



Number 1-20

Serving our detachments and their members everywhere

**Special
Expanded
Edition**

Department of New York Newsletter

“The Ground Pounder”

Winter 2020

<https://www.mclnewyork.net>

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*For a complete list refer to the
Department Staff Roster*

The Coronavirus

As we all know the Coronavirus is affecting everything we do. The Department of New York wants all it's members to stay safe. 90% of us are at the age that is the most susceptible to the virus, so use common sense. Be smart and stay healthy, avoid crowds and carry some type of sanitizer with you. Most important “wash you hands” as many times a day as you can and try really hard not to touch you face with hands. As it has been said, “THIS TOO SHALL PASS”. We just need to stay calm and use common sense.

The Department cannot order you to do so, but the Executive order from New York State Governor Cuomo prohibits meetings so you don't have a choice. Please keep in contact with your members, see if they are okay or if they need help. Call them with information, updates or just to say 'Hello'. Remember, we don't leave anyone behind.

The Department shall continue to send out E-blasts as we get updates from National and the DoD. Keep your members informed.

The Department has cancelled the Spring Staff Meeting, utilizing guidance from Marine Corps League National Headquarters, New York State Department of Health, CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and the Executive Order from New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo. Our first and most paramount concern is for the safety and health of our members. As the Department Commandant I'd rather miss a meeting then to jeopardize the safety our members and their families. The Department is closely monitoring the situation, and as of this writing, no determination of our Annual Convention has been made

