



The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

February 2020 Newsletter

Editor: Ken Gysbers 201-895-3358

kgysbers@yahoo.com



Officers 2020



Commandant: Charles Huha

chuha1@msn.com

973-900-1226



Sgt at Arms : Len Graff

lengusmc@optonline.net

973-728-3605



Sr Vice Commandant: Mike McNulty

simms156@gmail.com

732-213-5264



Service Officer: Paul Thompson

paulcfp@aol.com

201-320-3210



Jr Vice Commandant: Chris Cioppa

crisciopa@gmail.com

201-310-1493



Chaplain: Les Derbyshire

lesderbyshire@live.com

201-390-2704



Paymaster/Adjutant: Peter Alvarez

palvarez1942@hotmail.com

973-839-5693



Secretary: Theresa Muttel

thmuttel@hotmail.com



Judge Advocate/Range Officer: Ray Sears

rcsears93@aol.com

973-694-8457



Quartermaster and

Editor "The Grunt": Ken Gysbers

kgysbers@yahoo.com 201-895-3358

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
February, 2020**

IWO JIMA

This month we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of this historic battle in the Pacific. We have two surviving members of the Battle of Iwo Jima in our Detachment, Gene Frederick, who was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions and Anthony Lechniak, who was a Combat Engineer. Both men epitomize the strong values that make up Marines. We should consider ourselves fortunate to have known these two Marines and to be present in their company. Well done Marines, the Lakeland Detachment and our country honor and salute you.

We honored Gene at our Detachment meeting on June 23, 2011 with his family present. A copy of the citation follows after this Corner.

Iwo Jima, otherwise known as Sulfur Island represented a strategically important air base which would allow fighter escorts to support long-range bombing missions against mainland Japan. The island would provide an emergency landing strip for crippled B-29's returning from bombing runs. The seizure of Iwo would allow for sea and air blockades, provide for the ability to conduct intensive air bombardment and provide the opportunity to destroy the enemy's air and naval capabilities.

The battle commenced February 19, 1945 and ceased March 16, 1945. Mopping up activities commenced after that to clean up the remaining pockets of resistance. The island was officially declared secured on March 26, 1945. This year marks the Seventy Fifth anniversary of that historic battle.

The seizure of Iwo Jima was deemed necessary, but would not come easy. 70,000 U.S. Marines would be involved in the invasion. Total U.S losses amounted to 28,686 of which 6,821 were KIA, 19,217 were WIA and 2,648 suffered combat fatigue. Of the total number, Marine casualties amounted to 23,573. Japanese losses amounted to 1,083 POW's and over 20,000 estimated killed.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific Fleet/Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean areas said it best “Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue”.

God Bless the Marine Corps League, God Bless the United States Marine Corps and God Bless

The United States of America

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT



Eugene J. Frederick Jr.

A Hero:

His **Navy Cross Citation** tells how Gene risked his life on more than one occasion by destroying two enemy tanks as a Rocket Launcher Operator. The tanks were holding up the advance of his company during the invasion of **Iwo Jima** on February 28, 1945. After expending his ammunition, he ran to retrieve additional rockets through an area infested with enemy snipers. Upon his return he destroyed the third enemy tank thereby enabling his fellow Marines to continue their advance.

A Man:

Gene is a patient, tolerant and soft-spoken individual. He doesn't have to brag about his actions. His level of self-confidence speaks volumes about the man. You know he is someone special just by being around him and speaking with him. He displays loyalty to his family and friends and, of course, to his fellow Marines.

A Marine:

I know Gene doesn't consider himself to be a Hero; however, his dedication to the Marine Corps values of Honor, Courage and Commitment remind him that he is, and always will be, a United States Marine.

Semper Fi. Gene
Charles Huha, Lakeland Detachment—744
June 23, 2011



Prayer is an important part of our lives. We can pray anywhere and anytime. Some people say they don't know how to pray. You can use the words taught to you as a child or prayers you found along your way in life. I find my prayers within my heart and the events that have made me the person I am today. So with that in mind I offer this prayer:

Dear Lord,

Please guide in in the days ahead. Help me to be a good person and help others. Please have me be kind and understanding.

I thank you for helping me through the dark times in my life. The days and nights I called for you to protect me. I thank you for bringing me home to my family and the gift of their love.

I pray for my beloved Marine Corps and all the men and women who are serving and have served. Please help them Lord through their dark times, past and present as you have me.

Thank you Dear Lord for the gift of life. May I serve you well as I walk the roads ahead.

