The PACT Act

VA Facts

Named in Honor of
Lt. General Victor “Brute” Krulak
Billy Stelzflug
Camp Lejeune Toxic Water Contamination Compensation

Many U.S. Marine veterans and their families were exposed to toxic chemicals in drinking water on the Camp Lejeune military base in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

5 Important Facts:

1. The U.S. Government is now allowing U.S. Marines, their families, and civilians to be compensated for injuries arising from the contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.

2. From 1953 to 1987, contaminated water was used in everyday life for bathing, drinking, and more.

3. Water was contaminated with many chemicals that are linked to serious health issues.

4. Health problems from exposure include cancer, neurological injuries, miscarriage, or birth defects.

5. There is no such thing as too long ago, but time is limited under the new law. Contact us today to see if you qualify.

If you or a loved one were exposed to contaminated water, call today for a free legal consultation.

Call us today. Our team is available 24/7, every day.

Call 800-993-1972

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Guiding her throughout her life, a father’s love for his daughter grows with every passing year. The Love Between a Father and Daughter celebrates this loving bond with a heartwarming sentiment and elegant designs any daughter would be proud to display. On the base, blue and silver pavé glitter swirl up into the sparkling glass globe, forming entwined pavé glitter hearts that symbolize father and daughter. With a gentle shake, silver hearts and glitter dance through this shimmering, water-filled globe. The silver base with blue hearts continues the color palette and captures a loving message for daughters. This musical treasure includes a lovely poem card as shown and plays “Always in My Heart.”

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*Plus a total of $12.99 shipping and service per globe, see bradfordexchange.com. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 crafting days. Please allow 4-6 weeks for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Coordinating poem card included free

Shown actual size of about 6 in. H

Entwined silver and glittery pavé hearts symbolize father and daughter

Silver hearts and glitter swirl inside the glass globe

The Love between a Father & Daughter is Forever

Plays “Always in My Heart”
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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.

Please visit the Marine Corps League Library’s Convention tab (www.mcleaguelibrary.org/convention/) to review the approved changes to Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. The Bylaws and Admin Procedures documents are being revised and will be posted in the Member Library tab (www.mcleaguelibrary.org/member-library/).

To submit a change to the Bylaws or Admin Procedures, please review AP Section 10020.
NATIONAL COMMANDANT’S LETTER

JOHNNY B. BAKER

Mission of Our League!

MARINES: The National board of trustees had an extremely busy year in fulfilling our “fiduciary” responsibilities in ensuring that the Marine Corps League is viable and strong. We conduct the business of the League by ensuring that we remember the mission of the League. It is important each detachment, department, and division, reinforces this mission statement at each annual event.

“The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.”

We fulfill this mission by “What We Do!” The Marine Corps League is proud to support our Marines in many areas. We have 10 divisions covering 48 departments, and over 1,140 detachments in communities across the country. We support the Toys for Tots efforts working with the Marine Corps Reserve and Toys for Tots Foundation to raise millions of dollars for the youth of America, collect and distribute millions of toys all across the United States.

The Marine Corps League provides funeral honors support to over 10,000 funerals per year. This support allows the Marine Corps (active and reserve) to focus more of their resources on mission preparation. The Marine Corps League supports the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Semper Fi Fund, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Mack’s Marines, and the Young Marines. We have several scholarship/award programs including the Marine Corps University Lt. Gen. Lejeune (luh-jern) Leadership Award, Delta Dental Scholarship, and college scholarships through the Marine Corps League Foundation.

One of our most critical missions is assisting transitioning Marines and their families in support of the Marine Corps’ Marine for Life program. With our partners at the Marine Corps Association, we produce the Marine Military Expositions including Modern Day Marine Expo, Marine West Expo, and Marine South Expo.

The Marine Corps League produces a quarterly publication called the Semper Fi Magazine. We have many programs supporting our Marines, their families, and our community:

Veteran Service Officers (VSO); Scouting/Eagle Scout Program; Marine Roses Program; POW/MIA Remembrance; Rifle and Pistol Competition Matches; Volunteer Assistance Veterans Service (VAVS); Color Guards; and many other local initiatives that supports our Marines.

Marines, our “Mission” and “What We Do” should be paramount in all we do for the League, at our detachments, our departments, our divisions, as well as National Marine Corps League. Each of us have that obligation and responsibility to ensure we move forward with what our first Marine Corps League National Commandant (Lt. Gen. Lejeune) envisioned for our mission and success. You can see above that we have the resources and tools to be successful, but it is up to each leader at all levels of our League to ensure we fulfill our mission and strive to ensure what we do is in the best interest of the League. Semper Fi!
Looking Back, Looking Forward, and Looking to those on your Flanks

**MARINES:** In 1984, the movie “Missing in Action” came out. It was the first violent movie my dad ever took me to. He was 34, and 31 years later he would be gone. It didn’t dawn on me till today how hard that movie must have been for him to watch. It was only 13 years after he came home from Vietnam. Back then, as a child, I thought Vietnam was decades in the past. For him, it was always yesterday.

Desert Storm was 31 years ago, and it was like I just woke up from the night sleeping on concrete at Kuwait International Airport. I can still hear Gunny telling Greaser that he “owes him”, earning nicknames, getting scorpions and spiders to fight, gas alarms, oil fields afire like birthday candles, and the endless digging of holes in the sand (new places to sleep) every few nights. For me, it is always yesterday.

We are brothers and sisters. Each has experienced good and bad in service of our United States Marine Corps. The ethos that binds us together is stronger than our demons and certainly more important than our disagreements. We all have yesterdays but need to lean into the tomorrows and look to your right and left for those who care.

*Semper Fi!*

Commandant’s Corner – What is it?

**MARINES:** Effective public relations include deploying various resources. The Marine Corps League National Commandant’s Corner is one resource supporting internal communications.

In 2020, when safety and welfare of people across this nation were at stake, the MCL National Convention was held virtually. Unfortunately, this eliminated typical hallway interactions members enjoy when attending conferences, and conventions. During a brainstorming session with Past National Commandant Dennis Tobin, the concept of a “Commandant’s Corner” was born.

The Commandant’s Corner is a virtual social interaction open to all members of the MCL. It is hosted by the MCL National Public Relations Committee with the MCL National Commandant as a VIP guest. The topic is promoted through email and Facebook, but the execution is done via Zoom. Zoom is a video conferencing website – access is provided with a meeting code and a log-in. The log-in information is posted with each Commandant’s Corner announcement along with the web link.

The first Commandant’s Corner installment was more of an informal gathering of members across the MCL organization coming together socially, ask questions, and maintain camaraderie. It has evolved into...
PR COMMITTEE

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each session being with a dedicated topic, such as: MCL Recruitment and Retention, Awards and Conventions, Honor Guard / Color Guard Q&A, Young Marine, Toys for Tots, and more.

Hosted once a month, the Commandant’s Corner is recorded and uploaded to the MCL National YouTube channel. Each topic, combined with various questions asked, resulting in informative training and awareness opportunities for MCL detachments to hold a “watch party” with their membership and engage in their own discussions – which, we hope, will employ more best practices. Additionally, members are encouraged to subscribe to our YouTube channel to remain in the loop as more videos are uploaded.

The success of the Commandant’s Corner has evolved into another series of Zoom sessions, facilitated by the MCL National Public Relations Committee. Titled MCL Membership “UNPLUGGED”, these sessions are back to the informal, social interactions between MCL members and are hosted about once a quarter. The UNPLUGGED sessions are not recorded and have no formal format other than being respectful of all and ensuring camaraderie is enjoyed.

The next time you see the announcement for a MCL Commandant’s Corner, understand this is for ALL members of the MCL. This is promoted on Facebook but executed on Zoom. The topics are intended to be informative, and discussion is encouraged.

Semper Fi!
SOLID AS THE CORPS.  
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(Two) 12 oz. Tumblers

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Marines need drinkware that’s as tough and durable as they are, ready to stand up to the challenges of each day. Now you can raise a toast to the United States Marines wherever you go and whatever you’re drinking with the all-new, stainless steel USMC Insulated Drinkware Collection! It begins with a rough and ready 20 oz. Travel Tumbler that’s expertly crafted from durable stainless steel for years of use. It features a reusable, environmentally-friendly straw. Official USMC artwork is applied directly to the stainless steel and will not fade. Better still, it can be personalized with a Marine’s name and rank up to 18 letters etched into the metal. Subsequent issues feature new tributes to the Marine Corps in a variety of glassware styles and all are insulated to keep your beverages hot or cold for hours.

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February 16, 2023

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MARINES: Woof, woof to all you Dogs! This is the last article I will write for Semper Fi magazine as your Chief Devil Dog. In a few weeks, we will be in Supreme Growl Assembly, and you will be voting in your new kennel officers. I wish to thank every Dog out there for my most memorable time yet as a member of the MODD. It has been an honor to serve you and I wish to thank each of you for all that you continue to do for the Marine Corps League and for our order. We have come a long way through some very rough times. Hopefully we have whipped this COVID issue and 100% of you are back into full swing conducting your growls and having fun doing so. I will repeat what every article has had within, “If you keep it fun, they will come!” If you are still having nothing but boring business meetings instead of having some fun in your growls; well, I don’t need to explain why your attendance is down or why your Dogs are leaving the order.

