



Number 2-20

*Serving our detachments and their members everywhere*

## Department of New York Newsletter

# “The Ground Pounder”

Spring 2020

<https://www.mclnewyork.net>

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*For a complete list refer to the  
Department Staff Roster*

## Bill McGowen PDC



It is with deep regret that we tell you that Past Department Commandant Bill McGowan has passed on to the gates of heaven. As I type this I can picture Master Sergeant McGowen calling roll at the pearly gates.

Bill was the first Commandant I served under as a Department elected officer. Sadly as we all know, Bill got sick during his second year and had to pass Command onto Jim Ransom, his Senior Vice.

I regret that because of the Corona Virus, Bill did not get the full send off he deserved but I do thank the members who were able to attend and did render him proper honors.

Bill was an interesting man to say the least and they will tell the stories of him for years to come. Rest in Peace Marine.

WITH DEEPEST  
*Sympathy*

Paperwork, we all have paperwork, but please don't let the COVID-19 virus stop you from completing your paperwork. Transmittals, death notices, reports and transfers are important. Do not wait on transmittals especially, if a member pays their dues, don't wait to send it in. If a member changes their address, send it in. Their benefits may very well depend on it. Thank You.

## Bill McGowen in better times.



Bill with his Family, Friends and fellow veterans and of course his truck. I thank the members who sent me these pictures.



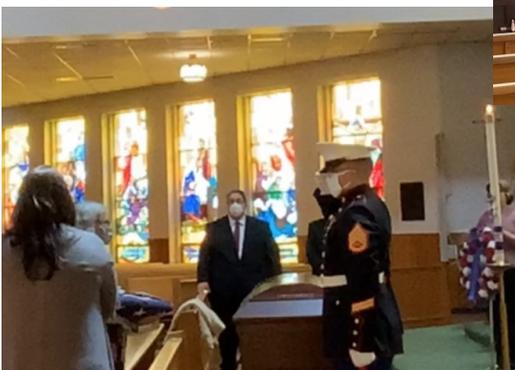
## And his Burial.



Due to restrictions placed upon Burials by the Governor, a full honor detail could not be arranged. Instead officers



stood in and renders honors to our fallen Commandant.



My personal thanks to Jim Ransom and Tom Arcuri as well as every member present for representing the Department at this solemn time.



## We lost a leader, Marine Eric Bellamy and below is a letter addressed to the Department to be shared by all members.

Myself and the JW Thurston Detachment wants to thank you for remembering Marine Bellamy. It's nice to hear that our Department recognizes the passing of one of our own.

He was a great leader, hands down. As always he made critical differences in our Detachment. I was with him as the Senior Vice (I still serve as such). We found a new home in Hillcrest, at the American Legion Post 1194 and to be honest the move was a hard pill to swallow for some, but was the best decision he ever made. Here's why.

There were many reasons to find a new place. Our attendance was down due to the lack of parking and a flight of stairs that is shady at best. Our General meeting room was on the 2nd floor and for those that needed assistance by way of the elevator, it was a long trip up and down. Summer meetings were BRUTAL due to being on the 2nd floor with no AC. The older Marines didn't like the heat. When they found out we were leaving, they finally attempted to repair the roof, ceiling and floor of our meeting room that has been constantly destroyed by the leaks. As they did that, the work they did inside had covered EVERYTHING we owned (trophies, tables, gear, pictures, etc) in a layer of sheetrock dust, mold, and fiberglass particles. Floor tiles pop up when they get wet, and not repaired/replaced.

Commandant Bellamy tasked me with finding another location. Meanwhile, he drew up a motion to relocate and needed a vote for the next General Meeting. I kept him abreast of the 3 locations I had found. The vote was carried.

When I approached Post 1194 I met Marine George Gelatt (our current Sgt at Arms). Myself, Bellamy, Tullo, Kumpon, and Vojtcek - all officers- went to visit 1194, in my mind the best choice of the 3. We all were blown away at their facility. One floor, air conditioned, wide doorways for handicap access, security cameras and full perimeter system, current and up to date full kitchen, and a smoke free bar. There is a large meeting room that we hold events in, one being the fundraiser I did for Eric last year and the BBQ Rib Cook-off I held was there as well. Also, we had the Marine Corps Ball last year in the same hall. I almost had to make a cut-off, but I'm glad it didn't come to that.

