

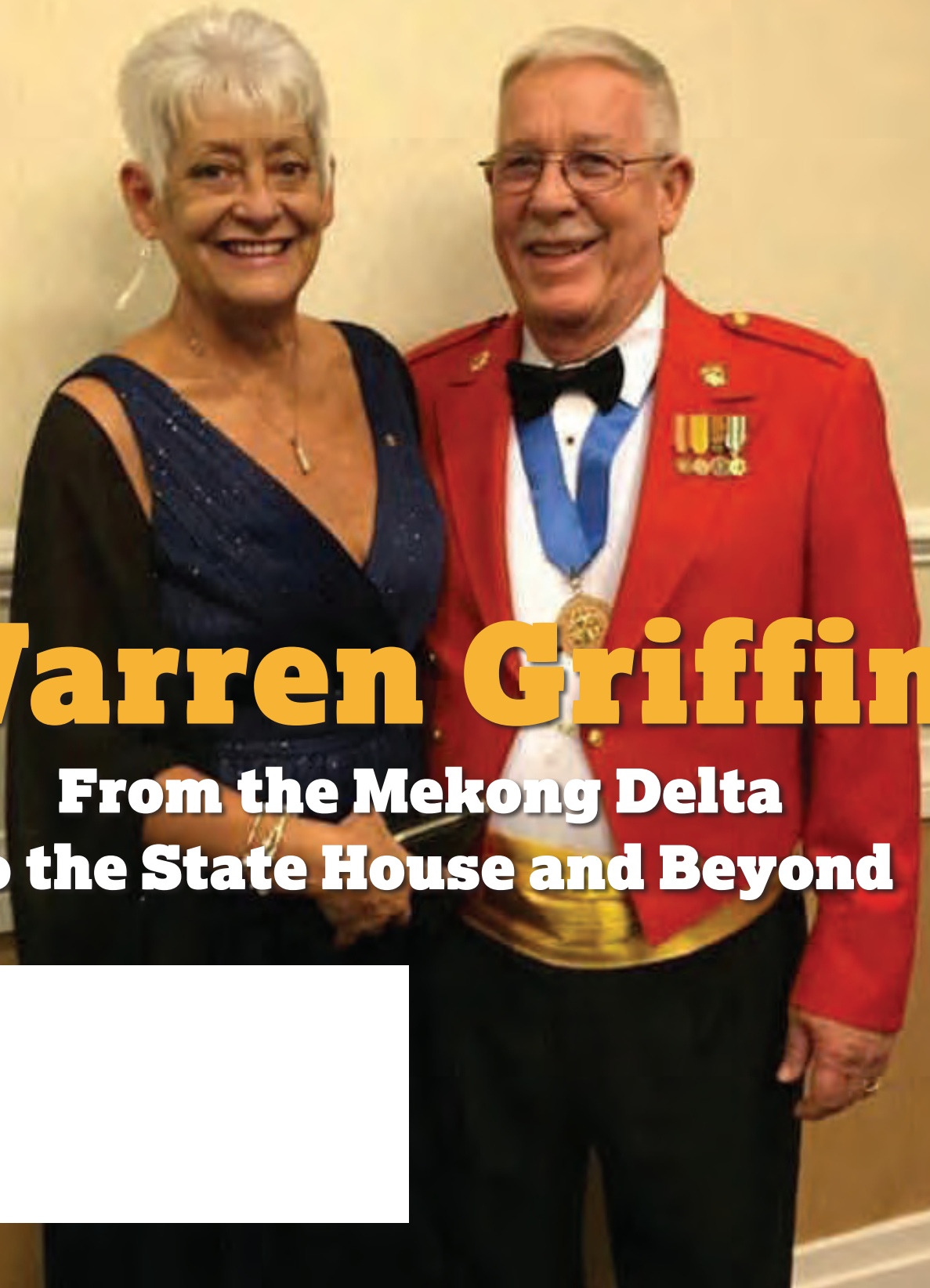
ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 80 No. 1 • WINTER 2024

SEMPER PARATI

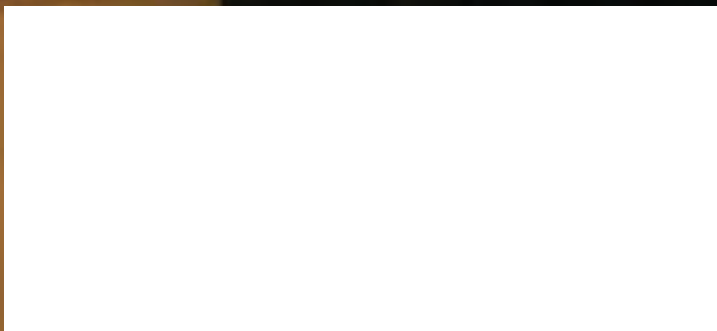


The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



Warren Griffin

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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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Meet the Marine Corps League’s new National Commandant Warren Griffin, shown on the cover with his wife, Cheryl. Read our interview with Griffin starting on page 26.



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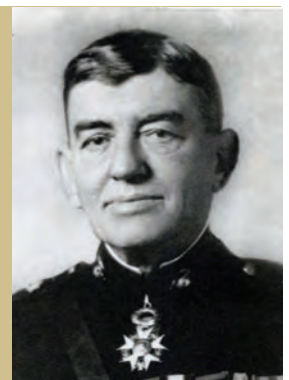
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Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune (\’LUH-jern\), the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States.



NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

WARREN "GRIFF" GRIFFIN

Together, We Are Making a Difference



MARINES: Thank you all who worked hard to make Toys for Tots successful once again. You have made a significant difference in many children's lives. Thank you all for your time. As an organization we can be proud of this mission. Do not forget that Toys for Tots also has a reading element which we are supporting kids' year-round. The simple expression, "readers are leaders," carries forth for our youths.

Our efforts to grow our Youth Physical Fitness Marine Corps League program is well on the road of reaching across the nation. This program is hitting a need which is so desperately called for. Children today do not meet the physical fitness levels they had in past generations. Schools should welcome our program. It will help children challenge themselves, and, hopefully, will bring awareness to the benefits of better fitness. Thanks to PNC Johnny Baker, Past Chief Tom Hazlett, Sean Patton, and TJ Morgan for putting the framework together for a successful launch.

We now have a member of our staff who will be working with you to navigate your VA claims, Tom Mueller. Welcome aboard, Tom! We look forward to providing you with many new clients. Please spread the word that we can now process claims for our members' benefit. Many people are not aware of their earned benefits. Contact the office and begin the process or continue an already submitted claim. Let our Marines and Navy personnel know that we are there for them. We take care of our own. This process can have life changing effects for the veteran and their family.

Please note on the National website under the National Committees there is a new committee: Help A Marine Save a Life (HAMSAL). We are trying to put together an immediate site for people to go to when they are dealing with a Marine in crisis. There are many support services, but when immediately faced with a crisis, most people do not know where to turn. We hope this will be a significant help and better serve our brothers and sisters. Equine therapy has been evolving over the years and many members are working with this program. My hope is that we can unite these programs throughout the nation under one site so that resources can be shared. Member Ed Carr is working on this now. Brian Gillespie has been organizing HAMSAL on his own for some time now and now we are joining him to promote this well-needed effort.

We are well underway marching into our second hundred years. Together we are making a difference. **Semper Fi!**



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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

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National Commandant: Warren "Griff" Griffin

National Executive Director/COO: Bob Borka

Executive Editor

Bob Borka

General Manager

Deborah L. Shea

Publisher

Megan Vukodinovich

Senior Editor

Rob Curtis

Art Director

Chipotle Publishing, LLC

Production Coordinator

Stefani Fong

Administration

Sara Lund

Advertising Representatives

Megan Vukodinovich, Jayne Wynes

semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com • Ph: (702) 565-0746

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO

BOB BORKA

We Are Looking Good, Marines!

MARINES: There is so much good being done in our communities. The Marine Corps League is out in force making a positive impact. It is heartwarming to see the Roll Call submissions. I want to provide some rudder-guide. Submissions go to: semperfi@chiptlepublishing.com. The photos are forwarded to a couple people for review and approval. Here are some things to look out for that may help in your preparation:



Be cognizant of what is around the photo being taken, especially the background. Ensure members are not wearing things on their uniform that would cause the photo to not be used (like wearing medals on the undress short sleeve white dress). If you send photos that contain persons under

18-years old, ensure to have a signed waiver from parent or guardian allowing the photo to be used.

Please do not submit photos of newspapers, news casts, billboards, or published materials as these are subject to copyright. It would be more beneficial to write your own article (do not plagiarize) and submit it with the photo of the event. People frequently send books for review. When I ask them for an image of their book cover, I also ask for written permission to use the image. A high-resolution image looks nice in the magazine.

We look forward to seeing the community service, Toys for Tots campaigns, funeral honors, supporting our active and reserve Marines, and other great things you are doing. Keep the photos coming. *Semper Fi!*

NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF EVENTS AND VETERAN SERVICES

TOM MUELLER, USMC (RET)

Take Advantage of All that You've Earned



MARINES: I am honored to join the Marine Corps League as your national director of events and veteran services. As a 26-year veteran of the Marine Corps, the League's mission is near and dear to my heart.

In my new role, I look forward to helping Marines secure and maximize the benefits available to us by law. Personally, I used my VA home loan guaranty to purchase my first home, applied for my VA disability benefits upon retiring from active duty, and took advantage of my education benefits to earn my master's degree. However,

after completing a veteran service officer course (VSO), I was reminded that there are many other benefits available to veterans and eligible family members, but sadly I've learned from talking to Marine veterans that many

Continued Next Page



Honorary National Commandant

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

Marine Corps League National Board Of Trustees

National Commandant

Warren "Griff" Griffin
NationalCommandant@MCLeague.org

National Sr. Vice Commandant

TJ Morgan
TMorgan@MCLeague.org

National Jr. Vice Commandant

Russ Miller
RMiller@MCLeague.org

National Judge Advocate

David Porter
DPorter@MCLeague.org

Jr. Past National Commandant

Johnny Baker
JBaker@MCLeague.org

National Vice Commandants

Central Division

Mike Sturch
MSturch@MCLeague.org

Northwest Division

Mike Flynn
MFlynn@MCLeague.org

Midwest Division

Rick Thomason
RThomason@MCLeague.org

Rocky Mountain Division

Tom Krueger
TKrueger@MCLeague.org

Midwest Division

Joe Hughes
JHughes@MCLeague.org

Southeast Division

Jerry Holt
JHolt@MCLeague.org

New England Division

Pat Maguire
PMaguire@MCLeague.org

Southern Division

Angela Maness
AManess@MCLeague.org

Northeast Division

Mike Waluk
MWaluk@MCLeague.org

Southwest Division

Jim Loorya
JLoorya@MCLeague.org

EVENTS AND VETERAN SERVICES

From Previous Page

of them have not applied for their benefits. I look forward to improving our veteran services program. If you have suggestions that may help with this mission, I would love to hear from you! With your help, the Marine Corps League can become the most trusted VSO for educating and aiding all U.S. military veterans and their families obtain the benefits they have earned through service to our nation.