Looking back to 2019 when you had the confidence in me to elect me your chief, we had some serious issues in many of our divisions, packs, and pounds. Many of you were delinquent in submitting your 990’s and quite a few of our pounds and packs were issued letters by the IRS revoking your status as a not-for-profit organization. I am very happy to see the corrections taken by many of those who fell into that category, and I hope you continue to follow the rules. Unfortunately, there were several pounds, and even packs that failed to act and they are no longer members of the MODD. Please don’t become one of those who lose their charter because you can’t follow the requirements.

Because we had COVID hit mid-way into my first year as your CDD, we were limited in our passport fees and donations. We also had no national convention nor a Supreme Growl in 2020. We did donate 40,000 Big Bones to the St. Jude Children’s Hospital during our first Gathering of the Dogs in Ocean City, MD. Last year we donated a record-breaking 70,000 Big Bones to the Springfield, IL Children’s Hospital and in a few weeks, I will present another record-breaking check in the amount of 83,000 Big Bones to the Children’s Hospital in Daytona Beach. WOW, you are some amazing Dogs! Thank you so much for your dedication to our children; I cannot express the pride I felt each time I presented those checks on your behalf…Keep up the great work!

Thank you so much for the many invitations to join you in Growl Assembly and for the many hours of fun and enjoyment. I look forward to seeing you in Daytona Beach as well as in Oklahoma City and in other future sites of our national conventions and Supreme Growls. Woof, woof Dogs and please remember to thank a fellow veteran for his or her service and to visit those who are in veteran’s hospitals and homes around the country. Always keep those members of our great armed forces in your thoughts and prayers, especially those in harm’s way.

Thank you for your confidence in me.

Semper Woof!

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

- From the MODD Handbook

PAST CHIEF DEVIL DOG

THOMAS W. HAZLETT, 59TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG  MODDKENNEL.ORG

If you Keep it Fun, They Will Come!
Congratulations to All Our Top Dogs!

MARINES: Hopefully, all of you dogs in attendance at the 82nd Supreme Growl in Daytona Beach had as good a time as the advancing dogs appeared to have as they prepared to move up. It’s always a great time for me when we come together and I’m able to see old friends and make new ones, all working together and moving forward.

It was an unparalleled honor for me to be sworn in as your 60th Chief Devil Dog alongside the rest of the kennel staff. Thank you to all the dogs who had a paw in supporting and mentoring me in so many ways over the years! Keep it up, I look forward to the continued conversation as we maintain and grow the fun and honor of the MODD.

Speaking of mentors, I am saddened by the passing of our 48th Chief Devil Dog, Robert G. Lent, on August 27, 2022. PCDD Lent was chief devil dog from 2000 to 2002 and his service impacted many. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Jean and the entire family.

Turning back to the 82nd Supreme Growl, many congratulations are in order, and I’ll start with our 135 DDs who successfully advanced to PDD. One pup advanced to DD and will have the opportunity to say, “Sir, may I have another,” when he returns to move up to PDD. Way to go dogs! Now to recognize the recipients of some hard-earned individual awards at the Supreme Growl:

Kennel Dog of the Year
PDD Joe DeAngelo, Jersey Skeeters Pound 136, NJ

Past Chief Devil Dog Award (2nd only to Kennel DOY)
PDD Janice Hartley, St. Charles County Dogs Pound 86, MO
PDD Jim Powell, Little River Devil Dogs Pound 328, SC
PDD Lynn Sabel, Waukesha County Pound 123, WI
PDD Mike Francis, SEMO Devil Dogs Pound 330, MO

PCDD Kenneth E. Farris Pack: Dog Robber of the Year
PDD Todd Rehfuss, San Diego Bulldog Pound 240, CA

PCDD John Zak Pound: Dog Robber of the Year
PDD Helen Breen, Tideland Riverdogs Pound 246, SC
PDD Steve Seyller, SEMO Devil Dogs Pound 330, MO
(Two of the nominees stood head-to-head making for an impossible decision, so we selected two awardees this year.)

Congratulations and thank you for all that you dogs are doing within your packs and pounds to make a difference. While it’s not nearly as many as we should be receiving, it is good to see that some of the pound keepers and pack leaders are submitting nominations to put their dogs in the running for these awards. We have seen the number of nomination letters increasing these last two years and look forward to this continuing. To learn more about the awards and nominations, see Enclosure 1 of the bylaws at www.militaryorderofthedevildogs.org.

59th PCDD Tom Hazlett said that a new record would be set at Daytona Beach for the children’s hospital donation… he had the sight on target and the main gun ranged in on that one! The 83,000 big bones donated to the Halifax Health - Betty Jane France Center for Pediatrics was an 18.75% increase over last year’s donation. What an amazing accomplishment! Whether you had a paw in fundraising, donating or both, you have good reason to be justifiably proud.

Your efforts remind me of something I recently saw at www.marines.com:

“… America turns to its Always Faithful. Those who share an uncommon bond for a common cause. Who fight until they win in the battles not everyone can fight. ... Marines remain true to our motto of Semper Fidelis – “Always Faithful.””

The big bones raised will help children who fight medical battles day in and day out, since they are not able to also fight for the equipment needed to help them in their battles. Your support and the equipment purchased will help these children now and others for years to come. If your pound or pack has been on the sidelines, jump in and join the effort and make a difference. Semper fidelis!

On the information front, if you are a member of the MODD but you are NOT receiving our emails with the Woof O Gram, timely updates, and information from the MODD... let’s fix that for you. Just visit www.militaryorderofthedevildogs.org, scroll down the page until you come to a section titled “Get your information updated now!!” and fill in your information and click submit.

With the 247th Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day rapidly approaching and some restrictions still in place, it is not too early to begin checking with VA hospitals, veterans’ homes, and local nursing homes to see what opportunities exist to brighten the day for our brothers and sisters. Whether visiting in person, sharing previous issues of the Semper Fi magazine, or bringing them a Marine Corps birthday cake.

Keep up the great work in your pounds and packs! I look forward to visiting with many of you over the next year and learning more about your projects and fun activities. See you in the doghouse...where Devil Dogs go to have fun! Semper Woof!
After the Storm

By Steve Topilnycky

The Marine Corps League Westchester County Detachment #254 home base was the American Legion Gilbert Rauh Post 1574 located in Thornwood, New York. It was also the home of the Rivertown Young Marines, the Italian American and German Clubs, and a few other community organizations.

When dropping off flags that were collected as part of the U. S. American Flag Disposal Bin Program (www.mclwestchester.org/programs/u-s-flag-disposal-bin-project/) on Sunday, it was noticed that the stream that runs parallel to the post was still very high from Hurricane Henri saturating the ground the week prior.

On the evening of 1 September, the night of the detachment meeting, the executive board made the call to cancel the meeting due to heavy rain resulting from the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. It turned out to be a good call. The aftermath of Ida hit the post very hard. The water levels outside the post were over seven feet high, and over 5 feet inside the lower level of the post, well above the first landing of the interior stairwell. The flood waters caused doorways to buckle. All the appliances and TV were destroyed, shelving warped, all contents on that level were destroyed. That level will need to be gutted to the studs, have mold remediation, and be rebuilt. The asphalt outside also buckled. The sad part is there’s no flood insurance. Faced with a prohibitively expensive renovation project, the post was considering selling the building back to the town of Mount Pleasant for $400, a stipulation in the agreement from 1955, when the American Legion acquired the structure from the town.

In recent months the Fuller Center for Housing of Greater New York, a non-profit, stepped up. Members of the Fuller Center Disaster Assistance Response Team, several students from Manhattanville College, Tuckahoe Schools, and some Boy Scouts began with the removal of debris and removing the black mold. An architect and contractors are being hired to redesign and restore the post and mitigate future flooding. To accomplish all that, it will take donations.

The Westchester County Detachment kicked off the fundraising with a $10,000 donation to the American Legion Gilbert Rauh Post 1574. The check was presented at the detachment meeting on 5 April 2022 to American Legion Post Commander Drew McFadden (who also serves as the detachment judge advocate).

For anyone that would like to donate, checks may be made payable to the American Legion and sent to American Legion, P.O. Box 92, Thornwood, N.Y. 10594. Semper Fi!

Detachment officers presenting the donation check. Left to right, Drew McFadden (American Legion Gilbert Rauh Post 1574 Post Commander), Wilfredo Muniz, Jr. (Detachment Commandant), Donald O’Keefe (Jr. Vice Commandant), Steve Topilnycky (Adjutant Paymaster/Department Adjutant), Michael J. Waluk (Sr. Vice Commander/NE Division Vice Commander)
MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

February 23 – 25, 2023 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510
Phone: (757) 622-6664 $129.00 per night (Includes Breakfast)

ALL DEADLINES ARE FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Online registration is available at MCLeagueLibrary.org/Conference

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

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Title: ___________________________ Title: ___________________________
Det/Unit: _______________________ Det/Unit: _______________________
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Phone: __________________________ Phone: _______________________
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A program book will be printed. All units of the MCL, MODD, and MCLA are all encouraged to support the program book to help offset the cost of the Conference. It is recommended that you E-mail your ad for better resolution.

Program Book (place # of ads on appropriate line)          Banquet Meals @ $60 Each

Full page @ $100 ___ No. of Beef ___
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P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990
We request the ad book submissions be emailed to LWilliamson@mcleague.org
Sergeant Vince Poandl USMC Continues to Serve his Country

By Douglas Graves, Commandant, Bethlehem Detachment 284, Marine Corps League

Vince Poandl IV has, since 2007 when he began keeping track, sent 1,138 boxes of canned food, candy, jerky and various sundries to active-duty soldiers, marines, and other service men and women serving, for the most part, overseas. Besides food, he adds items such as socks to the care packages.

