

The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

June 2021 Newsletter

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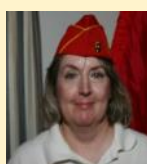
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Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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

June, 2021



Successorship

The word implies continuity. I've spoken about this on several different occasions. This is extremely important if our Detachment will continue to thrive and succeed in the future. It's not just Detachment 744, but all organizations, including government and corporations. This is not change for change's sake. We all know where that has taken us, straight down the proverbial tube. It is to provide further growth in the organization, hopefully capitalizing on the strengths of the incumbent and leaving behind any weaknesses. Healthy change enables an organization to grow in a healthy manner and provides the stimulation necessary for that growth.

The Marine Corps League has officer positions at different levels. That serves several purposes, namely, to provide backup in the event something happens to the primary person holding the position or the person goes on an extended vacation or leave; to provide an opportunity for the primary person to move on to other positions that may develop and to steer the organization toward future and continued growth. If there is no backup and the person is too valuable in their current role, they cannot move on and you may end up losing a valuable person to another organization.

We have several positions that are complex with some requiring detailed work such as accounting skills. Other positions require other attributes such as organization, planning etc. The Marine Corps is always looking for a few good men and women. The Marine Corps League is no different. We need Supernumeraries to work with the various members of our Executive Board to provide the benefits outlined previously.

Our Marine Corps League Detachment was founded almost 30 years ago. Let's not let it or our founding members down. We have an excellent Detachment. Let's continue to make it grow, thrive and prosper and not let it stagnate on the vine.

We will be appointing a nominating committee to arrive at a slate of officers for the coming detachment year commencing with October, 2021. This is my eighth year serving as Commandant. It has been a pleasure to serve you in that capacity. We have achieved some significant goals and I believe, had some fun as well. It is time for a change in order to move the detachment toward even greater heights. We currently have a great slate of officers who can assist the new Commandant; however, some may choose to move on to other responsibilities including as Commandant. Others may wish to remain in their current positions. I ask that you all give serious consideration to this very important matter for the good of our Detachment and the Marine Corps League.

God Bless the Marine Corps League, the United States Marine Corps and God Bless the United States of America.

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

HONOR—COURAGE--COMMITMENT



Dear Lord, creator of all, thank You for summer!

Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my family and friends and the more casual pace of the summer season.

I have learned over the last year never to take any of this for granted.

Each day now seems more precious than the last.

I look at my life with new meaning.

Simple freedoms I once took for granted are more important.

Draw me closer to you this summer.

Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your word and Your counsel.

As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

Amen

Submitted by:

Les Derbyshire,

Chaplain





Service Officers Report

November 2020

From Paul Thompson



Blue Water Navy - Nehmer

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will re-adjudicate claims for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

This review is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration's implementation of the November 5, 2020, U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California decision to re-adjudicate previously denied claims as applied in Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will automatically have their claims re-adjudicated.

Re-adjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection for one or more herbicide related conditions on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways. This review will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam era Veterans. The VA is dedicated to ensuring all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

The VA ensures that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of the Veteran community. Eligible survivors of deceased Veterans may also benefit from the policy and may be eligible for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

Veterans who have a condition caused by herbicide exposure during military service can learn more about Agent Orange exposure at this website: <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange>

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,

John Harris

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Important Communication to all Members of the Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment #744

As you know, from the committee reports at our Detachment meetings, as well as, publication in the Grunt, we will be having the **21st Annual Golf Outing on June 28, 2021** at the Preakness Valley Golf Course.

The annual golf outing is an important annual fund raising event for our detachment and, we really do need it to be a success!! **That's where all of our members come in. All of our Members should be contributing to the success of this event and, we can do that in several ways:**

- ^^ We can sign up, and play golf
- ^^ We can get our friends, relatives and/or business associates to attend
- ^^ If you are not a golfer you, or your friends, relatives and/or business associates can become a "Hole Sponsor". We have made Sponsorship for Members available at the discounted price of \$25. Business Sponsor price is \$50.

^^ We have always had various gifts, etc. that were either given away by drawings and, those that were of higher values which we "auctioned" off. Often, these gifts were donated to the Detachment by individuals and/or businesses which had been solicited to do so by our Members! If you can do something like that it would be appreciated!!

