



THREE-TIME



# National Award-Winning Newsletter



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



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[newsletter.dny@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.dny@gmail.com)

2023  
JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30  
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### 2023-2024 OFFICERS

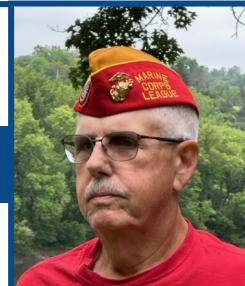
- Commandant  
DEAN LAWTON, SR.
- Sr. Vice Commandant  
DAVID WIGGS
- Junior Vice Commandant  
MICHAEL PISCIOTTI
- Judge Advocate  
CATHLEEN WIGGS
- Junior Past Commandant  
THOMAS ARCURI
- Adjutant  
STEVE TOPILNYCKY
- Chief of Staff  
DONNA HILDEBRANDT
- Chaplain  
JOHN EMRYS JOSEPH
- Paymaster  
JIM SAMPSON
- Sergeant at Arms
  
- 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 fellow members,*

As I sit here, watching some football, what do I write about for this issue of the Ground Pounder? I could write about our 4,100 mile trip to & from the National Convention in August, or my travels around the Department handing out Certificates or answering member questions. Then I remembered yesterday's trip to a place in the Finger Lakes called The Windmill. We were walking around looking, and I heard Semper Fi from at least 6 different Marines. They were from all over the state and yet none of them were members of the Marine Corps League. So I gave each of them my business card and one of my poker chips (challenge coin). All of them asked what the Marine Corps League was and what did we do. Of course we talked about everything that I could think of.

The youngest Marine who had 2 tours in Afghanistan, asked if he would be allowed to keep his beard. I told him if he has issues to call me "you have my personal number."

We will have a Department meeting on October 20th & 21st in Suffern. We are going to try some new things. We are changing up the schedule by adding some training, all to help us get members to attend.

Now I am issuing a challenge. I want to see at least 1 member from each Detachment at the fall meeting. I'm hoping we can make this a well attended event.

Thank you for all you do.  
See you all next month.

*Semper Fi,  
Dean*

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

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# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

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### CHUCKLES

found on pages

25 28 30

The Senate confirmed  
**GENERAL ERIC SMITH** as the top  
 Marine General He will serve as  
 Marine Commandant. See page 22.

Reference: *MarineCorpsTimes.com*





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## OFFICERS' Messages



*From the desk of ...*

### Department Senior Vice Commandant David Wiggs

**Dear Marines and Associates,**

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for your vote of confidence in electing me as Senior Vice Commandant for the department. In my new position, the Commandant has appointed me to head the budget committee. My goals for the committee are to:

- ⇒ review the last few years of budgets to ensure that the department is spending it's funds in the appropriate amounts and on the appropriate items going forward
- ⇒ document the appropriate use of stipends and gather input from those who receive a stipend as to their option of the process

On another note, I had the privilege to attend the 100th Marine Corps League Convention and represent the department along with other members. It was a very nice celebration of our history and great camaraderie with other Marines. I even got the chance to catch up with PNC/PDC Bob Becker who appeared to be in better health and I hope to see him attending department meetings again.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Suffern for the next department meeting!

Semper Fidelis,

*Dave Wiggs*

Sr. Vice Commandant  
Department of New York

*From the desk of ...*

### Department Junior Vice Commandant Michael Piscioti

**Hello All,**

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Michael Piscioti and I am the newly elected Department Junior Vice Commandant.

As such, my biggest responsibility is membership. Not only does the MCL need new members, but we also need to retain those that we already have.

New members may feel alienated after a few meetings and decide to leave the MCL. This is exactly what I want to prevent. Every single person is important and we as an organization, need to make all members feel included.

With that being said, I want you to know that I will be reaching out to as many Detachments as possible to introduce myself and discuss membership. I am readily available to take calls related to membership and retention. My phone number is 845-248-1318 so you can put it in your address book or reach out to me first.

This edition's tip — Mentoring. See next page.

There are PowerPoint tutorials on the national website, [www.mcleaguelibrary.org/](http://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/)

I look forward to serving you as Jr. Vice commandant for this term of office.

**Semper Fi,  
Mike**





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## OFFICERS' Messages



*From the desk of ...*

**Department Judge Advocate  
Cathleen Wiggs**

**OORAH  
MARINES!**

**S**ince being sworn-in as the Department of New York's Judge Advocate, I have been busy resolving problems and learning my new job, so I can be the most effective Judge Advocate that you deserve. My report will be on the back table in October at Suffern of course, so be sure to grab a copy.

*In addition, I would like to take a minute to address an issue that is unrelated to our bylaws, but it does affect our Department.*

**O**ur Ladies' Auxiliary is in crisis, and most of us do not realize this. Their membership has fallen drastically. They are important to us because they have pledged their support to the MCL. Their commitment is not replaceable! The health of the Auxiliary affects the health of the MCL. It is only right that we give them that same respect and support. At our meetings, they give constant calls for recruitment, which have not been answered.

Ask your wives and daughters, etc. to join. I have found that group announcements garner few responses but personal invitations do. The Auxiliary is a prime example of what our own future could be if we do not take membership and recruitment personally.

### Mentoring

*To mentor is to teach. Both new and established members can benefit from being mentored. This introduces policy and where to find answers. To be effective, I encourage that mentoring be done by officers whenever possible.*

### INFO WORTH SAVING

- [www.mcleaguelibrary.org/](http://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/)
- [www.mclnewyork.net](http://www.mclnewyork.net)
- [www.mclwestchester.org](http://www.mclwestchester.org)
- [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org)
- [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



### MEMBERSHIP\*

Total members .....	3,493
Regular .....	3,066
Associate .....	397
Multiple .....	30

\*As of 25 September 2023







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## Send Prayers

### SEND PRAYERS TO

# LEWIS LOEVEN

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT  
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT



**S**ince mid-August, Lew is being treated at his second rehab facility. Therapists are helping him to walk and talk again. He has expressed how pleased he is that he has received so many prayers and cards. He loves reading the cards. They really make him happy.

Marilyn reports, that for obvious reasons, he has his days of ups and downs. August is the third month since the start this ordeal.

**O**n June 24th, the day before his birthday, Lew was experiencing symptoms that mimicked a stroke, so testing for a stroke began, but an MRI was not an option because of his pacemaker. Regardless, stroke was ruled out, but he was having difficulty breathing, so he was admitted to ICU and put onto a ventilator and a large amount of blood was noticed at that time. It was learned that Lew had an internal bleed, and was taken into surgery twice to repair the bleed.

After those surgery, the thought was the Lew was getting better, but then developed bleeding yet again. After this, he was taken to a second hospital that is better equipped to treat him. He was in their ICU for about 10 days and also had more surgery at this

second hospital. After a successful surgery, he progressed to being ready for therapy to teach him to walk and talk again at a rehabilitation facility.

