



August 2025 — September 2025

# LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 6



## Message From The Division Commandant



Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer!

To those who attended the Conference in Maine or the Conventions in Massachusetts and Connecticut, you may recall me saying, "I have two asks." I'm reaching out again with those same two important requests.

We urgently need:

1. A New England Division MCL-accredited Veterans Service Officer (VSO)
2. A New England Division Liaison for the Marine Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) Program

Since then, several Marines have expressed interest. I've shared the necessary information and directed them to the National website. For those still considering, you can find full details in the Member Library under VSO and YPF.

The National Convention is just weeks away, and unless something changes, our Division will once again be the only one without these billets filled. I won't sugarcoat this—it may sound like I'm begging, and frankly, I am. Because I believe in this Division, and I know we have Marines who have the passion, integrity, and capability to thrive in these roles. I just need you to take the first step.

These are not just titles. They are deeply rewarding opportunities:

- As VSO, you would be directly assisting Veterans and their families through the claims process, helping them receive the benefits they've earned.
- Through the YPF Program, you would be shaping and

motivating young people across New England—instilling in them the values of discipline, fitness, and teamwork.

Here's a brief excerpt from the YPF Standard Operating Procedure to give you a sense of the mission:

- a. Maintain communication with all Departments MCL YPF Representative within their Division.
- b. Be the recipient of Quarterly Reports from all Department MCL YPF Representatives.
- c. Act as the POC between the Division and all the Departments within their Division, with the MCL Chairman of the MCL YPF Committee.

- d. Assist the Departments to plan, organize and conduct the annual state or regional MCL YPF Meets as required.
- e. Maintain contact with any organization providing financial support for any event held under the MCLYPF Program.
- f. Ensure training and assistance is provided to the Departments at National; Convention, Mid-Winter Conference and Monthly Zoom Session.
- g. Ensure compliance of the MCL YPF Guidelines & Program documents located on the MC website.

Please, take a moment to seriously consider stepping up. If you're ready—or even just curious—reach out to me directly. I'll gladly help you navigate the process.

I will see

those of you who are going to the National Convention in Texas. Semper Fi!!

Patrick Maguire  
National Vice Commandant  
New England Division  
Marine Corps League





## New England Division Contact Information 2024 – 2025



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## New England Division Contact Information 2024 – 2025



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Dept. of CT Thames River Det. 1334

**Div. Auxiliary Liaison**

OPEN

## WHAT SHOULD I SUBMIT?

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802-626-8058

## 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](mailto:Walt.benson5@gmail.com)  
203-768-8435

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

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



# FROM THE EDITOR



## A STORY WORTH TELLING

This Issue completes four years of our Newsletter. I have seen many changes in those four years. The Newsletter has grown in distribution and in participation, but we still have to experience more growth. Starting in the next issue I plan to reach out to every detachment commandant to submit information. Some detachments are very active and some are not but we are Each detachment will get the reminder 30 day before the next issue is due. There are a few places I really need your help besides what your detachment is doing, Taps, tell us about who we lost and what were they like, how did they connect with us. Did they make us laugh? Let us see him through your eyes. Also, The Division Spotlight, I don't know everyone in the person for every issue. If you don't attend es are we will not meet but that does not being featured there. In this Division there all should know what they do. There is a story in this issues Taps that I am positive not many people knew and we have many Marines that do things like that all the time and whether they want recognition or not, their story should be told to show others its ok to lead and inspire. Lastly, please send in flyers for the events you are hosting, so that others can attend. When you know the people at events it is so much more fun. At each event you get to meet and know new people and that comradery makes everything better. Don't stop at sending in information on your detachment, if you would like to see more of something or something else covered in the Newsletter let us know that as well. I can share this story with you as to how far we have come. I was in the hospitality room at Quad State and I was sitting next to Russ Miller, and he turns to me and says, Thanks for sending me the Newsletter, to which I dumbly responded what? There are many people throughout the league who get this Newsletter, because others forward it to them. Its on FaceBook and LinkedIn as well, so many will see what you are doing and who you are.



out to every detachment commandant to are very active and some are not but we are Each detachment will get the reminder 30 are a few places I really need your help be- Taps, tell us about who we lost and what with us. Did they make us laugh? Let us see sion Spotlight, I don't know everyone in the person for every issue. If you don't attend es are we will not meet but that does not being featured there. In this Division there all should know what they do. There is a tive not many people knew and we have

**Semper Fidelis**  
**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 of them, they are available on You Tube and there are a lot of good topics to choose from







# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CELEBRATES HISTORY



On June 6th, the 81st anniversary of D Day, The New England Division of the Marine Corps League set sail aboard the USS Constitution. The event was arranged by PNC Warren Griffin. USS Constitution departed from the Charlestown Navy Yard, Massachusetts, on Friday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m. This underway honors the Allied D-Day invasion of Europe during World War II and serves as a salute to all Marine Corps veterans, active-duty service members and their families as we celebrate the Marine Corps' 250th birthday. The ship will be closed to the public in the morning and will reopen to the public from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. following her return to port.

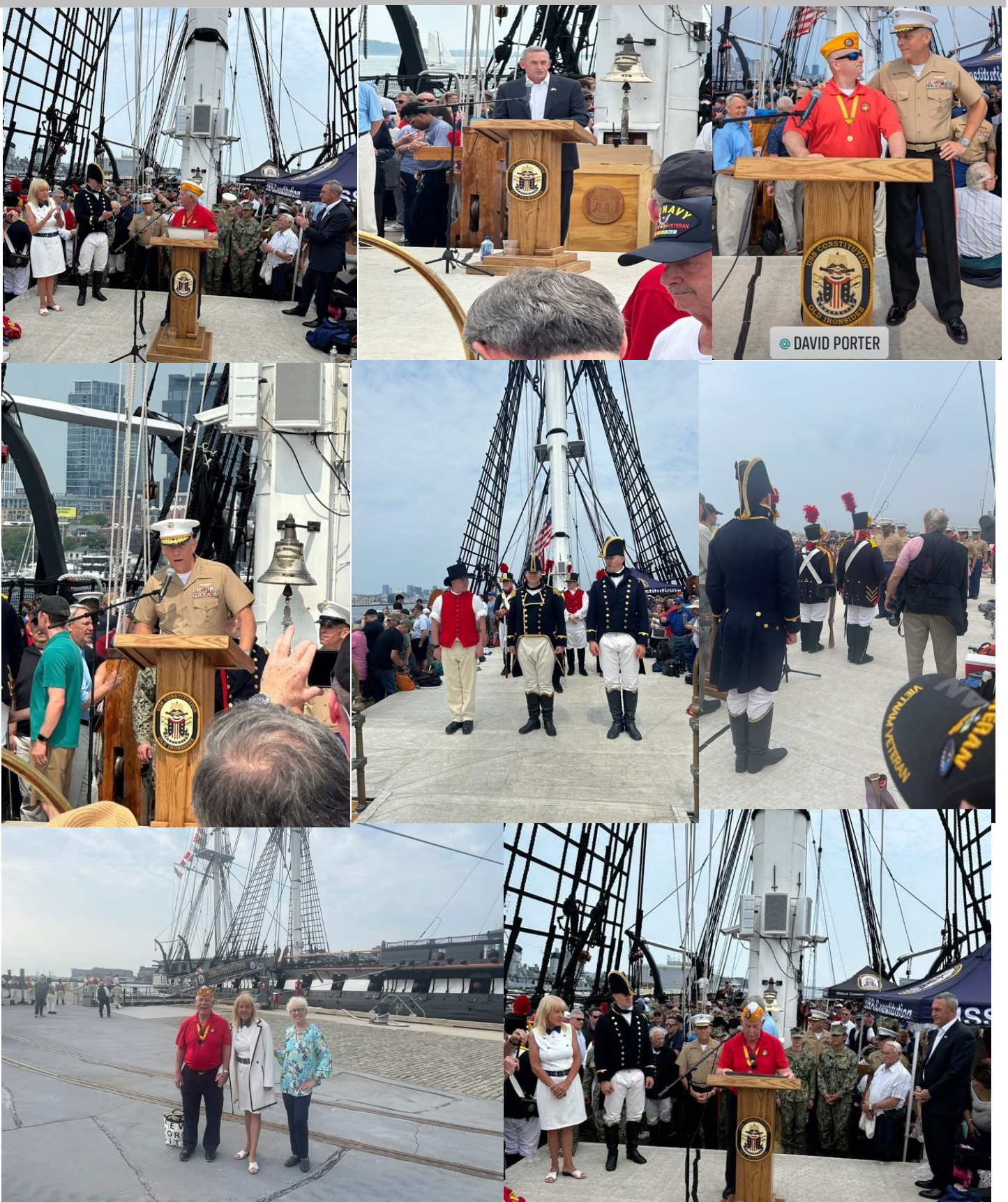
During the underway, USS Constitution will render a 21-gun salute off Fort Independence on Castle Island at approximately 11:30 a.m., followed by a 17-gun salute as she passes the U.S. Coast Guard Base Boston—the former site of Edmund Hartt's shipyard, where the ship was built and launched on October 21, 1797. The underway will be visible from the Boston Harborwalk, Castle Island, and the Charlestown Navy Yard.

The first time Marines fought aboard the Constitution was in the war of 1812. Lt. Lemuel Clark commanded the first 55 Marines assigned to USS Constitution. Today, Marines sailed on the Constitution again as her guns echoed loud salutes as it navigated the Boston Harbor. The Marine Corps Flag proudly flying high above the deck, as Marines from many different periods in History. Semper Fidelis Marines, Good Times.





