Gung Ho Gazette

Editor: T. Coleman

Issue 08
November 2026

Unicoi Detachment #783

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Gunny Triplett
Claudia Entwisle
Sal Laratta
BJ Roshaven
Donna Tindall (1333)
Gary & Virginia Wimsett
Flo Gerrard
The Howard Family
Claudia Entwisle

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

Our Linktree.

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

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

The Commandant Speaks:



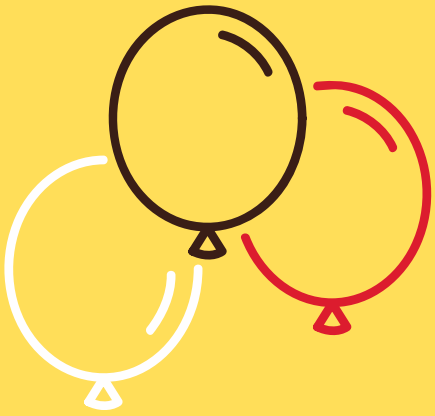
Last month, I discussed the beginning of the Marine Corps League. This month, I would like to continue with the history of our MCL.

After the chartering of the first detachment in New York, detachments spread eastward, then westward by 1928. National conventions were held in places such as Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Cleveland and Erie. Lejeune remained as National Commandant until 1929, when he appointed Maj. Gen. Wendell C. Neville as his successor. It wasn't until 1930 at the National convention in St.Louis that the first civilian National Commandant was elected: W. Karl Lations.

The Great Depression had an effect on the League as it slowed the growth. However in 1932, the League, led by New York Det. 1, helped defeat a proposal to demolish the Marine Corps.

In recognition of its influence and growth, the Marine Corps League was given a federal charter by the 75th US Congress on August 4, 1937. This made the MCL the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization. The Marine Corps League Auxiliary was chartered shortly afterward on September 4, 1937.

Your Commandant,
Pat Seals



November Birthdays

Jennifer Sewell 11/4
Sal Laratta 11/13
Bob Stapleton 11/17
Charlie Sowers 11/20
Dale Robbins 11/30
Betty Bowers 11/30

Upcoming Dates:



Department Quarterly Nov. 20-21

DEPT OF GA QUARTERLY MEETING
Location: Locust Grove, GA
Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites

Calendar



November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Coffee & Camaraderie 10am Sundance Grill Hiawassee	3	4 Jennifer Sewell	5 Veterans' Social Brasstown Manor 2pm	6	7 Cliff Reisig MODD #206 Growl 10am Davenport Bldg Birthday Ball 5pm
8	9 Coffee & Camaraderie 10am B'ville Rest	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 Sal Laratta	14
15	16 Coffee & Camaraderie 10am B'ville Rest	17 Bob Stapleton	18	19 Celebration Dinner TBD Joe Nichols	20 MCLA Meeting Charlie Sowers	21 Dept. of GA Quarterly
22	23 Coffee & Camaraderie 10am B'ville Rest	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27 Friendsgiving Civic Center - B'ville Time 2pm	28 Coffee Mess 9am Detachment Meeting 10am
29	30 Dale Robbins Betty Bowers Coffee & Camaraderie 10am B'ville Rest					

For up to date event info, click here!



Members of the NGHG include MCL 783 members W. Roshaven, B. Herold, and C. Triplett

Honor Guard

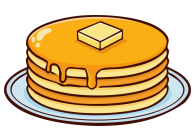
The North Georgia Honor Guard once again performed the honors at the service of a veteran. Linda Cacchioli is pictured here with members of the guard at the funeral of Bob Wilson on Oct. 6 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Bob was a member of AL post 121 in Blairsville.

The Honor Guard has a new facebook page: North Georgia Honor Guard Eastern Division. . Click on the link and check it out.

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.

*Subject to change due to holidays or weather.







April 13



Join us for the fun! Go to Zeffy and buy your tickets! And don't forgot, we will be closing our silent auction - one last chance to get a great Christmas gift.



