

The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

November 2021 Newsletter

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Officers 2022



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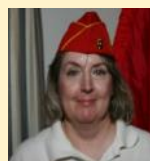
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Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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

November, 2021

I personally want to thank the members of Marine Corps League 744 for your vote of confidence in electing me as your new Commandant!

I also want to thank Past Commandant, Charlie Huha, for his help over the last few weeks during the transition process. He's worked extensively with me to make sure that all of the MCL #744 systems and programs that he has organized and put in place over the last eight years will continue successfully. Some of you may know my background already, but I would like to share some more information about me so that you can feel confident with me as your new leader (see attached resume).

I have many years of experience working with Veterans and veterans groups. This knowledge and experience with our veterans will definitely help to keep our league improving and moving forward successfully.

One of my major goals this year is to get more members involved! You'll see in the list of appointments and the committees that there are some new names added to the list. Sometimes it can be as simple as merely asking someone to step up. At the end of our last meeting, for example, I approached one of our newest members and I was able to persuade him to commit to being in our color guard.

Another major goal I want to see accomplished is to improve communication within the League. There will always be scuttlebutt as we had in the corps, but if you want to know about anything specific happening, always feel free to reach out and call me.

I'm always available to you if you have any questions or concerns. My officers and myself look forward to hearing any new ideas and any critique. Please take a moment to either call me or send me a personal email with any questions, critiques, or ideas. Communication is key for progress to happen!

Last, but not least, I promise you all that I will do everything I can to ensure MCL#744 continues to remain strong through my leadership, and our never ending support for our Veterans!

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

Semper Fi,
Paul R. Thompson
Commandant



HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT



Paul R. Thompson

- Served in the United States Marine Corps from June 1964 – June 1967.
- In March of 1965 he was assigned to Headquarters Service Company, 1st Marine Division, and served 13 months in Vietnam.
- As a result of his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Marine Good Conduct Medal.
- Paul is a lifetime member of Lakeland Detachment #744 since May 2005.
- He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans Association, Oakland American Legion and VFW Post #6699 in Paramus, where he was past Post Commander and has been active as service officer since 1969.
- Paul also served the VFW as District #2 Commander for 2 years and as such was responsible for the leadership of over 40 VFW Posts.
- Paul is active with the Bloomingdale Boy Scouts and our detachment Eagle Scout ceremonies
- Paul volunteers as part of the hospice program at Valley Hospital to administer to the needs of veterans in hospice care.
- Paul served as Jr. Vice Commandant for Lakeland Detachment in 2007 and 2008.
- Sr. Vice Commandant 2009.
- Service Officer from 2005 – 2018, and again from 2020 to the present.
- During his time as Service Officer Paul helped numerous veterans apply for their service-connected disability and has also helped several gain admissions to the Paramus Veterans Home.
- Paul has worked tirelessly organizing monthly trips to the VA facility for Bingo activities, clothing drives, picnics and Christmas parties.
- In the past, Paul has handled membership and the Rose Program, coordinated and participated in Detachment trips to Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed where assistance and lunches were provided to wounded service members.
- Paul participates in the Detachment Rose Program, and is a member of the Detachment Color Guard.
- Paul has attended the Marine Corps League Leadership School twice.
- Paul was awarded Marine of the Year in 2009; The Four Chaplains Award in 2010; and, the Department of NJ Marine Corps League Service Award in 2016.
- Paul Thompson is not only an asset to Lakeland Detachment #744, but he exemplifies the strength and qualities of a Marine who truly wants to help veterans, which is the mission of this detachment.

Elected MCL #744 Officers for 2022

Commandant	Paul Thompson
Sr. Vice Commandant	Chris Cioppa
Jr. Vice Commandant	Len Graff
Judge Advocate/Range Officer	Ray Sears
Paymaster/Adjutant	Peter Alvarez

Appointed Officers/Staff/and Committee Chairman

Jr Past Commandant	Charles Huha
Paymaster Assistant	Bob Dyer
Jr. Vice Commandant Assistant	Anthony Lanza
Adjutant Assistant	Barry Milligan
Chaplin	Les Derbyshire
Chaplin Assistants	Dennis Kievet and Trudi Derbyshire
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bill Grotz
VAS/Service Officer	Ed Korek
Service Officers	Kevin O'Hora and Mike Volpe
Quartermaster/Editor The Grunt	Ken Gysbers
Quartermaster Assistants	Bob Dyer Jr. and Paul Chepurko Jr.
Americanism/Education Officer	Mike McNulty
Rose Program Chairman	Mike McNulty and Dick Berrian
Web Sergeant	Bob Dyer Jr.
Marine for Life Program Chairman	Chris Cioppa
Golf Outing Chairman	Bob Ranzinger
MCL Ball Chairman	Les Derbyshire
MCL Ball Assistants	Peter Alvarez, Trudi Derbyshire, and Grace Alvarez
MCL License Plate Chairman	Len Graff