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CELEBRATES HISTORY







# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CELEBRATES HISTORY



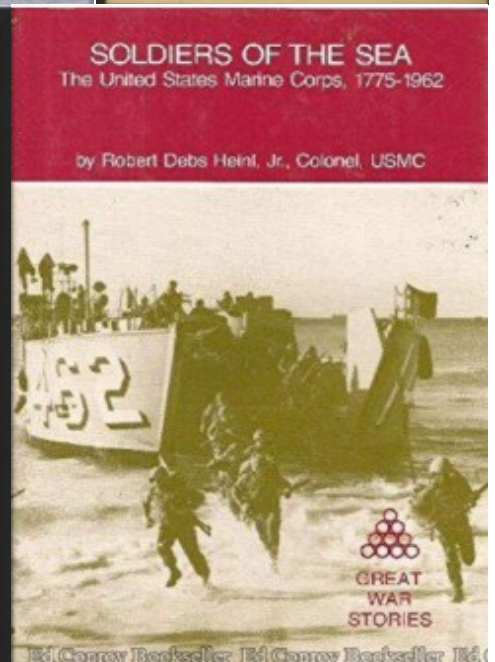
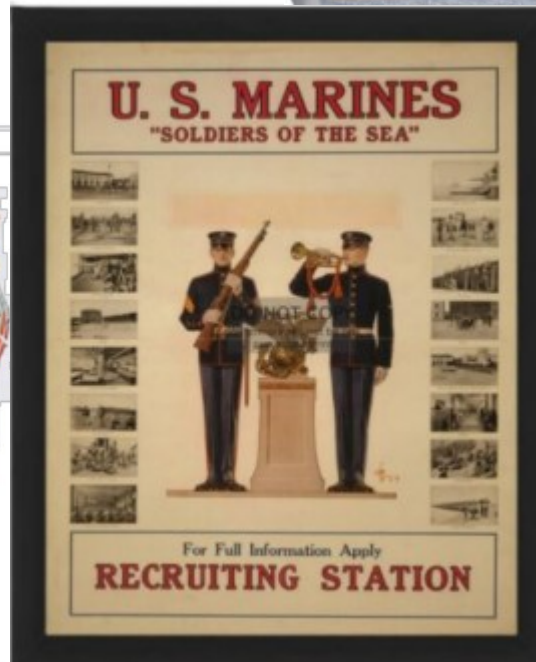
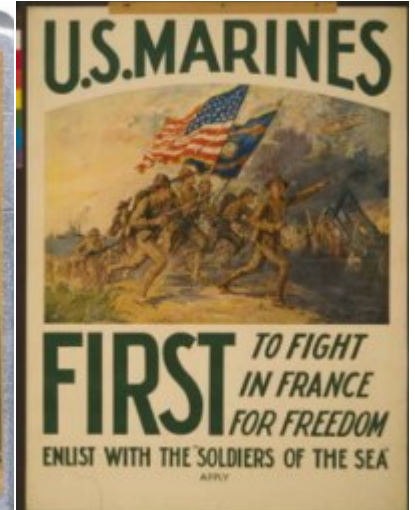
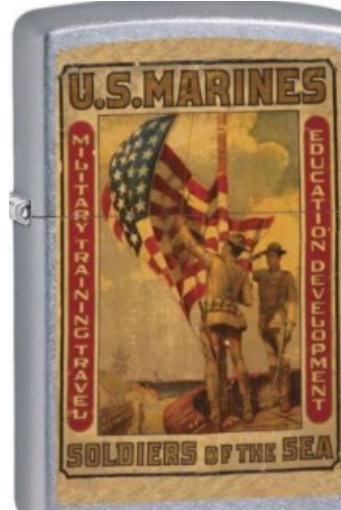




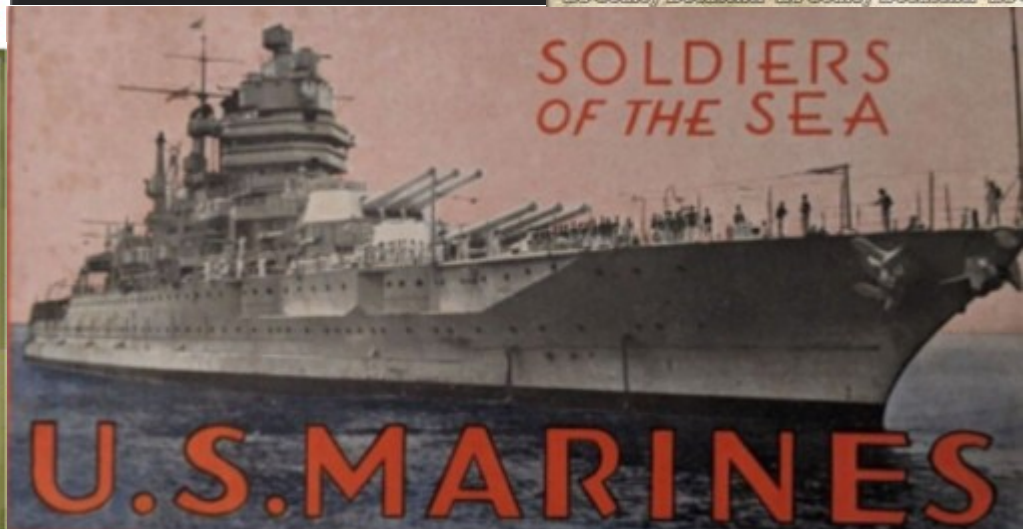
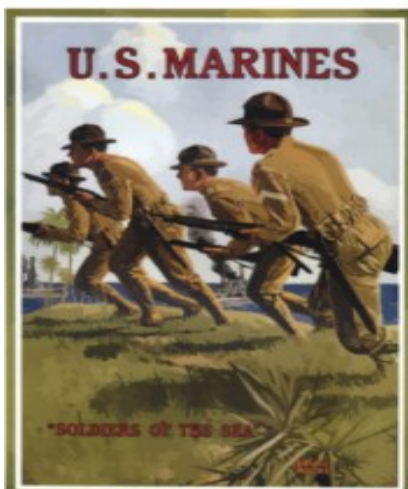
# CONNECTICUT TROUBADOUR



One special event at the Convention Banquet was a performance by Tom Callinan of the Thames River Detachment. Tom performed The Star Spangled Banner, The Marine Corps Hymn. And a song which he wrote, Soldiers of the Sea, a term used since the first Colonial Marines. Now I as well as others have never heard the term Soldiers of the Sea, applied to the Marines but he included some documentation the it has been used throughout the History of the Marine Corps.



Colonial Marine Drummer







# CONNECTICUT TROUBADOUR



Below Tom Callahan Performing at the Banquet, my intention was to enable you to have audio with it but it didn't work when I transferred the file to acrobat. Ill keep trying to make it better.



2743E036-8B05-4AE6-A300-02BC23D0B80D.MOV

**Tom Callahan and his Drum he created**



NVC New England Div., Pat Maguire, Tom Callahan, National SR.  
Vice Commandant Russ Miller



# SOLDIERS OF THE SEA



## Soldiers Of The Sea

(a.k.a. "The Continental Marines")

By Tom Callinan • © 2024 – Cannu Yusic, Ltd.

November 10th, 1775 –

A force to keep ships afloat and crews alive

Was established by the Congress of the colonies,

And in '76, they went to sea.

Amphibious infantry, fighting tyranny

By taking the fight to the enemy,

Or raining down fire from the fighting tops aloft,

Exacting from foes a deadly cost

When the Navy learned that naval stores

Were stashed by Tories on Bahama's shores,

Captain Samuel Nicholas led his Marines

On a raid, the likes of which had not been seen.

Seizing armaments the Brits thought safe,

And bringing them to their Rhode Island base.

But their first landing was not without a cost:

Four Marines were wounded,  
and seven lives were lost. – **REFRAIN**

Some sailed from Princeton to Lake Ponchartrain,

Or with John Paul Jones o'er the bounding main.

Wherever the Continental Navy was seen,

Onboard were Continental Marines.

Samuel Nicholas commanded 'til '83,

When the Marines were disbanded, along with the Navy.

But in '98, they came back to life;

Their birthdays remain 1775. – **REFRAIN 2X**

***They became the finest fighting force the world has ever seen –***

***The United States Marines.***



Continental  
Marines  
1775



Continental  
Marines  
1775



Major Samuel Nichols, was the first officer commissioned in the Continental Marines. He is considered to be the first Commandant of the Marine Corps.

**OOH-RAH!!!**





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



## INDEPENDENCE DAY



Greater Bangor Detachment 1151  
Dan Scott, Clayton Duplisse, Don  
Kozerow, Dusty Fisher



Kieth Buckholt and members of the  
Westfield River Valley Det 141



Jane Deptula NE Division Chaplain



JULY 4, 2025



250 YEARS



### CAPE COD DETACHMENT 125, 4TH OF JULY TOLL ROAD



The uniforms of the Marine Corps over the last 250 years it is not every uniform but it covers the major Wars we engaged in. The Revolution 1775, The Civil War 1861, WWII 1943, Vietnam 1965, Today 2024. There are many that are missing. History is written by the victor or the survivor, anyone can edit Wikipedia. There is time to make your mark.





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box 1990  
Stafford, VA 22555-1990



Marines, FMF Navy Personnel, and Associate Members,

As the National Commandant of the Marine Corps League, I am profoundly saddened by the devastating floods that have impacted communities across Texas. Our hearts go out to all those affected by this catastrophic event. The Marine Corps League is committed to supporting our fellow Marine Corps League members and their communities in times of crisis, and we stand ready to get the message out to our League.

We recognize the tremendous resilience of the Texas communities, and we are letting you all know across the country, that we stand by our MCL members and ask for your support and compassion to help in relief efforts. Whether through volunteer support, logistical assistance, or financial aid, the Marine Corps League is here to help.

I am reaching out to the MCL and ask you to assist Texas if possible. Contact the Department of Texas Sr Vice Commandant at [seniorvice@txmcl.org](mailto:seniorvice@txmcl.org) 956.566.0382.

Together, with the strength and resolve that define the Marine Corps spirit, we will stand by Texas through this difficult period. Please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Texas at the email address referenced above for assistance or to discuss how we can best support your efforts. We remain committed to serving our membership and the communities they live in, especially in moments of need.

TJ Morgan  
66th National Commandant  
Marine Corps League





# CONNECTICUT



Well, our 2025 Department of Connecticut Convention is in the books. It wasn't the success we had hoped for, with fewer attendees than in prior years, but those who attended appeared to have a good time. Unfortunately, we suffered a net loss financially. Senior Vice Commandant Walt Benson will present the final report at our next Department meeting on 24 August 2025. Thank you to all who joined us and especially those who tried valiantly to make it a success:

- Walt Benson, Budget Committee
- Ray Cruciani, Hospitality Room
- Jack Dougherty, Marine of the Year
- Doug Fisk, Bylaws Committee
- Adele Hodges, Raffles
- Tom Jackson, Hospitality Room
- Jim Lauber, Rules Committee
- Bill "Top" Lee, Audit Committee &
- Raffles  
Jim Soder, Credentials & Raffles
- Rose Taylor, Raffles

An extra-special THANK YOU goes out to our guest speaker, National Senior Vice Commandant Russ Miller. His moving and humorous speech was very well received.

Russ also joined our Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD) Grand Growl. The hijinks were nonstop and reminded all of us that the MODD is the FUN and honor society of the Marine Corps League.

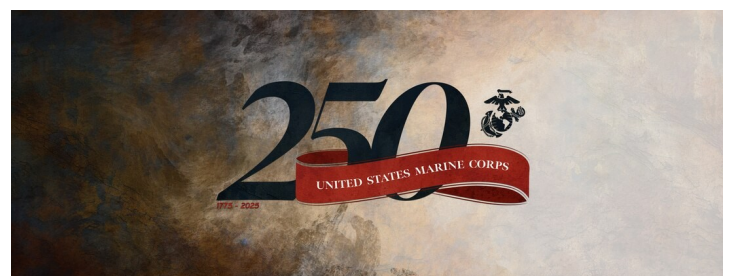
Another special thank you to Tom Callinan who sang the National Anthem and shared a couple of his own songs at our banquet. Very enjoyable! Note: Tom was the first ever Connecticut State Troubadour!

