

The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

March 2020 Newsletter

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Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

**Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment—744
March 2020**

THE TITLE

**IT CANNOT BE INHERITED.
NOR CAN IT EVER BE PURCHASED.
NEITHER YOU, NOR ANYONE ELSE ALIVE
CAN BUY IT FOR ANY PRICE.
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RENT
AND IT CANNOT BE LENT.
YOU ALONE AND OUR OWN
HAVE EARNER IT
WITH BLOOD SWEAT AND LIVES.
YOU OWN IT FOREVER.**

THE TITLE

UNITED STATES MARINE

At every wake we attend, the “TITLE” is read with pride in our Corps and with reverence to honor a fallen Marine. But we should also honor those living who have gone through the trials of becoming a Marine, have lived the life of a Marine and have honored that Title in their daily lives through service to their fellow man, their country and their God.

Let us further honor and remember those Marines who were engaged in the war in the Pacific as we honor and celebrate the 75th Anniversary of that campaign.

The title Marine is not to be taken lightly, it represents a commitment to be the very best and to follow and adhere to our core values of

HONOR, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT.

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie



Chaplain's Page

Guardians of the Night

Trust in me, my friend, for I am your comrade.

I will protect you with my last breath.

When all others have left you and the loneliness of the night closes in, I will be at your side. Together we will conquer all obstacles, and search out those who might wish harm to others. All I ask of you is compassion, the caring touch of your hands. It is for you that I will unselfishly give my life, and spend my nights unrested. Although our days together may be marked by the passing of the seasons, know that each day at your side is my reward.

My days are measured by the coming and going of your footsteps. I anticipate them at every opening of the door.

You are the voice of caring when I am ill.

The voice of authority when I've done wrong.

Do not chastise me unduly, for I am your right arm, the sword at your side. I attempt to do only what you bid of me.

I seek only to please you and remain in your favor.

Together you and I shall experience a bond only others like us will understand. When outsiders see us together their envy will be measured by their disdain. I will quietly listen to you and pass no judgment, nor will your spoken words be repeated.

I will remain ever silent, ever vigilant, and ever loyal.

And when our time together is done and you move on in the world, remember me with kind thoughts and tales, for a time we were unbeatable. Nothing passed among us undetected. If we should meet again on another street I will gladly take up your fight. I am a military working dog, and together we are guardians of the night.

Dear Lord:

Thank you for our canine companions. Please protect them as they stand by us without question. Help people to understand the importance they have in our lives as they work with us in war or fighting the demons that have followed us home.

Amen

Submitted by

Les Derbyshire, Chaplain

March 13 is K9 Veterans day.

The United States K9 Corps were created on March 13, 1942. Let us all give our thanks and praise for these loyal members of our armed forces. Thank you for your service.



Service Officers Report

January 2020

From Paul Thompson

Our bingo at the Paramus Veterans Home went very well this month thanks to our dedicated volunteers! Our next bingo at the Paramus Veterans Home is March 10 at 2 PM.

We had been going years ago during the evening and then the consensus was that we try to make it easier for some of our members to go during the day, since that's when most of our volunteers were able to go.

If there are enough members that can't make it during the day but would like to do an evening bingo once in a while, please call me and let me know and I might schedule an evening bingo during the month.

We've all seen alerts through the TV, newspaper, etc. about different scams that are targeting any individual not just seniors.

And it seems to be the amount of people that are scammed are increasing every year. Please be on the alert with for yourself and for any family members, especially those who are in a medical condition that are not necessarily able to make good decisions. The one thing I want you to make sure you have is that you have an updated POA in your will.

Also discuss with both your family members and whoever you have as POA that you could use their help in staying on top of this. Communicating with your family members especially what your wishes are, and where everything is in an emergency should be a top priority!

Last but not least, make sure everyone in your family is aware that as a veteran ,you do have some benefits that are worth while checking into.

Call or email me if you have any questions

Respectfully,

Paul Thompson,

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Editor's Page

Here we are at the "Ides of March". Days are already getting longer (yes! it's daylight after 5:30 PM) and temperatures are starting to get warmer(?). Daylight Savings Time is on March 8th so don't forget to reset your clocks 1 hour earlier (Spring Ahead). We've been fairly lucky with a rather mild winter this year, but I know I'm looking forward to spring. March also brings the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and the season of Lent for our Christian brothers and sisters.

