

The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

October 2021 Newsletter

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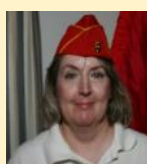
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Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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, 2021

Successorship

Last month we covered Sustainability meaning to endure and survive. It seems apropos that this document on Successorship be repeated in this newsletter, especially since October is the month of our Detachment installation of officers. Just as it is imperative that we endure and survive, so it is with Successorship which implies continuity. This has been discussed on many different occasions and is extremely important if our Detachment will continue to endure, thrive and succeed in the future. It's not just Detachment—744, but, all organizations, including government and corporations. This is not change for change's sake. It is to provide further growth in the organization, hopefully capitalizing on the strengths of the incumbents and leaving behind any weaknesses. Healthy change enables an organization to grow in a healthy manner and provides the stimulus necessary for that growth.

It is this time for a change which has prompted my decision to stepdown as Commandant after eight years. Even the Commandant of the Marine Corps retires after four years in office. The past eight years have been interesting, challenging and rewarding for me personally and, I hope, for the Detachment, as well. I've had the opportunity to work with many fine Marines and Associate Members and I will continue to cherish those memories. Thank you for your support.

**God Bless the Marine Corps League, the United States Marine Corps and may
God Bless the United States of America.**

Semper Fidelis,
Charlie

HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT



Chaplain's Page



Let us pray

As one leader steps down for the next to take the reins we thank him for his service and commitment. Please hear our prayer for this man. We pray for health and happiness for him as he enters the next chapter, and for grace and truth to be behind him pushing him onward into your goodness. Watch over him and protect him all the days of his life.

Dear Lord, bless our new leader as he takes on the responsibilities of our Detachment. Please guide all of our officers in their work. Give them patience and let Your Spirit of wisdom and understanding be with them. Some tasks may seem overwhelming and exhausting, we pray that You will give them strength to face any challenge that may lie ahead.

Please bless all the members of our League and guide us to help and support each other. Let your unconditional love overflow in our hearts so that we may work together in harmony.

We pray this trusting and believing in You,

Amen

Submitted by:

Les Derbyshire,

Chaplain



Eternal Father, grant, we pray
For all Marines, both night and day
The courage, honor, strength, and skill
Their land to serve, Thy law fulfill
Be Thou the shield, forevermore
From every peril to the Corps.

-J.E. Seim, 1966



Service Officers Report

October 2021

From Paul Thompson



There's reason why I constantly remind you to get organized and be aware of your VA benefits. Starting back in 1969, when I was first appointed as the Paramus VFW Service Officer, I always tried to get veterans the health benefits and compensation they deserve.

Most of the time though, I initiated the conversation to find out if they are in the VA system and if they ever applied for any kind of compensation. And among those veterans that are both in the VA system and getting VA benefits, many of them aren't getting their maximum benefits.

While I was at a football game recently (wearing Marine gear), one of the ref's walked over to me and said Semper Fi. During discussion, I found out that he's a Marine veteran from the Vietnam War and is rated at 30%. I asked him if he ever tried to get the rating increased (especially since he has a lot of medical issues). He was rated 20 years ago and never tried to get it changed. I'm working with him on this and he is coming to our next meeting.

Wear that Marine gear, and when you get into the inevitable conversation with another veteran, the question you need to ask is, "are you in the VA system?" If they are, then ask "are you maximizing your benefits?"

FYI, one of our new members, Kevin O'Hora, is doing a great job working with the Vet's and myself in helping veterans get the VA benefits they deserve. Kevin is currently the VFW's State Veterans Service Officer (K.O'Hora@NJVFW.com).

Respectfully,

Paul Thompson,

Service Officer 201-320-3210

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**U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs**





Marine Corps League

Lakeland Detachment 744

Upcoming Rose Event Schedule

1: Pompton Lakes Day across from Our Monument on Lakeside Ave, Pompton Lakes

Sunday September 5th from 0900 to 1730 (Completed—very Successful)

(Rain Date: Monday September 6th)

2: Vets Fest Sunday September 12 from 0900 to 1700

Loc: Dave Waks Park 39 Barbour Pond Rd, Wayne (Completed - also Successful)

(Rain Date: Sunday September 19th)

3: Autumn Lights Festival Union Valley Rd, West Milford

Saturday October 9th from 0900 to 1700 **CANCELLED!**

4: Stop & Shop Wyckoff Sunday November 21st 0900 to 1700

Note: We cover both entrances to the store so we need a commitment of at least 8 Marines for every hour.

This is usually our most successful event every year.

Right now, sales from our Marine Shop at these events is one of best sources of income to support the detachment. Money collected for the Rose Program must be used to support Marines, members of the other branches of military services, veterans and other VSOs in need. In as such and as a better method of separating Rose Program Funds, this money is placed in the Marine Cares Fund. Money collected from the sales of merchandise goes back to the detachment.

Your help for set up, during the day and breakdown is crucial to the success of these events. If you can help with set up and stay for an hour or 2, that's great. If you can spare a couple of hours during the event, that's a big help. Most importantly, we need the most help at breakdown. At recent events, we had 5 or 6 Marines at the end to break down.

