



October 2024 — November 2024

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 1



Message From The Division Commandant



Members,

It is amazing how the summer has flown by. The 2024 National Convention out in Palm Springs was a good time. New England was well represented, those who made the trip, I want to say "Thank you" for making the trip. I hope to see more from New England next year in Dallas/Fort Worth. As we head into the fall and winter seasons there will be a lot going on. Toys for Tots, Marine Corps Birthday celebrations, Veterans Day parades, etc. Even though it's going to be a busy time of year, let's not forget our Brothers and Sisters who are not able to participate in the celebrations and events. They may need a ride, can't do it financially, or their work schedule interferes. It's not the reason why they can't that we focus on, we need to focus on including them somehow. Reach out to them and see how you can be of assistance. It could be a simple phone call that helps them out of the



but they're in. All of us are busy with one thing or another and that one call could help them.

On a personal note. I'd like to announce that our Daughter, Jessica gave birth to Jackson Kane, born 22 September weighing in at 8.7 pounds. He is the first grandchild for Lynn and I and we are pretty excited to be

grandparents. His first period of instruction will be how to low crawl before moving on to close order drill. It'll be about fundamentals and slow progression but we got some time before he steps on those yellow foot prints. Shhhhhh!!! Don't tell his mother.

Semper Fi!!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



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IMPORTANT

Laskey's Telegraph is published every two months in the first week of the following months.

FEBRUARY. APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER AND DECEMBER.

The cut off date for submitting material is the last week of the following months. JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER.. If there is a special circumstance please call to make arrangements.

Send submissions to:

Walt.benson5@gmail.com
203-768-8435

Send pictures, please include names and what you and your detachment is doing.

WHAT SHOULD I SUBMIT?

This is your Newsletter, so anything you think others might be interested in. Look at the categories, Departments, Toy for Tots, Devil Dogs, Taps, Birthdays, Sick and I Need. Upcoming Events, Help Wanted, History, League and Marine Corps, Birthdays, Awards and Recognition. Community Events, Scholarships, Conventions, Meetings and Grand Growls, and ongoing projects. What are we doing for recruiting? What are we doing for Marines for Life? What can we do to bring back the Auxiliary? Think of some of the programs we have expanded and can you think of any others you want to create or expand? We expanded the Dogs to include donations to provide help to animal shelters, what about other groups? What about donations for women's shelters for women and children of these women? Toys For Tots expanded there program to allow year round help to children in distress. Someone had an idea and this grew from it, you could start your idea here. I am sure there is more but this is a good start

Walt Benson



NATIONAL COMMANDANT



Hello to the membership of the Marine Corps League!

Now that we have all traveled home from National Convention, and back to the local business of the MCL, I wanted to send out to you what is happening and what are some of the things we are working on.

So many moving parts, lots of zoom meetings and correspondence through emails as I work in my new position as your National Commandant. As I am working on this letter, there are others in the MCL working on so many items. Let us start with your National Training and Leadership Committee. We have done such an excellent job with our bylaws and administrative procedures; we have out-paced our other MCL publications. Right now, Bonita Johnson and her Training Committee have taken on the task of updating the MCL Ritual, the Detachment guidebook and will soon update our officer's guidebook and our professional development program. The first two I listed should be completed by midwinter and the last two should be done by national convention. That is a big task to undertake, and I have faith in Bonita and that committee to finish the mission.

Tony Poletti and his Honor Guard Committee (soon to be Honor Guard/Color Guard Committee) are working on a new color guard manual that was put together by Scott Westervelt. This will be done and approved by the Board of Trustees in the next couple of months. Long overdue and thank you Scott and Tony for your work on that.

The PR committee and the membership committee are working on and preparing for the 250th birthday of the Marine Corps. They will work to help our outside marketing firm get our Marine Corps League recruiting up. Each detachment should work on the retention end of that keeping our new members engaged. The PR committee is seeking to expand their footprint so if you are interested in joining a very active committee, send Victoria McCoy an email at publicrelations@mcleague.org

Bob Borka has really put a ton of effort into our VSO program. I have never seen such enthusiasm from our membership on our Veterans Service Officers. That is what we were chartered to do, and it is refreshing to get back into the business of helping the Marines!

Howard Schaffer is rebuilding the VAVS program as we look to get more members into our local VA to help. If you are a current VAVS MCL member, send Howard an email at mcnationalchaplain@gmail.com and let him know your status like what detachment you are in, what state and what hospital. He really needs you all to help him reestablish the VAVS.

A couple other things that have been completed are a MOU with the MODD and the MCLA on our Memorial and Veterans Day wreath laying. Also, a new Protocol SOP has been written and approved for Midwinter and Convention as well as for the Commandant's ball. These are some of the things that are going on in the MCL in the last month since convention. I take pride in moving the MCL forward and will continue to do everything I can for the good of the League. If you have questions and/or suggestions to make our League better, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. The National Board of Trustees are here to serve you, the membership.

Semper Fi
TJ Morgan
66th National Commandant



2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



On August 12th 2024 we kick off the next hundred years of the Marine Corps League with our 101st Convention. We traveled far and braved the heat, the lines, the delays and arrived at Palm Springs California. For those who didn't make the trip we will try to give you a picture of some of what you missed. You will see some details, events, awards and meals but the one thing that is hard to express is the comradery that we all feel and experience. It is a feeling like no other and it starts with breakfast. You get your breakfast and look for a seat and if you find some of the people you know fine but if not you sit with someone new. "Hello where are you guys from"? Its amazing you get to hear about not only other parts of the country but of other conventions you may have not attended. Usually you will connect with these people again, either at mid-winter or next National.

Each day began with breakfast from 6 till 8, with Colors each morning at 8, and the business meeting starting at 9. Each Convention is unique in that it offers additional trips and events to attend. Here there was a Cable Car ride to the top of the mountain for some spectacular views, a meal, and a small escape from the heat of the desert. The average temperature was a balmy 115 degrees, "but it's a dry heat", that joke lasted the entire trip. Our second excursion was to Marine Corps Base Twenty Nine Palms, one of the few Paradise Destinations our Navy Uber rides could not deliver us too. We spent about four hours on the base and I never saw more than twenty people anywhere on the base. We were given a lecture on air/ground Combat and took a tour of the base, (on the Bus) of what is done on the base as well as the history and future plans for the base. Others went on planned trips of their own, The Ronald Reagan Library, and the George Patton Museum. Now that you have a brief summary let's look at what we spent the week on.



2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



Dawn arrives on not the first day of the convention but it is the first day of activities, and the first event is the cable car ride to the top of the mountain for some fantastic views and food. The ride is a two and a half mile journey to the peak of San Jacinto which put you above ten thousand feet and cause some people to experience shortness of breath. Besides the views and the food there are hiking trails available if you desire and the temp drops below 100 at that height.





2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



The Dogs are among the first to arrive as those coming to advance to PDD need to register and get assigned to Platoons and handlers for the three day event.

To the right the guardians of The Dog House: Seen No Evil, Speak No Evil, Hear no Evil, what happens in the Dog House Stays in the Dog House, Woof Woof!! Below the Dog file in for the opening Ceremony at the start of the Convention. These Dogs are this years group that are seeking advancement to PDD.



Our own Commandant
of Massachusetts
Jon Zwirbilia
DOG OF THE YEAR
TWENTY TWENTY TWO





2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



The Convention began with the traditional ceremonies of the announcing of dignitaries and presentation of the colors, followed by opening statements by the dignitaries. Warren Griffin thanked everyone for the messages he got on the passing of his wife, CDD Alan Sanning reported on the new Dogs advancing to PDD's and the change in the Dog's Schedule to include a Banquet. Howard Schaeffer spoke on the foundation and highlighted on some of what the foundation does, and how the foundation falls short and needs the support of the league. Memorial Service for all of those we have lost in the past year.



National Commandant Warren Griffin receives a Proclamation from the Mayor Pro-Tem, Ron deHarte, from the city of Palm Springs.





2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



In the afternoon there were the newsletter awards, Shooting medals, and submission of the Americanism books. Above some of the New England attendees. Warren Griffin, Walt Benson, Jamie and Peter DePaola, Jos Afonso, Jon Zwirblia, Pat Maguire, Walt Benson, Mike Hinds, Larry Chretien, and . Below was Happy Hour every day from 4:30 to 5:30, below left Liz Anderson, Howard Shaeffer, Walt Benson, and David Porter (AKA, The Original, looking devastated that Happy Hour is Over. To the right Kennel Lucky Dog Reggie and bottom Left another group with David Porter II, with Mike Hinds and The Original in the background





2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



There were Officer Reports, National Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice and JA were on Line



The Chief, the President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Gave their Report and Bob Zilch reviewed the Budget



Members awarded the Distinguished Citizen Gold Medal



2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



There were those who received Distinguished Citizen Silver Medals





2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



Above donations were made by the Department of MA. \$2000, NE Division \$1000, and Roy Clark \$290 To The Marine Corps League Foundation



Donations were made to the Young Marines from Jon Zwirblia, and Mike Hinds, \$2000 from the Dept of MA And Donations were made From Joe Afonso and Pat Maguire \$1000 on behalf of the NE Division.



The Dogs outdid themselves and broke the record. For the first time the Dogs presented a check to the Children Hospital for over one hundred thousand Big Bones. Actually it was a check for \$105,000 Big Bones. Great Job Woof Woof! Also not the new Cover for the Chief Devil Dog which is now Black.



2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



Thursday were nominations for the Election to be held on Friday. Thursday was also the trip to 29 Palms.



Our visit to 29 Palms was very interesting, and when people said when you were in that you didn't want to go there they weren't lying. We attended a class in the Air Ground Combat training Center. This base is so big that every base the Marine Corps has can fit inside of it with room to spare. The Marines took it over just after WWII when the Army stopped using it for a training base. There are several types of vehicles staged to be used as targets on the live fire range and they also have other vehicles that are still actively used including a few Tanks that the hod from General Berger. We drove through quite a bit of the base and I didn't see more than twenty Marines on the property and considering the schools and the classes located on the base that was really surprising. During the class I noticed several people taking photos of the slides and taking notes on the class, which really surprised me as you do not have a rifle platoon nor do you have air support at your disposal, just saying. The vehicles we stopped to look at well when its 115 degrees outside you can't even touch them. It was still worth seeing.



2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



Friday we voted, and then adjourned to make ready for the Banquet, Guest Speaker , and Change of Command





2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA



Marine of The Year, Associate Member of The Year, Young Marine of The Year



A few words from our New Commandant TJ Morgan about going forward and wishing everyone a safe journey home and the 101st is in the books.

This one was tough it was far away and very hot, but all of these conventions are a way to conduct business and have fun while we explore the world. The time when someone would call us fire breathing piss ants may be gone but by the time we leave, despite the canes, scooters, wheelchairs, and walkers, everyone knows the Marines have been there. But we want everyone there, because the more the merrier. You go to breakfast in the morning and sit with people you do not know and by the time you are done you are making plans to go somewhere or sharing information about some local event. This is the place to be, you can get

help, give help and enjoy life, meet people, while learning about different areas of our Country.

