Marine South 2019

NAMED IN HONOR OF
Colonel Richard “Buck” Francisco Detachment 1451

A Hike to Remember
FOCUS Marines Foundation

Who Are We?
2010: Founded by a group of Marines who were determined to make a difference in the lives of their brothers and sisters. 818 have attended, ranging in age from Age 21 – 67, in rank Private (E-1) to Colonel (O-6), from every state in the union. They came to FOCUS because they were tired of being held back by the issues below.

What Are The Issues?
If you or someone you care about is struggling with the transition from military life to civilian life, you are not alone! Many men and women who have left the military are experiencing the same issues, like:
- ANXIETY: Quick to anger. The smallest things can trigger anger
- DEPRESSION: Lacks motivation, focus and purpose. Not working or attending school
- ADDICTION: Addicted to drugs, alcohol, porn or video gaming
- INSOMNIA: Poor or erratic sleep. Little or no sleep at night and little sleep during the day
- ISOLATION: Avoids public places, friends and family
- RELATIONSHIPS: Problems with family, friends and coworker relationships
- NEGATIVITY: Most things have a negative meaning, the glass is always half empty
- SELF-DOUBT: Lacks self-confidence and has lost pride and self-respect

How Do We Help?
At a farm near St. Louis, MO, you will be surrounded by nature’s quiet beauty. During that week, you will be taught how to use different tools that will help minimize or eliminate those issues holding you back.

What Does It Cost?
All costs are paid by the FOCUS Marines Foundation: Transportation, Room, Meals & Materials.

How Do You Apply?
Go to our Website (https://focusmarines.org/focus-program/focus-application/) and fill out the application. You will be contacted within a week after you have sent the application.

NOTE: The FOCUS program is only offered 4 times a year with a max. of 30 per class; space is limited.

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To learn how we can safeguard your family and give you peace of mind, visit NavyMutual.org.
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Union Colony Marines Detachment 1093 Honor Guard renders military honors for a veteran at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, CO, in March 2019. Ralph McClure Commanding. Photo by Walter Stolpa.

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CORRECTION
In a previous issue of Semper Fi, the uniform article contained an incorrect statement regarding the wearing of the cover. For clarification, Administrative Procedures Enclosure 3, Section V does not provide for a commandant to make a rule exception for the type of cover worn at Marine Corps League functions or meetings.

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.
The League is a transitioning Marine’s family

**MARINES:** This is our purpose and challenge...

**Preserving Traditions**

Maintain the traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps and remember each generation that has worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. Our history is the key to our future and the mission for the future Corps.

**Providing Fraternity of Marines**

A group of people sharing a common profession or interest. A body of workers and dedicated enthusiasts among the professional Sisterhood and Brotherhood of Arms. The League must provide fellowship, companionship, mutual support, community, union and togetherness.

**Promoting the Future of the League**

We must develop programs that address three generations of Marines. This is necessary to maintain and grow membership. Help Marines acclimate into their communities after active duty and address their new mission.

**Veterans Programs**

Marine For Life (M4L) is the number one program to help transitioning Marines (MCCS/Marines & Family). Our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the M4L network is key; it’s very essential that we develop the tools and support network when we are notified a Marine and his/her family is coming to our community.

Suicide prevention is the second most important task facing our organization. Through this new M4L network, we develop the skills to be supportive and contact the Marine family.

Education and family support. Help Marines with job training and support family needs.

Work with all Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) to get the support for VA claims and appeals as necessary.

Subsidiary Organizations: This is a joint opportunity to use existing successful veterans’ programs in the local communities. Start local networking groups with community business leaders who support veterans or Chamber of Commerce, for example.

**Marine Forces Reserves (MARFORRES)**

We have commitments to our current Marine Corps and our civilian veterans. Three items are vital to our community:

- Funeral Honors for all Marines including our sister and brother veterans.
- Toys for Tots (T4T) support.
- Reserve Coordination Councils with our reserve units when they are deployed to take care of families with the everyday challenges, such as utilities or car issues.

This is a big mission, but it is what General John A. Lejeune had in mind with the World War I veterans and families as they struggled to survive and adjust to a new life after the war was over. That same mission is needed today, even more with World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. With constant deployments, Marines and family members are paying a big price in our society and world politics. The League is the organization chartered by Congress to be there when needed.

**Semper Fi!”**

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**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

---

**Advertising Representatives**

Megan Shea, Jayne Wynes

**Executive Editor**

semperfii@chipotlepublishing.com • Ph: (702) 565-0746

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Even before America was founded, there were Marines fighting for its future. Now the USMC and the Marines who have always been our country’s fiercest first responders are given our finest tribute: The USMC Values Masterpiece Stein. Crafted of richly colored Heirloom Porcelain®, it’s filled with design elements that mark it as uniquely Marine. The centerpiece is a sculpted medallion that’s embellished with 22K gold and hand-set on the front. It dramatically showcases the Eagle, Globe & Anchor. The words to the “Marines’ Hymn” are emblazoned in golden lettering on the back. A zinc alloy topper with an eagle adorned in the stars and stripes completes the top. A second Eagle, Globe & Anchor emblem can be found on the thumb rest. And, because no detail has been overlooked, a handle embellished with golden braiding completes this stately, 32-ounce, drink-safe masterwork.

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER’S LETTER
BOB BORKA

IRS Progress

**MARINES:** We have made great progress with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Employer Identification Number (EIN) management of our 501(c)(4) throughout departments, detachments, packs, pounds and units. During the past 12 months, I have written over 100 letters to the IRS on your behalf. The IRS has been making corrections to its system so that the deductibility of each entity should be “1” according to IRS Publication 4838, page 5. Here are some quick references for you:

1. Each detachment, department, unit, pack and pound needs to have an EIN from the IRS and become a 501(c)(4) organization.
2. To check if your 501(c)(4) status has been revoked, search here: apps.irs.gov/app/Jeos.
   Note: Do use the dash when searching your EIN.
   Note: Do not use the dash when searching your EIN.
4. In the EOBMF file, you need to be listed under Group 0955 (column H), have a deductibility of “1” (column M).
5. We have reviewed the 2019 IRS regulations and have come to a consensus on the fiscal year date. It is preferred that each entity, under our group, have the same fiscal year ending in June; however, each entity may choose their own fiscal year end date.
6. If you need assistance call or email Bob: coo@MCLeague.org.

It is an honor to serve our membership, and we will continue to work on its behalf.

*Semper Fi!*

EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY
BY ANNETTE AMERMAN

**July 7, 1941** By agreement with the Icelandic government, the 1st Marine Brigade landed at Reykjavik, Iceland, to prevent the island’s occupation by Germany for use as a naval or air base against the Western Hemisphere.

**August 4-19, 1984** Five Marines participated in the 1984 Olympics held at Los Angeles, CA: 2d Lt Greg Montesi, Rowing; Sgt Greg Gibson, Wrestling and won a silver medal; Sgt Lou Dorrance, alternate in Wrestling; Sgt Ron Carlisle, alternate in Wrestling; and Cpl Julio Aragon, alternate in Soccer.

**August 7, 1953** SSgt Barbara O. Barnwell, naval gunfire instructor at Fort Schuyler, NY, became the first woman Marine to be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism. She saved a fellow Marine, PFC Frederick H. Roman, from drowning.

**September 9, 1950** The first jet mission ever to be flown against an enemy by a Marine pilot was by Captain Leslie E. Brown, USMC, in an F-80 while attached to an Air Force fighter-bomber squadron in Korea.

**September 12, 1995** Captain Matthew Cooper and Sergeant Tad Snidecor were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for their efforts in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City federal building bombing. Both served at Recruiting Station Oklahoma City located on the federal building’s 6th floor at the time of the bombing.
Experience Western hospitality on scenic, historic, and unforgettable tours. Take part in events along the Lewis & Clark trail or check out the Custer Battlefield. Climb mountains or taste the best beer, or do both! Don’t miss this bucket list opportunity!

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Special notes on Veterans Affairs

By Wendell Webb

Wendell Webb attended a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs town hall in May 2019 in St. Charles County. This was very informative, and he wanted to share with you some of his notes.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has three basic organizations: Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and National Cemetery Administration (NCA). Each of these organizations’ titles indicates basically what each of them do for our veterans’ benefits. In addition, the VA Leadership, Public Affairs, Congressional Affairs and all the VA Offices and organizations round out the VA Organizations. These organizations can be seen at https://www.va.gov.

One area that was not known to me was the Discharge Criteria. All Honorable and General discharges (under Honorable Conditions) are eligible for VA Benefits. Those veterans with Other Than Honorable (OTH), Bad Conduct (BCD) and Dishonorable Discharge may not be eligible for VA Benefits. The VA does an evaluation of your military medical records and provides benefits based on the findings of the Review Board. I asked whether this information is shared with the Department of Defense side of the house, and the answer was “No.” Knowing that for a period of time, many veterans were given discharges based on criteria that were not deemed reviewable, but not being a legal professional, I thought this would have some relevance to one’s case.

The Appeals Modernization issue has been addressed in the August 23, 2017, law named the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017.

- Higher-Level Review—An entirely new review of the claim by an experienced adjudicator
- Supplemental Claim Lane—An opportunity to submit additional evidence to support the claim
- Appeal Lane for Appeals to the Board—Direct review by the Board of Veterans’ Appeals

What once took a multitude of years could take less than two months under this legislation.

A section on VA Suicide Prevention was presented, and again my view on this is nothing really new because suicides keep happening every day. Actual experience shows the veterans who successfully committed suicide did not meet the criteria currently being used in many areas. This is a subject that still needs a lot of discussions and analysis.

A new area than has made the circle of evolution was presented as part of the VA St. Louis Health Care System called “Whole Life for Health,” a new six-week program being offered at many of the VA Clinics in the Missouri area. The Vision is: “To enhance the overall well-being of our Veteran population by putting you, the Veteran, in charge of your health, happiness and well-being.” The program looks at the Body, Mind and Spirit.

This is in line with the Dr. Bart P. Billings, Ph.D., book, Invisible Scars, as well as with Mac (Michael) McNamara, radio talk show host of “All Marine Radio,” who has presented at Marine West and Marine South in 2019 on Suicide. His three goals for handling trauma include: Goal #1—Learning to Co-exist with Trauma; Goal #2—Live a Self-Disciplined Life; and Goal #3—Winning.

This also deals with our Marine West Wounded Warrior Bn training given by Breath-Body-Mind by Doctors Patricia Gerbarg and Richard Brown.

In summation, VA issues continue to be a challenge, and the suicide task will take a lot more thinking outside the box to reduce the statistics and will be accomplished on the veterans’ side by veterans.
We often read about Marine Corps League detachments’ good deeds, events and activities, but has anyone stopped to wonder for whom the detachments are named? Semper Fi would like to explore the history of Colonel Richard “Buck” Francisco Marine Corps League Detachment 1451 of South Whidbey Island, Washington. Born in 1927, Richard “Buck” Francisco became a decorated Marine, champion boxer and boxing coach, avid horseman, entrepreneur, beloved philanthropist and an active Marine Corps League organizer and member. Though he was well known to people all over, here are some details.