For the detachment, this also means prep work for the upcoming Rose Event Season and continued support for our monthly 3rd Saturday Breakfast. Speaking of which, we still need volunteers to help with breakfast prep and set up, breakfast serving and cleanup at the end of the breakfast. February was a slower month, but we also had the least amount of assistance with clean up.

Speaking of volunteers (one of my favorite words), I saw an e-mail earlier today about a long list of Hollywood Stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood (40's, 50's, 60's and 70's) who either put their careers on hold or volunteered before their careers began to serve in the US Armed Services. I knew a lot of the names on the list as many of them were stars in movies or shows that I grew up watching. Most of these stars enlisted during WWII and Korea although there was one who served in WW1 and a couple that enlisted at 16. While there were several more that served in the 60's, 70's and 80's (although much fewer in number), since the 90's there has not been a single star who has put their life on the line for their country with only 1 exception. That is Pat Tillman, who gave up a \$36 Million contract with the Arizona Cardinals to serve as a US Army Ranger after September 11 and was KIA in Afghanistan in 2004. Instead of being lauded for his choice, he was mocked and decried by many of his peers.

Here we are in a time of history, where our military is more important than it's ever been but where is Hollywood now? Who is "volunteering" now? It's not the stars anymore. It's the Joe and Jane Smiths that volunteer and often put their lives on hold while they put them in danger's path. As we celebrate the 75 Anniversary of the last year of WWII, we should remember those that fought from America's Greatest Generation.

Important Note: There are several important pages in this issue of the Grunt. Please be aware as you peruse it. The WWII Celebration Dinner and the Golf Outing just to name a few.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers, Editor.

A Cavalcade of Stars!

You will probably remember these faces if you are old enough. If you are not that old, I challenge to you to find out about these great Americans! Older people will remember these & the younger ones can learn about our past. This brought back a lot of memories. Compare with Hollywood today.

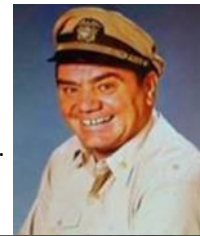


Sterling Hayden , US Marines and OSS . Smuggled guns into Yugoslavia and parachuted into Croatia (Left).

James Stewart , US Army Air Corps. Bomber pilot who rose to the rank of General (Right).



Ernest Borgnine , US Navy. Gunners Mate 1c, destroyer USS Lambertson (Right).



Ed McMahon, US Marines. Fighter Pilot. (Flew OE-1 Bird Dogs over Korea as well.) (Left)

Telly Savalas, US Army (Right).



Walter Matthau, US Army Air Corps., B-24 Radioman/Gunner and cryptographer (Left). Steve Forrest, US Army. Wounded, Battle of the Bulge (Right).



Jonathan Winters, USMC. Battleship USS Wisconsin and Carrier USS Bon Homme Richard. Anti-aircraft gunner, Battle of Okinawa (Left).



Paul Newman, US Navy Rear seat gunner/radioman, torpedo bombers of USS Bunker Hill (Right).



Kirk Douglas, US Navy Sub-chaser in the Pacific. Wounded in action and medically discharged (Right).



Robert Mitchum , US Army (Left). Dale Robertson , US Army. Tank Commander in North Africa under Patton. Wounded twice Battlefield Commission (Right).



Henry Fonda , US Navy. Destroyer USS Satterlee (Left). John Carroll , US Army Air Corps. Pilot in North Africa . Broke his back in a crash (Right).



Lee Marvin US Marines. Sniper. WIA on Saipan . Buried in Arlington National Cemetery , Sec. 7A next to Greg Boyington and Joe Louis (Left).



Art Carney, US Army. Wounded on Normandy beach, D-Day. Limped for the rest of his life (Left).



Wayne Morris, US Navy fighter pilot, USS Essex . Downed seven Japanese fighters (Left).



Rod Steiger, US Navy. Was aboard one of the ships that launched the Doolittle Raid (Left). Tony Curtis, US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus. In Tokyo Bay for the surrender of Japan (R)



Larry Storch. US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus with Tony Curtis (Left). Forrest Tucker, US Army. Enlisted as a private, rose to Lt. (Right).



Robert Montgomery, US Navy (Left). George Kennedy , US Army. Enlisted after Pearl Harbor, stayed in sixteen years (Right)



Mickey Rooney, US Army under Patton. Bronze Star (Left). Denver Pyle, US Navy. Wounded at Guadalcanal . Medically discharged (Right).





Burgess Meredith, US Army Air Corps (Left). DeForest Kelley, US Army Air Corps (Right).



