



THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK'S
GROUND POUNDER

Editor: Tom Wortmann PDC PPL

Send submissions to: railmarine@gmail.com

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

In Memory of



Donna Hildebrandt

Number 1 Winter 2025

2024-2025
OFFICERS

Commandant
DEAN LAWTON, SR.

Sr. Vice Commandant
DAVID WIGGS

Jr. Vice Commandant
MICHAEL PISCIOTTI

Judge Advocate
CATHLEEN WIGGS

Jr. Past Commandant
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Adjutant Paymaster
and Webmaster
STEVE TOPILNYCKY

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ROSEMARIE SOTO

Sergeant at Arms
SUSAN WHITLOW

NY Pack Leader
CATHLEEN WIGGS

Auxiliary President
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della BADIA

Past Auxiliary President
KAREN SEELEY

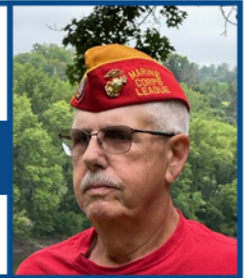
*For a complete list, or to report
discrepancies, contact the Adjutant.*



Commandant's Corner

DEAN LAWTON, SR.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



My wife and I just returned from the National Mid-Winter conference in Arlington, VA. While in Arlington the National staff presented some exciting news concerning the database and what the Detachments' Commandant and Paymaster can accomplish with the database. Between now and the Department convention there will be opportunities to learn about the new features. Also, on the National website under the protected members page is an instructional video showing the upgrades and features.

Our next meeting is in Beacon, which the Carmen Ramputi Detachment, will be hosting. The Department will be hosting the next Northeast Division conference at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Binghamton.

The winter months have gone by quickly and now we are in the planning stages for the Department convention in Syracuse. This year there will NOT be a banquet, we are planning a pig roast. I wanted you, the members, to have the opportunity to meet new people and just enjoy yourself. No dress-up, no tie, you will just need a flowery shirt and come to have fun.

While at the National Mid-Winter conference I extended an invitation on behalf of the members of the Department of New York, to the National Executive Board to join us at our Convention. I have a commitment from Bob Borka, COO, along with past Department Commandants Dennis Tobin, Tim Forbes, Ricardo Shepard, Jim Ransom and the two Toms. Along with the Department of North Carolina Commandant, Robert Hare. Oh, and BTW, I plan on extending an invitation to the Syracuse I&I staff to join us as well.

Semper Fi

Dean



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OFFICERS' Messages



From the desk of ...

**Department Senior Vice
Commandant
David Wiggs**



On this auspicious 250th year of our corps, let's take time and plan ahead for the appropriate celebration. Not only plan your detachment or combined detachment birthday ball but arrange with your city, town, village or county to host a cake cutting ceremony on our beloved birthday. Everyone loves a birthday and we should invite our neighbors, family and friends to join us. If you have any questions about the birthday celebration this year please reach out to the Project 250 Committee headed by the Department Junior Vice Commandant Mike Piscioti.

Happy 250th Anniversary!

Semper Fi

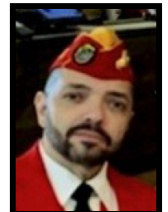
David Wiggs

Sr Vice Commandant



From the desk of ...

**Department Junior Vice
Commandant
Michael Piscioti**



I am excited to announce the details for our Third Annual Membership Recruitment Poster Competition. This initiative aims to promote engagement and attract new members to our organization through creative and compelling visual designs.

Participants are encouraged to download the official announcement and submission guidelines for this year's contest. This document provides essential information regarding the contest rules, submission deadlines, and criteria for evaluation. To access the announcement and guidelines, please click the image below or visit the official Marine Corps League Department of New York website at <https://www.mclnewyork.org/documents-and-forms/>

This contest presents an excellent opportunity for members of the Department of New York to showcase their creativity and support for the Marine Corps League. All entries must adhere to the outlined guidelines, ensuring fair and structured competition. We look forward to seeing the innovative designs and ideas that participants will bring to this year's contest. For any questions or further information, interested individuals can reach out via the contact details provided on the website.

***** RECRUIT, RETAIN, & TRAIN *****

Mike Piscioti1

Junior Vice Commandant

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THE JUDGE ADVOCATE SAYS

As individuals we all have standards. We know what we will accept and what we will not accept when we go to restaurants, check into a hotel room, buy a new car or any of the million other decisions we make in our lives. From the minute we wake until that twilight vague moment before we drop off to sleep again we grade every choice we make and choose only those which are acceptable to our preset standards. Everybody does it. Orange socks with lavender jeans? Not likely. Kippers for breakfast? Probably not. Break your word to someone you promised? Never!

