



Number 3-25 Summer

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

Editor- Tom Wortmann PDC, PPL

Send submissions to: newsletter@mclnewyork.org

In memory of



Donna Hildebrandt

[For the Department website, click here](#)

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David Wiggs
- Sr. Vice Commandant
Micheal Piscioti
- Jr. Vice Commandant
Rosemarie Soto
- Judge Advocate
Janis Lunger
- Jr. Past Commandant
Dean Lawton Jr.
- Adjutant
Vacant
- Chief of Staff
Carlos Garcia
- Paymaster
Robert Ostrander
- Webmaster
Vacant
- Chaplain
Nick Paluszkiwicz
- Sergeant at Arms
Susan Whitlow
- NY Pack Leader
Skip Diamond



Commandant's Corner

DAVID WIGGS

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



Greetings Marines and Associate members. I have recently returned from the National Convention with some exciting news! The Marine Corps League National Convention Committee has selected New York to host the 2027 Convention in Buffalo, New York. Our Past Commandant Dean Lawton has been named as the Committee Chairman. I guess they had such a good time in 2018 that they would like to do it again. I would appreciate it if every detachment did what it can to support the convention as I am sure Dean would appreciate the support as well. The convention this year was a fairly quiet affair, the election was uncontested, so we have the same national officers for a second year. The only contention was an administrative procedure vote to codify a previous Judge Advocate ruling that normal meetings cannot be held via Zoom. Since the AP change was not passed, the ruling still stands. If you need to have a meeting via Zoom, then you will need to cancel your regular meeting and hold a special meeting. The banquet was very nice, and we heard a very inspiring speech by the Young Marine of the Year, Chingiz Bahadur. Also in attendance from New York besides Dean and I were Sr. Vice Commandant Micheal Piscioti, Jr. Vice Commandant Rose Soto who also advanced to Pedigree Devil Dog, PDC James Ransom, Area Vice Commandant Hyde Volker, Chief of Staff and Area Vice Commandant Carlos Garcia and Area Vice Commandant Richard Buck, as well as James Knapp and Cathleen Wiggs. I hope everyone has had a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all in Elmira in October. *(More convention pictures on pages 8 and 9)*



Jim Ransom, the ladies of Buffalo and our Commandant



The usual cast of suspects all attended

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Officer Reports

From the desk of ...

Department Senior Vice Commandant

Michael Piscioti



As the United States Marine Corps approaches its 250th Birthday, I would like to raise a glass and wish you all a Happy Birthday. I would also like to remind everyone of a few things... We are Marines, and each detachment should remember:

Veteran Support and Advocacy: Critical support to veterans, including assistance with navigating VA benefits, healthcare, and more.

Scholarship and Youth: Programs through scholarship funds and youth programs, the organization encourages educational achievement and leadership development.

Community Service: The League is deeply involved in community service. Members volunteer for local causes, participate in disaster relief and organize blood drives. Our presence in parades, commemorative ceremonies, and events reinforces its commitment to service and remembrance.

Camaraderie and Brotherhood: Through regular meetings, social gatherings, reunions, and shared experiences, the League provides a network of support and fellowship. The League often becomes a second family to its members, offering friendship, mentorship, and mutual aid.

Leadership and Governance: The League is governed by elected officers at the local, state, and national levels; positions that ensure the smooth running of the organization. Elections held annually, members are empowered to nominate, vote, and serve. The constitution and bylaws provide structure and continuity, enabling the organization to adapt and thrive in changing times.

Annual Conventions: Members from across the country gather to conduct business, elect officers, attend workshops, and celebrate the accomplishments of the year. The convention provides an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, the strengthening of ties, and honoring service. The organization has embraced technology to

From the desk of ...

Department Junior Vice Commandant

Rosemarie Soto



This past August I had the privilege of attending the 102nd National Convention in Grapevine, Texas. One of the highlights was the Medal of Honor Dinner, where I was honored to meet Ty Carter. He shared his story of bravery during and after the Battle of Kamdesh at Combat Outpost Keating in Afghanistan—an experience that earned him our nation’s highest honor.

