

The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

August 2021 Newsletter

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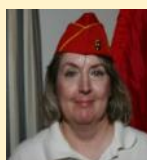
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Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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 August, 2021

Marines are doers and achievers. Regardless of the Pandemic over the last two years, this is evident with all of the programs and activities the Lakeland Detachment is involved with during the course of this year. Our list of activities is already overwhelming and will be included in this month's Grunt. We are so fortunate to have the number of members participating in our various activities. All of our programs are a success because of our members and their dedication to the principles of "Honor, Courage and Commitment", the core values of our Marine Corps.

However, we continually need to transfuse these efforts with additional members so we don't exhaust the stamina of members who are always present, thereby discouraging them and causing them to back off. We all have varied obligations and no matter what age group, those responsibilities are there, but, in a different format.

We need additional members for our Color Guard detail, our Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremonies. Even with the threat of the fear of a rise in the pandemic, we still honored 14 Eagle Scouts this year. Help is needed with the Grab n' Go Dinners, the food distribution program, the Rose program events and if we start up any form of the breakfast program, we will require many more hands. I know it's tough committing to the programs that we do in the spirit of service to our fellow man, especially other veterans; however, we are Marines and Marines have always been counted on to do the job, do it well and see it to its conclusion. We have a job to do, so let's do it.

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





Our Lord, who breathed this world into being, thank You for clear blue skies and sunny days. During this summer, we have enjoyed the harmony of nature You have given us.

Fresh green grass and leafy trees. Flowers, fluffy clouds and gentle breezes. Never allow us to take this for granted. Let us treasure these summer days and the people who share the gifted moments with us.

I pray that each of us will take time to sit quietly so that we may allow this beauty called summer that You have given us, be appreciated.

As we enjoy the warmth of the sun and the beauty that surrounds us I pray for our men and women serving our country so that we may remain free. I pray for their safe return from foreign lands. Please help their families to endure their time apart and find comfort in the last warm summer days of the season.

Thank you for the warmth of Your love, sustaining this world, Your garden.

Amen

Submitted by:

Les Derbyshire,

Chaplain



*This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalms 118:24*





Service Officers Report

November 2020

From Paul Thompson



Published May 27, 2021: The VA announced today two major decisions related to presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange and particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia.

Agent Orange

VA will begin implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), adding three conditions to the list of those presumptively associated with exposure to herbicide agents, more commonly known as Agent Orange. Those conditions are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism.

“Many of our Nation’s Veterans have waited a long time for these benefits,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. “VA will not make them wait any longer. This is absolutely the right thing to do for Veterans and their families.”

VA will apply the provisions of court orders related to *Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*, which may result in an earlier date for entitlement to benefits for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Vietnam War era Veterans and their survivors who previously filed and were denied benefits for one of these three new presumptive conditions will have their cases automatically reviewed without the need to refile a claim. VA will send letters to impacted Veterans and survivors.

Particulate Matter Exposures

The Secretary recently concluded the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA’s evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence. VA’s review supports initiation of rulemaking to address the role that particulate matter pollution plays in generating chronic respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War and/or after September 19, 2001, or in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War.

“VA is establishing a holistic approach to determining toxic exposure presumption going forward. We are moving out smartly in initiating action to consider these and other potential new presumptions, grounded in science and in keeping with my authority as Secretary of VA,” said Secretary McDonough.

VA is initiating rulemaking to consider adding respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, sinusitis and rhinitis, to the list of chronic disabilities based on an association with military service in Southwest Asia, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the covered periods of conflict. VA will conduct broad outreach efforts to reach impacted Veterans and it encourages them to participate in the rulemaking process.

For more information, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures – Public Health](#).

Paul Thompson,

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





Lakeland Detachment #744

Welcome to our summer of Fun Grab & Go Meals!

On Saturday July 17th we will have our “Create your own Taco Bar” meal

(Family of 4 price \$45) (Single Meal \$15)

This Meal can be picked up Between 2pm and 5pm at 65 Oak street, American Legion Building front entrance. To place your order please email

Simms156@gmail.com with the following information. Pick –up time, pick-up Name, Let us know if it’s a family meal or a single meal. Please email your order by 4pm Wednesday July14.

