ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 77 No. 3 • SUMMER 2021

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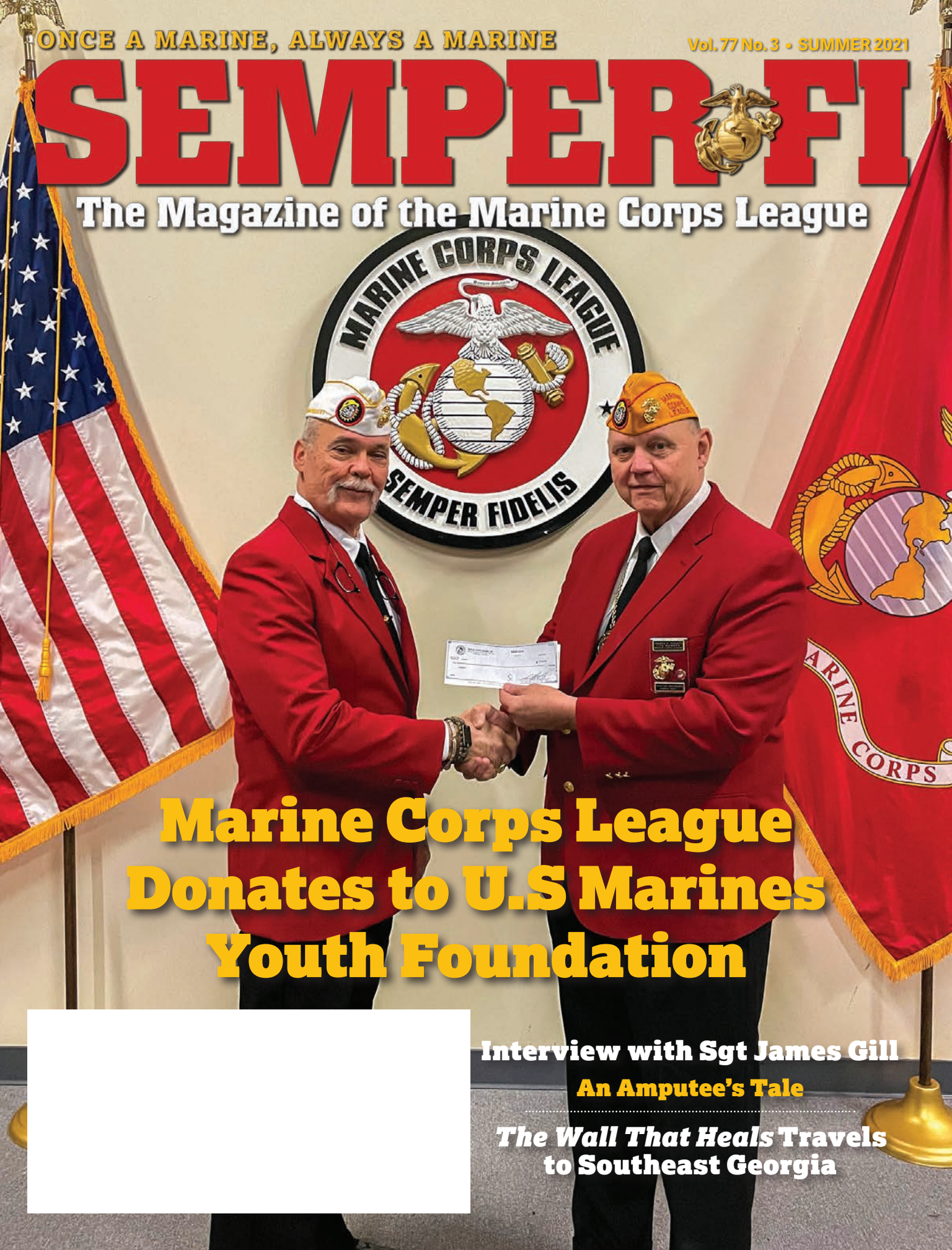
The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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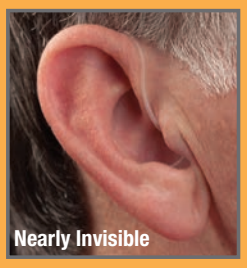

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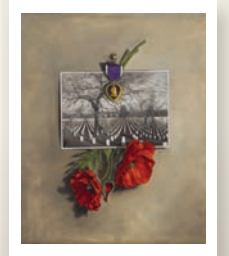

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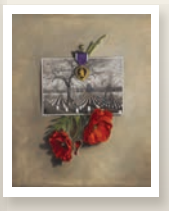

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Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune (\'LUH-jern\), the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States.

NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

DENNIS TOBIN

From the start of the shutdown to where we are today, I feel we have come out stronger as an organization

MARINES: This will be my last article as your National Commandant. I want to thank everyone, at all levels, for your continued support during my term of office. I've been asked if I feel cheated out of a year due to COVID-19. My answer to that is no, I do not. I do feel we were all cheated out of an actual Convention and Mid-Winter Conference; we missed out on that face-to-face meeting with friends, brothers and sisters and the camaraderie that goes along with those meetings.

However, when COVID and the shutdown hit we, the League, never missed a step. We began to do what we were trained to do: improvise, adapt and overcome. At the National level, we immediately began to put together emergency plans to assure the daily operation of the League was not interrupted. We put together plans to make sure elections went ahead as scheduled. Once those plans were formulated and signed off on by the Board of Trustees, they were sent out to all department Commandants. Again not missing a step, they got the word to their detachments. The lines of communication were never shut down. In fact, they got better.

National Headquarters immediately went into shutdown/work-from-home mode, alternating days in the office for essential staff only to keep us up and running. No, I do not feel like I missed a year, I feel like we were hit with probably the biggest challenge we have ever seen and we rose above it. From the start of the shutdown to where we are today, I feel we have come out stronger as an organization. From National Headquarters, to the National Board, to the department and detachment Commandants: your leadership has been exemplary. I thank you all for a job well done.

The COVID virus forced us into the 21st century and into the world of electronics. We have fillable, email-friendly forms. We have electronic payments and deposits. Our database is up and running, with most detachments and departments utilizing it. We will continue to move forward into the 2021 Convention in Springfield, IL. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your National Commandant.

Pens presented to National Marine Corps League Commandant that were made by CLC residents.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL REMINDER

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

DON'T WAIT AND DON'T FORGET

Fill out the form on the enclosed card and provide to your Detachment Paymaster along with your annual dues amount.

While you are at it, please remind your fellow Members that dues are due so they can renew. It is a good idea to renew early so if life happens, you're already paid up. Remember, you are paying ahead, not paying behind.

Membership makes your detachment strong and doing your part, like paying dues on time, helps keep it strong.

Please do not procrastinate, square it away today.

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For Members At Large **ONLY** visit our website and renew.

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S LETTER

BOB BORKA

When you do gather, please do so safely

MARINES: At the height of a clear day, we can see for miles. Driving through the Midwest, rolling fields support rows of crops covered and aligned like well-formed platoons and the fresh soil knows its purpose. Standing atop Lookout Mountain over Boulder, you can almost taste the crisp, cold beverages being produced below. Sitting on the beaches of La Jolla, Pensacola, Virginia Beach or the Jersey Shore the vast ocean and rhythmic waves bring peace. Then, like a Marshal Mathers' lyric, it seems to screech to a panic.

The fog of war and fear of the unknown quickly envelop our lives. An unprecedented global pandemic shadows everything and time seems to stop. That seems a little drastic and over-dramatized though, right? Family, friends and members contracted COVID-19, and some lost their battle with it. Many others have now been vaccinated. Yes, we must wash our hands more and give some distance in personal contacts. This is great, because some did not understand social boundaries before. While we are at it, clean the cell phones too, as they suffer from the constant transfer of whatever we touch.

It is sad that fundraising opportunities have caused our detachments to suffer. I hope each can recover soon. We have seen cancellations of various events and gatherings. This further causes us to miss camaraderie. We want each of you, and your families, to be safe and healthy. So when you do gather, please do so safely.

Be good to one another.

Embrace the Tribe ... from a socially-responsible distance.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

VICTORIA McCOY

Mentorship—Spawning Future Leaders!

MARINES: A new or prospective member who is attending a Marine Corps League (MCL) detachment meeting or other event would appreciate the ability to connect with existing members. Providing this connection will enable the MCL to provide a positive first impression, a welcoming approach and a fostering of a future leader and advocate for the MCL (not just your local detachment). Joining the MCL involves a lot of learning, from uniforms, to activities, to protocols, etc. You did not obtain your MCL knowledge overnight, nor have you fully grasped all the elements of the MCL today. That new and/or prospective member is in an unfamiliar situation, as you once were.

Mentoring is about helping another person learn through a one-on-one relationship. It is a common practice for transferring knowledge and promoting best practices, along with serving as an effective way to develop new leaders. Mentorship can benefit the MCL at all levels:

See Mentorship, Next Page

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Alfred M. Gray
General, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)
29th Commandant of the Marine Corps

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Mentorship ...

Continued from Previous Page
detachment, department, Division and National. Below are steps on implementing mentorship.

1. Introduce yourself. Allow the mentee time to introduce themselves and ask any questions they may have right up front. This will provide a place to start, with focal points, as you mentor a new member; it will provide you with initial information regarding what they are most curious about.

2. Exchange contact information with each other. This simple action can provide some comfort to a new member, especially when they are in a totally new environment.

3. Establish benchmarks or time frames for growth and learning. For example, if my detachment meets every month, there will be a minimum of twelve opportunities where the new member will experience different things, from membership meetings, board meetings or committee meetings and how they are conducted, to detachment fundraising activities and addressing how or why they are done. Maybe one year of mentorship is not enough time, maybe it is. You and the new member can decide that as they get settled into their role(s) within the MCL. Consider meeting separately with the new member (mentee) or reserve times for texting / messaging / calls. Setting and managing expectations is critical to measuring a successful approach—communication and expectations are key in developing a strong member who may one day lead the MCL, at any level.

4. LISTEN first, then ask and advise! You may have significant wisdom and you may be chomping at the bit to spill your knowledge onto the new member. That does not mean they are ready to consume constant opinions or input. Some things take time to comprehend; take it slow, listen to the questions, understand exactly what information they are seeking, answer the question without bias, ask if they understand your answer and expand, if necessary.

5. Do not make decisions for the new member. As a mentor, you are likely more experienced—let this experience serve in guiding the new member. Ask them what they would do in the different scenarios, assess their answers, guide them in their decisions or suggest additional options and discuss the "whys" behind your suggestions. This enables the new member to think through various obstacles, which helps to build character.

Public Relations monthly meeting via Zoom—getting the job done!

6. Be accountable! Your follow-through is very important in building a strong mentor relationship with your "mentee." Remember, "a person is only as good as their word." Be that example with effective follow-through on requests. Your commitment to becoming a mentor is a vital part of being an upstanding citizen within your community and demonstrates effective leadership traits.

7. Help them network. Assume that if you are a mentor (or considering becoming one), you have been in the MCL long enough to meet/know other members (possibly at multiple levels within the MCL), not to mention people outside of the MCL within your community. Use these connections to assist in growing your new member and opening doors for them. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate what the MCL is about. Introduce your new member to the various people you surround yourself with, inside and outside the MCL, especially as it may pertain to the MCL. You will start a great relationship with this member and build camaraderie.

8. Lastly, there is absolutely no room for biases or impulses. If you can't guide without bias, then don't become a mentor. Whether it's issues regarding gender, nationality, DoD rank, MOS or regular member vs. associate member, there is no room for bias! This includes "off-color" jokes. Be professional! Sure, fun is warranted, but take caution—you represent a greater role. What you say and what you do is a direct reflection in their understanding of what the MCL accepts. Remember, the MCL has a policy on how we conduct ourselves as MCL members—do not be the bad example as you work to mentor new members.

Mentoring is a significant enhancement to membership growth and retention. It gives the new/prospective member an opportunity to connect, understand and grow with the MCL through a peer within their local detachment. We must support our members in all aspects pertaining to the MCL. Make them feel welcome at every meeting and/or gathering. Mentor them. Guide them. Assist them in learning the MCL.

Semper Fi!

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Marines from Detachment #1326 stand guard 24 hours a day at *The Wall That Heals*.

The Wall That Heals

Walking Down Memory Lane with the 5th Graders of Pooler Elementary School

By Sgt at Arms Tim Bradley (Major, USMC, Retired)

In the fall of 2019, West Chatham Detachment #1326 in Bloomingdale, GA worked with the City of Pooler, local veterans organizations, the Pooler Lions Club and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation (VVMF) to bring *The Wall That Heals* to set up for a week in our growing southeast Georgia. We brought this traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall to Southeast Georgia for many reasons: to remember those who were wounded, died or missing in the Vietnam warzones and to provide guides to walk with visitors and find names on The Wall of their family members, especially for those unable to visit the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.

Our Marines stood watch 24 hours a day for the five days that The Wall stood in Pooler. For one of our Marines, Major Tim Bradley, USMC (retired), The Wall represented an opportunity to share an immersive experience on the history of the Vietnam War with his 5th grade students. The State of GA requires 5th grade students to be able to demonstrate mastery in discussing the importance of the Vietnam War and how it impacted the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

To demonstrate mastery, students must be able to describe the Vietnam War and the United States' involvement in it. Lesson opportunities include discussions of the Vietnam War that allow students to conclude that American public opinion was divided about the conflict. Students need to understand that, even today, Americans have wide-

Vietnam veterans from MCL Detachment #1326 at the opening ceremony for *The Wall That Heals. Left to right:* Fred Griffin, III, Bill Hitchens (GA State Representative), Tony Sutphin, David Hogan.

