

# The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

March 2021 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  
February, 2021**

### IWO JIMA

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. Four days later, the American Flag was raised on Mount Suribachi on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1945. Major hostilities ceased on March 16, 1945 with mopping up activities commencing 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 sixth 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 est. killed.

Our Detachment lost our last two surviving members of the Battle of Iwo Jima, Gene Frederick on 6/15/2020, who was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions and Anthony Lechniak on 1/3/2021, 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 have been present in their company. Well done Marines, the Lakeland Detachment and our country honors and salutes you.

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".**

**Semper Fidelis,**

**Charlie**

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





## Chaplain's Page

### Prayer for the Faithful

By St. Patrick



#### An Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
the rains fall soft upon your fields,  
and until we meet again, may  
God hold you in the palm of His hand.

May the Strength of God guide us

May the Power of God preserve us

May the Wisdom of God instruct us

May the Hand of God protect us

May the Way of God direct us

May the Shield of God defend us

May the Angels of God guard us –

Against the snares of the evil one.

May Christ be with us!

May Christ be before us!

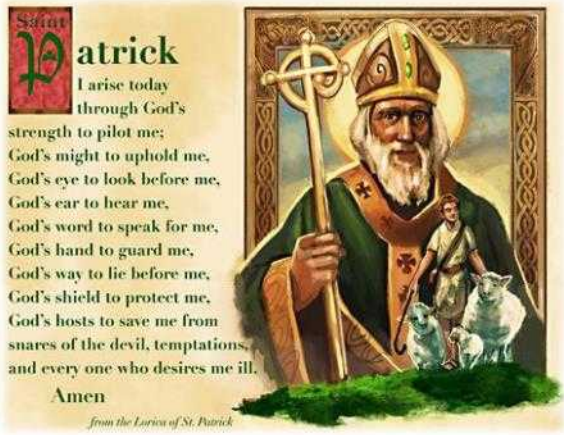
May Christ be in us!

Christ be over all!

This day, O Lord, and forevermore.

Amen

Submitted by: Les Derbyshire, Chaplain





## ***Service Officers Report***

***November 2020***



*From Paul Thompson*

***The Paramus Veterans Nursing Home is starting to accept patients again which sounds like good news. However, I'm finding out that some people are still really scared of going there and that's understandable. But from what I've been told is they are much more prepared now to handle the COVID-19 virus than ever before.***

***For the last few weeks, I was trying to get a veteran admitted into the nursing home and was able to get him accepted within a week! But the spouse at the last moment, decided not to go ahead with sending the veteran there.***

***When I asked her what was going on, she replied that she thought the Paramus Veterans Nursing Home was an assisted living facility. And that she was rather upset when she heard that her husband would be in a room with one other person.***

***This is not the first time that I've heard of people thinking that Paramus Veterans Home was either an assisted living home, or just a place to go like a senior citizens home. Also thinking they'll have their own room like they could get at an assisted living facility (at which you're paying a much higher cost).***

***The last time a case like this happened, it was the kids that stopped the father from going into the home.***

***Over the years I've always encouraged people to take a visit to Paramus Veterans Nursing Home, to see with the facilities are like, and to see if that's going to meet their expectations for their love ones.***

***While currently there are no tours schedule because of the virus, people can always go online and there is a lot of information on the Paramus Veterans Home that you could help someone if they wanted information. And they can also call me at anytime. I'll be more than happy to give them more information about the facility.***

***Stay safe and don't hesitate in getting your VA care.***

***Any questions, please feel free to email John Harris or myself.***

***Paul Thompson,***

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The Chefs from Lakeland Detachment #744 Marine Corps League would like to invite you to The Best Corned Beef and Cabbage St. Patties Day "Grab &

Go" meal around!!

Saturday March 13th 2-5pm

Our meals are served Family style! Corned beef, Cabbage, red potatoes and a skillet Loaf of Pam McNulty's famous Irish Soda Bread.



Family Meal \$45

Single Meal \$17 Orders must be **emailed** to [simms156@gmail.com](mailto:simms156@gmail.com) by no later than March

10th **6pm**. Please pick up your order at The American Legion Hall Post 369 65 Oak Street Oakland, NJ 07436 Please let us know what time you will pick up your meal between **2pm** and **5pm**



Greetings Marines,

As I begin to write this column on the evening of February 22nd after yet another 2 to 3 hours of shoveling another 3-4 inches of very wet and heavy snow, I'm recalling the significance of tomorrow in Marine Corps and American History. At 0859 on February 19th, 1945, Marines of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions began the invasion of Iwo Jima. After initial success with little resistance, although hindered by the 15 foot slope of volcanic ash, Marines continued to land on the beaches. At 1000, the Japanese defenders opened up and rained down hell with everything they had. Time-Life correspondent Robert Sherrod described it simply as "a nightmare in hell."

The men of Naval Construction Battalions 31 and 133 braved enemy fire and were able to bulldoze and open exits off of the beaches which enabled our Marines to advance inland. By the time this was done, there was at least 1 dead Marine in every shell crater on the beach. Life would not be easy for the Marines in the upcoming days. Iwo Jima was a Japanese possession prior to the war and the Japanese had a long time to prepare it's defenses. Their heavy artillery was on a retractable system that allowed the piece to be moved out into the open, fired and pulled back behind reenforced steel doors that closed while it was reloaded. This tactic proved to be very efficient since Naval gunfire and the famed air to ground support that Marine aviation is renown for, was unable to silence the Japanese guns. Another factor was the interwoven network of tunnels and caves that were tied into the defensive bunkers. Marines would clear a bunker and move on only to have the bunker reoccupied by Japanese defenders. Many Marines were killed or wounded because of this.

