



February 2026 — March 2026

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 3



Message From The Division Commandant



Members,

We are one month into 2026, and the year is already moving quickly. As we look ahead, there is an important issue we must address together: membership across the Division is down. When membership declines, Detachments are put at risk. When Detachments dissolve, our presence in the community weakens, and fewer Marines are able to see what the League truly stands for.

Growing our membership is something every one of us can help with. It is not just an administrative task or an officer responsibility—it is a shared effort. Our ability to serve Marines, advocate for their needs, and provide meaningful support depends on a strong and active membership.

Many of us joined the League looking for camaraderie, purpose, and a continued connection to those who understand our experiences. There are Marines in our communities today who are still searching for that same sense of belonging. If they don't know who we are, or if there is no local Detachment for them to find, we miss the opportunity to support them when they need it most. Each conversation matters. Each invitation matters. Simply sharing what the League means to you can make a difference. Let's work together to strengthen our membership, protect our Detachments, and ensure the League remains a place where Marines can find support, purpose, and fellowship—now and in the future.

Looking ahead, we also have important oppor-



tunities this year to come together as a League. The Mid-Winter Conference will be held February 26–29 in Pentagon City, Virginia. For those traveling from New England, I look forward to seeing you there. Additionally, the New England Division Conference will take place June 11–14 in Springfield, Massachusetts, hosted by the Department of Massachusetts. This conference represents an important change. After considerable effort to align bylaws across all Departments, this event will no longer be referred to as the Quad State Convention. This will be on a rotating basis among the six Departments. One of the driving factors behind this change was attendance. Participation at past Quad State conventions, as well as at individual Department conventions in Massachusetts and Connecticut, had declined. The Division recognized that something needed to change, and this new approach is intended to bring more members together in a positive and unified way. We truly hope this change is met with enthusiasm and renewed participation as we continue working together to strengthen our membership. Hotel details have been provided to Department Commandants, and the agenda is still being finalized. Once complete, the agenda and registration information will be distributed in the coming weeks.



Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League

Thank you for all that
you do,
Semper Fidelis



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2024 – 2025



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IMPORTANT

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

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

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

Send submissions to:

Walt.benson5@gmail.com

203-768-8435

When sending pictures, please include names and what you and your detachment are doing.

WHAT SHOULD I SUBMIT?

This is your Newsletter, so anything you think others might be interested in, please share it here. Look at the categories, Departments, Toy for Tots, Devil Dogs, Taps, Birthdays, Sick, Personal writings, Upcoming Events, Help Wanted, History, League and Marine Corps, 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 their 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 are more topics but this is a good start.

Walt Benson



FROM THE EDITOR



A STORY WORTH TELLING

It's been a few years since we experienced COVID, but the effects of it, we continue to deal with today. We still deal with attendance and recruiting issues, which affects our ability to carry on with our mission and provide the services that we provide serve. As Marines we Improvise, Adapt, few Marines who are still engaged in this nant trait is Courage. These people are ments, Detachments, Pounds and Packs. every meeting or Growl. They will serve know we need them. They are from all some old, some with canes and walkers a quorum and conduct business



to the Marines and the veterans we and Overcome, and thankfully we have a mindset, and those members most domi-spread through the Division, Depart-These are the people who show up at on or chair a committee because they groups in our organization, some young, or scooters. They are the reason we have

It takes courage to get through pain. It's like a vigil that we are holding of our members back. Those of us who have to ask these people to step up and take on another task or serve on another committee, it is really easier than it should be. Even if they start to object to the task they all know that we wouldn't ask unless we had to. Take a look around at your next meeting or Growl, who is participating? Who volunteers? Who offers a solution? The hardest tasks are the officer positions as it demands the greatest commitment. There isn't enough space to list them all here and although I know mine I don't know all of yours. I would say this that as you attend the Growls and Meetings look around and see who these people are. If you are one of them and you probably are, see who else is with you.

As we enter into Convention and Conference season lets start recognizing these Members who exemplify our principles and live a mission of courage every day. It has been said that many of these people do not seek or want recognition, but as our Division NVC, Pat Maguire said a while back, We are going to recognize them anyway. In doing so our message is this. These are our very best, The Best of The Best, these are the people we call onto to lead. It is not about personal glory but rather how we fell about these Associates and Marines. It is the pride and appreciation we have for them. They are the people who make up the best Division in the League. They are the people who may stumble and fall, but will always get up and keep going putting one foot in front of the other until we achieve our goal. There are many awards to give out and we still have time at mid-winter to purchase them. There are three distinguished Citizen awards, but the gold must be issued from National. There is a Distinguished Service award. There are Marine of the Year Awards, and Associate of the Year Awards Department Staff Elected and Department Staff Appointed, Detachment Staff Elected and Detachment Staff Appointed. For the Dogs we have Pound Leader Meritorious Citation, and Pack Leader Meritorious Citation, Pound Dog of the Year, and Pack Dog of the year.

Finally I will say this. These Members live and exemplify what it means to be a Marine, Improvise, Adapt, Over-come as they demonstrate the values of Courage to overcome all of life's pitfalls that work against them. Everyday these members personify our Corps Motto, **Semper Fidelis and prove it is not only our Motto it is our way of life.**

Walt Benson





NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON





NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON





NEW ENGLAND DIVISION INSPIRATIONAL EFFORTS



National JR. Vice Commandant, David Porter came back for his second year in support of Special Olympics for The Polar Plunge

Below: PNC Warren Griffin took his plunge in the Ocean, and this makes many years for him.

Congratulations to you both



**Special
Olympics**
Massachusetts





NEW ENGLAND DIVISION VSO WANTED



New England Division Seeking a Veteran Services Officer (VSO) The New England Division is seeking a dedicated Veteran Services Officer (VSO). This vital role is focused on serving and advocating for U.S. Marine Corps Veterans, as well as Veterans of all U.S. Armed Forces, their families, and survivors. The VSO ensures that Veterans and their families receive the Department of Veterans Affairs, state, local government, and non-government benefits to which they are entitled.

Every other Division in the League currently has a VSO, providing essential support to Veterans in their regions. With the leadership of Director Philip Du and the accredited VSOs across the League, countless Veterans and their families are already benefiting from their guidance and expertise. The New England Division is eager to fill this important position and continue expanding the League's mission of service to Veterans. If you are committed to advocating for Veterans and have the dedication to make a meaningful impact in the New England community, we encourage you to begin the process of becoming a VSO.

