



Calendar of Events

3 Mar – Ladies Aux Fundraiser, Texas Roadhouse, 15:30-21:30

17 Mar – SEMO Pound 330 Growl

21 Mar – Department Quarterly Mtg, Jeff City

28 Mar – SOS Breakfast National Guard Armory, Jackson, MO (7-11 am)

30 Apr – 3 May Midwest Division Convention, Des Moines

12-13 June–Department of Missouri Convention, St. Charles, MO

9-15 Aug – National Convention, Indianapolis

Coffee Friday's 0700 @ The Barracks



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The Scuttlebutt

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

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

MARCH 2026

Message from Detachment 1081 Commandant, Bob Fisher

Are You Receiving the Benefits You Earned?

Since joining the Honors Team, one thing has stood out to me: many families are unsure what benefits they are entitled to after their Veteran passes.

In my civilian role, I am often asked, "What am I entitled to now that my veteran has passed?" The answer can include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), survivor pension, burial benefits, education assistance, and more. Unfortunately, many surviving spouses are unaware these benefits exist—or that they must apply to receive them.

This leads to an important question for every Veteran:

Are you receiving the benefits you earned?

- Have you ever filed a claim?
- When was the last time you reviewed your VA rating?
- Are your dependents properly listed with the VA?

Laws and presumptive conditions change. The PACT Act expanded eligibility for many Veterans exposed to toxic substances. Conditions previously denied may now qualify.

Pride should not prevent anyone from filing. VA benefits are not a handout—they are earned through service and sacrifice. Your disability rating today may directly affect what your spouse receives tomorrow.

If you have any questions about filing, increasing a rating, or survivor benefits, please reach out to our very own 59th PCDD Hazlett, an accredited service officer, for professional guidance.

No Veteran—or surviving spouse—should leave hard-earned benefits on the table.

SEMPER FI

Bob Fisher.
Commandant

Marine Corps League Detachment 1081



Ephesus,
Turkey

Chaplains Corner: Jim Stroman

Psalm 121: 1-3, 5-8

I lift up my eyes to the hills...
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
The Maker of Heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip,
He who watches over you will not slumber.
The Lord watches over you....
The Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not hard you by day,
Nor the moon by might.
The Lord will keep you from all harm....
He will watch over your life.
The Lord will watch over your coming and going,
both now and for evermore.



Ok, now, what does this mean? The writer was David and if you have studied him, you find he had many issues. Yes, with Gods help he slew Goliath. When he became king, he made a few errors in judgement but in this Psalm, we find Davids looking to God and telling all people to expect God to take care of you if we believe He will. Following God is not always easy. I speak from looking back on my past. Often, I have failed God by not always keeping within His guidelines. It is almost like driving a car, "stay between the lines" and you won't wreck, until a deer steps out of the dark into your path. Satan does the same thing, steps into our path to cause trouble. We must be alert to prevent problems from Satan. Enough preaching for now.

Remember to pray for our nation and her leaders. Pray that our military will remember their training. I pray for all branches of our military that God will protect each one. For our Marine brothers and sisters, we pray for their safe return home from wherever they may be. For each person that reads this monthly message, I pray that you are blessed.



Marine Jim Stroman
Chaplain
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081

Auxiliary News: NeTasha Loyd



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Auxiliary Member of the Year nomination is due by the March 21st Department Meeting.

We have locked in a couple fundraising dates. Keep bringing those ideas in to discuss.

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

Upcoming dates for meetings, conferences and conventions:

- Department of Missouri Quarterly Meeting - March 21 (Jefferson City, MO)
- Midwest Division Conference - April 30-May 3 (Des Moines, IA)
- Department of Missouri Convention - June 12 & 13 (Westport St. Charles, MO)
- National Convention - August 10-14 (Indianapolis, IN)

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.

~~March Birthdays~~

*Samantha Spicer * Melissa Main * Heather McGill*

March Meal: Food: Samantha Fox
 Dessert: Angie Bollwerk

Respectfully Submitted,

NeTasha Loyd
Secretary/Treasurer
MCL Auxiliary Unit 426



Activities & Events

Detachment Monthly Meeting 19 February 2026



Recognition

Rodney Smith is MCL SERVICE RIFLE NATIONAL MATCH 1ST PLACE Shooter (Individual Service Rifle) for 2025.

