October 2026 — November 2026

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 6 Issue 1

Message From The Division Commandant

Marines and Members,

I hope everyone had a great summer and was able to get out and enjoy some time with family, friends, and fellow Marines. It's hard to believe we're already heading into the fall and another busy time of year for the League.



I also want to thank everyone who made the trip to Indianapolis for the National Convention. It was great seeing so many members from New England there, and I always enjoy the opportunity to catch up with members from around the Division and from across the country.

The convention is always a busy few days, but the camaraderie and time spent together are what make it worthwhile.

I also thought it was great to see the VA vans outside the hotel during the convention. Having the VA there and making information and resources available to our members and veterans was a nice addition to the convention. It was a good reminder of the many ways we can continue to support our veterans and make sure they know what resources are available to them.

Now, as we move into the fall, we have another one of my favorite times of the year coming up—the Marine Corps Balls. I know many of our Departments and Detachments will be holding their celebrations over the next several weeks.

These events are a great opportunity to get together, celebrate our Corps and its birthday, remember those who came before us, and enjoy some good old Marine Corps camaraderie. I hope everyone gets a chance to attend a Ball this year, whether it's with your own Detachment or by supporting another Detachment in the Division. These events are an important part of who we are, and they're always better when our members come together.

Thank you for everything you continue to do for the Marine Corps League, our Marines, veterans, and our communities throughout New England. I appreciate everything you do, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Marine Corps Balls and other events this fall.

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League

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2024 — 2025

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IMPORTANT

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

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

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

Send submissions to:

Walt.benson5@gmail.com

203-768-8435

WHAT SHOULD I SUBMIT?

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

Walt Benson

FROM THE EDITOR

A STORY WORTH TELLING

Sometimes you come across something that opens your eyes, that lets you know that at least in our circle a better world still exists. At the close of the Convention in Indianapolis, as we gathered for the banquet I came across something amazing. As the ceremony started and the familiar all rise comes across the microphone the dig- nitaries were introduced, there are al- ways many who have difficulty in ris- ing for the occasion, and it doesn't matter how many time it is said, " ac- cording to your ability" just about eve- ry Marine will stand, no matter for Flag or fellow Marine we stand. As this oc- curred I saw one Marine rise while his wife had her hand in his back to sup- port his standing and another Marine approached and whispered in his ear. He shook his head and the Marine withdrew from him but it really made me curious as to what the one Marine said to the other Marine. I later found out that the Marine had placed his hand on the other Marines back and whispered, "Do you need a stronger hand to support you"? The other Ma- rine had shaken his head no and the other Marine backed off. Now the two Marines might have known each other, but they didn't appear to. I saw the Marine being offered help and he was just another Marine, the one offering help I only saw a Marine in a red jacket leaning in.



But this simple action, this random act of kindness, where does it come from? When we speak about what the Marine Corps league is all about. When we talk about what we do for veterans. When we speak about who we are. We often forget that this is a big part of who we are. This goes beyond comradery. It goes beyond being there for the Marine on the left and the Marine on the right, it goes to our core of beliefs and mission. We preform Funeral Honors for those who have passed and gone to their final post. We provide scholarships to the dependents of Marines and FMF Corpsmen. We work on Toys for Tots. To provide for the children of Marines, and veterans, of our communities in their time of need. Toys for Tots has also expanded there reach in the area of families suffering from abuse or on hard times supplying toys and reading materials for the children. We offer help to returning Marines and veteran's with getting access to their benefits through the VA. Help with employment, and fitting back into a society which is totally different from the service lifestyle they are used to. An opportunity to join an organization that still maintains parts of that lifestyle and the comradery that they thought was left behind. If you look at all of these actions together of the things we do it now makes a lot more sense. It was not just one random act of kindness, it is who we are and how we live. It is about living our motto, Semper Fidelis, it's not just words or a motto it is a way of life.

To that Marine from the banquet, I thank you for what you did, but more than that I thank you for reminding me of all we are about, and how we live each day. Lastly, thank you that I can share this story. On a significant night, the close of the convention, the naming of the Kennel Dog of the Year. The selecting the Marine of the Year and the Associate Member of the year, there was one other Marine who went above and beyond, making Semper Fidelis a reality.

Semper Fidelis
Walt Benson

25TH ANNIVERSARY

The memories of that day remain strong in my mind, in fact, if I close my eyes I can relive that day as I often do over time. It was such a beautiful day I thought as I drove in to work, a cool September morn with no humidity, and the sky as blue as I had ever seen it. I think I had just started working when someone came in and said a plane crashed into the Towers in NY and although it was significant, I thought it was a small plane like a Cessna, or something similar. But then someone said no it was a commercial flight. While we tried to picture that without Television we then heard that a second plane crashed into the tower. With that no one knew what to think except how could this have happened and why. Over the next several hours we listened to the radio for any bit of information we could obtain but it was limited. The boss yelled at us all day because no work was getting accomplished, and when we went home that day I sat glued to the television watching all the events of the day being played over and over.

I saw the smoke filled streets, the same streets I had traveled on as I grew up there. People were wandering aimlessly covered in dust and debris. The feelings I experienced were strange because how could I be moved to this extreme by 3,000 people I didn't even know? Was it the fact that this was close to me as it was my home? Toward the end of the day they showed video on TV of the people who jumped from the tower and were falling to their death. Some of them were holding hands in mid air as they had to know they could not survive.

In the days that followed more and more video on the events of that day was aired. Different angles, different times, but the ending always remained the same, two towers fell and 3,000, souls were with us no more. I learned so much during those days. I learned how much events like this could affect you, and the emotional price you would pay for this tragedy. I had often wondered about days like December 7th and how we could still remember it today. When Rosevelt spoke about Pearl Harbor that day he referred to it as a day that would live in infamy, unfortunately he was right but also there would be many more such days in our future.

On September 12th the country was united as one. We were filled with grief but bound together as one, under one flag, focused on one mission. "We Will Never Forget", but alas, we did. We hold a ceremony each year to remember. We read the names, place flowers and ring the bell, but we lost our unity, our resolve, and now focus on the things that are not important rather than the things that are. We elected politicians who preached tolerance, and those who claimed it was a conspiracy. I'm sorry but I can't recall a conspiracy that required not only 3000 lives at the towers but the thousands more that twenty years of war brought us. We are still penalized at airports with searches and what we can travel with.

So as we mark this 25 years lets be clear, "We Will Never Forget", may have lost it's resolve over the years, but it is time to resurrect it. And as we resurrect it let us add the phrase to it, "Never On My Watch" That this be the very last day the will live in infamy. It will be the last time that an event take the number of casualties and extrapolate that number out to affect millions of people across decades and generations. So on September 11th 2026, as you speak the names say them loud, because it's a log way to the many graves where these souls reside across thecounrty.

Walt Benson

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA



This is usually a fun issue to publish as there are many photos as well as many reunions with friends and brothers, and sisters from all over the United States. It also allow us to bring a taste of the Convention back to those who were unable to attend. By attending it allows me to go to states and places I normally wouldn't go. The Departments that arrange these Conventions do a lot of work in setting them up and even more when it come to arranging entertainment. Each location arranges great entertainment, some better than others. For example we went to the track in Daytona, and I had never followed racing, but when I saw the track on one of our trips, to say I was amazed, would be a great understatement. Yet, when I went to Indianapolis it was a huge disappointment compared to Daytona. Some locations think smaller and sometime smaller is better. We have had a couple of talent show that were fun. This trip we had a trivia night and a comedy night both were a great time, and it gave everyone time to meet new people and have fun without having to travel to another location.

Which brings to mind an issue that is becoming more and more relevant. When planning these trips could we ask and arrange for transportation that will allow for power chairs and scooters. We have an aging population, and aging Marine Corps League, and as much as I have been able to avoid it till now, it now affects me. That being said as it affected me I realized there were fewer people trying to attend these events and that is both unfair and sad. Today, when you visit the VA it looks like Christmas with the distribution of Scooters, Power chairs, and Rollators, (formerly Walkers). The Va doesn't seem to do to well with mobility issues, so they provide aides, I would rather have the Bionic legs.

If you arrive early you get to recon where everything is as well as meet and greet the other early birds, and of course the DOGS, they are always early to prepare for the arriving PDD candidates. As the first



day arrives we start the day with colors. We start everyday with colors but the first day is special. The formation is quite large, if you look on the right side of the photo you will see a cord on the pole that is there. Beyond the pole are a few more Marines and then the Women's Auxilliary join the formation. After a short break we resume in the meeting room for welcoming, Remembrance Ceremony and the Four Chaplains story and award.



2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA

On the first day the National Newsletter Awards are given out. This year there were a total of 36 entries to the contest. 16 Plaques were awarded in addition to 20 certificates of Honorable Mentions. Here are just a few of the awards but there were many more pictured on FaceBook. If your Detachment, Department or Division have a Newsletter you should consider competing.



NVC New England Division Accepting the Award for Class I 1st Place for Jo Zurwell, Dept of New Hampshire with Walt Benson National Newsletter Chair, and TJ Morgan National Commandant



Terrence Taylor Sr. Leatherneck Award Winner with Walt Benson National Newsletter Chair, and TJ Morgan National Commandant





Left and above, Kevin Keller with Walt Benson National Newsletter Chair, and TJ Morgan National Commandant

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN GOLD

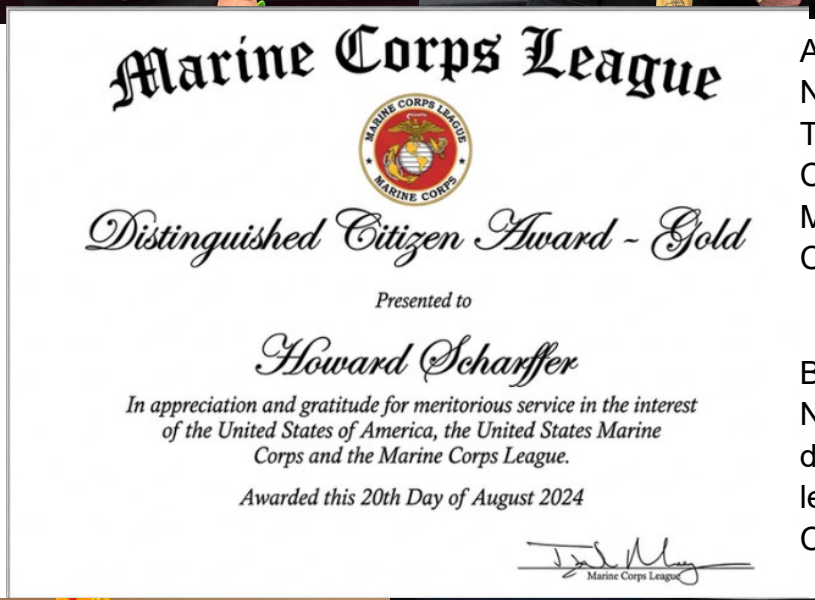


Above: TJ Morgan National Commandant and Theresa Terry Credential Chair.



Above: Walt Benson National Chair of The Newsletter Committee, and TJ Morgan National Commandant

Below : TJ Morgan National Commandant and Howard Schaeffer, National Chaplain.



Marine Corps League

Distinguished Citizen Award - Gold

Presented to

Howard Scharffer

In appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service in the interest of the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League.

