

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Vol. 80 No. 4 • FALL 2024

SEMPER PARATI

The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



**Same Team,
New Mission**

BLACK DIAMOND SEMPER FI

Customized Men's Ring

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CUSTOMIZE with
your INITIALS
engraved above
the insignia
of your choice



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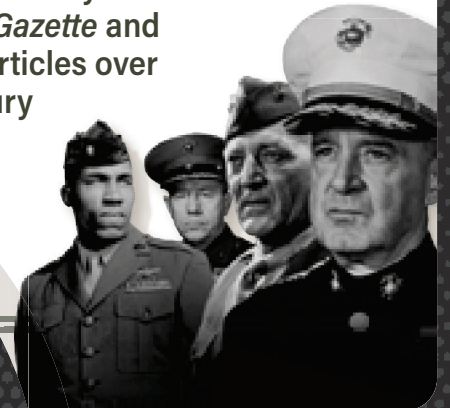
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The Magazine of the Marine Corps League



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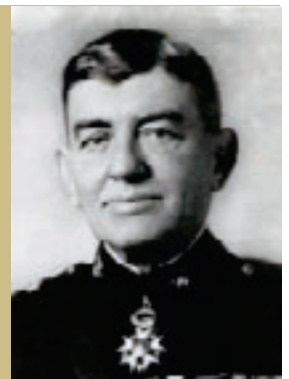
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Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune, the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States.



NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S LETTER

TJ MORGAN

Two Years of Recruiting Opportunities



MARINES: I stand here today, humbled, and appreciative of your support over the last 10 years. It's been a long journey and one I could not have done alone. There are so many to thank, but I will save that for a public forum.

First, let's talk about membership. We are in decline. Plain and simple. We have an excellent opportunity to increase membership and retain members simply because we are celebrating our 250th birthday. Regarding recruiting efforts, I've asked for, and by vote of the membership at the

National Convention, an investment in our future to the tune of \$50k. That money is to be used in hiring an outside marketer and to use social media influencers to promote our brand and invite Marines and others to join our ranks. This is huge. We've never hired anyone to do what we can do ourselves. But, at this point, we're investing in what will keep us sustained as a VSO.

Retention is our biggest problem. Looking at what we do to retain our members is not enough. We must do better. I am challenging you to get our annual membership payees into the database with a good email address. We have the capacity to send each member of the MCL a reminder to pay their dues. We also have the capacity to send out polling data to capture things like how many funerals were conducted, how many local community hours were served? Right now, we only have valid email addresses for about 25% of our membership. We will work on annuals first, followed by our PLM members, next.

Second is an issue you'll hear me shout from the rooftops. All politics aside, I'm sure most would agree we have lost our history and values as a country. You can help fix that by starting a Young Marines unit in your detachment. I have been a big supporter of the YM program, and I have also been to an adult leadership conference and been asked to sit in on the selection process of the YM of the year. The young adults I saw in that board room left me speechless. Mentoring these young people and spending time with them is an extremely rewarding venture. I promise, you will not be disappointed in your efforts. Now is the time to make a generational change in our country and it starts with **you!**

Thank you, again, for the grand opportunity to lead you in the next year, celebrating our 250th birthday! **Semper Fi!**



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THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

The Marine Corps League Inc. is a Congressionally chartered, non-profit organization.

National Commandant: T.J. Morgan

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Executive Editor

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Semper Fi is published quarterly for the

Marine Corps League by:

Chipotle Publishing, LLC

Ph: (702) 565-0746 • www.chipotlepublishing.com

Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League™

(USPS712050, ISSN 1933-2327), copyright ©2024 by the Marine Corps League, is published quarterly (4 times per year) in January, April, July and October by Chipotle Publishing, 631 N. Stephanie Street - Box 282, Henderson, NV 89014 for the Marine Corps League. Marine Corps League Business Office: MCL National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990. Telephone: (703) 207-9588. Website: www.mclnational.org. Email: COO@MCLLeague.org

Subscriptions: Members' national dues include a free subscription to **Semper Fi**. For non-members, single-copy price is \$10; yearly subscription is \$30. Call (703) 207-9588 for any issues related to Marine Corps League membership, **Semper Fi** subscriptions or changes of address.

Editorial Contributions: Letters, manuscripts, stories, materials or photographs are welcomed but cannot be returned unless sender provides SASE. **Semper Fi, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League™** will not be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photos and drawings. Submission of articles and letters implies the right to edit and publish all or in part. Feature articles must be approved before submission. High-resolution digital photos preferred. For complete editorial and photo guidelines, contact Chipotle Publishing, LLC at semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com or (702) 565-0746.

Postmaster: Send address changes to 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA 22554.

Periodicals postage paid at Henderson, NV and additional mailing offices. Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and are not to be construed as those of the publisher nor as the official views of the Marine Corps League, the United States Marine Corps, the U.S. Department of Defense or any of its agencies, unless otherwise made manifest by writers or spokespersons acting on behalf of the foregoing. Advertising of products and services herein does not imply endorsement or approval by the Marine Corps League. No portion of the magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without written consent.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO

BOB BORKA

Making an Impact and Providing Value to Marines



MARINES: I recently spent time going through the pages of our magazines going back as far as the 1920's. It really is amazing to see the growth and changes to our League. One consistent message I observed was the call to have younger members join. This is certainly not a new challenge for veteran's organizations. Our national board of trustees is thinking of new ways to reach Marines and FMF Sailors and companies like Clear Channel have been amazing to work with. I am hopeful that

departments around the U.S. are reaching out to Clear Channel to see if they can get free ad space (because we are a non-profit organization). According to information gathered by Tom Mueller, there are about 1.8 million Marine Corps veterans in our communities, plus those on active duty and in the reserves. Only about 2.2% of those Marines are members.

Speaking of active duty and reserve Marines and FMF Sailors, there is a misnomer that the MCL is for veterans only. A sergeant major expressed to me that he looked forward to being eligible to join once he retired. This is inaccurate because those Marines and FMF Sailors on active duty, reserve, retired, and veteran status are eligible for membership.

Another way to make an impact on our veterans is through veteran service officers. We have some dedicated VSOs in Ohio making a positive impact with over \$29.4m in recovered in benefits in FY24. They handled 737 claims and 571 appeals last fiscal year. Really, remarkable work on their part. Imagine if we can build on that success across the United States. We become a tangible "value" to veterans and their families. This impact would likely also have an impact on our MCL's membership numbers. **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF EVENTS

ROB BROOKS, USMC (RET).

Continuing Service and Growing the Tribe



MARINES: It's an honor to serve as the new MCL national director of events. I have some big shoes to fill as Tom Mueller moves on to his next adventure, but I'm confident I can live up to his reputation.

Having recently retired from active service, I remember the fear of leaving what I had known my entire adult life and trying to figure out what I was going to do next. After 22 years serving as a musician and drum major for the

Continued Next Page



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Alfred M. Gray
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EVENTS

From Previous Page

Marine Corps, I wasn't ready to stop. I had more left to give. In the big-picture world of the Corps, I was replaceable; the big green machine would keep moving forward without me. But, how was I going to survive without being around my Marines?

Though I had been exposed to the Marine Corps Association by supporting their ceremonial events during my career, I didn't know what they did (or could do) for Marines, and I had no real knowledge of the MCL until this opportunity presented itself. I'd been stationed at multiple commands around the world, yet no one had mentioned the League. There were no classes, no informational pamphlets... nothing. As I take on this new role and I read our history and mission statement and become more knowledgeable of WHY the League exists and WHAT it does for Marines, I see the answers to the questions that stirred the fear and anxiety of

life after the Corps.

As the new director of events, my goal is to provide the League with a standard operating procedure of ceremonial events (primarily support requests) which hold close to MCO 5060.20, our Drill and Ceremonies manual. This baseline SOP will be created with regard to Marine Corps Order and what fits the needs of YOUR events so that WE keep history, tradition, and camaraderie blazing forward. I will hold monthly Zoom conferences for department and division staff to discuss local and national events while also using our mobile app to support important events. I look forward to bringing a fresh and younger perspective to determine fun and memorable things to do at our National Midwinter conference, and to bring the League closer to the active ranks, as we have been in the past. Planning for Modern Day Marine is already underway, and after determining what right looks like from last year, we're continuing to evaluate opportunities. I'm excited to continue serving Marines, FMF Sailors, and our Associate Members and add to the legacy we're a part of. Once a Marine, always a Marine. . **Semper Fi!**

NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

What is "Public Relations?"

MARINES: The definition of "public relations" is (in part) the professional maintenance of a favorable public image by a company or other organization. With this definition guiding our committee, we're always looking for your help as members. Sharing a story, image, or positive message on social media, with a local news station or newspaper, and similar, goes a long way in recruiting new members. Retaining new members can be challenging, but that too is all about positivity. Sharing a smile goes a long way. Share images and stories of not only what you do as a member, but why you do it. This will encourage your members to also want to be a part of all the happenings in your detachment and your community.

As many of you know, the MCL is working on a huge marketing project. The National Public Relations Committee (NPRC) has been asked to be a vital part of this process. This will include sharing content and influencer

videos to social media platforms.

In other news, we are continuing our 'MCL Scuttlebutt' zoom sessions each month. They are always scheduled for the second

Tuesday at 1900 eastern time. If you're not receiving the information, please reach out to your chain of command or contact the NPRC chairperson for the details. All contact information can be found in the MCL member library, National roster. These sessions are not held in February or August.

Always know that the NPRC (as well as many other National committees) is dedicated to helping you all succeed. Never be reluctant to reach out to any committee for advice and council, and at the same time, share with them what's working so they

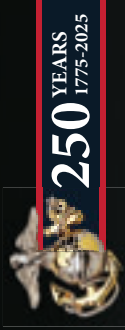
can help spread your great ideas.

"Semper Fidelis" is not just something we say, it's how we have dedicated our lives as Marines ~ "Always Faithful". **Semper Fi!**



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NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MCL AUXILIARY

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Greetings from the Marine Corps League Auxiliary



AUXILIARY AND LEAGUE MEMBERS:

It's my honor and privilege to serve as the 2024-2025 national president and follow in the footsteps of many amazing women who have held this position. Thank you to Jr. Past President Linda Chamberlain who led us for the past two years with professionalism and confidence. If you were unable to join us at the National Convention in Rancho Mirage, I can tell you that after the business was done, we had a particularly exciting time having our hair and makeup done – not just auxiliary members were part of the group, but other women in attendance at the convention also.

