

# THE GRUNT



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

March 2015 Mike McNulty –Editor 732-213-5264

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**Phil Barnett—Editor Emeritus**

### Commandants Corner

## Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment—744 March 2015

On February 18, 2015, Detachment member Dave Elshout and I had the distinct pleasure of having dinner with a Marine giant, Zigmund “Ziggy” Gasiewicz. We joined Ziggy, his son Peter, Nephew, Louis, both Marines, and other family members and Marines for a wonderful night of sharing and being with a legend, up close and personal. Ziggy will be 94 in July. He joined the Marine Corps in 1940 while still a teenager. After Parris Island, he served at Guantanamo Bay and did practice assaults in the islands off of Puerto Rico. After Pearl Harbor, he was sent to California for training, then to New Zealand and the Fiji Islands for more training. His ultimate destination was Guadalcanal.

Ziggy hit Guadalcanal as a 75 mil pack Howitzer artillery man. The equipment was vintage WWI and the rifles were 03 Springfield single action weapons. Ziggy took part in the following battles: Tenaru River, Matanikau River, Henderson Field and Bloody Ridge. He served with and knew the legends of our Corps in John Basilone, Mitchell Paige, Al Schmidt, Chesty Puller, James Roosevelt of Carlson’s Raiders, Merrill Edson of Edson’s Raiders and Sgt. Jacob Vouza, who was of vital assistance to the Marines being a Solomon Islander. Jacob’s story will hold for a later issue of *The Grunt*. The scrap books and pictures are testimony of Ziggy’s affiliation and friendship with those mentioned along with Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1991-1995, General Carl Mundy.

## Commandants Corner (Cont.)

Commandants corner cont.



When John Basilone was transferred stateside to sell war bonds, after being awarded the Medal of Honor, Ziggy took over his Machine Gun Squad. When John Basilone returned, it was Ziggy who took over for John on the war bond trail. Ziggy left Guadalcanal racked with Malaria and starvation weighing in at a hefty 90 pounds on a 5'9" frame. At this point Ziggy was now with the famed 1<sup>st</sup> Division, engaging the enemy on New Guinea and Cape Gloucester. Ziggy recovered from his bouts of Malaria and other combat related problems at St. Albans Naval Hospital in Queens and was discharged in 1945. Through his example, Ziggy's son Peter and nephew, Louis both joined the Corps. They both share a rich history in the Corps, a deep love for our Country, our beloved Marine Corps and for Ziggy. We look forward to our next dinner.

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

**HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT**



# COMMANDANT'S CORNER

## ADDENDUM TO

### Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment—744 February, 2015 Grunt

Last month in honor of the Seventieth Anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima, I indicated that we had two surviving members of that battle. I subsequently learned that we have a third member in Joe Buchheit who currently is in Connecticut in an assisted living facility. I accidentally learned this at the last breakfast, but, didn't get a name until the Detachment meeting. Ed Buschmann, The King of Florida, called me to inform me of Joe and what he did. I called Joe and had a nice conversation with him.

Joe was a Bar Man and served at Saipan and Tinian cleaning out enemy caves. During one of those assignments he was shot and wounded by a cave sniper. He was evacuated to a hospital in Hawaii, recovered and commenced training exercises for the invasion of Iwo Jima. He was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> wave with the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, 25<sup>th</sup> Marines. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day he was wounded by a grenade and gunshot, evacuated to various hospitals on different islands in order to find someone that could attend to his eyes which took up the majority of the blast. He was flown to San Francisco Naval Hospital and from there to a hospital in Boston where they were able to save one eye, but, not the other. Joe was subsequently discharged, embarked on his career and ultimately became a Life Member of Lakeland Detachment. His three friends who are depicted with him in each of the Birthday Ball Commemorative books are Ed Buschmann, Jerry Capozza and Ed Menshon. You couldn't find a happier quartet anywhere.

We have three surviving members of the Battle of Iwo Jima in our Detachment, Gene Frederick, who was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions, Anthony Lechniak and Joe Buchheit. All three men epitomize the strong values that make up Marines. We should consider ourselves fortunate to have known these three Marines and to be present in their company. Well done Marines, the Lakeland Detachment and our country honor and salute you.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific Fleet/Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean areas said it best "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue".

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

**HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT**



## Service Officers Report

Hi Folks,



Last months Bingo representatives from 744

Our next Bingo is March 20, at the Paramus Veterans Home at 7pm.

