



THREE-TIME



National Award-Winning Newsletter



EDITION 4 - 2023

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

EDITOR: DONNA HILDEBRANDT
newsletter.dny@gmail.com

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



2023
OCTOBER 1 TO
DECEMBER 31

2023-2024 OFFICERS

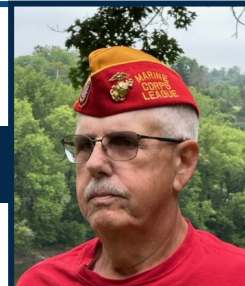
- Commandant
DEAN LAWTON, SR.
- Sr. Vice Commandant
DAVID WIGGS
- Jr. Vice Commandant
MICHAEL PISCIOTTI
- Judge Advocate
CATHLEEN WIGGS
- Jr. Past Commandant
THOMAS ARCURI
- Adjutant
STEVE TOPILNYCKY
- Chief of Staff
DONNA HILDEBRANDT
- Chaplain
ROSEMARIE SOTO
- Paymaster
JIM SAMPSON
- Sergeant at Arms
SUSAN WHITLOW
- NY Pack Leader
CATHLEEN WIGGS
- Webmaster
STEVE TOPILNYCKY
- Editor
DONNA HILDEBRANDT
- Auxiliary President
KAREN SEELEY
- Past Auxiliary President
MAUREEN DUNN



Commandant's Corner

DEAN LAWTON, SR.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



Hello Marines.

Well, this year has been both rewarding and disappointing.

REWARDING BECAUSE

- Our Department did a super job supporting the transfer of Cpl. Wiley's remains;
- Had good attendance at the National Convention and at our Department meetings.
- The Department created a Marine at Large Detachment.
- I personally attended meetings in the Buffalo, Albany, Herkimer and Beacon areas, and met some great Marines doing some great things.
- The Department is developing a new website.
- We have taken more control of our finances.
- Shoot, I even got my pistol permit, so I can attend some pistol matches, and lead by example.

DISAPPOINTING BECAUSE

- As we end the year, we have 6 Detachments that did not complete their PLM audits.
- My one rant will be about the PLM audits is that we still have not achieved 100%. I was really hoping that we would, since we started really early. I personally contacted Detachments, too. Those 6 Detachments will be forfeiting money which could be over \$1000.
- We have Detachments that are having attendance and membership issues.
- I am disappointed in myself for not attending more Detachment meetings and/or functions.
- Still, no Marine had taken the North Area Vice Commandant position. Alex did a great job, but there are a lot of great Marines there.

MOVING FORWARD

- We are less than 2 weeks from our winter meeting in Binghamton. I know winter is a bit sketchy with the weather. This is why I am trying something a little different. If on Wednesday the 10th I see a prediction of bad weather, then I will change the meeting to a Zoom meeting.
- I will be trying different ideas to improve attendance at our meetings.
- For the new year, I will be traveling around the Department, and meeting with more members.

Semper Fi,
Dean

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

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CHUCKLES

found
on pages



"It's the latest in IEDs ... loaded with LEGO bricks to cause maximum foot injuries."





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OFFICERS' Messages

From the desk of ...

Department Senior Vice Commandant David Wiggs

Dear Marines and Associates,

I hope everyone had a great 248th Birthday celebration and a nice Thanksgiving with your families. I would like to take this opportunity to tell everyone about a funeral that the Commandant, Judge Advocate and myself recently had the privilege to attend.

A year ago I was invited to the 100th Birthday party for Albert E. Carr, Sgt. USMC of Willseyville, who was a veteran of both WW II and Korea, which is an amazing feat when you consider that he was a machine gunner. It was a privilege to meet him and speak briefly. It reminded me that we are all a link of a very long chain of Marines. We each have a responsibility to do our part to carry on the traditions and the mission of our beloved Corps.

You are challenged to thank any Marines you meet in your daily lives for doing their part. We, as Marines, must respect those that went before us and those that have carried on after our term of enlistment ended. Not only thank them, but ask if there is anything the League can do to help them in accordance with our mission statement: *"strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families."*

I would personally like to thank each and every one of you that did your part to carry on the traditions of the Marine Corps.

Semper Fidelis,
Dave Wiggs
Sr. Vice Commandant
Department of New York

From the desk of ...

Department Junior Vice Commandant Mike "MAYHEM" Piscioti

This time of the year gives us the opportunity to start anew and rekindle our commitments

As Junior Vice Commandant for the Department of New York, my primary responsibility is membership. We must remember that recruitment, retention and remaining active is the very lifeblood of each Detachment.

I challenge every Detachment to recruit 4 new members in 2024. To help motivate and promote your Detachment, we are having another poster contest. Whether you win the contest or not, your poster can be used for recruitment.

So grab your fellow members and design a recruitment poster. It must be 8 1/2 x11 or larger; contain the Detachment name and number, contact information, location and time of meetings. This will build camaraderie and help you come up with new recruiting ideas. Poster submissions are due no later than May 6, 2024.

The **Best Kept Secret**, really is the Marine Corps League and we need to let the public know of our existence. Contact me at 845-248-1318 or email mclpisciotti@gmail.com for any information.

Wishing everyone and their families a healthy prosperous New Year.

Semper Fi,
Mayhem Mike





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Fair winds and following seas
Our presence at services is the ultimate form of respect to the deceased and their family. They are grateful to see that the Marine Corps League honors the deceased..