These are the Past Commandants of MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Thomas Fiorilla: 1990

Robert Bateson: 1991 / 1992 / 1993 / 1994/ 1995 / 1996/ 1998 / 2001 (Deceased July 5, 2020)

Michael Alu: 1997

Daniel Christian: 1999

John Philip Barnett: 2000 (Deceased February 1, 2016)

Geoge Vankat: 2002 / 2003

Raymond Sears: 2004

Joseph Piazza: 2005 / 2006

Robert Gay: 2007 / 2008

Kenneth Fackina: 2009 2010 (Deceased September 29, 2017)

Paul Chepurko, Jr.: 2011 / 2012

Raymond Colsant: 2013 / 2014 (Deceased February 27, 2014)

Charles Huha: 2014 / 2021

Under their guidance and leadership, the detachment has grown and prospered allowing it to fulfil it's primary mission of assisting Marines and Veterans in need.

On behalf of a grateful detachment, Semper Fi good and faithful servants and thank you for a job well done.





For the 246th Marine birthday I felt we should all read our Marine Prayer.

I am asking each of you to not just read this pray but to think about it, think about yourself and the way you live your life. I pray these words will remind you of your Marine values.

Semper Fi

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to they 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. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. 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 the courage to try again.

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

Amen

Submitted by: Les Derbyshire, Chaplain

Please pray for our wounded members: S. Golembieski, Dan Christian, B. Delorenzo, Bill Healey, Dorothy Fackina, Paul Ruebenacker



Service Officer Report

"Next Man Up"

Service Officer Ed Korek



On Thursday, October 28th our Detachment had our monthly meeting. This meeting exhibits one of the Great strengths of the Marine Corps. At this meeting the true meaning of the Marine Corps ethos is exhibited.

"NEXT MAN UP"

For the past 8 years, Marine "Charles Huha" has led the detachment as its Commandant and it has been a renaissance for Detachment 744. The growth of the Lakeland Detachment in my humble opinion has been remarkable. The detachment has always been one of the largest detachments in New Jersey. But growth is not always measured by how many members we have. It is measured by what the detachment has been able to accomplish. Over the past 8 years the detachment has been able to challenge itself in many successful ways.

Our Rose Program has grown from a couple of Marines in front of a store in the community, accepting donations for Disabled Veterans and their families to a Squad of Marines in front of a store, soliciting donations. Now we have a tent (Or 2) set up in front of store entrances with tables full of Hats, (covers), sweat shirts, jackets, golf shirts, wicking shirts to mention just a few items. The profits from these events grew 10 fold. We created the "Lakeland Care Fund" as a 501 c(3) charitable organization with the mission to raise funds to help disabled Veterans and their families, as well as other like minded charities which have the same or similar mission as ours.

We created a monthly Saturday breakfast which was remarkably successful. Our volunteers served meals at each breakfast to over 300 people. Due to the success of these charitable events and others, has allowed the detachment in just a few years to make donations to the Paramus Veterans Nursing Home, disabled Veterans and their families as well as Veterans in need.

The Fund and the Detachment have made donations totaling over \$100,000.00 over the past 6 to 7 years largely to the hard work of our Marines and other volunteers. This is a continuing process that is constantly growing.

Unfortunately, when the pandemic hit, we had to stop the Saturday Breakfasts but in true Marine grit, we improvised, overcame and adapted. We established a Grab and Go dinner that was also successful while the pandemic had most everything still in look down. Even now, we are working on ideas to continue to raise funds to support the detachment. Through out everything, our Mission never wavered.

All of these successes were achieved during Commandant Charles Huha's leadership. Well, 8 years is a long time for even one Marine. This month Charlie retired from his position as Commandant.

Charlie's successor is Marine Paul Thompson. He brings many years of leadership, with many successes from his positions with the American Legion, VFW and other veteran organizations. He has big shoes to fill and I am sure he will continue to bring new vision to the Detachment.

