

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 80 No. 2 • SPRING 2024

SEMPER PARATI



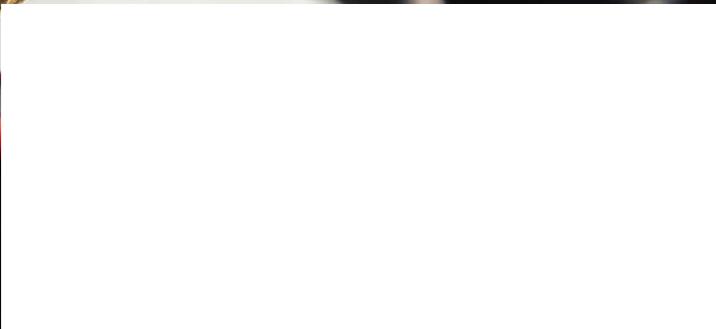
The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

Celebrating Your Corps

**Meet Paul Hastings:
52 Years with
the League and
Going Strong**

**Bringing Back
Tun Tavern**

**Lost & Found:
75 Years on
Guadalcanal**



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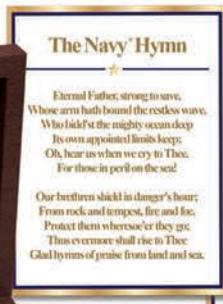


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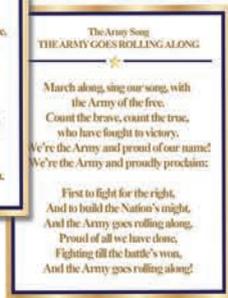
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SEMPER PARATI

The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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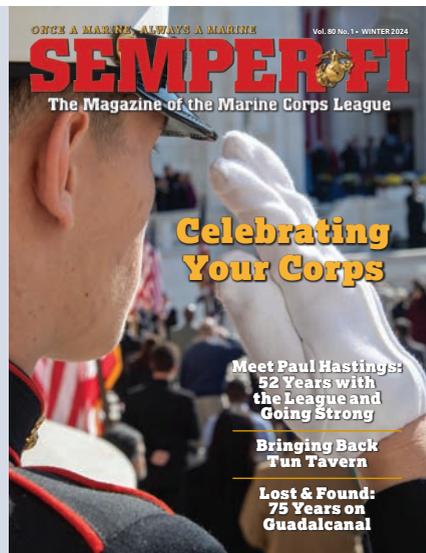
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Dignitaries and leaders honor veterans at Arlington National Cemetery during Veterans Day 2023.



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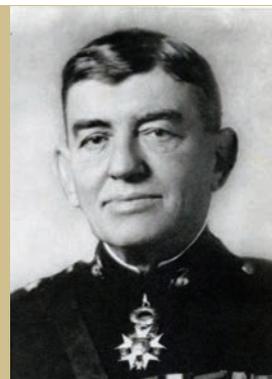
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Please visit the Marine Corps League Library’s Convention tab (www.mcleaguelibrary.org/convention/) to review the approved changes to Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. The Bylaws and Admin Procedures documents are being revised and will be posted in the Member Library tab (www.mcleaguelibrary.org/member-library/).

To submit a change to the Bylaws or Admin Procedures, please review AP Section 10020.

Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune (\‘LUH-jern\), the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States.



NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

WARREN "GRIFF" GRIFFIN

Keep Up Your Great Work

MARINES: We have concluded our Mid-Winter Conference in Washington D.C., which proved to be informative and enjoyable. Many members joined us for a visit to our museum, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, some for the first time and some to see what new updates had been made since last they visited. All left sharing the honored history of our Corps.



We are making progress in following the path of bringing help to those in our vast community who are in need. Conferences and conventions such as ours provide the opportunity to share experiences. As we watch our various television programs, we are constantly seeing commercials promoting a number of fantastic veteran advocate entities. This just reminds us that we are not alone in our mission.

As I mentioned at Mid-Winter, thank you to all of our detachments who participated in the Toys for Tots campaign. You have made a difference for so many children. Please keep in mind that this program also has a reading support program available for children throughout the year. I don't believe we fully take part in this side of Toys for Tots, and doing so would be a great way to reach even deeper into our communities.

Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps, Carlos Ruis, reached out to the New England Marine Corps League with a visit to let us know how much he appreciates our support. As he stated, we are the greatest recruiting tool he has. We are out in the communities, in our gear, doing good things. People look to us in a very favorable light, and all of our members should be proud that we are viewed as role models by the youth and parents in our communities. With that thought by the Sgt. Major, it places a special burden upon us to look and act with respect and dignity when we are representing the Marine Corps League. I know we do this without even thinking about it, but it's nice to be recognized by our Marine Corps. **Semper Fi!**

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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO

BOB BORKA

Reach Out and Get Involved

MARINES: I am consistently motivated by the cross communications in our League. While I recognize it doesn't happen everywhere, there are some detachments reaching across thousands of miles to look out for our sisters, brothers, and their families. We are a tribe of Marines regardless of our zip code. From Traverse City to Galveston, and Boston Harbor to sunny San Diego, there is honor in each of our hearts and the hope is that is shared with the communities we serve.



Speaking of communities, please consider getting involved in America250 planning. There are people all across this land that are planning activities to celebrate the 250th anniversary of these United States of America. I serve you as representative on the National America250 Congressional Commission America's Servicemembers Advisory Council. It is amazing to see the variety of activities being planned, to include our Marine Corps. Get ready Philadelphia, some awesome things are going to happen there. If you do get a chance to visit the "City of Brotherly Love" in 2025 and 2026, consider visiting the resting place of Major Samuel Nicholas in the Society of Friends Cemetery. You may also be inclined to have a cold beverage at The Tun after its completion. You will find a "Just Bob" brick in the alley. *Semper Fi!*

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF EVENTS AND VETERAN SERVICES

TOM MUELLER, USMC (RET)

Modern Day Marine and Veteran Services

MARINES: Modern Day Marine 2024 is the premiere Marine Corps expo and symposium, hosting more than 400 industry displays and featuring insight and direction from senior leaders and subject matter experts on four distinct stages. Since its inception in 1981, Modern Day Marine has continued to evolve and grow. It is much more than an event where Marines get to experience solutions to be a successful warfighter. In partnership with our co-host, the Marine Corps Association, the 2024 event will encompass a range of professional military education activities, including the Objective One Wargaming Convention, Classroom of the Future, International Allies and Partners luncheon and panel discussions.



Modern Day Marine will also host a transition, education, and employment fair alongside the Military Spouse Summit. Modern Day Marine provides a pivotal forum, fostering collaboration between Marines and industry professionals to explore and advance the most effective solu-

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EVENTS AND VETERAN SERVICES

From Previous Page

tions for accelerating innovation within the Marine Corps. If you have not yet been part of the Modern Day Marine experience, I encourage you to do so.

Did you know the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates there are 18.1 million U.S. veterans or about 1.8 million Marine Corps veterans living in the United States? These numbers represent a significant opportunity for the Marine Corps League to assist our Marine Corps brothers and sisters and their family members about veteran benefits. Veteran benefits are codified in title 38 of the United States Code, i.e., statutory laws passed by Congress, which outlines the role of veteran benefits, and title 38 of the Code of Federal Reg-

ulations (CFR), i.e., regulatory laws issued by the VA to implement the statutory laws. Title 38 of the CFR outlines pensions, bonuses, and veterans' relief. Knowledge of the regulations is important because it informs the claimant (or their advocate) of the requirements for submitting a proper and complete claim, how the VA makes their decisions, and provides the rules for filing an appeal. The more we know, the more we can assist each other in obtaining the benefits available to us. Your Marine Corps League national team is in the process of improving our veteran services capabilities across the country. I encourage you to contact your detachment service officer or seek approval of your detachment commandant to become one! I look forward to sharing our progress in the area of veteran services in future editions of the *Semper Fi* magazine. **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL PR COMMITTEE

Help Us Help You

MARINES: Advertising is 'paid for' marketing activity that gets your products and services in front of your audience to raise awareness, create demand, and boost sales. The main purpose of advertising is to target your audience with persuasive messaging in the right place at the right time to influence their purchasing decisions now, or in the future.

Recent discussions in social media groups revolve around the question of why other veteran service organization do 'advertising' and the Marine Corps League doesn't. For starters, keep in mind that everything we do, whether it's a post on social media, hanging a poster announcing a membership meeting, or talking on the radio or morning TV show about an upcoming project – or anything in between – is advertising! It's promotion! It's marketing! This includes the MCL national Facebook page, a resource that reached thousands of people each and every day.

The other component is a simple review of an organization's numbers. The American Legion has more than 10,000 posts with over 2.3 million members. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has more than 6,000 posts with over 1.6 million members, and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has more than 1,300 posts with over 1.3 million members. The MCL has over 1,100

local detachments and over 60,000 members. This equates a significant difference in membership dues collected and a national budget for paid advertising and anything supporting it.

So, here is where our role as Marines really come into play – *Improvise, Adapt, Overcome!*

Your MCL National Public Relations Committee seeks your help in submitting photos and videos we can use to create our own enhanced marketing efforts. We want high resolution images that can be used for print and that can be adjusted for video. We want images that showcase our members at work, in MCL attire, or, at least wearing your MCL cover. The MCL has a brand; that brand is in what we wear

and what we do! Help us showcase that brand by showcasing your detachments at work.

To run an effective advertising campaign, you must understand your audience, defining who they are and what they want. This helps when targeting advertisement, selecting the most appropriate advertising channel, and creating the messaging that will most appeal to your audience. Your MCL National Public Relations Committee is at the ready to support this mission – we seek your assistance by providing us content. Email your images to publicrelations@mcleague.com. **Semper Fi!**



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NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY

LINDA S. CHAMBERLAIN

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The Purpose of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary



AUXILIARY AND LEAGUE MEMBERS:

“The purpose of this Auxiliary is to band together in comradeship the members of this Auxiliary, and to create a bond of comradeship between this Auxiliary and the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League.” This statement is read at the beginning of each Auxiliary meeting by the senior vice president.

Comradeship is one of several synonyms for camaraderie, which is defined by Merriam-Webster as a spirit of friendly good-fellowship, and by the Cambridge Dictionary as a feeling of friendliness toward people that you work or share an experience with.

I think sometimes our focus on being comrades gets lost. We, the MCL and Auxiliary, are both a part of this wonderful organization; you, the League members, are a band of brothers; we, the Auxiliary members, are a band of sisters. Together, we are comrades.

While our focus may sometimes be different, we all strive for the same goal, which is to care for our veterans, our community, and each other. The Auxiliary does this on our own, but just think of what an impact it could have if we, the Auxiliary and the League, did it together. Comradeship.



During PNC Baker’s term of office, he asked every detachment to explore the possibility of having an Auxiliary unit associated with them. Have you done that yet? If not, it is never too late. Take a minute to

look at my motto at the end of this article and think about what it says. Sometimes it’s hard to make things happen alone, but if we band together in comradeship, we can make anything happen, even as far as recruiting new members. As both a member of the Auxiliary and League, I (like many of my Auxiliary sisters) always have an application in my pocketbook, just in case.

