



GUNG HO GAZETTE

Editor: T.Coleman

**Issue 006
September 2026**

**Unicoi Detachment
#783**

The Commandant Speaks:



Did you ever wonder why Marines wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor? What does it mean?

The individual parts of the emblem date back to 1776, when an anchor with rope or chain wrapped around it (fouled) was used to reflect naval ties. As early as 1804, buttons were seen with an eagle clutching a fouled anchor. By the mid-19th century, there were several different designs – some of which resembled US Army infantry insignia. This prompted a desire for something unique to the USMC. In November 1868, Commandant Brigadier General Jacob Zellin appointed a board to select a distinctive cap ornament for the Corps. This board recommended a design featuring three key elements: a globe showing the Western hemisphere, intersected by a fouled anchor and surmounted by a spread eagle. The design was approved and the Secretary of the Navy signed off on Nov. 19, 1868.

The three elements have great symbolism. The Eagle represents the nation that the Marines serve and protect; the Globe signifies the Corps' global reach, and the Fouled Anchor honors the Marine Corps' naval origins. Together they represent readiness to fight on land, at sea, and in the air.

The EGA is worn on uniforms, appears on the Marine Corps flag and seal, and is presented to recruits upon earning the title of the Marine. It is one of the most recognizable symbols of the USMC.

Your Commandant,

Pat Seals

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• John Entwisle (9/30)
• Jack McCorkle (9/13)
• Nancy Kunz (9/27)
• Barbara Howard (9/30)

September Birthdays

Sick and Distressed

Roger Pilcher
Mark Medina
David Haag
Richard Hoibraten
PTSD Group

Links

Just click on the link!

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

[Department of Georgia mcldeptofga.org](#)

[National Marine Corps League mcleaguelibrary.org](#)

[SouthEast Division sediv.org](#)



Try it!

Our Linktree.

Blairsville VA Clinic:
Main#: (706) 835-3980

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

LABOR DAY

Labor Day is always the first Monday in September. This year that is September 7. Labor Day is the one holiday that belongs to the American workers and was established to honor the contributions of the people who built our country. The first Labor Day was observed on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City. In 1894, the United States Congress unanimously voted to approve legislation making Labor Day a national holiday on the first Monday in September. Today, Labor Day is less about any single industry than it is about the idea that everyone deserves a day off. Most communities observe Labor Day with parades and barbecues. For many, Labor Day has also served as the last celebration of the summer: last day at the pool or lake, last picnic, last boat ride. It's the end of lemonade season and the beginning of all things pumpkin spice.

Membership Update

Since August 31, 2025 until now, we have added 14 new members! However, we have 7 members who chose not to renew their memberships this year. Remember we have two goals: Recruit **and** Retain. Current membership is 64.

GOAL! 70 members



Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 12: Farmers Market, Blairsville, 8am - 1pm
Sept 12: Tractor Supply, Blairsville, Semper Fi Sweets, 10am-2pm
Sept. 17: AL Golf Tournament, Butternut Creek, Blairsville, 7am
Sept. 18: Celebration Dinner, The View, Blairsville, 5pm
For up to date event info, [click here!](#)

Detachment Staff

Commandant: Pat Seals
halcop162@gmail.com



SVC: Greg Fisher
jarhead4ever1975@gmail.com



JVC: Gunny Triplett
coldbear55@yahoo.com



Judge Advocate: Chuck Frisk
msgt1973@gmail.com



Adjutant: Claudia Entwisle
mscah0628@gmail.com



JPC: John Entwisle
jent1948@gmail.com



Paymaster: Tammy Coleman
tcoleman0419@gmail.com



Chaplain: Richard Hoibraten
cj_20207947@outlook.com



SAA: JR Fowler
deepindac3@aol.com



Uniform Code for MCL - Part 3



So, you have decided you're ready to up your game a little and want to wear a red blazer. This is considered to be the Casual Uniform. The red blazer is to have two MCL buttons on the front and three or four MCL buttons on each sleeve. It is worn with a plain collar, white shirt (no button-downs) and without the sunburst insignias on the collar. A plain black tie with a MCL or USMC (enlisted style) gold tie bar is to be worn. The MCL crest is on the left breast pocket. The metallic embroidered Marine Corps League Crest has clutch pins on the reverse and pins directly to the red blazer pocket, or may be worn on a plastic pocket sleeve, either glued or pinned to the plastic sleeve. The commercially sold pocket crest, with Marine Corps emblem, MCL Seal permanently set into the plastic sleeve or embroidered MCL crest that is permanently embroidered on the pocket of the red blazer itself, may also be worn as optional wear.

Black dress trousers are worn with the red blazer. A black leather belt with the EGA on a square gold buckle or a black leather dress belt should be worn. Another option is a ratcheting black leather belt with either a gold EGA or a gold buckle with the MCL logo. Black, plain toe, military style, highly glossed shoes with black socks are worn.

