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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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Marine Gary White Shares His Story



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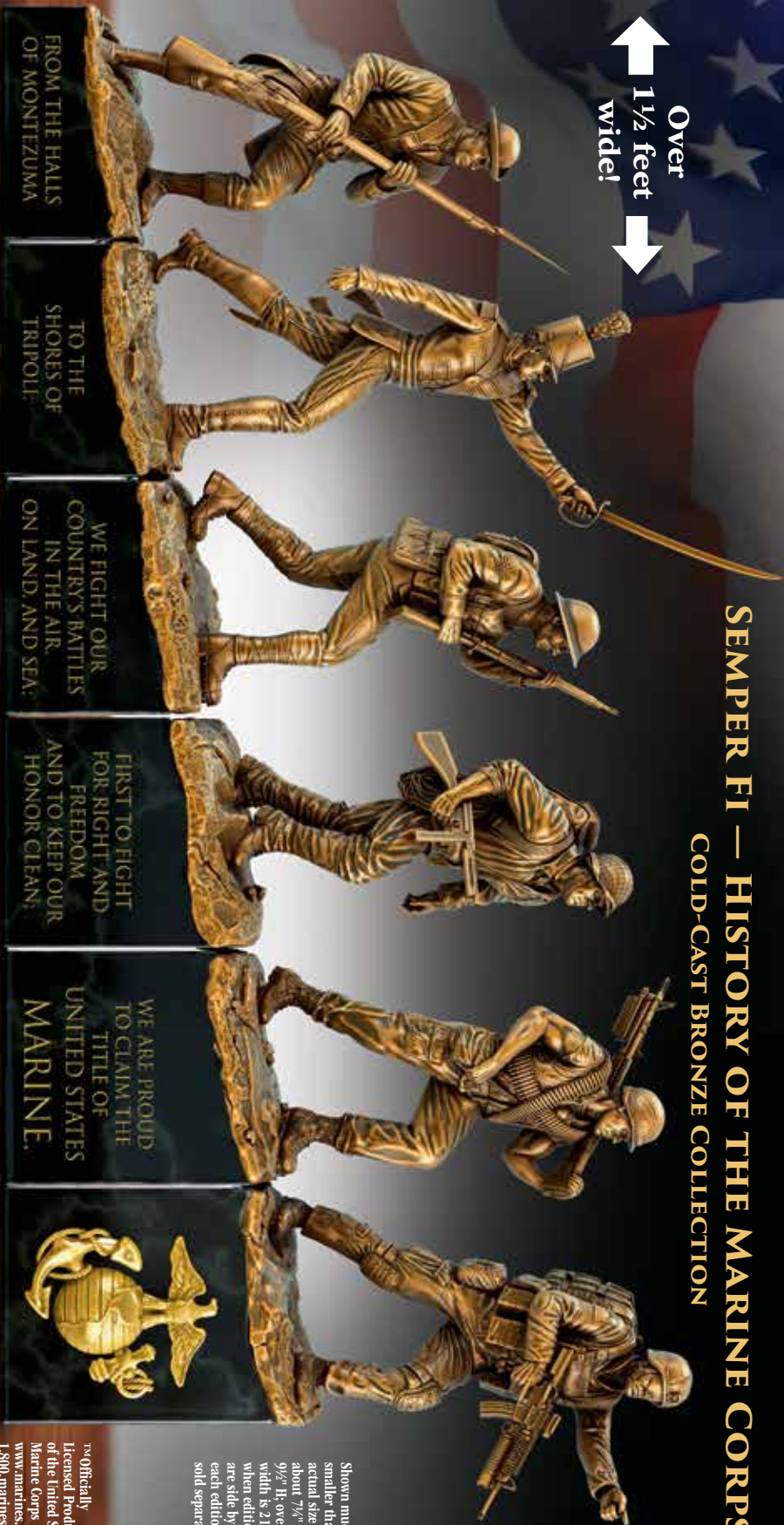
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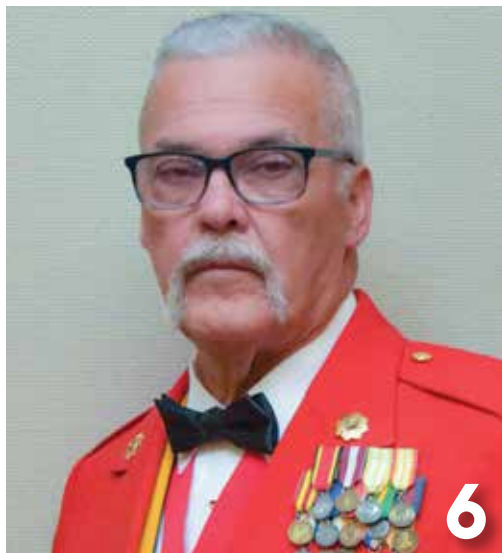


The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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ON THE COVER:

Gary White (center) of Cpl Kevin J. Reinhard Detachment 189, NJ, with two active duty Marines.

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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

On page 14 of Volume 76, No. 4, "Thank You for Your Service—A Change in Perspective" was attributed to Fred Marotta but was written by Lonny Fry, Chaplain of the detachment.

On page 34 of Volume 76, No. 4, the title of "In Memorium" should have read "In Memoriam."

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

We will continue moving forward into the 21st century

MARINES: As we prepare for the Mid-Winter Conference we also continue to push forward into the world of electronics. With some hard work and cooperation from detachment and department leadership we should be close to 100% electronic by the next Convention. A few months back, we began putting together electronic banking for the PLM disbursements because there were too many returned uncashed PLM checks. We started by having all the National Officers and departments give COO Bob Borka their banking information. Once we were sure the system was going to work, we reached out to all detachments and asked them to send their banking information. We are currently at 56% with 636 detachments compliant. Commandants need to call or email in your account and routing numbers to Bob Borka. He will secure the information. If you email it, he will delete the email once he has the info. I would like to have every detachment compliant by the Mid-Winter Conference. I do want to thank all those detachments that have complied and sent their information in.

Also, in keeping with our push into the 21st century and going 100% electronic, I have appointed a committee to look into electronic payment transmittals and also the ability to register electronically for conferences and conventions. We do have the capabilities and expertise to get it done; the problem is that a few detachments refuse to comply and adjust to a changing system. The National Board of Trustees not only has a fiduciary responsibility to the



League, but it has the responsibility to keep the League up-to-date with the current best business practices within the world of electronics.

Current or future process improvements will require detachment and department cooperation for the transition to go smoothly. We, the National Board of Trustees of the Marine Corps League, will not be deterred from our responsibilities due to a few detachments who refuse change. We will move forward with or without you, we don't have a choice. If we do not catch up and then keep up with the changing times, we will fail, and "failure is not an option"—not now and not in the future. All changes we are currently making and will be making are for the good of the League. It's very simple Marines, "Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way." As detachment and department officers, you have the unique opportunity to get on board and enjoy the ride or sit back and fade away into the past. Before I close, I want to again thank all departments and detachments that have worked so hard to assist us in these new endeavors; it's greatly appreciated.

Semper Fi!

Should the Marine Corps League Start a Cyber Detachment? It's Time to Keep up with the Marine Corps

By Dr. Eric Nelson

The rise of technology in the last 3 decades is extraordinary and exponential. Grandparents shake their heads in disbelief watching grandkids with noses glued to a mobile device, supplemented by a tablet. They are busy updating Facebook, creating Instagrams and chatting on several platforms simultaneously. OMG and LOL.

It isn't just the grandkids. While off duty, most Marines and their spouses are heavily tied into cyber activity. Remember mail call and letters from home? It is a new Marine Corps now. When forward deployed Marines return from a mission, they don't line up at a payphone outside of the chow hall. Instead, they pull out their cell phones to FaceTime with their loved ones, or they login to play online games against competitors worldwide. They live connected lives. Email is already so boomer. Young Marines favor instant forms of communication.

These Marines are the potential future of the Marine Corps League. Their concept of comradery is not the same as Jarheads in their 70s and 80s. Yes, it is formed in small unit missions, but unlike older Marines, the younger Marines also form comradery through their electronic connections with each other. The concept of physical separation isn't as pronounced with young Marines because they are connected all day long even when they

are on opposite sides of the globe. Remember the friends you missed after transferring to a new command? Now, Marines can be in close contact and keep their relationships up even after they are transferred.

Real-time, instant electronic connectedness is the way of the future for the Marine Corps League. For this reason I believe the Marine Corps League should establish a cyber detachment. It should experiment with this in order to find out what will cause young Marines to join. Our beloved Marine Corps has embraced the changing times and now

Dr. Nelson is conducting an important survey of MCL members age 35 and younger. Please contact him at **Marines@fastmail.com**. He will send you a link to the survey. **Your responses are very important.**

Semper Fi,

Dennis Tobin
National Commandant

has cyber units and a cyber command. We can follow this example by starting Marine Corps League cyber detachments. I think it is time to start a discussion about how to do it. **SIF**

Eric L. Nelson, Ph.D. is an honorably discharged 0211 Gunnery Sergeant and the Senior Vice Commandant of the SSgt Sky Mote Detachment 697 in Placerville, CA (mcl697.org).

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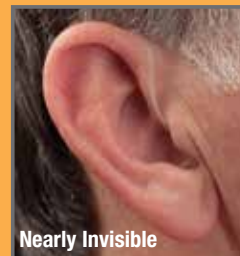
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NATIONAL PR COMMITTEE

VICTORIA McCOY

The B.S. of social media

MARINES: As an effective and engaging social media platform is like maintaining your own broadcasting company. When used effectively, it can enhance your “brand awareness” marketing exponentially! Social media is not restricted to Facebook; it includes YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn and others. Each portal will have their own demographic and ability to connect with the audience you are trying to reach.

But, what is marketing? Marketing is the activity and process for creating; communicating and delivering offerings that have value to customers. Look at social media marketing. It is considered that the purpose of social media marketing is to build a brand and increase a brand’s visibility through building relationships and communicating with potential customers. The two seem to go hand-in-hand. But you may still be wondering, why social media?



“Social networks are one of the fastest growing industries in the world and are the greatest form of ‘word-of-mouth’ advertisements!”

- Facebook is the biggest and arguably most powerful social network in the world with 1.55 billion active monthly users. You need to be on Facebook (as a business page) and engage with your stakeholders with consistent, relevant posts.
- Twitter is known as the “in-the-moment” platform and boasts a respectful 255 million active monthly users. Twitter is a perfect online marketing tool for businesses that want to reach out to people (and are ready for a reply). The key is to be quick and smart—ever heard of “dunk in the dark?”
- Instagram is a visual platform designed for customers to post, share, comment and engage through digital media. As the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.
- LinkedIn is regarded as the professional social networking site. LinkedIn largely focuses on B2B (business-to-business) marketing rather than B2C (business-to-consumer).
- Google +, YouTube, Foursquare and Pinterest are other social network sites. And then there’s Snapchat, the new kid on the block, who recently recorded six billion daily views.

Your social media platform(s) should be implemented by members (consider a Public Relations Committee) who are knowledgeable in effective marketing and in social media as well as being in the know when inquiries are asked through the platform. Implementation needs to be consistent and must be relevant. And ever so important, posts **must** be monitored for dialogue/comments showing your attentiveness and response, but also address any posts that may harm the overall image of the Marine Corps League. Proper, effective, consistent and relevant use of your social media platform(s) will increase awareness for the Marine Corps League—the detachment, department, Division and the National organization as a whole. It’s just one element of public relations and marketing.

Semper Fi!

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HONOR GUARD

JOHN CLICKENER

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Calling all Honor and Color Guards! A New Year—A new column

MARINES: This column focuses on the unique duties rendered by our Marine Corps League Honor Guards (HG) and Color Guards (CGs). I'm the Chair of the National Honor Guard Committee and an administrator of the MCL Honor Guard Facebook group. This column provides another means of communicating with our HGs and CGs in 50 departments and 10 Divisions. It will also encourage more detachments to form MCL HGs and CGs.

Communications are the key to recognizing and supporting our HGs and CGs. Answering questions and addressing concerns from our detachments are essential. To improve our communications you're invited to contact the Committee at honorguard@mcleague.org.

Projects

Following are projects underway as I write this column in late October.

First, we work closely with the National Uniform Committee to ensure our MCL Honor Guards and Color Guards wear prescribed MCL uniforms while rendering funeral honors, ceremonies, parades and other events when we represent our League.

Second, we are currently staffing a comprehensive HG/CG Annual Activity Reporting System which will be published before you read this issue of *Semper Fi*. It replaced an "annual request" for information via email. Our new system uses the MCL Chain of Command beginning at the detachment level. It contains formats and reporting windows for each level of command. It provides the National Staff with a better understanding of the numbers and locations of HGs and CGs, the numbers of participants and the level of support provided to Inspector and Instructor (I&I) Staffs. Our Commandant annually briefs our HG and CG activity data to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Third, development of MCL Color Guard Policy and Procedures (CG P&P) is underway. It will be like, but much smaller than, the MCL Honor Guard P&P. The target to submit the draft CG P&P for consideration by the Board of Trustees is June 30, 2021. Please send your suggestions for the CG P&P to the Committee before May 1, 2021.