Detachment #1326 Marines Garnasia Bogus and Reuben Stubbs, Jr. and guests stand at attention as the Honor Guard passes in review at *The Wall That Heals* opening ceremony.

ly-differing views about the United States' involvement in this war. Students learn that the foundations of the Vietnam War began as a struggle for political control of the country.

Though the conflict originally began when Vietnam was a French colony, students focus on the United States' involvement beginning in the 1950s. This was when the United States began to provide economic and limited military aid to contain the spread of communism. The country of Vietnam was divided into two regions, with communist forces in the North and a pro-Western government in the South. By 1960, the United States' involvement in this region continued to grow when it provided more economic and military support. This assistance by the United States continued until the war ended in 1975. Students are reminded that the U.S. policy of intervention was highlighted in their study of the Korean War and continues to be one of concern to American people.

Through rigorous research of this nineteen-year conflict, students come to understand that the Republic of South Vietnam and the United States were battling the communists who controlled North Vietnam and a military organization called the Viet Cong. During this time, many American policymakers believed that if South Vietnam fell to the communists, then communism would spread throughout Southeast Asia and the world. Students learn that communist fighters, the Viet Cong, continually frustrated U.S. forces using guerrilla warfare. In 1968, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army launched an eight-month-long military offensive named the Tet Offensive. This series of attacks was the Viet Cong's largest and most damaging campaign of the entire war. Ultimately, this offensive failed to achieve its goal of driving the Americans out of Vietnam, but it resulted in huge casualties on both sides that led many citizens in the United States to question our country's involvement. In fact, this led to protesting and anti-war demonstrations in many major American cities and on college campuses. Consequently, students understand that the Vietnam War affected the United States and its foreign policy.

With the conclusion of military action in Vietnam, over a million Vietnamese people had lost their lives, as well as 58,220 U.S. soldiers. Ultimately, Vietnam was unified under a communist government in 1975 when the United States withdrew its troops and closed its embassy in South Vietnam. Students also realize that this war led to political and social upheaval in the United States, as well as increased feelings of discontent with the government that had led Americans into this conflict.

For Pooler, GA's 5th grade students, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial traveling replica, *The Wall That Heals*, served as a reminder to students of the great sacrifices made during that moment in world history. Very rarely do students get an opportunity to see American history in such an impactful way and the 5th grade students' hands-on experience at *The Wall That Heals* is one that they will not soon forget. SIF

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Sign trailer deployed at McNalley Office Service along Swan Creek Rd in James Township.

An Effort in Recruitment

Detachment Restores and Deploys Mobile Sign Trailer

By Patrick Fehn

Upon learning that our John C. Rock Saginaw Valley Detachment 902 in Saginaw, MI, had a mobile sign trailer, a thought occurred. We could use the sign to find new members for our detachment. After seeing the condition of the sign trailer, it was doubtful the detachment would approve a budget for the repairs. A $500 budget was presented to the detachment, and after some discussion, a vote to repair the sign trailer was approved.

In order to do the repairs, the sign trailer had to be moved. The tires were flat and would not hold air due to dry rot, so replacing them had to be the first step. While pricing tires, and learning they were for a veterans' non-profit organization, the manager at Kan Rock Tire Company offered to donate two new tires.

2019–2020 Commandant Bill Schaard (*right*), Mary McNalley, Patrick Fehn (*left*) presenting a certificate of appreciation.

John C. Rock Saginaw Valley Detachment 902 sign trailer before starting its project.

That saved us $70.

With the new tires attached and the sign trailer moved, the next step was to secure the needed parts and supplies. For this we went to The Home Depot® store #2779 in Thomas Township. After explaining our project and showing a picture of our sign trailer to the store's operation manager, we were told, "If we have it, it's yours." Although they didn't have everything on our list, the store provided us with about 75% of what we needed and some extras as well—a value of about $500. Now we were ready to start.

We stripped off all of the old paint and rust; then welded on new parts for the missing leg; primed, painted and clear-coated the metal; scrubbed the sign faces; and completely rewired the running, brake and turn signal lights.

Knowing Mary McNalley, co-owner of McNalley Office Service, a local office furniture installation and repair company in Saginaw, I asked if they could do some vinyl lettering for us. She said they would gladly like to donate the lettering to support our Marine Corps League. Another savings of about $70!

Now completed, we took our sign trailer to the companies that donated the supplies we used so they could see the final results and to give them a Marine Corps League Certificate of Appreciation. After seeing how yellowed our sign face letters were, McNalley Office Service bought us a complete set of new letters—a cost of about $125. Even with all of the donated parts and supplies, our detachment still spent the $500 budget, but all were happy with the results. Our donors also gave us permission to display our sign trailer on their properties.

The Home Depot Store #2779 Operations Manager Scott Dashkovitz and Detachment Senior Vice Commandant George Reed.

Following the local zoning ordinances, the local governments have been waving the permit fees for our detachment to display our sign trailer around the area. Also, the area businesses have been great in letting us use their parking lots. Our detachment's sign trailer is now parked for the winter, but in the 1 ½ months we have displayed our sign, we have gotten some response. The Marine Corps League's and the John C. Rock Detachment 902's names are out in the public's eye, and both are getting good feedback from local businesses. They are proud to show they support our Marine Corps veterans. SIF

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Laskey

Past National Commandant Jim Laskey passed away on March 16, 2021 at around 10:00PM Eastern time. Jim suffered from a lung disease for many years and eventually succumbed to the illness.

Jim enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1960 in Boston, MA. After graduating from Parris Island, he spent two years on sea duty aboard the USS Lake Champlain and USS Essex. Duty included recovery operations of Commander Alan Shepard's first U.S. manned outer space flight and serving during the Cuba Blockade in 1961. Jim served in Vietnam as operational deployment casualty field reporter until 1967. He also served as a Military Police and Correctional Field with duty in Hawaii and New Hampshire. First Sergeant Laskey retired from 20 years of service while stationed at Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in 1980.

A member of the Marine Corps League for 53 years, Jim served in many capacities, including National Commandant from 2008 to 2010. He was a mentor, leader and guide who served the Marine Corps League and Young Marines with passionate volunteerism. His servant leadership, kind heart and devotion to family and our Corps will be dearly missed.

Fair winds and following seas.

Semper Fi, Marine!

Frick's bathroom before renovation (*left*) and after (*right*).

Elkhart Area Marines Detachment #1397 Comes to Aid of Fellow Marine

By Joe Reed

Jack Frick, served in Vietnam '66-'67, is a newer member of the Marine Corps League. It was learned that he sustained an injury by falling at his home. There was a large hole in the bathroom flooring and it was soft. Using a walker, he fell, causing severe bruising to his face. Learning more details about what happened during a conversation with Jack and another member, the Elkhart Area Marines Detachment #1397 Commandant was asked if there was anything that could be done to help.

The Chaplain of the detachment went to his home to check on him and to see what if anything could be done to improve the conditions of the bathroom floor. The condition would require a redo of the bathroom. A group of detachment members went to the home to assess needed materials and to form a plan.

Another member went to the local Lowe's to see if they could offer a discount for a Marines veteran in need. A list was provided of materials needed to complete the project. The detachment was notified that the request would be honored and there would be no charge to the League. They would also deliver the materials to the home site, again at no charge. Lowe's is known to offer veteran discounts on purchases, but this was going above and beyond.

The work party of fellow League members gathered on a Saturday morning with the intent to finish by Sunday evening. The plumbing was more than they can do themselves. Due to the project needing a professional plumber to assist when dealing with the tub/shower, vanity and toilet, the project carried over to the following weekend. Final painting was done and, after 5 days, the work was completed. Additional cost by calling for a plumber was incurred.

With the project now completed, this Marine and his family now have a safe and undated bathroom. The motto of every Marine, "Semper Fi," applies here in helping a fellow Marine in need. S|F

CHIEF DEVIL DOG

THOMAS W. HAZLETT, 59TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG MODDKENNEL.ORG

Remember our veterans who are confined to VA hospitals and homes

"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! I wish to thank all of you for the support you have shown over the past few months to our Children's Hospital Fund. I have seen thousands of Big Bones come in for our most honorable and noble cause.

I have finally had the opportunity to get around to some of the Pound and Pack Growls outside of the VA, PA and NC areas. At time of writing, I am in MD attending the Department of Maryland Convention and Grand Growl. Last week I was in South Dakota and Minnesota and two weeks prior to that I was in Kansas attending the Mid-West Conference. Great jobs by all and my thanks to you all for the invitations to attend your Growls and for all the Big Bones collected. I believe within a 1-month period we collected **over 14,000 Big Bones!** I can only hope that we will eclipse the 50,000 Big Bones donation in Springfield.

If you were not in Greenville, SC for the 2nd Gathering, you missed a fantastic time. My thanks to Commandant/PDD Tobin, Sr. Vice Commandant/PDD Baker, Jr. Vice Commandant/PDD Griffin and New England Division Vice Commandant PDD Porter for attending the event. We were also fortunate enough to have three Past Chiefs amongst us: PCDD Garland, PCDD English and PCDD Spicer. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be amongst us! We had a Dog House filled with Dogs from all over the country to include Hawaii, Maine, Georgia and California, and many Packs and Pounds between them. I cannot thank you enough for how deep your pockets were—over 8,000 Big Bones were raised for the kids. Thank you so much!

For those who were unable to make it because of illness and restrictions placed on you by COVID, I am sorry you had to miss it. For the many volunteers who assisted in the event, I cannot thank you enough. PDD Barton, you did an awesome job, as did PDD McManus, PDD McKenney, Honorable Sr. Vice Chief PDD Sanning, Honorable Mad Dog PDD Minton, Honorable Midwest Division Vice Chief PDD Covert, Honorable New England Division Vice Chief PDD Monnell, Honorable Northeast Division Vice Chief PDD Joe DeAngelo, PDD Barb DeAngelo, DD DelaCruz, DD Soldano, Honorable Smart Dog PDD Remines, Honorable Police Dog PDD Veprek, Honorable Executive Director PDD Wells and Honorable A-d-K to the 59th CDD, PDD Francis. Thank you and many others for the great jobs you did in presenting classes and assisting in the Hospitality Room, as well as in the setup and organization of the event.

I have been very impressed with most of the Packs and Pounds who have managed to start conducting physical or Zoom Growls. It is imperative that we check up on our fellow members and assist those who are in need wherever and whenever possible. Keep up the great work!

Please remember those who serve our great country and especially those who are in harm's way. Pray for their safe return to their families and loved ones. Please also remember our veterans who are confined to VA hospitals and homes—visit them whenever possible. Stay safe, follow the COVID rules and regulations and I look forward to seeing many of you in Springfield, IL for the National Convention and the 81st Supreme Growl.

Remember, if you keep your Growls fun, they will come!

Semper Woof!

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCLA

EVELYN JOPPA NATIONALMCLA.ORG

Thank you for adapting, overcoming the obstacles and forging ahead

MARINES: As we move through the swift waters to new opportunities, let us remember the future is ours to grab hold of and continue the glorious traditions set by those who paved the way to build this organization. Opportunity to grow our organization is ripe for the picking. People have been cooped up due to the pandemic and want to get out and do good work, to build the future. Let us, together, show them how valuable the Auxiliary principles and ideals are. We have the means to help our Marines, veterans and communities and involve new members in worthy causes. Roll up your sleeves and welcome the opportunity. Recruit today!

Just the other day at an Auxiliary meeting, a lady walked in to join because this Auxiliary unit was active and involved in fundraising with their detachment. How many more are watching and waiting for an opportunity to get involved for a good cause? My guess is many are waiting to be found and will be thrilled to assist!

By the date of publication of this magazine, the Committee reports for Americanism, Child Welfare, VAVS, Rehabilitation and Civics will have been sent to the National Chairs. It will be exciting to see all the great things your unit has accomplished, even though the pandemic has hindered some of the activity. Thank you for adapting, overcoming the obstacles and forging ahead. Nothing can stop us from accomplishing the goals of our units, departments, Divisions or National unless we do not put heart and soul in all we do. Our future is bright. Let us make it brighter, by adding those helping hands of new members. As we gain those new members, let us remember to praise those long-time members who always step up to get the work done and to guide those new members in our important work.

Our National Convention, scheduled for August 9-13, 2021, is just a couple of months away. Have you made your reservations to attend? Springfield, IL, the hometown of Abe Lincoln ... what a great chance to make your voice heard! We need your input and ideas. Your voice counts. The changes to the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures may change the direction. Will you be part of the change, or stand aside and wish you had your say?

Thank you for all you do to support the League and strengthen the Auxiliary. Please keep our members who are sick and/or distressed in your prayers.

Success is built on the dreams of those who seek to serve others!

Semper Fi!

Successful Operation Little Angel fundraiser was held in memory of PNP Karen Aune and PNP Virginia Johnson.

This event was orchestrated by both Central Division VP Renee McGuan and Assistant Division VP Ann LeClair and supported by Marines & Auxiliary Members. Pictured are Auxiliary members who attended the conference and the two PNPs.

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A donation in any amount will add up to make a difference

MARINES: The past 15 months have proven to be not only a tough year across the globe, but also for us as brothers and sisters.

