



October 2025 — November 2025

# LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 1



## Message From The Division Commandant



Dear Marines,

As we proudly celebrate the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps—a momentous occasion that honors not only our illustrious past, but also the enduring spirit that defines what it means to be a Marine.

For two and a half centuries, Marines have stood as our nation's elite warriors—fighting with honor, courage, and commitment in every clime and place.

From the legendary battles of Belleau Wood and Iwo Jima to the deserts of the Middle East and missions of peace and humanitarian aid around the globe, we have forged a legacy written in sacrifice, valor, and unwavering brotherhood.

Yet our service does not end when we remove the uniform. As members of the Marine Corps League, we continue to uphold the sacred values instilled in us at boot camp—leadership, integrity, discipline, and a commitment to those who served alongside us. We remain bound by duty: to care for one another, to support the next generation of Marines, and to serve our communities with the same dedication we gave to our Corps and country.



In this 250th year, we are not just celebrating our history—we are actively writing its next chapter. Whether it's mentoring young Marines, assisting veterans in need, participating in patriotic events, or preserving our heritage, our mission continues. The League offers us a unique opportunity to channel our experience, wisdom, and pride into action that matters.

So let us raise a glass—not just to 250 years of the United States Marine Corps, but to the unbreakable bond we share as Marines, past and present. And let us reaffirm our oath—not to a rank or uniform, but to a lifelong call to serve.

There will be many celebrations throughout the country. As we celebrate the 250th, let us also pause to remember those who are standing watch—at posts near and far, on land and at sea, in silence and in sacrifice. They carry forward the legacy we helped build, and they remind us why we continue to serve.

Semper Fidelis  
Patrick Maguire  
National Vice Commandant  
New England Division  
Marine Corps League



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## New England Division Contact Information 2024 – 2025



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## 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 all low 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

## 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.**



# FROM THE EDITOR



## A STORY WORTH TELLING

I'm going to borrow this section this month to help kick off something new I have taken on. I have taken on the role of Chair of the National Newsletter Competition, and with that I am trying to make some changes. First I want to make more people aware of it, the benefits of having a News-Newsletter look like, and lastly to create a PowerPoint on how to create and publish a Newsletter. If you go to my FaceBook page, [Facebook](#), there is a new page linked to that for National Newsletter competition, where this years winners and entry they submitted for judging to give you an example of what it takes to win. The is on the National website in the Library, change to make submission and following a lot of newsletters out there and some of them are very good and yet they do not participate. How can they help my detach-ment or Department? If you are out do-ment or Department? If you are out do- to a Marine and he or she is not ready the back give them the link for the Newsletter or ask them to contact you for a copy of the Newsletter. You make a list of contacts and send them the newsletter when it comes out. There are six newsletters a year it gives you a non harassing way to keep in touch, while showing them what we are doing out there. When I publish my newsletters, I send them out to all the members, post it on FaceBook, and LinkedIn and ask others to repost so that it goes to others not in my algorithm. Then My Commandant has a list of people that they send the Newsletter out to. It goes to anyone that is featured in the Newsletter, it goes to others up the chain and the other organizations we invite to share their information in our Newsletter such as The Young Marines, ToysforTots, Boy Scouts, Marines for Life, Chaplains and The Dogs. This is Communications 101. We have a message and we want to share it and get it out, what better and fun way than this. Think about your Detachment or Department and lets deliver our message to a whole new venue.



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

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

**MCL  
SCUTTLEBUTT**

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







# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



As we begin the first day of our National Convention, let us start with one of the elements we treasure the most in the League, Comradery. So here are the smiles from some of those attending.



Good Morning, Honorable SR. Vice Chief DD, Joe DeAngelo Jr., PNC, Warren Griffin, and National SR Vice Commandant Russ Miller



NAVC Mike Hinds, New England Division Chief of Staff Joe Afonso, NED. VCDD. Pat Mc Mahon, Southern Div. VCDD Audrea Killalea



Tina Harvey Dept of Texas, Credentials Chair Teresa Terry, Honorable SR Vice Chief Devil Dog Joe DeAngelo Jr. And Honorable Aide De Camp, Barb De Angelo





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge these three people because all of the views of the convention would not be possible without the work that they put into it. The emotions you feel or the pride and professionalism you get is due to the extra effort they put forth. The running back and forth to capture the Awards, walking the floors to capture smiles and candid expressions, it all comes from their dedication. Thank You



If you have never been to a National Convention you are really missing a great experience, and a really good time. As I look at the photo above if you have been here before you can see the different groups assembled together and realize the amount of work that will be completed here. The Ladies Auxiliary, has their agenda, The Dogs have their agenda of which the majority is the advancement of Devil Dogs to PDD, and Finally the League itself. We introduce, honor, remember, recognize and award, approve new By-Laws, while making adjustment to existing laws, nominate and elect new officers to lead us in the upcoming year. But in addition to all of this we are entertained, we celebrate, and take in the sights of what this area of the country has to offer, while enjoying the comradery with old friends and making new ones. What follows here cannot share all of what a Convention has to offer I do hope it peaks your interest to attend one in the future. So as we look at those assembled on the first day in anticipation of Colors, we begin.





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



A welcome to all from the National Commandant TJ Morgan; to a well attended audience Auxiliary, League, and Dogs



The command Center on the left for all the audio visual needs, On the Right a Marine Family Moment, National JR. Vice Commandant David Porter Jr., his mom Jean , missing David Porter the Original, he was probably taking the picture.



Newsletter Awards New England Division First Place Dianna Grantham, Chair of the National Newsletter Committee, Walt Benson Editor, National Commandant TJ Morgan, above PNC Warren Griffin & National JR Vice Commandant David Porter.

Right Former Div Vice CDD Cherie Monnell, was awarded The Distinguished Award for all of her work at that position by National Commandant TJ Morgan,







# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



Brian Gillespie, gave a presentation on **HAMSAL, Help A Marine Save A Life**. This program deals with preventing Marine/Veteran suicide and some of the substance abuse factors that are also attributed to this problem, such as drugs and alcohol. How do you spot the signs and what do you do if you see them. What can you say or do to make sure that Marine gets the help they need. If you go to the Library on line you will find the presentation he originally gave. However, look for the part two of this program which is the one he spoke about at the Convention. There are many facts in this presentation I was never aware of.



**FOCUS Marines Foundation was created in 2010 by Marines who served in the Corps years ago. Following active service, they lived productive and rewarding lives. These Marines, many of whom saw combat in Vietnam, understood firsthand the issues of transitioning from military to civilian lives and were determined to help this new generation of Marines and veterans who served during the war on terror.**

FMF developed a week long program called FOCUS, held west of St. Louis, Missouri. The program is conducted four times each year with a maximum of 25 per class. Participants arrive on Saturday and depart the following Saturday. Sunday is spent building class energy and cohesion. Monday – Wednesday focuses on “Who Are You? & Who Do

You Want To Be?” Thursday – Friday addresses “What Do You Want To Do? & How Are You Going To Make It Happen?” The entire FOCUS program and travel are PROVIDED FREE OF COST TO PARTICIPANTS. To understand how effective the FOCUS program is, please see the Graduate Testimonials. To date, nearly 1,160 post-9/11 veterans from the Marine Corps, Navy, Army and Air Force have attended FOCUS. Marines and Navy Corpsmen comprise majority of each class. Attendees have ranged in rank from Private to Colonel, and in ages from 21 to 67. They came to FOCUS from throughout the U.S. These veterans return home with new-found self-respect and purpose.





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



Keitty Almonte, SR. Vice Commandant Dept of Rhode Island, accepted the award for first place in Membership for the Buccia Atwood Detachment which had a 294.74% increase in Membership. Presenting the award are National Commandant TJ Morgan and National JR. Vice Commandant David Porter.

National New England Vice Commandant Pat Maguire presented Howard Schaffer with a check for the Foundation from the New England Division for \$3000.



Left Young Marine of the Year, Chingiz Bahadur. Below Left , Terri Laskey, Young Marines, Young Marines Volunteer table in the Convention Hall. Below The Young Marines Col; Bill Davis was presented with a check for \$2000 from a fundraiser done by Liz Anderson and David Porter. Also Pictured Young Marine of the Year, Chingiz Bahadur, and Sgt. Major Overstreet, who was also there to represent The Tun.







# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



Allison Noger, addresses issues with the JR. Vice's  
Lisa Solarczyk uniform as the red  
flush spreads across  
his face. Is it because of the correction or the help he

National JR Vice David Porter, ANVC Mike Hinds,  
and NVC Pat Maguire dels with Jason Hauck, who  
seems to desperately wants to join New England.



National Sgt at Arms Lisa Solarczyk and Dept of PA  
Victoria McCoy Peacefully discuss opposing views.



Dept of CT delegation Missing HNEVCDD Pat McMahon.



Bill Lee, Commandant Paul C. Houghton  
Det. Jim Lauber Commandant Brass City  
Det., New England Sgt At Arms Jim  
Soder, Dept of CT Commandant Rich  
Daigle. New England Division Adjutant  
Walt Benson.

Penny Weston was made Honorary  
PNC .

National Commandant TJ Morgan, PNC  
Johnny Baker, PNC Warren Griffin, Pen-  
ny Weston, PNC Wendell Webb, PNV  
Volltaggio. Congratulations Peggy Great  
Job.





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



Allison Noger and Honorable Lucky Dog Reggie Sawyer



David Ossian Chair of The Marine For Life Committee  
Gives a presentation on the program



All stand as the Marine Corps League Flag is folded, to be retired to The National Museum of The Marine Corps. It has been in service for 57 years.





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



Before the Banquet, which has been the policy in all the banquets I have been to this year we have a cake cutting ceremony to celebrate the two Hundred and Fiftieth Birthday of our Corps. Both sides of the aisle were lined by the National Vice Commandant. The cake was formally escorted down the center by the current slate of National Officers, SR. Vice Russ Miller, JR. Vice David Porter, Judge Advocate Bruce Rakfeldt, PNC. Warren Griffin. It arrived to a waiting reception of National Commandant TJ Morgan and Guest of Honor, LtGen. Michael Cederholm, Commanding General MEF. Also awaiting the arrival SR. Vice Commandant Keitty Almonte, Dept. of Rhode Island, Youngest Marine, and The Honorable Gerald Devlin, Oldest Marine Present. A ceremony worthy of 250 years of being the very best America has to offer Semper Fidelis.







# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



Commandant Morgan serves cake to the oldest and youngest Marines



NJVC David Porter & LtGen Michael Cederholm Guest of Honor



Left This years  
National Officers

Right National  
Chaplain  
Howard Scheffer  
starts us off with  
a Prayer.







# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



Commandant Morgan distributed Certificates of Appreciation to the staff who treated us so well and the Color Guard



PDD Ben Wells, was named Kennel Dog of The Year Above & Mariano Meaux was named Associate of the Year Below







# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAPEVINE TEXAS



Above this years Marine Of The Year is PNC Johnny Baker. This award should mean something to everyone. You can get Medals, Trophy's, but this is different and everyone pictured has won this. It's like the Quote from the Film Highlander, " There can be only one".



As we say farewell to Texas, this last photo seems fitting, as this is our family, whether you are in the picture or not, we are part of this. This is right up there with that quote, "There Can Be Only One", because its true. These are the best of the best even the ones that snuck into the picture that are adopted New Englanders, and there are a few of those missing. Until we meet again Semper Fidelis.





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



## TOYS FOR TOTS

# The countdown begins!

The Toys for Tots Holiday Campaign  
kicks off on October 1st





# CONNECTICUT



Leaves are falling, autumn is calling. Happy fall, y'all.

The onset of fall means the League is entering its busy season, for all veterans, not just Marines.

We should have participated in ceremonies honoring the victims of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. That was a tragic and momentous day in our history, followed every year by somber gatherings nationwide. ***Never forget!***

We do not have a lot going on in October but for many of us, it signals the beginning of Toys for Tots campaigns. TFT is probably the effort that brings us the most exposure as a Department. If your Detachment does not participate in a TFT drive, Commandants should provide a list of potential collection sites and share it with the closest participating Detachment so they may expand their territory.

On the other hand, Detachments should *never* expand into another's area without approval from the other Detachment's Commandant. This is in keeping with the TFT guidelines.

And just wait for November! It is probably our busiest month with Veterans

Day and the Marine Corps Birthday events.

Some Detachments will have birthday balls, dinners, and other such events. Show your Marine pride and attend as many celebrations as you can.



The Department of Connecticut is sponsoring a cake cutting ceremony in the rotunda of the state capitol building at 1300 on 10 November 2025. All League members, active-duty Marines, and their families are invited.

We have a small committee working out the details, which will be shared soon. Pencil this event on your calendars.

If any member would like to assist the committee, please contact Peter DePaola or me. We will have a Zoom meeting on Friday, 26 September at 1900.

Commandants, please watch your emails for important information on end-of-year reports. Please ensure that your ROIs, 990s, and other compliance reports are completed.

**Semper Fidelis.**

**Rich Daigle**

Commandant





# CONNECTICUT



## The Navy officer who became a legend among the 6th Marines

By Jon Guttman

Lt. Joel Boone was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism while helping the wounded on July 19, 1918. (Naval History and Heritage Command). On June 2, 1918, during Germany's spring offensive on the Western Front, the enemy encountered a newly arrived company of [Marines](#) — and they, unlike a French unit pulling back to more defensible ground, were marching straight toward the enemy. The outcome was a grim introduction to modern warfare and an act of extraordinary heroism from another segment of the Corps that has since found its own way into Marine tradition: the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps. Among the Marines marching towards the Germans was U.S. Navy officer Joel Boone, who was assigned as the day surgeon for the 6th Marine Regiment. Boone was present during the Belleau Wood confrontation between the Marines and Germans at Belleau Wood in June 1918. A cousin several times removed from the legendary relationship ended there, though. my in June 1913, followed by attending Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, Boone was commissioned a lieutenant (junior grade) in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1914. After attending the U.S. Naval Medical School in Washington, D.C., he graduated with a Regular Navy commission in the summer of 1915.



Born in St. Clair, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 29, 1889, Boone got his first foreign assignment with the Marine Artillery Regiment of the Marine Expeditionary Force suppressing the Cacos Rebellion in Haiti. It was there where he was made medical officer for the 13th Marine Company.

By April 1917, Boone was serving aboard the battleship USS Wyoming (BB-32) when the United States declared war on Germany and in June of that year he was temporarily promoted to full lieutenant. Boone faced his first challenge on June 9, when the 6th Marines' regimental aid station was demolished by enemy shells and was bombed again on the 10th, killing 10 Marines and wounding many more. On June 25, he followed a battalion pressing against machine gun positions, establishing advance dressing stations under continuous shell fire. For his performance throughout the intense fighting at Belleau Wood, Boone was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The final turning point of World War I on the Western Front began on July 14 as the German army tried to force its way across the Marne River and on to Paris — only to be stopped there by the French and American army. On July 19, Surg. Boone left the shelter of his field station and into an open field southeast of Vierzy, near a cemetery on the road south. Under a heavy barrage of large caliber shells, Boone calmly but swiftly traversed the scant cover to recover wounded Marines, apply tourniquets and dress wounds. Casualties were so heavy that he used up his dressings and supplies, so he commandeered a motorcycle and drove to the rear through a blitz of explosives and gas, then, [as his citation states](#), "returned quickly with a sidecar load." Such were the day's casualties that his medical supplies were again used up, so "A second trip under the same conditions and for the same purpose, was made by Surg. Boone later that day." Somehow he survived and dozens of front-line witnesses testified to the exploits of the naval officer who became a legend among the 6th Marines.

Promoted to lieutenant commander in September, Boone made it through the war to the armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. His life-saving actions on July 25 were recognized by the Navy, which later saw Boone awarded the Medal of Honor. That, along with the DSC, six Silver Stars, Bronze Star with "V," two Purple Hearts, French Officier de la Légion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre with two bronze stars, added up to his ultimate status as the most decorated medical officer in the U.S. Armed Services. Boone continued his naval career through World War II and Korea, one of the few Americans to have served in four conflicts. He represented the American medical forces on the deck of battleship Missouri when the Japanese surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945. He also served in the White House physician to Presidents Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and, briefly, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

*Editor's note: This story's headline has been corrected to reflect that Joel Boone was a medical officer*





# BIG DOGS IN TOWN



On Sunday September 7th the Dogs of The Connecticut Pack were honored to host The Honorable Senior Vice Chief Devil Dog, Joe DeAngelo Jr. and the Honorable Aide De Camp, Barbara DeAngelo. I have been a Dog since 2017 and we have never had a visit from anyone from the kennel besides our New England Vice Chief Devil Dogs, Pat McMahon, and Cherie Monnell. They came to present an award to PCDD Doug Fisk for his continued contributions to the Dogs, and to swear in Vice Chief Devil Dog Pat McMahon.





# CONNECTICUT



## U.S. MARINE CORPS 250th BIRTHDAY BALL

*Presented by*

**The Brass City Memorial Detachment- Marine Corps League**

**Saturday, November 1st, 2025**

**Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Club  
91 Golden Hill Street, Waterbury, CT 06706  
\$50.00 per person**

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

**6 pm to 7 pm: Open Bar with Hors d'oeuvres, followed by a Cash Bar  
Buffet Style Dinner, USMC Birthday Cake, Coffee and Tea  
(Dress is formal)**

**For Payment Info call:**

**Detachment Commandant Jim Lauber 203-217-0438**

**Senior Vice Commandant Tony Pina 203-850-8908**





# CONNECTICUT



## Hike To Remember Not To be Forgotten

### HIKE XIII



CALLING ALL VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

WHERE: 980 CHESTNUT HILL RD.  
S. GLASTONBURY, CT 06073

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 20, 2025  
CHECK-IN 0430 | STEP OFF 0530

**\$50 ENTRY || DONATIONS WELCOME**

All active military and veterans are invited to sign up for the 22k.  
Hikers must have served in one of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

TO REGISTER VISIT:  
**MCLDET40.ORG**



Soaring high—literally and figuratively! Honored to take part in the Peter P. Monaco Jr. Hike to remember alongside State Rep. Steve Weir and an incredible community! Proud to walk (and fly!) in support of bringing awareness to [#veteransuicideprevention](#) Grateful to be part of something bigger than myself. Jessica Olander

*In The  
Air*



*On Land*







# CONNECTICUT







# CONNECTICUT



A sea of over 200 Veterans, marching in the 13th Hike to Remember. This annual event is held every September to remember 9-11 and bring attention to Veterans Suicide







# CONNECTICUT



## 50 YEAR A MARINE

This year marks 50 years "Marine." In 1975, there were rines during that era and very It was by accident that I even en in the Marine Corps. I had and WAVES and never gave it our country; until the day I Marines and within six weeks I footprints at Parris Island!

Today, there are about MOS's are open to those who about 6.5% of the Marine Corps challenging, both physically and much easier than the boot different PFT then, and we were range. We were trained to be even issued a make-up kit and



since I earned the title, only about 3,000 women Ma-limited MOS's to choose from. learned that there were wom-basically only heard of WACS a second thought of serving heard that there were women was standing on those yellow

14,000 women serving and all qualify. Women make up population. Boot camp was mentally in 1975, but it was camp of today. We had a very never introduced to the rifle "Lady Leathernecks" and were provided classes on etiquette.

But then we entered the 1980's where things started to rapidly change. Although I loved being a Marine, I only served four years active duty and then got out to start a new season of my life as a wife, and eventually a mom. Women were discharged from active duty if they were pregnant and I witnessed some of my friends end their service because of it. That started to shift in the late 1970's so by 1980, women were allowed to stay in when pregnant. There still are a lot of complications in today's force with custody of children when the mother deploys, or even goes to extended training, but more women are making careers as Marines than ever before. Within six months of leaving active duty, I joined the Marine Corps Reserves and enjoyed being affiliated again. My MOS was in Administration, so I always had a billet wherever I went. Everything started to change for women Marines around this time. We were now permitted to wear Cammies and boots, something I loved very much! And we finally got to go to the rifle range and fam-fire. I loved that too! Our PFT changed for the third time since I joined to be more aligned with the male PFT. I was fine with that too! And more opportunities were opened for women with the MOS's, and I was proud of that.

