



April 2024 — May 2024

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 3 Issue 4



Message From The Division Commandant



Members, By now, most of you have heard about the passing of John "J R" Rutovich. We have lost a great Brother, Friend & Marine. He would always greet you with a "Happy New Year" and when asked how he was doing, his response would be "better than the average bear". He was the Division paymaster for many years, he was always one who would give you his opinion whether solicited or not. We had many conversations about cigars, Marine Corps History, him being a bus driver and the wildlife he enjoyed watching in his backyard. He made you laugh without even trying. Just last week at Quad State one morning he was walking outside the hotel without shoes, just socks. He was returning from the gym to get some exercise in for his recent replaced knee, I said JR, you're not wearing any shoes. "Yeah, I went to the gym, I don't need shoes to exercise ". He will be



missed and it was an honor for me to have crossed paths with him and be able to have the friendship we had. Please keep Sandy in your thoughts and prayers. Our Brother Marines passing is a reminder that life is precious. Take one day at a time and be thankful for what we have. Enjoy every moment we have with our friends and loved ones. As Dave Porter has stated, we are a family and just like

every family, we disagree and have arguments. But at the end of the day, we need to put all that aside and be there to support one another. You don't know what tomorrow will bring. RIP MARINE!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division



New England Division Contact Information 2023 – 2024



Division Vice Commandant PMaguire@mcleague.org	Patrick Maguire c-401-481-7995	Coventry, RI 02816 Dept. of RI Kent Country Det. 453
Assistance Div. Vice Comdt. Mhinds579@gmail.com	Michael Hinds C-617-960-6595	Woburn, MA 01801 Dept. of MA Honorable Few Det. 1302
Chief of Staff bucciatwood@rimcl.org	Joe Afonso 401-545-9010	Pawtucket RI 02861 Dept of RI Bucci Atwood Detachment 376
Division Adjutant / Newsletter Editor walt.benson5@gmail.com	Walt Benson c-203-768-8435	Prospect, CT 06712 Dept. of CT Brass City Memorial Det. 31
Aide de Camp Lschris68@msn.com	Laurent J. Chretien c-207-894-8906	Gorham, ME 04038 Dept. of ME Southern Maine Det. 1324
Division Paymaster Wayneham913@gmail.com	Wayne Hamilton c-401-719-6386	Johnston RI 02919 Dept of RI Bucci Atwood Detachment 376
Division Chaplain Janie.deptula@gmail.com	Jane Deptula h-401-825-6685	Coventry, RI 02816 Dept. of RI Kent Country Det. 453
Division Sergeant at Arms 412redbone@att.net	Jim Soder 860-262-2690	Berlin CT. 06037 Dept of CT Hardware City Det 781
Div. Compliance Officer Bernieandnancy1@comcast.net	Bernard Heaney c-978-894-4840	Baldwinville, MA 01436 Dept. of MA Pequoig Det. 1168
Div. Legislative Officer wgriffin@mcleague.org	Warren Griffin c-774-292-1527	Holliston, MA 01746 Dept. of MA Metro West Det. 1037
Div. Legal Advisor	OPEN	
Div. Photographer chiefk@comcast.net	Peter King c-508-230-4117	Raynham, MA 02767 Dept. of MA Grtr New Bedford Det. 1399
Div. Historian	OPEN	
Div. Toys 4 Tots Lschris68@msn.com	Laurent J. Chretien c-207-894-8906	Gorham, ME 04038 Dept. of ME Southern Maine Det. 1324
Div. Young Marine Liaison brucejkatz@gmail.com	Bruce Katz c-603-866-1183	Swansea, MA 02777 Dept. of MA Van Gyzen Det. 1285
Div. BSA Liaison Lschris68@msn.com	Laurent J. Chretien c-207-894-8906	Gorham, ME 04038 Dept. of ME Southern Maine Det. 1324



New England Division Contact Information 2023 – 2024



Div. Marine 4 Life/ VSO/ Public Relations

OPEN

Div. MODD Liaison

marineamazon@comcast.net

Cherie Monnell
c-207-752-0025

Milford, NH 03055
Dept. of NH Gormley Det. 823

Div. Auxiliary Liaison

OPEN

Div. Web Sergeant

Jr_PastCommandant@mcldeptofmassachusetts.org

Brian Brooks
413-768-0316

Div. Youth Physical Fitness Liaison

OPEN

Dept of CT

ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.net

Pat McMahon Comdt.
860-887-5640

Dept of MA

commandant@mcldeptofmassachusetts.org

Jon Zwirblia Comdt.

Dept of ME

charlespaul293@gmail.com

Charles Paul Comdt.
207-393-7667

Dept of NH

marineamazon@comcast.net

Cherie Monnell Comdt.
207-752-0025

Dept of RI

bucciatwood@rimcl.org

Joe Afonso Comdt.
401-545-9010

Dept of VT

mayersra1@outlook.com

Bob Mayers Comdt.
802-626-8058

yourself to attend Quad State or your local convention. The season starts with Quad State this year New Hampshire is the host and the hotel looks like a castle. In this one the Division adds its conference to the Convention of four states. The comradery, the Grand Growl, the food and just an opportunity to get away for a week-end and celebrate. Celebrate Life, being a Marine, being a Dog, as well as renew and expand friendships are well worth the time.

We follow this with Massachusetts in Sturbridge again this year and hopefully it is as good as last year. If you come from Connecticut it is a little over an hour.

This is followed by Connecticut also being held at a repeat location in Glastonbury. Both of these locations offer a lot of comradery with people we know and if you don't introduce yourself everyone has being a Marine in common. I'm not going to preach about National because it takes a big effort to get there but all of these are in our back yard and we have to get back to being active again. I think if you get out there and join us you will find yourself looking for more. You will want to come back to the meetings and to the growls. Although the turn out is low we are seeing signs of life in our get togethers. Lately the laughter has returned to our Growls. For a while it was like church at a growl and if you didn't hear it before the more dogs we have the more laughs. So I want to see new faces at the conventions and when you go let me know.

Walt Benson

From The Editor

Welcome To Convention Season 2024

As I start our fourth edition of this years Newsletter I can't help but wonder, how will the turn-out be this year? If you cannot attend the National Convention for whatever reason, you owe it to





MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



One OF The perks of attending Mid-Winter was that there was a trip to the Museum included. So from left to right, just kidding this is my favorite place in the world. It brings back memories and educates us on a lot of history. This was my third trip and I look forward to going back again.



Dave and Denise Creamer stand in front of the two flags that flew over Iwo Jima. If you don't remember the smaller one flew first and then the Marines were given a larger one that would be more visible to all the ships at sea. When it was raised all of the ships sounded horns and whistles gunfire erupted while those on the ships cheered loudly.



After seeing how the American troops responded to the first flag being raised, Marine Corps Lt. Col. Chandler Johnson ordered a new, larger flag to be raised over the battlefield.

This 96 x 56-inch flag would be one that could be seen across the island. It was also the one displayed in the now famous photo.



MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



The New England Division and those that are New England at Heart at the Museum.



The Perfect example of standing tall before the man, god I hope his hand is not in his pocket. New England Division Vice Commandant Pat Maguire and National Commandant Warren Griffin, Looking Good Gentlemen .



COO Bob Borka or as we know him as just Bob, with National Commandant Warren Griffin, the two guys of many who keep us moving forward.



National Commandant Warren Griffin, and National Chief of Staff , Sal Cenicacelaya as we begin the Mid-Winter Conference.



Rounding the corner; heading for home!

Greetings fellow CT MCLeaguers. I am hopeful that this newsletter finds you and yours well. I am not one would call and ardent baseball fan, but I thought the baseball reference in the heading of this article to be apropos. It has been nearly two years since being elected as your Department Commandant; yet it seems like yesterday. One of my goals was to ensure that I visited/attended at least one event/meeting from each of our fourteen active Detachments. To date, I have two left and cannot wait to get to those two.

Another goal was to address the IRS deficient issue with three of our Detachments. Taking direction from then National Commandant Baker, and with guidance from then NED VC Porter, we went to work. And when I say we went to work, Dept of CT MCL JA Gutmann went to work. Over the past twenty-two months, two of the deficient detachments have surrendered their charters (following National protocols), and the third should be resolved soon. I share this information, so that you, the membership continue to be in the loop. At each business meeting, you should hear talk about the importance of annual 990N's being filed, reports with the State of CT Secretary of State's office being filed, PLM audits, annual ROI's

filed, etc.

My final goal, and I am still working towards it, is to ensure that when I turn over the reins of this magnificent organization this coming June, I leave it a bit better than when I received it. With this in mind, I make this plea. The incoming Department Commandant and his staff will need lots of help; some very specific help. **He will absolutely need a:**

PAYMASTER – Marine Benson gave his notice 2 years ago. ADJUTANT – PCDD Fisk took the position for one year CHAPLIN – Marine Dougherty has also given his notice

So please, over the next several months leading up to our convention, discuss these openings at your detachment meetings. Consider taking one of these positions, and encouraging others to step up. I am sure that we all want our next Department Commandant to start off on the right track, with a full staff at his disposal. Once a Marine, Always a Marine.

