

TWO TIME

National Award-Winning Newsletter



NUMBER 2023 - 1

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

EDITOR: DONNA HILDEBRANDT
newsletter.dny@gmail.com



2023
JANUARY
TO MARCH

2022-2023 OFFICERS

COMMANDANT
Thomas Arcuri

**SENIOR VICE
COMMANDANT**
Dean Lawton Sr.

**JUNIOR VICE
COMMANDANT**
David Wiggs

JUDGE ADVOCATE
Mike Piscioti

**JUNIOR PAST
COMMANDANT**
Tom Wortmann

ADJUTANT
Steve Topilnycky

CHIEF OF STAFF
Donna Hildebrandt

CHAPLAIN
Vinny Annunziata

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Jim Sampson

SERGEANT At ARMS
Scott Westcott

NY PACK LEADER
Cathleen Wiggs

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Gerry della Badia

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AUXILIARY PRESIDENT
Maureen Dunn

**PAST AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT**
Nancy Lewosko



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

THOMAS ARCURI
COMMANDANT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Marines, FMF Corpsman, Associates and Auxiliary members,

As Mother Nature breathes new life into New York this Spring, please consider doing the same for the Marine Corps League. COVID restrictions have passed and the virus seems to be fading somewhat. Let us get back in full swing with our meetings and social events that we have all missed. I know many Detachments are fully functional again, but there are some lagging behind.

In an attempt to make attendance easier for League members to attend Department conferences, I secured permission to conduct the Department Winter conference via ZOOM.

The attendance results were not impressive considering you could have attended by computer or phone. Department Adjutant, Steve Topilnycky did a fantastic job on the technical end to pull off this event.

I cannot impress upon the Detachment officers enough, how important it is that at least one officer attend these Department conferences! Detachments that were not in attendance are encouraged to watch the PACT Act video presentation by Marine Corps League member, Brian Hine. Brian is an Attorney and former JAG Officer who has put together an excellent presentation which will clarify many misconceptions about the Act.

The Department was again represented at the National Mid-Winter Conference held in Norfolk, VA. I was extremely pleased to accept 13 various shooting awards which I hope to present at the Spring Department Conference on April 21-22, 2023 in Jamestown, NY. Congratulations to Lynn Stanton for his 1st place Sharpshooter Award and the other members of his team. I'm very proud to have this great group of Marines represent the Department.

The Department of New York staff is currently in the process of revising the LETS GO SCHOOL program. Presentations will be available via Zoom and in-person at various locations upon request. This is a very informative presentation and should be attended by all newly elected officers especially Commandants and Paymasters.

The Department Convention will be held on June 8-10, 2023 so please mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

Semper Fidelis,

Thomas J. Arcuri

Commandant
Department of New York



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

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMANDANT’S CORNER1

TABLE OF CONTENTS2

ELECTIONS.....2

REST IN PEACE

 ALEX KITTS3

 ROBERT WASICAKO4

MEMBERSHIP4

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE BYLAWS

 PROPOSAL #1.....5

 PROPOSAL #2.....6

 PROPOSAL #3.....7-8

THANK YOU TO OUR

SPRING MEETING SPONSORS.....9-10

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

 MARINE/ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR11

 RED BLAZER LINKS11

 UPCOMING EVENTS.....12

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS13

GROWL.....14

SCOUTS & MARINES 15

FUND RAISER..... 15

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

 CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION 16-17

 QUILT OF VALOR..... 17

 LEADERSHIP TRAINING 18

 NAVAJO CODE TALKER TURNS 106..... 18

MISCELLANEOUS

 RING THE BELL 19

 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MISSION..... 19

 TO NEWSLETTER EDITORS..... 20

MID-WINTER MEETING..... 21-22

DONY DETACHMENTS..... 23-24

CHUCKLES

12 19



Tid Bits

4 • 11 • 19



ELECTIONS FOR
COMMANDANT
SR. VICE COMMANDANT
JR. VICE COMMANDANT
PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT
AND JUDGE ADVOCATE
 ARE SCHEDULED FOR

JUNE 8–10, 2023

The Collegian Hotel & Suites
 1060 East Genesee Street
 Syracuse, NY 13210

These must be held by Regular Members.
 If there are nominations for, or desire
 to hold an office, email
 Commandant Tom Arcuri at
 tarcuri@me.com



REST IN PEACE



Farewell

Our presence at services is the ultimate form of respect to the deceased and their family. Family is deeply touched by seeing at least one of us present. If you are close to the service, please make every effort to represent the MCL and wear your cover.

ALEX ADRIAN KITTS North Area Vice Commandant (8/28/1964 - 2/4/2023)



The Saturday Mid-Winter Zoom meeting was interrupted with sad news that **ALEX KITTS**, North Area Vice Commandant, had passed away. He was at home in Canton with the love of his family beside him when, at 58, the Supreme Commandant invited him home.

Immediately after graduating from Canton High School, Alex enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he spent the next twelve years (6/1984 to 6/1996).

I'm saddened by the passing of this Marine! Alex exemplified what a Marine Corps League member should be. As the Commandant of the Department of New York, anytime I asked him to carry out a request, he was right on it and completed it in a timely manner. He was an excellent Area Vice Commandant covering 5 Counties along the Canadian border fulfilling his duties even while battling cancer! St. Peter will be pleased to assign you to the Pearly Gates!
Tom Arcuri, Facebook

After returning from his service, he became an area business owner. Then in September of 2003, Alex joined the MCL. He became a life member just 3 years later. From

there he served with dedication as Commandant for over a decade, and acted as a Department North Area Vice Commandant. His total commitment with the MCL was almost 2 decades. He will be missed and his successor will have some very big shoes to fill.

A Celebration of Life will be on 22 April 2023. If you are not attending the spring meeting in Jamestown, please be there to represent the MCL. Due to the frozen ground, Alex will not be interned until spring at Calvary Cemetery in Massena. We will share when more information becomes available.

