



NUMBER 3-21

# National Award Winning

## Department of New York Newsletter "The Ground Pounder"

SHARE WITH DETACHMENTS AND MEMBERS

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



JULY – SEPT. 2021

### 2021 OFFICERS

#### COMMANDANT

Tom Arcuri  
tarcuri@me.com

#### SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT

Dean Lawton Sr.  
deanthenmarine@gmail.com

#### JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT

David Wiggs  
dwiggs@stny.rr.com

#### JUDGE ADVOCATE

Mike Piscioti  
JAiPisciotiDoNY@gmail.com

#### JUNIOR PAST COMMANDANT

Tom Wortmann  
railmarine@gmail.com

#### ADJUTANT

Steve Topilnycky  
spt1@mclwestchester.org

#### CHAPLAIN

Vinny Annunziata  
DoNYChaplain@gmail.com

#### PAYMASTER

Ralph Luciani  
Rafaelluc@aol.com

#### SERGEANT At ARMS

Scott Westcott  
f4phantomii@live.com

#### NY PACK LEADER

Tom Wortmann  
railmarine@gmail.com

#### AUXILLIARY PRESIDENT

Maureen Dunn  
dunnrunner0811@aol.com

#### PAST AUXILLIARY PRESIDENT

Nancy Lewosko  
nlewosko45@gmail.com

#### EDITOR

Donna Hildebrandt  
newsletter.dny@gmail.com

For a complete roster, refer to website [mclnewyork.net](http://mclnewyork.net). For discrepancies e-mail the Adjutant.



# COMMANDANT'S CORNER

THOMAS ARCURI  
COMMANDANT

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

### Marines,

As the Marine Corps approaches our 246<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we find ourselves in a peace time posture.

Having been at war for the last twenty years, and many will see this as a welcome change.

It has been my experience that when a war ends, Washington starts looking for places to reduce spending. As many of you remember, when the Vietnam war ended, many Marines were offered early outs and a reduction in manpower was the

primary concern. I believe we will see the same reductions in the near future. My concern is that newly separated Marines will need assistance with the transition back to civilian life and this is where the Marine Corps League will be able to step up and assist. My suggestion is that you contact your local Marine recruiters who I understand are notified of separated Marines. Approach the recruiters and offer the assistance of your detachment. As you are aware, many League members have

connections with local businesses and may be able to refer these Marines for jobs. The mission of the Marine Corps League is to assist Marines in need and this seems to a perfect opportunity for us to show support for our Brothers and Sisters. You may even get some new members!

Semper Fidelis  
**Thomas Arcuri**  
Commandant  
Dept. of New York





*11 September 2001 – 2021*



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## FEEL NO GUILTY LAUGHTER

Feel no guilty laughter  
 he knows how much you care  
 For no sorrow in a smile  
 that he is not here to share

You cannot grieve forever  
 he would not want you to  
 He hoped that you could carry on  
 the way you always do

So talk about your good times  
 and the ways you showed you care  
 The days you spent together  
 and all the happiness you share

Let memories surround you  
 a word someone may say  
 When suddenly we capture  
 a time, an hour or a day

That brings them back  
 as clearly as if you are here  
 And fills you with the feeling  
 that he is always near

For if you keep these memories  
 you’ll never be afar  
 And he will stay forever  
 locked safely within your heart

TO SIGN UP FOR  
 THE DEPT. E-BLAST  
<http://bit.ly/2I5Pe83>



LINK TO  
 PAST EDITIONS OF  
 “THE GROUND POUNDER”

[https://mclnewyork.net/  
 index.php/newsletter](https://mclnewyork.net/index.php/newsletter)

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE — DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK  
 P.O. BOX 360, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK 10706  
 TO LOCATE A DoNY OFFICER CONTACT ADJUTANT  
 EMAIL: [spt1@mclwestchester.org](mailto:spt1@mclwestchester.org) PHONE: 914-263-0840





# Messages from the Officers



## FROM JUNIOR PAST COMMANDANT TOM WORTMANN

Marines and Members of the Department,

It is with great hope we are seeing the end of the pandemic. With that said, it is the time to get out and recruit. People are getting out more and now is a good time to grab them.

There are many discharged Marines in New York that we can enroll. We need them, we need young blood — 30 and 40 year-olds. But as in the past, we are the least known veterans’ organization. The discharged are not coming to us, so we need to go to them.

If your detachment does not want new members, then you have signed your own death warrant. Younger members keep the detachments alive and moving into the future with new ideas. Embrace those ideas. Do not shy away from them. Remember you can always go back to the old way if those new ideas don’t work but you will never know unless you try.

**It is the responsibility of the Detachment Junior Vice to submit plans to recruit and retain members.** It does not matter what that plan is as long as it is done. Don’t submit a grandiose plan that is unattainable. You’re just wasting time and paper. At the very least, hang posters in your local shopping areas. You can also recruit at Toys for Tots gathering or Rose Program outings. The ideas are limitless but none will work if you don’t do the legwork.

New members are our future Marines, go get them.

Semper Fi,  
Tom Wortmann



## FROM THE EDITOR DONNA HILDEBRANDT

There is some really fabulous news that Junior Past Commandant Tom Wortmann and I want to share with you! At the last DoNY convention, PDC Jim Ransom told us about a national competition for

the best Department newsletter across the United States. So this year, we entered the Commandant’s last newsletter and, my first.

This year, ladies and gentlemen — DoNY WON FIRST PLACE! Now we have a year’s worth of bragging rights! We are very proud bring this award home to New York. Thank you all for your submissions. We could no not have done it without you!