And where do our personal standards come from? Probably their formation began with our parents, then we add to that our life experience, throw in a dash of societal norms and values, and round those standards out with personal choices; and our standards become rule to live by.

The Marine Corps League, as you know, has standards and rules to live by too. We call them bylaws. Each de-

achment has theirs, each department has theirs and both should align with national. And since it is the beginning of the year it is a good time to haul them out and dust them off.

Are your detachment bylaws in good order? When was the last time they were reviewed and brought up to date? When was the last time you even read your bylaws? Each member should have access to a copy and each member needs to refresh their memory of their bylaws occasionally. This is not just the duty of our elected officers...every member is responsible for his conduct in accordance with bylaws.

Now that the parades, Toys for Tots, fundraisers etc. are on hold because of the season, do a little house-keeping and check out your detachment bylaws for accuracy. Keep our standards high!

Respectfully yours,
Cathleen Wiggs
New York Judge Advocate

Politics and the MCL uniform

Undoubtably the most misinterpreted and misunderstood rule within the Marine Corps League is the wearing of our uniform (cover) and elected officials. A question came up and the National Judge Advocate was asked about this rule. Bruce R. Rakfeldt, the National JA and he put it this way, "When a person IS in office, such as a Congressman, Senator, Mayor, Governor, POTUS, any office, we can certainly participate in events with them wearing our cover.

For example: This past Veterans Day, the National

Commandant was on stage at Arlington Cemetery with POTUS. If we attend Bill signing events you will see many veterans' organizations at the signing. Or a cake cutting ceremony with a mayor is normal. Even if POTUS or VPOTUS or any elected official could be at a banquet guest somewhere. Or a rally for a bill or a fund raiser, we can wear our covers in support. But – if they are running for office, then we cannot support them by wearing our covers.

Simple, and easy to understand.

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MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS

"The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League"

Dog of the Year? Does your Pound have one? Are you going to nominate that Marine for Pack Dog of the Year? June will be here before we know it and once again you will mentally kick yourself for not recognizing the continuous supreme effort by one of your fellow Marines because you didn't get around to sending in the nomination. It happens every year and every year you promise to do better. So do it, do it now!

Got pups who want to be Dogs? Advancement doesn't happen until the paperwork is submitted. Let's start getting that together! This applies to Dogs planning to go to the National Convention in Texas to elevate to Pedigree too. Back in the day I went to Kansas City planning to elevate only to find out the paperwork had been rejected for being late, so I had to wait another year. Don't wait! Start your paperwork now! Get it in!

Now I want to bitch just a little. Elected officers, May I have your attention please. This is not a request...I demand your attention now! When you ran for office were you

planning on collecting the title and then sitting on your ass? Too often, too many people are guilty of that. If you raised your hand and voiced an oath...if you accepted the congratulations of your fellow Marines once that oath was taken...if you added a patch to your cover with an officers title...do the damn job! That's all I'm going to say...you know who you are.

Okay back to nominations and advancement packages.....start them now. Get your donations to the Children's fund in too please! Make your reservation for the June Convention too. Remember there will not be a formal banquet this year...we're all going Hawaiian with a Luau! Challenge... I'll wear a coconut bra if you do.

Woof, woof!

Yours in Fun and Honor,
Cathleen Wiggs
New York Pack Leader



Words of wisdom from National officers

Our National Judge Advocate says,

"Asking questions always leads to doing things right!"

Our Junior past National Commandant says,

"Don't be afraid to ask for help to do your job."



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WINTER STAFF MEETING

Because of travel and weather concerns, the Winter staff meeting was held via Zoom. This is becoming standard because New York winters can be unpredictable weather wise. Safety is always a concern and keeping people off the Winter roads is a smarter and safer way to go.

Commandant Lawton open the meeting in the usual manner and a roll call of officers was given. Commandant Lawton was the first to give his report. He stated that the department donated \$200 to the 12 different VAVS locations around the state. Department donate \$1,000.00 to support the Marine Corps League PFC Bruce Larson Detachment #1242 efforts to provide Thanksgiving to Marines, FMF Corpsman's and other active-duty military members stationed aboard Camp LeJeune and surrounding bases. The Department is setting up an account to help the Department of California. This money will go to members of the Marine Corps League and active duty Marines stationed in that state. The department has already donated \$500. Detachments are welcome to donate as well. Go to the department website and check it out.

