



# Bunker News



**A MULTIPLE  
AWARD WINNING  
NEWSLETTER!**

**NOVEMBER 2024**

## OFFICERS

### Commandant

Joe Filice  
863-245-3540

### Sr. Vice Commandant

David H. Matthews  
941-323-1509

### Jr. Vice Commandant

Dave Hildebrand  
610-804-9299

### Judge Advocate

Denny Palmer  
815-979-7465

### Pay Master

Ron Kosey  
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### Adjutant

Bob Fields  
941-504-3693

### Sergeant at Arms

Matt Richards  
941-524-8690

### Chaplain

Ron Schneider  
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### Historian

John D'Alusio  
941-209-8873

### Jr. Past Commandant

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941-807-2490

Submit Bunker News input to

**Bob Fields, Editor** at  
RMFields0117@gmail.com

**DESOTO DETACHMENT 588, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

Website: [MCL588.Org](http://MCL588.Org)

Greetings,

We kick off November with All Souls Day or, in the Mexican tradition, Día de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead) when souls of the departed are said to rejoin their families for 24 hours and mail in their ballots. Please don't wait until you cast off this mortal coil to cast your vote! Elections have consequences but this election finds the country at a crossroads. Choose wisely!

Remember, voting secures your right to complain!

On the subject of dire consequences, you don't want to miss our Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Tara Country Club on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There is still time to buy your tickets and avoid the inevitable regret of missing an outstanding evening. This is not just for Marines. All services are welcome as well as those who were never in uniform. The ceremonial part of the evening will begin with the Marine Corps Commandant's Birthday message and conclude with the cake cutting ceremony. Once the cake is served to the oldest and youngest Marines and the colors are retired, it's all about good food and company. If you have two left feet, don't read too much into "Ball". Dancing is not mandatory. We will have a pony keg of free beer and Tara will have a cash bar (or whatever you are supposed to call a bar that only takes credit cards).

No other service places as much emphasis on their birthday celebration as the Marine Corps. For the benefit of those who never stood upon the famous, yellow footprints, a little history:

The Marine Corps was founded on 10 November 1775 when a resolution of the Second Continental Congress directed Samuel Nicholas to raise two battalions of Continental Marines in Philadelphia. According to legend, the recruiting site was Tun Tavern a popular watering hole among our founding fathers and a likely source of irritation for some of the founding mothers. Some historians speculate that site was more likely the Conestoga Inn, a tavern owned by the Nicholas family. What is not in dispute is that the Marine Corps started in a bar. It is said that potential recruits were plied with mugs of beer and promises of adventure on the high seas; a tactic not fundamentally different from those employed by Marine recruiters to this day.



**Continued on next page**

**CONTINUED FROM PREEVIOUS PAGE:** Tun Tavern burned down toward the end of the revolutionary war in 1781. There is no evidence that it was the result of a burger day mishap. After the Treaty of Paris officially ended the revolutionary war in 1783, the Navy and the Marine Corps were disbanded. 15 years later, on 11 July 1798, President John Adams signed a law re-establishing the Marine Corps. For the next 123 years, July 11<sup>th</sup> was considered to be the Marine Corps birthday. On 21 October 1921 Major Edwin McClellan, the officer in charge of the two year old historical section at Headquarters Marine Corps, sent a memo to the Commandant, Major General John Lejeune suggesting that the original founding date of 10 November be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated. On 1 November 1921, General Lejeune issued his famous Order 47, establishing the original founding date as the birthday of the Marine Corps and further directing that it be celebrated annually. The rest, as they say, is history! Marine or not, I hope that you will join us.

Did I mention free beer?

Happy Birthday Marines!  
Semper Fi,  
Joe



## A Message of Thanks

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself reflecting on the blessings I've received this year. One of the greatest has been joining the Marine Corps League family. When I first came to you in March, I was navigating a difficult chapter, having been laid off from a job I held for 25 years. I was feeling uncertain about the future, but you all welcomed me with open arms and made me feel valued from the start.

The camaraderie, support, and genuine kindness I've experienced here have been a true lifeline. Thank you for showing me that no matter where we are in life, we always have a place and a purpose among friends. I'm deeply grateful to be part of this incredible League and to be surrounded by people who embody the spirit of resilience and unity.

Wishing each of you and your families a season filled with warmth, gratitude, and the joy of shared traditions. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for making me feel at home.

With sincere thanks,  
Kim Cartano



## **249<sup>th</sup>. MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL**

**Saturday, November 9, 2024**

### **TARA COUNTRY CLUB**

6602 Drewry's Bluff

Bradenton, FL

Directions: East on S.R.70 (53<sup>rd</sup>. Ave.) Right on Tara Blvd. (last traffic light before I-75)

First right after traffic light on Drewry's Bluff. Country Club is on left ½ mile.



***All invited to attend an evening of Tradition, Ceremony, Dinner, Music and Dancing***

***Dress: Formal or Semi-Formal, all Military Uniforms Welcome***

***Cocktails 6PM - 7PM***

***Ceremony 7PM - 7:30PM***

***Dinner & Dancing 7:30PM – 11:00PM***

*Boneless Short Ribs with Demi Glaze & Fried Onion Haystack*

*Bourbon Glaze Salmon*

*Chicken Marsala*

*Vegetarian*

*Dinners include Garden Salad, Chive Whipped Potatoes, Vegetable Bouquet, Dinner Rolls  
& Birthday Cake*

**Detach bottom portion & return by November 1**

**\$60.00 per person**

Please send payment or in person.

Marine Corps League Desoto Detachment #588

5225 26<sup>th</sup>. St. West- Bradenton, FL 34207

Phone: (941) 301- 4598

Amount of payment \_\_\_\_\_ (Please write Birthday Ball in memo field on check)

**First & Last Name of each attendee and Dinner Choice – Phone Contact** \_\_\_\_\_

1 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Check one choice - B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ V \_\_\_

2 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Check one choice - B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ V \_\_\_

3 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Check one choice - B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ V \_\_\_

4 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Check one choice - B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ V \_\_\_

Tables are set for 10 people – (table requests - please write one table name for all people to be seated at your table)



**From Marine Corps League, Desoto Detachment #588 Commandant Joe Filice:**

The Marine Corps Birthday Ball is in jeopardy! As of today, only 31 tickets have been purchased and the ball is less than two weeks away. The oath of membership states, "That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League...". The Ball is one of our activities and is far more enjoyable than other activities such as scrubbing behind the toilet on field day. If you don't believe me, I know someone you can ask!

