

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

Hershel "Woody" Williams The Interview

Andrew Biggio: The Marine Behind "They Fought We Ride"

Remembering Marine Carl Strong

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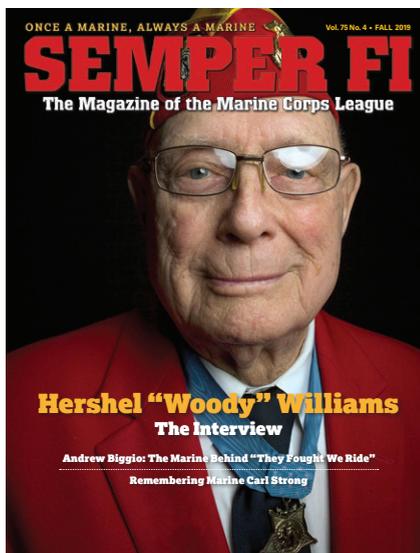
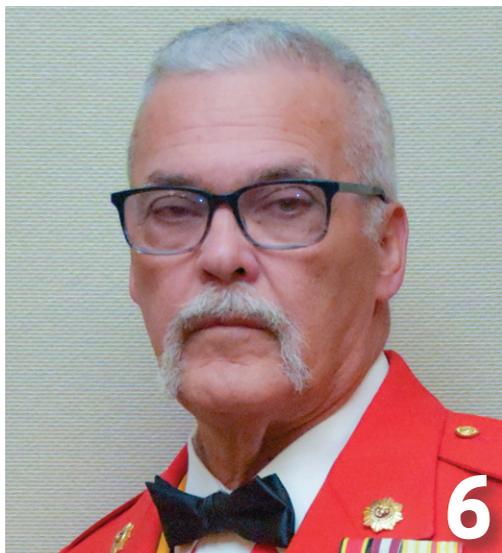


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95-year-old Medal of Honor recipient and Marine Corps League member Hershel "Woody" Williams. Woody tells *Semper Fi* about his Congressional Medal of Honor Education Foundation for Gold Star families and his life-altering experiences in WWII.

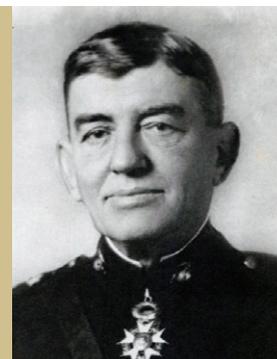
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Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune, the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States.



NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

DENNIS TOBIN

Outlining specific goals for the coming years

MARINES: I want to thank everyone for their support and vote of confidence in electing me as your National Commandant. I will lead with honor and distinction and will continue to lead us forward. With the help of our Board of Trustees and the membership, your ideas and input, we will succeed. We must continue to improve the way we do business in regard to our non-profit status. While I'm working on my agenda for the coming year, we also have some issues that PNC Wendell Webb initiated and need completing.

I will be looking for skill-specific members. I need someone with experience as a reporter or newsperson to do interviews and write articles on our War on Terror, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. I am also looking for someone knowledgeable in grant writing. Please send me resumes if you meet the criteria and are interested. We will also be instituting a leadership college.

Regarding the Mid-Winter Conference and National Convention, I'm sure many of you have noticed that at any given time there are as many members outside the business as there are in it. I'd like to get more members in the meeting, so I will be streamlining how the business meetings are conducted. There will be minimal verbal reports, with the exception of certain committees or anyone needing to add to their report. All reports will be written and submitted to the National Chief Operating Officer at least 1 week prior to the meeting and will be placed in the library before each function for your reading pleasure.

When the Bylaws are distributed, it is up to every detachment to review them with their members, then take that info to their Department Convention and discuss how they want to vote on each Bylaw before coming to the National Convention. Proposals will still be shown on the big screen; the section to be changed will be read along with the proposed change and rationale; there will be a timed discussion; and a vote. Hopefully we can cut some time off the process. By streamlining the business session, I hope to cut two business days in half—one will include the leadership college either before or after the half day of regular business; the other will be a half day of awards.

I also want to rework our Homeless Veterans Committee; it will be an actual working committee, finding homeless veterans and assisting with getting them into shelters or homes. My hope is to get one interested member in every Division to work with the National Homeless Veterans Committee Chairman.

National, departments and detachments must all work together. There are about 95% of departments and detachments working together on our mission, but 5% work on their own, freelancing or doing their own thing. That has to stop. The National Board of Trustees oversees the entire League; the Department Board of Trustees oversees their department; and the Detachment Board of Trustees oversees their detachment, making sure it is operating according to the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures (AP).

The Bylaws and AP are in place for a reason. If you do not agree, you can follow the procedure to introduce a proposed change. Either way, we all took the oath to obey those rules and regulations. Every National, Department and Detachment Board member will be held responsible for ensuring rules are followed. PNC Gore and PNC Webb put all the tools in place for us to keep moving forward. I intend to do the same and would like to get Past National Commandants more involved and utilize their abundant knowledge to our advantage. Thanks again for all your support.

Semper Fi!



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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

The Marine Corps League Inc. is a Congressionally chartered, non-profit organization.

National Commandant: Dennis Tobin

Chief Operating Officer: Bob Borka

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S LETTER

BOB BORKA

Striving for continuous improvement

MARINES: The Marine Corps League continues to press forward on many fronts. Our support of funeral honors and Toys for Tots has a solid foundation, and the efforts do not go unnoticed. Your patriotic volunteerism is the hallmark of helping Marines and their families. The Marine For Life Liaison group continues to strengthen and mature as we work together to help our Marines return to their communities.

As we strive for continuous improvement, remember our brothers and sisters to the left and right. Each of us has strengths that we can call upon and use to support others. Also, please be responsible and respectful of one another on social media. I recently saw a social media post where a Marine said he earned the "Title," so he can say anything he wants. If you earn the title "Marine," doesn't that also come with the responsibility to keep our honor clean? What we say, write or post does matter.

#EmbraceTheTribe

Semper Fi!

EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY

BY ANNETTE AMERMAN

October 14-16, 1966 A joint task force of Marine, Army, Navy and Air Force personnel airlifted food and supplies to Tampico, Mexico, to aid the victims of Hurricane Inez.

October 16, 1957 Marines of Marine Light Transport Squadron 262 from the *USS Lake Champlain* aided flood victims in Valencia, Spain. The squadron evacuated victims and distributed emergency supplies.

October 23, 1983 Terrorist truck bomb blew up headquarters of 1st Battalion, 8th Marines at Beirut airport, killing 241 Americans, 220 of whom were Marines.

November 9, 1968 Major Walter Cunningham, an Apollo VII astronaut, received Naval Astronaut wings from General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.

November 10-14, 1947 Full-scale amphibious operations were conducted by the 1st Marine Division (Camp Pendleton) off the coast of Southern California.

November 20, 1959 300 Marines from the 1st Infantry Training Battalion, along with Marines from the 5th and 7th Marines at Camp Pendleton, joined civilian fire fighters in battling fires in the Las Pulgas and Aliso Canyon areas of California.

December 2, 1958 650 Camp Pendleton Marines of 2d Infantry Training Regiment assisted fire department and forestry service personnel in fighting a forest fire in the area around Malibu, CA.

December 9, 1992 Marines landed in Somalia to rescue foreign civilians in Mogadishu.

December 20, 1989 Marines were part of a force that tried to capture Panama's dictator, Manuel Noriega.

December 25-27, 1955 Marine Transport Squadrons 152 and 352 from El Toro flew food, clothing and medical supplies to flood-stricken areas of Northern California.



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ATTENTION ON DECK

Committee Memberships and Mid-Winter Conference

The National Commandant is accepting nominations for committee membership. Those interested, please send a resume along with the committee name to coo@mcleague.org. The information will be collected for the National Commandant's review.

The 2020 National Mid-Winter Conference will be located at Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA, 23510. For reservations, call 1-800-325-3535 or call the hotel directly at 757-622-6664. Please refer to the conference tab in the MCL Library for more information. The hotel includes complimentary self-parking.

2020 National Convention Information

Start your planning now for the 2020 National Convention, which will be held August 9-14, at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 N. Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL. For reservations, call 1-866-536-8477 and use code MCL20. **SIF**

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 Please CC the Chief Operating Officer Bob Borka at bborka@MCLLeague.org

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Feb. 19, 1945. Marines storm ashore on Iwo Jima.

COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES

A Final Tribute to a Gallant Marine

By Patrick Godsey

The Memorial Ceremony of USMC Pvt Carl Strong

On July 13, 2019, nearly 75 years after a Japanese sniper's bullet took his life on Iwo Jima, USMC Pvt Carl Monroe Strong of Bulan, KY, was honored by fellow Marines at a remote hilltop cemetery 30 miles north of the mountain town of Hazard. Over the previous 30 years, this difficult-to-locate, tree-canopied cemetery had been Carl's third and final resting place. Carl's gravesite and eventful life story were lost to time until a few years ago, when another Kentuckian and former Marine Bobby Godsey, then living on the coast

of North Carolina, began sharing memories of Carl Strong with his son, Patrick. Though Carl was several years older, he and Bobby had been friends. They eventually became family when Carl married Bobby's first cousin. Bobby and Patrick shared a strong desire to find Carl's gravesite. They began searching for it so they could pay tribute to him.

The Early Years

Bobby Godsey and others provided accounts of Carl that revealed that he was a good fighter and not afraid of mixing it up. He made it through the 8th grade and then ended his schooling years by opting to work the next 10 years in the

coal mines. Unfortunately, trouble found Carl regardless of whether he was a civilian in the mountains of Kentucky or a Private in the Marine Corps. He could survive almost anything by using his physical abilities along with a little bit of that ingrained Kentucky Hillbilly heritage. These attributes got him out of many jams, in which he often found himself entangled. His lineage provided him with a sometimes volatile combination of brashness, charm, strength, fearlessness, bull-headedness and the hillbilly variation of "street smarts." During World War II, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, and in a little over a year, Pvt Carl Monroe Strong from the Kentucky mountains



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Last rites for a fallen Marine on Iwo Jima.

would be going ashore with the first wave of assault troops onto Iwo Jima. He would not leave that island for another 3 years.

D-Day Landing on Green Beach

On the morning of February 19, 1945, Pvt Carl Strong, with 1st Battalion, B Company of the 28th Marine Regiment, part of the 5th Marine Division, climbed into one of the many waiting LVTs that would take him ashore on Iwo Jima. He had been assigned to land on Green Beach, the landing zone closest to the base of Mt. Suribachi. Carl had two important dates to keep. The first was a date with history where he would be at the tip of the spear for this historic battle. The second was a date with his death. Nearly 7,000 other young Marines would also make these two dates in the coming weeks.

Carl fought bravely and valiantly in heavy combat. He was at the center of the desperate fight to secure the base of Mt. Suribachi when he witnessed his Marine brothers from the 2nd Battalion raise that iconic flag over the captured mountain. With the U.S. flag proudly waving above Mt. Suribachi, Carl and B Company continued fighting their way across the island of Iwo Jima. In addition to the battle at Mt. Suribachi, the Company engaged in the horrific battles for Hill 362A, Hill 215, Nishi Ridge, the badlands and finally Kitano Point to name a few. Kitano Point, for good reason, would soon be known by a different name—Bloody Gorge.

By the time Carl had reached the far

end of the island where the final great battle of Iwo Jima was to take place, he had been in combat for 24 days. On March 14, 1945, a day after arriving at Bloody Gorge, an unseen Japanese sniper silently rose from underground. Noticing the many Marines of the 28th Regiment advancing on his position, he lifted his rifle, took aim at one of them at the forefront and fired. The sniper's bullet ripped through Pvt Carl Strong's chest, killing him instantly.

Pvt Carl Monroe Strong of Kentucky had been one of the first Marines to land and one of the last to fall on Iwo Jima. One can only imagine the many acts of heroism he must have performed from that initial February 19 landing on Green Beach to his final minutes at Bloody Gorge. One can only imagine the many fellow Marines' lives he may have saved over those weeks of intense combat. Carl had left his home and family to fight for America when she called. He could not have known for sure that he would never see either again. Nearly 3 weeks passed before his mother and father received the sad news of their son's death via telegram from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. A. A. Vandegrift.

USMC Pvt Carl Strong was buried in the 5th Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima in 1945.

However, a few years later, the Marines returned to Iwo Jima to bring their fallen brothers home. The Marine Corps is *Semper Fidelis* (always faithful) and was determined that not one of their brothers be permanently abandoned on that island. In 1948, Carl's remains were taken back to his small mountain hometown in what relatives described as a box. The time spent under that steamy volcanic sand of Iwo Jima had seen to it that a full-size casket would not be necessary. That box, with Carl's remains, was presented to his parents, and he was buried for a second time in the Godsey family farm graveyard in Bulan. However, in the mid-1980s, Carl was moved yet again and buried for a third time somewhere farther north, with no military honors. For a great American like Carl, this was not acceptable to the Godsey's or the Marines. It took some time, but in 2018, Carl's third and final resting place was finally discovered in a remote, unsigned, hilltop graveyard, deep in the Appalachian Mountains. Soon after, plans to pay tribute to Carl with a memo-

rial service with full military honors began. Sadly, at this same time, Bobby Godsey, the one who had started it all, passed away unexpectedly.

