

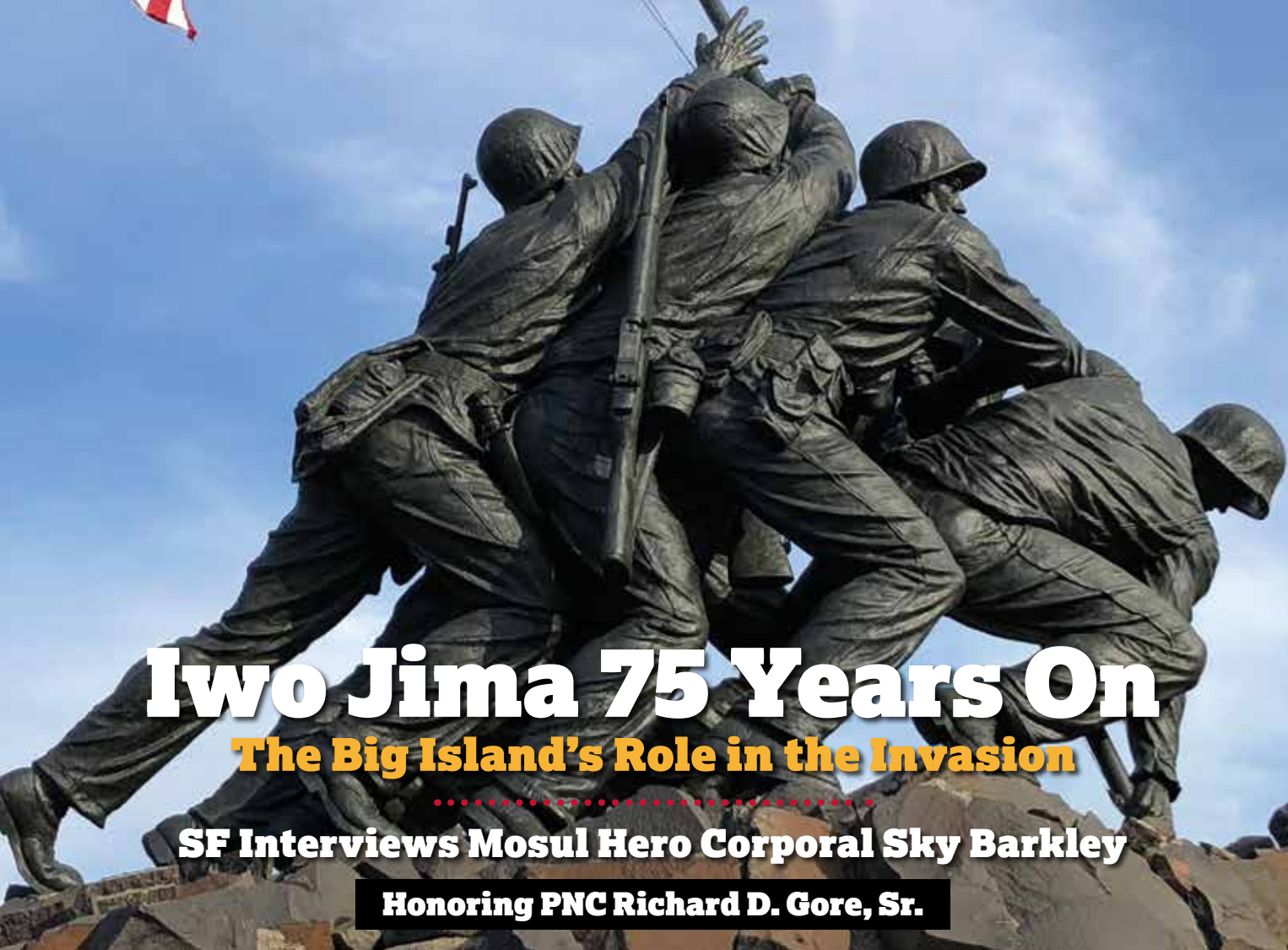
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 76 No. 2 • SPRING 2020

SEMPER PARATI



The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



Iwo Jima 75 Years On

The Big Island's Role in the Invasion

SF Interviews Mosul Hero Corporal Sky Barkley

Honoring PNC Richard D. Gore, Sr.

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Read the February 2020 issue of *Leatherneck* as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima with "D-Day on Iwo Jima" and "Hot Rock-The Fight for Mount Suribachi".



MARINE CORPS
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SEMPER PARATI

The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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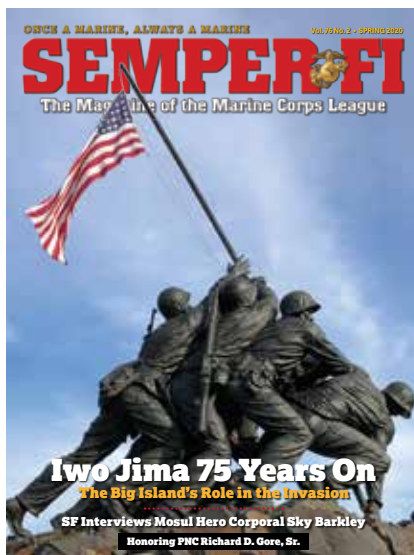
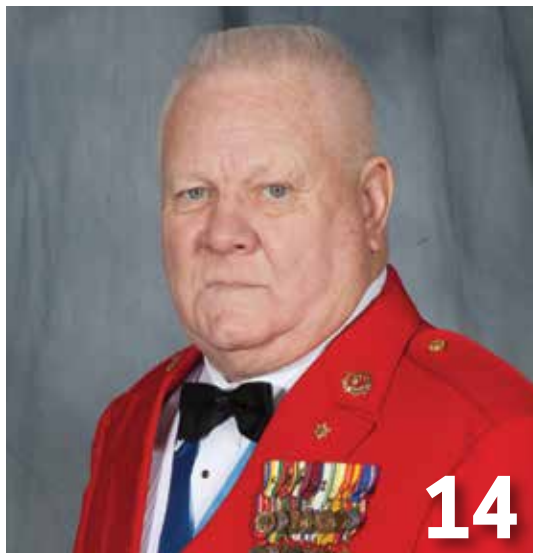
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Semper Fi celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima.

Photo by Jacques Desclotres/MODIS Land Rapid Response Team at NASA GSFC.

<http://bit.ly/39PagUd>

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SEMPER FI
The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

DENNIS TOBIN

Many items to consider this year

MARINES: We are looking into new ways to make our daily operations run smoother from the National level down to the detachment level. I want to once again thank those who continue to step up with ideas to help.

We have started using direct deposit banking and are working on pushing it down to the detachments. We're using it for expense accounts for the National BoTs and for the departments to handle necessary funds. Once they have all complied and sent in their banking info, we would like all the departments to begin collecting their detachments' bank account/routing numbers on a spreadsheet and send to COO Bob Borka. Once we have all the necessary info, we will stop writing paper checks; all PLMs and other necessary funds will be directly deposited.

Continuing problems are EIN/IRS statuses and ROIs. Currently, we have over 300 detachments that are non-compliant with either one or both issues. If you are not a 501(c)(4) under National's 0955 and a deductibility of 1, you are not considered a non-profit under the National umbrella and cannot accept contributions under the League's name. All departments have been notified of their detachments with problems; take care of them. If you're having problems with the IRS, contact National. It is every detachment's and department's responsibility to compete the ROI, have it signed by the installing officer and forward to your department and to National. Without an up-to-date ROI, National has no idea who the current officers are for a detachment or department, and we won't know to whom to mail necessary info or the PLM checks. All Department Commandants should have received a letter advising that if National does not have a current ROI for a department or detachment, we will not send a PLM check. Each year, many PLM checks are returned or uncashed. These funds are placed back into the PLM account.

The National database should be operating. Once it has become completely operational at every level, it will make recordkeeping and member tracking much easier.

We have two very important committees. The first is the Suicide Awareness/Prevention Committee chaired by Barb DeAngelo. Her committee cannot work alone—we need a committee at every department that can work with their detachments and coordinate with the National Committee. The Department of New York is currently putting one together; if any other department already has one please reach out to Barb. We also have the Homeless Veterans Committee chaired by the Rev. Ricardo Sheppard. Again, we need help at the department level. These issues are a serious problem throughout the military and country. Everyone throughout the League should be willing to step up and help. If your detachment or department currently does any work with the homeless, please contact Ricardo.

I've received some very positive feedback on my last article's section dealing with respect. I want to take that one step further: we are a non-political, non-sectarian organization. No member's political or religious beliefs should be attacked. We are free to believe in whatever we choose. We have ALL served to protect those freedoms, so let's all remember that.

Last and not least, the number of extremely petty grievances going to the National JA is ridiculous. We are Marines and adults; if you cannot get along with another member, stay away from each other. Department JAs, it is your job to try your best to mediate. Do not dismiss a grievance for lack of anything, the problem will just get bigger and end up as an appeal to the National Board. Put together a mediation board and try to solve the problem with the detachment before it gets to the department. With the assistance of the National BoT, I will be looking into a National Arbitration Board to stop these before they get to appeal. Respect, Understanding, Brotherhood; Embrace the Tribe.

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S LETTER

BOB BORKA

Consider reputational risk

MARINES: Each morning is spent reading military news truly in hopes that I do not see bad things happening to Marines and that I do not see my son's place of duty in the news. We are often confronted with safety risk management and do a pretty good job of making sure we are safely performing tasks. Another thing to consider is reputational risk management. This affects us from the national level to each individual member.

An example of this type of risk management is when you do not play nice with others in your community, like purposely scheduling a fundraiser on the same day and time as a competing business right down the street. Both are trying to help veterans but create unnecessary friction. It creates a negative perception of our organization in the community. Another example is when an individual gets arrested, and he says he is a Marine veteran. My first action is to see if he is a member.

Equally important to reputational risk management is ensuring you are not wearing any items that could identify you as a Marine Corps League member if you are around a campaigning candidate. You have a right to support whomever you decide to. That is a right you and I fought to protect. However, we do not endorse any candidate as an organization. Each of us (all members) represents the organization if we wear something that indicates "Marine Corps League." Let's keep it out of politics.

#EmbraceTheTribes

Semper Fi!

EVENTS IN MARINE HISTORY

BY ANNETTE AMERMAN

April 21, 1917: The 14th and 56th Companies established a garrison on St. Thomas Island, Virgin Islands, mounting batteries and constructing installations for defense of the harbor against German raiders or submarines.

April 27, 1897: The Marine Band and two battalions of Marines took part in the dedication ceremonies of Grant's Tomb, Riverside Drive, New York City.

April 27, 1904: Gunnery Sergeant J.F. Cox arrived at the U.S. Naval Station in Tutuila, Samoa, to become the first drill instructor for the Fita-Fitas, the native Samoan guard.

May 1, 1917: The Guardia Nacional Dominica was established, to be trained and later led by Marines.

May 7, 1846: Lt Archibald H. Gillespie, carrying a confidential message from President Polk, contacted Army Captain John C. Fremont near Klamath Lake, OR, after a hazardous journey through heavily populated Native-American lands.

May 14, 1860: A Marine detachment, commanded by Captain Algernon S. Taylor, from the Washington Navy Yard, D.C., participated in the ceremonies welcoming the first Japanese Embassy personnel to the American capital.

June 1, 1857: Two companies of Marines restored order during rioting by "Plug-Uglies" at election sites in Washington, D.C.

June 9, 1944: Admiral William Halsey ordered the establishment of Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

June 30, 1834: "An Act for the Better Organization of the United States Marine Corps" was passed by Congress; among the provisions was one which stated that Marines were under naval jurisdiction unless detached by the president for service with the Army.



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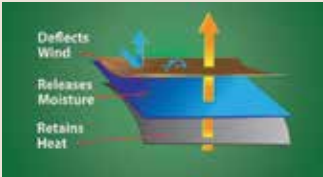
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Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame Spotlight

By Members of Major General Warren R. Johnson Detachment 1311

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt Bertley V. Englade, Jr., was inducted into the Class of 2019's Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame for Acts of Valor performed while serving in Vietnam.

