



EDITION 22-1

National Award Winning

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK NEWSLETTER "The Ground Pounder"



JANUARY TO MARCH 2022

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<https://www.mclnewyork.net/index.php/newsletter>

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For a complete list or discrepancies,
contact the Adjutant.



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

THOMAS ARCURI
COMMANDANT

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Marines and
FMF Corpsman,

Now that Spring has arrived in New York, I hope we can get a fresh start with our Marine Corps League activities. With the pandemic behind us, let's motivate our membership to get back to regular meetings and activities! Community involvement is the best public relation and recruitment tools we have available to us.

I'd like to remind members that we will be having our **Department Spring Conference** on April 8th and 9th at the Comfort Suites located at 5875 Carmenica Dr. Cicero, NY 13039.

The Department will also be hosting our **91st Annual Convention** on June 9th thru 11th at the Collegian Hotel and Suites located at 1060 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13210

Please make your reservations early!

March 29th will be the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War where 58,220 Americans died for this cause. Since the official involvement of the Marine Corps in 1965, 294,000 US Marines served in Vietnam and



14,836 Marines gave their lives in service to our country.

Marine casualties accounted for 25.5% of the total casualties, the highest of any branch of service. Many cities and towns will be holding tribute services to all Vietnam Vets so please try to attend one locally if possible. Many Vietnam Veterans still carry the scars of that war and the bitterness towards a country that turned their backs on them when they returned.

Thank you and welcome home Vietnam Veterans!

Semper Fidelis,
Thomas J. Arcuri
Commandant
Department of New York



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April 2022

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
3	NORTHEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE			7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	DEPARTMENT SPRING MEETING		
EASTER		26	27			

MEMBERSHIP*	
Total members.....	4029
Regular.....	3495
Associate.....	499
Multiple	35
*As of 24 March 2022	



ON A SAD NOTE...



On Thursday 30 December 2021, in an ironic twist of fate, one of our Brother Marines, **BRIAN LEVINGS**, who served his local fire department, lost everything in a house fire. Thankfully, Brian and his wife, Jill are OK.

Brian is a member of Father Capodanno Detachment #1471. In addition, he has spent over 50 years of continued service to the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department. While there he has held the offices of Department President, Captain of Company 4, and continues to serve as the Assistant Department Treasurer.

Brian is a United States Marine and a Vietnam War veteran. Please consider supporting a fellow veteran who has been put into this undeserved situation. He has lived a lifetime dedicated to helping others. Your assistance is needed to help this Marine family. No amount is too small to help. Anyone able to donate, please make out check to **Brian Levings** and send to:

Father Capodanno Detachment
Marine Corps League Det. #1471
c/o American Legion Post #304
27 Bayview Ave. Manhasset, NY 11030

A Go Fund Me page called "**HELP FIRE FIGHTER BRIAN LEVINGS**" has been started. It has been a few months since it began, but if it is still active it can be found at site <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-fire-fighter-brian-levings-recover-from-fire>

Brian and Jill thanks you for any support that you can offer. No amount is too small.



Submitted by Vinny Annunziata,
LI Area Vice Commandant MCL
Chaplain Department of NY MCL
additional information from DoNY and E-blast

A PROUD MOMENT...

**CELEBRATING
104!**

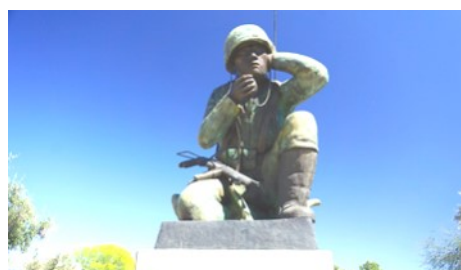


On January 22nd, 2022, the Navajo Code Talkers wrote on Facebook that they would like to wish

JOHN KINSEL SR.

a very happy **104th birthday.**

God bless you, sir.





Fair Winds & Following Seas

SGT. BILLY PELERIN FOUNDING MEMBER OF ESSEX COUNTY LEATHERNECKS DETACHMENT #791

It is with heaviest of hearts we announce the passing of **SGT BILLY PELERIN**. He was a Marine's Marine, a friend, and founding member of the Essex County Leathernecks Det. #791.

Heavens gates are being guarded by a true patriot and warrior. Semper Fidelis, fair winds and followings seas my brother.

Submitted by MSgt Walt Peterson, Commandant Det. #791



SGT. BILLY PELERIN

PFC. LAWRENCE BROOKS PASSES AT 112 YEARS OLD

We are saddened to hear about the passing of Pfc. Lawrence Brooks, today (6 January 2022). **At 112 years old, he was our oldest surviving WWII Veteran in the country.** We are grateful for his service.