You don't have to be a Marine. You are welcome if you served in a different branch or if you never wore a uniform. If you still fit in your dress uniform, you are welcome to wear it. We will start the evening with 10-15 minutes of the birthday ceremony then the rest of evening will just be a good dinner, good time and free beer at an upscale country club. If you don't know a tango from a two-step, never fear, dancing is not required. Beyond a pony keg of free beer, Tara will have other drinks available (credit cards only). This is not a fundraising activity for the bunker. At \$60 per person, it is very close to what it costs us. The Birthday Ball is a Marine Corps tradition and an opportunity to provide an enjoyable evening for our members. If more people don't commit to the ball, we may have to cancel it. Please join us as we spend a few minutes celebrating the 249 th birthday of the Marine Corps and the rest of the evening having an enjoyable time. The success or failure of the ball is in your hands.

Semper Fi,

Joe



**The form for the ticket purchase for the 2024 Marine Corps Ball is on the previous page in this newsletter. Please fill it out and go to the Bunker with cash or check to pay for it. We need these turned in right away.**





# Marine Corps League

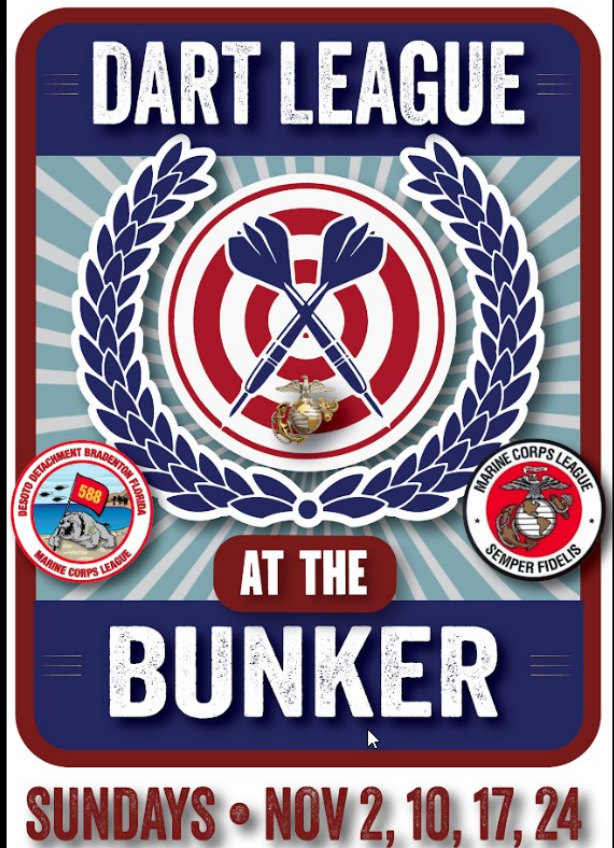
## Desoto Detachment 588

### Events for NOVEMBER 2024

*Open to all Members, Veterans and Guests for all Special Events*



**WEDNESDAYS AT 12 noon**  
**NOVEMBER 6, 13, 20, 27**



**FRIDAYS | 6 PM**

**AT THE BUNKER**

**NOV 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29**



*Graphic displays courtesy of Kim Cartano*

Desoto Detachment #588, 5225 26th Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34207 (941) 301-4598

MEETINGS ARE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1830 Website: MCL588.Org



# Marine Corps League

## Desoto Detachment 588

### Events for NOVEMBER 2024

*Open to all Members, Veterans and Guests for all Special Events*



**E-BOARD MEETING**

November 11, 2024 - 6:00 pm at the Bunker

**HONOR GUARD PRACTICE @ THE BUNKER**

November 25, 2024 at 5:30 pm

**sandwiches**

@ THE BUNKER

**THURSDAYS at 12 noon**  
**november 7, 14, 21, 28**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**@ THE BUNKER**

**NOVEMBER 18, 2024**  
**AT 6:30 PM**

Remember, the hatches (doors) are secured (locked) at exactly 1930 by the Sergeant at Arms, and no one gains entry after the click of the lock.

Please arrive early and enjoy a beverage, swap tall tales and enjoy the company of our membership.

GREAT EVENTS,  
BE THERE FOR ALL THE FUN!  
MEETINGS ARE IMPORTANT.  
PLEASE COME TO THE MEETINGS.  
SEE YOU AT THE BUNKER!

*Graphic displays courtesy of Kim Cartano*



# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OCTOBER 2024



Marine Ryan Little is sworn in by Senior Vice Commandant David Matthews. Ryan was a 0311 who served in Afghanistan.



George Parham was the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing. He walked away with \$73.00.

*George, we have notified the IRS and they will visit you shortly for their cut of the prize.*



Associate Members are sworn in:

- ◆ Doyle Bolin
- ◆ Dan Kaspari
- ◆ Peter Kirchert
- ◆ Joel Skinner
- ◆ David Staehlin

Sandra Bradley receives a Certificate of Appreciation for her outstanding leadership and management of the 2024 Desoto Detachment Golf Outing. She raised the bar to a new height never before achieved for this event. CONGRATULATIONS



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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OCTOBER 2024



The winning ticket for the Sig Saur 9mm was drawn and the winner was Luis Sanchez. →



A great time was had by all,  
especially by George. \$\$\$\$\$\$





*We must be willing individually and as a nation to accept whatever sacrifices may be required of us.*

*A people that value privilege above its principles soon loses both.*

*-Dwight D. Eisenhower*

*Submitted by Ron Darden*



To learn more,  
contribute or  
volunteer, visit  
[www.thetun.org](http://www.thetun.org)



**T**he Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to rebuild and re-establish The Tun. The foundation needs to raise **\$19 million** to complete the project. When completed, it will serve as a functioning tavern reminiscent of the colonial Philadelphia mariners' tavern that it was, serving period-influenced refreshments, food, and entertainment and offering an educational experience through exhibits, historical documents, and special events. The new location will be approximately 250 yards from the original site, in the heart of Philadelphia's "Old City" district.

Many organizations whose history began at The Tun, such as the United States Marines (1775), Pennsylvania, Freemasons (1731), St. Andrew's Society (1747), Society of St. George (1729), The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick (1771), United States Navy (1775) are involved in reestablishing The Tun in Philadelphia to support veteran causes, Shriner's Hospitals, educational scholarships, and qualified charities. **The Tun™ is scheduled to open in November 2025**, coinciding with the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Homecoming Celebration in Philadelphia. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for November 2024.

# MEMBERSHIP NOTICE:

**Section 7050. Life Members.** Effective 1 September 2021 the Life Membership fee shall be as established by the National Board of Trustees and shall be posted on the National Website.”

The National Board of Trustees has the fiduciary responsibility for the operation and budget requirements of the Marine Corps League. The last time fees were adjusted was 19 years ago. The National Board of Trustees voted and approved the following:

Effective 1 July 2023, the Life Membership Fees will increase as per the following chart:

\$1000.00 – 35 years of age and lower

\$ 800.00 – 36-50 years of age

\$ 600.00 – 51-64 years of age

\$ 400.00 – 65-84 years of age

\$ 100.00 – 85 years of age and higher

The above Fees are only available if the member's annual dues have been paid and the member is in good standing.



## C-130

The C-130 Hercules:

Delivering you to the most awful places in the world since 1954.

