

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 79 No. 2 • SPRING 2023

# SEMPER PARATI



The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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**1973 to 2023**

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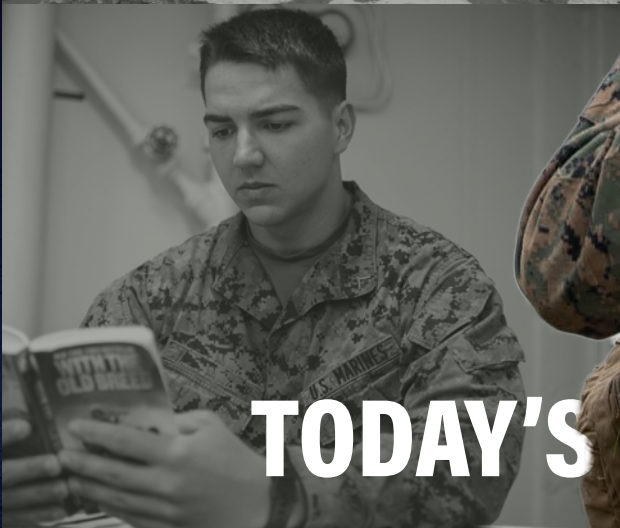
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# SEMPER PARATI

The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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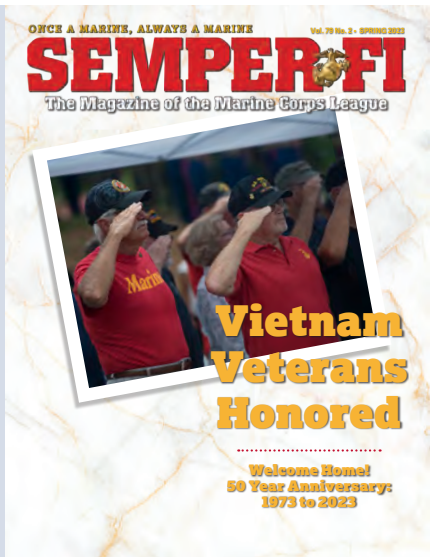
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**ON THE COVER:**  
 Local Vietnam veterans salute the flag during a Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremony in Charlotte, N.C. DVIDS photo by Sgt. Daniel Jean-Paul. (The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.)



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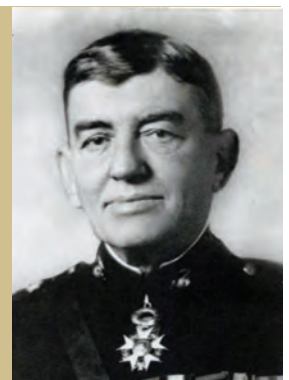
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Amendment submissions to the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures for the 2023 National Convention can be found on the Convention Tab of the Library website starting May 1st.

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

## Training at All Levels!



**MARINES:** As a follow-up from my last *Semper Fi* article (Leadership at All Levels), training at all levels is a never-ending battle in making our Marine Corps League stronger and more professional. We often look at training as a nicety or "oh do we have to go through that again?" Well, yes, Marines... we do have to do that again and again to get it right and become proficient in the positions that we accepted.

Training at the detachment, department, division, as well as the national level should be a never-ending road map to making our League better. If you look at the structure of the League, we make changes to leadership positions every two years, and often every year. With so many changes happening so often, training becomes a necessity in the well-being of our leadership corps in ensuring that they can perform their duties as best as possible.

Often Marines and associates will be elected or appointed into leadership positions, but were never provided the opportunity to learn, grow, and become proficient in becoming an MCL leader. It is easy to just get by, but the leader who is proficient in their responsibilities excels and so does their detachment. I have seen detachments that hold regular training sessions and others none; seen departments hold training at every department convention and have been to department conventions where NO TRAINING was held. Even training at the division conferences is paramount.

What would you say, if I were to ask, "Which detachment, department, or division would you rather be in?" The ones that hold regular training sessions and hold their leaders responsible for performing the functions of their office would be my choice. Those detachments, departments, or divisions that have a lack of professional, relevant training probably are struggling in all that they are required to do and should, instead, be doing to their best to fulfill the MCL's mission.

So, training at all levels is the essence of having a successful detachment, a successful department, a successful division, and a successful Marine Corps League. When a Leaguer has stepped forward and accepted an elected or appointed position within our League, let's ensure that they are trained and prepared to take on that added responsibility. Please allow me to encourage all MCL members in leadership roles to ensure that we train and educate our future leaders in the Marine Corps League. That starts by teaching and learning their detachment bylaws and the National bylaws and administrative procedures. It is our fiduciary responsibility to ensure our current and future leaders know how to properly lead the League in the future.

***Semper Fi!***



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## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO

**BOB BORKA**

### The MCL is Getting Ready for the 43rd Modern Day Marine Expo



**MARINES:** It is encouraging to see active duty, reserve, retired, and veteran Marines and FMF sailors join the Marine Corps League and reconnect with the tribe. Those reviewing the applications should ensure they see the character of service on the DD-214. If active duty, the applicant can show their ID card but should not make a photocopy of it. Active and reserve personnel can also get a "Statement of Service" letter from their command.

Speaking of the active and reserve force, did you know the Marine Corps League has been the host/sponsoring organization for Marine Military Expos for 43 years? We are excited to see the preparations for our 43rd Modern Day Marine Expo at the Walter E Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. The dates for the show will be June 27-29, 2023. Registration opens in April 2023. The Marine Corps Association and Marine Corps League co-host this event and we are proud of our long-term partnership. Modern Day Marine will have over 400 companies showcasing the latest in emerging military equipment, vehicles, technology, and training systems. This platform allows developers to demonstrate their capabilities to service members, acquisitions specialists, and service leaders. If you are interested in working as a Marine Corps League volunteer at the Expo, please contact your division's national vice commandant. Check out [MarineMilitaryExpos.com](http://MarineMilitaryExpos.com). *Semper Fi!*

## NATIONAL PR COMMITTEE

**VICTORIA McCOY**

### Grow Your Reach - Use Social Media Tools



**MARINES:** How can an organization increase its exposure to the activities they host? Use social media; create a Facebook event for your activities! Facebook Events allows users and business pages to create dedicated landing pages for their events. On your event pages, guests can learn more, RSVP, and interact with your brand and other guests. Facebook events provide simple, hands-off ways for Facebook users to send invitations to their friends. Because of the interactive

nature of Facebook, a Facebook event can also help create a buzz about a particular event.

Most guests won't RSVP to an event page that says, "Details TBD." Before getting started on your Facebook event, plan out the event details. What's going to happen the day of, from beginning to end? What will make it stand out? Plan out some details that will incentivize guests to come, especially if you're going virtual—no one wants to just watch a talking head for an hour.

*Continued Next Page*



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29th Commandant of the Marine Corps

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From Previous Page

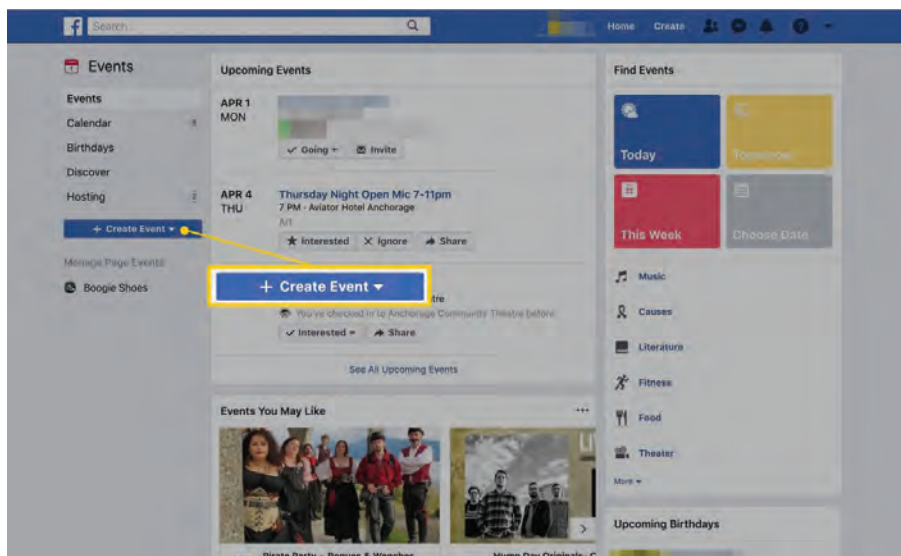
Choose a creative event name - your Facebook event name can make or break your audience's interest. Get creative; try out some wordplay or choose a catchy title—but the title should also reflect what your event is all about.

Just like your event name, your event photo plays an important role in earning clicks. Create an eye-catching design that reflects your brand and gives users insight into what your Facebook event is all about.

Write out an exciting description using your unique brand voice, write about what attendees can expect from the event, highlight the more exciting details at the top of your description. Get creative!

Share your event across social media! Once your event is published, start your promotions by sharing your event on your Facebook business page. This can be as simple as sharing a direct link to the event with an interesting caption. Don't forget a call to action that encourages your followers to learn more or RSVP.

Invite your Facebook friends! With all the content uploaded to Facebook each day, followers are bound to miss your event posts; ensure your Facebook friends get the message by inviting them to



the event through your personal Facebook account. If you market the event well, they may invite their friends!

Just creating a Facebook event doesn't guarantee a growing guest list. If you want to make your next public event a success, using Facebook Events strategically is key. *Semper Fi!*

# Are You Ready?



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Plus, there's plenty of custom details throughout this apparel design, like a comfortable brushed fleece interior and a tan thermal knit lined hood, kangaroo front pockets, knit cuffs and hem, a full front zipper, and silver-toned metal tippets on the hood drawstrings. Imported.

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All sales are subject to product availability and order acceptance.

**E26401**

## CHIEF DEVIL DOG

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# Packs, Keep Your Pedigrees!



**MARINES:** Woof, Woof to all of you fabulous *Teufel Hunden!* As I write this, it is still a few weeks until spring officially arrives. Thankfully, warming temperatures are not waiting on the official arrival and it feels good. With the warming weather, I hope all Dogs around the country are breaking out, making it to growls and with DD's working on their plans to go up for Pedigreed Devil Dog during the historic 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps League in Oklahoma City this August.