I hope everyone returned home safely from the Mid-Winter, and I would like to thank everyone for attending. A special thank you to COO Bob Borka for arranging the trip to the museum. No matter how many times I visit, it is always a wonderful experience, and I always manage to see something new or see something I missed on my last trip. **Semper Fi!**

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PRESIDENT, MCL FOUNDATION

HOWARD C. SCHAEFFER

MCLFOUNDATION.ORG

Every Act of Support Makes A Difference

MARINES: As the president of the Marine Corps League Foundation, I am honored to address you today on behalf of our esteemed organization. Our foundation stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the United States Marine Corps and the values it instills in each of us who have had the privilege to serve.



The Marine Corps League Foundation is not just an entity; it is the collective embodiment of our shared commitment to service, sacrifice, and camaraderie. It exists to support Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and their families in times of need, ensuring that no one who has served our beloved Corps is ever forgotten or left behind.

Today, I come to you with a heartfelt plea for support. The Marine Corps League Foundation is, first and foremost, an organization of and for its members. We rely on the generosity and dedication of our

fellow Marines and supporters to fulfill our mission and provide assistance where it is needed most.

In these challenging times, the need for our Foundation's support has never been greater. Every dollar donated to the Marine Corps League Foundation goes directly towards supporting those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

I urge each and every one of you to consider how you can contribute to our cause. Whether through a monetary donation, volunteering your time and expertise, or simply spreading the word about our Foundation's mission, every act of support makes a difference.

Remember, the Marine Corps League Foundation is not just an organization; it is our organization. It belongs to each and every one of us who has proudly worn the eagle, globe, and anchor. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of the Marine Corps endures and that those who have served are honored and supported.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our Foundation and to the values for which we stand.. **Semper Fi!**

YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

YOUNGMARINES.ORG

Update from the Young Marines

MARINES AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT THEM: It's always a pleasure to meet many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference, which is now back in the D.C. area after a few fine years in Tidewater Virginia. I always appreciate the opportunity to provide updates on our program and interact with so many great supporters. On March 23 we hosted our Young Marines annual awards dinner in Northern Virginia, and I want to share the division winners.



Volunteers are the life blood of our program; each gives their precious time to guide and mentor our Young Marines to success in life. Division Adult Volunteers of the Year winners:

- Division 1 – Bruce Katz, Blackstone Valley YM, MA
- Division 2 – Nicholas Boice, Hamilton YM, MD
- Division 3 – Melissa Sauer, PFC Bruce W. Carter YM, FL
- Division 4 – Connie Pitt, Pikes Peak YM, CO
- Division 5 – Rebekah Hackett, Lenawee County YM, MI
- Division 6 – Kristine Lewis, Lewis and Clark YM, WA

We are proud of our Young Marine units and the work they do to develop future young men and women into engaged citizens and for the support they give to their local communities. This year the follow-

ing units were selected as the best within their respective divisions:

- Division 1 – Lancaster County YM, PA
- Division 2 – Potomac River YM, Washington DC
- Division 3 – PFC Bruce W. Carter YM, FL
- Division 4 – Foothills YM, CO
- Division 5 – Fox Valley YM, IL
- Division 6 – Southeast County YM, CA

Our program is focused on creating our next generation of leaders. Our most senior Young Marines compete for Division Young Marine of the Year, representing the six Young Marine Divisions across the country. Here are your Division Young Marines of the Year:

- Division 1 – YM/Sgt. Maj. Susan Suber, Spartan YM, PA
- Division 2 – YM/Sgt. Maj. Matthew Lentz, Hamilton YM, MD
- Division 3 – YM/Sgt. Maj. Adam Robinson, General Raymond G. Davis YM, GA
- Division 4 – YM/Sgt. Maj. Jackson Waters, Mountainview YM, CO
- Division 5 – YM/Sgt. Maj. Emily Dotson, Greater Cleveland YM, OH
- Division 6 – YM/Sgt. Maj. Akshaya Krishna, Sacramento YM, CA

The winners will be announced at our awards banquet and on social media in March. Please reach out to your regional volunteer, unit, and Young Marine to congratulate and celebrate their recognition of excellence. If you need help finding them, please contact us at yMDBS@youngmarines.org.

Be safe, and I hope to see many of you again soon. **Semper Fi!**

CHIEF DEVIL DOG

ALAN SANNING, 60TH CHIEF DEVIL DOG

Welcome to the Dog House Pups; Have Some Fun!



MARINES: Woof, Woof to all of you acclaimed Dogs of the Order; with a special bark out to all of our new pups around the kennel – welcome to the Dog House! Hopefully, you were all able to stay warm with the multiple arctic blasts that have blown across the country this winter. So far, there has not been much snow in my area, but who needs snow when you can just lounge around in sub-zero temperatures! With any luck, by the time you

receive this issue of the Semper Fi, we will be about done with cold and snow.

To you new pups, there are many resources available as you navigate your way through the Military Order of the Devil Dogs while also bringing your ideas and skills to the Order. While attending growls and having fun, learn from the devil dogs, pedigreed devil dogs, and other pups around you. Additionally, there is a wealth of information on the kennel web-



It was my honor to represent the MODD in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier along with Commandant PDD Warren Griffin and National President Linda Chambers on Veterans Day.

MODDKENNEL.ORG

site MilitaryOrderoftheDevilDogs.org. Especially pay attention to the handbook and obedience school, which can be found under the library tab in the publications section. These, along with the constitution and bylaws, Dog Robbers Manual, and the Ritual, have all been recently updated by your kennel staff. BIG BARKS to them for all of their efforts ensuring pound and pack officers have the most up to date manuals available to them via download on the website or by ordering hard copies through the quartermaster.

Pay particular attention to the opening ceremony in the Ritual as there is a new procedure to be followed during the Pledge of Allegiance. Also new is information in the handbook on a re-sized 1.75-inch MODD cover patch, specifically designed to allow for

proper placement on the female style cover.

On the fundraising front, things continue to go well with the MODD's online raffles. For both online and in-person raffles, I cannot offer enough thanks to all involved, whether donating or securing items for the raffles, running the raffles, purchasing tickets, or helping to publicize the raffles. Keep an eye on the kennel's website for future items.

Of course, we have our annual donation to a children's hospital in the area of the National Convention and Supreme Growl. We look forward to, once again, making a sizeable donation in August this year. In order for funds to go towards helping this year's effort, growl passport stamping fees, passport fines, and any other donations must be submitted to the kennel dog robber by June 30, 2024. Again,

many thanks to all who have a hand in making this such a wonderful gift every year – THANK YOU!

June 30th brings another important deadline – applications for degree advancement to reach the kennel dog robber. If you are an eligible Devil Dog wishing to advance to pedigreed devil dog at the Supreme Growl in August, you need to bark with your pound dog robber, so they have plenty of time to forward your application up the chain. I personally look forward to advancing all of you Devil Dogs who make it to Palm Springs and successfully traverse the initiation process! Fortunately, I do not think we will have a problem with sub-zero temperatures in Palm Springs, yeah! **Semper Woof!**

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NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

T.J. MORGAN

The Importance of Electronic Communication

MARINES: As we strive to support and serve our veteran community, it's crucial to recognize the significance of electronic communication in advancing our mission. From engaging with our members to spreading awareness about our initiatives, electronic communication enables us to reach a wider audience and make a positive impact.

One of the key benefits of electronic communication is its ability to facilitate rapid and efficient dissemination of information. Whether it's sharing updates on our programs, announcing upcoming events, or providing valuable resources for veterans, electronic communication allows us to reach our audience in real-time. This immediacy is instrumental in keeping our members engaged and informed, fostering a stronger sense of community and support.

Moreover, electronic communication provides a cost-effective means of outreach. By utilizing digital platforms, we can reduce our reliance on traditional printed materials, which are both costly and slow to disseminate. This allows us to allocate more resources towards our core mission of supporting veterans and their families, ensuring that our efforts have a greater impact.

Additionally, electronic communication empowers us to amplify our advocacy efforts and raise awareness about the challenges facing veterans. Through social media campaigns, email newsletters, and online petitions, we can mobilize support for important causes, such as mental health awareness, employment



opportunities, and access to healthcare services. By leveraging these digital tools, we can elevate the voices of our veteran community and effect positive change at a broader societal level.

In today's interconnected world, electronic communication also plays a vital role in fundraising and donor engagement. Online donation platforms, crowdfunding campaigns, and virtual events enable us to expand our

reach and secure vital financial support for our programs. By leveraging these digital tools, we can connect with potential donors and supporters who are enthusiastic about our cause, driving our organization's sustainability and impact.

Electronic communication is a cornerstone of our efforts to support veterans, and its importance cannot be overstated. By embracing these digital tools, we can strengthen our organization, amplify our impact, and ensure that our veteran community receives the support and recognition they deserve.

Remember, your timely distribution of electronic communication is imperative to the success of our Marine Corps League. If it affects even one of your members, it is your obligation to disseminate accordingly! **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

RUSS MILLER

Connection Leads to Retention

MARINES: There's an old adage that says, "It's easier to give birth than it is to raise the dead." Some might take that to mean we should concentrate our efforts on recruiting new members rather than chasing down delinquent or recently dropped members for renewal. I would contest that we still need to put just as much effort into retaining our current and recently dropped members as we do in recruiting new members. The member that didn't renew their membership for one reason or another may just have not found their connecting point yet. Connection to others and the League's missions are what, in my experience, will lead members to remain enrolled, active, and engaged. If those currently with us aren't feeling that sense of connection, then most likely any new joins will experience a similar roadblock to committing any regular effort into their own activity level within the League. Finding that new recruit to bring into the League can be a daunting task; especially in a community that isn't overflowing with veterans, much less Marine veterans, to begin with. So, it's all the more important that we do what we can to maintain connections to those who we have already been fortunate enough to bring aboard.

A couple years ago, a detachment commandant in Colorado set out to pull together some old detachment contact rosters and "AT&T" (reach out and touch someone) former members that had fallen by



the wayside. Calls were made, emails and snail-mail letters went out asking a few questions such as, "Was there a particular situation or event that they could point to that caused them not to re-up? What could we be doing differently to maintain their interest level?"

The most common responses revolved around not having the time to commit due to family and/or job demands. But most of those same respondents also stated that if there was a "mission" they and their family could help with, they would gladly come back. A number of them did and remain to this day. Occasionally it was as simple as appealing to their sense of camaraderie and reminding them that their dues not only help cover the cost of producing and delivering their *Semper Fi* magazine, but also play a part in the League remaining solvent and there for them when their life becomes a little less hectic and they eventually find the connection that they may not even know they're searching for... which will lead to their lifelong retention. **Semper Fi!**

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NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

DAVID PORTER

I am Here to Serve

MARINES: It is truly amazing, to be in a position where I can connect with Marines from all over the country. I am full of the same motivation I had on day one, even after all the emails and phone calls that keep coming in. Some questions have been complex and needed some research, and some questions do not take long. No matter how or when, I will do my best to answer your email, phone call, or text, for I am here to serve. I feel this job is truly remarkable for the learning curve and allows me to continue to strive to be better. I know I do not know it all, and I am not afraid to ask for advice or help. I have an open mind and am excited to learn and add value.