On a personal note, I was proud to receive my Pedigree in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs – Woof! Woof! The convention was not only a time of learning and honoring tradition, but also a chance to enjoy true camaraderie. It was wonderful to finally shake hands and share stories with Marines I had only known through phone calls and online conversations.

Keep in mind that retention remains an important part of the strength of the Marine Corps League. We must continue encouraging our fellow Marines to stay active, engaged, and connected. At the same time, we should also welcome others who share our mission and values by bringing them in as members, associate members. Their support, dedication, and involvement help us carry on the traditions of the Corps and ensure the League remains strong for future generations.

connect members & share information, Social media, virtual meetings, and online resources allow the League to support Marines and veterans wherever they reside. And the League remains rooted in the values and traditions that have defined it for a century.

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THE JUDGE ADVOCATE SAYS

Greetings Marines,

I hope this finds you all in high spirits. As your Judge Advocate, I'm excited to share highlights and developments from the 2025 National Convention held August 11–15 in Texas, which I wasn't able to attend in person, but followed closely with interest.

Key Developments from the National Convention

Streamlined Proposal Process - For the first time, National introduced a new approach: bylaws and administrative procedure proposals were published on the National Convention website as they were received, rather than waiting until April. This gave members a significant head start to review, discuss, and prepare for the floor resulting in a smoother, more informed decision-making process. There were 30 total proposals reviewed (6 targeting Bylaws and 24 concerning Administrative Procedures), including a major update to Chapter Nine that I have my eye on for future familiarization.

Rules of Convention Remain Firm but Effective - The National Rules Committee recommended adopting the 2025 Rules of Convention exactly as drafted. These rules reinforce order, decorum, and respect during sessions. Things like wearing the proper MCL cover, punctuality, and mic protocols remain central.

What This Means for Department of New York

- **Advance Review: A Smart Advantage** - The earlier release of proposals underscores the value of proactive learning. We'll benefit greatly by familiarizing ourselves with upcoming changes. Advance prep gives us clarity and confidence when these proposals make their way to our meetings.

Tightened Procedures: Same Lean Team with rules remaining steady and unchanged, our focus shifts to ensuring clarity and adherence at Department and Detachment levels. I'll work to distribute any relevant materials and hold sessions (in person or virtual) to walk through them together.

Marines, I may not have made it to the convention floor this year, but I'm committed to making sure we in New York are informed, prepared, and ready to lead. My phone and inbox are always open. Don't hesitate to reach out with questions, big or small.

Together, we'll keep strengthening our detachments and honoring the mission of the Marine Corps League with knowledge, fairness, and unity.

Have you read your detachment's Bylaws? You should since you voted for them. Every member needs to understand that these are the rules that govern how your detachment operates and it is the membership that votes for them and any changes that follow. Red hats rule, remember that. Don't forget that associates can vote on any detachment business not affecting the Marine Corps league business like Bylaw changes or the election of officers.

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MARINES HONOR EAGLE SCOUTS



(Above) Department Eagle Scout Coordinator, Volker Heyde presented the Good Citizen Award to Eagle Scout Kaitlyn Rose Kahrmann of Troop 4062 in Pine Island NY, Middletown Detachment.



(Left) Member Tom Maher of the Father Capodanno Detachment attended the Female Troop 253G Eagle Scout ceremony honoring Ava Chow and Chloe Chin. Their Eagle Court of Honor was held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at Mary's Nativity Parish Hall, where they received their certificates.



(Above) A court of honor was attended by Eagle Scout Coordinator Volker Heyde and sponsored by the Angel Mendez Detachment. Eagle Scouts are William DiMeola (left) and Markos Zaranis.

(right) Eagle Scout Coordinator

Volker Heyde with new Eagle Scouts Sean Taeschne and Bryan Chang of Troop 150. The awards were given out at Pouch Camp on Staten Island.



(Left) Mountaintop Detachment 1274 presenting the certificate and check for Isaiah M. Coletti's court of honor. (left to right) Eagle Scout. Troop 43 Leader Chris Algozzine, Commandant Joe Huber, Sr. Vice Sue Whitlow, JV Rose Soto and Chief of Staff Elmo Brandon.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In the last issue there was an article about profile numbers replacing member numbers. It turns out that was not correct information. Thanks to Steve Topilnycky for telling us. National is keeping member numbers but there are some changes. Disregard what was printed in the Spring issue. The correct information is right off the Member Library on the National Website.

