00.....	\$13.99
\$100.01-\$200.00.....	\$15.99
\$200.01 AND UP.....	\$17.99
<b>STANDARD SHIPPING:</b> Shipping and handling charges for orders with Standard Shipping are calculated using the <b>SUBTOTAL</b> of the order. Some very heavy or oversized items may have a shipping surcharge which will be reflected in the item description.	

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

WE GLADLY ACCEPT

VISA       MASTERCARD

DISCOVER       AMERICAN EXPRESS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CVV NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_\*

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL	_____
6.0% VA SALES TAX VIRGINIA RESIDENTS ONLY	_____
HANDLING & POSTAGE	_____
TOTAL	_____

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

# From Iwo Jima to You

Mike Huttner

Commandant, NW Suburban MCL 80

**93**-year-old Elwood (Woody) Hughes is a Marine, a WWII survivor and a longstanding member of Northwest Suburban Detachment 80 in Arlington Heights, Illinois. He is also an eyewitness to the flag-raising at Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, February 23, 1945.

Here is Woody's handwritten account of that fateful day:

*"On February 19, 1945, military forces of the U.S. invaded the Japanese island of Iwo Jima. Four days later, on February 23, an American flag was raised on Mt. Suribachi showing a conquest of that part of the island. On that date, I was on duty with HQ Company/5th Marines at the edge of Motoyama Airfield #1, Keller E. Rockey, commanding. I was assigned to take and deliver messages by foot or jeep to the regimental or battalion commands. Thus, my title was 'runner.' I had other duties within the command center and similar duties during the Battle of Saipan under Holland M. Smith, commanding. I have even delivered an urgent message for translation by one of the Navajo Code Talkers.*

*On the morning of February 23, word had spread that Chandler Johnson, CO of Combat*

## A Survivor's Story

*"The flag may have been too small, and so, Commander Johnson ordered a larger flag to replace the smaller original."*

*Team 28, had ordered a patrol to ascend Suribachi and secure the summit. With this order he gave the patrol a U.S. flag with instructions to 'Plant this flag when you reach the top.'*

*From my vantage that morning, I could see the small figures making their way up the mountain. Sometime later I heard loud cheering and the sound of ships offshore blowing*



**Elwood 'Woody' Hughes**

*their horns. Marines everywhere were banging their mess gear and their helmets as we looked up to see our flag standing tall at the top of Suribachi. I joined in the cheering!!*

*The flag may have been too small, and so, Commander Johnson ordered a larger flag to replace the smaller original. Once the larger was found, a photo of the Marines raising Old Glory was also taken. That photo would become an instant sensation in the news and soon after become an icon of the Marine Corps, itself!"*

