



Bunker News



APRIL 2025 EASTER EDITION

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DESOTO DETACHMENT 588, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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Commandant's Corner

Welcome to the second quarter of 2025! Spring has sprung and we managed to survive a brutal Florida Winter. Ok, not all that brutal but we did get some snow in North Florida between 80° days. We are also adjusting to the biannual time switch. Whether you prefer standard time or daylight savings, there is near universal loathing over the time change. A 2023 poll conducted by AP-NORC found that 75% of Americans dislike the time switch yet congress hasn't voted to fix it even though the Sunshine Protection Act has been introduced during each session since 2018. Between congress ignoring the will of the people and news about all of the foolish ways they have spent our money, perhaps April Fool's Day should be moved to April 15th!

I hear that the proverbial cat is out of the bag but, in case someone missed the big news, our Bar Manager, Joe Intoppa, is stepping down. The Bunker has been doing quite well under Joe's leadership both financially and socially. The friendly and welcoming atmosphere has returned. The change has been remarkable and very visible in the financial statement. Joe set the bar high and continuing that level of performance is a tall order, but our new Bar Manager Collette (Coco) Quinehan, is definitely up to the task. She brings years of experience in the hospitality field as well as a stint owning and running her own bar, night club, and restaurant. Please join me in wishing Joe well in his future endeavors and congratulate our new Bar Manager Coco. That's the long and the short of it for this month.

Semper Fi!

Adjutant's Alerts

This month, we've added a new feature to The Bunker Newsletter: **Forward March: The Future of the Marine Corps**. Each month, we'll take a closer look at how the Corps is evolving—whether through new technology, updated training, force structure changes, or global operations. From Force Design 2030 to emerging gear and tactics, Forward March will keep you informed on where the Corps is headed and how today's Marines are preparing for tomorrow's fight.

Do you have a memorable experience from your time in the Corps? A funny anecdote or a lesson learned, a joke, or even a comic? We want to hear about it! Sharing your story is a great way to connect, reminisce, and strengthen camaraderie within our Detachment. Submit your story to mcl588bunkeradjutant@gmail.com, and we'll feature it in an upcoming edition. Let's keep the spirit of Semper Fi alive by sharing our experiences and celebrating the bonds that unite us.

The Bunker will be closed Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025.



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Orders Received: Mission Accepted!

A Message from Coco – Excited to Step In as Bunker Bar Manager on May 1, 2025



I am honored and excited to formally accept the position of Bunker Manager. It is truly humbling to step into this role following Joe, who has not only been an exceptional manager but also a great mentor and friend. I'm grateful for his leadership and the strong foundation he has built, along with the dedicated team of bartenders I'll have the privilege of working with.

My journey in the hospitality industry began at the young age of 13 as a bus girl on Anna Maria Island, and it has remained a central passion throughout my life, even through college. From being a highly trusted and respected corporate trainer for two franchises

(training new employees in Alaska, Melbourne, Orlando, Miami, West Palm Beach, and Fort Lauderdale) to owning my own bar and restaurant in Bradenton for five years, hospitality has always been in my heart.

Although I've spent the past 16 years building a successful career in real estate—a profession I continue to be deeply committed to—this opportunity reignites a lifelong passion. Balancing both roles may sound ambitious, but I truly believe this is exactly where I'm meant to be.

I'm eager to bring fresh ideas, fun, energy, and creativity to this role while upholding the excellence Joe has established. Thank you for this incredible opportunity—I look forward to contributing to the team and making a positive impact!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Honor Guard Practice – Monday, March 31st @ 1730

- All Honor Guard members should report for practice.

E-Board Meeting – Monday, April 14th @ 1800

- Board members are required to attend.
- Bar will close at 1800.

General Membership Meeting – Monday, March 17th @ 1830

- Open to all members.
- Bar Closes at 1830; no drinks allowed during the meeting.
- Updates, discussions, and key decisions affecting The Bunker.

Department of Florida MCL Annual Convention – June 5th–8th 2025

- Location: Hilton Melbourne, 200 Rialto Place, Melbourne, FL.
- Action Required: Members interested in attending should contact [Your Name] for more information and registration details.

The Bunker Briefing

Volunteer Opportunities

Toys for Tots – Volunteers Needed

- **Primary Coordinator:** Seeking volunteer for the 2025 Toys for Tots Coordinator Role. This is a significant role that will be supported by Assistant Coordinator Christine Shinavier.
 - Coordinator Training The Coordinator must attend required training at Quantico in June.
- **Two Truck Coordinators:** One will cover the East & South, the other the North & West areas.
- **Warehouse Location** We are actively seeking a storage space for toy distribution. Jim Kaskey is coordinating outreach with local organizations. If you have suggestions or leads, please let us know.
- **ABC News Interview** A segment on our Toys for Tots efforts is being planned. Volunteers are needed to represent the Bunker. Dress Uniforms will be required. Date and time TBD.

Golf Tournament – Coordinator Needed

- **Coordinator:** Seeking volunteer to serve as the Golf Tournament Fundraiser Coordinator.
- This position involves planning, coordinating, and managing the annual tournament.
 - Responsibilities include securing sponsors, organizing teams, handling logistics, and ensuring a smooth, successful event.
- Please consider volunteering or nominating someone to help ensure another successful year.

Burger Wednesdays – Volunteers Needed

- Seeking two teams of four to rotate weekly for summer grilling.
- If no volunteers step up, Burger Wednesdays will be canceled.
- If interested, contact Joe Intoppa/Coco.

Honor Guard – Volunteers Needed

- Members are needed to assist with Honor Guard ceremonies.
- If interested, contact Matt Richards or Joe Filice.

Historian Position Open

- Looking for a member to help document and preserve The Bunker's history.
- No prior experience needed.
- If interested, contact any of the board members.

Back-Up Bartenders – Volunteers Needed

- Training will be provided if necessary.
- If interested, contact Joe Intoppa/Coco.

Bar Poker – Dealers Needed

- Volunteers are needed to deal for Bar Poker.
- No prior experience is required; training will be provided.
- If interested, sign up at the bar or contact Coco.

The Bunker Scuttlebutt

What's the latest buzz around The Bunker?

Easter Sunday

- The Bunker will be closed Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025.

Delinquent Dues Policy – Know the Rules!

- Delinquent Status: A member is considered delinquent if dues are not paid and transmitted by August 31st each year.

Retention of Delinquent Status:

- Members may remain in delinquent status for up to one (1) year.
- During that year, they can return to good standing by paying all dues in arrears and current dues, as long as they are not indebted to:
 - Detachment #588
 - The Department of Florida
 - National Headquarters

Removal from Rolls:

- After one year in delinquent status, the member is removed from the active membership rolls.

Membership Dues

- If you received a dues reminder email, please make sure your payment and updated membership form are submitted as soon as possible.
- All members—new and renewing—must fill out an updated form.
- If you're unsure of your dues status, please contact the Adjutant.

Membership Cards Are In

- A new batch of membership cards has arrived! Stop by the bar and check with the bartender to see if yours is available.

March Raffle Winners

- Glen's Raffle-Jim Warren.
- 50/50 Raffle-Ron Kosey (\$121, donated back to the Bunker).
- Japanese Whiskey Raffle: John Schnider.
- St. Paddy's Day Lottery Basket Raffle: Lawrence Cullen.

Bunker Reminders

- **Opening Time on Wednesdays is 1200.** Please refrain from arriving before 1200 as volunteers and bartenders need time to set up.
- As a member-supported space, the Bunker relies on everyone to help keep it clean and welcoming for all. Please take a moment at the end of your visit to assist with basic clean-up duties:
 - Return glasses to the bar.
 - Dispose of trash properly.
 - Check and tidy up restrooms.
 - Assist with bringing in flags at closing.
 - Properly discard dip containers and other items.
- Every small action makes a big difference. Thank you for helping maintain a respectful and enjoyable environment for everyone.

(Continued on next page)



Joe pointing to his invisible watch – and saying it is not 1200 yet!

The Bunker Scuttlebutt

What's the latest buzz around The Bunker?

Bunker Rules

- No Children at the Bar – For legal compliance, individuals under 18 are not permitted to sit at the bar. Minors must remain at tables or high tops.
- Guest Visits – Guests are always welcome at The Bunker but are limited to three visits before they must submit a membership application to continue attending.
- Non-Member Surcharge: Non-members will be charged an additional \$1.00 per drink. Yet another great reason to become a member.
- Proper Use of Drink Chips – If you're redeeming free drink chips, please present them before the bartender rings up your order. This ensures a smooth transaction and avoids confusion.
- Reminder: Our bartenders volunteer their time—please show your appreciation by **tipping generously**.



Dice Game Rules

- Three of a kind = 1 free drink (same as the purchased drink).
- Four of a kind = 2 free drinks (same as the purchased drink).
- Five of a kind = cash prize based on roll sequence.

Bar Etiquette: Celebrate with Class

- At The Bunker, we value camaraderie, and a time-honored tradition is for big winners—whether from dice, pull tabs, or other games—to tip the bartender well and buy a round for the bar when luck is on their side.
- While not required, it's a sign of good sportsmanship and appreciation for the community. Walking away with a big payout but leaving only a drink chip or a minimal tip tends to be remembered... and not in the best way.
- So if you score big, spread the goodwill—because generosity has a way of coming back around!

Growing Our Membership

- Members can now use Bunker-branded business cards to recruit potential new members. Each card is redeemable for one draft beer or well drink.
- If you know someone who would be a great addition to our community, pick up some cards at the bar and help grow our membership!

Reminder: Pull Tabs are for Members Only

- Please note that only current members are permitted to play pull tabs. Thank you for respecting the rules and helping us stay in compliance!

Trivia

Q: What Marine Corps base was commissioned on April 1, 1942, and later became the largest Marine training base in the U.S.?

A: Camp Lejeune.

Bunker Events at a Glance

APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 1200-1500: Burgers	3 1200: Sand- wiches	4 1800-2100: Karaoke	5 1500-1700: Bar Poker
6 1400: Darts	7	8	9 1200-1500: Burgers	10 1200: Sand- wiches	11 1800-2100: Karaoke	12 1500-1700: Bar Poker
13 1400: Darts	14 1800: E-Board Meeting	15	16 1200-1500: Burgers	17 1200: Sand- wiches	18 1800-2100: Karaoke	19 1500-1700: Bar Poker
20 1400: Darts	21 1830: General membership Meeting	22	23 1200-1500: Burgers	24 1200: Sand- wiches	25 1800-2100: Karaoke	26 1500-1700: Bar Poker
27 1400: Darts	28 1730: Honor Guard Practice	29	30 1200-1500: Burgers			

Operational Schedule

4/2	WED	1200-1500	BURGERS & HOTDOGS - SUNS OUT BUNS OUT!
4/3	THURS	1200	SANDWICH DAY - LETTUCE CELEBRATE SANDWICH DAY!
4/4	FRI	1800-2100	KARAOKE - MIC DROP...BECAUSE I FORGOT THE LYRICS!
4/5	SAT	1500-1700	BAR POKER - I BLUFF BETTER AFTER TWO BEERS
4/6	SUN	1400	DARTS - AIM SMALL, MISS DRUNK!
4/9	WED	1200-1500	BURGER & HOTDOGS - RELISH TODAY, KETCHUP TOMORROW!
4/10	THURS	1200	SANDWICH DAY - I LIKE BIG BUNS AND I CANNOT LIE!
4/11	FRI	1800-2100	KARAOKE - OFF KEY, ON POINT!
4/12	SAT	1500-1700	BAR POKER - BROKE BUT BOLD!
4/13	SUN	1400	DARTS - I CAME. I THREW. I MISSED!
4/14	MON	1800	E-BOARD MEETING - WHERE IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE MADE!
4/16	WED	1200-1500	BURGER & HOTDOGS - IN BUNS WE TRUST!
4/17	THURS	1200	SANDWICH DAY - YOU HAD ME AT MAYO!
4/18	FRI	1800-2100	KARAOKE - THAT'S NOT AN ANIMAL!
4/19	SAT	1500-1700	BAR POKER - TEXAS HOLD ME!
4/21	MON	1830	GEN MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MORE MEMBERS, MORE FUN!
4/23	WED	1200-1500	BURGER & HOTDOGS - MEAT ME AT THE GRILL!
4/24	THURS	1200	SANDWICH DAY - SLAMMIN SAMMIES ALL DAY LONG!
4/25	FRI	1800-2100	KARAOKE - MY NEIGHBOR SAYS NO...I HEARD ENCORE!
4/26	SAT	1500-1700	BAR POKER - SHUFFLE UP AND SIP UP!
4/27	SUN	1400	DARTS - DART TODAY, LEGEND TOMORROW!
4/28	MON	1730	HONOR GUARD PRACTICE: - FLAWLESS.....EVENTUALLY!
4/30	WED	1200-1500	BURGER & HOTDOGS - FRANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

March General Membership Meeting Highlights

Members Sworn In:

- Marine Charles “ Alex” Rutland

Associate Members Sworn In:

- Buzz Frey
- Jacqueline “Jackie” Pappas

Challenge Coin Tradition: Commandant Joe Filice explained the significance of possessing a *Challenge Coin*. All members and associate members should carry one. The tradition states that if someone places their challenge coin on the tabletop or bar, all others present must also produce theirs.

- If someone fails to produce a coin, they must buy a round for their group (table or bar).
- If everyone meets the challenge, the initiator must buy the round.
- Any challenge coin is acceptable; however, monetary coins, slugs, poker chips, or drink chips do not qualify.

Bylaws Update: The Bylaws are with the Judge Advocate for final review. The board should have them submitted to the Department of Florida for approval before the next General Membership Meeting on April 21, 2025. The board will provide the Bylaws to the membership at least 14 days before submitting them to the Department of Florida.

Canteen Rules of Conduct: Canteen Rules of Conduct will be finalized before the next General Membership Meeting on April 21, 2025. They will be emailed to the membership and posted in the Bunker.

Bunker Business Cards: Members can now use Bunker-branded business cards to recruit potential new members. Each card is redeemable for one beer or well drink.

Garage Door Repair: Repairs were completed.

MCL Uniform Regulations: A quick guide uniform reference is included in the newsletter, has been emailed to the membership and is posted on the bulletin board in the Bunker.

Marine Corps Ball: The usual venue will be under renovation, Some options for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball are:

- Bradenton Yacht Club - Price unknown or Peridia – Price unknown.
- Possible date is November 8, 2025.
- We need people to purchase tickets.
- The Marine Corps Ball isn't just for Marines; it is also for Associate Members.
- This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Marine Corps, promising to be a significant milestone.

(Continued on the next page)

March General Membership Meeting Highlights

St Paddy's Day Celebration was a success.

- The Bunker had \$1,031 in sales, +/- \$1.
 - The beef cost \$341.
- The Lottery Raffle generated \$ 1,075, with \$875 of that profit.
- Special thanks to:
 - Beth Carl for making potatoes and cabbage.
 - Bruce Fisher and Chris Reynolds for cooking the corned beef, making the sandwiches, and donating the George Foreman Grill.
 - Jimmy Grote for making the plates and cooking the corned beef.
 - Dave and Charlotte Matthews and Cindy Clarke, and Penny Thomas for cooking the corned beef.
 - Kolleen and Michael Young for donating the bread, decorating, and the photo booth.
 - Maggie Richards for delivering the corned beef.
 - Penny Thomas for supplying horseradish.

Special Committees:

We need to stand up the following committees:

- Golf Tournament Committee.
- Birthday Ball Committee.
- Toys for Tots Committee.

Special Thanks:

- Received a "Thank You" Note from Sarasota Military Academy for wreaths across America.

March New Members and Associates

March brought fresh faces and continued camaraderie to the Bunker! We were proud to welcome one new member and two new Associate Members into our Marine Corps League family. Whether they're here to serve, support, or just swap sea stories over a cold one, each new addition strengthens the bond we share. Let's give a warm, Semper Fi-style welcome to our newest members—we're glad to have you with us!