Menu

Chicken Mix and Shredded Beef

Taco shells

Taco fixings: Lettuce ,cheese, tomatoes

(Jalepenos available!!) Guacamole, Salsa, Sour cream Special sauces, Chipotle Ranch and Guajillo

sauce



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,

Hope everyone is at least trying to enjoy themselves this summer in spite of the weather. And I sincerely hope that everyone will get an opportunity to take a real vacation and get away for a little bit . I was able to take a real vacation for a change and in a rare move for my company got 2 weeks off. Liz and I spent a week at Lake George in a resort called Canoe Island Lodge. With the exception of 1 day that it rained a bit, we were on the lake either in one of the 3 sail boats that the lodge owns and operates or taking in scenic pontoon boat rides at least twice a day and got to enjoy the beach when we weren't boating. It was a relaxing week and we were sad to see it end.

For our second week we did some simple day trips and get together with some friends. One of the places that we visited was High Point State Park where during the week the admission is on \$5.00 for the car load. While at lunch with some friends, we discussed our trip and it came to light that New Jersey offers lifetime senior citizen passes for seniors 62 and older that all free admittance to all state parks. Since I don't qualify for it yet, we didn't pursue it any further. However, if you don't have this pass, I recommend checking it out at <https://www.njparksandforests.org/docs/parkpassapplication.pdf>. At this time, NJ does not offer a Military/Veterans Pass. Our conversation with our friends turned to the National Parks System. After some research, we found out that thanks to President Trump, veterans can now get the Military National Parks Pass. All that is required is proof of service (DD214, Military Retired ID Card or Drivers License with the Veteran Stamp on it - if you haven't already done it, the process to get the Veterans stamp on your driver's license is rather easy - when you renew your license, bring your DD214/Discharge Papers with you along with the other required documentation (the DD214 does not count toward the 6 points) and request the Veteran stamp). The Military Pass gives free entrance to any national park or national historic site that charges an entry fee and is valid for 1 year. It does not cover "Parking Fees". You can obtain it at any National Park or Historic site. We went to Washington's Headquarters in Morristown where it only took about 2 minutes. The park ranger examined my license, took out a new pass and marked the date of issue on it. We also got to tour the museum while we were there which has a rather interesting collection. Unfortunately, only the main floor of exhibits is currently open due to covid concerns and the museum and house is only open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (as is the Jockey Hollow portion of the park). None of the interactive electronic displays were working as well due to Covid. If you haven't had a chance to explore this museum, its worth the time to spend the day there. We unfortunately weren't able to take the house tour as we just missed a tour and didn't have time to stay for the next tour. From what we could see from various pictures, it looks like it gives a glimpse into how General Washington lived while he was in Morristown during the revolution. Just as an aside, the Military pass typically covers either a personal car load or up to 3 additional adults plus the card bearer.

The National Parks also has a Senior Citizen Pass which has a one time fee. It can be acquired at any National Park or Historic Site that that charges fees or you can apply on line.

Before I continue, just an FYI - many of you know that I belong to the North Jersey Concert Band. The band is scheduled to perform in Ridgewood at the Kasschau Bandshell on Thursday August 5th at 8:30 PM.

For anyone that was not at the July meeting, our Junior Vice Commandant, Len Graff, gave a short presentation on membership. At that time, I did not reflect upon my journey that led to my becoming a member. This week, kind of gave me some pause to think about it.

On Tuesday July 27th, I had the honor of playing taps for a fallen Marine at the request of a family friend. The Marine's name was Anthony DePeri and he had passed away in March. Marines were on hand to render flag honors and I'm pretty sure that I recognized the sergeant as being from Picatinny Arsenal. After the services were over, Liz and I had a few moments to chat with his widow and his daughter (it also turned out that we knew the husband of one of his granddaughters). Tony's obituary, states that he was a member of the Marine Band during the Korean War. From what his wife said, Tony was the embodiment of, "once a Marine, always a Marine" even to the point that she called herself a Marine Wife. He wore Marine covers when they went anywhere, had Marine shirts on most of the time and even attended Marine Corps Band reunions through out most of his life since leaving the band. He was also a trumpet player so I really missed an opportunity and was told by his daughter that he would have really appreciated the service I provided. His wife told me that she had tried to get him to join our detachment, but he never pursued it. From what I could gather, he would have loved this detachment.

