



# Bunker News



**A MULTIPLE  
AWARD WINNING  
NEWSLETTER!**

**SEPTEMBER  
2024**

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

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

## **OFFICERS**

### **Commandant**

**Joe Filice**  
**863-245-3540**

### **Sr. Vice Commandant**

**David H. Matthews**  
**941-323-1509**

### **Jr. Vice Commandant**

**Dave Hildebrand**  
**610-804-9299**

### **Judge Advocate**

**Denny Palmer**  
**815-979-7465**

### **Pay Master**

**Ron Kosey**  
**941-812-3426**

### **Adjutant**

**Bob Fields**  
**941-504-3693**

### **Sergeant at Arms**

**Matt Richards**  
**941-524-8690**

### **Chaplain**

**Ron Schneider**  
**941-749-5799**

### **Historian**

**John D'Alusio**  
**941-209-8873**

### **Jr. Past Commandant**

**Jim Grote**  
**941-807-2490**

**Submit Bunker News input to**  
**Bob Fields, Editor at**  
**[RMFields0117@Gmail.com](mailto:RMFields0117@Gmail.com)**

## **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THE BUNKER WILL BE CLOSED DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGES!**

No, the Bunker isn't closing but the need to post such a sign is a troubling possibility. We start September with Labor Day which makes this a good opportunity to talk about labor, specifically the volunteer labor that keeps the Bunker in operation. No one at the bunker receives a salary, wages or any type of stipend although the Wednesday Burger Crew has been known to work for beer. The financial pressures that force so many small businesses to close are not a threat to the Bunker thanks to Joe Intoppa's management of the canteen and Ron Kosey's management of the money. The effort that got us to this point came at a cost. Joe rarely has a day off and Ron has put in enough hours to risk health, sanity and marriage (the order is variable depending on whom you are speaking with). Thanks to a suggestion from Keri, Ron has managed to streamline the paymaster's job so that he doesn't have to come in every day. Nevertheless, he needs a break as does Joe. Regardless of what the detachment organizational chart might show, the canteen manager and paymaster are the most important jobs that we have. If any other board member was abducted by aliens, whether illegal or extraterrestrial, the Bunker would continue chugging along. If Joe or Ron were to run off screaming into the woods, never to be seen again, we would be in serious trouble. I am grateful and humbled by those members who have stepped forward to help with repairs, administrative tasks, Toys for Tots, bar tending and so many other jobs but we need more people willing to pitch in. Our current board has passed the halfway point and we will be opening nominations for a new board in October. The Paymaster and help for the canteen manager are our two most critical needs but all of the board positions are open for those willing to serve. According to the national bylaws, the Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate are elected positions and must be held by Marines. All other positions are open to associates.

There are several veteran's organizations in the area but, I think that we would all agree that the Bunker is exceptional among them. Under Joe's canteen leadership, and with the contributions of our volunteers, the Bunker is attracting new members and bringing back older members to enjoy the atmosphere and camaraderie of a truly unique veteran's hangout. At the present time, we are doing great. It is the future that is concerning. Please consider pitching in so that nothing like the opening sentence ever has to be posted on our front door.

