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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



The Quest for the Extraordinary

With Christina Hadwin Zuniga

Cpl. Manuel Percoff
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⋮ Helping Homeless Veterans

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- Our Country
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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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CORRECTION & CLARIFICATION

In a previous issue of *Semper Fi*, a caption on page 11 misspelled one of the names on a Beirut bombing memorial. *Cpl MeDot Camara* should have been *Cpl MeCot Camara*.

On page 15, the article *The Donation that Brought Us Together* was written by Randy Ott of the Melvin M. Smith Detachment #586.



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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

JOHNNY B. BAKER

Social Media is Here to Stay!



MARINES: Social media is our new way of life. Accept it! Love it or hate it, social media has become a tremendous asset in our daily lives as well as the daily operation of the Marine Corps League. Using e-mail, the world-wide-web, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and all the other social media resources, our League is highly dependent upon it to keep our membership informed and engaged. It is extremely important resource that the local Detachments and Departments must embrace to survive in today's electronic world.

The League uses e-mails daily to pass information that the Detachments need to ensure they have the latest information for their Detachment. Our National headquarters sends many relevant e-mails. These e-mails are sent to each Department Commandant, and they are responsible to forwarding the information to the Detachment Commandants. The Detachment Commandant should forward to all Detachment members. Some of these e-mails may not be relevant to some, but we must ensure that all members see these e-mails.

The world-wide-web is a resource where the Detachment can obtain all the MCL forms, bylaws, policies, and general information concerning the League. The National website has all the resources needed. Many Detachments are still unaware how to get into it and they really do not know what is available for them. It is password protected, but that password should be available from any Department or Detachment officer. It is imperative that all members are aware of the National website and the information that it provides.

One of our major social media resources is Facebook. We have several different Facebook groups that provide information, interaction with other members, and it keeps us all connected socially. Our main Facebook page is "The Marine Corps League." This is the official Facebook page and is moderated by the MCL Public Relations Committee. We also have "Marine Corp League Connections," "MCL Uniforms Buy-Sell-Trade," as well as the "MCL Membership" group. All of these are available to every member of the League. We hope that you are using them.

Once a month, the Public Relations Committee hosts a "Commandant's Corner" using Zoom. It is available to all members, but we are limited by the application itself to 100 members at one time. We usually have anywhere from 30 to 60 on each month. It is all about swapping ideas that works or does not work in your Detachments. You can be on your computer or call in from your telephone. We advertise these Zoom calls on the The Marine Corps League Facebook page. The National Officers are on the call, but the discussions are moderated by Victoria McCoy and the subject that is discussed is driven by you.

I hope these resources spike your interest in using our National website with all its resources, using the different Facebook pages and groups in connecting with other members, and joining the National Commandant on the Commandant's Corner to talk about any topics the callers want to discuss. As an organization that wants to move forward, we must get connected and communicate with each other. It is what Marines do!

Semper Fi!



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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

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Modern Day Marine Exposition Enters a New Era



MARINES: The Marine Corps League and its Co-Host, the Marine Corps Association, are proud to bring the new Modern Day Marine Exposition in Washington, D.C. Modern Day Marine has moved to May 10-12 in 2022 and will be located in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. This climate-controlled environment will prove to be less muddy and offer a spacious experience to attendees. Over 300 exhibitors will feature the latest in military products and services. Our three-day schedule will be packed with interesting presentations and educational content. Please come out to this service-level event. We are welcoming Marine Corps League volunteers, coordinated by our Expositions Committee and National Senior Vice Commandant Warren Griffin.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL PR COMMITTEE

VICTORIA McCOY

Get Everyone Involved

MARINES: We all know that the Marine Corps League has multiple ways for our membership to become involved. The *Semper Fi* magazine pushed out to all members and social media posts seen across the many MCL Facebook pages show Detachments in action honoring our fallen, remembering significant moments in our Nation's history, presenting our nation's colors, supporting JROTC, Young Marines, and Boy Scouts of

America, visiting one another in a time of need, and so much more! Each of these examples bring us together as we embrace each event with emotions ranging from pride, sorrow, gratefulness, and unity. This sense of camaraderie motivates many to become more active within the MCL. The MCL National Public Relations Committee (NPRC) wants to further encourage Detachments and Departments to consider creating safe, competitive, and fun-filled events that promote opportunities for laughter, competition, networking, and engagement. Marines love competition, no matter the challenge!

Recently, at the MCL National Mid-Winter Conference, the NPRC created an MCL Trivia Night followed by an impromptu talent show. The trivia night involved all attendees, members, family, and friends competing as teams while answering challenging trivia questions about many topics associated with the MCL. Much laughter ensued as the teams struggled together to be the first to respond with the correct answers and win. Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all who supported the event. Additionally, our organization has so many diverse talents, it was nice to showcase a few of them during the impromptu talent night

Continued Next Page



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

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PR COMMITTEE

From Previous Page

that followed the trivia contest. Again, much laughter was prompted by the unexpected talents uncovered among our attendees! Congratulations to all that worked together to make both events happen for the enjoyment of our family, friends, and members in attendance!

The list of possible activities is only limited by your imagination. Here are just a few to get the thoughts flowing: shooting competitions, karaoke challenges, game nights, photo competitions, cooking competitions, scavenger hunts, trash collection competitions, and so many more! Use your social media presence to promote your activities to the outside world; think prospective members. Consider your social media pages as a billboard for your detachment's activities.

Don't be afraid to introduce new ways of coming together

with your membership for safe, competitive, and fun filled events that enable communication, camaraderie, and fellowship; motivate members to work together towards a common goals and unit cohesion; allow the team to be creative in their strategy to win or do some problem solving together. A reminder to always be cognizant of including everyone and working around any possible physical limitation in a safe way. Let's continue developing life-long relationships and increasing our level of comfort with one another! Remember, the MCL was created by a bunch of WWI veterans that missed the camaraderie of the Corps. Their foresight brought the organization that we have today. Strive to engage your MCL members and prospective members in a way to strengthen the MCL.

Semper Fi!



Victoria McCoy donated her equipment and personal time to provide music, fun, and lots of laughter! Many thanks for all that you do! Aloha from the MCL Department of PA! Let the festivities begin!



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 REF: (a) Article 3, National MCL Bylaws.
 (b) Chapter 2, Administrative Procedures, Sect 2020 (b) — Registration

Registration to the National Convention shall be \$6.00. Advance registration fees shall be \$5.00 provided that such fee, accompanied by properly executed Official Credential form, is received at National Headquarters not later than fifteen (15) days prior to opening date of the National Convention.

DEL	ALT	ASSOC MBR	DUAL MBR	GUEST	NAME(S) <i>Include any Nat'l and Dept Officers in your detachment who are attending</i>	6 Digit Membership Number (NOT PLM #)	ATTENDING Yes / No	FIRST TIMER yes / No

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Cpl. Manuel Percoff, Lost, But Not Forgotten

By David Parkman

A friend of MCL Detachment 1312 in Carrollton, GA enjoys seeing what might be found in various yard sales in the area. Earlier this year, he journeyed to one such sale in a nearby Alabama town.

He was surprised to find a U.S. flag in the wooden encasement along with several medals, including a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He asked the gentleman running the sale how he obtained it and what he knew about it. On the back of the case was typed information indicating that it was awarded to a World War II

Marine by the name of Corporal Manuel Percoff who he believed died during the '70s. He did not recall who got it to him.

The shopper asked how much he wanted for it and was told he'd take \$10. The shopper told him he'd like to try to find a family member somewhere and return it to the family. He told the seller that if he couldn't locate a family member, he would like to present it to Detachment 1312 of the Marine Corps League so that it might be placed in their meeting room in the Carroll County veterans building. When hearing this, the seller generously

told him to take the item at no cost.

Then, Ronnie Pate, Commander of American Legion Post 143, and also a member of Detachment 1312, heard about this and was eager to accept it and presented it to Commandant Ron Sutherland. Many hours were spent by several people researching documents in an effort to locate a relative of Percoff's, but it was to no avail.

The detachment then built a new case for the flag and purchased new ribbons to enclose with the flag. It now hangs in a place of honor in 1312's meeting room. **SIF**

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1063 PFC Leonard Foster Mason Detachment

Detachment 1063 of the Marine Corps League in Lima, Ohio is named for Leonard Foster Mason who, although born in Middleboro Kentucky in 1920, spent his teenage years and young adulthood in Lima. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942, was later married, and became the father of one son. In the summer of 1944, he was the BAR rifleman for his squad in the second battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division.

On July 22, 1944 his platoon landed on the Asan Adel up beachhead on the island of Guam and was pinned down by a Japanese machine gun emplacement. PFC Mason, on his own initiative, left his position, flanked the machine gun emplacement and, although grievously wounded, eliminated the enemy position and returned to his platoon to report. He was then evacuated to a destroyer off-shore where he died two days later. He was buried at sea.

In May 1945 his mother received in the mail the Medal of Honor that was

awarded for his valor. On January 6, 1946, the U.S. Navy launched the USS Leonard F. Mason, DD 852. Present were Leonard's parents Hillary and Mollie Mason and Leonard's four-year-old son Larry. The USS Mason was in service for twenty five years and in 1966 recovered a returning Gemini astronaut named Neil Armstrong.

In October 1998 Detachment 1063 was chartered in Lima, Ohio. At that first meeting, the Medal of Honor awarded for PFC Mason's valor was put on display by his son Larry Mason. In April, 2011 Larry donated the medal to the Allen County Historical Society. It remains on display at the Allen County Museum in Lima, Ohio.

In October 2017 Detachment 1063 put all hands on deck at Memorial Park Cemetery in Allen County to memorialize the death of their namesake at the gravesites of his parents who had died in 1957 and 1990 respectively. A memorial plaque to their son was added to their grave markers which reads:



IN MEMORY OF
 LEONARD FOSTER MASON
 MEDAL OF HONOR
 PFC US MARINE CORPS WWII PH
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 LOVING SON SIF

NAMED IN HONOR OF



Jack Maas Detachment 1379

The Jack Maas Detachment 1379, Fredericksburg, Virginia, was formed in June 2011 and chartered by the Marine Corps League on July 23, 2011. The Detachment meets on the third Saturday of the month at the Moose Family Center 1655, 11917 Cherry Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 starting at 1000 hours.

We appreciate the opportunity to honor our detachment namesake on the 100th anniversary of his birth. The Detachment is named after the late Colonel John (Jack) B. Maas Jr., U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), a WWII and Korean War ace. The Detachment is extremely

grateful to the Maas family for their permission to name the Detachment after Colonel Maas and for their very generous financial support.

Born on May 19, 1920, Colonel Maas entered the Marine Corps through the V-5 program and attended flight school at NAS Pensacola. Designated Naval Aviator 11015 and commissioned a second lieutenant USMCR on 9 Jan 1942. He was credited with 4 aerial victories with VMF 112 at Guadalcanal and with 1.5 at Okinawa in 1945. Several command and staff assignments occurred during and following WWII and Korea. Colonel Maas retired on 28 June 1968

at Norfolk, VA.

Colonel Maas' personal decorations include three awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star with Combat V, and eight single mission awards of the Air Medal.

Post-retirement, Colonel Maas managed Shannon Airport in Fredericksburg, VA from 1968 to 1977 and served as executive director of the Marine Corps Aviation Association from 1977 to 1987.

