

THE GRUNT



The Lakeland Grunt, PO Box 0008, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

July 2015 Mike McNulty – Editor 732-213-5264

Commandants Corner

Your Officers for 2015

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COMMANDANT’S CORNER

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment—744 July, 2015

This month we honor one of our own former and founding members of Lakeland Detachment—National MCL Commandant, JOHN W. KOVALCIK

Marine John W. Kovalcik was born in 1937 and enlisted in the U. S. Navy Reserve on July 14th 1954. In October 1956, John transferred from the Naval Reserve and joined the Marine Corps. He served on the USS Leyte, serving with the Flag Command, Carrier Division 18. After nineteen months of Foreign Service duty, he reported to Camp Lejeune where he joined Support Company “A” as a Prison Chaser and served on Brig Duty.

Marine Kovalcik has been a member of the Marine Corps League since 1991 when he joined the Lakeland New Jersey Detachment. After moving to South Carolina, he joined the Grand Strand Detachment #873 where, for 15 years, he served as a coordinator and as co-coordinator with Keenan Walsh of the Horry County Toys for Tots drive. He also served as Trustee and later as Detachment Commandant. He went on to serve as Aide-De-Camp for the Department of South Carolina, Department Sr. Vice Commandant for three years, and the National Division Vice Commandant for the Southeast Division for three years. In August 2008, John was elected National Judge Advocate. In 2010, he was elected National Jr. Vice Commandant and in 2012 he was elected National Sr. Vice Commandant. Marine Kovalcik was elected National Commandant of the Marine Corps League in 2014.

Commandants Corner (Cont.)

Commandants corner cont.

In recognition of his many years of service to his community and to the Marine Corps League, John was selected as National Marine of the Year in 2008. He also received the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award.

Marine Kovalcik taught Vocational Education for 10 years and retired from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He holds a Commercial Pilots License, Instrument Rated and has a Ground Instructors Rating, (inactive). He and his wife Judy have been married for 51 years; have a son, a daughter, and five grandchildren. They reside in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Those of us who were at the State convention in June had the distinct pleasure and honor of meeting John since he was a guest speaker at the convention. He had fond memories of Lakeland Detachment, of New Jersey and of our famed Paymaster, Peter Alvarez and his Wife/Assistant, Gracie.

Congratulations John on the attainment of your many honors, for your many accomplishments and, of course, on being elected as National Commandant. You are our most celebrated member and you will always have a home at Lakeland Detachment.

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie



HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT



Service Officers Report



We had a great bingo last month at East Orange Veterans hospital and I want to thank all those who volunteered their time that night. Thanks also to all those of you coming out and supporting our Rose programs, for without your support we cannot do the activities for the veterans that we do throughout the year!

I want to give a special hats off salute, to "Ed Korek", for the time he has spent over the last couple months helping some of you go down to the VA hospital or clinic's and getting you signed up for your veterans benefits!

That's the first step to finding out what benefits you're eligible for; is going down to one of the clinics or to one of the hospitals and getting your veterans card. Any questions please contact Ed or myself, and we'll be more than happy to help you.

At our September meeting I've invited John Harris from the veterans department to speak to our detachment about some of the changes that have occurred with the VA over the last year or so and also to answering your questions you might have about your benefits or claims.

Our next veterans outing, is our annual veterans picnic on October 3(a Saturday) from 12 to 3pm. Set up time will start approximately 10 o'clock. We will have veterans from Paramus Veterans nursing home, Menlo Park Veterans nursing home and veterans from Lyons hospital attending that day. We expect proxy' 75 to 85 veterans attending the day. As we did last year, this will be a joint project with the Oakland Elks. It was a very successful event last year because we had a lot of help. Including the 11 boys from the Wayne Boy Scouts were also a big help. So I'm calling upon you again to come out and support and help out ;and make it a great day for our disabled veterans!

Paul Thompson 201-651-1822 Ed Korek 973-835-4388

Commandants Club Tickets

COMMANDANT CLUB TICKETS ARE NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED.

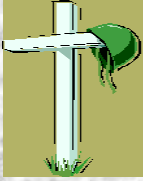
I WILL NOT BE AT THE JUNE MEETING.

IF YOU WANT ME TO RESERVE TICKETS OR MAIL THEM TO YOU

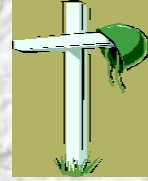
PLEASE CALL ME @ 973-694-7840

Thanks,

Gene Kelley



Chaplains Desk



The Chaplain's Desk July, 2015

GOD to ST. FRANCIS:

Frank, You know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

St. FRANCIS:

It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD:

Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD:

The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD:

They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS:

Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD:

They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS:

No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD:

Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS:

Yes, Sir.

