

The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

September 2021 Newsletter

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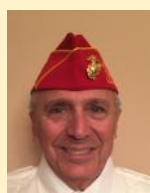
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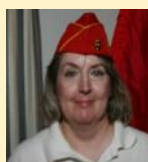
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Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

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

September, 2021

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability applies to many things and can be used in many contexts. We have the sustaining of the ecological system, the sustenance of life, sustaining a certain rate of activity or of equipment for a certain period of time. The prevailing theme is the ability to endure or to survive another day or time.

We've had many challenges over the past 200+ years since our nation was first founded. Our ancestors and founding Fathers had to create something out of nothing. They faced those challenges of tilling the soil, expanding the country from sea to shining sea, internal and external conflicts in the guise of war, disease, pestilence and creating a form of government unlike any other in the world. They endured and survived. We are the product of their success.

Today we still face challenges. We have the challenge of trying to stay out of more conflicts and wars, while others are trying desperately to destroy us, our way of life and the freedoms that we enjoy. We have the internal political challenges of differing viewpoints and political manipulation, especially with the paid rioting, looting and destruction facing many of our major cities.

Recently the country and New Jersey were faced with a terrible storm in Hurricane Henri. Many homes were destroyed, major flooding, downed trees and many lives lost. In addition, we have the terrible circumstances surrounding the exit from Afghanistan and the lack of border security in the Southwest. How those issues will play out is anyone's guess. Whether the U.S.A. will regain its status as a symbol of freedom for the world and an ally to be counted on is undecided.

For more than a year, our country and the world has been faced with a pandemic, the likes of which have not been seen for a century. How we have handled and continue to handle this challenge continues to define us as a nation and world, at large.

We will endure and prevail due to the spirit of America that is embodied in each and every one of us as handed down by our Forefathers. That spirit of sustainability which tells us we will persevere and survive to live another day. You see it in the people who come together to help each other to overcome these significant challenges. There is no hesitation. They're Americans and they will overcome. Just as Marines, we Improvise, Adapt and Overcome all challenges and obstacles.

America will also endure and survive the Pandemic, Natural disasters, the border crisis, Afghanistan and other challenges, to remain a beacon of hope for the remainder of the world and to demonstrate how Americans handle adversity and change.

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

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT





Chaplain's Page



*For those of us who have had to say goodbye to people we love and close a chapter in our lives,
I find this prayer for autumn days to be a comfort:*

*God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising.
We need courage to enter into the transformation process.*

*God of 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 to let go when we
need to do so. God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their
own patterns. As we see the pattern of our own growth, may we learn from them.*

*God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and
wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power filled presence. May we gain
strength from this. God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie
within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us
patience when we do not see the blessings.*

*God of geese going south for the season, your wisdom 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.*

*God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our
hearts from growing cold in the empty season.*

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life.

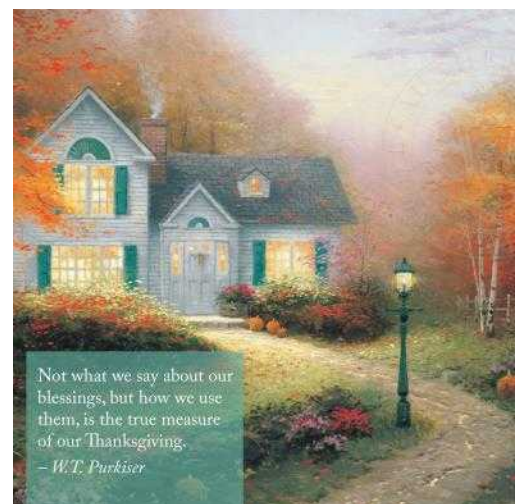
For all this we are grateful.

Amen

Submitted by:

Les Derbyshire,

Chaplain





Service Officers Report

November 2020

From Paul Thompson



Senate Passes Bill to Assess VA Benefit Disparities: The Senate passed S. 1031, which would require a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by VA. The Government Accountability Office would be tasked with assessing disparities in compensation benefits, with particular focus on disability evaluations based on pain and rejection of fully developed claims. Understanding race and ethnic disparities and correcting those wrongs within VA can help ensure all veterans are properly compensated for their injuries.

