



December 2024 — January 2025

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 2



Message From The Division Commandant



Members,

I hope everyone had a fantastic time celebrating the 249th birthday of the Marine Corps! This year was especially memorable for me, as I had the honor of attending the Commandant of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Washington, D.C. It was truly an incredible experience, and I'm proud to have represented the New England Division. Looking ahead, next year's celebration promises to be even bigger and more impactful across the Marine Corps and the nation.

I also hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, filled with warmth, love, and gratitude. As we head into the holiday season, I wish you continued happiness, blessings, and cherished moments with those you hold dear. There are still positions that need to be filled within the Division.

They are:

New England Division Compliance Officer
Division Youth Physical Fitness liaison
mcleaguelibrary.org/youth-programs/youth-physical-fitness-ypf/

Ladies Auxiliary <https://nationalmcla.org/>

If you are interested or have questions about any of the above positions please reach out to me and I will answer them as best I can or will get the answer for you. I want to take a moment to remind everyone that the League's purpose is to make a positive difference. Whether it's supporting veterans, helping children, or contributing to the community, our focus is on doing good. It's not about titles or positions—many members are content to simply attend



meetings without holding a formal role. However, some choose to take on leadership positions because they want to make a meaningful impact and help their Detachment and Department thrive.

Lately, though, it seems that those in leadership roles have faced challenges with cooperation and unnecessary conflict. Leadership within the MCL is demanding, but we should all strive to support one another, not create obstacles. As Marines, we are built to help each other succeed, not contribute to failure. It's time for us to come together as a team, refocus, and remember the positive impact we can make

when we work in harmony. If you feel leadership is not performing at its best, there is always a proper process for nominations and elections. This may sound familiar, but it's important to reiterate. There are so many incredible opportunities for our League and its members to positively impact the community, and I truly believe that, as a Division, we can do even better. Let's continue to focus on our mission and the good we can accomplish together.

As we embrace the warmth and joy of the Holiday season, I want to take a moment to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas filled with love and laughter, and a New Year brimming with hope, peace, and new beginnings.

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



New England Division Contact Information 2024 – 2025



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



New England Division Contact Information 2024 – 2025



Div. MODD Liaison
VCDDMcMahon@gmail.com

Patrick McMahon
c-207-752-0025

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

Div. Auxiliary Liaison

OPEN

Div. Web Sergeant
Sgt_brooks@yahoo.com

Brian Brooks
413-768-0316

Dept of CT Commandant
Poppop.daigle@gmail.com

Rich Daigle
860-222-5024

Dept of MA Commandant
commandant@mcldeptofmassachusetts.org

Jon Zwirbilia

Dept of ME Commandant
flyfisherman@verizon.net

Peter Lubas
207-784-9633

Dept of NH Commandant
Mcl cody_dumont@melcara.com

Cody Dumont
603-785-2665

Dept of RI Commandant
bucciatwood@rimcl.org

Joe Afonso
401-454-9010

Dept of VT Commandant
mayersra1@outlook.com

Bob Mayers
802-626-8058

IMPORTANT

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

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

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

Send submissions to:

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

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

WHAT SHOULD I SUBMIT?

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

Walt Benson



2024 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION BIRTHDAY BALL AND VETERANS DAY



As the Birthday Ball season got under way, one lucky member of the Division and our National JV Commandant had the honor of attending the Commandant of The Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Pictured below are CMC General Eric Smith, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corp, Carlos Ruiz, with NVC New England Division Pat Maguire, and NJV Commandant David Porter.





2024 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION SEMPER FI BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



On Wednesday November 13th I had the honor of attending the Semper Fi Luncheon in Boston. The CMC General Eric Smith was the speaker, and this was attended by 1800 Marines along with some impressive dignitaries, General Kelly, three Medal of Honor recipients, The Marine Corps Band, sixteen poolee's to be sworn in by the Commandant. Marine Corps League Members from National, NE Division, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.



PNC Warren Griffin, CMC Gen. Eric Smith, Former White House Chief of Staff, Gen John Kelly USMC Retired.





MERRY CHRISTMAS NEW ENGLAND



Snow has so many beautiful properties that sometime go unnoticed. Snow covers the imperfections and scars life puts upon other things in our lives. There is also an eerie quiet after a snow storm and you seem to be alone with your thoughts. It brings beauty to the landscape covering the trees with a blanket of white as well as an icicle or two. On our monument it covers the horrors of war, the ugliness of blood and destruction. It leaves behind, our Marines, our flag and our memories

So as we celebrate this time of year and we enjoy the feelings of peace and prosperity, as we gather around our tables, sit by the tree or the fireplace, let us take pause. Remember our brothers and sisters serving in harms way. Let us remember our brothers and sisters who are sick or in distress. Let's not just remember them, but let us pick up a phone and call them, write them a card or a note. Let them know someone cares. We as Marines are always aware of others

because we consider each other brothers and sisters. We buddy check on others, it is part of our meetings, "are there any Marines or their families, sick or in distress"? We focus on Toys4Tots to make sure children in distress have a better Christmas. As we embrace the peace and comforts of the holiday season, let us spread that peace and joy to others. Let the few random acts of kindness act as the pure white snow and allow it to cover some of the ugliness of sickness and life. We personify our motto, Semper Fidelis, because it is a way of life to us. We are faithful to our Country, our Corps, our Brothers and Sisters and our families. We know that when all else fails, we have each other in the Corps, so with that in itself mandates that we do this for those Marines not as fortunate as we are. We say it, Semper Fidelis, we live it, we mean it.

And to all of you that I deal with all the time and those I only deal with occasionally or those I don't deal with at all, I wish you and your families a fantastic happy holiday and the healthiest of New Years. Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful, Always a Marine. May the spirit of Christmas reach into your homes and your lives and bring you peace and healing and that you in turn can spread that magic to your left and to your right.

Walt Benson



NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



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

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

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

Brian Gillespie



CONNECTICUT



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

I am disappointed that no one has stepped up to fill the Department Paymaster position. The role can be filled by a regular member or an associate member. It does not take an exorbitant amount of time and requires only six reports a year. It is critical that someone take over his duties so that Walt Benson can focus on his Senior Vice Commandant role.

I have asked several MCL members to accept the position and, so far, no one has said, "Yes." But I'm hopeful. We also need a New London County Commandant. It would be ideal if a Marine from the Thames River Detachment 1334 would take the position because Thames River is the only Detachment in New London County.