Amen

Submitted by:

Les Derbyshire

Chaplain



Editor's Note: One of my favorite contemporary Christian songs is Blessings by Laura Story. It is a song of prayer and reflection and worth looking up.

1. E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose
 2. O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word The
 3. O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood Up -
 4. O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, Your

arm does bind the rest - less wave, Who
 winds and waves sub - mis - sive heard, Who
 on the wa - ters dark and rude, And
 chil - dren shield in dan - ger's hour; From

bids the might - y o - cean deep Its
 walked up - on the foam - ing deep, And
 bid their an - gry tu - mult cease, And
 rock and tem - pest, fire, and foe, Pro -

Baptist Hymnal 1892 69
 WORDS: William Whiting, 1820-1876
 MUSIC: OML:TA 8,8,8,8,8,1; John B. Dykes, 1823-1870

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep; O hear us when we
 calm a - mid the rage did sleep; O hear us when we
 give for wild con - fu - sion peace; O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus, ev - er - more shall

cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to Thee Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Baptist Hymnal 1892 69
 WORDS: William Whiting, 1820-1876
 MUSIC: OML:TA 8,8,8,8,8,1; John B. Dykes, 1823-1870



Service Officers Report

January 2020

From Paul Thompson

The veterans nursing home in Paramus had a quarantine last month that prevented us from going. I'm hoping the bingo we have scheduled for February 11 at 2 o'clock should be OK. If there's any change to that I will send out an email immediately to everyone.

In working with a lot of veterans over the past few years, I'm realizing that a lot of Veterans have a fear of getting online with the VA.

For those of you that are using the Internet (such as My HealtheVet or www.ebenefits.va.gov) to get to your information about your Veterans benefits, forms, appointments made, order prescriptions, etc.

Please know that it's a great tool. The fact that you can send emails to your VA Doctor and get a response back pretty fast is a great benefit.

I can tell you that last summer when I needed a EKG, and some forms filled out and signed by my personal doctor within a few days, so I can go to Boy Scout Camp with my grandson, I emailed them and they took care of me within 2 days!

In our League you have access to quite a few people that could help you, if you need help just let us know. John Harris and Bill Gotz are my assistant service officers.

Reminder that the next Bingo at the Paramus Veterans Home will be once again on the 2nd Tuesday of February at 2:00 PM (February 11th - subject to whether or not the quarantine has been lifted).

Respectfully,

Paul Thompson,

Service Officer 201-320-3210

paulcfp@aol.com

John Harris

973-569-4090

johnh@passaiccountynj.org

Bill Gotz

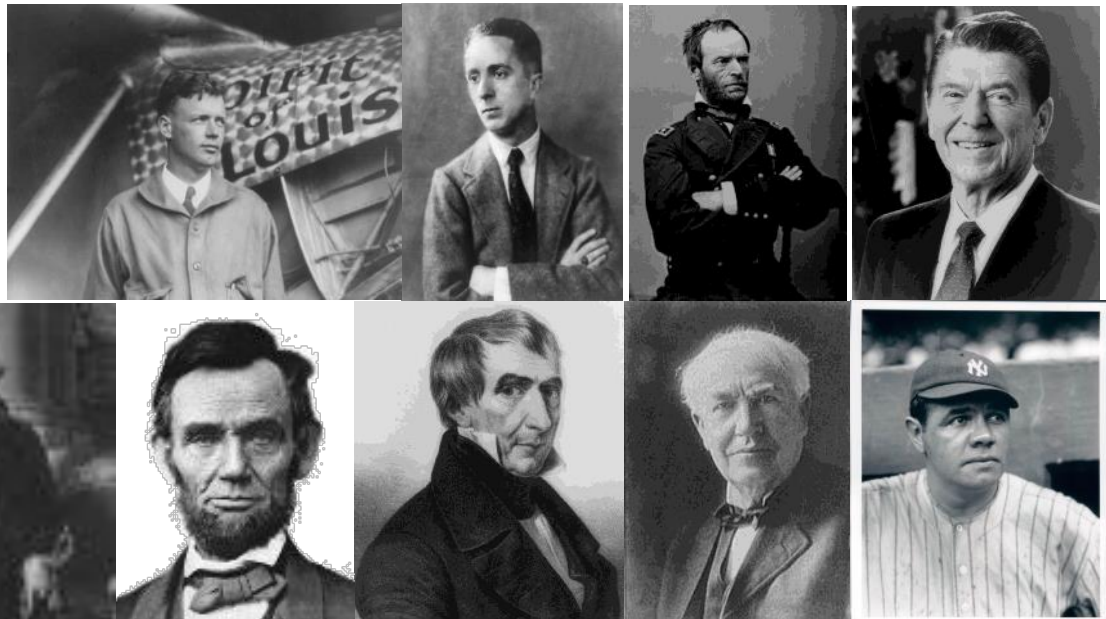
973-897-1475

billgr57@aol.com

Editor's Page

Happy Valentines Day Marines! Happy President's Day! Along with these 2 all important days February is also Black History Month, American Heart Month, National Children's Dental Health Month, National Bird Feeding Month and Turner Syndrome Awareness Month.