USMC Honor Guard Ceremony

Patrick contacted Greg Sims, Commandant of Marine Corps League Detachment 1448 in Williamsburg, KY. Greg immediately took the lead in putting together the memorial to honor this Iwo Jima Marine. Detachment 1448 is the J.C. Paul Detachment, named after another brave Kentucky Marine and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for acts of heroism in Vietnam.

Greg coordinated the many military entities involved in this long overdue honor ceremony. Finding USMC volunteers for a Kentucky Iwo Jima Marine killed in action did not prove difficult. Upon arriving at the very remote and difficult to ascend Appalachian mountaintop cemetery, everyone's eyes scanned across the approximately two dozen headstones up there. Attention shifted toward one far corner of the graveyard where a lone military headstone stood out from the others. Even before arriving beside it, the letters "USMC" became discernible.

In attendance at the July 13, 2019, memorial were numerous civilians and over a dozen Marines, both active and inactive duty. It had been nearly 75 years since his death, but Carl Strong's Marine brothers had once again returned to his side to pay tribute to him for the sacrifice he made. Additionally, there were members from the Army, Army National Guard and Navy. On either side of Carl's headstone, the Marines placed an American flag and a Marine Corps flag. The large U.S. burial flag was positioned over his grave, secured several inches above the ground.

Greg Sims got the ceremony started with a short welcoming introductory speech.

He then turned the service over to Kentucky Army National Guard Chaplain, Captain Tyler Shields, who continued with a prayer and a statement of praise for Carl. Patrick Godsey followed by describing Carl's journey from Bulan to Iwo Jima. This included the intense fighting he went through, where and how he died and how he came to be buried three times.

Chaplain Shields then introduced a special guest speaker, Navy Hospital Corpsman Burnett Napier. Now 94 years old, Mr. Napier had known Carl growing up near in Bulan. Mr. Napier recalled that



SHUTTER BLADE MEDIA

Greg Sims of the J.C. Paul Detachment 1448 officiates the opening of the memorial service for USMC Pvt Carl Strong.

Carl was good at sports and described him as being a bit tougher and bigger than most of the others. He also described Carl as a good person on “the side of right” and told how Carl had rescued him from bullies on the playground. Like Carl Strong, Mr. Napier was part of the “Greatest Generation” and served as a Navy Hospital Corpsman in WWII.

Following Corpsman Napier, Mike Leaverton, Commandant of Kentucky Marine Corps League Detachment 1342 in Frankfort spoke. Leaverton shared some poignant facts that Mr. Napier had humbly left out. He described Corpsman Napier’s WWII exploits on the bloody islands of Okinawa and Peleliu, where he earned a Silver Star.

At the conclusion of his speech, “Taps” sounded out and echoed over the mountaintop and into the valley.

A rifle detachment of four Marine Corps League Marines, most of whom had fought in Vietnam, fired three volleys each from their M1 Garands, the same rifle that Carl had carried on Iwo Jima.

The Honor Guard detail, consisting of



SHUTTER BLADE MEDIA

WWII Navy Corpsman and Silver Star recipient who served in the Battle of Peleliu, Burnett Napier of Kentucky speaks at the memorial service for USMC Pvt Carl Strong.



SHUTTER BLADE MEDIA

Memorial service for USMC Pvt Carl Strong. *Left to right:* D.L. Madden—MCL Bluegrass Det. 1012, Joe Grillon—MCL J.C. Paul Det. 1448, Mike Leaverton—Commandant MCL Presley O'Bannon Det. 1342, Forrest Cook—MCL Dan Daly Det. 858, Jeffery Atwood —MCL Victor H. Carr Det. 1447, USMC Honor Guard: LCpl Luis, SSgt Kittle, Sgt Gomilar, Sgt Morris—MP A Co., 4th Law Enforcement Bn., Lexington, KY.

active duty Marines in full Dress Blues, smartly and reverently folded the burial flag. The “Marine Corps Hymn” played, with all in attendance singing along. Chaplain Shields gave a special thanks to Pvt Carl Strong for his sacrifice. He concluded the ceremony with a prayer, thanking God for the opportunity to honor an American like Carl Strong.

Chaplain Captain Shields also stated, “Being part of this memorial is among the top few experiences I’ve had in my military career. I was humbled to play a small part in honoring the sacrifice of this great American. It was a unique opportunity to link the past with the present. Few in my generation will have the opportunity to honor someone of the Greatest Generation, let alone one that fell during such a historic battle. I will never forget this experience.”

As he began to descend the mountain, Patrick turned back for one last look at Carl’s headstone. There he saw Greg Sims and his wife Cathy; they were the last to leave Carl. Greg had done most of the heavy lifting to get the ceremony coordinated and completed. He did it to honor a brother and a fellow Marine.

To Marines, “SEMPER FIDELIS” isn’t just a slogan or a motto—it’s their DNA.

Final Reflections

Carl,
Thank You for giving your all so that I,



SHUTTER BLADE MEDIA

USMC Pvt Carl Strong’s third burial location, near Whick, KY.

and so many other Americans, could live in a country with freedom. I promise never to forget your selfless bravery and sacrifice, and I will never forget you. **SIF**

...
To learn more about the memorial service, see thetimestribune.com, search for “Carl Strong Memorial.”

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Marine Corps League member and veteran Marine Andrew Biggio.

The Marine Behind “They Fought We Ride”

Young Veteran Marine Andrew Biggio

By Warren C. Griffin

Our Marine Corps League has motivated young veteran Marines who are as hard charging as any Marine in our history. One of these exceptional young veterans and League members is Andy Biggio.

I first met Andy in 2007. The Iraq/Afghanistan veterans were establishing an office in the Massachusetts State House in Boston. They hoped to be able to monitor and advo-

cate for their era of veterans. Their office is directly across from our Marine Corps League office, which I occupy. Being Marines, we automatically had a bond. Andy joined the League, and we agreed that there should be a mutual respect and support for our two offices. I could provide “old guy” advice, and Andy could provide “new guy” advice. One of the first revelations Andy noted for me was that young veterans operate through social

media. His suggestion was start with Facebook, which I was not on. Lesson learned.

Vinnie’s Run

Andy had served with Fox Company 2/25 in Iraq and would later serve with Bravo Company 1/25 in Afghanistan serving as a Sergeant. These deployments would be very important in what would turn out to be Andy’s mission. The third office in our

triangle at the State House is the Korean Veterans Association Office which is well-manned by Jeff Brodeur. In 2007, while serving with the 82nd Airborne in Iraq, Jeff's son, Vincent Mannion-Brodeur, was injured by an IED and would undergo 40 operations over the course of a year. Within the first month of this tragedy, Andy came to me and said that Jeff would now have to modify his home to accommodate Vincent, and this modification would be very costly. Andy had an idea to try to organize a motorcycle ride to raise money for Vincent. "Vinnie's Run" was, well, off and running. The ride attracted about 3,000 riders and was able to raise tens of thousands of dollars to provide the money needed to properly transform Jeff's home to one that welcomes their hero Vinnie every day. Andy now had his mission established and was looking to expand it as far as he could.

Back to the State House. The state does provide funds for rehabilitating homes of those injured in war. Unfortunately, the law had not been updated since just after WWII. Perhaps they didn't think Vietnam guys needed an increase. Andy began to lobby the senators and representatives for support to increase funding for these veterans. One representative said that he had to support this measure because he was Andy's local representative; Andy would check in with him at his house on Saturday mornings just to make sure he was doing all he could, talking to other representatives about the bill. It should be noted that while Andy was doing this, he was still in the reserves with the 25th Marines and was a full-time student at Suffolk University. He received his BA in 2010 and his MA in Homeland Security from Northeastern in 2018. Andy's perseverance paid off. Legislation was passed and signed into law by the governor, allowing \$70,000 for rehabbing disabled veterans homes.

Realizing that he had a concept that was successful in one state, Andy looked to expand this motorcycle run to other states. Through his tenacious efforts, this concept is now the fabric of 13 states. It comes under the umbrella of "They Fought We Ride" (theyfoughtweride.com). He is also working to make this an international effort, expanding the program over the pond to Great Britain. I am sure there will be no problem getting combat veteran Prince Harry on board. I would also like to interject that while deployed to Afghanistan, when he was able to get internet access, Andy directed the volunteers back home in organizing the next run. I emailed him and told him he had a great group of volunteers and just worry about what's going on over there.

At this writing, 100 veterans have directly

benefitted from these events. The relief these veterans and their families receive is boundless. These events will continue until they are no longer needed.

Andy is the namesake of his granduncle who was killed in World War II in Italy. Fortunately, letters from his uncle were preserved. Andy began reading these letters wanting to know more about this hero for whom he was named. One of the things that struck him was his uncle's love of his M1 Garand rifle. Andy bought an M1 because of this and then thought of the history involved with this weapon. Another journey was underway. Andy began writing a book, *The Rifle*. Andy traveled around the country asking World War II veterans to autograph his rifle and tell their story. Over the past 2 years, he has met with 100 of these veterans and recorded their stories to be incorporated into his book. *The Rifle* should be out this December with the foreword written by our own Woody Williams.

Another Mission

While meeting with the WWII veterans, Andy met Rocco Telese, 85th Infantry Division, and Albert Bucharelli, 3rd Infantry Division. These two veterans had fought in Italy like Andy's granduncle. Through donations Andy was able to take these two veterans back to Italy. It must be noted through all these exploits that Andy pays his own way. In 1943, Albert lost his leg when the soldier in front of him stepped on a mine, killing him. This other soldier was known only as Ray. Albert never knew his last name, but as luck would have it, Andy currently serves as a police officer in Winthrop, MA. He used his detective skills and tracked down the unit and who was killed on that day in 1943 named Ray. He was successful, and they were able to visit the grave in Italy of Ray James to pay their respects and bring some closure to this event in Albert's life. As a fun sidelight to this journey, Rocco had some pictures of himself as a soldier in Italy. In one village, one of the women pointed to herself in the picture. A reunion many years in the making!

While the nation and the president paid proper homage to the veterans of D-Day in Normandy, France, there were two veterans in Rome with a young Andy Biggio to honor the men who had liberated Rome on that day in 1943. This motivated Andy to put together a trip for those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. This will be the 75th Anniversary of this battle, which ultimately led to the fall of Nazi Germany under Adolph Hitler. He will be taking 13 World War II veterans who fought in this battle to Luxembourg and Bastogne. Andy's grandfather fought in this

battle with the 10th Armored Division. This trip will be December 12-17, 2019. There will be 40 people going on this trip—veterans and first responders. All those accompanying these veterans are paying their own way.

Andy believes that this is a way for the young veterans to say good bye to the older veterans as there probably will not be any 80th anniversary celebrations.

To the League

Andy Biggio is a young veteran Marine who has that special drive and desire to make a difference. Let's bring in as many "Andys" as we can to keep us moving forward. We are one tribe. **SIF**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Phone: 903-340-9402

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Keeping Growls all business creates a recipe for disinterest



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

- From the MODD Handbook

MARINES: I hope you all had as great of a time as I did at our 80th Supreme Growl in Billings, MT. I first want to thank all of the Dogs in attendance for voting me in as your 59th Chief Devil Dog. It is an honor of a lifetime, and I promise you all that I will do everything possible to make our Growls as fun and meaningful as possible. Be prepared to have give-away gift games and other entertainment that will allow for some fun time between business sessions. As I have stated for years, it is without a doubt that “If you keep it fun, they will come.” If you make your Growls fun, your existing Dogs will return, and you’ll attract new Dogs to the Order. It is one of my biggest goals to make suggestions and to demonstrate that all it takes is a bit of imagination and a desire to have some fun for your Growls to attract the members who stopped attending, members who allowed their memberships to expire and MCL members to take notice of the change. No one wants to sit through constant business meetings; keeping your Growls totally about business creates a recipe for failure and disinterest.

For those of you who have read my articles and reports, you know that I believe our Order does amazing things when it comes to supporting our veterans and our kids who are unfortunately suffering illnesses that require them to be confined to our many VA and children’s hospitals. I can’t think of any two causes to support as great as our veterans and our children. My goal before leaving as your Chief is to be the first CDD to raise over \$100,000 “Big Bones” for children in a single year; watch out Daytona Beach, another new record is on its way!



This will require a great effort for many of you to accomplish this goal. I have every bit of faith in our Order that we will succeed.

