



# THE EMBLEM



**P. L. Wilson Detachment #447, Marine Corps League**

## Must See:

**AMERICAN LEGION 250 CHALLENGE  
SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2026**

*Happy Birthday Celebration 3 pm - 6 pm*

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
CDR Van Hubbard

District 33

**SPONSORED BY**



Mobile County Public  
School System



USS Alabama Crewmates

**HOSTED BY**



National Anthem  
Zachary Thomas Diedrich



Boy Scouts of America  
Troop 87 - Daphne



**American Legion 107th Birthday Celebration**

The USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, South Alabama Veterans Council, and the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission invite you to join us in celebrating the American Legion's 107th Birthday.

**DATE:** March 15, 3 pm - 6 pm

**LOCATION:** USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park,  
Honors Pavilion **DRESS:** Business casual

**RSVP BY** March 11

**Phone:** Tom Claxton 251-767-8489

**March 2026 Edition  
Officers and Staff**

**Commandant**

Tom Claxton 251-767-8489  
tclaxton73@gmail.com

**Senior Vice Commandant**

Tom Wells 251-656-3158  
Wellsts96@gmail.com

**Junior Vice Commandant**

Nick Matranga 251-287-4005  
Nmatranga@comcast.net

**Judge Advocate**

Libby Davis 251-610-9954  
libbyportcity@yahoo.com

**Adjutant**

Tom Wells 251-656-3158  
Wellsts96@gmail.com

**Webmaster**

Tom Wells 251-656-3158  
MobileMarinesWebMaster@gmail.com

**Paymaster**

Jennifer Byrd  
paymasterPLWilson@gmail.com

**Chaplain**

Endel Lee  
endellee@yahoo.com

**Sergeant at Arms**

Steve Guiney  
Steve.Guiney1@icloud.com

**Jr. Past Commandant**

Ricky Reed

[Click for PL Wilson Detachment #447 Website](#)

[Click for The Semper Fi Store](#)

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# Installation of Officers and Awards:



2026 Officers are sworn in:

**Commandant: Tom Claxton, Sr. Vice: Tom Wells, Junior Vice: Nick Matranga, Judge Advocate: Libby Davis**



**Marine of the Year Award  
to  
Bob Hileman**

**In appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service in the interest of the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League.**



**Associate of the Year Award  
to  
Charles Warren**

**In appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service in the interest of the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League.**

# USMC HISTORY IN MARCH



## Japanese Launch Final Counterattack on Iwo Jima

On March 25, 1945, the assault on the island of Iwo Jima appeared to have ended after 35 days of intense fighting. However, that night, 300 Japanese troops launched a final, last-ditch counterattack near Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees, and Marines from the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the Japanese forces until morning but suffered heavy casualties. More than 100 Americans were killed and a further 200 were wounded. Almost all of the Japanese troops were killed in the battle.



## 8th & I

On March 31, 1801, the second Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant Colonel William W. Burrows, rode with then-President Thomas Jefferson in search of, "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." The two chose a square in Southeast Washington, at 8th and I streets, due to its proximity to the Navy Yard, as well as being within marching distance of the Capitol.



**First Female Marine to Serve in a Combat Zone**  
On March 18, 1967, the first female Marine to serve in a combat zone reported for duty in Ho Chi Minh City (commonly known as Saigon), a city in southern Vietnam.

Barbara J. Dulinsky served at the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam headquarters in Saigon, providing administrative support to the Marines.

Dulinsky is credited with taking a major step toward promoting women's duties in the Marine Corps.

In a letter she wrote, "Right now, most of us don't look the picture of 'the New Image.' Whew! Hardly! I can't determine at night, if I'm pooped from the work day or from carrying around these anvils tied to my feet called combat boots. Our Young-uns (and me too inside) were scared, but you'd have been proud of them. They turned to in the mess, cashiering, washing dishes, serving and clearing tables."



**9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade Lands at DaNang**  
On March 8, 1965, the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Vietnam, becoming the first American ground combat troops to arrive in the country. The 3,500 men arrived both via the beach with the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines Landing Team, and at DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines.

# Dates to Remember

## March:

### Meeting:

Thursday 5 March  
Chow 1800, Meeting 1900

### Daylight Savings:

Sunday 8 March

### American Legion Birthday:

Sunday 15 March

### St. Patrick's Day:

Tuesday 17 March



# PL Wilson Color Guard:



**Honor Guard at opening of Athena's Ball.**

# Devil Dogs on the Growl!

**Devil Dogs**



**Devil Dogs**



**There will be much howling and whimpering  
as many will suffer from fines and mayhem.  
But in the end, we will all have a good time.**

**Our Growl will be  
TBA**

**As always let's keep the less than computer literate  
Dogs among us aware of the upcoming growls.  
Please contact Pound Keeper Libby Davis (251-610-9954) if you have questions.**

# Wreaths Across America



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### In Our Prayers:

Lou Lartigue's Family (Grief)

Ray Cox (Health)

Karen Savelle (Health)

John Wilson (Health)



March:  
"The strength of any strategy is in its  
simplicity."  
Carl von Clausewitz, "On War"

### As a reminder

Please remember to keep a copy of your  
DD-214  
handy so if needed for any reason,  
your loved ones  
can find it.