**W**hile at the rehab facility, Lew had a change in his health. He had spoken to numerous staff about it. I won't get into specifics, or make the story too detailed. Let it just be said that his symptoms were not taken seriously enough and he was returned to Mercy Hospital.

Today, September 19, Lew is feeling well enough for him to go to a DIFFERENT rehab facility where he can resume his PT. Marilyn has faith in this new facility.

Marilyn said that Lew still has a goal to be at the October Meeting in Suffern.

**L**ew has given permission to send cards. He really loves getting them. Please send them to:

**Lew Loeven**  
**3556 Raven Street**  
**Levittown, NY 11756**

Marilyn is said that she is also doing good. And, by the way, she likes cards too (*hint, hint*).





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## *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..*



### CORPORAL LOUIS KACZMAREK

24 April 1922 – 12 July 2023

**101 YEAR-OLD IWO JIMA VETERAN  
CORPORAL LOUIS KACZMAREK,  
IS SWORN IN TO THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

*Corporal Louis Kaczmarek was a 101 year-old WWII veteran of Iwo Jima. It was on Wednesday 11 July 2023, that West Area Vice Commandant Earl Herrington installed Corporal Kaczmarek into the Marine Corps League just hours before his passing. The West Area Vice Commandant, Earl Herrington stated that he was honored and humbled to have that honor.*

Corporal Kaczmarek served in the Marine Corps from 14 December 1942 to 10 January 1946 and in Iwo Jima 19 February 1945 to 27 March 1945. He was a Para-Marine until the unit disbanded. The Marine was a proud Veteran of WWII, serving as a truck driver in the second wave in Iwo Jima. Notice that the picture to the far top right displays his Honorable Discharge Certificate and a Japanese flag that was signed by members of his outfit in Iwo Jima. He was very proud of what both represented. For his service, he was awarded a Good Conduct Medal and a Certificate of Satisfactory Service.

Along with his beloved late wife, Eleanor, he became a devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather. One day after his induction in to the Marine Corps League, Corporal Kaczmarek was reassigned to Guard the Gates of Heaven for the Supreme Commandant.

As a civilian, he was a lifelong member of Cleveland Hill Volunteer Fire Department, a member of CHFD Exempts and the last surviving original member of Kelly's Sportsman's Club.

When Marine Kaczmarek's son, Phil, reported the passing of his father to WAVC Herrington, he said that being sworn in to the Marine Corps League meant the world to his father.

#### SUMMARY:

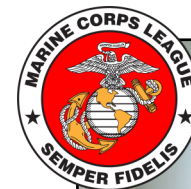
TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2023 ..... Sworn in to the Marine Corps League  
WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2023..... Greeted the Supreme Commandant  
WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2023 ..... Wake  
MONDAY, 29 JULY 2023 ..... Laid to rest with loved ones present



Above:  
Corporal Louis Kaczmarek's last earthly duty as a Marine.



Right:  
A flag, that was signed by the members of his outfit hangs over his bed.



At the bedside of 101 year-old, Corporal Louis Kaczmarek, West Area Vice Commandant, Earl Herrington swore in Marine Kaczmarek into the Marine Corps League.

References:  
West Area Vice Commandant Earl Herrington  
Buffalo News July 16, 2023  
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### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR **MARINE BARRY ALLEN**

(17 October 1947 - 23 May 2023)

*Born in Erie, Pennsylvania.*

*He later relocated to Middletown, New York.*

Barry was a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps., enlisting after graduating high school and later serving in Japan and Vietnam.

Although not a member of the League, he was treated as such at the Memorial service on Saturday July 15, 2023. The Middletown Marine's service was attended by Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. and several members of the Middletown Detachment. There is no greater honor for a Marine than to be honored by other Marines at his farewell salute.

Flag ceremony was performed with the presentation of the flag to Marine Allen's widow by SSgt. J Hall, USMC. An EGA was placed in front of the Marine's urn.

Taps, a slower version of the Marines' Hymn, and ..... which absolutely brought tears to the attendees eyes.



Photo by Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr.

*William Rios  
Harry Ragland  
Charlie "CZ" Czonchanski  
Lou Ferrara  
Michael Pisciotti  
Don Wells  
SSgt. J. Hall from  
RSS Middletown*

References: Commandant Dean Lawton, Jr. Vice Commandant Michael Pisciotti and Ralston-Lippincott-Hasbrouck-Ingrassia Funeral Home - Middletown on May 26, 2023.

### PAST DETACHMENT COMMANDANT **MATTHEW SZUDZIK**

(September 2023)



It came as quite a shock to learn the Past Commandant of Bett-Toomey Detachment #216, Matthew Szudzik had unexpectedly passed away.

The Past Commandant held strong when the Detachment was close to folding. Others in his shoes would have quit. Members of the Detachment are still astounded that he was able to do what he did.

He committed 10+ years of his life as Commandant before handing the helm to his successor. Without Past Commandant Matthew Szudzik, Bett-Toomey would have gone belly-up more than a decade ago.

The Marine Ceremony held at the end of the wake was supported by several area veterans. Commandant Blachura did the reading as Hank Klubek acted as Chaplain.

The end of the ceremony brought tears when Taps was played, accompanied by a rifle volley.

As the ceremony dismissed, Commandant approached his widow, Pat, and presented her an EGA. The remaining members of the veterans groups followed suit and offered a condolences to Pat before departing.

Marine Szudzik made a legacy for himself at Bett-Toomey Detachment.







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### LCpl. SEAN WILLEY

*Information gathered from multiple sources*

After discharge, Lance Corporal Sean Willey began hiking the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina on February of 2022. He was never heard from again. Several months later, a hunter reporting having found human remains in a tent at a campsite. In September of 2022 the remains were positively identified as LCpl. Sean Willey from Ilion, NY. It wasn't until February 16, 2023, however, that his family was notified.

Sean's family would not be able to make the 900-mile, one-way trip to bring him home for a proper burial. So, the Clay County Sheriff's of North Carolina took the lead to coordinate the task of an escort starting in North Carolina, through Tennessee, Virginia, Pennsylvania to the final destination of Ilion, New York.

They partnered with The American Legion Post #532 and Marine Corps League Detachment #783 to get LCpl. Willey home. The enormous undertaking needed an extraordinary amount of cooperation to successfully complete the mission.



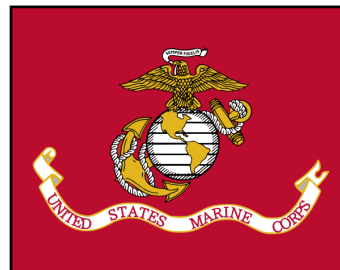
An escort led by Sheriffs, from each county along the way, accompanied by a motorcade comprised of motor-cycle riders from the Marine Corps League, the American Legion, Combat Veterans Association and the Patriot Guard.



Prior to the event, the Commandant of Herkimer County Detachment, Stanley Lewosko organized a New York reception. Department of New York Commandant Dean Lawton Sr. coordinated the Law Enforcement escort from Binghamton to Ilion, NY. Other veterans' organization from Sean's hometown collaborated where needed.