Our greatest gift to our nation is the veteran. So many millions of veterans are suffering illnesses and injuries from service-connected problems. Please, visit your local VA hospitals to stop in and say hello to the patients; some of them have no family or friends visiting them. The only visitors they receive are from the hospital staff. I know from my many visits to our VA hospitals that just a friendly conversation to let patients know they are not forgotten means the world to them. If your Pounds or detachments have a chance to select and adopt a VA hospital, hold events like bingo or a holiday party to allow the patients to forget their dreary surroundings and have some fun.

I look forward to the year ahead and will keep in contact with the staff via phone conferences and emails. The best way to observe Dogs in action is to attend your Growls; I will do my very best to attend as many Growls as possible.

Please remember that common sense and discretion must be used when it comes to posting photos online of our Dogs in action. What may appear funny to some, might be embarrassing to others. If you have any doubts about posting something, chances are, you shouldn’t.

Thank you all for the great things you continue to do for our Order and League; I commend you for the many community services you provide.

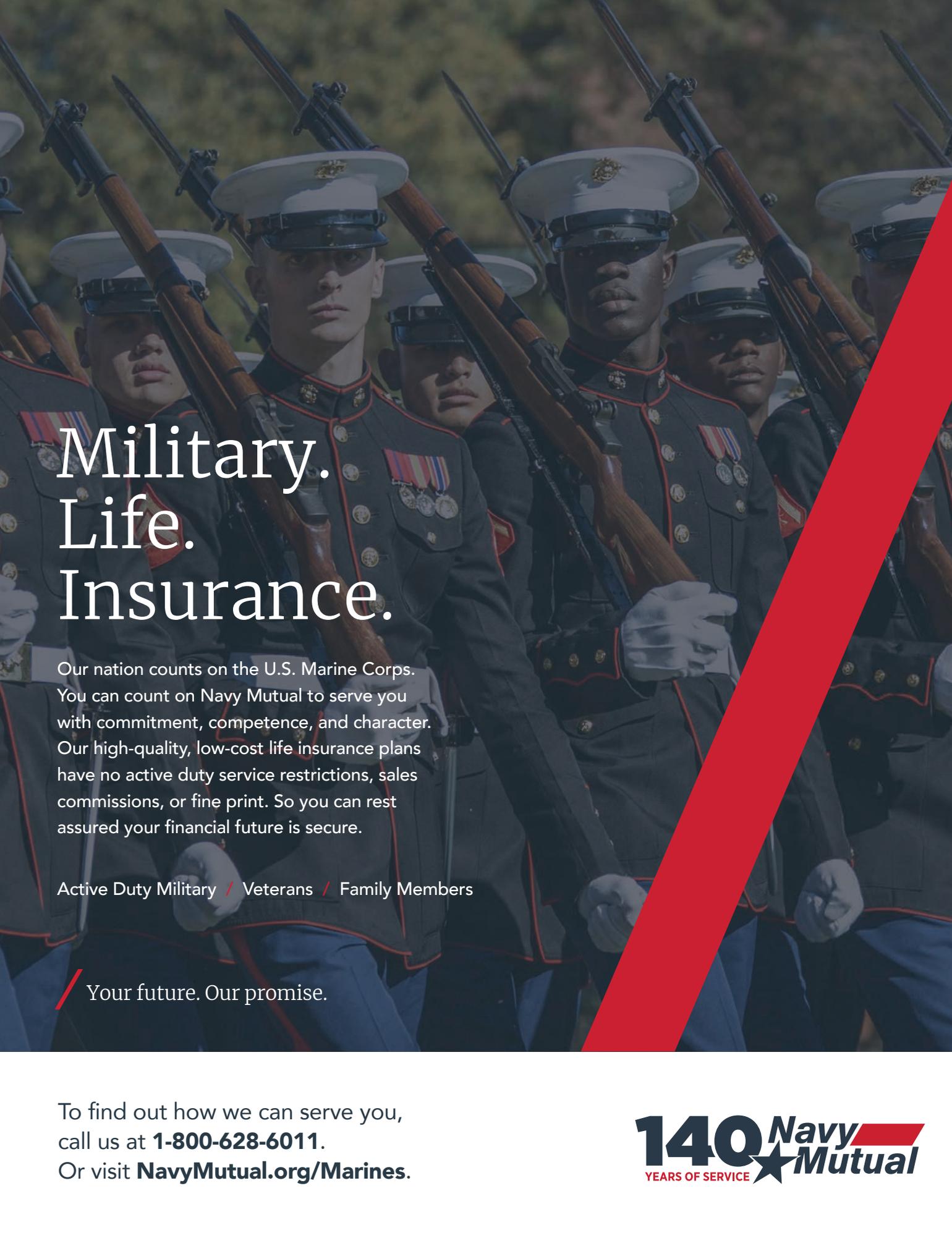
Semper Woof!



LCpl Joshua E. Witsman Pound 384, Urbana, IL, received its Charter from the 58th Chief Devil Dog Leonard Spicer on July 14, 2019.



Florida Pack Devil Dogs of Pound 124 get their new Charter at their Grand Growl. Woof, Woof!



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NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCLA



EVELYN JOPPA

Encourage members to be all that they can be



MARINES: The National Convention in Billings, MT, was a success, and if you couldn't make it you missed a great time. More importantly, we missed you! Congratulations to Carol Smith and her team. Our Auxiliary is stronger and more able to help our Marines, veterans, families and communities because of their leadership.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the National President. As we embark on a new operating year, I appreciate the trust and confidence the membership has placed in the leadership team. In the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." I look forward to working with our team to keep the ideals and principles strong with the help of our valuable membership. We have a great organization, but we must strive to be better and do more.

To accomplish our mission, we need to continue to recruit and mentor our members. This is the responsibility of every member. As we started our journey in the auxiliary, many members have helped us learn the valuable lessons of service and leadership. Each member has learned to serve and lead in her own way. Ours is not to judge their service or leadership, but to acknowledge the value of different ways success can happen. Embrace new ideas and different approaches and learn. Adapt to change. Encourage members to be all that they can be in their own way.

The Modern Day Marine Expo is an amazing event. It was an honor to attend and represent the Auxiliary. While there, I had the opportunity to work in the National Office with our very capable and resourceful secretary, Karen Grady. The office is well organized, and it's easy to see the many tasks accomplished daily.

Happy Birthday Marines! November 10 is the 244th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. I hope you are able celebrate this extraordinary occasion with your Marine family. It will be my honor to represent the Auxiliary at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day. I will be accompanied by the banner bearers Nila Calder and Carry McIntosh.

To the Marine Corps League, we wish you much success in the ensuing year. We are here to assist.

Semper Fi!

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PHONE: (571) 477-2780
EMAIL: MCLAHQ@NATIONALMCLA.ORG
WWW.NATIONALMCLA.ORG

League Auxiliary Activities

Sidney Minchin presented Debby Krueger with the Humanitarian 4 Chaplains award on August 5, 2019.



PNP Virginia Johnson, an auxiliary member of over 50 years, received the VAVS Distinguished Service Award from the League at the National Convention in Billings, MT, for her many years of service and tremendous fundraising to benefit hospitalized veterans. PNP Virginia Johnson is pictured with National President Carol Smith.

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PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION INC.

GERARD DEVLIN

Platinum level of transparency, means we are your Foundation

MARINES: At this year's MCL National Convention in Billings, MT, the MCL Foundation presented the annual educational award to the Young Marine of the Year, while announcing the many other youth programs supported by the MCL Foundation per our Charter and By-laws. Thanks to those who donated at the Convention.

The current MCL Foundation Board of Directors currently consists of myself as President, Mike Dighero as Vice President, Harry McCann as Secretary, Bill Miller as Treasurer and Polly Weidenkopf as Director. There are currently two vacant positions which will be filled by our new National Commandant, Dennis Tobin.

Our Treasurer, Bill Miller, issued a challenge to every MCL detachment and department as well as the MCL Auxiliary units and departments, asking that each of them send a donation of at least \$100 to the MCL Foundation; if everyone did so, it would mean over \$100,000 in donations. The response has been excellent so far with some donating on the Convention floor and others making verbal commitments to take this challenge back with them. Updates will be provided throughout the year on this challenge.

You can now donate through Facebook and other online sites using PayPal. Without continued support by donations, the MCL Foundation will be hard-pressed to maintain funds to assist those in need. We continue to appreciate the donations and gifts from across the country from both MCL members and other associations. All assistance from the MCL Foundation is a "One Time Lifetime grant of assistance."

The Memorial Certificate program continues to be the most honorable way to say "Thanks" to those who have received PCS orders to stand guard at the Pearly Gate. For the low price of \$25 per certificate, you can have the certificates delivered in a red MCL Foundation certificate holder, and for \$100, a framed memorial certificate will be sent. Detachments and departments should keep blank certificates on hand as it is the fastest way to provide immediate thanks and honoring, so it's a good idea to purchase blank certificates.

As you know, each year the Foundation is given an approved list of scholarship applicants, and as the number of approved applicants have increased over the last few years, donations to the scholarship fund have decreased. The Foundation will not be able to sustain the scholarship program if donations do not increase, so please consider a recurring or even just a single donation to the MCL Foundation Scholarship Fund.

The MCL Foundation has again been rated by GuideStar as a Platinum Level of transparency nonprofit. This is a very prestigious rating, since many donors check nonprofits' transparency levels and work performed through GuideStar before donating.

Hope to see you in Norfolk, VA, for the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference. When you pass an MCL Foundation Board member or volunteer, saying a simple thank you for the work they're doing means a lot and is the only compensation they receive.

Semper Fi!

CEO, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

Successful summer for Young Marines programs

MARINES: I know all of you would be proud of the young men and women of the Young Marines program, and we're grateful for your support as many detachments and divisions sponsor Young Marines to attend summer programs. This year, our summer adventures started with our National Leadership Academy on the Northern Oregon Coast. Additional adventures included outdoor survival, drill and ceremonies (instructed by our own SgtMaj Overstreet, so you know they learned some solid drill), National Flight Academy, orienteering, historical adventures and many more. As you can imagine, we strive to ensure that all our programs and vendors used for these adventures support our shared common values of the MCL and YM programs, and it's through your continued support that we're able to accomplish just that.

In May, we hosted a phenomenal Adult Leaders Conference in Orlando, FL. We kicked off with a patriotic and moving live singing of the National Anthem while an artist painted the Iwo Jima flag raising (check out our Facebook page). We are working with the artist, Joe Everson, to sell a limited-edition print. We were also blessed to have Marines Dennis Tobin and Johnny Baker present to interact with our top Young Marines and over 325 volunteer leaders from around the

country. We recognized the League's support, and our alumni presented a special new award in memory of Sam Beamon, MCL member and an original Young Marine.

Our National Leadership Academy saw 200 Young Marines from around the country assemble for a weeklong intensive training session. Our Advanced Leaders and Cadre spent 2 weeks undergoing skill enhancement. Events included land navigation, drill, physical fitness and classes/sessions on leadership, ethics, stress management, public speaking and etiquette. Advanced leaders spent an entire day on land navigation training, including a field mess night and night land navigation. If your local detachment has Young Marines attending any summer programs, please ask them to tell you all about it, especially a National or Local Leadership Academy. If you don't have a local Young Marines unit, ask me how to start one as you are truly missing out on a unit multiplier!

I look forward to seeing you at Modern Day Marine (MDM) in September at Quantico. Our annual golf tournament will be October 16. SgtMaj Overstreet is again wrangling the past Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps to attend, so we hope to see a big group this fall.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

JOHNNY B. BAKER

Initiate and implement dynamic programs

MARINES: It was a great National Convention in Billings, MT. I am proud of Commandant Tobin and the rest of the National Board of Trustees. We had many changes to the Board to include the newly elected National Judge Advocate. It truly was an honor for me to be elected as your National Senior Vice Commandant. Let me ensure you that I am here for each member of the League, and I recognize that I am here because of every member of the League. For your continued confidence in my abilities, I will be eternally grateful, and my promise is always do what is right "For the Good of the League."

What is expected of me as your National Senior Vice Commandant? The National Bylaws state the National Senior Vice Commandant "shall give every assistance to the National Commandant, and during the absence or illness of the National Commandant, perform the duties of that office. He shall preside over all Department Commandants' Council Conferences and, with their assistance, initiate and implement dynamic programs [that] will increase the effectiveness of the MCL. The National Senior Vice Commandant will be designated the MCL's 'Corporate Secretary' and shall be directly responsible to the National Board of Trustees for that position."

The most important part of this duty is "initiate and implement



dynamic programs that will increase the effectiveness of the MCL." This should be all MCL members' responsibility. I request that you send your Department Commandant any ideas and programs that you feel the League should consider. We are at a point where we must be innovative and creative in our business of the League. The Board of Trustees constantly strives to make our League better, but I know there are members who can also make our League better.