**Marine**

Buck was a Corsair pilot in the South Pacific in WWII and in Korea. All told, he accumulated over 4,000 hours as a Corsair pilot. That’s the equivalent of flying eight hours a day, every day for two years with only two weeks off each year! Reportedly, Buck was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. After his active duty, Buck commanded the Marine Reserve Air Wing at Sand Point Naval Air Station in Seattle. A former neighbor of Buck’s said that Buck once flew an airplane inverted under the Deception Pass.
“Thanks to Buck’s, uh, shall we say, ‘convincing’ personality, membership in Detachment 1210 at one time comprised 250 veterans ...”

Bridge that spans the gap between Whidbey and Hidalgo Islands.

Boxer
While in the Marine Corps, Buck was the Marine and all-service light-heavyweight champion. He was a champion golden gloves boxer and coached an Olympic boxing champion. He worked with juvenile delinquents and taught them to box, turning many lives around as the result. Buck also coached boxing at the Washington Athletic Club. Reportedly at the age of 70 or so, Buck was at a filling station when a young man got in his face about the Marine Corps. Buck knocked the kid out cold, for which he got to spend some time in the local jail.

Horseman
Buck loved horses and riding them. He belonged to two riding groups in California (The Rancheros) as well as (El Viejo De Portola) with the likes of: California (The Rancheros) as well as Horseman Bridge that spans the gap between Whidbey Island, which he used for riding his horses and relaxing with his family and friends. He soon began to invite challenged children to the ranch to ride and forget their troubles, if even for a few hours. That is now the full-time purpose of the ranch, which Buck donated to the Forgotten Children’s Fund. As an aside, the Marine Corps League still works with the Fishing Club at the M-Bar-C to provide toys for needy families at Christmas.

Here are just two M-Bar-C related stories: (1) Buck once asked Federal Court Judge Burns from Oregon to sentence some offenders to help him around the ranch, including the construction of a small Western Town for the kids. While showing the judge around, the judge threw a cigarette on the ground. Buck said, “Your honor, you have two choices. You can either pick that up and field strip it, or you can eat it. Your choice.” The one room hotel at the ranch is named, “The Burns Hotel;” (2) One day Buck was hanging around watching grey-haired, former juvenile delinquents working with the kids. A developmentally delayed 12-year-old girl came up crying about a scraped elbow, knee, etc. Buck said, “I can fix that,” and held the back of the girl’s head while giving her a drink of his lemonade as if it were a potion of some kind. She went off happy, then returned with a wooden mock-up of a rifle and motioned to Buck to raise his hands, which he did. Then the girl went to Buck’s side and grabbed his hand. Reportedly, a few tears appeared in Buck’s eyes. Big man, big heart!

Buck was also the recipient of the Jefferson Award in Seattle in 1995. The gymnasium at Greenwood Boys Club in Seattle has a plaque over the door that reads, “The Dick Francisco Gymnasium.”

Marine Corps League
In 2005, Buck attended an MCL meeting in Sedro Woolley, WA, with Ed Donery, our new detachment organizer. Afterward, Buck said, “Eddy, what did you think?” to which Ed replied, “I liked it.” “Well then ... damn it, let’s do it!” That resulted in what is now the Major Megan M. McClung Detachment 1210 in Oak Harbor. Thanks to Buck’s, uh, shall we say, “convincing” personality, membership in Detachment 1210 at one time comprised 250 veterans (the largest veteran’s organization in the country at the time).

Buck’s many friends held a dinner roast for him in 1991 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Seattle. They had seating for 400 people; 500 showed up. At the roast, they coined the phrase, “There wasn’t a man he wouldn’t stand up to or a child he wouldn’t stoop to help.” One of his thousands of friends who contributed to this piece wrote, “He was the most amazing personality I have met in my lifetime, and I count my blessings to have shared his company. I would not have been a Marine without his influence.”

Even in failing health, Buck was invited to, and attended, President Reagan’s funeral. To paraphrase former President Reagan, “Some people spend their whole lives wondering if they’ve made a difference. Buck Francisco did not have that problem ...”

Buck passed away June 11, 2016. SIF ...* 

Thanks to several of Buck’s close friends who provided all the information in this summary: Ed Donery (co-organizer of Detachment 1210 and organizer of the Buck Francisco Detachment 1451), Dick “Shooter” Nord, Colonel Al “Animal” Ransom (very close friend of Buck’s and commander of a Marine Air Squadron aboard the carrier USS Midway).
A proud statement of Semper Fi pride, this casual white polo shirt is crafted of 100% polyester and features an all-over custom pattern of the USMC emblem of eagle, globe and anchor in a gray, light blue and camouflage coloration. USMC is fully embroidered on the front and the left sleeve proudly displays an embroidered American flag patch. Commanding attention and the ultimate in comfort, design details include rib knit cuffs, a white collar and 3 buttons. It’s available in 5 sizes, medium to XXXL. Imported.

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It’s time to get out of your Doghouse and get ready

**MARINES:** Barking out to all PDDs, DDs and Pups ... my 2-year term as Chief Devil Dog will come to an end during the 80th Supreme Growl in Billings, MT, this summer! It has been an honor to serve the Kennel in this capacity, and I had a wonderful time meeting Devil Dogs across the country. I want to bark out “thanks” to everyone on the Kennel Staff. It takes teamwork to accomplish the goals of the MODD, and I was fortunate to have many great Dogs helping me during the last 2 years. I especially want to recognize Kennel Dog Robber Steve Joppa, Sr., Vice Devil Dog Tom Hazlett, Jr., Vice Devil Dog Alan Sanning and Kennel Executive Director Leanna Dietrich.

The MODD is doing wonderful things in the communities where they meet and function. I recently presented a new charter to the MSgt Troy G. Mitchell Pound 383 in Jackson, TN, and they are anxious to help the children in their area. Congratulations! That being said, the growth of the Order has been slow, and we need to continue to talk to League members about joining us. I encourage you to read this magazine, remove the membership applications so you can sign up new League members and then pass the magazine on to non-member Marines so they can see what we do.

It’s time to get out of your Doghouse and start making preparations to attend the signature event of the MODD. It is our duty as Devil Dogs to bring FUN to the MCL National Convention. In addition, as the HONOR society, we have a tradition of providing financial help to the children in those communities where we convene our Supreme Growl. We have a lofty goal to present a significant gift to the children’s hospital in Billings, and I need everyone to do his part.

Please remember to nominate someone from your Pound for Dog of the Year and Dog Robber of the Year. The deadline for these awards is rapidly approaching.

Again, it has been an HONOR to serve as your Chief Devil Dog. Keep up the good work and continue to have FUN!

*Semper Woof!*

---

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

- From the MODD Handbook

---

Chief Leonard Spicer presents a new Pound charter to Pound Keeper James D. Williams on April 13.
“I was amazed! Sounds I hadn’t heard in years came back to me!”
— Don W., Sherman, TX

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Proudly assembled in America!
The 2019 Marine South Expo was co-sponsored and held April 11-12 at MCB Camp Lejeune. Held since 1993, this annual event is a military exposition providing men and women who frequently deploy to the leading edges of today’s military operations with first-hand looks at the latest products from the world’s leading defense equipment manufacturers. Marine South is sponsored by the Marine Corps League, a Marine Corps veterans’ association, and co-sponsored by MCB Camp Lejeune. Marine South commands from Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point and Marine Corps Air Station, New River are among the attendees.

Here are just some of the highlights of this year’s expo. SfF

Lt General Robert Hedelund, commanding general of II Marine Expeditionary Force, provides remarks during the opening ceremony of the Marine South Expo at the Goettge Memorial Field House on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, April 11. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl Nicholas Lubchenko)

Left to right: Michael Regner, Director of Military Expos at the Marine Corps League, Lt General Robert F. Hedelund, II Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general and Wendell Webb, National Commandant of the Marine Corps League, participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Marine South Expo 2019 at Camp Lejeune, NC, April 11. The products showcased during the event are aimed toward preparing Marines to overcome the challenges of the modern battlefield. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl Leynard Kyle Plazo)
Lt General Robert F. Hedelund, II Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, poses for a photo with Marines during Marine South Expo 2019 at Camp Lejeune, NC, April 11. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl Leynard Kyle Plazo)

Marines with the Marine Corps Engineer School look at a firearms display during Marine South Expo at the Goettge Memorial Field House on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, April 11. Marine South is sponsored by the Marine Corps League, a Marine Corps veterans' association, and co-sponsored by MCB Camp Lejeune. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl Nicholas Lubchenko)

LCpl Endrew Lautzenheiser and PFC Jacob Deslauriers, Marines with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, handle tactical weapon systems during the Marine South Expo at the Goettge Memorial Field House on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, April 11. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl Nicholas Lubchenko)

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LADIES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY: As a subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League, we should be doing everything we can to assist Marines, including active, reserve, retired and those who have served honorably. We should also be providing assistance to Marines’ wives, widows, children and orphans, as well as serving the needs of our communities. Is your unit doing so? This is why I joined the League Auxiliary, and I hope it’s the reason you joined also.

Speak with your local Marine Corps Recruiter. The recruiter knows the Marines in your communities who are currently serving on active duty or have been recently discharged. Ask him or her how you can best serve their needs. Are there Marines’ wives, widows and children who might need financial assistance? Are there retired or honorably discharged Marines, possibly disabled due to injuries sustained in combat, who are struggling financially just to feed their families? Are there elderly Marines living alone, in nursing homes or in veterans’ homes who would love to have a visit from members of our Marine family? Is your local food pantry in need of supplies? Has your community been devastated by a natural disaster?

There are many opportunities to improve Marine families’ quality of life in our communities. At your next meeting, please focus on our Marines, their families, and your communities by discussing what you can do to improve their circumstances... a visit, a hot meal, a conversation, a simple thank you and/or a financial donation. You may not be able to provide support to all, but you can make a huge difference in the lives of some.

As many of you know, at the Mid-Winter Conference, I announced that I will not run for re-election. I feel very strongly that new leadership will keep our beloved organization moving forward. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your leader. It has been an honor and a privilege to do so. I plan to continue to serve the MCL Auxiliary in other capacities, hopefully, for many years.

Thank you, ladies, for all you do every day for our Marines, their families and your communities!

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

Semper Fi!

League Auxiliary Activities

Mary Brief, Central Division Vice President, conducts a workshop at the Mid-Winter Conference.

These ladies were in attendance at the Central Division Conference held in March in Rock Island, IL.
At home and abroad, our Marines do us proud, serving our country and defending our freedoms with an unflinching determination and a tenacious force unique to the USMC. Now, you can show your fierce pride and support for the United States Marine Corps and the Marines in your life with the "Marine Corps Pride" Dog Tag Pendant, an exclusive new jewelry creation from The Bradford Exchange.

