

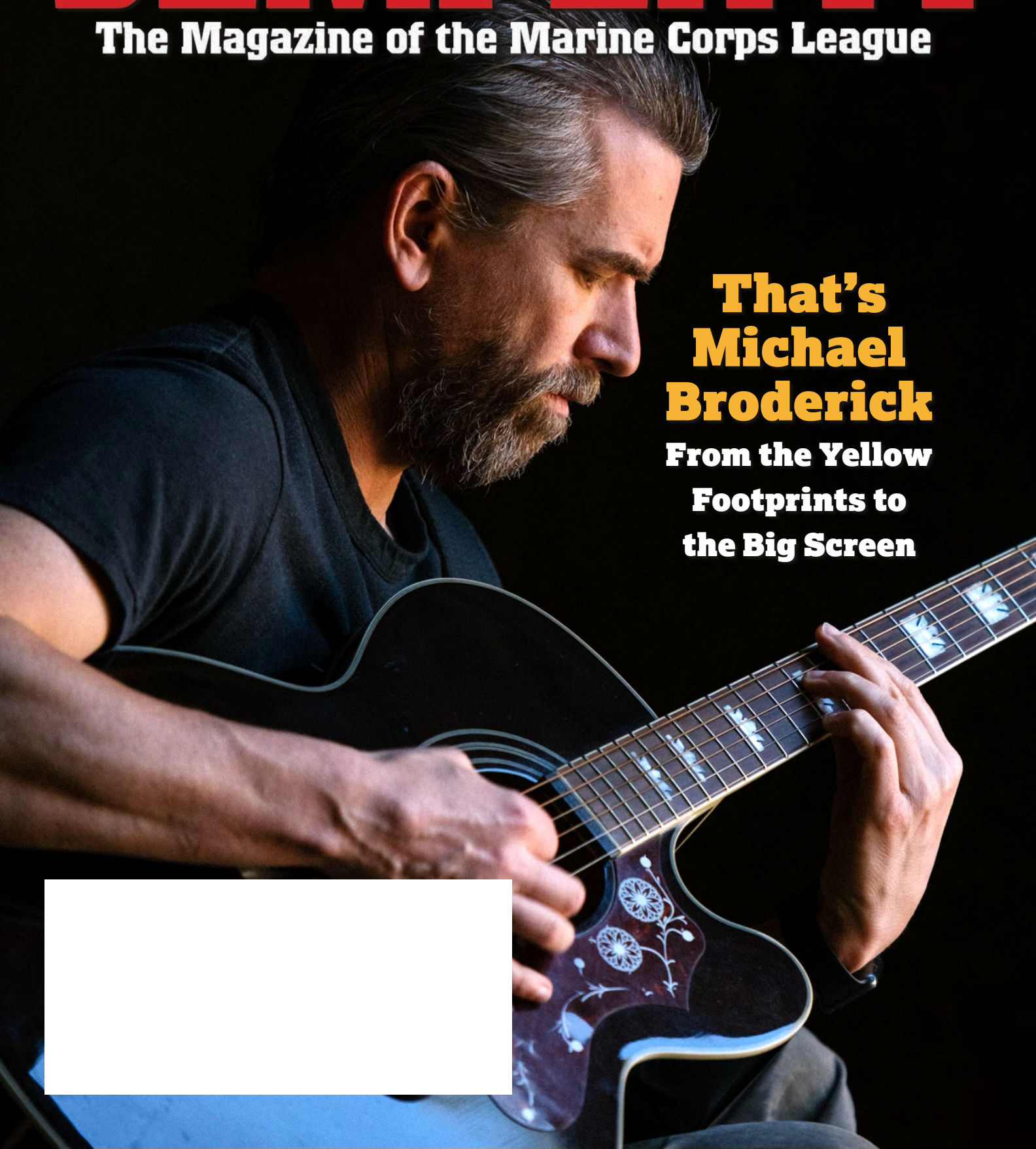
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 79 No. 3 • SUMMER 2023

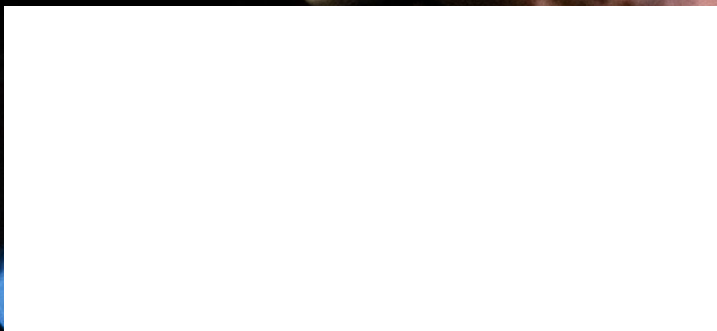
# SEMPER PARATI



The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



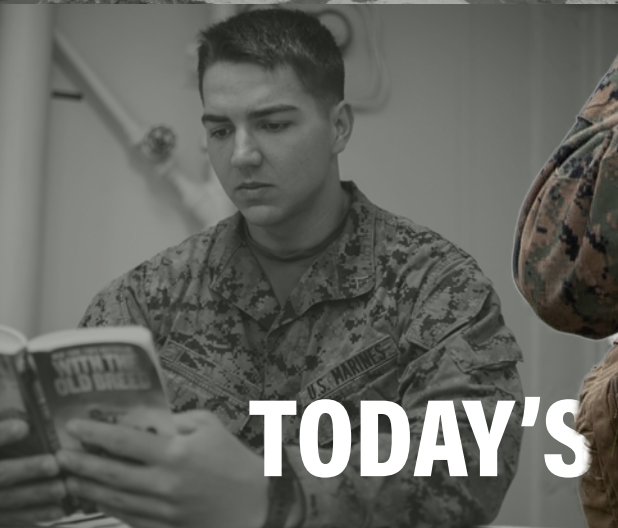
**That's  
Michael  
Broderick**  
From the Yellow  
Footprints to  
the Big Screen







**SUPPORTING**



**TODAY'S**



**MARINES**



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WWW.MCA-MARINES.ORG**



**MARINE CORPS  
ASSOCIATION**  
EST 1913

# Colonel Phillip C. DeLong

## Detachment 1267

### The Villages, Florida

**F**ive Japanese Zero fighter pilots sat in their planes awaiting take off from the Solomon Islands on 23 January 1944. They had no idea that they were in for the worst and possibly the last day of their lives thanks to U.S. Marine First Lieutenant Phillip Cunliffe DeLong out of VMF-212 in his F4U Corsair fighter.

While on an escort mission, several Zeros attacked. DeLong helped two fellow pilots shoot down two enemy aircraft. Moments later, he was attacked by five Zeros. He outran four of them but circled around to shoot down the other plane as they flew toward each other, OK Coral-style. This was just the morning. Later that same day, DeLong and a squadron mate

shot down yet another Zero.

In the following few weeks, four Val dive-bombers, a Hamp fighter, and another Zero were added to his list of victories. During WWII, he flew 69 combat missions with 11.166 aerial victories. He was the "Top Gun" of his unit and became a feared "Double Ace"!

DeLong's mystique continued when he fought in the Korean conflict. He flew 127 combat missions and shot down two enemy Yak fighters. He had the distinction of being the only pilot to shoot down enemy aircraft in two wars with the same type of aircraft.

DeLong retired from the Marine Corps in 1969 as a colonel. Among his many personal decorations are the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished

Flying Cross with six gold stars, the Air Medal with 16 gold stars, and the Navy Commendation Medal.

DeLong and his wife, Katie, moved to The Villages where he resided until his death in 2006.

When several Marines living in The Villages decided to form a Marine Corps League detachment, they learned about Colonel DeLong. Considering that we had a rare Marine Corps Aviation Hero living among us, the vote was unanimous to name our detachment after this valiant Marine. The almost 200 strong detachment was officially formed on 30 January 2007 and has been a vital member of The Villages community ever since. *Semper Fi!*



# SEMPER PARATI

The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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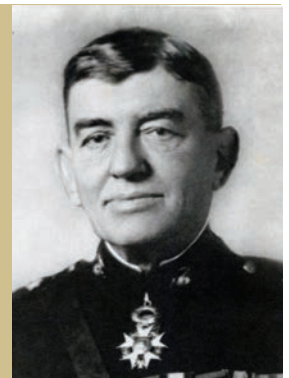
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Amendment submissions to the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures for the 2023 National Convention can be found on the Convention Tab of the Library website starting May 1st.

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

To submit a change to the Bylaws or Admin Procedures, please review AP Section 10020.

Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune (\LUH-jern\), the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States.





# NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

## JOHNNY B. BAKER

### State of the League



**MARINES:** As I close my two years as your national commandant, it is important that I first say “thanks” for the opportunity to serve the League. It truly has been my honor and privilege to serve as the national commandant. It is a responsibility that I took seriously and without reservations. Always, my intent was to leave the League better than I found it, regardless of my personal desires and direction. It sincerely made me a better person.

As the League has had many adversities and changes, I feel that the League is moving in the right direction. The State of the League is an important aspect to fully understand where we are and where we need to go to make the League stronger. So, the following is my assessment of the State of the League.

Currently, the League has approximately 56,161 members. Several years ago, the League set up a new database system that was created with the old database entries. This old antiquated system had many duplicates and inaccuracies. The new database gave the League the ability to “clean-up” our duplicates as well as get a better understanding of our true numbers. This cleanup of the database was greatly affected by the Department Commandants getting on board when National requested that each department assign a “Department Compliance Officer” as a department staff member. The departments that are on board with this new position have seen a huge increase in the detachment’s compliance of the IRS requirements; Report of Officer’s Installation being submitted properly; PLM Audits; as well as other reports that must be submitted to National.

Recently, Bob Borka, our National Executive Director worked with a company very closely and created an “app” for the Marine Corps League. This application is now available for Apple and Android smartphones from their respective app stores by searching for “Marine Corps League.” You’ll know you have the right one when you see the MCL logo. Thanks Bob, great job!

Another area that has changed in the past two years is our relationship with the Marine Corps Association (MCA). Thanks to PNC Dennis Tobin for laying the groundwork, the MCL and MCA have entered into 30-year agreement for both organizations to co-sponsor the Modern Day Marine (MDM) Exposition. Last year, the event moved to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in downtown Washington, D.C. The level of professionalism and the level of participation by the Marine Corps has drastically increased. The Marine Corps League has conducted the MDM for the past 43 years, but the level of importance to the Marine Corps has never been stronger, due to the League and MCA partnership.

Thanks, again, for the opportunity to serve as your national commandant. During the last two years as I crisscrossed the country visiting detachments, departments, and divisions, I appreciate the camaraderie, the welcome, the support, the interactions, and the opportunity to serve with you. As I transition to the junior past national commandant position at the 2023 national convention in Oklahoma City, I look forward to still serving the League. **Semper Fi!**



**CALL (703) 207-9588**

for any issues related to Marine Corps League membership, *Semper Fi* subscriptions or changes of address.

To change your address, please contact your detachment Paymaster. Additionally, send an email to [info@mcleague.org](mailto:info@mcleague.org).

To pay your dues, please contact your detachment Paymaster.

#### THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO

**BOB BORKA**

### Our Unit Charters are Origin Stories

**MARINES:** I spent some time recently looking at copies of department and detachment charters. Many years ago, there was a project to get a copy of each charter to hold on file at headquarters. It is humorous to see the interpretation of the request. There are unreadable photos, papers of a wide variety of sizes, color copies, black & white photocopies, and some papers folded into envelopes. There are also great copies made that could literally replace a charter, if needed.