However, in military history February is an all important month. The explosion on the USS Maine in Havana Harbor occurred during February sparking the Spanish American War. The fire bombing of Dresden took place during February. The ground portion of Operation Desert Storm began and ended in February. During the island hopping campaign of WWII, many of the invasions began in February. Guadalcanal was secured in February. Several of our great leaders were born in February. Aside from George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, Chester Nimitz, Aaron Burr, Ronald Regan, William Tecumseh Sherman and William Henry Harrison were all born in February. So were some of our greatest inventors and achievers such as Thomas Edison, Charles Lindbergh, George Herman (Babe) Ruth and Norman Rockwell. Director John Ford was also born in February and aside from his achievements in film, he was the Chief of the OSS Photographic Unit during WWII.



Sadly, February can also be remembered for some of the darker side of our history. The internment of Americans of Japanese decent in the west began in February. The Space Shuttle Columbia exploded in flight just 16 minutes prior to landing, killing all seven of it's crew. The Battle of Kasserine Pass resulted in the first resounding defeat of American troops against Rommel's Africa Corps in WWII. In 1960, African Americans began a period of peaceful and civil sit ins across the southern states that resulted in over 1600 arrests in 4 days.

These are just some of the events that occurred in February.

One of the most important events was the sinking of the USS Dorchester. A converted coastal luxury liner from 1926, the US Army Transport USS Dorchester was enroute to Greenland carrying 902 passengers and crew. The 751 passengers were new draftees and enlisted men of the US Army. The convoy was a small convoy of only 3 ships being guarded by 3 Coast Guard Cutters. On the morning of Feb 2, 1943, one of the Coast Guard Cutters picked up a German U boat on it's sonar. It transmitted a warning message to the other ships of the convoy indicating that they were being followed. It also radioed a request for air coverage since they were still close enough to the shore but was advised that air assets were patrolling elsewhere. Captain Danielson order that the crew and passengers wear winter clothing and life vests until they reached the safer waters off of Greenland. Sadly, the captain's order was largely disregarded as it was hot below decks. There were 4 US Army Chaplains on board as passengers. They were George L. Fox (Methodist), Alexander D Goode (Jewish Rabbi), Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John P. Washington (Catholic). Fox and Goode met at the US Army Chaplains School at Harvard. They would meet Poling and Washington at Camp Myles Standish which was an embarkation camp. They walked among the men keeping them calm during the roughest of seas and at night, they laughed, told jokes and even held amateur shows to keep the moral of the passengers and crew up. Each one also held the religious services of their faith which grew in attendance the further they traveled.

The Four Chaplains



George L. Fox
Methodist Minister



Alexander D. Goode
Jewish Rabbi



Clark V. Poling
Dutch Reformed Church



John P. Washington
Catholic Priest

They were approximately 150 miles away from Greenland and safety when their luck ran out. At 0100 on Feb 3rd, the USS Dorchester found itself in the cross hairs of a German U boat. The U boat fired torpedoes and the Dorchester was struck on the starboard side far below the waterline near the engine room. Over 100 men perished in the blast and the ship lost all power and radio contact. It immediately began to take on water and list to the starboard. Upon hearing that the ship was taking on water, the captain ordered abandon ship. Now the survivors began to panic and many could not find either winter clothing or life vests. The chaplains set about comforting the wounded and calming everyone down so they could evacuate quickly and orderly. The chaplains opened a life vest locker and started passing them out. They quickly ran out. One young soldier shouted out, "Padre, I don't have a life vest and I can't swim". One of the chaplains took his vest off and gave it to the young man. The other chaplains quickly followed suit telling the men that they didn't need them. Only 2 of the 14 life boats were able to be launched and they were quickly filling up.

Just 27 minutes after being struck, the USS Dorchester began to slip below the surface. Witnesses saw the 4 chaplains on the fantail, linked arm in arm, kneeling in prayer as the USS Dorchester went down. Of the 902 on board, 675 men perished that fateful night including the 4 Chaplains. On December 19, 1944, The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were presented to the next of kin of each of the Four Chaplains. And in 1961, Congress authorized a Special Medal For Heroism which was to be presented only once to each of the 4 Chaplains and never to be used again.