In closing, let me just say what a continued honor and privilege it is for me to continue representing the Dept of CT MCL and all of its members.

Semper Fi
Patrick T. McMahon
Commandant
Department of Connecticut
Marine Corps League



CONNECTICUT



WHY?

Why indeed? There are so many things to ask ourselves why for, but let's start with some of the more pressing questions. Why would I want to be a Department Officer? The short answer is BECAUSE. You want to grow. It is the goal of every human being to grow, develop and progress to become something greater than what we are. The more complicated reason is that as a Marine Corps League Member, we serve our fellow Marines and other Veterans. As a VSO we demonstrate to others the spirit and reality of Volunteerism. As Marines we stand shoulder to shoulder beside our brother and sisters and fight the battles we are deployed to. As Marine Corps League Members we stand shoulder to shoulder beside our Brothers and sisters to fight for the Marines and Veterans we serve. To be successful, to win, we continue to Improve, Adapt, and Overcome. This means we have to take that all important step to volunteer.

Every Marine May be a Rifleman or a GRUNT, but Every Marine is so much more. There is discipline, intelligence, dedication, and most importantly CARE. We care about other Marines and other Veterans. When we were on active duty we started as recruits, then privates, PFC, and Lance, we progressed and the ranks behind us filled in with others. We continue this because those ahead of us get older and their abilities change and what they do today must be replaced by those of us who come later. I used to love to do Funeral Honors, in fact I couldn't get enough of it as I felt it was the most honorable things we could do. But then my feet and legs had some different ideas and I had to adjust. We are Marines there is nothing we can't do. Department Paymaster, write a report, make

out checks and balance a check book. This was never my strong suit but I came there every meeting and had my report ready and was prepared to present it. Department Adjutant, you take the minutes of the meetings and track the ROI reports. Everyone here can write even if it is with crayons. Department Chaplain, we all know how to pray we learned it in boot camp, and got better at it as we grew older and life takes its toll on us.

We deal with all of life's challenges differently today but the need exists. Back when most of us were in the Corps the Marines were looking for a Few Good Men, well today they are looking for a Few Good Men and Women. The funny thing is that we are still looking for FEW and GOOD and that my brothers and sisters is you. You proved it when you decided to join the Marine Corps League and continued to serve. When you felt the need to care for your fellow Marines and Veterans. All of us took what we learned in boot camp seriously, Once A Marine Always A Marine, because we continue that tradition today. How engaged we are or how we embrace our mission is demonstrated by role we accept in the League. There are many more Why's to be asked and answered, such as recruiting members and once we recruit them how do we keep them? There are fourteen detachments within the Department of Connecticut and each one has much to offer. There are many ideas, community involvement, and ways to serve. Communications is the key to produce results and help each as we share what each of us does. We can look at all of these and address every issue and problem but it all starts with that first step. I've got your six Marine I have the watch.

Walt Benson



CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2024 STATE CONVENTION

- WHEN:** Friday June 14th (Grand growl)
Saturday June 15th (business meeting and banquet),
Sunday June 16th (checkout and enjoy Central CT amenities)
- WHERE:** Hilton Garden Inn
85 Glastonbury Blvd
Glastonbury, CT 06033
- ROOMS:** A block of 20 rooms have been reserved at \$149 per night (+ taxes). To reserve rooms, call **877-782-9444**; reference code: MCL24.
- BANQUET:** The cost of the banquet will be \$50.00 per attendee, and registration forms will be forthcoming.
- AD BOOK:** There will be an Ad Book for the convention (info to follow).
The ad book costs are: \$100.00 full page; \$50.00 half page; and \$25.00 for a quarter-page. Further information on the Ad Book and contact person will be forthcoming.

Delegate Registration sheets will be forthcoming.
Book your rooms now and start selling those ads!!!!

REVISED: 13FEB2024



CONNECTICUT



2024 Department of Connecticut 83rd Convention Schedule

14JUNE2024 – Friday

- 1500 – 1815 Hospitality Room is open - Hilton Garden Inn (HGI)
- 1515 – 1830 Dinner at Maggie McFlys (prior registrants) - Maggie McFlys
- 1930 – 2130 Grand Growl - HGI
- 2130 – 2400 Hospitality Room re-opens - HGI

15JUNE2024 – Saturday

- 0700 – 1330 Registration (closed for lunch 1200-1300, final report due 1330)
- 0800 – 0820 Opening Ceremonies - HGI
- 0820 – 0850 Memorial Service - HGI
- 0850 – 0900 BREAK
- 0900 – 1100 Business Session MCL - HGI
-
- 1100 – 1200 Recess / Final Convention Committee meetings
 - Marine of the Year Committee - Marine Dougherty
 - Audit Committee - Marine Lee
 - Budget Committee - Marine Lauber
 - By-Law Committee - Marine Gutmann
 - Credentials Committee - Marine Soder
 - Resolutions Committee - Marine Montminy
 - Rules Committee - Marine Timms
- 1200 – 1300 LUNCH - ON YOUR OWN
- 1200 – 1630 Hospitality Room re-open - HGI
- 1300 – 1500 Business Session resumes - HGI
- 1530 – 1600 Department Board of Trustees Meeting
(at the call of the newly elected Department Commandant)

2023-24 Department of CT MCL Elected Officers are as follows:

Commandant Marine McMahon; Sr. Vice Commandant Marine Daigle; Jr. Vice Commandant Marine Benson; Judge Advocate Marine Gutmann; Jr. Past Commandant Marine Rosa; Fairfield County Commandant Marine Hodges; Hartford County Commandant Marine Monaco; Litchfield County Commandant Marine Timms; Middlesex County Commandant Marine Soder; New Haven County Commandant Marine Lauber; New London County Commandant Marine Peters; Tolland County Commandant Marine Burrington; Windham County Commandant Marine Lee.

- 1700 – 1800 Convention Banquet Social Hour
- 1800 – 1900 Convention Banquet Dinner
- 1900 – 2100 Convention Banquet program, guest speaker and awards
- 2100 – 2400 Hospitality Room open



CONNECTICUT



Marine Corps League



Connecticut State Convention – 14JUNE -16JUNE 2024

Hilton Garden Inn

85 Glastonbury Blvd • Glastonbury, CT 06340

(860) 659-1025

Ad Book Form

Date: _____ (AD MUST BE SUBMITTED BY June 1, 2024)

MCL Member: _____

Ad size: _____ Full page \$100.00 B/W _____ 1/2 page \$50.00
_____ 1/4 page \$25.00 _____ Business Card \$20.00

Name: _____ Street: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

PHONE# _____

Ad Description:

Webpage address to pull image from _____

Comments:

Submit ad electronically to:

Sue Tait Porcaro email: sue@2lipsartdesign.com cell: 860-209-6063

Submit payment to:

Department of Connecticut MCL
C/O TRD MCL #1334

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **Dept of CT MCL**



CONNECTICUT



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



September 19-22, 2024

Charter Oak Park | MANCHESTER, CT

Open 24 hours a day • All are welcome

Be a volunteer to serve others.

Four-hour shifts available beginning 2pm on
Wed, Sept. 18.

Scan the QR code to visit our website to sign
up as a volunteer or for more information,
email: VolunteerTWTH@ManchesterElks.org
or call Peter at 860-478-6802.



VIETNAM VETERANS
MEMORIAL FUND

★
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

HOSTED BY



Elks Lodge 1893
Manchester, CT

SUPPORTED BY



501(c)(3) Charity
Partner



EIN 88-1807752



Scan to Donate
or Volunteer

September Schedule

- 17 Arrival Escort *(see website for details)*
- 18 Set-up 8am
Volunteer Orientation 6pm
- 19 Opening Ceremony 11am
- 20 & 21 Ceremonies 6pm
- 22 Closing Ceremony 1pm
Take down 2pm
Departure Escort *(see website for details)*

Visit manchestereleks.org/twth2024 for more information





CONNECTICUT



THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER

Sponsorship/Donor Opportunities for The Wall's visit to Manchester SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 30, 2024*

☐ **Elite Sponsor** **\$10,000+**

As our highest level sponsor, recognition includes:

- Logo on pre-event banner across Main Street
- Website and social media acknowledgement
- Logo on marketing materials and program
- Signage at event
- Personal tour of The Wall by VVMF Staff
- Commemorative plaque and challenge coin
- A VIP reception

☐ **Platinum Sponsor** **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Recognition includes:

- Website and social media acknowledgement
- Logo on marketing materials and program
- Signage at event
- Personal tour of The Wall by VVMF Staff
- Commemorative plaque and challenge coin
- A VIP reception

☐ **Gold Sponsor** **\$2,500-\$4,999**

Recognition includes:

- Website and social media acknowledgement
- Logo on marketing materials and program
- Signage at event
- A VIP reception