Currently, applications for advancement at the Supreme Growl are lagging what we normally see at this time of year. Do not wait. If there is any chance that you will want to advance during the Supreme Growl in August, talk with your Pound Dog Robber and complete the advancement paperwork as soon as possible. They will then forward it to the Pack Dog Robber for their paw print, (if you have a pack), and forwarding to Kennel Dog Robber, PDD Janice Hartley who must receive it by 1 July. The sooner the better!

There are many good things coming out of the midwinter conference and Mini-Growl, such as the unveiling of the new quartermaster trailer featuring great artwork from long time kennel artist, HCDD Jack Severn, as well as QR codes for donations and the quartermaster site. Additionally, the kennel's first online raffle is live with links at [www.moddkennel.org](http://www.moddkennel.org) and on our Facebook page, Military Order of the Devil Dogs - Kennel.

Unfortunately, Kennel Jr. Vice Chief Devil Dog, PDD Remines submitted her resignation due to personal issues. Best wishes to PDD Remines and our hopes is that we will see her back in full swing in short order! As a result of the resignations, the following Kennel appointments were made: PDD Joe DeAngelo to Jr. Vice Chief Devil Dog, PDD Mike Francis to Smart Dog



and PDD Bill Wittenberg to Division Vice Chief Devil Dog MW.

While there is still more work to be done, it appears that many pounds and packs are working to move back into compliance on 990's and EIN's, with at least 15 of them recently successful in their efforts. Keep up the good work, all pounds and packs need to make it

there. To that end, PDD Steve Seyller now has an expanded title and role, he is now Deputy Kennel Dog Robber (compliance). While pounds and packs are still encouraged to take advantage of the expertise available within their packs and divisions, no Dog Robber should feel like they are having to tackle these issues alone. PDD Seyller is a great resource and can guide you to others who can also help with compliance issues like 990's and EIN's or state registration and kennel bylaws. Don't let these issues linger and become a bigger problem, take advantage of the assistance available.

While there is more information of interest, you will need to check the next issue of the Woof O Gram for that info. To ensure you are getting the Woof O Gram, and any other breaking news, those Dogs who have not already done so need to go to [www.moddkennel.org](http://www.moddkennel.org) and scroll down the home page and submit or update your contact information.

Finally, BIG BARKS to all the Dogs at the Kennel Mini-Growl in Norfolk. Upon entering the room, there was already the sound of Dogs ready to have some fun and while I can only guess as to all the other Dogs there, I know I had a great time and I thank you all for making it a fun Growl. In addition to making it fun, you also shared your generosity with the bones collected for the MCLA Operation Little Angels project. **Semper Woof!**



Choose **VA**

**VA** PACT  
ACT

## FAQs: Previously Awarded Benefits and PACT Act

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

### Will signing up for new benefits affect my old ones?

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

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

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

### Can I request to have a previously rated disability reevaluated?

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

### Does it cost anything to file a claim?

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

### When can I expect these new benefits?

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

### What is an effective date?

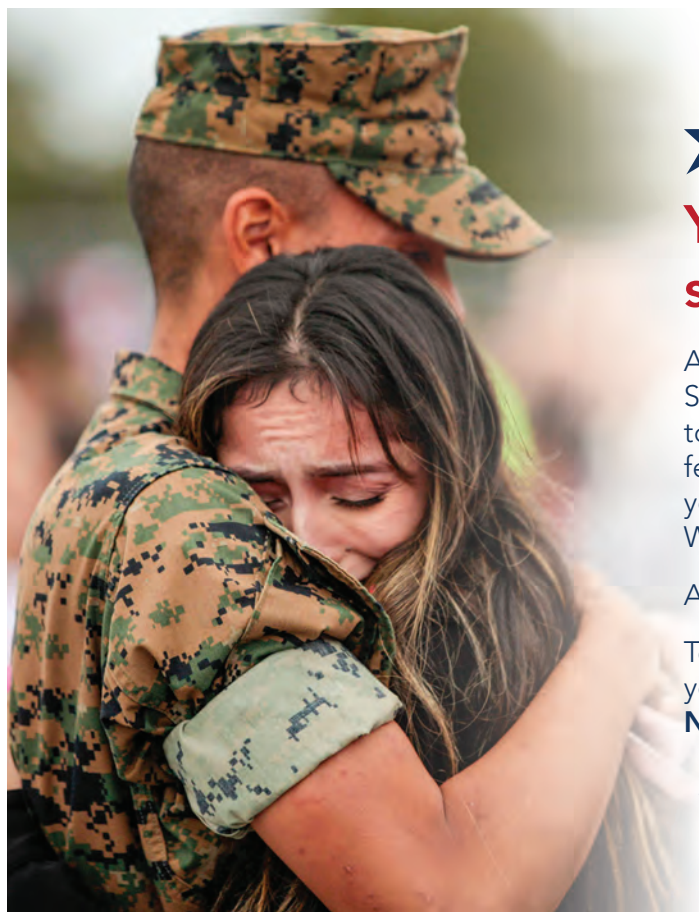
**The date which the VA uses as a start date to pay you for your claim.** Conditions outlined in the PACT Act have already taken a serious toll on many Veterans and their families. To ensure Veterans, their families, and Survivors receive the benefits they have earned, VA is considering all conditions established in the PACT Act to be presumptive as of August 10, 2022, the date President

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Bruno's First Day at the Office



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Photo courtesy of the United States Department of Defense.  
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U.S. Marine Corps recruit Bruno, the mascot in training, during his receiving at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Feb. 23, 2023. The mascot's job is to boost morale, perform outreach work and participate in events and ceremonies. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Alex Devereux)



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The Marine Corps League encourages members to file with the VA. The appearance of this advertisement does not imply an endorsement of this firm by the Marine Corps League or Semper Fi Magazine.



## NAMED IN HONOR OF



## Melvin M. Smith

### Detachment 586

**M**elvin M. Smith was born on 9 November 1906 in either Blencoe or Onawa, Iowa; and he passed into rest on 2 July 1974 while traveling to Bohemia, California. In between those 68 years was a full and varied life. Having graduated from North Central High School in Spokane, Smith went to Washington State University where he underwent two years of ROTC training and then served as a member of the National Guard prior to serving in the Marine Corps.

It is uncertain when he was commissioned in the Marine Corps, but he was promoted to first lieutenant on 27 November 1936 and to captain on 7 February 1939. He was promoted to major on 16 May 1942 and to lieutenant colonel on 1 April 1943. His promotion to colonel was sometime between 1947 and 1949. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general upon his retirement from twenty years active and reserve service. CWO Ray "Gunner" Moon stated that it was his (General Smith's) duty in life to promote the Marine Corps.

Smith served on the following ships: USS McKean, USS Fuller, USS Manargo, and President Hayes. He saw service in Iceland, the South Pacific, at Camp Elliot, San Diego and several others that are not known to this writer.

It is in about 1938 when Headquarters Marine Corps sent Gunnery Sergeant Gus Morgan (later WO, WCO and eventually retired as a first lieutenant) to organize a reserve unit in Spokane. Smith started with that unit as lieutenant. At this time, the reserve unit drilled in the old Bon Marche building.

After World War II Colonel Smith was in charge of VELOX, the Naval Supply Depot located in the Spokane Valley. Eventually this supply depot became the Spokane Industrial Park.

Along with his father, Claude M. Smith, Melvin founded the Spokane Presto Log Company in 1932. In addition to Lt. Morgan, other local Marines who were employed by Presto Log include (Colonel) Bob Baldwin as well as (CWO) Ray Moon. Although not a Marine, another employee of Smith at Presto Log was Roy McBride who had been a

hockey player for the Spokane Flyers.

Smith was an owner of the Spokane Comets as well as having bought the Flyers, whom he moved to Spokane. He served as the national vice president of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association, as a member of the Spokane County Control Authority, was the director of the National Club Association, president of the Washington Federation of Clubs, president of Wine and Food Society of Spokane, a past president of the Spokane Club, member of the Greater Spokane Sports Association, Spokane Industrial Park, Empire Club; he was a member of the Spokane Country Club, University Club and the Manito Golf and Country Club.

General Smith is survived by his wife, Ruth of Tacoma, who graciously gave permission for the Marine Corps League detachment to use his name. General Smith's sword is used yearly at the Marine Corps birthday ball when the cake is cut.

We gratefully acknowledges the information provided by Doug Shurtleff, Ray Moon and JF Goffinet. **Semper Fi!**

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# NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY

LINDA S. CHAMBERLAIN

NATIONALMCLA.ORG

## Springtime is a Great Time for Recruiting



**AUXILIARY AND LEAGUE MEMBERS:** I was hoping to start this article with GREETINGS FROM THE HOME OF THE SUPERBOWL CHAMPION PHILADELPHIA EAGLES but, unfortunately, not this year. We are, however, the NFL Champs. It's a Philly Thing. LET'S GO PHILLIES!!

I would like to thank everyone who attended this year's Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk. I hope everyone returned home safe and sound and didn't take anything home with you other than a wealth of knowledge to share, the good feeling when you meet and share a fun time with old friends, and the rewarding feeling that when you make new friends.

Well, here we are Spring of 2023. To me, spring is always a time of new beginnings, a time to get out and enjoy the warm weather, and the rebirth of the flowers and trees around us. It's time to come out of hibernation and emerge with a new vitalization and a good time to bring our units out of hibernation, as well.

Spring brings so many opportunities for us to go out into our communities to volunteer and make our presence known as members of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. Our membership is down, as is the League's and many, many other volunteer organizations. The pandemic was not kind to any of us. Now that spring is here it's a great opportunity to get out and recruit new members.

We can't put a sign on our lawn that says COME AND JOIN US, but we can be more observant when we are out shopping or taking a walk. A Marine in our detachment carried League pamphlets in his car and, while his wife was shopping, he would cruise the parking lot. Any car with any type of Marine Corps identifier got a pamphlet



Presentation to Central Division Vice President, Ann LeClair of a New Charter for the Lt. Col. Vance Huston Unit in Kentucky by National President Linda Chamberlain

under its windshield wiper. Now, I know people don't like items placed under their wiper blades, but it wasn't a bad idea and yes, they did get some members from his efforts.