On a lighter note, I am extremely happy that the Southington Memorial Detachment 046 is in recovery mode. Sr Vice Walt Benson and I attended their meeting on 19 November to conduct their elections and swear in the newly elected and appointed officers. Congratulations to:

**Commandant Richard Roderick,
Sr Vice Commandant Rich Sorbello,
Jr Vice Commandant Joe Mayo, and
Judge Advocate Joe Salerno.**

Kudos and special thanks to Associate Members Melissa Wheelock, Adjutant/Paymaster, and Nicole Morin, Sergeant-at-Arms. These two young women exhibited Marine-like qualities and led the charge to re-establish the Detachment. I'm sure we've all been very busy with the Marine Corps birthday celebrations and Veterans Day parades and ceremonies. I know I was. I hope all our members spent quality time with other

Marines and military veterans. Our 2025 Department of Connecticut Convention and MODD Grand Growl will be held 27-28 June 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Glastonbury. Rooms are available to reserve now. You can call 1-877-782- 9444 and Department of CT MCL group rate or use group rate MCL25. You can also make your reservations at <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/deptofctmarinecorpsleague/>. The group rate is also available for 26 June, if you're so inclined. Tom Jackson, Commandant of the Housatonic Detachment 1129, will lead the effort for the hospitality suite. Now is the time to begin picking up goodies for the hospitality suite. AND prizes for our MCL and MODD raffles.

I hope to see everyone at our **next Department meeting on 1 December in Rocky Hill.**

Semper Fidelis.

Rich Daigle

Commandant

Department of Connecticut





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249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL BRASS CITY MEMORIAL DETACHMENT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES

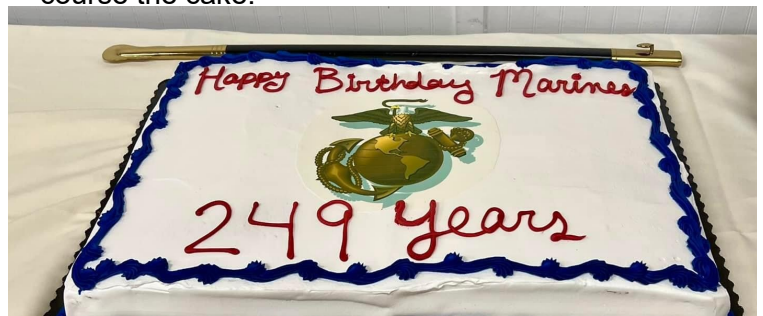


10 NOVEMBER 1775

SEMPER FIDELIS



MC, Detachment Commandant Jim Lauber < Blow L Renee Harvey, Guest of Honor, Below r, All Marines toast to Sam Beamon and Matty Giordano, and of course the cake.





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249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL BRASS CITY MEMORIAL DETACHMENT



The Marine Corp's birthday cake-cutting ceremony is important to all Marines, as it is an annual renewal of each Marine's commitment to the Corps . . . and the Corps' commitment to our nations quest for peace and freedom worldwide. The birthday cake is traditionally cut with the Mameluke sword, as a reminder that we are a band of warriors, committed to carrying the sword, so that our nation may live in peace. The Mameluke sword gets its name from the cross hilt and ivory grip design, similar to swords used for centuries by Ottoman warriors. The Marine Corps tradition of carrying this sword dates from Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon's assault of Derna, Tripoli, in 1805, where he is said to have won the sword of the governor of the city.

As is our custom, the first piece of cake will be presented to our guest of honor. By tradition, the second piece of cake is presented to the oldest Marine present. The third piece of cake is presented to the youngest Marine present. The youngest Marine present is also the guest of honor.





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CT VETERANS DAY RACE HONORS AND SALUTES OUR MILITARY VETERANS

Hundreds gathered at Patriots Park in Cove try on Saturday, November 2 nd , for the 9 th annual CT Veterans Day Race. The Park was full of excitement, energy and patriotism with over 300 participants registered for either the 4-mile race, 3-mile walk, or 3-mile rucksack on a perfect autumn day. "This is more than just a road race. The event honors the service and sacrifice of Connecticut's many veterans. It's an event to welcome them home and honor their service and sacrifice, as well as to share with the CT community some of the many services available to them through various Veteran Service Organizations." said Peter DePaola, Race Director, and MCL member of the Peter P. Monaco Jr. Det. 40.

This year the CT Veterans Day Race was selected by the Veterans Day National Committee in Washington, D.C. as the regional site for the Veterans



Day Commemoration. The opening ceremony was patriotic and motivating with the UConn Army ROTC providing the color guard followed by Rubyfruit A Cappel-la Choir, also from UConn performing the National Anthem. Meaningful remarks were provided by retired

Marine Corps Sergeant Major, John Ploskonka, about "what is a veteran". John Ploskonka is the Commandant of MCL Peter P. Monaco, Jr. Det. 40. Students from the UConn Crew and Sailing Teams and the Natchaug River Young Marines all volunteered to make the day a huge success. Additionally, active-duty Marines and Soldiers proudly set up their static displays in the park and enjoyed sharing their stories and knowledge with over 600 guests in Patriots Park. The park was filled with pride and respect for veterans.

Tim Ackert, President of the race committee, also shared the great news that since they began the race in 2016, over \$105,000 has been donated directly to 18 different CT Veteran Service Organizations. This year, 2024, \$20,350 was donated to six different organizations. Veterans Day is a great time for all Americans to salute our military veterans and say, "thank you," but also to discover a way to support the thousands of veterans in need. In addition to financial donations, there





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VETERANS DAY RACE CONTINUED



Choir, also from UConn performing the National Anthem. Meaningful remarks were provided by retired Marine Corps Ser-

were overflowing bins full of non-perishable food items and daily essential items for the homeless and at-risk veteran; all donated by race participants and the local communities.

The CT Veterans Day Race provides the opportunity to show our American pride to the many military service men and women. We all say, "Thank you for your service, and welcome home." CT Veterans Day Race Honors and Salutes our Military Veterans Hundreds gathered at Patriots Park in Coventry on Saturday, November 2nd, for the 9th annual CT Veterans Day Race. The Park was full of excitement, energy and patriotism with over 300 participants registered for either the 4-mile race, 3-mile walk, or 3-mile rucksack on a perfect autumn day. "This is more than just a road race. The event honors the service and sacrifice of Connecticut's many veterans. It's an event to welcome them home and honor their service and sacrifice, as well as to share with the CT community some of the many services available to them through various Veteran Service Organizations." said Peter DePaola, Race Director, and MCL member of the Peter P. Monaco Jr. Det. 40. This year the CT Veterans Day Race was selected by the Veterans Day National Committee in Washington, D.C. as the regional site for the Veterans Day Commemoration. The opening ceremony was patriotic and motivating with the UConn Army ROTC providing the color guard followed by Rubyfruit A Cappella

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SgtMaj. Jamie DePaola



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249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING BRIDGEPORT MEMORIAL DETACHMENT



Staff at Tashua Knolls



Dept. Commandant Rich Daigle, Bridgeport Commandant Adele Hodges, MajGen James Battaglini, Housatonic Commandant , Tom Jackson



Gunny Alan Storms And Bridgeport Commandant Adele Hodges



PDC David Rosa, George French, Roy Molgard



The Bpt Military Academy's Navy JROTC or Guard/ LtCmdr Travis Brewster



Janet and Rich Daigle, Connie Lauber, Jane Col-Dougherty, Jim Lauber.