Sgt. Albert E. Carr

Submitted by Cathie Wiggs, Judge Advocate, Pack Leader



Lovingly known as "Al / Mert"

Serving as a Marine in WWII and Korean War, Marine Carr had attained the rank of Sergeant before his discharge.

During his stay at Beechtree Center, he found joy with the company of a special therapist. Separately, he savored a daily beer, which may have been the secret to longevity. *Passing on 18 November 2023, Sgt. Carr was just shy of his 101st birthday. He is laid to rest in Candor, NY.*

Representatives from the Department of New York gave him a final OORah



Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. and Sr. Vice Commandant David Wiggs

GET WELL

Commandant Ken Blachura

Bett-Toomey Detachment #216

It has been a very long road for Commandant Ken. His story is lengthy. But here is the short version.

He has had body aches and then left leg pains since the middle of June 2023. He had followed doctor's orders, yet his knee continued to swell and become increasingly excruciating. If a Marine says that the pain is bad, then it is BAD. His condition gotten so bad that he wasn't able to get out of his chair independently. It was time to take serious action. The ambulance was called and he was taken to the Buffalo VA.

The diagnosis was a SEVERE infection that concentrated in his knee. Commandant Ken had several specialized teams following his case and multiple procedures at the VA and then Buffalo General Medical Center.

His hospitalization went from being admitted to the Buffalo VA on Halloween, and was discharged from Buffalo General Hospital on Pearl Harbor Day.

He continues to recover at home, and appreciates cards. As his daughter, I challenge you to find goofy ones that will **make him laugh**.

2940 East Pleasant Avenue
Eden, NY 14057





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GET WELL

Lewis Loeven

Update as of 12/14/23

**PAST NATIONAL COMMANDANT
PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT**



Before I continue with an update, I'd like to share with you that Lew and Marilyn are so grateful for the visits, calls, cards and prayers. They believe that they have helped his recovery tremendously. Please continue to reach out to him.



1994-1995

Lew Loeven
3556 Raven Street
Levittown, New York
11756

Marilyn reports that Lew went home the day after Thanksgiving, which was 5 months to the day from the beginning of this ordeal.

Before he came home, the house had to be modified with a handicap setup. A ramp was installed. The bathroom is now handicap accessible. A hospital bed has replaced their dining room. It is all worth it, since he is now home.

Lew has physical therapy and occupational therapy in the home. To help Marilyn, there is an aid that comes in daily.

With all this care, Marilyn reports that each day, Lew is showing improvement. He can now stand up, but still needs help.

Again, they are grateful for all of you who reached out to him in one way or another.

DEVIL DOGS

Never a Dull Moment WITH CATHIE WIGGS AS PACK LEADER

In her usual fashion, Cathie spiced up the October 2023 Devil Dogs' Fall meeting in Suffern. See photo. Another Growl will be at the January meeting in Binghamton.

Upgrade to Pedigree can only be at a National Convention. There are very few exceptions, however. If you have extenuating circumstances and can not attend the national convention, contact your Pack Leader.

You can move up from PUP to Devil Dog at a Department Convention.

Cathie welcomes any new Dawg ideas.





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EVENTS & HAPPENINGS



The **MCL SCUTTLEBUTT** is a casual discussion held monthly and covers a new topic each time. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

The National Public Relations Committee chair, Victoria McCoy hosts the events.

If you've never met Victoria, you are in for a treat.

Each meeting is held via ZOOM on the second Tuesday of each month at 1900 hrs. Topics for up-coming events are yet to be determined. November's topic was Toys for Tots, and December's was Suicide prevention.

To participate, join the MCL National Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/mclnational>, then wait for the announcement on Facebook and press the "interested" button. Put the date onto your calendar and be ready for the invite.

NOTE: Be sure to have ZOOM downloaded.
FYI: Find previous YouTube presentations at <https://www.youtube.com/@TheMarineCorpsLeague>

LINK

<https://>

www.youtube.com/

[@TheMarineCorpsLeague](https://www.youtube.com/@TheMarineCorpsLeague)



Victoria McCoy

Newly Appointed Officers

COMMANDANT LAWTON ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS OF NEW DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

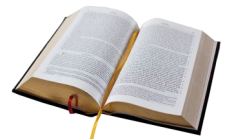
CHAPLAIN

MARINE ROSEMARIE SOTO

(321) 900-1356

The **NEW** chaplain email is

chaplain@mclnewyork.org



SERGEANT at ARMS

**MARINE
SUE
WHITLOW**



WEBMASTER **MARINE STEVE TOPILNICY**

Our website is being reformatted. see <https://www.mclnewyork.org>. Once the new website is complete and if you use the previous address, you will automatically be redirected.



Feel free to check out the progress when it is still being developed. All feedback, good or bad, is welcome and to be sent to webmaster@mclnewyork.org.





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EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Installation of Officers

2Lt. John Paul Bobo Detachment #1118



Left to Right: Adjutant Bill Talarico, Commandant Kingsley Chandler, Installation Officer, West Area Vice Commandant Earl Herrington, Jr. Vice Commandant Richard Bird, Sr. Vice Commandant John Attanasio and Chaplain Nate McKenzie. Not shown Judge Advocate Dave Kindzia.

The photo shows the recent installation of Officers from the 2Lt. John Paul Bobo Detachment #118 held at their Detachment meeting on 12 October 2023.