During the two-plus decades I performed with and lead Marine Corps bands, I developed a deep appreciation for our customs and traditions and am honored to have participated in significant ceremonial events that touched the hearts and minds of our audience. It is with great pride that I joined the team that produces the annual Modern Day Marine Expo and Symposium. The Marine Corps League and Marine Corps Association co-host this important event that helps connect product developers with service leaders to ensure the Marine Corps has the best tools available when they need them. We have already begun the planning process for Modern Day Marine 2024. The 44th annual Modern Day Marine looks to be bigger and better than last year's event.

NATIONAL PR COMMITTEE

RAY MORRELL

Branding – Be aware of what you ‘post’!

MARINES: Branding, in the ranching world, leaves a mark. Branding, in the marketing world, also leaves a mark. But the branding mark in the marketing world can travel faster and further than one can fathom – especially if it's a negative impression. For the purpose of this topic, we are going to focus solely on social media branding – your Marine Corps



League (MCL) detachment/department Facebook (FB) ‘page’ and Instagram (IG) page.

Social Media Page Names Currently, there is no consistent application in the naming of detachment and department social media pages. We see MCL detachment social media pages use just an abbreviated word for detachment and include their detachment number (example: FB/detach123.com). This does not say who you are, nor does it provide a good search ability for people to find you.



A solid name for your social media site should reflect exactly what you are (Marine Corps League) and who you are (L/Cpl John J James Detachment #123), this is the first step in branding. We

suggest/request all MCL detachments and departments label their pages according to the following template: **MCL-L/Cpl John J James Detachment #123**. If it's a department page, we suggest/request that you name it as follows: **MCL-Dept of Alaska**. Why? It allows people searching for anything they may know about you to show results about you AND it allows all who see your pages to know exactly who you are. When you have renamed your Facebook page, go into your page settings; edit the page username so it reflects your detachment/department name and not the random number generated by FB; (example: the MCL national FB page is facebook.com/mclnational).

Social Media Posting Content The MCL National Public Relations Committee monitors over 500 Facebook pages and over 200 Insta-

BRAND <i>Brand is you and how others perceive your business.</i>	VS	BRANDING <i>Branding are things you do to manage and influence your "brand".</i>
Brand is ...		Branding is...
Operational		Visual
Your Purpose		Your Logo
Your Mission		Your Colors & Graphics
Your History		Your Website & Social Media
Your Story		Trendy Swag & Merch
Your "Why we do what we do."		Advertising Campaigns
The Products or Services You Provide		A Marketing & Communications tool
The Emotions People Associate with Your Business		The Management of a Brand's Meaning

gram pages. When posting to your page, the most important focus is to promote the MCL and your local detachment or department. We see so many pages that post nothing but USMC stuff, or post sexual or derogatory content. How will these types of posts help grow the MCL and your detachment?

Social Media Posting Interval When it comes to social media, post regularly! If you do not post on a consistent basis, or if you have a social media with no activity, it shows the viewers that you don't do much of anything – it's always first impressions... It doesn't hurt to post a lot – as long as its relevant and helps to promote the MCL and your detachment or department. To post nothing or to post nothing that is relevant to the MCL is only hurting our brand!

Branding! In today's world of web-based information, social media platforms are where people go – show your best face and **BRAND OUR IMAGE AND MISSION! *Semper Fi!***

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USMC Men's Camo Hoodie

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and a full front zipper. The hoodie is available in 5 sizes, medium to XXXL. Imported.

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Name (Please Print Clearly)

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Please allow 6-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment.
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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE FOUNDATION

The Many Ways We Help Marines In Need

MARINES: The Marine Corps League Foundation has a blocked scholarship fund which assists funding the Marine Corps League's Scholarship Program. These scholarships are granted to the children and grandchildren of Marines who have lost their lives in service to their country and to children and grandchildren of members of the MCL and its Ladies Auxiliary. Applications are encouraged by League members from every state and the local sponsoring detachment is responsible for determining that the applicant(s) it is sponsoring have demonstrated through activities or interviews that values such as respect, attitude, patriotism, and self-discipline are held.

In addition to scholarships, the Foundation supports the educational activities of the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League and the Youth Physical Fitness Program of the Marine Corps League. The Young Marine of the Year is awarded recognition in the form of funds to further their education. The Youth Physical Fitness National Team Competition is held annually, and top scoring male and female teams and individuals are recognized with

cash awards.

In the area of humanitarian aid, our philanthropic endeavors are realized with grants to individual Marines and families of Marines who are in a difficult position due to circumstances beyond their control. The needs are verified by local MCL officials, who often rally local members to provide additional assistance as needed.

The Foundation is funded through a variety of fundraising activities as well as individual and organizational donations. The Foundation has been recognized and accepted by the Combined Federal Campaign and donations are received through that agency. The Memorial Certificate/Plaque program and donations from members and detachment, department, and auxiliary units from around the country provide the balance of our funding.

We welcome all who share our values of honor, courage, commitment, and Marines helping Marines and investing in the youth of our country by encouraging their development as good citizens. Please join us in these worthy endeavors with your participation and contributions to any extent you are able. **Semper Fi!**

YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

YOUNGMARINES.ORG

Young Marines are Active and Thankful!

MARINES: A big thanks to the MCL members who attended and supported our annual R. Lee Erney Memorial Golf Tournament at Quantico in September. We had national, regional, and local representatives on deck for a fine day of golf and camaraderie. This was the big wrap up fundraising event for our fiscal year. Once again, Sgt. Maj. Overstreet was able to gather several former Sergeant Majors of the Marine Corps along with the new SMMC, Sgt. Maj. Ruiz, and the new Senior Enlisted Advisor to the chairman, Sgt. Maj. Black. Wow, this retired colonel had no lack of advice and guidance to be sure. Plus, everyone definitely stayed off the grass (when not on the links).



Young Marines remain active across the country year-round, and fall is no different. We celebrated our 58th year of incorporation on October 17th. Thanks, again, to the Marine Corps League for starting this amazing program in 1959, with incorporation in 65, and then spinning us off to grow on our own in 1980. We were fully engaged with Drug Demand Reduction education efforts through-

out most of October. As you have all heard me brief, the threat of drugs is worse now than ever. With over 77,000 Americans dying in 2021 and 2022 from Opioid and Fentanyl overdose, we must educate our kids now to stop these senseless and unnecessary deaths. Youth educating youth is the most powerful way to get this message passed and Young Marines is the largest single youth program with this mission as a program pillar. We supported Veterans Day activities, the Marine Corps birthday, Pearl Harbor Remembrance, Toys for Tots, and Wreaths Across America again this year. Whew, everyone was pretty tired by Christmas, but then again, we have three leadership schools planned over the Christmas break. Our mission does not stop.

I, again, thank the members of the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary for your continued support of our program and mission. As our largest supporter, we hope every Marine and Auxiliary member takes pride in seeing their Young Marines supporting community events and going off to be outstanding citizens. I look forward to seeing many of you at Midwinter, back in DC again after a few outstanding years in Norfolk. In the meantime, please reach out to me or our HQ staff with any questions or concerns. Better yet if you want to start a new Young Marine unit, we are always ready, willing, and able! **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY

LINDA S. CHAMBERLAIN

NATIONALMCLA.ORG

WELCOME 2024!!



AUXILIARY AND LEAGUE MEMBERS:

Did you make a resolution on New Year's Eve that you probably by now have either not acted upon yet; put off 'til tomorrow; started but have not continued; or have completely forgotten about? I didn't and don't. Why? Because I don't believe in making resolutions. One rarely keeps them, anyway. So, each new year, I try to make a new promise to myself... something achievable.

One of my promises this year is to continue to work as the Marine Corps League national president, stressing the need to detachments and auxiliary units to work together, whether it be in planning a department convention, refreshments following a meeting, or helping with fundraising efforts. Neither of us can achieve our goals without working as a team. Remember there is no "I" in TEAM (Together Each Achieves More).

Just think how much easier things would be with an extra set of hands. If you don't have an auxiliary unit affiliated with your detachment, reach out to either me or your division vice, who will be happy to put you in contact with their counterpart on the auxiliary side.

There are those of you who are not interested

in having an auxiliary unit affiliated with your detachment, and you are happy to have your wives as associate members. Well, now might just be the time to rethink that concept. Remember, there is strength in numbers, and just think how many more people you could reach as a united

front. Case in point: My detachment (in which I am proud to say I am an associate member) had the opportunity to have a table at a veteran's expo. The commandant asked if I thought the auxiliary might also like to have a table. Without hesitation, I said yes. Our tables were side-by-side; we both spoke to visitors about the uniqueness of our organizations and were able to network with various other vendors. Did either of us gain a member that day? That is yet

to be seen, but the point I am making is we did it together as a TEAM.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Mid-Winter Conference at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA, on Feb. 22-24, 2024, and am looking forward to the planned trip to the Marine Corps Museum. **Semper Fi!**



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CHIEF DEVIL DOG

ALAN SANNING, 60TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG

Dog Days Mean Big Bone Donations!



MARINES: By the time you receive this issue of *Semper Fi* we will be through the holiday season. I hope it was a fantastic one for all; beginning with an *Esprit de corps* filled 248th Marine Corps Birthday celebration shared with Marine brothers and sisters followed by Veterans Day observances.

During October, I had the pleasure of attending the Midwest Division Gathering of the Dogs hosted by the Missouri pack in St. Louis. There were dogs from 17 states, from the east to west coast and over 100 in attendance, counting spouses and guests. Keeping with the general format of the previous two kennel sponsored gatherings in Maryland and South Carolina, the focus was on fun and camaraderie with a very lively hospitality suite opening on Thursday afternoon. There were five workshops on Friday followed by a growl in the evening, along with two additional workshops on Saturday; all workshops were open to any interested attendee.



With the St. Louis BBQ Society donating all of the food for Friday's lunch, and Aramark food services donations of food and beverages, I understand the pack only had about \$200 big bones in out-of-pocket expenses for the hospitality suite. It was a great job by all hands including the workshop presenters, several from out of state, as well as those running the hospitality suite. I have a special shout out for DD Jim Breen who brought his laser engraver and seemingly worked non-stop engraving dog tags or whatever else people wanted engraved and made a donation to the Kennel Children's Hospital Fund. WOOF-WOOF!

Speaking of donations, with the generosity and participation of those attending the gathering, another \$4,050 was raised for the Kennel Children's Hospital Fund bringing it up to \$35,594.83. All of you dogs out there working to help the children are making a significant difference, as the fund is almost \$15,000 above where



Everyone eagerly hoping that PDD Reggie Sawyer doesn't mess up while reporting at the Gathering and get fined!

we were at this same time last year. WOOF-WOOF! Keep up the great work. It will be exciting to see what we end up with for the children in August.

Kennel online raffles continue to do well with your participation and sharing of raffle links and information. The raffle being drawn on January 14, 2024, is a bit of a change up as it is our first non-fire-arm raffle and there will be three tickets drawn for first, second, and third place prizes. Scroll down the homepage at militaryorderofthedevildogs.org to find current raffle information and tickets.