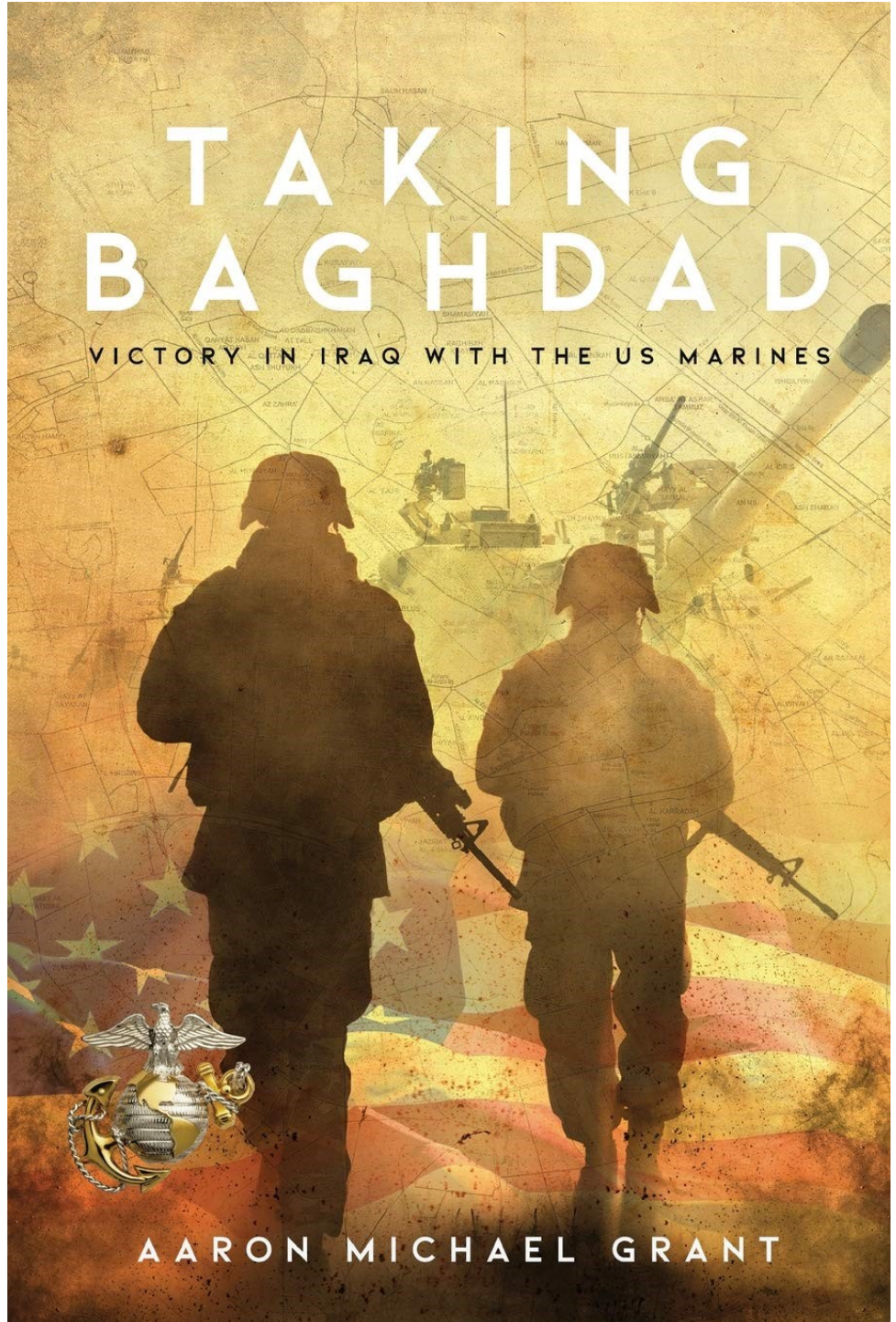
BE SAFE OUT THERE

Taking Baghdad by Arron Grant

The author is the Commandant of James R. Moore Detachment 1470, and he contacted me because he wrote this book recently and believes it will help veterans; particularly those with PTSD.

"*Taking Baghdad* is the only history of Operation Iraqi Freedom written by a Marine who actually served in the war. This book is for the soldier as it is for the civilian, and for the historian as it is for the young who need to understand war. So much more than history, the audience will keep *Taking Baghdad* on their shelves because of its personality, a deep connection with the author as he takes you on a journey through the desert, history and combat, context and strategy, tactics and even poetry; it will leave you speechless"

"The only history of Operation Iraqi Freedom written by a Marine who served in the war, the twenty-two day push to Baghdad in 2003 was one of the most efficient conflicts in the annals of warfare. So much more than facts and figures, *Taking Baghdad* is a dynamic account of the real struggles of war; an historical memoir with context over tactics, Aaron Grant illuminates success in Iraq for those who see Iraq for what it became afterward: a war in which America lost heart. Written on sand-covered pages during the invasion and *fifteen* years of study afterward, the author guides us in his boots in 2003; a lowly Corporal who had but a small part to play in theater.



Educating and powerful, prayers and even poetry make this a truly unique history in which the author has poured his all.

But the story is not over when Baghdad falls. The author beckons us to more hoping *Taking Baghdad* will help Veterans, and anyone who fights Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; reaching out that a life might be saved"

<http://www.takingbaghdad.com>

Aaron Grant

Veterans Day 2019

This was the front page of the Wall Street Journal the day after the NYC Veteran's day Parade last year. I did not get to see this until after the last issue was out, but I think it is worth putting here. You may have seen it on Facebook.

No interpretation needed, The older generation is advising the New Generation.

The Sergeant, Mike Sulsona, is a member of the Angel Mendez Detachment #246 and lost his legs due to a mine in Vietnam.



National is now returning transmittals via emails. They will no longer use the U.S. Postal Service mail for this as postage is getting out of hand. You can now email your death notices to our Department Chaplain, Angelo Procopio (DoNYChaplain@gmail.com). Simply save the notice by that members name and then attach it to an email to Angelo.

The future is here Marines. If your detachment does not have a computer, please obtain one or someone who can do this for you. The Department can train your people if need be.

Once again, help wanted

The Department needs a new **Sergeant of Arms**. Mike Gilchrist's job will keep him on the road on Saturdays from now on and can no longer attend meetings. Please step up and help out. We're also looking for someone to take over as **Department Paymaster**, as Ralph has asked to be replaced.

