



Number 4-18

Serving our detachments and their members everywhere

Department of New York Newsletter “The Ground Pounder”



www.mclnewyork.net

Headquarters Section

Commandant

Rev. Ricardo Sheppard
sheppard107@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commandant

Tom Wortmann
railmarine@gmail.com

Junior Vice Commandant

Tom Arcuri
tarcuri@me.com

Judge Advocate

Dean Lawton Sr.
deanthenymarine@gmail.com

Junior Past Commandant

James Ransom
jransom@uwt-inc.com

Adjutant

Steve Topilnycky
spt1@mclwestchester.org

Sergeant of Arms

Bill Keys
keyswilliam@yahoo.com

Paymaster

Ralph Luciani
Rafaelluc@aol.com

Chaplain

Cathleen Wiggs
ChaplinMCL@gmail.com

Pack of NY Pound Keeper

James Seaman
marine698@aol.com

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

11th Month, 11th day, 11th hour

100 years ago the War to end all Wars ended. Not in a surrender but in a truce. Yet when the guns stopped one country over all was blamed for the whole thing and that act alone laid the foundation for the second war world. Marines were there, wearing Army uniforms as the Marine uniform of the day looked too close to the German uniform. They first called it Armistice day, now we call it, Veterans Day, is still on the 11th day of the 11th month but too few know that the guns stopped at the 11th hour as well.

In a New York City local bar called McSorley’s, a turkey dinner was held in 1917 for all the New Yorkers leaving for France the very next day. They placed their ‘wish’ bones on the light fixture when they were done and today the wish bones of those who never returned still hang where they were placed 101 years ago to remind us that war is not fun, not an adventure but something that had to be done and these men paid the ultimate price.



Season’s Greetings

to all our Detachments and their Members
from the staff of the Department of New York.

Happy Birthday Marines!

Our detachments celebrated our birthday all over New York State. And well they should. And now with the Christmas and Chanukah holidays upon us, we're busy with Toys for Tots.

Our detachments are out there gathering toys and working with or simply helping the Marine Corps reserve do their thing. Toys for Tots photos will appear in the next issue.

Here are some Ball pictures sent in by our Detachments. If yours is doing a birthday Ball or a Luncheon, make sure the Ground Pounder gets a copy next year so we can show off your detachment as well.



(Above) Officers of the Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment with Maj. Gen Regner at their Ball at LiGreci's Staatan. (Staten Island Advance Photo)



(above) Here's a picture of the Brooklyn #1 at their ball.

(below) and the J.W. Thurston Detachment with State Senator Fred Akshar



(above) Yankee Detachment gathers for their ball at their detachment club house in the Bronx.

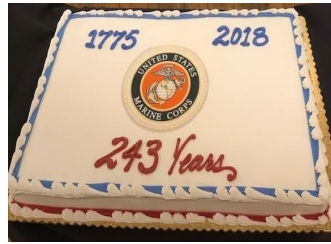


(above) Ulster Detachment gathers for their ball in Kingston

And we have cakes too!



Angel Mendez Det. (left) Yankee Det. (right center)



J. W. Thurston Det. (Left center) Westchester Det. (right)



Around the Department

Each year the town of Rahway NJ holds a parade for the Marine John Basilone who was awarded the Medal of Honor in WW 2.

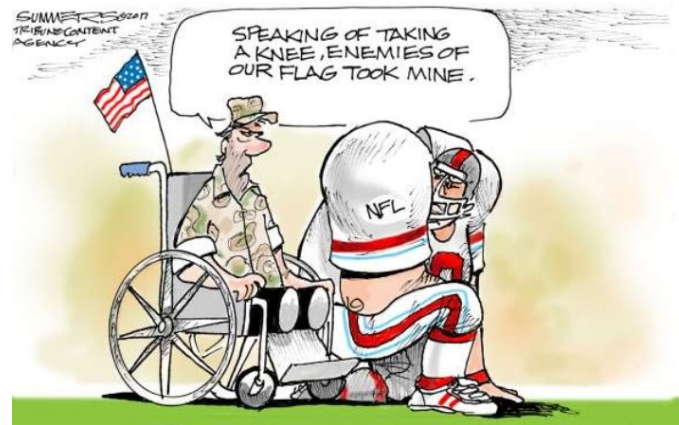


(above) Member of the Angel Mendez Detachment before the parade. Joe Harnedy, Jim Sweeney, Yours truly and Volker Heyde. (right) The officers of the Department of NJ. Doug Rattazzi, Commandant. Far right in picture.

