



National Award-Winning Newsletter



NUMBER 2022 - 4

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



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OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2022

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Mike Piscioti

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CHIEF OF STAFF
Donna Hildebrandt

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Nancy Lewosko



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

THOMAS ARCURI
COMMANDANT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Marines, FMF Corpsman and Auxiliary,

I would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy Holiday season. Additionally, I want to thank our dedicated Department staff of elected and appointed officers, for their support and fine work this past year!

Thank you to all Detachments that participated in this year's Toys for Tots campaign. Although the final reports have not yet been tabulated, I'm sure it will be another great success for the League and our Department.

Regarding the Department Winter Conference, I have secured permission from National Commandant, Johnny Baker to hold the conference via Zoom. This decision was made for several reasons, but primarily because of the uncertainty of New York's weather. The specific date will be announced by Adjutant, Steve Topilnycky. He has also been asked to schedule a conference call after the first of the year, for Officers and Staff to discuss important issues at the Detachment level.

In closing, I would like to encourage Detachments who have not yet done so, to transition from paper to electronic record retention. As you may know, National is returning transmittals via email in pdf format. Obviously, this reduces space requirements and ease the transfers to newly elected paymasters.

I mention this because of a recent experience at my Detachment. We had been a depository for not only our Detachment records, but the Department's too. Most of these records were dated from the mid-seventies! They included old transmittals, canceled checks, and other outdated documents. They were sorted and evaluated prior to their disposal. The day-long task resulted in trucks filled with 15 Rubbermaid tubs delivered to their final resting place as recycled material. I would not wish this chore on anyone.


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

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

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



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CHUCKLES



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22



REST IN PEACE

101 YEAR-OLD PROUD MARINE SGT. MARGARET “PEG” BANDY LIFE MEMBER OF THE GREATER SYRACUSE DETACHMENT #224

In 2021, I became the editor of the Ground Pounder. My first Feature highlighted, then 100 year-old, Sgt. Peg Bittel Bandy. After just one conversation, I considered Peg a friend. She had fabulous recollection and was happy to share her memories with me.



*She knew at a young age that she wanted to be a Marine, nothing else, just a Marine. Unfortunately, at the time, the Marines were not accepting Women, so Peg waited. Then, when the opportunity arose, she jumped at it. Please refer to my write-up at <https://mclnewyork.net/index.php/newsletter> and download **Ground Pounder Newsletter 21-2***

She was born in Syracuse as Margaret Carolyn Bittel, and at 101 years young, passed away on Wednesday December 14, 2022, Cortland, NY.

Margaret “Peg” was one of the first women from Onondaga County to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps during WW II. She was the only woman to be attached to the 10th Tank Battalion at Hancock Field, serving as communications officer.

After being discharged in 1945, she served in the Marine Corps Reserve for nine years. During that period she covered maneuvers of the tank unit at Camp Lejeune for the Syracuse Herald Journal, writing her stories during live active combat.

Peg was married to Marine Richard C. Bandy, Sr. for 60 years until his passing in 2014.

Because of her lifetime of service to country, community, U.S. Marine Corps and as a journalist, she was selected the “2004 Women of Distinction.”

Her memberships included Past President of the NYS Women Marine Association, Women of the Military, Marine Corp League, Charter Member of WIMSA and Salt City Women Veterans. Peg received the American Red Cross Victory award for family services.

Refer to the e-blast for complete obituary



Margaret “Peg” (Bittel) Bandy
1943



2019



DEVIL DOGS GROWL

IT Pack

YES, THEIR NAME IS **IT!**

(as in Cousin...)

Meeting was at the Electric City MCL Detachment in Schenectady.
Saturday, 8 October 2022



Front: Nardolillo, Demeo, Turner, Kellerman

Back: Wiggs, Taylor, Dellavalle, Forbes, Pound Keeper Westcott, Diamond,
Pack Leader C. Wiggs, Whitlow, Harrington



Pack Leader Cathleen Wiggs is having some fun at the **IT** Pack Growl.

Look closely and you will see **Cousin IT** glasses.



*Oh Supreme Commandant,
whose command is over all and whose love never fails,
make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will.
Keep me true to my best self,
guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and
helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines,
my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear.*

PAID MEMBERSHIP*	
TOTAL MEMBERS.....	3,788
Regular	3,314
Associate	449
Multiple.....	25

*Recorded on 26 December 2022



MCL 247TH BIRTHDAY

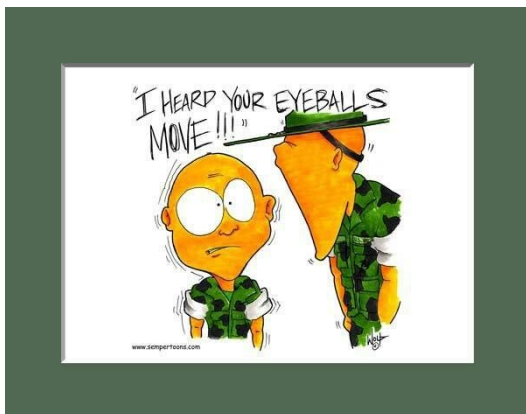
#1201 JIM HATCH DETACHMENT

Submitted by Department Sr. Vice., Dean Lawton, Sr.



