



The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

December 2019 Newsletter

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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

December 2019

Merry Christmas, My Friend

**By James M. Schmidt, a Marine Lance Corporal
stationed at 8th & I in Washington, D.C., in 1986**

**Tw'as the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one-bedroom house made of plaster & 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 while
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.
He was 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.
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 and 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 is secure."
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.

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

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

HONOR--COURAGE--COMMITMENT

Chaplain's Page



During this holiday season we ask Lord, that you guide the leaders of our great country in all their decisions. The burden that has been placed on their shoulders is overwhelming. We ask that with Your infinite wisdom, You guide them gently to the right decision.

Help the families of all our military find peace in the knowledge that You are watching over their loved ones. Have us all be grateful for the most precious gift we have ever received, the gift of life you have given us. Help us to use that gift well and show us ways to help others.

Protect and guide our Military, oh Lord; strengthen them in their trials; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of Your abiding presence wherever they may be.

Amen

Submitted by Chaplin
Marine Les Derbyshire



5th Marines Christmas Party Dec 25, 1967 Vietnam

Service Officers Report

December 2019

From Paul Thompson

As the year is winding down everybody's thinking of the holidays coming upon us.

I know some of you send Christmas cards out, and some of you get Christmas cards sent to you each year. A lot of the veterans at the Paramus Veterans home could use your support with your holiday thoughts in a Christmas card.

If you know of a local school of any grade that would like to make Christmas cards up, please solicit their support now and see if you can have them ready for our next bingo on December 10th.

If you're unable to attend the bingo, at any time let me know and I can try to get the cards from you to deliver when I get over there.

If you're ever interested in volunteering some of your time at the hospital they could always use volunteers. As a volunteer there myself, I go on some of their off-station events and I know at times there's not many people that come out to help.

Last but not least, at every meeting I've been mentioning to everyone to get their house in order as far as having your paperwork organized and available to your love ones in case of emergency. Don't procrastinate, and don't assume that your love ones know where everything is.

Just do it!

Happy holidays to everyone and looking forward to see you soon!

Paul Thompson

201-320-3210





Happy Holidays Marines!

As we come into the holiday season this year, let us remember those that are on the front lines now defending our freedoms. Our armed forces are spread through out the world and in harms way. It's a feeling that each one of us experienced during our time of active duty. In 1980, I was stationed at MCAS Futema with H&MS Squadron 36. As a Lance Corporal (shortly to be promoted to Corporal), I not only drew Duty Section (25% of the base manpower was on Duty Section which meant that one had to report in at given times and be in or around the barracks when not actively at work) but I also drew squadron duty clerk for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. At least it beat walking a guard post around the OV10 Hangar and the Squadron Flight Line.

However, it was Christmas and thankfully there was no activity. My job was to answer the phones, drive the officer of the day if he needed to go anywhere and make sure that the guards received mid rats and breakfast. Since the phone was quiet (it only rang once about midnight which was base officer of the day), I got some reading in (I read Shogun in about 24 hours). Here I was, not quite 21 years old and half the world away from my family and although I had my roommates and my buddies that I hung out with, I was kind of pretty much alone. Except for the changing of the guard every 2 hours, the OOD pretty much left me alone. Being able to immerge myself into a really good book, was my only escape from the loneliness. All things being considered, it wasn't as bad as it could be. I'm positive that many of you have similar or much worse experiences. My point is, we understand what it's like to away from families during the holidays with virtually no one to support us. The one highlight I had, was that I was able to talk to my parents through a MARS Radio call after I got off duty. In today's world of modern communication capability, our Soldiers, Sailors, Air Force personnel, Coast Guard personnel and Marines have the ability to facetime, skype or instant message with their families at almost anytime.

When my niece was deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, she did facetime with my sister in law and my wife when she had free time. However, even with the communication advances, anyone standing guard duty on Christmas is alone. So when you raise a glass to celebrate the holidays, include them in your toast.

