

TWO TIME

# National Award-Winning Newsletter



## THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK'S **GROUND POUNDER**



2023  
APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30  
NUMBER 2023 - 2

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES: 10th of March, June, September, December

### 2023-2024 OFFICERS

**COMMANDANT**  
Dean Lawton, Sr.

**SENIOR VICE  
COMMANDANT**  
David Wiggs

**JUNIOR VICE  
COMMANDANT**  
Michael Piscioti

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**  
Cathleen Wiggs

**JUNIOR PAST  
COMMANDANT**  
Thomas Arcuri

**ADJUTANT**  
Steve Topilnycky

**CHIEF OF STAFF**  
Donna Hildebrandt

**CHAPLAIN**  
John Emrys Joseph

**PAYMASTER**  
Jim Sampson

**SERGEANT At ARMS**  
Albert Merrill

**NY PACK LEADER**  
Cathleen Wiggs

**WEBMASTER**  
Gerry della Badia

**EDITOR**  
Donna Hildebrandt

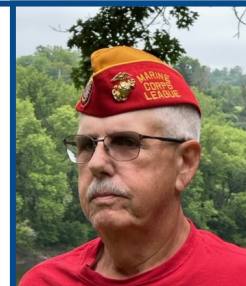
**AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**  
Karen Seeley

**PAST AUXILIARY  
PRESIDENT**  
Maureen Dunn

## COMMANDANT'S CORNER DEAN LAWTON, SR.



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE,  
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



*Hello Marines.*

*I'm not sure where to go with my first  
Commandant's corner message.*

*The first item I should check off the list is  
**THANK YOU!***

***First Thank you** goes to the members of  
the Department of New York for your  
support and trust in electing me as  
Commandant.*

***The Second Thank you**  
would be the for the Past Department  
Commandants, many of whom I have  
already talked to for advice and  
direction.*

***The final Thank You**  
for now goes to the members of the  
Executive Board: Dave Wiggs,  
Mike Piscioti and  
Cathie Wiggs.*

*We have already spent a lot of time  
discussing current issues and what our  
direction should be going forward.*

*My list of items to work on*

- *I would like to see more attendance  
by Detachments at our meetings.*
- *We are going to have training  
sessions at every meeting including  
the convention. At the last convention  
we had training for paymasters. This  
was very well attended.*
- *Our next meeting will be in Suffern,  
NY in October. My thoughts for  
training will be filling out ROIs,  
competing the postcard 990s and  
your PLM audits. As a side note on  
the PLM audit, it takes little effort to  
complete this and it is the  
Detachment's money. We had 1  
Detachment that did not complete  
their audit and lost out on \$425.00  
because of it.*
- *We are meeting with the State Fair  
staff hoping for a decent location.  
This activity has been a great way for*

continued on following page

*For a complete list, or, to report  
discrepancies, contact the Adjutant.*

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# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

continued from previous page

*participating Detachments and the Department to raise funds . It is simple. It just takes commitment. I will let you know as soon as we have decided.*

*(sidenote) The Department purchased a new tent to be used at the Fair. This tent is available for any Detachment to use. Just contact me with your dates and see if it is available.*

*I will finish this edition by saying that this is **YOUR** Department.*

*We exist to help your Detachment move forward, but we cannot accomplish this without your participation.*

*Come to meetings even if it is for just one day. If there is anything I can do to help, please contact me.*

*Thank you.*

*Semper Fi,  
Dean*

*PDD Dean C. Lawton Sr.  
Commandant, Department of New York*



**Thomas Arcuri**

*Junior Past  
Department Commandant*

Marines, Associates, and Auxiliary,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Commandant for the past two years. They have been filled with ups and downs, but working as a team, we have all made it through with flying colors. For that, I'd like to thank you all. Having a team like you made my job easier.

At this point, I'd like to take a moment to send special thanks to my staff. You all did a fantastic job and I was blessed to have your support.

As of June 10, 2023, I became the Junior Past Department Commandant, and passed the leadership to Dean Lawton, Sr. I am confident that Dean will be an outstanding Commandant. However, if the need arises, I am here to support him in any way that I can.

**ANY REASON TO RIDE IS A GOOD ONE!**

**BUT RIDING FOR HOMELESS VETS IS THE BEST!**

Nice ride today 250 miles! Ride to support homeless Veterans. Stopped at Oxford Veterans Home to say hello. Caught up with Brothers from Mountain Chapter Leathernecks M/C Semper Fi!

Tom Arcuri



**MORAL OF THIS STORY: NEVER PUT ANYTHING ON FACEBOOK THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT THE EDITOR TO "BORROW"**



APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 2023

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



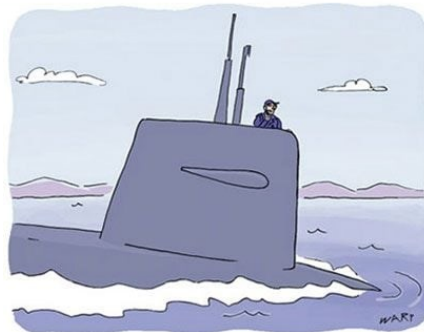
NUMBER 2023 - 2

## TABLE of CONTENTS

COMMANDANT'S CORNER .....	1-2	DAWGS FOR DAWGS .....	13
MOVING INTO THE FUTURE .....	2,4	DOGS GIVE DONATION .....	13
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	3	MARINES & SCOUTS .....	14
FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS .....	5	EMPIRE STATE LEATHERNECKS .....	14
CHARLES DRAKE JR.		AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS .....	15
ALEX ADRIAN KITTS (FOLLOW-UP)		CLEARPATH DONATION .....	15
RESULTS TO BYLAW CHANGES .....	6	CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION .....	15
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION .....	7-11	MOY JOHN WALKER .....	15
OFFICERS .....	7	MEMORIAL DAY .....	16-17
WRAP-UP .....	8	ANGEL MENDEZ .....	16
WINNERS .....	9	JOHN PAUL BOBO .....	17
AUDREY KALIL .....	10	RAISING AWAARENESS .....	17
STORY OF THE MARINE ROSE .....	10	MISCELLANEOUS .....	18-21
MARKSMANSHIP .....	11	HELP WANTED .....	18
IMPORTANT INFORMATION		HAMBURG CONTRAVERSARY .....	18
TACOM .....	8	GOLD STAR .....	19
FALL MEETING .....	12	22 A DAY .....	19
LIFE MEMBERSHIP .....	12	KEEPING COVER CLEAN .....	20
NEWSLETTER COMPETITION .....	12	YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG .....	21
DEVIL DOGS			
DOG OF THE YEAR .....	13		

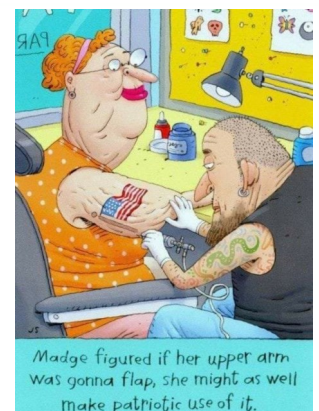
Tid Bit found on page  20 

### CHUCKLES



"Hey, it's been great talking to you, Mom, but I really have to go."

Stick a Turkey leg in a sneaker and let your dog patrol your yard.



Madge figured if her upper arm was gonna flap, she might as well make patriotic use of it.

All CHUCKLES were found on the internet. None are original. Credit provided when able to do so.



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

The Department Auxiliary is taking the next step and

### MOVING FORWARD



Maureen Dunn hands over the reins of Auxiliary president to Karen Seeley.

Maureen became emotional when she discussed how much the Marine Corps League will always mean to her.

She says good by to New York State as she and her husband plan to move to Florida.

We are grateful that the Auxiliary has always been supportive of the League.

We extend our support back to you.

### FROM OUR NEW NE DIVISION VICE COMMANDANT ELECT

The Northeast Division covers New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. For the past 2 years, I have served as the Assistant to the Northeast Division Vice Commandant, Mike Waluk. At the same time, I also was the Junior Past Commandant of the Department.

At the 2023 Division Conference in New Jersey, I was elected to serve as the next Northeast Division Vice Commandant. I am proud and honored to serve. I will be sworn-in at the 2023 National Convention in Oklahoma City.

It's been a very long road to get here, but totally worth it.

It all started about 15 years ago by accepting a temporary position in Department credentials.

I had no idea that I was being appointed as the chairman of Credentials Verification.

Years later, I became Judge Advocate. I had no idea what I was in for, but I am proud to say that I succeeded.

Eventually, I became the Department Commandant; passed the gavel to Tom Arcuri; and I took the seat of the Jr. Past Commandant. I thought that I was done, until I was

approached by our NE Division Commandant, Mike Waluk, and asked to serve as his assistant. Challenge accepted.

Serving the Department has been a fourteen-year career for me. National will get 4 additional years. After completing service as NE Division Commandant, I will be 76 years of age, and will choose to sit back and watch as others take the lead.

As I advanced through the chairs, I always found areas that needed some improvement. So, I did what I thought was best for the Department.

The Department is always looking for fresh blood with new ideas. I will say this, if you take a position in the League, do it to the best of your ability with commitment. You never know where it may lead.

My journey started as my Detachment's Assistant Storekeeper and lead to sitting on the National Board of Directors.

Who would have guessed?

Semper Fi,  
Tom Wortmann  
Northeast Division Vice  
Commandant Elect



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



*Fair winds and following seas*  
Our presence at services is the ultimate form of respect to the deceased and their family. They are grateful to see that the Marine Corps League honors the deceased..



## CHARLES DRAKE, JR.

(1935 - 2023)

### FOUNDING FATHER OF THE ESSEX COUNTY LEATHERNECKS PASSES AT 88 YEARS-OLD

**MINEVILLE, NY** | Charles Drake, Jr., 88, lost his battle with Lewy body dementia on April 13, 2023.

He joined the Marine Corps in 1953. His military service resume includes serving overseas in Japan during the Korean conflict and also at Quantico, Virginia.

In 1990, he was the founding father as well as the first Commandant of the Essex County Leathernecks Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

In his personal life, Charlie was married twice and raised a total of six children. He owned several businesses, including Drake's Market in Crown Point and the bottle redemption center in Ticonderoga.

Charlie loved sports (especially the Boston Red Sox), music, traveling, politics, community activities, and socializing.

His funeral service was held on April 20, 2023, at Saratoga National Cemetery where loved-ones said their goodbyes.