A Masterful Achievement in Craftsmanship and Design

Expertly crafted in solid stainless steel, the pendant features a raised relief of the Marine Corps emblem and sculpted banners that read “UNITED STATES” AND “MARINE CORPS”. Gleaming stainless steel is accented with ion plating in 24K gold on the emblem and a rich black background. Etched on the reverse side is the Marines motto Semper Fidelis with the Corps core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Stars and stripes decorate the front and back of the pendant’s bail, and a matching 24” stainless steel chain completes this distinctive look.

Exceptional Value... Satisfaction Guaranteed

The perfect way to show your USMC pride, or a great gift for any Marine you know, this exclusive dog tag pendant can be yours for just $99*, payable in four convenient installments of $24.75. To reserve yours, backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee, send no money now. Just fill out and send in the Priority Reservation. But hurry—this is a limited time offer!

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

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Show Your Honor, Courage, Commitment

Marine Corps Pride Dog Tag Pendant

Sculpted Marine Corps Symbols and Banners

Custom Crafted in Solid Stainless Steel

Black and 24K Gold Ion Plating

Finely engraved on the reverse with Semper Fidelis and Honor Courage Commitment

Yes. Please reserve the “Marine Corps Pride” Dog Tag Pendant for me as described in this announcement.

Signature

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

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

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Finely engraved on the reverse with Semper Fidelis and Honor Courage Commitment
Detachment Provides Color Guard for International Film Festival

By William Fortune

Marines from Utah Dixie Marine Corps League Detachment 1270 were honored to provide a Color Guard for DOCUTAH’s September Festival screening of the film “Dreams of the Black Echo.” The film is a look at the Vietnam War through the reminiscences of veterans from both sides. Film students from Duy Tan University in Vietnam and from Dixie State University in St. George, UT, conducted interviews of their respective veterans.

The film focuses on the Battle of Khe Sanh, which took place from January 21 to July 9, 1968 (a 77-day siege). Most of those interviewed for the United States’ side of the story were our own local Utah veterans. The Electric Theater was packed full of veterans and their wives and was later repeated at the Red Cliffs Theater complex. The film contrasted the story between Vietnamese Veterans and U.S. Veterans. American and Vietnamese production crews (students) were also present for the showing. Local veterans were treated to appetizers and beverages prior to the screening.

DOCUTAH celebrates the art of documentary filmmaking by connecting Dixie State University and the community to the world. DOCUTAH offers a unique, entertaining International Documentary Film Festival and year-round programs providing creative, cultural and educational engagement.

The DOCUTAH Festival takes place every September at the DOCUTAH Red Cliffs Theaters and on the Campus of Dixie State University in St. George, Utah. Filmmakers attend the Festival to introduce their films, hold Q & A sessions after their screenings and participate in DOCtalk™—intimate conversations, where audience members can glean insights into topics, filmmaking and the business of film.

For more information visit [docutah.com](http://docutah.com).
KEY DETAILS

EVENT:
The 150th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps adoption of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor symbol as it appears today.

LIMITED RELEASE:
This historic coin is strictly limited to only 1,775 complete collections. Due to the extremely low quantity available, only the earliest applicants will be able to successfully secure this artistic tribute coin.

EXCLUSIVE DESIGN:
Intended as a collectors’ item, this gleaming, non-monetary coin is offered in coveted Proof condition. Richly plated with 99.9% Pure Gold, it features full color artistry celebrating the United States Marine Corps.

SECURED AND PROTECTED:
Your coin arrives secured in a crystal-clear capsule for enduring protection and comes complete with a Certificate of Authenticity.

© Officially Licensed Product of the States Marine Corps

Celebrating 150 Years of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor

Since the American Revolution, United States Marines have served in every conflict, racking up an impressive array of accolades, nicknames and symbols. But few of these are as important as the modern-day insignia of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, celebrating its 150th Anniversary as the Marine Corps official symbol in 2018. This meaningful symbol says everything about the USMC; the Eagle represents America, the Anchor the Corps Naval traditions and the Globe the scope of their service. The Marines also fight on air, sea and land, all powerfully represented in the symbol. Now the timeless valor of the USMC inspires a striking non-monetary coin, The USMC Golden Proof Coin.

Plated in 24K gold, this superb artist-designed coin’s reverse portrays a Marine in his dress blues saluting with his Mameluke sword in front of the Stars and Stripes. The obverse features the famed Eagle, Globe and Anchor, United States Marine Corps, and year of mintage in polished and frosted finishes. Struck in prized Proof condition, it comes sealed in a crystal-clear capsule.

Limited to 1,775 complete collections ... order now!

Act now to reserve this golden salute to the Marine Corps as well as each edition to come in The USMC Golden Proof Coin Collection. The USMC Golden Proof Coin can be yours for just $39.99*, payable in two convenient installments of $19.99 each. Your purchase is risk free, backed by our unconditional, 365-day guarantee and you may cancel at any time simply with the opportunity, never the obligation, to collect future issues.

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

The Bradford Exchange Mint is not affiliated with the U.S. Government or U.S. Mint.

Online reservations only!

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Please respond promptly

YES. Please reserve The USMC Golden Proof Coin for me as described in this announcement. I need send no money now. I will be billed with shipment. Limit: one per order.

Please Respond Promptly

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Send no money now

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Name (Please Print Clearly)

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City

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Email (optional)

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PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION INC.
GREGORY HUNT

Never leave anyone behind

MARINES: Thanks to all the detachments and departments that have stepped up to assist those in their communities suffering from the floods and severe storms that hit the West and Midwest recently. Remember the MCL Foundation continues offering natural and man-made disaster relief assistance. In an attempt to reach the widest number of those in need, we request your help in donations for the disaster relief fund.

Since the last issue of Semper Fi, I attended the MCJROTC National Drill Meet, and I have to say, the young men and women in the MCJROTC program are assurance that America is going to be in fine hands. The Foundation became a partner with the MCJROTC in 2017 in line with our charter of providing for and helping Youth Programs. Another one of our annual youth programs is the U.S. Marine Youth Foundation YPF, and I had the pleasure of attending the event to present monetary awards to the top athletes and schools. The athletes came prepared and fought for their schools until the end. Becoming more involved in youth programs is the drive of the MCL Foundation, thus upholding its original charter and mission.

We are continuing to push the purchase of the Memorial Certificates to show our brothers’ and sisters’ loved ones that we honor and cherish them. The certificates are a great way to show that honor, and I can guarantee you every time a loved one looks at that certificate hanging on their wall, they too will remember the Honor, Courage and Commitment their loved ones lived daily.

We are in the scholarship application season, and this fall we’ll be issuing scholarship checks to the approved students’ schools. The amount of each scholarship will depend on the donations we receive for the Scholarship Fund. Donations for this fund have decreased the past couple years, so we need your generosity to continue making the scholarships in an amount that provides some comfort to those receiving them.

We are in the process of updating our website, so be patient with the process; if you have any questions or comments about something on the site, don’t hesitate to contact us at Marine Corps League Foundation, PO Box 180, Franklin NC 28744 or (828)342-2024.

As we get ready for Billings, MT, and the 96th MCL National Convention, think about making this the year you become a recurring donor to the Foundation. Stop by the Foundation table and pick up information on how to become a monthly recurring donor. We will have challenge coins available as well as Foundation Sponsor polos. Show your support for the Foundation by donating and receiving a shirt to let others know who we are. Don’t forget, “We never leave anyone behind, we reach out and help them catch up.” Semper Fi!

CEO, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
BILL DAVIS

Many opportunities to reach out and work together

MARINES: What a great first half of 2019! We had an incredible time mixing up this year at the Mid-Winter Conference. The Young Marines remains fortunate to have the support of our founding sponsor across the country which really shines through whenever I attend MCL events. At the Mid-Winter, we also had the opportunity to present the National Young Marine of the Year, YM SgtMaj Kayla Colacion. She really enjoyed getting to talk with so many Marines and to personally thank all in attendance. We also had an opportunity to announce our new partnership with the Vietnam Commemorative Commission. Our goal over the next two years is to recognize all Vietnam Era veterans within the Young Marines and in our surrounding communities. I hope that we will continue to partner with local and sponsoring MCL detachments to accomplish this mission.

Members of the HQYM Staff and I also attended Marine West and Marine South. These are another great opportunity for us to meet with detachments to talk about our work together in communities across the country. Hundreds of people visit our booths, and we get a chance to explain the Young Marines to future youth, adults and potential volunteers. The best part is the synergy of having the Young Marines booth located next to the League’s.

Ten outstanding Young Marines attended the annual Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima in March, accompanying seven World War II veterans. These young people represent the best of our program, and you would have been proud of how they supported the veterans and represented themselves and the Young Marines Program. Most of them have ties to MCL-sponsored units; please ask them to speak with your detachments about their experiences. For a Marine, this truly is a trip of a lifetime. The 75th Anniversary is coming up in 2020, and it’s going to be a major event.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Billings, MT. As I mentioned at the Mid-Winter, when SSgt Bill Davis (my father) returned from Vietnam, we lived in Butte and Great Falls, MT, from 1969-1973 while he was on recruiting duty. Many of you may remember those giant, red vans with MARINES on the side. Big Sky Country, here we come. Semper Fi!
Brotherhood must begin at the detachment level

MARINES: There are many reasons why transitioning Marines don’t join—they’re going to school, raising a family or starting a career. All the same reasons many of us didn’t join right away. Eventually they miss being around Marines and find their way to us, and there are those Marines who come looking for us right out of the Marine Corps. We would like all transitioning Marines to join us right after getting out. As MajGen Regner said, we want the Marines to know that transitioning from active duty right into the League is a good thing. We’ve tried pushing how we can assist with education, housing, employment, etc. We’ve tried pushing assorted activities and adapting to Marines’ interests, and we still have problems signing up new Marines.

So, what do we do? Recently, I attended Marine South where I had the opportunity to speak with a young SSgt. He asked me what did we have that would make these Marines want to be members of the League? I thought about my answer for a while before I answered him.

I said, “Right up front we offer the continuation of camaraderie and brotherhood,” but before I could say anything else, he stopped me. “That’s it,” he said, “it’s that simple. K.I.S.M. Keep It Simple Marines.” Camaraderie and brotherhood, it can be that simple—I would also add new missions within the League. Do we as an organization offer camaraderie and brotherhood? Yes and no.

Since the detachments have the boots on the ground and contribute to probably 99% of the recruiting, the camaraderie and brotherhood have to start at the detachment level. There are detachments that welcome Marines into the brotherhood, making them feel like they never left it. There are detachments that refuse to welcome Marines back into the brotherhood. Those are the detachments that bring these Marines in and leave them sitting in the back of the room, with no one talking to them.

