



February 2025 — March 2025

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 3



Message From The Division Commandant



Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, it's clear this year will be as busy as ever. But what makes this year truly special is that we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of our beloved Marine Corps. There will be plenty of birthday balls to attend, and we're all looking forward to honoring this monumental milestone together.

As many of you may have heard, the Division is in the process of planning our own 250th celebration, and although putting together the logistics has proven to be more challenging than anticipated, we are working hard to ensure it will be a memorable and enjoyable event for all. Stay tuned for more details as they become available!

Looking ahead, we have the Midwinter Conference coming up in Virginia. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend before, I highly recommend it. It's a fantastic chance to spend a few days with League members from around the country. You can learn more about the conference [here](#).

In addition, this year the New England Division Conference/Quad State Convention will be held in Portland, Maine. For more information, please visit www.Marinecorpsleaguemaine.org. The Department of Maine is putting in a lot of effort to ensure this will be an event to remember. And just like last year, the Division will hold a raffle for those attending, with prizes including reimbursement for hotel expenses, travel costs, or banquet meals. We understand how expensive it can be to attend these events, and we hope this helps make

it a little more accessible for everyone.



Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the six Department Commandants expressing my intention to run for a second term as New England Division National Vice Commandant. I've been incredibly grateful for the support I've received so far, and I humbly ask for your continued support as I strive to serve you for another term. I'm fortunate to work with a dedicated team that truly puts service before self, and we're all committed to making this Division the best it can be.

Another event worth mentioning is the National Convention in August, which will take place in the great state of Texas. You can find more details [here](#). I'll be sure to remind everyone as we get closer to the event.

In closing, I'm hopeful that this year will bring more submissions from Detachments for our Division newsletter. Our editor, Walt Benson, does an outstanding job putting it all together, but he can't highlight the amazing events happening in every Detachment without your help. Please send your updates and information so we can all stay connected and celebrate each other's successes.

I look forward to seeing you all at Midwinter and in Maine!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



New England Division Contact Information 2024 – 2025



Division Vice Commandant PMaguire@mcleague.org	Patrick Maguire c-401-481-7995	Coventry, RI 02816 Dept. of RI Kent Country Det. 453
Assistance Div. Vice Comdt. Mhinds579@gmail.com	Michael Hinds C-617-960-6595	Woburn, MA 01801 Dept. of MA Honorable Few Det. 1302
Chief of Staff bucciatwood@rimcl.org	Joe Afonso 401-454-9010	Pawtucket RI 02861 Dept of RI Bucci Atwood Detachment 376
Division Adjutant / Newsletter Editor walt.benson5@gmail.com	Walt Benson c-203-768-8435	Prospect, CT 06712 Dept. of CT Brass City Memorial Det. 31
Aide de Camp Lschris68@msn.com	Laurent J. Chretien c-207-894-8906	Gorham, ME 04038 Dept. of ME Southern Maine Det. 1324
Division Paymaster Wayham913@gmail.com	Wayne Hamilton c-401-719-6386	Johnston RI 02919 Dept of RI Bucci Atwood Detachment 376
Division Chaplain Janie.deptula@gmail.com	Jane Deptula h-401-825-6685	Coventry, RI 02816 Dept. of RI Kent Country Det. 453
Division Sergeant at Arms 412redbone@att.net	Jim Soder 860-262-2690	Berlin CT. 06037 Dept of CT Hardware City Det 781
Div. Compliance Officer	OPEN	
Div. Legislative Officer wgriffin@mcleague.org	Warren Griffin c-774-292-1527	Holliston, MA 01746 Dept. of MA Metro West Det. 1037
Div. Legal Advisor	OPEN	
Div. Photographer chiefk@comcast.net	Peter King c-508-230-4117	Raynham, MA 02767 Dept. of MA Grtr New Bedford Det. 1399
Div. Historian	OPEN	
Div. Toys 4 Tots Lschris68@msn.com	Laurent J. Chretien c-207-894-8906	Gorham, ME 04038 Dept. of ME Southern Maine Det. 1324
Div. Young Marine Liaison brucejkatz@gmail.com	Bruce Katz c-603-866-1183	Swansea, MA 02777 Dept. of MA Van Gyzen Det. 1285
Div. BSA Liaison ccekovsky@gmail.com	Christopher Cekovsky c-413-427-8456	Westfield MA. 01085 Dept. of MA. Westfield River Valley Det 141



New England Division Contact Information 2024 – 2025



Div. MODD Liaison
VCDDMcMahon@gmail.com

Patrick McMahon
c-207-752-0025

24 Newton Rd. Norwich CT 06360
Dept. of CT Thames River Det. 1334

Div. Auxiliary Liaison

OPEN

Div. Web Sergeant
Sgt_brooks@yahoo.com

Brian Brooks
413-768-0316

Dept of CT Commandant
Poppop.daigle@gmail.com

Rich Daigle
860-222-5024

Dept of MA Commandant
commandant@mcldeptofmassachusetts.org

Jon Zwirbilia

Dept of ME Commandant
flyfisherman@verizon.net

Peter Lubas
908-963-2610

Dept of NH Commandant
Mcl cody_dumont@melcara.com

Cody Dumont
603-785-2665

Dept of RI Commandant
bucciatwood@rimcl.org

Joe Afonso
401-454-9010

Dept of VT Commandant
mayersra1@outlook.com

Bob Mayers
802-626-8058

IMPORTANT

Laskey's Telegraph is published every two months in the first week of the following months.

FEBRUARY. APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER AND DECEMBER.

The cut off date for submitting material is the last week of the following months. JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER.. If there is a special circumstance please call to make arrangements.

Send submissions to:

Walt.benson5@gmail.com
203-768-8435

Send pictures, please include names and what you and your detachment is doing.

WHAT SHOULD I SUBMIT?

This is your Newsletter, so anything you think others might be interested in. Look at the categories, Departments, Toy for Tots, Devil Dogs, Taps, Birthdays, Sick and I Need. Upcoming Events, Help Wanted, History, League and Marine Corps, Birthdays, Awards and Recognition. Community Events, Scholarships, Conventions, Meetings and Grand Growls, and ongoing projects. What are we doing for recruiting? What are we doing for Marines for Life? What can we do to bring back the Auxiliary? Think of some of the programs we have expanded and can you think of any others you want to create or expand? We expanded the Dogs to include donations to provide help to animal shelters, what about other groups? What about donations for women's shelters for women and children of these women? Toys For Tots expanded there program to allow year round help to children in distress. Someone had an idea and this grew from it, you could start your idea here. I am sure there is more but this is a good start

Walt Benson



FEBRUARY 3RD 1943 THE USAT DORCHESTER



On February 3rd 2025 Division Chaplain Jane Deptula, hosted an event at The Cornerstone of Faith United Methodist Church, Along with the Bucci Atwood Detachment in Coventry Rhode Island. On Feb. 3, 1943, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers was sunk in the cold Atlantic.

Through the pandemoni-
four Army chaplains brought hope
Those chaplains were Lt. George
D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P.
and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Re-
four chaplains spread out among
calm the frightened, tend the
ed toward safety. "Witnesses of
ing the four men offer prayers for
those who would live," says Wyatt
One witness, Private William B.

oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going." By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act. As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers. Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors.

When the
news reached
American shores,
the nation was
stunned by the
magnitude of the



um, according to those present,
in despair and light in darkness.
L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander
Washington, Roman Catholic;
formed. Quickly and quietly, the
the soldiers. There they tried to
wounded and guide the disorient-
that terrible night remember hear-
the dying and encouragement for
R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

Bednar, found himself floating in
oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going." By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act. As the ship went





THE FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION AND CHAPEL



tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains. "Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes." That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness. The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA. A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor .

The Chapel of the Four Chaplains recognizes people throughout the year for selfless acts of kindness or humanitarian deeds. Many Marine Corps League members have been recipients of these awards. When I came into the

league I saw there was an award for The Marine of the year, and I wondered how could someone possibly be deserving of that? Then a few years ago I found myself receiving an award from the Chapel of The Four Chaplains. I look at awards a little differently than most in that they should inspire people to do better every day. To strive for higher goals and purpose. If someone gave you this award then you should strive every day to show you deserve it. I have two particular awards I am proud of Marine Of The Year, which drives me every day to get up and do all I can to serve and advance the Marine Corps League every day, one foot in front of the other and never quit. The other is the Four Chaplains Award which addresses how I work with, treat, and serve my fellow man. This Award is a little harder to honor and be good at. It is my hope that the legacy these Chaplains left behind would inspire us step up and be better examples of what all of us should be. So when our test in life comes we find that we too possess the Valor, strength and love we need to succeed.