Soon many of us will be at the Mid-Winter Conference and Mini-Growl in Arlington, VA and I look forward to seeing you in the mini-growl on February 23, 2024; it is open to ALL dogs. In the meantime, keep doing great things, have fun and pray for our brothers and sisters serving in harm's way.

Semper Woof!



NJ, SC, MO, PA & WI Packs well represented at the Gathering.



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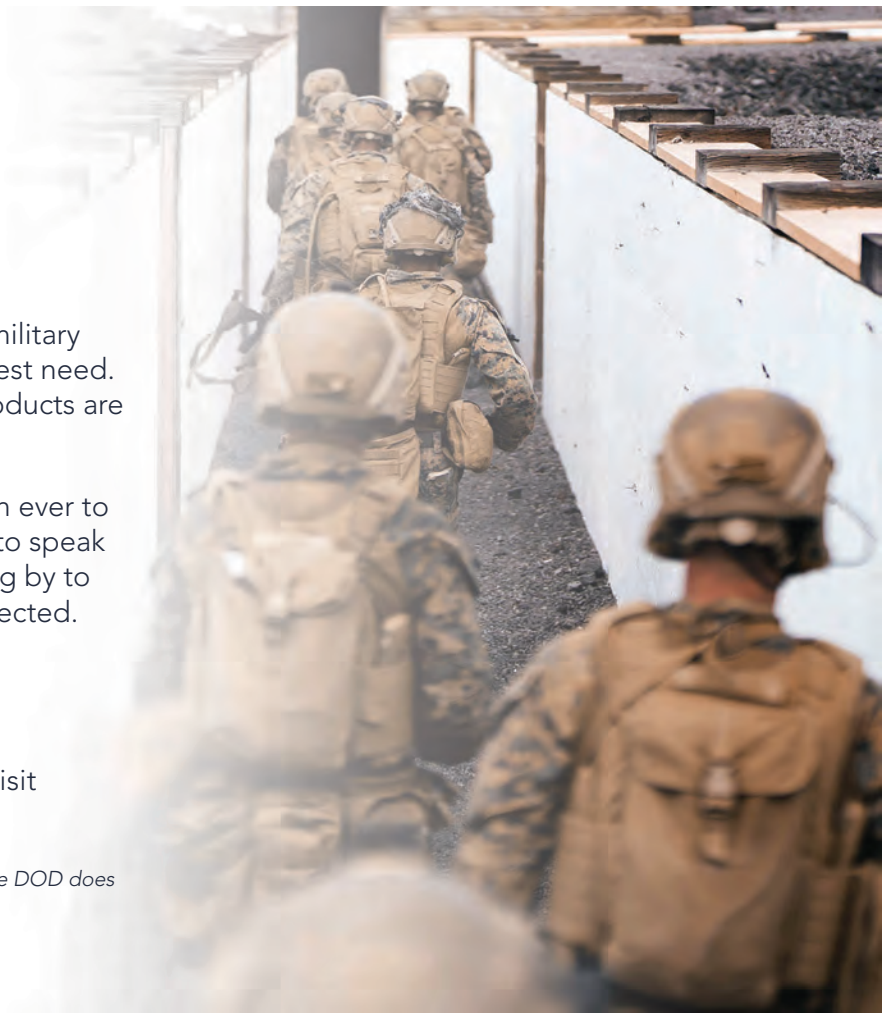
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NAMED IN HONOR OF



Staff Sgt. Eugene S. Sara

Detachment 418

Billings, Montana

The Eugene Sara Detachment 418 was formed on February 22, 1978, and named in honor of Staff Sgt. Eugene Sara. Our namesake was born on October 17, 1925, in Butte, Montana, to parents Edward and Marie, growing up in the Great Falls and Marysville areas. Father Edward served this country honorably as a U.S. Marine. Sara commenced his military career joining the Navy during WWII. Later, he joined the Marine Corps where he served as a rocket division leader during the Korean War. Bravely serving his country, Sara was awarded the Purple Heart and was recommended for the Bronze Star. Upon his return from Korea, he was hospitalized in Seattle, Washington, suffering from malaria.

After his discharge, Sara attended

St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa. In 1965, S. Sgt. Sara joined the Montana Fish and Game Department as a game warden, serving in the Billings, Montana area, where he made many life-long friends with Marine veterans. In 1973, he was transferred to Thompson Falls, Montana. As he was inclined to do, Sara rapidly made friends and became known as a dedicated game warden, who firmly enforced game laws and demonstrated a compassion for wildlife.

On January 17, 1974, local law enforcement received a domestic disturbance call that a man had a gun and was going to hurt someone. Sara heard the gun call and, true to the traditions of all peace officers and Marines, he went where help was needed. The first officer on the scene was shot and killed

before exiting his patrol car. Warden Sara arrived on the scene, saw the armed suspect, and pulled his pickup in front of the gunman's vehicle. Sara was shot before exiting his truck. Even though mortally wounded, he continued the fight, returning fire. The gunman was then shot dead by a third deputy sheriff. Sara succumbed to his wounds while being transported to the hospital.

Sara exemplified the ideals and principles of the United States Marine Corps in both word and deed, giving his life in service to his fellow citizens and law enforcement officers. Sara was posthumously awarded the American Federation of Police Medal of Honor. His name now appears on the National Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. **Semper Fi!**



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NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

DAVID PORTER

Tomorrow is Another Day

MARINES: I will give you my all to try to motivate and challenge you to do your best. Your greatness is not what you have, but what you can give. So, I challenge you to be 1% better than you were yesterday. For tomorrow will be a new day to start fresh with a new positive attitude.

As Marines, attitude is everything and everyone had a different reason for what motivates them to take that first step forward to start that journey to earn the title "United States Marine." We took an oath that will stay with us forever. We cannot forget what was taught and learned. As General James Jones said, "Marines are built through the ethos of struggle and sacrifice." We carry our tradition and history with pride on our shoulders and in our hearts.

As Marines, we love to stand out. Most of us either wear something or have a decal on our vehicle to represent we are Marines. The honor and pride run deep in our veins, so we joined the Marine Corps League. To simplify things, the only piece of uniform that is required to wear for the Marine Corps League is our red cover. If WWII Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams was proud to wear the Marine Corps League cover, how come we cannot follow his example. Be 1% better.



As technology evolves, our communication strengthens. Most of us improvise and use the internet to stay connected and to communicate with others. Social media is a phenomenal way to stay current with friends and share what is going on. But just like everything else, there can be a drawback. Some like to be keyboard warriors and bring some negativity to the table. We can be better than that and I ask you that you have patience and

be the proud Marines you are. The old saying, "treat people how you would like to be treated" applies. Be 1% better.

One last way to strengthen our communication is to please use your chain of command. I've heard that the communication chain has been disconnected at times at different levels. Keeping the leadership informed from detachment to department to the division or vice versa will assist in having the league run smoother. To end this, I would like to ask a simple question, who does not know the password to get into the members library?! **Semper Fi!**

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

JOHNNY BAKER

Understanding the Board of Trustee Mission

MARINES: There is often a misunderstanding of the role and makeup of the board of trustees. At the national level, there are fifteen national BoT members that run the business of the League. These board members are a source of experience, knowledge, and special abilities to help make sound, legal, and good decisions on behalf of the League. Besides this, each member of the BoT has the fiduciary responsibility of running the League, just as they do at each detachment and department.

At the detachment and department levels, normally there are five board of trustee members: the commandant, senior vice commandant, junior vice commandant, judge advocate, and junior past commandant. Some departments and detachments may have other BoT members if it so states in their bylaws as well as if they are elected positions. Associate members cannot be on a BoT. Do not confuse the BoT members with that of other staff members, which can be associate members.

It's the detachment and department BoT that conduct the business of their respective units. Although the ultimate responsibility rests on the shoulders of the detachment and department commandants, it's imperative the commandant should seek the advice of the other BoT members. It's imperative that the commandant not only seek the advice of their BoT members but maintain a positive



decorum in conducting League business. Whenever a commandant fails to seek the advice of their board members, they are operating in a vacuum and fostering a lack of transparency.

The detachment and department BoT has an important role in the success of the League. The BoT is extremely important at all levels of the League. If they are allowed to use

their experience and knowledge of the League in assisting their respective commandant, the League and their unit will be stronger and more viable to their communities and the League as a whole. The BoT should be allowed to help, plan, and advise their respective commandants in conducting the business of the League. I will leave you with a quote from Patrick Lencioni, "Building a cohesive leadership team is the first critical step that an organization must take if it is to have the best chance of success." Think about that as a detachment or department commandant, are you seeking out your BoT member's experience, knowledge, and advice to make sound decisions? **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

TJ MORGAN

So Long, Norfolk. Hello DC!

MARINES: The statement that time flies faster when you get older is a fact! It just seems like last week that we attended the national convention and now the Midwinter conference is just about here. Let me start by addressing the change of location of the Midwinter Conference from Norfolk, VA to Washington, DC. Besides being very close to a major airport and (if you're flying in like me) this move cuts one connecting flight off your schedule. The location of the Sheraton Pentagon City is in a place that's both historical and meaningful. I took a trip there not too long ago and got to my room, opened the window and was looking at the very site where the tragic attack occurred on 9/11. It gave me pause and I took some time to reflect on a very tragic part of American history.

Russ Miller and I ventured on a 5-minute walk around the corner to Henderson Hall and did some shopping at the exchange. The hotel will host our Midwinter conference for the next 2-3 years and the staff could not be better.

What is Midwinter... and do we need it? My vote is we need it. It is a large staff meeting, so to speak. This is a chance for



department commandants and staff to really drill down into topics and discuss things that we can do to fill our ranks and learn new things. It's also a time to have one-on-one discussions with your elected leaders in an environment that has way less hustle and bustle than the national convention. I would like to challenge each of you to reach out to all those leaders in attendance, introduce yourself, and start a

discussion about the success and failures you've had within your department or detachment. Part of why you're here in the MCL is the comradery, so take advantage of that and meet new Marines and members. I always enjoy talking with a fellow Marine, or any veteran, for that fact!

I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and will have a prosperous New Year. See you in DC! **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

RUSS MILLER

Sometimes It Takes a Few "No"s to Get to "Yes"

MARINES: From our earliest years as an organization following WWI 100 years ago, when our country was ill prepared to understand and support our predecessors that wore the cloth of our nation as they came home bloodied, broken, and still doing battle with the aftereffects of the horror of war still raging inside their minds, to those soon thereafter from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Beirut, Desert Storm, and all of the other skirmishes and battles in-between up to and including these past 22 years; our current generations have returned home from the War on Terror likewise still internally at war battling the demons of their experiences. I only wish I had taken advantage of the camaraderie of this brother/sisterhood back in 1987 when a group of Leaguers from General J.C. Breckinridge Detachment 10 invited me and other Marines from our barracks to join them. However, all those years ago, as a young hard charger, I didn't think I needed to hang around with a bunch of "has-beens" or be part of anything like the League.

The question now is how do we best pass the word to the next generations of our fellow Marines and FMF Navy personnel who have not yet found out what they're missing out on?