YUMMIE

Those didn't last long.
They didn't even make it out of the car.



#458 E.J. BREWER DETACHMENT

Submitted by PIO Jack Schamel



Commandant Janis Witchey and Dave Wiggs Department Jr. Vice Commandant presents the **Marine of the Year Award** to **KEVIN LOUKOPOULOUS**.



89 year-old **TOM SMTANKA** receiving plaque for his long service as Jr. Vice Commandant and keeping track of all Ball ads.

Dennis Shean and Ret. MSgt. Joe Sabitini present the cake at the 247th Birthday Ball.





MCL 247TH BIRTHDAY

#250 JOHN W. THURSTON DET.



Submitted by Department Sr. Vice Dave Wiggs



RALPH LUCIANI receives a plaque for his years of service to the Department as an Outstanding Paymaster.



On 12 November 2022, at the Marine Corps Ball, **RALPH LUCIANI** received a plaque from the Department of New York for his long-serving dedicated service as Paymaster.

The plaque was presented by the South Central Area Vice Commandant Mike Tullo, and the Commandant, Eric Fetterman.

BILL FELDMAN was recognized by Area Vice Tullo for his **50 years of service to the Marine Corps League**. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend, so the award was accepted on his behalf by Commandant Fetterman.

#254 WESTCHESTER COUNTY DET.



Submitted by Steve Topilnycky, Department Adjutant

I'M A MARINE

*I'm a MARINE and proud to be,
I fight on land, air and sea.
I live with discipline and tradition,
I'm willing to fight under any condition.
If there is war, I'll never hide,
I'll guard my country with utmost pride.*

*While in boot camp I went through hell;
But I learned their techniques very well.
Of how to dress and how to talk,
How to sleep and how to walk.
How to jump and follow orders,
To clean out lockers and sleeping quarters,
My days in the Corps have been hard spent
And I've said a lot of things I never meant;
Such as, once in a while you could hear me shout,
"I can't wait for the day I get out."
Joining the Corps I would often curse,
"Nothing," I would scream, "could ever be worse."*

On 20 November 2022, members Westchester County Detachment and guests, held the 247th Birthday celebration. The brunch was held at the Westchester Manor, in Hastings-on-Hudson. Ceremonial tradition and socializing followed. The guest speaker was Dr. Alan Schramm, Board Certified in Forensics.

OLDEST: Lu Caldara
YOUNGEST: Kevin O'Keefe

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Kelly Topilnycky

*Memories? Yes, I have quite a few
Perhaps more than any of you,
The times marched and learned to shoot;
The time we stole the General's boot.
The getting up early and hurried chow,
It doesn't seem so bad when I look at it now.*



Young Marine Commanding Officer Lu Caldara, presenting Detachment Commandant Wilfredo Muniz Jr., a certificate of Appreciation for the Detachment's support of the Young Marines.

*For nothing would I trade these things;
That special feeling that wearing blues brings.
That certain pride when I walk down the street,
That look of respect from the people I meet.
Above all others I stand tall and lean —
Yes, I'm proud to be a UNITED STATES MARINE.*

~Melanie Starkey





MCL 247TH BIRTHDAY

Event held on 11/11/2022

#230 CONRAD KANIA DETACHMENT HOSTS WEST AREA MULTI-DETACHMENT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



COMMANDANT
FRANK KLIPSTEIN



GUEST SPEAKER,
SERGEANT PEREZ



COMMANDANT
KLIPSTEIN GREETES
COMMANDANT
BLACHURA



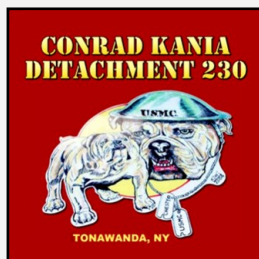
OLDEST MARINE MILT
& YOUNGEST PEREZ



CHOW TIME



VICKI WEISS WHO IS ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP, IS AWARDED THE **FIRST EVER ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR** FOR CONRAD KANIA DETACHMENT



COMMANDANT
MARK MALECKI
& PAMELA



Proud to attend another Birthday Celebration



We are honored to have support from the American Legion





2022

FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 14-15

HORNELL, NY

BEAUTIFUL WEEKEND FOR A FALL MEETING

Thanks to Steve Topilnycky, our Adjutant, for creating the opportunity for those who could not be at the meeting, to view it virtually.

[Morning meeting](#)

[Afternoon meeting](#)

Every effort will be made to live stream DoNY events

BRIEF SUMMARY

- Out of respect for our military brothers and sisters, it is of the utmost importance that we as an organization make every attempt possible to represent ourselves at the funerals of our deceased brothers and sisters. Please read the E-blast each time it is released. There is valuable information in each one.
- Our presence is also vital in our communities to demonstrate our support.
- TACOM is still at work updating their files electronically for the guns and stationary equipment that is assigned to our detachments. Please realize that these items are not our property and they are on loan. It is vitally important to cooperate when information is requested.