**—Elwood (Woody) Hughes**  
Life Member, Northwest Suburban Detachment 80

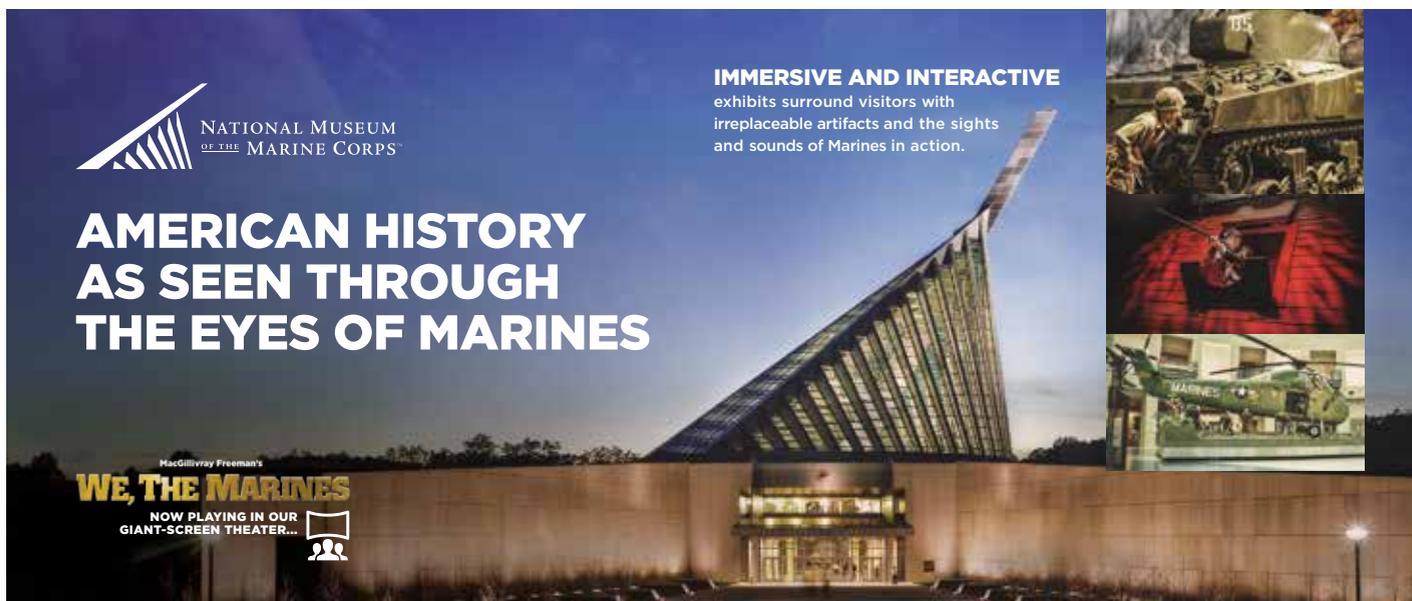


**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS**

## AMERICAN HISTORY AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF MARINES

MacGillivray Freeman's **WE, THE MARINES**  
NOW PLAYING IN OUR GIANT-SCREEN THEATER...

**IMMERSIVE AND INTERACTIVE**  
exhibits surround visitors with irreplaceable artifacts and the sights and sounds of Marines in action.





## ALABAMA

JIM CLARK  
LARRY GILLIAM  
ROBERT GUESNARD  
DANIEL J. LONG  
JOHN SHORES  
RALPH W. SNOWDEN  
CHARLES E.  
THOMPSON

## ALASKA

JIM DRESS

## ARIZONA

EDWARD J. FLEMING  
THOMAS MCINERNEY

## CALIFORNIA

VINCENT L. ANDERSON  
JOHN A. BAXTER  
RALPH E. BRYN  
LEON N. DAMEWOOD  
JENNIE W. DILLEY  
STAN DIXON  
ELWOOD D. FARRA  
THEODORE G.

KATSOUNAKIS  
ROBERT E. KENNEDY  
LOIS J. MATTES  
JOSEPH S. MITCHELL  
ALBERT F. MORALES  
JESSE SANTILLAN  
MICHAEL W. SHERIDAN  
RALPH H. WILSON

## COLORADO

RALPH BOEHNER  
CHARLES SUMNER

## CONNECTICUT

RONALD R. BOEHM  
HOWARD L. BURLING II  
FRANK J. KINNEY  
THOMAS R. MERCER  
RALPH L. MOREO  
GEORGE W. SCHAEFER  
ANTHONY VILLAGGIO  
RICHARD E. WEARNE

## DELAWARE

ROBERT I. HORENSKY

## FLORIDA

CALVIN W. ATWOOD  
JOHN L. BOLTON  
ROBERT W. CHESTER  
THOMAS L. COLE  
VALENTINE J.

CRESCENTINI  
EUGENE T. CULLIGAN  
BILL P. CUMBAA  
WALTER T. DARTLAND  
THOMAS W. DEAL  
CHRISTIAN GOMEZ  
STEVE H. JONES  
HERBERT S. KUHN  
HUGH D. MAHONEY  
GEORGE W. MANGOLD  
ARTHUR R. MEYER  
STEVEN E. MICKELSON  
CHARLES D. PHILLIPS  
STEPHEN J. REDEN  
PAUL SALYER  
JAN ANTHONY

SLESINSKI  
MATHEW A. SLOVAK  
NICHOLAS P.  
SVETAHOR  
ROBERT W. THOMSON  
EUGENE S. WOLFE

ROBERT W. THOMSON  
EUGENE S. WOLFE

## GEORGIA

BOBBY C. BLAIR  
GWENDOLYN CROSBY  
SAM DARDEN  
JIMMY LEE EVANS  
F. JERRY HAIRSTON  
GEORGE C. HITCHCOCK  
LAWRENCE E. SIMPSON  
EVERETT A. STEWART

## IDAHO

CLYDE E. SCHLAICK

## ILLINOIS

RICHARD BARTOLOTTI  
RALPH T. FLEISCHMAN  
FRED FRANKVILLE  
HERBERT C. KRUEGER  
ROBERT E. MOTTI

A. GEORGE PRADEL  
WILLIAM F. SMITH

## INDIANA

CHARLES J. ADAMS  
JOHN ARVOY  
WALTER BISKUPSKI  
JERRY L. FULLER  
DUSTY HUBSTER  
JAMES M. LAUGHMAN  
KENNETH E.

