

The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

July 2021 Newsletter

Editor: Ken Gysbers 201-895-3358

kgysbers@yahoo.com



Officers 2021



Commandant: Charles Huha

chuha1@msn.com

973-900-1226



Sgt at Arms : Mike McNulty

simms156@gmail.com

732-213-5264



Sr Vice Commandant: Chris Cioppa

crisciopa@gmail.com

201-310-1493



Service Officer: Paul Thompson

paulcfp@aol.com

201-320-3210



Jr Vice Commandant: Len Graff

lengusmc@optonline.net

973-728-3605



Chaplain: Les Derbyshire

lesderbyshire@live.com

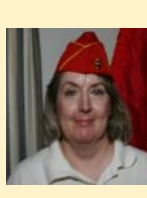
201-390-2704



Paymaster/Adjutant: Peter Alvarez

palvarez1942@hotmail.com

973-839-5693



Secretary: Theresa Muttel

thmuttel@hotmail.com



Judge Advocate/Range Officer: Ray Sears

rcsears93@aol.com

973-694-8457



Quartermaster and

Editor "The Grunt": Ken Gysbers

kgysbers@yahoo.com 201-895-3358

Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment—744 July, 2021

Independence Day—July 4, 1776

July 4th is officially the day we celebrate our independence from Great Britain. The events preceding this date eventually led to the historic occasion which called for independence from England and the eventual formation of the United States. Each year on July 4th, also known as Independence Day, Americans celebrate this historic event.

Conflict between the colonies and England was already a year old when the colonies convened a Continental Congress in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776. In a June 7 session in the Pennsylvania State House (later to become Independence Hall), Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented a resolution with the famous words:

“Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be totally dissolved”.

Lee's words were the impetus for the drafting of a formal Declaration of Independence, although the resolution was not followed up on immediately. On June 11, consideration of the resolution was postponed by a vote of seven colonies to five with New York abstaining. However, a Committee of Five was appointed to draft a statement presenting to the world the colonies' case for Independence. Members of the Committee included John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert R. Livingston of New York and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. The task of drafting the actual document fell on Jefferson.

On July 1, 1776, the Continental Congress reconvened and on the following day, the Lee Resolution for independence was adopted by twelve of the thirteen colonies. New York did not vote. Discussions of Jefferson's Declaration of Independence resulted in some minor changes, but the spirit of the document was unchanged. The process of revision continued through all of July 3rd and into the late afternoon of July 4th, when the Declaration was officially adopted. Of the thirteen colonies, nine voted in favor of the Declaration, Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted No, Delaware was undecided and New York abstained.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. It is said that John Hancock, signed his name “with a great flourish” so England’s King George could read it without spectacles.

Today, the original copy of the Declaration is housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and July 4th has been designated a national holiday to commemorate the day the United States laid down its claim to be a free and independent nation.

I’m sure it does not come as a surprise that the United States of America is not perfect, but then none of us are. However, it is still the greatest nation in the world. Let us pray that we can continue to learn, grow and improve as individuals, and collectively as a nation, in a mature and lawful manner. For it is in destroying our history that we are doomed to repeat it.

Unfortunately, today, there are so many forces in our country out to destroy it and what it stands for, let’s also pray for sanity to return to these United States and the world, at large.

Excerpt from speech by Colonel Mitchell Paige, Eagle Scout, Hero of Guadalcanal and Medal of Honor Awardee:

“I am proud to be a citizen of a nation whose objective is peace and goodwill for all mankind. A nation, that has contributed so much, for the benefit of peoples all over the world. A nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all. I am proud to be an American. I can never believe it is old fashioned to love our Flag and Country, nor, can I ever believe it is being square to stand in readiness behind our flag to defend those ideals for which it stands against all enemies, foreign and domestic.”

God Bless the Marine Corps League,

God Bless the United States Marine Corps,

God Bless the United States of America

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT





Service Officers Report

November 2020

From Paul Thompson



The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) has held over 13,000 virtual tele-hearings. These virtual tele-hearings allow the Board to hold hearings for Veterans safely and efficiently from wherever the Veteran chooses. Best of all, the technology allows the Board to be more efficient and more productive, increasing the number of yearly hearings it can hold.