By 1130, the southern edge of Airfield 1 was reached. It was only through sheer determination that the Marines were able to hold onto their toe hold on Airfield 1. One of the main objectives for the first day was to secure the narrowest part of the island. The 28th regiment led by Col. Harry B. "Harry the Horse" Liversedge got the job done and separated the defenders on Mt Suribachi from the rest of the island.

The right-most landing area was dominated by Japanese positions at the Quarry. The 25th Marine Regiment undertook a two-pronged attack to silence these guns. The 25th Marines' 3rd Battalion had landed approximately 900 men in the morning. Japanese resistance at the Quarry was so fierce that by nightfall only 150 Marines were left in fighting condition, an 83.3% casualty rate. As Lt Gen Howlin Mad Smith, who was the Commander of the invasion ground forces, reviewed the casualty reports and reports of the slow progress, his comment to the press was, "I don't know who he is, but the Japanese general running this show is one smart bastard."

Which brings me to February 22nd. It was the end of the 4th day of fighting on Iwo Jima and plans were being made to send a patrol up Mt Suribachi the next morning with the intention of raising a flag. Fr Charles Suver a Jesuit Priest assigned as a chaplain to the 5th Marine Division overheard the planning and told the Marines that if they accomplished this, he would say a mass under it. After the initial recon by 2 small patrols from separate rifle companies of the 2/28 which reported little or no enemy activity, a re-enforced platoon sized patrol was sent back up under 1st Lt. Harold Schrier who was given the battalion American Flag to raise.

After they reached the summit, 1st Lt. Schrier ordered the Marines from E-Company to secure the summit, Although they had encountered very little resistance, it was felt that the enemy would contest the summit as tenaciously as they had so far. In fact, the Japanese were holed up due to the intense shelling. Once secure, Lt. Schrier ordered that the battalion American Flag be raised. The Marines found a length of Japanese water pipe among the debris and raised the flag. This raising was photographed by Marine photographer Louis R. Lowery who was the only photographer to accompany the patrol. It just so happened that as the flag went up, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal had just landed on the beach at the foot of Mount Suribachi and decided that he wanted the flag as a souvenir. A runner was dispatched to bring a larger more visible flag in accordance with the secretary's wishes.

The rest of E Company 2/28 went up Mt Suribachi carrying the replacement flag. Joe Rosenthal had just come ashore and joined them on the way up. They met up with Sgt Lowery on his was down with his damaged camera and he told Rosenthal that he had some pictures of the flag raising. When they reached the summit, the original flag was taken down and the replacement was raised using a heavier piece of pipe. It was during this flag raising that Joe Rosenthal took his famous photograph which would later become the basis for the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington VA next to the National Cemetery. Secretary Forrestal said that because of this Pulitzer prizewinning photograph that there will be a Marine Corps for the next 500 years.

Fr. Suver accompanied E Company and as promised, said mass for about 2 dozen Marines under the newly raised flag while under occasional fire.

Based upon what I've read about Iwo Jima, I can only conclude that it took both "Old Breed" and "New Breed" Marines to lead us to victory. There were many Marines on Iwo that were veterans of Guadalcanal such as Medal of Honor winner John Basilone, others that were veterans of Betio Island and other pacific campaigns. There were probably twice as many new Marines either fresh from boot camp or with some additional training that would receive their baptism of fire at Iwo. It would take 36 days before the island would be secured and while the Japanese death toll would be 3 times the American death toll, the American casualty rate would exceed the Japanese casualty rate by about 25%.

Considering the day I started writing this, I've been giving a lot of thought about the Marines who have gone before us and the future of our corps. Historically, manpower figures for the Marine Corps fluctuate considerably. In 1918 at the height of WWI, the Marine Corps manpower figure was 52,819, not quite double from 1917 and nearly 5 times the number in 1914. During the 1920s and 1930s, that number dropped as low as 16,068 in 1933. The number would fluctuate from a high of about 22,000 to the low of 16,068 until 1940 when the build up for WWII began. In 1945, the manpower of the Marine Corps would be at an all time high of 469,925. After WWII ended, the manpower would drop significantly to 74,279 in 1950. At the end of the Korean War, the manpower would be back up at 249,219 in 1953. It would fluctuate between a high of almost 310,000 to a low at about 170,000 through today's estimated number of about 182,000.

Why all the numbers you might ask? Perspective is my answer. There have been millions of Marines that have gone before us. They are the reason for the history of our Marine Corps and our Esprit de Corps which is why we do what we do as Marines. Last March, it was announced that the Marine Corps plans to eliminate it's tank battalions entirely in order to be a more mobile force. While I find this announcement disturbing, it's not as disturbing as some of the other reductions in force that are planned over the next 10 years.

Other planned reductions include: reducing from 24 infantry battalions to 21, artillery cannon batteries from 21 to 5, and amphibious companies from 6 to 4. Other reductions under consideration are a reduction of MV-22 Osprey attack and heavy lift squadrons, as well as a reduction from 16 to 10 F35B or F35C stealth fighters per squadron.

On the other hand, they are looking to increase rocket artillery by 300% and adding anti ship missiles to the inventory. UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) squadrons including lethal air and ground systems would be doubled giving the Marine Corps increased sensor and attack capability.

Commandant Berger told the House Armed Services Committee on February 27, 2020, "I think every service chief would love to have a better force. But you need us to be lethal. You need us to be mobile. You need us to be integrated with the Navy. So we're going to reduce the size of the Marine Corps some this year, more next year." This has been a result of the ever changing mission of the Marine Corps.

