



Bunker News



**A MULTIPLE
AWARD WINNING
NEWSLETTER!**

FEBRUARY 2025

OFFICERS

Commandant

Joe Filice
863-245-3540

Sr. Vice Commandant

Michael Young
757-338-4196

Jr. Vice Commandant

Dave Hildebrand
610-804-9299

Judge Advocate

Denny Palmer
815-979-7465

Pay Master

Cynthia Clark
412-818-3246

Adjutant

Kolleen Young
757-338-5277

Sergeant at Arms

Matt Richards
941-524-8690

Chaplain

Walter Ridgeway
TBD

Historian

Vacant

Jr. Past Commandant

Jim Grote
941-807-2490

Submit Bunker News input
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DESOTO DETACHMENT 588, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Website: MCL588.Org

Commandant's Corner

It's February, and we are already plowing our way into 2025! Speaking of plowing, I hope that everyone enjoyed the Kansas Day festivities and that those from more urban environs have a new appreciation for the critical differences between Buffalo Chicken and Buffalo Chips.

We seated our new board at the January meeting. Many thanks to Dave Matthews, Ron Kosey, Bob Fields, John D' Alusio and Ron Schneider, who are stepping down and Mike Young, Kolleen Young, Cindy Clark and Walt Ridgeway who are stepping up. Mathematically astute observers will notice that there is one more down than up. We still have an opening for **historian**. Typically, the job of the historian is recording the activities of the organization. That function has been well served by our multiple award winning newsletter so, our historian has been providing articles of historical significance for the newsletter. If you would like to submit a story, even without taking up the official mantle of historian, I'm sure that Kolleen Young, our new editor, would appreciate the input. Have a great month and don't forget Valentine's Day!



Adjutant's Alerts

Exciting news, Marines and Associate Members! To keep you all in the loop without flooding your inboxes, I'll be streamlining our communication with a new weekly email update. Every Monday morning, you'll receive a comprehensive email detailing everything happening at The Bunker that week, from upcoming events and meal specials to important announcements and news. Be sure to check your inbox each week so you don't miss a beat!

Your **membership cards have arrived!** Please stop by The Bunker at your convenience to pick up your new card. If you have any questions or need to make special arrangements for pickup, don't hesitate to reach out. If your card isn't at The Bunker, please contact mcl588bunkeradjutant@gmail.com.

We're proud to announce that our new website is up and running! Visit MCL588.org to stay updated with the latest announcements, photos, archived newsletters, and more. Be sure to bookmark it now and check back often!

It's that time again! 2025 Membership Dues are now due—\$35, payable by cash or check. Stop by The Bunker to take care of it at your earliest convenience. Stay current and stay connected!

Finally, we want to hear from you! **Have any exciting news, interesting stories, or suggestions for the newsletter?** Send your inputs to mcl588bunkeradjutant@gmail.com no later than the 21st of each month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Let's make this newsletter a reflection of our vibrant and active detachment!

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January General Membership

Installation of Officers: The new board was sworn in at the January meeting, including:

- Commandant: Joe Filice
- Sr. Vice Commandant: Michael Young
- Jr. Vice Commandant: David Hildebrand
- Judge Advocate: Denny Palmer
- Pay Master: Cynthia Clark
- Adjutant: Kolleen Young
- Sergeant at Arms: Matt Richards
- Chaplain: Walter Ridgeway
- Historian: **Vacant**

Awards Presented: Congratulations to the following members for their outstanding contributions:

- Letter of Appreciation: Art Dehart (Sarasota Trophies and Awards Inc.)
- Certificate of Appreciation: Kimberly Cartano
- 2024 Marine of the Year: Ron Kosey
- 2024 Associate of the Year: Kevin Windisch

Toys for Tots: A Resounding Success!

The 2024 Toys for Tots campaign wrapped up with incredible results, demonstrating the generosity and dedication of our members and the community. We collected a total of 52,817 toys, which were distributed to 16,439 children in need across 33 different organizations.

In addition to the toys, we also distributed 600 bikes, bringing smiles to countless faces. The success of this campaign wouldn't have been possible without the 670 volunteer hours contributed by our dedicated members. A special shout-out to Jason, Kevin, Bob, Denny, David, Joan, Cindy, Toni, Tom, Gayle, and all of the volunteers who donated their time and energy to make this year's Toys for Tots drive a triumph! Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this happen!



