

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 81 No. 4 • FALL 2025

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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

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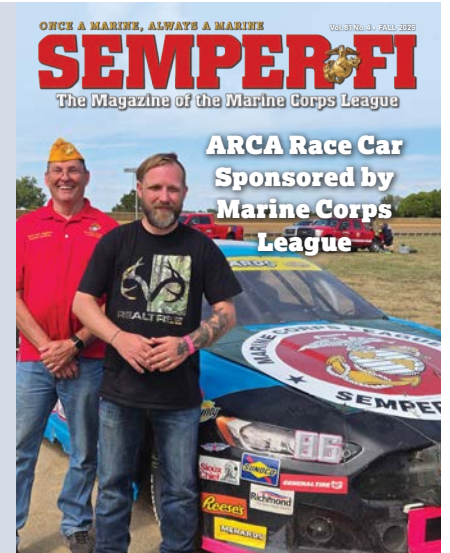
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ON THE COVER:

The Automobile Racing Club of America Menards series race car number 86 of Josh White sports the Marine Corps League logo on its hood as the driver's primary sponsor at DuQuoin State Fairgrounds racetrack in Indiana. Josh White, an MCL member in West Virginia, is developing his future in motorsport and is proud to have the support of our members.



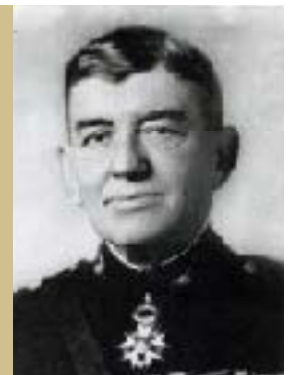
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Please visit the Marine Corps League Library's Convention tab (www.mcleaguelibrary.org/convention/) to review the approved changes to the League's Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. The Bylaws and Admin Procedures documents are being revised and will be posted in the Member Library tab (www.mcleaguelibrary.org/member-library/). To submit a change to the Bylaws or Admin Procedures, please review AP Section 10020.

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



NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

TJ MORGAN

Continuing to Move Forward in the League



MARINES: I am deeply honored to serve as National Commandant of the MCL, and I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member, volunteer, and guest that joined us for the 2025 National Convention. Your presence, energy, and unwavering commitment to our mission reminded me why this organization exists: to honor the Marines who have worn the uniform, to support those who still wear it, and to mentor the next generation of patriots who will carry our values forward.

This year's convention was more than a gathering—it was a declaration that the MCL remains a living, breathing force for good in communities across the nation. I was inspired by the stories shared on the convention floor, veterans reconnecting with old friends, detachments collaborating across state lines, and new members stepping forward with fresh ideas and renewed determination. To all who traveled, and contributed to our discussions, thank you. Your participation strengthens our league, expands our reach, and amplifies the impact we have in local communities and beyond.

A central theme of our time together was growth—growth in membership, growth in influence, and growth in service. The MCL has always thrived when we welcome new voices who bring talent, energy, and passion from the heart. We are actively pursuing ways to expand our reach, including outreach to veterans and associates. Our goal is not growth for growth's sake, but the meaningful expansion of our ability to mentor, support, and advocate for Marines and their families.

Equally vital are our Young Marines. These outstanding young marines are not only the future of our organization, but they are also the present incarnation of discipline, teamwork, and honor. Their leadership, community service, and dedication to personal development remind us that mentoring is a reciprocal gift—we learn from them as much as they learn from us.

Finally, we are taking concrete steps to establish new local detachments. By providing purpose for our Marines, we can bring the MCL's values into more towns, schools, and neighborhoods. I said it at convention, "recruit a member and retain the family," I am grateful for the hard work of our local detachments, volunteers, and state departments who are turning this vision into reality.

To everyone who had trust in me, I am honored to accept the responsibility of a second term as national commandant. I pledge to lead with integrity, listen earnestly, and work tirelessly to unite our League behind a shared purpose: honoring Marines, supporting families, and building stronger communities. **Semper Fi!**



SEMPER FI
The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

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THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

The Marine Corps League Inc. is a Congressionally chartered, non-profit organization.

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Semper Fi is published quarterly for the

Marine Corps League by:

Chipotle Publishing, LLC

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

Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League™

(USPS712050, ISSN 1933-2327), copyright ©2024 by the Marine Corps League, is published quarterly (4 times per year) in January, April, July and October by Chipotle Publishing, 631 N. Stephanie Street - Box 282, Henderson, NV 89014 for the Marine Corps League. Marine Corps League Business Office: MCL National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990. Telephone: (703) 207-9588. Website: www.mclnational.org. Email: COO@MCLeague.org

Subscriptions: Members' national dues include a free subscription to **Semper Fi**. For non-members, single-copy price is \$10; yearly subscription is \$30. Call (703) 207-9588 for any issues related to Marine Corps League membership, **Semper Fi** subscriptions or changes of address.

Editorial Contributions: Letters, manuscripts, stories, materials or photographs are welcomed but cannot be returned unless sender provides SASE. **Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League™** will not be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photos and drawings. Submission of articles and letters implies the right to edit and publish all or in part. Feature articles must be approved before submission. High-resolution digital photos preferred. For complete editorial and photo guidelines, contact Chipotle Publishing, LLC at semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com or (702) 565-0746.

Postmaster: Send address changes to 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

Periodicals postage paid at Henderson, NV and additional mailing offices. Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and are not to be construed as those of the publisher nor as the official views of the Marine Corps League, the United States Marine Corps, the U.S. Department of Defense or any of its agencies, unless otherwise made manifest by writers or spokespersons acting on behalf of the foregoing. Advertising of products and services herein does not imply endorsement or approval by the Marine Corps League. No portion of the magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without written consent.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO

BOB BORKA

Prepare and Inform – End of Life



MARINES: There is a time in each of our lives when death touches us. This could be a family member, friend, or a servicemember that you served with. When that happens, there is a series of events and paperwork that needs to be taken care of. Generally, this falls upon the closest relative... who is also experiencing grief. I know from personal experience this time can be made more manageable if planning is done in advance. Please take the time to consider taking the following actions, it will make a difference for your family.

- Ensure you have a folder in a safe place that contains your documents and instructions pertaining to your passing.
- Ensure your executor (the person who will handle your arrangements) knows where to find the file.
- Ensure your DD-214 is in the file.
 - Make certain the DD-214 shows the character of your discharge (NOT "dishonorable").
- Consider creating a Durable Power of Attorney (POA) for your spouse.
- Determine if you wish to be buried or cremated.
- Decide whether burial will be in a V.A. National Cemetery, state or tribal veterans' cemetery, or a private cemetery.
 - Note desired memorial products.
 - An advanced care plan (ACP) allows the veteran to make their health care-related wishes known.
 - ACP assigns someone the veteran trusts to make medical decisions if they are unable to make them.
- Pre-Need Eligibility Application – veteran and spouse apply in advance to be buried in a V.A. National Cemetery.
 - Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried in a V.A. National Cemetery even if they predecease the veteran
 - The name, date of birth, and date of death are inscribed on the veteran's headstone at no cost to the family.
 - When the veteran and spouse receive the Pre-Need Approval letter, place it in the special folder. **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF EVENTS

ROB BROOKS, USMC (RET).



Eyes on the Horizon

MARINES: I want to publicly recognize and commend the Marines who worked diligently behind the scenes planning the many events and hosting all of us in Texas during this year's National Convention. Their hard work, attention to detail, and dedication towards making this the best convention really spearheaded an incredible week of camaraderie, business accomplish-

Continued on next page



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Continued from previous page

ment and celebration. I can't wait to start working on next year's convention.

Now that we have all made it home, it's time to start focusing on division and department events. Over the past several months I have had several requests for events to be listed in the mobile app, but I know there are a lot more out there that should be promoted in the app. Our mobile app is a great tool to not only broadcast to the League how awesome your event is going to be, but to also aid your members in preparing for, and navigating through the conference, convention, etc. Hopefully everyone was able to see what the app can provide with schedules, listed speakers, exhibitors, important links, and the like while attending National Convention. These are some of the things I want to be able to do for you during your events so

please contact me and let's see what we can create for you.

As we approach November 10th and our amazing 250th anniversary, I'm reflecting on the past year and the successes the MCL has had, and I'm already starting to plan for 2026. Our Mid-Winter Conference is coming fast and during the conference we are planning an outing to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. What better way is there to kick-off the Mid-Winter Conference while also celebrating the 250th birthday of our great nation than to spend a day entrenched in the rich history of with the Marine Corps appreciating how the Corps shaped the history of our country? I hope to see all of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in February, and I hope to get even more email requests for mobile app event listings. **Semper Fi!**



NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Without Diversity

MARINES: Our current military reflects our citizenry. They have come to the aid of people all over the world and many have died for our nation.

If the Marine Corps League had no diversity—meaning everyone came from the same race, gender, culture, background, or way of thinking, it would have serious consequences for effectiveness, resilience, and legitimacy of the organization. The MCL would not reflect the look of our current military.