Hopefully, this newly defined mission of the Marine Corps will enable the continuation of our Corps. The same calls for disbanding of the Marine Corps that occurred after WWII are surfacing today. My hope is that these people will look at history and look at the times that Marines have literally saved the day. It was the arrival of Marines in the Pusan perimeter that saved the Army in Korea. Who knows what would have happened if the Army was forced to the sea at Pusan. The Korean peninsula would likely be very different and there might have even been at least a limited strategic nuclear war (yes, it was that close). Marines made the landing at Inchon possible which turned the tide of the Korean War. It was the Marines that won the day in battles such as Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Guam, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. In WWI, Marines stood tall at Belleau Wood and Marne. Between the wars, Marines fought in the Banana Wars and kept the peace in China. Marines held their own in Vietnam and had there not been political interference, Vietnam as we know it now might be different (North Vietnam was close to capitulation. Desert Storm, Iraq and the continuing war on terrorism have kept the Marine Corps actively providing an amphibious means to bring peace to the trouble areas around the globe.

After the February Grunt was sent out, I received an e-mail from a member advising that his father who was an Iwo Jima veteran and past member of the detachment had been left out. As I explained in my response, I've only been a member of the detachment for about 6 years. I asked him to provide some details about his father's service. So, in light of the opening of my editorial which discusses Iwo Jima in some degree of detail, I would like to honor this Marine's memory by furnishing the following information: PFC Joseph F Alu joined the Marine Corps on June 19, 1942. When the 5th Marine Division was activated, he was assigned to A Co, 5th Pioneer Battalion, 5th Marine Division. The 5th Marine Division was sent to participate in the Battle of Guam as reserve if they were needed. They were not needed and were sent to Camp Tarawa in Hawaii to continue training. Pioneer battalions were made up of combat engineers and Joe was a demolitions expert. A Co would land at Iwo Jima in the first wave on either Red Beach 1, Red Beach 2 or Green Beach 1 which were the 3 beaches assigned to the 5th Marine Division. Joe was a member of the Detachment from November 25, 1994 until his passing on March 25, 2005. His son Michael followed in his footsteps and served as a Marine from 1966 –1972. Rest in peace Marine.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers, Editor



For this month's history discussion, I'm covering the introduction of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. As WWII began, the mere notion of women serving in the Marine Corps or the Navy did not have support in congress or in either branch of military service. There were those that believed that women would eventually be needed in the military most notably Edith Nourse Rogers (Representative from Massachusetts) and Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of the president. These women, with other supporters paved the way for Public Law 689 which President Roosevelt signed into law on July 30, 1942. The Army already had the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps) which was founded on May 15, 1942 and was converted to active status and changed to WAC on July 1, 1943. The purpose of the law was to establish a Women's Reserve as a branch of the Navy Reserve for both the Navy and Marine Corps. The primary logic behind this was to free up officers and men for combat with women standing in at shore stations on the home front. Women were now able to service as officers and enlisted with ranks (or ratings) consistent with those of men. The time of service would be for the duration of the war plus 6 months (which was the same as the men).



The Marine Corps was the last branch of service to accept women in its ranks and delayed formation of the reserve until February 13, 1943. One of the stalwart opponents of women serving in the Marine Corps was General Thomas Holcomb, the Commandant of the Marine Corps. By the end of 1943, General Holcomb would change his tune stating that there was hardly any work at Marine bases that women can't do as well as men. He even went further stating that they actually do some of the work better than men. He added that they are real Marines, they don't have a nickname nor do they need to. (Holcomb rejected all acronyms or monikers for the Reserve; he did not believe they were compulsory. Despite Holcomb's dislike for nicknames, several of them surfaced for the Reserve, including: Femarines, WAMS, BAMS, Dainty Devil-Dogs, Glamarines, Women's Leatherneck-Aides, MARS, and Sub-Marines. By the summer of 1943, attempts to pressure the Reserve into a nickname had diminished. "WR" was as far as Holcomb would move in that direction.)

The first director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was Ruth Cheney Streeter who was commissioned a Major and sworn in on January 29, 1943 by Frank Knox, the Secretary of the Navy. However, she was not the first woman to see active duty in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. Mrs. Anne A. Lenz, a civilian clothing expert and designer of the reserve uniforms was commissioned as a captain. She originally came to the corps on a 30 day assignment from the WAAC but decided to stay on.



Mrs. Streeter was 47 years old at the time of her appointment and had a unique set of circumstances that made her stand out over 11 other women that were nominated for the director's position. She was married to a prominent lawyer/businessman, had 3 sons (all three served in the military during WWII) and a younger daughter. She had over 20 years of active civic work she never held a paying job. In 1940, she believed that the United States would eventually be drawn in to WWII. Since she wanted to be able to serve, she learned how to fly, earning a commercial pilots license. She purchased a small airplane and joined the Civil Air Patrol. While her plan was used for missions, she was regulated to "the dirty work". When the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) was formed she attempted to join 5 times even though she was older than the maximum age by 12 years. In January 1943, she inquired

about joining the WAVES but was told that she would not be allowed to fly. Within the month, she was appointed as the first director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. She was promoted to Colonel a year later. She resigned her commission on December 7, 1945. During her tenure as the Director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, the total number of Women Marine Reservists rose to about 19,000. While in the director's position, she sent an open letter to all women recruits, saying, "It is not easy to Free a Marine to Fight (a recruiting slogan of the Reserve). It takes courage – the courage to embark on a new and an alien way of life... Your spirit is a source of constant inspiration to all who work with you." She also pondered what drew women to the Marine Corps Women's Reserve and sent out a thousand surveys asking this question. 750 of the responses indicated positive reasons such as they had brothers or husbands serving in the military and wanted to do their part, some indicated that they wanted revenge against the enemy and still others indicated that they were looking for the experience. The remaining 250 responses indicated that they were looking to get away from a troubled or broken marriage, a bad home life, boredom or some sort of personal disappointment. Col Streeter was not displeased with the findings.