Submitted by Tom Robbins

Budget Committee

Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. has named Sr. Vice Commandant David Wiggs as Chair of The Budget Committee. The Sr. Vice has gathered a team. Members who represent different aspects of the organization have been chosen so that views from all perspectives are considered.

The initial goal of this committee is to make recommendations to the Department Executive Committee to create better alignment of Department Expenses.

- David Wiggs.....Sr. Vice Commandant
- Bob BeckerCommittee Advisor
 - Past Department Paymaster
 - Past Department Commandant
 - Past National Commandant
- Thomas Arcuri.....Jr. Past Commandant
- Earl Herrington.....West Area Vice Commandant
- Janis WitchyCommandant EJ Brewer Detachment
- Donna HildebrandtChief of Staff, Editor

Message FROM YOUR Editor

I am absolutely **THRILLED** with the many contributions provided to this edition!

THANK YOU!

When submitting, it would really help to include Your name and title as you desire it to be written

- Names and titles of others in the photo
- Your Detachment with number
- An accurate email where you can be reached



CHUCKLES

MARINE CORPS BAR EXAM





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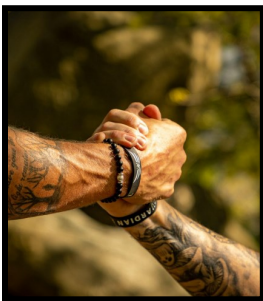


FALL MEETING

2023 Fall Meeting *Crowne Plaza Suffern, NY*

Guest Speaker Ret. LtCol Beth-Ann Canero

She introduced us to a FREE 501(c)3 program called the *Guardian Revival* ... Eligible members are those from military, first responders and other at-risk occupations. These are our Guardians.



Their unique tactics aim to reduce the astounding suicide statistics. Mental illness and suicide are higher among our nation's Guardians than in the general population. The Guardian Revival's programs offer alternative method to

healing in addition to traditional methods. Each program is proven therapeutic and uses interesting activities to reduce the mental health statistics.

Another Summit offers outdoor adventures — walking, hiking, backpacking, and paddling

Encore provides opportunities to learn, write, play, record, and share music.

Peer Services is confidential peer support provided FOR Guardians BY Guardians.

Boots & Paws uses dogs for their undeniable therapeutic benefits.



G-Connect is virtual & in-person interactions that connects Guardians with the community.

www.GuardianRevival.org • Phone 845.661.0863

BRIEF SUMMARY

- Using the chain of command must be followed.
- Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. visited each Detachment to introduce himself.
- The Budget will be reviewed with special attention given to the stipend system.
- Reports must be received by deadline. Example: PLMs, 990-N, TACOM reports. ROIs, MCL plate holders, Deceased, etc. If help is needed, ask.
- The MCL Plate program is still in effect. Contact Past Jr. Commandant Thomas Arcuri for details.
- There will be another detachment poster contest. Focus energy on retention and recruitment.
- Winter Meeting is January 12-13, 2024. See eblasts.
- LCpl Wiley's motorcade was a multistate success.
- Outstanding TACOM property MUST be reported.
- NILCO Insurance of \$3500 free to members.
- All financial obligations have been met.
- Ideas for fund raising are being accepted.
- Gold cards will be replaced with plastic ones.
- Sergeant at Arms appointment is Susan Whitlow.
- Chaplain appointment is Rosemarie Soto.
- New Marksmanship members are welcome.

Semper Fidelis

MEMBERSHIP*

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Total members | 3,775 |
| Regular | 3,277 |
| Associate | 468 |
| Multiple | 30 |

* AS OF
27 DECEMBER 2023





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USMC 248TH BIRTHDAY



10 November 2023

Message from

Eric Smith

GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS,
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



For 248 years, Marines have earned a reputation as the most disciplined and lethal warfighters in the world. This legacy of honor, courage, and commitment passed on to us was paid for in sweat, blood, and sacrifice. From Belleau Wood to Inchon and Tarawa to Sangin, Marines have stepped forward to defend our Constitution when others either could not or would not. Our history is filled with heroes like Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hershel "Woody" Williams, Private First Class Hector Cafferata Jr., Sergeant Major Dan Daly, and thousands of others who performed acts of bravery which went unseen in the heat of battle. We stand on the shoulders of these Marines, and we owe it to them to earn our title "Marine" each and every day

Marines have given, and have been willing to give, their lives for Country and Corps in every fight our Nation has entered. Our actions turned back the tide of tyranny in Europe during the Great War, defeated fascism in Asia during World War II, fought for democracy in Korea and Vietnam, and offered the hope of self-determination in the Middle East. We go to war whenever our Nation calls, and in the interwar

periods we train, we prepare, and we innovate. We have chosen a life of service and sacrifice - an honorable life that has meaning. We sacrifice so our fellow citizens don't have to, and we seek nothing in return but a chance to be first to fight. Most will never understand why we choose to attack when others do not, why we revel in being covered in mud, why we snap to attention when "The Marines' Hymn" is played, or why we say, "Ooh Rah." We understand it, and this message is for us, for the Marines.