Colonel Maas died on 7 Aug 2005 and is buried at Quantico National Cemetery. Natalie Maas died in 2012 and lies at rest next to her husband. *SIF*

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Honoring the Fallen

Commandant Lisa Folstad, of the Red River Raiders Detachment 1453, Fargo, ND, presented an American flag to Nikki Johnson, sister of unclaimed Navy veteran Brian Johnston buried with honors in the Fargo VA National Cemetery. Commandant Folstad used social media to locate Nikki to present the nation's thanks. Commandant Folstad has since located relatives of three deceased unclaimed veterans.



Be My Valentine

Department of Pennsylvania Commandant Dave Brady, MCL and PNP Ruth Mouse, MCLA. Thank you, Glenwood Elementary School, for creating these Valentines for our veteran community.



CHIEF DEVIL DOG**THOMAS W. HAZLETT, 59TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG****MODDKENNEL.ORG****Remember: One Dog, One Vote**

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

- From the
MODD Handbook

MARINES: Woof, Woof Mighty Dogs of the Order! I hope you are all doing well, avoiding the newest version of the COVID virus, and staying warm. I must say that it has only been winter for a month and I'm already ready for spring to arrive. Never have I seen such a bad storm that hit us just two weeks ago. 18 inches of snow, trees down, power outages for a week, no cable, no internet service. Wait, that means, for the first time since becoming your CDD, that I have had little-to-no communication with the rest of the world. Actually, it was miserable, and I hope all of the residents of Virginia have had their power restored and that they are staying safe and healthy.

I hope many of you have decided to attend the Mid-Winter MCL conference and the Mini-Growl that will take place on Friday evening. I will be conducting another Zoom meeting with the MODD staff to get some very important information from the members of the staff. Some of the information pertains to membership renewals, or should I say the lack of membership renewals, and the status of our Pounds and Packs.

Dogs, it is not looking good for some of our Packs, several of our Packs have Pounds that are not in good standing due to 990's not being submitted, state requirements not being met, and they have not held the required number of Growls to stay in good standing. I stated two years ago, when we were faced with the initial COVID virus, that arrangements could be made to conduct phone conference Growls or even better, Zoom Growls, which some of you have done an excellent job conducting them. I want to caution you that it's not a permanent solution and that you need to have regular Growls, when able. Many of our Packs and Pounds have not held Growls for two years now and all that is going to do is get them closed.

Please be cautious in conducting your Growls; you still must have enough attendees to meet our by-law requirements. Some of our Pounds and Packs have more stringent requirements than the Kennel by-laws state within their own by-laws and they must be met to have a quorum. The best thing to do is get back having Growls in Growl Assembly and stop making excuses on why you are not having them. I do understand the COVID concerns, but many of you are still

using COVID as an excuse. If you can meet at your clubs and enjoy some adult beverages and food, then you are also able to conduct Growls.

I also need to remind you that a Dog has one vote, you do not have three votes because you hold three positions. If you are counting your attendance based on what positions are represented, then you are doing it wrong. One vote for each Dog present has been our rule, so please understand that if you have four Dogs present and each has two or three positions, you do not have eight or 12 Dogs in attendance; you have four, and that means you are not meeting the minimum numbers of members in attendance to have a quorum. This has resulted in illegal elections and failure to meet the minimum number of Growls required. If you are doing this, you need to change your practices or you will lose your status as a Pound or Pack. Some of our Divisions are also in trouble of losing your division status. This would be a horrible mistake. The solution to avoid this is get with the program and start conducting business/fun as required.

I would like to thank the many Pounds, Packs and Divisions that have invited me to attend their functions. My schedule is booked solid with invitations to Growls starting in March and going through August. I try to attend new Pound and Pack Growls so I can get the pleasure of seeing how Growls are being conducted. I know I will be visiting Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Ohio, New Jersey, Arkansas, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, North Carolina, and possibly squeeze in a few more areas if there is time to do so. I very much appreciate every invitation, and if I cannot attend it is still a greatly appreciated Invitation.

Please stay safe, stay warm and please get active if you are not already doing so. Please remember your veterans and visit them if possible. It really means the world to them for another veteran to stop in and just talk with them. Please keep our deployed troops in your thoughts and prayers, especially those serving in harm's way. Be safe, stay well and God bless you all. Thank you so much for what many of you continue to do for our League and Order. Remember, "If you Keep it Fun, They Will Come!" I hope to see many of you in a couple of weeks in Norfolk.

Semper Woof!



NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY

EVELYN JOPPA

NATIONALMCLA.ORG

Success Is Built on the Dreams of Those Who Serve Others



MARINES AND AUXILIARY LADIES: We continue to move forward as our organization continues to work together remembering the differences in objectives and goals. The challenges before us today are different, but no less great than years past. The words adapt and overcome are still valid.

Please attend local, department, division and national meetings as time and finances allow. Your individual input is important. The upkeep of our records at the National Office is dependent on members reporting the changes of address, email, and phone numbers. Please report these changes to the unit treasurer right away. This allows the office to give correct information to the chain of command.

Our members are loyal. We must strive to give each one of our members a reason to stay active and involved. Help offered must be accepted and given direction. It is particularly shocking to members when they want to help and are told "we got this." These words convey the feeling you don't need

them. Be sure and follow up with, "I have a project you can help with let me give you the details, it might just be the job for you and would certainly be helpful for us!" Mentor always!

We are blessed by many Auxiliary units who work in their communities to educate the future leaders of this great nation. Striving to impress upon our youth the value of the sacrifices made by our service men and women and thanking them for their efforts to preserve our freedom. These units shine and deserve to be recognized.

One project sponsored by the Edson Kline VanSlyke Unit was "Project High Five for Veterans!" The pictures displayed show just a portion of the work done by the youth with the direction of the Auxiliary. An amazing job, and it certainly warmed the hearts of veterans benefitting from this project. What is your unit doing and what can you do to make your unit grow and flourish? A unit that speaks of value elicits the response "I want to join your efforts."

Semper Fi!



Brandt & James LaPouttre, Alayna & Lola Boyd.

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National Sr. VP

Linda Chamberlain

National Jr. VP

Dotty Sanning

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Southwest Division

No Division Vice

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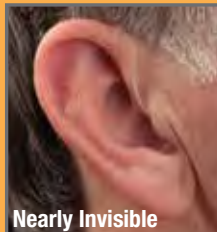
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PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION

HOWARD C. SCHAEFFER

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ATTENTION ON DECK!!!! Your MCL Foundation needs YOU!!!!

MARINES: Your Foundation supports Marines and their families, America's youth and those recovering from National Disasters. Just like the hymn says, as Marines "we have fought in every clime and place," your Foundation can be found helping wherever a Marine is in need.

If there is a Marine or a Marine's family in need, we are there to help with the Humanitarian Relief Program.

If there is a Marine or a Marine's family that has been affected by a natural disaster, we are there to help with the Disaster Relief Program.

Support for higher education is one of the ways your Foundation supports America's youth. The Foundation funds the Marine Corps League National Scholarship as well as the Chesty Puller Scholarship at the Marine Military Academy.

Fighting youth substance addictions should be everyone's priority. Your Foundation supports the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation by sponsoring the top male and female athletes as well as the top male and female teams at the National Youth Physical Fitness Meet held annually. This year the event will be held in Arkansas.

How does your Foundation support these programs? Through donations and support from you.

Through your honorarium, the Memorial Certificate program recognizes the men and women who have supported you, your



Detachment, Department or community through their words, actions, and deeds. Upon request, the Foundation will provide a Memorial Certificate for presentation to the family recognizing the good deeds of their fallen family member.

Collect challenge coins? Coin number six in the series was released at the 2021 National Convention in Springfield, IL. This coin commemorates the

sacrifices made by our Marines in Korea. These coins are numbered, and only 500 were minted. Can't make it to a National Convention to purchase a coin? They can be ordered by mail and shipped to you for a nominal fee.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) so all donations are tax deductible. Your generosity, no matter the amount, is greatly appreciated. For additional information please visit our website at mclfoundation.org Donations can be mailed directly to the Foundation at Marine Corps League Foundation, 2904 Cross Creek Drive, Cummings, GA 30040.

Marines we NEED your SUPPORT now more than ever to continue the programs of your Foundation.

Semper Fi!

YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

YOUNGMARINES.COM

Fully Engaged!

MARINES: Happy New Year Marines! We continue to adapt and overcome in all Young Marines operations, and I am happy to report the majority of units are back operational. We were excited to offer a full range of programs for our youth members last summer and we are tracking for the same this year.

The last few months were right in line with the term "fully engaged." We had tremendous teamwork with MCL Detachments around the country, especially in support of Toys for Tots. We were motivated to be joined by the California Department Commandant Juan Pascacio, Marines from the El Toro Detachment, and other MCL Detachments as we marched in the Hollywood Christmas Parade for Toys for Tots. Over 180 Young Marines and dozens of Adult Volunteers proudly strutted down Hollywood Boulevard.

Then we were off to Hawaii in support of the 80th Anniversary/Remembrance of the attacks on Pearl Harbor. Over 100 Young Marines participated in a memorial service, helped clean the beaches of MCBH Kaneohe Bay, and carried all participant banners and balloon floats for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Parade. What an amazing night! A motivated Commandant Baker, Sgt. Maj. Angela Maness from our board, and several

MCL members carried the Marine Corps balloon with pride down the parade route. If you missed it, there were video and social media posts. We were so honored to have them join us for this, and especially for Commandant Baker to serve as the keynote speaker at our Punchbowl Memorial Service. Over the winter break there were leadership academies in California and Louisiana, and I visited the incredible winter survival camp we hosted here in northern Virginia. We have a full year of events and leadership schools planned across the country. I appreciate your Detachment's support of your Young Marines to attend these events, if able.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work side by side with the League across the country, supporting each other's missions. The synergy between our organizations is a national force for goodness, taking care of those who serve and have served, while securing the future with a new generation of outstanding citizens. 2022 is off to an excellent start and we will embrace every opportunity for success! By publication time, we will have enjoyed being together at the Midwinter in Norfolk, and I predict it was a great time with friends and supporters.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

Make Sure Our Veterans Are Aware of their Benefits

MARINES: As Marine Corps Leaguers, we are aware of how much good we do. Now we need to make our new Marine veterans aware of us. As many Marines make that transition back into their civilian life, we need to inform them we are here to assist them. Two sad comments that I hear are, one, "I didn't know about the Marine Corps League", and two, "I didn't know I was entitled to that."

Each of our states provide benefits for Veterans. These benefits are unique to each state. Some states value the sacrifice that our veterans have made for our country more than other states. We may have some work to do helping those states catch up but that is another topic for another day. As our Marines complete their active service to our nation, they are made aware of their federal benefits which is good. Unfortunately, many times they are not presented with their state or local benefits. This is where it is so beneficial for them to connect with us and for us to connect with them. Each Department knows, or should know, what is available for veterans benefits within their particular state. We serve as the fountain of knowledge for these new veterans. We may think, everyone knows about their benefits, but this is just not the case. This is where we, as a league, come in. If nothing else, these are conversation starters just letting our veterans know that we care, and we are here for them. When I



first thought of this issue, I restricted myself to talking about our new veterans, but as I review my thoughts, we need to make all of our veterans aware of their benefits. Many senior veterans are not aware of what is available for themselves and their families. Perhaps they didn't need support in the past, but as time has passed new issues have arisen and we can be there to help and support them. They are out there and are so grateful when they find that support that they didn't even know they have earned. This truly is what Marines helping Marines is all about.

