



Number 2-19

*Serving our detachments and their members everywhere*

## **Department of New York Newsletter**

# **“The Ground Pounder”**

**Summer 2019**

<https://www.mclnewyork.net>

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

### **A New Detachment**



We have good news in the form of a new detachment. With all the closings going on, it is music to our ears that we introduce the new, **Father Vincent Capodanno Detachment** out on Manhasset Long Island. Their Commandant is Marine Maria Salazar, a recently discharge marine. Their Commandant is Marine Marie Salazar, a recently discharged Marine. We all wish her well in her new Command.

(left) Here we have the National Senior Vice Commandant passing on a brand new gavel.

(below) Here all the officers of the new detachment plus Vinny Annunziata, the incoming Long Island AVC replacing Jimmy Seaman after many years of service.



***National is now returning transmittals via emails. They will no longer use snail mail for this as postage is getting out of hand. Now 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 you if need be.***

## A Rededication

On April 28th, the Staten Island Number 1 Detachment was rededicated to be the Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment in honor of a Staten Island Marine who was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously for saving his platoon commanders life and losing his own in the same action in Vietnam. The detachment officers found him in a poorly marked grave on the grounds of an old orphanage Angel once attended. After arranging for a proper head stone and contacting his family the detachment changed it's name to honor him in a ceremony that included the alumni from the orphanage, his sister, the officer he saved, local elected officials, representatives from every veterans group on Staten Island, local school children and members from other MCL detachments in the metropolitan area. In all 160 people attended this momentous event.



A local official speaks, marines listen.



A portrait of Sgt Mendez.



Angel's sister and Justice Ronald Castille, whose life Angel saved.



The Marines, the Coast Guard and the Navy were present



And the Air force too



Just a few of the veteran groups that were represented that day.



Marine Corps Leaguers, one and all from Staten Island, Manhattan and the Bronx.



Both men lost their legs in Vietnam and met each other along with the officer Sgt Mendez saved in the DaNang Hospital

## EAGLE SCOUTS



Troop 545's Court of Honor on April 17th. Presenting the Good Citizenship Awards are Commandant Patricia David and Paymaster Raymond David of the **Niagara Frontier Detachment**



**Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment** presents Eagle Scout awards. Rick Castronovo; Jack King, Commandant & Volker Heyde did the presentations.



West Area Vice Commandant Earl Herrington presented Eagle Scout Good Citizen Awards to five scouts from Troop 290, Marilla, NY.



### THE FACTS ABOUT BOOT CAMP

(right middle and bottom) The **Yankee Detachment** along with the Marine Recruiters of the East and West Bronx recruiting offices came up with an idea to give a little advice to delayed entry recruits of their own experiences in the Corps as well as what they can expect in boot camp. We had close to 100 recruits in attendance and it is something we plan to do annually. We had a panel of eight Yankee Detachment members who gave a brief introduction of themselves, and then gave the recruits some advice and the opportunity to ask questions. After the hour plus seminar we held a BBQ , played volleyball,

horseshoes & basketball on the posts grounds. It turned out better than any of us imagined and quite sure something the young men and women will never forget. Pictured are Jr. Vice Mike McNerney (middle right) and Marine Jerry Vessichio, (above) a WWII vet, as well as some of the recruits and the Marines.

## Quilts for Veterans by Lisa Tubridy



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The **Adirondack Leathernecks Detachment** is the proud sponsor of the Mountain Mama Quilters and their efforts to present our local Veterans with service-specific quilts in honor of their service and sacrifice. The partnership with the Leathernecks and the quilt group began just three years ago and since then the Leathernecks have provided financial assistance to this small group of quilters who have presented over 85 quilts to Veterans



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in Mercy Care in Tupper Lake, NY & the St. Joseph's Veteran's Residential Center in Saranac Lake, NY. The quilters meet regularly to volunteer their time to sew and tie quilts and together with the Leathernecks, present the quilts to Veterans throughout the year. Our Detachment is proud to partner with this caring group of ladies who love our Veterans and are part of their mental and emotional healing while here in the Adirondacks.

**Photos:** 1. A Mountain Mama Quilter



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gets a big hug during a Presentation of quilts at the St. Joseph's treatment center. 2. Service specific quilts are ready to be presented to local Veterans 3. Lisa Tubridy, Detachment Junior Vice Commandant, features a USMC service quilt at a local fundraising event.

## Mameluke Sword



Department Adjutant Topilnycky (pictured left and right) presented the Mameluke sword to MIDN McCarthy at his commissioning on 2 May 2019.

Kelly Topilnycky and Maj Gen Robert Wolf, NYNM (ret) were present from **Westchester County Detachment**



Photo courtesy of Virna Wong, SUNY Maritime

MIDN McCarthy is currently finishing his first class year at the NYC NROTC battalion, and graduated on 3 May 2019. While in the battalion MIDN held several leadership billets, including battalion commanding officer. He also participated in the MIDN Mountain Warfare School in the summer of 2017. In the Summer of 2018, he successfully completed Officer Candidates School at Quantico, Virginia.

**Advertise your pride in the league and your service in your daily life by wearing your league jackets, shirts and hats everywhere you go. When you wear your league clothing, you help show us to the world.**

Semper Fidelis Marines

## Around the Department

(right) Marine Mike Sulsona is presented with an oil painting portrait of himself at the **Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment** for his service for working with veterans by the Knights of Columbus. Mike is a service officer for the detachment and other groups and has been an inspiration to many a veteran. Mike lost both legs while on patrol in Vietnam due to a rocket attack.