Sgt Englade, who grew up in New Orleans, LA, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1967 when he had just turned 20. He was sent to boot camp in San Diego where he excelled on the rifle range by earning an Expert's medal, earned a physical rating of over 400 and demonstrated leadership capabilities.

While still in boot camp, he was instructed by his drill instructor to prepare three academically failing recruits for graduation. He succeeded at that mission while still undergoing the rigors of his own recruit training.

After boot camp, Englade was sent to advanced infantry training in the hills of Los Pogos, LA, and then on to Vietnam to participate in the final days of the siege at Khe Sahn, one of the defining battles of the Vietnam War. Khe Sahn was the biggest confrontation of the War, where 6,000 Marines held out against 20,000 regulars of the North Vietnamese Army. After the siege, Sgt Englade participated in 13 major operations and numerous smaller operations. While in Vietnam, Englade was medevacked three times, twice for various illnesses and once for a gun-shot wound to left shoulder, scapular and a head wound.

While a Corporal, Englade was awarded the Silver Star while serving as a Squad Leader in the 3rd Marine Division in Operation Maine Crag. Cpl Englade was seriously wounded, and his unit was under heavy mortar fire, automatic weapon fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

On this occasion, when the Marines sustained heavy casualties in one sector of the perimeter, a gap developed in the defensive lines. As the Squad Leader, then Cpl Englade, without hesitation, rushed to the vulnerable point arriving there at the same time as several



Sgt Bertley V. Englade, Jr.

advancing enemy soldiers. He engaged the enemy, killing a number of them and stopping the advancement of the enemy troops. Although seriously wounded, he remained in his vulnerable position until reinforcements arrived.

On the same occasion, when his squad was under attack, Cpl Englade left his position to three (first time in combat) Marines and went forward to close the gap caused by the new Marines being overrun and vacating their position.

Even though wounded, he was able to chamber his 45 pistol by placing it between his knees. All night long, until morning, live grenades and sporadic rifle

fire were exchanged. At that time, though only 5 feet from the enemy, Cpl Englade repositioned his squad to cause maximum damage to the North Vietnamese troops in the area.

Standing in the line of enemy fire, **alone**, wounded, with a jammed rifle and out of grenades and ammo for his 45, the battle continued for approximately an hour and a half. Even though no longer able to defend himself, Cpl Englade continued to direct his squad's fire at the NVA. Englade realized he could no longer hold the position and relocated back to his original position after reinforcements had arrived.

Englade finally called upon the Corpsman to help patch up his wounds. The Corpsman used about 25 battle dressings to stop the bleeding. His poncho liner had 37 holes in it while his helmet had a clear hole through the top of it.

In other operations, according to other Commendations, Englade tirelessly trained his men in tactical procedures, greatly enhancing the efficiency of his unit. Demonstrating exceptional diligence and resourcefulness, he skillfully supervised the tactical deployment of his men during combat engagements and repeatedly distinguished himself by his courage and composure under fire.

Corporal Englade was evacuated state-side to the U.S. Naval Hospital Pensacola, FL, where he spent over 8 months recuperating from his wounds. He learned of the Silver Star award via a letter from his Grenadier while in the hospital recovering from his wounds, 8 months after the action occurred. He had been submitted for the Navy Cross by his squad. This letter meant more to him than the actual Silver Star award because the letter came from Marines who knew him and served under him; at least one had more time in as a Corporal than Englade had in the Corps, but he was their respected Squad Leader.

Bert Englade has resided with his family in Marietta, GA, since October 1998. [SIF](#)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE

Iwo Jima Day Ceremony

On February 19, the Marine Corps League was joined by some distinguished guests at the Iwo Jima Day Ceremony at the State House in Boston. *Left to right:* LtGen George Smith, MCL member John MacGillivray, CEO of the Kraft Group and owner of the New England Patriots Robert Kraft, president of the New England Patriots Foundation Josh Kraft, Iwo Jima veteran Larry Kirby, Tommy Lyons, General Joseph Dunford, retired 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and MCL National JVC Warren Griffin.

Inset, left to right: Iwo Jima veteran Mizz Malloy, LtGen George Smith, MCL member John MacGillivray and Robert Kraft. **SIF**



Honoring a WWII Veteran

On November 17, 2019, the Ira Hayes Detachment 002 from Phoenix, AZ, participated in a parade with a WWII veteran who is 100 years young. *Front left* is his wife Anita, married 75 years to Martin Ramirez, who served with the 158th infantry with the Bush Masters. *Left rear* is Vicki Trevino and Edward Saucedo of the Ira Hayes Detachment. It is an honor to support all veterans regardless of branch of service or rank. **SIF**

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE

Commitment to Veterans

Submitted by Karen Johnston

In keeping with the Greater Syracuse Detachment 224's commitment to veterans, detachment members made a very rewarding outing on January 12, 2020. After learning there was a U.S. Army veteran living at Brookdale Senior Living Liverpool with no family in the area, Marines Ron Farewell, George Hotaling, Dan Jurenko, Bob Brown and Larry Bear went to visit with Mr. Donald Chapman.

It was quickly observed by the detachment members that Mr. Chapman is a very spry 93-year-old and regaled us with memories of his home in and around Liverpool, NY, and his military service beginning in 1946. Mr. Chapman was delightfully surprised by our visit and even posed for a picture with the detachment Marines. On behalf of the detachment, Larry Bear pinned Mr. Chapman with a U.S. Army pin and thanked him for his service.

Upon saying our goodbyes to Mr. Chapman, he informed this group of Marines about another veteran living across the hall and escorted the detachment members to Mr. Albert Casale's room where we discovered a very talkative 96-year-



Marines of Detachment 224 visit U.S. Army veteran Donald Chapman. *Left to right:* Chaplin Dan Jurenko, Sr. Vice Commandant Larry Bear, Donald Chapman (Brookdale resident), Quartermaster George Hotaling and Commandant Ronald Farewell. Member Bob Brown is the photographer.

old U.S. Army WWII veteran who began his service during WWII and was at Normandy, Omaha Beach and three other major WWII campaigns. During our short visit, we learned that Mr. Casale has four daughters who visit him regularly, but he was happy to see us stop in for a visit. We provided Mr. Casale a pin of the U.S. flag

and thanked him for his service.

As we were leaving the facility, Mr. Chapman again met us in the hall and informed us that there were several other veterans in the assisted living home. Our members were unable to meet other veterans during this visit, but it was discussed to make additional future visits to meet these other veterans. **SIF**

“Doc” of the Marine Corps League

By Matt E. Valenzuela, Past Commandant, President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597

Many times, what one person does above and beyond his duty for his detachment, post, chapter, etc., is not recognized, acknowledged, rewarded or even mentioned. That is because we do what we do to help our fellow veterans in any way we can without a thought toward recognition for a good deed done.

We do what we do not for a certificate of merit or even a pat on the back, but because it is in our hearts and minds to help other veterans no matter what they did in service to our country. Such a person is Navy Corpsman, Kenneth “Doc” Honaker, an associate with the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 of the Marine Corps League. Doc joined the Navy so that he would not be a “grunt” in some other service, but he ended up as a Corpsman in the USMC. Doc received two Purple Hearts while serving with the Marines in Vietnam.

Doc has served and helped so many veterans in Ventura County, CA, and perhaps even saved a life or two by just being at the same meeting or group gathering when medical aid was needed. My wife Taj and I are very proud to have met Doc and to call him our friend.

Don't worry, he is not running for office; I just wanted to recognize an outstanding individual in our midst. **SIF**



President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 members at the Simi Valley Street Fair. Doc is on the far right.

Since 1775, those who have served in the USMC have remained steadfast in their values, dedicating themselves to the noble tradition of serving their country—remaining true to the motto of “Semper Paratus” (Always Faithful). Now, in a show of strength and style, you can make your allegiance to the USMC and their tradition of honor, courage and commitment with the “USMC Pride” Knife Pendant—an exclusive jewelry design available only from The Bradford Exchange.

**Superior Craftsmanship
in a Custom Design**

Superbly hand-crafted in a unique knife design, this exclusive pendant is a powerful symbol of Marine strength, courage and determination in defense of this country and freedom wherever challenged. The rich 18K gold-plated handle features a sculpted USMC emblem in raised relief. Hand-set at the bottom of the handle is a genuine black onyx stone. Both sides of the knife pendant’s sterling silver-plated blade are finely engraved, one side with USMC and the other side with the U.S. Marines motto Semper Paratus. The distinctive look is finished with a matching 20” chain plated in 18K gold. It’s an exclusive design that you simply won’t find anywhere else!

**An Exceptional Value...
Your Satisfaction Guaranteed**

Complete with a jewelry pouch, gift box and Certificate of Authenticity, the “USMC Pride” Knife Pendant is a remarkable value at \$119.99*, payable in 4 easy monthly installments of \$30.00, and backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. To reserve yours, send no money now; just fill out and mail the Priority Reservation. But hurry... this is a limited-time offer and you won’t find this pendant anywhere else!



Reverse side shown, featuring “Semper Paratus” engraved on the blade

ALWAYS FAITHFUL



★
Sculpted USMC emblem and USMC engraved on front of the blade

★
Hand-crafted in solid sterling silver with rich 18K gold-plated accents

★
Set with a genuine black onyx center stone

★
Officially licensed

USMC PRIDE Knife Pendant

Order today at bradfordexchange.com/30216

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Arrives in a jewelry pouch with gift box and Certificate of Authenticity

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YES. Please reserve the “USMC Pride” Knife Pendant for me as described in this announcement, in the quantity indicated below.

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*Plus \$9.99 shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your jewelry after we receive your initial deposit. Sales subject to product availability and credit approval.

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Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail (optional) _____

01-30216-001-E10021

IN MEMORIAM

PNC Richard D. Gore, Sr.



Past National Commandant Richard D. Gore, Sr., 1943-2019

Dear Members of the MCL,

On behalf of myself and our entire family, I wish to extend my heartfelt and sincere thanks to the many members of the League who have gone above and beyond to honor and remember Richard. You have graciously given us comfort and support during this most difficult time. Your fond recollections and "Richard stories" are much appreciated.

Semper Fi,
Brigid Gore

By Brigid Gore

On November 29, 2019, PNC Richard D. Gore, Sr., reported for duty to his final post. Memorial services were held in South Carolina on December 6 and in Massachusetts on December 16.

Richard joined the United States Marine Corps in 1960 and served during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was posted to the U.S. Mission at the United Nations under Admiral PT Deutermann and Ambassador Adlai Stevenson. He was honorably discharged in 1964 and remained in the reserves until 1971.

Richard was a proud member of the Massachusetts State Police, having retired in 1988. He was a member of many veterans' organizations including the VFW, American Legion, British Royal Marines and the Coastal Carolina Shields and FOP. His heart was with the Marine Corps League where he rose to the organization's highest position as the 61st National Commandant.

Richard was an inspiration to all who met him. He epitomized the saying: "No greater friend, no worse enemy." He could be found supporting the underdog and admonishing the self-righteous. He was known for his pithy wit and humor. He was unfailingly loyal and a great friend. He enjoyed friends all over the world.

Richard had an adventurous spirit from a young age when he parachuted into his high school graduation in 1960! As a Massachusetts State Trooper, he worked many years undercover in narcotics and subversive group activities. Unfortunately, most of his work was unacknowledged due to the covert nature of it. He did some brave and crazy things in the name of law enforcement and public safety! He worked in the state Office of Investigations and as the personal protection detail to the then governor of Massachusetts. Prior to his retirement, he spent several years in barracks throughout the state.

He was the man who could meet you once and remember your face for the rest of his life ... he wouldn't remember your name, but he would know you. Richard blazed a path and set a standard for many to follow. He was deeply loved and will be forever missed.

Rest easy Marine. We have the watch. **SIF**

CHIEF DEVIL DOG

THOMAS W. HAZLETT, 59TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG

MODDKENNEL.ORG

2020 is the year for an improved vision



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

- From the MODD Handbook

MARINES: Woof, Woof to all Dogs of the Order. What better year than 2020 to sharpen your vision to what we are all about? Remember to have fun and keep it fun. Keep in mind that we are all members of the MCL and that our goals should include supporting our veteran community and of course supporting our children’s hospital effort.