Robert Stack, US Navy. Gunnery Officer (Left). Neville Brand, US Army, Europe. Was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart (Right).



Tyrone Power, Marines. Transport pilot in the Pacific Theater (Left). Charlton Heston, US Army Air Corps. Radio operator & B25 aerial gunner, Aleutians (Right)



Danny Aiello, US Army. Lied about his age to enlist at 16. Served three years (Left).



James Arness, US Army Infantry, severely wounded at Anzio, Italy (Right).



Efram Zimbalist, Jr., Army. Purple Heart for wound received at Huertgen Forest (Left). Mickey Spillane, US Army Air Corps, Fighter Pilot and Instructor Pilot (Right)



Rod Serling. US Army. 11th Airborne Jumped at Tagaytay Philippines & was wounded in Manila (Left). William Holden, Army Air Corps.



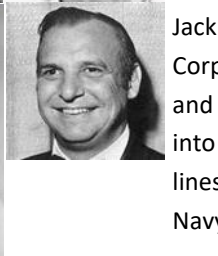
Gene Autry, US Army Air Corps. Crewman on transports that ferried supplies over "The Hump" in the China-Burma-India Theater (Left). Alan Hale Jr, US Coast Guard (Right).



Russell Johnson, Army Air Corps. B-24 crewman awarded Purple Heart when his aircraft was shot down in the Philippines (Left). William Conrad, US Army Air Corps. Fighter Pilot (Right)



Jack Klugman, US Army (Left). Frank Sutton, US Army. Took part in 14 assault landings, including Leyte, Luzon, Bataan and Corregidor (Right).



Jackie Coogan, US Army Air Corps. Volunteered for gliders and flew troops and materials into Burma behind enemy lines (Left). Tom Bosley, US Navy (Right).



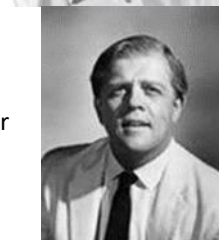
Claude Akins, US Army. Signal Corps, Burma and the Philippines (Left). Chuck Connors, US Army. Tank-warfare instructor. (Right)



Harry Carey Jr, US Navy (Left). Mel Brooks, US Army. Combat Engineer. Saw action in the Battle of the Bulge (Right)



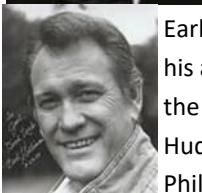
Robert Altman, US Army Air Corps. B-24 Co-Pilot (Left). Pat Hingle, US Navy Destroyer USS Marshall (Right).



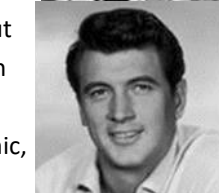
Fred Gwynne, US Navy. Radioman. (Left)



Karl Malden, US Army Air Corps. 8th Air Force, NCO. (Right)



Earl Holliman, US Navy. Lied about his age to enlist. Discharged when the Navy found out (Left). Rock Hudson, US Navy Aircraft mechanic, Philippines (Right)



Harvey Korman, US Navy (Left). Aldo Ray. US Navy. UDT frogman, Okinawa (Right)





Don Knotts, US Army, Pacific Theater (Left).

Don Rickles, US Navy aboard USS Cyrene (Right).



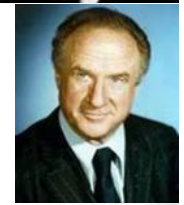
Harry Dean Stanton, US Navy Served aboard an LST at Okinawa (Left). Soupy Sales, US Navy. Served on USS Randall in the South Pacific (Right).



Lee Van Cleef, US Navy. Sub Chaser and Mine Sweeper (Left). Clifton James, Army, South Pacific. Silver Star, Bronze Star & Purple Heart (Right).



Ted Knight, US Army, Combat Engineers (Left). Jack Warden, US Navy, 1938-1942, US Army, 1942-1945. 101st Airborne Division (Right)



Don Adams. US Marines. Wounded on Guadalcanal then served as a Drill Instructor (Left). James Gregory, US Navy and US Marines (Right).



Brian Keith, US Marines. Radioman/Gunner Dauntless dive-bombers (Left). Fess Parker, Navy Pilot Trainee / Marines radio operator (Right)



Charles Durning. Army. Landed at Normandy on D-Day. Wounded multiple times. Silver Star, Bronze Star & 3 Purple Hearts. Survived Malmedy Massacre (Left).



Raymond Burr, US Navy. Shot in the stomach on Okinawa and medically discharged (Right).

Hugh O'Brian, US Marines ((Right).