Fourth and finally, we welcome suggestions and recommendations about the HG P&P and our Honor Guard Facebook group. There were, as of late October, 517 members in the closed group. Anyone can view the group page, but only members can post comments. To join you must: 1) Request to become a member; 2) Answer all three questions; and 3) Comply with the group rules. Nominations are not accepted.

Thanks for reading this inaugural column. If you aren't a member of an Honor Guard or Color Guard, please consider joining or forming an HG or CG. We always need more members and associate members to join us in publicly representing our League and our Corps.

Semper Fi!



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Please Cc the Chief Operating Officer Bob Borka at BBorka@mcleague.org



Fry (center) with his team of 2nd Battalion/1st Marines H&S Company at Ft. Leary, south of Da Nang.



Lonny Fry in October 1969.



Lonny with his bride of 50 years, Sue Ellen, attending their first Marine Corps Ball.

The People vs. the War

My Thoughts During 1969 Vietnam

By Chaplain Lonny A. Fry, USMC

October 19, 1969

I was listening to the USA radio broadcast in Vietnam, and I started to write this. The following night I came across an article in the *Reader's Digest*. The coverage I heard on the radio, along with that article gave me the idea for my thoughts below. It can best be explained by the last two paragraphs of the article. For you to see it the way I did, I have quoted the paragraphs below:

"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 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 response when they were called to serve.

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."

-Reader's Digest, August 1969

From the radio broadcast and the words above, I wrote this poem:

The People vs. the War

As I sit in my hooch and listen to the radio play,
The D.J. interrupts; it's time for the news of the day!
He speaks of the world, my home and land of the free.
The words from his lips express the war across the sea.

"My fellow Americans"—with this he begins a report.
"The largest protest movement,"—I stop and think not one of this sort;
"Is about to take place"—oh no, they're at it once more;
"In our nation's capitol"—the kittens are trying to roar.

Why do these people storm the White House door?
Do they think they can end the war?
They demand peace and declare the war a mistake.
Who are they for God's sake?

Do they fight and put their lives on the line?
They sit back and complain of yours and mine.
What they do is frowned on over here,
Because for us it only increases the fear.

When these people say our country is wrong,
It makes us feel weak and not very strong.
Does anyone care about our buddies that have died?
By what they say, those guys shouldn't even of tried.

Did they die for no purpose at all?
To some their death seems very small.
Yes, they say, "Oh, that's too bad,"
While others mutter, "that's so sad."

And what about the guys minus an arm or a leg?
They're still alive, but they'll never beg.
Don't get me wrong I want the war to end too,
But realize I am doing this for you.

The war may be wrong, so some may say, and so may be,
But give us faith in our country, our God and thee.
Give us assurance that you are behind us all the way,
Then one day soon we will all be home to stay!

My hope for America is unity; oh Lord, make us strong;
So that as a nation, no matter what we do, right or wrong,
We will be as one with faith in our fellow man,
Then in the end we will fulfill God's greatest plan.

Shine down upon us and make us see the light.
Let the past fade far into the night.
For the true America, the days have just begun.
The future is drawing near, and it is bright as the sun.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION

***ENJOY THE HOME OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 9-13, 2021***

The National Convention is a gathering of Marine Corps League members from all across the United States.

TO REGISTER DELEGATES FOR THE 2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION, PLEASE VISIT THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LIBRARY CONVENTION TAB FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Local Convention Committee Website: <https://mclnationalconvention2021.org>

The convention will be held at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre



Reservations are now being taken at the alternate hotel:
PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD HILTON

**RESERVATION NUMBER: 217-544-8800
GROUP CODE: MCL**

\$115 per night plus tax. Individuals are responsible for room, tax, and incidentals.
Rates include 1 complimentary parking pass per occupied guest room. Rate includes 2 complimentary breakfasts per room per night.

The Marines who trained at Montford Point were the first African-Americans recruited into the Marines en masse during and after WWII. White is extremely proud of this heritage and works with the Montford Point Marine Association to further educate the public about this historic episode in Marine Corps history.



THE *SEMPER FI* INTERVIEW



White with a contingent of Young Marines. He is very enthusiastic about getting involved with youth programs today.

You Can't Play It Safe All the Time

Life Lessons from Gary White

By Miles Vining

Semper Fi recently got in touch with Gary White, a central figure in the Marine Corps League in central New Jersey where he takes a very active role in the Young Marines program, Montford Point Marine Association, in addition to his MCL detachments. Despite a power out-

age due to a recent hurricane, Gary took some time to answer our questions about his life and association with the League.

Semper Fi: Can you tell us about some of your prior life before the Marines?

Gary White: I was born and raised in Chi-

cago, and it's not really a long story of how I ended up in New Jersey. You know one of the things about life is a series of adventures. Whatever you may do, may it be your profession, may it be raising a family, that's an adventure. Getting married, that's definitely an adventure. But if we

... sometimes you have to step outside of the box. You can't play it safe all the time. You have to actually step out there. There is no one safe place. "Oh, I'm going to stay right here because it's safe." And what you end up doing is ending up eliminating yourself from opportunities, not going places, but I digress. When I graduated from high school I felt like I hadn't done anything. So, I was looking for my next adventure because I didn't have any intentions of just being a regular person. So, I joined the Marine Corps in 1977. Of course, it was during peacetime, and the adventure of boot camp in San Diego was that all of my drill instructors were Vietnam veterans. So, we were trained very enthusiastically. My active duty was done basically on the west coast, Camp Pendleton. I was with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. I was a mortarman. I originally started out in admin, as O151, but it bored me. And I asked my first sergeant to send me out in the field with the infantry.

SF: Did you enjoy working on the guns?

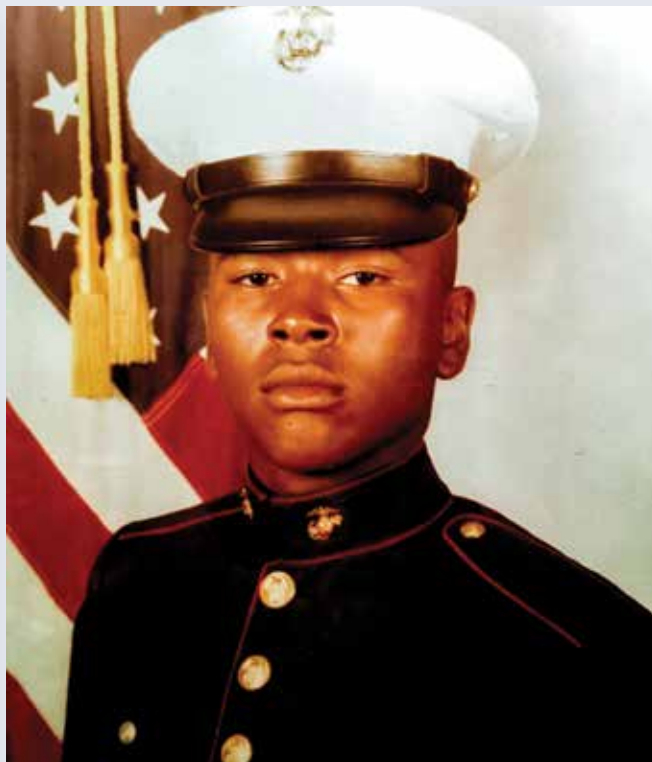
GW: I loved it. The adventures, deployments ... we went to Norway for cold weather training. Then mountain school in Bridgeport, California. We did desert training, of course. Did some jungle training in Panama. Camp Lejeune ... did some time there. Amphibious training in Coronado, California. So, I had a chance to see all of the garden spots of America. Mohave Desert, of course.

SF: Then you joined the Reserves?

GW: After I got out, I went into the active Reserves in Chicago, and that was 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines, 4th Marine Division. I was also a mortarman there. I completed my initial enlistment. Did 6 years all together. I re-enlisted and did 2 years in the air wing at Naval Air Station Glenview. I went back to being an admin man. Because I was not the smartest young man in the world, I chose to get out. I should've stayed in, but the world is littered with those stories. I was out for 6 years, and I got laid off of my job. I went back in the United States Navy for 3 years.

SF: What were you doing in Chicago?

GW: I worked for the Chicago Board of Education. Basically, I was a warehouse man for the department of JROTC. We were in the headquarters, and we basically serviced equipment, uniforms and every



White in his Boot Camp graduation portrait in 1977.

other type of supply to the 33 high schools in Chicago that had Army JROTC units.

SF: What adventures did the Navy bring?

GW: It was a start, and it was a new adventure. I ended up being a damage control man, shipboard firefighter. And I enjoyed the job because what I ended up doing, I was one of the guys responsible for shipboard firefighter and damage control training on board of my ship, which was the *USS Cowpens*, CG-63. So, a guided missile cruiser. It was stationed in San Diego at the time.

SF: Did you go on any deployments? I'm assuming maybe a WESTPAC or something with that?

GW: Oh yeah. We definitely did a WESTPAC. We were originally destined to go to the Middle East, but we got waylaid to go hang out near North Korea. Kim Jong Un's father was saber-rattling at the time. This was in the early '90s. My ship was deployed with the *USS Kitty Hawk* battle group; we got detoured and sent to the Far East instead, and we stayed there for a 6- to 9-month deployment. We did some surveillance up the Yellow Sea. We went across the 38th parallel and had to go to general quarters and slowly turn around and go back south. I got out, and I was armed with my two honorable discharges,

and I ended up working for the railroad industry. I started out at Conrail railroad in Chicago, and originally it was just supposed to be something to get myself established, and then I would move on to something else. I was a journalism major in college. I ended up staying there for my career.

SF: But then you transplanted to New Jersey...

GW: I ended up leaving as a manager from this particular railroad. I was a train master ... I ended up going over to a passenger railroad, and I was an engineer. In a twist of fate, a young man that I knew and encouraged 10 years previously, was talking to me about applying for the Federal Railroad Administration, which I did. He said, "You got college. You're a veteran. You're an adventurer. You know your business. You'd be a shoe-in." I interviewed, and I got hired for New Jersey. Well, now that means I have a very busy plate. But one of the greatest things, and I want to sideline this. And it has something to do with how I ended up serving in the Marine Corps League. This young man that I encouraged and mentored, through him I ended up ... I helped him, and he didn't forget that, and he helped me. And it was one of those life lessons of how you treat someone else; it'll be reciprocated, and that was a life lesson



White (left) with fellow Marines in the field. While in the Fleet Marine Force, White was stationed at Camp Pendleton with 3/5, and then with 2/24 in the Reserves while in Chicago.

that I'll never forget. [T]hat actually influenced my thought processes and my ideas of service to others as I've gotten older.

SF: When did you enter the League?

GW: After I moved to New Jersey I went exploring in my area, and I went to this one particular diner. I was just there to get the feel of the place. Went to this diner and well, this little old man that came in, it was almost like the show *Cheers*. Everybody knew him. "Jack!" Everybody knew Jack. His name is Jack McGreevey. He is now 95 years old, and what drew me to him, not only his popularity, but he was wearing a Marine Corps tie bar. He had on a shirt and tie, and the tie bar was a Marine Corps tie bar. So of course, I introduced myself. We struck up a conversation. He said, "Do you belong to the Marine Corps League?" I said, "No, I do not." He said, "Well, you will be now." So, he gives me an application. I looked at it, and I read some of the information the man had on the Marine Corps League, I wrote them a check, and I joined. I got sworn into my local detachment, my local chapter. So, we got together, and the more I went and the more I got involved, the more they took notice of me. So, I got promoted and put on the senior staff. I was the Junior Vice Commandant. That was my first job after I left the body of the organization.

SF: What are some the changes you brought on?

GW: One of the things that I tried to do was

help the community, and I came up with this idea that I was going to put together a job fair. A couple of the guys, they were kind of skeptical. "A job fair?" I said, "Yeah." I said, "I know a few people, and we'll see if we can bring them on board to have this job fair." We ended up having 18 vendors that came to the job fair. Three railroads, Federal Express. There was a young man who was a retired Navy officer. He was building a Chick-fil-A®. We gave all these opportunities for people to become involved, and that's how we ended up putting ourselves more on the map.

SF: You were trying to look out for some of the younger guys?

GW: So, they started following my lead. We would get involved in the street fair. We'd set up our tent and just basically pass out cards and talk about the Marine Corps League. We picked up a few more members. A few more members were intrigued. And what we were trying to do is pull in younger guys.

SF: What would you say to young Marines who are just getting out? And then, what would you say to other League members if you could send messages to these two different groups and populations?