☐ **Silver Sponsor** **\$1,000-\$2,499**

Recognition includes:

- Website and social media acknowledgement
- Logo on marketing materials and program
- Signage at event

☐ **Bronze Sponsor** **\$500-\$999**

Recognition includes:

- Website and social media acknowledgement
- Listing on marketing materials & program
- Signage at event

☐ **Friend Donation** **\$10-\$499**

Recognition includes:

- Website and social media acknowledgement

☐ **In Memory of** _____
\$ _____

In-Kind Donations Welcome

promotionsTWTH@manchesterelks.org

*Please check one of the boxes with your
donation preference*

Name/Organization to appear in print

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Cell# _____

Email _____

***Commitment must be made by June 30, 2024
to be included on marketing materials**

3 ways to pay:

1. **Secure Online Payment:** [ManchesterElks.org/twth2024](https://manchesterelks.org/twth2024)
2. **Make checks payable to:** Elks Lodge 1893-TWTH2024
Mail to: Elks Lodge 1893-TWTH2024
PO Box 114, Manchester, CT 06040
3. **Checks can be dropped off at** Elks Lodge 1893
30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT *(in the Lounge)*



Visit manchesterelks.org/twth2024 for more information



MASSACHUSETTS



Oak Ridge Detachment Robert Vallandingham, Clint Read, Brian Brooks **Worcester Detachment** Department of Massachusetts **Commandant** Jon Zwirblia, Kyle Torpey, Steve Cheney, Steve Cheney Jr **Norfolk Detachment** Bill



Todd Angilly - Boston Bruins anthem singer and Jr. Past Commandant Brian Brooks



I saw this photo on Facebook and thought it should be shared here PNC James Laskey, 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Al Gray, National Judge Advocate David Porter and in the background is Denis Tobin

MASSACHUSETTS



Department of Massachusetts recruiting at the Hockey Game



Department of Massachusetts Commandant Jon Swirblia and Sr. Vice Commandant Mike Hinds at Mid- Winter Conference. In the Background, Division Paymaster Wayne Hamilton

MASSACHUSETTS

The next Department Meeting is April 28th. This will be the last meeting before the Department of Convention.

Location: Worcester Detachment; 181 Lake Avenue, Worcester MA 01604

Time: Board of Trustees will meet at 1030; Department Meeting will commence at 1130

Chow will be served sometime around 1300.

The Department of Massachusetts Marine Corps League will be having our annual convention from May 30th to June 2nd. The Location of the Convention is the Sturbridge Host and Hotel Conference Center, located at 366 Main Street, Sturbridge MA 01566.

You may call to reserve your rooms under the Booking Code :Marine Corps League, the telephone number to call is 508-347-7393.

The Convention Packet, Ad Book Flyer is available to download and print on the Department Website. Just go to www.mcldeptofmassachusetts.org and then at the top of your screen click on the Convention Tab. The online convention meal registration, delegate form, golf form and MODD Registration is available. When you register online you will be re-directed for payment to PayPal to complete the registration.

The Department hosted Iwo Jima Day at the State House in February, it was an amazing event to honor our Iwo Jima Marines.

Thanks,

Jon Zwirblia

Commandant

Dept. of Massachusetts

Marine Corps League

Email: Commandant@mcldeptofmassachusetts.org

URL: www.mcldeptofmassachusetts.org



**DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**



**Sturbridge Massachusetts
366 Main Street, Sturbridge MA 01566
(508) 347-7393
<https://sturbridgehosthotel.com>**

2024 CONVENTION PACKAGE

Marine Corps League



A Message from the Department of Massachusetts Commandant:

Hello Marines and Associates,

As the Department Commandant, I would like to welcome you all to the 87th Department of Massachusetts Convention.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your Commandant this past year, I look forward to your faith and trust in me as I will be running for a second term this convention.

My fellow officers and I have been working diligently this past year on setting up recruiting drives for our Detachments, we understand recruiting and retention is a major key to the success of our Detachments. We have visited many Detachments this past year and we look forward to visiting the ones we missed in the coming year.

As was the case last year, the Department is continuing to try to make things more affordable for the Detachments in the hopes this will increase attendance. Detachments that are in full compliance with the Department may submit their receipts for their first night of hotel accommodation to the Department Paymaster Bernie Heaney for reimbursement. Detachments that are not in Department Compliance will not be reimbursed.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank all of you for everything you have done for your Detachments and the League. The Detachment is the backbone of the league; we do realize the amount of paperwork can be overwhelming and monotonous, but we very much appreciate all of you working your hardest to stay up with it.

In closing, I hope you all enjoy the convention, and I thank you all for the opportunity to serve the Department of Massachusetts Marine Corps League.

Semper Fidelis Marines.
Jon Zwirblia
Commandant
Department of Massachusetts

A message from the Convention Committee,

Marines and Associates,

The Convention Committee would like to welcome you to Sturbridge Massachusetts for the 87th Department of Massachusetts Convention.

There are many attractions in the Sturbridge area for all to enjoy, as well as some amazing local eateries and breweries in the area. The convention committee will have a list of these local places to give to you when you check into the hotel.

The Hotel is the Sturbridge Hotel and Conference Center and is located at 366 Main Street, Sturbridge MA 01566. The hotel website is <https://sturbridgehosthotel.com>.

The number to call and book your room is (508) 347-7393, **the group block ID is: Marine Corps League**. Please use that group block ID to reserve your room at a low price of **\$110.00** a night. You can call and book now!

The Thursday Burger Burn was such a hit we couldn't pass it up for this year. The South-Central Detachment will be hosting it at the Sturbridge American Legion, located at 507 Main St, Fiskdale, MA 01518 at 1700. This event is free to all.

The first activity Friday will be the Jim Laskey Memorial Golf Tournament, located at Hemlock Golf Course at 220 Holland Rd, Fiskdale, MA 01518 just a 15 minute drive from the hotel. This will kick off at 1300.

The Second Activity Friday will be in the afternoon and it will be a Q&A session with Department Officers. So if you or your Detachment needs help with paperwork, forms or has questions about anything this session is here for you.

The MODD Tase of Sturbridge Buffett will be at the hotel Friday evening at 1830. With the Grand Growl commencing at 1900.

Saturday will be busy with the entire business session, a Memorial Service for our fallen brothers and sisters, and then to conclude the convention we will have our Grand Banquet.

The Convention Committee highly recommends booking your rooms early we highly advise to stay overnight Thursday and get your check in completed on Thursday.

We also will have all the bugs fixed from last year on the website so that you may register and pay on the website, but you will still have to call the hotel to book your room. This feature will be available on the website March 1st. There also will be a copy of this convention packet available on the website March 1st.

We look forward to seeing all of you and having a great convention.

Thank you,

**Please Register and book your room for the
Convention NLT May 1st**

Please Register and book your room for the Convention

NLT May 1st

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTES
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
87TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

Thursday May 30th, 2024

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
0700-1000	- Convention Setup	-Executive Room
1300-1700	- MCL/MODD Registration	-Executive Room
1300-1700	-MCL/MODD Ship Store	-Executive Room
0800-2100	-Sightseeing/Shopping	-On your own
1700-2100	-Camaraderie/Burger Burn	-Sturbridge American Legion Post # 109 507 Main St Fiskdale, MA
2100-2200	-Hospitality	-Hospitality Room

Please Register and book your room for the Convention

NLT May 1st

Please Register and book your room for the Convention
NLT May 1st

Friday May 31st, 2024

0600-0730	-Chow	-Hotel Dining Room
0800-1400	-Golf	-Hemlock Golf Course
0800-1830	-Sightseeing/Shopping	-On your own
1000-1100	-MCL Registration	- Executive Room
1000-1100	-MCL Ship Store	- Executive Room
1100-1300	-Chow	-On your own
1400-1900	-Hospitality	- Hospitality Room
1500-1630	-MCL Registration	- Executive Room
1500-1630	-MCL Ship Store	- Executive Room
1430-1630	-Q&A Session	- Seminar Theatre 1
1700-1830	-MODD Buffet	-Hotel Dining Room
1900- 2100	-Pack Growl	- Seminar Theatre 1

Please Register and book your room for the Convention
NLT May 1st

Please Register and book your room for the Convention
NLT May 1st

Saturday June 1st, 2024

0600-0730	-Chow	-Hotel Dining Room
0700-0800	-MCL/MODD Registration	- Executive Room
0700-0800	-MCL Ship Store	- Executive Room
0800-1100	- Convention Opening & Convention Meeting	- Seminar Theatre 1
1115-1145	- Memorial Service	- Side of Hotel
1145-1415	-Chow	-On your own
1430-1730	-Convention Meeting	- Pleasant Room
1730-1830	-Hospitality	- Cape Cod Room
1830-1900	-Cocktails & Hors d' Oeuvres	- Hotel Banquet Hall
1900-2300	-Grand Banquet	- Hotel Banquet Hall

Sunday June 2nd, 2024

0700-0830	-Chow	-Hotel Dining Room
0900-1000	- Departure (Check out)	- Main Lobby
1000	-Board of Trustees Mtng.	-Board Room

Please Register and book your room for the Convention NLT
May 1st

Please Register and book your room for the Convention
NLT May 1st
2024 Convention
Meal & Event Form
Please Register for Convention NLT May 1st

Name:

Credential Name Description:

Wife - Husband - Significant Other Name:

Cell Phone:.....

