Lighting up in support of the Purple Heart Recipients Act of 2022
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

This is a paid advertisement for legal services. Sokolove Law, LLC (LLP in certain states), 1330 Boylston St, Chestnut Hill/MA. Ricky LeBlanc admitted in MA only. Members: Paul Dix, Alton, IL, admitted AR, Rich Grabow, 970 Farmington Ave West Hartford/CT (860) 904-7789, Paul J. Morgan, Winter Park/ FL, Matt Christian, 1007 East Washington Street, Greenville SC.

The Marine Corps League encourages members to file with the VA. The appearance of this advertisement does not imply an endorsement of this firm by the Marine Corps League or Semper Fi Magazine.
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JOIN TODAY AT
WWW.MCA-MARINES.ORG
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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.
Leadership at All Levels!

Leadership at all levels is the essence of the Marine Corps; past, present, and future. We learned the fundamentals of Marine Corps leadership from the moment we arrived on the Yellow Footprints or at OCS. It was engrained in us throughout our Marine Corps careers, be it two years or thirty-plus years. Leadership at all levels is what makes the Marine Corps the disciplined and successful organization it is today.

The same requirements of leadership at all levels are also paramount in the success of the Marine Corps League. Upon entering the Marine Corps League, we volunteered to be in an organization that is considered the legacy bearer of the Marine Corps. With that comes the perception that we have the fiduciary responsibility and obligation of leading our organization in a manner in keeping with the hallowed traditions and esprit de corps of the Marine Corps and that weight of responsibility rests upon our shoulders.

We have found that we have detachments and departments that had Marines in leadership positions that failed to fulfill responsibilities and obligations of being in their leadership role. The commandant is the senior member of the board of trustees responsible for ensuring their unit is complying with the standards and requirements of the national bylaws and national administrative procedures. The commandant is responsible for ensuring those that are in other leadership positions in their unit must also fulfill their own obligations. This is paramount in the successful operation of each level of our organization.

The oversight by the commandant and their board of trustees is responsible for operations and requirements of required compliance issues. This applies to all our levels, detachments, departments, divisions, as well as National. This responsibility certainly starts at the detachment level by ensuring that each detachment is an IRS 501c4, under the Group Code 0955, have filed their current year IRS 990 form, submitted their annual report of officers’ installation (ROI), have incorporated within each state as required, as well as other requirements by our national bylaws and administrative procedures. The departments also have these same requirements.

So, leadership at all levels is a critical element of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League. When a Leaguer has stepped forward and accepted an elected or appointed position within our League, each of us swore “...that I will enforce and uphold and will myself obey the laws of the League...” This is the same oath that we all take regardless of what level of leadership we hold. Please allow me to encourage all MCL members in leadership roles to ensure that we “enforce and uphold” our own regulations that govern the Marine Corps League. It is our fiduciary responsibility to do so, and it is ensuring that we use our “leadership at all levels.” Semper Fi!
From the National Executive Director/COO

MARINES: Inspiration comes in many forms, and at times when you least expect it. I received a call from a relative this week whose spouse was in the hospital and in bad shape. Uncle John was essentially my inspiration to become a Marine and is a combat veteran Marine of the Vietnam War. My aunt asked for help completing the pre-need eligibility for burial in a VA cemetery process. My wife and I completed this step a couple years ago and it is a task we all should take care of regardless of age.

See: www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/

After the call, I reached out to the Department Commandant for Florida. Scott and his team immediately engaged their chain of command and within a few hours, a couple Marines walked into the hospital ICU room to visit this sick Marine. Later in the week, more Marines visited. For me, a great warmth and peace was felt as my brothers and sisters stood to my left and right, figuratively.

A couple months ago, I drove to my hometown to attend the funeral of my uncle (Air Force veteran) at a VA National Cemetery. As we gathered logistics for the funeral, I looked up to see Past National Commandant John Tuohy standing there. He said he came to support. I can’t describe how much that meant to me.

During the funeral, we learned from the VA National Cemetery representative that the Air Force didn’t show up for the pre-arranged honors and that we would simply have to say goodbye. PNC Tuohy and I took over and performed the flag folding for the family. John recited the funeral honors script from memory as well as presented the flag to the family. It was very touching and ensured the proper memorial for a veteran.

When it really counts, YOU are who I look to. YOU are who I see to the left and right because you are my sisters and brothers, and WE will always be Marines and FMF Sailors. THANK YOU! Semper Fi!

Copyright and Trademark Laws – Its Serious Business!

MARINES: Did you know, the United States Marine Corps emblem – the “Eagle, Globe & Anchor,” is property of the USMC – licensed, trademarked, registered, and copyrighted? The use and application of it is in their authority and the USMC can tell you not to use it. Established in July 2009 by the commandant of the Marine Corps, the USMC Trademark Licensing Office registers trademarks, licenses commercial companies, conducts enforcement and educates trademark users worldwide to protect and enhance the USMC brand in the commercial market-

Continued Next Page
place. They maintain sole authority over who gets to use the Eagle, Globe, & Anchor.

Federal law, as well as Department of Defense and USMC policy and regulations, prohibit use of official USMC markings/symbols in ways that imply endorsement of private sector entity/activity (See 10 U.S. Code 7881, Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 765.14, and Marine Corps Order (MCO) 503.3B). The use of USMC trademarks for commercial purposes, including reproduction on merchandise, is prohibited unless the producer completes a license agreement with the USMC.

The Marine Corps League (MCL) maintains an understanding with the USMC regarding specific use of its Eagle, Globe, & Anchor emblem; it’s a significant piece of relationship between the USMC and the MCL. Per the understanding, any MCL markings must be clear to show that it represents the MCL and not the USMC. Numerous MCL detachments use the emblem in their artwork and marketing. Unfortunately, several are using the emblem erroneously. Additionally, when soliciting graphics work, only authorized USMC vendors are to be solicited.

In short, detachments can use the Eagle, Globe, & Anchor emblem within larger MCL artwork, but the MCL is not to use the Eagle, Globe, & Anchor emblem independently, outside of their own marking—this includes flags, websites, social media, banners, brochures, business cards, table displays, etc. The words ‘Marine Corps League’ (or something similar) are always to be used when using the USMC artwork. Incorporating it as a stand-alone emblem causes people to think the MCL represents the USMC in an official capacity.

The MCL National Public Relations Committee has the great privilege of seeing amazing posts and events throughout social media; however, we cannot share these images due to the licensing and trademark violations. For more information log onto: www.hqmc.marines.mil/ousmcc/trademark. Detachment leadership may also use their chain of command to connect with the MCL national office for guidance. Semper Fi!
Salute the Few, The Proud, the Marines

USMC No Better Friend

Men’s Hoodie

Have No Fear! The USMC Has Your Back!

The brave men and women of the United States Marines are truly America’s heroes, and you can pay tribute to their unstoppable presence in the world with this Bradford Exchange custom design. Our officially licensed USMC “No Better Friend” Men’s Hoodie, crafted in a machine-washable cotton-blend knit in olive drab green, features a dramatic fully embroidered Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem on the back framed with the powerful phrase: “U.S. Marines / No Better Friend / No Worse Enemy”. On the front, the letters USMC appear in full embroidery. Other design details include a gray thermal-knit lined hood, a full front zipper, front kangaroo pocket, rib knit cuffs and hem, and silver-toned metal tippets on the drawstring. Imported.

A Remarkable Value Not Available in Stores

Available in five men’s sizes from M-XXXL, this tribute to the USMC is a remarkable value at $99.95*, and you can pay for it in 3 easy installments of $33.32 each. Sizes XXL & XXXL, add $10. To make this handsome hoodie yours, backed by our unconditional 30-day guarantee, send no money now; just mail in your Priority Reservation. Order today!

A Custom Apparel Design Available from The Bradford Exchange

Connect with Us / Order today at bradfordexchange.com/35176

Where Passion Becomes Art

The Bradford Exchange
9345 Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL 60714-1393

Signature

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Address

City State Zip

E-mail

Priority Reservation

Send No Money Now

Yes. Please reserve the USMC “No Better Friend” Men’s Hoodie for me as described in this announcement in the size indicated to the right. Please respond promptly.

Medium (38-40) 01-35176-011

Large (42-44) 01-35176-012

XL (46-48) 01-35176-013

XXL (50-52) 01-35176-014

XXXL (54-56) 01-35176-015

*Plus a total of $14.99 shipping and service each see bradfordexchange.com. Please allow 2-4 weeks for shipment after initial payment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.
Honors, Inspiration, and Upcoming
Devil Dog Business

MARINES: Recently returning to Missouri from the East Coast I ran into a bit of snow in several areas on the way. Along with the accompanying cold and blustery weather, it appears that summer temperatures are finally fading away. Definitely a change from the warm weather on the trip east a week earlier.