What is a hearing?

When a Veteran disagrees with a decision that VA made on their compensation claim, the Veteran has three options when asking for another look at the decision. One of those options is called an appeal, which is sent to BVA (the Board). At the Board, the Veteran has the choice to request a hearing with a Veterans Law Judge (Judge). The Veteran, their representative and the Judge all meet to discuss the Veteran's appeal.

The Judge is there to help, asking the Veteran questions to better understand the appeal. After the hearing, the appeal is held for about 90 days or more before the Judge reviews the appeal and issues a decision.

Requesting a hearing does take the Board longer to decide the appeal. That's because a lot of Veterans ask for hearings (more than 85,000 are waiting). Virtual tele-hearings allow the Board to hold more hearings. More hearings enable the Board to get more Veterans a faster decision.

But, we need your help: the Board wants to hold 50,000 hearings in 2021.

2020 was a record year.

In 2020, the Board issued over 100,000 decisions to Veterans, a record number. The Board didn't stop holding Veterans' hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic, it just moved to virtual tele-hearings. This year so far, more than 13,000 Veterans have had a virtual tele-hearing and will receive decisions on their appeals.

What's different about a virtual hearing?

Virtual tele-hearings allow the Veteran and representative to use their cellphone, computer, or tablet to have a hearing with a Veterans Law Judge. It's just like a virtual doctor appointment. The Veteran can do this from their home, from a car, or from any location with wifi.

How does it work?

If the Veteran chooses a virtual tele-hearing, the Board will send the Veteran or person assisting the Veteran an email with connection details. This email will connect the Veteran to a hearing with the Judge. The Board has people standing by to help if there are any technical difficulties before or during the hearing. A Veteran's family member or caregiver can also attend and assist.

Is it the same as other Board hearings?

Yes, except the Board gets to the Veteran's place in line much quicker! Currently, the Board has approximately 25 Judges available every day to hold hearings. Once the hearing is held, the Veteran's appeal will move forward in the decision process.

How do you get one?

Call your representative and tell them to call the Board and ask for a virtual tele-hearing, or send the Board an email requesting a virtual hearing at BVAVirtualHearing@VA.gov.

Do I have to wait for a hearing?

No, a hearing is not required for your appeal. A Judge can do a through review of your appeal and the submitted evidence and make a decision with no hearing. This is the fastest way to receive a decision from the Board.

What other kinds of hearings are available?

Video hearings are when a Veteran travels to their closest regional office and teleconferences with the Judge in Washington, D.C. Video hearings are open depending on the status of the regional office, and we are only able to accommodate a limited amount to Veterans to make sure everyone is socially distant and safe. Good news: if you selected a video hearing, you can ask your representative to change your hearing to a virtual hearing by emailing the Board at BVAVirtualHearing@VA.gov.

Central Office hearings are where a Veteran travels to Washington, D.C., for their in-person hearing with a Judge. Central Office hearings are open, but capacity is limited to ensure appropriate social distancing and sanitized hearing rooms. If you prefer not to wait, the Board has openings for virtual tele-hearings. You may also switch your Central Office

hearing to a video hearing at the regional office or to a virtual tele-hearing.

Travel Board hearings are where a Veteran travels to a regional office for an in-person hearing with a Judge. Travel Board hearings are currently suspended! The Board has not held a Travel Board hearing in over a year and does not have a timeline to resume this type of hearing. The Board anticipates significant delays for those Veterans wishing to have a Travel Board hearing. Don't delay: You can switch your Travel Board hearing to a video hearing at the RO or a virtual tele-hearing.

While the Board offers different types of hearings, selecting a virtual tele-hearing is the fastest way for a Veteran to have a hearing to get a decision.

The Board wants to be able to make a decision on all appeals without delay. If you choose a virtual tele-hearing, it will not change anything about your appeal and it may get your decision decided faster.

Paul Thompson,

Service Officer 201-320-3210

paulcfp@aol.com

John Harris

973-600-6409

harris.john36@yahoo.com



**U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs**





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,

Happy Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, the 2nd Continental Congress voted to adopt the formal Declaration of Independence after numerous hours of debate and changes to the original document. The original draft document in Thomas Jefferson's hand with changes made by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin along with Jefferson's annotations of the changes made by congress is preserved at the Library of Congress. It was originally published as the printed Dunlap Broadside. The original source copy was lost but it is believed that the source copy as written by Thomas Jefferson. The best known version of the Declaration, is the signed copy on display at the National Archives in Washington DC.

