

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

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SEMPER PARATI



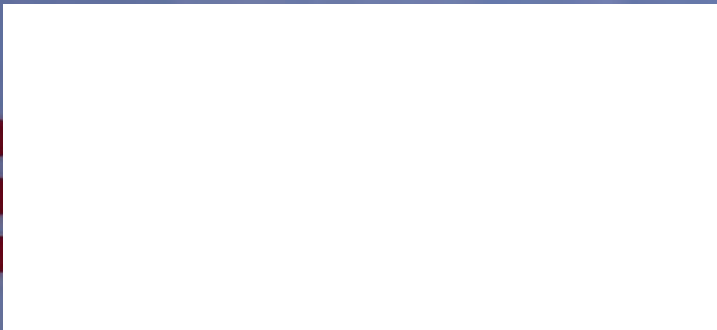
The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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There is an App for Us?!

Android and Apple

The Marine Corps League now has a mobile app in the Apple Store and Google Play Store. The app is free. This exciting advancement is long-overdue, and we are so happy to finally make it available to our membership..

We have been working to continuously improve and enhance the app. We hope you find it interesting and helpful. The news feed comes directly from the Department of Defense as well as Department of Veterans Affairs. This avoids using news feeds and getting information directly from the sources we need.





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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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ON THE COVER:

The Marine Corps League feels strongly that efforts need to be made to impact the health and welfare of our veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs, with programs like VetCenter and the Veterans Crisis Line, are helping to make some of those improvements. The direct involvement of VetCenter in the community, along with non-profit organizations like Challenge22inc, help bring focus on the issue of veteran suicide in the United States.



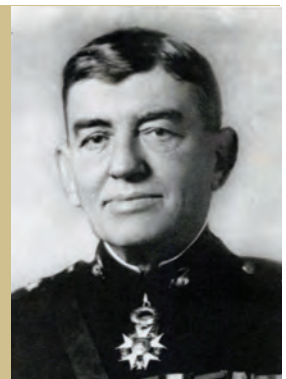
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Please visit the Marine Corps League’s Member Library for the revised Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. To submit a change to the Bylaws or Administrative Procedures, please review AP Chapter 10, Section 10020.

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



NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

WARREN "GRIFF" GRIFFIN

Serving Marines: An Honor of a Lifetime



MARINES: We have concluded our national convention marking our 100th anniversary in style. The Oklahoma host committee, led by Angela Maness, Sal Cenicaelaya, and Danny Thomas did an outstanding job. Thank you all. Now let's greet the next 100 years with strength and productivity.

It is the honor of a lifetime to be elected as the 65th commandant of our Marine Corps League following in the great lineage starting with General John A. Lejeune. He founded the League

knowing there would be needs for his Marines that needed to be met and who better to meet those needs than other Marines.

This is the focus I hope to see permeate throughout the League, Marines helping Marines. The vast majority of our members are doing exceptionally well, but there is a small number of our brothers and sisters who need support. They served with us but for one reason or other they are not sharing our journey on the right road of life. We need to bring them back and make them whole again. We will be coordinating various programs throughout the country to offer support. There are a number of well run programs now, but they are operating in isolation. As noted in the most recent article in Leatherneck Magazine, of all the services the Marine Corps has the second highest rate of suicide. This is the time for us to act. We will get more done working together than working separately. It is also beneficial for us to make the Marine Corps more aware of the benefits we provide for our extended family.

The youth of today are in a quagmire of wanting to excel with the computer but at the expense of their physical fitness. We are going to have a major push to try to reinstitute OUR youth physical fitness program in schools throughout the country. If well directed, we will have a major impact on our country's future.

Major vision, but well worth supporting. Positively impacting our youth is positively impacting the future of America.

In the near future, you will be seeing new programs and more established programs. I encourage you to whether you have been a member for years or have just joined our ranks make time to become a part of our journey and you will enjoy the League all the more.

Looking forward to meeting many of you down the road. Together we will make the Marine Corps League famous. **Semper Fi!**



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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO

BOB BORKA

Always Growing, Always Changing



MARINES: As the trees change from green to brilliant Fall colors, we are reminded of change. Our 100th Anniversary was celebrated in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and brought in many new board of trustees members. Congrats to Warren Griffin for his election as national commandant. His photo is now in the hallway alongside where the commandant of the Marine Corps' photo will hang.

We continue to make improvements to the mobile app, and we hope you consider downloading it from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. We will be building out the Midwinter Conference as well as the national convention in Rancho Mirage. As our trailer continues to increase in required contents, we have been gathering quotes to purchase a larger trailer with stronger axels. We hope to have this completed prior to the midwinter conference. *Semper Fi!*

NATIONAL PR COMMITTEE

VICTORIA McCOY

Marine Corps League – What is Branding?

MARINES: Branding is the process of creating a distinct identity for a business / organization in the mind of a target audience or consumer. At the most basic level, branding is made up of a company's name and logo, visual design, mission, and tone of voice. Branding is giving meaning to a specific organization, company, products, or services by creating and shaping a brand (a perceived image) in consumers' minds. Branding applies directly to the Marine Corps League (MCL) in what we do; how we look; how we conduct ourselves.

Consider a brand as the idea or image people have when thinking us as an organization, both in a practical way (e.g., "we are the only Marine Corps-specific veteran service organization") and an emotional way (e.g., "sharing camaraderie and participating in detachment events make me feel whole.") It's not just the physical features that create a brand but also the feelings that members and prospective members develop towards the MCL or our product. This combination of physical and emotional cues is triggered when exposed to the name, the logo, the visual identity, or even the message communicated – BRANDING.

We use our MCL logo and MCL uniforms to create a unique brand identity, which helps distinguish us from other veteran service organizations. Our actions and mannerisms amplify that identity; especially when wearing our logo and uniform. This creates the physical identifiers of branding (which includes items such as business cards, banners, table coverings, detachment flags, etc.) We boast our

Continued Next Page



Honorary National Commandant

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

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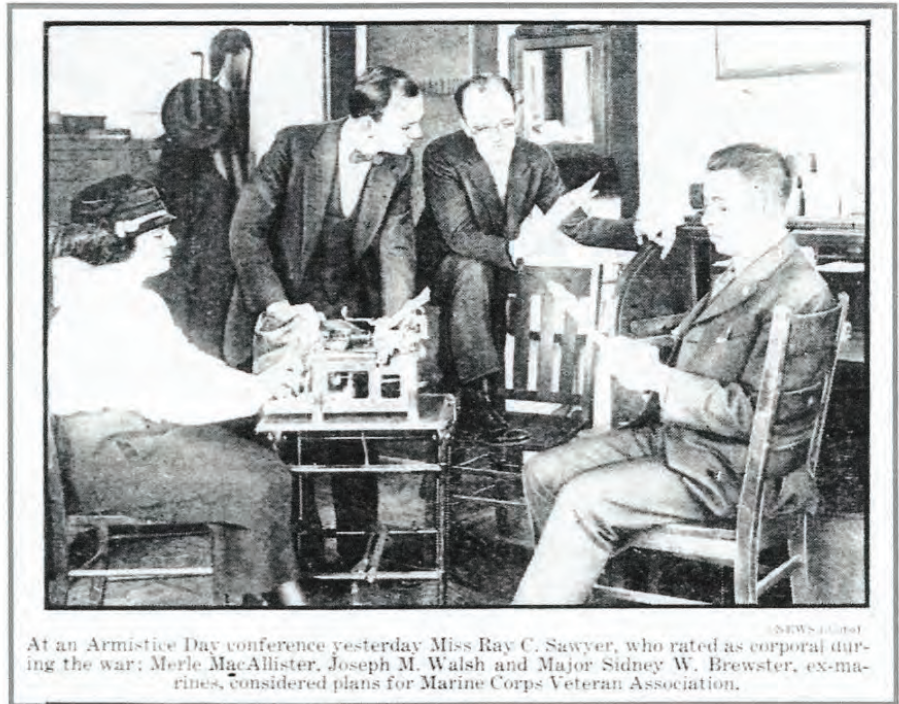
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PR COMMITTEE

From Previous Page

logo, we look sharp, we treat people with respect and dignity, we maintain a distinct mannerism – mannerisms of being a good citizen, instilled in us through boot camp. Our implementation of social media is another significant method of sharing brand identity. From the name of the social media site to the content delivered; whether its Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc. – we have to be consistent on pushing a holistic message of the MCL and all ‘we’ do – all YOU do as a detachment or department. Using the various programs available within the MCL, share how (and why) your detachment or department is supporting it. Share what (and why) you are doing to support legislative activity for veterans. Share the ‘what’ and ‘why’ of who we are!

Branding applies directly to the MCL in what we do; why we do it; how we look; and, how we conduct ourselves. *Semper Fi!*



At an Armistice Day conference yesterday Miss Ray C. Sawyer, who rated as corporal during the war; Merle MacAllister, Joseph M. Walsh and Major Sidney W. Brewster, ex-marines, considered plans for Marine Corps Veteran Association.

Are You Ready?



Mike & Kay Ross

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YOUNG MARINES

BY RONALD BURNS, SR. AND RANDY WEBER

YOUNGMARINES.ORG

Heartland Young Marines Presented with Unit Commendation Award

MARINES: The Heartland Young Marines were presented with the Marine Corps League Unit Commendation Award in July 2023 at the Mount Vernon American Legion Post 141. The award is presented to a Young Marine unit for outstanding performance of duty to the community over an extended period, or for any single act when the unit has performed under great competition with other units or organizations.

The recognition is for all the community service that the Young Marines have done not only throughout Jefferson County, but in other counties, as well. It's really the Young Marines' accomplishment for coming out and doing all those community service hours. It is a great honor to get this national award from the Young Marines program in general.

This award consideration was submitted to the national headquarters by the Department of Illinois Marine Corps League Commandant Ronald Burns, Sr. and Senior Vice Commandant Randy Weber for the unit serving the community at 59 community events totaling over 210.5 volunteer hours from 2017 – 2022.

The Marine Corps League Unit Commendation award is the highest service award a Young Marines unit can receive. It is given to Young Marines organizations for their dedication to the community and to the Marine Corps League as a whole. Weber said that he believes it shows

a lot of commitment, not only from the Young Marines, but also shows the hard work of the Young Marines staff John Kowalski and Eddie Vaughn and their families as well. The staff said that they're very thankful for the family support.

The community service over the past five years includes assisting with local Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, assisting organizations such as Healing of Our American Heroes (HOOAH), presenting to the Southern 30 Center, performing color guard and other ceremonial duties at various events and much more.

"To tell you it is not easy would be somewhat of an understatement, because it isn't," Kowalski said. "There are not a whole lot of Young Marines that get this. We are very pleased, very proud, and very humbled to receive this award."

