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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MARINE CORPS BASE Quantico, VA. — The largest military exposition dedicated to Fleet Marine Force capabilities is now underwritten by the two original Marine Corps-affiliated organizations that trace their lineage to the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, LtGen John A. Lejeune. Under the new partnership, the Marine Corps League, as both the founder of Modern Day Marine, and the federally chartered veteran’s service organization of the Marine Corps, formally joins with the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, the professional association of all Marines, as dual sponsors of the event. This joint endeavor has a common objective to implement the 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps’ intent for showcasing service priorities, industry solutions, and professional development initiatives which align equities and perspectives across the Marine Corps community of interest.

“All events that have historically been part of the 40 year history of Modern Day Marine will continue, including the Marine Corps Enlisted Awards Parade, and the Grand Banquet, which features the presentation of the Iron Mike and Dickie Chappelle Awards, the two most prestigious annual awards presented for conspicuous lifelong contributions to the morale, welfare, and well-being of Marines and the United States Marine Corps,” said MajGen Mike Regner, USMC(Ret), in his updated role as the National Chairman of the Marine Military Exposition Committee.

What will be new in September is an enhanced level of participation by General Officers and senior Department of the Navy officials from across the National Capitol Region as panelists and presenters, as well as the First Annual National Meeting of the Marine Corps Association.

In light of ongoing disruptions created by the global COVID-19 Pandemic, and with personal and public safety as the essential priority, all planning to stage Modern Day Marine is proceeding in close consultation with the Commander of Marine Corps Base Quantico. All decisions to stage or modify the event will be subject to Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control, and all applicable government guidance or restrictions established to cover the time and location of the expo.

The 40th Modern Day Marine Military Exposition provides active duty Marines, as well as other military and civilian defense personnel, with opportunities to interface with manufacturers showcasing the best and newest products and services for military personnel worldwide. Modern Day Marine is the largest multi-day annual event taking place aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico. The show hosts more than 400 exhibitors and approximately 9,000 attendees. Exposition details and updated schedules can be found at www.marinemilitaryexpos.com.

The Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, and the U.S. Marine Corps do not endorse any company, sponsor or their products or services.
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CORRECTION & CLARIFICATION
In Vol. 76, No. 2, “Roll Call,” page 43, the caption: “A memorial for the 241 killed in the October 23, 1983, Beirut attack, emblazoned with ‘They Came in Peace,’ is outside Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, part of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC” is incorrect. The caption should have read: “A memorial for the 241 killed in the October 23, 1983, Beirut attack, emblazoned with ‘They Came in Peace,’ located in Jacksonville, FL.”
ON THE COVER
Retired Staff Sergeant Bonita Johnson enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1978 and retired in 2000 as a Staff Sergeant. She is a dedicated Marine Corps League Commandant and a cancer survivor. See story on page 30.

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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

It took a virus to get us into the 21st century!

**MARINES:** I hope by the time this Semper Fi issue comes out we as a country are well on our way to healing. I hope all our members, MODD and Auxiliary and their families have come through the pandemic in good shape. I want to thank everyone, League members, Auxiliary and MODD, for all the get well cards, emails and texts while I was fighting the virus. I have recovered. At this point in time I hope we are preparing for our National Convention. We have gone through some very trying times over the past few months. Right from the start, our Headquarters team, under the supervision of COO Bob Borka, put together an emergency plan that has been outstanding and protected our Headquarters staff. Your National Board has been on top of the issues since the start and has tried to stay a few steps ahead of any potential League issues such as our upcoming Convention. Thank you to my Board of Trustees for working and communicating together and working with your departments, making sure they received all the current information as it came out of Headquarters. Job well done.

Congratulations to all division, department and detachment leadership for improvising, adapting and overcoming the road blocks thrown at you during this crisis—thanks to your outstanding leadership, it has been business as usual as much as it can be. If not for your calm decisive decision-making, this could have turned into a very large problem. It’s amazing how for the past few years we have tried to move into the 21st century through the use of modern day electronics and constantly dealt with pushback. All it took was a virus, a pandemic and a shelter-in-place shutdown to get it done. Here we are in the world of computers, FaceTime, telecoms and video conferencing, and it’s working great. Let’s keep this going when the crisis is over. Everything you Marines did to communicate with your members can now be used to get information out—dues renewals, the ability to track your members, recruiting, etc.

A few months ago, we began a move to electronic banking (direct deposit) for internal banking such as PLM reimbursements. As of May, over 300 detachments are signed up. We need the banking information from all detachments that includes the bank name, account and routing numbers. Your PLM checks will be electronically deposited into your bank accounts. There will be no more paper checks. In the past, we have wasted too much time and money on returned and uncashed checks. Direct deposit works very well, and we get no more returned or uncashed checks. If at this point you haven’t already done it, please get that information to Bob Borka.

As I said before these are very trying times. I’m hoping that by the time this issue is out we are all back to some kind of normal, at least for some conferences and conventions. If not, we will continue improvise, adapt and overcome. Keep up the great work, stay safe and healthy, and I’ll see you all on the other side.

Semper Fi!
nationalcommandant@mcleague.org

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To change your address, please contact your detachment Paymaster. Additionally, send an email to info@mcleague.org.

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**Chief Operating Officer’s Letter**

BOB BORKA

Embracing the Tribe from a socially accepted distance

**Marines:** It is customary to write these articles several months prior to them actually hitting a printer. We write of days in future’s past. All that seems to be on hold at the moment. Of course, we know the future will come but not the form in which it will take. COVID-19, or whatever flavor of virus comes our way, can be an opportunity. I hope it has given each person reflection time on what is most important in your life.

Personally, I can reflect on how grateful I am to be part of this great organization. I spent almost 20 years on the road away from home, 200 nights each year. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve you every day. There is a wonderful staff at Headquarters eager to assist each member. They come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Together, we make a great team.

I also want to offer a special thanks to the Paymasters and Adjutants out there making things happen. Even in the midst of social distancing, Marines remain vigilant in their efforts to continue the mission. Your communication with each other as well as with our Headquarters is such an important cog in the system that keeps things moving. You are appreciated. *Semper Fi!* 

**Events in Marine History**

**July 1, 1965** The Seventh Fleet’s Special Landing Force, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion 7th Marine Regiment (3/7), went ashore at Qui Nhon, Vietnam. The battalion was supported by the HMM-163 Ridge Runners.

**July 21, 1861** A battalion of 12 officers and 353 enlisted Marines, commanded by Major John C. Reynolds, was part of the Union Army’s First Brigade, First Division, during the First Battle of Bull Run.

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

**August 24, 1814** Captain Samuel Miller’s 100-man detachment from Marine Barracks, WA, fought in the Battle of Bladensburg for the defense of the national capital. After helping to fight back three British charges, Captain Miller was wounded, and the enemy began to work around both flanks of the American force. Almost encircled, the force of sailors and Marines was forced to retire to avoid capture. The Marines lost eight killed and 14 wounded.

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

**September 12, 1995** Captain Matthew Cooper and Sergeant Tad Snider were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for their efforts in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City federal building bombing. Both served at Recruiting Station Oklahoma City located on the federal building’s 6th floor at the time of the bombing.
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MEMBERS, MODD AND MCLA: First, I want to thank everyone for your thoughts and feelings regarding our 2020 Convention. A great deal of hard work and planning has gone into preparing for a great Convention at the local, department and National levels. We were all looking forward to a great time, then COVID-19 paid us a deadly visit.

This was not how I planned my first term to end, but we improvise, adapt and overcome. The Board of Trustees and I have made the decision to cancel the 2020 National Convention. This decision was not an easy one. We held numerous teleconferences with the Board of Trustees, PNCs and the Convention Committee Chairman, reviewing all the current conditions and restrictions and received input from Department Commandants.

Our number one concern right from the start has been the health and well-being of all our members, especially our more seasoned members. The fear factor was too high regarding travel conditions. No one I spoke to wanted to fly, and the driving concerns included rest stop safety/availability and whether hotels would be open, clean and safe along the travel routes.

When I recommended a “No Go” for the Convention, it was the hardest decision I’ve had to make during this past year. I knew even if we had a decent showing that everyone would be more concerned about safety issues than having a good time and relaxing. There is no way I could put any member at risk of getting sick. If one member got sick, it would be one too many.

There were also financial issues we had to consider if we cancelled and the hotel* was open for business, even with restrictions. We could have been on the hook for a large sum of money. To avoid any complications or legal problems we offered to reschedule and give Florida 2023, our anniversary year. The hotel accepted. However, Marines, let me stress that no amount of financial loss could equal the loss of even one member because we went ahead with the Convention.

This is a tough way to end our year, but we will overcome. All departments will be getting word from the Sr. Vice Commandant Johnny Baker regarding a Commandants’ Council via video conference. You should all have a copy of how to proceed with elections and installations pertaining to a cancellation. I also expect all committee reports to be in by the deadline as stated in the cancellation procedures. Please include in your reports anything you may need and what you plan for your committee in the upcoming year.

I definitely want to thank my Board of Trustees, the PNCs for their input and advice and all the Department Commandants for their outstanding leadership and commitment to the League during this crisis. Improvise, Adapt and Overcome.

Semper Fidelis,
Dennis Tobin

*Members may contact the hotel directly to cancel their 2020 reservations.
Arkansas Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Unveiled in Little Rock

The League Called ... The Foundation Answered

Submitted by Johnny Gothard on Behalf of Sidney S. McMath Detachment 532

At the 2016 National Convention in Tulsa, OK, Dwight Witcher of Sidney S. McMath Detachment 532 in Little Rock, AR, heard about the Hershel “Woody” Williams Medal of Honor Foundation's (hwwmohf.org) desire to place a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in each state in the nation. Having not heard about such a movement in Arkansas, he called the Foundation to discuss the matter. They confirmed that there was nothing planned yet in Arkansas but would love for the MCL to take the lead. Presenting his idea to the Detachment 532, everyone was immediately on board. Paul Garrett and John Smallwood took the reins as Co-Chairmen, and the project was officially launched. The desire was always to place it on the Arkansas Capitol grounds, but Arkansas law required legislation to be passed followed by approval from the Secretary of State and his Arts and Grounds committee. Countless meetings and hearings were held with committees and the architects, Clements and Associates of Little Rock.

There were only five spaces available on the grounds, and the one selected, although being the prime spot, required an expensive elevated plaza to be constructed thereby quadrupling the overall cost.

