

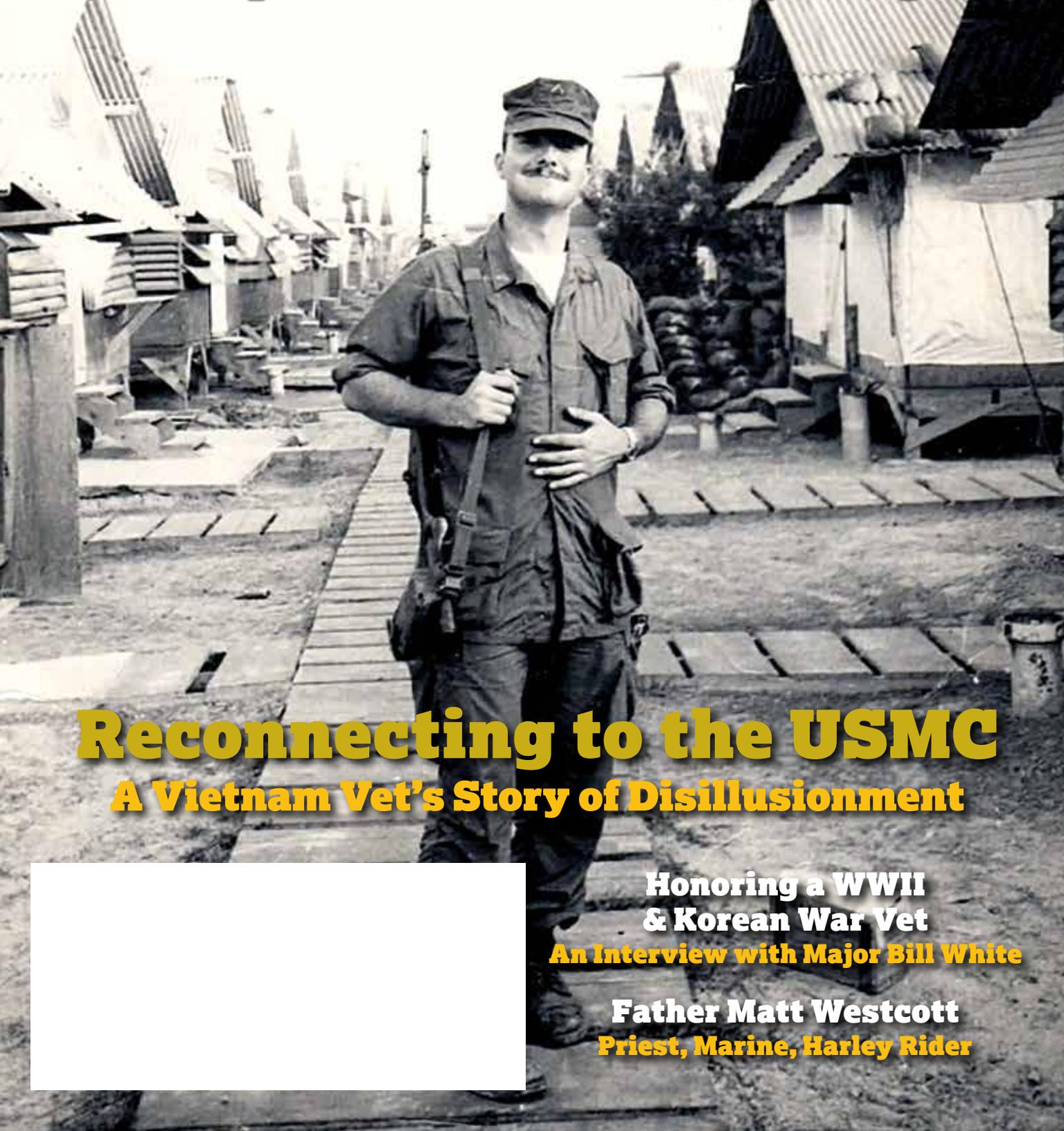
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 76 No. 4 • FALL 2020

# SEMPER PARATI



The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



## Reconnecting to the USMC A Vietnam Vet's Story of Disillusionment



Honoring a WWII  
& Korean War Vet  
An Interview with Major Bill White

Father Matt Westcott  
Priest, Marine, Harley Rider



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**MARINES**

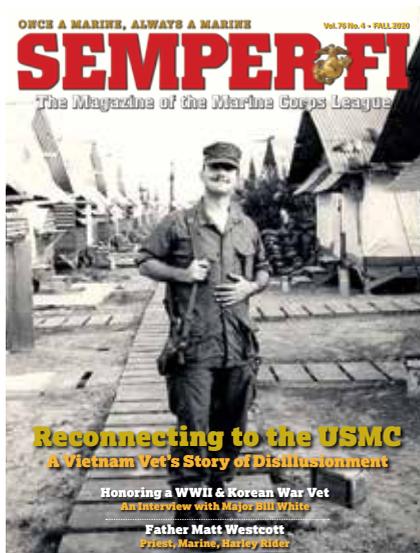
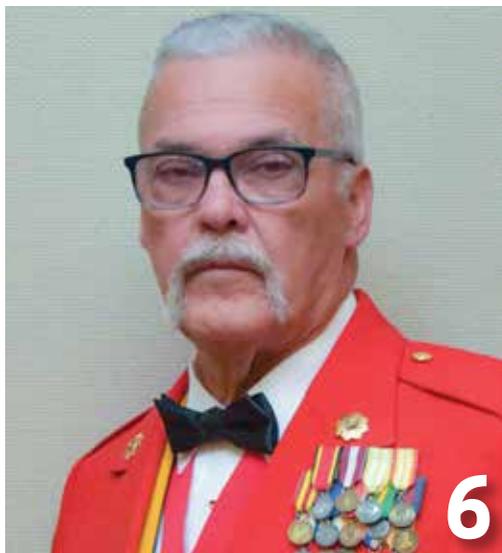
# SEMPER PARATI

The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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**ON THE COVER:**

Fred Marotta in Da Nang, Vietnam in 1969. This is the story of Marine Marotta who, after proudly serving his country amidst the world's disdain for the Vietnam War, later disconnected from the Marines until a chance encounter led him back. See story on page 14.

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C O R R E C T I O N & C L A R I F I C A T I O N

Page 31 of Vol. 76, No. 3, should have read that Ms. Johnson was ordered to the naval aviation training center in Millington, TN.

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



# NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

**DENNIS TOBIN**



## Where do we go from here? The mission is still the same!

**MARINES:** First, I want to thank everyone for your support during the past year and for reelecting me for a second term. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your Commandant; along with your Board of Trustees we will continue to move the League forward.



Thanks to all the Division Vices for keeping the communication lines open with your departments during this pandemic. Thanks to the Department Commandants for an outstanding job keeping in touch and keeping your members informed. There were a number of Department Commandants who went above and beyond. Outstanding job, Marines. *Semper Fi*.

As you may or may not know our yearly Modern Day Marine (MDM) Expo has been cancelled. We have, however, moved forward into uncharted waters—the realm of virtual reality. Along with MajGen Regner, our partners from MCA&F, LtGen Mark Faulkner and his staff and Emerald X, we were asked by the CMC to put together a virtual MDM. This virtual reality mirrored the theme of the event: "The Marine Corps is evolving, and its leadership participated in MDM to help demonstrate how new technology, doctrine and concepts will help us be the Corps America Needs." To say that this was a very large undertaking would be an understatement, but we were mission-focused and completed our mission in true Marine Corps fashion. Our CMC General Berger had a vision of how the virtual show "WILL" look, and I'm going to go out on a limb and say "Mission Accomplished." Your Marine Corps League Headquarters building was utilized for portions of the video recordings.

As you all know, we have begun the switch over to electronic banking, especially for the PLM disbursements, and it is working very well. Detachments, if you haven't already sent your banking information to COO Bob Borka, please do so ASAP. We do not expect to be writing paper checks for PLMs next year. Once we are fully operational with the program it can be used for a variety of financial transactions. During the coronavirus pandemic you have all proven that when backed into a corner with no options you can use electronics. So, let's keep it going.

Earlier this year I began searching for a grant writer; I thought we had one, but it fell through. So, I'm once again looking for one. If we could begin getting some corporate grants it would be a great financial boost. If we have any members with grant writing experience or if anyone knows a grant writer, please send COO Bob Borka and me a resume and the contact info. As I said in the beginning, your Board will continue to move our League forward in a productive manner, and your ideas are greatly appreciated.

In closing, as you return to some kind of normal and begin rescheduling conferences and conventions, please keep us informed so we can post them on the HDQ's website. If you would like me to attend, I work on a first-come, first-served basis, but I will try to make as many as possible. Stay healthy and safe.

**Semper Fi!**  
[nationalcommandant@mcleague.org](mailto:nationalcommandant@mcleague.org)

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# CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S LETTER

**BOB BORKA**

## Maybe it isn't so bad

**MARINES:** At the height of a clear day we can see for miles. Driving through the Midwest, rolling fields support rows of crops covered and aligned like well-formed platoons, and the fresh soil knows its purpose. Standing atop Lookout Mountain over Boulder, you can almost taste the crisp cold beverages being produced below. Sitting on the beaches of La Jolla, Pensacola, Virginia Beach or the Jersey Shore, the vast ocean and rhythmic waves bring peace. Then, like a Marshall Mathers' lyric it seems to screech to a panic.

The fog of war and fear of the unknown quickly envelop our lives. An unprecedented global pandemic shadows everything, and time seems to stop. That seems a little drastic and overdramatized though, right? Yes, we must wash our hands more and give a little distance in personal contacts. This is great because some did not understand social boundaries before. While we are at it, clean the cell phones too, as they suffer from constant transfer of whatever we touch.

It is sad that fundraising opportunities have slowed and caused our detachments to suffer. I hope each can recover soon. We have seen cancellations of various events and gatherings. This further causes us to miss comradery. We want each of you and your families to be safe and healthy so we can once again assemble.

Haven't you found that in some ways you are healthier than you were last year? I know my family has created some new habits. My wife and I are exercising early every morning. We sit on the porch and drink coffee before going to work. My daughter even gets up early and sits with us. In the evening, our whole family sits on the porch and talks. Where was this during the past 20-plus years of our life? We were moving too fast to think of it.

Be good to one another. Embrace the Tribe—from a socially responsible distance.

*Semper Fi!*

## EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY

**October 23, 1983** Two truck bombs struck buildings in Beirut, Lebanon, housing American and French service members of the Multinational Force in Lebanon, a military peacekeeping operation during the Lebanese Civil War. 241 U.S. service members were killed.

**October 1, 1997** Colonel Gilda A. Jackson, a native of Columbus, Ohio, became the first African-American female colonel in Marine Corps history. She was serving as Special Projects Officer, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing at the time of her promotion.

**November 10, 1921** This date marked the first formal commemoration of the birthday of the Marine Corps. On October 21, 1921, Maj Edwin McClellan, OIC of the Historical Section, HQMC, sent a memo to MajGen Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday of November 10, 1775, be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps. Accordingly, on November 1, 1921, Gen Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47 summarizing the history, mission and tradition of the Corps and directed that it be read to every command each November 10.

**November 13, 1982** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated this date at the Memorial site in Washington, D.C. The dedication and parade that preceded it were part of a week-long National Salute to Vietnam Veterans.

**December 4, 1950** Then LtCol Raymond G. Davis led his battalion into Hagaru-ri, Korea, after 4 days of intense fighting in the mountain passes against a numerically superior hostile force. His battalion, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, helped clear the way for the 5th and 7th Marines, and LtCol Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.



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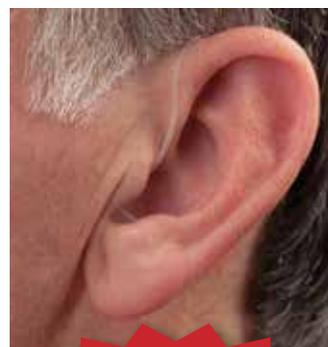
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# ATTENTION ON DECK

## 2021 Mid-Winter National Conference Notice

**MARINES:** Please check the national website for information regarding the 2021 Mid-Winter National Conference in Norfolk, VA, at [mcleaguelibrary.org/conference](http://mcleaguelibrary.org/conference) and the National Convention in Springfield, IL at [mcleaguelibrary.org/convention](http://mcleaguelibrary.org/convention). We look forward to seeing you at both events! **SIF**

## Getting The Right Message – To The Right People – At The Right Time – For The Right Reasons!

By the Marine Corps League National Public Relations Committee

**E**ffective messaging is one of many diverse roles of a successful public relations strategy. Communicating a straightforward and consistent message is particularly important for response and follow-through. What are the messages a detachment needs to push out? Who is the audience for each message? When should messages be pushed out? Why the push?

**WHAT** is the right message? Is your detachment seeking ticket sales for a fundraising event? The message would be “join us for fun and fundraising”—or something like that. Is your detachment seeking new members? Well, your message could be something about how you serve your members, their families, the community and other veterans and Marines through the diverse detachment activities. Does your message need to direct internal communications, maybe for a membership meeting or a member social? Knowing what that “proper” message is will help ensure that you and your detachment speak with one unified voice—consistently.

**WHO** are the recipients of each message? This depends on what that message is. There are functions and activities that are geared for the public. How can you connect your message to them? Is there a specific audience you wish to target? A message can be formatted for television or radio broadcast. It can be published in newspapers and magazines or pushed through social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube and even text and email. Posters, flyers, brochures, postcards and especially word of mouth are important ways to push a message. Cross-promotion will assist in getting the message to your audience by speaking at other groups’ organizations and activities. Each event, activity and cause will have an audience cluster that you want to target.

**WHEN** should the message(s) be pushed out? It is stated that a message needs to be imprinted in the mind of the consumer at least 13 times before it begins to connect. Therefore, looking at an

activity and when to push the message for ticket sales, donations or membership drives, a standard marketing rule should be considered that encourages marketing to be at least 6 weeks in front of the event. When applying this rule, your message impression should be heavy for the first portion—raise awareness, push ticket sales, start the word of mouth. Maintain a steady awareness in the middle periods, but a heavy push should come again closer to the event date. If the message is for a meeting, get it to the right people well in advance and provide reminders. People are busy and need to be reminded about events and meeting notices—timely and consistently.