Bring Marines in, make them feel welcome, and make them feel like they’re still part of the Marine Corps brotherhood. Assign one mentor to each new member. Keep new members interested and involved, make sure they’re aware of all upcoming detachment functions and events. Once we have the Marines in, the rest will fall in place: VA assistance, education, employment, whatever they need. Once they feel a part of the League they’ll ask for the help they need. As the SSgt said, “It is that simple.” But it won’t work if we’re all not on the same page: Transitioning Marines from active duty into the League, Camaraderie, Brotherhood—It’s that simple.

Semper Fi!

Think about the direction of your detachment

MARINES: In the last Semper Fi issue, I covered what happens at the detachment level when we get new Marines. I hope the article made you think. In that article I stressed the importance of getting new members engaged and to make them feel welcomed. It’s also important that we keep our current Marines engaged and motivated.

As detachment leaders, we have the moral obligations to always keep the members’ best interest in all we do. Some of the areas that we must concentrate on are recognizing all members through awards and encouragement; fulfilling our fiduciary responsibilities by conducting our daily Marine Corps League business to the best of our abilities; and encouraging and spreading the esprit de corps that our members know and expect.

Many detachments have great Marines doing great things. Often, we fail to properly recognize the members’ efforts and hard work. It is important that we recognize their efforts through official Marine Corps League Awards, Certificates of Appreciation and other awards that the members deserve. We make these presentations through very public events such as detachment meetings, official dinners and special occasions. It is extremely important to show our appreciation to members’ outstanding performances.

Our leadership has the fiduciary responsibility to ensure that we are following our Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Some of these responsibilities are ensuring the detachment has a current EIN and that a 990 is submitted each year; to ensure that the “Report of Officers Installation (ROI)” is submitted each year; and other forms/reports are submitted to the department and Headquarters. By doing this, your members are being represented properly and efficiently.

Finally, a detachment that is energized and has positive direction will be more productive and relevant to the Leagues’ mission. When each of us served on active duty or the reserves, we expected the Leadership to demonstrate a positive direction and lead its Marines to enhance their motivation and attitude. Without a detachment’s clear direction and quality leadership, that detachment will certainly flounder. With positive direction and motivation, a detachment will flourish and grow. Think about the direction of your detachment.

Does the leadership in your detachment have the proper direction and discipline of having a successful organization? Is each member putting his effort into making his detachment successful? Are your members involved and motivated to stay with the League? It’s a challenging responsibility of having the positive leadership needed in our detachments. How does your detachment measure up?

Semper Fi!
All officers should read the Bylaws and Procedures

**MARINES:** As my tour of duty as your National Judge Advocate comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone at the detachment, department, division and National levels for his or her support in growing this office’s effectiveness.

Our Bylaws and Administrative Procedures have been reformatted with the hope that they will be more user friendly when consulting them for immediate answers to some of your questions.

We have been presented with a few major problems around the country, and they have been resolved in what I believe is a fair and honorable manner. In general, we all have that sense of what is basically right and what is wrong. Members have stepped forward and contacted this office stating that certain things have gone amiss, but they weren’t sure if they had the right to speak up. One thing we all believe in the Marine Corps League is that there is no rank among us. The minute you are sworn in as a League member, you have all of the rights of the oldest member you may know.

Within our current detachments and departments, we have many newly elected officers who have stepped up to serve our members. I salute you and admire your commitment to help serve our League with the hope to make it better during your term of office. To all officers, experienced or newly installed, please go to the website: www.mclnational.org. There is a wealth of knowledge in our library section. All officers should read: National Bylaws, National Procedures, the Ritual Book and the Detachment Guidebook. With the knowledge set forth in these manuals, you will be able to lead your detachments and departments in the direction that we all can be proud of.

Detachments, please don’t be stagnant. There have been no new members for a while. Slowly the membership has declined and will finally reach a point where there are not enough members to have viable detachments. I have seen this problem occur throughout the country. In forming a new detachment or remembering when you joined your current detachment, there was a sense of joy in joining with your brothers and sisters. To see that sense of joy end with the surrendering of a charter due to lack of sufficient membership is sad. We need to reach out and welcome our brother and sister Marines of all eras into the League.

Again, thank you for letting me serve as your National Judge Advocate for these past two years. I hope you will see it in your hearts to allow me to continue on this journey and vote to have me serve as your National Junior Vice Commandant. **Semper Fi!**
Each year, individual Marines, Marine Corps League Detachments (all across America) and Friends of the United States Marines Youth Foundation, can sponsor lights on the Christmas tree that will be displayed at the National Marine Corps League Headquarters during the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Typically, lights are given:

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

As a light sponsor, your name (or the name of your organization) will be listed on a special Scroll of Honor to be displayed at the ceremony and to be posted on our website: usmarinesyouthfoundation.org throughout year of 2020.

For more information, please call (703) 207-9588.

Person or Organization giving the Light ______________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
City _______________ State _____ Zip __________ Phone __________________________

TYPE OF GIFT:
☐ IN HONOR OF ____________________________________________________________
(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)
☐ IN MEMORY OF ____________________________________________________________
(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)
☐ YEAR-END GIFT to the United States Marines Youth Foundation

TYPE OF LIGHT:  ___ $500 Red    ___ $250 Gold    ___ $100 Blue     ___ $ 50 Green   ___ $ 25 White    ___ $ 10 Clear

You will, of course, receive a Thank-you Letter. If you would also like to have an Acknowledgement Letter sent to the family of the person you are honoring, please tell us who you would like the Acknowledgement Letter sent to:

Name ______________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
City _______________ State _____ Zip __________

Proceeds to benefit the United States Marines Youth Foundation

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

Forms should be received prior to December 1st to guarantee inclusion on the Scroll of Honor that will be displayed at the Tree Lighting Ceremony. However, we will continue to accept donations through December 31st, at which time the final Scroll of Honor will be placed on display at the National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League and on the website of the United States Marines Youth Foundation (www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org).
Questions? Please call (703) 207-9588

For more information, please call (703) 207-9588.
MARINES: By the time you read this we should have less than a month from the National Convention in Billings, MT, and the Supreme Growl for the Dogs. I can’t believe that my first year as National Vice Commandant is coming up. I would like to thank all who have made this year go smoothly, and I’m looking forward to my second year continuing to help the League get stronger along with moving it into the 21st Century. But, I will need your help doing this.

Find someone in your detachment who has some understanding of computers; I know, you say that you have nothing but old guys in your detachment, but if I have a 96-year-old who can run a computer, then you have at least one person in your detachment who can. First, build a social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and a detachment website.

If we want or have younger members, then let’s use these platforms; ask younger members to help you grow your detachments. Give them a job, but let’s not throw them into the Big Four positions (Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice and Judge Advocate). This only makes them feel overwhelmed, and usually they won’t stick around.

We need more members who have been around for at least 2 to 4 years to step up, take the big four positions within your detachments and help our newer members grow into future leaders of our detachments and departments. We will need them to carry this League into the future.

Detachments need to make sure they are holding yearly elections and, per the National Bylaws, they need to elect the following positions: Commandant, Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate. You can have more elected positions, but those four are a must. Send in your ROI (Report of Officer Installation) to your Department Adjutant. Elections for each detachment are between September 1 through May 15, and ROI needs to be at National by June 30 of each year, so let’s make this happen.

If you have never been to Modern Day Marine in Quantico, then put September 17-19 on your calendars. It is a great time, and you get to see a lot of neat gear that vendors want the Marine Corps to have, so plan on attending during those dates.

Semper Fi!

MARINES: I have certainly enjoyed the last few months attending so many events! Marine South was well attended by League members who assisted with distributing MCL mugs and Semper Fi magazines to active duty Marines and Corpsmen, as well as recruiting active duty members to our organization. My thanks to everyone who donated his or her time to attend and make this event the success that it was.

I was able to attend four Department Conventions as well: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. ADVC Roger Ware (DoWV) represented the Division at the West Virginia Convention. All five of our departments have new leadership in place, and I am sure their goals and objectives continue to center around performing the League’s mission.

Our Division Conference took place June 21-23, hosted by the Department of West Virginia. Our Guest Speaker, Hershel “Woody” Williams, WWII MOH Recipient, is truly a gifted Speaker and delivers a powerful and positive message. We thank Woody for his commitment to his fellow Marines as well as all League members.

This will be my last message to you as your National Vice Commandant. At this point, I find myself experiencing conflicting emotions. On one hand, it will be difficult to step down as I feel a sense of pride in having been elected to serve as your National Vice Commandant and represent the Mideast Division for the past 2 years. I have had many memorable experiences during my term and hopefully will be able to use these experiences to assist those new leaders you have elected. I want to thank each of you who has always been ready to pitch in and help when the call went out. On the other hand, I feel it is time to step back and let the new Officers take over. I feel we have a great team of leaders coming up, and I know that all of you will give them your support. Please be as active as your circumstances will allow. It helps to get as much input from the membership as possible. Again, THANK YOU for the opportunity I have had to serve as your National Vice Commandant.

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

Semper Fi!

Find members who know how to use computers

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you

Phil Zamora
NVC, Central Division

Bruce R. Rakfeldt
NVC, Mideast Division
Pay heed to recent changes on transmittal form

Marines: Greetings Marines, Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains. Now that our elections are complete, I would like to welcome the new officers to our detachments and departments—thank you for stepping forward and taking the responsibility of holding an office in the League. This indicates a pride in the League and desire to see the League and your detachment/department continue a path of growth and prosperity. Now you have the responsibility of making sure your detachment or department operates according to the League Bylaws that are established to guide you in the proper and accepted direction they were intended. As an elected officer, the effort you put forth will show your pride in your community and the Marine Corps League. Remember our Mission Statement, “Members of the Marine Corps League join in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving tradition ... .”

It is time for all non-life members to renew their League membership. Recent changes on the Transmittal Form allow members who desire to renew for more than one year to indicate how many years the renewal will be. Another change is that National no longer requires five copies of a Transmittal; now only one page per six renewing members. Send the membership dues to your Department Paymaster, and the Department Paymaster will forward the Transmittal to National. All other reports may be transmitted by electronic means to your Department Paymasters for their record and forwarded to National. Remember to keep a copy for your record.

The Midwest Division would like to thank Wendell Webb for his outstanding performance during the past two years. Under his direction the League has maintained a positive association with the Marine Corps and may continue with such worth with programs such as Marine For Life Network (M4L) (usmc-mccs.org) and FOCUS Marines Foundation (focusmarines.org). Leonard Spicer, 58th PCDD, thank you for all the Big Bones collected for the kids. The Midwest Division looks forward to welcoming the newly elected National Officers at the 96th Convention in August. It will be a fun time for all in attendance in Big Sky Country.

