

THE JAWHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com

MEMORIAL PICNIC - MAY 2024



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



The 2025 Memorial Picnic is on Saturday, 31 May, 1100,
Foss Park 1901 Foss Park Avenue North Chicago.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal

Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

editor@lakecountymarines.com

(847) 274-8144

www.lakecountymarines.com

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
20 May (Tuesday)
Start Time 1830 or 6:30 pm
Steven's Restaurant

Where Stuff Is

- #1 2024 Memorial Picnic
- #2 More 2024 Memorial Picnic
- #3 Where Stuff Is
- #4 Chaplain's Corner
- #5 Sr. Vice Comments
- #6 Updated Shake the Can Dates for 2025
- #7 Paymaster's Message
- #8 2025 Memorial Picnic Details
- #9 We Need New Members
- #10 Poster to copy and Distribute
- #11 Color Guard
- #12 Welcome Aboard-Bill Juenger
- #13 Welcome Aboard Spence Lane
- #14 VA Hospital Visits
- #15 Eagle Scouts
- #16 & #17 SNED Said
- #18 My Honor Flight
- #19 Foundation Report
- #20 & #21 Related Links

If you are not getting my emails with the meeting minutes, email me, John Jezioro at jezfamilly11@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

First ***Shake the Can*** 10 May

Next Meeting 20 May - Stevens

Memorial Day Remembrance and Picnic - 31 May - Saturday

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Message April 2025

It is April once again and frequent showers have brought us to the brink of Spring with the temperatures slowly rising and flowers begging to bloom. Easter is behind us and our spirits are high. No better time to thank the lord for all he has given us and to say a special prayer for fellow Marines who find themselves in harm's way.

Next in our agenda is new membership----we need new members to support our need for growth. New blood is essential for accomplishing our goals and adding some energy, sparkle and fresh ideas to our mission. It is amazing the number of fellow Marines out there not aware of MCL-801. It is important that we extend an open invitation.

Finally, the Memorial Day Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 31 in Foss Park. It's a fun time for all---let's try to double last year's attendance.

Semper Fi!

Joe Womack

Chaplain

From Ed Cooper-Sr. Vice Commandant

Please join us on any Saturday below for our yearly fundraising "Shake the Can" on a Saturday at Jewel-Osco stores in Lake County.

Our fundraising is extremely important to our annual donations to include Toys For Tots, Veteran's and Family assistance, etc.

This year the plan is to also donate funds, books, etc., to the Toys for Tots "Literacy Program".

The Toys for Tots Literacy Program distributed 4.1 million books in 2023 and has distributed over 57 million books to disadvantaged children in local communities across the country since the Program's inception in 2008.

More information on the "Toys for Tots Literacy Program":

<https://www.toysfortots.org/programs/literacy-program/>

Also, all of the meals provided to you for FREE every year to include the St. Patrick's Dinner, Pig Roast, Installation Dinner, Christmas Dinner, etc., are provided as a result of our fundraising!

We need your support at our fundraisers - even if only for 1-2 hours on a Saturday.

The fundraiser Saturdays at our "Shake the Can" are full of good times, camaraderie, brotherhood and sisterhood, networking.....and also meeting fellow Marine Veterans with them joining our Detachment.

Please join us! Thank you!

From Ed Cooper-Sr. Vice Commandant

As of: Saturday March 22nd

2025 Fundraising Dates and Locations - “Shake The Can”

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| Sat, 5/10 | 10am-3pm | Jewel-Osco (New Date - Location) 1300 S. Milwaukee-Libertyville |
| Sat, 6/7 | 10am-3pm | Jewel-Osco (Location Change) 885 E. Belvidere Rd Grayslake |
| Sat, 7/12 | 10am-3pm | Jewel-Osco 6509 W Grand Ave, Gurnee |
| Sat, 7/26 | 10am-3pm | Jewel-Osco 900 E Rollins Rd., Round Lake Beach |
| 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

Paymaster's Thoughts

Marines and Associates,

As we move deeper into the year, I'd like to take a moment to highlight one of our most important fundraising traditions —our upcoming Shake the Can events.

These events aren't just about collecting donations; they're about presence. Each dollar dropped into a can helps us provide for veterans in need, support local community programs, and carry on the proud legacy of the Marine Corps League. But just as important is what happens during those few hours outside of stores: we tell our story. We remind our communities that the Marine Corps spirit is alive, active, and still leading from the front.