Walt Benson





HAPPY VALENTINES DAY NEW ENGLAND



My Angel My Girlfriend

Some people believe there is one,
The one who points your way to the sun.
A person they believe makes them complete,
The one who will support when facing defeat.

You are my angel, my one and only,
My forever love, so we'll never be lonely.
You've brought to my life all your love and care.
It made me see when I realized how rare
It is to meet your angel, or their lifetime one,
Through you and my children, whose life has be-
gun.

What you've done, you've illuminated my soul.
It's you and your love that has made me whole.
The feel of your love, your soft touch and caress,
We're tight, so close; your heart beats in my chest.

All that we have always felt missing before.
Though I love you today, tomorrow it will be more.
Our love is life; we are the strongest tree,
Which will always grow forever, like you and me.

You have opened my heart and held it so dear.
You are my angel and will always keep it near.
You have seen my ups and cared when I was low.
You are my angel; I just need you to know.

You entered my life through a ray of sun above,
And when we leave, we will leave together in love.
My love for you has become my reason to be.
I hope one day you'll find your angel in me

Rick Morley.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY MARINES

"Wishing you a rainbow, For sunlight after showers.
And miles and miles of Irish smiles, For golden happy hours.
To shamrocks at your doorway, For luck and laughter too.
And a host of friends that never end, Each day your whole life
through"



NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



Hello to all of our Marine Corps League members and their families. I wanted to let you know about a newer committee that was the creation of Past National Commandant Warren Griffin. Last year Warren wanted to do more for our Marines pertaining to their mental health and wellness. This is how HAMSAL was created. HAMSAL, which stands for “Help A Marine, Save A Life”, centers around taking care of yourself, as well as taking care of each other.

Last year I attended many Division Conferences upon request and presented a PowerPoint that included a little bit about my story, Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR), mental health and substance use disorder. QPR covers suicide awareness and prevention, and I know that we do not talk about this enough. What’s that you say, you don’t like talking about these uncomfortable topics? Well, I am here to tell you that those days are gone. We are our brothers and sisters keeper, whether you know or it like it. We cannot do this alone so we will do this together.

I was honored to speak at the New England/Quad States Conference and if you missed it, you are in luck. I am available to present to your Department and your membership to help spread the word. My HAMSAL presentation can also be found on the MCL Library under the member section. As a retired Police Officer and Marine Corps veteran in recovery, I understand about suffering in silence and fighting that stigma, especially within the First Responder and military/veteran community. But now I recover loudly and help others with their mental health and substance use. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time and contact me at shoremarines@gmail.com and 732-921-7411. Semper Fi!

Brian Gillespie



FROM THE EDITOR



A STORY WORTH TELLING

Back in December as most of us were scrambling around to get the last all important Christmas present, or attending Christmas parties. Or just taking in the food and spirit which we embrace as Christmas, a group of Marines from the Department a journey from Maine to Arlington. spirit of giving as they formed a convoy on its noble journey. They traveled by visiting with veterans and supporters on will appear in the New England Division love, a mission to pay back the sacrifice stration of a lesson the world has never looked at some of the images of the blanket of fresh white snow, I could not place where those who died in battle made the journey but if I was laying the



read the name, to know more. Was he a Marine, a Soldier, a Sailor or Airforce, and what battle did he fall in and it stole all of his youth. I would make my way along the path and stop at every grave and before I left this field of rest I would say a little prayer and ask a blessing from above that they remain here in eternal rest. You have served your country and your fellow man with a sacrifice that cannot be repaid, but here and now at Christmas time we hope this simple tribute will honor you. Thank you Marines for this gesture you made and in the journey you solemnly made. This gift of love and honor you have given to those who gave it all. May the wreath we lay at the stone that marks your name, display the honor and respect we have for you, and the snow that covers you bring you peace and warmth as you lie at rest and the love of those you left behind.

Walt Benson

**OPEN FOR ALL
MEMBERS OF THE MCL
& MCL AUXILIARY**

**MCL
SCUTTLEBUTT**

Have you joined any of these meetings? Well if you missed any of them, they are available on You Tube and there are a lot of good topics to choose from





CONNECTICUT



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

Happy 2025! We have made it through another year. We have suffered some difficult losses, certainly. Long-time member Richard Roderick, Commandant of the Southington Memorial Detachment 046 passed away last month.

The new Commandant, Rich Sorbello will assume the leadership role. But we have also accomplished a few things. We haven't grown by leaps and bounds but several Detachments have initiated new members.

We had a wonderful Toys for Tots season, surpassing prior years. Planning is well underway for our 2025 Department Convention. Our 2025 Department of Connecticut Convention and MODD Grand Growl will be held 27-28 June 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Glastonbury. Rooms are available to reserve now. You can call 1-877-782- 9444 and claim the Department of CT MCL group rate or use group rate MCL25. You can also make your reservations at <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/deptofctmarinecorpsleague/>. The group rate is also available for 26 June, if you're so inclined. Tom Jackson of the Housatonic Detachment will lead the effort for the hospitality suite. Now is the time to begin picking up goodies for the hospitality suite. AND prizes for our MCL and MODD raffles.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS A NEW PAYMASTER. Tom Jackson, Junior Past Commandant of the Housatonic Detachment 1129, has stepped up to fill the vacancy. Tom has a lot of experience, having done the finances for American Legion Post 196. Tom was also the longtime Commander of the Post with oversight of the finances. Thank you, Tom, for taking on

the position. And I know Walt Benson thanks you!

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned that we needed a New London County Commandant. Tom Peters has graciously agreed to continue in that role, despite some health issues. He likely will not attend our meetings but he and I will keep in touch. Thank you, Tom.

I hope to see everyone at our next Department meetings:

2 February in Rocky Hill

6 April in Rocky Hill

Semper Fidelis.

Rich Daigle
Commandant
Department of
Connecticut





CONNECTICUT



On the Milford Green

Welcome Home

Saturday March 29, 2025

EVENT SCHEDULE

- **Ceremonies on the Green: 11:00 AM.**
- **(Invocation, Pledge, Anthem, Music, Guest Speakers)**
- **Migrate to Veterans Auditorium: 12:30 PM.**
- **Special Ceremonies and Live Entertainment 1:00 To 4:00PM.**
- **Adjourn to City Hall for Veterans Social 4:00 PM**

All Are Welcome
(Event Open to the Public)

Food Available At Restaurants On the Green

Shuttle BUS service available 10:00 to 4:00
(R.R.Station-Green- Auditorium)



www.Vnamvet50reunion.com

(For Event Info.)



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"During World War I, Opha May Johnson was the first of 305 women to be accepted for duty in the Marine Corps Reserve on 13 August 1918. Most women filled clerical billets at Headquarters, Marine Corps to release male Marines qualified for active field service to fight in France. Other women filled jobs throughout the United States. On 30 July 1919, after the war was over, orders were issued for separation of all women from the Corps.

Twenty-five years later, women were back to "free a man to fight." The Marine Reserve was established in February 1943. Before World War II ended, a total of 23,145 officer and enlisted women reservists served in the Corps. Unlike their predecessors, women formed over 200

World War II performed military assignments. In addition to clerical work, their numbers included parachute riggers, mechanics, radio operators, map makers, motor transport support, and welders. By June 1944, women reservists made up 85 percent of the enlisted personnel on duty at Headquarters, Marine Corps and almost two-thirds of the personnel manning all major posts and stations in the United States and Hawaii. Following the surrender of Japan, demobilization of the Women's Reserve proceeded rapidly, but a number of them returned to service as regulars under the 1948 Act. "

The 1948 Act is when Women Marines became a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps on 12 June 1948 when Congress passed the [Women's Armed Services Integration Act \(Public Law 625\)](#), but they had already proved themselves in two world wars.