I know it's only possible to have one priority (by definition). Everything else is secondary, tertiary, etc. But we have several important tasks on our to-do list. Numero uno is to update our Detachment rosters so that all associate members who served in the military have a "V" for veteran, preceding their membership numbers. While the Marine Corps League will continue to be a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, we have been tasked with meeting the requirements for a 501(c)(19) nonprofit. This means that at least 80% of our membership must be veterans.

Our next task is to conduct our Paid Life Member (PLM) audits. I will send the "Life Interest Check Edit List" (from National) to the Detachment Commandants with instructions on how to complete the audits. This year, I will provide an adhesive label that must be completed and affixed to the original Check List. It will require that the Detachment Commandant and Detachment Paymaster sign off on the document. The Detachment Chaplain will have to annotate and sign off on any members' name if they are deceased. We have our work cut out for us this fiscal year. Full steam ahead.

**Semper Fidelis**

**Rich Daigle  
Commandant**







# CONNECTICUT



## 83RD CONNECTICUT CONVENTION

The 83rd CT Convention was great despite that attendance was down. The Grand Growl on Friday night was more fun and laughs than we have had in quite some time.



PDD Bill Lee, Police Dog, PCDD, PDD Doug Fisk, Smart Dog, DD, Adele Hodges, JR Vice Pack Leader, PDD Walt Benson, Worthy Pack Leader, PDD Jim Lauber, SR Vice Pack Leader, PDD Jack Dougherty, Dog Trainer. PDD Rich Daigle, Mad Dog,

NVCDD, Pat McMahan, Worthy Pack Leader, PDD Walt Benson



PDD Bill Lee, Police Dog, PCDD, PDD Doug Fisk, Smart Dog, DD, Adele Hodges, JR Vice Pack Leader, PDD Walt Benson, Worthy Pack Leader, PDD Jim Lauber, SR Vice Pack Leader, PDD Jack Dougherty, Dog Trainer. PDD Rich Daigle, Mad Dog,



Dept Officers and County Commandants for 2025-2026: Officiating Officer National SR. Vice Commandant Russ Miller. Jim Soder, Ray Burrington, Rich Daigle, Walt Benson, Tom Peters, PCDD Doug Fisk, George Gutmann, Peter DePaola, Gregg Timms, Skip Hammel, Bill, Lee, Adele Hodges, Not Pictured Charise Hewitt, Adjutant, and Tom Jackson, Paymaster.





# CONNECTICUT



## HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT GATHER FOR A NIGHT AT THE NEW BRITAIN BEES



On Friday July 11th about 20 members of The Marine Corps League, Department of CT, Hardware City Detachment 781 attended our annual event of a night out with the New Britain Bees. Everyone enjoyed a night of great baseball and comradery. Pictured above: Left to right, Larry from Berlin, Jim from Portland and Rivers from Bristol. You do not have to live in New Britain to be a member of our detachment. If you are a Marine living in CT send me your zip code and I will help you find a detachment near you.





# CONNECTICUT



## 11th Annual Step Up for the Brave

August 16, 2025

Fairfield, CT 06825 US [Directions](#)



Every step you take helps a Veteran experiencing homelessness!

### Step UP

#### STEP UP Run / Stair Climb Challenge

**\$43.40**

incl. \$3.40 Fee ⓘ

08/16

**9:30AM EDT**

**11:30AM EDT**

Registration ends August 16, 2025 at 11:59pm EDT

[Sign Up](#)

#### STEP UP Walk Challenge + 40,000 Step Virtual Challenge

**\$43.40**

incl. \$3.40 Fee ⓘ

Registration ends August 15, 2025 at 11:59pm EDT

[Sign Up](#)

#### 40,000 Step UP - VIRTUAL Challenge only

**\$43.40**

incl. \$3.40 Fee ⓘ

August 12-16

[Sign Up](#)

### Place

Sacred Heart University - Martire Family Arena  
3135 Easton Turnpike  
Fairfield, CT US 06825

### Description

Join us for the 11th Annual Step Up for the Brave, presented by Homes for the Brave.

From **August 11th to 15th**, participate in the Virtual Walking Challenge from anywhere in the world. Register individually or as a team, track your daily steps, and log them on our website. The top individuals and teams will win fantastic prizes.

On **Saturday, August 16th**, head to Sacred Heart University - Martire Family Arena for the main event. Challenge yourself with the 90-minute **Stair Climb**, where you'll ascend and descend 500 stairs per round. If you prefer a different pace, join the 90-minute **Walking Challenge** on a specially designed indoor course. Every step you take supports Veterans experiencing homelessness. No matter your age or fitness level, you can make a difference. Lace-up your sneakers and get moving for a great cause!

Show your support for Veterans in need. Register now and get ready to step up for a great cause!





# CONNECTICUT



**MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025**

**3PM TO 6PM**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS CAMPUS**

**287 WEST ST, ROCKY HILL, CT 06067**

**RAIN or SHINE MARKET**

Featuring a variety of Veteran Grown and Made vendors  
along with Veteran owned food trucks.

*RipChord, the 102d Army Band of the CT National Guard,  
will perform from 4-5pm in the Auditorium*



## **VENDOR SIGNUP - VETERAN FARMERS AND MAKERS WANTED**

- **Deadline to signup is June 30, 2025.** Limited space is available.
- Vendor spaces are free to Veteran Farmers, Makers, and Food Purveyors.
- Health permit requirements as applicable.
- The Market will be outdoors, if inclement weather it will be held in the Auditorium.
- Insurance coverage required.



# CONNECTICUT



***Sponsor our Eternal Flame***

***"In Memory" or "In Honor" of...***

**\$15 for a Day**

**\$100 for a Week**

**\$400 for a Month**



**Donate on our secure website at [www.IwoJimaMemorial.org](http://www.IwoJimaMemorial.org)**

**Or mail a Check to: *Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation, Inc.*  
*P.O. Box 31516*  
*Newington, CT 06131***

**Questions: Contact Elaine at [IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com](mailto:IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com)**





# CONNECTICUT



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### LIVING THE MARINE CORPS VALUE OF HONOR

#### Four Years of Remembering

It was time to leave Afghanistan for the last time, and the work was nearly finished on that hot summer day of August 26, 2021. The mission was to ensure the safety and security of the evacuation process at Kabul's International Airport, but that day would end in disaster. The suicide bomber killed at least 182 people, including 169 local civilians and 13 U.S. service members; 11 Marines, one Navy Corpsman, and one Army soldier.

I recall the anguish that day when these brave heroes ventured into the crowd to gather the last of the civilians to be screened for the flight out of Afghanistan. It was heartbreaking to hear and process the news, especially after being so close to leaving that 20-year war. One of the fallen Marines was from Lawrence, MA. I attended the funeral service to bear witness to this fallen female warrior, Sgt. Johanny Rosario, who loved life and loved being a U.S. Marine. Her entire extended family was present. It was a sad but moving experience. Doing nothing was not



an option for me so I went for a hard 4-mile run in 95 degrees heat through the hills of my town to remember our brothers and sisters we tragically lost. Since then, I remember and honor these young warriors each year on August 26th with the same run through the hills. These are the names of those lost in the closing day of the Afghanistan War: U.S. Marines: Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, Sgt. Johanny Rosario, Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, Cpl. Hunter Lopez, Cpl. Dae-gan 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. U.S. Navy: Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak. U.S. Army: Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss. Let us all take a moment on August 26th to remember and honor the fallen and to pray for their Gold Star Families they left behind. We remember.

S/F

Peter DePaola

Chaplain

Department of CT





# CONNECTICUT



## The Reemergence of Lance Corporal William Hart From The Ashes

*By Tom Callinan [USMC 1970-'71] and Life Member of TRD #1334*

There is a saying that no one is truly dead until he has been forgotten. If that's the case, then Lance Corporal William Hart, a 1981 graduate of Robert E. Fitch High School in Groton, CT has become a phoenix of sorts. On October 23, 1983, Lance Corporal Hart was among the hundreds who were killed in the horrific terrorist bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. And after his burial in New London's Cedar Hill Cemetery, he pretty much disappeared from public memory.



Lt Col William Hart USMC  
KIA 23 OCT 1983 • Beirut, Lebanon Photo courtesy: Barry



However, in 2018, Jennifer McNeil-Donnel, a Fitch H.S. classmate of William Hart's, and who in adulthood had become the mother of two Marines herself, realized that William was not listed as being among the deceased Connecticut servicemen killed in the Beirut bombing. Jennifer took it upon herself to notify Fitch High School, which resulted in a plaque in honor of Lance Corporal Hart's service and sacrifice being installed in their alma mater's lobby.

A while later, she remembered that an old friend, Dave Kargul, a New London native and a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, was *then*-serving as the Chaplain of the Thames River Detachment (TRD) #1334 of the Marine Corps League's Department of Connecticut. She notified him about Lance Corporal Hart's forgotten gravesite.



Representing New London County, CT each year on the weekend of Memorial Day, it has become a tradition for the TRD to visit the graves of its deceased detachment members, to place new American and Marine Corps flags on their graves, to show that despite the fact that they have departed from our physical presence, they have not been forgotten. Prior to 2023, the TRD was neither aware of Lance Corporal William Hart's existence, nor that he was interred in





# CONNECTICUT



New London. But after learning about the burial-site's location, Marine Kargul passed the word, and each year since then, that long-forgotten grave has been decorated with new flags. The fact that Lance Corporal Hart's death predated the founding of the TRD by 26 years didn't matter. He was a New London County Marine, and the TRD had to honor our brother Marine.

In 2024 the TRD felt that was not enough, so the members decided to establish a \$250 cash award in memory of Lance Corporal Hart, for a graduating senior from Fitch H.S., who plans on enlisting in *any* branch of the Armed Forces of the United States. Since expressions of patriotism in the United States have been waning in recent years, it was hoped that this modest cash award would further honor Lance Corporal Hart's service and sacrifice, and might inspire others to follow in his footsteps, in service to our country.

For the initial year of their cash award (2025), TRD #1334 has provided the seed money, and will administer it in future years, soliciting funds from donations, bequests, grants, Fitch H.S. alumni, and targeted fundraisers. Hopefully, the generosity of New London County citizens and businesses will enable the TRD to present annual cash awards indefinitely into the future. In that way they will continue to remember the name and sacrifice of one of their own, while supporting Fitch High School graduates, who choose to follow the path of military service.

The TRD's application form is available from Ms. Jennifer Allanach, Fitch High School's College and Career Counselor, and the first award was made on June 3rd of 2025, in this, the Semi-Quincentennial year of the Marine Corps' founding in 1775 as The Continental Marines.

