

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



2026 Staff Taking Oath of Office



2025 Staff Thank You



Congratulation Charles Walgreen - Marine of the Year

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal

Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

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(847) 274-8144

www.lakecountymarines.com

Detachment Officers

Commandant:	Tom Koncan
Senior Vice-Commandant:	Ed Cooper
Junior Vice-Commandant:	Randy Christopher
Judge Advocate:	
Paymaster:	Nolan Webster
Adjutant:	John Jezioro
Chaplain:	Joe Womack
Asst. Chaplin	MGYSgt. Wayne Carle
Sgt. at Arms:	Carter Mitchell
Asst. Sgt. of Arms	Andres Morales
Color Guard Commander:	Ed Mampe
Quartermaster:	Frank Contee
Va Hospital Visits:	Linda Smolich
Junior Past Commandant	Charles Walgreen
Web Sgt.:	Mel Ellingsen
VAC Rep:	Oliver Davidson

Our next meeting is scheduled for
18 November (Tuesday)
Start Time 1830 or 6:30 pm
Steven's Restaurant

Where Stuff Is

- #1 FY26 Officer Install and Dinner
- #2 Where Stuff Is
- #3 Chaplain's Corner
- #4 Det 801 250th Celebration
- #5 Other 250th Birthday Gatherings
- #6 Sr. Vice Commandant Message
- #7 Thank you Warren Blacklock
- #8 PLEASE Pay You Dues
- #9 We Need More Members
- #10 Poster for More Members
- #11 Color Guard
- #12 VA Visitations
- #13 Eagle Scouts
- #14 & #15 And then Smed Said
- #16 Foundation
- #15 & 16 Various Links to Good Scoop

If you are not getting my emails with the meeting minutes, email me, John Jezioro at jezfamily11@ameritech.net or text me at 847-807-0736 and we'll get it worked out.

_John Jezioro, Adjutant.

[Click to Pay Your Dues Here.](#)

SAVE THE DATES

Detachment 801 250th USMC Birthday
Celebration on 10 November 1800
Gurnee American Legion Post 771

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Message for October 2025

Exciting times lay in front of us---Halloween with its ghosts and goblins, followed quickly by the 250th Marine Corps Anniversary celebrations are going to keep us preoccupied with running from here to there with no end in sight.

Remember to monitor your health, take a deep breath and slow down. Enjoy the fun with family and friends but while you're at it, take a few moments to thank the Lord for making all of this possible.

Our new Marine Corps League 801 Administration is in place, although it seems similar to the past one, there are several changes. Stop by, say hello and wish them the best. Taking on the responsibility to serve should be acknowledged and applauded. It takes a special effort to give of your time and to serve.

Looking forward to seeing you at the American Legion Hall, Gurnee, for our personal birthday celebration.

Semper Fi!

Joe Womack

Chaplain



LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
250TH USMC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!
10 NOVEMBER 2025

Join your Marine and Corpsman brothers and sisters as we celebrate the 250th USMC Birthday on 10 November 2025 starting at 1800. Yes, we're gathering on Monday evening (the actual 250th birthday) at the Gurnee American Legion Post 771 2nd floor. We will read General John A. Lejeune's 1921 Birthday Message, cut the 250th Birthday Cake, view the Commandant's 250th Birthday message, enjoy some pizza and raise a glass to toast our beloved Marine Corps.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The 250th USMC Birthday occurs only once in your lifetime. Don't miss this opportunity to attend a 250th Birthday Ball.



