

# The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

January 2021 Newsletter

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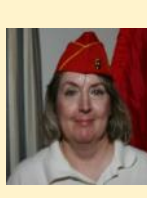
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## Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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



## COMMANDANT'S CORNER

### Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment—744 January 2021

Another year has flown by and I know we were all ready to say goodbye to the year 2020. Let's say hello and give a big Lakeland Detachment welcome to 2021 and, hopefully, a much better year. Let us reflect on the following accomplishments as a Detachment in 2020:

On May 30th, approximately 5-6 blocks of vehicles comprised of family, friends and Lakeland Marines gathered for a motorcade drive by to honor the 98th birthday of our friend and Brother Marine, Anthony Lechniak. It was a memorable event with Tony, his Daughter, Joan and her family waving to us from their lawn as the motorcade drove by, with horns blaring. Tony was a Combat Engineer serving in the Pacific Campaign on Iwo Jima and other islands. In 2019 at our 244th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Tony was honored with a Quilt of Honor which was made by my High School classmate, Gloria Planer, who resides in Georgia and is a member of the Quilt of Honor Foundation. The year, 2021 is not starting out in a happy mode, as it is with sadness that I report the passing of Tony at noon on January 3, 2021. Rest in Peace my Friend and Brother. We all miss you very much. You are now in charge of the Marines guarding the streets of Heaven. Semper Fidelis.

We acknowledged and honored four (4) Eagle Scouts

We attended one State MCL meeting. The convention was obviously cancelled.

We held 2 Saturday breakfasts, 10 Detachment meetings and 11 Executive Board meetings either outdoors or through ZOOM.

Conducted ceremonies for fallen Detachment Marines, James Bachman Jr. Bob Bateson, Bob Costantin and Larry DeMaio. In addition, we lost former Detachment members, Gene Frederick, Jr. Bob Moir and Roger Phillips. Roger and I served together on the Drill Platoon at 8<sup>th</sup> & I. He called me several years ago wanting to join a MCL Detachment. I said I would get him some information on Detachments in his area since he lived in Silver Spring, Maryland. He said no, that he wanted to belong to our Detachment. I received his paperwork, dues and swore him in by phone in December, 2016. He was a great guy and Marine and I miss him very much.

Conducted 1 Bingo event at the Paramus Veterans Home. Job well done by our Marine volunteers. Unfortunately, Covid-19 and a flu outbreak at the home curtailed the rest of our plans.

Held Detachment rifle match at Cherry Ridge in October.

After a brief hiatus we again sponsored the Detachment Golf outing on 09/11/20 at Preakness Hills Country Club. Thanks to Bob Ranzinger for chairing this event and to his committee. Everyone contributed to making this a huge success in true Marine Spirit.

Unfortunately, our annual Detachment Birthday Ball to celebrate the 245th Marine Corps Birthday had to be cancelled. However, On November 10, 2020, 25 Detachment members celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday at Mack's American Bar and Grill in Pompton Lakes.

We participated at two street dedication ceremonies in Hawthorne.

Our Color Guard was represented at the Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremony in Pompton Lakes as well as a Veterans Day memorial service at Chilton Hospital.

Inducted 1 returning member, my good friend and Brother Marine, Barry Milligan. Welcome back, Barry.

December marked the start of a monthly Drop n' Go take out meal program initiated by Mike McNulty and Mike Volpe. This was a success for a first venture and hopefully additional notice will be circulated to make this fundraising event a huge success. In this way we'll be able to donate more funds to worthy veterans causes which we were unable to do this year. Ken Gysbers created a Ships' Store on-line list and was also open during the December Drop n' Go event. Great job, Ken.

Donated \$5,879.00 to several veteran's causes.

Participated at the Uniform Commemoration Ceremony at Teaneck Library for retired General Peter Pace who was a former resident of Teaneck and attended Teaneck High School. He also is a retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Participated in the John Basilone Motorcade in September.

Our annual election of Officers was conducted by our Judge Advocate Ray Sears with certification and installation by our State Representatives. The elected officers are: Chris Cioppa as Sr. Vice Commandant, Len Graff as Jr. Vice Commandant, Peter Alvarez as Paymaster/Adjutant, Ray Sears as Judge Advocate and Mike McNulty as Sgt. at Arms. Appointed officers are Chris Cioppa as Marine for Life Liaison, Ray Sears as Range Officer, Paul Thompson as Service Officer assisted by John Harris. Ken Gysbers as Quartermaster assisted by Kelly Cole. Ken Gysbers as the Editor of our Detachment newsletter, The Grunt. Ken continues to do an outstanding job as our Editor and I'm glad that he remains in that position. Les Derbyshire as our Chaplain, assisted by Dennis Kievit and Ted Wurster (who is currently on sick leave, without pay). Theresa Muttel as Secretary.