Please remember to fill out your registrations for the National Convention in Daytona Beach and the 81st Supreme Growl. Devil Dogs wishing to obligate to PDD, please read the requirements and get your advancement paperwork submitted to your Pounds and Pack Dog Robbers. Remember, you must check into the Doghouse no later than 17:00 on the Monday prior to the Supreme Growl. If you have any questions, don’t put off asking them to the last minute. I believe this will be a huge Supreme Growl, and we will have plenty of fun. Please also remember to submit ads for the National Convention Ad Book. Those ads help offset the cost of putting on a convention, and they are a great way to show support for the MCL and the MODD.

I have appointed a new executive director and

would like to announce his name: PDD David “Ben” Wells of the “Merlin” Pack. PDD Wells is the seated Worthy Dog Robber of the Merlin Pack. I look forward to outstanding support from PDD Wells, and I am confident he will provide our Kennel with the same outstanding support that we are accustomed to from our past executive directors.

Remember our veteran brothers and sisters; especially those in our veteran hospitals and homes. Help make 2020 the year of improving our vision to make our goals and objectives more productive and successful. Please also remember that we have many Dogs who do great things; remember them through the MODD awards available and through recommendations for Pound, Pack and Kennel Dog of the Year.

Keep our active duty Marines, Navy Corpsmen and Chaplains, as well as their families in your thoughts, especially those in harm’s way and pray for their safe return home to their families and loved ones.

“If you keep it Fun, they will Come!”

Semper Woof!



New Pups in Hawaii being sworn in via Skype.

North Carolina Pack Winter Growl.



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION

***ENJOY THE SUN, SAND & SURF IN
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA!
AUGUST 9-14***

The National Convention is a gathering of Marine Corps League members from all across the United States.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8/9 - MCL ByLaws, MCL Foundation, MCLA ByLaws, MODD Staff Growl, MCL Board of Trustees, MCLA Board of Trustees
- 8/10 - Joint Opening Session, Department Commandant's Council
- 8/11 - Continuing Sessions
- 8/12 - Marine of the Year Society, MODD Initiations and Supreme Growl, National Convention Committee
- 8/13 - PNC Breakfast, Continuing Sessions
- 8/14 - Continuing Sessions, Grand Banquet (Formal)
- 8/15 - Travel Day, Board of Trustees Meetings

(The local Convention website is pending. Continue to check the MCL website (mclnational.org) for details on activities and information!)



HILTON DAYTONA BEACH OCEANFRONT RESORT
RESERVATION NUMBER: 386-254-8200
USE CODE: MCL20

THE 2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE IN SPRINGFIELD, IL.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCLA

EVELYN JOPPA

NATIONALMCLA.ORG

Keep an open mind



LADIES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY:

We have entered a new decade with recruitment of new members and units. Our proven record of success is still

valid; however, with new members, come new ideas or new twists to the success of yester years. Team effort will be required to maintain these new members as well as keep all our members productive and happy. Open your minds and hearts to new ideas. Mentor and guide with kindness and respect. Renew our pledges to continue to serve our Marine families and reach out to those who need our assistance.

If you missed the Mid-Winter Staff Meeting, the business at hand was covered with flair and professionalism thanks to our very capable Board of Trustees and efficient committee members. The Ship's Store committee did an outstanding job of providing us with some new items. Thank you to the members who supported the store as well as our Operation Little Angel Program and National Memorial Fund. Our success is built on our strong teamwork.



We are governed by our Bylaws and Administrative Procedures which, over the course of time, must change to benefit our members. If you see the need to put forth a change, the information on how to meet the requirements is posted on the website. These proposed changes must be submitted 90 days prior to opening of the National Convention. If you have not had a chance to check our updated website, please do. All forms are interactive. Please visit: nationalmcla.org.

The department conferences and conventions, as well as the Division Conferences are in the works. There is valuable information passed down during these events as well as opportunities for learning and receiving answers to the needs and questions your unit may have. Show pride in your unit by placing an ad in the conference and/or Convention book. The extra plus in attending is seeing old friends and acquiring new ones. Please support these important events as time and finances allow.

We have many members and their families in need of prayer and support. Please remember them and our service men and women in daily prayers. To the Marine Corps League, we wish you much continued success. We are here to assist.

Semper Fi!



New MCLA members were initiated at the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference. Pictured are: Christy Ellis and Angie Pitts from Alabama; Evelyn Joppa, center.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Evelyn Joppa

National Sr. VP

Linda Chamberlain

National Jr. VP

Dotty Sanning

National Judge Advocate

Mary Brief

Jr. Past National President

Carol Smith

DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS

Central Division

Renee McGuan

Midwest Division

Patricia Walker

Midwest Division

Darlene MacCubbin

New England

Susie Lee

Northeast Division

Sydney Minchin

Northwest Division

Vickie Brown

Rocky Mountain

Karen Bressler

Southeast Division

Terri Gothard

Southern Division

Carol Mazzara

Southwest Division

No Division Vice

KEY STAFF PERSONNEL & PROGRAM DIRECTORS

National Chaplain

Barb Nobile, PNP

VAVS

Representative

Terri Gothard

National Regent

Donna Jean Peterson

National Big Flea

Joyce Brickett

3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115

Stafford, VA 22554-7771

Phone: (571) 477-2780

Email: mclahq@nationalmcla.org

www.nationalmcla.org



MCLA past national presidents (PNPs) and the current president enjoying the Mid-Winter Conference. *Front row:* PNP Ruth Moyse, PNP Cindy Marshall, President Evelyn Joppa, PNP Gerri Tuhy. *Back row:* PNP Carol Smith, PNP Karen Aune, PNP Barbara Nobile, PNP Jackie Hunter and HPNP Lynn L'Berge.

The MCLA at the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference

Over 250 people attended the 2020 National Mid-Winter Conference held on February 27-29 in Norfolk, VA, at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. Members attended classes with a range of topics such as Suicide Prevention, Marine For Life and the new National database. The banquet's guest

of honor was the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Al Gray. We were honored to have Brigid Gore in attendance as well. The Marine Corps League Auxiliary (MCLA) also attended the Conference with many activities, which included presenting new charters and adding new members. The

MCLA plays an integral part in the Marine Corps and the League, promoting the Corps' and the League's interests and helping to protect and advance the welfare of Marines and their dependents. Here are some highlights of the Auxiliary's activities at the Conference. **SIF**

MCLA National President Evelyn Joppa (*far right*) presented three division vice presidents with charters for new units in their divisions. *From left:* Midwest Division Vice President Darlene MacCubbin was presented a charter for South Dakota's new unit, the Lewis & Clark Leatherneck MCLA Unit; Southeast Division Vice President Carol Mazzara was presented the charter for North Carolina's new unit, Holy City; and Mideast Division Vice President Pat Walker was presented the charter for North Carolina's new unit, Foothills MCLA Unit.



General Al Gray and Past National President Karen Aune.

PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION INC.

GERARD DEVLIN

MCLFOUNDATION.ORG

About the Marine Corps League Foundation

MARINES: The Marine Corps League Foundation got its start in 1989. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We support in addition to our Scholarship program the educational efforts of the national Young Marines program and the National Youth Physical Fitness Program. Those who attended last year's National Convention will remember that we paid tribute to the Young Marine of the Year and awarded her a scholarship to the college of her choice.

On a consistent basis we provide humanitarian aid to individual Marines and their families. We ask each detachment to carefully verify the eligibility of potential recipients. Scammers are everywhere these days. We would ask each detachment Commandant to set up a small committee to examine the person-in-need's DD 214 and other credentials. As a policy we do not send funds directly to the Marine in need but rather to his/her creditors. Your committee should **check the bona fides of the creditors very carefully.** We want your money to be used for legitimate needs only, and every effort is made to see that this is always the case.

For the most part, the Foundation exists on the contribution of individual Marines, detachments and departments; although the Foundation has also been recognized and accepted by the Combined Federal Campaign and receives funds from that source.

One of our most important programs is the blocked scholar-



ship fund which aids League members' children and grandchildren in getting help for higher education. Local detachments are charged with determining the qualifications of applicants. While this program is funded by us, it is administered by the Marine Corps League Scholarship Committee. Their ability to make the individual scholarship meaningful rests upon our and, ultimately, your

contributions. We have asked every detachment to at least make a minimal contribution of \$100 more if you can afford it. In recent years departments and detachments have conducted golf tournaments and other fundraising activities for Marines Helping Heroes Foundation (marineshelpingheroes.org). We encourage you to continue this noble practice.

Please don't forward contributions to National but send them directly to our Treasurer, William Miller, 2904 Cross Creek Drive, Cumming, GA 30040. Please make checks out to **Marine Corps League Foundation.**

Semper Fi!

CEO, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

YOUNGMARINES.COM

New year of adventure

MARINES: It is always exciting to get a new year started with so many planned events for 2020 as we are already leaning forward to execute, but first, here's a look back at the last few months of activities.

Last Fall was full of Young Marine Birthday Balls, Marine Corps Balls and Veterans Day events. Young Marines celebrated the 60th Anniversary of our founding across the country. For the first time, we hosted a Headquarters Young Marines Ball here in Northern Virginia. We are already planning for next year to have our Ball at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. All are invited to attend, and we are very motivated about the event. I was honored to be the guest speaker for the Tar Heel Detachment 733 Marine Corps Ball in Cary, NC. We had a Color Guard from Capitol City Young Marines to open and Ms. Pam Thomas, the new president of the Tar Heel Auxiliary, as the MC. Young Marines were again invited to the New York City Veterans Day parade and had an incredible time representing the program on those crowded streets of the Big Apple.

We were honored to be part of the annual Hollywood Christmas Parade with Toys for Tots for the first time. You would have been proud of over 380 Young Marines that marched smartly the whole way calling cadence and sounding off. The parade was broadcast live, and I was able to talk about Young Marines and give a shout out to our partners and supporters of the League. From the West Coast it was off to Hawaii for the 78th Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremonies. Young Marines and adult volunteers cleaned the beaches

at Kaneohe Bay, performed a memorial service at the Punchbowl Cemetery, attended the MCB Kaneohe Ceremony and marched in the downtown Honolulu parade.

In early 2020, SgtMaj Overstreet and I enjoyed spending time with many of you at the Marine West booths and hearing about your local programs. We had an outstanding Board meeting in February and then joined all of you for the Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk. The best of our Young Marines and I will be returning from the shores of Iwo Jima. 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of that great battle. Your Young Marines will be at a large anniversary event in support of the returning veterans. Check out our Facebook for reports of the trip.

Sadly, we lost a great American and Marine, Richard Gore. As I came aboard as CEO of the Young Marines, PNC Gore was also starting his tour as the new National Commandant. He was a great mentor and supporter for me and our program. From our first meeting and all the way through last summer's Convention in Billings, MT, Marine Gore was constantly supporting and praising the Young Marines program at every opportunity. My personal relationship with the leadership of the League started with PNC Gore and continues to grow stronger. He will be sorely missed, but I am proud to have known him and now so many of you, in leadership and throughout the country. We will continue to work together to support our veterans and "Strengthen the lives of America's youth!"

Semper Fi!

EARLY RELEASE SALUTES IWO JIMA'S HEROES

EXCLUSIVE 75TH ANNIVERSARY 99.9% SILVER-PLATED PROOF

Admiral Nimitz's famed quote



Depicts a U.S. Marine heading into battle

Dates the battle was fought



Genuine black sand from Iwo Jima



Design subject to change. This fine collectible is not legal tender and bears no monetary face value. Shown larger than actual size of 38.6mm.

KEY DETAILS

SPECIAL EARLY RELEASE:

New Proof coin salutes the 75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima, the gruelling island battle that paved the way for the surrender of Japan.

LIMITED AVAILABILITY:

Issued to honor this historic anniversary, editions are strictly limited. Due to the extremely low quantity available, only the earliest applicants will be able to successfully secure this superb tribute.

EXCLUSIVE DESIGN:

Intended as a collectors' item, this exclusive commemorative is offered in coveted Proof condition. Richly plated in 99.9% silver and depicts the famed flag-raising on Mt. Suribachi, plus an image of a U.S. Marine rushing into action.