Now, as we begin to have a different sort of fun in the fall, many of us will experience crisp and cold temperatures plus ever-changing skies. Through our changing season, what will not change, however, is our commitment to each other, as well as

to the Marine Corps, all veterans, and our communities. During the next few months, we will have quite a few opportunities to honor all veterans,

such as on Veterans Day and raising a glass to toast the birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Further, we may also take this time to be thankful for our families and bond together during gatherings. As an auxiliary or MCL member, we have a family to enjoy camaraderie with. I hope you will be able to put a face to the names of these auxiliary family members when you meet them in

your division, department, unit, or detachment.
Semper Fi!

Please look on our website or in the newsletter for changes to the National Staff and Committee Chairpersons



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13. Publication Title Semper Fi - The Magazine of the Marine Corps League		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 07/11/2024	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		54,000	53,574
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	53,690	53,266
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	0	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4))		53,690	53,266
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	549	549
	(2) Free or Nominal In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d. (1), (2), (3) and (4))		549	549
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c. and 15e.)		54,239	53,815
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		90	90
h. Total (Sum of 15f. and g.)		54,329	53,905
i. Percent Paid (15c. Divided by 15f. Times 100)		98.99%	98.98%
* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.			
16. Electronic copy Circulation If present, check box			
a. Paid Electronic Copies			
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c.) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		53,690	53,266
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f.) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		54,239	53,815
d. Percentage Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies (16b divided by 16c x 100)		98.99%	98.98%
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Woof, Woof! Dogs of the Order



MARINES: I would like to thank all the Dogs for their support and confidence in electing me as the 61st Chief Devil Dog. There will be some changes made in the future. I will ask for advice from the elected BOT's. Then a decision will be made, right, wrong, or indifferent. If mistakes are made, we will learn from them and take corrective actions.

The Order's strength is 4,436 Dogs which is 1% of the MCL's membership. I challenge every Dog to recruit one new member to The Order.

We raised a staggering 105,000 Big Bones for the Children's Hospital Fund and 4,000 Big Bones for Operation Chow Hound. By increasing our membership these numbers will only grow. We can, and will, make a difference.

The Order has just unveiled a new front-end database that will make keeping up with our numbers easier and more accurate. I would personally like to thank PDD Chris Soldano & PDD Jim Breen for developing this database. The Senior Vice PDD Joe Deangelo will be reaching out to Pound Keepers and Pack Leaders about this. There is also a class on the website.

The Orders website is a valuable tool to access information. There are raffles that are available to **all!** items change throughout the year so check back often. If you are a Dog and are not getting the Woof-O-Gram, **please** go to the website and register your email address to ensure you're getting the latest Barks. The address is: www.militaryorderofthedevil dogs.org.

At the convention in Palm Springs, we had to change the Past Chief's Thursday Luncheon to a Dinner and Auction on Wednesday night because of the trip to 29 Palms. It turned out to be a great event. No one felt rushed and there was plenty of food for 15 Big Bones, compared to meals in the past that were crammed into an hour (squeezed between the Morning and Afternoon MCL Business sessions for 40 Big Bones.) It was a great social time which brought The Order and The League together for some joint social time. How about that? We tried something **new** and it succeeded!!!

It is an honor to be your 61st Chief Devil Dog!!! Semper Woof! **Semper Woof!**



An Operation Chow Hound check for 4,000 Big Bones for the Animal Rescue Center of California.

MODDKENNEL.ORG



Above, Senior Vice Chief PDD Joe Deangelo, Chief PDD J.D. Jones, and Junior Vice Chief PDD Mike Frances.

Left, a donation to Loma Linda Children's Hospital Check for \$105,000 big bones.



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NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

BRUCE RAKFELDT

It is an honor to serve all of you!

MARINES: I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for electing me as your new national judge advocate at the 101st National Convention. It's an honor to serve you in this position and represent you wherever I travel. I want to also take this opportunity to recognize our outgoing national judge advocate, David Porter, for his service and dedication to our organization. He's an outstanding Marine and a great friend. I look forward to continuing the positive momentum he has set for our organization.

My goals for this coming year are:

- Update the national bylaws and administrative procedures and have them published as quickly as possible after the National Convention.

- Ensure every department judge advocate has their bylaws up to date by the Mid-Winter Conference.

- Incorporate all five of the National judge advocate rulings into the National Administrative Procedures.

Communication is the key to any successful organization, so I plan on keeping in contact with all of our department judge advo-



cates to ensure they have all the information and tools they need to perform their jobs as well as keep them informed with updates pertaining to our national organization.

Our outgoing national commandant, Warren Griffin, along with the assistance of his national board of trustees and chief operating officer, Bob Borka, did an outstanding job over the last year. They all deserve our grati-

tude and thanks for all of the hard work they put in and the dedication they have for our beloved MCL.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve as your national judge advocate for the next year. As I visit your departments and detachments, I look forward to meeting old friends as well as making new ones. Take care of yourselves and each other and let's always keep our overseas Marines and corpsmen in our thoughts and prayers. **Semper Fi!**

JUNIOR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT

WARREN "GRIFF" GRIFFIN

One Team Making a Difference into the Future

MARINES: Well, we have completed our 2024 National Convention, and we can all welcome TJ Morgan as our new national commandant. We have a great slate of officers to lead us, but as our ritual states, they are not doing this job alone. It is up to all of us to make the League successful. We can do this.

I have now received my final cover as the new jr. past national commandant. Years of commitment to serving the League in various volunteer capacities have been rewarding. They say "the more you give, the more you get back" in the good feelings you have. For that, I am very grateful. Members, we are on a good path to move forward and will be growing in support of our Marine Corps. Our League has many programs that need our hands in active participation. I know the members who attended the Convention are motivated to help, but many hands lighten the load. So, join them as that one extra hand that we need. Those who attended will very shortly be forwarding along all of what was discussed in Palms Springs. Listen to them and see if there is one thing you are not involved with that you might find interesting. Remember, you are working with Marines.

Over our 101 years, we have impacted our nation by representing our Marines and preserving our heritage. The nation is in a better place for it. We are strongly supporting our youth in a variety of programs, but we need your support – Young Marines (not every department has a Young Marines unit), OUR Youth Physical Fitness Program – this needs every department to become highly active in reestablishing this program for America's future. It will not take many members,



but we do need a few to take the torch and vigorously spread the word. This would be easier for members involved in the school department in some way. Right now, the schools' departments are looking for innovative programs to introduce to the curriculum. YPF fits their needs. They just must be made aware of it.

Our efforts are appreciated by the Marine Corps and especially by Sgt. Maj.

Ruiz. He has stated many times we are his greatest recruiters. People look at us volunteering in various capacities and parents think, 'that is what I want my child to grow up to be like.' Your efforts to assist with funeral honors is just one area where the work is well-known.

You will soon be asked to record all your volunteer efforts as an MCL member. We now have a VAVS committee. If you are not aware of this committee, many volunteer organizations use these committees to keep track of ALL volunteer efforts. When asked, please coordinate with this committee. Our efforts must be known — no more working without letting people know who we are.

Our new leadership on the National level is fully capable and willing to steer the ship on a successful voyage, but this can only happen with all our support. I am looking forward to seeing you throughout the year as we all work together. **Semper Fi!**

USMC MEN'S SLING BAG



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Versatile Sling-style
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NATIONAL SR. VICE COMMANDANT

RUSS MILLER

Maintaining Momentum

MARINES: What a wonderful National Convention in Palm Springs. Thank you to the Department of California and its' detachments that participated in putting together a great week in southern California. It gave those of us fortunate enough to have never served aboard 29 Palms a small glimpse of just how lucky we really were. The greatest part of these conventions is the fun and camaraderie as we reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. I can only begin to express my gratitude to all that voted for me to continue serving our beloved MCL and her members as our new senior vice commandant. I'm so looking forward to the opportunity to support our new commandant, TJ Morgan, and the rest of the board of trustees as every member around the nation keeps moving the League on to bigger and better things together.

As we close out the year since you chose me to serve as our national junior vice commandant in Oklahoma City, I would ask that we all maintain the enthusiasm we have for the League and keep growing our ranks. I congratulate all the detachments that worked so hard this past year to maintain and increase their numbers and thank the members that got out there and found us those new members. As I traveled to many of your department conventions and division conferences this past year, I offered a challenge that I hope we will tackle under the leadership of our



new national junior vice; that each of us recruit just one new member in the coming year. This would double our ranks. Imagine if the next year we ALL went out and did that again.

I recommit myself to all of you as we continue to make great strides toward becoming the premier veteran service organization. Our national office staff keeps streamlining their operations in support of all that our detachments,

departments, and divisions are accomplishing. At every level in the League, Auxiliary, MODD, and Fleas, our members continue to recruit new members, serve in our communities, support our brother and sister veterans as they face their physical and psychological wounds through our VAVS and HAMSAL (Help a Marine Save a Life) efforts. Add to that NED/COO Borka's tireless efforts in helping every division (and before long every department) in expanding our VSO program. We will become an even more integral component in helping our fellow Marines and FMF Navy personnel with their VA claims, so they receive all the benefits that they've earned through their service to this great nation.

Semper Fi!

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDANT

DAVID PORTER

Understanding Why We are Here

MARINES: Before I start, I would like to thank you all, especially my family and friends, for the support over the past year as NJA. Even though I would have liked another year as NJA, your motivation and encouragement will push me to continue to serve the League as your national junior vice commandant.

I am not going to come out and preach, "We need to recruit and retain" as your new junior vice. This slogan has been pushed out since I have been in the league. The world will change by your example, not your opinion. To lead by example, I have listened to you, and I will act to build an even stronger foundation. We need some positive changes, and one of those changes will be sending out a welcome letter to new members with their welcome package. Positive energy going into a new membership also needs to be directed to the outgoing membership as well. We will be drafting an exit follow-up letter that will be and sent to departing members. We need to know why members did not return. An opinion is not an action, but everyone should be heard. None of us are perfect, and you are not always right. Yes, I said that because we need to be teachable to know how to improve.