One of my favorite things to do in the spring is to participate in the placement of flags on the graves of our veterans for Memorial Day. It gives me a chance to recognize in some small way these men and women who served our country. If you don't already participate in a flag placement event, try to locate one. I am sure you will find it a rewarding experience.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Oklahoma City in August for the national convention. Our Oklahoma hosts are working hard to make our time there a memorable and enjoyable experience.

Stay safe and until next time... **Semper Fi!**

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

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Dotty Sanning

**National Jr. VP**  
Mary Brief

**National Judge Advocate**  
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Barb Nobile, PNP

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**National Regent**  
Antonia Hurtado

**National Big Flea**  
Susan Douglas



Detachment Name \_\_\_\_\_ Det # \_\_\_\_\_ DEPT. of \_\_\_\_\_

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**Oklahoma City, OK**

**Convention Dates: Aug 14 - Aug 18, 2023**

TO: MCL National Credentials Committee  
P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990



<b>CONV. COMMTE USE ONLY</b>
<b>Actual</b>
votes and deleg. present and paid
[ ] ⋮
<b>TOTAL MBRS / MAX AUTH DEL</b>
from June 30th Report
[ ] ⋮

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

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

DEL	ALT	ASSOC MBR	DUAL MBR	GUEST	<b>NAME(S)</b> <i>Include any Nat'l and Dept Officers in your detachment who are attending</i>	Profile ID #	ATTENDING Yes / No	FIRST TIMER yes / No

- 2. Delegate strength is based on the number of regular members on the 30 June Strength report. See ref (b). section 2025(b)
- 3. Enclosed is a check/M.O. ( ) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to National Headquarters, MCL, to cover the registration fees for all delegate(s), alternates & other attendees to the MCL National Convention as per ref. (b).

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Detachment Commandant \_\_\_\_\_ Adjutant/Paymaster \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Detachment Commandant \_\_\_\_\_ Adjutant/Paymaster \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION

HOWARD C. SCHAEFFER

MCLFOUNDATION.ORG

### Ask Your Members, “If Not, Why Not?”

**MARINES:** Even though we have regularly used these pages to define what the Foundation is and what it does, it is worthwhile for the benefit of new MCL members and for older members who need training to tell our membership just what we are and what we do.

In cold legalistic language, the Marine Corps League Foundation is a charitable organization. Established in 1989 to raise and collect for the charitable and educational policies of the Marine Corps League, to distribute these funds diligently within the mandates of a non-profit 501 (c)(3) agency as described by the Internal Revenue Service.

We provide assistance to Marines and their families whose needs are many and varied. In addition, we fund an extensive scholarship to MCL member's children and grandchildren. In a time of record costs for tuition, and room and board, this provides a major supplement for hundreds of college students.

But, in spirit, we are far more than that. We are an organization run by Marines to serve the needs of Marines and their families. Now, there are other organizations that do good work, but they are usually headed by paid staffers whose compensation may run into the hundreds of thousands, annually. We have no paid employees, and except for a required IRS audit each year, all the funds we collect go directly to the beneficiaries. This is why we are rated in the top 90% of American charities each year.



We rely almost exclusively on the contributions of individual Marines, departments, divisions, and detachments.

I would be less than candid if I would describe our fundraising efforts as anything better than spotty. A few departments and detachments have dug deeply and come up with more than generous contributions. This, though, tends to be the exception rather than the rule.

It is hard to understand why individual detachments cannot come across with

at least a minimal \$100. If you are reading these words at your next detachment, ask your fellow Marines: if not, why not?

Contributions should be sent to:

Marine William Miller

P.O. Box 468

Stone Mountain GA 30086-0468

One of the true inspirations of this job comes at the annual convention when detachments and divisions send representatives struggling under the burden of heavy checks. We hope this year at Oklahoma City, MCL members will keep up this tradition. **Semper Fi!**

## YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

YOUNGMARINES.ORG

### How Do Young Marines Relate to the MCL?

**MARINES:** I just returned from the Midwinter Convention in Norfolk, Virginia and have to say this was one of the best yet. I always enjoy interacting and speaking with Marines and auxiliary members. A huge tip of the cover to National Commandant Baker, Bob Borka, and the entire team for an outstanding weekend of great work, sharing of information, and general camaraderie. It was truly impressive to see the leaders of the League, Auxiliary, Marine Corps Association, Toys for Tots, Women Marines Association, and Young Marines come together to work on mutual support. No one else brings all these Marine communities together like the Marine Corps League!

Something that comes up repeatedly is the relationship between the MCL and the Young Marines. While we work together to have a great impact across the country, the Young Marines is a separate entity with a different business construct. Young Marines was founded by League members in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1959, and MCL chartered us as a subordinate entity in October 1965 (this date became the official “birthday” of the Young Marines). In 1980, the League decided to incorporate the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League as a stand-alone

corporation, and in 1981 we were granted a 501(c)(3) status by the IRS. With the incorporation of Young Marines, we then developed our own independent board of directors, leadership, and staff. Another major difference is the Young Marines operate under a single tax identification number, all finances are consolidated, managed, and audited under Young Marines Headquarters and reported to our board of directors. The executive director (me) and staff are responsible for all publications, policies, training, schools, administration, governmental relations, public affairs, insurance, cyber security, and all other operations of the Young Marines corporation. Our mission is to provide all the necessary support for our thousands of adult volunteers, to help engage our Young Marines to become successful citizens no matter what they pursue in life. We are also held to many other standards and laws and best practices for working with youth.

Our joined history and continued work together can sometimes lead to confusion on our separate roles and responsibilities. Clear communication keep us on track for mutual support and success. Please contact me, Sgt. Maj. Maness, or Mrs. Terri Laskey if you have any issues or concerns; even better, if you want to start a new unit in your community. **Semper Fi!**

## NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

### Our Camaraderie Is the Basis of Our Strength

**MARINES:** I hope all who were able to attend the mid-winter conference in Virginia had a productive and enjoyable experience. It is encouraging to see all of the posts of members traveling to and at the conference. Our gathering and comradery are making the Marine Corps League stronger nationally. Our strength comes from our detachments. When we see an issue that needs to be addressed locally, it will need the support of all of us. Do not hesitate to make the departments, divisions, and national aware of your issues. Simple legislation may need to be enacted to remedy a situation and this is where we need to unite. It may take time but as the saying goes: the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. A case in point would be the issue of agent orange in Vietnam. It took a few to say this is a problem, and then more and more people demanded accountability until, years later, legislation was passed acknowledging this debilitating problem.

Over the years more and more people have been covered with this disability. Never let it be said, there's nothing we can do about it. Thank you to all of our League members who took up the cause of



recognizing those who have received the Purple Heart. Paying tribute to our veterans is important and we are the ones who must start the process. Every Marine who is a recipient of the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross should have a permanent memorial in their honor, so their heroism is remembered for generations to come. These are the men and women who have made our country the benevolent bastion of strength the rest of the world looks to.

Oklahomans are well under way preparing for our arrival for our national convention in August. We will be celebrating our 100th anniversary in a big way and will be well prepared to move into our next 100 years. We are as strong as a Marine graduating from boot camp. Hope to see many of you there. **Semper Fi!**

## NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

T.J. MORGAN

### The Importance of Dues and Member Retention

**MARINES:** Midwinter is in the books and the national convention is around the corner. Not only the national convention but the 100th anniversary convention. The gatherings we do provide an outlet for us to connect, make new friends, and take home some vital information to pass on to your membership. This is a vital role you play, and it is up to us, as national officers, to provide you with that intel. This year we will provide some extra training on the Wednesday break to help you do just that. It is not mandatory training, but if there is a class you are interested in, please attend.

On of the trends I am seeing is delinquent members. At midwinter we had 6704 MCL annual members who have not paid their dues. What is the percentage of that 6704 delinquents do you think are attending meetings and participating in detachment/department events? I would guess a large portion. Let's remind or delinquent members, in a professional way, that they need to be current and pay their dues. We don't want them top drop off the rolls. Retention is a product of your detachment and how you



continue to remind your membership that dues for the next year are due by August 31st. Everyone has the same due date.

The membership committee is still looking for ideas on recruiting, retention, and marketing for their manual. It's a manual that you, the members, provide updates to. So, take advantage and submit your ideas to [tribe@mcleague.org](mailto:tribe@mcleague.org).

Lastly, it is getting close to my end of term as your national jr. vice. At Midwinter I announced my bid for the sr. vice position. I would appreciate your support. There is so much to do and so little time to do it and, as always, its "for the good of the league." This was my campaign slogan in 2019 and will continue to be my guiding light. **Semper Fi!**

## NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

RUSS MILLER

### Questions on Quorums

**MARINES:** After the publication of this article regarding quorums and minutes in the last issue, I received a number of questions regarding both. This issue, let's dedicate a little more of the ole' Brain-Housing-Group to the topic of quorums.

**Q:** Our detachment doesn't have a quorum detailed in our bylaws and we have 200 members in good standing. What if we can never get enough (101) members present to satisfy common parliamentary law regarding quorums?

**A:** Therein lies the rub... In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (RRO), Chapter XI, any motions entertained without the presence of a quorum (other than procedural motions) mean you should recess for the purpose of obtaining a quorum (by beating the bushes and motivating more members to get there ASAP) or, adjourn the meeting and spend the next month reaching out to members and implore them to attend the next meeting so that business can be conducted. One great suggestion is to put together a "phone tree" one week before each meeting to call and remind members of the upcoming meeting and inform them of the important business items that need to be addressed.

**Q:** How do we go about changing our bylaws or AP to include new quorum numbers?

**A:** That question brings with it another question. Does your detachment have within its bylaws/AP a clause that defines how bylaw/AP changes are to be brought to the membership? Some examples might be – bylaw changes must be read out loud during two regularly sched-



uled meetings before they can be voted on or, changes must be mailed/mailed to every member 30 days before the meeting at which they will be voted on. Regardless, first and foremost, there will need to be a quorum present satisfying the current rule before new quorum procedures can be voted into effect. And if your detachment currently has a quorum in place and you wish to change the number or method by which it is reached, make sure to consider wording

the motion in such a way as to "strike out the old provision and insert the new provision, which is moved and voted on as one question," as per RRO CH XI, §40:4.

