



# The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

October 2019 Newsletter

Editor: Ken Gysbers 201-895-3358

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## Officers 2019



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Quartermaster and

Editor "The Grunt": Ken Gysbers

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### Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

Members of the Marine Corps League join in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving traditions. Promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service. Effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy. Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains, and former Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains, and their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.



**Commandant's Corner  
Marine Corps League  
Lakeland Detachment—744  
October 2019**

**FACE OF GLORY**

I recently came across the following poem in some historic 8<sup>th</sup> & I documents that I received. It was written by a Marine that I knew as Sgt. Ed Croghan. As a result of his wounds received in Vietnam he was discharged as a Lieutenant. He was stationed at 8<sup>th</sup> & I from 1955-1959 and was one of the trainers of the Platoon selected in 1958 at Camp Geiger and where I was selected to serve at the 8<sup>th</sup> & I Post. We trained for this duty at Quantico for four months in 1959 under Platoon Leader Lt. Arthur L. Stewart and Platoon Sgt. Ron Burton. All of the trainers and, especially Lt. Stewart and Sgt. Burton represented some of the finest Marines I ever had the pleasure of serving under or with. I was touched by the poem and wanted to share it with you.

**Face of Glory**

I have lived so many lifetimes.  
Far too many to recall.  
As I wander memories hall  
I have visited many climates and always to return.  
I have fought in many battles with comrades to sojourn.  
I can hear the trumpets blowing  
in the quiet of my mind.  
I can see the banners flying  
with the tempest of the wind.  
I have climbed so many mountains  
with a vista to the sea.  
I have seen so many fall  
that some others can be free.  
I have gathered up the wounded  
and held the dying hand.  
I have heard the parade drums beating  
and the music of the band.

I have watched the twilight gather  
and the twinkling of the stars.  
I have counted many chevrons  
and fastened many bars.  
Who is this voice who is speaking?  
What is this heart that beats?  
Who is the face who watches  
as an enemy retreats?  
It is the voice of freedom  
as it echoes cross the land.  
It is the Face of Glory  
of a small yet valiant band.  
It is the heart of a Corps of Brothers  
who will meet on foreign land.  
It is the Marine Corps Spirit and the song of Heavens Shore;  
till we meet on His Great Doorstep  
To fight a war no more.

**God Bless the United States Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League and  
God Bless THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

**HONOR—COURAGE--COMMITMENT**



## Chaplain's Page



Thomas Kincaid Autumn Lane

Dear Lord,

### Prayer for Autumn Days

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising.

We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been.

We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk.

Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns.

As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope.

Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life.

For all this, we are grateful.

Amen

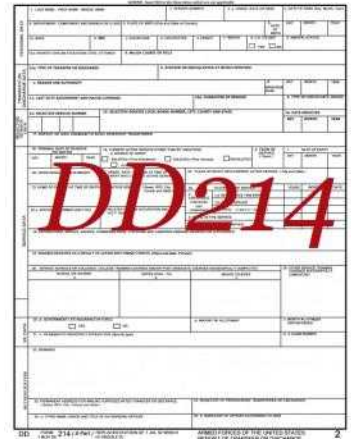
Submitted by  
Marine Les Derbyshire  
Chaplain



## ***Service Officers Report***

***September 2019***

***From Paul Thompson***



The second Tuesday of each month we have our monthly bingo at the Paramus Veteran's Home in Paramus starting at 2:00 PM. There are times when we have as many as 10 to 12 volunteers come out from the detachment, and there are times when we have only 2 to 3 volunteers. Please come out and help out your fellow veterans.

The few dollars that they win, if they're lucky, goes for their miscellaneous needs during the month. Some of them save up their dollars and when their grandchildren come to visit them, they like to give them a few dollars as a gift. These veterans can't go out to Walmart or shop online, like a lot of us do. I know that some of them save up to buy their fellow veterans a gift for either for their birthday or for the holidays.

