



GUNG HO GAZETTE

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Issue 005
August 2026

Unicoi Detachment
#783

The Commandant Speaks:



In a wrap up to the last two columns concerning leadership qualities, it's important to note that different situations call for different approaches. Transformational leaders inspire innovation and personal growth. Servant leaders prioritize the needs of their team above their own ego. Transactional leaders excel at setting clear structures and rewards. The most effective leaders often blend styles depending on the context, team maturity, and challenges at hand.

In today's rapidly changing world – driven by technology, globalization, and shifting cultural expectations – adaptive leadership has become increasingly vital. Leaders must foster psychological safety so teams can experiment, fail, and learn without fear.

Strong leadership multiplies human potential. It turns groups of individuals into cohesive, high-performing teams capable of achieving what no one could achieve alone. Conversely, poor leadership breeds cynicism, inefficiency, and disengagement.

Ultimately, leadership is a responsibility rather than a privilege. It demands continuous self-improvement, willingness to accept criticism, and genuine care for those being led. As John Maxwell famously noted, "Leadership is influence – nothing more, nothing less."

Whether you lead a small project, a startup, or a nation, developing leadership skills starts with self-awareness and a commitment to growth. In an era that desperately needs principled guidance, those willing to step up and lead with both competence and character will shape our collective future.

Your Commandant,

Pat Seals

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Sick and Distressed

Roger Pilcher
Mark Medina
Mark's Mother-In-Law
David Haag
Steve Collins (husband of
Christine Collins)
Renee Capo
Richard Hoibraten
Forrest Reed (Jim and Melanie's
son)
Greg Fisher

Links

Detachment Facebook:

Marine Corps League - Unicoi
Detachment #783

Department website:

<https://mcldeptofga.org/>



Try it!

Our Linktree.

Blairsville VA Clinic:

Main#: (706) 835-3980

VA Crisis Line:

Dial 988, then press 1
or Text 838255

Veteran Relief

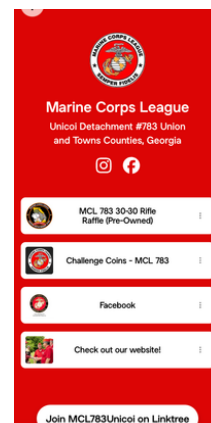
Recently, a veteran reached out for help in replacing his gas stove. After encountering several dead ends, a member of our veteran relief committee contacted a local appliance store, Harvey Jaxon. While they didn't have an immediate solution for us, they did keep it in mind and in a short time, they were able to connect us with a customer who was replacing her gas stove with an electric one. She indicated that she would sell the stove for \$100. We then contacted Travis Henry, owner of The Fire Man LLC. Travis graciously offered to not only hook up the new stove but to also transport it from the seller to the veteran, all free of charge. The final piece of this story was when Travis went to pick up the stove, the owner refused the \$100 saying that they wanted to give the stove to the veteran. We live in a wonderful community! The veteran called to let us know that the stove had been delivered and installed and expressed his gratitude for our help.

Thanks!



Linktree

When you see a QR code, if you open your camera app on your phone and point it at the symbol, you will see a little yellow box pop up. Touch it and it will direct you to our linktree. From there, you can select any of the options to go to that website.



Try it on the QR code to the left. If you need help, see me at our next gathering.

Upcoming Dates:

August 1...Dept. Quarterly, Locust Grove
August 6...2pm Veterans Social, Brasstown Manor
August 9-16...MCL National, Indianapolis
August 15...9am Detachment Meeting, Davenport Bldg.
August 28...5pm Celebration Dinner Sicily's
August 22...ALA Yard Sale, Davenport Bldg.

Detachment Staff

Commandant: Pat Seals
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SVC: Greg Fisher
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JVC: Gunny Triplett
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Judge Advocate: Chuck Frisk
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Adjutant: Claudia Entwisle
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JPC: John Entwisle
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Uniform Code for MCL - Part 2



Last issue, we talked about MCL covers - the minimum uniform item worn by members to be considered "IN UNIFORM". This issue, we will talk about what our detachment views as its standard uniform.

