

The Grunt
February 2018

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744



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Officers 2018



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Quartermaster/Editor Ken Gysbers





# **COMMANDANT'S CORNER**

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment—744 February 2018

# IMPROVISE—ADAPT—OVERCOME

What do those words mean to you? To me it's a good prescription for life. For Marines it also represents our mantra in not giving up and working to overcome all obstacles in the face of adversity. This is how we live our lives and how battles and wars are won. These three words represent those values required to overcome adversity and describes the essence of RESILIENCE.

Resilience helps us to survive and rebound from difficult, complex and challenging times. Helps us to improve upon and maintain mental fitness, alertness and performance under pressure. Those three words assist us to convert any negative moods to increase happiness for ourselves, with our personal relationships and help us to lead a more enjoyable life.

Why do we need resilience? Without it we would not survive. Our lives would be represented by oppression, depression, hopelessness, failure and death. There would be no reason for hope. The history of the world is filled with cases of forlornness and hopelessness from the subjugation of peoples by a cruel dictator, to the victims of crime and violence and to the horrors of the Holocaust

Resilience is embodied in each of us in different ways and at varying levels of intensity. For Marines, resilience is a mindset of never giving up and overcoming all challenges towards a victorious outcome. Our personal lives are filled with the threat of adversity/challenges in one form or another. It could be the threat of losing a job, troublesome interpersonal relationships, illness, feelings of being a failure and a host of other reasons. How we deal with those issues indicates our level of resilience. Those three words of "Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome" aligned with the core values of The Marine Corps of "Honor, Courage, and Commitment will help us through any form of challenge, adversity or oppression.

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

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT



# Service Officers Report

Today I will digress and do something different with my report.

This Day in History: In the late evening of January 30th and early morning of January 31st in 1968, the Tet Offensive started. Over 80,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong Troops launched attacks on over 100 towns and cities in South Vietnam. Although the initial attacks stunned both the US and South Vietnamese armies, causing them to temporarily lose control of several cities, they quickly re-grouped, beating back the attacks and inflicting heavy casualties on North Vietnamese forces. During the Battle of Hue, intense fighting lasted for a month, resulting in the destruction of the city. For our Vietnam Veterans who were in Viet Nam during those days and weeks, that moment in time 50 Years ago will "Live in Infamy". Take a moment to remember those that lost their lives during those days and weeks. It is in their memory that we realize why there is a Marine Corps League, an American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other veterans service organizations. It is so that our great country does not forget the past and the sacrifices that were and still are made by our Best and Finest.

Semper Fi

Ed Korek

Service Officer

Now who wants to win a genuine Marine Corps League Tee Shirt?

If you are the first to name the place pictured below, you can pick up your tee-shirt at the next breakfast.

First e-mail with the correct answer to: koreke@optonline.net Wins!





### Editor's Page By Ken Gysbers

krgysbers@yahoo.com 201-895-3358



Gave a lot of thought as to what I was going write about this month and with the diverse world we live in today, this is going to be just as diverse.

As we sit on the verge of a nuclear showdown with North Korea, this month we celebrate what is arguably one of the greatest peaceful events that occur in modern times. Every 2 years athletes from countries across the globe, gather to compete in the modern Olympics alternating between winter and summer games. Throughout the history of the Marine Corps there have been many examples of Marines who have excelled on both the battlefield and the playing field. Below are listed just a few who have stood out as Marines and represented the United States in the Olympic Games.

#### Harry B. Liversedge

Brigadier General Harry Bluett Liversedge is remembered in the Marine Corps for his actions that led to him receiving two Navy Crosses and a Bronze Star. But he was also a track star who won the bronze medal in the shotput at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp. He later commanded the assault on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi, culminating in the raising of the US flag on the summit, which was immortalized in one of the most reproduced photos in history.

#### **Robert Mathias**

What does the world's greatest athlete do when he needs a real challenge? He joins the Marines. Mathias won gold in the decathlon at the 1948 and 1952 Olympics before serving as a Captain in the USMC. He went on to spend four terms in Congress as a representative for the state of California.