A lot of what was written in the declaration was the sentiments of not just our founding fathers, but those of the many they represented. Historians identified over 90 individual declarations written among the 13 original colonies between April and July of 1776. These individual declarations took on many different forms and ran from very formal such as the Halifax Resolves from North Carolina which was the first colony to authorize their delegation to vote in favor of independence to the colony of Rhode Island which formally declared their separation from Great Britain. Some of these were simply written notes passed by local towns instructing their state assemblies to vote for independence while others came from the judiciary such as the statement issued on April 23, 1776, by Chief Justice William Henry Drayton of South Carolina: "the law of the land authorizes me to declare ... that George the Third, King of Great Britain ... has no authority over us, and we owe no obedience to him.

The continental congress was very busy in the months prior to the vote for independence on July 2nd and the passing of the formal declaration 2 days later on July 4th. Congress appointed a committee to write a preamble to formally explain the resolution. John Adams wrote a preamble that essentially put the issue in blunt terms so that everyone in congress would understand the issue at hand. On May 15th, the preamble was presented and voted on. The measure passed with New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland dissenting. Maryland actually walked out. It was a long road ahead if all 13 colonies were to finally agree to the act of independence (or if we had lost, revolution).

Pennsylvania was considered to be the key to the whole middle east colonies. It took the literal overthrow of the Pennsylvania assembly to change the vote to yea. New Jersey arrested the royalist governor and sent a new delegation with instructions to vote yea. Sam Chase went back to Maryland and convinced the legislature to change its mind and vote yea. Delaware also changed its vote which left New York on its own. The New York legislature finally sent instructions to vote yea.

While many of the colonists were jubilant over the announcement and the reading of the declaration, there were still many that maintained their loyalty to the crown. One must remember that Massachusetts was already actively fighting with the British with the battles at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill occurring in 1775 and the British Army already facing off at Washington Heights with General Washington and the Continental Army. (Editor's Note: In the Commandant's Corner, Charlie mentions that both Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted No. This is true. However once the motion carried, they switched their votes to Yea and are among the signatures on the Declaration of Independence.)

So, after successfully passing the Resolution from Richard Henry Lee of Virginia which reads as follows:

Resolved, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

and 2 days later passing the formal Declaration of Independence, these United States fought through 1783 before the Treaty of Paris end the war and recognized the United States as an independent nation. In the aftermath of the American Revolution what has our nation accomplished?

We established the Articles of Confederation as our first form of national government but this didn't work out. Just a few years later, we established the Constitution of the United States of America which has been the document that our government still operates under for over 200 years and still going strong.

Great Britain did not fully recognize the new nation until many years later and we fought the war of 1812 and defeated them again after establishment of the Monroe Doctrine which essentially told the European powers to stay in their hemisphere.

In 1861 we fought a 4 year long Civil War that saw brothers fighting brothers and fathers fighting sons over what started as a conflict over state's rights but eventually became about the end of slavery in the United States. The battlefields were bloody and the cost in lives was heavy on both side with some battles having over 51,000 casualties on both sides. All said and done, the civil war cost about 850,000 dead from both sides.

While there was expansion in the west and the addition of states and US Territories, the constitution became the document that our forefathers thought it to be. The way it was written and laid out, it allowed our country to amend it in accordance with the times that our nation was going. Women eventually obtained the right to vote as well as African Americans which opened voting for all citizens.