Women enlistees being sworn into the Marine Corps Women's Reserve in the New York area, 1943

The qualifications for women who wished to become members of the Reserve were stringent. The eligibility requirements for officer candidates and enlisted women were similar: United States citizenship; not married to a Marine; either single or married but with no children under 18; height not less than 60 in (150 cm); weight not less than 95 lb (43 kg); good vision and good teeth. For enlisted members, the age limits were from 20 to 35, and an applicant was required to have at least two years' of high school. For officer candidates, the age limits were from 20 to 49, and they had to either be a college graduate, or have a combination of two years' of college and two years' of work experience. Later, the wives of enlisted Marines were allowed to join, and enlisted women could marry after boot camp.

There were no specific recruiting stations for the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. Under an agreement with the Navy, locations that were recruiting for the WAVES would also recruit for the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. (Editor's Note: you will note that I have yet to refer to an abbreviation for the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. That is because there isn't one. Neither Commandant Holcomb or Vandergrift would agree to give them an abbreviation unlike the other services. They both felt and agreed that they were Marines and there was no need to call them anything else. From this point on I'll simply refer to them as "The Reserve.") This helped to avoid competition in the recruiting of women for either naval service. Women applicants for either service would go to one office to enlist and to receive physical examinations. (Later on, the Reserve established its own recruiting capability.) Questions surfaced about whether male Marine recruiters could properly select female applicants for the Reserve, the call went out for women recruiters. Nineteen WAVE officer candidates volunteered; they were transferred and assigned to procurement offices. Still in WAVE uniforms, they began recruiting the first members of the Reserve. Lucile E. McClarren of Nemaocolin, Pennsylvania, appears to have been the first enlisted woman recruited on 13 February 1943. The Reserve did not accept African American women or Japanese American women during the war years. The first Native American woman to enlist in the Reserve was Minnie Spotted-Wolf of Heart Butte, Montana; she did so in July 1943. Early recruiting was brisk, so much so that in some cases women were sworn in and put to work in procurement offices, delaying their training until later.

The slogan "Free a Marine to Fight" proved to be a strong drawing card for the Reserve, stronger than any fashioned by the WAC, WAVES, or SPARS (The Coast Guard Women's Reserve). Young women were eager to serve in the military during World War II, often in defiance of their family's wishes. Marian Bauer's parents were so upset when she joined the corps that they did not see her off. Jane Taylor's father, a World War I veteran, gave her this advice: "Don't ever complain to me. You're doing this of your own free will. You weren't drafted or forced. Now, go – learn, travel, and do your job to the best of your ability." There were those parents who asked for special consideration for daughters who were too young to enlist. The minimum age of 20 years, set by law, remained the same throughout the war for the Reserve. Some parents wondered why 18-year-olds were sent into combat, and 18-year-old girls could not serve. The Corps' recruiting scheme of forming platoons of about 40 women each to be recruited from the same area and sending them as a unit to Reserve training together caught on quickly. The first platoon was from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, then Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, followed by Albany, Buffalo, and Central New York; Johnstown and Fayette County, Pennsylvania; Dallas and Houston, Texas; Miami, Florida; Saint Paul, Minnesota; Green Bay, Wisconsin; the state of Alabama; and northern and southern New England.

The first group of six officers recruited were given direct commissions in the Reserve. They were recruited for their abilities and civilian experiences, considered key to the success of the fledgling program. Assignments were: public relations, First Lieutenant E. Louise Stewart; training, Captain Charlotte D. Gower; classification and detail, Captain Cornelia D. T. Williams; West Coast activities, Captain Lillian O'Malley Daly (who had been a Marine in WWI); Recruit Depot, Captain Katherine Towle; and Assistant to the Director, Captain Helen C. O'Neill. These women were assigned to active duty immediately, without any military training or formal indoctrination in the corps.



First group of Marine Corps Women's Reserve officer candidates arrive at Mount Holyoke College in 1943.

Initially, training would be at Mount Holyoke College for the officer candidates and Hunter College for the enlisted volunteers. Both schools already had a WAVES training facility and for a while it worked ok. Male Marine Drill Instructors were sent to both locations although they made it very plain that they would rather be training real Marines. On March 13, 1943, 71 officer candidates reported to Mount Holyoke College to begin OCS. They would graduate and receive their commissions on May 4, 1943. 214 women would receive their commission at Mount Holyoke.

722 women volunteers began arriving at Hunter College between March 24 and March 26, 1943. The first 21 platoons of enlisted women would graduate on April 25 1943. Between March and July, 3,346 women entered training at Hunter College. 3,280 would graduate and become Marine reservists.

Headquarters Marine Corps realized that while training with WAVES was acceptable, it was lacking the Esprit de Corps that Marines were famous for. Therefore, it was decided to create new training facilities at Camp Lejeune for both the officers and enlisted members of The Reserve. One issue that had significant ramifications was the treatment of both officer candidates and enlisted recruits by the male drill instructors. Freed from the constraints of being watched by Navy counterparts, their resentment toward the women recruits caused further verbal and psychological abuse. This took a toll on the Reserve and its director,

causing Commandant Holcomb to take steps to end it. In time, the open hostilities subsided, and before long the women's competence, self-assurance, sharp appearance, and pride won over most of their detractors.



Until September 27, 1944 when Public Law 441 amended 689 to allow Reserve members to serve in the Territory of Hawaii, The Reserve was strictly limited to duty in the continental US. While Director Streeter was open to allowing the women to try anything except for heavy lifting and combat related fields, the fact remains that at least 50% of the women who served during WWII served in clerical positions. During training, the women were given basic introduction to various weapons, taught aircraft recognition and

taught hand to hand combat techniques as part of self defense.