The unit was presented the commendation ribbon with other awards due to this honor and the unit guidon was given a streamer to display the award.

For more information on the Young Marines Program, go to www.youngmarines.org. The Heartland Unit accepts new recruits throughout the year. Anyone interested may email Vaughn at heartlandyoungmarines@gmail.com for more information. **Semper Fi!**



David S. Jonas
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PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION

HOWARD C. SCHAEFFER

MCLFOUNDATION.ORG

What is the MCL Foundation?

MARINES: A number of regular readers of Semper Fi have asked me to go into some detail about the Marine Corps League foundation, what it does, and how do we achieve our goals. I will use these pages to give a few thoughts about the Foundation. The MCL Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) corporation which has received this designation from the Internal Revenue Service making contributions fully deductible.



The Foundation was established in 1989 with the specific purpose of centralizing MCL charitable contributions and as a separate organization to conform with IRS regulations. The Foundation has a blocked scholarship fund providing scholarship aid to the children and grandchildren of deceased Marines, as well as the children and grandchildren of MCL members. Humanitarian assistance is granted to individual Marines and their families who have fallen upon hard times. The form for seeking this assistance appears on the MCL Foundation's website.

We help fund a number of Marine Corps League youth programs

including the Young Marine Program and the MCL Youth Physical Fitness programs. As natural disasters have become a recurring part of contemporary life, we stand ready to provide assistance to Marines and their families.

Once again, we ask every detachment and department to dig deep to aid Marines who need a helping hand. With your help we can do much more.

Deductions can be made in several ways. You can donate the old-fashioned way by sending a check to:

MCL Foundation
P.O. Box 151536
San Diego, CA 92175



You can also donate through the magic of modern technology using your PayPal account or credit card. Just go to the Marine Corps League Foundation website or use the QR code below and follow the simple directions. **Semper Fi!**

YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

YOUNGMARINES.ORG

Thanks for Working Hard to Develop Young Marines

MARINES: What an incredible summer for our program. We started with a tremendous showing at the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC and then rolled through the National Leadership Academy and leadership schools across the country. These schools help develop our Young Marines into better leaders and have a multiplier effect when they go home with new skills and confidence. We hosted camps around the country; teaching skills, honing leadership roles, and opportunities for kids to get out into nature. Lastly, we wrapped up with another motivating and successful Navajo Code Talker Day remembrance in Window Rock, Arizona on August 14. Young Marines helped with community service, met with code talkers and their families, and learned about a vital part of our success in WWII. These experiences with leadership, citizenship, and health lifestyle lessons are what propel our Young Marines to success in military service or any path in life that they choose.



It was a distinct pleasure to attend many of the division conferences these last few months. Between myself, Sgt. Major Maness and others who support the program, we were able to attend all

these gatherings along with several department meetings. We sincerely appreciate the warm welcome as we explained our program and interacted with Marines and volunteers around the country. We are tracking to grow new units with each division in your respective regions. Half of our new units are developed with direct support from local MCL detachments, and because of this we have broken new unit records in the last two years. The synergy between Young Marines and MCL detachments can be a powerful force for good in our communities, supporting Marines past and present.

Congratulations to the MCL for celebrating their 100th anniversary and thanks to our own Sgt. Major Maness for being a key part of the 100th anniversary team. Our best wishes to Warren Griffin, TJ Morgan, Russ Miller, and Dave Porter for taking on their respective roles with the League at the national level. Our programs are blessed to have a continuous line of dedicated servant leaders helping to ensure the success of the MCL and support the Young Marines.

My personal thanks to Johnny Baker for his leadership, mentorship, and friendship these last two years. Many of you may not know that Johnny sat on the Young Marines board when I was hired in 2015 and he has been a constant supporter of the program and helpful to me from the day I was brought in to run the program. Congratulations to Johnny and Janice, they are probably still napping after a hard two-year run! **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

DAVID PORTER

A Life of Service is a Life of Purpose

MARINES: I would like to humbly thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for supporting me on my journey to where I am now. I understand that I have a tough road ahead of me, but I believe my service to the League is not over with and I am committed to that service. I know I have more responsibilities as the National Judge Advocate compared with being a National Vice Commandant. It is up to me to show my purpose and add value to the next chapter of my service. I respectfully ask for your continued support as I work to support all of you in my new role.

Each of us committed ourselves to a purpose and responsibility when we took the oath of office regardless at what level - the detachment level is just as important as the national level. We all have a responsibility to lead with purpose and to model putting our best foot forward. We need to be the example of the League, to the community and to each other. We cannot dwell on drama, or the negative. It is not healthy for us personally or for the League as a whole.

Although none of us are perfect, it can be too easy to find fault or criticize others. As a league, we should make a resolution to set aside negativity, criticism without solution, and to prioritize caring more for our members so we may grow stronger as a family of



brothers and sisters. Let's continue to live up to President Ronald Reagan's sentiment, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in this world. The Marines don't have that problem".

I am here to motivate and to serve. In doing so, I challenge all commandants to be strong and humble leaders which will bring positive influence to the League, your detachment, your department, and your division. With

strong positive leadership the league will continue to grow and flourish - with admiration and gratitude of your fellow Marines.

Last thoughts for now: the communication will get stronger; you will see in the near future quarterly zoom meeting set up along with a newsletter as follow up. Please use your chain of command as well! Looking forward to building a positive stronger Marine Corps League. As for the paperwork that will land on my desk, it will be handled swiftly and justly and to the best of my ability! **SemperFi!**

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

JOHNNY BAKER

The Role of Junior Past National Commandant

MARINES: As I have done in the past as I moved on to another chapter of my Marine Corps League leadership travels, I want to share what it means to be the Junior Past National Commandant. At the end of our 2023 National Convention, I had a Marine ask me what's now for me and exactly what are the responsibilities of the Junior Past National Commandant. I thought for a few minutes and gave a basic answer, "Whatever the national commandant needs me to do and to be there to support him."

Although this is basically true, the job goes a little beyond that. The national bylaws only state that the junior past national commandant shall be a voting member of the national board of trustees and that they shall preside at all past national commandants (PNC) council meetings. The junior past commandant at all levels should be the mentor to the commandant, be there whenever the commandant needs guidance or assistance, and always be there to support the board of trustees. Again, this same philosophy should be applied at the detachment, department, and national levels.

At the national level, there is one more important element of the responsibilities of the junior past national commandant that I mentioned earlier. The "Past National Commandants' Council" is chaired by the junior past national commandant. The PNC Council is an advisory council which is an integral part of the national staff, composed of all past national commandants. The PNC Council is a collective advisory body and is charged with the responsibility of



providing assistance to the national board of trustees.

In general, the duty of this council or PNC society is to, when asked, execute in-depth study tasks as assigned by the national commandant or the national board of trustees through the council chairman. The PNC Council meets semi-annually during the national convention and the mid-winter conference, at which a PNC Council report

will be rendered. The PNC Council can collect or receive donations to support its objectives, i.e., grave markers for deceased past national commandants.

This position is extremely important at all levels of the League. These past commandants at the detachment and department levels should be a positive asset to the board of trustees. If they are allowed to use their experience and knowledge of the League in assisting the detachment or department, it will enhance their success. At the national level, the PNC Council is composed of Marines with many years of experience and leadership and can aid the national commandant and the board of trustees when requested. All past commandants should be allowed to help, plan, and advise their respective commandants and board of trustees. **SemperFi!**

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY

LINDA S. CHAMBERLAIN

NATIONALMCLA.ORG

Thank You for the Support As I Begin My Second Term



AUXILIARY AND LEAGUE MEMBERS: Thank you to the Sooner Detachment Convention Committee for the wonderful MCL 100th Anniversary Convention. Although the weather was hot, the hotel was nice and cool. The activities they planned for the attendees were entertaining and enjoyable. They did a wonderful job making our time in Oklahoma City a memorable experience, and the 100th Anniversary Ball was an event to remember.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank PNC Baker for his support of the auxiliary and for inviting a member of the auxiliary to speak at the convention on the advantages of having an auxiliary unit affiliated with a detachment. Both organizations have the same goals and support some of the same causes, so why not join forces and help each other? If you are interested in having an auxiliary unit affiliated with your detachment, or if you would like additional information on the auxiliary, please reach out to the MCLA national secretary (mclahq@nationalmcla.org) who will put you in touch with the auxiliary division vice president for your area.

With the national convention in the rear-view mirror, we now turn our focus on preparing for Veterans Day, Marine Corps Birthday, Toys for Tots, and the Midwinter conference, just to name a few of the events of which auxiliaries will be an integral part.

At the national convention, I had the distinct honor and privilege to present four new charters; Peoria Leathernecks Auxiliary, IL, Central Div; Middle TN MCLA Unit, TN, Southeast Div; North Shore J.M., LA, Southeast Div; and Basilone, NJ, Northeast Div. I was also privileged to present a 50-year pin to Twila Gensel, Susquehanna Valley Unit, Dept. of PA, Northeast Division; a 40-year



National President's Award Landis- McCleaf Unit (70 years), from left to right are: National President Linda Chamberlain, Landis-McCleaf Unit Past Presidents, PDP Tracey Killinger, PDP Teena Foster, PDP Pat Bulger.

pin to Judy Blackmer, Burbank Unit, Dept. of IL, Central Division; a National President Award to Landis-McCleaf Unit, PA, for 70 years of dedicated service to the Auxiliary; and to the Susquehanna Valley Unit, PA, for 50 years of dedicated service to the Auxiliary, and, a VAVS Volunteer of the Year award to PNP Barbara Nobile, Larry Nehring Unit, IA.

It has been an honor and privilege to represent the Marine Corps League Auxiliary as the national president, and I thank the members of the auxiliary for their confidence and support as I begin my second term. It has been a great learning experience and an honor to work with both PNC Baker and COO Borka and I am looking forward to working this year with Commandant Griffin and again with COO Borka.

In closing, I would like to wish all Marines a very HAPPY 248TH BIRTHDAY.

Since the next issue of Semper Fi won't be published until 2024, I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. Until January!

Semper Fi!

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CHIEF DEVIL DOG

ALAN SANNING, 60TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG

Dog Days Mean Big Bone Donations!



MARINES: Woof, Woof, to all the magnificent dogs of the MODD! To the 495 dogs at the 100th Anniversary Marine Corps League Convention and 83rd Supreme Growl in Oklahoma City, I hope you took advantage of some of the fun on tap for us there.

The local convention committee kicked off the fun Sunday with the Early Bird's Talent - No Talent Show. This entertaining event also kickstarted fundraising for the MODD's 2024 donation to a Children's Hospital in California.