On March 2, 2017, Woody Williams attended a bill signing ceremony with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and dozens of veterans and supporters. From there, an extensive fundraising campaign was launched. Countless miles and thousands of hours were spent over the next 3 years to raise the $400,000 dollars necessary for the construction. Of all the supporters, none was more important to the project completion than that of Nabholz Corporation of Conway, AR. They agreed to take on the project as manager and supervised the project bidding, contract signings and on-site construction.

As time was critical, no formal groundbreaking ceremony was held. Rather, crews went to work in June 2019 immediately after the legislative session was adjoined. With a target dedication date of September 28, 2019 (Gold Star Families Day), it was critical for things to go smoothly. As in any construction project, they didn’t, but problems were overcome, long days became longer and on September 28, 2019, at 11 a.m., as planned, WWII Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams was the keynote speaker with approximately 1,000 people in attendance at the dedication.

The Sidney S. McMath Detachment would like to thank everyone for their help in making this project a reality. SF
ATTENTION ON DECK

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The Marine Corps League is based in over 1,100 communities in 50 states

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● Funeral Honor Guard support
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● Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)
● College scholarships
● Color Guards
● Youth physical fitness

ATTENTION REGULAR AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

This is a reminder that without your dues we cannot continue with the programs listed above. The annual expiration date is coming. Please contact your Paymaster to pay your annual dues. September 1, 2020, starts the new membership year.

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Spotlight on:
Dave Bray USA

Answering the Call to Honor American Heroes

By Dave Bray

The Truth

Most of you won’t take the time to read this article all the way to the end, but for those who do, you’ll finally know who Dave “Doc” Bray USA is and what his “Music on a Mission” is all about. You’ll even find out how to get his bestselling, storyteller album for free.

History

My name is Dave “Doc” Bray, and I served as an FMF Corpsman for 2/2 STA Platoon out of Camp Lejeune, NC. I am a husband, father, Marine Corps League member and proud American patriot.

I am now a full-time touring musician, and my family and I have created our own record label, apparel brand and patriotic entertainment company! For the last decade we have used our music to support our men and women of service and the families who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our civility and our freedom.

Looking back, there is absolutely NO way I could have persevered and flourished in one of the hardest and most competitive businesses in the world without leaning into what I learned from my time and service with the United States Marine Corps.

Welcome Aboard

After graduating from Field Medical School and receiving the coveted “Top Dog” award, I was highly motivated to meet my guys and finally be a part of the Marine Brotherhood I had heard so much about.

STA Platoon on the other hand was not so excited to receive a super green “Doc” fresh out of school. They were dirty, bearded, miserable, tired and unexpectedly cantankerous. Not quite the reception I had in mind during my cab ride from Camp Johnson.

They had just gotten out of a field op, and I had just graduated from some place up the road where Navy guys with a pocket full of Motrin, wearing pressed camos and polished boots are born.

Although it took me a few weeks to prove my worth to these Devil Dogs, they taught me everything from dealing with unplanned situations in the field to surviving your standard issue, Friday night, bar fight at the Driftwood.

My Marines took a young, Dixie cup-wearin’, Rock and Roll-lovin’, fresh out of the can squid and taught me how to improvise, overcome and adapt my way out of just about any situation that came along. I very soon realized that most situations could be fixed with 550 cord, some kind of tape, water or just plain destroying everything within a square kilometer.

The thing is, once I had earned their trust, those Marines had my back at all times—no matter what came along!

Unfortunately, that loyalty is a VERY rare thing these days. After my service, I learned the hard way that loyalty is most certainly NOT a common trait among those who inhabit the bowels of the music business, but there are some similarities.

Being a part of the sniper teams on Lejeune, I got to meet many of those similarities face-to-face while crawling on my belly. If you’ve been blessed enough to serve on old Camp Swampy, I’m sure you’ll remember the chiggers biting your ankles, the snakes who liked to catch you off guard and every other matter of insect that enjoyed living off the blood of Marines in that insane and godforsaken humidity. Some days I can still smell that nasty, rich, clay-toned, swamp water that had no problem gushing into your boots and ruining your life for the day.

I learned a lot at Camp Lejeune but little did I know, at that time, that my future would find me with guns pointing downrange on top of an American Embassy in some far away country or that I would once again be dealing with all of those creatures I got to know so well in that swamp, thriving so effortlessly within the music industry.
Life of a Music Man

After the military, I needed an outlet. Writing and performing my music on stage was the perfect means to fill the void after service. It was a huge part of my transition back into civilian life, and it was also the point in time that I met my wife, Becky, who turned out to be the best little battle buddy a guy could ask for.

Becky and I would spend the next 10 years of our lives grinding it out in the clubs and bars with numerous musical projects both while working full-time jobs. We found some success, but the later years would leave us chewed up and spit out by our record label and the project into which we had poured our blood, sweat and tears. We were broken.

I felt lost and angry. I was seriously considering hanging up my guitar and giving up on my dream to honor our American Heroes through music. However, somewhere within my emptiness and resentment there resided a small flame still burning inside. My faith.

Leap of Faith

I just couldn’t believe that God had brought us all this way, just to drop us off the edge of a cliff. We started over. We began to reignite our faith. We went back to the basics of Honor, Courage and Commitment and readied ourselves for the battle to come. We knew that if we were going to get back into the fight, we would have to “Stay the Course—Finish that Fight and Never Surrender.”

It was on! Becky, aka “Mission Control,” and I decided to start our own entertainment company and record label instead of hanging our heads and accepting defeat. With two young boys to raise, we knew we were taking a huge gamble. We knew what kind of time and effort it would take, and we knew from the second we put our boat in the water that we would be paddling upstream from the get go.

With little time to prepare and practically zero financial resources to draw from, we were knee deep in the brass, so to speak, and running low on ammo. At minimum, we needed computers to work from, professional music and production, gigs and transportation, videos and editors, connections on social media, designers and printers and merchandise to fund it all. Most importantly, we needed faith. Not just a “we’re going to church now” type of faith, but a deep down ancient kind of faith ... the fearless kind ... the St. Michael has my 6 with solid coms and is waiting for a 10-digit grid coordinate type of faith ... and boy did we find it! We found our faith in friends and family we never knew we had. We also found businesses and events who knew our situation and wanted to help ... and help they did! Without them, we never would have made it to where we...
are today, and we are forever grateful for their belief in us.

At that time, what would become my first solo album “Music on a Mission” had only a few songs finished, and Becky began sending out the singles to as many military, veteran and law enforcement organizations we could find.

As Becky began building the tour and booking the dates, I began focusing on the merchandise and apparel. Just like our music, we wanted our shirts to pay tribute to the patriotism as well as the faith that we carried within our hearts. We wanted people from all walks of life, not just the service, to feel empowered when they put on one of our shirts. We wanted them to know what it feels like to put on a uniform and to have that feeling you get when you are part of a team, a squad or a platoon. It’s that unexplainable feeling of pride, invincibility, fearlessness and patriotism. It is the same feeling I want people to get when they hear my music. So, we searched until we found the most comfortable shirts we could find and started sketching our designs.

Our apparel line “Brave Day USA” was born. We finally had a tangible product to sell at the shows and events that we were playing in order to fuel our mission and help get us across the finish line!

That Finish Line Was the Starting Line

After 2 long, hard years and with the help and support of so many God-fearing, freedom-loving, flag-waving patriots across this country, “Music on a Mission (Storyteller Edition)” the full-length album was released and debuted at #6 on the iTunes global charts. As a true first of its kind, this narrated album listens much like an audiobook with some absolutely, awe-inspiring songs in between. I tell the history of “Amazing Grace,” “God Bless America” and the “Star-Spangled Banner” as well as the tales of my service and the victories and heartbreaks along the way.

As a testimony, the album “Music on a Mission” and the videos on YouTube have been shared and viewed millions of times. It has been used as a teaching tool to remind school kids about the price that has been paid for their freedom. It has also been used by Sunday schools to teach the importance of patriotism as well as faith and how the two go hand in hand in order to keep America the “Land of the Free.”

In the end, I consider “Music on a Mission” my “Continuation of Service.” I feel like every serviceman or servicewoman has earned the right to chase down his or her dreams in doing what they love for a living. This album and our mission is our way of returning the favor to the brave men and women who have served, will serve and who continue to serve to this day. It is an audio memorial, not only to our military and our veterans, but also to our law enforcement, fire fighter and first responder brothers and sisters. It is a reminder to the next generation that freedom isn’t free and that it has been paid for by the blood of heroes. It is also a reminder to the next generation that freedom’s flame will one day belong to them to protect, carry and pass along.

The Reward

There is a reward that comes with being a U.S. Navy (FMF) Devil Doc. It is one that very few will ever get to know. It’s earning the trust of your Marines and being honored to witness what makes them truly elite.

When you have proven your ability to save their lives on the battlefield, it allows them to be the most fearless and deadliest war fighting element on the planet. Because of their faith in you, they will fight fearlessly and to the death.

Along with that trust they give you a glimpse of what it means to be a United States Marine. They teach you brotherhood and ingenuity. They teach you that failure and surrender is never an option. They prove time and again that every hill can be taken and that every enemy can and will be defeated. They teach you Honor, Courage and Commitment, and they teach you to learn these things because you’ll need to know them if you’re crazy enough to march beside Marines and reciprocate that trust. In my eyes, there is no greater reward, and I will forever be grateful for the time they called me “Doc.”

As a way of saying “THANK YOU” for your support, I’d like to send you a FREE autographed album with every T-shirt you purchase from our online store. Please go to www.DaveBrayUSA.com and order today!

Together, we can all soldier on in the name of those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom and honor those who are still fighting on the front lines overseas or on our very own soil.

If you read this far—Thank you! We hope you will consider us for your entertainment or opening ceremonies at your next event! For booking information: contact Becky Bray at Becky@DaveBrayUSA.com.

My new album “Music on a Mission” is available on iTunes, Amazon and Spotify.

Semper Fi my Brothers and Sisters, be well and God bless! $f

The Finest Marine Rings Out There. Period

Here is a fresh new version of Mike Carroll’s original USMC ring. We couldn’t change the outstanding design, but we could enhance it with laser-guided technology. And that’s exactly what we did.

You won’t find a more perfect rendering of the eagle, globe and anchor. It’s still heavy in weight, extreme in detail and guaranteed 100%. Made to exacting standards, copyrighted in the Library of Congress and licensed by the Corps.

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Updates and information concerning COVID-19

MARINES: Woof, woof Dogs of the Order! As I write this article, I am sure I am joined by many who are also in confinement to quarters. Although I feel fortunate to have remained healthy, I would prefer to be out and about visiting our great Packs and Pounds across the country. I hope you are all remaining safe from the COVID-19 virus and that you and your families are healthy.