As Marines, we live on a war footing because someone must. This means that we ruthlessly adhere to our standards of excellence - Marine standards - as we know this will best prepare us for the wars of the future. Our high standards are a prerequisite of professional warfighting, and how we keep our honor clean in the cauldron of combat. They prepare us for the most difficult mission there is: fighting from and returning to the sea. Most importantly they shape our unique Marine culture which is respected at home and across the globe. As Marines, we live on a war footing because someone must. This means that we

ruthlessly adhere to our standards of excellence - Marine standards as we know this will best prepare us for the wars of the future. Our high standards are a prerequisite of professional warfighting, and how we keep our honor clean in the cauldron of combat. They prepare us for the most difficult mission there is: fighting from and returning to the sea. Most importantly they shape our unique Marine culture which is respected at home and across the globe.

Sergeant Major Ruiz and I are proud of all that you have done this past year to protect and enhance our reputation as America's best warriors. We hope you know that we will be with you every step of the way as we prepare for the fights ahead. We ask that every Marine active, reserve, and veteran - honor the legacy of those who went before us by continuing to uphold our high standards.

Protect your fellow Marines and our shared legacy. Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,
Eric Smith

General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps





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USMC 248TH BIRTHDAY



Message from

Warren Griffin

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL COMMANDANT

We began in a tavern and still today we raise our glasses in tribute to our brother and sister

Marine Corps League Members All

Our 248th Birthday is upon us. Our Nation truly has much to celebrate because of us. Founded before our country was established with the hope of bringing freedom and democracy to all of the people throughout our great land. The United States has unwaveringly turned to the United States Marine Corps in time of need throughout the world. We have stood tall and accepted every challenge delivering a victorious outcome.

The bond formed whether it began in Parris Island, Quantico or San Diego is a bond that we proudly carry for a lifetime.

This is a unique characteristic felt only by Marines who have earned the eagle, globe, and anchor. Our Dress Blues are well known and worn with pride but it is the inner soul of the love of our Corps that those who are not us cannot see or fully understand. Yes, I am a Marine is said with pride. With all due respect, we do not hear other Veterans announce allegiance to their military branch of service.

When our Nation calls, we are there. Historically, about every 20 years the United States become involved in a combat action conflict. The first to be called into action will be our Marine Corps. Every generation has performed

exemplary in battle. Many of these battles are executed in a different tactical operation than the generations before them. Tactics may be different; the Marines are all the same. We still look to our left and look to our right already to support our Marines in every manner that we can so that none of us will be left behind.

We began in a tavern and still today we raise our glasses in tribute to our brother and sister.

Marines wishing all a Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,
Warren Griffin
National Commandant
Marine Corps League



Message from

Dean C. Lawton, Sr.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK COMMANDANT

Marines,

I know that many of you will be traveling to and from Marine Corps birthday celebrations. Please be careful during your travels, the weather is changing along with it getting darker earlier. I would also ask that you remember those Marines that cannot attend those celebrations. Call or visit them and wish them a Happy Birthday.



Happy Birthday to all Marines.

Semper Fidelis
Dean C. Lawton Sr.
Commandant
Marine Corps League
Department of New York





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USMC 248TH BIRTHDAY

Bett-Toomey

Detachment #216



MARINE OF THE YEAR

Jim Taylor
Sr. Vice Commandant



YOUNGEST / OLDEST

Assa Al Sultani
Jim Taylor
Sr. Vice Commandant



ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR

Damian Kurczewski



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Shelly Harper

Lockport Devil Dogs

Detachment
Submitted by Mark Malecki



OLDEST YOUNGEST

Sid Parish, Robert McCartin

Father Vincent Capodanno

Detachment #1471

Submitted Vincent Annunziata



CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY

Oldest Marine
Joe Robinson

Also shown
Marine
Tom Maher

Memorial

Detachment #2

Submitted Lynn Stanton



OLDEST / YOUNGEST

Detachment Commandant Bob Zink
Oldest Marine, George Stec
Father of NY Senator Dan Stec
Youngest Marine, Taylor Testa



85 guests attending the Birthday celebration watched a video presentation by the Commandant of the Marines.





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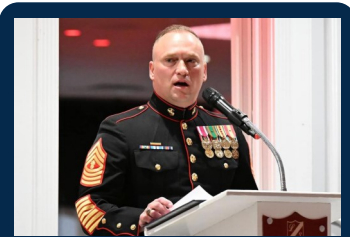
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USMC 248TH BIRTHDAY

Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment #246 *Submitted by Jennifer Battiloro*



GUEST SPEAKER
Master Gunnery Sgt.
Erick C. Earle



YOUNGEST / OLDEST
SSgt. Luis Alvarez (youngest)
Nicholas Bruzzese (oldest)



MARINE OF THE YEAR
(posthumously)
Joseph P. Cuccia



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
Frank & Carmela Montella

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF

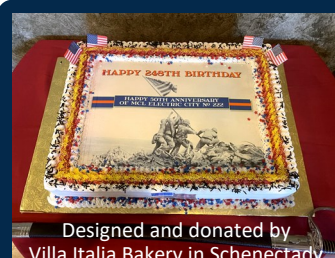


DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL BRONZE
Dominic "Rick" Castronovo



ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR
Matt Lewis

Electric City Detachment #222 *Submitted by Marybeth Stevens-Carhidi*



Designed and donated by
Villa Italia Bakery in Schenectady



ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR
Rev. John A. Califano
Chaplain



DONATION TO VETERANS FOOD BANK
Major Thomas B. Simonds, Erwin (Dom) Dominguez, Sergeant Major Justin Park, Marybeth Stevens-Carhidi, Michael D. Carhidi,