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249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING BRIDGEPORT MEMORIAL DETACHMENT



Housatonic Commandant Tom Jackson,
Housatonic SVC Ray Cruciani , Dept Commandant
Rich Daigle



Family and Friends



Teri Benson, New England Division Adjutant Walt
Benson Bpt Chaplain Mike Bolash, and Wife



Joe Kubic and Wife, and assorted friends and
Friends

Bottom Tables friends and family





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249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING BRIDGEPORT MEMORIAL DETACHMENT



On November 14th The Bridgeport Memorial Detachment and the Housatonic Detachment Combined to celebrate our Birthday, in a simple cake cutting ceremony. The evening included Gen Lejunes letter, The MCL Commandants Message, and the commandant of The Marine Corps Message. A speaker MajGen James Battaglini, a Raffle, a presentation by Jane Dougherty of a quilt of Valor to the General.. A great time was had by all.



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HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT VETERANS DAY



Hardware City Veterans Day Ceremony. Larry Sekscenski, John Reek, Merriam Wilson, Fred McGoldrick and, Squad Leader Rich Michaud. On the right John Lynch, and New Britain Mayor, Erin Stewart.



HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT TOYS 4 TOTS



Hardware City Detachment Toys 4 Tots attended a concert at Central Connecticut State University, where they collected 5 boxes of new toys. MCL Members, Al Urso Detachment Commandant, Rivers McCallop, Brendan Boyle, And Ray Burrington. The Marines from Fox Company in Plainville will appear again in the next newsletter as I did not have



their names. The Marine Corps League is always looking for a few good Marines! But still Ooh-rah Marines!!



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HOUSATONIC DETACHMENT VETERANS DAY PARADE



BRASS CITY DETACHMENT TOYS 4 TOTS



Brass City Toys 4 Tots. Antonio Pina, Joe Oneil, Dom Falcone, Jim Lauber Det Commandant Skip Hammel, and Bob Bozzuto. Above left Commandant Jim Lauber with Rick and Lisa accepting a large donation of toys.



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FROM THE CHAPLAIN



LIVING THE MARINE CORPS VALUE OF HONOR

Honor, Courage, Commitment. These are our core values and are the standard that guides every Marine throughout their lives.

As stated on the website "Marine.com" the first of the core value is HONOR. This value is fundamental to the character of Marines and veterans and is a

guide for our behavior. Honor guides Marines to exemplify the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior. Never lie, never cheat or steal; abide by an uncompromising code of integrity; respect human dignity and respect others. Honor compels Marines to act responsibly, to fulfill our obligations, and to hold ourselves and others accountable for every action. Our values are defined by the way they are lived. HONOR our fellow veterans: "Give honor to whom honor is due." (Proverbs 3:27-28). As Marine Corps League members, we help others when we offer encouragement, see their value, and speak well of others. Not only is this doing a good deed, but we are doing what God expects us to do. We can honor others with uplifting words or positive actions. Reaching out to a fellow veteran is a powerful way to bless others. (IGY6). Give to others with words or actions, and we too will be healed. HONOR our departed: It is our duty, and an hon-



or, to remember our departed MCL Members. To share this news with others, complete the Notice of Death (NOD). The following is the sequence for submitting the NOD.

1) Detachment Chaplain fills out the form then sends a copy to the Department Chaplain (my email is pdepao-

lasr@gmail.com). Retain a copy for the detachment records.

2) The Department Chaplain is responsible to

send a copy to the Marine Corps League National Headquarters and the MCL National Chaplain, (MCLnationalchaplain@gmail.com) retaining a copy for department records.

3) The Detachment Paymaster must attach this form when submitting a Notice of

Death via Transmittal.

Use the PDF fillable form: https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/08/Notice-of-Death_2021_new.pdf

S/F

Peter DePaola

Chaplain

Department of CT



MASSACHUSETTS



SURPRISE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY VISIT

Plymouths' Detachment 1306 made a surprise Marine Corps Birthday visit to two elderly Marines in a nursing home on Cape Cod. An employee identified two Marines in the home for us, who



may no longer have the bodies of Marines, but they both still had the mind and spirit of Marines. They did not know we were coming. They were brought into a recreation room not knowing what was going on. We walked into the room with a Marine Corps Birthday cake, Birthday t-shirts and Birthday coins. General LeJeune's message was read and one of the Marines, Leo, started

singing the Marine Corps Hymn which we all joined in with. A K-Bar

was brought to cut the cake with. Memories were traded and there were laughs and Marine Brothers met for the first time. One of the Marines Leo Piscatelli, has his wife visit on a regular basis. When she came a few hours later he couldn't wait to tell her that "The Marines came to see me!" Oh, and he asked her to take home his birthday t-shirt to shrink it so it would fit.

Semper Fi to those two Ma-

Jay Beauregard
Commandant, Det #1306
Plymouth, Massachusetts



rine. Our history lives on.



MASSACHUSETTS



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



December 2024 Oo-rah Marines,

I pray this newsletter finds you all well. 249 Years for the Few, the Proud, the Marines I want to send you all a huge 249th Birthday Wish along with my prayer for all Marines; but first...a reminder that we are entering into the "Giving" season of the year.

Toys for Tots is in full swing. Please, if you are able, find a way to participate in this yearly event that blesses so many needy families. I have several Toys for Tots boxes scattered around my area and I check them weekly. In addition, I will be joining other Detachment Marines in uniform for multiple roadside collections. I love participating in this event, because I was once in a similar needy situation and it does my heart good to see others receiving

this blessing.

Thank you in advance for all you do And now, my prayer for all Marines in celebration of 249 years of Honor, Courage and Commitment...

Supreme Commandant:

Thank you, Thank you for every single Marine

Because every single Marine embodies... Semper Fidelis. Always faithful

Always faithful...to their oath and to the call

In the face of putting our own lives at risk, the Few, the Proud, are...Always faithful to God, Country and Corps 249 years of war fighting has come at a high price...we recognize the ultimate sacrifice of our Fallen Marines;

We recognize the high price, often in the currency of wounds, both evident and not so evident. For these Marines, we thank you for your sacrifice - and offer a special Birthday wish.

Supreme Commandant, for every active and inactive Marine...serving domestic and foreign...we ask for your Divine presence.

For 249 years, as Supreme Commandant...

You have sustained us,

You have protected us,

You have stood guard over us,

You lead us and You heal us,

You neither slumber nor sleep as You watch over us.

Because of You, we celebrate OUR 249th Birthday

Because of You, we have the confidence of tomorrow

Because of You, we are inspired to defend Your cause with Honor, Courage, and Commitment

So with the very breath You provide:

We give You thanks ...and to all United States Marines

Semper Fidelis

Happy Birthday

Oo-rah

Semper Fidelis

Ed Yung

Chaplain

Department of MA



MAINE



MAINE MCL DETACHMENT #1324



Marine Corps League Southern Maine Detachment #1324 participated in the dedication of Veterans' Memorials for five recently identified U.S. Infantry Prisoners of War from the Battle of Queenston (Canada), October 13, 1812. Commandant David Close spoke and the League provided Honor Guard detail.