Diversity is the presence and coexistence of different characteristics, forms, ideas, cultures, or perspectives in the same environment. We've come a long way from being a non-diverse nation. Today, we see people of different cultures, languages, and traditions contributing to our shared identity, strengthening the fabric of our society. If diversity is absent by exclusion (e.g., women or minorities barred), it fosters resentment and undermines unity. True progress and harmony come from embracing diversity, as it enriches our connections and strengthens the fabric of our shared existence.

The MCL has traditionally drawn members from Marines, the



FMF Corp, and their families. Its recent growth can be attributed in part to embracing diversity and inclusion—welcoming veterans and supporters of different backgrounds, cultures, genders, and generations. By recognizing the changing face of the Marine Corps and its veterans, the MCL can attract younger members, women Marines, and Marines from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. When different voices and experiences come together, the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood grows deeper and more resilient. The League remains rooted in Semper Fidelis, but it grows stronger by ensuring every Marine and supporter feels represented. A non-diverse MCL would be less effective, less adaptable, and less trusted. We are a diverse nation. Our membership should look like the nation we live in, and it does. The Marine Corps League stands strong because of the diversity of its members. Marines from every background, culture, and walk of life come together under one banner of service, honor, and brotherhood/sisterhood. Our differences make us stronger, and our shared values keep us united. **Semper Fi!**

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY

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A Convention to Remember: Strengthening Unity and Devotion



MARINES: What a convention to remember! The 2025 National Convention in Texas was truly unforgettable. Heartfelt thanks go to everyone who worked tirelessly to ensure every detail was in place—supporting both business and the fellowship that made the event so memorable.

The Auxiliary's strong presence at morning colors each day was a point of pride, including those observing from the balcony. This tradition provided a dignified start to our sessions, reflecting unity, respect, and devotion to our nation. Special appreciation goes to the color guard team, whose professionalism and precision set a fitting tone for the day.

As I begin a second term as national president, I am honored to advance the important work already underway. Key projects for the coming year include continuing the reformatting of the bylaws and administrative procedures to make them clearer and more concise, as well as completing the long-awaited website update. I am grateful for the progress made so far and look forward to meeting these goals. To the many dedicated women assuming new leadership roles, I extend my best wishes for success.

This year's convention also brought significant moments for the Auxiliary family. We were proud

to initiate a new member from Indiana and to sign a charter establishing the Muskegon MCLA Unit in Michigan. Equally meaningful was welcoming Auxiliary sisters from the Marine Corps League into our meetings—a reminder that, whether League or Auxiliary, we are united by a shared mission and lasting friendships.

The convention was further distinguished by celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United

States Marine Corps. I trust everyone enjoyed the ways the Auxiliary commemorated this historic milestone throughout the week, and now our focus turns to celebrating it divisions, departments, and units/detachments nationwide. Looking ahead, the Auxiliary will participate in Veterans Day ceremonies, with proud representation at Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

As members return to local meetings, I hope the knowledge gained will be shared

widely and that connections forged in Texas will continue to strengthen our organizations. The National Convention was a powerful reminder that wherever we gather, we remain part of something greater: a family built upon service, camaraderie, and steadfast support. **Semper Fi!**



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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Gary Sinise and Dep. of Ohio Commandant Kevin D. Keller at the June 20, 2025 Dayton Air Show. Kevin was asked by Dayton Access Television (a non-for-profit station) to interview Sinise along with four other local TV channels.

13. Publication Title Semper Fi - The Magazine of the Marine Corps League		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 07/15/2025	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		53,255	51,197
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation			
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		52,032	50,472
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)			
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS			
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)			
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4))		52,032	50,472
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		549	549
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541			
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)			
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		280	30
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d. (1), (2), (3) and (4))		829	579
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c. and 15e.)		52,861	51,051
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		90	90
h. Total (Sum of 15f. and g.)		52,951	51,141
i. Percent Paid (15c. Divided by 15f. Times 100)		98.43%	98.87%
* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.			
16. Electronic copy Circulation			
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b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c.) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		52,032	50,472
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f.) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		52,861	51,051
d. Percentage Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies (16b divided by 16c x 100)		98.43%	98.87%
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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership			
☒ Publication required. Will be printed in the		Volume 81 Number 4 Issue of this publication.	
☐ Publication not required			
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner		Title	Date
		National Executive Director/COO	08/01/2025
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CHIEF DEVIL DOG

JEFFREY JONES, 61ST CHIEF DEVIL DOG



Morning colors.

Growl Recap



MARINES: First of all, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for all Marines and Dogs who have shown me support after disclosing my cancer diagnosis. Hopefully by the time this article is posted my treatments will be completed and I am on my way to recovery.

Thank you to the Department of Texas and the Texas pack for the outstanding convention held at DFW in Grapevine, Texas. The Order donated 100,000 big bones to the Cook Children's Medical Foundation of Dallas that will be used for a medical transport van.



We also donated 10,000 big bones to Operation Kindness of Carrollton, TX for medical service support and food for their shelter.

The Order would like to welcome the 91 new Pedigree Devil Dogs that were advanced during convention week. During the Supreme Growl of the Kennel, I was nominated and re-elected as the 61st Chief Devil Dog.

I appreciate the support of all those who stood behind me, and I promise to keep the welfare of The Order at the forefront of my mission.

It's an honor to be a Devil Dog! **Semper Fi!**



Above, 91 initiates with their handlers.

Left, Swearing-in by 52nd Past Chief Laurel Hull.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

BRUCE RAKFELDT

Honoring 250 Years of Marine Corps Legacy

MARINES: I want to wish every Marine a happy 250th birthday! Wherever you may be, whether at a formal event or on active duty in a hooch somewhere, I raise my glass and toast with you all! This is truly a special occasion for our Marine Corps!

With the National Convention behind us (thank you, Department of Texas for an **outstanding** time), and having been given the honor to serve as your national judge advocate for a second term, the *National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures* have been updated and published for everyone to download on the National website. All of the proposals that were accepted by the membership will help make us more efficient and modern. I encourage every department to review the 2025 updates and get them incorporated into your bylaws and sent to me for approval. The Department Judge Advocates have been doing a great job getting caught up with their bylaws. Now is the time to get into a rhythm of maintaining them. Even if your department bylaws don't need updating for the current year, sending me an email stating exactly that tells me that your department is actively reviewing them.



As I work into my second year, I have gotten rid of all the physical paperwork I've acquired over the past year which (can take up valuable floor and closet space) and have gone 100% digital with everything. This is something I encourage all of you to do. Having an online Sharepoint, Dropbox, or other similar account makes storing, viewing, and sharing files very easy. It's also

always accessible wherever you go.

Again, I want to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as your national judge advocate for a second term. It's truly an honor to assist you with your administrative needs. Enjoy the upcoming holidays with your family and friends, and, as always, let's keep our overseas Marines and all our military brothers and sisters in our thoughts and prayers. Take care of yourselves and each other! **Semper Fi!**

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

WARREN "GRIFF" GRIFFIN

Let's Make the YPF Work

MARINES: We have completed our National Convention and I want to thank the Department of Texas for their gracious hospitality. Now we are all looking forward to next year in Indianapolis.

Prior to initiating development activities next year, a thorough assessment of past achievements will be undertaken. During my tour as your commandant, we were able to introduce programs which help our Marines.

HAMSAL, Help A Marine Save A Life. Brian Gillespe conceived this program and travels the country implementing it. What has greater power? This program saves lives. You may want to invite Brian to your conferences.

Tracking our support hours in all of our programs through the official VAVS, Veterans Administration Volunteer Services. We do so much good and we need others to know this. When we go to Congress looking for support, we can present to them what we have done to bolster our standing with them. This is significant.

We finally have official members certified to process your disability claims with the VA. This is a major accomplishment. Certain eligible individuals may lack awareness regarding the procedures for submitting a VA disability claim. When presented with this idea, our COO Bob Borka jumped into this program full bore. Because of Bob, this program is running well and growing.



Please take full advantage of it. Most are unfiled. You may possess a valid claim, or there is potential for your claim to be upgraded. Take advantage of your membership. We are here to serve you at no cost.

Now there is one program that I reintroduced to our membership that needs more of your support. The Youth Physical Fitness program, YPF. Sean Patton has been working tire-

lessly to reestablish this program. The program reaches out to schools to provide a physical fitness competition program for all ages. The youth of today are in dire need of such a program. President Trump's administration too has recognized this need and has issued a call for physical fitness programs to become more prevalent in our schools. As such, school systems will be seeking programs such as our YPF program. With your help we can expand the YPF more so as to help our youth. We inform members of our program delivery capability. Reach out to Sean and he will be more than happy to support your efforts.

Happy birthday Marines in all of your 250th birthday celebrations. **Semper Fi!**



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NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

RUSS MILLER

Continue to March

MARINES: I am so honored to be given the opportunity to serve our League for another year. It was an incredible National Convention in Grapevine, Texas and one of the best conventions I have attended. Each convention lifts the bar a little higher for the next hosting detachment/department to strive toward. This year was no exception. To my knowledge, this year's convention was the first to be kicked off with a non-denominational chapel service on the Sunday preceding the official start of the convention. It was a true honor to have the 21st Chaplain of the Marine Corps, Rear Adm. Carey Cash lead the service. The event received overwhelming positive responses and many requests throughout the week that we continue holding the chapel service for those who are away from their home services on Sunday at future conventions. Additionally, I just don't have the words to express how wonderful the banquet and tour at the Medal of Honor Museum was. Marine/Soldier Ty Carter, Medal of Honor recipient, was our amazing speaker for the evening. Bravo Zulu Brother!!

