

The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

May 2021 Newsletter

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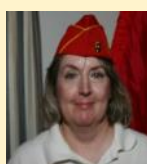
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Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Marine Corps League

Lakeland Detachment—744

May, 2021

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

(A Soldier Died Today)

by A. Lawrence Vaincourt, 1987

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.

While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend,
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, "For A Soldier Died Today".

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.

Let's continue that commitment by participating in our Memorial Day ceremony at Pompton Lakes Veterans Park on Jefferson Avenue on May 30. Assembly is at 1000 with the ceremony at 1030. This is followed by the VFW ceremony at 1100 and the parade at 1200. Our Color Guard will lead the parade. The Color Guard and Bugler will also assemble at 1100 at Chilton Memorial Hospital in Pompton Plains to participate in a Memorial Day Ceremony at 1130 on May 31.

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT





Let Us Pray

Dear Lord, this Memorial Day, as we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom, we enjoy every day, we think of how they have followed the footsteps of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please hold our Servicemen and Women in your strong arms. Cover them with Your sheltering grace and your presence, as they stand in the gap for our protection.

We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for Your unique blessings to fill their homes and we pray that peace, provision and strength will fill their lives.

May the members of our Armed Forces be supplied with courage to face each day. May they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our Love and Support.

In the name of God.

Amen

Submitted by:

Les Derbyshire,

Chaplain



Those Honored Dead

By: Marion G. Mahoney

“Why do you fly the flag today?”

My grandson wants to know.

Where the countless crosses grow.

I fly the flag for children

whose fathers are a name.

A half-remembered memory

of a face within a frame.

I fly it for the families

of the sons and daughters lost.

They know the price of liberty

how terrible the cost!

I fly the flag for veterans

who lost their youth in blood.

And saw their comrades slaughtered

in the carnage and the mud.

I fly it for the ones who marched

in cadence off to war

to close their eyes forever

upon some foreign shore.

I fly the flag for grief poured out

upon a granite wall.

The laying-on of hands that heals

the scars within us all.

I fly it for the sound of Taps—

that melancholy tune

that lays to rest those honored dead

who always die too soon.



Memorial Day at the Marine Corps Cemetery Okinawa Japan



Marines of the 1st Marine Division render honors at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery on Memorial Day 2015 to commemorate the 97th Anniversary of the Battle for Belleau Wood. There are 2,289 Americans buried at the Aisne-Marne Cemetery, many of them Marines.



Memorial Day at the National Cemetery of the Pacific Honolulu HI (Called the Punch Bowl)



Service Officers Report

November 2020

From Paul Thompson



During the course of my travels I find sometimes, just wearing my hat that has a Marine emblem on it attracts inquiries on my time in the service.

At the store the other day, I ran into a Navy veteran who served in Vietnam and has some medical issues but never got involved with the VA. His comment was that there's a lot more other veterans who could use the benefits more than he can. "Well, that's possibly true" I said, "but it never hurts to see what benefits you are entitled to". Benefits that could help both himself and his family in the future. After explaining more about the VA, he agreed and I got him immediately connected up with the State Service Officer.

A second major point that I feel needs to be discussed, is a Veteran's rating from the VA. I find when talking to many of the Veterans that I come across that when they went through the VA process and got rated and they weren't happy with the rating they were assigned. Yet they never pursued it any further. Over the years I've helped several veterans try for sometimes the second, or third time, before they got the benefits they deserved.

If you come across that veteran who has given up, encourage him or her, to try again.

A sweeping measure was introduced in the Senate recently that could open up health care and disability compensation to a huge number of veterans made sick by burn pits and other toxic exposures during military service. Sens. Gillibrand and Rubio reintroduced the Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act, which would do away with most of the burden of proof on veterans to show they got sick from breathing in burning garbage for up to a year at a time while deployed.

The measure was also introduced last year and never got any serious traction. This year, its bipartisan sponsorship means it could have a better chance of becoming law.

There's a lot Marine Veterans out there that need to know the benefits they are entitled to from the Gulf War and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Please reach out to them and let them know that they initially have got to get in the VA system.