Friday, July 28, 2023, the day began with an honor guard and flag folding ceremony with full military honors. The ceremony with eulogy was streamed live for those who could not be there, could watch.

The long, ceremonious drive from Hayesville, North Carolina to Ilion, New York then began the 2-day trip northward. This trip stretched 900-miles with an overnight stay in Harrisonburg, Virginia.







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### LCpl. SEAN WILLEY

*continued from previous page*

Saturday, July 29, 2023, the group crossed the Pennsylvania/New York state border, and began the last leg of his journey. They stopped in Binghamton, NY where another ceremony was held for the local people to pay their respects. Torrential rains and strong winds accompanied the riders and continued through most of New York to the final destination, Ilion, NY. Even with the inclement weather, 36 motor-cyclists braved the weather from Binghamton to Ilion.

Jr. Past Commandant Tom Arcuri had the honor to lead the Lance Corporal's remains and his escorts into the Marine Corps League detachment building in Ilion, where he was received by an official honor guard. The funeral detail was rendered by the United States Marines, providing military honors and another flag folding ceremony. Three folded flags were presented to



Stan Lewosko, Commandant of Herkimer County Detachment #227, presents folded flag to Sean's grandmother. Marines present flags to his sister and wife.

Let this serve as a reminder to all veterans:  
**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**



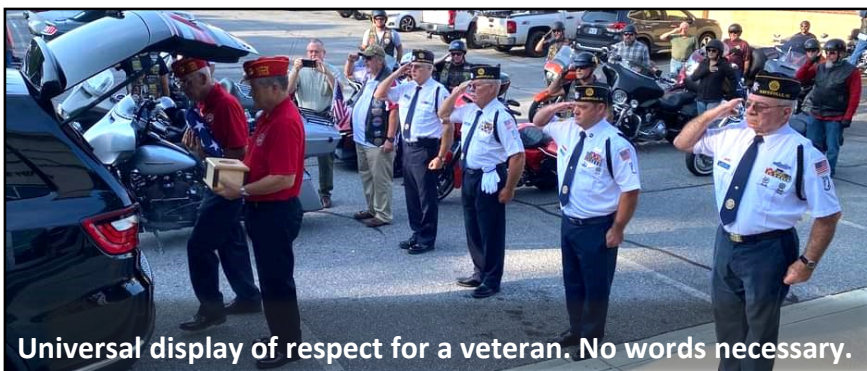
Marines address family

his sister, wife and grandmother each.

Sean's toddler son was not overlooked. A regulation foot locker was crafted to hold some of Sean's belongings, like his dog tags. DoNY's Sr. Vice Commandant Dave Wiggs placed challenge coins from some NY detachments, into the footlocker. It will be opened when the child is older and can understand the significance of it.

This was a remarkable accomplishment that required significant cooperation from numerous people and groups on the 900-mile mission.

Ultimately, this event was funded 100% from the kindness and generosity of others.



Universal display of respect for a veteran. No words necessary.



Sr. Vice Commandant Dave Wiggs with Judge Advocate Cathie Wiggs beside memorabilia. The red box holds the Challenge Coins given by NY Detachments







# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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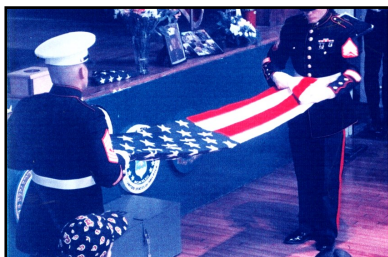
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## MARINES FOR MARINES



Article submitted in its entirety by  
Stan Lewosko, Commandant MCL #227



After many e-mails, telephone calls, we at Herkimer Detachment # 227 located in Ilion, N.Y. received the remains of Marine Sean Willey.

Story follows as such, received a call from FMF Corpsman Alton "Doc" Coleman JUDGE ADVOCATE Marine Corps League Department of Georgia, his call was remains of a Marine were found on the Appalachian Trail in the state of North Caroline, he being a native of Ilion, N.Y. they felt it would be a disgrace to return his remains via UPS. They worked long hard hours putting together an HONOR GUARD to escort his remains home to his family, also to keep us in constant contact to the scheduling.

07/29/23

An escort team from Hayesville, N.C. consisting of Doc Coleman, members from Clay County Sheriff's office, as well as riders from the Patriot Guard Riders, American Legion and the Combat Veteran's Motorcycle Association, set out for Ilion, N.Y. Along the way they were met with various Marine Corps League Detachments, respectfully awarding Military Honors to Sean at fuel stops.

Arriving on schedule at 18:30 hrs. in Ilion, N.Y. they were received by Herkimer County Marine Corps League Honor Guard who received his remains and retired to our social hall where the family was received and seated. Military Honors and refolding of American Flag service was completed Colors were presented to Marine Sean Willey's wife, Sister and Grandmother, Marine Detail from Syracuse, N.Y. & Albany, N.Y. completed the service.

It was an honor to be part of this service following our code NO MARINE shall be left behind.

Respectfully Submitted;

Stan Lewosko Commandant MCL # 227





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## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

### Teamwork

Thank you to all the agencies that helped with the escort of LCpl Willey's remains. I went to all 6 agencies and presented them with Marine Corps League Certificates of Appreciation.

The first three, Broome and Chenango Counties, and Troop C Headquarters of the NYS Police went very well, and I was able to place faces with emails and numerous phone calls.

The second trip turned a little weird. I was hoping to combine the remaining three but was informed that Herkimer County's Sheriff and Undersheriff would be in Rochester for the day, so Bonnie and I went to Delaware and Otsego Counties.

On the way to Delaware County the Undersheriff of Herkimer County, Scott Leskovar, called and said that his schedule had changed, and he would be available, however, we were too far along to turn back and get their certificate, so we rescheduled for Monday 9/18/2023.

What a great group of men and women. I'm truly thankful for their service and the time they took out from their schedules to meet with me. It was truly an honor to present the certificates to their Departments.

*Dean*



**Delaware County**  
Undersheriff Kim Smith  
Sheriff Craig S. DuMond



**Otsego County**  
Sheriff Richard J. Devlin, Jr.  
Deputy Sgt. Mike Stalter



**Broome County**  
Deputy Chuck Loudon  
Deputy Lt. Josh Davidson



**Chenango County**  
Deputy Sgt Jeffrey Barton  
Deputy Sgt Ted Ellingson



**New York State Police**  
Troop C Headquarters  
First Sergeant Chad Buckley



**Herkimer County**  
Sheriff Scott Scherer  
Undersheriff Scott A. Leskovar







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## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



### *NEW* **Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps**



**SgtMaj Carlos A. Ruiz** assumed the duties and responsibilities of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps from SgtMaj Troy E. Black. SgtMaj Ruiz will serve as the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

*Obtained from Facebook August 2023*

### **Congratulations to Evan for Earning a Scholarship**



*Submitted by Karen Johnston*

Past Commandant Ron Farewell's grandson Evan, applied for and won the Department of New York's Marine Corps League Scholarship. Congratulations Evan, and best of luck in your future!

