



October 2023 — November 2023

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 3 Issue 1



Message From The Division Commandant



New England Division, first let me express to you how honored I am to be National Vice Commandant for New England. When I first joined the League, being in this position was the furthest thing from my mind. I just wanted to be part of an organization that could fill a void that I was missing after leaving the Corps. I found that here, over the years, the friendships that have been made and the people I have been able to network with is amazing. I owe a lot to our now National Judge Advocate Dave Porter for entrusting me to be his assistant for a few years. I've learned quite a bit from Dave, and I will take what I have learned and continue to make the New England Division the best. A big Thank you to Assistant Division Vice Mike Hinds for taking the leap with me and together we will work for all the members.

There are some things that I/we have in mind to assist, grow, and unite the Division, and to move us forward. One thing myself and Mike will be doing is attending Department and Detachment meetings. I attended the Department of New Hampshire meeting on the 24th of September, it was a good productive meeting, and it was good to meet and speak with members from NH. I already have asked the Department Commandants to provide the schedules for their re-



spective Department meetings and have asked that the Detachment meetings are what is listed in either the database, social media, or websites. So, either one or both of us will be dropping in for a meeting to try and get to know the members.

There have been discussions on how to motivate the membership and one idea was to maybe come up with an incentive program for accomplishments. That would be for a member and/or Detachment/Department. I foresee the Division getting more involved, in a good way, with the members.

We are a family, all striving to reach the same goals. Will we disagree, absolutely, but once the disagreement is settled, the goal is still the same. Let's all work to accomplish that goal and let's have fun doing it. As I have tactfully expressed to my managers in my civilian job, we all put our pants on the same way, one leg at a time.

I appreciate every one of you for your time and dedication to this great organization

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division



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Another thing I would like to see is that we all become more active. Yes, more active in our mission and community involvement, but also whining ourselves. Right now Rhode Island is a good example of this. They seem to have a steady flow of events and I have gone to many of them. They had a Birthday Ball last year, followed this summer by a Family Fun Day which was a perfect event the only requirement was to show up. You didn't have to stand, walk, play ball or sit in the sun, just show up eat, talk and have fun. Maybe your Department or Detachment is doing things like this, but no one knows it because you are not telling anyone. Recently, since I am constantly looking for information for the Newsletter I joined other Marine Corps League groups across the country to see what thing they are doing and I think I'm going to start sharing these things in this Newsletter. In the last Massachusetts Convention they came up with some new activities to do, a Burger Burn, Axe Throwing where we found that some Marine spouses were deadly at this sport, which might inspire said Marines to work on their behavior and attitude. The Department of Connecticut added a Friday night dinner to the Convention schedule. These are the types of things we need to do to get back to being together and becoming more active. If transportation is an issue call a buddy someone can pick you up, if you can't find someone call me 203-768-8435.

This Newsletter is a communication tool and it belongs to everyone. If you have upcoming events send them, if you have pictures, send them include a few words of what's happening and who is in the picture and what detachment or Dept you are. I would also like to congratulate our new leadership team, and offer my support for anything they need whether it falls in my job description or not. Hell I can do anything I'm a Marine at least that's what my DI told me and people have been testing that all of my life.

**Semper Fidelis
Walt Benson**

From The Editor

As we begin our third year and take our first step into the next hundred years, I have to say how proud I am to be part of this great New England Division. We are starting this journey with a New National Division Vice Commandant, Pat Maguire, and a new assistant Mike Hinds. In starting a new Command one thing I feel we should do is take all the positives from the last Command and build on them. One such thing was the desire to see a sea of red jackets attending every event so that the Marine Corps League was a presence, we were noticed. I can only speak for myself but I got to be quite proud standing in a room wearing that red jacket. It feels a little bit like when you returned home from boot camp wearing one ribbon and thought everyone should be in awe of you. At many of these events they play the medley of the music for each branch of service where members stand when their music is played, but when the Marines stand, no matter how old, no matter what ailments, they stand straight and tall locked at the position of attention. That is one element I would like to see grow and constantly continue to grow, because when the few become the most, that is a loud message.

THANK YOU DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ENOUGH

Thank you, JR!!



I wanted to recognize a Marine that has been around for some time and was the Division paymaster for many, many, many years. He has since retired from that position. He is always someone that when you see him at a convention and ask him how are you doing? He would say "better than the average bear". He is someone that if you had a league question, he can answer, always willing to help out and give advice.

JR and Sandy have been a staple in the Division over the years, traveling to conventions and conferences in their Yukon, aka, "Yukie". As they travel, they would stop at different historical places to learn about the area. When they got to their destination, they'd unpack and find a spot to sit down and read a book, that's if Sandy didn't want to put some miles on her go faster. Can't forget his "doot da doo", which he pulled out at growls or even on request.



Again, JR and Sandy, thank you for all the time you have contributed and continue to contribute to the League and especially the Division. Your efforts and dedication do not go unnoticed. We all hope to see you at the next convention/conference doing what you do best and that is putting a smile on our faces.

J.R. RUTOVICH, DIVISION PAYMASTER, (RET.)
You will be missed Sir!!



Semper Fidelis!!!

Patrick Maguire

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NJA David M. Porter
Lt.Gen. Charles Chiarotti
President and CEO

By joining our membership, you also help us to provide excellence awards, essay contests, unit libraries, and more to support today's Marines. If you would like to speak with a member services representative regarding your membership, you can reach us at 1-866-622-1775.

HELP WANTED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

No, no, no don't look away, read on. The New England Division is looking for a very talented individual to create and maintain our website. Now creating it is great but you have to maintain it, that's the important part. The Division has been constantly moving forward and it shines compared to some other Divisions but the one place we fall behind is our website, because it doesn't exist. The one thing that troubles me is we have some of the best and brightest people on the planet. I would say Marines but our Associate members have a lot of talent as well and they would make a good fit to this position as well. So if you have the talent and the ambition to put your work out there for all to see please step up and let us know. If you would like to have more information feel free to call myself, Pat Maguire, Mike Hinds, or Joe Afonso our numbers are listed on page 2.