I just got to tell you when you hear things like this, it really makes your heart feel good that you are doing something special for them!

Other than that, I've spoken before about making sure that your loved ones know where all your paperwork is at all times, such as your DD 214, and other important paperwork. The reason why I will repeat this periodically, is because when I do address this subject with members, I've been told that they'll get around to it one day.

Don't wait - just do it!

We're extremely lucky in our League that you have a good support staff with both your officers and your committees.

Let us know if you have questions or need help at any time and we will do whatever we can to get you some answers.

***Paul Thompson***

***201-320-3210***



Bingo at the Paramus Veterans Home



Attention On Deck Marines!

I'm going to broach a topic this month that is soon going to become an issue within our detachment. We have a great detachment with outstanding leadership and fairly decent participation among the membership. Because of this, we are able to accomplish many things such as our 3rd Saturday Breakfasts and our Rose Event Program to name a few that make this detachment successful.

However, this requires a lot of work by both elected and appointed officers as well as the minimal volunteers that show up at important times. We have many programs that only have limited participation. Where am I going with this you might ask?

Age. With the possible exception of Mike McNulty and myself, the current slate of officers is all over 60 with most of them over 70. We've been searching diligently for a person to understudy Peter Alvarez as Paymaster/Adjutant without success. Kevin O'Leary is stepping down this month and fortunately we have Chris Chioppa who stepped up to fill his shoes. The point is that our current slate of officers is getting older and we need younger people to step up and start learning what they do so when the time comes, we will have replacements trained and ready to fill in where needed. The same applies to the many volunteers that show up to do set up for the breakfast and the meetings. The average age of those volunteers is over 70.

You can kind of see a pattern here—with a few exceptions, most of officers and volunteers are retired. I get that many of us "younger" Marines work and have other commitments. I've been there. I coached both of my children for over 19 years of soccer, softball, baseball and basketball during which time I also ran different levels of the soccer program including becoming the Soccer Commissioner for 6 years. On top of this, I also coached travel soccer for several years. During this time, my involvement with the American Legion Post waned significantly but I still helped out when and where I could.

However, that doesn't excuse us from the oath we took as Marines and the Oath we took when we joined the Marine Corps League. We need our younger members to step up now and learn the duties of the offices so that when the time comes, there will be Marines in place to continue our traditions forward. Without a staff of officers, the detachment will no longer exist, so this is very important.

In boot camp and OCS, we all received the same general training. We all learned how to shoot, we learned on how to support each other in basic fire teams, we learned how to set up defensive perimeters with interlocking fields of fire that we knew and could rely on the Marines in the next foxhole. We learned the most sacred of all Marine traditions, no one left behind. With out the next generation stepping up, it will be like we are leaving the current generation behind.

Here is a list of current programs that are ongoing within the detachment:

3rd Saturday Breakfast and Set Up on the Friday before - on the Friday, the food is prepared and the hall set up for the Breakfast on the 3rd Saturday. We usually start set up about 10:00 AM and end around 1:00PM - The Ship's Store takes a bit longer and I could really use some help with set up and breakdown.

Rose Events (limited to 6 during the year) - set up usually starts about an hour or so before the event starts. Depending upon the length and size of the event, we need people through out the course of the day and at breakdown.

Eagle Scout Ceremonies: We are fortunate to have one of the best Eagle Scout programs in the state. Charlie and Ray Sears usually attend these — btw — did you know that Charlie is an Eagle Scout—like being a Marine, the Eagle Scout stays with you for life. Even if you just tag along or you join in, going to one of these is worth the time.

State MCL Meetings (Currently attended by Charlie and Peter). Some of the other detachments have a decent representation and we would like to see our representation increased. Meetings are usually every other month and are on the 3rd Sunday at 11:00 AM in Sea Grit.

Set up for Monthly Meetings - Peter Alvarez usually sets up sometime on the Wednesday before the meeting. He does have some help but additional help would be appreciated.