So this gave me some pause to reflect upon my journey into the Marine Corps League. Around 1993 or 1994, we had just started going to church at OLPH in Oakland full time. Liz has this unique ability to make friends in a fairly short amount of time. One of those friends was Janet, who lived next door to Tony Lechniak. Fast forward a couple of years later, we met Tony one Sunday after church as Janet was bringing him to mass pretty much on a weekly basis. At that point, Tony asked if I would be interested in joining the detachment. It however, wasn't the right time. I was very involved in coaching both my children in various sports while doing a fair amount of travel for my job. So I passed on it at that time.

Our church does a special presentation on Good Friday called the Seven Last Words. The premise is based upon the Seven Last Words of Christ from the Gospels. Seven people from the church, are asked to write about the significance of any one of the 7 last words in their life and there is a musical meditation after each talk. It's quite a moving presentation. I believe it was in 2015, that Liz was asked to give a talk. On the team that year, was our very own Ben Cascio. The names of the presenters are only published a few weeks before Good Friday and Liz was very secretive about most of the talks. All she would say is wait until you hear Ben's and get a chance to meet him.

Well, the day came and I was on hand to support Liz as she gave her presentation. Each presenter is given 20 minutes including the musical selection that they choose for the meditation. Ben was the last one to go and I must say his presentation was probably the most powerful one in all of the Good Fridays since the pastor has been doing this. He spoke for almost 40 minutes and there wasn't a dry eye in the house when he was done. His first words to me when I was finally introduced went something like, "I'm a member of the Marine Corps League. You should come down and join us". It wasn't an invitation per say. It was more of a question - hey, you're a Marine. Why aren't you a member of the Marine Corps League. My simple answer was, "Ok, when and where? And here I am some 5 or 6 years later. It kind of falls into the category of, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine. Or, to borrow a Chesty quote, "Old Breed, New Breed, doesn't make a difference as long as it's the Marine Breed". Next time you are talking to a non member, don't invite them. Tell them to join us. Semper Fi, Ken Gysbers Editor.

This month, I'll dive into the Battle for Guadalcanal for our History of the Marine Corps narrative.

On August 7, 1942, the 1st Marine Division landed on the islands of Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Gavutu and Tanambogo. These islands are part of the Solomon Islands Chain located east of New Guinea and northeast of Australia. The original plan was to attack Florida Island, which was a larger island that overlooked Tulagi however, reconnaissance revealed that the Japanese were establishing an airfield at Lunga Point on Guadalcanal which they started constructing in July. In May, the Japanese occupied Tulagi and constructed a seaplane base. If the airfield was allowed to become operational, it would interdict the sea lanes and communication between the west coast, Hawaii and Australia. Thus Guadalcanal was added to the attack plans.

Strategically, the Japanese made 2 offensive attempts in the months prior to July/August 1942. In early May, the Battle of Coral Sea took place. It was the first naval engagement that was exclusive fought by aircraft carriers and naval air forces. Militarily it was considered a draw (both sides lost a number of surface ships and 1 carrier each) but at the time, it would have been considered a Japanese victory because of the severity the loss of 1 aircraft carrier represented to the US Navy at the time.

However, strategically, the US Navy won the battle as the Japanese Port Moresby invasion force was recalled due to the disengagement of both sides. A month later (almost to the day) the Japanese attempted an attack on Midway with the intent on capturing it. As history would tell us, the Japanese suffered their first major defeat of the war, losing 4 aircraft carriers and their strategic objective. As time would tell, Japan could not win a war of attrition over the long term. As the war progressed, Japan was unable to replace the losses of capital ships including aircraft carriers which the industrial might of the United States was just beginning to come into play. Midway represented the turn of the tide in the war.

A third strategy of the Japanese was the further southward expansion of the Japanese Sphere of Influence. This included the Solomon Islands, with the intent of capturing the Fiji Islands, New Caledonia and Samoa in the future. Once secure, they could then turn their attention to New Guinea and Australia. Admiral Ernest King saw the danger of the Japanese incursion into the Solomon Islands and proposed the invasion specifically targeting Tulagi and Florida Islands to President Roosevelt and got his approval. However, there was a major hurdle in the way. The Solomon Islands fell under the area controlled by General MacArthur. General MacArthur's command did not have the men or materials to support the defense of Australia or New Guinea let alone an invasion force. And since the grand strategy of the war was to win back Europe first, any assets for this invasion and many more would have to be provided by the Navy. General Marshall supported the invasion and accordingly shifted the boundary between MacArthur's Southwest Pacific Command and Nimitz's Pacific Command especially since the Navy and Marine Corps would be providing the men and materials for the invasion.