MOREHEAD  
DAVID E. OBERLE  
JASON RHODES  
LOUIS F. STANKO  
DON R. STITES  
JOHN M. SWAIN  
DONALD C. SWINDLE

## KANSAS

GODFREY L. BULGER  
JOHN R. GALLAGHER  
RICHARD E. JONES  
JAMES M. SHIELDS

## KENTUCKY

JAMES R. FENNELL  
NEAL M. GORDON  
PAUL A. HERRON  
ROBERT P. JOHNSON  
MERLE R. LIKINS

## MAINE

ALTON R. GRANT  
ANN HORNE MARIE  
FRANCIS E. KINSEY  
RAYMOND LEMIEUX  
JOSEPH UHRIN

## MARYLAND

WALTER E. FLETCHER

## MASSACHUSETTS

WILLIAM M. AHEARN  
WILLIAM S. BAILEY  
ANDREW L. CARNEGIE  
MORRIS D. CAVE  
JOSEPH P. DEAN  
WILLIAM E. FREEMAN  
WILLIAM F. MAHONEY  
JOSEPH D. MCCLOSKEY

SALVATOR MISTRETTA  
ANTHONY R. MUNROE

EDWARD O'TOOLE  
RALPH PELLECHIA  
STEWART J. RALPH  
BERTRAM RUSSELL  
EDWARD T. SHEA  
LEONARD SHERRY  
MARTIN J. TESSIER  
WILFRED A.

VAILLANCOURT

## MICHIGAN

RICHARD ALWOOD  
BRAMUEL H. BELCHER  
JOHN W. CLARK  
ROBERT L. COOK  
MELVIN A. CRAMER  
JAMES R. DOYLE  
RICHARD D. FLYNN  
STEVEN E. FRANKLIN  
ROBERT R. GODWIN

GARY R. GROSS  
ARTHUR IACONELLI  
WILLIAM M. KING  
WILLIAM S. LEAMAN  
HOWARD J. LINTON  
RENE P. LIPPENS  
ALDO MATERAZZI  
JAMES MOHN  
DON J. MOONEY  
JEFFREY L. MOORE  
THOMAS A. TOWSLEY  
KENNETH A.  
WOODRUFF

## MINNESOTA

CLINTON C. FLADLAND  
DALE A. HANLEY  
L.L. HASSIE  
DAVID A. HOLMGREN  
DONALD LEE MORSE

## MISSISSIPPI

ALBERT C. EASTIN  
THOMAS C. JONES  
DICK R. KINSER  
GERALD MCGATH

## MISSOURI

ABIGAIL G.K. CLARK  
LAWRENCE W. GETZ  
ROBERT C. HANNEKE  
RALPH R. HUBER  
ELLROY M. MARTY  
TERRIAL W. MAYBERRY  
WILLIAM J. OLIVER  
TED PODGORN  
ALBERT D. ROSELER  
JAMES J. SCOTT

LEO D. SHIRLEY  
ROGER STURDEVANT  
WILLIAM H. WALKER

## MONTANA

WALLY HAMMETT

## NEBRASKA

MELVIN H. SCHWANKE  
JOHN E. WILSON

## NEVADA

JAMES D. CHILDRESS  
JAMES E. GRACH  
RONALD D. MOSNER

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

ROBERT KEITH  
WILLIAM A. MCBRIDE  
JOHN PAGLIERANI

## NEW JERSEY

GEORGE H. CARR III  
LEON CARTER  
WILLIAM J. CARY  
ROBERT J. CUMMINGS  
WILLIAM G. DAVIS  
RICHARD G. DESMOND  
CHARLES E. DINATALE  
ROBERT E. EGAN  
MICHAEL GUADAGNO  
GEORGE D. HIGGINS  
LOUIS K. HOUMIS  
CHARLES E.

KOROSTYNSKI  
CLARENCE L.