Officer's meeting - second Tuesday at 1900. Our officers (elected and appointed) meet to discuss ongoing and new issues within our detachment with the goal to present those issues in an informed and united front to the detachment.

Color Guard: Meets when needed: Memorial Day, Flag Retirement Ceremony, 911 Ceremony, Basilone Parade and others. Important Note: The average age of the Color Guard that marched at the Basilone Parade this year was about 73 so we really need some young Marines to step up.

So lets step up Marines!



Historically, I'm going to continue with coverage of the Korean War. After the successful landings at Inchon on September 15, the subsequent breakout of the 8th Army from the Pusan Perimeter and the return of Seoul to South Korean control on September 27th, the North Korean Army had collapsed and was retreating back to the North Korean border at the 38th Parallel. At the same time X Corps including Marines of the 1st Marine Division linked up with the 8th Army on September 27th and had reclaimed South Korea.

General Douglass MacArthur, the genius behind the Inchon Invasion, saw another opportunity to ultimately destroy the North Korean Army. By landing at Wonsan, he would create another pincers movement to entrap and eliminate the North Korean Army thus enable the US plan to "unite" North and South Korea as one country. This was an idea proposed to the UN by the United States in September. Planning for this began just after Inchon proved to be successful. UN Naval forces including US Naval ships, began a minesweeping campaign 10 days prior to the scheduled landings at Wonson on October 20th. North Korea had heavily mined all of the approaches to all of the ports in North Korea prior to the beginning of the war. These mines would need to be removed as a threat before any of the invasion ships could proceed. This operation which also includes as part of the blockade of the north from the beginning of the war was not without cost.

Casualties included: 41 killed, 158 wounded, 1 patrol boat sunk, 2 minesweepers sunk, 1 battleship damaged, 2 cruisers damaged, 16 destroyers damaged, 3 frigates damaged, 5 minesweepers damaged, 1 LSD damaged, 3 LSMRs damaged.

On Oct 15th, Marines from the 1st Marine Division were pulled off the line and returned to Inchon to be loaded on the ships that would carry them to Wonson. October 20 found the minesweeping operation still under way so, the 1st Marine Division with US Army units, had to wait an additional 5 days before they were able to land. However, by this point, the North Koreans had withdrawn from Wonson and units from the British and South Korean army were clearing pockets of resistance. The capture of Wonson gave UN Forces a port in the north which could supply both 8th Army and X Corps without the limitations of Inchon and the distance from Pusan.

On October 19th, the South Korean Army had captured Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, so units that landed were sent north to Hungnam and the Chosen Reservoir. Any movement north of the 38th Parallel was seen as a threat by Communist China and the Chinese Armies began to infiltrate into North Korea.

More to follow in November.

Semper Fi,  
Ken Gysbers,  
Editor



LSTs landing at Wonson



An M46 Patton Tank goes ashore at Wonson





## Quartermaster's Report

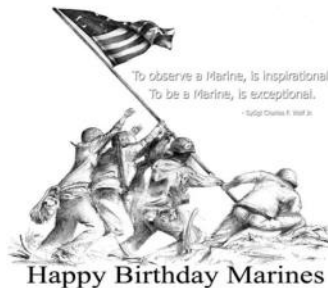
New products including Desert Camo Utility Covers, bumper stickers and t-shirts are now available. Still working on some requests.

As always , if anyone has any ideas or something that you think we should carry for both the Ship's Store and the Rose Programs, please let me know.