SPECIAL ENHANCEMENTS:

Accented with genuine black volcanic sand from Iwo Jima island and era appropriate sepia-toned printing.

SECURED AND PROTECTED:

Your superb coin arrives sealed in a crystal-clear capsule to preserve it for years to come.

REMEMBERING UNCOMMON VALOR

Seventy-five years ago, in February and March of 1945, the tiny Island of Iwo Jima became sight of some of the bloodiest warfare in the Pacific theatre. It was viewed as the gateway to an invasion of the Japanese mainland. From February 19 through March 26, 1945, U.S. forces, led largely by the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions, pounded the island into submission, fighting bravely for every inch of it against entrenched Japanese forces who fought nearly to the last man. Now The Bradford Exchange Mint proudly salutes this upcoming 75th Anniversary with *The 75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima Proof Coin*.

EARLY RELEASE 75TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE.

This all-new commemorative tribute is richly plated in 99.9% fine silver for enduring value. On the reverse, special sepia-toned printing recreates the world-famous image of the second flag-raising by American Marines on the top of Mt. Suribachi. But better still, genuine volcanic sand from Iwo Jima itself is permanently affixed to the coin, bringing a genuine piece of the battle home. Specially prepared Proof-quality coining dies create its polished, mirror-like fields and raised, frosted images. The obverse portrays a Marine in action plus Admiral Nimitz's famous quote about the bravery of those who served on Iwo Jima: *Uncommon valor was a common virtue*. It arrives secured in a crystal-clear capsule for heirloom preservation.

STRICTLY LIMITED ... ORDER NOW!

Order now at the \$39.99*, issue price, payable in two installments of \$19.98 each. You need send no money now, and you will be billed with shipment. Your purchase is backed by our unconditional, 365-day guarantee and you may cancel at any time simply by notifying us. Strong demand is expected for this early release 75th anniversary tribute, and editions are very limited. So don't delay, mail the coupon today.

WWW.BRADFORDEXCHANGE.COM/IWOJIMACOIN

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

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YES. Please reserve *The 75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima Proof Coin* for me as described in this announcement. I need send no money now. I will be billed with shipment.

Limit: one per order.

Please Respond Promptly

*Plus a total of \$4.95 shipping and service per item, see bradfordexchange.com. Please allow 4-8 weeks for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance. By accepting this reservation you will be enrolled in *The American Battles of the Pacific Theatre Proof Coin Collection* with the opportunity, never the obligation, to collect future issues. You'll also receive a deluxe wooden display with your second shipment — FREE! Issues will arrive about once a month. You may cancel at any time.

NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

JOHNNY B. BAKER

Why we joined the League

MARINES: In my last article, I concentrated on the League's leadership down to the detachment level and the *fiduciary* responsibility that each MCL leader must have to ensure the MCL is properly conducting the League's business. This article stresses the importance of the members and their responsibilities. So, *why* did we join, and *why* do we have the responsibility to ensure that our League continues to grow? *Why* is it important that we make a difference in the communities we all live in?

When we joined the League, we took an oath to the League. We joined to serve, or at least I did. Let's not fool ourselves; we joined to be around Marines. The goal of a detachment should be to recruit and grow, provide programs and do activities that are important to the members. These and other reasons made us raise our right hand and swear that we would uphold the League's traditions and help the detachment fulfill its mission.

Marines who participate regularly do so because of the camaraderie with other Marines and Corpsmen. When a Marine joins and participates, they develop a sense of personal satisfaction of belonging. They have that sense of family that most of us enjoyed while in the Corps. It never goes away. As an active member of a detachment, we create that same sense of family and satisfaction.

Members who have volunteered to be in the League should have



that sense of responsibility to attend meetings and help as much as they can, life events permitting. It is hard to understand why members join and renew each year but seldom enjoy being part of something bigger. Most detachments are active and are very relevant to their communities. Others struggle to have an effective detachment. Those that struggle are usually the detachments that have those members who seldom come to meetings or events. The challenge is

keeping the members engaged and keeping them motivated to be involved. What happens in your detachment is really in the members' hands. Our detachment leaders should listen to the needs of the members and then make it happen.

Let's enjoy our membership and strive to attend detachment meetings and events. You are needed and wanted at your detachment. Remember why you joined and make it your mission to make a difference to your detachment and your fellow Marines and Sailors. We are Marines and rise to the occasion.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

Departments need active public relations chairpersons

MARINES: Well, here we are at the mid-point of our League year. We are making some good progress in the League's operation, but we are not making nationwide progress in growing our League as I had hoped. Some areas have grown, but others are stagnating. I know we will do better in time, but I am one who likes to see progress yesterday.

One realm in need of improvement is retention of our annual members. These people made the effort to complete all the paperwork, pay their dues (in all respects of the word) and then for some reason did not renew. We can't let them be dismissed. We need to reach out to them to find out why they dropped and ask is there something we can do to encourage them to renew. Every detachment must have at least one friendly person who could be tasked with communicating with these non-renewals. I am making this point because this is a problem right now. We are losing these members, and we're halfway through the year. We can correct this.

I am asking each department to have an active public relations chairperson. Radio and cable television stations are required to have public access forums. As Marine veterans, we have much to say about our history and the benefits that are available to our veterans. Approach these media outlets and request time. You would be sur-



prised how many will be very receptive to letting us get the word out.

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Many states will have ceremonies on or around that date. In Massachusetts, we will be having a parade and ceremony at our State House in Boston on March 30. This is another opportunity to make our Marines aware of the League.

College campuses are sources of new veteran Marines. Many colleges offer a meeting place for these veterans. This can be a starting point for introducing them to our League. Often, they are not aware of the benefits and resources available to them. If they could form a detachment, there would be a continuity of Leaguers—3 or 4 years on campus, then move on to a local detachment upon graduation, but they would be replaced by new Marines entering the college.

Granted, it will take some extra work, but in the end, a bigger Marine Corps League is a better Marine Corps League.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

T.J. MORGAN

Avoid going through Chapter 9 process

MARINES: In my very first article as National Judge Advocate, I talked about perception and what that may mean to some in the Marine Corps League. Today I want to push out the word *process*. Over the last 8 months, this office has dealt with many issues: rulings, opinions and the disciplinary proceedings that are filed by the departments. Many members have never been through the process and really don't understand the considerable amount of time, energy and money it takes. I want you to understand there is no cutting corners. Chapter 9, although somewhat cumbersome to the reader, is the *process* in which you charge, file and hear the cases and in all cases allow for an appeal. Please take some time to read Chapter 9 before you decide to take action, and as always, I encourage you to find middle ground and mediate a reasonable solution without going through the process of a Chapter 9.

It was great to see all of you at the Mid-Winter Conference. I appreciate all of the comments, and I promise to continue the march and do the best I can for the good of the League. For those of you who were not in attendance, I will seek another term as your National



Judge Advocate at the National Convention in Daytona, FL. I have a lot of things left to do, and with your help I will get them done.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all the Department JA's out there for your participation in our Outlook group. After I was elected, I set up an email group in Outlook. This is a place where we share ideas and communicate between each other. Communication is a big part of

what I push to all. It is so important to communicate with each other because it makes all of our jobs easier, and I ask that if you are an outgoing Department JA this election cycle, please pass on to me the new JA's contact information so I may add it to our group and continue the dialogue.

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.



DIVISION REPORTS

New National Marine Corps League database is live



Phil Zamora

NVC, Central Division



MARINES: Well, everyone it's here! The new database! Hopefully, by now, either at the National Mid-Winter or at the Central Division Conference, the leadership of the departments and detachments will have had a chance to navigate the new database to see what it can do for our members. If you haven't been able to get on the database yet, then please do so and update your information, email and phone number. If you are having trouble, contact your department leadership or me, and we will do what we can to help.

This past year I have met some outstanding Marines who are out there trying to help their fellow Marines with their demons. The latest is a young Marine named Travis Snyder who lost a fellow Marine because of PTSD and suicide. He decided to do something to bring awareness to this tragic illness; so walked around Lake Michigan for Suicide

Awareness. Now for those of you that don't know much about Lake Michigan, it's not a one day jaunt around a lake. This took 42 days, and it had to be timed to cross the 5-mile Mackinac Bridge, between the Lower and Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which you can only cross by foot on Labor Day. Travis traveled four states: Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana and back to Michigan, 810 miles to bring awareness to a disease that all of us should be involved in helping out with. After hearing Travis' story and hearing all the people whom he was in contact with during his 42 days, then we all should reach out and call that one person who may be having a hard time dealing with life and show him or her that they have a friend who will listen and care.

Remember, put your hand out to fellow Marines, Corpsman and Navy Chaplains. Explain to them what you do in your detachments and to join you in helping not only veterans but your communities so they know who the Marine Corps League really is.

Hope to see all of you at your Department Conventions and at the National Convention in August in Daytona Beach, FL.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclcentdiv.org

List all activities in meeting minutes



Roger Ware

Mideast Division



MARINES: At the time of writing, we are projected to have some training on the new database at the Mid-Winter Conference. Many detachments will have held their elections, installed their officers and submitted their ROIs. It's important to ensure the ROI is completed and mailed in so your officers are covered by the liability bond. No ROI, no liability coverage. Departments will hold their annual conventions, and this is a great opportunity to attend and support your department. Professional development training should be presented, which would benefit those members seeking more knowledge in administrative functions and the requirements of their assigned positions. The Division Conference will be hosted by the Department of Virginia on June 19-21 at the Holiday Inn, 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA. Go ahead and register before the

deadline. The Division MOY nominations are to be mailed to ANVC Rick Thomason.

Our Division focus during January and February was Adjutant and Paymaster training. These are two of the most important required positions to ensure that administrative and financial functions are organized and completed so your detachment operates as a business organization. One aspect that helps keep all your functions on track is having an agenda that outlines all your pending activities and events. It also ensures that any previous approved motions or items that have not been completed are still carried forward from your minutes. This is also a good time to look back at last year and see if any areas or events need to be added and discussed at your meetings. All motions, events and fundraising activities must be included in your meeting minutes. During your meeting, all events and activities must be approved by the members. This ensures everything approved comes under your corporation and is covered by your insurance coverage. The Department Board of Trustees have to be proactive with their detachments and help them file all required reports and take all steps possible ensuring unpaid members are contacted and asked to continue their MCL membership. Utilizing members of the Department BoT to help track some of the required detachment reports is a good way to get more interaction between the department and detachments. We have Marines deployed around the world so keep them in your prayers.

Semper Fi!

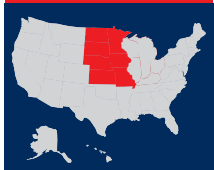
Division Website: mclmideast.com

2020 brings new database and detachments



Harvey L. Harris

NVC, Midwest Division



MARINES: 2020 is off to a great start! Now that the Mid-Winter Conference is over and general operational training for the new National membership database is complete, Department and Detachment Paymasters can now ensure their membership roster information is correct and current. With the new system, it should be easier to keep the roster current and easier to change simple things like addresses, emails and phone numbers. If the contact information on your roster is not current it makes it near impossible to contact a member.

Soon it will be time for detachments and departments to elect new officers for the coming year. Remember to send the required Report of Officer Installation (ROI) to your department along with your state's not-for-profit registration. Your current IRS 990 report will be due in July.

The Midwest Division has recently grown by two new detachments: the SSgt Eric Summers Detachment 1473 of Poplar Bluff, MO, and the Lewis & Clark Leathernecks Detachment 1475 of Yankton, SD—welcome to the Marine Corps League! I would like to congratulate the members of the Mount Suribachi Detachment 105, Smith Center, KS, for 65 years in the League, chartered February 9, 1955. Thank you for your continued participation in the League.

My term as National Vice Commandant (NVC) for the Midwest Division will be complete, and the new NVC will be installed at the 2020 National Convention, Daytona Beach, FL. I would like to thank the members of the Midwest Division for giving me the opportunity to represent the Midwest Division for the past 4 years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to do so. I wish continued success to the new NVC.

