

THREE-TIME

National Award-Winning Newsletter



EDITION 1 • 2024

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK'S **GROUND POUNDER**

EDITOR: DONNA HILDEBRANDT
newsletter.dny@gmail.com

DEADLINES: 10th of March, June, September, December



2024
JANUARY 1 TO
MARCH 31

2024 OFFICERS

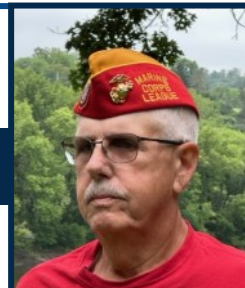
- Commandant
DEAN LAWTON, SR.
- Sr. Vice Commandant
DAVID WIGGS
- Jr. Vice Commandant
MICHAEL PISCIOTTI
- Judge Advocate
CATHLEEN WIGGS
- Jr. Past Commandant
THOMAS ARCURI
- Adjutant
STEVE TOPIILNYCKY
- Chief of Staff
DONNA HILDEBRANDT
- Chaplain
ROSEMARIE SOTO
- Paymaster
STEVE TOPIILNYCKY
- Sergeant at Arms
SUSAN WHITLOW
- NY Pack Leader
CATHLEEN WIGGS
- Webmaster
STEVE TOPIILNYCKY
- Editor
DONNA HILDEBRANDT
- Auxiliary President
KAREN SEELEY
- Past Auxiliary President
MAUREEN DUNN



Commandant's Corner

DEAN LAWTON, SR.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



Marines Corps League members,
Associates, and Auxiliary members,

Once again I sit here at my desk
(recliner) trying to think of what to say.

I do know the weather is slowly
becoming warmer and plants are
showing signs of life. That is all a good
thing and the fact that we relatively
had a mild winter life is good.

This first weekend kicks off a busy
couple of months.

The first weekend in April we have our
spring Department meeting at the
American Legion in Hillcrest. Our hosts
will be the John W. Thurston Detach-
ment. A big thank you to them and the
Legion post.

The following weekend is the
Northeast Division conference in
Plainsboro, NJ.

I have made a tentative agreement to
go to Brooklyn #1 Detachment meeting
the first week of May.

Before you know, it will be our Depart-
ment Convention in Syracuse.

I'm really trying to figure out how to
improve attendance at our different
functions. Keeping the costs down,
providing a meal etc. If anyone has any
ideas please talk to me about them.

I really look forward to seeing every-
one in Binghamton. If anyone has an
event planned let me know and if my
schedule allows I would like to attend
and show the Department's support.

As always please stay safe
and enjoy life.

Semper Fidelis
Dean

*"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference.
The Marines don't have that problem."*

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

For a complete list, or to report
discrepancies, contact the Adjutant.

Disclaimer: "The Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem and the name Marine Corps® are registered trademarks of the USMC. The Marine Corps League and its subordinate organizations support the USMC and its veterans, however, it is not officially connected to or endorsed by the USMC, and the name and emblem are used with permission."

<https://www.mclnewyork.org/newsletter>



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Worth the Click!

Tools to help deal with common conditions and symptoms

[Download VA's self-help apps-](#)

TID

ETS Sponsorship
[ETS Sponsorship Program](#)

BIT

Code of Support
1-571-418-6339 press 1
[Code of Support Foundation](#)





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BYLAW PROPOSAL



Marine Corps League Department of New York

Senior Vice Commandant

DATE: 30 March 2024

TO: Department of New York Bylaws Committee

FROM: David W. Wiggs PDD
Department of New York Sr. Vice Commandant

SUBJECT: Proposed Change to the Department of New York Bylaws

SECTION 4-47 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER [APPOINTED OFFICE]

Present: d-75 Shall deposit promptly all funds of the Department in a bank approved by the Department Board of Trustees and all payments from these funds shall be made by check.

Proposed: d-75 Shall deposit promptly all funds of the Department in a bank approved by the Department Board of Trustees and all payments from these funds shall be made by check or debit/credit card. Payments made by debit/credit card must be pre-authorized by the Department Commandant in writing. A copy of the authorization must be maintained with the bank statement containing the charge.