### **Billy Mills**

A member of the Oglala Lakota tribe, First Lieutenant Billy Mills was lightly regarded when he entered the men's 10,000 Meters at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. He shocked the world by winning gold in one of the Games' most thrilling runs. Robbie Benson portrayed Mills in the 1983 film "Running Brave" which chronicled the events surrounding the race.

### Lloyd "Butch" Keaser

"Butch" Keaser became the first African American to medal in wrestling when he won silver at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. Keaser graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and served five years in the Marines, rising to the rank of Captain.

### **Greg Gibson**

Between 1981 and 1984, Greg Gibson became one of the most dominant wrestlers in the world, medaling ten times at four International Championships in both Freestyle and Greco-Roman. In 1982, Gibson became the first wrestler to medal in all three wrestling styles when he captured the gold at the Sombo World Cup Tournament. In 1983, Gibson captured the freestyle gold medal at the Pan-American Games and was crowned the Freestyle and Greco-Roman Champion at the World Military Wrestling Championship in France. Gibson's incredible talent as a wrestler reached an apex when he won the Greco-Roman Silver Medal at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California. Credits: http://www.usmc-mccs.org

So whether or not you enjoy winter sports, tune into the Olympic coverage and support our athletes. Many of our athletes are either veterans, are on active duty, have immediate family who are on active duty or have parents and grandparents that served in our armed forces. Credits: http://www.nbcolympics.com/news/team-usa-their-military-heroes

Semper Fi, Ken Gysbers Editor



### The Grunt

### Important Notice



If you have something that you would like to see in The Grunt, please e-mail it to me at krgysbers@yahoo.com with "For The Grunt" in the Subject Line. You can send either plain text, pictures (jpeg files), or PDF's. I will review the article and edit it if necessary for spelling, grammar, and context or content (without altering the meaning) and include it in The Grunt. Please no political topics or flyers. This is your newsletter so I welcome any appropriate contributions.

Please send in your submissions by the 25th of the month to be included in the next edition.

Note to Officers that submit monthly reports: Please have your reports in to me by the 28th of the month. I'd like to push to get The Grunt out no later than the 2nd or 3rd of the month.

By the way, did anyone recognize the fellow in the red safety vest in the bottom right picture of the January Grunt Editor's page? First person to send his name to my e-mail address krgysbers@yahoo.com) with January Grunt Contest in the Subject Line and the correct name in the body, gets an item from the Ship's Store (at my discretion). The person in the picture is of course excluded from this contest.

Thank you, Ken Gysbers Editor



### Quartermaster News

Greetings Marines. I think I'm finally getting the hang of Quartermasters' position. I just completed my first reorder of some supplies and plan to make another purchase in the near future. However, it would be most helpful if I had more input as to what your ship's store should have in stock. Please forward any suggestions to krgysbers@yahoo.com with Ship's Store in the Subject Line and I'll do my best to make it happen.

Semper Fi, Ken Gysbers Quartermaster

# In February, we honor the 4 Chaplins.



# The Story

It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers. Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland.

SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche.

Hans J. Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier the Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the alarming information. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been blasted and sunk.

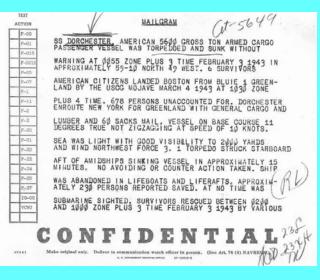
The Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the Dorchester.

The U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes, a fan of three were fired. The one that hit was decisive

sive
the water line USAT Dorchester leaving St. John's Harbot on

-and deadly-striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line. USAT Dorchester leaving St. John's Harbor on the way to Greenland in the fall of 1942



Captain Danielsen, alerted that the Dorchester was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters. Tragically, the hit had knocked out the power and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC Comanche, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and then rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded.

Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them.

Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four
Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those
chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman
Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety.

"Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil -smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves.



"Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

"It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act. Ladd's response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes



one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

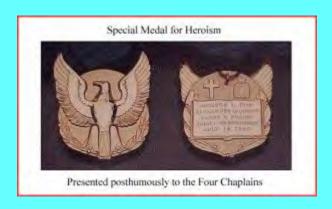
The only surviving life jacket from the USAT Dorchester, located at the

That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

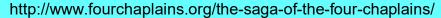
The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA.



An actual flashlight from a USAT Dorchester lifejacket donated by a survivor to the Chapel of Four Chaplains



A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.





Please note: The Chaplin's Report for February was unable to be submitted due to Dave's hectic work schedule. Hopefully, the preceding pages were a sufficient substitution. Look for the Chaplin's Report to resume in the March Grunt.

Semper Fi, Ken Gysbers

We also celebrate African American History Month in February.



To Honor African American History Month, it is fitting that we honor one of the first African Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps, Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson.



Born in rural Mount Hebron, Alabama, Johnson attended Stillman College in 1922, aspiring to become a minister. He left college the following year, however, and joined the Army. At the end of his enlistment in October of 1929, Johnson was discharged as a corporal. After four years of civilian life, he decided to try the Navy. The Navy accepted Johnson into Steward's Branch, the only job available to African Americans at the time and he served for nearly 10 years.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the integration of the armed forces in June of 1941, Johnson requested a transfer from the Navy to the Marine Corps. He went on to serve the last 17 years of his 32 year career in the Marine Corps. Throughout his marine Corps career, Johnson provided leadership to his younger and less experienced comrades. It was at Montford Point he was given the name "Hashmark", because of his age and many years of service.

In 1943, he was among the first African American men to be trained as drill instructors. He also served as field sergeant in charge of all recruit training at Montford Point. As a member of the 52nd Defense Battalion on Guam in WWII, "Hashmark" asked that African American Marines be assigned to combat patrols from which they were currently exempt. Once approved, he personally led 25 combat patrols.

Johnson later served in Korea with the 1st Shore Party Battalion, then later with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, and finally as administrative advisor at the Headquarters of the Korean Marine Corps. He went on to become one of the first African American Sergeant Majors in the Marine Corps. Sergeant Major Johnson transferred to the Fleet Marine Force Reserve in 1957 and retired in 1959.

Sergeant Major Johnson passed away in 1972. On 19 April 1974, the Montford Pount facility at Camp Lejeune North Carolina, was dedicated as Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, in honor of this outstanding Marine.

Courtesy USMC History Division https://www.usmcu.edu/?=node/2551

Visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps to learn more about Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson in the Montford Point exhibit in the WWII Gallery.





# Marine Corps History For February



- 1 February 1967: Operation Prairie II was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed.
- 2 February 1944: The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.
- 6 February 1968: Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.
- 11 February 1922: BGen John H. Russell was appointed U.S. High Commissioner and personal representative of the President to the government of Haiti. This nine-year assignment placed this future Commandant in supreme command of both the occupying American force and the Haitian Gendarmerie.
- 15 February 1998: One hundred years ago this date, 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship MAINE was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. Though no definitive evidence linked the Spanish with the sinking, the cry went up, "Remember the Maine!", and by late April the U.S. and Spain were at war.
- 17 February 1967: The first full day of Operation DECKHOUSE VI, which lasted until 3 March, was conducted near Quang Ngai city. The Special Landing Force (BLT Y4 and HMM-363) accounted for 280 enemy killed.
- 23 February 1945: Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short fire-fight with Japanese defenders emerging from several caves, the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island.
- 24 February 1991: The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm. The 1st and 2d Marine Divisions stormed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses while heavily armored allied forces attacked the Iraqi defenses in Iraq from behind. In 100 hours, U.S. and allied forces defeated the Iraqi Army.
- 28 February 1991: Operation Desert Storm ended when the cease- fire declared by President George Bush went into effect. I Marine Expeditionary Force has a strength of more than 92,000 making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history. A total of 24 Marines were killed

in action during the Gulf War.

