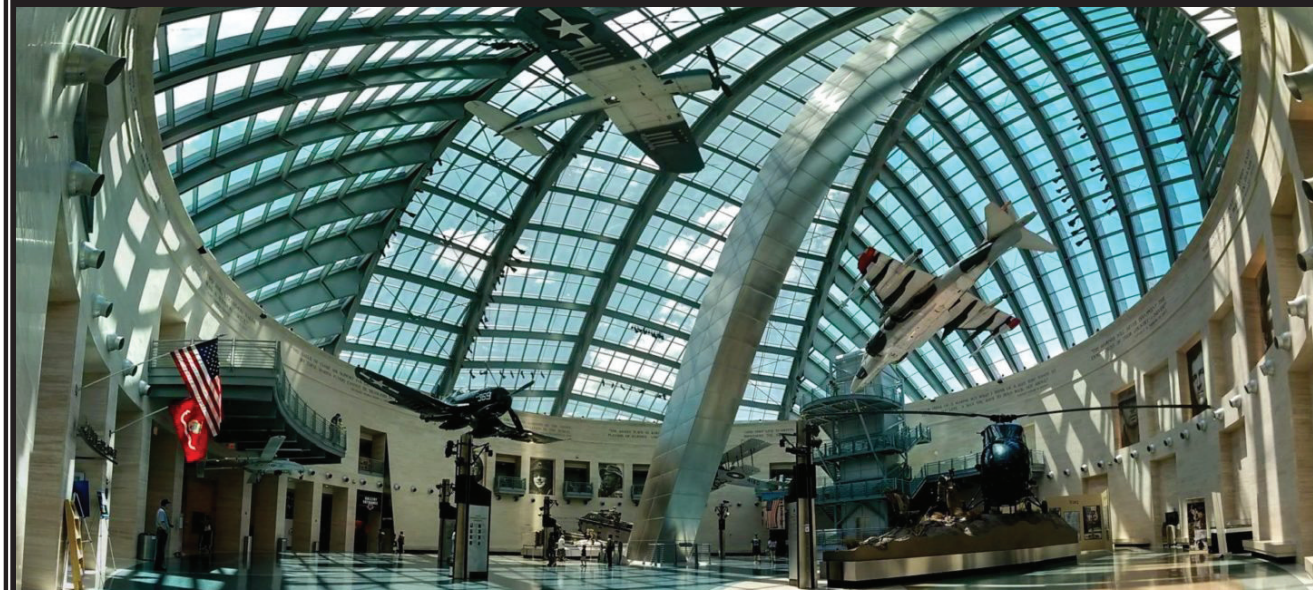
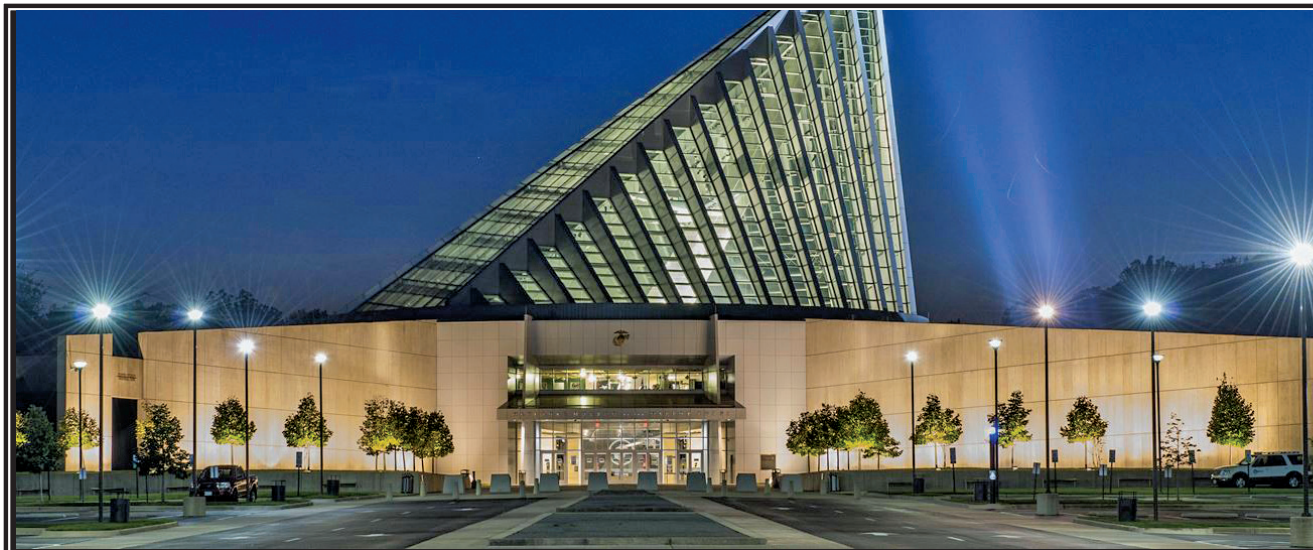