The season is now opening up for our Department and Division conferences to begin. For the most part, we have been able to move beyond the unprecedented restrictions and lockdowns which we have had to endure these past couple of years. Marines enjoy being with other Marines. We have had to adapt, which we did well but now we are basically back where we belong. I hope to attend many of your conferences, and I know all will be successful and good spirited.

Semper Fi

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

T.J. MORGAN

Embrace the Tribe

MARINES: Looking back at the beginning of my term as National Jr. Vice, I had ideas on what I wanted to do while in office. We started the first MCL Membership Committee and with their help we are moving forward. We are working on a standard operating procedure for recruiting and retention, we started a new advertising campaign, and, last week, we started a new MCL membership Facebook group where we share ideas with all MCL members on social media. If you have not joined our group, you can find and join with a quick search on Facebook. Type in "MCL Membership" and answer three easy questions. This is a closed group, so if you invite others, please make sure you are inviting MCL members only.

The committee has been also working with Andrew Appleton and his "Mail Call" program. The MCL support this mission to get postcards out to new recruits in both Parris Island and San Diego. Please visit romans1015.org if you or your detachment would like to sponsor a recruit!



Midwinter has come and gone, and I hope the information I passed on to the Department staff while there filters down to you. Focus on recruiting new members and target an age group that will make you successful in the long term. We suggest targeting 35- to 55-year-olds because the committee feels this is where you will increase your Detachment longevity and, hopefully, get you able-body volunteers to help with your community events.

There are lots of different ideas out there and if you have any, join us on Facebook and share. Marketing your Detachment on the internet is the wave of the future as well as the path to continued sustainability of the Marine Corps League!

Semper Fi

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

PHIL ZAMORA

Raffle Rules

MARINES: By the time this article comes out, we should be only three to four months out from the National Convention in Daytona Beach. I have made a few rulings and received a few Chapter 9 charges in the mail. One thing I ask, if you have to go down the road of filing a charge against someone, and I would hope that as members of the League that you could work out your differences before going the charges route, then verse yourself on Chapter 9 of the Administrative Procedures and also the Chapter 9 Attachments. There is a great attachment, number 5, that has a sample grievance letter and a sample disciplinary charge letter. Please look at these when filing either one. And for those of you that have called me looking for a sample of a resignation in lieu of a hearing board, attachment number 8 is what you want.

One of the things I want to do with these articles is to share mistakes that are happening in our Detachments and just hope that someone will learn from someone else's mistakes.

When holding raffles within your detachment, whether it's within the detachment or open to the public, just know your state's laws on holding raffles and whether you need a license or not. If you're selling tickets outside of your detachment mem-



bership, then, more than likely, you will need a license. Set ground rules on the whole raffle that lay out who will be selling the tickets, what is being raffled, when the raffle entry ends, and when the raffle is being drawn (which needs to be announced to everyone), and where the drawing will be, with a specific time – and stick to this time. If this is a detachment-only raffle that is using a roll of tickets, then make sure the tickets

are in a secure place after-hours to make sure the wrong people don't get ahold of them.

When this article comes out, all the bylaw and administrative procedure changes will have been received at the National Headquarters. We will be going over all these potential changes with the Bylaws Committee to be prepared in Daytona.

Last thing – I will be running for a second term as your Jude Advocate at the National Convention in Daytona Beach.

Semper Fi!

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

DENNIS TOBIN

Let's All Get on the Same Page

MARINES: As a Past National Commandant, I get to write about a variety of issues, so what I have to say you have heard. It's a shame that we have to keep repeating ourselves on issues such as uniforms, appearance, Honor Guards and Color Guards to name a few. We have an outstanding Marine in charge of the Honor/Color Guard committee in Angela Maness, they are doing an outstanding job. We just need everyone to fall in line and conform to the standards. Most have, and that's great to see. It's as simple as remembering who we are, United States Marines.

Every time we put on our uniform and display the Eagle Globe and Anchor we represent every Marine out there, active duty, reserve, and veteran. We all know the saying "not as lean and not as mean," but, yes, still United States Marines. No matter how we look physically, we can still make sure our uniforms are squared away, that we are all in the same regulation uniform, and that we are well groomed. Let's, all as Marines, get on the same page; and don't be afraid to point out uniform mistakes to others.



Recruiting and retaining new members – I know it's hard to do but it's even harder when you get a new member and they don't return because they are constantly ignored at meetings or Detachment gatherings. Make them feel they are part of something again, make them glad to be around Marines again; that shouldn't be hard to do.

Finally, please Marines, if you have a problem at any level within the league, keep it there. Do not go on social media and lay out your issues for the world to see. Whether it's with another member, your Department, or National, I keep it within the league. Use your chain of command to get the issue solved.

Semper Fi!

YOUNG MARINES LIAISON

BY ANGELA MANESS

YOUNGMARINES.COM

Interested in Establishing a Young Marine Unit Near You?

MARINES: Did you know that one of the goals of the Young Marines program is to provide opportunities to strengthen the lives of America's youth mentally, morally, and physically to succeed in today's world? The Young Marines is a national youth program that develops our children (ages 8 through high school graduation) into smartly disciplined leaders of their community. By challenging their full potential using real life scenarios and exposing them to age-appropriate situations, these valuable life lessons help sustain each individual Young Marine long after they have graduated from the program. We are thankful for the support of the Marine Corps League, Young Marines adult volunteers, and friends of the Young Marines program everywhere and we hope to continue to grow by establishing more YM units throughout the nation.

How can YOU help? Don't overthink it – if you have an interest or know someone who has a question or is interested in starting a local Young Marines unit, just pick up the phone and give us a call. Really, it's just that simple. Anyone at the Young Marines Headquarters (or myself) would love to talk to you about the possibilities. We have a Regional Support Officer, Michael Hoff, who is based out of the MCL's national headquarters in Dumfries, VA. One of his many responsibilities is to increase unit develop-



ment and provide training to new and existing units.

Recently, Mr. Hoff was invited to speak at the Sergeant M.J. Marty Gonzalez Detachment #1485, Department of Texas, Southern Division, in Houston on 8 February 2022 where he and Young Marines Adult Volunteer Assistant Division Commander of Division 4, Mr. E. Earl Davis (USMC) gave a presentation about the Young Marines Program and answered a few questions.

Their focus was to explain the Young Marines motto, "Strengthen the Lives of America's Youth," by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Everything that we have learned in the past helps us move forward with a stronger and more flexible program that inspires new membership and future recruitment. Thank you for your help in our recruiting efforts!

Semper Fi

Are You Ready?



Angela Maness
Sr Vice Commandant
Sooner Detachment #559
Oklahoma City, OK



Laura Brown
Adjutant / Paymaster
Alamo Detachment #315
San Antonio, TX

Toys For Tots

Funeral Honors

Preserve Traditions

Color Guard

Young Marines

Tribe@MCLeague.org

DIVISION REPORTS

New Generations, New Ideas; Same Team, New Efforts



Mike Sturch

NVC, Central Division



MARINES: NVC Moysiuk (Northwest Division) mentioned Chesty’s quote in his last article, “Old breed? New breed? There’s not a damn bit of difference, so long as it’s the Marine Breed.” This quote got me to thinking (a dangerous pastime, indeed!)

Old breed, new breed; old school, old corps – this is great because we need to preserve the traditions and customs that we learned so many years ago. That is one thing that separates us from the rest. But biased or closed-minded ideas and ways of thinking are things of the past. We need to accept and embrace this new world and new generations of Marines. We need to listen and understand and respect their ideologies and views of the world. Without the younger generation to fill our ranks, the Marine Corps League could simply fade

away. We see this in other organizations; not just the military organizations, but all the social clubs around the country.

“The times they are a-changin.” It’s like a slow-moving freight train; it’s coming, and you can’t stop it. You can step aside and let it pass you, or you can hop on board and enjoy the ride.

So, let’s stop arguing and bickering with one another, and remember that we are all family. We have all earned the right to be here, no matter when or where you served or what you did. Like family, it’s okay to disagree, but at the end of the day, we only have each other. Just like the Marine Corps itself, this is the greatest organization in the world. We are linked with a common bond that can never be broken.

Always remember our brothers and sisters who are serving, those who never came home, and those who came home but never returned.

Semper Fi!

Be an Inspiration to Your Detachment and Beyond



Rick Thomason

NVC, Mideast Division



MARINES: “The Detachment is the most important unit in the League for it is composed of the membership, which is the very heart of the League. Without the Detachment, the other units of the League would have no reason for existence. The life and growth of the League begins with the Detachment.”

Just where have you heard that before? Hopefully you hear it once a year during the “Ritual of Installation” when your Detachment officers are installed into office. No truer words exist about the league. As a fraternal organization, we cannot subsist on our reputation alone. We all know that the Marine Corps is the premier fighting force of the American armed forces, and we have a history unmatched by any other branch of service... but how does that help your Detachment? It may garner a little

respect from the neighborhood when you march in a parade or ride a float, but that will not perpetuate the Marine Corps League. Your leadership must be strong and affirming.

Leaders cannot sit back and retain a position with no forward movement. Leadership for the sake of a title is not leadership. Leaders must inspire and lead by example. “Working the chairs” does not always mean you are qualified for a position of leadership. It may only mean no one else wanted the responsibility of the job. If you accepted the title, accept the responsibility. Perform in a manner that brings credit to the Detachment and the Marine Corps League.

The membership has responsibilities also. Do not think for one minute that just because you show up once a month, you are doing all you are supposed to do. The Oath of Office you took when you joined, in part, states “I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League.” This includes recruitment of new members, fund raising activities, continued service to the veteran community and representation of the United States Marine Corps and Marine Corps League at ceremonial events. You are the life blood of the detachment. You are the reason the Detachment exists in the first place. You are the most vital part of the Marine Corps League. Be proud of your association with the League and exemplify the principles upon which we strive to perpetuate. You are the future of the Marine Corps League.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclmideast.com

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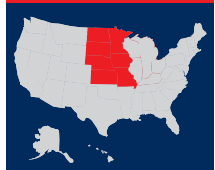
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DIVISION REPORTS

Buddy Checks Make a Difference; Call a Marine Today



Jan A. Denney
NVC, Midwest Division



MARINES: Charles Dickens wrote, *“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”*

Are these the best of times and the worst of times for veterans? The VA offers great care to veterans, however Vietnam veterans are dying before their time at a rate of 580 per day from cancer, diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, and other effects of Agent Orange. Rather than enjoying retirement, they spend their days at doctor appointments, sitting in wheelchairs in the halls of a VA hospital or clinic, wondering if this “is this all there is to life.” Younger veterans have left the military with the diseases of

their war and service-related injuries only to become addicted to pain killers and live a life of despair and depression. The “winter of despair” ends with suicidal thoughts, and for 22 veterans a day, these thoughts are the final solution to the feelings of hopelessness. Homeless veterans roam the streets of every city. Most are alienated from family and friends because of behavior issues from PTSD. These veterans deserve better. Seek them out. It has been said, “veterans do not wear their military ball cap to impress civilians but rather to identify each other in a crowd.” Be someone they can talk to if they are in the “season of darkness.”