The Ground Pounder prints what is submitted, sometimes, just sometimes, it is incorrect. As soon as I discover an error, I print a retraction. It is always a good idea to verify important updates and information. This information can be checked at the address below.

<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Profile-ID-and-Member-Number.pdf#>

PROFILE ID vs MEMBER NUMBER

The way the new database is set up, everything runs on Profile ID numbers. The search does not work for a Member Number or Life Member Number. Searching for a detachment must be done a special way: 155 FI (and that would bring up the Flint Detachment). You can also type the name of the Detachment. It has to be exact. Things like 925 LCPL or 925 L/CPL would affect the search. Things like Jr, Sr, II, III all affect the search.

We may have 35 Steve Smith's.

We have people that say they are Fred Smith but that is their nickname or Fred is their middle name. We can't find them in the system until we learn their real name.

Type in a Profile ID # to find Division, Department, Detachment, or Member

For example:

1 is Central Division

5 is Department of Michigan

102 is Detachment 155 Flint

The Detachment Profile ID is located at the top of the Roster

The Member's Profile ID is located in the left column of the Roster

We needed to ensure numbers did not get crossed and yet be able to use the system.

New #: R123456 = Regular Member's # / L123456 = Paid Life Member's #

A search for 123456 would locate this member.

The newest Profile ID couldn't be used. We are at 220,000 Profile IDs in the database. If we just plug in **220001** as a member number, there is already someone in the League with that Member Number. His name is Brian and lives in Missouri and is no longer a member. But Brian's Profile ID is 138791 and he can be found with that.

The old Member Numbers and Life Member Numbers **are not going away**, however, the Profile ID number is really the important number.

*National will be adding a V to the MEMBER Number, and XV to Associate MEMBER Number to designate a veteran of another branch and not the profile number as previously reported.

This is all due to the current tax codes. Yes, all our regular members are veterans, but we need to show that somehow on our roster. This is how National decided to do it.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Listed here are common issues found with Report of Installation forms:

Wrong form

When creating and filling your ROI, always check the [National Library](#) on the website to ensure you are using the latest one.

Missing or incorrect information

Incorporation id / incorporation date

Misspelled names, always check the latest detachment roster to ensure you are using the same spelling to ensure no misunderstanding.

Required entries:

Commandant, Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate, Adjutant/Paymaster, Chaplain and Sgt At Arms. If any of these positions are currently empty, please include a note in the email when you submit your ROI. These positions need to be filled and should be reported on a supplemental ROI.

Meeting time and place,

Meeting location information, Installation date, Detachment renewal dues, Installation Officer name or signature.

Installing yourself

(This is no longer allowed)

The installing officer cannot be an officer on the ROI form that they are signing. A supplemental ROI needs to be filled with a different installing officer. For example: If a Past Commandant is installing the new officers, the position that the Past Commandant will be serving in needs to be left blank. A supplemental ROI needs to be created with a different installing officer and the only entry will be the office that the Past Commandant will be serving in. If possible, use your Area Vice Commandant as the installing officer.

To minimize your time, the Departments and Nationals time, please take a few minutes to audit you ROI form before sending it to the Department Adjutant. Future ROI forms will be returned if they contain incorrect or missing information. While some of this may seem silly, there is a reason National has set it up this way and by complying to this, you are making all our jobs easier. All ROIs must be submitted and accepted by National before June 30th of each year.

Fall Department Meeting

**REMINDER: RESERVATIONS
NEED TO BE MADE NO LATER
THAN 26 SEPTEMBER!**

The Fall Department meeting will be held at the Quality Inn, located at 2666 Corning Road, Horseheads on 10-11 October 2025. The group rate is \$119.00 per night. The hotel contact information is below:

Quality Inn
2666 Corning Road
Horseheads, New York 14845
(607) 739-3681

When making your reservation by phone, ensure to mention the group code, "Marine Corps League".

Reservations must be made by **26 September 2025**.

The agenda will be posted when available.