However, it hasn't always been smooth sailing. There have been riots over many issues over the course of our history. The riots at Harpers Ferry by John Brown and his abolitionists as well as the riots in New York during the civil war both of which required army intervention to quell. There were the riots during prohibition and the race riots during the 50s, 60s and 70s. Most recently there have been riots by Black Lives Matter and at our nation's capitol. One of the many rights we have is the right to peacefully protest. However we have gone too far lately. Did George Floyd deserve to die the way he did? No, he didn't. The person directly responsible for his death, has been tried, found guilty and sentenced with a rather stiff prison sentence. Doe George Floyd deserve to be remembered? Yes—he does deserve to be remembered but only in as such that the people who enforce the law know how they should treat the people they are arresting so they receive the rights that they are entitled to. However, in era that sees statutes erected over a century ago being taken down, we erect statutes of George Floyd as though he was a hero. He is not now nor ever can be considered a hero. He was a man caught breaking the law and due to poor decisions by the arresting officer, he died. There is a statute of Theodore Roosevelt being taken down simply because the interpretation of the 2 indigenous children by his legs "might " be offensive to some. Several statutes of Christopher Columbus have already been removed because although he is attributed with finding the new world, he also took indigenous slaves back to Spain.

Numerous statutes of Confederate Generals from the Civil War have either been taken down already or are slated to be taken down and the names of several military bases are likely to be changed for the same reason. People seem to think if you take down a statue, the history behind it no longer exists. You can't change history. Period. Whatever happened already happened and there isn't anything anyone can do about. I'll use the Russian Premier Stalin as an example. When his rise to power was complete, there was a political rival that he despised. After having the rival assassinated, he literally attempted to make it look like the man had never been born. Pictures of this man were doctored to remove him from the picture and any records of his being born were destroyed and expunged. Yet history still recorded this.

We are at an impasse within our country and at the rate things are going, I can see the dark clouds of a second civil war in the not too distant future. It won't be like the last one. It will be significantly worse as instead of North verses South, it will be neighbor against neighbor, block against block, town against town and so on. Even the military won't be exempt. It too will be split although like us Marines, I hope that they will side with the Constitution. I sincerely hope I'm wrong as any form of civil war would likely mean the end of these United States as we know it. We need to be ever vigilant with the happenings in our country and voice our dissent or agreement with the elected officials that represent us. And if we aren't happy with the response we are getting from those officials, we need to use the power of the vote to make change for the better. As Marines, we must support and defend the Constitution of these United States. It is an oath that we took when we became Marines and we renewed when we joined the Marine Corps League.

We have an awesome country and 2 important documents that have steered this country through both good times and bad times. If the Declaration of Independence was written today, I wonder how much different it would be. Would it have addressed equality among all people (Jefferson's original draft had language that addresses slavery, but most of it was removed due to the practices of the southern states and the risk of losing their vote for independence)? And since the Constitution drew a lot of meaning from the Declaration, how much different it would be today? Would it have the strength and foresight to be adaptable just as our forefathers did over 200 years ago? We'll never know the answer to this but my feeling is that we would see vastly difference documents.

Our Constitution, in spite of all the negativity that surrounds us, is what makes our country great. George M Cohan, a legendary patriot, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his contribution to the American Spirit. He received the medal in a private ceremony at the White House from Present Franklin D. Roosevelt on May 1, 1940. One of the many quips that George M. was reputed to say was that only in the US can a regular citizen get invited to have a discussion with the President of the country. Our country has always had the capacity to adapt and overcome anything. But we must take heed to the glaring warnings that are present in our day to day lives. And we must take heed to those warnings issued by those outside of this country that seek to destroy us even those from the last 2 centuries.

We are still the greatest country but can we continue to stand the test of time. Or will everything that we know fall apart before our very eyes. Not if you or I can help it.

So Marines, have a Happy and Safe 4th of July (or Independence Day). Enjoy the time off if you have it. Listen to some patriotic music or take in some of the classics (I'm sure 1776 and Yankee Doodle Dandi will be on at some point).

Semper Fi, Ken Gysbers, Editor

On to the History of the Marine Corps. This month I'm covering two topics, the first one because it represents a major milestone and although significant, there is little information about. The second one because as an aviation Marine, it ranks close in my heart.

The first topic is that on July 11, 1798, President John Adams, signed into law the following:

Act Establishing and Organizing the Marine Corps:

Acts of the Fifth Congress, Second Session, Chapter LXXIX (1 Stat. 594-596) published by William Ross, Philadelphia, 1798.