But most of all, and this made the biggest difference- EVERYONE at American Legion Post 1194 bent over backwards to welcome us and make us feel at home. The Officers, the general body, the Riders, the Auxiliary. And they still do. They accommodate us like we were there from day one. They treat us with respect, and I can guarantee it's mutual. We participate in many things they do and our organizations back each other up seamlessly. They even gave up critical storage space for us when we made the big move.

Bottom line, our attendance at Post 80 would draw 6-8 members a month. We now draw anywhere from 18-25 on average. Once the guys saw what they had to offer, even the naysayers realized the improvement and now show up on a regular basis.

There was a time when JW Thurston Detachment was in danger of not existing anymore. Marine Bellamy didn't let that happen. It was Commandant Bellamy that lead his Marines in the right direction and overcame everything in his path. Marine Bellamy may be gone now, but his efforts and his determination will never be forgotten and will stay with us for a very long time to come.

Respectfully,  
Marine Eric Fetterman  
Senior Vice Commandant  
JW Thurston Detachment #250



## We lost some due to COVID-19

Sadly, we have had two members of Niagara Frontier Detachment 239 pass away from the COVID-19 virus. Bill Rackl and his wife Carol were always there to lend a helping hand when needed. Bill was a Korean War veteran who was awarded two Purple Hearts. He was a member of our Color Guard and held the position of Captain for some time. He along with the Detachment attended most of the West Seneca Veterans events. Carol was our chocolate chip cookie Mom. She helped with food preparations at our meetings and always brought over her famous cookies. We will miss them, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. SEMPER FI Bill and Carol.

We lost another one of our brothers due to the corona virus. Jimmy Geraci a charter member of the Father Vincent Capodanno Detachment, past member of the Port Washington Detachment, Member of American Legion Post 1033 Elmont NY, 4th Degree Knight of Columbus, and champion fund raiser for the Semper Fi Fund, Jimmy will be sorely missed.

And Dr. James Goodrich of Westchester County Detachment, a pediatric neurosurgeon best known for successfully separating conjoined twins in a complicated and rare procedure,.

While we are sure they are more that have not been reported, we send our deepest condolences to their families.

Rest in peace Marines, the fight is over.



## TOYS FOR TOTS

Here we have two photos from the Memorial Day Detachment # 468 2019 Toys for Tots campaign.

(Below left) is Commandant Wally Anderson and Sr. Vice Commandant Dave Brisbane with N.Y. Senator Pamela Helming and some of the toys collected by her office for Toys for Tots.

(Below right) is Commandant Wally Anderson, Sr. Vice Commandant Dave Brisbane and member Jim Wicker with members of the Ontario County Sheriffs Office and some of the 307 toys collected by the Sheriffs Department.

The detachment collected over 5500 toys and served about 1600 children in Ontario and Livingston Counties.



## We have another author in our ranks.

Our own Neal Sowle of the Spa Detachment #641 has some great news. Apparently while Neal was laid up last year he decided to write a book and the title is- "After the Plague," and even the artwork is done by Neal.

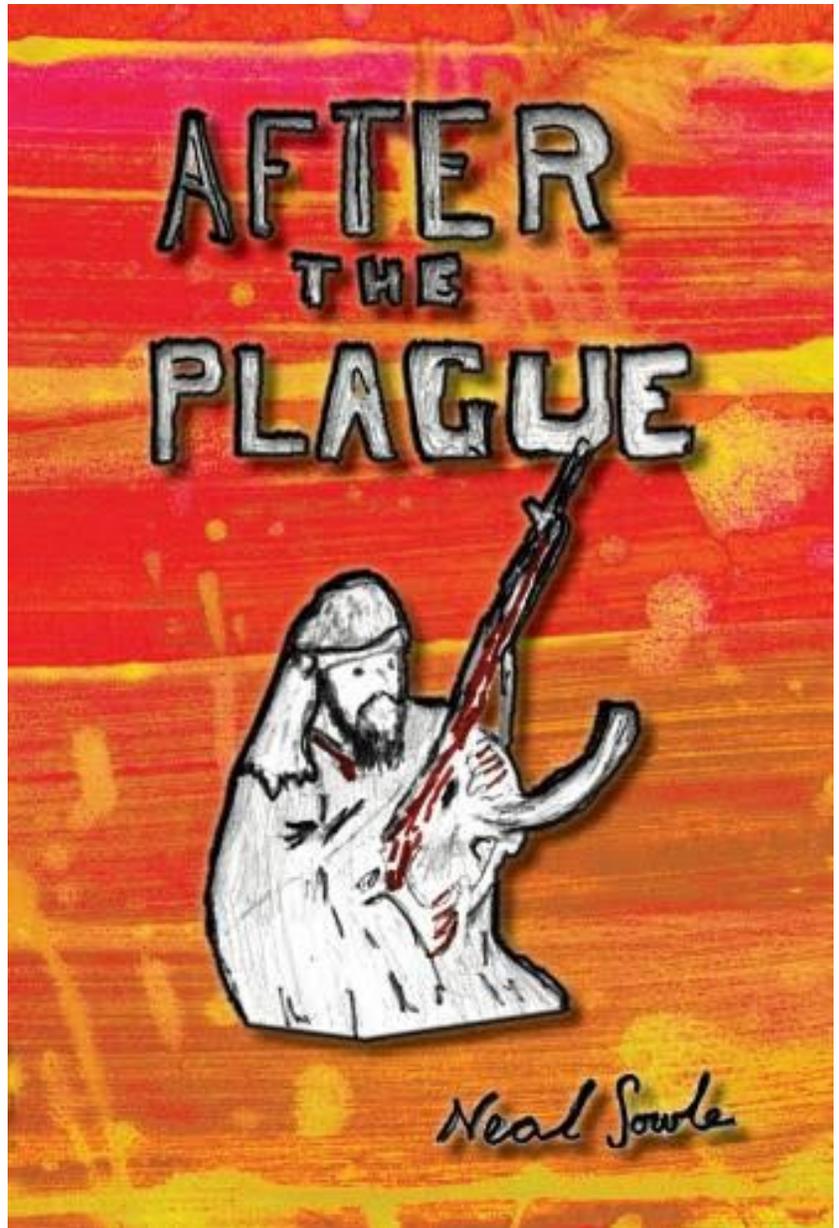
Ironic about the title as it was published at the end of last summer.