**Over 2500 American built C-130's have been built in more than 70 variants and are currently in use in 63 countries.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** 130's have taken me to many places. Probably the weirdest was when I deployed to Balıkesir, Turkey in 1979. I was a Gunnery Sergeant then. I was the only passenger and we landed on an unlit runway at midnight. When the tail ramp went down I hoisted my seabag and started down the ramp. I was greeted at the bottom by a Turkish soldier. He explained that he was my guide to get through the minefield, to get to the tent compound where my Marines were encamped. The guide would go about twenty feet, stop and look around in the pitch darkness, seeming very confused, but we got through the minefield. .

My Marines arrived there several days prior to me, because I was tasked with flying in KC-130 aerial refuelers as the mission meteorologist to get the F4s, A4s, A6s and AV8s to Bermuda, then to the Azores, Spain, Italy and then on to Turkey.

It was my only time to arrive in the dark of night and have to ditty bop through a minefield. The 130 is in my opinion the most durable aircraft there is.

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## VETERANS SERVICES

Goodwill was one of the first organizations to respond to the multitude of challenges faced by veterans, their families, and the families of those who serve on active duty.

Goodwill Manasota's Veterans Services Program focuses on providing comprehensive case management and vocational services that assist with employment and barriers to employment, while helping veterans navigate the wide array of available programs.

We are proud to have a wide variety of community partners and alliances with other local organizations committed to serving those who have served for us.



**Call TODAY for this  
FREE service!  
941.355.2721 x.451**

### DD 214s

Marines who have been discharged, separated, or retired on or before 31 December 1998:

National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO

63138

(314) 801-0800; Fax: (314) 801-9195

<https://nrd.gov/resource/detail/8432677/>

[The+U.S.+National+Archives+%26+Records+Administration;](https://www.archives.gov/st-louis)

[www.archives.gov/st-louis](https://www.archives.gov/st-louis)

Marines discharged/retired/separated on or after 1 January 1999:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMRP)-10

2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030

(800) 268-3710; [smb.manpower.mmrp-10@usmc.mil](mailto:smb.manpower.mmrp-10@usmc.mil)

### File missing



Windows cannot find the file.  
Would you like some wine instead?

Yes

No

**When you are in the Grocery Store and you see that guy or gal wearing a USMC ball cap, make sure you say "Semper Fi" to them and invite them to the Marine Corps League. It's the right thing to do.**

**Come to the bunker and support your Marine Corps League Detachment. If you haven't noticed, the Bunker has been busier lately. Many of our members who haven't been in for quite awhile are coming back.**

# HAVING A DOG NAMED "SHARK" AT THE BEACH WAS A MISTAKE

## SEMPER FI STORE

The uniform for Marine Corps League Members and Associate Members consists of the Red Cover with emblem. For Members it is the Red Cover with EGA. For Associate Members it is the Red Cover with the Sunburst Associate Member emblem. These can be purchased at the "Semper Fi" Store.

[HTTPS://THE-SEMPER-FI-STORE\\_MYSHOPIFY.COM](https://the-semp-fi-store-myshopify.com)