In 1943, Marine Corps manpower was in short supply, but members of the Reserve were available to pick up the slack. However, the corps had to select, train, classify, and assign the women to jobs where they could contribute and do so in the shortest amount of time. After completing their Marine Corps basic training, selected women received advanced schooling in a variety of



specialties. By the end of the war, 9,641 members of the Reserve had attended more than 30 specialist schools run by higher educational institutions and departments of the U.S. military. The Reserve strength on 1 June 1945 was 17,672, of which 1,342 were engaged in occupations classified as professional or semi-professional; 10,279 in clerical; 741 in sales; 587 in services; 344 in skilled trades; 1,305 as semi-skilled; 14 as unskilled; 35 as students; and six unaccounted for. Marine Corps recruiting literature indicated there were over 200 types

of jobs available in the Reserve. While this may have been correct, the fact was that well over half the women were assigned to and worked in clerical fields.

The first duty posts and stations for the Reserve included places such as Washington, D.C.; New York; Philadelphia; Chicago; San Diego; and Quantico, Virginia. Marine aviation was the fastest-growing unit of the Corps. Both officers and enlisted women served at Marine Corps Air Stations including Cherry Point and Edenton, North Carolina; Parris Island, South Carolina; El Centro, El Toro, Mojave, and Santa Barbara, California.



When Hawaii was opened for The Reserve, it was strictly on a volunteer basis. There were many applicants but only the very best were selected. The applicants were subject to the following requirements: had to have



been on active duty for at least six months; commit to an 18-month tour; have a clean record; be in excellent mental and physical health; agree not to request leave to visit the mainland, and verify they had no dependents whose care might necessitate a trip back to the mainland. In addition, members were expected to have a stable personality, sufficient skill to fill one of the billets for which women had been requested, and motivation to do a good job.

At the end of the war, the task of demobilization fell to Colonel Katherine A. Towle, the second director of the Reserve. In December 1945, the Reserve was down to about 12,300 members, with expectations of reducing this number by 2,000 each month thereafter. The demobilization plan called for mandatory resignation or discharge of all Reserve members by 1 September 1946. Separation centers were set up at San Diego, San Francisco, El Toro, Parris Island, and Lejeune. In early 1946, there was speculation that legislation to give women permanent status in the military was being considered, which prompted the Marine Corps to relax its demobilization policy. Then on 15 June 1946, the wartime office of the Reserve was closed when Colonel Towle returned to work at the University of California. The outgoing director proposed that Julia E. Hamblet replace her. Three months later, Hamblet was appointed as the third and final director of the wartime Reserve. When August 1946 came around, some 300 women had been asked by the Marine Corps to stay on, even as the last of the Reserve's barracks was being closed. For the next two years, these women served the Marine Corps in an undetermined status. But on 30 July 1948, the Women's Armed Services Act (Public Law 625) was signed into law, which allowed these and other women to serve in the regular Marine Corps.

These women, laid the ground work for the Women Marines that have served since then. After the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, the Marine Corps authorized 100 Woman Marine officers, 10 warrant officers, and 1,000 enlisted women to be incorporated into their numbers. During the Korean War, over 2787 women Marine Reservists would be activated. As in WWII, most of them would be regulated to clerical duties. In Vietnam, the number would be about 2700 serving at duty stations both stateside and abroad. In 1967 Master Sergeant Barbara Dulinsky became the first female Marine to serve in a combat zone in Vietnam. Over 1000 women Marines served in theater during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Women Marines served during the Iraq War from 2003 until 2008 and are still serving the Afghanistan since 2001. Up until 1993, Women Marines were regulated to non combat specialties. In addition to many clerical



Captain Elizabeth A. Okoreeh-Baah, the first female MV-22 Osprey pilot, stands on the flight line in Al Asad, Iraq after a combat operation on March 12, 2008.

positions, women Marines worked in motor pools as mechanics, aircraft mechanics, air traffic control and aviation operations including pilots for non—combat aircraft. They also worked in logistics (supply), intelligence and various levels of command. In 1993, the exclusion from combat positions was lifted to allow women in all aviation positions. In 2013, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, lifted the ban from women in combat roles. In 2015

Commandant Dunford requested that certain combat positions remain exclusive to men. In 2016, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter stated that going forward all combat roles would be open to women and in March finalized plans with all branches of the services. Also in 2016, a female Lance Corporal requested a lateral move into an infantry "military occupational specialty," making her the first female Marine to sign up for the infantry. Also in 2017, many females began breaking barriers in the Marine Corps. On the enlisted side, PFC Maria Daume, who was born in a Siberian prison and later adopted by Americans, became the first female Marine to join the infantry through the traditional entry-level training process. On the officer side, First Lt. Marina A. Hierl became the first woman to graduate from the infantry officer course of the Marine Corps, and Second Lt. Mariah Klenke became the first female officer to graduate from the Marines' Assault Amphibian Officer course.

In early 2018, Col. Lorna M. Mahlock became the first African American woman to be nominated as a Brigadier General in the United States Marine Corps.

In 2020, MCRD Parris Island began integrated training with both male and female recruits in the same training platoons with male and female drill instructors. In February 2021, MCRD San Diego followed and for the first time began receiving female recruits.



It is because of the women who endured the difficulties of serving in early days of The Reserve, and those that served from the late 1940's through the early 1990s, the women of today's Marine Corps are the embodiment of what a Marine is and always will be, one of the select few, the proud, the Marines. In today's Marine Corps, women account for 8% of the enlisted corps and 7.5% of the officer corps.

The following pages contain tributes to some Women Marines over time. Some of them famous, others maybe not so famous but with in the history of our corps and our nation, they fill important roles. I'm starting with a 100 year young Woman Marine who's 100th Birthday was on March 1st. There will be a dozen other "famous" Women Marines and I'll save the best for last with our Women Marines from the detachment. Please note: due to the details of this article which has become rather lengthy, I'm omitting my column on Weapons of the Marine Corps for this month. Look for it to resume in April.

Maw Maw Marine: Bernice Williams at 100

US Marine Corps Women's Reserve Sgt. and National WWII Museum family member Bernice Williams turns 100 years old on March 1, 2021. She says that her 1943-1945 service as a Marine made her a "better person."