I know I'm always mentioning to everyone, things like get your house in order; but I want to emphasize another "very important" aspect of that.

Once you get your house in order, it's equally as important to communicate to all family love ones, exactly what your wishes are.

I was just involved with a Veterans family, to help them vacillate the Veteran get into a local Nursing Home. It was going along alright, until they found out that the Veteran didn't want to go to the Home! The Veteran over the next two years will probably exhaust his savings ,having private duty nursing care. It's his right to stay where he is, but the family never really had a discussion with the Veteran about what he wanted.

The main point here is to communicate with your immediate family, and tell them what your wishes are. Know what your options are, and discuss the best options for you, especially on the financial end of the equation. And last, but not least, do something to ensure your wishes are met; before someone else makes that decision for you.

Respectfully,

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**





Marine Corps League

Lakeland Detachment 744

Upcoming Rose Event Schedule

1: Pompton Lakes Day across from Our Monument on Lakeside Ave, Pompton Lakes

Sunday September 5th from 0900 to 1730

(Rain Date: Monday September 6th)

2: Vets Fest Sunday September 12 from 0900 to 1700 Noon

Loc: Dave Waks Park 39 Barbour Pond Rd, Wayne

(Rain Date: Sunday September 19th)

3: Autumn Lights Festival Union Valley Rd, West Milford

Saturday October 9th from 0900 to 1700

4: Stop & Shop Wyckoff Sunday November 21st 0900 to 1700

(Note: Date and Times to be confirmed)

Right now, sales from our Marine Shop at these events is one of best sources of income to support the detachment. Money collected for the Rose Program goes to the Marine Cares Fund which is used to support Marines and members of the military services as well as veterans in need. Money collected from the sales of merchandise goes back to the detachment.

Your help for set up, during the day and breakdown is crucial to the success of these events. If you can help with set up and stay for an hour or 2, that's great. If you can spare a couple of hours during the event, that's a big help. Most importantly, we need the most help at breakdown. Our last event, we had 5 Marines at the end to break down.

In the past, we've relied upon an honor system of sorts. To ensure we have coverage through out the day of each event, please email me (krigsbers@yahoo.com) with the event and times you can come down to help out. It will help us determine if there are any spaces we might need to fill.

Please note: Vets Fest is more of a selling event. We are limited on space and will be the only vendor selling merchandise. Roses will be out for any donations. It does promise to be an enjoyable day if the music is performed well.



Borough of Pompton Lakes

20th Anniversary

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

September 8, 2021 - 6:30pm

Municipal Building – 25 Lenox Avenue

Inclement Weather – Lenox School

**You Are Invited To Participate In The Annual
Memorial Commemorative Ceremony**

Honoring Those

Victims And Heroes Of 9/11/01

Rekindle The Spirit Of Unity And Compassion

We Will Never Forget!!!



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”





The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to its:

ANNUAL MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

PLACE: Macaluso's, Hawthorne, NJ

DATE: Friday, November 5th, 2021

TIME: 6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.

For 246 years the Marine Corps has celebrated its founding in 1775. On Friday, November 5th, 2021, the Marine Corps League, Lakeland Detachment 744, Pompton Lakes, NJ will host its Thirty First Annual Marine Corps Ball. Please join the Detachment in celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday at Macaluso's Restaurant. If you plan to attend, please send a check for \$80.00 per person, payable to MCL #744 and mail to MCL P.O. Box 8, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008, no later than October 5, 2021.

If you have any dietary restrictions and need additional information, please contact: Grace Alvarez at 973-839-5693. (Invitations were mailed on August 1, 2021")





Hello Folks!!!

We are starting up this next Grab & Go Meal event on Sunday Sept 26th.

We will have a New Local Business preparing this next meal.