For more details, click this link <https://bit.ly/3JN2j11>



Info obtained from Facebook



Edited from E-blast



Last Living WWII Medal of Honor Recipient

Edited from a Story by KJ Ruesser from "The Giant Killer"

On 3 October 1945, President Harry S. Truman presented the prestigious Medal of Honor to **Corporal Hershel 'Woody' Williams** who is the last living Medal of Honor recipient from WWII. This Honor is the highest award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States. It was in Iwo Jima that Williams earned this prestigious medal.



The goal of the invasion was to force the Japanese from the island, primarily to gain use of the airfield. The plan was simple — the Marines would charge up the center, pushing the enemy to the right and left. But moving through the black ash covering the island had proven surprisingly difficult.

Upon landing at Iwo Jima, the Marines had discovered Japanese forces living in underground reinforced concrete bunkers. Although not adept at using a flamethrower, Williams agreed to try. He knew that it was dangerous to the shooter because his location would immediately become known. He was reassured by knowing that two Marines and two regular riflemen would be assigned for his protection.

The hole that Williams found was a suspected vent. Williams judged it the right size for his flamethrower's nozzle. He then utilized it to move the mission forward. Smoke furred from a small opening at the top of the underground bunker.

The objective became personal when his division of 278 was reduced to just 17 by March 6, and all of the officers had been killed or wounded.



That flamethrower causes the lungs to collapse, so he fired to eliminate the threat. His location became known instantly. Then, he saw five Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets charging at him. Williams relied on training and fired at the group until they collapsed. By the end of four hour encounter, Williams took out seven pillboxes, enabling the Marines to advance.

For this act of heroism, Williams was recognized by President Truman.

The Giant Killer book & page honors these incredible war heroes making sure their stories of valor and sacrifice are never forgotten. God Bless our Vets!

PATRIOTIC THROUGH & THROUGH

This Ukraine / Russia conflict has had little uplifting news. This story however, will change that.

Snake Island is a 42-acre island in the Black Sea off Ukraine's southern coast, located 35 km (≈21.7 mi) east of the delta of Danube River.

Thirteen Ukrainian border guards were stationed on that desolate island.

On 24 Feb 2022, a Russian warship was poised near the island when the thirteen received a threat from the Commander of the warship; surrender or get bombed.

Even though the Ukrainians were grossly outnumbered, they courageously replied with a resounding (translated).

'Go "F" Yourself'

Content credit: The Washington Post and BBC news





NOTICES etc

NATIONAL IS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE



For a future membership campaign, a head shot of yourself is being requested. Please send a photo of yourself with a red cover to tribe@mcleague.org

Your Detachment polo shirt is fine, as well as civilian shirts. Remember to wear your cover. However, refrain from wearing a shirt that is white or striped.

PRESERVING HISTORY

PLEASE READ

MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION'S HISTORY BRANCH WANTS YOUR HELP



The History Branch is interested in conducting oral history interviews with Marines, Corpsmen, or others serving with Marines.

This detachment is composed of experienced officers and SNCOs who are interested in preserving physical Marine Corps history. They are interested in everything historical, such as documents, photographs, and artifacts. Their biggest interest is in interviewing World War II and Korean War Marines but are open to input from all Marines and their families of all eras. Interviews can be conducted with your preferred method, either in person, over the phone, using Skype or Zoom.

If interested or have questions, please contact LtCol Timothy Heck at timothy.heck@usmcu.edu

Help them preserve the history of the Corps



MISSION 22 TO ZERO

CREATING HOPE—SAVING LIVES
WORKING TOGETHER—WORKING IN HARMONY



Bud Hazzard

These events are called “Mission 22 to Zero” to recognize that there are 22 service people who take their own lives each day. Marine Hazzard, Marine Merrill and Aren Schank are determined to do what he can to make that statistic nonexistent — in other words — **ZERO**.

If you have not seen the presentation, it is worth the time. The openness of such a sensitive topic is moving. Their dedication to bringing awareness to suicide is commendable. Some groups at higher risk are active and discharged military, first responders, and police.

Two warning signs that the decision has been made to commit suicide, is someone is giving away their belongings, or if they have a sudden change of mood. This may indicate that they have made their decision and have a plan.



Aren Schank



Al Merrill



Please ask one of them for a crisis card to keep on hand. You never know when it will be needed.



