



## Calendar of Events

**25 Oct Retiree Day**  
**@ Cape Girardeau**  
**armory**

**8 Nov MC Ball Drury**  
**Plaza Cape Gir, MO**

**18 Nov SEMO Pound**  
**330 Growl**

**13 Dec Wreaths**  
**Across America**

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



## Contact Us:

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# The Scuttlebutt

**Monthly Newsletter of the**  
**Corporal Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment 1081**  
**Commandant: Michael Woods**

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

**OCTOBER 2025**

## Message from Detachment 1081 Commandant, Mike Woods

SEMPER FI and greetings Fellow Marines. In October we will begin to prioritize focus on our future community events.

We will co-host This year's Marine Corps Ball with the Poplar Bluff Detachment. It will be an awesome 250<sup>th</sup> MCL Ball at the Drury Conference Center on 08 November 2025. Past Commandant Rae Munoz is the committee chairperson for this year's Ball. Future planning meetings for the ball will be posted on the Members Only Facebook page.



As a reminder, The Toys-for-Tots campaign will begin 1 October. As usual we will have our two-day drive in support sometime to be determined in December.

If you have a smart phone, I encourage you to download the MCL app and make sure you are a member of the Facebook page where we post timely updates for upcoming events, short fuse announcements and opportunities.

One of the many things that make our League so successful is the interaction and involvement with other detachments especially through the attendance at events. I encourage everyone to attend as many events as your circumstances will allow, and if possible, attend a meeting and/or Growl with Detachments 1473 in Poplar Bluff or Detachment 707 in Arnold.

I am proud to be a member of this organization and look forward to serving with you and continuing the tradition of making our MCL Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment 1081 an ever-positive evolving organization always proud of our traditions and works.

Thank you for your continued service. SEMPER FI,

Marine Mike Woods  
Commandant  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081

# Senior Vice Commandant: Bob Fisher

Earning the title “United States Marine” means becoming part of one of the most respected and elite military forces in the world. It’s more than completing boot camp; it signifies a transformation in identity, character, and commitment.

“**Marines never quit**” means relentless determination, no matter the challenge. It’s about pushing through pain, adversity and fear — always finishing the mission.

Fueled by **Honor, Courage, and Commitment, Marines fight for each other, the Corps, and the nation.** Quitting isn’t an option. It’s a mindset, a legacy, and a lifelong promise

**Once a Marine, always a Marine – and Marines never quit**

This last paragraph is something that we all can still work on. We’ve all taken different paths since earning the title Marine. Some of us have had disagreements, some drifted away, some just went quiet. But one thing hasn’t changed — we’re still Marines. That bond doesn’t go away.

I’m asking you to think back to why you joined. Was it duty? Brotherhood? The desire to be part of something bigger than yourself? Those reasons are still here. And now, more than ever, it’s time to bring this house back in order.

Let’s set aside old grudges, reconnect, and start moving forward together. We lead from the front, and we take care of our own. That’s who we are. That’s what Marines do.

Semper Fi,

Marine Bob Fisher  
Senior Vice Commandant  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081



# 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 will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
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.



What do these words mean? As I read this, God will take care of you no matter what you do – or maybe just once in a while.

That is not what it says. You must lift your eyes to God for your help in need. We often forget He created everything. So, He can fix it no matter how broken...body, heart, relationships. He can heal all if we lay our issues before Him.

As I pray for each of you, I pray that you will pray for our brothers and sisters. Pray for our nation's leaders that they may seek God's will in all they do. Pray for our first responders that they may be safe in all the do. Pray for all our military and her leaders that they may remember their training. For our brother and sister Marines, we pray for guidance in all their duties.

Almighty God, hear our prayers in Jesus' name.

Marine Jim Stroman  
Chaplain  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081

# Auxiliary News: NeTasha Loyd

## *Happy Fall Ya'll*

October already! Only 8 Thursdays until Thanksgiving and 12 Thursdays until Christmas!! This year is moving right along.

That being said, Toys for Tots kicks off this month, so be on the lookout for fun activities and posts for help. If you would like to help or know someone that would like to please contact Darlene MacCubbin. Let's help her have another fantastic productive campaign!

Keep those volunteer hours coming into Darlene MacCubbin. Everyone has a few floating around!

If you have not purchased your Birthday Ball tickets, contact Marine Maevers to do so.

Our next meeting is October 16. If you still need to pay dues there is still time. They are \$25.

Unit 426 is scheduled for a fundraising day at Rosati's Pizza on November 4<sup>th</sup> - Voting Day! Please spread the word with your friends and family and go enjoy Rosati's while helping your Auxiliary at the same time! No need to mention us...they already know!

If you have any ideas for fundraising for the future, we ask that you please bring them and share them for discussion and possible action and the same with service projects. Let's keep moving and let the community know we are here!

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.