McHenry County Marine Corps League
Invites
Veterans, Veteran Families
and Community Supporters
to the
250th Anniversary Celebration of the
United States Marine Corps Birthday
with a Special Salute to the
250th Army and Navy Anniversaries

November 8th, 2025
Crystal Lake Holiday Inn
6:00 PM til Midnight
800 Rt 31 Crystal Lake Illinois
Ceremony with Dinner Followed by Dancing
<https://www.mchenrycountymcl.com/birthday-ball/>
Phone: (815) 575-8386



WELCOMING ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM THE MILITARY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS



JOIN US IN OUR CELEBRATION OF:



CROWNE PLAZA CHICAGO O'HARE
8440 NORTH RIVER ROAD, ROSEMONT, IL 60018
FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2025
6PM-12AM

TICKET PRICES:	CASH/ZELLE	ONLINE
E-SENIOR	\$90	\$92.40
SINCO/OFFICER	\$100	\$102.50
RETIRED/CIVILIAN	\$105	\$107.55



FOR ASSISTANCE, CONTACT:

SGT MAJ RODRIGUEZ (SITE SGT MAJ) 847-688-7029 EXT 203 OR EMAIL ESTEBAN.RODRIGUEZ@USMC.MIL
SGT BLAIR (S & TRAINING) 847-688-7029 EXT 236 OR EMAIL KIMBERL.BLAIR@USMC.MIL



LAKE REGION POST 703

US MARINE CORPS 250TH BIRTHDAY

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO CELEBRATE A GREAT CAUSE. THAT SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY, NATION, AND THOSE IN NEED. THE MARINE CORPS RESERVES HAVE OPERATED THE TOYS FOR TOTS PROGRAM FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WE WILL ALSO CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY. AS THEY SAY OORAH, LET'S GET IT DONE.

TOYS FOR TOTS FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025

703 US HWY 12 FOX LAKE, ILLINOIS 60020

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 0700, CEREMONY STARTS AT 0800 WITH BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW.

\$10.00 A PLATE WITH A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY
OR \$15 WITHOUT NEW TOY.

WE WILL HAVE SEVERAL RAFFLE PRIZES

WITH A SPECIAL RAFFLE PRIZE OF A

HAND CRAFTED US MARINE CORPS RING.

SEMPER

FIDELIS



Greetings and Salutations from the Sr. Vice Commandant

We raised \$9,815 for 2025 Shake the Can fundraisers averaging \$1,236 at each location.

A huge "Thank You" and tremendous appreciation for every Detachment member and their spouse and family that assisted in our efforts!

Toys for Tots 2025



We currently have 2 dates (more to follow) and locations for Toys for Tots toy collection and fundraising:

Sat, Nov 22
10am-3pm

Sat, Nov 29
10am-3pm

Both are located at:

Walmart
4000 IL-173
Zion, IL 60099

Hope to see some of you there for an hour or more to assist in 2025 Toys for Tots and our fundraising!

Semper Fi!

Ed Cooper
Sr. Vice Commandant

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



We recognized Warren Blacklock for his many years of MCL service.



Lake County Detachment 801 of the Marine Corps League

On 21 October 2025 proudly recognize

Warren Blacklock

for his unselfish support and dedicated
participation since joining the Detachment in 2006.

His service includes:

Foundation Board of Directors
VA Hospital Visitation Team
Fund Raising
Toys for Tots

Membership Renewal

Annual Notice

Expires 31 August



Renew today with your local Detachment Paymaster

From the PAYMASTER - Nolan Webster

If you are a regular member of the detachment, your \$35 annual dues and now being collected. Please keep in mind that only \$7 of your \$35 stays in the detachment. You can always pay in cash at one of our meetings or mail us a check to PO Box 7732, Gurnee, IL 60031. [Or, click on this link to pay via debit or credit card.](#) You can also upgrade your membership to a Life member after paying your 2026 dues. The link to pay dues has all the information about Life membership. We will start sending out email 'reminders' directly to regular members whose dues are in arrears in a few weeks.

A CALL TO ACTION FOR OUR DETACHMENT

WE NEED MORE MEMBERS

Strength in Unity and Numbers

As members of the Best Damn Detachment, we have shared experiences that forge bonds unlike any other. Our camaraderie as Marines and Corpsman, built on mutual respect and understanding, provides a unique support system. Now is the time to extend this haven to others who have served but have yet to find the Marine Corps League

Why We Need to Expand

Each new member enriches our detachment with their individual stories, skills, and perspectives. By growing our numbers, we not only strengthen our solidarity but also enhance our ability to support one another. Imagine the wealth of experiences and knowledge that could be shared, the new friendships that could blossom, and the collective wisdom that could guide us all.