During my 24-year career, I served in two active-duty units, and seven reserve units from west coast to east coast, mostly infantry units, long before women were allowed to be in an infantry unit. I deployed with 25 th Marine Regiment for Desert Storm as their Regimental S-1 Chief and





# CONNECTICUT



## 50 YEAR A MARINE

was the only woman in the regimental staff. Within a year after returning from that deployment I was promoted to 1 st Sergeant. Because of my gender, the Marine Corps would not allow me to stay with the infantry regiment, so they gave me orders to logistics group where women were allowed to serve in leadership billets. Several years later, I was invited by HQMC to return to 25 th Marine Regiment to be their Headquarters Company First Sergeant and make history for women in leadership billets. I declined that offer and accepted orders to another logistics company in New Jersey. I was the company 1 st Sergeant of two logistics units before being promoted to Sergeant Major and assigned to 6 th Motor Transport Battalion, which some of the old- timers had issues with that.

As I reflect on my 50 years as a Marine, I feel quite blessed. I joined the Marine Corps knowing very little about the Marines, yet eager to be one. I knew little about the history of the Marine Corps outside of what we were taught in boot camp. The 200 th birthday celebration in 1975 was my first experience of sharing such pride with fellow Marines and I began to truly feel part of this family. I graduated boot camp and MOS school and was acclimating to my first duty assignment in 1975 and the buzz was contagious and energizing about the Corps' 200 th birthday celebration. I was bursting with pride to be part of this great organization, and the enthusiasm propelled me to lean into this new identity that was now mine. I earned the title Marine, and now I have a responsibility to uphold all its traditions and customs like all those who came before me.

During my 24-year career, the PFT became the easiest thing the Marine Corps asked of me. I was a trailblazer of sorts for all the changes that were occurring to integrate women into combat MOS's. To meet those MOS minimum standards, women had to adapt and overcome all the myriads of changes with the PFT, weapons training, Crucible, billeting, uniforms, etc. Fifty years later, I stand prouder knowing I am part of an elite organization who has embraced the changes for women Marines and welcomed us as equal. As women, not Lady Leathernecks, we've been challenged to meet physical and mental requirements that have stretched us beyond what most women could ever imagine with a focus on strength and endurance. I love the line, "All women were created equal, then some became Marines."

Happy 250 th Birthday Marines!

Semper Fi

Jamie DePaola, USMC Veteran





# CONNECTICUT



***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 Historical Foundation, Inc.*  
*P.O. Box 31516*  
*Newington, CT 06131***

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





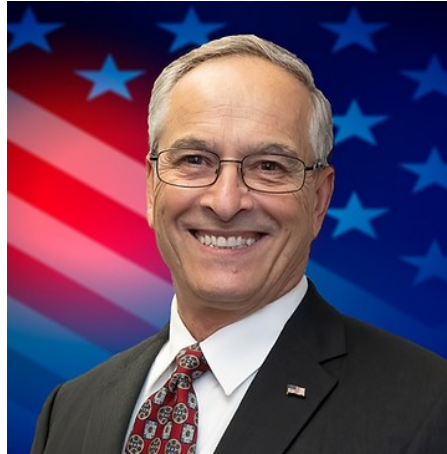
# CONNECTICUT



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER 250 YEARS AS MARINES

My journey as a Marine importance of leadership, not just diverse life journey from being and logistics, to managing institutional pharmacies across the Northeast, elected to public office, and a non-stop volunteer for veterans causes.

As the Marine Corps Chaplain, my message is simply Corps Values of Honor, Courage



taught me the immeasurable in the field but in life. I've had a with the 12 th Marines, artillery

League Department of CT to always live by our Marine and Commitment to strengthen

our spirit for everyday life. We always need to be spiritually fit, have resilience and hope, and uphold our faith, family and our Country as foundational to our service. As we prepare to mark the 250 th birthday of our Marine Corps, I know that the Marine Corps instilled in me a sense of responsibility for welfare of others and a belief that leadership always matters, regardless of one's role. It's a lesson that reminds me that we leave our mark not only on the Corps but on the community around us. We earned the title "Marine" and that makes us unique since it's part of our identity in whatever we become when we hang up our beloved uniform. Our 250 years of history attests to that fact.

Three generations of my immediate family have served in the Marine Corp from the Korean War era to the Vietnam War era, the Cold War, and most recently my two sons during the Post 9/11 wars. The seven of us learned the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions, taking care of our own, and servant leadership. Each generation has faced new challenges to become a Marine. Today the physical and mental demands are higher than ever. Today's Marines are part of an organization that demands a difference – and delivers global excellence beyond all others.

S/F

Peter DePaola

Chaplain

MCL Dept of CT





# MASSACHUSETTS



Earlier this month, the [OBJ] Department of Massachusetts along with the Department of Rhode Island and the New England Division traveled to Virginia to support the Young Marines R. Lee Er-mey Memorial Golf Tournament.

The event was a tremendous success! Golfers enjoyed a day of camaraderie and competi-tion, all while supporting a meaningful cause. Truly, good times for a great mission!



Associate Terri Laskey  
National New England Division Vice Comman-  
dant Pat Maguire  
National Jr Vice Commandant David Porter  
National Chaplin, Howard Schaeffer  
Dept of RI Commandant Joe Afonso  
Marine Larry Chretien  
Dept of MA Commandant Michael Hinds  
Dept of MA Jr Vice Commandant Bruce Katz







# MASSACHUSETTS



## 250<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL



HOSTED BY MARINE CORPS  
LEAGUE DETACHMENT #1306

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

5:00 PM – 11:00 PM


HOTEL 1620 • PLYMOUTH, MA


HONORING  
PLYMOUTH'S FIRST MARINES


GUEST OF HONOR:  
**LT COL ROBERT  
H. BARROW JR.**  
USMC (RET.)


WOUNDED WARRIOR  
GUEST OF HONOR:  
**LCPL NICHOLAS EUFRAZIO**

TICKETS: \$75 PER PERSON

 CAKE CUTTING

 DINNER

 MUSIC &  
DANCING

 MARINE CORPS HISTORY  
SHOWCASE







# MASSACHUSETTS



Yesterday, the Cape Cod Marine Corps League and Corporal Nicholas Xiarhos Young Marinesrines hosted a joint fundraiser for the Cape Cod Marine Corps Birthday Ball, celebrating 250 years of our Corps. The event was held at American Legion Post 188 in Sandwich.

Families and patrons enjoyed a lively Cornhole Tournament and a delicious cookout lunch. We also shared a presentation on the history of the Marine Corps and held a cake-cutting ceremony. Our oldest Marine present was 92, and our youngest was 34—an incredible reminder of the generations united by service.

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support this special event.







# MASSACHUSETTS



## CAPE COD #125







MASSACHUSETTS



# Cape Cod Marine Corps *Birthday Ball*

November 8th  
Irish Village



Guest Speaker: Col. Walter Watson (Ret)  
Entertainment: Funktapuss

[www.marineveteranfoundation.com](http://www.marineveteranfoundation.com)





# MASSACHUSETTS

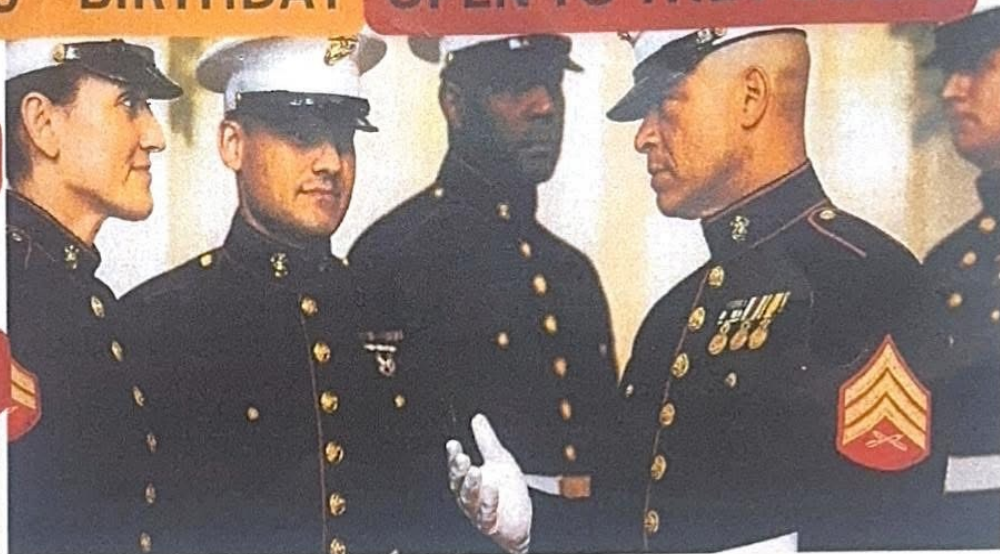


## MARINE BALL



MARINES 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Hosted By:  
Haverhill 128  
Lowell 130  
& Lawrence  
Detachments



### Date & Time

Saturday, November 8, 2025  
6:00PM – 11:00PM EST

### Location

Lenzi's Catering &  
Function Facility  
810 Merrimack Avenue, Dracut,  
MA 01820

### Tickets

\$80 per person  
(\$87.21 with Eventbrite fees)

Reserve your seat on

[Eventbrite Link](#)

Refunds are available up to 7 days  
before the event

### What to Expect

Delectable Dinner – Full-course meal by Lenzi's  
award-winning chefs

**Dancing** – Music to move your boots to the  
dance floor

**Toasts & Tributes** – Honoring 250 years of  
service and Semper Fidelis

**Photo Moments** – Elegant backdrops for  
timeless Marine memories

### Dress Code:

Formal Attire / Military Dress Blue / Black Tie  
Optional

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED**





# MAINE



## **Marine Corps League**

### **Central Maine**

### **Detachment 810**

Respectfully requests your attendance at the 250th Marine Corps Birthday/Dinner Supper.

**Location:** Hilton Garden Inn  
14 Great Falls Plaza  
Auburn, ME 04210

**Date:** November 10, 2025, Monday

**Time:** 1700 Hours/5pm Social Hour  
1800Hours/6:00pm

**Menu:** Dinner Plated menu/\$25 per Marines/Associate Marines  
\$40 for non-members

The 250th USMC birthday celebration is open to all. All are welcome! Come spend an evening with America's Finest. This is a great event; we would be honored if you attended.