Oklahoma Pack ramped things up with Dogs Day in the Park, which gave everyone an opportunity to bid on pies to throw at select MODD members or send them splashing into the dunk tank. We even had a group of young adults who wanted to join in the fun, pooling their bones to throw a pie at one of their crew.

The biggest Dogs Day splash was the \$74,000 big bones that kennel staff members presented on behalf of all you dogs to very appreciative representatives of the Oklahoma University Children's Hospital. Earlier in the day, we toured the hospital's impressive facilities and their team shared how the donation would benefit children coming from around the country for critical medical care. For all of you dogs active in fundraising efforts for the annual donation, as well as efforts to assist your local hospitals and other causes, BIG BARKS TO YOU ALL, keep up the fantastic work!

Now a little food for thought for all of the pounds and packs that have not been active in helping with the annual donations; we could do so much more for the kids if you jump on board with even a modest effort. The Missouri pack led the Kennel in donations this year with \$32,959 big bones with about \$10,000 going to a local Missouri hospital and the remainder to the Kennel Children's Hospital Fund. That was a combination from passport fees, along with the fundraising efforts of six different pounds as well as pack fundraising projects.

You and I know we can do even better without

breaking a sweat. If we had averaged just \$20 big bones for each of our 5,489 dogs of the MODD, this year's donation would have been almost \$110,000, vice \$74,000. Recognizing our amazing potential, the sky really is the limit with so many dogs who go above and beyond to help the children!

For a simple fundraiser, pounds might consider purchasing MODD yellow roses at \$30 per gross. Many pounds invest in a couple gross of roses, set up at a local retail store for three or more hours and bring in \$900 to \$4,500 in donations, while also sharing recruiting information! Some people donate pocket change, while others toss in \$1 to \$20 to help the kids. It can be just that easy and inexpensive to help the children.

Of course, the MODD is about more than our efforts to help sick kids... we're also about the FUN! In addition to the activities above, we also had the chance to watch candidates for advancement as their handlers ran them through their paces this year. The platoon competitions always provide a bit of fun, although I may have seen kennel veterinarians tending to the ears of a couple past chief Devil Dogs after they judged the singing competition. All this was followed by a spirited Supreme Growl where we had fun and took care of business too!

Congratulations are in order for the 115 dogs who advanced in Oklahoma City. It was an honor to conduct your obligations - congratulations to each of you!

Continuing with more well-deserved congratulations, the following hardworking dogs received individual kennel awards:

Kennel Dog of the Year

PDD Steve Seyller,
SEMO Devil Dogs Pound 330, MO

**Past Chief Devil Dog Award
(2nd only to Kennel DOY)**

PDD Steve Seyller,



SEMO Devil Dogs Pound 330, MO
 PDD Cory Dressler,
 RGV Diablo Dogs Pound 956, TX
 PDD Johnny Baker,
 Coosa Mud Dogs Pound 233, AL
 (We always knew he'd make something of himself!)
 PDD Barbara Vanner,
 Chambersburg Pound 132, PA

PCDD Kenneth E. Farris Pack Dog Robber of the Year

PDD Charles "Chuck" Junek III,
 Jack Lucas Pound 376, MS

PCDD John Zak Pound Dog Robber of the Year

PDD Michael Segura, Sgt G. B. Reasner Jr.
 Pound 124, FL

Congratulations to all of these dogs! It is always gratifying to see pound keepers and pack leaders nominating deserving dogs who are out there working hard to keep things moving forward. There are many more deserving dogs, so don't overlook nominating them next year.

Barking of recognition, the 248th Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day are just around the corner. As you enjoy a great birthday yourself, take a look around and see what you can do to make it a little brighter for our fellow Marines who are homebound, hospitalized, or in nursing homes. Simple acts can make a big difference in their day.

Once again, keep up the great work in your pounds and packs. Although scheduling conflicts kept me from accepting invitations to some of your conferences and conventions this year, I hope to catch up with some of you over the next year. Until then - **Semper Woof!**



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NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

TJ MORGAN

Convention Insight

MARINES: I want to thank all who attended the 100th anniversary national convention and entrusted me as your new national sr. vice commandant. With new duties and responsibilities, I look forward to the future and always for the good of the League. It is an exciting time to be a member of the Marine Corps League.

One of the things I would like to start with is asking all of you who are attending the 2024 midwinter conference, is for ideas on what you would like to cover in the conference commandant's council. If you have ever been to one of these that I ran, you know I like to have it more of an interactive meeting than one of me talking at you. It brings more retention and spark new ideas. At this time, I ask you to email me subjects or topics you would like to discuss. Please email me those ideas to tmorgan@mcleague.org. I will package those ideas up and we will move forward.

I was honored this year to have a class at the OKC convention where we talked about the commandant position. I did three one-hour classes in a round robin-type environment. The class (and all the other classes) were well attended and, from my point of view, we will continue to offer them at convention on Wednesday. Between all three



classes, over 100 MCL members attended my class alone. It really gave members the knowledge and filled a hole in an open Wednesday schedule. Look for more opportunities to learn at the 2024 convention in Palm Springs California.

Lastly, I wanted to talk about the importance of remaining a detachment/department in good standing. If you are out of compliance with it, you are not permitted to function under the AP. Have a renewal

plan and have a way to track that plan. Submit your ROI's every year with appropriate changes. Make sure the ROI has the correct contact information as well as meeting times and places. We populate other tools such as the "find a detachment" link based on that information. File your 990s on time, as well as your local and state filing as required in your area. The IRS has really stepped up their oversight on non-profits like ours, so keep up the administrative part.

Have a great Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. *Semper Fi!*

MCL NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE

RAYMOND S MORRELL, CHAIRPERSON

What do I wear to the Marine Corps Ball?

MARINES: It's the Marine Corps Ball and you don't know how you should dress. What do you do? First step, confer with the intention of the organizers. Is it a formal event? Is it a luncheon? Is it a casual atmosphere and casual dress – aloha attire? Your attire should always match the sentiment of the event.

In accordance with Marine Corps tradition, the Marine Corps Ball is a very formal event. Marines are to dress in their best uniform whether it is dress blue alphas (with medals), dress blue bravos (with ribbons and badges), or service green alphas (with ribbons and badges) – Marines are to dress in their best uniform. This sets the stage for the Marine Corps League (MCL) and those members attending local Marine Corps Balls.

The MCL evening dress/mess dress uniform is the most formal of all MCL uniforms. Comprised of the red, waist-length jacket and worn with either the dress blue trousers or tuxedo trousers, the MCL evening dress/mess dress uniform is also worn with a standard tuxedo collar shirt and standard (uniform size) bow tie and gold vest or the gold cummerbund. Female members will wear ankle-length, black



MCO 1020.34H MARINE CORPS UNIFORM REGULATIONS

The Marine Corps League, without a doubt, has the best looking uniforms of any veteran's organization. Our uniforms, like our counterparts on active duty in the Marine Corps, are practical, well-designed, and display an aura of professionalism.

When our Birthday Ball and other Veteran events occur, many like to wear their rightfully earned Dress Blue Uniform. We encourage all veteran Marines to uphold the MCO 1020.34H Marine Corps Uniform Regulations.

When wearing the Dress Blue Uniform please adhere to the MCO for personal appearance and grooming standards based on gender. If you will not follow the MCO, then please refrain from wearing the Dress Blue Uniform.



skirts. Only miniature medals are worn with this uniform, at the wearer's discretion, which are placed across the widest part of the lapel. Applicable collar emblems are worn on the red waist-length jacket, MCL sunburst (screw post) for regular members and MCL embossed gold bar for associate members.

The MCL formal dress uniform is a rendition of the red blazer and is similar to the MCL evening dress/mess dress with the exception of the red blazer; and the fact that the dress blue trousers are never worn with the red blazer. Male MCL members will wear black tuxedo style trousers and female MCL members will wear ankle-length, black skirts. As with the MCL evening dress/mess dress uniform, miniature medals are worn, at the wearer's discretion. Blazer crests are, typically, not worn when wearing the MCL formal dress uniform.

The MCL casual dress uniform is comprised of a red blazer with a white, standard button-front shirt with standard collar (not button down) and a standard black tie or a black neck tab. Black slacks or a knee length black skirt are worn with this uniform. Collar emblems are never worn on the shirt in this configuration, nor are they worn on the red blazer. Dress blue trousers are never worn with the red blazer. Miniature medals are never worn with this configuration; however, large medals may be worn, but no more than three large medals, mounted together. An easy piece to remember regarding large medals versus miniature medals are "large tie—large medals; small tie—small medals". Ribbons are never worn with the MCL casual dress uniform.

If you choose to wear formal attire and not the MCL uniform, a tuxedo or a formal gown, look your best. If you choose to wear miniature medals with your tuxedo, wear them with pride. The Marine Corps Ball is a grand event, regardless of what you wear, wear it with honor and distinction.

Semper Fi!

NAMED IN HONOR OF



Herbert A. Littleton Detachment #1261

Herbert A. Littleton was born July 1st, 1930 to Paul N. and Maude Littleton. Times were hard and money scarce. His family had to move to Port Orchard, Washington to work in the shipyards. Herbert and his family later moved to South Dakota where he attended school. Like many young men Herbert played football and basketball and was a popular student during his public-school days.

Herbert later was employed by the Electric Appliance Company in Rapid City, Dakota. However, he never lost touch with his rural values and country way of life instilled in him by his family.

With the advent of the Korean conflict, Herbert voluntarily enlisted in the Marine Corps. On July 29th, 1948, Herbert A. Littleton was sworn into service for his country. He completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Then he completed his training at Camp

Pendleton. He was then shipped to Korea as part of the third replacement draft. As with many other young men of his time, he left behind his family and a girl with whom he planned to someday build a life with, have a family of his own and live the American dream.

Littleton fought in the Korean Conflict from December 17, 1950, until April 22, 1951. On April 22, 1951, PFC Littleton's battle ended, as did his life. PFC Littleton, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Company C, first Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (reinforced) was killed by a North Korean grenade at Changchun, Korea. While this is a tragic event, it is not what made Littleton a great example that can be called upon to lead us through hard times. Like most things, it is not the event alone that brings out the best in us, but how we choose to deal with those events.

For his selfless service to our country

Littleton was recognized and honored by being posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Though he was born in Mena, Arkansas, until recently no memorial or other recognition has been established in Arkansas in memory of this gallant native son. This situation was rectified at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, 12 September 2009 at the Polk County Courthouse, Mena, Arkansas. At this time and date, a memorial was unveiled to honor Littleton.