Robert Ryan, US Marines (Left). Eddie Albert, US Coast Guard. Bronze Star w/ Combat V for saving Marines under fire as pilot of a landing craft at Tarawa (Right)



Carl Gable, US Army Air Corps. B-17 gunner Europe (Left). Charles Bronson, US Army Air Corps. B-29 gunner, wounded in action (Right).



Peter Graves, US Army Air Corps (Left).

Buddy Hackett, US Army anti-aircraft gunner (Right).



Victor Mature, US Coast Guard (Left). Jack Palance, US Army Air Corps. Severely injured bailing out of a burning B-24 bomber (Right).



Robert Preston, US Army Air Corps. Intelligence Officer (Left). Cesar Romero, US Coast Guard. Tinian and Saipan on the assault transport USS Cavalier (Right).



Norman Fell, US Army Air Corps., Tail Gunner, Pacific Theater (Left) Jason Robards, US Navy. On the USS Northampton when it was sunk off Guadalcanal. Also on USS Nashville Philippines (Right)



Steve Reeves, US Army, Philippines (Left).

Dennis Weaver, US Navy. Pilot (Right).



Robert Taylor, US Navy Instructor Pilot (Left). Randolph Scott. Tried to enlist in the Marines but was rejected WWI injuries Army (R)



Ronald Reagan. US Army. 2nd Lt. Army Air Corps Public Relations Unit. (Left). John Wayne. Tried for Army, Marines and Film Corps. 4f. Age & Injuries. Honorable Mention (Right)



Audie Murphy, America's most-decorated soldier, who became a Hollywood star as a result of his US Army service that included his being awarded the Medal of Honor (Right).



Weapons of the Marine Corps

This month, we get into the 20th century. We'll start with the Boxer Rebellion in China. Marines carried a mixed bag of rifles. The Legation Guard used the 6MM Winchester– Lee (Below).

The 1st Marine Regiment which marched with the relief column on Peking, carried the .30 Caliber Krag-Jorgensend (Below) made at the Springfield Armory.



Ship's Detachments which were organized into the 2nd Marine Regiment used the older Trapdoor Springfield's (Below Top) and 5 shot Remington-Lees Below Bottom). Given the different weapons, ammunition re-supply was a quartermaster's nightmare.

In spite of the obvious supply issues, Marines proved very successful with all four weapons against the Boxers.

Marines were also called to suppress the Philippine insurrection following the Spanish American War. The trusty Krag-Jorgenson was the primary rifle and the clear but brutal phrase, "Civilize 'em with a Kraig" was born. However, Marines lagged

behind the Army in skillfully using the accurate .30 Caliber Krag. This was painfully demonstrated at the National Rifle Matches when Marines finished with very low scores. After that, the Corps instituted a new regimen for marksmanship training so that every Marine was a marksman. After significant changes and serious training, the Marine Corps Rifle Team became very competitive at the national matches.

In 1912, the Marine Corps Received it's new weapon—the M1903 Springfield. Designed for the .30-06 Caliber Round which was smaller than the .30 Caliber round used with the Kraig-Jorgensen.



Developed at the Springfield Armory, the "Oh Three" or the "Thirty Ought Six" as Marines came to fondly call this suburb rifle, it featured a bolt action and a 5 round tripper clip which made loading and reloading much faster. More on the venerable M1903 Springfield to follow in the April Grunt.



The Battle for Khe Sahn continued from the February Grunt.

In Mid-March, intelligence developed by Marines showed what appeared to be a withdrawal of NVA units from the Khe Sahn area. The 325C Divisional Hq was the first to withdraw followed by the 95C and 101D Regiment, all of which withdrew to the west. At the same time the 304th Division withdrew to the southwest. This appearance of a major withdrawal did not mean that the battle for Khe Sahn was over. On March 22nd, the NVA once again shelled the main base with over 1000 rounds of heavy artillery. Once again, the base ammo dump was hit.



On March 23rd, Bravo Co, 26th Marines attacked toward the location of the ambush on February 25th that claimed so many of their comrades. The attack was preceded by a rolling artillery barrage supported by nine artillery batteries. Bravo Co advanced through 2 of the NVA trenchlines and reached the ambush spot. However, the Marines failed to locate the remains of Marines that were killed in the ambush of February 26th. Bravo Co claimed 115 NVA KIA while they lost 10 KIA and 100 WIA with 2 MIA.