Thank you to all that showed up for and assisted with the events so far this year. Lets make the Stop & Shop event in November our best yet.



The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to its:

EIGHTTEENTH ANNUAL RIFLE SHOOT

**PLACE: CHERRY RIDGE RIFLE RANGE
100 Range Rd,
Highland Lakes, NJ 07422**

DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

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**





The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to its:

ANNUAL MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

A Friendly Reminder

Don't Forget to Send Your Check Today for Our Annual

Marine Corps Birthday Ball Being Held on

Friday, November 5, 2021

Make Check Payable to MCL #744

For More Information

Contact

Grace Alvarez at 973-839-5693

Trudi Derbyshire at 201-390-5932





Greetings Marines,

As our seasons begin to change, I'm looking back over the past 9 months and I can see how much we've done as a detachment. In the bleak winter months, we ran a rather successful monthly grab and go dinner program. This was still during much of the covid shutdown and one of the reasons it was successful. Because people were looking for alternatives and we supplied that while giving them a chance to help our detachment. In May, things were starting to reopen and we started to decline. In June, we saw a significant decline but still had a dinner. When the flyer for the July dinner was sent out, it was cancelled due to lack of interest. So a decision was made to temporarily suspend this program. In September, we resurrected this program. Many thanks to Marines Mike McNulty and Mike Volpe for their hard work in organizing and keeping this program running. Thanks as well to all those who assisted with this endeavor.

In August, we brought back our first Rose Program Event since before Thanksgiving of 2019. While we weren't as successful as we might have been in June for Father's Day, we did pretty darned good in both Rose Donations and Clothing Sales. Since then, we've had 2 successful events at Pompton Day and Vets Fest. Unfortunately, our next scheduled event which was to be Autumn Lights in West Milford, was cancelled due to the current increase in covid cases. Our next big Rose Event will be Stop & Shop in November. If you came down and participated at any of these events whether it was for only an hour or you spent the whole day, thanks for your assistance with this worthwhile endeavor.

Outside of our detachment, the concert band I belong to also started to come back. Last year during the warmer months, we did practice outside while we were able to with certain restrictions in place. We were placed 6 feet apart and had to wear masks unless we were playing. This year, we started with inside rehearsals and played in 2 outside concert venues in July. As I write this column, I am proud to say that the band played its first indoor concert this afternoon at the Paramus Veterans Home. The band outnumbered the residents by almost 2 to 1 but those that attended were extremely appreciative of the performance. In church, we've seen more attendance and choir resumed.

By now, your asking yourself, "where is he going with this?". Very simple, volunteering. As many of you may know, I've been a volunteer most of my adult life. I like to think that my parents had a lot to do with this. I voluntarily joined the Marine Corps. If someone would have asked earlier in my life, what I wanted to do, I would have answered with, "I'm going to West Point to be an officer in the Army". Unfortunately or fortunately depending how one looks at things, I never made it to West Point. I did figure that I would do the next best thing which would be to enlist. So I took the ASVAB test. Unbeknownst to me, my scores weren't just sent to the Army recruiters but to the other branches as well. So the Marines called and I went down to Hackensack and heard them out. After a couple of weeks of going back and forth on the issue, I signed on the dotted line and went in on the delayed entry program. When I came home on leave after boot camp, my father took one look at me and said that he sent a boy down to South Carolina and got back a man. After my end of service, I came home, resumed some of my activities including the marching band I belonged to in high school, started dating Liz, got married and eventually wound up living in the land of oaks (Oakland).

While I was dating Liz, my future brother in law asked me to join the American Legion in Fairlawn. When I joined, that post had over 350 members and was very active largely due to the many volunteers that enable the success of many of the programs that they ran. Back then, they ran dinners every Wednesday night, a 20 week club which ended with lavish dinner, Beefsteaks and Night at the races, a children's Christmas Party, an adult Christmas Party and a New Years Eve party. All of the events were ongoing every year for several years. Very often, the person or persons that ran these events, either moved away or ultimately passed away. In my tenure at Post 171 (FairLawn), I watched the membership dwindle from over 350 to around 120 or so when I transferred to Post 369 in Oakland largely due to attrition. Over the course of many years with the American Legion, I've noticed one important aspect. Whenever someone either moved away, was incapacitated to the extent that they were unable to perform any of the responsibilities they were doing or passed away, someone stepped in to fill the void. In other words, volunteered. For a while, I was one of those volunteers. While Post 171 has passed the torch on to a younger generation, many of the programs or events that they ran, fell to the wayside.

In addition to volunteering at the American Legion, after my children became old enough, I became a volunteer youth sports coach. In my tenure as a coach, I managed 34 soccer teams (including 8 club teams), 9 baseball teams (including 4 travel teams), a couple of basketball teams and 4 or 5 softball teams. In addition to coaching, I volunteered in several administrative functions, running referees and umpires, being a division coordinator and eventually becoming the Soccer Commissioner for Oakland Recreation. As Liz will attest to, all of this takes time and I was doing this while working and traveling for work at some points.