The time I have spent in confinement has not deterred me from working with the chief operating officer as we continue to get our financial records up-to-date and get the Quartermaster store online with Quick-Books. Speaking of online, our new website will soon be completed and published, and I feel the membership will like what they see. Many hours have been spent by the new Webmaster as he continues to work on the site to make the improvements that were requested of him.

I would like to reiterate to the membership that every effort possible will be made to assist the Pounds and Packs during this down time. I know there are many Pups out there that had intended on obligating to Devil Dogs but were unable to, due to the cancellations of the Grand Growls. I assure you that if your advancement applications were submitted on time, you will be allowed to keep your original date of advancement as if the Grand Growl had taken place and the ceremony of obligation given. It is more important to me that you are remaining safe and healthy, so please do not worry about the delay in your advancement; your dates will reflect the originally scheduled date of your Grand Growl instead of the date you actually are able to obligate.

Pound Keepers, worthy Pack Leaders and Dog Robbers, please stay in contact with your members. Ask them how they are doing and if they are in need of anything; also encourage them to pay their dues for annual membership and to please register for the National Convention. Any registration fees paid will be refunded should the National Convention/Supreme Growl be cancelled.

I continue to offer my assistance to any Pound or Pack who wish to conduct live video/teleconferences in order to obligate new Pups into the Order or to obligate Pups who are qualified to Devil Dogs. I have conducted weekly staff conference calls to keep my staff and the Order abreast on what we are doing to assist the Order.

Our 75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima 1911 Pistol has been paid for and is in our hands as of April 27, 2020. We ordered a display case for the weapon, and it will be on display at the National Convention/Supreme Growl in Daytona Beach. Tickets are still being sold, so if you wish to purchase some, please contact your Division Vice Chief Devil Dogs or contact the Sr. Vice Chief or myself to coordinate where you can purchase them. I anticipate there will be very few tickets remaining by the time we meet in Daytona Beach, so get your tickets while you can!

Be safe, stay healthy; remember those who are serving our great nation, especially those in harm’s way. Please keep them and their families and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers and hope they all return home safely. Remember to thank a veteran for his or her service. I thank you for all you continue to do for the League and for the MODD. Keep up the great work!

Semper Woof!

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

- From the MODD Handbook

Special Note

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

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

For orders, contact CDD Tom Hazlett at: 59thchiefdevildog@gmail.com.
Style That Says

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Rich 18K Gold and Sterling Silver Plating

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A Fine Jewelry Exclusive from The Bradford Exchange

Members of the United States Marines are true heroes dedicated to the values of Duty, Honor, and Courage. With their Semper Fi spirit, Marines are always ready to proudly serve their country. Now, there’s no better way to celebrate the values of these distinguished individuals than with our meaningful women’s “USMC Pride” Earrings, an exclusive design available only from The Bradford Exchange.

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YES. Please reserve the “USMC Pride” Earrings for me as described in this announcement.

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

Address

City State Zip

E-Mail (optional)

01-25564-001-E10021
A fine example of American resourcefulness

LADIES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY: The best is yet to come! We are resourceful, and we will “improvise, adapt, and overcome,” as our Marines and Marine families have done and continue to do. Be safe, be well, and follow the guidelines provided by the CDC. Working together to help prevent this virus is good for all.

Through this pandemic, our Board of Trustees has accomplished its job with outstanding service. The dedication and response to every question is a shining example of working together for the good of each member of our organization. The quick response to Board votes has made this president’s job much easier. Thank you, ladies.

Many Division Conferences and department conventions have been postponed. They may or may not be able to meet before the National Convention. Rest assured, your National Board of Trustees has plans in place to continue to lead our wonderful organization and maintain our high standards. Directions addressing the elections of the Division Vice Presidents and the Assistant Division Vice Presidents have been addressed and will take place at the National Convention should the Division Conference not take place. This will follow the National Bylaws with each unit having one vote.

The Board of Trustees has sent out guidelines for our units and departments to address this emergency. This gives our units an opportunity to stay in contact and help each other.

Our units are doing the things they have always done. They have found innovative ways to stay busy, communicate with each other and help their Marines, veterans and communities while staying at home. A fine example of American resourcefulness.

Hopefully, we will meet in Florida at our National Marine Corps League and Auxiliary Convention.

Semper Fi!

Special Corrections: In the Vol. 76, No. 2 issue, Terri Gothard is the Southern Division VP and Carol Mazzara is the Southeast Division VP. In “The MCLA at the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference,” the new Holy City unit is located in South Carolina, not North Carolina as previously referenced.

League Auxiliary Activities

Operation Little Angels: PNP Barbara Nobile and Jackie Deen.

Memorial Fund: Twila Gensel, PNP Carol Smith and Renee McGuan.

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Vickie Brown
Rocky Mountain
Karen Bressler
Southeast Division
Carol Mazzara
Southern Division
Terri Gothard
Southwest Division
No Division Vice

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National Chaplain
Barb Nobile, PNP
VAVS Representative
Terri Gothard
National Regent
Donna Jean Peterson
National Big Flea
Joyce Brickett

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www.nationalmcla.org

Operation Little Angels: PNP Barbara Nobile and Jackie Deen.

Memorial Fund: Twila Gensel, PNP Carol Smith and Renee McGuan.
New president for Marine Corps League Foundation

MARINES: I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new president of the Marine Corps League Foundation. My name is Michael Dighero. It is truly an honor to have been selected by the Board of Trustees and Officers of the Foundation to this position. I would like to thank the past president, Gerard Devlin, for his many years of service to both the Foundation and the Marine Corps League. Gerard’s wealth of knowledge and leadership is appreciated by all of us, as are his many colorful stories.

The mission of the Foundation is unwavering in our support to Marines, FMF Corpsman and their families. We have entered a difficult time in our nation’s history with the spread of this pandemic and how it has affected our daily lives. This too will pass, and we will all be a stronger people for it. Your Foundation is working hard to provide help when requested through our Humanitarian Relief and Disaster Relief programs.

The Foundation has put forth a challenge to all detachments, departments and divisions to provide a $100.00 dollar each donation toward the Marine Corps League’s Scholarship Fund. The Foundation provides the funding of awarded scholarships for the Marine Corps League’s Scholarship Program. Your donations are needed to maintain and provide the same level of funding for this program. With the loss of funding through the Card and Label program, the Foundation needs your help now more than ever. Please, show your support to help our children succeed in their future endeavors.

We have a new web page at mclfoundation.org for you to view. It was developed by the students and teachers at the Academy of Arts, Science and Technology in Myrtle Beach, SC, in support for a veterans’ service organization. Our most sincere thanks to the Academy for their time and service to the Foundation. The new web page includes all information about your Foundation and the programs we support. You may also make donations to the Foundation from this site and obtain contact information for Board Officers and Trustees. Please check it out, and should you have any questions, contact us.

In closing, I am extremely proud of the Marine Corps League and our Marine Corps League Foundation for the work that we accomplish every day across this great land. No matter how little or how large your contributions are of time or gifts, it does make an incredible difference. May you be blessed with good health, prosperity and camaraderie.

Semper Fi!

CEO, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

Young Marines annual award winners announced!

MARINES: This issue, I wanted to celebrate the announcement of our annual award winners.

We are proud to continue our partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration. This year’s 1st place DEA Enrique “Kiki” Camarena Awards for Drug Demand Reduction are:

Division 1 – Fall River YM
Division 2 – New Bern YM
Division 3 – Palm Beaches YM
Division 4 – Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office YM
Division 5 – Hendricks County YM
Division 6 – Miramar YM

Our National Young Marine unit of the year: Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office Young Marines, Harvey, LA.

Young Marines are selected through rigorous processes for Young Marine of the Year titles. Our most senior Young Marines compete for Division Young Marine of the Year. Here are your Division Young Marines of the Year:

Division 1 – YM/SgtMaj Madsen Myers, Westmoreland County YM
Division 2 – YM/SgtMaj Nathaniel Paredes, Quantico YM
Division 3 – YM/SgtMaj Elysabeth Massingill, Etowah Valley YM
Division 4 – YM/SgtMaj Abbigail Waters from Mountain View YM
Division 5 – YM/SgtMaj Nina Staben, Lake County YM
Division 6 – YM/SgtMaj Luke Smith, North San Diego YM

The 2020 National Young Marine of the Year is: SgtMaj Abbigail Waters from Mountain View Young Marines, Centennial, CO.

Congratulations to all regional volunteers, units and Young Marines!

Semper Fi!
Effects of the pandemic!

MARINES: As I write this article, the nation is in a major pandemic, named “COVID-19.” Never in the years of my life, and most of yours, have we experienced such a major issue for us individually and for our beloved nation. Most states have ordered its citizens to “shelter-in-place.” It has forced us to wear masks and gloves while going to places we have always considered safe. It has caused us to use extreme caution being around our family and friends. It has caused us to be suspicious and careful anytime we leave the house, even to get groceries.

We all are still very blessed to be with our families in a closeness that many have not encountered in a long time. Many of us have worked from home and taken care of “stuff” we haven’t completed in a long time. We had the opportunity to get out of the rut of our jobs by working from home. Most of us were affected by some sort of financial issues. Getting groceries became an issue, and I never would have thought that toilet paper would be the first item to go. Still not sure why that happened.

But through all of this, we are still United States Marines. For most of us “old” Marines, we shrug it off, as we have been in worse situations before and may be again. As Marine Corps League members we must constantly be aware of our members who may be homebound or just may need that extra help from their fellow brothers. Let’s make sure that we always know about the health and welfare of all of our Marines, even when COVID-19 is gone. As leaders in our detachments and departments, it is our responsibility to be connected to our Marines and members. We have that obligation and responsibility not to leave any Marine behind. It is who we are!

Marines, hopefully by the time you read this, our lives are getting adjusted to a “new normal.” Maybe not? It is time to rejuvenate our members as well as our detachments. We’ve missed many detachment meetings, department conventions, as well as many Division Conferences. What we really missed was the comradery of being around Marines and helping our communities. I challenge every member to get reengaged with your detachments. You are needed and wanted! COVID-19 is just another obstacle for Marines. After all, Marines always rise to the occasion. I hope all Marines are doing well.

Semper Fi!

The pandemic gives us time to plan

MARINES: First let me express my condolences to all of our Marine families who have suffered losses of their loved ones during this pandemic. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. To all of our active duty, reserve units, public safety personnel, medical staff of all levels and all people who continue to work so our lives can go on, thank you for all that you have done to keep us safe.