I'd like to have someone to be a **Liaison for Semper Fi**, to be responsible for getting New York in the Semper Fi magazine.

The only real requirement for any of these jobs is the willingness to do it. Contact me, if interested.

TOYS FOR TOTS

In the last issue, I didn't have enough room for all the pictures so here they are here. We use what you send us. (top right and left) Sgt Angel Mendez and the Memorial Day Detachment is below (left and Right)



And food



Carmen Ramputi Marine Corp League members Harold Delamater (left) and Keith McArthur (right) with Lenny Kulk of Castle Point VA Hospital food pantry. The Marines donated many turkeys and hams to the pantry which assists needy US Veterans. They also coordinated with the Wappingers Hannaford Supermarket, which donated food boxes, which the Marines also delivered to the food pantry.

PLEASE - Stay safe out there.

**This virus is nothing to fool
around with**

The E.J. Brewer Detachment celebrates it's annual Birthday Ball



Top Left Color Guard, From left: Ken Abdrus, Kevin Loukopoulous, Jarrod Lamozik and Matt McInerny. **Top Right Cake Detail** from left: Dennis Sheahan and Jarrod Lamozik. **Bottom Left from left Marine of the Year presentation:** Jack Schamel and Tom Smetanka, Detachment Marine of the Year. **Bottom Right from left, Shooting Awards** Timothy Bly, Greg Snyder, Commandant Schamel, Robert Bly, David Bassett and William Breser

Around the Department

Eagle Scout awards were given out around the Department, here (below) is the Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment and (right) is the Carman Ramputi both awards deserving scouts.



National Mid Winter Conference

Every Winter the National holds a Winter meeting similar to the National Convention but on a smaller scale where the Departments are updated on various issues and the Departments can report their issues right to the officers who can fix them. It is a very informative event to say the least and the Department of New York was there representing our members.



(above left) Officers of the Department look over handouts and notes during the conference. (Middle) The Department's table place holder donated by our Junior Vice Commandant, Dean Lawton Sr. and (right) Members of the Department enjoy the Banquet, (Back row) Dean Lawton Sr, Jim Ransom, Mike Waluk, Front row, Tim Forbes, Penny Weston, Volker Heyde and Yours truly.

The new (and now running) database was explained to us and we had a lot of questions, Access, operation and more. It will slowly come down to the detachments and to the individual member himself so he to can make their own changes on membership information like changes of address, email or phone number. We saw the new membership card and were told over 1,700 of them are being mailed and many more to follow. Brass Life cards are being phased out. More on page 7.

The National Database

Yes, we've all heard for years that it is coming, we all heard that they are "Purifying" the database. Well, my fellow members, our prayers have been answered, The new database is up and it is running. Membership cards are being printed and mailed out. The old brass life card will continue until the stock is exhausted then it will not be restocked. The new card is thin plastic and will not have an expiration date on it. You really don't need it since your Junior Vice knows who is paid and who is not. And if they are visiting your detachment, it can only mean they are interested and that is always good.

At this Mid Winter all Department Commandants were given an over view of the new database and how it works. Some of us were given access and in time all Department Commandants and Paymasters will have access. Once they all have it and any bugs are worked out, then it will go down to Detachment Commandants and Paymasters. Each step will be checked and corrected if need be.

Once that is up and running EVERY member will have access to their personal information and will be able to update or add to it. The new database will have spaces for your address, phone number and email so you can be added to the national informational emails and called if we need to speak with you. If you go to <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/member-library/>, you will see a new selection "Members Portal". This is where you can log in to change your personal info, but only yours.

Sadly when they did the transfer of information, the emails and phone numbers did not carry over so the National sent out a form asking for your Commandants, Paymaster's and Adjutant's phone number and email. Detachments, please complete that form, it's important and will speed things along.

The future is here if your Detachment still does not have computer access, get it. We all have children, Grandchildren, Neighbors, Friends or even libraries to help access information for you. I know of a Detachment where a 14 year old granddaughter prints out all the info and emails for her grandfather's detachment. You need not be a member to help out. Just another reason to recruit those younger members.