GW: You're going to put together a family. You're going to get your life together, and all these things, but there's one thing that you will always be is a Marine. Don't turn your back on that. If you have time, and this is one of the things I tell guys if I

catch their eye, "Hey man, why don't you come check this out? All I ask of you is 2 hours a month. Give me 2 hours a month, and when you give me 2 hours a month, I'm giving you something. But you got to come and find out what it is." That's all I ask. And when you give a little of yourself, you get back in return. And for the older veterans, we take care of the civilians. The civilians, in turn, give us a little respect and take care of us. But more important, the ones who do all the service, the ones who've been there, who've done the trials and tribulations ... your average civilian doesn't understand, but they don't have to. Thank God for them. They don't have to understand the hardships, the trials and tribulations, the sacrifice, that blank check that we gave to our country, payable up to and including our lives. And when we do that, we've given ourselves to something that is greater than us, the collective, the country, who we are. And that's what makes us strong, and we're going to get back to being strong like we were before. **SIF**

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Planning for the National Convention



“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! I hope all you Dogs out there are staying healthy and starting to get back to some serious Dog Business. I've had the opportunity to attend several Growls over the past 3 months. They just keep getting better and better. The attendance is up, and all the Growls were fun.

I traveled to Springfield, IL, to participate in a National Convention meeting and a walk-through of the Springfield 2021 Convention Hotel with PDD Jim Ransom, the National Convention Chair, COO Bob Borka, representatives from the hosting organization and MCLA President, Evelyn Joppa. I was very much impressed with the area assigned to the Dogs; there will be plenty of space for our Dog House as well as our Quartermaster Store, as well as for additional tables to house our Lucky Dog, Charity Dog and others needing tables outside of the Dog House.

After meeting up with and attending the Springfield meeting with PDD Mike Francis, my Aide-de-Kamp, we went back to Missouri for the Mid-West Division Conference and Growl. There I had the honor of swearing in the local Pounds' elected and appointed officers and had a fantas-

tic time. During my visit to Missouri, Sr. Vice Chief PDD Alan Sanning arranged a tour of the Central Missouri Machine Gun Plant (CMMG). They were very kind and donated a weapon to us for one of our raffles. It was an amazing tour, and we were able to see some interesting manufacturing processes and had some great photo opportunities.

My congratulations to all the Pack and Pound elected and appointed officers. My many thanks to the NC, MD and NJ Packs for the invitations and the honor to install your officers. Again, congratulations to the Central Missouri, Pound 77 Dogs on hosting the Mid-West Division Growl. A special thank you to PDD Chuck Covert, Mid-West Division Vice Chief Devil Dog; it was a very memorable Growl.

To the Order, I ask that you remember to submit your passport funds to Kennel Dog Robber as soon as possible after the completion of your Growls. Please keep in touch with your Dogs, we are not out of the woods yet when it comes to COVID-19.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Norfolk for the Mid-Winter Conference and Mini-Growl!

Semper Woof!



Pound 77's Birthday cake.



Presentation of an honorary plaque to CMMG.



Midwest Division Vice Chief Devil Dog, PDD Craig Reeling in his Growl costume, October 31, 2020.

NAMED IN HONOR OF



Cpl. Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment 1081, Cape Girardeau, MO

Cpl. Mason O. Yarbrough was one of 900 elite U.S. Marines selected from 15,000 volunteers to become one of "Carlson's Raiders" in February 1942. A Missouri native, born August 16, 1922, Yarbrough enlisted in the Marine Corps on June 7, 1941. He trained with Carlson at Camp Elliott in San Diego, CA, where he became one of the first "Gung Ho!" Marines. When Carlson's 2nd Raiders Battalion went ashore on Butaritari Island, Makin Atoll, Gilbert Islands on August 17, 1942, Yarbrough was among 19 Marines to fall to Japanese defensive fire. When the Raiders withdrew to continue their South Pacific mission, Carlson paid natives to bury the fallen Marines. Their bodies were repatriated in December 1999, and Corporal Yarbrough was finally laid to rest with full Military Honors in Sikeston Memorial Park in Sikeston, MO, December 15, 2000.

The Gilbert, Phoenix and Line Islands are officially part of the Republic of Kiribati today. [SIF](#)



NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCLA

EVELYN JOPPA

NATIONALMCLA.ORG

Hold our members to our ideals in the New Year

MARINES: As we embark on a new year, may we be ever thankful for our freedom and the family time we have enjoyed over the holidays. One of those joys is to see that, despite the pandemic, the League and Auxiliary continue to work in the various programs that make these organizations stand out, such as Toys for Tots and helping our veterans and their families. Thank you!

2021 will be filled with new opportunities and challenges, and we, the Auxiliary, need to continue to take on the challenges with enthusiasm. We can be encouraged by the new growth in membership and leadership that has occurred despite the pandemic in 2020. The past year has changed how and when we do our valuable work. We have learned to adapt and overcome some of these issues.

Our normal way of accomplishing our objectives has had to change. Please hold our members to the ideas and principles on which this Auxiliary was founded with as much enthusiasm and skill needed to continue growth in membership and build leadership. Give credit where credit is due. When you finish your present position, remember to pass on all the materials, information and knowledge that you have acquired during the job, elected or appointed, thus giving the new officer a firm foundation and the ability to build. Strive to give proper advice and realize there may be a better idea on how to best accomplish the job, spirited by your very advice.

Our future is bright and the opportunities endless. Open your hearts and minds to these new adventures yet to come. Help your fellow members to become the best at accomplishing our collective objectives.

The Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Norfolk, VA, at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel on February 25-27. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is a limit on the total numbers attending, so please get your reservations in

before the deadline.

Our hearts and prayers go out to those who have experienced hard times. May we always be mindful of our members' and their families' needs. Thank you for all that you do every day!

Please remember our servicemen and servicewomen daily as they preserve our freedom. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we cannot repay.

To the Marine Corps League, we wish you much success in the ensuing year. We are here to assist. Success is built on the dreams of those who seek to serve others!

Semper Fi!



The 2020 Frances R. Watt PNP/Norma A. Liner PNP Award is presented each year to the Outstanding Member of the Southeast Division. The Division Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19. On the left is PNP Alice Blackford presenting a copy of the letter of nomination and PSEDVP Inda Adams presenting the plaque to the 2020 Recipient Teresa Elam, Music City Unit President.

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National Sr. VP

Linda Chamberlain

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Dotty Sanning

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PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION INC.

HOWARD C. SCHAEFFER

MCLFOUNDATION.ORG

We are in difficult and unprecedented times

MARINES: It is an honor to be addressing you as the President of the Marine Corps League Foundation, I am humbled by this opportunity and look forward to serving you, the members of the Marine Corps League.

The Foundation has many programs where we offer financial assistance and support to the Marine Corps League members and their families, to Marine Corps veterans and their families, the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League and the JROTC.

We help fund the Marine Corps League Scholarship program which offers financial assistance to members and members' families who are attending institutions of higher learning.

The Young Marines of the Marine Corps League is a great motivating organization for America's youth. Each year they select / name a Young Marine as their Young Marine of the Year. Your Foundation awards this Young Marine some well-deserved financial assistance in funding his or her further education.

Our support of youth programs does not stop there. It is our pleasure to work with the U. S. Marines Youth Foundation and the Marine Corps League, by providing additional awards to the top athletes and schools of the National Youth Physical Fitness competition. These athletes and

coaches are incredible; their dedication to youth physical fitness shows in their performances at the competitions. It is truly amazing.

The Humanitarian Aid program assists Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains, both active duty and veterans, as well as their families. This program is a true demonstration of your compassion and generosity. In some instances, this assistance is their last hope.

I know I do not need to tell you we are in difficult and unprecedented times. We need your help to continue our mission. With the cancellation of the National Convention we lost one of our major revenue streams.

I am making an urgent plea to you, our membership, your families, detachments and departments to consider a donation to the Marine Corps League Foundation. Any and all donations should be sent directly to the Treasurer: William Miller, 2904 Cross Creek Drive, Cumming, GA, 30040. All checks should be made payable to the Marine Corps League Foundation, Inc. For more information, please visit mclfoundation.org.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with the Marine Corps League for our membership.

Semper Fi!

CEO, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

YOUNGMARINES.COM

We continue to serve our youth

MARINES: We have continued to overcome the challenges of current events, in many cases side by side with our founders and steadfast supporters, the Marine Corps League. October marked our 61st Anniversary. The Young Marines started with a small group of units in the Northeast supported by Marines of the League in the early 1960s. Our oldest active unit is Grand Rapids, MI, which was chartered on August 1, 1967. Our original unit in Brass City closed for a decade but was re-activated for our 50th Anniversary and is still going strong. In October, we celebrated our newest unit, Ash Fork Young Marines in Dewy, AZ. Young Marines National Headquarters continues to receive calls and emails requesting information on forming new units. Why? Because even amid a global pandemic, America's citizens recognize the importance of leadership, self-discipline, teamwork and a commitment to a healthy, drug-free lifestyle for our youth. It is no surprise to me that many of these calls are from hard charging members of the MCL.



Johnny Baker, Sr. Vice Commandant; Warren Griffin, Jr. Vice Commandant; T.J. Morgan, National Judge Advocate.

Last summer, we were able to salvage a few National level events at our HQ. From the Advanced Leadership School, Cyber Camp and a Senior Seminar at HQ, to our regional leadership schools and our Adult

Volunteer training, we remain relevant while adhering to all safety guidelines. Units across the country are meeting where able and keeping our nation's youth engaged where others have left them adrift. We continue to work on virtual and distance learning to keep our Young Marines on track for success. These programs will enhance their experience even after we get back to meeting in person again. We will emerge stronger and resilient.

I hope you all had a chance to see the article from our Alumni in the last edition of *Semper Fi* (Vol. 76, No. 4). These results are proof positive that this program does what it says and is producing our next generation of leaders.

Thanks to all the MCL leaders who joined us at our annual golf tournament at Quantico in September. We had the best weather, a bevy of great guests and some so-so golfers. I hope to see many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk for some much-needed camaraderie and a few sea stories.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

JOHNNY B. BAKER

The youth of our nation are future leaders!

MARINES: The League's mission is "to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism." The mission describes strengthening the families and to foster the ideals of Americanism. Two major areas that the League is involved in and supports fully are the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League and the Youth Physical Fitness Program with the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation.

The Young Marines is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through the completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines strengthens the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, leadership, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members. The program promotes a lifestyle that is conducive to being productive members of society.

The U.S. Marines Youth Foundation offers programs to schools across the nation to assist our youth in getting involved with a fit-



ness program. Their mission is to endow the Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) Program and other programs like it that benefit American youth. The League recognizes the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation as an independent organization from the League. High school-aged kids in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in state, regional and national physical fitness competitions. The U.S. Marines Youth Foundation, Inc. funds and administers these events. The K-12 Program is

designed to teach kids at an early age about the importance of staying healthy and promotes a "Fitness for Life" message.

The youth of our nation are future leaders who will help strengthen the nation for years ahead. Our nation is dependent upon us, the League, to ensure that our youth have the core values they will need. Each program is supported by the League and is covered in our National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Each MCL detachment has the "opportunity" to ensure our youth live a drug-free life and be physically fit future leaders of our nation. These two programs should and need to be the focus of every detachment and member. Get involved! It is who we are and what we do; striving for what is best for our country.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

Proper financial oversight must be an ongoing policy

MARINES: We have entered into a new year. I haven't heard anyone say they are sorry to see 2020 end! It was a tough year for everyone, everywhere. Now let's move forward into 2021 with good health, enthusiasm and vigor. As National Officers, we serve in multiple roles for our League. As the National Junior Vice, I am the corporate treasurer. I am reaching out to all detachments and departments to follow proper financial procedures and responsibilities. Everyone must be IRS-compliant. Please, double check on your status now, before it's too late. Working together, we can stay on the proper path. The financial security of each entity will be well preserved if proper oversight is an ongoing policy. The Commandant and the paymaster are responsible for signing checks. Different members should be designated to periodically review and perform oversight of every account. Members work hard raising money to help the various causes we support; we don't want those efforts to go for naught.

On the membership side, I am very pleased to report growth is underway in various parts of the country. The shutdown has obviously affected some areas, but we are making progress. Thank you all very much. In our website's ([mclnational.org](#)) programs section, there are two programs which members may find helpful. These are the: (1) Professional Development Program; and (2) Recruiting Program.



Both of these programs will help experienced members and new officers who are leading their detachments/departments to determine if a detachment could move forward in a more productive manner. Perhaps, just a small adjustment is all you need when approaching new members with an alternative view.

Please continue utilizing all media sources: social media, radio, television—both cable and regular—and print media.

Keep getting the word out there that we are the organization for Marines. Our Tribe is here to help bring support and social connections for our brothers and sisters. One prime example is our Commandant was able to generate a wave of participation on Facebook from our members by posting the "Suicide Awareness" pushup program on the Marine Corps League "Connections" page. If you have not joined us on this page, please do so today.

We will be holding our Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, VA. Hopefully, we'll be able to meet and discuss League issues moving forward.