Part of the excitement stems from following up with promises I stated during my campaign. I held two Zoom meetings with the department judge advocates, followed up with a newsletter, and created a department judge advocate roster for the department judge advocates to strengthen communication among the J.A.s. Three rulings were drafted up and distributed for the national vice commandants to distribute. I have begun but am not finished; there is more to come.

The League is not about one person nor is one person big-



ger than the League. My oath is no different than a detachment commandant's. All the officers who have taken the oath of office have a responsibility. We are here to serve, not to see how important how we can become, but to see how much of a difference we can make in the lives of others. In the words of Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, "The spirit of comradeship and brotherhood in

arms which has traditionally existed throughout the ranks of the Marine Corps is a vital characteristic of the Corps. It must be fostered and kept alive and made the moving force in all Marine Corps organizations".

Being part of the League, what do you want to carry on to the next generation? While we do need to adapt to the times to survive, we must also balance our need for change as we continue our duty of carrying on the traditions that were passed to us by prior generations. **Semper Fi!**

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

JOHNNY BAKER

Department Conventions and Division Conferences Are Critical

MARINES: We just finished our mid-winter conference, and we are headed into the summer months preparing for our division conferences and department conventions. These conferences and conventions are a key element in our mission. They should be used for training and communicating with the detachments and our members. It is a venue to get the word out and establish policy and procedures throughout the divisions and departments. I want to encourage all members to participate in these events. They aren't just for the officers.

These conferences and conventions should be a catalyst for membership growth as well as retention. It is imperative that each detachment is represented at these events. We as the leadership of the Marine Corps League, have the responsibility and obligation of ensuring the members are represented and have a voice in the operations of both the departments and the divisions. Without your participation at these meetings, the members may not be getting the information back down to them to be successful.

Marines, let's not forget about the "retention" issues facing us. Early in February, we had about 6,600 delinquent members that had not paid their annual dues since 1 September 2023. I know that most of the detachments are working hard to get this rate down, but we must continue to emphasize to our members the impor-



tance of paying their annual dues. All annual membership fees become due every year on 1 September. I will encourage all detachments to start collecting these annual dues in about July and August each year. It isn't necessary to wait until after 1 September. Get the dues all paid before that 1 September deadline and the detachment will not have to worry about dues and transmittals for a year.

Finally, recruiting continues to be a never-ending process. Without growth, our detachments will eventually age themselves out. But the key is keeping our members once they join. Every new member needs a great mentor. There should be at least three criteria in being a great mentor to a new Marine. A good mentor will always have time for you. Mentors are never assigned, they always volunteer. And lastly, building a mentor relationship is like building a friendship—it develops over time. Both Marines need to invest in the relationship, because believe it or not, both are learning from it. Did you have a mentor? What did you learn? Are you ready to be a mentor? Our new Marines need you now as a mentor. **Semper Fi!**

MCL NATIONAL YOUNG MARINES LIAISON

JOHNNY BAKER

History of the Young Marines

MARINES: The national commandant recently assigned me as the national liaison to the board of directors to the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League. I am truly humbled and honored to represent you on this prestigious board. The Young Marines Chairman of the Board of Directors Bill Smith informed me as the MCL liaison, I am "independent director" with full voting rights on the Young Marines board of directors. As the liaison, my first priority is to ensure the MCL membership is aware of the history of the Young Marines. The following is quoted from the Young Marines website (youngmarines.org).

"The Young Marines is a national non-profit 501c (3) youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages eight through high school graduation. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The Young Marines strengthens the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achieve-

ment, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building and leadership and promotes a lifestyle that is conducive to being productive members of society.

In 1959 in Waterbury, Connecticut, several former Marines formed an organization for boys that would mirror the values of the Marine Corps. Their vision - to offer leadership training and other life skills - formed the bedrock of the organization known today as the Young Marines. Years later, the program is a highly respected youth organization, for boys and girls ages eight through high school graduation, that has grown to over 236 units. Our focus, though, has remained the same: to strengthen the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a health, drug-free lifestyle. The core values - leadership, teamwork, and discipline - are well understood and practiced by all." *Semper Fi!*

German Reenactors brief at Normandy



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MCL NATIONAL UNIFORM COMMITTEE

RAYMOND S. MORRELL, CHAIRPERSON

What do I wear to the Marine Corps Ball?



MARINES: 1. Only authorized lapel pins may be worn on the red blazer when configured as the MCL Casual Dress or MCL Formal Dress; and, on the red, waist-length jacket when configured as the MCL Evening Dress.
a. Lapel pins will never be worn on any other MCL uniform.

2. Lapel pins will be worn on the left lapel, in the proximity of the buttonhole.

a. At no time will any lapel pin be worn on the right lapel of the authorized MCL uniforms.

3. No more than two lapel pins may be worn at any time. If two pins are worn, the senior pin will be worn inboard and the junior pin will be worn outboard; see roster of seniority, below.

4. Lapel pins authorized for wear on applicable uniforms are listed below, in order of precedence.

- a. Presidential Gold Medal for Volunteer Service pin
- b. Past National Commandant pin.
- c. National Marine of The Year pin.
- d. Kennel Devil Dog of The Year pin.
- e. National Associate Member of The Year pin.
- f. Past Department Commandant; or, Past Detachment Commandant pin.
- g. Chapel of Four Chaplains pin.
- h. MCL Membership pin (to include any anniversary MCL membership pins).
- i. Retired Marine or Retired Navy pin.
- j. MCL or MODD Life Member pin.
- k. Ordained Minister; or, Ordained Chaplain symbol pin.
- l. US Flag pin (3/8- inch x3/4-inch).
- m. Vietnam War 50th Commemoration pin.
- n. Gold Star Family pin.
- o. Next of Kin Deceased Personnel pin.

5. At no time will the crossed U.S. Flag/USMC flag pin be worn with any MCL uniform.

6. The wearer may wear one DoD miniature-ribbon lapel pin in addition to the authorized lapel pin(s). **Semper Fi!**

Your MCL National Uniform Committee: Raymond Morrell (ND), chairperson, Jeffery Jones (NC), Ivania Mungia (CA), Alison Noger (MD), Bob Sheppard (NJ), Lisa Solarczyk (PA), Mike Waluk, ex-officio BoT liaison



No more than two lapel pins may be worn at any time. If two pins are worn, the senior pin will be worn inboard (closer to the heart) and the junior pin will be worn outboard.



MCL members may wear one DoD miniature ribbon lapel pin, in addition to the authorized lapel pins stated above. When worn, the DoD miniature ribbon lapel pin will be positioned above the authorized MCL lapel pins. However, the miniature ribbon lapel pin shall not be worn if the DoD medal is also being worn on the MCL uniform. Examples of the DoD miniature ribbon lapel pins are shown; additional options are available at any authorized DoD vendor.



The US Flag/USMC flag lapel pin is not authorized for wear on any MCL uniform.



Authorized lapel pins that may be worn on the MCL Casual Dress, MCL Formal Dress, and MCL Evening Dress uniforms include:

(Top row, left to right): Presidential Gold Medal for Voluntary Service pin, MCL membership pin, MCL associate member pin, MCL past commandant pin, MCL anniversary pin. Additional MCL membership pins are available in the MCL ships store; only one version will be worn).

(Bottom row, left to right): U.S. flag pin (3/8" x 3/4"), Vietnam War 50th Commemoration pin, Gold Star Family pin, Next of Kin Deceased Personnel pin.

MODERN DAY MARINE MILITARY EXPOSITION

Marine Corps League Awards



MCL National Junior Past National Commandant Johnny Baker, 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David H. Berger (Ret.), 2023 Dickey Chapelle Award recipient Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee Elizabeth King, and President and CEO of the Marine Corps Association Lt. Gen. Charles Chiarotti (Ret.) at Modern Day Marine 2023.

DICKEY CHAPELLE AWARD

This award was conceived by the Marine Corps League for the purpose of recognizing annually a lady who has contributed substantially to the morale, welfare, and well-being of Marines and the United States Marine Corps.

- **2023 Recipient: Elizabeth King, Staff Director, Senate Armed Services Committee.**

Dickey Chapelle was a war correspondent who was killed 11/4/1965 while on patrol with Marines in Vietnam. She became the first female war correspondent to be killed in Vietnam, and first American female reporter to be killed in action.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE IRON MIKE

This award was conceived for the purpose of recognizing annually that person who has contributed the most to the United States of America and the United States Marine Corps.

- **2023 Recipient: Col. Nicole Mann, USMC, NASA Astronaut**

The award is named after the landmark statue, Iron Mike, located at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. The bronze rendering depicts a World War I vintage Marine figure familiar to millions who have served as Marines.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE ENLISTED AWARDS

The Marine Corps League receives nominations from across the Marine Corps (via MARADMIN) to select six special awardees annually. The 2023 recipients were:

- **Gunnery Sgt. Jack Hausmann:** Sgt. Maj. Wilbur Bestwick Award for Ground Combat Element Marine of the Year
- **Staff Sgt. Caleb Neff:** Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Hathcock Award for Marksmanship Instructor Marine of the Year
- **Sgt. Michael Garcia:** Sgt. Harry Myers Award for Logistics Combat Element Marine of the Year
- **Sgt. Andre Doss:** Sgt. Maj. Frederick Douglass Award for Aviation Combat Element Marine of the Year
- **HM1 Ramonddave Soriano:** HMC George William 'Doc' Piercy Award for Corpsman of the Year
- **Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Porter:** Marine Corps Reservist of the Year



Lost and Found

The story of Joseph A. McLellan's Boot Tag

By Phil Jordan

Born in 1909, Joseph McLellan joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and served on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. His enlistment ended in 1945. Sometime during his tour on Guadalcanal, he must have left something behind. A shiny boot tag. Joseph McLellan passed away in 1960.

Fast forward 80 years. Charles Papena, a resident of Guadalcanal, enjoys history and spends time digging in caves. He came across a boot tag. A round, shiny item with holes on two edges for laces. It read "McLellan, Joseph A." and "USMCR". Charles contacted a friend who contacted a relative and told them the story. When Jackson Rowe heard the story, he told Marine Corps League member Floyd Brantley, from the Sidney S. McMath Detachment 532 in Arkansas. Brantley asked his daughter-in-law, Cindy Brantley, to see what she could find in genealogy research. They were able to locate the McLellan family in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Past Detachment 532 Commandant Dwight Witcher contacted Phil Jordan of the Pequoig Detachment 1168 in Massachusetts. With some assistance Joseph's son, Joseph McLellan was contacted. On November 9, 2023, at the Fitchburg Armory (now the Fitchburg Senior Center), in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, the Marine Corps League held a ceremony to present the boot tag to the son of Marine Joseph A. McLellan. It was a proud and touching ceremony for all involved. ***Semper Fi!***



Left, a portrait of Marine Joseph A. McLellan, who lost a boot tag on Guadalcanal sometime between 1942 and 1945. Below, McLellan's boot tag as found by Charles Papena 80 years after it was lost on the island of Guadalcanal.