Next year is Texas, I'm hoping it is more fun than this year and just remember that when you were in your twenties there was no FaceBook, nor social media, so there is no record of how dumb you could be, today there is, just be careful and do it anyway. There is plenty of local activities including a nearby gun range that offer machine guns, Ooh-rah. If you drive parking at the hotel is free and we don't see that too much anymore so take advantage. If you are flying there is a shuttle from the airport. I hope to see a lot of people there, If you have never been before take a chance come to one, if not this one the next which is Indiana and we will vote on the one after that. On the next two pages there are two additional side trips from this convention that were found by some of the people who traveled here. One is the Ronald Reagan Library and the other was the Georg Patton Museum. Patton was one of my favorite General, he should have been a Marine he had the right attitude and temperament for it. He didn't like the quote about one dying for their country, he felt let the enemy die for hi country instead

Walt Benson



2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION RONALD REAGAN LIBRARY

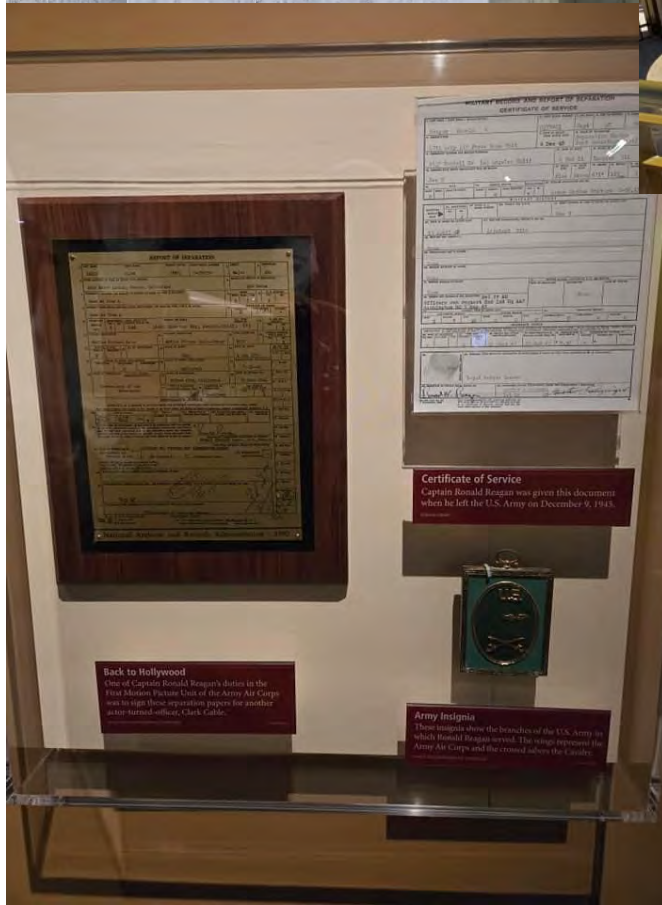


"I became one of the first Americans to discover the horrors of Nazism...we began receiving secret films [that] engraved images on my mind that will be there forever."
—RONALD REAGAN

IN THE ARMY
FOUNDATIONS OF A LEADER

In 1937, before he left Des Moines, Iowa, Ronald Reagan enlisted in the 14th Cavalry Reserve Regiment—which combined his love of country with his passion for horses. During World War II, he was called to active service, but his poor eyesight ruled out a combat assignment.

Ronald Reagan spent most of the war with the First Motion Picture Unit of the U.S. Army Air Forces in Culver City, California making training films, documentaries and teaching camera crews. You can see some of the Army films he produced in the kiosk just to your right.





2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION GEN. PATTON MUSEUM



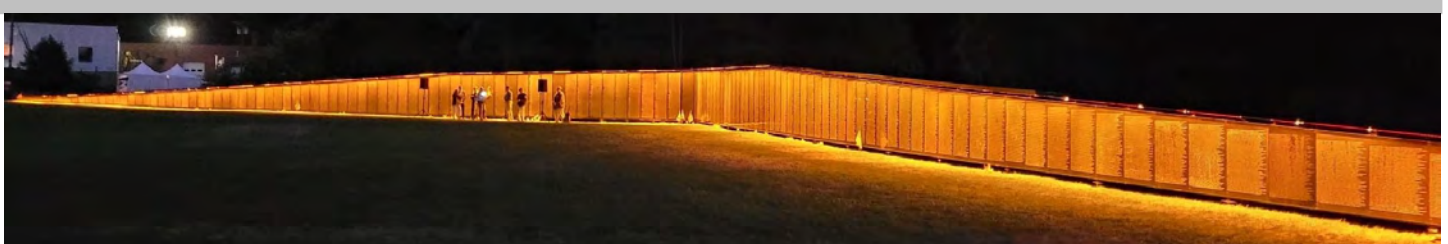


THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL



Above: The Wall That Heals, Manchester Connecticut, The Wall is lit up in orange during the Agent Orange presentation.

“The Wall That Heals”, as it is referred to is so much more than slabs of granite with names, and although there are 58,281 names on the Wall it should be noted that there are so many more that each of these names are connected to. I would estimate the number has to be over a million if not more just judging by the conversations I had when volunteering to help at this event. It wasn’t just family members visiting the Wall, it was friends, close and distant. It was friends of families, and people who grew up with or went to school with these Heroes. Some were descendants of family members stating that Grandma would want us to do this. There were schools bringing students to learn about “The Wall”, and inevitably about the war. The ones that got to me the most were the people with the bracelets. I never thought I would see those bracelets again. I don’t remember what happened to mine I know it broke and I kept it in a drawer for a while but eventually it got lost. I took the bracelet from the visitor to read the name and then put the bracelet on the table so I could look them up in the book, and the person would immediately reach down and scoop it up as if it had been dropped on the ground. I quickly learned to hold the bracelet while I looked up the name, as these bracelets were cherished and sacred.

Some came with a list of names, others came with a memory that they couldn’t spell or have a com-

plete name, and those took some time to find as you would have to unravel the mystery, asking about state, branch of service, when they died or if they died in Vietnam or later after they returned home. Each visitor struggled in the conversation while trying to find someone on the Wall. Some came in tears and found it difficult to get the words out, and would ask for a moment but it was not necessary as no one was rushed or passed over.

People shared their stories. One woman asked to find a name and when we found it she stood there in tears, “Can I tell you about my friend”? She told us he was a person who could light up a room and could make everyone laugh, and how in the seventh grade he used to chase her and ask her to marry him. Neighbors who lived next to each other and went to basic together and never saw one another after that, trying to find out if he died. One gentleman was looking for a name and when I asked him for a first name he said Captain. He was my Captain in the Air-Force, and we did find him. People in tears or on the verge of tears, now old remembering a time when we were all in our twenties or younger. Some even had a thousand mile stare and you wondered what they were seeing. I think the people working closest to the Wall saw more, but there were a lot as they stopped to find out where to find a name. There is a drawing of an old man walking bent over with a cane, and the



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shadow he cast was of a soldier combat ready at eighteen. That picture came to life at the wall. Veterans one after one coming with canes, crutches, wheel chairs, or just shuffling along to visit "The Wall", and in kind visit the past. That older, quiet, distinguished gentleman, that moved slowly and cautiously to "The Wall", was once the baddest and most formidable foe an enemy could face. He was our future, Americas best.

It wasn't just visitors to "The Wall", but the Volunteers as well. People who have been doing this for fifteen years whenever one of "The Walls", was within two hours of there home. There are four Walls that tour the country, this one is an exact duplicate of the one in Washington DC, only 75% of the size. There is no food, no music, no loud speaking, no sales of anything, this is a place of honor, and respect will be paid at all times. I also met a man from Maine named William Hunt who travelled to Manchester to ask to sing a song he wrote and will follow the Wall to Bridgeport next to preform again. He wrote the song from a Poem written by Judy Gorman King, The Spirit of The Wall, who wrote it after visiting the Wall, for her brother who died in Vietnam.

THE SPIRIT OF THE WALL

You came to see my name today,
I saw you standing there.
Man, you sure look different,
With the silver in your hair.
But me, I haven't changed
I'm still the ripe old age of 21
That's the thing about us ghosts
We're now and forever Young
Do you remember how proud we were
When we were called by uncle Sam

And I remember being a little afraid
When they shipped us off to Vietnam
And I remember the heat
And the marching through the mud
And the sight of all that blood
Then I remember when it was
Time for us to go home
But I couldn't go
So you made the trip alone
You returned to a country
That couldn't seem to understand
How all the boys that left
Came back a bunch of messed up men
Our country seemed a little Naïve
Before that mixed up war
Now we never can seem
To get things back to the way they were before
Now some of us are just a name
Just a small part of History
But with the building of that Wall
It somehow restored our Dignity
I saw that there is still pain
Even after all these years
I'm afraid I saw a lot
In your tears
But this Wall of love
We hope that's what everyone feels
and the warm spirits of all the ones
That surround "The Wall That Heals"
I saw you had a family
A couple of kids and a pretty wife
Try to forgive the past
And have a happy life
I guess I will go now
That I seem to have said it all
Think of me once in a while
The ghost that stays in "The Wall"



THE WALL THAT HEALS

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A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

It may be "The Wall That Heals", but everyone heals at their own pace and in their own way. Many people I asked questions of like the people who still had bracelets what would they do with them? Some said they would always keep them in a special place because they meant so much to them, others said they would try to send them to the families. Each name on the Wall and each name on the plaque for those who died after they returned has a page in the app where you can write messages leave comments and add photos. There were people who visited "The Wall", who had been to DC several times and had visited this Wall and others who were still struggling with tears and memories.

There is a spirit that flows from the Wall and a spirit that returns. There is a love and connection that is real and will continue. In all the stories that people told not one was about the horrors of war but rather of another life, a life of a different type, of one not realized, a life that could have been. The memories were of the good times. It may be a wall of granite with the names inscribed, but those names all live on in that wall. I would urge you to visit "The Wall", if only to observe or find a connection to "The Wall". Years after I left active duty, I took my platoon graduation book and looked up every name and none of them had died in Vietnam. Later I went back and checked friends from school and none of them had died, but the first day I worked at "The Wall", I decided to look up my last name. It's a common name and there are always several listed and when I looked I found a Marine Corps LT., who died on my birthday while I was serving at Camp Lejeune, his bio now rests on my phone.

Some facts and information about the Wall. There are 58,281 names on the Wall. 16 Chaplains, 8

women, 160 Medal of Honor Recipients on "The Wall". The most casualties for one day was 246, and the deadliest year was 1968. Breakdown by Branch of Service 65.6% Army, 25.5% Marines, 4.4% Navy, 4.4% Air Force, .01% Coast Guard. The Youngest on the Wall was 15 and the oldest 62. Service Member still missing in action 1500+.

If someone came home and died later, there was a Plaque established in 2004 where the family can submit their name to be placed on that list. This can be from Agent Orange, Suicide, and other ailments. These Heroes are installed on the Wall each year on Fathers Day. The application Process is simple and if this applies to you or someone you know please pursue it, they deserve this recognition.