The Midwest Division 2020 Spring Conference will be hosted by the Air Capitol Detachment 773 in Wichita, KS, at the Best Western Wichita North Hotel, 915 53rd North (I-35 & 53rd St N) on April 17-18, 2020. Additional information can be found on our website.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

Continue to improvise, adapt and overcome



David Porter

NVC, New England Division



MARINES: The League is constantly looking to strengthen itself. One of our biggest challenges, which is the same for other veteran organizations, is membership. The New England Division alone is down 41 members since this time last year.

How do we best move forward? It is essential for leadership to keep a positive mindset and explore new ways to connect with our younger veterans. I saw an article in *U.S. Veterans Magazine* (usveteransmagazine.com) that has stuck in my mind: "Why Are the Younger Veterans Avoiding the Veterans Service Organizations?" I read numerous comments from both sides. Who is right? Who is wrong? This isn't about picking sides! This is about continuing to build the community. This is about drawing on our Marine training to improvise, adapt and overcome!

While we continue to honor the past, we must focus on growing in the present so that we can secure the future of the Marine Corps League. *Improvise*—think on our feet and support the best course of action! *Adapt*—be open to new ideas brought forth by our younger veterans. *Overcome*—the future of the League is in our hands; young and old, we will overcome any struggle together, semper fi!

Whether you are a National Vice, Department or Detachment Commandant, you need to fulfill your leadership duties and have the will to fire up that motivational machine! Commandants, remember the Oath of Installation of Officers—membership is the very heart of the League! We must keep that heart beating!

Moving on, we have some important dates coming up:

- April 17-19, 2020, New England Division Conference & Quad State Convention will be up in Portland, ME. See our website for more information on the convention.
- June 4-7, 2020, Department of Massachusetts Convention will be located in Hyannis, MA (Cape Cod). See mcldeptofmassachusetts.com for more information.
- June 12-14, 2020, Department of Connecticut will have their Convention. Location TBD.

One last challenge: Commandants, I encourage you and your staff to get the Red covers to attend and enjoy the conventions. The conventions are for all to have fun and pass tradition on!

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclnedivision.com

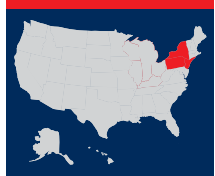
DIVISION REPORTS

Looking ahead in 2020; new database, new forms



Jim Powell

NVC, Northeast Division



MARINES: Our detachments are heading into a busy time of year as they will be doing fundraising, parades and other events when the weather breaks. Departments will be having their spring meetings and Leadership schools.

Year-end rosters were circulated, and it looks like we still have some work to do. As a Division we had 1,260 members unpaid or 9.7% unpaid as of December 31. I know that our departments are working diligently to get this number down, but we must make retention a high priority. By this time of year, if we are honest with ourselves, this number needs to be much lower. There is no reason by our Department Conventions in June to be at 100% or better. As the Division with the largest membership we should take pride in that and lead the way in retention and recruitment for the rest of the League.

The rewrite of the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures took place last year and was approved at the National Convention. Departments and detachments should have completed or be working on rewriting their own Bylaws and Administrative Procedures to be in compliance with the new structure. When updating your Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, remember to send a copy up the chain of command to be approved. Additionally, the National staff has been working on updating League forms. Please look at the National website for these new forms.

The National Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, VA, consisted of a couple of major items on the table. The new National database, which should be up and running by the time the Conference, is the culmination of many years of hard work and promises to the League members. It will truly be transformative. In addition, National conducted an audit of every detachment's and department's IRS 990 filing status, EIN status and Report of Installation (ROI). The goal is to get the entire League in compliance with IRS regulations and National Bylaws. Those detachments not in compliance will be given a last chance to get into compliance.

The Division Conference will take place at the Department of Pennsylvania Headquarters on Fort Indiantown Gap in Annville, PA, on May 1 and 2. Please check the Northeast Division website below for more information. The National Convention in Daytona follows in August. It should be well-attended and a great time to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones. It's a place to get a lot of information on how the League works and get your opinions heard. Look on the National website for more information (mclnational.org).

Semper Fi!

Division Website: nedmcl.org

Your choice impacts your detachment



Dan Ritter

Northwest Division



MARINES: I hope everyone is enjoying the new decade. I had a great time in Norfolk, VA, at the National Mid-Winter Conference. Most detachments are involved in electing their officers this time of year. I remember when I was first elected to represent my detachment as its Commandant. It can be a bit of a challenge depending on the culture within your detachment. I was lucky enough to have a few experienced members guide me along the correct path. I encourage all of you to be an asset to the newly elected officers. Give them advice when asked and, more importantly, give them support. New officers will not do everything perfectly, but allowing them to figure it out will make both the new officer and the detachment stronger. I've heard many a story about the "old timer" who was upset about a minor situation and continued to voice criticism about how what was

done isn't the way we used to do it.

Our League is graying and needs some youth who may have a different formula to achieve the same or possibly better results. Marines have always figured it out, and I have full confidence that the same quality exists in our newer members. You can choose to encourage, discourage or just listen. Your choice will no doubt impact the future of that new member and/or the future of your detachment.

If you were not elected to a position, your Commandant can sure use you in some capacity. If you have an idea to make your community better, approach your Commandant and volunteer to chair a committee or research the solution and bring back the results to your detachment. If you are elected to a position, take the time to follow your oath, read the Bylaws and ask for help. Past elected officers from your detachment or current officers from your department and Division are there to help you with any situation that may cause concern. I look forward to our Division members putting their best foot forward for Memorial Day, department conventions and summer events. Hope to meet a lot of great members at the department conventions. Keep an eye out for new members and always take care of our Marines and their families.

Semper Fi!

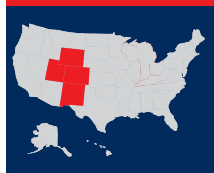
Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org

Develop networks in your communities



Russ Miller

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division



MARINES: As we head into spring and look forward to our department conventions and Division Conference, I encourage all of you to start thinking about sharing the successes and trials that your detachments have had in the past year with those who will be in attendance. Whether your detachment is in the low lying deserts, the high country of our many majestic mountain ranges or the fertile fields of our farms and ranches around Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado, we all face the same challenges of growing our detachments in strength and numbers. While at your states' conventions take time to share ideas of what has worked for you. With a well-meaning heart, we may be tempted to tell our fellow Marines that "we tried that, and it was an utter failure," but remember that we are a very broad area with many rich and diverse cultures. What works for one detachment in a large city, may not translate

well for the rural detachments and vice versa. But the more we NETWORK, sharing ideas, successes and failures, the more it opens up possibilities and saves us time from perhaps reinventing the perfect square wheel.

One thing that remains true no matter where you go is that we are Marines (I include our Chaplains and Corpsmen in this statement). Subsequently, we were all trained to see that there are two ways to do everything: the wrong way and the Marine Way, aka the right way. Marines attack every task with excellence and a higher standard in all they do. If you left active duty in our beloved Corps and became a garbage man in your civilian life, chances are you are the best one your town has ever seen; all the cans on your streets are covered and aligned as well as being clean enough to eat out of. Too Far? My point is this: As you move around in your daily life and come upon fellow Marines who own or operate businesses, build networks in your communities and help one another grow and expand. Consider developing a directory or facebook group that fellow Marines, especially those coming to us through the Marine For Life Network, can look to for support and guidance as they integrate into unfamiliar territory.

I look forward to sharing time with you all at our conventions.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mcleaguerckymntdiv.org

Are you making plans for membership growth?



Archie H. Sweet

NVC, Southeast Division



MARINES: Benjamin Franklin is quoted as having said, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." A lesser known quote by Kilroy J. Oldster, who is believed to have been the origin of the "Kilroy was here" expression, offered his opinion that, "Nature is never static. It is always changing. Everything is in a constant state of flux. Nothing endures. Everything is in the process of either coming into being or expiring." Our Marine Corps League will always be in that state of flux of either growing or expiring, dependent mostly on the membership numbers.

Another quote from Ben Franklin states, "Without continual growth and progress, such words as *improvement*, *achievement*, and *success* have no meaning." Sadly, too many detachments have become complacent about recruiting new members and are now beginning to atrophy. Look at your unit's

membership numbers over the past 5 years. Has your total membership increased or decreased? In some cases, new detachments have been chartered without anyone ever fully explaining to them that if the League is to continue to achieve its mission statement, it must continue to increase its total membership. A newly chartered detachment should easily double its membership in the first 2 years.

Are realistic plans being made to improve and grow your detachment and/or department? Does your detachment or department have a written plan for the future? Does your detachment have a budget approved by a vote of the members? Every unit of the MCL should have an annual budget. Is anyone in your detachment performing the duty of planning for recruitment of new members and seeing that all renewal dues are paid?

I am aware that my columns in *Semper Fi* are becoming very repetitious on the need for increasing membership, but everyone must understand that if we continue to fail to seriously plan and work toward sustained membership growth, the League will expire. Until we have strong and consistent gains in our membership annually, membership growth will remain to be our most important duty. Having plans for membership growth is the only way to ensure that there is a Marine Corps League in the future. We cannot survive, much less grow, until and unless, every detachment does its job of recruiting new members each year. Sadly, numerous detachments are failing to even recruit enough new members to replace their attrition from non-renewals and death. That must change.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: sediv.org

DIVISION REPORTS

We must be proactive in 2020 and try new things



Johnny R. Gothard

NVC, Southern Division



MARINES: As we begin this New Year there are a few new things happening in the League, but first, I want to mention that the 2019 Modern Day Marine was held on Marine Base Quantico September 17-19, and it was another record year for the event with more vendors and a new registration process that resulted in the shortest lines—smoothest yet. Looking forward to 2020, by this printing, most of you will have received the new membership cards, and the new National membership database will be fully implemented.

My wife and I attended a Marine Ball November 16 in Mena, AR, hosted by the Herbert A. Littleton Detachment 1261 and would like to thank Commandant Ed Anderson for inviting us and treating us with such great hospitality. Arkansas held their 2020 Winter Conference in Conway, AR, hosted by the Dale W.

Langford Detachment 1323; it was an informative and very productive meeting conducted by Department Commandant Jim Howington.

Membership continues to be on the front burner for the Division. We have to find a way to improve those numbers, but all and all, the Division is holding its own. However, unpaid members at the level we are experiencing cannot be sustained over the long term. We can be the greatest recruiters in the world, but if they are going out the back door faster than they are coming in, we are not winning. Retention is the secret to growth; try to keep them and set up fire teams in your detachments to keep in contact with your members. Head off problems with members instead of letting them just slip away. One thing I've heard said by many, but fails is, "We have always done it this way." Try new things—make your meetings fun, keep things active and interesting and have family events. This is great for the younger Marines with families; you won't know if it'll work if you have not tried it, so hang in there and keep a positive attitude. Let's keep growing.

I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as the Division NVC these past 3 years; it has been a rewarding and challenging experience to say the least. With only 1 year remaining, I am looking forward to some great things for the Division in the near and far future.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: southernmcl.org

Let's raise public awareness of who we are



Bill Ebright

NVC, Southwest Division



MARINES: Recently, I received a sweat-shirt from a friend. On the front was verbiage reading: "To Err is Human, to Forgive Devine / Neither are Marine Corps Policies." Well, let me tell you, the lady behind the local super-market deli counter read it and was very displeased. "How awful," she said. "You should not be wearing that."

A few days later, I received an email from another friend which included a *New York Times* article headlined how soldiers, sailors, air force personnel and Marines are being poorly trained because the emphasis is all on heavy weapons training.

Both of these incidents, I believe, reflect a poor understanding by some members of the public of the Marine Corps' mission. They fail to understand that we are a seaborne rapid assault force with the emphasis on "assault." Most people don't know that following boot

camp, the vast majority of Marines go through intensive infantry training. Thus, we are first and foremost basic infantry riflemen, no matter what other jobs we may be assigned. Our "heavy weapons" are rifles with fixed bayonets!

Which brings another point to mind: Would that all of these people attend the Marine Corps League's sponsored Marine West to get a better understanding of our Corps! I thank all of you in our Division who came and helped make this such a tremendous success and joined in the great camaraderie of our Division's dinner.