“I send them to individual names,” said Poandl in a recent interview with The Forward Observer. “I can’t send boxes addressed to just a military unit.”

“When the war was at its height, almost all of the boxes were sent to service men and women based overseas. Now that the war is winding down, I also send boxes to active-duty men and women based in the United States.”

He said he welcomes the names of service men and women and their military addresses so he can get a box out to them.

The Bethlehem Detachment 284 of the Marine Corps League member also finances the operation through money generated with cement steppingstones featuring the seal of organizations such as the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy, and other organizations. He said people who order the stones usually donate at least $20, money he uses to finance his care package operation.

Vince is a laboratory technician for the Holcim Group cement plant near Northampton, PA. He makes the cement steppingstones in the company lab. He said his management supports the project wholeheartedly.

Sergeant Vince Poandl USMC was an avionics technician stationed with the 3rd Air Wing in El Toro, CA. He served from 1982 to 1986. Semper Fi!
The Camp Lejeune Justice Act allows service members, their families, and others who worked at Camp Lejeune who have been harmed to recover damages due to their exposure to the contaminated water.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
Any person that lived, worked, or served at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and has a serious illness, cancer, miscarriage, or birth defect is potentially eligible for compensation.

Claimants must file administrative claims with the VA and then a lawsuit in Federal Court in North Carolina. We are currently representing hundreds of claimants and we are licensed in North Carolina.
The Collin County Chapter of the Marine Corps League was well represented when three of its members created a team to honor our Gold Star Families.

This project was inspired by long time Marine Corps League member and Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, who sadly passed away this past June, and was the guest of honor at the Collin County Marine Corps League’s ball. Woody was America’s last surviving World War II Medal of Honor Recipient, and his Woody Williams Foundation is dedicated to honoring the families who have had loved ones give their last full measure of devotion to their nation.

At 98 years old, Woody was still getting out to share the message and represent both the Marine Corps League and our Gold Star Families.

Most of those who have served in the armed forces recognize the sacrifices made by the families of our service members who stand in harm’s way. That sacrifice grows significantly larger when that family member is lost in the line of duty.

Visiting with Woody and his grandson, 82nd Airborne veteran Brent Casey, over breakfast the morning of the ball sparked a conversation about the Gold Star Family Memorials program. League members Chuck Wright, Noe De Leon and Mike Hood quickly picked up the challenge and built a team to organize, fund raise, create awareness, and find space locally for the monument to be built. Their first call was to Desert Storm Army veteran John Keating, one of Frisco’s city councilmen, who coordinated with Mayor Jeff Cheney as well as Steve Walsh from the city’s parks & recreation department. Frisco quickly found a very suitable location just west of Frisco’s Veteran’s Memorial in Frisco Commons Park. At this point, the most significant additions to the committee were four key Gold Star family members who joined the committee and provided invaluable input and ideas.

The Gold Star family members of the committee were Mary Courcy Bush, whose son was in the Army and was lost in Afghanistan, Jennifer Dorr Hanson, wife of a Naval Academy graduate lost in the line of duty, Kellie Klopf, whose brother was a Marine and was lost in Afghanistan, and Evelyn Holland, whose son was a Marine who died on active duty. Later Cindy Wrangler, whose son was also a Marine, joined the team.

All the monuments around the country are identical, featuring four panels with the...
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With any construction project, the real key is always a great general contractor and Australian Navy veteran John Pitcher quickly stepped up to fill that role. His work would be pivotal to bringing the project to completion on time. Because Woody Williams’ travel schedule was limited, he had scheduled four events over a weekend in the DFW area. John did a great job of schedule juggling to make sure everything was complete, with just hours to spare in time for Woody to dedicate the monument. Woody had a whirlwind trip to Frisco Texas which included a visit with Jerry and his daughter Charlotte Jones of the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday morning, the monument dedication at 11, performing the invocation for the R. Lee Ermey Memorial Golf Classic on Friday before heading down to Corsicana, Texas just south of Dallas/Fort Worth for the dedication of their monument on Saturday. We should note that Charlotte Jones is the Chair of the Medal of Honor Museum, which is being built in DFW. Quick shout out to retired Marine John Albers of Albers Aviation who flew Woody into DFW from his West Virginia home on Wednesday then back to West Virginia on Sunday. And, our deepest condolences go out to Woody’s family, without whom this project would never have happened. Semper Fi!
Together, We Can Make Anything Happen

AUXILIARY AND LEAGUE MEMBERS: Did you enjoy your stay in Daytona Beach? I did! If you were unable to join us, your participation, idea sharing, and most of all you and your friendship were sorely missed.

The Auxiliary sessions were well attended, and there was a good exchange of information as well as time for sharing ideas and just catching up with old friends, and hopefully making some new friends, as well. Our next opportunity to gather will be at the mid-winter conference in Norfolk, VA, February 23-25, 2023.

I would like to thank my auxiliary sisters for their support and the confidence placed in me to represent all of you during the coming year. I took an oath and solemnly promised upon my honor to carry out the duties of my office as your national president and will do everything in my power to not let you down.

I am looking forward to working together with my staff of elected and appointed officers to do good things, to overcoming any obstacles that may get in our way, and to working with Commandant Baker and his staff and helping whenever and wherever I can.

I would be remiss if I didn’t commend past National President Evelyn Joppa on a job well done and thank her for her leadership over the past three years as she guided the Auxiliary through some very difficult times and helped us wade through those uncharted waters.

In closing, I would like to wish all Marines an early happy birthday – 247 years old and still going strong!

Remember, we may not have it all together, but, together, we have it all, and, together, we can make anything happen.

Stay safe and until next time...

Semper Fi!

Western Star AZ MCLA unit charter presentation. MCLA PNP Evelyn Joppa and Southeast Division VP Pauline Forsell.

Presentation of 40-year recognition certificate and pin to Peggy Tuohy. Left to right, PNP Evelyn Joppa, Peggy Tuohy, PNC John Tuohy, Judge Advocate Mary Brief.
Thank You For the Support and Inspiration

The opportunity to meet and speak with one's hero's is often a once in a lifetime experience. My trip to the Marine Corps League convention in August gave me that opportunity. The Marine Corps League is the genesis of the Young Marines program. If it wasn't for that group of Marines back in 1959 founding this program, I wouldn't be the young man I am today. The morals, ideals and patriotism instilled in me through your example is something that guides me now and will continue to guide me throughout my life. For that I am forever grateful.

I remember being only 10 years old, working with my local Marine Corps League detachment on the toy donation drive for the Toys for Tots Foundation. I didn't know it then, but the mentorship and guidance that was being provided to me helped to alter my future for the better. In my life, you have all been a prime example of what a leader is. From your physical presence at Young Marine events, to your willingness to open new Young Marine units, and your financial contributions to our program, every step of the way the Marine Corp League has helped to make our program better and it has not gone unnoticed. The continued partnership of the Marine Corps League and Young Marines throughout the decades shows your continued dedication to today's youth and tomorrow's leaders.

It was truly inspiring to meet so many experienced Marines and hear each of your stories. The knowledge and lessons I took away from this experience at the convention will aid me for years to come. As a future Marine and aviator, getting to speak with so many experienced Marines in a variety of fields helped inform me of what my resources are limited. Obviously, with the changing financial situation, grants issued far outweighed our donations received.

Therefore, we appeal to every individual, detachment, department and division to dig deep and make a contribution as your means permit. One way to do so is to participate in our Memorial Certificate Program. It is a dignified way to honor those who have passed as well as supporting the Foundation's mission.

We need more than just your help. We need you to reach out to anyone that you know from your personal business dealings, your employers, and others from your day-to-day life. The Foundation can only survive with the generosity of our members and the community at large.

In closing, I wanted to say thank you for your support, which allows us to keep moving forward with our critical mission of helping Marines in need. Semper Fi!
Help Raise Veterans’ Voices

MARINES: Our National Convention is now closed and I’m grateful for your support voting for me to serve as your senior vice commandant for the upcoming year. I hope everyone enjoyed reuniting with old and meeting new friends. The Department of Florida set the bar high for future conventions. Thank you all for the comradery provided. Next, on to Oklahoma, where they are well preparing to greet us.

This fall is the time for celebrating the most important day for Marines, 10 November. A time to celebrate our birthday and recall all of our great adventures with our brother and sister Marines while serving. We need to hear more of the stories from our 21st Century Marines. Our new generation of Marines should be ready to join the League and once again enjoy being a Marine and staying active.

This time of year also provides us with the opportunity to further make that commitment to our country by participating in the voting process. We are veterans, we are a veterans service organization. While many citizens advocate for their particular interests, we should ensure that the voices of veterans do not fall silent. If those who pass the laws and regulations that we must adhere to aren’t aware of our needs, shame on us. It behooves us all to support those who have the veterans community at the top of their agenda. The needs of veterans span a very wide spectrum. We need those needs not only to be heard but to be acted upon. Be vigilant and proactive in casting your vote to protect the rights we have so dearly paid for when you made your commitment to become a Marine.

In 2023, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our founding by General John A. Lejeune. This celebration will begin in Oklahoma and will be carried on throughout the year across the country. 100 years of many accomplishments and fun. I hope all of our detachments will partake in this celebration and find more Marines to join us. Who else gets as much done and has as much fun and laughs as a member of the Marine Corps League?

Thank you all for the great support you have provided the League and please do not let up. We are making a great difference in the lives of many.

Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fi!

Congratulations on our Recruiting and Retention Performance!