And when you pray, ask our lord to keep them safe and bring them home to their families. In the meantime, there are many ways which you can make an impact on the lives of those currently serving. Look up "ways to support the Military at Christmas" for ideas.



Starting with this month, I'm going to focus on a new column as part of my editorial. I'm calling it,

"Weapons of The Marine Corps"

Each Month, I'll select a specific weapon and go through it's history and how Marines used it.

So my first subject will be at the beginning. The first weapon used by Marines during the American Revolution was a Muzzle Loading Smooth Bore Musket. There were several varieties used by the Americans including Marines but the most common was the Brown Bess which was actually a British manufactured weapon. It fired either a round ball or a cluster of mini round balls giving it a shot gun effect.



There were 2 common types— the Short Land Pattern which was a shorter and less heavier version. The shorter barrel limited the effective range but increased loading time by 1 or 2 extra shots per minute. However, it also worked well with the cluster shot. The other was the Long Land Pattern (pictured left). The typical infantryman could load and fire between 3 and 4 rounds per minute. The best riflemen could get 5 shots off. The Long Land Pattern was the most common musket used by the Americans in the Revolutionary War. Both were a 0.75 Inch Caliber weapon

Other Muskets used by American Forces were the Charleville musket (pictured below), The American Musket and the Long Rifle. The Charleville Musket was a French production weapon and used a 0.69 Inch Caliber Smooth Bore Barrel. The average rifleman could get 3 rounds off in a minute.



Some of the muskets used by the Americans, were manufactured in the states by local gunsmiths. In most cases they used parts from other muskets. The notable difference is they never stamped a maker's mark in fear of reprisal from the British. The musket probably looked similar to the Brown Bess.

The last weapon was the Long Rifle of Pennsylvania/Kentucky fame. Manufactured by German Gunsmiths that had migrated to eastern Pennsylvania and later to Virginia and Kentucky, the Long Rifle was a more effective weapon as far as range went. While the Smooth Bore Muskets had a maximum range of about 100 yards against a column of infantry or 50 yards against a single enemy, the Long Rifle had an effective range of about 200 yards. It sacrificed reloading time though thus most Long Riflemen could only get about 2 rounds per minute off. The other advantage was that the cloud of black powder was much less from the rifle than the musket.

The other major weapon was the Bayonet which historians estimate contributed to about 1/3rd of the overall casualties on both sides of the American Revolution. Marines in the American Revolution used any of the above weapons effectively.



Back to my narrative on the Battle for the Chosin. The Chinese attacks on November 27/28 wreaked havoc on the UN Forces in the area. The Chinese PVA 59th Division blocked the road between Yudam-ni and Hagaru-ri and attacked the defending Charlie and Fox Companies of the 7th Marines. Charlie Company was forced to retreat into Yudam-ni, which left Fox Company commanded by Captain William E Barber isolated on a hill overlooking the Toktong Pass, a vital pass that controlled the road. On November 29, multiple attempts by the 7th Marines failed to rescue Fox Company, in spite of the heavy casualties that the Chinese received. Aided by artillery from Hagaru-ri and Marine Corsair Fighters Fox Company managed to hold out for five days while enduring constant attacks by the PVA 59th Division.

The Chinese Army was suffering very heavy losses inflicted by the 1st Marine Division and realized that the bulk of the division was at Yudam-ni with a garrison strength that was double the original estimate. Believing any more attacks on the 1st Marine Division would be futile, the Chinese 9th Army switch to attacking Sinhung-ni and Hagaru-ri on November 29/30. At the same time, the US 8th Army on the Korean western front was forced into a full retreat. Because of this, MacArthur ordered General Almond to withdraw US X Corps to the port of Hungnam. Acting on orders from General Smith, Lieutenant Colonel Raymond L. Murray and Colonel Homer L. Litzberg, commanders of the 5th and 7th Marines respectively, issued a joint order to break out from Yudam-ni to Hagaru-ri on November 30. Faced with tough fighting between the blocking Chinese divisions and the withdrawing Marines, Smith remarked: "Retreat, hell! We're not retreating, we're just advancing in a different direction."