Jamie DePaola





CONNECTICUT



HOUSATONIC 13TH JAN. AWARDS DINNER





CONNECTICUT



HOUSATONIC 13TH JAN. AWARDS DINNER





CONNECTICUT



HOUSATONIC 13TH JAN. AWARDS DINNER





CONNECTICUT



National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Join us as we honor and remember
our Vietnam War veterans

Wreath-Laying Ceremony
at the
CT Vietnam War Veterans Memorial

Saturday, March 29, 2025 at Noon
Veterans Memorial Green,
234 Lake Street, Coventry, CT

TOYS FOR TOTS



[Jim Lauber](#) is with [Prospect Business Association](#) and [Elaine Schieffer](#). Skip Hammel, Ray Carrier, Bob Bozzuto





CONNECTICUT



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

LIVING THE MARINE CORPS VALUE OF HONOR

The Marine Corps' core value of courage is the inner strength that enables us to do what is right, to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct, and to make tough decisions under stress and pressure (USMC.MIL)

Courage is the ability to confront fear, pain, danger, uncertainty, or intimidation despite feeling apprehensive. It is not the absence of fear, but rather the recognition of fear and the willingness to move forward anyway. True courage often manifests in various forms, each uniquely challenging and significant in its own right.

Courage, by definition, is something that is hard to do. If you do something without fear, then you are not being courageous – you're just being you! To be courageous, you have to be pushing through fear and uncertainty.

The story of the four Chaplains, a Catholic, a Jew, and two Protestants, stands out as an incredible act of courage to God, their fellow service members, and to our country. During World War II, the US Transport Ship *Dorchester* was part of a three-ship convoy traveling across the icy waters of Newfound-



During that brief time, through the chaos and pandemonium, the four Army chaplains set out to do their work. Quickly and quietly, they spread out among the soldiers. They tried to calm the frightened, tend to the wounded, and guide the disoriented toward safety. Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offering prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live.

When a soldier couldn't find his life jacket, one of the Chaplains took off his own life vest and gave it to the frightened

man. The four Chaplains comforted the fleeing men and prayed with them. One survivor recounted, "As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lit everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the four Chaplains praying for the safety of the men." Another survivor testified that "the Chaplains had climbed on the keel, and they were standing arm in arm" before they slid into the icy waters. Of the 902 lives onboard, only 229 survived. That night, the four Chaplains passed the ultimate test; in doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage, and selflessness. We may never be faced with the decision to go down with the ship to save others, but we can sacrifice time each day to be kind to others, listen to others, or give a call to others.

The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation continues to honor the legacy of the Four Chaplains with its Legion of Honor Awards program. This program recognizes selfless service in many forms throughout our communities, schools, veteran service organizations, and neighborhoods.

The Legion of Honor Award Program consisting of six honorable awards, publicly recognizes and pays tribute to outstanding members of society whose lives model the giving spirit and unconditional service to community, nation, and humanity without regard to race, religion, or creed exemplified by the Four Chaplains. This program has recognized many of our Marine Corps League & Auxiliary Members who have

performed selfless acts. For more information about the Four Chaplains and the Legion of Honor Awards program, click on the link: (<http://www.fourchaplains.org/>)

Peter DePaola
Department of CT Chaplain



land toward the American Base in Greenland. The *Dorchester* was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service members, crew, and civilians. On February 3, 1943, at 0055 hours, the ship was struck by three enemy torpedoes. Within 25 minutes, the USAT *Dorchester* would roll onto its keel and sink.



CONNECTICUT



THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT, HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT, 781

Many of our members visited the Veterans Inc. at 232 Arch St., New Britain, CT in November. The members were so impressed with what you folks do for homeless Veterans, that at our next monthly meeting we voted to make a donation to you.

Offering Veterans transitional housing and then assisting them to find permanent housing is really working. All of the things that you do for them is outstanding. Please accept our donation to be used for your residents. Thank you so much for what you do.

Pictured below is from left to right: Kevin Kearney Employment & Training, Navy Vet, Veterans Inc., Dan Wilson, Regional Manager –CT, USAF – retired, Veterans Inc. Marine Al Urso and Marine Fred McGoldrick members of the Hardware City Detachment, 781, New Britain, CT.





MASSACHUSETTS



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DETACHMENT 125 CAPE COD

MCL Detachment 125 was proud to attend the change of command ceremony for the Nicholas G Xiarhos Young Marines, this past week at the Sanwich American Legion Post 188. We were blessed to be joined at our table by our dear friends, the Tourville family. Command changed from our Detachment member, George Challies, to our Jr Vice-Commandant, Will DeCoste. Both Will and George are excellent Marines who make us very proud. Semper Fi.





MASSACHUSETTS



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 125 CAPE COD

This is one of the most rewarding life's experiences I have thoroughly enjoyed. It is my privilege to watch and aid these young guys compete in learning the game of chess--it doesn't get any better than this and many thanks to my buddy, Max. And the course continues even away from the Cape Cod Christian Academy (Harwich) when on break

(this is at the Stop&Shop in Orleans.)

Semper Fi,
Frank

PS: another reason to never leave the Cape





MASSACHUSETTS



Saturday February 22, 2025

West Dennis Beach

**Registration &
Check-In At 10:30
Plunge At 11:00**

**Scan the QR Code
here for more on the
MCL Det 125**



**The Cape Cod Marine Corps League Detachment 125
Invites YOU to take the POLAR PLUNGE !!**

PLUNGE will begin at 10:30 with Registration, Signing Waiver of Liability, and making Contributions.

CEREMONY at 10:50 with National Anthem, Prayer and Remarks for the Commandant of the Cape Cod Marine Corps League.

At 11:00, COUNTDOWN TO PLUNGE!!

Voluntary Contributions of \$25 per Plunger to Marine Corps League Det. 125 Cape Cod suggested. Proceeds will Benefit Veterans on Cape Cod.

Plungers can register in advance by downloading and completing required **Waiver of Liability Forms** from Facebook postings, e-mails, or you can request forms by messaging saveutax@yahoo.com or the Marine Corps League Detachment 125 Cape Cod at mldet125@gmail.com.

Pledge Forms will be available, if you wish to get Sponsors.

Donations can also be sent to: **Marine Corps League Detachment 125 Cape Cod
P O Box 313 in North Falmouth 02556.**

Thank you for participating in our Polar Plunge and for your support of the Cape Cod Marine Corps League Detachment 125. Happy Plunging!!!



MASSACHUSETTS



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



February 2025 NE Division Newsletter

Oo-rah Marines, From the MA Department Chaplain

I pray this newsletter finds you all well A Couple of Notes from the MA Dept Chaplain

The Holidays are behind us, I hope and trust they were good for you and all of yours.

May 2025 be one of your best years yet! I will have more to say in the next newsletter; but for this edition I wanted to share a couple quick notes: First, I want everyone to know how to reach me, so here's my contact info: 205A Hopedale Street Hopedale, MA 01747, 508.902.7212, reyung@live.com, chaplain@mcldptofmassachusetts.org Let me know how I can serve you!

Second, it is always unfortunate when a brother Marine answers the "Early Roll Call". But of course, it happens. When a fallen member of our Corps/League occurs, a Notice of Death (NOD) needs to be processed. This initiative gives proper recognition to our fallen brother, but also serves to keep the integrity of our rosters. Lastly, the process allows Officers of the League to reach out to the surviving family members for proper condolences. Many times I receive these notifications (NOD's) in various forms and formats. I typically have to adjust many of them, correcting information and sometimes even transferring the information to more current NOD revision. So let me review the process quickly with you...

- Detachment NOD's are to be filled out by your Detachment Chaplain and sent to the Dept Chaplain (for now, Dept Chaplain is me - contact info above)
- The proper NOD Form to be used is revision copyright date 2021 - let me know; I will forward to you
- Once I receive your NOD, I will process to National and will cc You, your Det Commandant and Det Paymaster, providing I have their contacts.
- It is the responsibility of the Det Paymaster to process the proper transmittal to National for roster updates.

If anything is unclear, please reach out to me for clarification.

Till next time,
Semper Fidelis
Ed Yung
Chaplain
Department of MA



MAINE



As this year's hosting Department, the Department of Maine, has been working closely with the Division in planning the annual Quad State (New England Division) Convention. We are excited to be the hosting Department and are looking forward to both the convention, and the opportunity to meet to share ideas and fellowship with members from across our Division and beyond.