Japanese control of the western Pacific area between May and August 1942. Guadalcanal is located in the lower right center of the map.

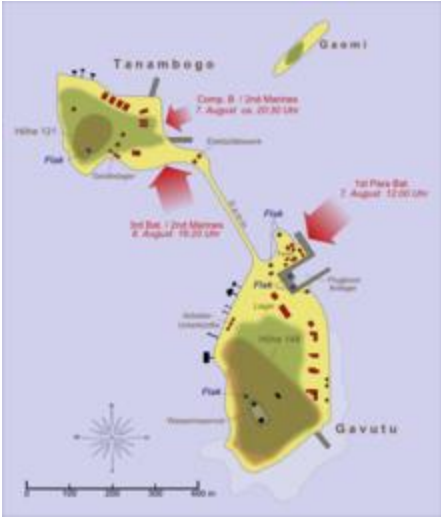
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff established the following goals for 1942–1943: that Guadalcanal would be taken, in conjunction with an Allied offensive in New Guinea under Douglas MacArthur, to capture the Admiralty Islands and the Bismarck Archipelago, including the major Japanese base at Rabaul. The directive held that the eventual goal was the American reconquest of the Philippines. The U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff created the South Pacific theater, with Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley taking command on 19 June, to direct the offensive in the Solomons. Admiral Chester Nimitz, based at Pearl Harbor, was designated as overall Allied commander in chief for Pacific forces.

In May, General Alexander Vandegrift began moving the 1st Marine Division to New Zealand in order to prepare for the invasion of the Solomon Islands. A 75 plus ship task force was assembled with command given to Vice Admiral Frank Fletcher whose flag was aboard the USS Saratoga. After a rehearsal in the Fiji Islands, the task forces set sail for the Solomon Islands on July 31st. The amphibious task force arrived off of Guadalcanal on the night of August 6th undetected by the Japanese due to bad weather which caused the patrolling Japanese seaplanes to miss the task force completely.

At dawn August 7th, the attack on Tulagi, and Florida Islands began with carrier planes from the USS Wasp dive bombing and strafing the seaplane base on Tulagi and the landing area on Florida Island. The cruiser USS San Juan and destroyers Monssen and Buchanan bombarded planned landing sites on Tulagi and Florida Island. At 0740, the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment landed unopposed on Florida Island. At 0800, the 1st Raider Battalion and the 2nd Battalion 5th Marines made an unopposed landing on Tulagi. Florida Island was undefended and the Japanese had about 890 defenders between Tulagi, Gavutu and Tanambogo. The seaplane base on Tulagi was destroyed by the divebombing and staffing by aircraft from the USS Wasp with nearly all of their crews and support personnel also killed. When 2nd of the 5th landed, they advanced north and cleared the northern end of the island. They then joined the 1st Raider Battalion to clear out the remaining defenders from the south. Tulagi was declared secure on August 8th with 307 Japanese KIA and 3 POWs to 45 Marines KIA. At noon, the 1st Marine Parachute Battalion landed on Gavutu. This was because there wasn't enough aircraft to provide cover for all of the various components including the more



Routes of Allied amphibious forces for landings on Guadalcanal and Tulagi, 7 August 1942



Landings on Gavutu and Tanambogo

important one at Guadalcanal. The seaplane base had been severely damaged during the bombardment which blocked landing craft access to the seaplane ramp. The Para-Marines were utilized as regular infantry and were able to wade through the surf but paid a heavy price as 1 in 10 did not make it to the beachhead due to heavy Japanese machinegun fire. The defenders were dug into caves and had multiple machine gun emplacements with crossfire also coming from Tanambogo. Once a beachhead was secured and the crossfire from Tanambogo suppressed, the Para-Marines began to clear out the island defenders. By late afternoon, they radioed for additional support to invade Tanambogo and a company from 1st of the 2nd was dispatched. After dark on the 7th, the company, transported in 5 boats, attempted to make a night landing.

Lit by fires that were started by the bombardment and bombing, all 5 landing craft came under immediate fire. Boat crews were either wounded or killed and Marines suffered many casualties. The company commander realized that the position was untenable and sent the boats back carrying the wound and dead back. He then lead the 12 remaining men across the causeway to Gavutu and hooked up with the Para-Marines.