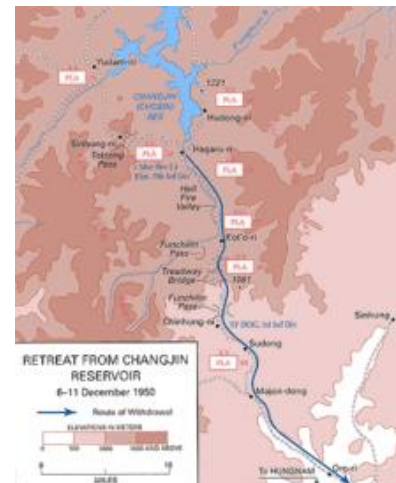
For the breakout, the Marines formed into a convoy with a single M4A3 Sherman tank as the lead. The plan was to have 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (3/5) as the vanguard of the convoy, with three battalions covering the rear. At the same time, 1st Battalion 7th Marines attacked towards Fox Company to open the road at Toktong Pass. While 1st of the 7th began their attack, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines had to attack south to begin the breakout. Hills 1542 and 1419 had to be taken first in order to cover the road from Chinese attacks. The breakout was carried out under the air cover of the 1st Marine Air Wing.

On December 1st, 3/7 Marines engaged the PVA 175th Regiment of the 59th Division at Hills 1542 and 1419. The Chinese defenders soon forced the Marines to dig in on the slopes between the road and the peaks when the convoy passed 3/7's position by the afternoon. With Hagaru-ri still not captured, the PVA High Command scrambled the 79th Division to resume attacks on Yudam-ni, while the 89th Division rushed south towards Kot'o-ri. The Chinese attacked at night, and the ferocity of the fighting forced the rear covering forces to call in night fighters to suppress the attacks. The fighting lasted well into the morning of December 2nd until all the Marines had managed to withdraw from Yudam-ni.

1/7 Marines attempted to break the Chinese blockade at Hill 1419. Despite being badly reduced by combat, hunger and frostbite, the PVA 59th Division sent in its last five platoons and refused to yield. As night approached, 1/7 finally captured the peak and started to march through the hills on the east side of the road. Using the element of surprise, they destroyed several Chinese positions along the road. On December 2nd, a joint attack by Fox Co and 1/7 secured the Toktong Pass, which opened the road between Yudam-ni and Hagaru-ri.



Now that the road was open, the convoy began to move. However, it still had to fight through numerous Chinese positions on the hills from which the Chinese could fire upon the convoy. That first night, the Chinese attacked the convoy in force causing heavy casualties on 3rd of the 5th Marines. Strong air support was able to suppress most of the Chinese activity for the rest of the march to Hagaru-ri. However, harassing fire, raids and roadblocks, forced the convoy to travel at a snail's pace. The convoy reached Hagaru-ri in an orderly fashion on the afternoon of December 3rd, with the withdrawal completed by the end of the next day.



The Chinese had also attacked Hagaru-ri the night of November 28th. Hagaru-ri was lightly defended by 2 battalions of the 1st and 7th Marines as well as engineers and rear support units from both Army and Marine Corps units. These were quickly placed into the front line as infantry to bolster defenses. The PVA 173rd Regiment did attack and in many locations break through to the American rear area. However, instead of consolidating their position, the units that were successful lost communication and began looting for food and clothing. Because of this American forces were able to regroup and eliminate the pockets of Chinese resistance. However, the rest of the Chinese 58th division was successful in establishing a blocking force south of Hagaru-ri effectively denying the road south to Koto-ri and Hungham. General Smith ordered Lt. Col Lewis "Chesty" Puller of the 1st Marine Regiment to form a Task Force to bring re-enforcements to Hagaru-ri.



