



# THE EMBLEM



GOD COUNTRY CORPS



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

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

P. L. WILSON DETACHMENT



### NEXT MEETING MAY 7<sup>th</sup>

Chow at 1800  
Meeting at 1900

**LOCATION:**  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 88

## ★ MAY WE NEVER ★ FORGET



## FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

May 2026 Editon:

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



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# P.L. Wilson Family Picnic



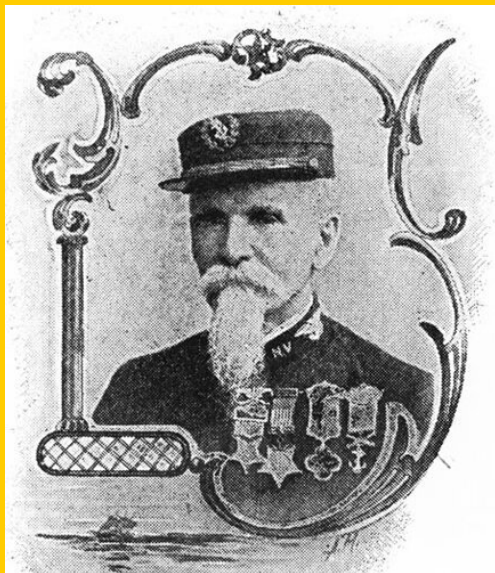
**Huge thank-you to everyone who joined us for the P.L. Wilson Annual Family Picnic! Great food, family fun, and plenty of camaraderie made it a fantastic day. Special shout-out to all the volunteers who helped bring it together.**

# USMC History May



## Marines March Toward Naha, Okinawa

**On May 10, 1945, the 22nd Marines, 6th Marine Division, executed a pre-dawn attack across the Asa River Estuary and captured a bridgehead that allowed them to continue their attack toward Naha, the capital of Okinawa.**



## John Mackie Becomes First Marine to Earn Medal of Honor

**On May 15, 1862, Corporal John F. Mackie became the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor for his Service on the USS Galena during actions against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff, near Richmond, Virginia.**



## Marines Attack Half Moon Hill

**On May 16, 1945, the 22nd and 29th Marines continued an attack against Half Moon Hill, a day that the 6th Marine Division would later describe as the "bitterest" of the entire Okinawa campaign. By May 18, the famed Japanese "Shuri line" was breached by American forces.**



## Marine Aviation Program Begins

**On May 22, 1912, First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham became the first Marine officer to be assigned to "duty in connection with aviation" by Major General Commandant William P. Biddle after reporting for aviation training at the Naval Aviation Camp at Annapolis, Maryland. This marked the official beginning of the Marine aviation program.**

# Dates to Remember

May:

Meeting: Thursday 7 May  
Chow 1800hrs Meeting 1900hrs

Mother's Day 10 May



— LISTEN TO —  
**SCUTTLEBUTT  
RADIO**  
— A VOICE FOR VETERANS —

HOSTED BY: **TOM CLAXTON & CAL WALTERS**  
— TWO MARINES WITH SOMETHING TO SAY. —

**EVERY WEDNESDAY | 2000-2100 HRS (8-9 PM)**  
FM TALK 1065 • LISTEN LIVE AT [FMTALK1065.COM](http://FMTALK1065.COM)

**WHY TUNE IN**

Tackling the issues that matter to  
**OUR U.S. MILITARY VETERANS**

- Unite the veteran community
- Speak with one voice
- Advocate for those who served
- Refuse to be divided by politics or party

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION!**  
**CALL IN & SOUND OFF!**  
**OORAH!**

**WEDNESDAYS • 8-9 PM • FM TALK 1065**

The advertisement features a background with an American flag motif and silhouettes of two marines. At the bottom, there is an image of a pair of tan combat boots with a dog tag hanging from one of them.

Scuttlebutt Network hosted by Tom Claxton with special guest every Wednesday at 2000 hrs discussing the current events in our military. This show is available on [SBN@fmtalk 1065](mailto:SBN@fmtalk1065) podcast. Well worth the listen.

# P.L. Wilson Picnic Horseshoe Contest:



**Thank you to everyone who came out for the P.L. Wilson Annual Horseshoe Contest. Big congratulations to our first-place team, Billy Jackson and J.D. Delaney; second-place team, Betty Beatty and Tom Wells; Dead-Ass-Last champs, Audrey Matranga and Steve Guiney; and runners-up, Mike Nichols and Andrew "Maggie" Delaney. A special thank-you to Beau Bartel for hosting another outstanding competition.**

# Devil Dogs on the Growl!

**Devil Dogs**



**Devil Dogs**



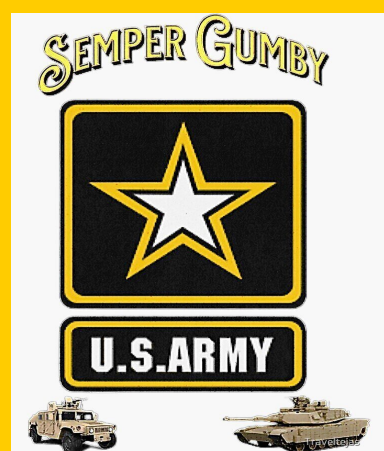
**There will be much howling and whimpering as many will suffer from fines and mayhem. But in the end, we will all have a good time.**

**Our Growl will be  
17th May 1300 Post 88**

**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.**

# ✠ CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ✠



## THE SEMPER ("Always") PRAYER

Now, may the grace of God  
 always chase you,  
 the hope of God  
 always find you,  
 the love of God  
 always embrace you  
 and the peace of God  
 always give rest to your soul.



May you always be strengthened by  
 the fellowship of Christ's suffering  
 and the power of His Resurrection,  
 in order to:

always pray with thanksgiving,  
 always pursue good,  
 always speak graciously  
 and always rejoice in the Lord.



So that you can and will:  
 always be watchful (Semper Paratus),  
 always stand firm in the faith (Semper Fidelis),  
 always be courageously flexible (Semper Gumby),  
 always be strong (Semper Fortis)  
 and always do everything in love (Semper Agape).

AMEN!

By Endel Lee, 07 March 2026

### In Our Prayers:

Lou Lartigue's Family (Grief)

Ray Cox (Health)

Savelle Family (Grief/ Karen's passing)

Jim Smith (Health)

Howard Waters (Health)

07 May is National Day of Prayer - Pray for  
 our country's leaders, military members &  
 their loved ones.

MAY  
 "Passion drives participation."  
 T. J. Morgan, Marine Corps League  
 National Commandant



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 2026

## 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     |              |

## 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        |
| 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**

### 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**