Last but not least, always reach out to John Harris or myself and we will try to guide you and answer your questions.

Paul Thompson,

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John Harris

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The Chefs at Lakeland Detachment #744 Marine Corps League invites you to our May Grab & Go family meal. Saturday May 8th 2021 between 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM at The American Legion ("Pick up at front entrance") in Oakland NJ, 65 Oak street Oakland , NJ 07436.

Menu

Tortelloni

Italian sausage with peppers (Not Sauced)

Two sides of sauce Alfredo and Tomato Basil

Fresh salad

Garlic Bread

Family Meal for 4ppl– \$40

Single meal- \$15

Please have your order placed by Thursday May 6th at 6pm. Please email you order to simms156@gmail.com with the **time you wish to pick up your order.**

The Marine Shop Will be open weather permitting.



The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to its:

SIXTHTEENTH ANNUAL RIFLE SHOOT

**PLACE: CHERRY RIDGE RIFLE RANGE
100 Range Rd,
Highland Lakes, NJ 07422**

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

TIME: 0800 HRS. TILL: 1200 HRS.

**COST: \$35.00 Per Person Includes:
Coffee, Donuts, Ammo and Lunch,**

Please mail checks made payable to:

“MCL Lakeland Detachment 744”

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 8
POMPTON LAKES, NJ 07442-0008**





The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment #744

ANNUAL POMPTON LAKES MEMORIAL PARADE

PLACE: Veterans Memorial Park located between
Jefferson and Lakeside Avenues,
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

DATE: Sunday, May 30, 2021

TIME: 10:00 A/M

You are cordially invited to participate in the annual Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744 Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the John Hand Tri-County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2906 and the Borough of Pompton Lakes.

This year's parade will be held on Sunday May 30, 2021. Detachment Members will assemble at 10:00 AM at the intersections of Lakeside and Jefferson Avenues.

Detachment Memorial services will be held at 10:30 AM at Veterans Memorial Park.

V.F.W Memorial services will be held at 11:30 AM at Veterans Memorial Park. The parade will then commence following the service.





Greetings Marines,

Spring is upon us in full force. I don't recall being this busy at my job in the 15 years that I am there and my boss reminds me that we haven't even begun. The old adage April showers bring May flowers is holding somewhat true this year. May also brings us Mother's Day so Happy Mother's Day to all of the moms in our lives especially to my wife Liz. May you all have a wonderful Mother's Day and get to spend it with the ones you love. For those of you that are friends with me on Facebook, know that I very rarely post anything but there are about 8 days or so out of the year that I will take the time to write and post something. Mother's Day is one of those days. Last Mother's Day was May 12 and this is what I posted:

We had a most interesting homily in church this morning during which our priest combined the teachings of Good Shepherd Sunday and Mother's Day. His take on the 23rd Psalm went something like this:



My Mom is my shepherd; I do not need.

She makes me lie in green pastures.

She leads me beside the still waters.

She restores my sole

She leads me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake.

Although I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for she is with me, her love and protection comfort me.

She prepares a table before me in the presence of my foes

She anoints my head with oil and my cup runs over

Her goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
and I will dwell in the house of the lord forever.

In many aspects, our moms are very much like the lord, they are our shepherds, they love us from the very first moment of our creation, they nourish us and guide us over life's many rocks and shoals and they live in our hearts forever.

May God bless all of the moms in my life and may you have a wonderful Mother's Day (albeit wet in the northeast). And Mom, thinking about you and your love for each of us. Happy Mothers Day.

I usually also post a birthday wish for my mom on April 14 but this year I didn't. In stead I posted a tribute to her memory on March 31st, the 35th anniversary of her passing. So Happy Mother's Day Mom.

May also brings another very important date. Every last Monday in May we set aside a day to remember those who gave their last full measure of devotion so that this country continues to have the freedoms that our forefathers fought so valiantly for during the American Revolution.

Editor's Note: Yellow Roses were my Mom's favorite flower.