Awarded this 20th Day of August 2024

Marine Corps League

Below : TJ Morgan National Commandant and Brian Gellespie HAMSAL Chair





2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION
INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA

COMMANDANTS COUNCIL







SEMPER FIDELIS



CONVENTION BUSINESS MEETING

SOCIALIZING WITH FRIENDS



ANVC, Mike Hinds, NSVC David Porter



PDD David Porter SR., NSVC David Porter jr.



PNC Denis Tobin





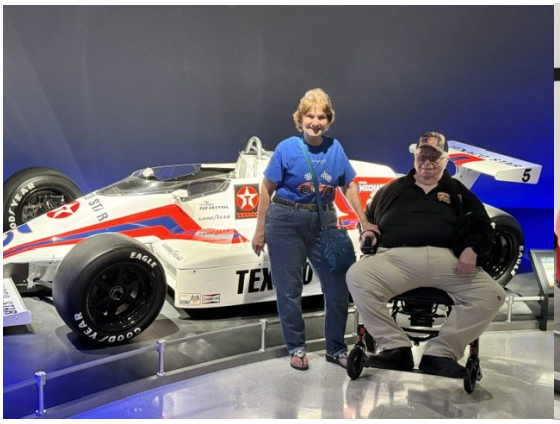
62 nd CDD PDD Joe DeAngelo, PNC Denis Tobin
Left SVCDD heading for Trouble Blow 2026 Indianapolis Speedway Trip



N Sgt At Arms Lisa Solarczyk Liz Anderson



SOCIALIZING WITH FRIENDS



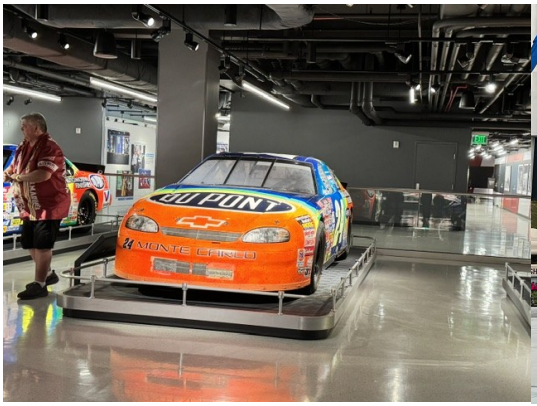
Teri & Walt Benson



Monte Carlo 24



Walt Benson



Monte Carlo



Jim and Connie Lauber at Indianapolis



PDC Jim Soder, PDC Dave Rosa, N JR Vice Commandant David Porter



PNC Warren Griffin, N JR Vice Commandant David Porter

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION
INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA



2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION
INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA





SOCIALIZING WITH FRIENDS



PWPL, PDD Dave Rosa, NVCDD, PDD Pat McMahan, PWPL, PDD Jim Soder, SR. Vice Pack Leader, PDD Jim Lauber, Worthy Pack Leader, PDD Walt Benson





N SR. Vice Chief DD, PDD Mike Francis, and Brand New PDD and Kennel Photo Dog, PDD David Porter Sr. Woof, Woof.

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA



National Commandant T J Morgan with the Convention Committee



PNC Johnny Baker, PNC Dennis Tobin, PNC Wendel Webb, PNC Penny Weston, PNC Louis Calleja, PNC Warren Griffin, PNC Jim Tuohy, PNC Vito Victaggio, PNC John Tuohy.



National Commandant T J Morgan, NYMOY , Francis Quinn Martin, Col Bill Davis



National Commandant T J Morgan, ADVC Mike Hinds, NYMOY , Francis Quinn Martin, Col Bill Davis



OUR NEW OFFICERS
Judge Advocate
Bob Ziltz

JR Vice Commandant
Bruce Rakfeldt

National Commandant
Russ Miller

SR Vice Commandant
David Porter Jr.

Congratulations to All

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION BANQUET AND AWARDS







Above left: PCDD Don Garland Master of Ceremonies for the Banquet

Above: The 66th Commandant of the Marine Corps League T J Morgan, and Chief of Staff, PNC Johnny Baker, 64th Commandant of The Marine Corps League.

Left: Margarita Devlin, Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs and Sgt-At–Arms Lisa Solarczyk



2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION BANQUET AND AWARDS



Our Guest Speaker , Margarita Devlin, Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs.
Below Guests attending the banquet





Walt Benson, Commandant Dept of CT, PDC Jim Soder, Teri Benson, Luis Gallegos Commandant Det 1496, PDC David Rosa, 2 Unknown PDC Jim Lauber, Gisselle Gallegos, Connie Lauber

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION BANQUET AND AWARDS



Change of Command Ceremony: The 66th National Commandant, T J Morgan Passes the MCL Colors to The 67th National Commandant, Russ Miller, Conducted by Sgt-At-Arms Lisa Solarczyk



The Change of Command ceremony in the Marine Corps is a formal event that marks the transition of authority from one commanding officer to another, emphasizing the continuity of leadership and mission. .

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION BANQUET AND AWARDS



The Marine of The Year was Rick Shank, pictured above with the prior Marines of The Year, and MC PCDD Don Garland looking on in the rear.

Other events with no Pictures available:

Closing remarks by Madame Big Flea, Antonia Hurtado

Closing remarks by POD Joe DeAngelo, 62nd Chief, Military Order of the Devil Dogs

Closing remarks by Dotty Sanning, President, Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Closing remarks by TJ Morgan, 66th National Commandant, Marine Corps League

Closing remarks by Russ Miller, 67th National Commandant, Marine Corps League

Kennel Dog of the Year 2026 was presented to PDD Jim Breen Data Dog

See you all in Buffalo

REMEMBER

25TH ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 - SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ NEVER FORGET

A DAY OF TERROR



A NATION UNITED



Twenty five years since the towers fell,
Smoke filled skies with images of hell.

Images burned in my mind so deep,
So many souls falling as we weep.

By ten am thousands were dead,
As millions sat focused on images of death.

They lie in the rubble where the towers once stood,
Some would never be found, not even God could.

Year by year we move farther away,
Each year we try to memorialize in a better way.

We ring the bell and call the long role,
We lay flower and trinkets because of a vow.

We stood on the site that very same day,
Swearing we would never forget this immortal day.

But life goes on and people's lives change,
Today it seems like we have lost our way.

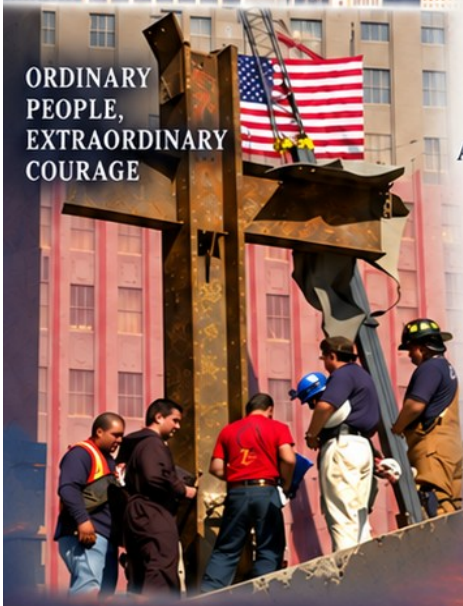
But we are an amazing group of people,
And we can always turn things around.

Suck up the pain and remember that day,
An enemy attacked our home bringing death our way.

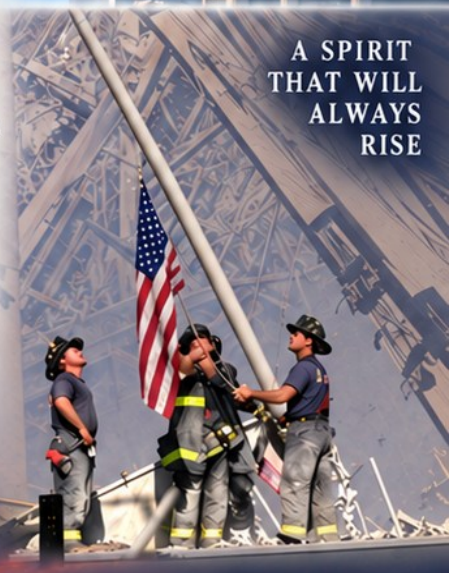
As we stand at ground zero reading the names,
Remember the rubble, and bodies that lay.

Remake the vow that you took on that day,
Say it to all that fell that day but say it loudly
as many of the graves are far, far away.

ORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE



A SPIRIT THAT WILL ALWAYS RISE



★ ★ ★

NEVER FORGET

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

ALL GAVE SOME
SOME GAVE ALL

WE WILL NEVER FORGET
9 ★ 11 ★ 2001



UNITED WE STAND ★ STRONGER TOGETHER ★ ALWAYS AMERICA

MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION

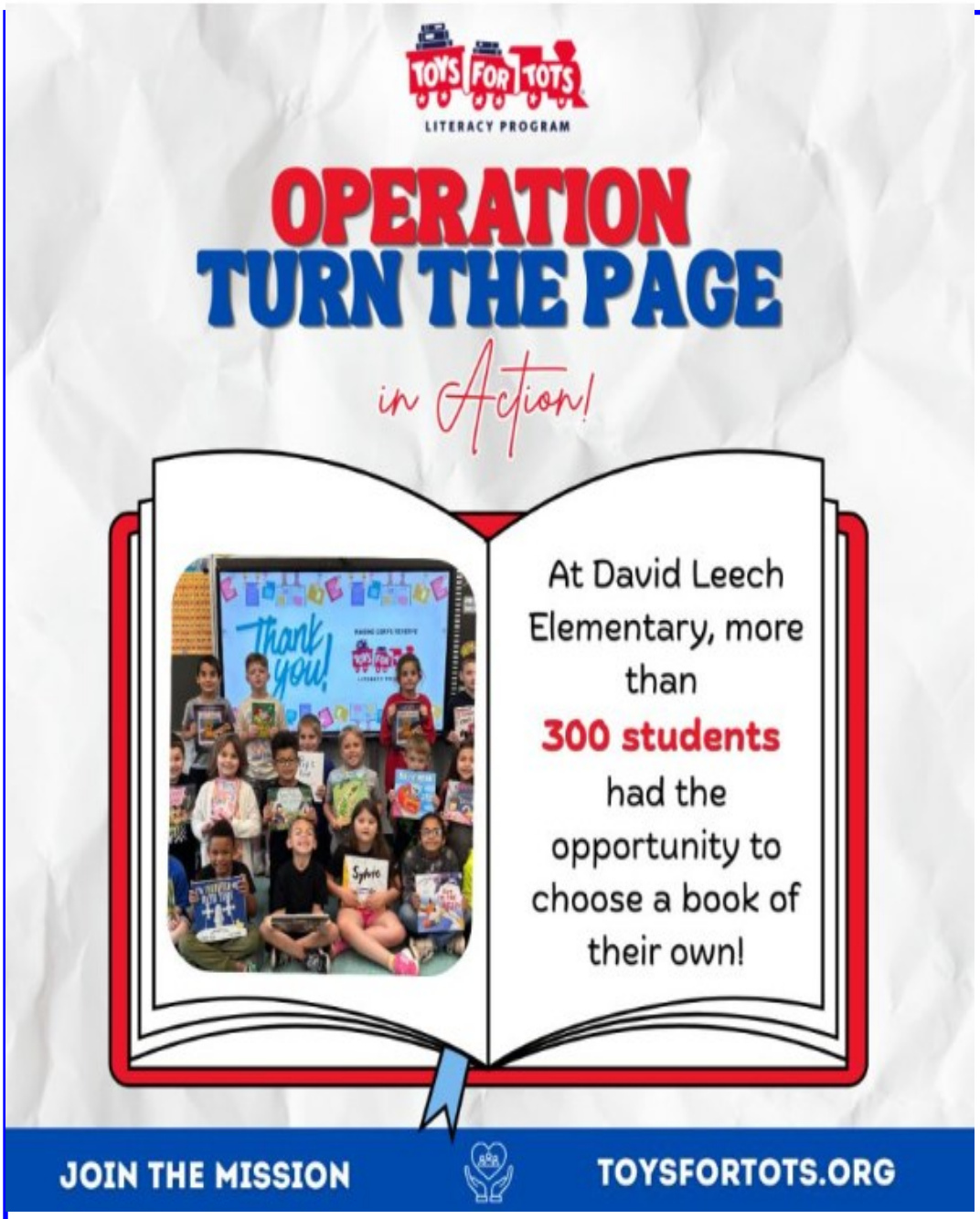
Toys for Tots is often recognized for its holiday mission, but the need to support children doesn't end with the season—and neither does our commitment.

