



June 2026 — July 2026

# LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 5



## Message From The Division Commandant



Marines and Members,

We're just a few days away from the Division Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts, and things are starting to come together pretty quickly. This is one of those weekends where there's a mix of business and just getting a chance to see everyone again.

We'll handle the League business, but it's not just about sitting in meetings. It's also about showing up, staying involved, and staying connected with what's going on across the division. We'll have guests from National there as well, along with some partners we've worked with before and a few new ones we're starting to build relationships with.

Springfield was picked after looking at a few different locations, and the goal was to keep it fair for everyone across the division. It's a good central spot, and hopefully that helps bring more people in. Registration is okay right now, but there's still time for those numbers to climb, and it would be good to see more members make the trip.

Outside of the meetings, there's a few things going on. Friday has golf for whoever wants to play,

plus an armory tour. Six Flags is close by, there are a couple museums in the area, and downtown Springfield has plenty to walk around and check out. The Basketball Hall of Fame is always a popular stop, and the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum is worth seeing if you are a motorcycle enthusiast. There is also a casino nearby for anyone who wants to stop in there and drop a dollar or a quarter into a machine.

At the end of the day, hopefully everyone leaves with a few good conversations, some new ideas, and a little motivation to bring back home.

What really matters is not just showing up for the weekend, but what we do with it after. Take what you hear, what you learn, and who you connect with, and put it to use when you get back. That's how things keep moving forward — one member, one detachment, one department at a time.

See you in Springfield!!



Patrick Maguire  
National Vice Commandant  
New England Division  
Marine Corps League



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2024 – 2025**



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## 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](mailto:Walt.benson5@gmail.com)

203-768-8435

**When sending pictures, please include names and what you and your detachment are doing.**

## WHAT SHOULD I SUBMIT?

This is your Newsletter, so anything you think others might be interested in, please share it here. Look at the categories, Departments, Toy for Tots, Devil Dogs, Taps, Birthdays, Sick, Personal writings, Upcoming Events, Help Wanted, History, League and Marine Corps, 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 are more topics but this is a good start.

Walt Benson



# FROM THE EDITOR



## A STORY WORTH TELLING

I found this posted to FaceBook and I thought I would share it. The next time someone asks about Brotherhood and Camaraderie, share this story, tell them who we are.

### Old Biker Carried Paralyzed Veteran 3 Miles After City Said He Couldn't Join Veterans Day Parade

It started two weeks before Veterans the American Legion hall where our motorcyc- nervous. Twenty-six years old. Built like a war- knees. Afghanistan. IED. Two years ago. He ple Heart. Bronze Star. "I need help," he said. Vietnam era. All carrying scars nobody could stood up first. Six-foot-three. Three hundred "What do you need, son?" Tyler's voice parade. My grandpa marched in it after World to be next." He stopped. Steadied himself. accessible. Three miles of cobblestone and cost forty thousand dollars to make it work. float?" Tank's voice went dangerously quiet.



Day when Tyler Brooks wheeled himself into club held meetings. You could tell he was prior from the waist up. Legs gone below the wore his dress uniform. Medals polished. Pur- The room went quiet. Fifteen old bikers. Most see. Our president, Jim "Tank" Morrison, pounds. Bad knees from his own service. cracked. "I want to march in the Veterans Day War II. My dad after Vietnam. I was supposed "But the city says the route isn't wheelchair stepped curbs. No ramps. They say it would Suggested I wave from a float instead." "A "The mayor said if I can't walk the route like everyone else, maybe I shouldn't participate." The silence in that room could have crushed concrete.

Tank walked over to Tyler. "Stand up, son." "I can't—" "I said stand up." Tyler gripped his wheelchair arms. Tank turned around and squatted down. "Get on." "You can't carry me three miles. Your knees—" "My knees survived the Tet Offensive. They'll survive this." Tyler wrapped his arms around Tank's neck. The old man stood like he weighed nothing. The room erupted. Buck, our sergeant-at-arms, said, "We'll take turns. Fifteen guys, three miles." "I'll do the whole thing," Tank growled. "This man wants to march with veterans. He's going to march." Word spread fast. The mayor's office called three days before the parade. Mayor Richardson. Soft man. Never served a day. "Mr. Morrison, I hear you're planning some kind of stunt." "Not a stunt. We're helping a brother veteran participate in honoring our fallen." "It'll cause disruption. Make the parade about one person." "Every veteran IS one person. One person who raised their hand and said send me. One person who came home broken. One person who deserves to march. "If you do this, I'll remove your club from the parade entirely." Tank laughed. No humor in it. "Remove combat veterans from a Veterans Day parade. See how that plays." He hung up. What the mayor didn't know was that Tank had mounted a camera on his helmet. And it was recording everything. November 11th. Cold and clear. Tyler arrived in his dress uniform. Medals gleaming. Tank and the club were waiting. Fifteen men in leather vests covered in military patches. The parade organizer approached. "The mayor says—" "The mayor can kiss my red, white, and blue ass," Tank said. "We're marching." Other veteran groups were watching. Korea. Gulf War. Iraq. Afghanistan. Even a few World War II vets in their nineties. Some in wheelchairs themselves. Tank squatted down. Tyler climbed on. Something happened that nobody expected. Veterans from other groups started walking over. "I'll take a turn," said a Marine from Somalia. "Me too," said a female soldier who'd lost her left arm in Iraq. By the time the parade kicked off, over fifty veterans had volunteered. Tank shook his head. "I've got him. But march with us. Show them what brotherhood looks like."

The parade started. Bands. Civic groups. Floats with waving dignitaries. Then the veteran groups. And right in the middle, Tank carrying Tyler on his back. Fifty veterans in formation around them. The crowd went silent. Then gasps. Then explosive applause. People started crying. Phones came out everywhere. Tank's knees were screaming by the half-mile mark. His back, damaged in a helicopter crash in '69, felt like fire. But Tyler was talking in his ear. "Tank, look. They're saluting. Kids are saluting me." "They're saluting us, son. All of us." At one mile, Tank's legs started shaking. Buck moved to take over. Tank growled. "Not yet." At two miles, the mayor was waiting at the reviewing stand. Red-faced. Furious. He stepped into the street. This ends now," he hissed. "You're making a mockery of this parade." Tank stopped. Helmet cam rolling. He spoke loud enough for the crowd to hear. "A mockery? This young man lost his legs for this country. He wanted to march the same route his grandfather and father marched. You said he couldn't because you wouldn't spend money on ramps. Said if he can't walk like everyone else, maybe he shouldn't participate." Dead silence. Every eye on the mayor. "That's not... I didn't mean..." he stammered. Tyler spoke from Tank's back. "You didn't mean what? That wounded veterans aren't worth forty thousand dollars? That we should hide if we can't walk? That our sacri-



# FROM THE EDITOR



## A STORY WORTH TELLING

Shame!" The mayor retreated. The livestreams were already going viral. At two and a half miles, Tank's legs gave out.

He went to one knee. Tyler still on his back. "Tank, please. Let someone else—" "No." He struggled up. Made it three steps. Went down again. Both knees. Tyler tried to slide off. Tank held his arms. "Don't you dare," Tank gasped. "We do not leave brothers behind." That's when the crowd broke through the barriers. Civilians. Young and old. A teenager grabbed Tank's left arm. An elderly woman took his right. They lifted him. Held him up. Kept him moving. "We've got you," the teenager said. "Both of you." The last half mile became something nobody planned. The crowd didn't just watch. They joined. They held Tank upright while he held Tyler. Children ran up to high-five the young vet. Old women kissed Tank's cheek. Men who'd never served held salutes until their arms ached. When they crossed the finish line at the memorial park, Tank collapsed. Medics rushed over. He waved them off. Looked up at Tyler, now in his wheelchair beside him. "We made it, son." Tyler was sobbing. "You could've killed yourself. Why?" Tank grabbed his hand. "Because twenty-two veterans take their own lives every day thinking nobody gives a damn. Because you needed to know someone would carry you rather than let you be forgotten. That's what brothers do." The story went national within hours. The helmet cam footage was everywhere. The mayor's words played on every news channel. He resigned within a week. Within a month, legislation was introduced requiring all federally funded Veterans Day parades to be fully accessible. But the real change happened locally. The city didn't just build temporary ramps the next year. They made the entire route permanently accessible. Businesses started hiring wounded veterans. The high school paired students with disabled vets to help them participate in community events. Tank's knees never fully recovered. He walks with a cane now. Sometimes two on bad days. But every Veterans Day, he stands at the parade route and watches Tyler march on prosthetic legs. Paid for by an anonymous donor who saw the video. "You didn't have to carry me the whole way," Tyler tells him every year. "Yes I did," Tank says every time. "Someone had to show this country we mean it

when we say no one gets left behind." Our club has grown from fifteen members to over two hundred. We don't just ride anymore. We carry. Literally when necessary. Any wounded veteran who wants to participate in something their disability prevents. We make it happen. Tank keeps one photo on his bike. Him on his knees at mile two and a half. Tyler on his back. Civilians holding them both up. He wrote at the bottom: The day America remembered. Because that's what it was. Not just one old biker carrying a young soldier. But a nation being reminded that some sacrifices can't be measured in dollars. That accessibility isn't charity. It's obligation. That when we say we honor those who served, we mean all of them. Even if one old biker with bad knees has to carry them on his back to prove it. (Share this story to spread kindness and let's make this world a better place)



**Semper Fidelis**  
**Walt Benson**



# MODERN DAY MARINE

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

WASHINGTON D.C. | APRIL 28 - 30, 2026



MCL National JR. Vice Commandant David Porter Jr., Lt. Gen. Charles G. Chiarotti, USMC Ret., Gen. Bradford J. Gering, MCL National Commandant TJ Morgan, MCL National Judge Advocate Bruce Rakfeldt, MCL National SR. Vice Commandant, Russ Miller. Cut the ribbon to open the event.



Marine Corps League Exhibit



# MODERN DAY MARINE

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

WASHINGTON D.C. | APRIL 28 - 30, 2026



This is my kind of ride



Let there be Drones



It's important to know where we have been



If you get lost someone to lead 20th SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, Carlos A. Ruiz, National Chair of Public Relations, John Taylor.



Jarhead Jabber pod Casts



Marine Corps Association Table





# MODERN DAY MARINE

Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
WASHINGTON D.C. | APRIL 28 - 30, 2026



Jim Harvey, greeting Marines with open arms and a smile.



Chairman of the Budget Committee, Bob Ziltz



PNC Warren Griffin, and Julianne Creedon Planning the day.



National SR. Vice Commandant Russ Miller



Director of Events, Rob Brooks, National Commandant, TJ Morgan



National JR. Vice Commandant, David Porter



Far Left: Exhibit for The Tun sign up to help rebuild the birthplace of the Corps.



Left: This should be my next vehicle. It has all the accessories needed to travel 95.



