



The Grunt

December 2017

Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment 744



Newsletter

Editor: Ken Gysbers

201-895-3358 kragsbers@yahoo.com

Officers 2017

Commandant: Charles Huha

Chuhal@msn.com

973-835-2315



Judge Advocate/Range Officer: Ray Sears

rcsears93@aol.com

973-694-8457



Senior Vice Commandant: Mike McNulty

Simms156@gmail.com

732-213-5264



Chaplain: Les Derbyshire

201-644-8679



Jr. Vice Commandant: Kevin O Leary

Kloleary@msn.com

201-644-8078



Sgt at Arms: Frank Sanclementi

frankusmc1@verizon.net

973-839-1499



Paymaster/ Adjutant: Peter Alvarez

p Alvarez1942@hotmail.com

973-839-5693



Secretary: Theresa Muttel

thmuttel@hotmai.com

973-764-9565

tel@hotmail.com



Service Officer: Ed Koreke

Koreke@optonline.net

201-317-1678



Quartermaster: Ken

kragsbers@yahoo.com

201-895-3358

Gysbers



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment - 744
December 2017

Merry Christmas, My Friend

By James M. Schmidt, a Marine Lance Corporal
Stationed at 8th & I In Washington D.C. 1986

T'was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
and to see just who in this home did live

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind,
a sobering thought soon came to my mind.

For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,
so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.

And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.

Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven,
his weathered face tan.

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.
I soon understood, this was more than a man.

For I realized the families that I saw that night,
owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play,
And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,
because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.

Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still.
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.

Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,
with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.

And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.

But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,
said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."

One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight

On behalf of all of the officers, I extend to all our members, a very Merry Christmas,
py Chanukah and a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Hap-

Semper Fidelis,
Charlie

HONOR - COURAGE - COMMITMENT

December 2017

Service Officer Report

Here we are at the end of another year. You know, as I get older I find that for me weeks go by in a day, months in a week, and well what can I say about how quickly a year goes by. I long for the days of my youth.

I will try and keep this note quick and simple.

I believe that we now have the simplest Nursing Home Bingo Schedule. All you have to do is remember from now on we will be holding a Bingo at the Paramus Veterans Nursing Home on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2PM. You can put it on your calendar or note book for the next 10 years. It will never change. So the 1st Bingo is on January 9th.

In this months Grunt you will find a page that has all kinds of Groups and Organizations that help our Veterans. Take that page and save it. That is your one stop shopping list for help when you need it. A wealth of information is found on that page.

I want to let everyone know that our Marine Corps Company that is stationed at Picatinny has orders for Afghanistan. Our Detachment will be throwing our Marines and their families one Kick Ass BBQ in the early part of May. Lets start thinking about what we can do to make it great. I will be talking to some contacts to see if we can get them to join us in this endeavor. If some of you have contacts that might be able to help that would be great. Before we go off on our own, let's put a committee together to put a plan in motion, so that we are covering all bases together.

Lastly, your Service Officers John Harris and Myself want to thank each and every one of you as well as your family and loved ones for being a part of the Lakeland Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

If there is anything that John or I can do for you, don't hesitate to call. Johns contact info can be found on that page I mentioned earlier. Save it. Mine is as always.

**973-835-4388 Home
201-317-1678 Cell**

Semper Fi

Edward Korek





Editor's Page

Greetings Marines.

Here we are as yet another year draws to a close with the holiday season upon us. And what a year we've had in 2017. We've enjoyed many successful Rose Events. The personnel who choose to participate in this worthy cause, have enjoyed the camaraderie of being with brother and sister Marines while raising significant funds for our fellow veterans that are in need. Our 242nd Marine Corps Birthday Ball was phenomenal and well attended.

Charlie and Ray attended over 30 Eagle Courts of Honor in support of the Boy Scouts of America. As a detachment we participated in multiple events that have called attention to Lakeland Detachment 744 and the public recognizes us. We had many achievements in the course of 2017 that we can take quiet pride in as a detachment.

Sadly, we've also suffered some losses as well. This issue is dedicated to all Marines from our detachment who have transferred to their final duty station in 2017. It is in their memory that we must rededicate ourselves to the principles and purposes on which our league was founded. Marines have always been and always will be volunteers so step up and volunteer when you can. Many hands make light work.