We are aware that many of you, due to physical limitations or business obligations cannot help out with our other fund raising efforts, i.e.: monthly breakfasts, rose campaigns, etc. However, as indicated above, you can help in this event, several ways! **We are counting on your efforts and help!**

The Golf Outing Committee



The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment #744
Invites you to its:

21ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Preakness Valley Golf Course

209 Totowa Road

Totowa, NJ 07470

973-881-4921

DATE: Monday June 28, 2021

TIME: 10:30 AM Register & Breakfast – 12:00 Noon Shotgun Start

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

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

\$140. Per golfer if paid on or before June 18, 2021 -or-

\$150. Per golfer if paid after June 18, 2021

Payments: Cash, Check or Credit Cards

Reservations - ASAP (to reserve your space)

BEST BALL FORMAT TEAM SCORE

PLEASE SHOW SHIRT SIZE NEXT TO YOUR NAME

Name _____ Phone _____

Golf Committee

Robert Ranzinger 201-370-2062Cell--bankyankee@verizon.net

Joseph Piazza 201-505-1361H--201-661-4226C--joemar21@msn.com

George Vankat 201-797-8616H--gwvjr37@optimuim.net

Peter Alvarez 973-839-5693H-973-568-7719C--palvarez1942@hotmail.com

Hole Sponsor Donations Start @ \$50 per hole

Please Make Checks payable to: MCL LAKELAND DET. 744

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



The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to its:

ANNUAL JOHN BASILONE MEMORIAL PARADE

PLACE: Raritan Train Station located between
Thompson and Anderson Streets,
Raritan, NJ 08869

DATE: Sunday, September 19, 2021

TIME: 11:00 A/M

On Sunday, September 19, 2021, the Borough of Raritan will host its Forty First Annual John Basilone Memorial Parade honoring its National World War II hero, Marine Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone. Gunnery Sergeant Basilone received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his gallant action during the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942 and the Navy Cross posthumously for more heroism in the Battle of Iwo Jima where he was killed on February 1945.

“THE ONLY PARADE IN AMERICA HONORING A WAR HERO”





Greetings Marines,

Here we are, summer is around the corner and the temperatures are getting warmer. With the vaccination rate getting close to a perceived “herd immunity”, states are slowly getting back to normal. The detachment had it's first official in person meeting on May 27th. It was great seeing everyone at the meeting and the information reported on was outstanding. Len Graff's presentation on the leadership school was especially meaningful and passed on a lot of important information about the Marine Corps League and the detachment.

On Friday May 28th, Governor Murphy relaxed most of the Covid Restrictions that we have been under for the past 14 months. I went to work without having to wear a mask for the first time since last April. It is still important to be vigilant about protecting yourself and your family. If you aren't comfortable being around people yet, continue to wear a mask and stay socially distant. Most importantly, get the vaccination if you haven't already done so.

I've been doing a lot of contemplating lately about a whole lot of different things. At the meeting, I told everyone present how humbled I was for all the compliments I get for The Grunt. Like I said at the meeting it is my honor to serve as the Editor of The Grunt and I hope to be publishing The Grunt for a very long time. I'm also very excited and humbled to have served as a team member for a men's retreat last weekend. It's the first retreat in our area since well before the pandemic. I'm looking forward to resuming normal activities such as band rehearsals and live concerts. As many of you know I belong to the North Jersey Concert Band and we are slowly coming back to playing. I'll send out concert dates as I have the information.

Last month, I did a tribute to the Greatest Generation. I'm going to leave it in this month's newsletter for those who might have missed it last month. I feel that we should continue to recognize our WWII veterans as much as we can.

In the meantime, I'm postponing my weapons of the Marine Corps column another month. I'm going to write a history narrative about Belleau Wood as June represents the 103rd anniversary of the battle.

On June 1, 1918, Château-Thierry and Vaux fell with German troops occupying Belleau Wood. The U.S. 2nd Infantry Division including a brigade of U.S. Marines, was ordered into the area by way of the Paris-Metz highway. The 9th Infantry Regiment was placed between the highway and the Marne river and the 6th Marine Regiment was deployed on their left. Both the 5th Marine and 23rd Infantry regiments were placed in reserve. The night of June 1st, German forces punched a hole in the French lines to the left of the Marines' position. The US Reserve consisting of the 23rd Infantry Regiment commanded by Colonel Paul B. Malone and the 5th Marine Regiment commanded by Major Julius S. Turrill with part of the Marine 6th Machine Gun battalion conducted a 10km (6.2 mile) forced march to fill the gap in the line. They were in position by dawn on June 2nd. By night of the 2nd, U.S. forces held a 20 kilometer (12 mi) front line north of the Paris-Metz Highway running through grain fields and scattered woods, from Triangle Farm west to Lucy and then north to Hill 142. The German line opposite ran from Vaux to Bouresches to Belleau Wood.