Meeting

Please note: the November meeting is being moved due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will meet on Nov. 28. As usual, we will meet at 9am for coffee mess with the meeting starting at 10am. See you there!



Friendsgiving

It will be here before you know it! We need all of you to make it possible. First, we want you to join us - so scan the QR code and get your tickets. No cost - we just need a headcount. Then we need volunteers: we need people to prepare food, decorate the Civic Center and help the day of the event. Please consider contributing in some way! I hear that there's a Honey Baked Ham fundraising going on! Purchase a gift card and donate it! I will be sending out a list of side dishes that you can also contribute.

A Wink from Walt



1935-2023



November 10 marks the official birthday of the United States Marine Corps, a date celebrated globally by Marines past and present to honor their legacy of valor, discipline, and brotherhood.

The Marine Corps was born on November 10, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and passed a resolution to raise two battalions of Marines. Recruited at Tun Tavern, these early Marines served as shipboard security and sharpshooters during the American Revolutionary War.



For over a century, the anniversary was marked informally. That changed on November 1, 1921, when Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47. This order formalized November 10 as an official holiday, summarizing the history, mission, and distinct esprit de corps of the Marines.

Today, the Marine Corps Birthday is celebrated wherever Marines are stationed worldwide through distinct traditions:

- The Birthday Ball: A formal gala featuring a guest speaker, a traditional pageant, and formal dress uniforms.
- Reading of the Message: Every gathering includes the reading of Commandant Lejeune's original 1921 order.
- The Cake-Cutting Ceremony: The first slice of a ceremonial cake is given to the guest of honor. The second slice goes to the oldest Marine present, who then passes it to the youngest Marine present, symbolizing the passing of history, tradition, and leadership to the next generation.

Whether in combat zones, on naval vessels, or at formal balls, November 10 remains a sacred day of reflection and pride for the entire Marine Corps family.

Joint Venture



Pictured F-B: Roger Klevies(1280), Gerald Faulkner (1280 Chaplain)), Craig Knutson (1280 COM), Pat Seals (783 COM), Right SIde F-B: Alton Coleman (783 Past COM), Tammy Coleman (783 PYMSTR), Melissa Knutson (1280 PYMSTR), Greg Fisher (783 SVC).

Tuesday, October 8, saw a meeting between our detachment and members of North Georgia Mountains Detachment 1280. We met at the Longhorn's in Ellijay to discuss the possibility of joining together to host an upcoming event. Working with other detachments strengthens both our programs and allows us to reach even more veterans. We were also able to exchange ideas and news of happenings. We took the opportunity to encourage their attendance at department quarterlies and training sessions and, in a shameless plug, to promote the MCLA Georgia Peaches.

Battle Buddies



Barry, Gunny, Dale, Derek, JR

The crew known as the "Battle Buddies" has been on a serious roll over the last three months.
From July through September 2026, this hard-working group logged a massive 521.5 total hours of community service, proving once again how much they care about our local veterans.
A huge chunk of that time—232.5 hours, to be exact—went straight toward hanging out with and helping veterans. Whether they were dropping by a vet's house for a chat or visiting residents at Union County nursing home or assisted living facilities, the guys made sure our older heroes knew they hadn't been forgotten.

But they didn't just stop at visits. The Battle Buddies rolled up their sleeves for plenty of heavy lifting, too. Over the quarter, they built wheelchair ramps, tackled home repairs, helped out with yard cleanups, and spent time sweating it out during work days at Holly Hill Cemetery. That's all on top of showing up for their regular detachment meetings and events.
A massive shoutout goes to the core crew making it all happen: Derek Kunz, Barry Herold, JR Fowler, Dale Robbins, and Gunny Triplett. Thanks for putting so much heart into our community, guys!