Task Force Dysdale was formed of 941 effectives from the British 41st Marine Commando, G Co of the 1st Marines and B Co of the 31st Infantry. Under constant fire from the PVA 6th Division, the lead elements reached Hagaru-ri at nightfall with 162 dead or missing and 152 WIA. The rear element of the task force had been destroyed when it became separated from the main body. They did manage to bring 300 infantry to bolster the defense at Hagaru-ri.

On Dec 1st, the Airfield at Hagaru-ri began operations. Supplies and reinforcements were flown in and the dead and wounded were transported out. 1st MAF flew hundreds of sorties in support of the breakout to Hagaru-ri and by the end of the day the PVA 58th Division was wiped out. Once the 1st Marine Division had successfully driven to Hagaru-ri by the end of December 4th, they rested for 2 full days and began plans to breakout to Koto-ri and Hungham.



On December 6th, the breakout began. However, the Chinese 26th Corps consisting of the 76th and 77th Division arrived and began attacking. Marines of the 7th Marines and RCT 31 repulsed the attacks causing significant casualties. In the meantime, other Chinese force dug in at Funchilin Pass and blew up the treadway bridge as well as the concrete pilings. After fierce battles on December 9th, the hills surrounding Fuchilin Pass were cleared and the pass was reopened. Units from the 7th Marines literally found Chinese defenders frozen in their foxholes when they attacked the treadway bridge itself. C119 Flying Boxcars of the 314th Troop Carrying Wing parachuted 8 sections of portable bridging equipment and Marine Combat Engineers with the US Army 58th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company were able to successfully assemble 4 sections together with wooden trusses and reopen the road south. Having been outflanked, the remnants of the PVA 58th and 60th Divisions continued harassing attacks on the UN Column. All of these attacks were successfully repelled with devastating affect on the Chinese columns. The last UN forces left Fuchilin Pass on Dec 11th.

Starting on Dec 10th, the retreating units began to arrive in the Hungnam perimeter. General MacArthur had already ordered the evacuation of X Corps to reinforce the retreating 8th Army which had been in retreat toward the 38th Parallel. Hungnam was defended by the ROK I Corps, the ROK 1st Marine Regiment and the US 3rd and 7th Infantry Divisions. Units from X Corps began the process of embarking on 193 ships which has been called the largest evacuation by sea in history. Not only were Un Forces evacuated, but they brought out their heavy equipment and roughly 1/3rd of the North Korean refugees. There were scrimmages between defensive forces around Hungnam and the pursuing PVA 27th Corps but the People's 9th Army was in no condition to pursue a prolonged battle especially with US Naval Task Force 90 providing strong and accurate gun fire support. The last unit left Hanghum at 14:36 on December 24th and the port was destroyed to prevent the Chinese from using it. The PVA 27th Corps occupied Hanghum on December 25th.



The Aftermath and Assessment: The US X Corps and the ROK I Corps reported a total of 10,495 battle casualties: 4,385 US Marines, 3,163 US Army personnel, 2,812 South Koreans and 78 British Royal Marines. The 1st Marine Division also reported 7,338 non-battle casualties due to the cold weather, adding up to a total of 17,833 casualties. Despite the losses, the US X Corps preserved much of its strength. About 105,000 soldiers, 98,000 civilians, 17,500 vehicles, and 350,000 tons of supplies were shipped from Hungnam to Pusan. These troops rejoined the war effort in just a few months. 14 Marines, 2 Soldiers and 1 Naval Aviator were awarded the Medal of Honor while the 1st Marine Division, the 41st Royal Marines Commando and RCT 31 all received Presidential Unit Citations for their tenacity in battle. General Smith is credited with saving X Corps from destruction.

On the other hand, the PVA 9th Army suffered 19,202 combat casualties, and 28,954 non-combat casualties were attributed to the harsh Korean winter and lack of food. Total casualties thus amounted to 48,156 - about one third of its total strength. Outside of official channels, the estimation of Chinese casualties has been described as high as 60,000. The PVA 9th Army was put out of action for 3 months effectively reducing the number of Chinese divisions from 30 that were in North Korea on November 16 to 18 divisions on December 31, 1950.