Now that our convention is in the rear-view and the holidays are ahead, we need to continue to look after our brothers and sisters for which this can be a very hard time of year. As we continue to grow our VSO/CDCE programs, these can be a catalyst to help us connect with fellow veterans that are not yet connected to the



MCL, (or any veteran organization, for that matter.) We can help them rediscover the belongingness found in being part of a tribe and hopefully overcome the demons of the unseen injuries that might otherwise lead them to make some very final decisions.

Lastly, during this holiday season, we also have the opportunities of bringing smiles to the faces of less fortunate children across our country through

our efforts with Toys for Tots. As a former recipient and one of Santa's "little" helpers, I can say that the only feeling greater than seeing the tears of appreciation and getting a hug from a parent/guardian when they are handed a bag of toys after they had almost given up hope, is seeing a child climb up on Santa's lap and hearing them squeal with joy as they get a shiny new toy while tears of appreciation run down their parents' face.

As we march together into the year, remember to lift one another up, to help those less fortunate than yourself, and keep striving to BE the type of MCL member you wish there were twenty more of in your detachment. **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

DAVID PORTER

Strength, Connection, and a Beacon of Light

MARINES: Growth does not come from winning, but from struggling. Our struggles are what develop our strengths. When tough times arise and you choose not to quit, that is where you find strength. Beyond that, the courage to break old patterns and the discipline to build new ones are essential for progress. While we must preserve our traditions, we also need to adapt to the times. Sometimes, stepping out of your comfort zone is the only way to invite new opportunities. I also believe that it's all about timing and networking.

There was a profound connection between the National Convention and Marine Week Boston this past August. We must continue to network, meet new friends, and build stronger relationships across the country. At the National Convention, I had the pleasure of meeting Marine Parks. I'm grateful for his strategic thinking and for sharing an idea about how we can better bring the Marine Corps and the League together. Marine Parks provided information about the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, a project he's working on with a Marine reserve unit in his area.

This brings me to Marine Week in Boston, where I had the opportunity to meet the lieutenant colonel who serves as the battalion commander of 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment out of Fort Devens and the major who is the commanding officer, Recruiting Station Boston, Marine Corps Recruiting New England. In conver-



sation, we all want to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. I look forward to reporting back in my next article.

Finally, I'd like to mention a truly honorable individual who brings a tremendous amount of energy, encouragement, pride, and honor to everything he does. At the closing ceremony for Marine Week in Boston, the guest of honor was Massachusetts State Rep. Steven Xiarhos, a Gold Star Parent. His son, Marine Nickolas Xiarhos, was killed by a roadside bomb on July 23, 2009, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Rep. Xiarhos gave an emotional speech about his son, for his love for the Marines, the League, and the Young Marines. Marines from all over the country were present, including the 8th & 1st Silent Drill Platoon and the Quantico Marine Corps Band.

To grow, just as those before us, we must be a beacon of light illuminating a veteran's path when needed. We should strive to be known for both our intelligence and our kindness, because that is the combination that allows us to not only climb ourselves, but to reach back and pull others up with us. Growth is a choice, and each day is an opportunity to try again. **Semper Fi!**

YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

COL BILL DAVIS, USMC (RET) CEO/NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YOUNG MARINES

Young Marines Update from Col. Bill Davis

MARINES: I know it was a fast meet up at the National Convention, but I'm so glad I got to engage with as many of you as able. Congratulations to TJ Morgan, Russ Miller, Dave Porter, and Bruce Rakfeldt for continuing their service to the MCL for another year. We are blessed to have such solid relations with MCL Leadership and my thanks all MCL Members and Associates for their continued service to the League, our Nation, and the Young Marines.

We were excited to announce our new National Awardees of the Year. You all had a chance to meet our new National Young Marine of the Year, YM/Sgt. Maj. Chingiz Bahadur from Virginia. He shared his amazing story in the last *Semper Fi* magazine and spoke with many of you at Mid-Winter Conference and the summer Convention. Our National Adult Volunteer of the year is one of your own, Dan Herrington from Minnesota. The unit of the year is Albany Young Marines from Albany, GA. Albany YM enjoys solid support from the MCL, the Marine Logistics Base, and other community groups.

I am amazed to report I have now completed 10 years at the helm of the Young Marines. Over the last decade we have overcome COVID, two years without program funding, and many other challenges. I



am proud to report significant progress in improving our programs and our support to American youth. A few highlights:

- Upgraded leadership school programs and expanded participation
- Expanded eligibility for Young Marine of the year at every level
- Received clean audits and top ratings from all three major independent nonprofit

review organizations for the last five years

- Increased social media presence by 500% (more in some areas) and gained tremendous national exposure for our YMs
- Restructured staff and field organizational structure to improve support to units

We had a robust slate of summer programs, leadership schools, camps and other adventures to engage our Young Marines. Our challenge continues to be the funding support for the program. We appreciate the outreach by the MCL in engaging elected officials and others on our behalf. We are an extremely cost-effective program achieving the highest nonprofit ratings. At \$4M we are a bargain for the American public and a tremendous return on investment. Please keep pushing, our mission is more important now than ever. *Semper Fi!*

YOUNG MARINES LIAISON

JOHNNY BAKER

Young Marines of the Marine Corps League

MARINES: I was extremely proud of the group of Young Marines that provided a Color Guard for the opening ceremony of our National Convention in Dallas. Those four Young Marines, from the Tarrant County and Denton County Young Marines, performed outstandingly.

The YM headquarters was at the Convention site all week for the MCL. Patricia Borka (director of administration) had a YM booth set up every day of the convention and was able to answer questions from prospective MCL detachments that may be considering starting a YM unit. She was assisted all week by Christine Colacion-Zuniga, unit commander of the Denton County Young Marines. They assisted those MCL members already supporting or operating a YM unit. Kudos to them both for their dedication and enthusiasm for the YM program.

We were fortunate to have the YM National Executive Director/CEO William "Bill" Davis speak during our Friday morning session. He just returned from Arizona where he spent a few days with YMs and "Code Talkers" from WWII. At the Banquet on Friday night, Bill again made a great speech and reinforced the relationship with the YMs and the MCL. He also introduced the 2025 National Young Marine of the Year, YM Sgt. Maj. Chingiz Bahadur from Washington, DC. Chingiz made an outstanding speech to those in attendance. He was 10 years old when first introduced to the YM program. He had just immigrated from Azerbaijan, and as soon as he walked into the drill deck



at Col. Wesley Fox Young Marines, everyone was so welcoming to him, he felt like he belonged. After a few more drills, he knew YM was exactly where he wanted to be and what he wanted to do.

Bahadur is an honor graduate from his senior leadership school and received his Meritorious Service Award on the division level. He has had three perfect PFTs and earned his Distinguished Order of Merit Award through a project that helped

YMHQ hold a public affairs course in 2024. Outside of YM, Chingiz attends Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology, where he takes part in varsity football and wrestling. Following high school, he plans to attend the Naval Academy and become a Navy SEAL. A great role model for our younger YMs to emulate.

This year's National Convention was all about the League, but the YM's headquarters staff, YM color guard, and three members of the YM board of directors were there to solidify and reinforce the relationship between the YMs and the MCL. Remember, we should all stand ready to help the YMs in their core values in leadership, teamwork, and discipline. Afterall, it is what we stand for. *Semper Fi!*

DIVISION REPORTS

Maintain Contact with Members



Dave Englert
NVC, Central
Division



MARINES: Following up with members after they join is one of the best ways to retain members, yet, it's can be one of the hardest things to do. If you're in a detachment that only contacts you when it's time to pay dues, you know the feeling. How do we stay in contact with our membership? If you're a really small detachment, it's possible for the commandant to contact everyone and check on them. That becomes more and more difficult to do as a detachment grows. Here are a few tips I've picked up from others:

The value of the phone call cannot be overstated. Everyone appreciates a "how are you" call that doesn't involve a request for something. Concentrate on the members that don't come to meetings first. Divide your phone list into groups by sponsor, if you have sponsors or mentors,

or ask for volunteers to divide a phone list up amongst themselves. After introductions, find out how the member is doing, what needs they may have, and invite them to a meeting. If they can't make a meeting, ask what they'd like the rest of the group to know. Member welfare checks are one of the most basic elements of our mission. It doesn't have to be a long call to have a big impact.

In between calls, members must stay engaged with the detachment. Every member should be emailed a copy of the minutes prior to the next meeting to keep them informed of happenings. An agenda for the upcoming meeting is advisable and should go out with the minutes. Members who know what is going to be discussed at the meeting will be more engaged and more likely to participate. If there's a newsletter, email that out midway between meetings. An occasional email from the commandant, chaplain, or any other elected officer can fill in the time between meetings, too. Every member needs to know there is someone they can turn to in a time of need.