Rationale: Due to changes in current business practices not all vendors accept checks for payment, some require electronic payment in the form of a debit or credit card. To facilitate the second signature requirement for checks, it is proposed that the Department Commandant must pre-authorized the debit/credit card charge in writing before the paymaster can make the payment. The Department Commandant can do so by email or written letter. A copy of the authorization must be maintained with the bank statement that contains the charge to ensure proper accounting.

Respectfully Submitted,
David W. Wiggs PDD
Senior Vice Commandant

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE!

<https://www.mclnewyork.net/>





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REST in PEACE

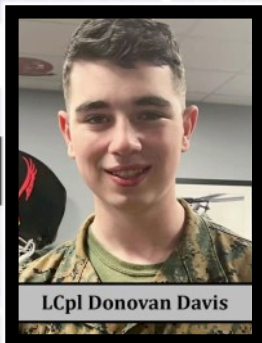
Fair Winds & Following Seas



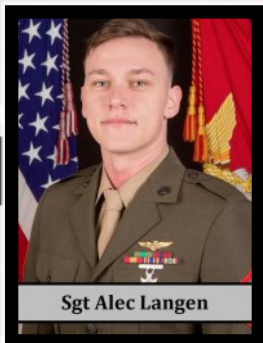
With a Heavy Heart

Five Marines from a CH-53E helicopter mishap, died on 6 February 2024. They were assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California.

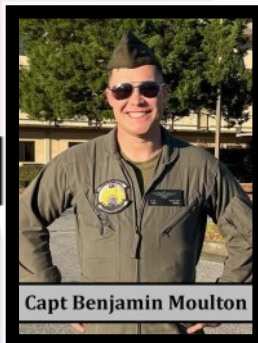
from Facebook



LCpl Donovan Davis



Sgt Alec Langen



Capt Benjamin Moulton



Capt Jack Casey



Capt Miguel Nava

LCPL. DONOVAN DAVIS

21
Olathe, Kansas
CH-53E
Helicopter Crew Chief

SGT. ALEC LANGEN

23
Chandler, Arizona
CH-53E
Helicopter Crew Chief

CAPT. BENJAMIN MOULTON

27
Emmett, Idaho
CH-53E
Helicopter Pilot

CAPT. JACK CASEY

26
Dover, New Hampshire
CH-53E
Helicopter Pilot

CAPT. MIGUEL NAVA

28
Traverse City, Michigan
CH-53E
Helicopter Pilot

“We have been confronted with a tragedy that is every service family’s worst fear,” said Lt. Col. Nicholas J. Harvey, commanding officer of HMH-361. “Our top priority now is supporting the families of our fallen heroes, and we ask for your respect and understanding as they grieve. The Flying Tigers family stands strong and includes the friends and community who have supported our squadron during this challenging time. We will get through this together.

At the time of the mishap, the CH-53E and crew were conducting routine flight training. The mishap is currently under investigation.

<https://www.3rdmaw.marines.mil/.../3rd-maw-identifies.../>





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Fair winds and following seas
Our presence at services is the ultimate form of respect to the deceased and their family. They are grateful to see that the Marine Corps League honors the deceased..

Medal of Honor Recipient Col. Roger Donlon FROM SAUGERTIES NEW YORK

An Army Green Beret, has the distinction of being the first Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War. President Lyndon Johnson awarded him with the medal in 1964 for leading the defense of a jungle outpost in a ferocious nighttime attack despite being wounded by shrapnel from mortars and a grenade.



Cmdr. Tom Andreasen spoke at an impromptu ceremony honoring Col. Roger Donlon at the Veterans Flag Poll in the Jefferson Height Cemetery, on Thursday, 1 Feb. 2024.

American Legion Post 110 of Catskill and Athens Post 187 performed the rifle salute, lowering of the flag and Taps.

Compiled from submissions from Susan Whitlow & Tim Forbes, PDC Veteran News Delivered to Your Inbox WEEKLY, January 26, 2024 and an article by Trip Gabriel, New York Times, Feb. 2, 2024



He was born and raised in Saugert-

ies, a Catskills town in Ulster county.

On 25 Jan. 2024, just 5 days shy of his 90th birthday, he passed away in Leavenworth Kansas from Parkinson's disease.

His story loosely inspired the climactic scene in the 1968 film starring John Wayne, "The Green Berets."