DETACHMENT #222 CELEBRANTS



Oldest **DOMINIC FAMULARO**
Youngest **JOSEPH MALLOZZI**



Cake Cutters- Rick Pryor,
Margaret Zotta & April Strickland



MARINE OF THE YEAR
Michael D. Carhidi, Commandant
presented by Vito Cerone





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USMC 248TH BIRTHDAY

Edward J. Brewer

Detachment #458
Submitted by Janis Withey



ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR
Bryan Coleman
MARINE OF THE YEAR
John (Joe) Sabatini



CAKE ESCORTS
John (Joe) Sabatini
Dennis Shehan



GUEST
SPEAKER

Major Powers



OLDEST MARINE Thomas Smetanka

Southtowns

Detachment #1136

Submitted by Commandant Earl Herrington

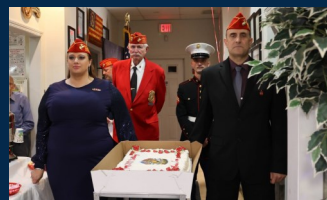
SSgt Christopher Akromas helps Old Fart Earl Herrington cut the cake at the Birthday Ball.



Suffolk County

Detachment #247
Submitted by Joe DiMauro Jr. Vice Commandant

THE CEREMONY



YOUNGEST
Eric D'Arce
Suffolk County Detachment

OLDEST
Dick Westhoff
Commandant from the
East End Detachment



**TIME TO
EAT CAKE!**

2023 OCTOBER 1 THRU
DECEMBER 31

THE GROUND POUNDER





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MARINES & COMMUNITY

Jim Hatch Detachment #1201 Fundraiser

The Detachment's host location is trying to raise funds to repave their parking lot.

So, on 1 October 2023, Sweeney's Market in Apalachin permitted the Detachment to set-up. Members of Jim Hatch Detachment #1201 spent four hours holding a fund raiser to replenishing their account.

After the four-hour event, the Detachment is proud to be able to make a donation to their host location. .



Submitted by Department Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr.

Left to right:

Associate Shirley Card

Marine Dennis Card

Commandant Lawton's wife, Associate member Bonnie.

Marines Leading the Parade

Submitted by Lynn Stanton



Rick Sullivan Mike Lewis Craig Combs Lynn Stanton

Memorial Detachment #2 color guard has lead the annual Holiday Parade for 43 years! Traditionally, It is enjoyed on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, to celebrate both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Two years ago, the parade was almost cancelled due to COVID and the major sponsor opting out.

Despite the unexpected change, the parade went on as scheduled. The local volunteer fire department understands the importance of the parade to their children and community! So, they embraced the challenge and arranged another successful year. Of course, the Marines were there to help with the traditional things that the families need.

We are blessed to have such a dedicated fire department and a patriotic community!

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas!

Don't let the lipstick fool you!



Go ahead. I DOUBLE-DOG DARE YOU!



CHUCKLES





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MARINES & COMMUNITY

Jr. ROTC from Herkimer County Perform their Annual Ceremony at the Beirut Memorial

Provided by Matt Stublely and Commandant Lawton, Sr.

Stan Lewesko is Commandant in Herkimer County, Herkimer County where the High School has a very active Jr. ROTC. Each year they gather to perform ceremonies with military precision.

This event was specific to honor those who lost their lives in the Beirut, Lebanon bombing in October of 1983, 40 years ago.

Buildings housing American, French, and a Multinational Force (MNF), on a peacekeeping operation, were attacked by 2 suicide bombers in trucks. The suicide bombers managed to kill 241 US military — 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and 3 Soldiers.

This is the single most deadly incident for Marines since the Battle of Iwo Jima in WWII. *(Wikipedia)*



Department Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. joins detachment Commandant Stan Lewesko, observe the Passing of the Flag Ceremony. Their ceremony includes the folding of the flag and passing it from the back of the line until it reaches the podium.

At that time, the names of those lost on that day, are read.

This event is important to the area. Police block off the road, and the local fire department ceremoniously raise the enormous flag outside.

Standing in front of the fire truck and large flag is Herkimer County Commandant Stan Lewesko (left) and Department Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. (right)



Pictured left: Herkimer County Detachment Commandant Stan Lewesko being interviewed by a local TV station.





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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Meritorious Unit Commendation

Obtained from Facebook

Department Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. presents Detachment Commandant Tony Pulliam with a Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Congratulations to Carmen Ramputi Detachment #861. Well Done!



Also pictured, Jr. Past Commandant Bob Pucher.

FINALLY!

*Obtained from Facebook / WGRZ
Author: Alexandra Rios-Malviya*



NORTH TONAWANDA, N.Y. — Family and friends gathered to celebrate local World War II Veteran Bill Gosch.

Marine Bill Gosch turned 100 on December 8 and they held his birthday party at the Knights of Columbus in North Tonawanda on December 9.

Gosch fought in WWII over 80 years ago.

Gosch said, "All I do is try to be a good guy. Treat others like you would have them treat you. That's kind of be straight level honest. Don't smoke. Quit drinking. Never drank much, never smoked much."

The Marine Corp Veteran served in four combat missions. He was also decorated with eight different medals that he was awarded during World War II, but had never received....



[Local WW II vet celebrates 100th birthday | wgrz.com](https://www.wgrz.com)

CHUCKLES

" Lord, what have they done to him ?