The recipient was Omkari R. Mehta of Groton, an outstanding student and a member of the Navy Junior ROTC at Fitch High School. In reading her application, and the endorsement of her Senior Naval Science Instructor, Terance J. Henkle, LCDR USN (Ret), who wrote, she will *"succeed in any program or direction she chooses."* She will soon be entering the U.S. Air Force, with hopes of becoming an astronaut and one day to work for NASA.

Marine Tom Callinan (Left – Chairman of TRD's LCpl Wm. Hart Memorial Cash Award Committee) and TRD #1334 Commandant Bill Barnes (Right) presented the award to Ms. Mehta, along with a Certificate of Commendation from U.S. 2nd District Congressman Joe Courtney. Her proud parents attended the award ceremony.





# CONNECTICUT



Marine Dave Kargul and Jennifer McNeil-Donnel were able to see their efforts to preserve the name and sacrifice of Lance Corporal William Hart come to fruition.



*Anyone wishing to donate to the Lance Corporal William Hart Memorial Fund, should send their checks [made payable to the Thames River Detachment #1334, MCL with **LCpl Wm. Hart Mem. Fund** in the Memo line], to TRD #1334, P.O. Box 462 • Uncasville, CT 06382.*

*The Marine Corps League maintains a 501c4 non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service with special tax exemption.*

## SAM BEAMON DAY

On Saturday July 26th, The City of Waterbury, The Brass City Young Marines, Brass City Memorial Detachment, other Marines and Veterans gathered on a city bridge dedicated to Sam to honor him. Sam served his entire life, came sick serve. The after him, Day", a day this is one of was about. etnam in the served in the League, and as well as ficer. He led Youth Pro- raised through this event went to a scholarship named after Sam. Many Politicians attend and use this as a platform to speak but we must never lose sight of the Mission of the Marine we are here to honor and the legacy that follows him. Semper Fidelis.



even after he be- he continued to city named a Day "Sam Beamon of service since the things Sam He served in Vi- Marine Corps. He Marine Corps the young Marines being a Police of- several Waterbury grams. Money

( Pictures on the following Page)





# CONNECTICUT



## SAM BEAMON DAY



Brass City Memorial Detachment members Robert Bozzuto and Grace Parker







# MASSACHUSETTS



## MASSACHUSETTS CONVENTION & GRAND GROWL



Installation of New Pack Officers by the 49th PCDD, PDD Doug Fisk, R to L, Ralph Yung, Mad Dog & Barking Dog, Steven Cheney, JR Vice Pack Leader, Paul Gouthro, Pack Leader, NJV, David Porter Jr., Senior Vice Pack Leader, Jon Zwirblia, Smart Dog, PNC, Warren Griffin, Dog Trainer, Not in Photo, ANVC Mike Hinds, Police Dog, Brian Dupee, Watch Dog



Color Guard Haverhill High School MJROTC



PNC Warren Griffin Swearing in Mike Hinds as the New Commandant and his staff.





# MASSACHUSETTS



## MASSACHUSETTS CONVENTION & GRAND GROWL



Memorial service for those who have passed, since we last met.



National JR. Vice Commandant David Porter & Mike Hinds New Department Commandant MA



Guest Speaker Lt.Col Matt Fehmel



Commandant Mike Hinds with Lt.Col Matt Fehmel and in the Background The singing Trooper







# MASSACHUSETTS



## DETACHMENT 144 WORCESTER



Hopedale, Ma Scouting programs replaced all Veteran Flags at Hopedale Village Cemetery, assisted by MCL Marines



Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day Parade, Oxford ME.



SueAnn WaiSie Cheung, attending Bridgewater Veterans Pizza Social with Richie McGary and three others



MCL Marines attending the graduation at Holy Cross Naval Academy, we present a Officer Sword to a Graduate that has chosen to go Marines. also pic of Recipient Graduate, Past Commandant Peepas has presented this Sword for years and years.





# MASSACHUSETTS



## DETACHMENT 144 WORCESTER



At the AHM this weekend! WWII Pacific War Re-enactment – Battle of Okinawa, July 12th & 13th, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM The American Heritage Museum will host a WWII Pacific Theater re-enactment. Infantry representing Japanese and American forces will clash in this extraordinary living history event. Camps will be set up with authentic gear and appearance. WWII aircraft will fly in the battle (weather permitting). The Battle of Okinawa, fought from April to June 1945, was the largest and bloodiest battle of the Pacific Theater in World War II. The intense combat was marked by kamikaze attacks, brutal ground fighting, and high civilian casualties. The battle was the fiercest in the Pacific Theater, with some 50,000 Allied and 100,000 Japanese casualties, not including the local Okinawans who were conscripted into the Japanese Army. It is estimated that over 149,000 Okinawan people were killed. The Allied victory at Okinawa provided a critical staging ground for a potential invasion of mainland Japan, but the staggering loss of life and the fierce Japanese resistance significantly influenced the U.S. decision to use atomic bombs to end the war swiftly. Okinawa underscored the heavy cost of victory in the Pacific and hastened the final chapter of the war. Pacific war camps and aircraft will be set up and on display throughout the day. The battle re-enactment starts around 1 PM



In the following photos there are recreations from the battle, including aircraft used and a Veteran of the Battle. There were 24 Medal of Honor Recipients from the battle 11 Marines, 9 Army, and 4 Navy. The battle raged from March 19th through July 30th





# MASSACHUSETTS



## DETACHMENT 144 WORCESTER







# MAINE



It's Flag Day! Commandant Charlie Paul and Wayne York are giving out flags at Shaws Grocery on East Ave until 4pm today! All donations go to: Maine Veterans Home, Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight Maine, Quilts of Valor, Boothbay Vets







# MAINE



**Greater Bangor Area Detachment 1151  
Hosting a picnic for the residents of the Maine Veterans Home in Bangor.**



Don Kozerow and Joan Mansur



Don Kozerow



Dusty Fisher and some of the vets



Some more of the vets







# MAINE

## SOUTHERN MAINE DETACHMENT 1324

Dona St. Pierre



12 July 2025 Annual Semper Fi Barbecue Picnic at Riverdale Veterans Retreat (Lavendar Farm) Steep Falls Maine







# MAINE



## SOUTHERN MAINE DETACHMENT 1324

Dona St. Pierre

12 July 2025 Annual Semper Fi Barbecue Picnic at Riverdale Veterans Retreat (Lavendar Farm) Steep Falls Maine  
It just happens to be Jay McKenna's, Jay was presented with a surprise Birthday Cake.



12 July 2025: Annual Semper Fi Barbecue/Picnic at Riverside Veterans Retreat (Lavender Farm), Steep Falls, Maine. Mark Braun and his wife Tammy were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Commandant Dave Close, Southern Maine Detachment 1324 for all the years that Mark and Tammy have held the Annual Semper Fi Barbecue/Picnic





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## OORAH! NEWSLETTER

*Granite State Detachment #542*

*Marine Corps League*

### Commandant's Corner



It has been a very active late spring early summer season for the detachment with excellent results from our steady fundraising partners, Market Basket and Bass Pro, providing space for our tables and banners, and an enthusiastic response from the public, donating to the panopoly of Marine and veteran charities we serve. It is always interesting to me to meet other veterans, or veteran families who come up to donate and hear their stories. When I was at Bass Pro for this Memorial Day fundraising, a man came up and showed me a picture of his grandfather who served in Iwo Jima with his commander, Chesty Puller! One donation that really made an impression on me was \$20 from a young grocery clerk, probably 16-17 years old, working that day at Market Basket --- I think back to my entry level job like that, as it happens, janitor/toilet cleaner in an auto supply store, and \$20 would be a very big deal! He didn't say much, was really kind of bashful, but must have felt very strongly about veterans, or Marines in particular, to support our work with that great a sacrifice. Likewise, it is the reward of seeing such commitment on the public's part that makes one's volunteering efforts so worthwhile. It was also rewarding to work alongside of and get to know my fellow detachment members during the breaks when we are not serving the

rush of kids wanting flags, vets and families anxious to connect with us, tell their stories, and make donations (all of which is duly honored whether small or great).

As I said in our last regular meeting, I feel kind of like the old lady who swallowed a fly, taking up this responsibility, but now that you, the membership, have elected me to be Interim Commandant, I take that honor up with great humility, and hope to learn and serve to the best of my ability. I actually do have some background that may come in handy: I was managing Trustee for our two condominium buildings (23 units) in Boston, and so had to run meetings, come up with a budget, mediate conflicts, deal with contractors, fix 100 year old radiators and double hung windows, and make sure everybody paid their dues, keeping those low, equitable and assessments to a minimum.

It has been gratifying for me to see a detachment so active, firing on all cylinders: the ever popular Saturday Breakfasts crammed and jammed, almost over capacity, the blooming and boisterous ladies' group which has met for lunch twice now; our fundraising shifts being filled. I enjoy getting to know all the individuals in our unit, your backgrounds, and seeing what that amazing spectrum of expertise can do as a team.

The Marine ethos:

*Alieni Semel, Saepius Exertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres et Sorores in Aeternum!*

*Strangers Once, Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers and Sisters Forever*

*Quidam Dedit Omnibus*

*All Gave Some, Some Gave All*

Acting Commandant - Eric Anthony





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## JVC's Message

Our Granite State detachment is changing as I write this, and I am optimistic it is for the better. I for one, hope to see us improve on helping our needy Veterans, and to make smart choices for our contributions. I am confident we will be able to meet our agreed upon goals, but it will take all of us, and we can't allow outside distractions to keep us from making our mission a successful one. Let's work to make our #542 Detachment efficient, effective, and fun.

Sincerely, Glen Thayer Sr -

Jr Vice Commandant



## Chaplain's Message

Dear God,

We thank you for the brave Veterans who have fought & continue to serve our nation.

We ask you for your blessing, protection & healing for our families.

Bring Peace, Freedom & Protection to our Country.

Through Christ Our Lord,

Amen



Joe Duquette  
Chaplain

## Paymaster's Message

The second quarter of 2025 has been the start of a great fundraising season with the Memorial Day Fundraising event at Bass Pro Shops and Market Basket in Bedford, NH.

Between the two locations we raised \$3,723.00! Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that helped during this event.

I encourage and look forward to GSD #542 members volunteering at one or more of the fundraising venues in 2025 - as I am confident in our membership's ability to build upon this great start in order that GSD #542 may continue to provide funds and volunteer services to our deserving Veterans and community organizations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marge Romano



## ENJOY THE SUMMER SEASON, MARINES!

### [MCL Seacoast Detachment](#)

[Annual Picnic](#) - August 16 12:00-3:30pm

For full details on the event and to register to attend, click the link in the title above.

Pictured right is Jim Ambrose at the GSD 542 fundraiser table while at Bass Pro Shops on Memorial Day.