This information can also be found on the Department web site at <https://www.mclnewyork.org/2025/08/27/department-fall-meeting-2025/>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

ANNUAL NOTICE

EXPIRATION: 31 AUGUST

RENEW TODAY WITH YOUR
LOCAL DETACHMENT PAYMASTER

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

*Department Marine of the Year for 2025 goes to:
Rocky Graziano of the Rockland County Detachment*



Sr Vice Piscioti places the medal on Rocky



Rocky's family was there



Commandant Wiggs congratulates Rocky



The entire detachment was present with a cake to celebrate the occasion.



It was indeed a noteworthy occasion with his family, members of his Detachment and Officers of the Department were present when Senior Vice Commandant Piscioti placed the medal around Rocky's neck.

They even had a cake for the occasion.

Congratulations Rocky!



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2025 National Convention

The National Convention took place in Grapevine Texas this year with the hotel smack in the middle of the Dallas/Fort Worth airport. The staff of the Department had a good showing with a number of department officers in attendance.



AVC Carlos Garcia attended and became a member of the National Public Relations Committee.



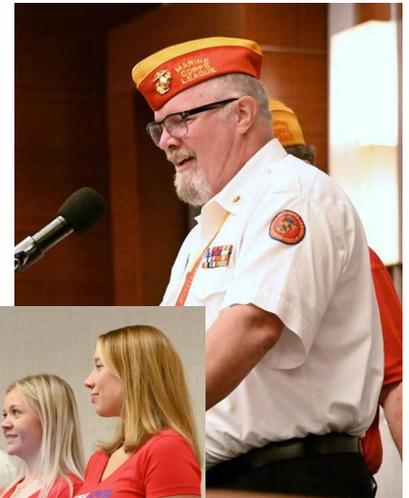
A gathering of our officers ordering Dinner during the convention.



JVC Soto had the opportunity to meet MOH recipient Ty Carter



Future, present and past Commandants of the Department of New York



(above) Commandant Wiggs and the ladies of Buffalo promote our bid to host the 2027 National Convention in Buffalo NY– and we won!

One does not need to be an officer to attend a National Convention, they are open to all members.

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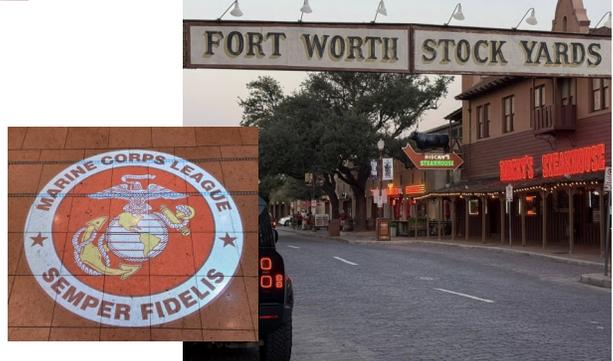
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2025 National Convention

FUN AT THE CONVENTION



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MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS

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



(left) The newest PDD's of the Order. And our own Junior Vice is in there somewhere. Can you find her?



(above) NY Pack dog Robber with the Dunkin man, Mike Francis (SVCCD)



(Left) Rosemarie Soto with the Kennel Sr. Vice Chief Devil Dog

Mike Pisciotto places a Gold collar on Rosemarie Soto (right)

Attention: Dog Robbers of the New York Pack



Good afternoon all. I have just returned from the MCL National Convention in Dallas, TX. While attending Chief Devil Dog JD Jones announced that all functions with the Kennel Dog Robber will be accomplished electronically. ALL transmittals, ROIs, Memberships, etc. are to be done via the KMA (Kennel Management Application), period.

In other words, the Kennel will no longer accept mail for any transaction. Dean Lawton Jr.

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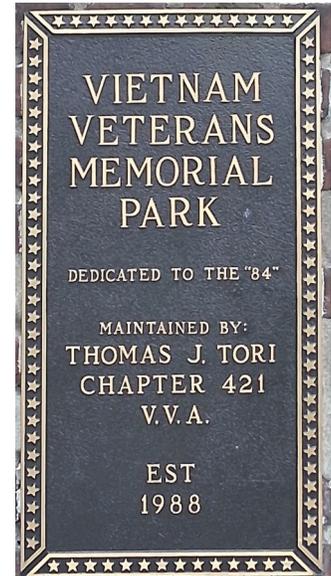
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Around the State

Each year on Staten Island, the Vietnam Veterans of America Post 421 holds a memorial service in June (the month the park was dedicated back in 1988) to honor the 84 Staten Islanders who died in Vietnam. Every veteran is invited and the Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment always fires the rifle salute.