Several detachments asked me to see if there is a back-up copy of their charter because things happen: fire, flooding, loss, etc. I have been hoping to find good copies so the detachments can get (almost) their original back. You see, if we create a replacement charter, it is missing an important piece of history—the signatures of the original members.

In your own area, please consider having a good back-up made of your charter and the signature page. Keep a hard copy and an electronic copy. Our charters are origin stories and each one is meaningful. It was an honor to read each one.

Also, if your department or detachment is missing its charter, please request a replacement through your chain of command. We would be honored to create a replacement.

Wishing each of you the very best summer. *Semper Fi!*

## NATIONAL PR COMMITTEE

**VICTORIA McCOY**

### Marine Corps League – 100 Years of Service!

**MARINES:** You only turn 100 years, once! What began as an inspiration to regain camaraderie has turned into a legacy of service and has evolved into the alumni of the United States Marine Corps – the Marine Corps League (MCL).



The accomplishments of each MCL detachment are supported by the dreams and achievements of the individual member. The inspirations we obtained through these years of service are a testament to us. The projects and activities we pursue as MCL detachments and members have engrained us into the organization we are.

From what was a dream of retired Major Sidney W. Brewster in 1922, to have thousands of Marines marching in parades with feelings of esprit de corps and good fellowship, has evolved into one of continual outreach and support for our fellow Marines, FMF Navy personnel, fellow veterans, our families and their families, and the communities in which we serve.

The outreach is a testament to our public relations! By promoting and show-

*Continued Next Page*



#### Honorary National Commandant

Alfred M. Gray  
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29th Commandant of the Marine Corps

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## PR COMMITTEE

From Previous Page

casing what we do and, more importantly, why we do it, it keeps the enthusiasm of each individual member strong. The methods of awareness for the passion and the service we offer has evolved with time, but the simple grass roots approach has not changed and are proven to secure new and renewed commitment from our fellow Marines and FMF Navy personnel, as well as those citizens who also support us.

A continued investment in promoting who we are, what, and why we do it will always hold the test of time. This was demonstrated through the conviction of Major Brewster, further amplified by Lt. Gen. Lejeune. Through these past 100 years, members of the MCL have supported veteran-friendly legislation, befriended Marines confined to hospitals and veterans homes, addressed suicide awareness, marched in parades, participated in trade shows, supported funeral honors for fallen Marines, and always maintained camaraderie with our brothers and sisters in arms. This is all what we do as members of the MCL.

Members and detachments (and departments) must remain vigilant in the cause of what we, the MCL, are chartered to do – serving our fellow Marines! We must remain forthright in service to each other. We must always keep the image of the MCL in a positive light to ensure our legacy will live on. We must, forever, promote positive public relations – because you only turn 100 years, once! *Semper Fi!*



# Are You Ready?



**Mike & Kay Ross**  
Albert E. Shockey Detachment #960  
Kokomo, Indiana



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[www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org)

- Toys For Tots • Color Guard • Young Marines
- Funeral Honors • Preserve Traditions



# HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE!

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Salute to our Vietnam Veterans

Historic photographic imagery of returning service members



99.9% Silver plated



Iconic Fully Sculpted Portrait of U.S. soldier with flag

Selectively colored accents recall the Vietnam War Service Ribbon

Shown larger than actual size of 38.6mm diameter

This fine collectible is not legal tender and bears no monetary face value. Design subject to change

### KEY DETAILS

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE:** Commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Homecoming in 1973. This event, the beginning of the release of American Prisoners of War, came to represent a welcome home for all who had served in the Vietnam conflict.

**EXCLUSIVE RELEASE:** This historic 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tribute is only available from The Bradford Exchange Mint. Due to expected strong demand, only the earliest applicants will be able to successfully secure this meaningful Proof coin.

**ALL-NEW DESIGN:** Intended as a collectors' item, this exclusive commemorative is offered in coveted Proof condition. Fully 99.9% Silver plated, it features historic photographic imagery of service members cheering as their plane takes off on the front, plus vivid selective printing recalling the Vietnam service ribbon. A golden privy mark adds to its stature. The back showcases a U.S. soldier holding a U.S. flag.

**CHARITABLE DONATION:** The Bradford Exchange has made a charitable donation thanking senior war veterans for their bravery and sacrifice to our country.

### 1973: THE YEAR COURAGE CAME HOME

In 1973, just over 50 years ago, an unusual, peaceful, series of flights departed the long-disputed skies of Vietnam. We honor and appreciate the U.S. POWs and all Vietnam Veterans who sacrificed everything for our country. Known as "Operation Homecoming," these flights restored these long-lost servicemen to their country and families. The positive response the returnees received sparked a transition in public opinion. As recognition of their heroism and courage grew, so did respect for all those who had answered our country's call to service. Now The Bradford Exchange Mint salutes the undaunted spirit of America's Vietnam veterans with the exclusive *Vietnam Homecoming 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Proof Coin*.

This exclusive, 99.9% Silver plated tribute begins with historic photographic imagery portraying joyful former POWs on their long-awaited flight home. Selective full-color accents recall the vivid hues of the U.S. Vietnam service ribbon. A golden "USA" privy mark accents the design. Proof-quality coining dies create its polished, mirror-like fields and raised, frosted images. It arrives secured in a crystal-clear capsule.

### A superb value ...100% guaranteed.

Preview yours now at the \$49.99\* price, payable in two installments of \$24.99 each. As always, it is backed by our unconditional, 365-day guarantee. This could be your only opportunity to preview *The Vietnam Homecoming 50th Anniversary Proof Coin* as well as additional issues in *The Vietnam Homecoming 50th Anniversary Proof Coin Collection*. Issues will arrive about once a month at the same price. You need send no money now, and you may cancel at any time. It is never too late to remember those who gave so much. So act now.

The Bradford Exchange Mint is not affiliated with the U.S. Government or U.S. Mint



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Mrs. Mr. Ms.

### The Bradford Exchange Mint

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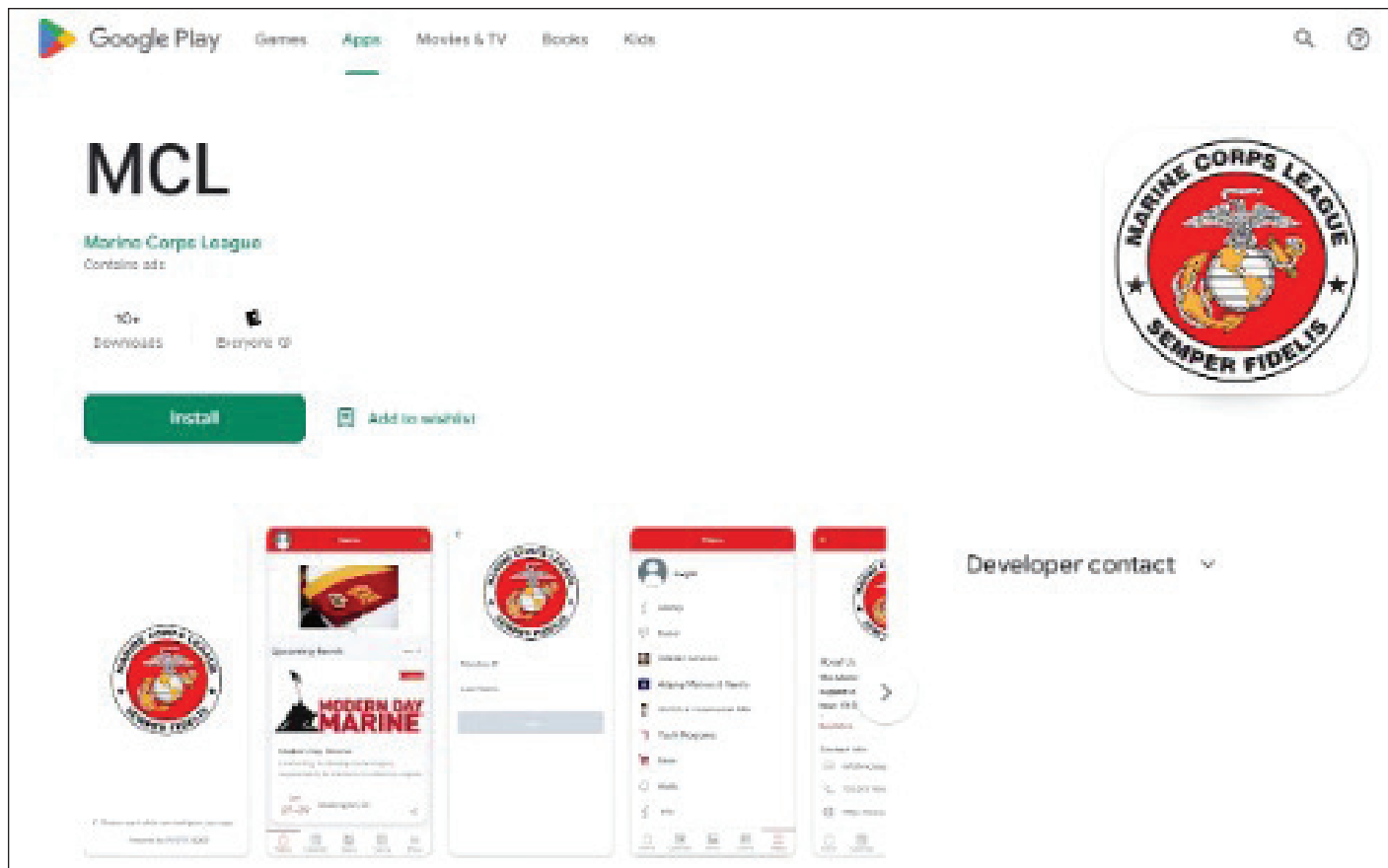
State

Zip

E-mail (optional)

923725-E26501

\*Plus \$6.99 shipping and service per coin. Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery of your first coin. Sales subject to product availability and request acceptance. This could be your only opportunity to preview the first issue in *The Vietnam Homecoming 50th Anniversary Proof Coin Collection* with the opportunity to collect future issues. You'll also receive a deluxe wooden display box — FREE! You may cancel at any time.



# There is an App for Us?!

## Android and Apple

The Marine Corps League now has a mobile app in the Apple Store and Google Play Store. The app is free. This exciting advancement is long-overdue, and we are so happy to finally make it available to our membership..

We have been working to continuously improve and enhance the app. We hope you find it interesting and helpful. The news feed comes directly from the Department of Defense as well as Department of Veterans Affairs. This avoids using news feeds and getting information directly from the sources we need.





# Your Youth Physical Fitness Program

*We, the members of the MCL, must be willing to spend a little time and invest in our youth. We are often stretched to our limits on service to our community but, this investment of time and effort to our youth is so vital to their future.*

**By Tom Hazlett, USMYF Executive Director**

**T**he Marine Corps League Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) Program is alive and getting better thanks to the efforts of our national commandant and his staff. We just finished a very successful national championship meet which was held in Little Rock, Arkansas at the beautiful Catholic High School facility. Many thanks to the nearly 40 active-duty Marines, the support of Catholic High School, and the support of the MCL Marines from the Department of Arkansas; all made the event a huge success. My congratulations to each of the 17 participating high schools which made up the 21 teams competing for this year's national championship. I especially wish to thank National Commandant Johnny Baker for attending the event. It was fantastic watching him interact with the athletes, as he personally met and spoke with each team prior to the start of their event. Many thanks to Sgt. Major Jernigan who made this all possible; without your help, the event

*Continued Next Page*

would not have taken place.