Paul has been the Service Officer for many years with the Detachment and I know of no one who can help Veterans and their families when navigating the veteran nursing homes better than he. It is a daunting task for the families of our veterans when they decide that help in Nursing Homes is required. He can accomplish often in days what normally take many weeks. Thankfully, even though he will be our Commandant, he will continue with this task.

At this point in this Service Officers report I am reminded that many of my friends in the detachment say that I talk to much. So I have good news for them.

I have again accepted the position of Service Officer for the Detachment, but knowing some of my limitations, I have found a way to not make long reports at our Monthly Detachment Meetings. I am lucky enough to have 2 assistant Service Officers working with me. Both Kevin O'Hara and Mike Volpe volunteered to take be Assistant Service Officers. Kevin is the VFW Service Officer and he does a remarkable job doing 'successful claims' in the VA for our Veterans. Mike and Kevin will take turns writing the Monthly Service Officer's Reports as well as monthly meeting reports. Which will make Ken Gysbers, editor of the Grunt very happy.

As always, I want everyone to know that you can call me at anytime if you need help navigating the VA or anything at all. I don't sleep worth a damn and I might like to talk to someone other than myself at 2 in the morning.

Ed Korek

Kevin O'Hara

Mike Volpe

Service Officer

Service Officer

Service Officer

Semper Fi

K.O'Hara@NJVFW.com

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201-317-1678



Marine Corps League

Lakeland Detachment 744

Upcoming Rose Event Schedule

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. 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.

History of the Marine Rose

In 1778, during the War of Independence, the Marine Corps Rose was dedicated to those Marines who made the Ultimate Sacrifice for their country. This tradition was continued by the French during World War One when the Marines attacked the Germans in the trenches at Belleau Wood, Roses were planted by the grateful French people at the graves of the Fallen Marines. When and where ever you see Leaguers or Young Marines distributing these remembrances take and wear one proudly.

Started by Marine Eddie Gallagher from New York, designed to parallel the VFW "Poppy" program to provide funds for detachments to assist veterans and youth and provide other services to the community.

Funds raised from Rose Program donations can be used for the following:

Health and comfort items for hospitalized veterans, Support programs such as bingo or holiday parties for hospitalized or retired veterans in retirement homes. Scholarships, Assisting with youth programs, and Humanitarian Aid.



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





After the ceremony at Pompton Lakes, for those who would like to join us for a 246th birthday celebration at Mack's American Bar & Grill in Pompton Lakes please email me chuha1@msn.com or call me at 973/900-1226. We usually have approximately 20 members so I would need to make a reservation.

Thank you.

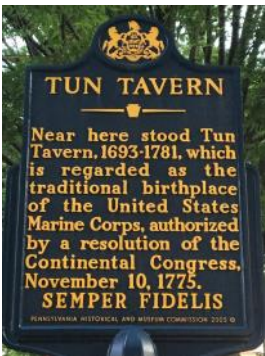
Semper Fi.,

Charlie



Happy 246th Birthday Marines,

Charlie's email titled, "Military Service Requirement" got me to thinking about the many different aspects of how someone joins any branch of the military let alone the Marine Corps. Conscription or Military Draft, has been employed by the government of the United States of America over the course 6 major conflicts. This was to fill the ranks of the military when there weren't enough volunteers. Even in continental times, males over the age of 18 were required to join their local militia, receive basic military training and serve for a limited period of time. The draft existed in various forms or law until 1973 when President Nixon made the military services all volunteer.



The Marine Corps from it's inception, was always considered a volunteer branch of the service although during both WWII and Vietnam, there was a need to take draftees. During WWII, there was a requirement for the draft for Marines because even though many red blooded American men want to avenge Pearl Harbor and did volunteer to join the Marine Corps, there would not be enough volunteers to fill out the 6 Marine Divisions and 2 Marine Air Wings that the commandant would request from congress. A full strength Marine Division in WWII was approximately 20,000 men (plus or minus). In 1939 the entire Marine Corps was about 20,000 (including both officer and enlisted with all departments). By 1945, the Marine Corps grew to over 475,000 men and women. In Vietnam, the Marines used the draft to fill the ranks due to a lack of volunteers largely because of the unpopularity of the war.

Selective Service was re-instated in the early 1980s after armed forces manning charts indicated the lack of volunteers needed to maintain a standing military. However, the Marines Corps remains all volunteer.

