



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 205th 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
102nd 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



MODD \$100K to Cook Children's Hospital of Dallas, TX for new transport van for children

MODD \$10,000 to Operation Kindness - Dallas, TX no kill animal shelter



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



Darlene McCubbin
Janet Anders

Adjutant's Report

Minutes of Meeting

Marine Corps League
Corporal Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment #1081
21 AUGUST 2025 – 1900



Opening Ceremony: The meeting was declared open at 1900 by Commandant Mike Woods. Sgt. at Arms Gary Zeigler declared the quarters were secure and all present were qualified to remain. We have a quorum. Colors were posted and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chaplain Marine Stroman gave the opening prayer.

Roll Call of Officers: Adjutant Clark called roll

Present	Absent	Office	Name
X		Commandant	Mike Woods
X		Sr. Vice-Commandant	Bob Fisher
X		Jr. Vice-Commandant	John Martin
X		Judge Advocate	Mitch Cassell
X		Junior Past Commandant	Rae Lyn Munoz
X		Adjutant	Matt Clark
X		Paymaster	Jim Maevers
X		Chaplain	Jim Stroman
X		Sgt. at Arms	Gary Zeigler

Recognized Visitors and Dignitaries:

National Vice Commandant, Midwest Div/Depart of MO Paymaster Marine Maevers

Past Dept Commandant Marine Bollwerk

Honorable National Jr Vice Chief, Marine Francis

Honorable Compliance Dog Marine Seyller

Reading of New Membership Applications: None

Oath/Card/Pin to New Members: NA

Approval of Minutes: Two modifications were made to the minutes. Under new business, "\$60" was added to the line requesting the annual dues to JVC, and "tables" was added to the request to purchase at the Arena gun show. Motion to accept modified minutes was made by Jim Halstead, seconded by Bob Fisher. Motion carries.

Correspondence: Two thank you letters were read by Adjutant Clark from families of funeral honorees that we performed military honors for in the past month.

Paymaster report: Jim Maevers provided a detailed report of the financial status of the Detachment. A copy of the month's report was filed with the Adjutant.

Chaplain's report: Jim Stroman reports that member Ted Dougherty will be having back surgery later this month and Brook Reeves 6-year old daughter is in Children's Hospital in St Louis. Mike Francis added that Tom Hazlett, Leonard Spicer, and Scott Bryan have tested positive for Covid.
No report submitted to file with the Adjutant.

Sr. Vice report: Bob Fisher had no report.
No report submitted to file with the Adjutant.

Jr. Vice report:

Members	Paid	Delinquent	Total
Regular	11	6	17
Dual	2		2
Life	51		51
Dual Life	0		0
Associate	3		3
Associate Life	5		5
Totals	72	6	78
Total members with voting rights			62

Members who owe dues NLT September 1st were listed.
No report submitted to be filed with the Adjutant.

Judge Advocate Report: Mitch Cassell reports the proposed updates to the national by-laws and administrative procedures were approved at the national convention.
No report submitted to be filed with the Adjutant.

Sergeant at Arms Report: Gary Zeigler reported we had 24 members in attendance. That includes 17 life members, 5 regular, 1 associate, and 1 associate life. That represents 30% of our membership.
Meeting sign-in Register submitted to file with the Adjutant.

Commandant's Report: Mike Woods has no report.

Committee Chair Reports:

Honor Guard: Steve Seyller reports since the last meeting we've done 9 funerals; 6 Army, 1 Navy, 1 Marine, 1 Air Force and 1 ceremony for the Avenue of Flags golf tournament. We are going to start having some practices for new members. Also, Kenny Faulter the funeral honors coordinator has offered to use us more in Bloomfield. Currently going to hold off until we can get some more participation with the guard.
No report filed with the Adjutant.

Shooting Team: Jim Halstead reports a team shoot on 8/31-1530 at the Veterans Memorial Range in Benton.
No report submitted to be filed with the Adjutant.

Rifle Raffle: Jim Halstead reports the next gun show will be 9/26-28 at the Show-Me Center. Hours will be 1600-2000 Friday, 0700-1700 Saturday, and 0800-1600 Sunday. Meet at the barracks Friday at 1300 to help load up. Also reports the fair will be held 9/6-13. Meeting at the barracks to set up at 1200 on 9/4. Plan is to open the booth at 1200 during the week, and 1000 on the weekend.
No report submitted to be filed with the Adjutant.

Marine Rose: John Martin reports there will be a fundraiser at Lawless Harley Davidson this coming Saturday 8/22 at 1000. Please come and help.