MARINES: Thank you for entrusting me as your national jr. vice commandant for a second term. You all have done a great job in the areas of recruiting and retention. The Marine Corps League saw a seven percent jump in membership with over 4200 new members. What great work! I think what’s more important is that we saw 40.7 percent of all Marine Corps League detachments have greater than 100% retained members over the previous year. You have basically doubled retention from the previous year. That is outstanding. We set the bar now its time to exceed those statistics next year. Remember our fiscal year is July 1 to June 30th each year.

So, lets drill down into why I think we saw these dramatic increases. It is hard to quantify, but I think on recruiting its about how your detachment is marketing. The QR code we have in membership certainly helps because that is data we see. It’s important that you follow up with a prospective member if you get an email with their information. Second point here is that I see you are changing what you offer your detachment. Some have offered social time to include the families; that huge. You offer social events that include “out of the box” thinking, like community events such BBQ competitions. Keep thinking of ways outside of the general business meeting to keep your detachment engaged.

Retention numbers that I mentioned earlier are high because you are giving your new member purpose. You’re not putting them in the back of the meeting and excluding them from the tribe. I see mentoring increasing. This is so important to the detachment, simply because knowledge is power. Coming into the Marine Corps League can be a confusing time for a new member. Take the time to slowly get them in the loop on our ritual and detachment guidebook. Some exciting things will be happening in the next year and that is an update on both the ritual and the detachment guidebook. We have done a great job in keeping our bylaws and administrative procedures up to date, but not the others. I am confident our new national judge advocate and his select team will have that mission complete by next year’s 100th anniversary convention, or sooner.

Speaking of our 100th anniversary next year, its time to make those reservations! If you thought the Daytona convention was huge, you won’t what to miss Oklahoma City. I have peeked the curtains a bit and I guarantee, if you attend, you won’t be disappointed. Stay safe and healthy.

Semper Fi!
MADE MARINE TOUGH... FOR TOUGH MARINES

Combining the enduring look of a vintage-style bomber jacket with a classic salute to the pride and tradition of the Marines, our “USMC Semper Fidelis” Twill Bomber Jacket is an exclusive design that’s sure to keep you comfortable and warm through years of weather and wear... and it’s only available from The Bradford Exchange.

Great pride and attention to detail went into the intricately embroidered artwork on both sides of this khaki twill, front-zip jacket. On the front of this bomber-inspired jacket is “USMC” along with the official Marines Eagle, Globe and Anchor. Surrounding the large Eagle, Globe and Anchor on the back is the motto “Semper Fidelis” and “U.S. Marine Corps”. Made of 100% cotton twill, this exclusive jacket only gets better with wear and features many additional details including two front flap pockets with a hidden zip pocket behind each one, an inside slip pocket, snap cuffs, knit hem, and removable sherpa collar. What a distinctive way to show your pride in being one of The Few. The Proud. The Marines. Imported.

AN EXCEPTIONAL VALUE...
YOUR SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

With its custom design and quality, the officially licensed “USMC Semper Fidelis” Twill Bomber Jacket is a remarkable value at $209.95*, and you can pay in four easy installments of $52.49. To order yours in sizes M-XXXL (sizes XXL-XXXL, add $10), backed by our unconditional 30-day guarantee, send no money now; just fill out and send in your Priority Reservation today!

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Where Passion Becomes Art
**NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE**

RUSS MILLER

**We have Responsibilities to our Membership**

**MARINES:** Like all of you, I know that I had an expectation heading into the 2022 National Convention that was quite different from the reality which we experienced. Arriving at the convention with one year left on my tenure as National Vice Commandant for the Rocky Mountain Division, the idea had come up recently with a number of mentors in the League of the future intention to seek more responsibility and run for National Judge Advocate at the 2023 National Convention. I want to say, I am more than blown away and so very thankful for the trust and confidence that so many exhibited in electing me as our new National Judge Advocate this year. At the same time though, I find myself a bit remorseful for having won against such a stellar Marine, leader, and most importantly friend as Phil Zamora.

Now to jump right into the deep end and address something that is currently plaguing our detachments and departments. As a not-for-profit veteran service organization licensed and incorporated by the federal, as well as all our state governments to operate, it’s incumbent on us to make sure that we’re fulfilling our fiduciary responsibility at every level to our fellow members and the veteran community as a whole by ensuring the fiscal longevity and reputation of our Marine Corps League.

A great explanation of this concept, which I borrowed and tweaked to fit our organization, explains it something like this; “Fiduciary duty requires officers of the League to be objective, unselfish, responsible, honest, trustworthy, and efficient stewards of public trust. Acting for the good of the League rather than for the benefit or aggrandizement of themselves, exercising reasonable care in all decision making without placing the League under unnecessary risk.” Examples of some issues that we are facing within the League that run completely counter to these duties and in the end jeopardize our financial status are; (a) not operating our meetings in accordance with the NBL, NAP, Ritual, and Robert’s Rules of Order which can lead to: (b) failure to ensure quorums are present before conducting business, in turn leading to; (c) not keeping accurate minutes of quorum satisfaction and business conducted and thus; (d) not maintaining full and accurate accounting of financial records.

If we don’t take care of the business end of things in our meetings, then we are just holding “gatherings” for the sake of camaraderie alone. Camaraderie is more than likely what drew all of us to the League in the first place and we need more of it in our detachments and departments if we are going to continue to draw more new members to our ranks. So, I am far from suggesting we hold nothing but long tedious business meetings. But work hard when it’s time to work, then play harder when it’s time to play. And remember to be the kind of member that you wish there were twenty more of in your detachment.

In our next issue, I will discuss another plague we are facing that is a massive deterrent to our camaraderie, League growth and community effectiveness. Semper Fi!

**JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT**

DENNIS TOBIN

**Rising Through the Ranks Makes a Strong Marine Corps League**

**MARINES:** I want to talk about the responsibilities of members at the detachment and department levels. We all join the league for our own reasons: camaraderie, brotherhood, a way back to our Tribe. What we do once we become members is another story. Some join just to be around Marines and take part in detachment functions and activities, some want to be a part of the color guard or shooting team, but very few are interested in the most important aspect of the detachment, the leadership. Maybe a quarter of our members are interested in a leadership role.

Marines, think about it, a quarter interested in leadership and three-quarters not interested... eventually that leads to detachment officers filling the leadership roles over and over again, and that becomes a serious problem. The detachment becomes stale, less and less involved in activities and eventually begins to slip away from the department and National, they become delinquent with their state incorporation, the IRS and their ROI’s, and eventually they lose good standing as a detachment.

Another issue that is a direct result of no one wanting to be in the leadership role is the existing officers don’t want to give up their positions and now no one can step up. What does this do for new members or existing members that are interested in becoming a detachment leader? In some detachments, it makes it almost impossible for them to run for an office. New members become disgusted with the existing leadership. They can’t get into an office, so they walk away from the detachment. All it will take is for more members to want to hold office and for the existing officers to step aside when their term is over. Let someone new take over.

So, to try and make sense out of every-thing I’ve said, in most detachments, the length of office is two one-year terms. The starting office should be the judge advocate while the existing officers move up. Remember that anyone can run for any office at an election. The JA position is important because you learn the by-laws and how the Marine Corps League operates. To new members, I’ll say this: if you get turned away from running for an office, don’t walk away, go out and bring in as many new members as you can and influence the vote. To existing members: I’ll say it’s time to step up. It’s your detachments, keep it going. Semper Fi!
Who Has Inspired YOU Today?

MARINES: What is the meaning of “inspiration”? “Of extraordinary quality, as if arising from some external reactive impulse.” As a verb: Gives you new ideas and a strong feeling of enthusiasm.

Inspiration comes in many forms, shapes, and sizes. Young Marine Private Gabriel Engdahl is my inspiration for this article. He is pictured here, waiting to have his uniform, rifle and attitude inspected by his chain of command. He is expected to perform flawlessly as the right rifleman in a color guard with the Foothills Young Marines unit. At this particular event, Private Engdahl was just eight years old and has been in the Young Marine program since March 2022. He is a transfer Young Marine from Flat Irons Young Marines who joined his new unit in July 2022. Private Engdahl’s unit commander is Mr. Nick Stone, and the local supporting Marine Corps League detachment is Broomfield Detachment #1441, Department of Colorado, Rocky Mountain Division.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Young Marines program, it is a national youth education and service program for boys and girls, age eight through the completion of high school. The program promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. It focuses on character building and leadership while promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. There are 235 units throughout the United States. Each is led and guided by adult volunteers who are retired Marines, veterans of the armed services, Young Marine alumni and patriotic citizens of this country who are excited about what this program offers today’s youth. Find out more at www.youngmarines.org.

As always, the Young Marines are grateful for the opportunity to work side by side with the Marine Corps League - supporting each other’s mission statement. I believe both organizations have the positive forward momentum to inspire goodness across the nation. Have you inspired anyone today? Semper Fi!

“TRICK OR TREAT.... YOU'RE STILL WEAK! NASTY!!!!!!”
You Can Never Have Too Much Training

**MARINES:** I truly appreciate your support, and I will continue to serve honorably and faithfully as your National Vice Commandant of the Central Division. I want to personally thank Dave Englert as our Assistant Division Vice Commandant for his unyielding support and assistance.

Now that the national convention is over, we will all be preparing for some sort of fall conference. Please use this time to review your department bylaws, specifically to ensure you are meeting your quorum requirements. Some of these bylaws had been adopted years ago, and attendance averages may have changed since they were adopted. If you need to change or update them, please take this time to consider proposing changes or amendments for your upcoming department conventions.