Maintaining contact with the membership increases retention for dues-paying members, gives an opportunity to remind members of their annual dues, simplifies the annual life member audit, and improves the fellowship of the members. Members might be a little more open to reach out for help and less open to dark mindsets. If you want to make a difference, this is a good start. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclcentdiv.org

What Position is Next? Moving Onward and Upward!



Frank Mathers
NVC, Mideast
Division



MARINES: Now Hear This

Thank you for electing me as your next national vice commandant of the Mideast division.

I want to thank the following Mideast division Marines for sharing their leadership skills/knowledge with me: PNVC Mike McLain, PNVC Bruce Rakfeldt, PNVC Roger Ware, and PNVC Rick Thomason.

I ran for the position of national vice commandant of the Mideast division to continue making a positive difference in the MCL, as I believe I have done from day one since joining in 2007.

One of the tenets of the League is encouraging Marines to accept detachment leadership positions, both elected and appointed. Marines are encouraged to move up in the leadership positions, passing along knowledge gained and acquiring

new knowledge for the betterment of the MCL. This should also be the case at the department, division and national levels of leadership.

New leadership brings new ideas and, hopefully, new and younger Marine leaders. The upward movement of Marines into leadership situations will help to preserve and advance the MCL well into the 21st century.

As Marines serve in various leadership positions within their detachments and departments, they will gain more knowledge and skill. This will lead to more engaged Marines, directly benefiting the League.

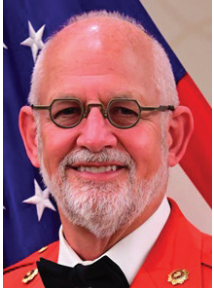
The MCL has provided many tools to assist and enable Marines in their desire to pursue leadership positions at all levels of the organization. I think the MCL Library offers a wealth of information (www.mcleaguelibrary.org) I encourage all members to review all links on the site. The MCL Library also has a members only page which has more membership -specific information such as corporate documents (National Bylaws, National Administrative Procedures, Guidebook for Detachments and Officers), Training (professional development), National Judge Advocate Rulings, National Business Meeting Minutes, Awards and Citations, etc.

I encourage all Marines to take on elected and appointed positions within their detachments and start, or carry-on, moving up in the MCL leadership ladder as the gain the knowledge and experience that is so vital to our League.

Marines "Ductus Exemplo" (lead by example)! **Semper Fi!**

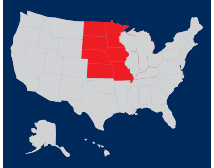
Division Website: mclmideast.com

Happy Birthday, Marine! A Convention to Remember



Jim Maevers

**NVC, Midwest
Division**



company of those who wear or once wore the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor.

The Midwest division was well represented at the convention with six departments having at least one delegate in attendance. Hopefully a North Dakota representative will be able to attend next year's convention in Indianapolis. Thank you to those who were able to attend our mini meeting on Thursday to discuss a few division issues.

I'm fortunate, as a national vice commandant, to sit up front during the sessions. From there, I could see and hear everything clearly. I know some in the back struggled, so my advice is simple: sit closer. It's easier to stay engaged, and as a speaker myself, I can tell you there's nothing better than being able to make eye contact with your audience.

This year also reminded me how important leadership transitions are. Four national vice commandants, Rick Thomason, Mike Flynn, Jerry Holt, and Randy Rigg, finished their service on the board. Each of them gave their time, energy, and wisdom to strengthen the League. Their example is a reminder that we all need to be thinking about succession—who will carry the torch in our detachments, departments, and divisions. Strong leadership doesn't just happen; it grows when we nurture it.

As I write this, the 250th birthday of our Marine Corps is just around the corner. Whether you're attending a ball, gathering with your detachment, or simply calling a buddy, take time to say, "Happy birthday, Marine." We've all earned it, and we all deserve it. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

2025 National Convention — Texas

MARINES: For those who attended the National Convention, I hope your travels home were smooth. I had the privilege of being there — and what a fantastic week it was.



Pat Maguire

**NVC, New
England Division**



I'll admit, I had a few concerns going in. Airports, logistics — the unknowns. But I tip my cover to the Department of Texas. They delivered an outstanding event. Every detail was handled with precision. I'm sure there were some challenges behind the scenes, but everything felt well-planned and seamless. The after-hours events, especially the Medal of Honor dinner, were powerful and memorable. Hats off to Texas for hosting an exceptional convention.

But beyond the schedule and ceremonies, the real takeaway was the camaraderie. The laughter, the conversations, the stories shared. That's what the League is all about. I spoke with a Marine from New England who ran into someone he had recruited over 20 years ago. That's the magic of what we do — reconnecting, sharing, and strengthening bonds.

It also made me reflect: Why is it so easy to talk with each other at convention? We're all Marines. We've worn the same uniform, lived the same values, and now we're part of this League. That shared identity makes it easy to strike up a conversation, even with someone we've never met.

But why stop at convention? There are Marines everywhere — in stores, restaurants, airports — who may be looking for exactly what we have: connection, belonging, and purpose. Many have never heard of the League, but would join if simply invited.

Each of us has the power to grow this organization. If every member brought in just one new Marine, we'd double our numbers. And more importantly, we'd give those Marines a team again. A place to belong. A tribe.

Let's carry the spirit of the convention with us. Let's be the hand that reaches out, the voice that invites, and the reason another Marine finds their way home. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclnederland.com

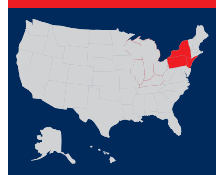
DIVISION REPORTS

Building Tomorrow's League Through Purposeful Engagement



Robert Ziltz

NVC, Northeast Division



MARINES: Over the past several quarters we've discussed membership, leadership development, and the essential role of mentorship in securing the future of the MCL. Each of these is critical, but none of them can stand alone. The true challenge before us is weaving them together into a culture of purposeful engagement that sustains not only our numbers, but also our spirit.

Membership is the foundation. Without new Marines joining our ranks, there's no organization to lead. Yet we know that simply signing a new member is not enough. If we do not provide them with a sense of belonging, their membership card becomes little more than a piece of paper. That is why engagement must begin immediately. A new member should feel valued, welcomed, and needed from the first

meeting forward. This is our responsibility.

Leadership development is the next step. The League cannot thrive if only a handful of members carry the burden of responsibility. Every Marine brings leadership potential, but it must be nurtured, practiced, and recognized. Leadership schools, workshops, and shared experiences provide the framework. More importantly, opportunities must be created at the detachment level where members can lead, fail safely, learn, and grow. Development is not a single course; it is a continuous process of shaping tomorrow's leaders today.

Mentorship ties all of this together. Membership gives us numbers. Leadership development gives us skills. Mentorship gives us continuity. It ensures that knowledge, traditions, and values are carried forward. When an experienced Marine takes the time to guide a new member, to listen, to encourage, and to coach, the League becomes more than an association—it becomes a brotherhood and sisterhood bound by trust and fidelity.

Purposeful engagement means making a conscious choice to invest in one another. It means resisting the temptation to "do it all ourselves" and instead giving others the chance to step up. It means remembering that our mission is not just to preserve the League, but to empower Marines—past, present, and future—to live out our motto of Semper Fidelis.

If we commit to purposeful engagement—building membership, fostering leadership, and embracing mentorship—we will not simply endure. We will thrive. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: nedmcl.org

The Unspoked Attribute



Skip Nakashima

NVC, Northwest Division



The following is from the outgoing NVC, Northwest Division Michael Flynn:

MARINES: As with all things, my time as a National Vice Commandant has come to an end. After 20 years as a member of the League, I do believe we have one of the best board of trustees and national officers the League has seen in its history. To build on that, the level of involvement from our past national commandants continues to enrich us with their respective contributions.

The one attribute I see and admire in our ranks more than anything else is how willing our members are to help others. I don't mean large fundraising campaigns or assisting any service member through the V.A. system, although these are a part of it. Think about how many times a member

experiencing an issue and is helped by another member without hesitation. The number of times we pick up members to attend our meetings because they can no longer drive. The countless times someone has needed a home repair, and someone steps up and says, "I can help you with that." I can give thousands of examples and all of them would speak to this very attribute.

Humility is seen as a rare attribute. We don't speak of it, even though we witness it often. You don't see it discussed much in business books or in the halls of government. It's often portrayed as a deficiency. Humility does not mean weakness or thinking you are unworthy. It's not about lack of confidence.

Humility is simply thinking about others more than thinking about yourself. Our strength by being Marines also gives us the courage to say to someone else, "I can help you." It's reflected in our ability to recognize that the needs of others may outweigh our own needs. Humility is a sign of personal strength. Some say it's a sign of freedom. A humble leader listens to others. They surround themselves with the best people they can. They recognize people's individual gifts and then learn from them.