The memorial is the result of a grass root movement spearheaded by the Herbert A. Littleton Detachment 1261 of the Marine Corps League, Mena, Arkansas. With the support of the citizens of Mena and surrounding Polk County and others from outside the area, funds have been raised to build this monument to our fallen comrade. This memorial stands proudly in memory of our native son. **Semper Fi!**

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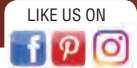
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DIVISION REPORTS

Servant Leadership is Key



Mike Sturch
NVC, Central Division



MARINES: I trust everyone had an enjoyable and productive time at our 100th National Convention. Congratulations to all those who were elected to new positions, and all those dogs advancing to Pedigree Devil Dog!

My first day back to work gave me time to reflect on this issue. I am fortunate to have an employer who supports the military, and generally grants me all the time off I need to fulfill my responsibilities. Just as we try to reward our members for their work and dedication, we need to acknowledge our employers and community for their support and dedication to us. After all, we really can't accomplish our mission without their help. So, take the time to show them how much they are appreciated. A simple plaque or certificate on the wall showing your gratitude goes a long way. Give them the recognition they

deserve. This is also a great chance for public relations and "branding." Take pictures and post them on social media, or better yet, call the local paper or news media in your area. When you present the award, be squared away in your uniform, or at least a polo and your cover. This can again go a long way to getting our name out there.

Now let's talk a little about servant leadership. Our 64th Commandant, Johnny Baker, has spoken of this quite a bit. He mentioned it again at the convention, and stated that when he is at his detachment meeting, he wears his red cover. I do the same thing. At my detachment, I am simply the adjutant, and I wear my red cover. At my department functions, I generally wear my department cover. I wear my national cover when I am fulfilling that role. It is not about title or prestige; it is about leadership and trying to grow this organization. Servant leadership is the key to success, especially in an organization such as ours. You lead from the front, as always; but you lead with the idea that you are teaching, mentoring, and hopefully inspiring those junior members to take on these important roles. The League will become stagnant and eventually die if you keep the same people in the same positions for years and years. You foster growth by bringing on new members with fresh ideas. You guide these junior members with the assurance that no matter what, you have their back. Let them make mistakes; that is how we all learn and gain experience. But always be there to support them.

We had a number of bylaw and administrative procedure changes approved. Please review and familiarize yourselves with these changes. Remember, these changes went into effect at the end of our convention. And please continue to push the fact that yes, we have a library(!), and yes, all the information you need is on our website!

Always remember our brothers and sisters who are serving, those who never came home, and those who came home but never really returned.. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclcentdiv.org

Out of your Comfort Zone



Rick Thomason
NVC, Mideast Division



MARINES: I cannot tell you what convinced me to join the United States Marine Corps when I was drafted in 1969, but I did. It all happened in a matter of less than 90 seconds.

A Marine Corps Staff Sergeant centered himself in front of all the men who passed the physical at the induction center. Hands on hips, feet shoulder width apart, with creases so sharp in his shirt and trousers that they could cut you. He had a stare that would cause fresh milk to curdle, dogs to run, and women to cry. With the voice of a chain smoker who shouts every word, one octave below deep, he states, "I need two warm bodies for my Marine Corps. One with a strong back, and one with a strong mind."

What in the hell was I thinking when I raised my hand. I really don't know. I had neither one. I do know the only time I ever

regretted it was in boot camp. I had a leg injury that limited my ability to run, but that didn't stop me from pushing it to the limits. Everyone was pushed to the limits. We were told that we would go through training in under nine weeks. They needed warm bodies in Vietnam. Now, that was encouraging to hear. No training would be sacrificed, only our sleep. What was supposed to be thirteen weeks of boot camp was cut to under nine weeks.

So, where am I going with this? You never know what your limits are unless you go there occasionally. Getting out of your comfort zone and trying something new will not kill you (hopefully) and may make you a better person. I was definitely out of my comfort zone for those nine weeks in 1969.

When I joined the Marine Corps League, I was out of my comfort zone. I knew nothing about the hierarchy, policies, or procedures. I had been to three meetings and was suddenly the adjutant. I was definitely out of my comfort zone. A year later I was the judge advocate (what do you mean I have to rewrite the bylaws?) Then junior vice and on to senior vice and detachment commandant. I never went into a position in the League that was within my comfort zone. Each had its challenges and its responsibilities.

Step up and accept the opportunity to be more than the person you thought you could ever be. You have the entire Marine Corps League behind you. You cannot fail. After all, you are a Marine.

Semper Fi!

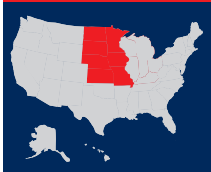
Division Website: mclmideast.com

VA Volunteer Service is Another Opportunity to Volunteer



Joe Hughes

NVC, Midwest Division



MARINES: In a message delivered at the 2023 National Convention, our new Marine Corps League Commandant Warren Griffin said, “Implement the Marine Corps League Veterans Administration Veteran Service” program in our departments and detachments.

The Marine Corps League is a nonprofit organization comprising current and former United States Marines and FMF Navy personnel, their families, and their supporters. While the Marine Corps League’s primary mission is to promote and preserve the United States Marine Corps traditions, it also should support the Department of Veterans Administration hospitals and facilities in your area.

Volunteering for veterans’ services is a meaningful and impactful way to give back to those who have served their country. As a veteran’s service volunteer, you can contribute in various ways to support and honor veterans.

Contact your local veteran’s facility to let them know you want to be involved; it does not need to be a Veterans Administration Hospital if there are none in your area.

Community and Camaraderie: Being in a VA hospital can be isolating, especially for veterans who have difficulty reintegrating into civilian life. Supporting veterans in these hospitals can provide a sense of community and camaraderie, reminding them that they are not alone.

Preserving Veterans’ Dignity: Some veterans in VA hospitals may face mobility issues, disabilities, or other challenges that affect their ability to care for themselves. Your support can help maintain their dignity by ensuring they receive respectful and attentive care.

Building Trust: Demonstrating support for veterans in VA hospitals helps build trust between the veterans’ community and the broader society. It shows that the sacrifices of veterans are acknowledged and valued.

Fulfilling Civic Responsibility: As members of a society that benefits from veterans’ sacrifices, supporting them in VA hospitals is a civic responsibility. It reflects a commitment to caring for those who have served the nation.

Supporting veterans in VA hospitals is not only an ethical duty but also a way to honor their service, improve their well-being, and strengthen the bonds within our communities. Your involvement can make a meaningful impact on veterans’ lives and create a more inclusive and caring society. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

Let’s Get to Work



Patrick Maguire

NVC, New England Division



MARINES: Marines, Corpsman, Chaplains, and Associate members. I want to congratulate our 65th National Commandant, Warren Griffin. I know you will do great things for the league, and I look forward to working with you and the board members to keep moving the league in a positive direction. To our newly elected National Judge Advocate, Dave Porter, congratulations and thank you for your leadership and being a mentor to me and so many others.

New England Division, I am honored to be your national vice commandant. When I joined the League, like so many, I did not know what to expect. Attending my first meeting and speaking with the members I was pleasantly surprised with the “welcome aboard” I received. I was even more surprised at my second meeting when I was asked to be the detachment chaplain. Moving up through

the chairs at the detachment and department levels, I learned so much from the members. Did I make mistakes? I most certainly did, but it was the help from the members that set me straight and I was able to learn and grow within the league. I have found that, to hold a position at any level, you must be able to communicate with your members but more importantly, you have to be able to listen to your members. You must be able to listen to suggestions and ideas, discuss the pros and cons, and collectively come up with a good plan. A plan that is beneficial to all members, not just a few.

Having said that, as NVC, I will make every attempt to get involved in as many detachments as time permits. It is my belief that the NVC be visible, whether at a detachment meeting, fundraiser, event, etc. There are members who, for one reason or another, can’t attend a convention/conference, that doesn’t make them any less of a member. I want to be able to speak with them, listen to them, hear their concerns and/or ideas to help the division and League to make it better.

I am excited to have as my assistant division vice, Mike Hinds, he’s motivated and has some good ideas and is ready to make a positive impact on the division. I look forward to working with the department commandants within the division, increasing membership, assisting our veterans, and ensuring our communities know about the Marine Corps League. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclnedivision.com

DIVISION REPORTS

Change Management



Mike Waluk

NVC, Northeast Division



MARINES: Many of us have heard the phrase “The more things change, the more they remain the same.” Jokingly, this appears to be the mantra for the year. While only a few short months ago, I was bidding the division a fond farewell, I find myself now saying “Hello, how are you, glad to see everyone...again!”

So, moving forward, let us talk about change, or more precisely *change management*.

This year the membership finds itself – as it always does – reorganizing its structure. Now is the time we need to support the leadership along the path of success. While there is no inherent need to redefine common business practices, we do need to consider how our entire membership may be affected by changes, and how to navigate through the process that can impact our

practices and procedures.

This does not always carry with it a negative impact but can help to clarify and improve future operations. To that end, the things that we should be looking for is the challenge and commitment to finding solutions to problems, finding ways to put the solutions to work, and coordinating our efforts to complete the task that we seek to accomplish. However, a key factor in all this is knowing that no matter what, solutions are derived, leaders must be able to communicate with their staff to create buy-in from their direct reports and ensure the membership understands the rationale behind their efforts. Even if the process moves slowly, or stalls, consider the words of our 64th national commandant, “Before making your decision, consider what is in the best interest of the League.”

Always remember, that *failure is not fatal!* Use failure as a learning opportunity or a teachable moment. Above all, have the humility to admit to mistakes and personally address issues before it makes its way to the rumor mill, and stay engaged with your staff to remain effective and viable as a team.

Moreover, let’s all try to be strategic in our thinking by using all the information available, include others to break down obstacles, exploit every means of progress by seeking ideas from both superiors and subordinates, and build trust. Being transparent and consistent in the decision-making process will advance this endeavor. Keep in mind that trusted leaders are more likely to have supporters who respect the decisions made on their behalf. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: nedmcl.org

A Simple Way to Help Marines



Mike Flynn

NVC, Northwest Division



MARINES: As my first report for Semper Fi Magazine, I would be remiss for not recognizing the Marine I am replacing. John “Moose” Moysiuk has been a great leader for the Northwest Division and the League itself. He has been a great mentor and friend to me and many others of us across the nation. It is a bit daunting to follow him. However, I’m all in to do just that.

One thing I hear John speak of often is how many opportunities we have to help fellow Marines and their families. It all starts with each of us being willing to step forward and simply state, “I know an organization that can help you, The Marine Corps League.” The League’s ability to connect us to veteran service officers is one way the MCL can help right off the top. Each of us should know a contact within our areas who does this for a living and

is an expert in the process. If someone needs assistance, who do you send them to? Know that answer before the question is asked. It’s a great item to discuss during a detachment meeting and hopefully they are able to visit your meetings in person.