*Reference: Sun Community News*

## ALEX ADRIAN KITTS

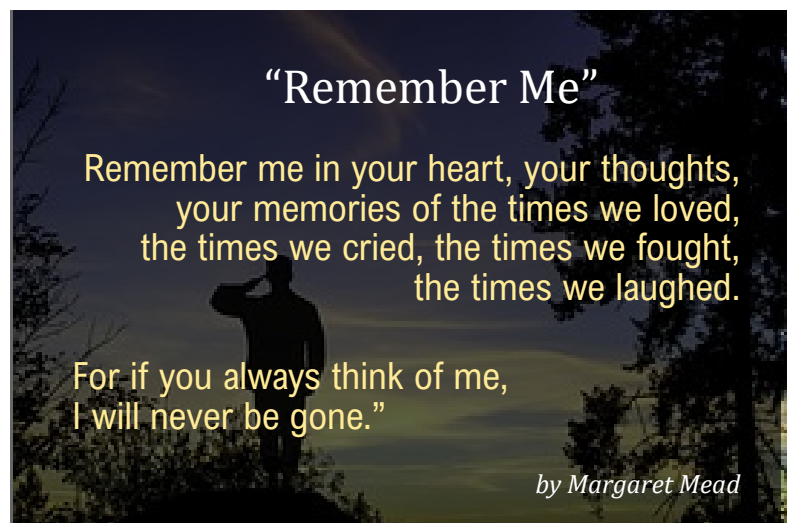
### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

At the St. Lawrence County Marine Corps League Detachment #408 Canteen, on April 22, 2023, a Celebration of Life was held in honor of the life of Alex's Kitts, North Area Vice Commandant.

PDC Jim Ransom joined many who came to reminisce and celebrate Alex's life and his time as our Department North Area Vice .



left to right:  
Shelly Wilson,  
Warren Tallman,  
Rian Mc Fadden  
Jr. Vice Commandant,  
Gene Barto,  
Adjutant Paymaster  
Drew McFadden  
Commandant and  
Connie Barto.





# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## PROPOSALS TO CHANGE BYLAWS

**Proposals 1 & 2** were corrections of typographical errors and were passed.

**Proposal 3** regarded redistricting. The first part was to move Cattaraugus County from the West Area to the Southwest Area. The second part was to move the Tioga County from the Southwest Area to the South Central area. The proposal was carried.

## NYS AREAS

### AREAS

#### WEST

- 1) Niagara
- 2) Erie
- 3) Chautauqua

#### NORTHWEST

- 5) Orleans
- 6) Monroe
- 7) Wayne
- 8) Genesee
- 9) Wyoming
- 10) Livingston
- 11) Ontario
- 12) Yates
- 13) Seneca
- 14) Cayuga

#### SOUTHWEST

- 4) Cattaraugus**
- 15) Alleghany
- 16) Steuben
- 17) Schuyler
- 18) Tompkins
- 19) Chemung

#### NORTH CENTRAL

- 21) Jefferson
- 22) Lewis
- 23) Oswego
- 24) Oneida
- 25) Herkimer
- 26) Onondaga
- 27) Madison

#### SOUTH CENTRAL

- 20) Tioga**
- 28) Cortland
- 29) Chenango
- 30) Otsego
- 31) Broome
- 32) Delaware

#### NORTH

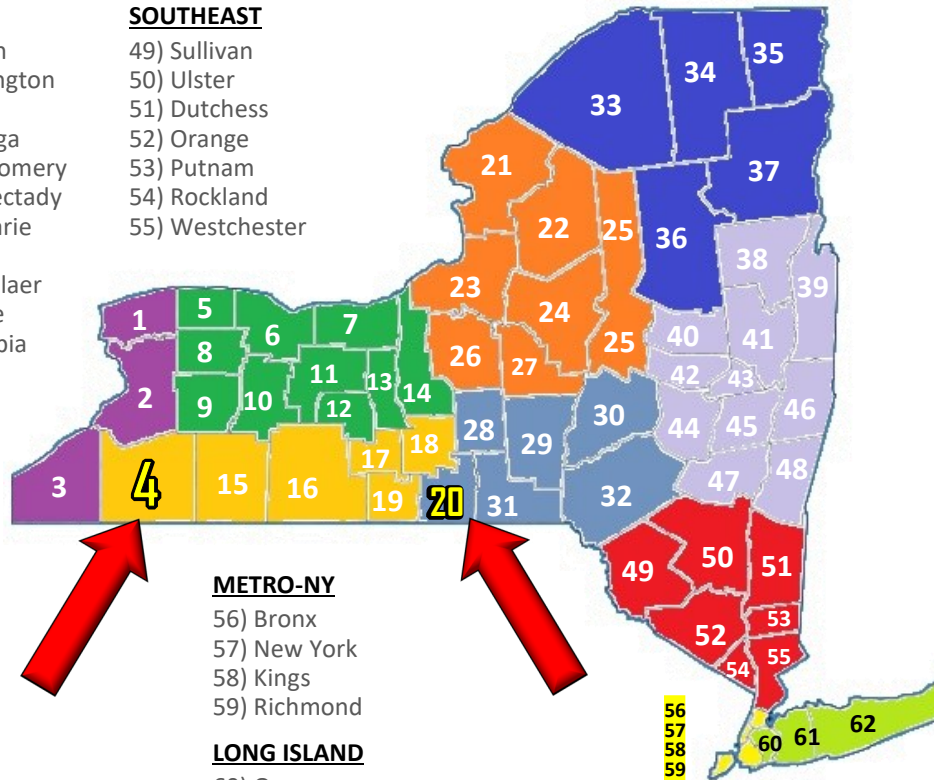
- 33) Saint Lawrence
- 34) Franklin
- 35) Clinton
- 36) Hamilton
- 37) Essex

#### EAST

- 38) Warren
- 39) Washington
- 40) Fulton
- 41) Saratoga
- 42) Montgomery
- 43) Schenectady
- 44) Schoharie
- 45) Albany
- 46) Rensselaer
- 47) Greene
- 48) Columbia

#### SOUTHEAST

- 49) Sullivan
- 50) Ulster
- 51) Dutchess
- 52) Orange
- 53) Putnam
- 54) Rockland
- 55) Westchester



#### METRO-NY

- 56) Bronx
- 57) New York
- 58) Kings
- 59) Richmond

#### LONG ISLAND

- 60) Queens
- 61) Nassau
- 62) Suffolk



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



2023  
92<sup>ND</sup>

# DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

## BIG NEWS

With the passing of the colors from outgoing Commandant Tom Arcuri to incoming Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr., so goes the change of Command.