Whether you volunteered or were drafted, you still had to meet the criterion to actually become a Marine. You can't be too old or too young, you can't be over a certain height or weight and you can't be under a certain height and weight. You can't have flat feet or be missing body parts (or have extra body parts), and you can't have poor eyesight, bad teeth or a bad back. You also can't be addicted to drugs or alcohol and you can't have a criminal background. If you get past this point, you still have to go through a psychoanalysis which might still determine that you don't qualify to be a Marine.

So you made it this far. The next step is boot camp where we train to become Marines. The goal of boot camp is make Marines out of civilians. One has to make it through the 3 stages of boot camp both mentally and physically and before you are allowed to claim the title United States Marine, you have to demonstrate that you are able to perform the duties required of a Marine. Officers go through a similar experience at OCS. It is only then, that you become an United States Marine.



I think that this observation has been lost on the American Public in this day of everything and everyone has to have equal rights. The Military and especially the Marine Corps, have but one major purpose and that is to defend the United States of America with all of its capability. We cannot accept those who are either

physically, mentally or are wholly unable to perform the duties required of those who service in the military and especially the Marine Corps. Every Marine is a rifleman has been around since Commandant Al Gray. This means every Marine is expected to be able to be in combat and if necessary kill our enemies. That's part of war—its either kill or be killed. General George S Patton Jr. put it best with an attributed quote that goes: "The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his country".

Our current military leadership has degraded the armed forces of this country substantially in the past few years by caving into requirements related to individual rights. Poor decisions now will lead to future issues that will invariably result in more combat related deaths. The 11 Marines, 1 Sailor and 1 Soldier that died in the closing week of the Afghanistan debacle would not have died if the proper decisions were made by the commanders in our military and there still is not any official accountability.

Any commander's first obligation is the men and women he or she commands. Their direction and ultimately their safety, is a direct result of orders issued to the command and this applies to all levels of command from squad level to Commander in Chief albeit with significantly more responsibility as the level of command gets higher.

As we join together to celebrate the 246th Birthday of the Marine Corps and Veterans day, let us remember those Marines, FMF Corpsman and Navy Chaplains that gave their all and remain ever diligent in our duty to preserve the Marine Corps.

Only one other time in the history of the United States has the Marine Corps been in such peril. In the years that followed WWII, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson proudly boasted that he had cut defense spending to the bone and cut it even more. President Truman at one point called into question the very existence of the Corps. By September 1950, events had proved him wrong and even though the 1st Marine Division was only at 50% wartime strength at the outbreak of the Korean War, it went over there and literally saved the day.

Now, the Marine Corps is under constant pressure to re-invent it's mission and tailor it's units accordingly. Even after the successes of Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and up until 2018, the War on Terror in Afghanistan, there are those in our government that ponder the very existence of a Marine Corps. In fact, recent reductions in force have eliminated heavy armor battalions entirely, reduced artillery battalions and reduced operational aircraft squadrons by almost a third. While the picture I'm painting might seem to be rather bleak, it's not as bad as it was just before the Korean War. Present manning charts indicate that we have 184,427 active duty Marines and 38,473 in the active reserve. The numbers since the 70's are similar.

Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal was on the beach at Iwo Jima when the flag raising occurred which has become one of the defining moments of Marine Corps history. His comment on seeing flag raised on Mt. Suribachi was, "The raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years".

I pray that his forecast is right and that the naysayers are quelled as they have been in the past. I can't imagine life without a Marine Corps or a Marine Corps League. Semper Fi , Ken Gysbers Editor.