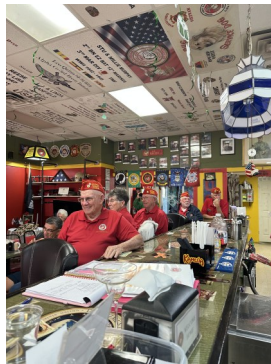
Marine Alex Rutland



Associate Jackie Pappas



Associate Buzz Frey



With each new month, we're reminded that it's our people who make the Bunker more than just a bar—it's a home for camaraderie and tradition. Whether you've worn the red cover for years or just joined our ranks, your presence adds to the heartbeat of our League. Let's carry that energy forward—showing up, supporting each other, and keeping the Bunker a place where stories are shared, laughter echoes, and friendships continue to grow. **Semper Fi!**



St Paddy's Day Celebration

The Bunker turned fifty shades of green for our annual St. Paddy's Day Celebration—and what a party it was! With Irish cheer flowing as freely as the drinks, our leprechaun-loving crew came out in full force, decked in shamrocks, sparkles, and questionable accents. From cold pints to hot corned beef, raucous laughter to rowdy toasts, this celebration had it all. Whether you were chasing rainbows or just chasing your next round, this was one for the books.



Community Support

Bunker Brother in Action: Big shout out to Mike Bloski for Supporting Mission BBQ!

Mike Bloski showed up in full force on Saturday morning to support Vietnam Veterans at Mission BBQ. He brought out the big guns (figuratively), rolling in with his USMC MULE, authentic ammo crates, and old-school VAT cans to create an awesome static display that turned heads and sparked stories. Guests got a hands-on look at Marine Corps history — and more than a few selfies with Mike's rolling piece of nostalgia. Thanks, Mike, for honoring our vets, and bringing the "wow" factor!



Bunker Brag Alert

Manatee Fire Officer of the Year

Our very own Mike Boski was named Manatee County Fire Officer of the Year!

If you see him around the Bunker, make sure you buy him a beer, shake his hand, or just give him a good ol' OORAH! Congrats, Mike — way to make us proud!



April Community Events in Bradenton

BAM!Fest (Bradenton Art & Music Festival)

- Date & Time: Saturday, April 5, 2025, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Location: Bradenton Riverwalk, 452 3rd Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205
- Description: BAM!Fest transforms the Riverwalk into a vibrant, immersive art and music experience. Enjoy live performances across multiple stages, interactive art projects, local art for sale, and culinary delights from local food vendors. Manatee Chamber of Commerce

Music in the Park at Bradenton Riverwalk

- Dates & Time: Fridays, April 11 – May 2, 2025, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Location: Bradenton Riverwalk Pavilion, 452 3rd Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205
- Description: Enjoy free, family-friendly concerts featuring local bands every Friday evening. Bring a chair or blanket, invite friends, and enjoy live music along the Manatee River.

16th Annual Lucky Ducky Race for Pace

- Date & Time: Saturday, April 12, 2025, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Location: Bradenton Riverwalk, 452 3rd Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205
- Description: Adopt a rubber duck to support the Pace Center for Girls of Manatee County and watch them race down the Manatee River. Prizes include a two-year lease on a Jeep Wrangler or \$5,000 cash.

Touch-A-Truck & Open House

- Date & Time: Saturday, April 12, 2025, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- Location: Public Works Department, 1022 26th Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34208
- Description: Explore over 30 vehicles that keep the community running, from dump trucks to emergency response vehicles. Learn about the technology used in public works and enjoy complimentary refreshments.

"A Trip to Fantasyland" – Music Theatre Ensemble Performance

- Date & Time: Monday, April 14, 2025, 7:30 PM
- Location: SCF Neel Performing Arts Center, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34207
- Description: Experience a musical adventure with scenes, songs, and dances from fantasy-themed Broadway shows, including selections from "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Cinderella." Admission is free.

"Beethoven's Ninth!" – SCF Bradenton Symphony Orchestra

- Date & Time: Thursday, April 17, 2025, 7:30 PM
- Location: SCF Neel Performing Arts Center, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34207
- Description: Join the SCF Bradenton Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Beethoven's renowned Ninth Symphony, featuring collaborations with SCF choirs.

Island Gallery & Studios Featured Artist Reception

- Date & Time: Friday, April 4, 2025, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Location: Island Gallery & Studios, 456 Old Main St., Bradenton, FL 34205
- Description: Celebrate the work of featured artist Dawn Gerardot during this reception. Enjoy an evening of art, conversation, and refreshments.

In Memoriam: Bernard Jaje

Bernard Jaje August 1, 1956 – March 16, 2025

This month, we pause to remember and honor one of our own. The loss of a fellow Marine and member of The Bunker family leaves a space that cannot be filled.

We honor the life and legacy of Bernard Jaje, a beloved member of The Bunker and a fellow Marine. Bernard's presence brought warmth, wisdom, and camaraderie to all who knew him. His service to country and community reflected the highest values of the Corps, and his absence is deeply felt by us all.

We are grateful for his service, his friendship, and the lasting impact he had on our community. We salute him with respect, remembrance, and Semper Fidelis.

Bernard Jaje Obituary

It is with a sad heart that the family of Bernard Jaje announce his death on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Bernard was 68 years old. He was born to the late Joseph and Stella (Kubinski) Jaje, Jr. on August 1, 1956. He is survived by 3 siblings; Bernadette Fauster, Leanard (Susan) Jaje and Thomas (Mary) Jaje. He was preceded in death by his brother, Joseph Jaje III and his wife Jeannie (Broecker) Jaje.

Bernard enjoyed woodworking and created many beautiful pieces for his family and friends. He also spent his time gardening and getting out on the water to enjoy his love of fishing and listening to the soothing sound of the waves.

Bernard was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and was a member of the Bradenton Marine Corps League and the American Legion. He was a native of Goodrich, Michigan; but has lived in Sarasota, Florida for the past 16 plus years.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to; Tidewell Hospice House- Lakewood Ranch, Marine Corps League- Desoto Detachment 588, Honor Guard Fund or Toys for Tots.

Semper Fi, Brother.



April Member Spotlight: Robert “Bob” Fields

A Lifetime of Service, Grit, and Guidance

This month, we proudly shine the spotlight on Major Robert “Bob” Fields—a Marine whose journey from humble beginnings to commanding officer exemplifies the spirit, resilience, and heart of the Corps.

Early Life & Joining the Marine Corps

Bob Fields grew up in Salina, Kansas, facing hardship early on. His biological father left when Bob was three, and with his older siblings running away from home at a young age, he spent much of his early life with just his mother and younger sister, living on welfare. Bob worked hard from a young age to help support the family, cleaning chicken coops and catching chickens that escaped from the packing plant—earning a nickel for each one. He also dusted cars daily at a used car lot, again for a nickel each.

His mother went through a series of relationships and marriages with alcoholic men who wouldn't work, none of which lasted. Eventually, she married a man who worked and didn't drink, and the family moved to Hillsboro, Kansas—a town with fewer than 2,000 people. There, Bob joined the Boy Scouts and began high school. As a below-average student, he didn't initially expect to graduate—no one in his family had ever done so. He was the first to make it past 7th grade.

During his sophomore year, he took a job washing dishes and working as a janitor. When the family moved back to Salina his junior year, he continued working two jobs: washing dishes at a country club and cleaning cars. Unhappy in the city, Bob ran away back to Hillsboro, rented a room in a boarding house for \$7 a week, and took a night job in a -40°F freezer stacking soft ice cream. He somehow managed to attend school and barely graduated.

Two months before graduation, Bob did a self-evaluation and realized he didn't want to spend his life as a “freezer rat.” On a below-freezing night in March, he hiked 40 miles to Abilene, Kansas, hoping to meet with a Marine recruiter. Finding none, he called his mother, who drove him to Salina to enlist.

When asked if he always knew he wanted to serve in the military, Bob replied, “I think I always had an inkling that I wanted to enlist. I just did not want to be in the Army, Air Force or Navy.” With the Vietnam War still raging, Bob walked into the Marine recruiter's office—naïve but determined. “I must have made his day—end of the month and he gets a walk-in.” After passing a written test and a basic physical exam, the recruiter informed Bob he'd be entering on an Aviation Guarantee. “I didn't even know what that was. I just thought that meant I would be parachuting into a combat zone.”

Boot Camp & MOS

Bob attended boot camp at MCRD San Diego in July 1970. His very first day got off to a rocky start when he asked, “Hey Sarge, what do we do on weekends around here for fun?” That comment earned him some physical “guidance” from his junior drill instructor, who took a particular interest in ensuring Bob's understanding improved through fists to the head and stomach. Still, he made it through.

At that time, Marines didn't choose their MOS. Bob wanted to be an 0311 Rifleman, but during formation at the end of ITR, he was assigned as MOS 6811 Aerographer—a term he had never heard before. A Staff Sergeant explained it meant flying in C-130s, taking photos, and making graphs and maps. In reality, after training at NAS Lakehurst in New Jersey, Bob discovered he was an Aviation Weather Observer.

That assignment turned out to be a hidden blessing. He later became a Meteorological Oceanographic Analyst Forecaster (MOS 6842) and eventually a Meteorological Oceanographic Officer (MOS 6802). Over time, Bob also became a Substance Abuse Counselor, Adjutant Officer, and Legal Officer. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force's Technical Instructor Training Course and spent two years teaching Meteorology at the Joint Services Meteorology School.

(Continued on next page)



Marine enlistment

Here's a switch on the current marching craze conducted by youngsters . . . Robert Milton Fields, Hillsboro High School senior, walked 41 miles in below freezing weather to Abilene to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

Fields said he undertook his walk on March 27, leaving Hillsboro at 8 p.m. He arrived in Abilene at about 4 a.m. He then called his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Jamison, 419 Tulane

Drive, Salina, to give him a ride to Salina to meet Marine recruiter, Staff Sergeant Philip R. Richardson.

Said Fields, “I had to go to Salina to see a recruiter before I changed my mind about enlisting.” He plans to enter Aviation School in the Marine Corps.

Fields will leave for boot camp on July 27th under the 180-day delay program of the Marine Corps.

April Member Spotlight: Bob Fields

Duty Stations & Deployments

- MCAS Quantico, VA (1971, part of 1972, and 1974–1975)
- MCAS Iwakuni, Japan (1972, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1982–1985)
- MCAS Beaufort, SC (1978–1979)
- Marine Corps Detachment, Chanute AFB, IL (1980–1982)
- MCALF Bogue Field, NC (1986–1988)
- HQMC, Arlington, VA (1988–1992)
- Marine Corps Detachment, Keesler AFB, MS (1992–1995)

Deployments included:

- CAX at 29 Palms (twice)
- Balikesir, Turkey (in response to the Iran hostage crisis)
- Taegu, South Korea (twice)
- Yechon, South Korea (four times)
- Guam
- Philippines
- Bermuda
- Lajes, Azores
- Rota, Spain
- Sigonella, Sicily
- Volk Field, Wisconsin
- Evenes and Bodo, Norway

Lessons, Mentorship & Leadership

Bob witnessed poor leadership firsthand and learned early to train his Marines hard but fairly, set high standards, lead by example, and care for them sincerely. He credits three CWO-4s—George Walker, Jack Watts, and Dick Wise—for mentoring him. All three had reverted from commissioned ranks as the Vietnam War wound down. Their professionalism inspired Bob to seek a commission himself.

Proudest Moments in Uniform

Instructor of the Year – Against All Odds

As a Gunnery Sergeant assigned to the Joint Services Meteorology School, Bob earned the title of Instructor of the Year—an accomplishment that speaks volumes about his dedication, leadership, and subject matter expertise. The base housed over 10,000 Airmen, roughly 300 Navy personnel, and a mere dozen Marines. Out of more than 600 technical instructors across the base, Bob stood out—not only as a Marine but as the first non-Air Force instructor to ever receive the honor. His achievement sent a message across the ranks that excellence transcends numbers. In fact, his win was such a culture-shifter that the Air Force Major General in charge chose to celebrate exclusively with the Marines from that point forward. The same general would later have the honor of pinning on Bob's Warrant Officer bars, making the moment even more memorable.



Gen. Brown presents Gunnery Sgt. Robert Fields the Instructor of the Year award for tech. sergeants and above. Fields was the first Marine to win the Chanute instructor honors.

(Continued on next page)

April Member Spotlight: Bob Fields

Director of METOC – Leading the Way for the Corps

Promoted to Captain, Bob was appointed as the Director of Meteorology and Oceanography (METOC) for the entire United States Marine Corps—a position that came with immense responsibility. He also served as the Occupational Field Sponsor, overseeing the full lifecycle of the MOS: from defining and justifying personnel structure and training requirements to recommending assignments and new equipment acquisition. In this role, Bob represented the Marine Corps in high-level negotiations with counterparts from other branches, including Air Force Brigadier Generals and Navy Rear Admirals. He held his own—drawing on extensive operational experience those counterparts often lacked. One of his most lasting contributions was being part of the multi-service and civilian team that developed and fielded the first Doppler Radar System for military operations. That innovation has since saved countless lives in aviation and ground operations, a legacy that endures long after retirement.

Standing Up a Command – From 12 Marines to 500 Strong

For his final assignment, Bob was selected to stand up and command a brand-new Marine Detachment at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi—a rare and prestigious billet, especially for a Limited Duty Officer. What started as a 12-Marine outfit under Bob's leadership grew into a thriving, high-performing unit averaging over 100 Marines and peaking at nearly 500. The unit was tasked with training Marines in joint-service environments across various complex, technical military occupational specialties. Bob's ability to build, lead, and inspire this unit cemented his legacy as a transformative leader. In true Marine fashion, when the Air Force General asked how 12 Marines would manage among 10,000 Airmen, Bob quipped, "Well, we've got your Airmen surrounded, so we'll get along just fine." That confident leadership, backed by results, earned widespread respect and set the tone for long-standing interservice cooperation.



Air Force photo by Sgt. Mark Reinitz.

Marines land at Keesler

Capt. Robert Fields, center, leads his troops onto the Back Bay beach. The Marines landed at Keesler Aug. 1 with the establishment of their detachment. From left are Sgt. Robert Boyd, personnel chief; Lance Cpl. Cortney Owens, administrative clerk; SSgt. William Magerus, administrative clerk; Captain Fields, commanding officer; MSgt. James Ewart, NCO-in-charge; and Cpl. Lincoln Williams, administrative clerk. The detachment is temporarily located in McClelland Hall, Room 119. The phone number is 7-5902.

Humor, Challenges & Reflections

In early 1992, Bob was hurrying up the stairs at HQMC when he collided with and accidentally knocked over a Marine. That Marine turned out to be none other than Lieutenant General Carl Mundy—soon to be the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Moments later, Bob was ushered into the General's office to give a scheduled briefing on a new piece of gear—the Mini Rawinsonde Tracking System. When the General turned around from his desk, both men immediately recognized each other. Ever the professional, General Mundy let the moment pass with just a brief, good-natured scolding.

One of the greatest challenges Bob faced during his career came while serving as Director of Meteorology and Oceanography. As a Captain, he had to negotiate with his counterparts in the other services—an Air Force Brigadier General, and two Navy Rear Admirals—on critical matters of funding, equipment, and mission planning. Despite the stark rank difference, Bob leaned into his real-world operational experience to earn their respect. Unlike his counterparts, Bob had deployed with ground forces and understood the high-stakes reality of field operations, which allowed him to successfully advocate for Marine Corps requirements.

When asked whether he would do it all again, Bob doesn't hesitate:

"Absolutely, without a doubt. Hopefully, I wouldn't do as many dumb-ass things this time."

(Continued on next page)

April Member Spotlight: Bob Fields

Retirement from the Marine Corps & Second Career

Bob retired with the rank of Major, a rank he earned after serving in a wide variety of roles—including as a Gunnery Sergeant (Master Sergeant select) and a CWO-4. He is proud of that steady rise through the enlisted, warrant, and officer ranks.

