



# The Scuttlebutt

Monthly Newsletter of the  
Corporal Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment 1081  
Commandant: Bob Fisher

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

JANUARY 2026

## Calendar of Events

**9 Jan** – Military Appreciation Day; Houck Field House

**10 Jan** – Dept of Missouri Meeting

**13 Jan** – SEMO Pound 330 Growl

**15 Jan** – MoY & AoY, Americanism Award Nominations Due

**24 Jan** – When Pigs Fly Heros Cup; Show Me Center

**24 Jan** – MO National Guard Retiree Appn Day; CG Armory

**17 Mar** – SEMO Pound 330 Growl

**Coffee Friday's 0700 @ The Barracks**



## Contact Us:

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## Message from Detachment 1081 Commandant, Bob Fisher

As we begin a new year, I am both humbled and honored to serve as Commandant of this Marine Corps League detachment. I accept this responsibility with deep respect for those who have led before me and with a clear understanding of the obligation we all share—to uphold the values, traditions, and legacy of the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps League exists for a purpose greater than any single individual. We are here to preserve the camaraderie born of service, to support our fellow Marines and their families, and to continue serving our communities with the same dedication we once gave in uniform. Those expectations do not change with a new year—but our commitment to meeting them must be renewed.



Ephesus,  
Turkey

### Expectations for the Year Ahead

First and foremost, I expect participation. A strong detachment is an engaged detachment. Whether through meetings, community events, funerals, ceremonies, or volunteer efforts, every Marine has something valuable to contribute. No role is too small, and no effort goes unnoticed.

Second, I expect professionalism and respect. We may no longer wear the uniform daily, but we represent the Marine Corps at all times. How we conduct ourselves—especially in public and in our community—reflects on every Marine who has ever served.

Third, I expect mentorship and unity. Our seasoned Marines carry hard-earned wisdom, and our newer members bring fresh perspectives and energy. When we work together, we strengthen not only this detachment, but the Marine Corps League as a whole. Differences of opinion are natural, but our shared bond as Marines must always come first.

Finally, I expect a continued focus on service—to veterans, to families, to our community, and to one another. Service did not end when we took off the uniform. It simply took on a new form.

### Moving Forward Together

This year presents opportunities to grow, to improve, and to make a meaningful impact. My commitment as Commandant is to lead with integrity, transparency, and respect for every Marine in this detachment. I will listen, I will advocate, and I will work alongside you—not above you.

Together, we will honor our past, serve in the present, and build a stronger future for this detachment.

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Bob Fisher  
Commandant-in-Waiting  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081



## AMERICANISM AWARD NOMINATIONS



Nominations for the Detachment Americanism Award must be submitted by hand delivery or email to Mike Francis – [MarineMikeFrancis@gmail.com](mailto:MarineMikeFrancis@gmail.com); (304) 991-0427 – before or at our monthly meeting on 15 Jan 2026. Per Section 10010 of the Detachment Bylaws, the requirements for the Detachment Americanism Award are.

- a. **STANDING**: Must be a Member in good standing at the time of nomination.
- b. **PARTICIPATION**: Has demonstrated devotion to the principles and purposes of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League by activities and achievements within the Marine Corps League.
- c. **SUGGESTED GUIDELINES**:
  1. Attends meetings regularly.
  2. Participates in Detachment functions.
  3. Is involved in activities outside the League and Detachment, such as other veterans' organizations (i.e., VFW, DVA, American Legion, etc.), community organizations/clubs (i.e., Kiwanis, Optimists, Scouts, etc.) church activities, or other civic activities.
- a. **ACHIEVEMENTS**: Achievements can be cumulative but current year's activities should be stressed. Overall service outside of the League shall be the determining factor in considering a nominee for this award. The above guidelines are examples only, and not hard requirements for the award. If the Member is truly deserving, please take time to submit a thorough and well-written nomination.
- b. **WHO MAY NOMINATE**: Any member in good standing may nominate any other regular member for the Americanism Award. The nomination must be submitted, no later than the date of the regular January Detachment meeting, to the previous year's recipient of the award who serves as Chairperson of the current year's committee.
- c. **SELECTION COMMITTEE**: The committee shall be comprised of the three previous award recipients. Upon completion of the review of candidates, each member will cast a ballot for the nominee who best meets the criteria – majority vote wins. If no nominations are received, or those nominations received do not show that the nominee has “gone above and beyond” what is expected of a member, the committee members may by unanimous vote, not recommend an award for that year.
- d. **CONFIDENTIALITY**: No member shall reveal the name of the selected nominee to anyone prior to the announcement at the Annual Appreciation Banquet, at which time the Americanism Award recipient will be introduced. Other nominees, those not selected, are not named and nomination letters are discarded.
- e. **AWARD PRESENTATION**: The Detachment Americanism Award certificate will be presented at the Annual Appreciation Banquet. The Chairperson is responsible for having the certificate prepared and given to the Commandant prior to the banquet.
- f. **REPEAT AWARDS**: A member can receive the award multiple times if nominated and selected.