**WHY?** What are the goals and objectives of your message? Is it to increase ticket sales? Is it to recruit 13 new members? Is it to raise \$4,000? Maybe to have members present for a function or meeting? Your message needs to have a critical “call to action”—what is it you want to achieve? Targeting the “take-away” within your message will help to drive this with measurable success.

Take advantage of an effectively crafted message and deliver it to its intended audience. Apply a timely push of your message through necessary channels. Work for the success this will bring, with consistent use and application. With a basic principle that “communication is key,” get the right message to the right people at the right time for the right reasons! **SIF**



### MCL National Public Relations committee members

- Victoria McCoy, Chairperson | Pennsylvania
- Barbara DeAngelo | New Jersey
- Brian Gillespie | New Jersey
- Alison Hunt-Noger | Maryland
- Raymond Morrell | North Dakota
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**CONTACT THE VETERANS CRISIS LINE**  
**800-273-8255 & PRESS 1**

# ATTENTION ON DECK

## MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

February 25 – 27, 2021 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel

777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

Phone: (757) 622-6664 \$129.00 per night (Includes Breakfast)

### ALL DEADLINES ARE FEBRUARY 5, 2021

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

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

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

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

Full page @ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Half page @ \$60 \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter page @ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

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#Beef \_\_\_\_ #Chicken \_\_\_\_ #Vegetarian \_\_\_\_

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Please mail to: National Marine Corps League, Attn: Mid-Winter Conference, 3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 115 Stafford, VA 22554.

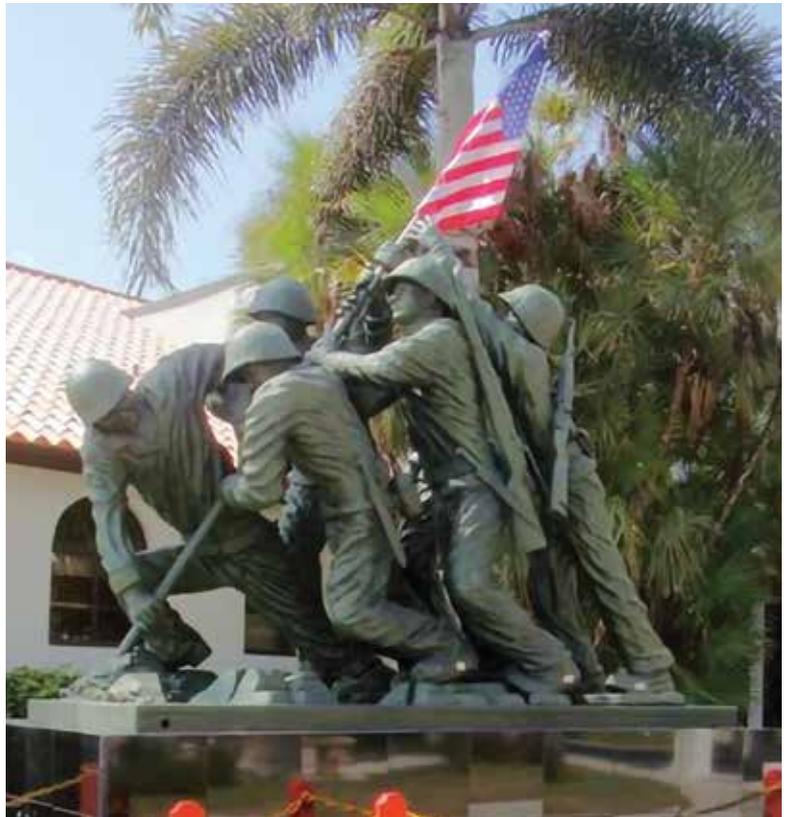
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Please CC the Chief Operating Officer Bob Borka at bborka@MCLeague.org

# NAMED IN HONOR OF



E.T. Brisson in World War II.



The Iwo jima Traveling Memorial Float Brisson and his son built in 1977.

## E.T. Brisson Detachment 063

By Detachment Member Jerry Van Hecke and Detachment Historian Trisha Marsh

**E**.T. Brisson was one of the original charter members of the Marine Corps League Detachment 063, located in Naples, FL, in 1972. After E.T.'s passing in 1999, a new charter was established, changing the detachment name to "E.T. Brisson," in honor of E.T.

E.T. Brisson was a WWII Marine, who fought on Okinawa. He was a road builder in Collier County, FL, digging a large lake to be used for road-building purposes for several years. The lake is visible from the I-75 near Pine Ridge Road.

E.T.'s Marine Corps League activity included being a Detachment Commandant several times and holding many Department of Florida League positions, as well as national offices. E.T. was also a proud member of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs.

E.T. and his son built the Iwo Jima float for the MCL Detachment 063 in



E.T. Brisson

1977. When the float was originally built, it was intended for a one-time appearance in one parade. The Iwo Jima Traveling Memorial float has been refurbished/restored a few times and is still "on duty," appearing at numerous area parades and military events.

E.T. Brisson Detachment 063 was chartered in 1972 and remains an active, viable group since that time. Some of our current members joined as charter members and are still active in detachment functions. Over the years, the detachment has become an effective, respected organization within the Collier County veterans' community. Our detachment policies and actions have always been directed by our pride in being Marines, and with that as our focus, we have gone into the community of veterans, the community as a whole and have sought to be of some assistance to those less fortunate than we. **SIF**

## NAMED IN HONOR OF



# Frank J. Carroll Detachment 028

By Margaret Krebs

**B**orn January 5, 1943, in Denver, CO, Frank Jerry Carroll displayed his artistic abilities throughout his school years. An exceptional student, he was advanced a grade and still placed in accelerated classes. His artistic abilities found him starring in plays, doing the artwork for stage backdrops, drafting, oil painting, artwork and covers for the *Colorado Engineer* (University of Colorado Publications).

He also displayed an athletic aptitude, learning swimming and lifesaving through the Scouting program and assisting the swimming instructor in junior high school. He also played water polo at college.

He visited Europe after graduation from Wheat Ridge High School in 1960 and delayed going to college for a year. He attended University of Colorado in Boulder, CO, and was very active in his Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. He also was a mentor for a delinquent youth under a program associated

with a criminology course called "Assistant Probation Officer Program."

After graduating from CU with a Bachelor of Arts degree, he joined the Peace Corps. A delay in transportation resulted in an immediate change as Jerry determined the United States Marine Corps was his destiny.

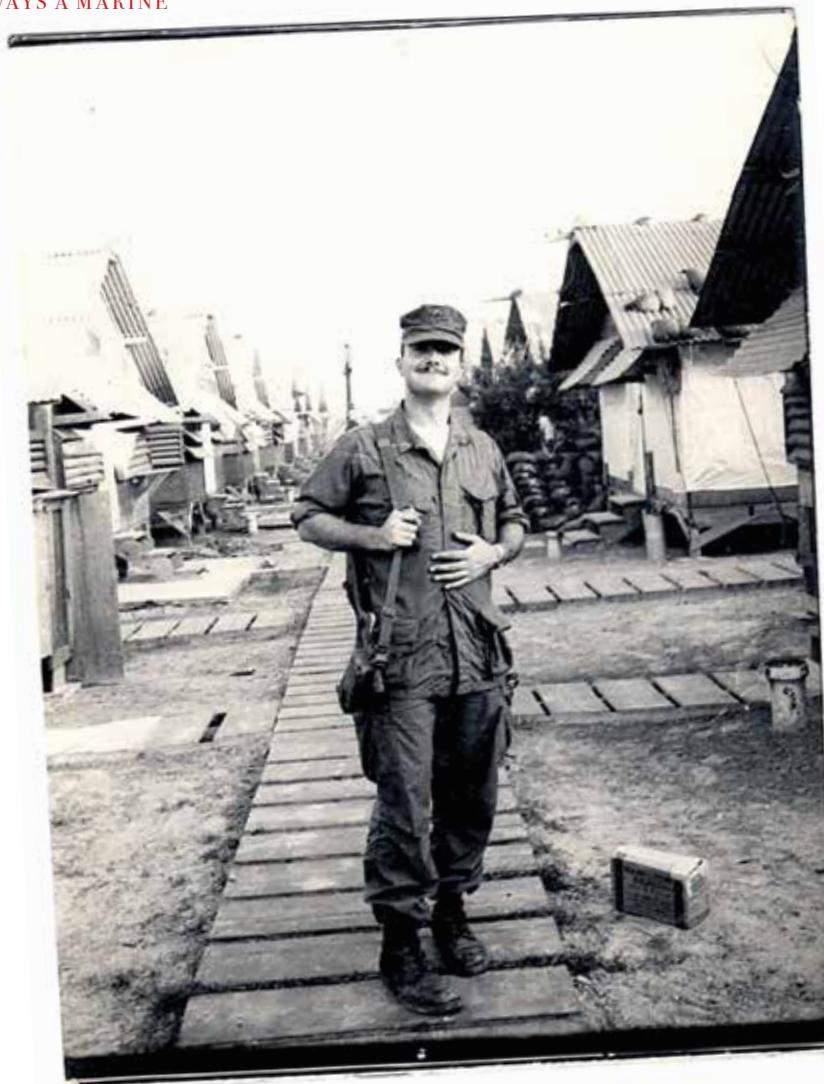
Receiving his commission in 1967, he was schooled as a helicopter pilot, joining the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 on January 28, 1969. He immediately displayed his courage and leadership in action the very next day that resulted in his being awarded the Navy Commendation Medal. These traits were continually part of his service as evidenced by the following awards:

- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Purple Heart
- National Order of Vietnam 5<sup>th</sup> Class
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/Palm

- Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Unit Citation
- Air Medal w/9 Strike Award
- Navy Commendation Medal w/"V" for Valor
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal

Marine Frank Jerome "Jerry" Carroll was killed in action on April 1, 1969, while flying his helicopter during a combat mission in Vietnam.

The original organizing members of the Marine Corps League in Denver, CO, felt that this Marine exemplified the qualities that we pride ourselves for as Marines. Marine Carroll's mother, Margaret Carroll-Boyce, graciously allowed us to name our detachment after her son. We will always be proud to be associated with the name of this very brave young man. After Margaret's death, she was buried next to her son at Crown Hill Cemetery. **SIF**



Cpl Marotta  
in Da Nang,  
Vietnam,  
1969.

# “Thank You for Your Service”

## A Change in Perspective

By Fred Marotta

“Are you a Marine, or do you just like to wear our gear?” The man slowly rose to his feet, did an about-face, looked me squarely in the eye and responded in an equal, but very commanding voice, “Yes! Are you?”

Rewind exactly 50 years to a 20-year-old young man, uncertain of what he hoped to become, temporarily dropped out of college and enlisted in the Marine Corps. Every Marine was rigorously trained to fight to live

but told to prepare to die, knowing where we were headed. The probability was very high! To ensure we got the point, our drill instructor (DI) reminded us daily: “Left ... gimme a left, right, left ... pla-toooon halt ... ri—ght face. Squad three ... half step right ... forward, march ... left, right, left ... Squad halt ... about face ... Look at these pukes in squad three, dead \*%#!# they will be!”

Following boot camp, ITR (infantry training regiment) and MOS (military occupa-

tional specialty) school, I was assigned 0141, Personnel Administration. Naive and idealistic, faced with the biggest challenge of my life, this scared %\*#! PFC headed to Vietnam to serve with 2nd Battalion/1st Marines, Headquarters and Service (H&S) Company.

Like all those deployed, there was mistrust in a foreign environment. Like all, I was faced with death but from another perspective. Armed only with an immature faith in my God who I had come to know in my Chris-



Graduation day, MCRD Parris Island, May 1966.



Stopover in Hawaii on way to Vietnam, November 1968.



Marines of VMCJ-1 in Da Nang.



R&R at the Beach.



Life in the wing.

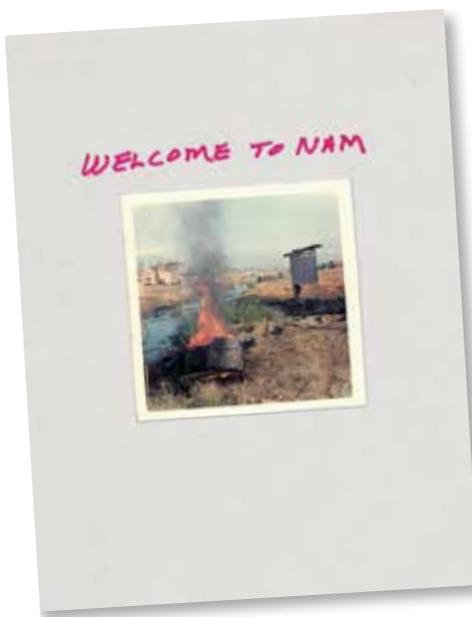


Another Marine of VMCJ.

tian home and faith in my fellow Marines, I began to face my demons.

"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil ... Alav ha-shalom (peace be upon him)" was added if the fallen was Hebrew. The Chaplin's words echoed throughout the battalion compound once every month. A small group of Marines gathered to pay a final memorial tribute to those who gave it all. As chief personnel clerk assigned to H&S, I attended all ceremonies; it was my job to document their final chapter.

Serving as an admin in an infantry battalion, my experience was much different than 0300 MOS grunt Marines. Apart from two brief firefights, rat patrols, perimeter duty at night and mine sweeps in the early morning, my days were spent inside the compound assisting the CO and top track with a host of personnel activities. During my tour, I struggled with an intense conflict between the world's view of the war and the reality of those serving, and dying! An article in *Reader's Digest* best reflected the political and social environment of the war and how it was received by the men and women who served. In part, it



Marotta's photo album from his time in Vietnam.

read: "What they need most is the assurance that their immense suffering has not been in vain. They need recognition of their courage

in war's battles and in their own daily battles to recover. All about them swirl the voices of their countrymen calling the Vietnam War a travesty, one of history's horrible mistakes. The wounded recognize that these judgments may be proper, but they need validation of their own response when they were called to serve" (*Reader's Digest*, September 1969).

Every month the memorial service brought death inside the compound. Every company, Echo, Fox, Golf and Weapons, gave the ultimate sacrifice, except H&S, to my memory. Understanding why my countrymen did not support these men's efforts, let alone give tribute to the price they paid, tore me apart. This conflict haunted me my entire tour. I penned it in prose then as a means to cope. The best of my duty was processing short-timers to return home; the worst of my duty was processing the fallen to return home ... in a body bag.