WWII veteran Bernice Williams celebrates her 100th birthday on March 1, 2021. Bernice Williams' service with the US Marine Corps Women's Reserve (USMCWR) from 1943-1945 played a pivotal role in shaping her life. Bernice was always driven. Bernice was forced to quit school at 15 to take care of her four younger brothers after their mother died, but she continued to take night classes and summer school to keep up. She graduated high school with honors and won three college scholarships, but entered the workforce instead, first at Northwest Mutual Life Insurance and then with the Milwaukee Police Department.

During the war years, three of Bernice's four brothers enlisted in service (one would be killed in action), and she knew she wanted to serve as well. Bernice said that the Marine Corps was the only branch that interested her. The Marine Corps held a special appeal; she was "enamored of the Marines." As the other service branches began to accept female volunteers, Bernice kept her eye on the Marine Corps. In August 1943, joined by three friends, she took a bus from her hometown of Milwaukee, which had no recruiting station for women, to Chicago in order to volunteer for the USMCWR. Bernice's employment as a court reporter with the Milwaukee Police Department would provide valuable experience in her training and placement as a Marine.

Bernice trained with the other USMCWR volunteers at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After basic training, she requested placement on the East Coast, but was issued orders to the West Coast. 3 days of train travel took her to Camp Elliott, a training camp built for male recruits. She recalled how while showering, the women would hang their clothes outside the showers and how the young male recruits would steal their "unmentionables." A few months later, Bernice was transferred to Headquarters at Camp Pendleton where she served as a stenographer and secretary for several commanding officers including Colonel Julian Frisbie. The stenographers used shorthand and then worked to create 10 copies of every document, taking care to get every word correct so that vital information was relayed as accurately as possible. Often, the women worked night duty transcribing messages and battle updates from the Southwest Pacific Command. Bernice said that while in service she learned patience and cooperation. It helped her figure out how to "help her fellow man and do good for someplace or another." The Marine Corps significantly altered the course of Bernice's life, when she met fellow Marine Preston Williams in November 1943. Bernice and Preston, who passed away in 2012, married after he returned from overseas duty. They raised two sons, Tim and Mark. Both Bernice and her husband were very proud of having served during World War II. The couple's family, which includes 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, were always aware of their dual service. Bernice's service holds a special meaning for Carra Jane Williams, Bernice's granddaughter and Donor Relations Coordinator at The National WWII Museum. Of the role that her grandmother and other women performed during World War II, Carra Jane says, "Every day I am inspired by the sacrifice and difference my grandmother and so many others made through their service. She chose to serve when women were not required and traditionally remained at home. Through my work at the Museum I've learned the significant and diverse roles women played in World War II, and it is important that my grandmother's and other service women's stories are not forgotten." Happy 100th Birthday Marine Bernice Williams. Semper Fi!



Sgt Bernice Williams during WWII

Here are stories of 12 other Women Marines, some who were either famous, or filled a pivotal role in Marine Corps history.

Captain Vernice Armour: Commissioned as a 2nd Lt on December 12, 1998, she was sent to flight school at NAS Corpus Christi and later NAS Pensacola where she graduated as number 1 in her class of 12 and she was number 1 among the last 200



graduates. She became the Marine Corps' first African American Female Pilot. She was assigned to MCB Camp Pendleton where she transitioned to training on the AH-1W Super Cobra. In March 2003, she flew with HMLA-169 during the invasion of Iraq becoming America's first African-American female combat pilot. She completed two combat tours in the Gulf. Afterwards, she was assigned to the Manpower and Reserve Affairs Equal Opportunity Branch as program liaison officer.



Bea Arthur: Bernice Frankel began her basic training in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve as part of the first platoons to be inducted into the corps. She was assigned as a clerk typist to Washington DC. Over the next 2 years she would continue as a typist and add driving in Virginia and North Carolina to her duties. She met and married a fellow Marine, Robert Arthur in her 2nd year of duty. She was discharged from the Marine Corps in September of 1945 at the rank of SSgt. From there, she went to drama school, won a Broadway gig and became an actress famous for her roles as Maude and on Golden Girls.

Barbara Olive Barnwell: Staff Sergeant Barbara Olive Barnwell was the first female Marine to be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. Though not much is said as to the exact situation, we know that she was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on August 7, 1953 when she saved a fellow Marine from drowning off the Atlantic Coast near the training facility at Camp Lejeune. Camp Lejeune has fourteen miles of beaches and is located between two deep-water ports, which is why it is used for amphibious assault training and also why it is easy to picture someone drowning near there. She was twenty-five years old when she became the first woman to receive the Medal, and though very little is known about her other than this, it is clear that she helped to pave the way for future women by helping them gain the respect of their fellow Marines.



Lucy Brewer: Legend has it that she was the very first woman Marine in a time when women were not allowed to be Marines. Reportedly, she disguised herself in men's clothes and, giving herself the name George Baker, went undetected through the physical exams to become a member of the Marine guard on the vessel the "Constitution." Here she saw some of the bloodiest sea fights of the war of 1812. After 3 years, she was honorably discharged and resumed her normal life. Her story is shredded in doubt as physical exams are very thorough and ship's like the Constitution have little or no privacy.





Rose Franco: CWO3 Franco was born in Puerto Rico, and was a famous female Marine because she became the first Hispanic woman to make it to the rank of chief warrant officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. She enlisted on February 8, 1952 at the age of twenty, completing her training in North Carolina. After this she got the duties of administrative supply assistant at Camp Pendleton in California. When her 4 year enlistment ended, she returned to Puerto Rico and worked for an airline company. Unhappy, she rejoined the Marines eventually working her way up to Warrant Office on the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy during a time when there were only 10 other female Warrant Officers. She retired in 1977 as a CWO3.