Our new Commandant is Dean Lawton, Sr. takes the helm as Thomas Arcuri has been elected to be the Junior Past Commandant.



## more NEWS

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

- COMMANDANT ..... Dean Lawton, Sr.
- SR. VICE COMMANDANT ..... David Wiggs
- JR. VICE COMMANDANT ..... Michael Pisciotti
- JUDGE ADVOCATE ..... Cathleen Wiggs
- JR. PAST COMMANDANT ..... Thomas Arcuri

### APPOINTED STAFF OFFICERS

- CHIEF OF STAFF ..... Donna Hildebrandt
- ADJUTANT ..... Steve Topilnycky
- PAYMASTER ..... Jim Sampson
- CHAPLAIN ..... John Emrys Joseph
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR ..... Donna Hildebrandt

### AREA VICE COMMANDANTS

- EAST AREA ..... Tim Forbes
- LONG ISLAND AREA ..... Vincent Annunziata
- METRO—NY AREA ..... Volker Heyde
- NORTH AREA ..... OPEN
- NORTH CENTRAL AREA ..... Thomas Arcuri
- NORTHWEST AREA ..... David Brisbane
- SOUTH CENTRAL AREA ..... Mike Tullo
- SOUTHEAST AREA ..... Michael Pisciotti
- SOUTHWEST AREA ..... John Sabatini
- WEST AREA ..... Earl Herrington



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## 2023 92<sup>ND</sup> DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

### BIG WRAP-UP

The 92nd Annual Department of New York Convention concluded on Saturday 10 June 2023. This year there was a change of command. Outgoing Commandant Thomas Arcuri passed the colors to incoming Commandant Dean Lawton Sr.

Commandant Lawton has appointed a new Chaplain. Marine John Emrys Joseph has assumed the duties of Department Chaplain.. The Chaplain email remains unchanged.

[Donychaplain@gmail.com](mailto:Donychaplain@gmail.com). We will provide an updated address once it has been verified.

Al Merrill has stepped up to fill the open position of Sergeant of Arms.



Outgoing Commandant Arcuri receives gestures of appreciation from his officers for his dedication and leadership over the past two years.



Incoming Jr. Vice Commandant, Michael Pisciotti



Sue Whitlow, Outgoing Sgt. at Arms Scott Westcott Pack Leader Cathie Wiggs

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION



#### U.S. ARMY TANK-AUTOMOTIVE & ARMAMENTS COMMAND

The Army Donations Program office controls all conditional gifts (donations) of excess, obsolete or condemned combat materiel used as static displays, monuments, and memorials to US servicemen.

It has been brought to their attention that some organizations have been approached by personnel said to be representing an Embassy stating that TACOM has approved transfer of the equipment to them.

#### BE AWARE!

#### TACOM DOES NOT UTILIZE THIRD PARTIES!

The Army Donations Program Office will always contact you directly to coordinate any movement or donations of equipment.

If you have been approached by any other organization outside of the Army Donations Office, please contact TACOM and share any identification that you can gather.

The equipment that is currently deeded to your organization thru the Army Donations Office, being either a static display or ceremonial rifle, are not to be sold under any circumstances nor given to another organization without prior approved and documentation from our office.

No organization may legally possess this US Army property without a valid Conditional Deed of Gift.

*Obtained from a letter written by Jaime Albers, Section Lead, Army Donations Program, Desk Number (586) 282-1952, Jaime.t.albers.civ@army.mil*





# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



# 2023 92ND DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

## marine OF THE YEAR

Sadly, the Department did not receive enough nominations to select a Marine of the Year. Please do not let this happen again next year. Start thinking about who to nominate for next year.

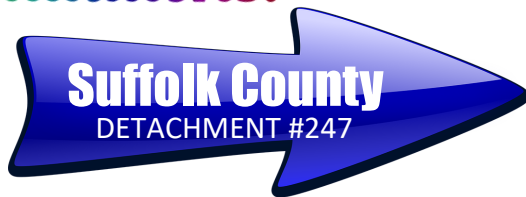


## associate OF THE YEAR



This year, the decision to choose an Associate of the year, was a very difficult one. In the end, Jim Sampson, the Department Paymaster, was named as the Associate of the Year. Congratulations, Jim.

# Congratulations!



Jr. Vice Commandant, David Wiggs launched the first annual Jr. Vice Commandant's Recruitment Poster Contest. Congratulations to Suffolk county Detachment #247 for producing this amazing poster! The full size of this poster is 24x48. It really displays the passion that the artist has for the Marine Corps League. For it, the Detachment was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation. (*Department level*).



## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



SUFFOLK COUNTY DETACHMENT #247  
2055 SUNRISE HIGHWAY, BAY SHORE NY 11706

WE SERVED OUR COUNTRY. NOW WE SERVE OUR VETERANS AND OUR COMMUNITY.  
**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE!**

### HONOR



### COMMUNITY



### COURAGE



### CHARITY



### COMMITMENT



### CAMARADERIE



## JOIN THE LEAGUE!



OPEN EVERY FRIDAY  
MEETINGS 1ST AND 3RD FRIDAY'S 8:30 PM



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## 2023 92<sup>ND</sup> DEPARTMENT CONVENTION



### AUDREY REPRESENTS A.J.

Before his passing AJ Kalil had promised Commandant Dean Lawton Sr. that he would be there when Dean was sworn-in as Commandant. Unfortunately, that did not happen. Dean thinks very highly of AJ and still wanted him to be there in some manner.

