

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



We participated in the Lake Forest Days Parade on 6 August. Thank you to driver Jim Sroka, Randy Christopher for his truck, banner carriers Charles Walgreen and Robert Cooper. And riders Spencer Lane, Art Castillo, Pam Seyler, Jerry Pedrin and Al Seyler.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

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(847) 274-8144

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Detachment Officers

Commandant:	Tom Koncan
Senior Vice-Commandant:	Ed Cooper
Junior Vice-Commandant:	Allan Perez
Judge Advocate:	Peter Karlovics
Paymaster:	Nolan Webster
Adjutant:	John Jezioro
Chaplain:	Joe Womack
Asst. Chaplin	MGYSgt. Wayne Carle
Sgt. at Arms:	Carter Mitchell
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
19 August (Tuesday)
Start Time 1830 or 6:30 pm
Steven's Restaurant

Where Stuff Is

- #1 2025 Lake Forest Parade
- #2 Where Stuff Is
- #3 Chaplain's Corner
- #4 Shake the Can Dates for 2025
- #5 We Need New Members
- #6 Poster to copy and Distribute
- #7 Color & Honmor Guard
- #8 VA Hospital Visits
- #9 Eagle Scouts
- #10 Foundation Report
- #11-#13 and then SMED said
- #14-#15 Related Links

Nominations for next year's officers will occur at both the 19 August and 16 September meetings. The elections take place on 16 September.

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

Next ***Shake the Can*** 16 August 1000 - 1500 See page 4.

Next Meeting 19 August 1830 — Stevens

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Message for July

Independence Day, with all of its celebrations, fireworks and family get togethers is behind us and now it's time to enjoy the remaining month of the summer.

Overall, as a group we have stayed fairly healthy; however, there are still several members, not as fortunate, who could use a pat on the back and friendly get well wishes. Our good health is a blessing from God, and let us not forget to thank him in the way of our choosing.

The past few weeks have been filled with extremes, with both an over-abundance of sunshine, heat and storms. Stay healthy, drink plenty of fluids and get adequate rest.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Semper Fi!

Joe Womack

Chaplain

From Ed Cooper-Sr. Vice Commandant

2025 Fundraising Dates and Locations - **“Shake The Can”**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Sat, 8/16	10am-3pm	Jewel-Osco 6509 W Grand Ave, Gurnee
Sat, 9/6	10am-3pm	Jewel-Osco 3124 N Lewis Ave, Waukegan
Sat, 9/20	10am-3pm	Jewel-Osco 900 E Rollins Rd., Round Lake Beach
Sat, 10/4	10am-3pm	Jewel-Osco 1300 S. Milwaukee-Libertyville

Call Ed with your questions: (760) 533-3850

Membership Renewal

Annual Notice

Expires 31 August



**Renew today with your
local Detachment Paymaster**

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.

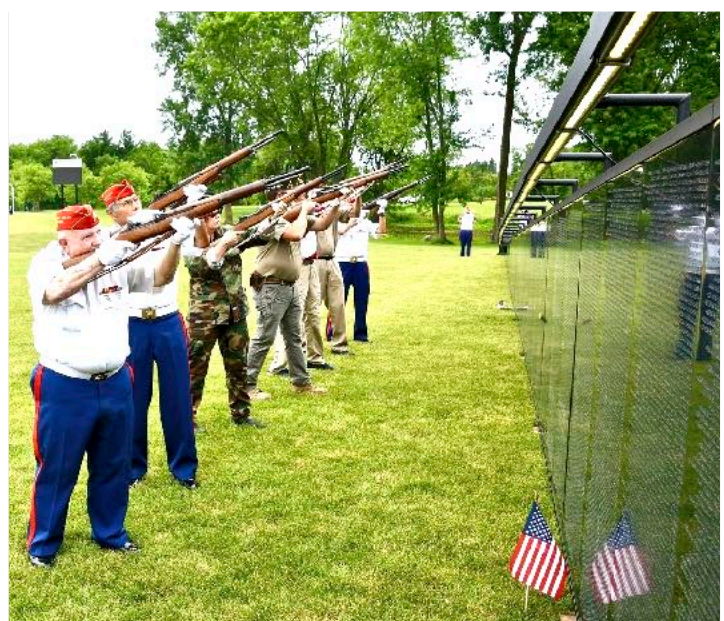
Check us out at

SEMPER FIDELIS





COLOR & HONOR GUARD



Color and Honor Guard

We presented Colors and were joined by members of VFW Post 4551 - Antioch to fire a rifle volley at the opening ceremony of the Wall that Heals on 17 July at 1000 in Antioch.