Must-Watch
this from
"Medal Of Honor:
Special Forces
Col. Roger Donlon"

<https://youtu.be/SFUYPaaCLig?si=JHrvLoXnSKSSyviW>

Donlon once said

"... Heroism is a product of what other people see."

MARINE CORPS MarineTimes

Monday, January 29, 2024

By [Irene Loewenson](#)

Honorary Marine Dies

Submitted by PDC Tim Forbes

JACK LOWE was welcomed into the Corps following a terminal bone cancer diagnosis.

Brig. Gen. Walker Field, the commanding General of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and Eastern Recruiting Region, presented the title of HONORARY MARINE to Jack Lowe at the family's home in Georgia on Nov. 1, 2023.

Lowe passed away at 17 as a proud as any regular member of the Corps. Fair Winds & Following Seas.

(Staff Sgt. Warren Smith/Marine Corps)



PROUD to SERVE



Missions Change - Warriors Adapt





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Fair winds and following seas
Our presence at services is the ultimate form of respect to the deceased and their family. They are grateful to see that the Marine Corps League honors the deceased..

General Alfred M. Gray, Jr., 29th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps

PASSES AWAY AT 95, AFTER 41 YEARS OF SERVICE — FOUR OF THEM AS COMMANDANT (1987-1991)

Resources: multiple authors, websites, and Facebook



22 June 1928
20 March 2024

*“Do you think it’s tough to be a Marine?”
he asked a group of Marines
“I’m going to make it harder.”*



Gray was the first Commandant to have his official photograph and portrait taken in the camouflage utility uniform, emphasizing that every Marine is, first and foremost, a rifleman.

When then Albert J. Gray, Jr. signed that paper in 1950, he could not have known what was in store for him. Not to wreck the ending or anything, but Albert went from being an enlisted man, to General Gray, head of the entire United States Marine Corps.

During those years of service Gray was in command 8 times, leading men through places that most would run from. His career spanned from 1950-1991 which took him through both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Throughout his career that time he was awarded an astonishing number of medals. Some include

- 1 SILVER STAR
- 2 LEGION OF MERIT MEDALS
- 3 PURPLE HEARTS
- 4 BRONZE STARS



There are more, however. These are enough for you to understand what an amazing Marine he was and the level devotion that he had for the Corps and to those which he was entrusted to lead.

He was known for his down-to-earth approachability, and he was comfortable talking with all Marines, as they shared the feeling.

While on a peacekeeping mission in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983, Gray was a two-star general in charge as the suicide bombers targeted the barracks. Even after his retirement, Gray made annual trips to the memorial made for those killed. His presence meant the world to those in attendance. Out of respect and as a ceremonial custom, the observers moved back as Gray spent time alone with each name on the wall.

In 1989, Gray had a key roll in developing the 100-pg. *Fleet Marine Force Manual 1, Warfighting*. It has since

See General Gray, continued on following page





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REST IN PEACE

Fair Winds & Following Seas

General Gray *Continued from previous page*

been updated, and lays the groundwork for the way the Marine Corps thinks about; prepares for; and executes all Marine Corps operations.

It is a Maneuver Warfare Doctrine that teaches all Marines how to fight.



Gray was loved for being down-to earth and having approachable to all. Sometimes he would greet other Marines with a playful shoulder punch. He was known as “the enlisted Marines’ Commandant” and even called “Papa Bear” sometimes. General Gray was a remarkable leader who left a lasting impression on the Marine Corps .

“I don’t run a democracy. I train troops to defend democracy, and I happen to be their surrogate father and mother as well as their commanding general.”

General Albert Gray, Jr.



“He was a ‘Marine’s Marine’ – a giant who walked among us during his career and after.”

*Gen. Eric Smith
39th Commandant of the Marine Corps*

of INTEREST

Jolly Roger

Submitted by PDC Tim Forbes



Of the 291 ships in the U.S. Navy, only one has the authority to fly the Jolly Roger flag — The U.S. destroyer USS Kidd. The destroyer got its name from its namesake, Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, who perished aboard the USS Arizona during the Pearl Harbor bombing. Within 2 years after that, a destroyer was named in honor of Kidd.