I think back to when my wife and I waited tables in our restaur-



ant and asked customers if they wanted guacamole and sour cream on their chimichanga. When they said no, we didn't hang our heads in defeat and go back to the kitchen and cry because we had suffered from some great rejection. Fortunately, we'd learned that in sales, it often takes a few no's before you get a yes. I knew first-hand from my own experience how great it tasted and I had the opinions of many other customers that reinforced my

opinion. We never stopped making the offer and occasionally folks would change their mind and give it a try. Translate that to us recruiting in the League. When we invite one of our "Same Team" (Marines) to join our "New Mission" (League), they may not yet feel the need, have the time, or envision the future benefit. But that should never stop us from continuing to try to reach them. I finally joined because a detachment quartermaster called and emailed me once every month for a year and promised to buy my first SOS breakfast if I'd just show up. **Semper Fi!**

MCL NATIONAL YOUNG MARINES LIAISON

ANGELA MANESS

Thirteen Folds of our Flag

MARINES: A constant theme within the Young Marines mission statement is to honor our veterans and their families. One of the many ways we show our reverence for veterans is when we perform the 13 Folds of our Flag ceremony. The Young Marines in this photo are demonstrating the proper folding of our flag in tandem with the narrator who is reciting the meaning of each of the thirteen folds.

The 13 Folds of our Flag presentation is a symbolic passing of the thirteen truths. While I have seen many variations of this presentation, this one is most common.

The 1st fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country.

The 4th fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to him we turn in times of peace.

The 5th fold is a tribute to our country.

The 6th fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed



forces that we protect our country and our flag against all its enemies.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and mothers. For it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion have molded the character of

the men and women of this great country.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the father, the son, and the holy spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God we trust."

Please ask your local Young Marines unit to participate in the next patriotic event within the Marine Corps League and allow them to honor your service! **Semper Fi!**

MCL NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE

RAYMOND S. MORRELL, CHAIRPERSON

What do I wear to the Marine Corps Ball?

MARINES: It's my honor to serve as chairperson of the Marine Corps League (MCL) National Uniform Committee. In this position, I seek to bring more clarity and less confusion for the members. I believe there are several items that strongly impact the current temperament surrounding the MCL uniform:

- The difficulty in reading and understanding the existing MCL Uniform Guide.
- The inability to readily access the MCL uniform guide.
- The availability of too many outdated publications giving erroneous information.
- The lack of consistent training and awareness of the MCL uniform guidelines.
- Lack of outlets members can get proper MCL uniforms and accessories.
- An underlying apathy of the MCL uniform.

As the MCL National Uniform Committee (NUC) Chairperson, I will work with the committee to:

- Re-affirm the mission and purpose of the NUC.
- Seek input across the MCL for improving the presentation of the existing MCL Uniform Manual and invite input on MCL uniform changes.
- Based on input, work with the NUC in developing recommendations to the MCL national commandant and the national board of trustees.
- Develop clear, concise, and complete language with applicable imagery for dissemination of a completely revised MCL Uniform Manual.
- Work with the NUC to seek input of proposed changes using stakeholder sessions (such as of presentations at MCL division conferences and



department conventions) with the effort to achieve understanding and buy-in of the proposed changes while also addressing questions and providing enhanced awareness of the MCL Uniform Guide.

- Produce downloadable Powerpoint presentations for the MCL national library website along with multiple training videos for our MCL National YouTube channel serving as a resource for detachment/department meetings and individual members.

• Work with the NUC to develop additional, comprehensive training that can be implemented and updated, with ease, for future needs.

• Work with MCL Ships Store to better showcase MCL uniform items (with clearer naming and classifications) within the MCL Ships Store website.

The NUC will work to streamline the existing MCL National Administrative Procedures Manual Enclosure 3 – MCL Uniform Guide; and will also work to create and submit to the MCL National Board of Trustees a proposed standard operating procedure for a renewed uniform manual. **Semper Fi!**

Your MCL National Uniform Committee: Raymond Morrell (ND), chairperson, Jeffery Jones (NC), Ivania Mungia (CA), Alison Noger (MD), Bob Sheppard (NJ), Lisa Solarczyk (PA), Mike Waluk, ex-officio BoT liaison

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DIVISION REPORTS

Open Minds Make a Stronger League



Mike Sturch
NVC, Central Division



MARINES: We all know that it's usually the 10% that does everything. But why is that? Are the other 90% just too busy with life, or just straight up lazy?

I would venture to say not the latter, or they wouldn't even bother with a membership. So it must be that they are busy with other endeavors. That's ok; we all have a life outside of the League. But they chose to become a member for a reason. So, let's give them one.

Most of our detachments and departments have many projects, events, or objectives throughout the year we are trying to achieve and maintain. One person cannot do it all. Make it worthwhile for someone to step up and volunteer. If they have an idea, listen to them. It may seem like it won't work, and it may not, but try it anyway. I cannot count how many times I have

heard or been told "that won't work" or "we tried that years ago." Times change. People change. Don't be so dismissive to an idea that you turn away a valued member, or a possible diamond in the rough. Try the changes and see what happens. The worst-case scenario is that you go back to the old way.

To the members who are "just" members (and hopefully reading this!); why haven't you been involved? If it's due to other obligations, I get it. We all have them. But if it's a matter of not being heard, or feeling unappreciated or not fitting in, then talk to someone. If you don't like the way your detachment works, do something about it. Run for an office and get involved. Work on changing it for the better.

To the current officers – be open minded about new ideas.

Don't get stagnant in the idea that "this way has always worked," or "this is the way we've always done it." Again, times change. Ensure your members, ALL your members, know what's happening. A newsletter or a simple email blast to everyone works wonders. You just may see some new faces, or some you haven't seen in years, start to show up at your events, saying something like, "I didn't know we did this."

Communication is always important.

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

Respecting Those Around You Benefits Us All



Rick Thomason
NVC, Mideast Division



MARINES: I am not sure, but I think it's a generation thing. I still hold the door open for my wife of 54 years, or any other female. I walk between her and traffic when we are on a sidewalk. I don't drop the "F bomb" with every sentence.

Yes, I'm "old school" but that has nothing to do with being old. It is about having respect for those around you.

I was taught that respect isn't something you expect from others if you're not willing to give it. I cringe every time I hear a parent using profanity in front of their children. Then you wonder why they go to school and are reprimanded for their use of the words they were taught. Is that the vocabulary they will use at a future job interview? Is your daily language the same you'd use when speaking to a priest, rabbi, minister, or any other religious leader? How do

you know the person next to you is not one of those individuals? Is this what the world has come to expect? Movies no longer have a filter on language. Sexual content is expected. The real world is bad enough that I don't need to pay to see a movie that portrays every man as a stud and every woman as easy.

I know I will never again see the world I grew up in return. My generation will cease to exist in a few years and the things I have spoken of will continue. I remain a Marine and occasionally drop a word I know a preacher would not approve of, but I do not do it when I think it may offend anyone who's in reach of my voice. The absence of profanity offends no one. So, what has this to do with the MCL? It is all about respect for yourself and all those around you. The last portion of your oath of membership reads, "And that I promise to govern myself 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." Don't forget to who you made a promise to. **Semper Fi!**

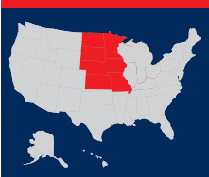
Division Website: mclmideast.com

Effective Meetings Are the Key to Effective Organizations



Joe Hughes

NVC, Midwest Division



MARINES: Team alignment is essential for detachment leaders to make strategic decisions, analyze options, and set goals and priorities for the detachment. If officers don't confer and meet with each other, initiatives can be delayed, and goals can be missed. Officer meetings also provide time for leaders to brainstorm and hear each other's successes and challenges. You will find creative solutions and unlikely sources of what could be your next big project.

It's no secret that team meetings get a bad reputation... but the best officers are still having them. Why? Because they know that meetings are one of the most effective tools to showcase their leadership, make important decisions, and strengthen relationships across their team.

Meetings are there for you to both push information (share news, changes, key messages) and pull information (gather feedback, check the team's temperature, and hear fears and rumors that haven't made it to you otherwise), especially when that information requires additional context.

To hold effective meetings, you need to know why they're necessary in the first place:

- create and maintain a detachment calendar
- ensure team alignment
- strengthen relationships and team cohesion
- share information and encourage discussion
- exchange feedback about projects and ideas
- showcase leadership and motivate
- review status of current task assignments

Well-structured, efficient team meetings help ensure that all team members understand their role and the priorities they should be focusing on. This also includes committee assignments and monthly follow-ups. The most important thing, of course, is focusing on getting things done. Increase productivity by helping everyone on the team prioritize their tasks for the upcoming month and future calendar events.

In any organization, conflicts and disagreements are bound to arise. Officer meetings provide a structured platform for addressing and resolving these issues. By allowing officers to openly discuss conflicts, find common ground, and seek solutions, these meetings can prevent disputes from escalating and damaging the organization's overall morale and performance.

In conclusion, officer meetings are a cornerstone of effective leadership and organizational success. They provide a forum for decision-making, communication, accountability, and conflict resolution among leaders. By regularly convening and addressing important matters, officers can ensure that their organization remains focused, adaptable, and aligned with its mission and values. Officer meetings are a vital tool for maintaining strategic direction and achieving long-term success. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

Will You Standby or Stand By?



Patrick Maguire

NVC, New England Division



MARINES: As we enter 2024 and we reflect on what we, as an organization, have achieved, the biggest achievement was celebrating the league's 100th anniversary. As you can imagine, a lot has happened over those years and as the league keeps moving forward, there is reason to believe it will be around for another 100 years.

An organization of any kind being around for 100 years is significant, a lot of time and energy is poured into it by many people. There are members who are looking forward to the next hundred years and are putting time and energy in to help it succeed, those are the ones who will standby and not one who will stand by.

Members who "standby" are ready and willing to assist accomplishing the mission on behalf of their detachment/department. They like a challenge; they want to

get involved to help and support local veterans and their families.

Then you have members who "stand by," as in watching and not getting involved with any of the events put on by the detachment or department. It's a volunteer organization, I understand that, and no one is obligated to put in a certain number of hours. You have that choice. I get it. Having said that, we are all in this together.

Just doing a little will help everyone including your fellow members and the recipients of the cause. We have different reasons why we joined the Corps, but we joined the League because of the Corps. We needed to find that camaraderie we had while serving; we missed having that bond; we missed being around like-minded individuals. Whether it's five minutes or five hours, try to attend the next rose collection, Toys for Tots, or member picnic. You'll be glad you did, and you just might be inclined to do a little more. During my days as a girls' softball coach, one thing I would always tell my team, you'll only get out what you put in. I hope to see you at Midwinter. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclnederland.com

DIVISION REPORTS

Leadership Development Benefits Us All



Mike Waluk

NVC, Northeast Division



MARINES: When we look at the Marine Corps League yesterday and today, we find ourselves moving toward a more modern business model. Leadership was always a “top down” process. Today, it’s more about empowering our members to make sound decisions and facilitating independent forward mobility to accomplish individual and organizational goals.