OR JUST GOOGLE

*MARINE CORPS LEAGUE SEMPER FI STORE*



Detachment Cover

**\$ 35<sup>00</sup>**



Women's Cover

**\$ 35<sup>00</sup>**



Regular Cap Ornament

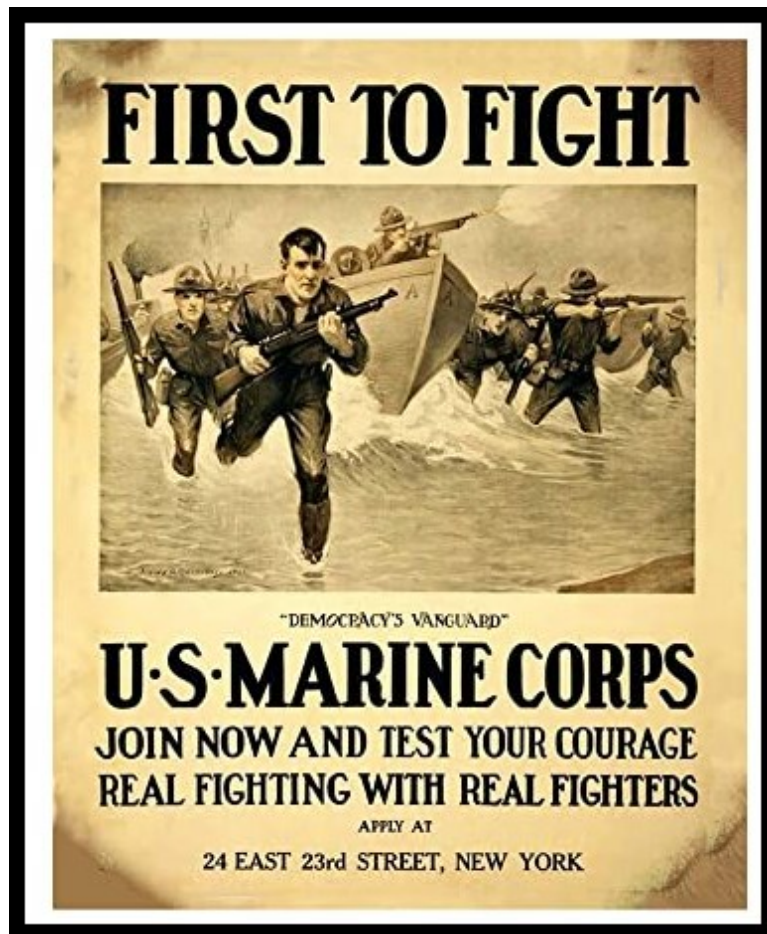
**\$ 7<sup>00</sup>**



Associate Cap Ornament

**\$ 7<sup>00</sup>**



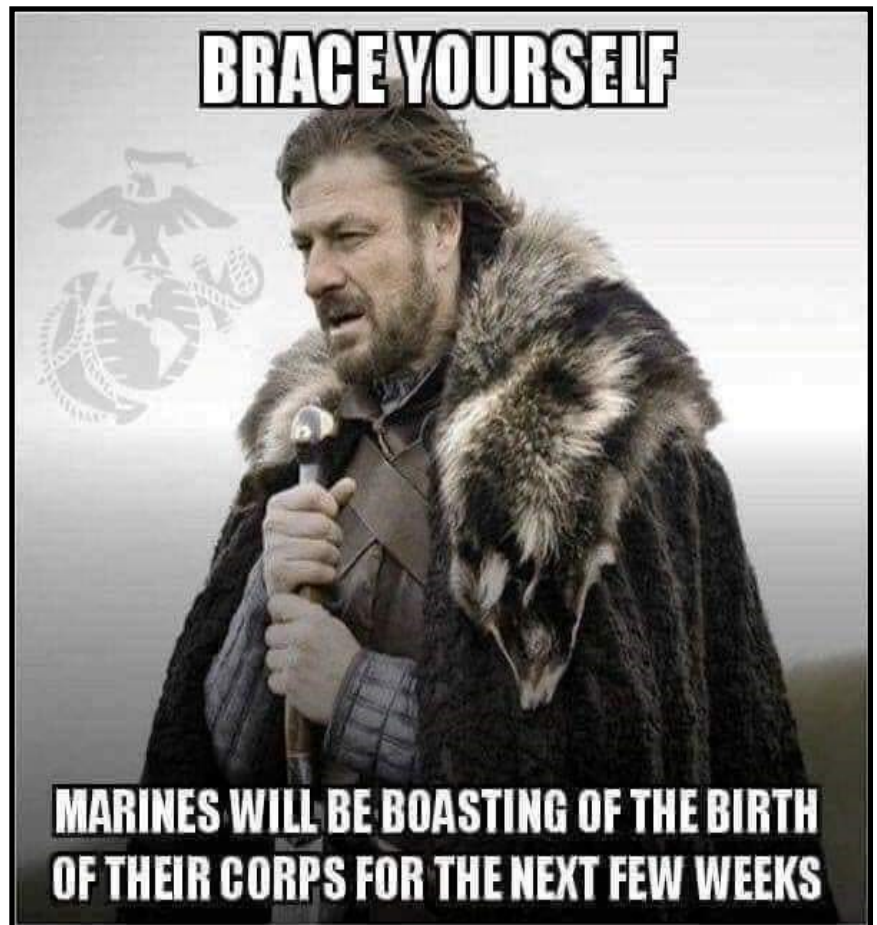


**Volunteer chefs  
create the best  
burgers in town  
every Wednesday  
from noon to 3 PM.  
Glenn and Georgetta  
handle the bar!**

**I would like to cancel my subscription  
to the Hurricane of the Month Club.**



It's almost time for that wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner again, brought to you courtesy of "C-Rats".



# Marines' Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma,  
To the shores of Tripoli;  
We fight our country's battles  
In the air, on land, and sea;  
First to fight for right and freedom  
And to keep our honor clean:  
We are proud to claim the title  
Of United States Marine.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze  
From dawn to setting sun;  
We have fought in every clime and place  
Where we could take a gun;  
In the snow of far-off Northern lands  
And in sunny tropic scenes;  
You will find us always on the job  
The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our Corps  
Which we are proud to serve;  
In many a strife we've fought for life  
And never lost our nerve;  
If the Army and the Navy  
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;  
They will find the streets are guarded  
By United States Marines.



# Membership cards now have no expiration date. Order replacement card online.

Marines,

1. We are now printing our membership cards in house, so by leaving off the expiration date cards are good for life, we no longer have to print for existing members, only for new members, transfers and new life members. that cuts our card printing down to around 10,000 or less every year from around 30,000.
2. Anyone who wishes to order a replacement card or just wants the new plastic card can order from our website: [www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org).
3. We are currently trying to get the company to list the expiration dates in the portal with the members name and info.
4. All Detachment paymasters have access to the portal to verify anyone of their members. If they have been delinquent for a long period of time their name will drop off the portal page.
5. If you have a visiting member from out of area, the fastest way to verify (if you need to) is to contact his/her Detachment paymaster or Commandant.
6. We are now using an old but tried and true way of mailing out membership cards, they are going directly to the Detachment paymasters, this avoids having to deal with returns due to bad addresses. Hand them out at your meetings, it will also get members at your meetings, contact them and let them know you have their card, if they want it they can go to a meeting and have it presented to them.

Thanks for your support,

Semper Fi

Dennis Tobin

National Commandant



## Free Entrance to National Parks

Explore the outdoors. You can use your [Veteran ID Card \(VIC\)](#) to gain free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including [national parks](#), wildlife refuges, and forests. Gold Star Families and Veterans can [enjoy a variety of activities like camping, hiking, biking, and much more.](#)

### Bunker Announcements :

- **NO CHILDREN are allowed to sit at the bar.** *(For legal purposes, this means anyone under the age of 18, though the label may also apply to a few unnamed grunts).* Minors must sit at tables or high tops only.
- **Guests are permitted 3 visits to The Bunker.** *Upon the 3rd visit, they will be required to submit a membership application before returning.*
- Non-members will be assessed an additional **\$1.00 surcharge** on drinks.
- When playing the dice, **3 of a kind gets a free drink** of the kind already purchased, **4 of a kind gets 2 free drinks** of the kind already purchased. Five of a kind receives the monetary amount based on the roll sequence.
- When you are going to use free drink chips to pay for your drinks, **let the bartender know before they tally your “cash out” on the computer.** If you produce the chips after they produce the “cash out” total, it causes issues. Be considerate of your volunteer bartenders and **TIP THEM WELL.**
- **THE BUNKER IS OPEN TILL 2100 ON FRIDAY NIGHTS AGAIN!**

# Support your Detachment.



# The Curtiss SB2C Helldiver

By John D'Alusio – Historian, MCL DeSoto Detachment 588

The preeminent US Navy and Marine dive bomber of the first three years of WW II was the Douglas SBD Dauntless. It was a two-seater (pilot and rear gunner), had a 1,200 HP engine that produced a relatively slow top speed (255 mph), the wings did not fold to allow more of them to be stored on carriers, and it had a relatively short range when armed with a 1,000 pound bomb (strike radius of only 250 miles). Despite these shortcomings, the plane was rugged, maneuverable, easy to fly, a stable dive-bombing platform, and decently armed with twin .50 Cal Browning M-2 machine guns in the nose, and a dual .30 Cal swivel mount operated by the rear gunner.

In the states, Curtiss-Wright was designing a replacement dive-bomber that would be designated the SB2C. When finally introduced in late 1943, it sent Japanese warships to the bottom, flattened fortifications on Japan held islands, was faster, had folding wings, and could carry a heavy bomb load further than the SBD.

Even though the Curtiss SB2C dive-bomber left a trail of wreckage in its wake, the Helldiver is remembered today mostly as an unpopular latecomer to the war, a less than stellar performer designed and built by an aircraft company that was in decline.

The Helldiver had a difficult gestation period. It carried a pilot and radioman-gunner in tandem behind a 1,900-horsepower Wright R-2600 radial engine (they should have used the famous Pratt & Whitney R-2800 Double Wasp Radial engine that propelled F4U Corsairs and Grumman F6F Hellcats, but there was no way Curtiss-Wright was going to use a competitor's product), the Helldiver with its 49-foot, 9-inch wing span, was quickly dubbed the "Son of a Bitch Second Class," the "Beast," and worse by many a pilot who paid more heed to the rumor mill in the carrier ready room than to the performance gauges on his instrument panel. In reality, the dive bomber was neither as bad as its critics said or as good as Curtiss hoped it would be.