This year was no different.



(right) Assistant Division Vice Commandant Lawton Sr. (right) presented a check donated to Clear Path for Veterans to Memorial Day Detachment Commandant Dave Brisbane at the annual Challenge 22 to benefit veteran suicide.

(Challenge 22 because 22 veterans a day commit suicide)



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Around the State



(above left) The Rockland County Detachment had the honor of presenting our Nation's Colors at the Annual Veterans Appreciation Night at Clover Stadium, home of the Rockland Boulders



(above right) On June 15th, The Angel Mendez Detachment presented the colors on the opening of the Ferry Hawks, a minor league baseball team on Staten Island.



Putnam County Detachment recently presented a check for \$5,000 to VFW Post #1374. That was raised during their 2024 Veterans Fundraising Campaign. They thanked their members who do so much for our country.



On Saturday 14 June25, members of the Middletown Detachment 236, got together at Adam's of Middletown for a fundraiser and membership drive. The mission was a success.

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Around the State



(Left) The Long Island Area Detachments, Suffolk 247 Commandant Jacklyn Imperati, Sunrise #248 Commandant Brian Gregory, and the Father Capodanno Commandant Fred DeAbreu, all presented a Mamaluke sword to Midshipman Justin C Lafferty from Anchorage AK. The midshipman is the son of a Marine. The award is the Espirit de Corps award for best exemplifying the qualities of leadership through mentoring other Marine Corps options Midshipmen and who are entering active duty in the Marine Corps. The award was presented by Area Vice Commandant Carlos Garcia and Commandant Fred Deabreu on behalf of the area!



(Left) at the South Richmond HS on Staten Island, the Angel Mendez Detachment awards one student a good citizen ward and a check for \$500. Here you see their Principle, Mr. Anthony Casella, winner Matthew Frazer, and Department AVC Volker Heyde who presented the award as a member of the detachment.



(Above) Here's a motley crew of members of Mad Dawg Pound 382 helping out at the 43rd Annual Strawberry Festival in Owego, NY.

(right) One of the oldest running Independence Day parades running is held in the Travis section of Staten Island and the Angel Mendez Detachment always participates.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net

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Around the State

Sunrise Detachment's outpouring of support

When member Issac Jerome Goudy was put to rest at Pinewood Cemetery, there was a outstanding show of support by his fellow detachment and Motorcycle club members. Know as 'Hightower' by his MC Club, it was clear that he was missed by all. He was a Husband, Father and Grandfather to Area Vice Commandant Carlos Gracia seen by is coffin.



(left) Long Island Area Vice Commandant Carlos Garcia and his assistant, Tom Gunnip ceremoniously folded the flag on behalf of the Department.

His eulogy spoke of a man who gave much back to his community. He was truly liked by all who knew him. May he rest in peace brother.



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Around the State



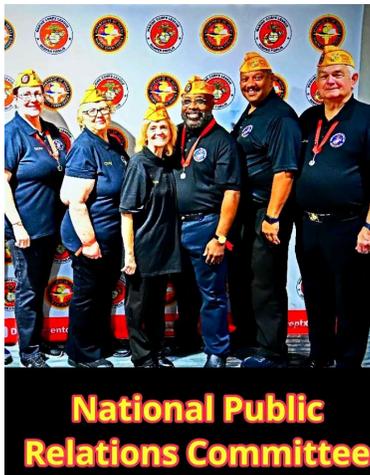
Submitted by Steve Capirici

These pictures are of the Conard Kania Detachment participating in the Canal Fest Parade in Tonowanda, NY on July 15th, 2025. This is the annual Canal Festival held in Tonowanda NY which is where the Erie Canal meets Tonowanda Creek. That is West Area Vice Commandant Steve Capirici in their very own "Chesty Puller" bus. (right)

How I was selected for the National Public Relations Committee By Carlos Garcia

In true Jarhead fashion I was selected to the committee by getting in trouble. My detachment posted some questionable material

on Facebook and I was called on the carpet. After fixing the Facebook page immediately and learning the rules and getting involved, I was asked to be a part of the social media team at Mid winter this past year. I am responsible for the content on LinkedIn and help manage the FB.