I am pleased that there has been such positive feedback about my first edition of the “Ground Pounder.” This edition is long, but it has some very interesting content including the National Convention.

In this edition, a Marine presented an idea for a new section, it is called “Then and Now.” Check it out on pages 5-6. You are encouraged to contribute to contribute this segment for future publications. Your response will determine its’ lifespan. Also, as a result of a

suggestion from another, there is now a Table of Contents.

The “Ground Pounder” requests continued support by sending in content. Your newsletter can only thrive with your involvement.

As an idea to promote the MCL, share this newsletter with detachments, perspective members and leave a few copies in public spaces like your local VA. It is a great way to encourage others to join.

**Editions of the “Ground Pounder” can be found at <https://mclnewyork.net/index.php/newsletter>**

*Please be sure to share info that the link to newsletters is also found on the E-Blast. I have learned that not everyone knows this.*







# Then & Now

HONOR, COURAGE & COMMITMENT



## MARINE SCOTT VANGROL

credits the Marines for teaching him organizational skills, ability to follow procedures and guidelines to insure mission success both in the Marines and in civilian life.



Left: Sgt. SCOTT VANGROL, C-117 Crew chief, MCAS Quantico, VA, Circa 1975

Right: Marine SCOTT VANGROL, Genesee Valley Det. #223, NY State Fair Booth

## SGT. KENNETH BLACHURA

thanks the Marines for developing his drive for future use in his civilian life. His two meritorious promotions in Da Nang Vietnam led him to the 2nd Mar Div Guerrilla Warfare Center at Camp Lejeune. He trained thousands of Marines in the fundamentality of Counter-Guerilla Warfare and successful counter-operations with his practical applications. The success from those years, helped drive him over the course of his career.



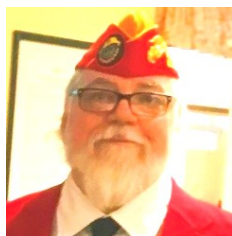
Top: SGT. KEN BLACHURA, Sgt. E5, Oct. 1967

Bottom: Marine KEN BLACHURA, Commandant of Bett-Toomey Det. #216,

## MARINE ALBERT HAZZARD

credits the Marines for teaching him teamwork, initiative, and a can-do attitude is all a part of the Marine Corps Ethos. Organizational skill learned and applied in the Corps and following.

Brotherhood is especially meaningful when working on PTSD, Suicide and Crisis intervention. You can take the Marine out of the War but you can't take the war out of the Marine.



Top: PFC HAZZARD. VMFA-115, MCAS Chu Lai, RVN 1970

Bottom: HAZZARD at the Bath, NY VAMC fair booth, making Donation from Raider Detachment #461, Inc.

## MARINE THOMAS ARCURI

The **Commandant of the Department of New York** served active duty from 1971 -1973, 2nd Bn. 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. He concurrently serves as the Commandant Edward L. Smith Jr. Detachment. He has also proudly held the post of Past Pack Leader of the Military order of Devil Dogs.



Left: MARINE ARCURI 1971



# Then & Now

HONOR, COURAGE & COMMITMENT



## MARINE DOROTHY COLE



*Proud to  
have Served!*

## MARINE WILFREDO MUNIZ JR.

Marine Muniz Jr., served in Marine Corps Reserves from 1999-2007 and deployed to Iraq during OEF/OIF in 2003.

Presently he is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor.



*Top:* Taken at Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Brooklyn NY, 10 Nov. 2005.

*Bottom:* He serves as Commandant of the Westchester County Det. #254.



## MARINE STEVE TOPILNCKY

In 1980, Marine Topilnycky enlisted as part of the delayed entry program in high school, and entered boot camp in July 1981. Upon completion of boot camp and MOS training, Marine Topilnycky entered the Marine Corps Reserve and served nearly 9 years. Marine Topilnycky is also a retired Correction officer with 31½ years of service. Marine Topilnycky has been a member of the Marine Corps League – Westchester County Detachment #254 since December 1986. He is currently serving as Adjutant Paymaster for the Detachment and Adjutant for the Department. During his service to the League he has been recognized for his service.

*Left:*  
PVT Topilnycky, 1981

*Right:*  
Marine Topilnycky at the Northeast Division Conference, 5 June 2021.



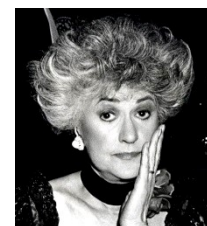
## MARINE BERNICE (BEA) ARTHUR

On 13 Feb. 1943, a call went out to women across America: “Be a Marine . . . Free a Man to Fight.” Two months short of her 21st birthday (after receiving her parents’ consent) the then Bernice Frankel, enlisted into the Marines on 20 Feb. 1943. From 1944-1945 in WWII, Arthur worked as a driver and a dispatcher. She served until Sep. 1945. By discharge time, she had attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. Her discharge paperwork indicated a desire to pursue drama and the rest is history.

*Above:* 15 April 1943 as Bernice Frankel at the time of enlistment.

*Below:* Bea Arthur as a celebrity

*References:*  
[www.nationalww2museum.org/.../bea-arthur-us-marine](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/.../bea-arthur-us-marine)  
<https://news.amomama.com/209994-bea-arthurs-heroic>







# A Farewell SALUTE



### SERVICE 23 JULY 2021

#### PDC WILLIAM MCGOWAN

A memorial observance was held to celebrate the life and service of Past Department Commandant, MSGT William J. McGowan who passed on 3 May 2020. He was laid to rest at the beautiful Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery .

The beautiful outdoor venue and blue skies set the stage for a long-overdue memorial ceremony honoring PDC, Master Sergeant Bill McGowan.

Our East Area Color Guard and the Marines from Westover, MA were instrumental in the ceremony. The Firing Squad of the Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard did the Rifle Volleys, followed by a powerful rendition of Taps.



Bill was loved and respected. The memorial was attended by family, Marines and a large contingent of Leathernecks, who all paid their respect to an unforgettable man.



*A Salute to Bill*

Rev. (PDC) Ricardo Sheppard presided over the event as he had promised McGowan that he would. The tribute was heartfelt

and personal. Sheppard said, "The written word isn't able to say what we are feeling at times like this. Our hearts may be heavy, but remember that Bill was full of LIFE."



McGowan had such overwhelming influence on Rev. Sheppard, that he credits McGowan with the strength to attain his ordainment.



There were three things Bill loved.  
He loved **GOD**.  
He loved the **CORPS**.  
And mostly he loved his **FAMILY**.

In a final act of respect, the Marines' Hymn was sung, followed with an exuberant **OOO RAH!**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE COLOR GUARD, LYNN STANTON OF MEMORIAL #2, DARYL EISEN OF ADIRONDACK, SKIP DIAMOND & LANCE OLIVER OF TROY DETACHMENT**

Compiled from several contributors



### SERVICE AUGUST 31, 2021

#### PDC DUANE FROST

A Service with Military Honors was held for Frost. His internment was on 1 Sept 2021. His final resting place is the Western New York National Cemetery in Pembroke. The family suggests donations to any veterans' charity to show sympathy.

Sgt. Duane Frost was born in Silver Creek and on 4 April 1949. As an adult, he settled in Niagara Falls and later passed at the age of 72 on 24 August 2021 at Buffalo General Medical Center.

Sgt. Frost proudly served 2 tours in the United States Marine Corps as a rifleman during the Vietnam War from 19 June 1968 until his honorable discharge on 16 June 1972.

As a **3-time Purple Heart recipient**, Marine Frost was appropriately active in the Purple Heart Chapter #264 in Niagara Falls.

Frost was also life member of the Conrad F. Kania Marine Corps League, Detachment #230, where he served as Past Commandant and more recently, was a member of the 2nd Lt. John Paul Bobo Marine Corps Detachment #1118. He was also a member of MODD #37. Before his passing he was the Commander and Life member of the American Legion John J. Welch Post #381 and Life Member of the VFW Post #54.



It's been said that Frost was a hero to all who knew him.



Edited obituary from Otto Redanz Funeral Home, Niagara Falls





# A Farewell SALUTE

## SERVICE ON 7 AUGUST 2021 HONORARY DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT ROSEMARIE POMERANTZ

A Celebration of Life was held at Scoresby Hose Hook & Ladder Co. in Ellenville, NY

7 May 1942  
3 August 2021



## SERVICE ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2021 COMMANDANT ULSTER DETACHMENT DONALD WELLS

Interment with military honors was provided by VFW Post 1386 and the USMC at Fairview Cemetery, Stone Ridge.

61 years old  
Departed 28 August 2021



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Marine RoseMarie Pomerantz of Napanoch. At 79, she passed away peacefully on 3 August 2021.

Marine Pomerantz proudly enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on May 31, 1960 and later honorably discharged on 21 July 1961.

Vietnam veteran Pomerantz was an Honorary Department Commandant and Life Member of the Westchester County Detachment #254. She served as Ulster County Coordinator for Toys for Tots for 30 years. Pomerantz founded The Eagle Detachment where she was past Commandant. Also, she was Pack Leader of the Devil Dogs; and the Adjutant to the Commandant of the NYS Marine Corps League as well as other offices for the League.

Needless to say, she was extremely active in several Veteran organizations and held an official office within each one. In addition, the Marine was a hunter safety instructor for 25 years. Pomerantz enjoyed involvement in various groups; a member of The American Legion, Post 150 in Kingston, Ladies of the Elk's B.P.O.E. 1971, Vietnam Vets and life member of the Wawarsing Rod & Gun Club.

She was a fun-loving woman. Her sense of humor and wit were part of her amazing personality. She will be missed.

She leaves behind her husband of 29 years, Gary, several family members and her beloved dog, Cleo.

The family appreciates donations to Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, at 800 Stony Brook Court, Newburgh, NY 12550.



*Edited and compiled from E-Blast and Obituary*

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Ulster Detachment #253 Commandant Donald Wells. Donnie Wells, 61, of Lomontville, died Saturday 28 August 2021 at home after a long and courageous battle. He was born in Fort Fairfield, Maine and at 2 years old moved to the Kingston/Hurley area. Donnie graduated from Kingston High School in 1978.

Donnie was a United States Marine Corps veteran who proudly served his country, and later became the a Marine Corps League Commandant of Ulster Detachment #253.

He was involved in his community in many ways. He served as adjutant of the American Legion Post #1512; Secretary for the Lomontville Fire Department; President of the Marblatown Mixed League; involvement in Dartball at the White Eagle; and player/manager for softball for years. For additional recreation he loved to golf with his friends, and visiting Lake George every summer with his family. He was also a member of the Kingston Bowling League Hall of Fame.