Some – BUT NOT ALL WORK



Continued on following page



2022

FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 14-15

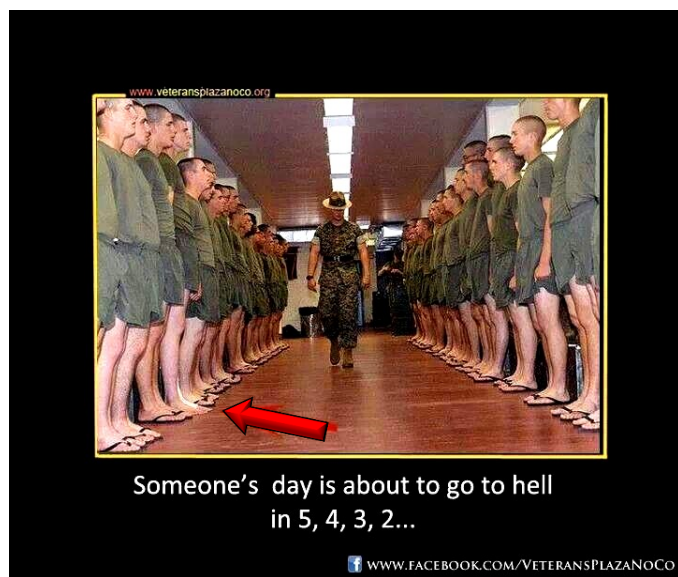
HORNELL, NY

Fall Meeting continued from previous page

- Although NYS has had the laws on Conceal and Carry deemed unconstitutional, a stay has been placed on the original mandate until the decision will be determined by a higher level court. Until then, continue to build interest in the competitions. The teams continue to grow and welcome new members! Please contact Lynn Stanton who is staying abreast of current regulations.
- If a DD214 cannot be located, search on the web for a SF180 form to complete and submit. The following link will also be helpful. <https://www.mclwestchester.org/knowledge-base/general-information/how-to-obtain-your-military-records/>
- Paymaster Jim Sampson has been receiving either duplicate transmittals or none at all. Jim is willing to review processes as needed. Ask if needed.
- Deceased life members now remain on our roster for only 1 year after passing. This will allow the detachment to receive another year of PLM benefit. Contact Jr. Vice, Dave Wiggs for information.
- The percentage of paid memberships has increased to 88%.
- We welcomed new member and Pup Joe Lawrence.



Lynn Stanton, from the shooting Team, is sporting the new shooting team jersey. The newly designed emblem is shown to the right.





TOYS FOR TOTS



MARINES FROM MIDDLETOWN DETACHMENT #236 BRAVED THE WEATHER FOR THE KIDS



Marines from the Middletown Detachment #236 bring toys to the Toys for Tots train in support of Operation Toy Train at the Middletown Train Station. Santa showed up with his Marine Security Detail. This all took place with over 25 volunteers and over 50 guests, during our first snow storm of the season.



● Deputy AVC, Dwayne Miley



- Deputy SEAVC, Dwayne Miley
- Paymaster, Don Wells
- SEAVC, Andre Bunch
- New Member, Armando Guzman
- Marine, Nate Allanach
- DoNY Judge Advocate, Mike Pisciotti





TOYS FOR TOTS



LABOR OF LOVE



Heritage Hills, Somers, NY

Steve Topilnycky devotes endless volunteer hours each year for children so that they may have a better Christmas. Steve has invested so much of his time to this cause. Because of his efforts, Steve was selected Region One Coordinator of the Year for 2021.

Pictured above is a small amount of the Toys collected for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. The team is fortunate that St. Matthew School, Hastings on Hudson has generously opened their doors and permitted their school to be used as Toys for Tots headquarters for the Westchester County Campaign.



HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH JIM HATCH DETACHMENT #1201



Toys for Tots Breakfast with "SANTA"



Cathy and Dave Wiggs with someone masquerading as Santa in the middle

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



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



MARINES **HELPING** COMMUNITY

ADOPT **A** HIGHWAY

CONRAD KANIA DETACHMENT #230

Shows community support with their semi-annual clean-up Knoche Road on Saturday, 15 October 2022.

Submitted by PDC Tim Forbes

Don't bother paying a therapist!
I will tell you what is wrong with you for
FREE!



My mind is like an internet browser.
At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are
frozen, and I have no clue where
the music is coming from.

There is no such thing as a grouchy old
person. The truth is that once you get
old, you stop being polite and start being
HONEST

I want to be 18 again and ruin my life
differently. I have new ideas.

SCHOLARSHIPS

WESTCHESTER DETACHMENT #254

The Westchester County Detachment #254 sponsors scholarships at two schools in their area. Each scholarship is a cash award to a student who is pursuing further education in the Engineering or Trades fields. The Detachment graciously accepts donations. To donate, contact Steve Topilnycky at spt1@mclwestchester.org or visit <https://www.mclwestchester.org/programs/donate/>

RAIDER DETACHMENT #461

Commandant Bud Hazzard presents a \$250 donation to the Katherine Cone Memorial Scholarship Foundation.