# RHODE ISLAND



Department of Rhode Island Marine Corps League had the honor of doing the color guard for the opening ceremony of the Fairway for Freedom Golf Tournament to support Veterans with PTSD. Semper Fidelis!  
NVC Pat Maguire, Department of Rhode Island Commandant Joe Afonso, Div MOY, Wayne Salisbury







# VERMONT



## DETACHMENT 798 BRATTLEBORO HOSTS EAGLE SCOUTS AWARDS







# VERMONT



## DETACHMENT 798 BRATTLEBORO PROVIDE THE COLOR GUARD AND THE FIRST PITCH FOR A SWAMP BATS GAME




All four are members of  
Det 798,  
Goldsmith is a retired Dep-  
uty Chief, Keene FD and  
had attended a funeral  
service prior to this detail.  
Norman Van Cor is a Navy  
Cross recipient.







# SCRATCHING'S FROM THE DOGS






**61<sup>ST</sup> CHIEF**

**DEVIL DOG**




**Vote to Re-elect PDD J. D. Jones**  
**As The 61<sup>st</sup> Chief Devil Dog**

**Proven Leadership**  
**Taking The Order To**  
**The Next Level**

**See you at the**  
**Supreme Growl!**



**VOTE TO RE-ELECT**  
**PDD CHARLES MINTON**  
**AS KENNEL SMART DOG**



**"NOT JUST A GOOD DOG — A SMART DOG."**

**See You At The Supreme Growl!**

**85TH SUPREME GROWL**  
**GRAPEVINE, TEXAS**






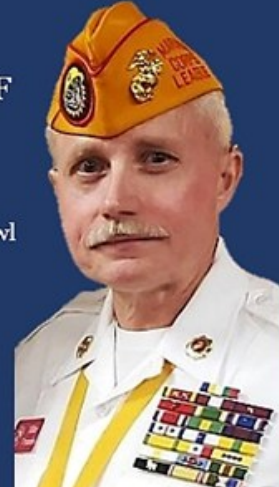
**PDD JOE DEANGELO**  
**FOR**  
**HONORABLE SR VICE CHIEF DEVIL DOG**



**RE-ELECT**  
**PDD MIKE FRANCIS**  
**To**  
**Jr. Vice Chief Devil Dog**


**WOOF WOOF**  
Big Barks to all of you  
hardworking Dogs!  
Join me  
at the  
85<sup>th</sup> Supreme Growl

**Experience**  
**Honesty**  
**Integrity**



**JR VICE**  
**CHIEF DEVIL DOG**

**PDD MIKE FRANCIS**







# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



★ 10 ★  
Year Anniversary

Recognized by the  
Veterans Day  
National Committee  
Washington, D.C.

All proceeds benefiting local  
veteran service organizations



Race Day: Saturday, November 8, 2025

Join us in saluting and thanking our military veterans by being a sponsor

Opening Ceremony: 9:45am • Race starts at 10:00am

**PATRIOTS PARK**  
172 LAKE STREET • COVENTRY, CT 06238

**VISIT US AT [CTVETERANSDAYRACE.COM](http://CTVETERANSDAYRACE.COM)**

All sponsors and VSO recipients are invited to participate in the Awards Ceremony at 11:00am on race day.





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE SELECT  
YOUR CHOICE

☐ GOLD • \$3,000

☐ MILE MARKER • \$500

☐ GENERAL DONATION

☐ SILVER • \$1,500

☐ CONTRIBUTING • \$100+

### GOLD - \$3000

- Sponsor logo & website will appear on event website with a link.
- Sponsor will receive a full-page ad in the race brochure.
- Sponsor logo will appear on the back of the event t-shirt.
- Sponsor will have a 3' X 4' vinyl banner prominently displayed at race event.
- Sponsor will receive 5 event entries to include shirts.

### SILVER - \$1,500

- Sponsor logo & website will appear on event website with a link.
- Sponsor will receive a half-page ad in the race brochure.
- Sponsor logo will appear on the back of the event t-shirt.
- Sponsor will have a 2' X 3' vinyl banner prominently displayed at race event.
- Sponsor will receive 3 event entries to include shirts.

### MILE MARKER - \$500

- Sponsor logo & website will appear on a 12" X 18" sign displayed on the race course.
- Sponsor logo & website will appear on event website with a link.
- Sponsor will be listed in the event brochure.
- Sponsor logo will appear on the back of the event t-shirt.
- Sponsor will receive 1 event entry to include shirt.

### CONTRIBUTING - \$100

- Sponsor logo & website will appear on event website with a link.
- Sponsor will be listed in event brochure on race day.

### GENERAL DONATION - \$

**To meet production deadlines, please submit your donation by October 17th!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

All contributions will help our veteran organizations continue their missions to serve. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law. The Connecticut Veterans Day Race, Inc. is a non-profit organization, EIN #88-1807752.

Please return the enclosed form to:

**CT Veterans Day Race**

P.O. Box 262, Coventry, CT 06238

*\*Make checks payable to CT Veterans Day Race*



For more information contact:

**Jamie DePaola, SgtMaj, USMC (Ret)**

860.985.2064 • admin@ctveteransdayrace.com

OR  
Scan Here  
to Donate  
Online



VISIT US ONLINE

[CTVeteransDayRace.com](http://CTVeteransDayRace.com)





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



## THE “CT VETERANS DAY RACE”

### HONORS AND SALUTES ALL WHO SERVED

The mission of the CT Veterans Day Race is to support the Connecticut veteran community, especially those most in need. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, they will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of honoring and supporting CT veterans. Veterans Day is a great time for all Americans to salute our military veterans and say, “thank you.” MCL member, Peter DePaola, is the Race Director and organizer for the event. He, and his wife Jamie, founded this event in 2016 to not just honor our veterans, but to raise funds and awareness for the VSOs who directly help the underserved veteran community.

Since they began in 2016, the CT Veterans Day Race has donated over \$100,000 to 18 different Veteran Service Organizations in CT. Even with the recent economic challenges we’ve experienced, one thing that remains true and strong is the human spirit and the willingness to give, to help, and to support others. 100% of the race proceeds are donated to CT Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) who serve the needy and homeless veteran community.

The patriotic opening ceremony begins at 9:45 a.m. and features the UConn ROTC Color Guard and Rubyfruit A Cappella choir from UConn singing the National Anthem. The race begins promptly at 10 a.m. and offers both live and virtual options in the 4-mile course, 3-mile walk, or the 3-mile ruck sack. Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected for the “Vittles for Veterans” Food Pantry at Veterans Base Camp, and daily essential items will also be collected for the homeless veteran population for “Backpacks for Life” program.

Check out the event’s website at [www.ctveteransdayrace.com](http://www.ctveteransdayrace.com) to learn more. Please join the festivities of the day by being a sponsor, or by participating either in the run, walk or ruck or as a patriotic spectator or along the route cheering on the runners. There’s something for everyone to celebrate and support veterans on Veterans Day. Please share the good news!

In this 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of so many Branches of the Military, please participate in this event in any way that your circumstances will allow. If not physically then monetarily.

Jamie DePaola





# 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](mailto:shoremarines@gmail.com) and 732-921-7411. Semper Fi!

Brian Gillespie





# 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.

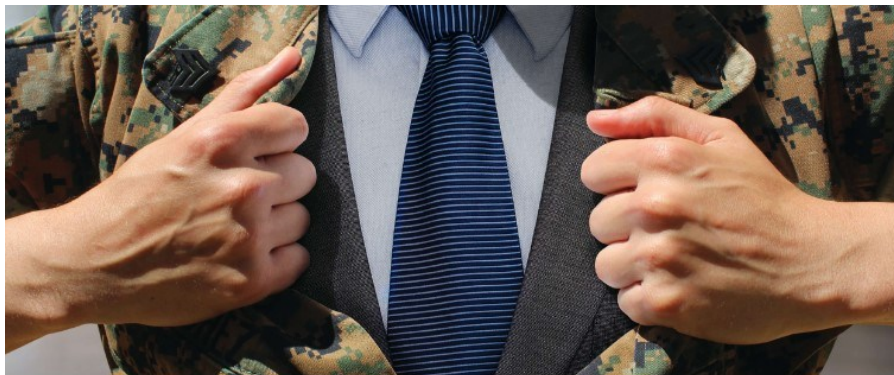
**Strengthen your professional relationships and expand your network.:** Networking is crucial in today's professional world. The Marine for Life Network facilitates your networking capabilities through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.

**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!





## Free Lifetime **MAINE VETERAN** State Park & Museum Pass



Maine Bureau of  
Veterans' Services

FREE Lifetime Park & Museum Pass for Maine Veterans!

Maine veterans with an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions are eligible for a lifetime day-use pass to Maine state parks and historic sites — at no cost!

Whether you're hiking, picnicking, or exploring Maine's history, this pass gives you the freedom to enjoy our outdoors year after year.

Apply today and take advantage of this well-earned benefit: <https://lnkd.in/gSgg3FFR>





For the past 15 years, FourBlock has been helping veterans answer this question—and more—through a structured, relationship-based career transition program that meets them at the intersection of purpose, skills, and opportunity.

Swipe to see how our 2024 and 2025 participants answered -->

What's striking is that these are not just tactical gains—they are personal breakthroughs. Veterans aren't simply becoming better at resumes; they're becoming better at navigating uncertainty, building trust, and seeing themselves as the valuable professionals they truly are.

This isn't accidental. FourBlock's model is built around real-time exposure to employers, cohort-based learning, and a lifelong community of alumni and mentors who have walked the same path.

If you're a transitioning veteran, an employer seeking talent, or a leader who believes in purpose-driven work—there's a place for you at FourBlock.

"FourBlock is the veteran transition and career readiness program every veteran deserves." — Will, U.S. Marine Corps veteran

Applications for the upcoming cohort are open now: <https://lnkd.in/gJE3uPWN>





# 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](http://marineforlife.org)

866-645-8762

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



Sergeant Richard Arthur Kowalker, known throughout Connecticut as *"The Riderless Horse Marine,"* passed away on May 2, 2025, at the age of 76. Born September 21, 1948, in Middletown, Connecticut, Sgt. Kowalker devoted his life to honoring the fallen with an unmatched spirit of patriotism, compassion, and duty. He was laid to rest with full military honors on June 6, 2025, at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

## A MARINE'S PURPOSE: HONORING THE DEAD

Sgt. Kowalker served in the United States Marine Corps for 11 years, including a combat deployment during the Vietnam War from April 1968 to May 1969. For his courage and sacrifice, he received the Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation. Upon returning home, he served his community working security at the Long Lane reform school in Middletown. But it was his later calling—to honor fallen veterans—that came to define his legacy. After facing the challenges of post-traumatic stress, Sgt. Kowalker found healing through a mission rooted in reverence: ensuring no veteran was laid to rest without honor.