Having been given a great gift of personal faith, maturity and protection by the grace of God, I was sheltered and returned safely home. The arrival from Vietnam, however, was met with disdain. Unlike the feelings of euphoria from the glory of God, the gift of



Miss America comes to Vietnam to entertain the troops.

a maturing faith and a belief in my future, I accepted a position of shame.

After touchdown at Edward's Air Force Base, I slowly disembarked the plane, fell to my knees and kissed the tarmac of my United States of America. I thanked God that I was home. Immediately, I changed into civilian clothes, as strongly suggested by fellow Marines who had returned in uniform only to be spat upon by dissidents protesting the war. Following a short, loving family homecoming, life settled. Marrying my bride and starting a family became priority one. I was back home again in Indiana. There were no military bases or positive influences nearby, and the anger continued to grow throughout the country. The conflict and the reception we all received continued to fester, and the wounds left behind never healed.

I lost touch with the Marine Corps and our mantra: "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." I buried the memories of the political environment towards the war and the hateful reception towards all Vietnam veterans.

The next time I had any contact with the Marine Corps was in 2009 when I first saw him at a local market. My wife and I were looking at hanging baskets for our new home after moving to Richmond. We pulled several from above and placed them on the floor for a closer inspection. During our examination, a man entered our space, bent down and began to covet those we were considering. For fear of losing our selections, I decided to say something. It was then I noticed he was wearing a USMC shirt, so I tapped him on the shoulder, and in a friendly banter questioned his authenticity.

A friendship and bond instantly formed! We had never met, yet we had a universal tie—we were Marines. As we talked, we discovered we served in Vietnam about the same time. I learned that the origin of his

commanding voice and posture was that of a leader, a Captain. He could have been my Commanding Officer. During this initial conversation, I told him about our recent risky move from Ohio, my background and my search for a position in banking.

The next day he called to invite me to a luncheon with 75 other Marines and veterans. We had a great conversation, getting to know each other's past and future dreams. We talked at length, especially regarding the degrading and hateful reception all Vietnam vets received. There was NO "thank you for your service" offered by our countrymen.

Before the week was out, I received another call asking if I would like to meet the president of a local bank. He arranged the time and place, and the three of us met to discuss my skills. Leaving, he asked me to wait while he went to his car. Returning, he threw a USMC shirt in my face, stating in a jestful, yet serious manner, "Here, you need to wear this!"

It was then I learned another truism, "The Brotherhood of the Corps," Marines taking care of Marines. Later in that second week, I received a call from the human resource VP asking me to come in for formal interviews. In the third week, I accepted an offer to start a new division for the bank.

It was soon after I wore my friend's gift with an eagle, globe and anchor on the breast pocket that I heard my very first "Thank you for your service" from a stranger I passed on the street. Putting on that shirt was like applying a soothing medicated ointment, dressing wounds that had remained raw and open for 40 years. I can't count the number of times since then those much-appreciated words passed across my ears every time I wear USMC gear.

As I continued to attend the monthly luncheons with him, I was invited to check out the

local Marine Corps League. Familiar with the League, but with little direct knowledge of their contribution, I accepted the invitation. Drawn by the brotherhood, instant friendships and living in the mantra, I enlisted.

For the first few months, I only observed, getting to know how I might best contribute. Then it became clear! The Honor Guard would be a perfect place to fulfill my deep desire of what I long prayed for when I first read it in the *Digest*. It closed with the following: "These men will live for a long time with the nightmares of memory. The least their countrymen can do is offer them assurance that their courage will be remembered and honored—no matter what final judgment historians make of a war that to each of them was personal Armageddon, come when life was fullest with promise."

### Present Day

This past year our detachment honored 53 veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces, paying a final tribute to their service, and participated in another 10 ceremonies remembering and honoring those who gave it all but received no gratitude.

It was by faith that we were drawn to Richmond facing the unknown. Captain Cal was my point man, used as God's guide the entire mission. He cleared the trail, opening doors of employment, mending old wounds and giving me new purpose as I approached retirement. He was a leader, a Marine helping another Marine, a Christian and my friend. Reminding me that I was still a Marine, he helped to restore my soul and confirm my faith.

Every time I hear those words, "Thank you for your service," it is like a warm balm covering my flesh, healing the wounds of the past. Every time I fire a three-shot volley, recite the meaning of the folds of the American flag to the family or salute our nation's colors, all honoring a veteran's passing, I thank God for giving me such a privilege.

Times have changed as the world has changed in light of many conflicts. The military men and women of today are treated with respect and appropriately honored for their service. We still have miles to go, but a turn has been made. A cancerous seed of anger that was sown 50 years ago has miraculously been transformed, and today yields a renaissance of patriotism that supports and honors those who were once its target.

Recently, Captain Cal was called home by the Supreme Commandant ... he will be missed! Thank you for **your** service Captain Richard Calvert "Cal" Esleeck, Jr. Thank you for your friendship, your leadership and reaching out to this Marine! Semper Paratus! **SIF**



Carol Mazzara, in the highlighted square, presents the Holy City Unit of Charleston, SC, its Charter during a Zoom meeting on May 7, 2020.

# Paying It Forward

## How Silly Fun Led to a New Auxiliary Unit

By Lynn Cortright, Holy City Unit President, Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Last August 2019 I went to the National Convention in Billings, Montana. There I was introduced to the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. I saw women in snappy uniforms and others wearing crazy headbands, selling snacks to help become something called a "Flea." I like silly fun, and being retired military, I also like snappy uniforms, so an investigation into this was warranted.

Over the next few days, I went to meetings and met and talked with many people. I found myself in a crazy headband and buying snappy uniform items. When I went to my initiation for the Auxiliary, Joyce Brickett had paid for my dues. "Pay it forward," she said. "The next person you get to join, pay hers." Now, Joyce didn't know me at all, and to do that for someone you don't know was such a wonderful act of kindness. Joyce told me I would need seven women to join before we could be a Unit with a Charter. I thought, "Okay, I can do that." There is paperwork (ugh), "I can do that." Soon I was loaded with ambition and an armful of information.

By December we had our seven, and as per Joyce's example, I paid it forward for my "Magnificent 7" and asked each of them to also pay it forward when they bring in a new member. In early Jan-

uary, Joyce came to Charleston, South Carolina, to do an informational meeting, and we had 11. It took a bit to get all the paperwork figured out, and we received lots of advice which made the process less arduous. We sent the paperwork in and waited to hear back. Meanwhile, I had gone to South America on a mission trip and heard about some virus that was spreading as we were returning to the U.S. The souvenirs we brought back? TP and coffee! Must have given the customs people a good laugh.

Through constant communication and many hours coordinating with our group, Zoom was going to be our way to make the initiation and installation of officers happen, and with the wonderful talent of Helen Breen, the meeting was set for May 7, 2020, at 5 p.m. Carol Mazzara swore in the new members and virtually presented the Unit with their Charter.

The Holy City Unit of Charleston, South Carolina, would not have come together if not for the persistence and love of people like Southeast Division Vice President Carol Mazzara, PNVP Southeast Division Joyce Brickett, Colleen English and the awesome women who make up the Holy City Unit. **SIF**

# CHIEF DEVIL DOG

THOMAS W. HAZLETT, 59TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG

MODDKENNEL.ORG

## Remembering our brothers and sisters



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

- From the MODD Handbook

**MARINES:** Woof, woof and greetings to all MCL and MODD members. Fall is here; the COVID-19 situation has not changed; and rules, regulations and requirements bounce around like a golf ball on concrete. I can only hope that all of you are doing what is necessary to stay safe.

I organized a Dog Gathering on October 1-4, in Ocean City, MD, at the Princess Royale hotel. It was a great opportunity to get some Dogs together for education and fun. MODD members and spouses were invited to attend, and I hope a good time was had by all.

We have suffered many losses in our membership over the past few months: the 46<sup>th</sup> PCDD Jack Nash and the 53<sup>rd</sup> PCDD Phil Ruhmshottel, Southeast Division National Vice Commandant and PDD Archie Sweet, and, although not a member of the MODD but a huge supporter of our Children’s Hospital fund, MCLA member Jeanette Geise. Jeanette could be found around the Doghouse at every National Convention and Supreme Growl sewing patches on jackets, vests and covers. The

money she charged was contributed to the Kennel’s Children’s Hospital fund. Sadly, these members and many more were lost.

Now that some of our departments/detachments and packs/pounds can meet, I encourage you to attend. Your safety is paramount—please be safe and follow local requirements for meetings.

I want to thank all of you who responded to our mask and coaster fundraiser. All of your contributions go to the Children’s Hospital fund.

Please remember our veterans; although restrictions may keep us from physically visiting with those in veterans’ hospitals and homes, we can still send them cards to let them know they have not been forgotten. Please also keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers, especially those in harm’s way.

It is an honor to be a Devil Dog, and it is my honor to continue to serve you as your 59<sup>th</sup> Chief. Remember, “If you keep it fun, they will come!”

**Semper Woof!**



### Special Note

I have asked one of our Dogs to come up with items such as masks and coasters that we can use as fundraisers. MODD is making these available for our Children’s Hospital fundraiser.

The coaster is made of walnut, and the donation is a minimum of \$10 each. The mask is a minimum donation of \$5 each. 100% of all donations go to the Children’s Hospital fund.

For orders, contact CDD Tom Hazlett at: [59thchiefdevildog@gmail.com](mailto:59thchiefdevildog@gmail.com).



# TREE OF LIGHTS

Tree Lighting Ceremony, **11:00am, Tuesday, December 1st, 2020**  
at the Marine Corps League National Headquarters

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

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

As a light sponsor, your name (or the name of your organization) will be listed on a special **Scroll of Honor** to be displayed at the ceremony and to be posted on our website: [usmarinesyouthfoundation.org](http://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](http://www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org)).  
**Questions? Please call (703) 207-9588**

# NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCLA

EVELYN JOPPA

NATIONALMCLA.ORG

## Staying innovative during the pandemic

### LADIES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY:

The best is yet to come! We are resourceful, and we will improvise, adapt and overcome, as our Marines and Marine families have done and continue to do.



Be safe and be well by following the guidelines provided by the CDC. Working together to help prevent this virus is good for all.

Throughout this pandemic, our Board of Trustees has accomplished its job with outstanding service. The dedication and response to every question is a shining example of working together for the good of each member of our organization.

The quick responses to Board votes has made this president's job much easier. Thank you, ladies.

Division Conferences, Department Conventions and the National Convention have been canceled for the most part with concerns for



the safety of members. Rest assured, your National Board of Trustees is handling the business necessary to continue to lead our wonderful organization, while maintaining our high standards. Member input is always welcome and needed. If you have ideas, please share with the Board.

Our Units are doing the things they have always done. They have found innovative ways to stay busy, communicating with each other and helping their Marines, veterans and communities through this pandemic. They are meeting and staying in touch with members and recruiting new members. What a fine example of American resourcefulness!

Prayer is needed for those affected by the pandemic and other disasters as well as for those who are ill, injured or have lost loved ones.

God willing, we will meet in Norfolk, VA, February 25-27, 2021, at our National Marine Corps League and Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference.

Success is built on the dreams of those who seek to serve others!

**Semper Fi!**

## JOINING THE MCLA

- **Patriotic:** Preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the US Marine Corps; maintaining true allegiance to American Institutions.
- **Historic:** Holding sacred the history and memory of the men and women who have given their lives to this Nation; perpetuating the history of the US Marine Corps by observing the anniversaries of historical occasions of interest to the Corps.
- **Fraternal:** Creating camaraderie between the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary; voluntarily aiding and assisting Marines and Veterans as well as their families; decorating graves of deceased Marines whenever possible.
- **Educational:** Striving for passage of legislation favorable to the US Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League and its personnel.
- **Eligibility: Regular Members:** Wives, widows, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters, stepmothers, stepsisters, daughters-in-laws, aunts, nieces, mothers-in-law, sisters-in-law of a (current or former) Marine or a US Navy FMF Corpsman or FMF Navy Chaplain, eligible to belong to the Marine Corps League, Inc., and women Marines. Must be over 16 years of age.
- **Associate Members:** Women not meeting the above requirements may join as associate members. Must be over 16 years of age.

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

### NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Evelyn Joppa

#### National Sr. VP

Linda Chamberlain

#### National Jr. VP

Dotty Sanning

#### National Judge Advocate

Mary Brief

#### Jr. Past National President

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Renee McGuan

#### Midwest Division

Patricia Walker

#### Midwest Division

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Vickie Brown

#### Rocky Mountain

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#### Southeast Division

Carol Mazzara

#### Southern Division

Terri Gothard

#### Southwest Division

No Division Vice

### KEY STAFF PERSONNEL & PROGRAM DIRECTORS

#### National Chaplain

Barb Nobile, PNP

#### VAVS

#### Representative

Terri Gothard

#### National Regent

Donna Jean

Peterson

#### National Big Flea

Joyce Brickett

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[www.nationalmcla.org](http://www.nationalmcla.org)

## PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION INC.

MICHAEL DIGHERO

MCLFOUNDATION.ORG

### Creating paths into the corporate funding world

**MARINES:** The Foundation and I would like to extend our condolences to all who have been affected by this pandemic. With the cancellation of most of our activities across the nation, it has been difficult for us to engage each other and for our communities to proceed forward. That being said, we must still engage each other and be creative in the tasks which we have set before us. This pandemic will come to an end. Our losses and experiences will not be in vain but will make us a stronger and more resilient nation.

Your Foundation is working hard to deliver help when requested. We are in the process of developing paths into the corporate funding world. The development of our corporate funding template is underway and will include necessary information and data required by funding agencies. We have all suffered loss of income due to the challenges which have been set before us. From local detachments, departments, Divisions and National entities fundraising has come to a grinding halt. Creativity is the life blood to fight this loss. We as Marines do believe in saying; "IMPROVISE, ADAPT and OVER-



COME." This will become the essence of what each of us will need to embrace going forward.

I would like to ask for your assistance in funding the Marine Corps League Scholarship Fund. Children who need these scholarships are requesting our help. The challenge set forth at the last Mid-Winter Conference was a \$100.00 donation from every detachment, department and Division in the country. This amount would encompass most of the funding requirements for the Scholarship Fund. Your help would be most graciously appreciated in this endeavor. No matter how little or how great your contribution of time and gifts are, in the end it does make an incredible difference. May you each be blessed with good health, prosperity and camaraderie.