As we look forward to 2021, we can do so with the knowledge that our Detachment is strong because our members participate and contribute to the success of our Detachment. As Marines and Corpsmen of our Detachment, we can be counted on to do our very best. I'm extremely proud of our members and look forward to a successful 2021.

At this time, I am announcing that this will be my final year as Commandant of MCL, Lakeland Detachment—744. This will complete my seventh year as Commandant and, although, I have enjoyed this assignment and the confidence, faith and trust you have bestowed on me, I feel it is time for new leadership for the future benefit of the Detachment. I will continue as a member and assist in any capacity where I feel I can be of value. Thank you all for a great seven years. You are all fine men, women, Marines and Corpsman and I'm proud to know and to have served with you.

I wish everyone a very Bright, Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. God Bless the Marine Corps League, The United States Marine Corps and God Bless THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

**HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT**

## In Memorial

Anthony Lechniak

May 30, 1922 - January 3, 2021



Tony as the oldest Marine present, looks on as Lt Col Lanza cuts the first slice of the Marine Corps Birthday Cake at the Detachment 2017 Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Assisting Col Lanza are GySgt Monaco, Sgt Monaco and Les Derbyshire as Detachment Chaplain.



Tony pictured on May 30, 2020 during his 98th Birthday Drive By Celebration.

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of

Anthony “Tony” Lechniak

Tony was a long time member of MCL Lakeland 744. He served with the 5th Marine Division as a combat engineer during the battle for Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest battles in Marine Corps history. The 5th Marine Division landed on Green & Red Beaches northeast of Mt Suribachi. Tony landed with the first wave. The 15 foot slope of volcanic ash was difficult at best for Marines to navigate over and they made little progress. The Japanese defenders waited for an hour before they opened up. For the next 36 days, the Japanese put up a stubborn defense. In the end the Marines, including Tony, would prevail, however suffering over 26,000 casualties including over 6,000 KIA. He always said some people were born with a silver spoon in their hand but he was born with a shovel in his and knew the value of hard work. Tony returned home, got married, moved with family in tow to Brooklyn and finally settled in Oakland. He was an active member of our detachment and for the past several Marine Corps Birthday Balls, was the oldest Marine present for the cake cutting ceremony. In 1995, he was selected as the Grand Marshall of the Oakland Memorial Day Parade. He was a friend to many in the detachment and will be missed.

Tony as Grand Marshall of the Oakland Memorial Day Parade 1995 with several detachment members and Holly Schepisi, Assemblywoman NJ





## Marine Anthony (Tony) Lechniak

May 30, 1922 ~ January 3, 2021 (age 98)

Tribute

Anthony Lechniak, 98, of Oakland, NJ passed away on January 3, 2021 in the comfort of his home. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Lechniak. He is survived by his three children, Tina Keller, Robert Lechniak, and Joan Charyak, his four grandchildren, Mary Lechniak, James Megin, Emily Megin, and Dana Megin, and several nieces, nephews, and extended family.



Tony was born May 30, 1922 in the coal country of Pennsylvania, he grew up to be a jack-of-all-trades. He always said some people were born with a silver spoon in their hand but he was born with a shovel in his and knew the value of hard work.

Tony finished 8th grade and started working in the coalmines and his knowledge was put to good use as a demolitions expert in the Marines. Tony was drafted at the age of 22 and selected the Marine Corps as his branch of service.

Tony Served as a Corporal in the United State Marine Corps from 1944 until 1946. After completing boot camp at Parris Island, So. Carolina, Tony was assigned to the 5th Marine Division as a combat engineer. Tony landed on Iwo Jima in the first wave on February 19, 1945 at 9:05 am. His job was to make his way to Japanese machine gun emplacements and hurl satchel charges loaded with explosives into the enemy nests and caves. He fought on Iwo for 36 long days and nights wearing the same clothes, with no showers, washing or brushing of teeth. Tony witnessed the flag being raised at the top of Mt. Suribachi by six brave Marines and then the larger flag being raised in its place by five Marines and one Navy Corpsman.

Tony was a Member of Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744 since March 2003.

### Visitation

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Friday, January 8, 2021

Oakland Memorial Home

330 Ramapo Valley Road

Oakland, New Jersey, 07436

201/337-6161

MCL will meet at funeral home at 1500

Uniform for both will be Aviator Shirt with Black tie, Black shoes, Black trousers and belt, P;Cutter, Red jacket

### Funeral Liturgy

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM Saturday, January 9, 2021

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

117 Franklin Ave.

Oakland, NJ 07436

MCL will meet at church at 0900 to serve as Honor Guard

### Burial

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Saturday, January 9, 2021

Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Cemetery

Margarton Street

Marion Heights, Pennsylvania, 17834

### **Face coverings are required!**

The Family has requested that the “Lakeland Detachment” perform:

**“Marine Corps League Fallen Marine Ceremony”**

**at Oakland Memorial Home on Friday January 8, 2021 at 3:00 P/M.**

The Family has requested in lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Tony's memory to the:

