Optimizing Social Media for Your Detachment

Interview with Dr. Betty Moseley Brown

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The MARINE Shop has commissioned a beautiful series of paintings designed to grace the homes and offices of active duty and veteran Marines.

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FEATURE ARTICLES

9  2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

10  RESOLUTION
    DENNIS TOBIN

11  THE ORIGINAL "THE MAN. THE MYTH. THE LEGEND."—INTERVIEW WITH CPL LAWRENCE A. AXLEY

14  MARINES DONATE $500 TO THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL IN THE ST. GEORGE HISTORIC TOWN SQUARE

15  TOGETHER WITH VFW, RETURNING TO BASICS—SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 1057

16  IN MEMORIAM: PNC EDWARD A. SCHRAMM, SR., MARVEL EDNA DAHLEN

30  THE SEMPER FI INTERVIEW: DR. BETTY MOSELEY BROWN
    MILES VINING

34  NAMED IN HONOR OF: CPL JOHNNY A. WILLIAMSON DETACHMENT #1165 OF ASHEBORO, NC/GENERAL THOMAS HOLCOMB DETACHMENT #814 OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DE

36  VALOR IN ACTION: THE MEDAL OF HONOR PAINTINGS OF COLONEL CHARLES WATERHOUSE
    DEAN ROXBY

37  WHEN DISASTER STRIKES
    JERRY HOLT
ON THE COVER:
Women Marines at the 2021 National Convention in Springfield, IL. See full photo in Roll Call on Page 38.

COLUMNS

6 NATIONAL COMMANDANT’S LETTER
JOHNNY B. BAKER

8 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO’S LETTER
BOB BORKA

8 NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
VICTORIA MCCOY

17 CHIEF DEVIL DOG
THOMAS W. HAZLETT

18 NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY
EVELYN JOPPA

20 PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION
HOWARD C. SCHAEFFER

20 YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
YM/SGTMAJ MARIO KOCH

21 NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT
WARREN C. GRIFFIN

21 NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT
T.J. MORGAN

22 NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE
PHIL ZAMORA

22 JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT
DENNIS TOBIN

23 YOUNG MARINES LIAISON
ANGÉLÁ MANESS

24 DIVISION REPORTS

38 ROLL CALL

47 BOOK REVIEWS
BOB BORKA

48 IMPORTANT DATES IN USMC & MCL HISTORY
GREGORY R. CIESIELSKI

49 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR

49 REUNIONS

50 TAPS

52 THE SEMPER FI STORE

FORMS & RAFFLES

19 TREE OF LIGHTS DONATION FORM

54 THE SEMPER FI STORE ORDER FORM

55 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE

57 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Our focus must be to grow stronger in numbers

MARINES: I am humbled to be elected as your National Commandant. Words cannot express my appreciation for every League member throughout my adventure in the League for the past 20 years. There are many who have supported and encouraged me along the way. Our League is about the “teamwork” and the “dedication” of each Marine in our detachments throughout the U.S. For the next year, our focus must be to grow stronger in numbers and to be relevant to those that we serve. Those who we serve are our current members, all Marines and FMF Sailors, and the communities in which we live.

My focus is to strengthen our relationships with the United States Marine Corps and those organizations that are affiliated. Of those, none are more important than that of the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League. We have many MCL detachments supporting the Young Marine Programs through direct involvement by being Unit Leaders and truly making a difference in tomorrow’s leaders of our nation. This Drug Awareness Program is important to the Marine Corps and our nation. I appeal to all MCL Detachments to consider supporting or starting a Young Marines Unit. Go to the Young Marines website for more details: youngmarines.com.

Another focus is to support the Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots program and the funeral honors needs of those Marines that have gone on before us. Toys for Tots is a major program of many of our detachments. In 2015, there were 282 detachments conducting Toys for Tots drives. In 2020, that number has declined to 248 detachments. This means that 34 communities that we were helping are no longer supporting their communities with toys for needy children. With over 1,100 detachments throughout the United States—we can do better. I request that the departments reach out to all of their detachments and encourage them to conduct Toys for Tots in their communities. Again, we can do this! It is what makes us great!

The Marine Corps Reserve forces need our help in performing Color Guards for our communities and Honor Details for our deceased veterans. We all know that the Reserve Forces have played a major mission on the War on Terror. Their forces are thin and their training intense. The Commanding General of the Marine Forces Reserve has talked with the League and asked that we step up and provide more funeral support when their Marines cannot. The Marine Forces Reserve often only sends two I&I Marines to provide honors to one of our deceased brothers. Every deceased brother or sister deserves more and that can easily be provided by the Marine Corps League. Think about if that was your deceased family member and they were a Marine. Would you not fight to get the best Honors that you possibly could? Yes, you would; and yes, we can provide that.

There are many more areas that the League is involved in for our members and our communities. I ask that all detachments read our Mission Statement and strive to do what is right for our members and our communities. The three topics listed above should be what is important to the League and our communities, but we have many other worthwhile missions. The Board of Trustees is dedicated and working hard in making our Marine Corps League better and relevant to our communities. I need each member to continue to do great things for our League and your communities. The old saying is, “The United States needs the Marine Corps,” but I also add that “Our Communities needs the Marine Corps League!” Let’s move forward Marines. It’s what we do! Semper Fi!
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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO
BOB BORKA

The MCL continues to evolve, adapt and experience innovation

MARINES: The Marine Corps League continues to evolve, adapt and experience innovation. The past few years has brought about a new database, new membership card, a new headquarters store electronic platform, scanning of documents, emailing forms, an electronic library, online convention and conference registrations, the magazine available electronically, electronic PLM distribution and Zoom calls.

For those resistant to change, I am certain the most recent year has been most challenging. However, with the advent of process improvements and adaptation of electronic communications to our needs, our Marine Corps League is embracing change. Leadership Author John Maxwell said, “The world can change for the better. People like you and like [me] can be the difference makers.” Marines know we make a difference, but change is not always easy. It takes time and patience. Two things that Marines tend to not be fond of.

We have work to do at the headquarters and we know that. As this article is being written on a hot Tuesday morning, there are seven people physically in the office today. A first in over a year. As the pandemic begins to let up a little, our vendors are trying to get on their feet. We hope they gain better access to materials more quickly. This will help some of the store inventory. Our database continues to mature as the League makes data adjustments and we learn to use new tools.

I sincerely appreciate the dedication of our members and your embracing of new ideas, processes and tools. Thank you for your communications. The flow of information through the chain of command is very helpful to each of our members. Thank you for your continued support, drive and determination.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
VICTORIA McCOY

Social Media—Differences Between Facebook Profiles, Pages and Groups

Facebook (FB) is liked by some and not liked by others, but when you can create your own public portal of what your detachment does within a community—and be able to connect within your community (through social media)—it’s a tool you don’t want to ignore. FB provides three specific mediums (within FB) that can support this method of connection: an Individual Profile, a Business Page and a Group. What is best for your detachment to use—an individual profile, a business page, or a group?

Getting your detachment active on FB is a first step to getting your name out there (on social media) and offering your supporters a chance to engage

See Social Media, Page 12
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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mcleaguelibrary.org/conference
You can register and pay online.
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION relative to a Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

and

WHEREAS, World War II, the most widespread war in history, lasted from 1939 until 1945;
WHEREAS, the United States entered the war in 1941, following an attack on Pearl Harbor
by Japanese fighter planes; and
WHEREAS, over sixteen million Americans served their country and the Allied powers over
the course of the war; and
WHEREAS, the men and women who served our country in World War II have been
collectively called the "greatest generation" for their selfless sacrifice; and
WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration that is awarded by the
United States government; and
WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is presented by the President of the United States, in the
name of Congress; and
WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is only conferred upon members of the United States
Armed Forces who distinguished themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity
at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an
enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an
opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict
against an opposing armed force in which the United States was not a belligerent party; and
WHEREAS, more than 3,400 Medals of Honor have been awarded to our nation’s bravest
soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen since the creation of the award in
1861; and
WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor was awarded to 353 Americans during World War II; and
WHEREAS, only one of those 353 Americans is still alive today; and
WHEREAS, Hershel Woodrow Williams of West Virginia, risked his life while serving his
country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity and therefore deserves the gratitude of the
American people; and
WHEREAS, Hershel W. Williams, a Past Commandant of the Department of West Virginia
created the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation to locate, fund, erect and
dedicate seventy-six Gold Star Families Memorial monuments in fifty states and/or US
Territories, with seventy-four Gold Star Families Memorial monuments in progress; and
WHEREAS, the President of the United States has the sole authority to designate a state
funeral; and
WHEREAS, historically, the President of the United States has designated state funerals for
former presidents, generals, and other extraordinary Americans; and
WHEREAS, our nation is currently divided and yearns for a unifying national event; and
WHEREAS, designating a state funeral when the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor
recipient dies would be a wonderful way for the American people to unite and honor all
sixteen million soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen who served in our
Armed Forces from 1941 to 1945; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE 98TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING IN ASSEMBLY AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
And;
that this 98th Convention urges the President of the United States to designate a state funeral
for Hershel Woodrow Williams of West Virginia, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient
from World War II when such recipient passes away.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Executive Director/COO of the Marine Corps
League is instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the
United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States
House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and all
members of the Marine Corps League in its next national publication.

By

National Commandant/CEO
Marine Corps League

Date: August 10, 2021

Interview with Cpl Lawrence A. Axley

Semper Fi: What was life like before the Marine Corps?

Cpl Lawrence A. Axley: Pretty typical. I had just graduated from high school. I was the oldest of 6 kids so I had been working at whatever jobs I could get in order to help my mom. I guess for my age I was pretty focused and goal-oriented already.

SF: What inspired you to join the Marine Corps?

LA: For one thing, I knew I was going to have to go into the service because of the draft. Plus, I was very patriotic, and very intrigued by the Marine Corps, probably because of the movies about Marines. I knew I wouldn’t have the money to go to college, and realized I could get a good education through the Corps. I joined planning on a being a 20-year man.

SF: Tell us about your time in the Marines (what your job was, experiences you had, etc.).

LA: The first 12 months I was in training or serving in the Republic of Vietnam as a 0311 infantry rifleman. At different times I functioned as fire team leader or point man on patrol. After I was wounded and out of the hospital I was assigned as brig runner and supply sergeant for short periods while they were trying to figure out what to do with me. My wounds were severe enough that I would not be able to return to combat and was eventually given a full medical retirement.

SF: How did the skills you learned in the Marine Corps impact your life after the Marines?

LA: “A place for everything, and everything in its place” … spilled over into my family life, personal life and future jobs. Discipline, team work, commitment, loyalty became an integral part of my life.

SF: It sounds like you built a successful business after the Marines. Do you think that the skills you learned in the Marines contributed to your business success? If so, what skills do you think were most helpful?

LA: Absolutely! And, all of the above, plus always doing the right thing in spite of the consequences or cost.