This year's convention will be held at the in the Great State of Maine at the Double Tree by Hilton Portland, located in South Portland Maine, 04106. The convention dates are Friday April 25-April 27, 2025. Assisted by our Division NVC Pat Maguire, presenters and our guest speaker have been secured. We are grateful for his assistance and are working to finalize the event schedule. Attendees are welcome to attend the full convention, or can attend as their circumstances permit. There will be a Saturday night banquet at a cost of \$65.00 per person. Registration forms for the convention, to include the hotel information, the banquet overview, the convention and banquet registration form and a form to purchase an advertisement in the convention program book can be found on the Division webpage, copies have been forwarded to MCL New England Department Commandants to disburse to their respective Detachments. Additionally, forms can be downloaded from the newly created Department of Maine website, www.marinecorpsleaguemaine.org. It is our hope that each Department, Detachments, and individual supporters and businesses in your area will purchase an advertisement in the program book. As you know the advertisement book is a big help covering the convention expenses, and we look forward to your support in this endeavor.

As mentioned above, the Department of Maine has created a new webpage, with a new web address. Our Department's new web address is www.marinecorpsleaguemaine.org. I ask that you take a moment and log into our webpage. Your visits will help us further promote the new page in the google world. The new webpage has been revised to not only highlight our Department but also all seven of our Maine local Detachments. It was designed to be an initial "one-stop" webpage for the state of Maine, and includes direct links to our local Detachments, the New England Division and our MCL National webpage. As with any new web page, please recognize that we will be making some modifications and adding more information into the future. Please feel free to link your page, to our page, in the spirit of "Gung Ho" we can have information readily available to all our members, as well as both potential future members, or those businesses and individuals that support our community programs and events (donors).

Finally, we recently installed a new Commandant in our Greater Bangor Detachment, Detachment #1151. Commandant Don Kozerow, a former Commandant for the Detachment, has returned to that role. Additionally, Commandant Kozerow, as a Pedigreed Devil Dog (PDD) is currently our Department Devil Dogs Senior Vice. Finally, Commandant Kozerow serves our Department as Judge Advocate. I congratulate Commandant Kozerow and am certain he will work to both grow and lead his Detachment with honor.

See you all in April at the Convention.



Semper Fidelis,
Peter Lubas
Commandant
Department of Maine
Phone- (908) 963-2610

Email- Flyfisherman@verizon.net
www.Marinecorpsleaguemaine.org



MAINE



Recently, I had an opportunity to take my "Trip of a Lifetime". I accompanied the Wreath Across America convoy down to Washington DC /Arlington to help place 400,000 wreaths on all the grave sites in Arlington.

On December 7th, We started our day off right sunrise in Lubec. Gold star family, mothers, brothers 1st picture. 2nd picture members of the different law enforcement groups working with WAA. This has been very impressive. Awesome!



Day 1 of my Wreaths Across America trip. Matt and I got up here around 10:30am. Toured the facility, meet some wonderful people, to included officer Kevin Healy. We attended the safety briefing for the drivers (Matt is a driver, I get to ride with him). After supper we went to the church in the woods for a wonderful service. Great start to an exciting journey. Thank you Alice and Janet for making this happen, I love you both. Onward to Arlington! I am blessed.





MAINE



Presenting Canadian Silver Cross families with a wreath. Silver Cross is the same as Gold Star families in the United States. A very moving ceremony. I was glad to be present at such a wonderful ceremony.



December 8th, Morrill & his wife Karen. The drivers, volunteers and support people have supper before our big trip southward. I am excited, Arlington here I come. Living a life with purpose.



December 9th Erskine Academy, nice stop, nice ceremony.





MAINE



December 9th, Lewiston HS, small crowd but a good speaker



December 9th, New Gloucester, great crowd, cold but still awesome



Day 2 - The start of day 2. We are at the Portland Ocean Gateway parking lot. It doesn't get any better than this! Headed for Massachusetts. Thank you Alice and Janet for making this possible for me. This is "my trip of a lifetime."



Small town America - we are at Well Junior High School - this is America at its best. We should all live PURPOSE!
@honorflightmaine





MAINE



December 9th, Last ceremony of the day, it was held at Mount Wachusett Community College. The ROTC Marines raised \$25500 for Wreaths Across America. Awesome!



December 10th, Morning briefing, Tuesday, Ready to get out there. We are going to do a Freeport Flag Ladies flag ceremony today, impressive!



December 10th, Departing James Hillhouse HS, New Haven CT. An interesting program. Onward to Norwalk, CT.





MAINE



December 10th, Gold Star Mothers/Family, Veterans, our Police, Game Wardens, Sheriffs, Conn. law enforcement, and lastly but just as important our Wait Staff. Great Italian food, the real deal. Heading to our hotel now. Weather is suppose to be terrible tomorrow, so we had to cancel one event. We get to sleep in for an extra hour. Loving every moment.



December 12th, At our Point Pleasant Beach stop, a ceremony was held to honor our fallen from all six branches of our military. This was done inside the event center as well as out in the bay. This trip is about WAA but it is also about patriotism. It is alive and well, sometimes you just have to look for it. A nice ceremony was held at the Masonic Fellowship Center in Bordentown Township. Honoring Gold Star Mothers, Families, Brothers, Sisters & Dads. Just a great day on my amazing journey. God Bless!





MAINE



December 12th, I got to ride in one of the 18 wheelers with two great guys, Ralph and David. Super guys, Ralph 7 years, David rookie like me. Different progressive from the seat of an 18 wheeler. Next leg was to Dover Motor Speedway stop. Great program (outside) but cold but still enjoyable.



December 13th, This is our morning start. Sun will be up, day is suppose to be low 40 and I'm on the right side of the grass. What more can I ask for? Nothing!





MAINE



December 14th, Big day - WAA at Arlington - I can feel the excitement throughout my whole body. This a true honor. This trip has been about Honor, Patriotism, the youth of America, new friendship, old friends, focus and so very much more. This has been "MY Trip of a Lifetime". I am so grateful to those people in my life who have help me realize this wonderful experience. Remember - Honor - Teach, Live With Purpose, We honor the Veterans of this nation, if we live the words above.



Matthew Mank placing a wreath at his biological father & mother grave site.



MAINE



December 14th, I placed 10 wreaths today, one was a two star general, one was a private, another Command Sergeant Major, a First Sergeant, 5 were Marines, 3 Soldiers, 1 Air Force & 1 Navy. I was happy to be in their company.



A day filled with Honor, a day I will not forget. Wreath Across America came up with the most appropriate saying, "Live with Purpose". If you love your freedoms, these graves are the men & women who secured those freedoms for you. Every person in this country should reach out and ask, how can I make a difference! If you don't know call or write I can tell you how. Memorial placed at the tomb of the USS Maine. The Maine was sunk off the coast of Cuba.



December 14th, Tomb of the Unknown - I get goosebumps and chills every time I go. Every American has an obligation to go. We owe it to them. It would be nice if you could do it with a veteran but doing it it definitely a must.





MAINE



I just came back from the Wreath Across America convoy. It was a "Trip of a Lifetime" for me. Having a part in the laying of wreaths at Arlington was priceless. What was special was that every grave at Arlington was adorned with a wreath. WAA theme for 2024 was "Life with Purpose. My theme going forward will be "Life with Purpose". My goal is to see every grave at Mount Vernon Veterans Memorial cemetery adorned with a wreath. For those of you who say I don't know anyone buried in Mount Vernon, that's the wrong answer. You do know someone there, man or woman, they are a Veteran. They paid for your freedom. I will have more on this come January.

Right now, Thank You, for those of you who purchased a wreath or multiple wreaths, THANK YOU! I am grateful beyond words. Mount Vernon was able to place 684 wreaths, that is 57 boxes of wreaths. The end total was more than last year, which is awesome. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless you all. Remember all who have served, who are serving and who will serve.

This was my journey, I hope you have enjoyed my journey. Please see how you can make a difference, spread the word. Our veterans past present & future deserve it.

Charlie Paul



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Honor Guard goes slowly by
As another's laid to rest.
The bugle's call hangs in the sky
Farewell to America's best.

Look upon this solemn sight
Beneath the clear blue sky.
Markers of the purest white,
In silent rows they lie.

A gentle breeze goes drifting by,
Cause flags to wave anew.
And as the warming sun grows high,
It dries the morning dew.

The stillness falls upon the ear
With reverence sad and deep.
We walk among them, far and near,
Those in eternal sleep.