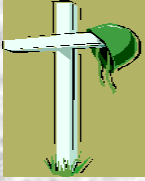
We will car pool from the Oakland Elks at 6:15pm. Please let me know if you're able to attend.

Also we're still collecting clothes all year for the veterans at Lyons. They are the most appreciate guys! Dan Christensen, takes what we have donated from people, down to Lyons for us, at least once a month (thanks Dan!).

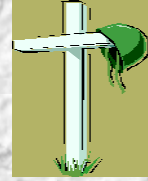
If you have any questions in reference to your benefits, call me and I will do my best to help you with your questions and direct you to the right place for help within the VA.

Paul

[201-651-1822](tel:201-651-1822)



## Chaplains Desk



### The Chaplain's Desk March 2015

From a Marine Chaplain serving in Afghanistan:

"So with all the kindness I can muster, I give this one piece of advice to the next pop star who is asked to sing the National Anthem (The Star Spangled Banner) at a sporting event; save the vocal gymnastics and the physical gyrations for your concerts. Just sing this song the way you were taught to sing it in kindergarten - straight up, no styling. "Sing it with the constant awareness that there are soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines watching you from bases and outposts all over the world. Don't make them cringe with your self-centered ego gratification.

Sing it as if you are standing before a row of 86-year-old WWII vets wearing their Purple Hearts, Silver Stars and flag pins on their cardigans and you want them to be proud of you for honoring them and the country they love - not because you want them to think you are a superstar musician. They could already tell that from your costume, makeup and your entourage.

Next>>>



## Chaplain Cont.

Cont.

And please remember, not everything has to be sung as a spiritual; save that for if and when you go to church. Sing 'The Star Spangled Banner' with the courtesy and humility that tells your audience that it is about America, not you!

Francis Scott Key does not need any help."

Semper Fi

Dennis Kievit / Chaplain

Lakeland Detachment / MCL #744

Phone: (201) 825-0183







## Editors Corner



### Future Role of The Marine Corps

Captain Ben Cascio invited me to accompany him to The prestigious “Yale Club” to discuss the future of the Marine Corps. We were introduced to two Marine Corps Majors who came in from Virginia and were part of a Pentagon “think tank” that was developing the future plans for the Marine Corps.

They wanted to share their vision of the Marine Corps in the future and get input from Marines on their proposals. There were concerned conversations on lowering the standards for Combat officers male and female.

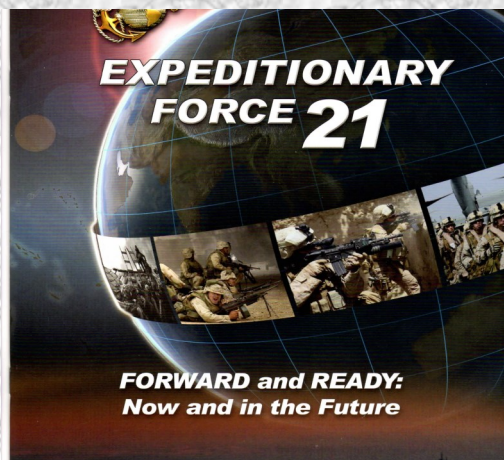
There were concerns about the Marines relying to heavily on laptops and electronics in future wars and Marines not having the training to back them up should the electronics be disabled by EMP or other attacks.

We talked about the sequestration and its impact on the Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps will be Americas Expeditionary Force able to go anywhere in the World on short notice.

The Marine Corps is a tight community and an Elite community and we stick together in all that affects us. We all still have a lot we can contribute to our beloved Marine Corps! “Semper Fi”

Mike McNulty



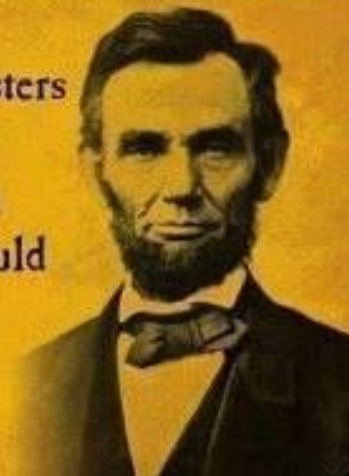


## Founding Fathers Quotes

**YES! HE REALLY DID SAY THIS.**

We the people are the rightful masters  
of both Congress and the Courts,  
not to overthrow the Constitution  
but to overthrow the men who would  
pervert the Constitution.