Please contact Commandant Charlie Paul via phone 207-393-7667 or e-mail [charlespaul293@gmail.com](mailto:charlespaul293@gmail.com) by October 1, 2025 (firm date) with a count of how many will be attending.

**SEMPER FI**





# MAINE



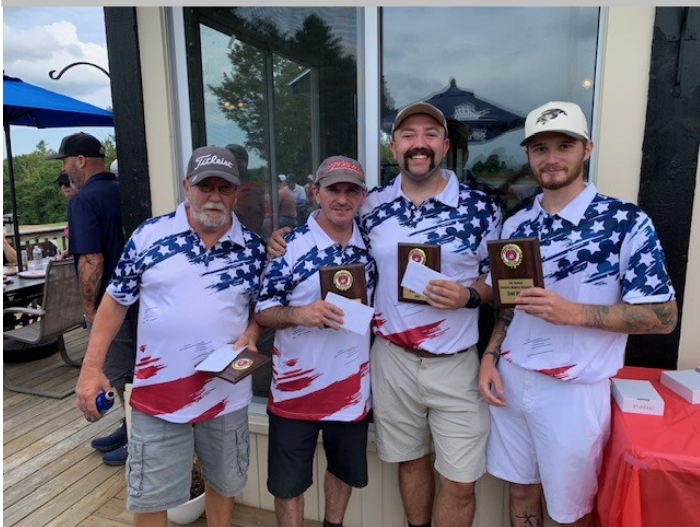
Central Maine Det. 810 held its annual golf outing. Perfect weather, great luncheon, 17 teams and a lot of fun. Central Maine supports Honor Flight Maine, Maine Veterans Home (So Paris), Wreaths Across America, Quilts of Valor & Boothbay V.E.T.S. (Veteran Emergency Temporary Shelter), in addition we offer 3 \$500 scholarships. One to Lewiston High School, one to Edward Little High School and the last to Oxford Hill Comprehensive High School. We do this through fundraising, golf tournament and raffles. Charlie Paul, Tatianna Fennessy, club house manager, Steve, owner of Summit Spring and golf pro Keegan Fennessy. Summit Spring has hosted our tournament for the last 3 years. Charles Paul, Commandant







# MAINE







# MAINE







# MAINE



Central Maine Det. 810 MCL will be raffling off a beautiful quilt for our scholarship raffle. Drawing will be held on November 10, 2025 at our 250th USMC birthday celebration. Tickets are \$5 for one, or \$10 for three. Name and phone number. The winner will be called on November 10th.

If interested text me

[charlespaul293@gmail.com](mailto:charlespaul293@gmail.com) or call 207-394-7667.



14 August 2025: Member Richard J. Townsend being sworn into Southern Maine Detachment #1324 By Commandant Dave Close







# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## OORAH! NEWSLETTER

*Granite State Detachment #542*

*Marine Corps League*

### Commandant's Corner

**Members and Associates of the Granite State Detachment,**



Have you ever served on a jury? A jury consists of a random group of people called upon to make life-changing decisions, criminal and civil, of financial and personal destinies. They must arrive at appropriate compensation or penalties, guilt or innocence for parties legally involved in the case before them. All this is done often with little assistance except the bare legal outlines given by the judge. This huge burden, deciding on another human being's fate or financial future is balanced with the selfish desire to get home and come expeditiously to a verdict. Contrary opinions and an obstinate juror must be dealt with and a compromise reached. What is amazing, under the duress of this situation, is the knowledge, experience and diplomacy that can emerge from this group of strangers who probably never met and will never see each other again.

Likewise, all of us in the Marine Corps League deliberate and act to the benefit of the veterans and community we serve. And, often due to our military experience, the same corporate genius surfaces to complete our mission. The different backgrounds and professions of our members get the job done and done well. Perhaps by how we direct our activities and fundraising we can change lives and destinies for the better?

To that end the detachment is instituting a Donations Review Board to ensure our funds are allocated predominately to veterans and precisely to those areas of greatest need.

It has been an exciting and active summer. We have now successfully navigated two of our major fund-raising events, (Memorial and Labor Day), taking part in at least three honor firing details and one funeral ceremony (for a member of the detachment). Besides our connection with the state's charitable gaming in Lebanon NH, with Marge, our Paymaster, accepting their donation check at that location, we have also received from the Chester Rod & Gun Club, a huge donation, product of a whole day's event, (which I attended, and even managed to murder a couple of skeets!), exclusively dedicated to our detachment by member "Doc" Dave Freschi. In all of these events I was constantly impressed, and as Commandant, humbled, by the dedication, commitment and expertise I see emanating from our membership.

--- Eric Anthony, Commandant, Granite State Detachment





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Newly Appointed Sr Vice Commandant

We are thrilled to announce that at the September Membership Meeting, Commandant Eric Anthony appointed Jesse Stufflebeam as the new Senior Vice Commandant. Jesse graciously accepted the appointment and is eager to learn the responsibilities of the role and get started.

Please join us in welcoming Jesse to the Board of Trustees!

Semper Fi

## Chaplain's Message



Joe Duquette  
Chaplain

## Desk of Sr. Vice Commandant's Message



### Volunteer for GSD #542 Fundraising Events – Let's Make an Impact!


Hello GSD #542 Members,

Our last fundraising event for 2025 is scheduled for Friday November 7th and Saturday November 8th at Bass Pro Shops in Hooksett, NH.

Please check your calendars and use the SignUp Genius link below to see available time slots. Sign up

for what you can—every contribution helps!

### Next Event: Veterans Day Fundraising Event

 **Date: Friday November 7th, Saturday November 8, 2025** 📍

**Locations: Bass Pro Shops - Hooksett, NH**

Thank you for your dedication and support. Let's make this a success!

Semper Fi,  
Office of Senior Vice Commandant

**Sign Up to Volunteer Today!**





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## JVC's Message



### Call for Leadership: **Junior Vice Commandant Needed**

Granite State Detachment 542 is seeking a dedicated member to step into the role of Junior Vice Commandant.

This position plays a vital part in strengthening our Detachment by:

- Creating membership incentives and programs that foster growth and enthusiasm
- Supporting leadership continuity by stepping in when needed

If you're passionate about serving veterans and building community, this is your chance to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact.

Whether you're a longtime member or newly active, your voice and energy matter. Let's shape the future of GSD 542 together.

**Interested?** Reach out to the Commandant to learn more or express your interest.



[Email Commandant](#)

## Chaplain's Message

Thank you, God, for the gift of work, pleasure & our ability to serve others.

We ask for strength and guidance for our Marine Corps League Officers.

Bless our efforts and the efforts for those who work as well as our retirees.

God Bless all Marines and those who have passed on.

Bless our FMF Corpsmen & all Chaplains, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Amen  
Joe Duquette, Chaplain



Joe Duquette, Chaplain





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Paymaster's Message

### THIRD QUARTER 2025 PAYMASTER REPORT

The third quarter of 2025 was once again a very active period for fundraising and volunteering efforts by the members of the GSD #542. July and September fundraising events at Market Basket and Bass Pro Shops added to the Detachment's capability of being able to donate to various Veteran's and community organizations during the third quarter including the NH Troopers Association, Building Dreams for Marines, Greater Manchester Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp sponsorship and the VA Medical Center Bingo program for residents of the Community Care unit.



The Detachment's continued involvement with the Charity Gaming at the REVO facility in Lebanon, NH has also contributed tremendously to the GSD #542 donation capability through 2025 and will further provide and enhance the Detachment's ability to substantially help Veterans and community organizations in the upcoming year of 2026. For more detailed information, please refer to each month's Detachment meeting minutes to review the monthly Paymaster Report.

As we approach the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2025, I again encourage GSD #542 members to become involved in the Detachment's volunteer efforts; whether it be "manning a post" at a fundraiser venue or attending one or more of the Veterans Organization events scheduled during the upcoming quarter which includes the exciting celebration of the **250<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday!**

**HAPPY 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, MARINES!**

Respectfully submitted,  
Marge Romano

## From the Desk of the Department of NH

### Register for the Department Marine Corps 250th Birthday Ball

Have you registered yet? The space is filling up fast, the time to register is now! Simply to go <https://nhmarines.org/marine-corps-250th-birthday-ball/> or click the button below to go to the Department's website to register.

To reserve your seat and your plus one, there are three options, MCL member, Marine and not a MCL member, or a civilian. Select the one that applies to you. If you are a MCL member, click the button and enter the Member ID on your membership card and you are registered for your and your plus one! If you are in the other two categories the steps are only a few more and all the directions are on the website.

We look forward to seeing a packed house of red hats at this momentous occasion.





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## 250th USMC Birthday



### Happy Birthday Marines

Marines of New Hampshire come and join the Department of New Hampshire Marine Corps League (DNHMCL) for our 250th Birthday. This year being an especially monumental year for our League, Corps and Nation. This celebration unites all Marines in every clime and place. For NH we have partnered with Easterseals NH, and the festivities will be held at their new Military and Veteran Campus. This new campus is New Hampshire's first all-in-one space for service members, Veterans, and their families. The campus has been established to provide affordable housing, essential services, and outdoor recreation together in one supportive community. The partnership between the Marine Corps League and Easterseals is a great example of two organizations coming together to support Marine Corps Veterans and the continuance of our traditions. The campus has onsite hotel rooms that will be reserved for this event. The meal will be provided by a local restaurant "Alan's of Boscawen". Alan's has supported the Dillon Detachment for many years and is now able to expand into supporting all Marines in NH at this event. The cost of this event for Marine Corps League members plus one guest is \$0. Marines who are not members will receive a similar benefit with a \$50 refundable deposit. Other guests will be charged \$50 per person. How can we offer this event at no cost to Marines, glad you asked! This event is made possible by the New Hampshire Charitable Gaming and the Revo Casino and Social House in Lebanon. A portion of the revenue from the games played at Revo Casino and Social House from 7/20-7/29/25 will be distributed to DNHMCL, a portion of said money will be used to pay for our Birthday Celebration. Allowing **ALL** Marines to come and enjoy the Esprit de corps and fellowship as we honor the men and women who are serving today and those who served our country throughout the last 250 years!!