So, AJs wife, Audrey Kalil, was invited to represent him at the Installation of officers ceremony in his place. Her presence was very much appreciated!

As every Marine family knows, being the wife of a Marine takes a lot of dedication and devotion. Audrey was presented with this plaque to recognize her for that commitment.



Audrey Kalil

## The Story of the Marine Rose

*The rose is a symbol of the ultimate sacrifice that Marines made in the defense of our country.*

*Placing roses on the graves of fallen soldiers is a custom that dates to 1778 during the War for Independence.*

*It became tradition among Marines during the First World War when grateful French citizens planted roses on the graves of Marines who had been killed in the assault on the German positions at Belleau Wood.*

Submitted by Adjutant Steve Topilnycky



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## 2023 92ND DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

### Marksmanship: Consider Yourself Invited!



**LYNN STANTON**

**518-504-0830**

[lwdstanton@yahoo.com](mailto:lwdstanton@yahoo.com)

Lynn Stanton is the Department representative for the Marksmanship program. He reports that we are making advances with the amount of participation in this activity, there is still a need to get more participants.

There is too much to report here, so Lynn is the best contact for details. This is general,

and I stress general, information to get you started.

Options are available for individuals or teams using a rifle or pistol.

Each category is then divided into High Master, Master, Expert, Sharpshooter, or Marksman according to the skill.

There are criteria to be adhered to for all shooters. All competitors may submit scores without actually having an opponent. If you choose to shoot as an individual, then your score must be certified by your Commandant or Detachment Officer.

What is especially nice about this format is that there is no designated area that is mandatory to shoot at. Yes, you can

go to a gun range, but you can also use any property that legally can be shot on. Just be sure to use the correct target and distance.

Positions for the shooting: Prone, Sitting, Standing. If a competitor cannot assume a specific position, then either kneeling or the next progressive position may be substituted or choose .

Target type:

*(there are exceptions)*

NRA SR200 yard Target (10X) or Army 5 V target

Distance:

Remember that these are general guidelines

PISTOL \_\_\_\_\_ 25 yards

RIFLE \_\_\_\_\_ 100 yards

RIFLE \_\_\_\_\_ 200 yards

.22 CALIBER LR \_\_ 50 yards

*The hardest part is getting started. So, get started!*



target is a visual aid only

**CMP**

**Civilian Marksman Program**

<https://thecmp.org/competitions/>

to find forms <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/>

takes you to the Library

scroll to Program Documents

The categories are alphabetized so scroll to Marksmanship Select **Match Sheet—Combined Document** for instruction, then Choose the correct **Registration** or **Scorecard**



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Fall Meeting

**OCTOBER 20-21, 2023**

The Crown Plaza  
Three Executive Boulevard  
Suffern-Mahwah, NY 10901  
845-357-4800

Regular room rate **\$117/night**

#### RESERVATIONS

[Booking](#) Use Code **LCM**

#### DIRECTIONS

[Crowne Plaza Suffern-Mahwah,](#)  
[an IHG Hotel - Google Maps](#)

### LIFE MEMBER

The cost of a LIFE membership with the Marine Corps League has changed.

The new prices are as follows:

\$1000	35 years or younger
\$800	36-50 years old
\$600	51-64 years old
\$400	65-84 years old
\$100	85 years or older

### Veterans Guaranteed Cost-of-Living Allowance Adjustment

A new law guarantees that Veterans will receive a cost-of-living adjustment to VA compensation that is equal to the COLA applied to Social Security benefits

[Reference](#)

## ATTENTION Newsletter EDITORS

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO ENTER YOUR NEWSLETTER INTO THE NATIONAL COMPETITION.

**JULY 3RD IS THE DEADLINE!**



Every editor is encouraged to submit your newsletter to participate in the National Newsletter Competition.

It doesn't matter if yours is 4 pages or 40 pages, black and white or color. We (the judges) want to see them ALL.

Competitions are for Department (State) and Detachment. The Detachments are subdivided to reflect number of members in that Detachment.

1. Class I - Platoon (up to 50 members)
2. Class II - Company (51-100 members)
3. Class III - Battalion (101+ members)
4. Class IV - Department

There is also an overall award that is the best of the best which does not force that criteria be adhered to. It is fun!



The SOP and Judging criteria can be found on the National Website in the Library.

#### RULES AT A GLANCE

Submit 3 editions of your newsletter in one PDF

\* Email to: [MCLNewsletter.comp@gmail.com](mailto:MCLNewsletter.comp@gmail.com)

The email should also contain a coversheet with info of

\* Detachment number or Department name

\* Newsletter name \* Editor's Name

\* number of members in Detachment

\* Publishing dates Newsletter should be from

July 1 2022 through June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

\* Awards will be presented at the National Convention.