Throughout the year, Toys for Tots works alongside nonprofit partners, supporters, and volunteers to meet the needs of disadvantaged children and families in communities across the country.

From providing books that inspire a lifelong love of reading, to supporting families recovering from disasters, to preparing for the holiday season months in advance—every effort helps ensure children receive hope when they need it most.

This is what a year-round force for good looks like.





As classrooms settle into a new school year, children across the country are opening new books, asking big questions, and discovering new possibilities.

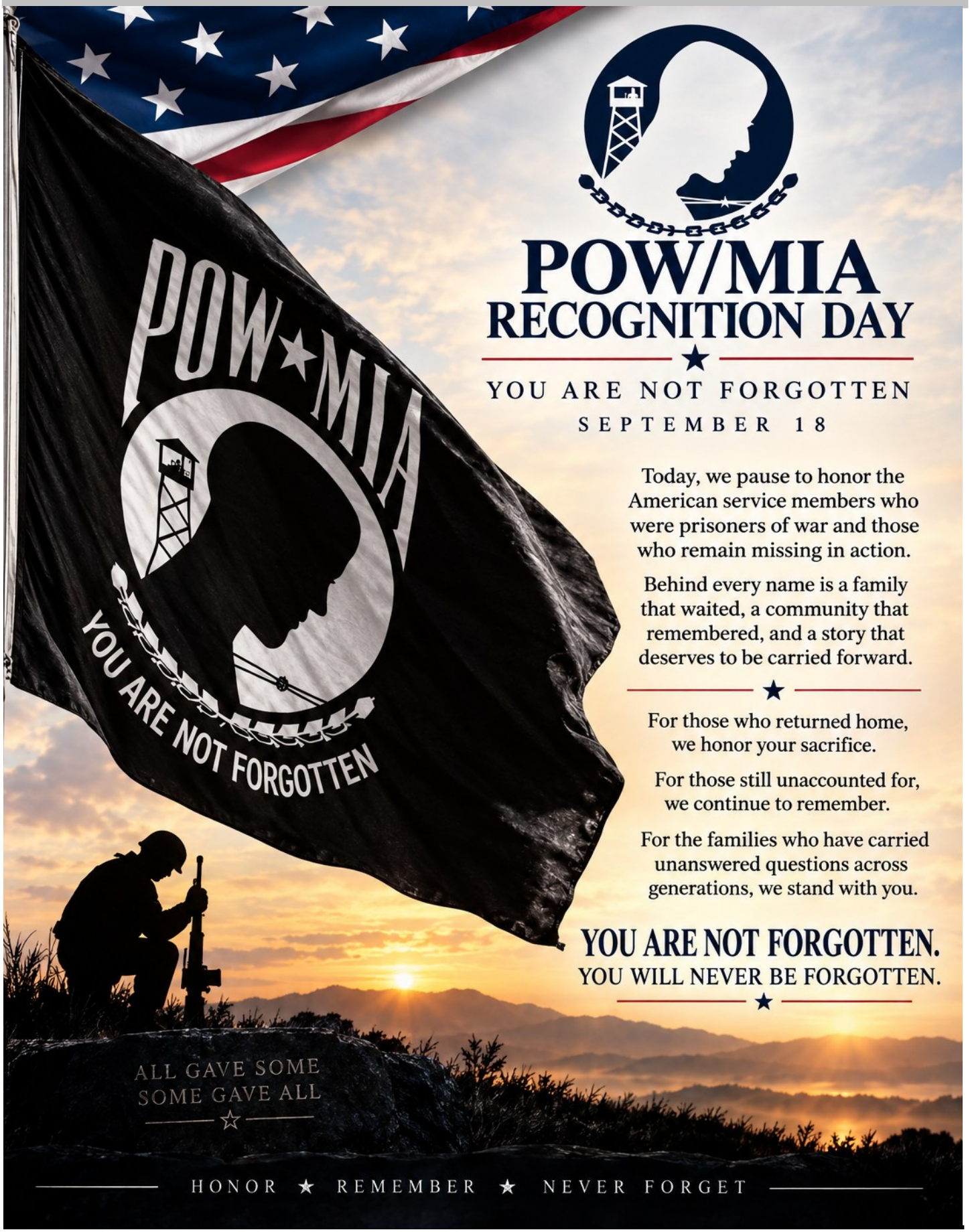
For many students, having access to books at home can be the difference between learning and truly thriving—it helps build confidence, strengthens literacy skills, and encourages a lifelong love of learning and reading.

That's why our Toys for Tots Literacy Program created Operation Turn the Page: to help ensure children have the books and educational resources they need to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.
Every page read today helps prepare a child for tomorrow.

Together, we're Turning the Page Toward Opportunity—one book, one child, and one community at a time.

Join us in helping write the next chapter.

Support Operation Turn the Page today: **https://lnkd.in/eS5dFnyx**


POW★MIA
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN
POW/MIA
RECOGNITION DAY
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN
SEPTEMBER 18
Today, we pause to honor the American service members who were prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action.
Behind every name is a family that waited, a community that remembered, and a story that deserves to be carried forward.
For those who returned home, we honor your sacrifice.
For those still unaccounted for, we continue to remember.
For the families who have carried unanswered questions across generations, we stand with you.
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.
YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.
ALL GAVE SOME
SOME GAVE ALL
HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ NEVER FORGET

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
VSO WANTED

New England Division Seeking a Veteran Services Officer (VSO) The New England Division is seeking a dedicated Veteran Services Officer (VSO). This vital role is focused on serving and advocating for U.S. Marine Corps Veterans, as well as Veterans of all U.S. Armed Forces, their families, and survivors. The VSO ensures that Veterans and their families receive the Department of Veterans Affairs, state, local government, and non-government benefits to which they are entitled.

Every other Division in the League currently has a VSO, providing essential support to Veterans in their regions. With the leadership of Director Philip Du and the accredited VSOs across the League, countless Veterans and their families are already benefiting from their guidance and expertise. The New England Division is eager to fill this important position and continue expanding the League's mission of service to Veterans. If you are committed to advocating for Veterans and have the dedication to make a meaningful impact in the New England community, we encourage you to begin the process of becoming a VSO.

For more information click on the link below:

Veteran Services – Marine Corps League

Please contact: NVC Patrick Maguire with any questions or if you're interested in the VSO position.

CONNECTICUT

Commandants Corner

Hello Marines and Associates;

Summer is over and we are heading into fall and with that our busy season. In October we mark the Beirut bombing in Lebanon, where 241 Americans lost their lives 220 of them were Marines. This was the largest loss of life in one day since D-Day on Iwo Jima. This would be a good time to catch up on bringing all of your members up to date on their dues, and completing the PLM Audits which are due November 10th to me and to National.

We have Birthday Ball season and so far I know that Brass City will have their Ball on November 7th In Waterbury their flyer is in this Newsletter. Hardware City will have their Ball on November 8th in Meriden. Who else is having a Birthday Celebration and more importantly who plans on attending.



After we celebrate our Birthday we go right into Toys for Tots, not everyone participates in this, but for those that do it is a very worthwhile and important project. While we are completing this project, we will Remember Pearl Harbor. We used to have a special event at Southington Memorial but we haven't had one in a while, so this year I would like to bring it back as part of the Department Meeting on December 6th at Rocky Hill.

As we close out this year we will be closing the Paul C. Houghton Detachment, due to membership and participation. We cannot function in an environment were a few people hold all of the positions and are forced into doing all of the work. Losing a detachment is never a good thing but we must focus on the detachments that are left and work on building them and making them stronger that they may grow and thrive. There was a guidebook sent out on ways to recruit and it had some very basic and easy methods. Look at it see what you can do for your detachment. Some are as easy as placing a label over your name on the Semper Fi Magazines, and leaving in a Doctors office.

Let's think about becoming an officer in your detachment, Department, or Division, new blood brings new ideas and a fresh outlook on the future. I sent out an e-mail about creating flyers for recruiting, for reminders on meetings and events your detachment is hosting. When you make up these flyers make them focused on the things your detachment actually does. If you don't do Toys for Tots then don't list it as one of your activities. When you speak to someone about joining the League get their e-mail address and send them a Newsletter, if you don't have one use the Department or Division Newsletters. It is a way to keep the league on their mind without constantly bothering them.

I send a lot of e-mail out on information to help or assist veterans, and it is information that is forwarded to me. Please use this information to fulfill our mission and help the veteran community we serve. The Department is looking for a Sgt-At-Arms, as Ray Burrington will be absent for a while as he does some traveling. It is a good starting point to get familiar how a Department works and it could prepare you for running for a higher office in the future. It will give you and opportunity to help shape who we are and where we are going. If you cannot take on a leadership role perhaps you can assist in some of the projects that we are involved in. Does your detachment do roses? Do you do scholarships? What is your detachment doing and please forward the pictures and information to the active Newsletters. In the near future we will be working on the Department website to add access to the Newsletters and Photos. When people find the website they can see what you and your detachment are doing.

Semper Fidelis,

Walt Benson

59th Commandant
Department of Connecticut

CALLING ALL MARINES ★ AND VETERANS!



TOYS FOR TOTS

The Marine Corps League is looking to add new members to help fulfill their mission.



The Marine Corps League is the only Congressionally Chartered Veteran Service Organization.

We currently have ten Detachments of Marines located throughout the State, serving Marines, other Veterans and communities with Scholarships, Funeral Honors, Toys for Tots, as well as preserving and promoting the values and history of the United States Marine Corps.



When you left active Military Service, one mission ended, but another one, just as important began.

ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE

★★ OUR DETACHMENTS ★★

★ Brass City Memorial Detachment # 031	Waterbury CT	★ Silver City Detachment #045	Meriden CT
★ Peter P. Monaco Detachment #040	Glastonbury CT	★ Southington Memorial Detachment #046	Southington CT
★ Hardware City Detachment #781	New Britain CT	★ Valley Detachment # 048	Seymour CT
★ Greater Bridgeport Detachment #654	Bridgeport CT	★ Housatonic Detachment #1129	Stratford CT
★ Northwest Detachment #042	Canaan CT	★ Thames River Detachment #1334	Quaker Hill CT

CONTINUE THE MISSION. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

JOIN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TODAY!