The cooling temperatures did not put a chill on the week though. Beginning at home with the 247th Marine Corps Birthday Ball on November 5th (carried out with typical style by the members of the Samuel F. Gearhart Detachment), that event was followed by the Marine Aviation Detachment – NAS Patuxent River, MD birthday ball on November 10th. I then joined National Commandant PDD Johnny Baker, Sr. Vice Commandant PDD Warren Griffin, and National Executive Director DD Bob Borka at the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ Birthday Ball on the 12th where I had the distinct pleasure of listening to the youngest living Medal of Honor recipient, Corporal Kyle Carpenter deliver one of the most impressive addresses I have ever heard.

Kyle’s speech was a great way to bring the day to a close, as it had started in great fashion that morning. St. Charles County Dogs Pound 86 had requested that I call in to their Growl that morning, which I did while Pound Keeper PDD Mark Hoernschemeyer was conducting the Growl. It is slightly possible I may have aided a couple of Dogs in getting a fine or two. Then the pound shared some great news, I was told that they had $2,000 Big Bones designated for the Kennel Children’s Hospital donation they are sending to the Kennel Dog Robber, along with another $2,000 Big Bones they are sending to the MO Pack Dog Robber for the Pack’s annual children’s charity in June. Awesome news to start the day with - WOOF, WOOF, dogs of pound 86!

While in the DC area, I stayed at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel which appears likely to be the site of the 2024 Midwinter Conference. The room was nice and surprisingly spacious. DD Borka guided PDD Baker and I on a tour of the rooms the League and MODD would have for the conference. The layout looks like it will serve the needs of the MODD for the Midwinter Conference. This is a good time to remind all PDD’s, DD’s and Pups in the Norfolk area that, with 2023 being the last scheduled Midwinter Conference there, this is the last chance to attend the Kennel Mini-Growl close to home before the change. Go to www.mclnational.com for info and registration.

Speaking of change, pounds around the country should have experienced change by now, as elections and installations should have been conducted with installation reports submitted since the Supreme Growl in August. Congratulations and best wishes for much success to you and your pounds, whether you are in a new position or have retained your office!

Additionally, since the Supreme Growl it has been an honor to sign five new charters for Texas Salty Dawgs Pound 396 in Nacogdoches, TX; Feral Dogs Pound 397 in Houston, TX; Cumberland Plateau Pound 398 in Crossville, TN; Lt. Jon D. Baker Pound 399 in Bloomington, IL; and Dogfish Pound 400 in Redmond, WA. Hit the ground running, dogs, and spread that esprit de corps while living the fun and honor of the MODD – WOOF, WOOF!

In keeping with the exceptions under Article I of the bylaws it has also been my pleasure to approve the following Devil Dogs, Paul Neumeister 19-199 of Pound 232, FL Pack; Lawrence Jones 16-290 of Pound 340, SC Pack; and Thurman Smith Jr. 20-191 of Pound 201 for advancement to the Degree of Pedigreed Devil Dog. Congratulations to each of you new PDDs!

Meanwhile back at the Kennel, Jr. Vice Chief Devil Dog PDD Evie Remines is working diligently with Webmaster PDD Chris Soldano and Legal Beagle PDD Teresa Terry to cross the t’s and dot the i’s as they work to bring some of our fundraising to the kennel website. You can find Sr. Vice Chief Devil Dog PDD Jeffery Jones throwing a shoulder into the effort where needed, as well. Barking Dog PDD Tom Bates is also working in a similar direction with the kennel Facebook page. Barring any unforeseen snags, I expect that you will see some of this come to fruition soon. Keep your eyes open for it.

Keep doing great things and have fun while you are at it! I hope to see you in Norfolk for the Mini-Growl on February 24th. **Semper Woof!**
FAQs: Previously Awarded Benefits and PACT Act

Background: The PACT Act establishes new disabilities for Veterans based on exposure to toxins. This means that Veterans will not need to prove that a claimed disability for specific illnesses is related to service, if they served in a recognized location that exposed the Veteran to toxins.

Will signing up for new benefits affect my old ones?

No. Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition(s) will not have their previously awarded claims re-adjudicated simply because they file for new benefits under the PACT Act.

If I’m already receiving benefits for one of these conditions, do I need to file a new claim?

No, unless your condition has worsened. Veterans who are already service connected for any of the PACT Act presumptive conditions, such as asthma, need not file a new claim related to that illness unless their condition has worsened. Otherwise, the PACT Act does not change their existing benefits.

Can I request to have a previously rated disability reevaluated?

Yes. A Veteran can request to have their previously rated disability reevaluated. If that request is made, and the disability exam actually demonstrates improvement, VA is required to provide the Veteran notice of proposed changes to their disability rating. If the Veteran disagrees with the reevaluation, they will have time and opportunity to submit additional medical evidence to show the disability has not actually improved.

Does it cost anything to file a claim?

No. Filing claims is 100% free. VA encourages Veterans to work with a qualified Veterans Service Organization (VSO) at no cost to the Veteran to review their VA disability compensation benefits and submit new claims for conditions that are not already service connected. For tips on how to avoid scams, visit https://www.va.gov/files/2022-10/Pact%20Act%20Scams%20Information.pdf.

When can I expect these new benefits?

VA will begin processing and deciding claims based on the PACT ACT on January 1, 2023.

What is an effective date?

The date which the VA uses as a start date to pay you for your claim. Conditions outlined in the PACT Act have already taken a serious toll on many Veterans and their families. To ensure Veterans, their families, and Survivors receive the benefits they have earned, VA is considering all conditions established in the PACT Act to be presumptive as of August 10, 2022, the date President
On August 10, 2022, the President signed into law the Honoring our PACT Act (Public Law 117-168). Section 804 is the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA).

The CLJA establishes a federal cause of action that allows individuals, or their legal representatives, to seek to obtain “appropriate relief for harm that was caused by exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune” by bringing a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Such individuals must have resided, worked, or otherwise been exposed to water at Camp Lejeune for not less than 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.

Prior to bringing a lawsuit under the CLJA, an individual must comply with 28 U.S.C. 2675.

Both CLJA action and claims for VA benefits may be based upon the same service. Whether you decide to seek relief under the CLJA is entirely your decision and will not influence VA’s decision to provide you benefits or health care based upon your exposure.

It also will not affect the amount of benefits or health care VA can provide you.

However, if you are awarded relief by the court in a lawsuit brought under the CLJA, the award must be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit VA provided to you or your legal representative relating to exposure to water at Camp Lejeune.

This would reduce the amount of the award you receive from the court, but it would not affect your VA benefits.

You may have seen advertisements from lawyers, law firms, or others seeking to represent veterans and others in litigation related to the PACT Act or the CLJA. From what VA has reviewed, these lawyers, firms, and private parties are not connected with VA benefits or services. Whether veterans or their survivors seek relief under the CLJA is entirely their decision and will not influence VA’s decisions.

To contact the Department of Justice with questions regarding claims filed under the CLJA:

Email: camplejeune.pactact@usdoj.gov
Phone: 202-353-4426
For information regarding the PACT Act, visit va.gov/PACT

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel.
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.

Name: __________________________ Name: __________________________
Title: __________________________ Title: __________________________
Det/Unit: _______________________ Det/Unit: _______________________
Street Address: __________________ Street Address: __________________
City/State/Zip: __________________ City/State/Zip: __________________
Phone: __________________________ Phone: _________________________
Email: __________________________ Email: __________________________

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

Program Book (place # of ads on appropriate line)

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Banquet Meals @ $60 Each

No. of Beef    ___
No. of Chicken ___
No. of Fish     ___
No. of Vegetarian___

Total # of Meals ___

Quantity Dollars

Total number pre-registration
Total number of banquet meals
Program book ads

GRAND TOTAL DUE

Check or money order enclosed  
Check / MO # ____________________ Amount ____________________

Please make checks and money orders payable to MCL, Inc. or Marine Corps League, Inc.

Email __________________________

Signature ________________________

* For Visa, MasterCard and Discover; please use online registration at MCLeagueLibrary.org/Conference

Please mail to: Marine Corps League HQ, Attn: Mid-Winter Conference
P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990

We request the ad book submissions be emailed to LWilliamson@mcleague.org
How A Red MCL Shirt Turned $2 Into $10,000: A Personal Recruitment Story

By Bob Frost, Commandant, Detachment 1439

B ack in 2018, I attended a gun show in Mesa, Arizona. As I walked toward the entrance to the show, I noticed the guys behind a table with a Marine Corps flag draped over it. They were all wearing red MCL shirts. I took notice and walked on into the show.

Upon leaving about two hours later, I stopped by and spoke with the guys in the red shirts. I gave them a two-dollar donation and asked who they were. They told me they were members of an organization called the Marine Corps League. I had never heard of it! They suggested I check out their website and learn more.

When I got home I looked up the League on line and found that the closest detachment to my home was in Fountain Hills, AZ. I called the number and a gentleman by the name of Phil Yin answered. It turned out that Phil was one of the founding members of the newly chartered detachment. He invited me to a meeting. About four months later, they made me chaplain.

Our detachment meets at the American Legion Post 58. Since we meet there, they expect us to become members of their post. I naturally had my Legion membership transferred. Upon signing up, the adjutant found out I was a chaplain and proceeded to nominate me for their post’s chaplain position.