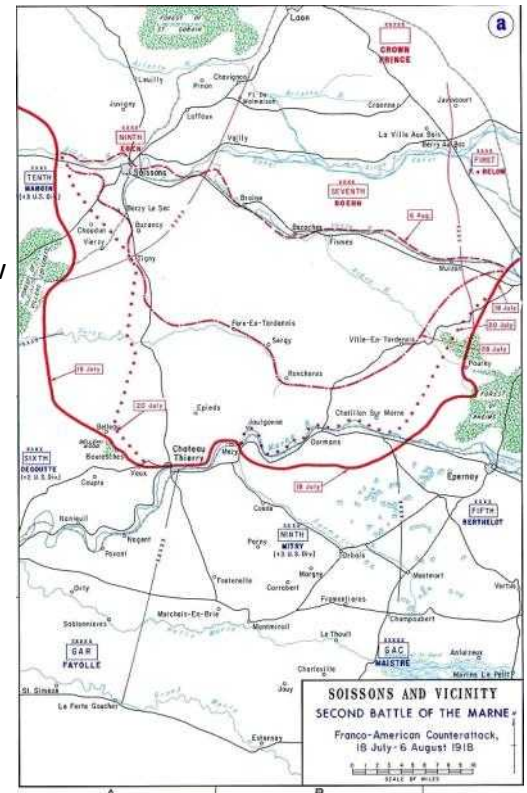
The German commanders ordered an attack through Belleau Wood against Marigny and Lucy as part of a major offensive which included the crossing of the Marne by other German troops. The commander of the Marine Brigade, Army General James Harbord, countermanded a French order to dig trenches further to the rear and ordered the Marines to "hold where they stand". The Marines dug in using shallow fighting positions and fixed bayonets. Although offering little cover and protection, these were excellent for firing from the prone position with deadly accuracy. During the afternoon of June 3rd, the Germans attacked the Marine positions. The terrain featured fields of grain which the Marines were set up to defend. The Marines waited until the Germans were within 100 yd (91 m) before opening deadly rifle fire which mowed down waves of German infantry and forced the survivors to retreat into the woods.

The Germans dug in and set up a defensive line from Hill 204 just east of Vaux to Le Thiolet on the Paris Metz Hwy and northward through Belleau Wood to Torcy. The French kept ordering the Marines to retreat.

Having suffered heavy casualties, the Germans dug in along a defensive line from Hill 204, just east of Vaux, to Le Thiolet on the Paris-Metz Highway and northward through Belleau Wood to Torcy. When the Marines were repeatedly told to turn around by the retreating French, Captain Lloyd W. Williams of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines uttered the now-famous retort "Retreat? Hell, we just got here". Williams' battalion commander, Major Frederic Wise, said he was the one utter these famous words. On June 4, the commander of the 2nd Division, Major General Bundy, took over command of the American sector. For the next couple of days, Marines continued to repel German attacks. The 167th French Division arrived which gave Bundy the opportunity to consolidate his 2000 yards of battle front. The 3rd Brigade held the southern sector while the Marines held the line north of Triangle Farm.

In the early morning hours of June 6, Allied forces launched an attack along the front. The French 167th Division attacked to the American left. At the same time, the Marines were to attack Hill 142 to prevent flanking fire against the French. The Germans were preparing for their own attack but were caught off guard. The second phase of the attack required the 2nd Division to occupy the ridge overlooking Torcy and Belleau Wood as well as Belleau Wood. Unfortunately, the Marines failed to scout the woods and missed a German regiment that was dug in with machine gun and zeroed in artillery.

The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines commanded by Major Turrill, jumped off at dawn with the mission of attacking Hill 142. However, only 2 companies were in position to begin the attack. The Marines fixed bayonets and advanced in waves across an open wheat field. The Germans swept the field with heavy machine gun and artillery fire hitting many Marines. Captain Crowther commanding the 67th Company was killed almost immediately. Captain Hamilton and the 49th Company fought from wood to wood, fighting the entrenched Germans and overrunning their objective by 6 yards (5.5 m).



Map of the area around Belleau Wood.

By this time, Hamilton lost all five of his junior officers and the 67th only had one commissioned officer alive. He reorganized both companies and established a defensive line and several strong points.

GySgt Ernest A. Janson (serving under the name Charles Hoffman) was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the defense of the line. He single handedly repelled the advance of 12 Germans, killing 2 of them causing the others to retreat. Gunner Henry Hulbert was awarded the DSC for advancing through enemy fire during the counterattack.