Thank you all for your efforts and support of our League.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

T.J. MORGAN

Send in amendments by April 1

MARINES: Goodbye 2020 and good riddance! What a year! One to forget for sure, but as usual we keep moving forward as all Marines do.

It is important that even though some of us are having remote meetings, we continue to improve and work on basic knowledge of the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. You as a member should have a basic understanding of our uniform code, your detachment/department election requirements as well as the basic structure of how a meeting is run. All of this information is on our members' password-protected library on the National website, **mclnational.org**. Uniforms are addressed in Enclosure 3. Enclosure 4 deals with all awards. Enclosures 5 through 8 are different reports. The detachment guide book sure needs an update, but it will help you to run your meetings. A little knowledge can go along way these days!

We are coming up on the Mid-Winter Conference. This for me means BL/AP amendments. Most of the amendments we receive are for the Administrative Procedures. Please submit your amend-



ment(s) to COO Bob Borka. These need to be **received** by COO Borka **by** April 1, 2021, not post-marked by April 1. Anything that comes into HQ later than April 1 will be rejected. If you plan on submitting an amendment and do not have the proper format, please email me, and I will send you a copy of one in the proper format. Our Bylaws committee may reject amendments that are not clear and concise.

Lastly, I wanted to thank those who have contacted me over the last 16 months or so with questions. I do have an open-door policy for all, but I also encourage you to follow your chain of command. The Department Judge Advocates are there for you and are valuable resources.

Hope to see you at the Mid-Winter in Norfolk, VA.

Semper Fi!

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DIVISION REPORTS

Let's pay attention to the approved dress codes



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 departments. I attended conventions at the beginning of June in Indiana and Wisconsin and then in October, I attended Illinois' and Michigan's make-up conventions; all were well-attended. After all of these, we announced our 2020 Central Division Marine of the Year, Michael Wukitsch of the Whitewater Valley Detachment 096, Department of Indiana. We had hoped to do this during the Central Division Conference in Louisville, KY, but it was cancelled because of the virus—again congratulations Mike.

The Central Division Conference in 2021 will be in Sheboygan, WI, and I will be working with the local detachment to bring the members of the Central Division a great conference on March 18-20, 2021. By the time you

read this, we should have the information out to all detachments in the Central Division so you can plan on attending.

In my last article, I mentioned that a detachment of the Division was wearing shirts with gold buttons, and I said that it was a no-no to do this. Someone came back and said, "Well, the Administrative Procedures didn't say that we couldn't wear these." All I have to say is, it also doesn't say that you *can* wear these. It says what you can wear with the uniform, and nowhere does it state that you can wear gold buttons on the uniform: White Shirt, with military creases (to be Airline Pilot style with two (2) pockets with button-down flaps and shoulder epaulets). Hopefully, this clears things up.

We are also working on a few things to make life a little easier in the detachments and hope these will also help update your recruiting with the younger Marines out there, so stay tuned for an announcement that will make the Paymaster's job easier.

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

Semper Fi!

We have many plans for 2021; be positive in promoting the League



Roger Ware

Mideast Division



MARINES: As I write this article, the U.S. is coping with COVID-19. The Marines will have celebrated 245 years, so "Happy Birthday" to all Marines! I hope each of you enjoyed the holidays. Many of our units are carrying on a Marine Corps tradition by conducting the Toys for Tots program. Due to the virus, I am sure we will see an extended number of families reaching out for assistance this year. Thank you to all our MCL detachments that have conducted a toy drive for numerous years. You are appreciated, and we thank you for your time, energy and compassion.

The first quarter membership roster is out, and it's time to concentrate on reducing your department's unpaid totals. Your department Jr. Vice Commandant should reach out to all detachments on a monthly basis, offering advice on how to lower

those unpaid amounts and give pointers of how to increase membership.

Retaining your membership is the lifeblood of the League. Every member of the League is a salesman and should be ready to provide information to a potential member. Wear your League gear, create an information sheet about your detachment's events and activities and attach a membership application and your business card to it. If you set up for fundraisers, be positive in promoting the League. Bring your old *Semper Fi* magazines and lay them on the table for prospective members to read. Take copies to the local Marine recruiters, VA medical centers, nursing homes and other military organizations in your area. Always seek out ways to promote the League. If you hold an event or do something in your community, have someone take a picture, add a cutline and submit to the local newspaper. Add pictures of your events on various social media sites as young people read these sites daily.

The 2021 MCL Mid-Winter Staff Conference is scheduled for February 24-28, 2021, at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, Norfolk, VA, with Group Code: MCL. The phone number is 757-622-6664. The 2021 Mideast Division Conference will be April 16-18 at Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center, Rehoboth Beach, DE. For reservations call 1-800-422-0600 and refer to the Mideast Division Marine Corps League Block #9579.

Continue checking with members and widows to see if they need any assistance. Marines are deployed around the world, so keep them in your prayers and take care of yourselves and those you love.

Semper Fi!

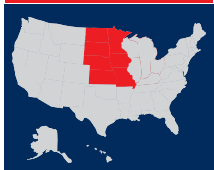
Division Website: mclmideast.com

Greetings from the new MWD National Vice Commandant



Jan A. Denney

NVC, Midwest Division



MARINES: I wish to thank the departments of the Midwest Division (MWD) for their confidence given me in the MWD National Vice Commandant election on October 24, 2020. It is an honor and privilege to represent the Marines, FMF Corpsmen and FMF Navy Chaplains of the Midwest Division.

I am a Charter and Life member of the Tri Rivers Detachment 730 joining the Marine Corps League on November 10, 1990. I have served the detachment with 8 terms as Commandant and 8 terms as Adjutant/Paymaster. I served 3.5 terms as the Commandant of the Department of Kansas having filled an unexpired term of a Commandant who resigned in the middle of his term. My first term was 1993–1994 after being a League member for 3 years. My League education started early.

I and Assistant Division Vice Commandant Joe Hughes are dedicated to ensuring that the detachments and departments of the Midwest Division grow and prosper. Between the two of us, we have over 60 years of experience in the Marine Corps League. My staff has the experience to assist every detachment and department member of the Midwest Division with any issue that may arise. All our contact information is listed on the Division website. Members can contact me anytime with any MCL issue. We are here to serve the membership and not the other way around. Training will be a priority at Division Conferences, and it will be provided by members with the knowledge to share.

I am requesting that Division members check your egos at the door. All officers at all levels should train their replacements at every opportunity. Mentors should be assigned to every new member. We cannot expect members to stay if we exclude them from the beginning.

Buddy check your Marines at every opportunity. The threat of COVID-19 is bad enough, but the added stress of isolation can be brain numbing and adding PTSD to the mix and everyday life are overwhelming. Do not assume everything is okay with the members who are missing meetings.

Stay well and always move forward.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

What does the future entail for the League?



David Porter

NVC, New England Division



MARINES: The year of 2020 is behind us now, and we need to stay positive, but if you start to feel like things should have been better, remember the mountains and valleys we crossed that got us here. Remember our brothers and sisters who have journeyed before us. We will take the torch that was passed onto us, hold it high and proudly. We must stay on track and, with small steps, build a better tomorrow for the next generation of Leaguers to come.

As Marines we will take on the challenges, we will take advantage of every opportunity and if opportunity doesn't present itself, we will create it. Like most divisions, the New England Division took advantage of technology (Zoom) to help strengthen our communication. As communication strengthens, our esprit de corps will be more effective. I believe Zoom is a great tool that we will continue to use, but there is no doubt that face-to-face meetings, conferences and conventions are still needed.

A constant challenge will always be recruitment. As Marines, our effort, ideas, time and our presence matter. Remember, it is not about who you impress, it is about who you impact. We need to impact Marines who do not know about the League. The League is a volunteer organization, but hard work is still required, and we have to want to do it. If Marines see Marines being positive and motivated in the work they do, it will help with recruitment. Positive atmosphere will generate a positive surround, and I believe that a positive surround can help growth. If we do not grow, what does the future look like for the League? A new year ahead to challenge ourselves to reach our goals! I am all ears to hear new ideas and thoughts! Please feel free to reach out to me at dporter@mcleague.org.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, VA. The New England Division isn't just a division, but a family. We are looking to have our family grow across the country! I just hope 2021 doesn't say, "Hold my beer!"

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclnederland.com

Semper Fi!
Division Website: mclnederland.com

DIVISION REPORTS

We are looking forward to events in 2021



Jim Powell

NVC, Northeast Division



MARINES: With the new year ahead, the USMC's 245th Birthday will have passed and without our normal celebrations, since the pandemic has caused the cancellation of Birthday Balls. The Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Commandant of the MCL released their Birthday messages; they are relevant to our current circumstances and should be looked at as a guide to what we will be doing in 2021.

The past year's Modern Day Marine was done virtually and seemed to be well-received and successful despite not being able to be in person. Our League Headquarters was the perfect facility to host many of the virtual sessions and pre-recorded speeches. This gave the League great exposure to Marine Officers and senior enlisted personnel who had not known the League exists and that we are located so close to Marine Base Quantico.

Additionally, in 2020, for the first time, we the Board of Trustees, were tasked to do the actual voting for the Enlisted Awards for those who made a significant contribution in each category. These awards are sponsored by the League: the GySgt Hathcock Award (Marksmanship); the George William "Doc" Piercy Award (Chief Hospital Corpsman); the Sgt Harry D. Myers Award (Marine in a Combat Service Support Element of the operating forces); the SgtMaj Frederick B. Douglass Award (Marine in an Aviation Combat Element of the operating forces); the SgtMaj Bestwick Award (Marine in a Ground Combat Element of the operating forces); and the Reservist of the Year Award (recognizes individual mobilization augmenters and participating individual ready reserve members who distinguish themselves from their peers). It was fun and interesting to look at serving Marines' submission packages and decide who were the most deserving candidates.

As of September 30, 2020, our Division had way too many delinquent members, and we need to work extra hard to get our Marines and associates back into the fold. Detachments and departments need to get your IRS 990 filed. This will keep us in good graces with the IRS. And finally, we must get those detachments that have not done so already, to submit their banking information to National through their departments, so that they can receive their PLM Audit payments for 2021.

We have a couple of major events coming up on the calendar. The National Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, VA, is tentatively scheduled for February 24-27. If you have not made your reservations to attend, please make them now. If COVID is still affecting us, there may be limitations on attendance so don't wait. Additionally, the Northeast Division Conference will take place at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA, on April 23-24. You can look to the Northeast Division website for all the information.

Semper Fi!

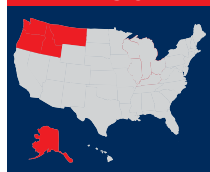
Division Website: nedmcl.org

Let's focus on our communications to members



John Moysiuk

Northwest Division



MARINES: "Comm Up!" The yell brings forth the critical aspect of making it happen, whether preparing for an operation somewhere in the world or just executing the daily objectives within our own lives or detachments. Not having the ability to communicate effectively diminishes the overall mission and can cause irreparable damage to any detachment. As we continue to persevere through this time in our history where seclusion seems to be the standard of the day, I want to focus on taking a good look at how we communicate today.

The impact of making our mission happen might have changed, and this directly influences how we choose to communicate as well. This change has caused the League to think about using technology which in reality can be a force multiplier when used correctly.

The point of this focus is to make sure we are all on the same piece of paper and to attempt to enhance our communications strategies. This means keeping it as simple as possible, knowing that not everyone learns at the same speed or tempo while also keeping it as transparent as possible. To do this, communication is critical. Reaching out to all of our members should be the focal point here to make sure all are doing well. This starts at the detachment level. Since not everyone is savvy on all of the media platforms, simple phone calls can be made. Emails work well for those with the ability, and access to computers and social media options can further enhance talking to our membership to make sure all are well. Making calls brings the human side of communications to those who might be in seclusion during this time, and I guarantee it will brighten not only the recipient of the call but you also. Speaking is quicker than typing and makes it personal.

Each one of us has a unique gift that can enhance our mission and our detachments, but without communicating this would never occur. We are unique in the bond we possess with each other and with those Navy Corpsmen and Chaplains who have served alongside us. Part of this bond is communicating not only within our bubble of influence, such as within our detachments, but also with those from other detachments, departments, divisions and National Headquarters. My challenge to each of you is to call each other within your detachments to ensure all are well. This is the greatest action we can do to lift a fellow brother or sister up during this time. As I always say, communication is still the key to success.

Semper Fi!

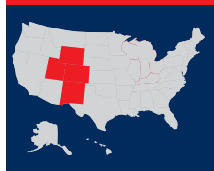
Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org

We must still improvise, adapt and overcome



Russ Miller

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division



MARINES: As 2020 is finally in our rear-view mirrors, let us look forward to 2021 with a newfound resolve to make the best of every moment with our families, co-workers and fellow Leaguers. The COVID-19 pandemic brought with it many trials and a few serendipities that not only stretched us personally, but as an organization.