While we prepare for the Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, VA, and the National Convention next year in Daytona Beach, FL, I am seeking all Marines' advice and suggestions. At the Conference and Convention, we will have a "Commandant's Council" that will afford an opportunity for the Department Commandants to report what is working within their own departments. This is an opportunity for all members to make recommendations (through their Department Commandant) and get their voices heard at the highest level of our organization. Make a difference "For the Good of the League."

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

We are the bond that helps Marines who have been discharged

MARINES: Welcome all to our new Marine Corps League year. Thank you, Wendell Webb, for your hours of work getting us onto the proper path as an organization. This will enable the League to maintain itself for decades to come, as long as we work together. Commandant Tobin you have the support of all as you lead us into our new future, and our future is bright. There is no question you will do well.

Thank you to the membership for your vote of confidence to allow me to serve as your National Junior Vice Commandant. The membership is the life blood of our League, and it is my mission to grow the League with new blood. This can and will be done.

I transitioned to the League 30 years after I got out of the Marine Corps. Why such a gap? I had not heard of the League. That would not be my fault. I have always been proud of being a veteran and serving my country, but I have always been prouder of serving my country as a Marine. We are a special breed. The transition from ANGLICO (Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company) to the Marine Corps League was delayed but finally accomplished. My bond with the tribe was reestablished. We have always been in need of doing a better job of marketing ourselves. This I believe is my major task.



We are the bond that helps Marines who have been discharged and need that sense of belonging to the tribe. In listening to stories of Marines who are experiencing some sort of conflict, many times they acknowledge they miss that connection they had while serving. It is something simple but so meaningful.

Who do we want to join us in our mission of support and comradery? All

Marines bleed green—the young, the old, the men, the women, enlisted and officers, those who served on active duty and those who served in the reserves, all colors and creeds. Right now, if you look around, we are lacking in some of these demographics. We need to make that big transition by reaching out to others who may not look like most of us today. Remember we are all Marines; we all bleed green. This is our life's blood—keep it flowing!

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

T.J. MORGAN

Perception of the League is something to take seriously

MARINES: What a great convention in Billings, MT! First and foremost, I would like to thank the League members for putting your faith and trust in me as the next National Judge Advocate. It has been a long journey for me in the League, and I will remain humble, work hard and serve you well moving forward.

One thing I need to address is to all the other JAs out there. If you are in the unfortunate position of a Chapter 9, please make sure anyone involved in it can be impartial and fair. I hold those standards and so should you. Perception of the League is something to take seriously, and a future battle can be avoided. As discussed in Billings, I will look into a mediation process that hopefully will deter a situation from becoming a Chapter 9.

I will be seeking a group of MCL members who have been around and participated in the Chapter 9 process and look at a re-write or a process to clarify this entire chapter to include but not be limited to the mediation process mentioned above, a glossary of definitions to help you in your process of a Chapter 9 if it arises. We need to make this section clear, concise and easy to understand.

I am here to serve you, so communications is always first and foremost. Telephone conversations are a fine thing, but if you are looking



for a ruling on something, I will require you to address that question in an email, and I will reply in an email. This is to ensure that there is no miscommunication, paraphrasing or interpreting a phone conversation. I pride myself in a fast response time and have done so everywhere in my MCL career.

Department JAs, it is my intention to make an effort to email you as a group at least once a quarter and see how things are going. I also want to hear

your thoughts and concerns. We are in this together, so it's vital for our organization to stay in touch. I will always reply to an email with professional courtesy to let you know I have received it, and I expect the same from all of you.

In closing it is an honor to continue to serve the League and partner with everyone in making our MCL a gold star VSO.

Semper Fi!



NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF THE MARINE CORPS

AMERICAN HISTORY AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF MARINES

MacGillivray Freeman's

WE, THE MARINES

NOW PLAYING IN OUR
GIANT-SCREEN THEATER...



IMMERSIVE AND INTERACTIVE

exhibits surround visitors
with irreplaceable artifacts
and the sights and sounds
of Marines in action.



TREE OF LIGHTS

Tree Lighting Ceremony, **11:00am, Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019**
at the Marine Corps League National Headquarters

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

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

As a light sponsor, your name (or the name of your organization) will be listed on a special **Scroll of Honor** to be displayed at the ceremony and to be posted on our website: usmarinesyouthfoundation.org throughout year of 2020.

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

Person or Organization giving the Light _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

TYPE OF GIFT:

IN HONOR OF _____

(list name as you would like it displayed on the *Scroll of Honor*)

IN MEMORY OF _____

(list name as you would like it displayed on the *Scroll of Honor*)

YEAR-END GIFT to the United States Marines Youth Foundation

TYPE OF LIGHT: ___ \$500 Red ___ \$250 Gold ___ \$100 Blue ___ \$ 50 Green ___ \$ 25 White ___ \$ 10 Clear

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

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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

Send with your check payable to:

U. S. Marines Youth Foundation

3619 Jefferson Davis Highway

Suite 115

Stafford, VA 22554



Forms should be received prior to December 1st to guarantee inclusion on the **Scroll of Honor** that will be displayed at the Tree Lighting Ceremony. However, we will continue to accept donations through December 31st, at which time the final Scroll of Honor will be placed on display at the National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League and on the website of the United States Marines Youth Foundation (www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org).
Questions? Please call (703) 207-9588

DIVISION REPORTS

All members need to play a part in their detachments



Phil Zamora
NVC, Central Division



MARINES: After enjoying the National Convention in Billings, it will be time for the best season of them all—fall and college football. I'm a huge fan, and I can't wait to relax and watch a few games. Get together with your detachment members and get a little camaraderie going; don't go to your meetings and not see everyone until the next meeting, or even worse see members at a Marine's funeral and then kick yourself because you were too busy to get together—we all do it. Earlier this year, I suggested to my detachment that we need to get together on Saturdays and go to breakfast. The first month we had about twelve members; the second month we didn't advertise it, so there were three of us; but the third and fourth months, 10 to 15 members attended. Hopefully, the numbers will continue to grow! Please do this with your members and

include your spouses or significant others. Get together before it's too late to see those important members in your life.

One thing that I've been trying to push is getting involved. I talk to numerous members, and it's always the same conversation: they and a few others are the only ones doing all the work in their detachments. I have no answer for this except to say to the membership: get involved, get involved, get involved. We can't continue to ask the same few people to do all the work of the detachments/departments. If you want to try something new, then suggest it at a detachment meeting and show that it will help your detachment grow and prosper. Don't be afraid to speak up at a detachment meeting to suggest new things—it may be what helps your detachment to thrive.

Last thing, for those dues paying members who haven't yet paid their fiscal year 2020 dues, please get them in to your local paymasters so we can get them processed.

Put your hand out to fellow Marines, Corpsman and Navy Chaplains and explain to them what you do in your detachments and invite them to join you to help not only veterans but your communities, as well, so they know who the Marine Corps League really is.

Semper Fi!

Looking forward to the next two years



Roger Ware
Mideast Division



MARINES: Greetings to all members in the Mideast Division! I thank all of you for electing me as your new National Vice Commandant at the 96th National Convention in Billings, MT.

It's an honor to serve all of you in this position as well as represent you wherever I travel. I want to recognize past division NVCs Bud Raines, Mike McLain and Bruce Rakfeldt for their multiple years of service and dedication to our Division. Their advice and mentoring helped prepare me to be your NVC. I, along with your newly elected Assistant Division Vice Commandant Rick Thomason (DoNC), look forward to continuing our Division's momentum in accomplishing the League's mission.

One of my goals is to focus on retaining our current members and using social media sources to recruit younger members. The

lifeblood of the MCL is educating new members about our mission and the advantage of staying connected to the Marines via the MCL. Several hundred Marines are discharged yearly, and the Marine For Life Network helps them interact and network as they transition to civilian life. They seek education, employment and starting a family. We need to be proactive with Marine Corps recruiters to extend our outreach in the communities.

Communication is the key to any successful organization, and I want to ensure all our Department Commandants have the information and tools they need to keep them updated regarding our National organization. Our outgoing National Commandant Wendell Webb, his National Board of Trustees and Chief Operating Officer Bob Borka have done an outstanding job reorganizing and restructuring our National organization. They all deserve our gratitude for all of the hard work they put in and the dedication they have for our League.

Looking forward, the Modern Day Marine Expo will be held September 17-19 in Quantico. Volunteers are always needed to help with this event. As in past years, let's continue to provide all of the assistance we can to make this event successful. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve as your National Vice Commandant for the next 2 years. As I visit your departments and detachments, I look forward to meeting old friends and making new ones.

Take care of yourselves and those you love; let's always keep our deployed and overseas Marines, Chaplains and Corpsmen in our thoughts and prayers.

Semper Fi!

Ensure the League Bylaws are followed



Harvey L. Harris

**NVC, Midwest
Division**



MARINES: Since the last *Semper Fi* issue, all departments have conducted their conferences, and newly elected officers have been installed. I would like to welcome all new officers of the MWD; now we must ensure our departments/detachments are run according to the League Bylaws and encourage our membership to grow. As a reminder to the newly elected officers, it is imperative that you read, follow and understand the duties for the office you now hold.

You can find the information to review on the MCL website: www.mclnational.org. Download and review the detachment guidebook. A review of the requirements will make your department/detachment more effective and efficient. One issue is the combining of officers' duties. A Commandant cannot hold the position of or act as the Paymaster at the same time. The Paymaster must keep a

true and accurate record of all monies received and expended by the detachment, along with accurate invoicing/billing, receipts and the membership approval for all disbursement of funds. Receipts must reflect the item purchased along with the amount. Current Bylaws indicate that all expenditures will be made only by check. By following this simple guideline, questions and problems can/will be eliminated before they begin or spiral out of control.

The Midwest Division Fall Conference will be hosted by North Star Detachment 943 and Department of Minnesota, on September 27-28, 2019, and I hope a good time will be had by all.

I would like to thank the members of the Midwest Division who recruited at least one new member. In checking our recent National Roster membership numbers, the MWD gained more members than we lost. Those lost were due to failure to renew their memberships. Detachments must make sure they welcome each new member as part of the brotherhood, assign a mentor to each new member and keep members interested, informed and involved in the detachment's activities so they will become a member in good standing.

Semper Fi!

Continue to carry the torch to strengthen the future



David Porter

**NVC, New
England Division**



MARINES: This past August has marked one year in filling PNC Laskey's roll as National Vice Commandant. Though he stepped down for health reasons, PNC Laskey has been an incredible source of support for me. I have gathered a wealth of knowledge, made some new friends and have met some incredible Marines! Holding this position came with a large amount of responsibilities, and I had to own a few learning mistakes along the way. Moving forward, I am determined to continue to learn and push myself to do the best job I can in supporting the MCL's mission. I look forward to collaborating with my Assistant Marine Messina and my Paymaster J.R. to stay on top of things. I am proud to work with such an outstanding, motivating team to help ensure the New England Division answers its call to carry the torch to a successful future.

The Division has done some great work this past year. Though we had to drop a few detachments, our numbers remain positive. From September 2018 to June 2019, total paid memberships increased from 2,569 to 3,057, and unpaid memberships dropped from 746 to 397. The Division has been taking the IRS filing status very seriously. Marine Bernard Heaney continues to work hard as the Division Compliance officer. As Bernie stated at several conventions, he is only the messenger, but I know he is more than that. The compliance numbers for have begun to move in a positive direction. Numerous commandants have reached out to Marine Heaney asking for assistance; the New England Division has climbed to 76% compliant as of July 9, 2019. I have faith that those numbers will continue to climb. Keep up the amazing team work!

Toys for Tots will be kicking its program back up soon. Last year New England brought in over 103,000 toys with a value over \$1.5 million. I encourage you Marines who have not taken part in this program to do so.

I would like to thank all the Marines who help work with the Marine For Life program, Young Marines and the Marine JROTC. All three programs are a way that you can make a difference in another's life.

Thank you to those who made the journey to the 96th MCL National Convention in Billings, MT!

One last note, I encourage you Marines to celebrate with me at the 244th Marine Corps Birthday in Boston hosted by the Semper Fi Society.

Semper Fi!

DIVISION REPORTS

We are in this together—get involved with our division!



Jim Powell

NVC, Northeast Division



MARINES: First, I would like to thank all those Northeast Division members in attendance at the National Convention in Billings who have entrusted me to be your next Northeast Division Vice Commandant. It is truly an honor and privilege. I hope to live up to the standards our previous Division Vice Commandants have set and will do my best to represent **your** interests on the National Board of Trustees. Second, as is always said to the membership during an Installation of Officers ceremony, “It is your duty to assist them in every way possible and to discharge your assignments cheerfully.” To me this means that we are all in this together, and I hope you will get involved to help our Division grow and prosper. I am here to represent you and hope that you will communicate your ideas and concerns with me for the betterment of the Division and the League.