The Midwest Division Fall Convention will be hosted by the Department of Minnesota, September 27-28, 2019, at Crowne Plaza Aire, Bloomington, MN. The Midwest Division 2020 Spring Conference will be hosted by Air Capitol Detachment 773, April 17-18, 2020, at Best Western Wichita North Hotel & Suites, Wichita, KS.

Semper Fi!

Bring traditions forward—never take anything for granted

Marines: Why do we stand out from the other branches and how can we continue to do so? “Once a Marine, Always a Marine.” It’s how we carry ourselves in our attitude, our tradition and in our pride instilled in us by the Marine Corps—that is what defines us.

As bestselling author Thomas E. Ricks concluded in his 1997 book, Making The Corps: “The United States Marine Corps, with its fiercely proud tradition of excellence in combat, its hallowed rituals and its unbending code of honor, is part of the fabric of American myth.” I believe it is up to us to keep that fabric strong and woven into the American myth for eternity.

Remembering our history and keeping our traditions alive is extremely important. Our traditions honor our past and, as we bring those traditions forward, we must do so with a positive attitude and encouragement to our fellow Marines for their future. If we let our traditions slide, even small ones, over time they will be lost. Think of our red garrison (aka piss cutter) covers. The red piss cutter is the only required uniform for the League, and we should wear them with pride! Detachment Commandants, I encourage you to remind your members that they are the back bone of the League, and we need to stay true, not only to the cause, but to all of our traditions.

Thanks to all the Department Commandants for supporting each other’s conventions. It is highly motivating to see all the departments work together and have fun. The Quad State and the Departments of Massachusetts and Connecticut had successful conventions. A positive highlight from New England is that since September 2018, membership has grown by 113 new members; unpaid membership numbers have dropped!

The New England Division will continue to strongly support our future with programs such as The Young Marines and the MJROTC. We also must continue to support the Marine for Life program and strive to have liaisons in each detachment. Communication and support for each other, the MCL and its programs can be greatly improved if we are connected electronically. This could be achieved if each department and even detachments had a website. Please see: mclnedivision.com.

Good luck to the three Marines running for National Judge Advocate in Billings, MT.

Semper Fi!
DIVISION REPORTS

Our strength has always been unity and fellowship

MARINES: We had a very successful Northeast Division Conference in April talking about common issues in the League and how to overcome them. Training included Marine for Life and Vets for Warriors modules to enable us to pass along information that can be used for the benefit of all. We had camaraderie between our departments, and our department leaders met socially to talk and get to know each other better. Our strength has always been the unity and fellowship we all share.

All three of our departments’ annual conventions were held in June with new leaders coming onboard. Thanks to the “Continuity of Command,” we have three excellent leaders who have vowed to work together and help each other when possible.

We are looking forward to the National Convention and all that goes on there. The proposed Bylaw changes were posted in the Library of the National website (mclnational.org) for our members to review and let their department Commandants know their feelings for or against.

The Military Funeral Honors and Marine for Life Network continue to roll out as planned. We would like contact information for a Marine for Life liaison in each detachment to be used if needed in order to assist transitioning Marines back to the civilian world. I personally have been asked about the program by current Marines, so word is getting out to the troops via HQ Marine Corps.

My 2 years as your National Vice Commandant will be up in August, and I want to thank everyone for his or her help and support. My ANVC, Joe DeAngelo, has done a super job and has always been there for me when needed.

Our National Board of Trustees has met challenges head-on with the intention of doing what’s right for the membership. We haven’t always agreed on individual things, but we have worked together for all.

The incoming National Officers are experienced and have worked hard to get to the level of leadership they now hold. Let’s rally behind them for the betterment of our League.

See you in Billings, MT. (Isn’t that the other side of NJ?)

Semper Fi!

Provide mentorship and guide new members in their journey

MARINES: First off, I want to say Thank You for your support in my journey to be the next National Judge Advocate. I have been your NVC going on 4 years now, and you have always stood by me and supported everything I have done. You have helped me gain the experience I have, and in Billings hopefully we together will have made the next step in seeking the office of National Judge Advocate.

We have grown as a division and will continue to do that. It is important that you retain the members you have as well as recruit new ones. We have all seen new members walk in our front door only to walk out the back door.

Give your new members mentorship. If you signed their application it would be up to you to guide them in their journey in the League. Look at getting them involved; this could be as simple as helping the Sgt at Arms set up the meeting room or asking them to participate in a committee.

I want to talk with you about stepping up and becoming a leader in your detachment or department. It is vital that we have new members moving into new leadership roles. Do this because you want to make a difference. Do it because you can make it a better place than when you received it. It’s also very important to this process that if you are leaving office to make sure you help the member moving into it. Guide him and set him up for success.

Our M4L program is progressing. It is important that the members who have stepped up in the detachment or department ensure they have looked online in the MCL library and taken the M4L training so when they get a name of a Marine who is transitioning to the civilian life, the Marine is being directed to all the resources he or she needs. If you need any information on this, please feel free to contact me, and I will help you help others.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for inviting me to your department conventions. I had so much fun and loved talking to you about what is taking place in the Marine Corps League and also talking to you about my candidacy for the NJA position.

Semper Fi!
Be the mentor you wish you had when you were a new member

MARINES: It is an honor to write this article for Allen Brink. He would likely state how much he enjoyed having the opportunity to serve as our Rocky Mountain Division NVC these past two years. Allen is a great mentor to many of us in the Rocky Mountain Division, and we are very grateful for the time, energy and talent he has put into helping us grow within our respective detachments and the Departments of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming these past few years.

I was deeply honored during our Division Conference to have been nominated by Allen for the post of NVC for the Rocky Mountain Division and will work tirelessly to be worthy of the fidelity that has been placed in my care. Congratulations also to Al Lieske, of the Cpl Gerald “Max” Rich Detachment 1352 in Logan, Utah, on having been nominated to become our Division’s next ANVC. I look forward to working with Al and our new and returning department commandants and their staffs as we continue to strengthen and grow our Division.

It has been very edifying to travel around our four states and meet members of our different detachments. I have seen the community impact that you are having while serving our fellow veterans, children and those less fortunate. One recurring theme is the desire that Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains and Associates are no longer content just sitting around running our soup suckers about the good old days. The common thread that ties us together today and is instrumental in drawing newcomers to the League is the desire for a MISSION: Striving to be the mentor we wish we had met when we left active duty and working together to aid and assist those in need. Perhaps it’s meeting physical needs through Toys for Tots, Homeless Veteran stand-downs or serving as a team at a local soup kitchen. Or you may be meeting mental or spiritual needs by having an empathetic ear or offering a voice of reason and hope and thereby are becoming a positive difference in the lives of our past, present and future brothers and sisters in arms. I look forward to our support of one another and continued growth and development of our beloved Marine Corps League.

“Be the Leaguer that you wish there were 20 more of in your detachment.”

Semper Fi!

The rest of 2019 looks promising for our Division!

MARINES: In March, the Southeast Division had an outstanding conference in North Charleston, SC. The Low Country Detachment 803 did a fine job of hosting it. We had very good attendance, and every department of the SE Division was represented by numerous members, including all the department Commandants. The business meetings were well attended, and we had a special presentation on the Marine for Life (M4L) Network by the SE Division MCL/M4L liaison.

We have M4L liaisons in all departments of the SE Division, and we are working to get liaisons assigned in all detachments. M4L is an important program, and we must have liaisons at all levels to be prepared to assist our Marines returning to civilian life. It is estimated that about 44% of today’s transitioning veterans have some difficulty and could use some assistance. Every transitioning Marine is now asked if he wants M4L assistance. It is my understanding that if the answer is “yes,” information is emailed to the department M4L liaison who forwards it to a local detachment liaison. If your detachment has not yet appointed a Marine for Life liaison, consider volunteering for the job.

As I write this, many detachments and departments have recently held, or soon will hold, their elections of officers. To each of those elected, I wish to say congratulations and thank you for taking on the responsibilities of leading your detachment or department. As you receive this issue, I will be busy visiting most of the SED Department Conventions, and in some cases, installing the new officers.

Some of us will soon be headed to Billings, MT, to attend the 96th Annual Marine Corps League National Convention. It appears that most of the department Commandants and many members of the SE Division will be attending. I’m also looking forward to attending the Modern Day Marine Expo at Quantico, VA, in mid-September. Although there will be plenty of work to do while attending, it is always an enjoyable project.

In closing, I ask that you never forget our sick and/or aging members. If they are unable to attend the meetings, phone or go see them often. Offer to give them a ride to the meetings if they can no longer drive.

Semper Fi!
DIVISION REPORTS

Annual Southern Division Conference was a success

Johnny R. Gothard
NVC, Southern Division

MARINES: Since my last report to the membership of Southern Division, the Annual Southern Division Conference/Caucus was held in Lawton, OK, hosted by the Boomer Detachment 1248. I and the National Vice President, Auxiliary Southern Division would like to take this time to congratulate the Boomer Detachment for their successful, well-planned and executed Conference/Caucus. And, thank you for your warm and sincere hospitality we experienced while there. I would also like to thank National Senior Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin for joining us at this event; we were pleased and honored to have you and your wife there and enjoyed your presence.

There were more than a few awards presented to departments, detachments and members. Two departments, Arkansas and Oklahoma, received 100% membership Streamers. There were 40 detachments in the Division presented with 100% Streamers, the most on record so far! Keep up the good work and continue the growth—that is what we need. Three detachments were awarded Detachment of the Year, each in their own size of detachment: Texarkana Detachment 1149, AR, for under 50 members; Albert E. Schwab Detachment 857, OK, for over 50 members; and Galveston County Detachment 668, TX, for over 91 members. There were 10 Distinguished Citizen Silver Awards to the membership. David Niemann received the Fisher Award; Richard Lee Hall was presented the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor.

The departments caucused, and elections were held for National Vice Commandant and Assistant National Vice Commandant per new National Bylaw Article IV, Section 415, paragraph (C). Delegate Voting was conducted per 2018 National Administrative Procedures, Section 2025, thanks to Randy Rigg, who served as Credentials Committee Chairman. National Sr. Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin conducted the elections. Johnny Gothard was nominated for National Vice Commandant, and David Niemann was nominated for Assistant National Vice Commandant. As there were no other nominations, one vote was cast by the Southern Division Paymaster Kelley Collins for Johnny Gothard and David Niemann.

Be sure to check out the National website's Library Convention tab for new Bylaw submissions. Read all of these carefully and discuss them at your Department Conference in May and June, so you can decide how your department wishes to vote on these; also, please let me know how you wish me to vote.

Semper Fi!

Recruit one new member per existing member to see growth

Bill Ebright
NVC, Southwest Division

MARINES: Our Southwest Division Conference and Growl were held at the Eastside Cannery in Las Vegas in late April. This hotel’s guest service was very satisfactory, and I believe was enjoyed by all who lodged there.