Neal doesn't want to give out spoilers but the rough geographical area is the North Eastern USA.

As a member of this unit Neal has said he would be happy to sign anyone's edition if they would like so. He has a limited numbers of copies at his residence.

If you would like a copy drop him an email [elwos381@yahoo.com](mailto:elwos381@yahoo.com)

If you could pass this information on to someone who would be interested the link to buy the title is <https://www.northshire.com/book/9781605714707> or [https://www.amazon.com/After-Plague-Neal-Sowle-ebook/dp/B0889MMX4P/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=after+the+plague+neal+sowle&qid=1589466062&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/After-Plague-Neal-Sowle-ebook/dp/B0889MMX4P/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=after+the+plague+neal+sowle&qid=1589466062&sr=8-1)



Congratulations Neal and best wishes on the sequel! Yes he is already writing the sequel.

Submitted by Doug Lawrence, Commandant, Spa Detachment.

***Does your Detachment have your correct address? Do they have your phone number and email? These are important for number of reasons. Scholarships, Insurance Benefits and League notifications. Things come down all the time from National, The VA and other veteran sources and we like to share them with you. We can't do that if we can't get a hold of you. There may be information for you going to the wrong address, beneficiaries not receiving money due them and so on. Do yourself and your family a favor and check to see that your detachment has your correct information. You never know when it could very well be worth your while.***

**Many questions regarding Honorary active Duty membership.  
This letter from National explains it all.**

Incorporated by act of Congress



3619 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Suite 115  
Stafford, VA 22554

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
National Headquarters

703-207-9588

28 June,2020

To: Board of Trustees, Marine Corps League  
From: Dennis Tobin, National Commandant  
Subject: Honorary Active Duty

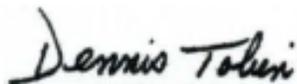
Board of Trustees;

Please forward the following to all your Departments to be forwarded to their Detachments.

In a BOT's meeting on 12/14/2019 it was decided that because the Honorary Active Duty did receive a membership number and because Honorary members must be renewed every year it would present a problem with the new database, and National would no longer track them or put them on a roster. It was also decided to keep them as a Detachment option whereas the Detachment would track them and keep a roster of their HAD Marines.

When the program was originally started, the Detachment was supposed to keep track of each HAD Marine. If the Marine was deployed they would stay in contact with the family for any needed support. If the Marine was transferred the Detachment would find that Marine a local Detachment near their new duty station and also contact that local Detachment and pass on the Marines contact information. Tracking the Honorary Active Duty, it was not being done, and they were not being renewed every year. So to avoid any mess in the new database it was decided that National would not keep a track of them and it would be up to the individual Detachments to track their own HAD and there would be no need to include them on a transmittal.