I'm sure everyone's experience at "The Wall", is different, I saw hands that shook to hold the paper with a list of names. I saw tears that were shed while asking for the name, and voices having difficulty saying the names. I saw wrinkles and age where there was once youth and hope. I heard tales of lives that never came to be. I saw women holding letters they received with names and service numbers on them because they never knew what happened to their friend. I heard a tale of a brother killed and his younger brother going to avenge him but instead he joined him on "The Wall". The experience I found in this honor, I had to volunteer here was moving indeed, and to all those that rest in "The Wall", Semper Fidelis, Fair Winds and Following Seas, you are always with us.

Walt Benson

The following pages are some pictures from the Wall.



THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



Above: The trailer that carried the wall along with the motorcycle escort riders. Below left: Motorcycle escort
Bottom right: Flag Bearers to accompany the trailer



Below: The Wall assembled and those that assembled it.





THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



Above is the process of unloading the panels from the trailer and assembling the Wall. To the right and directly above is the opening ceremony, with all the local dignitaries in attendance and a flyover during the ceremony. The plane appeared to be about 50 feet above the ground



THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



WALTON D NELSON • DONALD L NELSON • DONALD C PACE • JIMMY J POLANSKY JR • EUGENE A SNAPE
DAVID L DECARDO • WILHELM J SIEGLER • FRED D SMITH • MELTON E SMITH • VINCENT D SMITH • CHRISTOPHER M
THOMAS • TYRELL • PAUL B WEST • WILLIAM C WILLIAMSON • JOY A WIGWACK • HOWARD E Y
DONALD C BOWSER • ROBERT E BUCHER • JAMES C BURNHAM • DONALD C BURNHAM • WILLIAM C
HARVEY • CHARLES A • CHARLES HILL JR • CHARLES B CUNNINGHAM • JESSIE A DE CALLEY • TERRY A DALCO
DANIEL L DUNN • CLEMENT A DUPUIS • EDGAR A FLOWERS • VINCENT F FLORES • RICHARD HADENA CONN
• ARTHUR H CONNOR • JAMES P CONNOR • EDWARD A LAMPA • PETER H NEE • JAMES C O
CARL LYNN PACE • EDWARD J FREUNDLING • JAMES A SALAMON • ROBERT E TERRY • KENNETH E VIL
DONALD J WHITE • JAMES H WILSON • AVON L GAY • LEROY L BARNES • JAMES E BO
FRANK CHARLES • JAMES C CROWLEY JR • JAMES L CROWLEY • WILLIAM H DEARDES • CHARLES HADEN
TERRY W GACKERHOF • GARY L DALCO • LAWRENCE T ANDREWS • BARRY L GOLDEN • JAMES L
DONALD L LONCE • EDWARD L LONCE JR • ROSE D HODGES JR • WILLY J BURNS • JOHN D PETER
• BEN E RADER • RICHARD C SHAW • PAUL C STANFORD • JOHN E TAVELER • RICHARD C TAY
RICHARD A THURBER • ALBERT E VAN DUSEN • DALE A TUDMAN • PAUL W WABERMAN • CHRISTOPHER D WA
FRANKIE JR BOWD • WILLIAM H BROWN JR • LAWRENCE C STANFORD • THOMAS B COMBS • FRED A GALE



Above Walt Benson in the information tent. Visitors would stop here for information about the event. They were told about tours, what each area contained, and most importantly they could get the location of names on the Wall. The Wall is set up by date of casualty and the book at the information desk was alphabetical to make easy to locate names. Photos of visitors during the day and the DePaola Family on Agent Orange Night. There was also a Motorcycle Jacket containing some 36 names killed on various dates of the war



NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



Hello to all of our Marine Corps League members and their families. I wanted to let you know about a newer committee that was the creation of Past National Commandant Warren Griffin. Last year Warren wanted to do more for our Marines pertaining to their mental health and wellness. This is how HAMSAL was created. HAMSAL, which stands for “Help A Marine, Save A Life”, centers around taking care of yourself, as well as taking care of each other.

Last year I attended many Division Conferences upon request and presented a PowerPoint that included a little bit about my story, Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR), mental health and substance use disorder. QPR covers suicide awareness and prevention, and I know that we do not talk about this enough. What’s that you say, you don’t like talking about these uncomfortable topics? Well, I am here to tell you that those days are gone. We are our brothers and sisters keeper, whether you know or it like it. We cannot do this alone so we will do this together.

I was honored to speak at the New England/Quad States Conference and if you missed it, you are in luck. I am available to present to your Department and your membership to help spread the word. My HAMSAL presentation can also be found on the MCL Library under the member section. As a retired Police Officer and Marine Corps veteran in recovery, I understand about suffering in silence and fighting that stigma, especially within the First Responder and military/veteran community. But now I recover loudly and help others with their mental health and substance use. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time and contact me at shoremarines@gmail.com and 732-921-7411. Semper Fi!

Brian Gillespie



CONNECTICUT



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

We have filled a couple of our vacant positions. I have separated Public Relations into two categories: VSO Liaison and Public Relations Liaison. The first will continue to be filled by Sal Sena based on his years of networking with other VSOs. The latter will be filled by Al Urso. Thank you, Al.

Once again, Adele Hodges has stepped into the breach. Along with her other duties, the Hugging Colonel will be our Legislative Officer.

We need to fill our New London County Commandant position. Tom Peters had to step down for personal reasons. AND, we're still looking for a Department Paymaster so that our Senior Vice Commandant can focus on his SVC duties.

I hope that everyone got to visit The Wall that Heals in Manchester. It is quite a tribute to our fallen brothers and sisters, who gave their last full measure in the Vietnam conflict.

The Connecticut Veterans Day Race will be held on 2 November, beginning at 1400.

I have received very few PLM Audits. These must be completed to receive your allotted funds from the PLM Fund from National. I will be happy to resend the original message to individual Detachment Commandants and Paymasters upon request.

The 249th Marine Corps birthday is right around the corner. Please send details of your Detachment's scheduled celebrations to me (PopPop.Daigle@gmail.com), Walt Benson (Walt.Benson5@gmail.com), and Roland "Skip" Hamel (HamelS52@att.net).

I would like to ask all Detachment Commandants to visit the Department Website and check the information for your Detachment and make sure it is correct and up to date. If there are any changes please send them to Roland "Skip" Hamel (HamelS52@att.net), and cc me so that I may update my records. Going forward I think it would be a good habit to update these every year right after elections

Semper Fidelis.

Rich Daigle

Commandant

Department of Connecticut





SUSAN SUBER OF PENNSYLVANIA RECEIVED THE NATIONAL YOUNG MARINE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Marine Corps League members had the honor to meet Young Marine SgtMaj Susan Suber, the National Young Marine of the Year at the National Convention at Palm Springs, CA, in August. YM SgtMaj Susan Suber is a member of the Lancaster County Young Marines located in Holtwood, PA. Suber won this national award over competitors in five other divisions. This is the highest honor bestowed to a youth member by the Young Marines organization nationally. Being named the National Young Marine of the Year, she will travel across the country to lead, motivate and serve as a role model for other Young Marines in the program over the course of a year. The Young Marines organization is divided into six divisions across the United States. Each Division Young Marine of the Year must meet vigorous requirements such as graduating from Advanced Leadership School at the Young Marines' National Leadership Academy, maintain high academic achievement in school, and maintain high standards of physical fitness.



Pictured: Terri Laskey (RI), Angie Maness (OK), Peter DePaola (CT), Susan Suber (PA), Jamie DePaola (CT) and SgtMaj Harold Overstreet (TX). (SgtMaj Overstreet was the 12 th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and is on the Board of Directors for the Young Marines, and he is a long-time member of the Marine Corps League.)



CONNECTICUT



OPENING CEREMONY / 9:45AM - RACE START / 10:00AM



The Premier Veterans Day Race Event in CT.
All proceeds benefiting local veteran service organizations.

Race Day • Saturday • November 2, 2024

Choose to run either the live or the virtual 4-mile course, or a 3-mile walk or ruck sack course.

There's something for everyone. Meet the veterans and learn more about the organizations who serve them.

PATRIOTS PARK
172 LAKE STREET • COVENTRY, CT 06238



VISIT US ONLINE
CTVeteransDayRace.com



CONNECTICUT



U.S. MARINE CORPS 249th BIRTHDAY BALL

presented by

The Brass City Memorial Detachment - Marine Corps League

Saturday, November 9th 2024

Elks Lodge #265

283 West Main Street

Waterbury, CT

In the Banquet Hall (Ground Floor)

\$50.00 per person

********Raffle Prizes, DJ music and dancing********

Guest Speaker: Ms. Renee' Harvey - Police Officer, Prospect P.D.

- Police Sergeant, Waterbury P.D. (retired)

- USMC Veteran

**6 pm to 7 pm: Open Bar with Hors d'oeuvres,
followed by a Cash Bar and Buffet Diner, Coffee and the USMC Birthday Cake
(Dress is formal attire)**

For Info call or text:

PDC Jim Lauber - Detachment Commandant 203-217-0438

Antonio Pina – Sr. Vice Commandant 203-850-8908



CONNECTICUT



IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

The Norwich Area Veteran's Council conducted their first Iraq and Afghanistan war commemoration ceremony for veterans who served in those conflicts. The ceremony took place at 1 p.m. at the Richard E. Hourigan VFW Post 594 on Friday, August 30th, 2024. President Biden declared the Afghanistan war officially over as of August 30, 2021.

There were 7,078 United States military deaths and over 50,000 injured in the War on Terror, which lasted from October 2001 to August 2021. Since the beginning of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq in 2001, over 1.9 million US military personnel have been deployed in 3 million tours of duty lasting more than 30 days. Over 170 nations participated in the war on terrorism by taking terrorists into custody, freezing terrorist assets and providing military forces and other support.

Peter DePaola, MCL Det. 40, attended this moving ceremony. He has two sons who both served as Marines during the War on Terror. He commented, "I appreciated the Norwich Area Veteran's Council taking time to thank the brave men and women who served during the War on Terror." The Norwich Area Veteran's Council and the VFW Post 594 hosted this commemoration program to recognize the sacrifices made during the twenty-year war, and they plan to make it an annual event.

The CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs Commissioner, BGen Ron Welch, U.S. Army (Ret), Colonel Kevin Brown, U.S. Army (Ret), and Commander Jacob Hurt, Commanding Officer of the Submarine Readiness Squadron 32 were guest speakers.



Pictured: Brian Hague, Peter DePaola, John Waggoner, BGen Ron Welch, CDR Jacob Hurt, and Col Kevin Brown



CONNECTICUT



MARINE GRANDSON'S NAVY GRADUATION

Marine Dougherty flew out of Tweed Airport on the last Sunday of August. With him was his oldest daughter, Kathy. They were headed for the Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Center in Illinois. Jack's grandson (Kathy's son), Rhett was about to graduate from Navy boot camp on the first Thursday of September.



We're all familiar with graduation from Marine boot camp, but Navy boot camp which is only nine weeks in length is on a whole different scale. That stands to reason of course as the Corps is the smallest of all services. But the scale is still amazing to me. Think of it – On graduation day one thousand sixty eight men and women became Sailors. If that's not enough – on graduation day, the next class is already well into its third week of training. Admittedly, this was reported as the largest graduating class ever – which I think says something positive about our youth today.