For those that may be thinking, "why don't we just vote to suspend the quorum rule?" This is one of the rules that you cannot vote to suspend or "set aside", even if it is in your AP and not your bylaws, because it would be a direct infringement on the rights of the absentees in your detachment without their knowledge or consent according to RRO CH VIII, § 25:10. When meeting for the sake of fun and camaraderie, HAVE FUN! But when meeting for the purpose of conducting business, make sure that the business is being done correctly and is documented. And remember to be the kind of member you wish there were 20 more of in your detachment. *Semper Fi!*

## JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

DENNIS TOBIN

### Climbing the Ladder of Leadership is Essential

**MARINES:** Mid-Winter is over. We had a great conference, and it was great seeing old friends and making some new ones. Now, it's time to get ready to shuffle off to Oklahoma for convention and our 100th anniversary. It looks like the Sooner Detachment and the Oklahoma Marines have a great time planned for us.

Now, I want to talk quick about detachments, and their members. You, as a detachment member have a responsibility to attend meetings, pay attention at those meetings and make sure your detachment is moving forward, obeying the bylaws, and operating according to Marine Corps League regulations and standards. Is your detachment representing not only the Marine Corps League and all its members, but also the Marine Corps. If not, it's up to you as a member to make the necessary changes to get it back on track.

How do you as a member do that? I know most of you join the League with no intention of taking on a leadership role. I was the same way, until I became jr. vice. From that point on, I realized I had a responsibility to continue my move forward. I could see ways to enhance my detachment, and the only way I could achieve my goals for my detachment was to continue moving up to higher leadership positions.



When you join a detachment, you cannot just sit back and say yes to everything your leadership wants to do. If you feel something is hurting the detachment, it's up to you to change the leadership, starting with you as an individual Marine and member. When we graduated boot camp, we were all trained to take command and lead if and when the situation arose. I was Lance Cpl. and rose to be the national commandant of the Marine Corps

League; you all have the ability do the same. Once you start on that path it becomes easier to see not only your future, but the future of the Marine Corps League. Get involved, Marines. See where changes have to be made and be the one to start the ball rolling.

Those of you who have been in a leadership role should be mentoring current, as well as new members to take command. We cannot survive without changes in leadership, two to four years, max, and mentoring during that time. *Semper Fi!*

## YOUNG MARINES LIAISON

BY ANGELA MANESS

YOUNGMARINES.COM

### Thank You for Your Service!

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

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

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

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



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

The Young Marines are grateful for the opportunity to work side by side with the Marine Corps League, supporting each other's mission. I believe both organizations have the positive forward momentum to inspire goodness across the nation. I encourage all Marine Corps League detachments to write in about their positive experiences with the YM unit they support. You can reach me at [angela.maness@youngmarines.org](mailto:angela.maness@youngmarines.org) or [ammaness33@gmail.com](mailto:ammaness33@gmail.com) (910) 581-2128. **Semper Fi!**

## DIVISION REPORTS

### “Spring is for Volunteers”



**Mike Sturch**  
NVC, Central Division



**MARINES:** Ah, Springtime! Time to ditch the parkas and snow boots, roll up the sleeves, and enjoy the sun. It’s that time when we begin our department conventions and conferences, and many community events go into full swing.

I feel this is the time when the League needs you the most. I would venture to say that most of the detachments, or at least most of the ones I know, have that ten to twenty percent of their members doing the majority of the work. As an individual, you cannot do it all. You will burn yourself out. You have to make time for yourself.

As far as the rest of our members, I’m not trying to put anyone down, or make anyone feel guilty. This is a voluntary organization, and we all have other commitments in our lives. Family, work, and other commitments and events play a key role. All I would ask of

each and every one of you is to consider pitching in on something.

Most detachments and departments host a variety of events throughout the year. It’s very easy to say, “I can’t make that one - I’ve already got something planned.” And that’s okay. But just consider volunteering for one event; and commit to it. Whether it’s a fundraiser, a parade, honor guard, or anything else; a few hours of sacrifice goes a very long way to help out. I personally can’t make everything, but I do participate in everything that I possibly can.

Some big events coming up for us is Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. May is observed as the National Military Appreciation Day, and May 12th is the Military Spouse Appreciation Day. We all served and made sacrifices—ALL of us. Let us honor each other, and honor and remember those who have come and gone before us.

This is a team effort, and we are all a part of the team. Have fun, enjoy the camaraderie, and represent your detachment, your department, and your League to the best of your ability.

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!**

### Embrace the Future



**Rick Thomason**  
NVC, Mideast Division



**MARINES:** Occasionally, the light comes on and I have a sudden moment of realization. It doesn’t happen often at my age, but it does occasionally happen. Do you ever think about why the windshield of your car is so large and the rear-view mirror is so small. It’s probably because what is in front of you is much more important than what you have left behind. It’s true with every aspect of your life. Whether it’s your Marine past or your civilian world. We can look back and talk about how we love the old days, but the old days will not love you back. Only if you look forward to the next stage of your life with optimism and a smile will there be true happiness. I know I am probably preaching to the choir, but it’s true.

In the MCL, we tend to hang in the past with our ideas of what is right and how things should be done. Well, we need to turn that around and look to the future. The Marine Corps is not living in the past. It is a rapidly developing, multifaceted, warfare machine that keeps bring new equipment and techniques into today’s world. That should be the Marine Corps League, also. We must develop new methodology for recruitment of new members. We must increase the awareness of the Marine Corps League in the eye of the public. We must look to the new and reflect on the old to avoid making the same mistakes. Don’t be part of a problem by saying, “It worked in the past.” So did throwing rocks and pointed sticks for self-defense. Don’t be the neanderthal in the group that refuse to accept change. It is inevitable. There will be change, and those who refuse to change will be left behind. Embrace technology in your everyday life. Learn how to utilize fillable PDFs (portable document files) offered on the national MCL website. They are there to make it easier for you to fill out and clearer for the people at national headquarters to read. If you don’t know how to save it to your computer or create an email distribution list for your detachment, ask your grandchild how. (They were born with that knowledge, I think.)

Share the world of the future with the rest of your detachment. What you think is insignificant may be the very document, link, or bit of information someone else needs. They should be the one to decide. If they don’t want to read it, all they must do is hit “delete” and it’s gone. But let them decide for themselves. **Semper Fi!**  
Division Website: [mclmideast.com](http://mclmideast.com)

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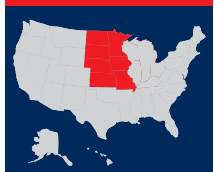
## DIVISION REPORTS

### MENTORSHIP: “Who wants to run for Office?”



**Joe Hughes**

**NVC, Midwest Division**



**MARINES:** In a passing-of-the-torch scenario, a mentor, who has gained valuable experience and knowledge in their field, imparts their wisdom and guidance to a member who is just starting out in their career. “Service to many leads to greatness—great respect, great satisfaction; developing future leaders is not having to wait until someone has been elected or already downrange before you start training...” according to Jim Rohn.

This relationship will be beneficial for both parties, as the mentee (member) receives guidance and support, while the mentor can pass on their knowledge and skills and gain a new perspective through their members’ fresh approach. This relationship will help to eliminate the we’ve-always-done-it-this-way mentality.

Mentorship can take many forms, from formal programs to informal relationships. It is important for both the mentor and mentee to establish clear goals and expectations for the mentorship and for the mentor to provide constructive feedback and support for the mentee’s development. The mentee should also take an active role in the relationship, asking for help and feedback and taking responsibility for their own learning and development.

Associate membership and mentor status is a great way for detachment to reach out to the community for professional development mentors in many areas needed by the Marine Corps League officer team.

“Passing the torch” also represents the passing of knowledge and skills, which is important for the continuation and growth of the detachment. By mentoring others, experienced professionals can help ensure the growth and success of their field and gain satisfaction from seeing their mentee progress and success.

In conclusion, the passing of the torch through mentorship is a valuable process that benefits the mentor and mentee, as well as the Marine Corps League as a whole. It requires mutual respect, clear goals and expectations, and a commitment to the mentee’s development and continued contribution to the Marine Corps League. It can be a rewarding experience for all involved. **Semper Fi!**  
**Division Website:** [midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org](http://midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org)

### Honor, Courage, Pride: Live with Purpose



**David Porter**

**NVC, New England Division**



**MARINES:** We are the few, the proud – we answered the call and earned the title, “United States Marine”! With that title earned, we have a duty to continue to live a life with purpose. Our purpose comes from a 247-year history of Marines living purposefully – *semper fidelis* – always faithful and committed to the success of our battles, the progress of our nation, and the steadfast loyalty to our fellow Marines. That purpose, which lives in each one of us, should make each of us a role model of honor, courage, and pride to all we meet.

We may not walk as fast as we once did, but that does not change our purpose. It just means we find a way to adapt. Over the years we have adapted from our trials and learned firsthand just how precious life is. We learned that life can never be taken for granted. With that mindset, we can encourage those

around us to be faithfully committed to live purposefully. Purposefully going out of their way to help others up when they fall, stand beside those who are persecuted, and bringing out the best in each other every day.

Being part of the Marine Corps League, we have unlimited paths to take to further our purpose to make a difference and support. These paths can open doors to unlimited opportunities to connect with other veterans, to help the community to survive, and create new opportunity for something important to pass on. Like the great quote says, “There can be no greater gift than that of giving one’s time and energy to helping others without expecting anything in return.” To be a positive and kind person shows greatness in a leader. But do not take kindness for weakness, for Marines the beast is just sleeping, not dead.