Please welcome to our area:

“Party Connections Creative Catering”

38 Hamburg Turnpike, Riverdale NJ, 07457 (973-835-8819)

Menu

Roasted Pork Loin w/apple Demi Glaze

Roasted Red bliss Potatoes with sweet potatoes and carrots

Garden Salad

Family meal for 4 \$45

Single Meal \$15

Please place your order by Thursday September 23rd by 4pm.

Orders must be placed by email to Simms156@gmail.com.

Please Let us know if you want a family meal or a single meal and what time you want to pick up your meal. (2pm to 5pm)

Orders can be picked up at the American Legion Post #369 on 65 Oak Street. Oakland NJ, 07436



Greetings Marines,

Wow, what a month it's been. First, on a personal note, my daughter, Heather, got engaged. We knew it was coming but her fiancée did it right. So, now begins the wedding planning.

As summer winds down, the weather has been down right challenging at times. It's either been extremely hot with heat indexes over the 100 degree mark or wet with heavy downpours. Even as I write this, the remnants of Hurricane Ida are bearing down on us.

On the Covid front, the Delta Covid variant is becoming ever more problematic and if you haven't gotten your vaccination, I would urge you to consider doing so as soon as possible. This variant is even affecting people that have had the vaccination but with significantly reduced affects. Also, the FDA recently approved a booster vaccination for the Pfizer and Moderna Vaccination. If you have either of these, go get the booster when it is your turn. In the meantime continue doing everything you can to stay safe. If you aren't sure of the people around you, wear a mask (the ship's store still has Marine Corps Masks available). Continue thoroughly washing your hands on a regular basis and use hand sanitizer when you can't.

As we watched the events in Afghanistan fold in recent weeks, I can't help but think back to the end in Vietnam. Although there are many similarities, there are just as many differences. In Vietnam, our draw down of forces began in 1973 but the fall of Saigon didn't take place until May 7, 1975. Documents released many years afterward from both sides, indicate that North Vietnam was so close to capitulating that if we had only stayed the course we would have won. History, tells a different story. Because of the unpopularity of the war, politicians decided not to pursue it any further. Hence the attack by North Vietnam which led to quick victories and the fall of Saigon.

In Afghanistan, the agreement to withdraw US troops began as early as February 2020, and a reduction in force from over 13,000 in country to 2,500 in country was accomplished by January 2021. There were still over 18,000 US contractors in Afghanistan including interpreters and their families. It wasn't until the May 2021 announcement from President Biden that US and NATO forces would withdraw unconditionally, which effectively scrapped the Doha Agreement that the problems began. Militarily, the Taliban was the strongest it had ever been since the US first sent forces in 2001. Within hours, the Taliban launched an offensive that quickly had the Afghan forces collapsing.

On July 2nd, Germany and Italy withdrew their armed forces and US forces abandoned Bagram Airfield. By the 3rd week of July, intelligence assessments indicated that half of the country was now under Taliban control. It would take the Taliban just 3 and 1/2 weeks more to capture the capitol Kabul and forcing the Afghan government to resign and flee the country. As I write this column, the rescue operation that started about 2 weeks ago, has officially ended with the last C17 departing several hours ago. Most US citizens that wanted to be evacuated along with as many Afghan nationals that assisted the US over the past 20 years were evacuated but not without a price. On August 26, a suicide bomber blew himself up at one of the gates to the airport. 11 Marines , 1 Navy Corpsman and an Army SSgt were killed in the blast which wounded an additional 18 US Service members. A tribute to those that made the ultimate sacrifice appears later on.

While the above is true and relevant to the current events, it does not belittle the service of our military in both Vietnam or Afghanistan. We must always remember that it is our politicians that wage war and it is upon our military to fight the war. In the course of history, whenever the politicians that wage war become the same people that fight the war, the course of the war was changed, some times for the better, most times for the worse.