The engineer running the Helldiver design team was not Curtiss-Wright's iconic Don Berlin, who designed the famous P-40 Warhawk. Instead, Ray Blaylock led the design team. The Helldiver's career began with myriad problems. The prototype XSB2C-1 made its maiden flight on December 18, 1940, but was largely destroyed just days later in a crash. Curtiss rebuilt the aircraft, and it flew again in October 1941, but crashed a second time after a month. After production moved to Columbus, Ohio, from Buffalo, New York, the first production Helldiver finally flew in June 1942, the same month the Dauntless SBD won the Battle of Midway by sinking four of Japan's six front line fleet carriers.

From the start, the Helldiver developed a reputation for poor stability, structural flaws, and poor handling. For instance, Britain was desperate for dive bombers, but outright rejected the Helldiver after receiving 26 planes and testing the flight and dive characteristics. Lengthening the fuselage by one foot and redesigning the stabilizer fin seemed to address the aerodynamic problems. Curtiss claimed the stability and structural issues were exaggerated, yet more than one Helldiver broke in half when making a hard tailhook landing on a wooden carrier deck.

After several variations in armament appeared with early Helldivers, the Navy settled on two forward-firing, 20mm cannons, one in each wing (introduced on the SB2C-1C model), plus the enlisted crew-member's swivel-mounted twin .30-caliber machine guns. The radioman-gunner could deploy his firepower only by lowering the rear deck of the fuselage immediately ahead of the vertical stabilizer.

Like the Grumman TBF Avenger torpedo plane, the Helldiver offered an internal bomb bay that could accommodate a 1,000-pound bomb and be closed by hydraulically operated doors. Hardpoints under the wings could store additional ordnance.

Perhaps the most important change came with an improved propeller. After a 12-foot Curtiss Electric three-blade prop proved inadequate, a four-blade propeller from the same manufacturer with the same diameter and with root cuffs was introduced with the SB2C-3 model, the point at which nearly all imperfections in the design had been smoothed out. The SB2C-4 followed, introducing "cheese grate" upper and lower wing flaps that were perforated like a sieve; they enhanced stability. Interestingly, the Douglas SBD Dauntless also had these perforated dive flaps and they were proven to work in excellent fashion. Why Curtis did not simply copy them for the original batch of Helldivers remains a mystery.

Helldivers flew their first combat mission when Squadron Bombing 17, or VB-17, joined a strike force assaulting the main Japanese base in the Solomon Islands at Rabaul, New Britain, on 11 November, 1943, as part of a larger strike force.

Chuck Downey, slated to be an SB2C jockey, read a newspaper account of the Helldiver's combat debut while he was stationed in the New Jersey beach resort town of Wildwood where, in late 1943 and early 1944, the Navy was forming squadron VB-80, or Bombing 80. Some of the pilots in the new squadron (officially formed 1 February, 1944) picked up SB2C-1C Helldivers at the Curtiss-Wright factory in Columbus, OH and delivered them to Wildwood. "We knew this aircraft was meant as a replacement for the SBD Dauntless, which won glory at Midway,"

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Downey said. "Some of the men thought the Dauntless performed better over-all, even though the Helldiver was bigger, faster (295 mph), and more powerful."

George Walsh, another Helldiver pilot in VB-80, initially questioned replacing a proven warplane such as the SBD Dauntless with a new one. "Early production models of the Helldiver had a lot of defects," Walsh related. "It was rushed into production at a new factory in Columbus while engineering specifications were constantly being revised."

Walsh further stated, "The plane weighed eight tons and was a jungle of wires and hydraulic tubes. The latter operated the flaps, folding wings and landing gear. It proved difficult to land on a carrier because of the long nose. This created so many accidents that Admiral 'Jocko' Clark rejected the first Helldivers for his squadron on the Essex Class carrier *Yorktown* and had the SBDs brought back. The 'Helldiver' designation was soon replaced. Pilots began referring to the plane as 'The Beast' and that pejorative stayed with the plane even after later models (particularly the SB2C-4) proved to be more sturdy and reliable."

When radioman-gunner Jim Samar learned that he would be occupying the back seat of a Helldiver rather than a Dauntless, his initial reaction was extreme disappointment. "Worse than that. I was crestfallen," Samar said. He expected to be deployed in a Dauntless SBD. Samar was a plank-owner of VB-80, which left Wildwood to go aboard the carrier USS *Ticonderoga* (CV-14), made the Panama Canal transit, and then into the broad Pacific. By early summer 1944, VB-80 and *Ticonderoga* were rehearsing war off the coast of Hawaii and ready to fight in the new dive bomber.

*Ticonderoga* joined the Allied invasion of the Philippines. Air-to-air combat, ship-to-air anti-craft fire, and air-to-ground fire greeted the Helldivers.



**SB2C Helldiver is releasing its bomb during a training run.**



**A Curtiss SB2C Helldiver dive bomber approaches a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier. Intended as a replacement for the heralded Douglas SBD Dauntless, the Helldiver proved to be a rugged platform for dive bombing in the Pacific Theater, but never gained the popularity of the Dauntless.**

Pilot Chuck Downey recalled this as the period when he was attempting to master the art of dive bombing in an SB2C. "You pulled the handle to open the bomb bay doors," Downey said. "You watched the Japanese ship slide under the left center section leading edge of your wing. You slowed to dive-brake deployment speed of 125 knots. You performed a split-S to the left [a half-roll, inverted, going into a descending half loop], using rudder and aileron to put into a vertical dive with a maximum speed of 350 knots."

All of this, of course, was simply the mechanics for dive-bombing. The purpose was to end up near vertical in position to drop bombs into the superstructure of a Japanese warship. The maneuvers were significantly more uncomfortable for rearward facing radioman-gunners and were often undertaken while antiaircraft shells were exploding close by.

On 13 November, 1944, pilots of VB-80 attacked the aged 5,100-ton *Kuma* class light cruiser *Kiso* in Manila Bay.

Walsh related, "We launched before dawn and each plane rose to slide into squadron formation by the light of a rose-colored rising sun, which became visible over the horizon as we gained altitude. We throttled back to a slow climbing speed to conserve fuel and gain altitude. Flying west

toward Manila we had to reach 14,000 feet flying over the snow-capped mountains of eastern Luzon. Our flight included 24 SB2Cs, two divisions of 12 each. The divisions included sections of three planes in 'V' formation, and I led the last section of three planes. We were loaded with 1,000-pound bombs."

*Kiso* was the flagship of the Japanese 5th Fleet, Vice Admiral Kiyohide Shima commanding. Dozens of carrier planes from several squadrons had some role in the attack, but Helldiver pilots Downey, Walsh, and Lieutenant (j.g.) Leslie B. Case were the ones who made direct hits with 1,000-pound bombs.