Junior Vice said that our membership is down and we need to recruit and retain. It is every detachments' duty to bring new members and hold on to those we already have. Also please keep your death reports up to date.

The paymaster noted that when the National returns ROI's, they may put notes or corrections on it. Paymasters/Junior Vices need to read these notes.

Transmittals with new members must have that person's new membership application attached.

Adjutant said we need to keep up on our 990's. a few detachments lost their tax exempt status over that so keep up on that.

Members need to keep their information up to date. Be sure your detachment is up to date on your contact information. This is important.

Did you know that you can update your own information on the National database? If you don't have access, contact the adjutant and he will help you get access.

National is looking for a convention location in our area, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. If you know of a hotel or group of hotels, let the Commandant know. He will forward to Jim Ransom, the National Convention Chairman (and NY PDC).

The department s still looking for someone to chair the legislation committee. If you think that would be interesting, let the Commandant know.

Be sure to visit our website for up-to-date information on changes both in the Department and National. These could affect you.

If your detachment or your area is planning a 250th, Marine Corps birthday event, let us know. Some areas, like Long Island, Detachments are pooling their resources to put on this event.

The DoNY convention this year will be dress down. No ball, no blazers, just fun.

Lastly, always go to the department website for links and other information.



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MARINES HONOR EAGLE SCOUTS



(left) The E.J. Brewer Detachment #458, here in Elmira, NY had the opportunity to present a Good Citizenship Award to a newly minted Eagle Scout. This young man's name is Ethan Domey. He was awarded the Eagle Scout award on 15 Dec. 2024. Myself, and our Commandant, Kevin Loukopoulous presented the award to Ethan with his parents present. It was quite a ceremony and we were honored to have the opportunity to present the award. Sent by Joe Sabatini, Southwest Area Vice Commandant.

If your detachment is sponsoring an Eagle Scout award, you are required to let the department Eagle Scout Coordinator know.

Email [Volker Heyde](mailto:Volker.Heyde@nyml.org) so your detachment gets credit.

(below) AVC Volker Heyde attended the COH at The Speyer School in Manhattan.

From left to right,
Scoutmaster and Founder of Troop 777G Keith Nam,
Eagle Scout, Duane LeClercq
Volker Heyde, Dept. of NY Eagle Scout Coordinator and
Eva LeClercq, her mom.



On Saturday Dec. 21, the Niagara Frontier Detachment #239, attended a Court of Honor for 8 Scouts from Troop 545, sponsored by Twin District Fire Company, Lancaster, NY.

In attendance was: Jesse Vaughan, Zach Petroski, Avery Grabowski, Sam Giglio, Cole Ertel, Braden Ertel, Devon Durys, and Alex DeAngelis.

Commandant Patricia David presented the Awards.



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Toys for Tots



Santa, from the Suffolk Detachment collects for Toys for tots.



Doug DuVal and Volker Heyde accept toys donated by the DaVita Kidney Care center on Staten Island.



The Essex County Leatherneck website, (link below) reported that they renewed their partnership with Tiny Tim, a local volunteer organization with their Toys for Tots drive collecting age-appropriate toys in supporting 72 families and 200 local children in this season of giving.

[Home of the Essex County Leathernecks - Come see why we are the fastest growing Marine Corps League membership in New York](#)



Marines from the Rockland County Detachment collect toys at the local mall

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Area Reports

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. Thank you all for your participation in the Toys for Tots campaign. Once again it was an enormous task with great success. Now, let's ensure that the After action Reports are done in a timely manner. I also want to thank everyone who participated in the National WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CAMPAIGN, it too was a huge success thanks again to your hard work.

Vinny Annunziata



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Area Reports

**Submitted by Carlos Garcia
LI Area Deputy Vice Commandant**

The Suffolk County Detachment #247 was chartered on April 12, 1945, with the first Commandant being Leland Whittaker. We are the first detachment to be present in Suffolk County. Meetings were held in a small house in



Bay Shore until 1974 when the new building property was given to the detachment by the town (picture of the old building and new build-

ing). In May of 1956, a town representative assisted the detachment in obtaining the M1 57mm artillery anti-tank gun that graces our front



lawn. The Eagle was commissioned in October 1984 and has had its head replaced 5 times as vandals have



knocked it's head off - whether in protest or just teenage vagrants (pictures of the eagle and the commissioning ceremony above). We also had one of our German MG-08 Machine Guns stolen from the roof of our detachment in

February 2023 - that weapon was donated to us in 1940.