Email:.....

Thursday Burger Burn

Cost: FREE

Total Attending:.....

All American Breakfast Buffer May 31st to June 2nd): Every morning stop down in the Hotel restaurant for an excellent meal prepared by the Hotels signature chef. This will be a buffet that will include: Scrambled Eggs; Bacon or Sausage Links; Seasoned breakfast potatoes; Chef's Breakfast Bakery Basket; Assorted Chilled Juices; Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee and a selection of Herbal Teas.

Cost: \$20.00 Per Person

Friday: How many attending.....

Saturday: How many attending.....

Sunday: How many attending.....

Total Breakfast Cost:.....

***Please Register and book your room for the Convention NLT
May 1st***

***Please Register and book your room for the Convention NLT
May 1st***

MODD Taste of Sturbridge Buffett (May 31st):

Buffett to include: Garden Salad, Minestrone Soup, Baked Haddock Herb Crusted In Lemon butter, Yankee Pot Roast with Jardiniere Sauce, Sturbridge Roast Turkey with Herb Dressing, Natural Gravy and Cranberry Chutney. Accompanied by Chefs Recommended Starch of the day, Fresh Vegetable of the Season, Rolls and Butter, Chefs Dessert and Coffee or Tea.

Cost: \$50.00

How many Attending:

Total MODD Banquet Cost:.....

Grand Banquet (June 1st):

**-All Plated Dinner Entrees start with a Garden Salad with House Dressing
All Dinners are served with Warm Rolls, Chef's recommended starch, vegetable of the season, and Chef's Seasonal Dessert Selection
After Dinner you will be treated to Coffee or Tea**

1. Breast of Chicken, stuffed with apples and cranberries in a cider sauce.
Cost: \$ 40.00

How Many:

2. Prime Rib of Beef with a rosemary-Merlot Au Jus
Cost: \$ 52.00

How Many:

3. Baked Haddock in a herb crusted Lemon Butter sauce
Cost: \$ 38.00

How Many:

4. Butternut Squash Ravioli in a sweet maple cream sauce
Cost: \$ 39.00

How Many:

Total Cost of Banquet.....

Total Cost of all Breakfast, MODD Buffett and Grand Banquet Combined.....

-Golf Friday at Hemlock Golf Course

You Pay at Course!

Price still be negotiated and will be announced as soon as possible via email, the Department Website and via mail.

How many Playing:

Please Register for Convention NLT May 1st

Convention Registration

SECTION 105 – CREDENTIALS – DELEGATES, ATLEARNATES, MEMBERS –

(a) Delegates, Alternates and Members desiring to attend business sessions of a Department Convention must possess a paid up membership card, plus properly executed and signed credentials, and must be registered with, and approved by the Convention Credentials Committee.

(b) Detachment Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention shall be determined on the basis of said Detachment's membership on record at Department Headquarters as of 31 May, immediately preceding the Department Convention. The delegate voting strength of each detachment shall be as follows: For the first ten (10) Marine members, one (1) Delegate and (1) Alternate; for each additional full block of ten (10) Marine members, one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate; for a partial number of ten (10) Marine members, one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate. However, no Delegate strength of a Detachment shall be computed by including Associate members or Honorary members in such Detachment total membership.

SECTION 220 REGISTRATION –

(1) All other members desiring to attend the Convention Activities must pay the registration fee.

(b) Pre-Registration fee for each Delegate or Alternate to the Convention shall be five dollars (\$5.00). Detachments that register at the Convention shall be charged a registration fee of eight dollars (\$8.00) for each Delegate or Alternate.

Convention 2024 Registration Form

Detachment Name: Detachment #:

[illegible]

I, _____ (Detachment Commandant), certify that the following members listed on this delegate form are paid members of Detachment _____ (Detachment #) and will represent this detachment at the Department Convention 2024.

Signature of Detachment Commandant

I, _____ (Detachment Paymaster), certify that the following members listed on this delegate form are paid members of Detachment _____ (Detachment #) and will represent this detachment at the Department Convention 2024.

Signature of Detachment Paymaster

Please Register for Convention NLT May 1st

Payment instructions:

-Electronic payment and forms through our website <https://mcldeptofmassachusetts.org> and selecting the Convention Registration Link (This will be available on March 1st 2024)

Or

-USPS- Send completed forms, with checks made payable to Department of Massachusetts MCL.

**MAIL TO: Jon Zwirblia
70 Crestwood Drive
Southbridge, MA 01550**

For Convention Committee Only.

Received: _____

Initials: _____

Processed for Payment: _____ Initials: _____



DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

State House, Room 545
24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02231
617-720-0414

**Members of the Department of Massachusetts Marine Corps League, Friends, Family, and
Business Owners**

We are putting together our convention Ad Book for this year's annual Department Convention.

All ad's must be sent to this address: **Jon Zwirblia**
70 Crestwood Drive,
Southbridge, MA 01550

You can also email your ad to: commandant@mclddeptofmassachusetts.org

ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO: DEPARMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS MARINE
CORPS LEAGUE

ALL ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: MAY 1st 2024.

RATES FOR ADS:

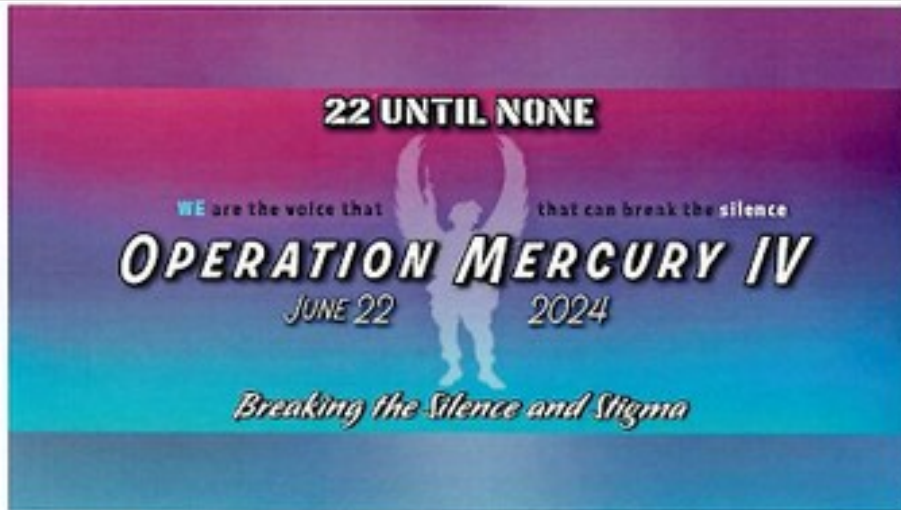
BACK COVER:	\$200.00
FRONT PAGE:	\$125.00
HALF PAGE:	\$80.00
¼ PAGE:	\$50.00
BUSINESS CARD:	\$25.00

Semper Fi and Thank You!

We are a non-profit organization whose officers are all volunteers and contributions are used to assist other Marines, further the brotherhood and honor our fallen brothers and sisters. We are registered as a 501(c)(4) not for profit corporation with a special group exemption number GEN-0955 since July of 1946. This special exemption from federal income tax also allows contributions made to us to be deductible by the donors in arriving at their taxable net income in the manner and to the extent provided by section 23(o) and (q) of the Internal Revenue Code. An IRS letter 99-1035, dated November 29, 1998 further recognizes this special exemption GEN-0955.

*Feel The Spirit Again
Semper Fidelis*

NEW HAMPSHIRE



LET'S BREAK THE STIGMA OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ASKING FOR HELP!

**JOIN US AS WE BRING TO LIGHT THIS CRITICAL
ISSUE IN OUR VETERAN COMMUNITY!**

We will take part in a family friendly 3 mile walk/ruck/hike on the Dan Beard Trail at beautiful Camp Carpenter! Groups from around the world will stand together to Break The Stigma!! After the hiking is done, stick around for bonding, food provided by Texas Roadhouse, and fun and games!

Registration is free as this is NOT a fundraiser! Just scan the QR Code and select Manchester, NH!