The Flower Boys.
Social Media...

Continued from Page 8

with your cause while also gaining awareness on who the MCL is, what the MCL does and (depending on what/how you post information) why the MCL does it, is a significant way to increase your audience. Let your community help by becoming your social media ambassadors.

Facebook Individual Profile

A FB individual “profile page” is designed for an individual person. It allows you to LIKE other profile pages and LIKE/FOLLOW business pages. You can create events as a profile page and invite people to your event. A profile cannot do mass advertising. A profile visibility is often times restricted to only FB “friends” who LIKE your profile.

Facebook Business Pages

The FB Business Page is more like a personal profile for a business, public figure or organization. It’s intended to be branded with the visual elements of the company or website that is going to be promoted and act as well as a communication channel with their fanbase. The difference between a profile page and the FB business page is that the business page is public for all on FB to see, LIKE and FOLLOW.

The business pages do more than promote that business, they can promote “brand awareness.” What you post on a business page can reflect directly on your organization. When posting on a business page, always be relevant to who your business (detachment) is and, in this case, to the Marine Corps League as a whole—remember, brand awareness. When a user connects to a page, they can instantly gain access to all news related to the brand they love and to follow it closely. Effective business pages can help build trust with the audience and increase greater awareness for the business (detachment/MCL). Business pages can LIKE/FOLLOW other business pages and can also create FB groups. A business page can create events for the public to LIKE/attend and can even sell tickets from those events (with other proper web resources). A business page can also do broad-based advertising with an ability to hone in on specific demographic(s) and geographical area(s). A business page can drive traffic to a website as well.

To keep a business page active with the viewing audience, posts should be done regularly, such as daily and multiple times during the day/night. Facebook works off of an algorithm, meaning not every post is seen by every person who LIKES/FOLLOWS your page. You have to remain active to be seen—and encourage likes, comments and shares to increase your audience reach.

Facebook Groups

While pages act like a broad-based billboard businesses/organization, a FB group is like a focused message board to a closed group. FB groups serve mainly as communication channels for like-minded individuals. Based on their interests and goals, people join groups where they can exchange information with each other and express their opinions in a safe and moderated environment. A FB group is a great tool to deliver mass communication to specific members, members and families, and even prospective members. A business page or an individual profile page can create FB groups.

A great suggestion is to create a FB business page to promote your MCL detachment, department, and/or division. Push out the information, daily, of what you do so the whole world can see! And also create a FB Group that can be closed communication for your members/families and even a separate FB Group to reach/ connect to all prospective members within your region—that can also showcase what/why your Detachment does.

Facebook is a great tool to connect to the masses—if it’s used correctly and consistently. Semper Fi
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We will never forget. On the morning of September 11th, 2001, in the Financial District of Lower Manhattan New York City, the Twin Towers fell, and tragedy struck the nation. Out of the ashes arose a newly united America, hardened in spirit, unwavering patriotism and resolve. Now, The Bradford Exchange proudly presents the “Never Forget” 9/11 Tribute Men’s Dog Tag, a special limited edition 20th anniversary pendant to honor the many heroes, landmarks and buildings that stand as symbols of America’s enduring strength that was so greatly tested on 9/11.

A Commemorative 9/11 Tribute
Hand-crafted of strong and durable solid stainless steel, the “Never Forget” 9/11 Tribute Men’s Dog Tag is expertly hand-sculpted and hand-enamed to capture all the details of the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers in a meaningful commemorative design. An American flag embraces the Towers and a mighty American eagle powerfully outstretches its wings above a banner etched with the words “NEVER FORGET.” The back of the dog tag is etched with the sentiment “We Will Never Forget,” along with an American flag and the unforgettable date of 9-11-2001. The pendant suspends from a bail accented with stars and stripes and includes a coordinating 24” chain.

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This patriotic keepsake is available for the remarkable price of just $99.99*, payable in 3 easy installments of $33.33, and backed by our 120-day unconditional guarantee. It arrives in a velvet jewelry pouch and gift box with a Certificate of Authenticity. This commemorative 20th anniversary design has a limited edition of 5,000 and is only available from The Bradford Exchange, so don’t miss out… send in your Priority Reservation today!

*Plus a total of $9.98 shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery after your initial deposit. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

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YES. Please reserve the “Never Forget” 9/11 Tribute Men’s Dog Tag for me as described in this announcement.
Please Respond Promptly

Signature
Mrs. Mr. Ms.
Address
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E-mail

01-34782-001-E10021
On August 19, 2021, Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 met before the start of the St. George City Council meeting to present a check for $500 for use on the construction of the Gold Star Family Memorial. Accepting for the Marines were Pat Lisi, Detachment Commandant, and Jerry Harris and for the City were Mayor Michele Randall and Councilman Bryan Smethurst.

The program (GSFMM) Gold Star Memorial Monument was established by Hershel Woodrow (Woody) Williams, the last surviving Marine Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The phrase “Gold Star Family” dates back to World War I, when military families displayed service flags featuring a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the Armed Forces. The star’s color would change to gold if the family lost a loved one in the war—hence the term “Gold Star Family.”

Today’s memorials will not alleviate the pain of loss, but do provide comfort and assurance that their family members’ sacrifice is not forgotten.

“Downtown St. George is the perfect location for this monument,” said St. George Mayor Michele Randall. “We have a patriotic community that has risen to the occasion and generously contributed to the fund raising effort.”

The Memorial is scheduled for dedication in a ceremony on November 10, 2021 at noon, on the west end of the Historic Town Square near the flag pole. The community is invited to attend.
Together with the VFW—Returning to Basics

Southwest Riverside County Marine Corps League Detachment 1057

June 7, 2021. Each year, members of the Southwest Riverside County Marine Corps League, Detachment 1057 participate in a unique gathering with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post in Temecula, CA.

The two-day annual Drill Instructors Call, hosted by the Temecula Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4089 is a special event partnered with the West Coast Drill Instructors Association, attracting current and former drill instructors who served at Marine Corps Recruit Depots in San Diego or Parris Island.

“If you’ve ever served as a drill instructor, this is the place to be,” said Marine Corps League member Larock Benford. Also a retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major, Benford added, “there’s nothing better than getting together with Marines you’ve served with, especially if you were involved with making Marines.”

Members of the West Coast Drill Instructors Association and Marine Corps League Detachment 1057 planned for months to host the DI Call, based on tracking the latest updates in local and state guidelines of proper social distancing due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This event also served as an annual reunion for many of these Marines. Many of the former drill instructors worked together while serving at the recruit depot. For a moment, comradery and Esprit de Corps transport these former drill instructors back to their time at the recruit depot.

The competitors demonstrated their skills in manual of arms, the “Rusty Hat” cadence calling contest, storytelling, along with judging various drill instructor displays of yesteryear. The event also hosted a historical display of a World War II-era Willy’s Jeep, along with a number of fundraising activities supported by a team golf competition, along with auctions and raffles of special items.

“There are a lot of retired Marines living here in Temecula and many of them served as drill instructors during their professional careers,” said retired Master Sergeant John Hernandez. “The members of Veterans of Foreign Wars and Marine Corps League, are deeply involved with the community.” Hernandez added, “at the VFW and Marine Corps League, we support several successful outreach events throughout the year, but the DI Call is our finest event; it’s a true reunion amongst Marines who are still leaders in the community.”
**IN MEMORIAM**

**PNC Edward A. Schramm, Sr.**

Past National Commandant Edward A. Schramm, Sr. passed away unexpectedly on Monday, July 5, 2021. PNC Schramm was National Commandant from 1976 to 1977 and a life member of the Phillip K. Dorn Detachment 198 in New Jersey. PNC Schramm retired from the Hazlet, NJ Police Department as well as Mesa, Arizona Police Department. 

_Semper Fi, Marine!_

**Marvel Edna Dahlen**

Our former Marine Corps League Detachment 1228 chaplain, Marvel Edna Dahlen, has sadly passed away. Marvel joined the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve during World War II and served for the duration. She was stationed in San Francisco Bay at Treasure Island during the war. She worked at SWFPAC (Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific) processing top secret messages from the war zone and helping to expedite delivery of critical parts sent overseas to combat units. She was born and raised on her parent’s farm (Leo and Anna LeVasseur) in Hennepin County, Minnesota near the small town of Dayton. She was the oldest of eight brothers and sisters. When she turned 16, she worked a job “in town” to help out family.

She was 101 years and one day young when she passed on July 6, 2021. She will be buried with her husband in a private, family-only ceremony. Condolence cards can be sent to: The Dahlen Family, 2911 Grand Avenue, Astoria, OR, 97103.

The Mayor of Astoria agrees with everyone that she was an amazing, energetic and charming woman, plus a delight and inspiration to all who met her. She still had sharp wits and wonderful sense of humor right up to the last. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, perhaps make donations to Marvel’s favorite charity, St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, or a local food bank or Meals-on-Wheels. Marvel was also a member of the Pacific Northwest Lady Veterans. 

_Semper Fi, Marine!_
The largest amount ever collected for our donation

**MARINES:** Woof, woof! I am packing up for Springfield and I am so excited. It has been 2 long years since our last Supreme Growl. Over the last 6 months, I have noticed the activity around the country increase as Packs and Pounds continue to come out of their COVID hibernation and return to their Growls.

I wish to thank the Kennel staff for their participation in our Kennel video conferences. It was a tough way to do business, but we were able to keep the Order going. Many thanks to our Honorable Executive Director and his wife, Erin, (the real Executive Director) for the many hours of work sent their way. The Kennel is in great shape and your elected and appointed officers deserve the accolades.

I have had the pleasure of having possibly the best aide-de-camp ever—what a magnificent job PDD Mike (Dunkin Donut) Francis has done. The thousands of miles traveled and the hundreds of hours on the phone and on conference calls all lent tremendous help and assistance to me, but more importantly to the Order. To our Honorable Charity Dog PDD Barbara Vanner, thank you for your tireless efforts in raising Big Bones that not only benefited our kids but also aided the Kennel in collecting much needed Big Bones that allowed us to stay financially healthy. Even with a neck injury that required a very serious surgery, you managed to carry on, the perfect example of a U.S. Marine—thank you! It is no wonder the Kennel Dog of the Year Society chose you to be the 2020 Kennel Dog of the Year... congratulations!

As we head into a new year and count up what we did Kennel-wide on our contributions to our Children’s Hospital Fundraiser (consisting of Passport fees and Donations)—I am totally in awe of what we accomplished. 70,000 Big Bones!!! Last year, when we presented 40,000 Big Bones to the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, I did not think we could do anything that could make me more proud. I never saw this coming; we as a Kennel were basically shut down but, we had a few Packs and Pounds that were less restricted than most and they contributed many Big Bones! To take what seemed like a disastrous year and turn it into the largest amount ever collected for our donation... well, it chokes me up just thinking of how proud I am to be the CDD of such a fantastic organization. You who worked and donated your time and Big Bones are all commended for your amazing efforts.