Since the early part of January 1968, fighting at Khe Sahn had become so volatile there was concern that the base could not be held. Both the MACV Commanders and the Joint Chiefs had expressed uncertainty as to whether or not the Marines could hold at Khe Sahn. Back in the US, the media was drawing comparisons to the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. President Johnson was determined that Khe Sahn would not become an, "American Dien Bien Phu" and in as such ordered the US Military to hold Khe Sahn at all costs. One of the results of this order were B52 Arc Light strikes that bombed the jungle area around Khe Sahn into "stubble fields". The B52 strikes originated from Guam, Okinawa and Thailand. Back in the US, Khe Sahn would dominate the news headlines through out March and April.

A plan to provide overland relief of Khe Sahn had been in development since just before the Tet Offensive. Rte 9 was the only practical overland route from the east to Khe Sahn and was considered impassable due to its poor conditions and the presence of NVA troops. Early in March, General Tolson CG 1st Cavalry Div laid out his plans for Operation Pegasus which would become the largest operation launched by III MAF thus far in Vietnam. Marines of 2/1 and 2/3 would launch a ground assault along Route 9 from Ca Lu Combat Base about 16 km east of Khe Sahn and head west. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades of the 1st Cavalry Div would air assault key terrain features along Route 9 to establish fire support bases and cover the Marines as they advanced. Marines would have the 11th Marine Engineer Battalion in the vanguard to repair the road as they advanced. Artillery support would be from 102 piece of artillery. Later on, Marine of 1/1 and the 3rd ARVN Airborne Task Force would join in the battle.

Operation Pegasus infuriated the Marines who argued that Khe Sahn was not under siege since it was never truly isolated from resupply or reinforcement. General Cushman was appalled by the implication of this operation being a rescue or breaking of the siege by outside forces considering the Marines never wanted to occupy or defend Khe Sahn in the first place. Operation Pegasus was launch on April 1st. Opposition from NVA forces was light and the only major problem was heavy cloud cover that slowed helicopter operations considerably. As the "relief" force made progress, Marines at Khe Sahn began patrolling at greater distances from the base. On April 6th, The 3rd Battalion of the air cavalry encountered a NVA blocking force and fought a day long engagement. On April 7th the 2nd Brigade of the Air Cav captured the old French Fort near Khe Sahn village. The link up took place on April 8 at 0800 when 2nd Battalion 7th Cav Regiment enter the main base at Khe Sahn. On April 11th, the 11th Engineers declared Route 9 open to traffic.

General Tolson immediately began Operation Delaware using Khe Sahn as the jump off for attacks into the A Shau Valley. Lownds and the 26th Marines departed Khe Sahn leaving the base defense to the 1st Marine Regiment. On May 23rd Lownds and his Sgt Major received the Presidential Unit Citation on behalf of the 26th Marines.

In June, it was decided that Khe Sahn would be abandoned and by July 1 the base was closed. Marines continued limited operations on the Khe Sahn plateau. The base would be reused later in the war on a limited basis.

World War II - War in the Pacific **Commemoration Dinner**



Sponsored By
Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment 744
April 18, 2020
Cocktail hour - 1700 Hours
Dinner following
Meadowlands Hilton, East Rutherford, NJ

Lt.Gen John Jansen, USMC, Keynote Speaker
Tickets \$90

Ticket Information

Paul Thompson (201) 320-3210, paulcfp@aol.com
Dr. P. Guibor, (201) 245-7750, pguibor@aol.com
Ms. G. Alvarez, (973) 839-5693, palvarez1942@hotmail.com

Additional Information – USMCghostdriver@gmail.com

Commemoration Dinner Ticket Order Form

Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Tickets request _____ X \$90 = \$ _____

Checks payable to – MCL DETACHMENT 744

Entrée Choice _____ Steak Filet _____ Salmon _____

Mail to MCL Detachment 744
PO Box 8
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008

Dress Code

Civilian – Business Attire

USMC – Dress Blue “B”

US Navy – Service Dress Blue

US Army – Blue Service Uniform w/ribbons

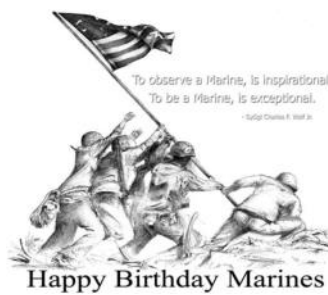
Quartermaster's Report

We now have crew neck sweatshirts, Sateen Marine Corps Utility Covers, Vietnam Marine Corps Veteran Covers and Marine Corps Mouse Pads. Still working on Jackets and hope to have some information by April.