Donnie was a member of the IBEW and most recently worked for the Devereux Foundation in Red Hook, first as maintenance worker and then as the Facilities Manager.

Donnie is survived by his wife of 36 years, June and multiple other family and beloved friends.

His family suggests memorial donations to the Ulster Detachment Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 1584, Kingston, NY 12402.

To view the obituary online and to sign the guest book, visit: <https://www.gjmoylanfuneralhome.com/obituary/donald-j-wells#gb-entry-form>

*Edited from E-Blast*



# WE CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE Day BECAUSE OF OUR MILITARY

## MASSAPEQUA ANNUAL PARADE

In an annual tradition, the town of Massapequa organized a parade to honor the town, their veterans and express special recognition for one of their own. Honoree Ron Kovic was portrayed in the movie "Born on the 4th of July." Marines from Sunrise Detachment #248 show their respect.



SUNRISE DETACHMENT #248 Massapequa Independence Day Parade

Submitted by Carlos Garcia

Submitted by Dave Brisbane, Commandant Memorial Day Detachment #468



MEMORIAL DAY DETACHMENT #468 Cannandaigua Independence Day Parade



Above from Facebook

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# EVENTS



## DEVIL DOGS GROWL

**31 JULY 2021**

### DEVIL DOGS POUND 37 GROWL

245 Canisteo Street, Hornell, NY 14843

Marine Corps League Raider Det. #461 & the VFW Post #2250 of Hornell welcomed the Devil Dogs Pound 37, New York Pack on July 31 for the Pound's second GROWL since COVID-19. The host Devil Dogs provided food for the Devil Dogs who made the journey for a howling good time. The Conrad Kania detachment arrived in style in their van that was painted by the late Marine Kiwi in 2004. All Marines are encouraged to join the Military Order of Devil Dogs.



From left to right: Ken Blachura, Mike Targon, Bill Beeke, Steve Keller, Tom Marrocco, Tom Tomasso, Bud Hazzard, Scott VanGrol, Jack Weiss, Frank Klipstein, Terry Brolinski, Al Merrill, Calvin Pickens and Randy Rider.

## DEVIL DOGS GROWL

**1 AUGUST 2021**

### DEVIL DOGS POUND 134 GROWL

"Fido" chills at the Military Order of Devil Dogs Growl that was held on 1 August 2021 at the Electric City Detachment. Present were Skip Diamond, April Wheeler-Kellerman, Mick DellaValle Scott Westcott, Timothy Forbes, Robert Becker and Sandy Lape.



Obtained from Facebook



**Advertise your League and Corps by proudly wearing your League jacket, shirt and/or cover everywhere you go. When you proudly wear MCL apparel, you show the world what you stand for. So, promote the organization, and encourage recruitment, and new participants.**

Semper Fidelis Marines





# EVENTS



## “ THE NATIONALS ”

16-18 JULY 2021

### ANNUAL NAPA AUTO PARTS CAR SHOW

Marine Corps League members of the Greater Syracuse Detachment #224 attended the largest car show on the East coast known as “The Nationals.”

The 20th annual car show was held at the NYS fair grounds in Syracuse. It boasted more than 8000 cars and trucks, and six that were substantially customized. Despite the record heat, the event had a record number of guests, vendors and money donated to charity. For the complete story, visit the website <https://syracusenationals.com/>

*From Bob Brown  
Senior Vice Commandant  
and <https://syracusenationals.com>*



*Don Healy, Oliver Jackson, Joe Fallon, Commandant Ron Fairwell and Bob Brown.*

*Submitted by Bob Brown*



*Chaplain John Slask keeping cool in the record heat.*

*Obtained from Facebook*

## ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

31 JULY 2021

### EJ BREWSTER ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Hardinge Park, 247 Upper Oakwood Ave., Horseheads, NY 14845

EJ Brewster Detachment from Elmira, hosted a family picnic and recruiting event. The annual event invites potential new members and their families, to the enjoy the day and make bonds. Meat and drinks were provided, while others brought a dish to share.

The attendees enjoyed the park’s amenities: mini golf, basketball court, swings, and the detachment had a corn hole tournament.



## CONRAD KANIA PICNIC

### BUILDING STRONGER BONDS

Members of Conrad Kania Detachment #230 hosted a picnic at the Raymond Klimek Veteran’s Park in N. Tonawanda. Typical picnic fixins, plus home made chowder was served. The picnic was enjoyed by additional detachments too.



*Randy from Bett-Toomey, chats with John, a Purple Heart recipient and Korean War Vet from Niagara Frontier Detachment.*



**SEE E-BLAST DATED 7 JULY 2021  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
SUBMITTING A CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE  
A SCHOLARSHIP FOR DENTAL STUDENTS**



# EVENTS



## BIG WINNER!

This young lady won the Grand Prize at the free raffle run by the Memorial Day Detachment #468 at the Seneca County Fair. The detachment has a booth at the fair selling fried dough, salt potatoes, water and soft drinks. The detachment had a free raffle for kids to win stuffed animals and small toys to promote Toys For Tots. The booth is the detachments major fund raiser.



Submitted by Dave Brisbane, Commandant Memorial Day Detachment #468

## MONTHLY BREAKFAST

### BUILDING STRONGER BONDS

Members of the Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment in the Metro New York area are enjoying each other's company at their monthly breakfast gathering at Hyland Diner on the last Wednesday of ever month at 1000 hours. All members are welcome and encouraged to join.