Once again, our politicians have failed us as a nation. While it is time to withdraw from a war that by definition we could not win, the failure of both the president and the intelligence community to see that Afghanistan would fall so quickly to the Taliban, was a colossal error in judgement. One must remember, that the primary mission of US Military presence in Afghanistan was not installation of a democratic government, but the suppression of terrorism which in 2001, was predominantly originated from Taliban support of Al Qaeda. In Korea and in Vietnam, the mission was suppression of communism and the installation of democratic governments in the south. While we were successful in Korea (to a degree as to date there hasn't been an actual treaty to end the war although there was a document to end the physical fighting), we failed miserably in Vietnam. We were successful in Afghanistan as long as we were able to maintain forces there. When we started to withdraw, it allowed the Taliban the strengthen.

Over the course of 20 years, there have been over 775,000 US Military deployed to Afghanistan. This number includes over 28,000 that have deployed to Afghanistan more than 5 separate times. Aside from the monetary cost over the past 20 years, almost 2,400 US Military Personnel paid the ultimate price and over 21,000 bear physical wounds from the war. Countless Afghanistan veterans bear the mental scars of war which no one understands unless they bear the same mental scars. In Vietnam, over 2.7 million US Military personnel served in an undeclared war that left over 58,276 who paid the ultimate sacrifice and 304,000 wounded in action.

Numbers don't tell the story here. Like I already pointed out, the missions were completely different and the support of the populace was different. Back in the late 60's, public support for the war in Vietnam was already waning and there were many protests against the war. People carried this anti-war sentiment into the 80's. This was probably one of the lowest points of the military in the public's minds. It wouldn't be until operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm that the military would find public support in it's operations. 911 would create the same reaction that Pearl Harbor did in 1941 and Remember the Maine in 1898. While both Pearl Harbor and the USS Maine were direct surprise attacks on the US Military, 911 was a terrorist attack on the citizens of the United States. If one thinks back to the days and months following 911, all Americans went out of their way for each other. Drivers were courteous to each other, people held doors open for each other and there was a mutual support of first responders, both police and fire departments because while others were running away from the terror, they ran into the buildings knowing full well that they might not come out. People wanted revenge and turned to the Military. Here we are 20 years later, with a failed policy in Afghanistan. My hope at this time, is that we are able as a nation to recover from this debacle and move forward. I also pray for the safety of all those in our Military and I ask that you continue to pray for them and their families as well. And like Lt. Col. Scheller, I would like to see accountability for the failure of both the military hierarchy and the intelligence services.

Semper Fi , Ken Gysbers Editor.

TAPS



13 HEROES

U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosariopichardo, 25

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, 20

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20

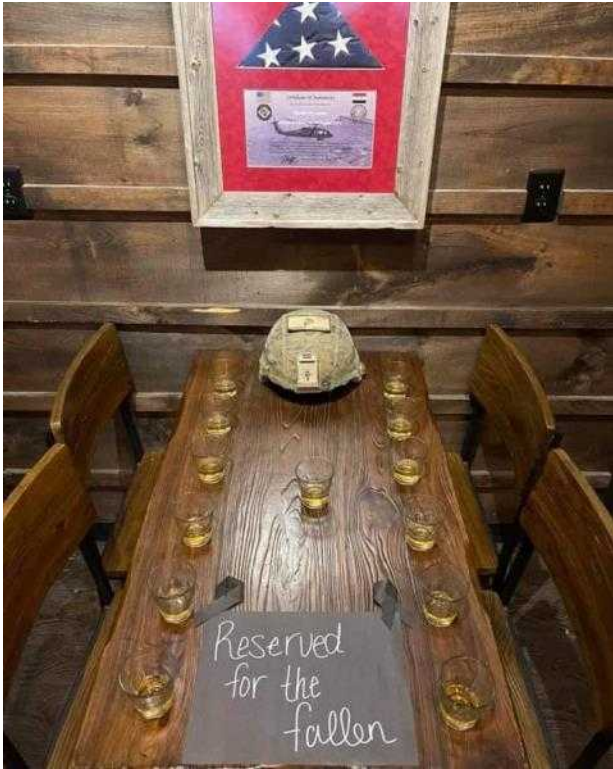
U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, 22

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23

K.I.A. Kabul, Afghanistan

August 26, 2021

Across the country, there are many Missing Man Table Tributes to the Marines, Sailor and Soldier killed in the Kabul Attack. Here are a few that struck home for me.