The association between the two ships were the name. A well-known pirate was called Captain Kidd, and due to the similarity of the last name of Kidd, the now, Rear Admiral Isaac Kidd was nicknamed “Cap,” while attending the U.S. Academy.



As for the pirates, the flag sent a clear message — surrender your booty or die.

Unlike that of the pirates, the booty of the USS Kidd is often from downed Allied fighter pilots. The crew of the U.S. Kidd adopted the nickname of “the Pirates of the Pacific.”

Today’s USS Kidd is the third generation of Naval vessel bearing that name and privilege. The most recent USS Kidd was commissioned in 2007.

<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/1813/the-jolly-roger--other-pirate-flags/>





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OF INTEREST



Have You Got What it Takes? **PROVE IT!**

The [MCL - Northeast Division](#) Public Affairs has announce their 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament at the National Northeast Division Conference on Friday, 12 April 2024, at 8 pm, after the Growl. Sign-up begins after 3 pm.

Entry Fee is just **\$10.00** per Team. **If you've got what it takes**, the Winning team wins 50% of the proceeds!

See the Northeast Division Conference post, in the e-blast for conference details!

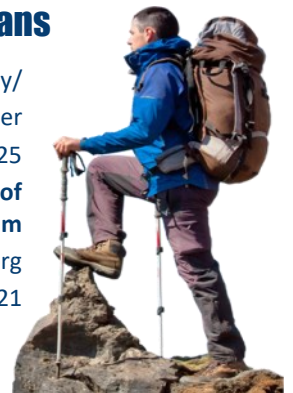
Take the First Step to **Higher Ground USA**

Sometimes you just gotta get away, and don't know where to go that won't trigger you. **Higher Ground USA Veterans' Program** is just the right place!

There are campuses found across the United States, and the activities are created for veterans. Generally there is therapeutic recreation, adaptive sports, and other activities that aim to change perspective, increase confidence and coping skills. This program is designed for Veterans and, in some cases, their families too. It is completely **FREE** from door to door. The first step getting this wonderful benefit is to fill out an application and show your DD-214. Use the contact information to the right.

Free for Veterans

- highergroundusa.org/ny/
- 716-338-6220 main number
- PO Box 123, Buffalo NY 14225
- **Trey Randal, director of Veterans Program**
- Trey@HigherGroundUSA.org
- 716-473-9521



2024 JANUARY 1 THRU MARCH 31

THE GROUND POUNDER





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OF INTEREST

\$100,000 Grant

Submitted by Steve Topilnycky

Commandant Tony Pulliam of Carmen Ramputi Detachment #861 participates



NYS Senator Rob Rolison

American Legion Post 203 treasurer John Macenroe

Marine Corps League Detachment 861 Commandant Tony Pulliam

VFW Post 666 Commander Harold Delamater

and MCL Det 861 Past Commandant Bob Pucher

The Veterans Memorial Building in Beacon was in desperate need of replacement windows. So, they applied for a state grant and were awarded \$100,000.

Five years after the award, the money still had not been received. Fortunately, when NYS Senator Rob Rolison learned about the delay, he acted.

Senator Rolison stated that the City of Beacon could pay for the new windows, then be reimbursed when the check arrived from Albany. Rolison told the veterans, "The money is there but sometimes it's difficult to get it released."

Rolison joined veterans in Beacon to ceremoniously present the check to reimburse the city coffers.

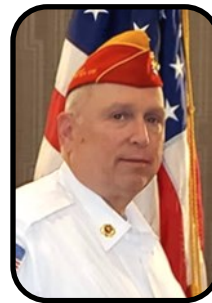
Reference <https://midhudsonnews.com/2024/03/16/senator-rolison-gets-state-money-released-for-beacon-vets-video/>

DEPARTMENT PAYMASTER

Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. has appointed Marine Steve Topilnycky to assume the duties of Department Paymaster, effective immediately.

PAYMASTER

MARINE STEVE TOPILNICKY



Moving forward, all communications pertaining to the paymaster are to be sent to

Marine Corps League
- Department of New York
PO Box 360
Hastings-on-Hudson NY 10706

Message on our National Website about Zoom

4 January 2024

David Porter,
National Judge Advocate,
Marine Corps League, INC.