Wreaths Across America



Memorial Day Detachment # 468 at Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery on December 14, 2019.

Pictured from left to right: Fred Carr - Chaplain, Bruce Liseno - Paymaster, Dave Brisbane - Sr. Vice Commandant, Jim Rayburn, Herb Ulrich - Adjutant, Jim Wicker, Skip Anderson - Judge Advocate, Tom Parker - Jr. Vice Commandant, Dick Belding, Wally Anderson - Commandant

All our Marines participated in the ceremony by saluting as wreaths were placed on the headstones.

They also participated in the formal ceremony where wreaths are placed at the base of the flags of each branch of the armed services.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

SECTION 300 STANDING COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

Present:

2. **Department Uncommon Valor Scholarship Committee** - it shall be the responsibility of this committee to establish and publish the criteria necessary for the application to be considered for a scholarship. All scholarships, regardless of funding source, must be of equal value. The committee will choose the recipients of the scholarships based on the criteria and report same to the delegates at the Department Convention. (See enclosure two (2) for Criteria).

Proposed (Note: Strikethrough text will be removed if adopted):

~~2. **Department Uncommon Valor Scholarship Committee** - it shall be the responsibility of this committee to establish and publish the criteria necessary for the application to be considered for a scholarship. All scholarships, regardless of funding source, must be of equal value. The committee will choose the recipients of the scholarships based on the criteria and report same to the delegates at the Department Convention. (See enclosure two (2) for Criteria).~~

Rationale: The section defines a scholarship committee and scholarship requirements. This committee is now part of the New York Marine Corps League Foundation. The "Foundation" sets the criteria and awards the individual scholarships. As such, the definition of the committee should be removed from the Department of New York Administrative Procedures. If adopted all subsequent section numbers will decrease by 1.

CHAPTER 7 SECTION 3-65 DEPARTMENT STAFF/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Present:

b-75 The Department Staff may be called into session by the Department Commandant or any member of the board temporarily performing the duties of the Commandant. Written notice to the Staff members indicating the time, place and purpose of the meeting must be sent at least ten (10) days prior to the date for which the meeting is called.

c-75 Any member of the Board may also request the Department Commandant to call the Department Staff into session. *See Paragraph b-75*

d-00 In the event that the Department Commandant refuses or fails to call the meeting within ten (10) days after written request by a board member, the meeting may be authorized by a "Majority" of the Board with proper written notice to Staff members.

e-00 A quorum for the conduct of business at Department Board or Staff meetings shall be a majority of member of the board of Trustees present, one of which MUST be the Department Commandant, Senior or Junior Vice Commandant.

Proposed: adding f-00 All staff meeting shall be known as membership meeting and all members are welcome to attend. One need not be an officer in the Department or a Detachment to attend. All Department meetings are open to all members in good standing.

Rationale: The section wording gives the impression that only Department Staff members should attend Department meetings. By adding line f-00 every member in the department regardless of position or Detachment may attend. The word **MEMBERSHIP** it lets the membership know that all members should attend Department meetings.

Advertise your pride in the League and your Corps in your daily life by wearing your League jackets, shirts and hats everywhere you go. When you wear your League clothing, you advertise us to the world.

Semper Fidelis Marines

The Department would like to publish this newsletter four times a year. The cut off dates are: June 10th, Sept 10th, Dec 10th & March 10th. Please submit your detachments photos and stories.