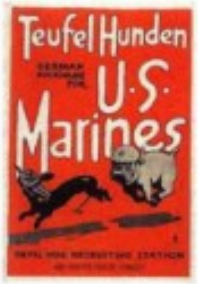
Call Walt Benson

203-768-8435

or email QR Code application to

walt.benson5@gmai.com

HONOR ★ COURAGE ★ COMMITMENT ★ TRADITION



U.S. MARINE CORPS
251th BIRTHDAY BALL

Presented by

The Brass City Memorial Detachment- Marine Corps League

Saturday, November 7th, 2026

***Guest Speaker*: TBD**

Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Club
91 Golden Hill Street, Waterbury, CT 06706
$50.00 per person

*****Raffle Prizes, DJ music and dancing*****
6 pm to 7 pm: *Open Bar with Hors d'oeuvres, followed by a Cash Bar*
Buffet Style Dinner, USMC Birthday Cake, Coffee and Tea
(Dress is formal)

Payment Info:

Make checks out to "Brass City MCL", mail to:
Jim Lauber
64 Woodhaven St, Waterbury, CT 06708
Or notify:
Jim Lauber –Detachment Commandant 203-217-0438
Tony Pina –Senior Vice Commandant 203-850-8908
To be added to Guest list, and pay at the door.


AMERICAN LEGION
US
Coffee with Veterans
9 AM – 11 AM
1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
AMERICAN LEGION POST 68 HALL
COME ENJOY FREE COFFEE, HOT BREAKFAST & GOOD CONVERSATIONS!
Feel free to bring ONE guest!
IF YOU NEED A RIDE PLEASE CONTACT:
MO JORDAN
860-268-8969
AMERICANLEGIONAUXPOST68@GMAIL.COM
154 Porters Pass, Berlin CT 06037

VETERANS STAND DOWN 2026

For 35 years, the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs has collaborated with federal, state, local, and nonprofit partners to present Veterans Stand Down each September. This annual event provides Connecticut veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard and Reserve personnel, and their immediate families with centralized access to a broad range of benefits, resources, and support services.

The 2026 event took place on Friday, September 18, at six locations throughout Connecticut: Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, Norwich, Rocky Hill, and Stamford.

Marine Corps League members Peter and Jamie DePaola served as volunteers at the Norwich site, located at Veterans Rally Point. Between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., they assisted with the processing of nearly 300 veterans. Given the complexity of navigating veterans' services and benefits, Stand Down continues to serve as an important and highly valued resource for the veteran community.

Semper Fi,
Jamie DePaola



DISABILITY RIGHTS CONNECTICUT

DRCT, participated in today's Connecticut Veterans Affairs Stand Down 2026 in Bristol. This was an important event that brought together veterans, their families, community organizations, and service providers.

The Bristol Stand Down is part of Connecticut's statewide effort to connect veterans and their families with valuable resources, services, and support. Other Stand Down regional site events took place at locations which included Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwich, Rocky Hill, and Stamford. During today's event, DRCT continued our focus on providing informational outreach materials that centered around voting rights advocacy, registration forms, vote riders' cards. DRCT's outreach also included information on the nonpartisan educational Candidates' Forum occurring on October 7, 2026 at the Bristol Event Center; that invites all candidates appearing on the general election ballot including independent and petitioning candidates to answer questions on disability topics.

I would like to thank Donna M. Dognin, Co-Founder/Executive Director of Veterans Strong Community Center, Inc., and volunteers for putting together and incredible event for our veterans.

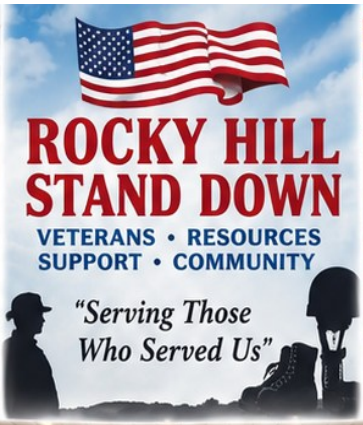


VETERANS STAND DOWN 2026



VETERANS STAND DOWN 2026









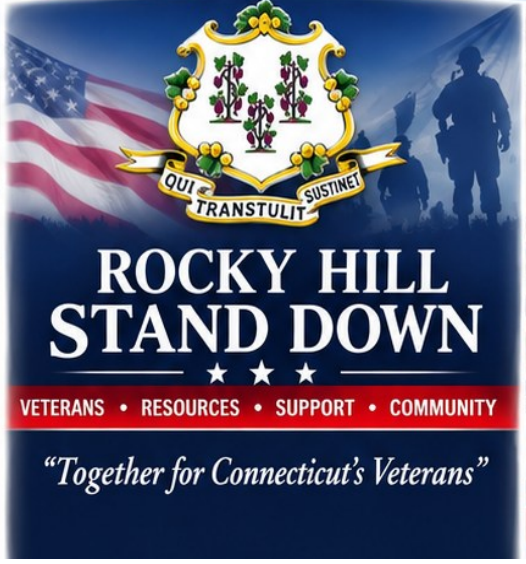















BEFORE THE SUN RISES...
WE REMEMBER ★ WE RECONNECT ★ WE WALK TOGETHER
NO VETERAN WALKS ALONE.
SHAKE HANDS with old friends.
MEET NEW brothers & sisters.
HONOR those who are no longer with us.
HINDS, JIMINEZ, MONACO, PORTER, WELCH...
6TH ANNUAL
WHO DO YOU WALK FOR?
A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ★ CAMARADERIE ★ HEALING ★ HOPE.
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED


MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
PETER P. MONACO DETACHMENT
★ SERVICE ★ COMMUNITY ★ ALWAYS A MARINE
Once a Marine
Always a Marine
HIKE TO REMEMBER
NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN
Freedom is never free.
We walk to remember their sacrifice, and to ensure they are never forgotten.
Scan Here to Watch the Video
WATCH ON YOUTUBE
ALL GAVE SOME
SOME GAVE ALL
SEMPER FIDELIS
★ HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ SUPPORT ★ SERVE


HIKE TO REMEMBER
2026
PETER P. MONACO DETACHMENT 40
GLASTONBURY CT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
SEMPER FIDELIS
WE HIKE
WE REMEMBER
WE SERVE
HONOR
REMEMBER
SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
NEVER
FORGET
More Than A Hike...
A PROMISE
HIKERS
PLUS
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT
MARINES ★ VETERANS ★ FIRST RESPONDERS ★ COMMUNITY ★ TOGETHER

HIKE TO REMEMBER 2026

PETER P. MONACO DETACHMENT 40 • GLASTONBURY CT



SUPPORTING VETERANS ★ STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES ★ KEEPING MEMORIES ALIVE

I started working on this about three years ago, and due to time and life I put it aside and said later. Then at the conference I was asked if CT had a Challenge Coin and of course we do not, we do not even have our own logo. Other states have there own version which is a circle with the EGA in the center and a silhouette of the state combined with it. This is the one I envisioned and I got some help from AI to create this image as our logo and if we like it our coin down the road. Since I believe everyone should have a say in this I ask that you look at it, pick it apart and come up with any changes you would like to make to it; or throw it out and start over. I think we should have some type of recognizable logo to distinguish us from other Departments, but it doesn't have to be some-thing I created. It also does not mean we should use it as our challenge coin. Tell me what you think.



START YOUR DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER TODAY!

I stole this from the Dept of Georgia and their Newsletter, be-cause I love the effort. A lot of detachments used to have Newslet-ters. Some had a regular schedule for theirs and others offered them when ever they had time, but the value of a newsletter cannot be measured as it has so many purposes. It informs others of what you are doing and the events you are hosting and supporting. It is a non invasive tool for recruiting when you speak to a possible recruit and they say they have to time or not right now, ask them if they would like to receive your newsletter that way everytime you create one they will get a copy and they are aware of what you are doing. It al-lows others in the Department, Division, and the league to see what your detachment and your peo-ple are doing snd how they are supporting our mission. Lastly, they are a history of your organi-zation. They will store all of the events that your organization was responsible for. Every Con-vention, every Conference, eve-ry Birthday Ball, Parade, Color Guard, Rose Program, Award Ceremony, all preserved. The graphic says every Detachment has a story to tell and indeed they do. It is about the mission we strive to deliver but more im-portantly it is the people who bring that mission to life and touch the Veterans and fellow Marines who we serve. One of our Marines has this on his email signature, Semper Fidelis, its not just s quote, it's a way of life.

Walt Benson

Did you know: The Young Marines program was established in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1959 by the Brass City detachment of the Marine Corps League? It was a few Marine veterans who wanted to pass on the values of the U.S. Marine Corps — such as leadership, teamwork, and discipline — to young people through a structured youth program.

Unlike the Scouting program, the Young Marines (YM) promote the mental, moral, and physical development of young people by instilling values such as honor, courage, and commitment. It aims to build character and leadership skills while encouraging a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among youth. Overall, the Young Marines program is designed to nurture responsible citizens who can positively impact their communities and embody strong leadership qualities. Maybe some will become future Marines!

The CT Young Marines have been very busy supporting events with color guards like the Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony at the State memorial, volunteering as parking guides at events like the Brooklyn Fair, greeting the Honor Flight at Bradley Airport, or helping at the CT Veterans Day Race. They demonstrate honor and respect.

YM Units may be available to support your Detachment events, or you can support the Young Marine Unit near you. CTs four YMs are: Brass City (Waterbury), Natchaug River (Putnam – Danielson), Three Rivers (Norwich), and Tri Point (Thompson).

Reach out to these outstanding young people, out Young Marines.

S/F

Peter DePaola

Young Marine Liaison

MCL Department of CT

FROM THE WORTHY PACK LEADER

Woof, Woof Dogs of the Order,

I have just returned from the 86th Supreme Growl at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indianna and there are some big changes happening across the Kennel. A motion was made from the floor at the Growl to make Operation Chow Hound an official program of the Military Order of Devl Dogs. Till now, it was an event that was done by many Packs and Pounds throughout the kennel but it was not an official operation. This is now adopted and there are a few changes to the program. The Pack and Pound will continue in the same manner supporting local shelters, but the Division and Kennel will do something different. They will contribute big bones, which will go towards purchasing a Service Dog for one of our Members, or other veterans. A link to apply for a Service Dog will be added to the website in the near future. The cost per dog is about 15,000 big bones, which cover the dog, the training and background check of the recipient. Also, the first Service Dog will be named Chief, after the 61st CDD Jeff Jones.

Another change that is being made is that we will now add a Division Dog of The Year, to the awards we already have. Each Pound will nominate one dog, and the VCDD, along with the Worthy Pack Leaders will choose the Division Dog of The Year. This will be the ribbon for this award.



There were also 6 New ribbons authorized for the Pack, Pound, and Kennel, they are pictured to the right, and will be available soon. These are for elected and appointed officers.