Communication is crucial to keeping the network of information flowing smoothly. Zoom worked well when I was NJA, and numerous department JAs enjoyed zoom meetings. I will be doing the same



with the department junior vice commandants. This is a great path to push information down through the chain and stay on top of things. It's also a great tool to hear what works and what does not. I want to hear why you joined the League, and to transition that motivation into a mentorship program.

The League is not the Marine Corps, but we love and take pride in being Marines. We need to take care of each other. Having a welcoming, open door

will create gratitude, which will be the doorstep that keeps the doors open. Making meaningful first connections will pave the way towards understanding and acceptance. Listening and mentoring will strengthen our organizational foundation, help prospective and new members understand why we are here, and help us in our effort to pass a healthy organization on to future generations.

Life gets busy, but if we all come together to support one another we can build a stronger family that will encourage Brothers and Sisters to be the reinforcements we need to make sure the torch is passed for generations to come. *Semper Fi!*

YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BILL DAVIS

Young Marines of the Marine Corps League

MARINES: By now, I'm just about caught up and recovered from another great summer of events. From the National Memorial Day Parade to Navajo Code Talker Day, we at Young Marines are on the go around the country. Camps, Schools, and a Public Affairs Course in DC covered the gamut. A special shout out to our National Young Marine Unit of the Year, PFC Bruce W. Carter MOH Young Marines in Miami-Dade, FL. We recognized them at a special ceremony on 3 June along with the MCL PFC Bruce W. Carter Detachment. Teamwork is what it is all about!

National Leadership Academy - Advanced Leadership School was hosted this year at NS Newport, RI. Your Young Marines made sure to look sharp and sound off around those Navy officer candidates. We were especially grateful to have the National Commandant, Warren Griffin, National Judge Advocate, and Vice Commandant for New England join us for our graduation. The guest speaker was the Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps—outstanding motivation! We hosted another dozen Junior and Senior Leadership Schools around the country.

Camps happened in every clime and place. Who are we kidding, the clime was just hot everywhere. I attended the Midwest Regiment Camp outside of St. Charles, MO. There I saw the motivated

Marines of the South St. Louis MCL Detachment help with land navigation and mentoring. The normal end of summer event is Navajo Code Talker Day. A special event on every level – scenery, history, community service, and veteran support. We then traveled from the Navajo Nation to Rancho Mirage, CA. It was getting cold on the reservation (mid 80s) so I was glad to get to the MCL Convention for those balmy 100s. National Young Marine of the Year, YM/Sgt. Maj. Susan Suber from Lancaster Young Marines in Lancaster, PA was along for the adventure and engagement with our fellow MCL members.

Our program congratulates TJ Morgan, Russ Miller, Dave Porter, and Bruce Rakfeldt for assuming their respective roles at the MCL National level. It is a blessing to have such dedicated servant leaders as our partners and supporters in our mission to “strengthen the lives of America's youth”. The League remains our biggest supporter, ready to help us grow this program, now more than ever.

My personal thanks to Warren Griffin for his service and support. Back in 2016, Warren welcomed us to dinner with his New England family at our first MCL Convention in Tulsa, OK. Thank you, my friend, I'm looking forward to continuing to work together.

Semper Fi!

YOUNG MARINES LIAISON

JOHNNY BAKER

Young Marines of the Marine Corps League

MARINES: The Marine Corps League and the Young Marines of the MCL are partners in America's youth to help them to lead a healthy and drug-free life, focus on leadership, citizenship through community service, and becoming productive members of American society. The YMs is a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through 18. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline. The partnership between the YMs and the MCL is paramount in the success of the YMs and often to the success of the League. The MCL is the largest individual supporter of the YMs program.

In July, the YMs were at the National Leadership Academy - Advanced Leadership School (ALS) at the Naval Station in Newport, RI. This institution trains the top YMs in leadership skills with support from adult volunteers. High-ranking youth mentors inspire their peers, shaping the leaders of tomorrow. While there for a week, they were engaged in the essentials of advanced leadership by attending leadership classes, team-building exercises, and physical training. They participated in the Four Lenses class, which enhanced their understanding of diverse personalities and empowered them to collaborate effectively with individuals who have differing styles of communication. These extremely important lessons have helped these YMs to better themselves, be better citizens, and live a drug-free lifestyle.

The YMs National Leadership Academy graduates celebrated



their graduation with a special keynote speaker. Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Carlos Ruiz made an exciting finale to their training by speaking at their graduation. This will be an event they will remember forever. The MCL was also there, supporting the National Young Marine Program. Thanks go to our National Commandant Warren Griffin, National Judge Advocate David Porter, and National Vice Commandant of the New England Division Patrick Maguire

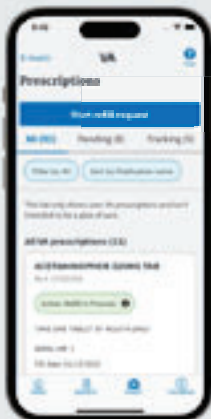
who all supported these YMs by attending the graduation ceremony.

USMC Col. (Ret.) William “Bill” Davis is the National Executive Director/CEO and Wilson Lee is the Deputy Director/Chief of Staff of the YMs. They are supported by about eight full time employees. Col. Davis's wife, Brenda, is also an integral part of the Young Marine program. This great group of YMs staff members are always ready to help units perform better and help anyone to start a new Young Marine unit. Please reach out to them if you'd like some help.

Our youth needs the YMs and the YMs need the MCL. The League stands ready to help forge the skills of leadership, teamwork, and discipline in these important Young Marines. **Semper Fi!**



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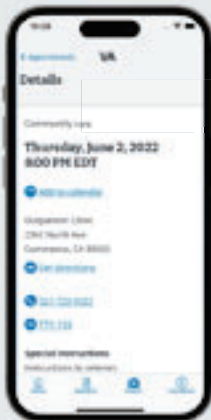
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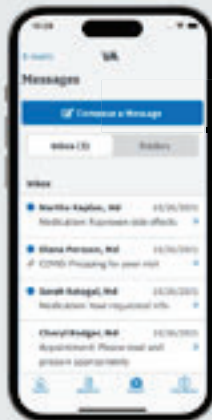
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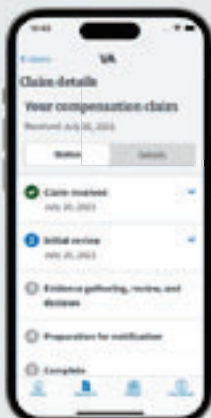
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DIVISION REPORTS

The Arrow of Time Points in Only One Direction



Dave Englert
NVC, Central
Division



MARINES: Author Bill Abbott wrote, “Time marches ever forward and there is no way to go back. The older we get, the more we notice the arrow of time points in only one direction.” We should reflect on where we’ve been from time to time to help us shape the march forward and to point the arrow in a direction of our choosing.

My journey in the MCL would never have happened except for an invitation to “come check us out” followed by a friendly welcome into the comradeship of the detachment. That first meeting is one that resonates after 24 years. I hope that all new members receive that sort of welcome into this tribe we call the Marine Corps League.

More recently, I’ve been blessed with the friendship of outgoing Central Division Vice Commandant Mike Sturch. The division

has done well during his term of office and I’ve been lucky to receive his guidance and mentorship. It is reassuring to have his experience to turn to as needed. Thank you, Mike, for all that you’ve done and for all that you might unknowingly volunteer for in the future. The division is in your debt.

To the central division members: Moving forward, I believe strongly in what PNC Johnny Baker has described as “servant leadership.” My duty is to listen to you and represent you at the national level. Providing guidance and a common direction for all to follow once I have your input is paramount. Being responsive in a timely manner and acknowledging communications are my normal practice and I expect the same from all. I do answer all questions as quickly as possible but it’s not uncommon to send a reply of “have you brought this up to your chain of command?” or “what do your bylaws say?” Please, give your chain of command a chance to help you.

Finally, I urge everyone to follow the example set by PNC’s John Touhy and Jim Touhy who took the time to pull a new guy aside at his first National Convention to provide corrective uniform guidance. When you see a member needing guidance, pull them aside and provide mentoring quietly and respectfully. If on social media, send that person a personal message or give them a call rather than blasting it out to the entire world. Be kind, be helpful, be there for someone that needs you.. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclcentdiv.org

A World Without the Marine Corps?



Rick Thomason
NVC, Mideast
Division



MARINES: Imagining a world without the United States Marine Corps opens up an uncomfortable exploration of how military history, global conflicts, and national defense strategies might have evolved differently. The USMC, established in 1775, has played a pivotal role in numerous conflicts and operations, shaping not only the United States’ military capabilities but also its global influence.

Without the Marine Corps, the United States would have had to rely more heavily on the Army and Navy to fulfill the roles typically assigned to the Marines. This could have led to significant changes in military structure and strategy. We are known for our rapid deployment capabilities, amphibious warfare expertise, and ability to operate in diverse environments. The jungles of the Philippines to the cold of the Chosen Res-

ervoir. Without them, the Army would have had to develop similar rapid response units, potentially altering its traditional focus and training.

The absence of the Marine Corps would also have impacted major historical events. For instance, during World War II, the Marines were crucial in the Pacific Theater, executing amphibious assaults on heavily fortified islands. Without the Marines, these operations might have been slower and more costly, potentially altering the course of the war.

Domestically, we have also been a symbol of American military prowess and resilience. Our absence might have influenced public perception of the military and national identity. Our motto, “Semper Fidelis”, and our reputation for toughness and honor have inspired generations of Americans. Without us, another military entity would have had to fill this cultural and symbolic role, potentially leading to a different national narrative around military service and heroism.

Internationally, we have been a key player in humanitarian missions and peacekeeping operations. Our absence could have affected the United States’ ability to respond quickly to global crises, from natural disasters to conflicts requiring immediate intervention. This might have led to a different global standing for the United States, with other nations possibly stepping in to fill the void left by the Marines’ absence.