**Semper Fi!**

## CEO, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

YOUNGMARINES.COM

### The results are in ... the Young Marines develops responsible, engaged citizens

Jason D. Asbill, Esq. (Guest Contributor)  
Executive Director, Young Marines Alumni Association

**MARINES:** The Young Marines Alumni Association, in partnership with the Young Marines, conducted a survey to study the impact the Young Marines program has had on its former youth members. This Proof of Program Survey reached statistical significance, meaning the results are valid and unlikely due to chance. This is the Young Marines' first-ever quantitative measure of its mission.

The survey delved into questions regarding the current behavior of Young Marines Alumni, including voting practices, community service, higher education, military service and lifestyle. This data, combined with individual stories of Alumni, are key to proving the Young Marines accomplishes its overall mission: to develop responsible citizens.

The results of the survey were overwhelmingly in support of the Young Marines' positive impact!

Need more proof? Visit the Young Marines Alumni Association website ([www.youngmarinesalumni.org](http://www.youngmarinesalumni.org)) where you can read stories about incredible Alumni and how they are making a difference in their communities. The Marine Corps League can be proud to be a partner of the Young Marines.

**Semper Fi!**

**YOUNG MARINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**Proven Results!**  
The Young Marines Develops Responsible Citizens

<p><b>89%</b> Alumni more likely engage in Community Service than the average U.S. adult</p>	<p><b>88%</b> Alumni who vote in government elections</p>
<p><b>98%</b> Alumni who still advocate for a healthy, drug-free lifestyle</p>	<p><b>64%</b> Alumni who said the Young Marines helped them get into higher education</p>

**9 out of 10**  
Alumni recommend the Young Marines to their own children or a friend's child

In Partnership With: **Young Marines**

## NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

JOHNNY B. BAKER

### Marines stand for leadership!

**MARINES:** Leadership is the essence of what Marines are all about. Leadership is driven into us when we stepped on the “Yellow Footprints.” We began this Marine Corps journey with drill instructors exerting their leadership abilities on us “lowly recruits.” Leadership above them had given them the tools and resources to make Marines from a large group of undisciplined civilians. Recruit graduation solidified those leadership traits for the rest of our lives. It made us the leaders of tomorrow.

In the Marine Corps League, we continue that legacy of leadership and being a Marine. We all joined the MCL because we craved the comradery and the esprit de corps that we became accustomed to while serving in the active or reserve forces. We craved that common spirit that exists in all Marines that bonded us in honor, courage and commitment. We wanted to continue building the legacy that we are so proud of.

To make our League stronger and viable, the League is dependent on strong leadership at all levels. The National Officers are all elected by you, the members. Our success is your success. Each of us has volunteered to be elected in these positions and with that comes a certain fiduciary responsibility in how we fulfill our duties. We dedicate many long hours striving our best for the League.

Leadership at the detachment, department and Division levels is no less relevant and important than that of the National Officers.



When you stepped forward and agreed (volunteered) to be elected or appointed to your current leadership position, you inherited the same fiduciary responsibilities. I recognize the dedication and leadership required to make your detachment, your department and our MCL relevant and successful. Because of your individual leadership and dedication, the League will stay strong. We do make a difference to our communities and our country.

Marines, during these trying times in our nation, good old “Marine Corps Leadership” is what’s needed to help our country stay on course. Every member of the League is a leader. We have built upon that leadership throughout our Marine Corps careers and beyond. Take a look in the mirror and ask; “Is this the Marine who I want to lead my Marine Corps League in the years ahead?” Use those Marine Corps leadership traits that you have learned to make your detachments and our League stronger. Make us grow! The National Board of Trustees works hard for you, and we expect you to work hard for your detachments.

**Semper Fi!**

## NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

### Reach out to non-renewing members

**MARINES:** First, let me thank you for honoring me with your trust to serve as your National Junior Vice for a second year. With that being said, we have a major task in front of us—a challenge that I know as Marines we can meet. Membership needs to reverse course and move in a positive direction. This past year we brought in 3,781 new members—congratulations. Unfortunately, we lost 5,877 from our rolls—1,307 notices of death losses, and 4,570 were dropped from our rolls for unknown reasons. I am asking at the detachment level would each detachment please correspond with our non-renewed members to learn why they are not renewing? They joined with us for a reason, probably a great reason. We do not want to lose a friend. If less than half the unknown drops returned, we would be moving in that positive direction, and that is what we all want to accomplish. Sometimes all it takes for that member to renew is for someone to show we care and ask.

Again, once we return to some semblance of normalcy, please reach out to our Marine veterans on the college campuses and introduce them to our League. These Marines have needs that are not being met. They are unaware of local, state or national benefits they have earned. We have knowledge, tradition and many times means for financial support that can assist these Marines



as they are transitioning in their lives. This is a young, vibrant community that will be carrying on our mission for years to come. As we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OUR League, our leaders of the past are looking down on us now saying, “Thank you for carrying on what we established.” We were, are and will continue to be the heart, soul and voice for Marines both active and in veteran status.

My condolences go out to Wanda Sweet, Archie Sweet’s caring wife. Archie served the Marine Corps League in many capacities, most recently as Southeast Division National Vice Commandant. His guidance and support were a great inspiration to me. Rest in peace my friend.

Hopefully, we are not far from returning to our Marine routine, and that means we will be celebrating our 245<sup>th</sup> Birthday. So, to all of our Marine family, Happy Birthday! Keep marching strong and keep us on the path to great growth.

**Semper Fi!**

# NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

**T.J. MORGAN**

## Administrative changes to the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures

**MARINES:** First off, I wish to thank you all for the trust you have given me for a second term. I have always felt it important to remember where you came from, stay humble and lead by example. I continue to follow my campaign slogan and work for the good of the League.

We are making it through this unprecedented time in our history and making our decisions about the health and welfare of our League members. We have all been through the ringer during the virus, and I can't wait to get back to a normal meeting cycle in the near future.

Since we have canceled the National Convention, all Bylaws and Administrative Procedures that were submitted for amendments have been removed from the website and must be resubmitted no later than April 1 of 2021. This will give you time to review, re-date or maybe re-format your submissions. I am constantly making administrative changes to the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, such as spelling and grammar. Lots of you are finding errors and emailing me for opinions, and when warranted, those administrative changes



are made. It would be very time-consuming to edit and have them reposted to the National website each time, so you will see those changes along with the accepted amendments on the next publication shortly after the 2021 National Convention next August in Springfield, IL. My goal is to have the amendments added and the 2021 Bylaws and Administrative Procedures posted no later than 30 days after the National Convention.

Lastly, I would like to ask all Department Judge Advocates who have been newly elected this year to send me your email and phone number contacts so I may add you to my Outlook group. Those may be emailed to [TMorgan@MCLeague.org](mailto:TMorgan@MCLeague.org).

*Semper Fi!*

## JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

**WENDELL W. WEBB**

### “Why don't he write?”

**MARINES:** This is a great line in the movie “Dances with Wolves” that Timmons said to Dunbar while kneeling over a skeleton, crossing the prairie to Fort Hays then to Fort Sedgwick. What does that line have to do with our organization and the future? Many of our members are in the same position as the family and friends of the skeleton on the prairie; they do not get information and do not feel like they belong to an organization. We continue to try and get our membership database populated with the correct information we need for each member: correct mailing address, phone number and current email. This will allow a network and communication path for all of our members.



We all belong to many organizations that fill up our post office mailbox or our email accounts and that want something from you but do not inform or provide a communication path with other members of that organization. The League is not that type of organization, and we as members need to pursue that path. COVID-19 has had some very negative and positive aspects for our organization. We have learned that Zoom meetings can accomplish a lot, but we also have to learn to be proficient at these types of meetings by having a well-organized agenda and all participants be prepared to keep



them on schedule and accomplish the intent of the agenda. We also have learned that texting and phone calls can accomplish a lot of business and interaction between members.

We have a lot to accomplish, and as stated in my last article, “If you can learn to accept **change** as a helpful friend rather than something to be avoided, you may experience less stress.”

I still find it amazing how long it takes to get information from the HQ “block” to member “block” and vice versa. We have to work on becoming much better at networking. I see so many requests passed to and from leadership and members for information, and it never makes it to the member. In addition, we have members who are no longer alive, moved, changed addresses (PO Box/email) or who have been retired from that position for years. This is not a single-point failure but a failure from up and down the entire organization's area of responsibility. We all have seen how information is passed to us over news/social media. I get so frustrated sometimes ... and I bet you do also.

*Semper Fi!*

## DIVISION REPORTS

### Know the uniform requirements; we are not the American Legion



**Phil Zamora**

**NVC, Central Division**



**MARINES:** I hope everyone has been staying safe during this pandemic and has finally been able to meet as detachments and hopefully departments. Your National Board of Trustees has been hard at work making sure that the League stays safe during this madness. We had to make a hard decision in June and decided that it was best for the League to cancel the 2020 National Convention in Daytona Beach, FL. So, the 2021 National Convention will be in Springfield, IL, and I know the local convention committee is hard at work getting ready to show everyone a great time in Springfield; I can't wait. We will be still going to Daytona in the future; the local Daytona Beach group was offered 2022 so get ready for some fun in Daytona. Looking at the future in Springfield, we will be voting on the 2023 National Convention location, and it will be the League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I will keep all informed on who is putting in

their bid—FYI, this was opened to the entire League.

There are some items that we need to work on. I've seen pictures out on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram of our members wearing the League uniform wrong. I've seen pins on covers, which is a no-no in the League, gold buttons on white shirts and on department covers their detachment number. This is not allowed as we are not the American Legion or VFW. If you are unsure on how to wear the Marine Corps League uniform, then open up the UNIFORM REGULATIONS in the Administrative Procedures (AP) manual and read them. ALL leaders should know these AP procedures and your Bylaws and understand them. There is even a picture in the AP on what is allowed on your covers. Detachment covers have detachment names and positions you hold; department covers have your department names and positions and so on. The only other thing on the cover that is allowed is the MODD patch, and that is it.

The Central Division Conference in 2021 will be in Sheboygan, WI. I will be working with the local detachment to bring the members of the Central Division a great conference.

Remember put your hands (fist bump) out to fellow Marines, Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains. Explain to them what you do in your detachments and to join you in helping not only Veterans but also your communities, so they know who the Marine Corps League really is.

**Semper Fi!**

### Much to do before 2021; make note of form changes



**Roger Ware**

**Mideast Division**



**MARINES:** COVID-19 has forced us to cancel the 2020 National Convention in Daytona Beach, FL, and the Marine Expos in Camp Lejeune and Quantico, VA. I have been unable to attend your department conventions but hope to visit all next year. The 2022 National Convention will be in Daytona Beach at the same hotel that it was scheduled at this year. Your National Board of Trustees has been conducting League business via Zoom calls and email. Departments and detachments have also used some of the same methods as they need to stay in touch with their Officers and help them manage their administrative functions. Look at your June 30 membership roster and make some calls to your unpaid members and encourage them to continue their membership. The PLM Audit form was included, so ensure your detachments conduct their audits and send them

to the department Paymasters. Congratulations to Frank Mathers, Commandant Department of Delaware as the 2020 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. He serves as the Mideast Division Adjutant, and his recognition is well-deserved.

There are some changes and revisions to some of our administrative forms so make sure you log onto [www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org) and then click on the member library link and look for the form you need.

Departments were to hold their elections and install their Officers; the ROI is submitted on or before October 31, 2020. The departments were also tasked to monitor the installation of detachments, to make sure their elections and ROIs were completed by August 1, 2020. Departments monitor your detachments ensuring they file their annual IRS 990 forms. Detachments that have rifles are required to inventory them and submit a report to the U.S. Army TACOM every 3 years as per the Ceremonial Rifle Program referenced on the MCL National website.

The 2021 Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled February 25–27 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, VA; group code: MCL; phone: 757-622-6664; \$129.00 per night plus tax. The 2021 Mideast Division Conference will be April 16–18 at the Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center, Rehoboth Beach, DE, 19971. The room rate is \$105, plus taxes/fees. For reservations call: 1-800-422-0600, and refer to the Mideast Division Marine Corps League Block #9579.

Continue to reach out to all your members for a welfare check and see if they need any assistance. We have Marines deployed around the world so keep them in your prayers. Take care of yourselves and those you love.

**Semper Fi!**

**Division Website:** [mclmideast.com](http://mclmideast.com)

## Stay positive; keep pressing on amid League disruptions



**Harvey L. Harris**

**NVC, Midwest Division**



**MARINES:** As I write this article, we are still coping with a super strong continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the number of cases rapidly growing and new cases nearing 80,000 a day we cannot let our guard down. At the very least we need to look at and support the theory of wearing a mask in public to help control the spread of COVID. Now with that said, we in the Marine Corps League need to concentrate on keeping a positive attitude. If this disruption of what we once thought of as a normal way of life continues, our goal now is to keep up the positive attitude in everyday activities and not let this get under our skin. The longer this continues, the easier it will be to become angry or upset with the requests we are receiving from the medical community or from our political leaders regarding the best way to control the spread of the virus. Something must be done to get this under control, and we may as well

start now before it takes any more of our brothers and sisters. Under the current restrictions placed upon us all, normal League activities have been disrupted, conferences/conventions, Officer elections, Pack Growls and detachment and department business have been put on hold or conducted by video conferencing. This is not the way I remember the League doing business, but be patient—I hope soon we can get back to the way we worked, face-to-face, in the past.

The Midwest Division has coped well with this disaster; we are now starting to have small in-person detachment meetings, even with the ever-increasing virus case numbers. If COVID-19 conditions allow, the Midwest Division will conduct its Fall Conference on October 23-25, 2020, hosted by the Samuel F. Gearhart Detachment 656 at Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO. The last order of business will be the election of the National Vice Commandant and the Assistant Vice Commandant for the MWD.

Stay well and remember to check on our brothers and sisters who may need a little extra assistance with day-to-day functions.

**Semper Fi!**

**Division Website:** [midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org](http://midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org)

## Keep it simple, stay motivated and positive



**David Porter**

**NVC, New England Division**



**MARINES:** We cannot focus on the negativity of 2020. Focusing on the negative is where defeat creeps in, and in the words of a great General, "**Marines don't know how to spell the word defeat.**" We must stay positive and motivated and continue to help our brothers and sisters and our community.