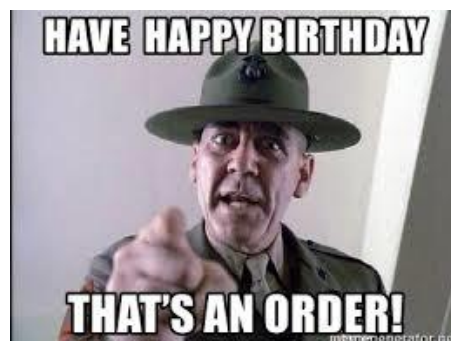
Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



10/01 Jimmy Gaines	10/01 Joanne Kozikowski
10/05 Ralph Self	10/06 George Vankat
10/06 Jeff Latimer	10/08 Walter Nowatka
10/09 Dennis Kievit	10/10 Tom Fiorilla
10/20 Mike McNulty	10/21 Len Graff
10/21 Jim Molloy	10/25 Walter Mankowsky
10/26 Joe O'Brien	10/27 Jim Backman
10/27 Mike Melfi	10/27 John Wegele
10/27 Abdulkahar Ahmedi	10/28 Joe Piazza
10/28 Mike Greig	10/28—Bruce Webster



# MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

## Calendar of Events

### October 2019

- 10/05/2019 Allendale Day—Rose Event 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- 10/08/2019 Bingo at Paramus Veterans Home - - 1400
- 10/08/2019 Executive Board Meeting 1900
- 10/12/2019 Autumn Lights Festival—West Milford—0800-1700
- 10/19/2019 3RD Saturday Breakfast 0800 - 1200
- 10/19/2019 Salute to Veterans Oakland Rec Fields 1800 - Color Guard Required.
- 10/20/2019 Detachment Rifle Shoot—Cherry Ridge 0800 to about 1300
- 10/24/2019 Detachment Meeting—Installation of Officers—1900

### NOVEMBER 2019

- 11/10/2019 Meet at Mack's American Bar & Grill to celebrate Marine Corps Birthday--1800
- 11/11/2019 Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park in Pompton Lakes--1000
- 11/11/2019 Hawthorne Street Dedication for fallen Warrior
- 11/12/2019 Bingo at Paramus Veterans Home--1400
- 11/12/2019 Executive Board Meeting--1900
- 11/15/2019 Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Macaluso's in Hawthorne--1800
- 11/17/2019 State MCL Meeting at Sea Girt--1200
- 11/21/2019 Detachment Meeting 1930
- 11/23/2019 3rd Saturday Breakfast (Moved from the 3rd Saturday to the 4th Saturday)



A Marine battalion was flown by transport helicopters to a frontline combat position for the first time, when HMR-161 lifted the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, and its equipment, during Operation Bumblebee, northeast of Yanggu, Korea.



John Phillip Sousa is appointed as director of the Marine Band on Oct 1, 1888



Colonel Gilda A. Jackson becomes the first African American Female Colonel on Oct 1, 1997



Oct 23, 1983—220 Marines were among the 24q killed at the Beirut Bombing.



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**LAKELAND DETACHMENT 744**  
P.O. Box 8, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008  
Phone (973) 839-5693  
www.usmcl744.org



**Dear Member:**

## **FRIENDLY REMINDER**

### **IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR**

As we've discussed at the detachment's monthly meetings, Marine Corps League National Headquarters has changed the due dates for all membership renewals to: **August 31st of each calendar year.** By paying on or before 31 August of 2019, membership renewals will be due on August 31 of 2020 and each year thereafter.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES AS OF THIS PUBLICATION, YOU ARE LATE!**

Please remit your check for \$50.00, payable to MCL # 744 and mail to:

MCL  
P.O. Box 8,  
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008.

**Important:** Please put your six (6) digit ID number on the bottom left side of your check (Know as the Memo Section).

**Please take note:** Marine Corps League National Headquarters no longer sends out renewal Notices. Any notices will come from the Detachment Paymaster.