*This is a fabulous idea. Try this or share what your detachment is doing to build comradery.*



Submitted by PDC Tom Wortmann Past Commandant Department of New York

## EAGLE SCOUTS

### PUTNAM COUNTY MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

had the privilege to acknowledge FIVE Eagle Scouts from Brewster Troop One. Congratulations for attaining this honorable milestone.



Commandant Jack Duncan presented awards to Steven Santamarena, Nicol Haywood, Keith Rusinko, Andrew DiFabbio, and Kyle DeSantis.

Obtained from Facebook

## DONY NOW HAS A FACEBOOK GROUP!



### Join

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcldonny>



Please be aware that the editor may take some content for the newsletter





# EVENTS



## “CREATING HOPE — SAVING LIVES”

## SOUTHWEST AREA CONTINUES THEIR MISSIONS

# MISSION 22 TO ZERO

## “WORKING TOGETHER — WORKING IN HARMONY”

The Southwest area team, lead by Vice Commandant Hazzard, is set up in Belvidere, NY. This team gathers to help veterans and their families in many situations. **Mission 22 to Zero** brings attention to the 22 veterans who commit suicide daily, while **The Rose Project** provides health and comfort items for hospitalized veterans. The Rose Project is also designed to help veterans and youth who are in need of assistance, as well as offering support for communities. The program may utilize the detachments to distribute the funds appropriately.

At Veterans Park in Hornell, A.W. Hazzard shared Crisis Intervention materials and recruited 12 new members for the Raider Detachment.



A.W. Hazzard

This team is proudly dedicated to the missions.  
*OO Rah!*

*Pictured below: Albert Merrill, Commandant, Raider Detachment #461; Aren Schank, Adjutant Raider Detachment #461, Unknown, AW Hazzard, Vice Commandant Southwest Area*

Al Merrill sold clocks with all services represented on the face. Aren Schank assisted.



Al Merrill

*Aren Schank & Albert Hazzard*



*Submitted by Albert Hazzard Vice Commandant Southwest Area*



*Submitted by Albert Hazzard Vice Commandant Southwest Area*

Visit  
<https://icisf.org/>  
<https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/>





# EVENTS



Members of the Memorial Day Detachment #468 present a check to the Canandaigua VAMC for their suicide prevention program. The funds were raised by the detachment at their Challenge 22 suicide prevention/awareness walk in May. Chairman Jim Wicker holds the check while Chaplain Bill Palmer and Commandant Dave Brisbane look on along with our partners at the Medical Center.

## CHALLENGE

# 22

AND DETACHMENT #468

SUICIDE PREVENTION / AWARENESS EVENT

Challenge 22 chairman Jim Wicker and Memorial Day Detachment #468 Commandant present a check for \$1887 to Warrior Salute Veteran Services at the Nucor House. The residents and staff provided us with a tour of the house and an explanation of the services provided. We were able to meet and speak with the residents pictured and others. The funds were raised through our Challenge 22 suicide prevention/awareness walk. Warrior Salute

Veterans Services provides case management and transitional housing support to veterans struggling with addiction, diagnosed with PTSD, TBI and military sexual trauma so they may transition back as vital members of their community.



Page submitted by Dave Brisbane  
Commandant Memorial Day Detachment #468



Members of Memorial Day Detachment #468 presented a check to Jonathan Friedlander, CEO of Equicenter, which is a facility that helps veterans and others with disabilities by using equine, culinary, and agricultural therapies as well as other modalities.

Equicenter also offers Mission Mustang, which is a veterans-only program that pairs veterans with mustangs from BLM. The objective is to help both the veteran and the mustang adjust to life more structured than they have become accustomed to.

The funds were part of the donations raised by Challenge 22. It's a 2.2 mile walk as a suicide prevention/awareness event, sponsored by the detachment.





# EVENTS



## KELO DUNHAM REUNION

Marines were honored to have served at the Kelo Dunham Reunion Memorial Service.

Although the dress was an unconventional uniform configuration, their presence was greatly appreciated for helping to remember those who gave all. The Marines felt honored to assist their brothers.



### Color Guard:

- Albert Merrill.....Rifle
- Calvin Pickens .....National Colors
- SSgt Mikalunas .....Detachment Colors
- Albert Hazzard .....Rifle

Submitted by Albert Hazzard  
Vice Commandant, Southwest Area

## DONATION FROM MODD

On 30 June 2021, Oneida Hospital (O.H.) received a \$3000 donation from the Military Order of Devil Dogs. The donation will be used towards the Isolette in the Infant Nursery/Lullaby Center of Oneida Health. Because of generous donations like this, O.H. will be able to support their newborn patients and provide the best care possible. PDC Ransom made the presentation to Gene Morreal, President and CEO.

Submitted by Jim Ransom  
Past Department Commandant



**Katherine Trombley**  
Oneida Health Foundation Director

**Gene Morreale**  
Oneida Health President and CEO

**Jim Ransom**  
Past Department Commandant

**Amy Smith**  
Oneida Health Hospital Lullaby Center  
Nurse Manager

## SHARING LUNCH

Marine's of VMA231 from Cherry Point were hosted for lunch by the members of the E.L. Smith Jr. detachment on 19 August 2021. Harrier jets from VMA 231 were temporarily based at Griffiss International Airport for training.