MANZIANO  
JOHN MAZIEKIN  
NORMAN W. MENZ

WILLIAM T. MORLEY  
 JAMES S. OXLEY  
 PAUL H. RAFI  
 FRANK SABAT  
 RALPH J. SHIPLEY  
 GEORGE F. STUART  
**NEW YORK**  
 WILLIAM S. ADAMS  
 ANTHONY ANATRIELLO  
 JOHN BERNARDO  
 RANDALL BERNAT  
 DANIEL E. BLASZAK  
 CHARLES F. BOYD  
 MILTON BRYNIN  
 GERALD M. CHMIEL  
 PATRICK J. COLBERT  
 DAVID M. CORRELL  
 ROBERTA L. D'AMATO  
 VINCENT J. DESANTIS, JR.  
 FRANK R. DESANTIS  
 GARY DONNELLY  
 GENO P. EGIZIACO  
 JOSEPH C. FEBBIE  
 PHILIP J. FITCH  
 JAMES GALVIN  
 THOMAS F. HIGGINS  
 HENRY T. HUDSON  
 EDWARD O. INGERSOLL  
 RICHARD B. JONES  
 RAYMOND F. KELLY  
 RAYMOND KITCHEN  
 DELBERT  
 KNICKERBOCKER  
 JOHN A. LICHT  
 JOHN MACURA  
 FREDERICK J. MATULA  
 RICHARD M. MELDRUM  
 GUY V. MOLINARI  
 PHILIP D. MOTTOLA  
 JAMES V. MULVANEY  
 MARY ELLEN F.  
 MURPHY  
 FRANK J. MURPHY  
 KENNETH J. O'BRIEN  
 WILLIAM J. O'KANE  
 RICHARD J. PETERS  
 SOLOMON C. PHIFER  
 GEORGE A. PORTER  
 CRISPIN PROTO  
 THADDEUS M. PYSZ  
 RONALD B. RAGO  
 BENEDICT P. REYES  
 CARLTON RICHARDSON  
 PAT RUFFINO  
 JAMES SANTAMOUR  
 COLLIN J. SCHAFF  
 CLIFFORD SEMERAD  
 EMILY SHCHUR  
 ANTHONY VERDI  
 DONALD J. WANNICKI  
 KENNETH WATSON

JOHN W. WEIDERMAN  
 WILLIAM E. WHITE  
 LOUIS M. WITHIAM  
 CHESTER N. ZIELINSKI  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
 LAWRENCE J. ASHTON  
 EDWIN J. CANTER  
 DONALD B. COFFEY  
 JOHN R. COLTRANE  
 LOUIS M. DIGREGORIO  
 WILLIAM C. HARRIS, JR.  
 CONRAD W.  
 HEMINGWAY  
 MERLE J. MINOR  
 CHARLES MICHAEL  
 PAINTER  
 WYVONNA P. RING  
 THOMAS W. RING  
 VICTOR E. SIZEMORE  
 DENNIS R. THOMPSON  
 RICKY J. THOMPSON  
**OHIO**  
 EDWARD ANDRZEJCZYK  
 ELBERT  
 BLANKENBECKLEY  
 FRANK E. BRADY  
 JOSEPH V. DESALVO  
 KENNETH R.  
 DOUGHERTY  
 JAMES F. GRIFFIN  
 BARBARA C. KRUSE  
 PAT LIPPIELLO  
 WAYNE O. MAURER  
 JAMES MURRAY  
 MICHAEL J. PENYAK  
 FLOYD E.  
 PUFFENBERGER  
 CHARLES O.  
 REICHELDERFER  
 LEONARD SOBIE  
 GRIFFITH V. THOMAS  
 STANLEY E. WEIGMAN  
 ROBERT E. WITTMUSS  
**OKLAHOMA**  
 JOE BEAUCHESNE  
 ROY G. GLENN  
 WILLIAM E. GOTCHER  
 THOMAS J. KECK  
**OREGON**  
 EUGENE L. COX  
 HERBERT E. ROBB  
 ROBERT J. SHINE  
**PENNSYLVANIA**  
 ROBERT J. BARTOSH  
 JOHN K. BENSON  
 WILLIAM G. BILLET  
 JOHN F. BOTCHIE  
 CURTIS T. BROBST  
 RICHARD COLEMAN  
 DONALD J. CROSS