**If you hold a NJ MCL License Plate, please remit your renewal check as soon as possible. Failure to renew your membership on time can result in forfeiture of the plate.**

**Any questions to the above please feel free to call me at 973-839-5693.**

Semper Fidelis

Marine Peter J. Alvarez  
Paymaster / Adjutant  
Marine Corps League  
Lakeland Detachment 744



Marine Corps League  
Lakeland Detachment 744  
Important Dates for 2019  
**Executive Board Meetings**

7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday January 8th, February 12th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th, July 9th,

August 13th, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th & December 10th

**MCL Lakeland Detachment 744**

**Breakfast Dates**

**3rd Saturday of every month**

**0800 to 1200 Hours**



**January 19, February 16th, March 16th, April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th,  
August 17th, September 21st, October 19th, November 23rd\* & December 21st**

**\* Changed from Nov 16th due to our Birthday Ball on Nov 15th.**

**MCL Lakeland Detachment 744**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

1930 Hours (except for Oct Meeting which is at 1900 hours for installation of officers)

4th Thursday of the month (Except November December)

January 24th, February 28th, March 28th, April 25th, May 23rd, June 27th, July 25th,

August 22nd, September 26th, October 24th, November 21st & December 19th

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



Desert Storm by Jake Hayes



Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack

# Oakland Braves Football

Presents



A Salute to Veterans

Featuring

Presentation of Colors

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Color Guard

Special Performance of the National Anthem

All local area Veterans are invited!

Date: October 19, 2019

Time: 1800 (Assembly Time: 17:30)

Location: Oakland Recreation Football Field

To: MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Members

Come on down and be recognized while supporting  
our color guard.

More detailed information to follow at a later date!



The Marine Corps League  
Lakeland Detachment #744

*Invites you to its:*

**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL RIFLE SHOOT**

- PLACE:** CHERRY RIDGE RIFLE RANGE
- DATE:** SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019
- TIME:** 0800 HRS. TILL: 1200 HRS.
- COST:** \$35.00 Per Person Includes: Coffee, Donuts,  
Ammo and Lunch.

Please mail checks made payable to:

**“MCL Lakeland Detachment 744”**

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
P.O. BOX 8  
POMPTON LAKES, NJ 07442-0008





*Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment #744*

*Invites you to our Third Saturday Monthly Breakfast*

*At The American Legion Hall*

*65 Oak Street, Oakland, NJ 07436*

**SATURDAY October 19th 8AM-12 NOON**

*Come have an Outstanding Breakfast and a Good Time*

*Enjoy Fresh Eggs Made to Order*

*Eggs Benedict*

*Omelets; Scrambled Eggs & Sausage Gravy*

*Pancakes; French Toast & Waffles*

*Bacon; Sausage; SOS & Corned Beef Hash*

*Home Fries & Biscuits*

*Donuts; Bagels & English Muffins*

*Coffee; Orange Juice & Pastries*

*Adults: \$12.00, Seniors: \$10.00*

*Children Between 6 and 10: \$6.00 & Children under 5: Free*

*Bring your family and friends*

*Most Important Support Lakeland Detachment #744*

*Be sure to visit our Marine Corps League Store in the back Right Corner.*



The Marine Corps League

Lakeland Detachment 744

Invites you to its:

**ANNUAL MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL**

**PLACE:** Macaluso's, Hawthorne, NJ

**DATE:** Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**TIME:** 6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.

**For 244 years the Marine Corps has celebrated its founding in 1775. On Friday, November 15th, 2019, the Marine Corps League, Lakeland Detachment 744, Pompton Lakes, NJ will host its Twenty Ninth Annual Marine Corps Ball. Please join the Detachment in celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday at Macaluso's Restaurant. If you plan to attend, please send a check for \$80.00 per person, payable to MCL #744 and mail to MCL P.O. Box 8, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008, no later than November 5, 2019.**

**If you have any dietary restrictions and need additional information, please contact: Grace Alvarez at 973-839-5693. (Invitations were mailed at the "End of August 2019")**