It is recommended that all members purchase a red polo with the MCL crest on the left chest and their name on the right. These polos when worn with black pants, black ratchet belt and black shoes are appropriate for most occasions (along with your cover). Please consider having your name embroidered on your shirt to help members connect and to easily identify you during conventions and department quarterlies.

Obviously, in colder weather some members may prefer a warmer option. A long sleeve red polo can be worn or a red button up shirt with the same crest/name placement.

These options are appropriate for both male and female members.

In Detachment 783, we have also made available to members a couple of t-shirt options. One is the red t-shirt with the MCL crest on the front left chest and the line drawing of the Iwo Jima flag raising on the back. The other is the new green t-shirt with the bulldog on the left chest and the new logo featuring the bulldog on the back. These are great to wear to more informal events.



A photo from our June detachment meeting

If you've read this far: Here's a chance for a prize!

The first person to send me an email at tcoleman0419@gmail.com with the correct answers to the following questions will get a prize:

1. Who is the owner of The Fireman LLC?
2. When will this year's Birthday Ball be held?
3. What year did Ash join the Marine Corps?
4. Name one of the new members sworn in at our July detachment meeting.
5. Where was the Gem City Gun Show held?

BIRTHDAYS



Celebration Dinner
8/28, 5pm
Sicily's

24 Scott Dr. (off Hwy. 129)
Blairsville





A Wink from Walt



1935-2023

- August 3, 1950: The "Black Sheep" squadron (VMF-214) flew eight Corsair fighter planes from the USS Sicily, executing the first Marine aviation mission of the Korean War.
- August 7, 1942: The 1st Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, launching the first U.S. land offensive of World War II and testing new amphibious doctrines.
- August 7, 1990: Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia, leading to the deployment of 45,000 Marines for Operation Desert Shield.
- August 9, 1942: Following heavy fighting on Guadalcanal, the 1st Engineer Battalion began construction on the captured airstrip, which was commissioned as Henderson Field.
- August 17, 1942: The 2nd Marine Raider Battalion (under Lieutenant Colonel Evans Carlson) launched a surprise raid on the Japanese-held island of Makin.
- August 21, 1942: Marines successfully defended the perimeter at the Battle of the Tenaru (also known as the Battle of Alligator Creek) on Guadalcanal, successfully repelling a Japanese counterattack.
- August 29, 1916: The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve was officially established by an act of Congress.

Keep the Traditions Strong: Join the Special Events Committee

We have two major milestones fast approaching, and we need your leadership to make them a success.

★ September 18, 2026: Our Detachment's 35th Anniversary Celebration

★ November 7, 2026: Our most sacred tradition, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Planning events of this magnitude requires teamwork, coordination, and esprit de corps. We are forming a Special Events Committee to help handle logistics, decorations, fundraising, and setup. Whether you want to help plan from the ground up or just volunteer on the day of the events, your contribution is vital to our mission.

Ready to step up?

Contact Tammy Coleman today at tcoleman0419@gmail.com to join the team and help make these milestones unforgettable.



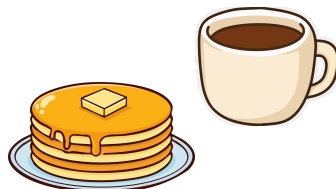
Coffee & Camaraderie

Don't forget our Monday morning Coffee & Camaraderie! We meet **every** Monday at 10am at The Sundance Grill on the 1st Monday or the Blairsville Restaurant on all other Mondays. The public is welcome to attend so bring a friend.



July 6

*Subject to change due to holidays or weather.



Do you know him?

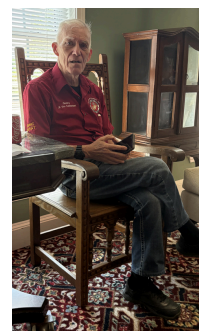


If you think you recognize this young Marine, turn to the Member Spotlight and see if you were right!