BASIL CUTTIC  
 RICHARD  
 DOBRADENKA  
 JAMES ELLIOTT  
 WILLIAM J. FERGUSON  
 CHARLES GREEN  
 ROBERT D. GREENING  
 WALTER E. GREGG  
 JOHN D. HILLS  
 RONALD L. HUGHES  
 LEO HUNDERTMARK  
 GEORGE KOPESTONSKY  
 EDWARD W. KUNIGONIS  
 WALTER G. LAZUSKY  
 HOWARD W. LEE  
 RICHARD L. MACIALEK  
 JOHN P. MALAY  
 LEO A. MCCARTHY  
 JOHN W. MCKNIGHT  
 RALPH L. MYERS  
 GERARD J. NEIDERER  
 JESSE NEIL  
 JOSEPH G. OPFERMAN  
 LEON C. PAULUS  
 ROBERT W. PRICE  
 DONALD F. RUTH  
 THOMAS SIMRELL  
 ROY SMITH  
 FRANK S. STAWECKI  
 SHARON L. STERLING  
 FRANKLIN C.  
 STRAUSSER  
 JAMES E. TOLOMAY  
 GEORGE J. VOYER  
 MICHAEL J. WILLIAMS  
 WILLIAM H. WINKLER  
 CHARLES E. ZELLNER  
 JACK G. ZURLINI  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
 JOHN J. DOHERTY  
 FRANK A. HUEY  
 JIM LEARD  
 GARY C. MORGAN  
 FRANK B. RINCHICH  
 JOSEPH S. WHITESIDE  
**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
 DONALD L. KLUCK  
 RICHARD O. PEARSON  
**TEXAS**  
 HAROLD E. BISCAMP  
 WILLIAM E. BLOCK  
 DONALD H. BUNNELL  
 DENNIS CAMPBELL  
 WILMA DANNHAUS  
 REV. DIEBEL R. THOMAS  
 WAYNE B. DOLIVE  
 PAUL ELIZONDO  
 BILL D. ERCK  
 LLOYD M. FISHER  
 CHARLES R. HORTON

## A Great Marine Reassigned to His Maker

**Northeast Detachment 304** recently lost a great Marine to his new duty assignment with the Supreme Commandant in December 2018. Howard William Lee Jr. MSgt/USMC (Ret.) (we called him "Top Lee") was dedicated to serving. He became a life member of the detachment (Scranton, PA) in 2006 and brought with him the drive of *carpe diem*.

Top Lee could have attended college at Ohio State with a football scholarship but chose to go to Parris Island instead. He served two tours in Vietnam and then went on recruiting duty. Top Lee is credited with recruiting over 600 Marines. While working at the Pentagon, he met his future wife, Carol. They enjoyed 59 years of marriage together. He retired with 22 years of Marine Corps service.

Top Lee was very active after retirement. He was instrumental in forming a local motorcycle group called, "The Friends of the Forgotten" to raise awareness of POW/MIA issues. He enjoyed participating in Civil War reenactments serving in both Union and Confederate armies.

Rest easy Brother, we have the watch.

**Semper Fi!**

**Joel Sofranko - Commandant, Detachment 304**

REXA A. JACK  
 WILLIAM V. MANBECK  
 JOSE C. MARTINEZ  
 WILLIAM T. MCGRAW  
 JOHN C. MURPHY  
 BRETT T. NORRIS  
 DAVID L. PENWELL  
 PETER B. SAN  
 PAUL M. SHEEHAN  
 J.D. TAYLOR  
 GORDON THIBODEAUX  
 DAVID B. TUCKER  
 HOBERT L. WAMPLER  
 GEORGIA WOMACK  
**VIRGINIA**  
 BERNARD L. BARAK  
 WILLIAM J. BAUDREAU  
 FRED C. ELLIS  
 RICHARD H. ESAU  
 DAVID L. HELLUMS  
 GEORGE E. MAY  
 LARRY L. MILLER  
 ROBERT H. MOORE  
 FRED A. SMITH  
 DAVID H. STEEL  
 ELMER E. WALTERS  
 WARWICK R. WEST  
 JOHN T. YANVARY

**WASHINGTON**  
 THOMAS A. BASKIN  
 WARREN J. BUTLER  
 DON KELLY  
 BOB L. MCDANIELS  
 JOSEPH H. MELANSON  
 BETTE ROBERTS  
 ARTHUR D. RYALS  
**WEST VIRGINIA**  
 PAUL W. AUBREY  
 THOMAS A. DRAKE  
 RUSSELL E. LEONARD  
 ROY E. WOOD  
**WISCONSIN**  
 VERNON W. BERG, JR.  
 RICHARD G. FLOOD  
 HOWARD E. LEPINE  
**WYOMING**  
 RICHARD C. DAVIS  
**CANADA**  
 THEODORE J. MAROUN

### 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.

# NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**BUTCH RAYNES**

## Uniform Code – The Marine Corps League Cover

**MARINES:** In continuance of the Winter edition of *Semper Fi*, I'd like to delve more into the Marine Corps League cover. As previously stated, many photos have been found with MCL members wearing the wrong uniform and wearing various items on the uniform that are NOT authorized for wear. Before submitting photos to *Semper Fi* magazine, be sure that members of your detachment are in compliance with the Uniform Code – Marine Corps League, Enclosure 3, which was designed to preserve the respect and dignity of The Marine Corps League and the United States Marine Corps.