Benefits of a Larger Detachment

- **Greater Support Network:** More members mean more resources and support for each of us. Whether someone needs advice, companionship, or assistance, a larger group can provide a stronger safety net.
- **Diverse Perspectives:** New members bring fresh viewpoints and ideas, which can help us tackle challenges in innovative ways.
- **Enhanced Activities:** With more hands-on deck, we can organize more events, outings, and activities that cater to a wider variety of interests.

How to Find New Members

Recruiting new members requires a proactive approach and a genuine desire to connect with others. Here are a few strategies to consider:

Start with Your Networks-Church, Social media, Your local Watering Hole

Think about that guy wearing the USMC cover you see while shopping or that USMC flag flying on a house down the street. Or, that car in the Walmart parking lot with the USMC decal on the window. Pick up a handful of applications at the next meeting and leave them on car windows and front doors. Print the following poster and get it into your favorite bar.



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR
BIRTHDAY ALL YEAR
LONG. IT WILL BE 250
YEARS ON 10 NOVEMBER
2025.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR MARINES AND FMF CLERGY & CORPSMEN!

We are the Lake County Marines Corps League
Detachment 801. We meet on the third Tuesday
starting at 1830 at Steven's Restaurant - Gurnee.

Check us out at

SEMPER FIDELIS





COLOR & HONOR GUARD



Color and Honor Guard

Our Color Guard will Present Colors at these activities:

- 10/10 Grant High School Football Game honoring Veterans
- 11/8 Toys for Tots Breakfast - Fox Lake American Legion
- 11/10 Victory Lakes Assisted Living
- 11/11 Lindenhurst Veterans Memorial
- 11/12 Round Lake Orchestra Salute to Veterans

The color guard has practice on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, at the American Legion in Gurnee starting at 1830.

Ed Mampe - Color Guard Commander

PH #847-641-9689

CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FHCC VISITS



We've been doing VA visits one (1) year this month since the VA restrictions lifted from covid. It's been the most invaluable experience for all of us. I'd like to thank Al Seyler and Warren Blacklock for their confidence in me for taking over these visits. I have an excellent team to work with and appreciate this opportunity.

Carol & Ed Mampe and I had one visit on October 14. I was asked by a nurse if we could visit a patient who just recently had both of his legs from the knees down amputated and was in a bad way. It was a very humbling experience and we were all grateful for this opportunity to serve. Each visit is very different and rewarding in its own way. It's like opening a "box of chocolates ... you never know what you're going to get". They all thank us for being there and we tell them, "thank you for allowing us this visit".

Our next visit is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28th. We meet in the canteen area at 1:00 pm. We would like to invite **anyone** from our Detachment to attend a one-time visit. You must be Covid vaccinated, a flu shot and wear a mask to ensure the safety and well-being of our Veterans and their families. This will provide a safe and successful volunteer experience. Anyone interested? Please contact Linda Smolich at (847) 204-5348.



EAGLE SCOUTS



Hank Landrau with a new Eagle Scout!

We're always looking for help making these presentations.

Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144 Eagle Scout Chair



and

then

“SMED”

said

To all my Marine Corps League Brothers and Sisters in Lake County,
Semper Fi!

I am not a “wordsmith”, but my daughter tends to be. She sent this to me several weeks ago. Hope you enjoy reading this as well as did I.

The Stages We Walk

Life has always felt to me like a long walk down a familiar road.

When we are children, the road is wide and full of wonder,
We run barefoot, chasing butterflies, holding our parents’ hands,
Never worrying about how far the road might go,
The world seems endless, and so do we.

