



The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

September 2019 Newsletter

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Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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



**Commandant's Corner
Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment—744
September 2019**



This month we celebrate the life of legendary Marine hero, Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone. He was born in his parent's home on November 4, 1916 in Buffalo, New York. He was the sixth of ten children of Dora and Salvatore Basilone who emigrated from Naples, Italy in 1903. The family relocated to Raritan, New Jersey where he grew up, attended school and worked. He left middle school to become a caddy, but soon tired of that and in 1934 enlisted in the Army. He completed his three-year enlistment in the Philippines where he became a champion boxer, earning the title "Manila John". In July 1940, he enlisted in the Marine Corps out of Baltimore, Maryland. He wanted to get back to the Philippines where he had many fond memories.

Initially he was assigned duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Finally, in 1942, he received orders for the Pacific to fight the Japanese. His first stop was Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942. The enemy finally relinquished their hold on the island in February, 1943. However, it was on this island that John received his Medal of Honor for successfully defending Henderson Airfield by holding off and destroying 3,000 Japanese with his machine gun unit of fifteen men. At the end he had two men left and he was armed with a machete and a .45 pistol. For his heroic actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor in Melbourne, Australia, where the Marines were posted to re-group while planning their next strategy.

In 1943, he was returned to the United States to participate in the war bond effort where he became a celebrity, a living example of bravery and the bold American spirit. John tried getting reassigned back to his unit on several occasions, refused a commission as an officer and eventually at Camp Pendleton met the love of his life in Sgt Lena Mae Riggi USMC. They married on July 19, 1944. In late 1944, John's unit was ordered back to the Pacific. Although he could have stayed in California, he insisted on going to war with his men.

The next battle was on Iwo Jima and it would be John's last battle. John went ashore with the first wave on February 19, 1945 at approximately 0930 hours. John's unit was pinned down taking heavy enemy fire. Through his actions, he single-handedly destroyed a pillbox with grenades and demolitions, then guided a tank through a minefield to safety while still undergoing heavy enemy fire. As John and three other Marines were moving along the edge of an airfield, they were hit by mortar shrapnel, killing them all. John was 28 years old. His actions helped the Marines get off the beach in the early stages of the invasion which would take over a month to complete. For his actions on Iwo Jima, John Basilone was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for Valor.

On December 21, 1945, John posthumously received a singular honor when DD824, launched in Orange, Texas, was named the USS Basilone. His widow Lena was there to dedicate the ship. Lena, who never re-married, passed away in 1999 at the age of 86 is buried in California. She too was a hero in her own right by helping others, volunteering at the women's Marine Association and the American Veteran's auxiliary.

I look forward to September 22, 2019 and an outstanding turnout by Lakeland Marines in honor of this true Marine hero on the occasion which honors his life at the Basilone Parade in Raritan, New Jersey.

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

Chaplain's Page



Dear Lord,

The change of seasons proves to us there is time for everything. A time for dying and a time for rising. Give us the courage to enter into the transformation process.

In autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us Lord, to let go when we need to do so.

God you show us fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground. Our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our lives, may we learn from them.

You give us misty days and harvest moon nights and show us there is always a dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We need to recognize your power filled presence and gain strength from this.

Lord, we see the geese going south for another season. The wisdom we receive from you enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

Flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs. May your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this we are grateful.

Amen

Submitted by
Marine Les Derbyshire
Chaplain



Service Officers Report September 2019



From Paul Thompson

I thought this memo I got from the VA is VERY IMPORTANT for all of us to read!

There is so much emotion when someone gets seriously sick - make it easier for your loved ones and have your personal thought known.

Veterans, at your next Primary Care visit, ask your provider about a GOALS OF CARE CONVERSATION.

Before you become ill and cannot speak for yourself, it's important that others know your health care preferences, which include:

- Your expectations
- Your goals
- Your beliefs
- Your concerns
- Your values
- Your choices.

Please share with your provider your health care preferences before you become ill.

- This information will be saved in your medical record.
- If something happens to you, your provider will use this information to create a treatment plan.

A Goals of Care Conversation will help your loved ones to help you. Please, speak up and ask your provider about a Goals of Care Conversation.

If you have any questions, please contact your Primary Care provider.