According to a 1987 memo by John DiPaulo: *"The story of the mass grave goes back to December 23, 1812 when the British warship, HMS Regulus, en route from Quebec to Boston with American soldiers taken prisoner at the battle of Queenstown, put into the Port of Portland under flag of truce and anchored. Many of the prisoners aboard were sick with fever, malnutrition and dysentery. The 24 most severely ill were landed and housed in the Town Hospital on the Eastern Promenade on December 29th, according to the old records. Within a month, 21 of these prisoners had died. They were buried in a mass grave at the foot of Quebec Street. The bronze plaque affixed to the boulder that marked the site was imprinted with the names of the soldiers buried there in 1887."*

Seven additional unnamed soldiers were also buried there.

In the mid 1980's, Marine Corps League Weeman Detachment #369's 1st Vice Commandant Carl Helstrom and Chaplain Gene Burchill with the help of the Maine Army National Guard of Portland undertook restoration of the War of 1812 Cemetery.

It was fitting that on October 13, 2024, 212 years after the Battle of Queenston, the Southern Maine Detachment #1324, MCL played a part in the dedication of the headstones of five recently identified soldiers buried there.



Detachment #1324 Honor Guard members stand before the 1980's F. J. Weeman Detachment #369 plaque at the 1812 Cemetery, Eastern Promenade, Portland, Maine.

From L to R: Commandant David Close, Jay McKenna, Fred Monsen, Richard Traiser, Marty Traiser and Dona St. Pierre.



Connie Harrison for Marine Corps League Southern Maine Detachment #1324



NEW HAMPSHIRE



U.S. MARINES - THEN, NOW AND ALWAYS - CELEBRATE THE CORPS' 249TH BIRTHDAY IN MANCHESTER

Retired Marine Warrant Officer Brian Westover cuts the cake Sunday with a traditional officer's Mameluke sword. He is flanked, from left, by Glen Thayer of Manchester, Paul Jones of Concord, Mark Lindsley of Henniker and Joe Duquette of Manchester. United States Marine Corps was not

just a remembrance of their comrades who gave their lives in service to God, this country and each other. It was a celebration of the enduring commission that has shaped their lives. "Most of us went into business because of what we learned as leaders —



the discipline," said USMC Cpl. Gary Gahan of Goffstown, who served in Vietnam and Cuba between 1963 and 1966. "The best thing that I ever did was join the Marine Corps," said Gunnery Sgt. Charles Boncore, 81, of Merrimack, who served for 21 years, including two back-to-back tours in Vietnam between 1963 and 1965. "It made me the man I am today. If I could go back in the Marines I'd do it now." It was a day of bonding and renewal of spirit and mission. New Hampshire's annual Marine Corps 'birthday party' started 41 years ago in 1983 when five Marines stood up at the Bedford Village Inn and sang the Marine Corps hymn on Nov. 10, in honor of the corps' official founding.

Today, the sole member of that five-man group is Bob Benoit of Epping, who eagerly stated what the Marine Corps gave him: "Discipline. Focus. Brotherhood" — intangible, irreplaceable things that have lasted his whole life. Today, Boncore is a member of a Marine Corps League in Naples, Florida, where he gives history talks about the Marine Corps and participates in flag raisings and ceremonies, including funerals and burials. His uniform shirt includes four rows of medals plus pins for being a rifle and pistol expert. "Once you're a Marine, you're a Marine until the day you die," Boncore said proudly. "When



you come out of Parris Island and Quantico, there's an internal bond that exists between Marines from then on that starts in boot camp and continues," said Warren Coughlin, a Coughlin served in Operation Desert Storm, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan during his

30 years in the Marine Corps Reserves before retiring as a master gunnery sergeant. He said that friendships and camaraderie were the most important things he got from being a Marine. property manager from Hanover, who came with three fellow members of the same Marine Reserve unit. Coughlin served in Operation Desert Storm, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan during his 30 years in the Marine Corps Reserves before retiring as a master gunnery sergeant. He said that friendships and camaraderie were the most important things he got from being a Marine. Today he runs a Toys for Tots fundraiser for two months each year. The Corps "does a good job of preparing people from all walks of life to be good citizens and to give back to society," he said. Edward Cilley, a Marine and pastor of Emmanuel Church in Rochester, read the Marines' Prayer. "Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose. ... 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. ... Help me to wear my uniform with dignity and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold." Pouliot, addressing the Marines from across New England who were gathered in the room, said, "It's a call to duty that never stops."



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Commandant Cody Dumont & Gov. with Birthday proclamation

Gov. & SRVC of Det 542 Sea Coast Det.

Gov. & Family who lost their father



Pancake cutting ceremony at Birthday Breakfast



Winnacunnet JROTC Color Guard



Det. Cmdt Dick Lak Speaks at the Seacoast 249th Birthday Celebration



JA Brad Howe the cake cutting Script while Cmdt Lak look on at Old Salt Restaurant Hampton NH



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Paymaster George Dow receives
The Det Marine of The Year



Commandant Dick Lak Cuts the Birthday Cake



Oldest Marine JPC Bob Niver pre-
sents the youngest Marine Sgt
Matayo Grondin a piece of cake



JA Elect Ken Mitchell reads Gen
Lejeune's, Message.



Sgt Matayo Grondin, reads
the POW/MIA table Com-
memoration.



GySgt Bob Selig (92) was the oldest
Marine present



GySgt Bob Selig &
Melissa Dumont



GySgt Bob Selig dancing with
daughter & granddaughter and
Melissa Dumont



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Dept Commandant Cody Dumont
& Melissa Dumont



Cmdt Dumont, Peter Nagy, Bryan
and Gunny , we will miss him
dearly



Dillon Det Commandant



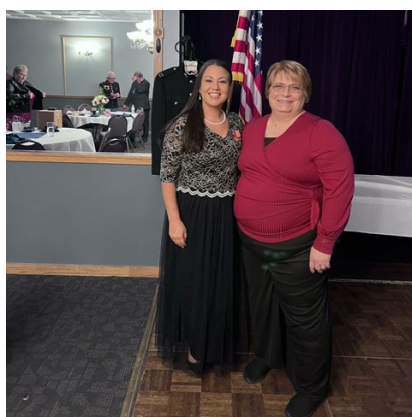
Gunny, his girl friend, Peggy
and daughter Emily



Gunny, his daughter, Meleny



Meleny and Emily



Cmdt Nagy & Melissa
Dumont



Cmdt Nagy & Melissa
Dumont



Dept JA Mike Martioski, Peter Nagy, and
Mark Lindsly



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Gunny Harnish daughter & Son in law