For more information click on the link below:

[Veteran Services – Marine Corps League](#)

Please contact: NVC Patrick Maguire with any questions or if you're interested in the VSO position.



CONNECTICUT



Welcome to 2026 and wishing all a Happy New Year ... however belated.

It's been quite a winter thus far. I've shoveled what feels like 100 inches of snow with more in the forecast. I cannot wait for spring.

That being said, be careful! Some sources indicate that anyone over age 45, but especially those with existing heart-related issues, should not shovel. A two-decade Canadian study said that for people over 65, there is a 16% increase in sudden heart attacks and a 34% rise in deaths after a big storm.

Use common sense. Don't lift and throw snow. Push it or use a snowblower. If you must lift it, don't fill the shovel, especially if it is wet snow.

Better to be slow and safe than quick and at risk.

Our Department meeting, originally scheduled for 1 February, is being postponed. Sunday the first, we are expecting dangerously cold temperatures with high winds and the possibility of more snow. Rather than putting people at risk driving to the meeting, we have moved the meeting to Sunday, 15 February. The eighth is Superbowl Sunday so another reason for the 15th.

Our National Mid-winter Conference is scheduled for the end of February. I have only heard from two Commandants about their Detachments' activities since August 2025. Please send me and Walt Benson reports on your various activities. These might include Toys for Tots, USMC birthday celebrations,

Rose Days, and any other activities your Detachments held or participated in.

I need this information to share with the New England Division National Vice Commandant in time for the National Midwinter Conference.

This year our required annual Department Convention will be a one-day event to include our business meeting and the Grand Growl for the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. The date will either be 6 June or the 7th, depending on availability at the Veterans Home. The hours will likely be 0800 – 2100.

We are still working out the details so watch your email for more information.

Our Committee Chairs are:

Audit: Bill "Top" Lee

Budget: Tom Jackson

MOY & AMOY: Jack Dougherty

Rules: Jim Lauber

Committee meetings will be conducted on ZOOM, except for the Audit (in person) and MOY/AMOY (via email), in advance of the Convention. The agenda will include elections for 2026-2027, raffles, etc.

Food will be provided but those details are still being worked out.

Obviously, this scenario is different than in past years. We have to meet prior to the New England Division 6-State Conference to be held in Springfield MA, 11-14 June. This is the first year of the rotation of the NEDiv conference among the six New England states. It will be the Department of Connecticut's turn to host the NEDiv conference in 2029.

Be safe and stay warm!

Semper Fidelis.
Rich Daigle
Commandant



CONNECTICUT



PETER P. MONACO TOYS FOR TOTS





CONNECTICUT



BRASS CITY MEM. TOYS FOR TOTS



Members of the Prospect Fire Dept and Police Dept with MCL members Robert Bozzuto, Domenic Falcone, Antonio Pina, Jim Lau-
ber, and Skip Hammel

PETER P MONACO



Peter P Monaco Detachment receives a donation from the GHADA Foundation and the CT Auto Detailers Association in support of their work with Veterans





CONNECTICUT



CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



Adele Hodges and Mike Monaco being escorted into the ceremony



MC Marine Gil Simmons

The induction Class of 2025



LT. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, Adele Hodges, Gov. Ned Lamont, Brigadier Gen. Ret. Ron Welch Commissioner of Veterans Affairs



LT. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, Mike Monaco, Gov. Ned Lamont, Brigadier Gen. Ret. Ron Welch Commissioner of Veterans Affairs



CONNECTICUT



CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



Adele Hodges & Mike Monaco



Brigadier Gen. Ret. Ron Welch Mike Monaco & Adele Hodges



Brigadier Gen. Ret. Ron Welch Mike Monaco & Adele Hodges



Charles Pickett , Mike Monaco & Adele Hodges



CONNECTICUT



It was quite a surprise for me to learn that a long-time MCL member that I know has been in the hospital for the past four weeks. Much of the past several weeks included the holiday season and most likely a fellow Marine has been alone.

The cold and snowy sea-
dy checks. This is a powerful tool
those who can be forgotten over
not make it to MCL meetings in
family members who may be sick
stubborn and try to keep our
we are here for each other. Well-
are important outreach tools for
health and for keeping members



son is a good time to make bud-
to stay connected and support
time, especially those who do
the wintertime. Let's not forget
or in distress. Many of us are
health issues to ourselves but
ness checks and buddy checks
physical health and mental
connected. Let's share and

care for each other.

Notice of Death (NOD) Reminder:

When a Marine Corps League member passes, it is the duty of the Chaplain to represent the family on behalf of the Detachment and complete the Notice of Death (NOD). The fillable pdf form is easy to use and file electronically. [Notice-of-Death_2025_page_1.pdf](#) .

Once complete, email or scan a copy of the NOD:

1) Detachment Chaplain sends a copy to the Department Chaplain and the
Detachment Paymaster, retain a copy for detachment records.

2) Department Chaplain sends a copy to the Marine Corps League National
Headquarters and National Chaplain, retaining a copy for department records.

This action will generate a notice to the Semper Fi Magazine

3) Detachment Paymaster must attach this form when submitting a Notice of
Death via Transmittal

S/F

Peter DePaola

Chaplain

Department of CT



FROM THE WORTHY PACK LEADER



Happy New Year, to the Dogs of the Order and your families. Thanks to the 49th PCDD, PDD Fisk, we have had some games at the past two growls revving up some great competition. The first GROWL we played Pictionary, where I served as a judge and let me just say judging was never so difficult. At the second GROWL we played Family Feud, where I again served as Judge, slightly easier but there were some feuds. This was a fun thing to do and we are looking for more to do. More games more activities more mayhem. I have been doing my part in being fined, almost to the point of considering a Go Fund Me Page. Here is my proposed ad below. Please send BONES.

With the new year we have many upcoming events. WE have our one day convention in June with our GRAND GROWL, followed by or Division Conference in June and that GROWL and our National Convention in August with the SUPREME GROWL this year in Indiana. Why do I bring these up? Because they are opportunities to gain stampings in your passbook which will enable you to advance and if you are not yet a PDD you want to do this. You can only become a PDD at a SUPREME GROWL and the following year that is in Buffalo. Therefore, if you get your stampings and have your time in, you will be able to advance. Now as in everything with the dogs how you advance is not divulged but let me say that it is a total experience where knowledge, teamwork and comradery all meet and are passed down to you in order to make you a better dog, a better Marine, a better leader. Think of it like the cake cutting ceremony where the oldest feeds the youngest but in this case you are given all of these qualities and more by those who have gone before you. In any event the experience will change you.