Memorial Day had its beginnings as early as 1862 when women in the south would lay flowers on the graves of fallen Confederate soldiers. It wasn't organized and was mainly done by small groups who were possibly widows, mothers and children of the fallen soldiers. As the war continued, the practice grew along the southern states. In 1865 after the assassination of President Lincoln, the practice spread to the north. The United States National Cemetery System was created for the over 600,000 war dead .

By 1868, the small localized groups began to get organized and by 1874, Confederate Decoration Day was celebrated by an official act of the Georgia Legislature. It was called "Confederate" Decoration Day because many groups in the north were copying the day and purpose. By 1916, 10 southern states would be celebrating Confederate Decoration Day.

The Ladies' Memorial Association played a key role in using Memorial Day rituals to preserve Confederate culture. The date of Decoration Day varied from one southern state to another. Many associations were founded to establish and care for Confederate cemeteries, organize commemorative ceremonies, and sponsor appropriate monuments as a lasting way of remembering the Confederate dead. The United Daughters of the Confederacy, which grew from 17,000 members in 1900 to nearly 100,000 women by World War I was likely the most important and was "strikingly successful at raising money for building Confederate monuments, lobbying legislatures and Congress for the reburial of Confederate dead, and working to shape the content of history textbooks."

By 1890, there was a shift from honoring specific soldiers to a public commemoration of the Confederate South. Changes in the ceremony's hymns and speeches reflect an evolution of the ritual into a symbol of cultural renewal and conservatism in the South. By 1913, the theme of American nationalism shared equal time with the Confederate.

By the 20th century, various Union memorial traditions merged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the U.S. military service. Indiana from the 1860s to the 1920s saw numerous debates on how to expand the celebration. It was a favorite lobbying activity of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). An 1884 GAR handbook explained that Memorial Day was "the day of all days in the G.A.R. Calendar" in terms of mobilizing public support for pensions. It advised family members to "exercise great care" in keeping the veterans sober.

Memorial Day speeches became an occasion for veterans, politicians, and ministers to commemorate the Civil War and, at first, to rehash the "atrocities" of the enemy. They mixed religion and celebratory nationalism for the people to make sense of their history in terms of sacrifice for a better nation. People of all religious beliefs joined together and the point was often made that German and Irish soldiers – ethnic minorities which faced discrimination in the United States – had become true Americans in the "baptism of blood" on the battlefield.

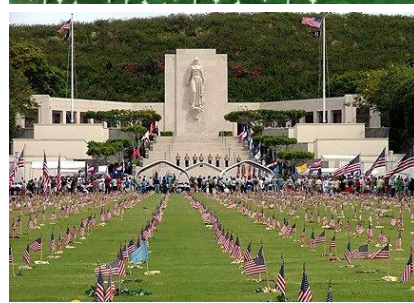
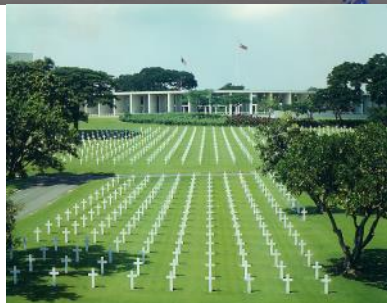
In the national capital in 1913 the four-day "Blue-Gray Reunion" featured parades, re-enactments, and speeches from a host of dignitaries, including President Woodrow Wilson, the first Southerner elected to the White House since the War. James Heflin of Alabama gave the main address. Heflin was a noted orator and his selection choice as Memorial Day speaker was criticized as he was opposed for his support of segregation. However, his speech was moderate in tone and stressed national unity and goodwill, gaining him praise from newspapers.