Later, I found out that he was the Veteran Services Officer, I had never heard of that either. Prior to learning this I had submitted my application for hearing disability to the Veteran’s Administration and was rejected. The adjutant/VSO said, “Let me fill out a new application for you.” Which he did.

Approximately seven months later, I get a call to schedule an appointment with an audiologist. Six or eight months after that, I get another call, “Mr. Frost?” I almost hung up, thinking it was a robocall. It was a nice woman from the VA telling me that I have been approved for VA disability. I asked her if there were any monetary benefits to go along with the designation. She said, “Let me transfer you.” The next woman, after establishing my identity, said, “Yes, Mr. Frost, we just sent a check to your bank for $8,000.” Wow! I’m supposing that was back dated to when I first applied. I found out that it also included a monthly disbursement of $300 per month.

So that, Marines, is how a $2 donation through a series of events led to more than $10,000 in my pocket and my membership in the Marine Corps League. I am now the commandant of detachment 1439, of Fountain Hills, AZ.

You will never know what great outcomes might occur when you wear your red MCL shirt when you are out in public at a fund raising event.
The Marines’ Hymn: The Sound of Courage

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

Officially licensed by the USMC, this all-new Proof is richly plated in 24K gold for enduring value. On the reverse, full-color printing recaptures the 1847 battle of Chapultepec referred to in the song as “the Halls of Montezuma.” This Mexican War fight was so fierce Marine officers and noncommissioned officers still wear scarlet “blood stripes” on their blue dress trousers in remembrance. The obverse portrays Marines at the famed Iwo Jima flag raising during World War II, plus the Marine emblem and the motto Semper Fidelis. Created with Proof-quality coining dies, it arrives preserved in a crystal-clear capsule.

Availability is very limited. Satisfaction Guaranteed

Order now and The Halls of Montezuma USMC Proof can be yours at the $49.99*, issue price, payable in two installments of $24.99 each.* By accepting this reservation you will be enrolled in The Marines’ Hymn USMC Proof Collection giving you the opportunity to claim subsequent issues saluting our USMC heroes through our Risk-Free Subscription Plan (below). You need send no money now, you will be billed with shipment. You may cancel at any time simply by notifying us. Don’t miss this historic opportunity — just return the coupon today.

The Marines’ Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli
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The Marine Corps has a storied history built on the exploits of the individual Marine. Detachment 381 had a Marine who made a significant contribution to that history. His name was 2nd Lt. Raymond G "Jerry" Murphy. Jerry was the recipient of the Medal of Honor for action during the Korean War.

The award citation begins with the words “For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty...” When reading the citation, gallantry and intrepidity almost don’t seem an adequate description, but maybe there aren’t adequate words.

With his platoon in support of another, they were evacuating a hillside. Wounded by mortar fire, he refused aid and continued to lead his Marines evacuating casualties, firing and maneuvering the platoon. He made multiple trips up the hillside directing his men to other wounded and personally carrying stricken Marines to safety. When the assaulting elements began to disengage, he remained behind to cover the movement. He personally killed two enemy with his pistol, then employed an automatic rifle when the enemy reappeared. He organized a search party and ascended the hill searching for missing Marines. He was wounded a second time, again refusing aid, and personally carried the bodies of a machine gun crew back down the hill. He then conducted the entire force through a continuous barrage of enemy small arms, artillery, and mortar fire and made sure that every man had preceded him to the main line.

Jerry Murphy was awarded the Medal of Honor on 27 October 1953 by President Eisenhower, at the White House. He was also the recipient of the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

Detachment 381 members generally knew Jerry later in life. He worked at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center as a counselor and became the chief of veteran services. After retirement, he continued working as a volunteer at the hospital. Jerry passed away on 6 April 2007 and is interred at Santa Fe National Cemetery. The hospital was renamed “Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center” in his honor. At the same time Detachment 381 changed our name and we became Jerry Murphy Detachment 381, Marine Corps League.
A Marine Corps Flag-Raising
You May Have Missed

By Harry Thetford, Detachment 260 Historian

As administrations come and go, so do the political leanings about the sentiment that our 1903 lease of forty square miles of Cuba’s real estate should be canceled. Yes, that’s the property on which Guantanamo Bay Naval Base is located. That’s no big deal monetarily, since Cuba has only cashed one of our $4000 rental checks – and that was by accident.

For background, the Spanish-American War only lasted a few weeks during the summer of 1898. Due to its brevity, it has often been called “The Splendid Little War.” It was more splendid than brief for the Marine Corps—it introduced amphibious warfare and the use of advanced bases.

Not surprisingly, the Marine Corps was short-handed when called upon to furnish two battalions to take Guantanamo Bay. Congress approved the addition of 43 new second lieutenants and 1580 men to our authorized strength of 3073. One of the new officers rushed into the Corps was a sixteen-year-old Quaker boy, Smedley D. Butler, who would retire as the most decorated Marine of his time. (He was honored with two Medals of Honor, Brevet Medal and two Distinguished Service Medals.)

Even with additional manpower, only one six-company battalion of 646 men could be raised for deployment to Cuba. Commanding the Marines was Lt. Col. Robert W. Huntington, a veteran of 37 years of service.

Arriving in Cuban waters while Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders were still staging in the States, the battalion of Marines joined 2055 sea-going Marines serving on 57 ships. Among those sea detachments were four future commandants: 1st Lt. George Barnett, John H. Russell, Jr., Capt. William Phillip Biddle (Philippines), and 1st Lt. John A. Lejeune.

Two more future Commandants served in Huntington’s landing battalion: Capt. George F. Elliott and 2nd Lt. Wendell Cushing Neville. Including Colonel Commandant Charles Heywood, seven Marine Corps commandants served in the Spanish-American War.

Against three-to-one odds, the Marines completed their mission in four days at the cost of six lives. Almost immediately, the Navy began re-coaling in the newly acquired harbor. The Spanish fleet had been located and blockaded in Santiago Bay, just 40 miles from Guantanamo. Previously, U.S. Navy ships went back to Key West for re-coaling—therein given the necessity of the Marines completing their mission.

Sgt. John Henry Quick and Pvt. Harry Lewis MacNeill were awarded Medals of Honor for distinguished service on 14Jun1898—both for signaling supporting gunfire from a Navy ship offshore.

Thirteen other Marines were awarded Medals of Honor: 12 for distinguished service during a cable-cutting expedition; and one for service aboard the USS Brooklyn.

It should be noted that during the Spanish-American War, the Medal of Honor was the only means of recognizing exemplary service in combat. The Navy Cross, Silver Star, and Bronze Star came along later, and would have likely gone to some of the recipients listed above in lieu of the Medal of Honor.

Facing the same recognition problem, the Navy authorized the Specially Meritorious Medal. This one-time, much-coveted award went to 105 Sailors, and one Marine, Capt. Littleton Walker. You should remember him, “He served in Samar!”

After securing Guantanamo, now-Col. Huntington deployed his Marines to the last Spanish strong-hold in Cuba, the town and harbor of Manzanillo. Interestingly, a North Carolinian, Lt. J.G. Victor Blue, sailed into the harbor first, offering a flag of truce. Blue commanded USS Alvarado, a Spanish gunship conscripted as a prize at the Battle of Santiago Bay.

The Spanish commander replied to Blue’s offer of peace with gunfire and the sentiment that he could only surrender his position if they were under fire. From the small Alvarado to the large capital ships, the U.S. Navy obliged the Spanish commander and Huntington readied his Marines to make their second amphibious attack in two months.

White flags went up all along the shore. Huntington’s anxious Marines would have to wait for their second amphibious attack—at Guadalcanal.

According to some historians, “If the Iwo Jima flag-raising ensured a Marine Corps for 500 years, the Guantanamo flag-raising ensured there would be a Marine Corps—period.”
NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY
LINDA S. CHAMBERLAIN
NATIONALMCLA.ORG

Happy New Year

AUXILIARY AND LEAGUE MEMBERS: Auxiliary and League Members: I hope everyone’s holidays were safe, happy, and spent with family and friends and that the New Year brings each and everyone one of you much joy and good health.

As I said good bye to 2022, I recalled three highlights (other than being elected as President of the Auxiliary) of the year for me. First, being asked to walk in with the Marines present for the Marine Corps Birthday cake cutting ceremony at the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia; second, the honor of representing the Auxiliary by attending the Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and to present with Commandant Baker the Marine Corps League wreath for placement at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; and, finally, attending and also representing all of you at the Commandant of the Marine Corps Ball. Those all are experiences and privileges I will not soon forget.

2022 also saw three new Auxiliary charters being presented during the National Convention in Daytona Beach. Please welcome the MCLA Western Star in Arizona, Montford Point MCLA in Michigan, and Bama Bells in Alabama. I wish these units much success as they spread the message of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. I look forward to possibly presenting at least one or maybe two new charters at the National Convention in Oklahoma City in August, if not sooner.