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VAVS VETERANS ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Share Your VAVs Info

IF YOUR DETACHMENT PARTICIPATES IN VAVS ACTIVITIES....

...Please contact the Chair, Al Merrill and inform him of your activities. 585-808-4905

...Then, share info and picture of the events with Donna, the newsletter editor at newsletter.dny@gmail.com



IF YOUR DETACHMENT DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN VAVS ACTIVITIES PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO.

A seemingly small gestures made by you, is a HUGE gesture to those whose lives we touch.

Veterans at the Bath VA

Thanks Al Merrill. The patients at the Bath area Veteran’s Administration Hospital have, in the past enjoyed special treatment on holidays by supplying them with coffee and pastry. On **20 December 2023**, there will be another event for those veterans.

If interested in participating, contact Al.

Future dates for future holidays in 2024 have not yet been decided yet.



UPCOMING EVENTS

12-13 JANUARY 2024

Department Mid-Winter Meeting
Joseph P. Mangan
American Legion Post 1194
363 West Service Road
Binghamton NY 13901

22-24 FEBRUARY 2024

National Mid-Winter Conference
Sheraton Pentagon City
Arlington, VA

12-13 APRIL 2024

Northeast Division Conference
Crowne Plaza Princeton
900 Scudders Mill Rd,
Plainsboro Township, NJ 08536

APRIL 2024

Department Spring Meeting—TBA

6-8 JUNE 2024

Department of New York
93rd Annual Convention
Collegian Hotel, Syracuse, NY





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P.A.T.R.I.O.T.I.C

HOLIDAY

2LT. JOHN PAUL BOBO DETACHMENT #1118

2023 VETERANS DAY AT AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT IN NIAGARA FALLS, NY

Submitted by Tom Robbins

William Monk played Amazing Grace for Veterans Day at the American Veterans Memorial Monument in Niagara Falls, NY.

Bobo Detachment's Marine Frank Hickey and Grandson, bagpiper William Monk



Bugler, Commandant Kingsley Chandler sounds Taps. The Color Guard, Adjutant Bill Talarico, Sr. Vice John Attanasio and Chaplain Nate McKenzie stand at attention.



AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT



Pearl Harbor Day Tradition

Submitted by Tom Wortmann, PDC, NY

Each year on December 7th, the Curtis High School on Staten Island holds a Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony. They do so in respect of all who were affected by the events that unfolded on that historical day in 1941.

The JROTC provides the music and flags. The Angel Mendez Detachment #246 provides the volley. Sean Torres, Sergeant at Arms, leads the honor guard that fires a salute to the fallen with their M-1s. The detachment, to the best our knowledge, is the only veterans' group on the Island that can provide that service.

Because of generations like this one, December 7, shall remain a day that will 'live in infamy.'





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P.A.T.R.I.O.T.I.C

HOLIDAY

Respect with Wreaths

Submitted by Department Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr.



12.16.23
Commandant
Dean Lawton, Sr.
laying a wreath
for Wreaths
Across America



12.16.23 Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. Laying a wreath in honor of POW/MIA during ceremony at Tioga County Courthouse Veterans Memorial

Arcuri Family and Veterans' Day

Obtained from Facebook

The Arcuri Brothers represented the Marine Corps League, E.L. Smith Jr. Detachment #245 at the Rome Veteran Memorial on 11/11/23.



*Above:
Edward Arcuri,
Thomas Arcuri, Raymond Arcuri*

Below: Grandchildren to Jr. Past Commandant, Tom Arcuri Bowen Leonard and Sullivan Leonard at Stokes Elementary school Veterans Appreciation Day. Rome, NY



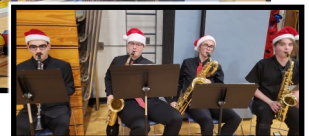
TOYS FOR TOTS

LATE SUBMISSION SQUEEZED IN

by Jim Bansom



This is LZ Old Corps Det. #999 Camden toy handout. We had entertainment as you can see. Thanks to all our members for working and special thanks to Jill and Tom Phelps.



2023 OCTOBER 1 THRU DECEMBER 31

THE GROUND POUNDER





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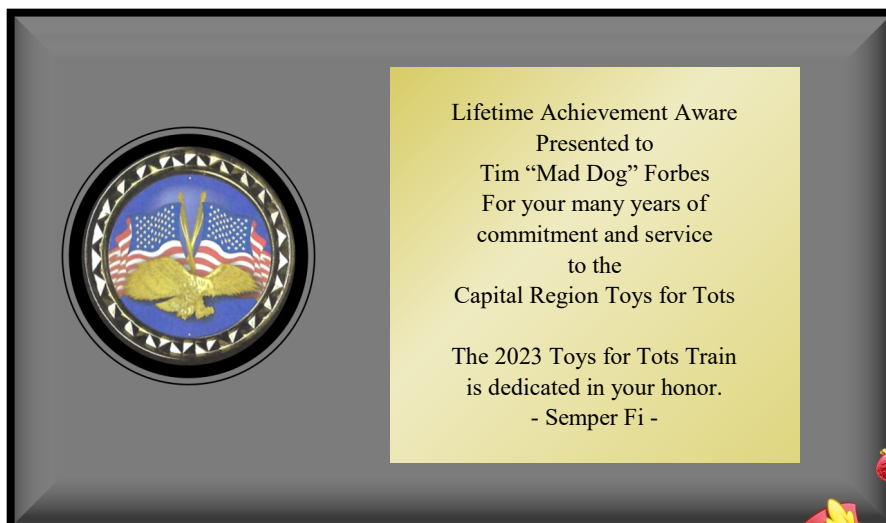
Gratitude for 14 Years of Volunteer Service



Tim Forbes and his wife, Donna were VIP guests on this year's Southern Tier Train and were presented plaques honoring their 14 years of service to the Capital Region Toys for Tots Campaign. The Capital Region's Campaign is the third largest in the United States, that covers 15 counties right here in New York State.