The Marine Corps League can assist Marine veterans who are ill, lonely or in despair with a simple buddy check. We have these Marines in our ranks; however, they may not be for long. Fifty percent of the Midwest Division’s non-life members are delinquent in their dues. They may be a member who has not attended meetings since the beginning of the pandemic. Maybe they decided against paying annual dues and receive nothing in return, not even a phone call. We should contact them and bring them back. They cannot know we care unless we show them by our actions. Do not just recruit members and forget them. Talk to them as Marines without judgement. We do not need to be a therapist to be a friend. We all have a lot to learn about being a Marine Corps League member. We should dedicate ourselves and our detachments to helping each other become better Marines and to assist those who may be in their winter of despair.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

Positive Messaging of New Ideas Reinforced in Social Media



David Porter
NVC, New England Division



MARINES: Each day provides us a new opportunity to prepare an environment that can bring out the best and inspire more Marines. When I think of opportunity, I think of a quote from the movie Field of Dreams, “If you build it, they will come.” My take on this is that the work we do to build and strengthen each Detachment in the league will create a place where Marines will want to come. It certainly won’t happen overnight, and it won’t take one person – it matters that we work together. It also matters that we not get overwhelmed by the steep climb ahead, but focus on taking one step at a time.

Social media can be a great tool to help us in our efforts. As with many great tools, there can be a downside, but I believe the good outweighs the bad. One issue I see that can steal the spotlight is the negativity.

Whether it is malicious intent, quick to blame attitude, or people getting caught up in the moment and feeding off the negative frenzy, this is something we need to rise above and ignore. As we are starting a new year, we should also reset our focus on what is in front of us, and not in the past. We need to find a way to strengthen our ranks by staying positive. I understand it is easier said than done, but positive actions over time truly do make a difference. Think of it this way; you go to the gym to chase the beast and after three days you see no results, do you quit? Absolutely not. It takes consistent effort over time. Positive actions are no different.

I would like to challenge my Department Commandants to continue the work of building and strengthening their detachments to ensure we are building up a more involved league within the community. I would love to hear each Commandant say at the end of their tour, “for not what I have done, but what have we built together.”

Would love to hear new ideas! I know that some are trying open houses, others are building better websites. The New England Division already has three successful newsletters to spread throughout the Division on Marines getting out there.

It was great to see everyone at Mid-Winter and some more important dates coming up:

April 22-24, 2022

Quad State Convention
Crowne Plaza, 801 Greenwich Ave Warwick, RI
rimcl.org

June 2-5, 2022

Dept. Of Mass. Convention
mcldeptofmassachusetts.org

June 10-12, 2022

Dept. of Conn. Convention
www.mcldeptct.org

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclnedivision.com

There's a Difference Between Busy and Productive



Mike Waluk

NVC, Northeast Division



MARINES: Have you ever looked back after a month or two of working on a project and wondered where all the time has gone? One minute you're ahead of the game, and behind the curve the next. While it seems like we are all moving at breakneck speed, let's try to keep things positive and in perspective.

When preparing, consider tying up any loose ends first and plan for what's ahead. Remember to do what is important now. You need to prioritize and not get bogged down in the minutia of details during the planning phases. Time management is critical and can lead to failure. Remember, "We don't plan to fail, we fail to plan."

As you endeavor forward, ask yourself "are you busy" or "are you productive?" There is a definitive answer to this. If you are busy, you may not be focusing on the task

at hand. Being productive, on the other hand, is knowing what is needed at the right time, utilizing your staff and subordinates, and having collaboration between all available factions of a project for completion.

To paraphrase Covey; don't be consumed with putting out little fires all day. This only leads to more stress and burn out. Know the difference between what's important and needs to be done now versus what can wait until later.

As much as we try to be helpful in all we do, inevitably you'll have to deal with people who'll monopolize your time. Not so much in a malicious manner, but some who will require more attention and assurance than others on your team. This is not a bad thing for the individual, but be sure not to let it become all encompassing for you as a leader.

Let's make it perfectly clear that being busy is not always detrimental. People who are busy demonstrate a great work ethic and work diligently. Keep in mind however, that it's the small methodical steps which allows you to complete your projects to the fullest while finding the best way to get things done over the period of time allotted.

Try to minimize your setbacks and set a course that provides time to assess your project from time to time. Be proactive and productive by choosing what and when to say yes to things. This will shield you from going down a primrose path. Don't try to do everything yourself. Your days can only be filled with what you allow to be put in.

So, looking back over the past few months you may want to ask yourself if you have been busy or productive? Whatever the case, make sure you are taking care of the most important resource and biggest priority – YOU!

Take time for yourself and guard your wellbeing carefully. This by far is the most important asset to concentrate on. Then and only then can we succeed at what we undertake.

Semper Fi!

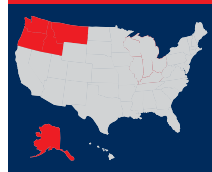
Division Website: nedmcl.org

Selfless Service Sets the Example for Servant Leadership



John Moysiuk

NVC, Northwest Division



MARINES: We all have a story, and when traveling or just shooting the breeze with other veterans, no matter where, we talk about our experiences. Our individual story is chiseled out of what we have experienced, learned, and lived. This defines and molds us into who we are today. I am humbled when talking with veterans while they share their experiences and truly enjoy sharing all of those moments, good and bad, that we have lived. Recently, we lost our Assistant National Vice Commandant NW Div Harry Armstrong. His story is larger than life, as he was willing to serve until our Lord and savior called him home.

He served a full life, was proud serving as a man of God, serving in his community in an array of opportunities, and serving in our Marine Corps League. He was comfortable in all of these and enjoyed the camaraderie

that was shared by all. I never knew him not smiling and he was always willing to speak his mind. He was thoughtful and chose his words of wisdom for which I will miss. Harry was an inspiration not only to me but to those he served. Understanding that he not only served his local community, but that he took to heart his service to the veterans of Montana.

Harry was humble, trustworthy, a great listener and friend. I mourn his loss for all veterans in Montana and for the impact it has caused for his family and pray for them in their loss. I'm confident of where he resides now, and that I will see him sometime in the future when I am called, as well. Harry, know that your story is not complete. Know that the lives you have touched include you in their stories because of your service and how you have impacted each of their lives as you have mine.

Understanding the personal sacrifice of service is something Harry understood, as he would freely make that choice. This is a piece that defines or adds to Harry's story. Compiling all his stories, service and actions he has accomplished and all the lives he has impacted and influenced, his story has grown beyond just a story, it is a legacy. A legacy of service. To you Harry.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org

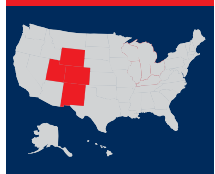
DIVISION REPORTS

Amazing Female Leaders are Among Our Ranks in the League



Russ Miller

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division



MARINES: As we move into spring across the Rocky Mountain Division, we prepare to head into our Department conventions and Division conference. It's important that we stress the need for our membership and Detachments to be involved in ensuring the success of the Marine Corps League not just in our local communities, but across each of our states. There, of course, will be the obligatory business that we must conduct in order to remain in compliance not only with our bylaws and administrative procedures but also with state and federal laws and guidelines, and elections of officers will take place to determine who will continue to lead us forward as we continue to grow.

Due in part to the COVID pandemic these past two years we have seen a great decline in attendance at conventions and conferences, not to mention outright cancellations of some of the events. But it is so very vital to share the benefit that comes from our gathering together. We have all heard the proverb, "iron sharpens iron." The dictionary defines interdependency as; *dependent on one another; mutually dependent; reciprocal interrelationships between groups.* The camaraderie that we share helps us remain sharp when it comes to the emotional dependency that we have for one another as brothers and sisters. Likewise, a Detachment relies on the input and activity of all its members to succeed in achieving its missions and goals. The Department is similarly dependent on the input and activity of the Detachments that make up the Department. The same is therefore true of the Departments contributions to the Division and the Marine Corps League as a whole.

In addition to the agenda items that we cover in our conventions and conferences at every level, the more important work, I believe, is conducted around a fire pit, over a cigar or a beer, or while sharing a meal or two or three or... The discussions in a hallway about recruiting ideas that a smaller Detachment has successfully implemented may wind up helping a larger Detachment bring in some new blood and finally get out of a slump they've been in.

Over the years that I have been involved in the League I have often heard the statement, "If it wasn't for the Detachments, there wouldn't be a Department/Division/National HQ." But also, please consider that without the members there wouldn't be a Detachment. So, just as I often finish this column with, "Be the Leaguer you wish you had twenty more of in your Detachment," this time I implore every Detachment to be the Detachment that you wish there were twenty more of in your Department & Division, and let the other Detachments know that they can **DEPEND** on you to continue to help one another move forward together.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: rockymountainmcldiv.org

Keep Your Charter: Do Your Paperwork



Jerry Holt

NVC, Southeast Division



MARINES: Did you know that a Detachment, or a Department's charter can be suspended if it fails to submit an annual Report of Officer Installation (ROI)? The charter can also be suspended or revoked if a Detachment (or Department) loses its non-profit status. The reporting requirements for units in the League are not onerous, but they are essential for communications and to maintain the non-profit status of the Marine Corps League.

During a recent review of compliance with certain state and federal filing requirements, one Department found a widespread problem. The IRS requires charitable nonprofits that are recognized as tax-exempt must file an annual return with the IRS. For most, that form can be the 990-N. If a Detachment has receipts that are normally \$50,000 or less, this is an electronically filed e-postcard that provides basic information about the Detachment. There are no calculations required, and no time spent in looking up data to input. (If your receipts are greater than \$50,000, it's a little more complicated, but it's still an annual filing requirement). The 990-N normally must be filed by November 15 each year.

If a Detachment fails to file the 990-N for three consecutive years, it will lose its tax-exempt status. For the organization to have its tax-exempt status reinstated, it must reapply for tax-exempt status and pay the appropriate user fee, which is currently \$600. The unit may also be faced with professional fees from an attorney or accountant to help with the restoration of its status.

While the IRS may give you a pass for skipping a year, chapter eight of the National Administrative Procedures isn't as forgiving. It states that each Detachment and Department must file a 990-N annually and failure to do so will subject the entity to the loss of its exempt non-profit status. If a unit loses its non-profit status, it may have its charter suspended or revoked.

While states have different filing requirements than the IRS, nearly all have a requirement that non-profits register with the Secretary of State. Like the IRS, states have the power to revoke an organization's non-profit status and to impose fines for failure to file when required. If an organization solicits or collects funds while its non-profit status is suspended, it can lead to significant fines and penalties being imposed.

Each year, members step up to new positions of responsibility in the League. Ideally, when they assume a new role, they are given documented responsibilities and procedures that help guide them in their role. The failures to comply with filing requirements can have serious consequences. We need to ensure that we fulfill these responsibilities.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: seddiv.org

Motivated Spirit and Strength for Mission Orientated Growth



Jim Howington

**NVC,
Southern
Division**



MARINES: Here it is a new year with a lot of new ideas waiting for the Southern Division. I hope that everyone had a safe and healthy holiday period. Now that we have new goals and challenges ahead, it's time to concentrate and get back to work.

The Southern Division worked hard in 2021. The Departments efforts in Toys for Tots, Funeral Honors and Honor Guard events were outstanding. While the Marine Corps League was working, the fruits of its labor put smiles on many faces. The large number of people served is proof of hard work.

I have been the National Vice Commandant for the Southern Division for five months. I have met and shared many stories with Marines in the Division. We have shared many ideas for the new year, and we agreed that we can be better and do more things by communicating and

working as a team to achieve our goals. The Marines that I visited were motivated and were showing Marine Corps brotherhood. I want to thank all of the Marines for their hard work.