The Bunker Briefing

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- **Annual Bunker Garage Sale:** March 22, 2025, at 0900
 - * Spots are \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members
 - * Volunteers needed!
- **Special Meals – Thanks to Jim Kaskey!**
 - * February 8th (approx. 1230): Rigatoni, Salad, and Garlic Bread – \$6
 - * February 22nd (approx. 1230): Chicken & Dumplings, Salad, and a Roll – \$6
- **Bunker Field Day Update:** Unfortunately, the Bunker Field Day scheduled for Monday, February 3rd, 2025 was canceled due to low turnout. But don't worry, we're not giving up on sprucing up our beloved Bunker! Keep an eye out for a new date and time for the rescheduled Field Day. We'll need all hands on deck to make it a success, so please consider volunteering your time when the new date is announced.

Reminders

- Next General Membership Meeting: February 17, 2025, at 1830
- Honor Guard Practice: Monday, February 24, 2025, at 1730

Announcements

- January Raffle Winner: Bernie Jage
- New Raffle
 - * Raffle tickets are available for \$10 each
 - * Drawing will be held at the next General Membership Meeting
 - * This is a great way to support the detachment and potentially take home a prize!

Bunker Rules

- **No Children at the Bar:** For legal reasons, anyone under 18 is not permitted to sit at the bar. Minors must sit at tables or high tops. (Though let's be honest, a few unnamed grunts might also qualify under this rule!)
- **Guest Policy Reminder:** Guests are welcome at The Bunker—but only up to three visits. After their third visit, they must submit a membership application before returning.
- **Non-Member Surcharge:** Non-members will be charged an additional \$1.00 per drink. Yet another great reason to become a member!
- **Using Free Drink Chips:** If you're using free drink chips, please inform the bartender before they tally your cash out in the system. Producing them after the total is calculated creates a hassle. Be considerate of your volunteer bartenders—and **TIP THEM WELL!**

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

The Bunker Scuttlebutt

What's the latest buzz around The Bunker?

- Have You Invited a Potential Member Lately? When's the last time you invited someone new to The Bunker or an MCL Meeting? Keep an eye out for that USMC decal on your neighbor's car—let's keep growing our community!
- Bar Poker Needs Dealers! Want to be a celebrity poker dealer for Bar Poker? Joe Intoppa is looking for volunteers—no experience needed! It's a great way to get involved and have some fun!
- Honor Guard Needs You! No experience? No problem! Honor Guard practice is open to both Members and Associate Members. Step up and be part of something meaningful. See any member for details.
- Extended Hours on Fridays: The Bunker is now open until 2100 on Fridays! Come enjoy the extra time!
- Remember to Tip Your Volunteer Bartenders! Our bartenders are volunteers who generously give their time to keep The Bunker running. Show your appreciation with a good tip!
- Bunker is Now Open Sundays! The Bunker is now open Sundays from 1100-1800, so stop by, enjoy a drink, and catch up with fellow members!
- Got news, stories, or a good joke to share? Let us know, and we might feature it in the next newsletter!



Bar Manners: Winning with Class

- While it's not mandatory, it's an accepted tradition at The Bunker that when a member wins big on dice or pull tab cards, they tip the bartender generously and buy a round for the bar.
- Those who walk away with a fat stack but leave only a drink chip or a small tip... well, let's just say they earn some "colorful" nicknames we won't print here. ☹️ So, if you hit it big, share the love—because what goes around, comes around!

Share Your Story

- Have a memorable experience from your time in the Corps? A funny anecdote or a lesson learned? We want to hear about it!
- Share your story with your fellow Marines and associate members. It's a great way to connect, reminisce, and build camaraderie within our Detachment. Whether it's a tale from boot camp, a deployment memory, or a reflection on your time in service, your story is part of our shared legacy.
- Submit your story to mcl588bunkeradjutant@gmail.com and we'll feature it in an upcoming edition of the Bunker News. Let's keep the spirit of Semper Fi alive by sharing our experiences and strengthening the bonds that unite us.

February Marine Corps Trivia

What is the only Marine Corps unit to be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation twice in the same war?

Answer: 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

February Marine Corps Terminology

Leatherneck: A historical nickname for Marines, referencing the leather collars worn in the past to protect against sword slashes.

