

THE JAWHEAD JOURNAL

Charles Walgreen, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



Just a few in case you missed St Paddy's Day's Meeting! 1st and 2nd place Best Dressed w/last year's winners. Welcome our most senior Marines, Arnold Jensen and Leo Mordini.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal

Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

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www.lakecountymarines.com

Detachment Officers

Commandant:	Charles Walgreen
Senior Vice-Commandant:	Hank Landrau
Junior Vice-Commandant:	Allan Perez
Judge Advocate:	Peter Karlovics
Paymaster:	Mel Ellingsen
Adjutant:	John Jezioro
Sgt. at Arms:	Patrick Fegan
Asst. Sgt. at Arms	
Junior Past Commandant	Ed Mampe
Chaplain:	Joe Womack
Asst. Chaplin	MGYSgt. Wayne Carle
Quartermaster:	David Pedrin
Web Sgt.:	Mel Ellingsen
Fun Chairman:	Al Seyler

Our next meeting is scheduled for

18 April (Tuesday)

Start Time 1830

Steven's Restaurant

A bit younger than we wanted. Who is this future Marine?



Where Stuff Is

1. St Paddy's Day Party
2. Where Stuff Is
3. Commandant's Chat
4. Chaplain's Corner
5. James Strauss - April Meeting guest speaker
6. Let's Shake the Can
7. Memorial Day Picnic Announcement
8. Fun Committee
9. Eagle Scouts
10. Color Guard
11. VA Hospital Visits
12. And then Smed Said
13. More Smed
14. Foundation
15. Related Military Links
16. Other MCL Social Media Links

We're going to try something new. In stead of a Mystery Marine in uniform, it was suggested we ask for pictures of YOU when you were a much younger person. Say 5 to 12 years old? Send them to the editor@lakecountymarines.com

COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

I AM A MARINE

NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER SURRENDER

March is named for the Roman god of war Mars. March is historically the perfect month for both farmers to resume farming with the winter frost melting above the fertile ground and warriors resuming the fight. Almost all major US NATO led military operations since the invasion of Vietnam have begun in the month of March.

However, this March our detachment enjoyed the festive camaraderie of youthful intricate footwork, warm speeches, Irish humor, an Irish blessing, and delicious food at our annual St. Patrick's detachment meeting.

Our Memorial Day picnic is May 24th when we will honor all our fallen detachment members. We need YOUR esprit de corps to volunteer and be present where our fallen detachment members can only be present in our hearts.

Semper Fi

Charles Walgreen

Commandant

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Message

It was great to see everyone at our St. Patrick's Day event and witness the warmth and fellowship of all present.

Now that the dark days of Winter are coming to a close it is time to move our thoughts and minds to the bounty and beauty that Spring brings. It is also time to thank our Lord for allowing us the time and privilege of our association with our fellow Marines.

Easter is a time for reflection---the flowers are blooming, the weather is finally starting to warm and it's the perfect season to start fresh and begin again. There is a reason why it's called spring cleaning and the joy of seeing things come to life spurs us on for a new start.

We all experience seasons in life that can be discouraging and stressful. Whether your dealing with the loss of a job, the illness or death of a loved one, or an overall confusion about where life is heading, reading thru inspirational Bible verses is an excellent way to lift your spirits and gain a new perspective on a difficult situation.

Joe Womack

Chaplain

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

24 MAY 2023

LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

James Strauss, AUTHOR

Select Page



\$4.95



Thirty Days Has September, The Last Ten Days e-Book

\$12.95



Thirty Day Has September Complete, 3 e-Book Set

\$25.95



Thirty Day Has September, The Last Ten Days - Paperback

At our next meeting on 18 April, James Strauss, USMC, BrigGen, Ret., will be our guest speaker. Jim Homan, USMC, Col., Ret. (on our Eagle Scout Presentation team) introduced me to James a few years ago. James loves to write, lives in Lake Geneva and has a primary MOS of 0802. His thirty days in Vietnam '68, began as the FO and ended as the rifle company commander. His books are for sale both on his website and Amazon.