So as we go about our daily lives, let us remember the Four Chaplains as examples of how we should live. For they gave their last full measure that others might live.

“Weapons of The Marine Corps”

The Civil War saw American ingenuity at its best in regards to the advancement of weaponry. By the end of the war, the pistol cartridge had already evolved into a rifle cartridge and the breech loading rifle was rapidly replacing the muzzle loading rifles of 1861 and 1863. Sharps had developed a repeating rifle capable of holding 7 brass rimfire cartridges and was reloaded using a lever action which discharged the expended round.

Erskine S. Allin, the master armorer at the Springfield Armory, converted huge stocks of muzzleloaders to breech loading. The result was the “trapdoor” Springfield, named for its upward hinged breech-block. It ultimately was made in .45 caliber with a brass center-fire cartridge powered with 70 grains of black powder. The trapdoor continued in .45 caliber through a number of improvements until the M1884 which armed Marines until the 1890s.



While advancement of rifles was greatly improved during this time, another weapon which first appeared during the Civil War was the Gatling Machine Gun. Invented by Richard J Gatling, it was first used by Admiral Porter to drive Confederate soldiers off the banks of the Mississippi River. It would undergo several revisions and improved munitions before the Navy approved the M1876 Gatling Gun for use by the Marine Corps.



Remington Lee also developed a rifle that used the Lee designed cartridge box. This same box was used on the British Lee Enfield rifle that saw use well after the Korean war. Marines used both the Trap Door Springfield and the Remington Lee Bolt Action into the early 1900's

In 1890, a smokeless powder cartridge was developed. Marines began receiving the M1895 Winchester Lee Straight Pull 5 Shot Rifle which used a 6MM round.

A Browning machine gun, also called the M1895 and using the same 6mm cartridge, came into service at the same time.



These two weapons, plus the M1876 3-inch landing gun, were used by Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Huntington's First Marine Battalion in the seizure of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in the Spanish-American War.



The Battle for Khe Sahn continued from the January Grunt.

The Tet Offensive which launched prematurely on Jan 30 and on Jan 31, did not distract from the importance of Khe Sahn in General Westmoreland's view. A press release which was never publicized, stated, "The enemy is attempting to confuse the issue... I suspect he is also trying to draw everyone's attention from the greatest area of threat, the northern part of I Corps. Let me caution everyone not to be confused."

While the Tet offensive was taking place through out the south and middle sections of South Vietnam, Khe Sahn and the surrounding area was relatively quite except for patrols from both Marines at Khe Sahn and the Special Forces unit at Lang Vei. On the morning of Feb 6, The PAVN fired motors into the Lang Vei compound. Later that night, they fired their 152 MM Artillery. The situation grew worse quickly as on the morning of Feb 7th, Lang Vie was attacked by the PAVN with 12 PT76 Tanks. The tanks quickly overran the defenses although fighting continued for several hours. While local intel had indicated the presence of the tanks, it was discounted because it was believed that they wouldn't be able to move the tanks with being spotted by air recon. Special Forces were credited for knocking out at least 5 of the tanks.



While Marines at Khe Sahn had a relief plan in place, it was not put into action due to fear of a PAVN ambush. A helicopter rescue was also considered but was discounted for similar reasons. It took a direct order from Westmoreland for the rescue mission to kick off which was delayed until 1500. Of the 500 CIDG Troops at Lang Vie, 200 were KIA or MIA and 75 were wounded. Of the 24 Special Forces Team Members, 10 were KIA and 11 WIA.

On Feb 7, 3 companies of the PAVN 101D Regiment, moved into jump off positions to attack Alpha-1 which was just outside the combat base at Khe Sahn. It was help by 66 men of A CO, 1st Platoon 1/9 Marines. On Feb 8th, at 0415 The PAVN attacked under the cover of fog and motor shelling. They quickly overran the primary defenses and forced the remaining 30 defenders in to the southwestern corner of the position. Why they failed to press their advantage and wipe out the position will never be known. A relief force from CO A 2nd Platoon set out for the main base and attacked through the PAVN. By 1100, the battle was over/ Co A had lost 24 KIA and 27 WIA while 150 PAVN were KIA. The position was abandoned.