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DIVISION REPORTS

Take a Promotion and Grow with the League



Mike Sturch
NVC, Central Division



MARINES: Welcome to Spring! I trust the Mid-Winter and our own Central Division Conference were both enjoyable and successful. In my last article, I spoke of membership involvement, particularly at the detachment level. I'd like to continue and expand on that subject.

Now that some of you have become more involved, why not accept a leadership position? Marines have been trained to take responsibility from day one. We had it burned into our brain-housing group that as a private or private first class, you may find yourself as a team leader or squad leader in a moment's notice. I, for one, was actually the acting company gunny for a few weeks as a young corporal! It happens, and you accept it and do the best job you can.

Take on a position at your detachment, learn how things work, and strive to make a difference. With that knowledge and experience, progress through the chairs to commandant. It is what you make of it. You cannot sit on the sidelines complaining if you are not willing to offer valid suggestions AND a plan to implement any necessary changes. Yes, it does take dedication and sacrifice, but you are doing this for the growth of your detachment and the League itself.

Once you're comfortable, consider a position on the department level. You'll see an entirely different aspect of the League and begin to truly understand why things are sometimes done the way they are. I see and hear way too many times from the membership that the department and national leadership doesn't do anything for the detachments. That just is not true. The detachment is the life-blood of the League; without it, the League would not exist. I honestly feel that if these people who complain would get more involved at these higher levels, they may begin to understand how the wheels turn. And getting involved doesn't mean occasionally attending a meeting or function. You must take on some role, such as a leadership or support position, or even become involved in committees to truly see the intricate working details.

Strive for growth in not only the League, but yourself as, well. Remember, some of the most important leadership traits are understanding your people and listening! You need to judge which suggestions or complaints have validity, and how you can implement them or take the necessary corrective action. Never dismiss an idea or suggestion for change just because it just doesn't sound right. You never know; it may be the one thing you need to continue your growth.

Always remember our brothers and sisters who are serving, those who never came home, and those who came home but never really returned. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclcentdiv.org

Respect is Contagious



Rick Thomason
NVC, Mideast Division



MARINES: I grew up in a small-town of 1500 people in the 1950's. My father had a one-man automotive repair shop. To say we led a hand-to-mouth existence is an understatement. Mom worked at a local grocery store and I cut lawns and helped Dad in the shop. We had a local Ford dealership that Dad would send me to for parts he needed to complete a job. Me and my trusty 20-inch bicycle would navigate the few blocks and rush back. I always spent a few minutes waiting to pay and leave.

What I remember about that more than 60 years later is actually the cash register where I paid for the parts. It was BIG and brown with black keys and a drawer the went "ding" each time it was opened. Taped to the back were two, what I believe to be post cards of the day, that I read until I memorized them. The first had a picture

of an owl sitting very stately on a limb and below it was written, "There was an old owl who sat in an oak. The more he heard, the less he spoke. The less he spoke, the more he heard. Why can't we be more like that wise old bird?"

How many meetings within the MCL have you sat through that at the end, someone wants to stand up and make himself heard, stating the obvious and asking questions that were already covered previously? Why? Because they had their own personal meeting going on while the subject was discussed on the floor. The greatest disrespect you can have for a speaker is to carry on a conversation while they are at the podium. That immediately tells the speaker you have no interest in what they are saying. You learn a great deal more by listening than by talking.

The second card was simple. "The man who knows HOW will always have a job. But the man who knows WHY will always be his boss." Are you satisfied knowing only the "how" of the MCL? Perhaps it is time you learned the "why" of the League so that you, too, will be in a position of leadership in the future. This is your Marine Corps League. Make it something you can be proud of. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclmideast.com

Conventions and Conferences



Joe Hughes

NVC, Midwest Division



MARINES: Conventions and conference attendance is an essential part of accepting a MCL leadership position as a senior division, department, or detachment officer. The MCL bylaws, administrative procedures, and direction are directed by membership input and voting at all levels.

Conventions and conferences provide opportunities for networking, learning, and collaboration, and they often include keynote presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and social events. They are crucial in advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and facilitating communication within various levels of the MCL. Your voice counts at these events.

Conventions and Conferences are essential for MCL membership for several reasons:

Networking: Conventions and conferences allow members to network with peers.

This networking leads to valuable connections, partnerships, and collaborations that benefit their department, detachment, knowledge, and growth within the MCL.

Education and Information Sharing: Conventions and conferences feature workshops, seminars, and presentations, providing members valuable insights, information, and educational opportunities. These events help members stay updated with MCL bylaws and administrative procedures, best practices, and new developments.

Professional Development: Conventions and conferences allow members to enhance their skills and knowledge through hands-on training sessions and knowledgeable, on-topic speakers. This is particularly important for senior officeholders.

Advocacy and Policy Influence: Conventions and Conferences are a platform for discussing important issues, advocating for specific policies, and mobilizing members to act. They help members feel engaged and empowered to make a difference.

Member Engagement and Retention: Conventions and Conferences serve to engage and retain members by providing opportunities to interact with fellow members and feel a sense of belonging. Engaged members are more likely to renew their memberships and become more active. Secondly, conventions and conferences are fun.

Showcasing Achievements and Innovation: Conventions and conferences serve as a platform for the MCL to showcase its achievements, innovations, success stories, and provide individual recognition.

Community Building: Conventions and conferences create a sense of community among members, fostering a supportive and collaborative environment throughout the MCL. This sense of community will enhance member satisfaction, loyalty, and sense of purpose in being a MCL member. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

A Visit from Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Carlos Ruiz



Patrick Maguire

NVC, New England Division



MARINES: It's been a busy winter and spring is starting off the same way. Over the winter, the division's new web sergeant, Brian Brooks, rolled up his sleeves and took on a few important tasks. He worked on a new division logo; the design is different than a traditional round logo. The thought process for it was that it would attract more attention being that it looks different. We also think the design makes it easy to read.

With that done, he then developed a new division website, and this project took a lot of his time and effort. The new website contains quite a bit of information and is constantly updated. Moving forward, it will be a source of information for our members and a tool for potential members to see what is going on in the New England Division.



Everyone has some kind of digital device at their fingertips these days. People don't wait to go home to look things up on their desktop. They pull their phone out and search on the spot. Now that the website is up and running, we'll be updating what we have on social media. Again, it's all about

wanting to know now, so the division needs to have multiple sources where people can find information easily.

Over the winter, we were fortunate enough to be visited by Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Carlos Ruiz. He traveled to New England to discuss how we can do better. How can the Marine Corps and the League make the bond between us stronger and better serve our Marines, Marine veterans, and their families? The discussions were positive and well received on both sides. Sgt. Maj. Ruiz is a class act, and the Corps is in good hands with him as the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclnenedivision.com

DIVISION REPORTS

Make This the Opportunity to Pass on All You've Learned



Mike Waluk

NVC, Northeast Division



MARINES: How many of us remember walking into the recruiter's office and seeing the words "WE MAKE MARINES"?

Those days are far behind. Nevertheless, the significance of the phrase "once a Marine, always a Marine" is not just attributed to the rigors endured; but also to the dedicated Marines who transformed us into elite warriors.

Our tenacity and determination are not only what sets us apart from others but binds us together and determines what we do as members and leaders in the Marine Corps League. Unlike our drill instructors, we do not go around screaming and yelling to complete a task. Yet, we maintain that spirit within ourselves to develop others into becoming the better part of us.

In the beginning, we may not have understood form, function, nor purpose. They were the stewards; we were the apprentices.

To that end, we need to better understand our roles as mentors and mentees. David Nour tells us that traditional mentorships are predicated upon different levels of experience. What that means is you are unlikely to get the same advice from someone who has forty years of experience versus someone who is beginning their tenure in a leadership position. He states your goal is to build a connection with someone who motivates you and whom you can engage and influence. That's someone who resists giving quick answers and provides meaningful discussions where both grow, all the while challenging each other's assumptions and developing a dialogue that increases critical thinking; thus, becoming more than a traditional "teacher to student" relationship.

But just as we were once recruits or candidates, we need to approach leadership in the same ways as we did then. How do we change our paradigms of years of experience versus knowledge to move ahead while taking a backseat to those who are our mentors? Simply put, we need to be good "mentees".

Consider being open to suggestions and be willing to learn. As one is being mentored, we have a responsibility to know what our expectations are. Nevertheless, while seeking improvement, one must also be willing to ask for help. This does not necessarily imply weakness, but rather a willingness to find your limitations. According to Abbajay (2024) suggestions with feedback and constructive criticism (while often not appreciated) will always be a good indicator of your level of expertise. Learn to use this information for self-reflection.

In a mentored relationship, you are still managing a relationship that must be developed, and just like a marriage, it takes two to be in it. Get to know and trust each other. Moreover, articulate what you want to gain from the experience in addition to goals and aspirations. Make this the opportunity to one day pass on all that you've learned, just as your drill instructors did. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: nedmcl.org

Do I Make a Difference?



Mike Flynn

NVC, Northwest Division



MARINES: Do you ever wonder if you're making a difference? Now granted, that's a pretty open-ended question. Think about this. As a member of an elite fighting organization, you are already part of a very small group. Of course, most of us recognize that already. Let's look at a few statistics. These are from the Census Bureau.

There were 16,299,322 veterans in the U.S in 2020. This is 6.2% of the adult civilian population. Compare this to 30 years ago when, in 1990, it was 27,481,055. That is a drop of 40%. Of those two numbers, 10% are Marines. This equates to just over 1.6 million currently. As you might surmise from these numbers, our numbers are shrinking.

Let's continue to break this down. If we use the current number of members of the Marine Corps League of 54,000, you are

part of only 3% of the Marine Corps veterans. You're only 0.3% of all veterans and only 0.016% of the population of the U.S. What's this all mean?

First and foremost, you are part of a very small group. Truly an elite group because you had to qualify to be part of it. To get to this stage, you must have served honorably, and you also have a desire to be around other Marines and people who believe in Marines and the Marine Corps.

Going back to the original question, do you wonder if you're making a difference? The answer is a very obvious, yes! How do I know I can make this statement? Just the fact that you are reading this means you are engaged in our League. You are involved. You are giving back. You are who the League needs just to function on a daily basis.

The number of hours given in service to our communities, other veterans, and fellow Marines is significant. Think about the many activities your detachment performs. Veterans Day celebrations, Memorial Day remembrances, Toys for Tots participation, Marine Corps Birthday celebrations, honor and color guard presentations, scholarships, and on and on and on.