October Detachment Meeting



Prior to our October 24 meeting, we had a iPhone class taught by Justin Wetzel of Mountain Mac. Justin talked to us about security, how to avoid being scammed, and storage issues with iPhones. Just goes to show - you're never too old to learn!



We then had our monthly detachment meeting. Among the topics were the successful Sorghum festival and rifle raffle, plans for the Birthday Ball and Friendsgiving, plus our usual business items. Thanks to all the detachment members who brought a toy to donate to Toys for Tots. As always, the minutes will be posted on the website.

VETERANS SOCIAL

This month's Social at Brasstown Manor will be on Thursday November 5 at 2pm. The guest speaker will be Ann Atchinson. Ann is a member of both the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Corpsman Up!



Alton “Doc” Coleman

FROM OPERETTA TO BATTLE CRY: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MARINES’ HYMN

It is a melody born in the theaters of Paris, yet it has echoed across global battlefields for generations. As the oldest official service song in the United States Armed Forces, the "Marines' Hymn" stands today as a sacred pillar of military tradition—built on an unexpected journey from 19th-century French comedy to an American military anthem.

The booming march that commands immediate respect from modern Marines began as a lighthearted duet. In 1859, French composer Jacques Offenbach debuted his comic opera Geneviève de Brabant. An 1867 revision featured an upbeat tune titled "Couplets des Deux Hommes d'Armes." By 1868, Francesco Maria Scala, leader of “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, rearranged the theatrical melody into a fast-paced quickstep, laying the sonic foundation for the Corps.

While the music came from Paris, the lyrics were forged on the front lines. The author remains anonymous, but the verses serve as a timeline of early Marine heroism, drawing directly from phrases inscribed on early Marine Corps flags:

- "The Halls of Montezuma" references the 1847 storming of Chapultepec Castle during the Mexican-American War.
- "The Shores of Tripoli" honors the 1805 Battle of Derna during the First Barbary War.

The Corps secured a copyright for the song in 1919, and Commandant John Lejeune officially authorized it as the service's formal hymn in 1929. The lyrics have only changed once: in 1942, the Commandant altered "On the land as on the sea" to "In the air, on land, and sea" to formally recognize the vital role of Marine aviation during World War II.

Today, the hymn remains a strict ritual. Marine protocol dictates that any Marine—active or veteran—must immediately stand at attention the moment the first notes play. From a Parisian stage to the formal toasts of the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball, the song stands as an enduring testament to the Corps' motto: Semper Fidelis—Always Faithful.



November 6, Murphy HS, Murphy NC 9:30am

November 11, North Georgia Technical College, Breakfast at 9am

November 11, Hiawassee Veterans Park, 11am. Reception to follow at VFW

November 11, Union County High School, 8am Breakfast (HS Cafeteria), 10am Program, (Fine Arts Bldg). Parking is adjacent to the Fine Arts Building with a shuttle bus available for transport to and from breakfast.

November 11, Young Harris College, Luncheon sponsored by the Rotary Club. Luncheon is free but you must have a ticket. See Ingrid Engle.

November 12, Union Co. HS, 6pm, Salute to Service, Keynote Speaker: Brandy Creel



TOYS FOR TOTS

Our Toys for Tots coordinator is Melanie Reed. She is asking for volunteers to help with the sorting of donations on December 16, 17, 18 and 19 from 9am until 3pm at the Veterans Building. She will also need volunteers to help with toy distribution on December 21, 22, and 23 also at the Veterans Building. If you would like to volunteer or if you have questions, you can contact Melanie at (404) 316-4694.

Drop boxes for toy donations have been placed throughout Union and Towns counties. Many businesses are offering discounts to patrons who donate a toy. If you see a box at a business, take a photo and text or email it to Tammy. Include info on where the box is located and if the business is offering a discount.