**MCL 744 P.O. Box 8 Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008**

## Chaplain's Page

### A New Year – New Hope...

**But, as I look back over the past year, I feel many emotions. So many lives lost to this awful virus. People losing everything. Others blind to their pain. A nation divided. Friendships severed and respect lost.**

**Let us pray:**

**Dear Lord please help us to control the virus.**

**Mend the ever deepening divide that plagues our nation.**

**We pray that people open their eyes and truly see the pain of others struggling to survive. Have people learn to help those struggling, not take from them for their own selfish gain.**

**Our prayer is that the loss and hardships of the past year will have taught us to value what we have and give You thanks for the many gifts You give us.**

**We thank You for life and vow to live each day to the fullest understanding all lives are important and must be valued.**

**As we enter this New Year we pray that You guide us along the path of understanding. Have us work together and help each other as our country mends.**

**Give us strength to face the many challenges that still lay ahead.**

**In your name we pray.**

**Amen**

**Submitted by**

**Les Derbyshire  
Chaplain**





## ***Service Officers Report***

***November 2020***



*From Paul Thompson*

***Throughout the year I post as much information I can to bring everyone up to-date with Veteran issues. A lot of the information this past year was via my emails I get through the VA; which in turn I forward to Charlie.***

***Also you've seen other veterans passing on information through emails also.***

***After a while it gets to be a lot to absorb and comprehend.***

***The last email from me, to Charlie, was about the COV-19 shot availability.***

***The VA hasn't worked it out for us Veterans yet (they say they'll contact us personally), but if anyone is contacted from the VA about the shot, please let us know.***

***I had heard from the VA that it might be easier to get it from your personal physician, but nobody can confirm this yet. IMPORTANT!: Please pay attention to anything you get from the VA. Note: Up Date: You can apply on line to have them contact you when it's available. There will be an application you must submit .***

***It's a crazy world out there anymore, so sometimes we hear news that may not be the case.***

***Nearly 4,700 military veterans who've been treated at federal Veterans Affairs facilities have died from Covid-19 this year which is more than the death toll in the nine-year occupation of Iraq and double that of the 19-year Afghanistan War. From: The Daily Beast, November 27, 2020***

***Paul Thompson,***

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Service Officer's Report Addition:



We've received Moderna COVID-19 vaccines at facilities across the country

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized a second COVID-19 vaccine, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. We've received Moderna vaccines at 113 VA facilities across the country. These are in addition to our supply of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines at 52 VA facilities.

To learn more about the 2 authorized COVID-19 vaccines, read the FDA fact sheets:

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet (PDF) Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) to open

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet (PDF) Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) to open

What to expect over the next several months

We'll have a limited amount of COVID-19 vaccines during this time. We'll continue to follow our phased plan for providing vaccines to VA health care personnel and Veterans. Our goal is to do the most good for the most people.

If you're eligible to get a vaccine, your VA health care team will contact you. You don't need to reserve a vaccine, or come to a VA facility to request or receive a vaccine until we contact you. Our staff will only provide vaccines to Veterans who are currently eligible for one based on VA and CDC risk criteria.

To learn more about our vaccine plans, go to our main vaccine information page.

What you can do now

- Apply for VA health care. When more vaccines become available, we plan to offer a free COVID-19 vaccine to all Veterans receiving VA health care who want one. If you're not currently receiving health care through VA, you can apply now.
- Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines. For the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines at VA, go to our main vaccine information page. For information about how COVID-19 vaccines work, possible side effects, and answers to common questions, go to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website.
- Talk to your VA health care provider. If you have questions about how your personal risk for COVID-19 will determine when you can get a vaccine, send a secure message to your provider. If you don't receive care at VA, contact our primary health care provider.
- Protect yourself from scams. Remember, we'll never ask you for your personal information in an email. We'll also never include links that take you to a non-secure page that asks you to provide this information. If someone calls you about getting a vaccine, be sure to verify that they're your VA provider. For more tips on how to avoid COVID-19 scams, go to the Federal Communications website.

You're receiving this email because you signed up on [VA.gov](http://VA.gov) to get updates about our COVID-19 vaccine plans. If someone forwarded this email to you, you can sign up to receive future updates.

Please don't reply to this email. If you need to contact us, go to <https://www.va.gov>.

**[Editor's Note: In order to open any of the PDF Links, you will need to go to the VA Web Site: www.va.gov as the links failed to copy over from the original document.](http://www.va.gov)**



Editor's Page

Greetings Marines,



Best wishes for a Happy and more importantly a Healthy New Year. As I look back at the past year, I count the many blessings in my life at the same time taking notice of everything that has happened and is happening around me. I've given great thought to the age old question, why wasn't it me? Why did Liz get Covid and not me? Why did she have to suffer when I didn't. Why did people I know get it but yet I had nothing. Why was I able to work when others still aren't working? I'm not a combat veteran, but I would bet that one of the many questions that those who are combat veterans had and probably still have is why did I get to come home when others didn't?