We should be proud of our individual accomplishments. But, pay attention to the individual quietly helping without any desire of recognition. That's someone we can learn from. Someone we want on our team. Someone showing leadership. Someone humble through their strengths. This is who I see in my League. It's where my true pride in the League and being a Marine comes from. Thank you for all you have taught me! **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Dep. of Ohio, Central Division MCL present awards to the Miami Valley Young Marine in Troy, Ohio on July 3, 2025. Dep. of Ohio officers present: Young Marine Liaison Stan Williams, SVC Shannon Nichols, and Dep. Commandant Kevin D. Keller.



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DIVISION REPORTS

League Business



Tom Krueger

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division



MARINES: Marines and associate members of the Rocky Mountain Division. Having just returned from the National Convention in the Dallas Fort Worth area. First, I would like to thank you the Marines and associate members for the outstanding job the did hosting this year's National Convention. They provided a Texas style barbecue and the food was awesome. For those that wanted, Monday night they have prepared an amazing time at the Medal of Honor Museum for us. There was a very tasty dinner and a night with Medal of Honor awardee Ty Carter. He is an amazing young man and his talk was very informative. There was a lot of renewing of friendships as well as the making of new friends.

Now down to the business of the MCL. At the National Convention, all the national elected officers were reelected to another term. We must continue to march and abide by the bylaws set before us. This means we need to ensure we are conducting the business of the detachment in accordance with the national bylaws. I am asking all detachment commandants to ensure they are filing their state incorporation paperwork as well as their 990N (EIN) paperwork. I am also asking that each detachment commandant ensure their record of installation is completed and forwarded to their departments and national headquarters.

As we move closer to the later part of the year, if your detachment is going to lead or support a Toys for Tots program, ensure you are filling the correct paperwork. Ensure this is reported to the League's national Toys for Tots coordinator. The Toys for Tots Foundation is reporting that the MCL provides a third of all the toys collection. That is outstanding as MCL is stepping up and showing all what we can do.

In closing, let's all look to the future and ask ourselves what we can do to make this great organization succeed and develop into a model that all veteran organizations would like to follow after.

Semper Fi!

Division Website: rockymountainmcldiv.org

The Marine Corps League: A Veteran Organization of Lasting Community Value



Ronnie Broussard

NVC, Southeast Division



MARINES: Veterans return home carrying not only the discipline, commitment, and teamwork learned in uniform, but also a deep desire to continue serving. The Marine Corps League, chartered by Congress in 1937, provides Marines and their families with a place to fulfill that mission in civilian life. Far more than a fraternal gathering, the League is a vital community partner, offering service, leadership, and support where it is most needed.

A Bridge Between Veterans and Community Needs

The Marine Corps League channels the Marine philosophy of "Semper Fidelis – Always Faithful" into meaningful local impact. Communities benefit directly from League programs such as:

■ Youth Mentorship and Scholarships:

Supporting students through scholarships, mentorship, and involvement in programs like Young Marines or JROTC.

■ **Veteran Assistance:** Providing guidance to veterans navigating benefits, health care, and resources, ensuring no Marine is left behind.

■ **Family and Survivor Support:** Offering comfort, assistance, and fellowship to families of deployed service members and Gold Star families.

Answering the Call in Times of Need

The MCL plays a critical role in mobilizing when the community faces hardship. Whether it is coordinating relief efforts after natural disasters, volunteering at V.A. hospitals, or raising funds for Toys for Tots, Marines continue to serve where help is needed most. Their presence brings reassurance that reliable, disciplined, and dedicated individuals are ready to step in.

Preserving Patriotism and Honor

Through ceremonies, parades, funeral honors, and educational outreach, the MCL keeps alive the traditions of service and sacrifice. By participating in civic events, the League not only honors veterans but also instills respect for patriotism and history among younger generations.

A Lasting Value

Communities thrive when they have strong partners dedicated to service. The MCL's value lies not only in supporting Marines but in its steady commitment to the well-being of the entire community. From mentorship and aid to remembrance and relief, the League embodies the Marine spirit long after active service ends.

Once a Marine, always a Marine. In every act, large or small, the MCL reminds us that veterans are not just former service members, they remain pillars of strength, integrity, and service within their communities. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: seddiv.org

Moving Forward



Mark Oldmixon

**NVC,
Southern
Division**



MARINES: First, I want to thank Randy Rigg for stepping up without hesitation when the national BOT asked him to serve as NVCSD this past year. Randy has prepared me to step up to NVCSD.

This old Redeye Gunner would like to thank the Southern Division Marines for electing me to national vice commandant, Southern Division. I am Mark Oldmixon, third of seven brothers. Born in Corpus Christi, Texas and lived across South Texas when my dad, a WWII Navy vet, worked for Southwestern Bell. I served from '73-'77 at Cherry Point in 3rd LAAM Bn, 2nd Redeye platoon. After the Corps, I served forty years in the fire service, retiring in 2020. I am a charter member of the Sgt. JR Tijerina Detachment 1295 in Katy, Texas. I have served as detachment commandant, senior, junior vices and judge advocate. I served three years at Texas J.A., and these

past two years as ANVCSD. I am looking forward to working with all Southern Division Marines and other divisions in reaching the goals of the League. Recruiting and retention are major goals across the League.

By the time you read this, some deadlines have been passed; annual dues, PLM audits, and others.

Transitioning to electronic filing for all forms makes it easier for department adj/PM and National to legibly read the names and contact information. Updating ROI is vitally important when it comes to passing down the word from National and departments and this delays communication and keeping everyone on the same page.

I am looking forward to working with all going into the next fifty years. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: southernmcl.org

The Right Tool for the Job

Using the Right Leadership Approach to Accomplish the Mission.



Joe Uribe

**NVC,
Southwest
Division**



MARINES: Leadership is essential to accomplishing the mission, but it's not a one-size-fits-all approach. There are many ways to lead, and they vary greatly across a wide spectrum of styles. When we fail to achieve our objectives, one of the questions we must ask ourselves, though it might hurt our pride, is whether our leadership was at fault.

Adaptability in leadership is not about changing who you are, it's about choosing the right tool for the job. A mechanic doesn't use a single wrench for every repair. In the same way, a leader must be willing to adjust their approach to reach and inspire different people.

Some leadership styles used can be:

■ **Authoritative** Sets a clear vision, outlines the path forward, and expects others to follow with confidence. This works on people who believe in hierarchy and the

chain of command.

■ **The Coach** Rally's support through motivation, inspiring individuals by applauding strengths while being present and setting the example. This is helpful for individuals who need a bit of assistance and mentorship.

■ **The Ally** This style is for persons who can do the job but doesn't like being told what to do, they will work so long as everyone pulls their own weight, including the one giving orders. This builds camaraderie. This style gets your hands dirty but accomplishes the mission.

Each of these styles is a tool to be used. You may need to rally members with firm direction during a crisis, shift to a coaching role when preparing someone for a new responsibility, or simply ally with members who need encouragement. The key is knowing when to employ each style to move the mission forward.

The Marine Corps League's common goal is, us—Marines. We need to ensure the proud traditions we inherited remain strong for future Marines. That requires the Marine Corps League to succeed. How we, as leaders, choose to lead will inspire members to stay or disappoint them and drive them away.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate new Department Commandants Antonio Espino (AZ) & Ivania Mungia (CA) on your elections. Your presence at the 2025 National Convention was indicative of your strong commitment to duty. It was a pleasure to see a very strong showing from the SWD there. And, to those who moved up to PDD this year. Congrats! **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclswdivision.org

MCIC Marine Staff Sgt. Kent Estrada Named 2024 Marine Corps League Reservist of the Year

By Staff Sgt. Jestin Costa, Marine Corps Information Command

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. –

U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Kent J. Estrada, an administrative specialist with Marine Corps Information Command (MCIC), was recently selected as the 2024 Marine Corps League Reservist of the Year, one of the highest individual honors earned by a Marine in the Reserve component. The announcement, made on June 4, highlights the growing impact of MCIC's Reserve talent in operational readiness and global mission execution.

Estrada was recognized for his extraordinary leadership, operational excellence, and unwavering commitment to the Marine Corps mission. He was nominated by his command and selected from among more than 39,000 Reserve Marines across the force.

As MCIC's staff noncommissioned officer in charge of readiness and deployments, Estrada played a vital role in coordinating the successful deployment of more than 150 Marines over the past year. His efforts ensured

the readiness of Reserve personnel by directly supporting the command's mission to provide integrated information capabilities to the Fleet and Joint Force.

"Preparing these Marines and civilians for deployment ensured combatant commanders worldwide had access to highly qualified personnel to meet their operational needs," Estrada said.

In addition to his stateside contributions, Estrada served as the battle SNCOIC with Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. In that role, he supported real-world joint operations, applying his expertise to high-impact missions across multiple theaters.

Known for his tireless work ethic, Estrada has earned a reputation within MCIC as a leader who delivers results while fostering unit cohesion. His work reflects the strategic importance of Reserve Marines operating within critical mission areas, including cyberspace, information operations, and global force projection.

"True leadership isn't demon-



NVC Rick Thomason presented the award to Staff Sgt. Kent Estrada. (Photo: Staff Sgt. Jestin Costa, USMC)

strated through authority, but through service," Estrada said. "As you rise in rank, your primary focus should be on the well-being of your Marines—that's where the real responsibility lies.