Along with your quorums, please take the time to review your election and succession procedures. Please ensure you are following everything by the book, giving no room for error or misinterpretation.

Now to the main topic of this quarter – training! You can never have enough! In all my years as a PMI and instructor for various disciplines in the infantry and beyond, through my days as a law enforcement officer, and even now as a truck driver, you can always learn something new, or reinforce what you have already learned. Even Chuck Norris himself continues training, and probably learns something new every day.

As new Marines, you constantly learned what you had to do to move up the chain, either by promotion, or position appointments or billet assignments. Nothing has changed in that department. When you first joined the League, you probably studied the guidebook and bylaws to get acquainted in the detachment proceedings. If you took on a position, I’m sure you again acquainted yourself in the job duties and responsibilities. As you move up through the chairs, you become familiar with your new job duties. All units (detachments, departments, and even national), should have some sort of training for successful transitions into these new jobs. But you cannot wait for that. If you are serious in taking on these new roles, you need to find it in yourself to seek out the information and knowledge to know what needs to be done. For instance, do not take on the department judge advocate position without a thorough understanding of its roles and duties. This is not the time to learn the job; you should already have some experience and understanding from the detachment level before you move up to the department positions. Do not be afraid to seek out your predecessors, or experienced and/or seasoned members who have held these positions. We are all brothers and sisters, and I have no doubt that we will always help each other out.

Again, I want to thank you for your support, and I wish to congratulate everyone in their re-election or newly elected positions. Together we will move forward and continue to grow and prosper. **Semper Fi!**

Listen, Learn, Help, Lead

**MARINES:** To those of you in leadership positions at all levels, let me address this article to you. The first president of the United States, George Washington, was a man with exemplary leadership skills that bound America’s fighting men together during the Revolutionary War. Many quotations are as relevant today as they were when he first spoke them.

One of his quotes affirms that the title of a leader is just a word; a true leader doesn’t need a title: “Remember that it is the actions, and not the commission that makes the officer, and that there is more expected from him, than the title.”

His popularized leadership style of “Listen, learn, help, then lead” provides a framework for leaders at every level of the Marine Corps League. Listen to your subordinates. They may have a perspective or insights that will change the course of action. Learn as you progress through your tasks. Mistakes are inevitable but need not be made a second time. Help your subordinates formulate a plan to become future leaders. Give them the responsibilities that will create a plan of becoming future leaders of the Marine Corps League. And finally, Lead. If you look that word up in the dictionary it states, “The initiative in an action, an example for others to follow.”

Look at number 5 in the 11 Marine Corps Leadership Principles. Set the example. You are the individual all other aspire to be like. Your leadership should be based on inspiration, not domination; on cooperation, not intimidation. You hold the future of the Marine Corps League in your hands each time you stand before the membership.

The 11 Marine Corps Leadership Principles

1. Know yourself and seek self-improvement.
2. Be technically and tactically proficient.
3. Know your Marines and look out for their welfare.
4. Keep your Marines informed.
5. Set the example.
6. Ensure the task is understood, supervised, and accomplished.
7. Train your Marines as a team.
8. Make sound and timely decisions.
9. Develop a sense of responsibility among your subordinates.
10. Employ your command in accordance with its capabilities.
11. Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions.

**Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclmideast.com
Putting It All Together

MARINES: At the national Marine Corps League conference in Daytona Beach, Florida, the theme was “Put It All Together” at the department/detachment level. The message to leadership was to pass on information down the chain of command and train future leaders. In addition, be prepared for questions coming back up the chain of command, so every member has a voice.

The programs we offer to Marines, Marine families, FMF personnel, and our veteran communities are outstanding, and more importantly, the camaraderie within our organization “Once a Marine always a Marine” solidifies our bond moving forward with our mission.

The tools we have as elected leaders in the Marine Corps League to work with are proven to support management; national, department, and detachment bylaws, administrative procedures, and business forms for conducting and managing detachment business.

We need to emphasize basics and set our sights on a new standard of achievement. We must use the accomplishments of 2021-2022 as a foundation for continuity in 2022-2023. While some success was achieved, we fell short in essential areas of an organization. The goals that we need to be focused on in the first quarter of 2022-2023, and where we came up short last year are federal income tax 990 compliance, secretary of state filings, MCL ROI submissions to Marine Corps headquarters when detachment and department election are completed, and 100% membership renewal by September 1.

Where do the responsibility and the challenges lie to surpass 2021-2022? The answer, of course, is that it lies within each detachment to ensure they have a solid corporate structure; the Marine Corps League is, first, a legal corporation created to carry out our mission statement. The most important part of the management puzzle is that the detachment commandant and officers are the focal points that make everything happen.

The Marine Corps League is a proven leader. As elected department and detachment officers, the word “leadership” carries another meaning for you; your responsibility to your membership that selected you is such that you should strive to make them highly productive and efficient. To motivate them in that direction, it is necessary that they feel the same self-worth that you must feel to get the job done. That can only come from you. It is your program built to the need of your veteran community.

I expect that the essential four goals of your department/detachment organization will be emphasized and met by November 1, 2022. Semper Fi!
Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

Joe Hughes
NVC, Midwest Division

It’s About the Impact You Make

MARINES: We are the few, we are the proud, and we hold our tradition and values close to our chest. You can always tell who is a Marine in the crowd. We made a difference then, and it is never too late to make a difference again.

Our brains were filled with knowledge from boot camp which will remain with us for the rest of our life, but what do we do with that knowledge? More than ever, our country and our communities need our support. We cannot allow the negativity of the world to breed more negativity. Rather than be upset for all the things that have gone wrong, we can be thankful for all the things that have gone right. No one in this world is perfect, we all make mistakes – but when we acknowledge and learn from those mistakes, we set an example of accountability and leadership. Our mindset should be to strive, not to be better than anyone else, to be better than we were before. That motivation will spread to others and help move the world forward more positively. I believe in that!

It does not matter how slowly you move, as long as you do not stop. If you keep moving, it means you have not given up! If you have not given up, it means you are willing to work and succeed. That work we do has a purpose. With our actions, we will be the reason someone feels seen, heard and supported even more this year than in the past. It is not about who you impressed along the way, but who you made an impact on.

We are coming up on the season to make the biggest impact on our communities. This year will be more important than ever being involved with Toys for Tots. I would like to challenge my division to assist in raising the bar on Toys for Tots on local campaigns being directly supported by our detachments.

With all said and done, I would like to thank the New England division for all their hard work throughout the summer. I hope everyone gets to enjoy the 247th Marine Corps birthday. The Boston Semper Fi Society will be having their birthday luncheon on November 4, 2022 at the Boston Convention Center with guest speaker Commandant of the Marine Corps General Berger.

Happy Birthday Marines! Semper Fi!
Division Website: mclnedivision.com

David Porter
NVC, New England Division
Change Through Transformational Leadership Practices

MARINES: People tend to think leaders are born while others made. Other schools of thought state that leadership is either transformational or situational. In either case, we often equate leadership with authority.

Leaders are familiar with and become cognizant of this and focus their attention upward in such a system. Bearing this in mind, we presume that there will always be some form of hierarchy, and our organization is no exception. This is not to say that we don’t recognize the legitimacy of authority and the leadership that accompany the positions, but rather that leadership has a more intrinsic value than what is observed. We should be looking for leadership that will challenge us to face problems and learn in new ways; but with the caveat that sometimes we seek the wrong kind of leader, and those persons in authority need to direct and protect. We know this as “servant leadership” and is the beginnings of transformational leadership.

The fact that there is formal authority, where the officeholder agrees to meet a set of expectations, and informal authority, which is derived from the promise to meet expectations—often implicit trustworthiness, ability, and civility. Leaders clearly need to understand and recognize both power structures and look beyond the formal and informal so as not to become autocratic in nature and impede our abilities to make sound political and moral decisions.

This model constrains leadership because, in times of distress, people expect too much and get little in return. They also form inappropriate dependencies that isolate their authorities behind a mask of knowing, often described as “mob rule” or “cliques.”

We do not establish our norms of leadership strictly by an authoritative viewpoint, therefore, must look to other sources to validate our leadership style. This is not to say that these ideologies have no place in the Marine Corps League; on the contrary, it is saying that there are other aspects of leadership to consider. We need to seek leadership that inspires and mobilizes the membership to tackle tough problems collectively by giving the work back to the membership without abandoning them. Leaders need to be humble in their decision making, always reflecting on the moral aspects and the consequences of cause and effect.

Leadership is commitment and having a vision and purpose that calls for unwavering dedication in the best interest of the League. We must charge ourselves to examine alternatives and be prepared for the subsequent consequence of our actions and decisions.

The League prides itself on all levels in that the members maintain a great sense of respect and trust regarding the abilities of its leadership. In order to better our organization, we need to motivate them to transcend beyond themselves and encourage others to perform their duties to create future leaders with the same high moral and ethical ideals we’ve come to expect. Semper Fi!

Division Website: nedmcl.org

Know Your Community

MARINES: In Marine terminology, I call it operational and situational awareness. As a veterans’ service organization, it is important to know your target audience since we are here to serve those veterans in need. Understanding your community, the services which are available, and knowing how to connect veterans to those services is advocacy. Each of our communities is different, but we all have one thing in common; we have veterans. Being available to talk with those who served is a great service and being able to listen and pick up on what they are saying is impactful. Why? As previously discussed in a past article, we all have a story to tell. We all have life circumstances that are independently different from each other. As a whole, we can accomplish anything; but if one veteran is struggling and does not have an advocate or “battle buddy”, the situation could worsen. Being able to listen and provide options within our community to support them as they traverse their personal barriers makes a huge difference for them.