I think I can answer that to some degree—it wasn't your time. I'm a firm believer that God and only God knows when it's your time. Until that time, you have a purpose in life and it's entirely upon you to determine that purpose. It is only until that time when God knows that you have fulfilled that purpose, that you will be ready. Time for a self check—are you living up to your purpose?

It's been a rough year and we've lost many friends and some family members and I'm starting off the new year with 6 funerals that I know of. Some had small immediate family funerals while other held funerals within the guidelines established by our Governor. At every funeral or wake that I attend, I say the following prayer privately which goes as follows:

Heavenly Father,

Please take our brother (or sister) now fallen asleep and bring them to live with you in heaven. Comfort their family and friends with the knowledge that they are with you now and that they will join them in Heaven in your time. This I ask in your holy name, Amen.

I learned this prayer from the minister of the church I went to when I lived with my folks before I was married. It was one that he used at my mom's funeral in 1986 and I say it at every funeral I attend.

In a year filled with so much loss and diversity, there have been a few positives. As a detachment we weren't able to have regular meetings but we were able to get together under established guidelines. We weren't able to have out monthly breakfasts but our kitchen staff made a take out dinner in December that was able to bring some badly needed funds into the detachment coffers. We weren't able to fund raise at all this year with all of our Rose Events being cancelled. Hopefully, the kitchen staff will be able to continue with take out dinners and bring funds back into the detachment so we can continue our purpose of supporting Marines and many other Veterans which we were unable to do so last year.

In the meantime, lets resolve to continue to do our part in staying healthy. Wear a mask, be socially distant, wash your hands often and be smart, especially when it comes to your health—see your doctor for your normal health concerns—don't let them get out of control. Support your local businesses when you can. Keep the faith, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers, Editor

January's history narrative covers the end of Operation Desert Shield and the beginning of Operation Desert Storm. One could argue that Operation Desert Shield began shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August of 1990. The middle east was (and still is) a hotbed of localized conflict. This has been ongoing for centuries and if you research a bit, you'll find that much of the conflicts go as far back as early biblical times.

What made August 2nd 1990 any different than other previous invasions and occupations? Simply put, Iraq at that point had the 4th largest army in the world while Kuwait's total military was around 16,000 with about 1/3 on leave. The reasons for the attack and later annexation of Kuwait boiled down to 3 things—a border dispute, money and oil.



Iraq in green and Kuwait in orange.

Now for a little back ground, During the cold war, Iraq was a long time ally of Russia and for a very long period of time had a history of friction with the US. The US was not fond of the diplomatic stance that Iraq took in regards to the Israeli—Palestine issues and in fact had Iraq named on the US List of State Sponsors of Terrorism due to its' support of many Arab Militant organizations.

During the war between Iraq and Iran in 1980, the US officially remained neutral. However, in 1982 after a successful counteroffensive by Iran, the US began to increase it's support to Iraq in order to prevent Iran from forcing a surrender. By the time the ceasefire was arranged in August 1988, Iraq was heavily in debt—primarily to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. It owed Kuwait roughly about \$14 billion and \$26 Billion to Saudi Arabia was pressuring both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to forgive both debts.

Kuwait was originally part of the Ottoman Empire's province of Basra which Iraq claimed to be part of Iraqi Territory. Kuwait's ruling dynasty, the al-Sabah family, had concluded a protectorate agreement in 1899 that assigned responsibility for Kuwait's foreign affairs to the United Kingdom. The UK drew the border between Kuwait and Iraq in 1922, making Iraq almost entirely landlocked. Kuwait rejected Iraqi attempts to secure further provisions in the region.



Map of the Ottoman Empire 1899

Iraq also held Kuwait responsible for the overproduction of oil that defied OPEC guidelines. Kuwait and the UAE (United Arab Emirates) both over produced over their quotas in order cover their losses during the Iraq/Iran war. However by doing so, both countries lowered the price per barrel from the \$18 per barrel that OPEC established to as low as \$10 per barrel. This amounted to a \$7 billion dollar per year loss to Iran. In addition, Iraq accused Kuwait of slant drilling into Iraq's Rumaila Oil Field right across the border.

On July 15, 1990, Saddam Hussein gave a statement to the Arab League defining the issues as Iraq saw them. In his statement, he laid out the Arab League policies that were costing Iraq about \$1 Billion per year. He also complained about Kuwait's continued overproduction of oil and brought up the Israeli/Palestine issue. He called for the return of land that the Israeli's had taken over in several wars since the establishment of the Israeli state in 1947. He stated that loans made by the UAE and Kuwait to it's Arab Brothers should not be considered debts. And he threatened to invade Kuwait if all of his demands were not met. By this point, the US had already seen hard intelligence that Iraqi forces were consolidating at the Kuwait border.