We as Marines are volunteers. With very few exceptions, Marines have always been volunteers. One of the statements that we make when we are sworn in, is that we will support the activities of the detachment. When Ken Fackina appeared to need help, I asked if it was ok to assist him and Charlie readily agreed. And when Ken became too ill to continue his role as Quartermaster, I readily stepped up.

As I looked out among the room during my last meeting, I know that there are several former officers that are in the audience. I also see many of our members that haven't held any positions but are always in the background getting the job done. Sadly, I also see some members that aren't as involved as much as they could be. So Marines, as successful as we have been over the past 7 or 8 years, we need more people to volunteer. So when it comes down to it, unless we get more volunteers to step forward, things like the 3rd Saturday Breakfasts won't be returning. The breakfasts were successful because of the volunteers that dedicated their time to making them happen. From raising funds to purchasing food and supplies or getting donations from various food suppliers, to actually buying the supplies, through the prep work to serving and cleanup it was the volunteers that made it successful. Among those volunteers, there are a select few that deserve recognition for being there from start to finish for each of the breakfasts. Mike McNulty, Kevin O'Leary, and Mike Volpe are the three Marines that I can remember that made sure that the breakfasts went off and were there from start to finish. I know Peter Alvarez and several others also gave a significant amount of their time and effort. If I failed to mention anyone specific, I apologize. If we were to look at bringing the breakfast back even in a limited capacity, we need more volunteers to step up especially for the cleanup.

In the movie Pearl Harbor, there's a line that goes something like, "We're gonna win because of guys like that – the volunteers". Lets win for our detachment with our volunteers. Semper Fi , Ken Gysbers Editor.

Operation Windmill, Summit, Blackbird and Bumblebee Fall of 1951—the first use of helicopters for vertical envelopment.

Before I get into the actual history of Operation Bumblebee, a little background is necessary. In August 1945, the Atomic Age began with the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. After viewing the atomic tests in 1946, Lt. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, CG FMF Pacific, had strong concerns as to how atomic weapons could impact Marine Corps amphibious landings in the near future. In a letter to Commandant, General Alexander A. Vandegrift, dated 21 August 1946, he stated:

“It is quite evident that a small number of atomic weapons could destroy an expeditionary force as now organized, embarked, and landed... [General Geiger urged the Commandant to] consider this as a very serious and urgent matter [and that the Marine Corps] use its most competent officers in finding a solution to develop the technique of conducting amphibious operations in the Atomic Age.”

Commandant Vandegrift took action by referring Gen. Geiger’s letter to a special board of General Officers with the following instructions:

“...propose, after thorough research and deliberation, the broad concepts and principles which the Marine Corps should follow, and the major steps which it should take, to wage successful amphibious warfare at some future date...”

On December 16, 1946, the board recommended the establishment of 2 parallel programs to develop a transport seaplane and a transport helicopter. It also recommended the establishment of an experimental Marine helicopter squadron to train pilots and mechanics and the Marine Corps Schools develop a tentative doctrine for helicopters. Commandant Vandegrift concurred with the findings of the board and began to make the recommendation a reality. His vision of the Vertical Assault Concept was:

“With a relatively unlimited choice of landing areas, troops can be landed in combat formations and under full control of the flanks or rear of a hostile position. The helicopter’s speed makes transport dispersion at sea a matter of no disadvantage and introduces a time-space factor that will avoid presenting at any one time a remunerative atomic target. It should also be noted that transport helicopters offer a means for rapid evacuation of casualties, for the movement of supplies directly from ship to dump and for subsequent movement of troops and supplies in continuing operations ashore.”

His goal for 1947 was the organization of 1 developmental helicopter squadron with 12 helicopters in order to study the helicopter in amphibious operations. On March 10, 1947, Marine Corps Schools’ Committee of the Academic Board submitted its report on “Military Requirements of Helicopter for Ship to Shore Movement of Troops and Cargo”. The report state, “... it is more realistic to approach the problem in increments, establishing initially the characteristics for a purely assault conveyance. . . .”. The report also defined the specifications for an assault helicopter as follows:

1. 5,000 pound payload
2. 200 to 300 nautical mile range (500 miles with an auxiliary fuel tank)
3. 100 knot cruising speed
4. 4,000’ hover ceiling
5. external hook and hoist
6. self-sealing fuel tanks
7. overall dimensions to be able to fit on the hangar deck and elevators of the aircraft carrier.



On 1 December, 1947, in compliance with the Commandant’s goal, Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) was commissioned at MCAS Quantico, Virginia. Colonel Edward C. Dyer, who had been instrumental in establishing the Marine helicopter program, was the Commanding Officer.

HQMC established the mission for HMX-1 as:

1. Develop techniques and tactics in connection with the movement of assault troops in amphibious operations, and
2. Evaluate a small helicopter as a replacement for the present OY aircraft.

Between December 1947 and August 1950, HMX, in conjunction with Marine Corps Schools, developed the worlds first manual addressing the use of helicopters in vertical envelopment. The book covered much more that the use of helicopters, but the future use for helicopters that had yet to be developed. Although, the Marine Corps was the last American military service to have helicopters it became the first to institute a long-range program of working out helicopter combat techniques.¹¹ (Phib-31 was copied by the U.S. Army, almost word for word, in its first helicopter manual.)