Many of our membership within the League have no idea what the YPF is, but hopefully that will soon change. As Commandant Baker has stated, the Youth Physical Fitness program is “our” program and he and I have gone through many hours of discussion and the re-writing of the memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation as well as the creation of a new SOP for the program.

It was great seeing the members of the Department of Arkansas turn out for the event and they were all willing to assist in any way possible. As we venture forward, the support of the MCL is the key to the success of the program. We need to learn more about the program, we need to communicate with the schools within your areas and educate them on what this YPF program is all about. We, the members of the MCL, must be willing to spend a little time and invest in our youth. We are often stretched to our limits on service to our community but, this investment of time and effort to our youth is so vital to their future.

With the financial support of the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation, our program has survived for well over 50 years. General Al Gray is the USMYF chairman of the board and has been for many years, and he has asked that the MCL support this program both in time as well as financially. It is a program that operates from donations made to

the Foundation and those donations are normally made during the Annual Tree of Lights event. The Tree of Lights gives us the chance to donate in memory of, in honor of our family members past and present, and in honor of past and present brothers and sisters who we served with. Donations are made with the purchase of lights which are illuminated on our annual christmas tree displayed at our national headquarters. The lights represent the amounts of the donations made; red (\$500), gold (\$250), blue (\$100), green (\$50), white (\$25), and clear (\$10) are illuminated and the Scroll of Honor is read by General Gray, this scroll represents those who we honor and memorialize.

General Gray had in the past asked that each detachment of the MCL set aside \$50 a year and contribute annually to the USMYF for this Tree of Lights ceremony. All of the funds go to the operational expenses supporting your MCL Youth Physical Fitness program. Won't you please support this program by honoring it with your donations? My thanks to the National MCL headquarters, the MCL Foundation, the many division, department, and detachment donations; the MCL Auxiliary units, the MODD Kennel, packs and pounds for their generous donations, and of course to those individuals who donate personally. We cannot thank you enough for your support, **Semper Fi!**



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**Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
**Tuesday, December 5th 2023 at**  
**11:00am**  
**Marine Corps League National**  
**Headquarters**

# ***Tree of Lights***



Proceeds to benefit the  
***United States Marines Youth Foundation***

Each year, individual Marines, Marine Corps League Detachments (all across America) and Friends of the **United States Marines Youth Foundation**, can sponsor lights on the Christmas tree that will be displayed at the National Marine Corps League Headquarters during the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Typically, lights are given:

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

As a light sponsor, your name (or the name of your organization) will be listed on a special ***Scroll of Honor*** to be displayed at the ceremony and to be posted on our website :

<https://usmarinesyouthfoundation.org/> throughout year of 2023.

For more information, please call (703) 207-9588.

***\$500 Red Light***

***\$250 Gold Light***

***\$100 Blue Light***

***\$50 Green Light***

***\$25 White Light***

***\$10 Clear Light***

# Registration Form

Person or Organization giving the Light \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## TYPE OF GIFT:

- IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_  
(list name as you would like it displayed on the *Scroll of Honor*)
- IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
(list name as you would like it displayed on the *Scroll of Honor*)
- YEAR-END GIFT to the United States Marines Youth Foundation

## TYPE OF LIGHT:

- \_\_\_ \$500 Red Light  
\_\_\_ \$250 Gold Light  
\_\_\_ \$100 Blue Light  
\_\_\_ \$ 50 Green Light  
\_\_\_ \$ 25 White Light  
\_\_\_ \$ 10 Clear Lights

You will, of course, receive a **Thank-you Letter**. If you would *also* like to have an **Acknowledgement Letter** sent to the family of the person you are honoring, please tell us who you would like the Acknowledgement Letter sent to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send with your check payable to:

### U. S. Marines Youth Foundation

3619 Jefferson Davis Highway

Suite 115

Stafford, VA 22554

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

**Questions? Please call (717) 420-0623**



# U.S. MARINE CORPS

## Men's Shirt



USMC Eagle, Globe, and Anchor Symbol, Marine Slogan, and Tropical-Inspired Style

Lightweight Viscose Provides Cool Comfort

Button-Front Closure and Loose Fit for a Relaxed, Comfortable Look

Available Only from The Bradford Exchange

Available in 5 Men's Sizes  
M-XXXL

## SALUTING SEMPER PARVUS PRIDE

With a casual design and powerful Marine symbolism, this men's shirt lets you show off your USMC pride. An all-over tropical design featuring the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor symbol and the phrase "Marines The Few. The Proud." pays tribute to USMC pride. Subtle tonal tan and brown leaf and palm tree accents add to the look. This lightweight viscose shirt features a button-front closure for a cool and comfortable fit, and a side slit at the hem lets you move freely. It also includes a slip pocket on the chest for a perfect finishing touch. Plus, with 5 sizes, medium to XXXL, to choose from, you're certain to get a great fit. Imported.

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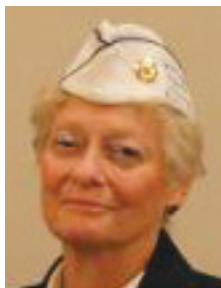
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# NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY

LINDA S. CHAMBERLAIN

NATIONALMCLA.ORG

## MCL's Teamwork on Display



### AUXILIARY AND LEAGUE MEMBERS:

Although cloudy with occasional sprinkles of rain, nothing could stop the beautiful tribute to our fallen heroes for Memorial Day on May 29, 2023, at Arlington National Cemetery. I was once again honored to represent the Marine Corps League Auxiliary in the presentation of the Marine Corps League wreath to be laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Teamwork (as defined by Wikipedia) is "the collaborative effort of a group to achieve a common goal or to complete a task in the most effective and efficient way."

Teamwork is an integral part of any business, sports team, and, yes, even family... everyone coming together to achieve a common goal, whether it's a great proposal for a new product, trying for that Super Bowl or MLB Championship ring, or just putting together a wedding or surprise party. If everyone doesn't work together, the outcome could not be as you expected or planned.



The Marine Corps League and Marine Corps League Auxiliary, in my humble opinion, are both teams. Why? ...because we both support veterans, active-duty military, military families, and children, to name a few. We both work toward the same goals, and, in many cases, we do this by combining resources and teamworking to achieve those common goals, all while still being a Marine Corps League detachment and a Marine Corps League unit. Do things always run smoothly, and do we sometimes disagree? Sure—but at the end of the day, we get the job done through teamwork.

I ask those Marine Corps League detachments that do not have an auxiliary unit associated with them to consider changing that situation. Stop an auxiliary



National Color Bearer, Karen Mastriana, MCLA President Linda Chamberlain, and National Banner Bearer Tammy Rivera

member at the upcoming National Convention and ask her how her unit supports their detachment. I know there are detachments out there who in no way, shape, or form want an auxiliary unit associated with them. I get that but, let me tell you – you really don't know what you're missing!

Let's all try and put my motto of "Remember, we may not have it all together, but together we have it all, and together we can make anything happen" a true example of teamwork.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the National Convention in August and wish everyone attending the Convention safe travels. **Semper Fi!**

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

### NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Linda S. Chamberlain

**National Sr. VP**  
Dotty Sanning

**National Jr. VP**  
Mary Brief

**National Judge Advocate**  
Darlene MacCubbin

**Jr. Past National President**  
Evelyn Joppa

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**Southeast Division**  
Lynn Cortright

**Southern Division**  
Antonia Hurtado

**Southwest Division**  
Pauline Forsell

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**National Regent**  
Antonia Hurtado

**National Big Flea**  
Susan Douglas



**MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

February 22 – 24, 2024 Sheraton Pentagon City  
900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204  
Phone: (703) 521-1900 \$129.00 per night plus tax. \$10 parking

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***Online registration is available at MCLLeagueLibrary.org/Conference***

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

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*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*

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## PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION

HOWARD C. SCHAEFFER

MCLFOUNDATION.ORG

### Serving Marines is the MCL Foundation's Sole Mission

**MARINES:** The Marine Corps League Foundation is unique in many ways. While there are many charitable organizations that do yeoman's work on behalf of veterans without distinguishing between veterans of various military branches, the Foundation is uniquely Marine Corps-focused. It is run by Marines and serves only Marines, active-duty and veterans alike, and their families. In other words, by Marines for Marines.

It's run by Marines who serve without remuneration, which is in sharp contrast to some other organizations which are run by highly paid individuals who have found a way to do well by doing good.

Founded in 1989 to collect and distribute funds for the charitable and educational activities of the Marine Corps League, our board and foundation presidents have served for over three decades with great distinction. I know that as foundation president, I am filling big shoes.

It is for this reason that we rank near the top of American charitable organizations in making sure that funds received go to the beneficiaries. The Foundation undergoes an annual audit required by the Internal Revenue Service to maintain our status as a non-profit 501(C)(3) agency under IRS rules. This, of course, makes individual contributions deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. So, when you write a check to the Foundation, you can do so with the knowledge that the money goes to the intended beneficiaries...



and that your April 15 burden is made as least a little lighter, and just maybe, a lot lighter. Foundation presidents are allowed to dream, after all.

I think it is well known that your donations support humanitarian aid, scholarships for hundreds of children and grandchildren of Marines, disaster relief when mother nature vents her wrath, and several Marine Corps League sponsored youth programs. Less well-known is that one of the best ways to honor

deceased Marines, or any deserving friend, is through the Memorial Certificate Program. When a donation is made to the Foundation, a certificate with the USMC emblem and an MCL seal can be sent directly to the next of kin or returned to the donor for presentation. By taking part in this program, you're making it possible for us to increase our efforts on behalf of scholarship recipients and our youth programs. This certificate provides an enduring tribute in memory of the deceased that lasts long after the flowers are gone. I hope all detachments and divisions will consider this program in the future.

## YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

YOUNGMARINES.ORG

### Gratitude from the National Young Marine of the Year

**MARINES:** On the 17th of October in the year 1959, in a town called Waterbury, Connecticut, a group of Marines came together to form an organization that would teach boys about leadership and life skills by using the strong values of the Marine Corps. 64 years ago, the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League had officially been born.

My name is Young Marine Sergeant Major Isabella Benson, the 2023-2024 National Young Marine of the Year. I come from a small town in Michigan where I am a member of the Lapeer County Young Marines. When I was just ten years old, I was introduced to the Young Marines program when I saw my local unit marching in a parade. I knew right away that it was something I wanted to do. Now, seven years later, it is safe to say that I made the correct decision. Here it is 2023 and the Marine Corps League is still supporting the Young Marines in so many ways. My words cannot express near enough gratitude to all the MCL members who support our program through volunteering and mentoring and giving financial support.

I had the privilege of experiencing this firsthand at the Central Division Marine Corps League Convention in April 2023. This event was such an incredible experience that expanded my knowledge



**Young Marine  
Sergeant Major  
Isabella Benson  
2023-2024  
National Young  
Marine of the Year**

on the bond that is shared between these two organizations. It was with this experience that my eyes truly opened to how immensely generous the Marine Corps League is to the Young Marines. Though, when I speak of generosity, I do not just speak of money. I speak of the dedication and the passion you all share towards the betterment of tomorrow's leaders. Through your prevailing support of this youth leadership program (Young Marines), your contributions go straight into bettering the lives of our current youth and tomorrow's leaders. This is the same support that led to the formation of the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League those 64 years ago. On behalf of the entire Young Marines organization, Thank you! Thank you all for everything you do for the Young Marines program.