Transitioning to civilian life proved challenging at first. “I didn’t know how to be a civilian,” Bob said. When he retired, he and his wife Debbie owned a large waterfront home in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Debbie ran her own business in nearby Ocean Springs. Eventually, they sold the business and put the house on the market, although home sales had stalled at that time.

Before retiring, Bob had accepted a position as Chief Operating Officer for Weather Data Inc. in Wichita, Kansas (now AccuWeather). He moved there alone while their home was still for sale. But he quickly realized that he wasn’t compatible with the company president and resigned. He returned to Mississippi and began a job search. With few quality jobs in the area—and refusing to work in a casino—Bob and Debbie moved to Bradenton, Florida to restart their next chapter.

His first Florida job was with the Department of Transportation as Director of Safety, which involved statewide travel and allowed him to get to know his new home well. Later, he transitioned to Cheetah Technology, a local firm developing software, firmware, and hardware used by cable TV companies to monitor broadcast and internet signals. The work was cutting-edge, and Bob traveled extensively in the UK and Germany training engineers on the new tech. Eventually, the company was bought out by a competitor and shut down.

That led to a humorous encounter: one day, Bob and Debbie were having lunch at Wendy’s on U.S. 301 in Sarasota, near a gentleman’s club called “Cheetah’s.” Wearing a Cheetah Tech polo, the cashier asked if he worked at the club. Bob answered with a straight face, “Yes, I train the strippers,” turning the poor girl beet red.

After Cheetah closed, Bob took on a new mission: Counter Bio-Terrorism Emergency Planning for the Florida Department of Health. He worked on statewide emergency preparedness plans—documents that sat in drawers for years until COVID-19 hit. Those same plans became the basis for the state’s testing and treatment protocols.

He later became the Veterans Court Advocate for the 12th Judicial Circuit, working with Judge Andy Owens to assist incarcerated and homeless veterans. They held court weekly, helping reduce sentences, find housing, and locate employment for veterans. Bob spent many hours in the Sarasota and Manatee County Jails interviewing his clients.

When the grant funding for that program ended, Bob moved on to work as Safety and Training Officer for Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT). There, he taught bus driving, managed CDL training, led mishap investigations, and oversaw the safety program. Due to frequent director resignations, Bob often stepped in as acting director. He retired from SCAT in 2015.

Throughout all of this, Bob maintained his passion for the ocean. He became a certified Divemaster and Instructor in SCUBA Diving, working part-time and then full-time with Blue Water Explorers in Cortez, Florida. He stayed with them until the business was sold. His diving legacy includes an incredible 5,265 logged dives over the decades. “Our goal was always to bring back the same number of divers we left with.”

Reflections & Legacy

Bob credits his diverse roles in the Corps with helping him adapt in the civilian world. “I could do most anything—not always well at first—but I learned.” A CWO he worked under also encouraged him to pursue education. Bob completed an Associate Degree and a Bachelor Degree on active duty, followed by an MBA after retirement.

Although he found some civilian jobs meaningful—especially those that impacted community safety—nothing ever matched the thrill and gravity of his military work. He especially recalls being tasked with forecasting a corridor of clear air over the ocean so Marine aircraft could refuel safely at 25,000 feet. This was in the pre-digital era—before satellite images or computer models. “You really had to understand the science and read the systems. Get it wrong, and you could lose planes and pilots.” Bob also specialized in Tropical Cyclone Forecasting for the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

(Continued on next page)

April Member Spotlight: Bob Fields

In his full retirement, Bob continues to live life with passion. He SCUBA dives frequently—with trips to the Bahamas, Florida Keys, and the East Coast. He works out nearly every day and enjoys target shooting at a local range. His vision has diminished in recent years, which has made some Marine Corps League work harder—but he continues to stay engaged.

Bob met his wife Debbie while they were both stationed at MCAS Quantico. She was a Corporal and he a Sergeant, and they were both working in the weather office. They were married in the base chapel in May 1974. This year, they'll celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary. The couple decided early on not to have children due to Bob's frequent deployments.

Bob remains active in veteran communities. He's been a member of Marine Corps League Detachment 588 for over 15 years, and is also a member of the VFW, American Legion, and DAV. His MOS community hosts reunions every two years in various cities, which he and Debbie attend as often as possible—health permitting.

"The MCL / Bunker is where I know I can be welcome, where I can be assured of good-natured insults and ribbing for being a "weatherman". Over the years I have served as Sergeant at Arms, Honor Guard Member, Senior Vice, Adjutant, Paymaster, Burger Cooker, Bartender and Newsletter editor."

What does being a Marine veteran mean to you today?

"Being a Veteran of the Marine Corps means I accomplished something that a very small number of our population understands. I am proud of my service and my accomplishments. I think I show that pride every day."

Looking back on your life's journey, what are you most proud of?

"Sticking with my desire to finish high school, when everyone in my family dropped out at or before 7th grade. Though I wasn't a great student, I caught the education bug and went on to earn college degrees and attend countless service schools."

What advice would you give to young Marines just starting their careers?

Study, go on deployments, don't shy away from taking on greater responsibilities and remember and live by the words that were in the oath you took.

What advice would you give to Marines preparing for retirement?

"Be flexible. Some MOSs translate easily to civilian jobs—but not all. There isn't a big market for machine gunners. Highlight your leadership, adaptability, and organizational skills. And think carefully about where you retire—returning to a small hometown might not be where the best opportunities are."

If you could be remembered for one thing, what would it be?

"Teaching and mentoring. I was taught by some great Marines, and I hope I was able to do the same for those who came into my charge."

Semper Fi, Major Fields.

Thank you for your service, your leadership, and your legacy-We are proud to call you family!



Forward March: The Future of the Marine Corps

This month's feature submitted by Stephen Van Cott

As the Marine Corps continues to evolve to meet the demands of modern warfare, this monthly feature will spotlight the innovations, strategies, and transformations shaping the next generation of Marines. From cutting-edge technology to organizational re-design, we'll explore how the Corps is staying mission-ready in a rapidly changing world.

This month's highlight, submitted by Stephen Van Cott, dives into the Force Design 2030 initiative and its far-reaching implications for readiness, capability, and global posture.

Redesigning the Fight: Inside Force Design 2030

As the global security environment shifts, so too does the Marine Corps. Through Force Design 2030, the Corps is undergoing one of the most significant strategic transformations in its history—aimed at ensuring it remains agile, lethal, and ready for the future fight.

What is Force Design 2030?

Force Design 2030 is the Marine Corps' modernization blueprint, reshaping the force to dominate in environments defined by distributed operations, cutting-edge technologies, and contested terrain. The initiative emphasizes stand-in forces, littoral operations, and global partnerships, all aligned with broader joint force objectives.

Key Focus Areas of the Modernization Effort

1. Littoral Regiments

Talent management systems are being overhauled to better recruit, develop, and retain the right Marines. Meanwhile, the Corps is digitizing its maintenance request process, replacing outdated analog systems with smarter, faster digital platforms that boost operational readiness.

2. Modernization & Innovation

Force Design 2030 includes a major push toward innovation. Talent management systems are being modernized to improve how the Corps recruits, develops, and retains Marines. On the logistics front, the traditional analog maintenance request system is being upgraded to a digital platform to improve responsiveness and readiness.

3. Training & Readiness

Real-world training is key to preparing for the future fight. The Corps is reinforcing its operational readiness through multinational exercises such as Balikatan 2024 in the Philippines and Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Indonesia 2024. These exercises build interoperability and strengthen alliances across the Indo-Pacific.

4. Technology & Equipment

NMESIS Deployment: The Navy/Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS) is being deployed to Okinawa, marking a significant advancement in the Corps' long-range anti-ship capabilities. A newly formed Littoral Combat Team will be the first forward-deployed unit to field this system.

Emerging Technologies: The Corps is actively exploring cutting-edge tools including satellite drones, 3D-printed gear, and even quadruped prototype robots to enhance battlefield adaptability and reduce risk to personnel.

Armor Innovations: The Marine Corps Systems Command is evaluating a new hard armor plate designed to supplement the Enhanced Small Arms Protective Insert (ESAPI). This would offer scalable protection in low-intensity conflict zones without compromising mobility.

Why It Matters

Force Design 2030 isn't just a modernization plan—it's a cultural shift. It challenges traditional thinking and prepares Marines for the future of warfare: fast-paced, decentralized, and tech-enabled. Whether it's deploying new gear, evolving training, or restructuring entire units, the Marine Corps is leaning forward—ready to meet threats head-on, wherever they emerge.

"Force Design 2030 isn't just about equipment—it's about reshaping how we fight, where we fight, and who we fight with."

— Major General Benjamin Watson, Commander, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab

Getting to Know Your Board: Joe Filice

Ever wondered about the people working behind the scenes to keep things running at the Bunker? We're kicking off a new series to introduce you to the dedicated board members who help make it all happen. This month, we're featuring six of our board members, with more to come in future issues. Stay tuned as we highlight the rest of the team in the months ahead!



Joe Filice – Commandant

Branch & MOS:

- United States Marine Corps
- MOS: 0848 (Field Artillery Operations Man)

Rank & Service:

- Rank: Sergeant
- Years of Service: 5 years

Notable Assignments & Deployments:

- Joe jokes that he is notable for being so unremarkable

Military Decorations:

- Fire Watch (Honorably performed)
- Good Conduct Medal (a.k.a. *"Good Cookie" – and well-earned!*)

Marine Corps League / Bunker Membership:

- 16 years with the Marine Corps League
- 5 years at the Bunker

Career:

- A long and varied career, most recently retired as a Computer Systems Analyst

Family:

- Married to Cindy
- Together, they have a "geriatric Brady Bunch" of five—Joe's two sons and Cindy's two daughters and one son

Hobbies & Interests:

- Captain, Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary
- Vice Commander, American Legion Post 2 (Wauchula)

Getting to Know Your Board: Michael Young



Michael Young – Sr. Vice Commandant

Branch & MOS:

- United States Marine Corps (1991-2021)
- MOS: 0431 (Embarkation) & 0430 (Strategic Mobility Officer)

Rank & Years in Service:

- Rank: Staff Sergeant, Chief Warrant Officer-3, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)
- Years of Service: 30 years

Duty Stations/Notable assignments and Deployments:

During Michael Young's 30-year career in the U.S. Marine Corps, he served at **Camp Pendleton, CA, 32nd St Naval Base, CA, and Okinawa, Japan**. Throughout his service, he participated in numerous global operations, including **Operation Desert Thunder and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Operation Native Furry in the UAE, Operation Safe Departure in Eritrea, and Operation Southern Watch in Iraq**. His deployments also included **Operation Stabilize in East Timor, Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq**.

Beyond combat operations, he played a vital role in **multinational training exercises** such as **Cobra Gold in Thailand and PHIBLEX in the Philippines**. As a **Combat Cargo Officer aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard**, he was instrumental in managing logistics and transport operations and Maritime security operations in the Middle East. Additionally, he contributed to **Operation Unified Assistance**, providing **humanitarian aid** following the devastating **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami** in Southeast Asia and supported search and rescue missions **Earthquake Relief in Nepal**.

Military Decorations:

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| • Meritorious Service Medal (2) | • Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal | • National Defense Service Medal (2) |
| • Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal (6) | • Global War on Terrorism Service Medal | • Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (11) |
| • Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (5) | • Southeast Asia Service Medal | • Humanitarian Service Medal (2) |
| • Iraq Campaign Medal (1 star) | • Presidential Unit Citation-Navy | • NATO Medal - ISAF Afghanistan |
| • Afghanistan Campaign Medal (1 star) | • Navy Unit Commendation | • Kuwait Liberation Medal |
| • Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (2) | • Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (3) | |

Marine Corps League / Bunker Membership:

- 3 years

Hometown and Siblings:

- Arboles, CO; two sisters and three brothers

Profession:

- Vessel Assessment Team/Combat Cargo expert SLV (STS) Matilda 1

Family:

- Married to Kolleen for 20 years with four children; Jesse (33), Alexis (26), Tristin (25), Slade (18)

Hobbies:

- Fishing

Getting to Know Your Board: Dave Hildebrand



Dave Hildebrand – Jr. Vice Commandant

Branch & MOS:

- United States Marine Corps (1971-1974)
- MOS: 1371 (Combat Engineer) & 0131 (Unit Diary Clerk)

Rank & Service:

- Rank: Meritorious promotions to Lance Corporal and Corporal
- Years of Service: 3 years

Duty Stations:

- Parris Island, Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton

Marine Corps League / Bunker Membership:

- 5 years with the Marine Corps League
- 1 year Life Member

Hometown:

- Pottstown, PA

Profession:

- Mental Health & Addiction Therapist, Employee Assistance Professional

Hobbies & Interests:

- Enjoys spending time with family, fishing, and good friends
- Vice Commander, American Legion Post 2 (Wauchula)

Getting to Know Your Board: Denny Palmer



Denny Palmer – Judge Advocate General

Branch & MOS:

- United States Marine Corps (1965)
- MOS: Helicopter Mechanic

Duty Stations:/Notable Deployments

- Quantico, VA
- Served as a CH-46 Crew Chief, supporting the President's helicopter squadron along with other duties
- Logged an average of four flight hours per day during his three years at Quantico

Hometown:

- Wilmington, DE

Profession:

- Auto mechanic before and after his Marine Corps service
- Over 40 years in the automotive industry
- Technician, business owner, and manager of multiple shops
- Owned two gas stations and a garage
- Served 20 years as a college professor, teaching automotive technology
- Retired in 2011 and moved to Florida full-time in 2020

Family:

- Met his wife in Washington, D.C. during his time at Quantico
- Moved to Illinois after leaving the Marine Corps

Getting to Know Your Board: Kolleen Young



Kolleen Young – Adjutant

Branch & MOS:

- United States Marine Corps (1997-2020)
- MOS: 0431 (Embarkation) & 0430 (Strategic Mobility Officer)

Rank & Years in Service:

- Rank: Staff Sergeant, Chief Warrant Officer-3, Major (Retired)
- Years of Service: 23+ years

Duty Stations/Notable assignments and Deployments:

During her career in the U.S. Marine Corps, Kolleen Young was stationed at **Camp Lejeune, NC, Camp Pendleton, CA, and Okinawa, Japan**. She participated in numerous global operations, including **Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait** and **Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq**. Her humanitarian efforts included **Typhoon Haiyan Response, Operation Damayan, and Typhoon Bopha Response in the Philippines, and hurricane relief operations for Hurricane Maria (Dominica and Puerto Rico) and Hurricane Irma (Caribbean and Virgin Islands)**.

Additionally, she played a key role in **multinational training exercises** such as **Operation Trident Juncture in the Atlantic Ocean and Norway, Ssang Yong in the Republic of Korea, Cobra Gold in Thailand, Talisman Sabre and Operation Koolendong in Australia, PHIBLEX and Balikatan in the Philippines**. She also supported **maritime security operations in the Middle East**, reinforcing global stability and security.

Military Decorations:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| • Meritorious Service Medal (2) | • Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal | • National Defense Service Medal (1) |
| • Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3) | • Global War on Terrorism Service Medal | • Humanitarian Service Medal (2) |
| • Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (1) | • Presidential Unit Citation-Navy (2) | • Armed Forces Service Medal |
| • Iraq Campaign Medal (1 star) | • Navy Unit Commendation (3) | • Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (7) |
| • Kosovo Campaign Medal | • Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (4) | • Navy & Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon |
| • Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal | • Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (2) | • NATO Medal - Kosovo |

Marine Corps League / Bunker Membership:

- 3 years

Hometown and Siblings:

- Bradenton, FL; two brothers and two sisters (Coco, Saturday's Bartender)

Profession:

- Principal Program Manager, CANA LLC (HQMC)

Family:

- Married to Michael Young with four children; Jesse (33), Alexis (26), Tristin (25), Slade (18)

Hobbies:

- Poker and Cruising

Getting to Know Your Board: Matt Richards



Matt Richards – Sergeant-at-Arms

Branch & MOS:

- No prior military service, but actively involved in supporting Marines and veterans through The Bunker

Marine Corps League / Bunker Membership:

- 8 years

Hometown:

- Born and raised in California
- In 2004 moved to Bradenton to attend Marine Mechanic School in Orlando

Profession:

- Marine mechanic for 21 years

Family:

- Married to Maggie for 24 years with two children; Elijah, (21) and Abigail (18)

Hobbies & Interests:

- His 1989 Fox Body Mustang
- Cars and Guns

Getting to Your Bartenders: Joe Intoppa



Joe Intoppa – Bar Manager

Volunteering at the Bunker:

- Has been a volunteer since 2014 with a brief break but couldn't stay away for long

Branch & MOS:

- United States Navy (1971-1974)
- Rate: Fireman

Rank & Years in Service:

- Rank: E-3
- Years of Service: 3 years

Duty Stations/Notable assignments and Deployments:

- Norfolk, VA
- Mediterranean Deployment aboard the JFK

Hometown:

- Born in Jacksonville, Florida, but grew up in Massachusetts Medford

Favorite Drink to Make or Recommend:

- Beer, because it is easy!