February Events at a Glance

FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Scrabble Hot Dogs	5 Burgers	6 Sandwiches	7 Karaoke	8 Poker Rigatoni, Salad, Garlic Bread
9 Darts	10 E- Board Meeting	11 Scrabble Hot Dogs	12 Burgers	13 Sandwiches	14 Karaoke	15 Poker
16 Darts	17 General Membership Board Meeting	18 Scrabble Hot Dogs	19 Burgers	20 Sandwiches	21 Karaoke	22 Poker Chicken & Dumplings, Salad, Roll
23 Darts	24 Honor Guard Practice	25 Scrabble Hot Dogs	26 Burgers	27 Sandwiches	28 Karaoke	

Operational Schedule

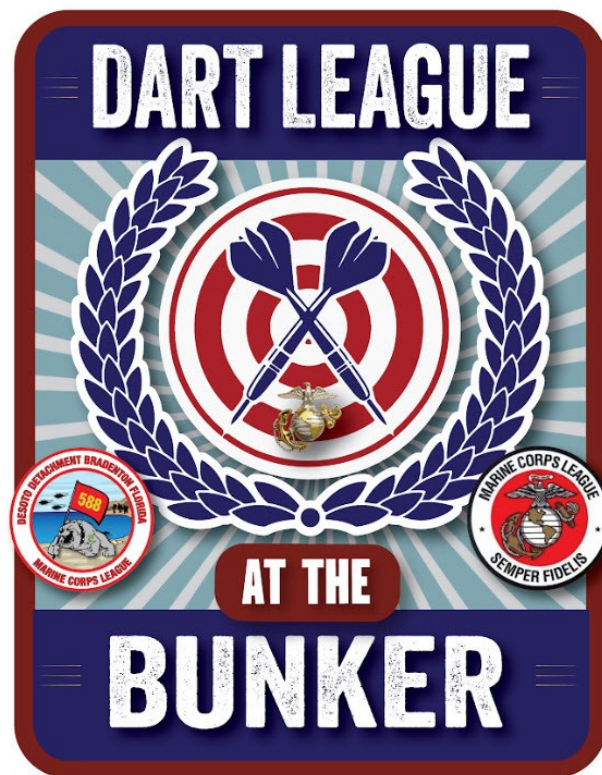
2/4	1300	SCRABBLE SHOWDOWN & HOTDOGS @ THE BUNKER!
2/5	1300	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER! YUMMERS.
2/6	1200	SANDWICH DAY @ THE BUNKER! HOT HAM AND CHEESE.
2/7	1800	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER! ... SING LIKE ZZ TOP.
2/8	1230	RIGATONI @ THE BUNKER.
2/8	1500	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER! GO HOME WEALTHY.
2/9	1400	DART LEAGUE @ THE BUNKER!
2/10	1800	E-BOARD MEETING @ THE BUNKER!
2/11	1300	SCRABBLE SHOWDOWN & HOTDOGS @ THE BUNKER!
2/12	1200	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER! I WANT IT WELL DONE!
2/13	1200	SANDWICH DAY @ THE BUNKER! NO VEGAN SANDWICHES.
2/14	1800	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER! ... SING LIKE TOM JONES!
2/15	1500	BAR POKER & HOTDOGS @ THE BUNKER!... SHOW ME THE MONEY!
2/16	1400	DART LEAGUE @ THE BUNKER!
2/17	1830	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING @ THE BUNKER!
2/18	1300	SCRABBLE SHOWDOWN & HOTDOGS @ THE BUNKER!
2/19	1200	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!...I'LL TAKE IT VERY RARE.
2/20	1200	SANDWICH DAY @ THE BUNKER! GET A MOUTHFULL.
2/21	1830	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER! ... SING LIKE STEVIE.
2/22	1230	CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS @ THE BUNKER
2/22	1500	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER!...FOUR ACES TAKES IT ALL!
2/23	1400	DART LEAGUE @ THE BUNKER!
2/24	1730	HONOR GUARD PRACTICE @ THE BUNKER! JOIN IN.
2/25	1330	SCRABBLE SHOWDOWN & HOTDOGS @ THE BUNKER!
2/26	1200	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!...GRILL IS GETTING.
2/27	1200	SANDWICH DAY @ THE BUNKER!
2/28	1800	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER!

Brains & Bullseyes

Darts Championship & Progressive Bullseye

Five teams battled through an intense double-elimination tournament on February 2, with **Amy McElwaine & Dave Hildebrand** emerging as champions after a series of nail-biting matches. **Steve Cartano & Mike McClain Jr.** put up a strong fight to secure second place. A huge thank you to all participants, our enthusiastic cheering section, and **Diane** for keeping everyone hydrated! ☺ The **Progressive Bullseye Challenge** remains unclaimed, so there's still a chance to win big.

Think you've got what it takes to **dethrone last week's champs**? Step up to the line and prove it—**darts kicks off every Sunday at 1400!** Come join the fun, test your aim, and maybe even walk away as the new reigning champ!