- It was part of the original building decor.



In 2007, shortly after the opening of the Marine Corps League Museum, the detachment purchased a brick and has continued to donate and support the history of the Marine Corps. In 2009, we began celebrating our Marine Corps

Birthday with a yearly Ball as is our tradition. In 2019 we started our Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to local school districts with students that have a Military history or plan to join the armed services. We have been the central location for Suffolk County Toys for Tots for 5 years now. In 2024 we started our Pro Bono clinic to



assist Veterans of all branches with legal services and many other services that are available to Veterans.

While we have had many significant members at our detachment, we have a Marine who was awarded 3 purple hears - Jim McCann - who also served as the Commandant from 2010 - 2011, he earned two in 1966 and 1 in 1967. We have had many local representatives as members and we currently have a Suffolk County Legislator as a full member, Chad Lennon.

The current Commandant, Jaclyn Imperati, has served as such since 2024, if the first female Commandant of their Detachment.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

I've been Hacked!

Something none of us want yet it happens. You emails are somehow hacked and they have access to your contacts. They then send emails to all your contacts asking for funds, usually in the form of gift cards. Use common sense when you receive emails asking for gift cards from friends who may use your name but not your email address. That should be an eye opener right there. When this happens call or text the person you think may have sent this email to confirm. Never take an email at face value, especially when they are asking for money. For your protection, change your password.

To protect ourselves and our community, the department urges you to follow these guidelines:

- 1. Do Not Share Personal Information:** Under no circumstances should you share personal or sensitive data in response to atypical email requests.
- 2. Verify Unusual Requests:** If you receive an email that appears to be from PDC Wortmann or any other individual requesting unusual actions, such as financial transactions or the sharing of privileged information, please verify the request directly through established communication channels.
- 3. Report Suspicious Activity:** If you receive a suspicious email, promptly report it to the FTC. To report it and learn more please visit [Phishing | Federal Trade Commission](#). Your vigilance is crucial in mitigating potential threats.
- 4. Educate Yourself:** Familiarize yourself with common email scams and phishing techniques to better protect your information and our organization. (see the FTC link in item #3).

Department of New York Mobilizes Support for California Wildfire Victims

In response to the devastating wildfires sweeping through California, the Marine Corps League Department of New York has taken decisive action to assist Marines and their families who have been impacted by this catastrophe. With countless homes and businesses threatened, the Department has pledged its support through financial contributions aimed at providing immediate relief.

The initiative commenced with a substantial commitment from the Department, which approved an initial donation of \$500 to the Marine Corps League Department of California. This funding will be directed towards Marines in the affected regions, ensuring that assistance reaches those most in need during this challenging time.

In light of the ongoing crisis, the Department is now appealing to its detachments, members, and the public at large for additional donations to bolster this relief effort. Contributions can be made through the Department's official website at <https://www.mclnewyork.org/donate/>, where donors can select the "California Wildfire Disaster Assistance Fund." Alternatively, checks can be made payable to the "**Marine Corps League Department of New York**" with "**CA Wildfires**" noted in the memo section.

Checks should be mailed to the following address:

Marine Corps League Department of New York
PO Box 360
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706-0360

As the wildfires continue to wreak havoc, the Marine Corps League Department of New York is committed to supporting its fellow Marines in California. Your contributions will play a critical role in alleviating the hardships faced by those affected, ensuring that they receive the assistance they need to recover and rebuild.



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Around the State

Father Capodanno Detachment celebrates the Marine Corps Birthday

On Nov 10, 2024 the Father Capodanno Detachment along with invited guests celebrated the 249th Marine Corps Birthday at a local restaurant in Mineola NY



Performance Courtesy of Fr. Capodanno Associate member Reagan Stone.