Profession:

- Retired from the food industry on the warehouse side; worked for Shaws in New England for 30 years

What She enjoys Most About the Bunker:

- He loves the camaraderie, he says it feels like we're all in it together
- He enjoys associating with all different kinds of veterans

Hobbies & Interests:

- Candlepin Bowling; Joe was a semi professional candlepin bowler in New England

Fun Fact:

- He has been known to have an instant or two of road rage
- He dislikes the sweltering Florida summers, still considers himself a New Englander at heart, and he hasn't ruled out the possibility of returning one day
- Jokingly refers to himself as a "self-proclaimed hockey casualty" after taking one too many pucks to the head during his hockey days
- Not fun, but, allergic to dogs

Getting to Your Bartenders: Glenn and Georgetta Weik



Glen and Georgetta Weik (Wednesdays)

Volunteering at the Bunker:

- Glenn has been involved with The Bunker for several years, always looking for ways to give back to our veterans
- Together, Glenn and Georgetta have been bartending for two years
- Glenn is also a member of the Honor Guard

Affiliated Service:

- No military service, but dedicated to supporting our veterans at The Bunker

Family and Background:

- High school sweethearts, Glenn and Georgetta have been married for 52 years (celebrating 53 in April)

Hometown:

- Originally from Pennsylvania, they started as snowbirds for five years before deciding to permanently move to Florida 20 years ago

What They enjoy Most About the Bunker:

- The opportunity to give back to veterans while meeting great people and building lasting friendships

Getting to Your Bartenders: John D'Alusio



John D'Alusio (Thursdays)

Volunteering at the Bunker:

- Has been bartending every Thursday since 2017 and occasionally fills in on other days
- Served 13 consecutive years as Historian on the Board of Trustees
- Honor Guard member since 2014
- Ran the Gun Raffles for five years

Affiliated Service:

- No military service, but dedicated to supporting our veterans at The Bunker

Profession:

- Property and Casualty Insurance Executive (Retired)

Family:

- Married to Mariann for 39 years

Favorite Drink to Make or Recommend:

- Espresso Chocolate Martini; a smooth and rich favorite

What he enjoys Most About the Bunker:

- The camaraderie; The Bunker is our version of Cheers, where everybody knows your name

Hobbies & Interests:

- History, Political Science, Fine Cigars, Cold Adult Beverages, Boating, Dining Out, and Travel

Fun Fact:

- If really inebriated, he claims he can lick his eyebrows; though this remains unverified

Getting to Your Bartenders: Kerri Campagna



Keri Campagna (Fridays)

Volunteering at the Bunker:

- Has been a volunteer since 2011 with a brief break but couldn't stay away for long
- Previously served as Bar Manager but stepped down due to work commitments

Affiliated Service:

- No military service, but dedicated to supporting our veterans at The Bunker

Profession:

- Works in Customer Service for a Manufacturing Company, celebrating 15 years this year
- Has worked in the manufacturing industry since 1999

What She enjoys Most About the Bunker:

- The people, camaraderie, and friendships that make The Bunker feel like home
- The way members come together to support one another in times of need

Hobbies & Interests:

- Loves spending time with her "babies"—her two birds, one dog, and fish

Fun Fact:

- Known as "Keri Sprinkles", she's always ready to brighten a bad day
- A lifelong animal lover, she has cared for a wide variety of pets, including:
 - * 11 parakeets, 8 cockatiels, 1 blue crown conure, 1 Senegal parrot, 2 ferrets, 1 Nile monitor, pet mice (rescued from the Nile monitor), a red rat snake, 4 dogs, 1 cat, and numerous fish

Getting to Your Bartenders: Collette Quinehan



Collette (Coco) Quinehan (Saturdays)

Volunteering at the Bunker:

- Began volunteering in 2023 after joining The Bunker

Affiliated Service:

- No military service, but dedicated to supporting our veterans at The Bunker

Profession:

- Realtor with extensive experience in the industry
- Over 35 years in the hospitality industry working as a server and bartender

Family:

- Two brothers: Steven and Brian
- Two sisters: Koltier and Kolleen (Bunker Adjutant)
- Two nephews: Tristin and Slade

Hometown:

- Bradenton, FL
- Graduated Bayshore High School

Favorite Drink to Make or Recommend:

- Strawberry Banana Daiquiri -because it always makes people extremely happy!

What She enjoys Most About the Bunker:

- Supporting the veterans and the camaraderie among members

Hobbies & Interests:

- Bingo
- Hanging out with friends and playing Yahtzee

Fun Fact:

- Former owner of Coco's Place and Night Club in Bradenton FL
- Known as the "Honorary Mayor of Bradenton" because she knows everyone in town!

Getting to Your Bartenders: Jackie Edman



Jackie Edmund (Fills in as Needed)

Volunteering at the Bunker:

- Began volunteering in 2020 after joining The Bunker

Affiliated Service:

- No military service, but dedicated to supporting our veterans at The Bunker

Profession:

- Over 40 years in the hospitality industry working as a concierge, server, bartender, and supervisor in hotels, restaurants, and bars

Family:

- Married to Jon for 41 years
- Proud mother of two sons
- * **Kenn** – A Marine veteran of Desert Storm (thankfully returned home safely), married to Kristie, with two sons: Seth – A mechanic, Sean – Currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps
- * **Chris** – A trucker with over 5 million accident-free miles. Married to Susan, with three children: Jason – An IT professional, Joshua – A Marine veteran, now a diesel mechanic working toward his A&P license, Hannah – A registered nurse
- Jon and Jackie are immensely proud of their family and their accomplishments

Favorite Drink to Make or Recommend:

- Dirty Martini and wine

What She enjoys Most About the Bunker:

- Meeting new people and supporting others who love The Bunker

Hobbies & Interests:

- Sewing and creating jewelry using crystals, wire, and beads
- Loves cooking and trying new foods

Fun Fact:

- Enjoys traveling with no set destination—jumping in the car and taking an unplanned road trip, stopping wherever the journey leads

April Marine Corps History

April 1885 – Marines Land in Panama

As part of the Navy's presence during a civil uprising, Marines landed in Panama (then part of Colombia) to protect American interests and the transit route. It foreshadowed future involvement in Latin America.

April 1, 1899 – Battle of Noveleta (Philippine-American War)

Marines engaged Filipino revolutionaries in one of the first battles following the Spanish-American War, marking the start of sustained expeditionary operations in the Pacific.

April 17, 1900 – Marines Secure Peking Legation Guard

Marines were deployed to China to protect U.S. legations during the volatile Boxer Rebellion period, laying the groundwork for the famous defense of Peking later that year.

April 21, 1914 – Veracruz Landing, Mexico

Marines stormed ashore during the U.S. occupation of Veracruz in response to tensions with the Mexican government. This action tested amphibious doctrine and earned multiple Medals of Honor.

April 1927 – Marines Land in China (Third China Deployment)

Marines landed in Shanghai to protect American lives and property during the Chinese Civil War. It marked a continued presence in Asia and refinement of small wars doctrine.

April 1935 – Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Expanded

The FMF began large-scale training maneuvers in the Pacific. These developments would become foundational for amphibious warfare in World War II.

April 1, 1945 – Battle of Okinawa Begins

The largest amphibious assault in the Pacific during WWII began with Marines storming Okinawa. The battle was brutal and pivotal in shaping plans for a possible invasion of Japan.

April 21, 1951 – Cpl. Duane Dewey Awarded Medal of Honor

Cpl. Dewey became the first American to receive the Medal of Honor from President Eisenhower for heroism in Korea—throwing himself on a grenade to save his squad.

April 1965 – Marines Land in the Dominican Republic

During civil unrest, Marines led a rapid deployment to secure the U.S. Embassy and evacuate civilians—highlighting the Corps' quick-response capabilities during the Cold War.

April 29–30, 1975 – Operation Frequent Wind (Fall of Saigon)

Marines carried out the largest helicopter evacuation in history, rescuing 7,000+ people from Saigon as the Vietnam War came to a dramatic end.

April 18, 1983 – U.S. Embassy Bombing in Beirut

A suicide bomber attacked the U.S. Embassy, killing 63, including 8 Marines. The event became a defining moment in modern terrorism response and reshaped peacekeeping strategy.

April 15, 1991 – Operation Sea Angel (Bangladesh)

Marines deployed as part of a massive humanitarian effort following a devastating cyclone. It was a landmark in the Corps' humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) missions.

April 7, 2003 – Marines Enter Baghdad

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Marines from the 1st Marine Division played a leading role in the capture of Baghdad, symbolizing the rapid advance of coalition forces.

April 2010 – USMC Begins Female Engagement Teams in Afghanistan

The Marine Corps expanded Female Engagement Teams (FETs), integrating women into frontline cultural and intelligence operations—a major development in modern counterinsurgency.

April 2023 – Forward Deployment of NMESIS Begins

The Marine Corps began forward-deploying the Navy/Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS) to Okinawa, marking a major milestone in Force Design 2030 and long-range precision warfare capabilities.

National Former POW Recognition Day

POW Tribute: Remembering Their Sacrifice – April 9

As we observe National Former POW Recognition Day, we pause to honor the unwavering courage of the thousands of American service members who endured captivity in defense of our nation. Their sacrifices are etched into the soul of the Marine Corps—and into the heart of this country.

Though we do not have a confirmed POW from Bradenton, we stand united in remembering all Marines and service members who faced the unthinkable with resilience, loyalty, and strength.

"When you're in captivity, you only survive by your belief in the country you serve—and in your brothers beside you."

— Unknown POW, Vietnam

Marine Corps POW Spotlight – Col. William Reeder Jr., USMC (Ret.)

Col. William Reeder Jr. was a Marine helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. In 1972, after his aircraft was shot down, he was captured and endured brutal conditions as a POW for nearly a year.

Despite torture, illness, and forced marches, Col. Reeder survived captivity through mental toughness, faith, and the memory of his fellow Marines. He later chronicled his experience in his powerful memoir, *Through the Valley*, reminding all of us of the Marine Corps ethos: "Never quit. Never surrender."

His story—and the stories of countless others—represent the legacy we are called to honor.

"You can survive anything with faith, family, and the belief that tomorrow will be a better day."

— Col. William Reeder Jr.

Col. Reeder's memoir, *Through the Valley: My Captivity in Vietnam*, provides a profound insight into his experiences and the enduring strength of the human spirit.

We will always remember. We will never forget.

If you know a local POW or MIA Marine, please reach out to Detachment #588. We would be honored to share their story in a future tribute.



April Profile of Valor Spotlight



Profile of Valor: A Marine's Marine — Lewis 'Chesty' Puller

"We've been looking for the enemy for several days now, we've finally found them. We're surrounded. That simplifies our problem of getting to these people and killing them."

MARK ALEXANDER

"There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism." —Alexander Hamilton (1775)

This week, we celebrate National Medal of Honor Day, an opportunity to recognize all recipients of our nation's highest military award for their "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." In doing so, we honor their extraordinary service and sacrifice on behalf of their brothers in arms, in keeping with their oaths "to support and defend" our Constitution and the American Liberty it enshrines.

It marks the anniversary observance of the first Medals awarded on March 25, 1863, for actions by Andrews' Raiders. The first recipients were volunteers from three Ohio infantry regiments, and their valorous actions were memorialized in books and films as "The Great Locomotive Chase."

Since those first Medals were awarded, American presidents and military commanders have, in the name of Congress, presented 3,535 Medals of Honor to a very elite few among the almost 40 million American veterans who have served our nation since 1861. In a country of some 330 million people today, there are only 61 living recipients.

Traditionally, I would devote this column to a Medal of Honor recipient, but today, I devote it to a man who, by all accounts, should be a recipient. In doing so, we join others who, likewise, are advocating for a Medal of Honor review and consideration. In a recent Profile of Valor on Georgia native Maj. Gen. James Livingston, I noted, "When contemplating a Marine's Marine, the first name that comes to mind is Lt. Gen. Lewis Burwell Puller." (He got the nickname "Chesty" because, in his typical aggressive stance, his barrel chest protruded.)

Over the course of his 37-year career, "Chesty" Puller commanded the 1st Marine Division, 2nd Marine Division, 3rd Marine Division, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Battalion/7th Marines, and 2nd Battalion/4th Marines. His theaters of service included Haiti, Nicaragua, World War II (Guadalcanal, Operation Cartwheel, Mariana, and Palau Islands), and the Korean War (Battle of Inchon, Second Battle of Seoul, and Battle of Chosin Reservoir).

He is the recipient of five Navy Cross citations (the nation's second-highest Navy/Marine award for valor in combat), a Distinguished Service Cross (Army), a Silver Star, two Legion of Merit medals for valor, a Bronze Star for valor, three Air Medals, and a Purple Heart.

Puller is the most decorated Marine in American history.

(Continued on next page)

April Profile of Valor Spotlight

Profile of Valor: A Marine's Marine — Lewis 'Chesty' Puller

Puller was born in West Point, Virginia, and his ancestors had been in Virginia since 1621. His father owned a small grocery store, but he died in 1908 when Lewis was 10 years old, adding to his family responsibilities. Growing up on a steady historical study of distinguished Virginia military men, including his idol, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, he wanted to enlist for the Border War with Mexico in 1916 but was too young. He then attended Virginia Military Institute, but in August 1918, during World War I, he left VMI, insisting he wanted to "go where the guns are!"

Taking inspiration from the actions of the 5th Marines at Belleau Wood, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and departed for boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina. After completing boot camp, he attended the non-commissioned officer school at Paris Island and then Officer Candidates School at Quantico, Virginia. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, but 10 days later, as the numbers of officers were cut drastically after World War I, he was put on inactive status as a Corporal.

Serving in various military actions during the interwar years, he earned his first Navy Cross in Nicaragua for his actions from February 16 to August 19, 1930, when he led "five successive engagements against superior numbers of armed bandit forces." His citation notes, "By his intelligent and forceful leadership without thought of his own personal safety, by great physical exertion and by suffering many hardships, Lieutenant Puller surmounted all obstacles and dealt five successive and severe blows against organized banditry in the Republic of Nicaragua."

He was awarded a second Navy Cross for leading American Marines and Nicaraguan National Guardsmen into battle against Sandinista rebels in what would be the last major engagement of the Sandino Rebellion on December 26, 1932. According to his citation, Puller's patrol "was ambushed on 26 September 1932, at a point northeast of Mount Kilambe by an insurgent force of one hundred fifty in a well-prepared position armed with not less than seven automatic weapons and various classes of small arms and well-supplied with ammunition." Then, "Returning with the wounded to Jinotega, the patrol was ambushed twice by superior forces on 30 September. On both of the occasions the enemy was dispersed with severe losses."

Puller's third Navy Cross was earned during World War II while serving as commanding officer of the 1st Marine Division's 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, on Guadalcanal. His citation notes: "Courageously withstanding the enemy's desperate and determined attacks, Lieutenant Colonel Puller not only held his battalion to its position until reinforcements arrived three hours later, but also effectively commanded the augmented force until late in the afternoon of the next day. By his tireless devotion to duty and cool judgment under fire, he prevented a hostile penetration of our lines and was largely responsible for the successful defense of the sector assigned to his troops."