The name "Memorial Day", which was first attested in 1882, gradually became more common than "Decoration Day" after World War II but was not declared the official name by federal law until 1967. On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a specified Monday in order to create a convenient three-day weekend. The change moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30th date to the last Monday in May. The law took effect at the federal level in 1971. After some initial confusion and unwillingness to comply, all 50 states adopted Congress's change of date within a few years.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Editor



Requiem for the Greatest Generation

I'm skipping the history narrative for this month. I was reading the Semper Fi Magazine about a week ago and while reviewing the Taps column, I noticed under New Jersey that Anthony Lechniak was listed. This kind of hit home and gave me some pause to think about our WWII veterans and the sacrifices they made so I'm writing this to honor the many that went forth to preserve the freedoms we so enjoy today. And most especially to honor those that gave their last full measure of devotion to the cause of freedom.

The involvement of the United States of America in what would become know as World War II, began on December 7, 1941 at 7:48 AM Hawaii time when Japanese aircraft from the carrier strike force began to bomb and strafe military targets on Kaneohe. There had been some prior warnings such as a radar station that tracked the force and an aircraft that sent out a garbled distress call but nothing that would give any advance warning of the impending attack. Ninety minutes after it began, the attack was over. 2,008 sailors were killed and 710 others wounded; 218 soldiers and airmen (who were part of the Army prior to the independent United States Air Force in 1947) were killed and 364 wounded; 109 Marines were killed and 69 wounded; and 68 civilians were killed and 35 wounded. In total, 2,403 Americans were killed, and 1,143 were wounded. Eighteen ships were sunk or run aground, including five battleships. All of the Americans killed or wounded during the attack were legally non-combatants, given that there was no state of war when the attack occurred.



Of the American fatalities, nearly half were due to the explosion of Arizona's forward magazine after it was hit by a modified 16-inch (410 mm) shell. Author Craig Nelson wrote that the vast majority of the U.S. sailors killed at Pearl Harbor were junior enlisted personnel. "The officers of the Navy all lived in houses and the junior people were the ones on the boats, so pretty much all of the people who died in the direct line of the attack were very junior people", Nelson said. "So everyone is about 17 or 18 whose story is told there.



Among the notable civilian casualties were nine Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) firefighters who responded to Hickam Field during the bombing in Honolulu, becoming the only fire department members on American soil to be attacked by a foreign power in history. Fireman Harry Tuck Lee Pang of Engine 6 was killed near the hangars by machine-gun fire from a Japanese plane. Captains Thomas Macy and John Carreira of Engine 4 and Engine 1 respectively died while battling flames inside the hangar after a Japanese bomb crashed through the roof. An additional six firefighters were wounded from Japanese shrapnel. The wounded later received Purple Hearts (originally reserved for service members wounded by enemy action while partaking in armed conflicts) for their peace-time heroism that day on June 13, 1944. The three firefighters killed did not receive theirs until on December 7, 1984, at the 43rd anniversary of the attack. This made the nine men the only non-military firefighters to receive such an award in U.S. history. The news of the attack traveled quickly and was on the wires with an official White House announcement at 2:25 PM EST (about 8:40 AM Hawaii time). On December 8th, President Roosevelt in a special joint session of congress, gave the following speech:

“Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: Yesterday, December 7th, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack. It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace. The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu. Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island. Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation. As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us. Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God. I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.”

With in the hour congress declared war on the Empire of Japan with only 1 nay vote from either house.



America's armed forces were in dismal shape. About the only positive was that our carrier fleets were all at sea when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Another positive was that while there was a lot of damage through out the bases at Pearl Harbor, the repair facilities, the fuel storage areas and much the logistics areas were relatively unscathed.

England declared war on Japan after their territories were attacked. Germany and Italy who were both already at war with several countries, declared war on the US a few days later.

Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, on Sept. 16, 1940, President Roosevelt signed into law the Selective Training and Service Act, which was another name for the draft. It required all men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. While there were wartime drafts during the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and World War I, this draft was different. It was the nation's first peacetime draft. Following Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1941, Congress amended the act to require all able-bodied men ages 18 to 64 to register with their local draft board for military service for the duration of World War II plus six months after. In practice, however, only men 18 to 45 were drafted.

During the course of the war, more than 10 million men were inducted into the Army, Navy and Marines through the draft. However, most men who served, as well as a lot of women, volunteered for the military.