The basic uniform of the Marine Corps League is the cover. When



MCL members are wearing the appropriate cover, they are considered to be in uniform. You **MUST** have an MCL cover to enter meetings. NO exceptions to this unless otherwise authorized by the Detachment, Department, Division or National Commandant. Other types of covers are not authorized at MCL functions or meetings. We are seeing more MCL members with pins and devices of all kinds on their covers. If you have them

### COVER GUIDE

#### LETTERING

Lettering should be 3/8in in height with 1/4in spacing between lines. Maximum of 3 lines can be used. ALL lettering should be in CAPITALS. Bottom line has 3 options: DETACHMENT or DEPARTMENT or LOCATION (e.g. CITY, STATE or COUNTY, STATE) The typeface to be used is **FRANKLIN GOTHIC MEDIUM CONDENSED**. Type shall be set at 3/8in in height (typeface allows the use of longer words).

#### LIFE

Can be either in the name of a **NAME STRIP** or **DIRECT EMBROIDERY**. If the word LIFE is used, it is placed as shown.

For neatness, 1/2in from the rear of the cover, 1/4in below the braid.

#### LIFE MEMBER STRIP

This will be worn the same as the identification strips and placed above the other strips (e.g. COMMANDANT, SR VICE COMMANDANT, etc.) with 1/4in spacing between strip and/or line.



#### CENTERING

Lettering should be **CENTERED** between the rear of the cover and front braid (this would allow for future placement of the MODD patch if needed).

on your cover, please remove them as they do not belong there.

- The only insignia "authorized for wear" on the Marine Corps League Cover is the 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" Anodized Solid Gold Color or Polished Brass Marine Corps Emblem (ENLISTED STYLE ONLY) on the left side.
- American Flag pins, Marine Corps pins, Marine Corps League pins, Chaplain/cross pins, Corpsman pins, Honor Guard pins, division/unit pins, rank pins, wings, badges or any other types of pins or devices of any kind (aviation, parachutist, explosive ordnance disposal and diving) are **NOT** authorized for wear.
- The Devil Dog patch, if authorized, will be worn up front on the right side of the cover.
- The identification strips, i.e., Department or Detachment strip, or embroidering, will be centered on the right side. If the "LIFE" strip is worn, it will be to the rear of the right side. The "LIFE MEMBER" strip will be worn the same as the identification strips are worn and should be worn above other strips.

Once A Marine, Always A Marine. We took great pride when we wore the Marine Corps uniform and followed the rules and regulations on its proper wear. We should also take great pride when we wear the Marine Corps League uniform and follow the rules and regulations that are outlined in the Marine Corps League Uniform Code – Marine Corps League, Enclosure Three.

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

## Non-Profit Group Seeks to Preserve Military Musical Culture

**The Band of America's Few, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of veteran and active duty Marine Corps musicians. Our members join together in camaraderie to preserve and advance the musical culture of the United States Marine Corps and United States military bands through exemplary performance and patriotic and community enriching service work. Past notable events include the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo;



Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation Leatherneck Ball; Columbus, OH Honor Flight for the Military Order of the Purple Heart; United States Air Force Memorial; National Museum of the Marine Corps; Fortissimo on Parliament

Hill, Ottawa, Canada; and the largest VFW Post in the world, the General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller VFW Post 1503.

What makes Band of America's Few truly remarkable is that we do not have a "home" or regular rehearsal location. Our members volunteer their time to "give back" to our country by traveling to a performance location. After a day or so of practice, we perform at events such as patriotic concerts, parades, ceremonies, and military funerals and tattoos.