In 2005, Sgt. Kowalker adopted a Morgan mare named Melody. With no prior horse-handling experience, he trained alongside her until

they became inseparable. Clad in his Marine dress blues, Sgt. Kowalker would solemnly lead Melody—with an empty saddle and reversed boots symbolizing a fallen warrior—through hundreds of veteran funerals across Connecticut. Their presence was a moving embodiment of military tra-

dition and love for fellow service members. Together, Richard and Melody honored over 700 veterans. On countless occasions, he was not officially scheduled to participate—but that never stopped him. He made it his mission to be there for as many veterans as possible, regardless of time, distance, or weather.

One of the most memorable examples of his dedication came when a fire destroyed his horse trailer. Rather than cancel his appearance, he walked over 15 miles with Melody and a borrowed horse to keep his promise. This act led to a community-led fundraiser to replace his trailer—a testament to the respect he had earned across the state.

Even after Melody passed away peacefully in 2018 at the age of 33, Richard continued his mission. Her final days were spent at the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue in East Hampton, where Sgt. Kowalker stayed by her side, speaking gently as she passed—a Marine to the end.

Connecticut Veterans Bulletin



Sgt. Richard Kowalker 21 September 1948 - 2 May 2025





## John J Lynch, May 27, 1936 ~ June 8, 2025

John J. Lynch, 89, of Kensington, died Sunday (June 8, 2025, at his home. Born in Waterbury, the son of the late James and Bridget (King) Lynch, he lived in Kensington for the last 58 years. He and his wife, Mary Jane, would have celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July of this year.

John spent his career in sales and also worked at Hitchcock Printing. His greatest accomplishment was to have served his country as a United States Marine, as a Sergeant from 1955 to 1959, in French Morocco. As a Veteran, John was a member of the Hardware City Marine Corps League where he served as Commandant, worked on Toys for Tots, Rose Program, Military Order of the Devil Dogs, New Britain Veteran Council, Gen. Haller Post, Franco American War Veterans, Iwo Jima Foundation and the American Legion & the Gen

He was also an active member of St. Paul's Church, having been a lector and served on the Parish Council and enjoyed spending time on Cape Cod with his family and friends.

John is survived by his wife, Mary Jane ( Modzelewski ) Lynch, his sister Eileen and her husband, C. Thomas Donahue of Litchfield; his nieces and nephews, Michael Lynch, James Lynch, Bridget Girch and Shannon Egbert. He was predeceased by his brother, James F. Lynch.

John was a talent and a big part of the Hardware City Detachment. The list above is long but there is even



more that he took charge of. He was always the MC of any event. He could speak to a crowd and keep them engaged and laughing through the entire event. He was the epitome of an Irishman. They say when it comes to speaking an Irishman could tell you to go to hell in such a manner that you would be looking forward to the trip. When you would ask John how he was doing he would respond not bad for a fellow my age.

John's wife was Polish and John spoke Polish, I never though to ask why he spoke Polish but he brought it up often that he could. We used to talk about the school my daughter went to as it was a Catholic Polish school St. Hedwigs. He knew the school and used to attend some of the events there.

He spoke at every celebration and holiday. Every awards dinner and picnic. He attended parades and fairs and if you were at the event you were sure to

be entertained all day. At the end of the day he would always comment he was going home to the princess who demanded all his devotion and respect. John and Mary Jane would be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in July, which I am sure would have been a great event for them. This is published after the funeral, but it was requested in lieu of flowers you could donate to the Hardware City Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

John will be missed by all, as he had so much to offer. You are relieved we have the watch. Semper Fidelis, Brother, Rest in peace.

### My Brother

My brother did depart this day,  
His soul was freed and flew away.  
High beyond the stars and moon,  
To make his home in Brigadoon.

He's free of pain and troubles too,  
Some may say he is better too.  
But all of us will miss his boyish charm,  
His laugh and smile and spin of yarn

Life of the party and friend to all,  
Could turn a boring time to fun for all.  
I miss you brother here and now,  
You leave a void inside me now.

I know not what the future will bring,  
Hope for a heaven seems very thin.  
I hope I can find you in time and space,  
Until then I will miss you each and everyday



# 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





# YOUNG MARINES



*We Need Your Help!*

**Contact Your Congressional Representative**



## **Call to Action MARINE CORPS LEAGUE - WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Many may not be aware but Congressional funding the Young Marines receives support different levels of administrative and operational costs to include support for Leadership Schools and our summer programs. We are **NOW** at a critical point. Our FY26 funding was not in the House, and we have a very small window with the Senate. With a few previous gap years that were not funded many know the challenges we faced. We cannot do this alone, and we need your help.

In past years Congress authorized and appropriated funding to ensure the Young Marines program was able to provide youth leadership education, development, and drug prevention and resistance education for the next year. In Fiscal Year 2022 (October 2021-September 2022) and FY 2023 (October 2022-September 2023), the Young Marines was cut out of the budget process because of the way the budget was passed, which means that we received no federal funding to continue the mission of "strengthening the lives of America's youth" for 2023 and 2024. With your help, we received the restoration of our funding for FY 2025. As budget negotiators are working now on the annual budget for FY 2026, we really need your help. Please contact your Congressional Representatives to ask for their support in ensuring the Young Marines receive the funding for the upcoming year.

We've have had to dramatically cut back on our programs the last few years due to the funding cuts. This has greatly impacted or eliminated many of the following: summer programs, National Director programs, National Leadership Schools, Adult Volunteer Training, Esprit magazine, our support for materials to the field, and so much more. This funding is critical to our full operations in the future.

### **HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP –**

Get the word out to everyone involved or impacted by the Young Marines program: MCL, Volunteers, Parents, Guardians, Young Marines, other local supporters, friends and family. This is where the numbers count in getting members of Congress' attention and sharing that this program matters for our youth and the future of our country. Ask everyone you know to reach out and tell their story about how this program has helped youth members in their community or any stories about how the Young Marines program has positively impacted their community. Copy and paste this link to search for your Reps: [www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member](http://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member)

*Thank you in advance and Semper Fidelis.*

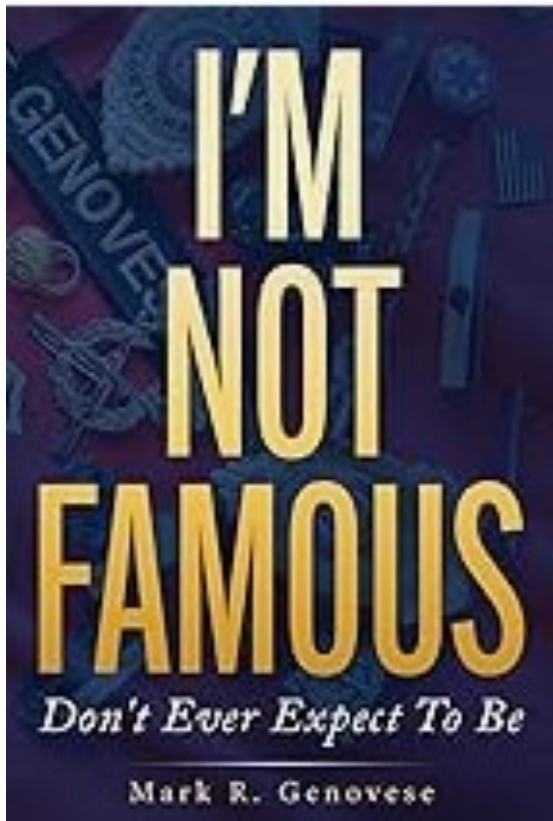




*"I cast my words upon the wind, of things I wish to tell my friends"*



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.



Mark Genovese is an ordinary man. Although his readers may find his stories extraordinary, he does not. Mark is a typical American who loves his country, his hometown, his family, and his friends. He is the person sitting next to you in the theater, across from you at a restaurant, or a row behind you at a ballgame.

When his doctors diagnosed his Parkinson's disease, they suggested that if he wrote about his life experiences, the effects of the disease might be delayed. Mark is not sure if that is true, but the chapters in this book have certainly shaped the man he is today. This is Mark's journey through life, going unnoticed while being involved in some significant historical events.

Mark stands proudly behind the statement, **"I'M NOT FAMOUS,"** and he doesn't want to be. Even while serving as a United States Marine or as a Captain for the police force, Mark touched lives in a more individual, memorable, and meaningful way than being a celebrity or a famous person. If you met Mark, he would treat you with respect and compassion. He would be there without hesitation to share in your good times and help you through the bad ones. Mark cherishes the effects he has had on people, but they have not made him famous.

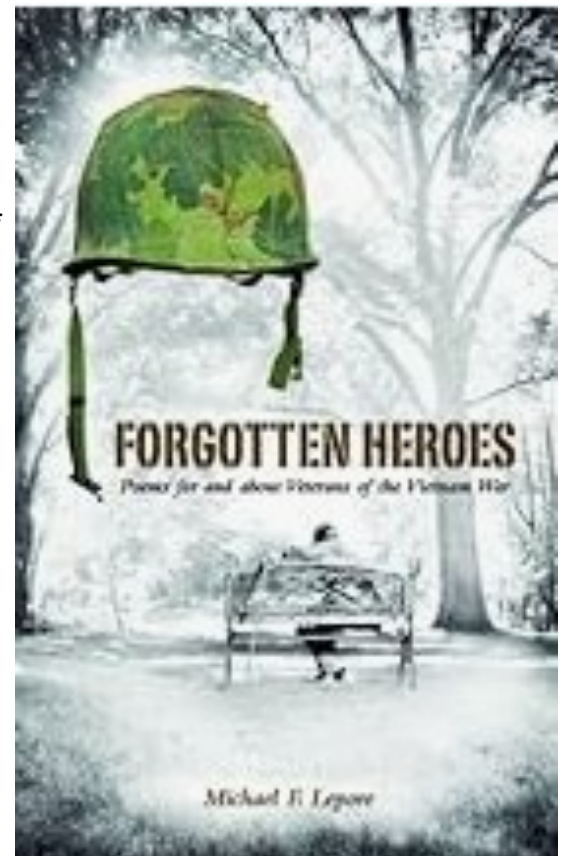
Mark lives in North Haven, CT, with his wife Caren. They raised their two children, Steven and Amanda, in North Haven.