VETERANS' SOCIAL



Thursday, July 2, members of 783 could be found at Brasstown Manor in Hiawassee. This month's program was a musical performance by an amazing trio of musicians called On the Right Track. Those pictured include: Tammy, Brandy, Ash, Derek, Doc Jody and Gunny.



The Peach Post



For those of you who will be attending the upcoming quarterly meeting, you may see some new faces as the MCLA Georgia Peaches will be holding an in person meeting prior to the MCL social on Friday night. Since their membership is spread across the state, they have half of their meetings via Zoom, and the others in conjunction with MCL department-wide meetings.

If you don't know about the Marine Corps League Auxiliary or if you are female or have a female family member interested in joining, contact one of the local Peaches: Tammy Coleman, Brandy Creel, Jody Federico, Claudia Entwisle, Barbara Howard, Nancy Kunz and Patti Cousins. More information including a link to their Facebook page can be found here:



Member Spotlight: *Meet Ash Todd...*



It all started in Peoria, Illinois around Labor Day weekend, 1942. My father, with a group of friends, joined the Marine Corps on November 10, 1942. After Boot Camp in San Diego, he along with the rest of his graduating class, were deployed to the South Pacific. Unknowingly, he left his girlfriend in a family way!

My grandfather, a Methodist minister, decided to send his pregnant daughter away to have her child and then to place him up for adoption. I was born on May 2, 1943 in Chattanooga, Tennessee and raised on Lookout Mountain, GA. After a typical childhood of causing and getting in trouble and maintaining just average grades, I joined the Marine Corps in 1961.

After graduating Boot Camp at Parris Island, I was stationed at Camp Lejeune with the 2nd Pioneer Battalion as a 3051, warehouseman in supply. Due to that MOS, I attended embarkation school in Little Creek, Virginia in September 1962. Upon return, my buddy and I were assigned to load the USS Shadwell, LSD 15 and then informed that we would be aboard that ship two weeks later. We were deployed to Cuba and engaged in the blockade of Russian ships in October 1962. That was really close to nuclear war.....

Upon return in December, I was given orders to proceed to Marine Barracks in Washington DC for ceremonial duties there. I participated in John Kennedy's funeral and Lyndon Johnson's inauguration. After 2 1/2 years of many parades, funerals and other ceremonial duties, I was released from active duty on July 6, 1965, just barely escaping extended duty for Vietnam.

I found myself in California three months later! I began my career with Pacific Bell, an AT&T operating company, working in a central office. After seven years, I was promoted to management and spent the next 20 years there in Operations. I was granted an early management retirement due to downsizing with a full pension in 1991. I relocated to Bullhead City, AZ and retired a second time from Ace Hardware after 13 years as a manager there.

During that time, I had lost two wives. I met my Brandy in 2006. We were married in 2007. I was involved with Kiwanis there for 18 years. We loved golfing, hiking, kayaking on the Colorado River and traveling in our motorhome all over the country. We moved to Young Harris, Georgia in 2010. It only took me 50 years to find my way back home!

In May 2018, at 75 years old, my biological sisters found me and we immediately established a familial relationship. It has been quite a journey since that call!

From an early age, I spent time involved in woodworking as my major hobby. Music has been a passion of mine my entire life and as a result, I played guitar in a few bands and in later years picked up the Ukulele and now, co-lead the Ukulele Club of the Mountains. Brandy and I sing in the choir at the Sharp Memorial Methodist Church in Young Harris.

We enjoy golf and kayaking, though we don't get out as often as we would like to.

In a world where we can be anything we want to be, we try to be kind.