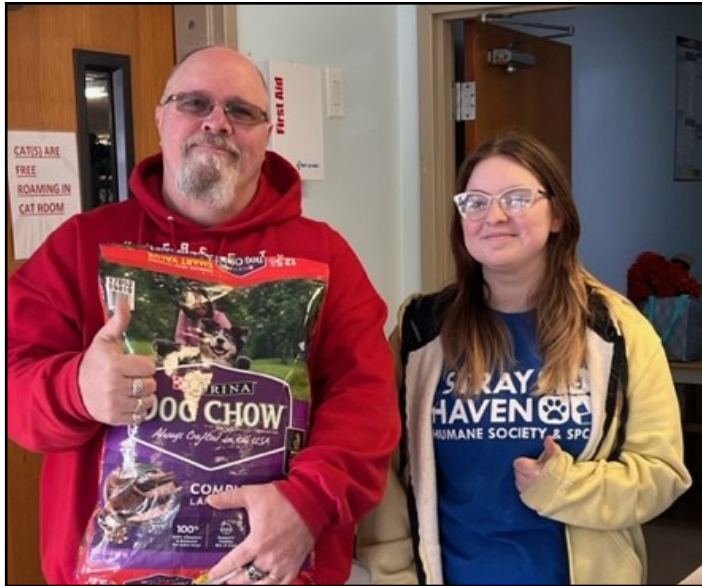
# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS

*"The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League"*



### DAWGS FOR DOGS!

**Mad Dawgs 382 David Wiggs Pound Keeper and representative from Stray Haven ... donated approximately sixty pounds of dog food**

The mad dawgs pound 382 collected approximately 60 pounds of dog food from its membership... and yes, they were purchased by the members themselves... and donated it to the Human Society in Tioga Co.

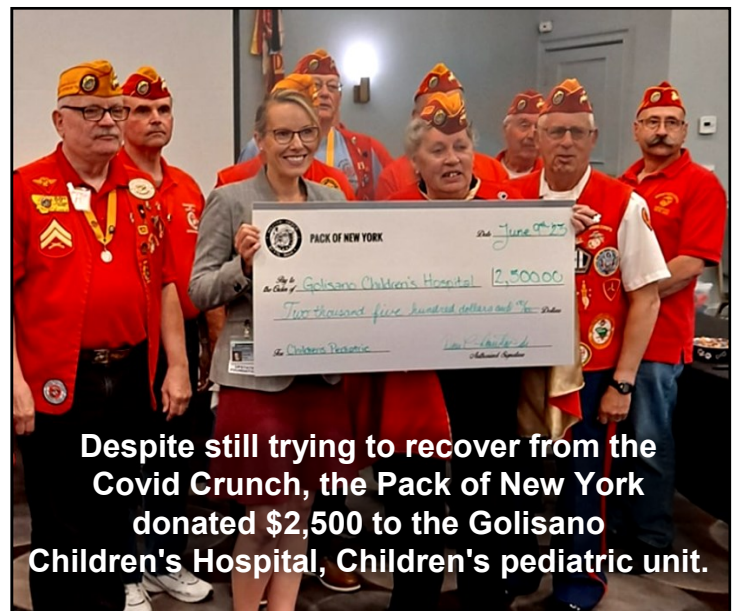
### DOG OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Marine Scott Van Grol for being selected as the Dog of the Year!

Wife Joanne participates by pinning his Dog of the Year pin to his lapel, (and crying).

### DOGS' DONATIONS



Despite still trying to recover from the Covid Crunch, the Pack of New York donated \$2,500 to the Golisano Children's Hospital, Children's pediatric unit.



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## MARINES HONOR EAGLE SCOUTS



### ACHIEVEMENT OF SCOUTS IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE MARINE THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE!

While it takes 4-6 years, only 5% of those who start scouts will attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Becoming an Eagle Scout takes exceptional dedication and drive. Notice the patches on their sashes. Each represents an accomplishment of a different skill. They must successfully complete difficult challenge from prior scouting level. The Eagle Scout requires a successful completion of a large service project. For attaining this prestigious rank, on April 29th, Associate Ray David and Commandant Pat David presented certificates to the young men on April 29, 2023. Scouts shown in top picture are Jack Schilil, Cory Peterson and Peter Handy from Troop 500.



On April 30th, Associate Ray David and Commandant Pat David presented certificates to Ryan Klein, Nick DeAngelis, Sam Parrinello, Will Mueller, Jake Ostrowski, and Jayden Neidel from Troop 545.



Submitted by Ray David

Bryant, and Eric Endres, all from Troop 457.

May 21st certificates were presented to Scouts Noah Thurston, Daniel Costello, Carter

Becoming an Eagle scout is as impressive as is becoming a Marine! Congratulations to all of these amazing scouts.

### MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

## Empire State Leathernecks Detachment #1493

“THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK MEMBER AT LARGE DETACHMENT”

PO Box 360 • Hastings on Hudson • New York • 10706

This Detachment is for Members at Large (MAL) and is now officially chartered. An MAL is a member who is a member of the Marine Corps League, but not specifically a member of a specific Detachment.

Sworn-in as Charter officers of the Empire State Leathernecks Detachment #1493 from left to right are:

- Thomas Arcuri ..... Commandant
- David Wiggs ..... Jr. Vice Commandant
- Steve Topilnycky ..... Adjutant Paymaster & Web Sergeant
- Michael Pisciotti ..... Judge Advocate
- Dean Lawton, Sr. .... Sr. Vice Commandant



### Other Charter-signing members present:

Cathie Wiggs, Earl Herrington & Tim Forbes

### Charter members not present at signing are:

- Gary Howard
- Jack LaClaire
- Roger Miner
- John Snow
- Kenneth Peete
- Joseph Patton
- Gary Labomard
- James Miller
- Roman Miner
- James Stewart
- Steven Twichell
- Walter Dubuque



<https://www.empirestateleathernecks.org/2023/06/its-official-charter-signed/>



# AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

## ClearPath Receives Donation



ClearPath was the fortunate recipient of the generosity of the fleas and the auxiliary. It is a destination created for and by veterans as a safe place. Please see [clearpath4vets.com](http://clearpath4vets.com) for interesting information. The veteran that spoke at last year's banquet was from ClearPath and made quite an impression on the women.