The code that we live by “Innovate, Adapt and Overcome” has truly been tested during the past few months. As an organization, I believe the Marine Corps League has passed the test.

It is sad that many of our recruiting functions, which were well planned and thought to be fruitful, have been put on hold for now. Please do not let them be forgotten. We will pass through this pandemic and will be marching together again. Like in the rest of the country, there is the hope. As Marines, we know we will maintain our greatness.

Members have contacted me with suggestions for growing our membership. Here are just a couple of thoughts. Marine Trisha Galagher of South Carolina reminds us that social media needs to be utilized to the fullest everywhere. We have made great strides in this area in many locals but not all. Also, virtual activities such as virtual runs should be programs to be considered. The younger Marines do like these types of activities. Marine Fred Marotta of Virginia reminds us that many states issue license plates for Marines. If we could get access to the list of those Marines who applied for these plates, it would possibly provide a recruiting source. We are living under restrictions, but this gives us some time to think. If you have an idea as to how to help grow our great organization let us know. By thinking out-of-the-box we can again adapt and overcome. Thank you to all who are working to help grow our membership.

The immediate concern for all of us now is our National Convention. The National Staff has been working diligently trying to determine the correct path to follow. We will hopefully make the decision which is best for all of our League members. As you have seen, we have already established policies and procedures to be followed for detachments and departments to follow under an emergency plan for the election and installation of officers for the upcoming year. If it should be determined that an emergency plan must be put in place for our National Convention, then that too will be established and disseminated to all.

I will be seeking your support in our National election as I will be a candidate for the position as your National Junior Vice Commandant for a second year. It has been my honor to serve you this past year. Thank you all for your help and support through these trying times. As Marines we will always keep marching. Please stay safe and healthy.

Semper Fi!
Social media and the Marine Corps League

MARINES: I hope everyone is remaining safe. What a crazy time in our history. Chapter 9 filings are much calmer now than in the first half of 2020 and compared to the last half of 2019, so that is a good trend.

I wanted to take a quick moment to touch on social media and the MCL. I was asked a question about an MCL member who has a profile picture of him in MCL uniform on Facebook and is posting support for a political candidate. In my opinion that is not a violation of our National Bylaws. The Bylaws for support of a candidate while in uniform was put in way before social media ever was even thought about. I would be pretty petty to try to connect a picture in uniform supporting a candidate to our Bylaws. If you are out in public, in a rally or on TV in a crown in uniform, that is a whole different ball game and would be a violation of the current Bylaws. If you need clarification or further explanation of this, please don’t hesitate to email me. I can send a ruling out if need be, but I think this will suffice.

In Daytona, I will meet with the Bylaws committee on Sunday, August 9, and work through the 24 Bylaws and Administrative Procedures amendments we have. I hope everyone was able to go through those at a local level and be on the floor to have an up or down vote on each one. We all know that this can be a long and tedious part of the Convention day, so I will try and shorten it up by not reading the current Bylaws and Administrative Procedures; I will only read the revisions and the rational. It is very important you review the submittals in the MCL member library (mcleaguelibrary.org/convention). We will also have a copy on the large screens at the National Convention for you to read if needed.

Lastly, I announced at Mid-Winter Conference I will seek another term as National Judge Advocate. I have some more things to finish before I pass this office on to the next NJA. It has been a pleasure working with the Board of Trustees and the Department Judge Advocates over the last year. Looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones in Daytona!

Semper Fi!
DIVISION REPORTS

Hope to see you at the National Convention

MARINES: On March 20, I started putting this article together as the world as we know it is going crazy with this coronavirus/COVID-19. Every time I got a case of the sniffles or my nose was stuffed up, because the weather here in Michigan is changing, deep in the back of my mind I thought, “Here we go—do I need to quarantine myself?” and 2 hours later I felt fine. Because all states were basically shutting everything down, I, the Division Assistant Vice, the six Department Commandants, the host detachment Chairman and our Central National Vice President decided that the Central Division Conference that was to be held in Louisville, KY, April 2-4, needed to be cancelled. We all hated to make that decision, but the way this virus was spreading worldwide and quickly here in the U.S., it was best for all involved. I would like to THANK the Kentuckiana Detachment 729 and PDC Bob Cross for all the time that was put into making sure that this Conference would have been great.

A few weeks later, it is April 12, and things haven’t gotten better. So far, not only have we had to cancel the Central Division Conference, but three departments have cancelled their Department Conventions, and I’m sure by the time this magazine goes out most if not all will have to cancel. I know so far my own detachment has had to cancel our March and April meetings. Please make sure we are checking on our members who may have problems coping with life, and remember that for the members who are having these problems, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

Everyone stay safe and healthy; keep on social distancing, and hopefully this will all be over someday.

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

Hope to see all of you in August in Daytona Beach, FL, for the National Convention.

Semper Fi!

Election procedures revised during epidemic

MARINES: As I write this article, we are all coping with the restrictions from the COVID-19 epidemic and can’t conduct our normal department conventions and detachment meetings to elect and install our officers. In order to stay in touch with your officers and various detachments, an option is to use freecall.com for a free conference calling site or do an internet search for “free conference calling” for more options. National has an Emergency Plan for Elections and Installations for Departments effective immediately through October 31, 2020. Departments will be given extended time to complete the election process at a rescheduled convention or at a quarterly staff meeting, as long as the election is accomplished so that the Report of Officers’ Installation (ROI) can be completed and submitted on or before October 31, 2020. The 2019 department officers’ term of office extends until such time that the 2020 ROI is completed. National has also an Emergency Plan for Elections and Installations for Detachments effective immediately through August 1, 2020. Both of these plans were forwarded to your departments for implementation. The departments need to monitor the installation of detachment officers and submission of their ROIs. The department staff must assist any detachment that requires assistance. There should be no reason that a detachment fails to submit its ROI.

Many governors have issued a stay-at-home policy, so this is an excellent opportunity for MCL professional development training. Take time to read over our National, department and detachment Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and stay abreast of current guidance on the laws and regulations of the League. Log on to mclnational.org and then click on the member library link. Scroll down and look at the corporate documents and various other administrative forms. There are 8 hours of video on the new Database.

The third-quarter membership roster is out, so look over it and make some calls to your unpaid members and encourage them to continue their membership. The department Jr. Vice Commandant should be in constant touch with detachment Jr. Vice Commandants and Paymasters regarding the retention and recruitment of members. During this pandemic reach out to your members for welfare checks and see if they need any assistance. Marines always take care of their own, so don’t forget them as well as your unpaid members and widows of past members.

We have Marines 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
Reach out to members confined in homes or hospitals

MARINES: I have waited until the last opportunity to submit my article to *Semper Fi* in order to get the latest news on the total disruption the coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused. In the Midwest Division (MWD) we mostly remain under some type of a normal shut down. With businesses shut down and the hospitals filling up with COVID-19 victims, we must remember some of the reasons it is taking its toll on the Marine Corps League members. We meet most of the requirements of concern: age and preexisting health issues. With the current stay-at-home orders, our detachments, departments and Division have had to cancel meetings, conferences and other activities where we would get together, elect and install our leadership and discuss old times. At last count, the MWD has approximately 16 members recovering from the virus, the oldest Marine is 99. We shall continue to keep all in our prayers. Our priority continues to be that we check the well-being of our members who are confined to veterans’ homes, hospitals or otherwise unable to get out and maintain contact with their fellow Marines and Corpsmen and make sure they receive help with any other personal needs they may have.

The MWD had to cancel several department conferences along with the MWD Spring Conference scheduled for Wichita, April 2020. As of this article’s submission, it is unknown whether the 2020 National Convention in Daytona will be allowed. In order to assist in overcoming the problems caused by COVID-19, the National BOT enacted MCL Department and Detachment Emergency Election Procedures. If your detachment or department as of the date of this *Semper Fi* issue has been unable to conduct normal business and you have questions regarding the Procedures, please contact your Department Commandant for a copy of them.

It is unknown how long COVID-19 will impact life as we knew it before the outbreak, but we will remember to maintain “social distancing” to ensure our MCL members, family and friends come through this as best we can. Continued good health to everyone.

*Semper Fi!
Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org*

We’ll survive no matter what; it’s in our blood!

MARINES: In these hardship times, the New England Division would like to pass on our condolences to the members who lost a family member or a friend to COVID-19. Many veterans survived unthinkable situations to succumb to a virus back home. Our loved ones will not be forgotten, and their lives will be remembered along with their stories.

To the numerous veterans who continue to protect the public on the front lines during this pandemic as doctors, nurses, police officers and fire fighters, we thank you! To others who are still working as unsung heroes behind the scenes to help keep America stay strong, thank you!

The New England Division continues to stay strong. Compliance with the IRS keeps improving and is standing at 85% compliant. Our goal is to continue pushing to be 100% compliant. As society changes throughout the country, our communities fluctuate. The Division has detachments that are thriving in some areas, but we have a few detachments that are folding in other parts. The concerns that the Division needs to focus on are life membership and new members. The New England Division has a large number of members who have life membership compared to regular membership. Numbers are down in New England cross the board in the past year on membership:

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Membership appears to be a topic that we continue to visit, and we need to keep looking for new ways to bring in members to strive to keep the Marine Corps League around for the next generation. We encourage hearing suggestions and new ideas to accomplish this.

Stay safe, and continue to look out for your Brothers and Sisters.

*Semper Fi!
Division Website: mclnedivision.com*
Historic times require historic measures

MARINES: We are in the middle of very historic period for our country. Every person is being touched in some way by the COVID-19 crisis. Whether you are in lock-down mode, working on the front lines of the battle or are working to provide our country’s population with the necessities of life, everyone is affected directly or indirectly. For any of our Marine families directly impacted by the illness or loss of a loved one, please reach out and let us know what we can do to support you. As some of you may know, National Commander Dennis Tobin was stricken with the disease, but thankfully had a full recovery. As Marines with the motto, “Leave no one behind,” I hope you are all working on keeping each other informed on any needs that may arise from this crisis. It is every League member’s duty to make sure your Brothers and Sisters get any help or assistance they need.

The Division cancelled our Conference this year due to the crisis, but we were still able to award a Division Marine of the Year. I’d like to congratulate Marine Brian Gillespie of the Department of New Jersey as the 2020 Division Marine of the Year. It is well-deserved, as he is a very active member of the League. Thankfully, this is not an election year for our Division, making it much less of a problem to have cancelled the Conference.