Annie E. Graham: While the Army and the Navy both allowed blacks into its war-time Women Reserves during the war, the Marines were the last to allow this. Like with everything else, there had to be a first and that first was Annie E. Graham.

In September 1949, four years after Japan's formal surrender, she enlisted and was very shortly afterward followed by Ann E. Lamb and the two went to boot camp together on September 10, 1949. Thanks to Graham's example many other black women were able to join as well, including Annie Grimes, third to join and the first black woman officer to spend a full twenty years in service.



Opha Mae Johnson: Before she joined the Marines, Opha Mae Johnson worked for the Interstate Commerce Commission. When the Marine Corps Reserve allowed women to join, she was the very first one in line to enlist on August 13, 1918.

Her first duties were as a clerk, managing the records of the over three hundred other women that followed, but she was soon promoted to Sergeant in September of that year, making her the first woman to reach that rank and the highest ranking woman in the Marine Corps during her time there.

At the end of the war, Johnson was one of those removed from active service, but she continued to make her mark as a clerk in the War Department until she retired in 1943.

Anne E. Lamb: While she may not have been the very first black woman to enlist, as the second black woman to enlist in the Marine Corps the day after Annie Graham, she was one of the first two black women to go into training.

Anne Lamb and Annie Graham had to stand alone in their new position while the world adjusted to this new situation. Back in those days most places would separate blacks from whites and this made some things complicated.

She served her time in the Marine Corps and later married, changing her last name to Ellis





Private Lucille McClarren: While in 1918 women were allowed to take clerical positions in the Marine Corps, it wasn't until February 13, 1943 that they officially opened for women enlistment. Private Lucille McClarren was the first woman to take advantage of this, transferring over from the Army to become the first enlisted female Marine that very day. As the first of over seven hundred women, McClarren became the poster girl for the opportunity, modeling the uniform, and even speaking on a podium with Eleanor Roosevelt to encourage other women to join. By the time she finished her career she was working as a Secretary in the Pentagon and was even working there during the Cuban Missile Crisis. She later retired, married, and had a family, telling her stories to her nieces and nephews as they grew older.

Angela Salinas: If anyone deserves to be on our list of famous women Marines, it is Angela Salinas, the first Hispanic woman to rise to the rank of General.

Salinas enlisted in May of 1974, starting off as a legal services clerk. From there she worked her way up step by step until, on August 2, 2006, she was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, finally being promoted to Major General on May 12, 2010.

Just as impressively, Salinas has a bachelor's degree in history as well as a master's degree from the Naval War College. Salinas retired from the Marine Corps in 2012 after serving for 39 years and has since continued to stay active as the CEO of the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas.



Ruth Cheney Streeter: As I've already covered LtCol Streeter on earlier pages, This will be brief: Streeter became the first woman to become a Major in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943, and was also the first director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. When she retired in 1945, she was a Lieutenant Colonel and the Women's Reserve had over 15,000 women enlisted and over 800 officers. The year after she retired she was awarded the Legion of Merit for her work as director, and later she was awarded the American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal as well.

She died of congestive heart failure on September 30, 1990.

Ruth Wood: Though little is known about Ruth Wood she was the first of the Women Marine Reservists to serve at the headquarters of the Marine Corps in Washington in 1943. Born as Ruth Coggin, Ruth married a Master Technical Sergeant Wood in 1945 and by the time World War II came around two of her sons and six of her brothers and brother-in-laws had joined various military branches as well.

When her husband retired in 1986 they moved away from the military life and by the time Ruth died she had gotten to see the first four of their great-grandchildren.



So I've saved the best for last. In honor of Women's History Month, I present a list of Women Marines from LakeLand Detachment 744. These happen to be in alphabetical order and unfortunately, I don't have any pictures at this time. Note: I'd be happy to publish pictures in the April Grunt.

Marine Kelly Cole: a member of the Detachment as of March 8, 2016 till present.

Her DOB is March 4, 1961 and she joined the USMC on February 10, 1981. She was separated November 11, 1986 and discharged on November 2, 1990.

Her primary duty station was Marine Barracks Washington, DC. where her MOS was 5577; Marine Corps Band; Bugler. Her rank at time of discharge: Cpl E4

Marine Mona E. Harrison: a member of the Detachment as of August 31, 2005 till present.

Her DOB is May 17, 1963 and she joined the USMC on April 19, 1983. She was separated September 24, 1984 and discharged on April 18, 1989. She was stationed at: Camp Geiger, NC. MCAS New River, NC., and Twentynine Palms, CA.

Her MOS was 3531; Motor Transport Operator and her rank at time of discharge: LCpl E3

Marine Elizabeth (Betty) Jeckert: a member of the Detachment as of February 7, 1991 till present.

Her DOB is June 6, 1930 and she joined the USMC on October 31, 1950. She was separated on March 24, 1952 and was discharged on October 30, 1956. She was stationed at s station at; Marine Barracks HQMC Washington, DC.

Her MOS was 0100 Marine Corps Institute; Arlington, VA and her rank at time of discharge: Cpl

Marine Dorothy (Dot) Patson: a member of the Detachment as of May 7, 2006 till present.

Her DOB is July 7, 1938 and she joined the USMC on September 10, 1956. She was separated on September 9, 1959 and discharged on September 9, 1962. She was stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. and Marine Barracks HQMC Washington, DC.

Her MOS was 0141: Personnel Administration and Marine Corps Institute, Arlington, VA and her rank at time of discharge: LCpl

Marine Helen G. Riley: joined the Detachment on May 7, 2005 deceased August 2020 .

Her DOB is January 26, 1923 and she joined the USMCWR on August 21, 1943. She was separated November 24, 1945 and discharged on August 20, 1949. She was stationed at: MCAS Edenton, NC, MCAS Cherry Point, NC; Camp Lejeune, NC.

Her MOS was 0100: Personnel Administration, Camp Lejeune, NC and her rank at time of discharge: SGT.