# Marine Corps League

April 2024

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS  
**THE ILLINOIS MARINE**



# THE ILLINOIS MARINE

## DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

**For those receiving hard copy newsletter, please contact your paymaster with your email address so we can reduce printing costs & improve Marine Corps League Communication!**

### COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE:

Marines,

I hope everyone survived the winter months. I'm looking forward to spring and summer months ahead. I'm attending or attended 3rd Staff in DeKalb. Looking forward to a new approach to our training sessions.

Please, mark your calendars for our Department Convention in June In Springfield . Remember to submit your Detachment's choice for Marine of the Year award.

This is a short message due to slow communication from the Detachments. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns ronburns45@live.com Or 618-593-0533.

Semper Fidelis,  
Ronald E. Burns, Sr.

### NOTE FROM AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

You are all amazing and with all of us working together we can make the Department of Illinois an organization we can be proud of. Please keep our members who are sick or in distress in your prayers and keep our military forces at home and abroad in your daily prayers as we ask God to watch over them and guide their steps to peace.

Semper Fi  
Jo Larsen

### SR. VICE COMMANDANT

Welcome to Spring finally!

It's a busy time for the League and I hope you all have made arrangements to participate. Central Division Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Department Staff in DeKalb, Illinois, National Convention in Palm Desert, California, all of these are happening soon. I know all Detachments have activities planned also, please try to take advantage of these events as these are opportunities to learn, grow and develop more of the Marine camaraderie so important to us.

By the time this gets to the Illinois Marine 3rd Staff will be past.

The 3rdStaff in DeKalb was used to train the specific offices at the Detachment level. I was assigned to provide training for the Senior Vice Commandant. The training consisted of the duties and responsibilities in accordance with National and Department By-laws. One thing I will mention is the importance of being prepared to step up and hold meetings if the Commandant is unable to. All the officers should be prepared to move up if it is required. This happened at Department a few years ago and it was relatively

easy as the officers knew what was expected of them. I know it has happened at various Detachments in the past. Be prepared!

The Marine Corps Coordinating Council provided stipends for lodging and meals. It is hard to blame finances for not being there.

The Senior Vice raffles are on going and as of right now (March 15) I do have tickets. They were taken to 3rd Staff.

I attended Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D. C. in February. The office window overlooked the Air Force Memorial (sorry) and just to the left was Arlington National Cemetery, always an awesome site. Work was accomplished and things learned.

At 3rd Staff I announced my intention to stand for Department Commandant for the next year.

Your support would be appreciated!

Semper Fidelis,  
Robert R. "Randy" Weber  
Senior Vice Commandant

### JR. VICE COMMANDANT:

Marines,

Recognize and credit your members for their achievements! Retention is as important as recruitment.

Be aware of your established members who are positive, available, and ready to serve. Take notice of their involvement with detachment and community happenings. Any member may nominate another for an award, but also talk to your commandant if you need an assist with a nomination.

Once you have that new member, mentor him or her about fundraising, community service, leadership positions, and social activities. Introduce and include them so they feel part of the detachment. Compliment their efforts, listen to their ideas, and knowledge their contributions. Involve them in your detachment Marine family whether associate or regular member and you will receive much more than you give.

Attached is the nomination form...contact me if you have any questions.

630-330-2571 or v.cobbett@comcast.net

Semper Fi,  
Victoria Cobbett

### JUDGE ADVOCATE:

If I can help with questions or concerns with these matters I may be reached at marjk311@hotmail.com or 630 665-8769.

Semper Fidelis  
John Olejnicky

## PAYMASTER:

Marines,

For those who use the internet visit the Marine Corps League Website at Marine Corps League – Marine Corps League (**MCLLeagueLibrary.org**) here you can find information related to the League.