The only reason all of this happens is because of you. We get that there are challenges out there. We understand we are all different people and therefore we don't all see things the same way. However, you cannot deny the fact that we are here, because of you. And we need more people like you; members and associates who want to be part of a fantastic organization and who want to support the sort of people we want in the League. All this presented above is only a small part of what takes place on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis. Find your niche and get involved.

Are you making a difference? You most definitely are! **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org

Preparing for Our Future Means Making New Leaders



Tom Krueger

NVC, Rocky Mountain Division



MARINES: I would like to talk about education within our detachments and departments. It has become apparent that this is needed at all levels. Just like we did when we were on active duty, we must train our junior members so they, at the appropriate time, are qualified to take on leadership duties. I ask that all members acquaint themselves with the by-laws as well as the Guide Book for Detachment Officers. These are great tools for a stepping-stone. However, members that have been around a few years need to take younger members under our wings and guide them as they progress through the leadership chairs. This also goes for the younger members; they must have the willingness to learn the proper way the Marine Corps League conducts business. That brings me to the Ritual, which is a great tool for each level. Ensure every officer of the detachment

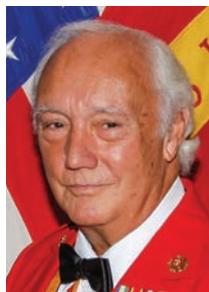
or department has one. Each detachment or department should make a binder with the national by-aws, division SOPs, the department by-laws, and the detachment by-laws (appropriate to each level). Make one for each officer that is handed off to their successor.

Lastly, I have asked each department commandant to instruct each detachment to review their rosters and to reach out to members they have not seen or heard from lately. I know of a detachment that had four members listed that had passed away and they were not reported properly. This is something we can't have. We must follow through to ensure every member is accounted for. Talk with your members and ensure each one is doing well and not in need of support. Taking care of our own is a critical part of our mission and a hallmark of the League.

Lastly, lead by example. Lead your members to the future of the Marine Corps League. Just because they are new doesn't mean their perspective isn't valuable; they may have some new ideas that will help the detachment or department grow. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: rockymountainmcldiv.org

Why Do We Have So Much Trouble Reporting Activities?



Jerry Holt

NVC, Southeast Division



MARINES: Twice each year we ask Detachments to report on their activities during the prior six-months. We ask for that information for a number of reasons, but two of the more important reasons are that the League provides a report to the Commandant of the Marine Corps to demonstrate our accomplishments in supporting the interests of the Corps and our on-going patriotic efforts. Another reason, and arguably even more important, is that it provides an opportunity to share information on activities and accomplishments that could serve as ideas and motivation for other detachments.

Most detachments provide timely and thorough reports of their activities. Others – not so much. Those who do the better job of reporting do so by collecting and documenting their activities at each detachment meeting. This not only makes it a routine part of each business meeting, but it makes it easy to compile the information for submission. It's easy to create a matrix with activities on one axis and months on the other, then log your counts or narratives.

Some may view this as administrivia and not at all related to why we joined the League. However, if you read the reports submitted by other detachments, you may find some ideas and inspiration for ramping up your own detachment's activities. One way of attracting new members – especially younger ones – is by demonstrating our contributions to our communities.

By reading these activity reports, you can learn that the League lead thirty percent of the nationwide Toys for Tots campaigns, which distributed nearly 25 million toys to 10 million kids. We had 3300 members participate in more than 4500 honor guard or color guard ceremonies. In addition to the more than 170 scholarship awards presented by National, a large number of detachments held various fundraisers in order to offer their own scholarship programs. Nationally, we presented more than 700 awards at Eagle Scout Honor Court ceremonies.

One detachment created a Backpack for Life program for needy veterans and hosted a Hike to Remember event to raise money for, and awareness of, veteran suicide prevention efforts. Other detachments have organized, or significantly participated in, relief efforts to aid communities affected by natural disasters; others have partnered with outside organizations to provide recliners to veterans with mobility issues.

While we all may not have unique programs or significant activities to report, we must remember that we are one team and our collective efforts do matter. Let's do a better job of tracking and reporting our contributions. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: seddiv.org

DIVISION REPORTS

Recruiting Strengthens the Fraternity



Mark Oldmixon

**NVC,
Southern
Division**



MARINES: One of the major objectives in the Marine Corps League is recruitment, whether through print, audio visual or social media platforms. For the past two years I have been in partnership with Clear Channel Outdoor advertising using digital billboards. This effort began more two years ago during a past Commandants Corner. At the end of the Zoom meeting, PNC Johnny Baker asked what additional avenues can be used to bring the League to Marine veterans, and the public's, eye. This caused me to think outside the C-rat box.

After contacting a few businesses, I saw a billboard on a Houston freeway and contacted Clear Channel about advertising. The cost of renting a billboard was not cheap. When I informed the president that the League is a non-profit organization, that changed the game. Clear Channel has been providing complimentary ad space,

and with this new contract, the League's message will be added to the Dallas Ft. Worth and San Antonio markets.

I am currently working with Clear Channel on the possibility of getting billboard space in all its major markets. The League ads are in a loop and are displayed for eight to ten seconds, the time it takes a driver to read a billboard while passing it at sixty mph.

The success I've had with Clear Channel has led me to I work with digital advertising companies that have small billboards in shopping malls and at Houston Hobby and Bush airports.

How does this apply to you? Reach out to advertisers in your community and ask if they would provide complimentary ad space for the League or for your detachment. Also, approach your local newspaper for ad space and ask your local TV station if it provides time for public service announcements (PSA) that could be used to promote the MCL. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: southernmcl.org

Continue Assisting Our Brothers and Sisters



Jim Loorya

**NVC,
Southwest
Division**



MARINES: I had to go to Santa Monica on business a few months ago and I thought I'd get together with my good friend PDD Dick Jennings. As we were walking, I noticed three older gentlemen standing apart from the vacationers, who were buying up everything that was offered by the street vendors. What made me notice these men was that all three were wearing Marine Corps t-shirts. I walked over to them, and I got a look of sheer hatred from one of them.

"What do you want," asked the one with the bad attitude.

"Just came over to say "semper fi" and see what outfit you Marines were in," I said.

The same one asked, "You don't believe we were Marines, do you?"

"I have no reason not to believe you," I said, as I began to feel a little edgy.

"We were all in the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines - 1st Marine Division in Chu Lai, Viet-

nam," he said.

I asked, "Did you guys see any action?"

"We were in Operation Starlite, August 1965," he stated.

As we kept talking, I found out they were homeless and living on the street. In good weather, they went down to the beach, wash in the ocean, and sleep on the sand. In wintertime, they went to a couple of motels on Ocean Boulevard, where management allowed them to shower. They slept in the doorway of the Santa Monica Public Library. I mentioned the Marine Corps League and the Veterans Administration and started to talk about the V.A.'s efforts to help veterans. I just got "V.A." out of my mouth when I was interrupted.

"Why should we go up there? They won't help us. We get our crummy checks from the V.A. every month for \$114. There are about 500 guys in this area that are homeless, and no one cares. I don't want to be put in a camp with fences and guards that watch everything you do. I don't want anything they have because there is always a catch. They suck you in and, wham, they got you."

I told them the V.A. has built over 500 units for homeless veterans. Dick and I said that we would go with them and make sure that they were treated fairly.

After a long conversation between the three Marines, they finally said, "It sounds good to us, and we'll try it. Meet us here at 0900, tomorrow."

The next day, Dick and I were at the same spot at 0845. We waited three hours, but nobody showed up.

"I guess they want to be free," I thought.

The reason I tell this story is because this is going on all over the country. Homeless veterans feel the country has deserted them. As veterans, we need to help these men and women get back into society. Immediately. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclswdivision.org

Resurrecting Tun Tavern

Bringing Back the Birthplace of the Marine Corps

By Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation

The land on which Tun Tavern stood in Philadelphia is now under I-95 as it follows the north-south path of the Delaware River. The street on which it once stood, Water Street, was a victim of urban renewal in the early 1960's when the interstate highway boom was in full swing. A concrete wall along the west-side of I-95 now hides the exposed cliff that would have been across Water Street from Tun Tavern. But Tun Tavern was gone by 1781 and a warehouse stood on the land by the 1800's through the 1960's.

Taverns were truly the "internet" of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries—the places that people went for the day's news, for business negotiations, to meet friends, to discuss the important topics of day, or to just relax. Taverns were simply the heart and soul of a town, where men from all walks of life could share a table and a conversation. Taverns were as ubiquitous as gas stations and convenience stores are today.

Today, the idea of rebuilding The Tun originated in 2015. While there had been earlier attempts to rebuild the tavern, none were like this. Past attempts did not include the other organizations that can trace their origins to The Tun. Once the decision was made to "rebuild", the other organizations were contacted, and a coalition was formed that eventually included all six organizations with a Tun Tavern heritage: Pennsylvania Freemasons, The Society of Saint George, Saint Andrews Society, and the Sons of Saint Patrick, Marines and even

the Navy. In 2021, the search for a location as close as possible to the original location commenced, to give The Tun's eventual patrons the experience of colonial Philadelphia. The land chosen is currently a parking lot and only about 250 yards from the original location.

From the beginning, the organizers insisted that a re-established Tun Tavern should be a functioning tavern, but operate as a non-profit with all operating profits donated to veteran charities, masonic charities, and scholarships. The "Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation" was formally created in February 2021 and registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with the stated mission "To rebuild and re-establish The Tun as it was, a functioning mariner's tavern reminiscent of colonial Philadelphia, serving period-influenced refreshments, food, and entertainment and offering an educational experience through exhibits, historical documents, and special events." The Foundation, headquartered in Philadelphia with representation on its board of directors from each of the six coalition organizations, is tasked with the rebuilding of The Tun, overseeing its management, and the eventual distribution of profits to veteran, masonic, and educational charities.

Since the creation of the Foundation, progress has been considerable. In October 2023, an agreement of sale was signed to purchase the required land. In November 2023, an architect, engineer, and construction manager were formally under contract. In December of 2023, the board of directors were ratified and adopted the



Foundation's formal bylaws. While the bulk of the historical research has been accomplished, ongoing research continues for clarification purposes. Initial environmental testing has also been completed and a zoning application is currently being readied for submission.

While much has been accomplished to ensure the completion of this goal, there is much remaining. In February 2024, we are set to close the land deal, and the design, zoning and permitting is on schedule to be completed by June 2024. The goal is to have the groundbreaking and construction begin in November 2024 with the grand opening to be held 10 November 2025. We are now in full fund-raising mode. There are multiple ways you can help see this dream become reality. Begin by visiting www.TheTun.org. You can help spread the word on this effort and you can follow us on social media to be kept updated on the dream. **Semper Fi!**

52 Years with the League

Meet Major Paul Hastings, USMC (Ret.)