On Saturday, September 11, we commemorate the Twentieth Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks on 9/11. It is important to remember the attacks and even more important to go back to the way we were as a nation in the days and months that followed the attacks.



Detachment Member Capt. Ben Cascio took this iconic picture on August 26th 2001. Two weeks after this photograph was taken, the World Trade Center towers were struck down.

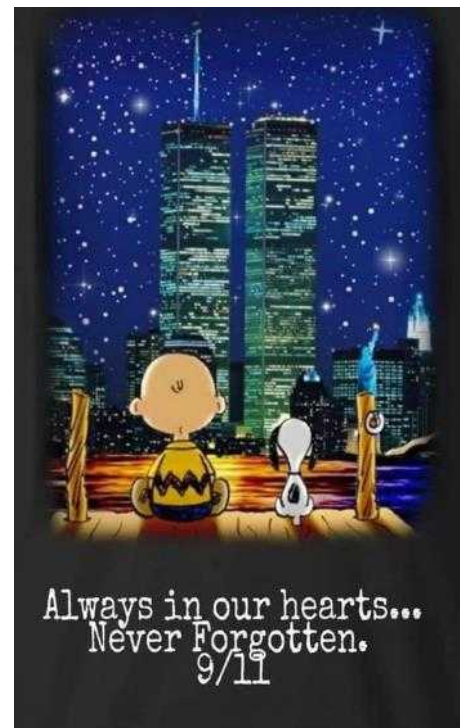
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Top Left: NYC 9/11 Memorial at Night

Top Center: Pentagon Memorial at Night

Bottom Center: Flight 93 Memorial





DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

John Cleary
Jr. Vice Commandant

"Murray J. Sklar" Role Model Award

Information.

Beginning in June, 2018, the Department of New Jersey will sponsor the **Murray J. Sklar Role Model Award**, which will be presented at the Department's annual convention banquet. Although the recipient need not be present at the convention, this is a prestigious honor that merits the presence of those well deserving recipients therefore attendance is highly encouraged.

Nominations can be submitted by anyone and the award will be available to anyone (includes regular members, associate members and civilians alike) meeting the necessary criterion.

A Brief Biography of Murray J. Sklar.

Murray J. Sklar was born on June 11, 1924. He was one of three siblings growing up in Newark, NJ. Murray graduated from Weequahic High School, Newark, in 1943 and soon after enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during World II and valiantly participated in the campaigns of Saipan and Okinawa.

Murray later attended Newark College of Engineering (Presently NJIT) where he earned his Master Degree in Engineering. Murray was married to Harriet Sklar for 68 years and had a son, daughter and grandson whom he held in high regard.

Murray was a man of faith and a long standing member of Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston. He served as Temple President and as President of the Temple's Men's Club. Murray joined the West Hudson Detachment #209, Marine Corps League in 1987 and a Life Member in 1990. During his tenure, he served as detachment Commandant in 1990-1991 and continued to serve as a Staff member. Murray also served as state Chaplain for the Dept of NJ, Marine Corps League for 14 years and was awarded the honorary position of Past State Commandant for the Department and he was awarded Marine of the Year for both the West Hudson Detachment and Department of NJ in 2015. He was also a member of the Jewish War Veterans Post 740 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2856 and was responsible for starting the annual Veterans' Day Appreciation Ceremony at Temple Beth Shalom each November beginning in 1986.

Purpose.

Anyone who has ever had any affiliation Murray could attest to Murray's character. He always greeted his fellow Leaguers with a friendly smile and emanated a warm, positive aura that was highly contagious. Nobody was immune to Murray's optimism and genuine belief that anything is possible if you put your heart and mind into your endeavor.