Det. Chaplain, Endel Lee, RDML, (07/Ret),  
CHC, U.S. Navy, USMC Captain (03) &  
Sergeant (E-5)  
Email: Endellee@yahoo.com

Det. Chaplain Assistant, Charles Warren  
CIV Patriot & father of 2 Marines



# Officers and Chairmen for 2025

## DETACHMENT OFFICERS / COMMITTEES/ STAFF

COMMANDANT	Tom Claxton	251-767-8489
SR. VICE COMMANDANT	Tom Wells	251-656-3158
JR. VICE COMMANDANT	Nick Matranga	251-287-4005
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Libby Davis	251-610-9954
ADJUTANT	Tom Wells	251-656-3158
PAYMASTER	Jennifer Byrd	
CHAPLAIN	Endel Lee	
SERGEANT AT ARMS	Steve Guiney	
JR. PAST COMMANDANT	Ricky Reed	
WEBMASTER	Tom Wells	

## HONORARY DETACHMENT STAFF

## DETACHMENT STAFF, LIAISONS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AMERICANISM & HISTORICAL	Bubba Jackson
AWARDS & CERTIFICATE	Ray Cox
BEREAVEMENT	Vacant
BIRTHDAY BALL LIAISON	Betty Beatty
COLOR GUARD	Mike Nichols
DIRECTORY	Danny Stephenson
EAGLE SCOUTS	Bubba Jackson
GREEN VETERANS HOME	Robbie Reed
MARINES HELPING MARINES	Roy Lafon
HOSPITALITY	Dan Stephenson
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER	Ricky Reed
MONUMENT	Perry Vaughn
MULHERIN HOME LIAISON	Gwyn Howard
NEWSLETTER <i>The Emblem</i>	Tom Wells
PHOTOGRAPHY	Tammy Kelly
PICNIC	Jim Smith
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	Annette Claxton
RIFLES	Mike Nichols
ROADBLOCK	Tommy Malone
SEMPER FI GOLF TOURN	Roy Lafon
SERVICE OFFICER	Willie Dunning
SHIPS STORE	Ann Parnell
TOYS FOR TOTS	Betty Beatty
TRAILER	Tommy Malone
VAVS OFFICER	Larry Savell



*Still vacant spots to fill. To volunteer, Commandant Tom Claxton at 251-767-8489*



**IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THEIR FINAL  
ORDERS & HAVE REPORTED TO THE  
SUPREME COMMANDANT  
SEMPER FIDELIS AND WOOF WOOF MARINES**

EARL DODSON  
SANDY GALDIS  
WOODY VAN  
JIM BLAIN  
BOB DELANEY  
GARY WALLEY  
BOB PAYNE  
JAN HAGGLER  
GENE REESE  
EARNIE BOTTS  
ROY DELANEY  
CECIL FARLEY  
WARREN PATRICK  
HANK COVINGTON  
JACK OLSEN  
JOHN SCHAFFER  
JOHN W. JONES  
LARRY ODOM  
HENRY MCEACHERN  
MIKE AKRIDGE  
PRENTISS BAUGHMAN  
JAMES COVINGTON  
JIM GUNN  
SAMUEL FARRIS  
DICK BARNETT  
CHARLES H. BETHEA  
SEN. HOWELL HEFLIN  
DAVID THOMPSON  
WALT WALDIE  
BILL RAMSEY  
GEORGE HARTZES  
BILL HUNTER  
STANLEY MORGAN  
MARVIN E. MYER, JR.  
MARTIN SALTERS  
CHARLES ROBERTS  
CHARLES 'CHUCK'  
SCAFF  
RICK STAFFORD  
THOMAS ODOM  
CLARENCE KNOX, JR.  
ALWIN STRONG  
JOE PARKER  
WILLIAM B. JONES  
DANNY CLEVELAND  
PETE HOUSTON  
TOMMY SIMMONS  
D. B. JOHNSON  
JOSEPH G. PETERSON  
LUKE LEWIS  
GEORGE LEWIS, JR.  
HARRY SMITH, JR  
JACK COLEY  
BOOTSIE SMITHERMAN  
T.C. 'PETE' BATES  
JOHN THOMPSON  
TOM TOBIN  
JOHN GRAY