If your membership address, phone number or email address changes you can use their Database Portal to update your profile information without going through the Paymaster. Or contact the Paymaster to provide assistance with the changes.

### WHY KEEP YOUR PROFILE UPDATED?

1. When the National Sends out the Magazine or Department Newsletter and we have bad information, it costs money. 2023 we were on track to spend \$13,000.00 for our newsletter, chasing down emails reduced our costs so far, but we are still short about 1000 emails.
2. Future Renewal notices from National to help Detachments keep their membership up.

Recently, a **DROPPED MEMBER REPORT** was sent out to use to bring back members who did not renew their membership for whatever reason. Commandants and Junior Vice check with your paymaster.

Our 250th Anniversary of the Corps is 2025, attracting New Members is expected to increase. HQMC and Navy main effort will be focused at Philadelphia October 10 to November 10th 2025.

Semper Fidelis!

Mike Ruffner GySgt USMC Retired

## SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Greetings Marines

I hope everything has been fine through the winter and into the New Year let's pray that the end of this year everything's back to way it should be. When you see this the third staff has already taken place I hope a bunch of you went to it I wasn't able to go. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention be safe enjoy the Spring see you in June.

Bill SchultzSemper Fidelis

William (Bill) Schultz

## JR. PAST COMMANDANT:

I just returned from Nat'l Mid-Winter last month. We were well represented with Commandant Burns, Sr. Vice Weber, PDC Blackmer, and VCDD/3rd Dist Commandant Joe Pollock. I won't steal the Commandant's thunder, but I will advise that beginning in July, the Departments will be responsible for pulling their own rosters.

Please continue to stay up on all your required paperwork and reports; i.e., 990's, IRS, ROI's, TACOM for those who have rifles, etc.

This edition will be out after 3rd Staff and during our Central Division Conference, so I hope everyone had a good time, and learned something new.

Always remember our Brothers and Sisters who are serving, those who never came home, and those who came home but never really returned.

Semper Fidelis,  
PDC Mike Sturch

## FROM THE EDITOR:

THE ILLINOIS MARINE PUBLICATION would like to keep our members up to date by use of email and our website. The website has current information and various forms available for your convenience. ([www.TheIllinoisMarine.com](http://www.TheIllinoisMarine.com))

NEXT NEWSLETTER IS JULY 2024

Thank you,  
Lori Boyle  
[MCLIllinoisNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:MCLIllinoisNewsletter@gmail.com)

## VAVS

Please use E-contact for concerns & updates at: [LZ4vets@gmail.com](mailto:LZ4vets@gmail.com).

Semper Fi,  
George Mulvaney, VAVS Chairman

## DEPT. OF IL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Department IL MCL scholarship submission deadline has been extended to 14 April 2024.

The scholarship application available on the website is the CURRENT application.

If you have any questions, contact Scholarship Chair, Victoria Cobbett 630-330-2571 or 630-257-6423 or [v.cobbett@comcast.net](mailto:v.cobbett@comcast.net).

Victoria Cobbett, Scholarship Chair

## U.S. MARINE CORPS BRONZE MEDAL



This is the bronze medal version of the U.S. Marine Corps Silver Medal issued through the Armed Forces Silver Medal Series. Honor a Marine Corps veteran's or your own service while recognizing the contributions of our military.

The obverse design depicts three Marines with M4 rifles moving ashore just after an amphibious landing. In the foreground, one of the Marines lies hidden in the grass, providing cover for the other two about to crest the hill, while a U.S. warship is seen in the distance. Inscriptions are "U.S. MARINE CORPS," and "EVERY MARINE A RIFLEMAN."

The reverse depicts the familiar Marine Corps Eagle, Globe, and Anchor emblem encircled by a rope border. Its core values, "HONOR," "COURAGE," and "COMMITMENT," and the Marine Corps motto "SEMPER FIDELIS," ("Always Faithful"), are inscribed around the outer border.



Go to the US Mint for details.



The Marine For Life Network (M4L) connects transitioning Marines, Marine Veterans, and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service. The National network is managed and operated by local reserve Marines who also work within the civilian community they serve. Veterans, and in particular Marine Veterans, bring a unique skillset and work ethic that employers are eager to seek out. By building lasting relationships with civilian employers, M4L representatives and the connection between employers and Marines transitioning to the civilian sector. Whether a Marine exited the service 4 days ago or 40 years ago, the M4L program stands ready to serve!