On August 8th, the 3rd of 2nd was ordered to Gavutu to assist the decimated Para-Marines with mop up operations on Gavutu and the landing at Tanambogo. 2 Stuart M5 Light Tanks were sent with them. By noon, Gavutu was secured. The bombardment for the next phase from the USS San Juan began at about 1545. At 1615, the assault begins. Shortly after the landing one of the tanks got hung up on a destroyed tree stump. The tank was immediately surrounded by about 50 Japanese. With the loss of their infantry support, the tank was set on fire and 2 of the crewmen were killed outright. The other 2 are dragged from the tank and severely beaten until Marine rifle fire kills most of the Japanese. The next day, Marines count 42 dead Japanese around the burnt out tank. The 3rd of the 2nd begins the methodical clearing of Japanese positions. Most of the defenders on Tanambogo where aircraft support personnel. In several cases, the defenders used either sickles or hammers as their primary weapons. At 2100 on August 9th Tanambogo was secured. Between Gavutu and Tanambogo, 467 Japanese are KIA and only 20 are captured verses 70 US KIA (Marine & Navy). Of the 20 that were captured most were Korean laborers.

The landings at Tulagi, Gavutu and Tanambogo were fiercely contested by the Japanese defenders. The landing of the main assault on Guadalcanal had very little Japanese resistance. There were about 2800 Japanese Naval construction/combat troops on Guadalcanal when the bombardment began. About 2200 were Korean laborers. The Japanese defenders panicked and abandoned the airfield. They fled about 3 miles to the west and settled in the area of the Matanikau River and Point Cruz area. In their haste, they left behind food, supplies and construction equipment/vehicles that were intact and ready to use. By 1600 on August 8th, the 1Marine Division secured the airfield.



U.S. Marines debark from LCP(L)s onto Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942.

At the first sign of the attack on Tulagi during the bombardment and divebombing of the seaplane base, the Japanese had gotten off a radio warning to the main base at Rabaul. Japanese naval aircraft attacked the Allied amphibious forces several times setting fire to the transport USS George F. Elliot (which sank 2 days later) and severely damaging the destroyer USS Jarvis. Over the 2 days, the Japanese lost 36 aircraft while the US lost 19 including 14 carrier based fighters.

Admiral Fletcher, concerned about the aircraft losses, the fuel levels in his ships and the threat of continued Japanese air attacks against his carriers, secured permission to withdraw from the Guadalcanal area the night of August 8th. This forced Admiral Turner in charge of the transports to also withdraw since there wouldn't be any naval aircover. Before the transports departed the area in the early dawn hours of August 9th, they attempt to offload as much material and supplies as they could. However, they still sailed off with all of the heavy artillery and more than half of the supplies the 1st Marine Division would need to survive.

The night of August 8, also saw one of the worst naval defeats for the Allied forces. Two groups of screening destroyers and cruisers under the command of British Rear Admiral Victor Crutchley VC, were surprised and defeated by a Japanese force of 7 cruisers and 1 destroyer from the 8th fleet out of Rabaul. In the Battle of Savo Island, 1 Australian and 3 American Cruisers were sunk with another American Cruiser and 2 destroyers damaged. Vice Admiral Gunichi Mikawa, commander of the Japanese force, concerned about Allied aircover opted to withdraw without pressing his attack to the transports even though he only suffered moderate damage to one of his cruisers.

Once the transports sailed off in the early morning hours of August 9th, the Marines set about establishing and strengthening a loose perimeter around Lunga Point and the airfield as well as finishing the airfield. The high temperatures and humidity sapped the strength of the Marines significantly. The prime movers that would be used to move supplies off the beach were never unloaded thus this task was left to the few amtracks that went in with the initial landing. In the process of moving supplies from the beach to dispersed dumps, the tracks chewed up communication lines which invariably created chaos or SNAFU. On August 12th, the airfield was named Henderson Field after Loften R. Henderson, a Marine aviator who was killed at Midway. By August 18th the field was ready for operations. When the transports left, the Marines had unloaded 5 days of rations. Combined with the captured Japanese supplies, the Marines had about a 14 day supply of rations. Marines were rationed to 2 meals a day in order to conserve and extend the rations. Aside from the Japanese attacking almost daily with naval bombardments and air bombing, the Marine also had to deal with a severe strain of dysentery which afflicted 1 in 5 Marines by mid August.