One primary role is to get the members working together effectively in pursuit of the defined objectives. We leaders need to understand and utilize the strengths of the individual and the group dynamics of the team while creating an environment that is conducive for all. Communication is key to having this come to realization – especially during challenging times.

As we continue to remain competitive in a fluid environment, as a veteran service organization, we need to recognize the importance of having strong leaders. Strong leadership impacts the entire organization, especially as it pertains to increasing productivity and growth, maintaining retention, and, above all, improving teamwork and driving member engagement.

Leadership development is equally important both for leaders already in a leadership role as well as for those who aspire to be leaders. We are the arbiter of developing the confidence and skills necessary to move our organization onto an even higher plane. We should prepare such potential candidates to step up into advanced roles while ensuring a continual channel of competent individuals, putting into effect a solid strategic plan of succession.

Developing leaders not only benefits the League—it also benefits those who take on the challenges and inspire others to follow their lead. The individual then becomes more productive and engaged and is likely to form an even stronger bond within the League. Organizations that recognize the value of what well-trained leaders can bring to an organization understand that developmental leadership can, and will, make a difference to overall performance and achievement of goals as well as having a League that will thrive in the future.

Simon Sinek, author of *Leaders Eat Last*, looks at the progression of organizational hierarchy and how it’s applied today. He explains how, in prehistoric times, a leader kept the tribe from brawling over food, and in return, they got to eat dinner before everyone else. Today, the dress code may have changed, but the expectations have not. To a certain degree, we Marines are willing to cede certain perks to our officers if they hold up their end of the bargain. Step up when it matters and protect the group.

President John F. Kennedy once wrote, “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” Good leaders never stop growing. No matter how much they’ve learned or how confident they are, they know that there is still much more to learn. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: nedmcl.org

Detachments, Share Your Victories!



Mike Flynn

NVC, Northwest Division



MARINES: As we come into February and our annual mid-winter conference, it means we’re already halfway through our Marine Corps League year. It’s a good time to run a check on what we hoped to accomplish coming out of our convention in Oklahoma City, where we celebrated our 100th year. Every convention provides so much information that it can be hard to wrap our head around it all.

I am always excited to return to my detachment with what I’ve learned so we can discuss all the changes, elections and how much fun we had. We also discuss what things we learned that will help us, and we try setting a few goals we can achieve. Mid-winter is the perfect time to rate how you’re doing on those new goals. Are your efforts effective? If so, what aspects are and how can we use those successes to

help other programs? If not, what adjustments can we make to get us back on track?

Think about this, how are you letting others know about your successes? Does your detachment have a newsletter? Have you included those items in your report from your detachment to your department and on to your division? Let us know of your goals and how you reached them. Explaining how you accomplished your goals may be just what another detachment needs to help realize theirs. **Semper Fi!**

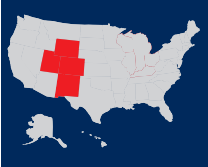
Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org

Reflect on the Holidays and Take Care of Our Own



Tom Krueger

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division



MARINES: By the time you read this, we should be through the Marine Corps Birthday Ball season, I would like to wish you all a happy Marine Corps birthday! As Thanksgiving and Christmas are quickly approaching, we need to remember the meaning of these important holidays, and what they mean to every one of us. Never forget those members of our military that are deployed around the world.

I have asked each department commandant to look at ways to increase their membership and retention within their departments for the upcoming year. I have asked that each department look at ways the membership can get more involved with the Veterans Affairs facilities in their area. We, as Marines, have for 248 years, taken care of our own. This also includes our fellow veterans. Take the first step and volunteer. Spend some time talking to a fellow

veteran. One other way detachment members can support veterans and their families is through the Fisher House. A home-cooked meal would mean a lot to those that are staying there while their veteran is receiving medical treatment.

Now to the business of the Marine Corps League. Take the time to review your detachment and department bylaws. With the changes that happened at this past year's national convention, we need to ensure that our bylaws stay current. Elections are over, and in some places, a new slate of officers have taken the reins. Ask all to step up and support them... as for some, there may be some challenges to overcome. I look forward to meeting more Rocky Mountain Marines as I travel throughout the division. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: rockymountainmcldiv.org

Pride is Still Important



Jerry Holt

NVC, Southeast Division



MARINES: Remember when you graduated from boot camp? There you were with starched utilities and cover, spit shined boots, military alignment, and a chest about to burst.

You learned how fulfilling it is to be a Marine. Whether you spent 24 months or 24 years in the Corps, you carried that honor with you every day. You'll always have pride in the Corps.

But now you're a member of the Marine Corps League. You might be a Life Member of your local detachment. You go to meetings. Maybe even a department or national convention every now and then. You're sort of on cruise control.

But pride doesn't end with a DD-214. It just enters a new phase. Although we are volunteers, we should still have the same dedication to ensure an image of honor, courage, and commitment.

Taking pride in everything you do in the League will make you a better member. Setting a good example will help others become better members. You could find a mentor, or better yet, you could become a mentor.

There are a lot of things you can do to revive pride in your detachment. Insist your meetings are run correctly and with excitement. Have meaningful discussions about your community and what your detachment can contribute to its welfare. Participate in local events like food drives, helping the homeless, and Toys for Tots. Let everyone know how honored you are to be a part of it.

Volunteer to speak at your child or grandchild's school groups. Stand up straight and talk to them about patriotism and what they can do to make America better. Scout troops are always interested to hear about proper flag etiquette. Offer to post the colors at community football games.

Get involved with funerals for fallen Marines. A small group of Marines at the funeral home will have a lasting impression on the family. You could present them with a certificate and say a few words about what it means to be a proud Marine.

Always look and act appropriately when representing the League. Baseball caps are cool, but the cover lets everyone know you are still a part of the Marine Corps legacy.

The MCL is the alumni association of the Corps. We should continue the pride, camaraderie, and traditions every Marine cherishes. "Once a Marine, always a Marine."

We are proud Marine Veterans and should act like it. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: seddiv.org

DIVISION REPORTS

Positive Thinking and Forward Progress



Angela Maness

**NVC,
Southern
Division**



MARINES: As we begin 2024, I look forward to seeing you either at the Mid-Winter conference in Arlington, VA and or shortly after. It's a new year and we all have hope for great things to come. That said, I'd like to make a quick announcement. The new chaplain within the Southern Division is associate member John Guinn from Oklahoma. Thank you, sir, for stepping up to the responsibilities of this billet.

Moving on to the business happening within Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, the Southern Division. Our membership numbers within the division are currently hovering around 2111 regular, associate, and dual membership members in good standing. There are another 715 members who have yet to pay their 2023/2024 membership dues—we are working on that number. Our total voting strength (as of Nov. 2023) is 1847 votes. We have some work to do and I'm always looking for fresh, new ideas on how to remind members to keep their membership current.

I am very comfortable with social media tools and will use electronic communications and audio/visual platforms like Zoom and WebEx to reach out to you, but would also like to hear of ways that other divisions remind their members.

Travel: In October 2023, I attended the Department of Texas fall conference where I had the honor of presenting McLamore Detachment with a revised charter. They are Detachment 4 within the MCL and very proud of the fact that their detachment is now over 100 years old. Congratulations to all who did the intense research to validate the redesignation of this detachment number.

Training: I invite you to reach out if you have questions regarding the Marine Corps League in general, honor guards, color guards, drill and ceremonies, POW/MIA presentation, or Young Marines. These are just a few of my areas of interest. There has been a definite uptick in the number of correctly executed honor guard and color guard performances since 2021. The collective improvements are a positive change and can be attributed to those who have taken an interest in developing a professional compliance and awareness of the MCL policy & procedure classes taught during your local department, division, and national conventions.

If you didn't know, the Southern Division department commandants and their compliance officers are: Texas Department Commandant PDD Patrick Murray and Compliance Officer Brian Batchelder, their department website is www.txmcl.org. Oklahoma Department Commandant DD Danny Thomas and Compliance Officer Charlie O'Leary, their department website is www.mclok.org. Arkansas Department Commandant PDD Larry Wakefield and Compliance Officer Larry Beyette, their department website is www.mclaren.org. Feel free to contact the compliance officer in your state if you see something that is inappropriate or anything dealing with pay issues (990's etc.).

As a reminder, the Southern Division conference is March 15-17. Please register at mcl1149.org. You can find the registration form on the Southern Division Conference page under the "News" link. **Semper Fi!**

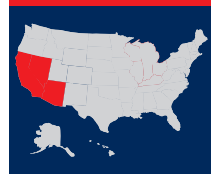
Division Website: southernmcl.org

Doing the Work Means Spreading the Word



Jim Loorya

**NVC,
Southwest
Division**



MARINES: In addition to several other tasks, I've asked our division and department officers to address two important tasks for our division: the Marine 4 Life (M4L) program and the effective use of social media.

I'm encouraging MCL members to look up the M4L LinkedIn page for the USMC, the National Marine Corps League M4L program page (on our National MCL website) and our division, department, and detachment M4L program pages. After searching these sites, they will have learned why the M4L program is important to our young Marines as they transition out of the Corps.

They'll also learn if our units know and work with the M4L representatives in our states. Do they have active M4L liaisons in their units?

We MCL members are the boots on the ground for the USMC's M4L program. "The thing is to get the work done."

Addressing the effective use of social media, Facebook and other social media sites have less than desirable reputations. In the past, too many social media users posted pictures and stories about lunch with friends at their favorite restaurant, enjoying their favorite wine, and bragging about their great careers. Also, recently there has been too much so-called fact checking and blocking of accounts. These activities are undergoing changes for the better currently.

The other side of the coin is marketing our MCL on social media. As Junior Past Commandant Johnny Baker shared with us last year, "Social media is here to stay!" It offers several vehicles to market our MCL. In a matter of minutes, we can share our mission and goals with tens of thousands of our community members. "The thing is to get the work done."

A question we often hear is, "How do we keep our Facebook and other social media sites up to date with relevant content?" There is great content on many sites that can be copied and pasted on our pages. In addition to posting pictures and messages about your units' activities, you can access relevant content by becoming members of some of these organizations' Facebook pages: DOD, VA, VA YouTube updates, for example. You can also repost messages from your division and department PR and other officers, repost Marine Bob Borka's messages from MCL National, Operation Homefront, NAMI PTSD and Mental Illness Counseling, DAV, Veterans' Treatment Courts, VVA, Fisher House, Honor Flight Network, USA.GOV, to name several.

As we seek to recruit younger members, keep in mind younger veterans are dialed-in on social media, scanning QR codes, etc. Also, many of them are looking at M4L for assistance as they transition.

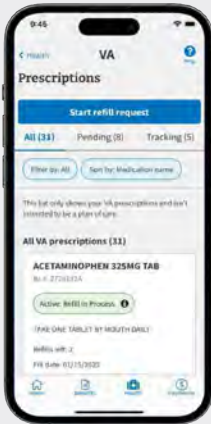
"The thing is to get the work done".