Said Walsh, "At 300 knots the thirty seconds of the two-mile dive passed in what seemed to be slow motion speed as black puffs of exploding antiaircraft shells floated by, punctuated by red tracers from machine guns. The dive brakes hold the speed of the plane from approaching high velocity as it would in a free fall or power dive. The pilot is pressed forward against his shoulder



straps because the aircraft is held back as if suspended from a rope. There is time to adjust the aiming point by using the elevators and ailerons as the ship grows bigger and bigger in the windscreen. That day there was no wind factor to be compensated."

"A cruiser is a narrow target," Walsh continued. "I stayed in my dive until I was confident of scoring a hit, and released the bomb. At that speed another two seconds would have made me a suicide pilot. I pulled out hard; probably 13 Gs, low over the water, and taking evasive action while I retracted the dive brakes, adjusted the throttle, blower and pitch, closed the bomb bay, and raced south toward the rendezvous. Gordon [Virgil Gordon, Walsh's radioman-gunner] reported a direct hit but I did not look back. I often wonder why. I guess my instinct was to get the hell out of there, and back to the protection of the group. We were also so low over the water all my attention was occupied in flying the plane, looking where I was headed and watching out for other possible planes in the area, including Japanese Zero fighters."

Downey's bomb went straight down the No. 1 stack to the boiler room, detonated, and separated the stack from *Kiso's* main hull in a massive mushroom of debris. It is unclear whether Shima was aboard, but he survived the war. Some 715 Japanese sailors did not survive the attack that sent the *Kiso* to the shallow bottom of Manila Bay.

Squadron VB-80 continued bombing in the Philippines and on Formosa until 21 January, 1945, when *Ticonderoga* was put out of action by kamikaze attacks. No one in the Helldiver squadron was among the 144 men killed when two Japanese suicide planes slammed into the carrier, but several were severely burned. Instead of going home with their wounded carrier, VB-80's Helldiver men transferred to the carrier USS *Hancock*.

From 1943 to 1945, some 30 Navy bombing squadrons put to sea with Helldivers. Marines were also issued the SB2C. Many of the squadrons made only one combat cruise. VB-80 was typical except that it changed ships midway through the final year of the war.

By early 1945, most Helldivers in the Western Pacific were SB2C-4 models. This was the mature Helldiver cured of the poor factory workmanship and many of the flaws that plagued earlier versions. But the earlier versions had already led to "scuttlebutt" that the plane was a brick.

Aboard *Hancock*, VB-80 began flying missions against the Japanese home islands on 21 February, 1945. Now, in addition to a 1,000 pound bomb in its bay and a 500-pound bomb under each wing, many SB2C-4 Helldivers flying against targets in Japan were retrofitted to carry eight 5-inch high-velocity aircraft rockets under their wings. These were rocket-propelled unguided projectiles with explosive warheads. When attacking airfields and industrial sites in Japan, instead of going into their vertical dive-bombing mode, Helldiver crews strafed and fired rockets. But the Navy and Marines found that the Grumman F6F Hellcats and Vought F4U Corsairs could carry the same payload as the SB2C and could deliver ordnance on target in faster, single seat planes that were easier to fly.

Thanks largely to the superb training of U.S. flyers, the Helldiver racked up a solid record of achievement in the final months of the war. However, none of this success was attributable to Curtiss-Wright, a plane-maker that was in constant trouble with the government. Unlike Grumman and Vought, which were responsible for most of the warplanes on the decks of the Navy's 102 aircraft carriers on VJ-Day, Curtiss seemed unable to improve aircraft assembly methods or to innovate.

Long after an investigative committee led by then-Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri uncovered major problems at Curtiss plants, Navy leaders were acknowledging that the Helldiver was far from perfect. "When we needed the SB2C Helldiver neither we nor it was ready," said Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air Artemus L. Gates.

Pilots and radioman-gunners never felt great affection for their Helldivers that they had for the SBD. The Helldivers were never as accurate in a dive as the Dauntlesses they were intended to replace and never achieved their full potential. The Helldiver was the last combat aircraft manufactured in significant numbers by Curtiss, which exited the plane-making business in 1948.

Official records credit the Helldiver with 18,808 combat sorties in the Pacific theater. Helldivers are credited with sinking or helping to sink some 301 Japanese ships of all types. Radioman-gunners are credited with shooting down 41 Japanese aircraft (a figure that is certainly exaggerated). Some 271 Helldivers were lost to anti-aircraft fire and 18 to Japanese fighters. It might be said of the Helldiver that it only reached full maturity, and was only fully finding its way, when the war ended. Helldivers were among the hundreds of warplanes that overflowed the surrender ceremony on the battleship USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on 2 September, 1945.

A total of 7,141 Helldivers were built, including SBF versions assembled by Fairchild and SBWs from Canadian Car & Foundry. That's a good production run by any measure. The versions built in the largest numbers were the SB2C-1 (978), SB2C-2 (1,112), SB2C-4 (2,045), and SB2C-5 (970). The SB2C-5 model did not see combat.

The Helldiver would remain in Navy and Marine Corps service until 1950, but after the war, the U.S. sold surplus Helldivers to the navies of Italy, Portugal, Thailand, Greece, and France.

The French navy kept them in service until 1958, and Helldivers saw their last combat in the third phase (1946-1949) of the Greek civil war and with the French in the First Indochina War (1951-1954).

### LOCAL AGENCY THAT CAN HELP VETERANS IN NEED

**Supportive Service for Veteran Families (SSVF)**. Administered by ***Turning Points*** in Bradenton. Contact them at 941-747-1509. They are located at **701 17th Avenue West, Bradenton Florida 34205**. Services available include: *Outreach Services, Case Management Services, Assistance Obtaining VA benefits, Assistance obtaining other Public Benefits, Rental Assistance, Utility-Fee Payment Assistance, Child Care and other Qualifying Services, and Transportation.*

If you have service connected disabilities and hold a VA Card indicating that, you can go to the Myakka State Park Rangers Office, off of State Road 72, and be issued a pass.



## MISSION AND PURPOSE

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

Dedicated to supporting our local veterans and enriching our community, DeSoto Detachment #588 is the local arm of the Marine Corps League, serving the greater Bradenton/Sarasota area. Annual initiatives include Honor Guard and honors services for fallen service members, Toys for Tots drive, charity golf tournament, USMC Ball, scholarships and support for Young Marines, and other community initiatives that support or honor US Marines and their families.





Just because I like to walk around in my Underwear, eating Doritos, does not make me strange.

You folks in aisle 4 just need to stop staring

### Marine Corps Rule # 1

***On November 10th, Marines in garrison or deployed will celebrate the birthday of our Corps. Even if just one Marine is present, there will be still be a celebration.***

A MARINE and Superman once fought each other on a bet. The loser had to start wearing his underwear on the outside of his pants.

Most MARINES have a grizzly bear carpet in their room...the bear isn't dead; it's just afraid to move.

The MARINES have already been to Mars; that's why there are no signs of life.

Ghosts sit around the campfire and tell MARINE CORPS stories.

A MARINE can cut through a hot knife with butter.

Death once had a near-MARINE experience.

The MARINES are the reason why Waldo is hiding.