As a non-profit organization, Band of America's Few relies on the generosity of its members and donors to help promote our mission. You can learn more about Band of America's Few by following us on Facebook or going to our website at **bandofamericafew.com**. *SIF*

### Upcoming Shows

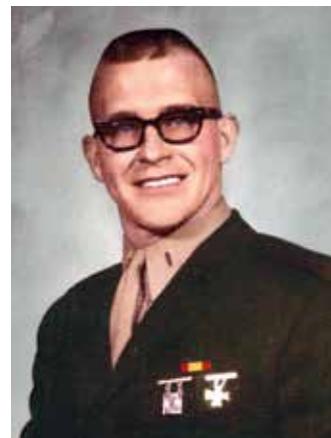
**Heroes Among Us**  
Free Patriotic Concert  
May 26, 2019  
2:00pm

**Webster University**  
Community  
Music School  
535 Garden Avenue  
Webster Groves,  
MO 63119  
bandofamericafew.com

# BLAST FROM THE PAST



January 26, 1969, official Marine Corps photo taken by PFC C.E. Sickler, Jr., at Fire Support Base Razor. Lee Roy is in the right foreground, wearing glasses and holding a small Bible in his left hand. He had traveled over 10 miles of enemy terrain from his assigned Fire Support Base Shiloh just to attend this makeshift church service. A copy of it hangs in the National Museum of the Marine Corps on a wall that honors chaplain service in Vietnam.



Lee Roy in his dress greens, shortly after he had completed Marine Corps officers' basic school in early 1968. Photo provided by Herron family.

## Vietnam Church Service

**A copy of this photo** of a church service from Vietnam is at the top of a wall at the National Museum of the Marine Corps that honors chaplain service during Vietnam. The chaplain in the photograph is now-retired Navy Captain Salvatore Rubino.

The Marine wearing glasses in the right foreground, 1stLt Lee Roy Herron, was

killed in action on February 22, 1969, and received the Navy Cross posthumously. Lee Roy was a close friend of Captain David Nelson's throughout their school years in Lubbock, Texas, and it was Lee Roy who convinced him to join the Marine Corps in 1965. His commanding officer in Vietnam was then 1stLt Wes Fox, and

Fox received the Medal of Honor for his actions in the same battle in which Herron was killed. Fox wrote the Navy Cross citation for Herron.

Mr. Nelson is a current member of the Marine Corps League, who was discharged as a Marine Captain in late December 1973. [SIF](#)

## “AMERICA’S SOUL”

Gary Manning

*One sows for the benefit of another age (ND).*

*By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty (MA); thus always to tyrants (VA). Ever upward (NY), we cherish liberty and independence (DE), strive for equal rights (WY) and pursue justice for all (DC).*

*Maine declared, “I lead,” and Maryland professed strong deeds, gentle words. Alaska prompted us north to the future. Guam boasts it is where America’s day begins, and the citizens of the Northern Marianas are proud to live in a land in the middle of the sea.*

*Our gold and silver (MT), inscribed with In God We Trust (FL), is a reminder to the generations that there is nothing without the Deity (CO). He who transplanted still sustains (CT).*

*America, by virtue, liberty and independence (PA), she flies with her own wings (OR) to preserve state sovereignty, national union (IL).*

*The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness (HI), like rays of hope (RI) emanating from the crossroads of America (IN). If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you in Michigan, and on to Minnesota, star of the north. Our West Virginia mountaineers are always free. A faith pillar to Puerto Rico, John is his name.*

*I have found it (CA) to be, rather to seem, (NC) that God enriches (AZ) when the people rule (AR). Work conquers all (OK), and America’s industry (UT), agriculture and commerce (TN) have thrived. We have been blessed with liberty and prosperity (NJ) and friendship (TX). Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law (MO) and may every American have equality before the law (NE).*

*United in pride and hope (VI), tempered by wisdom, justice and moderation (GA), we move forward to the stars through difficulty (KA). Let it be perpetual (ID).*

*Under God, the people rule (SD) with union, justice and confidence (LA). With God all things are possible (OH) as we dare defend our rights (AL) and our freedom and unity (VT). All for our country (NV), it grows as it goes (NM).*

*By valor and arms (MS), our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain (IA).*

*While I breathe, I hope (SC), prepared in mind and resources (SC) to live free or die (NH).*

*Let God be first (American Samoa) as we move forward (WI) and into the bye and bye (WA), ever mindful that united we stand, divided we fall (KY).*

Presented to Daughters of the American Revolution, Oneonta Chapter November 10, 2018.

# 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.

**First Marine Air Wing Association—Vietnam Service** is having this year's reunion in Washington, DC, on June 13-16, 2019. For information contact Al Frater at teanal@optonline.net or 201-906-1197.