To accessorize your look, you may wear either a Marine of the Year (or Associate of the Year) medallion and ribbon or a Military Order of the Devil Dogs collar, but not both. You will also wear your standard cover.

For the most part, the female casual dress uniform is the same. However, females may wear either a long or short sleeve shirt under the red blazer. They can wear either the black tie, or the women's USMC black neck tab. And the blazer can be worn with either a skirt or trousers. The skirt should be straight and 1 to 2 inches below the knee. Skirts are to be worn with black nylon hose and black pumps with heels no higher than 2 inches.



John and Claudia Entwistle

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.



April 13



**Subject to change due to holidays or weather.*

A Wink from Walt



1935-2023

- September 2, 1945: The formal surrender of Japan was signed aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, ending World War II, with Marines witnessing the historic Pacific theater conclusion.
- September 8, 1942: During the Guadalcanal Campaign, the 1st Raider Battalion and 1st Parachute Battalion executed a successful surprise raid against a Japanese supply base at Tasimboko.
- September 8, 1919: Major General Commandant George Barnett officially established the Historical Section at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C., laying the groundwork for preserving modern Corps history.
- September 15, 1950: The amphibious Inchon Landing commenced in the Korean War, spearheaded by elements including the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines securing Wolmi-do Island ahead of the main wave.
- September 27, 1944: U.S. Marines secured the island of Peleliu after ferocious fighting against entrenched Japanese forces in the Pacific.
- September 6, 1983: Two Marines were killed and a further two were wounded when rockets hit their compound in Beirut, Lebanon.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Recently, word reached Unicoi Detachment of a Marine who had passed away several years ago but whose remains had not been properly laid to rest. The wonderful people at Holly Hill Cemetery had offered to provide a final resting place for him but wanted to know if our detachment would want to be part of the service. Of course, we would be there!

Kenneth Ross Bailey was born on December 19, 1946 and passed away on August 29, 2027 in Chipley, Florida. He was a Vietnam veteran with multiple awards and decorations including a Purple Heart.

Chaplain Richard Hoibraten spoke a few words about Kenneth and his military service and led the gathering in prayer before we proceeded out to the cemetery. At the graveside, the North Georgia Honor Guard, under the command of Wayne Roshaven, performed a three volley rifle salute as well as a ceremonial flag folding. The flag was then presented to Mrs. Barbara Lescio who stood in for the family. John Entwisle, representing the Marine Corps League, presented Mrs. Lescio with a Fallen Marine certificate recognizing Kenneth's service to our country. The honor guard bugler played Taps and a final prayer was said before those assembled were dismissed to the gathering room at Holly Hill. There we were served hamburgers and hot dogs, compliments of Holly Hill.



Richard Hoibraten



John Entwisle



North Georgia Honor Guard with MCL members Wayne Roshaven, David Haag and Barry Herold



Andy Turner





The dates for next years conferences are below along with locations. Midwinter and National are already open for hotel reservations. Final plans are being made for the other two.

Midwinter Conference, Virginia Beach VA, Feb. 24-28 [Click here for info](#)

SouthEast Division Conference, Chattanooga TN, Mar. 11-14

Department of Georgia Annual, Cartersville GA, May 13-16

National Convention, Buffalo NY, Aug. 8-15 [Click here for info](#)



Department of Georgia Board

DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY



P. Seals



C. Entwisle, A. Todd, P. Seals



T. Coleman, A. Coleman

On July 31 and August 1, members of Detachment 783 gathered with other members from across the state for the Department of Georgia quarterly meeting held in Locust Grove, GA. Friday night everyone was invited to Gabino's Mexican Restaurant for dinner and camaraderie, prior to Saturday's business session. As usual, lots of good information was shared. For a complete run down, look for the minutes to be posted on the Department website. Some highlights were: JVC Reggie Brand is attempting to visit all detachments in the state and requested that we send him a list of upcoming events. SVC Doc Coleman announced that the Department will be conducting a raffle of two shotguns. The proceeds are to help the department with operating expenses. COM Lisa Delk warned members of the continuing email scam. If it looks suspicious, don't respond! VSO Ronnie Griffin shared some good advice about dealing with the VA. After the business session, a lunch and learn was held focusing on the new

[MCLeague Link](#)



B. Creel, performing her duties as SAA



783 at Friday's dinner



J.Entwisle, C.Entwisle, P.Seals

783 members in attendance were COM Pat Seals, JPC John Entwisle, ADJ Claudia Entwisle, MODD SVP Ash Todd, Dept SAA Brandy Creel, Dept SVC Alton Coleman and Dept ADJ Tammy Coleman.