Jody, JR and Doc

Sorghum in the Mountains



JR Fowler





Joe Nichols, John Entwisle



Barry Herold, Gunny Triplett



Barry Herold, Pat Seals

After a cancellation of the first weekend due to weather, the Sorghum in the Mountains Festival had a fantastic turnout on Oct. 17 and 18. The detachment manned a booth where members greeted the public and told them about our detachment and what we do. We sold raffle tickets, coins and accepted donations for the Roses program. Kudos to all those members who volunteered to work the booth as well as those who helped in setting up on Friday. Special thanks to Claudia Entwisle for coordinating everything as well as working the event.

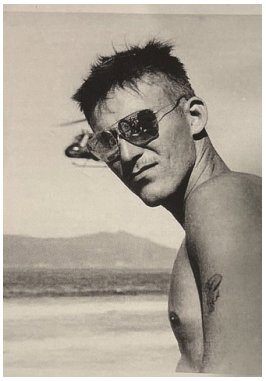
Member Spotlight

Calvin "Gunny" Triplett

Calvin C. Triplett, Sr. was born in San Angelo, Texas, in 1949 to a legacy of military service. His father was a 15-year-old World War II volunteer and B-17 waist gunner who survived 18 months in a German POW camp before continuing his military career. Raised as a military "gypsy," Calvin grew up moving frequently between bases across the United States and the Philippines. Six days after graduating high school, Calvin followed in his father's footsteps, boarding a bus to MCRD San Diego to begin his own journey.

Following boot camp, infantry, jungle warfare, and logistics training, Calvin deployed to Da Nang, just six months after enlisting. Throughout the Vietnam War, he served on the front lines as a combat rifleman, radioman, and grenadier, later transitioning into logistics roles. Over a two-decade military career, he rose through the ranks and officially retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a Gunnery Sergeant on June 15, 1989.

Transitioning to civilian public service, "Gunny" joined the Atlanta Police Department, where he served with distinction for another 21 years. His law enforcement career was marked by a record of over 8,000 arrests and the accidental destruction of two patrol cars. Today, he continues to support his community and fellow veterans. He serves with the North Georgia Honor Guard, and holds the leadership position of Jr. Vice Commandant for Detachment 783.







2026 Marine Corps Ball

Sponsors

Thank You!

Appalachian Hospice & Palliative Care

Mike's Seafood Market + Grill Steaks

United Community

Iron Mountain Fence



The Georgia Peaches have been busy! We have now grown to 32 members statewide with 12 of those members in the local area. Recently, we joined the detachment at the Sorghum Festival where we talked with festival goers about the Auxiliary. On Oct. 22, Alicia Best, Brandy Creel, and Tammy Coleman delivered baked goods to Young Harris College for their Cake Run to promote community among the college students. We are continuing our For Goodness Cake initiative and will be making more donations soon. Plus, we are planning a Christmas Crafts Open House in December (see flyer). This is open to everyone so tell your spouses, daughters, granddaughters, friends, everyone!



Currently we have two fundraisers going to help generate funds for the unit. As a startup unit, we chartered with a bank balance of $0, so we are appreciative of all the support we have received from Unicoi Detachment. All of you have gone above and beyond in your support. I am not a fan of fundraisers that ask you to spend lots of $ for an inferior product in a small quantity. That's why we have chosen Rada Cutlery and Honey Baked Ham for our two fundraisers. Both offer quality products - I personally use Rada knives. And we all know how good Honey Baked Ham is. If you're interested in either Rada products or a gift card from Honey Baked (they have a location in Ellijay), please consider buying through our link. Just scan the QR code.

Scan here for links to the fundraisers!



Jody at the Sorghum Festival


Alicia and Brandy with cakes donated to the YHC Cake Run

Thanks to Alicia, Brandy, Tammy and Patti for donations!

MODD POUND 206

The next Growl will be help on November 7 at 10am at the Davenport Veterans Building.

Mark your calendars!

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.