The US Naval Fleet was put on alert. On July 25th, Saddam met with US Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie. Saddam told her:

So what can it mean when America says it will now protect its friends? It can only mean prejudice against Iraq. This stance plus maneuvers and statements which have been made has encouraged the UAE and Kuwait to disregard Iraqi rights ... If you use pressure, we will deploy pressure and force. We know that you can harm us although we do not threaten you. But we too can harm you. Everyone can cause harm according to their ability and their size. We cannot come all the way to you in the United States, but individual Arabs may reach you ... We do not place America among the enemies. We place it where we want our friends to be and we try to be friends. But repeated American statements last year made it apparent that America did not regard us as friends.

Glaspie replied:

I know you need funds. We understand that and our opinion is that you should have the opportunity to rebuild your country. But we have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreement with Kuwait ... Frankly, we can only see that you have deployed massive troops in the south. Normally that would not be any of our business. But when this happens in the context of what you said on your national day, then when we read the details in the two letters of the Foreign Minister, then when we see the Iraqi point of view that the measures taken by the UAE and Kuwait is, in the final analysis, parallel to military aggression against Iraq, then it would be reasonable for me to be concerned.

Saddam would try one last attempt at the negotiation table. He put out a demand of \$10 Billion to the UAE and Kuwait. Kuwait offer \$500 Million on Aug 1st. On August 2nd, 1990 Saddam order his forces to attack Kuwait. Within 12 hours all military resistance had ended and the royal family and government officials fled south to safe harbor in Saudi Arabia. Roughly about 20% of Kuwait's military also was able to escape to the south. Within hours of the attack, The US and Great Britain called for an immediate meeting of the UN Security Council which immediately condemned the attack and called for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. On August 3rd, the Arab League issued it's own decree calling for the dispute to be resolved within the league and warned against outside interference. On August 6th, the UN passed resolutions that put economic sanctions on Iraq and calling for a naval blockade to enforce the economic sanctions. On August 8th Saddam annexed Kuwait and established a paramilitary government, installing his brother as acting governor.



Iraqi T-72 Tanks—the mainstay of the Iraqi Army.

The US Administration had been plausibly cautious in it's reaction to the Iraqi invasion. While we supported the economic sanctions and the naval blockage, we did not want to go any further aside from bringing Saddam back to the negotiating table. It took Margaret Thatcher's reminding that negotiation along with giving in to demands in the 1930s resulted in a world wide war. If allowed to continue, Saddam and Iraq could conceivably control 65% of the world's oil supply. After this, the US stance was to have Iraq remove it's troops from Kuwait and the Kuwait government restored with out any linkage to other issues in the middle east. On November 29, the UN Security Council issued a resolution calling for the withdrawal from Kuwait by January 15, 1991 and that military force after this date to enforce the resolution by member countries was

authorized. The US, at the request of the Saudi monarch King Fahd, had started a military build up in Saudi Arabia on August 7 code named Operation Desert Shield which was originally designed to be a defensive mission to prevent an Iraqi attack into the Saudi Arabian oil fields. When Saddam annexed Kuwait on August 8th as the 19th province of Iraq, that changed from a defensive posture to an offense build up.



USAF F15 Fighters in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield



President Bush visits the troops on Thanksgiving 1990 in Saudi Arabia.

In September, Secretary of State James Baker traveled to 9 countries over 11

days to ensure financial support for the operation to remove Iraq from Kuwait. The first stop was Saudi Arabia which had already asked for military aid in defending against Iraq. King Fahd readily committed to \$15 Billion on the condition that Kuwait be asked to do the same. Subsequently, the Emir of Kuwait also committed to \$15 Billion for the restoration of Kuwait. Baker's next stop was President Mubarak of Egypt who was furious with Saddam over the invasion of Kuwait. Thought of as the "moderate voice of

the Middle East, Mubarak committed to providing support and troops for the US led intervention at the cost of \$7 Billion of Egyptian debt to the US. Baker went on to Helsinki and Moscow to smooth out Iraqi demands for peace talks through the Soviet Union. He then traveled to Syria which did not have diplomatic relationships of any type with the US since the 1983 bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut.

President Hafez Assad had a deep personal enmity toward Saddam Hussein rooted in the fact that Saddam had been trying to assassinate him for years. Impressed with Baker's diplomatic

initiative, he pledged 100,000 Syrian troops which was a major step in ensuring that Arab states were represented in the coalition. In return, he received permission to wipe out opposition forces in Lebanon and weapons funneled through gulf states. In Iran, Baker got committed support in exchange for removal of the US objection to loans from the World Bank to Iran. On January 15, 1991, the World Bank issued its first loan of \$250,000 to Iran. Baker's next stop was Italy, where a pledge was given for military equipment followed by a visit with Germany's Chancellor Kohl who was a long time supporter of US policy in the middle east. Due to the nature of Germany's constitution which forbade the use of the German Military outside of Germany (it should be noted that the US wrote the German Constitution as part of the rebuilding after WWII), Kohl pledged \$2 Billion and assistance with transporting Egyptian forces to Saudi Arabia.