A MARINE can slam a revolving door.

When the Boogeyman goes to sleep every night, he checks his closet for US MARINES.

A MARINE once kicked a horse in the chin... Its descendants are known today as Giraffes.

A MARINE once got bit by a rattle snake. After three days of pain and agony – the rattle snake died.

## How may I get copies or information from my official military records or for those of a family member or military person I am researching?

Write:

National Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
9700 Page Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

The fax request number is (314) 801-9195. The Center will respond in writing by U.S. Mail. Or visit the National Personnel Records Center online at:<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>.

Or you may also call at: 314-801-0800.

## How do I find out what medals and awards for which I am eligible?

Write:

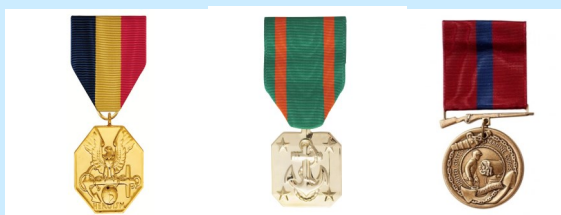
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
Military Awards Branch (Code MMMA)  
2008 Elliot Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-5030

**Members and Associate Members, male or female, consider joining our Honor Guard.**

**We can teach you everything you need to know.**

### Where to write for your medals (no cost to you):

Navy Personnel Command  
Liaison Office Room 5409  
9700 Page Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100



Desoto Detachment #588, 5225 26th Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34207 (941) 301-4598

MEETINGS ARE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1830 Website: [MCL588.Org](http://MCL588.Org)





# TRUTH

**Veterans Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Confidential crisis chat at **VeteransCrisisLine.net**  
or text to **838255**

**RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF SUICIDE RISK**

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.

**The presence of these signs requires immediate attention.**

- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

**Call us if you experience any of these warning signs.**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs © 2/17 VHA

**Our Detachment has a new website that is now up and running. Please visit it at: [MCL588.org](http://MCL588.org). The website will host announcements, photos, archived newsletters, etc. So go right now and put [MCL588.Org](http://MCL588.Org) into your browser.**

STOLEN VALOR.....Don't imposters know it is very easy to verify valorous claims in these days of Google and other search engines? There are a lot of fakers out there claiming to be something that they are not.

It is very easy to ascertain heroic status, both in the United States and the United Kingdom.  
Don't be a faker. If you earned it, wear it with pride, whether you rate one ribbon or a hundred ribbons.  
if you didn't earn it go crawl back in your hole with the other worms.

For more information about these worms,

Go to:

<http://www.stolenvalor.com/index.cfm>

Or

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Victoria\\_Cross\\_recipients\\_by\\_campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Victoria_Cross_recipients_by_campaign)

IT'S OUR DUTY TO EXPOSE IMPOSTERS,  
BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.



If you, or someone you know needs help, support is available 24/7. Service members and their families can call Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647, or chat at [militaryonesource.mil](https://militaryonesource.mil). Service members, veterans, and their loved ones can also call the Military and Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat at [veteranscrisisline.net](https://veteranscrisisline.net), or text to 838255.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available to anyone at 1-800-273-8255.

#### MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION

715 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134  
(866) 622-1775, ext. 100, Fax: (703) 640-0162  
[mca@mca-marines.org](mailto:mca@mca-marines.org)

- **Leatherneck Magazine**  
(888) 237-7683; Fax: (703) 640-0823  
[leatherneck@mca-marines.org](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org)
- **Marine Corps Gazette**  
(800) 336-0291, ext. 144; Fax: (703) 630-9147  
[gazette@mca-marines.org](mailto:gazette@mca-marines.org)

#### THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

##### ARMED FORCES DAY

For those who currently wear the uniform

##### VETERANS DAY

For those who used to wear the uniform

##### MEMORIAL DAY

For those who never made it out of the uniform



If you need help with benefits claims, contact the  
Manatee County Veteran's Service Office at

**(941) 745-3795**

## **VETERAN'S SERVICES**

Here in Manatee County, we appreciate our Veterans for their service and sacrifice and are happy to assist. You will always be treated with respect, courtesy, and compassion while at our office. Again, thank you for your service and we hope to hear from you in the near future.

Our office is committed to providing you professional assistance and guidance throughout your entire VA claim process. There is absolutely **no fee or cost** for our services or for the submission of a claim for VA benefits.

**These have been paid in full  
by your service.**

**If you know of  
members who are sick  
or in distress, please  
call our Chaplain,  
Ron Schneider  
941-749-5799**



### **Military Stories**

We are collecting stories by and about military personnel.

If you would like to have your story published email your story to Craig Hullinger at:

[craighullinger@gmail.com](mailto:craighullinger@gmail.com)

Your story can be long or short. The story can cover an interesting event or your entire life. You can write about yourself or a friend or relative that you would like to honor.

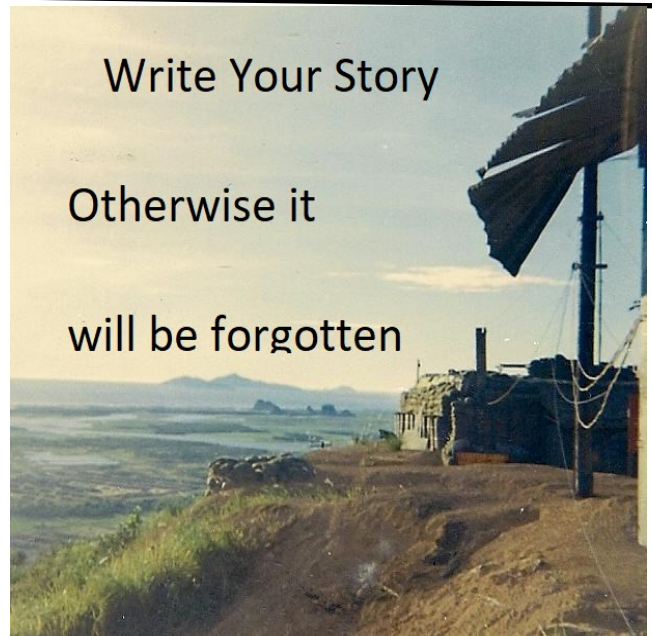
Pictures are worth a thousand words. You can write the story for a relative, friend, or ancestor. You can add to your story. We look forward to publishing your story on the blog.

Thank you for your stories.

Write Your Story

Otherwise it

will be forgotten





# SCUTTLEBUTT

## The Word



- ⇒ When is the last time you invited a potential member to the Bunker or to a MCL Meeting? Invite that guy or gal down the street that has the USMC decal on their car.
- ⇒ See JOE INTOPPA to become a celebrity poker dealer for Bar Poker. Little to no experience required.
- ⇒ Send your photos, articles or announcements to Editor Bob Fields for inclusion in the Bunker News. Send to RMFields0117@gmail.com by the 25th of the month.
- ⇒ The Bunker is now open on Sundays 1100-1800 & Friday's until 2100.
- ⇒ HONOR GUARD PRACTICE COME JOIN IN, NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WELCOME. See any member for details.