There is a link in the Division Newsletter to help you start the process, but you can always ask myself or any of the pack or pound officers, especially George for help.

I hope to see you all at the Next GROWL where I will try to find a game or activity to entertain you. Bring bones and be prepared for fun. And if you're not a PDD think about advancing.

Woof Woof





CONNECTICUT



SUPPORT OUR IWO JIMA MONUMENT



***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

Or mail a check to: Iwo Jima Memorial Foundation, Inc.

**P.O. Box 31516
Newington, CT 06131**

Questions: Contact Elaine at IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com

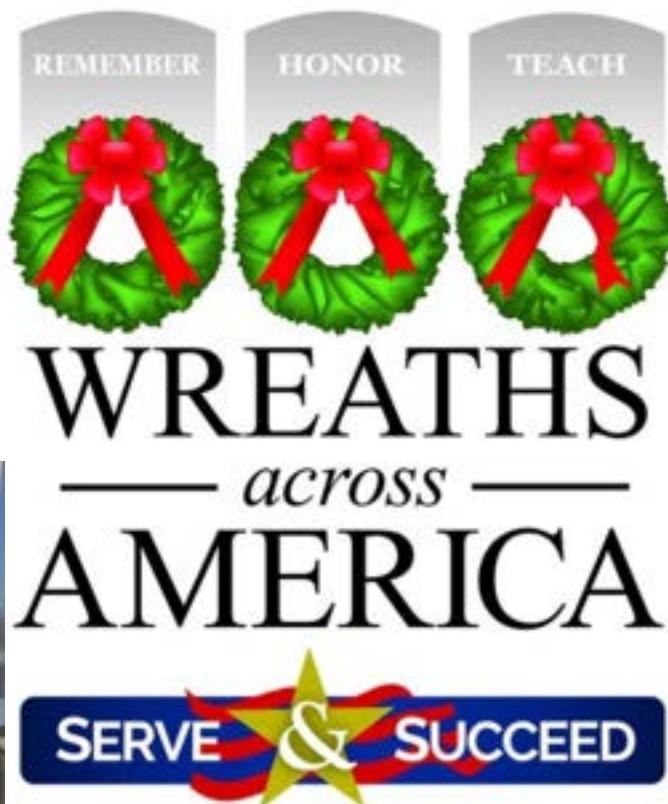


MAINE



December 8th - arrived in Lewiston. over 70+ individuals ing.

We placed 75 Park. A nice rendition of by a very nice young Some great law enforce- great Walmart drivers our local veterans, & A from Sen. Collin's office.



Wreaths Across America
Wicked cold, but we had
brave a very cold morn-

wreaths at the Veterans the Star Spangled Banner man, Braden Doucette. ment personnel, some and support personnel, special representative All good!





MAINE





MAINE



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



SAVE THE DATE DECEMBER 19, 2026

A message from Karen Worcester, just an FYI to let all my supporters know that we are all something bigger from what we do.

Dear Charles Paul,

On behalf of the Wreaths Across America organization and our family of volunteers and supporters, THANK YOU! Thank you for supporting our mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom. This year's Wreaths Across America program reached an extraordinary milestone. Together, we served 5,598 participating locations, sponsored more than 3.1 million veterans' wreaths, and mobilized millions of volunteers, nearly a third of them children, across all 50 states and abroad.

Read my full end of the year message [here](#), which includes our 2026 theme announcement, and keep scrolling to learn more about our year-round mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

Sincerely,
Karen Worcester
Wreaths Across America's Executive

Date

We invite you to save the date for National Wreaths Across America Day 2026 — Saturday, December 19, 2026



MAINE



Greater Bangor Area Det. 1151 at the JROTC Drill Competition (Bangor, Old Town, and Nakomis HS). All three schools donated to T4T. Det. Members (L to R) Don Kozerow, Joan Mansur, Barry Robertson, Dan Scott, Dusty Fisher.



Central Maine Detachment #810 / International Paper

Toys for Toys for Tots, this was from International Paper. They were our top donor, two years in a row. A fantastic organization.

Two Marines from Alpha company, 1/25. I love to work with this Reserve unit. Marines at their best.



NEW HAMPSHIRE



OORAH! NEWSLETTER

Granite State Detachment #542

Marine Corps League

Commandant's Corner



Members and Associates of the Granite State Detachment,

It certainly has been an eventful fall culminating in a barrage of events around the Marine Corps' 250 Birthday celebrations. As money comes in our Donations Review committee is doing a great job making sure that the bulk goes to organizations directly serving veterans, a mission I think we can all agree on. The Bass Pro fundraising weekend was fully staffed for every shift; but mention should be

made of Kevin Brown who, above and beyond, did four shifts! --- I think he particularly likes the canine customers over there.

Due to the efforts of our Judge Advocate, Chris Peirce, our flagpole and flag proudly waves over the Daniel Webster Cemetery next to the Easterseals NH Military & Veterans Campus in Franklin where most of Daniel Webster's family is buried. This was humbly consecrated in not one but two dedications (!) by a priest with three Purple Hearts who felt that, because his health problems shortened the first, it warranted a second ceremony to adequately honor the occasion and those buried there.

We also ceremonially collected the check from a major donor, Revo Casino, in Lebanon NH and were pleasantly surprised to find that Rob the Manager there, was also a Marine. These funds form a kind of endowment that I hope we can use wisely to serve the principles and goals of the Marine Corps League and the needs of local veterans. Marge, our indefatigable Paymaster, has taken charge of the application for Charitable Gaming again next year.

We were asked to be the escort at the cake cutting for the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (a local fellow veterans charity organization) for their USMC 250th and, with as much military precision as 5 old guys could muster, I think we did a fine job. Gunny Janes in his dress blues and Mameluke sword, did the deed: 5 slices for the Governor, Congresswoman, a General, and the Oldest and Youngest Marines present.

--- Eric Anthony, Commandant, Granite State Detachment



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Sr. Vice Commandant's Message



Marines!