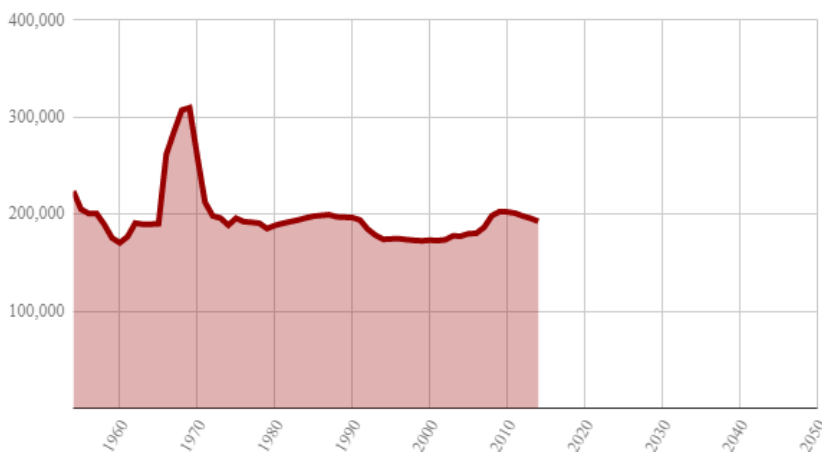


U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL 1954-2014

YEAR	ARMY	NAVY	USMC	AIR FORCE	TOTAL	Year	Army	Navy	USMC	Air Force	Total
1954	1,404,598	725,720	223,868	947,918	3,302,104	1985	780,787	570,705	198,025	601,515	2,151,032
1955	1,109,296	660,695	205,170	959,946	2,935,107	1986	780,980	581,119	198,814	608,199	2,169,112
1956	1,025,778	669,925	200,780	909,958	2,806,441	1987	780,815	586,842	199,525	607,035	2,174,217
1957	997,994	677,108	200,861	919,835	2,795,798	1988	771,847	592,570	197,350	576,446	2,138,213
1958	898,925	641,005	189,495	871,156	2,600,581	1989	769,741	592,652	196,956	570,880	2,130,229
1959	861,964	626,340	175,571	840,435	2,504,310	1990	732,403	579,417	196,652	535,233	2,043,705
1960	873,078	617,984	170,621	814,752	2,476,435	1991	710,821	570,262	194,040	510,432	1,985,555
1961	858,622	627,089	176,909	821,151	2,483,771	1992	610,450	541,883	184,529	470,315	1,807,177
1962	1,066,404	666,428	190,962	884,025	2,807,819	1993	572,423	509,950	178,379	444,351	1,704,103
1963	975,916	664,647	189,683	869,431	2,699,677	1994	541,343	468,662	174,158	426,327	1,610,490
1964	973,238	667,596	189,777	856,798	2,687,409	1995	508,559	434,617	174,639	400,409	1,518,224
1965	969,066	671,448	190,213	824,662	2,655,389	1996	491,103	416,735	174,883	389,001	1,471,722
1966	1,199,784	745,205	261,716	887,353	3,094,058	1997	491,707	395,564	173,906	377,385	1,438,562
1967	1,442,498	751,619	285,269	897,494	3,376,880	1998	483,880	382,338	173,142	367,470	1,406,830
1968	1,570,343	765,457	307,252	904,850	3,547,902	1999	479,426	373,046	172,641	360,590	1,385,703
1969	1,512,169	775,869	309,771	862,353	3,460,162	2000	482,170	373,193	173,321	355,654	1,384,338
1970	1,322,548	692,660	259,737	791,349	3,066,294	2001	480,801	377,810	172,934	353,571	1,385,116
1971	1,123,810	623,248	212,369	755,300	2,714,727	2002	486,542	383,108	173,733	368,251	1,411,634
1972	810,960	588,043	198,238	725,838	2,323,079	2003	499,301	382,235	177,779	375,062	1,434,377
1973	800,973	564,534	196,098	691,182	2,252,787	2004	499,543	373,197	177,480	376,616	1,426,836
1974	783,330	545,903	188,802	643,970	2,162,005	2005	492,728	362,941	180,029	353,696	1,389,394
1975	784,333	535,085	195,951	612,751	2,128,120	2006	505,402	350,197	180,416	348,953	1,384,968
1976	779,417	524,678	192,399	585,416	2,081,910	2007	522,017	337,547	186,492	333,495	1,379,551
1977	782,246	529,895	191,707	570,695	2,074,543	2008	543,645	332,228	198,505	327,379	1,401,757
1978	771,624	530,253	190,815	569,712	2,062,404	2009	553,044	329,304	202,786	333,408	1,418,542
1979	758,852	523,937	185,250	559,455	2,027,494	2010	566,045	328,303	202,441	334,196	1,430,985
1980	777,036	527,153	188,469	557,969	2,050,627	2011	565,463	325,123	201,157	333,370	1,425,113
1981	781,419	540,219	190,620	570,302	2,082,560	2012	550,064	318,406	198,193	332,959	1,399,622
1982	780,391	552,996	192,380	582,845	2,108,612	2013	528,070	319,838	195,848	326,573	1,370,329
1983	779,643	557,573	194,089	592,044	2,123,349	2014	515,888	319,120	192,787	326,259	1,354,054
1984	780,180	564,638	196,214	597,125	2,138,157						

The above numbers and chart below are from Historyinpieces.com.