I can see the Marine Corps League growing in spirit and strength. I hear this through the conversations with members that have many years of knowledge that have served. The Marine Corps League is doing different things that is getting the membership's attention. One example is the Commandants Corner on YouTube. The videos provide another opportunity for veteran Marines to see what is happening in other Departments around the country.

I am asking the Southern Division to stay focused on their mission within their communities by being more active in community, educational institutions and professional events. We must earn more attention from the community leaders by volunteering, being heard and seen. It always feels good when the Marine Corps League is called upon to assist in an event.

I challenge the Southern Division Departments to begin thinking about helping their communities with the homeless veteran population. This effort is huge and will take teamwork with other organizations, community leaders and elected officials. There are many who have served before us and with us that need our help in more ways than one. I am almost certain that the subject of homeless veterans will come to surface again. I was recently appointed to the Homeless Veteran Committee as an Ex Officio member by National Commandant Johnny Baker. I have already received information about homelessness veterans and the numbers are way too high. There is a lot of work that can be done toward this grave concern.

Last but not least, I want to thank National Commandant Johnny Baker, National Executive Director Bob Borka and the Board of Trustees for their service and leadership.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: southernmcl.org

Even a Global Pandemic Cannot Stop Our Marines from Serving



Patrick J. Connell

**NVC,
Southwest
Division**



MARINES: It has been a long winter here in the mountains of northeastern Arizona and nature is sleeping through the season, resting up for a long-awaited spring when everything comes back to life. So too has it been with the Southwest Division for the Marine Corps League. To be sure, meetings throughout the Division have been held, but not necessarily in regular fashion. Some Detachments have chosen to cancel in-person meetings due to the outbreak of the Omicron variant of Covid, some have resorted to meeting via Zoom, and others have decided to shut down completely and wait out the virus and its different variants. But these decisions have not halted the activities of the League. The local Marines Assisting Marines Programs, Scholarships, Eagle Scout presentations and other programs still go on. Conferences and conventions are still being scheduled with an

eye on the future and a belief that we as a League will be able to return to a state of normalcy. We still ramp up our services to our fellow brother and sister Marines and other veteran organizations. We are eager to get together with each other and disappointed when we can't, but that does not deter us from our mission to support the regular Marine Corps and the local communities. We have continued to render our honors at funerals, help others in need with monetary or tangible assistance, look out for the welfare and needs of our fellow members, and be a productive and viable asset of society. We will continue to do this simply because we are Marines!

By the time you receive this issue and sit down to read the many articles contained within, we, as a League, will have met and completed our League business at our Mid-Winter Conference. You can all rest assured that your League, under the excellent leadership capabilities of our National Commandant Johnny Baker and his staff, will ensure that this organization will continue to remain fiscally responsible, morally respectful, and judgmentally sound during the good times we have had in the past and the roadblocks we currently face. Your Division National Vice Commandants are diligent and dedicated individuals and often work behind the scenes to ensure that each-and-every member of this organization is treated equally with respect and dignity and decisions reached during the board of trustee meetings are made with the ultimate goal of improving this League. We will not accept anything less. We want our members to feel that they can contact us at any time and let us know your thoughts on any topic and give us your feedback and your input, for this League is for you, and would not exist without you. Have a great spring, a productive summer and we will see you in Daytona Beach.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclswdivision.org

THE *SEMPER FI* INTERVIEW



The Quest for Extraordinary

A Semper Fi Q&A with Christina Hadwin Zuniga

By Mike Searson

In 1987 Commandant of the Marine Corps Al Gray changed the culture of the Corps forever by not only insisting every Marine be a rifleman first, but that every Marine is a warrior. Individual Combat Training became Basic Warrior Training, and the obstacle course and confidence course were redefined into

a 54-hour test of mental, physical, psychological and moral prowess called the Crucible.

Thirty-five years later, we have a female Marine who has authored four books on this concept to bring that mentality beyond the Corps, to help people not only live their everyday lives,

but to thrive and succeed. Meet Christina Hadwin Zuniga.

Semper Fi: There's a saying, "It all goes back to Boot Camp," so when did you enlist in the Marine Corps?

Christina Hadwin Zuniga: At age 17 on November 17, 2014. I always strove to

be the best at whatever I did among my peers and when I decided to join the military, I knew I wanted to join the Marine Corps to be a part of the best of the best. The Marine Corps was the only branch I believed would challenge me and teach me to continue to push my limits.

SF: In what unit did you serve?

CHZ: I served with Ordnance Maintenance Company 1st Maintenance Battalion in Las Pulgas, Camp Pendleton and CLB 11, Mainside, Camp Pendleton.

SF: What was your MOS?

CHZ: I was supposed to be a Combat Engineer, but instead I became a 2111 Small Arms Repair Technician, aka Armorer.

SF: That sounds like a lot of fun, what was your favorite gun to work on and your least favorite?

CHZ: My favorites were the M2 .50 caliber and the M240B. Least favorite would have to be the M9, the Beretta 9mm.

SF: Why were the machine guns your favorite?

CHZ: Because I like big guns and cannot lie!

SF: And no love for the M9?

CHZ: The M9 9mm is basic, breaks too easily and has to be babied. It's like the difference between an adult puzzle and a child's puzzle.

SF: Fair enough, So, you have written four books. That's quite an accomplishment. What got you into writing?

CHZ: I wanted to have something to give people a glimpse into the Marine mindset to overcome fear and obstacles. Letting them know that they can get through life's hardships by challenging fear and pain and not allowing it to control their lives.

SF: Tell us about your first book?

CHZ: "The Crucible: How the Hardships of Life Forge us into Extraordinary Warriors" is about my experience as a 17-year-old girl going through the Crucible during Marine Corps Recruit Training and sharing how that experience has played a key role in providing the skills to overcome the many crucibles that life puts us through. It's about inspiring others to use life's sufferings to become the extraordinary warriors we are each capable of becoming.



Hadwin Zuniga receives her black belt in Tae Kwon Do from Henry Frank Walker in 2022. This was the culmination of nine years of discipline and commitment.

SF: So, how does your second book, *Extraordinary Warriors* build on that or compliment it?

CHZ: "Extraordinary Warriors" builds upon the premise of becoming greater than what we suffer. Being extraordinary is a choice we each must make. Our failure to become extraordinary warriors affects not only ourselves but all those around us. Will we be influenced by the ordinary or we will we exemplify extraordinary?

SF: I think this is a great book, you really bring home the fact that people don't have to wear a uniform to be extraordinary or a warrior. Was that the goal you had in mind when you started this one?

CHZ: Yes, after leaving active duty, I found it extremely difficult to maintain an extraordinary mentality while I was surrounded by mediocrity. I had joined the Marine Corps to be a part of the best of the best, but when I was no longer surrounded by my brothers and sisters who also strove to reach their full potential, I started to believe that being extraordinary or a warrior was only connected to the uniform. This was a reality I refused to accept for myself, or others and I began seeking

out how to bring out the "Extraordinary Mentality" we are all capable of achieving regardless of status, position, or current experience.

SF: Let's round out the Trilogy with "In the Face of Giants," what was your idea behind that one?

CHZ: I believe that fear has an enormous role in deciding who will become extraordinary warriors and who will never reach their potential. If we do not overcome fear, we will forever remain in the giant's shadow when they are meant to be our footstools (Mark 12:36). Fear will always try to stop us in the small things as much as the big things. I struggled writing this book due to the feedback I received from my other two books commenting on the spelling and grammar errors that individuals picked up on while reading them. I was afraid to put myself out there again because of these comments but letting myself be stopped by this petty fear of others opinions went against my values and beliefs I expressed in my other works and I knew this message had to be shared.

SF: We're glad you bounced back from that. Your books are about coping and



Hadwin Zuniga speaks at a Colorado MCL event about her experiences and challenges in the Corps.

healing and living your best life. Your fourth book touches on that but covers a very important topic. They widely tout the “22 veterans commit suicide a day” in the media and in political debates. Research shows this number is a huge exaggeration, but it is still an alarmingly high number.

CHZ: The number might be exaggerated on how many actually commit suicide, but I firmly believe that many more than 22 veterans contemplate suicide each and every day. I believe that all 3 systems have a major role to play in this epidemic. For starters, the military is the first step in the escalation process. It is one thing to be a Marine, Sailor, Soldier, Airman, etc. it is another thing to be invincible. The military pushes the Hollywood glamor of individuals in uniform as superheroes. This false narrative has devastating consequences on the mental health of our service men and women. These individuals are held to unrealistic mental health standards and when they do not meet these standards, they are deemed and labeled, “defective” and “a waste of space.”

I experienced this firsthand when I had a mental breakdown and was labeled all these things and more. Instead of the military addressing it, I was prematurely separated from active duty. I left the military plastered with these labels and left in the care of a broken VA and mental health system.

Secondly, I believe the VA’s role in the

Quick Hits with Christina Haldwin Zuniga

What’s the last great book you read?
Proverbs.

What’s the last great movie you watched?
“Spider-Man: Far from Home.”

Favorite streaming series?
“The Chosen.”

Favorite song?
Pure Imagination from
“Willy Wonka and the Chocolate
Factory.”

Star Wars or Star Trek?
“Star Wars.”

1911 or Glock?
Glock.

AR or AK?
AR.

Marvel or DC?
Marvel.

alarming suicide rates among veterans boils down to a lack of basic human respect shown to service members when doing simple tasks such as booking appointments. Although there are plenty of amazing individuals in the VA Healthcare system, at large it is a very hostile environment to receive treatment. In my experience and that of many of my fellow Marines, we would rather go without treatment than have to deal with the mediocre system. I believe that many suicidal veterans go without treatment for this reason.

Finally, the mental health system, as a whole, is incredibly responsible for these suicide rates, exaggerated or otherwise. As is, the mental health system operates with a copy-paste treatment procedure that has zero effect on the actual problem. Until the healthcare system learns to address suicide on a case-by-case basis instead of shoving pills down everyone’s throats as a go-to treatment, we will continue to see the same number of veterans take their own lives. We need to give veterans the skills and resources to get through their pain and suffering to once again become the extraordinary warriors they set out to be when they first raised their right hands and swore their life to this country.

SF: Going back to “The Crucible.” I hear that you’ve got some of your books out in the field testing them in recruiting offices. Tell us about that and how it made you feel.

CHZ: I'm super excited to say that I have my books in recruiting stations throughout 16 states. My goal is to get them into recruiting stations in all 50 states. My desire is to help as many individuals get through their crucibles in life as I can and it means the world to me to be able to give back to the Corps by helping those making their way to the yellow footprints.

SF: It has to be great to still work with the Corps as a civilian. Do you feel like you're giving back to the Marine Corps family?

CHZ: I am very blessed to still work with the Corps. The Marine Corps League has blessed me by welcoming me back into the family and it is an honor to help welcome individuals into our family.

SF: Do you still stay close or in contact with the Marine brothers and sisters with whom you served?

CHZ: It has been hard keeping in contact with individuals I served with. Leaving active duty feels like losing your tribe. I recently got to see one of my brothers from the Marine Corps after almost six years and it reminded me of how important those relationships are.

SF: In addition to being a published author, I understand that you and your husband offer self-defense courses. Tell us about what you offer in that regard?

CHZ: We offer self-defense classes that were developed by my sensei Henry Frank Walker aka Whitey Walker who is a retired Marine Corps mustang. He developed these techniques in response to a massacre that occurred in Chicago back in the 1960s. We are proud to carry on his legacy of bypassing the years and strict time commitment it takes to study standard martial arts for self-defense. Our classes provide individuals with confidence in their ability to protect themselves and others against the wide array of attacks and unwanted attention that are prevalent today. We teach these classes in day long seminars and intensive one- to six-week classes.