Left: AW Hazzard
Right: Keith Cones, father and founder of the foundation, and commander of the VFW post 2250 in Hornell.



MARINES FOR MARINES

RAISING AWARENESS

The weather cooperated on Saturday, 22 October 2022, when three tables were setup outside of a local Walmart to raise public awareness to the risks of suicide. Present were Aren Schank, Calvin Pickens Jr., Al Merrill, Jim Sampson and Al Hazzard.

Between this and the Rose Program, the event was a success.



THE ROSE PROGRAM

In 1778, during the War of Independence, the Marine Corps Rose was dedicated to those Marines who made the Ultimate Sacrifice for their country.

See [Rose Program \(pugetsoundmarines.org\)](http://pugetsoundmarines.org) for more details.

THIS PROGRAM ASSISTS VETERANS, YOUTH AND SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

Some examples of assistance are:

- Support programs for hospitalized or retired veterans in Retirement homes.
- Scholarships
- Youth programs
- Humanitarian Aid



TO DO A ROSE PROGRAM:

- Purchase roses from MCL National Headquarters, Ships Store.
- Coordinate with local businesses to set-up a table at their location.
- Obtain merchandise that will interest the public that entices them to approach.
- Advertise the Marine Rose Program, what it is, and what the donations will be used for.
- Funds are NOT to be used for the Detachment's "general fund," or Detachment events, rather, they are for the purposes above.

YOU ARE CHALLENGED

TO ATTEND OUR NEXT MEETING

Information about the Mid-Winter Conference is on page 27s.





MARINES FOR MARINES

Remembering Pearl Harbor



December 7, 1941

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

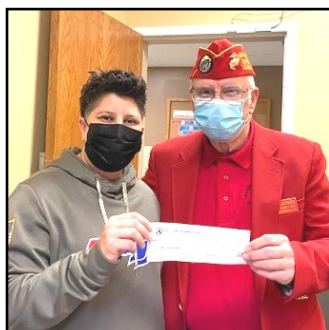
Submitted by Earl Herrington, West Area Vice Commandant

I had the pleasure of attending a Bett-Toomey Detachment meeting when they voted to buy \$500 worth of chits from Ship Stores at the Buffalo VA Hospital to be distributed among the patients.

I think this is a wonderful gesture, worthy of being recognized.

Earl Herrington, WAVC

THANKING VETS IN THE BUFFALO VA



**BETT-TOOMEY DETACHMENT #216 STEPS UP
IT'S ONE THING TO SAY YOU WANT TO HELP VETS
IT IS ANOTHER THING TO ACT —**

On Friday 16 Dec 2022, Commandant Ken Blachura represented Bett-Toomey Detachment #216 and spread some joy of the season to patients in the VA. The detachment

had voted to give \$500 worth of chits to those spending the holidays in a specialty unit at the Buffalo VA Hospital. Commandant was received with smiles when he arrived. To say the gifts were appreciated is an understatement! Together, they touched the lives 20 people!





MARINES FOR MARINES

The Wall That Heals is the only traveling exhibit affiliated with The Wall in Washington, D.C.

THE WALL THAT HEALS

Submitted by PDC Tim Forbes

As the nation begins the year-long recognition of the 50th anniversary of the close of the Vietnam War, we are pleased to announce *The Wall That Heals* 2023 national tour schedule.

The Wall That Heals exhibit includes a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center.

2023 ushers the 28th season of *The Wall That Heals*. It begins on 16 March 2023 and will visit 31 communities that year. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War. It bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in more than 700 U.S. communities, in addition to Ireland and Canada.

The Wall That Heals is a program of VVMF, the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1982. *The Wall That Heals is the ONLY traveling exhibit that is affiliated with The Wall in Washington, D.C.* and includes the largest Wall replica that travels the



*Photo credit
Maverick Transportation, LLC in Cabot, Arkansas*

country. Two VVMF staff members lead volunteers on site, as well as educates visitors and students the significance of **THE WALL**.

Nearby stops for The Wall That Heals in 2023

- Centerville, Ohio July 27 - 30
- Gibsonburg, Ohio August 31 - September 3
- Auburn, N.Y. September 14 - 17
- Kutztown, Pa. September 21 - 24
- New York City, N.Y. September 28—October 1
- Lindenhurst, N.Y. October 5 - 8
- Lemont Furnace, Pa. October 12 - 15
- Caldwell, Ohio October 19 - 22
- Phoenixville, Pa. October 26 - 29

For more information and additional dates, visit the [2023 Tour Schedule](https://www.vvmf.org/tour-schedule)



MARINES FOR MARINES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Submitted by Karen Johnston

*On Wednesday 2 November 2022, in honor of the birthday of the Marine Corps, the Greater Syracuse Detachment #224 made a difference to another Marine, **MARINE JIM MAHAR**. Marine Ron Farewell and Marine Bear visited Menorah Park to show that his service has not been forgotten. The day was warm and sunny outside and in.*

We arrived to find Marine Mahar in the cafeteria getting ready for his lunch. Marine Ron Farewell said hello to Jim, shook his hand and gave Jim a new Marine Corp League cover. Jim was visibly moved and we noticed that there were tears in his eyes.