It is quite the challenge to attend one of these massive graduations. First, on the day before graduation you have to go to the NEX that's off base to get a ticket for entry to the graduation. No cost is involved, but you need to have proper ID. Based on the size of each division, each Sailor is allowed to have only 3 or 4 attendees at the graduation. They do offer an off base live streaming that can be watched. Well before graduation your Sailor selected those three or four visitors – If your name is not on the list, you won't get a ticket. No tickee, no shirtee. Each ticket has a name written on it. When you get to the gate, they'll compare your ID with the name on the ticket.

There are at least four different gates through which you can enter, but only one is the correct one for graduation. If you can't read the map they give you, just find the gate with a three-mile-long, bumper-to-bumper line of traffic that appears to be at a standstill. We shot ahead of the cars at a standstill convinced there was a car accident up ahead. A couple of miles down the road we realized there was no accident, so we sheepishly eased into the long line and inched along with everybody else. The gate opens at 0630. After a security check, we finally got to our seats at 0800. No one is allowed entry after 0900. The program starts at 0930. The program ends at 1030. At which time all 1,068 Sailors are turned loose. Attending such a massive graduation is a lot like child birth: there's a lot of pain and suffering in the process, but when you finally see your Sailor everything's just hearts and flowers.



Jack Dougherty



CONNECTICUT



(THUNDERING THIRD) 3 RD BN 4 TH MARINES REUNION

During the week of August 19 thru 24, PDC Jack Dougherty and his wife Jane (Quilts of Valor) attended the bi annual reunion of 3/4 in Herndon, VA - just outside Washington, DC. In 1968



Jack served as a Vietnam Grunt with Lima Company of this unit. He and Jane have attended this bi annual reunion since at least 2013 and have always had a great time. Previous reunions we've attended have been held in Chicago (twice), Norfolk, VA and San Diego.

Upon arrival we attended a Welcoming Dinner at the Hilton which was the host hotel. The following day saw four motor coaches heading up to Quantico. We had lunch at the Officers Club and by midafternoon attended the Base Chapel as we always do for a very moving memorial service for those in our battalion who gave their lives as a final measure of their service. In addition to several speakers, unit guidons are slowly and solemnly paraded down the center aisle as are hundreds of dog tags. Gold Star families are always in attendance. At the conclusion, sitting in total silence, names of our fallen brothers are randomly called out aloud – this is utterly moving. Tears do flow. Upon our return we gathered at the hotel for a buffet dinner. We piled onto the busses again the next day and spent the morning at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Lunch was on our own at Tun Tavern. Then we headed off for the Evening Parade at 8 th and I – the “Oldest Post of the Corps.”

Our membership meeting was the next morning with election of new officers. Our reunion ended that evening with a banquet dinner at the Hilton. Raffles were naturally part of the festivities. The Color Guard was from none other than 8 th and I – these guys are very tall. Jane has presented a Quilt of Valor at all our reunions and this one was no exception. The recipient is kept a secret and is always surprised. The recipient was a former president of our reunion group, Roger Kimble. And our guest speaker was Carlos A. Ruiz, the current Sgt Major of the Marine Corps, who was the Company First Sergeant of Lima, 3 rd Bn, 4 th Marines from 2009 to 2012.



Jack Dougherty



CONNECTICUT



Iwo Jima Memorial

(Non-Profit Organization)



ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF** DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- **REGISTER TO WIN** A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD
One Winner at every Boscov's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

Elaine

203-859-4578

For more details visit boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends

*Exclusions Apply



CONNECTICUT



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



MCL Dept. of Connecticut Chaplain

but nobody takes time to get to know them; and

The office of chaplain goes far beyond the opening and closing prayers at the monthly meetings. The Chaplain may also be called on to participate in funeral services, and to make visits to members, and their families who are sick or who have lost a loved one. The Chaplain may also be required to assist in funeral arrangements (to include contacts for USMC honor guards).



when they are not there, no one notices. It's been said "We are all fighting a private battle of some sorts." True words. When we say, "We've got your six", those are words of action.

Speaking of action, this past week there was a "Hike to Remember" hosted by Det. 40 in which 300 veterans

Another opportunity for Chaplains is to have a buddy-check system to support members and their families, particularly during periods of distress, illness, and/or death. Most of us don't



ask for assistance but really appreciate a phone call when a friend calls. Members should help the Chaplain to be informed of situations and issues of need within the Detachment. Chaplains can support the Commandant by

being on the lookout for missing members. Those may be the quiet members who attend meetings but don't participate unless asked, or the new member who attends a few meetings,

marched to raise awareness about veterans' suicide. There was also an Irreverent Warriors

"Silkies Hike" in Norwich which brings veterans together to improve their mental health and reduce veteran suicide. We all want to be part of



something bigger than ourselves and be needed by others. Let us all remember that we are here to serve others and find ways to support the needy veteran community as we foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism

S/F

Peter DePaola

Chaplain

Dept of Connecticut



Athol Daily News

Marine Corps League improves Silver Lake pavilion



Standing in front of the newly-sealed pavilion from left to right are Larry Collette, Bernie Heaney, Barney Cummings and Gigs Williams; members of Pequoig Detachment 1168,

Marine Corps League. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ATHOL – As most people in the Athol area know, the Open Space and Recreation Commission is working on improvements for the “hidden jewel” that is Silver Lake Park. Landscape planning and improvements to the entrance, making it wider and safer for pedestrians, are being considered among many other family-focused picnicking, barbecuing and playing areas.

While enjoying fishing near the pavilion, a member of the local Marine Corps League noticed that the woodwork in this structure was thoroughly weathered. After realizing that this pavilion had been built by the Lions Club more than 10 years ago, he thought it might be time to give the structure a good coating of water and sealant protection. So, at the league’s June meeting, Barney Cummings made a motion, which was seconded and passed, to buy some sealant and have a work party spruce up the pavilion. After receiving permission from town officials and ordering materials, the project was on.

If you are a Marine or Navy FMF Corpsman or Chaplain and would like more information about the league, contact Commandant Mark Ellis at 978-724-8800 or email markclamberhill@gmail.com.



MASSACHUSETTS



PLYMOUTH DETACHMENT #1306

Plymouth, Massachusetts First Marine Recruiter

By Joseph Pravati

Growing membership is an ongoing mission for our Marine Corps League, just as the mission of recruiting was from the days of the Revolutionary War. On June 25, 1776, the proprietor of Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, Robert Mullen, was commissioned a Captain in the Continental Marines. His service continued by on the frigate *Delaware*, assisting General Washington. Details are obscure, but Captain Mullen was captured by the British and was freed in a prisoner exchange in 1781.



However, Continental Marines were not solely recruited from Philadelphia. Two Continental frigates were being built in Providence, RI and they needed a crew of seaman and Marines. Seth Chapin from Mendon, MA was commissioned a Continental Marine Lieutenant on June 24, 1776, and was directed to Plymouth, MA to "interest as many seamen and Marines as he can..." Lieutenant Chapin was supplied and funded for this mission.

Seth Chapin was born March 31, 1746, in Mendon, MA. Before becoming a Marine, he was a corporal in Captain John Albee's 1st Company militia that marched from Mendon to Lexington on April 19, 1775.



Lieutenant Chapin was assigned to the frigate *Providence* when it was completed. However, in December 1776 the British occupied Newport, Rhode Island and the *Providence* remained blockaded on the Providence River. Chapin did leave the Continental Marines but continued to serve the colonies as a First Lieutenant in a Battalion of Rhode Island troops. This unit is said to have been at Valley Forge, the battle of Rhode Island (Quaker Hill) in 1778, and the battle of Staten Island in 1780. Chapin later was appointed a Captain in a regiment raised by the



Rhode Island legislators.

Chapin died November 15, 1833, at the age of 87 and is buried in his hometown of Mendon, MA.

As members of the Plymouth Detachment of the Marine Corps League, let us remember and honor his efforts as Plymouth's first Marine Recruiter as we seek out new Marines to join our detachment.



MASSACHUSETTS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Oorah Marines, From the MA Department Chaplain:



I pray this newsletter finds you all well because of who we are...I have to write about this simply because it's heavy on my mind, and I struggle to let it go. Recently, we just passed over the third year anniversary of pulling out of Kabul, Afghanistan which resulted in the loss of 13 service members' lives. 11 Marines, 1 Navy Corpsman and 1 Soldier.

In addition, and recently...we had Marine's ambushed by a mob in Turkey. Why? Simply because of who they (we) are. I love the Marine Corps and all that it has done for me. My first born and only son, also served in the Marine Corps. I served 4 years active duty in peacetime, my son served in combat in Iraqi Freedom. I also married a Navy Corpsman who served in the Fleet, Camp Pendleton. We've been together now 44 years. My dad served 22 years as Soldier. So these

13 fallen Service Members really hits home for me.

When I think of Marines that are currently serving in harm's way, along with those Marines who died in Afghanistan, additionally, those Marines who were maliciously ambushed in Turkey...I know that the Supreme Commandant has chosen to bless me to have my Marine son safe from war, safe from harm's way...at home. I don't take this lightly...For this I say, Thank You. 11 Marines, 1 Navy Corpsman and 1 Soldier really hits home for me and explains why I feel so much anger...the kind of anger that swells up inside when I hear of our fellow brothers / service members either killed or ambushed for simply being "who we are". I hurt for the families and pray for comfort from our Supreme Commandant. I think about those Drill Instructors who transformed those Marines from "scumbags" to an elite fighting force...what they must have felt when they heard the name of the fallen Marine they trained so hard over for 13 weeks.

Supreme Commandant I pray You will stand guard over those who wear the Eagle Globe and Anchor, who serve to preserve our freedom and our values. Stand guard on ALL our Service Members currently serving. Thank you ALL Marines (active and inactive) who have earned the EGA and serve our country as United States Marines.

...Who we are?

The Few the Proud the Marines

Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo
Sgt. Nicole L. Gee
Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover
Cpl. Hunter Lopez
Cpl. Daegan W. Page
Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez
Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza
Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz
Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum
Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola
Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui
Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak
Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss

Semper Fidelis
Ed Yung
Chaplain
Department of MA





MAINE



Here are some photos from the New Young Marine Detachment in Southern Maine Submitted by Charlie Paul.