# MODERN DAY MARINE

Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
WASHINGTON D.C. | APRIL 28 - 30, 2026



Rocky Mountain Division National Vice Commandant Tom Krueger,  
Southeast Division Assistant National Vice Commandant Jim Stone



Above: Tim Harvey PR Chair John Taylor, AJ Cox Jarhead Jabber, Tina Harvey, PCDD Don Garland, and others,  
Right Gunny Claus, doing a little shopping for the Marines who gave him their List





# MODERN DAY MARINE

Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
WASHINGTON D.C. | APRIL 28 - 30, 2026



Northwest Division National Vice Commandant Skip Nakashima, 39th Commandant of The Marine Corps, General Eric Smith



Gunny Claus, 1st Reindeer Division, Marine Corps Base North Pole



Modern Day Marine 2026, I had the opportunity to sit down with Sgt. Maj. Daniel Krause, Sgt. Maj. Jacob Reiff, Sgt. Maj. Ryan Gnecco, and Sgt. Maj. Anthony Loftus to talk about preparing Marines for the next 250 years. We discussed how we man, train, and equip Marines, not just with platforms and equipment, but as individuals.



# MODERN DAY MARINE

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

WASHINGTON D.C. | APRIL 28 - 30, 2026



Southwest Div. NVC, Joe Uribe, Central Div, NVC Dave Englert, Northeast Div. NVC Bob Ziltz, Rocky Mountain Div. NVC, Tom Krueger, Northwest Div. NVC, Skip Nakashima, National Judge Advocate Bruce Rakfeldt.

# SAVE THE DATE

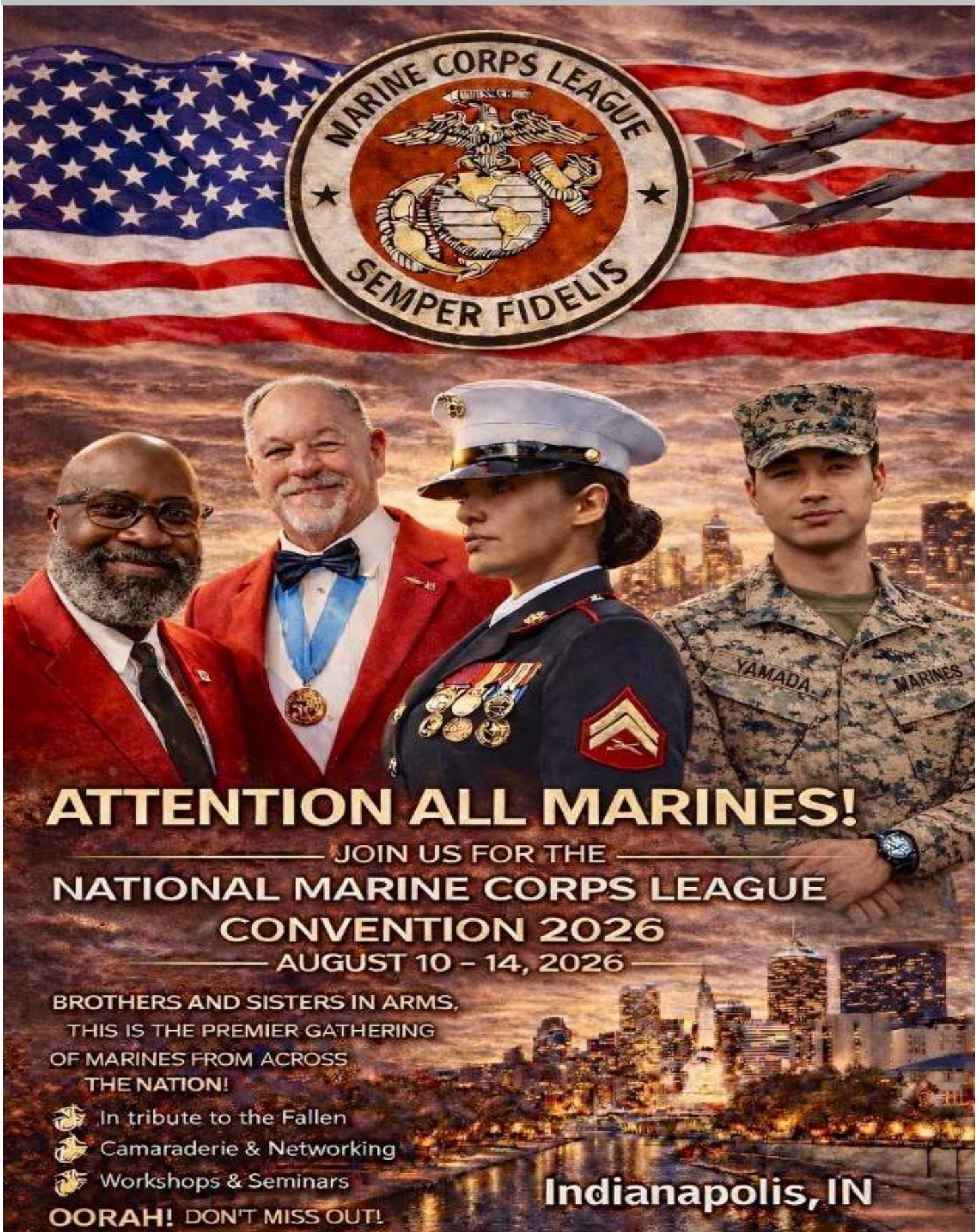


**MODERN DAY  
MARINE**

**APRIL 13-15, 2027  
WASHINGTON D.C.**






# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



## ATTENTION ALL MARINES!

JOIN US FOR THE  
**NATIONAL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
CONVENTION 2026**  
AUGUST 10 - 14, 2026

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ARMS,  
THIS IS THE PREMIER GATHERING  
OF MARINES FROM ACROSS  
THE NATION!

-  In tribute to the Fallen
-  Camaraderie & Networking
-  Workshops & Seminars

**OORAH! DON'T MISS OUT!**

**Indianapolis, IN**



# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION VSO WANTED



New England Division Seeking a Veteran Services Officer (VSO) The New England Division is seeking a dedicated Veteran Services Officer (VSO). This vital role is focused on serving and advocating for U.S. Marine Corps Veterans, as well as Veterans of all U.S. Armed Forces, their families, and survivors. The VSO ensures that Veterans and their families receive the Department of Veterans Affairs, state, local government, and non-government benefits to which they are entitled.

Every other Division in the League currently has a VSO, providing essential support to Veterans in their regions. With the leadership of Director Philip Du and the accredited VSOs across the League, countless Veterans and their families are already benefiting from their guidance and expertise. The New England Division is eager to fill this important position and continue expanding the League's mission of service to Veterans. If you are committed to advocating for Veterans and have the dedication to make a meaningful impact in the New England community, we encourage you to begin the process of becoming a VSO.

For more information click on the link below:

[Veteran Services – Marine Corps League](#)

Please contact: NVC Patrick Maguire with any questions or if you're interested in the VSO position.



# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



## 2026 New England Division Conference

# 2026



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

# CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 - SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026



[www.NewEnglandDivMCL.org](http://www.NewEnglandDivMCL.org)

### HOTEL INFORMATION:

Sheraton Springfield  
Monarch Place Hotel  
1 Monarch Pl.  
Springfield, MA 01144

\$159.00 USD per night

Last day to book:  
Thursday, May 14, 2026

Scan to book



Hotel Reservation





# CONNECTICUT



## Commandants Corner



It has been my distinct honor and privilege to have served as the Commandant for the Department of Connecticut. My tenure will end with the elections at our Department Convention on 6 June 2026.

We have had some setbacks but also successes.

Attendance at meetings has been consistent but not as robust as we hoped for. Detachments have been closed because no one stepped up to take the reins. A Detachment cannot exist without a Commandant and a Paymaster.

On the bright side, we had a wonderful ceremony at the rotunda in the State Capitol to celebrate the 250th birthday of our beloved Marine Corps.

Our Toys for Tots campaigns were spectacularly successful. Kudos to those Detachments that participated.

The Funeral Honor Guard, led by Marine John Reek, continues to pay respects to our deceased veterans. These Marines truly deserve our appreciation. I've seen Honor Guards from other organizations. Ours is incomparable. Thank you!

We have continued giving scholarships, both at the Department and Detachments levels. We still need to grow our ranks. Try to find and recruit new members. Then make them feel welcome. Membership should be fun, not drudgery.

The other half of the equation to make our League successful is to get current members more involved. I recommend organizing some family-type activities to entice them. Make it fun and they will come.

I want to thank several individuals who have made my tenure more enjoyable by assuming important roles.

Senior Vice Commandant Walt Benson has been a remarkable asset. His connections with the New England Division and National have proven invaluable to me as I learned to navigate the League's hierarchy.

Junior Vice Commandant George Gutmann offered much straightforward advice, pulling no punches. I always appreciate his candor.

Adjutant Charise Hewitt filled a billet that is necessary but unpopular. Fortunately for the Department, she does a stellar job and regularly kept me on my toes.

Tom Jackson volunteered to fill the unenviable job as Paymaster, although I know how busy he is in various veteran organizations.

Peter DePaola currently holds five positions. His willingness to take on multiple responsibilities has proven more valuable than I could possibly have imagined.

Adele Hodges has been a constant friend and advisor. I appreciate her insights and input.

Judge Advocate Doug Fisk (PDD & PCDD) has been a friend and mentor. He never hesitated to share his vast knowledge of the League and the MODD, always with good humor.

Many others have contributed to the success of the Department. Please know that I appreciate all of you, more than you know.

I truly relish the Marine Corps League and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. We do not always see eye-to-eye with everyone. That is true in all societies, organizations, families, etc. But the camaraderie of Marines, other veterans, and Associate Members is well worth the price of admission.

*Semper Fidelis.*

*Rick Daigle*  
Commandant



# CONNECTICUT



## Marines win top sniper competition



Two Marine snipers brought home the top prize at this year's International Sniper Competition in a rare win for the Corps. Staff Sgt. Tyler Johnson and Sgt. Spencer Harrell took first place at the annual competition, which was last week at Fort Benning, Georgia, becoming only the second Marine Corps team to win the event and the first since 2009

In a lighthearted nod to the long-running joke about Marines and crayons, the winners **posed** with a Crayola 24-pack on the trophy, drawing delighted reactions on social media.

Two-man sniper teams from across the United States and partner nations were eligible to participate in the multiday competition, which tests long-range marksmanship, target detection, reconnaissance and reporting, and movement under stealth and concealment, according to the Army.

The experience also serves as a forum for service members to exchange tactics and best practices. The International Sniper Competition was hosted from April 7-10 as part of the Army's Infantry Week.

The competition in Georgia differs from the U.S. Army Special Operations Command International Sniper Competition, which was held in North Carolina in March.