DAVE CERAMI  
TOMMY GULLEY  
JOHN GAVIN  
MICHAEL O. DUEITT  
ED RIGAS  
C.B. EDWARDS, JR.  
WILLIAM SANSONE  
JOSEPH JACKSON  
MICHAEL JOINER  
JAKE POILLON  
JERRY GIRARDEAU  
RONALD HUGHES  
CHUCK HARDESTY  
ROBERT GODWIN

**2013**

EARNEST "BUDDY" GANDY  
ROBERT LEE SIMMONS  
ELBERT HARVEY BRYAN  
KARL RICHARD GROSS SR  
KENNETH WEBSTER GOFF  
WILLIAM F. BRAMLETT  
JAMES C GUNNELS, JR  
LARRY E HEWETT

**2014**

EDWARD HAYNES  
WILLIAM J HAIRE  
ROBERT SIMMONS  
ARTHUR HEMPHILL  
CHARLES GAVIN  
JEREMIAH A DENTON JR  
ROBERT WAYNE NABORS  
BOBBY HEMPFLENG  
JAMES S HARRELL  
JAMES MCEVOY  
JOHN LITTLEJOSEPH  
DUEITT  
MARCUS RAMSEY

**2015**

MIKE WELLS  
MOISEY FLORES  
WALTER MCKEOUGH  
SAMUEL VAUGHN, SR.  
ALBERT G TANNER  
DR SIDNEY PHILLIPS

ALBERT POUNDS  
DR NICK NICHOLS  
BILL CARPENTER  
NORMAN GERALD

**2016**

EZELL WALKER  
KENNETH SKIPPER  
JOHN M TYSON  
WILLIAM CRABTREE

**2017**

JOHN WESLEY LYNN  
STEPHEN KLINGER  
MACK HERRIN  
LUTHER LINTON  
MIKE SMITH

**2018**

GEORGE DAVIS  
CHARLES HAWKINSON  
RAY WILLIAMSON  
LARRY KENT  
AL PAWLOWSKI  
BOB GUESNARD  
JERRY ELDER

**2019**

SIDNEY BIEHL  
MARSHA CLAXTON  
LEE VAUGHN  
RON BRIDGES

**2020**

WILLIAM HOOKER  
JOHN WILSON  
FRED WALTERS  
JOHN BANKSTON

**2021**

HERMAN BRASWELL  
RICK IVY  
MARY JANE JACKSON

**2022**

RALPH KNOX  
WILLIAM MAYHALL

GEORGE SCOTT  
JOSEPH BELLINGER

**2023**

JIM EVANS  
DOMINIC MATRANGA  
JACK PRESNALL  
WILLARD JOHNSON  
CHARLIE MALONE  
RODNEY LEE

**2024**

LINDA WADE  
GEN. GARY COOPER  
THURMAN ROLAND

**2025**

DAVE SPROTT  
JOE ALDRICH  
PERRY VAUGHN

**2026**

Lou Lartigue





## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

**All Regular Members and Non-Life Associate Membership dues of \$28 are due September 1st, 2026.**

If delinquent please "pay up" so that you will be good through August 31st of 2027.

Payments can be made in person at our meetings or can be mailed to:  
**PL WILSON DETACHMENT, INC. #447  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
1956 South University Blvd  
Suite J 141  
MOBILE, AL36609**

**For more information on membership or dues, contact Paymaster Jennifer Byrd or email her at**

**[PaymasterPLWilson@gmail.com](mailto:PaymasterPLWilson@gmail.com)**

### Life Member Information

The P.L. Wilson Detachment is unique in that a large percentage of our members have chosen to become Life Members of our Detachment. Life Members no longer pay annual dues (**currently 28.00**). In addition, Life Members receive a Gold Membership card, a Life Member Marine Corps League Pin, and are eligible for Life Member recognition on their Marine Corps League Cover.

**Life Membership will increase from current to new rates effective 1 July 2024**

	<b>Old Rate:</b>	<b>New Rate:</b>
Ages up to 35:	\$500.00	\$1,000
Ages: 36 to 50:	\$400.00	\$800
Ages 51 to 64:	\$300.00	\$600
Ages 65 to 84:	\$200.00	\$200
Ages 85 and up:	\$100	\$100

**For information on Life Membership, Please contact Jr. Vice Commandant Nick Matranga  
251-287-4005**



**RECEPTIONS, MEETINGS, OR PARTIES?**

**CHECK OUT THE ACCOMMODATIONS & ECONOMICAL RATES AT THE  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 88  
2663 Halls Mill Road  
Mobile, AL 36606**

**Maximum capacity – 200 people  
Hall rental fee - \$200.00  
\$50.00 Clean-up fee (Returnable if facility is left clean)  
Alcohol, Soft Drinks, & Snacks available at our Pay Bar  
Available Add Own's  
Use of Kitchen facilities - \$50.00  
Use of Barbecue Pit - \$25.00 – waiver required  
Stereo Music /Disc Jockey/ – Fee to be determined**

**For Additional Information or Reservations  
Call 251-508-0992**