Murray was a wise and trusted counselor who was willing to dedicate his time and efforts for the benefit of others. He had a genuine love for the U.S. Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League and his fellow Marines. He demonstrated exceptional leadership through conviction, confidence, courage, patience, pride and self-discipline. Murray portrayed friendliness, fairness, respect and responsibility for oneself and treated others with the same compassion. Simply put, Murray was a man of extraordinary character; a man of joy, understanding, compassion and intelligence, all of which he was willing and wanting to share with others so they too could become mentors for others.

Although Murray was the epitome of the Role Model, there are others amongst us who possess the same qualities as Murray and serve others in the same manner. The Department wishes to acknowledge such people – both their accomplishments and their persona, as a means for recognizing just how important role models are to each of us.

Qualifications.

As stated, the ideal candidate will be one who exemplifies his or her self as a role model to others. A person who selflessly volunteers their time and effort to assist those in need; one who sets the example for others to follow. A person who is warm and friendly, whether towards close friends and family or to strangers upon first meeting. A person having a sense of responsibility and optimism that any challenge can be overcome with strength, support, love and passion.

Nominations.

Nominations will be open from January 1st to May 15th of each year and must be submitted in narrative form to the Committee Chairman via U.S. Regular Mail. Nominations need to be written in detail and supporting documentation such as letters of reference and media articles can be included with the nomination letter in order to emphasize a nominee's qualifications.

Please mail all nominations to:

John Cleary, JVC – Dept of NJ
340 Sussex Road
Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075-1110


Department of New Jersey - "Murray J. Sklar" Role Model Award

Committee.

The committee will consist of the currently seated Department Jr. Vice Commandant and four additional members of the Department that are appointed by the Department Commandant and overseen by the Committee Chairman. In the case where a committee cannot be formed prior to the 2018 convention, then the Department's elected officers will form the 2018 committee with the Jr Vice Commandant serving as Committee Chairman.

If you have any questions you can call me at (201) 401-3079 or via email Colonel.whd209@gmail.com.

Thank you and Semper Fidelis,


John Cleary
Jr. Vice Commandant
Dept of NJ - MCL



At the August Detachment meeting,
Commandant Charles Huha presented the
2021 Department of NJ
Murray J. Skylar Award
to
Marine Ed Korek.

Note: In the 3 years that this award has existed, 2 members
of Lakeland Detachment 744 have received this award.

Marine Peter Alvarez in 2018
and
Marine Ed Korek in 2021.

Congratulations to Ed and Peter.



Quartermaster's Report

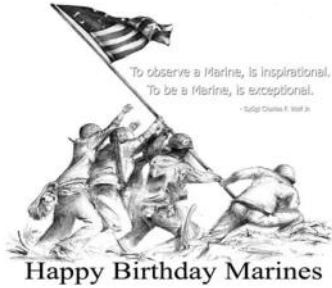
As I stated in my report at the August meeting, I wish to apologize for not having the ship's store set up. It was a particularly hot day and I wound up getting out of work later than I usually do so I didn't have the time to set up the store. In addition, I was rather exhausted and physically unable to set up the store. The store will be set up for September. I usually try to get at the American Legion around 4:30 PM the day of the meeting to set up so if anyone is around to assist that would be a great help. Just need 1 or 2 sets of extra hands. Please e-mail me (krgysbers@yahoo.com) if you can assist.

We have some Rose events coming up so please be ready to assist when you can.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



9/09	Tad Skawinski	9/09	Doug Parker
9/13	Dick Berrian	9/17	Steve Siefried
9/19	Liz Gysbers	9/21	Mike Fields
9/22	Mike Echols	9/23	Gene Kelley
9/23	Ted Wurster	9/26	Fred Hanle
9/30	Mike Pritchard		



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Calendar of Events

September 2021

- Sept 5: Pompton Day (Rose Event) Rain Date: Sept 6) 0900 to 1700
- Sept 8: 911 Remembrance Ceremony 1830 at Pompton Lakes Borough Hall
- Sept 12: Vets Fest Dave Wak Park, 39 Barbour Rd Wayne
- Sept 14: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- Sept 19: John Basilone Memorial Parade. Raritan NJ (See Flyer)
- Sept 23: Detachment Meeting 1930 (Detachment Elections)
- Sept 26: State MCL Meeting 11:00