The Division Conference is coming up April 19-21. Very favorable rates have been extended at the Orleans Hotel & Casino. Please call for reservations at 1-800-675-3267. Tell them you are from the Marine Corps League and use **Code AGNO09** so you receive the preferred rate of \$49.00 plus tax per night. Division meetings and the Devil Dog Growl will be held at the Leatherneck Club. The Devil Dog Growl's special guest will be Thomas Hazlett, 59th Chief Devil Dog. Check the Division website for updates.

Also, another important reminder: The 2020 National Convention is scheduled for August 9-15 at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. You Devil Dogs (DD) wearing the red collar can only earn the yellow collar Pedigree Devil Dog (PDD) rank at a National Convention, so be sure to let your Pound's Dog Robber know well in advance that you plan to attend and seek the PDD designation.

In the meantime, Pat Connell and I will continue to urge that all members and officers continue to work closely with their departments to make their detachments the best that they can possibly be.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclswdivision.org

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THE *SEMPER FI* INTERVIEW

Corporal Sky Barkley

Do Something Amazing

Sky during the tank rescue carrying one of the wounded men over his shoulder. Barely visible at the right side of the frame is the group of bodies that the FBR crew went to go retrieve the wounded from. To the front of the tank is the ISIS position that commanded the area with fire.



By Miles Vining

In June 2017, a video captivated the internet showing several men in the Battle of Mosul risking everything to run into certain death in order to rescue wounded Iraqi civilians who were clinging to life amid a pile of corpses. The people were running away from ISIS when they were gunned down in the open. The men were volunteers with the Free Burma Rangers (FBR), an international relief organization that was treating casualties during the Battle. The group was founded by the current director, David Eubank in 1997 in the midst of the Burmese Civil War. The mission? To provide help, hope and love to the oppressed throughout conflict zones. Since then, the FBR mission has expanded to Sudan, Iraq and currently Syria where the group continues to help civilians caught in the cross fire of war.

One of those men who risked every-

thing was veteran Marine Sky Barkley. We were able to sit down with Sky and discuss his journey from the Marine Corps, to navigating the pitfalls of leaving the service, and his rendezvous with destiny in one of the most costly urban military endeavors in recent years, the Battle of Mosul.

Semper Fi: Tell us about your pre-Marine Corps upbringing and why you chose the Marines?

Sky Barkley: I grew up on the eastern shore of Maryland in a town called Centreville. My parents divorced when I was 7. I was in the 10th grade when 9/11 happened and remember that day very vividly, not having any idea of the impact it would have on my life. As the war in Afghanistan progressed, there was a wave of patriotism that I got caught up in. I wanted to do my part and chose the Marine Corps, because at the time I understood that the Marines saw the most action, and I wanted to be a part of that. I wanted to be a

part of that reputation.

What was your MOS and tell us about your deployments?

SB: I signed on with an 1800 Combat Support contract, with a request to go to Amphibious Assault, eventually being assigned AmTracs as an 1833 Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV) crew member. Had absolutely no idea as to what I was getting into. I mean I was that kid in class writing down the definition of *creセント wrench* in my notes. Getting into the Fleet, I was assigned to the 2nd Amphibious Assault Battalion based at Camp Lejeune at Courthouse Bay. My first deployment was to Al Anbar Province, where we mainly were a Quick Reaction Force for the various infantry units, one of the main ones being 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines. We spent a lot of time searching for weapons caches and conducting snap VCPs. Probably the closest call was when my vehicle hit an IED that had been triggered too early as our AAV approached it on the road. When we returned stateside, there was a volunteer request for the 26th

Sky treating a wounded toddler during the Battle of Mosul. Note the temporary mechanical splints holding her legs together. Civilian casualties often have horrendous injuries that international aid organizations cannot get to due to the nature of the fighting. FBR works to get life-saving assistance to these civilians who would otherwise not have a viable source of medical attention.



MEU [Marine Expeditionary Unit]. Previous MEUs had wound up in Afghanistan, so I instantly volunteered for it. I felt like I hadn't seen enough combat on my first deployment to the area of operations around Fallujah. But the deployment turned out to be a "booze cruise," training in Kuwait at Camp Buehring and off of Somalia looking for pirates. We had some good liberty ports in Naples, Crete, Seychelles, Rota, Toulon and Lisbon. I came back and was looking at reenlistment options. One opportunity was going back to Parris Island to be a swim instructor as a B-Billet, another was making a career lateral move to counter-intel.

What prompted you to leave the Marines? You initially wanted to stay in for a career?

SB: Absolutely, but I became involved in a serious car accident when I was involved in a head-on collision while driving off base. I broke two ribs, my L2 vertebra, shattered my hip from my femur colliding with it. The complications from the accident were too great to continue a career and reenlisting wasn't an option. If the accident hadn't happened, I would have absolutely reenlisted.

Tell us about your post-EAS journey.

SB: I got out, and I think I experienced everything that Marines get themselves into after leaving the service. I initially became a field hand on natural gas drilling rigs in Wyoming, then I worked as a patrol officer for the city of Rock Springs, WY. I left the department and tried the university route at High Point University in North Carolina for a year. College not working, I moved to Charlotte and worked a number of part-time jobs. But none of these

civilian alternatives made me as satisfied with what I had in being a Marine, with the camaraderie, sense of purpose and identity that had come with the service. Really, it was a spiral downwards for me at every step of the journey.

What reversed that spiral?

SB: One night in 2013, I came back from a really bad night working as a bouncer in Charlotte. I was contemplating suicide, because I came to a breaking point where I realized that nothing I was doing outside the Marines was making me happy. Coincidentally, I had some familial connections to tribal communities in Columbia. I needed a break from society, and this seemed like a good alternative to the dead end jobs I kept finding myself in. So I sold everything I owned and took a flight to Columbia. Spending time with these indigenous Amazonian communities completely changed my perspective on who I was and who I wanted to be. Mostly it was because I found a new faith in Christ, and it absolutely changed my heart. The hate and discontent that filled me after getting out of the Marines became a choice that I could embrace or set aside in favor of serving something greater. Previously it was all I ever had known.

And how did that lead to the Free Burma Rangers?

SB: I was in the jungle and feeling extremely elevated due to this newfound purpose I had in life. So I was praying and wondering what I should do now. I felt like I still had this warrior mindset from the Marines that I couldn't just turn off. I believed that I wanted to serve God in a way that lined up with this calling that had been instilled

in me by the Marine Corps. Around that time, I was connected with a missionary also in the Amazon who told me about the Free Burma Rangers. Being without much electricity and much less internet, the first chance I got to an internet cafe, I looked up this group that I had never heard of before, and what I found was life altering because it made me realize that serving God can be almost anything, but it is about how and why you do it. And to be able to do it with a relief group that uses that warrior mindset to reach people in need throughout conflict zones, in places that others will not or cannot go, gave me a more powerful sense of purpose than even the Marines had given me. The mentality that drives FBR was in alignment with my skills that previously could have only led to the destruction of an enemy, but now could give help, hope and love to those enduring oppression.

Talk about this path that eventually led to the Battle of Mosul.

SB: I contacted FBR and was fully committed and motivated to join the group but needed the funds in order to make it work. FBR doesn't pay members as it is an all-volunteer group, so being financially independent was essential. I also met my wife Noelle in this time period, and she too was fully supportive of us working in this capacity. When we had saved up enough, we finally got the opportunity to work with FBR in Burma. While there, I volunteered to go to Mosul as a medic where FBR was working with civilians fleeing the ongoing violence fighting with ISIS. What enabled me to be a medic was previous education as an EMT-Basic in North Carolina and the Remote Medical Training in Washington State.

Talk about the Battle of Mosul, leading up to the climactic "Tank Rescue."

SB: Mosul is divided by the Tigris River into the east and west sides of the city. The natures of the offensives on these two sides were very different experiences for me. Initially, I was on the east side embedded with the medical team of the Iraqi Emergency Response Division in early 2017. We worked their casualty collection points, treating both military and civilian casualties. We even treated ISIS fighters when they were caught by the Coalition. In addition to treating casualties, we brought in massive amounts of food and other humanitarian necessities for fleeing civilians during the Battle. When the Eastern Offensive ended, we switched to embedding with the 36th Armored Brigade of the Iraqi 9th Armored Division. The Brigade was tasked with clearing areas outside of Western Mosul such as Telcasuma [sic] and Badush. In May of 2017,

the division received orders to enter the Western city limits. The offensive started on May 4. That day the nature of the fighting changed for me in that it went from treating casualties in casualty collection points to care under fire in combat. We lost two of our own that day, one of whom was our translator who was killed (Shaheen Khalif, of Yazidi ethnicity), and our Humvee driver (Mohamad Ahmad, Iraqi Army) was severely wounded while trying to save Shaheen. But the fighting continued. As we pushed through the city the Iraqi Army and civilian casualties increased every day.

Break down the events of June 2 for us, please.

SB: During the advance, it became evident that many of the fleeing civilians were coming from a neighborhood known as Al Zinjeli. One morning after a particularly rough night spent treating civilian casualties, we were observing the battlefield and noticed enormous amounts of bodies to our front. Dead women, children and people in wheel chairs. But to our disbelief, among one pile of bodies there were still some surviving children. ISIS had been gunning down civilians for days as they fled from the collapsing caliphate. Our leader David Eubank prayed and felt inclined to save these children while they were still alive. The problem was that ISIS still held the high ground in an abandoned hospital several hundred meters over open ground to the position where the

children were. It was a death trap to even approach the wounded in the open. We initially asked the Iraqi Army for an armored bulldozer, an Abrams tank, and three Humvees to provide the necessary cover and fire to rescue the children. But what we got instead was a single Abrams tank, and after some coordination with the U.S. Coalition, an artillery smoke screen in front of the ISIS positions. The tank came and Dave called for volunteers with him leading the way. We ran out with Ephraim Mattos, another FBR volunteer and prior SEAL, interpreter Mahomd [sic] Darwish, a Syrian Kurdish Christian, and our cameraman Monkey, an ethnic Karen who had been a founding member of FBR. We were sprinting behind the tank to keep up with it. As we got closer, the smoke screen started to clear along with the uptick in the ISIS rate of fire coming back at us. Dave called for more smoke. When it came, Dave ran out to pick up the girl while I and Ephraim provided covering fire with our rifles. At the same time, the Abrams was shooting with the coax .50-caliber M2. Dave picked up the girl in the group of bodies and ran back to us. We then went and recovered two wounded men who were also in the pile of corpses. While we running out for the men, ISIS mortars began dropping behind the tank. Then the tank started reversing back. We had no choice but to begin the walk back. I put one of the wounded men on my back, tripped and had to roll out of the way of the tank. A round came in and hit

Ephraim in the calf. Our Humvee drove out and picked us up once we pulled back, taking the casualties to the rear.

What advice would you give to currently serving Marines in the Fleet and Reserves today?

SB: Get all the training you can and act like you are going to use it. We used to train with navigating dummies through obstacle courses. In 2007, I would never have thought that I would be dragging and carrying casualties through the rubble of the Battle of Mosul. Don't let the demotivating factors in your world, whether they be other Marines in your platoon or the weather conditions on a field exercise, prevent you from reaching your full potential. You should be influencing others to be greater, not letting others influence you to be less than what you're capable of.

What would be your strongest words of encouragement to Marines navigating their post-EAS life?

SB: Evaluate the skills that you have, what the Marine Corps instilled in you, and how you can use those skills to do what God put you on this Earth to do. If you're struggling with that post-EAS life, go and do something amazing. We don't give up, we don't quit. Live up to the over 200 years of tradition that gave the Marine Corps the legends that it has today. Your greatest days aren't behind you; make your service a springboard for continuing that. **SIF**

NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

ROBERT "BUTCH" RAYNES

Wearing of the uniform

MARINES: I am getting calls and emails again about some of us not wearing the uniform of the Marine Corps League and Dress Blues correctly. I remind you that you are now a member of the League and not on active duty. When at a Marine Corps League function, a Marine Corps League uniform is the required dress. You must wear it correctly as well. If you wear the Marine Dress Blues uniform, remember you must meet the standards set by the Marine Corps for grooming and appearance; no long hair or beards, etc. Questions have come up as to wearing Dress Blues while doing Toys for Tots. It is recommended that you wear the Marine Corps League uniform, not Dress Blues. MCOP1020.34G prescribes the wear of the Marine Corps uniform by veterans and/or retirees.