Rifle & Pistol

Submitted by Lynn Stanton
National MCL Marksmanship Committee

Generously supported by
Hi-Lux Optics



There will be two MCL shooting programs, the "Postal Match" and the "National MCL Shooting Team"

Co-chairs, Joe Kier and Jeremy Williams are the driving force behind this marksmanship initiative. New York's Lynn Stanton and Vandyke Bergen are acting in supportive rolls for now. Once the actual events come up this spring Lynn and Vandyke will be more active. The Main sponsor for the two teams is  **Hi-Lux Optics**. They are a manufacturer of rifle scopes and are a valuable resource for technical issues. **Hi-Lux Optics** is working with Joe for an SOP which is expected to be released soon. We thank **Hi-Lux Optics** for the generous support and sharing their expertise.

THE SECOND PROGRAM is called the "National MCL Shooting Team" and is entirely different, in part, because the competition will be open to all MCL Members, Veterans, and Associates. At this time, the SOP continues to be developed. Unlike the *Postal Matches* that compete locally, the *National MCL Shooting Team* will travel the throughout the country to compete at the National Level against other skilled shooters.

The National Program will be highly competitive and eliminations will be conducted. There are requirements that need to be met to participate on this team.

The Co-Chairs and contributors are all excited to get the *National Rifle and Pistol Program* ready, and are hopeful that all Detachments will participate.

THE FIRST PROGRAM is at the Detachment level, already functioning and are called "Postal Match" competitions. They were introduced several years ago to encourage local participation at private shooting ranges. By staying local, the cost of travel and lodging is eliminated.

The *Postal Match* is for MCL members only. Scores are recorded and submitted using the honor system. The top three teams and Individuals are awarded in each classification. For any past or future participants looking for *Postal Match* documents or last year's winners, you can to go <http://www.mclnational.org> > click on "Library" (visit now) tab > scroll way down > go to "Program Documents" > find the document that you are looking for, including forms, and details for 2022.



In summary, competitions are currently at the State level, and will rise National level in the near future. Details will be shared as they become available.

**For questions, contact
Lynn Stanton**

National MCL Marksmanship Committee
518-504-0830

E-mail LWLDSTANTON@YAHOO.COM





VA FREE TAX PREP ASSISTANCE IMPORTANT

Tax season can feel overwhelming, especially for military families, but programs like AARP Foundation’s Tax-Aide can help you file your state and federal tax returns. Tax-Aide is free and available (*appointment only*) to all Veterans, service members, and their families regardless of age or whether they're AARP members.

Credit:VA

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAVBA/bulletins/3085c3c>

VA EXPLORE A VA PENSION IMPORTANT

Did you know VA's Veterans Pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans over the age of 65 with a limited income and net worth? If you are under 65 but have a permanent and total disability, you may also be eligible. Learn how to apply for a VA pension.

Credit:VA

[Eligibility For Veterans Pension | Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](#)

VA RETROACTIVE BENEFITS IMPORTANT

Retroactive Benefit for VA Service-Connected Compensation

Does VA’s Retroactive Benefit, commonly referred to as Back Pay, cover you from the time you incurred an injury or illness in the military? What if a Veteran was denied a previous claim and laws change like they did with Agent Orange exposure? Will VA compensate you for all that time? Watch and find out!

[Back Pay for VA Disability | How far back does VA Disability Pay? | Veterans Benefits | theSITREP - YouTube](#)

Above copied from an email received from the VA

VA VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BENEFIT

Veterans Receive Free Entrance to Recreational Places!

Start your family spring break plans today!
Veterans receive free access to approximately 2,000 public locations across more than 400 million acres, which host activities to fit any lifestyle, including hiking, fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing, camping, and much more. See this link.

[You searched for parks - VAntage Point](#)

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Edited by Ground Pounder Editor

News Sections: [#VetResources](#)

VAntage Point Contributor

DISCLAIMER:

THE VA MAY CHANGE PROGRAMS AT ANY TIME.

C
H
U
C
K
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E



Science_humor from Manhattan, New York



CHESTY XV RETIRES AFTER 3 YEARS OF SERVICE



Chesty XVI is reporting for official Marine Corps mascot duty as Lance Cpl. Chesty XV retires.

He is the 16th in the line of English Bulldogs to serve in this capacity since World War I, when Marines became known as “Devil Dogs.”