Memorial contributions are request to be donated to The Marine Corps League in Madrid as well as Hospice and Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley, or the St. Lawrence County Cancer Fund.

In memory of Alex take this opportunity to [plant a tree](#) in his memory.

Please keep his family in your prayers, give Alex a moment of silence and a final salute as he joins the Supreme Commandant.



<https://tree.tributestore.com/memorial-tree?old=27207098>



REST IN PEACE



Farewell

Our presence at services is the ultimate form of respect to the deceased and their family. Family is deeply touched by seeing at least one of us present. If you are close to the service, please make every effort to represent the MCL and wear your cover.

ROBERT G. WASICAKO

Life Member

(March 25, 2023)

it it with deep regret that we announce the passing of Westchester County Detachment Life Member Robert G. Wasiczko, a resident of Yonkers, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2023 at the age of 94.



VFW titles & positions over the years.

A Funeral Mass was held on Thursday, March 30th at Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Mount Vernon. He was then be laid to rest with his parents at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in New Rochelle.

Please keep Marine Wasiczko’s family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Robert was a proud United States Marine, who served in WWII. He was an active member of VFW Post 375 and held many



MEMBERSHIP*

Total members	3,972
Regular	3,443
Associate	502
Multiple	27

*As of 30 March 2023



Tid Bit



Submitted by John Borycki

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Proposal to Change Bylaws Refer to county map on last 2 pages

#1

Bylaw Change 1 of 3

Date: 8 July 2022

To: Michael Pisciotti
Judge Advocate
Marine Corps League Department of New York

From: Steve Topilnycky
Adjutant
Marine Corps League Department of New York

Subject: Bylaw Revision to Chapter 7 Section 2-25 a-00

To make a technical correction to a-00, removing duplicated text, and to correct the spelling of Allegany County.

ORIGINAL TEXT:

a-00 Vice-Commandants shall be assigned one each to the following areas: West; Southwest; Northwest; North Central; North Central; South Central; North; East; Southeast; Metro-NY; and Long Island.

2. Southwest: **Alleghany**, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins.

CORRECTED TEXT:

a-00 Vice-Commandants shall be assigned one each to the following areas: West; Southwest; Northwest; North Central; South Central; North; East; Southeast; Metro-NY; and Long Island.

2. Southwest: Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins.

RATIONAL:

To remove the duplicated text (North Central), so that the paragraph reads correctly, and to correct the spelling of Allegany.



Proposal to Change Bylaws

#2

Bylaw Change 2 of 3

Date: 1 August 2022

To: Michael Pisciotti
Judge Advocate
Marine Corps League Department of New York

From: Steve Topilnycky
Adjutant
Marine Corps League Department of New York

Subject: Bylaw Revision to Chapter 16 Section 2-00 a-00

(To further clarify the procedures necessary to submit bylaws revisions or amendments and remove the duplicate sub-paragraph (a-00).

CURRENT BYLAW:

SECTION 2-00 AMENDMENTS – OPERATIVE BYLAWS.

a-00 **a-00** Procedures for revisions or amendments are set forth as follows:

To be Published in the Department website at least 60 days before the convention

To be Published in the Department Newsletter in the issue prior to the convention and to be distributed by Area Vice Commandant to all detachments following the Spring Staff meeting.

Any and all changes, modifications or addition to the Bylaws of the Detachment, which do not provide for an effective date, shall be in effect upon the close of the Department Convention at which it is approved.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

a-00 Procedures for revisions or amendments are set forth as follows:

- Proposed revisions or amendments are to be submitted to the Department Judge Advocate for review. Upon acceptance that is it in the appropriate format, and free of technical and spelling errors, the Judge Advocate will ensure that all proposed revisions or amendments are sent to the appropriate staff so that they can be:

- Published in the Department website at least 60 days before the convention

- Published in the Department Newsletter in the issue prior to the convention

and to be distributed by Area Vice Commandant to all detachments following the Spring Staff meeting.

All changes, modifications, or addition to the Bylaws of the Detachment, which do not provide for an effective date, shall be in effect upon the close of the Department Convention at which it is approved.

RATIONAL:

To clarify requirements and procedures to submit Department bylaw revisions and amendments.



Proposal to Change Bylaws

3

Bylaw Change 3 of 3

Page 1 of 2

Date: 11 July 2022

To: Michael Piscioti
Judge Advocate
Marine Corps League Department of New York

From: AW Hazzard
South West Area Vice Commandant
Marine Corps League Department of New York

Subject: Bylaw Revision to Chapter 7 Section 2-25 a-00

A proposal to realign the Area Boundaries between South West, South Central and West Areas; to correct the spelling of Allegany County; eliminate the duplication of “North Central” in paragraph a-00.

CURRENT BYLAW:

a-00 Vice-Commandants shall be assigned one each to the following areas: West; Southwest; Northwest; North Central; North Central; South Central; North; East; Southeast; Metro-NY; and Long Island. The assignments shall be as follows by counties included:

1. West: Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara.
2. Southwest: Alleghany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins.
3. Southeast: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester.
4. Northwest: Cayuga, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates
5. North Central: Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego.
6. South Central: Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego.
7. North: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, St. Lawrence.
8. East: Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington.
9. Metro-NY: Bronx, Kings, New York, Richmond.
10. Long Island: Queens, Nassau, Suffolk.

continued on following page



Proposal to Change Bylaws

3

Bylaw Change 3 of 3

Page 2 of 2

PROPOSED CHANGE:

- To move Cattaraugus County from the West Area to the Southwest Area.
- To move the Tioga County from the Southwest Area to the South Central Area.
- To remove the duplication of “North Central” in paragraph a-00

The new Area assignments will read as follows:

a-00 Vice-Commandants shall be assigned one each to the following areas: West; Southwest; Northwest; North Central; South Central; North; East; Southeast; Metro-NY; and Long Island. The assignments shall be as follows by counties included

1. West: Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara.
2. Southwest: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins.
3. Southeast: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester.
4. Northwest: Cayuga, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates.
5. North Central: Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego.
6. South Central: Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga.
7. North: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, St. Lawrence.
8. East: Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington.
9. Metro-NY: Bronx, Kings, New York, Richmond.
10. Long Island: Queens, Nassau, Suffolk.