MAINE

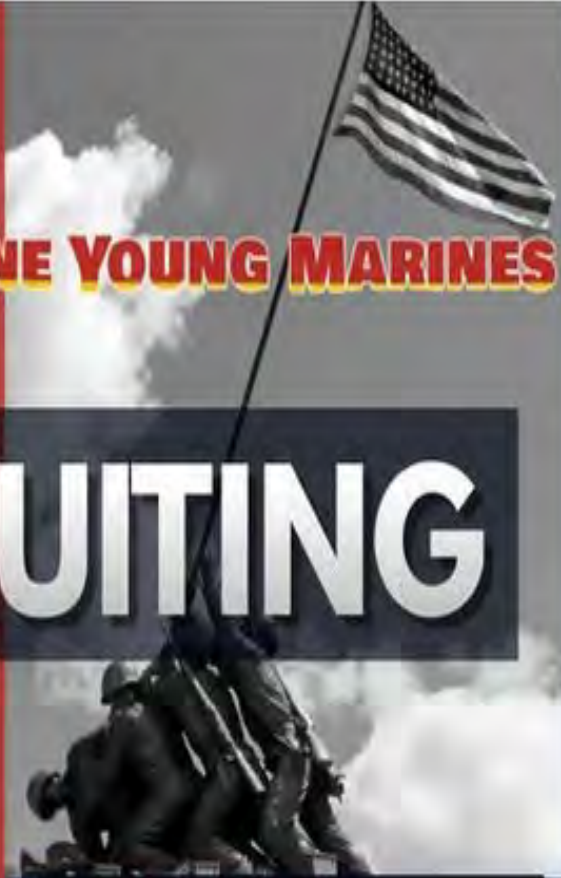


SOUTHERN MAINE YOUNG MARINES

IS NOW
RECRUITING



JOIN OUR UNIT
**DISCIPLINE
LEADERSHIP
TEAMWORK**
AGES 8 - HS GRADUATION



**TAKE THE CHALLENGE
EARN THE TITLE**

TRAINING LOCATION

AMVETS POST 3
169 SCHOOL STREET
SANFORD

**JOIN THE SOUTHERN MAINE
YOUNG MARINES FAMILY**

**EARN RANKS, ATTEND DRILLS, GROW
SKILLS, TRAVEL, GIVE BACK TO THE
COMMUNITY & MAKE LIFETIME
MEMORIES**

UNIT COMMANDER: GORDON KENDALL

POC: NICOLE DOYLE (207) 615-5945

SOUTHERNMAINE@YOUNGMARINES.ORG

<https://youngmarines.org/unit/southernmaine/page>



MAINE



Charlie Paul hosted A small gathering at the Veterans Memorial Park to say Thank You to all to had a hand in the restoration efforts.

So grateful for family helping in my projects. My wife taking pictures, my daughter playing TAPS, my bother-in-laws, Joe and Bob helping with the tear down. A real family affair. I am truly blessed



Clifford Plourde and Charlie Paul getting the crowd into it with a great rendition of “God Bless America” Semper Fi, Cliff



MAINE



6TH ANNUAL MARINES HELPING VETERANS GOLF SCRAMBLE

6th Annual Marines Helping Veterans golf scramble was a success, a few speed bumps but all in all a great success. We will return for our seventh scramble next year. Looking for major sponsors, tee box sponsors, golf ball sponsors, and a major hole in one sponsors. More pictures to follow. This tournament is about fun and helping the veteran community. If you want to be part of something great get in touch with me.





NEW HAMPSHIRE



GRANITE STATE DETACHMENT #542



COME ONE, COME ALL

**Granite State Detachment #542
Invites Members, Families, and Guests
to Get Lost With Us in the
Hopkinton Corn Maze**

Join GSD #542 on October 19th at 1300 hours at the Beech Hill Farm and Ice Cream Barn, in Hopkinton, NH to explore their two Corn Mazes!

Beech Hill Farm has two corn mazes again this year. This year's themes are "Rainforest Jumble" and "Amazing US Jeopardy." Maze-goers search for signs with clues in a scavenger hunt style. Complete the puzzles to help navigate through.



NEW HAMPSHIRE



GRANITE STATE DETACHMENT #542



In the mood for ice cream, well you are in luck. Venture over to the Ice Cream Barn to select from their 75 flavors and topics.

Beech Hill Farm and Ice Cream Barn
107 Beech Hill Road
Hopkinton, NH
603-223-0828
Beech Hill Farm website

We have arranged for those from our group that wish to join us, after working up an appetite in the corn mazes, to a local Papa Gino's @ 129 Loudon Road, Concord, NH for dinner.

To provide a head count for the restaurant we ask that you reply below if you will be joining us for dinner after.



**Register for the Corn Maze and/or Dinner After
Maze**

Granite State Detachment #542
Manchester, NH 03103

Granite State Detachment website

Once you click the link above you will need to follow the following steps:

- Read the information there if desired.
- Click on Select Tickets - depending on the type of device this may be on the top right or bottom of screen (it is a red button)
- Enter the qty of tickets for the group coming with you for both the corn maze and for the dinner.
- Click on Reserve a Spot button (red button on the right or at the bottom)
- Enter your name and email address, and confirm email address
- Click the Register button

Beech Hill Farm and Ice Cream Barn
107 Beech Hill Road
Hopkinton, NH
603-223-0828
Beech Hill Farm website

We Look Forward to Finding You All in The Maze!

RHODE ISLAND

BUCCI-ATWOOD DETACHMENT



Marine Corps League



DEPARTMENT of RHODE ISLAND

Department of Rhode Island

Marine Corps Ball

Saturday, November 9th, 2024 @ 1800hrs

Tomaselli's at Rosario

17 Rosario Drive, Providence, RI

\$40.00 per person

Choice of Baked Stuffed Chicken or Baked Scrod

Soup, Salad, Potato, Vegetable

(***Chicken Tenders and French Fries available for children please note next to name)

Reservations MUST be made no later than November 1st through RIMCL.ORG or by mailing check to Wayne Hamilton, c/o Marine Corps Ball, 166 Central Ave, Johnston RI 02919

Any questions please call email Joe Afonso, Department of Rhode Island Commandant @ (401) 454-9010 or Wayne Hamilton, Department of RI Paymaster @ (401) 719-6386

Email: bucciatwood@rimcl.org

Names of Attendees

Meal Choice

1. _____

_____ Chicken _____ Baked Scrod

2. _____

_____ Chicken _____ Baked Scrod

3. _____

_____ Chicken _____ Baked Scrod

4. _____

_____ Chicken _____ Baked Scrod

RHODE ISLAND



Veterans Café

A social dining opportunity for Veterans 60+

American Legion Fairmount

870 River Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895

November 20th

11am - 1pm



Use QR Code to RSVP or call
Luz Filpo 401-351-6700 ext.115



Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, Inc. is funded in part by the United States Administration on Aging and state funds through the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging.



SCRATCHING'S FROM THE DOGS



MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

VICE CHIEF DEVIL DOG

PDD Patrick T. McMahon 14-365

E: vcddmcmahon@gmail.com

C: 860.222.5024

Woof, Woof and greetings from New England. It was a tremendous honor and humbling experience to have been installed as the newest VCDD of the New England Division at this recent Su-

GREAT things are happening. First and foremost a quick Bark out to PDD Cherrie Monnell, who stepped down earlier this year as the NED VCDD due to family obligations. We certainly appreciate all she has done for our division and wish her and hers a happy and healthy future.



I am so looking forward to begin my travels throughout New England to attend Pound and Pack growls, now that the Su-

preme Growl is behind us. With our new Kennel Dog Robber, and the new Data Management System the Kennel has up and running, we are certainly moving in the right direction. Like the League with its detachments, our Pounds are the bread and butter of the Kennel, and we must do all that we can to sure up these Pounds with increased membership, retention, advancements and fluid communication up and down the chain of command. With a bit of Irish Luck, by the time this edition of the Woof-A-Gram is published, we will have a new Pound in RI; The Rhode Dogs Pound. In closing, I will do all that I can to facilitate, assist and provide whatever I can to make all of our Packs and Pounds of the New England Division MODD to be successful.



FROM THE EDITOR



WHAT DOES SERVICE MEAN TO YOU?

On the next page there is an article by Bob Borka that was published on LinkedIn, about volunteering and a life of service. All of us here demonstrate what it is to live a life of service. In started long ago that we volunteered or stood up for something stood up and entered the Military and felt we had more to give and we found wrote was simple that answered the and why. I really think it would be a this as a self evaluation of who we are topic to consider is what am I capable things I can do that do not require walk-things. There are so many needs that bers, officers, and as much as we ask hear people say I can't because——. path. We have started on the yellow



and we liked the feeling it gave us. We when our time in service was over we still our way to the League. The article that Bob basic questions of who, what, when, where, good Idea if everyone did something like and what are we doing and why. Another of doing. I have mobility issues so I look for ing, but it doesn't keep me from doing other we have in the League, committee mem- we never get quite all we need. I constantly Start off small. We all have taken the same footprints, completed basic training, served

and learned what brotherhood and comradery means. All of us joined to be part of this mission and desire to serve those veterans and Marines that have needs. Reassess what your needs are and what you can contribute to serve others. This year we contributed 105,000 big bones to the Children's hospital in California. We gave out scholarships to help children of veterans. We collected and distributed Toys to meet the many needs of children. And one of our most important functions we rendered Funeral Honors to our Brothers and sisters who have been called to their final duty post. On the night before graduation as we sat in the squadbay the Drill Instructors spoke to all of us, "You are no longer Maggots, today you are Marines, you are part of a brotherhood. As of today every Marine is your brother, as long as you live". This is why there are no EX_MARINES, no FORMER MARINES, there are Just MARINES. We still serve. Think about your abilities and what you can do to support our Mission and then please join us.

Walt Benson

**OPEN FOR ALL
MEMBERS OF THE MCL
& MCL AUXILIARY**

**MCL
SCUTTLEBUTT**

Have you joined any of these meetings? Well if you missed any oft them, they are available on You Tube and there are a lot of good topics to choose from





HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU COMMITTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE OR MILITARY SERVICE:

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO SERVE?

Over 30 years combined military, EMS, public, and non-profit youth and veteran service and support.

There is a value in remembering those who have gone before us. Honoring history can provide a driver for future patriotic volunteerism. My family history dates to the Revolutionary War. Each generation has made sacrifices in service. The example set by my father to serve honorably, even while drafted, provided the final push to voluntarily serve.

WHY DO YOU GIVE BACK?

A person can go to work and go home from work. I have a lot of days where that is all I have the energy for. The communities we live in will continue to evolve with or without our involvement. We then have to be okay with the results. A developed propensity to serve avoids complacency on a continuous path forward. It is one thing to serve in the military. As a Marine Corps combat veteran, I know it made a difference. However, serving in EMS or volunteering in the community has an individual and community impact. We all experience Robert Frost moments looking at diverging paths, but each provides opportunities to serve in different ways.

250 WHY I GIVE BOB BORKA

“Service to others with no intended self-benefit can really open your life to some amazing experiences.”



We just have to be willing.

WHAT DOES SERVICE MEAN TO YOU?

A lesson learned later in life was about Servant Leadership. Service to others with no intended self-benefit can really open your life to some amazing experiences.

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION WHEN IT COMES TO SERVICE AND GIVING

VICE AND GIVING

We need to develop our youth to have the heart of a servant leader, instill good judgment with initiative, and advance the values of what hard work and involvement bring to family and community.

WHY DO YOU GIVEBACK?

A person can go to work and go home from work. I have a lot of days where that is all I have the energy for. The communities we live in will continue to evolve with or without our involvement. We then have to be okay with the results. A developed propensity to serve avoids complacency on a continuous path forward. It is one thing to serve in the military. As a Marine Corps combat veteran, I know it made a difference. However, serving in EMS or volunteering in the community has an individual and community impact. We all experience Robert Frost moments looking at diverging paths, but each provides opportunities to serve in different ways. We just have to be willing.