His fourth Navy Cross was earned while serving as executive officer of the 7th Marines during the Battle of Cape Gloucester on the island of New Britain in 1944. His citation notes: "Assigned temporary command of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, from Jan. 4-9, Lieutenant Colonel Puller quickly reorganized and advanced his unit, effecting the seizure of the objective without delay. Assuming additional duty in command of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Jan. 7-8, after the commanding officer and executive officer had been wounded, Lieutenant Colonel Puller unhesitatingly exposed himself to rifle, machine-gun and mortar fire from strongly entrenched Japanese positions to move from company to company in his front lines, reorganizing and maintaining a critical position along a fire-swept ridge. His forceful leadership and gallant fighting spirit under the most hazardous conditions were contributing factors in the defeat of the enemy during this campaign."

His fifth Navy Cross and his Distinguished Service Cross were earned in Korea while serving as commanding officer of the 1st Marine Regiment. Upon learning that he and his Marines were completely surrounded by tens of thousands of Communist Chinese soldiers, he declared, "We've been looking for the enemy for several days now, we've finally found them. We're surrounded. That simplifies our problem of getting to these people and killing them." His citation notes: "Colonel Puller drove off repeated and fanatical enemy attacks upon his regimental defense sector and supply points. Although the area was frequently covered by grazing machine-gun fire and intense artillery and mortar fire, he coolly moved along his troops to insure their correct tactical employment, reinforced the lines as the situation demanded, and successfully defended the perimeter, keeping open the main supply routes for the movement of the Division. During the attack from Koto-ri to Hungnam, he expertly utilized his Regiment as the Division rear guard, repelling two fierce enemy assaults, which severely threatened the security of the unit, and personally supervised the care and prompt evacuation of all casualties. By his unflagging determination, he served to inspire his men to heroic efforts in defense of their positions and assured the safety of much valuable equipment, which would otherwise have been lost to the enemy. His skilled leadership, superb courage and valiant devotion to duty in the face of overwhelming odds reflect the highest credit upon Colonel Puller and the United States Naval Service."

(Continued on next page)

April Profile of Valor Spotlight

Profile of Valor: A Marine's Marine — Lewis 'Chesty' Puller

It was for this action that he also was awarded the Army's equivalent of the Navy Cross for, according to his citation, his "extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving as commanding officer, 1st Marines ... Colonel Puller's actions contributed materially to the breakthrough of the 1st Marine Regiment in the Chosin Reservoir area and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service."

Beyond his classic response about being surrounded by overwhelming enemy forces — "That simplifies our problem of getting to these people and killing them" — here are a few more that exemplify this Marine's Marine: "Old breed? New breed? There's not a damn bit of difference so long as it's the Marine breed. ... Don't forget that you're First Marines! Not all the Communists in hell can overrun you! ... You don't hurt 'em if you don't hit 'em. ... Hit hard, hit fast, hit often. ... Oh, that. It's a dud [after a grenade landed next to him but did not detonate]. ... Take me to the Brig. I want to see the real Marines. ... Where the hell do you put the bayonet [during a flamethrower demonstration]? ... They are in front of us, behind us, and we are flanked on both sides by an enemy that outnumbers us! They can't get away from us now! ... Great. Now we can shoot at those bastards from every direction. ... Alright, you bastards, try and shoot me [yelled at North Koreans]! ... There are not enough chinamen in the world to stop a fully armed Marine regiment from going wherever they want to go."

There were some occasional digs at service branches: "They are a damn site better than the U.S. Army, at least we know that they will be there in the morning. ... The mail service has been excellent out here, and in my opinion, this is all that the Air Force has accomplished during the war."

Finally, his response to a young Marine who asked permission to marry: "Son, when the Marine Corps wants you to have a wife, you will be issued one."

LtGen Chesty Puller was admired by enlisted Marines for his efforts to improve their quarters, equipment, and discipline. And notable in Puller folklore is the time he addressed a 2nd Lieutenant who, after an enlisted man failed to salute him, ordered that he be saluted 100 times. Puller told the Lieutenant, "You were absolutely correct in making him salute you 100 times, Lieutenant, but you know that an officer must return every salute he receives. Now return them all."

Regarding his personal life, Chesty Puller was married to Virginia Montague Evans, and they had two children, Martha and Lewis Burwell Puller Jr. Lewis Jr. was a highly decorated Marine who served in Vietnam. While serving with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, he was grievously wounded when he tripped a booby-trapped howitzer round, losing both legs and parts of his hands. His father sobbed upon seeing him in the hospital, where he hovered near death for days, and his weight fell to 55 pounds.

Battling alcoholism and despair, Lewis Jr. struggled to rebuild his life. In 1991, he published a bestselling memoir, *Fortunate Son*, which won the Pulitzer Prize. He never overcame his demons, though, and on May 11, 1994, he died at age 48 of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Puller's son-in-law, Marine LtCol William H. Dabney, was also a VMI graduate and a distinguished Vietnam Veteran. Dabney would receive the Navy Cross for his actions defending Hill 881 South during the 77-day siege of the Khe Sanh Combat Base.

Chesty Puller died on October 11, 1971, at age 73. He is buried next to his wife at Christ Church Parish Cemetery in Virginia. To this day, a common incantation at the end of a training day in Marine Corps boot camp is to declare: "Good night, Chesty Puller, wherever you are!"

Military writer Michael Lane Smith wrote of Puller: "Born in the 19th century, fought in the heaviest fighting of the 20th century and is now a legend in this century. The most decorated Marine to ever wear the uniform, and also the most beloved, Puller left a mark on the Marine Corps that would define its culture for years to come."

In his honor, the guided-missile frigate USS Lewis B. Puller (FFG-23) was commissioned on 17 April 1982, and the USS Lewis B. Puller (ESB-3) expeditionary mobile base vessel was commissioned in August 2017. The headquarters building for 2nd Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team on Yorktown Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown, Virginia, is named Puller Hall in his honor. And the Marine Corps mascot is perpetually named "Chesty Pullerton" (e.g., Chesty Pullerton XIII), always an English Bulldog.

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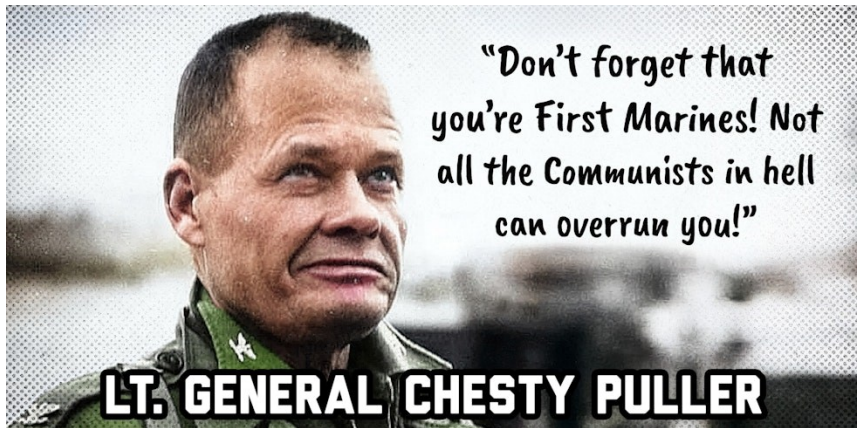
April Profile of Valor Spotlight

Profile of Valor: A Marine's Marine — Lewis 'Chesty' Puller

Puller was a military leader whose service stood stark contrast to the Pentagon brass tapped by the recently departed Biden/Harris regime, which eroded military readiness and morale. Fortunately, military recruiting and morale are rising under Commander-in-Chief Donald Trump.

In consideration of his extraordinary service and unprecedented military decorations, including the aforementioned five Navy Crosses, second only to the Medal of Honor, I believe it is past time that his service and citations be reviewed for upgrade to a Medal of Honor. Despite two previous attempts to upgrade one of his Navy Cross awards, I hope that President Trump and SecDef Pete Hegseth will again take up this mantle.

LtGen Lewis "Chesty" Puller: Your example of valor — a humble American Patriot defending Liberty for all above and beyond the call of duty and in disregard for the peril to your own life — is eternal.



Chesty Puller

/CHestē puller/noun

- 1 a : godly
b : a legend
- 2 a : a Marine's Marine
b : the only Marine to be awarded 5 Navy Crosses
c : served in the bloodiest battles, Guadalcanal, Chosen Reservoir, Battle of Peleliu
d : famous quote: "We've been looking for the enemy for some time now. We've finally found him. We're surrounded. That simplifies things."
e : tough as a knotty pine
f : cocky as a bantam rooster

April Humor and Trivia

Joke of the Month

"Why don't Marines ever play hide and seek?

"Because good luck hiding when you're yelling "OORAH!" every five seconds!"

Easter Joke

"Why don't you tell jokes to Easter eggs? "

"Because they might crack up!"

April Trivia

Clue:

I earned two Medals of Honor—one for actions in the Boxer Rebellion and another in Haiti.

I'm the only Marine to receive two Medals of Honor for separate acts of heroism.

I also helped shape Marine Corps doctrine and wrote the Small Wars Manual.

Who am I?

Major General Smedley Butler – One of the most decorated Marines in U.S. history, known for his bravery and later, his outspoken views on military intervention.

Comic of the Month



Uniform Guide: Cover

Marine Corps League Cover

- A. The basic uniform of the Marine Corps League is the unique cover that identifies the members of the Marine Corps League. Because all other parts of the uniform that are designated in this enclosure are optional, the cover remains as the only consistent identifier for Marine Corps League members, which is why the cover is worn indoors at appropriate Marine Corps League functions. When Marine Corps League Members are wearing the appropriate cover, as listed below, they are considered in uniform

NOTE: NO OTHER TYPE OF COVER MAY BE WORN AT A MARINE CORPS LEAGUE FUNCTION OR MEETING. All members of the Marine Corps League are authorized to wear the RED COVER

- A. All members of the Marine Corps League are authorized to wear the RED COVER
- Members Elected or Appointed at the Department Level are authorized to wear the RED COVER with a GOLD CROWN
 - Members Elected to a National Office or Appointed to a National Staff/Committee are authorized to wear GOLD COVERS
 - National Commandant will wear a WHITE COVER
- D. The Past National Commandants and Honorary Past National Commandants are authorized to wear a GOLD COVER with WHITE CROWN
- The Past Chief Devil Dogs and Honorary Chief Devil Dogs are authorized to wear a GOLD COVER with a BLACK CROWN
 - Past National Vice Commandants of Divisions, Past National Directors, and Past National Directors of Young Marines are authorized to wear a GOLD COVER with a GOLD CROWN
 - Past Department Commandants and Past Pack Leaders are authorized to wear a RED COVER with a GOLD CROWN
 - Past Detachment Commandants and Past Pound Keepers are authorized to wear a RED COVER with a RED CROWN
 - All Past Officers listed above will identify their Past Office with a title strip or embroidery and will display the years that they held that office
 - With the exception of Past National Commandants, Honorary Past National Commandants, Past Chief Devil Dogs, and Honorary Chief Devil Dogs, they all will also display the organization where they held that office (i.e., Southeast Division, Department of Ohio, Chattanooga Detachment, etc.)
 - Only the officers listed in this paragraph are authorized to retain the Cover for their previous office after they leave that office. All other members will revert back to the appropriate cover for the elected or appointed office currently held, and if any, removing the officer identification STRIP(S) for prior offices no longer held
 - You MUST have a separate cover for POUND, PACK or KENNEL Officer. POUND, PACK OR KENNEL text CANNOT be on the same cover as DETACHMENT, DEPARTMENT OR NATIONAL
- D. The only insignia authorized for wear on the Marine Corps League Covers is the 1-1/2" X 1-1/2" Anodized Solid Gold Color or Polished Brass Marine Corps Emblem (Enlisted Style Only) on the Left Side. The Devil Dog patch, if authorized, will be worn up front on the right side of the cover. The identification strips, i.e., Department or Detachment strip, or embroidering, will be centered on the right side. If the "LIFE" strip is worn, it will be to the rear of the right side. The "LIFE MEMBER" strip will be worn the same as the identification strips are worn and should be worn above other strips

NOTE: NO DIVISION PINS OR OTHER PINS/ORNAMENTS ARE AUTHORIZED ON MARINE CORPS LEAGUE COVERS

(Continued on next page)

Uniform Guide: Cover

Marine Corps League Cover



Men's Cover



Women's Cover



Regular
Member
Cap Device



Associate
Member
Cap Device

COMMANDANT

JUDGE ADVOCATE

PUBLIC RELATIONS

SERVICE OFFICER

SR. VICE COMMANDANT

ADJUTANT

PAYMASTER

SGT AT ARMS

PAST COMMANDANT

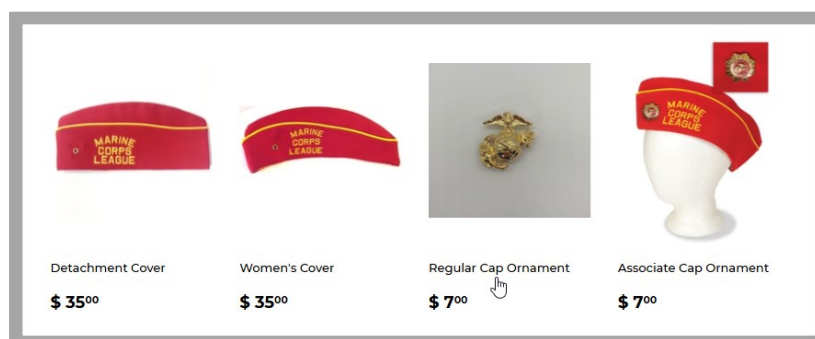
JR. VICE COMMANDANT

CHAPLAIN

QUARTERMASTER

LIFE MEMBER

MOOD Cover Patch



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

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Uniform Guide: Cover

Marine Corps League Cover

LETTERING:

Lettering should be 3/8" in height with 1/4" spacing between lines. Maximum of 3 lines can be used.
ALL lettering should be in CAPITALS.
Bottom line has 3 options: DETACHMENT or DEPARTMENT or LOCATION (e.g. CITY, STATE or COUNTY, STATE.)

FONT:

FRANKLIN GOTHIC MEDIUM CONDENSED

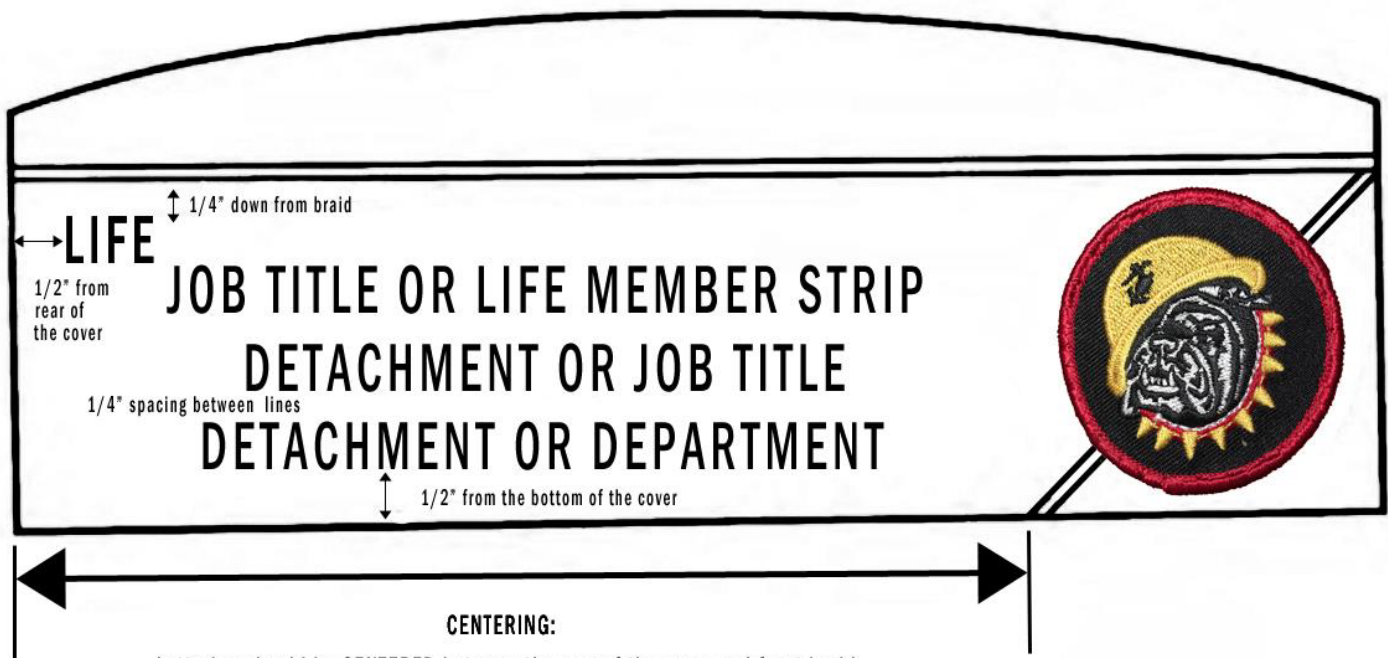
This is a font that is to be 3/8" in height and all CAPITALS.
This font allows the longer use of words and names.