RATIONALE:

To balance the distribution of Detachments in the respective areas mentioned above and their areas of responsibility and proximity to Area Vices.

The only Detachment in Tioga County is in Owego, which borders Broome county and the South Central Area includes Broome County. It is reasonable by proximity to include Tioga County within South Central Area.

The West Area is expansive with no current detachments on the Southern Tier and a concentration of detachments in the Erie County and adjoining area.

Cattaraugus County’s largest community borders with Allegany County and has membership within a Detachment in the Southwest Area. It is reasonable to include Cattaraugus County in the Southwest Area.

INFORMATIONAL:

Affected Detachments:

Jim Hatch Detachment #1201 (Tioga County) moves from Southwest Area to South Central Area.

Currently there are no Detachments in Cattaraugus County, however this county moves from the West Area to the Southwest Area.



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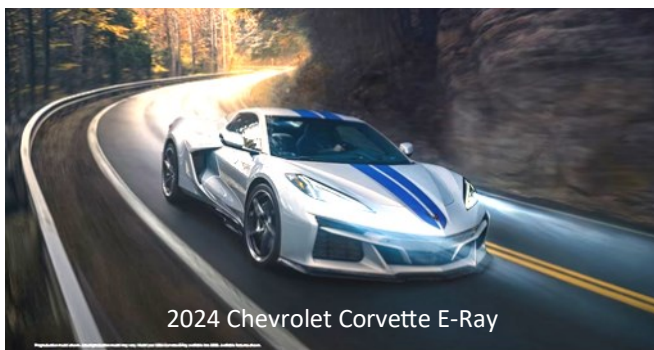
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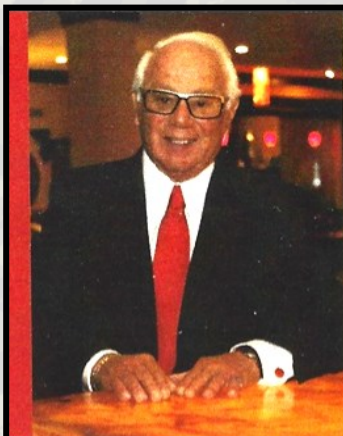
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STRICT DEADLINES
ARE ON THE TENTH OF
March, June, September, December



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
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<https://www.mclnewyork.net>



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MARINE OF THE YEAR

Start thinking about who is the best candidate for the MOY award. A change has been made, so now only two nominations are necessary for a winner to be chosen.

ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR

2023 will be the second year that the AMOY award of Associate of the Year will be awarded. See the mclnewyork.net for details, select documents. Start thinking about who deserves this recognition.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION SUBMISSIONS IS 15 DAYS BEFORE THE CONVENTION. THIS YEAR THE DEADLINE IS 24 MAY 2023

Red Blazer Links

The following links are provided as a courtesy. The Marine Corps League does not endorse one company over another.

RED BLAZER REQUIREMENTS

- Two (2) Marine Corps League buttons on the front
- Three (3) or four (4) Marine Corps League buttons on each cuff



Marine Corps League Buttons may be purchased separately by contacting the Quartermaster, Al Merrill at mcl.al.merrill@gmail.com or (585) 808-4905

- [JCPenny’s – Stafford Men’s Hopsack Uniforms In Stock](#)
- [Uniforms In Stock – Women’s Blazer](#)
- [Ashby’s Mensware](#)
- [Buy a Blazer – Men’s and Women’s Blazers](#)
- [Amazon – Neil Allyn](#)
- [Amazon – Vittorio St Angelo](#)
- [Ferrecci – Slim Fit](#)
- [UniformalWearhouse – Neil Allyn](#)
- [Menz Fashion](#)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Spring Meeting



APRIL 21–22, 2023

DoubleTree Hotel
150 West 4th Street
Jamestown, NY 14701

716-488-7227

Room rate \$100/night

Be sure to use Code MCL
when making reservations.

[Booking Link](#)

[LINK TO MAP](#)

Convention

JUNE 8–10, 2023

The Collegian Hotel & Suites
1060 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13210

315-476-4212

Regular room rate \$99/night

DEADLINE TO BOOK

May 6, 2023

GOLF

Thursday, June 8, 2023
11:00 a.m.

[Booking Link](#)

DIRECTIONS [Google Maps](#)