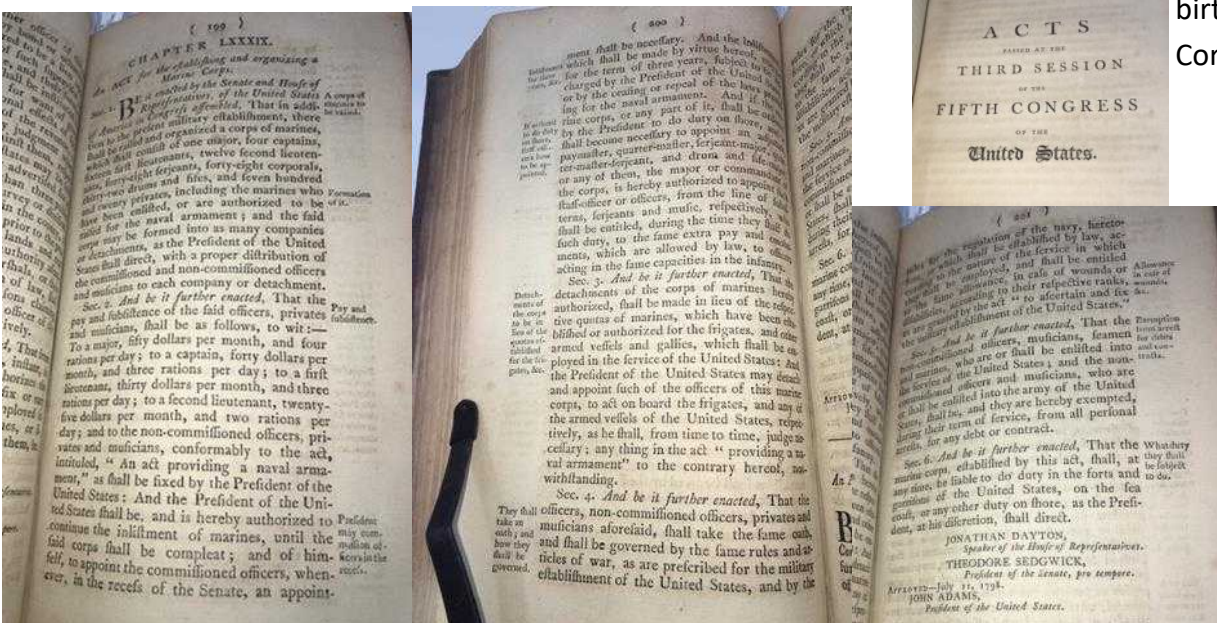
The same year that the Department of the Navy was created, the Marine Corp was established as a distinct military service. The Continental Marines were originally founded in 1775 to conduct ship to ship fighting, provide naval security, and enforce discipline, but were disbanded after the Revolutionary War. During the Quasi-War with France in the late 1790's President Adams reconstituted a standing Army, created the Department of the Navy and reestablished the Marines.

The initial corps consisted of one major, four captains, sixteen first lieutenants, twelve second lieutenants, forty-eight sergeants, forty-eight corporals, forty-eight drums and fifes, and seven hundred twenty privates.

According to the Act establishing and organizing the Marine Corps, the Marines shall "at any time be liable to do duty in the forts and garrisons of the United States, on the seacoast, or any other duty or shore, as the President, at his discretion, shall direct."

The Marine Corps Act (1 Stat. 594-596) organized the Marines into a separate and distinct military service. The Marine Corps Act remained in place for 149 years, with only minor changes until the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 495-510) which reorganized the War and Navy Departments under the Secretary of Defense. The 1947 Act provided for separately administered Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force, under the "general direction, authority and control" of the Secretary of Defense. The 1947 Act also established the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the principle military advisors to the President and Secretary of Defense, along with the National Security Council, Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Resources Board. While our "official" birthday is celebrated based on November 10, 1775, this is the true

birth of the Marine Corps.



Now for the second topic - On July 7, 1941, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was activated at MCB Quantico. Late in 1940, Congress set forth plans for a naval air fleet of 15,000 aircraft and subsequently authorized the plans. The Marines Corps would be allocated enough of these planes to form 2 air wings with 32 operational squadrons. Navy and Marine Corps observers coming back from the growing war in Europe, made recommendations that would result in the doubling of that number. It was under this expansion program that the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was activated at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia. The First Marine Aircraft Group, the largest east coast aviation unit in the Marines at the time, became its first component. Although a new wing, it is considered an unofficial descendant of the Northern Bombing Group of World War I.