We are also looking for a Youth Physical Fitness Liaison, and since the Youth Physical Fitness Program deals with schools, a background in education or coaching would be helpful as people with this type of background will have contacts in this area and as the liaison at the Division Level you would offer guidance and direction to those in the position at the Department level. This is an area of growth since I don't know of any area where this program is being offered to or being used in any schools. This program is not just for students in the High School level but is in fact available at all levels of School. Our role is limited in this program other than to promote it set it up and we could be available if the school were to need some Marines for judging at the competition at the end. If you would like any additional information please call myself, Pat Maguire, Mike Hinds, or Joe Afonso our numbers are listed on page 2.

Walt Benson



Alexander	James	R.	10	26	10/26/42
Andersen	Hans	J.	10	19	10/19/39
Blair	Terry	E.	10	8	10/08/35
Bolduc, Sr.	Ronald	J.	10	16	10/16/32
Burrington	Ray		10	26	10/26/45
Ciezyński, Sr.	Ronald	L.	10	26	10/26/36
Derosier	Robert	R.	10	19	10/19/46
Gioia	Gilbert	J.	10	24	10/24/40
Kowaleski, Sr.	Steven	S.	10	24	10/24/49
Lynch	Sean	P.	10	16	10/16/91
Minard	Patricia		10	20	10/20/48
Occhi	Edison	C.	10	21	10/21/27
Quarti	Robert	J.	10	17	10/17/36
Sehrt	Marc		10	14	10/14/63
Stokes	Terrence		10	19	10/19/65
Williams, Sr.	David	H.	10	11	10/11/49
Archambault	Lawrence	F.	11	4	11/04/35
Chupron, Jr.	Leo		11	12	11/12/42
Dinardi	Frederick		11	30	11/30/41
Gates	Donald	B.	11	16	11/16/38
Goodale	Rodney		11	23	11/23/47
Hunt	William	E.	11	27	11/27/33
Jurczak	Joseph	G.	11	3	11/03/39
Kingsbury	Charles	H.	11	4	11/04/32
Newell	H. Rick		11	6	11/06/48
Norton	Paul		11	6	11/06/73
Orzel, Sr.	Craig	D.	11	25	11/25/71
Pawlikowski	Richard	J.	11	7	11/07/44
Pietras	Chester	S.	11	8	11/08/25
Ringrose	Michael		11	1	11/01/65
Roy	Gary		11	21	11/21/62
Tweeddale	Russell	E.	11	27	11/27/35



100TH CONVENTION



I thought about putting this in the From the Editor Section but I really wanted to make sure that this was seen and read. We have some great conventions at least the ones I have attended so far. There is entertainment, Food, and Comradery. This issue of the Newsletter is an extended issue as I have attempted to show you all of what goes on at a convention and what you are missing. I know that some are far away and travel is expensive but not all are. Conventions accomplish a lot of work for the League and for the Dogs. National Conventions are the only place a Dog can progress to the PDD level. The work load is heavy for these conventions but so is the entertainment, food and the comradery that occurs.

Entertainment takes place on two levels, the events planned by the Hosting Department which in this case was the riverboat cruise and the No Talent, Talent Show. Then there is the shopping, the Ships Store is there, The MODD has a store, and Ladies Auxiliary has there store. There is also our own entertainment and travel, groups that arrived early made use of the time to take in the local museums and restaurants. And we share by means of Facebook we can keep tabs on what other groups are doing and where they go. There was a group from the Dogs there and I regularly would ask how a place was that they went to before us.

The Convention was in Oklahoma but we managed to see Dallas Texas and Wichita Kansas in our travels. We ate out each day and at night we either continued with the entertainment or partook of the comradery. Each Convention, that we attend we build relationships and meet other Marines from all over the country. We share ideas, stories and experiences. It's easy to start a conversation, you are in the same line or you show up at the same event and if you

spend time together at one Convention, you will at least exchange hellos when you meet again.

Yes there is a lot of information and knowledge to take back to your Department and Detachment, by-laws, procedures, programs as well as what is new and what we should be Concentrating on. There are Growls and luncheons, Dog's being Dogs, this year it was Dog's in the Park. You get to observe those Dogs becoming PDD's by learning a lot about the League and the Marine Corps and looking silly as well. There is campaigning for elections in both the League and the Kennel, followed by the elections to shape the future of the league.

So look at the pages from the Convention, I have tried to give you as complete picture as possible, from the meetings, the travel and entertainment. If you would like to see more of the events go to the MCL FaceBook Page <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.690547133116748&type=3>. There are hundreds of pictures there as well as videos on YouTube. There is also a recap of what took place each day presented by two Marines in a News Room type setting. This is our Convention and you will get out of it what you put into it. If I had to say what is the best part of it I would say the Comradery, Brotherhood, and Friendship, would be at the top of the list. I hope to see you at the next one.

Walt Benson





100TH CONVENTION



On the fourteenth day of August, dawn brought the 100th Anniversary Convention of the Marine Corps League. At the end of this Convention we would begin again. We would begin the journey into the next hundred years, with a new Commandant, new officers, a renewed passion with new goals and objectives ahead. If you missed this event I will try to show you all you may have missed and from this maybe a glimpse of all that lies ahead. As with all Marine Corps League events we begin the Convention with Colors.



**OPENING CEREMONIES
INTRODUCTION OF
DIGNITARIES IN-
CLUDING THE
MAYOR OF NORMAN
AND THE MAYOR OF
OKC WHO PRESENT-
ED A PROCLAMATION**





100TH CONVENTION



While we were still in Joint session the memorial service was conducted. The Division Vices from each region placed a flower on the table before the head table. These numbers include all of our members who have passed since Mid-Winter.

Next there were numerous awards Presented, The Four Chaplains Humanitarian Award, The Distinguished Citizen Gold Award and the Newsletter Awards. I only selected a few the rest of the pictures can be seen on MCL Facebook Page.