Eve Sampson



# CONNECTICUT



On April 11, 2026 the Navy Commissioned a new Arleigh Burke Class Guided Missile Destroyer, the USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr. DDG 124. This ship was names after, Medal of Honor recipient, Col Harvey C. Barnum Jr., USMC Retired. Col Barnum was the fourth Marine to receive the Medal for actions in Vietnam. The Citation reads as follows:

**First Lieutenant Harvey C. Barnum Jr.**

United States Marine Corps

for service as set forth in the following Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Forward Observer for Artillery, while attached to Company H, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines, Third Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against communist forces at Ky Phu in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 18 December 1965. When the company was suddenly pinned down by a hail of extremely accurate enemy fire and was quickly separated from the remainder of the battalion by over five hundred meters of open and fire-swept ground, and casualties mounted rapidly, Lieutenant Barnum quickly made a hazardous reconnaissance of the area seeking targets for his artillery. Finding the rifle company commander mortally wounded and the radio operator killed, he, with complete disregard for his own safety, gave aid to the dying commander, then removed the radio from the dead operator and strapped it to himself. He immediately assumed command of the rifle company, and moving at once into the midst of the heavy fire, rallying and giving encouragement to all units, reorganized them to replace the loss of key personnel and led their attack on enemy positions from which deadly fire continued to come. His sound and swift decisions and his obvious calm served to stabilize the badly decimated units and his gallant example as he stood exposed repeatedly to point out targets served as an inspiration to all. Provided with two armed helicopters, he moved fearlessly through enemy fire to control the air attack against the firmly entrenched enemy while skillfully directing one platoon in a successful counterattack in the key enemy positions. Having thus cleared a small area, he requested and directed the landing of two transport helicopters for the evacuation of the dead and wounded. He then assisted in the mopping up and final seizure of the battalion's objective. His gallant initiative and heroic conduct reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and United States Naval Service. Lyndon B. Johnson



# CONNECTICUT



# CHARGE ON!



COL. Harvey C. Barnum JR.



Fire Dept Representative from CT



Anchors Aweigh



39th commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Eric Smith, Col Harvey C. Barnum JR. USMC Ret.



Col Harvey C. Barnum JR. USMC Ret., and his wife Martha.



Challenge Coin  
DDG 124.

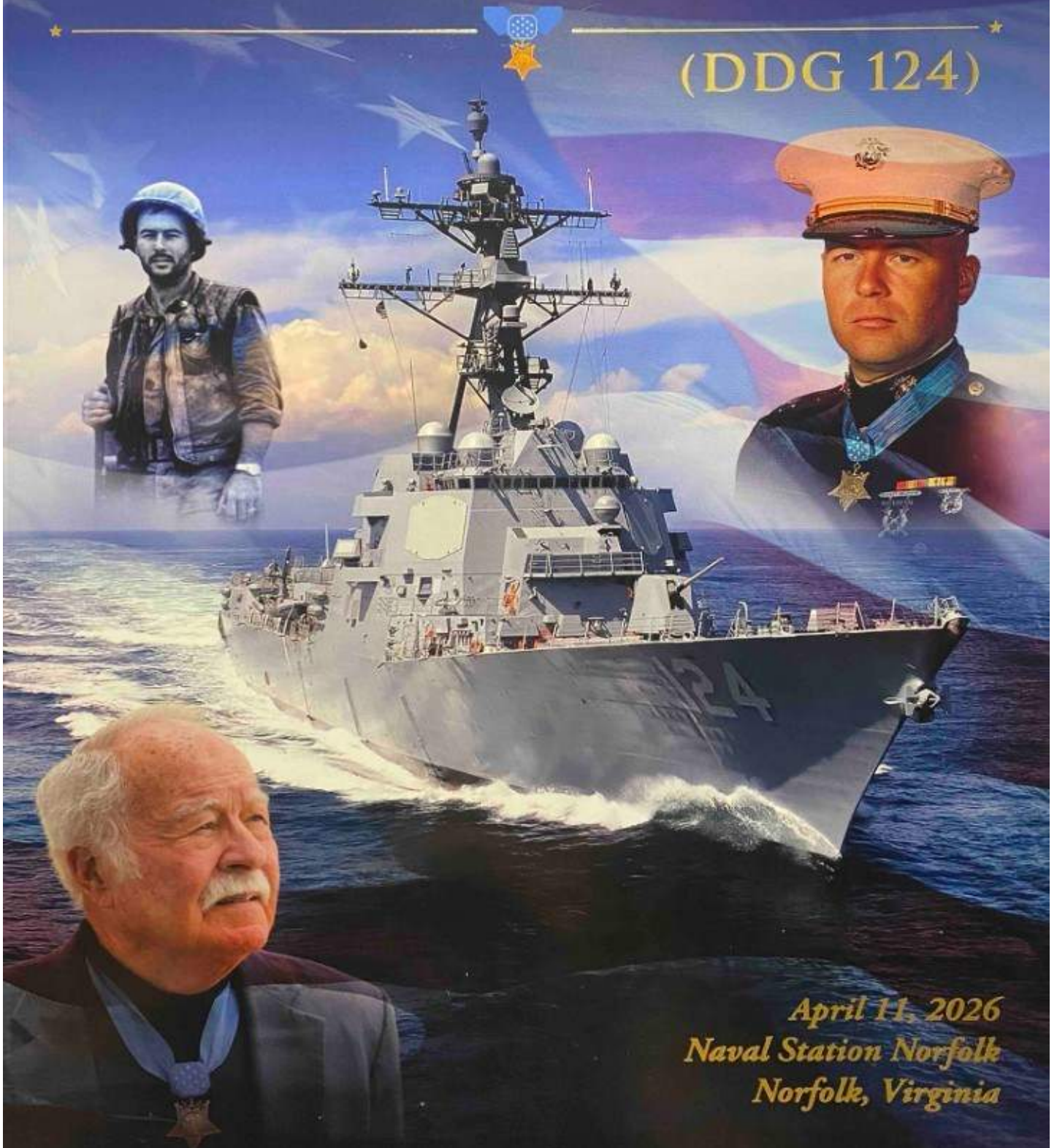


# CONNECTICUT



*Commissioning of*  
**USS HARVEY C. BARNUM JR.**

(DDG 124)



*April 11, 2026  
Naval Station Norfolk  
Norfolk, Virginia*



# CONNECTICUT



**AUGUST 22, 2026**



**Join us for our Annual Benefit Ride**

Meet up at **Hubbard Park** in Meriden, CT.

Registration is from 9:30 to 10:45 with kickstands up at 11:00.

Our ride will end at the **Svea Social Club**,

999 Kensington Rd, Kensington, CT 06037.

Come out rain or shine, with or without a bike. Enjoy food, music, and raffles.

All proceeds go toward scholarships and animals in need of medical attention.

**\$20/Per Bike**  
Includes  
Passenger

**\$10/Person**  
not on Ride

**For any questions, please call/text us!**

**Arnold 860-637-3834**

**Tina 860-637-3834**

**Sheri 203-848-7524**





# CONNECTICUT



## DEPT. OF CT. RAFFLE

The Department of Connecticut is raffling off a Bird House to help with the cost of our one day convention. This Birdhouse was

built and donated by Rich Michaud of the Hard-Detachment. It is a real Blue Lodge it is in town New near a Bird



nated by Michaud of ware City There is a Peaks Queens Zealand Sanctuary.

We originally going to offer tickets online but due to issues beyond my control we could not but it will be

in the con-

vention Raffle. The raffle will be held during the convention, and it will be a combined raffle, Department and Pack. Both organizations will split the earnings. The schedule of the Convention will be tight as the goal is to get everything completed and get everyone out at a reasonable time which will include Convention and Growl.

I ask if you have any items to donate please bring them to the convention, or bring them to the April 12th Dept. meeting. I would ask the dogs to bring in their usual item below \$20 value to help make our raffle a success.



# CONNECTICUT



## HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT HONOR FLIGHT CONNECTICUT

Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization comprised of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight mission. In furtherance of this mission, we have the enormous privilege of showing our nation's veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve. Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans. Honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to our organization.



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While initially focused solely on Honor Flight Network has expanded served during the Korean War and the TLC program also honors veterans of

America's World War II era veterans, its mission to include those who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War eras. The Honor Flight program also honors veterans of any service era who are critically ill.

In order to maximize the number of American veterans served by our organization, each eligible veteran may only be honored on a single Honor Flight trip.

Over 128 hubs across the country form our Honor Flight Network. These hubs and their volunteers truly make our mission a success. They freely donate their time and talents to coordinate flights, bus trips, welcome home ceremonies, thousands of phone calls and so much more – all with the common goal to honor our nation's heroes with the trip of a lifetime.

Through Honor Flight Network's Lone Eagle program, we are able to serve those veterans who live in areas with no local hub – furthering the reach of our impact.

It was our privilege to help Honor Flight of CT, sendoff many well-deserved Veterans to Washington,



From left to right: Jim Soder, New England Division, Sgt-At-Arms, David Theriault, Southington Memorial Detachment; Joe Mayo Southington Memorial Detachment, Fred McGoldrick Hardware City Detachment, Brendan Boyle, Chaplain, Hardware City Detachment, Seated Rivers McCalop Hardware City Detachment. Not in the photo Detachment Commandant Al Urso Hardware City Detachment. Looking Good Marines.



# CONNECTICUT



## HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT HONOR FLIGHT CONNECTICUT



A group photo at the final destination, doesn't begin to tell the story of love and respect that comes together to make an event like this possible; and if you are not a veteran you will never know the why or how important this is. From the bus ride to the airport, the cheering family and friends, veteran groups, current members of the Military, the music, the youth organizations, the Flags so many died defending, and so



**THE PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS  
CT HONOR FLIGHT ESCORT**



**BRASS CITY YOUNG MARINES  
COLOR GUARD**



# CONNECTICUT



## HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT HONOR FLIGHT CONNECTICUT



National Guard Honor Walk



Gil Simmons USMC Ret.



Father/ Son, Joseph Pelletier and his son Marc, Joseph was a Devil Dog Paratrooper in Korea.



Whenever you have a gathering where Marines are present , there is always one who has to go over the line and show off. Gil Simmons, a Marine Weatherman, doing push ups. I don't think we have weathermen anymore, its either raining or not.



A WATER SALUTE BIDS ALL FAREWELL



# CONNECTICUT



*Do You Ride?*

**Ride <sup>for</sup> a Reason**

**Come Meet us!**

**B.A.C.A.**

**Connecticut Chapter**

Invites you to their Public Meeting  
**First Monday of Every Month**  
at 6:45pm

**St. Joseph's Polish Society, Inc.**  
395 South Main Street Colchester, CT

[BACAworld.org](http://BACAworld.org)

**BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE**



# CONNECTICUT



## BRIDGEPORT DETACHMENT

On May 16th Members of the Greater Bridgeport Detachment , MCL, Navy, and Other Veterans Collecting Food and donations for Operation Hope. Last year they Collected 16 Tons of food and 15 Thousand Dollars. We Hope this year is even more Successful.