Click here for more info: [THIRTY DAYS HAS SEPTEMBER](#)

Are you ready to Shake the Can?

Our primary source of money which we use to pay for our social events such as the St Paddy's Day dinner, USMC Birthday celebration, Officer Installation Dinner and the Memorial Day Picnic comes from the donations we receive when we Shake the Can at our local Jewel Foods stores. We don't expect our members to attend every collection event but you are certainly welcome to try. Please join us for a couple of hours. By the way, standing at the Jewel with your Marine brothers can become a social event all by itself. We all have a story to tell and share with those collecting. Be sure to wear your Mcl red cover and/or red shirt. Other USMC clothing items clearly point out to the store patrons that we are Marines and Corpsman worthy of their donations.

Please save these dates and locations:

All collections are at Jewel Foods Stores and run from 1000 until 1500 on Saturdays.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 6 | Libertyville 1300 S. Milwaukee Ave. |
| May 13 | Gurnee 6509 W. Grand Ave. (SW Grand and Hunt Club) |
| May 20 | Antioch 966 Il Rt 59 at Il Rt 173 |
| Jun 3 | Highland Park 1600 Deerfield Rd. |
| Jun 10 | Waukegan-Lewis 3124 N. Lewis Ave. |
| Jun 17 | Round Lake 900 E. Rollins Rd. at Rt 83. |
| Jul 1 | Grayslake 885 E. Belvidere Rd. |
| Jul 8 | Libertyville 1300 S. Milwaukee Ave. |
| Jul 15 | Mundelein 1150 W. Maple Ave. |
| Jul 22 | Waukegan-Greenbay 922 N. Greenbay Rd. |

Check out your personalized video from

Tim Colceri



Watch your video

Be Sure To Turn on the Volume-Lower-Right hand Corner.

FUN COMMITTEE

The Fun Committee is working with Charles to add some fun and games to our Memorial Picnic at the end of May.

Horseshoes, bags, etc. We need a set of Bago Boards. Do you have one we can borrow??? Call me.

We are also putting together some Fabulous Door Prizes.

Need more help on the Committee. Call me.

Al Seyler
847-220-1525



EAGLE SCOUTS



During March, we presented five Ka-Bars. Here is Hank Landrau with the Eagle Scout family.

Can you walk, talk and chew gum at the same time? Can you stand in front of a group of people and talk to them without getting flustered? If so, maybe you can help us present Ka-Bars to new Eagle Scouts. Please let me know if you want to join the Eagle Scout presentation team. Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144.



COLOR & HONOR GUARD



From one of our earlier trips to Wrigley Field, June 2018.

Color and Honor Guard

Our next Color Guard practice will be Thursday, 13 April followed by 27 April.

If you would like to join the Color Guard, just see Ed Mampe Color Guard Commander. Please call me for details, (847) 641-9689.

We changed our practice location to the Gurnee American Legion, 2nd floor, (across from Primo) on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month starting at 1830.

CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FHCC VISITS



Here's Chuck Butrim. Greg Cummings, Nada Sydow, Mary Carmody and Don Bahe.

Hello fellow Marine Corps League members. Hospital visits are still a no go. Veterans closet is still giving food and clothing away to those in need. [Click here for their website.](#)

Greg Cummings

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



and

then

“SMED”

said

For all members of Lake County Detachment #801 (The Best Damned Detachment in the Nation).

On 26-March-2023, my bride and I had the opportunity and pleasure of attending the Tampa Gasparilla International Film Festival (GIFF) viewing of the documentary “Operation Kingpin: 27 minutes at Son Tay,” directed by Ehren Ward. I was doubly honored the invite came from one of my former Boy Scouts, Howard (Mad Max) Mullen who was both an Associate Producer as well as a reenactment actor in the film.

Son Tay was a reported POW Camp located 23 miles northwest of Hanoi in North Vietnam and was the United States first endeavor to rescue our captured servicemen. FBI, CIA and Pentagon information, and aerial surveillance photos indicated 70 American servicemen (61 known by name) were being held there and also provided valuable information of buildings and surrounding terrain. The Pentagon Generals began a top-secret plan tagged “Operation Kingpin” to rescue those captured servicemen. The POWs managed to arrange pajamas on the ground to signal S.A.R (search & rescue) and the letter “K” (come & get me).