Now that fall has arrived I would like to get back to building our Pounds and Packs to the levels they should be at and by doing this we will be able to succeed in our mission, and if you believe the saying, “The more the Merrier”, have more fun at our Growls. Recruiting shouldn’t be as hard as we make it. We have brochures now from the Kennel, and the recruiting we do is from those that are already Marines and Know what we do for Children’s Hospitals. I will be visiting each detachment, to speak on our behalf to try encourage our fellow Marines to join us, but we also need to focus on the Dogs we already have. We have many Dogs that are Devil Dogs, and have held that level for many years. The Next Convention is in Buffalo which is close, and anyone who is eligible or can be made eligible by that time should ne encourage to advance to PDD. The last time we sent a group to advance, when they returned as new PDD’s there was a renewed enthusiasm in the Pack. This is due to the knowledge that is gained from this process. It instills confidence, comradery and leadership in those who complete it. It is the finishing touches on you Pedigree, So Get err Done !!



Semper Woof,
PDD Walt Benson
Worthy Pack Leader.

SUPPORT OUR IWO JIMA MONUMENT



*** SPONSOR OUR ETERNAL FLAME ***

*** "IN MEMORY" OR "IN HONOR OF" ***

*** $15 FOR A DAY ***

*** $100 FOR A WEEK ***

*** $400 FOR A MONTH ***



DONATE ON OUR SECURE WEBSITE AT
www.IwoJimaMemorial.org

OR MAIL A CHECK TO:
IWO JIMA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 31516
NEWINGTON, CT 06131

QUESTIONS: CONTACT ELAINE AT
IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com

KNUCKLE BUSTER CRUISING CAR SHOW

This was our opening Toys for Tots campaign! In the photo: Marine Roland Jordan, Paymaster, Marine Paul St Pierre, Associate Marine & Gold Star Mother Joyce Richmond & myself, Marine Charlie Paul. The Maine community is truly generous and out standing.

www.marinecorpsleaguemaine.org







MAINE PACK GROWL

Golf was the game. If you were a win-
ning dog, you re- ceive a prize win-
ning Devil Dog. If you missed the
mark, oh well, you got an eatable
Devil Dog. All dog went home a pok-
er chip to remind them of their ex-
perience on the Maine Pack cham-
pionship course. Course was de-
signed by Worthy Pack Leader PDD
Charlie Paul and it featured water
hazards, sand trap and lost Marines.
Hitting any of these Hazards resulted
in big bone fines. Fun was had by
all the dogs. DD Ben Redmond
was the sole winner. He is featured in
black sweat shirt. Dept of Maine
Commandant Peter Lubas, first time
golfer showed that his paws did not
understand the con- cept of golf and
DD Dave Close en- joyed his time in
the hazards.









MAINE

25TH ANNIVERSARY 9-11

Central Maine was invited to hold a 9/11 Remembrance ceremony at Summit Spring GC. Small group, but a wonderful remembrance ceremony. In the picture; Marine Dan Cobb, Marine Charlie Paul, Marine Paul St Pierre and Marine Roland Jordan. Not in the picture is our photographer Associate Marine Alice Paul.






HEY MARINES!
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED THE
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE,
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
Stand shoulder to shoulder with those who've worn the uniform.
Continue the mission. Strengthen the bond. Serve your community.
MARINES FOR LIFE.
JOIN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TODAY.
SEMPER FI.
SCAN TO JOIN
GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DETACHMENT TO JOIN TODAY.
www.mclnational.org
membership@mclnational.org
(703) 640-0200
MarineCorpsLeague
@marinecorpsleague
Marine Corps League

9-11 AT THE PENTAGON

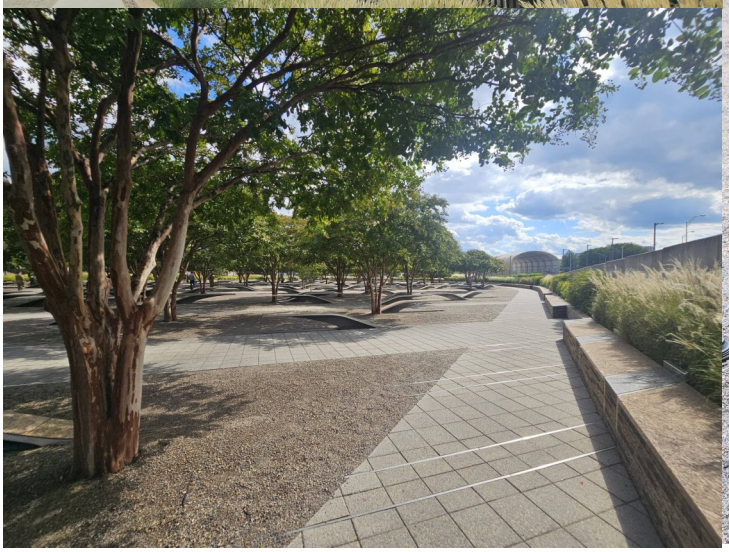




The 25th anniversary of 9-11 at the Pentagon Memorial. It's seems funny but the sky was just as blue that day with less clouds. Above the wall containing the Name of those who died there that day.

Below David Porter JR., National SR. Vice Commandant, Places a wreath at the Memorial.







NEW HAMPSHIRE

OORAH!

NEWSLETTER

Granite State Detachment #542

Marine Corps League

Sept 2026 Quarterly Issue 2026-003

Commandant's Corner

Members and Associates of the Granite State Detachment,

September 12, 2026



Yesterday I attended the Hampton NH commemoration of the 25th anniversary of 9/11. There were speeches about the courage, sacrifice and resilience of individual Americans and the remarkable unity with which we as a nation responded to the terrorist attacks of that day.

A long list of the names, ranks and service branches of the local combat fatalities from the subsequent war on terror was then read, followed by the playing of taps and our MCL firing detail. Would it surprise you to know that the majority of this solemn list were Marines? We are one of the smaller armed forces; but large in our commitment.

Reflecting on the events of this quarter, covering late spring into summer, our detachment has encountered considerable external challenges, particularly in the collapse of a collaborative effort with another detachment to mount a Marine Corps Ball. Disappointing and unforeseen as that and the results of it were, nevertheless, we have met and exceeded fundraising and disbursement goals, continue to serve veterans and our community in multiple ways, reflecting our individual and corporate abilities and commitment.

I am proud to lead this detachment as I see your efforts and abilities continuing to work in unity to make our organization an effective one in meeting its worthy goals.

--- Eric Anthony, Commandant, Granite State Detachment

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
National Newsletter Award

★ RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE ★ CELEBRATING YOUR STORY ★



Jo Zurwell
Newsletter Editor

Marine Corps League

National Newsletter Award
First Place Class I

OORAH!

Jo Zurwell/ Editor

★★★★

2026
Indianapolis, Indianna

★ CONGRATULATIONS! ★

As I was adding the information sent to the Division Newsletter by your Detachment, I noticed that some important information was missing from this Newsletter.

At the 2026 National Convention, your Newsletter was awarded First Place in the Class One Category of the National Newsletter Competition.

Congratulations to your Editor Jo Zurwell, and your Detachment on this first time entry achievement.

Walt Benson

Walt Benson
National Chair of the Newsletter Committee

"Newsletters Keep Our Corps Connected."

Sharing Our Stories
Preserving Our Legacy
Inspiring Our Future

SEMPER FIDELIS

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sr. Vice Commandant's Message



📣 Call for Leadership:
Senior Vice Commandant Needed

Granite State Detachment 542 is seeking a dedicated member to step into the role of Senior Vice Commandant.
The SVC's position is important to the Detachment for these general reasons:

- Coordinate detachment fundraising events,
- Assist and support the Commandant, to prepare for succession to the Commandant's office, and to back up the Commandant when absent,
- SVC should be a major contributing force to the success of the De tachment. He/she should provide knowledge and influence in assur ing the achievement of Detachment goals and operations.

If you're passionate about serving veterans and building community, this is your chance to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact.
Whether you're a longtime member or newly active, your voice and energy matter. Let's shape the future of GSD 542 together.
Interested? Reach out to the Commandant to learn more or express your interest.

JVC's Message



📣 Call for Leadership:
Junior Vice Commandant Needed

Granite State Detachment 542 is seeking a dedicated member to step into the role of Junior Vice Commandant.

This position plays a vital part in strengthening our Detachment by:

- Creating membership incentives and programs that foster growth and enthusiasm
- Supporting leadership continuity by stepping in when needed

If you're passionate about serving veterans and building community, this is your chance to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact.

Whether you're a longtime member or newly active, your voice and energy matter. Let's shape the future of GSD 542 together.

Interested? Reach out to the Commandant to learn more or express your interest.

Email Commandant

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Chaplain's Message

Autumn



Thank you for the changing seasons, oh Lord, and the crisp, fresh air. The fall season has an invigorating energy to it. It lift our spirits & clears our minds,

Grant us wisdom to share our thoughts & patience in our discussions with others. Let's look forward to our MCL goals & plans for its future.

We can look forward to the many activities we have planned. The MCL luncheon, Veterans' Day our own MCL Ball & the fundraiser to allow us to assist Marines in need.

God Bless the Marine's, FMF Corpsmen, those with us & those who have left us.

Amen

Joe Duquette, Chaplain

Paymaster's Message



Third Quarter 2026 Paymaster Report

As summer draws to a close, GSD #542 has completed a productive third quarter of 2026. Through our partnership with Revo Casino and Social House in Lebanon, New Hampshire, the detachment received a $60,382.54 donation. Fundraisers held at Market Basket and Bass Pro Shops during July and September generated additional funds for the GSD #542 bank account during the quarter. These contributions will support GSD #542's continued efforts to assist veterans and community organizations throughout the Greater Manchester, New Hampshire, area.

Fundraiser Recognition

I would like to recognize all the volunteers who generously contributed their time and effort this summer to make these fundraisers successful. I would also like to extend special thanks to Kevin Brown, who dedicated weekends to supporting each fundraising event.

The commitment of these volunteers of their time and effort not only helps raise funds for the detachment to donate to charitable organizations but also increases public awareness of GSD #542 and the Marine Corps League. Their efforts help inform the community about our support for veterans and local community organizations.

Third-Quarter Donations

Donations made by GSD #542 to various organizations during the third quarter were as follows:

August 2026 **Building Dreams for Marines $2,000**

September 2026 **NH Military Suicide Loss Memorial Monument**
at the NH Veterans Cemetery $1,000

Steffen Family Foundation
Grief and wellness support for surviving military and first responder's spouses and children $1,000

Renewal of Membership Dues

Please be reminded that September is the annual renewal period for GSD #542 Marine Corps League membership dues. Although several renewal notices have been sent, payments have not yet been received from some members. I encourage these members to renew their membership dues of $35 at their earliest convenience.

We greatly value every member's participation, which helps make GSD #542 one of the finest Marine Corps League detachments in New Hampshire.

Support and Appreciation

During this period, internal personnel changes led to the departure of Senior Vice Commandant Jesse Stufflebeam. His valuable contributions and support to both me and the detachment are sincerely appreciated.

We also welcomed and installed several new members to GSD #542, further strengthening the detachment's membership.

In closing, I extend my sincere appreciation to GSD #542 members and to those members from other detachments throughout the state who have personally contacted me and offered continued support for my commitment to GSD #542 during this challenging quarter.