By Mike Searson

As Marines, we are called to serve. We serve the country, our Corps and each other. Major Paul Hastings, USMC (ret.) exemplified that by serving as an enlisted Marine, earning a commission as an officer, and, after retiring, went on to continue serving others in the Marine Corps League and other veteran organizations for three-quarters of a century. He was an MCL commandant and wore many hats as a veteran as well as receiving distinguished awards like the Iron Mike Award and Chapel of the Four Chaplains Gold Medal.

He's helped establish veteran cemeteries and memorials in his native Pennsylvania and works with Marines from beginning to end, especially when they hand up their blues and put up their rifles in civilian life.

Semper Fi: What made you join the Marine Corps?

Paul Hastings: I had to follow my

brothers and they were all in before me. The first one was in the army, the second one was in the Marines, and the third one went to the navy. My friends in high school joined a Marine reserve unit in Harrisburg. So, we all decided to go down there and sign up. About 23 of us went down there and joined at the same time.

SF: Did you do basic at Paris Island?

PH: [Laughs] I never went to boot camp.

SF: Say again?

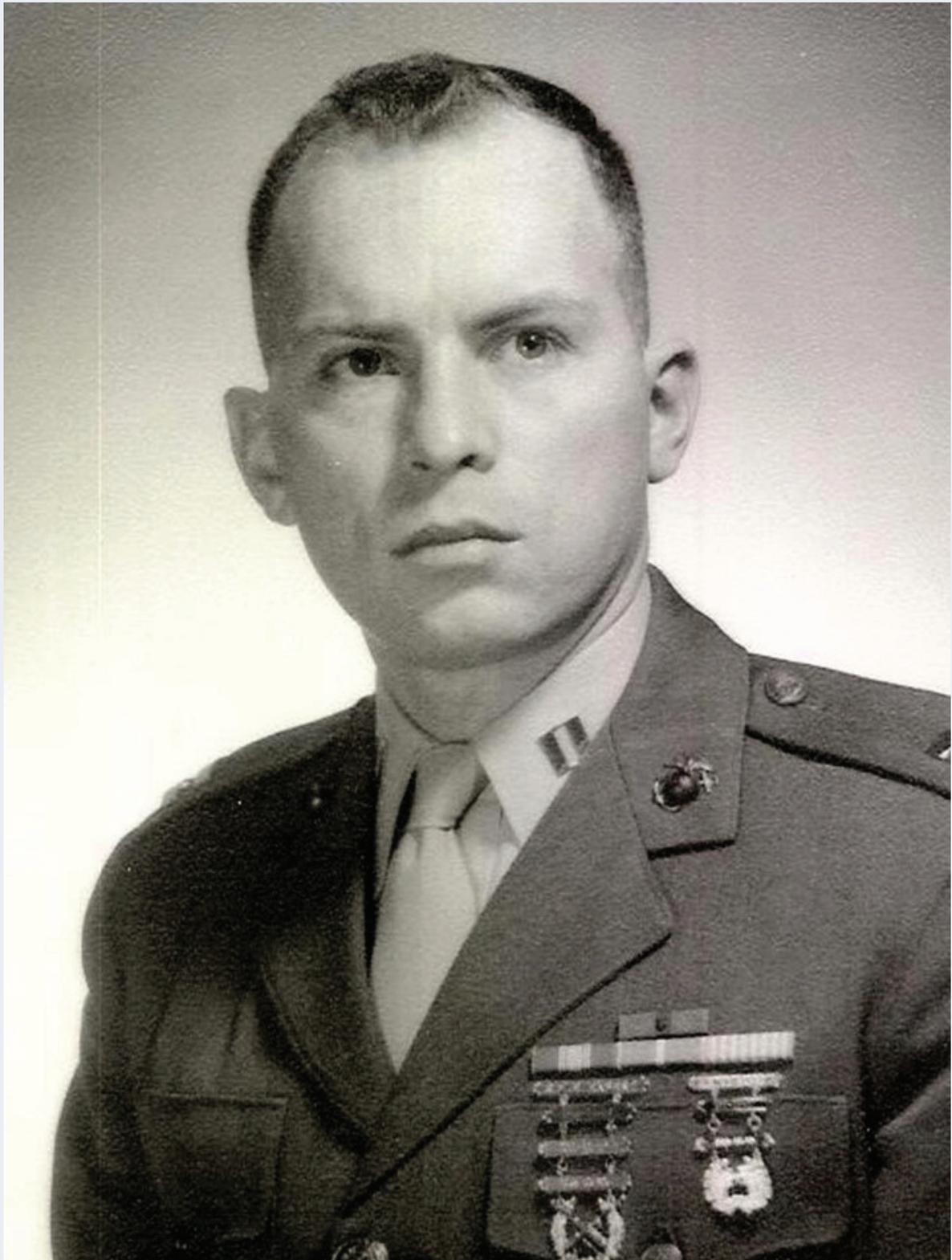
PH: I graduated from high school in June of 1950 and joined a Marine Reserve unit on March 1, 1950. So, three months later, I graduated from high school and in July of 1950, our unit went to summer training at Amphibious Warfare Training at Little Creek, Virginia. We completed training in August and our commanding officer said, "Don't unpack your bags." We were immediately ordered to active duty and boarded a train to Camp Lejeune. The

next day, we had a company formation for a reserve unit and the C.O. said, "Okay, all you Marines that didn't go to boot camp, step forward".

Well, I didn't go to boot camp, so I stepped forward. Then he says, "if you went to summer training, get back in line. So went back in the formation and they gave us orders to wherever we were going. I went to Quantico, but a lot of our guys went directly overseas. I was fortunate that I went to Quantico. That's why I didn't go to boot camp, but I learned things real quick on active duty.

SF: Which unit did they assign you to?

PH: The 22nd Marines. There were a lot of World War II guys still in there. Then they disbanded the 22nd Marines and I went over to the Schools Troops Unit for 18 months. I was released from active duty in 1952 and went back to Harrisburg to join the reformulated reserve unit. They had a billet open there





for a supply clerk. I applied for it, and they brought me on board right away to go back on active duty. I don't think I was out for a week. I was part of the I&I staff for the reserve unit in Harrisburg and was selected for commissioning in 1953.

SF: If you didn't attend boot camp, you surely went to ROTC or The Basic School to become an officer, correct?

PH: I went to The Basic School. I was in the 25th SBC [Special Basic Class] in 1953. I know there were 1,005 graduates and I was number 92 out of 1,005. So that's not bad up here. That put me in the top 10%.

SF: What was transitioning from SNCO to Officer like... because I know billeting and MOS tends to change drastically as an officer?

PH: I was a rocket gunner when I first was assigned to Quantico, the 3.5-inch rocket squad. After I applied for commission, the C.O., Captain Murray O. Rowe, called me and says, "you're going to be in charge of the company storeroom as my supply sergeant." So, I took charge of the storeroom and that gave me some background in 3011 duties. I was promoted to staff sergeant in June, 1952 and a year later, I made tech sergeant in June, 53. They put my butter bar on and sent me to The Basic School.

I went from there over to Pendleton and over to Japan in Easy 2/3. That's Echo 2/3 now. But then, it was Easy company, Second Battalion, Third Marines. It was in Camp Fuji, Japan. I started out there as an executive officer and then later as C.O. of Easy 2/3.

SF: What was your favorite duty station?

PH: Every duty station was a challenge. My most challenging and most diversified was when I was the assistant chief of military police at Camp Lejeune for the base. As an additional duty, I was a shore patrol officer. I had three cities that I was responsible for: Kingston, Jacksonville, and Wilmington. So, I would make my rounds of those three cities and find out if there

were any Marines that had problems and we would get them back to the base in time for their next morning's muster. That was the most enjoyable tour I had in the Marine Corps, actually.

SF: What got you involved with the Marine Corps League?

PH: Well, I had some back and leg problems and they decided that since I couldn't pass the PFT at the time that they discharged me medically. I was permanently disabled after 22 years of service, and I joined a number of veteran groups with the Marine Corps League being the first one, followed by the American Legion, VFW, DAV, and the Retired Officer Association. But the Marine Corps League was my main focus. So, I've got over 50 years in the Marine Corps League as of the last year. It'll be 52 years next month.

SF: You were a commandant in the League, correct?

PH: I went up through the ranks of the Marine Corps League. I was the local detachment commandant and got active at the state level, and in 1977 I became the state senior vice commandant. The following year I became commandant of the Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League, and at the same time I was elected as a national senior vice commandant of the Marine Corps League in 1978.

We had 13,800 members and needed to get those numbers up. As soon as I took office, we started an expensive outreach and marketing program for two years and increased our membership from less than 14,000 to over 21,000. Then we held our first Marine Corps League Exposition during my second term in 1981.

SF: That sounds like a lot of fun and a lot of hard work.

PH: It's become a major fundraiser, and the Marine Corps loves it. We hosted the first one in Tucson Arizona. We even had a Harrier land in the hotel parking lot.

Around that time, General Roller Churchill made me the executive director of the U.S. Marines Youth Foun-

ation. In the last few years because of COVID, it was shut down for about a year or two. But it's up and running again: from elementary school to high school. We provide awards to kids that participate and meet the basic requirements for the award.

SF: So, is that really targeting kids thinking about the Marine Corps or is that open to everyone?

PH: No, it's open to all kids, but the Marine Corps JROTC program uses our fitness program for competition. The high school participation has dropped off since COVID, but we're going to get back up and it's getting reorganized at the present time. It's a good program for elementary schools because the teachers are always looking for solid activities for their students.

SF: Between the Marines you served with, the Youth League, and Marine Corps League, you've been taking care of Marines from before they go in, while they were in, and after they leave service. You cover the entire lifecycle.

PH: Oh, absolutely. We especially take care of them when they come out. We have the Marine Corps League Foundation, a national organization that supports scholarships for veterans' children and takes care of any Marines or the families that are in need.

SF: What was one of your proudest moments as a veteran?

PH: I was first appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania to serve on the state veteran's commission in 1984. I was elected as a chairman in 91 and I served 19 years as a chairman, being re-elected every year by the commanders of the veteran service organizations that are on that commission.

In 1991 we had the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the governor was sick and could not attend. I got a call to go to Hawaii and represent the governor of Pennsylvania for the 50th anniversary. I had to give a speech about the USS Pennsylvania battleship that was damaged in the attack in '41. **Semper Fi!**



Marine Corps League 17+

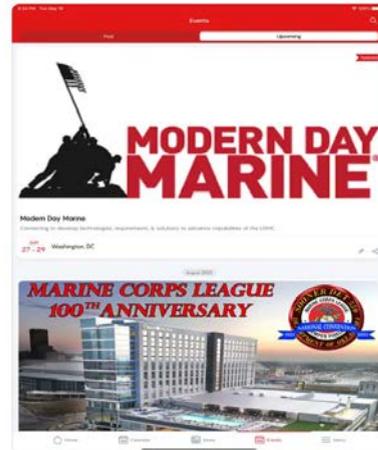
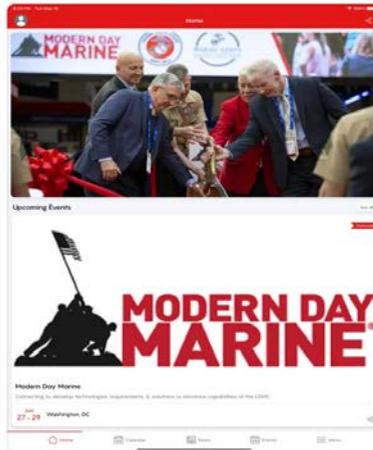
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MCL Mobile App

The Marine Corps League now has a mobile app in the Apple Store and Google Play Store. The app is free for users.

