



Unicoi Detachment 783  
Towns and Union County, GA

# GUNG HO GAZETTE

Editor: T.Coleman

Issue 002  
May 2026

Unicoi Detachment  
#783

## The Commandant Speaks:



Gung Ho!  
The term "Gung Ho," a Chinese expression meaning "working together," was adopted by Marine Lt. Col. Evans F. Carlson, as the slogan of his Marine Raiders. It soon spread throughout the U.S. Marine Corps as an expression of spirit and eventually entered the public dictionary to mean "enthusiastic" or "dedicated" and is the epithet of the 2nd Raider Battalion who followed him on the raid of Makin Island.

As you can see above, we have adopted the name "Gung Ho Gazette" for our newsletter. It seems fitting for our detachment, don't you think?

*John Entwistle*

## Announcements

- May detachment meeting will be held at the regular time, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, May 16
- No Veterans' Corner at Brasstown Manor this month; will resume in June.
- Governor Kemp has proclaimed May 3-9, 2026 as Marine Corps League Week to coincide with the Annual Conference.
- We are working on a new date to go visit with Sal Laratta. It will be announced soon.

## Tip of the Hat



We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some of our members:

- Barry, Gunny, JR, John E. and Claudia for working at the Welcome Home Veterans Air Show.
- Derek, Nancy, John E., Claudia and Doc for assisting in the Quilt of Valor presentation.
- Tammy, Claudia, John E., Doc, Roy, Jody, Brandy, Samantha and Chick for working and/or donating items for the yard sale.
- Pat for arranging an alternative location for Coffee & Camaraderie.



- Scott Drummond (5/1)
- Tim Sewell (5/2)
- Ashford Todd (5/2)
- Cheryl Beck (5/14)
- Wayne Roshaven (5/19)
- Chuck Frisk (5/26)
- Don Beck (5/31)



Join us at our May  
Celebration Dinner  
Sicily's 5/22 5pm



## Sick and Distressed

Richard Hoibraten  
Roger Pilcher  
David Haag  
Gary and Virginia  
Wimsett  
Barbara Howard  
Emily Appling  
The Family of Capt. Al  
Bowers  
Bob Haas  
John Entwisle

## Links

Detachment Facebook:  
[Marine Corps League -  
Unicoi Detachment #783](#)

Detachment website:  
<https://unicoi783mcl.org/>

Department website:  
<https://mcldeptofga.org/>



Blairsville VA Clinic:  
(706) 835-3980

VA Crisis Line: Dial 988,  
then press 1 or Text  
838255

## Celebration Dinner

On Friday, April 24, members of the detachment met at Lakeview Tavern in Hiwassee to celebrate our April birthdays. We had a great time and were made to feel very welcome by the staff. Unfortunately, our detachment photographer, Ash Todd, was not in attendance and no photos were made.



## Yard Sale

Saturday, April 25, was the American Legion Auxiliary Yard Sale. Sadly, the weather was not very cooperative, but we did at least make enough money to cover expenses and have a little extra. Hopefully our upcoming sale will have better weather. Thank you to all who donated and lent us a hand.

## Upcoming Dates:

May 1-2: Car Show  
May 7-10: Annual Convention  
May 16: Detachment Meeting  
May 16: Wings and Wheels  
May 20: Veteran's Cookout  
May 23: Parade

## Anniversaries

Each month we will be posting those members that first joined in that month along with the number of years that they have been members. Happy Marine Corps League anniversary this month to:

Bill Lyon: 13 years  
Chuck Frisk: 8 years

## Detachment Staff

**Commandant:** John Entwisle  
jent1948@gmail.com

**SVC:** Pat Seals  
halcop162@gmail.com

**JVC:** Doc Coleman  
acoleman8404@gmail.com

**Judge Advocate:** Chuck Frisk  
msgt1973@gmail.com

**Adjutant:** Claudia Entwisle  
mscah0628@gmail.com

**Paymaster:** Tammy Coleman  
tcoleman0419@gmail.com

**Chaplain:** Richard Hoibraten  
cj\_20207947@outlook.com

**SAA:** Gunny Triplett  
coldbear55@yahoo.com

# Marine Corps League Week

# New Members



Over the past year, our detachment has witnessed significant growth. Since May of 2025, 783 has led the state in new members. Our membership now stands at 63 and our attendance at detachment meetings, Coffee & Camaraderie and other events reflect it. We would like to welcome our newest members (Class of 2026 to date).

- Roy Hayden
- Jill Hayden
- Glen Cousins
- Patti Cousins
- Cliff Reisig
- John Howard
- Jennifer Sewell
- Melanie Reed

Welcome Aboard!



