



## Calendar of Events

**6-13 Sep SEMO District Fair**  
**@Cape Girardeau**

**16 Sep SEMO Pound 330 Annual Growl**

**18 Nov SEMO Pound 330 Growl**

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

**18 Nov Pound 330 Growl**

**13 Dec Wreaths Across America**

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



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# The Scuttlebutt

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

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

## Message from Detachment 1081 Commandant, Mike Woods

SEMPER FI and greetings Fellow Marines, during September will need to begin to prioritize focus for our future community events.

This year's 205<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Ball we will be joint Ball with the Poplar Bluff Detachment. We will have an awesome Ball at the Drury Conference Center on 08 November 2025. Past Commandant Rae Munoz will be the committee chairperson for this year's Ball. Future planning meeting for the ball will be posted on the Members Only Facebook page.



The annual Toys-For-Tots campaign will begin on 1 October. As usual, we will have our 2-day supporting detachment drive 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 their 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

Marines and Corpsmen,

“Come on, you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?”

Those words aren’t just part of our history – they live in every one of us. They echo through the halls of every barracks, every range, and every field op. They speak to courage, commitment, and the refusal to go quietly into mediocrity.

I recently stood in front of the awards wall at the Barracks. Ten years! That’s how far back the last plaque and recognition goes. What have we been doing as a detachment? Are we running on autopilot, punching the clock, or waiting for PCS or EAS orders?

That’s not who we are. That’s not who we’re supposed to be.

Let me be clear: Your legacy is being written right now. Every position you’ve held. Every event you volunteer for. Every Marine that you’ve mentored or ignored. That’s your signature on this chapter of the detachment’s history.

So, ask yourself this: How do you want to be remembered?

- As someone who carried the torch – or let it burn out?
- As a name spoken with respect – or one quickly forgotten?

It doesn’t take massive action to course-correct. It starts with one decision, one day, one act of leadership. Motivation doesn’t come from a speech – It comes from within. Dig deep – refocus – and reignite that fire.

We owe it to those who came before us. We owe it to each other. And we owe it to the legacy we’ll leave behind.

Let’s get after it! Semper Fi,



Marine Bob Fisher  
Senior Vice Commandant  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081

# Chaplains Corner: Jim Stroman

## Making Decisions

William McKinley, the 25th U.S. President, once had to choose between two qualified men for a key job. He puzzled over this choice until he remembered a long-ago incident.

On a rainy night, McKinley had boarded a crowded streetcar. One of the men he was considering was also aboard, though he did not see McKinley. Then an old women carrying a basket of laundry struggled into the car, looking in vain for a seat. The job candidate pretended not to see her and kept his seat. McKinley gave up his seat to help her.



Remembering this episode, which he called "this little omission of kindness" McKinley decided against the man on the streetcar. Our decisions, even the small, fleeting ones, tell a lot about us.

We get so busy that we often forget the whole picture. We may have only a give a small part of ourselves in the course a busy day, but that small part could build happiness for someone or sorrow if we are not careful.

As I pray for each of you, I pray for your health and your family also for their health. Pray for our Nation and her leaders, that they will look to God for guidance. Pray for our First Responders, for their health and safety. As we pray for our military, pray that each person will be safe in their position. For our Marine brothers and sisters, we pray that they will remember their training and be safe wherever they may be.

“Personality can open doors but only character can keep them open.” ~ E. Letterman

Marine Jim Stroman  
Chaplain  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081

# Auxiliary News: NeTasha Loyd

Hello from your Auxiliary

The weather is changing. Leaves are starting to fall. It's almost time for cozy sweaters and bonfires!

A friendly reminder to get your \$25 annual dues turned in as soon as possible. Please see Jr. Vice President Laura Baker to take care of them.

National Convention has come and went for another year. What a week that was in Grapevine Texas. 2026 takes us to Indianapolis, IN.



Please bring any fundraiser or service project ideas to the meeting to be discussed.

Keep a look out for “working” dates to prepare the table centerpiece for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Mrs. Vera has designed a beautiful piece and will need all hands that can help to get these prepared in a timely manner.

Remember to track your volunteer hours. Bring them in for the book or give them to Darlene MacCubbin.

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.

~~September Birthdays~~

Unit 426 celebrates 23 years on September 16!!

\*Vera Spicer ~ Arlene Bryan\*

August Meal:      Food – NeTasha Loyd  
                         Dessert – Angie Bollwerk

Respectfully Submitted,

NeTasha Loyd  
Secretary/Treasurer, Unit 426

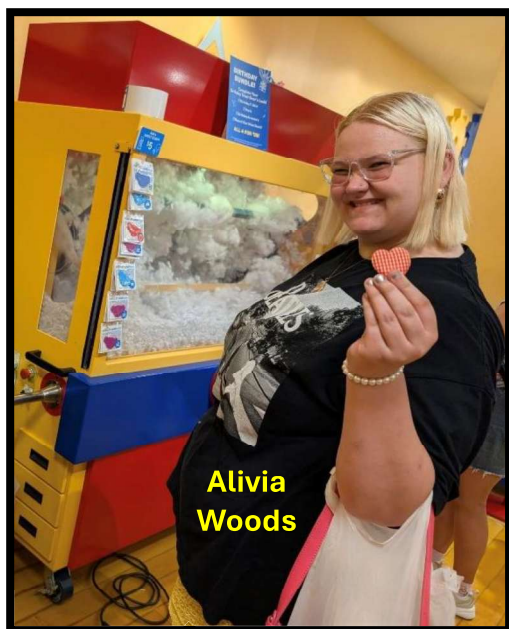


# Activities & Events

Marine Corps League  
102<sup>nd</sup> National Convention  
MODD 85th Supreme Growl  
Grapevine, TX  
10-15 AUG 2025