Mark LeClair, Gary Zielger and Randy Kellogg also finished in the top 10. Rodney Smith also finished number 3 in the individual Service Pistol competition. The 1081 Rifle Team Placed 2nd in the Team Service Rifle competition behind Detachment 155 out of Flint Michigan. Our Rifle team consisted of Rodney Smith, Mark LeClair, Gary Ziegler, Randy Kellogg, and Jim Halstead.

Overall, Rodney Smith finished in first place for the individual Service Aggregate (Rifle and Pistol combined score).



Military Order of the Devil Dogs

“Why Did I Join”



Why did you join the MODD?

"Charter member in our Detachment 2001. I followed a few members, and we decided to expand our involvement and joined a Pound in St Louis in 2006. Chartered our own in 2007. Never regretted my decision and have been active ever since."

Honorable Assistant Midwest Division Vice Chief Devil Dog,
PDD Steve Seyller



Why did you join the MODD?

"I was invited into the MODD simply because I asked about the Dog Collars I was seeing. I was regularly attending meetings in the League, becoming more educated about the organization. It was explained to me that the MODD was next level and it was a sign of making a difference to be invited into the order. I never looked back."

Honorable Midwest Division Vice Chief Devil Dog,
PDD Kevin Enlow



Why did you join the MODD?

"I have an addiction to Dunkin Donuts coffee and like dressing in Dunkin costumes. MODD gives me an opportunity to live out my fantasy and cosplay as Dunkin's 48-ounce mascot "Cuppy."

Senior Vice Chief Devil Dog,
PDD Mike Francis

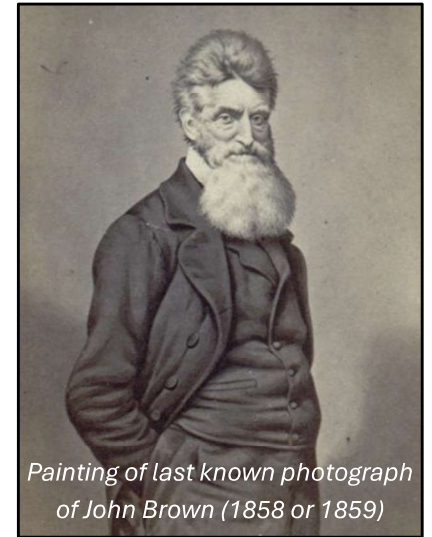
Scuttlebutt: Mitch Cassell

Unsung Marine Corps Battle History: Harper's Ferry

INTRO: In 1859, Marines played a crucial role in ending John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, which brought the nation closer to the Civil War. This article explores the bravery and quick action of a small number of U.S. Marines that brought this short episode to a quick and bloody end using fixed bayonets only.

SYNOPSIS: On October 16, 1859, Abolitionist John Brown led 21 men on a raid of the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia to seize arms in order to galvanize slaves to fight for freedom. His actions were thwarted by then Colonel Robert E. Lee and a small force of U. S. Marines from the Barracks in Washington D.C.

Born in Connecticut in 1800, John Brown was a deeply religious man who hated slavery with a soul-burning passion. For him, slavery was a scandal against God that could only be ended by vicious force. The "wrath of Jehovah" demanded that the sword be sunk to the hilt into every godless slaveholder. Brown's god could not abide the sin of slaveholding, and in laying waste violently to sinful people, a faithful disciple like Brown could atone for (in part) his own sinful shortcomings.