In my working job, I am a disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist. I work with veterans daily as they seek employment, and I work specifically with veterans that have significant barriers to employment. This is not just those transitioning out of the military, but those who have lost a job, are just graduating college, or are seeking a better paying job with benefits. The issues of being homeless, living in a vehicle, in a tent, behind a dumpster, experiencing domestic violence, separation from family, substance addictions, having no transportation or limited transportation, no driver’s license, and a slew of many more count as barriers to employment. Being able to peel back the onion layers to find the root causes of what is happening is rewarding when assisting a veteran in going back to school, finding shelter, or even finding a place for a warm shower, getting clean clothing, or having a warm meal. This cannot be accomplished if you don’t know your community and the services which are within your community.

Yesterday, while attending a Veterans’ Housing Options Group meeting, I met a Marine veteran that was trying to find out if he would be eligible for a housing program. He was living in his vehicle parked at a local Walmart. He had just been hired and was in need of work clothing, boots, some tools, food, and insurance for his vehicle and license tabs. He was successfully connected to all of the resources he was in need of, is starting his job next week and is moving into his own apartment this weekend. None of this would be possible without community knowledge. I challenge each of you to be involved as an advocate for our veterans. You and they are worth the effort. Semper Fi!

Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org
Communication is Key

MARINES: Congratulations to all the newly elected national officers for the upcoming year. I would also like to announce to the Rocky Mountain Division that our own Russ Miller was elected to the position as national judge advocate. Since that has happened, Russ has done amazing job and I congratulate him on the new position, and I rest assured that he will do an outstanding job.

I was appointed by the national commandant to finish out the remainder of Russ Miller’s term. With that said, I would like to assure the division that nothing will change. The only, and most important thing I would like to see is better communication between detachments/departments and division. I am asking all department commandants that when something is passed along, that they are passing this information along to the detachment commandants. The main goal here is to ensure that every member of the Rocky Mountain Division receives the word in a timely fashion. Communication goes a long way on helping a unit’s morale, no matter at what level. I ask that department and detachment commandants communicate with their membership, as well as with division. I, as division, promise to communicate with all department commandants and will answer all calls from any member that reaches out. I would also like to see more detachments stepping out and becoming active within their communities. Once again, I look forward to seeing everyone as I travel throughout the division. Please, department commandants, let me know when your quarterly staff meetings are happening, and I will look at my schedule as well. Thank you. Semper Fi!

Division Website: rockymountainmcldiv.org

It Feels Great to Get Involved

MARINES: Just like the Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League is an all-volunteer organization. Once you’ve signed up, however, it’s much less painful to abandon the League than it is to walk away from the Corps. To keep our members, and even to grow by attracting new ones, the League needs to remain interesting, relevant, and satisfying. The camaraderie among our members is obviously the key attraction in getting new members to join our group, but it takes an effort on our part to keep them.

We ask our members to get involved in many things. Whether it’s internal League projects, or highly visible programs like Toys for Tots, or participation in fundraising and community events, our members give willingly of their time. When they do, it’s important that we recognize their dedication, effort, and contributions. I want to take the opportunity to do that now. We have seven departments in the southeast division. (We're not called the Magnificent Seven for nothing). All of our departments, and their members, have made significant contributions to the League and their communities, but since I have limited space, I’ll just highlight a couple for now.

The weekend of July 10, 2022 brought over 60 family members to the Mississippi Delta as they joined the community in remembering the 15 Marines and one Navy Corpsman that lost their lives five years prior. On July 10, 2017, a Marine KC-130 aircraft crashed into the soybean fields near Itta Bena, Mississippi carrying these 16 heroes who were headed to a training mission in Arizona. This year marked the fifth ceremony that honored the men aboard YANKY 72 and was held at the YANKY 72 memorial located near Itta Bena, MS. Department Commandant Clifton Addison, and the Department of Mississippi were instrumental in raising funds and creating the memorial. They serve as co-hosts of an annual memorial event along with the local search and rescue crews and surrounding communities. The ceremony consisted of changing of the flags, reading of the names, and a time of prayer and encouragement by a local pastor. The hosts cover all the travel, meals, and lodging expenses for the family members of the victims.

By the time you read this article, the National Convention will be history, but I want to give special kudos to the convention host and the Department of Florida for their extraordinary efforts in planning, organizing and logistical management for the events. They clearly raised the bar in the use of technology and the display of teamwork among a large group of department, detachment, and national staff members. Even more importantly, they’ve committed to sharing their knowledge with the team currently preparing for next year’s 100th anniversary event. Thanks, Scott Westervelt, to you and your entire team. Great job! Semper Fi!

Division Website: seddiv.org
DIVISION REPORTS

It was a Motivational 2022 National Convention

MARINES: The 2022 Marine Corps League National Convention has completed business at Daytona Beach, FL. It was one of the best that I have ever attended. I would like to give a huge thank you to the Department of Florida, the host detachment, for a job very well done in their hard work and efforts to ensure every attendee was taken care of.

There are three main areas of events from the National Convention that I want to write about. The first being the reelections of national officers. All national officers except for national judge advocate were reelected to their office. The newly elected judge advocate is Russ Miller from Colorado. Congratulations to all for being reelected. The Marine Corps League national officers and support personnel work very hard for the membership. Thank you.

It was a special Friday evening at the National Convention banquet. The guest of honor was the Commandant of the Marine Corps General David Berger. General Berger was accompanied with his wife in addition to Sergeant Major Black and his wife. General Berger and Sergeant Major Black were extremely generous in meeting Marines, Sailors and families prior to the banquet. General Berger also went from table to table in the Coquina banquet room to speak with guests. Sgt. Maj. Black accompanied General Berger at the banquet. Both had their spouse with them. This seem to be a special evening for the Marine Corps League. Our top leaders were enjoying themselves with veteran Marines, Sailors and families of the Marine Corps League. General Berger spoke very positively about the Marine Corps League and the current state of the Marine Corps and its future.

There was another interesting and motivating moment during the evening. 2022-2023 National Young Marine of the Year, YM/Sgt. Maj. Jason Glaskox spoke about his introduction to the Young Marines Program and how it has transformed his life. YM/Sgt. Maj. Glaskox was catching attention from a large audience quickly with his manner of speech and spirit. He spoke about teamwork, leadership, and discipline. If you are interested in listening to more about this young man, you can find more by googling the “Young Marines Program.” This is a great story.

Departments and detachments, if you do not have a Young Marines program, this may be the best time to research and talk about forming your own unit. It is a demanding task, but hard work pays off. The Marine Corps League is looking for leaders to volunteer and lead. Semper Fi!

Division Website: southernmcl.org

Get Your VA Benefits

MARINES: War is Hell. Marines know this, whether it is in the jungles of Southeast Asia or the “sand pit” of the Middle East. While war produces trauma in the execution of conflict, some “injuries” do not show up until many years later. The VA can provide both disability rating and medical attention for short- and longer-term conditions. If you served on active duty and have not submitted for VA benefits, do it immediately! You might ask, “how do I get started with this process?” Seek out your state or county Veterans Service Office or a veteran service organization like DAV, VFW, etc. Applying for benefits will require an interview, filling out forms and other considerations. A good website is nacvsso.org.

Most conditions take the form of physical and mental trauma. Not all civilian institutes can diagnose many of these traumas to VA standards. Many times, veterans are suffering in ways that civilian doctors may not totally understand how to diagnose due the origin of the disability. For example, 15 years ago, as I was undergoing an annual physical, I asked my personal physician if some of the conditions that he was diagnosing me with could be a result of my exposure to Agent Orange while I was in Vietnam. His response was, “I doubt it, but I don’t really know. I can provide you with some reading material and you can decide from there.” I was provided with a 50-page medical research document that did little to help me understand my specific situation. The VA, on the other hand, informed me of Agent Orange presumptive conditions, ran tests, and was able to provide medical assistance in response to my request.

Each MCL detachment/department should have a DSO or veterans advocate to assist members. Hopefully all departments within the Southwest Division have a veterans advocate or DSO, or can direct the veteran to them. The VA can provide a Marine with accreditation from DAV. Troy Carroll, our Southwest Division advocate is here to assist and has volunteered to provide training and information at future division meetings. Marines are warriors and as such it is not easy to ask for help. Remember... this assistance you are asking for is a benefit that all veterans have earned. Don’t be reluctant to use it or to ask for help.

IT IS YOUR RIGHT! Semper Fi!
Division Website: mclswdivision.org
A Welcoming Way to Brand Your Detachment

MARINES: Does your detachment have an embroidered golf/polo (or other type) of shirt? While this is not an official MCL uniform described in the National Administrative Procedures, Enclosure 3. It is the second logical step in professionally branding your local detachment, after the MCL cover. Your detachment should vote during a detachment meeting on a design. Having an appointed position of quartermaster will be an asset. The quartermaster should procure shirts from a vendor. Every member’s first detachment shirt should be embroidered with their name. Why embroider their name? It allows new members more comfortable when they can greet established members by name and allows established members to greet those new members by name, as well. This is especially important for those of us that are bad at remembering names. The quartermaster should price the detachment polo shirt to include the cost of the embroidery. Allow for those members who want a second shirt, or a different color shirt without a name, too. They may want to wear them to work or may just want to advertise your local detachment. While any color polo shirt your detachment choses is fine, I would recommend red. As a new member builds their MCL uniform wardrobe, we don’t all have the same financial capabilities. Typically, a new member buys an MCL cover and then the detachment polo shirt. With the detachment (red) cover and red polo shirt, this will allow a new member to start participating with other members who wear the casual uniform (red blazer). Many members already own black trousers, khakis or jeans and black dress shoes, black boots, or black sneakers, etc. This means for a minimal cost in uniforms, new members begin to look like other members of your detachment.