Many men who were too old or disabled often served on the home front, doing vital work on farms and in factories. Women also filled in at factories for men who were sent overseas to fight.

Men lined up to join the armed services. Many waited on line at induction centers for hours before they would be able to sign up. What kind of men were they? They were sons, fathers and brothers. Some lied about their age in order to exact the revenge that the public sought for Pearl Harbor. They came from the farms, the cities, the factories and the rural areas of our great country. Some were famous actors and ball players. Others were poor and looked at enlisting as a way to get away from Smallville America. They averaged in age from 18 to about 21 for the most part although there were older volunteers /draftees. They were Irish, Italian, Jewish, Dutch, German, Hispanic, English and African American. They came from diverse religious backgrounds such as WASP (White Anglo Saxon Protestant), Catholic, Baptist, Mormon and Hebrew. Once an inductee passed their physical, signed their paperwork and raised their right arm, they were put on a bus or a train to the nearest recruit training center.



The arduous experience called "Boot Camp" would begin. Officer Candidates went to OCS. These were college boys that were being taught how to lead men in combat for the most part. Some would go on to flight school. All would be called upon to do their part for the duration of the war. Men and women already in the service, had their terms of enlistment extended for the duration plus 6 months.



While the United States was not perfect in its record keeping, it probably had the most accurate records of all of the combatant countries involved in WWII. Following are the numbers from the National WWII Museum.

US MILITARY PERSONNEL (1939-1945)

| Year | Army | Navy | Marines | Coast Guard | Total |
|------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|------------|
| 1939 | 189,839 | 125,202 | 19,432 | | 334,473 |
| 1940 | 269,023 | 160,997 | 28,345 | | 458,365 |
| 1941 | 1,462,315 | 284,427 | 54,359 | | 1,801,101 |
| 1942 | 3,075,608 | 640,570 | 142,613 | 56,716* | 3,915,507 |
| 1943 | 6,994,472 | 1,741,750 | 308,523 | 151,167 | 9,195,912 |
| 1944 | 7,994,750 | 2,981,365 | 475,604 | 171,749 | 11,623,468 |
| 1945 | 8,267,958 | 3,380,817 | 474,680 | 85,783 | 12,209,238 |

**Coast Guard listed only as wartime strength*

PROFILE OF US SERVICEMEN (1941-1945)

38.8% (6,332,000) of U.S. servicemen and all servicewomen were volunteers

61.2% (11,535,000) were draftees

Average duration of service: 33 months

Overseas service: 73% served overseas, with an average of 16 months abroad

Combat survivability (out of 1,000): 8.6 were killed in action, 3 died from other causes, and 17.7 received non-fatal combat wounds

Non-combat jobs: 38.8% of enlisted personnel had rear echelon assignments—administrative, support, or manual labor.

Average base pay: enlisted—\$71.33 per month; officer—\$203.50 per month

MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE MILITARY

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| African American | 901,896 |
| Puerto Rican | 51,438* |
| Japanese American | 33,000 |
| American Indian | 20,000 |
| Chinese American | 13,311 |
| Filipino American | 11,506 |
| Hawaiian | 1,320 |

**Full Latino numbers are not known because Latinos, other than Puerto Ricans, did not serve in segregated units, like African Americans.*

WOMEN IN THE US MILITARY 1939 –1945

| | |
|---|---------|
| Women's Army Corps (WAC) | 150,000 |
| Navy's Women Accepted for Vol- untary Emergency Service (WAVES) | 100,000 |
| Coast Guard Women's Reserves (SPARS) | 10,000 |
| Marine Corps Women's Reserve | 23,000 |
| Army Nurse Corps | 60,000 |
| Navy Nurse Corps | 14,000 |
| Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) | 1,074 |

US MILITARY CASUALTIES IN WORLD WAR II

| Branch | Killed | Wounded |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Army and Air Force | 318,274 | 565,861 |
| Navy | 62,614 | 37,778 |
| Marines | 24,511 | 68,207 |
| Coast Guard | 1,917 | Unknown |
| TOTAL | 407,316 | 671,278 |