100TH CONVENTION



Before the opening and presentation of the Colors, before the gavel tapped we were treated to the "NO TALENT, TALENT SHOW". Now this does not mean that the people had no talent because they did but it was Marine Talent. It was one upmanship, it was how can I be a bigger clown than the Marine before me, or how could I get down!!

I don't know who the three below are suppose to be but they supplied some no talent entertainment. The last act



Past Chief Devil Dog Don Gar-land, woof woof sir!! Below Sgt



at Arms Lisa Solarczyk showing a side we may have not seen before. At least I never felt that fun vibe when I was sneaking into the Convention late. She has a way of giving you that feeling you haven't had since Paris Island. The Village People are a hit both this time and



at the last show. I only can identify two and one is a guess that is David Porter Sr. and Jr. And as always there is always one Marine that will take things too far. But I think this got him some Big Bones in his belt for the extra skin he showed.



of the evening was our Commandant who claims to have secured a new Job from this performance.





100TH CONVENTION



Tuesday evening was a Great Event, Dogs In The Park. The event not only provided some fun and laughs but raised some Big Bones as well. We had a dunk tank and some pies in the face opportunities. You would bid on the opportunity to dunk or toss that pie in the face of the Dog of your choice. Pictured Right NDVC David Porter who I believe solicited the top funds for the event , popularity has it's price.



Pictured above Liz Anderson, David Porter Jr. and David Porter Sr., Pies in the face for a very good cause. I think they raised \$1500 Big Bones for this alone. A family that does this together can overcome anything. Below the 59th Chief Devil Dog Tom Hazlett, Hail to the Chief!! There

There was so much more to see and do besides the Meetings. Those of us who came early took some extended trips to neighboring States After arriving in Oklahoma on Thursday we left for our first road trip to Texas and the City of Dallas where the temp was 112 degrees !!



was a good turn out and in fact some of the locals came out to both watch and participate. Woof Woof!!





100TH CONVENTION

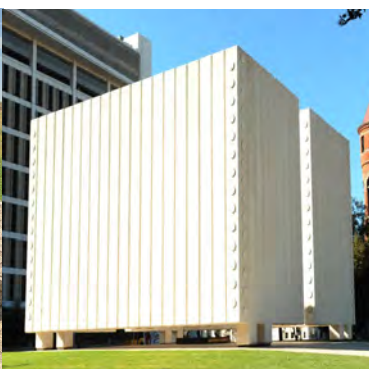


A great big welcome to Texas as we made our way to Dallas. Larry and Marie as we stopped along the way. In Dallas we stopped at the site where

Kennedy was assassinated which was marked with a big monument but in no way did justice to the man or the event. A lone four walled box on the green with a marble



Pictured above and below Teri Benson, Carol Salisbury, Pat Maguire, Denise Creamer, Marie Kehoe, and Larry Chretien. Below is Dave Creamer at the gates of Town.



pedestal inside containing his name, it was dedicated in 1970. On Saturday we ventured in the opposite direction to



Wichita Kansas, and the old Cowboy Museum. The Muse-



um was a town replica with all the shops and homes that you would find in a town but it was outside and as usual the temperature was over 100degrees so our group focused on the Saloon. Admission to the museum was free the beer was not but we were not put off by this setback.





100TH CONVENTION



Besides the trips and exploring we had food galore!!



Breakfast at Sunnyside was a group favorite Front row Dave and Denise Creamer, Pat and Lynn Maguire, Wayne Salisbury, Marie Kehoe, Back row Larry Chretien, Carol Salisbury, Wayne Hamilton, Teri and Walt Benson. Below



The Rhode Island Diner on the left Carol & Wayne Salisbury, Lynn Maguire, Marie Kehoe, & Larry Chretien, on the Right Tami and Angelique Afonso, Wayne Hamilton, Pat Maguire and Dave, & Denise Creamer, Not picture Joe Afonso. The Cattleman's Steakhouse in the historic



was the New England Diner at a great place down by the water.



Stockyard district Of Oklahoma City the crowd was big every night from what I understand it was the night we were there. Then there was the Toby Keith Bar



Where there was Country Western heaven but to me he only has one great sang, "Call A Marine" but Denise and Marie braved their up to the bar to partake of generous sized libations.



100TH CONVENTION



If this was not enough for you yet there was another Cowboy Museum right in Oklahoma City and this one was indoors and air conditioned .



For those that were brave of heart there was morning PT here are some of the dedicated members below. I should have been among them but even though the spirit is strong the body is weak and tired, I promise to do the next one,

Really.

Below was a surprise. As we traveled to Texas we found a Buc-ees, and if you have never been you are missing something else indeed. It has food, clothing, souvenirs, rest rooms, and the biggest selection of Jerky in the world. There are several of these across the country and if you are near one you owe it to yourself to check it out, we did and it was quite the experience.





100TH CONVENTION



To the right The New England Division Front Row Mike Hinds, David Porter, Pat Maguire 2nd row, Pat McMahon, Jon Zwirblia, Walt Benson, Larry Chretien, Terry Laskey, 3rd row Wayne Salisbury, Charles Paul, Bill Lee, David Porter Sr., Cherie Monnell, Jamie DePaola, Bernie Heaney. Last Row, Dave Creamer, Joe Delaney, Kieth Buckhout, Jim Soder, Joe Afonso, Peter DePaola. Those who could not attend we all deeply missed you.



To the left at Campaign Headquarters we have the candidate and the winner. While doing this I discovered we were a bit remiss as we have a division picture as we always do but we should have had a second Picture with all of the significant others who supported all of us there especially those who manned the Candidates table all day, and if I miss a Name may God have mercy on me. Iliana Hinds, Liz Anderson, Lynn Maguire, Teri Benson, Marie Kehoe, Carol Salisbury, Jean Porter, Nancy Heaney, Denise Creamer, Tami Afonso, Thank You all and we will try to do better. But as you see below we have the tables as they were manned during the day, including the photo



bottom left with the mother of the candidate, Iliana Hinds, Jean Porter, and Liz Anderson and in the bottom photo are Jean Porter with Linda King. There were others who manned the tables at other times of the day but for all of them it was a working convention





100TH CONVENTION



The Grand Finale, the Banquet, Some Awards, Parting words, and Change of Command and a safe travel to all who attended.