On 25 June, 1950, eight divisions of the North Korean People's Army (NKPA), crossed the 38th Parallel brushing aside patrols of the army of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and rapidly moved south in order to unify the Korean peninsula into a Communist state. In response to the Republic of Korea's request, on 28 June 1950, the United Nations ordered military sanctions against the North Korean invaders and by 7 July the U.S. Marines were ordered to activate a Regimental Combat Team. The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was activated under the command of Brigadier General Edward A. Craig and was built around the 5th Marine Regiment and the 33rd Marine Air Group (MAG-33) of the 1st Marine Air Wing. 6,534 officers and men prepared to go to Korea.

HMX-1 was ordered, on the 7th of July, to send 8 officers and 30 men to the 1st Provisional Brigade for assignment to Marine Observation Squadron 6 (VMO-6) of MAG-33. These Marines would fly and maintain four HO3S-1 helicopters and would be the first helicopter unit organized for combat.

14 July, 1950 saw VMO-6, commanded by Major Vincent J. Gottschalk, embarked on the USS Badoeng Strait (CVE-116) bound for Korea. After only 31 months of evaluation for both the concept of helicopter and the aircraft themselves the Marines were on their way to war for the first time with helicopters.

The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landed at Pusan, Korea on 2 August, 1950. The next morning General Craig made a reconnaissance of the area in a HO3S-1. This flight began a new era in command and control. General Craig eventually came to call the helicopter the "emergency weapon" of the Brigade command and staff. The Brigade maneuvered rapidly with the intent of counterattacking and stopping North Korean penetrations. The helicopters of VMO-6 proved their worth. General Craig said of them:

"Marine Helicopters have proven invaluable. They have been used for every conceivable type of mission. The Brigade utilized them for liaison, reconnaissance, evacuation of wounded, rescue of Marine flyers downed in enemy territory, observation, messenger service, guard mail at sea, posting and supplying of out guards on terrain features and resupplying of small units by air".

The spring of 1951 saw VMO-6 continuing to support the 1st Marine Division as it had in 1950. General Shepherd again spoke of helicopters by saying:

Due to the rugged terrain it would have been most difficult to operate in Korea without helicopters. They were a Godsend to the Marines.

In the summer of 1951, as the first year of Korean operations drew to a close, Marine helicopters had flown every mission except the one that had been envisioned for them—vertical envelopment during an amphibious assault. The remedy for this lack was to be filled by Marine Transport Helicopter Squadron (HMR) 161. HMR-161 was commissioned 15 January, 1951 at MCAS El Toro, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel George W. Herring.

With 43 officers, 244 men and 15 Sikorsky HRS-1 helicopters HMR-161 sailed for Korea on 15 August, 1951. The HRS-1 was a transport helicopter capable of carrying five or six combat loaded Marines.

HMR-161 arrived at Pusan, Korea on 2 September, 1951 as the 1st Marine Division launched an attack in the Punchbowl area in eastern Korea. HMR-161 moved to the front and shared Field X-83, near Chondo-ni, with VMO-6. The observation pilots of VMO-6 briefed the transport pilots of HMR-161 on the flying conditions in Korea.

On 12 September, 1951 HMR-161 indoctrinated the Marines of the 1st Shore Party Battalion in the techniques of loading and giving landing instructions to the large transport helicopters. The next day, in preparation for Operation Windmill I, supplies were sorted into 800 pound loads. At 1550 that day seven HRS-1 helicopters lifted with supplies suspended below each aircraft to fly a seven mile route in order to resupply the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines. Upon landing each helicopter picked up battle casualties and the wounded Marines were admitted to a hospital facility only 30 minutes after being wounded.

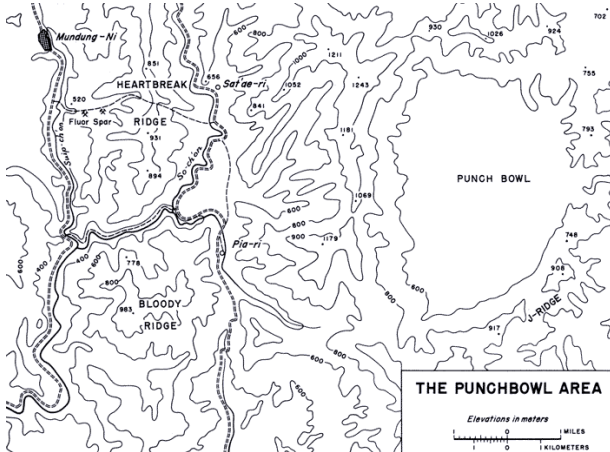


Operation Windmill I consisted of 28 flights for a total of 14.1 flight hours. 18,848 pounds of cargo were lifted and 74 casualties were medevacked.