As Paymaster, I remain dedicated to ensuring that the detachment's funds are managed responsibly and in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures of the Granite State Detachment and the Marine Corps League.

Have a wonderful fall season, Marines!

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Romano

NEW HAMPSHIRE

FUNday Breakfast

Our next FUNday Breakfast is scheduled for September 26th.

Please join us for our next FUNday breakfast at 0800 at the Airport Diner for the FUNday meet-n-greet breakfast @ 2280 Brown Avenue, Manchester to join in on all this fun! We gather the last Saturday of each month.

Hope to see you there!



Wednesday Ladies' Lunch

Dear Ladies and Marine Friends of Detachment #542,

After our summer break, I'm pleased to say that the **MCL#542 LADIES (only) LUNCHEONS will be RESTARTING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th!**

We will be meeting at the Bedford NH T-Bones Restaurant at **noon** on the third Wednesday of each month going forward after that, except for the months off January and February.

Come with a smile and a hug! Questions, comments, or need/help with a ride? Please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Thanks!

Pat Anthony,
Associate Member
Manchester Marine Corps League #542
603-782-3077



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Revo Casino-Lebanon Check Presentation

In August a few members of GSD 542 went up to the Lebanon, NH **Revo Casino and Social House** for the big check photo event.

The Granite State Detachment 542 MCL is extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the **Revo Casino and Social House** Charitable Gaming program as the funds received go toward supporting our mission of supporting Marines, Veterans, and the greater Manchester community.

Thank you to all those that helped at the photo shoot, we felt very welcomed.

Pictured left to right: Eric Anthony, GSD Commandant, Paul Coutu, GSD Sgt-at-Arms, Marge Romano, GSD Paymaster, and Andrew Peck, Table Games Manager at the Lebanon **Revo Casino and Social House**.

#PlayLikeARebel #RebelsWithACause



Veterans Count Coffee Social
Meet 2nd Thursday Every Month
Next one October 8th

VETERANS COUNT®
easterseals·nh

GATHER, SIP, CONNECT...
A Coffee Social for Those Who Served

ALL ARE WELCOME!

June 11, 2026

10am-11am

(Monthly gathering on the 2nd Thursday of each month)

Location:
William B. Cashin Senior Activity Center
151 Douglas St, Manchester, NH 03102
(Check in at the front desk for meeting location)

Join us for a relaxed Veterans Coffee Social – a welcoming space to connect, unwind, and enjoy a warm cup of coffee with fellow veterans. Come share stories, build community, and start your day with great company. We'll also have information available about local veteran resources and support services. All veterans and service members are invited. Come for the coffee, stay for the camaraderie – and leave with helpful connections!!

For more information contact:
Courtney Stairs
cstairs@eastersealsnh.org
603.461.9615



Charter Member and Life Member of GSD 542, Arthur Allison Passed at the age of 91, on March 7, 2026



Arthur Allison 1934 – 2026

The passing of Arthur Allison was first announced in a blog post in March on the GSD website and we wanted to share in the next possible newsletter as well. **The date for the cemetery services will be on September 30th at 2 pm at the Boscawen Veteran's Cemetery** and the MCL will perform a firing detail.

To see the full write up done on Arthur back in 2021 GSD 542 newsletter as well as his obituary at this link. **https://granitestatemarines.com/arthur-allison-1934-2026/**

VA BINGO Afternoons

Bingo at the VA Hospital is on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Each month the GSD 542 MCL members volunteer to help the residence of the VA to play bingo. If you are interested in helping your fellow veterans and have some fun in the process, please contact Joe Duquette.

Our next Marine Corps Bingo will be on Sunday, September 20, 2026 and then October 18, 2026. We meet at the lower level parking lot at 12:30pm. VA Hospital at 318 Smyth Road, Manchester.

Please call Joe Duquette if you are available to volunteer. 603-540-9807



GSD 542 volunteers from the July 2026 Bingo event at the VA. Left to right, Joe Duquette, Sara Steffen and her two sons.

GSD Fundraiser
Market Basket June 26-27, 2026

Thank you to all the volunteers that came out to Market Basket on June 26 and June 27 for the GSD Fundraiser. With the help of the volunteers and that of all the wonderful shoppers who made donations during these two days, GSD is able to continue our mission to support Marines, Veterans, and the community.



Kevin Brown and Eric Anthony



Jim Ambrose and Jesse Stufflebeam



Maurice Labbe Stone Dedication

August 4, 2026 - GSD 542 Commandant Eric Anthony and Paymaster Marge Romano and Mary Ann Diekmann went with Pauly Labbe to the memorial stone dedication for her husband Maurice Labbe at the Easterseals Campus in Franklin, NH. The detachment purchased the stone in recognition for all the amazing work that Maurice Labbe did to help start the GSD detachment.









Chester Rod and Gun Club Fundraiser Shoot

On July 18th, 2026, GSD member David Freschi and the Chester Rod and Gun Club conducted a fundraiser shoot with the proceeds to come to the Granite State Detachment to be used to further the mission of the organization.



Marge Romano & David Freschi



Joe Duquette & David Freschi



David "Doc" Freschi - Peaches Capitalism

Resupply scheduled soon
A few more klicks of humping
Ammo, medical, batteries
And the "beloved" cases of c-rats
No clean clothes though
Another 3-4 days with blood stiffened fatigues
Choppers in the distance thump
Dust, twigs, weeds swirl choking
Drop made, now the rushed sorting
Unit 1 supplies first, more bandages
Then the rations in those special "lightweight" cans
Stuffed in socks, they'll gain weight
As steps go by the trading starts
Scored two peaches and a fruit cocktail
Wealthy now, serious bartering power mine
Two Ham and Limas for a can of peaches?
Not gonna happen, no way
Throw in two breads- please Doc
Even the VC throw that crap away Cpl.
You do look desperate though
Here's a deal, if you want it
Two pound cakes and your beer ration
Done! Capitalism, gotta love it
"Saddle up" Charley won't wait
And young men move to meet others

A message from Doc - I am willing to listen to any veteran's story and try to construct a poem for them. Done a number of them. So if anyone is interested, they can reach out to me. For Doc's **email click here**.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

25th Anniversary 9/11 Ceremony

The 9/11 25th Anniversary Ceremony event had a monument honoring all of the service members of all branches from New Hampshire that lost their lives in the Gulf wars after 9/11/2001. See the picture of the monument. It has been an annual event since 2006.

The Marine Corps League detachment #394 has been performing a firing detail for this event for many years. Participating were: Dick Lak, Brad Howe, John Flagler, Jim Ambrose, Eric Anthony (GSD 542 Commandant), and Chip.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hidden Battles Kayak Event

On July 18, 2026, GSD members Chris Peirce and Sara Steffen joined the Hidden Battles Kayak With A Mission event at Wellington State Park Beach in Bristol, NH. All money raised gets donated to Swim With A Mission, a Local New Hampshire Non-Profit who we have partnered with since Hidden Battles was started. Check them out at **SWAM.org** to learn more.





Swearing in of New Members

In the last quarter, the Granite State Detachment was pleased to welcome two new members to our organization. We are pleased to have Marines John Janocz a NH State Trooper, and Mike Sousa a ham radio enthusiast as new members of GSD.



ric Anthony, Joe Duquette, and Paul
outu, swear in new member
onathan (John) Janocz.



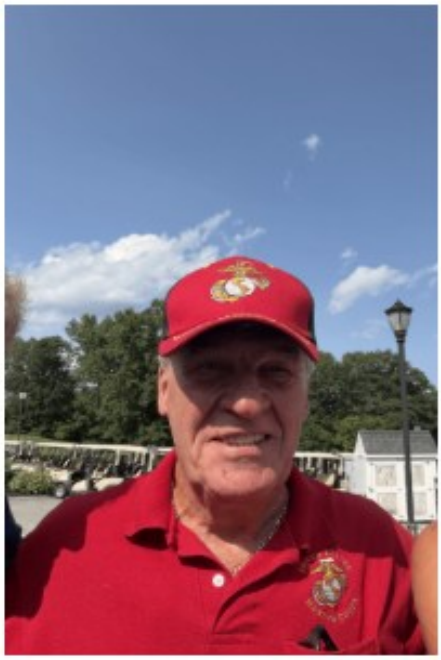
Eric Anthony swearing in Michael (Mike) Sousa.

Golf Tournament

In August, 2026, Building Dreams for Marines held their annual golf tournament fundraiser. GSD was a sponsor of this event. A few of our members covered the "Money Hole" and had a great time raising funds for a great cause!



Marge Romano



Paul Coutu



Teresa Hamlin, Marge Romano, Lauri (both daughters of Marge) came out to help with the event.

Commissioned Flag

Marge Romano commissioned GSD member Dennis Mitchell to make a wooden flag in her support of his trip to Oklahoma in October for a reunion with his boot camp buddies. These are the same types of flags that Dennis will make for the detachment to raffle off at various fundraising events. - Beautifil work Dennis!



VetTix.org
Tickets for Veterans

At our December membership meeting, member George Robinson let the group know about an organization that veterans and military members can go to and enter drawings to receive free tickets to local events. He mentioned that he had received tickets to a few events since he has started using it, and it is easy to use and he thought he would share with the full detachment.

Veteran Tickets Foundation's Tickets for Troops Program is dedicated to giving back to those who gave us so much. We team up with major sports teams, leagues, promoters, organizations, venues and every day event ticket holders to provide free tickets to currently serving and veterans of all branches of the US military.

To find out more about this site, please check out their website by clicking the button below.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Veteran Fishing Trip

A couple of the GSD members enjoyed the Veterans fishing trip back in June.











Discounts for Veterans

We are starting a list of businesses in our area that offer discounts to Veterans. If you know others please email us at **granitestatemarines542@gmail.com** .

Bass Pro Shops - Hooksett

The Home Depot

Lowes

Tucker's Restaurant -Bedford, Hooksett, and Merrimack

T-Bones - Bedford, Derry, and Concord

VIP's Tires and Service - Bedford -offers discounts for veterans and offer free NH state inspections, check their website for other locations for their offerings. For a list of Veteran Owned Business in NH please visit:

www.veteranownedbusiness.com they have a listing of discounts based on location.

9/16/25 The Homeland Heroes Foundation (Limited time offer)

www.Homelandheroesfoundation.org - they recently received a call from a local roofing company that would like to donate two new roofs to veterans in need. The company is willing to go from the Mass border to Rochester, NH. If you know of someone with this need please contact the editor of this newsletter **Jo Zurwell** and she will get the contact information.

LinkedIn - One Year Free for Veterans

Get one year of LinkedIn Premium and LinkedIn Learning for free.

Social Impact

In collaboration with SheerID, LinkedIn offers eligible members of the U.S. military community one year of access to LinkedIn Premium. You'll also get unlimited access to more than 10,000 courses through our LinkedIn Learning platform as a part of the program.

Click on the button below and it will bring you to a form to fill out to sign up for one year of free usage of LinkedIn.

Sign Up for LinkedIn

New Facebook Page for GSD #542

Some of you may have noticed that back in May 2025 our Facebook page was no longer published on the social media site. It seems that someone attacked (hacked) our page and made it so that it was unpublished and no matter what we did to fix it, nothing worked.

Therefore, we have had to recreate our Facebook page with a slightly different page name.