The train trip was dedicated in their honor.

Replicas of the plaques they received



Tim Forbes and wife, Donna, received awards from Coordinators SSGT. Patrick Lurenz and Shelby Kleiniewski.

Submitted by Timothy Forbes, PNVC, PDC, East AVC



it takes a VILLAGE...

2023 OCTOBER 1 THRU
DECEMBER 31

THE GROUND POUNDER



20



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TOYS FOR TOTS



Hard Work Pays Off

Submitted by Timothy Forbes, PNV, PDC, East AVC



Tim Forbes of Troy Detachment and members from the Speigletown Fire Company collected **eight boxes** of toys, **2 bikes** and **money** for the Toys for Tots Campaign run by the Marine Corps Reserves.

Riding THE Toys for Tots Train

The Original was submitted by Susan Whitlow, LCO

There is only ONE official Toys for Tots Train in the U.S.



Rose Soto & Sue Whitlow

Imagine being the crew that gets to ride the only Toys for Tots train. The volunteers had to show up a day early and create a daisy chain to fill the train with toys. The day of, arrive at the station at 06:00.



ALL ABOARD!

Let the work begin! There was such an outpouring of gratitude greeting us when they rolled into another station to deliver toys. Only after the job is done, do you return to the home station at 21:50.



Links for more content:
<https://www.news10.com/video/toys-for-tots-holiday-train-returns-to-capital-region/9169620/> & <https://www.wicz.com/story/50142553/capital-region-toys-for-tots-train-returns-for-first-time-in-five-years>

Turning Stone Casino Submitted by Jim Ransom

On 25 November 2023, A fund raiser was held at the Turning Stones Casino for Toys for Tots. Marines are from I & I (Instructor and Inspector) staff at the Mattydale Marine Reserve Center.



Jim felt it necessary to point out that he is the one in the middle.





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TOYS FOR TOTS



Dedication from Toys for Tots Volunteers

The Original submitted by Susan Whitlow, LCO

Toys for Tots is a non-profit, run by the Marine Corps Reserves. The goal is to make sure that every child gets one gift under the tree. It's a lofty goal. Marines thrive on lofty tasks.

The League participates and helps contribute to this gargantuan effort. Our "small" part, *(and I say that sarcastically in quotes)*, takes an enormous amount of effort and coordination. For those of you who are not aware, the League's Coordinators are responsible for several counties and dedicate their every minute to Toys for Tots from mid-October until just before Christmas.

And so it begins — finding storage place; placing and collecting donation boxes; planning countless events to raise money; getting, vetting, supervising volunteers; gathering "wish lists" from secondary non-profits; and organizing distribution. Don't overlook the fact that reports need to be submitted to the Marine Corps Reserves. These tasks are just the tip of the gi-normous iceberg. The energy that it takes to do all this comes from a huge heart filled with passion for the kids. Go ahead and ask anyone who acts as an organizer, this truly is 24/7 job.



Tim Forbes



A handful of volunteers from the Capital Region

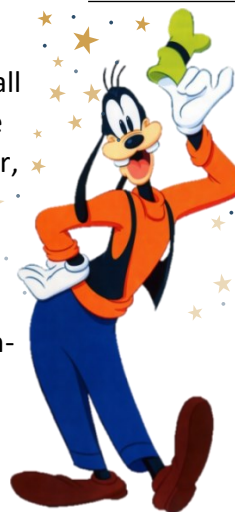


But they try. Sue says that infants and teen categories are the most difficult to fill. Distribution occurs as soon as a category (or location) is filled.

When the donations start to pour in, The Local County Organizer (LCO) arranges for pick-up and distribution to other non-profits. This year, Sue Whitlow and Tim Forbes' teams dropped-off over 160 boxes and 34,000 toys for area counties.



The secondary non-profits make requests to the needs, with consideration to age and gender. Requests for specific items is unlikely to be filled.



Great Job!

LOCAL CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER

- Jason Tiefel
- Jonathan Schneider ...
- Doug Duval.....
- Eric Fetterman
- Steve Topilnycky
- Jim Ransom.....
- Brad Bartholomew.....

DETACHMENT

- Genesee Valley
- Putnam County
- Sgt. Angel Mendez
- John W Thurston
- Westchester County
- LZ Old Corps
- Jim Hatch





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TOYS FOR TOTS



Fund Raiser was a Huge Success

Submitted by Steve Topilnycky, Adjutant

Additional information from jessicalynnmusic.org and Wikipedia

Steve Topilnycky, Westchester County Toys for Tots Coordinator participated in an event that brought in many presents for the Toys for Tots, and was a great night of entertainment too! Steve teamed up with country singer Jessica Lynn, for the seventh year, for an event that broke a local record for the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater ,that opened in 1932. No act had ever had 2 consecutive shows sell out. That is, until Jessica Lynn graced the stage.