Marine Corps



It should be noted that with exception of the spike between about 1965 and 1971 for Vietnam that the personnel numbers have only a slight variance with a low of 170,621 in 1960 and a high of 223,868 in 1954. The Army, Navy and Air Force all show similar spikes during Vietnam but have a steady decline in personnel numbers since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

On a personal note: When I provide information such as the above, I'm accomplishing 2 things. First I'm informing my readers of facts so they can form their own opinions and second, I learn more about topics that I care about.

Marine Corps Birthday History and Celebrations

Before 1921, there was little in the way of pomp or pageantry in the recollection of the Marine Corps Birthday. On October, 1921, Major Edwin North McClellan, the officer in charge of the Marine Corps' fledging historical section, sent a memorandum to Commandant John A. Lejeune. In his memorandum, he recommended that the original birthday of the Marine Corps be declared a Marine Corps Holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps.

Commandant Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order 47:

Title: Marine Corps Birthday Message

Category: Marine Corps Order No. 47 (Series 1921)

Author/Presenter: Major General John A Lejeune, USMC Commandant of the Marine Corps

Date: 1 November 1921

759. The following will be read to the command on the 10th of November, 1921, and hereafter on the 10th of November of every year. Should the order not be received by the 10th of November, 1921, it will be read upon receipt.

(1) On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name "Marine". In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

(2) The record of our corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home, generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres and in every corner of the seven seas, that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

(3) In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term "Marine" has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

(4) This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the corps. With it we have also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the Corps.

John A. Lejeune,
Major General Commandant

75705-21

As per Commandant Lejeune's order, this document is read as an important part of the ceremonies at all Marine Corps Birthday Balls and celebrations. Marine units through out the world began celebrations in various ways. It wasn't until October 28, 1952, when Commandant Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., directed that the celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday be formalized throughout the Corps, and provided an outline for the cake ceremony, as well as other formal observances. This outline was included in the Marine Corps Drill Manual, approved 26 January 1956

The Marine Corps has many traditions and a Marine Corps Ball Ceremony represents many of our traditions.

At the Marine Corps Ball, the open ceremony includes the presentation of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, the playing of our national anthem and a prayer. The colors are then posted and the missing man table ceremony is next.

The missing man table consists of the following elements:

- A small table set for one, symbolizing the isolation of the absent service member. The table is usually set close to, or within sight of, the entrance to the dining room. For large events, the missing man table may be set for six places representing each of the five armed services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard), with the sixth symbolizing the civilians who died during armed conflict. The table is round to represent the everlasting concern the survivors have for the missing.
- One or more head covers may be placed upon the table to represent the armed service of the missing persons.
- A white tablecloth to symbolize the pure intentions of the service members who responded to the country's call to arms.
- A single rose in the vase symbolizing the blood that service members have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of the United States of America. This rose also represents the family and friends who keep the faith while awaiting the return of the missing service members.
- The red ribbon represents a love of country that inspired the service members to serve the country.
- A slice of lemon on the bread plate that represents the bitter fate of the missing.
- Salt sprinkled on the bread plate that symbolizes the tears shed by waiting families.
- An inverted glass to represent the fact that the missing and fallen cannot partake.
- A lit candle symbolizes a light of hope that lives in hearts to illuminate the missing's way home.
- An empty chair to represent the absence of the missing and fallen.



During the ceremony, a prayer is said, a salute is rendered and taps is played. For those in uniform and under cover, a salute is rendered during the playing of taps. For those not in uniform or civilians, please stand at attention and render a salute by placing your right hand over your heart and bow your head.

The cake cutting ceremony follows. An officer's Marmaluke sword is used by the senior officer present, to make the first cuts of the cake. Two pieces are cut. The first piece is handed to the youngest Marine present who in turn presents it to the oldest Marine present. The second piece is presented to the youngest Marine present. The proper traditions having been performed, the celebration continues.

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.

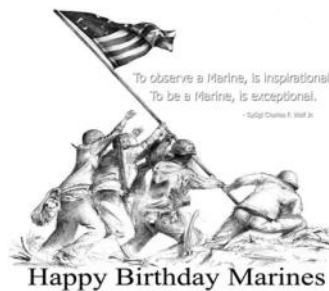


Please note that we have new detachment sweatshirts (gray full zipper hoodie), a new Marine Corps fleece (half zipper collar) and both red and black Marine Corps Monument sweatshirts (crew neck).