Nations that deployed coalition forces or provided support .

A coalition of forces opposing Iraq's aggression was formed, consisting of forces from 39 countries:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States. It was the largest coalition of forces since WWII. The Soviet Union did condemn the invasion of Kuwait but did not support the US led coalition and tried to avert it. Germany and Japan did not commit any military forces



but did contribute \$10 Billion and \$6.6 Billion respectfully to the coalition. US troops represented about 73% of the 956,600 coalition forces.

On January 16, 1991, Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm. At 2:38 AM on January 17, 1991, the Air Campaign officially began with the attack by 8 AH64 Apache Helicopters and 2 MH63 Pave Low Helicopters on Iraqi radar installations near the Iraqi/Saudi Arabia border. At 3:00 AM interdiction sorties began on military, command and control and Iraq infrastructure targets through out Iraq. Iraq Air Force and Air Defense forces where among the most important targets. Scud Missiles were also priority targets. For the next 42 days coalition air forces would fly over 1000 sorties a day dropping over 88,000 pounds of bombs. Although the bulk of the sorties came from Air Force units stationed in Saudi Arabia and Navy units operating from 6 carrier groups in the Persian Gulf, several Marine air units participated in the air war phase of Desert Storm including units from 3rd MAF.

Coalition Air Forces did what they set out to do. They managed to strike command and control centers with extreme efficiency. And in the first week, the Iraqi Air Force lost 36 aircraft to only a few



by coalition air forces. On January 24th, Iraq attempted an offensive air strike against a Saudi oil refinery. Two Iraqi F1 Mirage Fighters laden with incendiary bombs took off with 2 Iraqi Mig 23s for

fighter cover. An Air Force AWACs spotted them and 2 Royal Saudi Air Force F15s were sent to intercept. The MIG23s turned back. The F1 Mirages continued on and were destroyed by the Saudi F15s. The last offensive air attack by Iraq was an attempt to shoot down F15s patrolling the border. After this, they sent the remnants of their Air Force to Iran in hopes that they would eventually get the men and planes back. Iran would return the men after several years but held onto the aircraft until 2014 when they returned 88 of the approximate 140 that escaped during the Gulf War. After this, the coalition air forces enjoyed air superiority. Their primary mission became tracking SCUD missile sites and supporting ground forces. It should be noted that Wild Weasel and EA6B missions were particularly successful. Unlike Vietnam where SAM operators shut down their radars, Iraq operators left them on enabling targeting and destruction of SAM sites. Coalition forces lost 75 aircraft during Desert Storm. The US lost 1 FA18 in Air to Air Combat and 43 aircraft to Anti Aircraft fire. In February, I'll cover specifics on the ground war phase of Desert Storm.



USAF F117 Nighthawk



A6E Intruder during Desert Storm



CH53 of HMH466 during Desert Storm



## Weapons of the Marine Corps

### Artillery Continued

After WW1, the Marine Corps while actively fighting in the Banana Wars and protecting naval assets around the world began to develop plans to incorporate designated artillery units with in the heavy weapons components from platoon size all the way through division artillery support. This occurred as amphibious tactics and air support tactics were being developed. The corps was in need of an artillery piece that was small enough to be easily transported but large enough to cause significant damage to enemy forces.

The Army had yet to develop a field portable anti-tank cannon by 1930. The ordnance corps began examining 2 examples of the PAK 36 Cannon that was successfully used during the Spanish Civil War.

The infantry had primary responsibility for the development of a field portable anti-tank weapon and rejected the larger PAK 36 design due to it's size and ammunition. By 1938 a smaller cannon loosely based upon the Swedish Bofors 40 MM cannon had several prototypes available for testing. On 15 December, the Ordnance Corps choose a combination of the T10 gun and T5 carriage which were officially adopted as the 37 mm gun M3 and carriage M4. Production began in 1940 with several changes being made to the M4 Carriage.



For the Marine Corps, the 37MM meant a necessary change to the Table of Organization. Under the D-series Tables of Organization (TO) from 1 July 1942, the role of AT weapons in Marine Corps service was officially entrusted to 20 mm automatic guns, which were in the regimental weapon company (3 platoons) and the battalion weapon company (one platoon). In practice, units used the World War I-era 37 mm M1916 for training. They were equipped with the M3 (4 in each platoon) before being sent to the frontline. Additionally, a divisional special weapons battalion was equipped with self-propelled 37 mm GMC M6.