Wow, another month is done, and it was a busy month. As a Detachment, we participated in a few activities for the 250th Marine Corps Birthday. On November 10, 2025, we started at the State Capitol in Concord, NH, participating in the Flag Raising of the Marine Corps flag, and had breakfast and a cake-cutting ceremony at the State House. Then we went to the Derryfield Country Club and attended the Marine Expeditionary Brigade Luncheon, and again our detachment was the escort for the cake-cutting ceremony. Then, finally, we participated in the Marine Corps Ball in Franklin, NH.

We were also at the Bass Pro Shop in Hookset, NH, and collected over \$1600.00 for the detachment, so we can continue providing support for our Veterans.

As a detachment under new leadership, we are planning activities to bring our detachment members together for camaraderie. Please come to our next meeting on the Second Tuesday of the Month, or come to our breakfast on the last Saturday of the Month at the Airport Diner in Manchester, NH.

Sincerely,

Jesse L. Stufflebeam. SVC

JVC's Message

Call for Leadership: Junior Vice Commandant Needed

Granite State Detachment 542 is seeking a dedicated member to step into the role of Junior Vice Commandant.

This position plays a vital part in strengthening our Detachment by:

- Creating membership incentives and programs that foster growth and enthusiasm
- Supporting leadership continuity by stepping in when needed



If you're passionate about serving veterans and building community, this is your chance to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact.

Whether you're a longtime member or newly active, your voice and energy matter. Let's shape the future of GSD 542 together.

Interested? Reach out to the Commandant to learn more or express your interest.



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Chaplain's Message



The Power of Prayer

God calls on us to pray in order to develop a deeper relationship with him.

Prayer can influence our state of mind, which then can have an effect on our body.

Prayer can help with anxiety, sadness, blood pressure & sleep.

Prayer is a mighty weapon at the disposal of everyone.

Prayer can give our service men and women courage and strength to face challenges.

I hope everyone has a Blessed Christmas and a Very Happy/Healthy New Year.

Amen

Joe Duquette, Chaplain

December FUNday Breakfast Change

Due to the holiday week at the end of December, our monthly December breakfast will be held on **January 3, 2026**.

Come join us for great food and conversation!

Hope to see you there!





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Paymaster's Message

Paymaster 2025 Year End Report

As 2025 concludes, I am pleased to present the GSD #542 year-end Paymaster report, which summarizes our financial activities. This report is designed to keep our members informed and involved in GSD #542's ongoing progress and future direction, highlighting our achievements, challenges, and our focus areas for the coming year.

GSD #542 is making a meaningful impact by supporting local Veterans and community initiatives, and most importantly, helping those in need. Through focused fundraiser programs at Market Basket and Bass Pro Shops and the participation of member volunteers, we continue to create positive changes and foster a stronger sense of unity among both Veterans and our community. With the GSD #542's partnership with NH Gaming Charities and the Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH, the Detachment has maintained robust financial health, consistently meeting and exceeding our goals in supporting Veterans and community organizations.



Through the third quarter of 2025, we donated over \$18,000 to Veterans' programs, local community organizations, and academic scholarships. In addition, at the October meeting members approved another \$9,000 in donations to a number of Veterans organizations with several more anticipated donations to occur before years end. These contributions reflect our ongoing commitment to making a meaningful difference for Veterans and our community, as seen in our recent volunteer projects, annual scholarship awards, and support of Veterans programs that directly benefit local organizations and those who have served.

I am happy to report that GSD #542 has once again been chosen to partner with the Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH for 2026. This collaboration will provide new fundraising opportunities in 2026 for our Detachment.

This year presented several challenges, particularly as we navigated the transition to new Officer positions. These changes required adjustments in leadership roles and responsibilities, which temporarily disrupted our workflow and necessitated additional training for our new leaders. By working collaboratively, the Detachment was able to overcome these obstacles and maintain our commitment to supporting Veterans and the community.

I appreciate the trust our members have placed in me as Paymaster, and I am committed to maintaining integrity and diligence as we look forward to another successful year together.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Romano



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Granite State Detachment 542, Marine Corps League is honored to announce that we received \$44,889.67 in charitable gaming funds following our ten-day event at Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH earlier in 2025.

These funds are vital to our mission. They allow us to continue supporting Marines, Veterans, and community organizations throughout the greater Manchester area, ensuring that our Detachment remains strong, active, and ready to serve.

We are grateful for this opportunity and for the continued support that makes our work possible. Together, we carry forward the values of the Marine Corps and strengthen the bonds within our community.

Below is Margo Romano, Eric Anthony, and Robert Gleason, Casino Manager

#PlayLikeARebel #RebelsWithACause





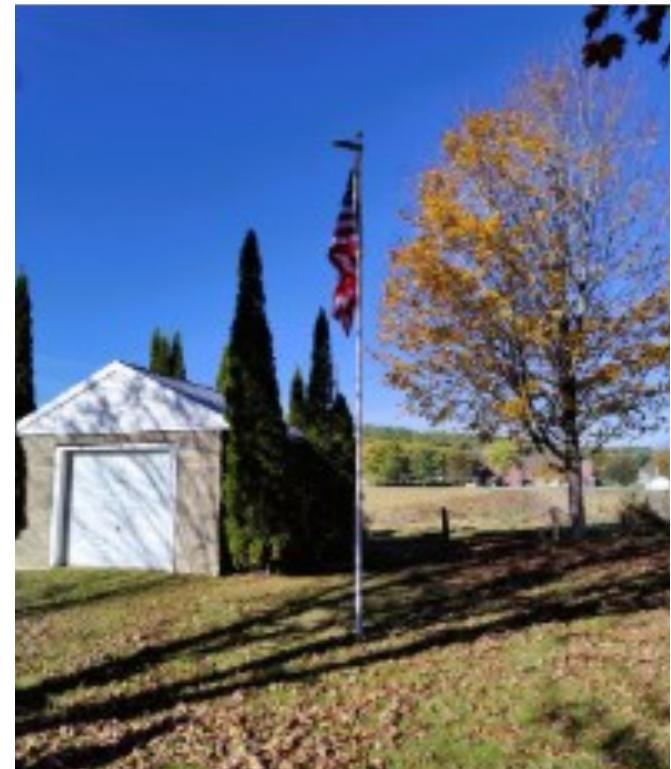
NEW HAMPSHIRE



Flagpole Dedication at Daniel Webster Cemetery

In October 2025, a new flagpole and light were donated by the GSD 542 Marine Corps League to the Daniel Webster Cemetery in Franklin, NH. The dedication was led by Father Sargent, who offered blessings over the installation.