Just a reminder, if you haven’t yet done so, now is the time to make your reservations for our Md-Winter Conference in Norfolk, VA, February 23-25, 2023. We will once again be staying at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. The last day to make your reservation is January 22. Hotel registration information, as well as the National Mid-Winter Conference Registration form, can be found on the MCL website mcleague.org.

I look forward to seeing as many League and Auxiliary members as possible in February. Semper Fi!
The Challenges to Our Youth Have Never Been Greater

MARINES: What a phenomenal few months for our Young Marines, often working alongside Marine Corps League detachments across the country. As a team, we have tremendous impacts on our communities. We have been engaged in a multitude of events all around the country including veteran support events, birthday balls and ceremonies, and Toys for Tots, to name just the wavetops. I get the reports from my daily social media feed and direct emails from the field. Your examples truly inspire our Young Marines to step into a “life of service” in or out of uniform. The Foundation’s Memorial Certificate program is an ideal way for departments, detachments, auxiliary units, packs, pounds, and Young Marine units to support your foundation and recognize your past members and supporters.

The Foundation’s Memorial Certificate program is an ideal way for departments, detachments, auxiliary units, packs, pounds, and Young Marine units to support your foundation and recognize your past members and supporters. We will be recognizing those who support this program at the Mid-Winter Conference. We all need to dig deep and start the year off supporting your foundation; every little bit helps. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Marine Corps League’s Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk.

Wishing you all the best. Semper Fi!

The Challenges to Our Youth Have Never Been Greater

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I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with you at the Daytona Convention. We had great timing for that event, a few passing storms did not stop a great time for all. Our local units were honored to support the event in several ways and look forward to doing the same in Oklahoma City next summer. As mentioned in my comments, the challenges and dangers for our country’s youth have never been greater. Drugs are an increasing problem. Social media, and other new stressors are hitting our youth daily. Your support has been, and continues to be vital to keeping our program on track to help these young men and women develop the skills to survive and thrive. It is no accident that the pillars of the Young Marines address every key aspect in youth development and success. We owe that to the foresight of the Marine Corps League when they set us on this path. You remain Semper Fidelis to the Young Marines, and we will continue to give back the same!

We had another outstanding annual R. Lee Ermey Memorial Golf Tournament in support of the Young Marines at Quantico last September. We are always honored to have so many great members and leaders of the Marine Corps League join us. It may not be the most serious group of golfers, but it supports our mission which is very serious for our country’s future. We had some of the best weather we have every had and remained injury free for the second year—which was an accomplishment in itself. I am very much looking forward to seeing many of you in February in Norfolk for the Midwinter Convention. It is truly a pleasure and honor to get to work with our great friends, supporters and American patriots of the Marine Corps League and the Auxiliary. Semper Fi!
Let’s Get Back to Meeting in Person

MARINES: I hope everyone was able to enjoy our many holiday festivities which began on 10 November and ended with the beginning of our new year. We were all represented well by Commandant Baker at the televised Veterans Day Ceremony.

During COVID times, the introduction of zoom was a great tool, but we should not rely solely on it now for our meetings. Hopefully, COVID restrictions are in the rear-view mirror. I hope you recognize that meeting in person is much more beneficial for all involved. In my opinion renewing friendships or casual talks does much to help foster our growth as a mission orientated organization. I believe there is something missing when we do not greet each other face to face.

The new year 2023 is very important for us: this is our centennial year as the Marine Corps League. Make your plans now on the division, department, and detachment level for celebrations to let the world know who we are and what we have been doing for a century for our Corps and our country. We have much to be proud of and we don’t want to keep it a secret. Many states and cities make special presentations to various organizations acknowledging their benefits to the country. We definitely have made great contributions throughout our country, so receiving recognition on various levels is well warranted. It is important, though, to make those contacts.

I would like to ask all of you for some help in contributing to our compilation of history. Greg Cieisielski has graciously accepted the position as chairman of the anniversary and history committee. Please forward along to his committee anything you may feel should be incorporated into our legacy. You can contact Greg by email at llski@ec.rr.com. If done well, I am sure many of us will be amazed at what we have done over the last 100 years. It is always good to know your history, says the retired history teacher.

I wish all of you a healthy and happy new year. I look forward to seeing all of you at Mid-Winter. All departments should make a concerted effort to be represented at both Mid-Winter and at our National Convention in Oklahoma. Let your state be proudly represented and have a voice. Semper Fi!

Feeling Inflation’s Effect: Making More with Less

MARINES: A new year is upon us and its time to think about Midwinter and your upcoming department conventions. Last year I traveled around to different division conferences and talked about marketing, recruiting, and retention. The National Membership Committee has put together a toolbox-type document, that will give you ideas from around the country on the aforementioned subjects. This is a living document and will be updated as needed. Take some time to look at this and see if it inspires your detachment in its effort to grow. You can find this document in the member library on our national website (mcleague.com). I challenge each of you to block some time out at your department convention and start the process of having an open discussion and really work on increasing your membership. Concentrate on your retention, as well. When our retention fails, you can usually tie that to a failure of the leadership. Elect those who see a vision and think outside the box. It is that mindset that will lead your detachment to a brighter future.

We are facing the reality of inflation and that will affect our budget and the effects it has on food and travel. It is important that you work on providing a department convention or a division conference that has content and will attract members to travel. I think the days of the S99 room rate is behind us and I would hate to see attendance numbers down because we are not offering enough content. This really opens the door to the question, “how do I market my detachment when our fundraising is slowing down?” Please consider a QR code that can really be used for anything. Reach out to me or others on this topic if you need assistance. I have purchased ad boosts on Facebook and other social media platforms. Here you set your budget and your audience. This will be cheaper in the long run and get out your events and fundraisers while staying within your detachment budget.

Please feel free to reach out to the membership and public relations committee for ideas. You can also email me at tmorgan@mclleague.org. Semper Fi!
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Mind your “Q’s & M’s”

**MARINES:** In the last issue, I intimated that there is a plague affecting our organization. Actually, I believe there are two issues that we are stumbling into at a great number of our detachments and departments regarding quorums at our meetings, conventions, and conferences, as well as the minutes kept of those meetings. Or should I say, the minutes that are not being kept of those meetings?

**QUORUMS -** If your detachment or department bylaws do not have governing rules in relation to quorum requirements for the conduct of business, then that should possibly be your first step to rectify the situation. Until that is completed, using the national bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order as a guide, ie., a majority of the membership (or simply put, 50% plus one) needs to be present to conduct substantive business or to entertain any motions for a vote — other than a motion to adjourn the meeting. Continuing to conduct business absent a proper quorum opens the door to future problems if the actions taken are not later ratified by a majority vote of your membership/detachments at a future meeting when a quorum is present. The hope here is that our membership will see the need to attend meetings so that we can continue to meet the “business requirement” end of things and our organizations remain effective contributors to our local veterans and communities.

**MINUTES -** Some have the misconception that “meeting minutes” need to be a complete transcription of every word that was said during a meeting. This is not true. Minutes do, however, need to give an adequate description of what was done/accomplished in the meeting and detail whether or not a quorum (and those members which were required to attend) were, in fact, present. Did an officer give a report and, if so, what were the actionable items covered in the report? Were there specific questions or statements addressed during the discussion phase of a motion that may later provide important context as to the outcome of the vote? A big one that many forget to include in the minutes, which many banks require a copy of when you change signers on an account, is a motion, second, and vote to remove the outgoing officers from the account and add the incoming officers to the account.

When meeting for the sake of fun and camaraderie, have fun. But when meeting for the purpose of conducting business, make sure that the business is being done correctly and documented properly. And remember to be the kind of member you wish there were 20 more of in your detachment. **Semper Fi!**

**JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT**

DENNIS TOBIN

Beyond All Else, We Are a Family

**MARINES:** Mid-Winter is rapidly approaching. Start getting your seabags ready to deploy. As the junior past national commandant, I get to write about anything that pops into my head. As the current Junior Past I get to head the PNC society. As great as it was to lead the Marine Corps League, it’s also an honor to be a part of the PNC society. The PNCs are an important part of the league structure, they are here to support and assist the sitting BOT’s, and to make sure the league continues moving forward.

There are currently 11 living past national commandants, each with their own memories and stories of their time as national commandant. If you’re looking for information about the league, or how things were done in the past, these are the Marines to talk to. These men and woman are a plethora of knowledge. They are an outstanding group of leaders, then and now. I would like to now take a moment and publicly thank the PNC’s for being there for me with advice and support when I needed it during my term as national commandant. Thank you.

The Marine Corps League is an elite veteran organization, we support all Marines, active and veteran, and their families, to include FMF sailors and their families. As when we were in the Corps, we were a family and that should carry over into the Marine Corps League; we are the alumni of the Marine Corps. I mention this for a reason. With the exception of the title “Marine” we all have different personalities. Will there be conflict and disagreements among us? Yes!!! However, these issues should and must stay in-house, within our family. Too many times in the past, League issues have spilled out into the public eye. It doesn’t matter if it’s a procedural issue or a personnel one, it stays in-house. For every question, complaint, or disagreement, there is a chain of command. That chain starts with your detachment leadership.