The Marine Corps League was also conducting a Rose Day Event



Above: Rose Taylor, Mike Bolash, and Detachment Commandant Adele Hodges

Right Rose Taylor Looking Good Marines



# CONNECTICUT



## Coffee with Veterans

**9 AM - 11 AM**

**1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 68 HALL**

**COME ENJOY FREE COFFEE, HOT BREAKFAST  
& GOOD CONVERSATIONS!**



*Feel free to bring  
**ONE** guest!*

**IF YOU NEED A RIDE PLEASE CONTACT:**

**MO JORDAN**

**860-268-8969**

**AMERICANLEGIONAUXPOST68@GMAIL.COM**

**154 Porters Pass, Berlin CT 06037**



# VETERANS

3rd ANNUAL

# PICNIC

SERVICE & SACRIFICE

**SATURDAY | JULY 25<sup>th</sup> AT NOON**

Join us for a day of  
**Celebration, Honor, & Fun!**

 **WINDHAM** 

## FISH & GAME CLUB

276 JERUSALEM ROAD, WINDHAM CENTER

**RESERVATION REQUIRED:**  
Call Tom Curtin  
**860-655-0602**

 **DONATIONS**  
**ACCEPTED** 



# FROM THE WORTHY PACK LEADER



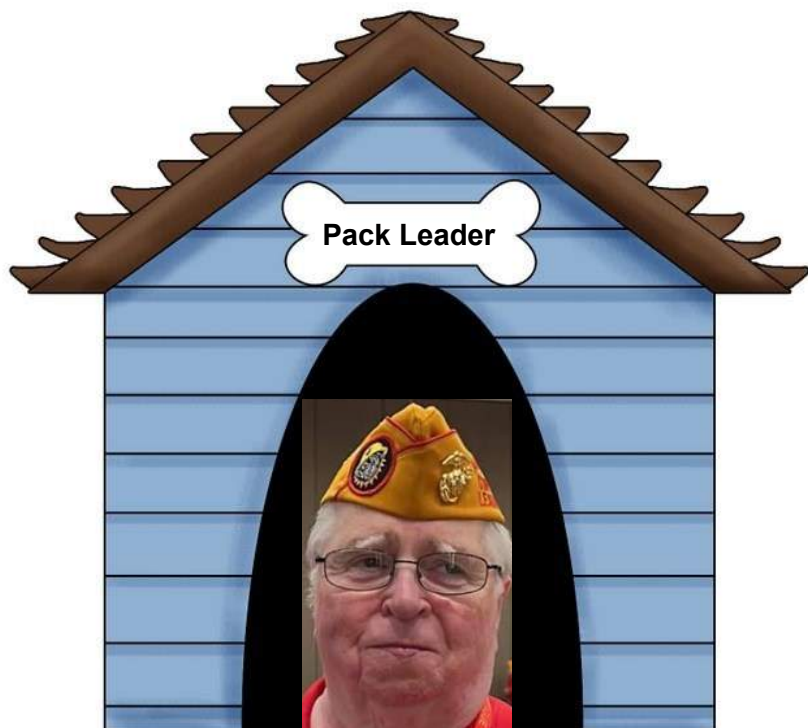
Woof, Woof Dogs,

We are days away from our Department Convention and our Grand Growl, please bring your raffle items to the business portion of the day so it can be displayed during the day. This year there is a combined raffle for league and pack, and we will split the profit.

It is the end of my first year as Worthy Pack Leader and we have had some minor success with new dogs but we have a long way to go. PDD Daigle introduced the idea of an additional raffle to boost our income to be able to do more when it comes to out pack. I would like to see us go even further, with involvement with donations to other groups, and become more active in the community, such as participating in an event with the Young Marines. Think about becoming more involved and taking a role as an officer in the Pack or Pound. Bring your ideas to the table, everyone has an idea, some good and some bad but we won't know which until its on the table. At the last Department meeting a new member volunteered to run for Junior Vice Commandant, and that is the best thing that has happened in a while.

At the Grand Growl I will be naming a new position in our pack and I will be assigning someone to this role. The position is "Fun Dog". We wish to bring fun back to these Growls and that will be the job of the Fun Dog. Larry Hermann used to be our Jester which was a self appointed role, where he told jokes at the Growls but this is much more and the goal is to involve everyone. If you are interested in becoming the Fun Dog please contact me as soon as possible as that dog will be named at the Grand Growl.

All of this being said, I will be running for my second term as Worthy Pack Leader at the Growl. Last year I won by one vote so I anticipate another tight election. I ask you all to join us at the Grand Growl but also join us at the League business session as well, we need to be League members before we can be dogs.



Semper Woof,  
PDD Walt Benson  
Worthy Pack Leader.





# CONNECTICUT



MFC EAST CONN'S ANNUAL



★ Salute to ★

## VETERANS RIDE



Saturday, August 1st

### 📍 RIDE DETAILS

Meet Up: 10:00 AM  
Kickstands Up: 11:00 AM

📍 START LOCATION:  
Vernon American Legion  
114 West St.  
Vernon, CT 

📍 END LOCATION:  
Veterans Base Camp  
108 England Rd. Chaplin, CT

### 💰 RIDE COST

★ \$20 Per Rider  
★ \$10 Per Passenger  
🍴 Walk-In Meal Tickets: \$20

### 🍖 AFTER THE RIDE

## PIG ROAST

★  
SUPPORTING  
VETERANS BASE CAMP



# CONNECTICUT



## SUPPORT OUR IWO JIMA MONUMENT



***SPONSOR OUR ETERNAL FLAME  
"IN MEMORY" OR "IN HONOR OF"***

***\$15 FOR A DAY***

***\$100 FOR A WEEK***

***\$400 FOR A MONTH***



**Donate on our secure website at [www.IwoJimaMemorial.org](http://www.IwoJimaMemorial.org)**

**Or mail a check to: Iwo Jima Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 31516**

**Newington, CT 06131**

**Questions: Contact Elaine at [IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com](mailto:IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com)**



# CONNECTICUT



Veterans Affairs

since 1864

## CELEBRATES WOMEN VETERANS DAY



*Come join Women Vet Net as we celebrate, honor, remember, and look forward*

**June 12 | 10:00 am**  
**Gold Star Auditorium**  
**Rocky Hill Veterans Home**  
**287 West Street**  
**Rocky Hill, CT**

Refreshments will be served

On June 12, 1948 President Harry S. Truman signed the Armed Services Integration Act permitting women to serve as permanent regular members of the armed services.

***All are welcome!***

Any questions, please contact Sherri Vogt at 860-315-2666

# YOUNG MARINES



## LOOKING GOOD MARINES

Department of Connecticut Young Marine Liaison Peter DePaola, with members of the Brass City Young Marines





# MAINE



## FROM THE COMMANDANT

### Greetings from the Great State of Maine,

The Department of Maine, with its seven Detachments of Marines and Associates are always moving. In April, the Department and several Detachments across the state, held elections for officers. At the Department level, the members decided that things were moving in a good direction and voted to retain the current year's team. While our Department Officer team remains unchanged for the next year, we are all humbled for the opportunity to continue to serve our league, as we continue to achieve goals presented.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a special Spouses Appreciation Night, hosted by our Southern Maine Detachment. Commandant David Close and his Southern Marine team developed this outstanding concept to show the detachment's appreciation for the work that many of their spouses do "behind the scenes." Many of us are very lucky that our spouses or significant others support not only the mission of The League, but our local Detachment responsibilities as well, standing alongside their League member, offering support and aid as necessary, helping to ensure so many of our events are successful. Commandant Close contacted the Maine Military Museum in South Portland to host the event. The museum opened its facility that evening, just for members of the League and their spouses/significant others for the event. A brief description of the facility, borrowed directly from their webpage states; "the Maine Military Museum is a treasure trove of military history, containing items and artifacts from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts. This expansive collection includes everything from 18th-century playing cards to an F14 ejection seat, representing every conflict in American history. Every item displayed in the museum is authentic, as historical proof is a prerequisite for being displayed." It was a well-attended and quite interesting evening at the museum. I would encourage any league member visiting Maine to google the facility as a must see for their travels north.

In April, Past Department Commandant Charlie Paul and I staffed a Marine Corps League recruiting table at a veteran's event hosted in Augusta Maine. We had the opportunity to meet many great veterans and several Marines. The sea stories, "embellished recollections" of our military adventures, were shared. We all enjoyed a chuckle or two from our previous "hard chargin" duty days. We had our National and Department color's displayed with pride and were amazed how many Marines had not heard of the Marine Corps League.

As many realize, we need to continue to get the word out about who we are, what we do and the opportunity to continue "the mission" as Marines. Maine has another



event planned for June 6th in Booth Bay Harbor. We are registered to represent our League once again as we attempt to pass the word and grow our membership.

As we approach Memorial Day, many of our Detachments, like others across the division, are preparing for Memorial Day events. Many of our detachments participated in placing flags on the gravesites of veterans, ensuring that on Memorial Day we remember our fallen. On Memorial Day, across our division, members will be participating in various Memorial Day events in a variety of ways, recognizing the sacrifices made for our country by these service members.

The Central Maine Marines Detachment #810, working with the Lewiston-Auburn Veteran's Committee, will be supporting a new memorial to the "Four Chaplain's" being dedicated at the Lewiston Veteran's Park. As many will recognize, the Four Chaplain's, all First Lieutenants, representing four different religions: George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling and George P. Washington "died rescuing civilian and military personnel

as the American troop ship SS Dorchester sank on February 3, 1943, in what has been referred to as one of the worst sea disasters of World War II. It is reported that after being torpedoed by a German submarine, the four Chaplains helped other soldiers' board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the ship's supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers and sang hymns as they went down with the ship" (Wikipedia). Chaplain John Robbins, the Department of Maine Chaplain, was selected to be the Chaplain representing the Marine Corps League at the event. We are all very proud of the efforts of the Lewiston-Auburn Veteran's Committee for making this memorial concept a reality, as well as the fact that our Department Chaplain was selected to represent our League at this ceremony.

Finally, just like many of you, our Detachment members are currently wrapping up plans to attend our New England Division's FIRST Division conference. It is with excitement and enthusiasm that I look forward to meeting new friends and greeting old friends. Let the "sea stories," old and new, continue to be shared.

Semper Fidelis,  
Peter Lubas  
Commandant  
Department of Maine



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT

On Thursday, 9 April 2026 Southern Maine Detachment 1324 held a "Spouses Appreciation Night" to honor the spouses who have supported their Military Member during their tenure in the United States Marine Corps which was held at the Maine Military Museum and Learning Center, 50 Peary Terrace, South Portland, Maine.

Commandant Dave Close, read the following message: Tonight we are expressing gratitude and recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of military spouses.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Good evening and welcome to this special night dedicated to honoring our military spouses. Tonight, we gather not just to celebrate, but to express our deepest gratitude to the incredible individuals who stand beside our service members. Military spouses, your unwavering support and resilience form the backbone of our armed forces. While our service members are the visible heroes, you are the silent strength that empowers them to serve our nation with courage and commitment. Your sacrifices, often unseen and unheralded, are the bedrock upon which our military stands. You face the unique challenges of military life with grace - frequent relocations, long separations, and the uncertainty that comes with each deployment. Yet, you manage to build homes wherever you are, hold families together, and nurture the spirit of community. Your ability to adapt and thrive in ever-changing circumstances is nothing short of remarkable. Tonight, we honor your contributions, not just as spouses, but as the champions of resilience and hope. You are the ones who keep the home fires burning, ensuring that our service members have the peace of mind to focus on their duties. Let us take this moment to acknowledge your sacrifices and thank you for your unwavering dedication. You are the unsung heroes, and we are forever grateful for your service to our nation. Thank you for your strength, your patience, and your unwavering love. We celebrate you tonight and every night".

Thank You



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



The above photos are of the side and front entrance to the Maine Military Museum and Learning Centre, 50 Peary Terrace, South Portland, Maine where the "Spouses Appreciation Night" was held on 9 April 2026. There are 8 rooms or areas within the Maine Military Museum that have thousands and thousands of military memorabilia. All photos are courtesy of Dona St. Pierre.