The guest speaker for the evening was LT. General David G. Bellon who is currently serving as the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve and U.S. Marine Corps Forces South. Lieutenant General David G. Bellon is currently serving as the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve and U.S. Marine Corps Forces South. Lieutenant General Bellon is a native of Fort Polk, Louisiana, and raised in St. Louis, Missouri.



He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1987 and the University of Missouri School of Law in 1990. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1989. Bellon began service as an Infantry Officer with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. He then served as a Judge Advocate with 1st Force Service Support Group.

In 1997, he left active duty and joined the Selected Marine Corps Reserve serving six years with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion in a variety of positions. As a civilian, Bellon founded his own law firm in 1999 located in Oceanside, CA.

After 9/11, he returned to active duty for four combat tours in support of both OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). During OIF I, he served as Operations Officer for 4th LAR with both TASK FORCE TARAWA and TASK FORCE SCORPION. During OIF II, Bellon served as the Intelligence Officer for Regimental Combat Team 1 during its 14 month deployment in and around the City of Al Fallujah, Iraq, participating in both battles for the city. His third OIF tour was in Command of Battalion Task Force 3d Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment, in 2007-2008. The Task Force executed counter-insurgency operations in and around the city of Al Haditha, Iraq.

In 2008, Bellon was selected as the Marine Corps Reserves representative in a full-time student status attending Top Level School at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. While there, he was promoted to Colonel and received subsequent orders for deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Bellon deployed to Afghanistan in September 2009 with the British 6th Division. While in Afghanistan, he served as the Chief of Operations for Southern Afghanistan during NATO's 2010 surge of forces to secure the strategically vital area in and around Kandahar City.

Bellon was promoted to Brigadier General in 2013. His assignments as a General Officer prior to his current billet include Deputy Commander (Mobilization) 1st Marine Expeditionary Force; Deputy Marine Forces Command; Director Reserve Affairs; Commander Marine Forces South; and Director of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (J5) U.S. Southern Command. He was promoted to his current rank and assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve and U.S. Marine Corps Forces South.



100TH CONVENTION



To the right Kennel dog of the year an prior Kennel dogs of the year and below Mike Francis and SGT/MAJ Overstreet.



National Marine of The Year Wendell Webb with prior winners. Above
Left National Associate Member award.
Below Bridgette Gore, Liz Anderson &
Howard Schaffer



To the Left
David Porter SR. &
His Wife Jean





100TH CONVENTION



CHANGE OF COMMAND



Commandant Baker transfers the flag to incoming Commandant Griffin



Commandant Griffin and outgoing Commandant Baker Change to their new covers



Commandant Baker is Pinned with the past National Commandant Pin



Commandant Griffin gives some initial guidance and wishes all a safe trip home and we are done 100 yrs. Down and we start again. Semper Fidelis



A MOMENT IN TIME

Greetings fellow CT MCLeaguers.

I am hopeful that this newsletter finds you and yours well. I had prepared to write a fun little article about the passing of summer and all that it entails. However, this past Saturday (09/16/23), I had the privilege and honor of participating in the XI th annual Peter P. Monaco Detachment Hike to Remember. This event has been a staple for this detachment for the past eleven years, and its main goals are to bring awareness to; raise monies for; and provide for the eradication of Veteran Suicides (22 a day).

Before I get too serious though, this year's hike was my second, and honestly my first hike was a bit more enjoyable. I say that because at my first, I had no idea what to expect, and the Peter P. Monaco Det and all of its supporters did a fabulous job. Additionally, my first experience at last year's hike, I was blissfully unaware that the last three miles were uphill, finishing with 22 4-count push-ups. So, to my point for this article. During the hike, there were three stops. The first (about 3 miles in) is a stop at a local cemetery to pay respects for one of Glastonbury's own who



was KIA in 2005. The second, and most enjoyable (about 7 miles in) is at a local Irish pub for a hearty breakfast and plenty and appropriate hydration. It is here, at this stop, at this year's hike, that changed me. This year's hike was dedicated to one of Peter P Monaco's members who succumb to the darkness and took his own life earlier this year.

After breakfast, just prior to saddling up to continue the hike, the group was introduced to SFC Harington's wife. She spoke of the moment her life changed forever with her husband's death, and through her tears and with a tremendous amount of strength urged all within ear shot of the importance of listening, reaching out and if need be, asking for help.

So, in closing I say this. WE all need to keep being aware of those around us. Buddy checks, social media, text, Instagram, etc. And if ever the darkness starts to creep in reach out to someone, ANYONE! We simply cannot afford to keep losing our brothers and sisters.

Semper Fi
Patrick T. McMahon
Commandant
Department of Connecticut
Marine Corps League



CONNECTICUT



PETER P. MONACO JR. HIKE TO REMEMBER XI



What is not pictured here are all the brave souls arriving at Zero Dark Thirty braving sleep deprivation and the slight chill of the September air. But as Dawn arrives and the convoy moves forward you can see the enthusiasm and memories on the faces of the Marines and Veterans as they step off.. First are the trucks and vehicles followed by the Hikers in route step. It was another good turn out but there is always room for more. Things like this bring attention to the Marine Corps League and help us in our mission, and in this case it is mission critical as it not only affects Marines but all veterans as well. If you did not read the letter on the first page from Commandant Pat McMahon, please go back and do so. It explains the Hike in detail as well as the purpose and some of the things we can do better, to change some outcomes for our brothers and sisters.