Although we were forced to postpone or cancel meetings and conventions while we were “physically distanced,” we needed to discover new means of connecting for our collective emotional and physical health as well as the organizational health. A great number of our detachments took advantage of the situation to regain contact via phone, email and social media with members who we may not have seen at a meeting or SOS breakfast quite possibly for years. Healthier members took it upon themselves to run errands for those who were at higher risk. Sadly, we had

to bid a final farewell to far too many of our brothers and sisters who answered the final roll call. My earnest hope for all of us who remain is that we will have learned a vital lesson in regards to the reason so many of us joined the League in the first place. Camaraderie!

At every level in the League we have been pressed to keep in contact by cultivating our “tech” skills. Some adapted more reluctantly than others. The technological advances we have made with the new database, direct deposit of PLM funds, emailing all form documents except transmittals to the MCL HQ, adopting the use of videoconference and teleconference platforms, the new hybrid format for the hugely successful Modern Day Marine, and so many more processes that are currently in the works, will all be fairly worthless if we lose sight of our “Clan.” Our Clan is simply our brotherhood/sisterhood from our active duty days and for whom we feel a yearning to be part of again. It is what keeps us all looking forward to the next meeting, the next Growl, the next convention, the next opportunity to see one another and “BS” about how great we used to be. Yes, we should all continue to strive to become more adept at utilizing the technology that we have at our disposal to complete mission objectives as we continue to move back toward “normal,” but it is the fellowship we experience as we gather together regardless of our race, religion, gender or politics that will see us CULTIVATE our CLAN in CAMARADERIE.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mcleaguerckymntdiv.org

The aftermath of a busy hurricane season



Butch Raynes

NVC, Southeast Division



MARINES: Well, I have my boots on the ground, and I am off and running. What a start! The Southeast Division put up with what? Two, three, four hurricanes? Each one had a big impact on all the Gulf Coast states, from Florida to Texas with Louisiana getting the worst of it.

First, I want to thank the Commandants of Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida for stepping up to the plate and coordinating a lot of the relief effort in their areas. I also want to thank all the members across the League for their support of all the members in the Gulf Coast area.

Due to COVID-19, I have not been able to get to the coast region and see for myself what is needed, but I am receiving updates from the area Commandants every week. Again, a BIG thank you to all the members who have helped with the relief effort.

I have received our latest roster for the Southeast Division. I will be combining it with the rosters from June 30, 2019, and June 30, 2020, and try to pinpoint where problems may exist with unpaid memberships. I will be making contact with my Department Commandants and their Jr. Vices. I know we will have a lot of new department and detachment officers, and we need to help them bring their unpaid numbers under control. A lot of the new officers need to be brought up-to-date on some of their duties and the things they are required to do. I will be asking my senior and experienced officers to step up and help those in need.

As word comes down from our National Commandant concerning things that need to be done, we need to ensure that the information gets to all our members, not just the Department Commandants. We need to know that every Red Hat gets that information. Like the banking information for PLM monies, we need to explain to members why information is requested and what it will do for the members.

With COVID-19 still hanging around, I hope at this writing that we will have been able to keep our Toys for Tots programs going and that we have made a lot of children a little happier during Christmas. I know we can step up and continue to do that in 2021.

Stay strong Marines and stay safe!

Semper Fi!

Division Website: sediv.org

DIVISION REPORTS

Take a good look at your detachments



Johnny R. Gothard

NVC, Southern Division



MARINES: The Board has been meeting frequently via Zoom over these past few months, taking care of business and the interest of all its members. I'm looking forward to the Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, VA, and seeing many of you again. It will be great to get back to some in-person MCL functions.

I would like to remind everyone of the Southern Division Caucus on April 22–24, 2021, at the Wyndam, 2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, AR. Room Rates are \$96.00 plus tax. There are refrigerators and microwaves in every room, free parking, continental breakfast and Wi-Fi. It is close to downtown with a host of things to see and do and places to eat, with shuttle service to the hotel. Looking forward to seeing many of you there, as this is an election year for the Division.

I also would like to wish the current Asst.

National Vice Commandant John Grafflin from Texas and the current Department of Arkansas Commandant Jim Howington from Arkansas, good luck on their races for National Vice Commandant Southern Division. At time of writing, they're only Marines to announce their candidacy for this office. I will be leaving office but will be there for whomever wins the election for a smooth transition.

I have noticed a problem as of late—some departments are not communicating with their detachments. Sure, emails are a useful tool if properly applied, but some detachments require a personal touch like a phone call or a letter to find out what the problems are to take appropriate action. Some detachments do not have tech access to even know who their new officers are. I know a Department Commandant can only do so much along this line; that is why there are Senior Vice and Junior Vice Officers to delegate some of this to them. Some departments have District Vice Commandants, and they can be a big help if encouraged to keep in contact with their detachments. If not, then you need new ones who will do the job. Nothing will drag an organization down more quickly than non-performing officers. I encourage department officers to take a good look at your detachments and how well they are being informed. Do what you need to do to keep them informed and compliant.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: southernmcl.org

Highlighting individual departments



Patrick J. Connell

NVC, Southwest Division



MARINES: As I read the various Division reports, I see an underlying commonality—the need for recruitment, retention, respect and responsibility. I decided to focus this article on an individual department and will address the other departments in future editions of this magazine. Being in the Southwest Division, we are almost a continent away from the main hub of the League. I have enlisted the help of my Assistant NVC Jim Loorya to assist with letting the “rest of the Marine Corps League” become familiar with us orphans in the Southwest Division.

The state of California is approximately 164,000 square miles and comprised of 58 counties; its agricultural climate accounts for 80% of all food types produced in the world, and its economy ranks between the 5th and 7th largest in the world with 39 million people which is equal to about 12% of the

U.S. population. It is also the second most expensive state to live in followed only by Hawaii.

The MCL chartered the Department of California on September 4, 1937, and the charter was signed by LtGen John A. Lejeune (Honorary National Commandant), Maurice A. Illich (National Commandant) and John B. Hinkley, Jr. (National Adjutant/Paymaster) at the 1937 National Convention in Akron, Ohio. The oldest detachment, General J.C. Breckinridge Detachment 10 in San Francisco, chartered the same day as the Department of California and chartered as “Detachment 10”; however, the name was changed to its present name in May 1942, and the original charter signed by LtGen Lejeune is currently on display at the Marines’ Memorial Association as a historical artifact.

Several detachments are named after deceased Marines: Col Mitchell Paige Detachment 1207 (MOH, Guadalcanal); Lt Frank S. Reasoner Detachment 919 (MOH, Vietnam); PFC Eugene A. Obregon Detachment 1347 (MOH, Korea); Cpl Jason L. Dunham Detachment 1156 (MOH, Iraq); and Camp J.H. Pendleton Detachment 21 (namesake of Camp Pendleton).

Many detachments within the Department of California have seen decreases in membership—a problem not unique to the California detachments. Many members leave the state to seek an affordable cost of living. The high cost of living makes California unattractive to younger Marines just getting their lives started and older Marines currently living on fixed incomes. Many positives also come out of California. The state is home to Hollywood, Carmel, Monterey, California girls (think Beach Boys), great surfing, year-round golf, great basketball, baseball and football teams—think USC! Fabulous restaurants, horse racing venues and plenty of sunshine make California a vacation paradise.

Visit and sit a spell and you might be lucky and see some Beverly Hillbillies!

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclswdivision.org

A Milestone in Freedom!

1:18-scale vintage metal replica honors the **75th Anniversary of VJ Day!**

- Opening hood
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Lorette and Paul Tobin in January 1966.

A VIETNAM HOMECOMING

A Marine's Long Journey to a New Life

As a Navy hospital corpsman, I trained for 2 years in the 2nd Marine Division with the 3rd Marines and the 2nd Marines. Shortly after I made rate to 2nd Class Petty Officer (E-5), I got orders for the 3rd Marine Division, Da Nang. I arrived in Da Nang via Okinawa, to be processed and introduced to life "In-Country." I volunteered for the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion at Phu Bai Combat Base. I was assigned to a line company called "Alpha" and a recon team called "Sandbox."

By Paul Tobin

I am reminded of a wintry snow "storm" in which I came home, December 1968. I landed at Air Station El Toro from Okinawa. I was processed out to inactive duty at Naval Hospital, Long Beach, CA, followed by a short visit with my sister and brother-in-law, who lived in Riverside, CA. He was a Major in the Air Force at March Air Reserve

Base. They took me to the officer's club for dinner and cocktails. He introduced me to those in attendance. It was a warm "welcome home" among these pilots and support crewmen.

After a thorough physical and classes provided by local business entities, I collected my discharge documents, exit pay and a ticket home. My

sister drove me to the airport, and I made my way from there.

From LAX, I was traveling in uniform. I headed to Minnesota to make a short layover to visit my parents and siblings before continuing on to New Hampshire. Following my visit, I left Rochester in cold and very light snow for Boston via Chicago. I was completing my return leg from being mustered out of the Navy, following my Tour of Duty with the Marines in a far away place called Vietnam (to type the word sends a chill down my spine).

Awakened from my light moment of shut-eye during the flight, the stewardess came to me and asked "when did I last eat anything?" I told her I did not have a first class seat, and she asked me to take an empty seat further back in the plane. I did as she asked, and she brought me a very nice tray of food.

Awaiting me in a small East Coast village were a very young bride and her baby girl, OUR baby girl. While in Rochester, I recall being among family and friends and still somewhat detached at times, as I felt incomplete in my joy of being out of harm's way, yet "home" and whole.

During my packing, my father came up to my room and sat with me on the eve before my departure to Boston, and we spoke of things ... difficult to recall now ... and he touched me on the arm, with misty eyes and asked, "Why don't you stay a day or two longer, it seems you just got home?" I recall being surprised by this show of affection, and I wanted to hug him for it, but I didn't. I struggled with some remark that my dear bride was waiting for me and that I had my ticket of passage purchased. As I reflect on that moment in time, and my discussions with Dad's niece and God-child, I realize that I really didn't know my dad, and I missed a never-to-be-repeated opportunity to hug him and say the words, "I love you."

I was completing that long flight to Boston. Arriving at Logan airport was not something I looked forward to as the terminal seemed so confusing to me, and I was always a long way from the bus that linked me up with downtown Boston, on the Commons.

I eventually managed to make my connections and arrive at the Trailways® bus terminal to chase down my ride north into New Hampshire; I was much later than I expected to be. It was gray and overcast flying into Boston, and as the plane touched the airstrip, I felt the cold



Lorette, Paul and Elise Tobin in their TV room in 1968.

of December. I was remembering how cold the Atlantic waters are even in the summer! On the bus heading to New Hampshire, I looked out the window as the bus threaded its way slowly out of the city. The evening lights had given way to the black light-less night; not even the stars could be seen through the overcast cloudy skies.

I was tired. Usually, I could close my eyes and "sleep" the time away of the 70 miles to my stop, but the fact that I was on my last leg of

Quang Tri, November 28, 1968— My Letter from Vietnam

"Lorette, it's happened! I have my flight date, and I pick up my orders TOMORROW! I have been turning in my gear for a couple of days now, as I got the word to get my check-off slip that requires various signatures and verifications. I've turned in my jungle utilities and equipment so that I don't escape here with any government property. A few Marines want to have a party before I leave, to remember the camaraderie we shared. I said 'good-bye' to Diaz as he has become a special friend, since Joe left wounded from the field. Lorette, my heart and mind are leaping with joy as I think of my homecoming! I'll call you when I get to California. I should be leaving The Republic of Vietnam, 04 Decem-

ber, and will most likely arrive in California several days later. I'm sure there will be a layover in Okinawa to check me over, check my sea bag, and listen to some classes for returnees to CONUS. I'll take this all in stride, my Love. When I put my feet on terra firma USA, I'll know that my active duty obligation will have been satisfied in the care and keeping of the American people's freedoms. The rest of my life will be dedicated to the care and keeping of my wife and children! I love you and long to hold you close to me and ... well, 'whatever will be, will be.'"

The sergeants had a little party for a few "short-timers" the night before we shipped out. It had been a while since I'd gotten together with some of them, and I got very

drunk. The next day, I could barely get out of my cot! The area was quiet. Lots of teams were gone on bush duty, and I was in temporary quarters. Someone else had my slot at BAS. I gave away half of the contents of my Marine sea bag to whomever wanted them. So, in December 1968, I was pretty light leaving Quang Tri Combat Base. I began a deliberate purge of my memory banks, the further I got from Quang Tri. When I got to Okinawa, I was refitted with a complete sea bag again! After I got to CONUS, providence may have taken my address book, which contained a little history of people and promises. I mistakenly left it in a phone booth. There was no further correspondence from Vietnam or Okinawa prior to my landing in California. **SIF**



Team Sandbox, 1968.

a highly charged and anticipated “homecoming,” I filled my thoughts with what I would say, what I would do, how will I get from Hampton Beach to Exeter! Wow, I didn’t think of that! Lorette will be in bed! After all, I’m much later arriving than I had originally confirmed with her. “Well, I thought, there will be a way.” I closed my eyes and tried to get comfortable in a nearly empty bus. The bus slowed and turned in a wide arch to pull up at the Hampton Beach disembarkation center.