### **2023-2024 NATIONAL OFFICERS**

Congratulations to the newly elected leaders of the Marine Corps League who were installed at the 100th National Convention in Oklahoma City in July of 2023.

Commandant  
**Warren Griffin**



Sr. Vice Commandant  
**TJ Morgan**



Jr. Vice Commandant  
**Russ Miller**



Judge Advocate  
**David Porter**



National Junior Past  
National Commandant  
**Johnny Baker**







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# 2023

# NATIONAL CONVENTION



Department Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. accepts the award for #1 newsletter in the Department category. Our editor is Donna Hildebrandt, *yours truly*. This is the **third year** running for an award for the Department of New York.



(Outgoing) National Commandant Johnny Baker, Department of New York Commandant, Dean Lawton, Sr., National Newsletter Chair, Dianna Grantham.

## 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR RIBBON

The Marine Corps League (MCL) 100th anniversary ribbon is available for purchase from the MCL Ship Store — (copy and paste) <https://the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com/collections/medals-ribbons/products/100th-year-ribbon>

All MCL members and all Marine Corps League Auxiliary (MCLA) members are authorized to wear the ribbon — if they are members in good standing at any time during the 100th anniversary year.



All MCL members and members that were in attendance at the 100th anniversary convention

in Oklahoma City are authorized to wear the gold frame over the ribbon.

When wearing the gold frame, ensure the wheat print goes upward. The ribbon will be worn with the blue stripe to the wearer's right (closest to the heart.) The number '100' is optional for wear by all. The ribbon will be placed junior to the MCL Membership ribbon but senior to the MCL 75th Anniversary ribbon.



Taken by Cathie Wiggs

## AT THE National Convention

Beautiful statue in a park near the hotel. Notice the height of the people for comparison.





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# 2024

# NATIONAL CONVENTION



## START PLANNING NOW!

**IT WILL GET HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT**

ROOMS WILL BE BOOKED SOONER THAN YOU EXPECT

## 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION

MONDAY **AUGUST 12, 2024** TO FRIDAY **AUGUST 16, 2024**

### WESTIN RANCHO MIRAGE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

7133 DINAH SHORE DRIVE, RANCHO MIRAGE, CA 92270

You may book two (2) rooms with your name.

30 days prior to the convention,

you must provide the hotel with the second name.

**Cut-off date for MCL rates is July 8, 2024.**

Reservations after that will be at the prevailing rate on space available.

### HOTEL

RESERVATION PHONE: (888) 627-7086

Reservation code "MCL" or "Marine Corps League"

**Single \$159** (one person in room)

& include breakfast Monday through Saturday for one (1) and are inclusive of taxes, resort fee, and parking.

**Double \$169** (two persons in room)

& include breakfast Monday through Saturday for two (2) and are inclusive of taxes, resort fee, and parking.



2024 SCHEDULE

2023 JULY 1 THRU  
SEPTEMBER 30

## THE GROUND POUNDER







# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

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## DEVIL DOGS GROWL



### Woof Woof, Dogs of the Pack!

#### Suffern is coming up ...

make your arrangements to attend! For those of you who missed the June department convention, you missed "the best growl in a long time."



Let's examine for a minute why we are **MODD** members in the first place.

- Regular meetings that talk about the same stuff can be *yawn* inspiring. Dog meetings are fun!
- Dogs love to decorate themselves! A good reason to be a dog is the chance to wear ever patch and pin ever created!
- We earn collars!



Okay all silly reasons for grown adults to join an organization whose sole goal is to help themselves to our "bones!"

But! Aha! In that last sentence is our singular mission. **BONES!** We belong to the **MODD** to collect as many **BONES** as possible. from that. we support the weakest of the weak and the most needful of the needy.



Let me tell you about the first time I handed over our contribution to the nurse who gratefully accepted.

**ME:** I hope this helps all the sick babies get better and go home.

**NURSE:** most of them won't.

**ME:** won't get better?

**NURSE:** well some do but actually I was talking about them going home. You see when most are able enough to leave us they go into the Child Protective Services program. The vast majority of our cases are high risk patients born with addictions and abandoned because the mothers are homeless and addicted as well.

**ME:** isn't this heartbreaking?

**NURSE:** sure but then sometimes I see a tiny smile after weeks of painful withdrawal and it's all worth it. They can get better especially with the help of you Marines.

A growl to outdo our last growl is in the planning stages for Suffern. So if you haven't made your arrangements to attend the Fall meeting, get off your hind quarters and do it!

#### And so let me sum up ... why am I a dog?

Because that single lonely bone in your pocket makes little difference to you, but makes a real difference in the life of a child who was born at the lowest point possible for sustained human life. And that's the best reason to be a dog! Oh...And meetings are fun!

#### You are making a difference!

**Cathleen Wiggs**  
Worthy Pack Leader  
New York

### Woof Woof!





# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

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## FUTURE

### The Department of New York Auxiliary



President Karen Seeley

Hello,

I'm your new Department Marine Corps League Auxiliary President, Karen Seeley.

I come from a Marine Corps family. My grandmother's brother was gassed in France in WWI, the first of the "Teufelshund."

My uncle Ray fought in the Pacific in WWII. While fighting, the effects of Malaria, he was instrumental in the capture of a Japanese soldier trying to infiltrate the camp.

My Aunt Alice joined the Woman Marines in the early 50's. She married a Gunny in 1955, living by and working at the exchange at camp Lejeune until she retired.

I think of them every time that I hear the Marine Corps Hymn.

I'm very proud of you all too, and happy to be on this journey with my Auxiliary sisters.

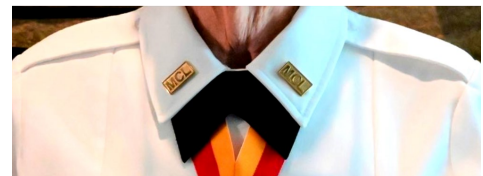
Karen



### BUDGET COMMITTEE

Sr. Vice Commandant, **DAVE WIGGS**, has been appointed by Commandant Lawton, as the Chairman of the Budget Committee. Any thoughts or ideas concerning the budget need to be directed to Sr. Vice Commandant D. Wiggs.

### A.T.T.E.N.T.I.O.N! ASSOCIATES!



#### "MCL ASSOCIATE MEMBERS"

This is the name of the new Facebook Page that has been created just for Associates! It is intended as a support group site where Associates can feel safe asking question. Most associates have not had military experience and are unfamiliar with some protocol, acronyms and verbiage. This is a place to ask questions where you won't feel belittled or any less of a member just because you do not know, yet.

Presently it is being created and supported by two regular members, and the plan is to pass it off to some strong Associate members once it is up and running. These regular Marines will be available to the new administrators if there is something that needs further clarification.