Representing GSD 542, Commandant Eric Anthony, his wife Pat, and Chris Peirce attended the ceremony alongside community members. About 20 people gathered to witness the occasion, honoring veterans at a cemetery located next to the new Easterseals NH Military and Veterans Campus.





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Blue Star Mothers - Wreaths for Boscawen Check Presentation

On December 6, 2025 Marge Romano representing GSD 542 and for her family attended the Blue Star Mother's Wreaths for Boscawen event at the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH and presented a donation from GSD 542 of \$1000. The event was well attended with reported miles of cars parked on the streets leading to the cemetery.

Donation made possible by the funds received by the Charitable Gaming at Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH. #PlayLikeARebel #RebelsWithACause





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Veterans Home Check Presentation

In early December, 2025, Chris Peirce presented a check for \$900 to Kim Mackay of the Veterans Home in Tilton, NH. This donation specifically was to cover the Christmas gifts for the 12 Marines living at the Veterans Home.

Donation made possible by the funds received by the Charitable Gaming at Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH. #PlayLikeARebel #RebelsWithACause



NH Veterans Cemetery Association Check Presentation

In early December, 2025, Chris Peirce presented a check for \$500 to Shawn Buck of the NH Veterans Cemetery Association. The association support the maintenance of the New Hampshire Cemetery as a dignified, final resting place which honors all veterans and eligible dependents and reflects the State's pride and gratitude for their service to the State and Nation.

Donation made possible by the funds received by the Charitable Gaming at Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH. #PlayLikeARebel #RebelsWithACause



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Manchester VA Medical Center Check Presentation

On November 21, 2025 presented a check for \$1000 to the Manchester VA Medical Center, in Manchester, NH. Pictured below are Commandant Eric Anthony, Robyn Romaniak Volunteer Services Specialist at VA, and Joe Duquette.

Donation made possible by the funds received by the Charitable Gaming at Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH. #PlayLikeARebel #RebelsWithACause



VA BINGO Afternoons

Bingo at the VA Hospital is on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Each month the GSD 542 MCL members volunteer to help the residence of the VA to play bingo. If you are interested in helping your fellow veterans and have some fun in the process, please contact Joe Duquette.

Our next Marine Corps Bingo will be on Sunday, December 21, 2025. We meet at the lower level parking lot at 12:30pm. VA Hospital at 318 Smyth Road, Manchester.

Please call Joe Duquette if you are available to volunteer. 603-540-9807



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Veterans Count Check Presentation



At the December 9, 2025 GSD 542 Member meeting, Courtney Stairs joined the meeting for a presentation explaining about who Veterans Count a program of Easterseals is, and what they do for the veteran community.

Veterans Count has four branches in NH, and they offer many services to all who have served in the military, regardless of service era, discharge status, or VA eligibility. They help veterans access the services and support that they need. They offer mental health counseling, care coordination, substance use treatment coordination, housing stabilization, benefits and services connection, aging and senior needs, money management, and emergency financial

assistance. Their case managers go to the veteran where they are, and the veteran is not required to come into the Veterans Count office.

The Veterans Count services are free, but there may be some expense when the counselor passes the veteran over to another service, depending on the program. The only requirement is that the veteran lives or drills in NH.

At the end of her presentation, Commandant Eric Anthony made a motion to donate \$1000 to Veterans Count, and the motion passed unanimously. Above is a picture of Eric Anthony presenting the check to Courtney Stairs.

To request support, for yourself or someone else, call 603-315-4354 or email at intake@vetscount.org.

Donation made possible by the funds received by the Charitable Gaming at Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH. #PlayLikeARebel #RebelsWithACause



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Have You Served in the Military?

SERVICES PROVIDED LOCALLY | FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL | FOR ALL WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES

Veterans Count

Easterseals New Hampshire's Veterans Count provides a safety net of critical case management and emergency financial assistance to meet the unexpected needs of service members, Veterans, and their families.

Veterans Count offers support and services around:

- Mental Health Counseling
- Housing Stabilization
- Substance Use Treatment Coordination
- Benefits and Resource Connection
- Emergency Financial Assistance

Available for all who have served in the military, regardless of service era, discharge status, or VA eligibility.

Please Contact Us to Learn More

Let's talk about how we can meet your needs.

To request Veterans Count Services, please contact our Program Coordinators at intake@vetscount.org or call 603.315.4354.

To learn more about Veterans Count, visit VetsCount.org.

**VETERANS
COUNT**
easterseals.nh



Easterseals NH Veterans Count
603.315.4354
intake@vetscount.org
VetsCount.org
555 Auburn Street | Manchester, NH 03103



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Worker Bee Fund Check Presentation

At our December 9, 2025 member meeting, we were honored to hear from Brian Hanson, founder of the Worker Bees Fund. Inspired by his years of volunteering at New Horizons, Brian recognized the need to support veterans who rely on its services. His vision: help veterans remain in their homes longer by making essential modifications that improve accessibility and quality of life.



As a building contractor and engineer, Brian puts his skills to work by installing ramps, adjusting kitchens for wheelchairs and scooters, and tackling other projects that make daily living easier. Partnering with Veterans Count and other veteran organizations, the Worker Bees Fund secures donated materials from local suppliers and completes the work themselves — eliminating labor costs entirely.

Since its founding in 2017, the Worker Bees Fund has proudly completed 75 projects for veterans, ensuring that those who served our country can continue living safely and comfortably at home.

If you or someone you know is in need of these types of services, please reach out to Brian directly at brianh@workerbeefund.org or call at 603-540-0840. For more information please check out their website at workerbeefund.org.

At the October meeting GSD 542 members had passed a motion to donate \$1000 to the Worker Bee Fund. Above is the presentation of the donation with Brian Hanson, Eric Anthony, and Chris Peirce.

Donation made possible by the funds received by the Charitable Gaming at Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH. #PlayLikeARebel #RebelsWithACause



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Membership in Granite State Detachment 542

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps.

Our **mission** is to voluntarily aid and render assistance to all Marines, FMF Chaplains, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines, FMF Chaplains and FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans.



Our Membership **Coverage Area** is the greater Hillsborough County with some towns in Rockingham County. For the full list of towns we encompass, please check out our **membership** page on our website.