As I stepped from the bus, my foot pushed through newly fallen snow. There was no wind to speak of, so the snow came straight down in large heavy flakes. “A snow-storm,” I thought, “pretty.” The other folks, who got off the bus, hurried into waiting cars where their friends and relatives waited in warmed compartments.

I looked around for a few moments, reflecting upon what I was going to do. I saw no life on the streets, all of my fellow travelers had gone, and the bus now continued its journey north, with one or two passengers. The time was around 2300 hours (11:00 p.m.), and I was not now sure if I could locate a ride locally or if I should call “Rusty’s” cab company in Exeter to come out and pick me up. Rusty’s was a privately owned operation with one or two cabs that filled a need. Anyway, I stood on the street in Hampton Beach in dress Navy uniform with a sea-bag leaning against my leg, and I hugged myself to drive away the creeping chill that was coming over me. My body metabolism was still tropically conditioned. I made a phone call to Exeter and Rusty’s came out to pick me up.

The ride to Exeter was not long, and there wasn’t much conversation between the driver and me. Occasionally, the driver would look back at me through the rear view mirror to get an identification of some sort, but not being a local personality, she must have exhausted all of the family names she knew to put a name to my face. Half-way along our journey, she finally asked me, “Who are you visiting in Exeter?” I think I smiled inwardly and outwardly and replied, “I’m coming home to someone. My wife and her family live in Exeter. Her name is Lorette, and her father’s name is Roland Lavoie.”

There was then a knowing nod from the driver and a long silent stare at me from the mirror, sort of one of those imprintable fix-the-moment-in-one’s-memory stares. As we headed down familiar streets in Exeter, my thoughts were interrupted by the driver’s question, “Where will I drop you off?” I took a deep breath, and as

I let it out, I realized I had never been to the house where my bride took up residence since my departure for Vietnam! “I’m not sure,” I said. The driver looked back at me for just a moment. I then remembered notes from a letter Lorette wrote. I said, “It’s just up the street from the Fish market and very near where the school buses park.” The driver’s response was, “Oh, OK, we are just about there then.” I hadn’t thought about people’s speech until that moment—New Englanders sound their vowels differently, don’t they?

The taxi began to pull onto the street just down from the Fish market; I recognized it being not far from where Lorette’s Uncle Bob lived. I asked the driver to stop. I got it in my head that I wanted to walk the block up to my “new” home, where I would be living for the rest of my near future, with my new bride and our new baby girl—my family. It seemed strange to take it all in at that moment. I was really a stranger in a community I wanted to call “Home.”

I paid \$10.00 for that 18-plus mile drive. I believe I stood for a moment, looking up the street toward the place I was to call home. By now, the new snow had accumulated, and it was nearly over my shoe tops. I picked up my sea-bag and walked slowly past the Fish Shop, thinking to myself, “This is going to be handy for some fresh fish dinners.” My bell-bottoms swept the snow forwards as I walked up the street. The taxi’s tire tracks were the only impressions ahead of me as imprints in this newness of white ground cover. It seemed clean—fresh—and it was ... like a post card, announcing my arrival in peace and tranquility. The terrors of night patrol and ambush engagements didn’t crowd this moment from my mind.

I stopped outside of a three-story old colonial house on a corner. I turned to look back down the street from where I had come. The cab tracks were almost filled in, and my footprints were fast becoming shadowy indentations. I looked back to the house for some sign of life. A lamp affixed over a side door lighted a small porch landing. The new snow layered the landing, the steps and short walkway. I was trying to recall the letters in which Lorette described this place and where I would find her in it.

I went up the walk and around to the side entry, which accessed the second story. I remembered that she was on the second floor in a smallish apartment. I didn’t see any doorbell or anything like that, so I tapped on the storm door. It rattled to life and had somewhat of a startling noise to it. Soon the hall light went on, and I watched the shadow of the person inside descend the stairs. The slight figure I saw appeared to have night clothes on, and her hair was piled and pinioned with “bubble” curlers and hair net—very attractive (wink).

All that I had planned to say and rehearsed left my mind as the door opened to the cold outside from the warmth inside. I entered the short hallway, then put down my sea-bag and reached around the shoulders of this very slight figure and pressed my lips to hers for an undetermined time. As we ascended the stairs, she apologized for her appearance and said, “When I didn’t hear from you by 9 o’clock, I figured I would see you tomorrow, and I wanted to look my best then.” As we got to the top of the stairs, I was immediately steered to the left and down to a small room off the end of the short hallway. In that little room were a dresser, a crib and a very small 4-month-old baby girl named Elise Elaine, sleeping in a ball-like formation. The reality gripped me, “This is part of me, this is ours.” We left that room, and I got a brief tour of the quarters my life would be wrapped in for the next 3 years.

I suppose it took us a little while to get settled; I felt very awkward, which is unusual for a romantic like me. We said our good-byes in Riverside, CA, nearly a year before, following an extended honeymoon. My brother-in-law drove me to my embarkation center (I believe it was Norton AFB) the night I left for Okinawa and uncertainty.

The rest of the story ... I’ll leave to your imagination, you do have one, don’t you? **SIF**

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

WENDELL W. WEBB

CHALLENGE	RESOURCE 1	RESOURCE 2	RESOURCE 3
PTSD ANXIETY DEPRESSION SELF-WORTH INSOMNIA ISOLATION ADDICTION			
EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION NETWORKING DIRECTION MENTORSHIP BUSINESS CONTACTS EXPERTISE			
FAMILY FELLOWSHIP TEAMWORK MENTORSHIP CAMARADERIE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING			
FOCUS	FOLLOW ONE COURSE UNTIL SUCCESSFUL		

Challenges with Resource options.

Do you know about FOCUS Marines Foundation?

MARINES: I wanted to share with you some positive stories about our brother and sister veterans who have made choices to move forward and make a difference in their lives. In our classes at FOCUS we talk about our comfort zones and a blue star goal outside our comfort zone. I recently saw a sign that read: **“Positive Life changes never happen from your comfort zone.”**

A group of Marines started FOCUS Marines Foundation (**focusmarines.org**), “Continuing the Commitment” 10 years ago, and 891 veterans have attended this program. Comments from students over the 10 years include:

- “Since 2015 FOCUS, I got my LPN license ... currently working on becoming a Trauma Nurse;”
- “Since 2013 FOCUS, I finished my undergrad and doing better personally and professionally;”
- “Since 2019 FOCUS, I am now a full-time Chaplain with Warrior Family Ministries in NC;”
- “Since 2014 FOCUS, I returned home and lost my job. Best thing that could have happened to me ... I now work for a non-profit helping youth transition from street life to family-oriented young men;”
- “Since 2019 FOCUS, I am now sober ... attending college for an undergrad degree. We may struggle alone, but together we can conquer the world;”
- “Since 2016 FOCUS, I graduated with a BS in Psychology and



a Master’s in social work ... first military student since WWII admitted to Phi Beta Kappa, graduated with a 4.0 GPA;” and

“Since FOCUS 2019, FOCUS and other programs empowered me to rise above my past and be successful ... Thank you FOCUS.”

We all get a lot of advertisements requesting funds from veterans’ organizations’ but not many share the stories of their graduates. I am the first one to

admit that not all students are successful, but these stories are so important on how our support every day is to provide them confidence; and they know we have their “Six.” Working with three of these organizations we have developed a matrix to show how we can help.

Check out the websites for each organization. This triad offers a wealth of knowledge and opportunities for our sister and brother veterans. If you have any of the **challenges** in the left column, seek help.

This is part of our networking class. Do you know someone who could benefit? I look forward to 2021 to resume FOCUS classes.

Semper Fi!

The United States Marine Corps adopted the motto "Semper Fidelis" in 1883, on the initiative of Colonel Charles McCawley (29 January 1827–13 October 1891), the 8th Commandant of the Marine Corps.



It's a Marine Thing

Why Marines Say "Semper Fi"

By Terry Flanagan, Commandant, Dean W. Reiter Detachment 887

Some time ago, I pulled into a gas station, and as I exited my pick-up, a voice was heard behind me: "Semper Fi." As I turned to see who had used

the term, a gentleman with a baseball cap that had the EGA and the word *Marine*, had just exited the vehicle behind me at the pumps. I will assume that he knew I

had a connection to the Marines as I had a Toys for Tots sticker in my window along with a Third Air Wing sticker. I returned the greeting with "Semper Fi, Marine."

No others words were spoken as we went about our business. A friend who was with me at the time asked what was all that about, and I stated, "It's a Marine thing." This close encounter got me to thinking ... yes, it is a "Marine Thing," a thing that is unique to members of the United States Marines Corps. As you read over this article, try and remember each time you were greeted with "Semper Fi" and responded in kind or with "Ooh-Rah." How many times did you use one of those terms to greet a member of your Marine family? I write this article not just for my fellow Marines, but for those who may wonder what it is that makes Marines greet each other with a time-honored slogan.

The Investigation Begins

As I thought about this Marine Thing I began to try and keep track of how often this informal greeting took place. I began to notice more and more that if I had a cap or shirt that identified me as a Marine, I was greeted with one of the two phrases and responded in kind. I would also observe this interaction between other Marines around me. You noticed that at the end of the last paragraph I referred to the term *Marine family*, because we are a family. I have found these same greetings used by Marine moms, grandmothers, dads and brothers and sisters and even an ex-spouse of a Marine.

Although I found this greeting common in Marines, I also observed that this form of greeting was lacking in the other services. I have observed several vehicles at a gas station, and some had "Army Strong" stickers in the windows or perhaps a "Go Navy" or just "U.S. Air Force" sticker. The drivers exited and never greeted one another. This same lack of acknowledgement took place between members of the same service who had a cap or shirt that denoted their branch of service. They would pass each other and never exchange a greeting. I will say that the only greeting that I found common between service members of all branches was if each had an item that identified them as a veteran of the Vietnam War. They may look at each other and say, "Welcome home," but that is the topic for another article.

So why do the Marines feel moved to greet each other? I am sure that a student of psychology could do a thesis on this subject, but I can attribute this greeting thing between Marines to one phrase: "esprit de corps." As Marines, we do not need a dic-



A Semper Fi bumper sticker.

tionary to tell us what this means, but as this article may be read by non-Marines, I will cite Webster, which defines "esprit de corps" as "The common spirit existing in the members of a group and inspiring enthusiasm, devotion and strong regard for the honor of the group." As Marines, we have a general idea of this spirit when we choose to join the Corps. When we complete boot camp, we have adopted the concept of honor, courage and commitment that builds on our esprit de corps. I will agree that specialized units of another branch may have a higher esprit de corps but when taken as a branch of our nation's military, *The Few, The Proud, The Marines* stand out. So how do we get from "esprit de corps" to "Semper Fi?"

Some research showed that the first military unit to use the term *Semper Fidelis*, a Latin term that means "always faithful" or "always loyal," was the Devonshire Regiment, which was a senior infantry unit of the British Army that was created in 1662. The U.S. Marines had various mottos, but in 1883 the motto of "Semper Fidelis" was formally adopted by the Marines. The quotes below are from the website marines.com and perhaps are some of the best descriptions for what "Semper Fi" stands for:

- "Semper Fidelis" distinguishes the Marine Corps bond from any other. It goes beyond teamwork—it is a brotherhood that can always be counted on.
- It guides Marines to remain faithful to the mission at hand, to each other, to the Corps and to the country, no matter what.
- Becoming a Marine is a transformation that cannot be undone, and "Semper Fidelis" is a permanent reminder of that.
- Once made, a Marine will forever live by the ethics and values of the Corps.

These words are more than words. They instill a feeling of comradery with every other member of our Marine Corps fam-

ily. It is that feeling that almost compels a Marine to greet another member of the family. It is true that the transformation into a Marine cannot be undone: Once a Marine, Always a Marine.

I did mention one other saying at the start of this article, and that is "Ooh-Rah." Yes, "OOH-RAH," not "HooRah, UrRa, Hura, Hooah, Hoorah, Hurrah, Huzzah." There appears to be several references of how this phrase became part of the Marine vocabulary. The most colorful one appears to be that shortly after the Korean War, a Gunnery Sgt, later to become Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, adapted the sound of the Navy Klaxon horn on a submarine that would sound when the sub had to dive. The Gunny believed that the sound of the horn that sounded like "ahuga" or "awooga" could make a good motivator for Marines in training or going into battle. This sound later became "Ooh-Rah." So the sound of a Navy Klaxon horn was morphed into a Marine Thing. (Got to love the Marine ingenuity.) Take a Navy horn and turn it into a Marine Thing. "Adapt and Overcome," but that too is another Marine Thing and another article.