“Recruit Chesty XVI recently began training to replace the retiring Lance Cpl. Chesty XV.” For now, Chesty XV will help the young pup along as tradition dictates. When his training is complete, Chesty XVI will report to the Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., and is expected to perform in drill ceremonies and parades with the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

*Credit: Sarah Sicard, OBSERVATION POST, 3 Feb 2022
<https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2022/02/03/marine-corps-welcomes-its-newest-mascot/>
Submitted by Tim Forbes, PDC.*



HONOR, COURAGE & COMMITMENT

PAST SYRACUSE COMMANDANT RON FARWELL CHRISTMAS SERVICES VIETNAM, DECEMBER 1966

Past Syracuse Commandant Ron Farwell is pictured here fourth from left while he was in Vietnam 1966.

"December 1966: Marines gather near a bunker during Christmas services. From left to right are Corporal J. F. Jennings (Arlington, Virginia) of the 1st Military Police Battalion, Lance Corporal T. L. Barton (Erie, Pennsylvania), Lance Corporal G. W. Harrison (Texarkana, Texas), Private First Class R. M. Farewell (Syracuse, New York), Lance Corporal D. H. Wohllaib (Portland, Oregon), and Sergeant J. D. Goldey (Henderson, Kentucky) (official USMC photo by W. O. Cornust)."



*Submitted by Tom Arcuri, Commandant
Department of New York*

*From the Jonathan F. Abel Collection
(COLL/3611) at the Archives Branch,
Marine Corps History Division*



2021 TOYS FOR TOTS



THIS PICTURE SPEAKS VOLUMES!

It depicts just how much the children appreciate the Marines' efforts with the Toys for Tots campaign. I speak for the children when I say thank you to all who participated in the Toys for Tots campaign.

Picture from Tom Benjamin

ANSWERING THE CALL

TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN TO BENEFIT THE CHILDREN OF STATEN ISLAND

Seeing the smiles of these kids always makes the hard work much easier!

We are a local LCO Toys for Tots that services only Staten Island. This year despite covid, we still managed to collect over **21,000 toys** and made sure that over **10,000 children** had a present for Christmas. This would have not been possible without the help of over 80 drop boxes and various Galas held for Toys for Tots. The contributors included such organizations as The Italian American Women of Staten Island; The Women's Bar Association of Staten Island; many high schools and one of our biggest contributors, The New York Port Terminal.

We thank everyone who played a part to make this a successful event.



Submitted by Volker Heyde



Proud Yankee Detachment #255, Bronx, NY

Yankee Detachment #255, Bronx, NY is proud to share the results of their efforts in the successful 2021 Toys for Tots campaign. They submitted pictures to Semper Fi magazine in hopes that their photos get published. Detachment #225 is proud of their commitment and teamwork to this notable campaign that made it a success. 2021 was the best collection ever with over 3,000 toys and more in donations. This community response required the addition of two more pick up locations. Detachment #225 has elevated its commitment and looks forward to doing more next year.



Room filled with joy!

*Submitted by Ferdinand Garcia, Yankee Detachment #225
All photos are courtesy of Maritza Poventud Garcia*



Yankee #255 Commandant Owen Mangan (*right*) with three members of FDNY EMS Station 14 who helped with this year's campaign



Garcia turning over donation checks to Sgt Chase Schmidt of 6th Comm



LCpl Brian Salcedo, Sgt Chase Schmidt, LCpl Peter Wilken from 6th Comm, Ferdinand Garcia MCL, Joe Ronda MCL, George Pasiuk MCL, Jorge Carriles MCL, Det. Commandant Owen Mangan



Proud to have served, and Proud to keep the traditions and values of The Marine Corps League.
Detachment Yankee #255



2021 TOYS FOR TOTS



SUFFOLK COUNTY DETACHMENT #247

DECEMBER 11, 2021

This event was an organized drop-off at the Detachment Hall with the assistance of cadre of cadets from the Merchant Marine Academy.



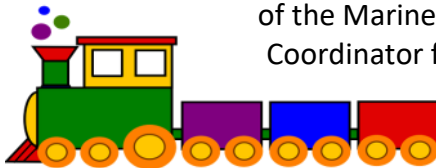
All submitted by Joe DiMauro, Jr. Vice Commandant, Suffolk County Detachment #247



SUFFOLK COUNTY DETACHMENT #247

DECEMBER 17, 2021

This event was another organized drop-off at the Detachment Hall with the assistance of the Marine Corps Reserve Coordinator for our County.