In summary, the absence of the United States Marine Corps would have had profound implications for military strategy, historical events, national identity, and global influence. The Army and Navy would have had to adapt significantly to cover the roles typically filled by the Marines, potentially leading to a very different military and geopolitical landscape. Never think for one minute that you did not make a difference in this nation’s history.. **Semper Fi!**

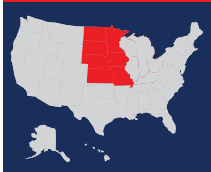
Division Website: mclmideast.com

Honor and Excited to Represent the Midwest Division



Jim Maevers

NVC, Midwest Division



MARINES: I am writing this immediately after returning from the National Convention in Rancho Mirage, CA. I was honored to be installed as your division national vice commandant. During the process of reciting the oath of office, I realized I had recited this oath and administered it so many times in the past that I almost have it memorized. The words in the oath have a special meaning to me and I take them very seriously.

A little about myself. I joined the Marine Corps right out of high school in 1978. I earned my EGA at MCRD San Diego and then went on to Basic Electronics School at 29 Palms. After completion of my primary MOS school of Ground Radar repair, I was assigned to the 2nd Battalion 4th Marines in Camp Schwab Okinawa. Our battalion united with other Marine Corps

units to form a battalion landing team and went to Camp Fuji, Japan for cold weather training in the fall of 1979. During training, Camp Fuji was hit by a typhoon that caused a fuel bladder to rupture resulting in a fire in the base camp that ultimately took the lives of 13 Marines. I remember those 13 Marines every October 19th. As part of the installation ceremony, I referenced above I will be especially vigilant to respect and honor my deceased brothers and sisters-in-arms and I will assist and protect my fellow members and their families.

You should receive this edition of the Semper Fi magazine around the time of our United States Marine Corps birthday. In keeping with the mission of the MCL, I encourage you to celebrate our birthday with your fellow MCL members and be sure to invite the public to this patriotic event.

As the saying goes there is no "I" in team, meaning that it takes a team to accomplish major goals and ambitions not just one person. However, there is an "I" in Marine, and that means to me that as a Marine I take full responsibility and accountability for myself and my team. As I stated in the oath of office, I will follow the leadership of the league and do my best to represent the members of the Midwest Division at the National level. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org

Great Opportunity



Pat Maguire

NVC, New England Division



MARINES: If you were at the national convention in Palm Springs, then you most likely heard the presentation of the MCL's Veterans Service Officer program presented by National Executive Director/COO Bob Borka. This program is exactly the reason we are here, to help Marines!! There are some League members across the country that have been doing this for some time now and have been very successful. Marine Borka is pushing this out and he's pushing hard—"all in", as he says. The MCL will become the VSO of choice for Marine Corps veterans. The VSO will answer questions about benefits, assist in completing and filing claims and represent them at V.A. hearings. So why is this a great opportunity? It's a way for the League to get recognized while

helping Marines. Marine veterans who choose the League to represent them when filing a claim may be inclined to join the League. This is a volunteer position that is needed in every corner of the country. Leave no Marine behind. There is more information on how to become a VSO

for the League on the national website or you can email **VSO@MCLeague.org**. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclnederland.com



DIVISION REPORTS

Are YOU ready to step up?



Robert Ziltz

NVC, Northeast Division



MARINES: Are YOU ready to step up when the time comes? Are you mentoring and helping our members to learn and grow in their current position and to develop the knowledge and skills needed for the next one? Are you open to new ideas, new approaches, and new technologies? Or are you trying to be super-human and do everything yourself? Or, worse, are you trying to micromanage your members or your staff? As leaders, the impact of what you do may not show up until it is time for someone to step up.

One of the first lessons I learned as an engineering manager was the difference between being in-charge and taking care of those in my charge. The distinction I made with my team was that the leader's job was to put together the team, the resources to accomplish the mission, and then clearly communicate the mission to the team. The team's job was to carry out the mission. Success belonged to the team, failure to the leader. This is something we should always keep in mind—but sadly, we do not. Too often, leading means the leader does it all rather than delegate to others. The tasks get done, but is the short-term benefit outweighed by the long-term cost of not preparing our teammates to step up? I think not.

Taking care of those in our charge includes mentoring the next group of leaders. Mentoring is not training, although it may include training. Mentoring requires developing and maintaining relationships, asking questions, discussing problems, coaching, supporting and not barking orders. And most of all keeping an open mind.

There are many members of our League doing incredible things. We, as leaders, need to support their efforts and help them develop and grow and be ready when it is time to step up. My commitment to you is that I will do my part and do this job to the best of my ability. And I will always keep the good of the League foremost in my mind. Please contact me with your thoughts and questions. I look forward to working with you. **Semper Fi!**

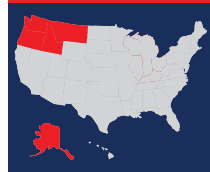
Division Website: nedmcl.org

After the Convention and Towards the Future



Mike Flynn

NVC, Northwest Division



MARINES: One of the common themes discussed is growth of membership. Right now, it's likely the most important issue we need to work on. We have so many valuable programs and causes: helping people through the V.A. system, working with our youth in both the Young Marines and establishing a robust Youth Physical Fitness program, our annual assistance for Toys for Tots... The list continues and really no one program is more important than the other.

We must recognize none of these are sustainable without an increasing membership. It's a topic that we discuss at every level. At this year's Commandant Council, members shared some great ideas. Hopefully you attend your respective department conventions. This is another great place to share ideas of what works for different areas.

Remember, we don't have to invent new things if we listen to what we know already works. Having said that, fresh ideas are always great to share. Most departments hold a fall or winter conference. Be a part of those and share your ideas.

For me, the best part of every convention are the new members I meet and the relationships I build. Just getting to know our fellow members is so rewarding. While we all have something in common, being a Marine or supporting our Marines, it's incredible the variety of people we are. Our backgrounds, our lives in the Corps, and our lives after the Corps. It does not matter our age. I find I can speak to pretty much anyone at convention at length and discover what great people they are.

This is the biggest reason to have new members join us. You're instantly surrounded by people you can relate to. You realize how much we are alike and yet how great to celebrate our differences. We can't just offer a monthly meeting. We can't just offer a chance of involvement in important endeavors. We must stress the relationships we can build by being a member. To be with people who get us. When we find this, it opens so many avenues to us, avenues of assistance, avenues of involvement, and, most importantly, avenues of friendship.

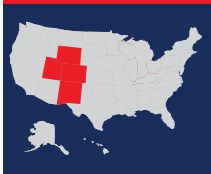
Reach out and invite someone new to join. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mcl-nwdiv.org

Recruit – Get Involved – Retain



Tom Krueger
NVC, Rocky
Mountain
Division



MARINES: We have come to that time of the year when all detachments and departments must start their administrative requirements of ensuring they have filed the required documents for incorporation as well as their IRS form 990-N. I have tasked each department commandant with ensuring their department, as well as detachments within their department, file these documents and pass along up the appropriate chain of command.

I have challenged each department to work on recruitment as well as retention. Membership at the detachment level is the key to the continued growth and operation of the MCL. I know we all have heard that 'the detachment is the most important unit in the League, for it is composed of the membership, which is the very heart of the League.' Detachments must be active to gain membership. No one wants to just sit

and listen and never do anything. With that said, detachments, find out what each member enjoys and wants to do and get them to chair a function for the detachment. When a new Member comes in, find what they enjoy doing and get them involved.

I am asking each officer within the Rocky Mountain Division to get ahold of the detachment Officers Guidebook and read it. This book can help guide and spell out the duties of each officer and within the detachment. That also carries onto the department side of the house. First and foremost, officers need to listen to their membership and let them assist in the activities. Officers, recognize your members for their hard work and diligence in their duties. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: rockymountainmcldiv.org

Trust, but Verify



Jerry Holt
NVC,
Southeast
Division



MARINES: The USMC is more than just a military branch; it's a brotherhood, a tight-knit community where the bonds of camaraderie run deep and last a lifetime. From the moment we stepped onto the yellow footprints, we were introduced to a tradition of unity and loyalty that defines the Marine Corps experience. This brotherhood is not just about wearing the same uniform, it's about a shared commitment to the values of honor, courage, and commitment which bind Marines together across generations.

The brotherhood forged in the Corps does not end with active-duty service. It is a lifelong bond that transcends time and distance. Marines, whether active duty, reservists, or veterans, share a unique connection that is understood by few outside the Corps. This connection is evident in the way Marines greet one another, regardless

of when or where they served. The simple phrase "Semper Fi" is a testament to the enduring nature of this bond.

We put trust in one another to faithfully carry out the duties and responsibilities that have been voluntarily assumed by our comrades. When it comes to handling money, however, it's important to keep in mind the old adage attributed to Ronald Reagan during the Cold War era – "Trust, but Verify". As a decentralized organization, our smaller units typically don't use sophisticated financial management systems, but that doesn't mean that we should be lax in our oversight.

As Marines, we're accustomed to rules and inspections, so nobody should be offended when a practice of regular review of accounts and transactions is established. Officers and trustees have a responsibility to ensure funds and all other organizational assets are protected and properly accounted. We owe that to our members.

There have been far too many instances, in both large organizations and small, where employees, or volunteers have mishandled, or mismanaged funds. In some cases, it has led to the ruin of the company, or organization. Financial oversight and review is not a sign of mistrust of our fellow members, it's a prudent practice for all of us to follow in order to maintain transparency and accountability. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: seddiv.org

DIVISION REPORTS

Membership and Communication



Randy Rigg

**NVC,
Southern
Division**



MARINES: Without members, our detachments would cease to exist and all the good work that detachments do for their communities would end. At the National convention, it was reported by the national junior vice commandant that the MCL has shrunk in regular membership by about 2% overall. I'm happy to report to the Southern Division members that we actually had an increase in our membership by 1.08% in large part to the recruiting and retention efforts by the Dept. of Arkansas and the Dept. of Texas. The Dept. of Arkansas received third place in membership with 103.67% over last year, Dept. of Texas, Alberto Angel Avalos Det. 671 with a membership of 250% over last year, and Rio Grande Valley Det. 1456 with a membership of 211.11% over last year. Rio Grande Valley Det. 1456 lead in recruiting with first place for detachments of its

size and member Leopold "Polo" Garza Jr. recruited enough new members to become the National Recruiter of the Year. Recruiting and retaining members can be easy if a detachment provides those programs and activities that attract Marines and keeps them involved.