TAPS / MEMORIES / FAREWELL

Michael N. Zaino, resident of East Greenwich passed away on September 7, 2024. He was the beloved (Bodnar) Zaino. He was a son of "Nick" and Concetta Zaino.

Mike was a Marine veteran. He served in the Marine Corps County Detachment, East Greenwich Veterans Association,



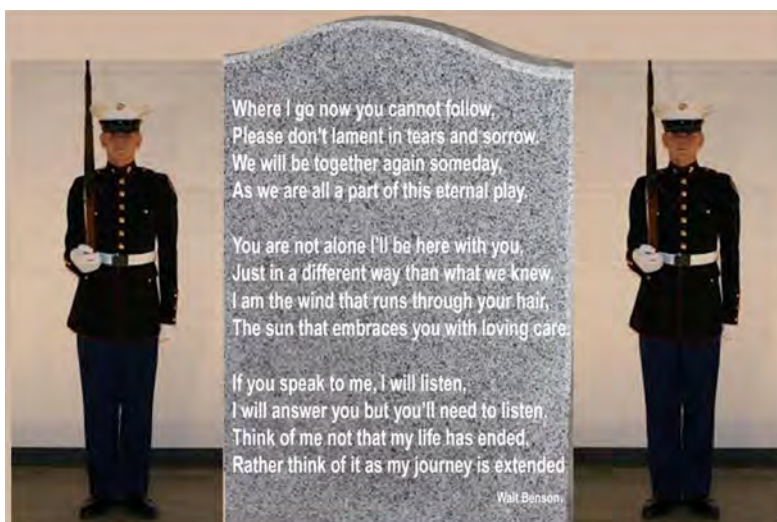
81, a lifelong resident of East Greenwich passed away on September 7, 2024. He was the husband of Anna Bodnar. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, the late Nicola M. Zaino and "Etta" (Capezza) Zaino.

United States Marine. He was a member of the American Legion – Kent County, the East Greenwich Veterans Association,

East Greenwich Fire Department Company #1 Volunteers and the Varnum Continentals. He volunteered at the VA Hospital and St. Elizabeth's Nursing Home.

Besides his wife he is survived by his nephew David DiPippo and his wife Shelia, his niece Julie Mattera and her husband John and his great nephews and niece, Joshua, Micah and Leah. He was the brother of the late Rose DiPippo (Rudolf).

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday September 14th at 10:00 am at St. Francis Church, Schooltown. Burial will be in St. Patrick's Cemetery, East Greenwich. Call for details. In lieu of flowers, his name may be placed in the Stand Down, 1010 Johnston, RI



Francis de Sales St., North Kingstown. Military honors will be given. Burial hours are 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Donations may be made to Operation Stand Down, 1010 Johnston Ave., Unit 02919



YOUNG MARINES



During July 14-20, 2024, Division 1 Young Marines conducted its first ever Senior Leadership School in the division at Naval Station Newport, RI. Eight Young Marine students registered and graduated from this course. The school is a requirement to qualify for promotion to the rank of YM gunnery sergeant. For this reason, Young Marine students attending are in the grade of sergeant or staff sergeant when they choose to enroll for the course.

New England Division Young Marine Liaison Bruce Katz served as school director for the 6-day course. The course was held in conjunction with the Young Marine National Leadership Academy's Advanced Leadership School, the only ALS offered to YMs at the rank of gunnery sergeant, enabling them to become eligible to compete for promotion to the top two senior ranks -- master sergeant and master gunners sergeant.

While at Naval Station Newport, the staff and students of SLS were able to tour the USS CARNEY, a guided middle destroyer which has recently returned from deployment in the Middle East, earning a Combat Action Ribbon and Navy Unit Citation for actions against a hostile drone and missile attack in the theater of operation.



During SLS, Young Marine students received classroom instruction, physical fitness training, and conducted other graded events including close order drill. During their time in Newport, SLS students joined the Fall River Young Marines Unit in carrying a large American flag on to Cardines Field as the Newport Gulls hosted its annual Military Appreciation Night at the ball park.

Many MCL officials including National Commandant Warren Griffin, National Judge Advocate Dave Porter and New England Division National Vice

Commandant Patrick Maguire and members of his staff attended the joint ALS and SLS graduation where Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlos Ruiz was the guest speaker.

Please consider becoming an adult volunteer in our MCL youth program. Contact your local YM unit or ask your MCL YM Liaison for more information. The Young Marines was founded by Marines and needs Marines and the MCL to continue this respected and accomplished program.

Bruce Katz



YOUNG MARINES





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-

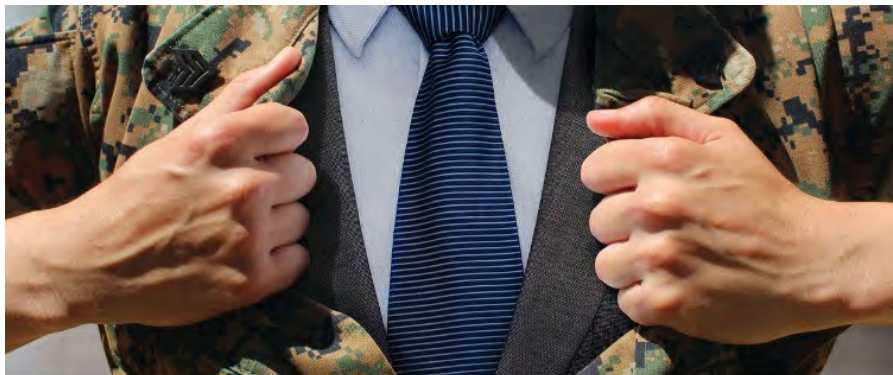
work group.

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 4 LIFE



MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

Connecting transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service.

ONCE A MARINE,
ALWAYS A MARINE!

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



**Career & Technical
Opportunities**



**Educational
Opportunities**



**Entrepreneurial
Endeavors**

NETWORKING IS KEY

Linked in



Our online network utilizes LinkedIn to help Marines network with one another and connect with employers who want to hire Marines.

Face to Face Network



We focus on connecting Marine Veterans to local and national resources, as well as encouraging networking through Marine For Life events and meet ups.

[company/marine-for-life-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network)

marineforlife.org

866-645-8762

[/MarineForLifeNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/MarineForLifeNetwork)

WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

WWR Fact Sheet

District Injured Support Coordinators & Field Support Representatives

District Injured Support Coordinators (DISCs) and Field Support Representatives (FSRs) are an integral part of the Wounded Warrior Regiment's (WWR) support structure. They act as a conduit to Marine Corps, Veterans Affairs (VA), and civilian resources for Marines recovering away from a military installation or transitioning to veteran status. DISCs are Marine reservists and FSRs are contract support geographically dispersed to provide assistance and community liaison where needed.

The goal of DISCs and FSRs is to return well adjusted wounded, ill, or injured (WII) Marine veterans to their communities with the knowledge and skills to self-advocate and assist other WII Marines.

What Services do DISCs and FSRs offer?

- Outreach through calls or face-to-face contact with WII Marines and their families requiring assistance.
- Assistance with accessing VA and community resources.
- Facilitate veteran medical care through VA patient advocates or OIF/OEF Coordinators.
- Information on family and caregiver support services (i.e. respite care, scholarship opportunities, counseling support).
- Access to education and employment resources in their local communities (i.e. resume development, interview skills, network/employment opportunities, and application completion).
- Support in working with representatives from medical facilities, the VA, legal authorities, businesses, and non-profit organizations.
- Immediate access to the WWR's medical section and VA for psychological health resources and support, including referrals to local resources to ensure WII Marines receive timely and appropriate care.

Who They Support

- Marines transitioning to veteran status
- Reserve Marines
- Marines recovering in remote locations away from military or federal resources
- TDRL/PDRL Marines

Where They are Located

DISCs and FSRs are geographically dispersed across the country and are generally collocated with VA-operated medical centers, vet centers, and outpatient clinics offering primary and specialized care.

Related Fact Sheets

- Wounded Warrior Regiment Call Center
- Medical Section
- Transition
- Recovery Care Coordinator

MSgt Charles You
District Injured Support
Coordinator (DSC)

508-740-4331

Charles.you.mil@usmc.mil



Fact Sheet: Transition
Released: 03012018v2



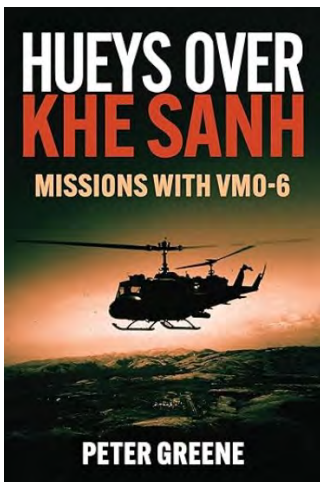
"I cast my words upon the wind, of things I wish to tell my friends"



On this page we will publish the works of Marines who have written novels or poetry that they wish to share either in segments here or a short description and information to purchase the book. We welcome the works of all members. Not all work will appeal to all members but your work will appeal to a member.



Phantoms is Benjamin Fortier's, third poetry collection, published by veteran-owned company, Dead Reckoning Collective. Fortier is a Marine Corps veteran who served with 1st Battalion, 25th Marines during their tour of Fallujah in 2006. The collection harshly examines the consequences of war while simultaneously telling the heroic tales of the Marines and Sailors who patrolled one of the most violent areas of Iraq at the time. The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation has recognized Phantoms as a significant piece of literature in Marine Corps culture and presented Fortier with the Robert A. Gannon Award for poetry in 2024. Fortier is a member of the MCL Detachment 1285 in Somerset, Massachusetts, and a plank holder of the 1st Battalion, 25th Marines Association.



A vivid memoir of the Vietnam War by a crew chief who flew on hundreds of flights during his tour.

During Vietnam, the basic role of the USMC gunship squadrons was to protect the transport helicopters during medevac missions, troop insertions and extractions, resupply missions, and supporting the Marines on the ground during operations and patrols. Basically, whenever the Marines or South Vietnam friendlies got in trouble the gunships were dispatched to assist them.

As a gunner, and later crew chief, Pete Greene flew hundreds of missions on Huey gunships – flying practically every day with different pilots and gunners. In this vivid memoir he recalls many of those missions, including providing gunship support for MACV-SOG in and around I Corps area, working with Marine Recon, and undertaking frequent, perilous resupply and medevac and medevac support missions.

"NEVER FORGET"

It's been twenty three long years and I still feel the pain,
The planes, the horror, three thousands souls perished in vain.
The funerals were endless, the tears never stopped,
Twenty three years later and this still breaks our hearts.

And as the day arrives, "the one we'll never forget",
We remember all the painful memories that time has elapsed.
A new tower stands where before there were two,
Two pools for remembering all the names that we knew.

All the lives that were upended by those that were lost,
And the many more victims in the never ending wars.
As a nation that carries hatred that was born on that day.
We pray for peace that will heal us one day.