As you can see, we have quite the selection of Women Marines.

## Quartermaster's Report

Nothing new to report at this time. Still looking at options for our Red Jackets but am having difficulty as the style is no longer available except through the custom jacket we used to get through Aladdin. Working on some options which I'll run through the executive board.

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

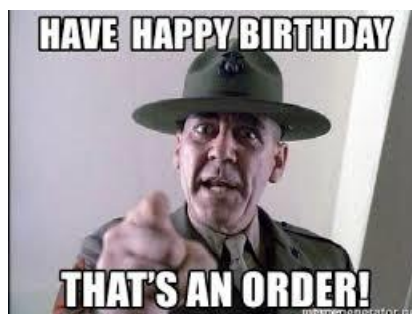
Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



Donald Stouthamer	03/02
Kelly Cole	03/04
Col. Anthony Lanza	03/10
Anthony Milazzo	03/14
Stephen Piscitelli	03/25
Charles Huha	03/26



# MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

## Calendar of Events

### June 2020

- March 9: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- March 13: Drop n' Go Takeout meal program 1400 to 1700
- March 21: State MCL Meeting--0930--ZOOM
- March 25: Detachment Meeting 1900 Via Zoom



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.

11 March 1778: Marines participated in action when the Continental Navy frigate BOSTON, enroute to France, sighted, engaged, and captured the British merchant ship MARTHA. As the drum of the BOSTON beat to arms, John Adams seized a musket and joined the Marines on deck until the frigate's captain, Samuel Tucker, sent him below for safety.

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.



8 March 1965: The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of 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.



31 March 1801: On this date, LtCol Commandant William W. Burrows rode with president Thomas Jefferson to look for "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." President Jefferson was a personal friend of the Commandant, and deeply interested in the welfare of the Corps and accompanied Burrows on horseback on the morning of 31 March. They chose a square in Southeast Washington, bounded by 8th and 9th streets, and a & I streets, because it lay near the Navy Yard and was within easy marching distance of the Capitol.





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



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

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

**MCL Lakeland Detachment 744**

**Breakfast Dates**

**3rd Saturday of every month**  
**Suspended until further notice**



**MCL Lakeland Detachment 744**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

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

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

Meetings will be conducted via Zoom unless otherwise notified.

January 28th, February 25th, March 25th, April 22nd, May 27th, June 24th, July 22nd,  
August 26th, September 23rd, October 28th, November 18th & December 16th

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



Desert Storm by Jake Hayes



Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack

Marines, the Riverdale Fire Dept has been supportive of both our breakfasts and now the Grab N Go Dinners. So if, Corned Beef isn't your cup of tea (its not my favorite thing on the planet), please feel free to support the Riverdale Fire Dept.



## **The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Company's Spaghetti Dinner Drive-Thru**

**Saturday March 13, 2021 2:30PM – 6:30 PM**

- **Spaghetti & Meatballs in House-made Sauce**
  - **Fresh Side of Salad**
  - **Our Garlic Bread**

Single Dinner: \$10

Family Serving: \$30

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**Ordering Deadline: Thursday March 11, 2021**

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[www.RiverdaleFD.net/spaghetti-dinner](http://www.RiverdaleFD.net/spaghetti-dinner)

# Marine Corps Funnies

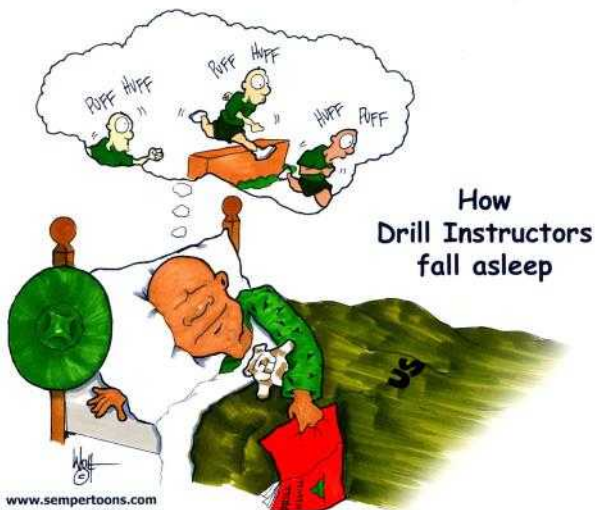


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- Vets4Warriors will assist you in setting a plan to overcome adversity, manage stress, and build resilience.
- Vets4Warriors provides peer support and follow up for those with ongoing concerns. For those in crisis we will connect you to the Military Crisis Line.



- Peer-to-peer support is available 24/7, and it is toll-free throughout the U.S.
- Your call is confidential. Vets4Warriors does not discuss your call with anyone and, if callers choose, they can remain anonymous.
- The Vets4Warriors call center is staffed with Veterans and family members representing all branches of the Service.
- The call center's Veterans provide information and referrals as needed.



- Vets4Warriors is available via telephone, on-line chat, or e-mail.
- For more information visit [www.vets4warriors.com](http://www.vets4warriors.com).

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Important Numbers and Websites

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



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U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Veteran's Information

### Paul Thompson

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Veteran's Service Officer 201-320-3210

### Veterans Administration

Department of Veteran's Affairs

20 Washington Place

Newark, NJ 07102-3174 800-827-1000

### Veterans Campus Lyons

151 Knollcroft Rd

Lyons, NJ 07939

908-647-0180 (Phone)

908-647-3452 (Fax)

### Veterans Service Officer

Vietnam Veterans of America

Margaret Wojciechowicz 973-297-3227

### Passaic Veterans Service Officers

930 Riverview Dr Suite 200

Totowa, NJ 07512 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

### Morris County Veterans Services

540 West Hanover Ave

Morristown NJ 07960

Michael Williams 973-285-6866

## 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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