With the department conventions and the National Convention completed, it’s now time to get to work on the business of the League. We need to make sure we work as hard as we can to renew our current members, reinstate delinquent members and to recruit as many new members as possible. We also need to remember to get our PLM Audits with proper signatures completed and submitted and to make sure we are up-to-date with our Form 990s. Detachment Paymasters should make sure they are using the most current forms, especially the transmittal form. I’ve seen many transmittals in my day, and it is not uncommon to see very old ones still in use. We must get current so that there is continuity throughout the League. Please make it a priority to be current!

I would also like to congratulate the new slate of officers elected at the National Convention. We have new leadership, and it will be exciting to see what they have in store for the League in the next few years. Everyone should be excited for our future!

Semper Fi!

Looking forward to working with all Northwest members



Dan Ritter

Northwest Division



MARINES: Since T.J. Morgan is the Marine Corps League’s new National Judge Advocate, I have assumed all duties as the NVC for the Northwest Division. I thank T.J. for his service as the NVC for the past 3 years and the guidance he has provided me to step up and serve the Division. I would like to start my tour by providing a short introduction. I enlisted in our Corps in 1982 and attended boot camp in Paris Island, SC. My enlisted time was spent as an Engineer at Camp Pendleton and Okinawa and as a Drill Instructor in MCRD San Diego. In 1990, I was selected as a Warrant Officer and served at Camp Pendleton, Okinawa and deployed with various units. I retired as a CWO4 in 2006 and moved to Bozeman, MT. I had never been involved with the Marine Corps League until I retired and was approached by a League member who asked me to join. I asked

about the League and was told, “We take care of Marines and their families.” I thought that mission was awesome, I joined and have used the same line recruiting new members ever since.

I had a great time at the National Convention in Billings talking to the Marine Corps League members and learning about how we can best serve our Marines and their families. Billings did an awesome job hosting this year and displayed Montana in such a positive light for all to see. We should always remember why we are part of the League and make sure we keep focused on that mission.

Fall is an exciting time in the League; not only do we welcome big game hunting season, but we look forward to the Marine Corps League Ball. I will be attending the Marine Corps League Ball in Bozeman this year with my detachment. I enjoy hearing stories from all the detachments and about how they celebrated our birthday. The season also welcomes the Toy for Tots Program throughout our Division. I know there are many volunteers helping little ones have a wonderful Christmas. I look forward to working with all of the Northwest members. Please never hesitate to get in touch with me about any issue.

Semper Fi!

Tips on recruiting new League members



Russ Miller

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division



MARINES: As we work to grow the League, it's always interesting how right after any of us meets a Marine, doctor, Chaplain or one of their proud family members on the street, they seem excited to learn for the first time that the League exists. Unfortunately, life happens, jobs happen, family events happen and then Magnifico the Magician seemingly comes along and POOF, that enthusiastic newbie vanishes. Don't give up hope! Please allow me to share a few things I learned in sales that may help you in recruiting new Leaguers as they have for me:

1. Don't expect the prospects to come to you. Go and find them. We know Marines, doctors and Chaplains are out there; they don't necessarily know we are here. Also remember that soldiers, Airmen, and Sailors can join ranks with us as Associate members. They miss the camaraderie too, and who knows, we might even be able to teach them

the right way to march in the process.

2. Don't try to sell the League. Find out what makes people tick and help them buy into the idea that the League is what they need. Give our brothers and sisters a Mission to be part of. If they want to help in the community, talk about Toys for Tots and Young Marines. If their hot button is helping fellow veterans, walk them through becoming volunteers at the VA or through the Marine For Life Network.

3. "It takes seven calls to make a sale." Find out how to best contact them (email, Facebook, LinkedIn, phone, smoke signals, Morse code) and KEEP IN TOUCH! Don't be a total pest like me but stay engaged with them until they either become engaged in the detachment or tell you to buzz off.

4. Lastly, follow up and follow through. Once you have a new Leaguer or Associate, never assume he is going to seek out all the answers on his own. Keep your information flowing to prospects (League school, newsletter, website, friendly phone call, veterans' coffee), so they stay engaged with what is happening in your detachment and department.

You will know your new members are "good to go" when they are doing for others what you demonstrated for them.

I trust you all had as great a time at the National Convention and the Supreme Growl in Billings, MT, as I did. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and start the tasks of Toys for Tots and preparing our celebrations of our beloved Corps' birthday. May you all have a wonderful holiday season and, "Be the Leaguer you wish there were 20 more of in your detachment."

Semper Fi!

Enjoy your membership— participate in League activities!



Archie H. Sweet

NVC, Southeast Division



MARINES: In August, we elected our new National Officers, and we begin the year with confidence that our League will continue on the path it has been traveling for the past few years. As I begin my second term as Southeast Division NVC, I want to reaffirm my commitment to serve the Southeast Division. I encourage you to contact me with any questions, suggestions, comments or complaints that you feel would help the League.

If you are an elected detachment officer or the adjutant/paymaster, I believe you should attend every department meeting and the department convention. Also, detachment members are encouraged to attend department functions as often as they can. The more you participate in the activities of the League, the more you will enjoy being a member.

I also ask that all detachment commanders and paymasters familiarize themselves

with the detachment, department and National Bylaws, along with the business forms and information available from the National website (mclnational.org). Please use the most current forms available on the National website and discard any old forms you may be using. Carefully read and follow the instructions on the League's business forms available from National, making sure that all reports are complete, accurate, legible and quickly delivered to all the proper offices.

Our biggest need this year is for the League to grow through increased membership. Unless we each work to get new members, we will be letting our beloved League die a slow death. By the time this issue of *Semper Fi* reaches you, we will be working on annual memberships for 2020. Use all resources to get past due members renewed as quickly as possible. At every detachment meeting, the membership renewal status should be discussed until that discussion becomes, "All membership dues are paid up-to-date, so we all need to be looking for more new members."

Last, but not least, now is the time for all members to plan for attending the coming MCL conferences and conventions. If possible, attend your department convention and division conference. The National Convention is in a great location for 2020, Daytona Beach, and for those wanting to attend a National Conference with a more relaxed atmosphere, the Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, VA, is a great choice. For more info see the National website.

Semper Fi!

DIVISION REPORTS

Let's make this a landmark year for growth



Johnny R. Gothard

NVC, Southern Division



MARINES: A new year for the League has begun as of July 1 of this year; we had a great year in 2018 with New National Bylaws, good membership numbers and an SOP for funeral honors. So, far the new year is looking good. The June 31 Membership Roster shows some growth early in the year; however, the growth is small. Let's keep our eye on the objective, and that is for the detachments, departments, Division and National to continue to grow, prosper and serve our veterans and our communities.

All three departments have held their annual conferences. Arkansas held their conference May 10-11 in Dardanelle, hosted by the Lake Dardanelle Detachment 1310. Congratulations Marine of the Year Hershel Howard and to Jim Howington on his election to Department of Arkansas Commandant. Department of Oklahoma held their

conference in Broken Arrow, OK, June 7-8, hosted by the Albert E. Schwab Detachment 857, with Marion C. Blake Commandant. Congratulations to Ken Price on his reelection as the Department of Oklahoma Commandant. The Department of Texas held their conference in Abilene hosted by the Captain John Yancey Detachment 631, with Patrick Murray Commandant; congratulations to Charles Bones for your reelection as Department of Texas Commandant. All three departments also adopted updated new Department Bylaws to comply with the new National Bylaws. As of this writing, two have been ratified by the National Judge Advocate. Good job departments!

I am looking forward to the coming year and hope it will be landmarked as a year for membership growth, finance growth and organization growth as was the past year. Thanks to Commandant Wendell Webb's leadership, the sound judgment of the COO and the Board of Trustees. We have seen great strides in all areas of the League, and I am looking forward to many more in the next year with our next Commandant Dennis Tobin. I will keep you informed of progress as I am able.

Keep up the good work! It all starts with the detachment, which is the life and blood of the Marine Corps League.

Semper Fi!

We're a social organization composed of Marine brothers



Bill Ebright

NVC, Southwest Division



MARINES: There's an old maxim used by some communicators: "Tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them and then tell them what you told them." I'm using this maxim in an attempt to better explain this article's objectives: Thanking you for your efforts celebrating our first year in office; recruitment, detachment additions to our Division; understanding assignment responsibility; and required enthusiasm to do the job.

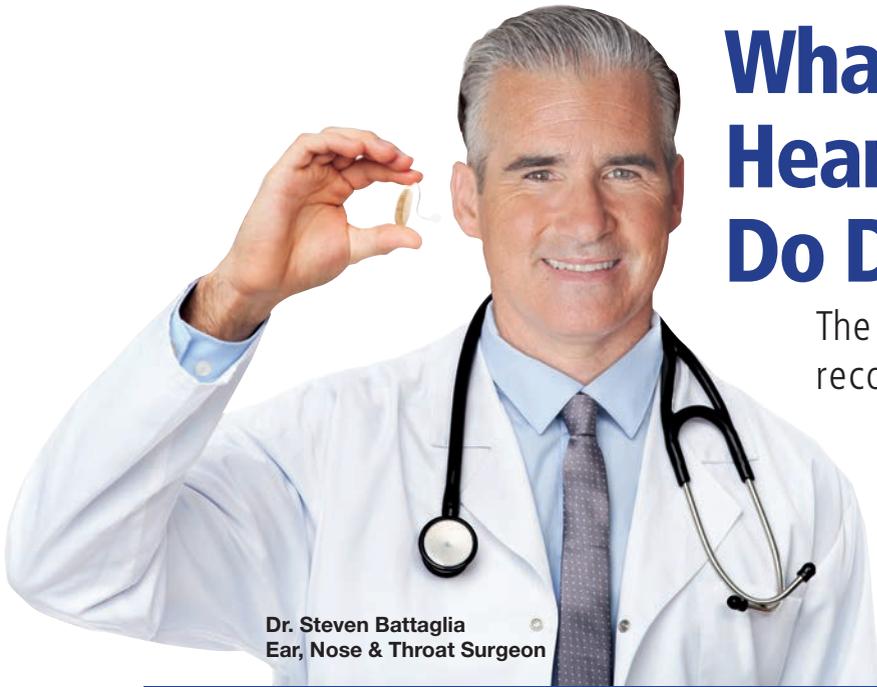
Assistant Southwest National Commandant Pat Connell and I want to thank you for helping us get settled into our Southwest Division responsibilities. It's hard to believe that it has been 1 year! We owe our particular thanks to our Division Officers who have worked tirelessly toward achieving our objectives, displaying solid leadership and recruiting efforts.

We are pleased to have added two new detachments to our Division. We have previously suggested that each detachment ask each member to recruit at least one new member each year. Remember that we are a "social organization." Detachment Commandants, be sure to read now National Sr. Vice Commandant Johnny Baker's excellent article: "All they had to do was make me feel welcome," appearing in *Semper Fi*, Vol. 75, No. 3. One of our detachments is suffering a diminishing roster and difficulty in recruiting. The last two Marines invited to that detachment's meetings declined to join. One wrote the Commandant explaining that he won't join as he feels there's a lack of a social atmosphere there. Marines! We're a social organization composed of Marine brothers. Involve the wives/significant others and create good times for everyone. Make the MODD part of each of your detachment meetings so that members in good standing for at least 1-year earn the opportunity to join the "FUN and Honor Society!"

New Officers must know and be willing to fulfill their jobs' obligations. Job descriptions are available on the National MCL website (Commandants should provide each new detachment Officer a copy). In addition, outgoing Officers should participate with new ones for at least the first two meetings. We must work as a team and participate, so urge all members to get off the bench and become a star player! Remember the Marine Corps motto, "Attitude Is Everything?" It pertains to our MCL assignments as well.

In summary, thank you for supporting your Division this last year. Let's continue to recruit, fulfill all of our responsibilities and maintain Marine Corps enthusiasm!

Semper Fi!



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“MDHearingAids are better than expensive clinic hearing aids, which cost thousands more,” says retired physician Dr. Robert A.

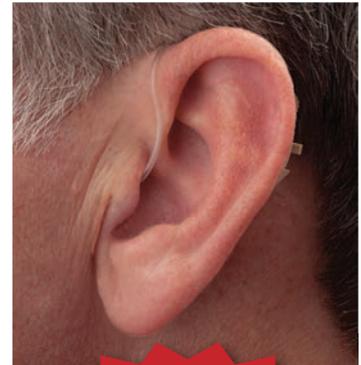
“I have had five pairs of expensive hearing aids and MDHearingAids are just as good,” adds retired neurosurgeon Dr. Brian L.