And the name of the game is TEAMWORK! **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclswdivision.org



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MEDICATION REFILLS



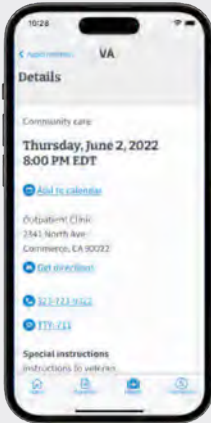
Request new medication refills, ask your provider about a specific medication, and track prescription delivery.



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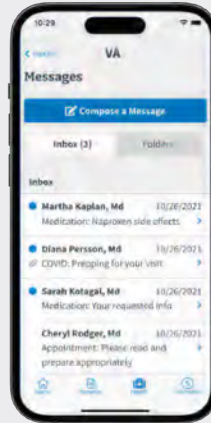
Access and download your VA benefit summary letter and other benefit documents.



VA APPOINTMENTS



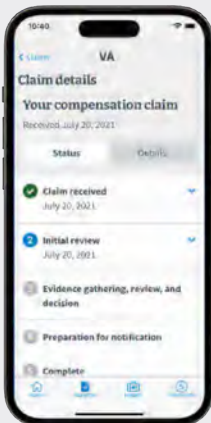
Check or cancel your VA health appointments. Easily add existing appointments to your calendar.



SECURE MESSAGING



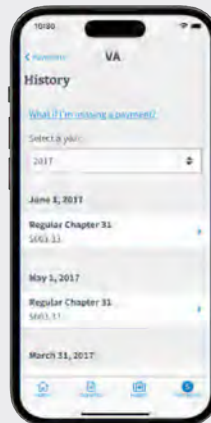
Secure messaging allows Veterans to communicate with their health care team.



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Warren Griffin

From the Mekong Delta to the State House and Beyond

By Rob Curtis

Newly minted National Commandant Warren Griffin's time in the Marine Corps came during a pivotal time in U.S. history. His experience in uniform left him deeply committed to his brothers and sisters that also stepped on those hallowed yellow footprints. From his tour in Vietnam to his teaching career in Boston and his time working at the Massachusetts State House on behalf of veterans, Griffin has used his creativity, bureaucratic panache, and leadership talents to find ways to help those in need. Through a life of public service, he's now risen through the ranks of the Marine Corps League to find himself in a position where he can do the greatest good for his fellow Marines.

Semper Fi: What made you decide to join the Marine Corps?

Warren Griffin: Well, at the time, I was a freshman in college, and after Tet, the country started to change. I won't say the country was all pro-Vietnam, but it up until '68, there was more or less support for Vietnam. And then after Tet, support for Vietnam began to really diminish. And I, as an 18-year-old kid, I thought this war



Warren Griffin (center) during the Veterans Day Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with Leaguers Sal Cenicacelaya and Alan Sanning and Korean War Veterans President Jeff Brodeur.

is going to end before I have a chance to serve in it. My great grandfather fought in the Civil War. My father fought in World War II. So, I thought I better leave school. So, I finished up my freshman year and joined the Marines after that, just to be able to serve the country in a war.

SF: What was your last billet as a Marine?

WG: I was with 1st ANGLICO. I called in air and naval fires in Vietnam for everybody except Marines. I served for two years.

SF: So, you were an east coast Marine. How did your career start out?

WG: I started at Parris Island and for naval gunfire school, I went to a Little Creek, Virginia. I was assigned to 2nd ANGLICO, which was at Camp Lejeune. There, a group of us volunteered for Vietnam, and they granted our wish. There



Warren Griffin while serving as a U.S. Marine in the Mekong Delta in 1969.



2020 Iwo Jima Day at the Massachusetts State House. From left, Lt. General George Smith, John MacGillivray, owner of the New England Patriots Robert Kraft, David Kraft, Iwo Jima veteran Larry Kirby, USMC Vietnam veteran Tom Lyons, Gen. Joseph Dunford (Ret.), and Warren Griffin. Kraft gave \$100,000 to the Semper Fi Fund at this ceremony

were about six of us, I think, that volunteered for Vietnam. So, I was in 2nd ANGLICO for about two months. And then we went out to California for what they called staging. It was jungle training for Vietnam. But, when I checked into Camp Pendleton, they said I'll go through staging, but after that, I'm not going right to Vietnam. I had to go to language school first. So, I went to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California for Vietnamese for three months.

SF: Then you deployed to Vietnam?

WG: Yes. When I got to Vietnam, I was with the 4th Marines at Dong Ha. But

the 3rd Marine Division was pulling out of Vietnam. So, there were three of us who volunteered to stay in Vietnam. And that's when they reassigned us to 1st ANGLICO, sub-unit 1. I was down in the Mekong Delta.

SF: What was your experience like down there?

WG: The Navy had rocket ships that had been used in World War II. I was calling in rocket ships and destroyers. But the rocket ships got decommissioned during my tour. I was able to call the last rocket ship mission in the United States Navy. So, it was kind of a historic moment

for me.

SF: What did you learn about leadership while you were in the Marine Corps?

WG: I guess, being in ANGLICO, we were rather independent. I was basically on a two-man team. We did all the naval gunfire for the delta. So as lance corporals and corporals, we were dealing with captains in the Army for artillery or majors in the Air Force for airstrikes, but when we would coordinate what we were doing, we were all equals. So, the responsibility was quite a bit at the time for 20-year-old kid.

SF: So, you did your tour, got home,

and went back to college?

WG: I was home about two weeks and then started back in college at Framingham.

SF: And you got a teaching degree? What made you decide to be a teacher?

WG: Yes. Well, my father had been a Boston cop. He was a truant officer. And he said that being a teacher is a pretty good profession. So, I went to school and said, 'let's give it a try', and stuck with it.

SF: Any experiences stand out in your teaching career that would later relate to your work in the MCL?

WG: I was involved with a state committee as a member from Boston. We were developing a program for the state, which became a chapter of the law called Chapter 766, and that was developing educational accommodations for kids with special needs. A whole program was established, and the Massachusetts program was then replicated throughout the country. So, it's an honor to have been part of that first group of people to help kids that were a little bit different.

SF: Jumping forward, what made you decide to join the MCL?

WG: A friend of mine let me know they were starting a local detachment in the town that I had grown up in. I've always liked Marines; I like being around Marines... So, he said go on and join up. We're going to be forming a New Marine Corps League detachment. So, I did, and I have enjoyed the camaraderie.

SF: And what made you decide to seek a leadership role in the MCL?

WG: I had retired. I was a teacher in Boston. An offer was made to become the legislative officer for the Marine Corps League at the State House in Boston. I enjoyed helping with legislation in the state. And it just kind of developed from there. Different needs came up and I said, 'I'll give that a try and see how it works out.'

SF: Did you serve the MCL as a leader at the department or detachment level?

WG: Yes, I had been a detachment commandant in around 2005 or 2006, and I've been the department commandant for Massachusetts. I was the commandant for the New England division. And then I rose to the position of national



Warren Griffin meeting USMC General Jim Mattis (Ret.).

commandant.

SF: What was your first position in the MCL?

WG: I was the detachment scribe. Nobody else wanted to do it. So, I said, 'Yeah, I can take notes.' And then people said, 'well, you're the one that knows what happened, so people would come to me and ask, 'what did we say we're going to do?'' So, you have the information right there. Then I was a junior vice, and

then a senior vice.

SF: What was your favorite billet while serving in the MCL?

WG: I liked working on the legislation in the State House. We've been able to have different programs in the state to help people. We've expanded the veterans court in Massachusetts, and whenever they have committee hearings on veterans and federal affairs, I will show up and I'll be able to put my two cents in



Warren Griffin (in red) presenting the Dickey Chapelle Award at the 2022 Modern Day Marine Expo Grand Banquet with (left to right) Lt. Gen. Charles Chiarotti USMC (Ret.), Honored Guest, and CMC Gen. David Berger.



During Griffin's tour in Vietnam, he celebrated the Marine Corps birthday as the youngest Marine in the Mekong Delta in 1969.

about how I feel these things could help veterans. So, having input about which direction the state is going to take on different issues is a good thing.

And there's small things. There was one person in the section of Boston where I was teaching that had been killed in Vietnam. He got the Navy Cross, but there was never any tribute to him. At the school where I was teaching, and, that he had attended, I had a flagpole dedicated to him. Subsequently, we had a bridge in the area that he lived named in his honor. And, so, these things now stand as a permanent tribute to him for the heroism that he showed in Vietnam that, up until then, was never recognized. So that, to me, is important.

SF: What is the MCL's greatest strength?

WG: Being able to help other Marines.

When we look around, there's needs out there for Marines who maybe aren't in or even know about the Marine Corps League that are floundering. And if we can reach out to them, help them out. Just give them a hand and get them on the right path and then let them march on their own.

SF: What new programs are you working on to that end?

WG: There's a lot of a lot of detachments that have somebody involved with equine therapy. But we've never had these programs under one umbrella so that we can help each other. So, I have somebody now, Ed Carr, working to find [equine therapy] resources throughout the country to support the MCL as a whole. Equine therapy is an effective tool in helping those with PTSD.

We have another program down in



Warren Griffin and his wife, Cheryl.



Warren Griffin, left, receiving the Citizen Laureate Award from Framingham State University President Javier Cevallos.

New Jersey called 'Help a Marine Save a Life' that Brian Gillespie runs. He's been doing it for a number of years. But he's now coming under the MCL umbrella and we're trying to spread that throughout the country to all the detachments. So, when a member comes across somebody who has a problem, we want to have the resources there available to them, so that they know where they can direct this person and get them some help.

SF: What's the greatest challenge the MCL needs to tackle organizationally?

WG: Membership. We have to keep growing. We can have the greatest ideas and greatest programs in the world, but if we don't have the members there to get it going, then the organization isn't going to work as well... at least not as well as I want it to, anyway. We have our Toys for Tots program that's coming up now and

we do a great job with that throughout the country. We have the MCL's Youth Physical Fitness Program that we're trying to revitalize. It's a basic exercise program for kids that they get certificates for completing tasks and it's developed into a national competition. But because of COVID, it really got hurt. Back in my day, President Kennedy came up with the President's Physical Fitness Program. But you did it in gym class. We're trying to revitalize that within the MCL and have it go out across the country.

SF: Are there any directional changes ahead for the organization?

WG: Direction? No. We keep marching right along, but different parts of the country are attracting more of the younger veterans than other parts of the country. So, I know that we can attract the younger veterans. If one group can do

it, then everybody should be able to do it. We just have to work a little bit harder to accept that the lifestyle of the new veterans may not conform with the lifestyle of the older veterans... but working together, we're going to be able to help each other.

SF: Any advice for members considering a leadership role in the MCL?

WG: Try it. You know that you like Marines because you joined. Once you become part of the unit, it stays with you all your life. The expression, 'Once a Marine, always a Marine', is very, very true. When you join the U.S. Marine Corps League, you're working with brother and sister Marines. That's your family for the rest of your life. When you can help your brothers and sisters, the reward comes from within, and you've done good, and you also feel good. **Semper Fi!**



The Marine Artillery Association touring Las Pulgas at Camp Pendleton.