DRESS BLUES The Marine Corps League, without a doubt, has the best-looking uniforms of any veteran organization. Our uniforms, like our counterparts on active duty in the Marine Corps, are practical, well designed, and display an aura of professionalism. When our Birthday Ball and other veteran events occur, many like to wear their rightfully earned dress blue uniform. We encourage all veteran Marines to uphold the MCO 1020.34H Marine Corps Uniform Regulations. When wearing the dress blue uniform, please adhere to the MCO for personal appearance and grooming standards based on gender. If you will not follow the MCO, then please refrain from wearing the dress blue uniform.

TOYS FOR TOTS Dress blues are AUTHORIZED. While TFT is not specifically listed under MCO 1020.34H, the Marine Tots for Tots Foundation and MARFORRES leadership (under the CMC) has granted us permission to wear dress blues at TFT events since TFT is an official program of the U.S. Marine Corps. Semper Fi!
How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

The Act (1) expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

Veterans and survivors can file claims for all conditions outlined in the PACT Act immediately.

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension).

What are the PACT Act key components?

The Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.

VA will improve the decision-making process for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.

Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

VA health care staff and claims processors will receive toxic exposure-related education and training.

The Act requires research studies on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.

The Act will help VA build a stronger, more skilled workforce to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.

The Act authorizes 31 new medical facilities across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?

Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete VA Form 21-526EZ to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.

To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file.

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

Learn more and sign up at VA.gov/PACT
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at VA.gov/find-locations/
You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.

The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits
Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member if Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.

Accrued Benefits
A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:

Burials and Burial Allowance
Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.

Education and Training
Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.

Final Monthly Payment
If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.

Home Loan Guaranty
Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.

Health Care
Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

Learn more and sign up at VA.gov/PACT
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at VA.gov/find-locations/
In September of 2013, the Lt. General Victor "Brute" Krulak Detachment of the Alabama Department of the Marine Corps League was founded on the Core Values of honesty, integrity and leadership. Principles that exemplified 3-Star General Victor Krulak’s way of life. Lt. Gen Krulak has been called one of the most important officers in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Victor H. Krulak born January 7, 1913 was a decorated USMC Officer who served in many conflicts of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Having served 34 years in the Marine Corps; Lt. Gen. Krulak was an integral part in the design of the Higgins Boat, that was used in the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day. His brilliant leadership and indomitable fighting spirit assured the success of many missions throughout his highly decorated career. The recipient of the Navy Cross, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, three Legion of Merit citations, Air Medal, Bronze Star Medal with "V", the Purple Heart, as well as 16 other various unit citations, medals, and commendations, are all testimony to his dauntless courage and tenacious devotion to duty.

Having held Commands from Okinawa to Camp Pendleton and served in numerous roles from sea duty aboard USS Arizona eventually rising to position of Joint Chief of Staff under Lyndon B. Johnson, he always upheld the greatest traditions of the Marine Corps as a beacon of his unwavering service and example for his Marines to follow.

As a matter of fact, when a young PT boat captain named John Fitzgerald Kennedy helped evacuate Krulak’s forces at the end of operations in the Choiseul Islands in 1943, he responded with a promise to give John Kennedy a bottle of whiskey; a promise upon which he actually delivered almost 20 years later when Kennedy was serving as president of the United States.

As an act of gratitude and honor to the Marine whom the Krulak Detachment was named after, one of our detachment members wrote a poem for Charles C. Krulak (the son of Victor Krulak and the 31st commandant of the Marine Corps). The poem was presented to Charles Krulak at a Detachment meeting in the Spring of 2018.
The Billy Stelpflug Detachment was founded in 2000 by a group of Marines from the Auburn, Alabama area. The group included Jack Simms, a well-known journalist and a Marine veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, and William Weidner, also a Marine veteran of World War II. The detachment was nominally located in the college town of Auburn, Alabama but has members from the surrounding area.

The founders named the detachment for Lance Corporal William John “Billy” Stelpflug. Billy was killed by a truck bomb on October 23, 1983, along with 220 Marines and 21 other servicemen in Beirut, Lebanon. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines. He was 19.

Billy enjoyed the woods and streams of Auburn, was catcher on a youth baseball team, and was a Boy Scout. He was a member of St. Michael’s Catholic Church. Those who knew him as he grew up characterized him as witty, humorous, bold, outgoing, and fearless. He was also a poet.

He had a brother and three sisters who were older and had attended Auburn University. Billy, however, was adventurous and wanted to see the world before continuing his education. His mother said, “With a poet’s heart and a warrior’s attitude, Billy wanted to be a part of the strongest and toughest. He wanted to be a Marine.”

Billy attended boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., and was thereafter assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines. Not long after he departed Camp Lejeune, N.C. for Beirut. He was proud to be in the Marine infantry and was meritoriously promoted to lance corporal. He continued to write poetry, and a poem, “The War King Calls”, was recovered with his body.

Most of the Marines of the Billy Stelpflug Detachment that chose the name of Detachment 1064 were grizzled old veterans. Nevertheless, they were inspired by Billy’s dedication to his country and his love of the Marine Corps. Thus, they gave his name to the detachment.
ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE


The Jack Maas Det. 1379, Marine Corps League, Fredericksburg, VA, celebrated the 100th birthday of member and retired Master Sergeant Ralph Wilcox on June 2, 2022. Also included in the surprise party at Ralph’s house were members of the LCpl. Caleb John Powers Young Marines Unit, also in Fredericksburg. MSgt Wilcox enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1939 and completed boot camp at Parris Island, SC. He arrived via ship in New Caledonia in the South Pacific in 1942 in the newly activated 1st Marine Aviation Engineer Battalion which subsequently moved to Guadalcanal. He participated in the Pacific Island Campaign throughout WWII, to include Peleliu and Okinawa. He retired after serving 20 years. Semper Fi, Ralph!!!
**ROLL CALL**

**AROUND THE LEAGUE**

Tarawa Marine Robert Leroy James Quinn 98-year-old Purple Heart Marine is welcomed home by SSGt. John Camhan and First Sergeant James Leach.

General Smedley D. Butler Det. member Bill Kinney salutes as the casket flag of Captain Brian R. Faunce is lowered as his sisters and Gold Star Mother Judy Faunce look on.

[Image of General Smedley D. Butler Det. casket flag raising ceremony at the Delaware County Veterans Memorial in Newtown Square, PA, on 10 June 2022. (a) - General Smedley D. Butler Det. member Bill Kinney salutes as the casket flag of Captain Brian R. Faunce is lowered as his sisters and Gold Star Mother Judy Faunce look on.]
Dept. of PA Decades theme party: 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, 90’s, and beyond.

Take a Veteran to School Day - Celebrated at the Roberta Doering School - Agawam, MA. Westfield River Valley Det. 141 Marine Aldo Mancini presenting the flag.

WWII 4th Marine Division Marine Corporal Joseph Richard Celebrates his 100th Birthday with family and friends. State Rep. of CT Tami Zawistowski and East Granby First Selectwoman Eden Wimpfheimer presented Joe certificates after the drive-by vehicle parade honoring him and wishing him a happy 100th birthday.

Chuck Davis, Commandant of Hutchings-Caldwell Det. 1134 Spartanburg, SC, Past Department Commandant PDD Jim Stone, and PDD Jim Smith of Owens-Kennmore Det. 1105 Greenville, answered a request from the family of Floyd Guest, 93 to honor him and his service on Memorial Day at their family reunion. They gave him a quilt and an honorary membership in the Marine Corps League. Not pictured John Rossello, Det. 1105 and Mildred Davis Det. 1134 (photographer).

2022 Independence Day parade in Monument, CO. MODD Sr. Vice Chief Devil Dog Alan Sanning (left) joined the Pikes Peak Det. 29 in the annual parade. He is standing to the right of Melvin Postlewait.

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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

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 semperfí@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.mcleaguelibrary.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.mcnational.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.

Attending the Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Det. 1363 meeting in Black River Falls, WI on 10 June 2022, was Ian William Anthony Estel. He was bestowed an honorary membership and given his uniform shirt. An MCL membership certificate was given to his parents, Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant Eric Estel and Associate Member Natalie Estel, who recruited him 11 weeks ago.

Five members of Loudoun County MCL Det. 1205 are docents at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, which is an extra commitment, since we are located 60 miles away from the Museum in Purcellville, Virginia. In the photo are MCL members and museum docents Trish Manghelli, Richard Klein, Stirling Rasmussen, Richard Oakley, and Steve Hildner.

Members of the Greater Syracuse Marine Corps League present a check of $500 to LaFayette (NY) Optimists for their charitable programs. Left to right are Larry Bear, Bob Brown, Commandant, Doug Kautz Optimists, President, Ron Bush, Ron Farewell.
BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA

Marines, Medals and Vietnam

William L. Myers has provided an awesome tribute to our Marines who served in Vietnam. This book provides a very eloquent depiction of several (17) stories from Vietnam that provide the reader an excellent window into the hell that war creates. Myers makes each story feel very personal as the reader is pulled close to the action. He honorably includes the names of the servicemembers who died in those battles. I found myself standing as I read each name. A remarkable tribute to their sacrifice. Thank you for this book.