One way to keep members involved is through communication, and I want to congratulate the Dept. of Texas and Chief Editor Ericka Hedlin for taking second place in this year's newsletter competition. Newsletters have historically been one of the most popular forms of communication with the detachment membership. Today, there are many social media platforms a detachment can use to communicate with their membership, but we need to make sure they use these platforms responsibly.

One very important position for detachment communication is the public relations officer. They are the one that helps the detachment officers develop and execute strategies for getting the detachment into the public eye in a positive way. They can help the detachment leadership raise awareness of programs and activities that attract Marines and keep them involved. Good communication is the best tool a detachment has in its recruiting and retention toolbox when it comes to building membership.

We've had a successful year with recruiting and retention for the Southern Division and I'm sure we'll be able to meet or exceed those percentages next year if we use all the tools at our disposal. I plan to do my best to promote the goal for the Southern Division of 102% increase in membership for 2025. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: southernmcl.org

Marines' Story Written in Sacrifice and Journey



Roger Smith

**NVC,
Southwest
Division**



MARINES: Every Marine's story contains sacrifice and journey. As veterans of the USMC, we understand these two elements better than anyone else, though our commitment to our fellow Marines and the Corps transcends mere words; it is embodied by honor, courage, and commitment.

The Sacrifice

Every Marine's journey begins a conscious decision to put this great nation before self. When we signed up, we knew we were stepping into a life that demanded more from us than most could fathom. For some, it meant forgoing higher education, for others, it meant being away from family and friends, missing milestones in our personal lives.

Yet, the greatest sacrifice was the acceptance of potentially paying the ultimate price – laying down our lives in service to our country. Each of us made this commitment, understanding that freedom may demand it. In this sacrifice, however, we found something invaluable. We gained not just friends, but brothers and sisters forged in the crucible of shared hardship and triumph.

The Journey

Our paths to becoming Marines were as diverse as the backgrounds we came from. Wealth, academic standings, race, culture, and gender – each of us brought different elements into the melting pot of the Marine Corps. Despite these differences, we shared a common goal: to serve our God, our Corps, and our country.

Each Marine faced unique obstacles. Some of us battled racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination. Yet, we persevered, united by the determination to earn the title of Marine. Boot camp, the most intense and grueling of all military training, transformed us. Like raw materials in a foundry, we emerged from this process as strong, like-minded Marines, ready to accomplish any mission.

Our service on active duty may have ended, but our journey continues. The MCL allows us to maintain our bonds. We connect with veterans from different eras, finding common ground in our shared experiences.

The Marine Corps becomes a part of who we are as American citizens, public servants, and leaders. The MCL keeps our camaraderie and esprit de Corps alive, providing a venue for us to continue our service in diverse ways.

I invite you to reflect on your own journey and sacrifices. Does this resonate with your experience? For me, it rings true and deepens my pride in calling each of you my brother or sister, and a fellow member of the MCL. **Semper Fi!**

Division Website: mclswdivision.org

BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR, ABOUT & BY MARINES – BY BOB BORKA

Rescued

As Marines exit military service, we lose our tribe and the operational tempo of unique job duties. Veterans seek to find their way in the civilian world. When Marine Corps League member Andy Vistrand left the Marine Corps, he found himself in dark times. By chance, he found an unexpected light that helped him find his path forward. A puppy, later named "Dozer", came into his life and, over the course of the next 13 years, had a profound emotional impact on Andy and his family. The book is written as a tribute to Dozer, whose love and compassion helped the author overcome unseen battles. The book is easy to read with clean, family friendly language.

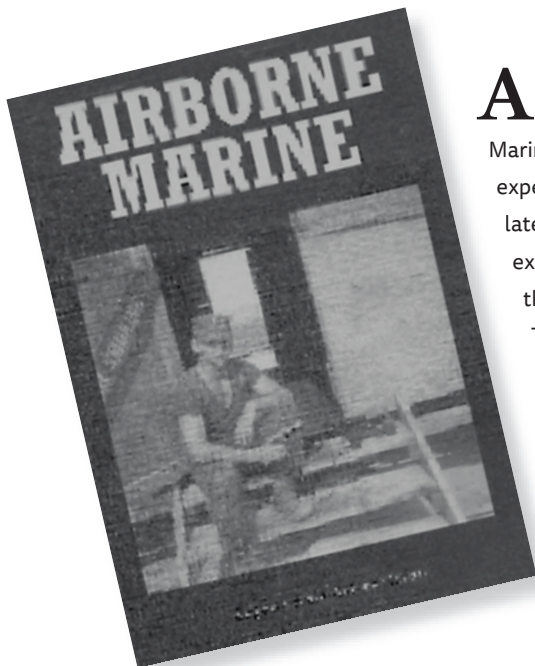
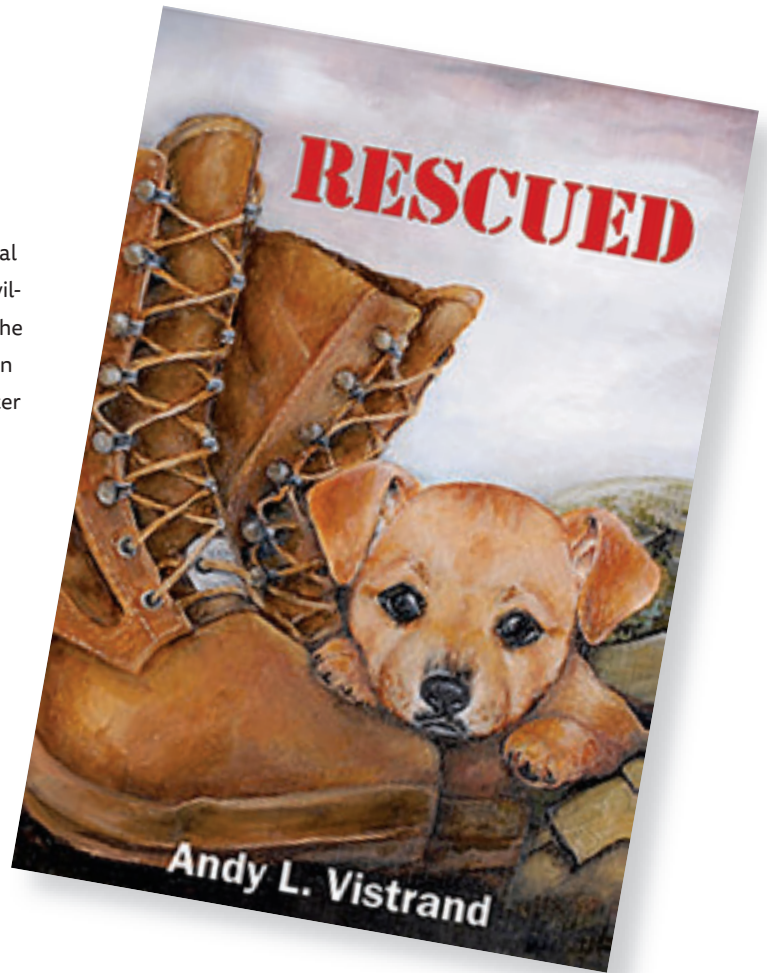
Rescued

Author: Andy L. Vistrand

Pages: 86 pages

Publisher: Hillhelen Group, LLC

ISBN-13: 97908987320198



Airborne Marine

Marine Corps League Member Eugene Dale Schwartzlow brings us his Vietnam War experiences wrapped in short, easy to read chapters. The author is able to articulate many events with photos and descriptions. We appreciate that he shared his experiences and documented the memories. It's an arduous task to articulate these memories, and the hope is that by doing so, it can help calm the spirit.

To quote the author, "All veterans carry with them the burden of war; some are unable to cope and resort to suicide as a way out. My message is for veterans to talk to others or write their thoughts down in a story like I did. Maybe then they will find peace."

Airborne Marine

Author: Eugene Dale Schwartzlow

Pages: 184

Publisher: Fulton Books

ISBN-13: 979-8887316055

PTSD, Psilocybin, Philanthropy

An Interview with USMC Vietnam Vet Bob Parsons

By Mike Searson

Bob Parsons is a self-made billionaire and philanthropist. Most people know him as the founder of MoneyCounts, GoDaddy, PXG (Parson's Xtreme Golf) and the world's largest Harley Davidson dealership, but few might know that he started life in poverty and served as a Marine with the 26th Marine Regiment during the Vietnam War.

He has a new book out titled *Fire in the Hole*, which details his life from cradle to CEO and his experience as a Marine in Vietnam and how he learned to cope with PTSD.

Semper Fi: *It seems like we ask everyone we feature in Semper F this question, but what made you choose the Marine Corps?*

Bob Parsons: Well, you know, I'm almost certain if I went down with some friends to talk to an army recruiter, I would have joined the army. But that didn't happen. I was in gym class and I had two friends come up to me and say they were going to go talk to the Marine Corps recruiter. Would I be interested in going with them? And I said, "absolutely." When I got down there to the recruiting office, the recruiter had us at "hello".

Mind you, this is during the height of the Vietnam War. He said he had to check our school grades. And of course I'm failing most of my subjects in my senior year. And he said to me, "Robert, we think you'll make a fine Marine."

That's how it happened! I went to boot camp and Infantry Training Regiment and I became an 0311, Rifleman. Three of us went through boot camp together and, while home on leave, one of [those guys] was stabbed to death in Baltimore. He didn't even make it to Vietnam. I was assigned to 26th Marines.

What rank were you when you got out?

Oh, I was a lance corporal. What did you expect a three-star general?

Well, you've obviously become one of the most successful entrepreneurs and philanthropists in history. Do you think that had a lot to do with the Marine Corps?

It had everything to do with the Marine Corps. Like I said, when I joined the Marine Corps, I was failing a lot of my subjects in my senior year. After I went to the Marine Corps recruiter and enlisted, I got my orders to report for boot camp in August. I showed all my teachers my orders and they all passed me. If it wasn't for that, I wouldn't have graduated

high school. So, the Marine Corps got me my high school diploma, although it was not the best way... but, more importantly, they turned me around completely. I was a pretty, aimless, and unfocused knucklehead before I went in. But after I got out, I was a very focused individual. They taught me that responsibility is sacred and the importance of discipline.

In essence, you don't have to like or

I was a pretty,
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They taught me that
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of discipline.

even want to do something, but you have to do it. They taught me that I could accomplish far more than I ever dreamed I could if I only tried... and that I had a right to do it.