(Above) The Parade vehicle of Mountaintop Detachment during the 4th of July parade in Windham New York.



(left) Congratulations to MaryBeth Stevens-Carhidi, "Job well done, Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off as the NYS Marine Corps League has awarded her a Citizen Award for your outstanding role as the Convention Journal Co-ordinator. Your efforts in supporting the League and ensuring a successful convention have not gone unnoticed."

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Around the State

Marine Corps Veteran Dave Villarreal of the Lockport Devil Dogs

Marine Corps veteran Dave Villarreal has made an indelible mark in the world of competitive sports by winning gold at both the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the National Veterans Golden Age Games. This remarkable accomplishment was achieved with an air rifle generously provided by the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF).

Dave's success in these games is a testament to his skill, determination, and unwavering spirit. His precision and focus while shooting his rifle have earned him accolades and respect within the veteran community. But Dave's contributions extend far beyond the sports arena.

When he is not competing in marathon races or showcasing his shooting prowess, you can find Dave embodying the spirit of the holiday season as Santa Claus. He brings joy and cheer to nursing homes, schools, and shopping centers, spreading happiness wherever he goes. His dedication to giving back to the community and brightening the lives of others is truly inspiring.



Honoring 127 Years of Service by U.S. Navy Corpsmen

For 127 years, the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps has served as a beacon of resilience, compassion, and unwavering dedication. Since its establishment on June 17, 1898, the corpsmen have stood shoulder to shoulder with Marines across the globe, embodying a legacy of care and courage that few can rival.

Shoulder to Shoulder with Marines One of the most defining aspects of the Hospital Corps is its close partnership with the Marine Corps. Corpsmen are often deployed alongside Marines, providing critical medical support on the front lines. Whether it's tending to wounds under fire, administering lifesaving care in remote locations, or offering comfort in moments of despair, corpsmen have been the unsung heroes of countless battles.

A Brotherhood of Courage The history of the corps is punctuated with acts of extraordinary bravery. Many Corpsmen have received prestigious awards, including the Medal of Honor, for their selfless actions in the face of danger. Their stories are a testament to their unwavering commitment to saving lives, regardless of the risks.

The Legacy Continues As we honor 127 years of service. We recognized the vital role corpsmen continue to play in the Navy and Marine Corps team. They are more than medical professionals; they are healers, warriors, and friends who embody the highest ideals of service and sacrifice.

Submitted by Detachment 232, Lockport Devil Dogs.



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Member Stories

This new section will be filled with stories by you, the regular red hat, for reading by the membership.

I received yet another Challenge from the Marine Corps Association and Foundation. I register and compete in these Challenges as often as I can.

This event, was designated as the Guadalcanal Offensive Challenge, a 10K event to be completed by running, swimming, walking, biking. Trusting my sturdy road bike, I embarked, before the Heat Index became hellish.

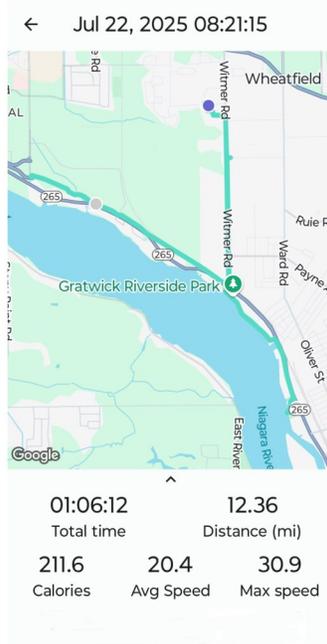
Lo and behold, at about the 6 mile mark, I found myself at the Marine Corps Monument in North Tonawanda, NY.

I stopped for reflection.... The Marines of the Conrad F. Kania Detachment # 230 own and maintain this Monument. Private Conrad F. Kania, 2/7, 1st Marine Division for whom our Detachment is named, was killed in action during the Guadalcanal assault on 09 November 1942.