**Thomas Arcuri** - Dept. Commandant

**Tim Hudson** - Lt. Col.

**Mark Gullin** - Squadron Commander,  
Gunnery Sgt.

**Edward Arcuri** - Sr. Staff NCO, Airport  
Commissioner

**Raymond Arcuri** - Det. Paymaster

**Dan Berkhoudt**  
Detachment  
Adjutant Marines  
**Ed Bickford**  
**Mike Mills**  
**Ray Arcuri**



Submitted by Tom Arcuri  
Department Commandant





# MODD

## MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS



**The Military Order of Devil Dogs is welcoming quality individuals.**

MODD is an affiliate of the Marine Corps League that identifies as a Fun and Honor Society. Being a Devil Dog is an honor, privilege, and a lot of fun. They encourage quality individuals to join.

To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a regular member (USMC, or the FMF Corpsman or Chaplain) in good standing for a year, and be active in your detachment. To become a candidate, you may be asked by the MODD, or be recommended for by the detachment commandant with additional endorsement from 2 additional Devil Dogs from any part of the Pound. Before membership, the candidate undergoes a bit of an initiation ceremony. MODD "Ranks" are Pup, Devil Dog, and Pedigree Devil Dog. Everyone must start as a Pup and will advance in time. For fun the

MODD has are canine associations to many things. For example a Growl is a meeting, regional groups are known as Pounds. Although they are said to be the first to fight, one of the requirements of the order is to have fun at the Growls. These Growls are intended to unwind through laughter and comradery.



Part of the MODD goal is to improve public relations through donations to charities. Donations are to Children's and Veteran's hospitals to strictly be used for medical equipment. Every year MODD gathers to present donations to the charities.

Are there outstanding members of your detachment that are worthy of becoming a Devil Dog? Contact your commandant, who will be advised by NY Pack leader, Marine Tom Wortmann.

**DoNY NOW HAS A FACEBOOK GROUP!**

*Join*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcldonny>





# NAVAJO CONTRIBUTION

## NATIONAL ANNUAL NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY

On 14 August 2021, we again paid tribute to the Navajo who fearlessly contributed to the success of WWII. Between 375 and 420 Navajo men were recruited to be Code Talkers of the Marines, to serve in communications. By August of 1942 they were trained Marines and ready to commence on their adventure. Their language (Diné Bizaad) was a code that our enemies were unable to break as there were less than 28 people outside of their tribe who understood the language. Additional tribesmen joined the military, but it is the Code Talkers who created a legacy. Because



of their participation, they unknowingly created that legacy for the entire Navajo people for years to come. They assisted the United States Marines in every major operation involving Iwo Jima including battles in the Pacific. Their bravery was crucial to the outcome of the Allied Forces and victory in World War II.

Arizona was the first state to commemorate them and declared that 14 August as Arizona’s Navajo Code Talkers Day celebrated annually. It wasn’t until 1982 that former President Regan declared that the Navajo Code Talkers Day would be an annual national event, also held on 14 August.

May their priceless service forever be remembered. Thankfully the Code Talkers chose to assist the Allies in WWII. The outcome may have been different their selfless participation.

The Code Talkers had brought honor to themselves, their people, and the United States of America. Their service was given selflessly, honorably and with pride.

There are only 4 Code Talkers still alive, who represent all of their fellow Code Talkers.

*Photo and some text obtained from Facebook more from Google*





9-13 AUGUST, 2021

NATIONAL

# Convention

Wyndham Springfield City Center  
700 E. Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701



Submissions:  
Tom Arcuri  
Dean Lawton  
Tom Wortmann  
Mike Waluk  
some obtained  
from Facebook

**THESE PAGES WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS LIKE YOU. PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP OUR PUBLICATION #1**





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## BUSINESS & PLEASURE



Submissions:  
Tom Arcuri  
Dean Lawton  
Tom Wortmann  
Steve Topilnicky  
Mike Waluk  
Facebook



Johnny Baker, National Sr. Vice Commandant and Dennis Tobin, National Commandant





9-13 AUGUST, 2021

# NATIONAL

# Convention

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700 E. Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701



## BUSINESS & PLEASURE



State Capital as seen from the Wyndham



Monument to Vietnam veterans.



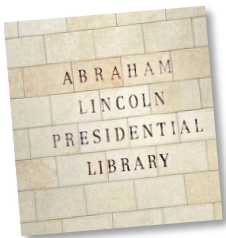
Dean Lawton Sr. (Department Sr. Vice Commandant),  
Volker Heyde (Metro-NY Area Vice Commandant),  
Tom Arcuri (Department Commandant),  
Tom Wortmann ( Jr. Past Commandant),  
David Wiggs (Department Jr. Vice Commandant)



Swearing in of National Officers



## LINCOLN



Submissions:  
Tom Arcuri  
Dean Lawton  
Tom Wortmann  
Mike Waluk  
some obtained from Facebook





9-13 AUGUST, 2021

# NATIONAL

# Convention

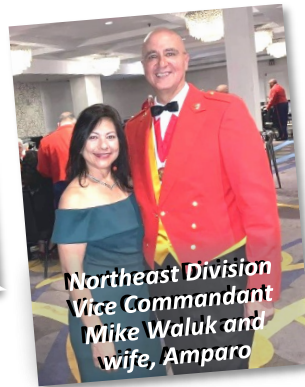
Wyndham Springfield City Center  
700 E. Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701



National Junior Past Commandant Dennis Tobin passing the colors to newly elected National Commandant Johnny Baker.



