



December 15, 2024

Hello to the membership of the Marine Corps League!

This year's travel for me has ended. It has been remarkably busy November and December. In November, I traveled to Washington DC for a jam packed 5 days. The TMC (The Military Coalition), to which we are plank holders, held its annual Board of Trustees meeting. For those that do not know, the TMC is a partnership of all the major/minor VSO. It partners together to support specific Congressional resolutions in hopes to push it into law concerning our veteran's. It is much better to have a unified front of all VSO instead of just us. This tied into the next day where I attended the Macks Marines Legislative luncheon at 8th and I. It was well attended, and we also held a cake cutting ceremony.

Next, I had dinner with Gen Laster, the CEO of the Toys for Tots Foundation. Here we talked about what the MCL can do to help the foundation. Gen Laster is really a great leader and really appreciates our participation in the program. Fun Fact, did you know that the MCL provides about 30% of all toy donations? He will be at Midwinter this year and has asked if I would like a tour of the Pentagon and possibly have an in call with the CMC and SMMC. Cannot pass that up. Anything to strengthen our relationship with the Marine Corps.

Next day was the Marine Corps Commandants Ball. Another magnificent event and had great company with the likes of National Executive Director/COO Bob Borka and his wife, MODD Chief Jeffry Jones and his wife, National Sr Vice Russ Miller, National Jr Vice David Poter and NVC New England Division Pat Maguire.

Monday was Veterans Day, so I was able to go to the White House for a breakfast and off to the Amphitheater to hear the President and Secretary of the VA message. The Chief and I also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the unknown. Being in custody of the USSS is an eye-opening process.

Back home for 2 days then of to the Greater Norther Detachment Ball in Las Vegas. Guest of Honor was Gen Livingston What a motivating Marine!

December brought in an invitation to be a VIP at the 83rd Pearl harbor ceremony. I was also able to be with our Young Marines at their Punchbowl ceremony as well as the parade the next day. Let me tell you Col Davis and his Wife Brenda do such an amazing job with the Young Marines as well as all the adult leaders there. The Young Marines brought in units from all over the country. I was honored to be interviewed and be part of some AV work that will be presented at midwinter. I also met with the Aloha Detachment during a luncheon. What an excellent group of motivators there and my hope is that Hawaii will be a department soon. Hats off to them and all they do for their community.

We have a new VAVS chairman who has taken the bull by the horns and is working on making that a gold star program. I want to thank Howard Shaffer for his time as VAVS chair. The new chair is Michael (Mugsy) Marzano from the Dept of Arizona. Please email hi, at VAVSRep@mcleague.org if you have VAVS members in the field. He has questions for you!

Bob Borka has his nose to the grindstone and our VSO program is growing stronger by the minute and our name is getting out to the veteran community. Calls are coming in from all over from veterans seeking help in filings claims.

Our first small social media campaign started November 9th and ran for a few weeks. We saw plenty of people like our ads as well as download applications but that has not equated to membership as of today. Next campaign will be at our Modern-Day Marine expo. Speaking of that, the team of the MCL, MCA and Emerald Expo, is working overtime to make our next MDM the best ever. The Marine Corps Commandant has requested that the 2025 event be bigger and better in celebrating our 250th birthday.

Please do your best to recruit and retain new members and attend all meetings as your circumstances allow. Hope to see you at midwinter and start our kickoff oof celebrating 250 years of the United States Marine Corps.

Semper Fi

Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 1990
Stafford, VA 22555-1990

TJ Morgan

66th National Commandant

tmorgan@mcleague.org