Vinny Annunziata, the new Long Island Area Vice, submitted this article as he was honored to attend MCL **East End Detachment** Scholarship Awards ceremony with his wife.

Ten High School senior students who excelled in Scholastics & Citizenship, and were related to a US Marines were awarded with a \$500.00 stipend and a certificate of achievement from the detachment.

Pictured (left) is Marine Michael Paquette Committee Chair, and on the right is East End Commandant Richard Westhoff. This detachment has been doing this activity for 16 years with no fanfare.



(left and below left) And while we are discussing the **East End Detachment**, here are pictures of their member who, on each Memorial Day go out to the Calverton National Cemetery, in uniform, and place wreaths on the graves of honored veterans.



(right) Andrew MacArthur, son of Marine Keith MacArthur of the **Carman Ramputi Detachment**, shakes hands with Mad Dog Mattis. Then Cpl. MacArthur was the General's body guard, with the 1st MarDiv while he was in Iraq. Andrew now works at West Point and was reunited with the General at the Point's recent graduation



## More around the Department



### Marine Raider Funeral

Marine Robert J. Graham, a Marine Raider during WWII passed away at the age of 97.

It was been reported that he had no family left. Veteran groups from all around Westchester and Rockland County came to give this Marine a Honorable sendoff that he deserved. He was interred at Woodlawn Cemetery. Once a Marine, always a Marine and always a brother.

Our members do many things that do not always get in the Ground Pounder. Many times there are no photos, or they just don't think it's worth putting in but I disagree.

Our Area Vices and members provide wheel chair escorts for various veteran events, act as honor guards, work with Meals On Wheels, work with other veteran groups serving our veterans and so much more. To them and their members, I say thank you.

(below) The rifle team from **EJ Brewer Detachment** won 1st place in the National Pistol match . Congratulations Marines. The Department WILL bring back the department's shooting team now that we have someone interested in running it.



(above) While visiting the National Museum of the Marine Corps, in Quantico, Virginia. Department Judge Advocate David Wiggs took a picture of the Fire Department of New York, 911 Memorial in the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park. The steel beams are from the actual World Trade Center buildings that were attacked.



*The New Department website is complete.*  
<https://www.mclnewyork.net> Click on it and a whole new page will appear. Our new Web Sgt has been working with the staff to gather what information we want on the site so it can serve our members even better then before. Check it out.

## Memorial Day



(right) Bill Ober of the **Huntington Detachment** as the guest speaker at the town ceremony after the Memorial Day Parade in Northport NY.

(right) The **Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment** Color Guard leads the Marines and it's members in the Staten Island Memorial Day Parade passing in review. Later they held a Memorial Ceremony at their headquarters.



(above) **The Huntington Detachment** marches carrying wreaths that they will place along the route on various Monuments around town. (below) Firing a Memorial Salute.



Memorial Day is one of the times during the year the phony vets come out, looking for a free meal or a beer, They give us and all the services a bad name. If you see one, report them to local authorities ASAP.



Have your new plates yet? Check the website for forms and instructions. You **DO NOT** need a letter from your Paymaster. See the instructions

## A Change of Command

### New Appointments at the Department

Besides the annual elections, new Department officers were appointed. Since becoming the Department Commandant I had to appoint a new Department Chaplain, a New Department Sargent of Arms, a new Department Quartermaster, a new Department Chief of Staff and a New Department VAVS officer. Each and every one of the outgoing officers did more then their share of supporting the Department for years. In one case as with AJ Kalil, 'many' years, another passed away so the change was coming. I thank them for their years of service.

Two new area vices also came on board replacing those with years of service, Jimmy Seaman, Long Island Area Vice who stepped down because of family illness and David Wiggs, South West Area who was elected Department Judge Advocate. Outstanding people. Note: We will be starting up the shooting teams again.

Once the new roster is out, you can see who they are. All good people, all good members. I have outstanding people working for you at the Department level and I have the honor to be their leader. I only look good because of them. None are paid and yet they work tirelessly for you and your detachments.

We always need help and I thank these new appointees for stepping up and taking the position. We are looking for a new Department Paymaster so give that some thought. We'll even help pay for some of your expenses at Staff meetings. The willingness to do it and knowing how to use a computer is the most important requirements. Our Area Vice Commandants are always looking for assistants. In fact any officer holding any position could always use help.

You can contact me or the officer you wish to assist and we'll say thank you.



(above) Here I am being sworn in as Department Commandant by National Senior Vice Commandant, Dennis Tobin, future National Commandant of the Marine Corps League.

During the 88th Convention of the Department of New York held in Syracuse NY, Commandant Reverend Ricardo Sheppard completed his second term of office and I took his place.

By now you all have received the update from the Department Adjutant. When I was taking over Command of the Department, the one question that came up, more then once was—"Are you going to continue with the newsletter?"

Marines this is the best compliment I have ever received and I thank you. Thank you for supporting YOUR newsletter, and thank you for your contributions and the kind comments. While I would like to pass on the baton as editor, until that happens I will continue to produce it for you.



**Keep in mind that most of the forms  
you need to run a detachment are on line  
at the MCL National Library  
<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/>**

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.