*Flag raising over the state house, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>*

To register for the ball:  
<https://nhmarines.org/marine-corps-250th-birthday-ball/>



*Passing of the cake to the youngest Marine*

**Monday November 10, 2025**

**Easterseals NH**

**Military and Veteran Campus**

**27 Holy Cross Road, Franklin, NH 03235**



Event made possible through the use of funds received from Charitable Gaming and the Revo Casino and Social House in Lebanon

**RevoCasino.com**

Problem Gambling? Call New Hampshire's Help Line at 1-800-724-5625. Must be 21 or older.



Revo Casino and Social House is a licensed and regulated gaming establishment. All gaming is subject to the laws of the State of New Hampshire. Revo Casino and Social House is not responsible for any losses incurred by patrons.





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## USMC 250th Birthday Celebrations Across the State of NH

**Flag Raising over the Statehouse**  
**Monday Nov 10th**  
**7:30 am formation**  
**8:00 am Raising Flag**  
**8:30 am Breakfast at**  
**Windmill on Loudon Road**

Department of NH Marine Corps League  
603-785-2665 [nhmarines1775@gmail.com](mailto:nhmarines1775@gmail.com)  
**No Cost**



**Kearsarge Marines (Grantham, NH)**  
**USMC 250th Birthday Luncheon**  
Forbes Tavern, Grantham, NH  
Saturday, 8 November 2025:  
11am – 2pm

Kearsarge Marines <https://kearsargemarines.com/>  
David Dunning  
Dunmark@tds.net 603-526-6939



**Manchester Expeditionary Brigade**  
**Monday, Nov 10th 2025**  
**10:30am to 2pm**  
**Derryfield Country Club -**  
**Manchester, NH**

Manchester Expeditionary Brigade  
Kimberly Lindberg (603) 296-0030  
[Kimberly.Lindberg@ampf.com](mailto:Kimberly.Lindberg@ampf.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064842062129>



**Department Marine Corps Ball**  
**Monday Nov 10th**  
**Easterseals Campus, Franklin, NH**  
**5:00 PM - 10:00 PM**  
**For More Information**  
<https://nhmarines.org/marine-corps-250th-birthday-ball/>

**Seacoast Birthday Dinner**  
**Monday, November 10, 2025**  
**Old Salt Restaurant -**  
**5:00 PM – 9:00 PM**  
[mclseacoast394@gmail.com](mailto:mclseacoast394@gmail.com)







# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Dave Hamilton Memorial Shoot Check Presentation

### CHESTER ROD AND GUN CLUB FUNDRAISER DONATION

*By Marge Romano*

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, under the direction of David "Doc" Freschi, the Chester Rod and Gun Club held a fundraiser shoot in memory of long-time club member, David L. Hamilton who unexpectedly passed away on February 18, 2025.



In David Hamilton's honor, a total of \$1675 was raised by the members. At the club's August membership meeting, a donation check of the \$1675 was presented to Eric Anthony, Commandant of the Granite State Detachment #542 Marine Corps League. The generous donation will enable the GSD#542 MCL to help make an impact in the many Veterans organizations that the Detachment supports.



## Building Dreams for Marines Check Presentation

### Building Dreams for Marines

In a continued show of support of Building Dreams for Marines' mission, the Granite State Detachment 542 of MCL presented our donation of \$2,000 at their Golf Tournament in August 2025.

This donation will help bring needed help to Marines in the greater Manchester, NH area.







# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## NH Troopers Check Presentation

In August, Eric Anthony, Commandant, Marge Romano, Paymaster, and Sara Steffen joined together for a check presentation to the NH Troopers. The Goffstown High School Mental Health Awareness Softball Game in memory of David Steffen, Sara's husband, raised \$241 and the Granite State Detachment matched the funds and together we donated \$500 to the NH Troopers Association.



## VA BINGO Afternoons

**Bingo at the VA Hospital is on the 3rd Sunday of the month.**

Each month the GSD 542 MCL members volunteer to help the residence of the VA to play bingo. If you are interested in helping your fellow veterans and have some fun in the process, please contact Joe Duquette.

**Our next Marine Corps Bingo will be on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025. We meet at the lower level parking lot at 12:30pm. VA Hospital at 318 Smyth Road, Manchester.**

Please call Joe Duquette if your available to volunteer. 603-540-9807







# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Free Dentistry Day for Veterans

Saturday, September 20, 2025 | 8AM - 1PM

**Rockingham Dental Group - Exeter, NH**

**16 Hampton Road | Exeter, NH 03833**

Veterans who do not have dental insurance but are in  
need of dental care can choose one:

**A FREE CLEANING, FILLING OR EXTRACTION!**

If you or someone you know is a veteran who would benefit from  
free dental care, please call to schedule an appointment:

**603-772-7874**

*Please bring your Military ID on September 20th*

Apeksha Jain, DDS  
Meaghan Collamore, DMD

General Dentists  
[rockinghamdentalgrouppexeter.com](http://rockinghamdentalgrouppexeter.com)

FLR0018/MSA





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Pennies for Pounds Fundraiser

### PENNIES FOR POUNDS 2025

Year three of raising funds for NH Veteran Charities!!!



I am a disabled veteran with traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. I have found weightlifting to be of great benefit to my mental health and PTSD. I have also found healing in giving back to the NH veteran community. Two years ago, I made the decision to combine my two methods of healing by fundraising for a weightlifting competition with the proceeds going to NH veteran charities. Last year, I was able to raise \$2500.00 which was divided evenly between two NH veteran charities: Homeland Heroes and Warriors at 45 North. It is my hope to exceed these amounts this year.

There are two ways to donate to Pennies for Pounds: a flat rate donation, or a chosen amount per pound resulting in a donation based on the total amount of weight I lift at the competition. While donations by check are accepted, donations through Eventgroove provide clear and transparent record keeping for all parties, assisting in alleviating concerns potential donors may have. 100% of the money raised goes directly to the charities.

With your help, I can reach my goal of exceeding my prior two years donations. 100% of funds raised go to the selected veteran charities and none of it is used for the competition or my expenses.

Please scan the QR code to access the donation website. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mjmartioski@yahoo.com](mailto:mjmartioski@yahoo.com) or 603-913-4959.

Sincerely,

Michael J Martioski Sr.







# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## GSD 542 Fundraisers

July 5, 2025 GSD 542 volunteers came out in force to support the MCL mission and raise funds to support veterans in the greater Manchester area. We had tables at the Market Baskets in Bedford, Hooksett, and Manchester. With the support of the patrons of Market Basket we raised fund that will go a long way to support fellow MCL members, Marines, and veterans in our service area. Below are some images of from this wonderful holiday weekend at the fundraising tables.



Kaylee Bass, Mary Ann Diekmann, Eric Anthony, and Pauly Labbe at Market Basket - Bedford, NH



Jim Ambrose and Kevin Brown at Market Basket - Hooksett, NH



Joe Duquette at Market Basket - Hooksett, NH

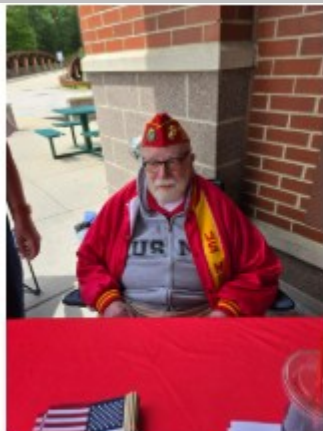


Steve White and Jo Zurwell at Market Basket - Hooksett, NH





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



Kevin Brown at Market Basket - Hooksett, NH



Joey Duquette at Market Basket - Hooksett, NH

August 30, 31st our members took some time out of their Labor Day weekend to cover the fundraising table at Bass Pro Shops in Hooksett, NH. Below are a few images from that fun weekend with the kids and dogs and patrons of Bass Pro Shops.

From one of our volunteers from Sunday, Jim Ambrose, wrote the following: "The event was conducted both Saturday and Sunday at Bass Pro. Other members of the Granite State detachment were there on Saturday.

It was a most enjoyable event as there were so many people interested in what we do to help veterans in New Hampshire. As always we give out mini "flags on a stick". Not only popular with the adults but the instant smiles of all the kids when presented with a flag was priceless!

As always, it was an honor to be part off his event.



Steve White, Marge Romano, and Kevin Brown



Steve White, Marge Romano, and Kevin Brown



Thank you to all the volunteers that came out for these two events. We look forward to seeing you and some new faces at the next fundraiser in November and in 2026 so that the GSD 542 MCL can continue to support Marines, veterans and the greater Manchester area.





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Discounts for Veterans

We are starting a list of businesses in our area that offer discounts to Veterans. If you know others please email us at [granitestatemarines542@gmail.com](mailto:granitestatemarines542@gmail.com).

**Bass Pro Shops** - Hooksett

**The Home Depot**

**Lowe's**

**Tucker's Restaurant** - Bedford, Hooksett, and Merrimack

**T-Bones** - Bedford, Derry, and Concord

**VIP's Tires and Service** - Bedford - offers discounts for veterans and offer free NH state inspections, check their website for other locations for their offerings.

For a list of Veteran Owned Business in NH please visit:

[www.veteranownedbusiness.com](http://www.veteranownedbusiness.com) they have a listing of discounts based on location.

**9/16/25 The Homeland Heroes Foundation (Limited time offer)**

[www.Homelandheroesfoundation.org](http://www.Homelandheroesfoundation.org) - they recently received a call from a local roofing company that would like to donate two new roofs to veterans in need. The company is willing to go from the Mass border to Rochester, NH. If you know of someone with this need please contact the editor of this newsletter **Jo Zurwell** and she will get the contact information.





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## New Facebook Page for GSD #542

Some of you may have noticed that back in May our Facebook page was no longer published on the social media site. It seems that someone attacked (hacked) our page and made it so that it was unpublished and no matter what we did to fix it, nothing worked.

Therefore, we have had to recreate our Facebook page with a slightly different page name.

## FUNday Breakfast



**Our next FUNday Breakfast is scheduled for September 27th.**

Please join us for our next FUNday breakfast at 0800 at the Airport Diner for the FUNday meet-n-greet breakfast @ 2280 Brown Avenue, Manchester to join in on all this fun!

## Veteran's Creed

The eight-point Veteran's Creed is:

1. I am an American Veteran
2. I proudly served my country
3. I live the values I learned in the military
4. I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow veterans
5. I maintain my physical and mental discipline
6. I continue to lead and improve
7. I make a difference
8. I honor and remember my fallen comrades

Source: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2018/6/veterans-organizations-establish-veterans-creed>





# NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Save The Dates

Detachment members and guests please post these dates and times to your calendars, in advance, so that you won't miss one of these upcoming events that may be important to you.