Below is the link for the new page, we ask that you go to the page and click the follow button so that you can see all of our posts.

New Facebook Page

Veteran's Creed

The eight-point Veteran's Creed is:

1. I am an American Veteran
2. I proudly served my country
3. I live the values I learned in the military
4. I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow veterans
5. I maintain my physical and mental discipline
6. I continue to lead and improve
7. I make a difference
8. I honor and remember my fallen comrades

Source: **https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2018/6/veterans-organizations-establish-veterans-creed**

Revo Casino - NH Charitable Gaming

REVO CASINO AND SOCIAL HOUSE

Granite State Detachment #542 MCL has partnered with Revo Casino and Social House with the NH Charitable Gaming in the last couple of years, and has been selected to participate again this year.

The funds we receive from our assigned days at the Lebanon, NH Revo Casino will be designated to support local NH based Marine and Veteran organizations or individuals in need.

#PlayLikeARebel

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Veterans Legal Justice

VETERANS LEGAL JUSTICE

LEGAL BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Serving Veterans since November 11, 2022

MISSION

Veterans Legal Justice, through our network of dedicated attorneys, strives to ensure that veterans, service members, and their families in the State of New Hampshire receive the best possible legal representation at low or no cost. We extend a welcoming hand to those who have put on the uniform, regardless of their length of service or discharge status because we strongly believe that once an individual has signed the dotted line to serve their country, they have earned the right to access our services.

VISION

A military community with access to affordable legal services that are responsive to the needs of veterans facing all types of legal challenges.

Visit vljnh.org for more information

For Intake Services

Call: (603)-397-0650

Email: volunteer@vljnh.org

VA News



Below please find some links for the VA website that may be helpful to you.

Outreach events
VA benefits can help Veterans and their families buy homes, earn degrees, start careers, stay healthy, and more. Join an event for conversation and information.

Outreach Materials
Use our outreach materials to help Veterans manage their journey with VA and learn about their benefits.

State Departments of VA Offices
Select a state or territory below to visit the website for that location's Department of Veterans Affairs office.

Download or Print out your VA Welcome Kit
Whether you're just getting out of the service or you've been a civilian for years now, the VA Welcome Kit can help guide you to the benefits and services you've earned.

Save The Dates

Detachment members and guests please post these dates and times to your calendars, in advance, so that you won't miss one of these upcoming events that may be important to you.

Monthly Member Meeting - Every 2nd Tuesday at 1800 for the detachment meeting at the American-Canadian Genealogical Society at 1 Sundial Ave., Suite 317, Manchester, NH 03103.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

October 13, 2026
November 10, 2026
December 8, 2026

Monthly Breakfast -Every last Saturday of the month at 0800 at the Airport Diner for the FUNday meet-n-greet breakfast @ 2280 Brown Avenue, Manchester.

Upcoming Breakfast Dates

October 31, 2026
November 28, 2026
December 26, 2026 - this may change as we get closer

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Membership in Granite State Detachment 542

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps.

Our **mission** is to voluntarily aid and render assistance to all Marines, FMF Chaplains, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines, FMF Chaplains and FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans.

Our Membership **Coverage Area** is the greater Hillsborough County with some towns in Rockingham County. For the full list of towns we encompass, please check out our **membership** page on our website.

Monthly Meetings

When: Monthly Meetings of the Granite State Detachment are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month

Where: The American-Canadian Genealogical Society (ACGS), 1 Sundial Ave, Suite 317, Manchester, NH 03103

Time: Meetings begin promptly and 1800

Info: Membership is not a requirement for attendance and guests are always welcome to attend these events.

Visit our Website for More Info

Membership Application

RHODE ISLAND



I was thrilled and it was an honor to meet Gary Sinise today. The LT Dan Band completed its quest to perform a military concert in all 50 states at today's event at **Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island.** What great work the **Gary Sinise Foundation** does for our veterans, Gold Star families, and our first responders. Gary and the band will be heading to more bases and The Villages in Florida soon. I highly recommend folks see this show.









MUSIC ★ SERVICE ★ COMMUNITY


MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS
OPERATION
CHOWHOUND
NO BOWL LEFT EMPTY.
CHOCTAW HOUNDS
MILITARY ORDER
DEVIL DOGS
POUND #261
A DEVIL DOGS INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS THROUGH DONATIONS OF DOG FOOD AND FUNDING.
PURCHASING DOG FOOD FOR LOCAL SHELTERS
SUPPORTING ANIMAL CARE & WELFARE
STRENGTHENING OUR COMMITMENT TO
FEED THE PACK.
SUPPORT THE SHELTER.
SCAN TO DONATE
DEVIL DOGS
TAKING CARE OF THOSE
WHO CAN'T TAKE CARE
OF THEMSELVES.
BAYOU BLOODLINE. SEMPER FIDELIS.
OPERATION CHOWHOUND
NO BOWL LEFT EMPTY



Hello to the members of the New England Division and their families. I am honored to have been asked to once again present HAMSAL (Help A Marine, Save A Life) to your membership at the Division Conference in June. I last presented to your Division 2 years ago and have since added more pertinent information as well as resources. For those of you who do not know about HAMSAL, it was created when New England Division member, Past National Commandant Warren Griffin wanted to do more for our membership and their families regarding mental health and wellness. So, this is when HAMSAL was created. HAMSAL centers around taking care of yourself, as well as taking care of each other, suicide awareness and prevention, mental health and substance use, as well as my journey.

I have attended many Division Conferences upon request and presented the HAMSAL PowerPoint to talk about the things that we don't talk about enough. What's that you say, you don't like talking about these uncomfortable topics? Well, I am here to tell you that those days are gone. We are our brothers and sisters keeper, whether you know it or it like it. As leaders in our communities, we must do this together, we cannot do this alone.

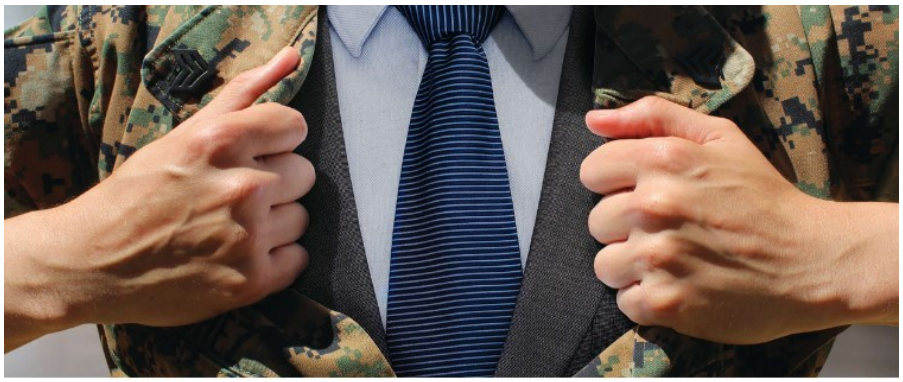
As a retired Police Officer and Marine Corps veteran in recovery, I understand about suffering in silence and fighting that stigma, especially within our community. Now I stand tall and recover loudly and help others with their mental health and substance use. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time and contact me at shoremarines@gmail.com and 732-921-7411. I hope to see you in June, make sure you come up and introduce yourself to me. Semper Fi!

Brian Gillespie

MARINE FOR LIFE



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



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

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

Face-to-Face: More than 70 Marine for Life Representatives serves our program as hometown links. These representatives create a bridge between the military and civilian communities across the nation, connecting you to military-friendly job opportunities, career resources, and networking events. Your local representative will help you build relationships and explore employment, education, and community resources in your current area or the area where you plan to move.

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



MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

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

ONCE A MARINE,
ALWAYS A MARINE!

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



Career & Technical Opportunities



Educational Opportunities



Entrepreneurial Endeavors

NETWORKING IS KEY

LinkedIn



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

Face to Face Network



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

company/marine-for-life-network | marineforlife.org | 866-645-8762 | /MarineForLifeNetwork

WWR Fact Sheet

District Injured Support Coordinators & Field Support Representatives

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

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

What Services do DISCs and FSRs offer?

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

Who They Support

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

Where They are Located

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

Related Fact Sheets

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



MSgt Charles You
District Injured Support Coordinator (DSC)
508-740-4331
Charles.you.mil@usmc.mil

Fact Sheet: Transition
Released: 03012018v2

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

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

A while back I heard a story of a career day at a local high school, and how four branches of the military approached recruiting members to their ranks. It was told by Simon Sinek, a motivational speaker. The first recruiter was from the Air Force, who started out with a detailed PowerPoint on all the opportunities that the Air Force offered its recruits. The next recruiter was from the Navy and again he had a beautiful PowerPoint on all the opportunities that the Navy offered its recruits in the way of career opportunities. Next was the Army with a long PowerPoint containing the many opportunities one can expect in the Army. But then came the Marine Corps, with a Marine standing before them straight and tall proudly wearing his Dress Blues. He stood on the stage and looked to his left and to his right, and then scanned the entire audience side to side and back to front, before finally speaking, say No, No, I don't see what I'm looking for. There is no one here who would be a good fit for my Marine Corps, no one at all, but if you disagree with me I'll be at that table in the back, you are welcome to stop by and tell me why. In the end the Marine had the longest line at the presentation. Why? He challenged them, and few of us if any can resist being challenged.

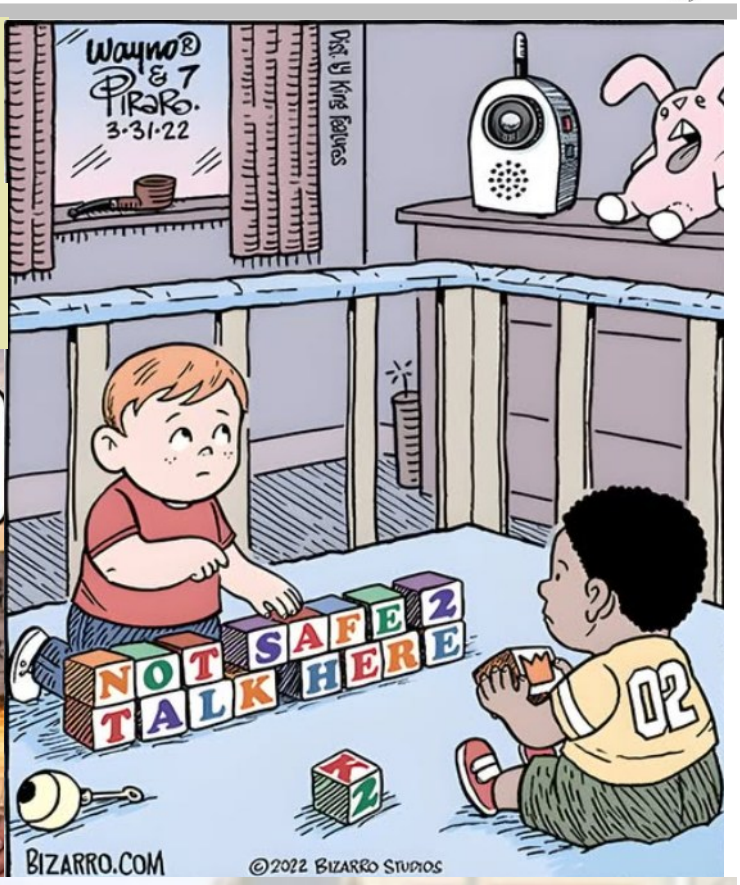
When we recruit for the league it is a little different. Those we approach are already Marines. They have been trough Bootcamp. Some of them have seen Combat and quite a few struggle with many physical disabilities, some from service and some from years. But if I could extrapolate on what this Marine said I think it would be something like this. No, you are a Marine or a Veteran and you will always be welcome in my Marine Corps League, where we could drink some coffee, swap some memories and stories, looking back on the good old days. But you are not the target of my search. I am looking for Marines and Veterans that are still looking to engage in our mission. What Mission? We have many, first to our Marines and Veterans returning home after service, minus the comradery you relied on every day. In need of guidance of where to go to get help with employment, medical, someone who understands what you are feeling because they too have lived it. Promote and preserve Marine Corps values and history. Scholarships for the dependents of Marines and Veterans. Toys for Tots , so that those less fortunate are still able to provide Christmas for the Children. Funeral Honors Detail to provide Military Honors as we say farewell to those Marines and Veterans that have gone on to their final post. These are the people I am looking for to lead My Marine Corps League in its ongoing mission.