Fall Meeting

OCTOBER 20–21, 2023

The Crown Plaza
Three Executive Boulevard
Suffern-Mahwah, NY 10901

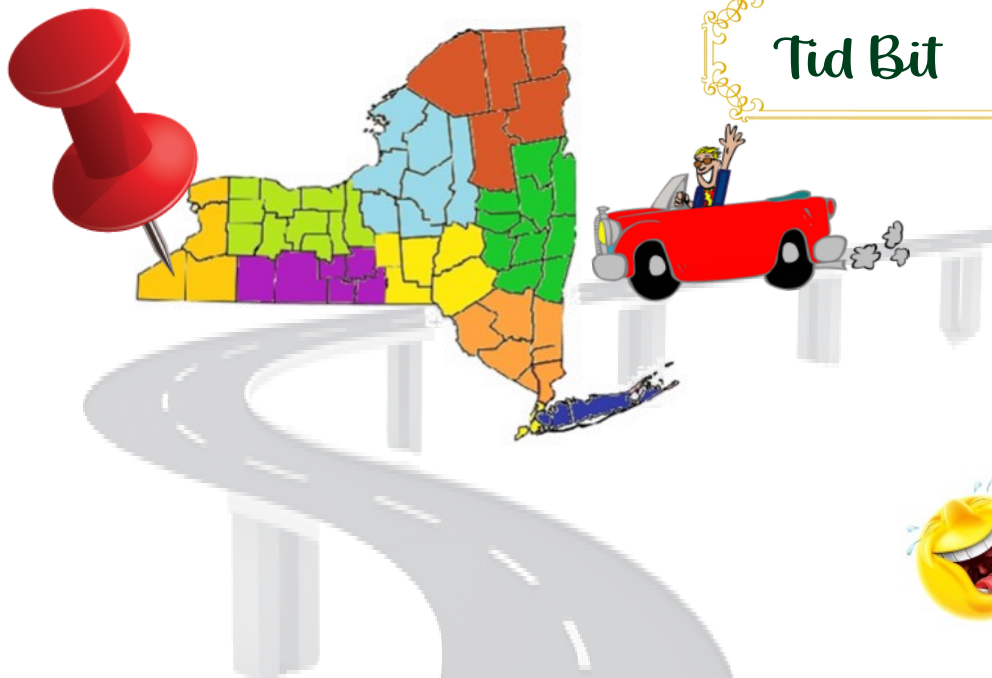
845-357-4800

Regular room rate \$117/night

More information to come.

DIRECTIONS

[Crowne Plaza Suffern-Mahwah,
an IHG Hotel - Google Maps](#)



T · R · U · T · H !



C
H
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E

*As I watch this generation
try to rewrite our history,
I'm sure of one thing:
It will be misspelled and
have no punctuation.*

Submitted by PDC, Timothy Forbes





INSTALLATION of OFFICERS

EJ BREWER

Detachment #458



BETT-TOOMEY

Detachment #216



West Area Vice Commandant, Earl Herrington swearing in Bett-Toomey Detachment #216 officers for 2023.

- Left to right: ●Gene Hess, Chaplain ●Dennis Chapman, Adjutant ●Steve Capirci, Sergeant of Arms ●Jim Taylor, Sr. Vice Commandant
●Rick Chmielowiec, Jr. Vice Commandant ●Ken Blachura, Commandant ●Randy Harper, Paymaster ●Absent John Kaitanowski, Judge Advocate

STRICT DEADLINES
ARE ON THE TENTH OF
March, June, September, December



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
<https://www.mclnewyork.net>



DEVIL DOGS GROWL

CALLING ALL DOGS!

My email address is hiscas@stny.rr.com
and I want to hear from you!
When is your growl and where?

I'd love to attend ... don't care about your robbers report, don't care about your meeting format, don't care about your reports ... what I'm interested in is the fun and fellowship!

Also I would love to see more of you attend the Growl at the June state convention or/and the Jamestown spring

meeting in June there will be fun in the form of the dog Olympics and a great time with our pups who are elevating! Come join the good times. If I can help you or your pound let me know.

Any pups wishing the elevate in June ... get your paperwork ... see your pound dog robber! Do it now!

Yours , woof times two,

Cath

NY pack leader

DOG OF THE YEAR NOMINATONS ...

Any officer in your pound can make a dog of the year nomination to the pack leader? I would LOVE to have a nomination from every pound ... send them to hiscas@stny.rr.com on or before June 1.

Tell me about the notable Dog in your pound ... does he/she attend growls, make himself/herself available for projects and details which help the pound function, helps with toys for tots and/or other functions of the unit, does his/her job in an excellent manner, or any other outstanding contribution to the dogs.

Dog of the year will be awarded in June at the state convention.
Get 'em in and get 'em in early!

Woof woof,
Cath
NY pack leader





SCOUTS & MARINES

MARINES SPEAK TO SCOUTS



The Cub Scouts of Pack 26 from Castleton Hill Moravian Church wanted to speak with veterans and learn what it was like being in the Marine Corps. On Tuesday 10 January 2023, the Pack and their parents learned a lot from Assistant National Division Vice Commandant Tom Wortmann and Junior Past Detachment Commandant Heyde Volker. Topping off the evening with pizza and soda ensured that a good time was had by all.

Submitted by PDC Tom Wortmann



FUND RAISER & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Submitted by Mike Piscioti, Judge Advocate

Members of the Middletown Detachment #236, along with the local Marine Recruiters set up shop at the Galleria at Crystal Run in Middletown, NY for a Fundraiser and Membership drive.





AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Dedication Earns Congressional Recognition

United States Marine Forces
Special Operations Command

Edited version of Jeff Schooal's original story in Task & Purpose March 8, 2023

With an impressive resume, Marine Shimanski has been recognized by Congress for extreme service to his country and presented a Medal of Bravery. Throughout his four deployments, he served as a highly valued member of explosive teams, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, and participant of the Navy Seal team that took down former al-Qaida leader, Osama Bin Laden, to name a few. Below are a few more highlights from his career, that prompted the award.

- * He deployed to Iraq in 2017. That May, their forward operating base was attacked by suicide bombers from the Islamic State group.
- * In a combat deployment, a vehicle that Shimanski was riding in, was hit by a roadside bomb, Shimanski survived without a scratch!
- * Shimanski helped with force protection and security measures during the attack, conducted post-blast assessments afterward, and searched the base to make sure no ISIS fighters were in hiding and preparing to attack again. His actions resulted in being nominated for a prestigious award.

By now, you may be tempted to believe that the Marine being discussed is the Marine on the left in the above picture. It is not. This is about Shaminski, the Canine!

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

MARINE RECEIVES QUILT OF VALOR

*Submitted by
Dean Lawton
Senior Vice Commandant*

Marine Al Rood is an Iwo Jima survivor. He served as a radioman with the 5th Marines and witnessed the raising of the American flag on Mt. Sirabachi.

More than 50% of his platoon was lost on Iwo Jima.



The "Quilt of Valor" was presented to him on 3/5/23.

Marine Rood, is a member and Past Commandant of the John W. Thurston Detachment #250 in Binghamton.



Department Senior Vice Commandant, Dean Lawton, Sr. shakes the hand of Marine Al Rood, survivor of Iwo Jima



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



MARSOC Shimanski is a multi-, a 12-year-old Belgian Malinois. Between 2013 and 2018, Canine Shimanski was deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, and Somalia with U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, during which he searched for

explosives while under fire, said retired Marine Staff Sgt. Brandon Marquez, Shimanski’s former handler.