Members from the Detachment that were present at the November meeting signed a USMC flag for Mahar.

Hanging his head down, Marine Mahar was quiet for most of the visit. He was obviously touched when the USMC Flag was unfolded and given to him, because he made an indistinguishable remark as he pointed to the flag. After that, Ron told Jim that we had also brought some Marine Birthday Cake for him and his wife.



Marine Mahar was visited at Menorah Park by members of the Greater Syracuse Detachment.



USMC flag proudly hung on the wall above Marine Mahar's bed.



Marine Mahar was moved to tears as he receives the USMC flag.

We talked to Jim asking him questions but he did not respond to us. The only exception was when we mentioned the cake and the flag, he became emotional.

At one point Mahar read the name on Marine Bears shirt and said "Larry Bear" and became quiet once again.

Before our visit ended, we place the USMC Flag on the wall above the senior Marine's bed. It was a wonderful day and it was apparent that Marine Mahar appreciated our visit. We made a difference for a true Marine at heart. All it took was a little effort!



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Submitted by Tom Robbins

2LT. JOHN PAUL BOBO DETACHMENT #1118



Commandant Kingsley Chandler, presents the Medal and Certificate of Appreciation to Associate Member of the Year Bill Talarico.

Commandant Kingsley Chandler presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Associate Roy Bailor for his dedication and hard work.



Area Vice West Earl Herrington, (center), swore in Sr. Vice John Attanasio, (left), and Commandant Kingsley Chandler, (right), as 2Lt. John Paul Bobo Detachment #1118 officers.

Two other officers, Jr. Vice Nate McKenzie and Judge Advocate Dave Kindzia were unable to attend and will be sworn in at a later date.





A TASTE OF HISTORY

CLEMENTE



National Museum of the Marine Corps

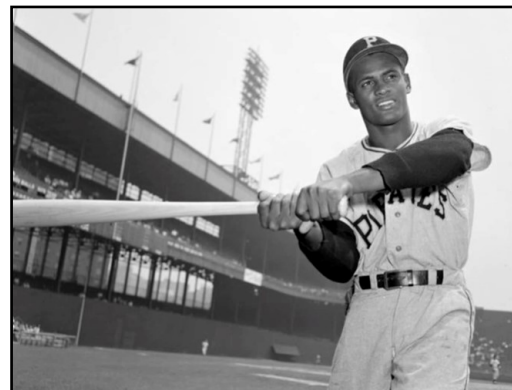
September 30 at 6:05 PM · 🌐

Obtained from Facebook

[National Museum of the Marine Corps](#)



In 1972, Marine and Major League Baseball player for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Roberto Clemente, became the first Latin-American player to reach 3,000 career hits. During the off-season in 1958-1959, Clemente enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served in the USMC Reserve as an infantryman until 1964.



Clemente was also known for his humanitarian efforts. His life was tragically cut short when he unfortunately died in a plane crash while traveling to deliver goods to Nicaragua in response to the devastating earthquake in December 1972.

Recently, Roberto Clemente’s son, Luis Clemente, visited the Museum for the installation of a brick with Marine Corps Heritage Foundation in honor of his father’s Marine Corps and baseball legacy. The brick is located on the pathway of Semper Fidelis Memorial Park. Luis shared how proud his Puerto Rican father was to be a Marine, and how important the Corps was to him and his identity. “He was very, very proud to be a Marine and now he is embedded here with his fellow Marines.”

Roberto has already been inducted into the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame and will be featured in the upcoming sports gallery at the Museum.





A TASTE OF

HISTORY

Private First Class, U.S. Marine Corps

Jacklyn "Jack" H. Lucas

YOUNG MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT



and pulled the other one under him, absorbing the whole blast force of the explosions in his body.

MEDAL OF HONOR

Because of his spirit of self-sacrifice, he not only

Born in North Carolina and although only 14 years of age, Lucas enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve without his mother's consent. His muscular build gave him camouflage, and on 6 August 1942, he gave his age as 17 and went to recruit training.