Initial U.S. Marine defenses around the airstrip at Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, 12 August 1942

While all this was going on, the Japanese were getting their act together.

On the night of August 8th, a destroyer from Rabaul landed 113 naval reinforcement troops at the Matanikau position. On August 10th, the Imperial Japanese Command assigned the task of retaking Guadalcanal to the 17th Army based at Rabaul. The 17th army was rather divided with forces in Guam, New Guinea, the Philippines and on ships in between different areas. They dispatched several units including the 28th (Ichiki) Infantry Regiment, under the command of Colonel Kiyonao Ichiki (Japanese units were typically named after their commanding officer).

On the evening of August 12th, a 25 man patrol commanded by LtCol Frank Goettge, who was the Division G2 set out by boat to reconnoiter the area around the Matanikau river area. The patrol consisted of mainly intelligence personnel and other specialists. It was rumored that there were some Japanese that were willing to surrender in the area. After landing, the Japanese attacked the patrol nearly wiping it out. On August 19th, Vandergriff sent a 3 company force from the 5th Marines back to the same area. After occupying both villages and destroying any supplies, the force withdrew back to the Lunga Point perimeter. This is commonly referred to First Battle of the Matanikau and 65 Japanese Naval Troops were KIA verses 4 KIA for the Marines.

The Marines continued to be bombed by aircraft from Rabaul on a daily basis. On August 20th, an escort carrier delivered 19 Grumman F4Fs and 12 Dauntless SBD Diver bombers which became know as the Cactus Airforce or CAF based upon the allied code name for Guadalcanal.

On the night of August 19th, Colonel Ichiki landed at Taivu Point, east of the Lunga perimeter, then made a 9-mile night march west toward the Marine perimeter. This was a "1st" element and consisted of about 920 men. Underestimating the strength of the Marine, he led an early morning attack on August 21st at Alligator Creek. When it was over, the Ichiki force lost 789 KIA including Colonel Ichiki (who was thought to commit seppuku after he realized his defeat). About 30 survived and joined with the rear guard which retreated back to Taivu point for further instructions. Up until this point, the Japanese dominated both the air and seas around Guadalcanal. Both sides would build up forces for the next few weeks as the Japanese planned to take back Guadalcanal. There would be a pivotal naval battle the last week of August and the fight for Guadalcanal would continue deep into September. More to follow in the September Grunt. Semper Fi, Ken

Quartermaster's Report

As Peter's e-mail indicated, we had a successful Rose Event on July 24th at Stope & Shop. The weather was decent and given the time of year, we did better than most expected. However, this also means that some of our already low inventory of product to sell was depleted even further. In as such Mike and I are working to replenish the inventory with some old and some new items. Hope to have them in time for our next event which should be Pompton Day.

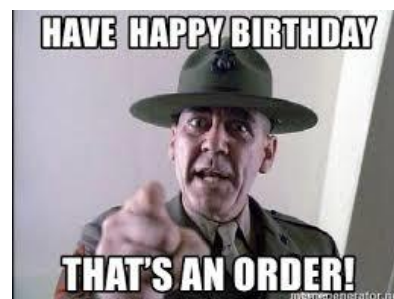


That brings me to another topic which Charlie touched on in the Commandant's Corner. When the Stop & Shop Rose Event ended, there were only 5 Marines left standing and of the 5, 4 of us were there for the whole day (or in my case most of the whole day). One of the comments made by a former member that was up visiting when he saw what we did was, "Wow, you guys are a First Class Act". One of the reasons we are a "First Class Act, is because of the dedication of members such as Peter Alvarez, Mike McNulty and Dick Berrian who were there from start to finish. However, we can't continue to be a "First Class Act" unless we get more help at the events. While I can't speak for Mike, Peter and Dick, I give freely of my time for these events and I'm sure that they feel the same way. However, unless we get more help, especially at the end of the day with breakdown, we will have to consider limiting even further the number of events and the amount of time we do these events. So this is a call to action Marines. Like Charlie said earlier, " we are Marines and Marines have always been counted on to do the job, do it well and see it to its conclusion."