This exciting advancement is long-overdue, and we are so happy to finally launch. We have been working to continuously improve and enhance the app. We hope you find it interesting and helpful. The news feed is coming directly from the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Marine Corps. This avoids using news feeds and getting information directly from the sources we need.

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Dignitaries and Leaders Honor Veterans during Veterans Day 2023

The President of the United States, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Services Organizations, and organizations that serve and support veterans honor United States veterans at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on November 11 each year. The Veterans Day National Committee was established by President Eisenhower in a 1954 proclamation to oversee national planning and coordination of the Veterans Day observance. He named the administrator of Veterans' Affairs, Harvey V. Higley, as chairman of the committee and called upon the heads of all departments and agencies of the executive branch to assist the committee in every way possible.

Administrator Higley called together leaders of veterans' groups and asked them to serve on the committee. The original committee consisted of associate chairmen from the following organizations: The American Legion, American Veterans of World War II and Korea (AMVETS), Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League, United Spanish War Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Tradition continues... lest we forget. **Semper Fi!**

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



The Melvin M. Smith Detachment 586, Spokane, WA, Honor Guard.



Percy John Fulton Detachment 1075, Winston-Salem, NC celebrates the end of the 2023 Toys For Tots campaign. Once again, it was a record year for the number of toys donated and number of needy children impacted. The members of Detachment 1075 thanks all for the support given to us in the past. Standby because the 2024 Mud Run is happening on June 1!



General A.A. Vandegrift Detachment 68, West Palm Beach, FL during the Marine Corps birthday celebration at the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs facility with 100-year-old Marine veteran Capt. Steele. We participated in a cake cutting ceremony, Toys for Tots with 4th ANGLICO, new E/G/A presentation to 4th ANGLICO, and Coffee with a Veteran.

CORRECTION: In the Winter issue of Semper Fi Magazine Roll Call, a member submitted a photo and caption that included the words, "Congressional Medal of Honor." Semper Fi Magazine acknowledges that this should read "Medal of Honor."

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Flagler County Detachment 876, Palm Coast, FL received its new charter renaming the detachment as the 1st Sgt. Burdett W. Loucks, Jr. Detachment 876. Presenting the charter to Detachment Commandant Frank Arce is Department of Florida Commandant Mike Armstrong. In the back is Department SVC John Gionet. In the foreground is Detachment SVC Garrett Decker. The detachment will be celebrating its 30th anniversary on March 11, 2024.

SAME TEAM NEW MISSION



Preserve Traditions • Young Marines
 Veteran Support • Marine For Life • Toys for Tots
 Support for the transition from Active Duty to Civilian

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



SAME TEAM, NEW MISSION. Detachment Adjutant Jack Skelding and Sergeant at Arms Hank Wolons of the Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment 1226, Riverview, FL presented newly retired Sgt. Maj. Lewis W. Layton, III with his MCL cover at his retirement party on December 1, 2023.



Prairie Land Leathernecks Detachment 1385, Litchfield, IL recently presented Mrs. Pat Hollo of Litchfield, Illinois with two awards. Detachment Commandant Chris Gutierrez and Adjutant Dave Strowmatt presented Mrs. Hollo with an honorary membership to their detachment and honorary commandant along with a certificate of appreciation for helping organize the Marine Corps birthday party for more than 20 years by sending out handwritten invitations and coordinating all raffles for the birthday party. Pat was married to Marine Oliver Hollo and had three sons that joined the Marine Corps; Charles (Bud), Brian, and Eric, who retired as a master sergeant. Congratulations, Honorary Commandant Pat Hollo! Picture is Adjutant Dave Strowmatt reading the Certificates to Mrs. Pat Hollo.

Join Roll Call!

ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ROLL CALL ENTRIES

SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS

You may submit photos with short captions in email to semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com. Photos must not be more than 20MB in size.

Captions—Photo captions should briefly describe the event and list persons present in the photo(s) along with detachment number and location. Captions should be no longer than 60 words. Please do not include information about persons not present in the photo(s).

Photos—We cannot use photos that are inserted into an email, PDF or MS Word document. Please make sure each photo is a separate file in the highest resolution possible (specific criteria are in the instructions on the upload site).

Permission – For photos of youth under age 18, please visit the MCL Library for the "Photo Permission Form" under Scouting for the Photo Release Form.

Sorry—There are no guarantees of publication. The most common reasons for Roll Call rejection are: 1) the photo was blurry or too small in size, and 2) the uniforms in the photo did not meet regulations.

If you have any questions about uniform regulations, please contact Craig Reeling of the Uniform Committee at the National website: www.mclnational.org.

NOTICE TO MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENTS!

Please consider taking a group photo of your detachment's membership. Department and division conferences are another way to

capture some memories. We would love to include your photos in the *Semper Fi* magazine.

BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA

Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam

Author Mark Bowden provides a riveting account of the Tet Offensive in January 1968 when the North Vietnamese launched attacks across South Vietnam. In typical fashion, the Marines went into the fight against insurmountable odds. The author provides storylines with detailed accounts from a variety of viewpoints. The author noted director Stanley Kubrik's film, *Full Metal Jacket*, used the urban combat setting of Hue for the movie. The book is clearly written and easy to read.

Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam

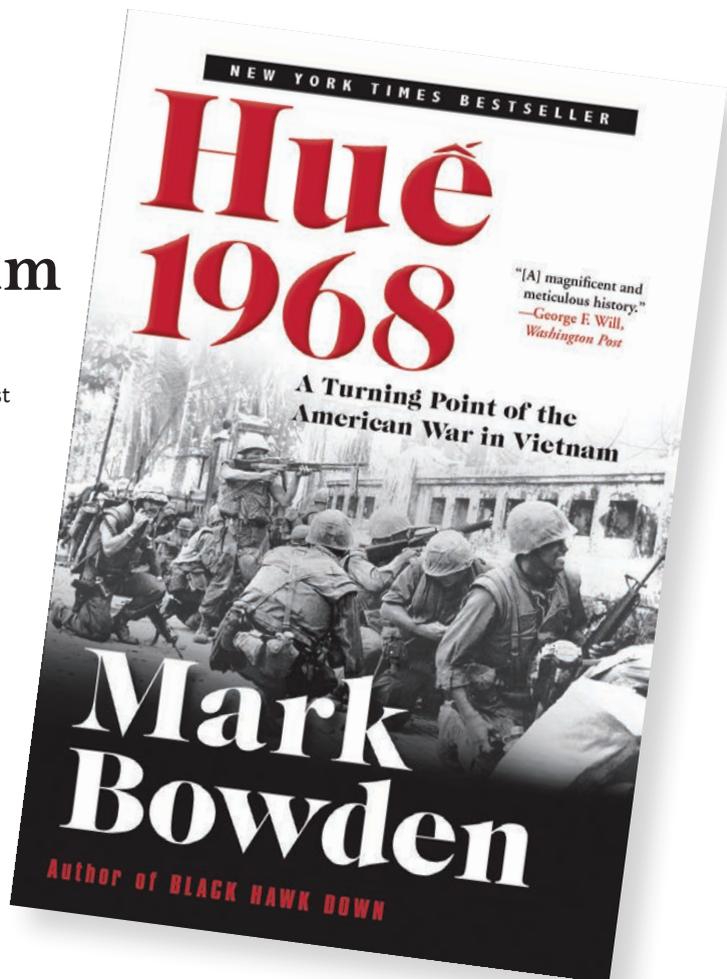
Author: Mark Bowden

Pages: 608

Publisher: Atlantic Monthly Press

Language: English

ISBN: 978-0802127006



Blue Gray Black:

My Service to Country

Marine Corps League Member Don Cesare's new work brings an incredible story of his life. With service in the Marine Corps, CIA, and FBI, he experienced a variety of events that would immortalize "Carpe Diem." There were many instances of unique timing that brought Cesare in contact with notable points in history. It is brilliant that he captured the memories in writing. The book is well written, easy to read, and flows very well. Cesare passed away in 2023 but has provided the readers with a great accounting of some amazing moments in his life. Fair winds and following seas, Don. We have the watch.

Blue Gray Black: My Service to Country

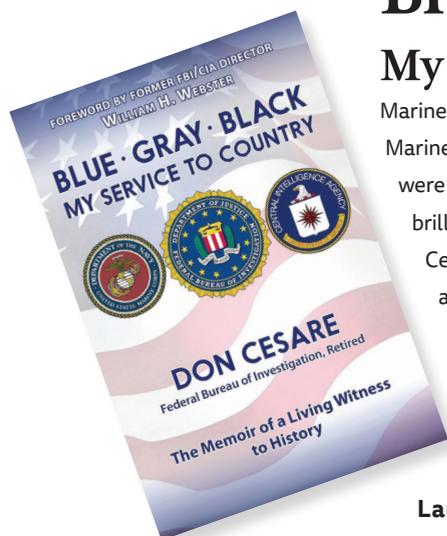
Author: Don Cesare

Pages: 202

Publisher: Rhyolite Press LLC

Language: English

ISBN: 978-1943829026



History Bite

It was November 10th and 11th, 1925. The Marine Corps League met for its third convention in Philadelphia in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Marine Corps. The weather was 55 degrees but got down to 31 at night. The convention was held at Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, in Philadelphia. National Adjutant Maj. J.C. Fegan, USMC, recorded the minutes. Maj. Gen. John Lejeune, USMC, was national commandant of the Marine Corps League and called the convention to order at 10:00 a.m. on November 10th and at 11 a.m. on November 11th.

The adjutant recorded this resolution during the course of the convention: "A resolution was presented by a delegate of the Washington detachment that the cap sold by V.V. Straub, Washington, D.C., be adopted as part of the official uniform of the Marine Corps League; furthermore, Marine Corps device be used on the cap on the left hand (front) side. Motion seconded and carried." **Semper Fi!**



Headquarters Building, Marine Barracks, Philadelphia Navy Yard 1925. (Photo: Joseph B. Knotts Collection (COLL/372))

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION DURING THAT TIME:

Detachments in 1924: 21

Membership in 1924: 787

Detachments in 1925: 47

Membership in 1925: 1,513

Detachments were in 28 states.

The Leatherneck: The Marine Corps League News published this information on November 25, 1925.



David S. Jonas, Partner
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Rose Garden Marines

(stationed at Nam Phong, Thailand
1972-1973) 23-27 June 2024, at Inn at
Opryland, Nashville, TN. Contact: Harold
(845) 337-6509, hgd1025@aol.com.