This is just one example, and there are many more. Be the spokesperson for helping our members and fellow veterans! **Semper Fi!**

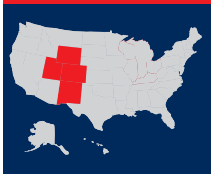
Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org

Be the Community!



Tom Krueger

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division



MARINES: I would like to ask all “why did you join the Marine Corps League, was it for the camaraderie?” Whatever your answer, let’s spread the word about the Marine Corps League. We as a division need to work on recruitment as well as retention. Congratulations to each detachment that received a 100% streamer. Also, congratulations to the Department of Utah for winning first place in membership. The Rocky Mountain Division won third place in membership. This year, at the national convention there were 49 proposed by-laws brought before the floor. After a lengthy debate over all of them, the membership present passed or rejected, and some were withdrawn by the creator. I emailed all the results to the department commandants. I have asked that they be passed along to every member. Please familiarize yourself and ensure that department and detachment

by-laws are updated. The Youth Foundation executive director has asked the membership to reach out to the local schools in their areas for the purpose of promoting our program in the schools. We, as members, don’t run the program but assist the schools as they administer the program. If you should need more information on this, please contact Youth Foundation Executive Director Tom Hazlett at admin@usmarineyouthfoundation.org.

Another subject discussed was Veteran Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS), encouraging more members to help at the local VA Medical centers and clinic’s as well as our fellow veterans. Along this line, I would like to see a VAVS representative in each detachment and department. Send all your names to me when they are found. I will be looking for someone to represent the Rocky Mountain Division, as well. Also, I would like to see a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) at least at each department level to help members as well as veterans in their area. Ask membership if someone would like to step up and take this VSO duty on the division level, as well. I am asking each commandant at all levels to take advantage of the training videos in the Marine Corps League Library. Use them to help assist and teach all the duties and responsibilities of all positions. Please take the time to look at the possibility of starting an auxiliary unit within your area; they can do a lot for your detachment. If you are involved with the Toys for Tots program, outstanding! They have also started a new, year-round program, aimed at getting books into the hands of our youth.

Lastly, if your detachment is doing color guard or honor guard duties, please record the number of regular and associate members; this also applies to parades. Do more than just being in your community; BE THE COMMUNITY! This will, in turn, help with membership. Remember *all* veterans are welcome; some are regular members; others are associate members. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: rockymountainmcldiv.org

Don’t Overlook These Great Recruitment Tools



Jerry Holt

NVC, Southeast Division



MARINES: One of the ongoing challenges we have in the Marine Corps League lies in our ability to attract younger members. Those who have recently left active duty have generally shifted their focus to careers and family. We often overlook some of our existing programs that can provide benefits to our members by engaging their entire family. In addition to planning periodic detachment meetings where family members are invited, there are more formal programs that offer total family benefits and can serve as powerful recruiting tools. Here are some:

MCL Scholarship Program Each year, nearly 200 applicants are awarded a cash scholarship. They may receive the award for up to four years while pursuing an undergraduate degree. These are not competitive scholarships; the student must have attained at least a 3.3 GPA, enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester, and be

sponsored by a League, or an auxiliary member in good standing. Recipients may be the member, a spouse, children or grandchildren. It’s a good return on the investment of League dues, and should serve as a powerful incentive in attracting and retaining members. As an aside, detachments have been encouraged to contribute to the MCL Foundation to help fund this program, which last year amounted to \$109K in scholarships.

Young Marines Here is another program especially attractive to members with younger kids. While they don’t need to be League members to participate, Marines can employ their pride and skills to teach 8- to 18-year-olds the values patriotism, teamwork and anti-drug use. This can be a valuable experience for the adult leaders as it is for the Young Marines. League member participation in this program is not only great for community relations, it helps strengthen the bond between the member and the family.

Youth Physical Fitness This is a League-owned program that is administered by schools. League members can help by calling on schools to help persuade them to adopt the program, then participate by assisting at events. Again, it demonstrates the value of the League while providing benefits to the member’s family and the community.

By ramping up our focus on these youth programs, we can offer League members not only the opportunity to share in our camaraderie and values as Marines, but we can do it while extending the chance to further their involvement with their kids and family. These are great value-adds we can offer. They are also greatly overlooked recruiting opportunities.

For more information on these programs, go to www.mcleaguelibrary.org/youth-programs. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: seddiv.org

DIVISION REPORTS

Hello and Thank You!



Angela Maness

**NVC,
Southern
Division**



MARINES: Congratulations to all the newly elected (and reelected) national board of trustee officers and their assistants!

As this is my first opportunity to speak to you from this position—hello everyone! First and foremost, I would like to formally thank the good people of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas who elected me to this prestigious position. I am excited to represent you and hope to keep the lines of communication open. I am very comfortable with social media tools and will use electronic communications and platforms like Zoom and WebEx (as needed) to reach out to you. That said, I would like to introduce myself.

A little about me.... I served in the Marines from 1987-2017. My primary MOS was administration with a secondary in marksmanship and entry level training. I've been stationed at Quantico, VA, Camp Lejeune, NC, Parris Island, SC, Camp Hanson, Okinawa,

Japan, Kaneohe Bay, HI, Cherry Point, NC, Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, 8th & I, Camp Fallujah, Iraq, and Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan. In 2017, after thirty years of service, I retired in South Carolina at the Eastern Recruiting Region / Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island.

As a retiree, I spend my time teaching and volunteering with the National Young Marines program and the Marine Corps League. I have the privilege to hold multiple billets within the League such as national vice commandant, southern division, chair of the national honor guard and color guard committee, national MCL liaison to the Young Marines, POW/MIA committee member, Sooner Detachment #559 commandant and former Department of Oklahoma sr. vice commandant. Most recently, I have served as a co-chair for the 2023 National Convention held in Oklahoma City, OK.

I am excited to have been elected to represent the Southern Division and look forward to working with this team of professional volunteers. Please join me in congratulating the Marines and Associate members who have either been elected or have accepted an invitation to serve on the Southern Division team. They are, Assistant NVC Mark Oldmixon, Aide De Camp Texas Audrea Killalea, Aide De Camp Oklahoma Sal Cenicacelaya, Aide De Camp Arkansas Tammie Summers, Web Sergeant Ken Summers, Adjutant Karla Hamman (OK), Paymaster Steve Green (AR), Chaplain Gary Cleverger (TX), Sergeant at Arms Ricardo Herrera (TX), Asst. Sergeant At Arms Benito Vallejo (TX). Congratulations team - thank you for stepping up to serve your division. Your dedication to our League is commendable.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the previous Southern Division team. Congratulations on successfully completing your term and THANK YOU for keeping the wheels on the Southern Division wagon. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: southernmcl.org

Southwest Division Meetings Minutes



Jim Loorya

**NVC,
Southwest
Division**



MARINES: Since the MCL Midwinter Conference, the division has conducted three division/department conventions and one division conference. At each of the departments' conventions, quorum was met, new officers elected, and training conducted. In summary:

Department of Arizona

The Department of Arizona met to conduct its two-day department convention. The first day of the convention was to conduct department committee and/or department staff meetings. The second day was to conduct the business portion of the convention and to nominate, elect, and swear in the team of new officers and the new BOT.

An additional point of note: The Department of Arizona had a case of stolen valor that they were working with from July 2023. This was resolved with the results submitted to the national commandant for appropriate action.

Department of California

The Department of California met to conduct its three-day department convention. The first day of the convention was to conduct department BOT and staff meetings. The second day was to go on a tour and to observe a MCRD San Diego graduation ceremony and to conduct the business portion of the convention. The third day consisted of wrapping up department business and the nomination and election of new officers. This was concluded with a banquet Saturday night which included a change of command ceremony.

Department of Nevada

The Department of Nevada met to conduct its two-day department convention. The first day of the convention was used to conduct department officer staff meetings. The second day was to conduct the business portion of the convention and to nominate, elect, and swear in the team of new officers and the new BOT. The dignitaries at the convention included Bob Borka and Jim Loorya. The business topics included the upcoming national convention, 100th anniversary ribbon and challenge coin, H.Q. USPS mail situation, life membership dues increasing on 1 July, 2023, national website and training for officers.

Southwest Division Conference

The regular meeting of the Southwest Division occurred on May 6, in Las Vegas. A roll call of officers determined that the meeting contained a quorum according to the national bylaws. Dignitaries included National MCL Commandant Johnny Baker, Chief Devil Dog Alan Sanning, National Aux. Vice President Dottie Sanning, Young Marine Regt. Commander 2nd CA Regiment Jose Escarsega and Department Commandants: Roger Smith, Arizona; Juan Pascacio, California; Susan Malone, Nevada were in attendance. Training was conducted and awards were later presented. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclswdivision.org



VA Vet Center display

Challenge 22

Fundraising for those At-Risk



Memorial Day Detachment 468 member Jim Rayburn, committee chairman Jim Wicker.

**By Dave Brisbane, Commandant,
Memorial Day Detachment # 468**

Twenty-two American service members and veterans commit suicide every day. Suicide prevention is a problem without a clear answer. Veterans need a variety of resources to combat the latent stress, anxiety, and depression that can often follow their service to our country. It is not emotional issues alone that contribute to veteran suicide. Often family, home, and employment problems are contributing factors. Providing veterans with a wide range of resources to fight issues they are working through is crucial to healing.

Organizations are taking action to make an impact on those that need our support. In 2022, the Memorial Day Detachment # 468, Marine Corps League (Department of New York) and American Legion Post 256 of Canandaigua, New York teamed up to host a suicide pre-



The event brought out some classic cars in support.

vention and awareness event at the Legion post. In 2023, the event has grown to a coalition consisting of the American Legion, American Veterans (AmVets), Marine Corps League (MCL), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA).

The 2023 event featured a two-mile walk, car show, food trucks, live music,

silent auction, and even a motorcycle ride around Canandaigua Lake. We had selected four local organizations that provide services to veterans that help to prevent depression and other issues that may cause an individual to contemplate suicide. All organizations had representatives present at the event to provide information and answer questions.



The Challenge 22 Army display.



Live music was played for six hours at the event.



Live music was played for six hours at the event.

We had a great turnout and raised money from registration for the walk, event T-shirt sales, silent auction items, and donations. Sponsorships and items for silent auctions were solicited from around the area to support the cause. Sponsors were designated as gold, silver, and bronze and contributors based on the amount of their donation. Gold sponsors were also placed on the event T-shirts sold at the event. Expenses were covered by the coalition of veteran groups and volunteers from those organizations did all the preparation and work required on the day of the event.

The funds raised from the event support local organizations and the Challenge 22 coalition of veteran organizations established a committee to determine where the funding goes. We have supported Canandaigua VA, Equicenter, Warrior Salute, and the Marine Corps Coordinating Council.