The E-series TO from 1943, there would be eighteen 37 mm towed guns in three batteries of 6; an infantry regiment had a weapons company with 12, in 3 platoons of 4. The battalion-level AT guns were removed. A division had 54 pieces. The F-series TO from 1944 changed this to a total of 36 guns per division. The subsequent G-series TO adapted in Sept of 1945 reduced regimental weapon companies to two platoons, meaning 24 pieces per division. In practice, some divisions introduced this change early in 1945.

Marines were successful with the M3 against Japanese tanks due to their light armor and Japanese tanks were committed to battle piecemeal rather than in mass as the Germans and Italians had done with their armor. The canister shot proved effective against Japanese infantry. It's lightweight enabled it to be moved easily over rough terrain. In one case, Marines were able to lift it over a 5' high seawall in order to use it against advancing Japanese tanks on Betio island. But when it came to destroying bunkers, the HE shell was disappointing (the 37mm HE round had 39 grams (0.085 lb) of TNT, producing an explosive power of 161 Kilojoules. In contrast, the HE round from a Sherman 75mm gun had 667 grams (1.47 lb) of TNT, producing 2790 Kilojoules, while the modern 40mm shell from M203 grenade launchers has 32 grams (0.07 lb) of Comp B, with an explosive power of 134 Kilojoules ). With the availability of better artillery pieces and ammunition, the 37MM M3 was retired in 1946 from the US Inventory. In February—the 75MM Pak Howitzer.



Japanese tanks knocked out by Marine M3s on Guadalcanal.



A Marine M3 in action on Iwo Jima.



*Labeland Detachment #744 Chefs present January 9th's grab & go Meal*

## Menu

**Chicken Fajitas Dinner**

**Chicken Fajitas**

**Black Beans**

**Mexican Rice**

**Flour Tortillas**

**Pico De Gallo**

**Guacamole**

**Shredded Cheese**

**Pickled Jalepeno slices**

**Family Meal 4ppl \$35**

**Single Meal \$14**

**Email your orders to [simms156@gmail.com](mailto:simms156@gmail.com) by 5pm January 8th**

**Please let us know what time you will pick up your order on your email so we can have it ready!**

**Saturday January 9th from 2pm to 5pm**

**Pick up At American Legion 65 Oak Street, Oakland NJ Front**

**Please Donate to our Building Improvement and New Oven fund raiser**

## Quartermaster's Report

We had a successful outing on December 12 with the Ship's Store turning in over \$500 in sales. Thanks to all who either purchased or assisted. The Ship's Store will not be open for the January 9th Take Out Dinner. However the catalog has been sent out and if an order is placed we will fill it. I'm happy to announce a permanent 10% Discount for detachment members. Again the only exceptions will be uniform items (red MCL Covers, EGA for the Covers, Detachment Uniform Golf Shirts, American Flag Patches and MCL Patches etc) which will be at regular prices.



I expect that weather permitting, the Ship's Store will reopen again for the March or April Take Out Dinner.

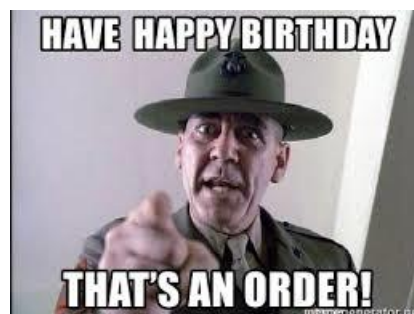
Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



01/03	Ed Hawk	01/08	Col. Bill Delorenzo
01/13	Master. Sgt. Sam James	01/14	Bill Grotz
01/15	Kevin O'Leary	01/16	Jerry Capozza, Jr.
01/21	Lt. Col. Paul Ruebenacker	01/22	Jim Hahn
01/26	Nick Ciampo	01/29	Jeff Levitt
01/31	Chris Baker, Jr.	01/31	Jim Davila
01/31	Mike Timmins		





# MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

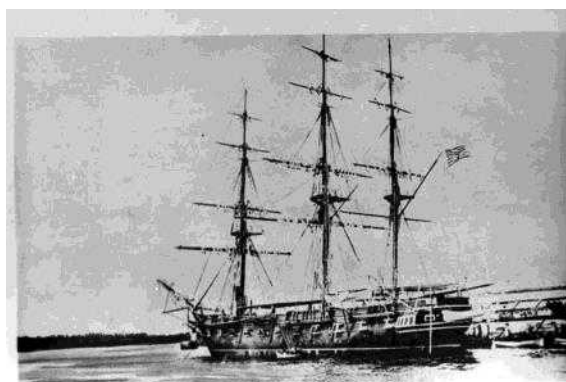
## Calendar of Events

### June 2020

- January 9: Take Out Dinner Event—Preorder /Pick Up from 1400 to 1700 American Legion  
Note: The Ship's Store will not be open.
- January 12: Executive Board Meeting Via Zoom 1900
- January 17: State MCL Meeting--1100--Tentative
- January 28: Detachment Meeting 1900 - Presumably through Zoom



20 January 1968: The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North. More than 100 of the enemy were killed.



25 January 1856: Marines and seamen from the U.S. sloop DECATUR went ashore at the village of Seattle, Washington, to protect settlers from Indian raids. The Indians launched a seven-hour attack but were driven off later that day after suffering severe losses. Incredibly, only two civilian volunteers were killed and no Marines or sailors were lost.