During this crucial time, I am consistently reminded of the importance of unity and the special kinship between our active troops and Marine veterans. This year proved that, despite all the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our unbreakable bond—which remains the foundation of everything we do—continues.

Throughout history (and this pandemic) we have been called upon to serve. We are winning the battle, but we continually need to take care of each other. Understandably our donations are down and I attribute that to the fear and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. Let's come out of this stronger and hold true to our mission to strengthen the bond as Marines. Because of your support, we are able to provide educational scholarships to the children and grandchildren of Marines, while the grants that are given support Marines and families of Marines that have experienced financial hardship.

This year has presented a new set of challenges for our Marine families and they need our help. A donation in any amount will add up to make a difference in the lives of our fellow Marines.

Visit our website to donate today: **mclnational.org.**

As a team we can grow and ensure the success and impact on the lives of all U.S. Marine veterans and families for years to come.

Semper Fi!

CEO, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

YOUNGMARINES.COM

Young Marines' Annual Award Winners

MARINES: There is neither sufficient space nor time to fully share our collective mourning at the loss of PNC Jim Laskey. I know I share his loss with all of you. Brother Jim was a friend to all, mentor, connector and every superlative word you can imagine. Several members of the Young Marines were honored to attend his services. We are diminished by his loss, but inspired to do more for our respective programs to honor his legacy. I know he would want us to do so with joy in our hearts as he had every day.

We held our annual awards dinner live this year in Las Vegas (5-8 May) and I am excited to share our winners.

All our Volunteers give their precious time to guide our Young Marines to success. This year's Division winners are:

Division 1: Sheila Myers, Westmoreland County Young Marines
Division 2: Rob Willis, Southern Maryland Young Marines
Division 3: Adrienne Massingill, Etowah Valley Young Marines
Division 4: Carrie Rodman, Cross Roads Young Marines
Division 5: James Jones Jr., Scott County Young Marines
Division 6: Susan Righthouse, Miramar Young Marines

Our National Volunteer of the Year is: **Susan Righthouse**

We are proud of all 238 Young Marines units and the work they do to develop our youth into engaged citizens. The following units were selected as the best within their Divisions:

Division 1: North Jersey Young Marines
Division 2: Manassas Young Marines
Division 3: Imagine at Northport Young Marines
Division 4: Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Young Marines
Division 5: Fox Valley Young Marines
Division 6: Billings Young Marines

Our National unit of the year: **Imagine at Northport**

Young Marines are selected through rigorous processes for Young Marine of the Year titles. Our most senior Young Marines compete for Division Young Marine of the Year. Here are your Division Young Marines of the Year:

Division 1: YM/SgtMaj MaKayla Barstow, Natchaug River Young Marines
Division 2: YM/SgtMaj Ian Ross, LCpl Caleb Powers Young Marines
Division 3: YM/SgtMaj Jason Glaskox, Mid Cumberland Young Marines
Division 4: YM/SgtMaj William Jenson, Tarrant County Young Marines
Division 5: YM/SgtMaj Mario Koch, Greater Cleveland Young Marines
Division 6: YM/SgtMaj Keira Base, Eagle Young Marines

The 2021 National Young Marine of the Year is: **YM/SgtMaj Mario Koch.**

YM/SgtMaj Mario Koch

Please reach out and celebrate your local winners. If you need help finding them, please contact us at **ymdbs@youngmarines.com**.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

JOHNNY B. BAKER

Recruiting Younger Members!

MARINES: In my last article in *Semper Fi*, I discussed the importance of "engaging" our members in order to create that bond of camaraderie and esprit de corps that we all enjoy. Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the "Commandant's Corner" that was offered by the MCL Marketing Committee Chairperson, Victoria McCoy. It was an open forum on Zoom where MCL members could talk about any issues that they wanted to talk about. This was not a meeting where the National Officers talked the entire time, it was an opportunity for the members to ask questions and tell their success stories.

The Zoom meeting was beneficial to me personally and I hope it also was for those who attended. For years, your National leadership has been in a quandary about how the League can attract and keep new and younger members. During the Zoom meeting, at least three different members (I believe they were all detachment Commandants) gave their opinions on why their detachments were growing and successful. Oh, by the way, did I mention that all three of these Marines were below the age of 50? I was impressed with their motivation and enthusiasm for having productive and sustaining detachments.

One discussion led to the topic of recruiting younger Marines to join the League. Three major points were brought up during the discussion. First, each of them **uses social media** as a recruiting tool, as well as a continuous way to communicate with these younger Marines. From Facebook, Twitter, texting, etc., the younger generation uses social media for communication and to stay informed. My own detachment Commandant, under 54, has recruited almost all new members for the past 2 years, mostly through Facebook.

It has been an extremely effective tool for recruiting. It is imperative that each detachment uses social media as a communication venue in working with our younger Marines.

The second interesting comment was that the detachment must be **family-friendly,** which means getting the families involved in the detachment's activities. The more involved these new, younger members are, the more likely they are to continue to be part of the League. Having them engaged with the Young Marines program, Youth Physical Fitness, Toys for Tots, fundraisers and other worthwhile detachment functions will help keep members and their families motivated to be part of the League.

Finally, the last piece of the puzzle was **engaging.** Each Marine on the Zoom call stated how important it was to keep the Marines engaged in all detachment activities and functions. These younger Marines have many distractions and responsibilities in their families. The League can either make those better or worse for its members. I ask the detachment leadership to step up their ingenuity to get all their members engaged. Be creative in using social media for recruiting and communication. Make your detachment family-friendly and, above all, keep your members engaged. Let's move forward, Marines. It's what we do!

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

WARREN C. GRIFFIN

To the MODD, thank you for establishing "gatherings"

MARINES: Hopefully everyone is doing well. It's exciting to know we are preparing for our National Convention in Springfield, IL. I hope to see many of you there. Finally, we will be able to get together in person and enjoy the sharing of that special bond that only Marines know.

There is some relative good that has come out of this past year's pandemic. We have been forced to seek alternatives to our usual method of operation. We all have been introduced to the miracle of Zoom conferences. It made it convenient to reach out to whatever group we needed for immediate consultation and action. Having moved forward from group emails to these video conferences, we were productive with favorable results. Were they as good as in-person events? Absolutely not. Did Zoom help us get the job done? Yes. We all know there's nothing like physical person-to-person good storytelling time, but that is right on the horizon.

To the MODD, thank you for establishing "gatherings." This was a fabulous idea which grew first in Maryland, then in South Carolina. Unofficial as it was, officially it was a great deal of fun incorporated into excellent, informative presentations. You definitely lived up to your name as the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League. Thank you to Chief Devil Dog Hazlett and everyone involved with this undertaking.

As we move into our new year, I would ask that everyone accepting any position in the League please take that position seriously. It is the responsibility of the Commandant to make sure that the detachments or departments are completing all of the tasks that need to be accomplished. Information needs to flow back and forth to ensure that all our members know what the League is doing. Completing reports in a timely fashion is very important. There is no reason for a detachment or department to fall behind or, worse yet, fall off the grid because someone is not doing the job they accepted.

We have a great foundation upon which we have grown since our establishment by General John Lejeune. Let's make our founders and current members proud of our Marine Corps League.

As I stated, I am looking forward to our National Convention. I am asking for your support as I will be seeking to serve the League as the Senior Vice Commandant.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

T.J. MORGAN

48 submissions to present and vote on in Springfield

MARINES: "Too much to do and not enough time" should be our theme for this year's National Convention, particularly when it comes to the amendments to the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. This is really an unprecedented year with 48 submissions to present and vote on in Springfield. This year will be different on how we present them to you. My goal has always been to spend less time, but still quality time, on the floor. We will *not* be reading the amendments this year. *You,* as members, must do your homework. Whether that's at home or at the detachment / department levels, you must come prepared to discuss and vote. Here's how it will work this year (and, I hope, beyond).

The BL/AP committee has met by Zoom and will meet at the Convention to finalize our opinions and rationale on each of the 48 submissions. On the floor, we will present these to you in sequential order, just as they are posted in the Library on the MCL National website, **mclnational.org.** We will share our vote to accept or reject the amendment, explain our rationale and make a motion. The National Commandant will then ask for a second and discussion will follow. Once discussion is completed, the Commandant will call for a vote.

We have some submissions that are very similar in subject, so we have reached out to the authors. Hopefully we can pull some from the floor if one passes. My hope is to make this a smooth, quick presentation so we may all enjoy the camaraderie, instead of spending endless hours on the floor. Be ready, come to the convention prepared!

One last item: I really have enjoyed the position of National Judge Advocate. It has been my pleasure to serve all of you. I am running for National Jr. Vice Commandant and would be humbled to have your support.

Semper Fi!

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

WENDELL W. WEBB

Detachments could use social media to improve overall communications, resulting in benefits to all

MARINES: It has been twelve years since my first article for *Semper Fi* and this will be my last.

This is the question I get most when attending any MCL event: "Why do some detachments have no problem finding **new members** and others just complain?" New members are available, but does your organization provide the programs, agenda and events to attract the desire of Marines to become members? For those detachments that have small numbers, don't just disband them, maybe a Fire Team plan would work to reorganize and get it back to a good, working detachment. Maybe some of the old League programs no longer provide attraction to gain new members. Adapt and Overcome and move forward. The three age groups below are just categories that classify our membership, but we have detachments with all three groups that thrive and are growing.

For our members who are 80 and older, the League should form detachment caregiver groups to help those suffering from issues limiting their travel and participation in activities. This allows them to stay in touch with their fellow Marines and also keeps the detachment in contact, resulting in better relationships and tracking. I have also found that many of our older shut-in Marines are more active on social media so detachments could use social media to improve overall communications, resulting in benefits to all.

Our members in the 35-79 age group are the heart of the League activities and hold the officer's position, having the responsibility to be caregivers and mentors. Being caregivers could be for anyone in any age group because of members' individual needs. The goal and responsibility are placed on this group to deploy programs and keep the League a successful entity.

Our youngest group of Marines from 18-34 require good mentors and caregivers to build confidence, show them the League is a resource and there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Adjusting to civilian Marines, dealing with family's readjustments, continuing multiple deployments, medical issues resulting from those deployments and finding employment are real challenges for this group of Marines. We need to be a source to help them find resources, resulting in building the next generation of Marines belonging to the Marine Corps League.

We are a powerful force and we need to channel that force into helping and serving fellow Marines. By working together and taking care of our own, we reach out to the community and offer support to both. While this is my last article as a Board of Trustees member, my career as a member and mentor is not over and I will be working at the detachment and department levels again, where the heart of the organization lives.

Semper Fi!

YOUNG MARINES LIAISON

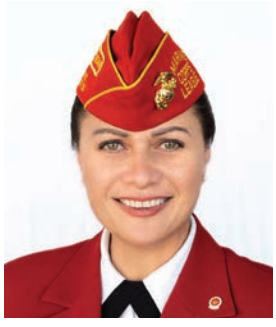
BY ANGELA MANESS YOUNGMARINES.COM

Young Marines focuses on character building and leadership

MARINES: Hello! My name is Angela (Angie) Maness and I have recently been appointed to serve in the billet of Marine Corps League Liaison to the Young Marines' Board of Directors. I have been on the Board of Directors since 2019 and will now be the primary link between the senior leadership of the Marine Corps League and the Young Marines. I am humbled by this appointment and look forward to continuing to volunteer my time and energy to the Young Marines program. In this new role, l will be responsible for developing and maintaining relationships at all levels while providing valuable information exchanges that will enhance the strategic reach of each organization.

James Laskey was the former Marine Corps League Liaison to the Young Marines' Board of Directors. Mr. Laskey passed away on March 16, 2021. I respectfully know there is no one who can come close to replacing Mr. Laskey. He made a magnificent difference in the Marine Corps League by sacrificing his personal time and energy to all that he supported. His legacy will not soon be forgotten.

The Chairman of the Young Marines Board of Directors, Mr. William Smith, said, "We are especially grateful for the support of the National Commandant, the entire Board of Trustees and the years of tremendous service provided by Jim Laskey."



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

Thank you for this opportunity to serve and I look forward to hearing from you about the ways that we can enhance our communication between both organizations.

Semper Fi!

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DIVISION REPORTS

We are Marines, but we are also civilians

Phil Zamora

NVC, Central Division

MARINES: Hello fellow Marines, Corpsman, Navy Chaplains and Associates. I'm going to start this article out with two words—twenty years. It was a little over twenty years ago that I joined this great organization and went through the chairs in the detachment, department and Division/National, but I almost didn't stick around. Then the Sr. Vice in our detachment talked me into staying because he was going to be the next Commandant.

So why was I going to leave, you ask? At the time I felt it was a waste of my time, the meetings were boring and the Commandant, at the time, had no control over the meetings. Mostly what we were doing was listening to a WWII Marine talk about all the properties he owned around the area and the Commandant never regained control of his meetings. After 3-4 months of this, I'd had enough and told the Sr. Vice this, but he wouldn't have any of it and said to give it a few more months and then he would be the next Commandant and would make changes that would strengthen our detachment ... and he did.

He asked me to run for Paymaster (and I did) and our meetings actually started looking like actual meetings with a format to them and they were fun to attend. At the time we only had 30 members, but within a year we grew our detachment to double and then triple in size, all because one Marine took charge and then the rest of us, as a team, set out to get our detachment's name back out there to our department. All it took was some teamwork to grow and do things the right way.