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



Upon entering the building, you enter the main room, which has on display many uniforms that were worn by past and present military members. Also, there are tables that have many books written about the military and also books "written by former military members.



There are other rooms and areas that contain thousands and thousands of military memorabilia that were donated to the Maine Military Museum. (far Left) in the back room is a display set aside to honor the POW/MIA and in an adjacent room, Pictured Left it pays honors to World War I Veteran's



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



In the back room there is a display which depicts how a POW lived in a replica of a prison cell at Hanoi Hilton, during the Vietnam War.





# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



Top photo is a display of the Revolutionary War era uniforms and memorabilia. This is one of many sections within the building that displays the different era of the United States Left, Military. Photo is Commandant Dave Close, Southern Maine Detachment I324 and Chris Montagna of the Maine Military Museum and Learning Center.



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



Commandant Dave Close, Southern Maine Detachment 1324 presented Chris Montagna of the Maine Military Museum and Learning Center with a Certificate of Appreciation and a donation of \$200.00.



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



There were 28 people who attended the "Spouses Appreciation Night," among them were Walter Lamb and Dave Carroll (Top photo)

Michelle Di Donato talking with Commandant Dave Close (Bottom photo).



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



Also, attending the "Spouses Appreciation Night" were Marty Traiser, Department of Maine Commandant Peter Lubas and Fred Monsen (Top photo).

Steve Friedrich, Jay McKenna, Marty Traiser and Department of Maine Commandant Peter Lubas (Bottom photo).



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



Top photo pictured left to right are Marty Traiser, Department of Maine Commandant Peter Lubas, Dave Carroll, Fred Monsen (standing, in back on the left); David Wick, Sally Nason, and 2 unknown persons (seated at the table). Susan SL Piere (walking) and Dalene Close and Dave Close (back to camera). Bottom photo are Steve and Jaimy Friedrich.



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



Marty Traiser, Department of Maine Commandant Peter Lubas, Fred Monsen, Jay McKenna and Steve Friedrich (Top photo).

Walter Lamb, Michelle DiDonato, Dave Carroll, Asher Close and Darlene Close (Bottom photo).



# MAINE



## SPOUSES APPRECIATION NIGHT



Walter Lamb, Tom DiDonato and Dave Carroll (Top photo).

Fred Monsen, Pat Larrabee, Dave Carroll, Connie Harrison and Department of Maine Commandant Peter Lubas (Bottom photo).



# MAINE



## VETERAN EXPO IN AUGUSTA



**Dept of Maine Commandant Peter Lubas and Charles Paul attended a recent Veteran Expo in Augusta.**

**We used the expo to conduct a membership recruitment drive. A great day, we talked to a number of Marines. Hoping it generates solid leads.**



# MAINE



## PACK GROWL, ADVANCEMENT



Left: Worthy Pack Leader Don Kozerow & Stephen Fleming open the GROWL.

Below: At our recent Maine Pack GROWL, we were able to advance (left to right) Clifford Plourde and Joseph Masse to Pedigree Devil Dogs and Barry (Butch) Tracy and Dept of Maine Commandant Peter Lubas to Devil Dogs. Cliff and Joe were elevated to the PDD ranks due to age, Cliff is 90 and Joe is 88. It was a great day for some wonderful Devil Dogs, and the Maine Pack.





# MAINE



Left: Central Maine Det. 810 held a breakfast to have a wonderful social event. It was a small gathering but we expect it will grow as we plan on making this a quarterly event. In the picture (left to right), Charlie Paul, Joseph Masse, Clifford Plourde, Pauline Plourde, Joyce Richmond, Peter Lubas, Benjamin Redmond, & Roland Jordan. Breakfast was held at Roy's in Auburn. A favorite local establishment. Breakfast was good and coffee was plentiful. A great time was had by all

Below: Central Maine Det 810 held our annual National Vietnam War Veterans Day-Remembrance Ceremony. Karen Staples, representing Susan Collin's office and Carl Sheline, Mayor of Lewiston presented keynote addresses. Martin Traiser, Southern Maine and Joyce Richmond, Central Maine conducted POW/MIA ceremony. It was a small gathering but very meaningful.





# MAINE



## VIETNAM MEMORIAL DAY



Carl Sheline, Mayor & Karen Staples presented nice messages to the veteran community, joined in stage is Charles Paul.

Dona St Pierre and Peter St Pierre presented ceremonial wreath in memory of 58000+ lives lost.



Charlie Paul delivers his message at the March 29 event.



# MAINE



## VIETNAM MEMORIAL DAY



Dona St Pierre & Martin Traiser rendering salutes at the Lewiston Veterans Park Vietnam Memorial monument. Both Marines are Southern Maine Marines. Roland Jordan laying the ceremonial wreath at the Vietnam memorial. Charles Paul delivering words of Remembrance to our fallen.





# MASSACHUSETTS



# HEY MARINES!



IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED THE  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE,**  
★ WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? ★

Stand shoulder to shoulder with those who've worn the uniform.  
Continue the mission. Strengthen the bond. Serve your community.

★  
**MARINES FOR LIFE.**  
JOIN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TODAY.

★  
**SEMPER FI.**



SCAN TO JOIN

**GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**  
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DETACHMENT TO JOIN TODAY.

[www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org)  
 [membership@mclnational.org](mailto:membership@mclnational.org)  
 (703) 640-0200

[MarineCorpsLeague](https://www.facebook.com/MarineCorpsLeague)  
 [@marinecorpsleague](https://www.instagram.com/marinecorpsleague)  
 [Marine Corps League](https://www.youtube.com/MarineCorpsLeague)



# MASSACHUSETTS



# 89TH CONVENTION



Mike Hinds, Dept. of Massachusetts Commandant & N E Division ANVC.



Jon Zwirblia, JR. Past Dept. of MA Comm. Presents the Dept Marine of The Yr. Award to Peter King.





# MASSACHUSETTS



## A LIFE 'DEFINED BY SERVICE': BAY STATE MOURNS PASSING OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN MILDRED 'MILLIE' COX

Mildred Cox not only as a Marine and veteran, but as a trailblazer whose life inspired generations to serve with courage, dignity, and patriotism.

With deep respect and heartfelt sorrow, of the first women to enlist in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, who passed away at the remarkable age of 102. A proud member of the Greatest Generation, Millie devoted her life to service, community, and country, leaving behind a legacy defined by courage, age, dedication, and unwavering loyalty to the nation she loved.

At just 20 years old, during one of the most difficult periods in modern history, Millie answered the call to serve at a time when opportunities for women in the military were still limited. As one of the pioneering women to wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, she became part of a historic generation that helped reshape the role of women in military service. Serving as a stenographer during the war, she played an important role in supporting the operations that sustained America's wartime efforts.



we remember Mildred "Millie" Cox, one of the first women to enlist in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, who passed away at the remarkable age of 102. A proud member of the Greatest Generation, Millie devoted her life to service, community, and country, leaving behind a legacy defined by courage, age, dedication, and unwavering loyalty to the nation she loved.

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Millie also earned recognition as the first female World War II Marine to sign The Rifle, further cementing her place in Marine Corps history and among the generations of women who followed in her footsteps. For 70 years, she shared her life with her husband, fellow World War II veteran William Cox, building a partnership rooted in love, sacrifice, and devotion to family and country. Their story reflected the enduring strength and resilience of a generation forged through war and united by service. Today, we remember not only a Marine, but a woman whose courage helped open doors for future generations of women in uniform.





# MASSACHUSETTS



# CINCO DE MAYO

DE

# MAYO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



**HONOR THE FIGHT.  
CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT.**



CINCO DE MAYO REPRESENTS RESILIENCE, COURAGE, AND THE WILL TO STAND AND FIGHT AGAINST THE ODDS—VALUES MARINES KNOW WELL.

TODAY, WE RECOGNIZE THE WARRIOR SPIRIT THAT CONNECTS HISTORY, CULTURE, AND THOSE WHO HAVE WORN THE UNIFORM.

**SEMPER FI.**



# MASSACHUSETTS



The Department of Massachusetts Marine Corps League proudly congratulates Commandant Ronald Timm of Detachment 125 on being recognized during the Second Annual Military Appreciation Day at the Massachusetts State House.

Commandant Timm was one of 132 individuals honored from across the Commonwealth for their dedication, support of veterans, military community. Each honoree was nominated by their State Representative, and Commandant Timm was proudly nominated by Representative Kip Diggs.

This recognition reflects Commandant Timm's unwavering commitment to the values of the Marine Corps League and his continued service to veterans and the community throughout Massachusetts. Please join us in congratulating Commandant Timm on this well-deserved honor.



Timm was one of 132 individuals honored from across the Commonwealth for their dedication, support of veterans, military community. Each honoree was nominated by their State Representative, and Commandant Timm was proudly nominated by Representative Kip Diggs.

This recognition reflects Commandant Timm's unwavering commitment to the values of the Marine Corps League and his continued service to veterans and the community throughout Massachusetts. Please join us in congratulating Commandant Timm on this well-deserved honor.



Above: Program and Certificate from the State of Massachusetts.



Top and Right Detachment 125 Commandant Ronald Timm and his wife



# MASSACHUSETTS



Yesterday was a proud and memorable day for Marine Corps League Detachment 125. Our Commandant, Ronald Timm, was one of 132 individuals honored at the Massachusetts State House during the Second Annual Military Appreciation Day. This special event recognized service members, veterans, military families, and dedicated advocates from across the Commonwealth.

Each honoree was nominated by their State Representative, and Commandant Timm was proudly nominated by Representative Kip Diggs.

Commandant Timm humbly accepted the

award on behalf of the Marine Corps League Detachment 125. Commandant Timm humbly accepted the award on behalf of the Marine Corps League Detachment 125. This special event recognized service members, veterans, military families, and dedicated advocates from across the Commonwealth.

Each honoree was nominated by their State Representative, and Commandant Timm was proudly nominated by Representative Kip Diggs.

Commandant Timm humbly accepted the award on behalf of the Marine Corps League Detachment 125. This special event recognized service members, veterans, military families, and dedicated advocates from across the Commonwealth.

Commandant Timm was accompanied by his wife for the event. As his wife was unable to attend, his Legislative Aide, Grigsby Lovaas, was the coming host.



Above: Commandant Ronald Timm, and his wife with Gov. Maura Healey.

Left: Commandant Ronald and his wife with Legislative Aide Grigsby Lovaas





# MASSACHUSETTS



# MEMORIAL DAY

On Friday May 22, Farley elementary school in Hudson Massachusetts took time to mark Memorial Day. On hand for this event were our very own Porter's. David Porter Sr., National JR. Vice Commandant David Porter, and William Porter, with his children William Porter Jr., and Reagan Porter.





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Membership in Granite State Detachment 542

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps.

Our **mission** is to voluntarily aid and render assistance to all Marines, FMF Chaplains, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines, FMF Chaplains and FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans.



Our Membership **Coverage Area** is the greater Hillsborough County with some towns in Rockingham County. For the full list of towns we encompass, please check out our [membership](#) page on our website.