MERCHANT MARINE CASUALTIES

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Died as POWs | 37 |
| Dead | 5,662 |
| Missing/Presumed Dead | 4,780 |
| Killed at Sea | 845 |

These men and women endured boot camp and any additional training only to see what can only be described as hell on earth. While there were several defeats between Pearl Harbor and August 7 1942 including the loss of Wake Island, Burma, the Philippines and a draw at Coral Sea (which was considered a strategic victory for the US since the Japanese called off their attack on Port Moresby), and a couple of victories such as the Doolittle Raid on Japan and Midway, the first offensive action by the US would be the invasion of Guadalcanal. Although Marine training was excellent, they were relatively unprepared for the reality of combat that would continue until February 9, 1943 when the island was called secured. It was only through excellent leadership with sheer grit and determination that the Marines survived at all.

Operation Torch, the US Invasion of North Africa would begin on November 8, 1942. There would be many battles in both Europe and the Pacific before the end would be in sight. Many of us had parents that were part of the Greatest Generation. My father served in WWII in the Army Signal Corps and was attached to SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force), my uncle served in the US Army Medical Corp as a Medic and was on Omaha Beach. My aunt went in the US Army Nursing Corps but was stationed stateside and my stepmom served in the Women's Army Corps. I didn't find out about my uncle until many years after he passed away.

Did you have a parent that served in WWII? If they are still with us, please do them honor this Memorial Day. There are roughly about 300,000 WWII veterans living today and about 14,000 woman WWII veterans. All are in their 90s. This number is down significantly from the almost 1 million in 2015. We owe the greatest generation a lot as if it was not for their sacrifice, there would probably be an excellent chance that we might be speaking German or Japanese (or possibly even Russian).

A vital part of the war effort was the home front. Women left their homes to take positions in factories while the men that normally worked in the factories went to war. There were extreme shortages on everything and nothing was put to waste. Factories that made various different household items were converted to make military equipment such as weapons, trucks, tanks, jeeps, planes and munitions. 2710 Liberty Ships were built by 18 shipyards over the course of the war at a rate of 2 or 3 every 3 days. Over 300,000 aircraft were manufactured during the war. The US produced over 88,000 tanks and fighting vehicles. About 650,000 jeeps were produced in WWII by Willy's and Ford. The Navy had only 790 warships right before Pearl Harbor. By the end of the war, the United States had constructed 6,768 ships while losing 350 due combat action.



And in order to fund the extra expense of the war, War Bond Tours were created. Hero's from both the Pacific and from Europe/North Africa were brought back to the states and sent with famous actors and actresses on tours where the primary mission was to sell war bonds. They attended luncheons put on by local communities and lavish dinners put on by larger cities. In between, they met with factory workers, farmers and many other people from all walks of life while explaining how their contribution made a difference. On the other side of the fence, congress took steps to ensure that industry wasn't overcharging the government for the products they were contracted to make. All around America, people pitched in. Whether it was buy a war bond, collecting scrap metal and used tires, or sacrificing by rationing almost everything from food to gas, every American supported the war effort.



So to conclude this tribute to our Greatest Generation, it can not be understated as to how much our nation deeply appreciated the sacrifice by all Americans during this time of war. It also must be said that the magnitude of the sacrifice by our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Merchant Mariners was not then nor even now fully comprehended by anyone outside of those who were personally affected by it. In the beginning of this article, I ended the first paragraph with, "And most especially to honor those that gave the last full measure of devotion to the cause of freedom". Even as a veteran, I can't fully comprehend or appreciate receiving a telegram from the war department announcing that my father was killed in combat nor receiving a letter from his commanding officer speaking highly of how good a soldier he was since it never happened. Yet for over a million wives, mothers, dads or children, this was the case. They became citizens revered for their ultimate sacrifice. The cost of victory was high and America paid the price. Since then we've been through the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan and a host of smaller conflicts. However, it is the Greatest Generation of WWII, that will always be upheld with the most gratitude as without their sacrifice on all fronts, we would be a completely different nation. To the Greatest Generation, thank you for all that you did in WWII.