Camaraderie of the Corps

By Mike Borrell

When I joined the Marine Corps in 1986, I did so just so I had a job, and my mom would get off my back about not working. I applied for lots of jobs that I wanted, but I wasn't having any luck. A buddy of mine and I decided to go down to the recruiting office and join the Army thinking that, if nothing else, it would be cool to shoot guns and have a paycheck. It wasn't because of patriotism, or a sense of civic duty... it was purely just to get out on my own.

Fortunately, one day, my little brother asked if I could take him down to see his Marine Corps recruiter. Since it was in the same office as my Army recruiter, and I needed to go down there anyway, I agreed. My brother and I hopped in the car, picked up

my friend whom I was enlisting with and drove to the offices.

In a lucky twist of fate, the Army recruiting office was closed that day and, as my buddy and I waited around for my brother to be done, one of the other Marines stepped out and started taking to us about the Corps. We had no reason not to take the aptitude test for the Corps, so we figured, "what the hell," and went in and took the test just to kill some time while we waited. After completing it and listening to the recruiter, we were sold. Still, it was only because the Marine recruiters sold us on being better than the Army, and their uniforms were much better, so we signed on the bottom line.

While I was in the Corps, I still didn't have a sense of what it really meant to be a Marine. Yes, there were some run-ins with Army dogs while training at Ft. Sill for artillery, and we knew we were bet-



The Marine Artillery Association at the MCRD Graduation Ceremony, Sept 15, 2023.



The author, back row second from right, during Bear Hunt 1988.

ter than them. We walked around Oceanside with our chests out, and we formed strong bonds with our fellow Marines. But it was still much later before the pride of being a Marine and the patriotism for our country really came out in me, and it's still there.

When I got out of the Corps in 1992, between starting a new life outside of the Corps and cell phones not being a thing back then, I lost touch with all the friends I had in the Corps. I was proud to tell people I was a Marine, but it was not until I found a local chapter of the Marine Corps League in North Carolina that I truly felt the brotherhood of the Corps since my transition to civilian life.

From the first day that I met the Marines in the MCL, I was a part of the Corps once again. Although most of them served in Vietnam and I was a Desert Shield/Desert Storm Marine, I was one of them. It was also through the theory of six-degrees of separation that I was able to get in touch with my brothers I served with in Hotel Battery 3/11. Brothers that I had not talked to or seen in over 30 years are now once again a part of my life.

Through my brothers, I recently found out that there was an annual reunion for us cannon-cockers. The Marine Artillery Association was founded 17 years ago in 2006 by a couple of 3/11

Marines with the goal of keeping us artillery guys in touch. I was fortunate to be able to attend this year's reunion held in San Diego and, once again, the brotherhood between us was evident. Due to scheduling issues, only one Marine from my platoon was able to attend, but through this reunion, I was able to connect with a couple of other Marines from Hotel Battery with which I served.

While in Korea in 1988 during the Bear Hunt exercise, I had to drive for the left platoon as they had a gun driver down. Although I don't remember that moment, that day, someone with the gun I was driving for took a picture of the crew. At this year's reunion, I approached one of the Marines there and asked when he served in Hotel Battery. He looked at me, stunned for a moment, then looked at my name tag. Astonished, he blurted out my name and exclaimed that he had been wondering about my name for years as he had forgotten it. Confused, I just kind of stared at him until he pulled up a picture on his phone in which I was standing there posing with that gun crew the one day I drove for his gun. I just stared again, but this time in disbelief of the odds.

I also took my wife to this reunion and while there the association took us to MCRD to attend the graduation of over 500 new Marines. My wife and I have been married for about seven years

now and she attends the MCL meetings and is an associate member, so she sees the pride we have in our Corps and being a part of something larger than we are. Sitting there and watching the pomp and circumstance of the graduation and seeing the reverence of these new Marines while talking to us old guys really hit it home for her, demonstrating the pride that Marines hold.

The biggest thing about camaraderie is that we Marines help each other. It is through the Marine Artillery Association that the 3rd Battalion 11th Marines Foundation was established. The foundation's mission is to support the Marines of the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment at Brooke Army Medical Center of Joint Base San Antonio and other wounded Marines as needed. All of us have visible and non-visible wounds that, even though we are Marines and think we can tough it out, show we cannot always do that and need to reach out for help. The foundation raises money to help these wounded warriors to give them a new lease on life.

I write this for one reason, to encourage other Marines out there to reach out. Get on social media and search out your brothers. From what I have seen, no other branch has the camaraderie, pride in their service, and the pomp and circumstance that the Corps has, and I encourage us all to hold on to that. ***Semper Fi!***



David S. Jonas
LtCol, USMC (Ret.) + Partner at Fluet

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31 Jul – 8 Aug	Guadalcanal 81st Anniversary of Op Watchtower
5 – 18 Aug	Vietnam “Delta to the DMZ”
8 – 20 Aug	Vietnam “All of I-Corps Battlefields”
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/Opertion 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



Updated 053123

Olmsted Scholar on the Frontlines

Mastering Anti-Corruption in Mexico City

By Capt. Shakir S. Robinson

Each year, three or four Marine officers are chosen through the Commandant's Career Level Education and Professional Intermediate Education boards to become Olmsted Scholars. These exceptional individuals immerse themselves in a foreign country, pursue a master's degree in the local language, and navigate the challenges of consistent regional travel. Positioned in unfamiliar environments, Olmsted Scholars are tasked with adapting, performing, and excelling, all crucial skills for Marine Corps officers in potential conflicts with great national powers.

Given the Marine Corps's potential engagements, officers must be adept in uncomfortable arenas. This foreign leadership opportunity sharpens critical thinking and human skills by compelling scholars to fully engage in local cultures, fostering adaptability and resilience. Equipped by the Olmsted Program, officers are primed to become strategic leaders with a comprehensive understanding of global dynamics, capable of navigating complex global issues in a rapidly changing international arena; continued promotion of this program is vital for development of future career-minded company and field grade officers.

CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

In the post-Iraq and Afghanistan era, the importance of cultural understand-



Shakir Robinson participating in Socratic discussions during the 2023 Academic Year at the Universidad Panamericana in Mexico City, Mexico.

ing and foreign language proficiency became evident. The Olmsted Program addresses this need by preparing scholars to connect with local populations through deep cultural immersion and language study. It recognizes that achieving tactical, operational, and strategic objectives often requires effective communication and relationship-building across cultural boundaries.

General George H. Olmsted, a distinguished graduate of the United States Military Academy, served over 30 years in the U.S. Army, including coordinating communication plans in China during World War II. Following his military career, he founded the Olmsted Foundation, facilitating educational and cultural exchanges for top military officers across all branches of service.

MASTER'S DEGREE - STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

In March 2019, I was selected for the Olmsted Scholar class of 2023 and chosen as the 11th scholar to study in Mexico City, Mexico—the same location where the first Olmsted scholar studied in 1967.

After a comprehensive investigation of top universities in Mex-



The author, USMC Capt. Shakir Robinson in Service "A" uniform.

ico City, I applied to and was accepted into the Universidad Panamericana's School of Governance and Economics Master's degree program in anticorruption. The university's commitment to educational excellence, exemplified by distinguished graduate and former Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto, drew me in.

Studying anticorruption aligns with lessons learned from recent conflicts, emphasizing my commitment to democratic ideals. The Olmsted Program not only provides academic opportunities but also equips officers with skills to address broader societal issues, contributing to national and international security.

REAL-WORLD APPLICATION

The master's program includes Socratic discussions and real-world case studies, preparing me to apply critical thought to practical scenarios—an alignment with the Marine Corps' focus on actionable solutions and strategic thinking. Instruction from a diverse group of professors and engaging discussions with classmates from various regions enriches the learning experience.

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Universidad Panamericana Anticorruption 2024 cohort which hosts students from Mexico, Brazil, and the United States.



Universidad Panamericana Anticorruption 2024 cohort in Mexico City, Mexico.

TRAVEL: CULTURAL EXPOSURE IN MEXICO

General Olmsted envisioned officers gaining cultural experiences beyond the classroom, emphasizing the importance of expansive regional travel. In the past year, I've traveled to 18 of the 26 Mexican states authorized for service members, applying classroom knowledge to recognize the fight against corruption.

For example: While traveling to the border state of Nuevo Leon I recognized that due to the U.S.'s economic reliance on China, Mexico presents itself as a viable alternative. It was clear to see how decreased corruption in Mexico could lead to a more stabilized country in which American investors want to partake in the business which could have strategic effects on the U.S.-China relationship.

This hands-on exploration contributes to a deeper under-

standing of regional dynamics, providing Marine officers engaged in international operations with a valuable asset.

FUTURE LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT

Upon completing this tour, I aspire to utilize the knowledge gained as an Olmsted scholar to lead at the highest levels within the Marine Corps and federal government. With a master's degree from a foreign university, extensive travel, and deep connections across cultures, I will possess unparalleled leadership experience. The Olmsted Program equips me and my peers to be strategic leaders with global perspectives, ready to tackle complex world issues in an ever-changing international landscape. It is crucial to continue promoting this program to the next generation of company and field-grade officers. **Semper Fi!**

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



DuPage County Marines Det. 399 attended a surprise 100th birthday party in Wheaton, IL for life member Helen G. Ehlers on September 9, 2023. Ehlers was a corporal in the Marines and served for two years as an aircraft technician on F4U Corsairs from 1944 to 1945. The attending CO from recruiting station Chicago, Major Koonce. Ehlers is surrounded by members of the DuPage County Marines and Woman Marine Association IL-2, Blanche Osborne Chapter. (Dan Igrisan)



The Tar Heel Detachment 733 members and associate presented a \$350 check to Chris Halsan, USO RDU Center Operations Supervisor at the Raleigh Durham Airport on September 13, 2023. Left to right are Dot Barber, Ephrem Loranger, Chris Halsan, John Booth, Gene Taxis and Jim Mitchell. (Russell Barber)



Commandant Fred Homrich of the Fred Cochran Detachment, PNC Paul Hastings, and wife Carol visited nine Marine veterans at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans in November, 2023 and presented birthday cards as well as putting funds into their accounts.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Today, Marine Norm Bild, accompanied by other members of the Marine Corps League, Marine Forever, Detachment 1440, presented the Marines and Sailors of the 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, with this framed worked depicting Lopez's courageous actions. The photograph depicts U.S. Marine, 1st Lt. Baldemore Lopez, leading the charge from the Higgins Boat at Inchon, Korea, just after telling his Marines to "Follow me!" This was the last photograph of Lopez, taken just minutes before taking out an enemy machine gun bunker, then jumping onto a live grenade, shielding his troops from the explosion, and saving dozens of lives that day. Lopez was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions on that day. (Anthony P. Derieux)



2023 National Convention- National Associate Member of the Year) National Marine of the Year President Jeff Jones presenting the 2023 National Associate Member of the Year, Alison Noger, with the National Associate Member of the Year medallion and certificate at the Grande Banquet. Alison Noger is pictured with past National Marines of the Year.