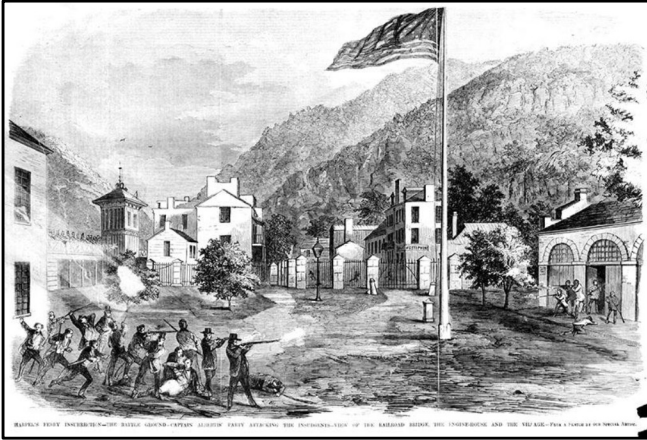


*Painting of last known photograph
of John Brown (1858 or 1859)*

The proslavery sacking of Lawrence, Kansas in May 1856 convinced Brown that he was God's chosen instrument of retribution against slavery and slaveholders. Consequently, his march to end it began on the night of May 24, 1856 when he led a small band to nearby Pottawatomie Creek, where he forced five proslavery leaders from their homes and executed them with broadswords, which for him symbolized, better than pistols or rifles, God's mighty hand striking down the wicked defenders of slavery. This action made him both hero to the anti-slavery movement and hunted villain by law enforcement. Wealthy and well-connected liberals and abolitionist funding launched his campaign on a speedy and violent end to slavery, which included a proposed new country for freed slaves that would be forcibly carved out of the southern Appalachian Mountains. Using guerrilla warfare tactics, Brown was confident that his force would be rapidly and abundantly reinforced by jubilant runaway slaves and local white abolitionists. As such, Brown selected Harper's Ferry as the first point of attack in his war of slave liberation.

Situated at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, Harper's Ferry seemingly offered everything Brown could hope for: it was in Virginia, the largest slaveholding state in the Union; it was on the edge of the Appalachian Mountains; and it had a federal arsenal and a large gun factory that produced rifles for the U.S. government. He intended to confiscate and distribute weapons to runaway slaves and sympathetic whites whom he believed would flock to him in support of his cause. And once these new recruits were armed, the revolution would expand further south along the Appalachian chain, with points of attack concentrating on towns with federal arsenals, until reaching the Gulf of Mexico.

Brown began his march with 21 other men from a Maryland farm on October 16, 1959. They crossed the Potomac River near Harper's Ferry at 10:30 pm and commenced an immediate assault, quickly overpowering the lone man guarding the gates to the federal arsenal. They spent the rest of the night rounding up prominent men from the town and surrounding countryside to hold as hostages. By daybreak on the 17th, Brown and his men had secured themselves in the small but sturdy brick fire engine house on the grounds of the arsenal, forced to do so by local militia and armed citizens who counterattacked at daybreak. That afternoon three



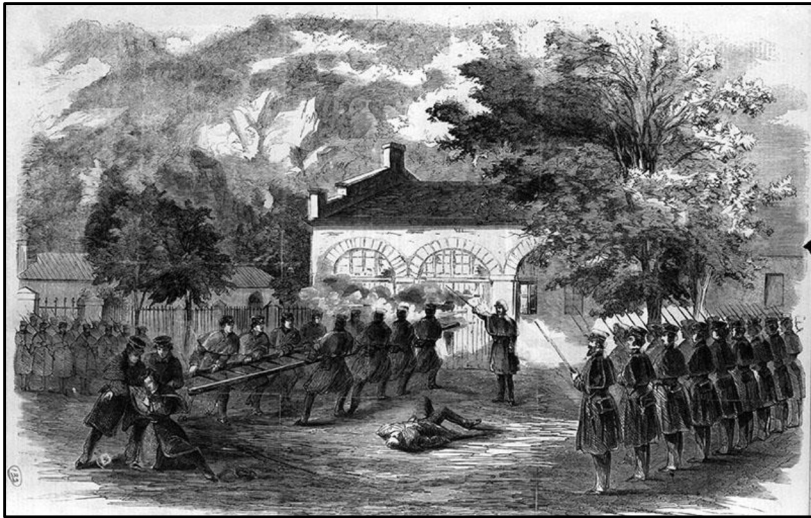
Depiction of local militia and townspeople firing on Brown's insurgents in the engine house

companies of Maryland militia arrived to restore order – followed soon after by members of the Virginia militia – believing there to be an opposing force of 600-700 armed slaves. By the time militia commanders learned the true size of Brown's force, the locals had killed, captured or disabled more than half of them, at the cost of six dead townspeople, including the mayor. Brown and his remaining men were then contained in the engine house until 86 U.S. Marines from Marine Barracks Washington, DC, under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee and Marine artillery officer 1stLt Israel Greene, arrived at 2:00 am on the 18th to end the insurrection.