Although Jessica Lynn received a bachelor's in education, mathematics and a master's in special education, she chose her path in country music. Some might say that country music chose her. She plays piano, guitar, drums and sings lead. In 2004, at the tender age of 14, she began performing professionally.

The popular country star grew up in Westchester County. Her popularity and accomplish-ments are well known to the locals. The Toys for Tots Campaign was blessed by her generosity to help make the 2023 Campaign a huge success.



Steve Topilnycky, Toys for Tots Coordinator, assists as Jessica receives a plaque of appreciation from Sr. Vice Commandant Westchester County Detachment, Mike Waluk and one of his personal Challenge Coin.

- She is a songwriter.
- Her songs have topped the Top-10 chart, 12 times through 2022.
- Jessica Lynn has appeared on television; popular country festivals
- Performed with the well-known artists, Trace Adkins, Shenandoah, and Loretta Lynn.
- She has toured both nationally and in Europe.
- By the way, she was on the cover for 2 country magazines.



Sr. Vice Commandant Westchester County Detachment, Mike Waluk and Southeast Area Vice Commandant Mike Pisciotto collect gifts.

Jessica Lynn



Photos from website jessicalynnmusic.org

Gratitude

Westchester County Toys for Tots Coordinator, Steve Topilnycky presents a Commanders Award for Participation to Capt. Brian Ferrone of New York State Police Troop T. Both Troop T (Tarrytown & New Rochelle Barracks) and Troop K (Hawthorne, Cortlandt and Somers Barracks) collected for Toys for Tots, Westchester.



Steve Topilnycky, Coordinator and Capt. Brian Ferrone





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HISTORY

They Came In Peace!

Submitted by: Steve Topilnycky, Adjutant Paymaster, Westchester County Detachment #254

23 October 2023 marked the 40th Anniversary of the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. The Marines of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines of the 2nd Marine Division were deployed to Beirut, Lebanon as part of a multination peacekeeping force.

Early on a Sunday morning, 23 October 1983, two truck bombs struck buildings in Beirut, Lebanon, housing American and French service members of the Multi-national Force in Lebanon.

The first suicide bomber detonated a truck bomb at the building serving as a barracks for the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines (Battalion Landing Team – BLT 1/8) of the 2nd Marine Division, killing 220 Marines, 18 sailors and 3 soldiers, making this incident the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II, and the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States Armed Forces since the first day of the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War.

LCpl Craig Wyche was a graduate of Ossining High School class of 1982, and part of the peacekeeping force, and was one of three Marines from Westchester County who was killed in this terrorist attack. Each year in remembrance of this horrific event, members of the Marine Corps League Westchester County



Detachment #254 gather with members of the Ossining American Legion Post #52, members of the Ossining Police Department, Ossining High School Alumni, students and staff, and the family of Craig Wyche gathered on the front lawn of the Ossining High School, where the Detachment planted a tree in his honor. The ceremony was officiated by Detachment Adjutant Paymaster





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HISTORY



Steve Topilnycky with the benediction by Detachment acting Chaplain Kelly Topilnycky. Detachment member Donald O'Keefe placed the memorial wreath and rendered honors. Ossining High School student Jonathan Kang played taps. The ceremony ended with all those present, meeting and speaking with the family of LCpl Wyche.

The Westchester County Detachment sponsors scholarships at two schools in our local area. Each scholarship is a cash award to a student who is pursuing further education in the Engineering or Trades fields. For more information, or to donate, please visit [link](https://www.mclwestchester.org/programs/marine-memorial-scholarship-program/) to the right.

"I know there are no words that can express our sorrow and grief for the loss of those splendid young men. - Likewise, there are no words to properly express our outrage and I think the outrage of all Americans"

~-President Ronald Reagan



<https://www.mclwestchester.org/programs/marine-memorial-scholarship-program/>

References: Wikipedia, Marines.mil



LEST WE FORGET





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Miscellaneous

Marine needs Urgent Help!



Contact Bella to make sure that still needs what you want to donate. While not a need, he sure would like some Marine Corps items.

IMAGINE COMING HOME TO THIS !

While he intends to rebuild his home, he will still need immediate assistance. Money is needed most. With that, he will be able to get items that he needs from second hand stores.

This story was received from Earl Herrington, West Area Vice Commandant.

Charles Jamieson is a Mohawk Veteran who has dedicated his time to American Legion Iroquois Post 1587. There he serves as Sgt. at Arms and as a member of the Honor Guard.

On 1 December 2023, Marine Charles Jamieson was at the Legion and received horrible news. His home was on fire. Ultimately he would lose everything. All he had was the clothes on his back.

Bella Cook (803-528-5728), adjutant at the Legion is organizing the efforts to get Charles back on his feet. He has received several donations thus far, and has an apartment. However, he is still in need of clothing: Men’s medium shirt, size 9.5 shoes, pants are 33 W x 28 L. There are several other needs. The most apparent needs are those that are used on a daily basis, and we don’t think twice about using.

CONTACT / DONATE:

- Bella Cook, adjutant 803-528-5728
- Legion Post 716-532-1587
- Venmo @iroquois-post (1587) put Charles Jamieson’s name on it
- Checks to Charles Jamieson c/o Iroquois Post 1587 American Legion, 12897 NY 14081

OO RAH!

While Marine Jamieson is not a member of the MCL, he IS a Marine!