Left to right: Tom Bussita, Vincent Annunziata, John Huber, Frederick DeAbreu, Bruce Marsanico, and Ken Finlay



The cutting of the cake and giving one slice to the oldest Marine present: Marty Krieger



Dr. Nicholas Qandah and family made a generous donation of 50 Turkeys to local Veterans in need. The turkeys will be distributed this week through the Marine Corps League, the VFW and American Legion in Rome. Pictured from left to right are County Executive Anthony Picente Jr., Marine Corps League DoNY Past Commandant Thomas Arcuri, Dr. Qandah and his Wife and children, Matt Van Etten VFW District 4 Commander and State Senator Joseph Griffo



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Around the State



(left) Long Island Area Deputy Vice Commandant Carlos Garcia visiting Marine AI (no last name given) a WW2 veteran for the 249th birthday of our Corps



(right) While visiting family, Sr Vice Commandant David Wiggs and Judge Advocate Cathrine Wiggs drove down to Saluda Virginia to pay their respects a the grave of Lt. General Chesty Puller.

If you wish to participate in league shooting competition, you will need your own insurance, you can buy this at a discounted rate from the national website. You can find it here.

[Shooting insurance](#)

The website for the Essex county Marine is up and running. Check it out.

<https://essexcountyleathernecks.org>

Editors comments

When submitting a photograph, I cannot use photos inserted into an email, PDF or MS Word Document. Make sure each photo is a separate file of the highest quality possible. Captions should briefly describe the event along with the detachment number and name.

Thank you

(right bottom) Marine Doug DuVal and Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis at the Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment during one of their many holiday and veterans events Last year.





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Around the State

www.thepurpleheart.com

A site that honors all Purple heart recipients. Member Steve Capirci is looking for names of all service personal who have been awarded the Purple Heart. For more information, contact him at stevecapirci@gmail.com.



(Above) Steve Capirci was the only Marine present at the opening ceremonies at the Purple heart Museum



(above) West Area Vice Commandant Steve Capirci, Commandant Ken Blachura and Joe Peters from Bett-Toomey Detachment. Back in December 2024, we went to the VA Hospital in Buffalo to hand out VSC store gift cards to several patients.

Helpful Reminders

Be sure to report to the Department Senior Vice Commandant, all funeral honors, dedication honors and ceremonial honors rendered by your detachment as well as parades and other events your detachment participated in. This information gets passed up to the Northeast Division and then onto National.

If you don't know the answer to a question, ask those that do. Get the right answer, ask an elected officer, if they don't know, they can get it.

[Department Spring Meeting](#) Beacon, NY
March 28th and 29th 2025

[National Northeast Division Conference](#), Binghamton, NY
April 4th and 5th 2025

Department Convention Syracuse NY
June 4, 5, & 6th 2025

[National Convention](#) Dallas / Fort Worth TX
August 11 to the 15th 2025

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Around the State

Essex County Leathernecks Plan birthday ball

Marine Corps to celebrate 250th anniversary

BY SHAUNDRA BARTLETT YAW | Sun Community News

TICONDEROGA | This November, the Essex County Leathernecks are planning to host an event that doesn't happen very often, and they will make sure it is one for the ages. On Nov10, 2025, the United States Marine Corps will celebrate its 250th anniversary, an occasion surely marked by fanfare. In the North Country, the Leathernecks will throw a grand 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball to commemorate two and-a-half centuries of the branch of the American military that acts as the premier crisis response force.

"The Birthday Ball will be open to any and all residents, military or not, all are welcome to attend," said Walter Peterson, Commandant of the League. We are hoping to see people from all branches of the military, people who have been out of the area awhile, as wells people who may be passing through to celebrate with us. This celebration will be on a larger scale than what most small detachments are able to do."

Detachment 791, Essex County Leathernecks (the term 'leatherneck' was started during WWI when the Marines had leather sewn into uniforms to protect their necks from slashing sword blades in battle) of the Marine Corps League is classified as a veteran/military service organization and was formed for the purposes of promoting the interests of the U.S. Marine Corps. Providing camaraderie and assistance to Marines, as well as to their widows and orphans, the League (based in Crown Point and Ticonderoga with between 40 and 50 members) aims to preserve the traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Put into action locally, the Leathernecks participate in parades, military funerals, create Easter baskets for the elderly, assist in community functions, and support the Toys for Tots program. They also hold a local essay contest for all Essex County High school seniors, awarding four students with \$500. In the fall of 2022, the Leathernecks unveiled an impressive even-foot-high polished black granite monument that specifically honors Marines from the Adirondacks in Crown Point's Veterans Park.

The Leathernecks are active, and they stand for something. And for the Birthday Ball, they intend to pull out all the stops.

For those who like to dress up and look spiffy, this is the event for you. Ladies will don evening dresses and ball gowns.

"This will be a formal event," Peterson said. "A lot of us will be in uniforms or tuxedos or black ties."