Estrada's selection marks the first time a Marine from MCIC has received the Marine Corps League's Reservist of the Year Award. His recognition reflects the command's expanding presence in cyber-enabled operations and affirms the essential role of Reserve Marines in supporting the Marine Corps' mission.

"Being named 2024 Marine Corps League Reservist of the Year is deeply humbling," he said.

"It signifies recognition of dedicated service, upholding Marine Corps values, and commitment to supporting fellow Marines, their families, and the community—a responsibility I cherish."

Marine Corps Information Command, headquartered at Fort George G. Meade, delivers integrated information capabilities to Fleet and Joint Force commanders across all domains. As a vital element of the Marine Corps' modernization and cyber-enabled force design, MCIC leverages active and Reserve talent to enhance operational reach, resilience and decision advantage in the information environment. **Semper Parati**

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Ready for the Next Project

Event Support Ready To Assist

I met Joel Douglas Murray on April 25, 2025, at the Tennessee State Veterans Home in Humboldt, TN. I knew Joel was a lifelong artist, but truthfully, I did not know what to expect. One thing was certain; I would learn a lot about Joel that afternoon in the short 45-minute interview.

Marines always catch a bad rap for metaphorically consuming crayons. I have never met one that used crayons for what they were intended for. You see, Joel was a lifelong artist. He discovered his hobby when he was four years old. Joel had been a resident of the state veteran's home for nearly two years. He is the son of a career Marine. He had attended school at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC. As a matter of fact, he proudly wore his high school class ring on his left-hand pinky finger.

Joel was no stranger to the military life, either, as he was also a Vietnam-era veteran. His military occupational specialty was aviation ordnanceman. I had never met an ordnanceman who wasn't proud to be one, and they made sure everyone they associated with, knew it, also. Affixed to his olive drab green cover, or civilian ball cap, he had an Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, the coveted symbol of the U.S. Marine. Directly beneath that, he had a circular shaped pin with a flame coming out of the top of it. I recognized it right away; it was an unexploded bomb. Anyone familiar with military insig-

nia would have recognized it right away.

I found the 78-year-old Marine sitting at a desk in the community library, which he would later jokingly refer to as his art studio. He was studying a book of World War I and II artwork. I wanted to get a little background on his military service, so we talked shop for a few minutes. Joel told me he served from June 1966 to June 1970. During his tenure, he served at two commands: Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 14 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock, NC. His second command was an active fleet Marine force fixed wing squadron, VMFA 235 which flew F-4 Phantoms aboard MCAS Kaneohe Bay, HI. Joel joked candidly about that particular part of his tour being the hardest because of all the scenery. I joked with him that I had once heard from another Marine veteran that the F-4 Phantom was living proof that you could put afterburners on a brick and make it supersonic, but I digress.

Joel loved to draw. He told me he discovered this passion very early in life. He would watch the artists at the mall in Memphis decorate t-shirts, license plates, caps, and tennis shoes. He picked up an airbrush and started practicing. Eventually, he became so talented that he once made \$200 selling some of his art in one weekend! One of the most unique items that Joel had ever been tasked to paint were batting helmets. One day, a coach approached him about painting some batting hel-

kets. He agreed, Joel stated he may have taken on a little more than he bargained for with this particular client, because they delivered two big bags of batting helmets for him to paint. He was overwhelmed with work but, it wasn't all bad.

"My artwork never really gained a tremendous amount of notoriety until I ran into a Walmart manager in store one day."

Looking back on it, Joel couldn't have known that the man he ran into that day would offer him the first big break to showcase his artwork in a more public forum. Joel spoke admirably about his contact, store manager Leo Luveno. "He had a way with leadership and inspiration. Luveno could whisper something to someone and inspire them to do whatever they were asked to its entirety."

Joel recognized a unique and intriguing quality about this person. "Luveno was the golden key, because everyone knew him and loved him." Luveno told Joel that if he ever needed work, he had something for him. One day that opportunity presented itself.

Luveno tasked Joel with creating a seasonal painting on a 30-foot-long, 12-foot-high wall in the Walmart store. This bolstered his confidence and showcased his art work in the public eye. He painted this wall for Easter, Christmas, and even the Super Bowl.

"The work was tedious," Joel explained, "because there was a lot of



going up and down on a ladder.”

The newfound notoriety opened the door to more lucrative and exotic artistic opportunities. For example, Joel became involved in an art known as scrimshaw. Scrimshaw is a unique method of etching artwork on ivory tusks or whale teeth. To his credit, he has done at least three whale teeth in his lifetime. Joel, not unlike any Marine I have ever known, used his acquired skill in scrimshaw to trade for antique weapons. Marines are molded to have a love for weaponry, so it only makes sense that he would barter art for firearms. Joel used one hobby as a way to invest in the other.

Fast forward to his golden years, Joel finds himself in the Tennessee State Veterans Home. He and a social worker were toying with some ideas for something that would benefit the residents and staff of TSVH all while curing his

boredom. He had no interest in doing the same old ceiling tiles or t-shirts for the TSVH. Instead, he pitched the idea of doing a mural. The social worker encouraged the idea. The only thing that would need to be examined would be what to do and where to display it. Joel’s artistic ability allowed him to envision the work that he would eventually bring to life on canvas. “Reflections” was born. The pencil drawing features five professional individuals staring into a small pool of water. The five people were a law enforcement officer, doctor, nurse, fireman, and an airline pilot. Each of the five individuals are gazing into a pool reflecting on their grandparents and the roles they played in the Second World War. Joel was excited go to Hobby Lobby where he found all the necessary supplies to bring his vision to life.

Starting from the middle and working his way outward, the middle person or the center focal

point, would be the nurse, who Joel clearly recognizes as essential and necessary to the mission of the TSVH. Joel acknowledged the challenge he posed to himself as he had not worked with pencil in over four decades. This art was very different from the usual airbrush art that was the mainstay for most of his artistic career. Unfortunately, in an unrelated accident, Joel suffered a fall resulting in a broken hip which posed a minor setback to his progress. But nothing stops a Marine on a mission. Joel returned from his injury with a new unwavering determination. The project became a labor of love. With the conclusion of this artistic venture, Joel eagerly expresses his enthusiasm and interest in a new future project for all to enjoy. Not surprising, Joel concluded our informal interview with the statement, “I’m ready for the next project!” ***Semper Fi!***

MCL Supports Josh White Racing at the Southern Illinois 100

By Dave Englert, NVC Central Division

At the request of our national executive director, my wife and I were fortunate enough to attend the Southern Illinois 100 to represent the Marine Corps League. To say it was an exciting, adrenaline pumping, and motivational day would be an understatement. The race was held in August, 2025 and was broadcast on Fox Sports. The broadcast was definitely watched.

I was joined by five members of my detachment, Det. 931 Southern Indiana Leathernecks. We are a tight family of Marines and associate members. In my contingent was Commandant David Flynn who conducts video interviews for local and internet broadcasts of "Scuttlebutt." YouTube distribution is available on 18WJTS's YouTube page (scan the QR code below).

David conducted a fantastic interview with Josh during some slack time, highlighting what Josh is all about. This interview has been shared numerous times across several social media platforms. Adjutant Beth Tyler also joined us. Beth is a highly motivated associate member who is frequently mistaken for a Marine. She lives and breathes the Marine ethos. Beth was our photographer for this outing and provides content to our Facebook page (facebook.com/

SILDMarines). Associate members Chris "Boone" and Janelle Taylor are the founders of and the energy behind "Operation Mind, Body, and Soul", which best described as a wholistic approach to the health and welfare of the veteran population. You can find more about them on their website, operationmindbodyandsoulcorp.net.

We were joined at the track with representation from other sponsors which included

Dan Jarvis - Healing the Hero (facebook.com/healingthehero), Michael Parker and Laura Slawnikowski - Devil Dog Canines (devildogcanine.com)

The day was spent making connections, sharing experiences, and learning each other's operations.

Josh and his wife were extremely accommodating and spent pretty much every free moment between race day requirements to talk

with all of us, share thoughts, take pictures, do interviews, and educate us on racing. After car inspections, we were brought to the infield area and were able to watch practice rounds, qualification laps, and the race from a vantage point only feet from the entrance to pit row. As a bonus, we also watched the high intensity 20-lap dirt track car race which got our blood pumping. Just prior to the main event, all of us were able to join the cars on the track for the National Anthem.

Race time was exhilarating with an all-out



YouTube:
SCUTTLEBUTT:
DUBOIS COUNTY
by 18WJTS



battle. This was Josh's first race in three years and each lap of practice, qualifying and racing saw a continuous improvement as he found his rhythm in the #86 car. He held his own against racers who were vastly outspending his team, but misfortune hit when his engine blew and he was forced to retire from the race. A fair amount of material has made it to the internet. Josh White Racing has posted several photos, videos and even a short MCL commercial that we shot. (facebook.com/JoshWhiteRacing). Our support of Josh is not only a way to get our message out and reach our target audience, but is also an opportunity to help a fellow Marine get a start on a promising adventure! **Semper Fi!**



Josh White Racing NASCAR ARCA Series driver and Marine Corps Veteran with fellow Marine Corps League members. Josh is a member in West Virginia.