**Marine Corps: Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Vietnam Veterans Reunion (1965-1970)** at the Holiday Inn San Diego Bay-side, San Diego, CA, 92106, June 20-24, 2019. Contact Dan Steiner, 618-567-4077 or email him at dsteiner49@yahoo.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



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

## 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](mailto:Director@IwojimaAssociation.org).

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](http://montfordpointmarines.org) or call the convention director, Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant USMC (Ret.) Ron Johnson at 504-202-8552.

## Marine Corps Engineer Association

**(MCEA) Reunion and Awards Banquet**, September 12-14, 2019, Hilton Inn & Conference Center, San Antonio, TX. POC: Maj Charlie Dismore USMC (Ret.) at 512-394-9333 or visit [marcorengasn.org](http://marcorengasn.org).

**Basic School MCB 3-68 Reunion** to be held September 19-22, 2019, Quantico, VA. Contact Norm Hapke at 619-249-2281 or [nhapke@cox.net](mailto:nhapke@cox.net) for more information.

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

## EVENT CALENDAR

### 2019

**Marine South Expo**  
April 11-12  
MCB Camp Lejeune, NC  
[marinemilitaryexpos.com](http://marinemilitaryexpos.com)

**Department of West Virginia 2019 Conference**  
May 18-20  
Morgantown, WV  
[mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)

**Mideast Division Conference**  
June 21-23  
Princeton, WV  
[mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)



**96th National Convention**  
August 4-9  
Billings, MT  
[mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)

**National Montford Point Marine Association 2019 Convention**  
August 28-31  
Charlotte, NC  
[mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)

**Modern Day Marine Expo**  
September 17-19  
MCB Quantico, VA  
[marinemilitaryexpos.com](http://marinemilitaryexpos.com)

### 2020

**Marine West Expo**  
February 6-7  
MCB Camp Pendleton, CA  
[mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)



# 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;<sup>1</sup> or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon, authorized for FMF Corpsmen; or have served or are currently serving as a U. S. Navy Chaplain and have earned the FMF Badge serving with Marines; If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge Indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

(<sup>1</sup>Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws, Article 6, Section 600)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Sponsor where applicable) Applicant's Signature (see reverse side)

© 2019 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, INC.  
 For Official Marine Corps League use only.  
 All other use is prohibited.

**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.**

Amount

Sponsor's Signature

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
 Incorporated by Act of Congress, August 4, 1937  
 Temporary Membership Card and Receipt  
 This will certify that



is a member in good standing of

This card is good for a period of sixty days from



# 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;<sup>1</sup> or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon, authorized for FMF Corpsmen; or have served or are currently serving as a U. S. Navy Chaplain and have earned the FMF Badge serving with Marines; If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge Indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

(<sup>1</sup>Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws, Article 6, Section 600)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Sponsor where applicable) Applicant's Signature (see reverse side)

© 2019 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, INC.  
 For Official Marine Corps League use only.  
 All other use is prohibited.

**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.**

Amount

Sponsor's Signature

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
 Incorporated by Act of Congress, August 4, 1937  
 Temporary Membership Card and Receipt  
 This will certify that



is a member in good standing of

This card is good for a period of sixty days from



## 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's family to be wronged or injured if to prevent the same is within my power. I will never propose for membership one known to me to be unqualified or unworthy to become a member of the League. I further promise to govern my conduct in the League's affairs and in my personal life in a manner becoming a decent honorable person and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League, so help me God.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – REGULAR MEMBERS

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# REWARDS *for* EVERYDAY PURCHASES

## THE PENFED PLATINUM REWARDS VISA SIGNATURE® CARD

### 5x

POINTS ON  
GAS PAID FOR  
AT THE PUMP<sup>2</sup>

### 3x

POINTS ON  
GROCERIES<sup>2</sup>

### 1x

POINTS ON  
ALL OTHER  
PURCHASES<sup>1</sup>



Proud Partner



**PENFED®**  
CREDIT UNION

[PenFed.org/Partners/MCL](https://PenFed.org/Partners/MCL)

**Federally Insured by NCUA.** To receive any advertised product, you must be a member of PenFed Credit Union. © 2019 Pentagon Federal Credit Union  
Rates and offers current as of April 1, 2019, and are subject to change. 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.



**ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.**



**MARINE RESERVE**

1-800-MARINES, code RESERVE | [MARINES.COM/RESERVE](https://www.marines.com/reserve)