The changing of the guard goes on,
In weather foul and fair.
To honor those that are unknown
And respect those lying there.

By Robert E. Welch





NEW HAMPSHIRE



December 24, 2024 · Lebanon, NH · Marine Corps League Department of New Hampshire Children's Hospital At Dartmouth CHAD.

At our last department meeting in Lebanon NH, we put together 50 stockings filled with goodies and toys for the children who are spending Christmas in Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHAD). Our Judge Avocate Rob McCain delivered them for us. I hope all these children have a Merry Christmas and get well soon. Merry Christmas to all!





NEW HAMPSHIRE





RHODE ISLAND



Marines and Associates,

Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season, as we begin an exciting new year for the Marine Corps League Department of Rhode Island. I am excited to share some wonderful news about the growth of our organization and the expanding opportunities to serve our veteran community.

It is my great pleasure to announce that we have welcomed a new pound to the Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD) in Rhode Island – Rhode Dogs Pound 416. This expansion of our "fun and honor society" represents another step forward in our mission to foster camaraderie and provide support to our veterans throughout the state.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are also focusing on growing our membership to enhance our ability to serve. The Marine Corps League has long stood as a beacon of support for veterans, providing crucial services and maintaining the brotherhood that is so fundamental to our Marine Corps heritage. We invite you to join us in our recruitment efforts by reaching out to fellow Marines and FMF Corpsmen who might benefit from becoming part of our organization.

Your active participation in the League makes a real difference in the lives of veterans across Rhode Island. Whether through our service programs, social events, or ceremonial activities, each member contributes to our mission of serving those who have served our nation.

If you know of any potential new members or would like to become more involved in our activities, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can continue to build and strengthen our Marine Corps League community.

Semper Fidelis,



Joe Afonso, Commandant
Department of Rhode Island
New England Division
Chief of Staff
bucciatwood@rimcl.org



RHODE ISLAND



Marine Corps League Kent County Detachment

- BENEFIT COMEDY SHOW -

Presented by John Perrotta's Comedy Factory

FRIDAY, MAY 9 2025

Doors open at 6:30pm - Showtime: 7:30pm

with appearances by...



John
Perrotta



Brian
Vincent



Stephen
DeNuccio



Anthony
Brooks



Aimee
Schwab



Russ
Gelfuso

Knights of Columbus

475 Sandy Lane - Warwick, Rhode Island

Bring your own pizza, snacks • Cash bar • Raffles & 50/50

Tickets \$20pp - For tickets call 401-265-1406
visit rimcl.org, or scan the QR code

Only 175 seats available





RHODE ISLAND



On November 30th, Bucci-Atwood Detachment 376 and The Department of Rhode Island had their 2nd Annual Toys For Tots Christmas Dance. The event was held at Valley Country Club in Warwick RI.

Toys collected from boxes and numerous events were on display for the more than 200 people who attended the event.

The night started off with Marines for the I & I staff providing a Color Guard. Then two Gold Star families led everyone in The Pledge Of Allegiance. Then Dan Clark "The Singing Trooper" (Dan is a retired Massachusetts State Trooper and had served as a Sergeant in the Marines) sang the National Anthem, followed by a Patriotic Medley. He finished his performance with the singing of every



Hymn from each branch of the Service.

A buffet dinner was served, after which a 3 hour show by Steve Smith and The Naked's was performed. The Naked's are a 10 piece band who has been performing for over 50 years.

During the Naked's intermission The Rhode Island

Professional Firefighters Pipes and Drums performed an extraordinary performance which concluded with the Marine Hymn. Prior to the Naked's coming back for the 2nd act, We had a hula-hoop contest involving several Marines in Dress Blues. The Naked's then completed the night with





RHODE ISLAND





SCRATCHING'S FROM THE DOGS



MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

VICE CHIEF DEVIL DOG

PDD Patrick T. McMahon 14-365

E: vcddmcmahon@gmail.com C: 860.222.5024

Happy New Year to all the New England PDD's, DD's. Pup's and yet to be Dogs. This is an exciting time of the year for us New Englanders; Snow for the skiers, snow boarders and ski mobilers, amongst us and for us Dogs, Mid-Winter Conference and Growl in a few weeks. I have done some Pack and Pound visits over the past several months, with more to come. I am hopeful that the Pack Leaders from CT, MA and ME can attend Mid-Winter and maybe some dogs from our Stand-Alone Pounds from New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. As I mentioned in my last Division article, I encourage ALL eligible Devil Dogs that wish to advance to Pedigree at the Supreme Growl in Dallas this coming August, seek out your Worthy Pack Dog Robbers to ensure eligibility and help with the paperwork. I would like to see as many New England Devil Dogs who wish to advance, advance.

I would like to take this moment to extend a hearty WOOF WOOF to all dogs who worked with their respective Detachments/Departments with the 2024 Toys for Tots campaign. I understand this year's campaign was VERY successful, and I along with our Division Vice Commandant PDD Maguire, encourage pounds and packs to work closely with their respective detachments and departments. The MODD simply cannot exist without the MCL, so ALL dogs are challenged to bring to their next pound, a worthy mongrel who wishes to become a member of the Fun & Honor Society, aka MODD.

Finally, August, Dallas, yes the Supreme Growl is just around the corner. If you care ontemplating attending, do not procrastinate. Book a room now! If your plans change, you can cancel, but once the hotel is full, it is just not as fun. If you have questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Full transparency, I respond much quicker with a text than an email, but I do respond to all.



2025 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION QUAD STATE CONFERENCE



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2025 NE DIVISION CONFERENCE & QUAD CONVENTION

APRIL 24, 25, & 26TH

HOTEL REGISTRATION

THE 2025 QUAD STATE CONVENTION WILL BE HELD AT THE
DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON, SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE

ADDRESS: DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON PORTLAND
363 MAINE MALL ROAD
SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE 04106

ROOM RATES: FRIDAY - \$ 129.00 + TAX
SATURDAY - \$ 129.00 + TAX
MENTION QUAD STATE CONVENTION WHEN CALLING FOR
RESERVATIONS

PHONE: TOLL FREE - 833-372-9736 (1-207-756-6510)

THE DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON PORTLAND OFFERS FULL-SERVICE ACCOMMODATIONS IN A CONVENIENT LOCATION JUST OFF I-95 DIRECTLY ACROSS MAINE'S LARGEST MALL. JUST MINUTES FROM THE WATERFRONT DISTRICT AND DOWNTOWN PORTLAND, HISTORIC OLD PORT DINING AND SHOPPING, AND PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL JETPORT(PWM), WE OFFER COMPLIMENTARY AIRPORT SHUTTLE. OUR GUEST ROOMS AND SUITES FEATURE REFRIGERATOR, MICROWAVE AND SAFES, FLAT PANEL TVS, COMPLIMENTARY WIFI AND OUR LUXURIOUS SWEET DREAMS BEDDING. HOTEL AMENITIES INCLUDE A WELL-EQUIPPED FITNESS CENTER, HEATED INDOOR POOL AND WHIRLPOOL, PET-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATIONS AND ROOM SERVICE. OUR LOCATION MEANS PLENTY OF EATERIES, CAFES AND RESTAURANTS ARE NEARBY. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, WE ALSO OFFER ONSITE HOTEL DINING AT NOURISH, SERVING FRESHLY PREPARED AMERICAN CUISINE AND REGIONAL FAVORITES FOR BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER. OUR GUESTS ENJOY EASY ACCESS TO DOZENS OF ATTRACTIONS, INCLUDING THE SHORES OF CASCO BAY AND OLD ORCHARD BEACH ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT, WORLD- FAMOUS L.L. BEAN AND FREEPORT OUTLET STORES, PORTLAND'S ARTS DISTRICT, HISTORIC PORTLAND HEAD LIGHT LIGHTHOUSE, VICTORIA MANSION, THE MAINE NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD CO. MUSEUM AND PORTLAND'S SHIPYARD BREWING COMPANY TOURS. WHETHER YOU TRAVEL HERE FOR BUSINESS OR LEISURE, OUR CARING HOTEL STAFF LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO PORTLAND WITH OUR SIGNATURE, WARM DOUBLETREE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE AT CHECK-IN.