Our Corps has a long history as illustrated above. We fought with dignity and honor in every military action since the birth of these United States and we've stood guard ready to protect these United States from all enemies foreign and domestic in times of peace. It is the Esprit de Corps that is instilled in every Marine during boot camp or OCS that makes us unique. I'm a member of many other organizations where it is difficult at best to get stuff done. It is with much pride that I say Lakeland Detachment 744 is a detachment of Marines that get the job done. I'm glad that I said yes when Ben Casio asked me to join almost 2 years ago. My only regret is that I didn't say yes when Tony asked me over 10 years ago. So here's my challenge for you in 2018. If you haven't been active in our detachment for a while, or have been busy with life, come on down and join us at the meetings at least. It will be great to see you and your support will be greatly appreciated by our outstanding group of officers. Our next meeting is December 28th at 1930 Hours (7:30 PM for you civilians).

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Semper Fi.
Ken Gysbers
Editor



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday December 12 1900
- 3rd Saturday Breakfast: Saturday December 16 0800 - 1200
- Wreaths Across America: Saturday December 16 1000 Wyckoff Reformed Church
- Wreaths Across America Ceremony: Saturday December 16 1200 Advent Lutheran Church
- Detachment Meeting: Thursday December 28 1930

Going forward, Bingo at the Paramus Veterans Nursing Home will always be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1400 (2 PM for you civilians). That makes the next Bingo on Jan9th.

Sick Call

Ed Korek—expects to be back to attending meetings in January

Frank Sanclementi has a longer road of rehab ahead of him but is in good spirits and if he can get picked up will attend breakfasts and meetings

Tom Fiorilla is getting and sounding better but is still experiencing some problems and is awaiting further testing. Like Frank, if he can get a ride he would like to attend the breakfasts and meetings

Paul Thompson just had 55 stitches removed from his hand following surgery. He is going through physical therapy and is as enthusiastic as ever

Ed Streuli sounds good, however he is limited in terms of where and what he can do. With a little encouragement and a ride, he'll likely come back to meetings.

Bob, Costantin, Cliff Kozilkowski, Stanely Golemieski and Bill Delorenzo are being visited by several Marines from the detachment. If you see them, please forward updates on their condition to Charlie.

All of our Marines need us just as much as we need them. A phone call or a visit goes a long way and means a lot. Please take time and reach out to our brothers and always keep them in your prayers.

TAPS

2017



Harry “Hank” Kuhn Sr.

02-06-2017

Kenneth M. Fackina Sr.

09-29-2017

Rest in peace Marines.



*Breakfast with Santa- Christmas Breakfast
With*

*Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment #744
At The American Legion Hall
65 Oak Street, Oakland, NJ 07436*

*Invites you to our Third Saturday Monthly Breakfast
Saturday December 16th 8am-12pm*

*Enjoy Fresh Eggs Made to Order
Eggs Benedict
Omelets; Scrambled Eggs & Sausage Gravy
Pancakes; French Toast & Waffles
Bacon; Sausage; SOS & Corned Beef Hash
Home Fries & Biscuits
Donuts; Bagels & English Muffins
Coffee; Orange Juice & Pastries
Adults \$10.00
\$9.00 Seniors & children under 10 free*

*Bring your family and friends
Most Important Support Lakeland Detachment #744*

This Day in Marine Corps History

DECEMBER

4 December 1950: LtCol Raymond G. Davis led his battalion into Hagaru-Ri, Korea after four days of intense fighting in the mountain passes against a numerically superior hostile force. His battalion, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, helped clear the way for the 5th and 7th Marines, and LtCol Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

6 December 1928: A small detail of Marines under Captain Maurice G. Holmes defeated Nicaraguan bandits near Chuyelite. GySgt Charles Williams was mortally wounded during the fighting. Capt Holmes was later awarded the Navy Cross for gallantry, and a posthumous award was given to GySgt Williams.

8 December 1941: Japanese aircraft attacked Wake Island within hours of the fateful attack on Pearl Harbor. Marines of the 1st Defense Battalion and Marine Fighting Squadron 211 resisted Japanese invasion attempts for over two weeks before finally succumbing to an overwhelming

9 December 1992: Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations capable) landed in Somalia kicking off Operation Restore Hope, the largest humanitarian relief operation of its kind.