In the future I am aiming to become an officer in none other than the Marine Corps itself. And thanks to the conversations I shared with many members of

the Marine Corps League, I will forever be enlightened with the best course of action in not just my future career, but in my life.

I would like to thank you once again for all your support to the Young Marines program, it is always appreciated and never overlooked. **Semper Fi!**



**CHIEF DEVIL DOG****ALAN SANNING, 60TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG****MODDKENNEL.ORG****Keep Moving Forward and Have Fun Doing It!**

**MARINES:** As August quickly rolls up on us, I am pleased to share that per reports from both Past Chief Devil Dog Hazlett, the MODD liaison to the convention committee, as well as OK Sr. Vice Pack Leader PDD David Hull, it sounds like things are shaping up for a great 83rd Supreme Growl. There will be a few extra activities in light of this 100th Anniversary Marine Corps League Convention.

One extra activity planned is "Dog Days in the Park," which is open to all, not just Dogs. It will include the MODD check presentation to the Oklahoma University Children's Hospital followed by other fun events. The schedule currently includes a dunk tank, pie throwing, chip shot golf, inflatable axe throwing and Nerf gun sports. While most of these will be for a donation (which will go to the MODD Children's Hospital Fund) the Kennel Mad Dog/Auction Dog PDD Minton will have a limited number of pies for a special auction. He is compiling a list of kennel staff, national MCL and MCLA officers, as well as dog handlers who are willing to put their faces on the line for the children. They will be in the running to have their face selected by a pie auction winner, as I believe the top bidder for each pie also picks his target from the select list of volunteers. So, there may only be five pies auctioned off while there might be twenty potential targets on the list to select from. Knowing some of our long-time dog handlers, I could easily imagine some platoons pooling their bones to ensure their favorite dog handler meets a frosty finish. I am not sure who the auction dog has on his list so far, other than I have already thrown my face into the ring. Any other willing dignitaries please let PDD Minton know, and I am confident he will quickly add you to the list. This should be fun and make for some good photos, too!

Your kennel staff continues working to keep things running smoothly in the MODD. Kennel Webmaster PDD Soldano has once again made quick work of a request by adding a 2023 Supreme Growl tab to the top of the homepage at [militaryorderofthedevidogs.org](http://militaryorderofthedevidogs.org) making it easier to find Supreme

Growl related information, including advancement/initiation information, proposed bylaw changes, as well as a sortable list of applicants for advancement whose applications have been processed by the Kennel Dog Robber, PDD Hartley.

Kennel Smart Dog PDD Francis has been working to streamline the proposed bylaw changes to lessen the time it will take to present them at the Supreme Growl. Thanks to collaboration and input by several of the staff, to include the Jr. and Sr. Vice Chief Devil Dogs, PDD's DeAngelo and Jones, Kennel Executive Director PDD Wells, and the webmaster, our first online raffle was successfully concluded, immediately followed by the next one running to June 16 with another in the queue to kick off then.

These raffles are open to anyone not prohibited by federal, state, or local laws from participating. Many thanks to these and all the other Kennel staff who are keeping the wheels greased and moving forward in their respective areas.

Big barks to those Dogs around the country similarly working to keep their pounds and packs moving forward. It has been a pleasure to accept invitations to many of your growls and see the different ways that you are making things happen in your respective areas around the country. This spring, I had the opportunity to attend the Midwest Division Conference in Kansas in early March followed by the Southeast, Central and Southwest Division conferences. Currently, I am on the road having just experienced the distinct privilege of honoring our fallen brothers and sisters by presenting a wreath, along with Marine Corps League Auxiliary National President Linda Chamberlain, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on behalf of the Marine Corps League. From here I am driving to the Pennsylvania and then Missouri Department Conventions and Grand Growls. Regretfully I have had to turn down a few invitations due to due to scheduling conflicts. **Semper Woof!**



## NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

### New Members and Continuing a Sacred Mission

**MARINES:** Our community is now made up of Marines, Navy personnel who have earned the Marine Corps device working with Marines, and our associates. We are now entering our second century as “The Federally Chartered Organization” representing our Marine community. Somehow the added Navy personnel eligibility to be regular League members has been overlooked or not known by some of our members. This is a source of more members from a younger generation. In our most recent wars, there has been more interservice reliance than in the past. These people, who were part of the Marine team and are welcome to continue to be part of the Marine Corps League team. There is strength in numbers.

Having the opportunity to look at some old convention books, our uniform at one time was dark blue with a Sam Bowie belt across the chest. Today’s uniform is quite different. We have evolved over the years with the voice of the membership calling for changes. Every year, at our National Convention, members propose changes and amendments to our bylaws and national procedures. These changes are thought to be an idea to make our League just a little bit better. Thus, throughout the years we have grown to be a better organization by listening to our members. I look



forward to our new generation of Marine Corps League members stepping forward and letting us know what their goals and expectations for our future will be.

For our members at the detachment level and department level, recognize those who have done the work to make your unit better. Many members are volunteering because they enjoy supporting our League’s efforts. It still means a lot to be recognized by your peers. The cost is

small, the meaning is invaluable, and it is a great incentive to keep us moving forward.

I am sure that General John A. Lejeune would be proud of the organization he set in motion 100 years ago. We have been a great organization standing for that voice, ensuring our Marine Corps continues to be the world’s greatest fighting force. Our mission now is to ensure that in our next 100 years we become even greater. **Semper Fi!**

## NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

T.J. MORGAN

### Relax and Retain!

**MARINES:** So, what does it mean to have purpose? The dictionary tells us purpose is the reason something exists, an intended end, aim, or goal. Purpose creates meaning, offers a sense of direction, and helps guide our paths, behavior, and our goals when applied to our lives.

Isn’t this true when we look at why we all joined the Marine Corps League? I know it’s true for me and it is a place for us to look when we wish to retain our members. Bringing new members into the League is a great thing but keeping them here matters above all else.

I talk about this because when I look at statistics and numbers in the League. This is the one facet we brush over. Isn’t it time to give our members the purpose that they are seeking? A new committee position, a new appointed or elected position? Just bringing them to the League is not enough to keep them in the League. What will keep them in the League is a sense of purpose and that they are wanted and needed in the detachment.

Another thing that sometimes gets in our way is the fact we have been held rigid in our ways. I say there is time to take a breath, relax and enjoy. Do things in your meetings to have fun.



Skip a monthly business meeting and make it a social meeting. There are NO required number of business meetings in the Marine Corps League. Only recommendations. Also, it is very important when doing social events that you don’t lose sight of members family. This is the time to include them because they need purpose as well.

I will be accepting individual recruiting award nominations for my National Jr. Vice awards. Time is running out and I will accept any submitted to me by July 10th. Search for the recruiting fillable form on [mcleaguelibrary.org](http://mcleaguelibrary.org) (or use this URL: [www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Recruitment-Form\\_FILLABLE-Rev-Jan-2023.pdf](http://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Recruitment-Form_FILLABLE-Rev-Jan-2023.pdf))

My time as your National Jr. Vice is ending. I thank you all for the support and have announced at Mid-Winter, my intention to run for National Sr. Vice. I would appreciate your support! Thank you everyone for all you do for the League. **Semper Fi!**



## NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

RUSS MILLER

### Another 100 Years!

**MARINES:** As we are all packing up our gear and heading out to the 2023 Marine Corps League National Convention in Oklahoma City to celebrate our 100th anniversary, please remember that in addition to all the camaraderie and fun we will have, there is a great deal of very important business to be conducted just as there is every other year. Besides the elections of officers for the coming year, we also have 49 proposed amendments to the national bylaws (NBL) and administrative procedures (NAP) to work our way through. Please take time to unpack the many bylaw and admin procedure amendments and discuss them within your detachments. Make sure that the duly registered delegates and alternates attending on behalf of us all are aware of the wishes and intentions of your detachment's membership.

It is vitally important that we have adequate representation from as many detachments and departments as possible to ensure that a good cross-section of our membership is casting their votes to select the future leadership, as well as to fine tune the governing documents of our ever-growing organization. There are a number of boxes that must be checked off before your delegates and alternates even step foot onto the convention floor. First, are they a regular member in good standing, remembering to bring their membership ID and were they correctly registered? Second, is the detachment in good standing? Has its 990 been filed with the IRS and is the secretary of state's filing (or like report depending on your state's laws) also been submitted timely? Third, now that all detachments and departments have completed their elections of officers as dictated by the NBL, has an ROI (report



of officer installation) been forwarded by all detachments and departments in accordance with the NBL & NAP to MCL national headquarters? I am hopeful that the answer to all those questions was a resounding YES and we are all ready for an exciting convention.

I once again would like to say what an honor it has been to continue to serve in any capacity I can for my Marine and FMF Navy brothers and sisters. This past year as your national judge advocate has been very eventful, and I am so grateful for having had the opportunity that you all blessed me with. For the many generations of Marines and FMF Navy personnel yet to be born that will continue to march in our footsteps, I pray for continued growth and prosperity for our beloved Marine Corps League.

Remember to be the kind of member that you wish there were 20 more of in your detachment! **Semper Fi!**

## JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

DENNIS TOBIN

### Thank You All for Your Support in Our Finest Hour

**MARINES:** As we get ready for our convention and celebrate our 100th, this will be my last article as your 63rd Jr. Past National Commandant and as a member of the board of trustees. From my time as the Northeast Div. Vice through two terms as your national commandant, 10 years. During those years we had good and bad times, some harder than others, through it all we came out stronger and with the knowledge and ability to continue to move forward.

One of our hardest times was the pandemic shutdown; no meetings, no conferences, or convention. Your board of trustees immediately got together via Zoom conferencing and put together a plan for all detachments, departments, and National to hold elections. We were forced to do something we had been trying to do for years, embrace the use of electronics and move into the 21st century.

During that year, meetings were held via Zoom or other forms of visual telecommunication, we kept in touch with one another, we conducted League business accordingly. I've been asked if it bothered me missing a year as commandant. The answer is always NO; I missed nothing. In typical Marine fashion, we pushed forward and never missed a step. I truly believe that push through the pan-



demical was the Marine Corps Leagues finest year, at every level; detachment, department and National. The lines of communication were better than they ever were and still are.

I want to thank everyone who has supported me over the past ten years, and especially during my time as your commandant. From individual members to every member of the BOT's that I've worked with. I also want to thank all the PNC's for their advice and support. Nothing gets done without the support of everyone around you.

We didn't always agree on everything, but through compromise and the willingness to change, the work gets done and we continue to move forward. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you, the members of the Marine Corps League. I will continue to support and assist our incoming board of trustees in keeping our League moving forward. **Semper Fi!**

## DIVISION REPORTS

### Respect Must Be Earned



**Mike Sturch**  
NVC, Central Division



**MARINES:** As I am writing this, I'm also preparing a speech that I'll be giving at a local Memorial Day ceremony. This will be in the hometown of a good friend, confident, and a member of my detachment who passed away a few years ago. He was a mustang officer and a Vietnam veteran with Co. L, 3/5. A favorite saying of his was "Let me give you a nickel's worth of cheap advice." That is exactly what I am going to give here.

We see, today, all the turmoil and drama going on all around the nation. We have some states trying to shove acceptance and toleration down our throats, and others that are trying to run their states back into the Stone Age. And all of this under the name of "patriotism" or "the good of the people."

I have always said that we are a family; one team; or a tribe, as some say. We don't

have to get along all the time, or even agree with each other, but we do need to listen and respect each other's points of view. These are some of the freedoms and liberties we all fought for and defended. Remember what it was like when we had to complete platoon or unit tasks. If one person screwed up, the entire unit paid the price. The minute we expect, or even demand, that others follow our particular beliefs or ideals, no matter what, we are no longer a democracy.