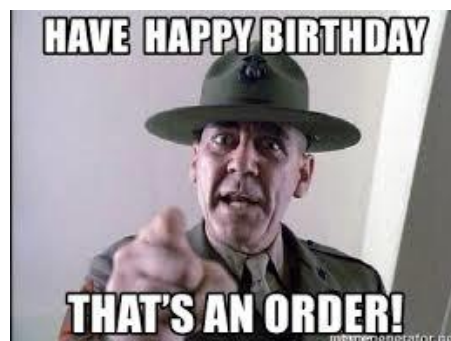
Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



Don Stouthamer	03/02
Kelly Cole	03/04
Anthony Milazzo	03/14
John Smith	03/18
Steve Piscitelli	03/25
Charles Huha	03/26
Bob Costantin	03/28



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Calendar of Events

March 2020

- 03/10/2020 Bingo Paramus Veterans Home - - Pending
- 03/10/2020 Executive Board Meeting - - 1900
- 03/14/2020 Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Livingston--Jayson Melhorn--1600
- 03/15/2020 NJ Dept. MCL meeting--Sea Girt--1200
- 03/21/2020 3rd Saturday Breakfast - - 0800-1200
- 03/26/2020 Detachment Meeting - - 1930
- 03/2//2020 MCL Dept. NJ Leadership Class



8 March 1965: The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Vietnam as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to that conflict. The 3,500 men arrived both across the beach with Battalion Landing Team 3/9, and at DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1/3



27 March 1953: The 5th Marines, supported by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the first full day of fighting after the Chinese assault the previous evening of Outpost Vegas on Korea's western front, counterattacked to regain enemy-held positions. Companies E and F of 2/7, down to only three platoons between them, managed to regain partial control of Outpost Vegas that day.



13 March 1943: The first group of 71 Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The Navy's willingness to share training facilities enabled the Marine Corps to begin training Marine Corps Women's Reserve officers just one month after the creation of the MCWR was announced.



2 March 1867: Jacob Zeilin, Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps from 30 June 1864, was this date promoted to the rank of Brigadier General Commandant, the first time Congress authorized this rank for the Marine Corps. The statute, however, was repealed in June 1874 so that the rank of Commandant would again revert to Colonel upon Zeilin's retirement.



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 March 21st 8AM-12 NOON

Come have an Outstanding Breakfast and a Good Time

Enjoy Fresh Eggs Made to Order

Eggs Benedict

Omelets; Scrambled Eggs & Sausage Gravy

Pancakes; French Toast & Waffles

Bacon; Sausage; SOS & Corned Beef Hash

Home Fries & Biscuits

Donuts; Bagels & English Muffins

Coffee; Orange Juice & Pastries

Adults: \$12.00, Seniors: \$10.00

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

Bring your family and friends

Most Important Support Lakeland Detachment #744

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

Current Operations Notes

At the December meeting, Marine Kevin O'Leary was supposed to receive his new Life Membership Card. Unfortunately, Kevin was unable to attend the meeting so the card was put to the side. And lost. 1st Vice Commandant Mike McNulty found the card a few weeks later. So at the February 3rd Saturday Breakfast, Kevin finally received his life membership card.



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 always takes time to thank those non members that help out at our events such as the 3rd Saturday Breakfast. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Alyssa and Jenna Lanza, their friend Ryan and Alexandra Dilorenzo (Peter & Grace Alvarez's granddaughter) (Left)



Not to be left out, Peter and Grace Alvarez's granddaughter Olivia and grandson Derek were awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their assistance with the 3rd Saturday Breakfasts at the January Breakfast. (Right)



The detachment wishes to thank Judy Coda and her daughter Judy Coda (yes, both have the same name) for their awesome contribution of these delicious treats to the February Breakfast. They added so much more and the hard work that went into them is greatly appreciated.

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.

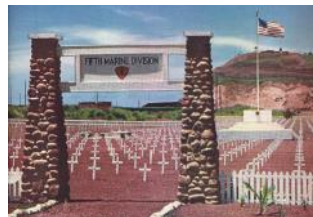
As Flags Pass By....

I watched the flag pass by one day,
It fluttered in the breeze;
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease.



I looked at him in uniform,
So young, so tall, so proud;
With hair cut square and eyes alert,
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought . . . how many men like him
Had fallen through the years?
How many died on foreign soil?



How many mothers' tears?
How many pilots' planes shot down
How many died at sea
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves



I heard the sound of Taps one night,
When everything was still;
I listened to the bugler play,
And felt a sudden chill;



I wondered just how many times
That Taps had meant "Amen"
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend;



I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands.



With interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea,
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.



Author Unknown



The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment 744



Invites you to it's

20TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Preakness Valley Golf Course

209 Totowa Road, Totowa, NJ 07470

973-881-4921

DATE: Friday June 5, 2020

TIME: 7:30 AM Register & Breakfast – 8:30AM Shotgun Start

COST: Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Breakfast and Buffet Lunch

Plus; Beer & Soda, on Course; Prizes for All

\$135. Per golfer if paid on or before May 15, 2020 -or-

\$145. Per golfer if paid after May 15, 2020

Payments: Cash, Check or Credit Cards

Reservations - ASAP (to reserve your space)

BEST BALL FORMAT TEAM SCORE

PLEASE SHOW SHIRT SIZE NEXT TO YOUR NAME

Name _____ Phone _____

Golf Committee

Robert Ranzinger [201-370-2062](tel:201-370-2062)Cell--bankyankee@verizon.net

Joseph Piazza [201-505-1361H](tel:201-505-1361H)--[201-661-4226C](tel:201-661-4226C)--joemar21@msn.com

George Vankat [201-797-8616H](tel:201-797-8616H)---gwvj37@optimuim.net

Peter Alvarez [973-839-5693H](tel:973-839-5693H)-[973-568-7719C](tel:973-568-7719C)--palvarez1942@hotmail.com

Hole Sponsor Donations Start @ \$25 per hole

Please Make Checks payable to: MCL LAKELAND DET. 744

MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 8 POMPTON LAKES, NJ 07442-0008



Department of New Jersey
2020 Shooting Program Schedule

DATE	TIME	MATCH	LOCATION
Pistol			
3/15	8:30 AM	Combat Pistol Match	Union County Sheriff's Pistol Range
3/29	8:30 AM	600 Aggregate	Union County Sheriff's Pistol Range
4/19	8:30 AM	Pistol Qualification	Union County Sheriff's Pistol Range
5/3	8:30 AM	MCL – NJ Championship	Union County Sheriff's Pistol Range
5/17	8:30 AM	600 Aggregate	Union County Sheriff's Pistol Range
Rifle			
6/28	8:30 AM	Garand Match	Cherry Ridge Range - Highland Lakes, NJ
8/9	8:30 AM	Rifle Qualification	Cherry Ridge Range - Highland Lakes, NJ
9/13	8:30 AM	Four Position Match	Cherry Ridge Range - Highland Lakes, NJ
10/25	8:30 AM	Carlos Hathcock Match	Cherry Ridge Range - Highland Lakes, NJ

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Riley
Shooting Program Chairman
(201) 592-6093 (Home)
(201) 983-1019 (Cell)
joseph.riley10@verizon.net

To All: This was supposed to be in the February Grunt. My apologies for missing it when I published last month's Grunt. Ken

Santa's Memories

Well... the holiday season is over and things can now get back to normal. However, 2019 left us with some great memories. Especially from Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Holiday Marine Christmas Breakfast. We would like to share some of our memories of that morning.

Memory #1, A pretty, and a very pregnant young woman came up to me and asked if I would do her a favor. Being Santa I said yes if I could. She then handed me a gift-wrapped box, the size of a shirt box, which she said held the gender of her unborn baby. She wanted to bring her two children up to me and have me give them the box to open. Sure enough, a moment later she appeared with two children. A boy about 9 or 10 and a girl about 7 or 8. The young lady sat on my lap and the young man stood beside me. I gave them the gift box and they began to tear off the wrapping. In the box was a baby light blue jumpsuit with the words on the front, "You are going to have a baby brother". When the young man read that he started jumping up and down and went berserk. He ran down to his mother and gave her and her tummy a great big hug. The young lady was all smiles. This was our first gender reveal and one we will always remember.

Memory #2. A little girl about 4 ½ or 5 with a pretty dress and a pony-tail came up and sat on my lap. She told me what she wanted for Christmas and when she finished, I told her she could pick any present from under the tree that she wanted. I then went on to the next child not paying any more attention to Ms. Pony-tail. When things quieted down, Mrs. Claus informed me that she noticed Ms. Pony-tail had picked a Barbie-like doll AND a stuffed dog about 10" high that was blue with yellow polka-dots. Her mother said she could only have one gift and that she had to put one back. After some thought, she decided to put back the dog. But before she did, she gave the dog a great big hug and a kiss and set it back down under the tree. Well, Santa being Santa, I went over and got the little dog, found the table she was sitting at with her parents and told her I noticed on my good girl list that she had wanted a stuffed dog and that we were giving it to her ahead of time. Now, there was a lot going on around us with the breakfast and all but that little girl grabbed that dog and hugged it so tight that I'll bet it took several days for the parents to get her to let go. Plus, the smile on her face just lit up the room just like stadium lights would have. Again, a memory that Mrs. Claus and I will never forget.