*"Lepore makes skillful use of verse to convey the grim realities of combat, the unique anguish of the Vietnam War, and the burdens the survivors will carry to the grave. His poetry offers voice to the combat veterans of Vietnam and stands as a sobering reminder of the human cost of war in general."*

*James H. Hallas, author of Killing Ground on Okinawa*

*"Lepore's debut collection of war" poetry pays homage not only to the veterans of the Vietnam war, but to the families who were left waiting...Lepore reminds us that even when our troops are Home at Last, no one escapes the stain of war."*

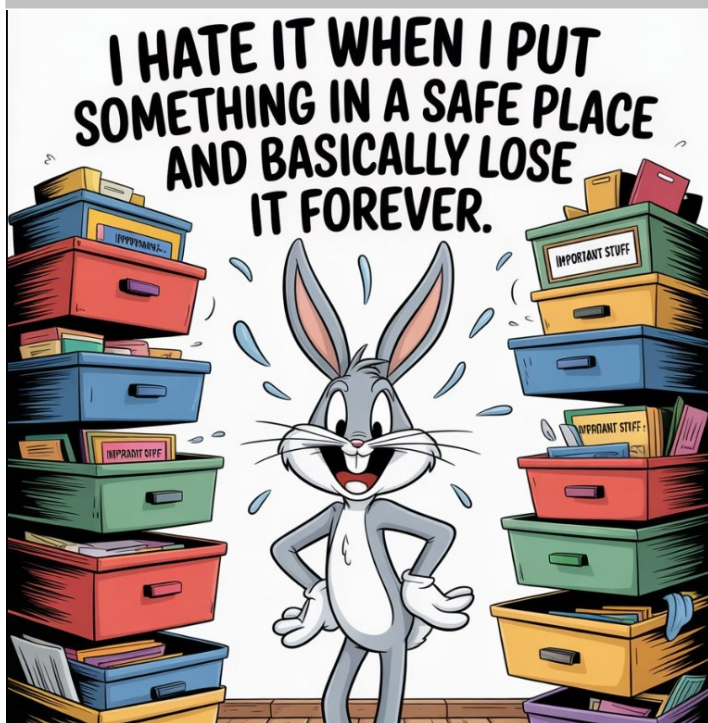
*Lisa L. Siedlarz, author of I Dream My Brother Plays Baseball*







# HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



**You might be an older Veteran if you wore these and used so much starch, that they stood at attention all by themselves!**

**MAKING EVERYONE HAPPY IS IMPOSSIBLE.**



**PISSING THEM OFF IS A PIECE OF CAKE. I LIKE CAKE.**



**SOME SAY I DON'T PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS**



**I SAY IT DEPENDS ON WHO IT IS AND WHAT THEY WANT TO PLAY**

**PEOPLE SAY GROWING OLD IS A GIFT**



**I'D LIKE TO RETURN MINE FOR STORE CREDIT**





## 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"!!



During this time of the year we become aware of our membership numbers and with that we see how far they have gone down, or in rare cases have gone up. Just like any other business or organization we look to the person in charge for answers and solutions to all of our problems. But in this case maybe we should be looking to the Public Relations Officer because it is their distinct purpose to tell our story. This person needs to make friends and contacts that can help us tell our story and make people aware of who we are and what we do. We also need to make some changes to some of what we do. We need to become more family oriented. Some detachments actually have at least one family even each year, and yet there are several opportunities to have events that engage the entire family and not just the Marines. One that comes to mind is detachment picnics or as they are sometimes called Family Fun Days. Safe outdoor activities for the entire family, food, music, relaxation, bouncy house for the kids and maybe even some type of show. But there are many more events to take advantage of, Family Breakfasts, Family BINGO, Pizza recruiting parties where the whole family takes part. Wives are a big part of our organization, they make their own friends and connections which enhances the comradery we enjoy when we meet. How about a detachment Christmas Party, or a Birthday Breakfast in addition to or in place of a Ball.

I know that when I go to Conventions my wife gets together with the other wives and girlfriend she has met and they go off and plan their own activities, it make things so much easier. Nd they do go and find some great entertainment in whatever area we visit, and that occurs whether it's a National Convention or a local one. These little things create a better experience for everyone.

Another key element is to tell our story, make the community aware of what we do.

What is the Marine Corps League, what can they bring to the community, who can be a part of the league? What events can we partner with the community to accomplish. One way to do this is to attend Town meetings for information on how we can combine forces or lend support. Speak about what we offer. We are here to help Veterans, whether it is in the form of guidance on where to get help. Comradery with other Marines by joining a detachment. Funeral Honors for those who have passed. Toys4Tots for families that struggle through the holidays. Just like when we first stood on those yellow footprints at the beginning of our journey we continue that path today by still serving the Marine on our Left and the Marine on our Right. If you have chosen to join us in the League then you have made a decision that our mission is not over and we have more to contribute, and please don't sell yourself short, you can work through the pain. My favorite is sitting outside a store doing Roses or recruiting and it never fails, some Squid, Chair Force, Puddle Pirate will walk through the door and tell you they served and as you acknowledge that while laughing, we offer them an opportunity to redeem themselves by joining us in the league. These were my thought for this issue, I'd love to print yours.

Walt Benson



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)







# 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.

Recently, The Kent County Detachment 453, Department of Rhode Island voted to change their name to: **The Sgt. Brian St. Germain, Detachment 453**. Cpl. Brian St. Germain, USMC died on April 2, 2006, when the sev- rolled over in a flash flood near Iraqi Freedom. Also killed Cpl. David A. Bass, Lance Cpl. Cpl. Felipe D. Sandoval-Flores Twitchell. Brian was born in Lynn (Adamo) St. Germain of resident of West Warwick for



Brian was an honor stu- track and field in the hurdles graduating in 2001. He had ket in West Warwick. Shortly the Marine Corps and graduat- He was stationed at Camp currently serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was a racing fanatic and loved anything and every- thing to do with cars and trucks.

Since 1979, the Kent County Detachment #453 of the Marine Corps League has proudly served our Marines, veterans, and their families across Kent County. For 46 years, our members— past and Present-have remained committed to that mission, bound by the shared values of service, honor and brotherhood.

At our February 2025 meeting was brought forth and unanimously approved by our member- ship: to rename our Detachment in honor of Sgt Bri- an St. Germain. It was a heartfelt decision —one that reflects the deep respect and admiration we have for Brian's life of service, and sacrifice. Per Marine Corps League National By-Laws (section 900), a Detachment may be named after a de- ceased Marine only with the written permission from the Marine's closest family. A letter has been sent by Detachment Commandant, Paul Campbell.

With the approval from the St. Germain family and the Marine Corps League National Headquar- ters, we intend to officially rename the Detachment on April 2, 2026— honoring the 20th anniversary of Brian's passing and preserving his legacy for generations to come.

Semper Fidelis Marine, until Valhalla







**2025**

**AUGUST**

**2025**



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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





2025

# SEPTEMBER

2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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



# NATIONAL CONVENTION



## 2025 MCL Convention

Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport

**WE ARE SAVING  
A SEAT  
FOR YOU**

### **HYATT REGENCY DFW AIRPORT**

**2334 N. INTERNATIONAL PKWY**

**DFW AIRPORT TX 75261**

**PHONE FOR RESERVATIONS**

**1-800-233-1234 Group CODE G=MCL5**

**MONDAY AUG 11 TO FRIDAY AUG 15**

**RATES ARE \$159,**

**PARKING IS FREE**

### **SCHEDULE**







# NATIONAL CONVENTION



Hyatt Regency DFW, Texas  
CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Notes:

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Event Time	Event	Location
0800 - 1100	MCL Bylaws Committee Meeting	Hill
0900 - 1300	MCLA Budget Committee Meeting	Lady Bird
1000 - 1200	MODD Staff Growl	Enterprise 7-8
1000 - 1100	Church Service	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
1000 - 1300	MCLA Bylaws Committee Meeting	McCombs
1100 - 1230	MCL Foundation Meeting	Doolin
1300 - 1700	Historic Uniform Display buy Mike Waluk	San Antonio
1300 - 1700	MCL Ships Stores	Dallas
1300 - 1700	MCLA Ships Stores	Houston
1300 - 1600	Texas Room - Local Ship Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Grapevine
1300 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Ft Worth
1300 - 1600	*MCL National Board of Trustees Meeting	Innovation C/D
1300 - 1600	*MCLA National Board of Trustees Meeting	Innovation A/B
1300 - 1700	MCL Registrations	Austin / Lonestar Foyer
1300 - 1700	MCLA Registrations	Enterprise Foyer
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. PDD Registration	LoneStar 1
1300 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Registration (Dog House)	Maverick
1530 - 1700	Scholarship Committee Meeting	Hill
1600 - 1630	First Timers Welcome - MCLA President & MCL Commandant	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
1630 - 1900	BBQ and Entertainment Meet & Greet - Early Bird	Aviators

Monday, August 11, 2025

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Aviators
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Existing Hotel Flag area/front drive
0800 - 1600	MCL Registration	Austin / Lonestar Foyer
0800 - 1600	MCLA Registration	Enterprise Foyer
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Registration (Dog House)	Maverick
0800 - 1600	MCL Ships Stores	Dallas
0800 - 1600	MCLA Ships Stores	Houston
0800 - 1600	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Ft Worth
0800 - 1600	Texas Room - Local Ship Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Grapevine
0800 - 1600	Historic Uniform Display by Mike Waluk	San Antonio
0900 - 1530	Day Trip to North Park Mall & Perot Museum	Trip
0900 - 1200	Joint Opening Session (MCL & MCLA)	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
	Joint Memorial Service (MCL & MCLA)	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
	Chapel of Four Chaplains	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
1100 - 1200	Past Chief Devil Dog Society Meeting	McCombs
1200 - 1300	Break for Lunch	
1300 - 1600	MCL Business Session	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
1300 - 1600	MCLA Business Session	Enterprise Ballroom 7-8
1300 -	MCL Opening Session	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
	Rules of Convention	TJ Morgan
	Dedication	TJ Morgan
	Budget Committee Report	Bob Ziltz
	U.S. Army TACOM	TACOM
	Newsletter Awards	Dianna Grantham
	Public Relations	John Taylor
	Closing Ceremony	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
Right after	Department Commandant's Council Meeting	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
1800 - 2200	Medal of Honor Museum Banquet	Arlington, TX