SEMPER FI MARINES
FROM THE DEPT. OF MAINE MCL



2025 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION QUAD STATE CONFERENCE



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2025 NE DIVISION CONFERENCE & QUAD STATE CONVENTION

APRIL 24, 25, & 26

ADVERTISEMENT PRICES

TO: ALL DEPARTMENTS, DETACHMENTS, POUNDS AND PACKS

THE 2025 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONFERENCE AND QUAD STATE CONVENTION WILL BE HELD APRIL 24, 25, & 26th AT DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON 365 MAINE MALL ROAD IN SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE 04106. YOUR SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION BY PLACING ADS IN THE PROGRAM BOOK WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

PRICE LIST

FULL PAGE-----COLOR	\$275.00	B/W	\$200.00
HALF PAGE-----COLOR	\$175.00	B/W	\$125.00
BLACK/WHITE ONLY:			
QUARTER PAGE	\$ 75.00		
BUSINESS CARD	\$ 25.00		
NAME ONLY	\$ 5.00		

SUBMIT A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ADVERTISEMENT. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE MCL

MAIL AD W/CHECK OR EMAIL TO WACARO1@YAHOO.COM AND SEND CHECK SEPARATE

TO:

WAYNE CARON

1334 ST. JOHN ROAD

ST. JOHN PLT. MAINE 04743

PERSON SUBMITTING AD: _____ SIZE OF AD _____

ADDRESS: _____ CHECK AMOUNT _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE NO> _____

DEADLINE FOR ADS: MARCH 12, 2025----SEMPER FI



2025 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION QUAD STATE CONFERENCE



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2025 NE DIVISION CONFERENCE & QUAD STATE CONVENTION

APRIL 24, 25, & 26

SATURDAY – 26TH APRIL 2025

SATURDAY NIGHT MEAL \$65.00 PER PERSON

MEALS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE

PAID TO DEPT. OF MAINE PAYMASTER

MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 24, 2025

ENTRÉE: CHICKEN OR BEEF – VEGETABLE AND MASHED POTATOES
SERVED WITH DINNER ROLLS, COFFEE SERVICE & CHEF'S CHOICE OF DESSERT
SIDES: GARDEN SALAD (CHOICE OF DRESSING)

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

MCL DEPT. OF MAINE DETACHMENTS

KENNEBEC VALLEY DETACHMENT #599

CENTRAL MAINE DETACHMENT #810

GREATER LINCOLN DETACHMENT #976

GREATER BANGOR DETACHMENT #1151

SOUTHERN MAINE DETACHMENT #1324

MAINE LEATHERNECKS DETACHMENT #1361

MEO-BOSSE DETACHMENT #1414



2025 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION QUAD STATE CONFERENCE



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2025 NE DIVISION CONFERENCE & QUAD STATE CONVENTION

APRIL 24, 25, & 26

REGISTRATION & BANQUET FORMS

ALL MARINE CORPS LEAGUERS: REGISTRATION IS \$30.00/\$35.00 AFTER MARCH 1st
PAYABLE IN ADVANCE:

➤ NAME: _____

➤ ADDRESS: _____

➤ CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: _____

➤ PHONE: _____

➤ EMAIL: _____

➤ REGISTRATION: HOW MANY? _____ @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

➤ DEVIL DOG: DOG TAG # _____ POUND: _____ PACK: _____

CHECK NO. _____ MAKE OUT TO MCL DEPT. OF MAINE AND SEND TO

DEPT. OF MAINE PAYMASTER
WAYNE CARON
1334 ST. JOHN ROAD
ST. JOHN PLT. MAINE 04743

Richard J. Roderick May 1, 1944 - December 17, 2024

As all of us come to the end of our time here, it is my hope that we are remembered for more than our obituary. That being said that obituary is who we were and should not be ignored and so here is the link to access it and read the facts of Richards life, <https://www.ericksonhansen.com/obituary/richard-roderick>.

When I joined the Southington Memorial Detachment, I had transferred from Hardware City and as it is in the Marine Corps League, at the second meeting I was volunteered to be the Adjutant which I took over from Rich, and right next to me at the meeting and jokes. And as the meeting went on, ear one after another and we would hear one of them and laugh as stop to ask what was going on. It matter the risk we are always going at the meetings, and always with to anyone.

A couple of years ago he dogs because the Chief DD gave performed at home. PCDD Doug and I know this made Rich very happy and he was proud of that accomplishment as he was always seen wearing the yellow collar and dog tag.

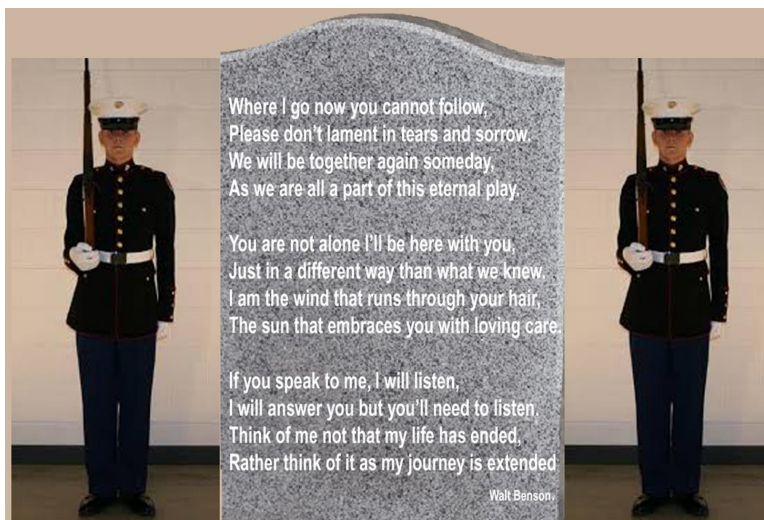
When the previous Commandant stepped down, Rich despite battling his own health problems stepped up and took over as Commandant. He stated that after being a member for over thirty years, he wasn't go- was a happy night officers of the South- detachment. I was made to try to bring its former glory

Rest easy my watch. As you strut heaven and you de- God a Joke, don't be



Rich assumed other duties. He sat if you knew Rich he always had Rich was whispering jokes in my laugh and at times Joe Mayo would well , while the Commandant would must be in Marines DNA that no to go with the laugh. He was always the smile and never an unkind word

was able to become a PDD in the permission for the ceremony to be Fisk presided over the ceremony



ing to let it go under. It that we swore in the ington Memorial De- proud of the effort they the detachment back to

brother we have the down the streets of cide to stop and tell surprised if he assigns



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.

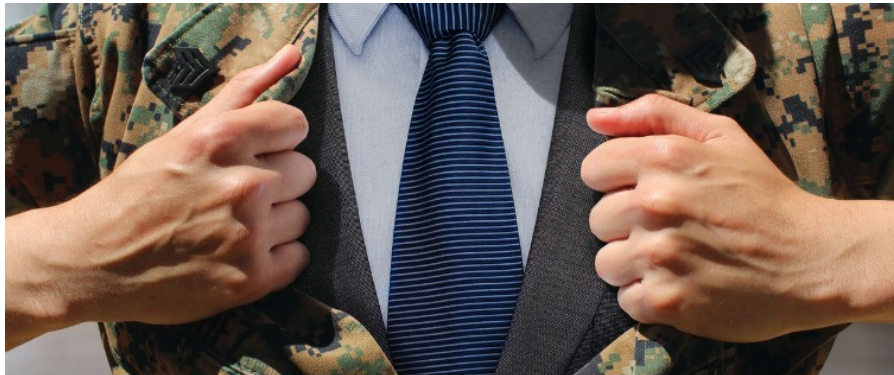
Strengthen your professional relationships and expand your network.: Networking is crucial in today's professional world. The Marine for Life Network facilitates your networking capabilities through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.

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 net-

work group.

Face-to-Face: More than 70 Marine for Life Representatives serves our program as

hometown links. These representatives create a bridge between the military and civilian communities across the nation, connecting you to military-friendly job op-



portunities, 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!



MARINE 4 LIFE



MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

Connecting transitioning Marines 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.

ONCE A MARINE,
ALWAYS A MARINE!

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



**Career & Technical
Opportunities**



**Educational
Opportunities**



**Entrepreneurial
Endeavors**

NETWORKING IS KEY

Linked in



Our online network utilizes LinkedIn to help Marines network with one another and connect with employers who want to hire Marines.

Face to Face Network



We focus on connecting Marine Veterans to local and national resources, as well as encouraging networking through Marine For Life events and meet ups.