We have had a great start to the 2021-2022 fundraising and I have had the opportunity to attend some of the most enjoyable Growls ever. Keep up the fun and continue with the honor that many of you pay to our fellow veterans. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to what I feel are our two most precious commodities: our children and our veterans.

I could write an entire page of names of those who have been so instrumental in salvaging what could have been a disastrous year but, as a team we accomplished so much! I look forward to seeing many of you in a few days. Have a great remainder of your summer, stay safe and healthy and keep up the great work!

To the newly elected Pack and Pound officers, keep your Growls informative but, most importantly, fun. If You Keep It Fun, They Will Come! Semper Woof!

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Attention Chaplains!

All death notices must be sent to both the MCL Foundation President, Howard Schaeffer and to JD Foster. MCLnationalchaplain@gmail.com / JFoster@MCLeague.org
A great working group of dedicated individuals

**MARINES:** The 2021 National Convention in Springfield, Illinois is now history. What a great time of meeting old and new friends to accomplish the business at hand. It was a busy but fun week. My compliments to the Department of Illinois, and all who assisted them. Congratulations to the Marine Corps League and their new Commandant, Johnny Baker, and his team. The League has been a great help to the Auxiliary through these past years. I believe both organizations have a great working group of dedicated individuals willing to help each other.

A few of the Convention highlights include the awarding of a new Charter to the Pikes Peak Unit in Colorado, Rocky Mountain Division. Congratulations to the new Unit and those who had a hand in putting it together. Melody A. Krakow, a new Member at Large from the Central Division, was recruited and initiated on August 13 at the National Convention.

The officers for 2021-2022 term were elected. We have a few new ladies elected in the Assistant Division Vice positions. We as a team look forward to the challenges of the new term and leading our Auxiliary, assisting in any capacity to help our members, units & department in growing our membership and strengthening the bond with every member and the Marine Corps League.

It continues to be wonderful to work with the National Secretary, Ramona Smith. There have been a lot of compliments about her dedication, abilities, and the fantastic job she does for us.

Please remember we cannot stand aside: we must continue to step up to mentor our current members and recruit new members. Our job is never done; the sacrifices made by those who have served this country so well to preserve our freedom must be honored. Keeping our Auxiliary strong to accomplish the goals of serving our Marines, veterans, community and families is of utmost importance. We as a team can continue to do this important job in style, excitement and enthusiasm. Thank you, Ladies, for all you do!

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

Semper Fi!
Proceeds to benefit the United States Marines Youth Foundation

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.

Send with your check payable to:
U. S. Marines Youth Foundation
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

For questions, please call (703) 207-9588.

Proceeds to benefit the United States Marines Youth Foundation

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 ____________  Phone _________  ___________________

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

You are encouraged to consider the following options:

□ 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.

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).
**Humanitarian aid and scholarships through COVID-19**

The following is the speech made by Howard Schaeffer, President of the Marine Corps League Foundation, at the 2021 MCL National Convention.

**MARINES:** I am Howard Schaeffer, the President of the Marine Corps League Foundation. I am honored to be here with you at the National Convention. As I was preparing to travel for this trip, I recalled a famous quote that was said during the American Revolutionary War. Thomas Paine said at the beginning of his essay in December of 1776 to present his case for freedom from England, “These are the times that try men’s souls.”

We have all observed and celebrated regaining our independence during the pandemic. The economic, cultural, moral and political crises that our country has experienced over the past 18 months may seem miniscule compared to those in 1776, however we all have experienced this on various levels throughout the world during the pandemic.

Our lives have begun to open up again and what a wonderful feeling it is to be here with you all today. Many of us have started to visit family, to travel and to engage with meaningful events, such as our National Convention.

We are so fortunate to be gathered here together, I feel as if we as a nation are on the horizon of a new chapter in our lives since the pandemic hit that changed our nation in a most unexpected way, just 18 months ago.

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

On a broad level I would like to share with you what we have been supporting through the Marine Corps League Foundation over the past year.

Our Humanitarian Aid Program has given $25,278.94 in monetary grants to individual Marines or their families who have experienced difficulties beyond their control and our Disaster Relief program for those who have experienced challenges due to a natural disaster gave out $0.

Our scholarship and youth programs are needed now more than ever to help our fellow Marines and their families as the effects of the pandemic continue to have an impact on them. The scholarships totaled $101,250.00.

The effects of the pandemic we are experiencing today cannot compare to those of Thomas Paine’s day, nor can my words of encouragement make a mark so great as that of his words.

The truth of the matter is that our Foundation needs your support this year to meet the demand to fulfill the needs of our youth and our Marines families. We are counting on you.

The total income for your foundation for this year is $72,397.06 and the total expenses were $156,268.40.

**Semper Fi!**

**You can make a difference in their lives.**

**MARINES:** I am Young Marine Sergeant Major Mario Koch, and I am from Greater Cleveland Young Marines in Fairview Park, OH. I joined the Young Marines in 2012 and being a part of the Young Marines program has been a big part of my life ever since. The Young Marines program has helped me develop not only as a leader to others, but personally as an individual. I have been taught how to be a strong role model and mentor to my peers. These skills were not learned overnight, as it took years of hard work and dedication to the program to help me become who I am today.

Being named the National Young Marine of the Year is giving me an opportunity to spread the word about the Young Marines program and how we positively impact our youth every day. One of the best aspects of the program is the special connection between the Young Marines and the Marine Corps League. We are so fortunate to have Marine Corps League members volunteer their time and service to our program. They serve as teachers, motivators and inspiration to our Young Marines. The members of the Marine Corps League have always been generous and so helpful throughout my Young Marine career. They have helped me personally with community service projects, donated money and provided venues for events. At my local American Legion Hall post 421, we had members of the Marine Corps League help out with a unit fundraiser—our Young Marines car wash. The volunteers were so encouraged to help us, they flagged down cars, counted money, and some even helped wash the cars! That extra effort and enthusiasm meant so much to me and to all of the Young Marines at the event. This ultimately helped us raise well over our fundraising goal thanks to the pure heart of all of the Marine Corps League volunteers who helped out.

It is so important that members of the Marine Corps League reach out to our Young Marines. There are hundreds of Young Marines units across the country that are in need of guidance and mentorship. I encourage you all to reach out to a local Young Marine unit because you can make an impact on a Young Marine’s life. No matter how small the interaction, you have the chance to inspire. Every Young Marine 8-18 will look up to you. In this day and age, many of our youth need guidance, and there is nobody more perfect for the job than you—members of the Marine Corps League.

Lastly, there is a saying that I preach to my Young Marines. That is: “The time is now!” I tell them to seize every opportunity presented to them because there are so many different events to take advantage of in the program. For the members of the Marine Corps League: “The time is now!” to connect and reach out to the Young Marines in your communities. You can make a difference in their lives.

**Semper Fi!**
Marines will always adapt and overcome

**MARINES:** Our National Convention has been completed. It was a personal joy to meet all of those who took the time to attend. Thank you to now Past National Commandant Dennis Tobin for leading us through turbulent times with calm and resolve. We have weathered the storm well! This past year we have lost some icons of our League. It was an honor to be able to pay tribute to them. We are now beginning a new administration under the very capable leadership of Commandant Johnny Baker. It is my honor that you have elected me to serve as our National Senior Vice Commandant. I thank all of you who supported me.

I have had the privilege to serve the past four years as our National Judge Advocate and National Junior Vice Commandant. Although the focus while each serving of the positions is unique, I have tried to be a person who listens and stays open minded to our members. The education you have provided will help me invaluably in serving Commandant Baker and the League as we begin our reinvigorated and less restrictive move to the future. The truth be told, Marines will always adapt and overcome, as we have with the miracle of Zoom, but we are not a Zoom culture. We enjoy the comradery of being together and having personal conversations amongst ourselves.

All ready on the right, all ready on the left, all ready on the firing line should be communicated in person, not only through a computer screen in front of you.

We are here to serve our Marines. Those who have served so admirably in Iraq and Afghanistan have been doing so for 20 years. These veterans became Marines around the age of 18, like many of us. Now these young men and women are in their late 30s and 40s. At this stage in life, they may have that time and desire to continue their bond and comradery with the Marine Corps and can continue the journey by becoming members of the Marine Corps League. Once a Marine becomes aware of our League and what we do, we should encourage them to join and enjoy the new friendships and bonds gathered within the best organization held by Marines in the country.

As our country is adjusting to the virus, I look forward to this opportunity to visit more and more of our departments and divisions. As can sometimes happen, concerns or what appeals to members can be regionally specific. For one area of our country there may well be an immediate concern while it would not necessarily be a concern in another region. This is where we as National Officers must make ourselves aware of all issues: both generally, and those regionally. The bottom line is we are all red hats and should be asking, “How can I help improve our League from all angles?”

Commandant Baker will be initiating some new directives and I will be working hard alongside of him to make sure we as a League continue to grow, prosper and support our veterans.  

*Semper Fi!*

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Really lean into recruiting and retention

**MARINES:** First off, I would like to thank you for the last 2 years as your National Judge Advocate. It has been a trying 18 months or so for most, but we got through that and continue to march forward. Next, I will say thank you again for electing me as your National Jr. Vice Commandant.

During the next few months, I am finalizing a National Membership committee. This committee will come from all parts of the country and all age groups. My mission, and the committee’s mission, is to really lean into recruiting and retention. We need to set attainable goals for both categories and track those data points. As of this article, we are losing as many members as we are gaining through attrition.

We will be working with the Public Relations committee as well to get our idea out to you, the membership. It is also a goal to get you some recruiting videos so you may share them on your websites and social media pages. Also, I am looking into public radio stations around the country where you may go and sell your detachment to your community. We have some great ideas and we keep in the back of our minds that what works in Alabama may not work in Spokane, Washington, so “improvise, adapt and overcome” is our motto.

If anyone has a positive attitude, ideas about how we may excel in recruiting and retaining our members for life and is willing to work at it, please email me at tmorgan@mcleague.org. This will be a very small, non-traveling committee that will meet by Zoom on a regular basis.

*Semper Fi!*
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

PHIL ZAMORA

Make our MCL a place that all members love being around

MARINES: Marines, Corpsman, Chaplains and Associates, I would like to take this time to thank all of you who have put your faith in me to be elected as your National Judge Advocate. I will work my tail off to make you all proud of the decision that you made at the convention in Springfield.

Second, and this is for the Central Division, it has been my privilege these past three years to serve as your National Vice Commandant (NVC) and I’m sure NVC Michael Sturch will do an outstanding job in the future, leading the Central Division with his Assistant, Dave Englert.

Now on to my new position: Department and Detachment Judge Advocates, I am asking all of you to help make our Marine Corps League a place that all members love being around; use the bylaws to make sure that we are all doing things the right way in our detachments and departments. If you are having problems in your detachments and departments, please find a way to take care of these problems between yourselves. If need be, have a person who can stand in as a mediator. I have heard from numerous members while I was an NVC that it’s usually a few members that have an axe to grind with each other that are making it hard to bring in new members, or they have already chased members away; and all I have to say to those members is please keep this away from your meetings and members because it’s not worth the in-house fighting that can tear a detachment apart.