We have created a fun annual event that makes direct impact on the unsolved problem. We hope to not only continue it into the future, but also hope other communities will join in this effort every June. **Semper Fi!**



Challenge 22 at the American Legion post.



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11 – 25 Aug	Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague
12 – 20 Aug	79th Anniversary of Op Dragoon
18 – 28 Aug	Ireland–ND vs USNA in Dublin Belfast & Derry
25 Aug – 6 Sep	D-Day, Normandy & Battle of the Bulge
9 – 20 Sep	All England “God Save the King”
20 – 29 Sep	Turkey—WWI Gallipoli Campaign & Istanbul
30 Sep – 6 Oct	MHT’s Civil War “North to Gettysburg”
20 – 27 Oct	Belgium—Waterloo—WWI—Dunkirk
1 – 13 Oct	WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust
8 – 21 Oct	D-Day Plus Battle of the Bulge & Paris
26 Nov – 7 Dec	Vietnam “Delta to DMZ” / 7-14 Dec Laos & Cambodia
4 – 11 Dec	Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites

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2024 TOURS

17 – 29 Feb	Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue/Operation Houston
TBD Mar	79th Anniversary of Iwo Jima - “Reunion of Honor”
9—19 Apr	Philippines – WWII in the PI
13 – 26 Apr	“Saigon to the DMZ” -60th Anniversary Battlefields of Vietnam
13 – 26 Apr	Friends & Families Vietnam “Saigon to the DMZ”
18 – 27 Apr	Turkey—WWI Gallipoli Campaign & Istanbul
18 – 27 May	WWI US Battlefields in France “Doughboys & Devil Dogs”
31 May – 13 Jun	80th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris
31 May – 8/9 Jun	80th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris
TBD Jul	Korean War & Service Veterans Return
31 Jul – 8 Aug	Guadalcanal 92nd Op Watchtower
3 – 16 Aug	Vietnam “Delta to the DMZ”
6 – 18 Aug	Vietnam 55th Anniversary Return to I-Corps
11 – 18 Aug	80th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon – South of France
9 – 23 Aug	Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague
23 Aug – 4 Sep	“In the Footsteps” D-Day, Normandy, Battle of the Bulge & Arnhem
5 – 18 Sep	All England Tour “God Save the King” & 8th Air Force-WWII
28 Sep – 10 Oct	“Body & Soul” U.S.N. Corpsmen, Nurses, Doctors & Chaplains in Vietnam
29 Sep – 11 Oct	WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust
6 – 19 Oct	D-Day 80th Commemoration Plus Battle of the Bulge & Paris
TBD Oct	Ireland – Dublin, Belfast & Derry
18 – 25 Oct	Belgium - Waterloo – WWI – Dunkirk
24 Nov – 5 Dec	Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 6-11 Dec Laos & Cambodia
3 – 9 Dec	Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites



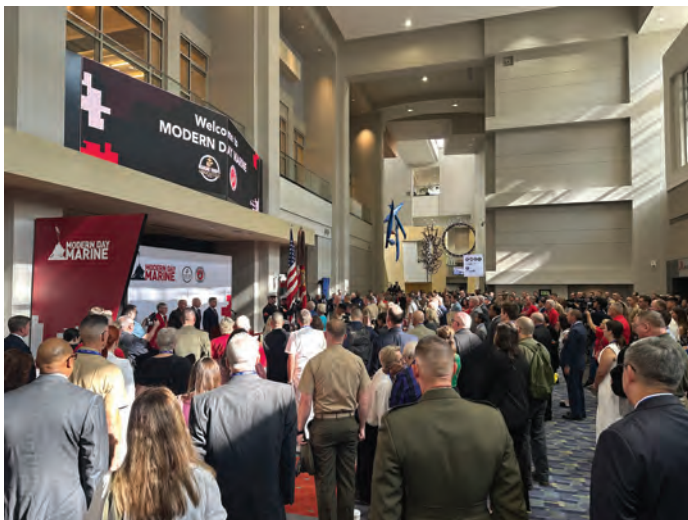
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SCENES FROM MODERN DAY MARINE 2023

The Modern Day Marine Military Exposition was held June 27 – 29, 2023 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. The event was co-hosted by the Marine Corps League and Marine Corps Association.



The Dickey Chapelle Award is presented to Senate Armed Services Committee Staff Director Elizabeth King. Left to right: MCL National Commandant/CEO J. Baker, CMC Gen Berger, E. King, and MCA President/CEO Lt. Gen. Chiarotti.



The opening ceremony for Modern Day Marine Military Exposition 2023 with the color guard of the Marine Corps and a Quintet from the President's Own.



The Toys for Tots mascot stopped by the MCL Booth at Modern Day Marine. Left to right: J. Stone, D. Tobin, J. Baker, Toys for Tots mascot, J. Hughes, P. Weston, H. Schaeffer, L. Solarczyk.

SCENES FROM MODERN DAY MARINE 2023



Enlisted Awards are presented to six Marines by MCL Commandant J. Baker, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Troy Black. Left to right: Sgt. Maj. Black, Sgt. Doss, Sgt. Garcia, HM1 Soriano, Staff Sgt. Neff, Gunnery Sgt. Porter, Gunnery Sgt. Hausmann, Gen. Berger, J. Baker.



A remarkable team of patriotic volunteers represented the Marine Corps League each day of the show. Our team was highly visible, allowing easy access to the guests for guidance. The Marine Corps League sincerely appreciates their dedication!



Marine Barracks Washington Silent Drill Platoon perform an exchange of weapons for inspection with remarkable timing during the Marines Luncheon & Awards Ceremony. Col. T. Mundy from the Marine Corps Association and Foundation in the background was the master of ceremonies for the event.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



The NC Foothills Det. 1164, presenting the Distinguished Citizens Medal, Silver to Dr. Frank "Doc" Sincox for decades of service to the Navy/Marine Corps as a flight surgeon, his community as a physician, and as a Marine Corps League member. Left to right, Larry Hammet, Todd Carpenter, Frank Sincox, Bob Cabaniss, Tony King and Larry Hall Sr.



Temecula Valley Young Marines representative of Det. 1057 Adjutant Theresa Aguilar Receiving a \$500 check in support of TVYM Program.



The PFC Giordano det. proudly honored the two remaining charter members of our detachment, Marine John Heath and Marine Thomas Ferriola in August, 2023.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



On June 3, 2023, the 13th annual Percy John Fulton Marine Corps League Mud Run was held at the Jomeokee Park and Camp Ground in Pinnacle, NC. The 5K course consisted of over 15 obstacles that included: 4 mud pits, ice hole pit, "Ho Chi Minh Trail", "Mount Suribachi" rope climb/walk of shame, slip & slide, logs and tires, meat grinder, wooden walls and "A" frames, cargo net climb and grenade throw. During the 6 hour event, 904 participants (41% increase from 2022) between the ages 4 and 76, hailing from across the U.S., navigated the obstacles and got "dirty" for a good cause. MCL #1075, Winston-Salem, N.C., began the annual event in 2010. For more information, visit www.usmcmudrunnc.com Above: And They Are Off!!



The Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Det. held another successful Rose Fund at Publix Supermarket Winthrop Town Center Riverview, FL on September 16th. Pictured presenting a certificate of appreciation are, left to right, Bill Matthews, the store manager and det. Adjutant Jack Skelding.



Active members of the Dan Daly Det. 858 of Lexington Kentucky. From left to right are David Carter, age 96, Ray Estes, age 94, and Frank Matthews, age 92.



Who: Sgt. Bell the Rapper, and Gulf War Era U.S. Marine Veteran is preparing for the 2023 Toys for Tots event, his 26th year of promoting the Marine Toys for Tots Organization through Hip-Hop, which is celebrating its 50th year. A Felton, Dalaware native, 57-year-old Marine Veteran LaFayette Bell Sr. aka Sgt. Bell the Rapper is starring on the upcoming Philadelphia, Pa. premiering faith-based comedy feature film "Wannabe a Star" and has helped promote Toys for Tots for 26yrs but actually started collecting toys with then DE Governor, and now US Senator Tom Carper, in 1992 as a USMC reservist. Bell has written rap Jingles and a rap songs for the toy collecting and donation effort with the jingle being covered by Soft Rock Singer Sara Brand. Toys for Tots recordings from both artists are also streamed on VNR-1 through the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Above left: Singer Sara Brand of Felton, DE, and Sgt. Bell the Rapper. (Diamond State Records) Above right: A few of the toys we helped to get donated in Kent County De. during the 2020 COVID pandemic. (Diamond State Records)



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Photo courtesy of the United States Department of Defense. The DOD does not endorse any company or their products or services.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Commandant Bill Moore and several officers of the detachment designated Marine Robert Field as an Honorary Marine Corps League member of the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Det. on Monday July 10, 2023. Robert is under Hospice care and he had served in Vietnam as a member of 3/3 in 1964-65.



Patriot Det. 1230 presented a certificate of appreciation August 17, 2023 to Ken Weiler, owner of Richboro Beer & Soda located 1078 2nd Street Pike, Richboro, PA. Ken Weiler has graciously allowed the detachment over the years to sell raffle tickets in front of the premises that benefits veterans and youth programs. (Peter Palestina)



Members of Det. 1110 (Sandpoint, ID) surround the 2023 MCL scholarship winner, Zachary Engelson .