On 20 September, 1951 the first helicopter-borne landing of combat Marines took place in Operation Summit. Despite dense fog, HMR-161 lifted 224 fully equipped Marines to the objective—Hill 884. The HRS-1's also transported 17,772 pounds of cargo in support of Operation Summit. The entire operation consisted of 65 flights, 31.2 flight hours, and took a total of four hours overall.

The official report of Operation Summit, read in part:

These initial efforts demonstrated the great contribution to tactical and logistical flexibility that the assault helicopter offers ...[The report went on to say that]...helicopter functions will be progressively enlarged as time passes, and that the aircraft type must be recognized as a requisite component of a balanced military force.



On 27 September HMR-161 conducted the first night troop lift of combat Marines in Operation Blackbird. The HRS-1's lifted 200 Marines of "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines to the Punchbowl, on a night with no moonlight, in two hours and ten minutes. Operation Blackbird was not an unqualified success but many lessons were learned. The official report stated:

...night troop lifts in mountainous terrain are feasible provided a daylight reconnaissance of the landing zone together with the avenues of approach and retirement can be effected. Present equipment indicates that under present conditions in Korea these night lifts should be limited to movements within friendly territory. Operation Blackbird was the only large scale night lift of combat Marines in the Korean War.

11 October, 1951 saw HMR-161 make history and headlines again. Operation Bumblebee began that morning at 1000 when the lift of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines and its equipment commenced. The statistics tell the story of Operation Bumblebee:

- Number of helicopters: 12.
- Number of flights: 156.
- Total flight time: 65.9 hours.
- Over-all time: 5.5 hours.
- Number of Marines lifted: 958.
- Average weight per man: 240 lbs.
- Total weight lifted: 229,920 lbs.

Operation Bumblebee was the establishment of a blocking position on Hill 702 about 15 to 20 miles north east of the punchbowl. 12 Marine Helicopters airlifted 958 Marines of the 3rd Battalion 7th Marines and their equipment for a total weight of 229,920 lbs over the course of about 4 to 5 hours. It marked the first time that a battalion sized unit was airlifted into a combat zone using helicopters.



It should be noted that the US Army adapted the Marine Corps development of Helicopter Tactics for Vertical Envelopment verbatim. Semper Fi, Ken



Quartermaster's Report

As I indicated in my report at the September meeting, I need help setting up the Ship's Store for meetings. The set up for that meeting took me over 3 1/2 Hours by myself. This kind of goes back to the volunteer aspect that I discussed earlier in the Editor's column. After the meeting 3 Marines stepped forward and offered their assistance with set up. Thank you to Bob Dyer, Paul Chepurko and Mike Volpe for reaching out. I will be reaching out to set up for the November meeting as we won't have the Ship's Store for the October meeting as it is installation.

Please note that we have new detachment sweatshirts (gray full zipper hoodie), a new Marine Corps fleece (half zipper collar) and both red and black Marine Corps Monument sweatshirts (crew neck).

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



10/01	Jimmy Gaines	10/10	Tom Fiorilla	10/21	Jim Molloy
10/06	Jeff Lattimer	10/12	Joanne Giles	10/25	Walter Mankowsky
10/06	George Vankat	10/18	Chris Gately	10/27	Mike Melfi
10/08	Walter Nowatka	10/20	Mike McNulty	10/27	John Wegele
10/09	Dennis Kievit	10/21	Howard Burch	10/28	Mike Greig
10/09	Mike Volpe	10/21	Len Graff	10/28	Joe Piazza
		10/28	James Webster		



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Calendar of Events

October 2021

- Oct 12: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- Oct 17: M1 Garand Shoot—Cherry Ridge 0800-1200
- Oct 28: Detachment Meeting—Installation of Officers 1900
- Oct 30: Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Blomingdale Methodist Church--Christopher Roetman--1400

November 2021

- Nov 2: Election Day—Make time to vote!
- Nov 9: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- Nov 18: Detachment Meeting 1930
- Nov 21: Stop & Shop Rose Event 0900-1700
- Nov 21: State MCL Meeting--Sea Girt--1000
- Nov 25: Happy Thanksgiving!
- Nov 28: Hanukkah begins at sundown



31 October 1919: A patrol of Marines and gendarmes, led by Sergeant Herman H. Hanneken, disguised themselves as Cacos and entered the headquarters of the Haitian Caco Leader, Charlemagne Peralte, killing the bandit chief, and dispersing his followers. Sergeant Hanneken and Corporal William R. Button were each awarded the Medal of Honor.



9 October 1917: The 8th Marines Regiment was activated at Quantico, Va. Although the it would not see combat in WWI, the 8th Marines participated in operations in Haiti for over 5 years during the 1920s. During WWII, it was assigned to the 2d Marine Division. It earned 3 Presidential Unit Citations.



5 October 1775: Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa, the 2d Continental Congress used the word "Marines" on one of the earliest known occasions, when it directed General George Washington to secure two vessels on "Continental risque and pay", and to give orders for the "proper encouragement to the Marines and seamen" to serve on the two armed ships.



28 October 1962: An 11,000-man 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade left Camp Pendleton by sea for the Caribbean during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The 189,000-man Marine Corps was on alert and elements of the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions were sent to Guantanamo Bay.