New Jersey Health Care System
Integrated Ethics Council

Reminders for September:

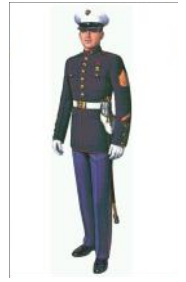
On Sept 10 at 1400 we have Bingo at the Paramus Veterans Home. The address is:

1 Veterans Way, Paramus.

We also have our 3rd Saturday Breakfast on 9/21. Many hands make light work.

As always, if there is anything that I can do to help you with some of your VA Issues, feel free to call me.

***Paul Thompson
201-320-3210***



Attention Marines,

One of my hobbies is reading. I read a lot of historical fiction and history books. Among the many authors I enjoy that do historical fiction, one stands out above the group. W.E.B. Griffin's series, "The Corps" ranks very high on my reading list and I've read the entire series several times. I'm currently am reading it again and am on Book# 7, "Behind the Lines". While many could and will argue that there are many inaccuracies both from one book to another and with actual events in history (I mean lets face facts, it is very unlikely that a person the likes of Ken McCoy could possibly exist in the Marine Corps during WWII). However, that being said, most of the historical information is accurate. One of the many quotable lines from the series goes something like this:

Marines are paid to take the bullets before civilians are put at risk (or something to that effect).

When we put the uniform on from day one at either boot camp or OCS, that became part of our very existence. Everything we were taught about being a Marine never changes. In this month's Leatherneck, there were several letters that were testimony to this fact. One letter, stated that the military bearing that the person in question was such that he was immediately identified as a Marine. Another letter questioned whether or not the person in question who was portraying himself as a Marine was actually a Marine. The person involved was appointed as a police office in a very rural town based upon his service as a Marine. The writer questioned his qualifications based upon the way he presented himself, his uniform wasn't cleaned or pressed, was ill fitting and his mannerisms were not those of a Marine let alone any other branch of the service. He notified that police chief about this and when he was asked for his DD214, the appointee up and disappeared.

Marines regardless of when they served, are easily recognized. We are the ones standing tall at attention during the Star Spangled Banner. We are the one who proudly wear the Marine Corps Emblem or other symbols of our service. We are different than our brothers and sisters in the other branches of the service. While they are indeed proud of their service, they do not belong to anything like the Marine Corps League. While most of us are not in the same shape that we were in while we were on active duty, all of us are still Marines.

In history, I'll continue to expand on the Korean War. On September 15, 1950, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines landed on and secured Wolmi-do Island in Incheon Harbor in advance of the 1st Marine Division Landing in Incheon. While Incheon is the port for Seoul South Korea, it was far from an ideal location to conduct a divisional let alone an army size military landing.

General Douglas MacArthur who was the supreme allied commander of US Forces in the Far East, had looked at a few options which he could use to turn the tide of the war. Up until that point had been mostly a series of defeats and set backs which resulted in the current situation in the Pusan Perimeter. However, the North Korean Army, was growing increasingly tired and it's supply lines were extremely stretched out. General MacArthur saw an opportunity to sever the supply lines and cut off the North Koreans in South Korea with an invasion at Incheon. Most military planners including the joint chiefs of staff at the time thought this to be impossible largely due to the insane tidal flats in Incheon Harbor. There were also other factors that were involved including the many islands that were part of the Incheon Harbor. Some of these islands were already in North Korea and most of the islands that were on the South Korean part of the channel were considered to be under North Korean control. In as such, there was a real concern by the planners that at the very least they would alert the North Koreans as to what was going on long before the First Marine Division made it's way to the landing beaches. The worst would be that they would bring the invasion fleet under fire. The other major factor aside from the tides which differed as much as 36 feet (maximum— the average was around 29 feet) and changed almost daily, was the narrow channel that the ships carrying the invasion force would have to traverse in single file. Capturing the larger islands in advance of the invasion would vastly contribute to the success of the invasion. There are many pictures that show both transports and warships stuck in the mudflats having been caught in the low tide. A good read about the efforts to secure the islands of Incheon Harbor is, "The Secrets of Incheon" by Eugene F. Clark.