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

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

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

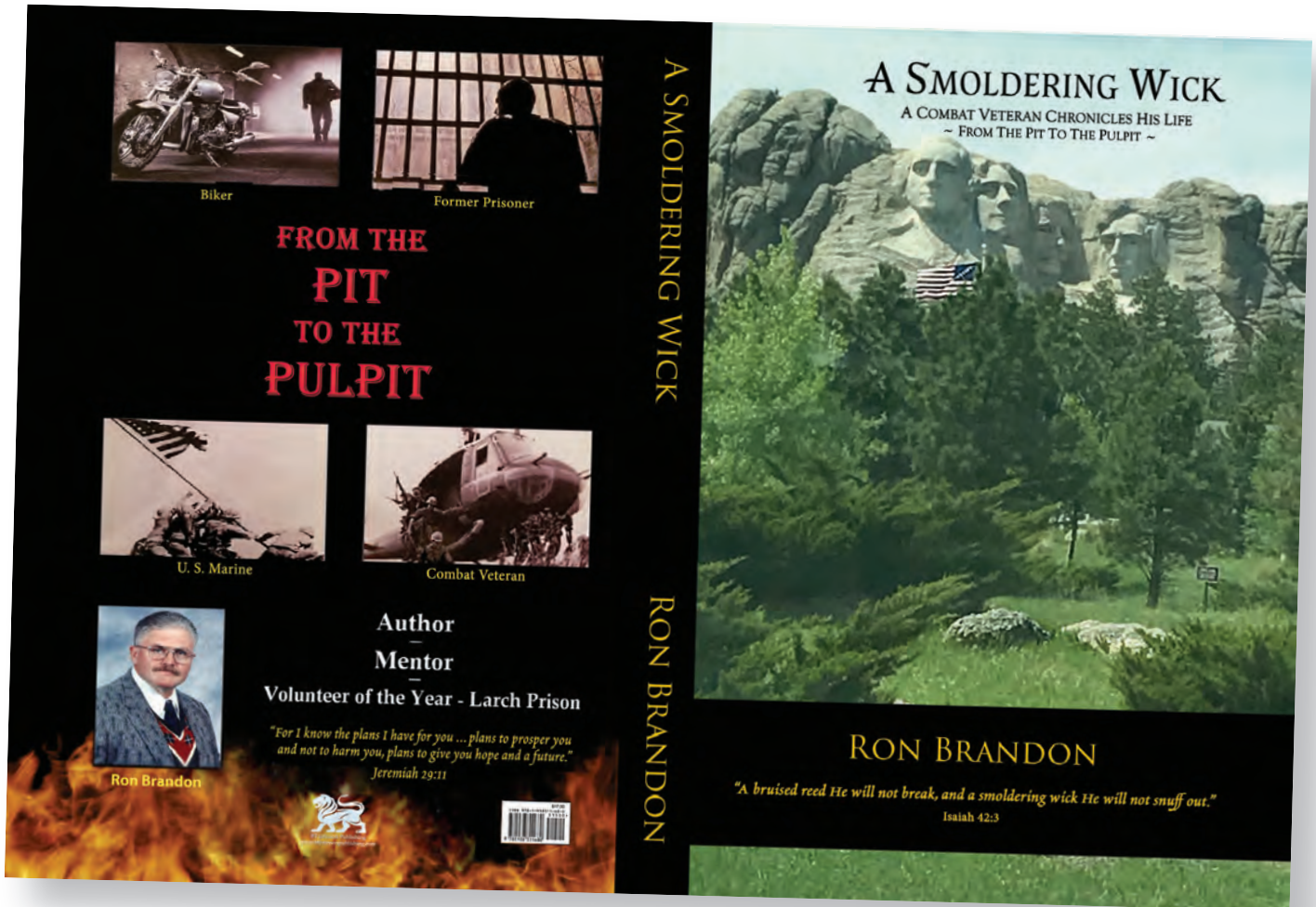
NOTICE TO MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENTS!

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



A Smoldering Wick A Combat Veteran Chronicles His Life From The Pit To The Pulpit

Ron Brandon walks us through the immense challenges in his life. The reader is captured by the easy flowing text in this well-written book. The author expressed helpful lessons and made it a difficult book to put down. More than anything, it shows the power of forgiveness, patience, and faith. A great read. The book is available through BTJohnson Publishing.

A Smoldering Wick

Author: Ron Brandon

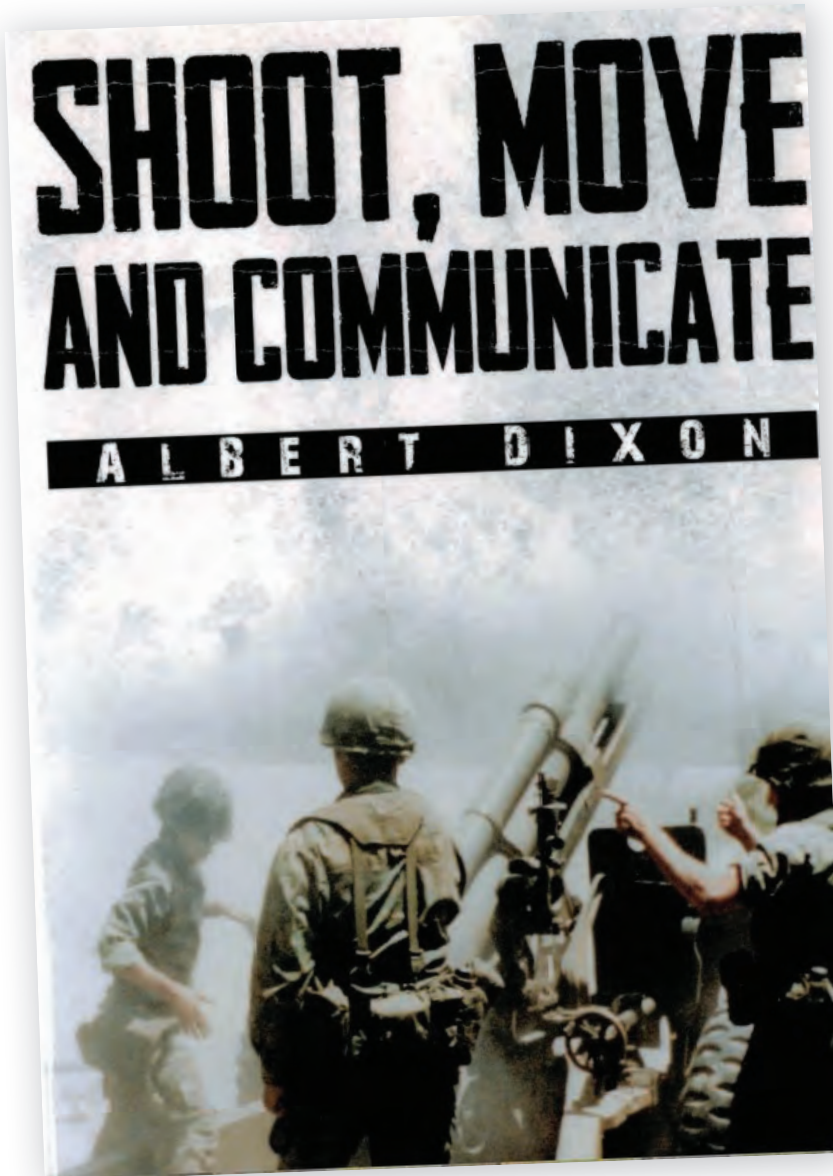
Pages: 301

Publisher: BTJohnson Publishing

ISBN: 978-1938311680

BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA



Shoot, Move, and Communicate

Author: Albert Dixon

Pages: 370

Publisher: Olympia Publishers
London

ISBN: 978-1788308939

Shoot, Move, and Communicate

Marine Corps veteran Albert Dixon spent time as an artillery instructor at Camp Pendleton. As the author served time in Vietnam, he recognized the need for changes in artillery procedures. The story is an interesting perspective from those providing outstanding fire support missions to the troops. While each person on the battlefield has a different point of view, the intent is for it to all work together for mission accomplishment. This book is a great read and adds to the overall picture of the battlefield.

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

REUNIONS

5th MarDiv Association 73rd Annual Reunion

Date: 4-8 Oct.

Location: San Antonio, TX.

Details: Contact Tom Huffhines at 817-296-6487 or email: thuffhines74@gmail.com. Veterans of all services are welcome to attend this reunion honoring the service of Iwo Jima Marines of the Fifth Marine Division.

2024 Marine Embassy Guard Association (MEGA) Reunion

Date: 16-18 May 2024

Location: San Antonio, Texas

Details: The Marine Embassy Guard Association (MEGA) will host its 2024 reunion in San Antonio, Texas, from Thursday, May 16 through Sunday, May 19, 2024. Come reconnect with former embassy Marines to celebrate the rich traditions of the Corps and the Marine Security Guard (MSG) Program. All are welcome. For more information, contact MEGA Chairman of the Board Bob Lighty at bob.lighty@embassymarine.org or (717) 433-1105.

TAPS

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RONNIE M. BEVERLY
AL CHANCEY
TIM COLVARD
GEORGE W. LAWSON
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Attention Chaplains!

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

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Death Notification Policy

Headquarters Marine Corps League receives frequent calls regarding the passing away of members. Calls vary from loved ones who wish to stop the magazine delivery to detachment members looking to help. The policy has been that detachment chaplains fill out, sign and

submit a death notification form to their respective department chaplains who then forward it on to Headquarters' membership department. This policy has not changed but will be better adhered-to in the future. It is the only way a person's name will appear in the TAPS section of *Semper Fi* magazine.

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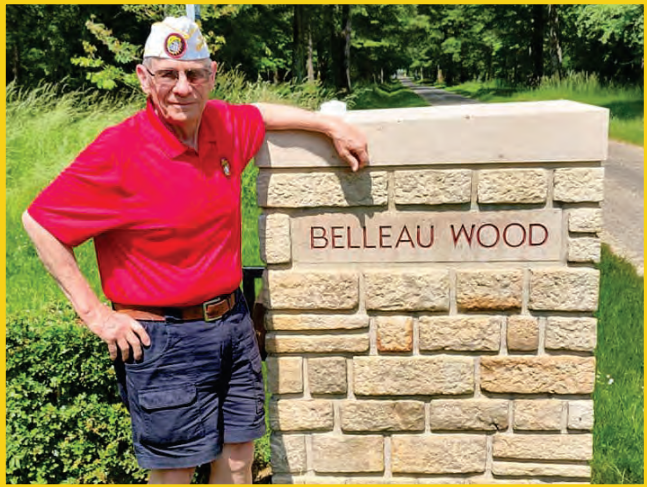
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Retraction
 Sandy Seymour
 is alive and well!
 Our apologies for
 reporting his demise.
 Respectfully,
 Bob Borka
 National Executive
 Director/COO
 Marine Corps League

Belleau Wood—WWI



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26 Nov – 7 Dec
 Vietnam War
 “Saigon to the DMZ”

1 – 8 Dec
 82nd Anniversary WWII Pearl
 Harbor, Honolulu & Waikiki

17 – 29 Feb 2024
 55th Anniversary of the
 Vietnam War— I-Corps &
 Battle of Hue City & Tet

★ 13 – 26 Apr 2024
 MCL Return to Vietnam
 “Saigon to the DMZ”

31 May – 13 Jun 2024
 80th Anniversary of D-Day &
 Battle of the Bulge & Paris

30 Jul – 9 Aug 2024
 Guadalcanal 82nd & Tarawa

3 – 16 Aug 2024
 Vietnam “Delta to the DMZ”

UPCOMING TOURS

6 – 18 Aug 2024
 Vietnam War “All of I-Corps”

6 – 19 Aug 2024
 “Body & Soul” US Navy
 Medical & Clergy in the
 Vietnam War

9 – 22 Aug 2024
 Rise & Fall of the Third Reich:
 Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg-
 Dresden-Prague

12 – 20 Aug 2024
 80th Anniversary of Operation
 Dragoon – South of France

23 Aug – 5 Sep 2024
 “Longest Day” D-Day, Nor-
 mandy & Battle of the Bulge

18 – 27 Sep 2024
 WWI US Battlefields in France
 “Doughboys & Devil Dogs”

29 Sep – 6 Oct
 WWI & WWII in Belgium –
 plus Waterloo & Dunkirk

10% MCL
MEMBER DISCOUNT

USMC Veteran Owned & Operated Since 1987

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Tuesday, December 5th 2023 at
11:00am
Marine Corps League National
Headquarters

Tree of Lights



Proceeds to benefit the
United States Marines Youth Foundation

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 :

<https://usmarinesyouthfoundation.org/> throughout year of 2023.