**Monthly Member Meeting - Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** at 1800 for the detachment meeting at the American-Canadian Genealogical Society at 1 Sundial Ave., Suite 317, Manchester, NH 03103.

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

October 14, 2025  
November 11, 2025 - Subject to change  
December 9, 2025

**Monthly Breakfast - Every last Saturday** of the month at 0800 at the Airport Diner for the FUNday meet-n-greet breakfast @ 2280 Brown Avenue, Manchester.

### Upcoming Breakfast Dates

September 27, 2025  
October 25, 2025  
November 29, 2025

### Upcoming Events

**November 10th - Marine Corps 250th Birthday** - following events

- Marine Corps Flag Raising at the NH State House at 7:30am
- Followed by Breakfast at Windmill on Loudon Road, Concord
- Manchester Expeditionary Brigade - 10:30 am - 2:00 pm at the Derryfield Country Club, Manchester, NH
- Department Marine Corps Ball, 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm at the Easterseals Campus, Franklin, NH



# 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**





# RHODE ISLAND



## Birthday Ball

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY

15

AT 6 PM



Valley Country Club  
251 New London Ave  
Warwick, RI 02886

\$65 Adults - \$30 Children

Cash Bar - Grand Prize Raffle

Baked Scrod or Baked Stuffed Chicken

With Sausage and Spinach Seasonal Veg Medley and Mashed Potatos

Kids Meal Chicken Tenders and French Fries

Questions or for more information email [bucciatwood@rimcl.org](mailto:bucciatwood@rimcl.org)

Ticket Purchase Deadline 11/01/2025 - Formal Attire Requested







# RHODE ISLAND



Wayne Salisbury Presents a check at RI Stand Down



Joe Afonso, Mike Sepe, Dave Ferguson, Jane Deptula, and Wayne Salisbury at the RI Veterans Cemetery for the 9/11 Remembrance Day







# VERMONT



Vermont held it's annual coffee stop @ the Vermont Welcome Center on I-91 in conjunction with our Ladies Auxiliary.





## A Brotherhood Forged at Parris Island - 71 Years of Semper Fidelis:

PDD Stephanie Abbott

In 1954, during a time when boot camp was governed by fewer rules and even fiercer discipline, two young men from Connecticut found themselves assigned to the same eight-man tent at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina. John Harding, a spirited 6'2" recruit classified as overweight, and Domenic "Dom" Falcon, a 5'10" underweight young man, were paired together by the Drill Instructors. The pairing was strategic—John was instructed to pass portions of his chow to Dom, ensuring both recruits met the weight require-

ments of the Corps. Over the grueling 14-week training cycle, John and Dom forged a friendship that would stand the test of time. They endured the hardship of Parris Island together, growing ship, sweat, and discipline into brothers. Following graduation, both Marines attended MOS school to become radio forward observers.

Upon completion, their paths diverged geographically but remained aligned in purpose. John was assigned to the 1st Air Naval Gun (ANGLICO), based in Hawaii, and deployed to Korea and Lebanon to assist Allied Forces with forward observation. Dom, meanwhile,

served honorably for three years at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Despite being stationed apart, John and Dom remained in close contact throughout their active-duty service and beyond. Their bond only deepened with time. John stood as an usher in Dom's wedding, and they continued to check in with one another regularly over the decades—a reflection of the enduring Marine ethos: no Marine left behind, in war or in peace.

Today, Dom is a member of Pound 141, Connecticut Pack, and John proudly serves in Pound 306, North Carolina Pack. This summer, John will celebrate his 91st birthday—a testament to his strength, resilience, and unwavering Marine fighting spirit. A former member of the National Marine Corps League Staff, John stepped aside in recent years to make way for a new generation of Marines, though he remains active and proclaims that he "never sees himself slowing down." In the lead-up to the National Convention in West Virginia, John—already a Pedigreed Devil Dog (PDD)—learned that Dom had submitted his Advancement Form to go up for PDD. Without hesitation, John took the initiative to become a Dog Handler and arranged to be in Dom's platoon, standing by his side once again after more than seven decades of camaraderie. This story is more than just a friendship—it is a living example of the Marine Corps' unbreakable spirit of brotherhood, loyalty, and Semper Fidelis. Seventy-one years since they first met at Parris Island, John and Dom remain as close, proving that while Marines may not all be related by blood, we are eternally bound by something far stronger: the title of United States Marine.



PDD John Harding (left) and PDD Domenic Falcon (right)  
National Convention West Virginia after Dom picked up his PDD

Semper Fidelis Marines.





# VERMONT



Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our celebration of our 250<sup>th</sup> birthday will be at the American Legion Post 5 on Linden Street, Brattleboro, VT. on Saturday, November 8, 2025, commencing at 17:30, with dinner served at 18:00. Our Guest of Honor is Retired Marine Colonel, Alan Faxon Jr. The charge is \$38.00/person for the dinner catered by Post 5. Customary Cake Cutting and other ceremonies will occur.

ALL ARE WELCOME

RSVP by November 1, 2025 to Sherry Garland

E-MAIL: [dmzhill861vn@gmail.com](mailto:dmzhill861vn@gmail.com) PHONE: 1-603-876-4822

Checks are payable to : MCL DET. 798 or pay at door.

SEND TO:

Respectfully submitted

Sherry Garland  
20 Gates Rd. Apt 30  
Marlborough, N.H. 03455

Committee  
  
Richard B. Hodgdon  
Norman VanCor  
Thomas Costello



# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



★ 10 ★  
Year Anniversary

Recognized by the  
Veterans Day  
National Committee  
Washington, D.C.

All proceeds benefiting local  
veteran service organizations



Race Day: Saturday, November 8, 2025

Join us in saluting and thanking our military veterans by being a sponsor

Opening Ceremony: 9:45am • Race starts at 10:00am

**PATRIOTS PARK**  
172 LAKE STREET • COVENTRY, CT 06238

**VISIT US AT [CTVETERANSDAYRACE.COM](http://CTVETERANSDAYRACE.COM)**

All sponsors and VSO recipients are invited to participate in the Awards Ceremony at 11:00am on race day.





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE SELECT  
YOUR CHOICE

☐ GOLD • \$3,000

☐ MILE MARKER • \$500

☐ GENERAL DONATION

☐ SILVER • \$1,500

☐ CONTRIBUTING • \$100+

### GOLD - \$3000

- Sponsor logo & website will appear on event website with a link.
- Sponsor will receive a full-page ad in the race brochure.
- Sponsor logo will appear on the back of the event t-shirt.
- Sponsor will have a 3' X 4' vinyl banner prominently displayed at race event.
- Sponsor will receive 5 event entries to include shirts.

### SILVER - \$1,500

- Sponsor logo & website will appear on event website with a link.
- Sponsor will receive a half-page ad in the race brochure.
- Sponsor logo will appear on the back of the event t-shirt.
- Sponsor will have a 2' X 3' vinyl banner prominently displayed at race event.
- Sponsor will receive 3 event entries to include shirts.

### MILE MARKER - \$500

- Sponsor logo & website will appear on a 12" X 18" sign displayed on the race course.
- Sponsor logo & website will appear on event website with a link.
- Sponsor will be listed in the event brochure.
- Sponsor logo will appear on the back of the event t-shirt.
- Sponsor will receive 1 event entry to include shirt.

### CONTRIBUTING - \$100

- Sponsor logo & website will appear on event website with a link.
- Sponsor will be listed in event brochure on race day.

### GENERAL DONATION - \$

**To meet production deadlines, please submit your donation by October 17th!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

All contributions will help our veteran organizations continue their missions to serve. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law. The Connecticut Veterans Day Race, Inc. is a non-profit organization, EIN #88-1807752.

Please return the enclosed form to:

**CT Veterans Day Race**

P.O. Box 262, Coventry, CT 06238

*\*Make checks payable to CT Veterans Day Race*



For more information contact:

**Jamie DePaola, SgtMaj, USMC (Ret)**

860.985.2064 • admin@ctveteransdayrace.com

OR  
Scan Here  
to Donate  
Online



VISIT US ONLINE  
[CTVeteransDayRace.com](http://CTVeteransDayRace.com)



# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



## THE “CT VETERANS DAY RACE”

### HONORS AND SALUTES ALL WHO SERVED

The mission of the CT Veterans Day Race is to support the Connecticut veteran community, especially those most in need. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, they will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of honoring and supporting CT veterans. Veterans Day is a great time for all Americans to salute our military veterans and say, “thank you.” MCL member, Peter DePaola, is the Race Director and organizer for the event. He, and his wife Jamie, founded this event in 2016 to not just honor our veterans, but to raise funds and awareness for the VSOs who directly help the underserved veteran community.

Since they began in 2016, the CT Veterans Day Race has donated over \$100,000 to 18 different Veteran Service Organizations in CT. Even with the recent economic challenges we’ve experienced, one thing that remains true and strong is the human spirit and the willingness to give, to help, and to support others. 100% of the race proceeds are donated to CT Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) who serve the needy and homeless veteran community.

The patriotic opening ceremony begins at 9:45 a.m. and features the UConn ROTC Color Guard and Rubyfruit A Cappella choir from UConn singing the National Anthem. The race begins promptly at 10 a.m. and offers both live and virtual options in the 4-mile course, 3-mile walk, or the 3-mile ruck sack. Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected for the “Vittles for Veterans” Food Pantry at Veterans Base Camp, and daily essential items will also be collected for the homeless veteran population for “Backpacks for Life” program.

Check out the event’s website at [www.ctveteransdayrace.com](http://www.ctveteransdayrace.com) to learn more. Please join the festivities of the day by being a sponsor, or by participating either in the run, walk or ruck or as a patriotic spectator or along the route cheering on the runners. There’s something for everyone to celebrate and support veterans on Veterans Day. Please share the good news!

In this 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of so many Branches of the Military, please participate in this event in any way that your circumstances will allow. If not physically then monetarily.