Lastly, just remember I am here to serve you, so communications is always first and foremost. Telephone conversations are a fine thing, but if you are looking for a ruling on something, I will require you to address that question in an email, and I will reply in an email. This is to ensure that there is no miscommunication, paraphrasing or interpreting a phone conversation. I pride myself in a fast response time and have done so everywhere in my MCL career, but please use your chain of command first before contacting me, when possible.

Department JAs, I will be in touch with you very soon and by the time this article comes out I should have already been in contact with you. If for some reason I have not contacted you, please email me or call me, both are on the National Roster in the MCL Library / Member Library.

Semper Fi!

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

DENNIS TOBIN

Forge that necessary change to make your detachment grow

MARINES: This will be my first article as the Jr. Past National Commandant (PNC). I had a great two years as your National Commandant, it has been an honor and a very gratifying experience for me. I believe I left the League in better shape than when I took over, just as PNC Webb did for me and PNC Gore did for him. Our new Commandant, Johnny Baker, will continue to lead us forward.

I want to talk quickly about a couple issues, first—communication. The Commandant has given me permission to look into our lines of communication, they are broken. I’m not sure where the line is cut, but I intend to put together a plan to find that break and repair it. Information is either not getting to all detachments or it is not being passed along once the detachment gets it. It’s a problem that must be fixed.

Second, why are so many members looking to walk away from what should be the strongest brotherhood in the country? I’ve seen over the past two years a growing wave of dissent among detachment members due to poor leadership and a lack of trust in them. I do not like the term “good ole boys,” but damn it Marines, they are out there, and they are destroying detachments. If you have that kind of attitude among your leaders, you must work together to change it.

As recently as this past week, I received word from a detach-
Mentorship through Patriotic Volunteerism

MARINES: It has been a busy summer for the Young Marines and our Adult Leaders.

I want to welcome Mrs. Terri Laskey (wife of the late NPC Mr. Jim Laskey) to the Advisory Council of the Young Marines Board of Directors. Her superb knowledge of the MCL, as well as the Young Marine program, makes her a valuable asset.

The Young Marines hosted many activities over the summer, but there are two schools I would like to highlight: Drill and Ceremony and Advanced Leadership.

On 10 July, Drill and Ceremonies School began in Woodbridge, VA. One objective of this school is to produce a confident unit leader who can perform basic drill movements for a squad/platoon size element in addition to performing the duties of a Color Guard. Another objective is to ensure students have a basic understanding of etiquette and customary behavior while attending official functions. At the end of the evaluation, a graduation ceremony was conducted where YM/SSGT Benson received the Leadership Award and YM/SSGT Woody received the Drill and Ceremonies Honor Graduate award.

As a culminating event, the Young Marines and Adult Leaders visited the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, VA and the Evening Parade at the “Oldest Post in the Corps,” Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. 8th & I.

Another noteworthy school conducted in July was the Young Marines National Advanced Leadership School (ALS) held in Camp Rilea, Warrenton, OR. This two-week school was designed to enhance leadership skills in a way Young Marines have never experienced. ALS prides itself on introducing experiential learning mixed with self-discovery to challenge Young Marines in overcoming daily leadership. At the end of the school, the expectation is that each attendee returns to his/her unit and exposes others to quality lessons they’ve learned. The school produced ten top graduates and I would like to recognize their exceptional effort here:

YM/GySgt Andrew Mayer (17) of Miramar Young Marines, CA
YM/MSgt Ethan Mayer (17) of Miramar Young Marines, CA
YM/GySgt Juliet Lopez (15) of San Bernardino Valley Young Marines, CA
YM/GySgt Christian Rutherford (17) of Rhode Island Young Marines
YM/GySgt Joseph Lozano (16) of Pikes Peak Young Marines, CO
YM/GySgt Brennen Sunderland (17) of Billings Young Marines, MT
YM/MSgt Clayton Fleming (17) of North Central Florida Young Marines
YM/GySgt Victor Wright (17) of Lewis & Clark Young Marines, WA
YM/GySgt Alexis Keister (16) of Monroe County Young Marines, MI
YM/GySgt Montserrat Serrano (17) of Heart of Texas Young Marines

Bravo Zulu to all and thank you for your commitment to excellence!

If you or someone you know would like to have more information regarding our program, please visit our official website at YoungMarines.com.

Semper Fi!
I want to continue our focus on recruitment and retention

MARINES: I wish to thank the Central Division for putting their faith in me as their next National Vice Commandant ... and congratulations to Dave Englert from the Department of Indiana as the new Assistant Vice Commandant for Central Division. Together we can continue to build upon what outgoing NVC Phil Zamora has accomplished, and enable our Division to grow and prosper over the next several years. Speaking of Phil—congratulations on your election as National Judge Advocate. I know you will do an excellent job.

I want to continue our focus on recruitment and retention. Let’s figure out what is going to make these younger Marines want to join, and to keep every member sticking around to keep our numbers up. Let’s focus on positive thinking and healthy attitudes. Ensure every member feels welcome, necessary and wanted. Be active and visible in your community.

The biggest problems for retention I see are attitudes and tension in the ranks. I have had so many members tell me they had to quit because they just did not like the way the meetings were run, or just constant negative attitudes from some individuals. Please leave your attitudes at the hatch. We are all one big family. Family members don’t always agree, or even get along at times, but in the end, we always come back to the table. It’s fine to agree to disagree; that’s what makes America work. But we need to be able to sit down together and work on a common solution. Let’s keep it as respectful and harmonious as possible. If you don’t like the way things are run, then step up and take a position to try to change the behavior.

Keep up the good work with the uniforms and social media. Remember, not only do we represent the Marine Corps League, but also the U.S. Marine Corps. Familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations concerning the uniforms, and wear them correctly. We all know how to follow the rules, or you wouldn’t be here. As far as social media, just be smart and conscious of what you are saying or doing. Someone is always watching, and it only takes one slip-up to make us all look bad.

If COVID taught us one thing, it is that we can continue our mission no matter what. We all utilized some form of social media platform to conduct our meetings when it was necessary. I see this as the way of the future, and this just might assist us in bringing in and involving the younger members.

Once again, thank you for your confidence in me. I will perform my duties to my utmost abilities. I will always make myself available to everyone, and am always open to suggestions and new ideas. We cannot grow if we don’t change.

Semper Fi!

So, who do I call? The chain of command should be a resource

MARINES: So, who do I call? ... Well, that depends. What do you want to know and what is your position within the Marine Corps League? If you are a member in good standing within the League and have a question about matters of your detachment or your membership, go to your detachment officers with your question first. If they cannot answer it, they in turn with forward your request for an answer to the Department Officer who is most likely to know the answer. If the Department Officer does not know, they will contact the appropriate National Officer for answer and resolution.

The point I am trying to make clear here is that there is a chain of command within the MCL, just as there was when you were on active duty. Just because you have the number to the National Headquarters, you should not call it for matters that can be answered locally. As of the writing of this article, there are 62,214 members who feel just as you do about how important their need to know is. But first utilize your resources supplied to you at the detachment level before you pick up the phone and call National Headquarters.

Never in the existence of the MCL has the detachment had so much access to the information within the database of the MCL. Never has the member had so much access to tutorials, Power Point presentations, and online training as they do today. After training within the Member Library, the member can even access his Member Portal where he can update his address, phone number and email address anytime the member so desires. The Member Library of the MCL National website has more reference material than we have ever had available in the history of the MCL. If you do not know the password for access to the Member Library, ask your detachment officers. They should be fully aware of the password and how to access the website. If you still have problems accessing the website, ask for help. The only question that goes unanswered is the one you failed to ask.

Semper Fi!
Division Website: mclmideast.com
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Let us rededicate ourselves to be better League members

**MARINES:** The Marine Corps League Ritual for the Installation of officers admonishes all members “you cannot stand aside and expect your Officers to guide the destinies of this Detachment (Department or League) or to ensure its growth, success and welfare. It is your duty to assist them in every way possible and to discharge your assignments cheerfully. Help your Officers make this Detachment (Department or League) an organization that the Marine Corps League and your community will respect and honor.”

As I visit detachments and departments, I see the members who are holding the League together. They are the members who do not require an invitation to serve. They attend detachment meetings. They engage with their fellow members, and they volunteer for League functions. The issue is they are the same members every time. It is the 80/20 rule in action. Twenty percent of the membership are doing 80 percent of the work and more likely than not, it is 90/10. Too many detachment officers are forced to serve too many terms because of members who sit back and watch. Detachment officers play musical chairs due to members’ unwillingness to serve. I hear the excuse “I am too busy now.” I will attend and serve when I retire, or the kids leave home, or the dog dies. A couple hours a month to attend detachment meetings, an hour a month to work in your community will strengthen your detachment.

To paraphrase Thomas Paine, who wrote in Common Sense—the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in time of crisis, shrink from service. We have too many summer and sunshine members. Too many members who attend the birthday celebrations or the potluck suppers and never attend a work session or volunteer to serve.

We consider ourselves a tribe, and to be an outstanding tribe we need all tribe members to participate. For every level of the League to grow and prosper, every member who is able should answer the call to action when asked to serve. As in every endeavor, you will get back several fold of what you put in. You can make a difference and you see the rewards in yourself, your detachment, your community and the League.

As we enter a new Marine Corps League fiscal year, let us rededicate ourselves to be better League members and work to improve every level of the league. Step up. Volunteer. Engage. Share your ideas. You will be happy that you did.

*Semper Fi!*

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

Motivated Servant Leaders leave lasting impact on our lives

**MARINES:** The New England Division maybe one of the smaller divisions, but the New England Division is big in heart. The New England Division had suffered another loss of a great mentor in August. Joe Messina had answered his final call. To many, Joe was a leader, an inspirer, a friend, and a Brother. Joe was well known throughout the Division, within the League and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. Joe was an amazing Assistant National Vice Commandant, assisting and guiding me down the right path. The Marine Corps League was Joe’s life until the end. We are going to miss you, Joe.

I would like to thank all the Department Commandants in the New England Division for electing me to my last two-year term. Patrick Maguire and I were sworn in at the National Convention back in Springfield, IL. The road will be challenging without Jim Laskey and Joe Messina, but we will not let them down. The Division had seen some big changes over the summer with new officers. The New England Division is looking forward in working with the new Department Commandants and working to strengthen the Marine Corps League mission. The Departments are doing an amazing job with the 990s and the Division Compliance Status with IRS is at 84%. Our goal is still to achieve 100%. New Department Commandants, please pass it on to your membership to use the change of commandant and use the MCL’s Library online to its fullest.