Walt Benson

MARINE BOOT CAMP/DAY 1 WHAT CAME FIRST/ THE MARINE OR THE EGG?

There is a story I'd like to tell
That begins with Me
Raising my Right Hand to take the Oath
And the next day being shorn of my hair
And feeling as though I'd been struck
By a Lightning Bolt

To get to my free haircut
I got on a motorized bird in Newark
Everyone on board busy flapping their
Mouths
Not knowing what awaited us in the South

We landed in Savannah
And hopped on a big bus
For a long fun ride as we Sung
A hundred bottles of beer...
As though we were Fraternity Louts
Off to get Soused

We passed through the gates of the Base
That has a name so Carefree
Like the French city
But no, it is P-a-r-R-i-s
And that extra 'r' is the difference between
(let's say for example)
Honorable and Horrible



MARINE BOOT CAMP/DAY 1 CONTINUED

Through the bus window
To my left I observed men with Wide-Brimmed Hats
Ordering about those with Short-Billed Caps
The wide brim hats apparently were on too Tight
For it made the Inhabitants underneath them
Bark and Curse at the other Men
Which I thought wasn't very Nice

I didn't worry
For I was certain that my personal charm
Was so Vast
That once the Nasty ones met Me
That their Anger wouldn't Last

The bus stopped across the Street
From this Combative Scene
We all began to rise
When a wide brimmed hat man entered
The bus from the front
And in a loud Southern Voice
Informed us that was a very bad Choice

So I lowered my rear back down
And awaited his command to "Move!"
Which Once Barked Made me Lurch
Into the Aisle and Out the Back Door
Which was wide open to handle the Stampede

Outside the bus steps
Stood two other Wide Brimmers
Who screamed That the grass
In our path was not just Green
But was Marine Corps Grass
That mustn't be stepped on
Which was impossible for anyone Lacking Wings
To Transport Them over that Space

We made it to the side of a nearby building
As another tight hatted man made his way down the line
To the location of our Brains in our Bodies
Suggesting that they had Lodged in an inappropriate Place
That only the Tip of his well-placed Boot might help
Resituate

I found it all to be a joke:
The Southern Voice
The Threats
The Sacred Grass
The Location of my Brains

A Recruit in front of me
Found it also to be Funny
And was in full Merriment
As the tight hatted man
Stopped next to him on the Pavement
"Do you find this funny boy?"
The Giggling Recruit was so full of Laughter
That he couldn't give an answer

"You been to college, boy?"
This time there was an answer of "Yes"
And the open palm hitting his face came up so quick
That it sounded like a fish being slapped
Against Brick

I cannot tell you if the recruit's face Reddened
Though I was certain it must
For my body had snapped perfectly Rigid at Attention
My eyes visualizing a Scene Somewhere Outside
the Front Gate
Where Normal People were Strolling About
Making Plans for an Amusing Evening Out

I'd been at Parris Island
At most fifteen minutes
And already my Inner Mathematician was busy
Calculating how many minutes there were in a day
Multiplied by seven for a week
Multiplied by four plus a little for a Month
And then again for another Month
And that if I didn't Man Up
Then I would be tossed aside like Junk

So I did

Ten Weeks Later
I Emerged from my Shell
All Fluffy and Clean
To Hop on another Bus
This time heading North
To start my new Career as a United States Marine
At the Camp Geiger Resort

Harry Rosenbluth



Richard Childress Racing Announces Multi-Year Partnership with Marine Toys for Tots®
Austin Dillon to Race the No. 3 Toys for Tots Chevrolet at Darlington Raceway in September to Highlight America's Premier Children's Christmastime Charity and Year-Round Giving

WELCOME, N.C. (May 21, 2024) – Marine Toys for Tots®, America's premier children's Christmastime charity, is partnering with Richard Childress Racing to highlight the charity's year-round programs to help underprivileged children, both during the Christmas season and beyond. The dynamic, multi-year partnership includes primary race sponsorship of the No. 3 Toys for Tots Chevrolet for select races, kicking off with the NASCAR Cup Series race at Darlington Raceway this September. The race is scheduled to air live on USA Network beginning at 6 p.m. ET on Sunday, September 1.

"We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Richard Childress Racing and [Austin Dillon's](#) No. 3 Car," said LtGen Jim Laster, USMC (Retired), President & CEO of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. "This collaboration is a powerful way to drive the message of giving and community support across the finish line, reaching millions of NASCAR fans who can help significantly impact disadvantaged children's lives during the holiday season and beyond."

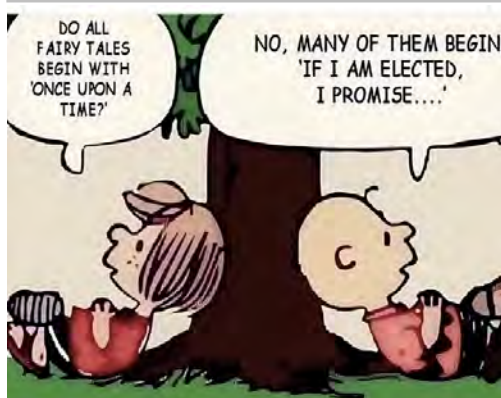
Established in 1947, Toys for Tots is the U.S. Marine Corps' premier community action program and America's most popular children's Christmastime charity. Toys for Tots is the combined efforts of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Toys for Tots' mission is to provide hope and emotional support to economically disadvantaged children through toys, books, and other gifts at Christmastime and throughout the year. Because needs aren't seasonal, Toys for Tots has evolved into a year-round force for good – ensuring that no child is forgotten any day of the year.

Dillon, a two-time NASCAR Champion and the 2018 Daytona 500 Champion, joins a long list of celebrity ambassadors who have contributed their time and efforts to assist Toys for Tots. Dillon and RCR will help highlight Toys for Tots' charitable campaigns throughout the year.

"Toys for Tots is an incredible organization, and we could not be more excited to build a relationship with them and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve," said Torrey Galida, president of Richard Childress Racing. "We are honored to be able to debut the No.3 Toys for Tots Chevrolet and are eager to work closely with Toys for Tots to highlight their Christmastime charitable efforts and year-round commitment to ensuring that no child is forgotten."



HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



**The difference
between me and
Superman is...
He has super vision.
I require
supervision.**



THEY CALL ME 007

0 WORRIES
0 REGRETS
7 CUPS OF COFFEE A DAY



They say you're only
as old as you feel.

Well I feel like I've
been exhumed from
the tombs of Egypt,
given a cup of coffee
and been sent to work.

New Marine Corps Order

Just released MCO 0825.2017

All Marines past and present upon
death will no longer be authorized for
cremation. Their remains will
henceforth be freeze dried and placed
into a casket with a glass lid. The plaque
shall read as follows.

MRF

"Marine Ready to Fight

In the event of war break glass and add
Beer."

By order of the Commandant of the
Marine Corps"

There is no better weapon on the
battlefield than a Marine and his rifle.
Except a badly woken up drunken
Marine with his rifle.

Semper Fi



**"The only true wisdom is
in knowing that you
know nothing."**

Socrates (470/469 - 399 BC)

THE WISEST MAN



2025 MID WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE

=====

SHERATON PENTAGON CITY

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: 800-325-3535 Reference National Marine Corps League

HOTEL RESERVATION LINK

2/27/2025 – 3/1/2025 (check-in 2/26, check out 3/2)

2025 MCL National Mid-Winter Conference Uniform Of The Day (UOD):

All MCL uniforms stated are 'suggested' attire and is not required for wear; no MCL members will be denied access if they are not wearing the 'suggested' MCL uniform; however, ALL MCL members in good-standing will wear the MCL cover and proper conference credentials to gain access to any MCL business meetings.

- Thursday national board of trustees meeting and Commandants Council – MCL cover (required); MCL polo shirts or detachment shirts are 'suggested' for wear.
- Friday Joint Opening Session and Memorial Service – MCL cover (required); the MCL Casual Dress (red blazer) uniform is 'suggested.' The balance of the day, the MCL Undress uniform; or, MCL or detachment shirts are 'suggested' for wear.
- Saturday business meetings – MCL cover (required); the MCL Undress uniform; or, MCL or detachment shirts are 'suggested' for wear.
- Saturday social, reception, and banquet – (black-tie event) MCL Evening Dress, MCL Formal Dress, or black-tie/formal attire is 'suggested' for wear. MCL covers are not to be worn for this event.

=====

- Hotel rate is \$131 per night plus tax
- Parking: On-site garage parking is \$10 per day
- Any cancellations after February 10, 2025, will forfeit the one-night deposit
- Free shuttle to/from Reagan Airport (DCA)

The hotel overlooks Arlington National Cemetery and is right near Henderson Hall and the Fort Myer Exchange.



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

This year the league put into it's budget \$50,000 for marketing and recruiting. A new commercial and expanded list of activities and programs the league is involved in. What does that mean to you? Well try to expand what you do to include more people. Listen to your members , what do they want to do as a detachment or department? As a Division we have had Family days, Marine Corps Balls, but what else can we do?

Some Departments and Detachments have tried, Hike To Remember, Picnic's, Cake cutting ceremonies, Marine Corps Balls. What ideas can you come up with? This shouldn't be a one time ask, ask every meeting. The list is endless, Bowling, Softball, Minor League Baseball, Basketball, we can also get more involved with the community by participating in some of their events. Let's team up with the young Marines. We are looking to do things that can be done with not only ourselves but also our families. Let's hold local events for recruiting. Order Pizza, or donuts, or bakery products and coffee. Let's make it a Sunday afternoon where people can stop in while they are out shopping or returning from church or brunch. IN the movie Field of Dreams, "If you build it they will Come". If we reach out, If we make it fun they will come maybe not the first time but it will catch on.

Every detachment and department is supposed to have a public relations officer, let's take advantage of that. Let that person reach out and see where we can post information, advertise, drop off a flyer. We have made many contact recently who we can work with to create events and secure new members. Right now we are working with Marines4Life, we are looking to do things with The Young Marines, The Boy Scouts, and we are looking to grow the Devil Dogs with new Members, which will give us another venue to reach out through them.



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)



IN the next few weeks we will be participating in many activities. Next month the Toys4Tots car will be racing in NASCAR and this will be the soft start of the season. We are usually full speed after the Birthday. We have the Birthday Balls, Veterans Day, 9-11, At National this year there was one Marine who recruited 64 new members. In the time I have been in the League I have never heard of anyone recruiting that many members. We want Marines but all veterans are welcome. The other place we have an opportunity is the women who used to be auxiliary Members, should be approached to become associate members.

Walt Benson

Are You Ready?



Mike & Kay Ross
Albert E. Stuckey Detachment #900
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.