~ Abraham Lincoln



"A private central bank issuing the public currency  
is a greater menace to the liberties of the people  
than a standing army. We must not let our rulers  
load us with perpetual debt." - **Thomas Jefferson**





## Marine Photos 744

Our detachment wants to recognize Dan and Bernice Christian for doing a great job with the clothing drive for Veterans.

Pictured below is Dan and Bernice with some of the Veterans at Lyons Veterans Hospital. They are unloading clothes from our league members and friends that were donated. If you have some gently used or new clothes to donate please call Dan Christian 973-835-5214.

This month we have an exceptional Donation of 50 brand new dress shirts heading to Lyons thanks to Dave Elshout !



## 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**

Margaret Wojciechowicz  
973-297-3227

**PASSAIC**

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

**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

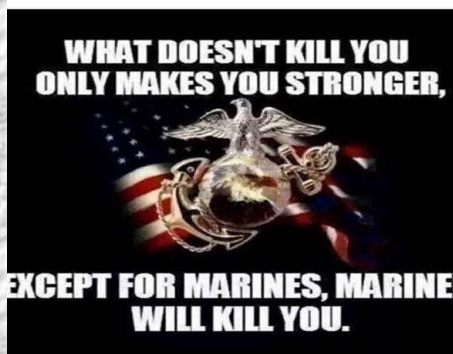
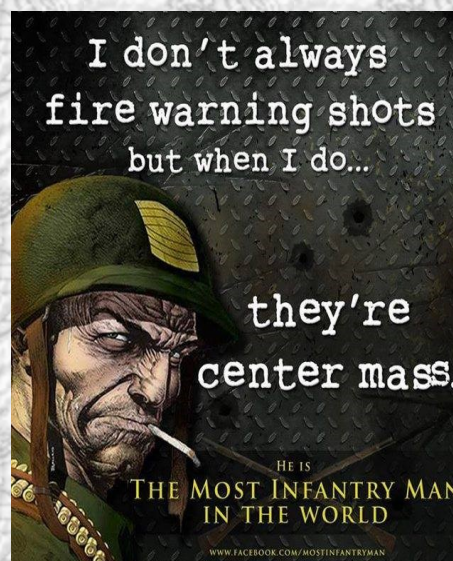
<http://www.njmcl.org/>

744 Website Address

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

744 Facebook Page Address

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





# Rose Event Calendar

## EVENT

## DATES

Adornos Fathers Fair Spring

April 26<sup>th</sup>

Montvale Street Fair

June 7<sup>th</sup>

Pequannock Street Fair

June 14<sup>th</sup>

Ramsey Day

TBA

Allendale Day

TBA

Pompton Lakes Day

Sept 6<sup>th</sup>

Riverdale Day

Sept 7<sup>th</sup>

Mahwah Day (Color Guard Needed)

Sept 9<sup>th</sup>

Adornos Fathers Fair Fall

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>

Kinnelon Day

TBA

**These dates are what we have at this time we will add to this event calendar on a regular basis as we have supermarket dates verified. Please help us out with as many events as you can!**

**Semper Fi**

# MCL 2015 Schedule

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

ELKS, 33 Ramapo Valley Rd, Pompton Lakes

**DATES**

**ADDRESS**

## DECEMBER 2014

12/5/2014	Off Station Christmas party for Veterans (Paramus Veterans Home)	
12/16/14	December Meeting <b>7:30pm ***** NEW MEETING TIME*****</b>	ELKS
12/21/14	Marine / Elks Christmas Brunch SEE FLYER	ELKS

## JANUARY 2015

01/03/15	Eagle Scout Ceremony Justin Millers son, & Oakland Scouts NY/ Oakland NJ. Call Charlie Huha.	Orange
01/18/15	Marine/Elks Breakfast	ELKS
01/22/15	Meeting New Time 7:30PM 744	ELKS
01/25/15	Bingo at Paramus Vets Home 7pm	Paramus Vets Home

## February 2015

02/15/15	Marine Corps/ Elks Breakfast Valentines Day 8am-12pm	ELKS
02/19/15	Bingo at East Orange Veterans Hospital	7pm
02/26/15	Monthly Meeting <b>7:30pm *****New Meeting Time*****</b>	ELKS

## March 2015

03/08/15	Daylight savings time "Spring Forward" ! Hour ahead.	
03/15/15	Marine Elks Sunday Breakfast! 8am- 12pm St. Patricks Breakfast!	ELKS
03/20/15	Bingo Paramus Veterans Home 7pm (Meet at Elks 6:15pm for car pool)	Paramus
03/17/15	Saint Patricks Day!	