Paraphrasing Marquez, ‘it does really take a very special animal to do what he has done. He is not just another dog, he is really out there holding his weight.’

For his service with the Marines, Congress is awarding Shimanski [The Animals in War & Peace Medal of Bravery](#), an award to honor service animals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Marquez said he first got to know Shimanski in February 2013. By that time, Shimanski, who was born two years earlier in the Netherlands, had already received his name, and since it was unique Marquez decided to keep it.

He was trained to smell explosives and saved many lives due to his skill!

Shimanski often looked for explosives while in Afghanistan so that Marine Special Operations Teams could safely get to hastily established helicopter landing zones

During one such incident in 2014, Shimanski helped members of a MARSOC Special Operations Team reach a U.S. service member who had been fatally wounded, before the dog checked for explosives as the team

rushed to LZs, where they were evacuated, Marquez wrote.

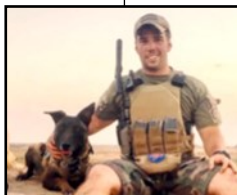
The team came under heavy fire after the service member was wounded by an improvised explosive device, Marquez told Task & Purpose.

“We immediately started taking mortar fire, heavy machine gun fire, small arms fire as we were on top of a hill, trying to work our way down to clear for more explosives to be able to land a helicopter there,” Marquez said. “Shimanski, truly, he worked through rounds impacting all around him, whether it’s the mortars, the UGLs – the other gun launched, little grenades that they would shoot at us – to no-kidding heavy machine gun fire, trying to hit him as he searched around. He did it truly flawlessly.”

Marquez and Shimanski later deployed to Iraq in 2017. Their forward operating base was attacked by suicide bombers from the Islamic State group. Shimanski helped with force protection and security measures during the attack, conducted post-blast assessments afterward, and searched the base to make sure no ISIS fighters remained.

Also in 2017, they were part of a MARSOC team that went into Mosul. Shimanski warned the team that the water tower, that they intended to climb, was rigged with explosives.

Marquez ultimately adopted him. He occasionally assists training other dogs at Marquez’ dog training business. “He’s my best friend,” Marquez said. “Truly, this dog has done everything in life with me. The successes, the hard days, the good ones, the ugly ones....”





AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

AL MERRILL COMPLETES LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Submitted by Aren Schank

LEADERSHIP ALLEGANY is a leadership course that is held at Houton University and taught by professors from Houton, Alfred State University as well as County and Business professionals.



Students are sponsored by businessowners, service clubs, and more. They learn skills that identify their strengths and weaknesses, team-building, networking, and delegation.

The class traveled throughout the county visiting various agencies, industries, businesses and attended a legislative session, to name a few.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE CODE TALKER JOHN KINSEL, SR.

106



Courtesy / Dine Code Talkers

106 YEAR OLD, JOHN KINSEL, SR. CODE TALKER AND WWII HERO, CELEBRATED YET ANOTHER BIRTHDAY, AT HIS HOME IN LUKACHUKAI, ARIZONA. HE IS ONE OF THE LAST THREE SURVIVING NAVAJO CODE TALKERS.

Obtained from Facebook
KNAU News Talk—Arizona Public Radio Published
February 1, 2023

More than 400 Navajo Code Talkers served in World War II and helped win the war by using their Navajo language that proved to be an unbreakable code for radio communication.

Kinsel served during World War II in the 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division from October 1942 to January 1946, taking part in the Battles of Guam and Iwo Jima. He was awarded the Purple Heart in 1989 for his service at Iwo Jima.

This year (2023) marked the 80th anniversary of the creation of the Navajo Code Talkers.

Three Code Talkers remain today – Kinsel, Thomas H. Begay, and Peter MacDonald Sr.

THERE IS ANOTHER ARTICLE IN GROUND POUNDER EDITION 22-1



Miscellaneous

Tid Bit

\$3,500 ACCIDENTAL

DEATH OR DISMEMBERMENT BENEFIT

All members in good standing are entitled to \$3,500 insurance benefit as soon as you become a member.



Submitted by Michael Piscioti, Judge Advocate

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STEPPING UP TO RING THE BELL



Al Merrill and Aren Schank
New Year's Eve
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Since we had no one in Cuba to take responsibility for the Red Kettle since COVID 19, I decided to send in my application.

We got the kettles, stands and bells ect. at 9 a.m. Saturday and were ringing the bell by 10 AM.

We had a little help from the community to give us a break but mostly it was AL and me. NEW YEARS EVE was our last day.

Submitted by Aren Schank

THE MISSION OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.



Miscellaneous

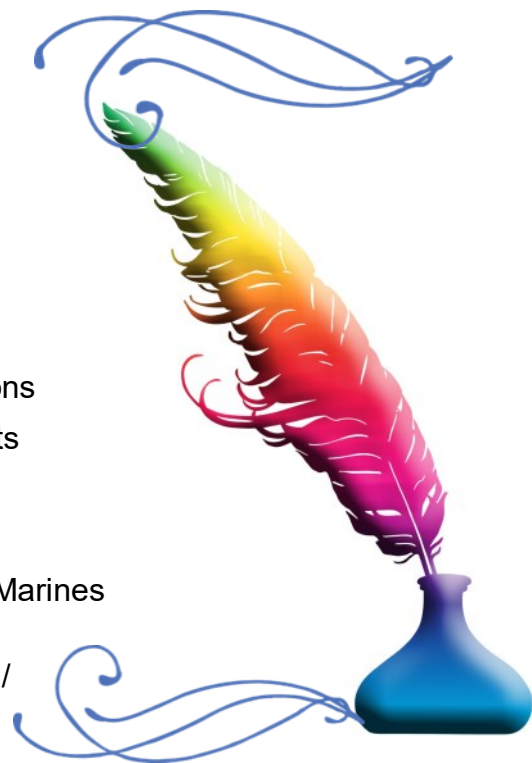
Attention

Newsletter

Editors

Prepare to submit your newsletter in the national competition in the summer of 2023. Below is the criteria for judging. More details to come. Contact me if interested.