That's a familiar story for a lot of us. The Corps makes you mature quickly.

I definitely matured during the time I was in the Marine Corps, but I matured under the right tutelage. When I came home from Vietnam I

had a pretty righteous case of PTSD. And the way I dealt with that was to bury myself in my studies when I was in college.

When I was in school from kindergarten through 12, every year for me was a photo finish whether I passed or not. When I went to college after the Marine Corps, I studied accounting, and I graduated magna cum laude.

That's just amazing.

I took the CPA exam, passed it the first time and I never would have done that without the discipline I learned in the Marine Corps. I wouldn't have done that without burying myself in what I had to do and that was probably the upside of PTSD, and it was the same thing for my work career. I always was a worker bee and that was the way I dealt with PTSD.

Now, the downside to that is I wasn't a great individual to be around a lot of the time. I had a flash temper, but it was only a flash, and I would never get violent or anything like that. It would last about 10 minutes and I'd usually apologize to whoever I lost my temper at, but it cost me two marriages and it wasn't great for my family.

Now, you didn't know you had PTSD back then when you first got out. How long did that take for you to realize, "Hey, something's wrong with me."

After the guys came back from Desert Storm. With all the parades, I started literally breaking down, man. I just started crying over nothing, you know, especially if somebody asked me about the war. I mean, I'm having a hard time even telling you this. But that's how I learned that I needed to do something.

What did you do to turn it around?

I did a number of things the best I could. I spent some time with my buddies that I served with and that helped. I did some neurofeedback stuff that helped I did a stellate

ganglion block (SGB). That helped, but the thing that really made the difference was reading this book called, *How to Change Your Mind* by Michael Pollan. That book is a treatise on psychedelics, and it talks about their history, how they came to be in the United States and what they were known to do. For example, he talks about Bill Wilson aka “Bill W.”, the guy who founded Alcoholics Anonymous. He used LSD in medically supervised experiments to get rid of his habit.

Well, that stuff’s not available now and they have their other ways of dealing with it. But if the people in charge ever become illuminated, it will be legal, at least for therapeutic use, because it works so quickly and so well.

I read everything that [psychedelics] can do and why they’re illegal, and I told my wife I wanted to try psychedelics. Now, I never did anything like that in my life before then. This is my third and current wife, Renee. She had me hooked up within a couple of weeks with some [psychedelic] guides who travel under the radar and treat people like me with psychedelics.

I met with them in Hawaii. They gave me three forms of psychedelics. The first was ayahuasca—and that is a nasty, foul-tasting stuff. But it made me remember all the stuff that got me bothered and all that came out with a lot of tears. The next day, I had magic mushrooms, and the guy said, “Look, I had a teapot that holds three cups, and I made this tea very, very strong. So, you probably only need to drink one cup of psilocybin.” Now, I swear this is true, I drank all three cups, and I ate the tea bags.

Oh, jeez.

Now, I’ll tell you what, brother, I was righteously stoned. I answered the questions and cried a lot. So, the next day I took off and the third day it was LSD and the same sort of thing. And then after that, everybody noticed it, “Man, you’re a different guy.” My wife noticed it first. She noticed that

I was kinder, I was more thoughtful. I didn’t lose my temper. I was willing to go places again, all that sort of stuff. The people I work with noticed it immediately. It had been 48 or 49

... what I will tell you is the thing I enjoy the most is when we donate to organizations that have difficulties. They’re making a really big difference, but because of their nature they’re having difficulty raising money. I think we get the most satisfaction with them, and if you find organizations that fall in that category, usually that’s where you’ll find us.

years since the war, but for me, when I did that, I finally came home.

So, since then, no outbursts or negative feelings?

Yeah. Now, make no mistake here, I’m not perfect. The psychedelics

didn’t make me perfect. What they did was they made me better. I’m still a knucklehead, just like most guys are. I expect I’ll never be any different, but I try, a lot more and I don’t carry that cross of PTSD like that anymore.

Do you keep in touch with any of the guys you served with?

I’m in touch with about six of them on a regular basis and that includes Charlie.

My buddy Charlie had an episode with a hand grenade and became a triple amputee. An NVA (North Vietnamese) hand grenade landed next to him, and he tried to throw it back. It went off when he picked it up. He lost an arm and both his legs. Now he lives down in South Carolina and he’s the happiest guy you’d ever want to meet. I said to him, “Charlie, you had something like this happen to you and you’re so happy. Why is that?” He said, “Bobby, I wasn’t gonna let a triple amputation mess up my life.” And if that doesn’t personify being a Marine, I don’t know what does.

Right. We’re sure it must be terrible for him, but being a Marine, you just deal with it. It’s like you said in your book, “We choose to be happy.”

One hundred percent!

You’ve worked with so many great causes, is there one that really stands out?

Now that’s a hard one to answer, but what I will tell you is the thing I enjoy the most is when we donate to organizations that have difficulties. They’re making a really big difference, but because of their nature they’re having difficulty raising money. I think we get the most satisfaction with them, and if you find organizations that fall in that category, usually that’s where you’ll find us.

I’ll give you an example of one, Crisis Center Nurseries. Because of the issues with the border, you have a lot of people that are here in Arizona

that come across the border illegally and, depending upon how you think, they're either undocumented citizens or they're illegal. But the bottom line is that these people have a more difficult time than any of us to be an American citizen. I mean, the path is long and hard for them because getting across the border is just part of it. There is a whole group of under-the-radar sleazy businesses that exist just to take advantage of these people

If they get a job, they make nothing. So, the big question is, when these people get jobs, and if they have kids, what happens to the kids? Well, the answer is, this organization. We support Crisis Center Nurseries which helps take care of them—and it's not just young babies. It is for kids of all

ages. They drop the kids off; the kids get a couple of square meals and they are taught English and Spanish in a fun way and learn history and play games. So, when their parents pick them up at the end of the day, they're a little better than they were when they dropped them off. That's the goal.

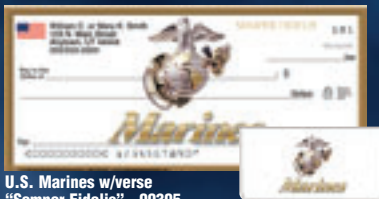
I love that organization and they're one of my absolute favorites. When you meet these people that are actually dealing with that and they're working hard to become American citizens, they are just wonderful. And you look at what they were willing to do to become an American citizen and you think, 'that's who we want here.' I think they'll be a day when we look back as a people and as a country when we're glad and appreciative

those people made the effort to be here.

Are you still golfing?

Oh, yeah. Before I got hurt and had three surgeries, I was hitting my drive about 230 yards, and it's taken me a while to get back. I'm up at about 195 now. So, I don't know if I'm going to quite get there, but I compensate with closer tees. I'm playing the senior tees now and even a little more than the senior tees. But I still enjoy the game. And I get strokes from my buddies... when I get the right number of strokes (and I'm close enough to the pin) I take them downtown, brother! . **Semper Fi!**

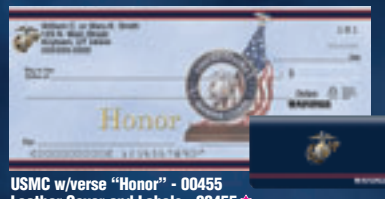
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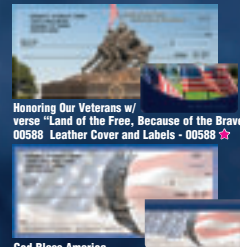
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The History and Lineage of the Iron Mike and Dickey Chapelle Awards

By Tom Mueller, past MCL National Director of Events and Veterans Service

It's August 1967. The location is Kansas City. The occasion is the 44th Marine Corps League National Convention and the MCL will present two prestigious awards for the first time. Comedian Bob Hope, Academy Award winner Lee Marvin, television star John Russell, and legendary photojournalist Larry Burroughs were named by the MCL to receive the first annual Iron Mike awards. Comedienne Martha Raye, who had recently returned from her fifth tour with American fighting units in Vietnam and who is now starring in the Broadway musical "Hello Dolly!" is named by the MCL to receive the first annual Dickey Chapelle Memorial award.

The Iron Mike Award is named after the landmark World War I memorial statue located at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island. It was conceived by Lt. Robinson of the convention publicity committee for the purpose of recognizing a person who has contributed the most to the United States of America and the Corps. The Iron Mike award is a medalion suspended from a scarlet and gold ribbon and with a bas relief of Iron Mike on the front and a Marine Corps League emblem and the words, "Marine Corps League, Semper Fidelis" on the reverse.

The Dickey Chapelle Award was conceived by the MCL for the purpose of recognizing a woman who has contributed substantially to the morale, welfare, and well-being of



The 2024 Iron Mike and Dickey Chapelle awards.

Marines and the USMC. The award is named to honor the memory of the late Georgette Louise Meyer, known as Dickey Chapelle, an American foreign correspondent who was killed on November 4, 1965, in Vietnam while on patrol with the U.S. Marines. The Dickey Chapelle award is a bronze statue of the famous woman who was the first American female correspondent to die in combat.

The Iron Mike and Dickey Chapelle awards would be presented at the MCL National Convention Grand Banquet for many years. It was only recently when the Modern Day Marine Expo, first held in 1981 in conjunction with the National Convention, was no longer co-located with the National Convention, that these two awards would be presented at the Modern

Day Marine Grand Banquet, now called the Grand Gala. The awards themselves would change over time, as would the names and contributions of the recipients on behalf of the Marine Corps, but the significance and purpose of the awards remains constant.

Many hours were dedicated to scouring MCL historical publications and documents to compile an accurate list of recipients for the Iron Mike and Dickey Chapelle awards.