Semper Fi

Joe



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

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



**Budweiser**

**Italian Day**

**1PM - 5PM  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 21ST**

**Bring a Homemade  
Italian Dish to be Eligible for  
a \$25 Gift Card to the Bunker!**

*Only Bunker Members in attendance  
can Vote for the Winner.*

**Desserts &  
Side Dishes  
are Welcome!**

**but Not eligible for voting process.**







**Marine Corps League**  
**Desoto Detachment 588**  
**Events for SEPTEMBER 2024**

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

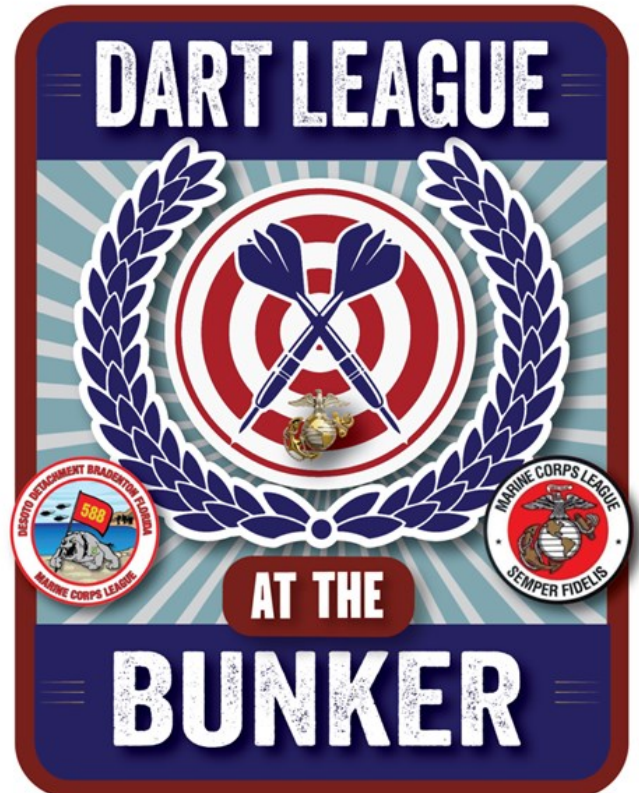


*with hot dawgs*

**SATURDAYS AT 3 PM**  
**SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27**



**WEDNESDAYS AT 12 noon**  
**SEPTEMBER 4, 11, 18, 25**



**SUNDAYS • SEPT 8, 15, 22, 29**



**FRIDAYS | 6 PM**  
**AT THE BUNKER**  
**SEPT 6 | 13 | 20 | 27**

*Graphic displays courtesy of Kim Cardano*

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**Marine Corps League**  
**Desoto Detachment 588**  
**Events for SEPTEMBER 2024**

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



**September 9, 2024 – 6:00 pm at the Bunker**



**September 30, 2024 at 5:30 pm**

**sandwiches**



© THE BUNKER

**THURSDAYS AT 12 NOON**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26**

**GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP**



**SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**  
**AT 6:30 PM**

Remember, the hatches (doors) are secured (locked) at exactly 1830 by the Sergeant at Arms, and no one gains entry after the click of the lock.

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

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



## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AUGUST 2024**



Chris Reynolds receives a Certificate of Achievement from Commandant Joe Filice. Chris is being recognized for all of his efforts in supporting the Marine Corps League, Desoto Detachment and the Bunker.

**Two new Associate Members being Sworn in.**  
**L To R: Belinda Madonna and Kaitlyn Doub.**

***Welcome Aboard! you will get your volunteer committee assignments shortly.***





## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AUGUST 2024



WE ASKED MAGGIE TO GIVE US A "THUMBS UP", BUT SHE ONLY GAVE US 1 AND 3/4 THUMBS. THANKFULLY SHE IS HEALING SINCE HER ACCIDENT AND SURGERY.



GALE WON THE BIG BUCKS AT THE 50/50 DRAWING. WE HAVE NOTIFIED THE IRS. THEY WILL BE TRACKING HER DOWN SHORTLY.

Prior to the start of the General Membership Meeting, a flag folding ceremony was held in honor of Lance Corporal Anthony R. Capoccia. He was a veteran of the deployment to Beirut Lebanon in 1983, when the terrorist truck bomb destroyed the Marine Barracks, taking the lives of 220 Marines, 18 Sailors and 3 Soldiers. He recently passed away after a long struggle with PTSD and substance abuse. Some veterans say *"you can leave the war, but the war doesn't leave you"*. Rest in peace Marine.



Folding of the Flag



Commandant presents the flag to his sister.