SF: Are these local classes and seminars or are you looking to take them to different locations?

CHZ: Our classes are currently local to Colorado, but our vision is to take them throughout the nation.

SF: I understand you were recently awarded your black belt in Tae Kwon Do. What other styles have you studied?

CHZ: I have studied Brazilian jiu-jitsu, aikido, Krav Maga, and Isshyn Ryu karate.

SF: You're also known as a transformational speaker instead of an inspirational speaker?

CHZ: I chose to use transformational instead of inspiration because inspiration and motivation only last for so long. I want to do more than inspire people for a few days or a few weeks. I want to give them tools they can use through the rest of their lives. As the saying goes "fish for a man and he will eat for a day, teach him how to fish and he will eat for the rest of his life." I got into this field by learning that if I want real change in my life, I have to take an active role instead of waiting for someone else to motivate or inspire me.

SF: Do you get a lot of good feedback regarding your courses, books, talks?

CHZ: Yes, I am so grateful for all the amazing feedback and support I have received both from military and civilian leaders. Recent feedback I have received was from Major General Jason Bohm who said, "wise beyond her years. Christina speaks with authority and power. Her inspirational works are a must-read. She expertly weaves her personal experiences into a strong fabric of self-reflection, confidence building, and calls to action. Her books will not only help those wanting to better themselves but also help leaders to develop understanding and empathy for those they lead, ultimately making them stronger leaders and mentors. God Bless and Semper Fi."

SF: That's something! How did that make you feel?

CHZ: It is one thing to have a vision of reaching others with my work, it is another thing to have others support and believe in my mission as well.

SF: I realize you just had a baby girl. What's the secret to juggling all these things in your life? Writing? Speaking? Teaching? And being a wife and mother?

CHZ: It has not been easy, but it is, and I know it will continue to be rewarding to build on each of these areas in my life. Each of these areas connect so when I give more to each area, the other areas are equally blessed. I love being a wife and a mother just as I love writing, speaking, and teaching. I am blessed to have the support and encouragement of my amazing husband Michael Zuniga. I know that having a strong family dynamic is crucial to my ability to juggle all of these tasks. I am excited that my husband and I get to be the example to our baby girl that dedication, hard work, and creativity make all the difference. "Whatever thy hands find to do, do it with all thy might." "Do not work unto man, but unto the Lord." Keeping those verses in the back of my mind plays a big role in my desire manage all of these responsibilities. **SF**



Christina is blessed to have Marine Corps Poolees reading her inspirational books.



Volunteers assemble Backpacks for Life to be distributed to homeless and at-risk veterans in Connecticut.

Backpacks for Life

Marine Corps League (MCL) Greater Bridgeport Detachment
654 Partners with the CT Veterans Day Race to Collect
Daily Essential Items for Homeless Veterans

By Jamie DePaola

Members of the MCL Greater Bridgeport Detachment in Bridgeport, CT purchased 50 backpacks from the Backpacks for Life (BFL) organization and began their mission to organize donation days to collect daily essential items for homeless and at-risk veterans in CT. Adele Hodges and Jamie DePaola, both retired Marines and MCL members, partnered to organize the donations and packing.

The monetary donations to cover the costs of the backpacks, and the donation days in Bridgeport as well as at the CT Veterans Day Race to collect over 3,000 daily essential items, made the mission a huge success. The items donated — ranging from toothpaste to ponchos — became the contents of the backpacks. These items were sorted by volunteers in both Bridgeport and Coventry at the CT Veterans Day Race. Students from the National Honor Society of Coventry High School sorted items during the race event and assembled three main kits with one extra kit for female veterans. These kits averaged eight to ten items, each. The items were placed in plastic storage bags before being placed in the backpacks.

Military veterans have all learned to survive for months with just a backpack, and this project provides the basic

essentials as well as resource materials for our fellow veterans who are most in need throughout CT. When a military member returns home after challenging deployments, they often faced the hardest part of the process, reintegrating into their civilian lives while battling the hidden wounds of war. Every veteran had purpose and identity when they served but finding it again as a civilian is often complicated and few civilians understand these struggles.

The BFL project offers the first-ever military grade backpack, designed and engineered with a homeless veteran in mind. It's important to let veterans know there is hope and that they can get on a path to self-sufficiency. The BFL team has distributed over 9,000 backpacks in 26 states in the past seven years.

The term "We've got your six" is exactly what motivates veterans who have already transitioned home and who want to help their fellow veterans who are struggling to find themselves, and their purpose and identity in their community. Giving a BFL backpack to a needy veteran is like handing them a piece of themselves that they are familiar with because it was an integral tool to their survival while they served to protect us on the homefront. **SIF**



(Left to right) George Fenton (MarDet 1379 FBG VA), Chuck Dowling, Steve Simpson (USMC Ret.), Stan Ryba, David Hudson (Army Nat'l Guard, Ret.), and Kent Leonhardt (USMC Ret.) and 27 rooster pheasants. Missing are Bill Allinder, U.S. Army veteran, John Allinder, and Kenny Hensley.

Birthdays and Pheasants

By George Fenton

Nestled on the south-central border of South Dakota is the small town of Colome. It's home to about 300 people. Considered "fly over" country by many coastal "elites," what he found was a truly a hidden gem. Several military friends and George Fenton met there to hunt pheasants. Colome, SD is considered the "Pheasant Mecca" of America. Pheasant hunting is a vital part of their economy and the town boasts of three outfitters that specialize in that sport. They chose Triple H Hunting owned and operated by Marlin "Pete" Haukaas. (But the other two outfitters are equally good!) When arranging the hunt during the month of August, Jack Maas Det. 1379, Fredericksburg, VA member George asked Pete how he might contact the town baker. He was told there was no such person. However, Pete sug-

gested George reach out to town personality Lisa Forgey who stepped up and baked the cake. (Lisa refused payment for baking the cake, stating it was her and the town's way of thanking the veterans for their service to the country.) The venue for the Marine Corps' Birthday was the only eatery in Colome – the Frontier Bar & Grill. George explained to the assembled townspeople at the Frontier how the Marine Corps celebrates its birthday every November 10th to include the reading of Major General John LeJeune's message; the celebration also included the traditional cake cutting serving a piece of cake to the oldest (Kent Leonhardt) and youngest Marine (Steve Simpson) present. When George conducted the cake cutting ceremony, the assembled town hosts also rose to their feet to honor their guests. **SF**



Frank Metersky (left) and his brother both served as Marines in Korea.

Remembering Frank Metersky

By Mrs. Barbara Metersky and C. Kenneth Quinones, Ph.D.

Frank Metersky, the foremost advocate of recovering the remains of U.S. military personnel left behind in North Korea during the Korean War, has joined his comrades in arms. Frank passed away at the age of 88 in Boyington Beach, Florida on December 14. He is survived by his wife Barbara, sisters Jo Jo and Marlene and many nieces and nephews.

A successful businessman and Korean War veteran, he devoted thirty years to urging the U.S. government to send teams from the Central Identification Laboratory (CILHI) in Hawaii into North Korea to recover the remains of the 8,000 missing in action U.S. personnel from the Korean War. Frank patiently and persistently pressed the White House, Pentagon, State Department, Congress and North Korea's United Nations delegation to initiate such an endeavor. He acted solely on his own initiative, paid all his own expenses, and sought nothing for himself.

Frank's motivation was purely personal. He was a Marine rifleman who survived the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir when some 120,000 Chinese People's Liberation Army soldiers stealthily surrounded 30,000 U.N. troops, mostly U.S. Marines, in North Korea's northeast corner just as a blizzard buried the area in deep snow and plunged temperatures below zero.

Amazingly the Marines fought their way to safety but had to leave behind the frozen remains of many deceased comrades in arms. After withdrawing to the Korean Peninsula's southern tip, he volunteered for a second combat tour and returned to the front line.

Frank insisted that the U.S. government was obligated to locate and to return the MIA's remains to their families. Success came in 1995 when the United States and North Korea initiated Joint Recovery Operations (JRO). Over the next decade 208 sets of remains were recovered and sent to CILHI for identification and return to their families. But in 2005, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld ended the project.

Frank only intensified his effort to restart the program, but to no avail. Yet the JRO program remains the most successful and longest enduring example of U.S.-North Korea cooperation. Without Frank's efforts it would never have occurred. I am proud to have worked with Frank as the State Department's North Korea Affairs officer who helped negotiate the JRO program's initiation.

Frank was a humble and gentle friend who exemplified the best qualities of what it means to be an American. **SIF**

NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

CRAIG REELING

CRAIG.REELING@MARYLANDMARINES.ORG

Wear it Right

MARINES: You joined the Marine Corps League and now want to wear our uniforms. Where do you start? Contact your local Detachment leadership. Does your Detachment have a welcome aboard packet that includes uniform info? Does your Detachment have a Quartermaster who handles uniform ordering or who has items in stock? The only uniform item to be considered "in uniform" is the MCL cover, which is typically the first uniform item you will purchase. You are NOT required to have a cover to attend Detachment meetings. All Marine Corps League uniforms are explained in "Administrative Procedures, Enclosure 3, Uniform Code" which is available on the League Library website (mcleaguelibrary.org) on the "Member Library" page (your Commandant can provide you with the password). "Enclosure 4, Awards" lists all the League medals, ribbons and medallions that are authorized to be worn on our uniforms. Two questions that are often asked: can Associate Members wear our MCL uniforms, and can Associates wear our medals/ribbons? The answer to both questions is yes, just follow Enclosure 3 & 4.

We are currently working on a Uniform Guidebook, to include photos, based on Enclosure 3 and Enclosure 4. This should assist the membership with wearing our uniforms correctly.

If you decide to wear MCL uniforms, please wear them appropriately and within regulations. If you notice a uniform violation

on another member, this should be handled tactfully. Sometimes a friendly conversation is all that is required to bring that member into compliance. Most members simply don't read Enclosure 3 so they follow the monkey see, monkey do philosophy. With the prevalence of newsletters and social media, violations can have a far-reaching effect. Photos that contain uniform violations should never be published in your newsletters or on social media. We need to police ourselves.

In 2021, we added newly approved lapel pins. Both the Gold Star Pin and Next of Kin Deceased Personnel Pin are a great way for Gold Star Families to honor the memory of their loved ones on the casual (red blazer) or formal (mess dress) uniforms.

Our committee members are Jack Severn, Lisa Solarczyk, Jeff Jones, Steve O'Hara, Butch Raynes and Allison Noger (associate). Having male, female and an associate on the committee has been a great benefit to the membership. Try your chain of command first, but don't hesitate to reach out to any of us if you have uniform questions. Our contact information is listed on the FY2022 Roster National MCL.

If I am in your area for work or vacation, expect me to show up at your meetings and events. As an MCL member for over 23 years, I love supporting local Detachments. I will participate, fundraise, and recruit. Put me to work!

Semper Fi!