This is what all of us, as a Marine Corps League team, need to do—do things the right way, grow our organization as a team, help each other as much as we can and always remember that yes, we are Marines, but we are also civilians. Sometimes we can't treat these civilians, or each other, like we did in the Marine Corps because we are a volunteer organization (and remember 20 years ago, I had had enough and almost didn't stick around).

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

Semper Fi!

The Marine Corps League is for everyone, not just those in leadership roles

Roger Ware

Mideast Division

MARINES: The 2021 Mideast Division Conference was held in Rehoboth Beach, DE from April 16-18.

Rick Thomason, Commandant, Department of NC, was elected as National Vice Commandant and Frank Mathers, Commandant, Department of DE, was elected as the Assistant National Vice Commandant. Scott Kirby, Department of WV, received the 2021 Mideast Division Marine of the Year Award. Congratulations to all three.

One of the most important tasks of every detachment is the recruiting and retention of members. One concept we must always keep in mind is that the Marine Corps League is for everyone, not just those in leadership roles at any level. We must never give the impression that the Department Convention, Division Conference and the National Convention are only for those members who wear a red and yellow cover or a gold cover. Those members who wear the red hats are extremely important too and should never be ignored during any convention or conference.

This concept is the same for recruiting new members or trying to get your unpaid members to stay current. Marines enjoy the fun, humor, camaraderie and bantering that occurs when a group gets together. Don't make your meetings or convention so rigid that the fun is gone. Members form impressions so take steps to ensure your members have a voice and do things to inspire them to want to stay in your detachment. They must feel welcome at all levels, so communicating to each and every member in your unit is extremely important. Getting the word out about your meetings, events and activities will pay numerous dividends.

Stay in touch with the widows of any of your deceased members and try to include them in your activities. There are numerous Marines in nursing homes and assisted living areas, so go meet them. You will often meet some Marines who made history and their stories will inspire you. The MCL is an excellent source of support for recently-discharged Marines and we need to reach out to welcome them. We are all salespeople, so let's be ready to sell them the League.

We have Marines deployed around the world, so let's always keep them in our prayers that they come home safely.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclmideast.com

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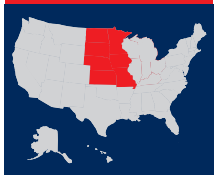
DIVISION REPORTS

Support the Division's goal of "All Detachments and Departments in Good Standing"

Jan A. Denney

NVC, Midwest Division



MARINES: The Midwest Division Spring Conference was held April 16-17, 2021 in Wichita, KS. All Division Officers were in attendance. The Conference was well-attended; it was a welcome sight to see members and guests rebuilding relationships and sharing ideas after a year and a half since our last full conference, due to COVID-19. The Midwest Division Fall Conference will be in Jefferson City, MO on October 22-24, 2021, hosted by Samuel F. Gearhart Detachment #656. Details will be posted on the Midwest Division website.

To support the Division's goal of "All Detachments and Departments in Good Standing," at the Midwest Division Spring Conference ADVC Joe Hughes provided training to attendees on correctly completing and forwarding the Marine Corps League (MCL) Report of Officer Installation (ROI), 990Ns, Secretary of State Annual Reports and MCL Transmittals. New database training and assistance was provided to Commandants and Paymasters to obtain access to their databases. Joe's PowerPoint presentation will be posted on both the Marine Corps League and Midwest Division websites to allow users to train at their own pace and share the information with their detachment members.

Representatives from HUD-VASH (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program) presented an informative session on their mission to provide housing to homeless veterans and how the local detachments can assist HUD-VASH in their hometowns. The Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita assisted 950 homeless veterans in 2020.

We now set our sights on Department Conferences and preparation for the National Convention in August. There are 48 proposed changes posted on the MCL National website. All departments and detachments should review the proposed changes to the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and give guidance to their department Commandants before they vote on the convention floor.

The Department of Minnesota is currently working with two groups of Marines who are interested in forming detachments in Virginia and Grand Rapids, MN, as well as finalizing the charter application for the Lakes Area Detachment in Frazee, MN. These newly-forming detachments will offset the loss of 2 Minnesota detachments which have turned in their Charters (due to reduced membership and the age of the members) and transferred their members to other detachments or to Members at Large.

Conduct buddy checks on your detachment members at every opportunity. These continue to be stressful times and isolation can take a terrible toll.

Good hunting as you are searching for new members, take care of your existing members and, as always, keep moving forward.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

Do you know your worth?

David Porter

NVC, New England Division

MARINES: It is a beautiful thing when you get to watch what value and worth someone brings to the table to share with others and the world. We all contribute something but when you dedicate 53 years to the Marine Corps League, that worth is priceless! And when that worth is so great; it leaves behind a crater. A great man has left a crater for us this year. It is impossible to try to fill that crater, but we must do our best to continue moving the mission forward.

This man was a brother Marine, a true friend, a teacher and a mentor to so many. When he said, "I know a guy," he actually did! But more than just "know a guy," he had genuine connections because he was a person who offered counsel, guidance, inspiration and motivation to so many Marines. He always wanted to do a great job, and he was a true servant leader—always willing to help people in whatever way they needed. He also took his leadership to the next level and gave back to the younger generation. He understood the importance of giving your time and wanted to share that with the younger generation, hoping they would absorb some of that guidance to become future leaders one day.

He was the Godfather to the New England Division. No matter where you went, he was well-known and well-loved. His wake and funeral proved that love in how many people attended, how many lives he touched and how many Marines he mentored! We don't realize at times how much we take for granted. How all the little things will add up to form something so big! The mission still needs to move forward and won't stop for anyone, but New England will only have one Godfather! He has left a great legacy and so many great ideas; we are hoping and working toward making them happen.

New England Division held its conference with the Department of MA Convention down in Hyannis (Cape Cod). Though we have held the Convention numerous times down the Cape, this year is not quite the same. We feel the void but remember his worth, and we strive to achieve his same goals!

I miss you still! It's going to be hard road without you, my mentor, next to me. I love you, Brother Rat! Rest easy, Jim Laskey, you earned it. You will never be forgotten and your worth will be shared with many for years to come.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclnedivision.com

Take advantage of each opportunity to help a Marine

Mike Waluk

MARINES: The lessons I've learned since assuming this position only a few short months ago have been both a blessing and a stumbling block. While this may sound like an ominous and foreboding way to assess this time frame, it does have a positive outcome. Despite the tribulations we have been confronted with as an organization, I see optimism and great promise. I continue to be impressed with how each of our departments is dealing with obstacles and how they are handling it.

While many detachments are not meeting in person, they are meeting via Zoom or conference calls. The ingenuity of leadership is a marvel to observe. Despite the tensions and angst suffered from being cooped up for a year, it is a welcome relief to get back to anything that resembles "normality." Here is where I tip my cover to Detachment Commandant Bonnie Shaw of the Chester County Detachment in Downingtown, PA. During this period, she and her detachment had utilized the time to re-model their meeting hall and, once done, got back to work with fundraising by hosting BINGO Nights! Within the Division, the Departments of New Jersey and Pennsylvania ran Leadership Schools. While NJ opted to provide the course virtually, PA went live, adhering to the restrictions that were in place. Regarding the restrictions, it is a positive sign to note that they are easing throughout the Northeast and venues are opening; it is better to err on the side of caution where safety is paramount.

The Division Conference, as you may know, has been rescheduled from April to the first weekend in June.

Now that we are coming to the culmination of the fiscal year, I want to take the time to remind everyone to take advantage of each opportunity to help a Marine when the occasion presents itself. You never know what your act of kindness for a brother or sister Marine can do or will lead to. Why do I mention this? Because not everything centers around a detachment, department or Division event. It centers around what we are doing for our brothers and sisters when they are seeking assistance. Service-oriented leadership should be a primary focus for each of us. All the accolades we have or may receive in the future as individuals will never be as satisfying or rewarding as knowing that we helped a brother or sister when they needed us most. If this is not what we are here for, it may be time for self-reflection. Remember, you never know where your good deeds will end.

In closing, I would like to take the time to thank all department Commandants for their service and leadership over the past two years. You are all to be commended for your diligence, leadership and a job well done during a most unprecedented challenging and difficult period. Moreover, I wish you much success with your department conventions, the elections of the future leadership of the departments and every best wish as you take your positions as the Jr. Past Commandants and possibly seek to attain higher office. Moreover, I am thankful for having the opportunity to serve you over these past few months and look forward to seeing you all at the Division Conference. Have a wonderful and productive summer, Marines! ***Semper Fi!***

Division Website: nedmcl.org

Being there for brothers and sisters in their need

John Moysiuk

MARINES: The Question?

Recently, I was in a deep conversation with Marine Corps League membership within the Northwest Division who asked, "What is the purpose of being a member of the MCL and what do we gain from being a member?" In other words, "What's my takeaway or gain for being a member?" At least that is how I perceived it. That was a raw question which hit me in the face and I truly appreciated the candidness.

Understanding the perplexity of The Question and the vast array of answers which could be provided, I found myself giving the normal response of "Esprit de Corps." The Question is personal for each of us. Understanding the current situation and challenges of this pandemic and what we each experienced (and are still going through) makes it raw and brings out the humanity in all of us.

Peeling back the onion layers, there is more to it. Isolation causes reflex actions and thoughts which can be counterproductive. Separation from those we relate to and share common experiences with allows the manifestation of loss of value or purpose, and this can be disastrous. This is an experience most had upon exiting the military and leaving our brothers and sisters. Every one of us experiences this in different ways. This loss of value and purpose in a culture we have lived and breathed for years brings about anxiety, depression or worse, suicide.

Why do I discuss this? Because it is personal to me! "Esprit de Corps" is not a simple answer. It's about having a purpose, being there for other brothers and sisters in their need and helping them transition through isolated times.

For me, I am a Servant Leader and believe in Servant Leadership. Being a Marine is my identity and assisting my brothers and sisters is my therapy! I live and breathe this purpose which is reflected and validated by serving as a member of the MCL. The foundation of service is at the detachment level, where you are serving your community and making a direct impact.

Whether you hold an appointed or elected position, you are still serving. Whether your focus is Toys for Tots, Young Marines or just attending detachment functions and meetings, it still provides purpose. Not only to you, but to your fellow members who need you there to inspire them or to just talk and listen. What you do matters, and the impact it can have on you and on others can be life-changing and could save a life! For me, I choose to serve!

Semper Fi!

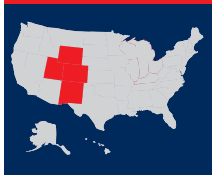
Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org

DIVISION REPORTS

Accounting for property "entrusted to my care or custody"

Russ Miller

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division



MARINES: By this point in time, in accordance with the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures all detachments and departments, as well as the Rocky Mountain Division, should have completed their elections. Installation of officers for the detachments and departments should also have been completed and ROIs forwarded through the chain of command up to National Headquarters. Now that this bit of housekeeping is covered, there is another very vital duty that should have been performed by all of the "outgoing" officers. Whether you are moving up a chair or have completed your time at the head table and returned to your old seat, when you last raised your right hand and took the Oath of Installation found in the Ritual, there was a section in the Oath you took to which I would like to dedicate this article.

"At the termination of my tour of duty I will surrender my office to my duly elected or appointed successor **accounting for any property that may have been entrusted to my care or custody.**"

I hope I'm not the only one who has experienced some of these circumstances, or heard stories like these from others that left us scratching our brain-housing-groups and wondering.

- A call from a family member of a deceased Marine who found file boxes on a shelf in the garage filled with detachment and department papers from back in the 1970s-80s, along with some plaques and trophies awarded to the detachment for participation in parades or community events.
- A past detachment officer who wanted to hand over boxes he was hanging on to, but since he left his detachment under tense circumstances 10 years ago, he has refused to attend a meeting and hand them over to any of the current officers.
- The case of an ex-spouse who called to turn over a detachment laptop, checkbooks, bank statements and Paymaster files to the detachment Commandant.

While we all realize that some documents are far less important than others at the time, we never know what answers that same information may provide to a detachment or department Historian 50, 75 or 100 years from now.

If your detachment isn't fortunate enough to have its own building, but rather has a storage unit rented somewhere where everything is archived, and a new Paymaster didn't receive all the information needed to continue paying the rent—all of that history, knowledge and wisdom could be lost forever. Or, worse yet, what if some ceremonial rifles that **were not properly stored** were auctioned off in the estate sale of a deceased member; someone could be facing **severe legal action.** Accounting for property "entrusted to my care or custody" not only refers to those items received from a predecessor, but also to anything received during your tenure that was related in any way to your office and the performance of your duties. Don't hoard it! Return it to the detachment!

"Be the Leaguer that you wish there were twenty more of in your detachment."

Semper Fi!

Division Website: rockymtndivmcl.org

New Marines on the Job

Butch Raynes

NVC, Southeast Division

MARINES: Due to the retirement of several key members of the Board of the Southeast Division, I have had to replace two important members who will be very much missed.

As you know, our Chaplain stepped down due to health reasons and he will be missed. I have appointed Marine John E. Burks, Jr. from Alabama as our new Chaplain. John joined the Marine Corps in 1983 and was honorably discharged in 1992. He is the Department of Alabama's Chaplain.

Also, as I stated in the last issue, our Adjutant of many years has stepped down. Again, we have lost a good Marine but have no fear; they will still be with us when needed. His replacement is Marine Donald Beck. Don joined the Marine Corps in 1976 and, after 22 years, he retired as a Gunnery Sergeant. He worked for the VA for 17 years and, more recently, he was Commandant of the Little River Detachment in South Carolina. He now lives in Florida.