Semper Fi, Ken Gysbers Editor

Dear Charlie + Lakeland 744,

I know this is a high tech digital world, but I am old fashion and still feel the need to send a hand written thank you.

I just want to tell you how much the flowers + fruit basket brightened my day! It was completely unexpected. It feels so good to have the league members praying for me + sending me positive energy.

Ken loved his league and thru him I grew attached to all of you. You honored him as Marine of the year, you dedicated the ball to him after his passing and so many of you helped me in the days that followed.

You are always in my thoughts and heart. You are an amazing group! But then you are Marines + there is no better than that.

Sincerely,
Dorothy

P.S. Please add Ken Jr to your prayers →

Thank you

Unfortunately his cancer has returned & he is back in treatment. To end on a high note - Nicole had baby #2 who is 2 weeks old. So I have to wonderful ^{grand} children - Eligah Kenneth age 3 year 3 months + Enoch Jerome - 2 weeks. Both are such a blessing!



Editor's note:

As you can see by the top portion of this page, this was written on card stock and appears exactly how it was copied. That being said, please join me in a prayer for Ken Jr.

Semper Fi

Ken Gysbers

Editor The Grunt

Quartermaster's Report

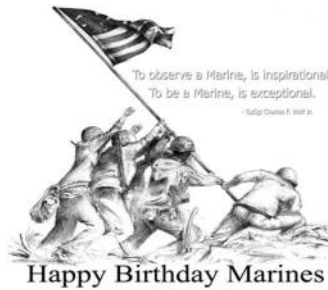
Nothing new to report at this time. At this time, it is my intent to have the Marine Shop Open for the May Grab & Go from 1400 to 1700.



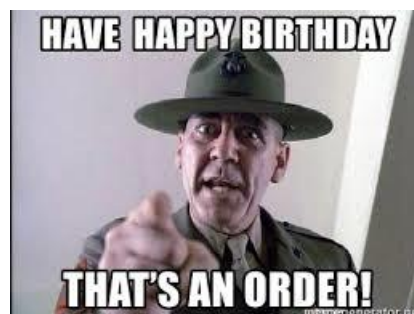
Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



- 5/02 John Baker
- 5/03 Paul Thompson
- 5/04 Warren Klemt
- 5/09 Mike Manginelli
- 5/10 Dan Deblasio
- 5/12 Rich Girardin
- 5/17 Mona Harrison
- 5/22 Chris "Dutch" Grodewald
- 5/28 Peter Alvarez



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Calendar of Events

May 2021

- May 1: Hawthorn Street Dedication
- May 8: Drop n' Go Takeout meal program 1400 to 1700
- May 8: Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Troop 12--Livingston--Patrick Zotti--1400--Gazebo, Robert Harp DR.
- May 11: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- May 15: Garand Rifle Shoot Cherry Ridge 0800 to 1200
- May 15: Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Troop 49--Oakland--A. Ayyagari, V. Nayagam, D. Tekerian--1400
- May 16: State MCL Meeting--1000--ZOOM
- May 27: Detachment Meeting 1930 in person or zoom to be determined
- May 30: Memorial Day Ceremony 1000, Parade--1200--Pompton Lakes
- May 31: Memorial Day Service--Chilton Memorial Hospital--1130--Color Guard and Bugler

June 2021

- June 6: Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Troop 12--Livingston--Colin Noble--1400--Gazebo, Robert Harp DR.
- June 8: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- June 12: Drop n' Go Takeout meal program 1400 to 1700
- June 14: Hawthorne Street Dedication--1300
- June 24: Detachment Meeting 1930 in person or zoom to be determined
- June 25: State Convention Meeting 0830--?
- June 28: Detachment Golf Outing--1030--Preakness Valley GC--Totowa



23 May 1988: The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas, facility. More than 1,000 representatives from the military, industry, and media, gathered to hear various speakers, including Gen Alfred Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps, praise the versatile rotor craft designed to meet the needs of 21st Century battlefields.