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

VA Hospital Visits

We had one (1) visit this month on July 22. There were five (5) of us and we were able to visit with quite a few Veterans.

I'd like to share some information from a Marine Corps Vietnam War Veteran: His name was Jim and he served in Vietnam as a combat engineer. He had many close calls in battle, including one that led to his family receiving an erroneous death notice. He said the following regarding his Honor Flight he took on October 27, 2021: **"For 50 years after I got back from Vietnam I couldn't cry. It's now six days after my Honor Flight and I have a lump in my throat that I hope never goes away."** Welcome home, Jim, and thank you for your service.

We encounter many veterans who are so glad to see us and we're so happy to be able listen to what they want to share.

Our next visits are on August 12th. 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, and a flu shot to ensure the safety and well-being of our Veterans and their families. This will provide a safe and successful volunteer experience. So, anyone interested? Please contact Linda Smolich at (847) 204-5348.



EAGLE SCOUTS



Here is Hank Landrau, Col. Jim Homan and Joe Wallace presenting Ka-Bars and certificates to new Eagle Scouts.

We're always looking for help making these presentations.

Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144 Eagle Scout Chair

Lake County Marine Corps League Foundation

Officers and Directors

President- Charles Walgreen

Treasurer- Mel Ellingsen

Secretary- Jerry Pedrin

Directors

**Jim Sroka, Ed Mampe, Warren Blacklock, Col. Jim Swab,
Al Seyler and Nolan Webster.**

The Board approved a \$1,000 donation to the Allen Lynch Foundation / Take-a-Vet-Fishing annual golf outing. We bought a hole as we have the last couple of years. Our detachment logo will appear on our hole.

Charles Walgreen
President



and

then

“SMED”

LAKE COUNTY HONOR FLIGHT

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

I have had the opportunity to welcome back to Lake County more than several Honor Flights over the years, some with our own Detachment members, some with close friends, and one with my brother-in-law, John. I have felt honored to participate in welcoming back our nation's heroes, many of whom spent time in some of our worlds "hell-holes" by onus of their various deployments.

Over the years, I have been encouraged to sign up and go as a participant by several friends, relatives and several marines and have not done so. These are the reasons for my choice to not participate.

My first trip to Washington, D.C. was in May of 1961 on the return home from our "Honeymoon" to the Smokies. Years later, we visited with a dozen of our high school veteran classmates. My "bride" and I also took a train to D.C. with a group of Abbott retirees.

In 2006 and 2007, I rode "Miss Ruby" (my YR-2000 Harley FLHTC) to the Memorial Day Rolling Thunder events. Let me explain a bit about the "Ride to The Wall" in 2006.

My good friend, Jim, a retired Navy Warrant Officer invited me to join him in a "Ride to The Wall" the following Memorial Day. I had heard of it from another friend in California a number of years previous, but decided the event would be too emotional, so never attended. You see, "The Ride to The Wall" was started by two Vietnam veterans in 1987 concerned with our Nation's seemingly indifference to bringing home the Vietnam P.O.Ws. "The Ride" became a National Event, and 2006 would be the nineteenth anniversary. Jim and I would attend, along with other veterans from across the United States and join in the "Ride to The Wall".

Friday night in D.C. was an emotional gathering at the Vietnam Memorial (The Wall) for a candle-lit ceremony in remembrance of those that had not returned. Many of the veterans approached to shake my hand for attending their event. Several used their left hand because the right was missing. Many were missing feet, legs or arms, all thanking me for my attendance. I attempted a phone call home to my 'bride' explaining the occurrence, but hung up, unable to speak.