~~October Birthdays~~

Jeanette Winder \* Sue Ellyn Reitzel \* Alivia Woods

October meal: Food – Janice Thomas

Dessert – Alivia Woods

Respectfully Submitted,

NeTasha Loyd  
Secretary/Treasurer, Unit 426





# Activities & Events

SEMO District Fair  
Cape Girardeau, MO  
6-13 Sept 2025





# Chapter 1081 Honor Guard Honored

Please join in a round of applause for the Detachment Honor Guard's recognition by the State of Missouri Adjutant General for their outstanding and dedicated work supporting the final honors of deserving veterans.

## Missouri Military Funeral Honors Program

### Certificate of Merit

is awarded to

### Marine Corps League Detachment 1081

For outstanding and dedicated participation in the Missouri Military Funeral Honors for supporting the rendering of final honors for our nation's veterans. Service members of this organization have given their time, talents, and resources to ensure that all veterans receive the honors they deserve.

*William Smith*

William Smith  
Program Manager  
Missouri Military Funeral Honors Program

*Charles D. Hausman*

Charles D. Hausman  
Adjutant General  
Missouri National Guard



# Scuttlebutt Editor: Mitch Cassell

## Marines Guard Mail: Gangsta Patrol

The 1920s was the Golden Age of the Gangster, when bank robbers were folk heroes, cheered on by citizens who were suffering under the weight of Prohibition and the Great Depression. But when these gangsters began robbing the mail, these folk heroes quickly became public enemy #1.

In October 1921, gangsters hit a mail truck in New York City, making off with \$2.4M in cash, securities, and jewelry (\$34M today). Between April 1920 and April 1921, thieves stole more than \$6M in 36 separate high-profile mail robberies (\$86M today). With less than 500 guards, postal inspectors were unable to protect the nearly 250,000 miles of railway mail routes. Being so badly outnumbered, Postmaster General Will H. Hays asked President Harding for the Marines.



Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby, himself a Marine during World War I, instructed Marine Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. John Lejeune to detail enough Marines to protect the U.S. mail from robbers and bandits. Twenty-two hundred Marines from both coasts were activated and assigned to high priority certified mail – gold, cash, negotiable bonds, etc. Riding mail trucks and trains, Marines stood watch as high-value mail deliveries were moved between institutions, large cities, banks, government offices, and other high priority locations. Secretary Denby's orders were simple:

*"To the Men of the Mail Guard, you must when on guard duty, keep your weapons in hand and, if attacked, shoot and shoot to kill. If two Marines are covered by a robber, neither must put up his hands, but both must immediately go for their guns. One may die, but the other will get the robber, and the mail will get through. When our Corps goes in as guards over the mail, that mail must be delivered, or there must be a Marine dead at the post of duty. There can be no compromise."* That was the spirit of the orders, but the actual orders were equally intense.

1. Know who is authorized to handle the mail and enter a mail compartment. No unauthorized persons shall access it.
2. Keep your rifle, shotgun, or pistol always in your hand (or hands) while on watch.
3. When necessary in the execution of these orders, make the most effective use of your weapons – shooting, killing, or disabling any person engaged in the theft or robbery (or attempt thereof) of the mail entrusted to your protection.





The FAQ section of the Mail Guards' training manual was even more colorful:

Q. Suppose the robber is using a gun or making threats with a gun in trying to escape?

A. Shoot him.

Q. What if the robber is apparently unarmed but running away?

A. Call halt twice at the top of your voice. If he does not halt, fire one warning shot; if he doesn't obey, then shoot him.

Q. Is there a general plan for meeting a robbery?

A. Yes; start shooting and meet developments as they arise thereafter.

Q. If I hear the command 'Hands Up,' am I justified in obeying this order?

A. No; fall to the ground and start shooting.

Q. Is it possible to make a successful mail robbery?

A. Only over a dead Marine.



Illustrating the seriousness of the situation, and the fearsomeness of the Marines, the Evening Star newspaper (Washington, DC) gave this advice on April 29, 1921: *"Don't even look at the Marines guarding the mail. They may kill you!"* During the four months the "Devil Dogs" guarded the U.S. mail, robberies stopped entirely. Not one was even attempted. When the Post Office was able to muster its own guard forces, the Marines were withdrawn from mail duty in March 1922. However, in response to an uptick in mail robberies, 2,500 Marines from the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment were activated in October 1926, under the command of Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler. Known as the Western Mail Guards, these Marines were



sent to high-risk railway terminals spread throughout 11 western states, plus part of Texas. After this second deployment of Marines, thieves stopped trying to rob the U.S. mail altogether. Only one attempted robbery was recorded involving an unguarded mail train carrying no mail at the time. By February 1927 the Western Mail Guards had been disbanded, and in the ensuing years, the Post Office found ways to protect the mail without military assistance.

Marine Corps Guarding Mail at Union Station, Portland, Cumberland County, Maine (1926)

Sources:

- Stars and Stripes
- Maine Historical Society
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service