If you haven't participated before, I encourage you to give it a try. It's a powerful reminder of the respect our cause still command. And if you're a regular, I thank you for being the backbone of our efforts.

Let's hit the streets, stand tall, and shake those cans with purpose.

Semper Fidelis

Nolan Webster

Spring has sprung!!!
The tulips are blooming!!!

Time to get off your Blooming Butts and get with the Program.

MEMORIAL and COOKOUT

Saturday 31 May - 11:00 am

Foss Park

MEMORIAL -

The Members of 801 now guarding the streets of heaven will be Honored with the reading of their Names, firing a rifle Volley and playing Taps.

COOKOUT – Fun and Games begins!!
Fabulous Burgers, Door Prizes, Games, Music.
Bring a Dish to pass and bag chair to sit on.

HELP NEEDED - Work party to set up Canopies, Tables, Grills, Games Etc. -- 9:30 at the Park. Clean up crew when done.

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

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

WELCOME ABOARD



Welcome aboard Bill Juenger, a Cpl who started in the Corps at San Diego. His MOS was 0341-Mortarman along with 0151 Admin clerk and 4421 Legal Specialist. Spent most of his time at Camp Lejeune. He lives with his wife and children in Gurnee. Bill owns and operates Monster Tree Service.

WELCOME ABOARD



Welcome aboard Spencer Lane who is a Paris Island Marine haven been discharged as a Sgt. His MOS was 5811 Military Police. He served at Camp Pendleton and MCAS Iwakuni. He lives in Fox Lake and is a realtor. He likes to hunt.

CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FHCC VISITS



This is Cassie, Al and Kathi's granddaughter, who made these bunny ornaments which were distributed recently by the VA Hospital Team.

WANTED: WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN so we can keep this rewarding program going that Warren Blacklock started in December 2007. That's 18 years ago!!

WHEN: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month

TIME: 13:30 to 15:00 (1:30 to 3:00 PM)

WHERE: Captain James A. Lovell Hospital, North Chicago (We meet in the canteen in the main building).

CONTACT: Voluntary Service Office
Building 135, Room 101
Phone: 224-610-3714

There is a process that ensures the safety and well-being of our Veterans and their families, and provides a successful volunteer experience.

- General Orientation & Volunteer Application
- Background investigation
- Tuberculosis (TB) screening
- Photo & ID Tag

All this can be done in a couple of hours on the same day.

Please join our team and let's cheer up our veterans and make a difference!! Please contact Linda Smolich if interested and if you have any questions. Her phone is: (847) 204-5348



EAGLE SCOUTS



We have presented Forty Ka-Bars from July through April. Another Fourteen are scheduled by the end of June.

We're always looking for help making these presentations.

Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144 Eagle Scout Chair



and

then

“SMED”

said

NAVY SEALS

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

As I was calling, texting and e-mailing some Navy associates to wish them a Happy 250th Birthday a couple of weeks ago, it brought to mind my first Reserve Summer Camp which occurred one month after signing up with the Corps.

June 1957 – All three platoons of the 43rd Special Infantry Company, Great Lakes were loaded on military DC-4 (as I remember) airplanes at Ohare Airport (there were no jet planes then) and headed for M.C.R.D. San Diego for two weeks. Few of us had ever flown before, so it was an “adventure”. Obviously, being military, the prop planes were not pressurized, so we did not fly over the mountains, we flew through them. I distinctly remember looking out the porthole sized windows and seeing mountains above us on both sides as we zig-zagged through them. Because we were previously issued “box lunches” containing one apple, a dry, undressed beef sandwich on white bread, and a pickle, most of us were experiencing our first bout of air sickness. To get fresh air, we pulled the 4” rubber plugs out of the porthole type windows and stuck our noses in the breeze. No seats, just benches with safety harnesses. Company and personal gear was stacked in the middle aisle. So were the airsick members of our company.

The M.C.R.D. “cattle-cars” (green bus like conveyances pulled by semi-truck cabs) transported us to the First Battalion Training Area, and assigned billeting.

Classes and close order drill became the Order of the Day and M-1 “snapping in” and marksmanship were experienced at Camp Mathews on the “B” Range.