Panther, Battle of the Bulge

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MAY 21 – 30
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78th Anniversary of D-Day—
Normandy & Battle of the
Bulge—Bastogne & Paris

JUN 1 – 9
78th Anniv of D-Day:
Normandy & Paris

JUN 12 – 25
Famous Cathedrals of
Northern France

AUG 12 – 26
Rise & Fall of the Third Reich:
Munich, Berlin, Nuremberg,
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All England Tour—WWII Blitz
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SEP 12 – 24
Waterloo "Napoleon, Blucher
& Wellington"

OCT 9 – 19
China "Imperial Jewels"

OCT 15 – 22
MHT's Great American South
St Augustine to New Orleans

NOV 23 – DEC 8
Vietnam War
"Saigon to the DMZ"

DEC 5 – 14
81st Anniversary Wake island,
Pearl Harbor & Guam

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, of Detachment 924, awaiting the start of the 96th annual Knoxville Veterans Day Parade. Left to right, standing, Mike Muriello, seated Mike Wise, Larry Winters, Ken Johnson, Mike Napierkowski, Doug Freeman, Susan Schmidt, Sam Ruble, ???, Larry George. Back Row, Jeff Tegzes, Abbey Tegzes, Billie Jo McCarley, Jean Shea and Tim Shea.



For decades, retired United States Marine Walt Clevenger, a 91 year old Korean War veteran places United States Marine Corps flags on the gravesites of fallen Marines at Fero Memorial Gardens Beverly Hills FL. It's his way of commemorating the Marine Corps birthday on Nov. 10. He has been a driving force within the local Marine Corps League Detachment 819.



The Marine of the Year for Sgt. Clyde Thomason, MOH Detachment 1325 is John Caldwell, at left. Jay Maxwell, Commandant, presenting the award, is on the right.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Group photo of members of the Upper Darby Detachment 884 Marine Corps League.

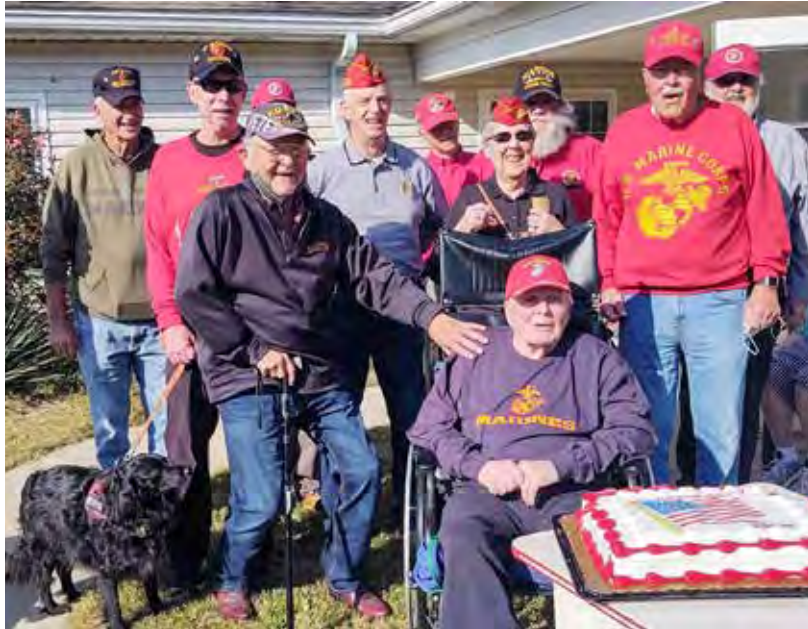
Marine Corps League Det. 524, Lewis B. Puller Jr., Carlisle, PA. Members gather in preparation for a final salute to Marine and combat veteran Ken Gatten at his funeral 11/24/21. *Left to right*, R. Adams, R. Runyan, S. Quickel, J. Crawford, D. Geesaman, L. Kipp, J. Grove, B. O'Connell, D. Rose, B. Vanner, D. Grove, B. McNaughton, J. Grove, R. Heishmann, and R. Kessler. Additionally, Marine Honor Guard members from Det. 524 were already in position at the US Military cemetery at Indiantown Gap, PA to perform the burial ceremony.



Combined Color Guard from MCL Detachments 1325 and 1196 presented colors for the Clayton County Police Department's Marine Birthday Celebration. Color guard members from *left to right* are Russ Vermillion, Rodney Riggs, Harry McCann, and Jay Maxwell. Also, in the picture are Clayton County police officers, Marines, and local Marine Corps recruiters.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Kentuckiana Marine Corps League Detachment 729 in Louisville, KY is proud and privileged to have as a member, Col. Norman Preston who was the guest of honor for our Marine Corps Birthday celebration on 10 November. Col. Preston, a longtime member of the League, is a 96-year-old veteran of WWII and Korea. He trained pilots in WWII and subsequently became a reserve officer. Returning to active duty during the Korean War, he was with the First Marine Air Wing in support of the First Marine Division at the Chosin Reservoir where he was awarded the Bronze Star. To the Colonel's right is Korean War veteran Jerry McCandless who organized the visit. Prior to COVID, the Colonel frequently attended League meetings.



Navy Veteran Jerry Vaughan joined the Brevard County Detachment 513 in April of 2021 and has the distinct honor of being the Detachment's first Associate Member! "The Dover Detail" is Vaughan's effort to provide period correct uniforms to veterans and their families for memorials and funerals. As his Detachment Commandant, I have seen firsthand this amazing program. A Marine with no next of kin had passed in the early Spring of 2021. The nursing home brought the remains to the funeral home in civilian attire. Jerry found this out and decided that this Marine should be buried in full uniform to honor his service. The entire process took 36 grueling hours to prepare for the funeral at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery!



Jim Ransom officiates during the change of office ceremony of detachment commandant. Bob Brown, the new Commandant, and Ron Farewell, outgoing Commandant.



The Department of Florida MCL recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of Department of Florida MCL. Several Past Dept. Commandants were in attendance for this special event.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Detachment 1105 members came together to feed 200 veterans and their families BBQ and fixings on November 10, 2021 at Sharpshooters Indoor Gun Range in Greenville, SC. Commandant Sandy Thompson presented Nathan Norris, owner of Highland Baking Company, a plaque for his generous donation of the bread items to support their event.

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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



On December 18, 2021, the Fredericksburg, Virginia, community came together at Oak Hill Cemetery to honor our Veterans with the annual Holiday Wreath-Laying Ceremony involving 900 wreaths. The non-profit organization Wreaths Across America coordinates these wreath laying ceremonies each December at more than 2,500 locations across the United States, at sea, and abroad. This year, the Jack Maas Detachment 1379 participated in this memorable tribute to veterans that included 900 wreaths.



Pictured is Sergeant at Arms John F. Scott of the Sunrise Detachment 248 (Massapequa, NY) with administrators at Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital. This year's 4th Annual (2021) drive yielded over 20 contractor bags of toys and over \$600 in donations. Since 2018, the Sunrise Detachment/MSSN collaboration, has raised thousands of dollars and toys via both the website and via Toy Box collections in the main hospital & selected offsite locations.



Several members of the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment and the Riverview Unit of the MCL Auxiliary attended the opening ceremony for the Eyes of Freedom traveling memorial when it appeared in Brandon, Florida on November 17, 2021. Pictured *left to right* are Auxiliary Treasurer Pat Skelding, Detachment Adjutant Jack Skelding, Auxiliary Secretary Judy Essick, Lee Hemmerich, Auxiliary President Sharon Hemmerich, Detachment Commandant Ron Essick, and Detachment Chaplain Walt Raysick.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Members of the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment 1226 and the Marines of the 4th AABN, along with family and friends collected Toys for Tots on December 16 at the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey game.

SAME TEAM, NEW MISSION



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

- G/Sgt Charles F. Wolf Jr.



ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Pvt. George Phillips detachment 1214 Marine Corps League Birthday celebration in Ballwin, Missouri, November 16, 2021. Featured cake cutting, *left to right*, are Commandant Ed Rau, oldest Marine, Gene Tichacek, youngest Marine, Tyler Gerling.



Commandant Rod Rehrig, Sr. Of the Sgt. Major Michael Curtin Detachment 1124 of the Zephyrhills, Florida unit of the Marine Corps League. He was invited by the City of Zephyrhills to be their Grand Marshal for the 2021 Veterans Day Parade. Rod is a very active member and is out and about daily, recruiting members, selling raffle tickets, working on fund raisers, and bragging up the MCL.



December 11, 2021– Cpl. Pete Arnold Det 1198, supporting Toys For Tots at Walmart in Fallston, MD. Members *left to right* are Tony Brocato (with son in cart), George Hammerbacher (with son in cart), Charles Zuby, Chris Palmerino, and Alison Noger. Zuby was awarded the Harford County Toys For Tots MCL Volunteer of the Year Award for 2021.



December 2021 had the Cpl. Pete Arnold Det. 1198 working Holly Jolly First Friday in Havre de Grace, MD. Members, *left to right*, Evelyn Remines, Don Benson, and Crist Burns.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



December 3, 2021, Central Wisconsin Detachment 350 met with Festival Foods of Stevens Point, WI to pick-up & distribute \$4000 of groceries to needy veterans and families in the Central Wisconsin area. *Left to right*, Festival Foods Staff Dan Johnson, Stan Potocki, Ray Potocki, Stan Olejniczak, Arch Kluck, Store Manager Israel, Ron Borski, Jerry Wojcik, Tom Lepkowski, Cliff Kamin, Rollie Johnson, Hank Hughlett, Bob Wnuk.

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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Flint detachment 155 renders honors to veterans buried in the Old Flint Cemetery. The Flint Detachment has taken care of the veteran's graves in this forgotten cemetery for many years. The members regularly perform police calls, fix, and paint white crosses marking the graves of veterans, and other care of a pauper's field where most have forgotten. The members of detachment 155 perform a remembrance ceremony and render honors to those who have gone before us. The cross was built by Detachment member Ted LeClair with assistance of the cemetery committee in efforts to draw positive attention to the cemetery. The cross and plaque were dedicated on Veterans Day 2021 to all the veterans buried there.



Marine Corps League members of the Lewis B. Puller Jr. Det. 524, Carlisle, PA present the detachment Marine of the Year award to Marine Sanford Quickel, Det. Charter member. *Left to right* are Paul Schaeffer, John Doc. Gillespie, Sanford Quickel, Alan Hostetter, Sgt. at Arms, and Larry Kipp, Sr. Vice Commandant. Schaeffer and Gillespie are both members of the Marine Corps League Honor Guard.



North Georgia Mountains Detachment 1280 member Jimmie Hammontree at our Veterans Day memorial.

Join Roll Call!

ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES

SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS

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

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

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

instructions on the upload site).

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

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

If you have any questions about uniform regulations, please contact Craig Reeling of the Uniform Committee at the National website: www.mclnational.org.

NOTICE TO MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENTS!

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

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

BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY MSGT. THOMAS W. HAZLETT, USMC

Tanks in Hell

A Marine Corps Tank Company on Tarawa

Tarawa has long been known as one of the bloodiest battles of WWII and a definite learning lesson for future battles to come. This was well documented within the book, as was the title of the book well reinforced.

The book started out quite slowly, as most books pertaining to battles do; the introductory of characters, the buildup of the coming battle... but this book went into too much detail especially when it came to colors of uniforms, painting schemes of vehicles especially ones that were never used in the battle.

The first half of the book could have been reduced to a dozen pages rather than taking over 100 of its 264 pages. The saving grace of this book is the last half of the book, which gave a very detailed account of how bloody and frightening this battle was. It was evident that, indeed, this battle was hell for the tank company and its members who suffered tremendous casualties, both in vehicle losses and crewmen wounded and killed.

The book's opening was extremely slow, especially to someone who had read other books written about the battle or who had firsthand knowledge from surviving participants. Painting schemes of equipment and uniform patterns were elaborated upon too heavily, especially when they were never used during the actual battle.