Remember, you may not always be satisfied with the results or the answers you get, but we are all guided by the same rules and regulations, whether procedural or personnel. There is absolutely no reason to go out of the house. We are all adults and above all else we are United States Marines; let’s act like it. **Semper Fi!**
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Help Your Brothers and Sisters Appreciate Uniform Standards

MARINES: Uniform regulations are always at the forefront of our minds. As Marines, we were taught from day one how to properly wear and care for our uniforms. Moving up through the ranks, from fire team leader to platoon sergeant and beyond, you always put forth that extra effort to look good; leadership from the front, I always say. You also ensured the Marines under your leadership understood the policies and regulations, as it was a positive reflection on you, as well as on them.

This is why it pains me to see that we still have issues with some of our members and uniform regulations. Regardless of when, where, or how long you served; active or reserve; and no matter what rank you obtained, we all understood how to follow rules. You may not have agreed with them, but you followed them anyway. That is what we do. The MCL website has everything you need to know about our MCL uniforms; when, where, and how to properly wear them with whatever devices or accessories. If you have questions, seek out your chain of command. You could even do what I do – look at pictures! Now, if you are going to wear your USMC uniform, you need to understand the policies and regulations of that, as well.

No, you are not going to get arrested if you wear them improperly. But as a Marine, I am sure you want to make a positive impact with a professional appearance. Look up the regulations in the DOD or Marine Corps websites. Everything is right at your fingertips!

Now this leads me to my second point—uniforms and social media. Social media—it can be a great tool in the proper hands, but it can also be a WMD in the wrong ones. We all love to post pictures doing what we do; it is great for morale as well as recruitment. And sometimes someone will be in the wrong or incorrect uniform. Hey, it happens! We are Marines, but we are also human. The best way to circumvent this is having your web sergeant, or whomever is in charge, edit these photos or posts. I understand that some will slip through the cracks, or an individual may post something. Again, it happens. If you see an issue that you think is wrong, the best way to handle that is to reach out to the chain of command. Perhaps the individual committing this infraction is simply not aware; or perhaps there is a valid explanation. You probably will not know this individual, but someone in their chain of command surely does. I have seen more times than I care to people personally attacking the individual with degrading and derogatory remarks. That is just not acceptable. That is bullying, and we as Marines and citizens are above that. We are professional and responsible, and that is not the way we behave.

We are here to help one another; to lift them up and give them a hand when needed. Remember that we are all one family, and we are all one team. Semper Fi!

Become Your Own Expert

MARINES: It’s a new year. So, what’s the big deal? It happens every year at this time. Well, yes it does, but you can make this year different. This new year is so far without blemish. How about we keep it that way for the whole year? Let’s try to abide by the national bylaws and administrative procedures as published on the national website. I know you think you know what is there and you totally understand the NBL and the NAP. But do you really? Have you read them since the National Convention in Daytona Beach? For that matter, have you ever really read them?

Too many times I have heard MCL members tell someone something incorrectly because they “think” they know what the NBL or NAP states. What you heard someone say may not be fact. You should become your own expert and read them. You do not have to be able to recite them like a Sunday preacher recites bible verses, but you do need to be aware of what is in the NBL and NAP and how to look it up. If you don’t know it exists, you can’t know how to find it. Not to say your judge advocate doesn’t know what’s in them, but if he tells you wrong, you are going to swear it’s the truth. Then you tell someone else and three of you are possibly wrong.

Become your own expert. Because of my position as an NVC, I keep the NBL and NAP open on my computer every day. I may not look at them every day, but they are there if someone calls me and asks a question about them. If I cannot give them the answer immediately, I tell them ‘I will find it’ and give them a firm answer ASAP. Then is not the time for “well, I heard that ...” or “it’s probably...” It is a time for the truth and a definitive answer that is based on fact and not supposition. It is not rocket science. You do not need any calculus, trigonometry, or and understanding of the periodic table of elements. It’s just reading, Marines. Don’t try to read it all at one sitting. You will probably doze off and forget what you just read. Go at it like you were eating an elephant. ... One bite at a time.

Twelve years ago, I printed off the then-current national bylaws (there were no separate NAP) and kept it by my bed. I would read it until I got sleepy and put it aside until the next night. That was my introduction to the MCL bylaws. No one person knows everything that is in the NBL and NAP, but everyone has access to every bit of knowledge there. Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclmideast.com

Mike Sturch
NVC, Central Division

Rick Thomason
NVC, Mideast Division
Understand the Assignment

**MARINES:** The inclusion of important meaningful committees within the detachment showcases the direction of leadership and encourages growth within the organization. They serve as a member’s introduction to future leadership positions, provide an important training ground for insight into the detachment’s purpose in serving Marines and develop confidence. Committee assignments involve members in the development and delivery of services provided by the Marine Corps League detachment, represent member opinion in decision-making, and help serve detachment goals through interaction.

Committees are the most important working forces of an organization serving as specific work units of the organization, taking work assignments, and breaking them into meaningful and manageable chunks to accomplish goals in a proactive timely manner.

There are several key elements of effective committees, including a clear, written purpose outlined in the by-laws; an effectively knowledgeable committee chair; thoughtfully appointed members to serve on the committee; scheduled well-run committee meetings; a regularly scheduled committee reporting structure outlined in the by-laws to the detachment board of officers with written reports.

The most important element for a successful committee is to train, educate and make sure each member understands their assignment.

Honor Their Commitment. Volunteers are generously giving their time and talents to your detachment and the veteran community.

Make It Meaningful. Just like any other job, volunteers stay engaged when their volunteer roles are meaningful to them, the detachment, and the community.

Clarify what is required and be flexible with member suggestions. Give Opportunities to Grow.

Take time to properly match volunteers’ expertise and interest with projects and opportunities. Build a culture of accountability and implement a process for continuous evaluation – make sure volunteers are engaged, feel they are creating impact, and are fulfilling their pride in the detachment.

Even though you know why the assignment is important and what it is meant to accomplish, you cannot assume your committee members will intuit that purpose clearly. Your members will appreciate an understanding of how the assignment fits into the larger goals and purpose of the Marine Corps League and the detachment. Being transparent with your members and explaining why you are asking them to serve on a given committee can ultimately help motivate them to enjoy the experience thoroughly. *Semper Fi!*

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

Rise up to the Challenge

**MARINES:** There will always be challenges, some will be minute, and some will be overwhelming. As a leader, even when you are thinking everything is going smoothly, Murphy’s Law pops its ugly head into the equation. You have two choices, face it head-on and rise up to the challenge, or let that challenge defeat you. Some can overcome challenges by themselves, but why? Great leaders ask for help, know when they are in over their head, and reach out. Asking for help does not make you weak, but smarter and stronger. We are stronger in numbers. Building a team will help you prevail over those overwhelming challenges. I found this out with my amazing team that makes up the staff of the New England Division. Everyone adds value which strengthens the core of New England Division.

There are a lot more variables to help take that path to rise. I know I still have a lot to learn, but I realized it is not about being more important, but how much difference you can make. Being humble, having purpose to thrive, and appreciating your staff’s hard work will let you see the best in a situation even at the worst times.

I know some departments and some detachments are facing a challenge on the strength of membership. All organizations are having posts close down because their numbers are dwindling. For the Marine Corps League... commandants, you cannot succeed at life if you give up. Dig in and wait for re-enforcements to arrive. I believe it’s our duty to hold on to our traditions so we may pass them on to the next generation when they do come. I ask you to be patient and be inspirational! The New England Division has seen some numbers drop in some areas, but some parts of the division have newfound motivation to rise up. Overall, the New England Division has grown as a family, ready to help one another, so the division will not fail.

The New England Division is coming together as a family once again at the Quad State Convention, April 28th through April 30th, 2023. The convention will be hosted by the Department of Vermont at the Hampton Inn in Colchester, Vermont.

Department of Massachusetts will host its convention June 1st to June 4th, 2023, followed by the Department of Connecticut on June 9th to June 11th, 2023.

I hope everyone enjoyed the 247th birthday and the holidays thereafter. *Semper Fi!*

Division Website: mclnedivision.com
**Our Traditions**

**Bind us Together**

**MARINES:** Now that the celebrations have concluded, it’s time to get back to the business at hand. Before we do, let’s reflect on why we celebrate the birth of our Corps so seriously. That day in Philadelphia was the extraordinary beginnings of something that was to become bigger than what anyone could have fathomed. The creation of the world’s fiercest fighting force.

Today, we regale ourselves with the honors and glory of battles past and reminisce about where we’ve been and those we served with. We know that whether there are two Marines or 2,000, a celebration will take place. This did not develop overnight. It is an amalgam of everything our predecessors have done to pave the way for us, as we will inevitably do for future generations. This is our tradition.

Knowing where we come from provides a connection to the Corps in everything we do. Our bearing, our actions, and our values. To many, this may not mean much. To us, it is everything. When looking back, we see ties to our lineage. The contributions of every Marine whether great or small has its foundation in what took place on 10 November 1775 and beyond.