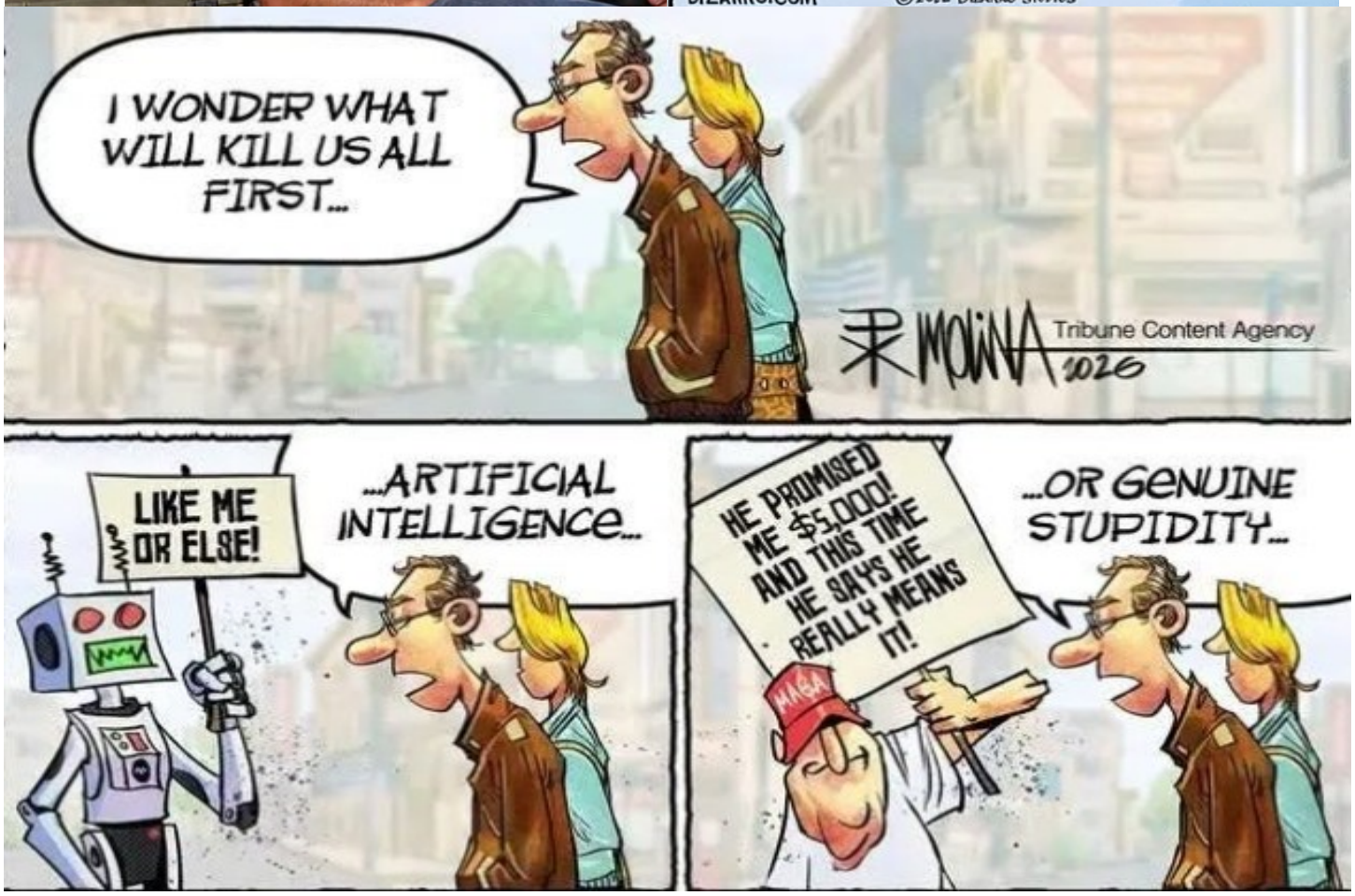
So today, if I were that Marine recruiter and you were standing before my table I would say, that you are who I am Looking for. You embody the spirit of our motto that we live by, Semper Fidelis. You awake each day and meet the challenges we face head on. You embrace the new mission to help and support our Marines and Veterans. You exemplify what it means to be a Marine by serving your community and promoting and preserving the principals and history of the Marine Corps. So to you, the weary and exceptional few, Semper Fidelis my Brothers and Sisters, your numbers may be small but your achievements are great. As you complete your daily tasks please seek out more or those like you, they may be few and hard to find but they are there and so worth it.

Semper Fidelis
Walt Benson

INTERVIEWER: "WHAT DO YOU MAKE AT YOUR CURRENT JOB?"
ME: "MOSTLY MISTAKES AND INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS."







Building a strong relationship to secure the future

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

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

- The MARINE Shop is our retail store that assists Marines with their uniform requirements regardless of rank and offers many Marine Corps themed gifts and apparel.
  MCA Group Insurance Program features valuable insurance products with your needs in mind – all backed by an association you can trust. We leverage the buying power of our MCA members to bring you competitive group rates and offer one convenient source for the following products:
  Term Life Insurance
  TRICARE Supplement
  Dental Insurance
  Vision Insurance
  Pet Insurance
  Long-Term Care Insurance
  Medicare Insurance Plans
  Individual and Family Health Insurance Plans

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

Networking Opportunities:

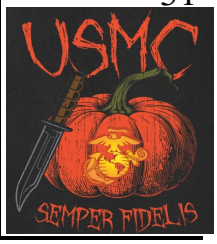
Discounted Professional Events: Our members receive discounted rates for our MCA professional dinners and events held annually throughout the Corps. Our dinners provide members with access to senior leaders of the Marine Corps, Department of Defense, and industry. Active-duty members can attend for free.

Professional Development:

MCA Battle Study Packages: Members will have access to all of our Battle Study Packages and learn from the lessons of the battles of the past to excel in the Corps battlefields of the future.
MCA Decision-Making Exercises: Members can practice solving issues to increase their ability to make decisions through dozens of tactical and ethical decision games
MCA Corps Voices: Hear the Corps' icons from Chesty Puller to Alexander Vandegrift to Al Gray discuss issues, challenges, and battlefield tactics in these audio excerpts recorded over the last one hundred years.

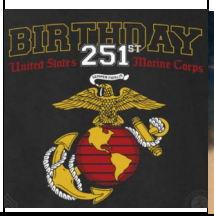


2026 OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 

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2026 NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	Semper Fi 2 	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11 	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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CLASSIFIED SECTION

HELP WANTED

Each edition I will list any job a Department has that is open. We need to encourage Marines to step up and fill these positions. Many people think that those of us that hold positions have some special skills that allow us to do these things we do but that is not true. We are all here because we feel we have more to offer and more to do. We appreciate that you come to the meetings but think how much more you could help by stepping up. I think by now I have heard just about every excuse to why people can't do things but you can and that is a conversation you need to have with yourself. No one ever joined the Marine Corps because they thought there were easy no stress jobs here. There are jobs listed here that if not filled would prevent a Department form functioning.

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

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

Department of CT– Is seeking a Boy Scout Liaison

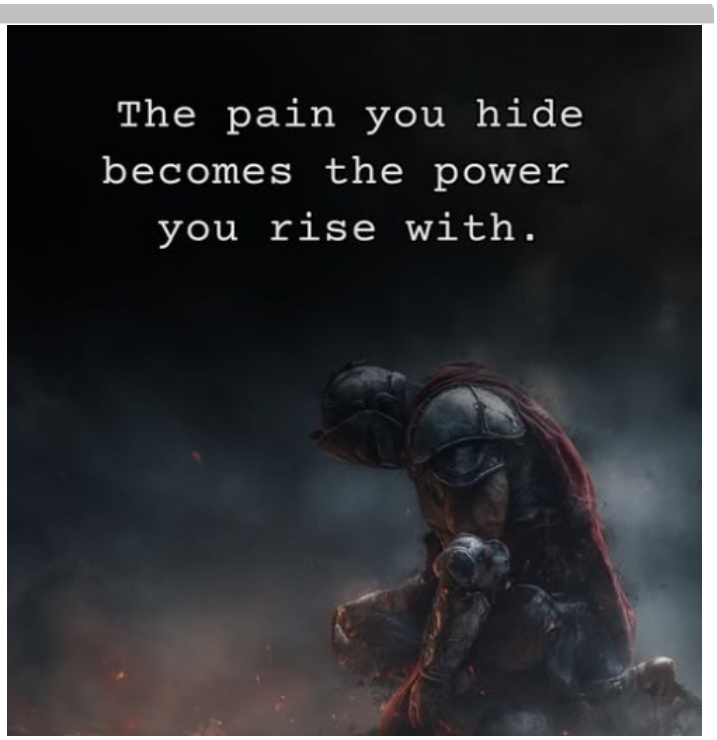
Department of CT– Is seeking a Historian

Department of CT– is seeking a Sgt-At– Arms

Department of CT– is seeking Activities committee members

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

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



Every scar on your body and every weight on your soul is proof you kept going. Pain can drown a weak man, but it forges a strong one. The world never sees your silent battles — only the strength you walk out with. Rise with the very pain that tried to break you.

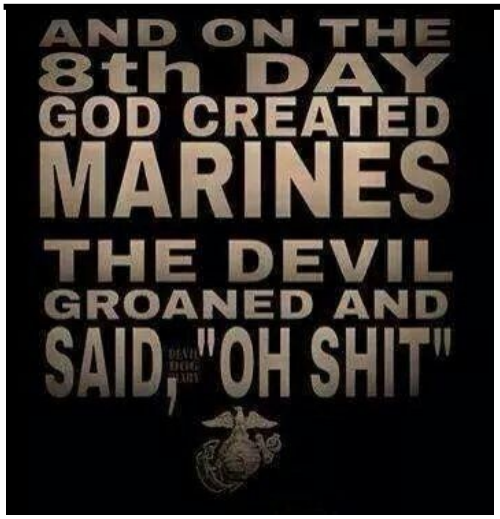
Turn it into something unstoppable.

Turn it into the version of you that refuses to die

MID WINTER CONFERENCE









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

A Marines Prayer

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

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

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

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