### Monthly Meetings

**When:** Monthly Meetings of the Granite State Detachment are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month

**Where:** The American-Canadian Genealogical Society (ACGS), 1 Sundial Ave, Suite 317, Manchester, NH 03103

**Time:** Meetings begin promptly and 1800

**Info:** Membership is not a requirement for attendance and guests are always welcome to attend these events.

[Visit our Website for More Info](#)



# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Have You Served in the Military?

SERVICES PROVIDED LOCALLY | FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL | FOR ALL WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES

### Veterans Count

Easterseals New Hampshire's Veterans Count provides a safety net of critical case management and emergency financial assistance to meet the unexpected needs of service members, Veterans, and their families.

#### Veterans Count offers support and services around:

- Mental Health Counseling
- Housing Stabilization
- Substance Use Treatment Coordination
- Benefits and Resource Connection
- Emergency Financial Assistance

Available for all who have served in the military, regardless of service era, discharge status, or VA eligibility.

#### Please Contact Us to Learn More

Let's talk about how we can meet your needs.

To request Veterans Count Services, please contact our Program Coordinators at [intake@vetscount.org](mailto:intake@vetscount.org) or call 603.315.4354.

To learn more about Veterans Count, visit [VetsCount.org](http://VetsCount.org).



Easterseals NH Veterans Count  
603.315.4354  
[intake@vetscount.org](mailto:intake@vetscount.org)  
[VetsCount.org](http://VetsCount.org)  
555 Auburn Street | Manchester, NH 03103



# RHODE ISLAND



## CHAPEL OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

We had our 13th+ annual Chapel of Four Chaplains Memorial Service a couple of months ago to honor and remember these four men of God. This is an ecumenical service held at the Cornerstone Methodist Church in Coventry, RI. It is very well attended by many high ranking state officials, veterans groups, a many interested citizens from all over the area.

This year was special in that we had with us, representing the Chapel Foundation, Howard Schaeffer (also our MCL National Chaplain). Several notable MCL members were also present: PNC Warren Griffin; NE Div. Vice Commandant Pat Maguire; Massachusetts Department Chaplain Ed Yung; Department of RI Commandant Joe Afonso and our MCL Department Color Guard, which has participated in this service almost from the beginning.

Chaplain Schaeffer addressed the congregation and gave greetings from the Chapel Foundation, also telling us about the history of it. He presented me with the Bronze Medallion from the Foundation. This was shocking and humbling at the same time! I thank Commandant Maguire for nominating me and Chaplain Schaeffer for the presentation and believing that I was worthy of this prestigious honor. I will forever strive to be worthy of this award.

Janie Deptula, Chaplain





# RHODE ISLAND



## CHAPEL OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

We had our 13th+ annual Chapel of Four Chaplains Memorial Service a couple of months ago to honor and remember these four men of God. This is an ecumenical service held at the Cornerstone Methodist Church in Coventry, RI. It is very well attended by many high ranking state officials, veterans groups, a many interested citizens from all over the area.

This year was special in that we had with us, representing the Chapel Foundation, Howard Schaeffer (also our MCL National Chaplain). Several notable MCL members were also present: PNC Warren Griffin; NE Div. Vice Commandant Pat Maguire; Massachusetts Department Chaplain Ed Yung; Department of RI Commandant Joe Afonso and our MCL Department Color Guard, which has participated in this service almost from the beginning.

Chaplain Schaeffer addressed the congregation and gave greetings from the Chapel Foundation, also telling us about the history of it. He presented me with the Bronze Medallion from the Foundation. This was shocking and humbling at the same time! I thank Commandant Maguire for nominating me and Chaplain Schaeffer for the presentation and believing that I was worthy of this prestigious honor. I will forever strive to be worthy of this award.

Janie Deptula, Chaplain





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

WORDS OF WISDOM AND FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

To the world you may be just one person but to one person you may be the world.

The measure of your life will not be what you accumulate but what you gave away.

BE the change that you want to see in the world.

God never calls us to be busy, He tells us to be fruitful.

Three stages of marriage: Lust; rust; dust.

As a leader, you cannot change what you cannot confront.

You are responsible for who you become, travel the path of integrity.

Warren Buffett "I can buy anything I want except time." Use it wisely.

How you see the problem is the problem. How you react to the problem determines the outcome. God

gave you the free will to choose.

Every moment is a fresh beginning.

Don't count the days, make the days count.

When you learn, teach; when you get, give.

Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by the way of righteousness. (Proverbs 16:31)

Keep true, never be ashamed of doing right. (T.S. Eliot)

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. (Will Rogers)

Life is not measured by the breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.

(Maya Angelou)

We grow as we struggle, we learn as we overcome.

The only thing worse than being blind, is to have sight with no vision.



# SCRATCHING'S FROM THE DOGS



★ MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS ★

# OPERATION CHOWHOUND

★ NO BOWL LEFT EMPTY. ★



A DEVIL DOGS INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS THROUGH DONATIONS OF DOG FOOD AND FUNDING.



PURCHASING DOG FOOD FOR LOCAL SHELTERS



SUPPORTING ANIMAL CARE & WELFARE



STRENGTHENING OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

FEED THE PACK.  
SUPPORT THE SHELTER.

SCAN TO DONATE



★ DEVIL DOGS ★  
TAKING CARE OF THOSE  
WHO CAN'T TAKE CARE  
OF THEMSELVES.



BAYOU BLOODLINE. ★ SEMPER FIDELIS. ★ NO BOWL LEFT EMPTY



# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



Hello to the members of the New England Division and their families. I am honored to have been asked to once again present HAMSAL (Help A Marine, Save A Life) to your membership at the Division Conference in June. I last presented to your Division 2 years ago and have since added more pertinent information as well as resources. For those of you who do not know about HAMSAL, it was created when New England Division member, Past National Commandant Warren Griffin wanted to do more for our membership and their families regarding mental health and wellness. So, this is when HAMSAL was created. HAMSAL centers around taking care of yourself, as well as taking care of each other, suicide awareness and prevention, mental health and substance use, as well as my journey.

I have attended many Division Conferences upon request and presented the HAMSAL PowerPoint to talk about the things that we don't talk about 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 it or it like it. As leaders in our communities, we must do this together, we cannot do this alone.

As a retired Police Officer and Marine Corps veteran in recovery, I understand about suffering in silence and fighting that stigma, especially within our community. Now I stand tall and 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](mailto:shoremarines@gmail.com) and 732-921-7411. I hope to see you in June, make sure you come up and introduce yourself to me. Semper Fi!

Brian Gillespie



# 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

### 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](http://marineforlife.org)

866-645-8762

[/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

# YOUNG MARINES



Pictured above are the 2026 Young Marines of The Year: Division 1: Mason Steele- [Natchaug River Young Marines](#), Danielson, CT, Division 2: Francis (Quinn) Lawton- [Upstate Young Marines](#), Greenville, SC, Division 3: Sydney Oke- [Lapeer County Young Marines](#), Lapeer, MI, Division 4: Valerie Huete- [JPSO Young Marines](#), Harvey, LA, Division 5: Charlotte Bisila- [Lewis & Clark Young Marines](#), Ridgefield, WA, Division 6: Philip Zajac- San Diego Young Marines, San Diego, CA



## Farewell Address

2025—2026

National Young Marine Of The Year

YM SGTMAJ Chingiz Bahadur

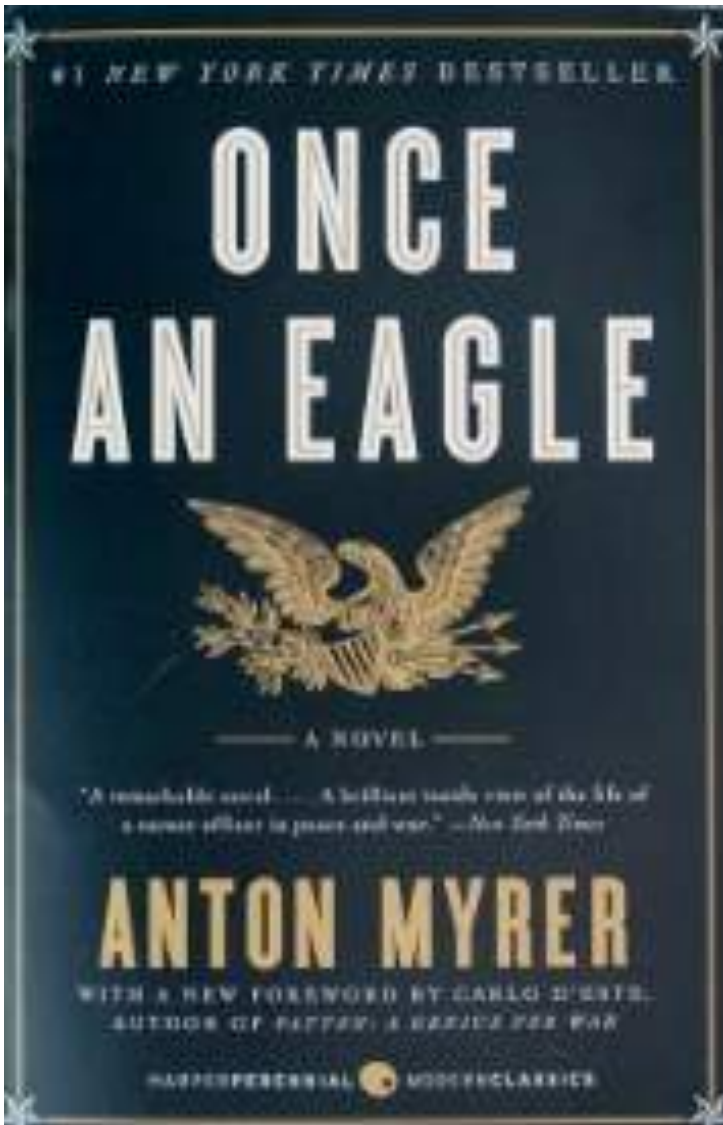




***“I cast my words upon the wind, of things I wish to tell my friends”***



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.



*“It all seems so faraway,”* Celia Harrodsen said. “Paris and Berlin. And poor little Belgium. Sam, do you honestly think we’ll get mixed up in it?”

“I told you I do.”

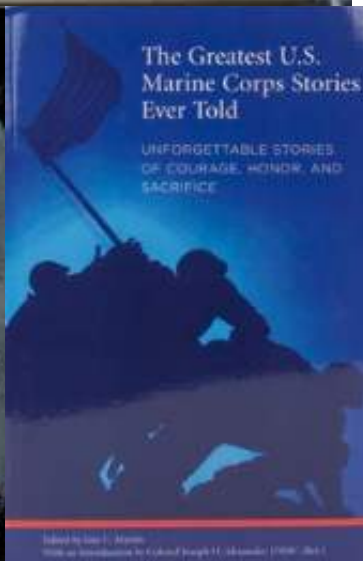
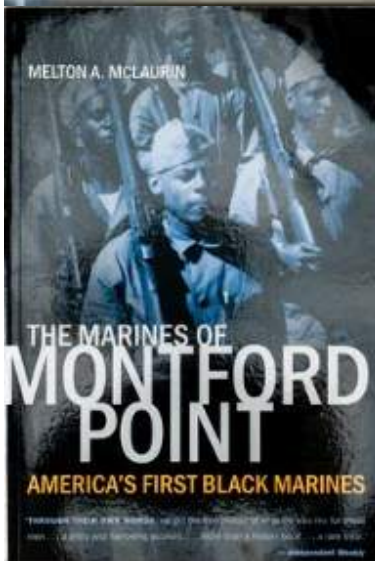
“Well, nobody else seems to think so.”