A Plaque in his honor is placed upon the central obelisk at the Monument. (Right)

I thought it fitting to pay respects during the Guadalcanal Offensive Challenge to a Marine who fell at Guadalcanal. Semper Fidelis.

On July 22, 2025, I once again, I participated in a Marine Corps Association and Foundation event. Sugar Bear Memorial Run, walk, row, or bike 10 miles, to honor the memory of LtCol Mario "Sugar Bear" Carazo. LtCol Carazo made the ultimate sacrifice on July 22, 2010, when his AH-1W Cobra was shot down while supporting Marines engaged in a firefight in Afghanistan. Colonel Carazo soared on wings that day, supporting Marines in contact. I rode today in his honor. I began my journey transiting the newly found " Enchanted Forest bike path" enroute to the local Marine Corps Monument. Both locations, for me, present a place for contemplation, reflection, wonder and gratitude. Alas, another glorious day, sunlight, clear skies, mild temperature with a slight ENE wind....in essence a perfect day to ride. In addition, I had registered to participate in another Marine Corps Association and Foundation event: Against The Wind, The Wind Cries.



Submitted by V. Gregory Mish

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Member Stories



ALL Marines should look their best!

(Left) As you well know Marines clean up well and look the best of all branches of the service when in their dress uniform. The before picture shows a military figure saluting and holding a flag (or at least a flag holder) but he is pretty nondescript, to say the least. Joyce Wicker, an associate member of Memorial Day Detachment #468 and wife of Senior Vice Commandant Jim Wicker of the same detachment, decided that the figure had to be a Marine and as such had to look the part. Joyce hand painted the figure and I think you will agree she did a beautiful job that certainly does justice to the uniform and is a great representative of what a Marine should look like. The figure now stands guard by the flagpole in their yard.

Jim and Joyce have 2 grandsons on active duty in the Marine Corps. One will be graduating from Parris Island on August 21. I think her work deserves a big OORAH!!!



(Above) The Buffalo VA Hospitals hold a Recreational Therapy Creative Arts Festival. Walter Farfara of Niagara-Frontier Detachment #239 and Ann Marie Pearson of Bett-Toomey Detachment #216 both entered it for judging. Each one has received awards and had their work selected to move on to National. Ann made the scarf by hand, and she also made a print of Buffalo's old Train Station. This is good therapy for veterans.

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Our Detachment's Events

Lockport Devil Dogs honor Two Outstanding Women Marines in their Detachment

Fran Castro and Becky Forsyth

By Peter Klay

Both Fran Castro and Becky Forsyth served in the Marine Corps during the early 1970s, a time of significant change and development within the armed forces. In the 1970s, both Fran Castro and Becky Forsyth demonstrated exceptional abilities and leadership within the Marine Corps. Their roles and responsibilities showcased their skills and dedication, contributing to the corps' successes during this transformative period.

After their distinguished service in the Marine Corps, Fran Castro and Becky Forsyth continued their commitment to the marine community by serving in the Lockport Devil Dog Det 232. This detachment is known for its camaraderie and support for Marine veterans, and both women played integral roles in fostering these values.

Their story serves as a reminder of the strengths and capabilities of women in the Marine Corps, breaking barriers and setting new standards. Fran Castro and Becky Forsyth's journey, from active service to their ongoing dedication to veteran support, exemplifies the true spirit of the Marine Corps.

Lockport has a Facebook page with the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/MCL-Lockport-Devil-Dog-Det-232/100083489371895/>

Besides the Facebook link to The Lockport Devil Dogs on the left, Here are Facebook links to some other New York Detachments who do not have their own websites

Electric City <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=electric%20city%20detachment%20222%20mcl>

Rockland County <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=rockland%20county%20mcl>

A warning to our members by Richard Buck

We have been advised that there has been a significant increase in offers from "predatory" firms seeking to assist veterans with their disability and pension claims. Please keep in mind the following when deciding how to proceed with a claim.

Most, if not all counties in New York State have a Veterans Service Agency or something similar as part of government's offices. Those employees are paid by the county and do not charge for their services to veterans and their dependents to assist in claims and other issues.

Conversely most of the private firms will charge for the same services. It is important to note that the county offices are staffed by accredited Veterans Service Officers who are trained and authorized by the VA to advise veterans of their benefits and assist with filing of claims.