Tid Bits

DISCOUNTS AND BENEFITS FOR SENIORS

RESTAURANTS

Applebee's
10% discount

Burger King:
10% discount and discounts on drink items

Denny's
senior menu w/discounted prices

IHOP:
senior menu as well as 10% off

Sonic:
10% discount

Golden Corral
discounted menu prices for 60 and over

Subway:
10% discount

Wendy's
free drink (or 10% at some locations)

Outback Steakhouse
10% off for AARP members

White Castle
10% off for 55 and over

<https://pages.iloveretirement.com/how-to-save-money-during-retirement>

TOTALLY SELFLESS CHILD!

These toys were donated by a special eight year-old boy who decided to donate his Birthday Party gifts to our Toys for Tots Campaign.

Members of the Rockland County NY Detachment #243 are shown making a Toys for Tots pickup.

All those in attendance were humbled by his selfless act of kindness. As a thank you, he was presented with a Detachment Challenge Coin.



Submitted by Gail Goodson, Commandant
Rockland County Detachment #243



EVENTS



SGT. ANGEL MENENDEZ DET. #246

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

An annual ceremony celebrating Marine Battle Day (formerly known as Iwo Jima Recognition Day) was held this year on February 19, 2022.

The day celebrates the raising of the flag on Mt. Surabachi on February 23, 1945. That photo became the iconic image of The United States Marine Corps, which inspired the The Marine Corps War Memorial, and stands at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery.

This Memorial celebrates all Marines who have sacrificed their lives for this country from 1775 through all the wars up to the present, including the 13 brave men and women in Kabul on August 26, 2021.

*Submitted by Volker Heyde, Commandant,
Sgt. Angel Menendez, Detachment #246*



Presentation of the detachment's Certificate of Appreciation to guest speaker, SgtMaj. Adam Smith, by Commandant Volker Heyde



Bugler Frank Montella



Firing three Rounds



Detachment's Color Guard



Members of the detachment



EVENTS



Happy
246

SGT. ANGEL MENENDEZ #246

After a hiatus of two years, The Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment on Staten Island held it's birthday ball on November 3, 2021 celebrating the 246th birthday of our beloved Corps.

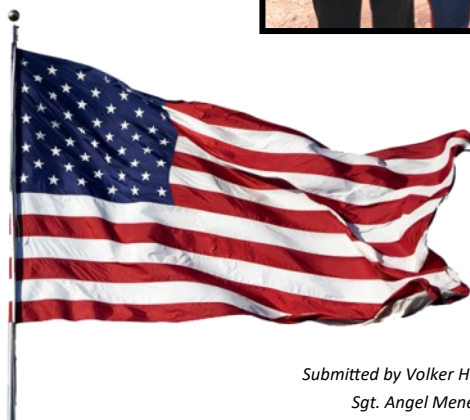
In attendance were over 132 members, guests and a large contingent of Marines from Recruiters and the I&I staff of the 6th Communication Battalion, including their Commanding Officer LtCol. Stacie Piccinich her guest LtCol. Amelia Griffith, and SgtMaj. Adam Smith. Also attending the Ball were the Commander, Sector New York, Capt. Zeita Merchant, USCG, her deputy Commander, Sector New York, Capt. Mark Sennick, USCG and Command Master Chief Robert Riemer, USCG.



A special memorial table was set for thirteen in honor of the thirteen lives that were so tragically lost on August 26, 2021.

Also in attendance were the Detachment Commandant, Volker Heyde and the NE Assistant Vice Commandant, Thomas Wortmann.

A great time was had by all, and we look forward to the 247th ball in 2022.



Submitted by Volker Hyde, Commandant
Sgt. Angel Menendez Detachment



Tid Bits

SUBSCRIBE TO THE YOUTUBE CHANNEL

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChAVULGSFjSonNtn6VpldEQ>

PLEASE VIEW AND SHARE PREVIOUS VIDEOS

SOCIAL MEDIA AS A TOOL

News by Social Media is spreading. Victoria McCoy, Public Relations Chair, is utilizing electronic platforms for MCL communication. MANY TOPICS ARE DISCUSSED.

Subscribe and browse <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4cXqElr5A0>

BUY ♦ SELL ♦ TRADE

Need to find or rehome a part or all of your uniform? There is now a way to do so. Search YouTube Channel for **MCL Uniforms Buy-Sell-Trade** to learn more, use the link below and be sure to skip the ads. Please share. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4cXqElr5A0>

VIRTUAL COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Hosted by Victoria McCoy, Chair of Public Relations

ZOOM SOCIAL GATHERING

This monthly casual virtual meeting was held over Zoom and hosted by Public Relations Chair Victoria McCoy. Victoria clarifies that these meetings began by PNC Dennis Tobin when Covid was roaring and he felt that this would be a good way to stay connected with each other.