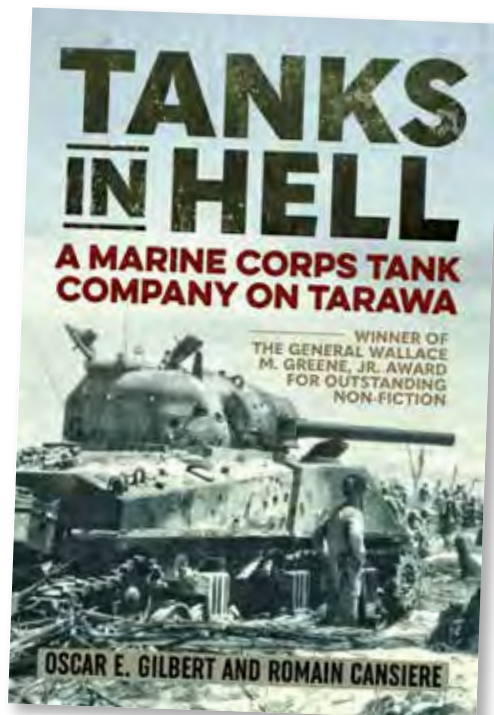
Nonetheless, this battle was well defined in the last half of the book and, at times, I could actually feel myself inside the tanks as they hit the beach and struggled to survive. As a Marine Corps tanker, I can well relate to having hand-me-down equipment, outdated, or under-gunned equipment as it was well mentioned within the book. The battle was clearly portrayed as a bloody and frightening engagement against a stubborn enemy

that was sworn to defend to their death the little patch of land known as Tarawa.

The authors did an amazing job in recalling the battle and did great capturing opinions on how the battle progressed. Losing almost an entire company of tanks in a single battle is a frightful thought, reading how each tank met its demise is even more frightening. The graphics within the book were very supportive of how intense the battle was and how determined those crews were to support their fellow Marines on the ground.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Marine Corps history as it clearly defined the battle and the struggles of the early Pacific Campaign. It also clearly stated the bravery of the participants of the Marine tank company as the tanks made their way from ship to shore. The confusion and the extreme sacrifice by those crewmen is well documented, as well as the other Marines who suffered right along with the tankers to overcome an enemy that boasted it would take a million men a hundred years to take that island. Clearly, the Japanese commander who stated that had never had the unfortunate experience of facing far fewer United States Marines and, in a matter of days, not years, did indeed capture and add to its already illustrious history another bloody victory. Tarawa did show the Marine Corps that new preparations, new tactics, and new doctrine was necessary in the future battles the Corps would face. It also showed the necessity to have tanks supporting the ground attack against a well emplaced enemy that was sworn to defend until death, if need be.

"Special thanks to 59th Chief Devil Dog Tom Hazlett for review of the book. Tom is a retired Master Sergeant and was a Tanker during his service in the Marine Corps."



Tanks in Hell: A Marine Corps Tank Company on Tarawa

Written by: Oscar E. Gilbert and Romain Cansiere

Pages: 268

Publisher: Casemate

Language: English

ISBN: 9781612003030

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

IMPORTANT DATES IN USMC & MCL HISTORY



July 18, 1926: Marine Corps League of Spokane, Washington picnic at Coeur D'Alene Idaho,

April 1925: The Denver, CO detachment is formed,

June 1926: The Birmingham, AL Detachment is formed.

August 1926: The Fairfield County Det. is formed in Bridgeport, CT.

January 1927: The MCL membership tro-

phy is awarded to the Roth Barren Det. of North Tonawanda, NY.

August 1928: The Harry M. Coppinger Det. is formed in Oklahoma City, OK.

January 1930: The Charles B. Chapin Det. is formed in Springfield, MA.

January 1930: National Commandant

Lations announced that the MCL is now found in 30 states.

July 1930: The Oil City Det. is formed in Oil City, PA.

August 1930: With the addition of nine members, the Marine Barracks, Port Au Prince, Haiti, now has 46 members.

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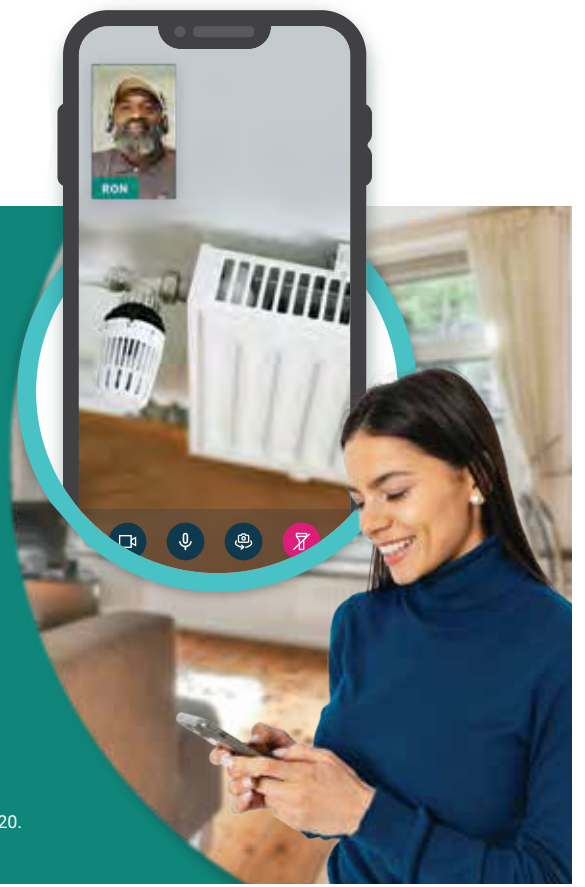
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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR



National Events

Modern Day Marine Expo

May 10-12
Washington, DC
marinemilitaryexpos.com

2022 National Convention

August 15-19
Daytona Beach, FL
mclnational.org

Detachment Events

Northeast Division Conference

Apr 1-2
Crowne Plaza Princeton
Plainsboro, NJ

New England Division Conference & Quad State Convention

Apr 22-24
Crowne Plaza Providence-Warwick
Warwick, RI

Midwest Division Spring Conference

Apr 22-23
Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet
St Louis, MO.

Southern Division Conference

Apr 28-30
Southern Hills Marriott
Tulsa, OK

Southwest Division Conference

May 20 – 21
Orleans Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

Mideast Division Conference

June 24 – 25
Hilton Hotel Raleigh-Durham Airport
Durham, NC

REUNIONS



5th Marine Division Association 72nd Annual Reunion, May 11-15 in San Diego, CA. Contact: Kathy Tinsley at 619-770-0257 or email: finally@cox.net.



Fox 2/7 (Vietnam) will hold a reunion July 10-14, 2022, at the Menger Hotel, San Antonio, TX. Contact: Tom at fox2seven@gmail.com

Marine Corps Engineer Association (MCEA) Reunion and Awards Banquet, September 26-29, 2022, Four Queens Hotel and Casino, 202 Freemont St., Las Vegas, NV 89101. Contact: Lt. Col. George Carlson (Ret.) (931) 307-9094, treasurer@marcorengasn.org or visit the MCEA website at marcorengasn.org.

USMC 3rd Recon Battalion Association reunion: September 27 - Oct 2 in Dayton OH. Contact: Sgt. Maj. Floyd Nagler (Ret.), (952) 440-1553, floydnagler@yahoo.com

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

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Death Notification Policy

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

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

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Description: Buckle w/3D EGA



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Item Code: U38 (1 3/4") U39 (1 1/2")

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Price: 1 1/2" - 34"36"38"40"42"44": \$24.00 | 46"48"50": \$30.00
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Description: Black Polo w/embroidered MCL Logo Breast Patch 100% Polyester Size Small-4XLarge

Price: \$33.00



Men's Shirt Red Button Up

Description: Long Sleeve Red Button Up w/ Embroidered MCL Logo and Front Pocket Size

Price: Small-XL: \$37.00 2XL: \$39.00 3XL: \$40.00 4XL: \$45.00



Men's Shirt Black Button Up

Description: Long Sleeve Black Button Up w/ Embroidered MCL Logo and Front Pocket

Price: Small-XL: \$37.00 2XL: \$39.00 3XL: \$40.00 4XL: \$45.00



Women's Shirt Red Button Up

Description: Long Sleeve Red Button Up w/ Embroidered MCL Logo

Price: Small-XL: \$37.00 2XL: \$39.00 3XL: \$40.00



MCL Coffee Mug

Description: MCL Coffee Travel Mug

Price: \$5.00

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2022 BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

THE MCL GEARS UP FOR THIS YEAR'S DRAWING!

In **2022**, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (miltours.com) will offer the battlefield tour for a Marine Corps League Member as the winner of the League's Tour raffle. The winner will receive a trip for two.

Tickets: Marine Corps League 2022 Battlefield Tour Raffle.

One Grand Prize: Trip for Two Free Tour.

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

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

Raffle tickets cost \$5 per single entry or five tickets for just \$20! That's right, the more you buy, the more you save and the more you help the League. The drawing will be held at our annual Mid-Winter Conference Banquet in 2022.

You do not need to be present to win. Winners will be notified within 3 days of drawing if they are not present, and arrangements will be made with Military Historical Tours for selection of their tour prize.

Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990. You may buy as many tickets as you like. Please feel free to make additional copies of these raffle tickets if you wish to purchase additional chances!

2022 Tours

30 Jul-4 Aug

"Bloody Tarawa"

31 Jul-8 Aug

Guadalcanal 79th Op Watchtower

4-13 Aug

Morocco - WWII Operation Torch & French Foreign Legion

12-20 Aug

78th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon - South of France

13-28 Aug

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

25 Aug - 6 Sep

Vietnam 55th Anniversary Return to I-Corps

27 Aug-7 Sep

D-Day, Normandy & Battle of the Bulge

6-20 Sep

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

Continues Next Page

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2022 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE

One Grand Prize: Trip for Two Free Tour to anywhere MCL's tour partner (Military Historical Tours) travels.

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

You need not be present to win. Drawing will occur at the 2022 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to: Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990.

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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.

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_____	_____
State	Zip Code

Phone	

Email	

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Continued From Previous Page

9-14 Sep

Midway Island Return WWII "Battle of Midway"

10-21 Sep

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

12-24 Sep

Waterloo "Napoleon, Blucher & Wellington"

24 Sep-5 Oct

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

9-19 Oct

China "Imperial Jewels:" Beijing-Xian-Shanghai

9-21 Oct

WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust

15-22 Oct

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

27 Nov-8 Dec

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

3-12 Dec

Battle of the Bulge, 78th Anniversary

5-14 Dec

81st Anniversary of Wake Island: Guam & Pearl Harbor

2023 Tours

4-16 Feb

Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue

20-28 Mar

Iwo Jima-Guam 78th Anniversary Reunion of Honor

2-12 Apr

Philippines - WWII in the PI

4-14 Apr

Return to I-Corps Vietnam War

15-28 Apr

Vietnam War "Saigon to the DMZ"

15-28 Apr

Friends & Family Trip to Vietnam

29 Apr-5 May

MHT Civil War Gettysburg, Bull Run & Antietam

20-29 May

WWI Doughboys & Devil Dogs France

27 May-9 Jun

79th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris

1-9 Jun

79th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

11-24 Jun

Famous Cathedrals of Northern France



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 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 FMF Sailor who has served 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 Sailors. 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, 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.

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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Signature _____

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



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**Semper Fi!
Scott Westervelt
Commandant**