Colorado Pack, Pound 367 Poudre Bulldogs, present a check to the Colorado Children's Hospital. All funds came from the proceeds of our 6th Annual "Devil Dog" Poker Run and went toward their Medical Dog program which helps our children and families who are in distress. Our pound has done this since our inaugural run in 2018 when we honored the 100th anniversary of our Belleau Wood Brothers! It rained from start to finish, but our Devil Dogs and participants carried out the mission! (Michael Buck)

SAME TEAM NEW MISSION



Preserve Traditions • Young Marines
Veteran Support • Marine For Life • Toys for Tots
Support for the transition from Active Duty to Civilian

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Members of the Pikes Peak Detachment, Dept. of Colorado, volunteered to work the 2023 El Paso County, Colorado Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Shown is Russ Miller (center, wearing a red shirt) and Larry Hathaway (right, wearing a black shirt) assisting a homeless veteran select a pair of free boots.



2023 National Convention- 2023 National Convention- Marine Corps League Change of Command during the National Convention: outgoing PNC Johnny Baker and incoming National Commandant Warren Griffin.

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.mclibrary.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

The Devine Way

Marine Corps League Member Donald Harlin brings a story of one of the toughest jobs in the Marine Corps – recruiting duty. This is a fictional book but tells a great story of the challenges and leadership needed for a successful recruiting station. The prologue provided a great introduction with a very interesting story between an Army officer and Jim Devine. It grabs the reader's attention for the launch into the first chapter and it was a challenge to put the book down once it began. A great read, clear text, well-edited, and brings us all to a place we recognize – "home."

The Devine Way

Author: Donald Harlin

Pages: 314

Publisher: Amazon Publishing Labs

ISBN: 978-1961282544



Tears of an Assassin

DJ Power (a pen name) is a member of the Marine Corps League. He has written a great work of fiction. From 1961 on Parris Island to Vietnam, Power brings a story of a Marine getting involved with the Central Intelligence Agency. With a variety of storied experiences, the book was interesting with comfortable text. This is book one of a trilogy. The other two titles are A Shooters Moon and From Hell to Home.

Tears of an Assassin

Author: DJ Power

Pages: 338

Publisher: Xlibris

ISBN: 978-1503561816

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

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENT CALENDAR

2024 National Mid-Winter Conference

Date: February 22-24

Location: Sheraton Pentagon City, Virginia

Details: MCLeagueLibrary.org

2024 National Convention

Date: August 12-16

Location: Westin Resort and Spa Rancho Mirage, California

Details: MCLeagueLibrary.org

REUNIONS

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. More at embassymarine.org. Contact: MEGA Chairman of the Board Bob Lighty, bob.lighty@embassymarine.org, (717) 433-1105

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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.



Marine Corps League 17+

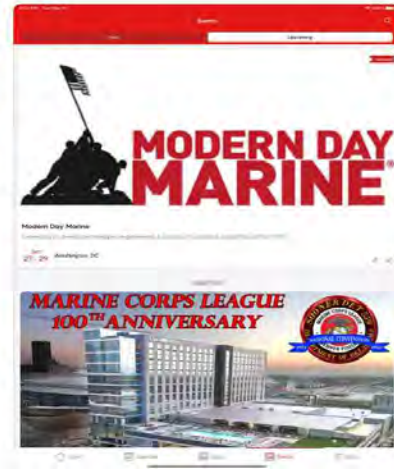
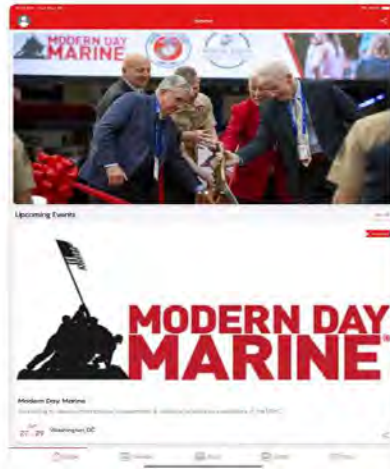
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Designed for iPad

★★★★★ 5.0 • 1 Rating

Free

Screenshots [iPad](#) [iPhone](#)



MCL Mobile App

The Marine Corps League now has a mobile app in the Apple Store and Google Play Store. The app is free for users.

This exciting advancement is long-overdue, and we are so happy to finally launch. We have been working to continuously improve and enhance the app. We hope you find it interesting and helpful. The news feed is coming directly from the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Marine Corps. This avoids using news feeds and getting information directly from the sources we need.

Search: Marine Corps League in Apple and Google stores

MCL

Marine Corps League

Contains ads

MCL Mobile app



4.7★

6 reviews

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THE SEMPER FI STORE

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



100Coin MCL 100th Anniversary Coin

\$10.00



Metal Disc MCL 3"

\$8.50



Lapel Pin Length of Service

Lapel Pin MCL w/ Years of Service Rocker
5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40,45,50,55,60yr

\$4.50



Roses

One Gross (144ct)
\$35.00



Travel Mug

\$5.00

100 Year Fleece Men's

While Supplies Last
Black Zip Fleece W/Embroidered Logo Patch and "1923-2023 YEARS" on Breast
Small-XL \$63.00, 2XL \$65.00, 3XL \$67.00, 4XL \$69.00

100 Year Fleece Ladies

While Supplies Last
Black Zip Fleece W/Embroidered Logo Patch and "1923-2023 YEARS" on Breast
Small-XL \$63.00, 2XL \$65.00, 3XL \$67.00, 4XL \$69.00



EGA Patch 12"

\$15.00

Marine Corps Round Ornament

3" Gold Coated Brass
\$20.00



100 Year Wood Handle Knife

Engraved Wood MCL Logo
"100 Years 1923-2023"
\$40.00



Blank Card

10 Pack w/Embossed MCL Logo and Envelopes
\$12.00



Sympathy Card

10 Pack w/Embossed MCL Logo and Envelopes
\$12.00



Get Well Card

10 Pack w/Embossed MCL Logo and Envelopes
\$12.00



MCL Fringe Flag

8X12" w/ Logo
\$14.00



U.S. Cemetery Flag

17X12" USA Flag
\$3.00

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

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Street

City State Zip Code

Phone Number

Name

Street

City State Zip Code

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Code#	Quantity	Item Description	Size	Price Each	Total Cost

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

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

WE GLADLY ACCEPT

VISA MASTERCARD

DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

NAME _____
 AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

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VIRGINIA RESIDENTS ONLY

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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

25 Mar–1 Apr

Victory in the Pacific & IJAA's 79th Anniversary of Iwo Jima

3–13 Apr

Philippines – WWII in the Pacific Islands

13–26 Apr

Marine Corps League Tour of Vietnam "Saigon to the DMZ"

18–27 Apr

Turkey WWI Gallipoli Campaign

31 May–13 Jun

80th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris

30 Jul–9 Aug

Guadalcanal 92nd Op Watchtower

6–19 Aug

"Vietnam Delta to the DMZ"

6–18 Aug

55th Anniversary of I-Corps Vietnam Battlefields

Continues Next Page

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2024 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE

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

**\$5 per entry or
5 entries for \$20**

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Marine Corps League, Inc.
P.O. Box 1990
Stafford, VA 22555-1990

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

Name
Address
City
State Zip Code
Phone
Email

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Address
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Email

Continued From Previous Page

6-19 Aug

"Body & Soul" U.S. Navy Medical & Clergy in the Vietnam War

12-20 Aug

80th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon – South of France

23 Aug-5 Sep

"D-Day to the Bulge" Normandy Invasion & Battle of the Bulge

6-19 Sept

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

18-27 Sep

Battlefields of France WWI, WWII, Napoleonic & Franco-Prussian War

29 Sep-6 Oct

WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust

29 Sep-10 Oct

All England Tour "God Save the King" & 8th Air Force – WWII

6-16 Oct

80th Commemoration Operation Market Garden "A Bridge Too Far"

6-17 Oct

Ireland – Dublin, Belfast & Derry

TBD Oct

Korean War & Cold War Service Vets Return

12-25 Oct

U.S. Military & Civilian Women in Vietnam

18-25 Oct

Belgium Battlefields – Waterloo – WWI – Dunkirk

20-27 Oct

Birth of American Democracy "Boston – Yorktown"

26 Oct-5 Nov

Italy Tuscan & Umbrian Countryside Two-Day Pre-tour Rome: Florence-Siena-Assisi-Spoleto-Pienza

2-13 Dec

Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 6-11 Dec Laos & Cambodia

3-9 Dec

Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites

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.*

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



is a member in good standing of

This card is good for a period of sixty days from

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Full Name _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email Address _____
Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ____/____/____ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ____/____/____
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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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MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND SPECIAL EVENT REGISTRATION

February 22-24, 2024

Sheraton Pentagon City

900 South Orme St, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone 703-521-1900

Rate \$129.00 per night plus tax \$10.00 parking

Pre registration is \$10.00. Registration at the Conference is \$12.00

ALL DEADLINES ARE FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Online registration is available at mcleaguelibrary.org/conference

To have your name tag printed and packet prepared prior to your arrival you must pre-register

Please print the following information as you want it to appear on your name tag

Name: _____ Name: _____

Title: _____ Title: _____

Dept/Det: _____ Dept/Det: _____

MODD Title: _____ Pedigree/Tag #: _____ MODD Title: _____ Pedigree/Tag #: _____

MCLA Title: _____ Dept/Unit: _____ MCLA Title: _____ Dept/Unit: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

Special Event: Bus trip to the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico \$30.00

Marine Corps Museum in Quantico Bus Ticket @ \$30 # _____ \$ 0.00

Date of Event: Thursday February 22, 2024 (non refundable)

A program book will be printed. All Detachment/Departments/Pounds/Packs/Units are encouraged to support the program book to help offset the cost of the Conference

Program Book		Banquet	
Full page @ \$100 # _____	\$ 0.00	Beef @ \$65 # _____	\$ 0.00
Half page @ \$60 # _____	\$ 0.00	Chicken @ \$65 # _____	\$ 0.00
Quarter page @ \$30 # _____	\$ 0.00	Fish @ \$65 # _____	\$ 0.00
Business Card @ \$25# _____	\$ 0.00	Vegetarian @ \$65 # _____	\$ 0.00
Patron Listing @ \$2 # _____	\$ 0.00		

Total Registrations # _____	\$ 0.00
Total Special Events # _____	\$ 0.00
Total Banquet Meals # _____	\$ 0.00
Total Program Book Ads # _____	\$ 0.00

GRAND TOTAL DUE \$ 0.00 _____ **Check/MO #** _____

Make checks payable to MCL or Marine Corps League



MODERN DAY MARINE®

APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2024

WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER, WASHINGTON D.C.



400+ Exhibiting Companies, OBJ 1 Wargaming Convention, Briefings from Senior Leaders and DoD Personnel, Distinguished Guest Speakers, the Latest Warfighting Innovations, and More

Modern Day Marine is not open to the public. All registrants must provide proof of identity with a Government issued photographic ID and must demonstrate that they have an "identifiable relationship" with the Marine Corps.

The Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or U.S. Marine Corps does not endorse any company, sponsor or their products or services.



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