NATIONAL CONVENTION



Rex and Lisa Delk, Michelle and Olin Lundy, Darrell Hockett, Doc and Tammy Coleman



COM Lisa Delk, Doc Coleman, JPC Rex Delk



Tammy Coleman, Michelle and Olin Lundy (1196)

The MCL National Convention was held August 9-15 in Indianapolis. Unicoi Detachment 783 was represented by Alton and Tammy Coleman. In both the MCL and MCLA business sessions, many proposals for changes to bylaws and APs were discussed and voted on. Some of the major ones were concerning giving associates voting privileges (denied) for the MCL and changing the life membership dues for the MCLA (approved). There was also discussion about the locations for both the 2027 and 2028 National Conventions. Buffalo NY was chosen for the 2027 convention. After an extended discussion, Colorado Springs was approved for the 2028 convention, although details are still being negotiated.

MCLA Georgia Peaches



Tammy Coleman in MCLA Business Session



Tammy Coleman attended the MCL National Convention in Indianapolis. While there, she participated in the MCLA Business sessions and elections.



Tammy Coleman, with fellow Peaches, in the MCLA session



Officers including Tammy Coleman SVP, Barbara Howard joined remotely, as seen in the screen upper right.



Claudia Entwisle



We also held a meeting on July 31, prior to the Dept. quarterly. Tammy Coleman, Brandy Creel and Claudia Entwisle attended in person while others joined remotely. Kathy Seals, wife of COM Pat Seals, was sworn in as one of our newest members.

Brandy Creel

Come see us at Tractor Supply, Sept. 12 from 10am - 2pm for Semper Fi Sweets

Corpsman Up!



As most of our members, if not all, already know, Detachment 783 has an effective veterans assistance program with a solid reputation. What some of our members may not be aware of is how the program operates, from initial contact to project closure.

Any member of 783 can be a part of the process. If approached by a veteran in need, or by someone who knows of a veteran in need, you can start by writing down the veteran's name, phone number, address and type of assistance needed. Keep in mind, we also assist widows/widowers and immediate family members of veterans. The next step is to turn the information over to myself, Derek Kunz or Claudia Entwisle. One of us will make contact with said person, have them fill out and sign our veterans assistance application, and go from there. Once through the vetting process, a plan will be developed then presented to the detachment's board of trustees for review. If the project cost is \$500 or less, the board of trustees can approve the project. If the cost is above \$500, then it must be approved by the detachment's membership before proceeding. The only exception to this is if donations have been made earmarked for a specific project.

While some matters can be taken care of through monetary donations, others require labor to one degree or another; handicap accessibility projects, small home repairs, driving a veteran to an appointment, providing a meal, shut-in visitations, etc. This is where you can truly make a difference. We realize that everyone has different types of skill sets and limitations. Keep in mind, volunteers are always appreciated. We can help you find your niche within the program. If you have questions, require more information or would like to sign up as a volunteer, please contact either Derek Kunz, Claudia Entwisle or myself. Thank you.

Semper Fi ~
Alton "Doc" Coleman
Veterans Assistance Coordinator

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Application

Recent Vet Assistance Projects

- Construction of wheelchair ramp
- Assistance with car payment (x2)
- Various small home repair projects
- Moving of furniture
- Handicapped accessibility project
- Assistance with mortgage (x3)
- Helped with storm clean up
- Clean up of carport

When you're working at an event and someone asks what the money is used for, here's the answer. We help veterans - from all branches, not just Marines.



THE NEWEST PDD



Doc Coleman with CDD Joe DeAngelo

Doc Coleman being sworn in as a PDD



Doc Coleman and Ricky Pitts (SE VCDD)