On September 20, 5 days after the Incheon landing, the 1st Marine Division crossed the Han River about 8 miles northwest of Seoul. On September 25th, the attack on the city of Seoul began with the city being secured on September 27th. MacArthur's brilliant plan (although questionable) proved to be a success and the Marines of the 1st Marine Division were the tip of the spear. When the link up with the 8th US Army from the Pusan Perimeter, took place, the North Korean army was well under collapse. Between cut off supply lines and constant pressure from Allied forces (both ground and air) many North Korean soldiers chose to surrender.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers, Editor





Quartermaster's Report

We have some new t-shirts and some other items in stock. Hope to have some of the back ordered items soon.

As always , if anyone has any ideas or something that you think we should carry for both the Ship's Store and the Rose Programs, please let me know.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



Ship's Store ready for the meeting.



9/09—Doug Parker

9/10—Anthony Lanza

9/13—Dick Berrian

9/21—Mike Fields

9/22—Mike Echols

9/23—Ted Wurster

9/30—Mike Pritchard

9/09—Tad Skawinski

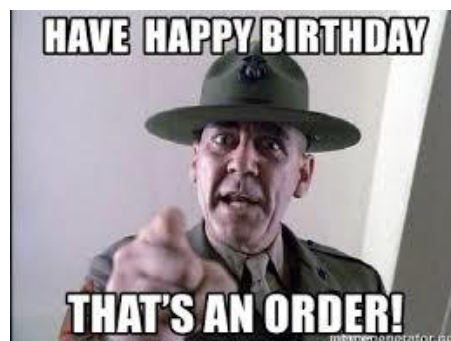
9/11—Bob Moir

9/17—Steve Seifried

9/22—Bob Bateson

9/23—Gene Kelley

9/26—Fred Hanle



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Calendar of Events

September 2019

| | |
|------------|--|
| 09/01/2019 | Rose event at Pompton Day in Pompton Lakes |
| 09/10/2019 | Bingo at Paramus Veterans Home - - 1400 |
| 09/10/2019 | Executive Board Meeting 1900 |
| 09/11/2019 | 911 Ceremony Pompton Lakes Municipal Bldg 1900 |
| 09/14/2019 | 3RD Saturday Breakfast 0800 - 1200 |
| 09/15/2019 | State MCL Meeting at Sea Girt--1200 |
| 09/22/2019 | Basilone Parade |
| 09/26/2019 | Detachment Meeting— 1930 |

October 2019

| | |
|------------|--|
| 10/05/2019 | Allendale Day—Rose Event 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM |
| 10/08/2019 | Bingo at Paramus Veterans Home - - 1400 |
| 10/08/2019 | Executive Board Meeting 1900 |
| 10/12/2019 | Autumn Lights Festival—West Milford—0800-1700 |
| 10/19/2019 | 3RD Saturday Breakfast 0800 - 1200 |
| 10/20/2019 | Detachment Rifle Shoot—Cherry Ridge 0800 to about 1300 |
| 10/24/2019 | Detachment Meeting—Installation of Officers—1900 |



On Sept 27, 1944, The US Flag is raised on Peleliu at the 1st Marine Division HQ announcing that the island was now secured. Many small pockets of Japanese would continue to resist in April of 1945.



On September 2, 1945, General Douglass MacArthur accepted the formal surrender of Japan on the USS Missouri in Tokyo harbor. Lt.Gen. Roy Geiger USMC, Commanding General FMF was the senior Marine present.





**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
LAKELAND DETACHMENT 744**
P.O. Box 8, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008
Phone (973) 839-5693
www.usmcl744.org



Dear Member:

FRIENDLY REMINDER

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

As we've discussed at the detachment's monthly meetings, Marine Corps League National Headquarters has changed the due dates for all membership renewals to: **August 31st of each calendar year.** By paying on or before 31 August of 2019, membership renewals will be due on August 31 of 2020 and each year thereafter.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES AS OF THIS PUBLICATION, YOU ARE LATE!

Please remit your check for \$50.00, payable to MCL # 744 and mail to:

MCL
P.O. Box 8,
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008.

Important: Please put your six (6) digit ID number on the bottom left side of your check (Know as the Memo Section).

Please take note: Marine Corps League National Headquarters no longer sends out renewal Notices. Any notices will come from the Detachment Paymaster.

If you hold a NJ MCL License Plate, please remit your renewal check as soon as possible. Failure to renew your membership on time can result in forfeiture of the plate.

Any questions to the above please feel free to call me at 973-839-5693.