Scrabble Showdown: Can You Beat the Champ?

Word wizards, take note—**Keri Campagna** has officially claimed the title of **Scrabble Champion!** With a mind as sharp as a triple-word score and a vocabulary to match, she's the one to beat. Think you've got the skills to take her down? Or just looking for a fun way to sharpen your wit and enjoy some great company? Join us **every Tuesday at 1330** for a friendly (but competitive!) Scrabble showdown at The Bunker. Whether you're a seasoned wordsmith or just in it for the laughs, there's always room at the table. Grab a coffee, bring your best game, and let's see who can claim the next championship title!



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.

All **Marine Corps League Members** and **Associate Members** are encouraged to wear the official **Red Cover** with the appropriate emblem:

- **Members** wear the **Red Cover with the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor (EGA)**.
- **Associate Members** wear the **Red Cover with the Sunburst Associate Member emblem**.

In addition, 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!

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

 <p>Detachment Cover \$ 35⁰⁰</p>	 <p>Women's Cover \$ 35⁰⁰</p>	 <p>Regular Cap Ornament \$ 7⁰⁰</p>	 <p>Associate Cap Ornament \$ 7⁰⁰</p>
  <p>CLOTHING POLO RED MCL \$ 39⁵⁰</p>			

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



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

ORGANIZATION/POC	DATE	PHONE	EMAIL/WEB
(AT) TOW Co. 8th Tank BN, 4th MARDIV Desert Storm 34-Year Reunion Miami Dade Military Museum & Memorial Miami, FL 33177	1100 11 January 2025	MGySgt Montes (Ret) 954-816-7034	Abiud.montes@gmail.com
TBS Class 1-75 Alpha Company 50th Reunion	14-15 March 2025	G. J. Trautman 703-672-1773	psusmc2003@yahoo.com
E Company 2/7 Vietnam Veterans Tucson, AZ	7-12 April 2025	904-504-1852	parthree@comcast.net
TBS Instructors years 1984-1988 Quantico, VA TBS	25-27 April 2025	Mike McBride 503-819-6887	tbs.instructors.84to88@gmail.com Tbsinstructors5.godaddysites.com
Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Association Bittersweet Farm, Unionville, VA	17 May 2025	Danny Burke 540-287-3833	b12daniel@aol.com www.marinedsa.org
Marine Air Control Squadron Marine Air Command and Control System 4225 O'Neill Stret, Yuma, AZ 85369	14-18 May 2025	Frank Walter (260) 667-0602	macsreunions@gmail.com www.macsreunions.org
Hotel 2/7 Vietnam Veterans (1965-1970) Embassy Suites by Hilton Downtown, Des Moines, IA	29 May to 1 June, 2025	Jerry Moorehead (515) 999-2690	gamoorehead@msn.com
W/C-610 Marines of MCAS K-Bay Las Vegas, NV	10 June 2025	1stSgt Mitravich (808) 271-0655, MSgt Warriner (425) 402- 6975	JohnMit@me.com , TopMIW@Live.com https://www.facebook.com/ groups/1395918457768385/
2025 Marine Corps Engineer Associations (Annual Reunion & Wards Banquet) Hampton Inn Stafford/Quantico & Conference Center Stafford, VA 22554	23-26 September, 2025	LtCol George Carlson 931-307-9094	treasurer@marcorengasn.org , or visit the MCEA website at www.marcorengasn.org
VMFA-531 (All years) Key West, FL	29 September to 4 October, 2025	Richard Niedner (703) 566-6865	lipsdurkin@hotmail.com https://531grayghostsquadron.org/history
Marine Fighter Foray Reunion Hyatt Regency, Dallas, TX	14-18 October 2026	Donnie Herrin, 214- 632-5124, William Pratt, 210-441-9889 Rick Packard 352-988 -0410	dherrin@vmfareadyroom.com prattwf@gmail.com Packard.rick@gmail.com
A-6 Intruder Reunion (All Squadrons - All Years) Hyatt Regency, Dallas, TX	22-26 April 2026	Joe Krauss 703-362-4761	hjkrauss2@gmail.com intruderassociation.org

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.

February Marine Corps History

February is a month filled with pivotal moments in Marine Corps history, showcasing the courage, innovation, and determination that define our Corps.