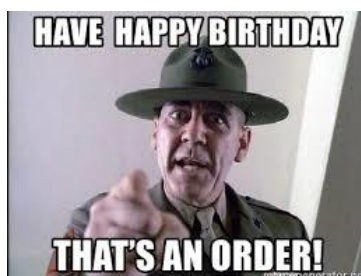
Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



November 2	Grace Alvarez	November 2	William Houston
November 3	Paul Chepurko Jr.	November 3	Richard Wedemeyer
November 7	Louis Tyminski	November 9	John Dunphy
November 13	Dot Fackina	November 16	Davis Elshout
November 17	Michael Howe	November 18	Robert Gay
November 19	Benjamin Cascio	November 24	John Forrest
November 24	Edward Korek	November 27	Bob Seldomridge
November 29	William Harrison III		



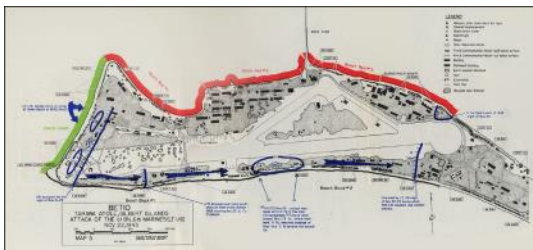
MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Calendar of Events

November 2021

- Nov 2: Trustees/Staff/Project Chairman Meeting 1900 (Formally the Executive Board Meeting)
- Nov 2: Election Day—Make time to vote!
- Nov 5: 246th Marine Corp Birthday Ball Macaluso 1800
- Nov 10: Veterans Day ceremony w/ Color Guard--Stop & Shop--Wyckoff--1300
- Nov 10: Veteran's Ceremony, Pompton Lakes Municipal Building on Lenox Ave., 1815--Color Guard
- Nov 10: Marine Corps 246th birthday celebration--Mack's, Pompton Lakes--1800
- Nov 11: Veterans Day ceremony w/ Color Guard--Chilton Hospital--0930
- Nov 11: Veterans Day ceremony w/ Color Guard--Veterans Park, Pompton Lakes--1030
- Nov 18: Detachment Meeting 1930
- Nov 21: Stop & Shop Rose Event 0900-1700
- Nov 21: State MCL Meeting--Sea Girt--1000
- Nov 21: Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Christopher Angus, William Angus, Liam Curran--Troop 49, Oakland--1400
- Nov 25: Happy Thanksgiving!
- Nov 28: Hanukkah begins at sundown

December 2021

- Dec 16: Trustees/Staff/Project Chairmen Meeting 1800
- Dec 16: Detachment Meeting 1930
- Dec 25: Christmas
- Dec 31: New Years Eve



20 Nov 1943: The 2d Marine Division, commanded by Major General Julian C. Smith, landed on Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands. After seventy-six hours of bitter fighting during which almost 1,000 Marines died, and more than 2,000 were wounded, Major General Smith declared the island secure.



1 Nov 1983: 300 Marines of the 22d MAU staged an amphibious and helicopter landing on the island of Carriacou, 15 miles NE of Grenada. On Nov 2nd, it sailed to Beirut to replace the 24th MAU

27 Nov 1950: 8 Chinese Communist divisions in Korea launched a massive attack which had the expressed purpose of destroying the 1st Marine Division. This action led to the successful southward Marine Corps attack out of the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir to the coastal port of Hungnam.



8 Nov 1990: President Bush increased U.S. troops in Op Desert Shield by 200,000. The addition of II MEF units and the 5th MEB began the build up to over 90,000 Marines for Desert Storm.

To my readers:

I would be remiss if I did not include a short piece on Veterans Day. On November 11th 1918, at 1100 hours, the Armistice between the Axis Countries and the Allied Countries was signed and the War to End All Wars officially ended. President Woodrow Wilson sent out a letter of commemoration of what was the first Armistice Day.

In 2018, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day which was changed in 1954 to Veterans Day by Congress. This was under pressure from major Veteran's groups to honor all veterans with other than dishonorable discharges.

This year, commemorates the yet another milestone. At the end of WWI, Neither Great Britain or France had neither means or the manpower to repatriate the many service members that were lost in battle. So they repatriated 1 unknown soldier and entombed them with state funerals and full military honors. While the losses of the United States in WWI weren't anywhere close to those of France and Great Britain, the US had the means and the will to bring those KIA back to their families if so requested. US Service Members were issued a round metal disc engraved with their name, rank and personal information in order to aid with casualty identification. These were the precursors to the "Dog Tag" that we wore. Families could have their next of kin brought home at no cost to them or buried at a US Military cemetery in Europe.