[company/marine-for-life-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network)

marineforlife.org

856-645-8762

[/MarineForLifeNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/MarineForLifeNetwork)

WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

WWR Fact Sheet

District Injured Support Coordinators & Field Support Representatives

District Injured Support Coordinators (DISCs) and Field Support Representatives (FSRs) are an integral part of the Wounded Warrior Regiment's (WWR) support structure. They act as a conduit to Marine Corps, Veterans Affairs (VA), and civilian resources for Marines recovering away from a military installation or transitioning to veteran status. DISCs are Marine reservists and FSRs are contract support geographically dispersed to provide assistance and community liaison where needed.

The goal of DISCs and FSRs is to return well adjusted wounded, ill, or injured (WII) Marine veterans to their communities with the knowledge and skills to self-advocate and assist other WII Marines.

What Services do DISCs and FSRs offer?

- Outreach through calls or face-to-face contact with WII Marines and their families requiring assistance.
- Assistance with accessing VA and community resources.
- Facilitate veteran medical care through VA patient advocates or OIF/OEF Coordinators.
- Information on family and caregiver support services (i.e. respite care, scholarship opportunities, counseling support).
- Access to education and employment resources in their local communities (i.e. resume development, interview skills, network/employment opportunities, and application completion).
- Support in working with representatives from medical facilities, the VA, legal authorities, businesses, and non-profit organizations.
- Immediate access to the WWR's medical section and VA for psychological health resources and support, including referrals to local resources to ensure WII Marines receive timely and appropriate care.

Who They Support

- Marines transitioning to veteran status
- Reserve Marines
- Marines recovering in remote locations away from military or federal resources
- TDRL/PDRL Marines

Where They are Located

DISCs and FSRs are geographically dispersed across the country and are generally collocated with VA-operated medical centers, vet centers, and outpatient clinics offering primary and specialized care.

Related Fact Sheets

- Wounded Warrior Regiment Call Center
- Medical Section
- Transition
- Recovery Care Coordinator

MSgt Charles You
District Injured Support
Coordinator (DSC)

508-740-4331

Charles.you.mil@usmc.mil



Fact Sheet: Transition
Released: 03012018v2



"I cast my words upon the wind, of things I wish to tell my friends"



On this page we will publish the works of Marines who have written novels or poetry that they wish to share either in segments here or a short description and information to purchase the book. We welcome the works of all members. Not all work will appeal to all members but your work will appeal to a member.

The things I never said till now

Friendship and love what an amazing combination,
Lovers are friends but friends love one another.
We hold back words because of feelings we fear,
When life is too short to leave our feelings unclear.

Let me start at the beginning and how we began,
It seems funny to say this but it was never a plan.
We texted and talked for untold hours each day,
Time didn't exist there, as we each found our way.

You will never know how you touched my soul,
I was lost in a place filled with darkness and cold.
In my darkest times you are my brightest star,
Your smile lifts my spirits both in person and afar.

My first thought in the morning my last at night,
If I could I would show you how I see you in life.
How often you accuse me of goofing on you but,
I'm thinking how could anyone not see what I see in you.

As I ponder what I humbly offer to you in return,
Reason is the one thing that's so simple that you earned.
I want to be the reason you have hope and resilience,
I want to be the reason you are inspired to chase all your dreams.

I want to be the reason that you will know,
That I will always have more reasons tomorrow.
Lastly, I want to be the reason you look forward to every tomorrow.
Because each one will be better than the day before.

The beach is such a happy place. The sun, sea and sand.
But to me the one I love the most has got to be the sand.
It's here I choose to take my thoughts and write them in the sand.
These words I write upon the sand are known to me and God.

Because when I'm done the waves come in and take my thoughts away.
Somehow I hope that fate steps in and delivers them someday.
Because life's too short to have those thoughts that never have been heard.
If I wrote I love you in the sand it is more than just three words.

A picture speaks a thousand words these words speak thousands more.
It says my heart is joined with yours and will be evermore.
It says that you are on my mind and in my dreams as well.
The time I spend away from you is really living hell.

Our relationship is ominous, like star crossed lovers from ancient lore,
It may never get much further, and will leave us seeking more.
For one thing you are summer and I am winter to be sure,
Dynamics like this are fates way of intervening for sure.

But as I look at what we have I treasure every minute.
The love I have and I what I feel can never be diminished.
So now you read my words and thoughts before the ocean took them.
And as the waters recede again these words are gone forever.

This space is here to promote what you have written, to show your friends and foes as well the strengths that you are made of. As you publish here or there you expose yourself to judgement. But this is what its all about to test your inner talents. As you read this you should discover that this is but another poem. To show to all that are afraid that all your fears are quite unfounded. Because as you put each letter on the page you leave your fear behind you. So write your words and share your thoughts but you always must remember, words and thoughts come from the heart that's what your readers crave for.



HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



**I'M LOOKING FOR A
COFFEE THAT
HIDES THE FACT
THAT I'VE BEEN
TIRED SINCE 2010.**



**I am starting
to think
I will never
be old enough
to know better.**



THE GROUNDHOG SAID SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER



**I'M PROUD TO
ANNOUNCE THAT
I HAVE COMPLETED
THE 1ST ITEM ON
MY BUCKET LIST.
I HAVE THE BUCKET.**

Amazing Fact

**You need at least 1
Witness to prove a
murder**

**and a minimum of 2
witnesses to
register a marriage!**

**It clarifies which is
more dangerous**

6,425

50

**Some random number just texted
me thinking I was their manager
saying they were going to be a few
minutes late today. So I just gave
them the day off**

2025 MID WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE

=====

SHERATON PENTAGON CITY

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

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

HOTEL RESERVATION LINK

2/27/2025 – 3/1/2025 (check-in 2/26, check out 3/2)

2025 MCL National Mid-Winter Conference Uniform Of The Day (UOD):

All MCL uniforms stated are 'suggested' attire and is not required for wear; no MCL members will be denied access if they are not wearing the 'suggested' MCL uniform; however, ALL MCL members in good-standing will wear the MCL cover and proper conference credentials to gain access to any MCL business meetings.

- Thursday national board of trustees meeting and Commandants Council – MCL cover (required); MCL polo shirts or detachment shirts are 'suggested' for wear.
- Friday Joint Opening Session and Memorial Service – MCL cover (required); the MCL Casual Dress (red blazer) uniform is 'suggested.' The balance of the day, the MCL Undress uniform; or, MCL or detachment shirts are 'suggested' for wear.
- Saturday business meetings – MCL cover (required); the MCL Undress uniform; or, MCL or detachment shirts are 'suggested' for wear.
- Saturday social, reception, and banquet – (black-tie event) MCL Evening Dress, MCL Formal Dress, or black-tie/formal attire is 'suggested' for wear. MCL covers are not to be worn for this event.

=====

- Hotel rate is \$131 per night plus tax
- Parking: On-site garage parking is \$10 per day
- Any cancellations after February 10, 2025, 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.



Building a strong relationship to secure the future

As a member of the Marine Corps Association, you will be well-connected with the Corps with MCA's membership benefits:

Resources:

[Leatherneck – Magazine of the Marines and The Marine Corps Gazette](#) are our monthly flagship publications that feature valuable information from the Corps. Members can select print and/or digital issues and can access more than one hundred years of issues of both magazines online for free. Non-members do not have access to our Magazine archives. [Click here](#) to see sample issues.

- [The MARINE Shop](#) is our retail store that assists Marines with their uniform requirements regardless of rank and offers many Marine Corps themed gifts and apparel.

MCA Group Insurance Program features valuable insurance products with your needs in mind – all backed by an association you can trust. We leverage the buying power of our MCA members to bring you competitive group rates and offer one convenient source for the following products:

[Term Life Insurance](#)

[TRICARE Supplement](#)

[Dental Insurance](#)

[Vision Insurance](#)

[Pet Insurance](#)

[Long-Term Care Insurance](#)

[Medicare Insurance Plans](#)

[Individual and Family Health Insurance Plans](#)



To learn more about the benefits of the Marine Corps Association Group Insurance Program, [Click Here](#) or call (800) 845-4685.

Networking Opportunities:

Discounted [Professional Events](#): Our members receive discounted rates for our MCA professional dinners and events held annually throughout the Corps. Our dinners provide members with access to senior leaders of the Marine Corps, Department of Defense, and industry. Active-duty members can attend for free.