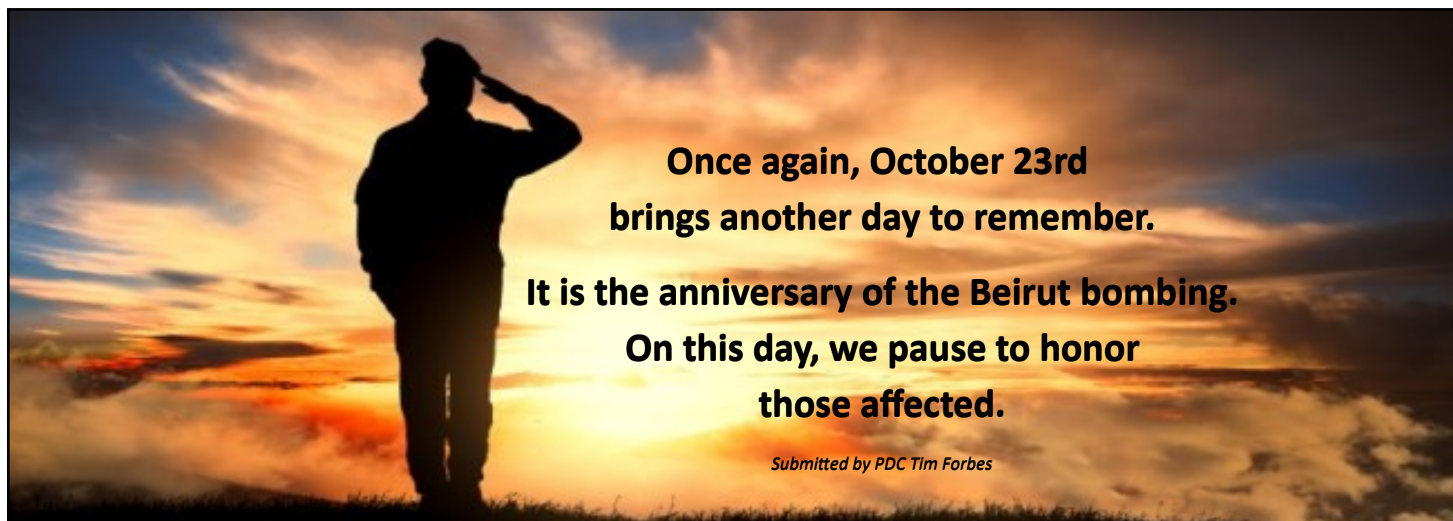
GRENADE BLAST

On 20 February 1945, on the island of Iwo Jima, PFC Lucas and three other men were suddenly ambushed by a hostile patrol and savagely attacked the Marines with rifle fire and grenades. The lives of the small group were endangered by two grenades, PFC Lucas acted quickly without hesitation. Lucas hurled himself over his comrades upon one grenade

protected his comrades from certain injury or possible death, but he also enabled them to rout the Japanese patrol and continue their advance. Miraculously, PFC Lucas survived the blast and was presented the Medal of Honor from President Truman at the White House on Friday, 5 October 1945.

PFC Lucas is the youngest Marine ever to receive the Medal of Honor and the youngest of any branch of the military since the Civil War.

Reference [Jacklyn "Jack" H. Lucas | City of Norfolk, Virginia - Official Website](#)



**Once again, October 23rd
brings another day to remember.**

**It is the anniversary of the Beirut bombing.
On this day, we pause to honor
those affected.**

Submitted by PDC Tim Forbes



A TASTE OF

HISTORY

Submitted by PDC Tim Forbes

I AM A MARINE



by PFC Charlotte Ayers
1953, Camp Lejeune, NC

Headed south when I turned eighteen
To Parris Island to become a Marine!

Boot Camp on the Depot was my destination
Two months of training was not a vacation.

They issued us uniforms, skirts below the knee
Cause that was '50s fashion, don't you see.

We learned new words to replace the old,
Made up our bunks with a hospital fold.

Instead of the bathroom, ou went to the Head.
Where we slept was named a Bunk, not a bed.

Don't go into the kitchen, it's now the Messhall,
And the word Bulkhead replaced the wall.

What we ate in the Messhall, now is called Chow,
And going there meant we were going to Chow now.

We wore not a hat, we called it a cover.
It sits straight on your head or you will sure suffer.

We shined shoes and boots with a rag and our spit,
So shiny and bright you could see your face in it!

So much to learn, days sitting in classes;
We were ready to be really smart lasses.

Marine Corps history, laws and traditions,
How to salute, and lead a platoon on a mission.

In uniform we stood, straight and felt proud.
And knew that anywhere, we'd stand out in a crowd.

For drilling we wore Utilities and black shiny boots,
For physical training, we wore "Peanut Suits."

From barracks to classroom, even to chow
We marched to cadence, our D.I. showed us how.

When Field Day came, it was not held outside.
It was meant that the barracks must be cleaned inside.

We dusted, we mopped, we buffed decks to perfection,
We polished and cleaned Heads, for white-glove inspection.

To greet all those ranks above us "Boots"
We practiced daily lots of snappy hand salutes!

Then came the day our training's complete!
In spite of the sand-fleas and P.I.'s so hot heat!

I stood at attention, sorta' nervous inside,
Shoulders back, I felt such great pride!

I raised my hand, swore to protect and defend
The Constitution, our Country, our Flag to the end.

I will be loyal, committed, and always be strong.
Serve my Country and never doing it wrong.

I loved the challenge, the discipline, the drill.
The friends I made, I think of still.

Those weeks were special, never had a regret
For that decision to serve, now I am a Vet.

Yes, I came south when I was eighteen
And proudly earned the title of U.S. Marine!

Semper Fi,
(Sgt.) Charlotte M. Ayers, USMC (1952-57),
801 Mystic Dr. E., Beaufort, SC 29902



INTO THE FUTURE

A PROMISING FUTURE FOR THE MK22

Marines will field a multi-barrel sniper rifle, the MK22. It will replace two existing weapons, the M40A6 and MK13 Mod 7.