Congratulations to the newly elected National Officers, we are looking forward to working with you all. We had a successful National Convention in Springfield, IL. We look forward to implementing some new knowledge to help try to have the membership grow.

The New England Division would like to pass on some tentative dates:
- November 2021 Semper Fi Birthday Luncheon, Boston, MA
- April 22-24, 2022 Quad State Convention Hosted by Department of RI
- June 2-5, 2022 Department of Mass Convention Cape Cod, 2nd Memorial 1StSgt Jim Laskey Marine Corps Ret. Golf Tournament
- June 10-11, 2022 Department of Connecticut Convention

*Semper Fi!*

Division Website: mclnedivision.com
Our membership numbers are doing well

MARINES: As we bring this year to fruition, I would like to reflect upon what we’ve done and where we are heading. It is astounding to see the hard work and dedication that all the departments have put into the “wrapping up” segment for the fiscal year.

The efforts to complete PLM Reports and ensuring that all the detachments are complying with directives regarding 990s, social media concerns and TACOM Rifles is exemplary! As always, we need to always be on top of these issues so they do not become problematic.

Our membership numbers are doing well. We are just about at 90% operational strength, according to our latest numbers. I understand that there are still persons who are having difficulties working in the new database, but sometimes you will have to ask the individual responsible if they need help. If you cannot do it personally, find someone who can and put them in contact with the other individual. Reach out to your detachment staff to see if there’s anything you can do to facilitate the operational aspect of membership. This is as much about resources as it is about networking.

Despite the “tightening” of our fiscal belts, we were still able to support our programs, albeit not at the level we may have anticipated. As a Division we were able to aid Chaplain of the Four Chaplains, Young Marines, MCL Scholarship Fund and The Warrior Fund (which is an organization supported by the Department of New Jersey that provides service dogs for those in need).

It was an honor to attend all the department conventions, and I would like to congratulate all the newly elected department Commandants and wish them and their staff a great term of office. I know that you will continue to provide leadership and dedication to your departments.

As we prepare for FY 2022, we hit the ground running. In the Northeast, Modern Day Marine 2021 (at MCB Quantico) has been cancelled. The next Modern Day Marine is scheduled to run in May of 2022 in a new location—Washington, D.C.

In closing, I look forward to seeing all of you at the National Convention and wish you all a productive and educational National MCL Convention! See you in September.

Semper Fi!
Division Website: nedmcl.org

Servant Leadership is the backbone of service

MARINES: Servant Leadership, in plain terms, is a leadership philosophy in which the goal of the leader is to serve. This leadership style comprises ten factors that are taken into perspective and used as a process to serve others. Listening is the most important, as it sets in motion everything a good leader takes action upon. Hearing what others are saying, processing that information and providing the feedback and solution that assist others is very important.

Everyone wants to be heard, and as a whole the organization can move forward knowing that all have a voice as a team. Empathy is the ability to understand what others are going through. Knowing what others are feeling because you have faced those same thought processes makes for a more informed understanding. Healing brings about the process of understanding that the changes being made are for the betterment of those being affected and thus the organization transforms through acceptance.

Understanding everyone has their own time in understanding and processing the degree to which acceptance happens is critical. Awareness in leadership is about knowing your people, their strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes and what drives them is primary because this includes you as well. Persuasion is the art of tact. This separates the willingness of someone wanting to do something versus the act of dictating. Conceptualization is moving beyond the now into what could be if action is taken where thoughts move to thinking outside the box.

Foresight is learning from our past but keeping our focus on the current affairs of the organization and what the consequences of our potential decisions can have for our future. Stewardship is the trusted act of responsible management of resources through proper planning and use. Commitment to the growth of people focuses on the people wanting to seek their personal growth and making/taking the time and effort to mentor them through their journey understanding not everyone wants to be in a leadership role. Building Community is about developing a team of people that want to accomplish likeminded goals. This focus is about people working together while both inspiring and motivating others through aiding our communities.

So, what am I saying here? This is our mission. We are no longer active in uniform, but it does not mean we can’t continue to serve. For those separating from service, they need that continued service because it drives and satisfies their purpose, which equates to value. Servant Leadership is the act of purpose and value in all of our lives and I hope you will serve alongside me.

Semper Fi!
Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org
Amazing women are among our ranks in the League

**MARINES:** I want to start off by thanking all of the detachments and departments of the Rocky Mountain Division for their continued trust in me to continue as our Division NVC for the coming two years. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve in whatever capacity I can.

Recently I saw the old Woman Marine recruiting poster from World War II that said, “Free a Man to Fight.” That was a mindset that took root for many years beyond its inception, relegating Women Marines to positions as hairdressers, cooks, secretaries, admin & logistics clerks, just to name a few. Female Marines, as well as their contemporaries across the other branches of service, have proven themselves time and again to be capable of so much more than erroneously assumed over the past 75 years. These amazing ladies have distinguished themselves most notably in the past 20+ years across the various MOS’ that were previously unavailable to them, both in garrison and combat theaters.

It is evident as I travel around to our departments and detachments that we are too often guilty of making similar errors in judgement in relation to the amazing women that are among our ranks in the League. We must get past the assumption that they are only capable of holding the positions of Adju tant, Paymaster, Quartermaster and, occasionally, Chaplain. This subject was brought to the forefront of our collective consciousness at the Colorado Department Convention when we were honored to host Christina Hadwin-Zuniga as our keynote speaker for our Grand Banquet. In addition to having served in our beloved Corps as an armorer (2111, Marine small arms repairer/technician), Christina is an amazing author, artist, speaker, and motivator. One of our more seasoned Marines (Iwo survivor) commented that he “wanted to go down to the recruiter’s office and re-up” after Christina finished speaking on The Crucible. Speaking for my own detachment, we have been blessed with some incredibly capable female leaders of Marines from across the generations. Unfortunately for us, we have bid a final farewell to some before they were able to move through the chairs due to failing health. Most recently, we waved goodbye to our next detachment Commandant (and very likely our future department Commandant and beyond) as result of a transition in employment which took her across the country. You’re welcome, South Carolina!! It is beyond time for us all to step up our recruiting efforts and welcome these worthy Marines to our ranks and leadership in the MCL.

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

*Semper Fi!*

**Division Website:** rockymountainmcldiv.org

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We need to have effective two-way communication

**MARINES:** First, I’d like to thank the members of the Southeast Division for electing me as your National Vice Commandant. In meetings with many of you, I’ve had discussions regarding what’s good and working in our division, and those areas which can use some improvement. As the Assistant Division Vice Commandant, I’ve had the opportunity to attend conferences and conventions in several of our states. There are some great programs and processes that can be shared among our departments.

One of my primary objectives is to establish regular video conference sessions involving all the department staff. We have over 160 detachments in our division, so Zoom can’t handle all of us at once, but we will find a way to identify detachments who should participate in some of the calls so we could share the best practices in areas such as recruiting, communication methods, community service and operations.

We’ve seen a number of recent changes in the League. I believe we’re going to see the pace of those changes increase in the next couple of years. We have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and in the implementation plans for those future changes. To facilitate that participation, we need to have effective two-way communication from the detachments, through the departments, to Headquarters.

The National Board of Trustees conducts regular Zoom calls, usually monthly, to discuss plans and other matters of the League. In order to ensure that we have a bottoms-up communication path, we’ll have an “open mike” Zoom call with the departments prior to those BOT meetings, and a feedback session afterwards.

Our National Bylaws state that one of the responsibilities of the National Vice Commandant is to “arrange for detailed schools of instruction.” Like the rest of the League, we have constant churn in our detachments and departments with people moving into new jobs. Fortunately, we have the leadership skills available, but what we need is on-demand, up-to-date technical training that helps our Commandants, Paymasters and other officers and members get up to speed on how to best perform their duties. Again, we already have experienced members with the requisite skills to perform the roles, and we have experienced course developers and videographers in our midst. Whether we draw the resources from within our division, or from elsewhere in the League, we need to get these training videos produced and available—probably in the Member Library on the National website.

I look forward to working with all of you. Thanks for the opportunity.

*Semper Fi!*
We will work hard for our division’s membership

MARINES: I have returned home from the 2021 Marine Corps League National Convention that was conducted in Springfield, IL. We all need to tip our hats to the host department, Department of Illinois Marine Corps League for their efforts and hard work in making this convention happen. It has been two long years since the last convention, but this convention was something to be proud of. This convention was informative and expanded into many different areas. The convention attendees had the privilege to listen to speaker Mike McNamara’s presentation on Post Traumatic Winning and the Friday evening banquet special guest and speaker, Major General Jason Q. Bohm. General Bohm spoke on the challenge and future in U.S. Marine Corps recruiting. Both speakers were dynamic. There were other presentations in addition that included the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. The MODD announced the raising of $70,000 for a local children’s hospital. Marine Corps League National Officers were elected. They are: National Commandant Johnny Baker, Senior Vice Commandant Warren Griffin, Junior Vice Commandant T.J. Morgan and Judge Advocate Phil Zamora.

I was elected as the Assistant National Vice Commandant for the Southern Division in May of 2021. The Southern Division consists of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. On Wednesday morning of the convention, the elected National Vice Commandant, John Grafflin, unexpectedly passed away from a recent illness. I send my condolences to Mr. Grafflin’s family. I then became the appointed National Vice Commandant of the Southern Division. The newly appointed Assistant NVC is George Petkovich (Department of Oklahoma). We will work hard for our division’s membership, veterans and communities. Filling the boots of six-year veteran Assistant and NVC Johnny Gothard will be a huge challenge.

I am looking forward to working with Southern Division Department Commandants Paul Garrett (Arkansas), Chris Blake (Oklahoma) and James Harvey (Texas). There are a lot of challenges that lay ahead for all of us. The Marine Corps League has implemented the new database, newly created forms are now accessible, detachments with recruiting and retention efforts need reviewed. The department Commandants are responsible for the tracking of forms that are submitted in a timely manner to National. Record of Installation, Notification of Death and Transmittals are only a small part of records keeping. The IRS 990-N annual report and the Secretary of State of any death and transmittals are only a small part of records keeping. The IRS 990-N annual report and the Secretary of State of Death and Transmittals are only a small part of records keeping. The IRS 990-N annual report and the Secretary of State of Death and Transmittals are only a small part of records keeping. The IRS 990-N annual report and the Secretary of State of Death and Transmittals are only a small part of records keeping.

I am asking the departments to maintain open communications and always do the right things within your department.

Semper Fi!
Division Website: southernmcl.org

The beautiful and grand state of Arizona

MARINES: Marine Corps League members have accompanied me on trips to CA, NV and HI. This issue will introduce the crown jewel of the Southwest Division—the beautiful and grand state of Arizona. We here in AZ represent and live the life that all America dreams to live—a life of never ending opportunities, a sense of extreme patriotism and love for our country, and a life where you encounter the beauty of nature everywhere you turn.