No report submitted to be filed with the Adjutant.

Fundraising Committee: Nothing more to add.

No report submitted to be filed with the Adjutant.

Investment Committee: Nothing to report.

Scuttlebutt: Mitch Cassell asked for feedback from the feature article in the Scuttlebutt. All gave a thumbs up. Please feed me information like that so I can continue having a feature moving forward.

2025 Marine Corps Ball Committee: Rae Munoz reports the next committee meeting will be on Tuesday, 8/26 at 1830. Please attend if you have questions, comments, or wish to volunteer

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Request to approve paying \$200 for registration at the Show Me gun and knife show. Motion made by Matt Anders, seconded by John Martin. Motion carries.
- Request to make a \$500 donation to The Freedom 13 foundation. Motion made by Rae Munoz, seconded by Jim Stroman. After discussion, the motion carries.
- Request to make a \$250 donation to Kaitlain Contraras, a 1st grade teacher in Jackson to purchase school supplies. Motion made by John Martin, seconded by Mike Francis. Motion carries.
- It was requested that someone research the cost of purchasing a pop-up tent for the detachment to use so we can stop borrowing Tom Hazlett's tent.
- It was requested to anyone who might know someone, it was suggested we investigate purchasing a jeep, or some other military equipment the detachment can use in parades, and fundraising events. It was suggested to look into the Cape Girardeau Military Vehicle Association.

Good of the League:

- From Scott Hunt, thank you to the detachment for helping get the word out about the veteran's breakfast.
- Friday 9/19 there will be a POW/MIA ceremony at the National Veterans Memorial in Perryville at 1800. If you ride a motorcycle, the Biker's on the Square is happening the same day.
- Jim Maevers gave a brief rundown on what happened at the National Convention.
- From Gary Zeigler, please consider joining the Honor Guard. We need more members.

Announcements:

- **23 August** – Lawless Harley Davidson Marine Rose fundraiser.
- **6-13 September** – SEMO District Fair in Cape Girardeau, MO.
- **8 November** – MCL 1081 Birthday Ball, Drury Plaza Cape Girardeau, MO.
- **13 December** – Wreaths Across America

Ongoing Events:

- **Tuesday Mornings & the 2nd Thursday each month at 0700** – Veteran’s Breakfast at Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial Perryville – Veterans only
- **2d Tuesday of each month** – VFW Food Bank
- **Friday Mornings 0800** – Coffee at the Barracks – Cape Girardeau – Open to All
There will be no coffee on Black Friday.

Closing Ceremony: Detachment stood for moment of silence for deceased members. Chaplain Marine Stroman gave the closing prayer. Sgt. at Arms Gary Zeigler retired the Colors. The detachment sang our Marines Hymn. Sr. Vice Commandant Bob Fisher gave closing command and Sgt. at Arms Gary Zeigler officially closed meeting.

Meeting was closed: 1954

Next meeting: 18 September 2025 1900 (Officers MTG 16 September 2025 1800)

Adjutant: Matt Clark

Minutes Accepted: _____
Date
Signature

Marine Matt Clark
 Adjutant
 Marine Corps League, Detachment 1081

“The United States Marine Corps, with its fiercely proud tradition of excellence in combat, its hallowed rituals, and its unbending code of honor, is part of the fabric of American myth.”

– Thomas E. Ricks

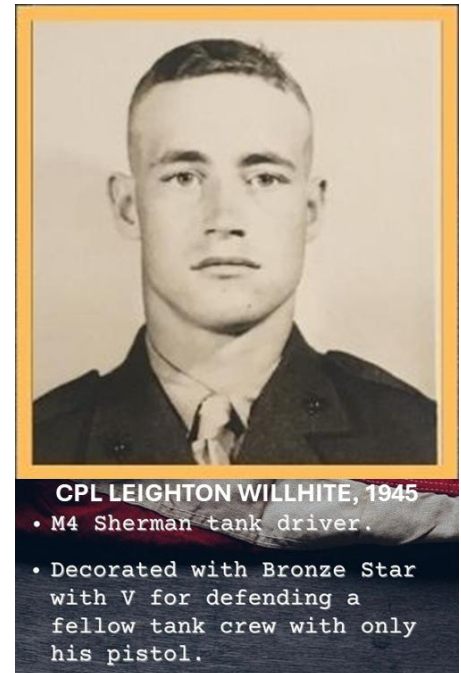
Scuttlebutt Editor: Mitch Cassell

“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