Peter Nagy reads the Birthday message



Gunny Danis and his wife Dept JA Reggie and his wife Wendy



RHODE ISLAND



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND



Audience viewing The Commandant of The Marine Corps Message



Commandant of Rhode Island Joe Afonso
awaits to be escorted into the Ball



Color Guard with Commandant Joe Afonso
Blow The Cake Escort



Detachment Commandant Dave Creamer, Department Com
Below Right Master Gunnery Sgt Impagliazzo Comman
dant Joe Afonso, Marine Paul Campbell





RHODE ISLAND



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND



Guest Speaker was Associate Member Wayne T. Salsbury jr. Detachment Marine of The Year Michael Sepe Sr. And Detachment Commandant David Creamer



Department Marine of The Year Keitty Almonte and
Department Commandant Joe Afonso
Below the Cutting of the Cake Commandant Joe Afonso

Department Associate Member of The Year Holly Oppenheim and Department Commandant Joe Afonso
Serving the cake to the youngest and oldest Marine





RHODE ISLAND



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND



Division Aide de Camp Larry Chretien
Dept Commandant Joe Afonso

Wayne and Carroll Salisbury
Gary and Elaine Rodenbaugh

Jessica and Lynn Maguire &
Dept Commandant Joe Afonso



Angelique Afonso & Natalia Nov

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Campbell

Lynn and Jessica Maguire



Dept Commandant Joe Afonso

Wayne T Salisbury Jr. Kietty
Almonte, Associate Member
of the year, Wayne Salisbury
MOY and Son.

Wayne T. Salisbury jr & his wife



RHODE ISLAND



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND



WOW can we get anymore Salisbury's?
Wayne Jr. Waye Sr. and Son
Below Larry Chretien and Marie



Wayne and Carroll Salisbury



Gary and Elaine Rodenbaugh
Below Angelique Afonso
and Denise Creamer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES





SCRATCHING'S FROM THE DOGS



MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

VICE CHIEF DEVIL DOG

PDD Patrick T. McMahon 14-365

E: vcddmcmahon@gmail.com C: 860.222.5024

Woof, Woof to all of you New England PDD's, DD's, Pup's and Mongrels (MCLeaguers yet to be Dogs). I am hopeful that this newsletter finds you and yours well. This is an exciting time of the year. Pounds have all had their elections (hopefully) as required by Kennel By-Laws. A new Pound Charter will be presented in the very near future {Congrats to Rhode Dogs Pound in RI}. We have an exceptionally enthusiastic new Kennel Dog Robber; PDD Helen Breen. Her contact information is: E: kenneldogrobber@gmail.com and I encourage every Pack Leader, Pound Keeper and dog robbers within the Division to reach out to her with any questions. She and her staff have done what for, for years. Streamline pa-



possible electronic. This is work side by side with our as they, and we, go about coordinators. many of us have been asking perwork, and make as much as also a GREAT time of year to MCLeague brothers and sisters working with our Toys for Tots

We have our Mid-Winter Growl in Dallas next August. Dogs to focus on advancing Pack Dg Robbers to ensure

Growl in February and Supreme It is never too early for you Devil to Pedigree. Check with your what you need, gets done in a

timely fashion. For my brother and sister Marines, I hope that we all had an enjoyable 249 th birthday. For us Vets, Veterans Day has come and gone, and a small event has restored my faith in our youth. My local high school hockey club had a hockey game honoring veterans and all veteran attendees attended for free. I had the privilege and honor of dropping the ceremonial puck (see pic). These kids were phenomenal around those vets in attendance. For those two stand-alone Pounds in NH and VT, reach out to me if you have questions about Devil Dogs in your Pounds wishing to advance.

In closing, I hope to see many of you as I try and travel to Pack and Pound Growls (MA Pack Growl in January), and remember, that the MODD is the FUN and HONOR society. I underscore honor to emphasize that we are ALL Marines or FMF who served with Marines, so discontent within our growls should be non-existent. From my family to yours, I wish for all of you to have a happy and safe holiday season.



FROM THE EDITOR



A STORY WORTH TELLING

Last night I attended a detachment meeting with my Department Commandant Rich Daigle to conduct elections and swear in the new officers. This detachment lost its commandant last spring due to personal family issues. They reached out to cease to exist. Through some hard back members who had stopped at new roster of detachment officers, and sion. Several Marines in the Department on how to proceed but these elite members who are no longer active, and why they cannot do this anymore but embrace our motto, and what the Marine Corps League is all about. I am so proud of this group that I cannot begin Everyone accepted their office with experience, some with health issues, but



to me as they did not want the detachment work on their part they managed to bring tending, and as of last night they have a the dedication needed to rise to the occasion stepped up to give advice and guidance few did all the work. We often chase after reluctantly listed to the long list of reasons here is a shining example of a group who

rine Corps League is all about. I am so to pay them the recognition they deserve. thusiasm and honor, some without any ex- fully determined to keep the detachment going, and building it back to a time where the detachment was much stronger than today. But stronger is a confusing term as you don't have to be able to run the confidence course to be strong or be a positive role model, you need to be present. What you have to offer can be given from a chair, a cart or a walker. Your mind and voice are powerful tools to recruit, motivate, and inspire new members. I've been here ten years and the people who talked to me, harassed me, and were brothers to me, I remember every day. Without those connections I would have never stayed, I would have never volunteered to do anything. Each one had declining health issues before they passed but they were here and active till the last day. Those were and are Heroes, and the members of the detachment we swore in last night are following in those footsteps. There was a scene from "Full Metal Jacket" where private Joker was promoted to squad leader and the DI said, that Joker was silly and ignorant but he had guts and guts was enough. If you have the guts we're saving a place for you.

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 YouTube and there are a lot of good topics to choose from





NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



WHY AM I HERE, IN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

If you thought the answer was going to be here, you are partially correct. I am going to tell you why I am here. It would be unfair for me to tell you why you are here. For that you need to look inside yourself, and who you are. I am a Marine, no better or worse than any other Marine in fact, for years I didn't feel I was as good a Marine as some and if I am being honest, had I found the Marine Corps League earlier, I might have felt different. But I am a Marine and as you know Marines are different. We hear a call to serve, and when we answer that call we find that this call never goes away as we come full circle to serve our communities when our time of active service is done. Just as when we first enlisted and answered the call from our country that they needed us, upon returning home we found that the people in our communities needed us as well. Just as in the Corps we fought for our brothers and sisters on our right and left, today, we do the same for our neighbors on our left and right. We honor our motto, Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful, Always Marines.

Today, we find ourselves with thinning ranks, but what is worse is a lack of participation since COVID. Now participation may not seem like a lot, but if others had not been active or participating I would not be here today. Someone brought me to a meeting to join, then early on someone got me involved and moving forward and then someone convinced me I could do more. Then later when I found myself involved with the Division someone else came along and asked, hey do you think you could do this? Your presence is vital and your participation is very much desired. The knowledge you possess, the stories you tell are important to all of us.