Memory #3. A young lady, about 7 or 8 came up and sat on my lap, looked me straight in the eye, about 6" from my face and said, "Didga get my letter?". To which I responded, "When did you send it?" She said, "Last week". Well, I said, "That was the problem. I've been so busy the last several weeks that I'm about a week behind in my letter reading but I would look for her letter that night when I got back to the North Pole." That seemed to satisfy her, but for the rest of the morning, she would check in with me every 10-15 min. to make sure I would remember.

These are just some of the memories we have to cherish for the rest of our lives. We can hardly wait for the 2020 breakfast. In the meantime, Happy New Year! and remember to be good.

Respectfully, Mrs. Claus & Santa (AKA - Diane & Carl)



\$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**.

The Marine Corps and the Radio

One month into Marine Corps training in San Diego, we were preparing for a ten-mile march in 100-degree weather when a jeep drove up with a big - sophisticated looking radio in the back. "Who knows anything about radios?" our drill instructor asked.

Several hands went up, and anticipating a ride in the jeep, recruits began listing their credentials. Everything from a degree in communications to a part-time job in a repair shop was declared.

The DI listened to all the contenders, then pointed to the most qualified. "You!" he barked. "Carry the radio."

One day a man decides to join the US Marine Corps

During training, he just can't keep up, so the sergeant tells him to go home and wait until he's called upon as a reserve. 35 years go by and the man is still not called into action, so he decides to retire. Out fishing one day, enjoying his retirement, a car fly's past him out of control and crashes into the lake. Fishermen from around the lake start diving in, trying to rescue the driver, but the car has descended too far into the deep water. The man steps up, and without a second thought, jumps in.

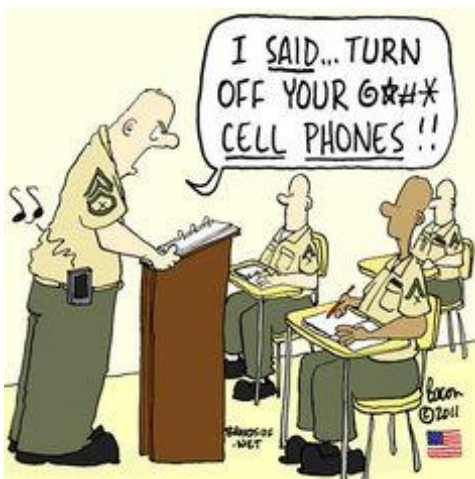
The fishermen watch as 30 seconds pass..... 1 minute..... 2 minutes.....3 minutes.....

"He's gone", think the fishermen, "there's no way he can survive this long under water".

After 20 minutes, emergency services finally arrive and the fishermen direct them to where the car went down. Suddenly, from out of nowhere, something bobs up to the surface... not one, but two people! The man had saved the driver!

As they pull themselves ashore, everyone gathers round in amazement. "How the hell did you manage to survive so long underwater and dive so deep?"

"Well, I'm retired now, but I have a lot of experience", replies the man, "I spent 35 long years as a sub-marine"





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visit Vets4Warriors.com, or email: Info@Vets4Warriors.com



- Vets4Warriors provides Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service members and their families worldwide with peer-to-peer support.
- The Vets4Warriors peers are Veterans who have been there and understand the problems unique to military life and know your challenges.
- Vets4Warriors will assist you in setting a plan to overcome adversity, manage stress, and build resilience.
- Vets4Warriors provides peer support and follow up for those with ongoing concerns. For those in crisis we will connect you to the Military Crisis Line.



- Peer-to-peer support is available 24/7, and it is toll-free throughout the U.S.
- Your call is confidential. Vets4Warriors does not discuss your call with anyone and, if callers choose, they can remain anonymous.
- The Vets4Warriors call center is staffed with Veterans and family members representing all branches of the Service.
- The call center's Veterans provide information and referrals as needed.
- Vets4Warriors is available via telephone, on-line chat, or e-mail.
- For more information visit www.vets4warriors.com.



Set your course with a military connection

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



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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)

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