19 October 1968: Operation Maui Peak, a combined regimental-sized operation which began on 6 October, ended 11 miles northwest of An Hoa, Vietnam



Windows 11



NEW!

Your low down on everything you need to know
The When, Where, What and How



NEW!

In the column, we'll talk about everything you need to know and understand about the new Windows update. We'll discuss the following: when it will come out, cost, if your computer is ready for the new update, the differences and what you can expect from the new windows 11 platform. So without any further a due, let's dive into it.

The ultimate question... When is Windows 11 being released? Although there has been no actual release date, in June 2021 Microsoft did officially announce the upcoming release of Windows 11, and all signs are pointing to October 2021. New additions to Windows are a big event. It has been six years since the release of Windows 10, and the computer world has changed a lot since then. What will Windows 11 mean for you? What's the difference between it and the operating system you have now? Is your computer ready for the update? Each version of Windows comes with its own changes and new features. The majority of Windows 11's new features are aesthetic. Windows 11 will look different than any Windows version before it, which might frustrate some longtime users. Here are five big features coming to Windows 11.

New start up menu and task bar design. The start menu is moving to the bottom center (similar to the Apple iOS) instead of the bottom left corner. You will not be able to move the task bar anymore. The task bar icons are now huddled in the center of the screen. Desktop virtual support is improved and you will be able to have more than one desktop on the same screen. Windows 11 will let you rename these desktops and also change the backgrounds and switch between them more quickly. In addition there is a revamped app store; a variety of android apps are ready to be downloaded and open in Windows 11. Also there are better visuals, with automatic HDR (High Dynamic Range) tech that gives gaming and apps better graphics. "Snap layout" multitasking tools is a new menu that allows you to quickly and more freely arrange all your apps on the screen at once.

What if my computer can't run windows 11? If you don't have the right setup, don't panic. Windows 10 is still a good operating system – there is a reason it's been the industry standard for six years. Windows 11 has promised to keep supporting Windows 10 users with updates and tech support until at least October 14, 2025. So there is no pressure to buy just yet. This October retailers will likely start selling computers with Windows 11 installed. If you're impatient, you can download the "insider" build of Windows 11 right now. This is a beta version that doesn't have all the features you'll see in the final version. Windows 11 provides a calm and creative space where you can pursue your passions through a fresh experience.

From a rejuvenated start menu to new ways to connect to your favorite people, news, games, and content—Windows 11 is the place to think, express, and create in a natural way.

Semper Fi,
Bob Dyer

References:

[businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com)
www.microsoft.com



VetsFest Sunday September 12th



We set up a Missing Man Table to honor the 11 Marines, Sailor and Soldier that were killed in the last days in Afghanistan. All donations received went into the Rose Program Fund.



We were the only unit actively selling and were well received by the attendees.



Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment 744
Important Dates for 2021

Executive Board Meetings

7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month in person

January 12th, February 9th, March 9th, April 13th, May 11th, June 8th, July 13th,
August 10th, September 14th, October 12th, November 9th or 17th & December 9th

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Breakfast Dates

3rd Saturday of every month

Suspended until further notice



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)

Meetings are in person with masks required for anyone not vaccinated.

January 28th, February 25th, March 25th, April 22nd, May 27th, June 24th, July 22nd,
August 26th, September 23rd, October 28th, November 18th & December 16th

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



Desert Storm by Jake Hayes



Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack



Disabled vet uses nonprofit to fight food insecurity

By JON HURDLE, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

What do you do when the military declares you unemployable because of post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions arising from a six-year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps? For Dionisio Cucuta, the answer was clear: Start a nonprofit that helps fellow veterans build their skills to succeed in civilian life.

His Englewood-based Disabled Combat Veterans Youth Program started out in 2010 by providing young football players, many of them from diverse and economically challenged communities, with a mentorship program that helped them develop skills for the world of work.

More recently, the nonprofit has focused on the rising food insecurity among veterans and the general public, and now distributes free food to thousands of families in Bergen, Passaic and Essex counties, especially those who have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cucuta's work in serving the hungry in north Jersey has now been recognized by Points of Light, a national nonprofit set up by former President George H.W. Bush, which will present him with an award on Sept. 28. The group promotes the efforts of individuals and organizations that contribute to improvements in issues including hunger, education and water quality.

The recognition will be the latest in a series of awards, including being named a hometown hero during the pandemic by U.S. Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-5th) to commend the work Cucuta is doing for veterans and others. But he said the new commendation means even more to him than all the others.

'I wasn't expecting this'

"The tears haven't been stopping coming out of my eyes," Cucuta said, in an interview with NJ Spotlight News. "I wasn't expecting this, I hadn't been looking for this. I had no idea what Points of Light were. All I wanted to do was just to help people. I'm a born-again Christian; God had me doing his work, and I did his work, and look where I'm at."

Vets have been especially hard-hit by the pandemic because many are on fixed military pensions or disability payments and are unable to work because of injuries sustained during their service, and so may have a hard time making ends meet, Cucuta said.