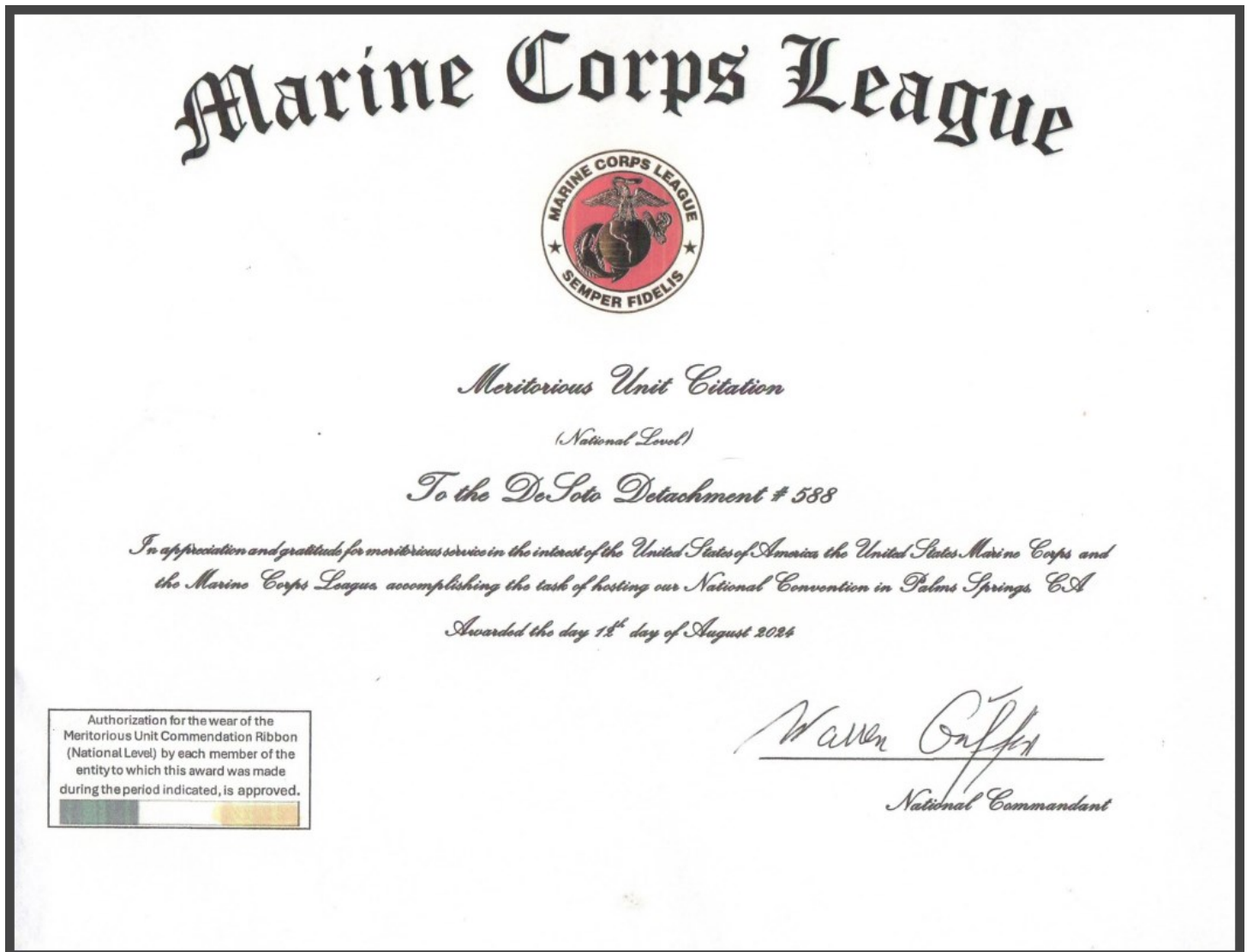




**PLAY DARTS WITH US FOR THE NEXT 10 WEEKS TO QUALIFY  
FOR THE OCTOBER 6th TOURNAMENT  
( WITH PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND, 3RD PLACE)**

*Earn a point for each Sunday you play with the league  
from 07.28 - 09.29. Additional points earned for 1st, 2nd, 3rd each week.  
10 points needed to qualify for the tournament. All welcome each week.  
Tournament with prizes will take place on October 6th at 2:00 pm  
More details to come.*

**Desoto Detachment #588 is awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation by the  
National Commandant of the Marine Corps League.**



**This award was given to the membership of Desoto Detachment for outstanding service and volunteerism within our community. Our Toys for Tots Campaign was one of the largest and most successful in the country. Our Honor Guard made sure that there were appropriate last military honors rendered at numerous funerals, and flag ceremonies at many local civic events. Each member of 588 is entitled to wear the Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon (National Level).**

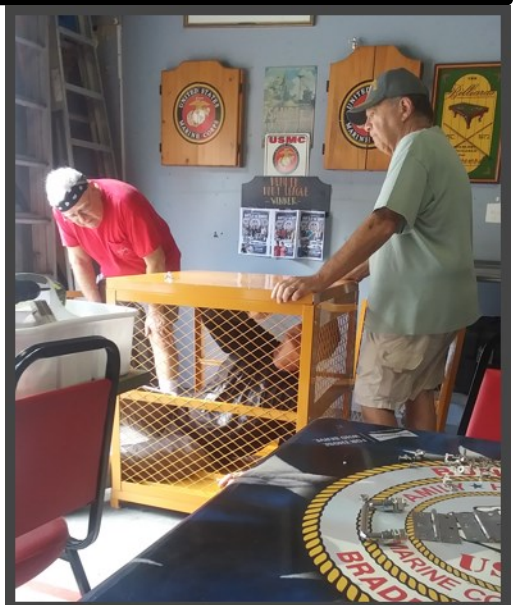




On August 7th in recognition of National Purple Heart Remembrance Day, a ceremony to honor two Purple Heart recipients was held at Stone River Retirement Community. Representing Desoto Detachment 588 was Joe Filice and Bob Fields.



The Bunker recently purchased a propane tank storage cage in order to comply with fire safety regulations regarding fuel storage. Ron Kosey, Dave Matthews, Joe Filice, Joe Intoppa and Bob Fields worked at putting it together. We did manage to encage Dave Matthews for a while during the process. This cage will be bolted to the outside back wall of the Bunker to properly store our propane tanks.



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**Dart League Challenge****Total Points**

Players		Week of Challenge										Total Points
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Amy McElwaine	1	1	3								5
2	Butch West	1	1	0								2
3	Chip Moran	2	1	1								4
4	Chris Reynolds	2	1	3								6
5	Christy Shinavier	1	1	1								3
6	Glenn Weik	4	1	2								7
7	Kim Cartano	3	1	4								8
8	Makayla McClain	3	1	3								7
9	Mike McClain, Jr.	1	1	3								5
10	Steve Cartano	4	1	2								7
11	Leli	0	0	4								4

*Week 2 - Washout - all get a point*

**THE TITLE**

IT CANNOT BE INHERITED,  
NOR CAN IT EVER BE PURCHASED.