US Marine Corps, Marine & Family Programs Division  
 3280 Russell Rd, Quantico, VA 22134-5143  
 (866) 645-8762      m4lops@usmc.mil  
<https://marineforlife.org/>

Proposed bylaw changes to be reviewed are on the The Illinois Marine website.  
<https://TheIllinoisMarine.com>

They can be found by clicking:

- More
- Department By Laws

The first item is a copy of the current By-laws and the next 3 items are the proposed Bylaw changes to be discussed at the June Convention.



## THE TUN AKA TUN TAVERN

SOCIAL MEDIA SITES for the Tun Tavern Foundation are now live. They are provided here:

- **LinkedIn**
- **Facebook**
- **Twitter**
- **Instagram**

On behalf of the Tun Foundation, I am requesting you go to your social media sites & "follow" the above. In doing so, you will increase the awareness of our efforts to resurrect our Tun Tavern.



The Foundation has also requested each of you place the attached TUN LOGO on your website with an embedded link to the Tun website. This will further enhance awareness of the efforts. The website to embed is [www.TheTun.org](http://www.TheTun.org)

I am providing the following writeup for your reference, please use any - all - none of it as you push out via your social media the word to rebuild The Tun....(I wanted to make it easy for you to assist the Foundation):



"After waiting nearly 242 years since it last stood, The Tun™ tavern will be rebuilt in Philadelphia, approximately 250 yards from the original location, leading into the 250th Marine Corps and Navy Homecoming celebration in November 2025. The Tun™ tavern was the birthplace of our Corps, the US Navy, the Pennsylvania Freemasons, the Society of St. George, the St. Andrew's Society, and the Sons of St. Patrick.

The mission is to rebuild and re-establish The Tun™ as it was, a functioning mariner's tavern reminiscent of colonial Philadelphia, serving period-influenced refreshments, food, and entertainment and offering an educational experience through exhibits, historical documents, and special events. All profits from operations of The Tun™ will be donated perpetually to support veteran causes, Masonic charities, educational scholarships, and qualified charities as determined by The Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation's independent Board of Directors.

Through your giving and generosity, we will have the Tun™ for centuries to come. The Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation website is now accepting donations. Donor gifts include a 32 oz. handmade copper stein, authentic to 1700's design, Tun Alley bricks, Polos, T-shirts, and the opportunity to hang your stein or mug in the Tun™. The Tun™ will be rebuilt brick by brick with your help. This is your opportunity to rebuild history. Please help to get the word out!"

# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

## A Monument to *HONOR, COURAGE & COMMITMENT*

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is a lasting tribute to the commitment, accomplishments, and sacrifices of U.S. Marines. Situated on a 135-acre site adjacent to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, and under the command of Marine Corps University, the Museum's soaring design evokes the images of the flag raisers of Iwo Jima and beckons visitors to this 240,000-square-foot structure. World-class interpretive exhibits with innovative technology and unique artifacts surround visitors and immerse them in the sights and sounds of Marines in action.

The Museum is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The Foundation was established in 1979 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization to support the historical programs of the Marine Corps in ways not possible through government funds. The Foundation supports the Museum's volunteer and educational programs.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps, under the command of Marine Corps University, preserves and exhibits the material history of the U.S. Marine Corps; honors the commitment, accomplishments, and sacrifices of Marines; supports recruitment, training, education, and retention of Marines; and provides the public with universally accessible platforms for the exploration of Marine Corps history. The Museum:

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is located in the town of Triangle, VA just off I-95, 36 miles south of Washington, D.C., and 76 miles north of Richmond, VA.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COMMANDANT - WARREN GRIFFIN

For those of us with iPhone, there is important information from the Marine Corps League Commandant. Below is the draft from the Commandant regarding the new App available at the Apple App Store for us. Get your profile number from the paymaster.

January 2, 2024

From: Warren Griffin, National Commandant

To: All Members

RE: Membership Cards

On January 2, 2024, the National Board of Trustees met and voted unanimously to make changes to the membership card and rosters.

1. The Profile ID number will be the primary membership number to identify members and will be utilized on the official membership card.

2. The Profile ID number will be utilized on the mobile application available in Apple and Google Play stores. Members are encouraged to ask the Detachment Paymaster for their Profile ID number.