# HISTORY

Submitted by PDC Timothy

By Kyle Watts

## SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT EXPERIENCE PEACE

We honor the 13 servicemembers killed in action on August 26, 2021 while conducting noncombatant evacuation operations in Afghanistan. They were brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, and parents. They were Soldiers Sailors, and Marines. They went to Afghanistan, not in the name of combat, but to help their fellow man. They held the line in the face of chaos and danger, and sacrificed their lives so that others might experience peace. We honor their memory, and offer our most sincere condolences to their loved ones. May we uphold their legacy and cherish the freedoms they protected. Until we meet again, Semper Fidelis.

Credit: Leatherneck Magazine, August 2023, page 98, Author Kyle Watts

Saved Round



LCpl David L. Espinoza, USMC  
Golf Co, 2/1, age 20

SGT SAMUEL RUIZ, USMC



Cpl Daegan W. Page, USMC  
Golf Co, 2/1, age 23

SGT SAMUEL RUIZ, USMC



Sgt Nicole L. Gee, USMC  
CLB-24, 24th MEU, age 23

SSGT MARK MOHRROW, USMC



LCpl Jared M. Schmitz, USMC  
Golf Co, 2/1, age 20

SGT SAMUEL RUIZ, USMC



LCpl Rylee J. McCollum, USMC  
Golf Co, 2/1, age 20

SGT SAMUEL RUIZ, USMC



HM3 Maxton W. Soviak, USN  
Golf Co, 2/1, age 22

SGT SAMUEL RUIZ, USMC



Cpl Hunter Lopez, USMC  
Golf Co, 2/1, age 22

SGT SAMUEL RUIZ, USMC



Cpl Humberto A. Sanchez, USMC  
Golf Co, 2/1, age 22

SGT SAMUEL RUIZ, USMC



LCpl Dylan R. Merola, USMC  
Golf Co, 2/1, age 20

SGT SAMUEL RUIZ, USMC



LCpl Kareem M. Nikoul, USMC  
Golf Co, 2/1, age 20

SGT SAMUEL RUIZ, USMC



SSgt Darin T. Hoover, USMC  
Echo Co, 2/1, age 31

USMC



SSG Ryan C. Knauss, USA  
Bravo Co, 9th PSYOPS Bn, age 23

USA



Sgt Johanny Rosario Pichardo, USMC  
JTF-CR (TF 51-5th MEB), age 25

SGT VICTOR MARGUILA, USMC

<https://mca-marines.org/blog/leatherneckmagazines/leatherneck-august-2023>





# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

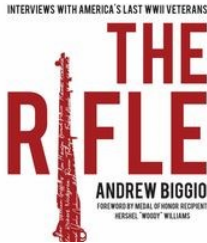
[newsletter.dny@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.dny@gmail.com)



## HISTORY

### WWII CODE TALKER

Peter MacDonald, served as a Navajo Code talker during WWII. As a young radio operator his code was never broken by the Japanese during his time in Guam, and China with the 6th Marine Division. Peter is the acting president of the Navajo Code Talker Association one of the last remaining survivors. During the war twelve Native American dialects were spoken to include Mohawk, Seminole, Iroquois, Choctaw, Mohegan, and Pawnee.



*The Rifle* July 25, 2023

(copy and paste) [www.theWWIIRifle.com](http://www.theWWIIRifle.com)



## HOLIDAYS

### PARADE WITH 98-YEAR OLD

Members of the Thurston Detachment of Binghamton celebrated at the 4th of July parade in Montrose, PA as they honored a 98 year-old Al Rood, an Iwo Jima veteran



Left to right:  
Department Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr.,  
Thurston Det Commandant Eric Fetterman,  
South Central Area Vice Mike Tullo,  
Don Kumpton,  
98 year old Iwo Jima veteran **AL ROOD** in the car,  
Detachment Sr. Vice Adam Steen,  
Dave Hotaling,  
Bill Tillotson,  
Clair Jones,







# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

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## EVENTS

### COMMANDANT'S CORNER

ZOOM CHANNEL IS BEING REPLACED WITH

### MCL SCUTTLEBUTT

hosted by Victoria McCoy



The MCL SCUTTLEBUTT is open to ALL members of the MCL.

It was formerly known as the Commandant's Corner. This broadcast is a monthly forum that addresses different topics in a very relaxed fashion. It is hosted by National Public Relations Committee chair, Victoria McCoy. Sessions are hosted on Zoom. You will learn things that you didn't even know that you didn't know.

Tune in!



The first Scuttlebutt discussion was on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. The conversation was about the National Convention in Oklahoma City — what went well and where improvements could be made.

In 2024, the National convention will be hosted by the Department of California. Just as Florida provided ideas to Oklahoma, Oklahoma will give ideas to California. That way the Conventions will continue to get better.

To be up-to-date with the goings-on, join the Facebook page of the National MCL and search events.

### MORE ABOUT

### COMMANDANT'S CORNER

*Edited from: Department of Pennsylvania, Keystone Leatherneck newsletter, page 14, April 2023*

The Commandant's Corner (now Scuttlebutt) is a recorded session with guest speakers and a designated topic of discussion. These recordings are edited and posted to the MCL National YouTube Channel a few days after each session, for future viewing. These videos are available for anybody to access at *(copy and paste)* [www.youtube.com/themarinecorpsleague](http://www.youtube.com/themarinecorpsleague).

If there is one that is definitely worth watching it is the one about **RUST INSURANCE!**

The MCL Membership Unplugged is designed as more of a social and does not have an assigned topic or guest presenter/speaker. These sessions are not recorded and, as such, are not available for future viewing. These are intended to be an open Q&A addressing any topic within the MCL

If you have any ideas for future topics, please email the NPRC: [publicrelations@mcleague.org](mailto:publicrelations@mcleague.org)

### SCHEDULE OF SCUTTLEBUTT TOPICS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10: ZOOM

*Preserving Traditions / Protocols / Birthday Ball*

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14: ZOOM

*Toys For Tots (finishing up the season)*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12: ZOOM

*Suicide Awareness / Holiday Season Depression*





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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Purple Heart Day

Annually August 7

#### HONORING THOSE WOUNDED OR KILLED WHILE SERVING

August 1, 2023 | By Team RWB

Edited from article from the VA News



*Veteran and Purple Heart recipient John Reyes serves as Team RWB's Colorado state coordinator and advocates for veterans' rights.*

Each year on August 7, our nation recognizes Purple Heart recipients. It is one of the oldest military decorations presented to service members who were injured or killed. Some of the estimated 1.8 million Purple Heart recipients are presently volunteering in their communities. Retired Army Sgt. First Class John Reyes is one of those volunteers.

**Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB)**, is a non-profit that leading America's health and wellness community for veterans. The group lead by Reyes, believes that it is their duty to honor the sacrifices that were made in the name of service to the United States of America. In addition to perpetuating their stories, Reyes and Team RWB spreads the word about benefits that are available to **all** veterans. Reyes works hard for all veterans. Team RWB keeps awareness of benefits for veterans on their website.