The history of Arizona encompasses the cultures of the Spanish, Mexican and American flavors. Arizona was home to one of the toughest cities to ever spring up on the vast plains of the Sonoran Desert: Tombstone, Arizona. Tombstone existed longer than most Western towns, from the discovery of silver in 1877 to its eventual demise as a rough and tumble Western town in 1929. But those 52 years were etched into the fabric of American life forever and lives on as the era of Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, Big Nose Kate and the Clanton Gang. Even today, visitors to Tombstone can see reenactments of what it was like to live in a Western town of the 1880s.

The MCL was introduced to AZ in October of 1973 and will celebrate its 50th year of existence in less than 2 years, but the League has a rich history in Arizona—it was home to a past National Commandant (only one of two to have been elected from a state west of the Mississippi). It has hosted a couple of National Convention, most recently in 2015 (a convention still talked about by those in attendance 6 years later as being one of the best). We have approximately 24 active detachments located across the state with colorful names such as the Wild West Detachment, Thunder Mountain, Territorial and White Tank Mountain.

All across Arizona, one can get lost in the beauty of nature. We are home to the magnificent Grand Canyon and the Colorado River. Several National Forests lie within our boundaries. Deer, elk, turkey and javelina hunting is popular with record sizes being taken on an annual basis and our campgrounds make for great home bases for the hunting. We have abundant sunshine almost 365 days a year, warm summer weather in the Valley surrounding Phoenix and to the south, and cool summer days in the higher elevations around Flagstaff and the White Mountains of northeastern AZ. Arizona offers a lifestyle to suit everyone and explains why our population increases by the thousands every year.

Come visit Arizona, enjoy our glorious climate, bask in our sunshine, dive into our exquisite cuisine of Mexican, Asian and American Food, relax poolside at our various 5-star resorts while enjoying an exotic cocktail and just take the time to relax under clear skies where the stars are as abundant as the sands of any beach. Come and enjoy Arizona!

Semper Fi!
Division Website: mclswdivision.org
Dr. Betty Moseley Brown

By Miles Vining

*Semper Fi: We’re honored to have you at *Semper Fi!* Shall we start at the beginning?

Dr. Betty Moseley Brown: All right!

Semper Fi: We’re honored to have you at *Semper Fi!* Shall we start at the beginning?

Dr. Betty Moseley Brown: All right!

I was born and raised in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania with both parents in the Service. I joined in 1978 and 1978 was a unique year because we were still called Women Marines back then, and they really weren’t sure what to do with us. We were in our dress Alphas, which were the greens. We hadn’t yet gotten the dress blues and we couldn’t wear...
the trousers. And so it was a whole different Marine Corps, and coming in that early, it really gave me the insight to see how the Marine Corps transition to allow females to be more fully engaged and in all the military occupational specialties. So for example, whenever I left for boot camp, I went from my hometown in Pennsylvania, very small town, and I really hadn’t met any other female Marines. Once I graduated, I stayed at Parris Island for Basic Personnel Admin School. So I know a lot has changed since then, but that’s my initial experience to the Corps. After Basic Personnel Administration School, because I graduated top in the class, I got to pick where I wanted to be stationed. And that was a big thing for me because my mom had been in the Army and her first duty station was Landstuhl, Germany. So I knew that she traveled, so I said, well, I want to travel. So on the list of duty stations was Saudi Arabia, and I thought, oh my goodness, I’m going to go to Saudi Arabia.

And I was excited about this. Now, remember, this is 1979 by then, but back then, of course, females were not part of the embassy units. They could not hold O311 or infantry job titles. So once they found out that I was a female, of course my request to go to Saudi Arabia was denied, and I had to pick somewhere else. So luckily for me, the next selection was 1st Marine Brigade, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. So how many Marines have their very first duty station at K-Bay on Oahu for three years? I loved Hawaii. It was meant to be because also in ’79, the Navy was making a shift with their chaplaincy. So they were looking for a Marine to be attached to the base, to 1st Marine Brigade, to the chaplaincy there at K-Bay. And I was honored to be selected as one of the last actual Marine Corps Chaplain’s Assistant. So I got to go to Chaplain’s Assistant school in Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. And then when I arrived at K-Bay, I had a group of about six chaplains that I supported. And from Catholic chaplains, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Greek Orthodox. It wasn’t long before that three years came and went very quickly and I was tapped to then go on to the MEPS Station in Linthicum, Maryland. And so I got to be permanent personal in a special billet, the liaison there. The MEPS liaison.

SF: What was your favorite part about stationed at MEPS?

MB: I loved it because I got to see them raw. I got to see them when they first went down and took the test, and they tried to pass the physical. I saw lots of young men and women who had the heart to be a Marine, but for whatever reason, physically or with the ASVAB, they just didn’t qualify. And it was during those three years as the MEPS liaison that I thought, “Well, I can do that. I can go out, be a canvassing recruiter, get the best of the best, send them downrange and make them, have someone else, a sister or brother Marine make them a Marine.” So that was a really exciting tour that I had as MEPS liaison. And then, at the end of that three years, I raised my hand again and decided that I wanted to be a canvassing recruiter. After some schooling, I got back on the job and I actually enlisted a set of twins. They went to boot camp at the same time, and that was exciting. And then one of the few females that I recruited already had her master’s degree, was running marathons. All she wanted to be was a Marine. And if you look at some of the early posters of advertising with female Marines, you’ll see that she is actually one of the models for the Marine Corps. And I had the honor to reconnect with her back in 2018. And it was wonderful because she remembered, I mean, she was just so excited by her time in the Marine Corps.

SF: When did you finally leave?

MB: My final transition came in October 1992, when I got out. Separated, with an honorable discharge. Hung my Marine Corps uniform up, and was blessed to have a federal government job right there at the museum, working with the transition assistance program, right at MCRD San Diego. I started working for VA in the mid-’90s. And before I knew it, I was on the VA team at the regional office in San Diego. It brought me back to Washington D.C. Then I went as the Associate Director, Center for Women Veterans in 2004, and that really connected me with 2 million living women veterans. I got to be part of policy that really enhanced and elevated their service. We got to share our experiences, because a lot of folks don’t know what women veterans from all of the services have done. So it was very nice to wake up every day and know that my Marine Corps service really was the foundation of a wonderful federal government career.

SF: What occupies your time today?

MB: Still working at VA now with the Veterans’ Experience Office, I still am called upon to talk to women veterans, to talk to audiences about veterans.

SF: Your new book, Leadership Lessons: Personal Reflections from a Woman Marine, showcases the lessons that you learned from your time in and afterwards. Can you go over some of the book?

MB: So one of the lessons that I share in my book is know the rules. Know what you’re getting into. And if you don’t have the right outcome in whatever you’re doing, be skilled so that you can find out the rules. Because oftentimes we just jump into things or we make decisions when we really don’t know what the ground rules are. As an example I share a story where I went to the rifle range without any proper instruction because women Marines weren’t trained on the M16A2 rifle when we entered the service. I failed the course of fire because I
wasn’t holding the weapon right and wasn’t shooting properly. However, once I was taught marksmanship I went back and qualified.

Some of the other things that I did, I tailored the book with an acronym. You know, how we love acronyms in the Marine Corps. So the whole book is M-A-R-I-N-E-S, for “Marine.” And each chapter hits something along those lines. So, to give you a quick snapshot, M is for Motivation. You got to have that no matter where you go or what you do. Chapter Two is A for Attitude. Motivation just isn’t enough. You’ve got to have the attitude, because there are ups and downs, and you’ve got to pick what attitude you are going to have for every event. Chapter Three: R for Resilience. Things don’t always work your way. So you’ve got to bounce back. You’ve got to have resiliency in your toolkit so that you can grab it when you need it. Chapter Four: I, Intention. Everything you do needs to be intentional.

This was something that the Marine Corps taught us early on. We knew exactly how to get our first stripe with PFC. We knew how to get Lance Cor-
however you find inspiration. But remember that the road is not easy, but you are worthy to be on this road. You’ve done all the hard work. The Marine Corps is a great foundation for the future, and just know your worth, and move forward.

SF: Can you touch on your involvement in the Marine Corps League?

MB: So I’ve been a cheerleader for the Marine Corps league throughout the WMA meetings, and as I served for President of the Women Marines Association from 2012 to 2018. 2018 was a pivotal year because that was our 100th year being Marines, and the Marine Corps League, General Neller. It was a wonderful event celebrating all the women females, from Opha May Johnson until current day, who have put on the Marine Corps uniform. Somewhere in between all that, and I have to look here at my statue, the Marine Corps league honored me with the Dickey Chapelle award. This was in September, 2016. Today I am a member of the proud Alamo Detachment here in San Antonio. This is military city and San Antonio, and the Marine Corps League stays active. We actually have Generals, we have retired Sergeant Majors. I mean, it’s wonderful. It’s like going home when I attend a Marine Corps League meeting. But I just don’t attend local things. I just went to Waco, we had our statewide Marine Corps League events. My plan is to go in August, to the national event, just to stay active, to make sure that female Marines are accounted for. As a woman of color, I want to make sure that there stays diversity and inclusion throughout our ranks, for all that have earned the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. So I try to just stay as active as possible, and of course I’ve had great relationships with the Marine Corps League. I’m forever thankful for all that they did to really uphold and support the Women Marines Association.

Cpl Johnny A. Williamson
Detachment #1165 of Asheboro, NC

Marine Corporal Johnny Adam Williamson was born March 27, 1958 and died, along with 219 fellow Marines, in the Beirut barracks bombing in Beirut, Lebanon on Sunday, October 23, 1983. His parents were Billy Glenn Williamson and Jewelene Dunlap Williamson. He also had a sister, Elizabeth Ann Williamson, and a brother, Tony Glenn Williamson. Corporal Williamson was an acting Communications Chief in the United States Marine Corps. He attended North Moore High School and was a graduate of Randolph Technical College. He was a former employee of Union Carbide Corporation. He attended Amity Hills Baptist Church in Asheboro. Corporal Johnny Adam Williamson was laid to rest at Oaklawn Cemetery in Asheboro.
The General Thomas Holcomb Detachment, #814, is located in New Castle County, Delaware. First formed in 1991 as the Semper Fi Detachment, we received a new charter under the Holcomb name in 1993. Gen. Holcomb was born in New Castle, DE on August 5, 1879 and died in New Castle May 24, 1965. During his 40+ year Marine career he was a rifle champion many times over and insisted the Corps emphasize marksmanship. Gen. Holcomb also was an early adopter of amphibious assault tactics. He served as Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1936 to 1943 and is historically overlooked in his importance in preparing for and guiding the Corps during World War II. The General’s relatives still reside in New Castle and have attended our annual remembrance ceremony in Battery Park, City of New Castle, at the flag pole on the Delaware River on Holcomb Point. The pole bears a bronze plaque containing Holcomb’s history. Prior to adopting the Holcomb name for our detachment, we contacted the family and requested and received permission. The family and detachment jointly donated some of the General’s original USMC uniforms and other possessions during a special visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Sf
Valor in Action: The Medal of Honor Paintings of Colonel Charles Waterhouse

By Dean Roxby

This book is a true labor of love, authored by Jane Waterhouse, featuring the artistry of her father, Col. Charles Waterhouse.