I was at the Semper Fi luncheon for the Marine Corps Birthday and one of the speakers said, "I want to thank all of the Vietnam Veterans, because you taught us how to treat veterans, and that what happened to you must never happen again". Today, you may have physical limitations that prevent you from doing things but you are so much more than the ability to march in a parade. '

I'll use Connecticut as an example as I know the numbers. We have 450 members, and we can't fill all of the officer positions in the Department, and Detachments, and attendance is down. You are a United States Marine and you will be one till the day you die. With that comes a responsibility to continue your mission, of service to your community, and your brothers and sisters in the league. We can make a difference to others and the contribution that you make is no less than the contribution I make. We each bring skills and talents to the table. I would love to do Funeral Honors, I think that contribution is great but I can't, so I will do other things as many as I can and help whoever I can. You have that same gift, if you come, others will come. The picture below is one that always captured



my attention. The old man in the foreground and the young Marine on the wall. We are that shadow on the wall, that young Marine lives in all of us, others may not see it but we feel it always.

So as you answer this question, and hopefully answer the call, Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful, Always Marines, and we are that to ourselves, our brothers and sisters, and our communities, Once a Marine Always a Marine.

Walt Benson

TAPS / MEMORIES / FAREWELL

ROBERT PJ GOULETTE AUGUST 19, 1942 - NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Robert Goulette, 84, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on November 6, 2024, at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, NH. Born August 19, 1940, in Berlin, NH, to the late Joseph A. Goulette and Lumina B. (Noel) Deschamps, Robert graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1960. Nicknamed "Boom Boom," he was a stand-out goalie for the school's hockey Championships from 1957-1960.

After high school, Robert Laflamme-Edwards, who also They had three children together "Carol Goulette". Robert served Corps and Reserves, receiving worked in law enforcement, Hampshire communities, including Hollis (Chief of Police, 1970– in Milford, Wilton, Greenville, Robert worked as a lineman and Co. and Northern Telecom before returning to NH in 2010 and had ans Home since 2016.

A proud Marine, Robert Marine Corps League, serving as Bangor area Det 1151), North Carolina (Forest City, NC Det 1221), and New Hampshire (Manchester, NH Det 542). Known for his humor and generosity, Robert touched many lives and will be greatly missed. Robert was predeceased by his former wife of 35 years, Anita (Sizemore) Goulette; his brothers, Raymond Goulette of Berlin, NH, Gerard Goulette of Dexter, NY, and Arthur A. Goulette of Berlin, NH; and his nephews, Roger and Ronald Goulette, sons of Arthur Goulette.

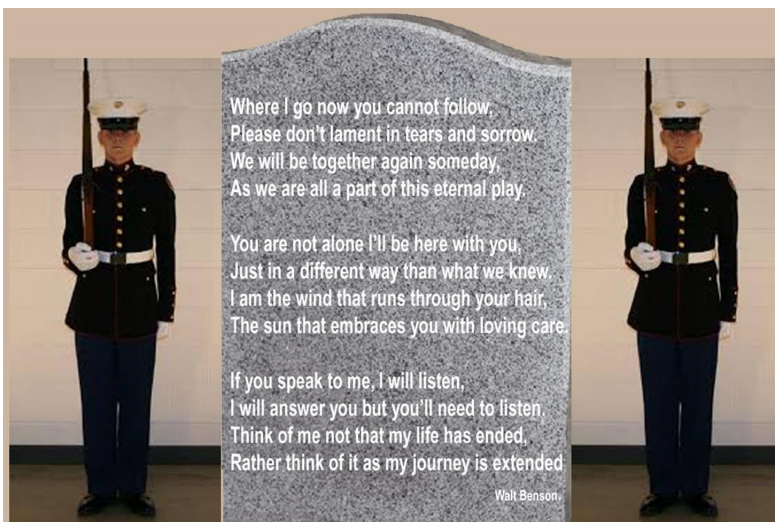
Robert leaves behind his son James Goulette and his wife Marie of Manchester, NH, along with their children Nicholas, Joseph, Christopher, and Brandon. He is also survived by his daughter April Bogdanowicz of Manchester, NH, predeceased by her husband John Bogdanowicz, and their children Erika Piet and Nicole Dionne; and his daughter Crystal Rivers of Dover, NH, and her children TJ, Brien, and Emily Goonan; as well as stepdaughter Tina Breslin, and stepsons Shawn Ellis and Scott Ellis. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Susan A. (Tyrell) Goulette, wife of the late Gerard Goulette, and their children Melissa Becker, Cassandra Mason, Gerard (BJ) Goulette, and Mark Helle; and his sister-in-law Mary Jane Goulette, wife of the late Arthur Goulette, and their sons Richard Goulette and Roland Goulette.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 16, at the Cremation Society of NH, 243 Manchester Street, Manchester, NH. Burial will follow on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans Cemetery, Hwy. 101, Boscawen, NH. To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers in memory of Robert PJ Goulette, please visit our [flower store](#).



married Athena "Claire" went to Notre Dame High School, James, April, and Crystal honorably in the U.S. Marine his discharge in 1965. He later holding positions in several New England towns (1965–1970) and 1971). He also served part-time and Lyndeborough. Additionally, technician for Wilton Telephone before retiring to North Carolina. He been a resident of the NH Veter-

was deeply involved in the Marine Corps League, serving as Commandant in Maine (Greater



of Life will be held on Saturday, August 16, at the Cremation Society of NH, 243 Manchester Street, Manchester, NH. Burial will follow on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans Cemetery, Hwy. 101, Boscawen, NH.

To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers in memory of Robert PJ Goulette, please visit our [flower store](#).



MARINE FOR LIFE



Connect to resources and opportunities:

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

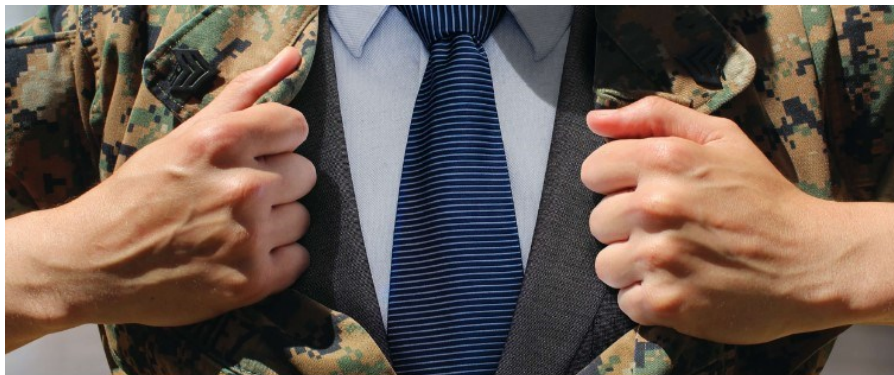
Strengthen your professional relationships and expand your network.: Networking is crucial in today's professional world. The Marine for Life Network facilitates your networking capabilities through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.