On Feb 23rd, KSCB received the worst bombardment of the entire battle. Over the course of 8 hours, the base was rocked by 1,307 rounds most from 130 MM (used for the first time) and 152MM located in Laos. 2 Days later, Marine patrols detected a trench system running due north to with in 25 meters of the base perimeter. Most of these trenches were around the southern and southeastern corners of the perimeter. They formed part of an intricate trench system which was developed over the course of a few weeks from mid February to mid March when they would be used to move PAVN troops to jump off points close to the perimeter. Historic study of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, would reveal that similar tactics were employed against the French. This knowledge aided US planners in their targeting decisions.



The Khe Sanh perimeter, 28 February 1968: A white dotted line indicates a PAVN trench just 200 m from 37th ARVN Rangers along the southern perimeter of Khe Sanh.

That same day, 25 Feb, while on a short patrol to test PAVN strength, the 3rd Platoon from Bravo Company 1st Battalion, 26th Marines was ambushed. The Marines pursued three enemy scouts, who led them into the ambush. After a 3 hour battle, the Marines withdrew with 6 KIA, 24 MIA and 1 taken prisoner. On 28 Feb, ground sensors detected the 66th Regiment of the 304th PAVN Division preparing to attack the 37th ARVN Ranger Battalion on the eastern perimeter. Artillery and air strikes were called in on potential PAVN staging areas and attack routes with much success. The attack still went off but effective small arms fire the ARVN Rangers held it off. They would not be out of the woods yet as they would see more in March.



Quartermaster's Report

Still looking into the jackets and hope to have some information soon. I'm also looking into other items and as always welcome any suggestions. I'll have some new items for the February breakfast.

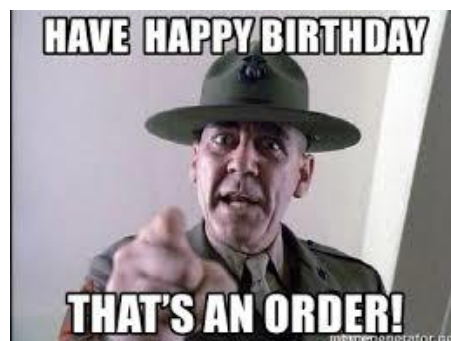
Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



Bill (Doc) Healey	02/02	Gene Frederick	02/03
Todd Chaplin	02/04	Don Kanarr	02/04
Nancy Bruining	02/09	Tony Matano	02/09
Robert Zuk	02/11	Kevin Woodard	02/13
Stan Golembieski	02/15	Fred Landy	02/20
Bob Dyer	02/23	Frank Mackay	02/23
Walter Sudol	02/26	Al Deluccia	02/27



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Calendar of Events

December 2019

February 2020

- 02/02/2020 Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Mass Ceremony at St. Stephens RC Church on Washington Ave. in Kearny
- 02/11/2020 Bingo Paramus Veterans Home - - Cancelled until Further Notice Due to Flu
- 02/11/2020 Executive Board Meeting - - 1900
- 02/15/2020 3rd Saturday Breakfast - - 0800-1200
- 02/27/2020 Detachment Meeting - - 1930

March 2020

- 03/10/2020 Bingo Paramus Veterans Home - - Pending
- 03/10/2020 Executive Board Meeting - - 1900
- 03/21/2020 3rd Saturday Breakfast - - 0800-1200
- 03/26/2020 Detachment Meeting - - 1930



2 Feb 1944, Marines of the 4th Marine Division land on the Island of Namur as part of the attack on the Kwajalein Atoll, a Japanese held strong point from before the war as part of the Island Hopping Campaign.



1 Feb 1967, Operation Prairie II was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search & destroy operation which ended 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed. The following battalions participated with at least 1 in reserve: 2/3, 3/3, 3/4, 1/9 & 2/9



6 Feb 1968: Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st of the 1st with two companies, and 2nd of the 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.



February 24, 1991, Marines of the 1st Marine Division on the move in Southern Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm. Now called the 100 Hour War, the coalition goal of freeing Kuwait from Iraqi control took less than 5 days. Marine Ground and Air combat arms contributed successfully to this historic accomplishment.

As part of our training as Marines, we learn the Holy Writ of the History of The Corps. We are instructed on the lore of our Corps from Samuel Nicholas (1st Commandant), Lt. Presly O'Brien, through General Archibald Henderson, General John A. Lejeune, General Chesty Puller, Fort Nassau in 1776, The Shores of Tripoli during the Barbary Pirates War, Battle of Chapultepec during the Mexican War, Belleau Wood in WWI, Guadalcanal, Saipan, and Okinawa to mention just a few in WWII, Pusan and Chosin in Korea and Khe Sahn in Vietnam along with many other important battles and events that are what makes up our Marine DNA. However, there is one battle which forever stands out in Marine Corps history. It can be argued that without this battle, the Marine Corps as we know it might have been completely abolished after WWII. Even now, the Marine Corps leadership must continuously adapt the roles it must take on in order to remain an effective branch of the military. However, the performance of the Marine Corps during this battle and the one single, solidary picture that came out of this battle, pretty much guarantees a Marine Corps for perpetuity.