In our twenties and thirties, the pace changes. We walk faster.
We work faster. We chase goals, careers, love.
And the dream of building something that is ours.
Sometimes, we stumble, Sometimes we sprint.
These are the times when the road feels uphill,
But the climb gives us strength.

By our forties and fifties, the road begins to level out.
We are no longer running, we are walking with purpose.
We carry children on our shoulders,
mortgages on our backs, and hopes in our hearts.
It is tiring, yes, but also beautiful.
Because these are the years when we discover what truly matters:
Not the pace, but the company we keep.

and

then

“SMED”

saidcontinued

Then, the sixties, seventies, and beyond. The road gets quieter.
Our steps slow, but our eyes see more than they ever did before.
We notice the shade of the trees, the laughter drifting from behind us.
Because we know the truth: It was never about how fast we walked –
It was about who walked beside us.

And one day, each of us will reach the end of the road.
That part is not sad – it is simply part of the journey.
Because even when our footsteps fade,
the echoes remain in the hearts of those who loved us.
The road continues for them, carrying pieces of us forward.

The lesson? Don't rush the stages. Every chapter has its own beauty –
From the barefoot days of childhood
To the slower steps of old age.

Because in the end, life isn't about how quickly we walked...
But how deeply we loved along the way.

Hope all of you are able to celebrate our 250th Marine Corps Birthday.
Would love to be there with you.
Will “hoist” one (or two) here for all of you.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES!
OORAH!!

See all of you next month?

Semper Fidelis my friends.
Smed

Lake County Marine Corps League Foundation

Officers and Directors

President- Charles Walgreen

Treasurer- Mel Ellingsen

Secretary- Jerry Pedrin

Directors

**Jim Sroka, Ed Mampe, Ed Cooper,
Hank Landrau, Al Seyler and Nolan Webster.**

We received no requests for assistance this past month. Ask me for Boat Load of Booze 2026 tickets for you to sell.

Semper Fi,

Charles Walgreen
President

Related Military Links to Click

Honor Flight Lake County

Midwest Veterans Closet

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Marine Corps League Headquarters

Illinois Marine

VFW Action Corps Weekly

American Legion

Sgt Grit

PTSD Resources

Past copies of the Jarhead Journal can be viewed here:

www.lakecountymarines.com/newsletters

Marine Corps League (MCL) Resources

Websites:

www.mclnational.org – MCL national website – **SHIPS STORE**

www.mcleaguelibrary.org – MCL national public documents / resources

www.mcleaguelibrary.org/member-library - Password (DD2), library holds meeting minutes, forms, national bylaws / administrative procedures manuals to include MCL uniform guidance and MCL awards guidance, etc.

_____ <https://theillinoismarine.com> _____ Department website

_____ <https://lakecountymarines.com> _____ Detachment website

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/mclnational - MCL National

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064587650733 Chicago Area MC Co-Council

www.facebook.com/groups/67134899955 2nd District Facebook

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068070852934 Department Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/48678176402 Detachment Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/mclhonorguardandcolorguard - MCL Honor Guard / Color Guard

www.facebook.com/groups/447677227018622 - MCL National Membership Committee

www.facebook.com/groups/mcluniforms - MCL Uniforms Buy-Sell-Trade

www.facebook.com/groups/mclconnections - MCL Connections (MCL members only)

www.facebook.com/groups/usmccollectibles - USMC Sell Your Sh**!

Other:

www.youtube.com/themarinecorpsleague - Click “subscribe” for new content

www.instagram.com/hqmcl – MCL national Instagram

www.militaryorderofthedevidogs.org – MODD Kennel website

www.nationalmcla.org – MCL national Auxiliary

www.linkedin.com/company/marine-corps-league - MCL national LinkedIn

We encourage you all as members to visit these websites and social media pages. Take a look around and know all the resources available to you on these platforms. Please share this information with all members not only in leadership positions, but your Detachment members.

*Questions about any of these resources can be addressed directly to the **MCL** National Public Relations Committee for assistance.*

publicrelations@mcleague.org