Among Marines, "Ooh-Rah" has become a combination of a cheer, recognition for a job well done and any other assortment of verbal acknowledgements. Some years ago, our community held a service for a highly respected retired Marine Captain. There were Marines scattered throughout the church. His son gave an enthusiastic talk about what it was like growing up as a member of the Marine family with his dad. As he ended the presentation about his father, with no command given, an enthusiastic cheer of "Ooh-Rah!" came from the Marines in attendance. I think this startled the minister and those members of the congregation present who were not familiar with this particular Marine Thing. This cheer was given as a sign of respect for a fellow Marine who had been called to guard the streets of Heaven. Yes, that is also another story.

In conclusion, there are no former, past or ex-Marines. A Marine is a Marine, be they active, reserve, retired or discharged. I guess you can say that "Semper Fi" is one step above "esprit de corps," because "It guides Marines to remain faithful to the mission at hand, to each other ..." **forever.**

So, to all the members of our Marine family and to the future members of our family I say, "Semper Fi!" **SIF**



New Veterans Memorial Park, Alexandria, MN.

New Veterans Park Honors Four War Eras

By Jim Conn, Al Edenloff and Dave Anderson | Runestone Detachment 1409

The inscription, “Let No Veteran Be Forgotten,” was the driving force behind the new Veterans Memorial Park (alexveteranspark.org) in Alexandria, MN. Started as a concept in 2017, it took more than 3 years to plan, raise needed funding, design and build the Veterans Memorial Park which officially opened in August 2020. There were fundraising challenges, tough decisions on park location and soliciting some of the funds in a pandemic environment.

The chairman of the planning committee describes the park as a tribute representing all veterans of the community and defines the support those veterans have received in service of their country. The park includes a full-scale Liberty Bell replica, numerous national and service flags, restrooms, a picnic area and granite monoliths engraved with veterans’ names. Contributing to the theme of the park, a Civil War memorial statue erected in 1916 is prominently displayed on the grounds of the park. The Douglas County Board approved the relocation of this monu-

ment from the county courthouse lawn.

The 28 black granite monoliths were quarried from the Mesabi Iron Range in northern Minnesota and contain the engraved names of more than 7,000 area veterans. The list of these names was created with input from the Douglas County Historical Society, assistance from the Douglas County Veterans Service Office and from hundreds of individual applications. To encompass all veterans of the area, service years range from July 4, 1776, to the present day.

On the granite monoliths, four war eras are defined: the Early War Era (1776–1917), Global War Era (1917–1950), Cold War Era (1950–1990) and the Gulf War Era (1990–present). Within each War Era, the veteran’s last name, first name and initial, years of service and branch of service are displayed. A Veterans Wall of Honor includes seven 24-inch bronze service insignia: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard and Merchant Marine.

There were many who gave their full sup-

port in terms of their time, talents and personal resources to the project. In addition to local businesses and private individuals, supporters included local veterans’ organizations: Marine Corps League Runestone Detachment 1409; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 936; Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 235; American Legion Post 87; and Disabled American Veterans Chapter 25.

Over time, the City of Alexandria, the Douglas County Veterans Service Office and local veterans’ organizations will consider any future changes to the memorial. As veterans’ names continue to be submitted, once or twice a year those names will be engraved on a monolith.

Due to the uncertainties caused by the coronavirus, official dedication plans for the park that were scheduled for July 4, 2020, are to be determined in the near future. Prior to that event, the City of Alexandria has taken ownership of the park as one of the finest veterans’ tributes in the nation for all citizens to enjoy, reflect on and remember. **SIF**

IN MEMORIAM



Edward Demarest MacIntyre

November 6, 1933–October 15, 2020

Edward Demarest MacIntyre, age 86, of Phoenix, AZ, passed away on Thursday, October 15, 2020. He was born on November 6, 1933, to the late Myron Westervelt and Miriam Euphemia (Demarest) MacIntyre in New York City, NY. He attended Grover Cleveland High School; then furthered his education at Upsala College. On February 9, 1969, he married Helen Ruth Chadwick in St. Mark Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. Edward owned and operated Eddie's Tavern for 36.5 years. He was a member of the Marine Corps League, Paradise Valley Silver Trowel Masonic (PVST) Lodge #29, Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society and was a regular attendee at St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Edward enjoyed helping others. He volunteered at the Phoenix VA Medical Center for 45 years and also the Tucson VA Medical Center for 28 years. He dedicated his life to not only being a great husband, dad and grandpa, but he also served the Marine Corps League with his whole heart. Edward joined in 1971 and said he could not be very active. However, after while he took a local office and worked his way up to being the National Commandant of the League in 1985–1986. When he left that Office, he served as Paymaster for the Department of Arizona, MCL, for 22 years. He served 10 years as the president of the National Marine of the Year Society. He was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2002. He also

was Department of Arizona Marine of the Year, 1978; National Marine of the Year, 1988; Mason of the Year, Masonic Lodge PVST #29, 2007.

Edward is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 51 years, Helen; sister, Marjorie Duffy (Ed); step children: James J. Amich, Deborah Vasquez, R. Michael Amich; grandchildren: Stacey Amich Francis, Gabriel Vasquez, Marisa Cloud (Jonathan), Jeffrey Amich (Tia); several great grandchildren; one great, great grandchild; and many other loving family and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandchildren Jeremy Amich and Elizabeth Ann Amich.

Edward was laid to rest with Military Honors at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona. **SIF**

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Cape-Atlantic Detachment 194, Galloway, NJ, has a new flagpole. The interior of the circle that houses the flag will be concrete. The dedication ceremony was scheduled for November 14.



Members of Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956 of Elkins, WV, hosted a bridge-renaming ceremony in honor of USMC PFC Dennis Warren Baxter who was killed in action January 26, 1967, in Operation Tuscaloosa while serving with Hotel Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marines in Vietnam. *From left:* Detachment 956 Chaplain Judy Gum; Judge Advocate Greg Irwin; Sr. Vice Commandant Ron Bodkin; Wayne Starcher of Wood County Detachment 1087, Parkersburg, WV, who served in Echo Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marines; and Detachment 956 Commandant Roger Ware, who served with Baxter in Hotel Co.



Star Of The North, Park Rapids, MN, Honor Guard honoring an Army veteran. *Left to right:* Ed Branham, Fred Whiteside, Howard Maninga and Mike Kunz.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



The Greater New Bedford Detachment 1399, MA, and members of the 1st Bn, 25th Marines honored Marine Paul E. Brown (*front center, left*) on his 100th birthday at his daughter's home. Brown served from 1942–1946 as a Technical Sergeant.

On September 19, 2020, the Central Delaware MCL held a Kick-Off Toys for Tots drive early. Delaware Fire Football Player #90 Isaiah J. Daniels, Jr., and

Sgt Bell the Rapper planned the event due to concerns that COVID-19 will possibly hamper this year's toy drives. LaFayette W. Bell, Sr./Sgt Bell the Rapper is also a Central DE League member. *From left to right: Sgt Bell the Rapper, Isaiah J. Daniels, Jr., Delaware Fire Owner/Head Coach Keith "Coach" Kerdenski and Central Delaware MCL member Dennis Sipple.*



The Star Of The North, Park Rapids, MN, Honor Guard performed duties for a veteran's funeral. Geff Cooper, Don Haagenson, Lou Schultz, Dave Free, Jerry Wolters, Howard Maninga, Fred Whiteside, Darrel Gruis, Ed Branham and Ron Masanz.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Above and below: Eagle Scouts help the West Hudson Detachment, NJ, properly retire American flags. The fire pit was named in honor of Thomas DeFrancisci, a deceased World War II and Korean War veteran.



92-year-old Ron Masanz saluting the flag, helmet and rifle, during Marine Bob Johnson's memorial. Roger Allen, Navy, and Dave Free in the background. Star Of The North Honor Guard, Park Rapids, MN.



On October 15, 2020, Prairie Land Leathernecks Detachment 1385 presented Linda Cole with a plaque and token of appreciation in honor of her late husband, Don Cole. Don was one of the original organizers of Detachment 1385 and Commandant for the first 5 years. Don worked tirelessly to get the detachment chartered and to organize fundraisers to help Toys for Tots and give \$500 scholarships to high school seniors. *Left to right:* Adjutant/Chaplain Terry Williams, Linda Cole and Commandant Chris Gutierrez.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



On September 27, 2020, Marines from Central Wisconsin Detachment 350 posted Colors at the unveiling of the Gold Star statue in Rothschild, WI, Veterans Memorial Park. *Left to right:* Julian Sonntag, Bob Wnuk and Ray Potocki.



PDD John Cook swore in new officers into the MODD Pound 164, Medina, OH, for 2020–2021. The officers are *(left to right)*: Pup Tyrone Sanders—Smart Dog; PDD David Yehl—Dog Trainer; PDD Ron Braddom—Sr. Vice; DD John Kleen—Police Dog; DD John Pickrel—Watch Dog; PDD Mike Kirk—Pound Keeper; Pup Bob Mace—Barking Dog; DD Tom Barrows—Mad Dog; and PDD John Cook—Dog Robber.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Texarkana Detachment 1149 presenting a scholarship check to the Texarkana College Foundation. *Left to right:* Larry Wakefield, David Teague, Richard Hall, Jackie Deen and Katie Andrus.



Jacksonville, FL, Detachment 059 wishing WWII veteran (Guadalcanal-Peleliu) Marine Larry Lawson a 103rd Happy Birthday. *Left to right:* Commandant Charlie Myers; Judge Advocate Dayton Warfle; Atlantic Coast Young Marines; Larry Lawson; Tim Dees; Adjutant Lisa Heiring; and Sgt-at-Arms Barbara Grissom.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



MCLA Past National President Virginia Johnson.

The Department of Michigan recently paid our last respects to Virginia Johnson, Past National President of the MCLA and a lady of many accomplishments during her 50-plus years of service to the MCL and MCLA. *Left to right:* PNC Jim Tuohy, MCLA President Evelyn Joppa, PNP Gerri Tuohy, PNC Paul Hastings and PNC John Tuohy.



Members of the MODD attending a Wisconsin Pack Growl on September 11 and 12, during the Department of Wisconsin Fall Conference in Iron Mountain, MI.

PDD DENNIS BEATTIE

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



In Glendale, AZ, Old Breed Detachment (OBD) 767: Jim Hamilton, 97-years-young, was celebrating his birthday with a drive-by, orchestrated by the OBD complete with firetrucks, police cars, motorcycles and plenty of cars.



In Glendale, AZ, the Old Breed Detachment (OBD) 767 members took the opportunity to lift the spirits of fellow 93-year-old member Clyde Brandt and his wife Sammi with a drive-by which included firetrucks, police cars, motorcycles and plenty of cars! *Pictured:* Byron Ruch, Bill Francisco, Tony Torres, John Crawford, Michael Kudla, Richard Carmer, Maria Jones, Bob Bohach and Gerry Schaller. Clyde and Sammi Brandt are seated.



Glendale, AZ, Old Breed Detachment (OBD) 767 members sang "Happy Birthday" and "The Marines' Hymn" to Jim Hamilton on August 29, 2020. *From left to right:* Paul "Smitty" Smith, Tom Marrin, Bill Francisco, Maria Jones, Michael Salley, Jim Hamilton, Byron Ruch, Richard Carmer, Charlie Hightower, Tony Torres, Gerry Schaller, Eddie MacIntyre and Bob Bohach.



On October 3, 2020, members of the Kentuckiana 729 Detachment, Louisville, KY, participated in a rifle detail in Crestwood, KY, in support of the 2nd Annual Motorcycle Ride for the Gold Star Family Monument located in the Veterans Memorial Park of Kentucky. *Pictured* are participating members in the rifle detail and Medal of Honor recipient "Woody" Williams in front.



Ben Cero receiving the Department Commandant's Award for Elected Officer from Dept. Commandant Bob Ziltz.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



National Officers of the Marine Corps League installed by PNC Paul Hastings at the MCL National Headquarters in Stafford, VA, on September 19, 2020.



On September 12, 2020, the color guard marched in the Patriot Day Parade in Williams, AZ. The color guard consisted of members from the San Francisco Peaks Detachment, Flagstaff, AZ, and the Verde Valley Detachment, Verde Valley, AZ. From left to right: Ray Perez, Mauri Jim, Rick Duffield, James Vogler and Keith Vogler. Second row: NCOIC Guadalupe Velasco.

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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



September 26, 2020, marked the 70th year since PFC Eugene Arnold Obregon's heroic actions during the Korean War. For his heroic actions PFC Obregon was awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously. Detachment 1347, East Los Angeles, CA, held a virtual memorial ceremony to remember the life and heroic actions of their namesake.



Trenton Detachment 207 wishes a happy birthday to Korean Veteran SSGT Ed Woodrow on his 88th birthday. *From left to right:* Will Garcia, Ken Enderle, Chuck Bitner, Daughter Mary York and League member Joe Sebasto.