On February 19th, 1945, Marines of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions, landed on the volcanic ash beaches of Iwo Jima. Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short fire-fight with Japanese defenders emerging from several caves, the small American flag was



attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island. Joe Rosenthal's iconic Associate Press Photo pretty much set the Marine Corps as a permanent branch of the Armed Forces of the United States. It was the basis for the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington Va located next to the National Cemetery at Arlington. The Battle for Iwo Jima, began on Feb 19, 1945 and ended on Mar 26, 1945 when the island was declared secured. In all, 6,812 Americans were KIA or MIA, 2 were captured (later recovered) and 19,217 were WIA.

27 Medals of Honor were awarded (26 went to Marines) and most of them were posthumously. Of the Japanese defenders, 21,844 were KIA and 216 were captured. The resolve of the Japanese was such that the last 2 defenders managed to avoid capture until January 6, 1949. Iwo Jima saw the heaviest commitment of Marines to a single battle in history. The reasons for investing this small island at the time were to prevent Japanese fighters from attacking the B29 bomber groups, allowing US Fighter Escort for the B29s and a field that would allow emergency landings for B29s that were damaged or crippled (a crippled B29 did in fact land on the secured fields on March 4th 1945). Lessons learned at Iwo Jima were put into effect for Okinawa.

On this 75th Anniversary of The Battle for Iwo Jima, it is fitting that we should salute those veterans of the battle that are still among us. We are honored to have two such veterans as members of our detachment.

Gene Frederick & Anthony Lechniak—May God continue to bless both of you.





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



7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday January 14th, February 11th, March 10th, April 14th, May 12th, June 9th, July 14th,

August 11th, September 8th, October 13th, November 3rd or 17th & December 8th

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Breakfast Dates

3rd Saturday of every month

0800 to 1200 Hours



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

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 23rd, February 27th, March 26th, April 23rd, May 28th, June 25th, July 23rd,

August 27th, September 24th, October 22nd, November 19th & December 17th

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 February 15th 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.

Current Operations Notes

In December, the detachment voted to provide funds to bring 5 Marines home for the holidays on leave from the west coast. Pictured to the right are 4 of the 5 Marines

From left to right: PFC Gonzales, PFC Jacob, CPL Ebelhar and CPL Noernberg.

The 5th Marine is not pictured as this was taken the day after he left for his leave.

(Note: the collar rank chevrons are difficult to make out so I apologize if the ranks are not correct).

Below: Marine Sam James celebrated his birthday while on vacation in Puerto Vallarta, MX .



At the January meeting Commandant Charles Huha and Adjutant Peter Alvarez presented an Award of Appreciation to Robert Sturla Jr.

Robert installed the pavers in front of the shed for the detachment for the cost of the pavers

From the Editor: Please note if you have pictures or anything that you feel that should be in The Grunt , please forward the picture along with a brief description. It could be anything such as celebrating a special birthday, visiting a historic site (Marine Corps related is always preferred) or something that you wish to share from the past.

Also, as I've mentioned before, from time to time I run across something that I feel should be shared. On the following page is such an item. It pays tribute to the door gunners that flew along side the other crew members of the helicopters that saved many lives during the Vietnam War. The door gunner's position is the most unprotected and exposed position in the aircraft. Very few door gunners survived combat action unscathed. The venerable Huey door gunner had a life expectancy of about 5 minutes in combat.

As a Marine with an MOS of 3072 (Aviation Supply Clerk), my secondary MOS would have been that of a Door Gunner probably for either a CH53 or a CH46 since that was what I worked with for almost 3 years. A Marine Group Supply of 72 Marines only operates with about 10 Marines in a combat situation. The remaining 62 Marines were put into door gunner's positions within the group they served with. I served with Mag 16 (Ch53 and Ch46 squadrons), Mag 36 (Ch53, Ch46, OV10, C130, UH1D Huey and Cobra squadrons) and MAG 14 (A6E, EA6B and C130 Squadrons). While I never actually trained for the door gunner's positions, I did have the opportunity to sit in them on both CH53s and CH46s in non combat situations. I have a great respect for what these men went through.