Both sides could claim victory in several ways. The Chinese won the geographical part of the battle as they forced UN forces back south of the 38th Parallel. The Americans were able to keep all of their forces as a tactical unit along with their equipment. Marines spent January and much of February rebuilding and were back in action by the end of February. The UN Forces also inflicted such heavy casualties on the PVC 9th Army that it was out action until late March of 1951. The PVA 9th Army also had 2 outcomes that affected the course of the war dramatically. First, their victories in several minor battles with in the Battle for the Chosin, gave their commanders a false belief that they could easily defeat UN Forces which led to the expectation that they could perform miracles. The second thing was that the 8 elite divisions that comprised the PVA 20th and 27th Corps were so decimated by the battle that 2 of them had to disband. The primary result of the Battle of the Chosin was that the UN Forces failed to bring about the end of the war and the unification of Korea. The Korean War would continue until the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953.

As we reflect on the coming holiday season, please take a moment to thank our Korean War Veterans and pray for them.



Semper Fi,
Ken Gysbers
Editor



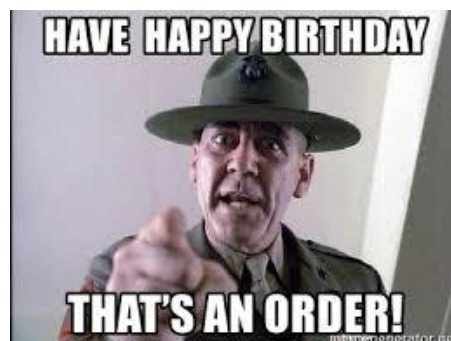
Quartermaster's Report

I usually don't ask much in the performance of my Quartermaster duties, but I was rather disappointed with the lack of help after the last breakfast. If it wasn't for Tom Corvetto, I wouldn't have had any help at all. Now there were special circumstances since I had to set the bins up for the Rose Event on the next day so it took a little longer than usual to break down. One might ask if it's worth setting up and I say it is because we typically average between \$300 and \$400 in a given month (the high was over \$600, the low under \$200). I'll present a more detailed report at the next meeting but it is worth the effort to set it up for the breakfasts. That being said, if you are at the breakfast and can lend a hand with breakdown, it will be much appreciated.

Semper Fi,
Ken Gysbers
Quartermaster



| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Frank Naklicki | 12/06 |
| Kevin Woodard Jr. | 12/10 |
| Dr. Pierre Guibor | 12/13 |
| Harold Moorhouse | 12/13 |
| Larry DeMaio | 12/21 |
| Don Laauwe | 12/21 |
| Eugene Brown | 12/26 |
| Paul Purcell | 12/28 |
| Ken Gysbers | 12/30 |



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Calendar of Events

December 2019

- 12/07/2019 Eagle Scout Court of Honor Tr.49, Oakland Jonathan Wong & Matthew Fishman--1300
- 12/07/2019 Color Guard to lead Pompton Lakes Parade for Holiday Stroll
- 12/10/2019 Bingo Paramus Veterans Home- - 1400
- 12/10/2019 Executive Board Meeting- - 1900
- 12/19/2019 Eagle Scout Court of Honor Tr.12 Livingston Max Shen--1800
- 12/19/2019 Detachment Meeting- - 1930
- 12/21/2019 3rd Saturday Breakfast 0800 to 1200
- 12/28/2019 Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Tr. 12, Livingston--James Keltos--1800

January 2020

- 01/14/2020 Bingo Paramus Veterans Home- - 1400
- 01/14/2020 Executive Board Meeting- - 1900
- 01/18/2020 3rd Saturday Breakfast 0800 to 1200
- 01/19/2020 NJ Dept. MCL meeting--Sea Girt--1200
- 01/23/2020 Detachment Meeting- - 1930



7 December 1941 109 Marines were killed and 69 were wounded during the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. In total, 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,143 were wounded.