**MARINES**  
**THE FEW. THE PROUD.**



# BURLINGTON COUNTY TOYS FOR TOTS BIKE RUN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2019

**\*POLICE ESCORTED RIDE\***

## COST:

\$20 + 1 UNOPENED TOY PER RIDER

\$15 + 1 UNOPENED TOY PER PASSENGER

*\*INCLUDES LUNCH AT THE ALDEN CAFE!*

## REGISTRATION:

**BARB'S**

HARLEY — DAVIDSON

STARTS AT 9:30AM

KSU AT 12:00PM

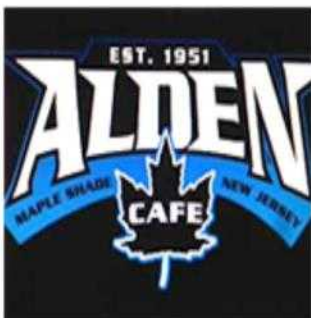
## **WE ARE RIDING TO ALDEN CAFE**

302 W. MAIN ST.

MAPLESHADE, NJ 08052

"Please come ride in support of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Campaign. Each Campaign is forced to fundraise for their own campaign, due to the loss of grant monies from the closing of Toys R Us. Please help us give the gift of Christmas to a child in need."

**-ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE BURLINGTON COUNTY TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN-**



**BARB'S**  
HARLEY — DAVIDSON



MARINE CORPS RESERVE





# Calling all Pompton Lakes Veterans



You are invited to a free Dinner

Date: Sat November 9<sup>th</sup> Time: 5 to 8:00 pm

Where: Pompton Lakes VFW Hall  
260 Wanaque ave, Pompton Lakes

*Live DJ Joe V from Premier Lights and Sound*



Come out and meet with fellow veterans from all service branches and various military campaigns. Dinner and soft drinks will be provided. Free for Vets and spouses. \$10.00 for additional guests. Donations and sponsors are gladly accepted.

100% net proceeds to Pompton Lakes VFW Post 2906 and Lakeland Marine Care Fund



Reservations required by 10/21/19.

**Seating is limited** for reservations or info, call or text Frank Abate 973-650-0149

Sponsored by Pompton Lakes Republican Club



# Pompton Lakes Republican Club



Seeks sponsors to help honor our Veterans in Pompton Lakes  
on Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 5 to 8 pm at VFW Post 2906  
260 Wanaque Ave, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> event. We provide a great night to celebrate and meet Veterans connected to residents in Pompton Lakes. We provide, dinner, entertainment and seek to raise funds in support of NJ Veterans. **100% of net proceeds** from this event will be donated equally to our local VFW Post 2906 and the Lakeland Marine Care Fund. Both are 501-C3 organizations.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Foundation's mission is to support programs and services that secure, manage and distribute resources to improve the lives of veterans, military service personnel, their families and the communities where they live. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation is the official charity of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), America's oldest and largest organization for combat veterans. Our mission is to support programs and services that help provide financial assistance for military families, free phone calls for deployed troops, VIP treatment for service members and their families at entertainment events, morale boosting events for military units and critical services that guide veterans through VA entitlement claims. The VFW Foundation is one of the nation's highest rated 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. For more information, please visit <http://www.vfwfoundation.org>

Lakeland Marine Care Fund was created by The Lakeland Marine Corps League Detachment #744 in order to have a Veterans Non Profit Fund that has no overhead expenses and contributes 100% of its Dollars to Veterans and Veterans Families, either one on one with Veterans or through Donations to Veterans organizations that are making a difference.

### Sponsor Level

Platinum	(No more than 2)	\$1,000.00
Gold	(up to 4)	\$500.00
Silver	(up to 6)	\$300.00
Bronze	No Limit	\$100.00

All levels of sponsorship will receive recognition in the printed program distributed at the Event.

Platinum Sponsors will be mentioned as sponsor for 2 \$50.00 gift items given out as door prizes.

Gold will be mentioned as prize sponsor for either 1 \$50.00 Gift item or 2 valued no less than \$25.00.

Silver will be mentioned as sponsor & include 1 giveaway item valued no less than \$25.00.

For those unable to sponsor at these levels but wishing to make a contribution please send any amount you wish and mark check for Vet appreciation dinner. Every dollar received will help us with the expenses and help us achieve our goal of giving funds to these 2 Veteran organizations.