CONNECTICUT



The week after the convention, on August 26th, Peter DePaola ran 7.46 miles (12K) in Quantico VA to honor and remember our fallen brothers and sisters from two years ago who were killed in the August 26,

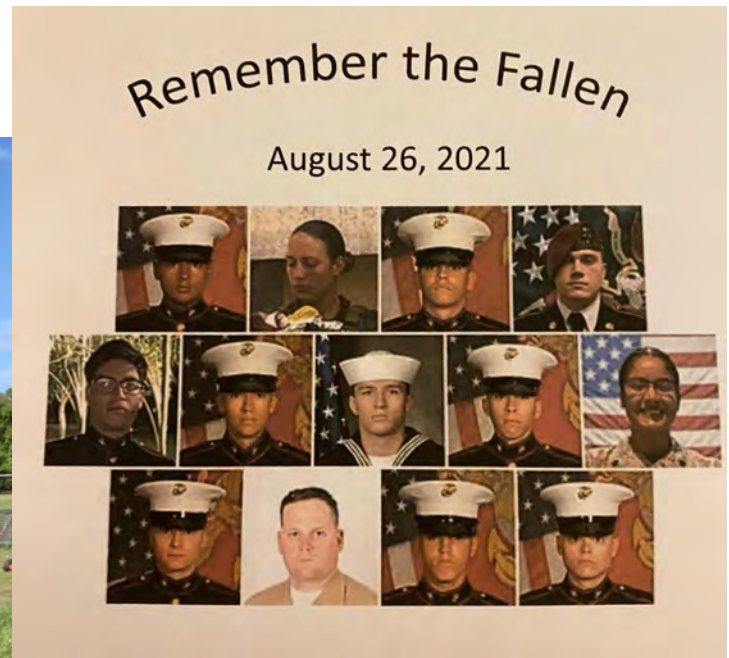
EGA 46 years ago and became a Marine officer.



2021 bombing at the Abbey Gate in Afghanistan.

Peter is an active member of MCL Peter P. Monaco, Jr. Det. 40. The challenging course, organized by the Marine Corps Marathon, goes through the grounds of the Officer Candidates School (OCS) at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA. It offers a unique access to the training area for future Marines. There were 630 finishers in the event and

Peter placed first in his age division. Peter was commissioned in August 1977 upon graduation from OCS. He was excited to return to where he earned his



Pictured above, not in order, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas. Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23, of Sacramento, Calif. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31, of Salt Lake City Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tenn. Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, Calif. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20, of Jackson, Wyo. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, 20, of Norco, Calif. Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, of Lawrence, Mass. Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22, of Logansport, Ind. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20, of St. Charles, Mo. Navy Hospital Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23, of Omaha, Neb.

Semper Fi,
Jamie DePaola



CONNECTICUT



U.S. MARINE CORPS 248th BIRTHDAY BALL

Presented by

The Brass City Memorial Detachment - Marine Corps League

Saturday, November 4th 2023

Elks Lodge #265

283 West Main Street

Waterbury, CT

In the Banquet Hall (Ground Floor)

\$50.00 per person

*******Raffle Prizes, DJ music and dancing*******

Guest Speaker: Colonel Adele E. Hodges USMC(Retired)

6 pm to 7 pm: Open Bar with Hors d'oeuvres, followed by a Cash Bar

Buffet Style Dinner, Coffee, Tea and Birthday Cake

(Dress is formal attire)

For Info call:

PDC Jim Lauber 203-217-0438

Roland "Skip" Hamel 203-527-8137



CONNECTICUT



OPENING CEREMONY / 9:45AM - RACE START / 10:00AM



Saturday • November 4, 2023

Choose to run either the live or the virtual 4-mile certified course, or a 3-mile walk or ruck sack course. This Veterans Day event is the premier race in CT where 100% of the proceeds benefit local Veteran Service Organizations.

PATRIOTS PARK

172 LAKE STREET • COVENTRY, CT 06238



VISIT US ONLINE
CTVeteransDayRace.com

MASSACHUSETTS

The Dept of Massachusetts had there quarterly Department Meeting on Sept 17th at the Pequoig Detachment. Jr Past Commandant Brian Brooks was awarded a citation from the State House. National Commandant Warren Griffin was in attendance. The Department of Massachusetts had a contingent of Marines attend the Moving Wall in Dalton, Massachusetts. Westfield River Valley Detachment puts on there



during the week. Shutt Detachment has there Dinner with Steve on Monday nights. Worcester Detachment is running the Queen of Hearts on Friday nights, and has Pitch Monday nights.

All Detachments are preparing to ramp up for Toys For Tots, Various Birthday Ball's and Veterans Day activities. The De-



SOS Breakfast on Saturdays Pequoig Detachment has there Social SOS Breakfast

partment is going to be in attendance for the Semper Fi Luncheon on November 13th.



The Oak Ridge Detachment is open for business please check their schedule

NEW HAMPSHIRE

248th USMC Birthday



Happy Birthday Marines

Marines of New Hampshire come and join the Gary S Dillon Detachment of the Marine Corps League for our 248th Birthday. This year we have partnered with Twin Rivers Food Pantry in Franklin NH to help raise money to feed our neighbors. Twin Rivers Food Pantry's mission is to provide healthy food and nutrition resources to those in need within our communities. <https://twinriversfoodpantry.org>. In this partnership all proceeds will go directly to the Twin Rivers Food Pantry. This will be our first Marine Corps Ball in partnership with Twin Rivers Food Pantry and we would like to welcome all Marines to participate. Many Marines will be in uniform and some may not be, so come as you are, attire is not important. This event is to celebrate our heritage and service to our nation. The event will be at Mojalaki Country Club, 321 Prospect Street Franklin, NH 03235 and the Early Bird Special cost is \$50 per person. For more information, please call Cody Dumont 603.782.2665.

Plan of the Day

- 5:30 Reception and Drinks
- 6:00 Post the Colors
- 6:15 Dinner
- 7:15 Cake Cutting Ceremony
- 7:30 Commandants' Messages (General Berger, Key Note, Det. Cmdr Dumont)
- 7:45 Social Hour
- 9:00 Retire the Colors



Flag raising over the state house, Nov 10th

Early Bird Special \$50
per person.