Though many conventions were canceled, the New England Divisions' Quad State Convention pushed forward. The convention was held in Maine back in July. Attendance was lower than usual because of these challenging times, but it was successfully pulled off! It was an honor to attend and hear from another Marine, "I needed this; I needed to be out with my brothers." That is our unwavering message always, "We need to be here for our brothers and sisters!" When times get tough, we band together, we stay connected, and we continue to share our stories and our lives with each other. Stories keep

the world revolving!

I am proud to see leaders out there making a difference. I see this with the detachment Commandants keeping bonds strengthened. As general monthly meetings are slowing, Commandants are utilizing technology, like Zoom, which has helped to keeping connections strengthened.

During a time where much had shut down, the New England Division has worked hard to keep things like the Eagle Scout awards going strong. The Toys for Tots (T4T) program has always played a large role in New England, and I am challenging the detachment Commandants to get motivated earlier this year. My home detachment, The Honorable Few Detachment 1302, has brought the T4T program up several times in the last few meetings.

There is still a lot of uncertainty in our schools, but I am hoping students in New England are able to go back to our Young Marines and JRTOC programs helping to educate our future this fall. The New England Division was proud to support the Young Marines R. Lee Ermey Memorial Golf Tournament this past September in Quantico.

The New England Division has always looked forward to Semper Fi Society's USMC Birthday Luncheon in November held in South Boston's convention center. It's one of the biggest luncheon celebrations in the country for the Birthday, and we hope to be there this year!

I will be looking forward to the 2021 Mid-Winter Conference being held in Norfolk, VA. My hope is that 2021 will bring us much to celebrate.

**Semper Fi!**

**Division Website:** [mclnedivision.com](http://mclnedivision.com)

## DIVISION REPORTS

### Moving forward into 2021; increase member numbers



**Jim Powell**

**NVC, Northeast Division**



**MARINES:** As I write this article it looks like there are many places around the U.S. that may be having a second wave of COVID-19. It has been difficult for many people in our country during this crisis, and I hope that we, as Leaguers, are looking out for our brothers and sisters during this time. As you already know, the National Convention was cancelled, and emergency election procedures were put into place. Our National Commandant, Senior Vice, Junior Vice and Judge Advocate ran unopposed and will serve another year in their positions. Congratulations to those Officers; they are doing a fine job, especially in view of the difficult circumstances that the League faces.

Here in the Northeast, the departments are adapting well to the ever-changing circumstances in their states. At this time, each department has scheduled their fall Quarterly Meetings in October, which will function as their "Annual Convention."

I look forward to attending these meetings and hope that the COVID-19 curve has been flattened again so that these meetings can safely take place. If not, we Marines, will improvise, adapt and overcome as we always do.

As of August 1, we began a new membership year. The Northeast Division did a good job with membership renewals for last year, and I hope we can repeat this in our 2020-2021 fiscal year. Our Division had a 93% renewal rate as of June 30, as compared with the rest of the League, which was at approximately 89%. With the pandemic, many Americans were and still may be out of work. I believe that we did an outstanding job with renewals. Once this crisis passes it will be incumbent on our departments to make a concerted effort to re-engage with those League members who have fallen from the rolls this past year.

In other news, the Modern Day Marine Expo is behind us and was held virtually in compliance with the latest health guidelines. At this writing, I cannot tell you how successful it was, but, as with everything else going on, we can only hope it turned out well. Next year (2021), the Modern Day Marine Expo will be at MCB Quantico but will be held in May. This will be a short turnaround time from past years, but we will do our best to get the word out and make sure we have enough volunteers to help. As always MCL members are encouraged to come and be part of this event.

May you and your families be healthy and safe until we gather again.

**Semper Fi!**

Division Website: [nedmcl.org](http://nedmcl.org)

### Northwest Division NVC transition



**John Moysiuk**

**Northwest Division**



**MARINES:** Here we are once more pounding the dirt to serve you! Transitioning back to the role of National Vice Commandant for the Northwest Division has taken place at probably one of the worst times in my memory for what is transpiring in our nation, but I am confident that our Marine Corps League will live up to the challenges we face. With NWD National Vice Commandant Dan Ritter stepping down to focus on personal things in his life, I have been asked to step back into the NVC position and gladly look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Taking this load from Dan is something I would willingly do for any of my brothers and sisters in such circumstances. I have awesome mentors throughout the Northwest Division to provide honest and trustworthy guidance, camaraderie and mentorship. It is the membership of this League that motivates me to

serve with you all.

By the time this posts, we will already be in the Toys for Tots campaign as fall quickly approaches. As we start to transition back to some form of normalcy, I do expect us to continue to wave our flags and show our communities what we do and become even more integrated to continue to serve within our communities. This tempo is what gives us purpose! Use this restful period to recharge your batteries and to use the energy to provide purpose to our members who need the encouragement to continue as members within this great organization.

My question to you is what gives you purpose within the Marine Corps League? Everyone who knows me knows I have an open-door policy and am always open to new ideas. That is what makes for a great team! This policy is about ideas and best practices and not for complaints. Please use your chain of command to address those. Thank you all for your service!

**Semper Fi!**

Division Website: [mcl-nwdiv.org](http://mcl-nwdiv.org)

## Keep out of political and social quarreling



**Russ Miller**

**NVC, Rocky Mountain Division**



**MARINES:** Every one of us who donned the cloth of our beloved Corps, whether in peacetime or in time of conflict, voluntarily or involuntarily, hopefully gained a greater appreciation for the freedoms that we enjoy in this great country. In today's emotionally charged social and political climate it is tempting to get drawn into the quarrels that pop up on the nightly news, on our many social media feeds or on the streets of our towns and cities.

I'm sure by now most of us have seen the picture of the row of caskets draped with our nation's sacred colors with the caption that reads, "I wonder if he or she was black or white ... said No Marine Ever!" We are Marines, Corpsmen, and Chaplains who ALL bleed red and would gladly do so for the brother and sister to our right or left.

In our Ritual of Installation the installing officer gives a charge first to the new Commandant: *"Hold constantly before the eyes of your fellow members, the great principles for which the League strives. Lead and govern fairly and impartially. Strike quickly to prevent political, sectarian, or other improper debate in your meetings. Strive to promote harmonious interest and effort among your fellow members... that it can and will improve in interest, work and growth."* Followed shortly thereafter is a charge to the membership: *"Allow me to admonish you that you cannot now stand aside and expect your Officers to guide the destinies of this Detachment/Department/League or to ensure its growth, success and welfare. It is your duty to assist in every way possible and to discharge your assignments cheerfully. Help your Officers make this Detachment/Department/League an organization that the Marine Corps League and your community will respect and honor."* Our individual political affiliation, sexual orientation and views regarding race or religious beliefs are ours to hold individually and work for in our own individual efforts. I implore that we all use restraint in doing or saying anything that might divide us in our meetings, on our unit's social media pages/websites, and that in our public dealings as League detachments, departments and as a Division we always put our best foot forward as we march on together. Please fulfill your charge, and by doing so, enable your Commandants to fulfill theirs.

There are many things coming over the horizon these next couple months, like the Birthday of our beloved Corps, Toys for Tots, holiday events, as well as hopefully finally being able to once again join in some face-to-face camaraderie at our detachment meetings. All of these will require all hands rowing in the same direction and cadence. "Be the Leaguer that you wish there were 20 more of in your detachment."

**Semper Fi!**

Division Website: [mcleaguerckymntdiv.org](http://mcleaguerckymntdiv.org)

## Transition in the Southeast Division



**Butch Raynes**

**NVC, Southeast Division**



**MARINES:** Due to the unfortunate passing of Archie Sweet, National Vice Commandant of the Southeast Division in July, I have been appointed as National Vice Commandant of the Southeast Division. I was Archie's Assistant Vice Commandant. I have chosen Jerry Holt of South Carolina as my Assistant National Vice Commandant, and his appointment has been approved by the National Board of Trustees.

I have been a member of the League for over 20 years having held almost every job at the detachment level, including 9 years as Commandant. At the department level I served as Sgt-at-Arms and then Judge Advocate for 8 years. I have been a member of the National Uniform Committee for over 12 years and chairman for approximately 8 years. I was Sgt-at-Arms of the Southeast Division for 8 years before being elected as Archie's Assistant last year.

I have been involved with the Wounded Warriors at Camp Lejeune since they were established in 2003-2004, and I was the Toys for Tots assistant LCO in Horry County, SC, for 15 years.

Once I get boots on the ground in the Southeast Division, I hope to continue to move the Division forward, and I trust we will grow even stronger.

Stay strong Marines.

**Semper Fi!**

Division Website: [sediv.org](http://sediv.org)

## DIVISION REPORTS

### Please answer the call to lead our Division



**Johnny R. Gothard**

**NVC, Southern Division**



**MARINES:** Since my last report to the Southern Division, we lost a great Marine and a fine man, Past Commandant for the Department of Texas Charles (Chuck) Bones. He was not only a good man and Marine but a fine Commandant, and I think a personal friend of mine. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him—our deepest sympathies and prayers for his family.

Due to COVID-19, there has been very little in the way of conferences or meetings, but the Department of Texas held the Installation of Officers on July 11 via a Zoom meeting. On July 25, the Department of Oklahoma held the elections and Installation of Officers in Tulsa, OK, hosted by the Albert E. Schwab Detachment 857. Arkansas will hold their elections and Installation of Officers in September, which will be hosted by the Dale W. Langford Detachment 1323.

Membership is slowly getting better as of June 2020. The Division's membership increased by 102 since March 2020—a decrease of unpaid members of -56. Compared to this same time in 2019, the Division had a total paid of 2,669 and 448 unpaid members; in June 2020, we show 2,704 paid and 392 unpaid. We have had some hard times in recent years, but we are slowly coming back. Keep up the good work; we may yet turn the member numbers around.

The next Division Conference and Caucus is set for April 22-24, 2021, in Little Rock, AR, hosted by the Sidney S. McMath Detachment 532. The hotel will be the Wyndham Riverfront, located at 2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, 72114. Room rates will be \$96.00 per night plus tax, with Wi-Fi, continental breakfast and parking included. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 501-371-9000; tell them it's for the Marine Corps League. More details and registration info will come soon.

On another note, since most of you are aware, this is my last term as your Southern Division National Vice Commandant. That being said, it is surprising to me that no one has announced to run for this position. I can tell you it does involve a lot of travel, expense and hard work, but at the same time it is very rewarding in the experience, contacts and friends you will make, as well as personal growth. I hope some good Marines step up to the plate and continue the Division on its current path.

**Semper Fi!**

Division Website: [southernmcl.org](http://southernmcl.org)

### We will continue to move ahead with new ideas



**Patrick J. Connell**

**NVC, Southwest Division**



**MARINES:** I sincerely hope that everyone has been able to stay safe and healthy over these last several months. It has been a trying time for all of us throughout the country, but we are persevering and surviving, and we continue on because we are Marines.

In June 2020, I was approved by the National Board of Trustees to fill the position of NVC of the Southwest Division upon the resignation of NVC Bill Ebright. Bill resigned for personal reasons, and I found out that I have a huge job in front of me trying to walk in his footsteps. Bill led this Division efficiently and competently, spearheading our first ever design and implementation of a Division flag which is unique to the Southwest Division. He assembled a great team of Marines from all walks of life with abilities that are necessary to move this Division forward, and he set down a path for his successors to follow to make the Division a respectful, productive

and vibrant element of the League.

I have been a member of the League for the last 39 years; my anniversary date of June 6 is important to me. On June 6, 1970, I enlisted in the Marine Corps out of Omaha, NE, and went to MCRD San Diego and graduated in September. After my enlistment was over, I returned back to Omaha and attended the University of Nebraska Omaha, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, and then spent the next 30 years in law enforcement. On June 6, 1981, I joined the Larry Nehring Detachment in Iowa and eventually was transferred to Phoenix where I transferred my membership to another detachment. I rose through the various offices eventually becoming the Department of Arizona Commandant and then served as Bill's assistant on the National Level.

I have requested the services of the Department of California's Commandant to serve as my Assistant NVC. I firmly believe that Jim Loorya will be a very vital individual who shares my views as to what direction this Division will proceed. He has great ideas that I am willing to work with him on, and together, with the staff that is already in place, we will be able to bring those ideas to fruition and make this Division viable. With the help of this Division's members and the Commandants of the Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii detachments and the general membership, we will succeed because we are MARINES!

**Semper Fi!**

Division Website: [mclswdivision.org](http://mclswdivision.org)

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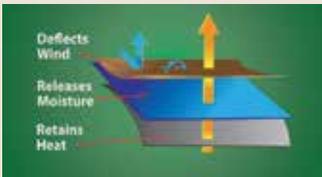
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## THE *SEMPER FI* INTERVIEW



A Lifetime of Service, A Big Moment of Gratitude

# Iwo Jima Veteran Launches Operation Valentine

By Miles Vining | Photography Courtesy Mary Houston

**M**ajor Bill White (USMC, Retired) recently received national recognition on Valentine's Day 2020 when he made a simple request through social media for a Valentine's Day Card. Over 300,000 Valentine's Day cards later, the

Major and his family were beyond amazed when the cards and home visits came pouring in from across the country. In addition to the cards, all manner of dignitaries, law enforcement officers and military personnel came to Major White to express their



Platoon Sergeant William C. White, Long Beach Marine of Nine 38th Place, who recently was graduated from the Leatherneck parachute school, near San Diego, is shown here standing in the center row with four other Californians in his class. Others in the picture are, standing: (left) Pfc. Leroy A. Watts of Tait and (right) Pfc. James H. Bohn of Downey; kneeling (left to right), Pfc. Harold P. Frackelton of Los Angeles and Phillip E. Larson of Madera.

respect and thank him for his service.

**Semper Fi:** Can you tell us a little bit about your life before the Marine Corps?

**Major White:** I was born in Long Beach, CA, in 1916. After my father died I enrolled in private school in St. Louis, MO, until I tried to join the Marine Corps in 1933. I wasn't able to, so instead, I worked construction on the Hoover Dam for a year.

**SF:** But this earlier refusal didn't deter you from eventually enlisting?

**MW:** I was able to enlist in 1934. Before the Second World War, I served on the USS Colorado, was stationed at Pearl Harbor and then joined the 4th Marine Division where I was posted in Shanghai, China, for 3.5 years. About February of 1941 I was assigned to



Major Bill White receiving promotion to Captain from MajGen Henry D. Linscott, left.

recruiting duty in Los Angeles when World War II broke out. I was a Staff Sergeant at the time. After having my tour extended as a recruiter, I was eventually sent to the 4th Parachute Battalion where I became a parachutist. After that I was transferred to the 1st Battalion, 28th Marines, where we went to Hawaii for a number of months of training. We later found out that in actuality we were preparing for the invasion of Iwo Jima in February of 1944.