## MARINE OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS



Reminder that nominations for the awards below are due no later than January 15, 2026, Members are encouraged to submit nominations to recognize those who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, service, and commitment to our Detachment and the Marine Corps League. Please ensure all required information is included and submitted by the deadline to allow proper review and consideration.

Per Section 10005 of the Detachment Bylaws, requirements for **Marine of the Year** are:

- a. Must be a Regular Member in good standing at the time of nomination.
- b. Has demonstrated devotion to the principles and purposes of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League by activities and achievements within the Marine Corps League.
- c. Suggested guidelines and Detachment involvement:
  1. Attends meetings regularly.
  2. Participates in Detachment functions.
  3. Has served on a Detachment committee, holds or has held an office.
  4. Participates in the Toys for Tots program.
- d. Achievements can be cumulative, but current year activities should be stressed. The nominee for Marine of the Year should be involved at all levels. Overall service should show that the nominee has gone “above and beyond” what is expected of an average “good” member.
- e. The above guidelines are examples only and not hard requirements for the award. If the Marine is truly deserving, please take time to submit a thorough and well-written nomination.
- f. Any member in good standing may nominate another regular member for Detachment Marine of the Year. The nomination must be submitted to the previous year’s recipient of the award, who serves as Chairperson of the current year’s committee.



## ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS



Per Section 10015 of the Detachment Bylaws, requirements for Associate of the Year are:

- a. Must be an Associate Member in good standing at the time of nomination.
- b. Has demonstrated devotion to the principles and purposes of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League by activities and achievements within the Marine Corps League.
- c. Suggested Guidelines:
  1. Demonstrates strong support of Detachment activities and fundraisers.
  2. Attends Detachment meetings as often as possible.
  3. By action and deed, is indistinguishable from a regular League member.
- d. Achievements can be cumulative, but current year activities should be stressed. The nominee for Associate of the Year should be involved at all levels. Overall service should show that the nominee has gone “above and beyond” what is expected of an average “good” member. The above guidelines are examples only and not hard requirements for the award. If the member is truly deserving, please take time to submit a thorough and well written nomination,
- e. Any member in good standing may nominate any associate member for Detachment Associate of the Year. The nomination must be submitted no later than 15 January to last year’s award recipient, who will serve as Chairperson of this year’s committee.
- f. The committee is comprised of the three previous years’ Detachment Associate of the Year award recipients. Upon completion of the review of candidates, each member will cast a ballot for the nominee who best meets the criteria. The successful nominee will then be selected. If no nominations are received, or the nominations received do not demonstrate that the nominee has “gone above and beyond” what is expected of a member, the committee members, by unanimous vote, may forgo recommending an award for that year.

# Chaplains Corner: Jim Stroman

## A Sweet Lesson in Humanity

Years ago, a 10-year-old boy approached the counter of a soda shop and climbed onto a stool.

"What does an Ice cream sundae cost?" he asked the waitress. "50 cents" she answered.

The youngster reached deep in his pockets and pulled out an assortment of change, counting it carefully as the waitress grew impatient. She had "bigger" customers to wait on.

"Well, how much would just plain ice cream be?" the boy asked. The waitress responded with a noticeable irritation in her voice, "35 cents."

Again, the boy slowly counted his money. "May I have some plain ice cream in a dish please?" He gave the waitress the correct amount and she brought him his ice cream.

Later, the waitress returned to clear the boy's dish, and when she picked it up, she felt a lump in her throat. There on the counter the boy had left two nickels and five pennies. She realized that he had enough money for the sundae but sacrificed it so he could leave her a tip.

~ Adapted from: "**A Lifetime of Success**" by Pat Williams

As you are making your New Years resolutions, remember this story. We all can use a little "Humanity." And as we enter the new year, I pray good health for all of our friends and families, safety for our First Responders, and a year of safety and well-being for our brothers and sisters in all branches of the military.

Happy New Year,

Marine Jim Stroman  
Chaplain  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081



# Auxiliary News: NeTasha Loyd

New year...same Auxiliary?? New year...GROWING Auxiliary!!!  
Bring a friend, sister, mother. Spread the word and help us  
grow our sisterhood!

Do you have a service project in mind? If so, bring your idea to  
the next meeting. We would love to hear about it and possibly  
put it into motion.

\*\*\*Reminder\*\*\* MCLA Unit 426 fundraiser for the month of  
January is Acees Spirit Pump on the corner of Perryville Road and  
Lexington. Please tell your friends and family and help spread the word and support our  
amazing organization! We appreciate you!!!