Monthly Meetings

When: Monthly Meetings of the Granite State Detachment are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month

Where: The American-Canadian Genealogical Society (ACGS), 1 Sundial Ave, Suite 317, Manchester, NH 03103

Time: Meetings begin promptly and 1800

Info: Membership is not a requirement for attendance and guests are always welcome to attend these events.

Visit our Website for More Info



VERMONT





SCRATCHING'S FROM THE DOGS



Jim Breen

Moderator

Top contributor · January 23 at 4:57 PM ·

...

🔥 Who's ready to ADVANCE in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs? 🔥

Listen up, Dogs! *

The growl has echoed through the ranks — it's time to move up and show what you're made of! Advancing in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs has never been easier — I've set up a special link to make starting that process simpler and smoother than ever before.

Are YOU ready to take the next step in the Order? 🐶💪

Click below and start your advancement journey today!

👉 <https://moddkennel.net/dogs/request-advancement>





NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



Hello to the members of the New England Division and their families. I am honored to have been asked to once again present HAMSAL (Help A Marine, Save A Life) to your membership at the Division Conference in June. I last presented to your Division 2 years ago and have since added more pertinent information as well as resources. For those of you who do not know about HAMSAL, it was created when New England Division member, Past National Commandant Warren Griffin wanted to do more for our membership and their families regarding mental health and wellness. So, this is when HAMSAL was created. HAMSAL centers around taking care of yourself, as well as taking care of each other, suicide awareness and prevention, mental health and substance use, as well as my journey.

I have attended many Division Conferences upon request and presented the HAMSAL PowerPoint to talk about the things that we don't talk about 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 it or not like it. As leaders in our communities, we must do this together, we cannot do this alone.

As a retired Police Officer and Marine Corps veteran in recovery, I understand about suffering in silence and fighting that stigma, especially within our community. Now I stand tall and recover loudly and help others with their mental health and substance use. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time and contact me at shoremarines@gmail.com and 732-921-7411. I hope to see you in June, make sure you come up and introduce yourself to me. 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 serve our program as

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

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

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



MARINE 4 LIFE



MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

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

ONCE A MARINE,
ALWAYS A MARINE!

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



Career & Technical Opportunities



Educational Opportunities



Entrepreneurial Endeavors

NETWORKING IS KEY

Linked in



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

Face to Face Network



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



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



marineforlife.org



866-545-8762



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



MARINE 4 LIFE



A Special Event by:



Lisa
FIELD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Taunton - Easton

VETERANS JOB FAIR

Are you a Veteran looking for a career change?
Join us to connect to training opportunities,
jobs and other resources. Child care friendly
activities will be available.



TUESDAY

February 17, 2026



FROM

10AM to 2PM

Thanks to

Location:

IBEW 223

476 Myles Standish Blvd
Taunton, MA 02780

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR COMPANIES
TO PARTICIPATE**

Contact our Local Veteran Representative at
Baotien.Nguyen@mass.gov to participate!



**BRISTOL
WORKFORCE BOARD**



**T
A
C
C**

MassHire Programs & Services are funded in full by US Department of Labor (USDOL) Employment and Training Administration grants.
Additional details furnished upon request.



MARINE 4 LIFE



2026 WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

EMPOWERING HER VOICE, HONORING HER SERVICE

Saturday, March 14, 2026
11:00am to 2:30pm
Andover Country Club
60 Canterbury Street
Andover, MA 01810

Join us for lunch, laughter and camaraderie! We will have a guest speaker and time to network.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE OFFICE of
VETERANS SERVICES

TO REGISTER:
<https://bit.ly/4rkSrEY>





MARINE 4 LIFE



Huts for Vets 2026 Wilderness Retreat Applications Are Open!

We're now accepting applications for the 2026 Huts for Vets retreat season. These multi-day, hut-based wilderness retreats support veterans by creating space for connection, reflection, and personal growth through shared time outdoors.

2026 Retreat Schedule:
Men's Retreat: June 25–29
Coed Retreat: July 23–27
Men's Retreat: August 6–10
Coed Retreat: August 17–21
Women's Retreat: September 3–7

Applications are open through February 18, 2026. Participants are selected through an application process, with retreat groups limited to 10 to ensure a high-quality, supportive experience.

About Huts for Vets
Operating since 2013, Huts for Vets has served over 700 veterans through immersive wilderness-based programming.

Learn more and apply here:
<https://lnkd.in/gUbBmx8R>

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



2026



Young Marines

December 31, 2025 at 9:34 AM ·

Introducing the 2026 Division Young Marines of the Year! 🎉 These young leaders have risen to the top and truly represent the best of the Young Marines program. Thank you to the 2025 Young Marines of the Year for an amazing year of service—we're excited to see this next group of Young Marines take the lead! 😊 #YoungMarines #YouthProgram #Leadership #Dedication

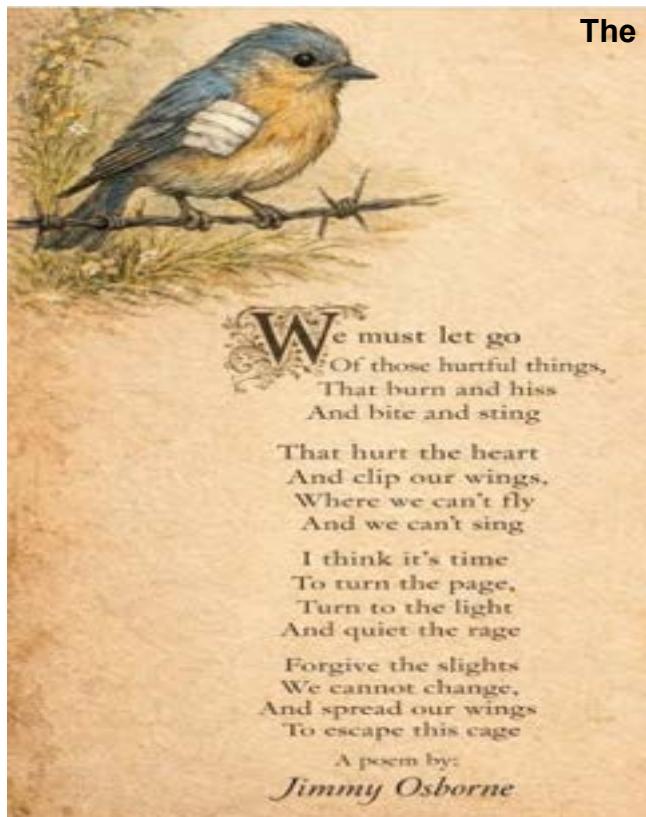
- ⭐ Division 1: Mason Steele- [Natchaug River Young Marines](#), Danielson, CT
- ⭐ Division 2: Francis (Quinn) Lawton- [Upstate Young Marines](#), Greenville, SC
- ⭐ Division 3: Sydney Oke- [Lapeer County Young Marines](#), Lapeer, MI
- ⭐ Division 4: Valerie Huete- [JPSO Young Marines](#), Harvey, LA
- ⭐ Division 5: Charlotte Bisila- [Lewis & Clark Young Marines](#), Ridgefield, WA
- ⭐ Division 6: Philip Zajac- San Diego Young Marines, San Diego, CA