Following the attacks on Pearl Harbor, the wing transferred to Naval Air Station San Diego, California, on December 10, 1941, and then to Camp Kearny on December 31. The first deployment for 1st MAW came in August 1942 when forward elements of the Wing arrived on Guadalcanal and made up the Cactus Air Force supporting the 1st Marine Division during the Battle of Guadalcanal. Brigadier General Roy Gieger arrived at Guadalcanal on September 3rd on the first aircraft from Mag 25, a R4D Skytrain. He took over operation command of the Cactus Air Force and 1st MAW and put his command post in a Japanese Pagoda about 200 feet above the runways at Henderson Field. On September 9th, US Navy Seabees



opened up a second runway which became Fighter 1 and the original runway Bomber 1. When BG Gieger assumed command, the CAF was down to 62 operational aircraft. Between September and November. The CAF would fight both combat sorties against the Japanese and a war of attrition. In addition to daily sorties against the



Gen Gieger and Major Joe Foss.

Japanese, the area where the aircrews and maintenance crews of the 1st MAW slept was under constant treat of bombardment from either Japanese aviation, naval and artillery on a daily basis and several airmen were killed. They also had to contend with mosquito bourn diseases such as malaria which put more Marines out of action than combat.

With the odds against them, the pilots of The 1st MAW rose up on a daily basis to defend Henderson Field and provide ground support to the 1st Marine Division on the ground. Until major re-enforcement arrived, it looked extremely unlikely that they would keep the Japanese at bay. At one point, the fighters were down to only a few operational aircraft and all of the bombers were sent to the rear base at Espiritu Santos.

F4F Wildcats at Henderson



Henderson Field Aug 1942

That is how close it came. However, we know the rest of the story. Many of the surviving pilots went on to War Bond tours in the states and to train new pilots in tactics while others became squadron and group commanders to reform the units of the 1ST MAW.

The Cactus Air Force consisted of the following units:

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USAAF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>RNZAF</u>
<u>VMF-112</u>	<u>VMSB-131</u>	<u>67th Pursuit Squadron</u>	<u>VS-3</u>	<u>No. 3 Squadron</u>
<u>VMF-121</u>	<u>VMSB-132</u>	<u>11th Bomb Group</u>	<u>VF-5</u>	
<u>VMF-122</u>	<u>VMSB-141</u>		<u>VS-5</u>	
<u>VMF-123</u>	<u>VMSB-142</u>		<u>VF-71</u>	
<u>VMF-124</u>	<u>VMSB-144</u>		<u>VT-8</u>	
<u>VMF-212</u>	<u>VMSB-231</u>	<u>Aboard the <i>USS Enterprise</i></u>		
<u>VMF-223</u>	<u>VMSB-232</u>		<u>VF-10</u>	
<u>VMF-224</u>	<u>VMSB-233</u>		<u>VB-6</u>	
<u>VMO-251</u>	<u>VMSB-234</u>		<u>VB-10</u>	
	<u>VMJ-152</u>		<u>VS-10</u>	
	<u>VMJ-253</u>		<u>VT-10</u>	

And operated the following Aircraft:

[Grumman F4F Wildcat](#)
[Grumman J2F-5 Duck](#)
[Lockheed Hudson \(RNZAF\)](#)

[Douglas SBD Dauntless](#)
[Bell P-39 Airacobra](#)

[Grumman TBF Avenger](#)
[Consolidated PBV Catalina](#)