Our Conference included four very special training classes: one on Marine For Life, one about conducting social media, one for paymasters and one for department and detachment chaplains. I believe these were well done and greatly informative for all those in attendance, as the feedback was good. Everyone also benefited from the knowledge imparted by our guest speaker T.J. Morgan, National Vice Commandant of our Northwest Division, with his many years of experience in our League including 4 years as National Vice Commandant and who, we understand, will be running for National Judge Advocate. Overall, the Conference was well attended, and I want to take this opportunity to convey a special note of thanks to all those members who worked so hard in making it a grand success.

After this Conference, we looked forward to both the Department of Arizona and Department of California Conferences in early June with our Division’s Assistant National Vice Commandant Pat Connell attending the Arizona Department’s Conference and I attending the Department of California’s Conference.

Recently, while attending the meeting of a detachment with low recruiting numbers, I suggested having each member, during the remainder of this year, recruit at least one new member. The members accepted this idea and seemed willing to work on it.

This brought to mind that if each member in our Division worked to do the same—recruit just one member this year—we will double in size from 8,000 Marines to 16,000! That certainly would repeat for this year our number one ranking received last year in percentage recruitment among all of the League's Divisions! This also brought to mind that each of our detachment’s Jr. Vice Commandants must perform the number one duty assigned him for the benefit of his detachments and for the League: Recruitment. It is discouraging to attend detachment meetings where, during the Report of Officers, the Jr. Vice proclaims, “no report!” All of us can remember over the years too many times when this has occurred.

Along these lines, I hope to be soon welcoming the members of our pending new Tucson, AZ, LCpl Lucero Detachment, memorializing the first Marine from Tucson KIA in Iraq. Their papers are in, and soon they will be receiving their charter, upon receipt of which we will be wishing them a hearty “Welcome aboard, Marines!”

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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

RICHARD D. GORE, SR.

Time to acknowledge all generations of Marines

MARINES: I sincerely hope that everyone is enjoying the summer weather and getting ready to attend our National Convention in Billings, MT.

If you have never attended a Convention, I think this is one you should make the effort to be at so you can become more familiar with what makes your "Marine Corps League" operate.

It will, at the least, give you new ideas and assist you in your progress as a potential leader.

As I visit detachments and departments, I find it refreshing to see that our membership is becoming younger as the word is being passed about joining the League. Active duty Marines are being told about us by their command staff. The benefits of membership are being stressed to assist them in transitioning out of active service. This is a good thing. We need the youth to guarantee our survival because, as you know, we are not going to live forever, and I, for one, do not want our Corps to fall by the wayside.

Remember, we had the Greatest Generation who served its nation well and the Korean and Vietnam Generations who served their nation well. Now we have the War on Terror Generation who is also serving its nation well. What seems to be missing is the realization that all of these conflicts had one thing in common—all had Marines involved who fought and died and who deserve to be recognized by those of us who survived!

As much as I have enjoyed being blessed by all of you by being elected to the many offices you have bestowed upon me, the time has come where my tour as Jr. Past National Commandant has come to an end; my replacement is ready to take over. I want to thank you all for your confidence and friendship. I can only hope the journey was as much an adventure for all, as it was for me and my fellow officers. We are growing and improving, and that is a tribute to you who belong to our great organization and understand that we still serve our nation, like we did as active duty Marines.

REMEMBER—"OUR FLAG DOES NOT FLY BECAUSE THE WIND MOVES IT, IT FLIES WITH THE BREATH OF EACH MARINE WHO DIED PROTECTING IT."

Semper Fi!

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UPCOMING TOURS

AUG 4 – 12
Morocco—WWII Operation Torch – Gen Patton & French Foreign Legion

AUG 11 – 20
75th Anniversary of 2nd D-Day: Op Dragoon South of France

AUG 28 – SEP 9
VN 50th Anniversary of Operations in I-Corps 1969

SEP 7 – 15
Evolution of the Western Front WWII & I Battlefields & Weapons

SEP 10 – 22
VN 50th 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

NOV 2 – 13
WWI Armistice Day France U.S. Battlefields & Big Parade

NOV 30 – DEC 11
Vietnam Holiday Tour “Delta to the DMZ” I—II—III—IV Corps

DEC 3 – 9
75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Hawaii & Waikiki Beach

JAN 4 – 11
Panama—30th Anniversary of Operation Just Cause

FEB 9 – 21
50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War— I-Corps & Battle of Hue City & Tet

MAR 24 – 30
75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima—Reunion of Honor

APR 20 – 26
Turkey Gallipoli WWII & ANZAC Day

APR 25 – MAY 8
VN 50th Anniversary “Delta to DMZ”
Read about one Marine's dedicated efforts to ensure the heroism of Sergeant Major John Canley was appropriately recognized with the Medal of Honor.

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Tune in to the legislative process and engage Congress

MARINES: The FY2020 budget game is in full swing. As you are reading this article, the National Defense Authorization and Appropriation Bills should be up for floor votes and conference committees if the normal legislative timeline is being followed. However, the makeup of the 116th Congress is different from its predecessor, so there may be additional hurdles. Now is the time to tune in to the process and engage with your members of Congress to encourage bringing the legislative process to a successful conclusion with bills that the President can sign before the end of this fiscal year in order to avoid the harmful effects on readiness of any continuing resolutions.

In that light, prior to writing this article, Major General (Ret.) Mike Regner and I had the opportunity to visit with MajGen Paul J. Kennedy, Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, at the Pentagon. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the communication between our Marine Corps League Legislative Committee and CMC’s office of legislative affairs. From the meeting, it is clear that Marine Corps League members, by being informed and motivated, can contribute significantly to supporting the Commandant’s FY2020 Budget for the Marine Corps. After meeting with MajGen Kennedy and several members of his staff, it is clear that closer coordination should be the norm not the exception.

CMC FY2020 Budget for our Marine Corps was described in his May testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense. General Neller established the basis for the FY2020 as follows: “Competing with a Peer Threat” is the theme of our PB20 submission and directly aligns with the Secretary of Defense’s guidance to increase lethality, improve warfighting readiness and achieve program balance. This year’s budget of $45.9B builds on the momentum gained over the previous year and seeks to further adapt and modernize our Corps by focusing on three key budget priorities: modernization, readiness and manpower. Through programmatic reforms, divestiture of legacy systems and key investments in manned/unmanned teaming and autonomous systems, we are transforming today’s Marine Corps into the future force required by our Nation and building the most ready force our Nation can afford. To accomplish this goal, we require adequate, sustained and predictable funding to properly plan for and resource a ready, capable and lethal force. Additionally, CMC reaffirmed the Marine Corps’ commitment to fiscal transparency and responsible stewardship of taxpayers’ dollars. In working toward a more modern, lethal, expeditionary force, the Marine Corps has identified over $389M in savings and cost avoidance, including divesting from the operating forces various legacy systems. The Commandant’s testimony focuses on three pillars: Modernization, Manpower and Readiness. Note: CMC’s written testimony can be read in detail on the Marine Corps League website in the Library on the Legislation tab.

One of the areas that CMC identified as a significant challenge is confronting the effects of recent Hurricanes Florence and Michael in the fall 2018. The impact of these two disasters in terms of cost to the Marine Corps is estimated to be $3.7B in unforeseen requirements. Some examples of the impacts are: 3,000 military personnel displaced including 1,000 family members living on base; North Carolina installations are home to II Marine Expeditionary Force which comprises one-third of the combat power of the Marine Corps; and 800 buildings across Marine Corps Base (MCB) Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River and MCAS Cherry Point were damaged or compromised. I recently visited MCB Camp Lejeune, and the effects of the storms are still extensive and readily visible as are the effects on Marines and their families. We should be letting our legislators know that additional funding for remedy of this damage is essential to readiness and quality of life.

Finally, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs’ FY2020 budget request is also going through the legislative process with the continued implementation of the VA MISSION Act as an essential part of budget. The budget demonstrates VA’s ongoing commitment to providing veterans more quality, timely and efficient services by requesting a total increase of $19.3B—a 9.6-percent increase above the FY2019 budget. Some highlights are: Expand access to health care and fully supports the VA MISSION Act; strengthen VA’s ability to process 1.5M disability claims, 4.2M education claims and implementation of the Harry W. Colmery “Forever GI Bill;” and provide increased funding for IT and electronic health record modernization.

Until next time, leanin’ forward in the trenches.
NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
ROBERT “BUTCH” RAYNES

How to wear the MCL cover

MARINES: In my article in the spring Semper Fi magazine the Cover Guide shows the wrong devil dog patch. What is shown is not a patch; it is the Devil Dogs’ official logo. The black patch with red trim and a yellow helmet on the dog is the correct patch.

After reading the article, a few Marines wrote or emailed with the question, “Does an Associate member have to wear the Gold 1 ½” x 1 ½” EGA?” No, the article dealt with a regular League member. It also listed pins, badges, wings, etc., that referred to being worn on the MCL cover.

To answer any questions you may have for the Associate member when wearing the MCL cover, the Associate member will wear the Sunburst Insignia with the left facing anchor (to the front) in lieu of the Marine Corps Emblem (EGA). The Associate member will wear the 1” x ½” gold MCL insignia on his white short-sleeve and long-sleeve shirt collar in lieu of the sunburst insignia. The Marine Corps League Associate shoulder patch will be worn in lieu of the standard Marine Corps League shoulder patch on the left sleeve and the left facing American Flag with white trim on the right sleeve. When wearing the red blazer, no blazer crest/bullion seal will be worn unless one is designed and approved at National Conventions. When wearing the undress uniform with Dress Blue trousers the Associate member will wear the Marine Corps waist plate with the EGA while performing the detail.

A question has come up regarding the Vietnam War Veteran pin that Gen. Fields USMC (Ret.) has been distributing at our Mid-Winter Conferences and National Conventions. There has been a Bylaw change submitted to allow that pin to be worn on the lapel of the red blazer only.

Marines, please review all your pictures that you submit to Semper Fi or post on a website to assure that all Marines in the pictures are in the correct uniform.

Thank You. Semper Fi!
Major General Warren Johnson Detachment 1311 of Woodstock, GA’s ceremonial rifle team (above and below). The team can field from 3 to 7 rifles and has a bugler, two members to make certificate presentations and a guidon bearer as well as the team commander. The team, when requested, provides a rifle salute for deceased veterans and full military honors when necessary.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE


On April 13, 2019, Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 received new leadership. Commandant Dave Waters gave the oath of office to the newly elected leaders. Left to right: Gary Alls, Judge Advocate, Jon Hinz, Junior Vice Commandant, Scott McNeal, Senior Vice Commandant and Pat Lisi, Commandant.

Young Marines Sgt Darious Dipaolo and Sgt Christopher Noheimer of the Three Rivers Young Marines (drill deck U.S. Coast Guard Academy) were presented Distinguished Citizen Awards in honor of their retirement from the Young Marines. Making the presentation was Marine Patrick McMahon, the Department of CT YM Liaison. Left to right: McMahon, Dipaolo and Noheimer.
At the 44th Annual Mess Night, members toasted the United States Marine Corps!