22 May 1912: First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine officer to be assigned to "duty in connection with aviation" by Major General Commandant William P. Biddle, reported for aviation training at the Naval Aviation Camp, Annapolis, Md, and Marine aviation had its official beginning.

26 May 1969: Operation Pipestone Canyon began when the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and 3d Battalion, 5th Marines began sweeps in the Dodge City/Go Noi areas southwest of Da Nang. It terminated at the end of June with 610 enemy killed in action at a cost of 34 Marines killed.



15 May 1862: Corporal John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service in the USS GALENA during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond.

8 May 1995: In the wake of the most devastating storm to hit the New Orleans area in more than 200 years, a group of Marines and sailors from Marine Forces Reserve demonstrated the quick response synonymous with the Navy/Marine Corps team. Within 24 hours of being called, Marines assisted in the evacuation of 2,500 civilians, and Navy corpsmen treated scores of flood victims.





Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment 744

Important Dates for 2021

Executive Board Meetings

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

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

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Breakfast Dates

3rd Saturday of every month

Suspended until further notice



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Regular Monthly Meeting

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

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

Meetings will be conducted via Zoom unless otherwise notified.

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

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



Desert Storm by Jake Hayes



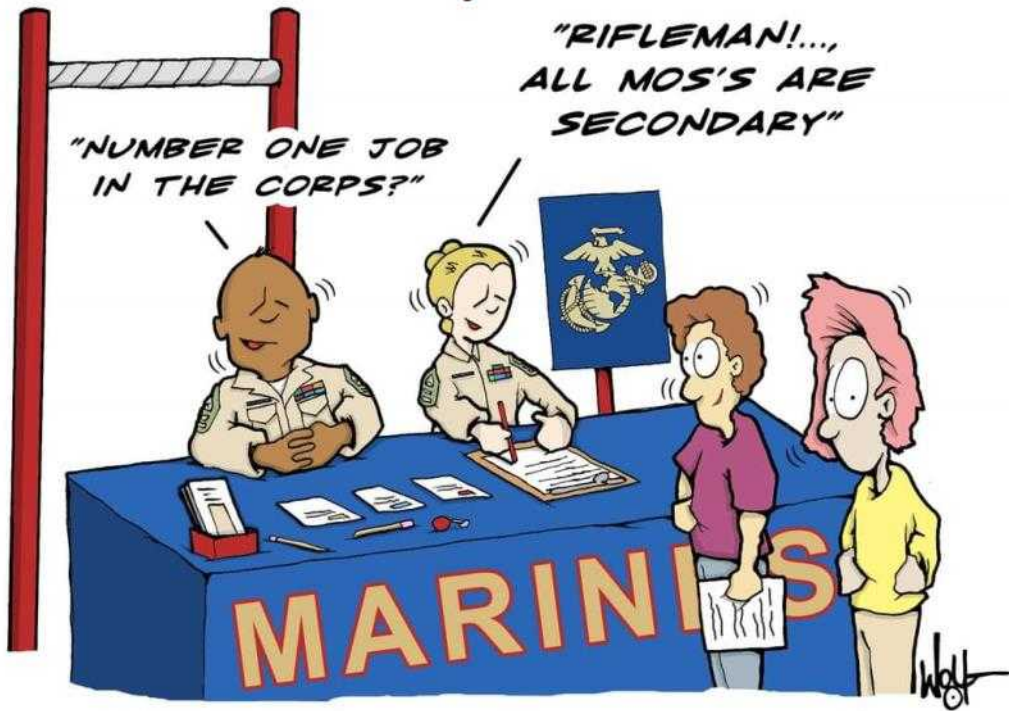
Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack

Marine Corps Funnies

CorpsToons



CorpsToons





1-855-838-8255
Vets4Warriors.com

24/7 peer support for Service members and their families



Call Toll-Free at 855-838-8255,
visit Vets4Warriors.com, or email: Info@Vets4Warriors.com



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



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



Set your course with a military connection



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



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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Important Numbers and Websites

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



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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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