***Remember to always tip your***  
***VOLUNTEER BARTENDERS***  
***at the Bunker very generously.***  
***They are unpaid and giving up their***  
***time to keep***  
***the Bunker Running.***

Bar Manners: It certainly isn't mandatory, but when a member wins a large pot on dice or pull tab cards, it is an accepted practice to tip the bartender VERY generously, and to buy the bar a round of drinks. People who win big money and just leave a drink chip or small tip are frowned upon by all and called names that I can't put in print.



# 26TH ANNUAL MANATEE COUNTY STAND DOWN

Saturday, 11/02/24

8:00am – Noon

Manatee County Fairgrounds  
1303 17th Street West, Palmetto

***EVERYONE is invited to this FREE event!***

Join us for a day of live music, fun, and food, and get  
connected to community resources.

- Veterans Amnesty Court
- Lunch
- Kid Games/Activities
- Medical Screenings
- Haircuts
- Raffles
- Dental Screenings
- Veterans Services
- Career Fair
- Eye Exams
- Showers/Hygiene Items
- Live Entertainment
- Florida ID/Drivers License
- Transportation

FREE shuttle service to the Fairgrounds is available at  
the Downtown Bradenton Transit Station  
1301 6th Ave W, Bradenton, FL

941-747-1509 [www.tpmanatee.org](http://www.tpmanatee.org)

Email: [info@tpmanatee.org](mailto:info@tpmanatee.org)



Volunteer opportunities for our Team:

Start Time: Saturday November 2nd 2024 @8:00 AM

End Time: Saturday November 2nd 2024 @12:00 PM

# MARINE CORPS HISTORY IN NOVEMBER

**1 November 1983:** 300 Marines of the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit staged an amphibious and helicopter landing on the island of Carriacou, 15 miles northeast of Grenada, in a search for Cuban military installations or personnel. 17 Grenadian soldiers were captured, and arms, ammunition, and training sites were found. The next day the 22d MAU left the Caribbean area and proceeded to Beirut, Lebanon to replace the 24th MAU.

**8 November 1990:** President Bush announced that he planned to add more than 200,000 U.S. troops to those already deployed in Operation Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf area. The number of Marines in the area would be doubled by the addition of II MEF units from the Corps' east coast bases, and the 5th MEB from California. Within the next two months, Marine strength in the objective area would increase to nearly 90,000 Marines.

**10 November 1921:** This date marked the first formal commemoration of the birthday of the Marine Corps as 10 November. On 21 October 1921, Maj Edwin McClellan, OIC of the Historical Section, HQMC, sent a memo to MajGen Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday of 10 November 1775 be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps. Accordingly, on 1 Nov 1921, General Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47 summarizing the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps, and directed that it be read to every command each 10 November.

**13 November 1982:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated this date at the Memorial site in Washington, D.C. The dedication and parade that preceded it were part of a week-long National Salute to Vietnam Veterans.

**17 November 1918:** The 4th Marine Brigade, as part of the 2d Division, American Expeditionary Force, began its march to the Rhine River, passing through Belgium and Luxembourg, as part of the American forces occupying a defeated Germany.

**20 November 1943:** The 2d Marine Division, commanded by Major General Julian C. Smith, landed on Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands. After seventy-six hours of bitter fighting during which almost 1,000 Marines died, and more than 2,000 were wounded, MajGen Smith declared the island secure.

**24 November 1992:** Marines lowered the flag at Subic Bay, U.S. Naval Facility, Republic of the Philippines, for the last time during ceremonies to turn over the facility to the government of the Philippines. The withdrawal ended almost a century of U.S. presence in that nation.

**25 November 1968:** The conclusion of Operation Lancaster II ended 10 months of action against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops in the west-central sector of the demilitarized zone region. Over 1,800 enemy were killed, 42 captured, and 913 weapons seized during the operation.

**27 November 1950:** In a carefully planned assault, eight Chinese Communist divisions in Korea launched a massive attack which had as its expressed purpose, the destruction of the 1st Marine Division. This action led to the successful southward Marine Corps attack out of the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir to the coastal port of Hungnam.





## PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GARY W. MARTINI

**Born: SEPTEMBER 21, 1948**

**Died: APRIL 21, 1967**

**Hometown: LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA**



The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the **MEDAL OF HONOR** posthumously to

### PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GARY W. MARTINI UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifleman, Company F, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam. On 21 April 1967, during Operation UNION, elements of Company F, conducting offensive operations at Binh Son, encountered a firmly entrenched enemy force and immediately deployed to engage them. The Marines in Private Martini's platoon assaulted across an open rice paddy to within twenty meters of the enemy trench line where they were suddenly struck by hand grenades, intense small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. The enemy onslaught killed 14 and wounded 18 Marines, pinning the remainder of the platoon down behind a low paddy dike. In the face of imminent danger, Private Martini immediately crawled over the dike to a forward open area within 15 meters of the enemy position where, continuously exposed to the hostile fire, he hurled hand grenades, killing several of the enemy. Crawling back through the intense fire, he rejoined his platoon which had moved to the relative safety of a trench line. From this position he observed several of his wounded comrades lying helpless in the fire swept paddy. Although he knew that one man had been killed, attempting to assist the wounded, Private Martini raced through the open area and dragged a comrade back to the friendly position. In spite of a serious wound received during this first daring rescue, he again braved the unrelenting fury of the enemy fire to aid another companion lying wounded only twenty meters in front of the enemy trench line. As he reached the fallen Marine, he received a mortal wound, but disregarding his own condition, he began to drag the Marine toward his platoon's position. Observing men from his unit attempting to leave the security of their position to aid him, concerned only for their safety, he called to them to remain under cover and through a final supreme effort, moved his injured comrade to where he could be pulled to safety, before he fell, succumbing to his wounds. Stouthearted and indomitable, Private Martini unhesitatingly yielded his own life to save two of his comrades and ensure the safety of the remainder of his platoon. His outstanding courage, valiant fighting spirit and selfless devotion to duty reflected the highest credit upon himself, the Marine Corps, and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

/S/ LYNDON B. JOHNSON



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Marine Corps League Application for Membership



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application--- New ☐ Renewal ☐ 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 DESOTO (588) Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$35.00 for one year's membership.

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 earned the FMF Device or FMF 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 understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

### OATH OF MEMBERSHIP-REGULAR/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

"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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor (Where Applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

Please locate a Detachment using the locator on The Marine Corps League National website. Upon completion submit this form and attach a copy of your last DD-214 (Service 2 or Marine 4)\*, as well as any applicable fees as defined by the Detachment. If you desire to join as a Member At Large, please go to The Marine Corps League National website and apply using the online form.

\*Regular Member applicants only

\_\_\_\_ Rev.

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