Doc and SCDD Mike Francis

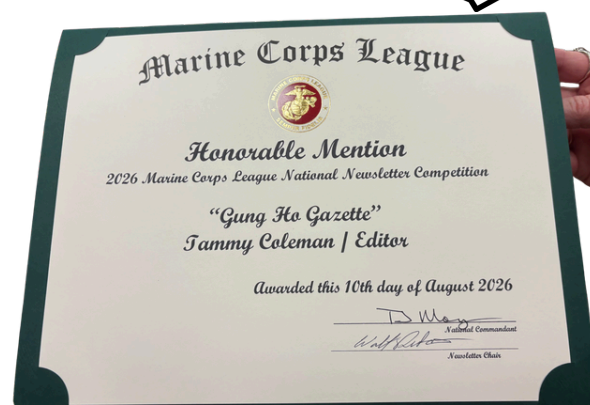


NEWSLETTER AWARD

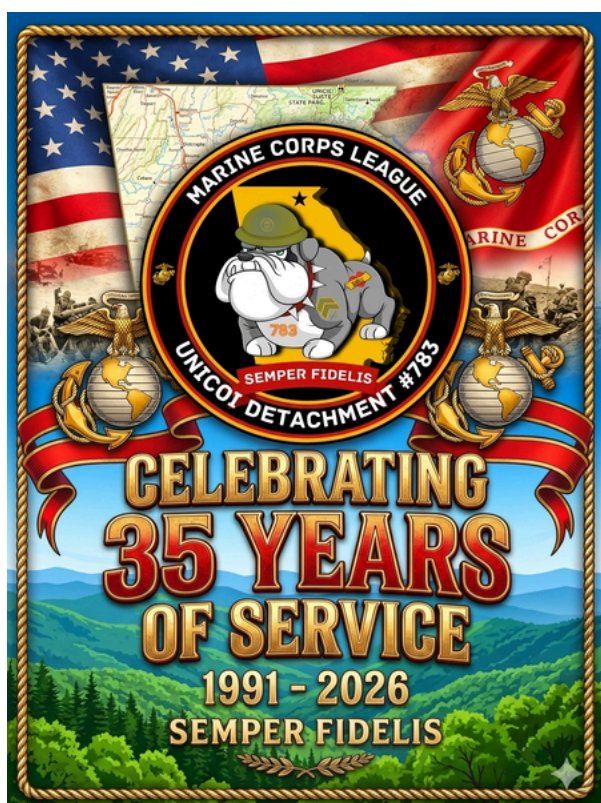


At the MCL National Convention, our detachment newsletter was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Newsletter Competition in the Company Division (Detachments from 51-100 members). Tammy Coleman is the editor. Pictured with Tammy are Walt Benson (Newsletter Chr) and TJ Morgan (National COM)

[Back issues available here!](#)



35th Anniversary



Detachment 783 will host a special anniversary celebration on Sept. 18 at 5pm at The View in Blairsville. Dinner will be an all-you-can-eat buffet of hamburgers, hot dogs and sides followed by a cake from Melissa's. A cash bar will be available. This is an informal event but we do ask that you wear your red polo. The celebration is open to everyone, not just detachment members, so bring your friends and family! Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased online or from Tammy. **The deadline for buying tickets is Sept. 9.**

Scan to purchase tickets



COMING SOON

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE
UNICOI DETACHMENT 783

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

HONORING THE 251st YEAR • EST. 1775

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

SATURDAY

at 5:00 PM

THE VIEW

Blairsville, Georgia

Formal Attire Requested



CALENDAR

2026

< September >

Professional Monthly
Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Veterans' Social Brasstown Manor 2pm	4	5
6	7 Coffee & Camaraderie 10am Sundance Grill Hiawassee	8	9	10	11	12 Farmers' Market 7am - 2pm Booth 75 Peaches- Tractor Supply
13 Jack McCorkle	14 Coffee & Camaraderie 10am B'ville Rest	15	16 ALA Golf Tourney Set-Up 4:30pm	17 ALA Golf Tourney Booth	18 Special Celebration Dinner 5pm The View	19 Coffee Mess 9am Detachment Meeting 10am
20	21 Coffee & Camaraderie 10am B'ville Rest	22	23	24	25	26 MODD #206 Growl 10am Davenport Bldg
27 Peaches Zoom Meeting 4pm Nancy Kunz	28 Coffee & Camaraderie 10am B'ville Rest	29	30 John Entwisle Barbara Howard			

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader."

— Dolly Parton, 1946-2026



Don Ho and Tiny Bubbles



Ash and Brandy

No, it's not the famous Hawaiian singer but it is Unicoi Detachment's own ukulele playing Marine, Ash Todd. Ash will be appearing September 3 at 2pm at the Veterans' Social at Brasstown Manor Assisted Living in Hiawassee. All members are urged to attend! Wear your best Luau apparel and your MCL cover and meet us there.



Scott Drummond talks about the Coast Guard at the August social



Nancy mans the refreshment table at the August social



Celebration Dinner



Jill and Gayle

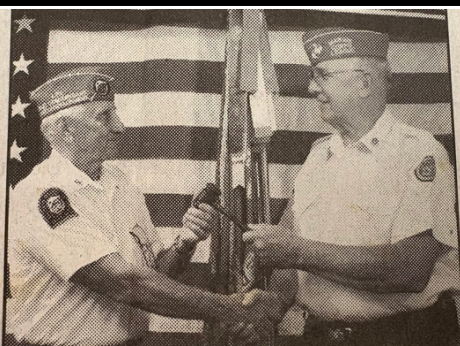
On Friday, August 28, detachment members gathered at Sicily's in Blairsville to celebrate August birthdays. Our only member with an August birthday is Jill Hayden, but we were able to celebrate with Gayle England-Triplett as well.



Doc showing off his selfie taking skills



LOOK!



From the archives: On the left, Walt Scott (Jody's father) passes the gavel to Wayne Roshaven. On the right, Sal Laratta presents a check to a local animal rescue.