Please accept the editor's apology if any names are inadvertently misspelled.

JANUARY 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDcOBNza3A8>

TOYS FOR TOTS: January's topic was Toys for Tots with special guests; President of Operations, LtCol (Ret) David Cooper and staff.

The Toys for Tots Foundation has been in existence since 1947. 260 Marine Corps League detachments contributed to the Foundations total of 224 Million toys to show love to 8.7 Million children.

The national organization can be found at ToysforTots.org. (copy and paste int address bar)

To find a local campaign, look at the top of the web page.

Johnny Baker, National Commandant, stresses the importance of building relationships within your community. Another suggestion from the room is to "like" some of your community Facebook pages, then announcements can be made on those pages.

A couple interesting questions were posed and answered:

- ◆ A coordinator does not need to be from MCL.
- A civilian volunteer is welcome to be the coordinator.
 - ◆ Mid-year fundraising is acceptable.
- ◆ Training for Coordinators starts the end of the week of Labor Day.
 - ◆ Do not put any donated money into personal or League checking account, use a bank check.
 - ◆ A PowerPoint may soon be available.

FEBRUARY 2022

[Marine Corps League - Commandant's Corner - Scouts and Marksman - YouTube](#)

SCOUTS: Representative for the SCOUTS program is RICH WALSH. This is the same program that DoNY member Skip Diamond represents. Detachment participation is encouraged to make contacts within the community. The program engages youth by presenting Good Citizenship Awards to those who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. When a request is made to the MCL, one or more members represent the MCL and at the scouts award ceremony called the Court of Honors where the certificate or other

Continued on following page



Continued from previous page

HELP WANTED!

Commandant Johnny Baker is seeking members to volunteer to serve on the MCL National Audio/Video Committee.

National MCL needs help & support at upcoming MCL conferences and conventions.



The duties at the MCL National Audio/Video Committee are to plan, set-up, direct/produce, execute, troubleshoot, tear-down, and maintain all A/V needs and equipment during MCL National Conventions and MCL National Mid-Winter Meetings.

Interested persons must be in attendance at these meetings and be willing to fill A/V needs during the conventions and conferences, be willing to arrive at least one day early and may need to stay at least one day late to support the set-up and tear-down of all MCL-owned A/V equipment. Experience/knowledge in A/V directing, producing, and the various audio/video equipment usage is necessary.

If you are qualified and interested, please contact Commandant Johnny Baker at jbaker@mcleague.org.



Obtained from MCL website

award is presented. Another option suggested by one of the participants was to present a coin with the wording of “Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle” on one side of the coin and “Once a Marine, Always a Marine” on the other.

Rich said that detachments can decide for themselves how to recognize these stellar scouts.

The Square Knot award has been created for scouts who meet certain requirements. They wear on their uniform.

Of course the patch has an EGA on it.

Please reach out to our representative, Skip Diamond.



MARKSMANSHIP: SEE PAGE 7

MARCH 2022

(youngmarines.org)

Unfortunately, there isn't enough space here to do this subject justice. Connecting with the community will change the lives of our youth, and have far-reaching effects for generations to come. Watching the YouTube video is definitely worth the hour. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw8MSY9NPM4&t=1699s>

YOUNG MARINES: Commandant Baker Johnny Baker started the hour discussion by introducing the guest speakers, Col William Davis, Michael Hoff and Angela Mannis. Before handing over the broadcast Commandant Baker encouraged all detachments to start a Young Marine unit.

Col Davis states that there a lot more takers in today's world than makers, which means that the trend is unsustainable. This program concentrates on encouraging children to have good ethics by demonstration of good habits. Study, working, leadership skills, community service and living a healthy lifestyle is what will build a strong next generation.

The opportunity to become a Young Marine (YM) is a privilege not a right. There is a strict set of criteria for the applicant to meet. Two of that criteria is to have 3 brief letters of recommendation, in addition to a clean national background check. Once accepted, the Young Marine will be able to earn ranks similar to that of the military, and wear camo too. Also like the military, there are opportunities for the YM to become an officer, but the requirements are rigid.

The program's officers believe that there is a real need for these units in every community. For one, there is a smaller population of eligible youth to join the military that means that the quality of individual is less than previous generations. The Department of Defense found in 2013 that only 29% of youth were even eligible for military service. Some of the obstacles confronting applicants are their lack of physical health, poor academic performance, drug use or even criminal activity. Although technology is useful, it is one reason that the children are lacking in social skills, time management, work skills, and study habits. Since the report has not been updated in nearly 10 years, Gen Bohn believes that the percentage is in the teens or lower.