Semper Fidelis

Marine Peter J. Alvarez
Paymaster / Adjutant
Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment 744



Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment 744
Important Dates for 2019
Executive Board Meetings

7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday January 8th, February 12th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th, July 9th,

August 13th, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th & December 10th

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Breakfast Dates

3rd Saturday of every month

0800 to 1200 Hours



January 19, February 16th, March 16th, April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th, August 17th,

September 21st, October 19th, November 23rd* & December 21st

*** Changed from Nov 16th due to our Birthday Ball on Nov 15th.**

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)

January 24th, February 28th, March 28th, April 25th, May 23rd, June 27th, July 25th,

August 22nd, September 26th, October 24th, November 21st & December 19th



Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Please mark your calendars accordingly!

Desert Storm by Jake Hayes

Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack



The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to its:

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL RIFLE SHOOT

- PLACE:** CHERRY RIDGE RIFLE RANGE
- DATE:** SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019
- TIME:** 0800 HRS. TILL: 1200 HRS.
- COST:** \$35.00 Per Person Includes: Coffee, Donuts,
Ammo and Lunch.

Please mail checks made payable to:

“MCL Lakeland Detachment 744”

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





*John Basilone
Parade Committee*

*22 First Street
Raritan, New Jersey 08869*

THE ONLY PARADE IN AMERICA HONORING A WAR HERO

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, September 22, 2019, the Borough of Raritan will host its 38th Annual John Basilone Memorial Parade honoring its National World War II hero, Marine Sergeant John Basilone. 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 in 1945.

The parade continues to grow in size and popularity each year. Last year, many units marched along with military and high school bands before thousands of spectators, many of whom came from different parts of the country to attend this annual event.

Parade expenses increase each year and although funds are provided by the municipal budget for this occasion, we rely on the generosity of many people like you for the success of this yearly tribute. We respectfully request your support and thank you in advance for your contribution.

We invite your organization to join us in making this year's parade the biggest and best ever. Participating units are to report for registration and line of march assignments at 11:30 AM at the Raritan Train Station located between Thompson and Anderson Streets. The parade will begin promptly at 1:00 PM.

Please respond on the enclosed card and include your email. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Pacifico".

John R. Pacifico, Chairman
John Basilone Parade Committee
908-429-8868 (phone)

Please make checks payable to John Basilone Parade Committee.

**If you are unable to present this invitation to the organization designated on the enclosed card, kindly forward it to the appropriate person. Thank you.*

Gunnery Sgt John Basilone – Nov 4, 1916 to Feb 19, 1945

Medal of Honor and Navy Cross Recipient.

Early life and education

Basilone was born in his parents' home on November 4, 1916, in Buffalo, New York.[2] He was the sixth of ten children. His five older siblings were born in Raritan, New Jersey, before the family moved to Buffalo when John was born; they returned to Raritan in 1918. His father, Salvatore Basilone, emigrated from Colle Sannita, in the region of Benevento, Italy in 1903 and settled in Raritan. Basilone's mother, Theadora Bencivenga, was born in 1889 and grew up in Manville, New Jersey, but her parents, Carlo and Catrina, also came from Benevento. Basilone's parents met at a church gathering and married three years later. John grew up in the nearby Raritan Town (now Borough of Raritan) where he attended St. Bernard Parochial School. After completing middle school at the age of 15, he dropped out prior to attending high school. Basilone worked as a golf caddy for the local country club before joining the military.



Military service

John Basilone enlisted in the United States Army in July 1934 and completed his three-year enlistment with service in the Philippines, where he was a champion boxer. In the Army, Basilone was initially assigned to the 16th Infantry at Fort Jay, before being discharged for a day, reenlisting, and being assigned to the 31st Infantry.

After he was released from active duty, he returned home and worked as a truck driver in Reisterstown, Maryland. After driving trucks for a few years, he wanted to go back to Manila and believed he could get there faster by serving in the Marines than in the Army.

U.S. Marine Corps

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940, from Baltimore, Maryland. He went to recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, followed by training at Marine Corps Base Quantico and New River. The Marines sent him to Guantánamo Bay, Cuba for his next assignment, and then to Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands as a member of "D" Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Guadalcanal

In October 1942, during the Battle for Henderson Field, his unit came under attack by a regiment of about 3,000 soldiers from the Japanese Sendai Division. On October 24, Japanese forces began a frontal attack using machine guns, grenades, and mortars against the American lines.