Mid-Winter has passed, time is moving faster than we expect. We are seven months out to the 100th anniversary of the MCL in Oklahoma City. But first, The Quad State convention will come in the weekend of April 28th. After five long years, with ups and downs, our division is going back to where many things were set in motion, Burlington, Vermont! The New England Division has adapted a lot over the years and continues to carry on with purpose, not to give up and grow stronger as family. **Semper Fi!**  
**Division Website:** [mclnedivision.com](http://mclnedivision.com)



## Providing Motivation is the Key to Keeping Us Afloat



**Mike Waluk**

**NVC, Northeast Division**



**MARINES:** Throughout our time in the Marines and in the Marine Corps League, I know that many of us have heard complaints such as “why do we have to do this?” During our tenure, we will undoubtedly ask ourselves whether it is worth continuing down the path we are on or not to even dare move through the tunnel as there is no perceived light being at the end. We must also understand that there will be trials and tribulations that will inevitably challenge us every time something changes. We cannot always go into the situation thinking that there must be some kind of reward or incentive to do this; in other words, the “what do I get out of it” syndrome.

During these times of change, my advice is to not always look for the carrot; especially if you think that what you are doing is not interesting or, dare I even say, fun. After all, dan-

gling a carrot in front of you is only going to go so far. Incentives are nice, but those only come as a one-shot deal and are rarely offered while you continue with the duties of the position.

Arguably, we underestimate how hard it is to stay motivated. It takes effort to avoid falling into a routine that leads to ennui... Ultimately, the end game can be disastrous, whereas the loss of focus costs us, as an organization, to regress.

First and foremost, we as leaders need to create the conditions to foster the development of self-motivation within the organization. Give others a voice in the decision-making process so they have ownership of what has been and needs to be done. Don't be apprehensive about discussing ideas that may or may not support previously considered viewpoints that are different. Discourse is a good thing and often facilitates the learning process and gives us the opportunity to reassess what we do.

Additionally, we can also set our own goals and parameters to work within. Remember, as an officer, you are in charge. That said, use this to your own level of satisfaction so completing challenging tasks, or even just the routine duties, provides fulfillment. Set personal goals, and time periods to finish within. While we always say we need to recognize our members for their diligence, let's not also forget that a job well done is its own reward. **Semper Fi!**

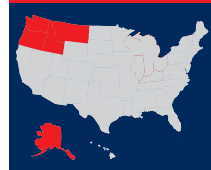
**Division Website: [nedmcl.org](http://nedmcl.org)**

## We Are a Veteran Service Organization



**John Moysiuk**

**NVC, Northwest Division**



**MARINES:** As members of the Marine Corps League, we all have the duty of being an advocate. This is not just for our membership but for all of the veterans we encounter in our daily activities. Far too often, I meet veterans that have health concerns which can directly be attributed to their service, but they did not have a medical exam when separating from the service. This could be for several reasons. One such is they were separated with a discharge of other than honorable condition. As an example, the veteran could have been separated for using alcohol or drugs. This might have been because they were self-medicating because of an injury they might have been trying to hide or because the command did nothing to address their health concern.

In our Marine culture, we focus on mission accomplishment and put ourselves aside. Identifying that we have a real injury in a culture

such as ours puts us into a category of “Sickbay Commando,” or worse. Therefore, the addressal of the injury becomes worse until the veteran begins to self-medicate. If separated because of this, they can lose all benefits such as their education allotment. Far too often I have held the discussions on how to address getting their educational benefits and other veteran benefits back and it's the knowledge of processes and programs which helps when advocating for veterans. Providing options. Sure, the “suck it up and drive on” mentality is part of our culture, but we can press through this barrier by knowing the programs and processes and how to navigate and use those that can directly address the barriers our veterans face.

As an example of my thought process, I meet “Smuckatelli” who separated after three years, nine months because he was taking pain killers from a back injury that happened while he was on active-duty status. He then popped on a urinalysis and was subsequently separated. After discussing the situation with this veteran, it was determined that the command did not address his back injury. After gathering his medical records, he was sent to a VSO agent which helped in his filing for a service-connected disability claim for his injuries. He was awarded a rating of 50%, which in turn allowed him to gain back his education under the Chapter 31 VR&E program and allowed him to graduate with a BA in Cyber Security. Upon doing this he applied to the Naval Board of Records to get his discharge upgraded. This is just a small portion of what changed for Smuckatelli. As Paul Harvey would say “now, the rest of the story.” Smuckatelli completed his education, married, has two kids now, is working full time as a cyber manager, has his honorable discharge, and is an advocate for veterans, as well. He is also a member of a veteran service organization and is a good friend. The journey was not easy, but with knowledge and determination there are options to assist our brother and sister veterans. After all, we are here to support veterans. As previously mentioned, I am here to serve, and knowledge is a very powerful tool. Advocacy is an amazing service and self-therapy. **Semper Fi!**

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

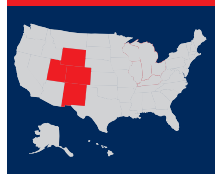
## DIVISION REPORTS

### Building Community Awareness Fills and Fuels Our Ranks



**Tom Krueger**

**NVC, Rocky Mountain Division**



**MARINES:** With the Mid-Winter Conference over, and, as we prepare for our department conventions and division conference, its time we start to think about the upcoming year. In some departments, there maybe a new slate of officers. I ask each one that takes an office to learn all you can about your job and to ask the hard questions if needed. I would ask that each department officer reach out to their detachments to see if there is anything you can do to assist them in a successful year.

I also ask that each member respect the chain of command. Remind each member that if your detachment is to grow you must advertise what your detachment is doing and reach out to those Marines in your area. I've met Marines and asked them if they'd heard of the Marine Corps League; I get a variety of answers. In most cases, they have no knowledge of the Marine

Corps League. This is where your detachment needs to get out into the community to build awareness and recruit new members. Once you get a new member, find out what they like to do and get them involved in a project. Also ensure your department or detachment website is up to date and you're posting events, as well as pictures, from past events.

I would also like to thank those detachments that have stepped up and either run or were part of a Toys for Tots campaign. At Mid-Winter this year, the Marine Corps League departments/detachments were congratulated for their hard work making this year's Toys for Tots campaign a very successful one.

If any member doesn't have a Ritual or a copy of the Detachment Officer's Handbook, as well as the leadership training programs listed on the national website, these are great tools and will give the answers to each members questions. If you still have those lingering questions, ask up the chain of command.

I look forward to meeting more members as I travel to each department's convention. Lastly, don't forget to recognize your members for their hard work. I understand that most of us don't do it for the recognition, however an occasional pat on the back goes a long way. **Semper Fi!**

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

### The Burden of Bureaucracy Cannot Be Avoided



**Jerry Holt**

**NVC, Southeast Division**



**MARINES:** We joined the Marine Corps League because we wanted the camaraderie, the continued association with the Marine Corps, continued demonstration of our patriotism, and to participate in community service projects like Toys for Tots. Not many of us signed up because we wanted to deal with bureaucratic requirements like incorporating our units, registering with the secretary of state, filing tax returns, and submitting innumerable reports to our departments, divisions, and national headquarters. We want to be doers and comrades, not clerks and administrators. Unfortunately, as an organization, we don't have the opportunity to opt out.

The longer we've been away from active duty, the dimmer our recollections of the rules and administrivia we endured during our tours of duty. It existed then, and, as

we know, it still exists today. The League requests information to document our reporting structure, member management and dues processing, and to identify points of contact for fulfilling certain responsibilities. Since a major part of our mission is to support the Marine Corps, we also collect data to ensure the Corps understands our contributions to preserving its traditions and in supporting the ideals of Americanism. Our League's national commandant reports our contributions and support activities to the commandant of the Marine Corps on an annual basis.

The even more challenging side of our administrative burden, it seems, is understanding the myriad of registration and filing requirements across our states. There are some consistencies, such as submitting the annual IRS tax forms, but except for the common requirement of incorporating within the state and registering with the secretary of state, similarities often end. Many states require filings with different agencies. Failure to file when, and as required, can result in fines and even worse, loss of the unit's non-profit status. The League, in order to protect its non-profit status, requires each one of its subordinate units to be incorporated within its state and be registered as a non-profit organization, so the loss of that status presents a risk to the preservation of the unit's charter.

There is a growing problem in that we are becoming too lax in understanding these requirements, or at least in fulfilling them. It is incumbent upon all our officers to learn these compliance requirements and to ensure that they find someone within the department, detachment, pack, or pound who is capable, and willing to ensure that all our requirements are satisfied.

**Semper Fi!**

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

## Recognizing our Detachments



**Jim Howington**

**NVC,  
Southern  
Division**



The Dardanelle Detachment color guard presented honors for the ceremony. I want to thank Larry Beyette and the Lake Dardanelle detachment for their hard work and dedication to a good cause.

The Southern Division Toys for Tots campaign was a complete success. There were approximately 35 detachments that were active in supporting the Toys for Tots mission. I would like to recognize one of the detachments that worked very hard in their efforts to provide toys for children. The Lake Dardanelle detachment collected many toys and donations that served many children in the rural areas of their responsibility. I would like to tip my hat to Coordinator Betty Baldwin and Assistant Coordinator Larry Mars and Jeanne Mars, a Lake Dardanelle Marine, for their exceptional efforts and hard work during their toy drive. The detachment serves rural counties with a lot of poverty. If not for Toys for Tots, many children could not celebrate Christmas. Thank you, Lake Dardanelle detachment for a job well done.

We have August 14th to 18th 2023 to look forward to. The 2023 National Convention will be held at the Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City. This year's convention is going to be something special because it is the 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps League. This is a historical moment. This will be a great time to attend a convention and join in on the brotherhood. Department of Oklahoma Commandant Danny Thomas and his department Marines have worked very hard to make this convention one of the very best. For more information on the National Convention, visit the Marine Corps League Library.

The River Valley Detachment 1248 in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, requested and has been granted a new name change for their detachment. The detachment's new name will be the Thomas A. Payne Detachment 1248. The change is effective immediately. Marine Thomas A. Payne was a long-time member of the River Valley Detachment. He was a highly respected member of the detachment and who was always the one who gave and was always willing to help anyone. Congratulations to the Thomas A. Payne Detachment 1248.

**MARINES:** The 2023 Marine Corps League season is on us. This is the time of year when detachments, departments, and our national headquarters has a lot of business, conferences, conventions, elections, and events to plan, organize, and complete.