### ONE VA BENEFIT FOR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

#### EDUCATION

All Purple Heart recipients are eligible to get help to pay for school or job training. Individuals who received a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001, and were honorably discharged after any amount of service, are also eligible for the . This program can help pay for higher out-of-state, private school, foreign school or graduate school tuition and fees that the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill doesn't cover.

*(copy and paste)* <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/yellow-ribbon-program/>

*(copy and paste)* <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/yellow-ribbon-program/>

Published August 7, 2022

Edited from Article By Christine Ortiz, public affairs specialist with the Veterans Benefits Administration's Office of Strategic Engagement

### State Veteran Benefits

In addition to the many services and benefits offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other Federal Agencies, most States offer unique benefits and services specific to each state. More than just Veterans are eligible, included as eligible are their family members, and caregivers.

To find out what benefits are offered by your state or from a state that you are considering moving to.



Also see [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org)







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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FROM COMMANDANT'S CORNER — 11 JULY 2023

**RUSTMCL.COM**

**WRITE IT DOWN & REMEMBER IT**

**BILLY SIMONS 202-776-5013**

*This website may prevent National, Divisions, Detachments, Devil Dogs, Auxiliary and Fleas from having to deal with a nasty law suit*

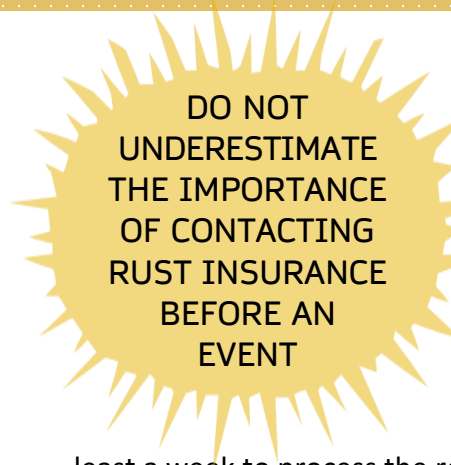
**This is long, but worth the time to read** and further investigate. Tuesday, 11 July, 2023, the monthly Commandant's Corner hosted William P. Simons IV, (Billy) who gave a fabulous Zoom presentation about Rust Insurance and how their service benefits the Marine Corps League.

Honestly, I didn't want to attend because I thought that it would be boring. Thankfully, I was wrong.

In a nutshell. We can be held liable and sued if someone is injured while at an event on our property, or on somebody else's property that we are using. Discussing liability with Billy is of the utmost importance to protect yourself.

The owner of a property that is being used may want to have a certificate of coverage with their name on it. They may not. If they don't ask for one, don't offer it. If the property owner wants one with them listed on it, submit request to Rust Insurance. If they do not want one with their name on it, print out the blank sheet found on the site. Either way, contact Billy to discuss your insurance needs prior to the event, to make sure that you have completed any necessary paperwork to be covered optimally.

Billy has offered his advice and assistance if any of us have any questions. We are invited to reach out to him at his office, 202-776-5013. Give Rust Insurance at



least a week to process the request.

There is an unexpected benefit that covers us in case a "trusted" paymaster or another, absconds with money. We are entitled to up to \$10,000 in reimbursement for stolen funds with at \$1000 deductible. *Legalities apply.*

### SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR LIABILITY INSURANCE

- \$2,000,000 \_\_ General Aggregate  
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate Limit
- \$1,000,000 \_\_ Personal and Advertising Injury Limit  
Each Occurrence Limit
- \$5000,000 \_\_ Fire Damage Limit (for 1 fire)
- \$5,000 \_\_ Medical Expense Limit (for one person)

INCLUDING: Host liquor liability, convention/meeting liability, members & volunteers as additional insured, temporary landlord as additional insured.

EXCLUDING: See the form.

All events automatically cover up to 150 attendees. Additional underwriting is needed for events greater than 150, or alcohol is served. See form. Additional information can be provided for a minimum of \$175.

Questionnaire is to be sent to Rust Insurance Agency, LLC as soon as feasibly possible. Rust Insurance needs time to review the questionnaire and provide a response and advice.

*(copy and paste)*

<http://rustinsurance.com/mcl.pdf>





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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### LIFE MEMBER

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

\$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

## USMC COMMANDANT

The Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, swore-in Gen. Eric Smith Friday, 22 Sept. 2023



at the Pentagon in front of a small group of less than ten onlookers. The ceremony marked the official installation of General Eric Smith as the 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps. He assumes all the duties and responsibilities. He succeeded General David Berger who retired on 10 July 2023. Since that date Smith had been doing both jobs, but it was "unsustainable." Although Smith is no longer Assistant Commandant, neither is anyone else. The nomination of Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney to assume the Assistant Commandant position is delayed in the Senate. Smith stated "...I am humbled to have the opportunity to continue to serve Marines..."

Reference: [MarineCorpsTimes.com](http://MarineCorpsTimes.com)

### EDITOR NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**I am competitive!**  
**and I suspect that you are too, Marine**

LET'S AIM TO RUN AWAY WITH AWARDS IN THE NEXT NATIONAL NEWSLETTER COMPETITION!

**MORE CATEGORIES = MORE POINTS**

WE NEED A LARGER VARIETY OF CONTENT

*Send in pictures and stories about these categories*

- ◆ Awards & Recognitions
- ◆ Color /Honor Guard
- ◆ Community Events
- ◆ Charity
- ◆ Fun and Fellowship
- ◆ Marines Helping Marines
- ◆ Funerals, Remembering the Fallen
- ◆ Information to help members and veterans
- ◆ Other Holiday Events
- ◆ Patriotic Holidays
- ◆ Scouting / Youth
- ◆ Recruiting
- ◆ Scholarships
- ◆ Shooting Teams

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



### PRE-NEED ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A VA CEMETERY

*Edited from the original article (copy and paste)*  
<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>



#### YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO HAVE A BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

After qualifying, the burial process will be made seamless and inexpensive. However, getting a **pre-need** determination of eligibility is important, and even if approved, will not guarantee burial in a specific VA National Cemetery. The VA will attempt to fulfill those requests. The plots are filled as needed and as available, so there are no reservations.

#### ELIGIBILITY DECISIONS: BASED ON SERVICE HISTORY

To be eligible, one (at website below) must apply.

A Veteran did not received a dishonorable discharge  
Be a spouse or dependent child of someone eligible  
In some cases, be the adult dependent child of a service member or Veteran may qualify.

*(copy and paste)* <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/> for more criteria

#### INFORMATION NEEDED TO APPLY

##### ONLY SEND COPIES

- Social Security number
- Date and place of birth
- Military status & service history
- Discharge papers
- Supporting documents when appropriate, ie: marriage certificate

**NEVER  
SEND  
ORIGINAL  
DOCUMENTS  
ONLY  
SEND COPIES**

#### AFTER THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The length of time to determine eligibility and process forms is dependent upon how many applications are being processed at the time, and how complete the application is.