YOU AND NO ONE ALIVE  
CAN BUY IT FOR ANY PRICE.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RENT,  
AND IT CANNOT BE LENT.

YOU ALONE AND OUR OWN  
HAVE EARNED IT

WITH YOUR SWEAT, BLOOD AND LIVES.

YOU OWN IT FOREVER.

THE TITLE,  
**UNITED STATES MARINE**



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



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

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

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## VETERANS SERVICES

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

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

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



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

### DD 214s

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

National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO

63138

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

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

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

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

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

Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMRP)-10

2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030

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

**At one time in my life, I could simultaneously fit my Summer and Winter wardrobes in this bag... 🤔🤔**

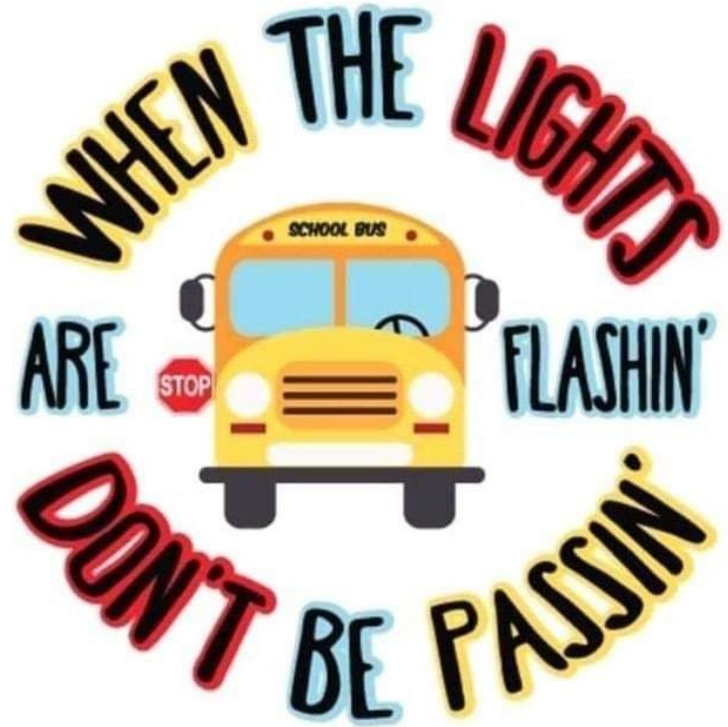


**When you are in the Grocery Store and you see that guy or gal wearing a USMC ball cap, make sure you say "Semper Fi" to them and invite them to the Marine Corps League. It's the right thing to do.**

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

Sometimes, I just want someone to hug me and say "I know it's hard but you'll be okay. Here's some chocolate and ten million dollars."

"It's better to be the oldest person in the gym than the youngest person in the nursing home"







School is back in session. Give the kids a break. Don't passed the stopped school bus, don't speed through school zones.

## SEMPER FI STORE

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

[Uniform – The Semper Fi Store \(the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com\)](https://the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com)

			
Detachment Cover	Women's Cover	Regular Cap Ornament	Associate Cap Ornament
\$ 35 <sup>00</sup>	\$ 35 <sup>00</sup>	\$ 7 <sup>00</sup>	\$ 7 <sup>00</sup>



# The XM7 Rifle

By John D'Alusio – Historian, MCL Detachment 588

While I was at The Bunker for the 8/24 rib-fest, Kenny Van Streader approached me about the relatively new main battle rifle being adopted by the US military. He inquired if I knew any details about this rifle. I replied in the negative, but decided I had better check it out.

The XM7, previously known as the XM5, is the U.S. Army variant of the SIG MCX Spear, a 6.8×51mm (.277 in), gas-operated, magazine-fed rifle designed by Swiss arms manufacturer Sig Sauer for the Next Generation Squad Weapon Program in 2022 to replace the M4 carbine. The XM7 features a free-floating reinforced M-LOK handguard for direct accessory attachment to slotted hole mounting points. The XM7 began to be fielded this year in March.

In January 2019, the Army began the Next Generation Squad Weapon Program to find replacements for the M4 carbine and M249 light machine gun, both chambered in 5.56 X 45mm NATO. In September 2019, SIG Sauer submitted its designs. The SIG Sauer MCX-SPEAR (the rifle's semi-auto commercial designation) is chambered in 6.8×51mm (.277 caliber). The Cartridge is designated the SIG Fury load in response to concerns that improvements in body armor would diminish the effectiveness of ammunition such as the 5.56×45mm NATO (for the M4 and M249) and 7.62×51mm NATO (for M240). The Army Times describes the 6.8 X 51mm as an "intermediate caliber 6.8mm cartridge." However, it is quite a step up in terms of ballistics at certain ranges with especially with short-barreled rifles compared to the 5.56 X45mm NATO cartridge that was introduced during the Vietnam War in the M-16.