Every culture has its own traditions; Marines are no different. Ours is based on an ethos of integrity and sacrifice. We take charge of situations when necessary and help the less fortunate when needed. But moreover, it provides a sense of belonging.

Our traditions connect us to every previous generation. Our exploits are legendary; and they have been passed down to us. We are the caretakers and are charged with promoting and maintaining our legacies for future generations of Marines.

There is relevance in doing this year after year. We see our existence as indelible. We are the force that fights for right and all that is good. We do this in war as well as peace. We should also note that we need to be good stewards of this tradition; for if we aren’t, we will lose what others have fought to preserve. This is what is required of us to maintain our esprit de corps. In a speech delivered at a birthday ball celebration, a most eloquent statement was read:

“Today, we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us. Tomorrow, it is you who will be standing on our shoulders.”

This single sentence encapsulates everything that we stand for. We hold an integral place of history that has not changed in almost 250 years. We are constantly reminded that even the slightest change can fracture the very identity we carefully preserve.

As Marines and Marine veterans, we should always be mindful to safeguard our traditions. We must strive to exploit every situation available to strengthen our values and beliefs and everything we cherish and respect. Be sure to protect it! Our traditions are the very lynchpin of our culture and ethos. **Semper Fi**

**What’s Your Legacy?**

**MARINES:** Spending a lifetime of working and serving in just about every capacity as Marines has brought forth memories which are truly amazing. I look back as I was retiring from the Marine Corps and had the honor of meeting Marines who had banded together and were holding a meeting for what I found out to be a Veterans Service Organization—the Marine Corps League. I had never heard of it before.

Walking into this meeting was amazing. All around the room were a bunch of seasoned veterans which, when I took the time to listen, were the living history that we as Marines are proud of. From Bob Bigelow, who served in China, and on Iwo Jima, where he received his battlefield commission, to Robert E. Bush, who was awarded the Medal of Honor as he served as a Navy Corpsman on Okinawa. Dan Brennan was as Irish as they came and his stories of repelling the Chinese assault on his position were amazing.

Then there was Al Gomez, who was wounded on Guadalcanal, exited the Corps, reenlisted, and fought at the Chosin Reservoir in which he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple heart by Chesty Puller. After his passing, I still have that photo. They were all counted as good friends and mentors to me. I could go on and on with the Marines I have had the honor of meeting, but we would be here for a while. You can also do the same because they mean so much to you.

Looking at our history is amazing. Talking to these men and women that represent living history brings it to another level entirely. Understanding that most continue to serve in their communities after active-duty service continues to build upon their legacy.

We honor all who serve this nation in military service in various national holidays such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day. I want to thank each of you personally. It’s important we honor all who served. Why? Because we continue to add chapters to the legacy of our Marine Corps. Our service means something; our mentorship means something; it’s our Legacy as well. Thank you for your service to this country and our communities. **Semper Fi**

**Division Website:** nedmcl.org

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**Mike Waluk**

**NVC, Northeast Division**

**John Moysiuk**

**NVC, Northwest Division**
We Tried: The Perils of Outfitting a Disaster Recovery Trailer

MARINES: It seemed like a good idea at the time……

Hurricane Ida, which struck Louisiana in August 2021 with 150mph, category 4 winds, tied in strength with Hurricane Laura which also hit the state in August 2020. More recently, Hurricane Ida, the deadliest hurricane to strike Florida since 1935, swept through that state and parts of South Carolina. Having six coastal states in the Southeast Division and another in a common hurricane pathway, presents perpetual risks and an ongoing need for response planning.

The Southeast Division and several of our departments have appointed disaster relief coordinators to help identify the needs of members affected by these events and to help develop relief plans to provide aid and supplies to the affected areas. Our members have proven they are willing and adept at aiding their communities in recovery efforts.

We've been developing plans to acquire a mobile relief trailer which would be stocked with supplies, tarps and tools. With our volunteers, we would be ready to deploy troops and the trailer to an affected area, and if an extended stay is necessary, leave it in the custody of a nearby detachment for continued relief efforts.

Then the reality set in…

Acquisition of the trailer, finding sponsors to help fit it up, and storage seemed to be manageable challenges. Our volunteers, with a number of successful disaster relief experiences under their belt, would be equipped and ready to go to wherever the need arose.

Then we talked to the insurance agents. Most said if we could find an underwriter, they would be happy to write the liability policy because they were certain that they would reap huge commissions because of the high premiums. It seems that, to a certain extent, you have a reasonable degree of protection when you are assisting your local communities in relief efforts. However, when you have a plan to put chain saws into the hands of other non-affiliated responders, you incur a risk that that few companies will insure without charging a very high insurance premium. So… back to the drawing board.

We’ve still got detachments and members equipped and ready to respond when their communities, or the communities of other League members, get hit. But for now, at least, they’ll do it without an equipped, League-owned trailer. When it comes to delivering certain supplies to hard-hit areas, it’s often hard to beat Amazon’s delivery service. But when it comes to delivering committed, hands-on recovery efforts, it’s hard to beat our League members – even if we can’t provide them an equipped trailer.

Semper Fi!
Division Website: seddiv.org

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Participate and Encourage Participation, Marines

MARINES: By the time this article is published, the Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day will have happened. So, with that said, happy birthday Marines! Thank you for your service to all veterans; past, present, and future.

As we head into the Holiday season, let's ensure we lift a glass in a celebratory toast to all loved ones that are no longer with us, and to those activity duty troops that are deployed. Let's ensure we reach out and take care of all our Marines as well as fellow veterans during this season. Toys 4 Tots is by now in full swing in your areas and I like to remind all that if your schedule allows, please take the time to help. That simple task will bring a lifelong smile to an individual's face.

To the business of the departments, now that conventions have been held and new officers elected and installed into office, ensure the paperwork is done and sent to higher headquarters, as well as all proper corporation paperwork. Detachments, we must remember this is the starting point of the Marine Corps League. Ensure that every new member is welcomed and ask them to join in or run a program for the detachment. Semper Fi!
Division Website: rockymountainmcldiv.org

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DIVISION REPORTS

Celebrating 100 years of the Marine Corps League

MARINES: As 2022 comes to an end, it's time to gear up for the new year. This year has been an exceptional and busy year for the Southern Division. 2022 was my first full year as the national vice commandant. I was busy with conventions and having the opportunity to meet Marines and many other others in the Southern Division.

There is a short break at the end of the National convention in August to the present. The Southern Division begins the planning and organization stages for department and division conferences.

Marines celebrated the Marine Corps' 247th anniversary in 2022. After reviewing many detachment and department web sites, there was plenty of celebration.

On November 11th, Veterans Day, Light to Unite was a nationwide ceremony to honor the 240th anniversary of the Purple Heart. The National Flag Foundation and National Purple Heart Project requested the Marine Corps League support the ceremony by providing an Honor Guard detail in honor of the Purple Heart recipient in cities across America. The Southern Division proudly participated in this event.

The Marine Corps League will celebrate its hundredth anniversary in 2023. The founding of the Marine Corps League began with Major General and future Commandant John A. Lejeune in 1923. The Marine Corps League takes pride in its federal charter, approved by an act of the Seventy-Fifth Congress of the United States of America. It was signed and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937.

The Marine Corps League, and its approximate 60,000 active members, are proud supporters of the active and reserve Marine Corps units. The Marine Corps League is active in Honor and funeral details, Toys for Tots campaigns, as well as veteran assistance programs and community events. The Marine Corps League has strong relationships with the U.S. Marine Corps and these bonds increase in strength each year.

The Department of Oklahoma Commandant Danny Thomas lists three major events beginning on March 17, 2023, in the Southern Division.

1. The Southern Division Annual Conference will be hosted by the Rose City Detachment 1354 in Tyler, TX on March 17-18, 2023.
2. The Department of Oklahoma annual Conference will be hosted by the Boomer Detachment 1288 in Lawton, OK on June 9-11, 2023.
3. National Centennial Convention will be hosted by the Sooner Detachment 559 on August 4, 2023.

The Oklahoma 2023 Centennial Planning Committee reports that they are doing the little things now so they will be ready for the biggest event in the Marine Corps Leagues’ history. Semper Fi!

Reach Out and Wish a Fellow Marine a Happy Birthday!

MARINES: This time of year is a busy time for most detachments and departments. As we look into the fourth quarter, we see many events and holidays... elections of detachment officers, planning for the upcoming year, Toys for Tots campaigns, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas....to name a few. Perhaps the one that is most looked forward to by many Marines is the Marine Corps birthday celebration, which is officially 10 November of each year. As I look out over the Marine community, I find birthday celebrations beginning as early as 5 November and extending thru 12 November. Regardless of the date, this is always a special time for Marines to stop and reflect upon the Corps, our history, and the traditions that we as Marines hold close.

The first Marine Corps birthday I officially celebrated was three days before I graduated from boot camp. That celebration was held on 10 November 1965. While I don't remember the exact celebration, I seem to recall that the tempo of preparing for boot camp graduation slowed a little bit while we were schooled in the nuances of that celebration. The next birthday that I remember was when I was in Da Nang, Vietnam in November, 1968. That was a strange time to celebrate almost anything—except for another day of living and to reflect upon our history and traditions!