8 December 1941, Marines from the 1st Defense Battalion and Marine Fighting Squadron 211 successfully repel the first of many Japanese attacks. They would hold until 23 December before being overwhelmed.



9 December 1992, Marines of the 15th MEU unload a LCAC at Mogadishu airport as part of Operation Restore Hope which was an UN sanction operation to provide secure humanitarian aid to the people of Somalia. A multi-nation task force provided security for food distribution.



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.



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



7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month

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

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

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Breakfast Dates

3rd Saturday of every month

0800 to 1200 Hours



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

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

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Regular Monthly Meeting

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

4th Thursday of the month (Except November December)

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

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

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



Desert Storm by Jake Hayes



Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack



Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to our Third Saturday Monthly Breakfast

At The American Legion Hall

65 Oak Street, Oakland, NJ 07436

SATURDAY December 21st 8AM-12 NOON

Come have an Outstanding Breakfast and a Good Time

Enjoy Fresh Eggs Made to Order

Eggs Benedict

Omelets; Scrambled Eggs & Sausage Gravy

Pancakes; French Toast & Waffles

Bacon; Sausage; SOS & Corned Beef Hash

Home Fries & Biscuits

Donuts; Bagels & English Muffins

Coffee; Orange Juice & Pastries

Adults: \$12.00, Seniors: \$10.00

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

Bring your family and friends

Most Important Support Lakeland Detachment #744

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



The Marine Corps League

Lakeland Detachment 744

Invites you to its:

ANNUAL MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

PLACE: Macaluso's, Hawthorne, NJ

DATE: Friday, November 15th, 2019

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

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

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



MARINES
THE FEW. THE PROUD.

Current Operation Notes:

On Monday Nov 11, the we rendered honors at the Memorial in Pompton Lakes and at Chilton Hospital.



On Friday Nov 15th the detachment held our annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Macaluso's. The oldest Marine present, Anthony Lechniak received the first piece of cake as per tradition. In addition, the detachment presented a Quilt from Quilts of Valor to Tony in honor of his Iwo Jima service and his long time membership in the detachment.



On Saturday November 30th, the Toys for Tots train arrived in Oakland at noon. For approximately 1 hour, the residents of Oakland assisted with loading over 2000 unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.



\$6000 NJ Veterans Income Tax Deduction

Treasurer Muoio Urges NJ Veterans to Apply for Newly Doubled \$6,000 Income Tax Exemption November 7, 2019 (TRENTON) – With the Veterans Income Tax Exemption doubling to \$6,000 for 2019, State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio is urging New Jersey veterans to check their eligibility and pre-certify to make claiming the exemption easier during tax filing season.

“Under the law signed by Governor Murphy earlier this year, the veteran’s income tax exemption has now doubled to \$6,000,” said Treasurer Muoio. “We can never fully repay our service men and women for their sacrifices, but it is our hope that this increased benefit will make a sizable difference for veterans acclimating to civilian life, raising a family, or living on a retirement budget. Our personnel in the Division of Taxation stand ready to help and urge veterans to pre-certify to expedite the process when it comes time to file.”

Muoio noted that since the exemption went into effect for the 2017 tax year, Treasury’s Division of Taxation has conducted extensive outreach in concert with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to ensure veterans are aware of this benefit. That initiative included outreach to civic organizations and veterans groups, public presentations by Taxation staff, an informative online video, and numerous other initiatives. As a result, the Division of Taxation has pre-certified roughly one-third of the state’s approximately 400,000 eligible veterans to date.

Applicants need only apply the first year they claim the exemption. A veteran’s spouse or civil union partner, who is also a veteran, can take the exemption if they are filing a joint return. However, a veteran cannot claim this exemption for a domestic partner or dependents.

Veterans who file paper New Jersey Income Tax returns (NJ-1040) or Non-Resident Income Tax returns (NJ-1040NR) must:

Enclose a copy of Form DD-214, Certificate of Release, or Discharge from Active Duty, with their tax returns the first time they claim the exemption(s). This form does not need to be submitted each year. The United States National Archives and Records Administration can assist with obtaining DD-214.