The Midwinter Conference begins the Marine Corps League season by planning and polishing for the upcoming year's activities. The Marine Corps League National Convention marks the slowing down of activity for a short period.

On November 11, 2022, Larry Beyette of Lake Dardanelle Detachment 1310 of the Department of Arkansas, completed the planning and organizing of the lights to unite event that was presented at the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock. This event was in support of the 240th anniversary of our nation's Purple Heart award. Larry used the Arkansas State Capitol as the building that was lit in purple.

## Division Happenings



**Jim Loorya**

**NVC,  
Southwest  
Division**



**MARINES:** Below represents accomplishments/activities for the Southwest Division during the timeframe since the 2022 Convention. It also represents activities and significant events that have either occurred or will happen in the near future:

It is with great sorrow that I inform you of Virginia McDougall's, our 31st PCDD, recent (Feb. 2023) passing. Virginia was the first woman to serve as CDD and served from 1973-1975. Virginia served as California department paymaster for about 25 years ending in 2015. She also served as the Southwest Division national vice commandant. Her family is planning a burial at either Riverside or Miramar (San Diego) National Cemeteries.

In other activities, the Southwest Division has been busy in rebuilding its infrastructure and preparing for meetings in 2023.

**Website** The SW Division has completed

the initial work on its website. It will continue to be developed and grow throughout 2023. The URL is [www.mclswdivision.org](http://www.mclswdivision.org).

**Zoom** The division has set up a Zoom account and will have periodic staff meetings in that environment.

**Arizona 50th Anniversary** In October of 2022, the department celebrated its 50th anniversary. The ceremonies included the presentation of anniversary challenge coins and MCL anniversary award ribbons for each attendee. The meeting included training sessions with both training and award presentations by Commandant Baker and additional training by MCL COO Borka.

**Preparing for Division Conference** Preparation and planning for the May 5/6, 2023, Southwest Division conference is well under way. We have signed a contract with the Orleans Hotel and casino in Las Vegas. The meeting is to include a series of training sessions and a division growl on Friday, 5 May at 1800 at the Leatherneck Club in downtown Las Vegas. The agenda and further planning are in the process of being refined. It is anticipated that National Commandant Johnny Baker will be in attendance and provide training in a number of MCL related areas.

**Department of Nevada** The Department of Nevada is planning their annual department convention in Reno, Nevada. It will be held at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino on April 13-16, 2023. The agenda is being developed and will include training sessions by COO Borka and the election of department officers.

**Department of California** is planning their annual Convention for June 2023 in San Diego. More information will be provided as planning is formalized. **Semper Fi!**

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

Created by: GySgt Charles Wolf  
**SEMPERTOONS**

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 AFTER I RETIRE FROM THE SERVICE.....



I HAVE TO GROW UP.

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**UPCOMING TOURS**

- 20 – 29 May  
French WWI Battlefields  
"Doughboys & Devil Dogs"
- ★ 31 May – 13 Jun  
79th Anniversary of D-Day,  
Battle of Bulge & Paris
- 31 May – 8/9 Jun  
79th Anniversary of D-Day:  
Normandy to Paris
- 31 Jul – 8 Aug  
Guadalcanal Op Watchtower  
Pre-Tour Tarawa
- 5 – 18 Aug  
Vietnam "Delta to the DMZ"
- 8 – 20 Aug  
Vietnam "Return to I-Corps"
- 11 – 25 Aug  
WWII Germany: Rise & Fall of  
the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin  
-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague
- 18 – 28 Aug  
Ireland—Fighting Irish vs USNA  
in Dublin plus Belfast & Derry
- 25 Aug – 6 Sep  
"In the Footsteps" D-Day, Nor-  
mandy, Bulge & Arnhem
- 9 – 20 Sep  
England Tour "God Save the  
King" WWII & 8th AF
- 8 – 21 Oct  
D-Day & Battle of the Bulge
- 20 – 27 Oct  
Belgium – Waterloo – WWI &  
WWII – Dunkirk
- 26 Nov – 7 Dec  
Vietnam War  
"Saigon to the DMZ"
- 4 – 11 Dec  
81st Anniversary Pearl Harbor
- 17 – 29 Feb 2024  
55th Anniversary of the  
Vietnam War— I-Corps &  
Battle of Hue City & Tet

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**NATIONAL CONVENTION – OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**

**AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup> - August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**ORDER FORM FOR ADVERTISING IN THE NATIONAL PROGRAM BOOK**

The 2023 Marine Corps League National Convention Program Book will be published by the National Headquarters. Your support for this publication will not only help to commemorate this National Convention but also help support the Marine Corps League's many worthwhile programs.

**SIZE AND AD COSTS**

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Checks should be made payable to "Marine Corps League" and please send a high-definition copy of your ad via email no later than 7/1/23. You may email this form and high definition copy of ad to: LWilliamson@MCLeague.org.

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**To use a credit card, submit your ad electronically via the Library's Convention Tab.**

Every Division, Department, Auxiliary Unit, Kennel, Pack, and Pound are encouraged to place an ad in support of the 2023 National Convention. We appreciate your continued support.

Marine Corps League National Headquarters, Attn: Convention Ad Book,  
P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990

# CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION

## KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



### I'm a Veteran who believes I was exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, what can VA do for me?

Since 2012, Veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, have been eligible for hospital care and medical services for any of 15 illnesses or conditions identified in the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, as amended (codified at 38 U.S.C. § 1710(e)(1)(F)). Veterans are also eligible to enroll in VA health care for other services they may require.

Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members who served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and later developed one of the following eight diseases: Adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Parkinson's disease, are eligible for disability compensation benefits.

For more specifics about VA benefits related to Camp Lejeune contaminated water, to include how to file a claim, visit [www.VA.gov/CampLejeune](http://www.VA.gov/CampLejeune) or call 1-800-MyVA411.

### LEARN MORE

[www.VA.gov/CampLejeune](http://www.VA.gov/CampLejeune)

### LET'S TALK



Speak to a VA benefits specialist by calling

**1-800-MyVA411**  
(1-800-698-2411)

### LET'S MEET



Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment  
[vets.force.com/VAVERA](http://vets.force.com/VAVERA)



### What impact does the PACT Act have on Veterans and families who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune?

On August 10, 2022, the President signed into law the Honoring our PACT Act (Public Law 117-168). Section 804 of this law is the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 ("CLJA"), which allows new lawsuits for individuals exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

Whether Veterans and family members decide to seek relief under the CLJA is entirely their decision and will not influence VA's decision to provide them benefits or health care based upon their exposure; it also will not affect the amount of benefits or health care VA can provide them.

It is important to know, however, that if a Veteran or family member is awarded relief by the court in a lawsuit brought under the CLJA, the award must be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit VA provided to the Veteran, family member, or their legal representative relating to exposure to water at Camp Lejeune. This would reduce the amount of the award Veterans or family members receive from the court, but it would not affect their VA benefits.



### I'm seeing a lot of commercials about benefits I may be entitled to based on my time at Camp Lejeune. Are these ads connected to VA?

Lawyers, firms, and others have engaged in extensive advertising offering to represent Veterans in CLJA actions. These entities are not connected with VA benefits or services. Be aware that these entities may charge you a fee for legal representation.



### Will seeking relief under the CLJA impact my VA benefits or health care?

Your VA compensation benefits or health care services will not be impacted if you file a lawsuit. If you are awarded relief from a CLJA lawsuit, your VA benefits will not be reduced, and your eligibility for other VA benefits or services will not be affected.



### Will my court awarded relief (from filing a lawsuit) be impacted by VA benefits and services I already receive?

Yes, potentially. If you already receive VA benefits or services (disability pay or health care services) for conditions related to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, the court awarded relief will be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or other benefit VA provided to you related to your exposure at Camp Lejeune.



### What if I file for VA disability AFTER I receive an award from my lawsuit brought under CLJA, will VA reduce my benefits as a result?

No. Any action you take or award you receive under the CLJA will not influence VA's decision to provide you benefits or health care based upon your exposure or the amount of compensation you receive from VA.

## Eligible Veterans in suicidal crisis can access NO-COST services from any VA or non-VA health care facility.



### What's included as part of this benefit?

- » Emergent suicide care and treatment at a VA or non-VA facility for up to 30 days
- » Outpatient care for up to 90 days
- » Ambulance transportation costs, inpatient, or crisis residential care



### How do I know if I'm eligible?

You **do not have to be enrolled in the VA system to be eligible** for free emergent suicide care. However, a **crisis responder or health care professional must determine that you are in need of emergency suicide care** and you must meet one of the following criteria:

- » Veteran who was discharged or released from active duty after **more than 24 months of active service** under conditions other than dishonorable.
- » Former member of the armed forces, including the reserves, who served **more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation** (either directly or by remotely operating an unmanned aerial vehicle) and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- » Former member of the armed forces who was the **victim of a physical assault or battery of a sexual nature or sexual harassment** while serving in the armed forces.



### What do I do when I get to the Emergency Department?

- » If you're **enrolled in VA health care**, let emergency department staff know you receive your care from VA.
- » If you're **not enrolled in VA health care**, inform emergency department staff that you are a Veteran as soon as possible, so they can determine what benefits you're eligible for by contacting the nearest VA medical facility.



### How will VA determine my eligibility? What do I do if I'm billed for these services?

- » If you seek treatment at a **VA emergency department**, VA staff can determine your eligibility by confirming details contained in your service record while you are receiving emergent suicide care.
- » If you seek treatment at a non-VA health care facility, **community emergency department** staff should report this care to VA as soon as possible to establish eligibility and begin care coordination or transfer to a VA facility.

To eliminate additional stress during your time of need, VA developed an expedited review process for services related to emergent suicide care.