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MDHearingAids are the best value on the market, says Dr. Clarke:

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THE *SEMPER FI* INTERVIEW

Hershel “Woody” Williams

Medal of Honor Recipient, Marine Corps League Member



By Miles Vining

Semper Fi recently received the humbling opportunity to talk to Hershel “Woody” Williams about the memorial foundation he founded, which has since grown from a local state enterprise to a national endeavor. The memorial foundation honors the entire families of those who have lost their relatives in service to this country. Williams fought in World War II and received the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions under fire while serving as a Corporal in the 21st Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division on February 23, 1945. While assaulting fortified Japanese positions on Iwo Jima, with the aid of several Marines providing covering fire, Williams was able to crawl on top of a Japanese pillbox and eliminate the position with a shot of flame from his flame thrower into the exposed air vent coming up from the reinforced ceiling. After this action, he repelled a close-range bayonet assault by multiple Japanese infantrymen, also with his issued flame thrower. Although his actions were above and beyond the call of duty, Williams is always quick to mention what isn't in the citation: two of the Marines supporting him throughout that experience fell while providing the necessary suppressing fire he needed to advance. Williams says that although he received the Medal of Honor, he is simply caring for it in honor of those Marines who didn't make it that day.

Throughout this interview, Williams talks to us about the beginnings of his foundation, where it is today and what its future holds. He also discusses how the League has been of tangible value in his life and what words of advice he would give to today's generation of Marines who are leaving the service and entering civilian life.



ZACH COCO

Although retired and living at home in West Virginia, Woody is committed to using his status as a Medal of Honor recipient in order to further the ideals and values that he believes in.

Semper Fi: What inspired you to begin the Hershel “Woody” Williams Congressional Medal of Honor Educational Foundation?

Woody Williams: It started when I was 19 years old and on a waiting list to join the Marine Corps in 1942. So many guys were joining up that we had to actually wait for a spot to open up at Boot Camp. I quit my previous job, thinking I'd be going right in, only to find out that I was three months away from going to Boot Camp. My friend had a cab company that I joined up as a driver and thus worked as a cabbie until I had to ship. Of course, the War Department contracted with Western Union to communicate with families if their relatives had been killed, wounded or were missing in action. Over the course of that job, I had to deliver Western Union telegrams to families when their loved ones had been killed. The reaction of the family was of course one of tremendous grief and emotion. And that left a serious impact on my life as I was a very bashful and shy individual and didn't know how to handle the families as I

presented them with their dreadful telegrams.

Something that really hit me hard was the death of one of my school buddies. He and I had spent many days over several years walking to and from school from our houses in the country, so we had grown extremely close together as we grew up. He was killed while performing the task as gunner on a B24 Bomber in 1944. I had no idea he had been killed until I came back home and saw that his family had both a blue star of a relative in the service in addition to the gold star of another relative who had been killed while serving. Both stars were in the window of the house. That left an important impact on me because my own family had three blue stars for the three sons who were serving at the time. Any one of those blue stars could have become a gold one.

After the war, I was a veterans' counselor and had to work with grieving families for 33 years as my career. Working with these families showed me how much of an impact a single loss of life can be felt by mothers, fathers, spouses and siblings. This was when



ZACH COCO

Woody Williams holds his Medal of Honor for the camera. Williams often reminds listeners that he is simply taking care of the medal for the Marines who were killed that fateful day.

the Blue Star Mothers of America [organization] started becoming active, and I began to notice the severity of grief that would affect entire families. At one point in time a Gold Star dad who had lost his only son (him being the sole survivor because his wife had predeceased) came to me and said, "Dads cry too." All these experiences convinced me that we needed to do something to honor the entire families of our fallen service members. We started with our own state of West Virginia where we recognized the family members of 12,434 names that are on our state veterans' memorial. This is how we came up with the concept of honoring these family members who have gone through so much.

What was the most challenging part of this effort?

WW: In the beginning, we were doing this very selfishly in that we were not doing this for other states but only for West Virginia. But when we applied for the 501(c)(3) foundation, we set our goal to try and bring this to other states in the nation. This wasn't the initial plan, but once we completed our West Virginia memorial in October 2013, we thought we were finished, that we had done what we should have done a long time ago. But once it got on the internet, it

gained some traction. A family in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, contacted us about doing one there, and so we worked on a memorial for them. The states kept piling up, wanting to do a memorial, and now we are at the 51st memorial we've completed, several weeks ago in Las Vegas, Nevada. Currently, we have 42 states represented through memorials, 62 memorials currently in progress, and several capitals have agreed to put memorials on their statehouse grounds. West Virginia is going to have a memorial on the statehouse grounds that will be twice the size of the others, because we wanted our state to be unique in that it was the first state to have a memorial built.

Who are some of the groups of people who helped enable the project to work?

WW: I have to give my grandsons credit because when I came up with the idea of working on a 501(c)(3) foundation, they were a tremendous help. But the communities are the folks who are really bringing these memorials together. The drawings, schematics, raising funds. Essentially, we are only doing the administrative functions for these communities so they can focus on getting the



Hershel "Woody" Williams, second from right, the nation's only surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the battle of Iwo Jima, stood on a chair to present the 2019 Mideast Division Marine of the Year medallion to Department of WV Past Department Commandant Rick Shank during the Mideast Division Conference in Princeton, WV. With one quick step, Woody went from being the shortest person in the room to the tallest. Observing the ceremony were Mideast Division ANVC Roger Ware, left, and Department of North Carolina Commandant Rick Thomason, right.

memorials built. It also takes a certain individual in every community who is willing to go the extra mile in coordinating everything. And we always make sure that Gold Star families are included throughout every project because it is for them after all. So many times I've had Gold Star family members personally thank us for not forgetting their lost loved ones and remembering them.

What advice would you give to readers who might be interested in the project?

WW: Go to our website at hwwmohf.org, and you'll see all our projects, phone numbers and information about previous monuments. We have a number of avenues in which interested individuals can get in touch with us about how to become involved.

What is your affiliation with the Marine Corps League?

WW: I've been in the Marine Corps League for 50-some years, been the Commandant of a detachment a number of times and been state Commandant one time; that was enough. I have also been the Judge Advocate several times. So I've been extremely active in the Marine Corps League for years and years. I firmly believe that we are the only group of the military people who have this bond that draws us together. The Marine Corps League is one of those sources that brings us together as Marines. They do a lot of community activities as well. In our area if a Marine passes away, it doesn't make any difference if he is a Marine Corps Leaguer or not. He's a Marine, and they need an Honor Guard; we're going to be there. Because we look after our Brother Marines.

What advice would you give Marines who are getting out now, whether after an initial 4-year contract or even a 20-year career, in order to prepare for life as a civilian?

WW: I can only base this answer on my own experience. When I got out of the Marine Corps, there were no organizations to assist us at all. The American Legion and the VFW were the principal organizations at that time, and they were mostly run by WWI veterans. The WWII guys were not readily accepted as officers in those organizations because the organizations didn't really have any room for them. But eventually, we were able to become members of those organizations. And we got active in them, doing things for the community and in veterans' affairs. That helped

me tremendously, because now I'm associated with individuals who had similar experiences as I did. Somebody who has never been in the Marine Corps or has never been in combat, it is very difficult to establish a case relationship with them, because they don't understand where you are coming from. The other thing that helped me was because I was the recipient of the Medal of Honor, I was required, even though I was very shy and bashful, didn't want to be in public whatsoever. It was just a streak of me that never wanted to speak publicly. But because I had the Medal of Honor I was forced to talk about my experiences. Even though I had to relive through some of the stuff that I was trying to forget, it still gave me a therapy, because I didn't bury it within myself. The more I talked about it, the less realization it had. Because now I'm looking at it from a different angle. So my advice to all of those coming out, if you've had combat experience, it is very possible that you're going to have some degree of PTSD. But don't keep it in, talk about it. Look at it in a different vision as if you were looking at it for yourself, and it will become less real as time goes on. For a while I had the flashbacks and all that. But eventually many of them went away because they lost the crispness of their image.

Comparing generations of Marines today with the men you served with in WWII, we often hear about veterans who essentially kept their experiences to themselves and often resorted to numerous forms of substance abuse. Can you touch on some of this as it might have affected you and those around you?

WW: I would say that the percentage of my generation who kept their experiences to themselves was far greater than those who allowed it to be known. In consequence, many of them suffered to themselves. Had I not received the Medal of Honor and had I not been forced to appear in public, and been forced to talk about the actions of myself and my unit that lead to it, I too would have been in that same category. I wasn't going to share what I did with someone else who would have had no idea what I'm talking about. I could have been talking in a foreign language! So they do hold it back because they are not dealing with a group or an individual who understands where they are coming from. But if they can share that with someone who has had similar experiences, it takes that edge off; it really does. **SIF**

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

WENDELL W. WEBB

It has been a privilege to serve as your Commandant

MARINES: First, I want to thank this Body of Marines, all committee members and the Board of Trustees for their support during my 2-year tour as your Commandant. What a privilege and great experience to have served you, our organization and our Corps.

We have accomplished much, but with a growing organization, including a changing Corps, our job is never done. When we become complacent, then the decay begins. This organization should be aware of our Mission and begin to train and mentor leadership for the future. Unless we change our command structure to hiring a President/CEO, then we have an obligation and a duty to go forward with an innovative and proper business structure, selecting leaders from within. We have members who possess the education and background to lead an organization like the Marine Corps League. Future leaders are critical to an organization like ours to work with our sister veterans' service organizations, businesses, civilian government agencies and our



military branches.

The most rewarding experience I have had has been the one-on-one interaction with our membership, supporters and future members at the different conferences and conventions attended, talking about any subject brought up by the event. Reaching out to Marines who are under 50 years old is very critical and working with our Marine For Life program and the local veterans' programs is key to the Marine

Corps League's success.

I am here to serve in any capacity the future leadership deems necessary.

Semper Fi!



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NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PHILIP G. SHORT

There is much to do to increase our effectiveness

MARINES: The Legislative Committee has made significant strides in the past year. We have established effective communication for our members via the Legislative page of the National website (mcleaguelibrary.org/legislation). Our quarterly reports, letters supporting key legislative issues and communications from the Commandant of the Marine Corps are contained therein. Additionally, our progress reports regularly submitted to *Semper Fi* are included. The Legislative Committee members are being provided with important legislative updates via the email list in order to pass the word in their AOR. Still there is much to do to increase our effectiveness, such as better engagement with the Committee, more engagement of Members of Congress at the local level by their MCL constituents and written/electronic communication with Congress from the same population.

This year we established a fresh liaison with the Commandant of the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs. With General Berger at the helm as our 38th Commandant we are seeing a new perspective on our Corps' direction (see 38th CMC Intent and 38th CMC Planning Guidance on the Legislative section of the MCL National website). Implementing this vision will be challenging and even more so if Congress doesn't continue to pass timely authorization and appropriations legislation. We will continue to work with OLA to ensure that we are able to support our active and reserve forces so that they are ready and able to take the fight to the enemy.

We have been more active with The Military Coalition (TMC)—see the copies of the letters supporting important legislative issues over the past year on our legislative website. The TMC is an organization that lists some 32 veteran support organizations (VSOs) with a claimed aggregate membership of 5.5 million members. Our work with this organization is a force multiplier in advocating on key issues addressed in Congress.

Some of our key legislative accomplishments include:

Active/Reserve Force Issues: Two-year spending agreement assuring passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2019 (NDAA 2019) on time; 2.6% uniformed services pay raise; Increased force structure levels; Actively engaged Commissary reform efforts; Blocked the cut to BAH for 2019 among others.

Health Care Issues: Blocked additional TRICARE fee increases in NDAA 2019. Note: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) issued a report advocating across the board TRICARE fee increases, so this issue still remains a concern.



Military Family/Veterans: Implementation of the VA MISSION Act in June 2019, expanding veterans' access to care by consolidating seven existing community care programs into one, eliminating the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Choice Act) and integrating providers into a broader network; \$5 billion to keep the Veterans Choice Program funded for a year, to avoid user gaps in coverage; Establishment of a review process to review/

develop a plan to optimize and modernize VA medical care facilities; Expansion of VA caregiver program to all veterans of all eras who were seriously disabled, not just those in post 9-11 conflicts; and much more.

Looking forward, if Congress and the White House don't reach a budget agreement by January 18, 2020, and the government is operating via a continuing resolution (CR), the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 provision for sequestration—the automatic process of imposing across-the-board budget cuts—would be triggered for the first time since 2013. The FY2020 defense budget is the most important defense budget in years. It set the baseline for determining the destiny of the military rebuild. Due to recent budget increases, the military has seen gains in readiness, but the rebuild is far from a completed task. Every military service has expressed the imperative to increase in size and in capabilities in order to counter the great power competition as described in the National Defense Strategy. The FY2020 defense budget represents the fork in the road for the military rebuild and for the viability of the defense strategy. The NDAA 2020 has become a clear signal of how Congress intends to shape the resources that will define the military's effort and direction. Our continued support of Congress to reach a positive budget agreement will help make this process successful in continuing the rebuild of our military.

As your Legislative Committee Chairman, I am honored to have served our MCL this past year and look forward to the next year with hope and enthusiasm. We must all be prepared to lean forward in the trenches!