The Man in The Door Way

A poem by Michael Ryerson, USMC,
FAC, 1966-1968



They came in low and hot, close to the trees and dropped their tail in a flare, rocked forward and we raced for the open doorways. This was always the worst for us; we couldn't hear anything and our backs were turned to the tree line. The best you could hope for was a sign on the face of the man in the doorway, leaning out waiting to help with a tug or to lay down some lead.

Sometimes you could glance quickly at his face and pick up a clue as to what was about to happen. We would pitch ourselves in headfirst and tumble against the scuffed riveted aluminum, grab for a handhold and will that son-of-a-bitch into the air.

Sometimes the deck was slick with blood or worse, sometimes something had been left in the shadows under the web seats, and sometimes they landed in a shallow river to wash them out.

Sometimes they were late, sometimes...they were parked in some other LZ with their rotors turning a lazy arc, a ghost crew strapped in once too often, motionless, waiting for their own lift, their own bags, once too often into the margins.

The getting on and the getting off were the worst for us but this was all he knew, the man in the doorway, he was always standing there in the noise, watching, urging...swinging out with his gun, grabbing the black plastic and heaving, leaning out and spitting, spitting the taste away, as though it would go away...

They came in low and hot, close to the trees and dropped their tail in a flare, rocked forward and began to kick the boxes out, bouncing against the skids, piling up on each other, food and water, and bullets...a thousand pounds of C's, warm water and rounds, 7.62mm, half a ton of life and death. And when the deck was clear, we would pile the bags, swing them against their weight and throw them through the doorway, his doorway, onto his deck and nod and he'd speak into that little mike and they'd go nose down and lift into their last flight, their last extraction.

Sometimes he'd raise a thumb or perhaps a fist or sometimes just a sly, knowing smile, knowing we were staying and he was going but also knowing he'd be back, he'd be back in a blink, standing in the swirling noise and the rotor wash, back to let us rush through his door and skid across his deck and will that son-of-a-bitch into the air.

They came in low and hot, close to the trees and dropped their tail in a flare, rocked forward, kicked out the boxes and slipped the litter across the deck and sometimes he'd lean down and hold the IV and brush the dirt off of a bloodless face, or hold back the flailing arms and the tears, a thumbs-up to the right seat and you're only minutes away from the white sheets, the saws and the plasma.

They came in low and hot, close to the trees and dropped their tail in a flare, rocked forward and we'd never hear that sound again without feeling our stomachs go just a bit weightless, listen just a bit closer for the gunfire and look up for the man in the doorway.

Editor's Note: Helicopter Crews accounted for 10% of combat losses in Vietnam. The video link is:
<http://www.youtube.com/embed/qH2vbYs6ebc>



The Last Full Measure is the true story of Air Force Pararescueman William Pitsenbarger. And the investigation leading to his Medal of Honor Award.

William Hart Pitsenbarger was a United States Air Force Pararescueman who flew on almost 300 rescue missions during the Vietnam War to aid downed soldiers and pilots. On April 11, 1966, he was killed aiding and defending a unit of soldiers pinned down by an enemy assault during the Vietnam War.

The movie is slated for general release on January 24th. Please check your local listings for show times.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Paramus Veterans Home is under a Quarantine until further notice! All Bingo Parties are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

Please look for communication from

Service Officer Paul Thompson

should this change between now and our next scheduled Bingo Party.

IMPORTANT!

Please check out the following VA links and follow the instructions!

<https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0845-ARE.pdf>

<https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>

Submitting these forms now will ease the process for your next of kin when the time comes.

\$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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are uncomfortable with mailing, faxing or uploading the form, there is another option available. There is a State of NJ Tax Office in Fairlawn on Route 208. You just need your drivers license and DD214 and they load it while you wait. No copies are necessary. If you haven’t taken care of this yet, you need to do this asap.



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**.

Tribute to the Marines

A tribute to the United States Marine Corps and the reasons why they are superior to the many organizations of the world . . .