Marine Corps Engineer Association (MCEA)

26-28 September 2024, at North Shore
Hotel, 201 75th Ave. North, Myrtle Beach,
SC 29572. Contact: Lt. Col. George Carlson
USMC (Ret.) (931) 307-9094, treasurer@
marcorengasn.org or visit the MCEA
website, www.marcorengasn.org.

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 Black Waterproof Canvas Rain Cover for MCL Covers
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NEW Cem- Cemetery Flag USA
 17 x 12-inch United States Cemetery Flag
 \$3.00



RC- Rain Cover
 Clear Plastic Rain Cover for MCL Covers
 \$5.50



G42- Flag USMC 3 x 5-foot
 3 x 5-foot Poly/Cotton Flag, Marine Corps, One-sided, with Grommets
 \$15.00



WA15c- Patch - USMC Red 4-inch
 4-inch Red Embroidered Patch "UNITED STATES, MARINE CORPS"
 \$5.00



WA15b- Patch - USMC Blue 4-inch
 4-inch Blue Embroidered Patch "UNITED STATES, MARINE CORPS"
 \$5.00



WA15a- Patch - USMC Black 4-inch
 4-inch Black Embroidered Patch "UNITED STATES, MARINE CORPS"
 \$5.00



CUP1- Travel Mug
 MCL Travel Mug
 \$5.00

THE SEMPER FI STORE

ORDER FORM

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Ste 115 • Stafford, VA 22554 • (703) 207-9588

Billing Address

Shipping Address

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Code#	Quantity	Item Description	Size	Price Each	Total Cost

HANDLING & POSTAGE	
AMOUNT OF ORDER.....	CHARGE
UNDER \$10.....	\$7.99
\$10.01-\$25.00.....	\$8.99
\$25.01-\$35.00.....	\$10.99
\$35.01-\$50.00.....	\$11.99
\$50.01-\$65.00.....	\$12.99
\$65.01-\$85.00.....	\$13.99
\$85.01-\$100.00.....	\$14.99
\$100.01-\$200.00.....	\$16.99
\$200.01 AND UP.....	\$18.99
<p>STANDARD SHIPPING: Shipping and handling charges for orders with Standard Shipping are calculated using the SUBTOTAL of the order. Some very heavy or oversized items may have a shipping surcharge which will be reflected in the item description.</p>	

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

WE GLADLY ACCEPT

- VISA MASTERCARD
 DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

NAME _____
AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____ CVV NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

SUBTOTAL _____

6.0% VA SALES TAX
VIRGINIA RESIDENTS ONLY

HANDLING & POSTAGE _____

TOTAL _____

**Internal MCL
Use Only**

DATE _____

INITIAL _____

2025 BATTLEFIELD TOURS RAFFLE

THE MCL GEARS UP FOR THIS YEAR'S DRAWING!

In 2025, the Marine Corps League and Military Historical Tours (miltours.com) will offer the battlefield tour for a Marine Corps League Member as the winner of the League's Tour raffle. The winner will receive a trip for two.

Tickets: Marine Corps League 2025 Battlefield Tour Raffle.

One Grand Prize: Trip for Two Free Tour.

These trips span the globe and military history. See the list below for a complete lineup.

Everyone who enters lends their support to League programs including Marines Helping Marines, Legislative Programs, Toys for Tots and more.

Raffle tickets cost \$5 per single entry or five tickets for just \$20! That's right, the more you buy, the more you save and the more you help the League. The drawing will be held at our annual Mid-Winter Conference Banquet in 2025.

You do not need to be present to win. Winners will be notified within 3 days of drawing if they are not present, and arrangements will be made with Military Historical Tours for selection of their tour prize.

Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990. You may buy as many tickets as you like. Please feel free to make additional copies of these raffle tickets if you wish to purchase additional chances!

2024 Tours

25 Mar–1 Apr

Victory in the Pacific & IJAA's 79th Anniversary of Iwo Jima

3–13 Apr

Philippines – WWII in the Pacific Islands

13–26 Apr

Marine Corps League Tour of Vietnam
"Saigon to the DMZ"

18–27 Apr

Turkey WWI Gallipoli Campaign

31 May–13 Jun

80th Anniversary of D-Day & Battle of the Bulge & Paris

30 Jul–9 Aug

Guadalcanal 92nd Op Watchtower

6–19 Aug

"Vietnam Delta to the DMZ"

6–18 Aug

55th Anniversary of I-Corps Vietnam Battlefields

Continues Next Page

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

2025 BATTLEFIELD

TOUR RAFFLE

One Grand Prize: Trip for Two Free Tour to anywhere MCL's tour partner (Military Historical Tours) travels.

\$5 per entry or

5 entries for \$20

You need not be present to win. Drawing will occur at the 2025 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Mail completed tickets and a check for the full amount to: Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990.

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your check made payable to:

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

You need not be present to win. Winner
will be notified within three days of
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will be made for coordination with Military
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Name	
Address	
City	
State	Zip Code
Phone	
Email	

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Address	
City	
State	Zip Code
Phone	
Email	

Continued From Previous Page

6-19 Aug

"Body & Soul" U.S. Navy Medical & Clergy in the
Vietnam War

12-20 Aug

80th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon – South of
France

23 Aug-5 Sep

"D-Day to the Bulge" Normandy Invasion & Battle
of the Bulge

6-19 Sept

Rise & Fall of the Third Reich: Munich-Berlin-
Nuremberg-Dresden-Prague

18-27 Sep

Battlefields of France WWI, WWII, Napoleonic &
Franco-Prussian War

29 Sep-6 Oct

WWII Concentration Camps & the Holocaust

29 Sep-10 Oct

All England Tour "God Save the King" & 8th Air
Force – WWII

6-16 Oct

80th Commemoration Operation Market Garden "A
Bridge Too Far"

6-17 Oct

Ireland – Dublin, Belfast & Derry

TBD Oct

Korean War & Cold War Service Vets Return

12-25 Oct

U.S. Military & Civilian Women in Vietnam

18-25 Oct

Belgium Battlefields – Waterloo – WWI – Dunkirk

20-27 Oct

Birth of American Democracy "Boston – Yorktown"

26 Oct-5 Nov

Italy Tuscan & Umbrian Countryside Two-Day Pre-
tour Rome: Florence-Siena –Assisi-Spoleto-Pienza

2-13 Dec

Vietnam Delta to DMZ Post Tour: 6-11 Dec Laos &
Cambodia

3-9 Dec

Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites



NATIONAL CONVENTION – RANCHO MIRAGE, CA

AUGUST 12th - 16th, 2024

ORDER FORM FOR ADVERTISING IN THE NATIONAL PROGRAM BOOK

The 2024 Marine Corps League National Convention Program Book will be published by the National Headquarters. Your support for this publication will not only help to commemorate this National Convention but also help support the Marine Corps League's many worthwhile programs.

SIZE AND AD COSTS

Full Page Ad:	\$200	\$ _____
Half Page Ad:	\$150	\$ _____
Quarter Page Ad:	\$100	\$ _____
Business Card Ad:	\$50	\$ _____
Patron Ad Per Name:	\$25	\$ _____

Checks should be made payable to "Marine Corps League" and please send a high-definition copy of your ad via email no later than 7/1/24. You may email this form and high definition copy of ad to: LWilliamson@MCLeague.org.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____, Phone: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

To use a credit card, submit your ad electronically via the Library's "Convention" tab.

Every Division, Department, Auxiliary Unit, Kennel, Pack, and Pound are encouraged to place an ad in support of the 2024 National Convention. We appreciate your continued support.

Marine Corps League National Headquarters, Attn: Convention Ad Book,
P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990



This will certify that

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This card is good for a period of sixty days from

Amount

Sponsor's Signature



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Full Name _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email Address _____
Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ____/____/____ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation ____/____/____
Type of Application - New () Membership Type - Regular () Associate () Dual ()

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? () YES () NO If YES is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

() I hereby apply for membership in the _____ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$ _____ for one year's membership.*

-OR-

() I hereby apply for membership in the Marine Corps League as a Member-at-Large (MAL), and enclose \$30 for one year's membership.*

*Includes free subscription to *Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League*

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy FMF Sailor who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) or the Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service." ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received.) General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

(Sponsor where applicable)

Applicant's Signature (see reverse side)

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Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment. Applicants for MAL Membership, remit this form with check or money order in the amount of \$30 to: Marine Corps League, National Headquarters P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990.



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OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

"I, _____, In the Presence of Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed Officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will never bring discredit upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps League, so help me God."

Signature _____

Incorporated by an act of Congress in 1937, the Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines who proudly wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor of the Corps.



OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

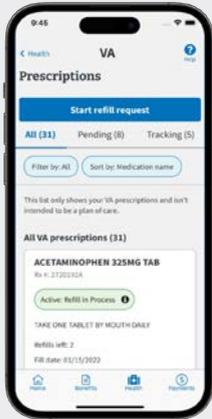
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DOWNLOAD THE VA HEALTH AND BENEFITS MOBILE APP



MEDICATION REFILLS



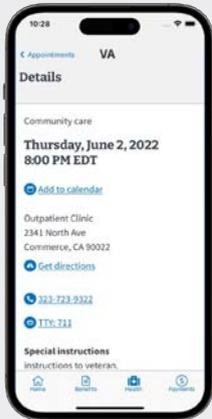
Request new medication refills, ask your provider about a specific medication, and track prescription delivery.



DISABILITY LETTERS



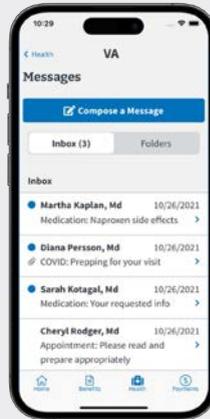
Access and download your VA benefit summary letter and other benefit documents.



VA APPOINTMENTS



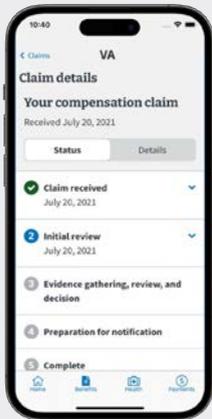
Check or cancel your VA health appointments. Easily add existing appointments to your calendar.



SECURE MESSAGING



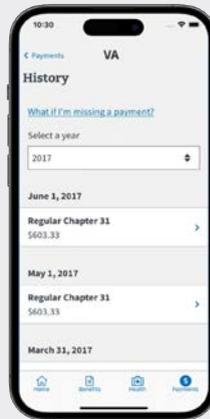
Secure messaging allows Veterans to communicate with their health care team.



CLAIMS AND APPEALS STATUS



Look at current and past claims and appeals details



REVIEW PAYMENT HISTORY FROM VA



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Download the VA Health and Benefits Mobile App for information and services at your fingertips!

mobile.va.gov/



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MODERN DAY MARINE®



APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2025

**WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION
CENTER, WASHINGTON D.C.**



moderndaymarine.com

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