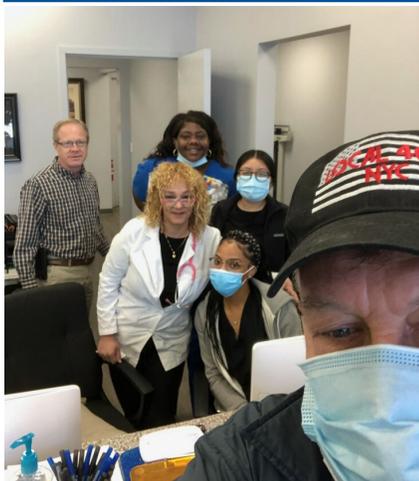
Semper Fidelis,



Dennis Tobin  
National Commandant/CEO  
Marine Corps League

Remember, your detachment makes up the rules for Honorary membership. But they must be reported each year on a transmittal so keep track as you would any member.

# FOOD DRIVE



(left), Westchester County Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant Donald O'Keefe delivered a fruit basket to Urgent Care in Yonkers (Kimble & McLean Ave) during the COVID-19 Pandemic to show support for our health care professionals.



(above right) The Memorial Day Detachment # 468 made a donation of 30 lunches to the food and nutrition workers at the Canandaigua VA in recognition of their service to our veterans in the midst of the COVID-19 virus. Commandant Wally Anderson, Sr. Vice Commandant Dave Brisbane and Jim Wicker made the delivery. Submitted by Dave Brisbane.



(left) Carmen Ramputi, Detachment #861 Harold Delamater (left) and Keith McArthur (right) with Lenny Kulk of Castle Point VA Hospital food pantry. The Marines donated many turkeys and hams to the pantry which assists needy US Veterans. They also coordinated with the Wappingers Hannaford Supermarket, which donated food boxes, which the Marines also delivered to the food pantry.



Members of the Marine Corps League Det 249 Greater Newburgh Detachment volunteered to help out by Packing and distributing of food boxes during these trying times to the community in need

**As Department Commandant I hereby authorize and recommend to all Detachment Commandants to recognize all of their members who took the extra step by going above and beyond in helping out their community during this pandemic, regardless of the function, that they be awarded the Marine Corps League the Community Service medal.**



## Memorial Day



(Left and right)



The Putnam Detachment held a Memorial Service in Brewster NY. The Ceremony included the placing of a wreath at the monument by Commandant John Duncan. A prayer was offered by our Chaplain James McGuire and the names of our deceased comrades from the Detachment were read by Adjutant Dan Lynch and at the same time a flag was placed for each of them around the monument by Steve Mattson and Dwight Keith. Submitted by Dan Lynch

(right) On Saturday 5/24/20. A Memorial Service was performed in Shepherds Park in Lake George NY. Past Pack Leader Pack of NY Jim Seaman was ask to Join in and represent The Marine Corps League. "It was a honor" he said. May We Never Forget.



(Left) On May 30th, the true Memorial Day, the Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment held a memorial service honoring all Marines lost in past and current wars as well as their deceased members. Commandant Heyde read the names and a prayer was offered by Chaplin Carmella Montella and taps was played by Frank Montella.

**See you at the Department Convention  
October 1,2 & 3rd.**

## MEMORIAL DAY CONTINUED



(Above. Left to Right) Marines of Detachment 249 Marine Corps League Greater Newburgh participate in Memorial Day ceremonies at The Town of Newburgh at the town Hall Honoring our Fallen Warriors

## Boy Scouts



(above right) Carmen Ramputi officers at a local Eagle Scout Presentation ceremony.

(Above left and left) Department Senior Vice Tom Acuri with his E.L. Smith Detachment help an Eagle Scout Food Drive Project of James Pike Troop 11 Leatherstocking Council



We have a new "Transmittal form" form.

**WE'RE FINALLY HAVING A DEPARTMENT CONVENTION!**

**October 1,2 AND 3<sup>RD</sup> 2020**

**In the Embassy Suites located in Syracuse New York.**

**And we've lowered the prices of the Banquet, and the Journal Ads. Packets will be going out soon.**

**Don't forget your raffle tickets either and make sure your Detachment takes their 20 % before turning them in.**

**See you there!**

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
MEMBERSHIP DUES TRANSMITTAL & CHANGE NOTIFICATION FORM**

FROM: Adjutant/Paymaster of \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment # \_\_\_\_\_  
 TO: National Adjutant/Paymaster, 3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy Suite 116 Stafford VA 22664 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 VIA: Department Paymaster (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

1. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY AND LEGIBLY.
2. Enclose separate dues payment checks; one (1) payable to National HQ, MCL, Inc. and one (1) payable to your Department.
3. Include Date of Birth for all NEW applicants (mandatory for PLMs).
4. STAPLE ORIGINAL-SIGNED APPLICATION FORMS TO TOP COPY (applications cannot be accepted without attached application forms).
5. You may use a supplemental spreadsheet if you have more than six members renewing at one time. Please include all information needed from this form.