10 December 1995: In Bosnia, 22 Marines from Marine Corps Security Force Company, Naples, Italy were among the first American troops to arrive. They provided the security for Allied Forces Southern Europe headquartered at Sarajevo. About 2,500 NATO troops would be in place by 19 December taking on the task of peace enforcement in former Yugoslavia from the U.N.

15 December 1948: The Secretary of the Navy signed a "Memorandum of Agreement" with the State Department which laid the basis for the modern Marine Security Guard program at U.S. embassies throughout the world.

19 December 1972: The Marine detachment of the USS TICONDEROGA provided shipboard security for three U.S. astronauts, Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, Harrison Schmitt, and their Apollo-17 space capsule. The astronauts had successfully completed a (then) record lunar stay of more than 75 hours.

20 December 1989: Operation Just Cause was launched in Panama to protect American lives, restore the democratic process, preserve the integrity of the Panama Canal Treaty, and apprehend dictator General Manuel Antonio Noriega. One Marine, Corporal Garreth C. Isaak, was killed and three other were wounded during the operation.



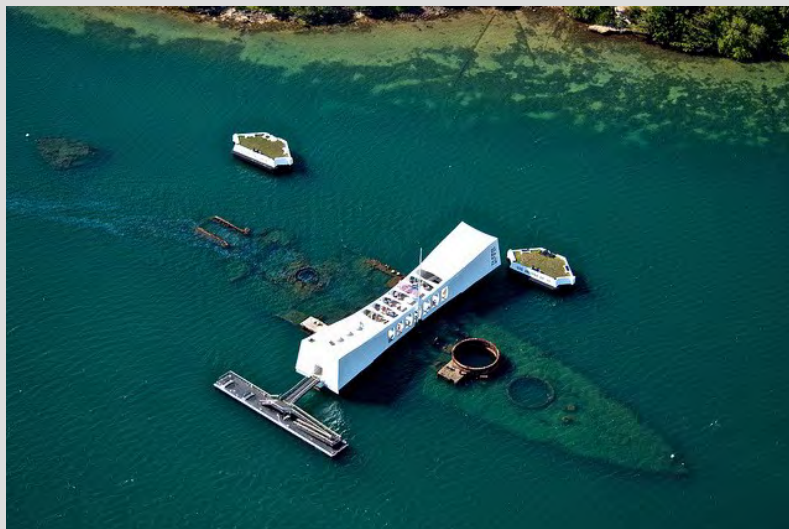


December 7, 1941

A date that will live in infamy

On December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan launched a surprise attack on our forces at Pearl Harbor and other military installations through out the Pacific basin. The attack was devastating to our armed forces especially for our brothers in the Navy and drew the United States in to what was to become the Second World War. History has recorded this tragic event as well as many other events through out the course of the war. As the generation that fought the battles in WWII passes on to their final duty station, it falls upon us to remember the events that lead up to the war and take the necessary action to prevent another major war that will draw our children or our grandchildren into battle.

Keep Watch and Remember



NEW Tax Exemption

All Veterans (as of now, the definition of a "veteran" is anyone with a DD-214 that shows Honorable Discharge) who are residents of New Jersey can get a \$3,000 personnel tax deduction from their income on STATE taxes for 2017. In order to get this deduction, the Veteran needs to submit a copy of their DD-214 and a form to the NJ Division of Taxation. The below link has all of the info and the form.

Please note that (1) the website says that it may take up to 3 months for this to be processed, so don't wait until April 15th to submit it; and (2) you have to print the form, sign it, and then scan it as a pdf in order to submit it on line. If you submit it online, then you will get 3 emails: confirmation that you submitted it; confirmation Taxation received it; and then a claim number from Taxation.

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/military/vetexemption.shtml>

Please share this with everyone you know!!!!

The New Tax Exemption takes 3 months to process with the NJ Division of Taxation. Don't wait until April 15th to file it with your taxes.

The following pages should be printed and kept in a safe place.

These pages contain important contact information for many veterans services and can be useful in coming years should you need to avail yourself of any of these services.

Health Care Benefits: 1-877-222-8387

Additional Numbers and Websites

Resource	Phone Number/Website
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
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Call Center for Homeless Veterans Hotline	1-877-424-3838
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.nrdir.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

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 Caregive 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