As you know, I have sent all of our Department Commandants the latest roster. National is still working on these rosters to bring them up to date, and with our help they will be able to get them adjusted and correct. We need to make sure that all of our Transmittals, Death Notices and Reports of Officer Installation are sent in on time. Go back and check on your members who you have not seen in a while and find out if they are OK or if they maybe need some help.

Those of you who are having conventions, please stay safe and be careful. COVID-19 is still out there. As of this writing, our National Convention is still on so stay safe, Marines.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: sediv.org

These terms have been very challenging, exciting and rewarding experiences

Johnny R. Gothard

NVC, Southern Division

MARINES: A lot has happened since my last report to you. The new database is in 100% use and is being corrected and made better every day. Also, the 2021 Southern Division Caucus was held in North Little Rock, AR, hosted by the Sidney S. McMath Razorback Detachment #532, and I must add they did a very good job of it. National Commandant Dennis Tobin and his wife, Norma, honored us with their attendance.

I would like to announce and congratulate the newly-elected National Vice Commandant for the Southern Division of the Marine Corps League, John Grafflin, and the new Assistant National Vice Commandant, Jimmy Howington. I wish them success in this very challenging and, at the same time, very rewarding term of service.

I, on the other hand, have mixed feelings about my terms as the Division National Vice Commandant for the past 4 years and 2 years as Assistant National Vice Commandant (under Randy Rigg). These terms have been very challenging, exciting and rewarding experiences. At the same time, I find it hard to let go and I am also relieved it's over. It has been a great honor to be trusted with the responsibility of this position in the Marine Corps League, representing the Division at a National level and representing National to the departments in the Division under, and with the mentorship of, three National Commandants: Richard Gore, Wendell Webb and, finally, Dennis Tobin. But I will always make myself available to the new Officers of the Division and the Department Commandants if they need my opinion or advice on any subject that would help them in leading their detachments, departments and Division.

By the time this article is published, all three departments will have had their conferences for 2021: **Arkansas** from April 30-May 1 in Texarkana, AR (hosted by the Texarkana Detachment #1149; Larry Wakefield, Commandant), **Oklahoma** from June 11-12 in McAlester, OK (hosted by the Indian Nation Detachment #438; Michael Baily, Commandant) and **Texas** from June 24-26 in Waco, TX (hosted by the Heart of Texas Detachment #975; Rolando Hernandez, Commandant).

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at these department conferences and at the 2021 National Convention.

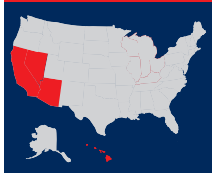
Semper Fi!

Division Website: southernmcl.org

Come to Hawaii and enjoy everything we have to offer

Patrick J. Connell

NVC, Southwest Division



MARINES: We continue our travels throughout the magnificent Southwest Division as we visit the beautiful and tropical state of Hawaii. In 1778, European explorer Captain James Cook "discovered' the archipelago that would later become known as the Hawaiian Islands and named them the Sandwich Islands after his voyage sponsor, the 4th Earl of Sandwich.

From 1810 to 1893, these Islands were an independent nation populated by very diverse cultures but controlled by European and American capitalists and landholders. These Europeans and Americans decided to overthrow the ruling monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani, and form a new government. In response, the U.S. Government Minister summoned a Company of U.S. Marines to restore order—the first known presence of Marines on the Islands. The Queen's soldiers did not resist and a lawyer became the President of the Republic on July 4, 1894. Hawaii then became a territory of the U.S. from 1898 to 1959, when it was granted statehood.

I sought out the help of the Aloha Detachment Commandant, Marine Scotty Bryan, to assist me with information regarding the functions of the Detachments that comprise the Marine Corps League in the beautiful state of Hawaii.

There are three Marine Corps League detachments in Hawaii: Camp Tarawa Detachment #1255 on the Big Island, Kauai Detachment #938 on Kauai and the Aloha Detachment #363, located on Oahu. The Aloha Detachment was chartered on 1 May 2009 and has a total of 78 members (66 regular and 12 associates) and is extremely active. They involve themselves in numerous parades and ceremonies to include Pearl Harbor ceremonies, Veterans Day, St. Patrick's Day celebrations and Vietnam parades and ceremonies.

Hawaii is home to numerous memorials and historical sites and the local Marine Corps League detachment is extremely instrumental in maintaining these locations. Two Aloha Detachment members, Patrick "BT" Brent and John Bates, played a major role in the establishment of the Marine Memorial, which was dedicated on 10 November 2005 and exists to honor those Marines who paid the ultimate price in the defense of this great country. The Aloha Detachment refurbished and rededicated the Memorial on 19 August 2016 and is a major player in its preservation. Oahu is also home to the USS Arizona Memorial, memorials for the USS Utah and Oklahoma, the Punchbowl (a.k.a. the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific), the USS Missouri Memorial, the USS Bowfin and the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museums.

The majority of the League members either retired to the Hawaiian Islands or never left after the completion of their tours of duty.

Come to Hawaii and enjoy everything we have to offer. With a little bit of Hawaiian luck, you might encounter Steve McGarrett and hear him say, "Book 'em, Danno!" or see some of the detectives from *Hawaiian Eye*, *Hawaii Five-0,* or maybe even Thomas Magnum in his red convertible, traversing the endless ribbons of highways in search of more cases to solve. In any event, you will be able to enjoy the Aloha Spirit in the beautiful Hawaiian Islands.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: mclswdivision.org

THE *SEMPER FI* INTERVIEW

Sergeant James Gill

From Iraq to 3-Gun—An Amputee's Tale

By Miles Vining

Sergeant James Gill (USMC, retired) is a competition shooter in the world of 3-Gun, where participants use handguns, rifles and shotguns to try and complete shooting courses in a fast-paced manner while still hitting all their targets. But before he got into 3-Gun, as a Lance Corporal in Iraq, Gill was severely wounded by a command-detonated IED while on a foot patrol in 2006. Over the course of his recovery, his life has taken him down some interesting roads, which he discusses here with the *Semper Fi* magazine.

Semper Fi: **Can you tell us a little bit about your pre-Marine Corps upbringings?**

Sergeant James Gill: Well, I was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. My father was formerly in the Navy as an aviation navigator, later transitioning to being a carpenter in civilian life, mother was a nurse. Much of my earlier family had some connection to the military as well. But regardless of any family connection, ever since I was playing in the mud as a little boy I always knew I wanted to get into the service. So I enlisted in 2003, going into the Infantry as an 0311 Rifleman. I had contemplated going the officer route, but at the end of the day enlisting was what I ended up going through with.

SF: **What happened next?**

JG: Boot Camp, School of Infantry, then got sent to Twentynine Palms where my unit, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines was conducting pre-deployment training. I actually only spent a couple days in Hawaii before we deployed to Afghanistan. Most of the Marines in the battalion had been on a MEU float and this was the battalion's first combat deployment since Desert Storm.

SF: **What was your deployment to Afghanistan like?**

JG: Due to the units rotating in theater our deployment ended up being eight and a half months instead of the usual

seven. We were sent to the northeast portion of the country, by the Pakistani border over the winter and into the spring and early summer. A lot of what we did was working in very mountainous terrain, vehicle and foot patrols in the snow, up and down the mountains. A lot more IEDs than gunfights, and the weather was brutally cold. However, one very important aspect of that deployment was when I was attached to the Scout Sniper platoon as security. This got me interested in going to the INDOC when we got back to the United States.

***SF:* And you passed the INDOC?**

JG: I did pass it and got into the platoon but unfortunately wasn't able to hold my spot and was sent back to the line companies. Because we were amping up for the next deployment, all the team leader and squad leader billets were taken in the line companies, so I was left with becoming a radio operator. Which I actually really liked because it afforded me a lot of freedom to run around with different squads while on deployment.

***SF:* Second deployment rolls around?**

JG: So we got to Iraq at the start of 2006 and we hit the ground running, everything was just so much faster than anything we did in Afghanistan. Mostly squad-based patrols. We replaced 3/1 and they looked pretty ragged when we showed up, they did not stop moving. So me, as a radio operator, I was constantly going out with different squads on these 8-hour patrols, sometimes going right back out when the patrol gets back in. Gunfights would occur every so often, but usually wouldn't last that long.

***SF:* What were the events leading up to your injury on April 25, 2006?**

JG: We knew the insurgents were operating out of a very large hotel along the Euphrates river bank. I'd been in that same hotel probably around 50 times since we'd been there. So one particular day, the squad that I'm with gets tasked to check it out and I was trying to get to the top of the hotel to set up my radio on the roof. As I began walking up the stairs between the second and third floor I saw the IED immediately. Called out the ordnance over the squad radio using our brevity code. I pushed my buddy behind the corner and I remember very clearly looking directly at it when it went off. My next moment I remember, I was face down on the stairs, with my head below my feet. I tried standing up on my foot but I just collapsed because my ankle wasn't there anymore. Tried to find the handset to my squad radio. I had just gotten a brand new handset the other day, so this was really disappointing to lose it in the blast. But anyways, my guys were getting tourniquets on me and treating me as fast as

possible, dragging me out of the hotel. Every bit of my body hurt, not just the affected parts. I remember being drug out, and then after about 10 feet of dragging I remember my path being filled with blood. My ballistic glasses had a hole the size of a nickel in the left eye panel and my left eye hurt a lot, figured that I would lose it.

***SF:* And thus began the long trip back to the United States for evacuation?**

JG: Yes, they got me evacuated, I want to say to Balad Air Base in Iraq, then I woke up in Germany for around 20 hours, waiting for a flight back to the United States. And when I landed in the U.S., that began the long road to recovery.

***SF:* Tell us about the extent of the injury?**

JG: So the initial injury, I lost my left eye. Even to this day I have a small piece of shrapnel still in the back of my eye with a prosthetic eye. I lost my right foot because it wasn't able to be saved during the ensuing operations and was thus amputated. They actually woke me up to ask me whether I wanted a prosthetic foot or some sort of robotic contraption. I told them to just amputate it and hopefully I'd be walking on that within 6 months. I also had some very nasty wounds to my left wrist, which led to limited use of my hand. Shrapnel up in my armpit as well, in addition to my thigh as well. Despite all of these injuries, it could definitely have been a lot worse if my Kevlar helmet and body armor hadn't stopped some of the bigger pieces of shrapnel.

***SF:* But you didn't stay in Bethesda, Maryland?**

JG: I was able to get transferred to the San Antonio military medical centers for my long-term rehabilitation because I had my family in the area. As I'm going through this initial rehab process, the patient care folks are talking to me about getting medically discharged, and I'm pushing back, telling them I want to stay in the Marine Corps. I had just heard about a new program called Permanent Limited Duty, which allowed for wounded Marines to stay in the Corps.

***SF:* This is also where you got into competition shooting?**

JG: Yes, because during my physical therapy I became really active outside of the hospital, getting into all sorts of outdoor activities and, especially, shooting. This is where I met some guys from the Marine Corps Shooting Team, who liked my profile and invited me to come on the team. From there, I was able to get sent to Quantico, and then go to Fort Lee, Virginia where I was retrained as a Small Arms Repairman. This allowed me to be assigned to the Marine Corps Shooting Team, in addition to allowing me to stay at Quantico for the medical requirements. I tried to get on every opportunity to go overseas, looking at IA Billets, but Headquarters Marine Corps kept denying any request that I put in. So if I couldn't go back overseas, then I would be fine training the guys that were going overseas. Once that ran its course, I decided that I wanted to pursue things in the civilian world.

***SF:* Throughout this whole time, the shooting was a kind of therapy.**

JG: Really the shooting was some of my best therapy after I had been injured and was recuperating in the United States. That activity made me more human than anything else I was doing and even now when I go shoot, I don't have time to think about anything else outside of what is happening at the range or the shooting event I'm focused on. It keeps me mentally sharp as well because I have to make sure to be safe around the firearms I'm using. Now I represent about a half dozen companies in the firearms industry, in addition I'm constantly working on my training company and teaching people how to shoot better.

***SF:* But how did you get into the civilian side of the competition shooting?**

JG: Well I was always going to all these shooting clubs and events in San Antonio after I got out. Just about every week and weekend I'd be traveling to a different match somewhere in Texas and would be a part of all these events, helping set them up, tear them down afterwards. A portion of the community got together and eventually formed a sponsorship for me to get the better gear that I needed for the matches I was getting into, really amazing. That really influenced me to stick with the shooting sports because of that community spirit.