**FIND A CEMETERY**  
*(copy and paste)*  
<https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

**IF APPROVED**, a decision letter & folder will be sent. The family WILL NOT have to pay for burial in a VA national cemetery. Be sure to keep everything in a safe place. Tell designated person about your burial wishes , and where to locate your folder. If a funeral home selection is made, provide a copy of your decision letter to them.

Burial benefits include :

- Opening and closing of the grave
- A burial liner
- A headstone or marker
- Ongoing care of the gravesite

**IF DENIED, APPEAL!** There may be any number of reasons why the application is denied. Most often, it is because of missing documentation.

*This application is for VA National Cemeteries, not State or Tribal ones. The benefit does not include Arlington National Cemetery or the United States Soldiers and Airmen's Home National Cemetery.*

*If the desire is to be laid to rest at one of these Department of the Army cemeteries, call 877-907-8585 (TTY: 711) on Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ET.*

source: VA.GOV







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## CELEBRATION!

### SALUTING & CELEBRATING FRANCIS DUFFY



**FRANCIS (FRANK) DUFFY**  
DIVISION 3, PEARL RIVER, NY

PFC Francis (Frank) Duffy participated in the WWII landings at Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

At Iwo Jima, PFC Duffy served as a Runner for the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, when the enemy attacked the observation post personnel with grenades. Without hesitation, he advanced alone. Despite being wounded by grenade fire, he succeeded in killing two of the Japanese.

For his actions, he was awarded the **Silver Star** for "Conspicuous Gallantry and Intrepidity" and would spend a year in naval hospitals recovering from the wounds he sustained, until being discharged on February 13, 1946.

*Obtained from Facebook*

### 19 AUGUST 2023 FRANK TURNED **100** AND IS STILL COUNTING!

Together with the American Legion Post 291, the Marine Corps League came together to celebrate and honor Frank's admirable service *(as written to the left)* and his landmark birthday on Monday, 28 August 2023.



Sue Whitlow

Frank Duffy  
Honoree  
Centurion



*American Legion Members Post 291, Greenville members in white*

*Marine Corps Leaguers: 1st row: Joseph Huber, Detachment Commandant; Sue Whitlow, Detachment Adjutant / Deputy East Area Vice Commandant; **FRANK DUFFY, CENTURION.***

*Standing Dean Lawton, Sr. Department Commandant; Deborah Serino; Elmo Brandon; Rosemarie Soto, Detachment Paymaster*



*Department Commandant  
Dean Lawton, Sr.*

*American Legion Post 291 Color Guard provided official honors to LCpl Francis Duffy.*







# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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## MARKSMANSHIP



### Compete or just have fun

Yes, New York State has been making it difficult to expand our Marksmanship Program. However, *difficult* does not mean *impossible*.

Ammo is also expensive. Consider asking your detachment to sponsor a team; have fund raisers; or ask a larger business to sponsor your team.

Even if you are not ready to make an official team and join the MCL Marksmanship Program, feel free to use this as an excuse to get together, build personal bonds, have fun, and hone your skills.

Our representative for the Marksman-ship Program is Lynn Stanton. Contact him with questions.



LYNN STANTON  
Department liaison to Marksmanship

To learn more go to:  
THE MCL NATIONAL LIBRARY

(copy and paste)  
<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/home/>

Scroll to Marksmanship

### Competing AND having fun

*Submitted by Lynn Stanton*

Myself and Teammate Vandyke Bergen placed 31st out of 138 Team's at Camp Perry Ohio National Champion-ships in the Vintage Sniper match to earn Silver Medals.

Associate Member Robert Atkinson and Marine Russell Casterlin (*not present*) placed 65th out of 138 and earned a bronze medal with Their scores.

Memorial Detachment #2 is planning to conduct Our Dept of NY MCL Postal match later in September or early October with other Detachment members.

Taking a break on the firing line at Camp Perry, Ohio on 1 August 2023



Lynn Stanton and Vandyke Bergen

The Three Amigos at Headquarters at September's meeting



Lynn Stanton, Robert Atkinson, Vandyke Bergen.

CS170191

## CHUCKLES

"...and if you feel dizzy and pass out — pass out lying at attention!"

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Section



It's the latest in IEDs ... loaded with LEGO bricks to cause maximum foot injuries."





# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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## Miscellaneous

### THREE VOLLEYS

By Beryl Love

American Veteran Summer 2014, page 18

Submitted by WAVC Earl Herrington

The practice of firing three rifle volleys over the grave originated in the old custom of halting the fighting to remove the dead from the battlefield. Once each army had cleared their dead, it would fire three volleys to indicate that the dead had been cared for and that they were ready to fight again. The fact that the firing party consists of seven riflemen, firing these volleys does not constitute a 21-gun salute. It is the three volleys that are significant not the number of rifles. Three volleys fired over the casket have



become a tradition to mean the dead have been cared for. It has evolved into a military salute for the deceased serving their country. Firing the three volleys over the casket is one of the highest honors to give a deceased military veteran. Our nation's highest honor is a flag draped over the casket, folded and presented. Tradition is to place three spent shell casings inside the folded flag to prove now and forevermore that the deceased and his flag have had proper military honors. Nothing else is to be placed inside the flag.

## FALL MEETING

IT IS NOT TOO LATE  
TO MAKE PLANS!



JOIN US ON FRIDAY IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM  
FOR SOME GOOD OL' FASHION SOCIALIZING

JOIN US FOR THE GROWL ON SATURDAY  
AND PROMISES TO BE LOADED WITH FUN

JOIN US FOR THE GENERAL MEETING ON  
SATURDAY, AS LONG AS YOU'RE THERE

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**OCTOBER 20 & 21, 2023**

*Group rates available until 29 September. Even if you are too late to get the group rate, you are still welcome to come.*

Crowne Plaza — Suffern Mahwah  
Three Executive Plaza  
Suffern, NY 10901

**845-357-4800**





# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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## Miscellaneous

### **Needed!** 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.

### **Needed!** HELP WANTED

#### **ASSISTANT WEST AREA VICE COMMANDANT**

West Area Vice Commandant Earl Herrington is seeking an assistant to help with duties. Any assistance is appreciated. This position can be shared by more than 1 person.  
Earl 716-863-5094

### **Needed!** HELP WANTED

#### **NORTH AREA VICE COMMANDANT**

Step up. Your area needs you as a leader. If you are able to "Marine Up," contact our Department Commandant, Dean Lawton, Sr.

### **AUXILIARY**

#### **NEW MEMBERS FOR THE AUXILIARY**

Due to lack of participation, The Auxiliary of the Department of New York are getting increasingly close to closing. Women who have a connection to a Marine are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact Auxiliary President Karen Seeley



### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **Camp Lejeune Claims**

**WASHINGTON** – The Department of the Navy (DON) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the finalization and publication of a voluntary process, called the "Elective Option," to help veterans and others more quickly resolve qualifying claims under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (CLJA). This option supplements other processes currently available under the CLJA, which remain in place ...