LIFE:

Can be either in the name of a NAME STRIP OR DIRECT EMBROIDERY
If the word LIFE is used, it is placed as shown.
For neatness, 1/2" from the rear of the cover,
1/4" down from the braid is recommended.

LIFE MEMBER STRIP:

Will be worn as the same as the identification strips are worn, and should be worn above other strips (e.g. COMMANDANT, SR VICE COMMANDANT, etc.) with 1/4" spacing between strip and or line.



CENTERING:

Lettering should be CENTERED between the rear of the cover and front braid
(this would allow for future place of the MODD Patch if needed)

(Continued on next page)

Red Polo Shirt

MCL Detachment 588's members may wear the **official red polo shirt** as a **comfortable yet professional** alternative for casual events and meetings. It's a great way to show your pride and represent the League. Covers and polos can be purchased at the "**Semper Fi**" Store. Wear yours with pride and honor!



CLOTHING POLO RED MCL

\$ 39⁵⁰



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

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

Uniform Guide: Male Undress Uniform

MALE UNDRESS UNIFORM LONG SLEEVE

- Standard Cover
- Devil Dog collar, if authorized (optional)
- Nametag (optional)
- White Shirt, with military creases (to be Airline Pilot style with two (2) pockets with button down flaps and shoulder epaulets)
- Regular Members Marine Corps League Sunburst insignias on collar, centered 1/2" inside the collar tip, with the wings of the emblem parallel to the deck
- The Associate member is to wear the Marine Corps League sunburst insignia in lieu of the Marine Corps Emblem on their cover. The 1/2" x 1/2" gold "MCL" insignia will be worn on the shirt collars
- Regular Members the Marine the Corps League shoulder patch
- Associate Members the Marine Corps League Associate shoulder patch
- Flag patch, on right shoulder, may be worn
- Marine Corps League ribbons or Department of Defense authorized ribbons, wings, badges, (MCL AND DOD RIBBONS CANNOT BE WORN TOGETHER)
- MCL ribbons should be centered over the left breast pocket 1/8" above the pocket flap, DOD-awards and decorations should be worn as authorized to the individual
- The Marine of the Year (National, Division, Department or Detachment) Medallion and Ribbon; the Chapel of Four Chaplains (Legion of Merit, Humanitarian Award, and Bronze Medallion Award); or the Military Order of Devil Dogs collar, if authorized, may be worn with the Undress Long Sleeve Uniform. Only one of these devices, medallions, or collars, may be worn at a time at the option of the wearer
- The Associate Member of the Year (National, Division, Department or Detachment) Medallion and Ribbon; Only one of these devices, medallions, or collars, may be worn at a time at the option of the wearer
- TIE. PLAIN BLACK with Marine Corps or Marine Corps League gold tie bar ENLISTED STYLE ONLY (no open collar)
- Trousers, Dress Blue (Regular Members with NCO "RED" stripe and Associates without NCO Stripe) with Belt, Marine Corps khaki web, with web belt brass buckle
- Shoes, Black, plain toe (military style, highly glossed)
- Socks, Black
- **Optional:** Trousers, black, dress, with the black leather belt with square gold buckle with Marine Corps emblem (EGA); a ratcheting black leather belt with a gold Marine Corps emblem buckle (EGA); or a ratcheting black leather belt with a gold buckle with Marine Corps League logo may be worn instead of the Dress Blue trousers and khaki web belt

MALE UNDRESS UNIFORM LONG SLEEVE

- The Short sleeve UNDRESS uniform is the same in every way to the Long Sleeve UNDRESS uniform with the **following exceptions:**
- The shirt shall be the same Airline Pilot style, but short sleeves instead of long. The shirt shall be worn with an open collar and NO TIE OR TIE BAR IS WORN WITH THE UNDRESS SHORT SLEEVE SHIRT
- The Marine of the Year (National, Division, Department or Detachment) Medallion and Ribbon; the Chapel of Four Chaplains (Legion of Merit, Humanitarian Award, and Bronze Medallion Award); or the Military Order of Devil Dogs collar, if authorized, may be worn with the Undress Short Sleeve Uniform. Only one of these devices, medallions, or collars, may be worn at a time at the option of the wearer

NOTE: MEDALLIONS MAY NOT BE WORN WITH ANY OTHER STYLE SHIRT (I.E., POLO, T-SHIRT, OR CIVILIAN DRESS SHIRTS)

NOTE: A nametag may be worn on the UNDRESS UNIFORM (Short Sleeve White, Long Sleeve White or Women's USMC White Blouse) as optional wear. A nametag will NOT BE WORN ON ANY OTHER UNIFORM

(Continued on next page)

Uniform Guide: Female Undress Uniform

FEMALE UNDRESS UNIFORM LONG SLEEVE

- Standard cover, Male or Female style with 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" (ENLISTED STYLE) anodized solid gold color or polished brass EGA
- Devil Dog collar, if authorized (optional)
- Nametag (optional)
- White Shirt, (to be Airline pilot style with two (2) pockets with button down flaps and shoulder epaulets or Women's White USMC Shirt or Army White ASU.) (Rev 2021)
- Regular Member the Marine Corps League Sunburst insignias on collar, centered 1/2" inside the collar tip, with wings on the emblem parallel to the deck
- The Associate member is to wear the Marine Corps League sunburst insignia in lieu of the Marine Corps Emblem on their cover. The 1/2" x 1/2" gold "MCL" insignia will be worn on the shirt collars
- Regular Members the standard Marine Corps League shoulder patch
- Associate Members the Marine Corps League Associate shoulder patch
- Flag patch, on right shoulder, may be worn
- Marine Corps League ribbons or Department of Defense authorized ribbons, wings, badges, (MCL AND DOD RIBBONS CANNOT BE WORN TOGETHER)
- MCL ribbons should be centered over the left breast pocket 1/8" above the pocket flap, DOD-awards and decorations should be worn as authorized to the individual on the AIRLINE PILOT STYLE WHITE SHIRT
- TIE. PLAIN BLACK with Marine Corps gold (enlisted) or Marine Corps League gold tie bar or women's USMC black neck tab (no open collar)
- Skirt, black, straight (length should be 1" to 2" below the knees) or trousers, black, dress, with the black leather belt and square gold buckle with EGA, or female dress blue trousers to match male uniform regulations, dress blue trousers with NCO red stripe (Associate Members no NCO Stripe) with Marine Corps khaki web belt with web belt dress buckle
- Women's Dress Blue Trousers do not have belt loops and cannot be altered to have belt loops. When wearing the Female Dress Blue Trousers, you must wear the women's white USMC shirt (shirt is worn outside of the trousers)
- When wearing the Male Dress Blue Trouser you must wear the men's white shirt as authorized under the male undress long sleeve regulations
- Shoes, black oxford patent leather with trousers. patent leather flats or pumps with skirt. Heels for pumps will measure up to 2" in height
- Hose, nylon, black or flesh tone (with pumps) or socks, black, (with trousers.) (Rev 2021)
- Earrings, (optional) small white pearl (or pearl like) or gold ball, not to exceed 9mm. When worn, earrings will fit tight against the ear and will not extend below the ear lobe
- The Marine of the Year (National, Division, Department or Detachment) Medallion and Ribbon; the Chapel of Four Chaplains (Legion of Merit, Humanitarian Award, and Bronze Medallion Award); or the Military Order of Devil Dogs collar, if authorized, may be worn with the Undress Long Sleeve Uniform. Only one of these devices, medallions, or collars, may be worn at a time at the option of the wearer
- The Associate Member of the Year (National, Division, Department or Detachment) Medallion and Ribbon; Only one of these devices, medallions, or collars, may be worn at a time at the option of the wearer

FEMALE UNDRESS UNIFORM SHORT SLEEVE

- The Short Sleeve UNDRESS UNIFORM is the same in every way to the Long Sleeve UNDRESS UNIFORM with the **following exceptions:**
- The shirt will be the same Airline pilot style. but Short Sleeve instead of Long Sleeve, or Women's USMC white blouse, style worn with Dress Blue Trousers or Army White ASU style. (Rev 2021)
- The Female USMC style white shirt can be worn with either Female Dress Blue Trousers or with black trousers, open collar

NOTE: MEDALLIONS MAY NOT BE WORN WITH ANY OTHER STYLE SHIRT (I.E., POLO, T-SHIRT, OR CIVILIAN DRESS SHIRTS)

NOTE: THE MEN'S WHITE SHORT SLEEVE SHIRT CANNOT BE ALTERED TO WEAR ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE FEMALE DRESS BLUE TROUSERS

(Continued on next page)

Uniform Guide: Miscellaneous

MEDALLIONS

- The Marine of the Year (National, Division, Department or Detachment) Medallion and Ribbon; the Chapel of Four Chaplains (Legion of Merit, Humanitarian Award, and Bronze Medallion Award); or the Military Order of Devil Dogs collar, if authorized, may be worn with the Undress Uniforms (Male and Female)
- Only ONE of these of these devices, medallions, or collars, may be worn at a time at the option of the wearer
- **NOTE:** Medallions may not be worn with any other style shirt (i.e., Polo, T-Shirt, or Civilian Dress Shirt). NOTE: MODD Members are required to wear their Dog Collar to be considered "in uniform"

SHOLDER PATCHES

- Shoulder patches are worn on the undress uniform white aviator shirt, short sleeve or long sleeve, and the female white USMC style shirt ONLY
- The Marine Corps League shoulder patch will be worn on the LEFT sleeve, centered on the sleeve and 1-1/2" below the shoulder seam
- The United States Flag patch (2" x 3") will be worn on the RIGHT Sleeve, centered on the sleeve and 1-1/2" below the shoulder seam. The United States Flag patch will have a WHITE border, and will have a field of BLUE to the right (to the wearer's front)
- At the Wearer's Choice: if a member is a Member of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, the MOOD patch may be worn in place of the United States Flag patch, centered on the sleeve and 1-1/2" below the shoulder seam
- NO Service or Unit patches are to be worn on the Marine Corps League Uniform

SPECIAL UNIFORM AUTHORIZATION

The standard Marine Corps League cover is the minimum uniform item worn by members to be considered "IN UNIFORM". Members who are participating in Memorial Services and who are in MCL Uniform may wear "WHITE GLOVES" of the same type as worn by the Uniformed Services. Wearing of White Gloves will be at the discretion of the Senior Officer in charge of the detail. Although clothing and apparel worn with the standard cover may or may not have a Marine Corps or Marine Corps League theme, and may be appropriate attire, that attire is not a uniform of the League

CEREMONIAL UNIFORMS

There is not a unique Ceremonial Uniform following action at the 2009 National Convention. Whenever Ceremonial Functions are preformed, the Uniform will be the UNDRRESS UNIFORM (either Short Sleeve or Long Sleeve) or the CASUAL UNIFORM as determined by the jurisdictional Commandant, and weather conditions. The National SOP for Funeral Honors should be reviewed

WHITE DUTY BELT

- White Duty Belts may be worn by a member while performing the duty as Sergeant-at-Arms or as a member of a Color Guard or Honor Guard, and only with the Undress Uniform Short Sleeve White or Long Sleeve White Shirt
- The Duty Belt should be the Standard Plain White Cotton Web Belt (2-1/2") with brass Marine Corps waist plate (3 1/2" x 2 1/2") (DRILL INSTRUCTOR STYLE) or Standard Plain White Cotton Web Belt (2-1/2") with Gold (in color) Marine Corps Buckle (3 1/2" x 2 1/2"), either highly shined brass or Hamilton gold plated anodized brass with the EGA

HONOR GUARD

At no time will an NCO or Officer Sword be used by anyone participating in a Funeral Honor Guard Detail. Commanders shall render a "hand-salute" when required

WEB BELT

The tip end of the web belt will pass through the buckle to the wearer's left and will extend from 2 to 4 inches beyond the buckle. The metal belt tip and the buckle will be kept highly polished. The buckle will be worn with the buckle tongue depressed into the buckle

NOTE: AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER MAY WEAR THIS BUCKLE WHILE PREFORMING THE DUTIES OF SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OR DURING AN HONOR GUARD DETAIL CEREMONY ONLY. THE ASSOCIATE MEMBER MAY NOT WEAR THIS BUCKLE AT ANY OTHER TIME

(Continued on next page)

Individual Uniform Items

MALE UNDRESS UNIFORM SHORT AND LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS

American Flag or MODD Patch-Right



Regular Member



Associate Member



MODD Cover Patch



Regular Member Collar Ornaments and Cover EGA



Associate Member MCL Collar Ornaments and Cover Ornament

White Short Sleeve
Aviator StyleWhite Long Sleeve
Aviator StyleWomen's White USMC
Style Short Sleeve

Men's Dress Blue Trousers



Black Trousers



Female Black Skirt



Women's Dress Blue Trousers



Khaki Web Belt

All three Tie Bars
Are AuthorizedBlack Tie
PlainBlack Female
Neck Tab

Black Leather Belt



Women's Pumps



Oxford Shoes



Regular Member White Duty Belt



Associate Member Waist Plate



(Continued on next page)

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

Undress Uniform Quick Reference



(Continued on next page)

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

Marine Corps League

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.

We are Marines

“Once a Marine, always a Marine” is familiar to us all. It is that feeling you get when you see a Marine Corps sticker on a car or a home proudly displaying the Marine Corps flag. All we need to do is knock and that Marine will be there for you. It is not just a tag line for a commercial. That flag is the embodiment of our soul. Despite our many years of service to different causes and in various times, we all have that one tangible thing in common: It is the knowledge that we have all earned the privilege to wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; a symbol that will forever be seared into our hearts.

What we do

- *Promote USMC, history, & traditions*
- *Strengthen the fraternity of Marines*
- *Serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel*
- *Foster ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism*

Active, reserve, retired, and veteran Marines continue the faithful tradition of looking out for the Marines to their left and right. Providing mentorship, career counseling, Veteran Service Officer VA support, assisting with transitions, and providing opportunities for family. Founded by MajGen John Lejeune in 1923; for over 100 years we continue to stand proud as a veteran’s service organization.

Semper Fidelis

Our flag has unfurled in over 1,000 communities across America. We honor veterans, mentor youth, support the Marine Corps’ Honor Guard and Toys for Tots missions, and we are here for you.

Life 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:

\$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.



To learn more,
contribute or
volunteer, visit
www.thetun.org



The 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.

Tricare Regions Changing 2025

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Jan. 1, 2025, marks the start of health care delivery under TRICARE's new regional contracts. There will be changes to the TRICARE regions in the United States as part of the new contracts. While there will still be two TRICARE regions, six states currently in the East Region (Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin) will move to the West Region. If you're located in one of the six states moving to the West Region, this article will help you understand what that will mean for you.