# NATIONAL CONVENTION



Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Aviators
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Existing Hotel Flag area/front drive
0800 - 1600	MCL Registration	Austin / Lonestar Foyer
0800 - 1600	MCLA Registration	Enterprise Foyer
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Registration (Dog House)	Maverick
0800 - 1600	MCL Ships Stores	Dallas
0800 - 1600	MCLA Ships Stores	Houston
0800 - 1600	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Ft Worth
0800 - 1600	Texas Room - Local Ship Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Grapevine
0800 - 1600	Historic Uniform Display by Mike Waluk	San Antonio
0900 - 1200	MCLA Business Session	Enterprise Ballroom 7-8
0900 - 1200	MCL Business Session	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
0900 -	Call Convention to Order	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
	Credentials Committee Report	Teresa Terry
	National Commandant	TJ Morgan
	National Senior Vice Cmdt & Dept Cmdt Council Rpt	Russ Miller
	National Junior Vice Commandant	David Porter
	National Judge Advocate & Resolutions	Bruce Rakfeldt
	National Executive Director	Just Bob
1130 - 1230	MCLA President's Council Meeting	Enterprise 8
1200 - 1300	MCLA Past National President Luncheon	Hill
1200 - 1300	Break for Lunch	Aviators
1300 - 1500	MCLA Business Session continues	Enterprise Ballroom 7-8
1300 - 1600	MCL Business Session continues	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
	Bylaws Committee Presents Proposed Changes	Bruce Rakfeldt
1600	Closing Ceremony	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
1600 - 1700	Americanism Committee	Hill
1700-2200	Frisco Rough Riders AA Baseball	Rider Stadium, Frisco, TX
1900 - 2000	MODD Talent / No-Talent Show	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Aviators
0745 - 1345	MODDF Scratch	Innovation Ballroom
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Existing Hotel Flag area/front drive
0800 - 1200	MCL Registration	Austin / Lonestar Foyer
0800 - 1200	MCLA Registration	Enterprise Foyer
Closed	MCL Ships Stores	Dallas
Closed	MCLA Ships Stores	Houston
0800 - 1300	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Ft Worth
0800 - 1300	M.O.D.D. Dog House	Maverick
0800 - 1600	Texas Room - Local Ship Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Grapevine
0800 - 1600	Historic Uniform Display by Mike Waluk	San Antonio
0800 - 1000	Marine of the Year Society Meeting	Hill
0800 - 1200	M.O.D.D. Initiation	Maverick
0900 - 1100	VSO Continuing Education Training (Mock Interview & VBMS)	Innovation Ballroom A/B
1200 - 1630	Day Trip to President Bush Presidential Library	President Bush Library
1300 - 1500	National Convention Committee Meeting	Innovation Ballroom A/B
1300 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Supreme Growl	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
1600 - 1700	M.O.D.D. of the Year Society Growl	Hill
1700 - 1800	MODD Hospitality	Aviators
1800 - 2100	Midweek Dinner Hosted by MODD Texas Pack	Aviators





# NATIONAL CONVENTION



Thursday, August 14, 2025

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Aviators
0700 - 0900	PNC Society	Hill
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Existing Hotel Flag area/front drive
0800 - 0900	MCLA Div Vice President's Workshop	Carter
0800 - 0900	PNP Society	Hobby
0800 - 1600	MCL Registration	Austin / Lonestar Foyer
0800 - 1600	MCLA Registration	Enterprise Foyer
0800 - 1600	MCL Ships Stores	Dallas
0800 - 1600	MCLA Ships Stores	Houston
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Ft Worth
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Dog House	Maverick
0800 - 1600	Texas Room - Local Ship Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Grapevine
0800 - 1600	Historic Uniform Display by Mike Waluk	San Antonio
0930 - 1400	Fort Worth Cultural Arts District Walking	Cultural Arts District
0900 - 1200	MCLA Business Session	Enterprise Ballroom 7-8
0900 - 1200	MCL Business Session	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
0900-	Opening Ceremony	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
	Credentials Committee Report	Teresa Terry
	Conventions/Conferences Committee	Jim Ransom
	2027 Presentations	Jim Ransom
	Vote on 2027 National Convention Proposals	Jim Ransom
	Help A Marine Save A Life (HAMSAL) - Part 2	Brian Gillespe
	Marine for Life	David Ossian
	Youth Physical Fitness / US Marines Youth Foundation	Sean Patton
	Marine Corps League Foundation	Howard Schaeffer
1000 - 1430	Fort Worth Stockyards with Cattle Drive	Fort Worth Stockyards
1030 - 1200	MODD Staff Meeting	Innovation A/B
1200	Break for Lunch	Lunch in Common Areas
1200 - 1330	Lunch	
1330 - 1530	MCLA Business Session continues	Enterprise Ballroom 7-8
1330 - 1530	MCL Business Session continues	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
1330	Call Convention to Order	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
	PNC Society Report	Warren Griffin
	Nomination of Officers	TJ Morgan
1530	Closing Ceremony	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
1730 - 2230	Fort Worth Stockyards Evening Trip	Fort Worth Stockyards
1900 - 2000	The Quest Game Night hosted by MODD	Aviator



# NATIONAL CONVENTION



Friday, August 15, 2025

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Aviators
0745 - 0845	MCLA Past President's Club	Enterprise 8
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Existing Hotel Flag area/front drive
0800 - 1200	MCL Registration	Austin / Lonestar Foyer
0800 - 1200	MCLA Registration	Enterprise Foyer
0800 - 1200	MCL Ships Stores	Dallas
0800 - 1200	MCLA Ships Stores	Houston
0800 - 1200	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Ft Worth
0800 - 1200	M.O.D.D. Dog House	Maverick
0800 - 1200	Texas Room - Local Ship Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Grapevine
0800 - 1600	Historic Uniform Display by Mike Waluk	San Antonio
0900 - 1200	MCLA Business Session	Enterprise Ballroom 7-8
0900 - 1200	MCL Business Session	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
0900 -	Call Convention to Order	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
0900 - 0905	Credentials Committee Report	Teresa Terry
	Chief Devil Dog Report for MODD	Jeffrey Jones
	President MCLA Report	Dotty Sanning
	Marksmanship Program	Mike Sturch
	Americanism Program	Tom Arcuri
	Post Traumatic Growth	Boulder Crest Foundation
	Young Marines	Bill Davis
	Toys for Tots	David Cooper
1200-1300	Break for Lunch	Aviators
1300 - 1500	MCLA Business Session continues	Enterprise Ballroom 7-8
1300 - 1500	MCL Business Session continues	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
	Call Convention to Order	Enterprise Ballroom 1-6
	Remaining Reports Not Given	TJ Morgan
	Motion to Accept All Reports	TJ Morgan
	Unfinished Business/New Business/Good of the League	TJ Morgan
	Credentials Committee Final Report	Teresa Terry
	Election and Installation of Officers	TJ Morgan
1500	Closing Ceremony	TJ Morgan
1800 - 1900	Formal Reception (Cash Bar)	Enterprise Foyer
1900 - 2200	Grand Banquet - (CMC Invited Guest of Honor)	Enterprise Ballroom

Saturday, August 16, 2025

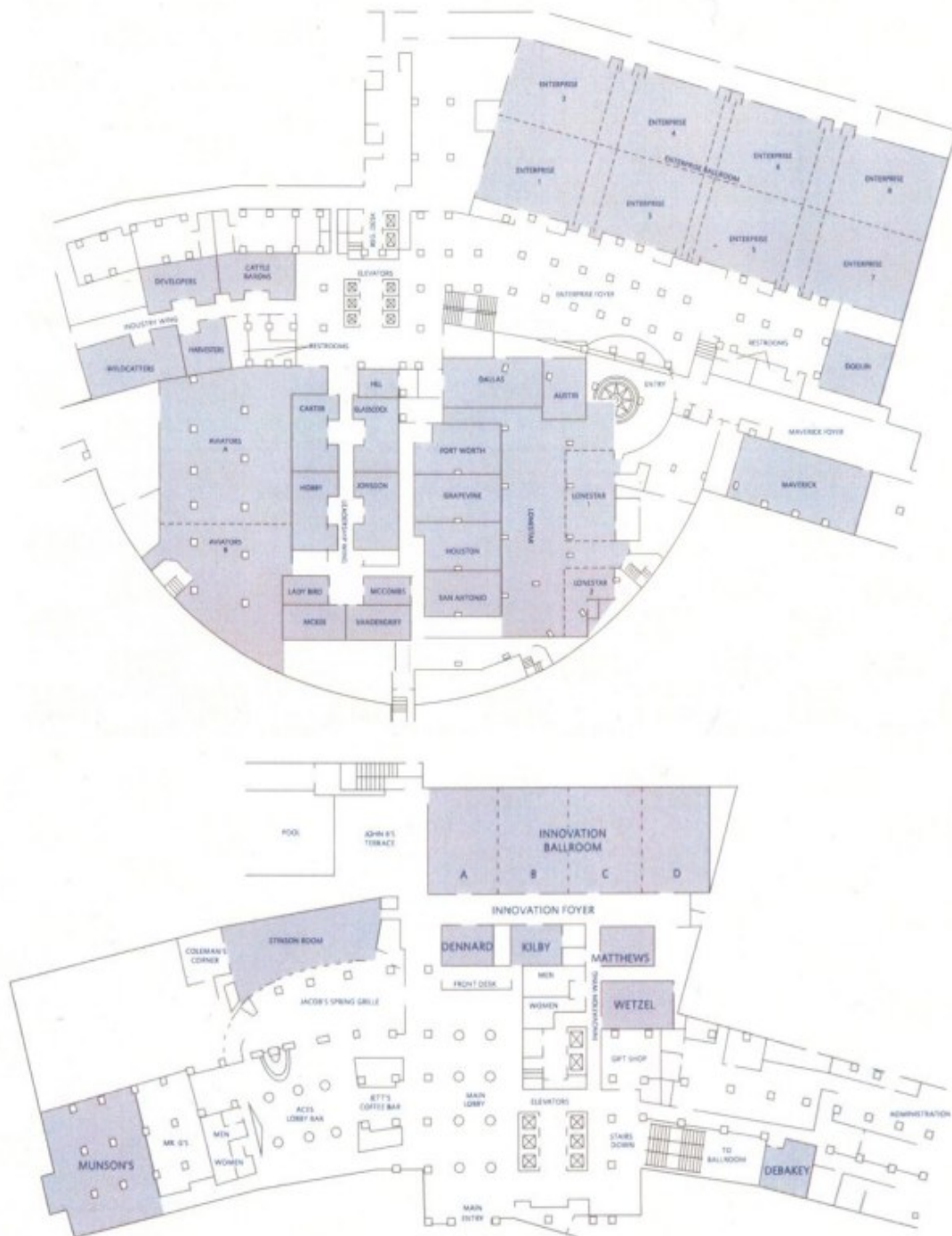
Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Aviators
0800 - 1200	*MCL National Board of Trustees Meeting	Innovation C/D

\*At call of Commandant, MCL; President, MCLA;

*Changes to times and room locations will be posted on the electronic boards at Registration Desks*

**HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY HOME & JOIN US IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA FOR THE 2026 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**







# CLASSIFIED SECTION



## HELP WANTED

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

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

**Department of CT**– Is seeking a 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

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

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

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

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

**New England Division**– is 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? you Can deposit money in the bank write checks and keep the checkbook balanced. There are other jobs that are just as important but this is the one I know the best right now. When I took it I did so in a situation similar to this there was a new commandant coming in and I did not want them to struggle or be limited. We need someone to do this again.

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

Walt Benson



AND ON THE  
8th DAY  
GOD CREATED  
MARINES  
THE DEVIL  
GROANED AND  
SAID, "OH SHIT"



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

Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport

## HYATT REGENCY DFW AIRPORT

**2334 N. INTERNATIONAL PKWY**

**DFW AIRPORT TX 75261**

**PHONE FOR RESERVATIONS**

**1-800-233-1234 Group CODE G=MCL5**

**MONDAY AUG 11 TO FRIDAY AUG 15**

**RATES ARE \$159,**

**PARKING IS FREE**

## 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](http://barrykibrick.files.wordpress.com)