MEMBER #	CODE(S)	HQ USE ONLY	LAST NAME (JR, JR, etc)	FIRST	MI	# of Years Paying
PLM #	STREET ADDRESS (or PO BOX #)			CITY	ST	ZIP + 4
TELEPHONE NUMBER		E-MAIL ADDRESS			DATE OF BIRTH	
MEMBER #	CODE(S)	HQ USE ONLY	LAST NAME (JR, JR, etc)	FIRST	MI	# of Years Paying
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TELEPHONE NUMBER		E-MAIL ADDRESS			DATE OF BIRTH	

<p><b>NATIONAL DUES ONLY</b></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>R</td> <td>Renewal @20.00</td> <td>Check # _____</td> <td>\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>New Member @ 25.00</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAM</td> <td>Renewal Associate @20.00</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAM</td> <td>New Associate @25.00</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RDM</td> <td>Renewal Dual @20.00</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NDM</td> <td>New Dual @25.00</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N*</td> <td>March 1st-June 30th @15.00</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAM*</td> <td>March 1st-June 30th @15.00</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NDM*</td> <td>March 1st-June 30th @15.00</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>Life Member by age:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>35 and under @ 500</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>36 to 50 @ 400</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>51 to 64 @ 300</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>65 and over @ 200</td> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td><b>National Dues \$</b></td> <td><b>0.00</b></td> </tr> </table>	R	Renewal @20.00	Check # _____	\$ 0.00	N	New Member @ 25.00		0.00	RAM	Renewal Associate @20.00		0.00	NAM	New Associate @25.00		0.00	RDM	Renewal Dual @20.00		0.00	NDM	New Dual @25.00		0.00	N*	March 1st-June 30th @15.00		0.00	NAM*	March 1st-June 30th @15.00		0.00	NDM*	March 1st-June 30th @15.00		0.00	<b>Life Member by age:</b>				L	35 and under @ 500		0.00	L	36 to 50 @ 400		0.00	L	51 to 64 @ 300		0.00	L	65 and over @ 200		0.00			<b>National Dues \$</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<p><b>Department Dues</b></p> <p>Check # _____</p> <p>Total \$ _____</p> <p>Received at Department _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Received at National HQ (Date/Time Stamp) _____</p> <p>T= Transfer        RI=Reinstate        COAN= Change of Address (NEW)        COAO= Change of Address (OLD)</p>	<p>DETACHMENT PAYMASTER NAME/SIGNATURE _____</p> <p>TRANSMITTAL RETURN MAIL _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP + 4 _____</p> <p>DEPARTMENT PAYMASTER NAME _____</p> <p>DATE _____ PHONE NUMBER _____</p>
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Shaded areas are for National HQ use only. \*For members who join between March 1st and June 30th of each year.

National headquarters has issued a new transmittal form to update the current one to include or remove all the changes set forth by National.

Of course ALL entries must give their real addresses, emails and phone numbers. The new codes listed are to be used with this form and are below.

Please discard any paper versions you have and use only those in the National member section of the library.

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP DUES TRANSMITTAL CODES**

**(be sure to use the correct code on your transmittal)**

- N:** New Member Paying Full Dues Between the July 1 st and the last day of February
- NAM:** New Associate Member Paying Full Dues Between the July 1 st and the last day of February
- R:** Renewal of a Regular member RAM: Renewal of an Associate Member
- NDM:** New Dual Member Paying Full Dues Between the July 1st and the last day of February
- N\*:** New Member Paying Reduced Dues Between the March 1st and the June 30th.
- NAM\*:** New Associate Member Paying Reduced Dues Between the March 1st and June 30th.
- NDM\*:** New Dual Member Paying Reduced Dues Between the March 1st and June 30th..
- R/I:** Reinstatement of a member. Must have been expired by at least one year.
- COAO:** Change of address fill in address before change.
- OAN:** Change of address fill in new address.
- CON:** Change of name. T: Transfer proper form filled out and signed must accompany the transmittal.
- DEL:** Delete This can only be done with members who are passed the two year drop point or with accompanying letter stating to terminate membership signed by the member.

\*For Members who are joining between March 1st and June 30th of each year.