The Marine Corps will soon be equipped with a longer-range, more versatile rifle designed to increase lethality and increase the threat overmatch on the battlefield.

The difference between the present system and the MK22 firing system is that it requires only one weapon with easily-interchangeable barrels and magazines instead of 2 complete weapons. The barrels are each different calibers. Although the individual weapon is heavier than the M40A6 and MK13 Mod 7 that are presently used, it has a lighter overall weight. This unique firing system provides options for the individual operator’s in response to variable needs. Early issues will include four barrels, one for each caliber. Using the MK22 allows snipers to quickly change the barrels, and only have to carry ammunition and the extra barrels, not an entire extra rifle and extra magazines. This gives



shooters significant tactical and logistical advantages when executing missions.

This precision bolt-action rifle with interchangeable barrel is fed from a 10-round detachable magazine. Not only does it enable shooters a caliber option, but is also designed with an enhanced sound and muzzle-flash suppressor. This feature offers an advantage of frugal logistics for the Marine, especially while within engagement zones.

The rifle kits include a bipod although some kits will include a sniper-shooting tripod and laser filter. Kits will also issue a one-time .300 Winchester Magnum barrel to ensure a smooth transition to this new firing system.

SSgt. Cruz Nuanez is a scout sniper instructor with the Advanced Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry-East, at Camp Lejeune. He endorses the MK22. Because the shooter only has to learn just one weapon instead of multiple weapon ones, it allows valuable training time to hone shooting skills, including interoperability of the different barrels, bolt faces, and the ballistic calculations with each caliber. The change to utilizing this weapon is expected to be seamless because all testing thus far proves successful, and all aspects of it are user-friendly.

The weapon also incorporates the caliber-agnostic 7x35 Precision Day Optic which gives the shooter the advantage of greater magnification and

MK22 continued on next page



INTO THE FUTURE

MK22 Continued from previous page

observation capabilities. The increased range provided of the MK22 and accompanying PDO will give snipers greater standoff distance from their targets, providing increased survivability. This is a marked improvement over the capabilities of the 5x25 optic that is currently utilized.



To ensure that the system meets the needs of Marine Corps snipers, the MCSC held an integrated assessment range at the Marine Corps Base Quantico. Instructors from all three Marine Scout Sniper schools and MARSOC, were invited to test and offer suggestions for improvements to the rifle, and accessories prior to its fielding which is targeted during the 2023 fiscal year.

While this type of additional testing is not typical, it presents an opportunity to get input from highly qualified people before the rifle's implementation. The extra effort ensures that the sniper community has what it needs to be successful.

The Marine Corps' investment in the MK22 to replace legacy equipment makes Marines more lethal and provides increased flexibility. All attributes considered, the MK22 is an ideal addition to the Marines' arsenal.

References

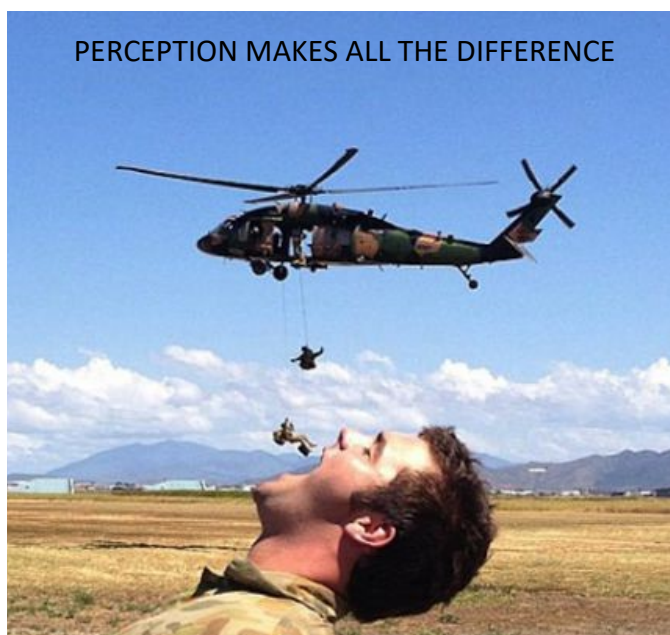
May 11, 2022 marinecorpstimes.com

MAY 26, 2022 marines.mil

1st Lt. Isaac Lamberth, Marine Corps Systems Command, QUANTICO, VA.

CHUCKLE

PERCEPTION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE





Then & Now

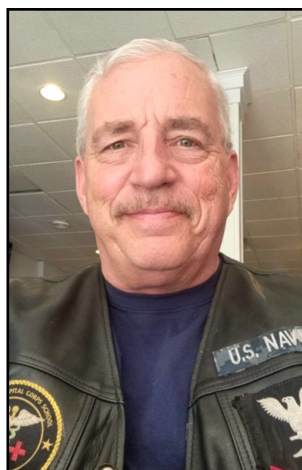


HONOR, COURAGE & COMMITMENT

MICK DELLAVALLE



Orlando Florida Training Center October 1977.
Corpsman Mick Dellavalle
USN 1977-1981.