"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.



The Things I Never Said Before

Friendship and love what an amazing combination,
Lovers are friends but friends love one another.
We hold back words because of feelings we fear,
When life is too short to leave our feelings unclear.

Let me start at the beginning and how we began,
It seems funny to say this but it was never a plan.
We texted and talked for untold hours each day,
Time didn't exist there, as we each found our way.

You will never know how you touched my soul,
I was lost in a place filled with darkness and cold.
In my darkest times you are my brightest star,
Your smile lifts my spirits both in person and afar.

My first thought in the morning my last at night,
If I could I would show you how I see you in life.
How often you accuse me of goofing on you but,
I'm thinking how could anyone not see what I see in you.

As I ponder what I humbly offer to you in return,
Reason is the one thing that's so simple that you earned.
I want to be the reason you have hope and resilience,
I want to be the reason you are inspired to chase all your dreams.

I want to be the reason that you will know,
That I will always have more reasons tomorrow.
Lastly, I want to be the reason you look forward to every tomorrow.
Because each one will be better than the day before.

The Poet

Has the poet lost the words to write,
The words that tell of love and life.
The nouns and verbs that come to life,
Telling the tales of love and strife.

Words describing the stars so bright,
Moonlit sands on an enchanted night.
Lovers walking beneath the light,
Making promises in the dark of night.

Chivalrous knights on steeds of white,
Rescuing maidens from the evils of life.
Riding the lands in armor so bright,
Banners of color dancing in the light.

Please dear poet find the words to write,
Tell us now of the great loves of life.
Make us feel that cherished glow,
Of happiness that only lovers know.

FLYING DEATH

THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE



SAMUEL K. BEAMON



HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



Got called into a meeting with HR, cause apparently telling your coworker that you knew he was a C-section baby by the way he avoids labor is not acceptable.



"Ease up on the lighter fluid and let me know when the grill lands."





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.





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.

On January 22,2026 two the Connecticut Veterans Hall Mike Monaco. Their bio's are on this page we want to bring so proud of them. I consider in fact I admire both of them but could overstate their value and

Adele joined the league partment officer, (SR. Vice) and the Department Commandant, COVID, which wound up to be commandant of the Graeter on many Veterans organiza- especially prominent in wom- She was instrumental in setting Rock Hill.

Mike both joined and re- attachment into one of the big- ment. He created the Hike To money but bringing attention to Veteran suicide. He has spoken at conventions on methods of re- cruiting new members to our ranks as well as retaining them once they are here. He has personally worked one on one with veterans to help them back into civilian life.

All of this is really a continuation of their bio, but they are much more. They never hold back they are 100% invested in anything we are working on. What these two demonstrate and bring to the table are the qualities that we all aspire to as Marines. Maybe when I said that I admire them I should have said that I look to follow their example. And you and I might not be able to do some of the things they have done, but as a Marine you are wired with the same leadership abilities that they have and maybe you just haven't tapped into that skillset yet. The key elements of leadership are courage, commitment and endurance. You have the courage to say I'll do it. The commitment to fol- low through even if you are not in the mood. Lastly, you are in it to the end, you not only keep your- self moving forward but bring your team as well.

We have openings in detachments, packs, and pounds, as we have people holding down multiple positions, and if they didn't then it would be easier. Volunteer for a rose program, be a rifle- man on funeral honors, be a part of something bigger. Now you may look at these two Marines and say I don't want to be recognized and if you asked most of us would not as well but the recognition is not only for the individual but for the League as well as the Marine Corps. This is who we are and this is what we are doing, what are you doing? This award and recognition is not for what you did in the service, it is for what you did after that. Did you continue to serve after you were discharged? No matter what the branch we support each other and challenge each other as well. That's why we have newsletters and social media, to inform the community and each other what we are doing, Can you support us, or can we support you in something. We are Marines and we are still serving today, because this is what we are all about supporting Veterans, supporting each other and our communi- ty as well. Semper Fidelis Adele Hodges, Semper Fidelis Mike Monaco, you do us proud.



of our own joined the ranks of of Fame, Adele Hodges, and on the following two pages but home the facts of why we are both of them good friends and even if I were bias, I don't think I contributions to the league. and within a year became a De- in the following year became a role that took us through a three year term. She is the Bridgeport Detachment, and is tions in Fairfield County, she is en's Veteran Organizations. up our Department Location in

built the Peter P Monaco De- gest detachments in the Depart- Remember, raising not only



DIVISION SPOTLIGHT



ADELE E. HODGES OF STRATFORD – U.S. MARINE CORPS

WAS INDUCTED INTO THE CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



Adele E. Hodges enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps following her graduation from Southern Connecticut State University. She was accepted into the Enlisted Commissioning Program and was commissioned in December 1980.

Col. Hodges assignments included: 1st Medical Battalion, 1st FSSG and 3rd Supply Battalion, 3rd FSSG in Okinawa, Japan; Marine Forces Pacific Headquarters in Hawaii; 4th Marine Aircraft Wing in New Orleans, Louisiana; Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division in Camp Lejeune; Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms California; U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth Kansas; Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico Virginia; Brigade Service Support

Group One in Camp Pendleton California; the U.S. Naval War College in Newport Rhode Island; the NATO Joint Headquarters North East, and the NATO Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger Norway. Her last assignment was at Headquarters United States Marine Corps, Office of the Inspector General as the Director of Readiness Assessments.