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



08/08	Mike McCracken	08/14	Ken Amendola
08/14	Barry Milligan	08/15	Al Melchiano
08/18	Don Howard	08/18	Phil Lorusso
08/26	Ed Buschmann	08/28	Gene Jeckert
08/30	Tom Crovatto		

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Calendar of Events

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

September 2021

- Sept 5: Pompton Day (Rose Event) Rain Date: Sept 6) TBD
- Sept 8: 911 Remembrance Ceremony 1830 at Pompton Lakes Borough Hall
- Sept 14: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- Sept 19: John Basilone Memorial Parade. Raritan NJ
- Sept 23: Detachment Meeting 1930 (Detachment Elections)
- Sept 26: State MCL Meeting 11:00



3 August 1950: Eight Corsairs of VMF-214, the famed "Black Sheep" squadron of World War II, launched from the USS SICILY and executed the first Marine aviation mission in the Korean War in a raid against enemy installations near Inchon. After the F4Us delivered their bombs and rockets on target, the Marines ended their greeting to the Communist troops with a series of strafing runs.



17 August 1942: Just prior to dawn, the 2d Marine Raider Battalion under LtCol Evans F. Carlson landed on Makin Island from the submarines NAUTILUS and ARGONAUT. The next day the Marines left the island after destroying a seaplane base, two radio stations, a supply warehouse, and killing about 100 Japanese soldiers.



24 August 1814: Captain Samuel Miller's 100-man detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, fought in the battle of Bladensburg for the defense of the national capital. After helping to fight back three British charges, Captain Miller was wounded and the enemy began to work around both flanks of the American force. Almost encircled, the force of sailors and Marines was forced to retire to avoid capture. The Marines lost 8 killed and 14 wounded.



21 August 1968: PFC James Anderson, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy, Paul R. Ignatius. He was a rifleman with F Co, 2nd of the 3rd Feb 1967 in Vietnam.



7 August 1990: President Bush ordered U.S. military aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to defend that nation against possible Iraqi invasion. One week later the Marine Corps announced the commitment of 45,000 troops to the Persian Gulf area as part of Operation Desert Shield which would become the largest deployment of U.S. forces since the Vietnam War.

Current Operations / Happenings



MCL 744
 July
 Meeting
 Awards &
 New
 Members



The MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 July Meeting was a very busy meeting as we had several members receive awards from the MCL Department of NJ and we swore in 2 new members (1 regular and 1 Associate). Marines Paul Thompson and Pierre Guibor received their Leadership School Certificates. Marines Les Derbyshire and Ken Gysbers received Distinguished Service Awards. Junior Vice Commandant Len Graff was presented with the Department Plaque for detachments having over 125 members. Marine Ken Gysbers was presented with the Department 1st Place Newsletter Award. Commandant Charles Huha was present with the Department Commandant of the Year award. The Department of NJ, Murray J. Sklaar Award was presented to Marine Ed Korek. Marine Dionisio Cucuta (a member since February) was finally sworn in with Associate Member Howard Burch. Welcome to the detachment gentlemen and congratulations to the award recipients. Lets continue to be the Marines we are and continue to get the job as only Marines can do it. Semper Fi, Ken Gysbers Editor



On July 24th, the detachment held its first Rose Event in almost 2 years. We were at Stop & Shop in Wyckoff. While we did not do as good as other Rode events at this location, given the date (we normally do the Spring/Summer event on the Saturday before Father's Day) and the slower amount of traffic in the store, we did rather well in both donations and sales.

Remember, we can't continue to do these events in this scale with out the full support of the detachment. Thank you to everyone that did show up to assist with this event.

Our next event is Pompton Day on September 5th.



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

7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month in person

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 are in person with masks required for anyone not vaccinated.

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

"IMPOSSIBLE!...
I CAN'T DESCRIBE MYSELF IN 25 CHARACTERS OR LESS!!"



"TOO EASY..."
SEMPERFIDELIS, U.S. MARINE!



CorpStoons

SOMEWHERE ON
QUANTICO

"100 DEGREES!..., SO HOT!"

"GONNA NEED MORE
WATER AND ICE!"



MEANWHILE IN
YUMA

"100 DEGREES!..., PERFECT FOR COLD WEATHER TRAINING!"



CorpStoons

"BLOUSES AND TROUSERS HAVE POCKETS...
MARINES DON'T USE THEM...THEY'RE JUST FOR SHOW!"





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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.



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Vets4Warriors

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





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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