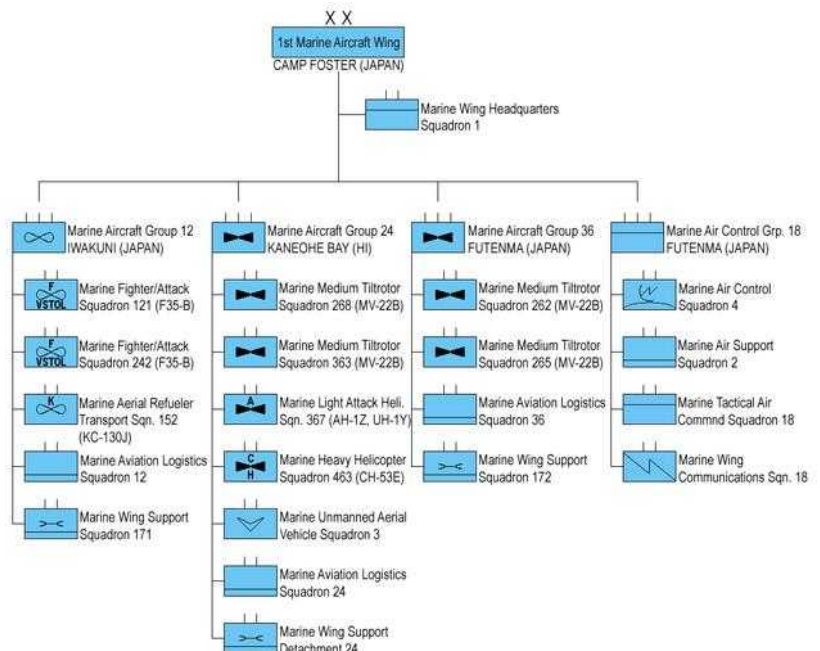
The 1st MAW participated in support of Marine operations through out the Pacific during WWII. It also served with distinction during Korea, Vietnam and Operation Enduring Freedom. Among many citations, it was awarded 3 separate Presidential Unit Awards including one with 3 bronze stars indicating 3 awards. Today the 1st MAW is based at MCAS Iwakuni, MCAS Futenma and MCAF Kaneohe Bay with headquarters at Camp Foster. Here is the current command structure:

The unit flag for the 1st MAW carries 18 streamers representing 18 awards for combat operations during Guadalcanal, The Philippines, China Service, Korea, Vietnam and the Global War on Terrorism.

The Marines of 1st MAW today are the arial support for the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

With the current Military Plans for Reduction in Force, the landscape of the 1ST MAW will likely change in the next couple of years. However, it's mission will not. Lets hope that our leadership will keep enough Marines and equipment in place in order to fulfill their mission.

Semper Fi, Ken Gysbers





Quartermaster's Report

It was great seeing everyone at the June meeting and many thanks to everyone that made a purchase. Also thank you to everyone that assisted with the break-down. There will be a Rose event on July 24th at the Stop & Shop in Wyckoff with details to follow by email. Also, if the July meeting is held outside, the Ship's Store will not be open.

If it is held inside, I can use some help with set up. I usually set up the Wednesday before the meeting after work around 1700 or so (depends upon the time I get out of work) and I usually take about 1 1/2 hours.

I'll be looking to resupply some items between now and the Rose Event as inventory on some items is running a little low and we haven't resupplied since well before the shut down in March of 2020.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



7/04	John Demeter	7/07	Art McEwen
7/07	Dot Patson	7/12	Tom Pierce
7/13	Debbie Zarzycki	7/17	Darryl Laxson
7/21	Richard Bowitz	7/21	Richard Muttel
7/24	Chris Cioppa	7/24	Chet Lindquist
7/25	Bill Malloy	7/27	Harold Dahlberg
7/29	Ray Sears	7/30	Bob Ranzinger



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Calendar of Events

June 2021

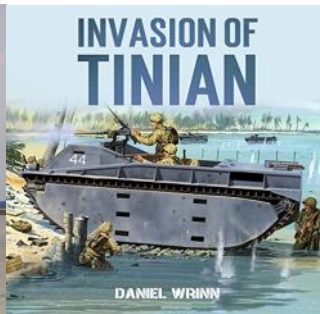
- July 5: Ridgefield Park July 4th Parade--1030--Participate with Gooney Bird Detachment
- July 13: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- July 18: NJ MCL meeting at Sea Girt--0900
- July 22: Detachment Meeting 1930
- July 31: Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Livingston--1000--Caleb Choy

August 2021

- Aug 1: Eagle Scout Court of Honor--Oakland--1400--Matthew Hyland, Michael Hyland, Zachary Pacenza
- Aug 10: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- Aug 26: Detachment Meeting 1930



6 July 1990: One of the oldest and most versatile attack aircraft in Marine Corps history, the A-4 Skyhawk, retired from the Corps' active aviation structure after over 30 years of service. The last two Skyhawks from MAG-32 flew their initial flight from Cherry Point to NAS Patuxent River on this date.