Mike Francis  
Steve Seyller



Alivia  
Woods



Susan Seyller



Mike Francis  
Found a new friend











Mike Woods



91 Initiates were Obligated and Advanced to PDD



Will the remember the play when they line up on the ball?



Darlene McCubbin  
Janet Anders



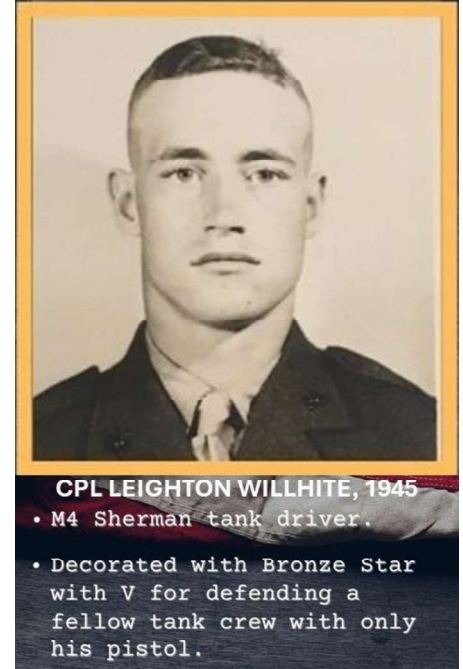
# Scuttlebutt Editor: Mitch Cassell

## “Lucky” and Driver Reunited After 80 Years

On August 15, 2025, the National Museum of the Marine Corps reunited a World War II Marine veteran with the very tank he drove during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945.

In a powerful moment of living history on the 80th anniversary of Japan’s surrender in World War II, Cpl. Leighton Willhite, age 100, once again stood beside “Lucky,” the very M4A3 Sherman tank he drove ashore during the assault on Iwo Jima. He was joined by his son, grandson and great-grandson.

Now, 80 years later, Corporal Willhite’s reunion with Lucky stands as a powerful reminder of the bravery, sacrifice, and legacy of Marines in WWII, and of the importance of preserving their stories and artifacts like this for future generations.



CPL LEIGHTON WILLHITE, 1945

• M4 Sherman tank driver.

• Decorated with Bronze Star with V for defending a fellow tank crew with only his pistol.

***“It’s amazing,” Willhite said. “I never thought I would see the tank again. That tank was my life.”***

At just 19 years old, Willhite landed with Charlie Company, 5th Tank Battalion, in Lucky during the opening assault on Iwo Jima. Lucky was among the Marine Corps’ newest standard tanks and saw its combat debut on the island. Willhite’s crew supported Marines north of Mount Suribachi and carried out rescue missions under heavy fire.

In a defining moment, when a fellow tank became trapped, Willhite volunteered to cover his commander, Lt. Leonard Blake, as they moved to rescue the crew. For the rescue, Willhite was awarded the Bronze Star with “V” device for valor, and Blake received the Silver Star.

After the battle, Lucky returned to Hawaii in April 1945 and was converted into CB-H5 flamethrower tank in preparation for the planned invasion of Japan that never occurred. Lucky remained in Hawaii until the 1970s when it was transferred to Camp Lejeune, N.C., where it remained largely unnoticed, in the woods of 2nd Tank Battalion’s training area, until 2001, when it was recovered and sent to the Museum. Lucky’s true identity and historical significance came to light in 2023 when the National Museum of the Marine Corps Arms & Armor Curator, Jon Bernstein, began connecting numerous dots and positively identified the tank as Lucky, tracing it back to Charlie Company, 5th Tank Battalion and Willhite.

This reunion carried even greater meaning because 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of Japan’s surrender, ending World War II. For Willhite, who celebrated his 100th birthday on April 9, standing beside Lucky once more was more than just a personal milestone—it was a living reminder of the service and sacrifice of Marines in one of the Corps’ most pivotal battles.





As the number of World War II veterans dwindles each year, gatherings like this become increasingly rare and precious. They offer something no book or artifact alone can provide: the chance to see history embodied in those who lived it.

Now, 80 years later, Corporal Willhite's reunion with Lucky stands as a powerful reminder of the bravery, sacrifice, and legacy of Marines in WWII, and of the importance of preserving their stories and artifacts like this for future generations.

Today, Lucky is one of only six confirmed Sherman tanks from Iwo Jima still in existence. But its journey is far from over. The Museum will soon begin a 5-year restoration of Lucky to her wartime appearance to stand as a storyteller of steel for future visitors to the Museum, carrying forward the legacy of those who battled on Iwo Jima.

Source: Stars and Stripes