<https://square.link/u/M8pfBkJ7>



Leading Parades across Merrimack County

MAINE

The Dept of Maine will not be hosting a 248th USMC Birthday Ball, however individual Detachments are hosting their own. Central ME Det. 810 will be hosting our 248th on Nov. 10th at 1800 hours. It will be held at American Legion Post 31 in Auburn, ME. If anyone is interested the cost is \$35 per person.

The Dept of Maine MCL will be in a sponsorship with Wreaths Across America, we will have responsibility for laying wreaths at the Mount Vernon military cemetery in Augusta. For every wreath we sell we will get a \$5.00 return. Win-Win for everyone.

Central Maine Det. 810 help a Marines Helping Veterans Golf Scramble. Good time was had by all. Quilts of Valor also made a presentation. Central Maine is also having a Scholarship raffle in memory of two departed Marines, Leon Burgess & Ken Mitchell. I have also enclosed a picture of the quilt to be raffled. Tickets are \$5 for one ticket or \$10 for 3 tickets.



**Charles Paul
Commandant
Department of Maine
Marine Corps League**



On July 27th an ecumenical Honor Service to mark the end of the Korean war. Seven Korean War Veterans attended. After the Service Jane Deptula our Division Chaplain placed a wreath at the monument to mark the occasion.

SICK & IN DISTRESS

While I'm looking at our Chaplain placing a wreath, I find myself thinking of reserving a place in this publication to mention those who are sick and in distress. Placing their names here and their contact information so that we could send cards or call that Marine up. You have no idea how much it might mean to a Marine to hear from his or her friends and know they are being thought of.



WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

WaterFire Salute to Veterans November 4th @ 1700hrs



Photograph by Laura Paton

The WaterFire Salute to Veterans event is a collaborative, community-wide celebration, whose mission is to honor and recognize all United States veterans, active and reserve military personnel and families for their service, sacrifice, and contributions to this nation, and to organize, exhibit and highlight the wealth of veteran-oriented organizations and services available to them.



Joe Afonso
Commandant
Department of Rhode Island
Marine Corps League

RHODE ISLAND



Marine Corps League



Bucci-Atwood Detachment 376

presents



On November 4th 2023 at 6pm at Hillside Country Club
82 Hillside Ave, Rehoboth, Ma.

National Anthem to be performed by Daniel Clark (USMC),
"The Singing Trooper"

Purchase Tickets at www.hillsidecountryclub.com



RHODE ISLAND



Marine Corps League



Department of Rhode Island Marine Corps Ball

Saturday, November 11th, 2023 @ 1800hrs

**Tomaselli at Rosario
17 Rosario Drive, Providence, RI**

\$40.00 per person

**Choice of Baked Stuffed Chicken or Baked Scrod
Soup, Salad, Potato, Vegetable**

(*Chicken Tenders and French Fries available for children please note next to name***)**

Dessert: Birthday Cake w/ ice cream

**Reservations MUST be made no later than November 1st through RIMCL.ORG or by
mailing check to Wayne Hamilton, c/o Marine Corps Ball, 166 Central Ave, Johnston RI
02919**

**Any questions please call email Joe Afonso, Department of Rhode Island Commandant @
(401) 454-9010 or Wayne Hamilton, Department of RI Paymaster @ (401) 719-6386**

Email: bucciatwood@rimcl.org

Names of Attendees

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Meal Choice

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| _____ Chicken | _____ Baked Scrod |
| _____ Chicken | _____ Baked Scrod |
| _____ Chicken | _____ Baked Scrod |
| _____ Chicken | _____ Baked Scrod |



YOUNG MARINES



YOUNG MARINES COMPLETE THE DIVISION 1 JR. LEADERSHIP SCHOOL



Fourteen Young Marines from across New England completed the Division 1 Junior Leadership School on Oct. 1, 2023. Junior Leadership School is the first leadership development school of three that prepares Young Marines for increased roles and responsibilities in their units and beyond. This leadership school was conducted over two weekends. Junior Leadership School is similar to Marine Corps NCO School or the Corporals Course. Thank you to all the MCL members who are adult volunteers at the leadership school and those who attended the graduation ceremony. The school was offered at the Marine Corps Reserve Center at Westover Air Force Reserve Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts.





YOUNG MARINES



Picture on the Left from left going around the table: Pat Maguire, Terri Laskey, Mrs. Overstreet, Chad Vaden, Betty Vaden (Lee Erney's Daughter), Jack Erney, Brenda Davis, Col. Bill Davis and Sgt Maj. Overstreet.

Below: Pat Maguire Betty Vaden, Larry Chretien and Jack Erney

Everyone looks like they had a great time, in fact, Larry told me he did. However, since I got no pictures of anyone actually playing golf, I'm going to go with the assumption that all of the golfing records are safe and we will not be announcing any great achievements in the world of golf. But your support of this great event is noted and very much appreciated.



SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DOGS



The Chief and the Dogs presenting the check to the Children's Hospital \$71,000 big bones, Woof, Woof.

EARLY BIRD MID WINTER TRIP REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

On Thursday, 2/22/24 from 11:00am to 5:00pm we will host a trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. We will charter busses to take us round trip. There is a cost for this and we will ask for your participation. The cost is \$30 round trip per person for the bus ride. We realize many of you drive to Midwinter but this is an opportunity to not worry about the traffic and just enjoy the ride.



MARINE FOR LIFE



Connect to resources and opportunities:

Whether you're just starting the transition process, or you've already made the move to civilian life, the Marine for Life Network is here to help you grow your professional network and provide the support and guidance you need to succeed beyond the military.

Strengthen your professional relationships and expand your network.: Networking is crucial in today's professional world. The Marine for Life Network facilitates your networking capabilities through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.

Virtual: Join the [Marine for Life Network's](#) growing community of Marines, Veterans, and military community members on LinkedIn. This premier professional networking site is an excellent resource for accessing career tools, staying connected with peers, and developing your professional brand. To connect, start by setting up a profile and joining a Marine for Life regional network group.