Please mail Sponsor checks to Frank Abate 72 Hill Court Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

Any other contributions or those wishing to remain anonymous can be sent to the PLRC, P.O. box 412, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

***All checks should be payable to "Pompton Lakes Republican Club".***

Please contact Frank Abate cell – 973-650-0149 if you have any questions.

From time to time, I get some very interesting e-mails and the following is from one such email.

THIS IS A GOOD READ! TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND ENJOY! THEN, PASS THIS ALONG.

As I came out of the supermarket that sunny day, pushing my cart of groceries towards my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and a lady sitting inside the car, with the door open.

The old man was looking at the engine.

I put my groceries away in my car, and continued to watch the old gentleman from about twenty-five feet away.

I saw a young man in his early twenties with a grocery bag in his arm walking towards the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too, and took a few steps towards him.

I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something. The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a brand-new Cadillac Escalade. He then turned back to the old man. I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying: "You shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age." And then with a wave of his hand, he got in his car and peeled rubber out of the parking lot.

I saw the old gentleman pull out his handkerchief, and mop his brow as he went back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her; he appeared to tell her it would be okay I had seen enough, and I approached the old man.

He saw me coming and stood straight, and as I got near him, I said, 'Looks like you're having a problem.'

He smiled sheepishly, and quietly nodded his head.

I looked under the hood myself, and knew that whatever the problem was, it was beyond me.

Looking around, I saw a gas station up the road, and I told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and I went inside. I saw three attendants working on cars. I approached one of them, and related the problem the old man had with his car. I offered to pay them if they could follow me back down and help him.

The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us he straightened up and thanked me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine), I spoke with the old gentleman.

When I shook hands with him earlier, he had noticed my Marine Corps ring and had commented about it, telling me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, 'What outfit did you serve with?'

He had mentioned that he served with the first Marine Division at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. He had hit all the big ones and retired from the Corps after the war was over. As we talked, we heard the car engine come on and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but was stopped by me. I told him I would just put the bill on my AAA card.

He still reached for the wallet and handed me a card that I assumed had his name and address on it and I stuck it in my pocket. We shook hands all around again, and I said my goodbyes to his wife.

I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station, I told them that they had interrupted their own jobs to come along with me and help the old man. I said I wanted to pay for the help, but they refused to charge me.

One of them pulled out a card from his pocket, looking exactly like the card the old man had given to me. Both of the men told me then that they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again, we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I should look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would and drove off.??

For some reason I had gone about two blocks, when I pulled over and took the card out of my pocket and looked at it for a long, long time The name of the old gentleman was on the card in golden leaf and under his name was written: 'Congressional Medal of Honor Society.'

I sat there motionless, looking at the card and reading it over and over. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but myself and marveled that on this day, four Marines had all come together because one of us needed help. He was an old man all right, but it felt good to have stood next to greatness and courage, and an honor to have been in his presence.

Remember, OLD men like him gave our FREEDOM for America . Thanks to those who served and still serve, and to all of those who supported them, and who continue to support them.

America is not at war. The U.S. Military is at war. America is at the Mall. If you don't stand behind our troops, PLEASE feel free to stand in front of them!

Remember, Freedom IS NOT free. Thousands have paid the price, so you can enjoy what you have today.

LET'S DO THIS - JUST 19 WORDS:

GOD OUR FATHER, WALK THROUGH MY HOUSE AND TAKE AWAY ALL MY WORRIES; AND PLEASE WATCH OVER AND HEAL MY FAMILY; AND PLEASE PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS, AND WATCH OVER OUR TROOPS, WHO ARE DEFENDING THOSE FREEDOMS. AMEN.

Pass this prayer to 12 people, including me.

## Military Humor

### The old veteran and his barracks room

An old veteran walks into a grocery store. Immediately, the cashier stops him and says, "sir, your *barracks door* is open." At first, he pays zero attention to her because he doesn't live in the barracks. So, he continues shopping until he spots a man stocking some shelves. He tells him what the cashier said and asks what she could've meant.

He tells the veteran that his fly is open.