October 2021

- Oct 12: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- Oct 17: M1 Garand Shoot—Cherry Ridge 0800-1200
- Oct 28: Detachment Meeting—Installation of Officers 1900

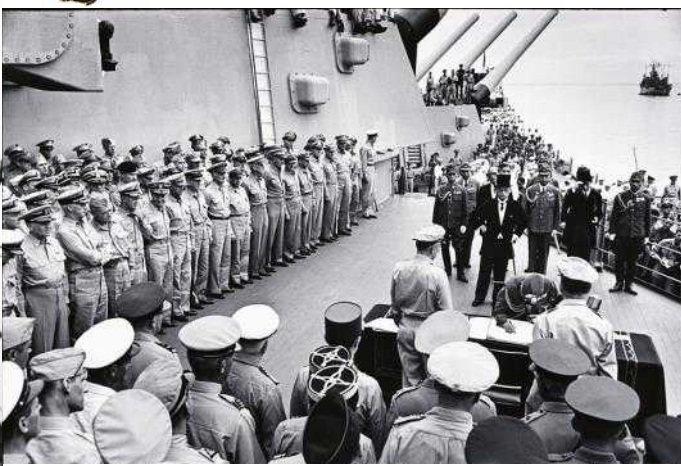
27 September 1944: The American flag was raised over Peleliu, Palau Islands, at the 1st Marine Division Command Post. Although the flag raising symbolized that the island was secured, pockets of determined Japanese continued to fight on. As late as 21 April 1947, 27 Japanese holdouts finally surrendered.



Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez of the 5th Marines is shown scaling a seawall after landing on Red Beach at Inchon (September 15). Minutes after this photo was taken, Lopez was killed after covering a live grenade with his body. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



2 September 1945: The Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay. With General Holland Smith transferred home in July 1945, the senior Marine Corps representative at the historic ceremony was Lt Gen Roy S. Geiger, who had succeeded Smith as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. (Marine Honor Guard—Left)





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

To raise funds to help homeless Veterans get back on their feet.



ULTRA
ARTISTS
Your Live Music Source

Sunday, September 12th @ 12pm

(Rain Date is Sunday, September 19th)

Dave Waks Memorial Park, 39 Barbour Pond Rd, Wayne, NJ

FEATURED BANDS

Sensational Soul Cruisers

Motown & RnB

Frontiers

Journey Tribute

Best of the Eagles

Eagles Tribute

Southern Steel

Tribute to Southern Rock

Slippery When Wet

Ultimate Bon Jovi Tribute Band

Bell Bottom Blues

Clapton Tribute Band

FEATURED FOOD TRUCKS

Thai Food Addict

Cousins Maine Lobster

Cubano X-Press

Kona Ice

Jersey Rollz

Taxi Cab Burger

Empanada Lady

The Rolling Pita

Wood Fired Pizza

Chick Wings & Things

Tickets available at www.vetfestnj.com

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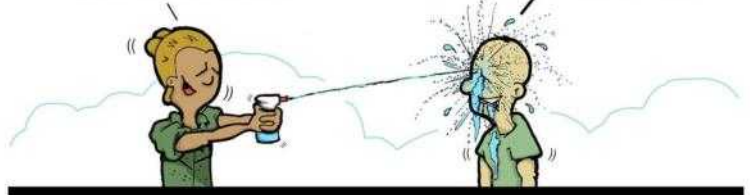


Marine Corps Funnies

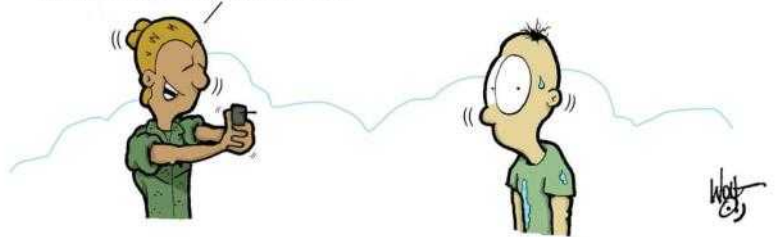
Corpstoons

"EYES CLOSED TIGHT!"