The Importance of Staying Hydrated

Everyone knows that staying hydrated is important. While we can go without food for relatively long periods of time, we can only survive a few days without drinking water. Water plays a vital role in our everyday life. We need water for:

- Regulation of body temperature
- Digestion
- Eliminating waste through urination
- Balancing the body's pH levels
- Lubricating joints and spinal cord
- Distributing of oxygen throughout the body



Here are five (5) tips for staying hydrated:

1. Be sure to drink at regular intervals during the day. If necessary, set reminders. Also, drink a variety of liquids such as herbal tea, flavored waters or even add a slice of citrus to your water to give it some taste.
2. When immediate hydration is required, the use of water add-ins or the intake of a sports drink (i.e., Gator Aid, Power Aid, etc.) can get you the hydration you need quickly. They can also replace lost electrolytes.
3. Hydration doesn't just mean drinking water or liquids. Foods such as watermelon, cucumbers, oranges and soup all have high water content. Along with simple water intake, these water-rich foods can super-hydrate your body.
4. Make sure that the environment around you is conducive to liquid intake. Keep a water bottle, or a Yeti, filled with water. Be sure to monitor room temperatures and be aware of medications that can cause dehydration; especially diuretics.
5. Let your doctor know about your liquid intake levels. Keep him/her in the know. They are a great source of insight, recommendations and guidance.



Signs of dehydration include:

- Dry mouth/throat
- Dark urine
- Fatigue with weakness
- Lightheadedness
- Confusion/disorientation

If you notice any of these signs, it is essential to take swift action and rehydrate as soon as possible. It is also important to understand that these symptoms may be indications of an underlying condition. It is advisable to consult with your doctor.

Next up...



RIFLE RAFFLE
to
Benefit Veterans



**Ruger American 30.06 with
Bushnell 6-18x60mm Scope**

1 ticket for \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20

Drawing will be held Oct. 19, 2026

**Winner will be required to pass a background
check and must follow all State and Federal laws**

Use ZEFFY to purchase tickets.

**It's FREE! Just use your
smartphone to scan the QR code.**



Help us raise \$ to better serve veterans!

Our next fundraiser is a Rifle Raffle held in conjunction with Veterans Cooperative Inc. All monies will go to MCL Unicoi Detachment 783 to benefit veterans in our community. We will be selling tickets online as well as at events in the coming months.

Remember that successful fundraising is how we are able to do all the veteran relief work that we do. Please think of people that you could sell tickets to and pick up a packet from Tammy or Alton to sell. Also educate yourself on the use of Zeffy for people who want to pay with a credit or debit card.



JR, Doc, Jeff, John, Hollie

SOS - Marines to the Rescue!

When one of our own, Ash Todd, needed help removing a downed tree, he put out the word and our Marines answered. Thursday, July 9, JR Fowler, Doc Coleman, Jeff Lamm, John Entwisle, Hollie Hollingsworth, Gunny Triplett and Jody Federico helped Ash get rid of the tree and had a good time in the process. We spend a lot of time helping veterans in our community, but our members are also veterans and sometimes need our assistance. If you find yourself in need of a helping hand, reach out!



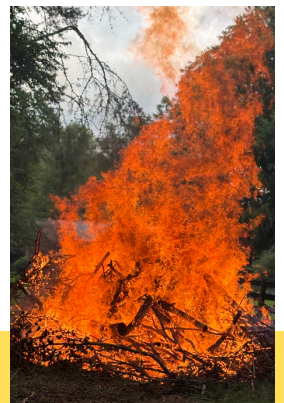
Ash



Doc



Gunny

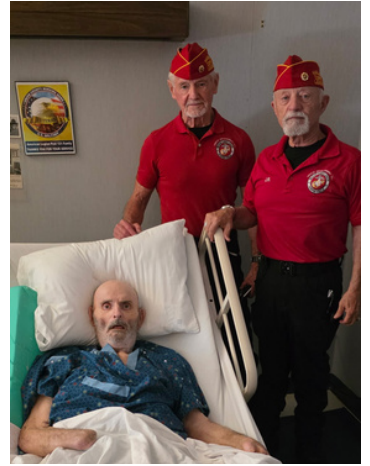


Visiting Vets



Derek Kunz, Gunny Triplett and JR Fowler paid a visit with Cpl. Ray Bowen who is a resident at Union County Nursing Home on Wednesday, July 15. We later received word that Cpl. Bowen passed away on July 16.

If you are interested in making nursing home visits, contact one of the Battle Buddies.