Credits: http://www.usmchangout.com



## Mariner Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

Important Dates for 2018

**Executive Board Meetings** 

7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday February 13th, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12, July 10th, August 14th, September 11th (subject to change), October 9th, November 13th & December 11th



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744
Breakfast Dates

3rd Saturday of every month 0800 to 1200 Hours



February 17th, March 17th, April 21st, May 19th,(\*) June 16th, July 21st, August 18th, September 15th, October 20, November 17th & December 15th

\* The May 19th date is under consideration due to a conflict

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

February 22nd, March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th, June 28th, July 26th, August 23rd, September 27th, October 25th, November 22nd & December 28th

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



Desert Storm by Jake Hayes



Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack



# Marine Corps League 3rd Saturday Monthly Breakfast February 17th

USMC SOS Omelet Station French Toast Danish Cream

Scrambled Eggs Corned Beef Hash Applewood Bacon Eggs Benedict Belgian Waffles Coffee, OJ

Bisquits & Sausage Gravy Sausage Patties Pancakes Toast, Bagels, Muffins, Fruit Topping, Whip

Join us to have an outstanding Breakfast with the Marines who support our Veterans 365 days a year!

> Adults \$10.00 Seniors \$9.00 Children Under 10 free

American Legion Post #369 65 Oak Street Oakland, NJ 07436



# **IMPORTANT**



May 19, 2018

Family Day and Picnic

For Golf Co, 2nd Battalion 25th Marines

At Picatinny Arsenal

Location and times

To be determined

Note: This is the same date as the May Breakfast! Pending decision from the executive board, we'll need all hands on deck to make both events worthy of our Marine standards.

Look for more details in the March Grunt.







# Health Care Benefits: 1-877-222-8387 Additional Numbers and Wedsites

## Resource

# Phone Number/Website

Bereavement Counseling Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1-202-461-6530 1877-345-8179 (or)
CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR O	1-888-520-1756
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)  Dept Management Center (Collection of Non-Medical Depts	1-800-733-8387
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Call Center for	1-800-837-0845
Homeless Veterans Hottine	1-077-424-3030
eBenefits (General Questions & Technical Issues	1-800-983-0937
Education (GI BIII)	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)
Mattered Call Production (and Investors Materials	1-866-229-7389 1-877-424-3838
National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-800-535-1117
National Cemetery Schoduling Office National Personnel Records Center	1-314-801-0800
National Resource Directory	In the state of th
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

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned or	1-202-303-3260
Veteran-Owned Small Business	
Special Health Issues	1-800-749-8387
Spina Bifida/Children of Women Vietnams Veterans	1-888-820-1756
Status of Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947
Telecomminications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4833
VA Caregive 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 Traing Service (VETS)	1-866-487-2365
Women Veterans	1-202-461-1070
Wounded Warrior Resource Center	1-800-342-9647

# Veterans Information

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# Marine Corps League Information

#### Ed Korek

Lakeland Detachment 744
Marine Corps League
Veterans Service Officer
1-201-317-1678

### Veterans Administration

Department of Veterans Affairs 20 Washington Place Newark, NJ 07102-3174 Phone: 1-800-827-1000

### Veterans Campus Lyons

151 Knollcroft Road Lyons, NJ 07939 Phone: 908-647-0180 Fax: 908-647-3452

#### Veterans Service Officer

Vietnam Veterans of America Margaret Wojciechowicz Phone: 973-297-3227

#### Passaic

Veterans Service Office 930 Riverview Drive, Suite 200 Totowa, NJ 07512 Phone: 973-569-4090 John Harris/Richard Mannes VSO

#### Bergen

Division of Veterans Serices One Bergen County Plaza 2nd Flr Hackensack, NJ 07601 201-336-6325,6328,6329,6326 & 7406 - Richard Paul, Director

### Marine Corps League National Website

http://www.mcInational.org/

### Marine Corps League NJ State Website

http://www.njmcl.org

### 744 Website Address

Http://www.usmcl744.org

# 744 Facebook Page Address

Https://www.gacebook.com/pages/ Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-Detachment-744/165447603504657