Sgt. Basilone commanded two sections of machine guns which fought for the next two days until only Basilone and two other Marines were left standing. He moved an extra gun into position and maintained continual fire against the incoming Japanese forces. He also repaired and manned another machine gun, holding the defensive line until replacements arrived.

As the battle went on, ammunition became critically low. Although his sector of the line held, many sectors collapsed and allowed pockets of Japanese infantry to break through to the rear on the US lines. In spite of being cut off from friendly lines by the enemy in the rear, Basilone fought through hostile ground to resupply his heavy machine gunners with urgently needed ammunition.



When the last of it ran out shortly before dawn on the second day, Basilone, using his pistol and a machete, held off the Japanese soldiers attacking his position. By the end of the engagement, Japanese forces opposite their section of the line had been virtually annihilated. For his actions during the battle, Sgt Basilone received the United States military's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

Afterwards, PFC Nash W. Phillips of Fayetteville, North Carolina recalled the action from the battle for Guadalcanal:

Basilone had a machine gun on the go for three days and nights without sleep, rest, or food. He was in a good emplacement and was causing the Japanese lots of trouble, not only firing his machine gun, but also using his pistol.

War bond tours

In 1943, Basilone returned to the United States and participated in war bond tours. His arrival was highly publicized and his hometown held a parade in his honor when he returned. The homecoming parade occurred on Sunday, September 19 and drew a huge crowd with thousands of people, including politicians, celebrities, and the national press. The parade made national news in LIFE magazine and Fox Movietone News.

After the parade, Basilone toured the country raising money for the war effort and achieved celebrity status. Although he appreciated the admiration, he felt out of place and requested to return to the operating forces fighting the war.

The Marine Corps denied his request and told him he was needed more on the home front. He was offered a commission, which he turned down, and was later offered an assignment as an instructor, but refused this as well.

He again requested to return in a combat role, the request was approved. He left for Camp Pendleton, California, for training on December 27. On July 3, 1944, he reenlisted in the Marine Corps.

Marriage



While stationed at Camp Pendleton, John met his wife, Lena Mae Riggi, who was a Sergeant in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. They were married at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church in Oceanside, California, on July 10, 1944, with a reception at the Carlsbad Hotel. They honeymooned at an onion farm near Portland, Oregon.



Iwo Jima



After his request to return to the fleet was approved, Basilone was assigned to "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division. On February 19, 1945, the first day of invasion of Iwo Jima, he was serving as a machine gun section leader on Red Beach II. While the Marines landed, the Japanese concentrated their fire at the incoming Marines from heavily fortified blockhouses staged throughout the island. With his unit pinned down, he made his way around the side of the Japanese positions until he was directly on top of the blockhouse. He then attacked with grenades and demolitions, single-handedly destroying the entire strong point and its defending garrison.

He then fought his way toward Airfield Number 1 and aided a Marine tank that was trapped in an enemy mine field under intense mortar and artillery barrages. He guided the heavy vehicle over the hazardous terrain to safety, despite heavy weapons fire from the Japanese. As he moved along the edge of the airfield, he was killed by Japanese mortar shrapnel.

His actions helped Marines penetrate the Japanese defense and get off the landing beach during the critical early stages of the invasion. GySgt Basilone was posthumously awarded the Marine Corps' second-highest decoration for valor, the Navy Cross, for extraordinary heroism during the battle of Iwo Jima.

Based on his research for the book and mini-series *The Pacific*, author Hugh Ambrose suggested that Basilone was not killed by a mortar, but by small arms fire which hit him in the right groin and neck, and nearly took off his left arm.

Burial

Basilone is interred in Arlington National Cemetery, in Section 12, Grave 384, grid Y/Z 23.5.

His widow, Lena M. Basilone, died June 11, 1999, aged 86, and is buried at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California. Lena's obituary notes that she never remarried and was buried still wearing her wedding ring.