**Rally: 0815
Step off: 0900**

**Location: 300 Blondin
Road, Manchester NH,
03109**

**Special thank you to Boy
Scouts Of America, Daniel
Webster Council for the
use of their land and
facilities, and Texas
Roadhouse Manchester
for providing the food!**

**This event is open to the
public and people of all
ages!**

**Sometimes it takes the
strength of a warrior to
ask for help!**

FOR MORE INFO

**Mike Martioski
MJMARTIOSKI@YAHOO.COM**

Text Or Call

603.913.4959

**Reference: Operation
Mercury**

RHODE ISLAND



Bucci-Atwood's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Dear Corporate/Community Member,

On Sunday, June 23, 2024, the Bucci-Atwood Detachment 376 will be holding its 3rd annual golf tournament at the **Valley Country Club, 251 New London Ave, Warwick, RI 02886**. The proceeds from this event will benefit various charitable causes that we help support. The success of this tournament relies primarily on the support of Corporate Sponsors, Tee sponsors, and Raffle Prize Donations; without your support this tournament could not be the extraordinary success that we wish it to be.

Corporate Sponsors:

The cost of the Corporate Sponsorship is:

- **Medal of Honor Level:** \$1,000 and includes a large banner with your Company Name and a plaque
- **Silver Star Level:** \$500 and includes a small banner with your Company name at the Tournament
- **Bronze Star Level:** \$250 and includes your Company name a Bronze Star Banner
- **Tee Sponsor:** \$100 and includes a sign with your Company name at a hole on the course.

If you are willing to be a corporate sponsor, please complete the below portion of this form and mail it, along with a check made payable to Bucci-Atwood 376, to: 21 Prospect Ave., Attleboro, MA 02703.

Corporation Name: _____ Type of Sponsor: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

We thank you for your support. Your generosity is extremely important to the community and greatly appreciated by us. If you choose to support us by donating a raffle prize, then you can either mail it to the above address or contact a member at bucciatwood@rimcl.org and we will come and pick it up from you!

Respectfully,

Dave Creamer, Commandant
Bucci-Atwood Detachment #376
Department of Rhode Island



RHODE ISLAND



Marine Corps League Kent County Detachment

- BENEFIT COMEDY SHOW -

Presented by John Perrotta's Comedy Factory

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

Doors open at 6:30pm - Showtime: 7:30pm

with appearances by...



**John
Perrotta**



**Rockin'
Joe Hebert**



**The Prince
of Mystery**



**Allison
Dyen**



**Russ
Gelfuso**

Knights of Columbus

475 Sandy Lane - Warwick, Rhode Island

Bring your own pizza, snacks • Cash bar • Raffles & 50/50

Tickets \$20pp - For tickets call 401-265-1406

visit rimcl.org, or scan the QR code

Only 175 seats available



QUAD STATE 2024

I want to thank Commandant Monnell and the Department of New Hampshire for hosting 2024 Quad State Convention and New England Division Conference. I would like to thank Executive Director/COO Bob Borka for his presentation, Brian Gillespie for his H.A.M.S.A.L presentation, Marine for Life, New England representative Zach Bennett for spending some time

Chaplain Howard participating in our memorial service for Cuzco Wells. I and I spent some time in the Bay last year in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the ending of the Vietnam War. I'd like to thank the following Marines of the New England Division for their hard work and dedication: Commandant Monnell, Distinguished Citizen Jon Zwirbl, Chaplain Howard, Distinguished Citizen ADVC Mike Hinds, Roland Knapp. Our banquet was U.S.



with us. National Vice Commandant Schaeffer for participating in our memorial service and events. We were honored to have the participation of the Batby Norwich University Professor David Ulbrich, which he spent time in Guantanamo celebrating the 125th battle. Due to scheduling conflicts, Executive Director of the Bill Davis attended then had to fly back for another event. Thank you for your effort although it was like to recognize the New England Division work and dedication. Commandant Monnell awarded Distinguished Citizen (Bronze) Commandant and National Chaplain Schaeffer awarded Distinguished Citizen (Silver) and awarded the GySgt guest speaker at the Marine Corps Brig.

Gen. Raymond L. Adams, commanding general of Force Headquarters Group, Marine Forces Reserve, thank you Sir!! The New England Division Marine of the Year went to a very deserving Marine, he has done and continues to do so much for the Veteran community. He is the epitome of "Service before Self". Congratulations to Past Commandant for the Department of Maine Charlie Paul. Thank you for your dedication! Also, thank you to National Y/M SgtMaj Susan Suber for attending and speaking at the banquet and participating in the color guard for fallen comrades memorial service.

Looking forward 2025 in Maine! Semper Parati!!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division

QUAD STATE 2024



The 2024 Quad State New England Division Conference began with the usual ritual at 13:05 on April 19th. This Conference was dedicated to Larry Herrmann who passed away earlier this year. Earlier in the day there was BINGO available which had a Grand Prize of \$175.00. Then Pizza for lunch and off to out meeting



Chief of Staff Joe Afonso and Adjutant Walt Benson to facilitate the presentations as well as the recording of the events. To The right Col. Bill Davis with NVC New England Division Pat Maguire and JR Rutovich presenting Col Davis with a check for the Young Marines Program. Col Davis spoke about the program as well as the new detachment of Young Marines in Southern Maine. Following the Col., Bernie Heaney, Division Compliance Officer spoke on where the Division stands on Compliance which include their 990's as well as their filing with the State for their incorporation. These are very important to every Department in the Division

QUAD STATE 2024



The night wrapped up with a growl on the left you can see Dave Creamer, Wayne Salisbury, JR Rutovich. On the right in front are Pat McMahon, Steve Cheney Jr., Jon Zwirblia, Rich Daigle and PCDD Doug Fisk leading the pack with his new hat. I hope he brings that home.



COO Bob Borka gave a presentation on Communication. From Bob's point Communication takes many forms. Transmittals, ROI's and of course the constant reminders of how to access information. There is so much information available at your finger tips. Where and how to send information to National is also a big issue as the Post Office becomes a less than reliable source for getting information back and forth.

In addition to Bob's lengthily presentation NVC New England Division Pat Maguire also spoke on the communication problems we are having and that people are just not getting the word. When he attend Depart. Meeting and talks to the members, he finds that they are unaware of things happening in the division. This was also a topic at mid-winter and last years National Convention. Communications that are passed down the chain are not getting to everyone. Pat also brought up the Division Newsletter and how it is also an excellent way to pass information along

NJA David Porter also addressed the members on the newsletter issue and the distance and number of people it reaches. If you are doing something why not tell others what you are doing and was it successful for you. We need more people to come back from their COVID Hiatus our numbers need to grow

QUAD STATE 2024



The six Department Commandants were given an award from left to right. Bob Mayers, Department of Vermont, Cherie Monnell, Department of New Hampshire, Pat McMahon, Department of Connecticut, NVC New England Division Pat Maguire, Jon Zwirblia, Department of Massachusetts, Charlie Paul, Department of Maine, Joe Afonso, Department of Rhode Island.



Cherie Monnell was awarded the Distinguished Citizen Bronze Medal for organizing the Quad State Conference



NVC New England Division Pat Maguire Presented Jon Zwirblia with the Distinguished Citizen Medal Silver for his work with Rucks 2 Pucks, trying to raise awareness and membership for the Marine Corps League. Of all the things we do in the league it is nice to see someone recognized for recruiting, since it is such an important part of what we do.

QUAD STATE 2024



There were other presentations one by Lt. Col. Zachary Bennett on the left receiving an award from NVC New England Division Pat Maguire. On the right Pat introducing Professor Ulbrich, Norwich University who spoke on the battle of Cuzco Wells in Cuba. There was also a presentation by Brian Gillispie HAMSAL, Help a Marine Save a Life.



NVC New England Division Pat Maguire Presented Michael Hinds The Roland G. Knapp Award, given for his dedication and Esprit de Corps to the New England Division and the Marine Corps League. To the right our honored guest NJA David Porter , also our self appointed Photographer for the day

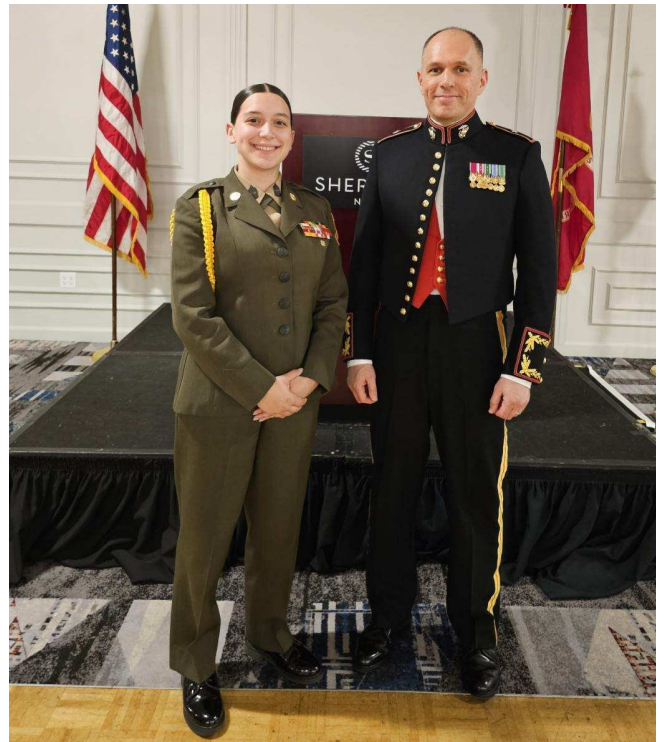
QUAD STATE 2024



The guest speaker of the evening was Brigadier General Raymond L. Adams, Commanding General Force Headquarters Group, who had an impressive career as well as many noteworthy exploits while in the Corps.