**SF:** How did the Battle of Iwo Jima unfold for you?

**MW:** I came ashore at 9 a.m. on the morning on the 23rd of February. We didn't know this at the time, but when we landed, it was when the second flag was raised on the top of Mount Suribachi. On the 1st of March our company was sent forward to relieve another unit on the line. When we got there it was just a little too early to relieve them, so we stood in reserve. But when we got to the forward positions we were told to wait, so we hung out for the rest of the day. Finally, around evening we ended up relieving the Marines on line. Because it was dark, each Marine from the unit in place got up from his position and individually traded places with the Marine from our unit who would take his spot on the line. As it so happened, when this took place for me, the Marine who I switched out with happened to be my brother-in-law! I was about as surprised as he was.

**SF:** And how did your time on Iwo Jima come to an end?

**MW:** I was wounded on the 3rd of March, 1945. On that day my



A young admirer greets Major Bill White, who served as a Grand Marshall at a July 4th parade in Stockton.

detachment was sent to help another group on the line as we were usually tasked to in that time. In one of these incidents I went ahead of my main group, as I usually did, and started sprinting in leaps and bounds towards the front positions. About the third or fourth time this happened, I got up and sprinted forward, and all of a sudden, the whole battlefield opened up in front of me. I emptied my carbine with all its 15 rounds at whatever targets I could see. In the process of reloading, I saw a Japanese officer stand up and tried shooting at him as fast as I could get the second magazine in, but he was able to jump down. By this time, a new Marine unit had arrived at my position where we continued to exchange fire with the Japanese to our front. We got into a grenade tossing competition with the Japanese troops, they would throw grenades at us, and we would throw our grenades at them. As I threw one of mine, a Japanese grenade landed about six inches from me and blew me into the air. Fortunately, I survived, but I had to get evacuated by ship from the island.

**SF:** So you were wounded and evacuated, what was the next step in your career?

**MW:** After World War II, I stayed in the Marines and was eventually promoted to Sergeant Major. Due to the downsizing after World War II and then the need for more officers because of the conflict in Korea, I became a Mustang and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in February 1952. I was in Korea at the time of [the] truce talks in 1953.



Major Bill White, center, during his time as a Huntington Beach Police patrol officer, dispatcher and jailer.

**SF:** But you went on to serve another decade as a Marine, rounding up almost 30 years of a career, what did you do afterwards?

**MW:** I retired from active duty as a Major in 1964. I then proceeded to work with the Huntington Beach Police Department for 12 years as a patrol officer, dispatcher and jailer. When I left that job, I continued to volunteer with the department as a volunteer/advisor with the local search and rescue Explorer group and was with their Explorer Post until 2005. The search and rescue group is composed of teenagers who work with the police and fire departments.

**SF:** Tell us a little bit about the Valentine's Day cards that recently poured into your room?

**MW:** People have been sending cards to me from all over the world. I really don't know what to say; I've been amazed at the response!

**SF:** We heard you'll be going on a program to Washington, D.C., soon?

**MW:** My daughter will be escorting me to Washington, D.C., for a program called "VetsRoll," very similar to the Honor Flight program. It is an organization out of Wisconsin where veterans are flown to Wisconsin and then are driven on a 4-day bus trip to Washington, D.C. It takes us down through Ohio, to the monuments in D.C., and then back again to Wisconsin. Accompanying the busses will be motorcycle escorts all the way down. [Editor's Note: Unfortunately, this event has been cancelled due to COVID-19.]

**SF:** What has been your involvement with the Marine Corps League?

**MW:** I haven't had much direct involvement up until now with the Marine Corps League. But I am a member of the Stockton Marine Corps Club, which is a local group of veterans that runs a number of charity events in town.

**SF:** Any advice for new Marines ready to get out?

**MW:** I would advise you to ask for help if you need it.

Major White has two daughters, Alice and Mary, two granddaughters and seven great-granddaughters. He was married to his wife Jeanette until she passed away in 2001. They had been married since 1960. Major White currently resides at The Oaks at Inglewood in Stockton, CA. He is 104 years old. **SF**

...

*Semper Fi Magazine* would especially like to thank Mary Houston, Major White's daughter in greatly assisting with this interview and James Hume (Huntington Beach Police Department, Retired), who wrote a short autobiographical article about Major White.



Left to right: Kennedy Brown (Kansas State University), Luke Cunningham (Emporia State University), Bill "Top" Clinton (Detachment Scholarship Committee Chairman), Brian Auld (Northwest Missouri State University) and Taylor Ivie-Mott (Johnson County Community College). Not pictured but who received a scholarship: Sydney Clinton (University of South Carolina), Evelyn Hughes (Kansas State University) and Alexei Patterson (Pittsburg State University).

## \$7,000 Awarded—For the Betterment of Youth

The General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment 1025 of Lenexa, KS, is a group of former Marine Corps veterans whose goals include the betterment of youth. Within that theme, they have created the MSGt Luis Romero, Jr. Scholarship Program which provides scholarships for college-bound students.

The primary prerequisite for this scholarship is that all applicants must

have a father, mother, grandfather or grandmother who served an honorable period of service in the United States Marine Corps or who served as an FMF Corpsman in the United States Navy. In addition, academics, clubs, sports and community service are a consideration.

Through the fundraising efforts of the detachment members this year each scholarship recipient received \$1,000 for a total of \$7,000 awarded. **SIF**



## Loyal Conard Memorial Scholarship

Ms. Hannah Miller displays the Certificate of Recognition for her receipt of the \$1,000 Loyal Conard Memorial Scholarship, awarded annually by Detachment 603, Clarksville, TN. She attends Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, majoring in Nursing. Ms. Miller graduated from Stewart County, Tennessee, High School this past spring. The presentation was made in the Browning Administration Building of the University. In addition to her family, Marines present included officers, (from left) JVC Anthony Peters; JA/Adj Stephen Baird; SVC Brandon Murphy; Commandant John Wood; and Sgt-at-Arms Bryan Fuller. **SIF**

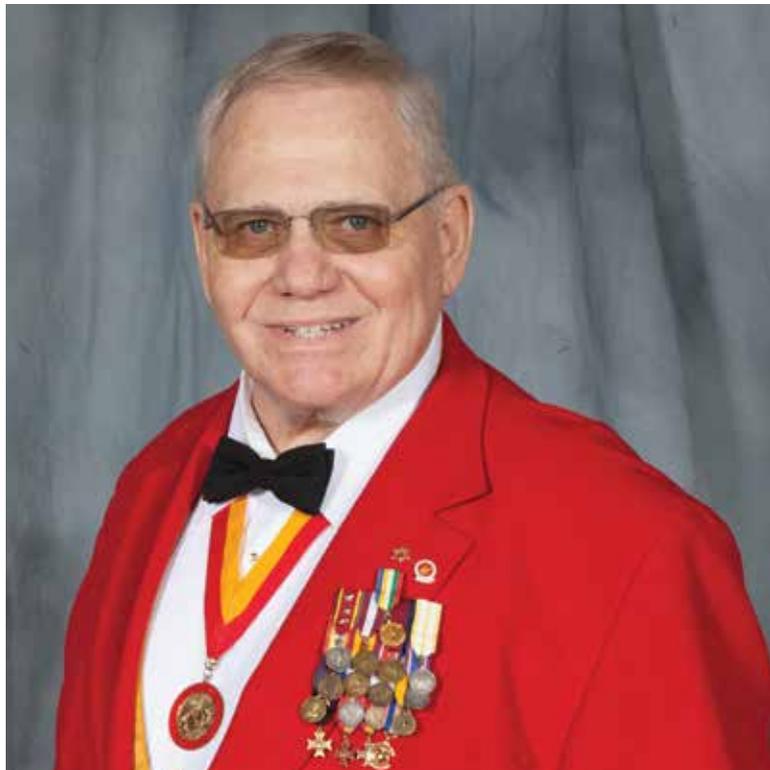
# IN MEMORIUM

## Archie Sweet

**S**outheast Division National Vice Commandant Archie Sweet passed away on Monday, July 6, 2020, at his home. Archie served in the Marine Corps as well as 26 years for the South Carolina Highway Patrol. He and his wife Wanda were very active in the Marine Corps League. Archie assisted in the formation and charter of the Lancaster County Leathernecks Detachment and served two terms as its Commandant. He also served two terms as the Department of South Carolina Commandant. Archie further served the League as the chairman of the National POW/MIA Committee and served on both the Bylaws and Credentials Committees. Archie had also been presented the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion.

He was laid to rest with honors by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and the Marine Corps League. Fair winds and following seas. We have the watch.

**Semper Fi, Marine!**



## Charles Bones

**“B**ones,” as we called him, served in the Marine Corps for 8 years. He served during the early days of the Gulf War. He served a tour of duty aboard the *USS New Jersey*, beginning with ports of calls in the Mediterranean, including Beirut, and ending in Hawaii. Chuck was instrumental in establishing Detachment 1381 in Jacksonville, TX, where he served as its Commandant for 5 years. For the last 2 years, he served as Commandant for the Department of Texas.

Chuck was an inspiration and a mentor to many of us who knew him! Chuck leaves behind his lovely wife and other family members. He always welcomed us to their home where his beloved black lab, Bear, would give him much joy. If you couldn't reach him on the phone, his voice-mail mentioned he probably was on his tractor. We had a last call at Chuck's house with his wife and daughter, and many toasts and memories were shared. We'll miss hearing "The Marines' Hymn" from his ringtone! I'm proud to say that I serve today as Commandant of Detachment 1381, mainly because of Chuck.

Fair winds and following seas.

**Semper Fi, Marine! Oorah!**

—Dennis Strickland, Commandant  
Jacksonville Texas Detachment 1381

# IN MEMORIUM



## John Crisafulli

**T**reasured member of the MetroWest Detachment 1037 of Natick, MA, and decorated Korean War veteran, John Crisafulli passed away July 16, 2020. John received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his wartime service. Upon returning home, he graduated from Boston College and went on to be an elementary school teacher and principal in his hometown of Natick, MA. He served the town as a Town Meeting Member, School Committee member and a member of the Natick Service Counsel. John designed the Patriot Flag to express the character of all of our veterans. It has 50 stars and 13 stripes with the words: *Patriotism, Courageous, Faithful, Trustworthy, Honorable, Responsible and Dedicated.*

***Semper Fi, Marine!***

## Jeanette Geise

**J**eanette Geise was active with the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary for over 20 years. For each of these years she attended the National Conventions, and attended many Mid-Winter Conferences and numerous Central Division conferences. She always sewed and helped raise money while doing patches for the Devil Dogs at the National Convention. Jeanette supported her husband Department of Illinois' Quartermaster Tom Geise and traveled to central divisions for all six states with Tom. A lifetime member of the MCLA, she was the Treasurer for the Department of Illinois Auxiliary and her local MCLA Unit. She will be missed by many.

***Semper Fi!***





Father Matt Westcott and Commandant Neller.

# Father Matt Westcott

## God—Country—Corps

By John MacGillivray

**Y**ou might start singing the lyrics of “Born to Be Wild” from the movie, “Easy Rider,” as you watch Marine Corps League member Matt Westcott go flying by on his Harley-Davidson. Or, perhaps, you were in his unit and sang, “The Marines’ Hymn” with him? There also is a chance that you might have joined Matt in the singing of the Gregorian chant in one of the several Catholic Churches where he has been stationed. As diverse and eclectic as these musical choices may be, so is the life of Father Matt Westcott who is a Catholic priest; a Marine; a Navy Chaplain; a lawyer;

historian; Harley-Davidson owner/rider; and Renaissance man.

Father Matt Westcott is currently the Regimental Chaplain for the 25th Marine Regiment and the pastor of Saint Mary’s Parish in Foxboro, MA, thus proving that both the Marines and the Catholic Church were looking for a few good men.

Raised in Somerville, MA, the breeding ground for many great Marines (such as General John J. Sheehan), service to God, country and the Corps was instilled in Matt at a young age.

After graduating from Saint Clement

Junior-Senior High School, he attended Norwich University in Vermont, which is the oldest private military college in the United States. He graduated from Norwich in 1977. Three days later, Matt was at Parris Island, SC. Father Matt attributes his time at Norwich as helping him to get through Parris Island. For instance, his exposure to 4 years of a military culture at Norwich helped him to develop a psychological resilience, trust in his leaders and realize that the drill instructor was not out to get him. Really? That must be the new Corps!

After Parris Island, he went on to obtain



Father Matt Westcott holds mass for deployed Marines.

an MOS of 2531—Field Radio Operator, a logical choice since Father Matt is an excellent communicator. Regarding his MOS, Matt pointed out that “They can talk about us, but they can’t talk without us.” As a Marine Reservist, Matt was assigned to the 25th Marines. When 9/11 occurred, Matt’s unit was activated and sent to Camp Lejeune.

While serving as a Marine Reservist, Matt attended New England School of Law from which he graduated in 2000. While in law school he felt himself drawn to a religious vocation. To that end, Father Matt enrolled in Saint John’s Seminary—the Parris Island for priests. It was a rigorous 6 years of study, contemplation and self-discipline. Father Matt sees some underlying similarities in his pilgrimage from Norwich to Parris Island, to Saint John’s Seminary to priesthood. In each iteration of his development, Matt learned to be a self-starter, subjugate ego, and accept individual responsibility while at the same time function as part of a team. In one sense, he traded his Battalion Commander for a

Bishop. Father Matt was ordained a priest in 2007. In 2010, Father Matt became a Chaplain in the United States Navy. In order to become a Navy Chaplain, Father Matt had to “endure” 5 weeks of training at Newport, RI, and 2 weeks at Fort Jackson. After Norwich University, Parris Island and Marine infantry training, one can only imagine Father Matt commiserating with his fellow Chaplains-to-be. Somehow, I picture him like Tom Cruise in “Top Gun” on his Harley zooming over the Newport Bridge yelling out, “I feel the need—the need for speed!”

When Father Matt completed schooling and became a Navy Chaplain he was assigned to his old unit, the 25th Marines. In 2014 he deployed to Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan as the Brigade Chaplain. Marines are trained to do violence on behalf of their country, and Father Matt was there to counsel them.