She commanded the 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st FSSG at Camp Pendleton, California and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Camp Lejune, North Carolina, one of the largest installations in the Marine Corps.

Col. Hodges retired in 2011 after over thirty-three years of service to the United States Marine Corps. In 2013, she started a company, RALDFO Group LLC., where she is president and CFO.

Adele is a life member of the Marine Corps League, the Women Marine Association, Montford Point Marine Association, the VFW, and National Naval Officers Association.

She was named Onslow County, North Carolina's 2006 Woman of the Year in and most "Intriguing Woman" in 2007. She has master's degrees in business administration, military art and science, and strategic military studies. Her awards and decorations include Legion of Merit with one star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three stars, and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Currently, Adele is the chairman for Veterans Heroes Foundation; Commandant for Greater Bridgeport MCL Det #654; member of the board of directors for Homes for the Brave; member of the board of trustees for the Connecticut Department of Veteran Affairs; chair of the advisory board for the Bridgeport Salvation Army; and member of the Greater Bridgeport Veterans Council. Adele sponsors the Greater Bridgeport Veteran Coffee House every other month, which is hosted by the Teamsters Local 191 in Bridgeport.



DIVISION SPOTLIGHT



MICHAEL D. MONACO OF GLASTONBURY – U.S. MARINE CORPS

WAS INDUCTED INTO THE CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



2500x3750

Michael (Mike) D. Monaco is a 41-year-old Marine Corps veteran, having served on active duty with 2d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion from 2003 to 2007 and deploying to the Middle East twice. He achieved the rank of sergeant, earning numerous military awards and honors.

Mike was born and raised in Glastonbury, where he resides with his wife, McKenzie, and their two sons, Axel and Austin. He is the co-owner of Monaco Ford of Glastonbury and Niantic with his sister, Chrissy, where they employ 130 people at their fourth-generation business.

Mike serves as the senior past commandant of the Peter P. Monaco Jr. Detachment 40 Marine Corps League (MCL), past MCL Hartford County Department commandant, and vice chairman/parade adjutant of the Veterans Service Commission of Glastonbury. He is a life member of the MCL Detachment 40, VFW Post 12150, American Legion Post 210 and Disabled American Veterans. Additionally, Mike serves as a board member for Easterseals Capital Region and Eastern Connecticut, representing Veterans Rally Point, and is a Connecticut committee member of Building Homes for Heroes.

As the 2018 Connecticut Marine Corps League Marine of the Year, Mike has been instrumental in strengthening the MCL presence in the region, helping grow Detachment 40 from nearly nonexistent membership to more than 180 active members from all branches of the Armed Services. He also chairs the Hike to Remember, an annual event that draws approximately 250 veterans from all branches to hike in honor of veteran suicide prevention, raising awareness and support for mental health among the military community. Through this effort, the program has successfully raised more than \$300,000 in the past 12 years.

Throughout his work in business, community leadership, and veterans' advocacy, Mike remains deeply committed to service, continuing a tradition of dedication that reflects both his family values and Marine Corps heritage.



RECRUITING “IT’S JOB ONE”!!



How do I join, where do I sign up?

Well it may seem simple but its harder than you think. I recently needed some information and went to the Department website and there were quite a few surprises. If you have never been there I urge you to go but instead of giving you the web address, I want you to do a search the way I did and you will see the first problem. That is not where the Department is but it gives you a map to get you there. There is a phone number but I have no idea whose number that is. Now before I go any further this is not who's guilty of this and who is not, I'm the SR. VICE so I am. When you get to the website there is more wrong information than wright and so many dead Marines listed it's more like a memorial list. We have a ladies auxiliary and we do not have one and probably will not have one coming back. Each year when we have elections all of these positions should be updated by each Detachment Commandant. Make sure your Information on location for meets and time of meeting Contact numbers more than one for anyone looking for information. A number for the Chaplin should also be there for anyone looking for services for Marines who have passed on. It is also a way of contacting the detachment about Marines that are sick or in distress.

Information about upcoming events should be posted there and that responsibility lies with the person in charge of the event. Communication is a vital part of us doing business, and it is important to serve the community and each other. We recently found out that a member has been in the hospital for four weeks and none of us knew about it. That's really sad. When I found out that two of our members were being inducted into the CT Veterans Hall Of Fame, I went to that website for information I found we had Marines inducted the year before. Tom Kanasky Jr. and five other Marines were

added last year and we missed it. My apologies for us not knowing this information.

What I am talking about here and maybe we should consider an assistant to the webmaster. If anyone is interested please contact myself or Rich Daigle.

I have recently talked about those thirty second videos that are being used on facebook and other social media platforms, and I would like to work on getting someone to offer a class on how to go about doing them. Also, what should these videos contain. I think this is a great tool and if enough people do it then we would flood the internet with thirty second Marine Corps League Commercials.

It's the little things that will help us in the future to help us recruit new members. Communications, attention to detail, being creative and talking to people everywhere we go, that make the difference. Marines are easy to find. They have flags on their vehicles, have Marine Corps License Plates, and Marine Corps covers. When you see them start a conversation we are all the same and the conversation starts with Hello Marine.

Semper Fidelis
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)



2026 February 2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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

**2026**

March

**2026**

SUNDAY

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30	31				



CLASSIFIED SECTION



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.

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

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

Department of CT– Is seeking a 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

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.

The pain you hide
becomes the power
you rise with.



Every scar on your body and every weight on your soul is proof you kept going. Pain can drown a weak man, but it forges a strong one. The world never sees your silent battles — only the strength you walk out with. Rise with the very pain that tried to break you.

Turn it into something unstoppable.

Turn it into the version of you that refuses to die



MID WINTER CONFERENCE



FEBRUARY

2026



SHERATON PENTAGON CITY HOTEL

- 900 South Orme Street Arlington, Virginia, USA, 22204
- Hotel rate is \$131 per night plus tax
- Parking: On-site garage parking is \$10 per day
- Any cancellations after February 10, 2026, will forfeit the one-night deposit
- Free shuttle to/from Reagan Airport (DCA)

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

Wednesday arrivals begin

Thursday some committee and board meetings

Friday general session

Saturday general session, evening banquet (black tie or coat and tie appropriate)

Sunday departures



SCHEDULE





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

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/1evC7ca>

Image Source:

barrykibrick.files.wordpress.com

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