Utah Dixie Detachment 1270’s Austin Edwards gets congrats from Dave Waters.

Detachment 1311 Ceremonial Rifle Team from Woodstock, GA, rendered three volleys of rifle fire in a final salute for Marine Corps veteran Lt Richard Lindsay Butterfield at Georgia National Cemetery April 17, 2019. Lieutenant Butterfield, who died alone without any family to mourn his death, was nevertheless represented in great numbers by fellow veterans who assembled to pay their respects. His flag, folded by fellow Marines, will be held at the cemetery until someone comes to claim it.

Commandant Ron Farewell and Senior Vice Commandant James “Doc” Koehler presented a check from the League to Suzanne Hawes of the Syracuse VA Medical Center Rec Therapy Department on March 26, 2019.
ROLL CALL
AROUND THE LEAGUE

Members of the Antietam Detachment 113 (left to right) Chuck Martin, Commandant Jeff Mangum, Jr. Vice Commandant Harold Feigly and Judge Advocate Stanley Mitchell, along with Department of MD Sr. Vice Earl Ruff, presented the colors at the Special Olympics opening ceremony in Hagerstown, MD.

On March 29, 2019, in Coventry, CT, veterans representing Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force gathered at the State of CT Vietnam Veterans Memorial. These veterans gathered to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives here at home to serve our country during the Vietnam War. Left to right: Tim Ackert, Jack Oshman, Manny Rodrigues, Ted Benoît, Kevin Vander Wiede, Jamie DePaola and Peter DePaola.

Sgt at Arms, Gregg Mann receives a certificate from the Commandant of Department of FL, Marine George LaMont.
At Marine South Expo 2019, NC Department Commandant Jeffrey Jones, MajGen Mike Regner, Rita Fountain from Navy–Marine Corps Relief Society, MCL National Commandant Wendell Webb, NC Dept. Sr. Vice Rick Thomason presented a check to the Navy–Marine Corps Relief Society.

On April 26, 2019, League members from Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Detachment 1363, Black River Falls, WI, attend a Groundbreaking Ceremony at the Tomah VA Medical Center signifying the return of the facility golf course in honor of Marine Jason Simcakoski. Left to right: U.S. Representative Ron Kind, a supporter of “Jason’s Law” that provides funding to end over-prescribing medication to veterans, with Dennis Beattie, Bob Hodson and Mike Boldon. The ceremony included an unveiling of the Jason Simcakoski Memorial Golf Course. Traditional shovels were replaced with Tee Shots by Representative Kind, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Jason’s father Marv and Medical Center Director Victoria Brahm.

March 24, 2019, the Sgt Clyde Thomason MOH Detachment 1325 recognized the 2019 Gold Award Girls Scouts presenting them with the MCL Good Citizenship Award, the USMC Commandant’s Commendation and the Department of Georgia Gold Award Challenge coin. Left to right: Emma Toner, Anastasia Hall, Caryanne Wilson, Mallory Plunket, Sage Martin and Past Commandant Michael Foran. Not pictured is Brenna Cohen who also received the same awards.

Ira Hayes Detachment 002 Phoenix, AZ, assisted American Legion Post 41 Phoenix, AZ, with an Easter egg hunt for five elementary schools. Left to right: Color Guard Captain David Yrigoyen, our Easter rabbit and Adjutant Jess Moreno.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

A portion of the 127 Eagle Scouts and their advisers recognized at the annual Eagle Recognition Banquet. Bill Gay, PDC, is Boy Scout Coordinator for Dan Daly Detachment 858 in Lexington, KY and Department of KY.

April 7, 2019, Young Marines MGySgt Mason McMahon, YM GySgt Alexandra Degunia and YM LCpl Connor Pearson, all belonging to the Three Rivers Young Marines, earned Division level Distinguished Citizen Awards from the New England Division YM Liaison Bruce Katz. *Left to right:* Marine Katz, YM MGySgt McMahon, YM GySgt Degunia, YM LCpl Pearson and National Young Marines Deputy Director Wilson Lee.

April 7, 2019, Young Marines MGySgt Mason McMahon of the CT-based Three Rivers Young Marines received a Distinguished Service Award from National Commandant Wendell Webb in recognition of earning the Young Marines Distinguished Order of Merit. Presenting him this award *left to right:* Marine Bruce Katz, New England Division YM Liaison, and Mr. Wilson Lee, National Young Marines Deputy Director; *(center)* YM MGySgt McMahon.

The Dept. of Maryland Leadership College Class 9 was held on April 27, 2019. 19 students attended from Detachment's 113, 115, 544, 868 (NJ), 983 (NC), 1198, 1234 and 1428. Instructors pictured in the back row are District 5 Vice Commandant Jeff Mangum (left), PDC Craig Reeling (center), Dept. Commandant Evelyn Remines and District 2 Vice Commandant Don Benson (right).

Zohar Swaine from the Gooney Bird Detachment 434 of Teaneck, NJ, after completing the Dept. of NJ Leadership School, pictured with Zohar are Dept. Commandant Doug Rattazzi and Mike Waluk.

Union Colony Marines Detachment 1093 Honor Guard renders military honors for a veteran at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Ralph McClure Commanding.

On March 17, 2019, Central Illinois Leathernecks Detachment 988 served as Road Guards for a 5K Run on St. Patrick’s Day. Pictured are Rick Probus, Dave Edwards and Kevin Keller.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Korean War Ambassador for Peace Medal presented to Louie Pugh, resident of the Gino J. Merli Veterans Center, Scranton, PA. Left 1st row: Louie’s great grandson, Louis Pugh; PA State Representative Karen Boback; Lisa Solarczyk, Gino J. Merli Veterans Center Advisory Board Council Vice President. Back row: Gino J. Merli Veterans Center Commandant James Miller, Charles Story, Russell Eyet (holding Louie’s great granddaughter), Louie’s great grandson in blue, Adrienne Eyet (Louie’s granddaughter), Alan M. Pugh (Louie’s son), Brenda Pugh, Alan L. Pugh (Louie’s grandson) and Jenny Centrella.

Presentation of the Gold Star pin to Mary Pero by Capt. Patrick Cavallero, assisted by Cpl Tyrone Carter. Mary Pero is the sister of the famous Sgt Michael Strank, one of the six men that raised the American flag at Iwo Jima, February 23, 1945. Sgt Strank was killed in action a week later.

Gooney Bird Detachment 434 of Teaneck, NJ, after playing Bingo with the veterans from the Paramus, NJ, veteran’s home.
Tiernan Rohlfing of Stephen Decatur High School receiving a “Certificate of Appreciation” for doing an excellent job of performing Taps at the memorial service of First State Detachment 689 member Frank Conlon who passed away on March 30, 2019.

Marine Richard “Dick” Tartaglia recently passed away. He was an avid biker so his family honored his request for a motorcycle hearse. His brother Marine veterans from the Huntington, NY, Detachment 792 provided the rifle detail and ceremonial escort. Active duty Marines played taps and folded the flag which was presented to his family at the grave site.

Fox Valley Marines Detachment 1233 Annual Golf Classic celebrating its 12th year, this hard working committee is compassionate about helping veterans in need. Funds raised at this event benefit two local food pantries and veterans in need in the Fox Valley Area in Illinois. Ooh Rah!
E.T. Brisson 063 Detachment, Naples, FL, musters a detail of volunteers on the first Saturday of each month for “road clean-up” duty. The detachment “adopted” Bayshore Drive in East Naples approximately 28 years ago. An average “clean-up” day yields approximately 12-15 large trash bags of garbage collected along the mile and a half area.

On March 12, 2019, the Marine Corps League of Naples, E.T. Brisson Detachment 063, gathered for their weekly luncheon. Photo by Trisha Marsh, Detachment Historian/Photographer.

On April 5, 2019, members of the Jack Maas Detachment 1379, Fredericksburg, VA, visited the Spring Arbor Assisted Living Facility to honor Capt. Edward G. Minnich, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (Ret.), for his service to his nation in the Marine Corps, in the Korean War and to his community. In keeping with the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship among all Marines, detachment members, George Firehammer, Scott Pipenhagen and Bill Anderson presented Capt. Minnich with a certificate to bestow on him the title of Honorary Member of our detachment. Left to right: George Firehammer, Scott Pipenhagen, Ed Minnich and Bill Anderson.
March 29, 2019, on Vietnam Veterans Day, four members of the Antietam Detachment 113 (left to right) Adjutant Donald Blair, Judge Advocate Stanley Mitchell, Dave Parker, Jr. Vice Commandant Harold Feigley (raising the National Ensign) and members of the local legions and police forces assist the Joint Veterans Council dedicated the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of Hagerstown.
BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA & DAVID OSSIAN

Echo in Ramadi: The Firsthand Story of U.S. Marines in Iraq’s Deadliest City

Scott A. Huesing is a retired Marine Corps Major. In this book he details his time in Iraq with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. Certainly, this is one of the best books to come out about the war in Iraq. It really speaks to this generation of warriors and how they deserve to be held to the level of the Marines who fought before them. Through his writing you feel the love Major Huesing has for his men and better understand the bonds of Marines who serve together in battle. Scott tells a powerful story that makes the reader feel as though he is on the mission with him. This book is a must read for every Marine and anyone interested in the history of the Corps and the War in Iraq.

Echo in Ramadi: The Firsthand Story of U.S. Marines in Iraq’s Deadliest City
By Scott A. Huesing
308 pages
Publisher: Regnery History
Language: English
ISBN: 978-1-62157-734-8

The Warrior Code: 11 Principles to Unleash the Badass Inside of You

This is a book written by a retired Marine Gunny who developed grit by persevering through life’s challenges. Tee Marie Hanible had the endurance to survive a difficult childhood and the fortitude to serve for 20 years in the Marine Corps. Her list of “25 ways warriors give back” is inspirational.

This book is an easy read with well-flowing chapters. It has a unique feature at the end of each chapter that allows the reader to answer questions for their personal development.