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

ROBERT "BUTCH" RAYNES

New Bylaw additions and changes regarding uniforms

MARINES: As of the National Convention this year you will find a couple of Bylaw additions and changes that pertain to the Marine Corps League Uniform.

First, there is the addition of a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin to the list of pins that are authorized to be worn on the lapel of the red blazer jacket. There are many MCL members who have been given this pin, and with the passing of the Bylaws, they will be able to wear it on the blazer's lapel.

Second, there is a proposed addition to the Bylaws for a ceremonial uniform for color guards ONLY. This is a very basic uniform for color guards—no fancy frills or doodads, just a basic clean and neat uniform, short sleeve casual, long sleeve casual or the red blazer uniform. All members will wear the MCL red cover.

There is also a change that applies to the red blazer itself. Members may now wear the new blazer from J. C. Penney that has 4 buttons on the sleeve; the original blazer has 3 buttons.

In September or October, after the National Convention, you will



find any and all changes that were voted on at the Convention on the National website (mclnational.org), so make sure you check them out.

Also, a reminder when submitting pictures to the *Semper Fi* magazine: Make sure all of the MCL members who are in the pictures are in the proper uniforms. All pictures are reviewed, and any uniforms that are not correct will **not** be printed.

Again, if you have any questions about the correct uniform please call me or any member of the Uniform Committee for an answer. Keep all our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. God Bless the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League.

Semper Fi!

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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Northern Neck Detachment 1062, Lottsburg, VA, 4th of July parade. It is the first time marching for our brave flag holders since leaving active service: David Pere, Jonathan Balco, Jason Henning and Nancy Banes. The Marine on the left is the League commandant is marching in his second parade. The lady on the left has marched in all 17. Nancy Banes' military service dog, Sgt. Rusty, provides direction.



Lewis B. Puller Jr. Detachment 524, Carlisle, PA, supported an initiative with material, in a nearby community of parents who are introducing their children to proper flag handling and patriotism. Marines R. Gilbert, L. Kipp and R. Adams were the point men.



Members of the Yagle Brothers Detachment 165 of Traverse City, MI, present Gander Outdoor manager with a certificate of appreciation which reads in part: "For loyalty and patriotism to our country and community." *Left to right:* Robert Scott, Commandant, Aaron Patzlik, Gander Outdoor manager, Maury Cahill, Junior Vice Commandant and Paul Waterstradt, Past Commandant.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Carlisle, PA, MCL Honor Guard for funeral honoring Marine Robert Gilbert of Lewis B. Puller Jr. Detachment 524. *Left to right:* R. Carpenter, W. Woods, G. Wise, B. Ferri, A. Flaynik, L. Summers, J. Vickinovac, C. O'Brien and A. Ferguson.



Kentuckiana Detachment 729, Louisville, KY, held their installation and awards banquet in June 2019 and Co-Marines of the Year were recognized. *Left to right:* Bill Taylor and wife Rose, Wayne Hall and wife Donna.



Three members from the Jersey Shore Marines Detachment 1319 were sworn in as Dept. of NJ MCL Staff: *(left to right)* Joe DeAngelo was sworn in as Department Commandant, Barbara DeAngelo was sworn in as Department Adjutant and Brian Gillespie was sworn in as Department Chief of Staff.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



The Chapel of Four Chaplains presented the prestigious "Legion of Honor Award" to Mr. Hank Robson of Cabarrus Detachment 1175, and a presentation ceremony honoring Mr. Robson was given on May 7, 2019, at Bethel Wesley Church in Kannapolis, NC. Distinguished recipients of the Legion of Honor Awards have included Presidents Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, James Carter and Ronald Reagan.



At their annual Convention on June 8, 2019, the Dept. of CT recognized its 2019 Samuel K. Beamon Young Marine of the Year, YM Sgt Kyra Shaw from the Natchaug River Young Marines. *Left to right:* Patrick McMahon, Dept. of CT YM Liaison; Adele Hodges, Dept. of CT Commandant; Warren Griffin, National Judge Advocate; YMOY YM Sgt Kyra Shaw; Dave Porter, Sr. Vice Commandant, New England Division and Bruce Katz, New England Division YM Liaison.

Department of VA Officer Installation by former Mideast Division National Vice Commandant Bruce Rakfeldt at the Annual Department Convention. *Front row, left to right:* Judge Advocate Phillip Parsons, Jr. Vice Commandant David Clements, Sr. Vice Commandant Joseph Houdley, Commandant Roy Smith, Sgt-at-Arms Mark Moore.

Back row, left to right: Paymaster Russell Wyatt, Adjutant David Hord (hidden) and Chaplin James Rall.



ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Commandant Dennis Jones and members of the Larry Nehring Detachment 103 of Des Moines, IA, present a check to Gail Graham, director of the Central Iowa VA Hospital. Proceeds came from a classic car show sponsored by the detachment and the local PVA on the hospital grounds.



The Sgt Walter P. Ryan Detachment made a \$1,000 donation to the Veterans Assistance Fund of American Legion Alafia Post 148. The fund is used to assist veterans who are in emergency situations and in need of immediate financial help. Presenting the check to the Legion Commander Lynnette Stokes is the Detachment Adjutant Jack Skelding.



Syracuse Detachment 224 Commandant Ron Farewell and Sgt-at-Arms Jeffrey Marani present League member Thomas Rhodes (Pearl Harbor Survivor) a cake to celebrate his 99th birthday during a June meeting.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



July 2, 2019, members of the LCpl Robert W. Deane Detachment 770, Mt. Airy, MD, had the honor of doing the Color Guard for the raising of the giant flag for the Fourth of July Celebration in Mt. Airy. *Left to right:* Joe Clemente, Jerome Bujanowski, Robert E. Lee, Glenn Tabler, Jack Severn, Mike Kanne, Breeze Reed and Harry Wolfe.



Al Frater of the Gooney Bird Detachment of Teaneck, NJ, at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Troop 106 of Teaneck, NJ.



The Pierce County Detachment 504 was on hand to provide Eagle Scout Josiah Maier his Good Citizenship award. *Left to right:* Frank Thompson, Josiah Maier and Detachment Commandant Charles Ames.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Marines from Cedar Valley Detachment 99 in Cedar Rapids, IA, prepare to present the colors for the Cedar Rapids Kernels baseball game on July 4. After the game, our own Marine Don Conway was honored as a military hero and presented with a Quilt of Valor.



David Epps, Chaplain for the Dept. of GA, recently conducted a funeral for a homeless Marine Corps officer Vietnam veteran at the Georgia National Cemetery. Including MCL members from across the state, over 100 people attended.



Marines from Standing Stone Detachment 1117, Huntingdon, PA, participated in the annual ceremonial presentation of wreaths at the Wall of Healing at James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona on Armed Forces Day. *Left to right:* Larry McClain, Dist. 7 Vice Commandant Tom Brown, Detachment Vice Commandant Wayne Kepler and Commandant Jay Buchanan.

Richland County Marines Detachment 527 of Mansfield, Ohio, transporting Korean War veterans in the July 4th Liberty Day Parade in Bellville, Ohio.



ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



James M. Slay Detachment 327 established four annual MC JROTC Scholarships for the top senior Cadets in four Richmond, VA-area high schools.

Left, James M. Slay Detachment 327, Richmond, VA, Commandant Mark Moore presents a shadow box to Life Member, Dr. Bruce Heiman, Chancellor, University of Richmond, WWII Marine Sgt during the Battle for Okinawa and Japan Occupation and president of The Greatest Generation Foundation.



Members of Earl Anderson Detachment 342, Morgantown, WV, hosted the Dept. of WV Convention. Our special guest was Hershel "Woody" Williams.



Memorial Day 2019, Hobart, IN, Howlin Mad Detachment 93, Jr. Vice Commandant, Sammy Eaton, shaking hands with WWII Iwo Jima survivor, Navy Corpsman, 96-year-old, Dwight C. Carter. Corpsman Carter celebrated his 96th birthday on Memorial Day 2019. Looking on is Corporal, USAAF, Fred Mavarilla, 101-year-old WWII Army airman. Courtesy of Howlin Mad Detachment Photographer, Sam Gudino.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Dept. of MA, Greater New Bedford Detachment at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Vietnam Memorial Wall on July 2, 2019, to be constructed at Veterans Memorial Bicentennial Park in Fall River, MA. Warren Griffin, National Judge Advocate, *right*.



July 2019, Jack Maas Detachment 1379 presents disabled veteran member Ted Hartung a shadow box commemorating his service in Vietnam with the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines. The box contains his awards and patches from his time in Khe Sanh. The flag is the one he carried with him during the now famous siege. Ted Hartung, left, and Detachment Chaplain Scott Pipenhagen, *right*.



Chaplain Scott Pipenhagen.

ROLL CALL

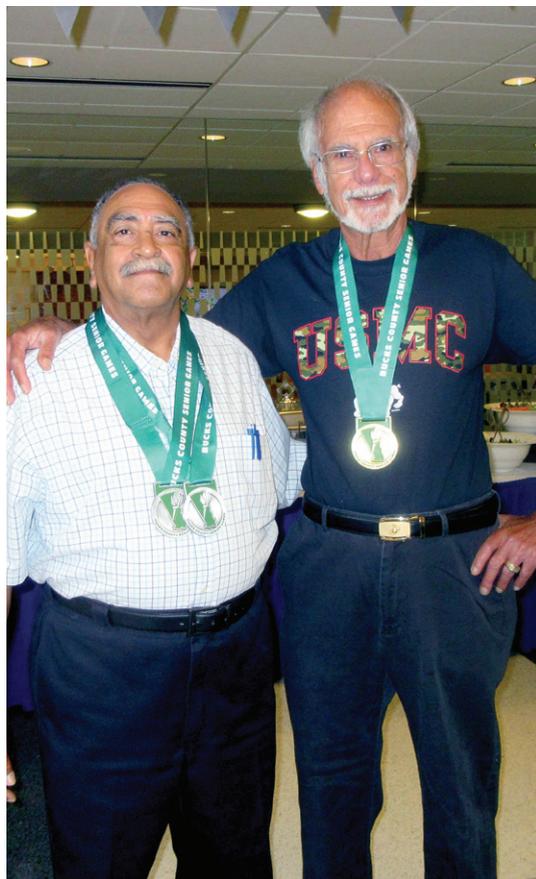
AROUND THE LEAGUE



At a July 2019 Jack Maas Detachment 1379 meeting, Public Affairs Officer Bill Anderson presented Natalie Maas Unit of the MCL Auxiliary President Nancy Kearney with a pre-WWII USMC Blue Star Mother's pin in recognition of her hard work on behalf of the detachment and to honor her as the mother of two outstanding active duty Marines. Proud husband, John Kearney, pins Blue Star Mother, Nancy.



Pre-WWII USMC Blue Star Mother pin.



Patriot Detachment 1230 members Gus Cales (left) and Pete Palestina (right) at the Bucks County, PA, Senior Games Awards Luncheon held June 13 where they received their bocce 2019 competition award medals. Palestina won the gold medal for bocce, and Cales won the silver. The game was held on June 5.



On behalf of the West Hudson Detachment, Junior Vice Commandant Adam Waldron and Past Commandant John Cleary, accepted the "Community Service Award" from the Salvation Army.



Central Illinois Leathernecks Detachment 988 Memorial Day Parade May 27, 2019. Pictured are Dave Edwards, Paymaster; Art Wynn, Set Commandant; and Rick Probus SVC.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Star of the North MCL Honor Guard at Osage cemetery in Minnesota. *Left to right:* Bob Johnson, Dave Free, Ron Masanz, Geff Cooper, Darrel Gruis, Howard Maninga, Lou Schultz, Jerry Wolters and Don Haagenson.

Star of the North MCL, Park Rapids, MN, Honor Guard on deck for a veteran's funeral. *Left to right:* Geff Cooper, Ron Masanz, Jerry Wolters, Bob Johnson, Lou Schultz, Darrel Gruis and Howard Maninga.



Anthony Stabile (*left*) was honored by the First Capitol Detachment 521 of York, PA, for 65 years of service to the League. Because the League lapel pins stop at 60 years, the detachment improvised an award, which was presented by Commandant Dave Brady (*right*).

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



The Choctaw Detachment had a great time at the Food Kitchen serving 220 meals in Baton Rouge as one of their new community service programs.

Dept. of FL Marine of the Year Society selects Mike Segura as its 2019 awardee.



Join Roll Call!

ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES

Submission Directions

You may submit photos with short captions in email to semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com. Photos must not be more than 11MB 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 instruction on the upload site).

Permission—For photos of youths under age 18, please visit [www.mcleaguelibrary.org/programs documents](http://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/programs/documents) for the Photo Release Form.