Volunteers from selected Special Forces were interviewed to serve in an operation they could not be told about, only that it would entail a combat operation involving many months of preparation. They all signed a confidentiality form that entailed their agreeing to have no contact with family (or others) during this special training under threat of Court Martial if responsible for information leaks. They could receive but not send mail.

Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines all trained many months for various portions of “Operation Kingpin” without knowing of the final objective.

I was introduced to and spoke with Rear Admiral Lawrence (Larry) Chambers, the Commander of the carrier USS Midway which was involved in this endeavor. Admiral Chambers, now 93 years old but still sharp as a tack, was the second black officer to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy and the first black officer to take command of a Flag Ship. You may remember him as the Admiral that “deep-sixed” several Huey helicopters to make way for a South Vietnamese Major, the Major’s wife and five children fleeing during the North Vietnamese invasion, to land on the carrier in a small propellor-driven airplane.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

A ground force of 56 men commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bud Sydnor would attack Son Tay. Fourteen men under Major Dick Meadows would crash-land their HH-3 helicopter into the compound. The chosen night rescue required six helicopters (led by an MC-130 guide ship) to fly over 300 miles (requiring refueling) with radio silence as well as operating “dark” and low. This in itself was an amazing endeavor requiring near impossible flying skills.

The movie entailed interviews of the participants on selection, training and the actual insertion. Generals, Admirals and enlisted, all were given time to recollect their individual thoughts on planning, training, and the actual mission, which involved purposely crash-landing one of the six helicopters (an HH-3 Jolly Green Giant) in the prison compound for maximum surprise, while five HH-Super Jolly Green Giant helicopters would land in adjacent fields to destroy a nearby bridge and also neutralize purported enemy guard buildings.

The USS Midway secretly moved from the Indian Ocean into Haiphong Bay to provide air cover and refueling capabilities for the helicopters. It also fired salvos the night of the invasion to cause the enemy’s concentration on the activity there rather than discovering the helicopter flights.

The participants were only informed of the target to be hit at 0300 hrs. November 19th at Takli Air Force Base in Thailand. The mission lifted off at 2318 hrs. November 20th, and flew at treetop level for over three hundred miles.

The mission was not completed as planned and was panned by some U.S. Government officials and the Press as another American failure in the Vietnamese action. President Nixon thought it was a positive endeavor as it was our country’s first attempt at recovering U.S. prisoners of war, and showed the world that America cared. Seventy North Vietnamese guards were neutralized along with two hundred Chinese “advisors” in a neighboring enclosure. Remarkably, other than the one helicopter, not a single plane was lost during this exercise. There were two minor injuries suffered. No prisoners were recovered. They had been secretly moved due to heavy rains which caused heavy flooding.

Master Sgt. “Mad Max” Mullen is a retired Army Ranger and Ranger Instructor, having been installed in the Army Ranger Hall of Fame at FT. Benning, Georgia in 2013. He was raised in Zion, Illinois where he was a member of Boy Scout Troop #63, attended Zion schools and graduated from the Zion-Benton Twp. High School, Class of 1976. “Max” joined the Army immediately after graduation.



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

Lake County Detachment Marine Corps League Foundation, Inc

Officers and Directors

President- Al Seyler

Treasurer- Mel Ellingsen

Secretary- Jerry Pedrin

Directors

Jim Sroka, Ed Mampe, Warren Blacklock, Col. Jim Swab,
Charles Walgreen and Joe Wallace.

The Foundation has scheduled a meeting for Friday the 21st of April
at Stevens' restaurant.

There are no requests for assistance at this time.

Al Seyler
President
Lake County Marines Foundation

Related Military Links to Click

Midwest Veterans Closet

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Marine Corps League Headquarters

Honor Flight Lake County

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.militaryorderofthedevildogs.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