Marines, Medals and Vietnam
Author: William L. Myers
Pages: 392
Publisher: Redoubt Press
Language: English
ISBN: 978-0967436517

Sunrise At Sunset: Part I The Defender Series
MCL Member BJ Barnes entices the reader with a meticulous fictional story. The title of the book captured my interest immediately and once I opened the pages, I couldn't put it down. The book has excellent character development and the story flows very well. It is the first in a trilogy. The book is dedicated to the men and women of law enforcement. A great tribute to those who wear the badge.

Sunrise At Sunset: Part I The Defender Series
Author: BJ Barnes
Pages: 228
Publisher: Independently Published
Language: English
ISBN: 979-8580523439
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR**

**Marine Corps Birthday**
November 10

**Veterans Day**
November 11

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**REUNIONS**

Iwo Jima Association of America’s commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima Reunion will be held 16-18 February 2023 at the Crystal City Hilton Hotel in Arlington, VA with special commemoration in honor of Hershel “Woody” Williams. Contact: Rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org

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**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

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**FALL 2022**

**Marine Corps Birthday**
November 10

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**Veterans Day**
November 11

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**The dates above are tentative due to possible COVID-19 restrictions. Please check mclnational.org before making reservations.**
Each year, individual Marines, Marine Corps League Detachments (all across America) and Friends of the United States Marines Youth Foundation, can sponsor lights on the Christmas tree that will be displayed at the National Marine Corps League Headquarters during the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Typically, lights are given:

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

As a light sponsor, your name (or the name of your organization) will be listed on a special Scroll of Honor to be displayed at the ceremony and to be posted on our website: [www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org](http://www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org) throughout the year of 2023. For more information, please call (717) 420-0623.

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

**Forms should be received prior to December 1st to guarantee inclusion on the Scroll of Honor that will be displayed at the Tree Lighting Ceremony. However, we will continue to accept donations through December 31st, at which time the final Scroll of Honor will be placed on display at the National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League and on the website of the United States Marines Youth Foundation ([www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org](http://www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org)).**

Questions? Please call (717) 420-0623
Attention Chaplains!

All death notices must be sent to both the MCL Foundation President, Howard Schaeffer and to JD Foster. MCLnation alchaplain@gmail.com/JFoster@MCLeague.org

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.
CHOSIN FEW

JOHN BAUMAN
GEORGE BECKER
FRANK BORZELLIERI
LEE W. BROWN
MARK S. CHORNEY
BURTON F. DARLING
LARRY D. GOWETT
WILLIAM F. HUGHSON
THOMAS E. JASINSKI, SR.
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Chosin Few President Col. Warren Wiedhahn presents a painting of an F4-U Corsair to Federal Express CEO Fred Smith and his daughter Rachel at the screening of the motion picture “Devotion” at the Museum of the United State Marine Corps.
THE SEMPER FI STORE
(703) 207-9588 the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com

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

Formal Dress Vest Gold
Item Code: U28A/ U28B
Description: Formal Dress Vest Gold
One Size Fits Most/XL
Price: $45.00/$45.00

Gold Cuff Links
Item Code: U36A
Description: Gold Cuff Links
USMC Emblem
Gold on Gold
Price: $11.00

Clip-On Bow Tie
Item Code: U47
Description: Black Clip-On Dress Bow Tie
Price: $6.00

Banded Bow Tie
Item Code: U29
Description: Black Banded Dress Bow Tie
Price: $6.00

Shirt Studs
Item Code: U35
Description: Set of 3 Gold Shirt Studs for Tuxedo Shirt
Price: $20.00

MCL Associate Collar Ornaments
Item Code: U14A
Description: Gold Square Prong Back Associate Member Collar Ornament
Price: $11.00
THE SEMPER FI STORE
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Red USMC Patch 4”
Item Code: WA15C
Description: Round 4” Red Patch
Price: $4.00

Blue Patch
Item Code: WA15B
Description: Round 4” Blue Patch
Price: $4.50

Black Patch
Item Code: WA15A
Description: Round 4” Black Patch
Price: $4.00

Associate MCL Uniform Patch
Item Code: WA110
Description: 3” MCL Logo Uniform Patch w/ Associate Rocker
Price: $7.00

Sympathy Cards
Item Code: Card 02 Sympathy
Description: 10 Pack Embossed w/ MCL Logo “OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN THIS TIME OF LOSS”
Price: $12.00

Blank Greeting Cards
Item Code: Card 03 Blank
Description: 10 Pack Embossed w/ MCL Logo
Price: $12.00

Get Well Cards
Item Code: Card 01 Get Well
Description: 10 Pack Embossed w/ MCL Logo “BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY”
Price: $12.00

Travel Mug-MCL
Item Code: Cup1
Description: Red and Black MCL Coffee Mug
Price: $5.00
THE SEMPER FI STORE

ORDER FORM

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3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Ste 115 • Stafford, VA 22554 • (703) 207-9588

Billing Address

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Code# Quantity Item Description Size Price Each Total Cost

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DATE INITIAL

STANDARD SHIPPING: Shipping and handling charges for orders with Standard Shipping are calculated using the SUBTOTAL of the order. Some very heavy or oversized items may have a shipping surcharge which will be reflected in the item description.
**2022 BATTLEFIELD TOUR 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!

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**2022 Tours**

27 Nov–8 Dec
Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 9-14 Dec Laos & Cambodia

8–13 Dec
Bermuda for Remembrance Day & USMC Birthday

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**2023 Tours**

4–16 Feb
Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue

20–27 Mar
Iwo Jima – Guam 78th Anniversary Reunion of Honor

2–12 Apr
Philippines – WWII in the PI

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

Continues Next Page
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
2022 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE
Clip coupon and return along with your check made payable to:
Marine Corps League, Inc.
P.O. Box 1990
Stafford, VA 22555-1990
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.

2022 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE
continued from previous page

30 May – 13 Jun
79th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris

30 Jun – 8 Jun
79th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris
11–24 Jun
Famous Cathedrals of Northern France
29 Jun – 9 Jul
Russia “The Eastern Front”: Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad
30 Jul–4 Aug
“The Korean Experience
31 Jul–8 Aug
Guadalcanal 91st, Operation Watchtower
3–12 Aug
Morocco – WWII Operation Torch & French Foreign Legion
11–19 Aug
79th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon – South of France
11–25 Aug
Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague
23 Aug–7 Sep
Ireland – Fighting Irish vs. USNA Mids in Dublin, plus Belfast & Derry
25 Aug–6 Sep
“In the Footsteps” D-Day, Normandy, Battle of the Bulge & Arnhem
28 Aug–7 Sep
Vietnam 55th Anniversary Return to I-Corps
8–13 Sep
Midway Island Return WWII “Battle of Midway”
9–20 Sep
All England Tour “God Save the Queen” & 8th Air Force - WWII
11–23 Sep
Waterloo “Napoleon, Blucher & Wellington”
1–13 Oct
WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust
8–18 Oct
China “Imperial Jewels:” Beijing-Xian-Shanghai
8–21 Oct
D-Day Plus Battle of the Bulge & Paris
TBD
Italy WWII: Rome-Salerno-Amalfi-Sorrento-Florence-Venice
14–21 Oct
MHT’S The Great American South (St. Augustine, FL to New Orleans, LA)
19–24 Oct
40th Commemoration of the Beirut Barracks Lebanon
18–21 Nov
90th Commemoration of the Battle of Tarawa
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name _______________________________ Member Number ___________________

Street Address ___________________________ City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ___________

Phone ___________________________ Email Address ___________________________

Date of Birth __/__/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning __/__/____ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation __/__/____

Type of Application – New ( ) 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.*

( ) 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 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 trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating “Honorable Service.” (“Honorable Service” will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received.) General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

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

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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

"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.
SUPPORTING

TODAY'S

MARINES

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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

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Signature

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tions and spirit of ALL Marines who proudly wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and
Anchor of the Corps.
If you lived or worked at Camp Lejeune from 8/1953 to 12/1987 and suffered serious harm from the drinking water, you may be eligible to file a lawsuit for damages.

Please visit our website for more information on the specific cancers and serious diseases and health conditions that are being considered in this new litigation, enabled by the recently enacted Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

OVER 20,000 VETS CAN’T BE WRONG!

We are the nationally known and deeply experienced law firm of Weitz & Luxenberg PC, chosen by thousands of military veterans for representation in several litigations, such as 3M Combat Arms Earplugs and Asbestos/Mesothelioma.

Please know that even if you are a veteran who was denied disability by the Veterans Administration related to your service at Camp Lejeune, you may still qualify for compensation.

Call our Water Contamination Taskforce today at 1-844-538-0145 for a free and confidential consultation.

Did you get CANCER or another SERIOUS DISEASE after drinking the water at CAMP LEJEUNE?

MESOTHELIOMA We are proud to have represented so many military veterans who were exposed to asbestos, either while in the service or afterwards. If you have been diagnosed with Mesothelioma or Lung Cancer, please call us at 1-800-885-HELP or visit www.AsbestosVeteran.com.

Marines and other vets, give our elected officials in Washington D.C. a piece of your mind! Visit SoundOffMarines.com and record a message in support of Camp Lejeune victims. We can never let this type of negligence happen again!