Here in the Northeast, all three departments have had to cancel their conventions also. We are just now starting to hear our states talking about Phase 1 of getting back to normal. There is still a lot to do to get there, but hopefully we can at least get to the point where we can meet, even with social distancing restrictions in place. We are also seeing the part digital technology plays in moving us forward even in the face of the many restrictions on gatherings of people. The departments are doing a great job by using this digital technology to make sure their business is getting done.

Your National Board of Trustees has been continuously working on providing guidance to departments and detachments to keep the League moving forward. Due to the many state restrictions, the Board has provided instructions to detachments on how to proceed with elections and installations. This will allow them to stay in compliance with the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Additionally, departments have been given the flexibility to move their annual conventions all the way out into the fall, giving them time to hopefully rework their conventions so that they can, even if social distancing restrictions are still in place, provide a venue to get the necessary work of their department done.

With all that is going on, we collectively as the League are doing everything we can to push forward, and I thank every member who is making that ongoing effort.

Semper Fi!
Division Website: nedmcl.org

Visit the National website, stay informed

MARINES: What an eventful quarter we have endured. The Northwest Division has had to adapt to quite a different environment with the coronavirus situation. I would like to thank all the Department and Detachment Commandants for their creative solutions to a unique problem and everyone’s willingness to be flexible throughout this unique time in our country. Memorial Day was a different experience with some of the restrictions in place. I am glad we did not forget to remember our fallen comrades, even though, for some of us, Memorial Day was commemorated in a more private manner. This is a reminder to all that the latest Marine Corps League information is available on the National website (mclnational.org). The site is password-protected and your Department Commandant has the password for all members.

National Headquarters is also busy loading email addresses into the National Database. It also has been a different time for all the National Officers. We are holding telecom- and WebEx-type meetings addressing concerns and potential solutions that will make our League as strong as ever.

As Marines we have always been required to adapt and overcome any situation that may be placed upon us, and this time it is no different. I have great confidence that our League will come through this situation stronger and be better in the long run. I am aware of many of our detachments reaching out to our fellow Brothers and Sisters in this time of need. I think this has been a great time to reconnect with fellow Marines and share some stories. As always, it is important to let our members know we care about them and their families.

Last quarter, I mentioned supporting any new leaders in your detachment. I hope we are all helping any new officers, getting them up to speed, offering advice if needed, and supporting their ideas. Hopefully, in the extremely near future, we will be back to some sort of normalcy. I look forward to visiting all the departments.

Remember to keep an eye out for new members and always take care of our Marines and their families.

Semper Fi!
Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org
An opportune time to clean up your roster

MARINES: It’s difficult to believe all that we have come through as a nation these past few months. As many of us were forced to cancel our detachment meetings, department conventions and Division Conferences, a number of the annual League housekeeping items we normally would have been completing this time of year were suddenly set to one side. We were forced to think outside the box in holding our detachment’s elections and installation of officers. Hopefully, we have all come to appreciate the amazing technology that we carry around in our pockets a little bit more. But even more so, I think we have come to have a much greater appreciation for the camaraderie that we are afforded in our beloved League.

I was very touched to see and hear the many reports of our detachments that took advantage of our lock-down circumstances by setting up phone-trees, reaching out to stay in contact with one another and re-engaging our members who we don’t see at our regular meetings very often. Not only were we able to help meet some of the logistical needs of our Brothers and Sisters who, for health reasons, couldn’t risk leaving their homes, we also had the time to just stop for a moment and listen to each other and gain a better understanding of the mental and spiritual struggles that so many of us are trying to battle on our own. If your detachment didn’t run an “Operation Buddy-Check” during the shelter-in-place order, I would encourage you to start one right now. Call, send a postcard or an email and find out how your members fared through the last few months. Side note: This is also an opportune time to clean up your roster and discover who has changed phone numbers, moved or perhaps unfortunately “moved on” to answer the final roll call. Whatever we do going forward, I firmly believe we need to do a much better job of staying in contact, especially with members who we see very rarely at meetings and events.

As I write this, I, like so many of you, am looking forward to getting back some semblance of normalcy in our daily routines; before we know it, we’ll be packing up and heading down to Daytona Beach, FL, for the National Convention and Supreme Growl. Thoughts of a bunch of Marines on a WestPac Float, getting a 2-day libo chit comes to mind, and I am drawn to say a prayer for the citizens of Daytona Beach.

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

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mcleaguerckymntdiv.org

Improvise, adapt, and overcome … and we did it!

MARINES: “Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome” is a slogan among Marines that was made further popular by Clint Eastwood’s movie, “Heartbreak Ridge.” Marines are taught to be able to overcome any obstacle, which serves them well in the chaos of combat. “Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome” is a mindset that allows Marines to deal with any physical, mental or spiritual hardship.

Starting in February of this year, all of us had to recall and use those skills as a pandemic called COVID-19 spread to almost every nation on our planet. It started to spread wildly at a time when most of our Marine Corps League family usually has conventions and conferences at which we elect officers for the coming year, plan budgets and set plans for our numerous projects to assist Marines and our communities. In most cases, we had to cancel those conferences and conventions that had been planned for over a year and find ways to handle the necessary business of the Marine Corps League, while avoiding close personal contact to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. In some cases, to accomplish this, Bylaws and Administrative Procedures had to be changed at the National, department and detachment levels of the League.

New ways of holding meetings by internet and phone apps were improvised. Our procedures for nominating candidates for offices in the League and holding elections were adapted to modern methods, using more electronic communication that decreased the need for personal contact and reduced the likelihood of spreading this contagious disease. We simply and quickly found ways to overcome the obstacles and challenges that arose with this worldwide pandemic.

Sadly, as I write this column, it is becoming more and more clear that most of the information and advice that we are getting from the news media, from supposed medical experts and, of course, from the politicians concerning this pandemic are severely skewed by extremist politics more than truthful and helpful facts. We are now living in a suddenly changed world, nation and a changing Marine Corps League, so put God and family first, and then always try to do what is best for our League.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: sediv.org

Division Website: mcleaguerckymntdiv.org

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division

Russ Miller

NVC, Southeast Division

Archie H. Sweet
Noticeable improvement in membership numbers

MARINES: As of the submission of this article we are still on lockdown. I hope everyone is practicing good social distancing and staying at home where appropriate. I also hope everyone is staying safe. By the time this issue of *Semper Fi* is printed, we may all be back to some form of normal or on the way to it. All conferences and meetings were cancelled in March, so there is no information to report on these.

On a positive note, there was a noticeable improvement in membership numbers from the March 30 Roster, with some detachments having a large increase. In January 2020, the total membership for the Southern Division was 2,434 members in voting status. March 2020 had an increase to 2,602 total members; that is a positive difference of +168 for a small Division. Keep up the great effort and continue to improve. Keep an eye on your emails; I know there is a lot to take in them, but they are important to the effort to conduct business in the Marine Corps League.

Please continue to check on your members and especially the most vulnerable of us to make sure they are okay and that if they need help, they get it as soon as possible. I am looking forward to the day we can all see each other again.

Take care of each other and yourselves!

*Semper Fi!*
Division Website: southernmcl.org

Member fulfillment starts with detachments

MARINES: I hope this finds you in good health, physical and mental, during these tough months we are experiencing. We should be proud that the whole country, if not the world, has adopted the Marine Corps’ creed: “Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome.”

As you know, we had to cancel the Division Conference in Las Vegas. Hopefully we will have it next year. I hope that the department and detachment elections have been held by now. It has been a very trying experience for all of us. Since we did not have the Division Conference, we will have the election for the Vice Commandant and Assistant Vice Commandant at the National Convention in August.

The dates for Marine West have been published—they are February 11 and 12, 2021, at Camp Pendleton. We will have more information for hotels, etc., as soon as it is available.

I would like each of you to think back to when you joined the Marine Corps League. I am sure that one of the main reasons was the camaraderie of being with other Marines. No one understands Marines like other Marines. In order to get the most enjoyment out of the Marine Corps League, it all starts with the detachments. You should try and have as many detachment functions as possible, such as a monthly breakfast or luncheon to spend quality time together outside of the regular meetings. You might even try a potluck dinner before one of your meetings and include the wives; some of the most successful detachments have active support from members’ spouses.

I will not be running for re-election this year. When Pat and I took office, we knew we had to make some changes. It was very important to get more people involved at the Division level. I feel we are on the right track. I feel very honored to have been your Vice Commandant, and I look forward to seeing you at local, state and National conventions.

*Semper Fi!*
Division Website: mclswdivision.org
Join the Marine Corps Association & Foundation and you’ll receive *Leatherneck*—Magazine of the Marines each month. *Leatherneck* helps connect you with Corps history, those who served with you, and the Marines of today.

Join today at [www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org)
Retired Staff Sergeant, 
League Commandant 
and Cancer Survivor

The Bravery of Bonita Johnson

By Miles Vining | Photography Courtesy Bonita Johnson

Not only is Bonita Johnson a retired Staff Sergeant and a dedicated Marine Corps League officer, but she is also a cancer survivor. Johnson enlisted in 1978 and retired in 2000 as a Staff Sergeant. Thereafter, she went to work in the airline industry in Atlanta, GA, where she also became heavily involved in the local Marine Corps League detachments that became a large part of her life.

**Semper Fi: Where are you originally from?**

**Bonita Johnson:** Originally from Chattanooga, TN, born in 1961. I graduated from high school at the age of 17 and enlisted in 1978. I was initially drawn to the Marine Corps because I wanted a challenge. I heard that the Marines were the hardest branch, so I was naturally drawn to it.

**SF:** So you got what you wanted. What MOS did you pick?

**BJ:** I signed up as Aviation Administration. Went to MOS school in Meridian, MS, for aviation support. The school was an 8-week training program, but I completed it in approximately 3.5 weeks, because you could opt for an accelerated learning program as long as you passed all the required tests. Upon graduation, I was ordered to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, CA. Initially, I ended up as the only PFC in my shop. Finally, after 6 months, I got orders to a squadron, VMA-311, the “Tomcats” flying A-4M Skyhawks. I was there until 1983 when I got orders to Millington, TN, a naval aviation training center. Here I was admin support for the ordnance school.

**SF:** So you got what you wanted. What MOS did you pick?

**BJ:** I got orders to go overseas for a year in September 1990. My husband got orders to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point where he took my son as well. I first went to Futenma Air Base and then I went to Foster. Desert Storm and Desert Shield were brewing on the horizon; around this time I was sent back to Andrews Air Force Base, where I stayed until 1994 where I then got orders to VMFA-451, MCAS Beaufort, SC. I got there in April to find out that we’re deploying in December for 6 months. Things were getting to a head with my husband, and we divorced during this time.