MICHAEL WALUK



Officer Candidate School,
summer of 1983



34 years later, Quantico
in a very close spot, 2020.



Send in
a caption
for this picture.

The most clever
will be shared
in the next edition.



Caption This!





Miscellaneous

PRESERVING HISTORY



interviewing World War II and Korean War Marines but are also want to hear from Marines and their families of all eras.

Marine Corps History Division's History Branch is interested in conducting oral history interviews with Marines, Corpsmen, and others serving with Marines.

Interviews can be conducted in person, over the phone, or utilizing an online application like Skype or Zoom.

The detachment, composed of experienced officers and SNCOs, is also interested in preserving physical Marine Corps history such as documents, photographs, and artifacts. They are particularly interested in

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

Help preserve the history of the Corps

Meanwhile In Western New York

As the storm bombarded the area, the entire community was crippled in one way or another. The brunt of the storm dropped 6.5 feet of heavy wet snow. Some businessowners lost their livelihood when the roofs of their businesses collapsed. Less impacted communities only got 3 feet of the white stuff.

Driveways, roofs, automobiles, and walkways needed continual attention to prevent homeowners from being completely overwhelmed. Clearing the streets took days. The city of Buffalo required a week to make the roads passable.

21 NOVEMBER 2022



Waking up to THIS! Even when the driveway is cleared, the street is still blocked.

Cleaning between two cars that were covered with snow.

Guess What It Happened Again on 23 December

Blizzard conditions heartlessly attacked the WNY area causing white-outs and travel bands throughout the area. This stranded people in unexpected places or hostage in their homes. No photos are shown, but assume it is similar to the ones shown. The temperature is expected to be in the 50s by Thursday, 29 December.



Miscellaneous

LIVING LIBERTY BELL



There are more than eleven times more men in the beam as in as in the Bell itself.

ZOOM IN & LOOK CLOSELY

THE HUMAN LIBERTY BELL
25000 OFFICERS & MEN
AT
CAMP DIX, NEW JERSEY
GENERAL ROOK L. SCOTT, COMDR.

FORMED BY 25,000 SOLDIERS IN 1918

Length of beam at top, 368 ft. Width of beam, 435 ft.
 Width of Bell at bottom, 64 ft. Length of each bolt, 395 ft.
 Top to bottom, 580 ft.

Source Facebook

MOTY

MARINE OF THE YEAR

The nomination time will be here before you know it. Start thinking about who is the best candidate for the award. This year, there will be only be a minimum of two nominations necessary, for the selection to be considered.

AOTY

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

2023 will be the second year that the award of Associate Member of the Year will be presented. Details to be announced in the future, but start thinking about who would make a good candidate for this recognition.



Miscellaneous

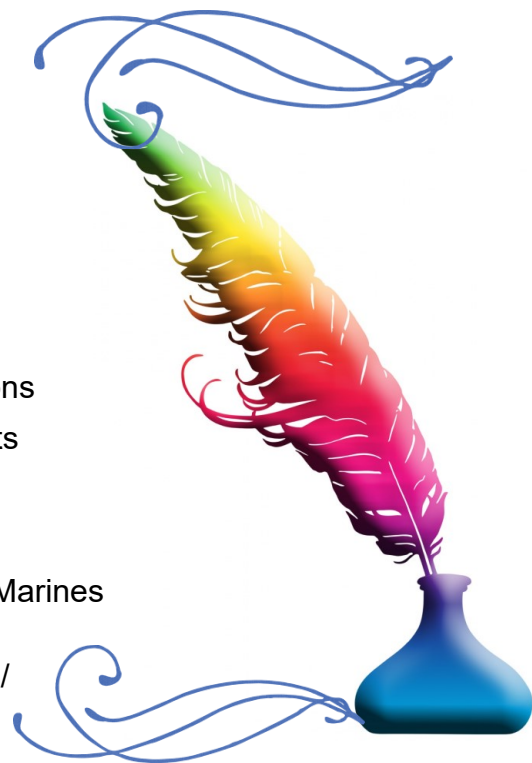
Attention



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





UPCOMING EVENTS



National Mid-Winter Conference

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2023

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
777 Waterside Drive
Norfolk VA 23510
757-662-6664
Regular room rate \$151.35/night



Department Mid-Winter Conference

DETAILS TO COME

Meeting will be held via Zoom.
Date to be announced.

Spring Meeting

APRIL 21–22, 2023

DoubleTree Hotel
150 West 4th Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-488-7227

Regular room rate \$100/night

Check in time is 3:00 p.m.
Check out time is 12:00 p.m.
Late check out of 1:00 p.m. is possible if communicated before or during check-in. Use the comment section if booking online.

DEADLINE TO BOOK

March 17, 2023

The group code is **MCL**

PHONE-IN BOOKING

Contact the hotel directly at **716-488-7227**. Use code **MCL**.

More information to come.



Annual 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.

More information to come.



Fall Meeting

OCTOBER 21–22, 2023

The Crown Plaza
Three Executive Boulevard
Suffern-Mahwah, NY 10901
845-357-4800

Regular room rate \$117/night

More information to come.