Respect goes a long way, but as we all know, it is earned, not demanded, or entitled. Respect each other, and work together to obtain a common goal. This is not "my" detachment, or "your" department; it is OUR League. We need to be open-minded and respect each other's opinions and ideas.

Here's another quote that I like. I see many quotes on various emails, but this quote from Abraham Lincoln has really stuck with me, "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

Understanding, acceptance, and tolerance – that is the key to success. Add a little humility and honor, and you will be forever moving forward.

Always remember our brothers and sisters who are serving, those who never came home, and those who came home but never really returned. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: [mclcentdiv.org](http://mclcentdiv.org)

### Leadership Begins with First Impressions



**Rick Thomason**  
NVC, Mideast Division



**MARINES:** "Leadership through inspiration, not intimidation" is a phrase I have heard most of my adult life. I did a search on Google to see who said it. As close as Google could get was one by William Arthur Wood, "Leadership is based on inspiration, not domination; on cooperation, not intimidation."

I'm not sure what he did in his lifetime to give him such insight to leadership, but it was profound. If the Marine Corps did anything for me, it was to inspire me to develop leadership skills that were based on inspiration. You can inspire the membership in many ways. Through your physical appearance, your knowledge, and your willingness to listen.

First, your physical appearance. As Will Rogers famously said, "You never get a second chance to make a first impression."

Studies show that a person will form a first impression of you somewhere between the first seven seconds to two minutes. Your physical appearance is the first thing people notice about you. Dress to impress in whatever situation you are in. We are Marines and are supposed to be "Squared Away".

The second thing that will create a positive impression is your knowledge of subject matter. What subject matter? Any subject. The most annoying thing for me to listen to is someone who obviously has not researched what he/she is talking about but is professing to be an authority on the matter. Those people are hoping that you know less than them and will consider them really smart. How's your first impression of them coming along?

Lastly, listen. No one has ever gained an education by talking. The ability to listen with intent is an attribute now held by very few people these days. They interrupt, talk over you or gaze at their phone as though bored. Be a good listener. Think about it! No matter when or where you wear the Marine Corps League cover, you represent every member. Make us proud and do it as a leader of men. **Semper Fi!**

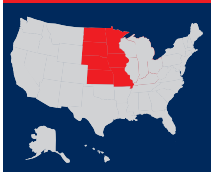
Division Website: [mclmideast.com](http://mclmideast.com)

## Open Aperture Leadership with Wisdom



**Joe Hughes**

**NVC, Midwest Division**



**MARINES:** Open Aperture does not refer to a specific recognized or established leadership style or approach. However, we can infer what it might imply based on the term itself.

An “open aperture” is a broad or wide opening typically used in photography or optics. In the realm of leadership, an open aperture approach suggests a leadership style that is inclusive, adaptable, and open to different perspectives and ideas. It may involve actively seeking input and feedback from team members, valuing diversity and collaboration, and being flexible and willing to adjust strategies based on changing circumstances or outside past practices.

It’s important to note that leadership styles can vary greatly, and there are numerous recognized approaches, such as autocratic, democratic, transformational, servant leadership, and more.

By opening your decision-making aperture in all these styles, the lens allows more possibilities to shine on the decision-making process, resulting in a more excellent range of options. It eliminates the blurred options just outside normal vision.

It’s a leadership style that emphasizes an openness to diverse perspectives and experiences while integrating wisdom in decision-making processes. It’s a leadership approach that values inclusivity, curiosity, empathy, and introspection, allowing leaders to make informed, responsible decisions that benefit the League.

Leaders who practice Open Aperture Leadership with Wisdom recognize that there is no single way to lead and that different situations require different approaches. They embrace diverse perspectives and experiences, actively seek input from others, and foster a culture of collaboration and mutual respect.

Wisdom is an essential component of Open Aperture Leadership. It involves thinking critically, reflecting on past experiences, and making sound judgments based on a deep understanding of the situation. Leaders who practice wisdom are mindful of their biases, values, and assumptions and seek to overcome them through introspection and self-awareness.

Open Aperture Leadership can lead to more informed and effective decision-making, increased member engagement and satisfaction, and improved organizational performance. It can also foster a learning, innovation, and continuous improvement culture, where leaders and members are encouraged to challenge the status quo and embrace new ideas and approaches to service and the value of service.

In summary, Open Aperture Leadership with Wisdom is a style that values openness, inclusivity, and wisdom in decision-making processes. It is a powerful approach that can lead to better outcomes and visibility for the Marine Corps League, and it is an essential skill for leaders in today’s rapidly changing and complex world. It also expands on the training experiences for Marines next in line to accept a leadership role. **Semper Fi!**

**Division Website:** [midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org](http://midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org)

## Think Big, Think Success, and Live Service



**David Porter**

**NVC, New England Division**



**MARINES:** Always start the day with positive energy, you deserve it and those around you deserve it. It has been said that you are not a true success unless you are helping others be successful. It is not about one person being successful, it is surrounding yourself with others to work as team to be successful. To this point, I would like to thank my staff for an outstanding job over the years.

Like others, the New England Division has experienced challenging obstacles. Whether it is trying to get every detachment compliant with the IRS, or compliant with the League regarding ROIs, these challenges did not stop us from supporting our detachments and keeping them motivated. We did not give up, and we got the missions completed! We learned a lot over the years and we took that knowledge to get a lot accomplished over the five years working as a team,

and working as a family.

As family in New England, we came together and had three great extraordinary conventions in April and June with some amazing and distinguished guests and guest speakers. Commandants, you have done an impressive job organizing your team to have prosperous weekends. It comes down to memorable times sharing camaraderie that keeps us coming back together.

Thank you all who took the time to read my articles for the past five years and pass on the motivating comments. This will be my last article as the New England Division’s National Vice Commandant. I am looking forward to my replacement and his team to take the division to the next level. It’s time for a new chapter in the New England Division’s book, and Pat Maguire and Mike Hinds are going to do an amazing job. I know Pat and Mike will look for opportunities to be kind, to encourage, help out, cheer, praise, mentor and lift those who will need it. And if needed, I will be here for any assistance or guidance, because I want to see the division succeed – “Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” **Semper Fi!**

**Division Website:** [mclnenedivision.com](http://mclnenedivision.com)



## DIVISION REPORTS

### Leaders: Be the Fulcrum



**Mike Waluk**

**NVC, Northeast  
Division**



**MARINES:** As we prepare to close out the fiscal year, I want to thank the Department Commandants and my staff for their hard work and due diligence over the course of the year, for without you we could not have achieved the goals we set forth.

Our Division Conference was a huge success as we managed to exceed our anticipated projections. We shared many ideas and philosophies on improving upon what we do and reflecting upon how we conduct ourselves as Marine Corps League members. From here, we must continue to maintain focus and finish with a strong sense of tenacity.

This is a time to dot our "i"s and cross our "t"s and prepare for what lay ahead. When you say this, many can and will misconstrue the implications and intentions. This is where leadership needs to anticipate any potential problems while managing the process. A nickel's

worth of free advice is to always examine where you are and pay attention to details, so they don't become nightmares in the end. Be precise with your expectations, clear with your directions and meticulous with your oversight. Moreover, do not try to do everything yourself, delegate at the least and share the responsibility at the most. Work to develop leadership in your subordinates and above all, check in with them to see how they are doing. Ask if there is anything that you can provide for them, giving them the tools to aid in completing the task at hand.

The Greek mathematician and physicist Archimedes gave us two great quotes that would not only apply in these situations but become a guide to follow. He stated, "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world." Use your staff constructively. Utilize and continue to develop their strengths. They are the lever which you will use to accomplish the assigned tasks. You, as the leader, need to be the fulcrum upon which that lever is placed. If it doesn't balance, you will have created more work for yourself and your team members. The second phrase is, "The shortest distance between two points is a straight line." Bearing this in mind, it is not about distance, rather about preparedness. Make sure your plan is ready and addresses the issues that you are facing. It doesn't have to be perfect, but it does have to be executed. Expect some twists and turns along the way, but keep your focus on the objectives and success will not be far behind. Without a plan, there is no forward momentum. Following these simple guidelines can save you a mountain of work and yield the desired results without adding additional time or redundancy. Remember, closure and completion are just the beginnings of the next chapter.

In closing, I want to thank the Marines, associates, auxiliary, and Dogs of the Order for providing me with a memorable term of office as your division vice commandant. It has indeed been an honor and privilege to have served you for the past three years. Fair winds and following seas as we venture forward to our next evolution. **SemperFi!**

Division Website: [nedmcl.org](http://nedmcl.org)

### Reflecting on Resiliency



**John Moysiuk**

**NVC, Northwest  
Division**



**MARINES:** Reflecting back on the articles I've been posting as the NVC NW Div. in the Semper Fi Magazine, I can say I've covered quite a range of topics. If putting them into a specific category, it focuses on the resilience we as Marines have; not only in our vast history but in the everchanging dynamics of our Corps today. Weapons are improved, communications systems are amazing and compact, and the technology we use in today's warfare means we have Marines which adapt, improvise, and continue the mission.

Watching the developments in attracting Marines to our Marine Corps League means we must also adapt and use the tools younger Marines use to communicate, namely social media platforms. The main ingredient to all of this is the human factor... I mean our Marines, Navy Corpsmen, and Navy Chaplains (who

served with Marines.) In all of my letters, this factor was evident. Servant leadership, mentorship, communications, and the host of other topics would not be successful if we (the human factor) were not involved.

So, what am I saying. Be involved whether it be at the root level within your detachment and community, at the state level within your departments and communities, or at the national level.

We have always done the courageous things in stepping forward and have always made those sacrifices that saw us spending time away from family and friends for the good of all.

Just today on Memorial Day, I can reflect back on those in my family which have born this heavy cost. I thank each of them, our brothers and sisters, which have paid this heavy price and yet we still move forward because of them. Why? Honor, courage, and commitment.

As we approach our 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps League, I am honored to have served as your national vice commandant for the Northwest Division over the years. I hope I have served you well and carried your voice to the National level and represented you all as you so rightly deserve. I will be passing the baton to my Assistant National Vice Commandant Michael Flynn and pray you all support him as you have supported me. This does not mean I will not be involved but it does mean I truly believe in mentorship and will be there when Mike needs that advice, input, or shoulder to lean upon. It also means that I am there to support you as well. Please reflect on those articles I have put out, as they represent all of us. Those subjects are who we are and what we believe. **Semper Fi!**

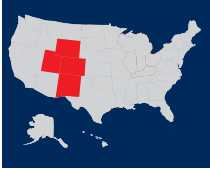
Division Website: [mcl-nwdiv.org](http://mcl-nwdiv.org)

## Taking Steps Into the Future



**Tom Krueger**

**NVC, Rocky  
Mountain  
Division**



**MARINES:** I want to take this opportunity to say I wish every member of the Marine Corps League a happy 4th of July. May all of you have a safe and enjoyable time with your families. Also, during this time it's important to remember the meaning of this time of the year. As the summer months approach, detachments pick up their activity level. Remember that for your detachment to be successful, it requires structure from all members to step up and provide support. We must all remember that, as a voluntary organization, we need to find and inspire passion in the detachment membership.