In addition to the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross, GySgt Basilone has received numerous honors, including the following:

Marine Corps

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton:

An entry point onto the base from U.S. Interstate 5 called "Basilone Road"

A section of U.S. Interstate 5 running through the base called "Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone Memorial Highway"

A parachute landing zone called "Basilone Drop Zone"

MRCB San Diego:

During the Crucible portion of Marine Corps Recruit Training on the West Coast, there is an obstacle named "Basilone's Challenge" that consists of carrying ammunition cans filled with concrete up a steep, wooded hill

Navy

USS Basilone (DD-824): The United States Navy commissioned USS Basilone, a Gearing-class destroyer, in 1949. The ship's keel was laid down on July 7, 1945, in Orange, Texas, and launched on December 21, 1945. His widow, Sergeant Lena Mae Basilone, sponsored the ship. Decommissioned Nov 1, 1977, she was sunk while being used for missile targeting practice on Apr 9, 1982 about 80 miles east of St. Augustine, FL

A plaque at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

USS John Basilone (DDG-122): The future USS John Basilone (DDG-122) will be commissioned in 2019.



Public honorable recognitions include:

In 1944, Army Barracks from Washington State were moved to a site in front of Hansen Dam in Pacoima, California and rebuilt as 1,500 apartments for returning GIs. This development was named the "Basilone Homes" and was used until about 1955. The site is now a golf course.

The memorial parade for Basilone along Somerset Street in his hometown, Raritan, New Jersey, has been held since 1981,

A residential building at Montclair State University

At Bridgewater-Raritan High School:

The football field is called "Basilone Field"

On the wall of the fieldhouse next to the field is a mural honoring Basilone.

The Knights of Columbus Council #13264 in his hometown is named in his honor

An overpass at the Somerville Circle in Somerville, New Jersey, on U.S. Highway 202 and 206 that goes under it, is named for Basilone

The New Jersey Turnpike bridge across the Raritan River is named the "Basilone Bridge"

A connector road at the southwest of Newark Liberty International Airport, that connects to Earheart Road, is named after Basilone

The new John Basilone Veterans Memorial Bridge crosses the Raritan River, in Raritan, NJ, at First Avenue and Canal Street

A memorial statue featuring him holding a water-cooled Browning machine gun is located at the intersections of Old York Road and Canal Street in Raritan (Basilone's childhood friend Phillip Orlando sculpted the statue)

A bust of Basilone is sited at Piazza Basilone, in Little Italy San Diego, at Fir and India Streets. The war memorial there is dedicated to residents of Little Italy who served in World War II and Korea.

The Order of the Sons of Italy In America Lodge #2442 in Bohemia, New York is named in his honor

The Basilone Room in Raritan Public Library is where memorabilia about him is kept.

On November 10, 2005, the U.S. Postal Service issued the "Distinguished Marines" stamps honoring four Marine Corps heroes, including Basilone

In 2011, Basilone was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame

Annual Basilone Bowl, presented by the Somerset County Football Coaches Association and the U.S. Marine Corp, is a football game played by select seniors from Somerset County, New Jersey and supported by select cheerleaders from Somerset County, New Jersey, played on Basilone Field, which began in 2012.

Following are the citations for both his Medal of Honor and his Navy Cross.

Medal of Honor citation

Basilone's Medal of Honor citation reads as follows:

The [President of the United States](#) in the name of [The Congress](#) takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

SERGEANT

JOHN BASILONE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:



For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action against enemy Japanese forces, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division in the Lunga Area, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on 24 and 25 October 1942. While the enemy was hammering at the Marines' defensive positions, Sgt. BASILONE, in charge of 2 sections of heavy machine guns, fought valiantly to check the savage and determined assault. In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of Sgt. BASILONE'S sections, with its gun crews, was put out of action, leaving only 2 men able to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then, under continual fire, repaired another and personally manned it, gallantly holding his line until replacements arrived. A little later, with ammunition critically low and the supply lines cut off, Sgt. BASILONE, at great risk of his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed shells for his gunners, thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His great personal valor and courageous initiative were in keeping with the highest traditions of the [U.S. Naval Service](#).

[FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT](#)

Navy Cross

Basilone's Navy Cross citation reads as follows:

The [President of the United States](#) takes pride in presenting the NAVY CROSS posthumously to
GUNNERY SERGEANT

JOHN BASILONE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:



For extraordinary heroism while serving as a Leader of a Machine-Gun Section, Company C, 1st Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima in the [Volcano Islands](#), 19 February 1945. Shrewdly gauging the tactical situation shortly after landing when his company's advance was held up by the concentrated fire of a heavily fortified Japanese [blockhouse](#), Gunnery Sergeant BASILONE boldly defied the smashing bombardment of heavy caliber fire to work his way around the flank and up to a position directly on top of the blockhouse and then, attacking with grenades and demolitions, single handedly destroyed the entire hostile strong point and its defending garrison. Consistently daring and aggressive as he fought his way over the battle-torn beach and up the sloping, gun-studded terraces toward Airfield Number 1, he repeatedly exposed himself to the blasting fury of exploding shells and later in the day coolly proceeded to the aid of a friendly [tank](#) which had been trapped in an enemy [mine field](#) under intense [mortar](#) and [artillery](#) barrages, skillfully guiding the heavy vehicle over the hazardous terrain to safety, despite the overwhelming volume of hostile fire. In the forefront of the assault at all times, he pushed forward with dauntless courage and iron determination until, moving upon the edge of the airfield, he fell, instantly killed by a bursting mortar shell. Stouthearted and indomitable, Gunnery Sergeant BASILONE, by his intrepid initiative, outstanding skill, and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of the fanatic opposition, contributed materially to the advance of his company during the early critical period of the assault, and his unwavering devotion to duty throughout the bitter conflict was an inspiration to his comrades and reflects the highest credit upon Gunnery Sergeant BASILONE and the [United States Naval Service](#). He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

For the [President](#),

[JAMES FORRESTAL](#)

[Secretary of the Navy](#)



Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to our Third Saturday Monthly Breakfast

At The American Legion Hall

65 Oak Street, Oakland, NJ 07436

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21st 8AM-12 NOON

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Eggs Benedict

Omelets; Scrambled Eggs & Sausage Gravy

Pancakes; French Toast & Waffles

Bacon; Sausage; SOS & Corned Beef Hash

Home Fries & Biscuits

Donuts; Bagels & English Muffins

Coffee; Orange Juice & Pastries

Adults: \$12.00, Seniors: \$10.00

Children Between 6 and 10: \$6.00 & Children under 5: Free

Bring your family and friends

Most Important Support Lakeland Detachment #744

Be sure to visit our Marine Corps League Store in the back Right Corner.

Current Operation Notes

We are very fortunate to have dedicated officers that take time to perform the many duties required of the positions that they hold. One of the many programs that the Marine Corps League is very active with is the Eagle Scout Program. In Scouting, the rank of Eagle Scout is very difficult to achieve and is usually presented only to those scouts that complete all of the required tasks in addition to upholding the standards of the Boy Scouts which in many ways are reflected in the traditions and standards of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League. Commandant Charles Huha and Judge Advocate/Range Officer Ray Sears typically go to over a hundred Eagle Courts of Honor in the course of a year. I was privileged to join them at the Eagle Court of Honor for Justin Minor on Aug 17th. I must say that they are truly a unique team. Each Eagle Scout receives a certificate, a MCL/Eagle Scout Patch, the detachment challenge coin. Following are some pictures.



Pompton Lakes Day Sept 1

We also had our first Rose Event on Sept 1st at Pompton Lakes Day



As you can see, we are sporting 2 new pop ups. Senior Vice Commandant Mike McNulty will have the results at the next meeting.

Military Humor

A Marine Corps Recruit Company is training in the woods. They have to disguise themselves as trees and stand still until their Drill Instructor allows them to move.

After 17 hours, one of the recruits freaks out and starts jumping around. The DI, visibly upset, approaches him.

DI: "Private! What the hell do you think you are doing?"

PVT: "Sir, after 5 hours there was a dog and he started peeing on me. I didn't move an inch."

DI: "Yes, I saw that."

PVT: "A few hours later Sir, there was this young couple. And when the guy pulled out a knife to carve a heart into my left butt cheek, it hurt, but I didn't move."

DI: "I understand. But you moved now. Why? Explain yourself private!"

PVT: "Well Sir, I finally had enough when those 2 squirrels climbed up inside my pants and one said to the other, let's eat the nuts now and keep the pine cone for later."



"I remember when WE were best friends . . ."



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- 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.
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- 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.



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- 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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Vets Warriors

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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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veteran's Information

Ed Korek

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Veteran's Service Officer

201-317-1678

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

John Harris / Richard Mannes

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

Marine Corps League Information

Marine Corps League

National Web Site:

<http://www.mcnational.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/Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-Detachment-744/165447603504657>

