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For a complete list refer to the  
Department Staff Roster

*Serving our detachments and their members everywhere*

# Department of New York Newsletter “The Ground Pounder”

Spring 2019

[www.mclnewyork.net](http://www.mclnewyork.net)

## Toys for Tots

Each year our detachments collect toys for those in need. Here are some shots of our detachments in action. If your detachment is not here, get us your pictures for next year.

(right) Here's the Ulster Detachment helping out in the Kingston area along with some reserve members.



(below) Norm Stitz Commandant Cortland County Detachment received the Toys for Tots LCO Coordinator of the year 2017 Region 1 and Detachment LCO award



(Middle Right) Many detachments got help from non-Marine sources. Here Memorial Day Detachment, working with local law enforcement shows off some of the toys they collected.

*As many of you know, National is now returning transmittals via emails. They will no longer use snail mail for this as postage is getting out of hand. AND you can now Email your death notices to our Department Chaplain, Cathy Wiggs. Simply save the notice by that members name and then attach it to an email to Cathy. [ChaplinMCL@gmail.com](mailto:ChaplinMCL@gmail.com) The future is here Marines. If your detachment does not have a computer, please obtain one or someone who can do this for you. The Department can train you if need be.*

# More Toys for Tots



(Top left) Rockland County Detachment at the Palisades Mall along with the local JROTC. Nothing like advertising the league AND collecting toys.



(Above) Mike Marotta of the Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment donates Toys to his detachment each year through his retired school supervisors group.



(Above) A small portion of all the toys Brooklyn#1 Detachment collected this year.



Get your butts out there and **support your Detachments!!**

Get to a Meeting and attend those **Growls!!!**





## Even more Toys for Tots



(Above) AVC Seaman presents certificates of appreciation to members of NYPD Explorers for their assistance in the program along with Police Officer Susan Porcello.

(Below) Thanking the Marines that lend a hand and (Right) the rest of the people who chipped in this year.



(Bottom right) Sometimes the work of others needs to be recognized by us. Here's Steve Topilnycky, presenting the Commanders award to Isabella Nergo of School 22 in Yonkers who did her own drive for the program. Standing to the right of her is Detachment Member/Westchester County Director of Consumer Affairs, Jim Maisano.



(Above) Jim Seaman, Ron Steiner and Herb Novak, run the Toys for Tots committee at North Shore Queens, Detachment #240 along with the members and Queens community collected over \$25,000 in toys for the 2018 toy drive in Queens NY.





## And even more Toys for Tots



(Left) Members of Herkimer, Lewis County, LZ Old Corps, E.L. Smith, and Tun Traven combined their efforts in the Central New York area for the Toys for Tots Drive. Here they all are pictured above, (and the Navy too.)

(below) A small part of what they collected for the children in the area.



What an outstanding example of multi-Detachment cooperation to achieve one goal for a great cause.



(Left) State Senator, Andrew Lanza and his staff collected toys for the Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment. Here he is turning them over to Volker Heyde, one of the T4T volunteers for that detachment.

(Right) Students from Wagner High School on Staten Island help load the Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment's 5 ton truck with the toys they collected through the schools Honor Program.



**Advertise your pride in the league and your service in your daily life by wearing your league jackets, shirts and hats everywhere you go. When you wear your league clothing, you help show us to the world.**

Semper Fidelis Marines





Westchester County Coordinator Steve Topilnycky, presenting Plaques to Angie Wu (Trufflicious Treats) and Country Music singer Jessica Lynn at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater for a benefit show for Toys for Tots.

See what the suffering our people have to put up with?

Seriously, I want to thank the Detachments that sent in their pictures. Toys for Tots is a very needed cause and we are proud of all our detachments who make the effort and take the time for this worthy cause whether or not you sent in a picture.

***Your contributions make this newsletter and thanks to you, this issue has eight pages. Without you there would be no newsletter. From the very first issue on you have supported it issue after issue and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.***

***This newsletter is read by not just our members but members outside of our Department and I have always received kind comments about it from everyone***

***That being said, send me your pictures, your articles and show off your detachment with pride. This is YOUR newsletter.***

## An Honor Indeed

I had the honor and privilege of serving with SgtMaj Canely in Vietnam during the Battle for Hue City. SgtMaj Canley, aka, Gunny, was hands down the bravest Marine I've ever met or had the privilege to serve with. He earned the award for action taken on 4 Feb 1968. He was awarded the Navy Cross but the Marines of A Co 1/1 felt he deserved more and started a vigorous letter writing campaign to have his award elevated.

In October 2018 President Donald J. Trump awarded him with the Medal of Honor. 50 years late but very much deserved.

Semper Fidelis Marine Mike Walczyszyn



(above), Mike with Sergeant Major Canely at the award reception in Washington.



(left) Mike with the Commandant of the Marine Corps.



## Wreaths Across America



(Left) Members of the Memorial Day Detachment #468 participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery on December 15. Members are from left to right: Glenn ( Skip ) Anderson - Judge Advocate; Fred Carr - Chaplain; Dave Brisbane - Sr. Vice Commandant; Richard Belding; Bruce Liseno - Paymaster; Jim Rayburn; Wally Anderson - Commandant.

This is an annual event for the Memorial Day Detachment as they show their respect for those who have gone before us. All names are read and a salute given as the wreath is placed on the grave

(right) Marine Jim Rayburn salutes as wreath is placed on veterans grave.