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Saturday morning, we joined a local H.O.G. Chapter and rode to the Pentagon parking lot where over 200,000 other motorcyclists assembled for a double file ride down Pennsylvania Avenue circling around and ending at the Lincoln Memorial. While waiting for our turn to begin the ride, a man strode by with a group of a dozen ladies who had arrived late. They were Gold Star Wives that were supposed to ride at the front of the group on Tri-cycles, but missed the start. When he explained, I asked, "wasn't that the whole object of the parade, to honor those lost and not returned? Hell yes, one can ride with me!"

He asked, "what branch were you in?" I replied, pointing to the flag on Miss Ruby, "THE MARINE CORPS!" He asked, "where was home?" I stated, "Illinois".

He then introduced me to Deborah May, the wife of Marine S/Sgt. Donald May, lost in one of the three armored vehicles returning from a skirmish, all three falling upside down, off a bridge, into a deep river during a dust storm, remaining undetected for several days until the storm subsided. I remembered reading of that event several years previous. Deborah and Donald were from Illinois.

Deborah and I zig-zagged back and forth across the highway allowing her to touch hands with some of the parade watchers, past the saluting "Gunny" Marine who held his salute in the middle of the road for the two- or three-hour parade duration in his Dress Blues on this blistering hot afternoon. (I met and spoke with him later in the day. He was the subject of another SMED SAID years ago).

Upon reaching the Lincoln Memorial, Deborah stated she was a guest speaker, so I escorted her to the assembly location where she presented me with a small gift-wrapped box thanking me for the ride. (She had lost her husband, and was thanking me for a ride, WOW! I was speechless.) Later, I discovered inside that box were two miniature dog tags of S/Sgt. Donald May.

After listening to Deborah's speech, Jim and I rode to "The Wall" where I did a "Wall Rubbing" of a Winthrop Harbor lad who had not returned from Nam. I had worked next to Lennie Carter's brother years ago. Later, we rode to Arlington National Cemetery where Jim's father was interred. While Jim visited with his dad, I found another section and rendered a "Final Salute" to my deceased Company Commander, "Captain Jack" (now Major General) Frisbie.

S/Sgt. Donald May's dog-tags and Lennie's "wall rubbing" were placed in my saddlebags where they have remained to share all of the subsequent 89,000 miles "Miss Ruby" and I have accumulated together since then.

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Jim and I returned to the 20th Anniversary “Ride to The Wall” in 2007, however we watched the event rather than ride in it. “Not all can be hero’s, some of us sit and applaud the hero’s as they pass by.”

I was only a Marine Corps Reservist. I never saw combat, Hell I never even left the U. S. I have been to Washington D.C. on five occasions, where I met and conversed with some amazing veterans, some of whom returned from some nasty places. I would not presume holding a seat better reserved for a veteran who has never been to D.C. and deserves to go.

Those are my reasons.

Still, I remain, SMED, a proud Marine!

See all of you next month?

Semper Fidelis my friends.

R. M. Butler

(847) 648-6859

3 July 2025

Note from the Editor:

Many of you know that since Warren Blacklock took the Lake County Honor Flight #26, as a non-combat Marine Veteran, he convinced me that I should sign up. I did, #27. It was truly an experience of a lifetime for me as a non-combat Marine Veteran. Yes, I served 1971-1974 and drank the Camp Lejeune water for two years. Still, the Lake County Honor Flight program makes it VERY clear that every veteran should experience an Honor Flight, whether a combat or non-combat veteran. If it wasn't for all of us stateside, no one could have gone overseas. Some of you have seen my communications encouraging you to take the Honor Flight. I will continue to send you those reminders. As for SMED's article, I originally told him over dinner a few weeks ago that I wouldn't print anything that would encourage veterans NOT to take the Honor Flight. Obviously, I changed my mind. So, I hope you continue to enjoy Richard Butler's *and then SMED said* articles in the *Jarhead Journal* and I'll continue to encourage all of you to take the Honor Flight from wherever you call home!

_Mel Ellingsen, Editor.

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