Mike Francis awarded Kennel Dog of the Year, and congratulated by Chief Devil Dog Tom Hazlett and Senior Vice Chief Devil Dog Allen Sanning



Northeast Division Vice Commandant Mike Waluk and wife, Amparo



Northeast Division Vice Commandant Mike Waluk and Northeast Division Marine Corps League Auxiliary President Sydney Minchin in the Memorial Service



## ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPRECIATION

There were numerous bylaws and polices adopted during the MCL 2021 Annual Convention. One is a unified award for Detachment,

Department, Division and National MCL Associate of the Year along with the creation of a National MCL Associate of the Year Society. This award is given in appreciation to the dedication and contributions that Associate members make for the MCL. For complete details see mclnational website or contact our adjutant.



## RIFLE / PISTOL TEAMS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Commandant Tom Arcuri writes, "It was an honor to represent the Department of New York at the National Convention in Springfield Ill. I'd like to give a shout out to Lynn Stanton, the department Rifle / Pistol coordinator for his teams outstanding performance during recent competitions! It was a particular honor to accept medals awarded on behalf of Lynn Stanton, Van Dyke Bergen, Jason Hall, Terrance Sullivan and Robert Atkinson. Well done Marines!

From the Facebook page of Tom Arcuri

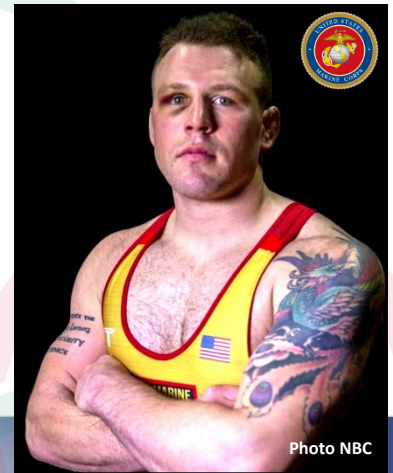


## NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT NORTHEAST DIVISION

Congratulations to Mike Waluk who was elected as National Vice Commandant, Northeast Division. Credentials pictured to the left are patches, pins, challenge Coins, his dog collar, a program journal and the credentials ribbon. To send congratulations, his email address is ([mwaluk@aol.com](mailto:mwaluk@aol.com))

Edited from information from Northeast Division Vice Commandant ,Mike Waluk

# MARINE *at the* OLYMPICS



SSGT JOHN STEFANOWICZ

## MARINE SSGT JOHN STEFANOWICZ COMPETES AT 2020 OLYMPICS

It takes an extensive commitment, training with dedication to reach the level of an Olympic quality competitor. Staff Sgt. John Stefanowicz proved himself qualified by winning several matches in the states for Greco-Roman Wrestling. The 29-year-old Stefanowicz was the first U.S. Marine to wrestle in the Olympic games since 1992 and hopes to be the first American to medal in his sport since Beijing in 2008.

Stefanowicz is from a farming community in Hopewell, Pennsylvania where he trained with his brother. He had no interest in college, so Stefanowicz gave up wrestling and joined the Marines where he reached rank of SSGT performing intelligence work.



In 2017 he began wrestling again, and progressed rapidly despite a substantial increase in height and weight.

After many successes, he was seeded fourth at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials as he and proceeded to beat every favored opponent. It was his strength that helped him to qualify for Tokyo.

Stefanowicz had become known over the past couple of years, for rallying at the end to defeat his opponents. Peyton Walsh, his fellow Marine from the national wrestling team, commented that,

‘When the odds are stacked against him, he gets better... No matter how battered he is, he is not going to lose... That is what Marines do.’ said Walsh.

Unfortunately, the rally tactic did not work this time against his Croatian opponent, Ivan Huklek, who had his own impressive wrestling resume. It was quite a surprise to many when the Marine was defeated in his opening match by the Croatian.

It takes a lot of grit and fortitude to qualify for the Olympic games and as a Marine, he definitely has that. Even though he did not medal, his presence at the Olympics is impressive in itself.



References: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/olympics/why-central-pa-wrestler-john-stefanowicz-makes-quick-exit-in-tokyo-olympics/ar-AAAMRWwY>



# **Upcoming Events**

**DATES ARE TENTATIVE — DEPENDENT UPON COVID REQUIREMENTS**

**1-2 OCTOBER 2021..... DoNY FALL MEETING**

Crowne Plaza Suffern-Mahwah  
Three Executive Blvd., Suffern, NY 10901  
Rooms \$115/night (code MCL)

**10 NOVEMBER 2021 ..... MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY**

**24-26 FEBRUARY 2022 ..... NATIONAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE**

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel  
77 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

**23-25 FEBRUARY 2023 ..... NATIONAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCES**

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel  
77 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

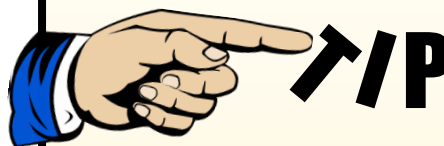
*FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT  
ADJUTANT, STEVE TOPILNYCKY*

*spt1@mclwestchester.org*

### **MEMBERSHIP\***

Total members..... 4235  
Regular ..... 3657  
Associate ..... 542  
Multiple ..... 36

*\*Recorded on 13 September 2021*



### **BE AWARE OF BACKGROUNDS**

**SIMPLE BACKGROUNDS WILL  
HIGHLIGHT THE SUBJECT.**

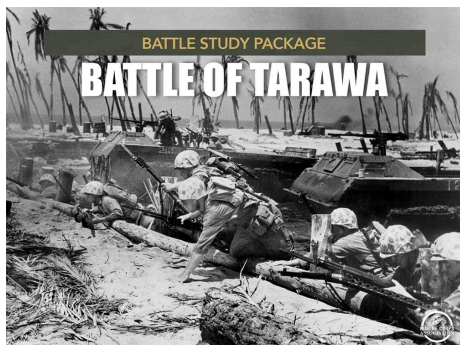
**LIKEWISE, BUSY BACKGROUNDS  
WILL OVERPOWER THE SUBJECT.**