Jamie DePaola





# NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



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

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

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

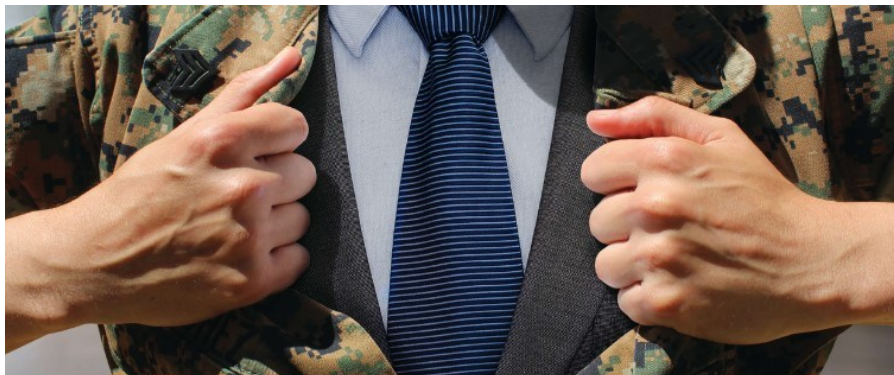
work group.

**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 FOR LIFE



## MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

### New England Marine For Life Team

*Upcoming Networking Events with the  
New England Vets Gathering*

The Point  
147 Hanover Street  
Boston, MA

**Sept 18, 2025**

**Oct 16, 2025**

**Nov 20, 2025**

**6 - 9 PM**

Join the M4L  
Northeast Regional  
LinkedIn Group



SCAN ME



# MARINE FOR LIFE



JOIN US!



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025**

**WORLDWIDE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MILITARY COMMUNITY !**



**\*\*VETERANS, SERVICEMEMBERS & SPOUSES!! \*\***

**VIRTUAL EMPLOYER SHOWCASE EVENT**

**ENTRY TIME: 11:15 AM (MST)**

**START TIME: 11:30 AM (MST)**

**REGISTER HERE!!!**



**NUMBERS DON'T LIE**

<b>112,000+</b> # of Military Service Members, Spouse, and Their Families Have since 2000	<b>2 MILLION</b> Total Jobs Available from Direct Employers and 50 Employer Partners
<b>700-900</b> New Registrations a Week	<b>189,000+</b> # of Training Classes Completed Since 2000
<b>50,000</b> Training Courses Completed in 2024	<b>\$7 BILLION</b> ANNUAL Impact on Economic Impact We are distributed in the region







For the past 15 years, FourBlock has been helping veterans answer this question—and more—through a structured, relationship-based career transition program that meets them at the intersection of purpose, skills, and opportunity.

Swipe to see how our 2024 and 2025 participants answered -->

What's striking is that these are not just tactical gains—they are personal breakthroughs. Veterans aren't simply becoming better at resumes; they're becoming better at navigating uncertainty, building trust, and seeing themselves as the valuable professionals they truly are.

This isn't accidental. FourBlock's model is built around real-time exposure to employers, cohort-based learning, and a lifelong community of alumni and mentors who have walked the same path.

If you're a transitioning veteran, an employer seeking talent, or a leader who believes in purpose-driven work—there's a place for you at FourBlock.

"FourBlock is the veteran transition and career readiness program every veteran deserves." — Will, U.S. Marine Corps veteran

Applications for the upcoming cohort are open now: <https://lnkd.in/gJE3uPWN>



# MARINE 4 LIFE



## MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

Connecting transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service.

ONCE A MARINE,  
**ALWAYS A MARINE!**

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



Career & Technical  
Opportunities



Educational  
Opportunities



Entrepreneurial  
Endeavors

## NETWORKING IS KEY

### Linked in



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

### Face to Face Network



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

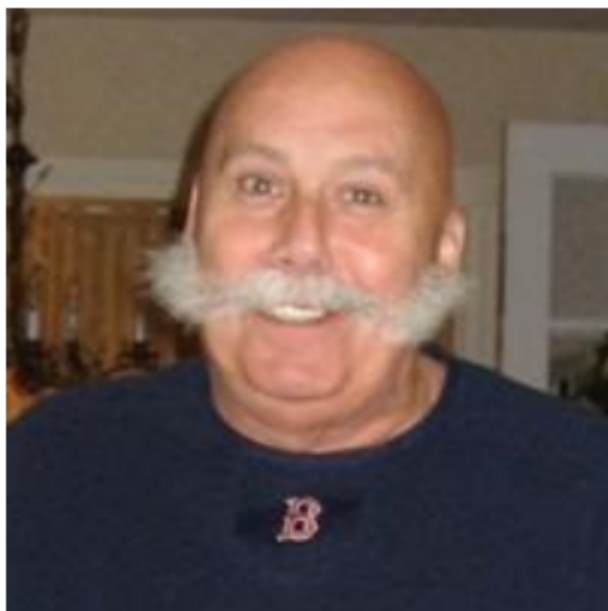
[company/marine-for-life-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network)

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

866-645-8762

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





**Robert "Bob" Renda**  
**July 15, 1945 - July 5, 2025**

Robert "Bob" Renda, 79, of Marco Island, Florida, passed away on Saturday, July 5th, 2025. He was born on July 15, 1945, to Irene (King) and Salvatore Renda. Bob was raised in Chelsea, MA and was a graduate from Chelsea High School, where he was voted "Best Looking". He was a football star and held state records in track and broad jump. Bob went on to attend college at Kansas University, where he ran track and played football before he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He proudly defended his country, completing two tours in Vietnam. Bob married the love of his life, Bonnie (Solomon) of Revere, Ma on July 22, 1977. The couple had a son Ted and raised their family in Revere. Bob spent his career working as a carpenter for the local 218 and as a court officer for Lynn District Court.

MCL members at the Honor and Firing detail for Robert Renda at the NH State Veterans Cemetery on Wednesday 7/16/25. Not shown are two American Legion members in full dress that performed the firing detail with us. Bob Niver, Eric Anthony, Dick Lak, Robert McCain, and Mike Martioski.

Bob Niver was the commander for the detail and all went very well and professional.



Howard R. Cox, 81, of Dunbarton, NH, passed away Monday July 21, 2025 at home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on May 15, 1944 in Reading, MA, a son of the late Howard G. and Evelyn (Rogers) Cox. He had been a resident of Dunbarton for the past 7 years, formerly living in Derry, Manchester, Clermont FL and Crystal River, FL. Howard proudly served his country in the US Marines where he served as a helicopter mechanic HMH461. He spent a long career as a computer programmer before pursuing a career as a corporate pilot. Howard was a member of the Rotary Club International and received the Paul Harris Fellow Award.



**Harold R. Cox**  
**May 15, 1944 - July 21, 2025**

The MCL of NH came together at the Forest Hill Cemetery, East Derry to perform an military Honors detail, with two Marines to perform the flag folding ceremony. Below are some images from this morning with the MCL members Mark Lindsey, Eric Anthony, Richard Pettengill, Jim Ambrose, Brad Howe NCOIC, and Jim Covatis on the bugle.





# 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



**Do you see the need for coaches, mentors, and positive role models in your community?**

***You already are one!***

**Do you want to help today's youth achieve their potential and become tomorrow's leaders?**

***Then you want to work with the Young Marines!***

***SINCE 1959 - BE PART OF THE LEGACY***

---

All information and manuals will be available to you once the application is started.

If you need more information or assistance,

contact us at [resources@youngmarines.org](mailto:resources@youngmarines.org) or 800-7170060 x215





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

## **THE COLONEL**

**David "DOC" Freschi**

**Read about your passing  
Silver Star on that last battle  
We never had much interaction  
Pretty far down the totem pole I was  
Wondered how anybody could be such a straight  
arrow  
Squared away always, aloof, demanding  
Always surprised, the places you'd turn up  
Walking posts in jungles' night, a quiet word  
Dropping into sick bay, quiet glances at corpsmen  
Read the citation, enemy broke the lines  
Overrunning, the next chapter coming  
You, a full colonel, grabbed a squad  
8-10 young marines and the CO  
Sealed the line and bloodied Charlie  
Battalion held and moved the enemy, to defeat  
Your humanity too, I saw  
The flick of pain moved across your face  
As those pink forms you signed, your lost troops  
And I saw goodness and leadership**

### **To understand a Marine you must know:**

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.  
We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.  
We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.  
We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.  
We found new friends and a new family.  
We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race, or creed.  
We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.  
We didn't get enough sleep.  
We smoked and drank too much.  
We picked up both good and bad habits.  
We worked hard and played harder.  
We didn't earn a great wage.  
We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.  
We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.  
We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.  
We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.  
Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.  
Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.  
We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.  
We participated in time-honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.  
We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.  
We have dealt with victory and tragedy.  
We have celebrated and mourned.  
We lost a few along the way.  
When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.  
We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.  
We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.  
We speak highly of our own branch of service and poke fun at the other branches.  
We know, however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.  
Being a Marine is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.  
It has no monetary value, but at the same time, it is a priceless gift.  
People see a Marine and they thank them for their service.  
When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.  
So, from myself to the rest of the Marines out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country.  
Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.  
Share your stories.  
But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Marine.  
I'm a Marine Are You?