FYI
ZOOM

“ Detachment meetings will be held in person for general monthly business, elections and installations. Zoom meetings will not be an option to replace the regular meetings in person. Evidence below shows that it is implied or presumed that regular meetings should be conducted in person. ”

[Attachment-Meetings.pdf \(mcleaguelibrary.org\)](https://www.mclnewyork.org/Attachment-Meetings.pdf)





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IMPORTANT

Time is Running Out!

Deadlines are Rapidly Approaching



Membership Recruitment Program

Any member who has recruited five (5) or more members into the Marine Corps League, between 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024, has met the criteria to be recognized by the Recruitment Program Chair. Does not apply to Honorary members.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

5 MAY 2024

(1 month prior to the Annual Dept. Convention)

LINK

[Membership Recruitment Awards Form \(mclnewyork.org\)](#)

Jr. Vice Commandant Poster Contest

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

5 MAY 2024

(1 month prior to the Annual Dept. Convention)

LINK

[Junior Vice Commandant Recruitment Contest \(mclnewyork.org\)](#)

Marine of the Year Associate of the Year

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

5 MAY 2024

(1 month prior to the Annual Department Convention)

LINKS

MOY: [Rules for the Marine of the Year \(mclnewyork.org\)](#)

AOY: [Guidelines for Associate of the Year \(mclnewyork.org\)](#)



A NEW DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE IS FORMING IN QUEENS!

Where: 61-57 Maspeth Avenue
Maspeth, NY 11378

Open To: All Marines & Sailors Awarded the FMF Device (Even those still on Active Duty)

Contact: John at (347) 829-9063 for more information & to sign-up





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OF INTEREST



Marine Astronaut

*Stars and Stripes Daily February 18, 2024
Gretchen Teske, Quad City Times, Davenport, Iowa
Submitted by PDC Timothy Forbes*

In June 2024, Marine veteran, David Hilmers will be inducted into NASA's Astronaut Scholarship Foundation's Hall of Fame.

In 1969, a lottery was devised by the government, where men could determine how likely they would be to be drafted. Lower numbers are have a higher probability than those with higher numbers. Hilmers drew lottery number 20.

Hilmers said "I was relatively certain that once I graduated from college I'd be drafted so I preempted everything by joining the Marines my junior year."

He admits that he always felt like being an astronaut and going to space would be really cool. He never imagined that he would be selected. But tried anyway, and was! It was like winning a sweepstakes.

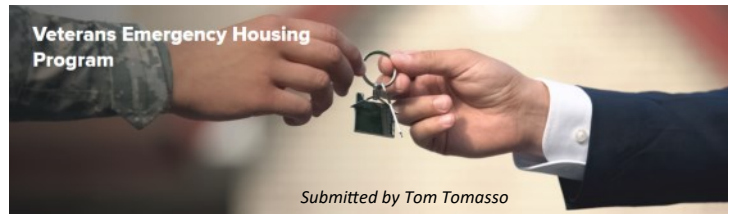
Read more.

https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2024-02-18/marine-veteran-astronaut-hall-of-fame-13043309.html?utm_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm_campaign=Daily+Headlines&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm_campaign=fa56812bd1-Newsletter+-+Daily+Headlines&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0ab8697a7f-fa56812bd1-296803010

Source - Stars and Stripes



New York State Department of Veterans' Services **Veterans Emergency Housing Program** AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO VETS



OVERVIEW: New York State's Veterans Emergency Housing Assistance Fund assists New York State's Veterans who are confronting emergency housing needs, and are lacking funds to cover these costs.

<https://veterans.ny.gov/veterans-emergency-housing-program>

This is currently a pilot program running through 2024. During this period, a total of \$200,000 in emergency housing assistance is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Refer to link for additional information.