“I can’t help that.”

Celia put her teeth on her lower lip. “You’re just saying that because you want to go over there and see the world. Don’t you try and fool *me*, Sam Damon.” She shifted her position on the weatherbeaten bench and gazed across the front yard to the Damons’ house, which looked pale and shabby in the soft June twilight, its clapboards peeling, troubled with shadows. From the porch the sound of voices reached them intermittently, and the occasional dry clink of a bottle touching a glass. “Anyway,” she went on, “Father says we aren’t so foolish as to get involved in futile European conflicts.”

“Maybe,” Sam Damon answered. He was sitting near her on the lawn, his big hands locked around his knees. “Only sometimes you get involved in something whether you want to or not.”

“Oh, you’re so sure of yourself.” He made no reply to this, which irritated her still more. She was a tall, slender girl with blond hair and deep blue eyes that looked at everything with piercing candor, and she stared at him for a moment, hard, then tossed her head. “You don’t know everything.”

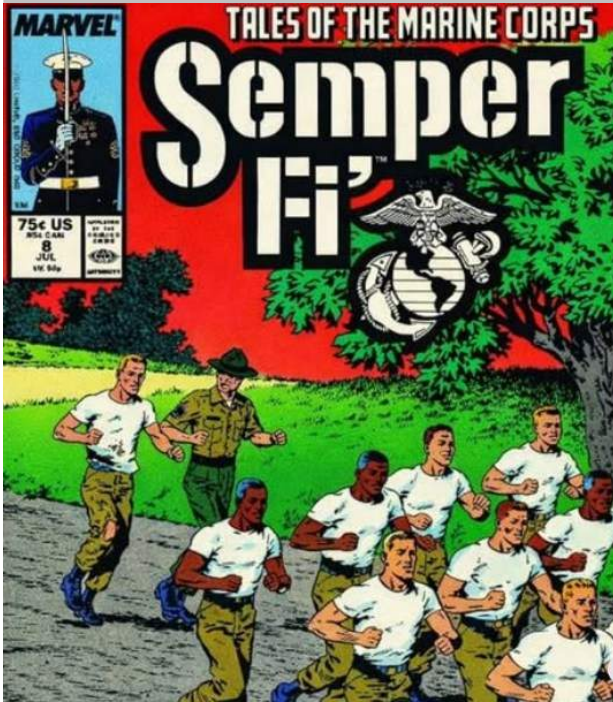


Available at the Book Store

[Wars & Eras – The Book Store](#)



# HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



A Marine named Ricky was deployed for 4 months he received a Dear John letter from his girlfriend back home. It read dear Ricky, I can no longer continue our relationship. The distance between us is too great. I must admit I have cheated on you twice since you have been gone and it is not fair to either of us, I'm sorry. Please return the picture of me that I sent you. Regrets Becky.

He asked his fellow Marines of any snapshots they could spare of their girlfriends, Ex girlfriends, sisters or cousins. He added them to the picture of his now ex girlfriend. There were now 57 photos in the envelope he sent back to Becky along with this short note. Dear Becky, I'm sorry but I can't quite remember who the hell you are. Please take your picture from the pile and send the rest back to me.

## DI CRUSHER SAYS:

"Many have stood on the Yellow Foot Prints...."

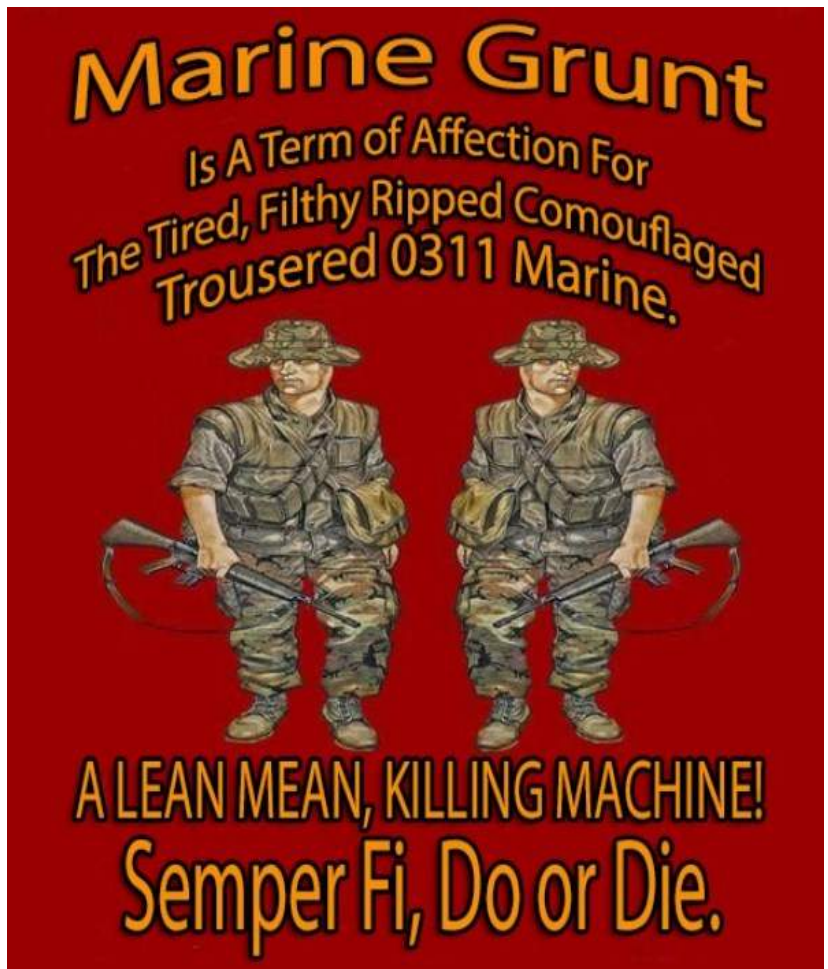
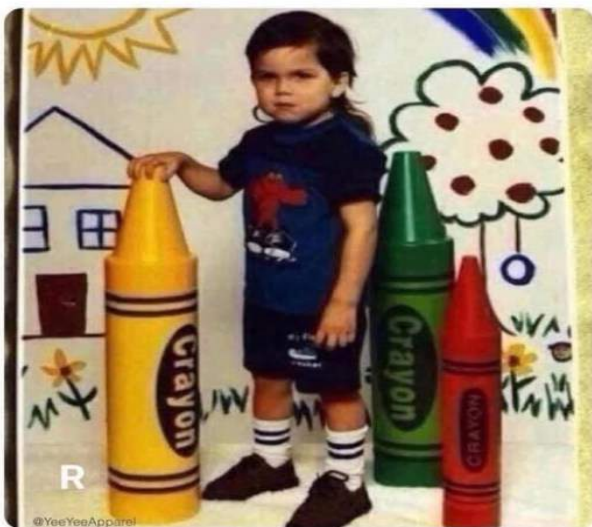
Few... have stepped off earning the title Marine!"



SEMPER FI



When you know at an early Age you want to be a marine!





## 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.





# 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.

In this issue I want to share this spotlight with the Memorial Day Message from Gen Eric Smith, the 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Memorial Day is a National Day of Remembrance-a time for us to commemorate the brave men and women who laid down their lives in defense of our Nation, our freedoms, and our way of life. As we observe this day, we must honor the legacy of those who came before us and extend our deepest gratitude to the families who bear the quiet, enduring weight of their loss.

Since the founding of our Republic, Americans from every generation have answered the call to serve, knowing the cost could be profound. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our Nation's independence, we are reminded that our enduring liberties are underwritten by the extreme hardships and sacrifices of those who have worn the cloth of our Nation. Their resolute courage, selfless service, and steadfast dedication to our founding ideals will forever be inscribed in the history of our Nation.

Memorial Day is not only a time for remembrance, but a call to action. As Marines, it is our sacred duty to ensure that the legacy of our fallen heroes lives on through our conduct, our commitment, and our gratitude. We must ensure that their stories are never forgotten and the ideals they fought for continue to guide our mission and our character every day.

I ask that you stay safe and look out for one another. You are the living tribute to our fallen-honor their memory through your actions and return ready to continue the mission of the Corps. Semper Fidelis

As we reflect this weekend on those who have gone before us, and the sacrifice they made let us also look to those who came home from the battle and continued to serve in other capacities. Those who stood to honor those Marines and Veterans who passed away. Those who stood in freezing cold or drenching rain when they could have been resting and warm.

Those who went to community events to serve as color guards, to bring attention to the community of how Marines and other Veterans serve. How their dedication remains with them long after their time in service is done.

Those rose sit or stand for hours, to raise money for scholarships for the Children of Marines and other Veterans. Those that sit or stand for hours in the cold as they collect Toys for children through the Toys- For-Tots Program.

Those who lend their time and effort to youth groups such as The Young Marines and the Youth Physical Fitness program.

Tose who serve in leadership so that our organization continues to move forward in service to the community and other Veteran groups.

To all of those who contribute at these functions and in other ways. You show up when you are tired, when you are cold, when you are not in the mood and when you have other things you would rather be doing, you answer the call to service. That is our mission. Honor is not something that is only claimed on the battlefield. Few of us know what the Veteran whose grave we decorate with Flags has done. Just as it is often unknown what each Marine Corps Member has achieved, but we know that all of us who show up, who stand the watch contribute in our own way in the service to others. So on this weekend while we stop and honor the service of others and the ultimate sacrifices they made, remember those who continue to serve long after their time in service has passed. The spotlight is on you and the many contributions you make in rendering Honors, contributing to the betterment of other Marines and other Veterans and their families. To show the community and the world the Semper Fidelis is not just word it is a way of life that we live by. Semper Fidelis Brothers, Sisters and Associates.

Walt Benson



2026

# June

2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



2026

# July

2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



# CLASSIFIED SECTION



## 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.

**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 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

**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.



The pain you hide  
becomes the power  
you rise with.

**Every scar on your body and every weight on your soul is proof you kept going. Pain can drown a weak man, but it forges a strong one. The world never sees your silent battles — only the strength you walk out with. Rise with the very pain that tried to break you.**

**Turn it into something unstoppable.**

**Turn it into the version of you that refuses to die**



# INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



## HELP 'STUFF A BUS' FOR THE V.A. HOSPITAL IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA!



WE NEED YOUR  
DONATIONS OF:

- BLANKETS
- TOILETRIES
- SOCKS
- MONETARY GIFTS

Online Needs List



**THE YOUNG MARINES  
AND THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

To donate online QR code -



Let's honor these Veterans for their service to our country by supporting them in their time of need!