**SF:** Is this is where you finished your last duty station?

**BJ:** After another deployment, and meeting my current husband while at Beaufort, we both got orders to Quantico where I was assigned to HMX-1, the presidential support helicopter unit. I eventually retired as a Staff Sergeant. I was on the list for Gunny, but I put in a request not to be considered for the promotion.

**SF:** Did you enter into the civilian world?

**BJ:** So my son graduated from high school in 2000, and I moved to Atlanta, GA, because of the aviation industry. My son ended up

Please note that this page has been corrected to reflect that Ms. Johnson was ordered to the naval aviation training center in Millington, TN, in 1983.
enlisting in the Air Force, but ended up working for a number of different airlines.

**SF:** How did you get into the Marine Corps League?

**BJ:** This was when I first remember hearing about the Marine Corps League. Initially, I was very confused about their appearance in parades when I first noticed the red uniforms. So, in 2009 I saw an ad in our local paper about a meeting concerning a new Marine Corps League detachment in our area. I visited the meeting, and that was the beginning of my involvement with the Marine Corps League. I started out as a Junior Vice Commandant, went up to be a Senior Vice Commandant. I stepped down when I found out that I had cancer, which I still have today. So around 2011 and 2012, I started going through the necessary cancer treatments with chemotherapy. At around this time, my only son was living with his family in Colorado Springs and was killed in a car wreck.

**SF:** That’s so horrible to hear, and at the same time you started your cancer treatments.

**BJ:** The treatment got even more intense for me as I got back-to-back stem cell transplants that lasted until 2014. This coronavirus lockdown? It’s an old hat for me because my immune system has been compromised for a while. This really affected my whole family because simple visits could turn deadly for me if various family members brought in whatever disease they would have been exposed to out in the world. My grandson had to get stripped down and cleaned every time he came back from school. My husband couldn’t see me for long periods of time because he was a contractor in Louisiana, and he always had some sort of sinus infection going on that could easily kill me. I couldn’t go back to work either because of my immune system.

**SF:** But then this allowed you to focus more on the League activities?

**BJ:** Because of this absence from work, I had more time to concentrate on my Marine Corps League work. When I came back, there were a number of issues with the original MCL charter group that had been founded earlier. We eventually moved to 1196 which was in Griffith, GA. I stayed there until 2017 when I wanted to start a new detachment in this county that I’m in because it has a very high population of Marines and military veterans. There was no representation there whatsoever. At the time, there was another detachment that was about to turn their charter in, and so after some research we figured...
out that we could take that charter instead of starting from scratch. So we did that—rebuilt the detachment and moved it to DeKalb County.

**SF:** What is your connection with that detachment today?

**BJ:** I’m the Commandant of that detachment today, in addition to being on the National Bylaw Committee, the National Legislative Committee and was a Department of Georgia Veterans Support representative.

**SF:** How did you get to be so involved?

**BJ:** This is primarily because I was originally paired up with Richard D. Gore, Sr., as my mentor when he was the National Judge Advocate. He took me under his wing and initially wanted me to become a national officer for the MCL. Very big influence in my life. But once I took over 1188 as the Commandant, I was presented with only six members at the detachment, and all of them were life members. So I had to build that up, first getting to 27 members but then later expanding. Where we are today with over half of our detachment is under 50, and believe it or not, all African-American. I didn’t intend for that at all, it just came about. Right now I think our youngest member is an associate member who is under 30, and our oldest member is over 70 years old.

**SF:** What advice would you give to Marines today? Especially to those who are single parents?

**BJ:** I had a very good support system from all my detachments that I was in. I remember when I was pregnant they treated me like I was dying. Even when I had my son and went back to work, one of the Gunnis in my squadron, his wife, was my babysitter. As a single parent you really have to have a good support system, and that needs to be on the civilian side as well as the military side. Because sometimes the whole squadron is gone, and you can’t really depend on that. So you have to have a child care plan anyways, in case something happens; same as if you are in a regular military relationship, because there were times that we were both deployed. And you have to think about where you want to be stationed. I knew parents that were single parents and wanted to be Drill Instructors. That was almost impossible. For one of them, it pretty much ruined her career. But the support system is the biggest thing, but talk to your NCOs and leadership as well and also to plan for the future when they aren’t active duty anymore. That’s probably the biggest pitfall I see Marines getting into. We see that in the Marine for Life program, where Marines get out and have no idea what to do. I mean, as a prime example, I enlisted when I was 17; I didn’t work with anyone in the real world until I retired as a Staff Sergeant.

**SF:** What would you say to Marines getting out now about the Marine Corps League?

**BJ:** Nowadays, I think the Marine Corps League has a much larger public presence than it did before, so Marines on active duty know about what the League has to offer before they get out and are on their own post-EAS. Build those relationships as well. It can be worse for senior-ranking Marines as well. You can’t be yelling and screaming at people when you get out; that’s not how it works. Even in the Marine Corps League, it is a voluntary organization. You have to know how to finesse people and make people want to do their job, because one day you’ll become a civilian as well. $SF
Once a Marine, Always a Marine

**J.C. Paul Detachment 1448’s Williamsburg Hero**

By Greg Sims, Commandant

Our detachment is named after LCpl Joe Calvin Paul, Medal of Honor (MOH) recipient, who was born and raised in Williamsburg, KY, on the Tennessee border. Upon moving to Kentucky, I noticed a sign along Highway 92 that read: "Joe C. Paul Memorial Highway." I had no idea who this could be or why he was being honored. This was before the Medal of Honor Sign, below the highway sign, had been placed. After Googling his name, I found him to be a local boy, who enlisted in the Marines and was sent to Vietnam. In 1965, he was awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously, for bravery.

Two years later, I was forming a new detachment as the closet one was nearly 2 hours away, and it was time to choose a name. There was no thought on my part as to who our detachment would choose to honor and name ourselves after. The vote was unanimous among the Charter members. I had to research and see

if there were any next of kin, and I found LCpl Paul’s sister, Laura, who lives in Ohio, where Joe had actually enlisted from and is buried. The family moved to Ohio, just before Joe’s 17th birthday. Laura was more than thrilled for us to honor her baby brother in such a way and gave us written permission to use his name.

Once we received our Charter, I contacted our state representative about the above-mentioned highway sign, not having any info as to why Joe C. Paul was being remembered. We got the state Transportation Cabinet to add a sign below it, stating he was a Medal of Honor recipient. A year later, I was speaking with our mayor about Joe and found out that the only mention of a hometown MOH recipient was a small inscription on a monument in front of the old court house, honoring townsfolk who served in various wars. I also found that the cemetery in Ohio named a street in his honor, installed a flagpole at his grave and has a wall telling of his exploits, while Williamsburg, his real hometown, had nothing.

I petitioned the Kentucky State Historical Commission to erect a Historical Marker in town honoring our only MOH recipient, and it was approved. I began a fundraising drive to raise the $3,000 needed to purchase and install the sign. We made our goal within 3 weeks, and the sign is now on order. Shown is an example of the wording with a photo of a similar sign. Joe’s legacy will be remembered for all time. We are planning the unveiling of the Historic sign on August 22, 2020.

Once we received our Charter, I contacted our state representative about the above-mentioned highway sign, not having any info as to why Joe C. Paul was being remembered. We got the state Transportation Cabinet to add a sign below it, stating he was a Medal of Honor recipient. A year later, I was speaking with our mayor about Joe and found out that the only mention of a hometown MOH recipient was a small inscription on a monument in front of the old court house, honoring townsfolk who served in various wars. I also found that the cemetery in Ohio named a street in his honor, installed a flagpole at his grave and has a wall telling of his exploits, while Williamsburg, his real hometown, had nothing.

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Don’t be overwhelmed by change

**MARINES:** Change is a necessary part of life. Without change there would be no life at all. Our lives are actually fueled by change, though most of us want a certain amount of stability. As Isaac Val Ayisi states in his book Changing for the Right Reason, “If you can learn to accept change as a helpful friend rather than something to be avoided, you may experience less stress.”

This is something people, especially Marines, generally do not like, but as Marines we say we adapt and overcome. The current situation in the world is causing a lot of modifications to our individual freedoms, family relationships, our careers and our financial situations.

I remember my grandfather telling me about the good old days, then my father and now me remembering the good old days. Guess what? We all adapted, our lives and our society changed, and there is nothing we could stop or actually wanted to. Look at the technology changes happening every 5 years that impact our lives. How many of you can operate without a smartphone? How we interact with each other, how we do business, our everyday actions have changed enormously from my grandfather’s day. Just in my career, I went from slide rule to computer systems, with artificial intelligence requiring so much information for the decision trees. In decision analysis, a decision tree can be used to visually and explicitly represent decisions and decision-making.

The information that can be processed in nanoseconds is amazing and relied upon for future wars, business forecasts and decisions. Now we have so much information and metrics to look at, that the confusion for many is overwhelming. Yes, sometimes decisions go back to gut feelings, but with all the metrics and information available, that gut feeling is smarter and less risky.

As the League changes, many members are confused and overwhelmed by the pace of change. How many members go to meetings using a horse and wagon? How many members have a one-ring, two-ring, three-ring short/long phone in their homes? How many of us still do things and operate the same way we did as 16-year-olds?

A lot of positive things are happening based on planned changes in technology, business and everyday operational planning. Sometimes we get handed a crisis that requires rapid alterations on the normal operational scenario. We just encountered this and tool-quick responses by our leadership. Life and our organization have changed forever, and we survived. We all have gained new data-points and are smarter about how to handle future risk and crisis. We will become a much better organization.

Semper Fi!
Marines from the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Detachment 524, Carlisle, PA, present an award of appreciation to officers of the Vietnam Veterans Post #1, Carlisle, for their support in relocating the MCL area’s Toys for Tots assets to a new location.

Marines from Homestead Leathernecks Detachment 1430 in Beatrice, NE, built a handicap ramp for a disabled Marine. Pictured: Rick Timmerman, Gale Carel, Bob Oates, Clyde T., Jason Hartig, Larry Parde, Ron Kaputska and Commandant Jeff Salts.

Marine Chet Bennetts was wounded in 2004 in Fallujah, Iraq, while attached to 3rd LAR. On March 3, 2020, former SSgt Chet Bennetts, a member of Gretna Detachment, NE, receives his Purple Heart from Major Seth Chambers (member of the Cornhusker Detachment). Next to them is GySgt Bonnstetter, the current Wounded Warrior Regiment District rep and the Junior Vice Commandant of the Gretna Detachment.