Check the oval on a resident tax return that indicates the veteran is taking the exemption, or click the box on the non-resident return that indicates a veteran is taking an exemption.

Veterans who normally electronically file their New Jersey Income Tax return (NJ-1040) or New Jersey Non-Resident Income Tax return (NJ-1040NR) should pre-certify for this exemption by sending necessary documents before filing taxes. This will allow returns to be processed without delay or time lost because of requests for additional proof of exemption status.

There are three ways to send materials to the Division of Taxation:

By mail:

New Jersey Division of Taxation

Veteran Exemption

PO Box 440

Trenton, NJ 08646-0440

By secure upload:

<https://www.njportal.com/DOR/TCM/>

Use POB 440 Code: VET

By fax: (609) 633-8427

Treasurer Muoio also encouraged New Jersey veterans, their spouses, and caregivers to take advantage of other tax benefits that the state offers.

Important: Even if you filed for the previous \$3000 deduction, you must file this form to qualify for the \$6000 deduction. A printable copy of the form is on the next page.



Veteran Income Tax Exemption Submission Form

You Must Send a Copy of Your [Official Discharge Document](#) With This Form.

We only need a copy of your records the first time you claim the exemption. Once you receive confirmation we have accepted your discharge paperwork, you claim the exemption on your return annually.

You do not need to provide documentation each year.

Personal Information

Name: _____
Last *First*

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth _____

Spouse Name: _____
Last *First*

Spouse Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth _____

Address: _____
Street Address *Apartment/Unit #*

City *State* *ZIP Code*

Home Phone: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Spouse Signature: _____ Date: _____

Where to Send the Completed Form

Online, use our secure document [upload](#) feature.
Enter the notice code **VET** and select **PO Box 440**;

Mail, with a copy of your [discharge document](#) to:

**New Jersey Division of Taxation
Veteran Exemption
PO Box 440
Trenton, NJ 08646-0440; or**

Fax with a copy of your [discharge document](#) to: **609-633-8427**.

Military Humor

Marines are known for storming the beaches, not for romance. I witnessed this firsthand at the base in Twentynine Palms, California. One of the enlisted men complimented the receptionist's flowered jacket.

"It's very pretty," he said shyly.

"Thank you," she replied coyly.

"Yeah," he went on. "It looks just like my mother's sofa."

On Patrol Training:

When I was an infantry platoon commander, my Marines trained regularly for night time reconnaissance patrol. As we moved along, each of us would whisper the name of any obstacle to the person behind so that no one would be surprised and utter a cry that would disclose our position.

During one exercise, the lead man in the formation occasionally turned around and whispered to me "Log" or "Rock," which I would pass along. Suddenly there was a crash ahead of me and from several feet down I heard a single whispered word—"Hole."





1-855-838-8255
Vets4Warriors.com

24/7 peer support for Service members and their families



Call Toll-Free at 855-838-8255,
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.



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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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.



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You live far away from your VA facility.



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.



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veteran's Information

Ed Korek

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Veteran's Service Officer

201-317-1678

Veterans Administration

Department of Veteran's Affairs

20 Washington Place

Newark, NJ 07102-3174

800-827-1000

Veterans Campus Lyons

151 Knollcroft Rd

Lyons, NJ 07939

908-647-0180 (Phone)

908-647-3452 (Fax)

Veterans Service Officer

Vietnam Veterans of America

Margaret Wojciechowicz

973-297-3227

Passaic Veterans Service Officers

930 Riverview Dr Suite 200

Totowa, NJ 07512

John Harris / Richard Mannes

973-569-4090

Bergen Division of Veterans Services

One Bergen County Plaza , 2nd Floor

Hackensack, NJ 07601

Richard Paul, Director

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

Marine Corps League Information

Marine Corps League

National Web Site:

<http://www.mcnational.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)

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