GOD:

These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS:

Chaplain Cont.

GOD:

What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS:

You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD:

No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS:

After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD:

And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS:

They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD:

Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE:

Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about.....

GOD:

Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St.. Francis

**Dennis Kievit/ Chaplain Lakeland Detachment / MCL #744
Phone: (201) 825-0183**

Sick Call



Phil Barnett PC -973-839-2881

Bobby Costantin- 973-696-6682

Stanly Golembieski- 973-764-3061

Gene Frederick- 410-229-9951

Edward Streuli- 973-696-5961

Editors Corner



This was from an email that our esteemed Chaplain sent us and I felt it was perfect for this month. Enjoy!

This should be presented in our schools so that it is known and understood what was given up for freedom.
The 4th of July!!

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Their story. . .

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists.

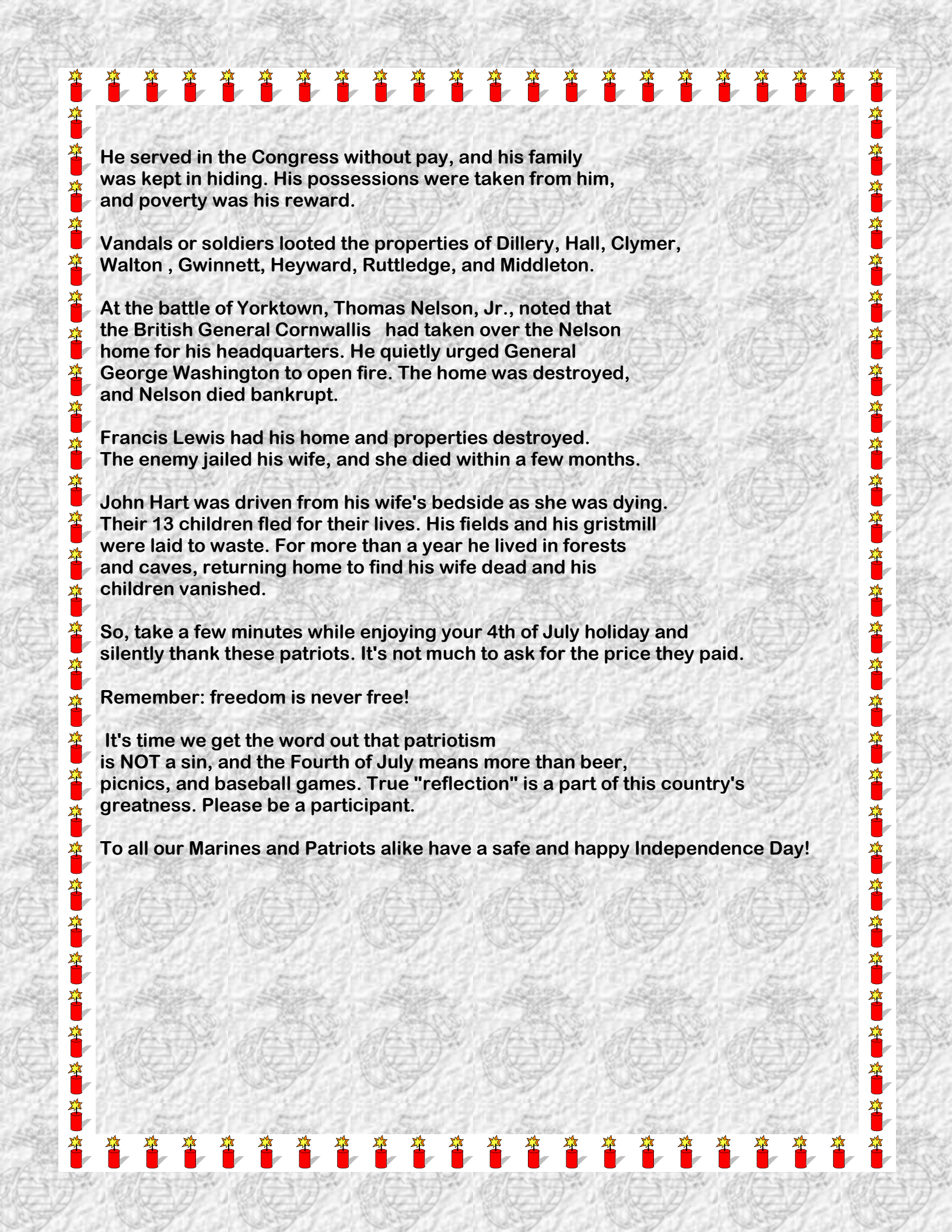
Eleven were merchants.

Nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated.

But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British



He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free!

It's time we get the word out that patriotism is NOT a sin, and the Fourth of July means more than beer, picnics, and baseball games. True "reflection" is a part of this country's greatness. Please be a participant.

To all our Marines and Patriots alike have a safe and happy Independence Day!



*The Oakland Elks & Marine Corps League #744
Invites you to our Third Sunday Monthly Breakfast*

Sunday July 19. 8am-12pm

“Best Breakfast Around”

Enjoy Fresh Eggs to Order

Omelet's & Scrambled Eggs

Pancakes & French Toast & waffles

Bacon & Sausage

Home Fries

Coffee & Orange Juice

Adults \$10.00

\$9.00 Seniors & children under 10 free

33 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland, NJ 07436

Phone:(201) 337-2170

Marine Corps 240th Birthday Ball

November 6, 2015

Save this date

All League members will be receiving an invitation to The Ball in late August.

If you have a family member or friend that would like to attend The Ball please include their name on your invitation response card and send their payment in at the same time.

If you know of anyone who would like their own invitation please contact:

Peter Alvarez (973) 839-5693



A cake from last year!



The Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment #744

Invites you to its:

17TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

**Preakness Valley Golf Course
209 Totowa Road, NJ 07470**

DATE: Thursday September 10, 2015

TIME: Register & Breakfast 8AM Tee Time 9AM

COST: \$135.00 per Golfer Includes: Green Fees,
Cart, Continental Breakfast Plus Buffet Lunch
Beer, Soda, Dessert & Prizes

BEST BALL FORMAT TEAM SCORE

Name _____ Phone _____

Golf Committee

George Vankat [201-797-8616h-201-321-6897c—gwvjr37@optimum.net](mailto:gwvjr37@optimum.net)

Joseph Piazza [201-505-1361h--201-661-4226c—joemar21@msn.com](mailto:joemar21@msn.com)

Peter Alvarez [973-839-5693h-973-568-7119c—palvarez1942@yahoo.com](mailto:palvarez1942@yahoo.com)

Please Make Checks payable to: MCL LAKELAND DET. 744

MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 8
POMPTON LAKES, NJ 07442



Marines

The Few. The Proud.

MCL 2015 Schedule

All M. C. League meetings start at 19:30 (7:30pm)

ELKS, 33 Ramapo Valley Rd, Pompton Lakes

DATES		ADDRESS
July		
07/04/15	July 4th Parade	
07/11/15	Frank Mackey Bike Run Rose Event	Willowbrook Mall TBD
07/14/15	Officers Meeting	TBD
07/19/15	Monthly Breakfast	Elks
07/23/15	Detachment Meeting	New Time 7:30pm Elks
August		
08/09/15	Rifle qualification Match cherry Ridge Range 8am	
08/11/15	Officers Meeting	TBD
08/16/15	Marine Breakfast	Elks
08/27/15	Detachment Meeting 7:30pm	Elks
September		
09/06/15	Rose Event Pompton Lakes Day	Pompton Lakes
09/07/15	Rose Event Riverdale Day	Newark Pompton TPK
09/15/15	Officers Meeting	TBD
09/19/15	Rose Event Mahwah Day (Color Guard Needed)	Mahwah
09/20/15	Breakfast	Elks
09/20/15	Four position match Cherry Ridge	
09/24/15	Detachment Meeting 7:30pm	Elks

Veterans Information

Paul Thompson

Lakeland Detachment 744

Marine Corps League

Veterans Service Officer

201-320-3210

Veterans Administration

Department Of Veterans Affairs

20 Washington Place

Newark, New Jersey 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

973-297-3227

PASSAIC

Veterans Service Office

930 Riverview Drive, Suite 200

Totowa, NJ 07512

973-569-4090

John Harris VSO/ Richard Mannes VSO

BERGEN

Division of Veterans Services

One Bergen County Plaza,

2nd Floor

Hackensack NJ 07601

201-336-6325, 6328, 6329,

6326, 7406

Richard Daul, Director

Marine Corps League Information

Marine Corps league National Website

<http://www.mcleague.com>

Marine Corps League NJ State Website

<http://www.njmcl.org/>

744 Website Address

<http://www.usmcl744.org/>

744 Facebook Page Address

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-Detachment-744/165447603504657>