Marines from Jackson C. Harbel Detachment 1323, Fredericksburg, VA, celebrate new Life members. The new Life membership Marines are left to right: Bill Anderson, Sheri Moore, Steve Hansen, Joe Vera, Doc Holladay and Robb Crum. Congratulations. There are now 44 Life members out of the total 95 Marines and Navy Corpsmen in the detachment.

The Jack Maas Detachment 1379, Fredericksburg, VA, celebrated new Life members. The new Life membership Marines are left to right: Bill Anderson, Sheri Moore, Steve Hansen, Joe Vera, Doc Holladay and Robb Crum. Congratulations. There are now 44 Life members out of the total 95 Marines and Navy Corpsmen in the detachment.
Detachment 1459 presented Gold Star Mother Laura Landaker with a donation to the Seven Stars Foundation’s Camp Program. The Seven Stars Foundation was established on February 7, 2007, by Laura Landaker of Big Bear, CA. Laura’s son, 1st Lt Jarod Landaker, and six crew members onboard the USMC CASEVAC helicopter he was co-piloting was shot down over Karmah, Iraq, killing all seven service members onboard. Left to right: Detachment Commandant Jeff Breiten, Gold Star Mother Laura Landaker, Jamie Ramirez, Robert McCray and Arnold Fajardo. For more information: MCLRedlands.org.

From left: Wendell W. Webb; Rear Admiral William E. Chase, III and MSgt Tim Gates at the Fifth Annual Military Ball, hosted by the Washington NJROTC Booster Club. Rear Admiral William E. Chase, III, was the guest speaker.

The Krulak Marine Alliance of Alabama and the Marine Corps League celebrated Col. Carl Cooper’s 100th birthday, March 18, 2020. Col. Cooper is a veteran of WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He volunteered to go to Kuwait-Gulf War, but was turned down due to age.
Cadets from the Marine Military Academy, Harlingen, TX, conduct “Pass and Review” during the 75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima Parade.

Past Jr. Vice Commandant Chuck Katalenas presents the Williamson County, TX, MCL Detachment 1022 Flag at the Iwo Jima 75th Anniversary parade held at the Marine Military Academy, Harlingen, TX.

Members of Detachment 1280, North Georgia Mountains, attend a memorial for Iwo Jima in Towns County, GA.
**ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE**

**ROLL CALL**

**AROUND THE LEAGUE**

White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246 in Surprise, AZ, at their monthly fundraising event.
One MCL detachment has three Commandants; not as unusual as you would think. *Left to right:* Detachment Commandant Volker Heyde, Department of New York, Commandant Thomas Wortmann and National Commandant Dennis Tobin, who all belong to Sgt. Angel Menendez Detachment in Staten Island, NY. Besides the many Commandants this detachment has had since 1946, Tom is the third Department Commandant from this detachment, and Dennis is the First National Commandant, but he may not be the last.

Marine Mike Foley is a member of our detachment, who always plays the Bagpipes at our ceremonies. He is a professional Bagpiper, and we’re certain we are the only detachment that has one. He played at the Military Appreciation Day Ceremony.

SgtMaj Angie Mannas (USMC Ret.) speaking to the membership at the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment 1025 held a 75th Anniversary celebration for three Iwo Jima veterans and MCL members. Front row, from left: Ed Boswell—5th Marine Division/Iwo Jima survivor—was the only member of his platoon to walk off of the Iwo Jima battlefield (the rest were killed or wounded); Martin “Murph” Murphy—5th Marine Division/Iwo Jima—was a loader in the first tank to make it off the beach, arguably the bloodiest Pacific battle of WWII (“Murph” Murphy would see action in six tanks before the battle’s end); Jerry Ingram—4th Marine Division/Iwo Jima—was 15 years old when he joined the Marine Corps and at 17, was a tank commander in combat on Iwo Jima. Back row, left is Max Deweese—2nd Marine Division/Guadalcanal—First landing party Guadalcanal, Color Guard, Kansas City Recruiting Station.

Fox Valley Marine’s Detachment 1233 Golf Classic Annual St. Patrick’s Day Appreciation Luncheon. Thank you to all of our continued sponsors and supporters of the Golf Classic.

Jeff Jones did some shopping on Ebay and purchased two shoulder patches. When the envelope arrived, it also contained all of these Supreme Growl patches and Mad Dog patch from Pound #236. Very nice surprise. They are all in “New” condition.
Once a Marine, Always a Marine

Roll Call

Around the League

The MCL, MCLA and guests sing the National Anthem at the opening of Joint Ceremony of the 2020 National Mid-Winter Conference.

National Public Relation Member Victoria McCoy getting set up for live-streaming.

MCLA members waiting for joint opening ceremony to begin.

MCLA members PDP of PA Teena Foster and Pat Engel.

2019 National Marine of the Year Lisa Solarczyk receiving the National Marine of the Year plaque from National Marine of the Year Society President Polly Weidenkopf at the 2020 Mid-Winter Banquet.

National Chaplain Howard Schaeffer and National Asst. Chaplain Leonard Stiepler.

Lisa Solarczyk and MCL National Commander Dennis Tobin with Star Girl.
March 29, 2020, is National Vietnam War Veterans Day and marks 45 years since the end of the Vietnam War. A few veterans and family gathered in the rain at the Connecticut state Vietnam War Memorial in Coventry to pay respect and salute those who served. (Attendees kept their safe distance!)

Above, Peter DePaola from American Legion Post 52 and MCL Detachment 40 acted as the moderator for the brief ceremony. Below, veterans, Pastor David Nutt, who offered a prayer for our Vietnam veterans, and State Representative Tim Ackert and State Senator Dan Champagne offered their respects and comments to the small group. National Vietnam War Veterans Day honors the men and women who served and sacrificed during the longest conflict in U.S. history.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Jim Fulks and Nancy Burtron of Townsend Detachment 920, Montgomery, AL, presenting Col. Carl Cooper of Birmingham, AL, a cake and presents to celebrate his 100th birthday. The Colonel is a Marine veteran of three wars in almost 40 years of service to the Marine Corps.

MCL Associate member Alison Hunt Noger from the Department of Maryland sporting a face mask.

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 semperi@chipotlepublishing.com. Photos must not be more than 11MB 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.
Working Toward a Patriotic America

MCL and Boy Scouts of America Join Forces in New Plan

By Rich Walsh

The Marine Corps League (MCL) and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have agreed to initiate a plan of mutual support to foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism among America’s youth. The BSA will encourage Councils to expand their involvement of support for causes specific to the MCL and our nation’s veterans at large. The MCL will encourage and expand its involvement of detachments in support of BSA programs toward our mutual goals for a better and more patriotic America.

The MCL believes strongly that our youth are our future and that it is our responsibility to prepare them for that future. The MCL is excited about formalizing and strengthening its relationship with the BSA and the future opportunities for them to work together to support America’s youth and veterans!

That sounds great, but what does that really mean?

The MCL has been involved with the BSA for many years with departments and detachments presenting new Eagle Scouts with a Good Citizenship Award. One or more MCL members will wear their uniforms and present this award to the new Eagle Scout at his Eagle Court of Honor. We are hoping to build on this foundation and grow it with the detachments that have not yet participated in this program.

Another objective is to have detachments get involved with the local BSA District and units to have direct contact with the youth, demonstrating the importance of volunteerism and exposing the youth to the Marine Corps as a whole. These youth exemplify what the Marine Corps is looking for in potential recruits. This will also allow the MCL to better focus BSA service and Eagle projects to the benefit of current MCL, military and veterans’ causes, again enhancing our reputation as not only a leader in veterans’ issues but also an organization that accomplishes tangible benefits to the local Marine and veteran community.

We are hoping to recruit our younger Marine veterans who have Scout-age children into the MCL so they can support Scouts and the MCL at the same time. The BSA Community Organization Award is designed to recognize MCL members (including associate members) who are actively involved in the Scouting program. The award is meant to recognize the dedication and work required by an MCL member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in the MCL.

For detachments wishing to participate, we recommend appointing a Scout Coordinator who will work with the local Scouting organization(s) toward focusing the BSA project efforts to the benefit of the MCL and veterans’ issues/needs as much as possible. The National Scout Committee will work with participating detachments and departments to ensure that the appointed officers are properly trained and knowledgeable of the program.

Simply put, our goals for formally aligning with the BSA are to allow the MCL to add another avenue to better support causes specific to our Marine brothers and sisters (active and veteran), to actively engage with American youth and to enhance our national profile and reputation.

Please contact the National Scout Committee to learn more about this program (see scouting.org or mclnational.org/marine-corps-league-programs.html).
BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA

Moving Forward after War

Marine Corps League Member Mark Treanor provides a riveting depiction of a young Marine’s experience in Vietnam followed by the challenge of returning home in *A Quiet Cadence*. This Marine rifle platoon leader’s description of the novel’s characters and traumatic experiences felt in physical battle and in mental recovery at home are very touching. The healing process for the mind takes far longer than the body. One of the most impactful statements is that when his father offered to listen about his experiences, he did not want to talk (page 241).

The writer’s story of battle may be like others, but the post-war experiences and how the dark times are handled are each unique and descriptive. Treanor provides a look into how a veteran has kept moving forward despite the dark places. The struggle with post-traumatic stress continues through life, and the hope is that we are all able to eventually find peace. The quiet cadence resounds in our minds as we figure out how to keep moving forward with one foot in front of the other. Semper Fidelis, Brother. $F

A Career of Memories

Marine Corps League Member Jim Bathurst Col/USMC (Ret.) provides an eloquent look into the life of a Marine’s 35-plus years of service. *We’ll All Die As Marines: One Marine’s Journey from Private to Colonel* is a memoir that provides great insight for those who have not worn the cloth of the Marine Corps, with well-crafted descriptions of a variety of military terms and circumstances. The reader who has lived the life of a Marine will find a trip of strong memories and reminders of things and places forgotten. One of the most touching lines in the book for this reviewer is, “...Mom, it’s your son, I’m coming home” (page 222).

The writer provides well-flowing text and outstanding transitions from one topic to the next. The book is an easy read and formatted proficiently. $F

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
Wearing of lapel pins, name tags and ribbons

MARINES: Let’s start with lapel pins. Enclosure 3 Sect. VIII explains what pins can be worn—where and when those pins are worn. Enclosure 3 can be found in the Administrative Procedures section of the National Bylaws listed on the National website, pages 137–150. (You do not have to download the entire Administrative Procedures manual. It would be a good idea if every Commandant had a copy and to distribute copies to all members.)