- Overall Appearance
- Marine Corps Birthday
- Patriotic Holiday events
- Funerals, Remembering the Fallen
- Shooting Teams — Rifle / Pistol
- Color Guard / Honor Guard
- Scouting Programs & Youth
- Toys for Tots
- Scholarships
- Sick and Prayer List
- Member Recruiting / About New Members
- Marine Corps League Auxiliary
- Conventions & Conferences
- Charity
- Calendar
- Officer listing
- Historical Article
- Fun and Fellowship
- Devil Dog
- Graphics
- Awards & recognitions
- Other Holiday Events
- Community Events
- Membership stats
- Information to help Marines & Veterans
- Members Birthdays / Anniversaries





MID-WINTER MEETING

Zoom Meeting Summary

We will start with sad news before we move on to the summary.

- The Saturday meeting was interrupted with sad news that Alex Kitts, North Area Vice Commandant, had passed away. Please keep his family in your prayers.
- The Zoom meeting was planned virtually to safeguard our members from the unpredictability of NYS weather. It is expected that every one of the 58 Detachments have at least one representative present. Sadly, even with the extra effort and planning done to ensure our safety, only 14 Detachments were represented. That is a sad 24%. To add more disappointment, only about half of the Area Vice Commandants joined. At one point the attendance topped out at 21 people. This is possibly the last summary that will be provided. This meeting was a pilot program that was approved by National Commandant, Johnny Baker, who will be evaluating its success, or lack there of. There is a very good chance that this option will be off the table in the future.
- If we are fortunate enough to be granted permission to hold another Zoom meeting, consider having a Detachment event to watch the meeting so that all can watch it at one time. Your detachment can have food and whatnot to make the event more enjoyable for the members. *Don't worry, your Microphone can be muted.*
- The next in-person meeting is on April 21-22, 2023 in Western New York, at the DoubleTree in Jamestown. Reservation information is elsewhere in this Newsletter.
- Saturday began with a fabulous presentation by Marine Captain Brian Hines who is a former US Marine Corps JAG (Judge Advocate General) officer and member of Father Vincent Capodanno Detachment. Professionally, he is an Attorney and familiar with the details of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA).



BY NO MEANS, IS BRIAN LOOKING TO GET BUSINESS FROM THIS. HIS PRESENTATION IS INFORMATIONAL ONLY AND DONE OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF HIS HEART.



First of all, do NOT get one of those attorneys that advertise for a class action suit. They will charge you for picking up paper clips (just kidding). But the point is to get yourself a quality attorney.

There is certain criteria that must be met and deadlines to be adhered to. Box 12 of one of the questionnaires asks that you designate an amount of damages (that includes potential future ones too). Do NOT be selfless here. Once this number is filed, there is no returning to refile (unless legislation changes) and increase your compensation, should the need arise. Remember that just because you request one billion dollars, does not mean that you will receive it. Your case and claims will be reviewed before monetary compensation is provided.

Compensation does not exclude the deceased. Claims can be filed until Quarter 1 of 2024, as there is a statute of limitations for those affected between 1953-1987. In order to qualify the affected person (not necessarily military) must have been at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days, and they don't have to be sequential. Also, the claimant must prove the damages have been incurred.

Brian offered to visit Detachments across the state to share information. I personally request that at least 20 people be present or request a Zoom meeting with your detachment. Brian's email is bwhine@protonmail.com.

The replay can be found on our YouTube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@mcl-dony>



MID-WINTER MEETING

Zoom Meeting Summary (continued)

- Two Detachments are in the final stages of disbanding . As reminder to all, when closing there are specific procedures that must be adhered to. One: only one check can be written after the vote to close has been passed, and that is to the Department. Two: all rifles and military displays must be returned to TACOM. These items are on loan from them. The MCL does not own them. Please contact your Area Vice Commandant when it is time to do the formalities, and you will receive proper instructions.
- There are still several members who are delinquent with dues. Granted, some of the people have passed on and national hasn't caught up with the reports yet. However, there are still a significant number of delinquencies.
- As a reminder, in order to be eligible for Life membership, all dues be current.
- Another refresher, in order to keep the MCL license plates, dues must also be current. The plates can be revoked if dues continue to be severely delinquent.
- (previous meeting) *Speaking of TACOM (Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command), there are still some outstanding items that are missing documentation. Some have simply disappeared, others lack documentation. TACOM is digitizing their inventory and it is important to identify anything that your Detachment has, or has been "lost."*
- Membership numbers are still a concern. To entice younger members, consider starting a Fire Team, an off-branch of your Detachment. Their purpose is to get more of the younger generation involved in the MCL. See the national website for additional details.



- Many times, the transmittals and other "paper work" has been incomplete. You are encouraged to contact your Area Vice Commandant for instructions. The Area Vice will not do it for you, instead you will be coached.
- Our Paymaster is running into difficulties because so many of the phone numbers and emails are incorrect or nonexistent. (added later) *Please gather contact information from all members and forward it to the Paymaster. It is understood that some people are truly unreachable, but do your best.*
- Educating our leaders is going to be a focus in upcoming year. Keeping up with the national and Department bylaws is not always easy. This will make life easier for our leaders.
 - The first of these virtual training session(s) will be for about the duties of the Paymaster. It is open to all Marine Corps League members. If a non-Paymaster learns what is involved, he/she may be willing to fill any gaps at the officers' table.
 - **Let's Go School** is a program that will cover many topics to learn more about the working of our League. Different instructors will be teaching different topics. The cost is a meager \$5 per person to cover the cost of certificates. *The program name is subject to change.*
- There may be members who wish to remain with the MCL, but do not wish to be attached to a particular Detachment. Good news! The Department is in the process of forming a Member-at-Large (MAL) Detachment. If you are interested in being part of this new Detachment, contact Steve Topilnycky at spt1@mclwestchester.org
- Dave Wiggs, Junior Vice Commandant is chairing a recruitment poster and asks that more Detachments participate. Thus far, the number of submissions is abysmal.