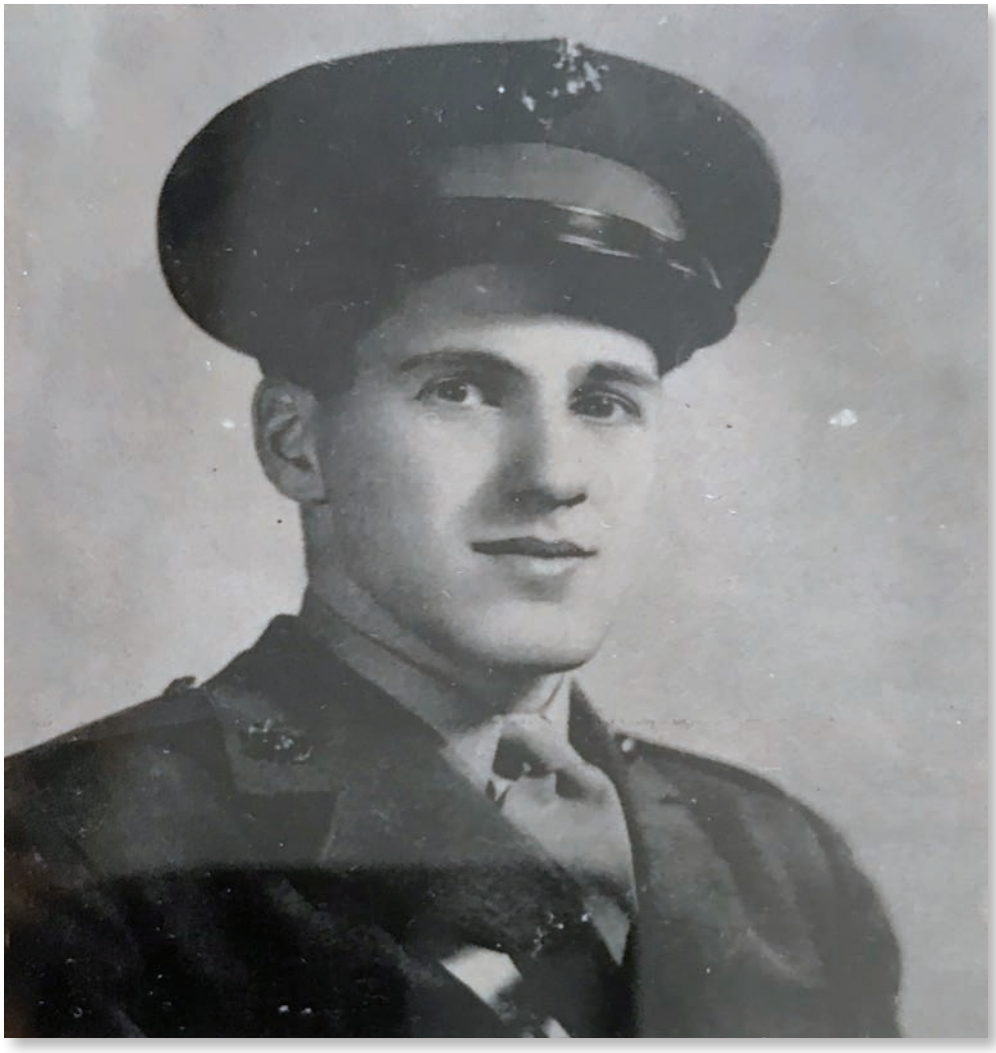
***SF:* What has been your connection to the Marine Corps League?**

JG: I think the Marine Corps League is very important to keep our legacy as Marines going, but a lot of younger Marines might not be as interested at their ages because they're busy building families and careers. But like I always tell them, you don't want to wait until you're 65 or 70 to build that network of guys you served with. You're going to be losing a lot of history and valuable networking.

***SF:* What would be your biggest advice to guys who were in your boots, today? Severely injured, getting medically separated, what would you say to them?**

JG: My advice to anyone who was injured in the service is that everything you do from the time you're injured, you're going to have a profound impact on someone else. They're going to see that you're living and thriving, that is going to help them. I saw it with active duty guys around me; I was able to change their perspectives about how they think about things. The other thing too is if you hit that moment where you're feeling bad for yourself, just remember that at one point you were there overseas and there is someone that was with you who is not coming home. If it was you that wasn't able to come home, would you want your buddies out there moping on the couch? My ultimate desire is that I would like to live a life that would be befitting to the guys that were killed in action. Being that I have a second opportunity at life, I don't want to blow that.

NAMED IN HONOR OF



Hugh B Eastburn III, Detachment 290

Hugh B. Eastburn III was a 1st Lieutenant in the USMC. He was killed in action on February 1, 1944 on the Marshall Islands.

Hugh B. Eastburn III was born in Bristol, PA on February 26, 1920. He attended All Saints School in Torresdale and Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia and then graduated from the South Kent School in Kent, CT.

After a year in France studying French, Eastburn graduated from Brown University in 1942 and immediately entered the Marine Corps, beginning his officer training at Quantico, VA, where he was commissioned a Lieutenant in October 1942 and, shortly thereafter, married Nancy Farr. Their only child, Nancy, was born of this union.

Lieutenant Eastburn was with the Joint Assault Signal Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment, 4th Marines when the Division hit the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. He was killed in action on February 1, 1944 ... just 22 days short of his 24th birthday. His hopes to be one of the "new generation" that is dedicated to improving our great democracy were extinguished in one frightful moment.

His love of all living creatures and his fellow man set him a cut above the ordinary person. That his final resting place is in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, HI (our 50th state), is a fitting tribute to one of America's greatest.

We of the Hugh B Eastburn III Detachment, Marine Corps League, are proud to bear his name and it is our privilege to bring honor in whatever way we can to an honorable name ... Hugh B. Eastburn ... Marine. S|F

NAMED IN HONOR OF

PFC Jeffrey S. Patterson, Detachment 747

Jeffrey Scott Patterson, the namesake of Detachment 747 of the Sussex County Marines, was born on June 17, 1949, and he resided in the small, rural town of Sparta, NJ. As a child and teenager, he attended the school system of Sparta Township. While in high school, he excelled in the interscholastic sports of football and wrestling. Fellow students and adults of the community described Jeff as a popular and respectful young man.

Jeff graduated from Sparta High School in 1967, determined to serve his country in the U.S. military. Ironically, Jeffrey's father served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was actually stationed at Pearl Harbor and witnessed the bombing of December 7, 1941. Jeff's father implored Jeff to join the Air Force, but Jeff was determined to be a Marine.

At Parris Island, he was assigned to Platoon 2043, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. He graduated from boot camp on November 13, 1967, and on his first leave, he was able to spend Christmas and New Years at home with his family before embarking for additional training at Camp Pendleton, CA.

In February of 1968, Jeff was assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Recon Battalion of the 1st Marine Division and deployed to Vietnam. On June 3, 1968, PFC Patterson was walking point on a roving patrol near Quang Nam Province when he tripped a Viet Cong booby trap and was mortally wounded.

PFC Patterson was a clean-cut, all-American-type young man who loved his country and his Corps. He truly reflected a quality of character and military stature that distinguished him as an exceptional individual whose membership in our Corps added to its storied history. This young man was a credit to his family, his country and his Marine Corps.

On June 3, 1993 at his grave site at the Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Sparta, the Sussex County Marines officially renamed the detachment as the PFC Jeffrey S. Patterson—Detachment 747. Members of his family were present, as were the color guards of several veterans' associations, to acknowledge this honor to Jeffrey.

Each year on June 3, the date of Jeffrey's death, the detachment conducts a graveside ceremony to commemorate Jeff's supreme sacrifice for our country. Our detachment is proud to bear the name of this young Marine from Sparta, NJ who exemplified the spirit of our country and our Marine Corps. SF

Lance Corporal George L. Dramis, Detachment 676

By CWO5 Joe Bisbing, USMC Ret, PC

Detachment 676 was chartered on August 5, 1988. It was organized by a number of Marines from Cape May County, NJ, and named in honor of a resident of Cape May Court House, who was KIA on January 30, 1984, in Beirut, Lebanon.

Lance Corporal George Louis Dramis, USMC, was born on September 29, 1964, and enlisted in September 1981. After graduating from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Paris Island, he served with Marine units in the Philippines. After WestPac, he was assigned to CLNC and in October 1983, George participated in the Grenada Operation.

His unit was deployed to Beirut, Lebanon, where Marines were deployed on the airport perimeter as part of the Multinational Force, a peace keeping force. On the night of January 29, 1984, Shiite militia opened fire on the Marine positions. George and his fellow Marines returned fire throughout the night and by daybreak had subdued the fire from the Shiite militia. As George moved about the perimeter in the early morning of January 30, a sniper's bullet struck and killed him.

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together Marines and FMF Corpsmen now serving and those who have been Honorably discharged that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily and rendering assistance to all Marines and FMF Corpsmen; to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the USMC and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical interest to Marines.

We invite you to join us! The detachment meets at 1900, on the third Wednesday of every month at the Middle Township Senior Center, 23 Romney Place, Cape May Court House, NJ. **Facebook.com/MarineCorpsLeague676DramisDetachment.** SF

Dear Marines, Sailors, and Associate Members of the Marine Corps League!

Although Christmas is over six-months away, planning for the Marine Corps' premier community outreach program is in full swing. We understand the challenges of working through COVID-19 and trying to maintain operational tempo.Funeral honors, fundraising, and planning the Marine Corps Ball may have your full attention right now; however, the 74th Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign will begin before you knowit.

The Marine Corps League has a long history with Toys for Tots. As early as the 1950's, the League has supported this amazing effort to bring the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children. In 1996, this support was formalized as Detachments were approved to conduct Toys for Tots Campaigns in communities that did not have a Reserve Unit. From 56 Detachments in 1996, the number of local campaigns led by the Marine Corps League has increased dramatically. This past year, Detachments led 249 of the 808 local campaigns and collected over 2.5 million toys and distributed over 3.6 million toys to approximately 1.2 million children. Many more directly-supported other Marine Corps Reserve Units.

We would like to express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to each one of you who volunteered to support Marine Toys for Tots in 2020. Despite the challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, you adapted and overcame the challenges of an unprecedented year to accomplish theToysfor Tots mission.

Although 2020 was a great success, we know the need will still be there for almost 15-million children who live at or below the poverty level across the Nation. Your Corps continues to need the League's help! If you are part of a Detachment that is in an area that already has a local Toys for Tots campaign,reach out to them as ask how you can help. If you are in an area that does not have a Toys for Tots local campaign, we ask that one of your members apply to be a Toys for Tots Local Community Organization(LCO). The application can be found online here: **https://www.toysfortots.org/coordinators-corner/application-start.aspx.** To determine if your area has a local campaign or not, please **visit https://www.toysfortots.org/campaigns**.

The Marine Corps League is an exceptional component to the Toys for Tots Program, an official activity of the United States Marine Corps. Literally millions of children throughout the history of Toys for Tots would not have experienced the joy of Christmas were it not for your efforts. The willingness of your Marines and Sailors to continue to make a difference for our Corps and our Nation's less fortunate children, lends credence to the expression "once a Marine always a Marine." The Marine Corps is indeed blessed to have the Marine CorpsLeague as an integral part of the Toys for Tots team!

Semper Fidelis,

Dennis Tobin

National Commandant/
CEO Marine Corps League

Jim Laster

Lieutenant General,
USMC (Ret)

President &CEO, Marine
Toys for Tots Foundation

Tree of Lights

Tree Lighting Ceremony, 11:00am, Tuesday, December 7th, 2021 at the Marine Corps League National Headquarters

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

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

As a light sponsor, your name (or the name of your organization) will be listed on a special Scroll of Honor to be displayed at the ceremony and to be posted on our website: **usmarinesyouthfoundation.org** throughout the year of 2022. **For more information, please call (703) 207-9588.**

Person or Organization giving the Light _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **Zip** _____ **Phone** _____ _____

TYPE OF GIFT: _____

☐ **IN HONOR OF** _____
(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

☐ **IN MEMORY OF** _____
(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

☐ **YEAR-END GIFT to the United States Marines Youth Foundation.**

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** ____ **Zip** _____

Send with your check payable to:

U. S. Marines Youth Foundation
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

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

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

On February 20th, members of the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment 1226 were selling raffle tickets in Tampa, FL to raise much-needed funds to support their veterans programs. *Left to right:* Paymaster Larry Westcott, Past Commandant Bernie Kotrady, Jr. Vice Sal Difonzo and Commandant Ron Essick.

March 2, presentation of a $1,000 check to Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School. The donation was made possible through the efforts of the MCL's ROSE Program, courtesy of the Col. Phillip C. DeLong Detachment 1267, located in The Villages, FL. *Left to right:* Reggie Nealy, Ron Perich, Nathan Pratt, Jerry White, Nicole Wade (Principal), Rich Schaum, Connie Dunne and Tom Upton.

Past Commandant, GySgt Garnasia L. Bogus, USMC (Ret), receives the Marine of the Year 2020 award. Presenting the award is Doug Masini, Det. 1326 Adjutant.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The MCL National Commandant, Dennis Tobin, *left,* presented the Executive Director of the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation, Tom Hazlett, *right*, a donation check for $2,500. The presentation was made in the MCL National Headquarters conference room. Check out **USMarinesYouthFoundation.org** and see how they are getting youth involved with physical fitness. The U.S. Marines Youth Foundation was incorporated in 1967 to endow the Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) Program and others like it benefitting American youth.

The MCL National Commandant, Dennis Tobin, *left,* presented the National Executive Director of the Young Marines, Bill Davis, *right,* with a donation check for $2,500. The presentation was made in the MCL National Headquarters conference room. Check out **YoungMarines.com** and see how they are building tomorrow's leaders today. The Young Marines was established in 1959 in Waterbury, CT by a detachment of MCL members.

At Eisenhower Rec Center, Col. Phillip C. DeLong Detachment 1267 made a check presentation in the amount of $500 to help support Mission 22, a nonprofit that combats the tragic suicide rate of veterans. Every day, more than twenty veterans are lost to suicide. Mission 22 wants to bring that number to zero through its three main programs: Veteran Treatment, Memorials and National Awareness. *Left to right:* Dennis Faillo, Jerry White, Diane McCall (Public Relations Director, Mission 22), Nathan Pratt and Tom Upton (Director of Detachment 1267's Rose Program).