- » If you get a bill for treatment that you received at a **VA medical facility**, contact your local VA Patient Advocate and ask for a clinical review. You can also contact the number on your bill to initiate this process.
- » If you received treatment at a **community emergency department**, submit a signed, written request for reimbursement to your local VA medical facility community care office using VA Form 10-583, Claim for Payment of Cost of Unauthorized Medical Services. Also include an after-visit summary or medical documentation and a billing statement from the provider showing diagnosis code information and an itemized list of charges.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



SCAN FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
[VA.gov/  
communitycare](https://www.va.gov/communitycare)



1-844-724-7842  
Report Your  
Community  
Care Visit



1-800-MYVA411  
(1-800-698-2411)  
This is Never the  
Wrong Number

Learn more: [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov)

Find a VA: [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/)

VA mental health resources: [mentalhealth.VA.gov](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)

Veterans Crisis Line:

Dial 988, Press 1 or Text 838255, or

Chat [veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/)

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★  
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**1-800-MyVA411  
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IS NEVER THE  
WRONG NUMBER.**

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**VA'S VOICE FRONT DOOR**

The one number all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors can use to access information and assistance with VA benefits and services 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

- Burial Benefits
- Compensation
- Crisis Assistance
- Debt Repayment
- General Information
- Health Care Eligibility
- Home Loans
- Insurance
- Pension
- Service-connected Claims
- Nationwide VA Medical Centers

**MyVA 411 Options**

**1**

Press "1" for information about community care eligibility, co-payments, appeals and urgent care.

**2**

Press "2" for VA health care eligibility, enrollment and payments.

**3**

Press "3" if you are already enrolled in VA health care and want to connect to your local VA Medical Center.

**4**

Press "4" for questions related to VA burial benefits, payments, scheduling, or cemeteries.

**5**

Press "5" for VA benefits, such as disability compensation, education, insurance, the home loan program or a debt.



Press "6" to be connected to the Veterans Homeless Hotline.

**6**

If you are having thoughts of suicide, press "7" to be connected to the Veterans Crisis Line.

**7**

Press "8" for military environmental exposure (PACT Act) general information and health care or benefits eligibility.

**8**

Press "9" to submit a compliment about your VA benefits or services, if you have an issue you have been unable to resolve, to get help with the VA.gov website or to report sexual harassment or assault.

**9**

Press "0" for general information about VA benefits and services, or help navigating to the right VA specialist.

**0**

**MyVA  
411**



★  
★  
★

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SERVICE.  
WE'RE HERE FOR  
YOU IF YOU NEED US.**

**VA**

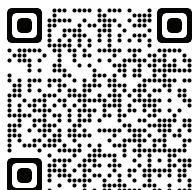


U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**LEARN MORE: EXPANDED BENEFITS** .....



Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances may be eligible for expanded VA benefits and services. Learn more at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)



VIETNAM



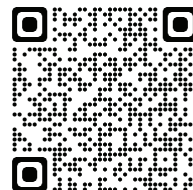
GULF WAR

**LET'S MEET** .....



Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment with a VA benefits specialist at

[vets.force.com/VAVERA](https://vets.force.com/VAVERA)



POST - 9/11



**ASK ONLINE** .....



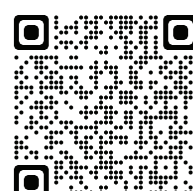
Submit a question online at [ask.va.gov](https://ask.va.gov)



**GET LOCAL HELP** .....



Find a Veterans Service Organization near you. [benefits.va.gov/vso/varo.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/vso/varo.asp)

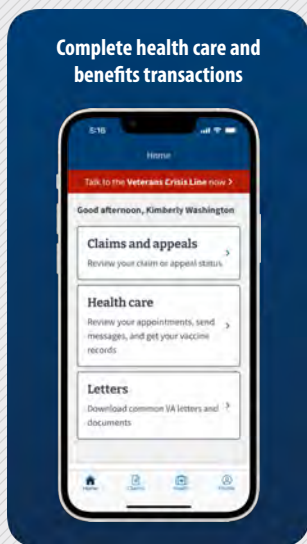


Speak to a VA benefits specialist by calling **1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)**

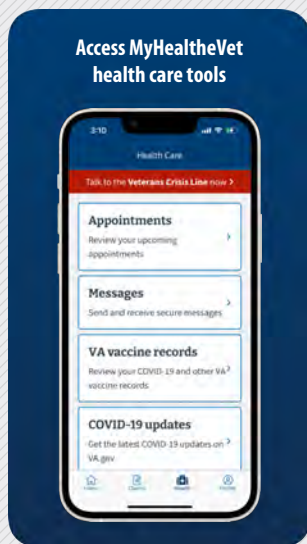


# SAVE TIME BY DOWNLOADING THE VA HEALTH AND BENEFITS MOBILE APP

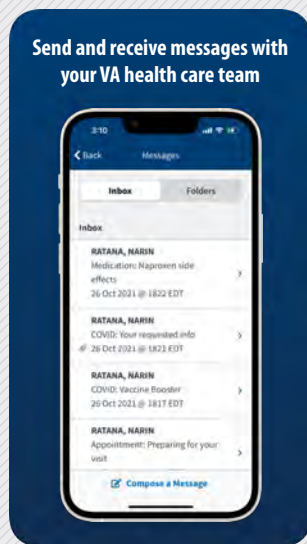
The official VA mobile app helps you manage your VA health care and benefits on your mobile device. Use the app to manage common tasks like checking your claim status, communicating with your VA health care team, and accessing your VA benefit letters.



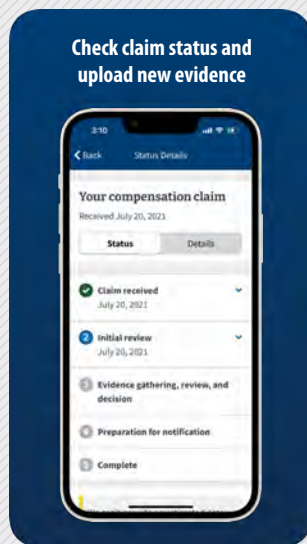
Complete health care and benefits transactions



Access MyHealthVet health care tools



Send and receive messages with your VA health care team



Check claim status and upload new evidence



## FEATURES INCLUDE:

### BIOMETRIC SIGN-IN

- » Use your phone's built-in security features — like fingerprint and face recognition — to securely access your information.

### PROFILE

- » Check your disability rating.
- » Update your contact information.
- » Update your direct deposit information for disability compensation and pension benefits.

### APPOINTMENTS

- » Check or cancel your VA health appointments.
- » Easily add existing appointments to your calendar.

### FACILITY LOCATOR

- » Find VA facilities and services near you.

### PAYMENTS

- » Review payments made to you by the VA.

### EASY ACCESS TO COMMON VA DOCUMENTS

- » Benefit Summary and Service Verification Letter
- » Proof of Service Card
- » Commissary Letter

### CLAIMS AND APPEALS

- » Check your claim or appeal status.
- » Submit additional evidence from your mobile device.

### VETERANS CRISIS LINE

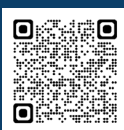
- » Quickly access the VA Crisis Line.

### SECURE MESSAGING

- » Communicate privately with your VA health care team.

### VA VACCINE RECORDS

- » Review your COVID-19 and other VA vaccine records.



Download the VA Health and Benefits App for information and services at your fingertips!



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



The train, shown, is owned by the Col. Philip C. DeLong Detachment 1267, located in The Villages, FL. It was designed and built by Marine James Coleman. It's powered by a Harley Davidson golf cart and made from odds and ends to replicate the Toys for Tots logo. It has been used in various parades and events promoting the Toys for Tots campaign throughout the year. It is the only hand-made Toys for Tots train in the U.S.



Not all PISC recruits have family/visitors upon graduation. MCL Baltimore Detachment 565 members visit PISC several times a year and take recruits without visitors to lunch at restaurants on base. The six recruits pictured graduated 19 November 2022. MCL members pictured are, left to right, Phil Simmons, Harry Hierstetter, Earl Ruff, Milt Hazzard, Ernie Disney, Pat Davis, and Stuart Blair.



The Effingham Marine Corps League recently made a \$500 donation to both Catholic Charities and FISH Human Services. Accepting the donation for Catholic Charities is Carol Beckerman, accepting for FISH is Karen Luchtefeld. Pictured, left to right, are Karen Luchtefeld, Philip Mette, Carol Beckerman. In the back row are Larry Neihls and Darrell Schwerman.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Marine Corps Reserve Site Support San Jose and Marine Corps League Detachment 1122 presented a certificate of appreciation to our new partner Mission Valley Ford for their valuable support of Toys for Tots. Mission Valley Ford's generous use of large trucks enabled this year's toy collection and distribution to be accomplished in less time and with less resources than in previous years. From left to right are Staff Sgt. Arboleda-Palacio from 4th MLG's Site Support, San Jose, Jeff Speno, and Michele Bennett from Mission Valley Ford, MCL 1122's Gary Bondaug and Doug Bowyer. Photo: Armand Guerrero



Christmas twinkle from Star of the North Marine Corps League, Park Rapids MN. donated \$600.00 to the Park Rapids community Christmas dinner. Bagging candy December 20 are from left, Bud Gates, Cliff Branham, Ed Branham, Jerry Pietila, Don Haagenson, Ron Masanz, Howard Maninga, and Al Hietala.



2023 Mid-Winter Conference: Congratulations to Patti Lieb, the Marine Corps League's First National Associate Member of the Year 2022! Congratulations to Gerald Devlin on being made an Honorary National Commandant!

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Patriot Detachment 1230 officers installed February 15, 2023, by dist. 2 VC Gene Irvin assisted by Northeast Division Aide deCamp William R. Miller. From left to right are Past Commandant Neil Clark, Sr., Sgt. at Arms Gus Cales, Trustee Jimmy Clendennen, Judge Advocate John Frain, Commandant Mike Clark, Adjutant Mike Lecker, Jr. Vice Commandant Don Barder, Sr. Vice Commandant Richard Weaver, and Paymaster Pete Palestina.