The second week we were again loaded on the “cattle cars” and transported to Coronado Island to meet the Navy SEALs for some “enhanced training”. As I remember, they were all seven feet tall, with arms the size of hams and inseams of forty-eight inches in length. Every morning, and again in the evening they would take us for a run along the beach. Most of us would have to take three or four steps to their two to even think about keeping up. We would finish with calisthenics on the beach. They killed us!

Later in the week, we loaded onto the USS Bexix, and took a Navy cruise. The bunks were stacked seven high with about 14” from your nose to the bunk above. Being a “rookie”, I drew the top bunk, which was fine with me for obvious reasons. We cruised all night (out of sight of land) and come morning, after a Navy breakfast (boy, does the Navy eat well), the ship turned around and we went over the side (using nets while in full gear and life jackets) into motorized rubber rafts.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

Next, we were thrown out of the rafts in a straight line about seventy-five yards apart. No matter which way one looked, nothing could be seen but huge waves (A very lonely feeling. "Will they be able to find me again?"), As instructed, we listened for the sound of engines for the raft approaching at full speed. Facing that direction, we raised an arm at the last second to hook into a partially inflated innertube type contraption, held over the side of the raft, which using forward inertia swung us back into the raft. When all were aboard, we headed towards shore for a landing, and "beach assault" where the waiting SEAL's acting as aggressors creamed us.

I have no idea how "Captain Jack" pulled this training off, but it was the most exciting adventure I had ever experienced. The SEALs? Wow!

One Hell of an experience for a eighteen-year-old kid. One month later I reported to M.C.R.D San Diego for Boot Camp (Third Battalion Training Area).

This time, at Camp Matthews, we fired from the "A" Range. I loved the range and still treasure that Sharpshooter Badge. (Missed EXPERT by three points.)

We Marines love to give the Navy a lot of grief, but they sure know how to run a ship, as well as a company of reservists.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NAVY!

See all of you next month?

Semper Fidelis my friends.

-30-

SMED



Cattle Car

My Lake County Honor Flight

By Mel Ellingsen

I have watched over the years as Lake County Detachment 801 members have traveled to Washington, D.C. with Honor Flight programs, I said to myself, I'll go later after all those deserving combat Marines made the trip. Then last April, Waren Blacklock, a non-combat Cold War veteran, made the trip and convinced me to sign up. I did and returned from D.C. last Sunday evening to a glorious 'Welcome Home' both at the Milwaukee Airport and again at the Veterans Memorial in North Chicago.

My service with the Corps began with the realization that after college I would be drafted into the Army and would be sent to Vietnam. I decided that if I was going, it would go in style, so I signed up for the Corps. Two six-week summer boot camps later and on the day I graduated, I Shirley pinned on my Butter-Bars (as Al Seyler reminds me). I reported to Quantico on 1 May 1971; on 1 July 1971 the USMC said they were pulling out of Vietnam. Not one of the 160 Lieutenants in my six-month TBS class went over. After Fort Sill, I spend two years drinking the water at Camp Lejeune.

The Lake County Honor Flight program is managed by Paula Carballido, Executive Director and Co-Founder. This young lady is dedicated to being sure that every veteran

on the flight feels honored and appreciated for their service. Sure, time was taken to call out two Purple Heart, one Bronze, and one Silver Star veterans along with one World War II-100-year-old veteran. However, Paula many, many times reminded those of us who didn't see combat how important our service was in support of those who took fire.

We traveled Friday by air and left the hotel at 0630 on our bus for D.C. Saturday. We started at Arlington National Cemetery. I was honored to be part of a four-veteran group to place a Vietnam Memorial Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. [Click here for the video.](#) By Sunday afternoon, we had visited every War Memorial as well as the 9-11 Pentagon Memorial and the MLK Memorial. Approaching the airport boarding gate Sunday, we heard nothing but THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE from hundreds of D.C. travelers. Same thing happened getting off the plane in Milwaukee. And then... walking to the bus, Wow, I counted over 200 Illinois village police and sheriff deputies in full uniform holding flags and shaking my hand. The crowd waiting for us in North Chicago was just as large. What a weekend!!!! Thank you LCHF!

My personal goal is to get the rest of the detachment Marines and Corpsman to sign-up with the Lake County Honor Flight!

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.**

There have been no requests for assistance this month.

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