On 19 April 2022, the Army awarded a 10-year contract to SIG Sauer to produce the XM7 rifle, along with the XM250 light machine gun, to replace the M4 carbine and M249 light machine gun, respectively. Originally the rifle was designated XM5, as the next number sequentially for the weapon it will replace. In January 2023, the Army announced it would change the name of the rifle from XM5 to XM7 to avoid a trademark conflict with Colt's M5 carbine.

The first batch of 25 XM7s was planned for delivery in late 2023. The Army has initial plans to order 107,000 rifles over the succeeding decade for close combat forces including infantry, cavalry scouts, combat engineers, and forward observers. There are no plans to issue the weapons to non-close combat soldiers. The contract has the option to build additional weapons should the USMC and U.S. Special Operations Command choose to be included.

XM7s were delivered to the 101st Airborne Division and 75th Ranger Regiment in September 2023 for user tests. Operational testing of the XM7 rifle, XM250 light machine gun, and XM157 Fire Control Optic was scheduled to begin in 2024 (at which point it would become the M7) but widespread distribution was not assured due to volume manufacturing requirements.

In March 2024, 1st Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Paratroop Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division began fielding the rifle.

The XM7 rifle weighs 8.38 pounds, or 9.84 pounds with a suppressor. It uses SR-25 pattern magazines that hold 20 rounds in a box magazine. An optional 25-round box magazine is also available.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

The proposed combat ammunition load for each soldier is 140 total rounds, distributed across seven 20-round magazines, in total weighing 9.8 lbs. Compared to the M4A1 carbine weighing 6.34 pounds unsuppressed, with a basic combat load of 210 rounds in seven 30-round magazines, in total weighing 7.4 pounds, the XM7 rifle weighs about 2 pounds more and each soldier carries roughly a 4 pounds heavier load with 70 fewer rounds.

So, with each soldier carrying 70 fewer rounds that weigh 4 pounds more, and a rifle 2 pounds heavier than the 5.56X45mm versions, what is being gained by switching to 6.8X51mm ammo over the 5.56X45mm cartridge? Looking at the ballistics table, the 5.56 dominates in terms of muzzle velocity. The M193 load leaves the barrel at 3240 fps and the M855 at 3060 fps compared to 2,460 for the 6.8 round. (which is comparable to the 122 grain 7.62X39mm Russian round). This high muzzle velocity allows the 55 and 62 grain bullets to reach their targets faster, meaning that gravity has less time to affect their flight. This translates into a flatter trajectory.

At 500 yards, the M193 and M855 have experienced -54.8" and -57.8" of bullet drop, respectively. Compared to the 120 gr Hornady SST that has dropped -78.8" by 500 yards, clearly showing how the 5.56 has a more favorable trajectory at longer ranges.

However, what the 5.56 lacks is close-in muzzle energy (ME), and conversely this is where the 6.8 round really shines. At the muzzle, the 120 grain 6.8 packs 25% more muzzle energy than 5.56 rounds (1,612 vs. 1,289). Furthermore, the 6.8 maintains its kinetic energy more effectively at range. For example, at around 250 yards the still has around 1,000 ft-pounds of kinetic energy while both 5.56 rounds drop below this threshold around 100 yards.

It's also important to note that the test barrel length used for the 5.56 rounds was 20" which is similar to what the United States Marine Corps uses in their M16's. However, the test barrel for the 6.8mm was 16", which shows how well the 6.8 can outperform the 5.56 NATO cartridge in a shorter barrel. So, it looks as though the 6.8X51mm is going to become the US Military's main battle cartridge at some point.



The short barreled XM7 Sig Sauer Rifle with a suppressor chambered in 6.8X51mm.



# Dignity Memorial® Benefits Program

Learn about your VA Burial Benefits and  
The Dignity Memorial Veteran Benefits Program  
PRESENTED BY Robert Toale and Sons Celebration of Life Center

## Remember the Date for this **FREE VA** and Dignity Memorial Burial Benefits Seminar!

Join your friends at this informational seminar that can bring real peace of mind to you and your family...as you learn what the government does and doesn't provide. You may be surprised at what the VA provides.

### Place

Peridia Golf & Country Club  
4950 Peridia Blvd E Bradenton, FL 34203

### Dates

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

### Times

11:30 A.M. (FREE Lunch)

### RSVP

To confirm and obtain directions, please call  
Robert Toale & Son Celebration of Life Center  
941-932-8100

Seating is limited, so please R.S.V.P. today!