At this point the remainder of the battalion arrived and went into action. By afternoon, the Marines held hill 142 but with a terrible cost. Nine officers were lost and almost 325 men of the battalion.

The evening of June 4th, Lt William A. Eddy, the S3 (Intelligence Officer) for the 6th Marines took 2 Marines and scouted the German positions. The information they provided indicated that the Germans were consolidating machine gun and artillery positions. In itself, this information did not indicate a pending attack however their increasing strength raised concern about a potential attack that would break through to Paris.

On June 6 at 1700, the 3rd of the 5th commanded by Major Benjamin S. Berry and the 3rd of the 6th commanded by Major Berton W. Sibley began to advance from the west into Belleau Wood. As in the attack on hill 142, the Marines had to advance through waist high wheat fields into German Machine Gun fire. Perhaps one of the most famous quotes in Marine Corps history came from 1st Sgt Dan Daly . During the initial step off, he prompted his men of the 73rd Machine Gun Co forward by stating, "Come on, you sons of bitches. Do you want to live forever?"

The first waves of Marines, advancing in well-disciplined lines, were slaughtered; Major Berry was wounded in the forearm during the advance. On his right, the Marines of Major Sibley's 3/6 Battalion swept into the southern end of Belleau Wood and encountered heavy machine gun fire, sharpshooters, and barbed wire. Marines and German infantrymen were soon engaged in hand-to-hand fighting. The casualties sustained on this day were the highest in Marine Corps history up to that time. Some 31 officers and 1,056 men of the Marine brigade were casualties. However, the Marines now had a foothold in Belleau Wood.

The battle was now deadlocked. At midnight on 7–8 June, a German attack was stopped cold and an American counter-attack in the morning of 8 June was similarly defeated. Sibley's battalion, having sustained nearly 400 casualties, was relieved by the 1st of the 6th. Major Shearer took over the 3rd of the 5th for the wounded Berry. On 9 June, an enormous American and French barrage devastated Belleau Wood, turning the formerly attractive hunting preserve into a jungle of shattered trees. The Germans counter-fired into Lucy and Bouresches and reorganized their defenses inside Belleau Wood.

In the morning of 10 June, Major Hughes' 1st of the 6th, together with elements of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, attacked north into the wood but ran into heavy machine gun fire and bogged down. Major Cole, the commander of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, was mortally wounded and Captain Harlan Major assumed command. The Germans used great quantities of mustard gas. Wise's 2nd of the 5th was ordered to attack the woods from the west, while Hughes continued his advance from the south.

At 04:00 on 11 June, Wise's men advanced through a thick morning mist towards Belleau Wood, supported by the 23rd and 77th companies of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, and elements of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Engineers and were cut to pieces by heavy fire.

Platoons were isolated and destroyed by interlocked machine gun fire. It was discovered that the battalion had advanced in the wrong direction. Rather than moving northeast, they had moved directly across the wood's narrow waist.

However, they smashed the German southern defensive lines. A German private, whose company had 30 men left out of 120, wrote "We have Americans opposite us who are terribly reckless fellows."

Overall, the woods were attacked by the Marines a total of six times before they could successfully expel the Germans. They fought off parts of five divisions of Germans, often reduced to using only their bayonets or fists in hand-to-hand combat.

On 26 June, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, under command of Major Maurice E. Shearer, supported by two companies of the 4th Machine Gun Battalion and the 15th Company of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, made an attack on Belleau Wood, which finally cleared that forest of Germans. On that day, Major Shearer submitted a report simply stating, "Woods now U.S. Marine Corps entirely", ending one of the bloodiest and most ferocious battles U.S. forces would fight in the war.

United States forces suffered 9,777 casualties, included 1,811 killed. Many are buried in the nearby Aisne-Marne American Cemetery. There is no clear information on the number of German soldiers killed, although 1,600 were taken prisoner.

After the battle, the French renamed the wood Bois de la Brigade de Marine ('Wood of the Marine Brigade') in honor of the Marines' tenacity. The French government also later awarded the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments the Croix de guerre. An official German report classified the Marines as "vigorous, self-confident, and remarkable marksmen ..." General Pershing, commander of the AEF said, "The deadliest weapon in the world is a United States Marine and his rifle." Pershing also said "the Battle of Belleau Wood was for the U.S. the biggest battle since Appomattox and the most considerable engagement American troops had ever had with a foreign enemy."