Roundel used by the Marine Corps during World War I  
21 January 1918: The 1st Aeronautical Company arrived at Ponta Delgada, Azores, for anti-submarine duty. That unit was one of the 1st completely equipped American aviation units to serve overseas in WW1.



11 January 1945: The first elements of Marine Aircraft Group 24, commanded by Colonel Lyle H. Meyer, landed at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands, to provide close air support for Army forces. Over the next three months, MAG-24 and MAG-32 would fly a total of 8,842 combat sorties and drop more than 19,000 bombs as part of the Fifth Air Force in support of the Sixth Army



10 January 1995: The Pentagon announced that 2,600 U.S. Marines would be deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops from Somalia. The decision came in response to a UN request for US protection of its peacekeeping forces serving in the war-torn African nation.





Marine Corps League  
Lakeland Detachment 744  
Important Dates for 2021  
**Executive Board Meetings**



7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month (Via Zoom until Further Notice)

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

**MCL Lakeland Detachment 744**

**Breakfast Dates**

**3rd Saturday of every month**

**Suspended until further notice**



**MCL Lakeland Detachment 744**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

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

4th Thursday of the month (Except November & December)

Meetings will be conducted via Zoom unless otherwise notified.

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



*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*

**Third Saturday Breakfasts are suspended indefinitely!**

*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.*



# Marine Corps Funnies

## Carpstoons



## Carpstoons



## Carpstoons

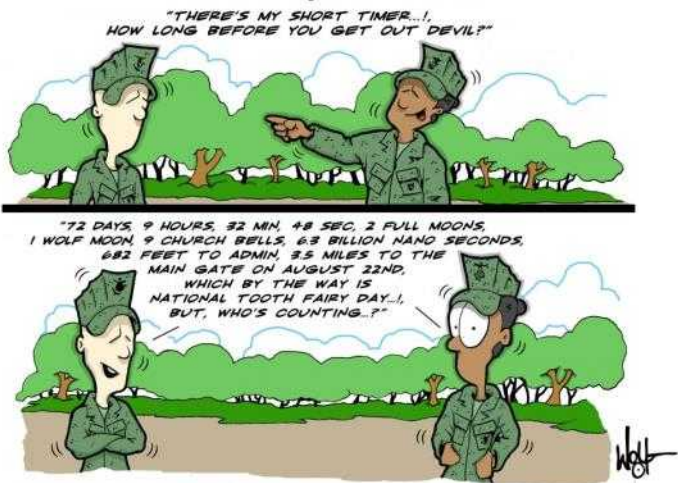


When Artillery Teleworks

## Carpstoons



## Carpstoons



## Carpstoons







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**Vets4Warriors.com**

**24/7 peer support for Service members and their families**



Call Toll-Free at 855-838-8255,  
visit [Vets4Warriors.com](http://Vets4Warriors.com), or email: [Info@Vets4Warriors.com](mailto: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](http://www.vets4warriors.com).

**Set your course with a military connection**



855-838-8255 [vets4warriors.com](http://vets4warriors.com)  
[Info@vets4warriors.com](mailto: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	<a href="https://www.nrd.gov/">https://www.nrd.gov/</a>
Pension Management Center	1-877-294-6380
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program	1-202-565-4964
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned or Veteran-Owned Small Business	1-202-303-3260
Special Health Issues	1-800-749-8387
Spina Bifida/Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1-888-820-1756
Status of Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4833
VA Caregiver Support Line	1-855-260-3274
VA for Vets	1-855-824-8387
VA Inspector General	1-800-488-8244
VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs	1-202-461-7600
Veteran's ID Theft Hotline	1-800-333-4636
Veteran's Employment and Training Service (VETS)	1-866-487-2365
Women Veterans	1-202-461-1070
Wounded Warrior Resource Center	1-800-342-9647



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

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

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



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



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.



A hands-on physical examination is not required.

# Get started today!

[mobile.va.gov/appstore](https://mobile.va.gov/appstore)



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



## Veteran's Information

### Paul Thompson

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Veteran's Service Officer

201-320-3210

### Veterans Administration

Department of Veteran's Affairs

20 Washington Place

Newark, NJ 07102-3174

800-827-1000

### Veterans Campus Lyons

151 Knollcroft Rd

Lyons, NJ 07939

908-647-0180 (Phone)

908-647-3452 (Fax)

### Veterans Service Officer

Vietnam Veterans of America

Margaret Wojciechowicz

973-297-3227

### Passaic Veterans Service Officers

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/Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-](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)