The Birthday Ball is slated for Saturday, Nov. 15, the venue yet to be determined. There are local contenders for the location, and the location will be locked in at their next business meeting on Mar. 6. In years prior, the Leathernecks

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Around the State

Essex County Leathernecks Plan birthday ball continued from page 14

held their celebrations at the Ticonderoga EMA when it was a banquet hall, with turnouts averaging 100 people, 185 being their biggest. Peterson is anticipating the November event may also see record numbers. There will be a sit-down dinner, drinks, music and dancing, and the Leathernecks desire a venue that will have hotel accommodations so that guests will have no worries and be able to fully enjoy the ball.

According to Peterson, the Birthday Ball will put a major emphasis and focus on the Marine Corps' traditions and rich history.



"A big part of boot camp or Officer Candidate School (OCS) is that you are taught the history and traditions of the Marine Corps," he explained. "There are certain things that will take place at the ball that have been taking place since the 1920s. We have an official cake-cutting ceremony with pieces of cake going to the oldest Marine present and then the youngest Marine present. There is a message that is read every year from General Lejeune from 1923. His message is read at every Marine Corps birthday celebration, we also read the current Commandants and Sergeant of the Marine Corps."

Peterson is a third-generation Marine, serving from July of 1992 to August of 2015. He praises his time in the corps as the most influential and character-building experience of his life.

"The entire experience breeds camaraderie and esprit de corps," he remarked. "You make friends that will last a lifetime, and it gives you discipline to get any job done. There is a saying that we always revert back to, 'Improvise, adapt, and overcome.' You can relate that to pretty much any job in the world."

The Essex County Leathernecks will soon be distributing a sponsorship form for any local businesses who would like to have their name mentioned or a table in their honor at the ball. For updates on the 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball and ticket information as November draws closer, please visit essexcountyleathernecks.org or follow their Facebook page @Essex-County Leathernecks.



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SOME MARINE FIRSTS

According to the Facebook group, “Marine Corps League Connections”.

At the official ceremony in 1913, to open the Panama Canal, a tug loaded with US Army officials prepared to be the first to transit the locks of the canal. As soon as the vessel started, a canoe appeared alongside with two marines on board that paddled furiously to pass the tug and take the unofficial honors.



Marines stationed on Guam at the time.

And we fired the first shots of WW1

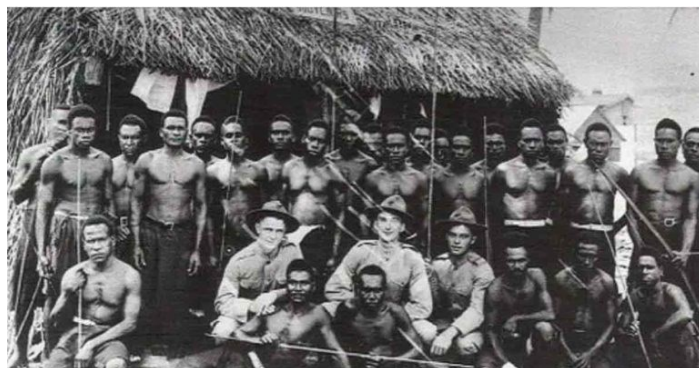
The United States would not enter the war on the side of the Allies for nearly three more years, and when it did, the first shot an American serviceman fired at an enemy in that colossal conflict was not in the trenches in France or on the battlefields of the eastern front, but in the harbor of a Pacific island.

The German merchant raider *Cormoran* put into Guam, on December 14, 1914.



Guam was American territory, and the United States was still neutral. Nearly out of coal, the *Cormoran* and her crew were interned by American naval authorities and remained in Apra for the next two years.

On April 7, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and boarding parties of sailors and Marines led by Lieutenant W.A. Hall, USN, stationed on Guam, went to seize the ship. When a boat from the *Cormoran* was seen headed for shore, Hall ordered Corporal Michael Chockie, USMC, to fire a shot across the boat’s bow – the first American shot fired of World War I. At first, the Germans ignored the warning, but after Chockie and other men fired several more shots into the water near the boat, its crew hove to. The German captain then blew up his ship killing several German sailors.



As described in the archives of the Naval History and Heritage Command, “This brief encounter at Guam resulted in the first violence of the war, the first Germans killed in action with the United States, the first German prisoners of war captured by the United States forces, and the first shots fired between the U.S. and Germany.

(Left) Marines stationed on the island of Guam at the time

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