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

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

Ten Stars: The African American Journey of Gary Cooper – Marine General, Diplomat, Businessman, and Politician

The first two words had me. Kendal Weaver started the Preface with, “Edgar Huff.” SgtMaj Huff and Hashmark Johnson were the first two names Ambassador Cooper spoke of; impactful Marines who the very mention of their names command attention and are part of the very fabric of our Marine Corps. It has been an honor to read about another piece of that fabric, Gary Cooper. The book, *Ten Stars: The African American Journey of Gary Cooper – Marine General, Diplomat, Businessman, and Politician*, is part biography and part oral history outlining the experiences of a remarkable man, Vietnam veteran, the Corps’ first black general from Infantry and first black U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica.

This book is an easy read with local flowing text, vivid imagery and great historical value. It will capture your attention and pull you into the stories. Take the time to get this book.

Ten Stars: The African American Journey of Gary Cooper – Marine General, Diplomat, Businessman, and Politician

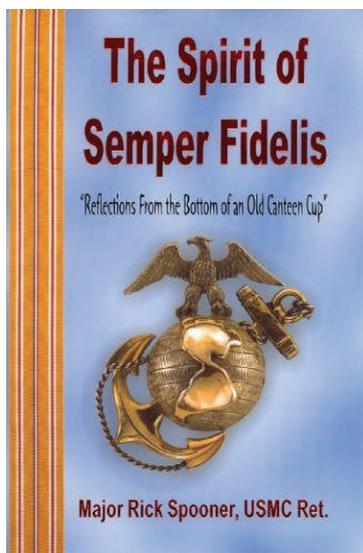
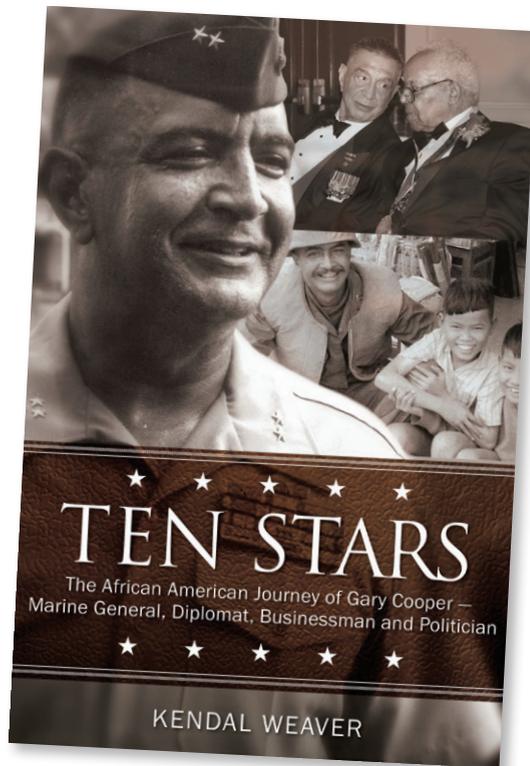
By Kendal Weaver
Hardcover
352 pages

Publisher: NewSouth Books

Language: English

ISBN: 978-1588383242

Sold on Amazon



The Spirit of Semper Fidelis: “Reflections from the Bottom of an Old Canteen Cup”

It is a memorable experience to sit with Major Rick Spooner in the Globe and Laurel. The restaurant sits just outside of Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia. Just as the building is decorated richly in history, Major Spooner is a great person to listen to. Reading his book, *The Spirit of Semper Fidelis: Reflections from the Bottom of an Old Canteen Cup*, is like sitting around a campfire with a canteen cup and immersing yourself in his stories.

One of my favorite parts was the reaction of someone referring to the Marine as a “soldier.” “... It’s kind of strange, but all of our Marine patients seem to be sensitive about that. It’s almost as though being a Marine is like being part of a religious order or cult of some kind. I think they’re all a little crazy” (page 177). This book is very easy to immerse yourself as though you are right with the characters on every page.

The Spirit of Semper Fidelis: “Reflections from the Bottom of an Old Canteen Cup”

By Major Rick Spooner, USMC (Ret.)

Hard Cover

400 pages

Publisher: Phillips Publications

Language: English

ISBN: 978-0932572448

Sold on Amazon

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



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Death Notification Policy

Headquarters Marine Corps League receives frequent calls regarding the passing away of members. Calls vary from loved ones who wish to stop the magazine delivery to detachment members looking to help. The policy has been that detachment chaplains fill out, sign and submit a death notification form to their respective department chaplains who then forward it on to Headquarters' membership department. This policy has not changed but will be better adhered-to in the future. It is the only way a person's name will appear in the TAPS section of *Semper Fi* magazine.

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Flash Drive

Item Code: MCL Flash Drive
Price: \$10.00
Description: 16GB MCL Flash Drive



Desk Flag & Base

Item Code: G97-USMC desk flag
Price: \$3.00
Item Code: G98-USA desk flag
Price: \$3.00
Base for Desk Flags
Item Code: G99-BASE for desk flags
Price: \$1.50
Description: U.S. and USMC Desk Flags and Base



Certificate Frame

Item Code: C30
Price: \$38.00
Description: Wood and Glass Certificate Frame



Keychain

Item Code: MCL Keychain
Price: \$3.00
Description: MCL Silver Keychain

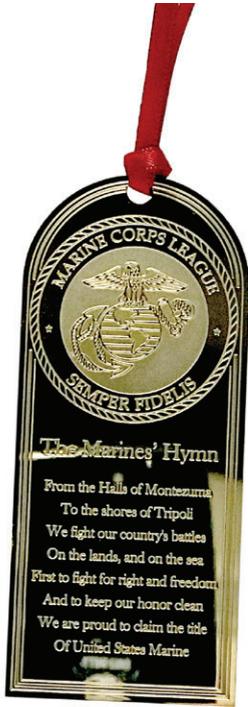


Knife

Item Code: Knife07
Price: \$35.00
Description: Kabar Folding Knife

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Gold Holiday Ornament

Item Code: Gft4
Price: \$10.00
Description: Book-mark Ornament Engraved with "The Marines' Hymn"



Red Holiday Ornament

Item Code: ORN2017
Price: \$8.00
Description: Red Marine Corps League Christmas Ball



Ritual Prints

Item Code: S01
Price: \$6.00
Description: Small Ritual Print
Item Code: S13
Price: \$6.00
Description: Large Ritual Print



Knife

Item Code: G340
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Description: Camouflage Knife



Lanyard

Item Code: MCL
Description: Lanyard
Price: \$5.00
Description: Red MCL Lanyard

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REUNIONS



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Iwo Jima 75th Anniversary

The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) is building a roster of all living Iwo Jima Veterans in order to contact them and their families about upcoming important events, especially the **Battle's 75th Anniversary in 2020**. Email name and contact info of the living Iwo Jima veterans to Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org.

Fifth Marine Division Association's 70th Annual Reunion is October 16-21, 2019, in New Orleans. Contact Jimmie Hyde-Watson, 504-481-5028 or email gypsie.lotus@yahoo.com. Vietnam-era Marines who served in the reactivated 26th, 27th, 28th and 13th Marines are welcome to join Iwo Jima survivors and families.

TBS Class 6-70 Fox Co. is holding its reunion on April 30 to May 3, 2020, in Quantico, VA. Please contact Tom Kanasky at 203-366-3156 or email tlkanasky@earthlink.net or contact Mitch Youngs at 703-493-9435 or email mitchyoungs@verizon.net.

In search of Marines from Boot Camp, Plt 1107, San Diego, CA, October to December 1983. Please contact Matt Kennedy at 808-600-4257.

2020 Colorado Department Convention: Detachment Commandant Jeff Jessup and the Marines of Broomfield Detachment 1441 are the proud hosts of the 2020 Colorado Department Convention, May 1-3, 2020, at the Double Tree by Hilton, 83 East 120th Ave, Thornton, CO 80233. For reservations call 303-920-8000 (by April 1).

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR

2020

- Marine West Expo**
February 6-7
MCB Camp Pendleton, CA
marinemilitaryexpos.com
- Mid-Winter Conference**
February 27-29
Norfolk, VA
mclnational.org
- Marine South Expo**
April 2-3
MCB Camp Lejeune, NC
marinemilitaryexpos.com
- National Convention**
Daytona Beach, FL
August 9-14
mclnational.org
- Modern Day Marine Expo**
September 22-24
MCB Quantico, VA
marinemilitaryexpos.com

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(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS.	0	0
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c. Total Paid Distribution [Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3) and (4)]	55,988	58,397
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution [Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4)]	2,830	398
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g. Copies not Distributed	27	40
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a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	55,988	58,397
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	58,818	58,795
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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

- If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the FALL 2019 issue of this publication.
 Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner and Date

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2020 BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

THE MCL GEARS UP FOR NEXT YEAR'S DRAWING!

In 2020, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (miltours.com) will again offer the battlefield tour of a lifetime to two lucky League members as the grand prizes in the League's 96th Anniversary Tour Raffle.

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 2020.

You do not need to be present to win. Winners will be notified within three 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, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554. 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!

2019/21 MCL RAFFLE SCHEDULE

2019

2-13 Nov

WWI French Battlefields-Armistice Day Paris "End of the War to End All Wars"

30 Nov-11 Dec

Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 11-16 Dec: Laos & Cambodia

3-9 Dec

Pearl Harbor & WWII U.S. Military Sites

2020

4-11 Jan

Panama-30th Anniversary of Operation Just Cause

30 Jan-9 Feb

Liberation of the Philippines WWII

8-20 Feb

Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue/Operation Houston

24-30 Mar

Iwo Jima-Guam 75th Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor

20-26 April

Turkey-Gallipoli Campaign & ANZAC Day

Continues Next Page

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

96TH ANNIVERSARY

TOUR RAFFLE

Two Grand Prizes: Individual 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 2020 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to: Marine Corps League, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

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5 entries for \$20**

You need not be present to win. Drawing will occur at the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to: Marine Corps League, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

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96TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR RAFFLE**

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3619 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

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

Name	
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City	
State	Zip Code
Phone	
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Continued From Previous Page

25 April-8 May

50th Anniversary of Vietnam War Operations from Saigon to the DMZ

16-25 May

Devil Dogs in France WWI Battlefields, Belleau Wood & Paris

27 May-9 June

76th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris

1-9 June

76th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

2-12 July

Russia "Eastern Front" 75th Anniversary Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad

1-10 Aug

Guadalcanal WWII 77th Anniversary of Operation Watchtower

26 Aug-7 Sep

50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War in I-Corps-1970

9-23 Sep

Ireland-WWII U.S. Marines "Irish Marine" Dublin-Derry-Belfast

TBD Sep

50th Anniversary Vietnam War Return, hosted by SgtMaj Overstreet, 12th SMMC

11-18 Sep

70th Anniversary of the Korean War-Inchon Landing & Pusan Perimeter

27 Sep-9 Oct

WWII Concentration Camps: Amsterdam, Auschwitz, Prague, Berlin & Nuremberg

29 Sep-13 Oct

Liberation of Europe WWII London-Portsmouth-Normandy-Bastogne-Munich

14-26 Oct

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

2-13 Nov

WWI French Battlefields-Armistice Day Paris "End of the War to End All Wars"

28 Nov-9 Dec

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

3-9 Dec

Pearl Harbor & WWII U.S. Military Sites

2021

9-16 Feb

"Cuba Libre"-Cuban Military & Cultural History



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name _____ Phone _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Date of Birth / / Email Address _____
 Date of Enlistment/Commissiioning / / Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation / / Service# or SS# _____

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

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

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

-OR-

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

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

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor;¹ 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 Corpsmen 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, authorized for FMF Corpsmen; or have served or are currently serving as a U. S. Navy Chaplain and have earned the FMF Badge serving with Marines; If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

(¹Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws, Article 6, Section 600)

 (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
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

Amount

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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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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – REGULAR MEMBERS

I, _____ in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of the Marine Corps League here assembled, being fully aware of the symbols, motto, principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the Marine Corps League. I will never knowingly wrong, deceive or defraud the League as to the value of anything. I will never knowingly wrong or injure or permit any member or any member's family to be wronged or injured if to prevent the same is within my power. I will never propose for membership one known to me to be unqualified or unworthy to become a member of the League. I further promise to govern my conduct in the League's affairs and in my personal life in a manner becoming a decent honorable person and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League, so help me God.

Signature _____



OATH OF MEMBERSHIP – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

I, _____ in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of the Marine Corps League here assembled, being fully aware that, as an Associate Member, I will not be permitted to hold an elective office or to vote on Marine Corps League policy, a membership application, or an election of officers, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the Marine Corps League. I will never knowingly wrong, deceive or defraud the League as to the value of anything. I will never knowingly wrong or injure or permit any member or any member's family to be wronged or injured if to prevent the same is within my power. I will never propose for membership one known to me to be unqualified or unworthy to become a member of the League. I further promise to govern my conduct in the League's affairs and in my personal life in a manner becoming a decent honorable person and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League, so help me God.

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Signature _____

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