*Semper Fidelis*



# HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



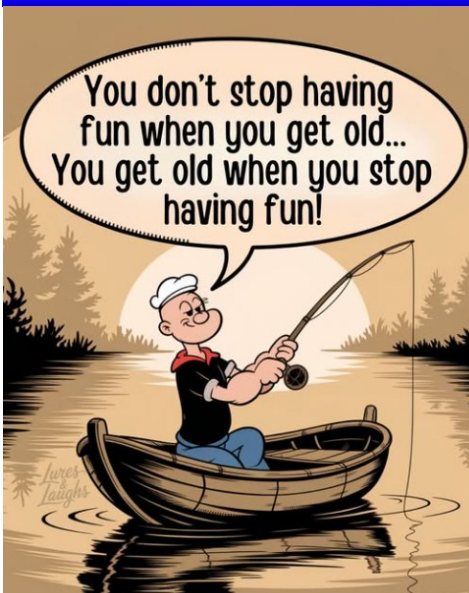
**I went for a run but  
came back home  
after 2 minutes  
because I forgot  
something.**

**I forgot that I'm fat  
and can't run for  
more than 2 minutes.**



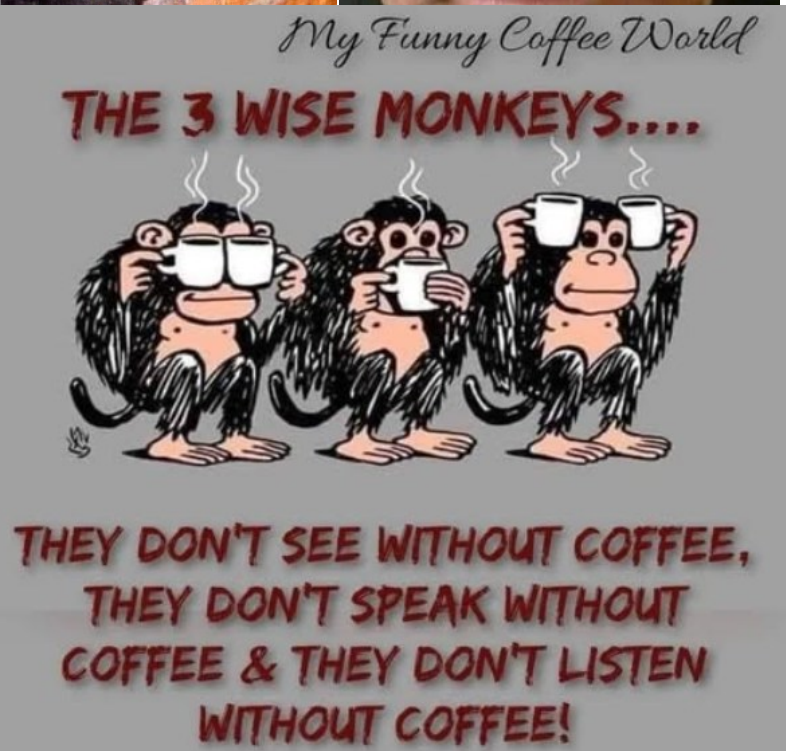
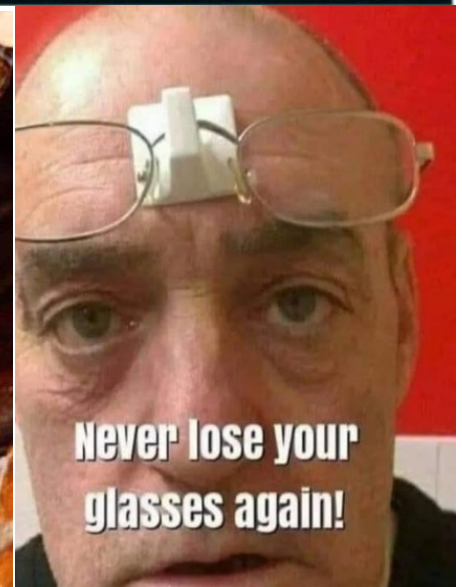
**I'VE COME TO THE  
CONCLUSION THAT MY  
MEMORY IS LIKE AN  
ETCH-A-SKETCH...**

**I SHAKE MY HEAD AND  
FORGET EVERYTHING.**



**There Are  
Fourteen  
Muscles  
Activated  
When You  
Pour A  
Cup Of  
Coffee**

**Fitness Is My  
Passion**







## Building a strong relationship to secure the future

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

### **Resources:**

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

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

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

[Term Life Insurance](#)

[TRICARE Supplement](#)

[Dental Insurance](#)

[Vision Insurance](#)

[Pet Insurance](#)

[Long-Term Care Insurance](#)

[Medicare Insurance Plans](#)

[Individual and Family Health Insurance Plans](#)



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

### **Networking Opportunities:**

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

### **Professional Development:**

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

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

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





# RECRUITING “IT’S JOB ONE”!!



**We Honor Those Who Came Before By Making Every Moment Count Semper Fidelis.** Did you ever see this quote? You don't have to be a hero in combat to achieve this. You don't have to be the person that recruits a thousand new members. You can actually be the Marine that does their job and lives the mission every day. Recently there has been a flood of advertising on FaceBook and TikTok for the Marine Corps League. Have you seen these:



These are video's on Facebook and TikTok set to music and some of them contain lots of details about the League and the Mission we carry out here. For quite some time we faced an ongoing problem that no one has heard of the league. To-day, thanks to these fewer and fewer people can make that claim. When trying to attract new members please don't hesitate to use them. Try making a few of your own, I've done it and I have had one that got over Two Thousand Views. The pictures and the music make it all work. Pick a video that you feel will work for you, copy the web address for that video and put it on the back of your business card, so that when the perspective member leaves they have your card and the video. You can also put the web address on the card

for the Newsletter. If you are at an event such as roses or recruiting ask people to sign up for our Newsletter and each time it comes out you can send them a copy to keep in touch. Just because they don't join today doesn't mean they won't join tomorrow.

Remember, **We Honor Those Who Came Before By Making Every Moment Count.** We do this by recruiting new members, helping our Veterans, providing honors to our Marines who have passed on, and serving our community. These videos put us in the light that the Marine Corps League deserves to be seen in. They show activity, helping Marines, Serving the community, a full and active body of our membership. As we come together to celebrate 250 year of service as Marines, let us renew our pledge to the mission of service and honor to all who have come before us, to our brothers and sisters who serve with us now, and the future of our League, that it may continue to grow and prosper to enable us to continue being a community of service, and we leave No Marine Behind. Remember I said you don't have to be a hero in combat, or recruit a thousand Marines, we build our Corps, one member at a time. We improvise, We adapt, We overcome, We Are United State Marines, Semper Fidelis.

Walt Benson



DO YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

JOIN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

**MARINES  
WANTED**

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







# 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 the spotlight shines on Liz Anderson and her faithful assistant David Porter. At the National Convention, Liz presented a check for \$2000.00 to Col. Bill Davis from the Young Marines. The money was raised from the sale of T-shirts with a check list of things to see and do at the Convention. This to me was something that was extremely notable since I have never seen a donation presented at the convention from a person rather than a Division, Department, or Detachment. Now true both are members, bur again I have never seen it at this level. Liz has previously done another fundraiser at a convention where she enlisted a beauty parlor to offer make up and hair styling to the women attending the Convention. I guess you have to do things more than once to get my attention as there are no one-offs in the spotlight. I am sure there was a lot of thought and work that went into this project and maybe this type of activity is something others may want to explore for many reasons. It would get more people involved in the everyday of the Convention. IT would increase the comradery among more people, making them feel more of a part of the group. As it stands now, most of the wives and significant others spend their days seeing the sights and running errand. However, this is not organized so they



spend time planning where they want to go and who wants to go which wastes a lot of time. Quite a few of these wives and significant others are associate members but do not attend any of the meetings, even though there are parts of the meetings they would be interested in, such as future locations for the convention, and some of the other programs that could use support.

In addition to all of that, these two people are some of the warmest and welcoming people I have ever met. They are positive and always take the high road in dealing with emotions and situations. From the time I joined the Division I have felt appreciated and accepted. When they say New England is a Family, nothing could be more true because even now that our leadership has changed, the comradery and family aspects of it have not. I'm pretty big on symbolism. On my Facebook page there is a photo with two flags and the quote, "These are my People, This is my Tribe". Well, when it come to translating that, The New England Division is my People, The Marine Corps League is my Tribe, that make these two "My People". **Semper Fidelis, Elizabeth Anderson, Semper Fidelis, David Porter.**



2025

OCTOBER

2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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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	
						





2025

NOVEMBER

2025



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						



# MID WINTER CONFERENCE



# FEBRUARY 2026



## SHERATON PENTAGON CITY HOTEL

- 900 South Orme Street Arlington, Virginia, USA, 22204

Hotel rate is \$131 per night plus tax

- Parking: On-site garage parking is \$10 per day
- Any cancellations after February 10, 2026, will forfeit the one-night deposit
- Free shuttle to/from Reagan Airport (DCA)

The hotel overlooks Arlington National Cemetery and is right near Henderson Hall and the Fort Myer Exchange.

**Wednesday** arrivals begin

**Thursday** some committee and board meetings

**Friday** general session

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

**Sunday** departures



## SCHEDULE







# 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 Department's participation and entries into the Americanism program.

**Department of CT**– Is seeking a VAVS NORTH and VAVS SOUTH. These positions 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.

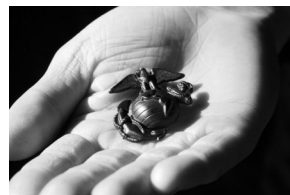
**New England Division**– is seeking a Auxiliary Liaison. This position needs to be filled by a strong individual who would basically bring the Auxiliary back to life. You would need good communication skills as well as drive and ambition.

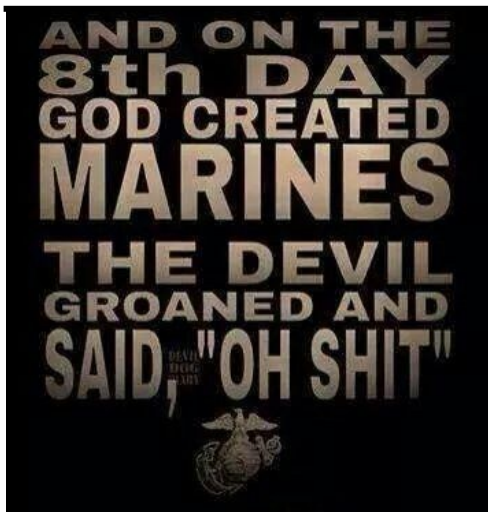
## The Marine Corps League Department of Connecticut

is honored to host the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps Cake Cutting Ceremony at The State Capitol North Lobby under the Rotunda on November 10 at noon. The Marine Corps Flag will fly over the Capitol that day to celebrate our illustrious 250th Birthday. Invitations have been extended to the I & I of the Marine Reserves Units in Plainville and New Haven. Other special invited guests include the Governor, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, national and state leaders. All Marines and their families are welcome to attend.

As our milestone Birthday approaches, there will be many reminders for you. While there are many keepsakes and coins to remember this special day, They will fall short of you actually being present at this event. There is no other service that will define the position of attention, offer a crisper or more reverent salute, than a United States Marine. Marines are a force of readiness, and since we never stop being Marines that force can be 18 years old coming out of boot camp, or 81 years old sliding into home, screaming "Hell of a Ride". Join us on November 10th at noon to salute our beloved Corps.

*Semper  
Fidelis*





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