Professional Development:

[MCA Battle Study Packages](#): Members will have access to all of our Battle Study Packages and learn from the lessons of the battles of the past to excel in the Corps battlefields of the future.

[MCA Decision-Making Exercises](#): Members can practice solving issues to increase their ability to make decisions through dozens of tactical and ethical decision games

[MCA Corps Voices](#): Hear the Corps' icons from Chesty Puller to Alexander Vandegrift to Al Gray discuss issues, challenges, and battlefield tactics in these audio excerpts recorded over the last one hundred years.





RECRUITING "IT'S JOB ONE"!!

Walt Benson



The Marine Corps League is Looking for a Few Good Marines

Hello Marines, I left this billboard here because it is so impressive. It has to attract people to at least inquire about the League. That's all we need to take the first step, and that conversation could be a new member. I think this might be something we want to consider like a fundraiser to do something like this.

Another idea would be to put together a deal with a local Pizza shop and put an add up before every meeting inviting Marines and veterans to join the meeting and share some pizza. If it's a regular thing every 2 months maybe we can



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-attachment.html)



get a deal? What about having a drawing for new members for a free dinner at a Convention or a Birthday Ball, A Dance, or a Comedy night. These are some things Rhode Island is doing, maybe the rest of us should be striving to be at least that active. We are almost to the end of 4 years in this newsletter, where are you ideas? I'm not the smartest person in the room, maybe you are.

Walt Benson

Are You Ready?



Mike & Kay Ross
Albert E. Shockey Detachment #960
Kokomo, Indiana



Tribe@MCLeague.org
www.mclnational.org

Toys For Tots • Color Guard • Young Marines
Funeral Honors • Preserve Traditions



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.

One of the most important jobs in the Marine Corps Chaplain goes about their meeting the needs of the organizing events such as the anniversary of the Four Chaplains this event over the year but doesn't allow me to attend. It is the chaplain who would organize an event or another chaplain. And yet they have been a big part of our lives and leave footprints. In them we find a gentle demeanor an escape from the story of the four chaplains it



important yet unrecognized League is Chaplain. The business updating records, members and in some cases the most recent, The anniversary, Jane has invited me to working in Tax season seems appropriate that our event to remember and honor as Marines chaplains have since we stood on those yellow find a calming voice and a from our stressful lives. In PI drill instructor. If you read the speaks of how none of us

really knows if we possess the valor to face death when Fate has asked us to do so. I think Chaplains know and are sure of their response before they are tested. They lead us in prayer, lead us in the decisions we struggle to make and often are with us when we come to our end in this life. I make this claim because of the many chaplains who choose to write in this publication, you can tell by what they write and what they choose to write about is done so with honesty and Passion. The one thing I learned many years ago when I started writing is that you need to write from the heart because if you just type words on a page they will come across as fake. I'm sure that on that cold night aboard the Dorchester as the chaplains spoke to and prayed with the sailors on the ship, they would have needed that honesty or they would not have been able to bring comfort and diminish the fears of those they were trying to help. So as you see Jane at any of our many events, say hello, have a conversation and see the job she does in a different light. Remember that her job changes time after time and is dictated by your needs. The moment in her life where she must face her test and meet her challenge is dictated by the members she serves.

Semper Fidelis Jane, Ooh-Rah



2025

FEBRUARY

2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1
2 GROUND HOGS DAY	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16 PRESIDENTS DAY	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 MID WINTER CONFERENCE	



2025

MARCH

2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1
2	3	4	5 ASH WEDNES- DAY	6	7	8
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	10	11	12	13 THE IDES OF MARCH	14	15
16	17 SAINT PATRICKS DAY	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



NATIONAL CONVENTION



2025 MCL Convention

Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport

WE ARE SAVING
A SEAT
FOR YOU

HYATT REGENCY DFW AIRPORT

2334 N. INTERNATIONAL PKWY

DFW AIRPORT TX 75261

PHONE FOR RESERVATIONS

1-800-233-1234 Group CODE G=MCL5

MONDAY AUG 11 TO FRIDAY AUG 15

RATES ARE \$159,

PARKING IS FREE

SCHEDULE





CLASSIFIED SECTION



HELP WANTED

Department of CT– Is seeking a Paymaster. The Paymaster is one of most important positions in the Department. No Department can function or conduct any business without a paymaster. One need not be

FILLED

able to function as an accountant you need only to be able to balance a check-book and care. It is an opportunity to move up in the league and serve at a higher level. You will learn more about how things work in the league than in any other job

Department of CT– Is seeking an Americanism Chair. Your duties would include overseeing the Departments participation and entries into the Americanism program.

Department of CT– Is seeking a VAVS NORTH and VAVS SOUTH. These position have been open for a while there are training videos available on the National Website.

Department of CT– Is seeking a Sergeant-at-Arms.

Department of CT– Is seeking a Boy scout Liaison

Department of CT– Is seeking a Youth Physical Fitness liaison to make contact with schools to set up the program and help out wherever needed.

Department of CT– Is seeking a Historian

Department of CT– Is seeking a Legislative Officer

Department of CT– Is seeking a Scholarship Chair

New England Division– is seeking a Historian, who will take over keeping the history and accomplishments of the Division.

New England Division– is seeking a Legal Advisor and for this position you would need skills to advise the Division on all legal matters.

New England Division– is seeking a Auxiliary Liaison . This position needs to be filled by a strong individual who would basically bring the Auxiliary back to life. You would need good communication skills as well as drive and ambition.

New England Division– is seeking a seeking a Youth Physical Fitness liaison to make contact with schools to set up the program and help out wherever needed.

New England Division– is seeking a seeking a Compliance Officer. To follow up on Department and Detachment. IRS 990's and Incorporation reports

HELP WANTED

Each edition I will list any job a Department has that is open. We need to encourage Marines to step up and fill these positions. Many people think that those of us that hold positions have some special skills that allow us to do these things we do but that is not true. WE are all here because we feel we have more to offer and more to do. We appreciate that you come to the meetings but think how much more you could help by stepping up. I think by now I have heard just about every excuse to why people can't do things but you can and that is a conversation you need to have with yourself. No one ever joined the Marine Corps because they thought there were easy no stress jobs here. There are jobs listed here that if not filled would prevent a Department from functioning. There are only two people authorized to handle money in the Department one is the Commandant the other is the Paymaster. These are the only two people that can sign checks, the only two people listed on the accounts for banking and scholarship. What are your special skills? Ou Can deposit money in the bank write checks and keep the checkbook balanced. There are other jobs that are just as important but this is the one I know the best right now. When I took it I did so in a situation similar to this there was a new commandant coming in and I did not want them to struggle or be limited. We need someone to do this again.

Youth Physical Fitness liaison is another position that we are desperately seeking to fill. If you were a teacher or a coach you may have the connections we need to get this program off the ground. I have some ideas that are being used in other states by people, we need people here with connections to help implement them. I am sorry that I didn't give more notice but this was a last minute idea by someone who is desperate to bring us back to where we were. It is time to come off the sidelines your brothers and sisters need you now more than ever. I'm pretty sure I learned this in bootcamp when I was tired the DI said sleep when your dead. So in the future send us your open jobs better yet send us your Marines.

Walt Benson

AND ON THE
8th DAY
GOD CREATED
MARINES
THE DEVIL
GROANED AND
SAID, "OH SHIT"



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.
Amen

2025 MCL Convention

Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport

HYATT REGENCY DFW AIRPORT

2334 N. INTERNATIONAL PKWY

DFW AIRPORT TX 75261

PHONE FOR RESERVATIONS

1-800-233-1234 Group CODE G=MCL5

MONDAY AUG 11 TO FRIDAY AUG 15

RATES ARE \$159,

PARKING IS FREE

WORD OF THE DAY

Over the centuries, certain Latin phrases have been used widely enough in English to get included in the dictionary. This is one of the favorites:

Semper Fidelis

sem-per fi-dey-lis;

"Always faithful"

These two words have long served as motto for families, schools, and organizations – most famously, since 1883, for the United States Marine Corps.

EXAMPLE:

He will receive the Semper Fidelis Award for his support of the Marine Corps University Foundation.

Source:
Merriam-Webster Dictionary - <http://bit.ly/1evC7oa>

Image Source:
barrykibrick.files.wordpress.com