**A BACKGROUND THAT IS NOT  
UNIFORM MAY CONFUSE THE  
AUTOFOCUS AND CREATE A  
POORLY EXPOSED PHOTO.**

***REMEMBER THAT YOUR FLASH WILL  
ONLY REACH ABOUT 20 FT.***



# FYI



Marines at the Battle of Tarawa faced down the enemy in one of the most gruesome and savage battles in United States history. A Japanese commander said it

would take 1,000,000 men and 100 years to conquer the island – well, it only took 18,000 Marines in 76 hours to succeed. Further details found about the MCA's Battle Study of the Battle of Tarawa! <https://buff.ly/3scUGKU>

*Obtained from Facebook*

## VA VETERANS ADMINISTRATION IMPORTANT INFO

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will re-adjudicate previously denied claims for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition outside of in-country Vietnam service will automatically have their claims re-adjudicated. This will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam era Veterans. Veterans who have a condition caused by herbicide exposure during military service can learn more about Agent Orange exposure by researching the case *Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*.

*Abbreviated from original article, The American Legion  
Newell-Faulkner Post 880, Eden, NY*

## VA OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS MEDIA RELATIONS NEWS RELEASE

Effective 1 August 2021, the U.S. Department of Veterans' Administration has started processing disability claims for asthma, rhinitis, and more on the assumption that they chronic aspect may have been initiated by exposure during military service in southwest Asia among areas. Southwest Asia refers to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations also. Please be aware that certain criteria is in place. See <https://va.gov/>

The VA intends to outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them of their eligibility. If unsure if you qualify, you are encouraged to apply.

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may see the website <https://va.gov> or call toll-free 800-827-1000.

## VA VETERANS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT NUMBERS

- HEALTHCARE \_\_\_\_\_ 877-222-8387
- EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_ 888-442-4551
- COMPENSATION \_\_\_\_\_ 800-827-1000
- ADDITIONAL BENEFITS \_\_ 844-698-2311

★ VA has answers to your questions. When you don't know who to call, call **1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)**. Put it into your phone. It's the only number to remember for everything VA.

★ To request DD214 records, phone 314-801-0800

*Abbreviated from original article, The American Legion  
Newell-Faulkner Post 880, Eden, NY*





# U.S. MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL

## A Monument to Honor All Marines & FMF Corpsmen



This monument is located on the banks of the “Mighty Niagara” River at Raymond P. Klimek Veterans Park in North Tonawanda, NY.



It is an on-going project with a life of its own.

It is open to ALL Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen, active duty, retired or honorably, and who have served our country for a minimum of 90-day active duty.

**CONRAD F. KANIA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE** Department of New York  
P.O. Box 405, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 ★ 716.688.1074 ★ 716.694.4463



This tribute can offers different price points to align with nearly everyone’s budget. Sizes and contribution follow.

1.5 x 3” plaque..... \$50

If an individual \$50 plaque is ordered, additional plaque options then become available.

3 x 6 ” plaque..... \$250

6 x 6” plaque..... \$500

6 x 12” plaque..... \$1000

You are invited to memorialize any active, retired or honorably discharged Marine or Corpsman. Consider honoring someone posthumously. Suggestions for the wall are yourself, a friend, buddy or a loved-one, thus giving them a permanent place in history for future generations to appreciate.

**For questions call 716.940.8761.**

This Memorial Wall is financed 100% by donations. A plaque with a donation for the wall will include the Marine’s / Navy FMF Corpsman’s name, rank and dates of service.

Larger plaques noting contributions of \$250 or more from the interested parties will be placed at the base of the wall. Call 716.688.1074 or 716.694.4463, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8 am. and 8 p.m. for additional information.

*Thank you in advance.*



**YOUR INFORMATION** (PLEASE PRINT)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**1.5 X 3” PLATE** (PLEASE PRINT)

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME / M.I. \_\_\_\_\_  
RANK \_\_\_\_\_  
DATES OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO**  
CONRAD KANIA DETACHMENT, MCL  
**SEND TO:** MARINE CORPS MONUMENT COMMITTEE  
P.O. BOX 405, NORTH TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14120

*Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.*

*THANK YOU VERY MUCH!*



# I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN<sup>®</sup>

By LEE GREENWOOD

If tomorrow all the things were gone  
I'd worked for all my life  
And I had to start again  
With just my children and my wife

I'd thank my lucky stars  
To be livin' here today  
Cause the flag still stands for freedom  
And they can't take that away

And I'm proud to be an American  
Where at least I know I'm free  
And I won't forget the men who died  
Who gave that right to me

And I gladly stand up  
Next to you and defend her still today  
Cause there ain't no doubt, I love this land  
God bless the USA

From the lakes of Minnesota  
To the hills of Tennessee  
Across the plains of Texas  
From sea to shining sea

From Detroit down to Huston  
And New York to L.A.  
Well, there's pride in every American heart  
And it's time we stand and say

That I'm proud to be an American  
Where at least I know I'm free  
And I won't forget the men who died  
Who gave that right to me

And I gladly stand up  
Next to you and defend her still today  
Cause there ain't no doubt, I love this land  
God bless the USA.