Col. Waterhouse was a USMC veteran, having served in the South Pacific during World War II. In fact, as a young PFC, he was part of the first-wave assault of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. Two days later, on February 21, a bullet struck his left shoulder, leaving him with permanent nerve damage affecting his arm and hand.

After returning home to civilian life, he enrolled in an art school drawing and painting program. This led to becoming a staff illustrator for the Prudential Insurance Company. A long list of magazine covers and book illustrations soon followed.

Although his shoulder wound ended his combat days, Waterhouse still wanted to be active in the military somehow. During the 1960s he took part in “sketch trips” put on by the services. He did artwork for the Army in Alaska, the Marines at Quantico, and onboard several U.S. Navy aircraft carriers. In early 1967 he took a one month tour of Vietnam to document the war there. He returned home with dozens of rolls of film and 473 basic sketches. From these sketches, Waterhouse created dozens of oil paintings, which he gave to the Navy and Marine collection. Two more combat artist visits to Vietnam followed, in 1969 and 1971.

This led to Waterhouse being chosen to create the artwork for a Marine Corps commemorative book, Marines in the Revolution, being planned at the time. The book needed 14 large paintings. However, the only way he could be paid was for him to be put back on active duty. After being discharged as a corporal in 1946, he returned to active duty in 1973 as a Major!

Once these 14 paintings went on display at New Hall Military Museum in Philadelphia, they were praised as “masterpieces.” The Marines then kept Waterhouse as their first and only Artist in Residence for the next 18 years (1973 to 1991).

This fine book features these great works of art, and delves into the lives behind the men. Author and daughter Jane Waterhouse expands each man’s story well beyond the basic Medal of Honor Citation supplied by the military.

The recipients are arranged in chronological order of the event, starting with Cpl. Dakota L. Meyer, USMC (Afghanistan, September 8, 2009) and ending with Cpl. John F. Mackie, USMC (Battle of Drewry’s Bluff, May 15, 1862). The index also lists each man alphabetically, so it is easy to locate a specific person.

Each book is signed by the author (Jane Waterhouse), and is individually numbered. This is a limited edition and will not be reprinted. This is much more than just a beautiful coffee table book. This is a tribute to all Marine Corps and Navy corpsmen.
When Disaster Strikes

By Jerry Holt, National Vice Commandant, Southeast Division

Fires in the West. Hurricanes in the South. Tornadoes in Center. Floods in the East. The Marine Corps League has approximately 61,000 members spread across the country. When a disaster strikes anywhere in the country, there is a good possibility that some League members are affected. We have a myriad of other catastrophes that affect large regions, smaller communities, and even individual families.

As Marines, we have developed the mantras “leave no one behind” and “Marines help Marines.” In fact, part of our mission statement is to “strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen and FMF Chaplains who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.”

When disaster strikes, especially if a League member is affected, it’s common for fellow Marines to reach out to offer aid. Most often, if it’s an individual member in distress, the response comes from fellow detachment members. When the situation affects a larger area, or multiple members, the Marine Corps League departments will typically be involved to help rally additional support and become the focal point for communications and coordination of the response. Sometimes, however, the swath of the disaster is so widespread that the department officers and staff, being detachment members themselves, are also impacted and therefore focused on the more local response.

The Southeast Division has implemented a prototype position in its organization which is expected to enhance our abilities to render aid when disaster strikes, whether it is a widespread disaster, or one affecting an individual Marine. This position, Disaster Response Officer, will serve as a resource to the department staff for assistance in communications, identifying and soliciting potential sources of aid, and developing recommended protocols for planning and reacting to disastrous situations.

We are fortunate in the League because of our ingrained heritage. Quite often, when a disaster strikes a wide area, other detachments and departments will reach out to offer assistance. When members of the Department of Louisiana were severely impacted by back-to-back hurricanes Laura and Delta, members in the adjacent states of Mississippi and Texas raised funds, purchased food, water and other supplies, and personally delivered them to the affected members. Other detachments and departments throughout the League sent funds to the department to provide direct aid. That type of response tends to indicate that we don’t need to establish a bureaucracy in order to provide assistance to our members.

On the other hand, the Division hasn’t designed this position to be the funnel through which all communication or responses must flow. This position will help ensure that word of the situation is communicated throughout the League, but more importantly, the individual will become knowledgeable of the additional resources that might be available to assist.

All states and nearly all communities have a formal Emergency Management organization that provides planning and response coordination to disasters. The federal government has the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which employs over 20,000 people in its organization. The role of our Disaster Response Officer is certainly not to displace the roles of these formal organizations, but to understand their capabilities, requirements, and processes in order to assist our members in getting the help they need. There are many other non-governmental agencies, such as the Marine Corps League Foundation and other local nonprofits, with programs that provide direct assistance to League members in distress. This officer will also be responsible for mapping out the support alternatives, approaches, and in some cases, serve as an advocate for the members in need. Where the disaster is not widespread but may involve a single member who, for instance, may have had a home destroyed, this officer will help develop guidelines that detachments and departments could employ in order to balance their resources and a compassionate, equitable response to members in need.

The newly defined role of the Emergency Response Officer at the Division level will certainly evolve as we gain experience after deployment. If there are others in the League who already have similar responsibilities, or if there are members with experience outside the League in this capacity, we would welcome your input in further designing or enhancing this role to ensure its maximum benefit to our members and our communities. The Disaster Response Officer for the Southeast Division is Clifton Addison, Commandant, Department of Mississippi. Clifton can be reached via email at cliftonaddison7@gmail.com.
Congratulations to our newly elected officers of the PFC Daniel Giordano Det. 200. Thank you all for stepping up! Performing the installation of officers was Harry Prince, Former State Commandant. A special “thank you” goes out to ShopRite of Lawnside for their generosity in providing us with a wonderful dinner spread along with an amazing cake!

Women Marines spanning the four decades (from the 1960s to the 1990s) at the 2021 National Convention with then National Commandant Dennis Tobin.
Dean Kurtz, South Dakota Department Commandant (right) presents the Marine of the Year award plaque to Rodney Stormo, Marine of the Year for the Department of South Dakota 2021 (left). Rodney is a member of Kampeska Northeast Detachment #1079 in Watertown, SD, where this presentation took place.

The Dept. of West Virginia is proud to announce that Marine Stan Legge was awarded the 2021 Department of WV Marine of the Year award during the department’s annual State Convention in Elkins, WV on May 15, 2021. Marine Legge is from Milton, WV and is currently Senior Vice Commandant of Huntington Det. 340. Marine Legge's meritorious and unselfish service supporting his fellow Marines, veterans, and their families during the pandemic truly exemplifies his steadfast dedication to helping others in need.

Gregory Hunt, Member at Large, recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke with a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree with a concentration in Hotel Management. Gregory graduated with honors, cum laude and is a member of Alpha Chi National College Honor Society. He will be operating the third-party planning company, Feathers On The Wind Meetings.

The Dept. of West Virginia is proud to announce that Marine Stan Legge was awarded the 2021 Department of WV Marine of the Year award during the department's annual State Convention in Elkins, WV on May 15, 2021. Marine Legge is from Milton, WV and is currently Senior Vice Commandant of Huntington Det. 340. Marine Legge's meritorious and unselfish service supporting his fellow Marines, veterans, and their families during the pandemic truly exemplifies his steadfast dedication to helping others in need.

Det. 876. Cadet Colonel Jada Z. Cobbett (from Flagler Palm Coast) received the Henry RED Grench JROTC Memorial Scholarship and Rebekah Astacio (from Matanzas HS) received the Alice Messinger JROTC Memorial Scholarship.
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

GySgt Brian Baez (6th Comm. Bn.) & Sean Torres Sr. (Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment) with Brutus at a “Route Step” during the Staten Island Memorial Day Parade 2021.

Marines from Penndelphia Detachment #306 laying the wreath on Memorial Day at the All Wars Memorial located in Philadelphia, PA.

The Pistol Team from Kentuckiana Detachment #729 took First Place in the Master Division for both Service and Open Divisions. They competed nationally in the Marine Corps League competition. Left to right: Butch Moore, Norman Lewis, Ted Kozak, Otis Fox (coach), and Phillip Vaughan. Awards will be provided.

90th birthday celebration for retired USMC MSgt Al Elfman, Silver Star Korea, with Steve & Eve Joppa.
Sidney S. McMath Detachment #532 members Dwight Witcher and Paul Garrett (red blazers, left to right), are joined by their friend, RD Kinsey (past commander of the Department of Arkansas American Legion), and their spouses after the swearing in ceremony to the Arkansas Medal Of Honor Commission appointed by Gov. Asa Hutchinson. The swearing in was conducted by Arkansas Associate Justice Rhonda K. Wood in the Arkansas Supreme Court Chambers. The commission is tasked with upgrading the state Medal of Honor Monument located on the Capitol Grounds in Little Rock.

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ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Department of West Virginia Past Commandant Scott Kirby, second from right, receives the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Bronze Medallion on May 15 during the 2021 MCL Department of West Virginia Convention in Elkins. Previous recipients are, left to right, Roger Ware, Jerry Smith, Mike McLain and Rick Shank. The award was presented to Kirby in honor of his extraordinary contributions to the well-being of others; for his giving spirit and unconditional service to the MCL, his church, community and humanity as exemplified by the Four Chaplains; and for upholding America’s precious values and traditions. (Photo by Judith Ware)

Marine Corps League members from detachments across the Department of West Virginia were joined by Gold Star mothers on June 20 at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston, WV for the dedication of the largest Gold Star Family monument in the nation. Spearheading the installation of Gold Star Family monuments in each U.S. state is MCL member Hershel W. “Woody” Williams, 97, of Ona, WV—the nation’s only living Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

Commandant Ben Setter of the Serge B. Simmons Detachment #1159 and Jacqueline Peterson, State Officer of the George B. Wahlen Veterans Home in Ogden, UT, receiving a check for $500.00 to help the veterans of the home.
Central Wisconsin Detachment #350 donating flat screen TVs to King Veterans Home Donation Supervisor Nicholas Peskie. Left to right: Dan Johnson, Nicholas Peskie, Rollie Johnson, Ron Borski, Jerry Wojcik, and Stan Potocki.

Pikes Peak Detachment #29 bereavement team member Marine Melvin Postlewait on July 16, 2021 at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery in Colorado Springs, CO. The Pikes Peak Detachment bereavement team and honor guard render honors for passed veterans.

JC Paul Detachment #1448 Commandant Greg Sims was awarded the Detachment Marine of the Year and Adjutant/Paymaster Cathy Sims was awarded the Associate Member of the Year. Aside from their efforts with the detachment, both are co-coordinators for the local Toys for Tots campaign and involved in various community activities. The awards were presented at the State of Kentucky’s Annual Convention.