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**God Bless America - 00006**  
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<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Packs <del>\$35.90</del> \$17.95	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Packs <del>\$39.90</del> \$20.45
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Packs <del>\$71.80</del> \$35.90	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Packs <del>\$79.80</del> \$40.90
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(Must also purchase EZShield Check Fraud Protection above)	

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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>IN-PLANT RUSH</b> (checks only) Saves 1-3 Days (070)	\$5.99	*Available only in contiguous U.S.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Untrackable delivery:</b> Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. All items shipped separately. Delivery to Alaska and Hawaii may take longer.		<b>FREE</b>
<b>OFFER CODE 22625XMV</b>	SUBTOTAL \$	
	Add your sales tax \$	
<b>Payment</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> \$	

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# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Winner of the High Pistol Master award, Matt Barthold (second from left) with detachment members, from left, Dennis LeBlanc, Jim Wade (team captain), Matt Bernard, and Seth Wade, all from MCL Det. 089, the Hiram I. Bearss detachment from Indianapolis, IN.



Members of All Divisions 281 MCL pick up toys at Philadelphia Protestant Home. Left to right are Greg Strupczewski, Kathy Wersinger (executive assistant to the president and CEO), John DUBYK (president & CEO), Bill Conaway (director of community relations), Shannon Grieb (vice president of marketing and communications) and Don Campanile. Photo: Daniel Ortiz



MCL National Commandant Johnny Baker and National Executive Director Bob Borka present a \$5,000 donation check to Cheryl Long, office manager for the Quantico Office of Semper Fi and America's Fund supporting the incredible non-profit work they do in caring for our nation's critically wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and military families.

# ROLL CALL

## AROUND THE LEAGUE



Combined Veterans Day and Toys for Tots event at Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia on 5 November 2022 during the football game. In the photo are Commandant Phillip Parsons, Detachment Member Doug Anderson, Community Outreach Director and student Allyson Trunser, and Niccole Gatliff with "Buzz" the Mascot.



On Saturday November 19, 2022 the Marine Corps had their Marine Corps Ball. Present was our own Marine Corps League Member Gunny Alfredo Estrella to present our certificates of appreciation along with a letter from our detachment. The Marines from left to right: Cpl. Gawley S. Charles, Sgt. Spicer C. Maurice, GSgt. Alfredo Estrella and Sgt. Ortizramirez Felix. The Marine Corps League Ira Hayes Detachment showing their appreciation to the Marines that assisted our detachment. In February of 2022, the Marine Corps League Ira Hayes Detachment, along with the Marines from Luke Air Force base, participated in the Oscar P. Austin memorial event. Oscar Palmer Austin grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and was a Phoenix Union High School graduate, and attended Booker T. Washington elementary which, at the time, was an all African American school. Oscar P. Austin was a United States Marine who posthumously received the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, for heroism and sacrifice of his own life in Vietnam in February 1969. There is also a Naval Destroyer named Oscar P. Austin. Thank you, Marines, for assisting our detachment in honoring our Marine Oscar P. Austin. These Marines came from Luke AFB in dress blues and performed the three gun volley.

## 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.mcleague.org/programs/documents](http://www.mcleague.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

## The Haunted Garden Poems of the Vietnam War

With heavy heart we absorb the rhyme from our Vietnam veterans. This collection of poetry shares thoughts and experiences in a well-orchestrated muse of ink laid on lush pages for remembrance. It is a creative work of literature filled with imagery and thoughtful poetry. From start to finish, the reader is immersed. The artistic collection represents a wide range of emotions and experiences. It is an easy read and noted are the special texture with which the cover and pages are crafted.

**The Haunted Garden: Poems of the Vietnam War**

**Author:** Michael Cloz

**Pages:** 223

**Publisher:** Independently Published

**ISBN:** 979-8503241679



## Traumas and Suicide Prevention: For Warriors by Warriors

Charles (Charlie Brown) Wright is a Marine Corps League member who has put together a sincerely impactful collection of testimonies. "...ordinary people who experienced extraordinary traumas and loss" (Wright, 2021). Shell shock, battle fatigue, and PTSD are often experienced and not spoken of for a variety of reasons. Wright is breaking through the stigma to make a positive impact. The book is easy to read and is organized with convenient stopping and starting points. Reading it may inspire you to talk about your story, too.

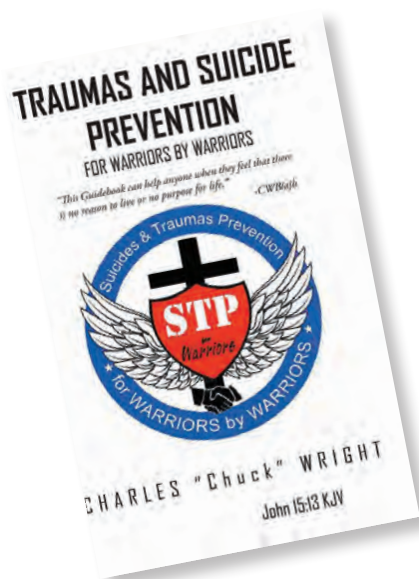
**Traumas and Suicide Prevention: For Warriors by Warriors**

**Author:** Charles "Chuck" Wright

**Pages:** 218

**Publisher:** Fulton Books

**ISBN:** 978-1649527530



### 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



# TAPS

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 RAYMOND C. BARRY  
 JOSEPH W. BELANGER  
 GENE CAGLE  
 JAMES R. EVANS  
 MICHAEL WAYNE FREEMAN  
 KENNETH F. HALL  
 JACK HOPPING, JR.  
 JOHANNES E. KOWALL  
 WILLIAM LITZSINGER  
 FREDRICK MERRYWEATHER  
 RICHARD C. MILLER  
 JAMIE L. MOORE  
 CLYDE L. PENDLETON  
 FRANKLIN D. SEARS  
 ROBERT L. VENABLE  
 JOHN H. WILSON

## ARIZONA

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 LOWELL DROZ  
 RICHARD E. EDDER  
 STANLEY ELBIE  
 RALPH GASTELUM  
 PATSY GAUDIO  
 PATRICK P. GRADY  
 HAROLD DAVID HASTEY  
 RICHARD G. HERR  
 JOHN A. KASZTELAN  
 TERRY L. LAUFER  
 CHARLES "ELLIS" LIESEMAYER  
 LUCY C. LOPEZ  
 RUDOLPH MCKENZIE  
 ROBERT L. MILLER  
 MANUEL S. MUNGUIA  
 PORFIRIO V. MURGUIA  
 RONALD PUFFPAFF  
 DALE TRISLER

## Attention Chaplains!

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

WILLIAM R. VIOLETTE

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 GILBERT H. BOLTON  
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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.

# TAPS

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EDWARD L.  
PFANNKUCHE  
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EARL R. WESTWICK

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### U40B Ratchet Belt - Raised EGA

Leather Uniform Ratchet Belt w/Gold Raised EGA on Buckle  
\$50.50



### U40A Ratchet Belt - Etched MCL Logo

Leather uniform Belt w/Gold MCL Logo on Buckle  
\$45.00



### U22A Tie Bar- MCL

Tie Bar w/MCL Logo  
\$6.50



### U22C Tie Bar- EGA

Tie Bar w/EGA  
\$6.50



### Lanyard MCL Lanyard

Reds Marine Corps League Lanyard w/Yellow Lettering  
\$5.00



### P02 Plaque- MCL

Marine Corps  
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### G98 Desk Flag - USA

~4x6" 10" U.S. Desk Flag (for use w/G99 Base)  
\$4.00



### G96 Desk Flag - MCL

~4x6" 10" MCL Desk Flag (for use w/G99 Base)  
\$8.00



### G97 Desk Flag - USMC

~4x6" 10" USMC Desk Flag (for use w/G99 Base)  
\$4.00

### CUP1 Travel Mug - MCL

Red and Black Travel Coffee Mug w/MCL Logo  
\$5.00



### G99 Desk Flag Base

Desk Flag Base (for use with G96, G97, G98 flags)  
\$3.00



### RainCover2 Black Canvas Rain Cover

Black Waterproof Canvas Rain Cover for MCL Covers  
\$15.00



### Sympathy Cards

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

### Blank Greeting Cards

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

### Get Well Cards

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

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### Billing Address

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**Street**

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**City State Zip Code**

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**Phone Number**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Street**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City State Zip Code**

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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>
\$50.01-\$65.00.....	<b>\$12.99</b>
\$65.01-\$85.00.....	<b>\$13.99</b>
\$85.01-\$100.00.....	<b>\$14.99</b>
\$100.01-\$200.00.....	<b>\$16.99</b>
\$200.01 AND UP.....	<b>\$18.99</b>
<b>STANDARD SHIPPING:</b> Shipping and handling charges for orders with Standard Shipping are calculated using the <b>SUBTOTAL</b> of the order. Some very heavy or oversized items may have a shipping surcharge which will be reflected in the item description.	

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6.0% VA SALES TAX  
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# 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!

## 2023 Tours

**4-16 Feb**

Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue

**20-27 Mar**

Iwo Jima-Guam 78th Anniversary Reunion of Honor

**11-21 Apr**

Philippines - WWII in the P.I.

**15-28 Apr**

Vietnam War "Saigon to the DMZ"

**15-28 Apr**

Friends & Family Trip to Vietnam

**20-29 May**

Doughboys & Devil Dogs France WWI Battlefields

**31 May-13 Jun**

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

**31 Jun-8 Jul**

79th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

**31 Jul-8 Aug**

Guadalcanal 91st Op Watchtower

Continues Next Page

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2024 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE

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

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

You need not be present to win. Drawing will occur at the 2024 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to: Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990.

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You need not be present to win. Winner  
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drawing if not present, and arrangements  
will be made for coordination with Military  
Historical Tours for selection of tour prize.

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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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Historical Tours for selection of tour prize.

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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

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



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
Incorporated by Act of Congress, August 4, 1937  
Temporary Membership Card and Receipt  
This will certify that

is a member in good standing of

This card is good for a period of sixty days from

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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 "Honorably Service." ("Honorably 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.*

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
Incorporated by Act of Congress, August 4, 1937  
Temporary Membership Card and Receipt  
This will certify that

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.\*

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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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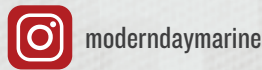
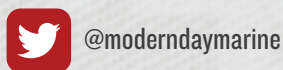
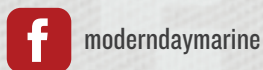


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