However, a few questions remain. It is possible that in some years an award was not presented. Unfortunately, the available archives did not always report the information needed to provide a definitive lineage. Sadly, for some years, there was no mention of the awards at all. Here is where the National team needs your help. If you have a document such as a magazine, awards program, or picture that can confirm the

recipient of an award for a year, or confirm the year where a possible recipient has been identified, or know someone who witnessed an award presentation with a “?” below, please contact Rob Brooks (**rbrooks@mcleague.org**) or Bob Borka (**bborka@mcleague.org**). Your help producing this lineage is important and will help preserve the traditions and promote the interests of the Marine Corps and the MCL. **Semper Fi!**

Year	Confirmed Iron Mike Recipient(s)	Possible Iron Mike Recipient(s)	Confirmed Dickey Chapelle Recipient(s)	Possible Dickey Chapelle Recipient(s)
1967	Bob Hope, Lee Marvin, John Russell, and Larry Burroughs		Martha Raye	
1968	Howard K. Smith		Lucy “Lucy Baby” Caldwell	
1969	Col. Barry Zorthian, USMC		Marjorie Merriweather Post	
1970	H. Ross Perot		Verona Denvey	
1971	John Wayne		Esther Clark	
1972	Donald E. Johnson		Betty Donovan Rentrop	
1973	Sec. of the Navy John Warner		Eleanor Washington Spicer	
1974	Gen. Lewis W. Walt, USMC, (Ret.)		Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson	
1975	Gen. Louis H. Wilson, USMC		Nguyen “Gwen” Thi Kang	
1976	Ed McMahon		?	
1977	Capt. Charles J. Covert, USN (Ret.)		?	
1978	Sen. Dewey F. Bartlett		Sister Maria Veronica	
1979	Rep. Bob Wilson		Mary Lou Kieswetter	
1980	Ambassador Kenneth D. Taylor		Phyllis Stensgaard and Carole Darlington	
1981	James Brady, Thomas Delahanty, and Timothy McCarthy		Lori Cox	
1982	?	Philip I. Burman	?	Kate Smith
1983	?	Sen. Zell Miller	?	Jeane J. Kirkpatrick
1984	?	Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young	?	Sally Ride
1985	?	Gen Raymond G. Davis, USMC (Ret)	?	Col. Hazel E. Benn, USMC (Ret.)
1986	Donald T. Regan		?	
1987	Sec. of the Navy James H. Webb, Jr.		Rear Adm. “Amazing” Grace Hopper, USN (Ret.)	
1988	Rep. John P. Murtha		Rep. Beverly B. Byron	
1989	Rep. David O’Brien Martin		?	
1990	?		Maj. Robin Higgins, USMC	
1991	Gen. Alfred M. Gray, Jr, USMC (Ret)		Yvette Sommers	

Year	Confirmed Iron Mike Recipient(s)	Possible Iron Mike Recipient(s)	Confirmed Dickey Chapelle Recipient(s)	Possible Dickey Chapelle Recipient(s)
1992	Sen. Steve Simms		Barbara Spyridon Pope	
1993	?		Bettie Cooper	
1994	Maj. Gen. Walter Churchill, USMC (Ret.)		Linda Mundy	
1995	Rep. Gerald "Jerry" Solomon		Elaine Rogers	
1996	Rep. Ike Skelton		Carmella LaSpada and Lois Braymes	
1997	Sen. Dirk Kempthorne		Susan Braaten	
1998	Sen. Conrad Burns		Zandra Meyers Krulak	
1999	Sen. Charles S. Robb		Stephanie Bates	
2000	?		?	Katie K. Dixon
2001	?		?	Clara J. Miller
2002	Alfred Lerner		Diane J. Jones	
2003	Sen. John Warner		Rita McMichael	
2004	?	Rep. Jerry Lewis		Karen Guenther
2005	?			Carol Sefton
2006	Col. Harvey "Barney" Barnum, USMC (Ret.)			
2007	Gen Peter Pace, USMC (Ret.)			
2008	Arnold Fisher			
2009	Maj. Gen. Don Gardner, USMC (Ret.)			
2010	Lt. Gen. Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret.)		Debra Dunham	
2011	Maj Paul Hastings, USMC (Ret.)		Bonnie Carroll	
2012	?	Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent, USMC (Ret.)	?	Sen. Kay Hagan
2013	Lt. Col. Tim Maxwell, USMC (Ret.)		Shannon Maxwell	
2014	Rep. Howard Philip "Buck" McKeon		Cathy Lanier	
2015	Rep. Mac Thornberry		Debbie Paxton, RN	
2016	Rep. Rob Wittman		Dr. Betty Moseley Brown, Ed.D.	
2017	Robert Simmons		Rep. Susan Davis	
2018	Sen. Thomas Tillis		Rep. Niki Tsongas	
2019	Sen. C. Patrick Roberts		Ellyn Dunford	
2020	Sen. James Inhofe		Sen. Mazie Hirono	
2021	No recipient/ COVID pandemic		No recipient/ COVID pandemic	
2022	Sen. Jack Reed		Sen. Tammy Duckworth	
2023	Col. Nicole Mann, USMC		Elizabeth King	
2024	Rep. Seth Moulton		Maj. Jacqueline Barnum, USMC	



Marine Corps League National Executive Director/COO Bob Borka presents the Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune Award to Cmdr. Marco Antonio Nepomuceno at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College Awards Ceremony.

The Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune Award

Awarded in memory of Gen. John A. Lejeune, U.S. Marine Corps, Ret., thirteenth commandant of the Marine Corps, for the best paper on a military topic.

The 2024 Marine Corps Command and Staff College student recipient of the award for his paper, titled *Departing from the Myth: A Cross-Analysis of Galula's Counterinsurgency Principles in the Algerian War*, is Cmdr. Marco Antonio Nepomuceno from the Brazilian Navy.

Cmdr. Nepomuceno was presented the award by the National Executive Director/COO of the Marine Corps League, Bob Borka at the Marine Corps University Command and Staff College Awards Ceremony, Marine Corps Base Quantico, on 3 June 2024.

With the author's permission, we have included the paper's preface and the executive summary of his very insightful work. ***Semper Fi!***



Cmdr. Nepomuceno with the Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune Award.

PREFACE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF

“Departing from the Myth: A Cross-Analysis of Galula’s Counterinsurgency Principles in the Algerian War”

By Cmdr. Marco Antonio Nepomuceno, Brazilian Navy

During a significant part of my career, I had the opportunity to witness, discuss, and learn the causes and effects of the rise of insurgencies in weak states. As a second lieutenant, I was deployed to Haiti, where I could see the malign effects of the rise of rebel groups in a failed state. Later, as I held the position of Military Advisor at the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington D.C., I discussed and learned how the rise of insurgencies and transnational crime in weak states of Latin America can undermine hemispheric security. After ending this tour, I worked in the humanitarian operation Acolhida at the Brazilian border with Venezuela, where I witnessed how an authoritarian regime destroyed the national economy and fostered a humanitarian crisis. Finally, as a student at the Brazilian Naval War College and Marine Corps University, I learned how insurgencies in weak states of Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, threaten international trade and create regional instability, as well as how a government collapse may lead to the rise of insurgencies and civil war.

Counterinsurgency is arguably one of the most complex types of military operations, and history and world geopolitics suggest that its return to prominence in warfare will likely happen in the future. Thus, the military and academia in countries such as the United States and Brazil should not postpone the development of more effective counterinsurgency doctrine. In this context, this study aims to support the creation of comprehensive solutions by validating the principles of David Galula’s theory in his case study – the Algerian War.

Through a cross-analysis of the application of counterinsurgency principles at the tactical and operational

levels in the Algerian War, this research assesses gaps in Galula’s claims and the inefficacy of his principles in obtaining a decisive victory. In conjunction with further studies of counterinsurgency, our recommendations and conclusions may help to develop better solutions.

THESIS Galula’s experience in Djebel Aïssa Mimoun and the French campaign in Algeria failed to validate the eight principles of counterinsurgency.

DISCUSSION David Galula dedicated a significant part of his career to the observation of insurgencies, which enabled his conception of ways to conduct counterinsurgency operations. In 1956, he assumed command of a company in the sub-district of Djebel Aïssa Mimoun in the context of the Algerian War. He later became an associate at Harvard University, where he devised an eight-step population-centric counterinsurgency theory. To validate it, he claimed that he won the battle for hearts and minds in his sub-district through the successful application of his eight principles. However, the French failed to obtain popular support in the Algerian War and the security situation in Djebel Aïssa Mimoun quickly regressed after Galula’s departure, thus contradicting his claims.

CONCLUSION This study shows that Galula completed the application of three principles in his sub-district, while the French campaign only applied two. Moreover, none produced long-term effects or decisively contributed to the counterinsurgent cause. It also concludes that the Algerian War suggests that Galula’s counterinsurgency principles are overly simplistic, thus failing to address the complexity of COIN warfare. Finally, it recommends that future counterinsurgency operations must depart from Galula’s theory and focus.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



The General AA Vandegrift Detachment. Comfort Cart at VAMC (22c.) Gun Show



Det. 1435 Pride and Purpose of Fort Wayne, IN raised \$7,000 with their 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. All proceeds were split between two local veteran organizations, FW22 and Shepherd's House, that assist veterans in need. FW22 was founded in 2014 by two area Marines to educate the public about, and help prevent, veteran suicide. Shepherd's House was founded 26 years ago by a Marine and is a transitional living center for veterans suffering from alcoholi



The 5th Annual Charity Car, Truck & Bike Show hosted by Det. 1435 Pride and Purpose in August 2024 raised \$2,000 to support local youth. Erin's House for Grieving Children and Kate's Kart each received \$1,000.

ROLL CALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Jr. Vice Commandant Randy Bjerke, from Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Det. 1363, Black River Falls, WI presents a donation to Torre Willad, who leads the non-profit "Dog2 Dogtags" in Plymouth, WI. They train at-risk and donated dogs, and donate them to veterans battling PTSD. There is no cost for the dog or for continued training.



Sgt-at-Arms Robert Grassi, from Mitchell Redcloud Jr. Det. 1363, Black River Falls, WI attended the dedication ceremony of the monument for Marines from the C-130 community who died in combat and training exercises. It's located in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park surrounding the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA.



Marine Corps League Det. 1057 Sergeant-at-Arms and retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Joel Carrillo reports for mess duty for the monthly pancake breakfast fundraiser hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1508 in Wildomar, CA. The members of MCL and VFW have a close working relationship and serve together as a shining example of leadership within the local community.

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 Jim Powell 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.