Asked about what is the best thing about being a Chaplain, Father Matt states that it is bringing faith to those who might not oth-

erwise have it. He also states that the finest men and women are found in uniform.

In between drills and deployments, Father Matt is the pastor/vicar of Saint Mary’s in Foxboro. As many of you know Foxboro is the home of the New England Patriots. Is it a coincidence that the Patriots have done so well while Father Matt has been the local pastor?

For those who are lucky enough to meet and observe Father Matt they will notice that on his lapel he wears the EGA emblem—Once a Marine, Always a Marine; Once a priest, Always a priest.

At the Marine Corps Luncheon held in Boston in November 2019, Father Matt was asked to give the invocation. This was given to the delight of all guests that day including Commandant Berger, Past Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dunford, former Secretary of the Navy Spencer, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gilday, Commandant General of the Royal Marines Major General Holmes and 2,500 fellow Marines.

**Semper Fi, Father Matt! SIF**

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Members of Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Detachment 524 install Toys for Tots framed posters used in previous years at the entrance of their new Toys for Tots building in Carlisle, PA. *Left to right:* R. Adams, L. Kipp and B. O'Connell. W. McNaughton and P. Wallace assisted.



Recently, members of the Lancaster County Detachment 294, PA, surprised Marine John Davidson (seated) with a replacement detachment shirt as well as his Korean War ribbons, which were lost in a house fire. Past Det. Commandant Gil Bixler (*back, right*) along with Marine Chuck Wiseman made the presentation on behalf of the detachment at Marine Davidson's new home. Marine Davidson was overwhelmed with the presentation.



Loudoun County Virginia Detachment 1205, Purcellville, VA, provided the Color Guard for the George C. Marshall International Center's Independence Day celebration. Color guard members are, *from right to left:* Loudoun County Toys for Tots Coordinator Frank Holtz; Commandant Stirling Rasmussen; Community Outreach Coordinator Rich Klein; and Chaplain Eddie Johnston.

The Tri-State Detachment 494, Youngstown, OH, donated 120 fifty-dollar (\$6,000 total) grocery store gift cards to the Mahoning County's Veterans Service Commission for issuance to veterans who are struggling during these unprecedented times. Jeff Gulling, Commandant of the detachment, gives the gift cards to Susan Krawchyk, executive director of the commission.



# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



On June 20, the Johnston County Carry-On Detachment 1236 Eagle Scout Coordinator Lewis W. Rice III (left) and the Dept. of NC Assistant Eagle Scout Coordinator Devell "Bull" Durham, Jr. (right), presented Kristian Chandler an Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Award at Camp Tuscarora in Four Oaks, NC. Kristian is a NC State student and Eagle Scout from Troop 24 of Clayton. Throughout his scouting career, Kristian achieved over 50 merit badges, completed over 200 nights of camping and held numerous leadership positions to include President of the Venture Scouts Officers Association and Chapter Vice Chief of the Order of the Arrow, the Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America, among other achievements. For his Eagle Scout project, Kristian led a large workforce for 207 man hours for a major landscape project, leading 30 young Scouts and adults in the use of large tools and heavy machinery.



Since there were no Memorial Day events this picture was sent to the Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Wall of New Jersey on behalf of the Cpl William H. Smith Detachment 667, Lacey Township, NJ, to use for its virtual ceremony on May 25, 2020. Pictured: Bob Meola, Adjutant.



The Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment 1226 of Riverview, FL, installed their new officers on June 6, 2020. Left to right, front row: Judge Advocate Bruce Younggren; Commandant Ron Essick; Sr. Vice Commandant Sal DiFonzo; and Jr. Vice Commandant Peter Farren. Left to right, back row: Jr. Past Commandant Brian Frank; Paymaster Larry Westcott; Adjutant Jack Skelding; Chaplain Walt Raysick; and Sgt-at-Arms Hank Wolons.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Tyler Koser, a graduate of Big Spring HS, Newville, PA, sent a thank you note and a photo after receiving an award certificate from the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Detachment 524 of Carlisle, PA, and a check from the Marine Bob Gilbert Memorial Scholarship Fund. The COVID-19 restrictions dictated mailing the awards. Mr. Koser plans on joining the air national guard and continuing his education.



DuPage County Marines Detachment 399 held a surprise 100th birthday drive-by parade in Wheaton, IL, for Life Member W. Howard Chittenden on May 16, 2020. Marine Howard served from 1939 to 1946 and was taken prisoner December 8, 1941, by Japanese forces and held for 1,364 days in forced labor. Leading off Howard's surprise 100th birthday parade were the police, fire trucks, an estimated 350 people in 120 cars and 200-plus motorcycles!



Diamond State Detachment 704, Millsboro, DE, presented Fran DeMara a Certificate of Appreciation for his hard work and inspiration during this year's Toy for Tots program. Over 1,200 families and almost 10,000 were served this past season. A loud "Oorah!" goes out to Fran. Fran's dad, Phil DeMara (*far right*) is Detachment 704's Sgt-at-Arms.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



The events staff from Kings Creek Country Club, Rehoboth Beach, DE, was presented Certificates of Appreciation from the Diamond State Detachment 704, Millsboro, DE. *Left to right:* Jr. Vice Paul Hamman, Sr. Vice Tim Shepke, Commandant Rich Corbit, events staff Spaska Hadzhiyska and Jessica Mills, Chaplain Pat Feehley and Dept. of DE Sr. Vice Rich Kollar.



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# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



On July 4, Marines of Utah Dixie Detachment 1270, local Marine recruiters and their Poolees assisted with leading the St. George 4th of July Parade. The detachment provided the Color Guard, followed with a drummer for cadence, a banner to identify the unit and a trailer load of detachment members and those scheduled to enter the Marine Corps soon (Poolees).



During the coronavirus sequestering, members of Kapeska NE Detachment 1079, Watertown, SD, were invited to participate with the VVA to honor the nurses, doctors and EMTs at Prairie Lakes Health Care Center on March 23 for their persistent work during this time period. *Left to right:* Ben Pahl, Commandant, and Don McGrath, Jr. Vice Commandant.



William "Bill" Farley received the Dept. of Delaware "Marine of the Year" award at a ceremony on July 14 held in Dover, DE. Bill also serves as Commissioner for the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs. *Left to right:* Marines David Van Kavelaar, Chaplain for the Central detachment; Jack Flood, Jr., Adjutant for the Dept. of DE; Bill Farley, Dept. of DE "Marine of the Year;" Frank Mathers, Dept. of DE Commandant and Adjutant of the Mideast Division; and Robert Sly, Commandant of the Central detachment. Photo by Linda Chick.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



1284 Road Detachment, Hillsborough, NJ, participated in the Convoy for the Fallen on Memorial Day 2020 in Manville, NJ. Driver and Senior Vice Commandant Pete Lubas, Sgt-at-Arms Jim Lindsay, Marine Joe Giuliano and photographer Jen Casalaesaw.



The Elkhart Area Marines Detachment 1397 members are proud to announce their Commandant Bradley Ulick was selected and installed as the 2nd District Vice Commandant of the Dept. of Indiana on June 5. On October 23, 1983, two truck bombs struck buildings in Beirut, Lebanon, housing American and French service members of the Multinational Force in Lebanon. Brad Ulick was stationed there as a Peacekeeper and survived the first bombing of the Marine Corps barracks that dreadful day. He will continue as the detachment Commandant until the end of 2020.



Cape-Atlantic Detachment 194 in New Jersey held a video swearing in of our new Commandant Steve Swankoski—the new normal.



The McHenry County Detachment 1009, Woodstock, IL, Toys for Tots volunteers continue to work for the children of McHenry County even during the coronavirus pandemic. The volunteers received a \$6,622 donation from Gary Lang Subaru (McHenry, IL) "Share the Love" program. *Left to right:* Anthony Arnone, Daniel Boucek, Ken Hauser, Jerry Havens, Joe McLachlan, Frank Klingl, Lee Totman and Subaru Manager Rick Diamond.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



In early 2020 (before the COVID-19 shut-down), E.T. Brisson Detachment 063, Naples, FL, honored 95-year-old Iwo Jima survivor and detachment member Harold "Pappy" Wagner. Pappy was presented with a Distinguished Service Gold Award, authorized by National Commandant Dennis Tobin. The presentation was made by Commandant Dennis Hemberger.



A proud Marine father, Bob Grassi from Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Detachment 1363, Black River Falls, WI, traveled to South Carolina to see his daughter's promotion pinning ceremony. Daniela Bernabei Grassi has earned the rank of Corporal and pay grade E-4.



Houma Terrebonne Detachment 475 and Southwest Louisiana Detachment 535 coordinated with Christ Community Church in Lake Charles, LA, which provided a room to use as a drop-off point to support humanitarian aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura. These Marines worked hard, and they aren't finished yet! Semper Fi Marines!

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Marine Pat Sharkey was presented with the Dog of the Year on July 19 by Hound Dog Pound 204. He is a member of Delaware's Diamond State Detachment 704 and Pound 204, located at the VFW Post 160, Glen Burnie, MD. Congratulations Marine Sharkey—"Oorah!" *From left to right: Pat Sharkey and Wayne Hiestetter.*



Marine Ivan M. Lewis has passed. This Marine was a cousin to Ira Hayes and has been buried at Co-Op Village Cemetery in Laveen, AZ. A Native American color guard participated in the ceremony with a member of the Ira Hayes Detachment 002 of Phoenix, AZ.

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# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



A driveway salute was conducted by members of Coastal Valleys Detachment 1340 to honor Marine Arnold McLean, 100 years old. He could be the last surviving Marine of the Bataan Death March. Over 100 motorcycles and antique cars drove by to honor him, as well as over 100 residents in the neighborhood. He remains grateful and humble.



On August 27 the Ira Hayes Detachment proudly presented a ceremony for Marine Sgt. Edward Allen Akins (aka Al) at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Two Marines traveled from Indiana to retrieve the remains from the son of the deceased. The remains and the son were escorted to the airport by a Combat Motorcycle unit. Marines pictured are: Jess Moreno, Tim Elders, Al Quintana, Robert Jones, Oscar Santa Cruz, Edward Saucedo, and David Yrigoyen.

## Join Roll Call!

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**Captions**—Photo captions should briefly describe the event and list persons present in the photo(s) along with detachment number and location. Captions should be no longer than 60 words. Please do not include information about persons not present in the photo(s).

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

If you have any questions about uniform regulations, please contact Butch Raynes of the Uniform Committee at the National website: [www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org).

#### NOTICE TO MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENTS!

Please consider taking a group photo of your detachment's membership. Department and division conferences are another way to

capture some memories. We would love to include your photos in the *Semper Fi* magazine.

# BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA

## The Harrowing Days Before “The Bomb”

Chris Wallace brings us on a journey through history in a way that engages the reader to look forward to what is on the next page. The articulate dialogue and flowing text free the reader to focus on the story. The descriptive imagery allows the imagination to flow like a Hollywood movie. This is a book worth reading, but note that you will not want to put it down. *SIF*

**Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days That Changed the World**

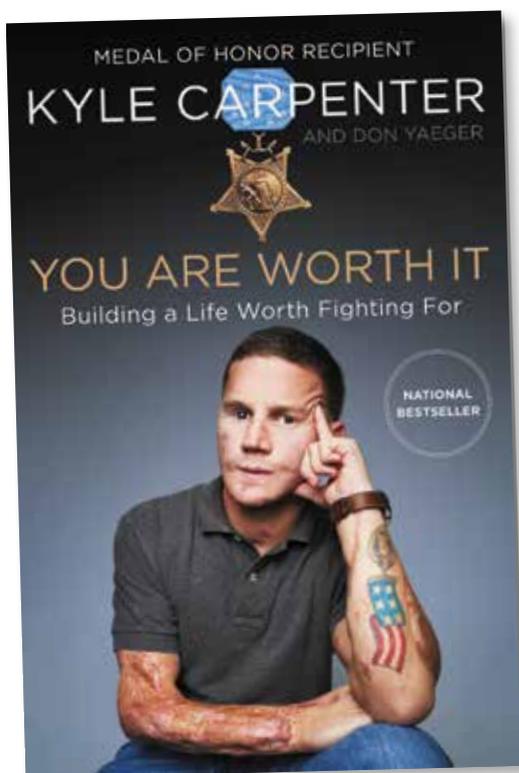
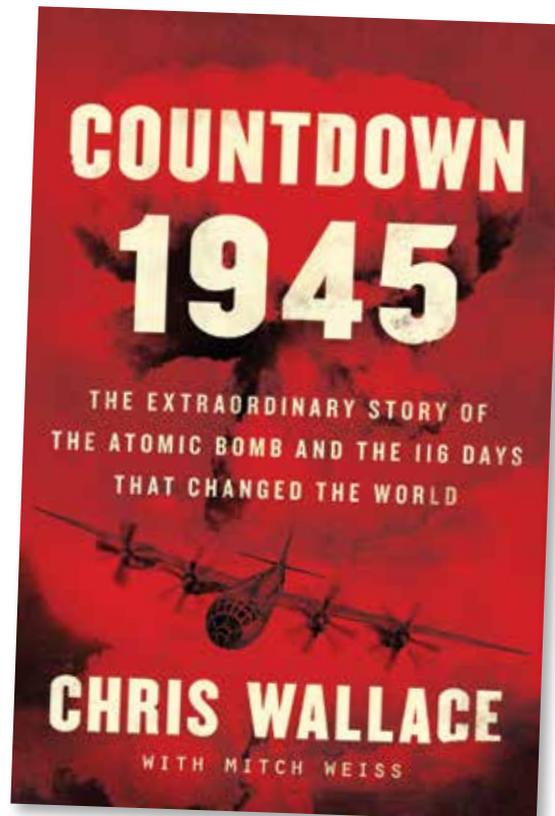
By Chris Wallace with Mitch Weiss

**Hardcover:** 320 pages

**Publisher:** Avid Reader Press / Simon & Schuster

**Language:** English

**ISBN:** 978-1982143343



## Rebuilding a Life After War

**Medal of Honor** recipient Kyle Carpenter (and Don Yaeger) pull the reader into the life of a great American, Marine and wholesome person. This book is not about just one incident in time, although it's a remarkable story with great credit given to those around him. This part of the book brought tears of pride to this reader, several times. The book provides insight into life before the Corps with credit to his parents and the importance of parenthood. He also puts one foot in front of the other after the life-changing encounter with a grenade. As the book is titled, Kyle is building a life worth fighting for and has recognized the power of the statement: “You Are Worth It.” I am grateful to have had the opportunity to read this book. Thank you, Marine! *SIF*

**You Are Worth It: Building a Life Worth Fighting For**

By Kyle Carpenter and Don Yaeger

**Hardcover:** 320 pages

**Publisher:** HarperCollins Publishers

**Language:** English

**ISBN:** 978-0062898548

### NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS & AUTHORS

For consideration for review, please send books to:

MCL National Headquarters, ATTN: COO, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554

# NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE

LISA SOLARCZYK

## Female League member uniform code

**MARINES:** "Once A Marine, Always A Marine." We took great pride when we wore the Marine Corps uniform and followed the rules and regulations on the proper wear of the Marine Corps uniform. We should also take great pride when we wear the Marine Corps League Uniform and follow the rules and regulations that are outlined in the Marine Corps League Uniform Code – Enclosure 3.