With department conventions over, in some cases there is new leadership at the helm. According to the oath we have taken, we must raise up and support them and their efforts to take your department into the future. Well, as I attend the New

Mexico Department convention this year, a detachment that was slowly fading, new life was brought in. They also made a name change to reflect their future. They have a small active-duty Marine Corps unit in their area, and they elected to take the name from these Marines. They now call themselves the Reapers. This name comes from the unmanned drones they fly. This has helped them recruit new members. I salute the foresight in doing so. Division conferences are also wrapping up and now the road towards the 100th Anniversary of the Marine Corps League comes into view. The upcoming national convention this August will be one that all will never forget.

Lastly, respect and honor those that have gone before us. Pick a phone up and call those members we have not heard from or seen in a while. Volunteer at your local V.A. medical center and talk with the veterans there. Some just want to have someone listen to them.

**Semper Fi!**

**Division Website:** [rockymountainmcldiv.org](http://rockymountainmcldiv.org)

## Your Forum Needs a Quorum



**Jerry Holt**

**NVC,  
Southeast  
Division**



**MARINES:** WOW! Who knew that you needed to be a lawyer or a parliamentarian to run a Marine Corps League meeting? What happened to the thing about the crayons? Weren't we just supposed to be a patriotic organization, supportive of the Corps, country, and community? Well, unfortunately, there is more to it.

All of our detachments and departments are incorporated as non-profit organizations. As such, we are obligated to comply with federal, state, and League regulations. Many states, if not all, have laws regulating the governance of non-profits. Most often, these regulations, as are the League's bylaws and rituals, based on Robert's Rules of Order, which is the recognized guide to smooth, orderly and fairly conducted meetings – all 1137 pages of it in the current 12th edition.

One of the crucial elements of Robert's Rules deals with the issue of a quorum. A quorum refers to the minimum number of voting members who must be present at a properly called meeting to conduct business in the group's name. The purpose of a quorum is to protect against totally unrepresentative action in the name of the body by an unduly small number of persons. The U.S. Constitution sets the quorum for both houses of Congress as a majority of the members. While that quorum is appropriate for formal legislative bodies, it's too large for most volunteer organizations. In our case, the *bylaws should specify the number of members that shall constitute a quorum, which should approximate the largest number that can be depended on to attend any meeting except in very bad weather or other extremely unfavorable conditions*. In the absence of such a provision in an organization whose real membership can be accurately determined, the quorum is a majority of the entire membership, by common parliamentary law.

In Robert's Rules, Section 3:4, it states that in the meetings of a **convention**, unless the bylaws of the organization provide otherwise, the *quorum is a majority of the delegates who have been registered at the convention*.

We have a growing problem with many of our meetings because an increasing number are conducted without having a sufficient quorum present. *What are we to do?*

Review your bylaws in the context of how many members usually attend your meetings. The quorum requirement should be specified (preferably as a percentage), because otherwise, the standard is 50% of the entire membership – plus one. Your bylaws should also specify the number of officers and/or trustees that should be present to constitute a quorum. If you fail to set a reasonable threshold for your quorum requirements, your organization could easily find itself in a situation where it can't elect officers, approve any financial transactions, or conduct any other official business. Now is the time to review your bylaws, and adjust if necessary. **Semper Fi!**

**Division Website:** [seddiv.org](http://seddiv.org)

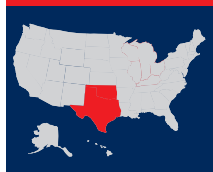
## DIVISION REPORTS

### Sending Thanks, Congratulations, and Farewells



**Jim Howington**

**NVC,  
Southern  
Division**



**MARINES:** This will be my final article for the Semper Fi magazine as the National Vice Commandant for the Southern Division. My two-year term in office expires in August.

I want to thank all the Marines and membership in the Departments of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. All of you make up an awesome group. The was never a time when I asked for help that I did not receive it. I want to thank the Marine Corps League board of trustees. I have built a professional and business relationship with each one. I will especially miss National Commandant Johnnie Baker and all his Zoom calls.

Thank you, Chief Operating Officer Bob Borcka. On a couple of occasions, “just Bob” reminded me to always move forward, not backward. Thank you, JD Foster, and your staff of great workers.

In March, the Southern Division held their conference in Tyler, TX. The Rose City Detachment was the host of a very good conference. There was a good attendance. The conference provided several informative training classes with a large amount of input from the Marines. The conference chairman was Randy Rigg, who always does a very professional job at everything he does. Thank you, Randy, and all the Marines from the Rose City Detachment for a job well done.

The Department conferences will begin in April and will end in June. The 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps league will be celebrated at the National Convention in Oklahoma City during the week of August 14, 2023, to August 18, 2023. I am most certain this convention will be full of excitement and spirit.

On May 13, 2023, Marine Corps League Youth Physical Fitness Championship Challenge was held at Catholic High School in Little Rock, AR. National Commandant Baker and Past Chief Devil Dog Hazlett served as monitors for the competition. There were 18 teams from across the U.S. that competed. Catholic High School won the competition by beating a large group of good athletes. Thank you, SgtMaj Jernigan (Ret.) and Catholic High School for your hospitality during the event.

The Southern Division has had the honor of presenting the Good Citizenship Award Certificate to newly advancing Scouts to the rank of Eagle Scout. At last count, the departments of AR, OK and TX have presented 30 certificates since the Mid- Winter Conference. I would like to thank BSA Committee Chairperson Bill Kropa and committee member Charles Minton for their efforts and guidance of the Scouting program. I know more about it at this time than I did before. It is a positive gesture from the Marine Corps League to scouting those individuals being promoted.

This time, on another note, it is election season in the Marine Corps League. A simple reminder to the detachments and departments to complete officer nominations, elections, installations, and ROIs.

**Semper Fi!**

**Division Website: [southernmcl.org](http://southernmcl.org)**

### Memorial Day – A Time to Remember



**Jim Loorya**

**NVC,  
Southwest  
Division**



**MARINES:** By the time you read this, Memorial Day will have passed. It is during this time of the year I think of all of my veteran friends, both living and dead, who have influenced me. At the top of that list, naturally, is my father who was in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He was a Pearl Harbor survivor and was a little over 18 years old on December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He instilled in me a sense of patriotism and the obligation to serve.

I grew up in a typical California post-WWII neighborhood that was rapidly built in the early 1950s in an effort to meet the needs of the many returning veterans once the war had ended. I can remember the street that I grew up on in South San Francisco. It had about 37 houses on the block with more than 100 children. In fact, I had a friend whose home shared a common chain link fence with the Golden Gate National Cemetery. As a much younger kid, I can remember hearing the haunting sounds of Taps and hearing 21 gun salutes on a regular basis during the Korean War and its conclusion. It was no wonder that by the time the Vietnam War came around that my high school provided a large resource for the government recruiting that was conducted in the middle to late 1960s.

The high school that I went to had about 1,000 kids, of which about 240 were in my class. I can remember the first Marine from my class, a friend of mine named Mike, who enlisted in the late part of 1964 and was in Vietnam by mid 1965. It was during that time that I chose to enlist in the Corps and found myself on “boot leave” when much of the news was beginning to come out about our involvement in Vietnam. I remember hearing about Operation Starlight and reading about Mike and how he was wounded during that operation. Our local newspaper showed a picture of his helmet with what appeared to be a pair of .50 caliber holes in it. Next to the helmet was a picture of Mike in his dress blues and two medals: a Bronze Star with Combat V and a Purple Heart. Three months later it was a different story:

LCpl. Mike Bianchini was killed by hostile small arms fire on 5 March 1966 and was awarded his second Purple Heart. He is interred at Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, San Mateo County, California and is honored on the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Wall, Panel 05E, Line 113.

Rest well, my brother, knowing that many of our brothers and friends are resting alongside you at Golden Gate. Know that every time I put on my uniform, I think of you and your sacrifice.

Semper Fi, Mike!! **Semper Fi!**

**Division Website: [mclswdivision.org](http://mclswdivision.org)**





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8 – 20 Aug	Vietnam “All of I-Corps Battlefields”
11 – 25 Aug	Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague
12 – 20 Aug	79th Anniversary of Op Dragoon
18 – 28 Aug	Ireland—ND vs USNA in Dublin Belfast & Derry
25 Aug – 6 Sep	D-Day, Normandy & Battle of the Bulge
9 – 20 Sep	All England "God Save the King"
20 – 29 Sep	Turkey—WWI Gallipoli Campaign & Istanbul
30 Sep – 6 Oct	MHT's Civil War “North to Gettysburg”
20 – 27 Oct	Belgium—Waterloo—WWI—Dunkirk
1 – 13 Oct	WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust
8 – 21 Oct	D-Day Plus Battle of the Bulge & Paris
26 Nov – 7 Dec	Vietnam “Delta to DMZ” / 7-14 Dec Laos & Cambodia
4 – 11 Dec	Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites

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## 2024 TOURS

17 – 29 Feb	Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue/Opertion Houston
TBD Mar	79th Anniversary of Iwo Jima - “Reunion of Honor”
9—19 Apr	Philippines – WWII in the PI
13 – 26 Apr	“Saigon to the DMZ” -60th Anniversary Battlefields of Vietnam
13 – 26 Apr	Friends & Families Vietnam “Saigon to the DMZ”
18 – 27 Apr	Turkey—WWI Gallipoli Campaign & Istanbul
18 – 27 May	WWI US Battlefields in France “Doughboys & Devil Dogs”
31 May – 13 Jun	80th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris
31 May – 8/9 Jun	80th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris
TBD Jul	Korean War & Service Veterans Return
31 Jul – 8 Aug	Guadalcanal 92nd Op Watchtower
3 – 16 Aug	Vietnam “Delta to the DMZ”
6 – 18 Aug	Vietnam 55th Anniversary Return to I-Corps
11 – 18 Aug	80th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon – South of France
9 – 23 Aug	Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague
23 Aug – 4 Sep	“In the Footsteps” D-Day, Normandy, Battle of the Bulge & Arnhem
5 – 18 Sep	All England Tour "God Save the King" & 8th Air Force-WWII
28 Sep – 10 Oct	“Body & Soul” U.S.N. Corpsmen, Nurses, Doctors & Chaplains in Vietnam
29 Sep – 11 Oct	WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust
6 – 19 Oct	D-Day 80th Commemoration Plus Battle of the Bulge & Paris
TBD Oct	Ireland – Dublin, Belfast & Derry
18 – 25 Oct	Belgium - Waterloo – WWI – Dunkirk
24 Nov – 5 Dec	Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 6-11 Dec Laos & Cambodia
3 – 9 Dec	Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites



Updated 053123

# THE *SEMPER FI* INTERVIEW

## That's Michael Broderick

By Mike Searson

Often as Marines, we see what Hollywood puts out as a military reenactment or drama and find ourselves chuckling. The guns are wrong, or the ribbons are in the wrong order. Salutes are off and we wonder if the filmmakers actually care about the details.

Then we'll see something good and think, "Wow! They got it right this time."

A lot of getting it right and keeping it in order has to do with the technical or military advisor. Sometimes, an actual veteran will show up as an actor, using their experience to present a more realistic and grounded portrayal of a military character.

With Michael Broderick, he's worn both of those hats. Beginning his career in Hollywood working for a military advisory company and then as an actor who constantly hones his craft through training, with a work ethic that harkens back to his time in the Marine Corps.

We sat down with Michael not too long ago to talk about his time in the Corps, his time on screen, and some projects he's been involved with to support veterans and help fellow veterans working in Tinseltown.

With more than 60 film and television credits, this Marine has something interesting to say.