Asst. NVC New England Division Michael Hinds, NJA David Porter, Brigadier General Raymond L. Adams, NVC New England Division Pat Maguire.



Brigadier General Raymond L. Adams, and Young Marine of the Year, YM/SgtMaj Susan Suber , YM/ SgtMaj also spoke at the banquet telling us of her experience with the Young Marines

QUAD STATE 2024



The final two awards of the evening were Charlie Paul was named Division Marine of The Year and Latrice Cheney was named Division Associate Member of the Year, picture with her Son Steven Jr., and Husband Steve. Both recipient pictured with NVC New England Division Pat Maguire



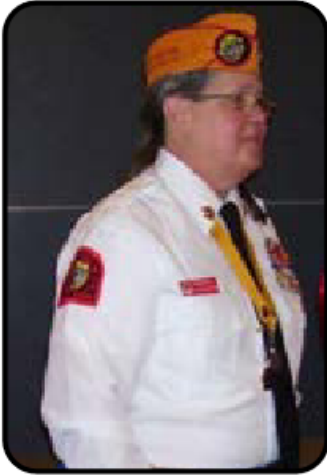
One final group shot with the General and we say goodbye to another Division Conference. As we part to go our separate ways we remember those who no longer travel with us and received orders to their final post. These Brothers and sisters we carry with us in our stories and memories and as long as we do, they are with us every day, Semper Fidelis.



SCRATCHING'S FROM THE DOGS



New England Division: PDD Cherie Monnell



New England Division-WOG Spring 2024

The New England Division is going strong and with the promise of spring in the air the dogs are getting out and running.

I am still not able to travel all the time but keep in touch with all and am available to all. The Packs and Pounds keep up to date with the paperwork.

Come mid-April the dogs of New England will get together at the Quad State Convention and New England Division Conference in NH with a Growl on Friday night.



As always, I am available by email and phone on the following days and times; Mon-Fri-0900-1800, Sat-Sun-1000-1200. Emails may be sent anytime, but please no phone calls after the stated times unless an emergency.

Woof-Woof
PDD Cherie Monnell
New England Division
Vice Chief Devil Dog
VCDDCharie@gmail.com
207-752-0025



REST IN PEACE

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the Passing the Kennel Charity Dog, PDD Barbara Vanner. Thank you for everything you have done for the MODD, and what you have taught our Devil Dogs

TAPS /MEMORIES/ FAREWELL

It is so very hard to say goodbye when we bid farewell to a friend, it is even harder when they are more. JR, was a friend, a brother, an entertainer, story teller, someone who was always willing to help no matter what you needed. And he will continue to be all of that because his stories and

memories he gave us will live with us for many years to come. People always say they will be missed but I never really felt this until now, I started missing JR the moment I heard he passed. He was one of the people I always looked forward to seeing every time I travelled to a Conference or Convention. Since I heard I have been remembering and reliving the stories he told me one by one.

I remember him at a Massachusetts Convention where he got up from the table put a napkin over his are and started going table to table with a bottle of wine asking if he could fill peoples glasses. That was just one of the many things he did at events. I sat at many a banquet table and at Growls as well and he could always come up with ways to surprise you. JR had so many fac-

es and played so many roles in all of our lives. He always had a kind word and always supported what you were doing, it was never all about him. When the Division first started this Newsletter he told me that he printed them all out so that there was a record of them. His thoughts were of the

people and the league. If there is something to take away from all of this, especially in the passing of JR and of Larry as well, it's that neither man took themselves too serious and we should follow that example. Larry considered himself the League Jester and as you can see below JR had many faces and yet he had the respect, admiration and love of all the league. He has touched so many lives and was there for so many people, this is truly God's gain and our loss. I will truly miss you and I will think of you

and all of those stories often. By the way you have the duty tonight.

Semper Fidelis,

My Brother

Rest Easy

We've got the watch



TAPS / MEMORIES / FAREWELL

General Alfred M. Gray Jr., the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, died March 20 at his home in Alexandria, Virginia. He was 95. General Gray was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 39 years, Jan, who passed away January 30, 2020.

Born June 22, 1928, in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., Gray enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1950 after dropping out of college to fight in Korea, serving as a radio operator with the Amphibious Reconnaissance Platoon, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

Over the next 41 years, Gray established a legacy of heroism in combat, deploying eight times to lead Marines in dangerous missions – several of them clandestine. Gray earned the distinction of leading the first independent ground operations by a Marine unit in Vietnam while commanding a composite unit of signals intelligence Marines supported by attached infantry. During his several deployments to Vietnam, Gray pioneered modern signals intelligence collection methods and developed operational employment concepts in which intelligence drove follow-on operations. His lifelong advocacy for such techniques earned him admittance to the National Security Agency's Hall of Honor in 2008 for lifetime achievements in the area of signals intelligence. His early work and establishment of two units, formed the nucleus of what is known today as the Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion.

Commanding at every operational level from 40-person platoon to 40,000-strong Marine Amphibious Force, General Gray reached the pinnacle of Marine Corps leadership when Navy Secretary James Webb selected him to serve as the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

While Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Gray established an unrivaled reputation as a champion of academics and professional education. He federated five of the Corps' formal schools for officers and senior enlisted leaders under the umbrella command of a new Marine Corps University. Hundreds of Marine leaders earn accredited degrees through the university each year as they complete courses of study for promotion and advancement. For Marines of all ranks, Gray implemented the requirement to read at least two books each year from a list he hand-selected. The Commandant's Reading List remains a fixture of Marine Corps professional development.

Gray also led the Marine Corps through the adoption of the doctrinal warfighting concept that serves as the distinguishing institutional and operational philosophy to this day. The Corps' embrace of maneuver warfare doctrine earned it numerous battlefield successes from the 1980s through the modern day. Maneuver warfare continues to be studied not just by U.S. Marines, but by foreign militaries and even civilian business schools around the world. Maneuver warfare emphasizes adaptability, decisiveness, and initiative based on common operational understanding.

Throughout his career, Gray's experience as a junior Marine and a noncommissioned officer anchored his leadership philosophy. In an address to a graduating U.S. Naval Academy class, he advised the newly commissioning officers, "If you come and join my Marines, I want you to know that your 'number one' job is to take care of the men and women you are privileged to lead."

Gray stated in interviews that his best day in the Marine Corps was the day he promoted to corporal and joined the ranks of noncommissioned officers.

"I think as excited as I ever was as a young Marine ... my proudest day probably was when I got to put corporal on my return address on the envelope [home]. That was a very, very good day."

Gray left his mark in other ways as well. When visitors to the Pentagon observe the portraits of the Corps' Commandants hanging in the Marine Corps hallway, the tidy row of officers bedecked in Marine Corps Dress Blues and gleaming medals is abruptly disrupted by the face of General Gray smiling back at them as he stands proudly in his Camouflage Utility Uniform. As was his reputation, Gray sought to deliver an enduring message.

He adamantly instructed all Marines that "every Marine is, first and foremost, a rifleman. All other conditions are secondary."

This warrior mindset manifested itself in the areas of training and combat readiness as well. Gray directed changes to Marines' readiness to fight "in any clime or place," as the service's hymn reads. Marine formations trained to conduct large-scale maneuvers in desert and cold-weather environments, as unit leaders implemented the tenets of maneuver warfare. This transformation in the aftermath of the Vietnam War-era included the development of a maritime special operations capability, emphasis on the education of leaders, establishment of the Marine Corps University, and development of a long-range desert operations capability.

From their first date in September of 1969, General Gray and his wife Jan were separable only by fidelity to Corps and duty. After a brief engagement, then-Major General Gray and Jan married on July 27, 1980, in Burlington, Vermont. Throughout their marriage of nearly 40 years, Mrs. Gray gave her time and efforts unselfishly to the Marine Corps. She was best known for her dedication to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, the Marine Corps Scholarship Program, the Navy Wifeline Program, the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program, and the families of casualties from the Beirut Bombing. In 1985, she was lauded with the Marine Corps League Distinguished Service Award. In 1991, the Department of the Navy bestowed on her its Distinguished Public Service Award, recognizing her years of dedication to the men, women and families of the Department of the Navy.

After his military retirement, General Gray served as board chairman and CEO for several public and private companies and was a consultant for several organizations in national and international industry and government. He served on the Defense Science Board; Defense Special Operations Advisory Group; National Security Agency Science Advisory Board; National Reconnaissance Office Gold Team; Defense Operations Support Office Advisory Team; and as director of the Advanced Concept Demonstration Technology for Combat in the Littorals. General Gray was also chairman emeritus of the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and America Fund, which help take care of wounded veterans and their families. In addition, he served as chancellor of the Marine Military Academy and chairman of the U.S. Marine Youth Foundation, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, and the Chairman of the Board of the Norwich University Advanced Research Institute.