If you have a fundraising idea, please bring it to the next meeting. All ideas are  
welcome to discuss.

Keep your volunteer hours coming into Darlene. She will need those totals in just a few  
short months.

Please keep our military and their families near and far in your thoughts and prayers  
as well as our Marine Corps League and Auxiliary members.

~~ January Birthdays ~~

Bonnie Haney \* Janice Thomas \* Bailey Lundstrom \* Janet Anders

January Meal: Food – Linda Stroman  
Dessert – Janice Thomas

Respectfully Submitted,

NeTasha Loyd  
Secretary/Treasurer  
MCL Auxiliary Unit 426



# Activities & Events

## Toys-For-Tots



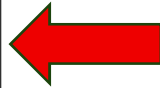
Disabled American Veterans gifts \$400 to Det. 1081's Honor Guard in support of its mission of providing dignified funerals for area veterans. On behalf of 1081's Honor Guard, Steve Seyler receives the funds from DAV Chapter 16's representative Tom Hazlett. 18 Dec 2025.



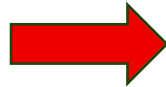
# Toys-For-Tots 2025



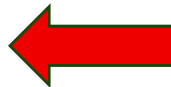
The Kiwanis Club of Cape Girardeau used their weekly meeting night to shop and bag toys. Thank you for spending the evening with us. Your members' help—and the fantastic donation you provided—will brighten many homes on Christmas morning.



Huge shoutout to the Moose Lodge of Jackson! We can always count on them—thank you for once again collecting and donating all these bikes!



Big shout out to City of Cape Girardeau employees for their generous donation of 5 big boxes of toy donations and a couple of bikes for our 24 hour Toys for Tots drive at Schnuck's!







**MCLA Unit 426 Recognized  
by  
National Marine Corps League Auxiliary**





**NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: SERVICE IN ACTION**


 The National Marine Corps League Auxiliary proudly recognizes the outstanding community service of the Corporal Mason O. Yarbrough MCLA Unit 426 and the Cpl Mason O Yarbrough MCL Det #1081 for their incredible work supporting the Toys-for-Tots SEMO Campaign!



 This dedicated Auxiliary and League members stepped up in a HUGE way to help ensure local children have a brighter Christmas. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Moose Lodge of Jackson, an amazing 40 bicycles were donated for Toys-for-Tots distribution—bringing instant smiles and unforgettable joy to children across the region!

 A special thank you as well to Fred Bird for supporting the effort during a toy drive—every donation made a difference!

 The partnership between the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Marine Corps League, Toys-for-Tots, Southeast Missouri, community organizations like the Moose Lodge, and local supporters truly embodies the spirit of cooperation, compassion, and service.

 To the members of Corporal Mason O. Yarbrough MCL and MCLA—your selfless dedication reflects the very heart of our mission. We are proud of your service and grateful for your continued impact in your community!

**Semper Fidelis & Merry Christmas from the National Marine Corps League Auxiliary!**



**\*\* PERSONAL RECOGNITION \*\***  
**Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service  
Representative**

Please join in celebrating NeTasha Loyd for her selection and appointment to serve as the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Representative on the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) Committee at the John J. Pershing VA Medical Center in Poplar Bluff Missouri. She will serve on the advisory committee as the Marine Corp League Auxiliary representative for a term of two years.



The VAVS Representative (VAVS Rep) is the official Marine Corps League Representative on the VA Medical Center's VAVS Committee. The VAVS Committee is the Medical Centers eyes and ears within the VAMC for all matters pertaining to the needs of the VAMC's veterans and activities of Regular Scheduled/Occasionally Scheduled Volunteers. Where VAVS Reps are VA Volunteers in the strictest definition, they are different and separate from the thousands of VA volunteers who are seen throughout the VAMC. VA Volunteers greet, escort, visit, drive, and assist in the delivery of medical care to VA patients and their families. The VAVS representative is a member of the VAVS Committee and assists the CDCE Chief with his or her responsibilities. There is typically only one MCLA VAVS representative and possibly one MCLA deputy at each VAMC.

In her role as MCLA VAVS Rep, NeTasha will assist this committee in guiding not only the CDCE, but also in educating other member organizations on what CDCE does to assist veterans beyond their health care needs. Her partnership with VAVS will be productive in caring for our Veterans. At a minimum, her duties will include:

- a. Assist the CDCE/VAVS Staff with planning special events that will benefit Veterans.
- b. Attend the quarterly VAVS Meeting and serve on the VAVS Advisory Board.
- c. Conduct an annual joint review with the Chief of CDCE.
- d. Keep all MCLA Units within a reasonable distance from the VAMC and MCLA members informed of volunteer related information and opportunities.
- e. Recruit volunteers as needed for VA organized activities