If you live in the current West Region, you'll need to take the actions discussed in this article, too. Your TRICARE contractor is also changing. If you don't live in one of these states, keep an eye out for upcoming articles about how the transition may impact you.

"These changes will help balance the TRICARE population between the two regions and improve the quality of service for all beneficiaries," said Laura D'Antin, team lead, Customer Support, TRICARE Health Plan, Education and Outreach Branch at the Defense Health Agency.

States switching regions

Six states are moving from the East Region to the West Region:

- Arkansas
- Illinois
- Louisiana
- Oklahoma
- Texas
- Wisconsin

If you live in one of these six states, your TRICARE regional contractor will switch from Humana Military to TriWest Healthcare Alliance on Jan. 1, 2025. This change will affect about 1.1 million eligible beneficiaries.

If your state is switching regions, Humana Military will continue as your TRICARE contractor until Dec. 31, 2024. Before then, you should check your DEERS account to confirm that all your information is up to date.

- Create an account on the TriWest patient portal.
- Update your payment information with TriWest. This will help make sure you can make your payments to TriWest (if applicable) starting Jan. 1, 2025. (Note: If you pay by allotment, you don't need to do this. Allotment payments will transfer automatically.)
- Search for providers in the new TriWest provider network directory. You'll find the directory on the patient portal.

You should also plan to take any actions for TRICARE Open Season through TriWest. Keeping your care on track If you have ongoing care, don't worry. If you live in these six states, referrals or authorizations from Humana Military that began before Dec. 31, 2024, will be valid through the referral expiration date, up to June 30, 2025. Additionally, TriWest will work with Humana Military to ensure you get care without disruption for the following conditions:

- Cancer
- Pregnancy
- Neurological disorders
- Mental health
- Kidney disease
- Disease management/case management services

Marine Corps Reunions

Reunions

60th National Convention, Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.

- Date: July 23-27th 2025
- Location: Atlanta Hilton Hotel, 253 Courtland St. NE, Atlanta, Georgia
- Contact: Ron Johnson, 504- 202-8552, vice_president@ montofrdpointmarines.org
- More: www.montfordpointmarines.org

Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Vietnam Veterans (1965-1971)

- Date: 29 May – 01 Jun 2025
- Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton in Downtown Des Moines, IA 50309
- Contact: Jerry Moorehead, (515) 999-2690, gamoorehead@msn.com

Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment (1966-1971)

- Date: 28 May – 1 Jun 2025
- Location: Myrtle Beach, SC
- Contact: Dan Cantrell, 360-739- 6104, dancantrell1@yahoo.com

Marine Corps Tours

2025 BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

THE MCL GEARS UP FOR THIS YEAR'S DRAWING!

In 2025, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (miltours.com) will offer the battlefield tour for a Marine Corps League Member as the winner of the League's Tour raffle. The winner will receive a trip for two.

Tickets: Marine Corps League 2025 Battlefield Tour Raffle.

One Grand Prize: Trip for Two Free Tour.

These trips span the globe and military history. See the list below for a complete lineup.

Everyone who enters lends their support to League programs including Marines Helping Marines, Legislative Programs, Toys for Tots and more.

Raffle tickets cost \$5 per single entry or five tickets for just \$20! That's right, the more you buy, the more you save and the more you help the League. The drawing will be held at our annual Mid-Winter Conference Banquet in 2025.

You do not need to be present to win. Winners will be notified within 3 days of drawing. If they are not present, and arrangements will be made with Military Historical Tours for selection of their tour prize.

Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990. You may buy as many tickets as you like. Please feel free to make additional copies of these raffle tickets if you wish to purchase additional chances!

2025 Tours

17-24 Mar
Victory in the Pacific & IJAA's 80th Anniversary of Iwo Jima

4-13 Apr
Philippines – WWII in the PI

15-28 Apr
"Saigon to the DMZ" Vietnam War

19-27 Apr
Turkey WWI Gallipoli Campaign

21 Apr-4 May
Marine Corps League Tour of Vietnam "Saigon to the DMZ"

25 Apr-8 May
Operation Market Garden: Holland TO Berlin

20-30 May
Special Turkey WWI Gallipoli Expedition

Continues Next Page

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2025 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE

One Grand Prize: Trip for Two Free Tour to anywhere MCL's tour partner (Military Historical Tours) travels.

\$5 per entry or
5 entries for \$20

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Marine Corps Tours

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2025 BATTLEFIELD TOUR RAFFLE**
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Stafford, VA 22555-1990

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will be notified within three days of
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will be made for coordination with Military
Historical Tours for selection of tour prize.

Name
Address
City
State Zip Code
Phone
Email

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Continued From Previous Page

31 May-13 Jun
81st Anniversary of D-Day &
Battle of the Bulge & Paris

1-11 Aug
Guadalcanal 83rd Op Watchtower

6-18 Aug
60th Anniversaries of I-Corps
Vietnam Battlefields

6-19 Aug
"Vietnam Delta to the DMZ"

22 Aug-4 Sep
"D-Day to the Bulge" Normandy
Invasion & Battle of the Bulge

5-18 Sept
Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-
Berlin-Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague

19-30 Sept
All England Tour "God Save the
King" WWII & 8th Air Force

1-8 Oct
Battlefields of France & Belgium:
Waterloo-WWI-WWII-Dunkirk

21-29 Oct
MHT's Civil War "North to Gettysburg"

12-25 Oct
U.S. Military & Civilian Women in Vietnam

22-29 Oct
Birth of American Democracy
"Boston - Yorktown"

2-13 Dec
Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour:
6-11 Dec Laos & Cambodia

1-8 Dec
Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites

Retiree Appreciation Days

Retiree Appreciation Days are held throughout the year at various installations across the United States and Europe. Retirees and their family members are offered information on benefits and service.

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
1 Mar	JB SA-Lackland, Tx	210-671-9204
22 Mar	USAG Fort Stewart, GA	912-767-5013
5 Apr	Kingwood, WV	www.merad@gmail.com
25-26 Apr	Pittsburgh, PA	Usarmy.usarc.rso@army.mil
Apr 26	Fort Wainwright, AK	907-353-2095
1-3 May	Fort Jackson, SC	803-751-6715
3 May	JB ER-Richardson, AK	907-384-3500
27 Jun	JB Lewis-McChord, WA	253-966-5884
19 Jul	Presidio of Monterey, CA	831-242-4986
16 Aug	Tobyhanna Army Depot, PA	570-615-7019
6 Sep	Camp Pendleton, CA	760-725-6090, https://www.marines.mil/contact-us/
12-13 Sep	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	573-593-6637
18-Sep	Fort Sill, OK	580-442-2645
20 Sep	Fort Campbell, KY	270-798-5280
27 Sep	Fort Gregg-Adams, VA (Fort Lee)	804-734-6973/7345
27 Sep 0900-1400	Camp Lejeune, NC (Marston Pavilion)	910-451-0287
9-10 Oct	Fort Bliss, TX	915-568-5204
11 Oct	JB Ellington, Houston TX	210-221-9004-9793
18 Oct	JB Langley, Eustis, VA	757-878-3648
18 Oct	Carlisle Barracks, PA	717-245-4501
24-25 Oct	Fort Belvoir, VA	703-806-4551
24 Oct	Fort Knox, KY	502-624-7236/1280
25 Oct	Fort Leavenworth, KS	913-684-5583/2425
31 Oct	Fort Novosel, AL (Fort Rucker)	334-225-9124/9739
1 Nov	Fort Johnson, LA (Fort Polk)	337-531-0363/0402
7 Nov	Fort Moore, GA (Fort Benning)	706-545-1805-4434

Experience camaraderie and esprit de corps at a Retiree Appreciation Day.

Recommended Reading

TITLES REVIEWED IN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE'S

1. **SEMPER FI MAGAZINE**
2. **Airborne Marine** by Eugene Dale Schwartzlow, Fall 2024, V80N04
3. **Rescued** by Andy L. Vistrand, Fall 2024, V80N04
4. **A Table in the Presence** by Carey H. Cash, Summer 2024, V80N03
5. **Fire in the Hole: The Untold Story of My Traumatic Life and Explosive Success**, by Bob Parsons, Summer 2024, V80N03
6. **Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam**, by Mark Bowden, Spring 2024, V80N02
7. **Blue Gray Black: My Service to Country**, by Don Cesare, Spring 2024, V80N02
8. **The Devine Way**, by Donald Harlin, Winter 2024, V80N01
9. **Tears of an Assassin**, by DJ Power, Winter 2024, V80N01
10. **A Smoldering Wick**, by Ron Brandon, Fall 2023, V79N4
11. **Shoot, Move, and Communicate**, by Albert Dixon, Fall 2023, V79N4
12. **The Boxer Rebellion: Bluejackets and Marines in China**, by Emily Abdow, Summer 2023, V79N3
13. **Commanding the Pacific: Marine Corps Generals in World War II**, by Stephen R. Taaffe, Summer 2023, V79N3
14. **Traumas and Suicide Prevention For Warriors By Warriors**, by Charles Wright, Spring 2023, V79N2
15. **The Haunted Garden: Poems of the Vietnam War**, by Michael Closs, Spring 2023, V79N2
16. **Radioman: Twenty-Five Years in the Marine Corps: From Desert Storm to Operation Iraqi Freedom**, by Andrew Hesterman & Robert Einaudi, Winter 2023, V79N1
17. **Lest We Forget**, by Avery Chenoweth, Sr, Winter 2023, V79N1
18. **Marines, Medals and Vietnam** by William L. Myers, Fall 2022, V78N4
19. **Sunrise at Sunset: Part 1: The Defender Series** by BJ Barnes, Fall 2022, V78N4
20. **Semper Parents** – Supporting Your Marine and Sharing the Journey by Mary Regner, Summer 2022, V78N3
21. **Military Transition for dummies** by Angie Papple Johnston, Spring 2022, V78N2
22. **The War Years** by Jay F. Johnson, Spring 2022, V78N2
23. **Tanks In Hell** by Oscar Gilbert and Romain Cansiere, Spring 2022, V78N2
24. **The Life Experience of MGySgt John Ulus Irwin Jr USMC (Ret)** by John Irwin Jr., Winter 2021, V78N1
25. **The Crucible** by Christina Hadwin, Fall 2021, V77N4
26. **On Contested Shores** from Marine Corps University Press Quantico, Virginia. Edited by Timothy Heck and B.A. Friedman
27. **Extraordinary Warriors** by Christina Hadwin, Summer 2021, V77N3
28. **Green Side Out** by Jay F. Johnson, Summer 2021, V77N3
29. **Devil's Den: Marines War in Lebanon 1983** by David Brown LtCol/USMC (ret) – Spring 2021, V77N2
30. **Tracks: Memoirs of a Vietnam Veteran** by Clyde Hoch – Winter 2021, V77N1
31. **Iwo Jima's Battlefield Promise** by Charles Jones Col/USMC (ret) – Winter 2021, V77N1
32. **You Are Worth It: Building a Life Worth Fighting For** by Kyle Carpenter and Don Yaeger – Fall 2020, V76N4
33. **Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days that Changed the World** by Chris Wallace with Mitch Weiss – Fall 2020, V76N4
34. **A Quiet Cadence** by Mark Treanor – Summer 2020, V76N3
35. **We'll All Die As Marines: One Marine's Journey from Private to Colonel** by Jim Bathurst Col/USMC (ret) – Summer 2020, V76N3
36. **War Animals: The Unsung Heroes of World War II** by Robin Hutton – Spring 2020, V76N2
37. **Time In The Barrel: A Marine's Account of the Battle for Con Thien** by James P. Coan – Spring 2020, V76N2
38. **A Plains Indian Warrior's Story: Hethu'shka Washoeshay** by Hollis D. Stabler – Winter 2020, V76N1
39. **Excitement!: "Shot At And Missed"** by Bob Lonn – Winter 2020, V76N1
40. **Ten Stars – The African American Journey of Gary Cooper – Marine General, Diplomat, Businessman, and Politician** by Kendal Weaver – Fall 2019, V75N4

CMC's Professional Reading List

Profession of Arms

1. AFTER ACTION: THE TRUE STORY OF A COBRA PILOT'S JOURNEY by Dan Sheehan
2. Black Hearts: One Platoon's Descent Into Madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death by Frederick, Jim
3. FIRST TO FIGHT: AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE U.S. MARINE CORPS by Victor H. Krulak
4. FORGOTTEN WARRIORS: THE 1ST PROVISIONAL MARINE BRIGADE, THE CORPS ETHOS, AND THE KOREAN WAR by T.X. Hammes
5. HESITATION KILLS: A FEMALE MARINE OFFICER'S COMBAT EXPERIENCE IN IRAQ by Jane Blair
6. MARINE SNIPER: 93 CONFIRMED KILLS by Charles Henderson
7. NEPTUNE'S INFERNO: THE U.S. NAVY AT GUADALCANAL by James D. Hornfischer
8. THE LAST STAND OF FOX COMPANY: A TRUE STORY OF U.S. MARINES IN COMBAT by Bob Drury
9. THE MARINES OF MONTFORD POINT: AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK MARINES by Melton A. McLaurin
10. WE WERE ONE: SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE MARINES WHO TOOK FALLUJAH by Patrick K. O'Donnell
11. WOMEN AT WAR: IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND OTHER CONFLICTS by Jame E. Wise Jr.

Innovation

1. ASSAULT FROM THE SEA: ESSAYS ON THE HISTORY OF AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE by Merrill L. Bartlett
2. CODE TALKER: THE FIRST AND ONLY MEMOIR BY ONE OF THE ORIGINAL NAVAJO CODE TALKERS OF WWII by Chester Nez
3. COUNTDOWN TO ZERO DAY: STUXNET AND THE LAUNCH OF THE WORLD'S FIRST DIGITAL WEAPON by Kim Zetter
4. CURIOUS: THE DESIRE TO KNOW AND WHY YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT by Ian Leslie
5. ISSUES ON MY MIND: STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE by George P. Shultz
6. MILITARY INNOVATION IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD by Williamson Murray
7. ON CALL IN HELL: A DOCTOR'S IRAQ WAR STORY by CDR. Richard Jadick
8. SGT RECKLESS: AMERICA'S WAR HORSE by Robin Hutton
9. THE MASTER ALGORITHM: HOW THE QUEST FOR THE ULTIMATE LEARNING MACHINE WILL REMAKE OUR WORLD by Pedro Domingo
10. THE WHITE DONKEY: TERMINAL LANCE by Maximilian Uriarte
11. WIRED FOR WAR: THE ROBOTICS REVOLUTION AND CONFLICT IN THE 21ST CENTURY by P.W. Singer

Leadership

1. CALL SIGN CHAOS: LEARNING TO LEAD by GEN. Jim Mattis
2. DARE TO LEAD: BRAVE WORK. TOUGH CONVERSATIONS. WHOLE HEARTS by Brene Brown
3. IT WORKED FOR ME: IN LIFE AND LEADERSHIP by Colin Powell
4. LEGACY by James Kerr
5. RESILIENCE: HARD-WON WISDOM FOR LIVING A BETTER LIFE by Eric Greitens
6. SMARTER FASTER BETTER: THE SECRETS OF BEING PRODUCTIVE IN LIFE AND BUSINESS by Charles Duhigg
7. START WITH WHY: HOW GREAT LEADERS INSPIRE EVERYONE TO TAKE ACTION by Simon Sinek
8. THE LEADER'S BOOKSHELF by James Stavridis
9. TRIBE: ON HOMECOMING AND BELONGING by Sebastian Junger
10. UNBROKEN: A WORLD WAR II STORY OF SURVIVAL, RESILIENCE, AND REDEMPTION by Laura Hillenbrand
11. YOU ARE WORTH IT: BUILDING A LIFE WORTH FIGHTING FOR by Kyle Carpenter