24 July 1944: The V Amphibious Corps, commanded by Major General Harry Schmidt, landed on Tinian, in the Mariana Islands. The following morning, the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions began a shoulder-to-shoulder southward sweep of the island. Organized enemy resistance faded within a week, and on 1 August, MajGen Schmidt declared the island secure.



4 July 1801: President Thomas Jefferson reviewed the Marines, led by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, LtCol William W. Burrows and the Marine Band, on the White House grounds. The smartly uniformed Marines performed drills and fired various salutes in observance of the new nation's 25th anniversary.



14 July 1993: The USS IWO JIMA was decommissioned after over 30 years of service in a ceremony at Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia. The ship was named for the World War II battle during which three Marine divisions ousted 20,000 entrenched Japanese troops. The Iwo Jima was commissioned 26 August 1961, and it was the first ship specifically designed as an amphibious assault ship from the keel up.

Current Operations / Happenings



Marines Ray Sears, Charlie Huha and Paul Thompson presented the Marine Corps League Eagle Certificate and Patch to Eagle Scouts Anthony Catalano, Timothy Russo and Owen Kruger at their Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony. The Ceremony took place on June 27 and the scout are from Troop 95 in Bloomfield with the ceremony held in Denville. Editor's Note: If you haven't seen Ray and Charlie do one of these presentations, it is worth your while to go to one with them. They are quite the team. Ray and Charlie have presenting at Eagle Courts of Honors for many years and the detachment is indebted to them for their long service to this worthwhile activity. Eagle Courts of Honor are very close to Charlie, as he is an Eagle Scout himself (it's a little like becoming a Marine—once you receive the Eagle Scout Award, you hold the honor for life).



Marines Ted Wurster and Paul Thompson acquired multiple cases of Girl Scout Cookies which they distributed to both the Paramus Veterans Home and Menlo Park Veterans Home. These were the only veteran facilities that would accept the donation.

Ted and Paul have done this for several years.

Note: Marines Mike McNulty and Michael Volpe are doing weekly food distribution for needy families every Tuesday from the American Legion in Oakland. This program is growing significantly and they can use whatever help we can give them. Reach out to Mike McNulty for details.





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



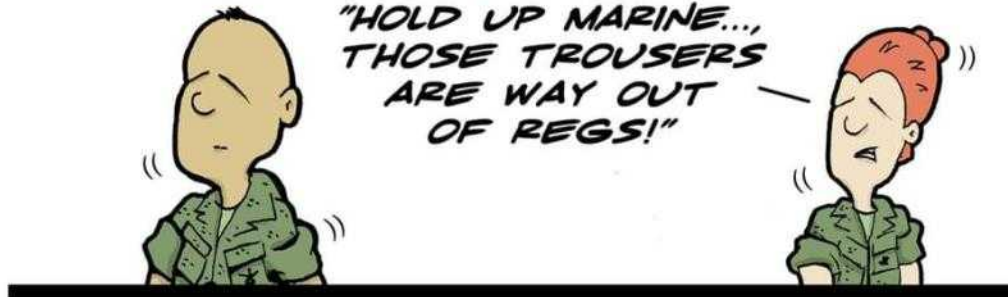
Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack

Marine Corps Funnies

CorpStoons



"HOLD UP MARINE...
THOSE TROUSERS
ARE WAY OUT
OF REGS!"



"NO THEY'RE NOT...
I JUST GIVE A LOT OF
HIP POCKET CLASSES!"

CorpStoons



"WHY ONLY HALF?...
THE BUDGET WAS
CUT IN HALF!"



BULLETS
NO TIPS

SAND
NO BAGS



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Vets4Warriors.com

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Vets4Warriors

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



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



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



- Vets4Warriors is available via telephone, on-line chat, or e-mail.
- For more information visit www.vets4warriors.com.

Set your course with a military connection

Vets4Warriors

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



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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Important Numbers and Websites

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



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



You lack time or energy to attend an in-person appointment.



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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