It wasn't until I became a civilian that the Marine Corps birthday and its celebration had greater significance for me. I attended a few scattered Birthday celebrations in the 1970-2010 timeframes, but I didn't attend a true gathering of Marines until 2012. During those early times, I received annual phone calls and emails on 10 November from Marines I hadn't spoken with in over a year, and in some cases, more. The messages were always similar and reinforced the spirit of semper fidelis. You see, what I found was this was a special time to reach out to another Marine. Maybe, for just a moment, it was a connection with the past and a special bond that we COULD uniquely share with a comrade from years gone by.

It's interesting, I don't know of any other military branch that has a tradition like we Marines have. With that, to all of my fellow Marines, I hope that your 247th birthday was a memorable one. Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclswdivision.org
27. Thomas Reichard of the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Det. Tiverview, FL presented Zachary Bartling with a Good Citizenship Award from the Marine Corps League on November 6, 2022. This award is presented to only those scouts that attain the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement in scouting.
On November 11, 2022, Marine Corps League members in 14 States celebrated the 240th anniversary of our nation’s Purple Heart Award by participating in Color Guards in coordination with buildings in many cities being lit up with purple, or red, white, and blue. A special thank you to our dedicated and patriotic members that participated.
THE **SEMPER FI INTERVIEW**

A Career Serving and Serving Those that Serve

An Interview with MCA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Charles G. Chiarotti

By Mike Searson

Lieutenant General Charles G. Chiarotti’s (ret.) last billet was as the Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics. He is currently the president and CEO of the Marine Corps Association (MCA). MCA is the professional organization of the United States Marine Corps and is dedicated to recognizing professional excellence and developing leadership within the Corps.

We sat down with Lieutenant General Chiarotti for a few minutes to talk about his career highlights and the MCA.

*Semper Fi:* Why was the Marine Corps your choice for serving out of all the other branches?

**Lieutenant General Charles G. Chiarotti:** It’s interesting. I came in at 18 with no idea what the Marine Corps was, outside of the image of Hollywood movies perhaps. But I had a sense of obligation to serve my country as a civic duty. I was an American citizen and wanted to give back to my country for a few years. I saw serving as a Marine as a means to fulfil my moral obligation to this great country. Even if I only served that first four years and left.

What kept me in the fight was the people. I went in not knowing anything about it, but I was now staked in the legacy of the Marine Corps. I genuinely enjoyed being around Marines.

LtGen Chiarotti passes out water to Marines.
As I went further in my career, that love only deepened. That’s how I chose it.

**SF:** What are some of the highlights of your career?

**LGCGC:** Becoming a captain of Marines over two companies, I felt at the time, was the pinnacle of my career. It is the most significant and impactful grade to lead and influence Marines. You can impact lives with the right tools. Later, it was my assignment as a battalion commander in combat.

I remember as a battalion commander, we were ending our tour in Iraq. I was watching the backloading of the 22nd MEU at the height of the war. We were heading back to the States, and I thought how fortunate we were. All my Marines came back with us. I saw the fantail at the pier of the USS Carter Hall. We had spent five months in Iraq and my proudest accomplishment was bringing everybody back and that was due to successful leadership across the board: officers, NCOs and staff NCOs.

**SF:** The journey and transformation from being a civilian to becoming a Marine is a challenge for everyone in some way. Did you have a particular personal challenge that you had to overcome?

**LGCGC:** I didn’t have any real weakness to overcome. I was very fit and had always been athletic and competitive. What I saw, though, was how everyone worked together for the good of the whole. It was the ultimate team concept; being able to assimilate strengths to fulfill the mission.

**SF:** Looking back on your career, what was your favorite billet?

**LGCGC:** Each billet is uniquely different. Each one has a challenge and level of complexity. I found my time in the fleet and in the joint command world extremely rewarding. Working at EUCOM in the support plan of OIF in the initial invasion was one. AFRICOM was another, and what we did on the African continent regarding terrorist groups in Mali, Liberia, and Somalia.

From my first platoon to my last assignment, I have always had a high degree of satisfaction.

**SF:** Tell us a bit about the MCA.

**LGCGC:** It’s grounded in our mission statement. It’s for the professional development of Marines. We fill in the seams and gaps in training and education to develop professional excellence and leadership.

We give out 6200 awards a year. Platoon Honor Man, Top PFT, Top Marine or civilian recognized annually, PLC awards, awards recognizing professional excellence in writing and duty, even outside the Fleet. We’re not constrained by authority. We recognize excellence, help commanders with staff development and encourage Marines to study history. Looking at decisions made through time, for example, what the commanders faced at Tarawa, Belleau Wood, or Fallujah; allow them to work through the historical study. Not just reading about it, but actually walking the ground at many of these historic sites. These tours give the opportunity to expand their knowledge.

Then there are the unit [publication] subscriptions to all the depots. So, Marines from boot camp to the highest levels in the fleet can learn more through Leatherneck and Marine Corps Gazette.

**SF:** How does the MCA help guide Marines after they have left service?

**LGCGC:** We are working on a certification process to help Marines get credit for their skills and training through professional education and development. For logistic people, for example, we are working with the Society of Logistic Engineers. There are several authorship programs also going through a certification process. Magazines like Leatherneck and Marine Corps Gazette are about the curation of our legacy and act as an ongoing professional journal. Many Marines remain part of being informed about the USMC after they leave. We keep stories from Korea and the Vietnam era in there.

**SF:** What was your proudest moment in your career in the Corps?

**LGCGC:** When a young Marine comes back and says, ‘Sir, I served in your unit. You gave me a chance when I probably didn’t deserve it.’ Moments like those far surpass any award I’ve ever received. Marines who have done so well because they were afforded an opportunity. The more senior I became; I saw it more often.

**SF:** Do you have any advice for folks looking to take up the challenge and serve as Marines either through enlistment or commission?

**LGCGC:** Understand why you want to serve. Some people just want to prove that they can meet the challenge. Some people join because their friends think it’s cool. There’s no shame in serving four years to fulfill your civic duty and getting out. But you can make mistakes that will affect you the rest of your life. Why do you want to serve? Really think it through and take the long view when considering making a career out of the Marine Corps. Make your service proud and honorable.

**SF:** What is the biggest takeaway from the Corps that helps Marines transition into civilian life and be successful?

**LGCGC:** It’s our work ethic. It is easily above 95% of the civilian world. We have a different level of work ethic. Sometimes, it’s that fear of failure or challenging ourselves and working toward the good of the service.

You walk out with great work ethic. You don’t stop. It stays with you the rest of your life. You’ll look at your rack and you might not make it exactly the way you did in the Corps, but you won’t leave it unsat. When you’re walking with someone, you find yourself always getting in step with them.

**SF:** What’s your favorite pastime?

**LGCGC:** I’m a car nut. I love working on cars. I’ve spent my whole life repairing brakes and engines. I just love it.

**SF:** Do you have any classic cars?

**LGCGC:** Right now, I have three cars: an Alfa Romeo Spider, a classic Fiat, and a 1980 Corvette that was left it in a barn for years. That Corvette needed a lot of work, but I got it up and running.
Greetings from Upstate New York - home of MCL Electric City Detachment. Here are some photos from a recent veterans appreciation day held at the New York Racing Association’s Saratoga Thoroughbred Racetrack. Two members of the MCL Electric City Det. were honored at the event held on August 25th, 2022. (A) Junior Sgt. Shemo (B) Junior Sgt. Shemo with the winning jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr. (who rode “Royal Spirit”) next to the jockey Kris Slaugenhoup, Robert E Becker, Jr. (PNC), John Califano, Chaplian, and Albert Shemo along with members of the NY Racing Association.
Past Colorado Department Commandant Clem Schuette presents the Marine Corps League Distinguished Citizen Award to newly elevated Eagle Scout Adam B. VannArsdall, Troop 88, Windsor, CO on 25 October 2022. Adam distinguished himself far above and beyond the requirements needed to earn his Eagle rank. Det. 1093, Greeley, CO is proud to recognize all scouts earning this award.

Don Coffin of Berlin has been sworn in as judge advocate of the First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League. As Judge Advocate, Coffin is responsible for advising the unit on matters of rules and regulations. Coffin was installed in the office by Frank Del Piano of Ocean City, Commandant of the Department of Delaware Marine Corps League, at the detachment’s monthly meeting held at Ocean City American Legion Post 166.