A public visitation, organized by the estate of General Gray, will be held from 1400-1600 and 1800-2000, April 7, 2024 at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington St, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, 703-549-0074. The uniform for the April 7 visitation is Dress Blue/White Bravo with cloth belt, white gloves, and mourning band. There will be an open-to-the-public Full Honors Funeral Ceremony in the National Capital Region at a location and time to be determined. Burial services at Arlington National Cemetery will follow the funeral ceremony. In lieu of flowers, General and Mrs. Gray wish for donations to any of the following charitable organizations:

Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund
Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation
Marine Youth Fitness Foundation
Marine Corps University Foundation
Marine Corps Heritage Foundation
Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation
Hope for the Warriors
Toys For Tots
Carolina Museum of the Marine
Marine Corps Association
Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society
www.marines.mil



MARINE FOR LIFE



Connect to resources and opportunities:

Whether you're just starting the transition process, or you've already made the move to civilian life, the Marine for Life Network is here to help you grow your professional network and provide the support and guidance you need to succeed beyond the military.

Strengthen your professional relationships and expand your network.: Networking is crucial in today's professional world. The Marine for Life Network facilitates your networking capabilities through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.

Virtual: Join the [Marine for Life Network's](#) growing community of Marines, Veterans, and military community members on LinkedIn. This premier professional networking site is an excellent resource for accessing career tools, staying connected with peers, and developing your professional brand. To connect, start by setting up a profile and joining a Marine for Life regional net-

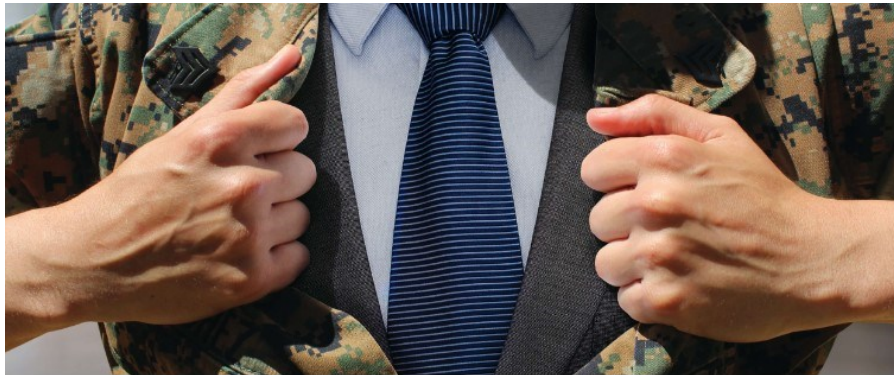
work group.

Face-to-Face: More than 70 Marine for Life Representatives serves our program as

hometown links. These representatives create a bridge between the military and civilian communities across the nation, connecting you to military-friendly job op-

portunities, career resources, and networking events. Your local representative will help you build relationships and explore employment, education, and community resources in your current area or the area where you plan to move.

Military Spouses too! The Marine for Life Network is committed to helping military spouses build relationships and connections that can benefit them in both their personal and professional lives. By leveraging the power of the Marine for Life Network, military spouses can tap into a wider network of employers, academic institutions, entrepreneurship resources, and more!





MARINE FOR LIFE



I KNOW A GUY

Recently at Quad State LT. COL. Zachary Bennett spoke to us about the Marine For Life Program and how the Marine Corps League could work with the program to the benefit of all. During his presentation he inadvertently made the comment, "I know A Guy" and it triggered something in me. How many times have you been looking for tickets to a game, or a DJ for a dinner or banquet, looking for a job, or looking to promote something you are doing and some friend will say hey! I

know a guy. At whatever point in your life you are at looking for a job or a career change, your best chance of success is Networking. By word of mouth and friendships you can find a new job and usually it is because someone will say, I know a Guy. It should be one of our mottos as it is something we could all benefit from.

When we help other Marines, we help them according to their needs. The needs of the younger are not the same as the needs of the older. That being said no matter what help they need you will always go back to I know a guy. I know a guy who is hiring people, I know a guy who has a wheel chair, or can build a ramp for one on your house. We live in a society where this is a necessity in everyday life. If something breaks at work you immediately go to you contacts and look till you find the guy that will help with this particular problem.

Another topic that came up in the presentation was making contact with Marines mustering out of the corps. As members of the league we can help. We can be a source of information



and guidance to help these Marines find their way. In this way we become "The Guy" that can help solve their problem, point them in the right direction. In his presentation the Colonel said I meet Marines and have a beer with them and a Marine from the audience Cody Dumont spoke up that his detachment has something similar in place.

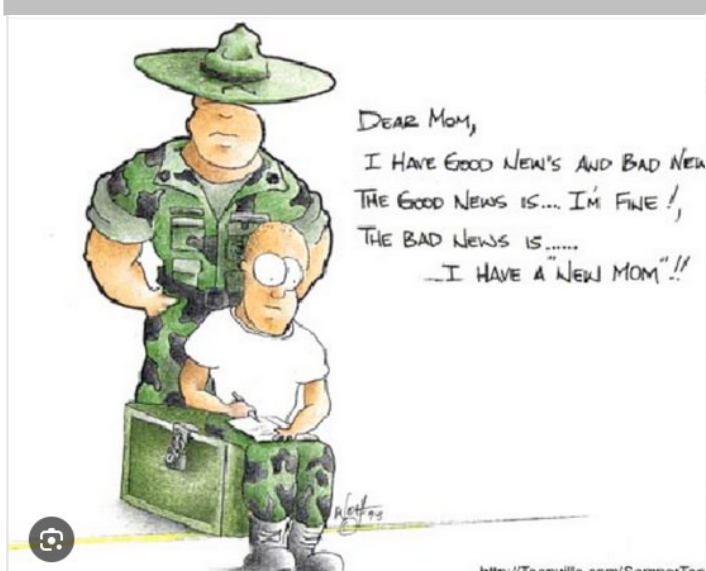
The Marine Corps League is a VSO made up of predominately Marines who still wish to serve both other Marines and their Community.

We are constantly looking for ways to serve. One important way we serve is Funeral Honors as we render honors to those Marines who have gone to their final post. We all embrace this as one of the most important missions we serve at. The next most important missions should be make the transition from active duty to civilian life as smooth and easy as possible. These Marines should know and feel the support of other Marines looking to help them move on. I didn't know about the Marine Corps League for forty years and there were many of those years I could have used them. Unfortunately The Marine Corps League is not as well known as we would like it to be and that is something we need to work on. The most successful detachments are the ones that are active in the community. When it comes to the Marines mustering out of the Corps, it comes down to friendships and comradery so that you become the source of information to the new members.

Walt Benson



HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



<http://Toonville.com/SemperToo>



DI CRUSHER SAYS:

"Many have stood on the
Yellow Foot Prints....,"

Few..., have stepped off
earning the title
Marine!"

SEMPERTOONS
ALWAYS TOONS



**After I drink
coffee I like to
show the empty
mug to the IT guy
to tell him that
I've successfully
installed Java. He
hates me.**

**MY COFFEE LOOKED
AT ME THIS MORNING
AND TOLD ME,**



Funny thoughts
and jokes

**"SORRY, I DON'T
DO MIRACLES!"**

Building a strong relationship to secure the future



As a member of the Marine Corps Association, you will be well-connected with the Corps with MCA's membership benefits:

Resources:

[Leatherneck – Magazine of the Marines and The Marine Corps Gazette](#) are our monthly flagship publications that feature valuable information from the Corps. Members can select print and/or digital issues and can access more than one hundred years of issues of both magazines online for free. Non-members do not have access to our Magazine archives. [Click here](#) to see sample issues.

- [The MARINE Shop](#) is our retail store that assists Marines with their uniform requirements regardless of rank and offers many Marine Corps themed gifts and apparel.

MCA Group Insurance Program features valuable insurance products with your needs in mind – all backed by an association you can trust. We leverage the buying power of our MCA members to bring you competitive group rates and offer one convenient source for the following products:

[Term Life Insurance](#)

[TRICARE Supplement](#)

[Dental Insurance](#)

[Vision Insurance](#)

[Pet Insurance](#)

[Long-Term Care Insurance](#)

[Medicare Insurance Plans](#)

[Individual and Family Health Insurance Plans](#)



To learn more about the benefits of the Marine Corps Association Group Insurance Program, [Click Here](#) or call (800) 845-4685.

Networking Opportunities:

Discounted [Professional Events](#): Our members receive discounted rates for our MCA professional dinners and events held annually throughout the Corps. Our dinners provide members with access to senior leaders of the Marine Corps, Department of Defense, and industry. Active-duty members can attend for free.

Professional Development:

[MCA Battle Study Packages](#): Members will have access to all of our Battle Study Packages and learn from the lessons of the battles of the past to excel in the Corps battlefields of the future.