With militiamen securing the perimeter of the armory, Marines took the lead in assaulting the engine house. Colonel Lee assigned 1stLt Greene and 12 Marines as the storming party. The rest cordoned off the engine house with simple orders: *"no one gets in or out."* Fearing injury to the hostages, Greene ordered the Marines to attack using fixed bayonets on their M1842 muskets. Prior to commencing the assault, Lee's aide-de-camp Army Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart offered Brown a final chance to surrender, which Brown defiantly rejected. Unable to breach the engine house door with sledgehammers, some enterprising Marines found and improvised a ladder as a battering ram, which they successfully employed to force open the door. As the door flew open, two Marines were immediately struck by hostile fire. Thereafter, Brown and his men were quickly overwhelmed by the other fixed-bayonet wielding Marines who never fired a shot. The fight was over in less than three minutes. When the smoke cleared, one Marine, 23-year-old Pvt Luke Quinn, lay dead and another, Pvt Matthew Ruppert, lay critically wounded with a shot to the face. Standing in shock around them were 10 safe and uninjured hostages, along with Browns thoroughly subdued, beaten and wounded insurrectionists. Brown himself was badly beaten by 1stLt Greene, ending Brown's campaign 36 hours after it began.



Members of the Marine Corps Historical Company Reenact the breaching of the fire engine house door with a sledgehammer. Marines of the time wore blue sky-blue trousers and jackets.



Depiction of Marines breaching the engine house using a latter as a makeshift battering ram

John Brown's plan came to naught in part because no one came to reinforce his liberation army – no jubilant runaway slaves fleeing to the freedom Brown offered, and no Northern sympathizers ready to lay down their lives to force an end to the morally reprehensible institution of slavery. Of the 22 men who participated in the Harper's Ferry raid, 10 were killed and five escaped. Brown and the remaining six survivors were quickly tried and convicted (of treason, murder and inciting a slave insurrection) and hanged – Brown on Dec 2, 1859, making him the first American to be executed for treason.

John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry was a major flashpoint in the ideological division that existed in the months leading up to the secession of Southern states in 1860. The secession would have come with or without Brown, but his fanatical devotion to his well-intended but misguided cause and his delusionally messianic vision for the country's salvation made his venture at Harper's Ferry a cause for celebration for Northern and Southern abolitionists and brought the nation one step closer to civil war. But for the Marines, their reputation for creativity and improvisation grew. And their history became a little more colorful. Like many monumental moments in America's story, the outcome of the fight at Harper's Ferry depended on little more than the courage and tenacity of a few Marines.

FOOTNOTE: Private Quinn's body was left in an unmarked grave on the western heights above Harper's Ferry, where it remained for 68 years. Then, in 1927, in a search for the grave, a few town residents located Quinn's resting place in a section of St. Peter's cemetery. Six feet down, they uncovered a partial skeleton whose bones were wrapped in pieces of blue wool adorned with Marine Corps buttons. Quinn was given a headstone and reburied in St. Peter's cemetery. In 2012, Marine Corps League Detachment No. 1143 erected a small stone memorial and a flagpole at Quinn's grave. For 166 years, his body has remained in that remote plot in the mountains, forever hallowing the ground that overlooks the historic river crossing.

Twenty-six years after the raid, 1stLt Israel Greene wrote fondly of the way Quinn and the other Marines boldly followed him into the engine house. *"My only thought was to capture or, if necessary, kill the insurgents," he wrote. "My Marines came rushing in like Tigers, as a storming assault is not a play-day sport."*

In a letter to the adjutant general, Robert E. Lee praised the professionalism and courage of the Marines:

"I must also ask to express my entire commendation of the conduct of the detachment of Marines, who were at all times ready and prompt in the execution of any duty."

Source: Leatherneck Magazine
Rushing Like Tigers: The Marines at Harpers Ferry
Mac Caltrider, February 15, 2025