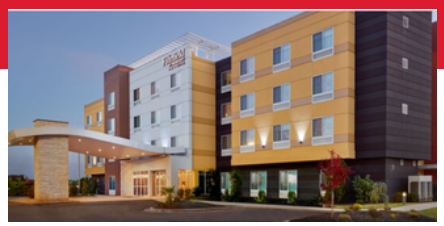
Midwinter Conference, Virginia Beach VA, Feb. 24-28 Click here for info
SouthEast Division Conference, Chattanooga TN, Mar. 11-14
Department of Georgia Annual, Cartersville GA, May 13-16
National Convention, Buffalo NY, Aug. 8-15 Click here for info



2027 NATIONAL CONVENTION



HYATT REGENCY BUFFALO HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER



QUARTERLY

All the details!



If you're interested in attending the quarterly this month, the MCLA Georgia Peaches will be meeting on Friday at 4:30, followed by the MCL social at Gabino's Mexican Grill right next door to the hotel. The hotel is the Fairfield Inn & Suites at 690 Marketplace Blvd. Locust Grove, GA. Saturday morning will be the MCL Business Session starting at 9am. The business session is open to all MCL members. After the business session, there will be a lunch and learn. Finally, there will be a MODD Growl after the Lunch and Learn.

Use this link to book your room or call (678) 782-7880 and tell them you are with the Georgia Marine Corps League to get the group rate of $119 ($143.04 with taxes and fees).

Want to learn more about Canva?



I'm not trying to give my job as newspaper editor away, but maybe you are interested in learning more about how to put together a newsletter or even just how to make flyers like the one seen here. Are you in charge of your church newsletter or want to start one? Maybe your detachment needs new promotional materials. Whatever the reason, you are invited to attend the lunch and learn at the November quarterly. I will be assisting Candie Brand with the class, so come join us! If you're interested, let me know and I can get you set up.

Shine the Light

If you notice green lights on the courthouses and Veteran Building in Blairsville November 4th through 11th, it's because the county is hoping to increase awareness of veteran suicide. As most of us know, the veteran suicide rate is significantly higher than that of the population as a whole. In the most recent data analysis done by the VA in 2024, the Georgia Veteran suicide rate per 100, 000 was 32.2 while the suicide rate overall for the state was 18.3 per 100,000.

The Columbia Lighthouse Project

THE COLUMBIA LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT
IDENTIFY RISK. PREVENT SUICIDE.

The Columbia Lighthouse Project's mission is to light the way to ending suicide. Their message, like the Columbia Protocol itself, is simple: "Just Ask. You Can Save a Life." More information about the project, and the protocol, can be found by clicking the underlined link above.

Did you know?

The Saturday before Thanksgiving is International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day. The day was established by the U.S. Congress in 1999. It was introduced via a Senate resolution by Senator Harry Reid, who lost his own father to suicide. Research shows that a single suicide profoundly impacts approximately 135 people.

Always ask questions 1 and 2.	Past Month	
1) Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?		
2) Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?		
If **YES** to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If **NO** to 2, skip to question 6.		
3) Have you been thinking about how you might do this?		
4) Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?	High Risk	
5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?	High Risk	
Always Ask Question 6	Life-time	Past 3 Months
6) Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life? *Examples*: Took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump, collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, etc. **If yes, was this within the past 3 months?**		High Risk

If YES to 2 or 3, a mental health referral may be helpful. If the answer to 4, 5 or 6 is YES, get immediate evaluation: Call or text 988, reach out to a helping resource, or use QR codes for the app to find referrals.

If you are helping someone else STAY WITH THEM until they can be evaluated.

Download Columbia Protocol app

iPhone Users Android Users

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

The last word...



Pet of the Month

Meet Kilo, whose primary role is to keep Jody Federico safe and protected at all times. He takes his job very seriously and is a wonderful companion.

Photo(s) of the Month

This was too good to pass up! Seems Gunny needed a little grooming before the recent appearance of the NG Honor Guard. Luckily, Linda Cacchioli was there with her knife(!) to take care of things. I think Gunny is a brave man!