NYS DETACHMENTS

AREAS

WEST

- 1) Niagara
- 2) Erie
- 3) Chautauqua
- 4) Cattaraugus

NORTHWEST

- 5) Orleans
- 6) Monroe
- 7) Wayne
- 8) Genesee
- 9) Wyoming
- 10) Livingston
- 11) Ontario
- 12) Yates
- 13) Seneca
- 14) Cayuga

SOUTHWEST

- 15) Alleghany
- 16) Steuben
- 17) Schuyler
- 18) Tompkins
- 19) Chemung
- 20) Tioga

NORTH CENTRAL

- 21) Jefferson
- 22) Lewis
- 23) Oswego
- 24) Oneida
- 25) Herkimer
- 26) Onondaga
- 27) Madison

SOUTH CENTRAL

- 28) Cortland
- 29) Chenango
- 30) Otsego
- 31) Broome
- 32) Delaware

NORTH

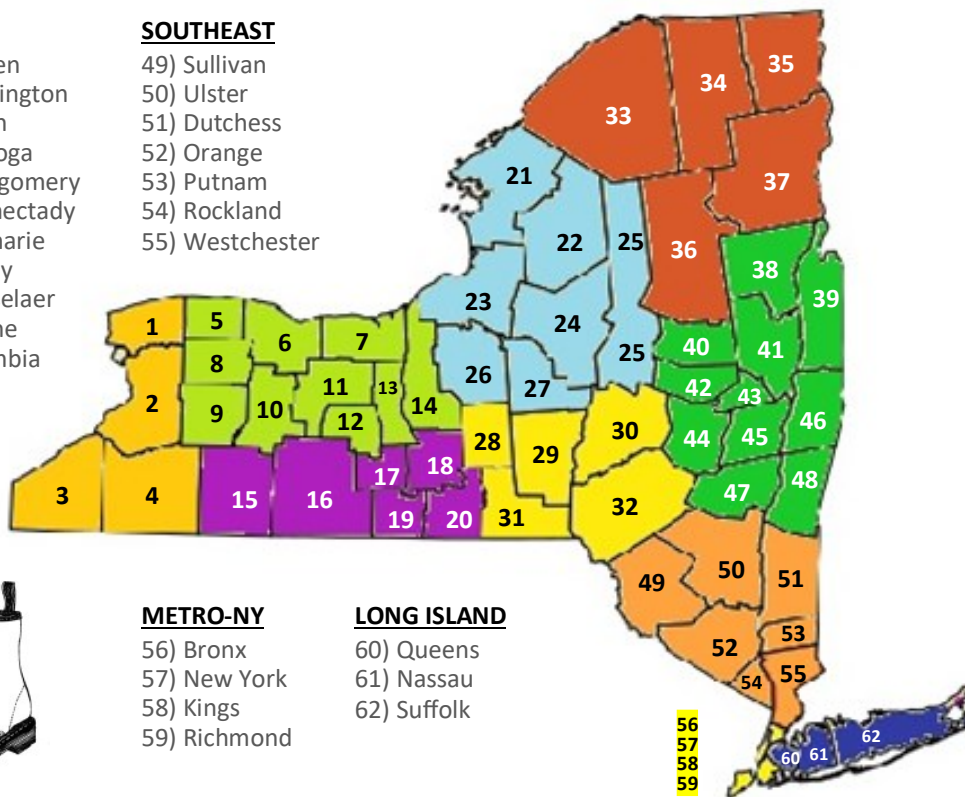
- 33) Saint Lawrence
- 34) Franklin
- 35) Clinton
- 36) Hamilton
- 37) Essex

EAST

- 38) Warren
- 39) Washington
- 40) Fulton
- 41) Saratoga
- 42) Montgomery
- 43) Schenectady
- 44) Schoharie
- 45) Albany
- 46) Rensselaer
- 47) Greene
- 48) Columbia

SOUTHEAST

- 49) Sullivan
- 50) Ulster
- 51) Dutchess
- 52) Orange
- 53) Putnam
- 54) Rockland
- 55) Westchester



METRO-NY

- 56) Bronx
- 57) New York
- 58) Kings
- 59) Richmond

LONG ISLAND

- 60) Queens
- 61) Nassau
- 62) Suffolk

WEST AREA

BETT-TOOMEY DETACHMENT #216

Lackawanna Marine Club
1794 Electric Avenue, Lackawanna, NY 14218

CONRAD KANIA DETACHMENT #230

American Legion Post #1451
6525 Ward Road, Sanborn, NY 14132

LOCKPORT DEVIL DOG DETACHMENT #232

Lockport Navy & Marine Club
37 Park Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094

LT. JOHN PAUL BOBO DETACHMENT #1118

American Legion Post #381
923 Niagara Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

NIAGARA FRONTIER DETACHMENT #239

American Legion Post #735
35 Legion Parkway, West Seneca, NY 14224

SOUTHTOWNS DETACHMENT #1136

American Legion Post #362
1 Legion Drive, East Aurora, NY 14052

NORTHWEST AREA

GENESEE VALLEY DETACHMENT #223

Toys for Tots Rochester Warehouse
460 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14611

HOLLEY HELLHOUND DETACHMENT #1271

Holley VFW Post #202
8 Veterans Drive, Holley, NY 14470

JAMES R. MOORE DETACHMENT #1470

Brews & Brats at Arbor Hill
646 BB Street, NY-64, Naples, NY 14512

MEMORIAL DAY DETACHMENT #468

Canandaigua American Legion Post #256
454 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424