One thing I am noticing is the wearing of ribbons and pins on the right side of the Red Blazer. They are not allowed. When wearing pins on the lapel of the blazer, remember there are only 11 pins that have been approved, and only two can be worn at any one time. Please refer to Enc. 3 in the Bylaws Sect. 8 Lapel Pins for a list of the approved pins. No pins or ribbons, with the exception of a name tag, can be worn on the right side of white short and long sleeve shirts.



We are also seeing the wearing of a name tag and miniature medals on the Red Blazer uniform. You do not wear miniature medals on the Red Blazer uniform *unless* you are wearing it as an optional uniform for dress. You may wear the large, standard-size medal on the Red Blazer, but only three, and they must be on a single ribbon bar and can be of the wearer's choice. You DO NOT wear Dress Blue trousers with the Red Blazer.

For belts, please follow these guidelines: White Duty Belts, Sect. XI of Enc. (3) 2½-inch white cotton with brass Marine Corps waist plate 3½x2½-inch (Drill Instructor style) is the correct belt to wear. White pistol belts (with brass eyelets all around) are NOT AUTHORIZED, and pistol holsters and 45s are NOT AUTHORIZED. Also, the white belt worn with Dress Blues is not considered a duty belt.

Semper Fi!

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

WENDELL W. WEBB

We must stay alert

MARINES: In the world of business good companies thrive until leadership gets sloppy with checks and balances, valid business practices and lack of good leadership. Just look at the news and see how many well-known companies are having trouble with image, branding, Better Business Bureau failing ratings and failing financial ratings. How we manage our lives, our households, our organizations, our businesses and our governments is critical on whether we are successful or unsuccessful.

We all know of many of these that are bad, and it is always hard to find the good long-term organizations. Working with people I get to see all of the above, at all stages. Education is key, but where does that education come from? The internet is full of "how-tos" but not necessarily the correct education or solution. People are the root cause of all their failures or successes. People have their own agendas, and the lobbyists of those agendas are at the root cause of all failures. Failure is necessary in the learning process, but to keep



making the same mistake creating more failure is not smart.

Every time I work with groups and we diagnose and determine root causes of the problem, people say the signs were there, and we did nothing. In order to keep a household or organization going for the long term, it takes a lot of work and the team must stay alert and speak up when something does not pass a sanity check. Selection of leadership without personal agendas is getting harder to do and requires more thought process when we move forward.

We have good people with great skills, but do we recognize them and ask them for help? You think about that ...

Semper Fi!

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JACQUES DESCLOITRES/MODIS LAND RAPID RESPONSE TEAM AT NASA GSFC



CAMP TARAWA

The Big Island's Role in Iwo Jima



Aerial view of Camp Tarawa. When they think of Hawaii, most people think of palm trees and beautiful beaches, but that's not where they put Marine bases! Camp Tarawa was located between two volcanoes at a 2,670-ft elevation where it is very windy and cold at times.

By Paul Prosize and Kathy Painton

In honor of the 75th Anniversary (February 23, 1945–February 23, 2020) of the raising of the U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi, Kathy Painton was the featured speaker at the Camp Tarawa Detachment 1255 Marine Corps League's monthly meeting held at the VFW in Kona, HI. Kathy's father was in the 5th Marine Division and lost his life on Iwo Jima. She gave an interesting presentation on the important roll the Big Island of Hawaii played in preparing the 5th Marine Division for the assault on Iwo Jima.

When the 2nd Marine Division came to the Big Island in December 1943, a Marine base was established on Parker Ranch in Waimea so the men could have a place to recuperate after the Battle of Tarawa and to train for the Saipan and Tinian campaigns. They named the base "Camp Tarawa" in remembrance of the famous battle fought on the island.

After the 2nd Marine Division left, the 5th Marine Division moved from Camp Pendleton to Camp Tarawa to continue training for the assault on

Iwo Jima. Camp Tarawa was located between two large volcanoes: Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea. Camp Tarawa had a small cinder cone volcano called "Buster Brown" about the same size as Mount Suribachi where the Marines raised the flag on the 5th day of the 36-day battle. The Marines of the 5th Division climbed it and other hills almost daily in training.

Waimea had a population of approximately 450 people in 1943-1945 when 25,000 Marines moved next door. The Marines and Seabees brought electric-



5TH DIVISION PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD STOTZ

Camp Tarawa (note the small volcano called "Buster Brown" in the background) is about the same size as Mount Suribachi where the Marines raised the flag on the 5th day of the 36-day battle. The Marines of the 5th Division climbed it almost daily in training.



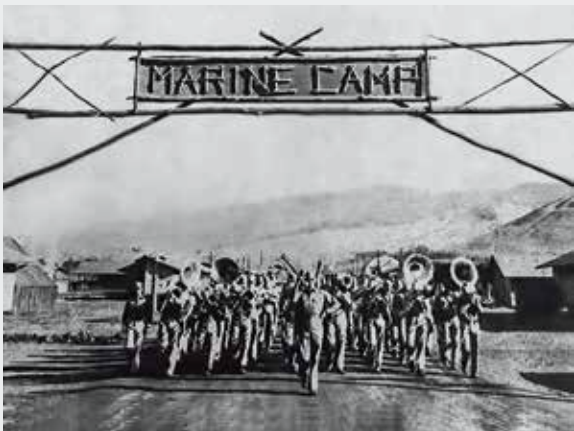
5TH DIVISION PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD STOTZ

5th Division Marines on R&R on one of Hawaii's many beaches. While they seem to be having a good time in their off-hours, remember a great many of them were casualties in the upcoming battles they were training for.



5TH DIVISION PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD STOTZ

After being in the cramped troop transport ship for weeks to get to Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii, riding out in the open on a flatcar of a sugar cane train in a tropical paradise must have been great. Getting off in Honokaa, Marines were then trucked to Waimea (Kamuela), then to Parker Ranch and Camp Tarawa.



5th Marine Division band. Bob Crosby, Bing Crosby's brother, had a small Dixieland band that played for special functions.



Marines invited to participate in a local rodeo.

ity, water storage and refrigeration to the town and provided the local kids with the first ice cream they ever had. The locals invited the Marines into their homes, gave luaus, converted some buildings into USOs and invited the Marines to participate in their rodeo.

Of the 55,000 Marines, Navy Corpsmen and Seabees who trained at Camp Tarawa for the invasions of Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, a total of 5,145 were killed in action or died of their wounds, and 18,029 were wounded.

The Camp Tarawa Detachment

encourages all Big Island Marines (active, reserve or retired) to join the detachment and participate in its monthly meetings.

To learn more about Camp Tarawa and see additional photos, please visit: camptarawamcl.com. SIF

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



The Tomah VA Medical Center, WI, recognized its volunteer organizations on Nov. 12, 2019, for their commitment and support of veterans at the facility. The MCL received a certificate of appreciation. *Pictured are:* VAVS Deputy Mike Boldon, VAVS Director Jenifer Conzemius and VAVS Representative Dennis Beattie. These three Marines are from the Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Detachment 1363 of Black River Falls, WI.



The Marine Corps' 244th Birthday cake cutting at the Illinois Veterans Home for Gem City Detachment 790, Quincy, IL, with oldest resident and MCL member, Don Pechous, youngest resident Zack Liggett and member Wayne Griep assisting.

Presenting a hand-made custom yard flag and certificates are Marines who have returned to civilian life, Dennis Beattie and designer/builder Brian Wepking from Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Detachment 1363 in Black River Falls, WI, along with Active Duty Marines SSgt Nathan Wepking and Sgt Clifton Bowers from Recruiting Station Minneapolis. The recipient was Marine Dale Miller from Eau Claire, WI.



ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Marine veteran Dan O'Connell, Commandant of the Greater Nevada Detachment 186, organized what may be the largest gathering of Marines, Navy and families in Las Vegas to celebrate our Marine Corps' Birthday. The guest of honor was General Robert Neller, retired Commandant of the Marine Corps. Nationally recognized wood carver and *Leatherneck Magazine* cartoonist, Bill Howrilla, carved a likeness of General Neller. Dan O'Connell presented the carving of General Neller at a pre-Birthday celebration at the Leatherneck Club in Las Vegas as Bill Howrilla (left) was recognized for his contribution to this year's celebration.



At Kentucky's Bluegrass Detachment 1012's annual Birthday Ball on November 9, 2019, Lt Presley O'Bannon (as embodied by Kentucky State Representative Matt Koch) spoke about his exploits in the Tripolitanian War. He was recognized for his bravery and awarded a sword which became the model for the Mameluke sword, a part of Marine Corps Officers' uniforms still today.



The Chosin Reservoir Detachment 968, Mason, OH, held their annual Toys for Tots drive at Walmart on December 14, 2019. Left to right: Paul Plominski, Jimmy Kay, Dave Julien, John Tonkin, Wally Huff, Gary Copeland, Pat Kay and Doug Loughead. Ten grocery carts of toys along with cash donations were collected.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Ira Hayes Detachment 002, Phoenix, AZ, honored Korean veterans on January 22, 2020. The detachment presented Colors at a ceremony for the Marine Corps–Law Enforcement Foundation (MC-LEF). The Marine Corps–Law Enforcement Foundation provides \$35,000 scholarships per child for our fallen veterans’ children. Color Guard: Robert Jones, Edward Saucedo, Oscar Santa Cruz and David Yrigoyen.

Left, The Ira Hayes Detachment 002 brought Rozanne Workman, *center*, to a Marine Corps–Law Enforcement Foundation (MC-LEF) ceremony to sing the National Anthem January 22, 2020.



Sunrise Detachment 248, Massapequa, NY, dedicated a monument in honor of all Marines who have served since November 10, 1775.



Both Hershel “Woody” Williams and Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura were marshals in the Veterans Day parade in New York City.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Modern Day Marine Expo, MCB Quantico. Grand Banquet and Reception at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City, Arlington, VA. *Left to right:* Tom Hazlett, Detachment 1379 Dept. of Virginia (Honorable 59th Chief Devil Dog) and Mike Francis, Detachment 1081 Dept. of Missouri (Kennel Aide-de-Kamp).



LANCE CPL ANGELA E. WILCOX

U.S. Marine BrigGen Roberta Shea, the commanding general of 1st Marine Logistics Group, welcomes attendees to the Marine West Expo at the 22 Area parade deck on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, February 6, 2020. The Marine Corps League and Marine Corps Association & Foundation sponsor the annual expo for service members and civilians on Camp Pendleton to strengthen their partnerships and cohesion with various units across the base.



On November 3, 2019, a new MCL detachment, SSgt Eric Summers Detachment 1473, received its Charter in Poplar Bluff, MO, during the Charter Presentation Ceremony. *Seated left to right:* Kevin Edgar (Detachment Judge Advocate); Jesse Wells (Detachment Sr. Vice); Jason Ruesler (Detachment Commandant); and Josh Holland (Detachment Jr. Vice). *Standing left to right:* Rafael Machoca (Detachment Chaplain); Jim Maevers (Dept. of MO Sr. Vice); Randy Kellogg; Len Knapp; Casey Regusci (Detachment Paymaster); Justin Moyers (Detachment Sgt-at-Arms); Danny Wilson (Detachment Adjutant); Gary Shelton; and Mike Francis (Kennel Aide-de-Kamp).

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



On November 11, 2019, the Jacksonville Detachment 059 joined the city of Jacksonville, FL, to honor the veterans and active duty military. The patriotic parade features more than 4,000 participants including grand marshals, senior military officials, active duty and retired military, veterans groups, local high school marching bands, decorative floats, giant balloons, JROTC units and more. The 7-ton was provided by Blount Island Command of Jacksonville.

Guam WWII Memorial at Asan Beach!