*Submitted by Karen Seeley*

## RESTAURANT OWNER RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



On May 11, Stavros Aronis, owner of The Olive Tree Family Restaurant in Lancaster was overjoyed to receive a Certificate of Appreciation! He repeatedly states that he is happy to support all branches of military service and first responders. He donated generously towards our Spring meeting. Surprisingly, his check was twice what he had pledged! We are so fortunate to have supporters like him. So, if you live in, or are visiting Western New York, please stop by his restaurant, The Olive Tree at 5240 Broadway in Lancaster.

You won't be disappointed.

*Submitted by  
Donna Hildebrandt  
Chief of Staff, GP Editor*

Herkimer County Detachment #227

### MARINE OF THE YEAR

**LIFE MEMBER JOHN C. WALKER**

*Submitted by Nancy Lewosko*





# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## 2023 MEMORIAL DAY

### REMEMBERED WITH SOLACE

## Sgt. Angel Mendez

DETACHMENT #246

*Tom Wortmann, ANDVC, PDC*

On Memorial Day, the Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment hosted members of the military to participate in this remembrance ceremony. The following took advantage of the open invitation to honor those who are no longer with us, and in addition, formed comradeship.

- ◆ U.S. Marines and sailors off the U.S.S. Wasp and the U.S.S. Oak Hill
- ◆ Coast Guard sailors off the U.S.C.G. Cutter Deyamport
- ◆ Royal Navy sailors off the H.M.S. Scott
- ◆ Italian Sailors off the I.T.S. Vingino Fasan

Each year, the Sergeant Angel Mendez Detachment hosts service personnel from Operation Fleet week and this year was no different. Operation Fleet week in NYC again sent service people from the ships in the harbor to our detach-ment. All service personnel are welcome and local Marine recruiters, a few Army reserve and National Guard personnel came to share in honoring the fallen.



The detachment rented a bus to go into Manhattan to pick up those whose ships were docked at Manhattan's piers and detachment members picked up the US sailors from ships docked in Staten Island's home port pier with a caravan of their cars.

Our members and those of the services had a very good time. They all participated in our remembrance ceremony with great respect, regardless of their service or country

Afterwards, food and drink was served to all. As the pictures show, a good time was indeed had by all.







# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## 2023 MEMORIAL DAY

### REMEMBERED WITH SOLACE

## 2LT John Paul Bobo

DETACHMENT #1118



MCL Adjutant Bill Talarico reads the prayer, Judge Advocate Dave Kindzia and Sr. Vice Commandant John Attanasio stand at attention.  
2Lt. Bobo's memorial service at Gate of Heaven Cemetery



MCL 2Lt. John Paul Bobo Detachment #1118 color guard stands at attention while bagpiper, Niagara Falls police officer, Dave Cudahy plays "Amazing Grace"



Grave of 2LT John Paul Bobo at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery



Commandant Kingsley Chandler plays "Taps"



Marine Corps League 2Lt. John Paul Bobo Detachment #1118 Color Guard and Bobo family

Sr. Vice Commandant John Attanasio

Judge Advocate Dave Kindzia

John's brother-in-law and sister Joe and Mary Colosi

John's sister in law and brother Ann and William Bobo

Commandant Kingsley Chandler

Adjutant Bill Talarico

## Raising Awareness

### OF VETERANS AND THE SERVICE THAT THEY PERFORMED



The Department of New Jersey invited members of the Department of New York to join in a meet and greet with **Sgt and Mrs. Garcia**, authors of *Marines don't Cry*.

Sergeant Garcia is traveling up the East coast to the United Nations to raise awareness for veterans and the services that they performed. He gives away some books, *Marines don't Cry* to be sold for fundraisers.

In attendance to represent the Department of New York were members off Sergeant Angel Mendez Detachment #246. Present were Northeast Assistant Division Vice Commandant, Tom Wortmann, Metro Area Vice Commandant Volker Heyde and Erik Tjonhom.

Submitted by ANDVC, PDC, Tom Wortmann



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## Miscellaneous



### HELP WANTED

#### EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR

The Department of New York is in need of a member to step up to fill the position of Eagle Scout Coordinator Interested individuals please contact Commandant Lawton.

### HELP WANTED

#### STATE FAIR COORDINATOR

The Department of New York is in need of a member to step up to fill the position of State Fair Coordinator Interested individuals please contact Commandant Lawton.

### LICENSE PLATES

#### MCL LICENSE PLATES

MCL Department license plates are available only to Regular and Associate LIFE MEMBERS due to the fact that the DMV will not give us an audit, therefore we have no way to verify members in good standing. Plates must be surrendered upon members death and not transferred to family members.

Link to forms [here](#) & [here](#).

## HAMBURG CONTROVERSY

*This is a long story, that is shortened a lot. More details can be found on the websites of local Buffalo news stations — WGRZ, WKBW, WIVB.*

The flagpole outside of the Hamburg Town Hall has traditionally flown the American flag atop the POW / MIA (prisoner of war / missing in action) flag. On June 2, 2023 citizens gathered to voice their dislike of the POW/ MIA flag being removed and another colorful flag

was where the POW / MIA flag once waved.

The outrage ran so deep in the veins of veterans and their feelings were shared with the Hamburg Supervisor. The supervisor (allegedly) had approved the swapping of the flags with total oblivion. He did not realize that this action would spark such a dramatic response from the community.