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

work group.

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

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



portunities, career resources, and networking events. Your local representative will help you build relationships and explore employment, education, and community resources in your current area or the area where you plan to move.

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



MARINE 4 LIFE



MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

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

ONCE A MARINE,
ALWAYS A MARINE!

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



**Career & Technical
Opportunities**



**Educational
Opportunities**



**Entrepreneurial
Endeavors**

NETWORKING IS KEY

Linked in



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

Face to Face Network



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

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

marineforlife.org

866-645-8762

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

WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

WWR Fact Sheet

District Injured Support Coordinators & Field Support Representatives

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

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

What Services do DISCs and FSRs offer?

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

Who They Support

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

Where They are Located

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

Related Fact Sheets

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

MSgt Charles You
District Injured Support
Coordinator (DSC)

508-740-4331

Charles.you.mil@usmc.mil



Fact Sheet: Transition
Released: 03012018v2



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



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

Beginnings

If I could go back in time to the beginning,
Before fate toyed and played upon my feelings.
Before my heart was torn and broken,
Before I built the walls where I remain hidden.

Things could have been so different now,
But fate is cruel and never would allow.
The scars and pain have taken their toll,
And broken me so I am no longer whole.

If I could ask one wish from whoever is in charge,
That I live the rest of my life where lies are barred.
Where my quest will have led me to my soulmate in
life,
And happiness will guide us through the star filled
nights.

Walt Benson

Marine Twas The Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas; he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
And to see just who in this home did live.

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind
A sobering thought soon came to my mind
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more
So I walked down the hall and pushed open the door
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan
I soon understood, this was more than a man
For I realized the families that I saw that night
Owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play
And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year
Because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice
“Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more
My life is my God, my country, my Corps.”

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep
I watched him for hours, so silent and still
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red
And covered this Marine from his toes to his head
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold
With an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.

And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride
And for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep
inside
I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and
pure
Said “Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure.”
One look at my watch and I knew he was right
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.

James M. Schmidt, who was a Lance Corporal stationed in Washington, DC wrote this poem in December, 1986. While serving as Battalion Counter Sniper at the Marine Barracks 8th and I in Washington, DC under Commandant P.X. Kelly and Battalion Commander D.J. Myers, Schmidt wrote this poem to hang on the door of the Gym in the BEQ. When Colonel Myers came upon it, he read it and immediately had copies sent to each department at the Barracks and promptly dismissed the entire Battalion early for Christmas leave. The poem was placed that day in the Marine Corps Gazette, distributed worldwide and later submitted to Leatherneck Magazine and was published in December, 1991. There have been many other versions, but this is the original version. As we celebrate Christmas please remember the Marines that are serving around the world and cannot be home, may the spirit of Christmas bring them joy and keep them safe./

Make a Child's Christmas Brighter!



The Christmas season is just around the corner, and we need your help to make it magical for children in need!

When you give today, you'll help us fill our toy box with gifts and ensure every child has a present to open his holiday season. **Your contribution, no matter the size, will go a long way in bringing smiles and joy to children who need it most.**

Donation Information

\$35

\$50

\$100

\$250

\$0.00

- ☒ I'd like to help cover the transaction fees for my donation. My total amount will be **\$51.83**.

Contact Information

- ☐ I'm donating on behalf of a company or organization

First Name

Last Name

Street Address

Postal Code

City

State

- State -

Email

Phone

- ☐ Sign me up for SMS messages.

By providing your phone and email you are agreeing to receive periodic communications from Marine Toys for Tots. Provider rates may apply. Text HELP for more information. Text STOP to stop receiving messages.

We will never share your information ever. [Click Here](#) to review our Privacy Policy.

Payment Information

Card Number

Expiration Date

Security Code

Donate \$51.83

Your donation will be securely processed.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE



The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity which was created at the behest of the U. S. Marine Corps in 1991.

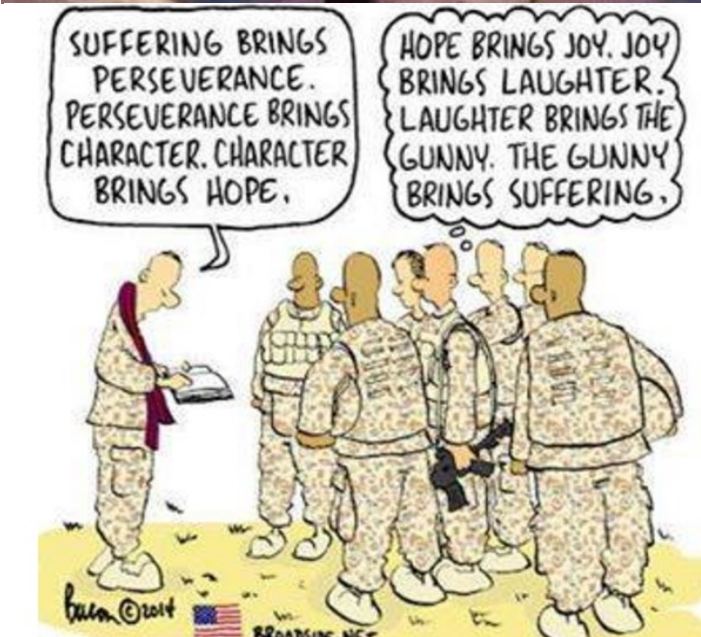
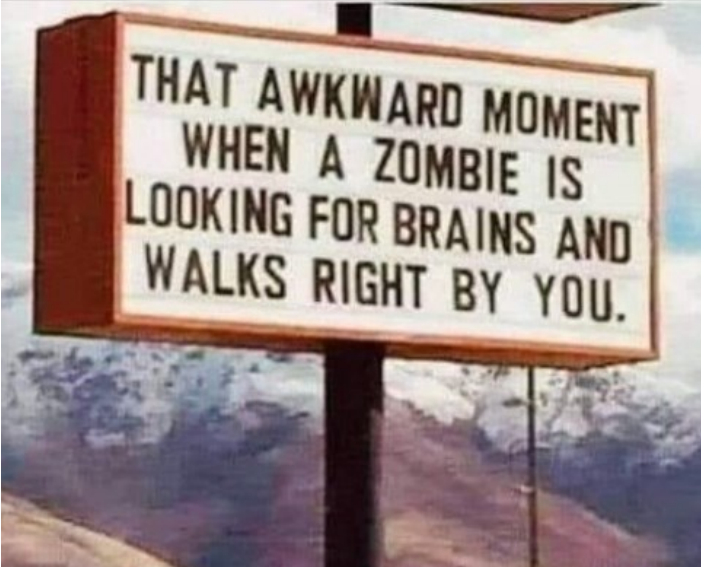
EIN: 20-3021444



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HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



2025 MID WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE

=====

SHERATON PENTAGON CITY

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

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

HOTEL RESERVATION LINK

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

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

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

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

=====

- Hotel rate is \$131 per night plus tax
- Parking: On-site garage parking is \$10 per day
- Any cancellations after February 10, 2025, will forfeit the one-night deposit
- Free shuttle to/from Reagan Airport (DCA)

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



Building a strong relationship to secure the future

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

Resources:

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

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

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

[Term Life Insurance](#)

[TRICARE Supplement](#)

[Dental Insurance](#)

[Vision Insurance](#)

[Pet Insurance](#)

[Long-Term Care Insurance](#)

[Medicare Insurance Plans](#)

[Individual and Family Health Insurance Plans](#)



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

Networking Opportunities:

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

Professional Development:

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

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

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





RECRUITING "IT'S JOB ONE"!!