Commandant Ryan Lincoln presents a check to Central Iowa VAHC Director Darwin Goodspeed with proceeds from an annual classic car show held on VA grounds and hosted by the Larry Nehring Det. 103 and Auxiliary Unit.
Marine Corps League Det. 1095 Bowling Green, KY carries on the tradition of service to country and community. Started in 2002 by a few local Marines interested in establishing a formal Marine identity locally, we have grown to approximately 50 members and are involved in multiple volunteer programs in more than 10 counties. Our largest activity is participation in Toys for Tots each year. Marine Corps League Detachment 1095 in Bowling Green Kentucky proudly represents Marine veterans in the Bowling Green Veterans Parade every year as well as many other activities throughout the year. Our highest calling each year is Toys for Tots. Our director, Janel Doyle (center photo), began her work with Toys for Tots in 2012 and has grown the effort every year since. Last year she was named Toys for Tots region 2 coor-dinator of the year at the Toys for Tots coordinators conference in Quantico, VA. She has coordinated the collection of 77,000+ toys, books and stocking stuffers and distributed them to 11,000 children in 2021. Recent disasters in several parts of Kentucky have called on us and the many volunteers from our ever-expanding area to distribute not only toys to children, but food, clothing and health items to many disaster areas all year long. This effort goes on and our League leads on with Janel spearheading the effort. From right to left are Danny Peavy, Joe Roysdon (recently deceased), Ralph Schwartz, Bob Metz, Jim Kelley, Greg Hudson, John Potter, Ron Crittenden, Malcolm Cherry, Bob Wilson and Matt Baker. The three Marines in Dress Blues are recruiter Staff Sgt. Brisbin with two recent Parris Island graduates.

Marine Corps league Det. at Camp Verde, Arizona for the 50th Anniversary Conference October 21 & 22, 2022. From left to right are Senior Vice Al Quintana, Color Guard Captain and Judge Advocate David Yrigoyen, Paymaster Oscar Santa Cruz, and Adjutant Jess Moreno.

Det. 1435’s Pride and Purpose Fort Wayne, IN, Junior Past Commandant Troy Gillum threw out a perfect strike first pitch.
Marine Bruce O’Connells final salute October 2, 2022. Marines of Det. 524, Lewis B. Puller Jr., honor deceased Marine F. Bruce O’Connell, det. paymaster & area Toys for Tots coordinator, a recipient of many awards. The ceremony was held at the West Pennsboro, PA Veterans Memorial Park, Plainfield, PA. The honor guard, left to right, are A. Ferguson, Commanding; W. Smedley Det. Guideon, Riflemen J. Gillespie, L. Kipp, B. Leiby, P. Wallace, M. Klien, and P. Schaeffer. Over 100 people, including Marines, other veterans, family and friends were in attendance.

Marine Farewell and Marine Bear made an excursion to the Menorah Park to visit with Marine Jim Mahar of the Greater Syracuse, NY Det. 224. We found Marine Mahar in the cafeteria getting ready for his lunch. Marine Farewell said hello to Jim, shook his hand and gave Jim a new Marine Corp League Cover. He was visibly moved and we saw tears in his eyes. Farewell presented Jim with a USMC flag signed by the detachment the Marines. Jim made a barely distinguishable “ooh rah” as he pointed to the flag. Ron then told Jim that we had brought him and his wife Ann a piece of the Marine Birthday Cake. We talked to Jim, but he did not respond except for eating the birthday cake and the visible emotions he showed us. Before we ended our visit, we placed the USMC flag on the wall above Jim’s bed. It was a wonderful day and it was apparent that Jim was moved by our visit.
Join Roll Call!

**ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES**

**SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS**

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

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

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

**Permission**—For photos of youths under age 18, please visit www.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.mclnational.org.

**NOTICE TO MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENTS!**

Please consider taking a group photo of your detachment’s membership. Department and division conferences are another way to capture some memories. We would love to include your photos in the *Semper Fi* magazine.

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Marines from Charlotte County Det. 756 pause from their disaster relief efforts to clean the Vietnam Memorial Wall in downtown Punta Gorda, FL. Honoring all those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Pictured from left to right: John Castle, Chester “Chet” Ogra-biz, Frank Menard, Wayne Bergeron, Harry Bachman, and Gerald “Top Hat” Lawson.

Tommy Reichard of the Walter P. Ryan Det. pictured as the bell ringer for the two-bell portion of the Field of Honor Ceremony held at Hillsborough County Veterans Park in Tampa, FL on October 8, 2022.
BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA

Radioman
Twenty-Five Years in the Marine Corps: From Desert Storm to Operation Iraqi Freedom

Marine Corps mustang veteran Andrew Hesterman provides a riveting account of his experience in the military. From recruit training to Desert Storm as an enlisted Marine; then commissioning in 1994 to end up serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan; we follow Hesterman through an incredible journey. It was an enjoyable read with an excellent flow.

*Radioman: Twenty-Five Years in the Marine Corps: From Desert Storm to Operation Iraqi Freedom*
Authors: Andrew Hesterman & Robert Einaudi
Pages: 328
Publisher: Pen and Sword Military
ISBN: 978-1399090759

Lest We Forget: Extraordinary Episodes of Often Forgotten U.S. Military History

MCL Member Avery Chenoweth, Sr. brings the reader a wide range of history in this excellent collection of 48 short stories. This book is great for spending a little time reading each evening. The perfect amount of story and variety in one book. The descriptive text is clear and each story flows well independently.

*Lest We Forget: Extraordinary Episodes of Often Forgotten U.S. Military History*
Author: Avery Chenoweth, Sr.
Pages: 266
Publisher: Avery Chenoweth Sr.
ISBN: 978-0984688326

NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS & AUTHORS

For consideration for review, please send books to:
MCL National Headquarters, ATTN: COO, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR**

**Mid-Winter Conference**  
February 23-25  
Norfolk, VA  
MCLnational.org

**Modern Day Marine Expo**  
June 27-29  
Washington, DC  
MarineMilitaryExpos.com

**2023 National Convention**  
August 14-18  
Oklahoma City, OK  
MCLnational.org

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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

The dates above are tentative due to possible COVID-19 restrictions. Please check mclnational.org before making reservations.
How Did You Spend Your Holidays?

**MARINES:** Inclement weather did not stop the events planned for Saturday, November 12, 2022. In this photo, the Young Marines from Natchaug River (CT) Young Marines unit were invited to watch the D-Day Prayer Addition Celebration at the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC.

The Natchaug River Young Marines are extremely active within their community reaching over 4,000 community service hours in 2022. In addition to providing service to their local Marine Corps League detachment, they make time to promote the Young Marines program by participating in unit hiking and weekend encampments.

The unit has been around for fifteen years and shares deep ties with veterans and veteran services in Windham County, CT. They have a healthy group of 39 Young Marines and 15 registered adult volunteers. The noteworthy fact about the leadership in this unit is that they are all patriotic citizens who dedicate their time, energy, and resources to the Young Marines program.

The Natchaug River Young Marines have participated in many notable events such as Wreaths Across America, 9/11 Remembrance ceremonies, Connecticut Veterans Race, Willimantic Elks Club Veterans Luncheon, Flag Laying ceremonies and the 5K Drug Demand Reduction Dash with Easter Seals Veterans Rally Point. Mr. Russell Grant is their unit commander and he says, “we are more than a Young Marines unit - we are a Young Marines family.”

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 Marines alumni and patriotic citizens of this country who are excited about what this program offers today’s youth.

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. I encourage all Marine Corps League detachments to write in about their positive experiences with the YM unit they support. You can reach me at angela.maness@youngmarines.org or ammaness33@gmail.com. Semper Fi!
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.

Attention Chaplains!

All death notices must be sent to both MCL National Chaplain Howard Schaeffer and to Membership Supervisor JD Foster. MCLNationalChaplain@gmail.com / JFoster@MCLeague.org

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TAPS

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

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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!

2023 Tours

4–16 Feb
Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue

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

11–21 Apr
Philippines - WWII in the P.I.

15–28 Apr
Vietnam War “Saigon to the DMZ”

15–28 Apr
Friends & Family Trip to Vietnam

20–29 May
Doughboys & Devil Dogs France WWI Battlefields

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

31 Jun–8 Jun
79th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

TBD Jul
The Korean War Experience

Continues Next Page
Historical Tours for selection of tour prize.

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2023 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE
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You need not be present to win. Winner will be notified within three days of drawing if not present, and arrangements will be made for coordination with Military Historical Tours for selection of tour prize.

31 Jul–8 Aug
Guadalcanal 91st Operation Watchtower

5–18 Aug
Vietnam War “Saigon to the DMZ”

8–20 Aug
Vietnam War “All of I-Corps”

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

9–20 Sep
All England Tour “God Save the King” & 8th Air Force-WWII

11–23 Sep
Belgium – Waterloo – WWI – Dunkirk

1–13 Oct
WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust

8–21 Oct
D-Day Plus Battle of the Bulge & Paris

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

19–24 Oct
40th Commemoration of the Beirut Barracks Lebanon

28 Nov–9 Dec
Vietnam “Delta to DMZ” Post Tour: 9-14 Dec Laos & Cambodia

3–9 Dec
Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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Type of Application – New ( ) Membership Type - Regular ( ) Associate ( ) Dual ( )

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 have earned the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; 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 of 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)

Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment.
Applicants for MAL Membership, remit this form with check or money order in the amount of $30 to: Marine Corps League, National Headquarters P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990.

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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Signature ____________________________________________

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

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Sculpted Marines on handles, crafted of cold-cast bronze

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