SOUTHWEST AREA

EDWARD J. BREWER DETACHMENT #458

IAV Club, 1030 McGee St., Elmira Hts., NY 10901

JIM HATCH DETACHMENT #1201

Owego VFW #1371
207 Main Street, Owego, NY 13827

RAIDER DETACHMENT #461

VFW Post #2250
245 Canisteo Street, Hornell, NY 14843

NORTH CENTRAL AREA

EDWARD L. SMITH JR. DETACHMENT #245

Rome Marines Veterans Center
307 Adams Street, Rome, NY 13440

EMERALD CITY DETACHMENT #877

American Legion Post #1287
707 Legion Drive., Chittenango, NY 13037

STRICT DEADLINES

ARE ON THE TENTH OF
March, June, September, December



Semper Fi

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

<https://www.mclnewyork.net>



NYS DETACHMENTS

GREATER SYRACUSE DETACHMENT #224
Cicero American Legion Post #787
5575 Legionnaire Drive, Cicero, NY 13039

HERKIMER COUNTY DETACHMENT #227
Detachment Building
178 2nd Street, Ilion, NY 13357

LEATHERSTOCKING DETACHMENT #639
Oneida American Legion Post #169
398 North Main Street, Oneida, NY 13421

LEWIS COUNTY DETACHMENT #754
Farney Hall
7429 State Route 12, Lowville, NY 13367

LZ OLD CORPS DETACHMENT #999
Landing Zone
2321 Moran Post Road, Camden, NY 13316

TUN TAVERN LEATHERNECKS DET. #961
VFW Harland J. Hennessey Post #5538
108 Park Avenue, Boonville, NY 13309

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA

JOHN W. THURSTON DETACHMENT #250
American Legion Post #1194
363 West Service Road, Binghamton, NY 13901

NORTH AREA

ADIRONDACK LEATHERNECKS DET. #1268
VFW Post 3120
196 Park Street, Tupper Lake, NY 12986

AKWESASNE DETACHMENT #566
American Legion Post #1479
Route 37, Hogansberg, NY 13655

ESSEX COUNTY LEATHERNECKS DET. #791
Mesner Residence
1145 White Church Rd., Crown Pt., NY 12928

MASSENA DETACHMENT #685
Massena Marine Corps League
166 Maple Street, Massena, NY 13662

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY DETACHMENT #408
Clubhouse
P.O. Box 401, 401 Mechanic Street,
Madrid, NY 13660

EAST AREA

ADIRONDACK DETACHMENT #787
Mayfield Servicemen's Club
School Street (Old RT 30) Mayfield, NY 12117

AMSTERDAM DETACHMENT #392
American Legion Post 701
123 West Main Street, Amsterdam, NY

CAPT. WM. DALE O'BRIEN DETACHMENT #241
Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion #1520
4 Everett Road, Albany NY 12205

ELECTRIC CITY DETACHMENT #222
Building 81 of the Rotterdam Industrial Park
Duanesburg Road, Schenectady, NY 12306

MEMORIAL #2 DETACHMENT #233
Headquarters
3033 Route 4, Hudson Falls, NY 12839

MOUNTAIN TOP DETACHMENT #1274
East Durham Volunteer Fire Department
2401 State Route 145, East Durham, NY 12423

SPA DETACHMENT #641
Ballston Spa VFW #358
68 East North Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

TROY DETACHMENT #252
MOPH Clubhouse
761 3rd Avenue, Troy, NY 12182

SOUTH EAST AREA

CARMEN RAMPUTI DETACHMENT #861
Memorial Building
413 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508

CATSKILL DETACHMENT #652
Long Eddy Hotel & Salon
7 Depot Street, Long Eddy, NY 12760

MIDDLETOWN DETACHMENT #236
American Legion Post #151
185 Wawayada Ave., Middletown, NY 10940

PUTMAN COUNTY DETACHMENT #242
Putnam County Memorial Hall
32 Gleneida Ave., Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512

ROCKLAND COUNTY DETACHMENT #243
Kearsing & Edwards American Legion Post #1600
20 Station Road, Pomona, NY 10970

GREATER NEWBURGH DETACHMENT #249
Leathernecks MC
30 Lawrence Avenue, New Windsor, NY 12553

ULSTER DETACHMENT #253
American Legion Post #150
18 West O'Reilly St. & Brdwy, Kingston, NY 12401

WESTCHESTER COUNTY DETACHMENT #254
American Legion Gilbert Rauh Post #1574
52 Garrigan Avenue, Thornwood, NY 10594

METRO-NY AREA

BROOKLYN #1 DETACHMENT #217
VFW Post #107
2414 Gerritsen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11229

NEW YORK DETACHMENT #1 DETACHMENT #226
VA Hospital — Manhattan Campus
423 East 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010

SGT. ANGEL MENDEZ DETACHMENT #246
Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment HQ
46 Ontario Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301

YANKEE DETACHMENT #255
American Legion Sam Young Post #620
1531 Ericson Place, Bronx, NY 10461

LONG ISLAND AREA

EAST END DETACHMENT #642
East Port Legion Post #1545
478 Main Street, East Port, NY 11941

FATHER VINCENT CAPODANNO DET. #1471
American Legion #304
27 Bayside Avenue, Manhasset, NY 11030

HUNTINGTON LONG ISLAND DETACHMENT #792
Northport American Legion Hall #694
7 Woodside Avenue, Northport, NY 11768

PORT WASHINGTON DETACHMENT #614
Elks Lodge #2107
901 Lakeville Road, New Hyde Park, NY 11040

SOUTH SHORE DETACHMENT #244
Babylon Post #94
22 Grove Place, Babylon, NY 11702

SUFFOLK COUNTY DETACHMENT #247
MCL Detachment #247 HQ
2055 Sunrise Hwy., Bayshore, NY 11706

SUNRISE DETACHMENT #248
Sunrise Detachment Clubhouse
99 New York Avenue, Massapequa, NY 11762

THE DAN DALY GLOBE & ANCHOR DET. #225
Knights of Columbus
81 Sea Cliff Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542

WESTERN LONG ISLAND DETACHMENT #561
VFW Post #2307
235 Merrick Road, Lynbrook, NY 11563

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