We are not authorized to file an initial application for Veterans' Aid and Attendance benefits on your behalf, or to represent you before the Board of Veterans' Appeals within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in any proceeding on any matter, including an application for such benefits. It would be illegal for us to accept a fee for preparing that application on your behalf.

This event is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the California Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other congressionally chartered or recognized organization of honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces of the United States, or any of their auxiliaries. None of the insurance products promoted at this sales event are endorsed by those organizations, all of which offer free advice to veterans about how to qualify and apply for benefits.

MX-12081-(12/12)

Dignity®  
MEMORIAL

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**THE FACT THAT  
THERE'S A HIGHWAY TO  
HELL AND ONLY A  
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN  
SAYS A LOT ABOUT  
ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC  
NUMBERS.**

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

KITCHEN DINETTE SET WITH 4 BLACK LEATHER ROCKING, SWIVEL, ROLLING CHAIRS. TABLE HAS ONE 17" LEAF EXTENSION. TABLE IS 42" X 42". \$250 OBO. CALL RON OR DIANE FOR QUESTIONS OR TO SEE. (941) 226-1526.



The "Good Old Days" when you had your personal trainer helping to achieve your physical fitness goals through nurturing advice and calm demeanor. He even had assistants who were always encouraging you.

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# MEMBERSHIP NOTICE:

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

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

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

\$1000.00 – 35 years of age and lower

\$ 800.00 – 36-50 years of age

\$ 600.00 – 51-64 years of age

\$ 400.00 – 65-84 years of age

\$ 100.00 – 85 years of age and higher

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



## Five Squids and a Jarhead Walked into a bar.

*Did you ever notice that no good story starts with  
"walked into the yogurt shop"?*

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## Free Entrance to National Parks

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

### Bunker Announcements :

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

# Support your Detachment.



# JOIN US FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL

## BATTLE OF THE SANGARITA SHOWDOWN

**OCTOBER 4, 2024**  
**7 PM -10 PM**

**MANATEE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
**INSIDE THE VETERANS HALL**  
**1402 14TH AVE. WEST • PALMETTO, FL**

PRESENTED BY THE DIVISION 8 EXCHANGE CLUB

Local restaurants will compete for the title of best sangria, margarita, and appetizer at the 8th Annual Sangarita Showdown.



**CARRABBA'S**  
ITALIAN GRILL



**BONEFISH**  
GRILL



**MEAN BEANS**  
with beans



all proceeds benefit  
 **PARENTING**  
**matters**

scan for ticketing and sponsorship



learn more: [sangaritashowdown.com](http://sangaritashowdown.com)

**CONTACT**

**Rebekah Prieto**  
941.756.3007  
[rprieto@parentingmattersfl.org](mailto:rprieto@parentingmattersfl.org)



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graphic design proudly donated by [cartanocreative.com](http://cartanocreative.com)

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### LOCAL AGENCY THAT CAN HELP VETERANS IN NEED

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

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



## MISSION AND PURPOSE

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

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





Being a Marine is a state of mind. It is an experience some have likened more to a calling than a profession. Being a Marine is not a job—not a pay check; it is not an occupational specialty. It is not male or female, majority or minority; nor is it a rank insignia. Stars, bars, or chevrons are only indicators of the responsibility or authority we hold at a given time. Rather, being a Marine comes from the eagle, globe, and anchor that is tattooed on the soul of every one of us who wears the Marine Corps uniform. It is a searing mark in our innermost being which comes after the rite of passage through boot camp or Officer Candidates School when a young man or woman is allowed for the first time to say, "I'm a United States Marine." And unlike physical or psychological scars, which, over time, tend to heal and fade in intensity, the eagle, globe, and anchor only grow more defined—more intense—the longer you are a Marine. "Once a Marine, always a Marine."



### Marine Corps Rule # 44

***Upon seeing an Army or Air Force vehicle unattended, Marines will secure the vehicle so it doesn't get lost and paint Marine Corps property markings on it.***

### **Matt Richards was the winner of the Ribs Cookoff at the Bunker!**



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

Write:

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

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

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

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

Write:

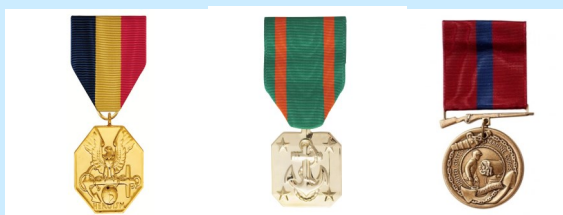
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
Military Awards Branch (Code MMMA)  
2008 Elliot Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-5030