**Semper Fi:** Hi, Michael! What did you do in the Marine Corps?

**Michael Broderick:** I worked logistics and embarkation for Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron 167, America's Squadron, back at the tail end of the Cold War.

**SF:** Were you on any deployments?

**MB:** I did a Med Float as part of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and did a couple of CAX's out at 29 Palms.



Michael at the G.I. Film Festival in Los Angeles.





**SF:** Was that Gallant Eagle or Gallant Knight?

**MB:** I'm not sure I remember the name but those certainly could be correct. I served from 1986 to 1990 and, as you remember, there was a giant geopolitical shift during that time. I mean, when I was coming up in the Marine Corps, we were training to fight the Russians somewhere in Europe or Asia. Instead, the last thing I did in the Corps was send my squadron to Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield.

The world changed completely in those four years, the Berlin Wall came down and it seems like we've been in the desert ever since.

**SF:** It was a unique time in history, for our country, the Corps, and the world.

**MB:** It was. I'll never forget it. We sent

### ABOUT MICHAEL BRODERICK

**Last Great Book I Read:**  
In the Blood by Jack Carr

**Last Great Movie I Saw:** I recently watched The Godfather again. It really doesn't get much better than that.

**Social Media:** I'm @ThatBroderick on Instagram

---

our birds over there and they were still painted in the woodland camouflage pattern, we wore woodland cammies and all that stuff. They didn't even have the chocolate chip patterns for us, yet so that was a very different time.

**SF:** So, what happened after you left the Marine Corps?

**MB:** I moved to New York City and ended up playing guitar in a punk band. The plan was to go to New York and get into acting but I didn't know what I was doing.

**SF:** That's interesting, I joined the Corps out of Brooklyn, NY and that was the last place I wanted to go because I was a gun guy.

**MB:** Funny you mention that, because when I eventually got to Hollywood, I hadn't touched a firearm in over ten years because the laws in New York City are so restrictive. When I moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting in film, one of the first things I did was start shooting again.

**SF:** And I'll bet that helped a lot with your career. Especially your action roles.

**MB:** I started out doing Military advisory work for productions. I wasn't the



With Academy Award winning actor Jon Voight at an event supporting Veterans in Media & Entertainment (VME)

primary advisor, but I worked for one. We did special ability work on a slew of television shows. For instance, if they needed a SWAT team to breach a room, we would do that. However, even though I was a Marine, I was an air winger, not infantry, so I didn't know any of the stuff that all the OIF/OEF vets who still had sand in their boots did. I had learned the basics in boot camp and qualified with the M16A2 once a year, so I could shoot, but didn't know the tactical side of things.

**SF:** I could see how that could get spicy.

**MB:** The guys I worked with were great. They'd say something like, "OK you're tail-end Charlie and here's how you do it. Make sure you check your corners, don't flag anybody in the stack'. On the job, I learned enough of the real tactical stuff to look good for camera and then I started to shoot more at the range. I soon got my

wife into the sport, and we would often head off the range to train. We called it a "hot lunch". I would pick her up and we'd go down to LAX range or wherever and it's became more and more a part of my life. I even had the wonderful experience of shooting at Taran Butler's range on a few occasions. Having those skills in my back pocket gives me one less thing to worry about when I'm called upon to work with firearms on camera. That allows me to focus on the job of acting.

**SF:** Did you take any additional formal training classes for shooting and tactics?

**MB:** Formal? No, I've mostly relied on all that the Marines, SEALs, and Rangers that I know. I'd go shooting with these guys and pick up whatever knowledge they were willing to share. Since moving to Nashville last year, I've been training with my buddy Paul Meixner. Paul is a

combat veteran (Army) and comes from the Hollywood side, as well.

**SF:** What made you turn to an acting career?

**MB:** I wanted to be an actor since I was a kid, way before I joined the Marine Corps, and that's thanks to actors like Dick Van Dyke. It may sound corny, but I loved movies like Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and Mary Poppins. I was active in high school Drama Club and community theater on the Jersey Shore.

**SF:** So, what made you go to the Marine Corps?

**MB:** I wanted to enlist. I needed the discipline and the structure and direction to straighten me out, but I was 17, so I had to get my parents to sign me in. My dad didn't want me to go. He said, "John Wayne was in all these war movies, and he never served a day in the military.' And of course



my recruiter was pulling me in the other direction, “You know, Larry Wilcox from CHiPs was a Marine”, and things like that.

Eventually, my parents signed the papers, and I served my four years. When I got out, my plan was to move to New York City and get into acting. But I really didn’t know what I was doing and eventually met a couple of guys who were putting together a band. I ended up playing clubs on the Lower East Side of Manhattan for about a decade.

**SF:** Do you still play?

**MB:** I enjoyed playing in a band but after ten years it was like hitting my head against the wall and I realized that I just had to rely on myself and whatever decision I made. So, it was a good move for me to get out on my own. I started doing voiceover work at first.

Then 9/11 happened and, it may sound cliché, but that changed everything. My wife witnessed it from her office, the first plane flew right by her window. That day was so sad because I knew we were going to go to war.

At the time, HBO was running the tremendous series *Band of Brothers* and it showed me that good and important stuff was coming out of Hollywood. I personally found a lot of comfort during that time, watching that series. Then I thought, I would love to be a part of something like that and maybe I should pursue acting for real.

**SF:** Did you think about going back in the military? I know I did.

**MB:** Momentarily. It was a crazy time. However, I didn’t reenlist. A couple of years later I heard HBO was going to produce their next WWII series called *The Pacific*. I thought, “They’re doing another high-quality series but this time it’s about the Marines and John Basilone. Yeah, I’ve got to go do this”.

Now, my wife and I had just bought an apartment in the West Village and my son was 18 months old. Hell, I was in my mid-thirties. I came home one day and told her I want to go try to be an actor. I’ve got to go to Los Angeles I have to try to get in this thing (*The Pacific*).

Meanwhile, she’s in a great job, we have a small child, we had just bought this apartment. She said, “You want to move



NCIS



True Detective (HBO)

to Los Angeles”.

I said, “I think that’s the best place to make this happen”.

She thought about it and finally answered, “OK, let’s do it.” I will love her forever for that alone.

So, we moved out to Los Angeles. Of course, I couldn’t even get in the door for

an audition for *The Pacific*.

**SF:** Is that because you weren’t in SAG (Screen Actors Guild)?

**MB:** Oh no, I already had a SAG card from my voiceover work, but I didn’t have any kind of acting resume or real experience.

**SF:** Gotcha.

**MB:** I started out working for that military advisor, and that was invaluable because I was working on set as part of a crew. This was better than being background or an extra. When you do that, they just put you in holding somewhere and sock you away whenever you’re not on camera. As part of the advisory team, we got to work with the actors. I got to see how a production works, right up close. So, at night I was in class studying, but on set I’m seeing the practical application of acting for camera.

One day, we’re on set for 24 and it was a big military scene set in the Pentagon. They had a lot of background actors, and they had some of us actual veterans working in the background as well but we’re getting a better rate because we are there to basically keep everyone else in line.

**SF:** So, is that like a drill instructor type role or are you more behind the director pointing things out?

**MB:** I wouldn’t say we’re like DIs running





Extant (CBS)

them through Basic, but we're hands on.

**SF:** So, correcting them, pointing out errors and those sorts of things?

**MB:** Exactly. "Take your hands out of your pockets" or "Your ribbons are messed up," things like that.

In this particular episode, I was playing a military attaché to this general when suddenly they fired an actor on set. They needed a replacement right away and an assistant director shouted out, "We need an actor. Who's SAG?"

Like I said, I was already SAG because of my voice work and about a dozen of us put our hands up. They handed out scripts and took us into a room, one by one to audition for the director.

I had been taking classes and had a good cold read technique. When we were done, the director said, "Thanks everybody. Michael, come with me." I won the part. My big break!

**SF:** How quickly did that affect your career?

**MB:** Suddenly, it opened doors for me because casting directors think, "Well, somebody trusted him". There's a lot of money to invest in an actor with a speaking part. They don't know exactly how I got the role; they just know that I was on

### CREDITS (PARTIAL LIST):

Quantum Leap, The Terminal List, Bosch: Legacy, NCIS: Hawai'i, American Horror Story, S.W.A.T., True Detective, SEAL Team, Custody Road, Cemetery Tales: A Tale of Two Sisters, Unbroken: Path to Redemption, Get Shorty, Legion, NCIS: Los Angeles, NCIS, Justified, G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra, The Unit, Jericho, Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer, 24

24, one of the most popular shows on TV at the time. Somebody obviously trusted my ability.

**SF:** It's amazing how something so small can make a career.

**MB:** It was a real game changer. Soon, I was auditioning for The Unit, Jericho and Justified.

**SF:** Did you get on The Unit?

**MB:** Oh, yeah. It was just one episode but a great scene with actor Robert Patrick. The T-1000, baby! Then I just kept going, winning roles here and there, building my resume.

**SF:** Have you done any film roles?

**MB:** Early on, I appeared in G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra and I was in the follow up to Unbroken which is the Louis Zamperini story, called Unbroken: Path to Redemption. More recently, I starred in a couple of fun, low-budget features by those maniacs at The Asylum, got to play the antagonist in a family film about baseball and play an abusive father in an upcoming feature. Of course, I would love to do even more film and I'm grateful for the work in television that I've been able to do.

**SF:** So, is film still more prestigious than television in Hollywood?

**MB:** Not so much anymore. There's so much good television now.

**SF:** Do you binge watch or go week-to-week?

**MB:** I'm still kind of old school where I like "event television". I remember back when, on Sunday night, you'd better be on the couch to watch The Sopranos or Deadwood or Band of Brothers. I like gathering around the TV when something special is coming on.

**SF:** Do you do anything outside of acting and training?

**MB:** I still play guitar and am teaching my son to play bass. I love jamming with him. In the past, I've been involved with some wonderful veteran support organizations. GallantFew always comes to mind. Founder Karl Monger has been a friend of mine for several years and continues to do good work for veterans struggling with their transition to civilian life. Veterans in Media and Entertainment (VME) has become a real powerhouse since my participation in the earlier days of that organization. They continue to help guide veterans seeking employment in the entertainment industry.

**SF:** That sounds great! Now, I must ask, do you know Matthew Broderick or are you related?

**MB:** (Chuckles) You know it's funny, I don't know him or anything, but people sometimes ask if I'm related to Matthew. More than once, a production assistant has come to my trailer to bring me to set and said, "OK, Matthew, right this way", and I would gently remind them, "That's Michael." **Semper Fi!**

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Members of Peacekeepers Det. 1492, Ocean Pines, MD participate in the Ocean City St. Patrick's Day Parade on 11 March, 23. Marines Pat Sharkey, John Daddezio, John Whitehead, Joe Frolich, Corpsman Howard Koontz, and Det.1492 Commandant Rick Pounsberry were in attendance.

On 11 May, 2023, members of the Marine Corps League, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (note colors displayed) from Black River Falls, WI were gathered for a presentation by representatives from D2DogTags. It is a 501c3 organization that trains dogs to be either service or emotional support dogs for veterans. Accepting donations from each organization was Torre Willadsen, a Marine and the company president. Left to right: Emily Beattie, 2022 Central Division Associate of the Year, Dennis Beattie, Department of Wisconsin Vice Commandant District 1, Torre Willadsen, his dog Doc, and Mike Crowley, Judge Advocate for Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Det. 1363.



# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



During a visit to CampV during the Southern Division conference in Tyler, Texas. From left to right: Bob Borka, National Executive Director/ COO MCL, Dan Fliegel, Senior Vice Commandant Rose City Det., Trent Goodwin, Fund Development Director CampV, Jim Howington, Vice Commandant Southern Division, Patrick Murray, Commandant Department of Texas, George Petkovich, Assistant Vice Commandant Southern Division. The plaque has been hung in the board room with other awards that they have received and they really appreciated our visit.



The Sgt. Walter P Ryan Det. of Riverview FL held a Rose Fund event at the Publix supermarket in the Riverview Commons Shopping Center on 20 May, 2023. Pictured presenting a certificate of appreciation to the store manager are Jim Maines, the Rose Fund Coordinator, and Bill King, Detachment Jr. Vice.



The winner of the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Det. 2023 Shoot Straight raffle, Marie Patterson was presented her prize on 6 May, 2023. Left to right: Sr. Vice Ron Essick presenting the award, Marie Patterson, her husband Scottie, and the store manager Stephen.



# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



The Abbey Gate 13 Det. 1199 of Pahrump, NV hosted the Air Force Special Operations Surgical Team D210 that was responsible for service members harmed during the withdrawal from Abbey Gate 13 in Afghanistan. During the visit, Major Evan Richards presented two of his members with the Bronze Star Medal. Front row, left to right: Lt. Col. Sabrina Atkhar, Maj. Erin Caverly, Staff Sgt. Damien Quichocho (Bronze Star), Maj. Samuel Bergin (Bronze Star), Maj. Nicole Graves, Tech Sgt. Ryan Bygraves, Judge Advocate Burt Gigoux, QuarterMaster Frank Miller. Back row, left to right: Junior Vice Commandant Danny Griggs, Sergeant at Arms Steven Watkins, Maj. Matthew Byrne, Senior Master Sgt. Austin J. Hall, Maj. Evan Richards (Team Lead), Commandant Thomas Vick, Chaplain Bruce Temple.

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# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



National Commandant Johnny Baker congratulates William Kropa, dual member of Northampton County, PA Det. 298 and Captain Tiger Mayberry Detachment 658, on his award of the Silver Antelope. Kropa, also the National Scouting Chair received the second highest award given to a scouting volunteer. The award was presented at the Boy Scouts of America National Annual meeting in Atlanta GA.



Rock Star Bret Michaels, from the rock band "Poison", who is a native of Chicora, PA, invited first responders and veterans service organizations to a private meet and greet where he announced his summer tours benefiting these organizations and what he is doing for our veteran community. Left to right: Armorer Philip McCoy, Commandant Dave Brady, Bret Michaels, and Senior Vice Commandant Diana Henry.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.mclnational.org).

#### NOTICE TO MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENTS!

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

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



## BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA

# Commanding the Pacific

## Marine Corps Generals in World War II

Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Tarawa, and Bougainville are just a few words that illicit historical pride in our Marines. The title had my interest, but the places got my attention. Stephen Taffe provides insight into the tactics of both the Japanese and Americans in battle and how the tactics adjusted as the island-hopping campaign continued. The book provides a fascinating chronology of events and was an easy read.

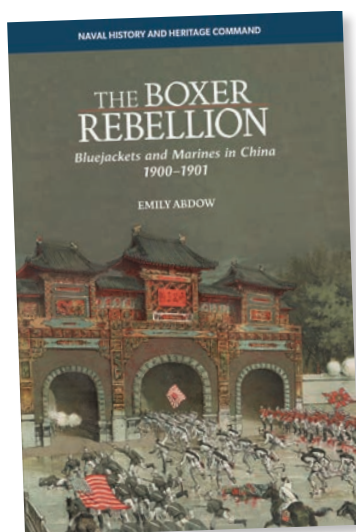
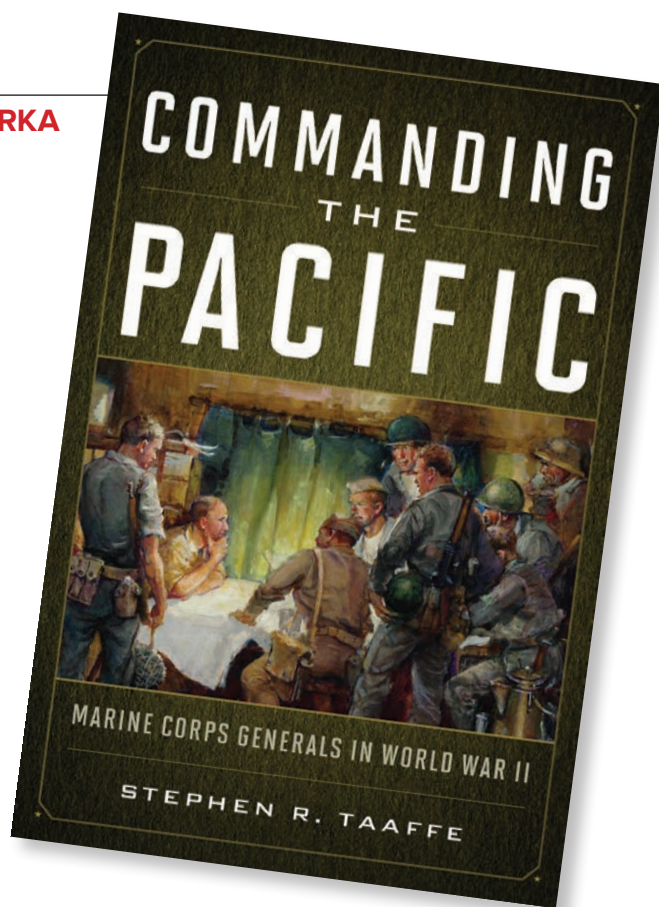
**Commanding the Pacific: Marine Corps Generals in World War II**

**Author:** Stephen R. Taaffe

**Pages:** 248

**Publisher:** Naval Institute Press

**ISBN:** 978-1682477083



## The Boxer Rebellion: Bluejackets and Marines in China, 1900–1901

In the summer of 1900, foreign diplomats living in Beijing's Legation Quarter were besieged by Chinese imperial soldiers and "Boxers," members of a secret society determined to rid China of foreign influence. Defending the Legation Quarter was a small international guard that included 56 American Sailors and Marines. To survive, the Americans communicated with their foreign allies via hand signals, improvised as food supplies and artillery dwindled, and fought fiercely despite nearly impossible odds. But they could not hold out forever. Relief of the Legation Quarter required additional U.S. Sailors, Marines, and Soldiers to join an international coalition and face the significantly larger force of imperial soldiers and Boxers. The conflict was the U.S. military's first taste of coalition warfare on a global stage and its first time meeting China on the battlefield. This monograph tracks the critical role of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in the defense of the Legation Quarter and in the campaign that led to its relief.

**The Boxer Rebellion: Bluejackets and Marines in China, 1900–1901**

**Author:** Emily Abdow

**Pages:** 134

**Publisher:** Naval History and Heritage Command

**ISBN:** 978-1-943604-81-4

### 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



# REUNIONS

## United States Seagoing Marine Association Reunion

**Date:** 30 August - 02

September, 2023

**Location:** Albuquerque,  
New Mexico

**Accommodation:** Sheraton  
Albuquerque Uptown

**Details:** This event is open  
to all Marines, their families  
and all service members who  
served with Marine units.

Contact: Steven Collins, usmc.  
snicker@att.net, 630-674-5077

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**Death Notification Policy**

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

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

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Item Code: 100Coin  
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## USMC Flag

Item Code: G42

Description: 3'x5' Poly/Cotton Marine Corps Flag One-sided w/Grommets (Made in USA)

Price: \$15.00



## 100th Anniversary Ribbon

Item Code: M100bar

Price: \$6.00



## MCL 4" Patch

Item Code: WA12

Description: Round MCL Logo Patch 4", Red on White

Price: \$10.00



## Belt Buckle for White Honor Guard Belt (ONLY BUCKLE)

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Price: \$59.00



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Description: Leather Uniform Ratchet Belt w/Gold Raised EGA on Buckle  
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### Red MCL Polo

**Item Code:** WA121  
**Description:** Red Polo Shirt Without Pocket, Marine Corps League w/EGA on Front (100% polyester)  
**Price:** \$33.00



### Black MCL Polo

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**Description:** Black Polo Shirt Without Pocket, Marine Corps League w/EGA on Front (100% polyester)  
**Price:** \$33.00



### Quilted USMC Red Jacket

**Item Code:** WA17, WA24, WA111  
**Description:** Quilted Red Satin Jacket w/U.S. MARINES Down Front  
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### MCL Travel Mug

**Item Code:** CUP1  
**Description:** Travel Coffee Mug w/MCL Logo  
**Price:** \$5.00



### Canvas Rain Cover

**Item Code:** RainCover2  
**Description:** Black Waterproof Canvas Rain Cover for MCL Covers  
**Price:** \$15.00

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**Street**

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**City State Zip Code**

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**Phone Number**

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**Name**

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**Street**

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**Email**

Code#	Quantity	Item Description	Size	Price Each	Total Cost

HANDLING & POSTAGE	
AMOUNT OF ORDER.....	CHARGE
UNDER \$10.....	<b>\$7.99</b>
\$10.01-\$25.00.....	<b>\$8.99</b>
\$25.01-\$35.00.....	<b>\$10.99</b>
\$35.01-\$50.00.....	<b>\$11.99</b>
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SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

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TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_


**Internal MCL  
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DATE \_\_\_\_\_

INITIAL \_\_\_\_\_



# 2024 BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

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

In 2024, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours ([miltours.com](http://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 2024 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 2024.

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!

## 2024 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 Jul**

79th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

**31 Jul-8 Aug**

Guadalcanal 91st Op Watchtower

Continues Next Page

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Name

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Address

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City

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State Zip Code

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Phone

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Email

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Email

Continued From Previous Page

**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"

**12-20 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

**20-29 Sept**

Turkey WWI Gallipoli Campaign

**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

**20-27 Oct**

40th Commemoration of the Beirut Barracks  
Lebanon

**26 Nov-7 Dec**

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

**4-11 Dec**

Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites



is a member in good standing of

This card is good for a period of sixty days from

Sponsor's Signature

Amount



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Application - New ( ) Membership Type - Regular ( ) Associate ( ) Dual ( )

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ( ) YES ( ) NO If YES is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

( ) I hereby apply for membership in the \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for one year's membership.\*

-OR-

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

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

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy FMF Sailor who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service." ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received.) General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Sponsor where applicable) Applicant's Signature (see reverse side)

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*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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# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL REMINDER

**It's time to renew your membership. August 31<sup>st</sup> is just around the corner. All annual memberships expire in August. If you are an Annual Member, your dues are due now.**

**Don't wait and don't forget.**

Fill out the form on the bottom of this page and provide to your Detachment Paymaster along with your annual dues amount. While you are at it, please remind your fellow Members that dues are due so they can renew. It is a good idea to renew early so if life happens, you're already paid up. Remember, you are paying ahead, not paying behind. Membership makes your detachment strong and doing your part, like paying dues on time, helps keep it strong. Please do not procrastinate, square it away today.

**Please fill out the form and provide to your Detachment Paymaster along with your annual dues amount.**

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## RENEWAL FORM



Please fill out this form and give to your Detachment Paymaster along with your annual dues amount.

Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_, First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Join Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Cell  Work

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail this form, along with your annual dues, to your Detachment Paymaster or give to them at the next meeting. Detachment contact information can be found in our Locator.



**MODERN DAY  
MARINE®**  
EXPOSITION & CONFERENCE

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**APRIL 29-MAY 2, 2024**  
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