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AUG 2 – 10
Guadalcanal 77th Anniversary Op Watchtower

AUG 16 – 30
Rise & Fall of the Third Reich Munich, Nuremberg, Dresden, Eagle’s Nest, Prague & Berlin

AUG 24 – SEP 3
SgtMaj Gene “O” Overstreet, 12th SMMC Returns to I-Corps DaNang, Hue City, Khe Sanh, Leatherneck Square & DMZ

AUG 27 – SEP 5
Ireland Football—USNA-Notre Dame & WWII Marines, Soldiers & Sailors in Northern Ireland

SEP 8 – 20
50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War— I-Corps

SEP 29 – Oct 10
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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



All Divisions Detachment 281 leading Philadelphia's Mayfair/Holmesburg Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 24, 2019. Color Guard, first row: Dave McCarron, Luis Lucas, Nick Richards, Dan Nolan, Jim Hittle; Second row: John Lynch and MCLA Blanca Lucas.



DEPT. OF WV HISTORIAN MIKE LYNON
Dept. Commandant Scott Kirby thanking Bill Fulks and Kim Adams, Cpl William B. Fulks' parents.

The Dept. of WV was honored to announce the Charter of a new detachment in Hurricane, WV, the Cpl William B. Fulks Detachment 1474. In attendance at the Charter Presentation Ceremony was Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, NVC Roger Ware, Dept. of WV Commandant Scott Kirby, dignitaries from the state and local government, Gold Star Families, the Fulks family, Marines and family members from the Hurricane area as well as from supporting Dept. of WV detachments. While deployed in Afghanistan, Marine Cpl William "Brad" Fulks was injured by an improvised explosive device (IED) on May 1, 2006, and succumbed to his wounds on May 18, 2006.



USMC graduate photo of Cpl William Bradley Fulks.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



MCL member Russell Schaefer from the LCpl George L. Dramis Detachment 676, Cape May Court House, NJ, comes from a long line of Marines. Russell and his sisters were Junior Marines in 1955 and marched in many parades in their community that year. In 1955, they were also visited by three female Marines who were sisters (all Lance Corporals at the time): Peggy Eisile Zemaitaitis, Betty Eisile Wieslawski and K. Mabel Eisile Schaefer. All three are Life Members of Detachment 676.



A memorial for the 241 killed in the October 23, 1983, Beirut attack, emblazoned with "They Came in Peace," is outside Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, part of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC.



E.T. Brisson Detachment 063, Naples, FL, started the "Bayshore Raiders" in the early 1990s. The detachment musters a detail of volunteers on the first Saturday of each month for «road clean-up» duty. A 1.5-mile stretch of Bayshore Drive in Naples is patrolled and trash is picked up. 2020 started off with a great turnout, and the detachment was assisted by the Young Marine unit.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Midwest Division Fall Conference in Bloomington, MN. At the business meeting, *left to right*: Mike Francis, Detachment 1081 Dept. of Missouri (Kennel Aide-de-Kamp); Gina McManus, Detachment 943 Dept. of Minnesota (Dept. Chaplain); Jason House, Detachment 1275 Dept. of Nebraska (Dept. Commandant).



This 124-year-old firehouse is now the home of the 93-year-old Baltimore Detachment 565, which can trace its existence back to June 1926 and is the only detachment in Maryland that has its own home. Six blocks from Fort McHenry, the firehouse has its own history opening in March 15, 1895, as a horse-drawn fire company.



Westmoreland County Marines Detachment 1416, PA, bought and delivered food to veterans and families in need for Christmas.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



PDC Douglas Rattazzi of the Cape Atlantic Detachment 194 presented a lifetime achievement plaque to Diane Corrieri of Whiting, NJ, for 20 years of continuous support of the Toys for Tots program. This year Diane collected over 450 toys at an annual holiday party she holds at her home every year.



The Sgt Justin F. Hoffman Detachment 1437, Delaware, OH, held a Wreaths Across America ceremony at Kingwood Memorial Park. LtCol (Ret.) Mullins helped a young volunteer lay a wreath.



Marines in West Springfield, MA, gathered to honor Donald Withee on his 97th birthday. Donald was wounded in Iwo Jima.



National Commandant, Dennis Tobin, renders honors during the National Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on 11/11/19 at 11:11am.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Members of the Jack Maas Detachment 1379, Fredericksburg, VA, visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps, where they have met the last few years for their December detachment meetings and share lunch at the Tun Tavern restaurant.



Lehigh Valley Detachment 298 held their Marine Corps Birthday Ball November 8, 2019.



After a day of conducting MCL business at the Dept. of PA's January Winter Membership meeting, the first annual FRIEND-Raiser was filled with socializing, music, food, painting, raffles, silent auctions and, of course, wine tasting. Pictured are MCL and MCLA members and family and friends showing off their paintings.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Dennis Tobin, National Commandant, welcomes attendees of the Marine West Expo at the 22 Area parade deck on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, February 6, 2020. The Marine Corps League and Marine Corps Association & Foundation sponsor the annual expo for service members and civilians on Camp Pendleton to strengthen their partnerships and cohesion with various units across the base.

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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Pound Keeper PDD Jerry Cecil presented a Pound Keepers Commendation to Pup Tommy Reichard at the January 19 Growl of the Swamp Gators, Pound 258. Standing in the rear is the worthy Pack Leader PDD George LaMont.



Members of Newark, Ohio Detachment 602 joined with the Chillicothe VA Medical Center to help celebrate Christmas. *Left to right:* Joe Kinzer, Mike Mathews, John Pickrel, Charlene Shaner, Linda Mathews, Gary Evans, Deb Evans, Jim Martin (with the Santa hat), Dwight Smith, Quitman Miles and John Klein.



For the fifth year in a row the Lake County Detachment 801 of Illinois presented their \$16,000 check to Toys for Tots. *Left to right:* SgtMaj Alviso, LtCol Heppler, Col Lewin, CO MACG 48, Jerry Pedrin Commandant, SSgt Litson Toys for Tots Coordinator, SgtMaj Miller and Tom Koncan, Senior Vice Commandant.

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

instructions on the upload site).

Permission—For photos of youths under age 18, please visit www.mcleaguemagazine.org/programs/documents for the Photo Release Form.

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

If you have any questions about uniform regulations, please contact Butch Raynes of the Uniform Committee at the National website: www.mcnational.org.

NOTICE TO MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENTS!

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

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

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Description: Gold Ornament/Bookmark "The Marines' Hymn" Engraved



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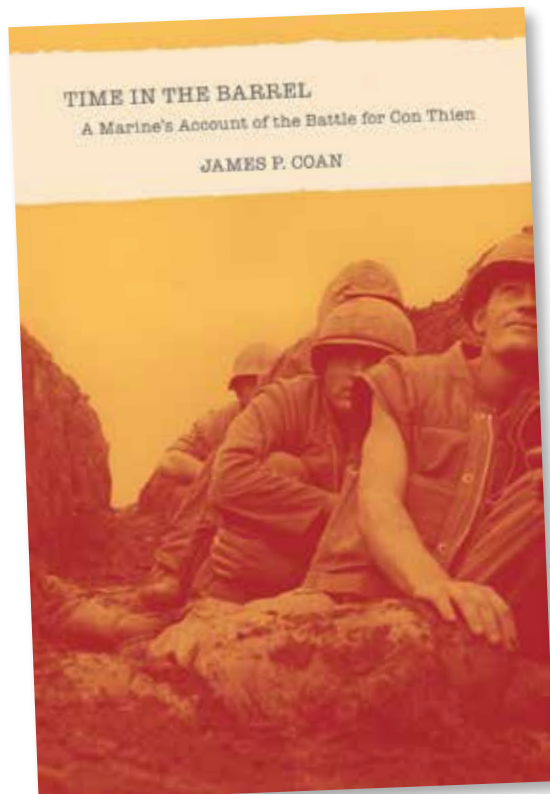
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BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA



Two miles from the DMZ

Those who stepped off the burdened beast to leave a muddied footprint or endured the heat inside their tanks, the Marines who defended The Hill of Angels experienced intense combat. Author James Coan provides a clear description of the battlefield cutting through the fog of war. His gritty realism creates a riveting experience for the reader.

The consistent message throughout the book is Marines took care of their own. The book is a good read, flows well and clearly articulates the story without distracting expletives. There is great supporting information in the back of the book.

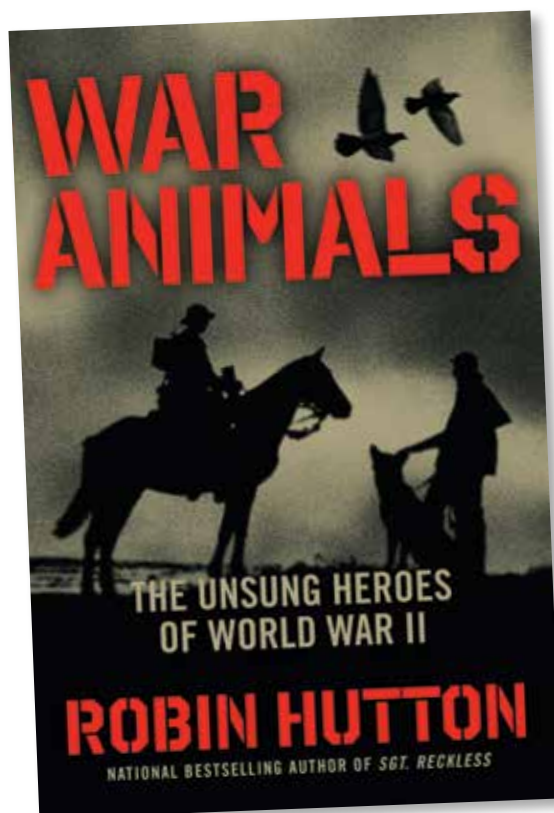
Time in the Barrel:
A Marine's Account of the Battle for Con Thien

By James P. Coan
256 pages

Publisher: The University of Alabama Press

Language: English

ISBN: 978-0817319991



Remarkable animals help win WWII

Best-selling author Robin Hutton is deeply dedicated to the memory of animals of war. She has not only focused on writing to ensure they are remembered, but has coordinated efforts in Washington, D.C. to bring light to the bravery exhibited by animals.

This book tells the excellent stories of remarkable animals, the dedication of their trainers and handlers and the contribution these animals made to help win the War. This book is a great read for people who enjoy military stories and those who love animals.

The stories contained in *War Animals* are amazing, including a cat that saved food supplies from vermin.

War Animals:
The Unsung Heroes of World War II

By Robin Hutton
466 pages

Publisher: Regnery History

Language: English

ISBN: 978-1621576587

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MCL National Headquarters, ATTN: COO, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554



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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.

REUNIONS



The Rose Garden Marine Reunion (MCAS Rose Garden, Nam Phong, Thailand 1972-1973) is being held at The Inn at Opryland, Nashville, TN, on June 12-16, 2020. Contact Harold Delamater at 845-297-8865 or email hgd1025@aol.com. For more information, visit Facebook-Rose Garden Marine Reunion.



Marine Corps Cryptologic Association Reunion on September 7-10, 2020, at the Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. Contact Edgar Kitt at 702-454-1646 or email edgarkitt@earthlink.net. For registration see mymcca.org.

Marine Corps Engineer Association (MCEA) Reunion and Awards Banquet, September 17-19, 2020, Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center, Fredericksburg, VA. POC: Maj Charlie Dismore USMC (Ret.) at 512-394-9333 or visit marcorengasn.org.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR

2020

Marine South Exhibition

April 2-3
MCB Camp Lejeune, NC
mclnational.org/marinemilitaryexpos.com

Mideast Division Conference

June 19-21
Virginia Beach, VA
mclnational.org

National Convention

August 9-14
Daytona Beach, FL
mclnational.org

Modern Day Marine Expo

September 22-24
MCB Quantico, VA
mclnational.org/marinemilitaryexpos.com

2021

Mid-Winter Conference

February 25-27
Norfolk, VA
mclnational.org

Mideast Division Conference

April 16-18
Rehoboth Beach, DE
mclnational.org

National Convention

August 8-14
Springfield, IL
mclnational.org

2022

Mid-Winter Conference

February 24-26
Norfolk, VA
mclnational.org



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-OR-

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

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

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy 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 am 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.

(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.



This will certify that

is a member in good standing of

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email Address _____
 Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ____/____/____ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ____/____/____
 Type of Application - New () 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.*

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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Signature _____

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



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