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

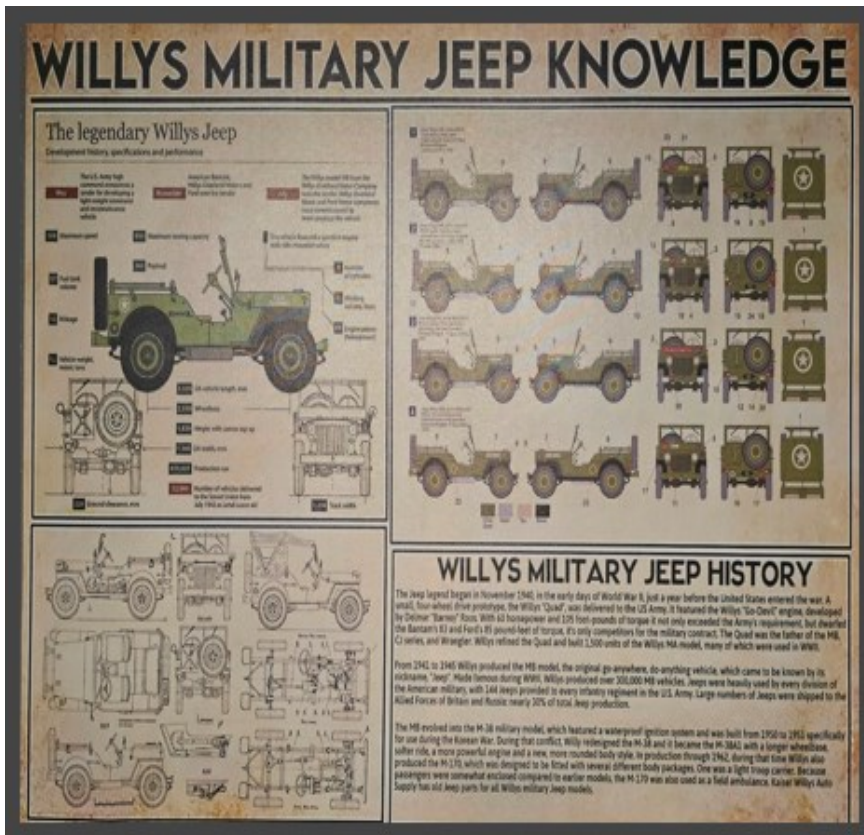
**We can teach you everything you need to know.**

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

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








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

Confidential crisis chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net)  
or text to **838255**

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**RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF SUICIDE RISK**

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

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

The presence of these signs requires immediate attention. Call us if you experience any of these warning signs.

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

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

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

It is very easy to ascertain heroic status, both in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Don't be a faker. If you earned it, wear it with pride, whether you rate one ribbon or a hundred ribbons.  
if you didn't earn it go crawl back in your hole with the other worms.

For more information about these worms,

Go to:

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

Or

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

[IT'S OUR DUTY TO EXPOSE IMPOSTERS,](#)  
[BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.](#)



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

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

#### MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION

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

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

**Do the world a favor. Don't give your 6 year old a smartphone, teach them to dig up some worms and catch a fish.**



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

**(941) 745-3795**

## **VETERAN'S SERVICES**

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

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

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

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



### **Military Stories**

We are collecting stories by and about military personnel.

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

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

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

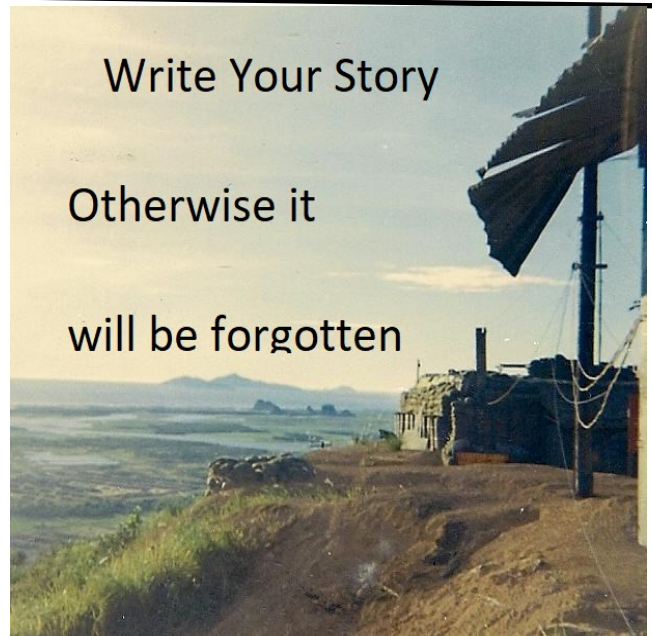
Pictures are worth a thousand words. You can write the story for a relative, friend, or ancestor. You can add to your story. We look forward to publishing your story on the blog.

Thank you for your stories.