[MCA Decision-Making Exercises](#): Members can practice solving issues to increase their ability to make decisions through dozens of tactical and ethical decision games

[MCA Corps Voices](#): Hear the Corps' icons from Chesty Puller to Alexander Vandegrift to Al Gray discuss issues, challenges, and battlefield tactics in these audio excerpts recorded over the last one hundred years.





RECRUITING "IT'S JOB ONE"!!

Walt Benson



The Marine Corps League is Looking for a Few Good Marines

Recently at a Connecticut Growl one Dog brought up the fact that there were 14 dogs at the growl and that two months prior there were 14 dogs as well, and that he was disgusted by the turn out. This has been a trend since COVID and it's not only the dogs but the league and other organizations as well. At some point we have to take a stand. Detachments and Departments are hurting for officers and staff and you do not have to be a genius to realize we cannot survive like this. Newsletter articles don't help so maybe it's time to take the strong position and ask others, "where were you at the meeting"? When I joined the league I joined to do something productive and to help others. It wasn't to drink beer and tell stories, but that doesn't say that is off the table. I'm pretty sure you guys did the same thing, so what happened?

The greatest Generation is gone, and Korea and Vietnam are next. Marines you are the keeper of the torch. It is the job of we here to make sure this organization survives. I realize everyone has different abilities. Some of us have great difficulty moving around but we all realized as we grew older this would happen and we would have to find other ways to be useful and productive. A few years ago I loved doing Funeral Honors. I felt it was one of the most fulfilling things I could do but I can no longer do that. We



DO YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

JOIN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

**MARINES
WANTED**

FIND A DETACHMENT

[HTTPS://WWW.MCLNATIONAL.ORG/FIND-A-DETACHMENT.HTML](https://www.mclnational.org/find-a-detachment.html)



have many jobs in the Marine Corps League that do not require good legs and feet. I have been the Department Paymaster for five years and I can honestly tell you I never ran one time to create or give that report. When I write this Newsletter I do so sitting down.

Each one of us that puts forth the effort contributes to the needs of other Marines and the Good Of The League. We usually talk about bringing new Marines in here but we also now need to bring Marines back to being active in the League. The need never changes there will always be more Marines and Veterans that need help. If we are not here who do they go to. Yes there are many VSO's but none of them not one single organization on the planet does it as well as we do..

Lastly, I'm not writing this to call out anyone although I would if I had to. I'm just the guy writing this article and I'm no better than you. I'm writing what some of you know and have said it in other ways. So if tomorrow you step up to the plate and decide to try a new job or new position, it will make you feel better, it's for the greater good.

Semper FI.
Walt Benson

Are You Ready?



Mike & Kay Ross
Albert E. Shockey Detachment #960
Kokomo, Indiana



Tribe@MCLeague.org
www.mclnational.org

Toys For Tots • Color Guard • Young Marines
Funeral Honors • Preserve Traditions

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

In each Issue I would like to focus on Marines that are bringing their A GAME to the Division and our mission. I would ask that Detachment and Department Commandants, as well as Pack Leaders send in their choices of Members and Dogs who deserve recognition for the work they do and the contributions they make to our success. You should describe their contributions and why they are being recognized , since you know them the best.

Thanks to the Young Marines for recognizing me and all our volunteers during National Volunteer Month.

"In observance of National Volunteer Month in April, the Young Marines has named Swansea, Massachusetts resident Bruce Katz as Young Marines



New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont.

In addition to his Young Marine work, Katz is a volunteer firefighter in the Swansea Fire Dept and an active member of the LCPL John J Van Gyzen Det. 1285 Marine Corps League in Somerset, MA and the

Adult Volunteer of the Year for Division 1.

Katz has filled a variety of roles within the program. He is currently an adult volunteer at the unit level and a division leadership school director, but he has previously served in leadership roles as unit commander and executive officer, battalion commander and as regimental executive officer. Division 1 encompasses nine states: Pennsylvania, New Hampshire,

American Legion Post #303 Swansea, MA." Bruce is also the New England Division Liaison to the Young Marines and he is the judge advocate for the Department of Massachusetts .

Semper Fidelis !!

Bruce



2024

APRIL

2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	TAX DAY				QUAD STATE	QUAD STATE
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
QUAD STATE						
28	29	30				



2024

MAY

2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
MEMORIAL DAY WEEK-END						



CLASSIFIED SECTION



HELP WANTED

Department of CT– Is seeking a Paymaster to begin serving in June. No Department can function or conduct any business without a paymaster. One need not be able to function as an accountant you need only to be able to balance a check-book and care. It is an opportunity to move up in the league and serve at a higher level.

Department of CT– Is seeking an Americanism Chair. Your duties would include overseeing the Department's participation and entries into the Americanism program.

Department of CT– Is seeking a VAVS NORTH and VAVS SOUTH. These positions have been open for a while there are training videos available on the National Website.

Department of CT– Is seeking a Young Marine Liaison. This position requires someone to keep the Young Marines and the Marine Corps League connected to each other. Keep up on the events they are participating in and encourage us to attend and support those events.

Department of CT– Is seeking an Adjutant. The Job of the Adjutant is to take the minutes at the Department meetings and facilitate the communications for the Department.

Department of CT– Is seeking a Youth Physical Fitness liaison to make contact with schools to set up the program and help out wherever needed.

New England Division– is seeking a Historian, who will take over keeping the history and accomplishments of the Division.

New England Division– is seeking a Legal Advisor and for this position you would need skills to advise the Division on all legal matters.

New England Division– is seeking a Auxiliary Liaison. This position needs to be filled by a strong individual who would basically bring the Auxiliary back to life. You would need good communication skills as well as drive and ambition.

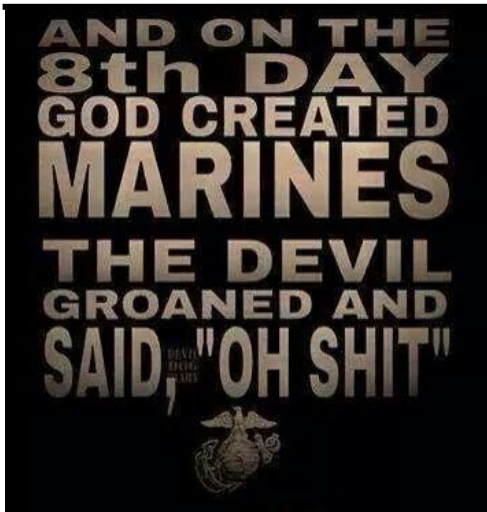
New England Division– is seeking a Youth Physical Fitness liaison to make contact with schools to set up the program and help out wherever needed.

HELP WANTED

Each edition I will list any job a Department has that is open. We need to encourage Marines to step up and fill these positions. Many people think that those of us that hold positions have some special skills that allow us to do these things we do but that is not true. WE are all here because we feel we have more to offer and more to do. We appreciate that you come to the meetings but think how much more you could help by stepping up. I think by now I have heard just about every excuse to why people can't do things but you can and that is a conversation you need to have with yourself. No one ever joined the Marine Corps because they thought there were easy no stress jobs here. There are jobs listed here that if not filled would prevent a Department from functioning. There are only two people authorized to handle money in the Department one is the Commandant the other is the Paymaster. These are the only two people that can sign checks, the only two people listed on the accounts for banking and scholarship. What are your special skills? You can deposit money in the bank write checks and keep the checkbook balanced. There are other jobs that are just as important but this is the one I know the best right now. When I took it I did so in a situation similar to this there was a new commandant coming in and I did not want them to struggle or be limited. We need someone to do this again.

Youth Physical Fitness liaison is another position that we are desperately seeking to fill. If you were a teacher or a coach you may have the connections we need to get this program off the ground. I have some ideas that are being used in other states by people, we need people here with connections to help implement them. I am sorry that I didn't give more notice but this was a last minute idea by someone who is desperate to bring us back to where we were. It is time to come off the sidelines your brothers and sisters need you now more than ever. I'm pretty sure I learned this in bootcamp when I was tired the DI said sleep when your dead. So in the future send us your open jobs better yet send us your Marines.

Walt Benson



Regardless of the situation, the Marine Corps has an answer for almost everything.

A Marines Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.

Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer. Amen



Marine Corps League National Convention 2024

Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort and Spa
71333 Dinah Shore Drive,
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

August 12th through August 16th
Banquet is Friday August 16th

WORD OF THE DAY

Over the centuries, certain Latin phrases have been used widely enough in English to get included in the dictionary. This is one of the favorites:

Semper Fidelis

sem-per fi-dey-lis;

"Always faithful"

These two words have long served as motto for families, schools, and organizations – most famously, since 1883, for the United States Marine Corps.

EXAMPLE:

He will receive the Semper Fidelis Award for his support of the Marine Corps University Foundation.

Source:
Merriam-Webster Dictionary - <http://bit.ly/1evC70a>

Image Source:
barrykibrick.files.wordpress.com