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Members of the LCpl John J Van Gyzen Det. 1285 of Somerset, MA in front of the Iwo Jima monument in Fall River, MA. The members of the detachment have been responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the monument for the past 10 years.

Col Dan Gillan, USMC (Ret) of the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment 1260 was paying tribute to our fallen veterans at Andersonville National Cemetery in conjunction with Wreaths Across America's wreath placements. Upon hearing The Marines' Hymn, Park Ranger Tony Jago asked if Dan would come to another section and play over a specific grave—the resting place of LCpl Daniel G. Raney, who was killed in Afghanistan. Ranger Jago was LCpl Raney's platoon sergeant during their deployment and Jago did not previously know Raney was buried at Andersonville, he just happened upon his grave while performing maintenance duties.

Northeast Division Vice Commandant, Mike Waluk, speaking at the Dept. of PA's March Spring Virtual Membership Meeting.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

North Georgia Mountain Detachment 1280 at the Pickens County, GA Veterans Memorial during a ceremony honoring our Vietnam veterans on National Vietnam Veterans Day.

White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246 of Surprise, AZ presenting a Bell of Freedom to Lewis Goldstein. Lew is the General Manager of Toyota of Surprise and we thank him for supporting Toys for Tots and our fundraising efforts.

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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

March 31, South Carolina: Low Country Detachment #803 and Tideland Riverdogs Pound #246 Pack members delivered 4,480 pounds of dog food to the H.F. Help No Kill shelter in Summerville, SC to help them with their mission of helping animals find forever homes. #803 has a project called "Operation Rescue" which focuses on getting donations to support four local shelters. In 2020, they collected more than 2,000 pounds of dog food and supplies to support our furry friends! *Back, left to right*: Mike Cortright, Lynn Cortright, Ray Brown. *Front, left to right:* Mike English, Colleen English, Jay Batson, Helen Breen, Jim Breen, Marilyn Tharp, Ron Lamon.

Peg Bandy, a Life Member of the Greater Syracuse Detachment 224 and World War II veteran, celebrated her 100th birthday recently. During the war, she worked in Washington, D.C. from 1943 to 1946. She later joined the Reserve, serving as the only female Marine in the 8th Tank Battalion. While on active duty she marched in the funeral procession of FDR in Washington.

Hanna, her mother (not shown) and brother, Mathew Pawelski, raised enough money to buy Girl Scout cookies for our guys in the Middle East. Members of Elk Grove Detachment 1238 from *left to right:* Roger Naria, Mark Hite, Robert Hale, Jeff Pawelski (father) and John Lockett.

Joe Filko, who will be 100 years old in August, takes on the National Commandant's challenge, doing 22 pushups a day for suicide awareness. Joe served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam and retired as a GySgt.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The Woodbridge High School Marine Corps JROTC provided the Flag Raising and Open Ceremony Color Guard for the Mideast Division Conference. *Left to right:* MCL National Commandant Dennis Tobin, Joellea Cannon, Aurora Henderson, Willow Mansfield, Cara Stevens and Mideast Division Commandant Roger Ware.

Scott Kirby, *second from left*, Past Commandant for the Department of West Virginia, received the Mideast Division Marine of the Year Award on April 17 during the Mideast Division Conference in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Participating in the presentation were, *left to right:* Department of Delaware Commandant Frank Mathers, Mideast National Vice Commandant Roger Ware and Assistant National Vice Commandant Rick Thomason.

Via the National Commandant, Lehigh Valley Det 298 Detachment Commandant, Ria Mattis, giving Howard Schaeffer the Distinguished Citizens Award Gold.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

E. T. Brisson Detachment 063 of Naples, FL adopted the New Beginnings School approx. 20 years ago. It is an "alternative" school for students in grades 4-8 who have problems in a standard school. The school is organized along Marine Corps Esprit guidelines with Marines volunteering as mentors and instructors. Many detachment members and their wives donate their time as mentors and help with classroom and individual instruction. After over a year of no physical contact with students due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 1st Promotion Ceremony was held April 30, 2021 at the Naples Campus. At this ceremony, three outstanding students attained the rank of Gunny Sgt and received special recognition from Detachment Commandant Dennis "Doc" Hemberger.

April 10, 2021. Color Guard Unit, Semper Fidelis Detachment 204 of Wenonah, NJ at opening day of Little League Baseball in Oak Valley, NJ. *Left to right:* George Belz, Frank Wexler (Chaplain) and Jim McHugh.

Dwight Witcher of Sidney S. McMath Detachment 532 in Little Rock is given a special award by Arkansas Governor, Asa Hutchinson, for his work in the Arkansas veterans community.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Florida MCL Awards

The Department of Florida MCL held their 2021 Spring Conference in Wesley Chapel, FL. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this was the first time a DOF Conference or Convention had been held since November 2019. At the Saturday Banquet, various awards were presented which included the presentation of the 2020 Marine of the Year and the 2020 Associate of the Year awards.

2020 Dept. of Florida Marine of the Year Frank Glassford, Dept. of FL Commandant 2019-2021.

2020 Dept. of Florida Associate of the Year Patricia [Trisha] Marsh, Dept. of FL Convention Chair 2017-2021.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

On April 10, 2021, Keith C. Tucker, WWII Marine, celebrated his 100th birthday with some help from USS Oregon Detachment #470 members Terry Welter, Bill Allen (Commandant) and Gary Brannan (Chaplain). They presented Keith with a Certificate of Appreciation for Loyalty and Patriotism for his service with the 2ndMarDiv during WWII. Keith was also recognized for his 75-year membership in the American Legion.

MCL members with Marine Corps veteran, author and speaker Christina Hadwin at the Department of Colorado Convention Banquet. Marine Don Whipple, a 95-years young Iwo Jima survivor, with Christina Hadwin.

Join Roll Call!

ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES

SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

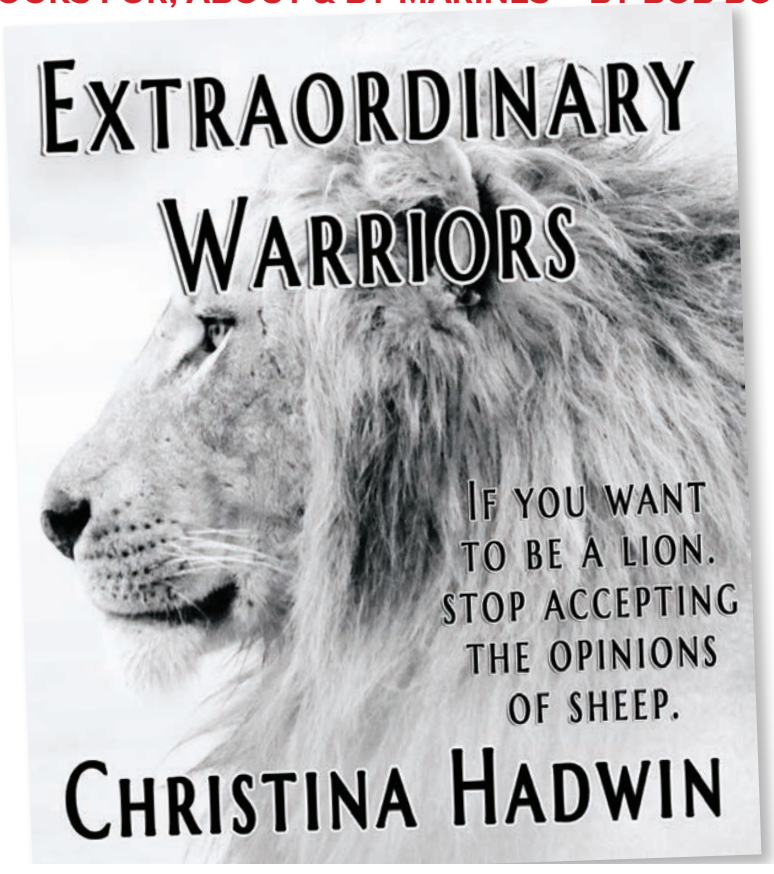
If you have any questions about uniform regulations, please contact Butch Raynes of the Uniform Committee at the National website: **www.mcinational.org.**

NOTICE TO MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENTS!

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

BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA



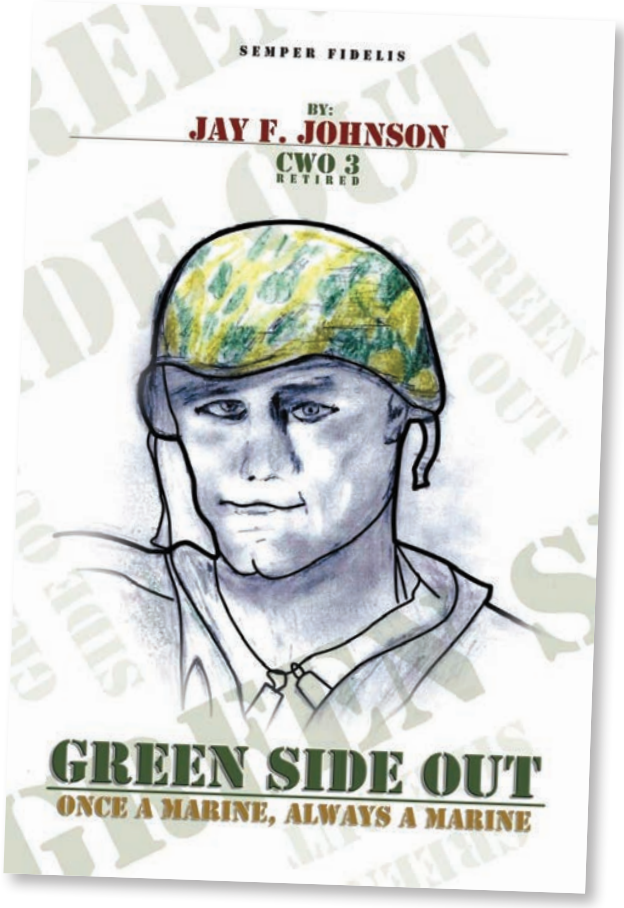
Extraordinary Warriors

Marine Corps Veteran Christina Hadwin is a clear and concise writer whose passion for life spills out onto the pages. The book is an easy read and felt very uplifting. The journey includes goal setting, self-expectations and accepting oneself regardless of what others think. Hadwin encourages readers to strive for the extraordinary because each person is unique. The book encapsulates the desire to move forward and embodies positivity. Hadwin's obvious drive and energy were encouraging and appreciated.

Extraordinary Warriors
Author: Christina Hadwin
Paperback: 200 pages
Publisher: Independently Published
Language: English
ISBN: 979-8691195037

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christina Hadwin has written three books *(The Crucible: How the Hardships of Life Forge Us into Extraordinary Warriors, Extraordinary Warriors* and *In the Face of Giants).* She is available as a Transformational Speaker at conferences and events. She is developing video training content in alignment with transitional struggles and transformational goals to help others achieve the extraordinary. Please visit **www.extraordinarywarriors.com** today!



Green Side Out

Marine Corps League Detachment #609 Member Jay F. Johnson brings us a story of his time serving in the Marine Corps. The pathway taken by Johnson led to Chief Warrant Officer. It includes time in frigid Korean temperatures and working in the Marine Corps Prison system. The writing is eloquent and an easy read.

Green Side Out
Author: Jay F. Johnson
Paperback: 242 pages
Publisher: Xlibris US
Language: English
ISBN: 978-1465376459

NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS & AUTHORS
For consideration for review, please send books to:
MCL National Headquarters, ATTN: COO, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554

NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

BUTCH RAYNES

The Marine Corps League Uniform

MARINES: I have been reading a lot about Marine Corps League uniforms on a few of the websites lately. Some members are complaining, and some are complimenting the Enclosure 3 Uniform Code for the Marine Corps League. Marines, no matter what uniform you are wearing, you should be wearing it properly.

It says in the Enclosure that all one needs to be considered **in uniform** is our cover, whether it is Red, Red & Gold or Gold. All the remaining parts of the uniforms are of the individual Marine's choice. When wearing those uniforms, they need to be worn correctly.

What I have found is that when a new member comes on board, they are not informed about uniforms. Maybe they are told about the cover, but usually that's it. They look around and see other members in some type of uniform and they think, "Well, I will get one like that." They are never told about Enclosure 3 and the proper way to wear the uniform they purchase.

If that new member is an Associate Member, they are not being told that they cannot wear the EGA or the blood stripe on Dress Blue Trousers. They also tend to wear what everyone else is wearing.

The uniform that is not in Enclosure 3 is the Marine Corps Dress Blue uniform. Dress Blues are to be worn according to Marine Corps Uniform Regulations. When wearing Dress Blues, you must follow those regulations. They state who can wear them, as well as when and where they can be worn. They are not

to be worn at fundraising events or Toys for Tots functions.

Marines, when wearing pins, badges, medals, medallions and name tags, **please** read Enclosure 3 for the proper placement when wearing them on the different types of uniforms. Remember, do not mix DoD with MCL Ribbons and Awards at any time.

Please review the proper place and time and who can and cannot wear the White Duty Belt. At no time do we wear a sidearm on the duty belt { holster }.

At this time, we have members of the Uniform Committee developing a Uniform Manual that will cover in detail the wearing of the MCL uniform. I know that there are many departments and detachments in the League that have their own manual for uniforms, but they are not all the same. This is why the Uniform Committee is developing a standard manual.