One of the biggest problems I find is that members do not follow the guidelines in Enclosure 3, when wearing the Red Blazer. Lapel pins are only worn on the left collar of the blazer and, as written, only two (2) can be worn at a time.

We do not wear mini medals on the Red Blazer unless it is being worn as an option to the Mess Dress Uniform. At no time do you wear a name tag on the Red Blazer. There should be no pins, badges or name tags worn on the right side of the blazer.

When wearing your mini medals, place them centered over the left breast pocket, centered on the pocket. NOTE: At this time, Sect. II Part (C) explains where and how to wear the medals. I will be submitting a change to the Bylaws to explain how to wear them in a more understandable manner. Please follow the mounting instructions in Enclosure 3 when displaying your medals.

Please also review Sect. VII of Enclosure 3 Marine Corps League Crest for the proper style and size of the crest that can be worn.

I have been seeing a lot of pictures on the web and ones that members are sending to Semper Fi for the Roll Call pages in which our members are wearing the long-sleeve/short-sleeve airline-pilot-style shirts with MCL sunburst emblems on the shirts. When wearing the Red Blazer you wear a PLAIN white shirt and a PLAIN black tie and the approved tie bar.

I hope everyone is doing well with what is happening to all of us around the country. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in Daytona in August.

Semper Fi!
ALABAMA
ALICE BENNETT
WILLIAM H. HOOKER
W. YOUNG JOHNSTON
GRADY JONES
MALCOLM W. LONG
KENNETH T. TAYLOR

ARIZONA
LEO ARSENAULT
ERVIN L. BOREN
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LONNIE G. HARRIS
ROBERT LOFTUS
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SHARON L. WALKER
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KOPROWSKI
LEON “BUD” LEDSON
ERVIN LOWE
ROY E. LUDDEN
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RICHARD E. OLY
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ROGER R. TALLEY
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LANCE CPL CAITLIN BEVEL/USMC
TAPS
Death Notification Policy

Headquarters Marine Corps League receives frequent calls regarding the passing away of members. Calls vary from loved ones who wish to stop the magazine delivery to detachment members looking to help. The policy has been that detachment chaplains fill out, sign and submit a death notification form to their respective department chaplains who then forward it on to Headquarters’ membership department. This policy has not changed but will be better adhered-to in the future. It is the only way a person’s name will appear in the TAPS section of Semper Fi magazine.
REUNIONS

Marine Corps Cryptologic Association

**Special Notice:** Marine Corps Cryptologic Association Reunion on September 7-10, 2020, at the Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV, has been **rescheduled to September 6-10, 2021.** Please contact Edgar Kitt at 702-454-1646 or email edgarkitt@earthlink.net to resolve any refund issues or for more information.

Marine Corps Engineer Association


TBS Class 6-70 Fox Co.

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

Marine Corps League Event Calendar

**2020**

Modern Day Marine Expo
September 22-24
MCB Quantico, VA
mclnational.org/marinemilitary expos.com

**2021**

Mid-Winter Conference
February 25-27
Norfolk, VA
mclnational.org

Mideast Division Conference
April 16-18
Rehoboth Beach, DE
mclnational.org

National Convention
August 8-14
Springfield, IL
mclnational.org

**2022**

Mid-Winter Conference
February 24-26
Norfolk, VA
mclnational.org

The Marines’ Hymn: The Sound of Courage

Many of us know at least some of the words to the toe-tapping tune: From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli ... yet what do they mean? To members of the USMC, the Marines’ Hymn, officially adopted nearly a century ago in 1929, means everything. Its powerful words and ideals recall the history, pride, and commitment of the USMC as they boldly faced menace and mayhem around the globe. Now The Bradford Exchange Mint honors the enduring Semper Fi spirit of the USMC and the song that inspires us all, with the exclusive Halls of Montezuma USMC Proof.

Officially licensed by the USMC, this all-new Proof is richly plated in 24K gold for enduring value. On the reverse, full-color printing recaptures the 1847 battle of Chapultepec referred to in the song as “the Halls of Montezuma.” This Mexican War fight was so fierce Marine officers and noncommissioned officers still wear scarlet “blood stripes” on their blue dress trousers in remembrance. The obverse portrays Marines at the famed Iwo Jima flag-raising during World War II, plus the Marine emblem and the motto Semper Fidelis. Created with Proof-quality coining dies, it arrives preserved in a crystal-clear capsule. Don’t miss this chance to acquire this striking tribute as well as future issues in The Marines’ Hymn USMC Proof Collection.

Availability is very limited. Satisfaction Guaranteed

Order now and The Halls of Montezuma USMC Proof can be yours at the $39.99*, issue price, payable in two installments of $19.98 each, plus a total of $4.95 shipping and service. You need send no money now, and you will be billed with shipment. Your purchase is backed by our unconditional, 365-day guarantee and you may cancel at any time simply by notifying us. Supplies are very limited, so don’t risk missing out. Just return the coupon today.

Exclusive Commemorative 24K Gold-Plated Proof
OFFICIALLY LICENSED BY THE U.S. MARINE CORPS

The Bradford Exchange Mint
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Please accept my order for The Halls of Montezuma USMC Proof for me as described in this announcement.

Limit: one per order.

Send NO Money Now

Please respond promptly

Key Details

EXCLUSIVE RELEASE:
New Proof salutes the courage and commitment of the USMC from the Revolutionary War to today inspired by the powerful words and ideals of the famous Marines’ Hymn.

OFFICIALLY LICENSED:
Officially licensed by the USMC, this exclusive commemorative is offered in coveted Proof condition. Richly plated in 24K gold, it depicts Marines in action at “the Halls of Montezuma” as well as the Iwo Jima flag-raising.

LIMITED AVAILABILITY:
Issued to honor the “Few” and the “Proud,” editions are strictly limited. Due to the extremely low quantity available, only the earliest applicants will be able to successfully secure this superb Proof tribute.

SECURED AND PROTECTED:
Your superb Proof commemorative arrives sealed in a heirloom protector in a crystal-clear capsule.

The USMC Golden Proof Coin Collection
With the opportunity,
Order now and you’ll also receive a deluxe wooden display — FREE! You may cancel at any time.

Disclaimer: Design subject to change. This fine collectible is not legal tender and bears no monetary face value. Shown larger than actual size of 38.6mm.
The Semper Fi Store

(703) 207-9588  www.mclnational.org/store

Bow Ties
Item Code: U29; U47
Price: $6.00
Description: U29 Banded Black Bow Tie; U47 Clip-on Black Bow Tie

Cummerbund
Item Code: U27
Price: $29.00
Description: Cummerbund, Pleated Gold Adjustable

Keychain
Item Code: MCL Keychain
Price: $3.00
Description: Silver Keychain with MCL

Ornaments
Item Code: Orn2017
Price: $5.00
Description: Red MCL Holiday Ball Ornament

Ornaments
Item Code: Orn2020A (Circle); Orn2020B (Star)
Price: $20.00
Description: New Circle and Star Ornaments with USMC Logo

Studs
Item Code: U35
Price: $20.00
Description: T-Shirt Studs Gold Set of 3

Collar Ornaments
Item Code: U14C
Price: $11.00
Description: Collar Ornaments with Screw-Backs
Zippo
Item Code: GFT 3
Price: $25.00
Description: Green Zippo with MCL Logo

Cufflinks
Item Code: U36A; U36B
Price: $11.50
Description: U36A Cuff Links Gold EGA on Gold, above,
U36B Cuff Links Silver EGA on Gold, below

Fidget Spinner
Item Code: Gft1
Price: $8.00
Description: Red Fidget Spinner with MCL Logo

Bookmark
Item Code: Gft4
Price: $10.00
Description: Gold Ornament/Bookmark "The Marines' Hymn" Engraved

Mug
Item Code: Cup1
Price: $5.00
Description: MCL Insulated Coffee Mug

Lanyard
Item Code: MCL Lanyard
Price: $5.00
Description: Red MCL Lanyard
# ORDER FORM

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**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

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### Billing Address
- Name
- Street
- City  State  Zip Code

### Email

### Order Information

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### Handling & Postage

- **6.0% VA SALES TAX**
- **VIRGINIA RESIDENTS ONLY**

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**Internal MCL Use Only**

**DATE**

**INITIAL**
In 2020, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (miltours.com) will again offer the battlefield tour of a lifetime to two lucky League members as the grand prizes in the League’s 97th Anniversary Tour Raffle.

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

- **1–10 Aug**
  Guadalcanal WWII 77th Anniversary of Operation Watchtower
- **16–29 Aug**
  Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague
- **24 Aug–3 Sep**
  The Sergeant Majors Return to I-Corps—SgtMaj Overstreet 12th SMMC
- **8–20 Sep**
- **29 Sep–10 Oct**
  Southern Italy & Sicily: Rome-Salerno-Palermo-Taormina-Amalfi-Sorrento
- **4–10 Nov**
  MHT Civil War “Lee Moves North:” Gettysburg & Antietam
- **28 Nov–9 Dec**
  Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 9-14 Dec Laos & Cambodia

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.
You need not be present to win. Winner will be notified within three days of drawing if not present, and arrangements will be made for coordination with Military Historical Tours for selection of tour prize.
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 Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon, authorized for FMF Corpsmen; or have served or 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.

Date of Birth _______ / ______ / ______ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _______ / ______ / ______ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation _______ / ______ / ______

Phone __________________ Email Address __________________________

Street Address ____________________________ City________ State ______ Zip _______

Full Name ________________________________

(Sponsor where applicable) Sponsor’s Signature ___________________________________________________________________________
Amount _____________________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Signature (see reverse side) __________________________________________________________________________

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Full Name ________________________________
Street Address ____________________________ City________ State ______ Zip _______
Phone __________________ Email Address __________________________

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Street Address ____________________________ City________ State ______ Zip _______

Full Name ________________________________

(Sponsor where applicable) Sponsor’s Signature ___________________________________________________________________________
Amount _____________________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Signature (see reverse side) __________________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

Date of Birth _______ / ______ / ______ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _______ / ______ / ______ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation _______ / ______ / ______

Phone __________________ Email Address __________________________

Street Address ____________________________ City________ State ______ Zip _______

Full Name ________________________________

(Sponsor where applicable) Sponsor’s Signature ___________________________________________________________________________
Amount _____________________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Signature (see reverse side) __________________________________________________________________________

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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 _____________________________________________

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