Staying physically fit after serving in the military is essential. Check out these free fitness resources for Vets



- [VA Programs for Health and Wellness | Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](#)
- [Military One Source](#)
- [Team Red, White & Blue wear blue](#)
- [Travis Manion Foundation](#)
- [Wounded Warrior Project](#)
- [Warriors at Ease](#)
- [VA Adaptive Sports and Arts](#)
- [President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition](#)

Free Fitness Resources for Veterans

From U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs





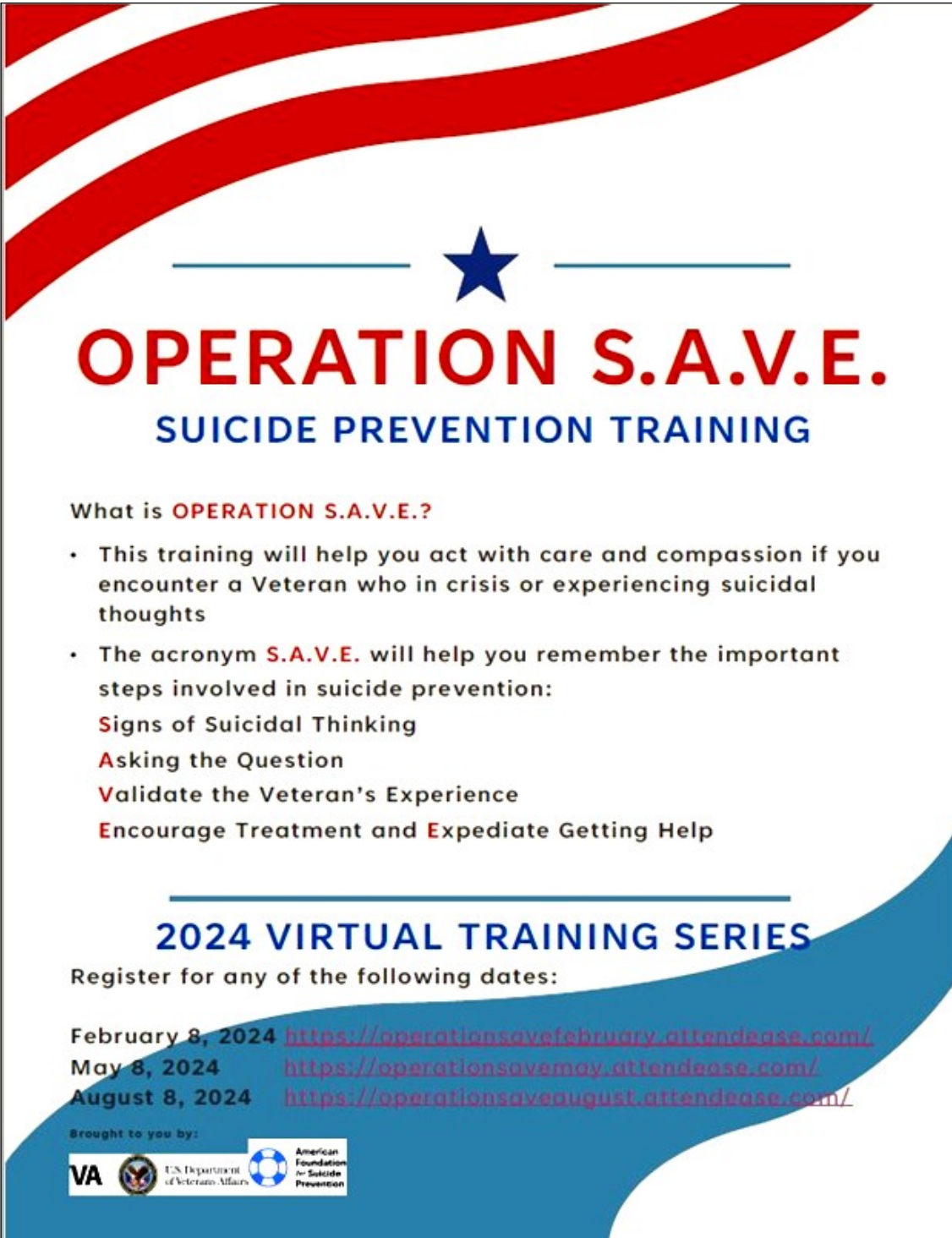
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EVENTS & HAPPENINGS



OPERATION S.A.V.E.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

What is **OPERATION S.A.V.E.**?