For those of you who have Color Guards and Firing Squads, please refer to the MCL Honor Guard Policy and Procedures, Section 2200, for authorized uniform items.

Semper Fi!

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UPCOMING TOURS

OCT 10 – 23
Famous Cathedrals of Northern France

OCT 10 – 23
D-Day "The Longest Day"

OCT 16 – 23
MHT'S The Great American South (St. Augustine, FL to New Orleans, LA)

★ NOV 3 – 13
WWI Battlefields & Armistice Day in Paris, France

NOV 27 – DEC 9
Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: Laos & Cambodia

DEC 4 – 11
80th Anniversary Pearl Harbor

DEC 4 – 13
77th Anniv Battle of the Bulge

DEC 27 – JAN 4
Holiday Tour of Normandy & Paris & Fun Post Tours

FEB 12 – 25
Central Wisconsin Area Vets to VN Friends & Family Trip

FEB 19 – MAR 3
Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue

MAR 21 – 28
Iwo Jima–Guam 76th Anniversary Reunion of Honor

APR 3 – 13
Philippines WWII in the PI

APR 4 – 14
Return to I-Corps VN War

APR 16 – 29
VN War "Saigon to the DMZ"

APR 30 – MAY 6
MHT Civil War: Gettysburg, Bull Run & Antietam

MAY 22 – 31
WWI Doughboys & Devil Dogs

MAY 27 – JUN 9
78th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris

JUN 1 – 9
78th Anniv of D-Day:Normandy

10% MCL MEMBER DISCOUNT

USMC Veteran Owned & Operated Since 1987

REUNIONS

41th Annual MARINE Reunion, Saturday, August 7, 2021 at the Saxon Club in Youngstown, OH. Event open to all Marines and their families and service members who served with Marine Units. No ticket sales at the door; all tickets must be purchased before July 30, 2021. Contact Chester Kaschak at 330-533-6084 or Ed Leviseur at 330-720-4513.

Marine 3rd Recon Association Reunion, October 5-10, 2021 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel in Tucson, AZ. Contact Floyd Nagler at 952-440-1553.

USMC Aircraft Firefighter and Rescue, (Crash Crew) Reunion, September 24-26, 2021, Pensacola, FL. Contact Dale Swanson at sdale92@yahoo.com. AFFRA Facebook site is: **Marine Corps Firefighting Rescue Association.**

The 1st Battalion 9th Marines Association ("the Walking Dead") will hold a reunion October 19-24, 2021 at the Holiday Inn San Antonio-Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX. All former Walking Dead and attached FMF Corpsmen and their families are invited. If you are interested in attending this reunion or becoming an Association Member, contact us at info@19Walking-Dead.org.

HMM-165/VMM-165, all hands, all years, October 21-23, 2021 in Glendale, AZ. Details at **165whiteknights.com.**

HMM-265 (1962-2012) Reunion, November 8-12, 2021 at the Astor Crowne Plaza in New Orleans, LA. Information at the HMM-265 website or contact Ken Johnson at kjohnson@nctv.com.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

EVENT CALENDAR

2021

National Convention
August 9-13
Springfield, IL
mclnational.org

Modern Day Marine
September 21-23
MCB Quantico, VA
marinemilitaryexpos.com

Midwest Division Fall Conference
October 22-23
Jefferson City, MO
mclnational.org

2022

Marine West Expo
February TBD
Camp Pendleton, CA
marinemilitaryexpos.com

Mid-Winter Conference
February 24-26
Norfolk, VA
mclnational.org

*The dates above are tentative due to possible COVID-19 restrictions. Please check **mclnational.org** before making reservations.*

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HERMAN B. BRASWELL
ROBERT L. CAINE
GEORGE COCORIS
GENE R. HITCHCOCK
JOHN G. PAGE III
JERALD RIVIERE, JR.
DR. THOMAS ROSANDICH
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Death Notification Policy

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

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Flash Drive

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

Mug

Item Code: Cup1
Price: $5.00
Description: MCL Insulated Coffee Mug

Cufflinks

Item Code: U36A, U36B
Price: $11.50
Description: *U36A:* Cufflinks Gold EGA on Gold / *U36B:* Cufflinks Silver EGA on Gold

Cummerbund

Item Code: U27
Price: $29.00
Description: 5-Pleat Gold Cummerbund, Adjustable

Fidget Spinner

Item Code: Gft1
Price: $8.00
Description: Red Fidget Spinner with MCL Logo

Collar Ornaments

Item Code: U14C
Price: $11.00
Description: Collar Ornaments with Screw-Backs

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Bow Ties

Item Code: U29, U47
Price: $6.00
Description: Black Bow Tie (U29 is banded / U47 is clip-on)

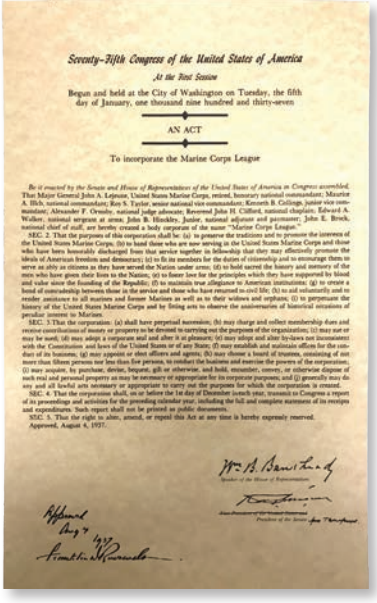
Gloves

Item Code: Gloves
Price: $15.00
Description: White Slip-On gloves; Sizes Small to XL

Gold Dress Vest

Item Code: U28A
Price: $45.00
Description: Gold Dress Vest; One Size, Fits 37"-49"

Item Code: U28B
Price: $45.00
Description: Gold Dress Vest; Size 2XL, Fits 50"-60"



Seventy-fifth Congress of the United States of America

At the First Session

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven

AN ACT

To incorporate the Marine Corps League

Charter

Item Code: S15
Price: $1.00
Description: Copy of Marine Corps League National Charter

Keychain

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

Lanyard

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

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City State Zip Code

Phone Number

Shipping Address

Name

Street

City State Zip Code

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Code#	Quantity	Item Description	Size	Price Each	Total Cost

HANDLING & POSTAGE

AMOUNT OF ORDER	CHARGE
UNDER $10	$7.99
$10.01-$25.00	$8.99
$25.01-$35.00	$10.99
$35.01-$50.00	$11.99
$50.01-$65.00	$12.99
$65.01-$85.00	$13.99
$85.01-$100.00	$14.99
$100.01-$200.00	$16.99
$200.01 AND UP	$18.99

STANDARD SHIPPING: Shipping and handling charges for orders with Standard Shipping are calculated using the **SUBTOTAL** of the order. Some very heavy or oversized items may have a shipping surcharge which will be reflected in the item description.

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED ❑

WE GLADLY ACCEPT

❑ VISA ❑ MASTERCARD

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2022 BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

THE MCL GEARS UP FOR THIS YEAR'S DRAWING!

In 2022, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (**miltours.com**) will offer the battlefield tour for a Marine Corps League Member as the winner of the League's Tour raffle. The winner will receive a trip for two.

Tickets: Marine Corps League 2022 Battlefield Tour Raffle.

One Grand Prize: Trip for Two Free Tour.

These trips span the globe and military history. See the list below for a complete lineup.

Everyone who enters lends their support to League programs including Marines Helping Marines, Legislative Programs, Toys for Tots and more.

Raffle tickets cost $5 per single entry or five tickets for just $20! That's right, the more you buy, the more you save and the more you help the League. The drawing will be held at our annual Mid-Winter Conference Banquet in 2022.

You do not need to be present to win. Winners will be notified within3 days of drawing if they are not present, and arrangements will be made with Military Historical Tours for selection of their tour prize.

Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to Marine Corps League, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554. You may buy as many tickets as you like. Please feel free to make additional copies of these raffle tickets if you wish to purchase additional chances!

2021 TOURS

21 Aug–3 Sep
Vietnam 50th Anniversary Return to I-Corps

25 Sep–6 Oct
Italy WWII: Rome-Salerno-Amalfi-Sorrento-Florence-Venice

13–25 Sep
Waterloo "Napoleon, Blucher & Wellington"

29 Sep–10 Oct
All England Tour "God Save the Queen" & 8th Air Force-WWII

9–16 Oct
80th Anniversary WWII–Battle of Crete

10–20 Oct
China "Imperial Jewels:" Beijing-Xian-Shanghai

10–22 Oct
WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust

10–23 Oct
Famous Cathedrals of Northern France

16–23 Oct
MHT'S The Great American South (St. Augustine, FL to New Orleans, LA)

Continues Next Page

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
2022 BATTLEFIELD
TOUR RAFFLE

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

$5 per entry or
5 entries for $20

You need not be present to win. Drawing will occur at the 2022 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to: Marine Corps League, 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
2022 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE
Clip coupon and return along with your check made payable to:

Marine Corps League, Inc.
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

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

Name
Address
City
State Zip Code
Phone
Email

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City
State Zip Code
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Email

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
2022 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE
Clip coupon and return along with your check made payable to:

Marine Corps League, Inc.
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

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

Name
Address
City
State Zip Code
Phone
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Continued From Previous Page

30 Oct–4 Nov
"Bloody Tarawa"

31 Oct–8 Nov
Guadalcanal 79th Op Watchtower

3–13 Nov
WWI Battlefields & Armistice Day in Paris, France

27 Nov–8 Dec
Vietnam Delta to DMZ
Post Tour: 9-14 Dec Laos & Cambodia

1–8 Dec
80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

4–13 Dec
Battle of the Bulge, 77th Anniversary

2022 Tours

12–25 Feb
Central Wisconsin Area Vets to VN Friends & Family Trip to Vietnam

19 Feb–3 Mar
Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue

21–28 Mar
Iwo Jima–Guam 76th Anniversary Reunion of Honor

3–13 Apr
Philippines WWII in the PI

4–14 Apr
5th ID "Red Devils" Return to I-Corps Vietnam War

16–29 Apr
Vietnam War "Saigon to the DMZ"

16–29 Apr
Friends & Family Trip to Vietnam

30 Apr–6 May
MHT Civil War Gettysburg, Bull Run & Antietam

8–15 May
The Korean Experience

22–31 May
WWI Doughboys & Devil Dogs France

27 May–9 Jun
78th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris

1–9 Jun
78th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

12–25 Jun
Famous Cathedrals of Northern France

30 Jul–4 Aug
"Bloody Tarawa"

31 Jul–8 Aug
Guadalcanal 79th Op Watchtower

5–13 Aug
Morocco – WWII Operation Torch & French Foreign Legion

13–20 Aug
78th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon – South of France

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

is a member in good standing of

This card is good for a period of sixty days from

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Full Name _____ Member Number _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Date of Birth ___/___/_____ Join Date ___/___/_____

Membership Type - Regular ( ) Associate ( ) Dual ( )

Please indicate the amount enclosed: _____

_____

Member's Signature

Upon completion, turn into your ***Detachment Paymaster*** *with required payment.*

For ***Members At Large (MAL),*** *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.

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Amount

Sponsor's Signature

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Date of Birth ___/___/___ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ___/___/___ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ___/___/___

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

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

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

-OR-

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

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

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

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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More from Toys for Tots 2020

J.C. Breckinridge Detachment 10, CA, donated $1,400 to Toys for Tots. *Left to right:* Commandant George Smith, SgtMaj Gerardo Ybarra, Past Commandant Bill Stevenson, LtCol David Ortiz, Past Commandant (Emeritis) Mike ("Belmo") Belmessieri and 1stSgt Randy Ranoa at the 23rd Regiment Headquarters in San Bruno.

Honorable Few Detachment 1302, Peabody, MA, had a very successful Toys for Tots drive at the VFW Post 4524. *Left to right:* Mike Hinds (NGDIV Sgt-at-Arms); David Porter (NGDIV NVC); Jim Summers (Sr. Vice); Matt Cunningham (Post Commander, MCL); William Auld (Past Commandant); and Joe Furtado (Commandant).

Members of Cpl Gerald Max Rich Detachment 1352, Logan, UT, the Dept. of Utah Commandant Duane Smith, Michael Soholt and Chaplain Jerry Cokely are presented with an $11,800 check from the Box Elder High School Student Body Council after its ambitious effort in obtaining donations for the Toys for Tots campaign.

North Iowa Detachment 859 collected donations in Charles City, IA, during the 2020 Toys for Tots campaign. *Left to right:* Members Dale Stern, Ken Miller, Jan Stern and Jim Holt.

Lewis B .Puller Jr., Detachment 524, Carlisle, PA, at their new Toys for Tots facility. Eighty-five families received gifts in 2020. *Left to right:* R. Fugere, B. O'Connell, A. Hostetter, P. Wallace, B. Smith, L. Kipp, B. Garman, R. Adams, W. Smedley and R. Runyan.

From Reno, NV, Battle Born Detachment 672 Commandant George Malone and Toys for Tots Chairman Ken Santor present Toys for Tots service certificates to MCL members Don Enea and Marcel Nino de Guzman.

Get involved with Toys for Tots this year! See joint letter between the MCL and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation on Page 36 for more info.

MARINE RESERVE
IT'S WHO YOU ARE
Stay connected to your purpose.
Stay Marine.
Scan here or contact your local Prior Service Recruiter.