**RICHARD L. ROUDEBUSH VA MEDICAL CENTER  
1481 WEST TENTH STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46202-2884**

**Items may be sent directly to the VA USE MCL—INDY**



# INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



**THE CHECKERED  
FLAG CIRCUIT**

*Indianapolis  
500*

START YOUR

ENGINES

**See Liz for  
details/orders**

**All proceeds go to  
the Young Marines**

**SEE YOU AT THE WINNERS CIRCLE!** ✦

Shirts are \$35.00 Contact Liz Anderson

Email: [mseanderson515@gmail.com](mailto:mseanderson515@gmail.com) FaceBook- Elizabeth Anderson—Hunter

Text 781-552-9470



# INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



## THE CHECKERED FLAG CIRCUIT



See Liz for details/orders

All proceeds go to the Young Marines!

**SEE YOU AT THE WINNERS CIRCLE!** ✨

Shirts are \$35.00 Contact Liz Anderson

Email: [mseanderson515@gmail.com](mailto:mseanderson515@gmail.com) FaceBook– Elizabet Anderson—Hunter

Text 781-552-9470



# INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Sunday, August 09, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0730 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Initiates	Quincey's
0800 - 1100	MCL Bylaws Committee Meeting	International Boardroom
0900 - 1300	MCLA Budget Committee Meeting	Director's Row 2
1000 - 1200	MODD Staff Growl	Golden Ballroom 6-7
1000 - 1300	MCLA Bylaws Committee Meeting	Director's Row 1
1100 - 1230	MCL Foundation Meeting	International Boardroom
1300 - 1700	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
1300 - 1700	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
1300 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
1300 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
1300 - 1600	*MCL National Board of Trustees Meeting	International Boardroom
1300 - 1600	*MCLA National Board of Trustees Meeting	Director's Row 2
1300 - 1700	MCL Registrations	Director's Row 4
1300 - 1700	MCLA Registrations	Convention Hall Lobby
1300 - 1700	M.O.D.D. PDD Registration	Golden Ballroom 4-5
1300 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Registration (Dog House)	Golden Ballroom 4-5
1530 - 1700	Scholarship Committee Meeting	Director's Row 1
1600 - 1700	First Timers Welcome - MCL Commandant, MCLA President & MODD Chief Devil Dog	Hall of Champions
1700 - 2100	Early Bird -	

\*At Call of Commandant. MCL: President. MCLA: Chief Devil Dog. MODD



# INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Monday, August 10, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvence
0730 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Initiates	Quincey's
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 1600	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1600	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Registration (Dog House)	Golden Ballroom 4-5
0800 - 1600	MCL Ships Stores	Golden Ballroom 1-2
0800 - 1600	MCLA Ships Stores	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1600	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
<b>0900 - 1700</b>	<b>VA Benefits Claims Clinic</b>	<b>International Boardroom</b>
<b>0900 - 1700</b>	<b>VA Mobile Clinic for Comp &amp; Pen Exams</b>	<b>Parking Lot</b>
0900 - 1200	Joint Opening Session (MCL&MCLA) Guest: <b>VA Secretary Collins</b>	Hall of Champions
	flow	MCL & MCLA Chaplains
	Transitional 5 Minute Recess	
	Chapel of Four Chaplains	
1100 - 1200	Past Chief Devil Dog Society Meeting	Golden Ballroom 6-7
1200 - 1300	Break for Lunch - Grab and Go	Convention Lobby
1300 - 1600	MCL Business Session	Hall of Champions
1300 - 1600	MCLA Business Session	Fortune Square A/B/C
1300 -	MCL Opening Session	Hall of Champions
	Rules of Convention	Bruce Rakfeldt
	Dedication	TJ Morgan
	Newsletter Awards	Walt Benson
	Public Relations	John Taylor
	Closing Ceremony	TJ Morgan
Right after	Department Commandant's Council Meeting	Hall of Champions
1700 - 2000	Comedy Show	Quincey's

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvence
0730 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Initiates	Quincey's
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 1600	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1600	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Registration (Dog House)	Golden Ballroom 4-5
0800 - 1600	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
0800 - 1600	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1600	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
<b>0900 - 1700</b>	<b>VA Benefits Claims Clinic</b>	<b>International Boardroom</b>
<b>0900 - 1700</b>	<b>VA Mobile Clinic for Comp &amp; Pen Exams</b>	<b>Parking Lot</b>



# INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0900 - 1200	MCLA Business Session	Fortune Square A/B/C
0900 - 1200	MCL Business Session	Hall of Champions
0900 -	Call Convention to Order	TJ Morgan
	Credentials Committee Report	Teresa Terry
	National Commandant	TJ Morgan
	National Senior Vice Cmdt & Dept Cmdt Council Rpt	Russ Miller
	National Junior Vice Commandant	David Porter
	National Judge Advocate & Resolutions	Bruce Rakfeldt
	Conventions/Conferences Committee	Jim Ransom
	2028 Presentations	Jim Ransom
	Vote on 2028 National Convention Proposals	Jim Ransom
1130 - 1230	MCLA President's Council Meeting	Director's Row 2
1200 - 1300	MCLA Past National President Luncheon	Private Dining Room
1200 - 1300	Break for Lunch - Grab and Go	Convention Lobby
1300 - 1500	MCLA Business Session continues	Fortune Square A/B/C
1300 - 1600	MCL Business Session continues	Hall of Champions
1305 - 1320	Young Marines - Presenting James Laskey Award to NYMOY	Bill Davis
1600	Closing Ceremony	TJ Morgan
1600 - 1700	Americanism Committee	Director's row 1
1800 - 2000		

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0730 - 1330		
0730 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Initiates	Quincey's
0745 - 1345	MODDF Scratch	Fortune Square A/B/C
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 1200	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1200	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
Closed	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
Closed	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1300	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
0800 - 1300	M.O.D.D. Dog House	Golden Ballroom 4-5
0800 - 1000	Marine of the Year Society Meeting	Director's Row 1
0900 - 1700	VA Benefits Claims Clinic	International Boardroom
0900 - 1700	VA Mobile Clinic for Comp & Pen Exams	Parking Lot
0900 - 1200	M.O.D.D. Initiation	Hall of Champions
1300 - 1500	National Convention Committee Meeting	Director's Row 1
1200 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Supreme Growl	Hall of Champions
1600 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Dog of the Year Society Growl	Golden Ballroom 6-7
1900 - 1930	Hospitality Cash Bar	Preconvene Hall
1930 - 2130	Mischief & Merriment Dinner hosted by the MODD and Fleas	Hall of Champions



# INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Thursday, August 13, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0700 - 0900	PNC Society	<b>Private Dining Room</b>
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 0900	MCLA Div Vice President's Workshop	Fortune Square A/B/C
0800 - 0900	PNP Society Board Meeting	Director's Row 1
0800 - 0900	PCDD Board Meeting	Director's Row 2
0800 - 1600	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1600	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
0800 - 1600	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
0800 - 1600	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Dog House	Golden Ballroom 4-5
<b>0900 - 1700</b>	<b>VA Benefits Claims Clinic</b>	<b>International Boardroom</b>
<b>0900 - 1700</b>	<b>VA Mobile Clinic for Comp &amp; Pen Exams</b>	<b>Parking Lot</b>
0900 - 1200	MCLA Business Session	Fortune Square A/B/C
0900 - 1200	MCL Business Session	Hall of Champions
0900-	Opening Ceremony	TJ Morgan
	Credentials Committee Report	Teresa Terry
	Budget Committee Report	Budget Committee
	Bylaws Committee Presents Proposed Changes	Bruce Rakfeldt
	Marine for Life	David Ossian
1000 - 1200	MODD Staff Meeting	Golden Ballroom 6/7
	Youth Physical Fitness / US Marines Youth Foundation	Sean Patton
	Marine Corps League Foundation	Jerry Holt
1200 - 1330	Break for Lunch - Grab and Go	Convention Lobby
1330 - 1530	MCLA Business Session continues	Fortune Square A/B/C
1330 - 1530	MCL Business Session continues	Hall of Champions
1330	Call Convention to Order	TJ Morgan
	PNC Council Report	Warren Griffin
	Nomination of Officers	TJ Morgan
1530	Closing Ceremony	TJ Morgan
1700 - 2000		



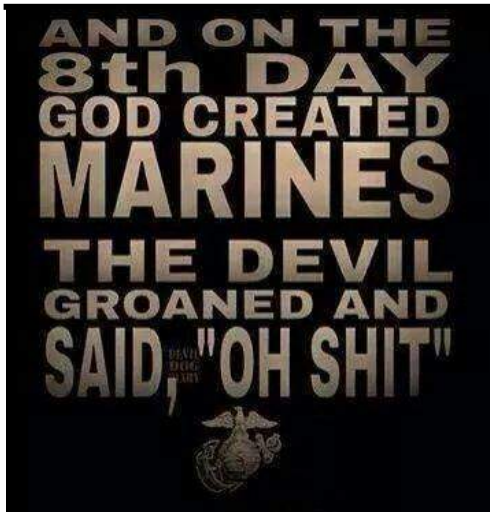
# INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Friday, August 14, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0745 - 0845	MCLA Past President's Club	Director's Row 1
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 1200	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1200	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
0800 - 1200	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
0800 - 1200	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1200	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1200	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
0800 - 1200	M.O.D.D. Dog House	Golden Ballroom 4-5
<b>0900 - 1700</b>	<b>VA Benefits Claims Clinic</b>	<b>International Boardroom</b>
<b>0900 - 1700</b>	<b>VA Mobile Clinic for Comp &amp; Pen Exams</b>	<b>Parking Lot</b>
0900 - 1200	MCLA Business Session	Fortune Square A/B/C
0900 - 1200	MCL Business Session	Hall of Champions
0900 -	Call Convention to Order	TJ Morgan
0900 - 0905	Credentials Committee Report	Teresa Terry
0905 - 0915	Chief Devil Dog Report for MODD	Joe Deangelo
0915 - 0925	President MCLA Report	Dotty Sanning
0930 - 0940	Marksmanship Awards	Mike Sturch
0940 - 0950	Americanism Awards	Jon Zwirblia
0950 - 1000	10 minute Break	
1000 - 1030	VA Volunteer Service and Veteran Service Officer Awards	Philip Du
1030 - 1130	Moderated Panel Discussion - <b>Dept of VA Under Secretaries of NCA (Cemetery), VHA (Health), and VBA (Benefits)</b>	Philip Du
1130-1300	Break for Lunch - Grab and Go	Convention Lobby
1300 - 1500	MCLA Business Session continues	Fortune Square A/B/C
1300 - 1500	MCL Business Session continues	Hall of Champions
	Call Convention to Order	TJ Morgan
	Toys for Tots	David Cooper/Russ Miller
	Remaining Reports Not Given	TJ Morgan
	Motion to Accept All Reports	TJ Morgan
	Unfinished Business/New Business/Good of the League	TJ Morgan
	Credentials Committee Final Report	Teresa Terry
	Election and Installation of Officers	TJ Morgan
1500	Closing Ceremony	TJ Morgan
1800 - 1900	Formal Reception (Cash Bar)	Preconvene Hall
1900 - 2200	Grand Banquet - Close the Convention	Hall of Champions

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0800 - 1200	*MCL National Board of Trustees Meeting	International Boardroom



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

## 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](http://barrykibrick.files.wordpress.com)

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