The MCL sponsored his car in DuQuoin, Indiana and will sponsor his car in a couple more races in 2025.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



The Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Det. held a Rose Fund event at the Summerfield Crossings Publix Supermarket in Riverview, Florida on August 2nd. Presenting the store management with a certificate of appreciation are (left to right) Det. Associate Member and Past Dep. of Florida Auxiliary President Pat Skelding, the assistant store manager, the store manager, and the detachment Adjutant Jack Skelding. Not pictured but also working at the event were Bill Matthews and Tom McGowan.

Marcus Flores, Sr.
Vice Commandant,
Schwab Det.
857 in Tulsa, OK
swears in new MCL
member Edward
Marr, a resident
of the Claremore
Veterans Center in
Claremore, OK.



UNITED STATES MINT

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ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Members of Washington State Mt Olympus Det. 897 at the Forks Old Fashioned Fourth of July Parade with the Det.'s specially constructed Marine Amphibious Assault Vehicle replica which won first place overall for 2025. Front row: Jay McFarland, Don Clayton, Kim Costello. Back row: Jeff McFarland, Kathy Nicholls, Sam Springob, and Tom Daugherty.

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 youth under age 18, please visit the MCL Library for the "Photo Permission Form" under Scouting 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 Jim Powell 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.

America's Hometown

and the Birth of the Marine Corps

By Joseph Pravati

This year is a momentous year for all Americans to remember and pay homage to our nation's veterans. It has been 250 years since Massachusetts minutemen faced the British at Lexington and Concord; 80 years since the end of World War II; and 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War. However, as a resident of Plymouth, Massachusetts, a Marine Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and an amateur historian, I took on the mission of learning what role my hometown played in the early establishment of what has become the United States Marine Corps. During Recruit Training at MCRD Parris Island, I learned all about our first commandant Maj. Samuel Nicholas. We were taught about Robert Mullen and Tunn Tavern in Philadelphia. We learned about how Maj. Samuel Nicholas led the first amphibious landing on New Providence in the Bahamas to secure powder and armament for Gen.

Washington's Army that was forming outside of Boston to keep Gen. Gage and the redcoats penned up in Boston. My research discovered more details of how patriots from Plymouth and southeastern Massachusetts played a role in the formation of a new Nation.

Plymouth's First Marine Recruiter

Seth Chapin, born March 31, 1746, in Mendon, Massachusetts, holds the distinction of being the first Marine recruiter in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Before his service as a Marine officer, Chapin was a Corporal in Captain John Albee's 1st Company, which marched from Mendon to the Lexington Alarm on April 19, 1775. His unit pursued the British forces to Roxbury, withdrawing nine days later.

On June 24, 1776, a day before the commissioning of Capt. Robert Mullen, Chapin was appointed a Continental Marine Lieutenant. There were two Continental frigates under construction in Rhode Island and he was "equipped with the necessary

supplies and funding" and sent to Plymouth to recruit Marines and seamen from the local area to man these ships. On September 14, 1776, he joined the USS Providence in Providence, Rhode Island and continued to recruit for its Marine detachment.

Chapin's service aboard the Providence is clouded by conflicting accounts. A sergeant in his detachment cited in Chapin's pension records that Chapin "broke" in December 1776, and the sergeant alleges to have been promoted into his position. However, another source places 2nd Lt. Chapin at the court-martial of Navy Lt. Richard Marvin aboard USS Providence on April 3, 1777, off Field's Point in the Providence River. That same December, the British occupied Newport, Rhode Island, blockading the fledgling Navy and trapping the USS Providence in port until it ran the blockade on April 30, 1778.

Chapin eventually left the Continental Marines and joined the Rhode Island troops. On July 19, 1777, he was commissioned as a first lieutenant in Capt. James Webb's company, part of Col. Henry Sherburne's Battalion. This unit endured Valley Forge, fought in the Battle of Rhode Island in 1778, and participated in the Battle of Staten Island in January 1780. In July 1780, Chapin was promoted to captain in a regiment raised by the Rhode Island legislature. He also played

a critical espionage role before the Battle of Rhode Island, relaying signals from a spy in British-occupied Middletown, Rhode Island, across the Sakonnet River to Compton.

After the colonies gained independence, in his later years, Chapin earned the title deacon and married three times. He died November 15, 1833, at age 87 in his hometown of Mendon, where he was buried. Seth Chapin's legacy as the first Marine recruiter in Plymouth reflects a man who tirelessly served his emerging nation through military service, recruitment, and espionage.

Continental Marine Lt. James Warren, Jr.

James Warren Jr., born October 18, 1757, in Plymouth, Massachusetts, was the eldest son of patriot leader James Warren and writer Mercy Otis Warren, both key figures in the American Revolution. After graduating from Harvard College in 1777, he briefly entered the mercantile trade before being commissioned as a lieutenant in the Continental Marines on October 2, 1778. His commission was reportedly signed by Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress, while his father served as Navy Boardman of the Eastern Department in Boston.

Assigned to the USS *Alliance*, Lieutenant Warren served under Marine Detachment Commander Capt. Matthew Parke and alongside Lt. Thomas Elwood until June 1781. Parke, a veteran of the Raid on Nassau under Captain Samuel Nicholas, the first Marine commandant, had also commanded Marines on John Paul Jones's USS *Ranger*. Elwood later became the last Continental Marine in service. The USS *Alliance*, led by French Capt. Pierre Landais, struggled with a fractious crew of foreigners and British prisoners of war, placing Marine officers like Warren in a critical role for maintaining discipline.

On January 14, 1779, *Alliance* embarked on its first mission, transporting the Marquis de Lafayette to France to secure aid. Arriving February 6, 1779, the voyage uncovered and thwarted a mutiny led by

*Here in Plymouth, we
are surrounded by our
nation's history. So
much of it is taken for
granted, no longer taught
or emphasized in our
schools. We walk on the
same ground as these
people did 250 years ago.*

a ship's sergeant. Later, under Benjamin Franklin's orders, *Alliance* joined Captain John Paul Jones's squadron to raid British coasts and support France's invasion plans. Tensions flared as Landais clashed with Jones, culminating in the Battle of Flamborough Head. There, Jones's USS *Bonhomme Richard* famously defeated HMS *Serapis*, with Continental Marines excelling in sharpshooting and boarding actions. Defying orders, Landais engaged Countess of Scarborough separately and later fired on *Bonhomme Richard*, contributing to its loss. The squadron reached the Netherlands on October 3, 1779, to recover.

Jones took command of *Alliance* in December 1779, relieving Landais, and resumed raids from France in early 1780. That June, Landais, backed by Franklin's rival Arthur Lee, hijacked the ship to return to America. He imprisoned dissenters and demanded loyalty. Landais's tyrannical rule sparked resistance. Capt. Parke and Lt. Warren defied him; Parke was confined for 11 days. Near Boston, the crew ousted Landais, arriving August 19, 1780. The

Navy Board, including Warren's father, investigated swiftly. Capt. John Barry, appointed commander, ordered Marines, including Warren and Parke, to forcibly remove Landais from his quarters on September 19, 1780, ending his command.

In February 1781, *Alliance* sailed to France with dignitaries like Col. John Laurens (son of Henry Laurens), Thomas Paine, and the Vicomte de Noailles. Returning in March, it targeted British shipping. On May 28, 1781, off Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, *Alliance* battled HMS *Atalanta* and *Trepassey*. Lt. Warren suffered a severe knee wound, ending his service, while Marine Lt. Samuel Pritchard and Sgt. David Brewer died. Capt. Barry was also injured. Victorious but battered, *Alliance* reached Boston on June 6, 1781.

Warren returned to Plymouth, where his leg was reportedly amputated at home. Supported by family and fellow Marines, he secured a pension in 1784, submitted by his father with an affidavit from Parke and Lt. Samuel Cooper. Later, he served as Plymouth's postmaster, a position John Quincy Adams attributed to his family's support for Thomas Jefferson over John Adams. James Warren Jr. died unmarried and childless on August 5, 1821, at age 64. He is likely buried in the Warren family vault at Burial Hill, alongside other relatives of his generation.

Conclusion

Here in Plymouth, we are surrounded by our nation's history. So much of it is taken for granted, no longer taught or emphasized in our schools. We walk on the same ground as these people did 250 years ago. Although I have included a lot of dates in my writing, the dates are not important. The story is. Knowledge of what these people did in their day is important. We should never forget; we must remember. So...Marines and readers, from Plymouth, a VERY happy Thanksgiving and **Semper Fi!**

REUNIONS

2025 CACO/CAP Reunion & 250th
USMC Birthday Celebration

Date: 6 – 10 NOV 2025

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bellsouth.net, (601) 918-5008
Info: cap.vet/2025-
reunion-registration

HMM-265 REUNION

Date: 8 – 12 NOV 2025

Location: Hotel Gibbs,
San Antonio, TX

Contact: John Winter,
(573) 286-2844

Info: Visit hmm-265.org and
click the "Next Reunion" tab.