* United States Marine Corps Birthday: 10 NOVEMBER 1775 *

- 1) Best haircut. Hands down. You can't have a bad hair day with a high and tight. And you spend less on shampoo.
- 2) Dress blues. They're the coolest uniforms in any military worldwide.
- 3) Bloused trousers. Another distinctive Marine look that sets the proudest service members apart.
- 4) The rest of the Marine sea bag. From the Alphas to the camouflage utilities, uniforms just look better on a Marine than any other service member.
- 5) Marines don't wear dungarees.
- 6) Most respect I. When the Marines pulled out of Haiti and Somalia, the media reported the U.S. military was pulling out -- as if tens of thousands of Army troops weren't still in the country. Now that's respect.
- 7) Most respect II. When the Corps came back to Haiti after 60 years, an old man on the Cap-Haitien beach said ``Welcome back!''
- 8) Toughest mascot. The Marine Corps' is a bulldog. The Navy's: a goat.
- 9) Esprit de Corps. Even if you can't spell it or pronounce it, the Marine Corps has it in spades. One example: When sailors get tattoos, they do it to express their individuality, and their choices range from Betty Boop and Mickey Mouse to raging sea serpents. When Marines get tattoos, they do it to express their solidarity, and choose bull dogs, ``death before dishonor," and ``USMC."
- 10) Best war monument: Iwo Jima
- 11) The Marines invade, then go home. The Army has to do the occupying.
- 12) The silent drill team. Just watching them ply their trade makes you want to wear dress blues.
- 13) Status. Sailors live and work on ships. Marines go for cruises -- then hit the shore.
- 14) Best fast attack vehicles: LAVs.
- 15) Best fighting knife: Ka-Bar.
- 16) Best duty assignments: Okinawa, Kaneohe Bay, Camp Pendleton, Diego Garcia, Moscow, North Carolina. Plus any ship at sea.
- 17) Worst duty assignments: Okinawa, Kaneohe Bay, Camp Pendleton, Diego Garcia, Moscow, North Carolina. Plus any ship at sea.
- 18) Most exotic duty assignments: Kuala Lumpur, The White House.
- 19) Best phone number. Call 1-800-MARINES and you've got the Corps. And if you're a civilian with the character to be a Marine, a recruiter there will be happy to sign you up.
- 20) Toughest DI's. (Drill Instructors). They're so tough that when the Navy wants to train its officers, who do they call? 1-800-MARINES.
- 21) Toughest boot camp. When San Diego was still training Navy recruits, legend has it that recruits occasionally would jump the fence and accidentally land in Marine boot camp. The Marines would keep them a couple of days, and when the recruits were sent back, they were ready to be sailors!
- 22) Best motivational cries: Ooh-rah! - Attack! - Kill!
- 23) Best emblem: Eagle, Globe and Anchor. (Air, Land and Sea)
- 24) Best campaign covers: The Smokey Bear hat.
- 25) Separate heads for enlisted and officers. Everywhere else, officers and enlisted use the same pot.
- 26) The only official, congressionally sanctioned hymn for any of the services: ``The Marines' Hymn."



1-855-838-8255
Vets4Warriors.com

24/7 peer support for Service members and their families

Vets4Warriors

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

Vets4Warriors

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



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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Important Numbers and Websites

	Phone Number
Health Care Benefits:	1-877-222-8388
Bereavement Counseling	1-202-461-6530
Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1877-345-8179 (or) 1-888-820-1756
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)	1-800-733-8387
Dept Management Center (Collection of Non-Medical Depts)	1-800-857-0648
Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
Psychological Health Outreach Program Fort Devens, MA MFR-PHOP .North	east@serco-na.com
eBenefits (General Questions & Technical Issues)	1-800-983-0937
Education (GI Bill)	1-888-442-4551
Federal Recovery Coordination Program	1-877-732-4456
Foreign Medical Program	1-888-820-1756
Gulf War Veterans Hotline	1-800-749-8387
Homeless Veterans	1-877-222-8387
Income Verification and Means Testing	1-800-929-8387
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
Meds by Mail	1-888-385-0235 (or) 1-866-229-7389
National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
National Cemetery Scheduling Office	1-800-535-1117
National Personnel Records Center	1-314-801-0800
National Resource Directory	https://www.nrd.gov/
Pension Management Center	1-877-294-6380
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program	1-202-565-4964
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned or Veteran-Owned Small Business	1-202-303-3260
Special Health Issues	1-800-749-8387
Spina Bifida/Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1-888-820-1756
Status of Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4833
VA Caregiver Support Line	1-855-260-3274
VA for Vets	1-855-824-8387
VA Inspector General	1-800-488-8244
VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs	1-202-461-7600
Veteran's ID Theft Hotline	1-800-333-4636
Veteran's Employment and Training Service (VETS)	1-866-487-2365
Women Veterans	1-202-461-1070
Wounded Warrior Resource Center	1-800-342-9647



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

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

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



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



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



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A hands-on physical examination is not required.

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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.mclnational.org>

Marine Corps League

Department of New Jersey

Web Site:

<http://njmcl.org>

Lakeland Detachment 744 Web Site:

<http://www.usmcl744.org>

Lakeland Detachment 744 Face Book Page:

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

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

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