Write Your Story

Otherwise it

will be forgotten





# SCUTTLEBUTT

## The Word



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

***Remember to always tip your  
VOLUNTEER BARTENDERS  
at the Bunker very generously.***

***They are unpaid and giving up their  
time to keep  
the Bunker Running.***

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



# MARINE CORPS HISTORY IN SEPTEMBER

**2 September 1945:** The Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay. With General Holland Smith transferred home in July 1945, the senior Marine Corps representative at the historic ceremony was LtGen Roy S. Geiger, who had succeeded Smith as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

**5 September 1956:** Eleven Marines from the 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division, stationed near Naha, Okinawa, drowned while swimming, from an undercurrent caused by Typhoon Emma. The violent storm, with 140 mph winds, struck the Philippine Islands, Okinawa, Korea, and Japan, causing some 55 deaths and millions of dollars in property damage.

**6 September 1983:** Two Marines were killed and two were wounded when rockets hit their compound in Beirut, Lebanon. Heavy fighting continued for the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit peacekeeping force in the area near their positions around the Beirut International Airport.

**8 September 1942:** On Guadalcanal, the 1st Raider Battalion and the 1st Parachute Battalion, supported by planes of MAG-23 and two destroyer transports, landed east of Tasimboko, advanced west into the rear of Japanese positions, and carried out a successful raid on a Japanese supply base.

**11 September 1992:** Hurricane Iniki devastated the island of Kauai in Hawaii in one of the worst storms the islands had seen in over a century. Marines of the 1st Marine Brigade based at Kaneohe Bay, spearheaded Operation Garden Sweep, the massive cleanup effort.

**15 September 1950:** The 3d Battalion, 5th Marines landed on Wolmi-do Island in Inchon Harbor and secured it prior to the main landing. The 1st Marine Division under the command of Major General Oliver P. Smith landed at Inchon and began the Inchon-Seoul campaign.

**16 September 1814:** A detachment of Marines under Major Daniel Carmick from the Naval Station at New Orleans, together with an Army detachment, destroyed a pirate stronghold at Barataria, on the Island of Grande Terre, near New Orleans.

**18 September 1990:** A new 40-acre training facility for Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) was dedicated at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, by General Alfred M. Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

**20 September 1950:** Marines of the 1st Marine Division crossed the Han River along a six-mile beachhead, eight miles northwest of Seoul, Korea. Five days later, the 1st and 5th Marines would attack Seoul and the city would be captured by 27 September.

**24 September 1873:** One hundred and ninety Marines and seamen from the USS PENSACOLA and BENICIA landed at the Bay of Panama, Columbia, to protect the railroad and American lives and property during the revolution.

**27 September 1944:** The American flag was raised over Peleliu, Palau Islands, at the 1st Marine Division Command Post. Although the flag raising symbolized that the island was secured, pockets of determined Japanese defenders continued to fight on. As late as 21 April 1947, 27 Japanese holdouts finally surrendered to the American naval commander on the scene.

**30 September 1945:** Marines of III Amphibious Corps, commanded by Major General Keller E. Rockey, began landing in North China to assist the Chinese Nationalist government in accepting the surrender of Japanese forces and repatriating Japanese soldiers and civilians.



## MAJOR STEPHEN W. PLESS

**Born: SEPTEMBER 6, 1939**

**Died: JULY 20, 1969**

**Hometown: NEWMAN, GEORGIA**



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

**MAJOR STEPHEN W. PLESS**  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a helicopter gunship pilot attached to Marine Observation Squadron 6 in action against enemy forces. During an escort mission Maj. Pless monitored an emergency call that 4 American soldiers stranded on a nearby beach were being overwhelmed by a large Viet Cong force. Maj. Pless flew to the scene and found 30 to 50 enemy soldiers in the open. Some of the enemy were bayoneting and beating the downed Americans. Maj. Pless displayed exceptional airmanship as he launched a devastating attack against the enemy force, killing or wounding many of the enemy and driving the remainder back into a tree line. His rocket and machinegun attacks were made at such low levels that the aircraft flew through debris created by explosions from its rockets. Seeing 1 of the wounded soldiers gesture for assistance, he maneuvered his helicopter into a position between the wounded men and the enemy, providing a shield which permitted his crew to retrieve the wounded. During the rescue the enemy directed intense fire at the helicopter and rushed the aircraft again and again, closing to within a few feet before being beaten back. When the wounded men were aboard, Maj. Pless maneuvered the helicopter out to sea. Before it became safely airborne, the overloaded aircraft settled 4 times into the water. Displaying superb airmanship, he finally got the helicopter aloft. Major Pless' extraordinary heroism coupled with his outstanding flying skill prevented the annihilation of the tiny force. His courageous actions reflect great credit upon himself and uphold the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service.

/S/ LYNDON B. JOHNSON



Photo of U.S.S. Stephen W.  
Pless, a Maritime  
Pre-Positioning ship

Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with V, Purple Heart, Air Medal (36), Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal with V, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Order of Military Merit (Korea), Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Vietnam Campaign Medal





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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