In December 1920, New York Congressman and World War I veteran Hamilton Fish Jr. proposed legislation that provided for the interment of one unknown American soldier at a special tomb to be built in Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of the legislation was "to bring home the body of an unknown American warrior who in himself represents no section, creed, or race in the late war and who typifies, moreover, the soul of America and the supreme sacrifice of her heroic dead."

In October 1921, four bodies of unidentified U.S. military personnel were exhumed from different American military cemeteries in France. On October 23, 1921, the four caskets arrived at the city hall of Châlons-sur-Marne (now called Châlons-en-Champagne), France.

Town officials and members of the U.S. Army's Quartermaster Corps had prepared the city hall for the selection ceremony. Early on the morning of October 24, 1921, Maj. Robert P. Harbold of the Quartermaster Corps, aided by French and American soldiers, rearranged the caskets so that each rested on a shipping case other than the one in which it had arrived. Major Harbold then chose Sgt. Edward F. Younger of HQ Co, 2nd Battalion, 50th Infantry, American Forces in Germany, to select the Unknown Soldier. Sgt. Younger selected the Unknown by placing a spray of white roses on one of the caskets. From Châlons-sur-Marne, the selected casket was transported to Washington DC and lay in state at the capitol rotunda from 11/9/1921 to the morning 11/11/1921. An estimated 90,000 visited the unknown on 11/10 while lying in state. On Nov 11, 1921, the Unknown was placed on the traditional caisson and escorted to its final resting place at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Originally, the tomb was a marble slab. In 1958, unknowns from WWII and Korean were laid to rest with the same honors. And in 1984, an unknown from Vietnam was interred. Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.

November 11, 2021 marks the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknowns. As we play Taps this year, let us commemorate all US Servicemen and Service Women who gave their last full measure in defense of our country.



October 28, 2021 Installation Meeting

Presentations



Left: Marine Ted Wurster presented the National Colors and Marine Colors flown over the US team headquarters at the South Pole to outgoing Commandant Charles Huha. We are the only Marine unit active, reserve or veteran that has this set of colors and is presented in recognition of the detachment's efforts to support Marines and veterans.



Department Commandant John Cleary presented Ken Gysbers with a recognition for the National Newsletter Competition.

After the presentation, Commandant Cleary and his installation team, then installed the newly elected and appointed officers for 2022.

Department Commandant John Cleary presented outgoing Commandant Charles Huha with a Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his 8 year tenure as Commandant MCL Lakeland Detachment 744. John's comments recognized Charlie's attendance at most of the department meetings.



Left: Department Commandant John Cleary administer the oath of office for the officers of Lakeland Detachment 744.



Bottom Left: Newly elected and installed Commandant Paul Thompson receives his first salute as Commandant from Department Commandant John Cleary.



Bottom Right: Lakeland Detachment 744 Commandant Paul Thompson receive the gavel from Department Commandant John Cleary.





Marine Corps League
 Lakeland Detachment 744
 Important Dates for 2021



Trustees/Staff/Project Chairmen Meeting

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 1st & December 16th (1800)

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

CorpStoons

"THANKS FOR HELPING!...
YOUR IN CHARGE
OF THE RAIN!"



"MARINES LIKE THEIR VIRTUAL MARATHONS
TO BE AS REAL AS POSSIBLE!"



Walt

CorpStoons



"BETTER!!...,
GOT MY
DD214!!"



Walt

Food for thought:

Every now and then I run across something on line, on a Facebook post or in my e-mails and I felt this was one of such items that should be shared. The piece to the right was a post from Face Book. The picture below is also from a post on Face Book. The 2 H34s in the picture with call letters YL45 and YL34 (YL = Yankee Lima) are from the squadron that Ben Cascio flew with in Vietnam. While he wasn't flying this mission, he probably flew both of these aircraft as squadron maintenance officer.



Marine Corps Funnies

CorpStoons



Walt

Oh you're in the military? That's cool. I wanted to do that when I was a kid. What do you make?" (I always loved this question). What do I make? I make holding your child's hand possible everyday. I make 5 minutes seem like a life time. I make going to war for your freedom a duty that I will die for. I can make sure your children have a future before terrorists attack us. I can help you by spending a year away from my family, while you complain about yours and your job. I make myself get out of bed at 3am (0-dark 30!) to risk my life to save your freedom. Today I might make the ultimate sacrifice to save your life. I make a difference. Now, what do you make? Re-post if you are active duty, retired, or a vet...



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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



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
 Facebook Operation K9 Beethoven

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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



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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

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)