Welcome, New Members!



At our meeting on July 18, three new members were sworn in: Betty Bowers, Rob Mawyer, and Jeff Lamm. Commandant Pat Seals conducted the swearing in as members of the detachment looked on. We had a full house again at this meeting with 32 members present. Our next detachment meeting will be held on August 15 at 1000 hours with coffee mess beginning at 0900. We will meet at the Leon Davenport Veterans Building in Blairsville.



Celebration Dinner



Mike Francis



Marina Station in Hiawassee was the site of our celebration Dinner on July 24. We were honored to be joined by Lisa Delk (Dept. COM), Rex Delk (Dept. JPC), Terry Holland (Ga Pack Leader), Mike Francis (Senior VICE Chief Devil Dog) and Ricky Pitts (Southeast Div Vice Chief Devil Dog).



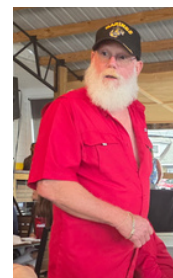
Lisa Delk
Gunny Triplett



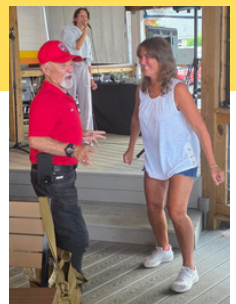
Wayne Roshaven



Terry Holland
Mike Francis



Pat Seals



JR Fowler



Claudia Entwisle



Jody Federico, Wayne
Roshaven, Melanie Reed

MODD GROWL



Ricky Pitts, Jack McCorkle, Mike Francis

Wayne Roshaven presenting Gary Wimsett and Sal Laratta with pedigree dog collars.



Sal Laratta, Gary Wimsett



Mike Francis (SVCDD)



Gary Wimsett, John Entwistle (JPC)



Rex Delk, Karen Francis, Angie Pitts, Terry Holland, Lisa Delk, Alton Coleman, Pat Seals



Members of MODD Pound 206



7/25/26



Refreshments provided by MCLA Georgia Peaches



Saturday, July 25 saw the advancement of two of Pound 206's Devil Dogs: Sal Laratta and Gary Wimsett. On hand to facilitate were Mike Francis (Sr. Vice Chief DD), Ricky Pitts (Southeast Div Vice Chief DD), Terry Holland (Ga Pack Leader), Rex Delk (Ga Pack Barking Dog), Lisa Delk (Ga Pack Dog Robber) and Ric Ledford (Asst. Mideast DVC)

Wheelchair Ramp Build



Before



After

On July 27 and 28, Commandant Pat Seals along with Jeff Lamm, Barry Herold and JR Fowler traveled to the home of a Marine veteran and his wife in Blairsville to build a wheelchair ramp. They were assisted in the effort by members of Blairsville First Baptist Church's Beacon Team. Unicoi Detachment 783 was able to pay for the materials needed from donations, including raffle ticket sales, made to our Larry Ashley Veterans Relief Fund. Lowe's of Murphy also gave us a discount on the materials. Doc Coleman helped coordinate the project.



JR Fowler, Pat Seals, Jeff Lamm, Barry Herold and Joel from the Beacon Team pictured with Mr. and Mrs. Shannon



GEM CITY GUN SHOW



Pictured: Alton "Doc" Coleman, Barry Herold and Tammy Coleman

The Gem City Gun Show was held at Foster Park in Young Harris on July 25 and 26. This show gave us an opportunity to sell raffle tickets for our latest rifle raffle. Led by Barry Herold, who was assisted by Joe Nichols, Pat Seals, Jody Federico, Alton and Tammy Coleman, we had a successful two days.



FOOD PANTRY



Several members of Detachment 783 volunteered at the Food Pantry at Young Harris College on Wednesday, July 29. College personnel facilitate this pick up food pantry once a month on campus. Members that volunteered were John Howard, JR Fowler and Doc Coleman. MCLA and Detachment members Barbara Howard, Jody Federico and Tammy Coleman also participated.