Within a day, the supervisor “explained” that the POW / MIA flag

was tattered and it was taken down so that it could be replaced with a new one and the new one is ordered. At that point, he also stated that no disrespect was intended.

On 6/18/2023, the flag pole was observed to have 3 flags on one pole. At the top was Old Glory, beneath was the POW/ MIA Flag, and the third was the unrelated flag.

Member(s) from the VFW, “reminded” the supervisor that if a flag needs to be



retired, then it should be surrendered to the VFW for proper disposal.

The controversy is likely not over.



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## Miscellaneous

### Gold Star Families

***"All gave some. Some gave all."***

The Gold Star Lapel Button and the Lapel Button for Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel officially represent a military loss. They are presented to the surviving family members of our brave men and women who die while on active military duty in service to our nation.

The families of service members who made the ultimate sacrifice deserve our respect, gratitude, and the very best support we can provide. The proprietors of their website ([Gold.Star.Advocate@usmc.mil](mailto:Gold.Star.Advocate@usmc.mil)) state that "It is an honor and a privilege to maintain this site as a way to assist, inform, honor, educate, and support the memory of those who gave everything in service to our nation."



U.S. Marine Corps  
Gold Star & Surviving Family Member Representatives  
(703) 784-9580

[Gold.Star.Advocate@usmc.mil](mailto:Gold.Star.Advocate@usmc.mil)

[Reference for article](#)   [Reference for article](#)

#### DEFINITIONS

**WIDOW** — "widow" includes widower

**PARENTS** — "parents" includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis

**NEXT OF KIN** — "next of kin" only includes children, brothers, sisters, half-brothers, and half-sisters; and the term "children" includes stepchildren and children through adoption.

If you are a survivor and not satisfied with the casualty assistance provided by your service, contact your Gold Star and Surviving Family Member Representative. They are there to help, regardless of how and where your loved one died.

Personnel eligible to participate include the widow, parents and the next of kin. Use the following contact information if needed.

\$ 22 per Walker

# 22 a Day

**MENTAL HEALTH, PTSD & VETERAN SUICIDE**

September 09, 2023   Step off @ 0700  
a 22 mile walk from Cantine field to Woodstock American Legion back to Cantine

FMI or to sponsor Please contact us at  
[UlsterMCL253@gmail.com](mailto:UlsterMCL253@gmail.com) 845.481.0028

All Proceeds will be used to assist Veterans of Ulster County that are in crisis

Hosted By  
**ULSTER DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
P. O. Box 1584 Kingston, NY 12401

Submitted by JA, Michael A. Pisciotti



# Miscellaneous

## Big Tid Bit

### KEEPING IT CLEAN

*Submitted by PDC, ANEDC Tom Wortmann*

For years, I've noticed that PNC, PDC Bob Becker always had a clean cover. His had a white crown, and yet it was impeccably clean. How?

As it turns out, Bob Becker had a secret. That secret was Cathy Huber, Aid de Camp for the Department at the time. She shared her secret with me, and I will share it with you.

First remove the emblem.

Then, find a container that you can completely submerge your cover in. Hospital basins are the perfect size.

Get OXI-CLEAN. Do NOT substitute.

Fill the basin w/**HOT** water, not warm or cool but hot.

Add two tablespoons of Oxi-Clean. Mix thoroughly, leaving none on the bottom of the basin.

Set cover (*minus the emblem*) into the basin. Push it into the mixture covering the cover completely.

**DO NOT SCRUB.** Do not use brushes of the kind.

Lift the cover up and down in the mixture. Turn it over, up and down again.



Put a finger from each hand inside allowing the mixture to go inside the cover. Up and down.

Turn it over and again with two fingers inside, up and down.

Let it soak for one hour. **No more.**

After one hour, drain the mixture and remove the cover. **DO NOT RING IT OUT.**

Place the cover in a towel and cover it with the towel completely incasing the wet cover.

Press on the towel, forcing the water out. Turn the towel with the cover still inside over and press again. Open up the towel and remove the cover, putting it inside another clean dry towel and repeat.

Then remove the cover and set it to dry by propping it up on its own open bottom.

Once completely dry, you may iron it if you wish. Replace the emblem.



THAT IS ALL THERE IS TO IT. ALL IN LESS THAN 20 MINUTES OF ACTUAL WORK AND YOU HAVE A VERY CLEAN, NEW LOOKING COVER.



## Miscellaneous

### You're a Grand Old Flag

*You're a Grand ole Flag, you're high-flying flag and forever in peace may you wave!*

The American flag is a symbol of freedom and liberty. She represents the home of the free because of the blood of the brave that has been spilled in her name.

Americans fly Old Glory with pride and honor. However, when a flag is ready for retirement, there is a proper procedure to do so. The US Flag code writes that: If the flag is not in good enough condition to represent our country, it should be taken down and destroyed in a dignified manner, ceremonial burning.



Born of respect for the Stars and Stripes and as a free service, the MCL Westchester County Detachment offers U.S. Flag Disposal.

Bins are placed throughout mid-Westchester County. Flags placed within these bins are assured to receive the proper dignity at that time.

The Detachment works with Wheelabrator in Peekskill, NY, who conducts the dignified burns.

Westchester flag disposal project

<https://www.mclwestchester.org/programs/u-s-flag-disposal-bin-project/>

### You're a Grand Old Flag

#### Lyrics

You're a grand old flag  
You're a high-flying flag  
And forever in peace may you wave

You're the emblem of  
The land I love  
The home of the free and the brave

Ev'ry heart beats true  
Under red, white and blue  
Where there's never a boast or brag  
But should old acquaintance be forgot  
Keep your eye on the grand old flag