After completing his shopping, he goes back to the same cashier and says, "ma'am, you told me my barracks door was open. While you were looking, did you see a Marine standing at attention, saluting?"

The cashier replies, "no, sir. I just saw an old, retired veteran lying on two seabags."

A Sergeant was addressing a squad of 25 privates and said: "I have a nice easy job for the laziest man here. Put up your hand if you are the laziest." 24 men raised their hands. Noticing that one of his squad members did not raise his hand, the Sergeant marched over to that man and demanded, "Why didn't you raise your hand?" The man replied: "Too much trouble raising the hand, Sarge."





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- The Vets4Warriors call center is staffed with Veterans and family members representing all branches of the Service.
- The call center's Veterans provide information and referrals as needed.
- Vets4Warriors is available via telephone, on-line chat, or e-mail.
- For more information visit [www.vets4warriors.com](http://www.vets4warriors.com).



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Please Print This Page and Keep it in a safe location. Share it with other veterans.



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Important Numbers and Websites

	Phone Number
Health Care Benefits:	1-877-222-8388
Bereavement Counseling	1-202-461-6530
Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1877-345-8179 (or) 1-888-820-1756
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)	1-800-733-8387
Dept Management Center (Collection of Non-Medical Depts)	1-800-857-0648
Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
Psychological Health Outreach Program Fort Devens, MA MFR-PHOP .North	east@serco-na.com
eBenefits (General Questions & Technical Issues)	1-800-983-0937
Education (GI Bill)	1-888-442-4551
Federal Recovery Coordination Program	1-877-732-4456
Foreign Medical Program	1-888-820-1756
Gulf War Veterans Hotline	1-800-749-8387
Homeless Veterans	1-877-222-8387
Income Verification and Means Testing	1-800-929-8387
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
Meds by Mail	1-888-385-0235 (or) 1-866-229-7389
National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
National Cemetery Scheduling Office	1-800-535-1117
National Personnel Records Center	1-314-801-0800
National Resource Directory	<a href="https://www.nrd.gov/">https://www.nrd.gov/</a>
Pension Management Center	1-877-294-6380
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program	1-202-565-4964
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned or Veteran-Owned Small Business	1-202-303-3260
Special Health Issues	1-800-749-8387
Spina Bifida/Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1-888-820-1756
Status of Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4833
VA Caregiver Support Line	1-855-260-3274
VA for Vets	1-855-824-8387
VA Inspector General	1-800-488-8244
VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs	1-202-461-7600
Veteran's ID Theft Hotline	1-800-333-4636
Veteran's Employment and Training Service (VETS)	1-866-487-2365
Women Veterans	1-202-461-1070
Wounded Warrior Resource Center	1-800-342-9647





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U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Veteran's Information

### Ed Korek

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Veteran's Service Officer

201-317-1678

### Veterans Administration

Department of Veteran's Affairs

20 Washington Place

Newark, NJ 07102-3174

800-827-1000

### Veterans Campus Lyons

151 Knollcroft Rd

Lyons, NJ 07939

908-647-0180 (Phone)

908-647-3452 (Fax)

### Veterans Service Officer

Vietnam Veterans of America

Margaret Wojciechowicz

973-297-3227

### Passaic Veterans Service Officers

930 Riverview Dr Suite 200

Totowa, NJ 07512

John Harris / Richard Mannes

973-569-4090

### Bergen Division of Veterans Services

One Bergen County Plaza , 2nd Floor

Hackensack, NJ 07601

Richard Paul, Director

201-336-6325, 26, 28, 29 & 7406

## Marine Corps League Information

### Marine Corps League

#### National Web Site:

<http://www.mclnational.org>

#### Marine Corps League

#### Department of New Jersey

#### Web Site:

<http://njmcl.org>

#### Lakeland Detachment 744 Web Site:

<http://www.usmcl744.org>

#### Lakeland Detachment 744 Face Book Page:

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-Detachment-744/165447603504657)

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