## A Wink from Walt



### Key May Dates in USMC History

- **May 13, 1846:** War was declared on Mexico, leading to actions where Marines fought, often summarized in “From the Halls of Montezuma”.
- **May 14, 1917:** The first Marine detachment transferred to the new training post at Quantico, Virginia.
- **May 15, 1862:** Corporal John F. Mackie became the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, for his actions on the USS Galena during the American Civil War.
- **May 15, 1991:** The 5th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) began providing disaster relief in Bangladesh during Operation Sea Angel.
- **May 16, 1927:** Marines participated in the Battle of La Paz Centro in Nicaragua.
- **May 17, 1965:** Roughly 5,500 Marines were stationed in the Dominican Republic as part of the stabilization force.
- **May 22, 1912:** First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham became the first Marine officer assigned to aviation duty, marking the birth of Marine Corps Aviation.
- **May 29, 1917:** The Major General Commandant directed the organization of the 5th Regiment of Marines to serve with the Army in France.
- **May 30, 1965:** Major General Lewis W. Walt assumed command of the 3d Marine Division in Vietnam.

# Coffee & Camaraderie

Don't forget our Monday morning Coffee & Camaraderie! We meet \*every\* Monday at 10am at either The Blairsville Restaurant or Sundance Grill in Hiawassee. The public is welcome to attend so bring a friend.



April 13

\*Subject to change due to holidays or weather.



# Welcome Home Veterans

The Welcome Home Veterans Event and Air Show returned to the Western Carolina Regional Airport in Andrews NC on April 18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. This free, annual event features a live airshow with military flyovers, antique planes, a vintage car/motorcycle display, live music, and veteran resources. Detachment 783 was well represented by JR Fowler, Barry Herold, Gunny Triplett, John and Claudia Entwisle.



## Purple Up Day!

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) has proclaimed April as the Month of the Military Child (MOMC). MOMC recognizes that the children of our military serve our country too and do so year round. They face challenges as well as successes along their journey. In recognition of military kids, we wore purple on April 15. Purple was chosen because it blends the colors of all the service branches together.

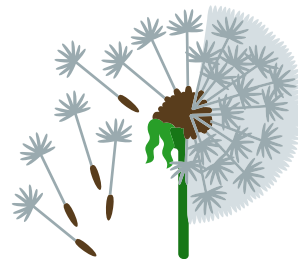


Our detachment member, Roger Pilcher Lt. Col USMC Ret. shared some thoughts with us on his experience:

I think the military children were and are important. I was one and as a small boy I could not understand why the Navy made my father drive a boat into the oncoming storm.

Then, in later years, as a disbursing officer, we never got the 4<sup>th</sup> of July nor Christmas off because we had to manually close out all pay records every 6 months. I know my girls never understood all my absences, especially at holidays.

It is true that love surpasses all pain and there is no deeper love than that of a military Dad for his children.



Roger with his daughter, Chris

Barbara, Ash, Brandy, Doc and Tammy

The dandelion is the symbol for the MOMC. It represents military children's ability to thrive and take root wherever life blows them.

# Quilt of Valor Presentation



Friday, April 17, in a coordinated effort with Appalachian Hospice, our detachment sent a small detail to the home of Capt. Al Bowers, U.S.M.C. There we assisted in the presentation of his Quilt of Valor. We have been advised that Capt. Bowers passed away Saturday morning at 0700 hours.

Captain Bowers attended Northwestern University and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. upon completion of OCS. After OCS, he remained at Quantico where he taught small unit tactics and military law. Afterwards he was transferred to the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa where he served as the Platoon Commander for one of the two Military Police platoons there. In March of 1964 he was sent to DaNang where he served the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade as Provost Marshall.

After his military commitment was up, Capt. Bowers returned home to Georgia where he attended the UGA School of Law. We are grateful to have known our brother. Please keep his wife, Betty, and his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you to Derek and Nancy Kunz, Claudia and John Entwisle and Alton "Doc" Coleman for representing the detachment.

# Corpsman Up!



Established by Congress on March 3, 1899, the U.S. Marine Corps rank of Gunnery Sergeant was created to provide technical experts in ordnance for ship detachments, overseeing shipboard weapons. Known informally as "Gunny," these Marines were initially the highest-paid enlisted personnel. Historically, they are recognized for their role in bringing technical expertise to the fight and upholding the traditions of the "Old Breed" of Marines.

The E-7 insignia started out as three chevrons over a bursting bomb and crossed rifles. In 1929, two "rockers" were added. The insignia was simplified over time to the current three chevrons and two rockers, commonly referred to as "rockers" or "guns". The rank was briefly eliminated in 1946, but was officially restored during the 1958-1959 restructuring of the Marine Corps enlisted ranks, establishing the modern Gunnery Sergeant as a senior SNCO.

Today, a Gunnery Sergeant (E-7) acts as a pivotal leader between junior Marines and commissioned officers, often holding the position of company gunnery sergeant. They are responsible for training, discipline, logistics, and technical proficiency in weapons and tactics. They serve in Ground Combat Elements, Aviation Combat Elements, and Logistics Combat Elements. Make no mistake about it, having a Company Gunnery Sergeant in your detachment is essential.