On the bright side some schools have implemented this program as either an elective or mandatory and it has been endorsed by members of congress.

Adult volunteers are needed to grow this movement. It is not necessary to be a Marine to guide these youngsters. Other military members and citizens are eligible to become leaders. *Please view the video.*



SAFETY NEAR THE CEMETERY

UPDATE

These veteran deaths created a roar of outrage from the Western New York community and its veterans.

Jerry Zremski updates the public with this Buffalo News article, published on March 7. *(edited)*

The problem is that northbound traffic on Route 77 is obscured by a hill as it approaches Indian Falls Road. The Western New York National Cemetery in Pembroke is where the obscured roadway was instrumental as the lives of two veterans were taken in a collision last year.

Before the end of March 2022, The Veteran’s Administration intends to hire an independent engineering firm to do a traffic study of this intersection. By June this firm is expected to be finished compiling results from their study. The results of the study will be available for public comment said a spokesman for the VA’s National Cemetery Administration.

Afterwards, the VA will hand over the results to the state Department of Transportation, which will then be responsible for assuring safety at the intersection, said the under-secretary for memorial affairs at the Veterans’ Administration.



Please read the entire Buffalo News article, found at this link.

[Safety study near VA cemetery intersection to be completed by June](#)

On Tue, Feb 15, 2022, Patrick Welch wrote:

All,

I’m writing this follow up to the article in Sunday’s Buffalo News about the unnecessary deaths of two U.S. Army veterans who were killed at a dangerous intersection at Route 77 and Indian Falls Road, next to Western New York National Cemetery in Coru. When two of VA’s finest employees—Jim Metcalfe and Pete Rizzo—identified the problem and tried to implement a solution, senior VA executives came down on them hard, reprimanding and gagging Metcalfe and removing Rizzo from the cemetery altogether.

The VA did nothing to resolve the safety issues at the intersection, and on September 22, 2021, Christopher Rowell and Arnold Herdendorf died because of it. These men should not have had to give their lives to fix such an obvious problem. I urge you to write to VA Secretary Denis McDonough and your representatives in Congress to demand action by VA that fixes the dangerous intersection next to our National Cemetery. As advocates, it is our duty to hold the VA accountable for actions that are detrimental to the welfare of our fellow veterans and their families.

Thank you in advance for your support and action on this important issue.

Best to you in 22!

Patrick W. Welch, PhD
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)
Veterans Advocate

Please read the entire article entitled ‘It could have been avoided’: VA Cemetery planners’ warnings went unheeded before crash killed two vets.

Copy and paste the link below into your browser to read the full article.

https://buffalonews.com/news/local/it-could-have-been-avoided-va-cemetery-planners-warnings-went-unheeded-before-crash-killed-two/article_e02580da-7e05-11ec-9c47-034c5955a8f0.html#tracking-source=home-top-story



*Original article:
Credit to Jerry Zremski, Feb 13, 2022, The Buffalo News*

Letter from Patrick W. Welch, Veterans’ Advocate to fellow veterans was slightly edited.

Submitted by Michael Targon



CAMP LEJEUNE

HISTORIC DRINKING WATER



CLHDW



RESOURCE GUIDE

WHAT IS IT?

The Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Program (CLHDW)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

It has been discovered that there was some drinking water contamination between the years August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987.

WHAT IS BEING DONE

CLHDW is ready to support Marines, their families, the civilian workforce, National Guard reservists, and individuals who may have been impacted by the drinking water at Camp Lejeune during the dates listed above.

WHAT KIND OF BENEFITS?

Some health care funding assistance for particular conditions.
Some disability compensation for qualifying individuals.

THE NEWS STATIONS HAVE SINCE REPORTED THAT THE AFFECTED, ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY GETTING THE BENEFITS THAT ARE DESERVED.

HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Veterans:

www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/

1-877-222-8387

Family members:

1-866-372-1144

VETERAN'S DISABILITY

1-800-827-1000

CIVILIANS

Dept of Labor Office of Workers Compensation Programs

<https://www.dol.gov/owcp/>

QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

Veterans

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/>

1-877-222-8387

Civilians

1-800-827-1000

CLHDW CALL CENTER

CLHDW call center
M-F 8:30 am-5:00 pm Eastern

clwater@usmc.mil

1-877-261-9782

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCE AND DISEASE REGISTRY

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune>

1-800-232-4636

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1-800-261-9782

Information edited from submission by Rick Chmielowiec, Jr. Vice, Bett-Toomey, who received a mailer from Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking water, Headquarters US Marine Corps (GF), 3000 Marine Corps Pentagon, Room 2D153A, Washington, DC 20350



