

# NATIONAL *Award-Winning* NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 2-22

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

**EDITOR**  
**DONNA HILDEBRADT**  
newsletter.dny@gmail.com



**APRIL – JUNE 2022**

### **2022 OFFICERS**

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Dean Lawton Sr.

**JUNIOR VICE  
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Cathleen Wiggs

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## **COMMANDANT'S CORNER**

**THOMAS ARCURI**  
**COMMANDANT**  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Marines, FMF Corpsman and Auxiliary Members,

I would like to thank the dedicated members who took time from their busy schedules to attend the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Department of New York Marine Corps League Convention. Also, I would like to thank Convention Chairman, Jim Ransom and my Staff of Officers for making this a successful Convention. In addition to our current staff of officers being re-elected, Ralph Luciani, our current Paymaster, has happily found a replacement. Jim Sampson will assume the reins in mid-July. Thank you, Ralph, for your years of dedicated service to

the League! Donna Hildebrandt will also be doing double-duty as the Editor of the Ground Pounder, and as my Chief of Staff. Welcome aboard to both of you!

I am looking forward to representing the Department at the National Convention in August. As a reminder, any Detachment members who plan to attend the National Convention, PLEASE complete the registration form for your Detachment and include as many members as possible. You can represent all of them, but New York's voting strength depends on the number of registered members.

Our Fall Conference will be held 14-16 October 2022, in Hornell, NY at the Best Western Hotel. Please register for the Conference prior to 14 September 2022.

Your participation in the Department is crucial for the success of the Marine Corps League in New York. More to come on that subject at another time!

Wishing all our members a memorable and safe summer.

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

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

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



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**CHUCKLE**

*It's not my age that bothers me;  
it's the side effects.*

**ALERT**

**YOU WILL NEVER**

**RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR CASH OR GIFT CARDS FROM OUR OFFICERS RECEIVED VIA TEXT, SOCIAL MEDIA, OR EMAIL**

**SEE ARTICLE ON THE NEXT PAGES**



# PHISHING

(PRONOUNCED FISHING)

## Don't Take the Bait!

By Steve Topilnycky, Adjutant, Department of New York

*Phishing is the practice of sending fraudulent emails or text messages pretending to be from a reputable company or person with the intent of tricking you to reveal personal information, or to send them gift cards, or cash.*



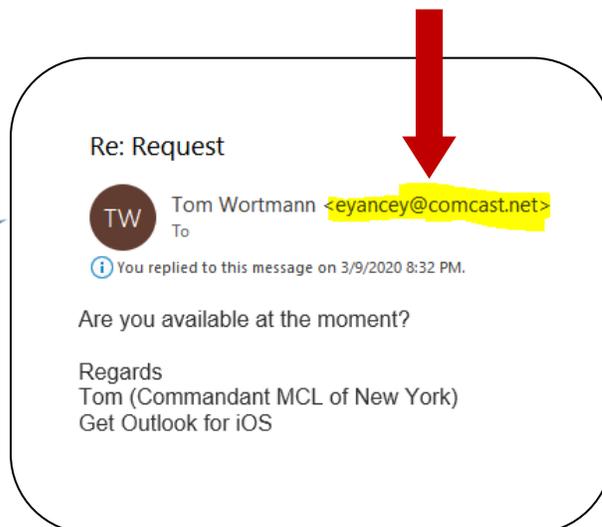
Several reminders over the past few years, that I have alerted our membership of unscrupulous person(s) using the Commandant's name to obtain gift cards. Most recently the perps are using Commandant Arcuri's name to convince our members to send gift cards to a third party

These types of attacks are not exclusive to the Department of New York, and have been reported from other Departments also. Be aware that this can happen outside of the Marine Corps League, and your personal/professional life may also be targeted.

There are different types of phishing. The type that is used on the Department is known as "Whaling." This aims at senior staff. While the end goal is the same, the techniques are more subtler.

*Whaling emails, also commonly use the pretext of a busy company president, or in our case, the Department Commandant. The email begins asking a member to do them a favor for the Commandant. The email may contain a signature from Commandant Arcuri. If the address on the email does not match the email of Commandant Arcuri, it is not Commandant Arcuri. See the example, it does not have the correct address for Commandant, the address can be created by anyone, and the fraudsters can impersonate anyone.*

Whaling emails play on the members willingness to follow instructions from their Commandant. Recipients might suspect that something is amiss, comply for fear of confronting the "sender" to suggest that they are being unprofessional.