Legend and lore has it that the Germans used the term Teufelshunde ('devil dogs') for the Marines. However, this has not been confirmed, as the term was not commonly known in contemporary German. The closest common German term would be Höllenhunde which means 'hellhound'. Regardless of the term's origin, ten years after the battle, Lieutenant Colonel Ernst Otto, from the Historical Section of the German Army, wrote of the Marine Corps: "Their fiery advance and great tenacity were well recognized by their opponents.

Marines actively serving in the Fifth and Sixth Marine regiments are authorized to wear the French fourragère on the left shoulder of their uniform to recognize the legacy and valor of their regimental predecessors.

In July 1923, Belleau Wood was dedicated as an American battle monument. Major General Harbord was made an honorary Marine and attended the event. In his address, he summed up the future of the site:

Now and then, a veteran, for the brief span that we still survive, will come here to live again the brave days of that distant June. Here will be raised the altars of patriotism; here will be renewed the vows of sacrifice and consecration to country. Hither will come our countrymen in hours of depression, and even of failure, and take new courage from this shrine of great deeds.

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 manufactures 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.



Images from the Home Front During WWII. It was not just the men and women that fought the war that formed the Greatest Generation.



WWII era Service Flag

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

Quartermaster's Report

Nothing new to report at this time. The store was able to open in a limited capacity for the May Grab n Go and for the May meeting. Several attendees asked about the red polos. I will make sure that I have red polos available for the June meeting.

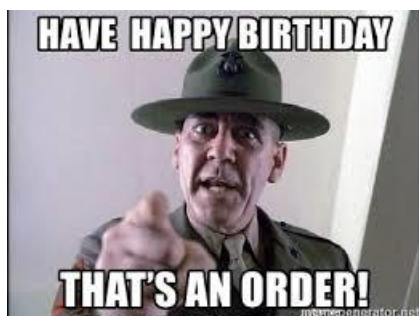
Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



6/09	Bruce Conklin
6/16	Betty Jeckert
6/18	Al Frater
6/22	Les Derbyshire
6/23	Jason Kimmel
6/26	Theresa Mutter
6/27	Trudi Derbyshire
6/27	Forrest Elliott



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Calendar of Events

June 2021

- June 6: Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Troop 12--Livingston--Colin Noble--1400--Gazebo, Robert Harp DR.
- June 15: 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

July 2021

- July 13: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- July 18: NJ MCL meeting at Sea Girt--0800
- July 22: Detachment Meeting 1930



12 June 1961: President John F. Kennedy signed a Presidential Proclamation calling for the American flag to be flown at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, "at all times during the day and night." Discussions between the Attorney General's office and Marine Corps officials earlier in 1961 on improving the visibility and appearance of the monument led to the proposal to fly the Flag continuously, which by law could only be done by Congressional legislation or by Presidential proclamation.

2 June 1918: At dawn on this date, the crack German 28th Division attacked along the axis of the Paris-Metz road hitting the American 2d Division, including the 4th Marine Brigade. The Marines opened with deadly rifle fire and helped hand the German troops a setback which set the stage for Marine victory at Belleau Wood which would soon follow, although at great cost. 26 June 1918: BGen James G. Harbord, the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Brigade, notified American Expeditionary Force Headquarters that Belleau Wood was "now U.S. Marine Corps entirely." After 20 days of combat, and at a cost of over 4,000 casualties, the 4th Brigade of Marines had proven its fighting heart. The grateful Commander of the French Sixth Army would soon decree that in all official correspondence, Belleau Wood would henceforth bear the name, "Bois de la Brigade de Marine."



25 June 1950: Shortly before dawn, eight divisions of the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. Within three days, the South Korean capital city of Seoul had been captured. On 30 June, President Harry S. Truman ordered a naval blockade of the Korean coast and authorized the sending of U.S. ground troops to Korea. Two days later, General Douglas MacArthur, the Commander in Chief Far East, formally requested that a Marine regimental combat team be deployed to the Far East.



Current Operations / Happenings



Col Lanza's Retirement Ceremony (Above)

At the Detachment Meeting in May, Marine Ben Cascio was presented with a Quilt of Honor (Below)



Although our original services were washed out by rain on the Sunday, the detachment met on Monday May 31st to perform Memorial Day ceremonies. We were joined by the Pompton Lakes Police Department and Fire Department for our services which began at Noon. The detachment was also represented at the Riverdale Parade. (Above, Left and Below)





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



Make them never be forgotten!





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Vets4Warriors.com

24/7 peer support for Service members and their families



Call Toll-Free at 855-838-8255,
visit Vets4Warriors.com, 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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A hands-on physical examination is not required.

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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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