Walt Benson



The Marine Corps League is Looking for a Few Good Marines

This year the league put into it's budget \$50,000 for marketing and recruiting. A new commercial and expanded list of activities and programs the league is involved in. What does that mean to you? Well try to expand what you do to include more people. Listen to your members , what do they want to do as a detachment or department? As a Division we have had Family days, Marine Corps Balls, but what else can we do? **Below here is a grand slam Home Run** I don't know how many new members it will bring in, but it gets our name and identity out there and



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)



brand identity is important. Congratulations to Commandant Joe Afonso and the Dept of Rhode Island staff. If this isn't improvising and adapting I don't know what is.

Another detachment had pod casts on the public access channel and set up interviews about the league, What is your idea and who do you need to help you bring it to life.

Walt Benson

Are You Ready?



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



Tribe@MCLeague.org
www.mclnational.org

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

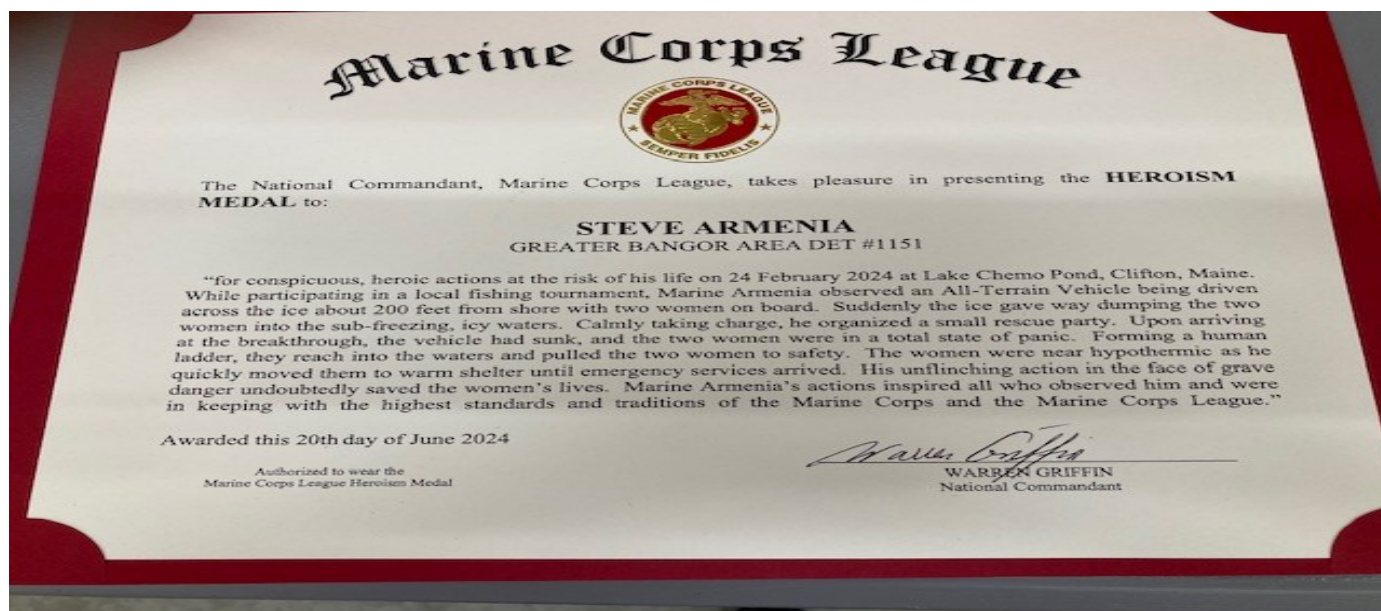


DIVISION SPOTLIGHT



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

HEROES RESCUE WOMEN FROM ICY WATER



On October 15th 2024 in Eddington, Maine four men were given Heroism Medals and awards for saving the life of two women Wanda Libbey and Katey Honey who had broken threw the ice. The four men Marine Corps League member Steve Armenia of the Greater Bangor Area Detachment #1151 Along with S/SGT Josh Gunn with the 488 Military Police Company, Maine Army National Guard, Jimmy Armenia and Jimmy Butterfield.

The ice gave way, dumping the two women into





DIVISION SPOTLIGHT



HEROES RESCUE WOMEN FROM ICY WATER

The ice gave way, dumping the two women into the sub-freezing water. Calmly taking charge, the four men organized a small rescue party. Upon arriving at the breakthrough, the vehicle had sunk and the two women were in a total panic. Forming a human ladder, they reached into the water and pulled the two women to safety. The women were near hypothermic, as they moved them to A warm shelter, until emergency services arrived.

There Awards read:

For conspicuous, heroic actions at the risk of their lives, on 24 February 2024 at Lake Chemo Pond, in Clifton, Maine, while participating in a local fishing tournament, Marine Armenia observed an All-Terrain Vehicle being driven across the ice, about 200 feet from shore with two women on board. Suddenly





2024

DECEMBER

2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Years eve				



2025

JANUARY

2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 New Years Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



NATIONAL CONVENTION



2025 MCL Convention

Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport

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A SEAT
FOR YOU**

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DFW AIRPORT TX 75261

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

MONDAY AUG 11 TO FRIDAY AUG 15

RATES ARE \$159,

PARKING IS FREE

SCHEDULE





CLASSIFIED SECTION



HELP WANTED

Department of CT– Is seeking a Paymaster. The Paymaster is one of most important positions in the Department. No Department can function or conduct any business without a paymaster. One need not be able to function as an accountant you need only to be able to balance a check-book and care. It is an opportunity to move up in the league and serve at a higher level. You will learn more about how things work in the league than in any other job

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

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

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

Department of CT– Is seeking a Boy scout Liaison

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

Department of CT– Is seeking a Historian

Department of CT– Is seeking a Legislative Officer

Department of CT– Is seeking a Scholarship Chair

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

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

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

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

Walt Benson

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



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

A Marines Prayer

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

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

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

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

2025 MCL Convention

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PARKING IS FREE

WORD OF THE DAY

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

Semper Fidelis

sem-per fi-dey-lis;

"Always faithful"

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

EXAMPLE:

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

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

Image Source:
barrykibrick.files.wordpress.com