3. As annual dues-paying members renew over the coming 12 months; they will be issued a newly designed membership card that lists only the detachment where the member holds their national voting rights. These will be mailed to the Detachment Paymaster. a. A member will continue to have voting rights within each detachment they are a member of. "One Member, One Vote."

b. The Mobile App will continue to show each detachment a person is a member of.

4. Newly revised membership cards will provide larger font by reducing some of the information previously on the card. The new card will use the Profile ID (PID) number. It will not list the Life Member Number or Member Number.

5. Members who become Life Members will receive a gold plastic membership card and a gold metal membership card. Additional/replacement membership cards may be purchased.

6. Member Number and Life Member Number will be removed from the roster report. a. Work is in progress to have the number of open invoices to be shown on the roster report.

b. Once a person passes 380 days of open invoice, their member status becomes inactive and they are dropped from the roster. Therefore, there is only a 15-day window in September that will show two (2) open invoices.

7. As of July 1, 2024, quarterly rosters will be generated by the Department for the Detachments in their state. Departments are encouraged to reach out to their National Vice Commandant, JD Foster, or Bob Borka for training and assistance.

Sincerely,  
Warren Griffin  
National Commandant/CEO

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1st Tuesday at 1900

chicagopolicemarines@gmail.com

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### **ABOUT GI BILL BENEFITS**

GI Bill benefits help you pay for college, graduate school, and training programs. Since 1944, the GI Bill has helped qualifying Veterans and their family members get money to cover all or some of the costs for school or training. Learn more about GI Bill benefits on this page—and how to apply for them.

If you applied for and were awarded Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits, your GI Bill Statement of Benefits will show you how much of your benefits you've used and how much you have left to use.

Review your GI Bill Statement of Benefits →



The GI Bill Comparison Tool and Veterans Service Organizations can help you explore options and find out what benefits you can get.



← Scan to learn more about GI Bill

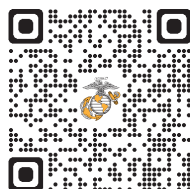
## **80TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION JUNE 13-16**

80th Department Convention will be held at Northfield Inn 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL (217 523-7900)  
Room rate - \$96.00+14% tax=\$109.44

### **MARINE CORPS LICENSE PLATES**



For more info check with your Local Drivers License Facility, State website is to be updated in the near future



[www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/)

# VA Health Care Expands to Millions of Veterans

*All Veterans exposed to toxins while serving can enroll in VA health care.*

Beginning March 5, millions of Veterans are eligible for VA health care years earlier than called for by the PACT Act. Specifically, all Veterans who meet basic service and discharge requirements and who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving our country—at home or abroad—are now eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

In one of the largest-ever expansions of Veteran health care, 3 new groups of Veterans are now eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. You are eligible if you meet basic service and discharge requirements and if any of the following applies to you:

- You served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11.
- You were deployed in support of the Global War on Terror.
- You were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty. This includes working with chemicals, pesticides, lead, asbestos, certain paints, nuclear weapons, x-rays and more.

You don't need to be sick or file a claim to become eligible. All you have to do is show that you served in a location or operation—or participated in an activity—that could have exposed you to hazards. You can view more military exposure categories on VA's Public Health website. Even if none of these descriptions match your service, you may be eligible based on your income. Bottom line: it's now quicker and easier than ever for you to enroll.

## WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE?

VA provides the best and most affordable health care for Veterans in America. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than those who get their care elsewhere. That's because our clinicians know Veterans and often are Veterans. And they know exactly how to help.

So, don't wait. Apply for the care you deserve at VA.gov/PACT. Even if you don't need this care today, you might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. It's quick and easy to apply. And once you're in, you have access for life.

## MY HEALTHEVET AND YOUR CARE

If you're new to VA health care, there are many ways that My HealtheVet can help you manage your care. Refill prescriptions, manage appointments, message your health care team, and more. VA health care is the best care for Veterans. And we want to help you stay engaged in your care and access the many resources available to you.

## WHERE ARE MY MEDICATIONS?

When it's time to refill or renew your VA-dispensed prescriptions, My HealtheVet can help. But we heard your feedback: finding your medication isn't always as easy as it should be. Here are some updates and tips to make it easier to find your medications on My HealtheVet.

Check for VA-dispensed prescriptions on the Refill VA Prescriptions page. Medications listed on this page are available for refill if the Refill Status column says "Active," and the Refills Remaining column has a number greater than 0.

# THE ILLINOIS MARINE

Providing information to and about:

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