There are Marines out there that go the extra Mile, they do the things no one else does and they do it on their own without anyone else knowing about it. The last week of July New England National Vice Commandant Pat Maguire was out attending the summer music



League in his car. As he goes about life if he sees a Marine Corps Flag on a house, he will stop and leave information in their mailbox. If he sees Marine Plates or decals on a car he will stop and leave information on the windshield.



festival in Lowell and he found Marine Broadnax recruiting all by him-

self. He had a table and some material to hand out but he was there alone. I know of two Marines who take part in this type of activity but I'm sure there are many of them out there who devote their time and go all out to promote the League and the work we do. The second Marine I know that does this is Rivers McCallop from Connecticut. Back before COVID he used to go to the VA hospital in Newington and set up a table twice a month, but since COVID we have not been there. But one of the other things he does is, he has a bag of handout materials about the

In any event the effort put forth by these two



Marines is really what the league is all about. We continue to serve in our communities and we seek out our fellow brothers and sisters, that they may join us in our mission and also take part in the comradery that we all so enjoy. I know we have more Marines out there like this and we want to hear about them and the work they are doing. Marine Broadnax, and Marine McCallop all of us thank you for all you are doing to promote the League and bring in new members, because this is clearly above and beyond. Semper Fi Marines.



DIVISION SPOTLIGHT



2024 Angelo Tomasso, Sr. and Angelo Tomasso, Jr. Veteran of Distinction Award Honorees Sal Sena, Sr., U.S. Marines

Sal Sena, Sr. of Newington, a member of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame who has spent lifetime serving his nation and serving and honoring his fellow Veterans, served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1965-1969.



Born and raised in Sicily and immigrated to America in November 1955 when he was seven, along with his parents and sister Carmela. Sal says that growing up in the old Front St. section of Hartford was the best part of his childhood. The flat rooftops were the best playgrounds for us kids. In 1959, Sal's father speaking only a few words of English, was working for Russo Construction Equipment in Hartford. One day Angelo Jr. & Victor Tomasso, both spoke fluent Italian, happen to be checking over the equipment at Russo's were impressed with the way that some of the equipment was repaired, asked Sal's father if he was interested in working for them. Sal's father accepted the job and a year later moved the whole family to New Britain, only two miles from the Plainville Plant. Sal's father retired as Tilcon Superintendent of Steel after 34 years of service with Tomasso Construction in 1993.

In December 1965, Sal enlisted in the Marine Corps, spending Christmas at Parris Island Boot Camp. As a Christmas present, the Drill Instructor eliminated five push-ups from their daily curriculum. Completing Boot Camp and MOS (job) training, Sal was transferred to the Port Lyautey Naval Training Command in Morocco and spent the next two years working security throughout North Africa & Europe. While working overseas he says that he had the honor of working with the best Ma-

rines he had ever served with and would become some of his closest friends over the next half century.

Following his 1969 honorable discharge, Sal met his better half, Frances and were married in June 1970. Two years later, their first son was born. In 1979, their fourth and last son was born. Sal says that they had to stop having kids because they couldn't afford raising a family of six on one paycheck. Upon discharge from the Marine Corps, Sal became a welder working for his father who was in charge of all steel work at Tomasso Bros. Construction Company in Plainville. During his time with Tomasso, Sal worked in every capacity, from welder to welding foreman, assembling conveyors throughout all the plants throughout the state, rebuilding the Branford Loading Docks to repairing/rebuilding seagoing barges. Sal worked for Tomasso Bros. until 1985, when part of a conveyor collapsed, permanently injuring his spinal cord ending his days as an iron-worker. Following two years of spinal therapy, Sal entered Central Connecticut State University to study Construction Management & Construction Engineering Technology and would go on to work for the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Over seven years with the DOT, Sal quickly rose from Engineering intern to Project Chief, supervising various highway and bridge projects. In 1995, a stroke and heart attack moved Sal from the field to a clerical position, and was forced to take an early retirement in 1999.

Bored in retirement with home crafts and gardening, in 2003 Sal joined the Marine Corps League, Hardware City Detachment 781 in New Britain. By 2009 he had risen through the ranks to become Detachment Commandant. Working with the Detachment's Funeral Honors Detail. Sal played an instrumental role in expanding the Detail from seven men to 32 men and the Detail's number of Veteran funerals per year from 74 to more than 300. In November 2016, the Governor had proposed and was on the verge of defunding the Military Funeral Honors program in Connecticut. Sal and all the Veteran Organizations in Connecticut united into ONE Voice. Sal spoke at numerous events throughout the state and State Assembly. The news media



DIVISION SPOTLIGHT



State Senator Lenny Suzio & Sal Sena discussing the need to retain Military Funeral Honors.

throughout the state had picked up on what was happening with the Funeral Honors. Sal was distributing petitions to retain the funeral honors throughout the state. No politician would dare to vote against Funeral Honors Funding in Connecticut. The Governor dropped the idea of Defunding Military Funeral Honors.

In January 2018, Sal in the capacity of Connecticut State Governors Liaison for the Marine

Corps Heritage Foundation and retired Woman Marine Sgt/Major & Area 1 director of the Marine Women's Assoc. Jamie DePaola got together to see how they could better serve and honor the men & women of the Marine Corps in this state. They decided that there was no better way to honor them then to Honor all the Women Marines who served in WW2. It was decided that Sal would send word out to all the Veteran Organizations through Sal's 1500-member email list. The turnout was tremendous.

A ceremonial dinner was held in February 2018 at the Rocky Hill VA, commemorating the 100 th Anniversary of the United States Women's Marine Corps, for all the WW2 Women Marines present. At the ceremony, all the WW2 Women Marines present were awarded the WW2 Victory Medal that they deserved. After further discussions, Sal and Jamie felt that it was only right that all the women that served in WW2 should be awarded the WW2 Victory Medal. Trying to locate all the women veterans proved to be very trying.



WW2 Victory Medal

Working with the Veteran Service Organizations of Connecticut in trying to locate and honor living World War II Women Veterans for their service proved to be no easy task. By the end of May, 20 WWII female veterans from across Connecticut between the ages of 94 and 101 were going to be honored. On Sunday June 10, through the generosity of the Carmon Family Funeral Homes, a spe-



Col. Adele Hodges, Sal Sena & Sgt/Major Jamie DePaola

cial ceremony was held at The Lodge Community Chapel in Windsor, Conn. The Lodge is owned by the Carmon Family, who also operate Carmon Community Funeral Homes in Greater Hartford. In WW2, 350,000 women served in the military, and at the time of the ceremony in 2018, most of the women were in their mid-90's and older, it was imperative that we honored their service while they were with us.

In February 1943 with WW2 going full throttle, both in Europe and the Pacific, there was a shortage on American fighting men. The Marine Corps was strictly male until World War II except for 305 Marine Reservists, popularly termed "Marinettes," who served during World War I. By 1942, unprecedented manpower demands of the two-front war led to personnel shortages. Although General Holcomb, Commandant of the Marine Corps opposed recruiting women, he followed the example of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard and began a drive to "replace men with women in all possible positions." If it had not been for our women stepping up to the plate and serving in the military...we might be speaking German or Japanese. Sal modestly calls his role with the Funeral Honors Detail that of a "pencil pusher," but in fact he has spent countless hours, every day, growing the Detail's



DIVISION SPOTLIGHT



impact, import and pristine reputation by visiting with countless family members of the deceased, offering hours of caring support and a reliable helping hand.

On many occasions, Sal has sat by their bedside in their "Final Hour". Because of the many years of service to the Marine Community in Connecticut, Sal was the first Marine in Connecticut to be appointed the Governors Liaison to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, to preserve and promote the history, traditions and culture of the Marine Corps and educate all Americans in its virtues.

The most memorable home/hospital visit for Sal was in October 2007 when Sal received a phone call from Margaret, the wife of the Sgt/Major that he had served with overseas, asking if he would fly down to Jacksonville, NC, and spend some time with him in his "Final Hour". Sal was in Jacksonville, NC in time for lunch the next day. Over the years, Sal, the Sgt/Major and his wife had developed a strong, close relationship from the time they served together overseas in Morocco right into civil



ian life. Prior to the Sgt/Major retiring, he served as the 2nd Marine Division Sgt/Major. During the time that Sal sat with Sgt/Major Williams, the Sgt/Major was awarded the "Hardcore Warrior Award" for his services. The Hardcore Warrior Award is only given to Marines whom have served in WW2, Korea and VietNam.

The award was signed by Col. Adele Hodges. Camp Lejeune Base Commander In the photo are, Award Presenter Lt. Col. Paul O'Tool (far left), Sal 5 th from left



Col. Hodges is now the MCL Bridgeport Detachment Commandant to right and six retired Sgt/Majors. Sgt/Major Williams is laying in the hospital bed.

Sal's work for Veterans, active-duty military and their families over the years has also included sponsoring a clothing drive for homeless and needy Veterans; collecting toys for the Marines' Toys for Tots annual drive; and distributing blankets and other items to Veteran residents at the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill. Sal's many honors include Marine Corps League Department of Connecticut Veteran of the Year (2012); Chapel of Four Chaplains Humanitarian of the Year (2014); Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame (2016); and Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran of the Year (2017) among many others. Sal is quick to say his life of service could not have been accomplished without the support of others. "There is no I in team," says Sal. "I could not have accomplished anything without the help of my fellow Marines and Veterans across the state. To them I say Thank You."

Angelo Tomasso, Sr. & Angelo Tomasso, Jr. Veteran of Distinction Honorees



SAL SENA, SR.
USMC 1965-69
CT VETS HALL OF FAME
PAST COMMANDANT, MCL #781

ROBERT DORNFRIED, SR.
U.S. ARMY 1952-1955
BRONZE STAR/KOREA
(POSTHUMOUS)



2024

OCTOBER

2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		



2024 **NOVEMBER** 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 249 th Marine Corps Birthday	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanks- giving Day	29	30



NATIONAL CONVENTION



2025 MCL Convention

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RATES ARE \$159,

PARKING IS FREE

SCHEDULE





CLASSIFIED SECTION



HELP WANTED

Department of CT– Is seeking a Paymaster. The Paymaster is one of most important positions in the Department. 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. You will learn more about how things work in the league than in any other job

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

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

Department of CT– Is seeking a Sergeant-at-Arms.

Department of CT– Is seeking a Boy scout Liaison

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.

Department of CT– Is seeking a Historian

Department of CT– Is seeking a Legislative Officer

Department of CT– Is seeking a Public Relations Officer

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

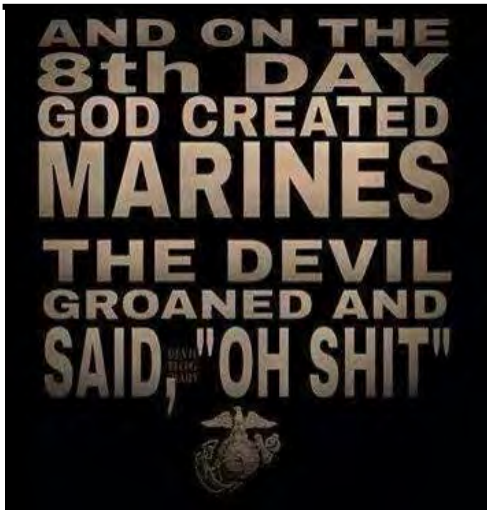
New England Division– is seeking a seeking a Compliance Officer. To follow up on Department and Detachment. IRS 990's and Incorporation reports

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? Ou 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

2025 MCL Convention

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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/1evC7oa>

Image Source:
barrykibrick.files.wordpress.com