Anyone can file a claim on their own and of course, seek advice from someone else regardless of their qualifications but please be advised that once a claim has been filed a VSO can not assume the pursuit of the pending claim. Keep that in mind when choosing a path for your claim.





MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



Interesting Information

PLEASE NOTE

When submitting photos, please- set your phone or camera to it's highest setting. Submitting photos on the lowest setting, as it comes from the store, does not produce pictures that can be printed. The store does this so you get more pictures, 800 verses 400. But they end up too grainy with poor resolution which make it hard to see the details and faces.

PLEASE, check before taking and submitting your pictures.

**The Department of New York
will host**

**The 2027 NATIONAL
Marine Corps League
Convention in
BUFFALO NY**

Watch for details as they develop.



Department Adjutant

The Department Adjutant Office is currently vacant. If you or someone you know would like to be appointed or have any questions regarding the requirements, contact the Commandant, David Wiggs at comdt.dony.mcl@gmail.com

If your detachment has a vehicle used in various events, send us a picture of it for publication in the GP.

How is your detachment doing? Are you an active member? Do you try to recruit new members? Organizations like ours need members to help when needed and if not needed, make suggestions, and follow through on those. Never be the member who thinks that their staff should do this or that. Rather be willing to lend a hand. You are the detachment as much as any other member. Run for office, chip in and you will be rewarded.

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



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



Interesting Information

Semper Fi magazine reports that anyone may submit photos to the magazine, you need not be an officer of any level. But there are some rules you must follow to be published. Email your Photos with small caption to semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com

Please make sure that the photo is submitted as a separate document and not embedded in into a pdf or Word doc, (the same request the GP has) and try to submit a photo of high quality.

Captions should be no more then 60 words.

Uniforms in the photos must be correct in every detail and not just MCL uniforms but all uniforms in the Photo.

Get the permission of everyone in the photo especially persons at risk. These are minors that are in your photos. Their parents must agree by signing a "Photo permission form" which can be found in Nationals MCL Library.

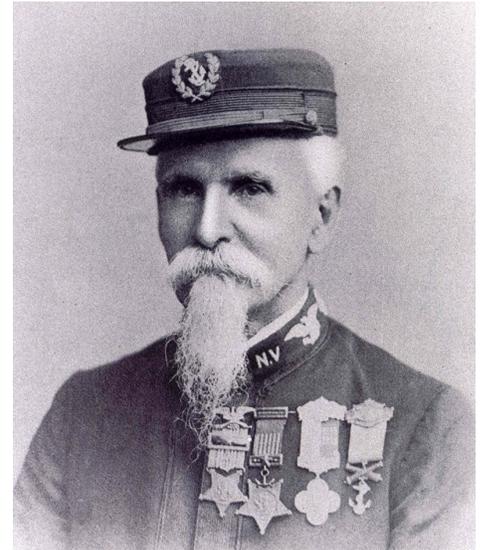
Lastly, unlike the Ground Pounder, there is no guarantee that your submission will be published.

Marine Idioms

Idioms are sayings or quotes that stay with us as time goes by, Many times the origin of the idiom is lost yet we still continue to say the term. So now for little history.

'JARHEAD'

Back in the days of wooden sailing ships below decks were cramped as space was a premium. Overheads were just under five feet in many cases. Navy sailors or 'tars' were short and could easily navigate below decks. Marines on the other hand were much taller, some reports say six feet and they kept banging their heads on the overhead beams. Because we kept 'jarring' our heads, the sailors starting calling us 'Jarheads' and it stuck.



The first US Marine to ever receive the Medal of Honor during the Civil War was Sergeant John F. Mackie. He was awarded the medal on July 10, 1863, for his bravery during the attack on Fort Darling at Drewry's Bluff, Virginia, where he fearlessly maintained his musket fire. Seen here wearing his GAR (Grand Army of the Republic uniform), one of the very first veteran organizations created. It is interesting to note that he is wearing his Medal of Honor second, after his GAR membership medal. Other medals symbolize reunions and events he attended.



Civil war era Marine Corps insignia

DEADLINES

**ARE ON THE TENTH OF
MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER**