That means food assistance has become an important source of help for military and other families who are struggling with low incomes, he said.

With the delta variant of the coronavirus creating a new wave of COVID-19 cases, and the prospect of a new influx of veterans from the Afghanistan withdrawal, Cucuta said he's expecting demand for food assistance to increase imminently. There are about 400,000 military veterans in New Jersey, according to the U.S. Veterans Administration.

Cucuta himself receives \$3,500 a month from the U.S. Veterans Administration as a disability payment after his service as a cook in the Marines from 1977 to 1983. He served in Japan, Lebanon, the Philippines, and at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina where he said he was sickened by drinking contaminated water.

Life after the military

After leaving the military, he worked as an executive chef in several New York and New Jersey restaurants, and then took chef jobs in the corporate sector. But when he was adjudged by the VA to be unemployable because of severe PTSD and other conditions some 15 years ago, he decided to set his nonprofit to help others in need.

“I didn’t want to sit there and vegetate, so I might as well give back,” Cucuta said.

Even though his disability exempts him from income- and property taxes on his Teaneck home, \$3,500 a month doesn’t go far in Bergen County, and he knows that other vets have trouble paying their bills, especially if they have large families.

“You are going to need help,” he said. “It hurts me inside because I know what they’re going through. No veteran should have to go through that.”

Cucuta’s all-volunteer group distributes food to pantries and directly to residents after obtaining it from Table to Table, a nonprofit that collects prepared and perishable food that would otherwise be thrown away by major retailers including Walmart and ShopRite.

As demand has risen during the pandemic, Table to Table has increased its food supplies to Cucuta’s group by about sixfold. He now distributes about 33 pallets of food a week to some 3,000 families, around 10% of which are those of military vets, he said.

The partnership complements the food assistance provided by New Jersey’s major food banks and hundreds of pantries run by churches and other community groups to feed food-insecure people, whose numbers have surged during the pandemic.

Expecting demand to rise again

For Cucuta’s group, demand slowed to about 8,000 families in August from about 12,000, he said. But he expects the amount of food distributed to rise again in September to 15% above July’s level because the delta variant is “creeping up,” extra jobless benefits are ending, and kids are going back to school.

He fears another spike in January when a state ban on evictions for nonpayment of rent during the pandemic is due to end. That’s expected to put more pressure on people’s budgets, forcing some to turn to food-assistance groups for help.

For Charmaine Jones, a Navy veteran who lives in Lodi, Bergen County, food packages from Cucuta’s group and other donors are a big help in feeding her two children, ages 11 and 12. “I can use any extra help I can get because food is an expense with growing children,” she said.

Jones, 47, a single parent, picks up two food bags a month from the Great Falls Rotary Foundation Military Assistance Pantry, which she helped to start in 2018. She said the number of vets getting help with food from the pantry has risen to about 80 from about 10 when it opened.

She said vets often have a range of problems that lead them to seek food assistance, including disabilities, PTSD, unemployment, or even homelessness. “They are having a difficult time, so whatever help they can get, they are taking advantage,” she said.

Cucuta, 62, is hoping the publicity from his Points of Light award will help him raise money to buy a farm somewhere in northern or western New Jersey where he can grow organic food, use it to feed the hungry, and teach young people how to grow their own food.

For now, he recognizes his work is helping vets and others who are struggling to put food on the table.

“I can touch these families and these young people and veterans and seniors on a fixed income,” he said. “They have worked all their lives, and they are still struggling. Let’s help them out.”

The preceding 2 and a half pages are an article written by Contributing Writer Jon Hurdle for NJ Spotlight News—published on 9/14/21.

Marine Dionisio Cucuta is a member of Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744. In addition to the food distribution center in Englewood, the detachment is currently operating a food distribution center every Tuesday for over a year now. This is after they go and assist Dionisio with setting up the distribution in Englewood. Our Detachment is or has been serving 50 local families, The Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home, Debbie Flowers and the Veteran’s Food Pantry and the Oasis shelter in Paterson. In total our Detachment distributes 2000 meals every month.

The following Marines take part in this endeavor on a weekly basis.

Mike McNulty and his wife Pam, Mike Volpe, Kevin O Leary, Nick Ciampo and his wife Lois, and Ed Korek. In addition, non members Debbie Hill and Carol Peterson from Oakland also assist with the food distribution from the American Legion in Oakland between 1400 and 1600 every Tuesday. If you are available to assist them in any way, reach out to Mike McNulty for some direction as to when and where they need the assistance. I believe that the largest task is the assembly of food bags for distribution.



Marine Corps Funnies

CorpStoons

"WOW!, A FERRARI!..., HOW'D YA AFFORD THAT DOWN PAYMENT?"



"TWO WORDS.... CLOTHING ALLOWANCE"



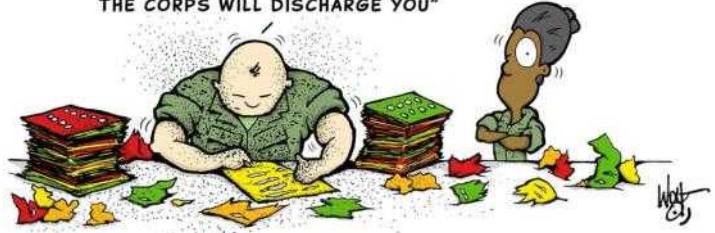
Walt
05/15

CorpStoons

"WHAT'S WITH ALL THE LOTTO SCRATCHERS??"....