The Warrior Code: 11 Principles to Unleash the Badass Inside of You
By Tee Marie Hanible GySgt/USMC (Ret.) with Denene Millner
193 pages
Publisher: St Martin’s Press
Language: English

NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS & AUTHORS

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IN MEMORIAM
Retired MGySgt Raymond Sweet gave 21 years to the USMC, serving from 1955 to 1976. He was not only great with weapons, he was also an excellent marksman instructor. A 1964 Meritorious Mast from his Commanding Officer reads, “You have been the Battalion Marksmanship Instructor for the past six months. During this period, you have produced outstanding results through exceptional devotion to duty and resourcefulness as evidenced by your 98.4 rifle requalification percentage.” At the end of his career, he headed the Precision Weapons Shop at Weapons Training Battalion, Quantico, VA. He retired and moved on to his second career with the FBI, which also focused on sniper marksmanship. In 1994, he taught the FBI’s first female sniper in Tampa, FL. He started a new career as a Master Gunsmith for the FBI. Ray retired in 1999 participating in a long career of competitions with the Marine Corps, FBI and Virginia State Shooting Team. On February 12, 2019, Raymond Sweet reported to his final duty station, just 2 days after his 84th birthday. SI

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.
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Price: $10.00
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White Gloves
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Price: $5.00
Description: White Parade Gloves (SM-XL)

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Price: $38.00
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Gold/Gold Cufflinks
Item Code: U36b
Price: $11.50
Description: USMC Gold Cufflinks with Gold EGA

Gold/Silver Cufflinks
Item Code: U36a
Price: $11.50
Description: USMC Gold Cufflinks with Silver EGA

Magnet
Item Code: Sign13
Price: $12.00
Description: MCL Magnet 12in

Belt with Buckle
Item Codes: wa04a; wa04b
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$16.00 wa04b
Description: 50in and 60in Web Belt with Gold Buckle
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USMC Patch w/Black Background
Item Code: wa15a
Price: $4.00
Description: 4in Round USMC Patch with a Black Background

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Item Code: wa15b
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Item Code: wa15c
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Price: $2.00
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Description: Gold Ornament/Bookmark
“The Marines’ Hymn” Engraved

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REUNIONS

40th Annual MARINE Reunion will be held on August 17, 2019, at the Saxon Club, 710 S. Meridian Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44509. The event is open to all Marines and their families. The cost is $27.00 per person which includes dinner buffet style and open bar. A guest speaker provided by HQMC will give a short talk on current issues and events surrounding the Marine Corps. The event also includes Door Prizes, Chinese Auction, Grand Prize and more. No ticket sales at the door; all tickets must be purchased before August 7, 2019, to be honored, as this event sells out early. For more information please contact: Chester Kaschak at 330-533-6084 or Ed Leviseur at 330-720-4513.

Third Battalion, Fourth Marines Association is holding its reunion August 21-25, 2019, in Virginia Beach/Norfolk, VA. Please contact Travis Fryzowicz at 732-251-5518 or email at travisjfry@gmail.com.

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

HMM-165/VMM-165 Reunion for all hands, all years to be held September 5-8, 2019, in San Diego. Please see details at www.165whiteknights.com or contact Al Dickerson at 317-462-0733.

Marine Air Base Squadrons-49 Reunion of former members to be held in Earlville, MD, on September 7, 2019. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle (Ret.) at 609-291-9617 or 609-284-2935; e-mail at mabsreunion@comcast.net.

Marine Corps Engineer Association (MCEA) Reunion and Awards Banquet is September 12-14, 2019, at the Hilton Inn & Conference Center, San Antonio, TX. Please contact Maj Charlie Dismore USMC (Ret.) at 512-394-9333 or visit marcorengasn.org.

1st Battalion 3rd Marines (Vietnam and all eras) Reunion will be held September 17-22, 2019, at the Radisson Hotel in Branson, MO. Please contact Don Bumgarner at 562-897-2437 or at dbum13usmc@verizon.net or contact Roger Bacon at 330-424-9359 or rogerbacon45@yahoo.com.

Basic School MCB 3-68 Reunion will be held September 19-22, 2019, Quantico, VA. Contact Norm Hapke at 619-249-2281 or nhapke@cox.net for more information.

HMM-265 Reunion will be held at Branson, MO, from September 30 to October 4, 2019, at the Hilton Promenade. All squadron members and those from attached units who served in HMM-265 from 1962-2012 are invited. The contact person is John Winter at 573-286-5454 or jrwinter44@icloud.com. We also have complete reunion information on hmm-265.org.

Fifth Marine Division Association’s 70th Annual Reunion is October 16-21, 2019, in New Orleans. Contact Jimmie Hyde-Watson, 504-481-5028 or email gypsie.lotus@yahoo.com. Vietnam-era Marines who served in the reactivated 26th, 27th, 28th and 13th Marines are welcome to join Iwo Jima survivors and families.

The Chosin Few National Reunion, Dec. 4-8, at the Marriott Mission Valley San Diego, CA. For details and registration information, contact Chosin Few Headquarters, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC, 29907 at 843-379-1011 or email: TheChosinFewInc@aol.com. Check website at chosinfew.org for registering online.

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@iwojimassociation.org.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
A Hike to Remember

By Jamie B. DePaola, SgtMaj, USMC (Ret.)

On May 11, 2019, the Peter P. Monaco Jr. Detachment 40 mustered several hundred veterans in Glastonbury, CT, who hiked 22km (13 miles) throughout the town in their annual “Hike to Remember.”

They gathered at “zero-dark thirty” at the Elks Club in Glastonbury and stepped off at 0515 wearing their beloved “boots and utes” uniform from their respective service. The enthusiasm of these brave men and women in the early morning hours was humbling, motivating and inspiring indeed. They marched off gallantly in the dark as they began their 22K Hike, following their lead vehicle, which was a 5-ton military truck with a DJ loaded on the back ready to play some tunes after their breakfast stop.

Three bagpipers from the Middletown Pipes and Drums welcomed them to their breakfast stop hosted by The Gallery restaurant at 0800 with some patriotic music.

Why 22km? In the hearts and minds of these military veterans, it is simply a reminder that they lose 22 veteran and/or active duty brothers and sisters from suicide every day.

This year, Col Adele Hodges, USMC (Ret.), hiked alongside the veterans. She retired after serving for 33 years. At the end of her distinguished career, she was the first female Base Commander for MCB Camp Lejeune, NC. Adele is currently the Connecticut State Commander for the League.

The hikers were also joined by retired Brigadier General Ron Welch, former Director of the Joint Staff, Connecticut National Guard. Like many retired veterans, Ron Welch continues to serve our nation by helping other veterans in his new role as Vice President for Military Services and Economic Development for the Veterans Rally Point located in Norwich, CT, which provides critical free services to veterans and their families. This motivating General was invited to be the keynote speaker at the closing ceremony, but he donned his gear and joined in the hike too. When asked why, he said, “I can’t think of a better way to spend a Saturday morning than hiking among America’s heroes, raising awareness of the suicide crisis of 22 a day, 8,030 a year, among our veterans and military.”

Before the post-hike activities, bagpipers offered motivating music in the background as these amazing veterans did 22 push-ups together, honoring the Purple Heart recipients in the group that day.

In the hearts and minds of these military veterans, it is simply a reminder that they lose 22 veteran and/or active duty brothers and sisters from suicide every day. They were trained to be leaders and have courage and skills to take on whatever mission assigned to them. They changed as they grew stronger, but when they came home they felt like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole. Often their own families and friends don’t understand them; which, in many cases, creates estrangement from loved ones.

Detachment 40’s mission is to unite veterans and service members from all branches and walks of life to enjoy the camaraderie they shared while serving. Each year’s hike is designed to join these forces to support the fight to end veteran suicide and to support veterans and their families as they transition back to civilian life.
2020 BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

THE MCL GEARS UP FOR NEXT YEAR'S DRAWING!

In 2020, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (miltours.com) will again offer the battlefield tour of a lifetime to two lucky League members as the grand prizes in the League's 96th Anniversary Tour Raffle.

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

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

Raffle tickets cost $5 per single entry or five tickets for just $20! That's right, the more you buy, the more you save and the more you help the League. The drawing will be held at our annual Mid-Winter Conference Banquet in 2020.

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

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

2019/20 MCL RAFFLE SCHEDULE

12–19 Sept
75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Peleliu

3–13 Oct
Imperial China “Three Jewels”—Beijing, Xian & Shanghai

2–13 Nov
WWI French Battlefields—Armistice Day Paris “End of the War to End All Wars"

30 Nov–11 Dec
Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 11-16 Dec: Laos & Cambodia

3–9 Dec
Pearl Harbor & WWII U.S. Military Sites

2020

4–11 Jan
Panama—30th Anniversary of Op Just Cause

30 Jan–9 Feb
Philippines Liberation WWII 75th Anniversary

1–8 Feb
300th Anniversary of Battle of Nassau, Bahamas, 1720

8–20 Feb
Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue/Operation Houston

Continues Next Page
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

**96TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR RAFFLE**
Clip coupon and return along with your check made payable to:

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17–23 March
Iwo Jima–Guam 75th Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor

20–26 April
Turkey–Gallipoli Campaign & ANZAC Day

25 Apr–8
May 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War Operations from Saigon to the DMZ

16–25 May
WWI Devil Dog Battlefields in France & Paris

22 May–2
June 80th Anniversary WWII Battle of France & Dunkirk, 1940

27 May–9 June
76th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris

1–9 June
76th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

2–12 July
Russia “Eastern Front” 75th Anniversary Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad

1–10 Aug
Guadalcanal WWII 77th Anniversary of Operation Watchtower

26 Aug–7 Sept
50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War in I-Corps, 1970

8–20 Sept
50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War “Da Nang to the DMZ,” 1970

8–20 Sept
Ireland—WWII U.S. Marines “Irish Marine” Dublin-Derry-Belfast

11–18 Sept
70th Anniversary of the Korean War—Inchon Landing & Pusan Perimeter

12–19 Sept
76th Anniversary of the Liberation of Peleliu

15–19 Sept
Band of Brothers London–Portsmouth–Normandy–Bastogne–Munich

27 Sept–9 Oct
WWII Concentration Camps—Amsterdam, Auschwitz, Prague, Berlin & Nuremberg

11–23 Oct
Rise & Fall of the Third Reich Munich–Berlin–Nuremberg

2–13 Nov
WWI French Battlefields—Armistice Day, Paris “End of the War to End All Wars”

30 Nov–11 Dec
Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 11-16 Dec: Laos & Cambodia

3–9 Dec
Pearl Harbor & WWII U.S. Military Sites
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name __________________________ Phone _______________________
Street Address _____________________ City ____________________________
Date of Birth ________________________ Email Address ___________________
Date of Enlistment/Commissioning / / Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation / / Service# or SS# __________

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

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

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

-OR-

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

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

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

(Sponsor where applicable) Applicant’s Signature (see reverse side)

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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – REGULAR MEMBERS

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

Signature__________________________

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

Signature__________________________

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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__________________________
The PenFed Foundation is there to support military families like that of Kerby Stracco, whose husband suffered severe injuries while serving in Kuwait. As his caretaker, Kerby turned to the PenFed Foundation for help with childcare costs so she could take her husband to doctor’s appointments.

The PenFed Foundation supports veterans, service members, military families and their support networks with the following programs:

- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Homebuying Assistance
- Military Family and Caregiver Support
- Interest-Free Loans
- Veteran Entrepreneurial Support

Since 2001, the PenFed Foundation has helped more than 130,000 military families. See how you can make a difference.

Learn more at PenFedFoundation.org

“You’re not just giving money. You’re SAVING A LIFE.”
– KERBY STRACCO
ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.