February 16, 1804 – “To the Shores of Tripoli”

During the First Barbary War, **Lt. Stephen Decatur** led a daring raid in **Derna, Libya**, destroying the captured USS *Philadelphia* to prevent its use by enemy forces. This mission became one of the Marine Corps' first major expeditionary operations and inspired the famous line in the Marine Hymn: *“To the Shores of Tripoli.”*

February 1912 – Birth of Marine Corps Aviation

The Marine Corps took to the skies when **1st Lt. Alfred A. Cunningham** reported for flight training, laying the foundation for what would become a vital aspect of Marine Corps operations.

February 1942 – First Black Marines Begin Training

Breaking racial barriers, the first African American Marines began training at **Montford Point**, North Carolina. These trailblazers paved the way for greater diversity in the Corps and earned their place in Marine Corps history.

February 17-22, 1944 – Battle of Eniwetok

Marines from the **22nd Marine Regiment** launched an assault on **Eniwetok Atoll** in the Pacific, securing a crucial foothold for further Allied operations against Japan during World War II.

February 19, 1945 – Battle of Iwo Jima Begins

One of the most iconic battles in Marine Corps history, the fight for Iwo Jima lasted **36 days**, with Marines overcoming fierce Japanese resistance to capture the island. On **February 23, 1945**, **five Marines and a Navy corpsman** raised the American flag atop **Mount Suribachi**, immortalized in one of the most famous images in history.

February 1951 – First Combat Helicopter Insertion

During the **Korean War**, **Marine Helicopter Squadron HMR-161** executed the first-ever combat helicopter insertion, revolutionizing battlefield mobility and shaping the future of modern warfare.

February 1968 – Battle of Hue City

As part of the **Tet Offensive**, Marines fought in brutal house-to-house combat to retake Hue City from North Vietnamese forces. This battle became a defining moment in Marine Corps history, demonstrating the grit and determination of the Corps.

February 1904 – Marines Land in the Dominican Republic

Marines deployed to the **Dominican Republic** to protect American interests and restore stability—one of many early examples of the Marine Corps' role in crisis response and security operations.

February reminds us of the legacy we carry forward—one of service, sacrifice, and unwavering resolve. **Semper Parati!**

Medal of Honor Spotlight



Pfc. James Anderson Jr.

Born: January 2, 1947

Died: February 28, 1967

Hometown: Compton, California



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

PFC JAMES ANDERSON JR. UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Company F was advancing in dense jungle northwest of Cam Lo in an effort to extract a heavily besieged reconnaissance patrol. Pfc. Anderson's platoon was the lead element and had advanced only about 200 meters when they were brought under extremely intense enemy small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. The platoon reacted swiftly, getting on line as best they could in the thick terrain, and began returning fire. Pfc. Anderson found himself tightly bunched together with the other members of the platoon only 20 meters from the enemy positions. As the firefight continued several of the men were wounded by the deadly enemy assault. Suddenly, an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the marines and rolled alongside Pfc. Anderson's head. Unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his personal safety, he reached out, grasped the grenade, pulled it to his chest and curled around it as it went off. Although several marines received shrapnel from the grenade, his body absorbed the major force of the explosion. In this singularly heroic act, Pfc. Anderson saved his comrades from serious injury and possible death. His personal heroism, extraordinary valor, and inspirational supreme self-sacrifice reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps and upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country. /S/ RICHARD M. NIXON

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

Commandant of the Marine Corps' (CMC)

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)

Commandant of the Marine Corps' (CMC)

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)

Benefits and Health Care Contacts

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

Directory Assistance Pages



Directory Assistance Pages

A

AMC PASSENGER TERMINAL

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

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

(703) 607-8000

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

Directory Assistance Pages



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

Separation and Retirement Branch

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)

Vincent P. Tate, *Human Resources Manager*
vincent.tate@usmc.mil

Donald J. Saucier, *Writer-Editor*
donald.saucier@usmc.mil

Human Resources Specialists

Beverly T. Britt
 Rose M. Thomas
 Glenda Williams
 Donald Saucier
 Jonathan Castro

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

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**



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' Helpful Information



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.

Veterans' Helpful Information

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



Common Heart Attack Warning Signs



Tips To Stay Healthy During Flu Season

Vaccination = Prevention

- Getting your flu shot is the best way to avoid the virus.
- It takes 2 weeks for the vaccine to become effective.

Personal Hygiene

- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly.
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth, and nose.

Strengthen Immune System

- Get 7-8 hours of sleep.
- Eat healthy foods rich in nutrients.
- Exercise regularly.
- Stay hydrated, aiming for 8 glasses of water a day.

STROKE SYMPTOMS

Remember, recognize and act fast



TIPS TO HAVE A HEALTHY BRAIN



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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