*(Read entire article to see if you are eligible for) ...*

Claims involving death could receive an additional \$100,000. ([Click to the complete article.](#))

### **LICENSE PLATES**

#### **MCL LICENSE PLATES**

MCL Department license plates are available only to Regular and Associate LIFE MEMBERS. Current and renewal members are Grandfathered in.

*(copy and paste)*

<https://mclnewyork.net/index.php/departments-forms?task=download.send&id=27&catid=6&m=0>

<https://mclnewyork.net/index.php/departments-forms?task=download.send&id=28&catid=6&m=0>

### **TENT AVAILABLE**

#### **DETACHMENT NEED A TENT?**

The DoNY has a 12x20 ft. tent that is available for **Detachments to borrow** free of charge. The tent must be returned in the same condition as when received. If interested in borrowing the tent, please contact Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr.







# Miscellaneous

## COINS ON A GRAVESTONE



EDITED FROM SUBMISSION  
by PDC Tim Forbes

PHOTO CREDIT: Coins on a Gravestone  
Getty 1219631870 Resize Recolor Crop  
DH RD Coins on a Gravestone and What  
it Means© Chris Lauer/Getty Images

It's common knowledge that coins have different values. The average citizen may look at a handful of change, as just that, a handful of quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. Those in the military, however, place an entirely different value to those coins — one of respect and solidarity.

Coins that are laid upon a headstone signify a different powerful message about the relationship of the giver to the deceased.

**PENNY** A penny on a gravestone signifies that a person (any person) has visited the headstone. It's an act of gratitude for the person's service.

**NICKEL** A nickel on a gravestone means that the visitor went to boot camp with the deceased.

**DIME** A dime indicates that the visitor served with the deceased military member.

**QUARTER** Seeing a quarter on a headstone means that the visitor was present when the deceased passed away.

With the understanding of the military meaning behind each coin, a whole new level of respect can be "paid" with pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.

## 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 (cost-of-living) applied to Social Security benefits

*(copy and paste)*

[https://news.va.gov/121361/veterans-cost-of-living-increase-benefits/?utm\\_source=feature&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources&utm\\_id=28JUN2023](https://news.va.gov/121361/veterans-cost-of-living-increase-benefits/?utm_source=feature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=28JUN2023)

## CHUCKLE

Hi Mom,  
Boot camp is fine, but I think our drill sergeant is a little hard of hearing. Every time we say something, he yells "I can't hear you!"



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# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

[newsletter.dny@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.dny@gmail.com)



## Miscellaneous

# TACOM STATIC DISPLAYS

U.S. ARMY TANK-AUTOMOTIVE & ARMAMENTS COMMAND

### NOTICE!

**THE ARMY DONATIONS OFFICE WILL NEVER USE A THIRD PARTY TO COLLECT ANY EQUIPMENT**

A piece of military equipment is often outside of military buildings to draw attention to the fact that this location is home to a military club. Helicopters and tanks are just some that are used for displays.

The Army Donations Program office is in charge of managing ALL movement of ALL demilitarized combat materiel. They also are in charge of ceremonial rifles. All such items are property of the Army and are on loan only. They are not to be sold, traded or given to anyone under any circumstances, and always to be accounted for. There is a rigid protocol for receiving or returning that equipment.

It has been brought to their attention that some military organizations have been approached by people claiming to be from the embassy and have authority take custody of those static displays.

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### Gowanda, New







# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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## Miscellaneous

# TACOM STATIC DISPLAYS

U.S. ARMY TANK-AUTOMOTIVE & ARMAMENTS COMMAND

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**THE ARMY DONATIONS OFFICE WILL NEVER USE A THIRD PARTY TO COLLECT ANY EQUIPMENT THEY WILL ALWAYS CONTACT YOU DIRECTLY**

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

Compliance is mandatory and legal actions may be taken if needed.

The Army Donations Program office requests assists assistance. If you have been approached by one of these fraudulent people, please contact Jaime Albers with any questions or concerns.

Jaime Albers Section Lead,  
Army Donations Program  
Desk Number (586) 282-1952  
[Jaime.t.albers.civ@army.mil](mailto:Jaime.t.albers.civ@army.mil)

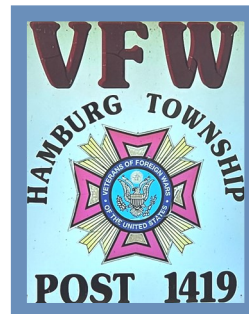
American Legion  
Post 880  
Eden, NY



### CHUCKLES



"I'm pretty popular, Mom, since I'm not a snorer."



VFW POST 1419 MEMORIAL PARK AND MUSEUM  
HAMBURG, NEW YORK







# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

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## JUST BECAUSE ...

# Marine Corps Ranked Worst Service Branch to Join, and I LOVE IT

*Found on Yahoo, originally written by Ron Johnson.*

*Submitted by Earl Herrington,*

*The author ranks the services*

1. Army
2. Air Force
3. Navy
4. Coast Guard
5. Marine Corps  
(Worst Military Branch)

*And here's what **he** had to say*



“Of all the military branches, the Marine Corps ranks as the least attractive choice for this author. Technically part of the Navy, the Marine Corps are the elite war fighters of the United States military. The leathernecks of the USMC are truly fearsome fighters, tough as nails and ready and willing to fight all comers. The Marines turn recruits into stone-cold killers and they make no secrets about that fact. Marines live tough lives, sleeping on board Navy ships, charging through the surf and crawling in the sand with one goal in mind: engage the enemy.

Unfortunately when Marines fulfill their obligation and exit the service, they seem to find difficulty in turning this Marine Corps Attitude “off”. Whereas an Army or Navy veteran will likely adjust to civilian life over time and become softer Marines stay Marines. Visit any

neighborhood in the United States and you will find a USMC flag flying high over someone’s house. You will rarely, if ever, see a person flying an Army, Navy, Airforce or Coast Guard flag. While veterans of other military branches tend to relax a little bit as they transition into civilian life, any Marine will be quick to remind you of their unofficial motto, “Once a Marine, always a Marine.” I don’t know what those Marine Corps drill sergeants are doing to their recruits, but whatever it is, it works.

“Is that a bad thing? Well, that depends on your reason for considering a military enlistment. If you have a strong desire to kill the enemy, the Marine Corps is for you because that is what the Marines do. Either you want that or you don’t, plain and simple. If you simply want a challenge, any other branch of the military will provide you with plenty of opportunities to test yourself. Army Rangers and Green Berets, Air fore Pararescue jumpers and the navy Seals all offer extreme physical and mental challenges outside of the



Marine Corps. So if you are considering joining the Marine Corps, think long and hard about what that means before going to a recruiter and signing. up.”