Proposed Bylaw Changes –2

SECTION 300 STANDING COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

Present:

11. Ship' Stores

b. At a minimum, the Ships' Store shall stock:

- 1) Current Department Bylaws and applicable changes.
- 2) Current National Bylaws and applicable changes.
- 3) The MCL Ritual Book
- 4) The MCL cover emblem (gold enlisted)
- 5) MCL collar ornaments.
- 6) Associate Member cover and collar bars.
- 7) MCL shoulder patch.
- 8) Assorted MCL ribbons and medals. The Ships' Store shall not stock DOD ribbons and metals.
- 9) Ribbon mounting bars.
- 10) USMC enlisted tie bar.
- 11) Men's black necktie.
- 12) Woman's black neck tab.
- 13) Blank MCL certificates and citations authorized for issue to Detachment level.
- 14) Other MCL uniform items as seen fit by the membership
- 15) Incidental gift items as may be of interest to Marines.
- 16) On agreement with the DONY and the MCL auxiliary, the Ships' Store may stock items peculiar to the Auxiliary.

Proposed :

11. Ship' Stores

B. The quartermaster will stock Ship Stores as needed and will supply the staff with an quarterly report on same.

Rationale: The section defines the minimum types of items stocked in the Department Ship' Stores. The types of items stocked by the Ship' Stores should be determined by the Department Quartermaster based on purchasing habits of the membership. Stocking unneeded and unsold items increases costs to the Ship' Store and increases the budget required to maintain the Department Ship' Store over the long run. Storing and transportation costs associated with maintaining unneeded and unsold items places an undue burden on the Quartermaster's budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

David W. Wiggs PDD

Judge Advocate

Veteran Appreciation Days

Schools around the state hold Veteran Appreciation days and it is nice to be recognized and the kids taught about veterans and our armed forces. My grandchildren are proud of me and love to invite me to these events. Here I am at Good Shepard School with my granddaughter Emily, that little person standing in front of me.

Standing next to me is a local Marine recruiter from the area with her husband and son who also attends the school.

Tell your kids and Grandkids about your service, Once this virus crisis is over, attend any veteran function their school of group may have.



Thanking Marines at Thanksgiving by Bill Read, Sunrise Detachment

On November 22, 2019, once again, members of the Sunrise Detachment extended tangible thanks to active duty Marines with our eighth annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. We distributed 114 turkeys with all the trimmings, and more, to Marines headquartered at the First Marine Corps District, commanded by Colonel Ivan Monclova, located in Garden City, NY. Another mission accomplished for Sunrise Detachment Marines. OORAH!

The recipients were very grateful for this community show of support and generosity. The reality may be that though donations from each individual donor may be small, collectively, they had a huge impact upon the beneficiaries. Not only did these donations help alleviate some of the financial burden of our Marines stationed in the high cost areas of Long Island, the tangible and intangible show of support was very well received and appreciated.

The Sunrise Detachment has a long and outstanding history of supporting the Marine Corps and its personnel. Supporting Marines represents just one aspect of how those of us who feel indebted to the Corps can “payback” to the organization we so cherish and those who have followed in our footsteps; and we very much value such opportunities which provide practical functionality to living our motto, “Once a Marine, Always a Marine”. In fact, proactively pursuing endeavors in support of our mission strengthens our organizational spirit and resolve and brings gratifying purpose to membership in the Marine Corps League.

Our success in this particular endeavor was made possible with the assistance of several organizations and people who are similarly likeminded in their appreciation for Marines and their enduring service to our nation. The Sunrise Detachment has been very fortunate and grateful to partner with Stop & Shop Supermarkets, the Stewart Avenue Middle School, Garden City, NY and the Burr Intermediate School, Commack, NY.

We extend special accolades to Ms. Debbie Virga—Burr Intermediate School Director of Public Relations—who has so enthusiastically spearheaded their school’s participation in tangibly thanking Marines for their service. She’s instrumental in creating an important lesson for students in civics and charity. Thanks for a job well done!

We are also greatly appreciative of Stop & Shop Supermarkets—a major supermarket chain in our region. Mr. Mike Donegan, manager of the Miller Place, NY Stop & Shop has been an outstanding supporter with the donation of turkeys. We are very thankful to Stop & Shop and Mike for their continued enthusiasm in supporting active duty Marines.

The Sunrise Detachment looks forward to its next mission. Semper Fi!

**Until this Coronavirus has run its course,
Please, be safe and careful out there.**