This year the new Angel Mendez Detachment joined in. Any leaguer from any detachment is welcome to join in. We were honored to march with the department of NJ. Next we hope to have enough to form our own platoon. Why not join us?



(below) Ulster Det. hosts a annual BBQ for their members



A New Department website is in the works. The URL (address) will stay the same but soon you will click on it and a whole new page will appear. Our new web master has been working with the staff to gather information on we want on the site so it can serve our members even better then before. Watch for it.

Around the Department - more



(above) Every fourth Wednesday of the month, the Electric City Detachment has a Breakfast Gathering. Time to enjoy their fellowship. Here as some of their members



(above) Veterans Day November 11, 2018 - The Honor Guard of the 2 Lt. John Paul Bobo Detachment 1118 present arms by the Marine Bench they donated to the American Veterans Memorial Monument in Niagara Falls, N.Y.



(left) A Memorial Brick was donated by the 2 Lt. John Paul Bobo Detachment 1118 to Niagara University's John P. Bobo Baseball Field. 2nd Lt. Bobo graduated from Niagara University and enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve. He was KIA in Quang Tri Province RVN. He received the Medal of Honor for his acts there. Niagara University dedicated their baseball field to him.



Every Veterans organization in Tioga County takes a turn doing the POW/MIA Watch Vigil every year. Our Detachment always used to get 1 or 2 in the morning, but we have slowly moved up to 9 pm to 11 pm. This is Dave Pierce, Jim Hatch #1201's Chaplain during this shift during the Vigil.

Medal of Honor recipients, Francis S. Currey and Hershel "Woody" Williams

are happy to see each other at the Gold Star Families Memorial Dedication

There are only five living recipients from WW II in the U.S., so having two of them together in Albany was amazing. Both Frank and Woody were awarded their medals in 1945, and they



have been friends longer than many of us have been alive.

New Charters are given to renamed Detachments



(Above left) The former "Staten Island #1" is now officially the "Sgt Angel Mendez" Detachment named after a Vietnam Marine killed in Combat and who received the Navy Cross and the former "Temple Hill" is now officially the "Greater Newburg" Detachment. Department Commandant Ricardo Sheppard presents the New Charter to Detachment Senior Vice Heyde and (above right), Detachment Senior Vice Commandant Serrano listens while the new charter is read by the Commandant Steve Martinez.

Another Father and Son



(above) Here is a picture from the town of North Hempstead MDP at bar beach with the Port Washington Detachment & the Marines from 225 out of Garden City.
Lou Wirth Commandant

(above) At the Sgt Angel Mendez detachment, Marine PFC Sean A. Torres Jr, is sworn into the league by his father, past Detachment Commandant Sean A Torres Sr.



Ribbons and Medals

I know everyone one of us is proud of the awards they received by the Marine Corps or by the Marine Corps League be it a National Defense medal or a Detachment Commendation.

Did you know that you cannot wear both DOD and MCL ribbons at the same time? That's right, you cannot mix and match. If you wish to wear you DOD ribbons ,you may on certain league uniforms. Or you may wear the MCL medals or ribbons you were awarded but which you wear, be sure to wear them in the correct order. The biggest error I see is the wearing of medals and ribbons at the same time. You are allowed to wear up to three full size medals of your choice, on one strip, centered over the left breast pocket on your red blazer uniform. Only the Medal of Honor may be worn on civilian clothes or uniform. You may wear miniature medals, as many as you have, when in formal wear such as the Mess dinner jacket, Red blazer with bow tie and cumber bun, or in a civilian tux. Also if you have an authorized occasion to wear your dress blues, you can wear full size medals on it. But those occasions are rare. So if wearing mini medals, you still cannot mix them with any ribbons such as unit citations or combat action. But whatever you do, wear yours proudly and correctly and more importantly, wear them in their proper order. The ribbon chart of the league is available here, https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Ribbon-Chart_2016.pdf and USMC ribbons and ribbon chats can be found in various sources online such as Medals of America.

Want to own league plates? Contact the Department Paymaster at rafael-luc@aol.com or yours truly at rail-marine@gmail.com for the forms until the new website is up and running, and afterwards as well if you wish.



A Park in Queens



Thanks to efforts of AVC Seaman and his detachment, the city of New York has cleaned up and improved this park, named after Marine PFC William F Moore killed in WWI so the neighborhood can use it again. The detachment does a Memorial detail each year here and are joined by area retired Marines . The Beirut Memorial Ceremony is also held here in October by a group called the PFC William Moore Mess.



Working together, we get things done!

The Department would like to publish this newsletter four times a year so the cut off dates shall be as follows: June 10th, Sept 10th, Dec 10th & March 10th. Please submit your detachments photos and stories.