"HA! PEPPER SPRAY HAS NO EFFECT ON ME!!!"



"JUST KIDDING..., THAT WAS WATER, HERE COMES THE REAL STUFF!!"



Corpstoons

"COMPANY SECURED HOURS AGO...."

"HOW WAS THE WORKING PARTY?"



Corpstoons

"AHHH!!! PLANKS...., 'GRRR!!'...SO INTENSE! HOLD IT!..., BE THE BOARD!, 'PUFF'..., AAAAAAND I'M COOKED!!"



"UNNN-BELIEVABLE... WE HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED YET!"





1-855-838-8255
Vets4Warriors.com

24/7 peer support for Service members and their families

Vets4Warriors

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



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



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



Set your course with a military connection

Vets4Warriors

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



One of the many purposes that The Grunt serves our detachment is by providing information for many veterans services. Below is some additional information provided by Kevin O’Hora, the VFW Veterans Service Officer. I apologize for the poor quality and will try to correct this for the October Grunt. Also included is contact information for Yahaira Padilla, the Administrative Assistant for the County of Bergen Division of Veterans Services.

Please Note:

The flyer below is open to all— on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Blood Pressure and other Health Screenings at no charge, Health Education, Ask a Nurse, Ask a Pharmacist. Location is the Paramus VFW, 6 Winslow Pl, Paramus.

(201) 336-6329
 Fax (201) 336-6329
 ypadilla@co.bergen.nj.us

YAHAIRA PADILLA
 Administrative Assistant

County of Bergen
 Department of Human Services
Division of Veterans Services
 One Bergen County Plaza • 2nd Floor
 Hackensack, NJ 07601-7076

Health & Wellness Days at the VFW

Holy Name Medical Center and your local VFWs are partnering to provide health and wellness events in your community. All are welcome.



Weekly events will include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine*
 ↳ Register at holyname.org/VaccineParamusVFW
- Blood pressure and other health screenings at no charge
- Health education
- "Ask a Nurse"
- "Ask a Pharmacist"

*Those under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Vaccine is administered in two doses, three weeks apart. Please bring your insurance card. If you don't have insurance, you will still receive the vaccine at no cost to you. Identification will be requested, but is not required.

Special offer for veterans:
 The VFW will be providing Veteran Services Officers to help qualified veterans apply for Veteran Administration disability benefits. Contact Kevin O'Hora via K.O'Hora@NJVFW.com to schedule an appointment.

PARAMUS VFW
 6 Winslow Place, Paramus, NJ
 Wednesdays starting July 21 | 2:30 - 5:30 PM

HolyName Medical Center  

VFW
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
KEVIN O'HORA
 VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER
 PHONE: (862) 588-6130
 EMAIL: K.O'HORA@NJVFW.COM

OPERATION K9
BEETHOVEN

BEETHOVEN
 THERAPY DOG

PH: 201.986.1111
 EMAIL: k9beethoven@yahoo.com
 Facebook Operation K9 Beethoven

HANDLER | ARPI KERTESZ
 BREEDER | riversideshepards.com

HELP US HELP VETERANS ONE PAW AT A TIME



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



Reach Your VA Care Team Over Live Video with VA Video Connect

Real-time access to VA care in a way that works best for you!

VA Video Connect enables you to conduct visits with your doctor in a virtual medical room, using the camera on your phone, computer, or tablet.



You can use VA Video Connect for any appointment or consultation if:



You live far away from your VA facility.



You're dealing with health conditions that make it difficult to travel to the specialist you need.



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.

Get started today!

mobile.va.gov/appstore



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

Wilfredo Rodriguez, MSW, LSW, MDiv

CDR, US Navy (Ret)

wilfredor@passaiccountynj.org

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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