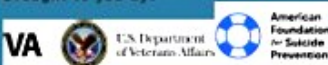
- This training will help you act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran who in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts
- The acronym **S.A.V.E.** will help you remember the important steps involved in suicide prevention:
 - S**igns of Suicidal Thinking
 - A**sking the Question
 - V**alidate the Veteran's Experience
 - E**ncourage Treatment and **E**xpediate Getting Help

2024 VIRTUAL TRAINING SERIES

Register for any of the following dates:

February 8, 2024 <https://operationsavefebruary.attendease.com/>
 May 8, 2024 <https://operationsavemay.attendease.com/>
 August 8, 2024 <https://operationsaveaugust.attendease.com/>

Brought to you by:



OPERATION S.A.V.E.

All veterans, family members, veteran-serving providers, community organizations, and stakeholders are welcome to attend a 1-hour training during which participants will learn about Veteran-specific suicide risk factors and prevention strategies.

Use links to register for:

May 8 2024

<https://operationsavemay.attendease.com/>

or

August 8 2024

<https://operationsaveaugust.attendease.com/>

Submitted by T. Tomasso





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EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Misc.



WELCOME HOME

Vietnam Era Veterans & Surviving Family Members

A Hero's Welcome they so Honorably deserve!

Presented by Commemorative Partner - The Cemetery of the Highlands

May 4, 2024, 11AM-1 PM

Ceremony Starts Promptly at 11:15AM

Followed by light refreshments.

All veterans that served from Nov 1955 to May 1975

And surviving family members are invited!

Newburgh Armory

321 S. Williams St, Newburgh, NY 12550

Please RSVP

Call 845.928.9122 or email info@cemeteryofthehighlands.com

SHOW US YOUR BEST **VAVS**

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTEER SERVICES

... Share your VAVS activities and pictures by emailing

newsletter.dny@gmail.com

MCL APP



The Mobile App has been reconfigured for login. Instead of using a Member Number, the App now uses the Profile ID. Please get with your Detachment Paymaster to get your Profile ID number.

With your "smart" phone download the Mobile App from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

<https://www.mclnewyork.org/wp-content/uploads/public/Documents-Forms/MCL-APP.pdf>





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EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

5-6 APRIL 2024

Department Spring Meeting
Joseph P. Mangan
American Legion Post 1194
363 West Service Road
Binghamton NY 13901

12-13 APRIL 2024

Northeast Division Conference
Crowne Plaza Princeton
900 Scudders Mill Rd,
Plainsboro Township, NJ 08536

6-8 JUNE 2024

Department of New York
93rd Annual Convention
Collegian Hotel, Syracuse, NY

Miscellaneous

CHUCKLE



MEMBERSHIP *

Total members.....	3,879
Regular	3,366
Associate	483
Multiple.....	30

* AS OF
27 MARCH 2024

CHUCKLE





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DEVIL DOGS

WOOF! WOOF!



State of the Dogs!

OUR MISSION IN THE MODD IS CHARITY DONATIONS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS.

Due to fewer Pound Growls, our bank account is sustaining itself but hasn't seen growth over what we had last year at this time. Getting to the point of this, I am asking for each pound in New York State to make a hundred bone donation either in person or via the mail before the State Convention in June.

The bones we collect and donate each year do such great work for the weakest members of society! If your bank account is suffering, throw a fund raiser or pass the hat, please.

Here's the mailing address ...



Secondly I am asking dogs from across the state to attend the Grawl at the state convention. Now I of course know that the Grawl is the fun part of conventions but I have an issue which needs your vote this time.

We will not take up a lot of time on this but it is something we need to address.
Friday June 7, 14:30-1600.

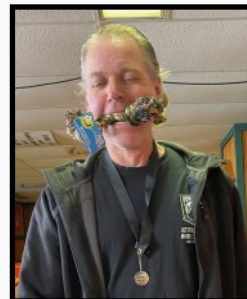
Lastly, once the vote and agenda is complete at the Grawl, we will again hold the Dawg Olympics! If you were not there last time, you missed a hilarious time! Plan to be there this year....

Oh crap....last lastly.....if you have pups who are elevating in June, get their information in ASAP!!!



Woof woof,
Cathleen Wiggs
New York Pack Leader

New Pound 37 Pup



Don Kirsch's first day as a Devil Dog pup. He is going to be so "happy" that he got published.

You're welcome, Don.

At least, Steve Capirci's spaghetti helped to ease the pain, right?





MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

From Facebook

MARKSMANSHIP

Right on Target *(again)*



ON JANUARY 27, 2024,
CREEDMORE SPORTS, INC.
ANNOUNCED WINNERS FROM
THEIR SHOOTING CONTEST.

Vandyke Bergen & Lynn Stanton, two Members of #233 MCL Memorial Detachment #2, represented the New National Marine Corps League Marksmanship Detachment, show their plaques and ribbons that they earned by winning 1st Team class, in the 2023 CMP New England Games, Vintage Sniper Match for the Manually Operated Rifle Class.

HAPPY **107TH** BIRTHDAY

**NAVAJO CODE TALKER
VETERAN**

JOHN KINSEL

Obtained from Twitter Sally McClain





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INTO THE FUTURE

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

EDWARD J. BREWER DETACHMENT #458



- Department Sr. Vice Commandant ___ **DAVE WIGGS**
- Jr. Past Commandant & Adjutant ___ **JANIS WITCHEY**
- Judge Advocate _____ **REINHARD DIEG**
- Commandant _____ **KEVIN LOUKOPOLOULS**
- S r. Vice Commandant _____ **JOHN SABATINI**
- Jr. Vice Commandant _____ **THOMAS SMETANK**
- Paymaster _____ **ROBERT OSTRANDER**
- Chaplain _____ **NICK PALUSZKIEWICZ**
- Sgt. at Arms _____ **KENNETH ANDRUCZEWSKI**

BETT-TOOMEY DETACHMENT #216

Officers were installed by West Area Vice Commandant, Earl Herrington on 12 March 2024



Left to right:

- COMMANDANT** Kenneth D. Blachura
- SR. VICE COMMANDANT** Dennis Chapman
- PAYMASTER** Randy Harper
- ADJUTANT** Paul Barner
- CHAPLAIN** Gene Hess



CHUCKLE



BUT OH SO

TRUE



Before asking a Marine to kneel before you, remember that we consider it a firing position.

memecenter.com MemeCenter





MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

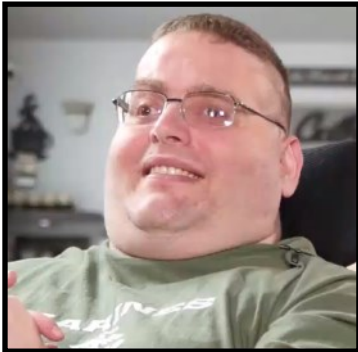
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MARINES FOR MARINES

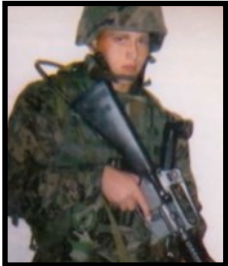
Meet Sgt. Eddie Ryan From Lake George

Source: Mark Mulholland WNYT, Channel 13 | February 22, 2024 | <https://wnyt.com/.../marine-sergeant-injured-in-iraq.../>



On his third tour to Iraq, Sgt. Eddie Ryan, Marine Sniper was struck in the head by friendly fire and was not expected to survive. As you can see, he did. It's been 20 years since then and he wants to reunite with his fellow Marines.

Sgt. Eddie Ryan's brothers in arms saved his life preventing him from bleeding out! Sgt. Ryan held on to the thinning threads of life just long enough to survive his transport. Then he spent a uncertain 6 weeks in a coma. His parents had been called see their son to say their last goodbyes. As you can see, he survived. It is 20 years later, he wants to reunite in Florida in April 2024.



Since Eddie's traumatic brain injury, he is unable to fly. To get to Florida he needs van modified so he can be mechanically lifted for the long trip. This short-term loaner is not expected to be free. Family is willing to pay for its' use. If you can assist with the van, contact channel 13 news anchor Mark Mulholland at mmulholland@wnyt.com. Donations are graciously accepted. See below.



Since early childhood, Eddie Ryan knew that he wanted to be a Marine!

Despite the outcome, Sgt. Ryan said that he would do it all over again.

TO DONATE TO MARINES REUNION

- SEND CHECK TO SPRINGS OF CHANGE, INC, 7751 NE 120TH AVE, BRONSON, FL 32621
- OR VENMO OR PAYPAL
- LINKS AT wnyt.com