USMC WEATHER
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Date: 14 – 18 JUN 2026

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psci.net, (812) 630-2099 or
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DEAR MEMBERS,

We are happy to announce that **James R. Beatty** from Florida and Washington State and **Derald Theriault** from Connecticut are both alive and well. Reports of their demise were not correct.

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CONTINUING SERVICE...

BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER

By Dennis Herring

Master Gunnery Sgt. (Ret), USMC
(Adjutant, Det. 513, Dept. of Florida)

All veterans provide a level of service while on active duty for a given period of time, be it four, 12, or, with some staying until retirement, 20-plus years of service. And after those hectic years, it is not uncommon for a vet to join one of the many Veteran Service Organizations (i.e., the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, or the Fleet Reserve Association) to maintain contact with comrades and continue to support their local community and veterans. Although somewhat atypical, a few individuals are able to pursue both careers simultaneously, providing equal attention to both entities. While serving in either status, as a member of the active forces or in a VSO, you progress to your “terminal rank”, be that the rank structure or the elected officer position. But what then? If on active duty, you typically retire and start collecting your retirement. In a VSO environment, since you are voluntarily serving in a position of authority and knowledge, you move into support rolls and committee activities, hope-

fully providing guidance, wisdom, and insight for others following in your footsteps. Even in these rolls, leadership is by example. Showing your tenacity and commitment to a cause is inspirational and sometimes, when the circumstances are right or the stars align properly, the setting is profound and acute.

So it was on 26 July '25 when four commandants (past and present) from the Marine Corps League Detachment 513 joined ranks for a color guard performance at the USSSA Space Coast Stadium in Viera, FL. Presenting the colors at the start of the USSSA War Games Baseball Tournament were current Commandant Chuck Betz, Jr. Past Commandant Rick Bedford (2023-2025), Past Commandant Dennis Herring (2022-2023), and Past Commandant Vinnie Howard (2016-2022) joining ranks as the Brevard County Sheriff's Office helicopter did a low-pass flyover.

This continuing service, even after holding the detachment's highest-ranking position, shows true dedication to our mission, our detachment, our League. It fulfills the mission to benefit the veteran's and youth communities in Brevard County. More importantly, this commitment provides



Four Commandants from Cape Canaveral Detachment 513 present the colors at the USSSA Space Coast Complex in Viera, FL. for the Regional Little League “War” games. Color guard members, from left, Jr. Past Commandant Rick Bedford, current Commandant Chuck Betz, and past Commandants Vinnie Howard and Dennis Herring.

an example of enthusiasm for the younger members of our organization. Hopefully inspiring them to carry on this unselfish attitude of ardent military bearing.

Our Marine Corps heritage is one of selfless service to God, county, and Corps and our execution of perfect military showmanship should be inspirational to all who witness these events. Our country, our Corps, our flag presented with dignity, reverence, and precision is an example for all to follow.

IT JUST NEVER GETS OLD *Semper Fi!*

A Call to Action in Support of America's Youth

By Sean Patton, National Chairman
Youth Physical Fitness

“We're surrounded. That simplifies the problem.”

A few years after Chesty breathed that iconic quote into a frigid existence, the Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) program was born and ultimately brought under the banner of our Marine Corps League. While the challenges facing our youth today vary greatly from those originally considered by our predecessors, the importance and urgency behind our involvement have only intensified.

America's uncertain future hangs in the balance. Marines, standby to copy.

Situation

Our youth are now then ones “surrounded.” Child obesity is an epidemic, placing our great nation's readiness at grave risk. Trillion-dollar technology designed to be mind-altering and irresistible is now omnipresent and required gear for daily living. Convenience and instant gratification are king. Apathy and division abound. The list of challenges goes on. Unfortunately, right when the mentorship, competition, and camaraderie inherent in YPF is most needed, the number of schools participating in YPF continues to death-spiral.

Mission

Effective immediately, our League should engage every school and youth organization within their community in order to educate, motivate, and lead our youth back to a place where they can be fit, confident, and ready to overcome any challenge.

Execution In accordance with the Youth Physical Fitness SOP, (a well-written and comprehensive document found within the MCL Member Library that should be mandatory reading for anyone still following here) our League should attack the enemy on two fronts—top down and bottom up.

Tasks

1. Marine Corps League YPF national chairman to build and lead the MCL YPF national staff by recruiting, training, and supporting a motivated representative from each of the ten MCL divisions. Currently, three MCL divisions currently stand completely unrepresented. Then, coordinate and execute a successful National YPF meet.

2. MCL YPF division representatives to build and lead a MCL YPF divisional staff by recruiting, training, and supporting motivated representatives from across their geographical areas of responsibility. Then, coordinate and execute successful state and/or regional meets.

3. MCL YPF department representatives to build and lead a MCL YPF departmental staff by recruiting, training, and supporting representatives from each MCL detachment. Then, coordinate and execute successful YPF local meets.

4. MCL YPF detachment representatives – YOU ARE THE MAIN EFFORT!!! – Marines, this door-to-door fight is where the rubber meets the road. These community leaders should leverage their knowledge, contacts, and initiative to get in front of school administrators, parents, coaches, and anyone who will listen, to find these pockets of children who could benefit from YPF.

Admin and Logistics

Please review the YPF webpage and peruse its videos and materials: www.mcleaguelibrary.org/youth-programs/youth-physical-fitness-ypf. You should learn just about everything you need to know to determine your future role in making YPF a success. Once you are properly informed, reach out to your MCL chain of command (YPF divisional points of contact are on the website) and let them know you are ready to report. Your League needs you. America's youth need you. Will you step into the breach one more time? ***Semper Fi!***

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The Tree of Lights Program has been supporting the Youth Physical Fitness Program for over twenty years. Each year, Marine Corps League Detachments and Auxiliary Units as well as members of the greater Marine Corps family have the opportunity to sponsor lights in honor or memory of a friend or loved one or as a Year-end gift on the tree lit during the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Sponsors' names are recorded on the *Scroll of Honor* displayed at the ceremony and on the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation website:

www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org

The 2025 Tree of Lights Ceremony is being held in the Medal of Honor Theater located in the National Museum of the Marine Corps on December 11, 2025, at 11:00. A catered lunch will immediately follow the ceremony on the 2nd Deck of the museum. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by December 1st to: (540) 426-8629 or admindir@usmarineyouthfoundation.org.

Tree of Lights Registration Form

Person or Organization sponsoring Light:

Address: (Where receipt and thank-you letter should be sent.)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

TYPE OF GIFT:

☐ IN HONOR OF: _____
(LIST NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON SCROLL OF HONOR*)

☐ IN MEMORY OF: _____
(LIST NAME AS WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON THE SCROLL OF HONOR*)

☐ YEAR-END GIFT to the UNITED STATES MARINES YOUTH FOUNDATION
* Please, one name per light.

TYPE OF LIGHT:

_____	\$500 Red Light
_____	\$250 Gold Light
_____	\$100 Blue Light
_____	\$ 50 Green Light
_____	\$ 25 White Light
_____	\$ 10 Clear Light

If you would like an acknowledgement letter sent to the family of the person you are honoring, please let us know where and to whom you would like it sent.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Please make checks payable to:

**U.S. Marines Youth Foundation
P.O. Box 284
Quantico, VA 22134**

Questions? Please call (540) 426-8629

Forms should be received by December 1st to ensure inclusion on the Scroll of Honor displayed at the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Donations will continue to be accepted through December 31st. The final Scroll will be posted on the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation website:
www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org

is a member in good standing of

This card is good for a period of sixty days from



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Full Name _____ Member Number _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Date of Birth / / Join Date ---/---/-----

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

Please indicate the amount enclosed: -----

Member's Signature

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

***For Members At Large (MAL), remit this form with check or money order In the amount of \$30 to:Marine Corps League, National Headquarters
P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990.***

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

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

Type of Application – New () 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.***



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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Mid-Winter National Conference Registration

February 26th-28th, 2026

Sheraton Pentagon City

900 South Orme St, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: 703-521-1900

Rate: \$131.00 per night plus tax Parking fee: \$10.00

Pre-Registration: \$10.00 Registration at the Conference: \$12.00

Deadline for Pre-registration is February 4, 2026

Online registration is available at mcleaguelibrary.org/conference

Please print the following information as you would like it to appear on your badge.

Name: _____ Name: _____

Title: _____ Title: _____

Dept & Det: _____ Dept & Det: _____

MODD Title: _____ MODD Title: _____

Pedigree & Tag #: _____ Pedigree & Tag #: _____

Pack & Pound: _____ Pack & Pound: _____

MCLA Title: _____ MCLA Title: _____

Dept & Unit: _____ Dept & Unit: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

Banquet

Beef @ \$65 # _____ \$ _____

Chicken @ \$65 # _____ \$ _____

Vegetarian @\$65 # _____ \$ _____

Total # _____ \$ _____

Total Registrations # _____ \$ _____

Total Banquet # _____ \$ _____

Grand Total Due \$ _____ **Check/MO #** _____

Please make all checks payable to **Marine Corps League**

MODERN DAY MARINE®



SAVE THE DATE

April 28-30, 2026

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington D.C.



moderndaymarine.com