Submitted by Dave Brisbane



## Detachment Marine of the Year



(Left) At Westchester County Detachment's Birthday Luncheon, Our own, Steve Topilnycky, Department Adjutant, is awarded Detachment Marine of the Year and we understand why, if he does for them, 1% of what he does for the Department of New York. Standing with him is Department Commandant Ricardo Sheppard and Major Jason Latta, USMC Executive Officer/Marine Officer Instructor NROTC, SUNY Maritime and the Luncheon Guest Speaker



## Around the Department

(below) Greater Newburg Detachment Sr. Vice Commandant Vincent Serrano and South East Area Vice Michael Piscioti holding the flags on a very cold and windy February 10th. Also in attendance but not pictured was Marine Jim Klein of the Greater Newburgh Detachment. These Marines were there attending a 30th Memorial Service for Officer John Machuca of the Town of Cornwall, NY. Police Department. Officer Machuca was killed in an accident when his police cruiser was struck by a drunk driver fleeing officers from a neighboring agency. He was en route to assist in the chase when the accident occurred. Officer Machuca was a Vietnam Marine Veteran and a Army Veteran.

Submitted by Mike Piscotti AVC



(Below, left) On 21 February 2019, Department of New York Commandant Ricardo Sheppard swears in newly elected Officers of the Carmen Ramputi Detachment #861.



**Have a grievance?** Remember, your first call is to your detachment's JA. He can check your detachments Bylaws and suggest a way to handle your issue. If that fails, or it is something different, then your next step would be your Detachment's Commandant. Keep in mind that over 98% of all disputes can be settled at the detachment level. If you can't settle it, and your detachment's staff can't settle it, then maybe the Department JA can. Your detachment's JA will let him know what is going on and he should speak with you to get more fact if need be. First and foremost, we are all brothers. Petty differences go away with time, things are misinterpreted and misunderstood. I'm sure you can talk out just about all your differences with a little patience and a little time. Try it.

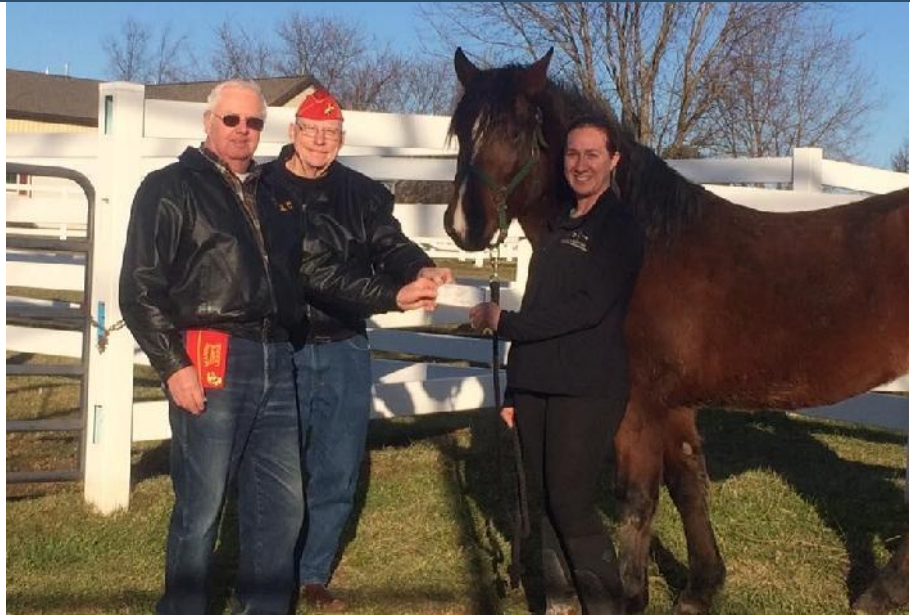
(Below right) The new Officers of the Carmen Ramputi Detachment are Bob Pucher - Commandant, Harold Delamater - Sr. Vice Commandant, Dennis Gallagher - Jr. Vice Commandant, & John Miller - Judger Advocate. The Detachment underwent reorganization after some issues. Good luck and Semper Fi!



## A Worthy Cause

Memorial Day Detachment #468 Sr. Vice Commandant Dave Brisbane and Commandant Wally Anderson present a \$1000 donation check to Lindsay Alberts, program manager of Mission Mustang at The Equicenter in Mendon, New York. The horse in the picture is Hero, one of the mustangs in the program. The program pairs veterans with a mustang and with the help of a trainer the mustang will be gentled, made ready for riding and then sold to a suitable home. Participants have experienced relief from their hyper-vigilance and anxiety resulting from their PTS as the horses learn skills to help them succeed in new homes. This program was developed exclusively for veterans.

Equicenter also has an equine therapy program for veterans called Horses and Heroes,



A therapeutic farming program and a culinary program called Cooking with Heroes where the veterans prepare a meal together with instruction by an Air Force veteran and professional chef. They then share the meal together. You can learn more about this great program at [equicenterny.org](http://equicenterny.org).

(Below left) The Jim Hatch Detachment 1201, standing vigil at the annual MIA 24 hours remembrance in Owego New York. Pictured are Dean Lawton Sr. (Commandant) and David Wiggs (Adjutant) taking their turns standing guard.



**Until the new website is finished, you can obtain Scholarship application, License plate applications and basically any Department form you need from our adjutant, Steve Topilnycky, [spt1@mclwestchester.org](mailto:spt1@mclwestchester.org)**

**Keep in mind that most of the forms you need to run a detachment are on line at the MCL National Library <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/> and a whole lot more.**

The Department would like to publish this newsletter four times a year. The cut off dates are: June 10th, Sept 10th, Dec 10th & March 10th. Please submit your detachments photos and stories.