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

\$500 Red Light

\$250 Gold Light

\$100 Blue Light

\$50 Green Light

\$25 White Light

\$10 Clear Light



Registration Form

Person or Organization giving the Light _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

TYPE OF GIFT:

IN HONOR OF _____

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

IN MEMORY OF _____

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

YEAR-END GIFT to the United States Marines Youth Foundation

TYPE OF LIGHT:

___ \$500 Red Light

___ \$250 Gold Light

___ \$100 Blue Light

___ \$ 50 Green Light

___ \$ 25 White Light

___ \$ 10 Clear Lights

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send with your check payable to:

U. S. Marines Youth Foundation

3619 Jefferson Davis Highway

Suite 115

Stafford, VA 22554

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

Questions? Please call (717) 420-0623

THE SEMPER FI STORE

(703) 207-9588 the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com



100th Year Anniversary Coin, Double Sided

Item Code: 100Coin
Price: \$10.00



USMC Flag

Item Code: G42

Description: 3'x5' Poly/Cotton Marine Corps Flag One-sided w/Grommets (Made in USA)
Price: \$15.00



100th Anniversary Ribbon

Item Code: M100bar
Price: \$6.00



MCL 4" Patch

Item Code: WA12

Description: Round MCL Logo Patch
4", Red on White

Price: \$10.00



Belt Buckle for White Honor Guard Belt (ONLY BUCKLE)

Description: Waist Plate Duty Anodized Gold for Use w/
Belts: u50, u51, u52, u53
Price: \$59.00



Ratchet Belt

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



USMC Black 4" Patch

Description: Black 4" Round Patch w/ EGA "UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS"
Price: \$5.00



USMC Blue 4" Patch

Description: Blue 4" Round Patch w/EGA "UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS"
Price: \$5.00



USMC Red 4" Patch

Description: Red 4" Round Patch w/EGA "UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS"
Price: \$5.00



Red MCL Polo

Item Code: WA121
Description: Red Polo Shirt Without Pocket, Marine Corps League w/EGA on Front (100% polyester)
Price: \$33.00



Black MCL Polo

Item Code: BlackPolo
Description: Black Polo Shirt Without Pocket, Marine Corps League w/EGA on Front (100% polyester)
Price: \$33.00



Quilted USMC Red Jacket

Item Code: WA17, WA24, WA111
Description: Quilted Red Satin Jacket w/U.S. MARINES Down Front
Price: (\$89.90 SM-XL) (\$98.45 2XL) (3-5XL 100.75)

MCL Travel Mug

Item Code: CUP1
Description: Travel Coffee Mug w/MCL Logo
Price: \$5.00



Canvas Rain Cover

Item Code: RainCover2
Description: Black Waterproof Canvas Rain Cover for MCL Covers
Price: \$15.00

THE SEMPER FI STORE

ORDER FORM

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Ste 115 ▪ Stafford, VA 22554 ▪ (703) 207-9588

Billing Address

Shipping Address

Name

Street

City State Zip Code

Phone Number

Name

Street

City State Zip Code

Email

Code#	Quantity	Item Description	Size	Price Each	Total Cost

HANDLING & POSTAGE	
AMOUNT OF ORDER.....	CHARGE
UNDER \$10.....	\$7.99
\$10.01-\$25.00.....	\$8.99
\$25.01-\$35.00.....	\$10.99
\$35.01-\$50.00.....	\$11.99
\$50.01-\$65.00.....	\$12.99
\$65.01-\$85.00.....	\$13.99
\$85.01-\$100.00.....	\$14.99
\$100.01-\$200.00.....	\$16.99
\$200.01 AND UP.....	\$18.99
STANDARD SHIPPING: Shipping and handling charges for orders with Standard Shipping are calculated using the SUBTOTAL of the order. Some very heavy or oversized items may have a shipping surcharge which will be reflected in the item description.	

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

WE GLADLY ACCEPT

VISA MASTERCARD

DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

NAME _____
 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 _____

2024 BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

THE MCL GEARS UP FOR THIS YEAR'S DRAWING!

In 2024, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (miltours.com) will offer the battlefield tour for a Marine Corps League Member as the winner of the League's Tour raffle. The winner will receive a trip for two.

Tickets: Marine Corps League 2024 Battlefield Tour Raffle.

One Grand Prize: Trip for Two Free Tour.

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

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

Raffle tickets cost \$5 per single entry or five tickets for just \$20! That's right, the more you buy, the more you save and the more you help the League. The drawing will be held at our annual Mid-Winter Conference Banquet in 2024.

You do not need to be present to win. Winners will be notified within 3 days of drawing if they are not present, and arrangements will be made with Military Historical Tours for selection of their tour prize.

Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990. You may buy as many tickets as you like. Please feel free to make additional copies of these raffle tickets if you wish to purchase additional chances!

2024 Tours

4-16 Feb

Tet Offensive/Battle of Hue

20-27 Mar

Iwo Jima-Guam 78th Anniversary Reunion of Honor

11-21 Apr

Philippines - WWII in the P.I.

15-28 Apr

Vietnam War "Saigon to the DMZ"

15-28 Apr

Friends & Family Trip to Vietnam

20-29 May

Doughboys & Devil Dogs France WWI Battlefields

31 May-13 Jun

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

31 Jun-8 Jul

79th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

31 Jul-8 Aug

Guadalcanal 91st Op Watchtower

Continues Next Page

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2024 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE

**\$5 per entry or
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One Grand Prize: Trip for Two Free Tour to anywhere MCL's tour partner (Military Historical Tours) travels.

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Continued From Previous Page

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Historical Tours for selection of tour prize.

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Phone

Email

31 Jul-8 Aug
Guadalcanal 91st Operation Watchtower

5-18 Aug
Vietnam War "Saigon to the DMZ"

8-20 Aug
Vietnam War "All of I-Corps"

12-20 Aug
79th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon – South of
France

11-25 Aug
Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-
Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague

23 Aug-7 Sep
Ireland – Fighting Irish vs USNA Mids in Dublin plus
Belfast & Derry

25 Aug-6 Sep
"In the Footsteps" D-Day, Normandy, Battle of the
Bulge & Arnhem

28 Aug-7 Sep
Vietnam 55th Anniversary Return to I-Corps

9-20 Sep
All England Tour "God Save the King"
& 8th Air Force-WWII

20-29 Sept
Turkey WWI Gallipoli Campaign

1-13 Oct
WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust

8-21 Oct
D-Day Plus Battle of the Bulge & Paris

TBD Oct
Italy WWII: Rome-Salerno-Amalfi-Sorrento-
Florence-Venice

20-27 Oct
40th Commemoration of the Beirut Barracks
Lebanon

26 Nov-7 Dec
Vietnam "Delta to DMZ" Post Tour: 9-14 Dec Laos &
Cambodia

4-11 Dec
Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites

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Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Phone

Email



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

is a member in good standing of

This card is good for a period of sixty days from

Sponsor's Signature

Amount



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email Address _____
 Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ____/____/____ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ____/____/____

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

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

-OR-

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

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

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy FMF Sailor who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service." ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received.) General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

(Sponsor where applicable)

Applicant's Signature (see reverse side)

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 All other use is prohibited.

Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment. Applicants for MAL Membership, remit this form with check or money order in the amount of \$30 to: Marine Corps League, National Headquarters P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990.



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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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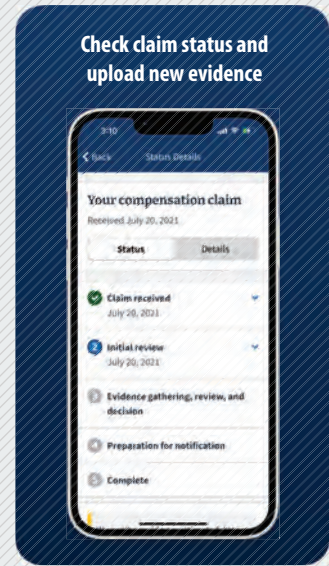
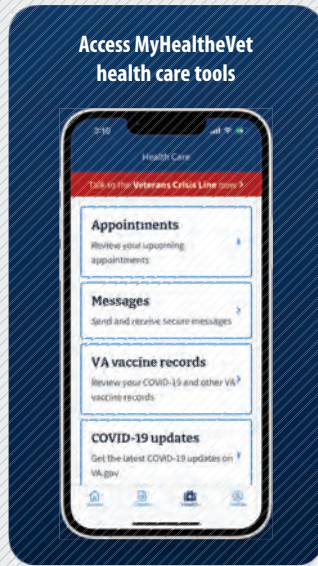
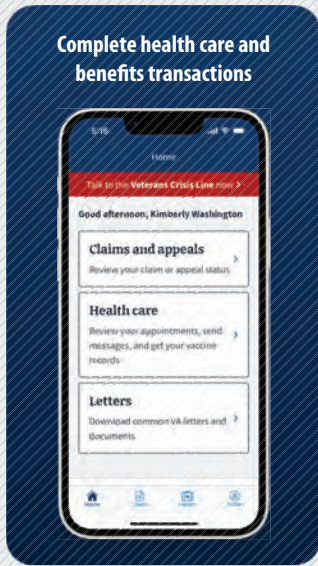
Signature _____

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SAVE TIME BY DOWNLOADING THE VA HEALTH AND BENEFITS MOBILE APP

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



FEATURES INCLUDE:

BIOMETRIC SIGN-IN

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

PROFILE

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

APPOINTMENTS

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

FACILITY LOCATOR

- » Find VA facilities and services near you.

PAYMENTS

- » Review payments made to you by the VA.

EASY ACCESS TO COMMON VA DOCUMENTS

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

CLAIMS AND APPEALS

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

MEDICATION

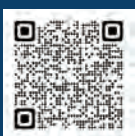
- » Check medication status
- » Refill prescription medication

SECURE MESSAGING

- » Communicate privately with your VA health care team.

VA VACCINE RECORDS

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



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



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



MODERN DAY MARINE®

EXPOSITION & CONFERENCE

APRIL 29–MAY 2, 2024

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400+ exhibitors, product demonstrations and industry briefings covering the latest in emerging military equipment, vehicles, technology and training systems.



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