Face-to-Face: More than 70 Marine for Life Representatives serves our program as hometown links. These representatives create a bridge be-

tween the military and civilian communities across the nation, connecting you to military-friendly job opportunities, career resources, and networking events. Your local representative will

help you build relationships and explore employment, education, and community resources in your current area or the area where you plan to move.

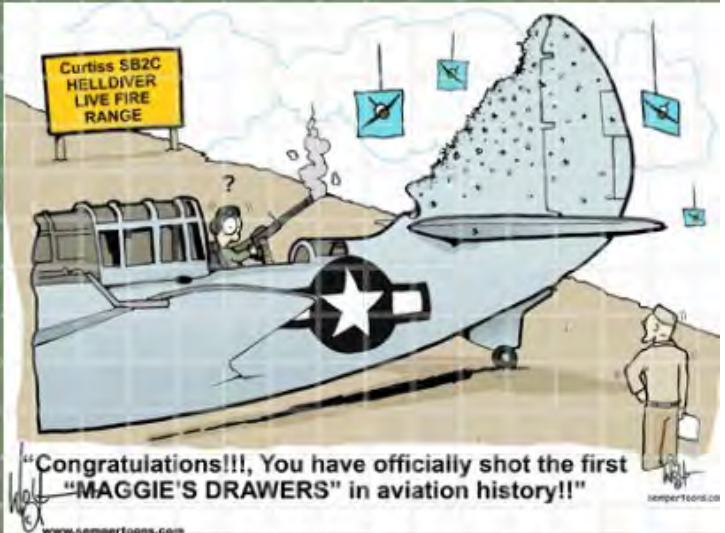
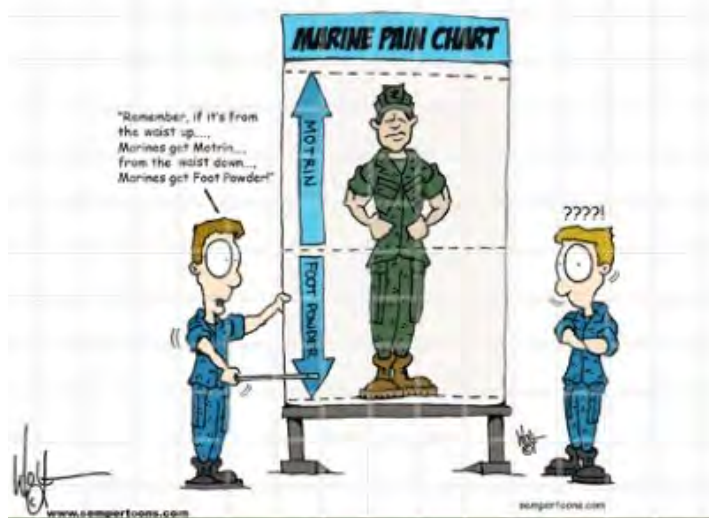
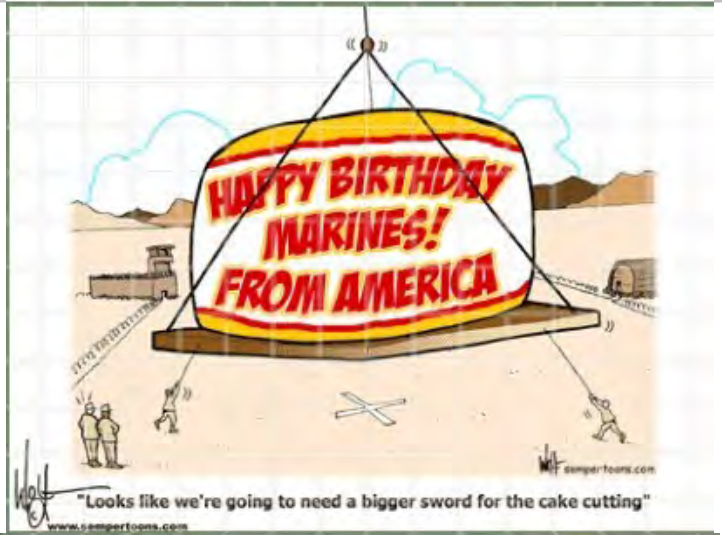
Military Spouses

too! The Marine for Life Network is committed to helping military spouses build relationships and connections that can benefit them in both their personal and professional lives. By leveraging the power of the Marine for Life Network, military spouses can tap into a wider network of employers, academic institutions, entrepreneurship resources, and more!

Join the network. Visit the [Marine for Life Network](#) website to learn more and request assistance from your Marine for Life Representative. Stay connected with the Marine for Life Network on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).



HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



This issues cartons came from SemperToons, please visit them at sempertoons.com and subscribe for a cartoon delivered to your e-mail each week and while your there read about their program and Gunny Wolf's story



DIVISION RECRUITING



DIFFERENT UNIFORM, DIFFERENT BATTLES BUT WE FIGHT ! BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT MARINES DO!

General George Patton, was once questioned about a promotion he received. It seems that he decided to add his new star early, before it was approved by Congress and he responded that Congress has it's schedule and he has his own. I can't help but to apply that to our situation now. As far as I'm concerned, General Eric M. Smith is the Commandant of The Marine Corps, NOW. They have their schedule and we have ours. In any event General Smith has said, "We became Marines to fight, and we work hard every day to be the first to fight".

As members of The Marine Corps League this is our mission, this is our purpose. We are Marines and we will be Marines till the day we die, and according to the hymn, it does end there. Our battles are different now but we still fight every day because we serve other Marines, Marine Families and other Veterans, and we fight for them. How do we fight and what do we fight for? First we fight for our brothers and sisters who have left for their final post. We fight that those brothers and sister receive the Military Honors that they deserve. We fight that it is done correctly and with the honor that is deserved. Marines do this service better than anyone, we show up, our Uniforms are pristine, our movement is precise and our care and dedication is unmatched by any other group. Those that serve in this capacity, perform perhaps the most important functions we do.