"HEARD IF YOU'RE RICH ENOUGH...,
THE CORPS WILL DISCHARGE YOU"



CorpStoons

"OH SAM...,
I FEAR I'VE MADE
IT WORSE FOR US!!"

"WORSE THAN MORDOR?!!...,
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE
RECRUIT BAGGINS?!"



"MYYYY PRECIOS!!"



Walt
05/15

CorpStoons

"THE GENERAL'S RUN'N LATE SGTMAJ..."



"YOU NEED TO FIX YOUR
WATCH LT... GENERALS
ARE NEVER LATE"



Walt
05/15



1-855-838-8255
Vets4Warriors.com

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Vets4Warriors

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visit Vets4Warriors.com, or email: Info@Vets4Warriors.com



- Vets4Warriors provides Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service members and their families worldwide with peer-to-peer support.
- The Vets4Warriors peers are Veterans who have been there and understand the problems unique to military life and know your challenges.
- Vets4Warriors will assist you in setting a plan to overcome adversity, manage stress, and build resilience.
- Vets4Warriors provides peer support and follow up for those with ongoing concerns. For those in crisis we will connect you to the Military Crisis Line.



- Peer-to-peer support is available 24/7, and it is toll-free throughout the U.S.
- Your call is confidential. Vets4Warriors does not discuss your call with anyone and, if callers choose, they can remain anonymous.
- 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.



Set your course with a military connection

Vets4Warriors

855-838-8255 vets4warriors.com
Info@vets4warriors.com



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

One of the many purposes that The Grunt serves our detachment is by providing information for many veterans services. Below is some additional information provided by Kevin O’Hora, the VFW Veterans Service Officer. I apologize for the poor quality and will try to correct this for the October Grunt. Also included is contact information for Yahaira Padilla, the Administrative Assistant for the County of Bergen Division of Veterans Services.

Please Note:

The flyer below is open to all— on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Blood Pressure and other Health Screenings at no charge, Health Education, Ask a Nurse, Ask a Pharmacist. Location is the Paramus VFW, 6 Winslow Pl, Paramus.

(201) 336-6329
 Fax (201) 336-6329
 ypadilla@co.bergen.nj.us

YAHAIRA PADILLA
 Administrative Assistant

County of Bergen
 Department of Human Services
Division of Veterans Services
 One Bergen County Plaza • 2nd Floor
 Hackensack, NJ 07601-7076

Health & Wellness Days at the VFW

Holy Name Medical Center and your local VFWs are partnering to provide health and wellness events in your community. All are welcome.



Weekly events will include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine*
 ↳ Register at holyname.org/VaccineParamusVFW
- Blood pressure and other health screenings at no charge
- Health education
- "Ask a Nurse"
- "Ask a Pharmacist"

*Those under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Vaccine is administered in two doses, three weeks apart. Please bring your insurance card. If you don't have insurance, you will still receive the vaccine at no cost to you. Identification will be requested, but is not required.

Special offer for veterans:
 The VFW will be providing Veteran Services Officers to help qualified veterans apply for Veteran Administration disability benefits. Contact Kevin O'Hora via K.O'Hora@NJVFW.com to schedule an appointment.

PARAMUS VFW
 6 Winslow Place, Paramus, NJ
 Wednesdays starting July 21 | 2:30 - 5:30 PM

HolyName Medical Center  

VFW
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
KEVIN O'HORA
 VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

PHONE: (862) 588-6130
 EMAIL: K.O'HORA@NJVFW.COM

OPERATION K9
BEETHOVEN

BEETHOVEN
 THERAPY DOG

PH: 201.986.1111
 EMAIL: k9beethoven@yahoo.com
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HELP US HELP VETERANS ONE PAW AT A TIME



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	https://www.nrd.gov/
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



Reach Your VA Care Team Over Live Video with VA Video Connect

Real-time access to VA care in a way that works best for you!

VA Video Connect enables you to conduct visits with your doctor in a virtual medical room, using the camera on your phone, computer, or tablet.



You can use VA Video Connect for any appointment or consultation if:



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You're dealing with health conditions that make it difficult to travel to the specialist you need.



You have a few minor questions for your doctor that can be answered over live video.



You lack time or energy to attend an in-person appointment.



A hands-on physical examination is not required.

Get started today!

mobile.va.gov/appstore



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veteran's Information

Paul Thompson

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Veteran's Service Officer 201-320-3210

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

Wilfredo Rodriguez, MSW, LSW, MDiv

CDR, US Navy (Ret)

wilfredor@passaiccountynj.org

930 Riverview Dr Suite 200

Totowa, NJ 07512 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

Morris County Veterans Services

540 West Hanover Ave

Morristown NJ 07960

Michael Williams 973-285-6866

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)

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

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