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Send Your Installation Photos to newsletter.dny@gmail.com

2
1
6

BETT-TOOMEY DETACHMENT



- R. Gulczewski, Sgt. at Arms
- G. Hess, Chaplain
- D. Chapman, Adjutant
- R. Chmielowiec, Jr. Vice
- K. Blachura, Commandant
- J. Taylor, Sr. Vice
- R. Harper, Paymaster



West Area Vice Commandant, Earl Herrington

2
3
9

NIAGARA FRONTIER DETACHMENT



- Raymond David
- Patricia David
- Barbara Martin
- Alfred Olewniczak
- Stephen Podlas

On March 22nd Niagara Frontier Detachment 239 had their Installation of Officers. The installing officer was Earl Herrington.

EVENT

YEARS OF SERVICE



Marine Charlie "CZ" Czochanski

Commandant Don Wells

Commandant Don Wells of Middletown Detachment #236, presented a Life Member, Marine Charlie "CZ" Czochanski, a Detachment Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of service to The Marine Corps League and the community.

~ **STAY INFORMED** ~

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT WHAT CAN BE FOUND ON YOUTUBE



GO YOU YOUTUBE.COM

SEARCH MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

CLICK ON VIDEOS

START SCROLLING

Important Dates

DEPENDENT UPON COVID REQUIREMENTS

2022

- 1-2 April _____ **NE DIVISION CONFERENCE**
Crowne Plaza Princeton
900 Scudders Mill Rd., Plainsboro, NJ 08536
609-936-4200 * \$109/nt., banquet \$45/person
- 8-9 April _____ **DEPARTMENT SPRING MEETING**
Comfort Suites Cicero, Syracuse North
5875 Carmenica Drive, Cicero, NY 13039
315-752-0150 .
- 15 May _____ **PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY**
- 21 May _____ **ARMED FORCES DAY**
- 9-11 June _____ **91st ANNUAL CONVENTION**
The Collegian Hotel and Suites
1060 East Genesee Street, Syracuse NY 13210
see mcnewnork.net home page for details
reservations: <https://bit.ly/37aG1Lo>
- 14 June _____ **FLAG DAY**
- 04 July _____ **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 27 July _____ **NATIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS' DAY**
- 04 August _____ **CONGRESS CHARTERED MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 1937**
- 15 – 19 August _____ **99TH NATIONAL CONVENTION**
GET YOUR PEDIGREE
Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront
100 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118
- 16 September _____ **NATIONAL POW / MIA RECOGNITION DAY**
- 25 September _____ **GOLD STAR MOTHERS' DAY**
- 27 November _____ **NAVY DAY**
- 10 November _____ **247TH BIRTHDAY OF THE MARINE CORPS**
- 11 November _____ **VETERANS' DAY**
- 07 December _____ **NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR DAY**



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies,
 For amber waves of grain,
 For purple mountain majesties
 Above the fruited plain!
 America! America!
 God shed his grace on thee
 And crown thy good with brotherhood
 From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
 Whose stern impassioned stress
 A thoroughfare of freedom beat
 Across the wilderness!
 America! America!
 God mend thine every flaw,
 Confirm thy soul in self-control,
 Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
 In liberating strife.
 Who more than self their country loved
 And mercy more than life!
 America! America!
 May God thy gold refine
 Till all success be nobleness
 And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
 That sees beyond the years
 Thine alabaster cities gleam
 Undimmed by human tears!
 America! America!
 God shed his grace on thee
 And crown thy good with brotherhood
 From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for halcyon skies,
 For amber waves of grain,
 For purple mountain majesties
 Above the enameled plain!
 America! America!
 God shed his grace on thee
 Till souls wax fair as earth and air
 And music-hearted sea!

O beautiful for pilgrims feet,
 Whose stern impassioned stress
 A thoroughfare for freedom beat
 Across the wilderness!
 America! America!
 God shed his grace on thee
 Till paths be wrought through
 wilds of thought
 By pilgrim foot and knee!

O beautiful for glory-tale
 Of liberating strife
 When once and twice,
 for man's avail
 Men lavished precious life!
 America! America!
 God shed his grace on thee
 Till selfish gain no longer stain
 The banner of the free!

O beautiful for patriot dream
 That sees beyond the years
 Thine alabaster cities gleam
 Undimmed by human tears!
 America! America!
 God shed his grace on thee
 Till nobler men keep once again
 Thy whiter jubilee!