Don't look at someone's willingness to correct another person when he/she points out a uniform adjustment/violation as being the "uniform police." Having someone come up to you and take you to the side in a professional, respectful manner and point out something to you that you may have not seen earlier is a good thing. We should always have the professionalism to "police our own" and help one another take pride and respect for the League uniform. Note that just because it is not in the MCL Uniform Code – Enclosure 3, it does not mean it is authorized for wear.

### FEMALE - UNDRRESS UNIFORM - SHORT SLEEVE

- Females have the OPTION of wearing either the Airline-Pilot-style white shirt OR the Female USMC-style white shirt.
- When wearing the Female USMC-style white shirt, it can be worn with either Female Dress Blue Trousers or with black trousers and black leather belt.

**\*\*\*NOTE: Women's Dress Blue Trousers DO NOT have belt loops and CANNOT be altered to have belt loops.\*\*\***

- When wearing the Female Dress Blue Trousers, you must wear



the women's white USMC-style shirt on outside of trousers unless performing the duties of Sgt-at-Arms, Honor Guard or Color Guard. When performing these duties, the shirt will be tucked inside of Dress Blue Trousers or black trousers, and wear the White Duty Belt.

- When wearing the Airline-Pilot-style short-sleeve white shirt, it CANNOT be altered to wear on the outside of Female Dress Blue Trousers or black trousers.
- When wearing the Male Dress Blue Trousers, you must wear the Airline-Pilot-style white shirt as authorized under the male undress short-sleeve regulations.
- Earrings: (optional) small white pearl (or pearl-like) or gold ball, not to exceed 9mm. When worn, earrings will fit tight against the ear and will not extend below the ear lobe.
- Associate members can wear Dress Blue Trousers but are NOT authorized to wear the red blood stripe.

For a complete list of the Female Uniform requirements, please see the Marine Corps League Uniform Code – Enclosure 3 on the National website, [mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org).

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## UPCOMING TOURS

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  
78th Anniversary of Pearl  
Harbor Hawaii, WWII Sites &  
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 WWI, Istanbul  
Troy & ANZAC Day

APR 25 – MAY 8  
Vietnam 50th Anniversary  
"Delta to DMZ"

MAY 16 – 25  
WWI Battlefields France  
Devil Dogs & Doughboys

MAY 27 – JUN 9  
76th Anniversary of D-Day  
Normandy, Bastogne & Paris

JUN 1 – 9  
76th Anniversary of D-Day  
Normandy & Paris

JUL 2 – 12  
Russia "Eastern Front" Battle  
of Kursk, Moscow & Stalin-  
grad Post Tour St. Petersburg

AUG 1 – 10  
Guadalcanal 77th Anniversary  
Op Watchtower

AUG 26 – SEP 7  
50th Anniversary of the  
Vietnam War— I-Corps

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# REUNIONS

## Marine Corps: Hotel 2/7

**Marine Corps: Hotel 2/7 Vietnam Veterans Reunion (1965-1970)**, June 24-27, 2021, at the Crowne Plaza, Jacksonville, FL, 32218. Contact Steve Cone at 843-424-8279 or email scone1948@yahoo.com.



## TBS Class 6-70 Fox Co.

**TBS Class 6-70 Fox Co. 50th Reunion** is rescheduled for October 22-25, 2020, in Quantico, VA. Contact Tom Kanasky at 203-366-3156 or email tlkanasky@earthlink.net; or contact Mitch Youngs at 703-493-9435 or email mitchyoungs@verizon.net.

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR

**2021**

### Marine West Expo

February 11-12  
Camp Pendleton, CA  
mclnational.org  
marinemilitaryexpos.com

### Mid-Winter Conference

February 25-27  
Norfolk, VA  
mclnational.org

### Modern Day Marine

May 4-6  
Quantico, VA  
mclnational.org  
marinemilitaryexpos.com

### Mideast Division Conference

April 16-18  
Rehoboth Beach, DE  
mclnational.org

### National Convention

August 8-14  
Springfield, IL  
mclnational.org

### Marine South Expo

September 29-30  
Camp Lejeune, NC  
mclnational.org  
marinemilitaryexpos.com

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<b>a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)</b>	<b>58,828</b>	<b>57,119</b>
<b>b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)</b>		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	56,359	56,308
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS.	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
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<b>e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution</b>	<b>2,434</b>	<b>776</b>
<b>f. Total Distribution</b>	<b>58,793</b>	<b>57,084</b>
<b>g. Copies not Distributed</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>h. Total</b>	<b>58,828</b>	<b>57,119</b>
<b>i. Percent Paid</b>	<b>95.86%</b>	<b>98.64%</b>

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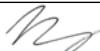
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<b>b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)</b>	<b>56,359</b>	<b>56,308</b>
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**Death Notification Policy**

Headquarters Marine Corps League receives frequent calls regarding the passing away of members. Calls vary from loved ones who wish to stop the magazine delivery to detachment members looking to help. The policy has been that detachment chaplains fill out, sign and submit a death notification

form to their respective department chaplains who then forward it on to Headquarters' membership department. This policy has not changed but will be better adhered-to in the future. It is the only way a person's name will appear in the TAPS section of *Semper Fi* magazine.

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**Item Code:** U24A

**Price:** \$12.00

**Description:** Life Member Blazer Crest Patch

**Item Code:** U26A

**Price:** \$12.00

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



## Knife

**Item Code:** Knife07

**Price:** \$35.00

**Description:** Kabar Folding Knife

# THE SEMPER FI STORE

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



## Desk Flags & Base

**Item Code:** G97-  
USMC desk flag  
**Price:** \$3.00

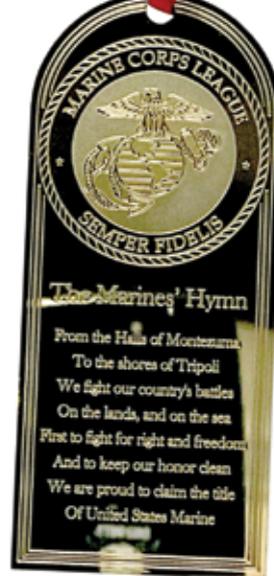
**Item Code:** G98-  
USA desk flag  
**Price:** \$3.00

**Item Code:** G99-  
BASE for desk flags  
**Price:** \$1.50  
**Description:** U.S.  
and USMC Desk  
Flags and Base



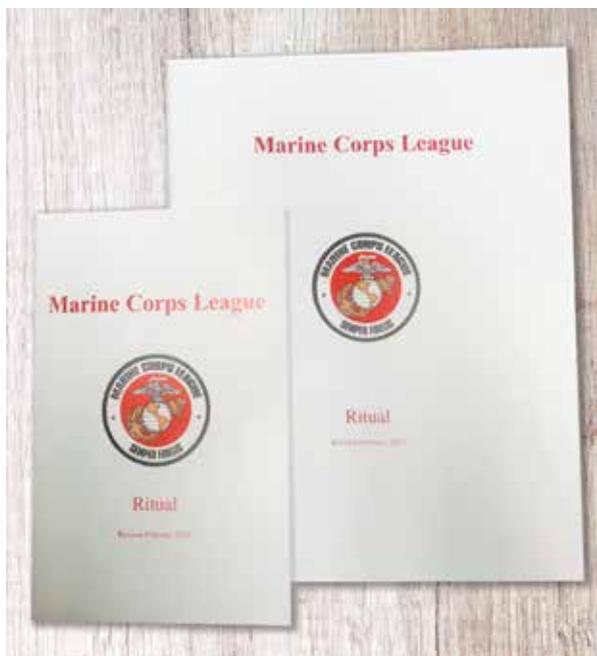
## Knife

**Item Code:** G340  
**Price:** \$25.00  
**Description:** Cam-  
ouflage Knife



## Bookmark

**Item Code:** Gft4  
**Price:** \$10.00  
**Description:** Gold Orna-  
ment/Bookmark "The  
Marines' Hymn" Engraved



## Ritual Prints

**Item Code:** S01  
**Price:** \$6.00  
**Description:** Small Ritual  
Print

**Item Code:** S13  
**Price:** \$6.00  
**Description:** Large Ritual  
Print



## Lapel Pin

**Item Code:** J13A  
**Price:** \$4.50  
**Description:** 5-Year Service Lapel Pin



## Lanyard

**Item Code:** MCL Lanyard  
**Price:** \$5.00  
**Description:** Red MCL  
Lanyard

# THE SEMPER FI STORE

# ORDER FORM

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

**Billing Address**

**Shipping Address**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Code#	Quantity	Item Description	Size	Price Each	Total Cost

HANDLING & POSTAGE	
AMOUNT OF ORDER.....	CHARGE
UNDER \$10.....	<b>\$7.99</b>
\$10.01-\$25.00.....	<b>\$8.99</b>
\$25.01-\$35.00.....	<b>\$10.99</b>
\$35.01-\$50.00.....	<b>\$11.99</b>
\$50.01-\$65.00.....	<b>\$12.99</b>
\$65.01-\$85.00.....	<b>\$13.99</b>
\$85.01-\$100.00.....	<b>\$14.99</b>
\$100.01-\$200.00.....	<b>\$16.99</b>
\$200.01 AND UP.....	<b>\$18.99</b>
<p><b>STANDARD SHIPPING:</b> Shipping and handling charges for orders with Standard Shipping are calculated using the <b>SUBTOTAL</b> of the order. Some very heavy or oversized items may have a shipping surcharge which will be reflected in the item description.</p>	

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

WE GLADLY ACCEPT

VISA       MASTERCARD

DISCOVER       AMERICAN EXPRESS

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

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

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Internal MCL  
Use Only**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

INITIAL \_\_\_\_\_

# 2021 BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

**THE MCL GEARS UP FOR NEXT YEAR'S DRAWING!**

In **2021**, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours ([miltours.com](http://miltours.com)) will again offer the battlefield tour of a lifetime to two lucky League members as the grand prizes in the League's 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 2021.

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!

## 2021 MCL RAFFLE SCHEDULE

### 2021

**16 Feb-1 Mar**

Friends & Family Trip to Vietnam

**20 Feb-4 Mar**

Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue

**22-29 Mar**

Iwo Jima-Guam 76th Anniversary Reunion of Honor

**17-30 Apr**

Vietnam War "Saigon to the DMZ"

**17-30 Apr**

Friends & Family Trip to Vietnam

**1-7 May**

MHT Civil War: Gettysburg, Bull Run & Antietam

**20 May-1 Jun**

80th Anniversary WWII-Battle of Crete

**22-31 May**

WWI Doughboys & Devil Dogs, France

**27 May-9 Jun**

77th Anniversary of D-Day, Battle of the Bulge & Paris

*Continues Next Page*

### MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2021 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE

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

**\$5 per entry or  
5 entries for \$20**

You need not be present to win. Drawing will occur at the 2021 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to: Marine Corps League, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

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2021 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE**

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3619 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Suite 115  
Stafford, VA 22554

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

_____	
Name	
_____	
Address	
_____	
City	
_____	
State	Zip Code
_____	
Phone	
_____	
Email	

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City	
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State	Zip Code
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Phone	
_____	
Email	

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_____	
Name	
_____	
Address	
_____	
City	
_____	
State	Zip Code
_____	
Phone	
_____	
Email	

*Continued From Previous Page*

**1-9 Jun**

77th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

**1-11 Jul**

Russia "Eastern Front" 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad

**9-16 Jul**

Napoleon & Waterloo

**1-9 Aug**

Guadalcanal 78th Operation Watchtower

**15-29 Aug**

Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague

**25 Aug-6 Sep**

Vietnam 50th Anniversary Return to I-Corps

**29 Aug-7 Sep**

D-Day, Normandy & Battle of the Bulge

**8-22 Sep**

Ireland-WWII U.S. Marines "Irish Marines:" Dublin, Belfast & Derry

**9-14 Sep**

Midway Island Return WWII "Battle of Midway"

**11-24 Sep**

Following Easy Company 506th PIR-Footsteps of a Band of Brothers

**13-25 Sep**

WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust

**29 Sep-10 Oct**

Italy WWII: Rome-Salerno-Amalfi-Sorrento-Florence-Venice

**29 Sep-10 Oct**

England WWII: London-Duxford-Stonehenge-Kent-Portsmouth

**10-22 Oct**

China "Imperial Jewels:" Beijing-Xian-Shanghai

**8-20 Nov**

Taste of Asia Saigon: Phnom Penh-Vientiane-Bangkok-Singapore

**27 Nov-8 Dec**

Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 9-14 Dec Laos & Cambodia

**4-11 Dec**

80th Anniversary of Wake Island: Guam & Pearl Harbor



This will certify that

\_\_\_\_\_ is a member in good standing of

\_\_\_\_\_ This card is good for a period of sixty days from

Amount

Sponsor's Signature



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 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 Corpsmen who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon, authorized for FMF Corpsmen; or have served or am 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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Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment. Applicants for MAL Membership, remit this form with check or money order in the amount of \$30 to:  
**Marine Corps League, National Headquarters**  
 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.



This will certify that

\_\_\_\_\_ is a member in good standing of

\_\_\_\_\_ This card is good for a period of sixty days from

Amount

Sponsor's Signature



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Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
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## OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, In the Presence of Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed Officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will never bring discredit upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps League, so help me God."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Incorporated by an act of Congress in 1937, the Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines who proudly wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor of the Corps.



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**ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.**



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