Members from the Fox Valley Marines Detachment 1233, IL, and the Fox Valley Marines Golf Classic Committee were joined by the City of Aurora, IL's Mayor Irvin and Village of Sugar Grove President Michels in presenting checks to the detachment, the Marie Wilkin-son Food Pantry, the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry and the Between Friends Food Pantry of Sugar Grove. All proceeds were from this year's Golf Classic.

Join Roll Call!

ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES

SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS

You may submit photos with short captions in email to semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com. Photos must not be more than 20MB in size.

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

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

instructions on the upload site).

Permission—For photos of youths under age 18, please visit www.mcleaguemagazine.org/programs/documents for the Photo Release Form.

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.

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

A New Perspective on Iwo Jima

Marine Corps League Member Charles Jones tells a story about two officers who met on Iwo Jima in 1945. They made a promise for the future. The story is used as a catalyst to describe military information, plans, jargon and their way of life. There is an excellent collection of photographs and a great deal of supporting information.

Iwo Jima's Battlefield Promise: Two University of North Carolina "Tar Heel" Marines Meet on Iwo Jima in 1945

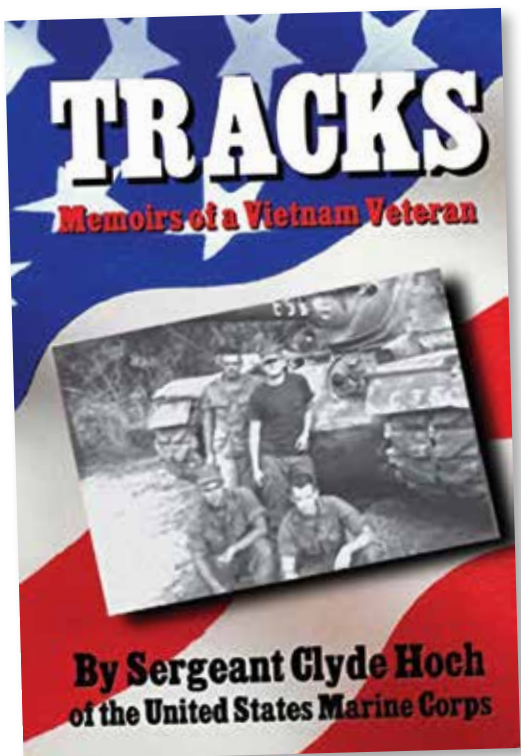
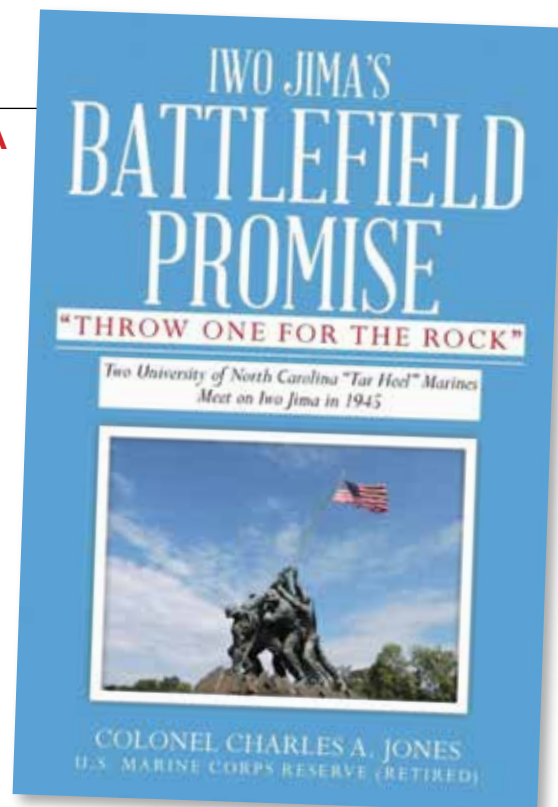
By Col Charles A. Jones, USMC (Ret)

Paperback: 712 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018

Language: English

ISBN: 978-1976351556



A Vietnam Vet's Trials and Tribulations

Marine Corps League Member Clyde Hoch takes readers from small town Pennsylvania through his time in the Marine Corps, including across the ocean to Vietnam. As a tank driver, Hoch provides interesting descriptions of tank operations and what his tour of Vietnam was like. An important goal after Vietnam was reconnecting with fellow Marines. Most importantly is his hope that perspectives change and that people learn and grow.

The book is an excellent read and flows well. The collection of photos fits within the storyline.

Tracks: Memoirs of a Vietnam Veteran

By Sgt Clyde D Hoch, USMC (Veteran)

Paperback: 162 pages

Publisher: Clyde Hoch, 2010

Language: English

ISBN: 978-0615396576

BOOK OFFER

Time as a POW in Korea

Marine Korean War POW, Fred Holcomb of Dunlap, TN, has recently shared his experience via 15 hours of phone conversation with MCL member Gary Manning

in Delhi, NY. Those wishing to access a gratis, PDF version of Fred's story, *Still Standing*, can do so by contacting Gary at gmmanning001@stny.rr.com.

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

BUTCH RAYNES

The Marine Corps League uniform

MARINES: All the good times have come and gone: Marine Corps Birthday, Toys for Tots and Christmas. With COVID-19 I hope everyone is doing well. One of the questions I have received lately concerns the wearing of the Marine of the Year Medallion with either DoD or MCL ribbons. It says in Enclosure 3 you do not mix the DoD with MCL, and the Marine of the Year is an MCL award. Repeat: you do not mix the DoD and MCL RIBBONS.

The Marine of the Year Medallion can be worn with either DoD or MCL ribbons; the Medallion is an altogether different award. The only time you do not wear the MOY Medallion is when wearing a polo shirt or civilian attire. You must be in an MCL uniform when wearing the MOY Medallion, undress long sleeve, short sleeve uniform, red blazer casual or dress or mess dress uniform.

Lately, I have seen a lot of Color Guard members wearing a small "Color Guard" patch under their MCL patch. The Color Guard patch is not allowed and should be removed. Also, the pin that is in the shape of a folded flag is not an authorized pin and should not be worn.

As some of you may know, we have a couple members of the Uniform Committee working on a manual that will include pictures of the proper way to wear the uniform and what can be worn on it and




what cannot.

As a reminder, you may not wear a name tag or mini medals on your Red Blazer Uniform. You may wear three large medals (of the wearer's choice) on the left breast, centered above the pocket and on a single bar, and you may wear two lapel pins (again of the wearer's choice) and one mini ribbon. No jump wings or air crew wings, and as of now, you cannot wear the Vietnam commemorative pin. There will be a

Bylaw submitted at National Convention in 2021 to add that pin to the list of authorized pins.

One last thing regards uniform shoes. I have heard from some members that there are some uniform shoes they cannot wear because of problems with their feet. If that is the case, you may wear a black shoe that is plain toe and shined; sneakers are not allowed and **no cowboy boots**.

Semper Fi!



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UPCOMING TOURS

FEB 20 – MAR 4
50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War— I-Corps & Battle of Hue City & Tet

APR 17 – 30
Vietnam 55th Anniversary "Delta to DMZ"

★ "NEW" MAY 1 – 7
MHT Civil War Adventure "North to Gettysburg" Gettysburg & Antietam

MAY 22 – 31
WWI Devil Dogs in France

MAY 27 – JUN 9
77th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris

JUN 1 – 9
77th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

JUN 12 – 25
Cathedrals of Northern France

JUL 1 – 11
Russia "Eastern Front" Battle of Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad

JUL 31 – AUG 5
"Bloody" Tarawa

AUG 1 – 9
Guadalcanal—Op Watchtower

AUG 14 – 27
Germany—Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague

AUG 21 – 31
VN I-Corps SgtMaj Overstreet

AUG 26 – SEP 7
"In the Footsteps" D-Day, The Bulge & Market Garden

AUG 28 – SEP 9
Southern Italy & Sicily

SEP 8 – 22
Ireland—WWII U.S. Marines Irish Marines—Dublin & Belfast

SEP 9 – 14
Midway Island Return

SEP 13 – 25
Waterloo & Napoleon

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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.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR

2021

Mid-Winter Conference

February 25-27
Norfolk, VA
mclnational.org

Modern Day Marine

September 21-23
Quantico, VA
mclnational.org
marinemilitaryexpos.com

Mideast Division Conference

April 16-18
Rehoboth Beach, DE
mclnational.org

National Convention

August 9-13
Springfield, IL
mclnational.org



2022

Mid-Winter Conference

February 24-26
Norfolk, VA
mclnational.org

Modern Day Marine

May 10-13
Quantico, VA
mclnational.org
marinemilitaryexpos.com

**The dates above are tentative due to possible COVID-19 restrictions. Please check mclnational.org before making reservations.*



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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 sub-

mit 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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Small Patch

Item Code: Patch03
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Flasks

Item Codes: Flask 01: Regular Stainless Steel / Flask01Red: Red Stainless Steel
Prices: \$19.00 / \$20.00
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Item Code: Patch05
Price: \$2.00
Description: Round MCL Patch Black and White



USMC Patriotic Patch

Item Code: USMC Woman's Veterans Patch 12"
Price: \$20.00
Description: 12" Patch with Woman Veteran Rocker



USMC Patriotic Patch

Item Code: USMC Semper Fi Patch 12"
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Description: 12" Patch with Semper Fi Rocker

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Bow Ties

Item Codes: U29; U47

Price: \$6.00

Description: Black Bow Tie (U29 is banded)



Gloves

Item Code: Gloves

Price: \$5.00

Description: White Slip-On Gloves; Sizes Small to XL



Cummerbund

Item Code: U27

Price: \$29.00

Description: Five-Pleat Gold Cummerbund



Cufflinks

Item Codes: U36A; U36B

Price: \$11.50

Description: U36A Cuff Links Gold EGA on Gold, *left*, U36B Cuff Links Silver EGA on Gold, *right*



Blazer Crest Patches



Item Code: U23A

Price: \$12.00

Description: Regular Member Blazer Crest Patch



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

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BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

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

In **2021**, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (miltours.com) will again offer the battlefield tour of a lifetime to two lucky League members as the grand prizes in the League's 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 3 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

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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Name	

Address	

City	
_____	_____
State	Zip Code

Phone	

Email	

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City	
_____	_____
State	Zip Code

Phone	

Email	

Continued From Previous Page

1-9 Jun

77th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

12-25 Jun

Famous Cathedrals of Northern France

1-11 Jul

Russia "Eastern Front" 75th Anniversary: Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad

31 Jul-5 Aug

"Bloody Tarawa"

1-9 Aug

Guadalcanal 78th Op Watchtower

14-27 Aug

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

21-31 Aug

Vietnam 50th Anniversary Return to I-Corps

28 Aug-7 Sep

D-Day, Normandy & Battle of the Bulge

7-21 Sep

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

9-14 Sep

Midway Island Return WWII "Battle of Midway"

13-25 Sep

Waterloo "Napoleon, Blucher & Wellington"

29 Sep-10 Oct

All England Tour "God Save the Queen" & 8th Air Force-WWII

29 Sep-10 Oct

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

29 Sep-10 Oct

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

9-16 Oct

80th Anniversary WWII: Battle of Crete

10-20 Oct

China "Imperial Jewels:" Beijing-Xian-Shanghai

10-22 Oct

WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust

16-23 Oct

MHT's The Great American South (St. Augustine, FL to New Orleans, LA)

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

5-14 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

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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:
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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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EVERY MARINE DESERVES A LITTLE R & R!

MARINE CORPS PRIDE

Men's Moccasins

Luxurious Faux Suede in Rich Tan Color

Lined with Soft Flannel in a Camouflage Print

Embossed on Top with Marines Eagle, Globe and Anchor,
and on Sides with "U.S. Marines"



Available in Men's
Whole Sizes 8-13

A COZY TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVE

Celebrate the United States Marine Corps in casual comfort with these striking military moccasins featuring embossed details and a cozy flannel lining. Available only from The Bradford Exchange, our exclusive "*Marine Corps Pride*" Men's Moccasins offer the ultimate way to capture that Marine spirit. You'll never want to take them off!

These distinctive moccasins feature luxurious faux suede uppers in a rich tan color. Each shoe is embossed on the top with the Marines eagle, globe and anchor, and on the side with "U.S. Marines." The moccasins are lined with ultra-soft flannel in a camouflage print and feature whip stitching around the top panel. Brown rubber soles and padded insoles promise

wear-anywhere comfort. Plus, a pull tab on each heel makes them easy to pull on. What a great way for any Marine to take a load off! Imported.

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YES. Please reserve the "*Marine Corps Pride*" Men's Moccasins for me as described in this announcement in the size indicated below.

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 Size 9: 01-33378-012 Size 11: 01-33378-014 Size 13: 01-33378-016

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Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

*Plus a total of \$10.99 shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for shipment. All sales are subject to product availability and order acceptance.

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- UNDER STRESS
- WITH GLOVES ON

RUGGED, LIGHTWEIGHT, MODULAR DESIGN



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