Strategy

1. A NEW CONCEPTION OF WAR: JOHN BOYD, THE U.S. MARINES, AND MANEUVER WARFARE by Ian T. Brown
2. CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERWAR: WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW by P.W. Singer
3. FLEET TACTICS AND NAVAL OPERATIONS (3rd ED.) by Wayne Hughes
4. GOOD TO GREAT: WHY SOME COMPANIES MAKE THE LEAP AND OTHERS DON'T by Jim Collins
5. HUMILITY IS THE NEW SMART: RETHINKING HUMAN EXCELLENCE IN THE SMART MACHINE AGE by Edward D. Hess
6. LIKEWAR: THE WEAPONIZATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA by P.W. Singer
7. MONSOON: THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN POWER by Robert D. Kaplan
8. ONE HUNDRED DAYS : THE MEMOIRS OF THE FALKLANDS BATTLE GROUP COMMANDER by Sandy Woodward
9. RED STAR OVER THE PACIFIC: CHINA'S RISE AND THE CHALLENGE TO U.S. MARITIME STRATEGY by Toshi Yoshihara
10. THE UNDOING PROJECT: A FRIENDSHIP THAT CHANGED OUR MINDS by Michael Lewis
11. THINKING, FAST AND SLOW by Daniel Kahneman

CMC Choice

1. THE KILL CHAIN: DEFENDING AMERICA IN THE FUTURE OF HIGH-TECH WARFARE by Christian Brose

Foundational

1. CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA by James Madison, et. al.
2. LEARNING (MCDP-7) by United States Marine Corps by United States Government US Marine Corps (Author)

CMC's Podcasts and Periodicals List

Podcasts

1. Sea Control (CIMSEC)
2. DODReads: What Are You Reading?
3. The Dead Prussian
4. Horns of a Dilemma
5. Net Assessment (War on the Rocks)
6. Modern War Institute Podcast
7. War Room (US Army War College)
8. Wavell Room: Contemporary British Military Thought
9. TED Talks Daily
10. WSJ The Future of Everything
11. Global News Podcast (BBC)
12. The Truth of the Matter
13. The Security Studies Podcast
14. US-China Dialogue Podcast
15. Council on Foreign Relations

Periodicals

1. The Cove
2. The Forge
3. Grounded Curiosity
4. Journal of Advanced Military Studies (JAMS)
5. Leatherneck
6. Marine Corps Gazette
7. Modern War Institute
8. Proceedings (US Naval Institute)
9. Small Wars Journal
10. The Strategy Bridge
11. War on the Rocks
12. Yellow Sheet (Marine Corps Aviation Association)

Directory Assistance

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	(800) 827-1000 or TDD (800) 829-4833	www.va.gov • www.vba.va.gov
Veterans Health Care Eligibility/Enrollment	(877) 222-8387	www.va.gov/healthbenefits
St. Petersburg VA Regional Office, Bay Pines	(800) 827-1000	www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg
Florida National Guard	(904) 823-0319	https://state.nationalguard.com/florida
Military Funeral Honors	(800) 342-9647	www.cem.va.gov/military_funeral_honors.asp
Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola	(850) 453-4846	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp
Bay Pines National Cemetery	(727) 319-6479	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp
Cape Canaveral National Cemetery	(321) 383-2638	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp
Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell	(352) 793-7740	www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp
Jacksonville National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp
Sarasota National Cemetery	(877) 861-9840	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp
South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth	(561) 649-6489	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp
St. Augustine National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/staugustine.asp
Tallahassee National Cemetery	(850) 402-8941	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tallahassee.asp
Returning Veterans	(800) 827-1000	www.oefoif.va.gov
TRICARE	(800) 444-5445	www.tricare.mil
Gulf War Veterans	(800) 749-8387	www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar
Women Veterans	(855) 829-6636	www.va.gov/womenvet
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	(800) 336-4590	https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/
National VA Homeless Hotline	(877) 424-3838	www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp
VA eBenefits Portal	(800) 827-1000	www.ebenefits.va.gov
VA Home Loan Guaranty	(877) 827-3702	www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans
National Veteran Crisis Hotline	988 dial 1	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
MyVA411 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year helpline serving all members of the veteran community	1-800-MyVA411	https://news.va.gov/82379/1-800-myva411/
Florida Relay Service - For those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired	Dial 7-1-1	www.ftri.org/floridarelay

(Continued on next page)

Directory Assistance



Directory Assistance Pages

A

AMC PASSENGER TERMINAL

<http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/>

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

(703) 607-8800

www.arlingtoncemetery.mil

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTERS

www.armymwr.com/travel/recreationcenters/

- Edelweiss Lodge and Resort (Germany)
(011-49) 8821-9440
- Hale Koa Hotel (Hawaii): (800) 367-6027

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

(800) 422-9988

Email: admissions@afrh.gov

Email: public.affairs@afrh.gov

www.afrh.gov

AWARDS:

Marines who have been discharged, separated or retired on or before 1 January 2001 should submit their inquiry to:

National Personnel Record Center
Military Personnel Records
1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138
Phone: (314) 801-0800

B

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

701 S. Courthouse Rd., Bldg. 12, Suite 1001
Arlington, VA 22204-2490

(703) 604-6884/6885; Fax: (703) 604-3437

www.donhq.navy.mil/bcnr/bcnr.htm

C

CAMP LEJEUNE NOTIFICATION REGISTRY

<https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>

COLD WAR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Attn: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept. 480

1600 Spearhead Division Ave.

Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

Fax: (800)723-9262 or (502) 613-9510

<https://www.hrc.army.mil>

Search "Cold War Certificate"

COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION

SECNAV CRSC Board

720 Kennon St. SE, Ste. 309; Washington, DC 20374-5023

(877) 366-2772, (202) 685-6408, Fax: (202) 685-6610

usn.ncr.asstsecnavmradc.mbx@us.navy.mil

<http://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/pages/crscb/default.aspx>

D

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

PR.center@nara.gov; www.archives.gov/st-louis

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

Manpower Management Performance Branch (MMPB-21)

2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030

(800) 268-3710 option (1); smb.manpower.mmrp-10@usmc.mil

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE

(800) 321-1080, www.dfas.mil

U.S. and OCONUS: (216) 522-5955, Fax: (800) 469-6559

DFAS Special Compensation for the Severely Disabled

P.O. Box 998011; Cleveland, OH 44199-8011

(216) 522-6170

E

E-BENEFITS: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/appmanager/eb/veterans>

F

Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)

(877) 888-FEDS ((877) 888-3337)

www.BENEFEDS.com/military

Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP)

(800) LTC-FEDS ((800) 582-3337)

www.LTCFEDS.com/Military

M

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION

715 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134

(866) 622-1775, ext. 100, Fax: (703) 640-0162

mca@mca-marines.org

• Leatherneck Magazine

(800) 336-0291, ext. 115; Fax: (703) 640-0823

leatherneck@mca-marines.org

• Marine Corps Gazette

(800) 336-0291, ext. 144; Fax: (703) 630-9147

gazette@mca-marines.org

MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON

8th and I, Washington, DC, www.barracks.marines.mil

(Continued on next page)

Directory Assistance



Directory Assistance Pages

MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

1775 Semper Fidelis Way, Triangle VA 22172
(703) 640-7965 OR (800) 397-7585; info@marineheritage.org
<https://www.marineheritage.org/>

MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Marine Corps University
2044 Broadway Street, Quantico, VA 22134-5001
(703) 432-4874; www.history.division@usmcu.edu

MARINE CORPS JUNIOR ROTC TECOM (C46JR)

2007 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5001
(703) 784-3706; www.mcjrotc.org

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL HQ

3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554, (703) 207-9588; JFoster@MCLeague.org
(Membership Manager)

MARINE CORPS RECORDS RESEARCH & RECONSTRUCTION (MMPB-21)

2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030
(800) 268-3710, (703) 784-3930/4646/5616

MARINE CORPS RESERVE ASSOCIATION

3619 Richmond Hwy
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554-7771, (877) 289-8780, (703) 289-1204

MCCS COMMUNITY SERVICES: www.usmc-mccs.org

MEDICAL RECORDS: Marines who have been discharged/separated/retired on 1 May 1994 or later:

VA Records Management Center
P.O. Box 5020; St. Louis, MO 63115-8950
(888) 533-4558; Fax: (314) 538-4571

MEDICARE: (800) 633-4227; www.medicare.gov

N

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Triangle, VA 22172
(877) 653-1775; www.usmcmuseum.org

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

(314) 801-0800; <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel>

NAVY LODGE WORLDWIDE RESERVATIONS CENTER

(800) NAVY-INN; www.navy-lodge.com

NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY

875 N. Randolph Road Street, Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203
(800) 654-8364; <http://www.nmcrs.org>

Q

QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY

(703) 221-2183; www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/quantico.asp

S

SISTER SERVICE RETIREE PUBLICATIONS

- **Air Force Afterburner:** <http://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Afterburner/>
- **Army Echoes:** <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>
- **Coast Guard Evening Colors:** www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews
- **Navy Shift Colors:** www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Media-Center/Publications/Shift-Colors/

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

(800) 772-1213; www.ssa.gov

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN

www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp

T

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN: (877) 968-3778; Fax: (216) 367-3605; TSP mailbox: ccl-mc-tsp@dfas.mil
International callers: (404) 233-4400
<https://www.tsp.gov/index.html>

TRICARE: <https://tricare.mil/>

- **East:** (800) 444-5445; <https://www.humanamilitary.com/east/>
- **West:** (844) 866-9378; <https://www.tricare-west.com>
- **Overseas:** (888) 777-8343; <https://www.tricare-overseas.com>
- **Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator:** <https://tricare.mil/bcacdcao>

TRICARE for LIFE: (866) 773-0404; www.tricare4u.com

TRICARE Network Pharmacy Program

(877) 363-1303; <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml>

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery: (877) 363-1296;

<https://tricare.mil/homedelivery>

U

UNIFORM SUPPORT CENTER: (800) 368-4088;

Fax your DD 214 to (800) 551-6289 before placing order.

V

VA: (800) 827-1000; www.va.gov

VA EDUCATION: (888) 442-4551; www.gibill.va.gov

VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAMS:

(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov

VA SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473

VA STATUS OF HEADSTONES AND MARKERS:

(800) 697-6947

(Continued on next page)

Directory Assistance

Marion A. Salters, *Branch Head*

marion.a.salters.civ@usmc.mil

Maj Cody E. Pennington, *Assistant Branch Head*

cody.pennington@usmc.mil



Retired Services and Pay Section (MMSR-6)

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vincent.tate@usmc.mil

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Human Resources Specialists
Beverly T. Britt
Rose M. Thomas
Glenda Williams
Donald Saucier
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Marine Admin Staff
GySgt Renato J. Rodriguez-Gonzalez

WHO TO CONTACT:

MMSR-2: (703) 784-9322/23 Enlisted
(703) 784-9324/25 Officer



Active Duty Separations and Retirements

- **Officer**
smb.manpower.mmsr2o@usmc.mil
- **Enlisted**
smb.manpower.mmsr2e@usmc.mil

MMSR-4: (703) 784-9308/09/21
Disability Separations and Retirements
smb.manpower.mmsr4@usmc.mil

MMSR-5: (703) 784-9306/07
Fax: (703) 784-9834
Inactive Reserve Separations and Retirements
smb.manpower.mmsr5@usmc.mil

MMSR-6: (703) 784-9311/10; 1-800-336-4649
Fax: (703) 784-9834
Retired Services and Pay

- Address Changes (Note: Annuitants must call DFAS)
- Identification Cards
- Semper Fidelis
- Survivor Benefit Plan
smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil



Veterans Assistance

MANATEE VETERANS VILLAGE

(941) 896-9714

manateeinfo@voa-fla.org

1430 55th Ave. West, Bradenton, FL 34207

The Manatee GPD Program provides clinical treatment, transitional housing and case management services to homeless Veterans. We assist Veterans in identifying personal goals relating to education, employment, health, entitled benefits, spirituality, relationships and community participation. Program fees are based on income. Volunteers of America of Florida is a 501c3 nonprofit with results-driven outcomes.

AMENITIES

- Two bedroom/two bathroom shared unit
- Case Management
- Training, Education and Employment
- Basic utilities paid
- Laundry appliances on site
- Computer lab
- Bible Study
- Substance Recovery Counseling

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Must have had 1 day of active duty
- Must be a Veteran with General, Other, or Honorable Discharge
- Must be homeless or in danger of becoming homeless
- Follow program rules and guidelines (call for details)
- U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)

Turning Points: Supportive Service for Veteran Families (SSVF)

(941) 747-1509

701 17th Avenue West, Bradenton Florida 34205

Turning Points is a leader in providing services for veterans and their families in Manatee County. Through various grants, we work with our partners to provide housing, shelter and supportive services to these individuals and families who have sacrificed so much for our country. Veterans Services through our Transitional Development Program focuses on securing and maintaining housing for Veterans who are currently homeless or would be homeless without this assistance.

Services

- Outreach Services
- Case Management Services
- Assistance Obtaining VA Benefits
- Assistance Obtaining Other Public Benefits
- Rental Assistance

(Continued on next page)



Veterans Assistance



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**

(Continued on next page)



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. 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, or text to 838255.

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

**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.**

VA Phone Numbers

- **MyVA411:** 1-800-698-2411
- **VA benefits hotline:** 1-800-827-1000
- **GI Bill hotline:** 1-888-442-4551
- **VA health benefits hotline:** 877-222-8387
- **My HealtheVet help desk:** 1-877-327-0022
- **National Veteran Crisis Hotline:** 988, Press 1
- **Florida Veterans Support Line:** 1-844-MyFLVet (1-844-693-5838)

Veterans Assistance

**MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION**

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

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

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

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

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.

(Continued on next page)

Veterans Assistance

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

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

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.stolenvvalor.com/index.cfm>

Or

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Victoria_Cross_recipients_by_campaign

IT'S OUR DUTY TO EXPOSE IMPOSTERS,

Veterans Perks



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.](#)



If you have a **service-connected disability** and hold a **VA Card** indicating your status, you are eligible for a **free entry pass** to all **Florida State Parks**. Simply visit the **Myakka State Park Rangers Office** off **State Road 72**, where you can be issued your pass. Take advantage of this benefit



Hunting and Fishing License

Active-duty and retired military Florida residents can get a Military Gold Sportsman's License for \$20. The license covers hunting, freshwater and saltwater fishing and a variety of associated permits at a greatly reduced cost. 100% permanently and totally disabled service-connected veterans are entitled to a free five year hunting and fishing license. Visit the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs website for more information on any of these programs.

Health Corner

American Heart Association
life is why™

Common Heart Attack Warning Signs



- 1** Pain or discomfort in chest
- 2** Lightheadedness, nausea, or vomiting
- 3** Jaw, neck or back pain
- 4** Discomfort or pain in arm or shoulder
- 5** Shortness of breath

How To Spring Clean Your Health


- 1** REVIEW YOUR DIET
- 2** INCREASE YOUR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
- 3** PRACTICE STRESS MANAGEMENT
- 4** CLEAN UP YOUR ENVIRONMENT
- 5** GET ENOUGH SLEEP
- 6** SCHEDULE REGULAR CHECKUPS

HEALTH STANDARDS

EXERCISE 3-5 hrs Aerobic: 3 to 5 hours per week, about 30-45 min a day Muscle-strengthening: all major muscle groups 2x per week	SUNLIGHT 10 min Summer and Spring: 250 body exposure 2+ hrs Winter: 600 body exposure
SLEEP 7-9 hrs more if sick, young adults, or sleep deprived	NUTRITION Vegetables: 2 cups per day Fruits: 1.5 cups per day Protein: 6 oz or 1 cup per day

STROKE SYMPTOMS

Remember, recognize and act fast



F Face drooping

A Arm weakness

S Speech difficulties

T Time to call

TIPS TO HAVE A HEALTHY BRAIN



Healthy food

Meditation

Exercise regularly

Read and study

Health check

Avoid alcohol

Enough sleep

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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