Left to right: Greg Sims (Marine of the Year), Allan Broussard (Kentucky State Awards Chairman), Darryl Tharp (Commandant, State of Kentucky).

Left to right: Cathy Sims (Associate Member of the Year), Darryl Tharp (Commandant, State of Kentucky).
31 May 2021. Detachment #963 participated in both Springfield and S. Solon, OH Memorial Day parades, providing color guards and 21-gun salutes. Pictured with their float are, left to right, Wayne Harris (963 Jr. Vice Cmdt. & Dept. of OH Sgt. Of Arms), Stan Williams (963 Judge Advocate & Dept. of OH SW Div. Vice Cmdt.), Bob Needles, David Payne (963 Sgt. at Arms), Paul Lawrence, Geoff Stridsberg, Roger Smith (963 Cmdt. & Dept. of OH Jr. Vice Cmdt.), Perry Washburn, Chris Lynch (963 Sr. Vice Cmdt. & Dept. of OH Trustee), Keith Murgatroyd (963 Adj.) and Payton Marshall (WRGT TV Channel 22/45, Dayton).

Members of Flint Detachment #155, Michigan family and friends celebrated the 93rd birthday of World War II and Korean War (Chosin Reservoir) veteran Adrian (Andy) Cervini. A picnic was held in his honor and guests came from as far away as Arizona. A letter to Adrian from Commandant Berger was also read and presented to him, congratulating him on his service to the Corps and this country. Adrian served the League as Detachment and Department Commandant and on the National Staff as a member of the Legislative Committee. Adrian Cervini has since passed on to our final duty station on August 12. Rest easy Marine. We have the watch.

Lewis B. Puller Det. #524 of Carlisle, PA has placed a steel collection bin in front of the Det. meeting hall / Toys for Tots Bldg. It will provide donors a place with 24-hour access for toy donations. This supplements our large number of cardboard boxes in our assigned region. Our Marines and volunteers collected and distributed over 30,000 toys in 2020. Believed to be a first of its kind, provided primarily by donations and manpower! The collection bin is located in a well-lit, high-traffic area with security cameras.
Dist. #10 of the Dept. of PA donated 100% of their fundraising from the 76th Dept. of PA convention to Robin's Home, a women's veteran homeless shelter in Butler, PA, and to the Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc. which provides life-changing service dogs for veterans. Dist. #10 VC Andy Burch & Frank Antoline with Bill Jeffcoat & Al Worsley, Sam Zurzolo, Mary Chitwood.
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Marine Corps League Department of Rhode Island Commandant, Patrick Maguire, throws out a ceremonial first pitch during the Newport Gulls Military Appreciation Night on July 14 at Cardines Field in Newport, RI. Maguire was joined on the mound by 1st Sgt William Earp, senior enlisted advisor at Marine Detachment Newport, to represent the Marine Corps during the opening ceremonies for the event. (Photo by Bruce Katz, public affairs officer, Naval Station Newport)

Rockland County MCL Detachment #243 donated $2,000.00 to a veterans’ organization to train two service dogs to help Marines in need.

July 2021, Syracuse, NY. Members of the Greater Syracuse Marine Corps League attended The Nationals, the largest car show on the East Coast. Pictured: Don Healy, Oliver Jackson, Joe Fallon, Commandant Ron Farewell, and Bob Brown.

On July 10 the Oregon Department Convention was held at Crater Lake Detachment #373 in Klamath Falls, OR in the Leatherneck Club. Gary C. Brannan of the USS Oregon Detachment #470 was presented with the award of Northwest Division Marine of the Year by Northwest Division National Vice Commandant John Moysiuk.

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.mcleaguemap.org/programs/documents for the Photo Release Form.

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

If you have any questions about uniform regulations, please contact Craig Reeling of the Uniform Committee at the National website: www.mclnational.org.

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

On Contested Shores: The Evolving Role of Amphibious Operations in the History of Warfare

*Marine Corps University Press* has published an amazing book about amphibious operations. Its timely publication comes during the Marine Corps’ focus on Force Design 2030. Marines have been Soldiers of the Sea since 1775 but amphibious operations date much further back. This is a well-articulated book with great examples throughout time. For those interested in history—you will not put this book down.

*On Contested Shores: The Evolving Role of Amphibious Operations in the History of Warfare*
Edited by Timothy Heck and B.A. Friedman
430 pages
Publisher: Marine Corps University Press
Language: English
ISBN: 978-1732003149

The Crucible: How the Hardships of Life Forge Us into Extraordinary Warriors

The first book written by Marine Corps veteran Christina Hadwin describes the similarity of the Crucible to life experiences. Overcoming challenges and pressing forward can provide extraordinary results.

In 1996, 31st CMC General Krulak implemented the Crucible as a culminating event that would develop the mental, physical and moral capability of Marines. For twenty-five (25) years, Marines have earned the title by completing it. Lessons Hadwin learned are realized across new life experiences. It also came with the realization that while we need self-determination, it helps to have a Marine to your left and your right.

*The Crucible: How the Hardships of Life Forge Us into Extraordinary Warriors*
By Christina Hadwin
93 pages
Publisher: Independently Published
Language: English
ISBN: 978-8648980198

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
IMPORTANT DATES IN USMC & MCL HISTORY

By Gregory R. Ciesielski, MCL National Historian

19 November 1868
The U.S. Marine Corps adopts the Marine Corps emblem consisting of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. Approved by Brigadier General Jacob Zeilin, Commandant.

11 November 1922
Major Sidney W. Brewster, USMC Ret., founded the “Marine Corps Veterans Association” which became the “Marine Corps League” during the caucus of 6-7 June 1923.

25 October 1929
The National Convention is held in Cleveland, OH and W. Karl Lations is elected National Commandant of the Marine Corps League. He was the first “non-active duty” Marine to lead the MCL after MGen (Commandant) John Lejuene and MGen (Commandant) Wendell C. Neville, MOH, USMC held the position of National Commandant.

10 November 1948
First eight enlisted women are sworn in as regular Marines.

18 November 1949
All male Marines, regardless of ethnicity, were assigned to vacancies in any unit. This ends segregation in the U.S. Marine Corps.

13 November 1982
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated this date at the Memorial site in Washington, D.C.

23 October 1983
Beirut Bombing – 241 American service members lost their lives when the barracks was bombed. A terrorist plowed through three guard posts, a barbed-wire fence, and into the lobby where he ignited the blast. It was equivalent to 18,000 pounds of dynamite.

11 September 2001
Terror attack on the United States where two planes hit the World Trade Center buildings causing them to catch fire and collapse. A plane flew into the Pentagon. Passengers of another plane fought against the terrorists and the plane crashed in a Pennsylvania field. 2,996 people died as a result of these attacks. 2021 marks the 20th anniversary.

21 October 2017
USN Hershel “Woody” Williams ESB-4 is christened. The ship is named after CWO-4 Hershel “Woody” Williams, Medal of Honor recipient and MCL member.

7 November 2019
The keel is laid for the future USS Jack H. Lucas DDG-125. The ship is named after PFC Jack H. Lucas, Medal of Honor recipient and MCL member.

10 November 2021
The 246th Anniversary of the Founding of the U.S. Marine Corps is celebrated today by all Marines, past and present.

SOLD OUT! DEC 4 – 11
80th Anniversary Pearl Harbor
DEC 4 – 13
77th Anniv Battle of the Bulge
DEC 27 – JAN 4 2022
Holiday Tour of Normandy & Paris & Fun Post Tours
★ FEB 12 – 25
Vietnam War Friends & Family Trip—Saigon, Hue, Da Nang
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”

UPCOMING TOURS

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 & Paris

JUN 12 – 25
Famous Cathedrals of Northern France

JUL 30 – AUG 4
“Bloody” Tarawa

JUL 31 – AUG 8
Guadalcanal 80th Anniversary of Operation Watchtower

AUG 13 – 28
Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich, Berlin, Nuremberg, Dresden & Prague

AUG 25 – SEP 6
Vietnam War Return to I-Corps

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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@19WalkingDead.org.


HMM-165/VMM-165, all hands, all years, October 21-23, 2021 in Glendale, AZ. Details at 165whiteknight.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.
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Description: Glass Double Mat- ted in Red and Gold, Certificate Frame w/Embossed MCL Logo and “Marine Corps League” for MCL Certificates

Desk Flag - MCL
Price: $8.00
Description: Marine Corps League Desk Flag, 4”x6”

US Flag
Price: $6.00
Description: US Flag, 8”x12”

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Flag – USMC 3’x5’
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Description: USMC Flag, 3’x5’
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Item Code: U27
Price: $29.00
Description: 5-Pleat Gold Cummerbund, Adjustable

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Item Code: U35
Price: $20.00
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Phone Number

Name

Street

City | State | Zip Code

Code# | Quantity | Item Description | Size | Price Each | Total Cost

Email

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HANDLING & POSTAGE

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AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD #

EXPIRATION DATE | CVV NUMBER

SIGNATURE

SUBTOTAL

6.0% VA SALES TAX

VIRGINIA RESIDENTS ONLY

HANDLING & POSTAGE

TOTAL

Internal MCL

Use Only

DATE

INITIAL
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 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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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 within 3 days of drawing if they are not present, and arrangements will be made with Military Historical Tours for selection of their tour prize.

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2021 TOURS

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

4–11 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

Continues Next Page
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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.

#### 2022 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE

- **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
- **13–28 Aug**
  - Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague
- **25 Aug – 6 Sep**
  - Vietnam 55th Anniversary Return to I-Corps
- **27 Aug–7 Sep**
  - D-Day, Normandy & Battle of the Bulge
- **6–20 Sep**
  - Ireland–WWII U.S. Marines “Irish Marines:” Dublin, Belfast & Derry
- **9–14 Sep**
  - Midway Island Return WWII “Battle of Midway”
- **10–21 Sep**
  - All England Tour “God Save the Queen” & 8th Air Force-WWII
- **12–24 Sep**
  - Waterloo “Napoleon, Blucher & Wellington”
- **24 Sep–5 Oct**
  - Italy WWII: Rome-Salerno-Amalfi-Sorrento-Florence-Venice
- **9–19 Oct**
  - China “Imperial Jewels:” Beijing-Xian-Shanghai
- **9–21 Oct**
  - WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name__________________________
Street Address_______________________City_________________State_______Zip___________
Phone__________________________Email Address________________________
Date of Birth / / Date of Enlistment/Commissioning / / Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation / /
Type of Application - New ( ) Renewal ( ) Membership Type - Regular ( ) Associate ( ) Dual ( )
Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ( ) YES ( ) NO If YES is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.
( ) I hereby apply for membership in the ____________________ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose $______ for one year’s membership.*

( ) 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 Corpsman 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.

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(Sponsor where applicable)     Applicant’s Signature (see reverse side)

Upon completion, turn in 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.

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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Signature ________________________________

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