REUNIONS

Marine Barracks Hawaii Association Reunion

Date: 10–13 Oct 2024

Location: Nashville, TN

Notes: Marines stationed at Marine Barracks Hawaii to include the band and the brig personnel

Contact: Mike Mazzone, 808-864-7428, mike@sgcchawaii.com

or Wayne Getz, wagetz@hotmail.com

Info: www.facebook.com/groups/14478992216455/ events

Whiskey Battery, 2nd Bn, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division (Vietnam 1966-1969) Reunion and Marine Corps Ball

Date: 11–17 Nov 2024

Location: Las Vegas, Nevada

Contact: ortizwood@yahoo.com, (949) 874-3636

Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Vietnam Veterans (1965-1971)

Date: 29 May–01 Jun 2025

Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton in Downtown Des Moines, IA 50309

Contact: Jerry Moorehead, (515) 999-2690, gamoorehead@msn.com

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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

5-11 Oct

MHT's Civil War "North to Gettysburg"

12-25 Oct

U.S. Military & Civilian Women in Vietnam

20-27 Oct

Birth of American Democracy
"Boston - Yorktown"

2-13 Dec

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

1-8 Dec

Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites

2025 Tours

17-24 Mar

Victory in the Pacific & IJAA's 80th

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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Name	
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City	
State	Zip Code
Phone	
Email	

Continued From Previous Page

Anniversary of Iwo Jima

4-13 Apr

Philippines – WWII in the PI

15-28 Apr

“Saigon to the DMZ” Vietnam War

21 Apr-4 May

Marine Corps League Tour of
Vietnam “Saigon to the DMZ”

19-27 Apr

Turkey WWI Gallipoli Campaign

20-30 May

Special Turkey WWI Gallipoli Expedition

31 May-13 Jun

81st Anniversary of D-Day &
Battle of the Bulge & Paris

1-11 Aug

Guadalcanal 83rd Operation Watchtower

6-18 Aug

60th Anniversaries of I-Corps
Vietnam Battlefields

6-19 Aug

“Vietnam Delta to the DMZ”

23 Aug-4 Sep

“D-Day to the Bulge” Normandy
Invasion & Battle of the Bulge

5-18 Sep

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

19-30 Sep

All England Tour “God Save the

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State	Zip Code
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Always Faithful, Forever Grateful

By William Cooley

It was October 1998 – the day I left for USMC boot camp -- one year later and after finishing my military occupational schooling and secondary training, I was given a medical discharge. I hadn't gone overseas. I wasn't permanently assigned to a specific unit or duty station. I hadn't been to war. The only identity assigned to me as a 'Marine' was the name; I felt lessor than the others.

For 17 years, I said I was a Marine, under my breath. I never, really, bragged about it because I didn't feel equal to my peers. I was medically discharged before even having the time to serve. I would hear grand stories from others about their time while in – all I had was one year...

Some years later, I experienced a very hard day, my three-year-old son became an angel. It was a dark time for me; I was depressed; I was alone. This all changed with one phone call.

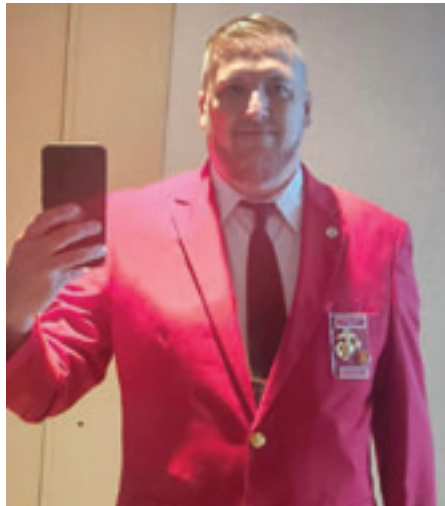
The phone rang, I answered – it was the commandant of the Marine Corps League detachment in Lincoln, NE. He spoke – I listened. I immediately told him, "I don't wanna join a baseball team."

He laughed. Then, he proceeded to tell me what the MCL was. Without any knowledge of who I was, this local MCL detachment paid the expense of my son's funeral. Not only that, they also paid for the transportation of his remains from Nebraska to Texas, and provided additional assistance for the funeral services in Texas. But what really opened my eyes of the proverbial Marine Corps camaraderie was during the final internment services in Texas, this same person, this same Marine, the detachment commandant was there... by my side, all the way from Lincoln, NE.

What was I to do? How could I repay this debt? I joined Lincoln MCL detachment and immediately found a bond that I longed for, becoming engrossed in helping homeless veterans and bringing enhanced aware-



Giving a love offering from the MODD to a member who lost their son who is also one of the Marines who gave me my love offering when my own son passed.



Getting ready for the banquet at the National convention in Oklahoma.

ness to the issue of veteran suicides.

The days have passed, and the years come and go. I have since moved to Mississippi and then to Louisiana, but my bond has remained strong with the MCL. I have stayed very active within this amazing organization and in doing so, I have allowed the MCL and its members to fill a hole I did not realize I had by giving me a chance to feel the same sense of service akin to my abbreviated time as a Marine, helping other Marines and other veterans. This also

gave me the strength to say, "Yes, I am a Private First Class, and I am a Marine!" I have, since, been entrusted with leadership roles within my current detachment and department. And, so far, I do so beside other Marines who achieved much higher rank than I, because there is no rank within the MCL – we are all Marines.

I will forever be a diehard member of the MCL; I will do everything I can for this organization and my fellow members. To bring this full circle to the members of the detachment who showed me compassion and camaraderie, who showed me brotherhood and fellowship with a simple outreach effort of paying for my son's funeral, I had the unfortunate opportunity to return the favor. A member of that Lincoln detachment had also lost a son. I had the honor of presenting that Marine with a similar outreach of financial support that they afforded me, so many years ago.

This simple action and return action showed, in prime form, that no matter your level of involvement within the MCL, you will touch a life. You will extend a hand of offering; and a hand will be offered back to you. It is this support of each other that truly embraces the Marine Corps motto – Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful); because we are! **Semper Fi!**

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V1-5- Full Formal Vest

Full Back Formal Gold Vest

Med-XL \$43.00, 2XL-3XL \$46.00



U40B- Ratchet Belt

Black Leather Uniform Ratchet Belt w/ Gold Raised EGA on Buckle

\$50.50



C30- Certificate Frame

Double Matted Frame For MCL Certificates, Embossed w/MCL Logo

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WA15A- USMC Patch Black

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THE **SEMPER FI** STORE

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Tree of Lights

Sponsored by the
**United States Marines
Youth Foundation, Inc.**



Proceeds Benefitting the
**Youth Physical Fitness Program
of the
Marine Corps League**

The Tree of Lights Program has been supporting the Youth Physical Fitness Program for over twenty years. Each year, Marine Corps League Detachments and Auxiliary Units as well as members of the greater Marine Corps family have the opportunity to sponsor lights in honor or memory of a friend or loved one or as a Year-end gift on the tree lit during the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Sponsors' names are recorded on the **Scroll of Honor** displayed at the ceremony and on the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation website:

www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org

For more information, please call (540) 426-8629.

This year's Tree Lighting Ceremony is being held at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Memory and Honor of the late

General Alfred M. Gray, Jr.
29th Commandant of the Marine Corps

***Please help us make this the
best year ever!***

Date and Time to be announced in the Fall
issue of *Semper Fi Magazine*.

Sponsorship form on back →



Tree of Lights Registration Form

Person or Organization sponsoring Light:

Address: (Where receipt and Thank you Letter should be sent)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

TYPE OF GIFT:

☐ IN HONOR OF: _____
(LIST NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON SCROLL OF HONOR*)

☐ IN MEMORY OF: _____
(LIST NAME AS WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON THE SCROLL OF HONOR*)

☐ YEAR-END GIFT to the UNITED STATES MARINES YOUTH FOUNDATION

*** Please, one name per light.**

TYPE OF LIGHT:

_____ \$500 Red Light
_____ \$250 Gold Light
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If you would like an Acknowledgement Letter sent to the family of the person you are honoring, please let us know where and to whom you would like it sent.

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**U.S. Marines Youth Foundation
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Questions? Please call (540) 426-8629

*Forms should be received by December 1st to ensure inclusion on the Scroll of Honor displayed at the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Donations will continue to be accepted through December 31st. The final Scroll will be posted on the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation website:
www.usmarinesyouthfoundation.org*

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Full Name _____ Member Number _____
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Please indicate the amount enclosed: -----

Member's Signature

Upon completion, turn into your Detachment Paymaster with required payment.

*For Members At Large (MAL), remit this form with check or money order in the amount of \$30 to: Marine Corps League, National Headquarters
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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.*



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.



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Mid-Winter National Conference Registration

February 27th-March 1st, 2025

Sheraton Pentagon City

900 South Orme St, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: 703-521-1900

Rate: \$131.00 per night plus tax Parking fee: \$10.00

Pre-Registration: \$10.00 Registration at the Conference: \$12.00

Program Ad Book Submission and Banquet prices are listed below.

Deadline for Pre-registration and Program book Submissions is February 4, 2025

Online registration is available at **MCLeague.org under Conference**

Please print the following information as you would like it to appear on your badge.

Name: _____ Name: _____

Title: _____ Title: _____

Dept & Det: _____ Dept & Det: _____

MODD Title: _____ MODD Title: _____

Pedigree & Tag #: _____ Pedigree & Tag #: _____

Pack & Pound: _____ Pack & Pound: _____

MCLA Title: _____ MCLA Title: _____

Dept & Unit _____ Dept & Unit: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

The Conference will have a program book created for all paid attendees.

All Detachments/Departments/Pounds/Packs/ Units are encouraged to support the program book to help offset the cost of the Conference.

Program Book

Full Page @ \$200	# _____	\$ _____
Half Page @ \$150	# _____	\$ _____
Quarter Page @ \$100	# _____	\$ _____
Business Card @ \$50	# _____	\$ _____
Patron Listing @ \$25	# _____	\$ _____
Total	# _____	\$ _____

Banquet

Beef @ \$65	# _____	\$ _____
Chicken @ \$65	# _____	\$ _____
Vegetarian @ \$65	# _____	\$ _____
Total	# _____	\$ _____

Total Registrations # _____ \$ _____

Total Banquet # _____ \$ _____

Total Program Book Ads # _____ \$ _____

Grand Total Due \$ _____ **Check/MO #** _____

Please make all checks payable to **Marine Corps League**

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APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2025

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The Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or U.S. Marine Corps does not endorse any company, sponsor or their products or services.