We reach out to returning Marines that are finished with their tour no matter how long it was, to help them transition back to civilian life. By getting them to join us in the league they will maintain the comradery that they enjoyed when being on active duty. We can connect them with the Marine4Life program to gain help in making connections for jobs and health care. We can help insure that they get all the benefits offered by the State they are entitled to. We can work with the State legislature to gain support and funds for returning Veterans as well as Veterans in need.

We supply Color Guards for State and Local events. We supply color guards for monument services on holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We also participate in local Parades. If you have ever gone to any of these Parades, Marines always bring the biggest cheers. That Eagle, Globe and Anchor, that we love, embrace and share, is the most recognized and respected symbol known everywhere.

We fight for the many programs we support , Marine4Life, Toys4Tots, Youth Fitness Program, Young



DO YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

JOIN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

MARINES WANTED

FIND A DETACHMENT

[HTTPS://WWW.MCLNATIONAL.ORG/FIND-A-DETACHMENT.HTML](https://www.mclnational.org/find-a-detachment.html)



Marines, Children's Hospitals, through the MODD, The FOCUS Program, The Marine Corps League Foundation, and The Chapel of The Four Chaplains. We fight for all of these every day because through all of this we help our Marines and other Veterans and their families.

We do fundraising to raise funds for scholarships that go to Veterans Children to help with the cost of education. We do this from spring right through November, we do it in the heat as well as the cold. While we do this we fight to build our ranks and gain more members. When we talk to these perspective members we need to tell them what we do and why we do it. Marines are passionate about what they do and why, our recruits should be as well. All of this is what we do and this is the story we should tell. I have heard conversations like we are a VSO, like other VSO's. We are Marines helping Marines. Marine's we are so much more than that.

I have seen people sign their e-mail Semper Fidelis, it's not just a saying, it's a way of life, well that is true. Every day we fight, we fight for the Marines on our Left and we fight for the Marines on our Right. Our Mission today is no less important than when we were active duty. Those of you who serve make a difference, no matter what you do, it makes a difference and as Marines in the League that is our Mission today. So when you approach those who you want to join us in this Mission, tell them what we do and more importantly tell them who we are. As Marines we fight everyday, we Improvise, Adapt and Overcome, to complete our Mission, Semper Fidelis.

Walt Benson

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

In each Issue I would like to focus on Marines that are bringing their A GAME to the Division and our mission. I would ask that Detachment and Department Commandants, as well as Pack Leaders send in their choices of Members and Dogs who deserve recognition for the work they do and the contributions they make to our success. You should describe their contributions and why they are being recognized , since you know them the best.

Rather than do the usual I decided this would be a good time to introduce the changes in Division Officers



Pat Maguire
National Division
Vice
Commandant



Mike Hinds
National Division
Assistant Vice
Commandant



Joe Afonso
Chief of
Staff



Walt Benson
Adjutant
Newsletter
Editor



Larry Chretien
Aide de Camp
Boy Scouts
Toys 4 Tots



Wayne Hamilton
Paymaster



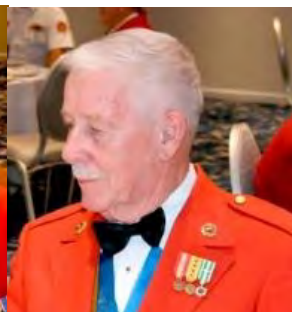
Jane Deptula
Chaplain



Charlie Paul
Sgt at Arms



Bernie Heaney
Compliance
Officer



Warren Griffin
National
Commandant
Legislative



Larry Herrmann
Legal
Advisor



Peter King
Photographer



Bruce Katz
Young Marines
Liaison



Brian Brooks
Marines 4 Life
VSO
Public Relations



Cherie Monnell
MOOD
Liaison

2024 NATIONAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

=====

SHERATON PENTAGON CITY

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: 800-325-3535 Reference National Marine Corps League

HOTEL RESERVATION LINK

2/22/2024 – 2/24/2024 (check-in 2/21, check out 2/25)

- Hotel Rate: \$129 plus tax (currently 14.25%) (about \$148)
- Parking: Onsite garage parking is \$10 per day
- The reservation deadline is January 30, 2024.
- Any cancellations after February 10, 2024, will forfeit the one-night deposit
- Free shuttle to/from Reagan Airport (DCA)

The hotel overlooks Arlington National Cemetery and is right near Henderson Hall and the Fort Myer Exchange. The hotel has 4 double ADA rooms with 1 with a roll-in shower, and 10 King ADA with 3 of them being roll-in-shower. If ADA room is needed, call the reservation number.

Wednesday arrivals begin

Thursday some committee and board meetings, stores open in the afternoon

Friday general session

Saturday general session, evening banquet (black tie or coat and tie appropriate)

Sunday departures



OCTOBER

2023



SATURDAY

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**2023****NOVEMBER****2023**

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

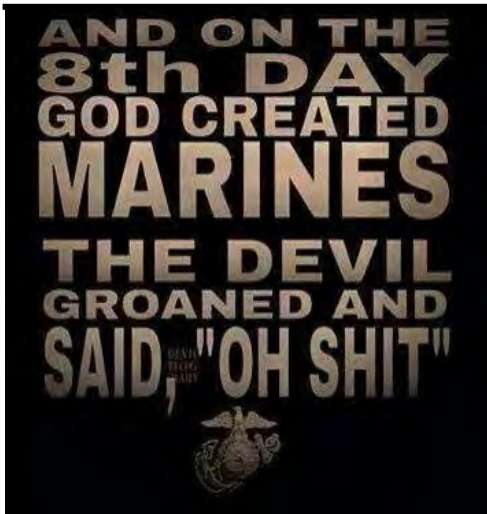
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 2004 Operation Phantom Fury Iraq	8	9	248 BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS SEMPER FI !	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						2001 First Marines land in Afghanistan
26	27	28	29	30		



Regardless of the situation, the Marine Corps has an answer for almost everything.

A Marines Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.

Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.



Marine Corps League National Convention 2024

**Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort and Spa
71333 Dinah Shore Drive,
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270**

**August 12th through August 16th
Banquet is Friday August 16th**