### TIPS

- Read and reread: Double check the message and sender for anything strange
- Don't click suspicious links: Don't Download unknown files.
- Never share your password: NEVER, EVER, but especially over email or text.
- Don't share personal or financial information, including, but not limited to Social Security Numbers, Credit Card Numbers, Banking information, etc.
- Take a close look at the email address, or via text, the phone number it was sent from. Verify it from a good known email address or phone number. When verifying, do not use the email or phone number that the message came from.
- The Commandant (or his staff) will not reach out directly and ask you to send gift cards, or Zelle (electronic transfer of) money. All financial transactions for the Department of

PHISHING CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



PHISHING CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

New York, whether it is a donation, or otherwise, is handled by the Department Paymaster. For our Convention pre-registration, we do ask that the registration forms and payment be sent to the Credentials Chair. Again, for this type of situation.

- It is sent out via the Department e-blast to all subscribers and posted to our web site.
- It is via Check, and payable to the Marine Corps League.
- Those checks, after being processed by the Credentials chair, are then forwarded to the Department Paymaster to be deposited in the Department accounts.
- There have been times when we have put out assistance calls or events to send donations to, again this is sent via a Department e-blast to our subscribers, and not an email or text from the Commandant.



## PASSWORD TIPS

**Never use personal information:** Strong passwords shouldn't include references to personal information such as names, birthdays, addresses, or phone numbers.

**Include a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols:** Secure passwords include a variety of random characters, numbers, and letters to make the password more complex.

**Prioritize password length:** Safe passwords should be at least 16 characters long to lessen the chances of falling victim to a data breach or cyberattack.

**Never repeat passwords:** Reusing the same password for different accounts puts you at risk of credential stuffing attacks frequently used by cybercriminals.

**Avoid using real words:** Hackers use malicious programs that can process every word found in a dictionary to crack passwords. Stay away from using proper nouns and other standalone dictionary words that could lead to an unsecure password.

References:

- <https://www.itgovernance.eu/blog/en/the-5-most-common-types-of-phishing-attack>
- <https://us.norton.com/internetsecurity-privacy-password-security.html>

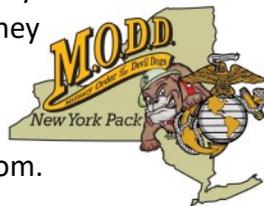
**M  
O  
D  
D**

Dean Lawton, Sr.  
PDD, Senior Vice Commandant

## DEVIL DOG SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

As you may know, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs raises money for children's facilities.

Donations are welcome at [deanthenymarine@gmail.com](mailto:deanthenymarine@gmail.com).



Now, the Pack is selling shirts to raise funds.

Golf shirts have the Pack logo embroidered on left chest for **\$40**. T-shirts are digitally printed with Pack logo on left chest and large logo on the back for **\$35**.



**ONLY 3 WEEKS TO ORDER**  
<https://modd2022.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

*Sales are final.*





# Messages from Officers



## BARKINGS FROM THE PACK LEADER, CATHLEEN WIGGS

### FIRST

Thank you all for your vote!

### SECOND

I want to introduce the Pack staff at this time ....

- PACK LEADER** ..... Cathleen Wiggs
- SENIOR VICE PACK LEADER** ..... Skip (Underdog) Diamond
- JUNIOR VICE PACK LEADER** ..... Mike (Cookie) Piscioti
- DOG ROBBER** ..... Dean the Bone Lawton
- SMART DOG** ..... Tom Arcuri
- MAD DOG** ..... David Wiggs
- DOG TRAINER** ..... Scott (Monsignor) Westcott
- POLICE DOG** ..... Scott Van Grol
- WATCH DOG**..... Tim Forbes
- BARKING DOG AND LIAISON OFFICER WITH THE LEAGUE** ..... Jim Ransom



.... as you can see, the New York Pack has some pretty knowledgeable old Dogs manning the helm and as Pack Leader I am pleased beyond words to have their experience to rely upon.

### THIRD

The Grand Growl, though pressed for time, lived up to its two tenants of **FUN** and **HONOR**. We welcomed four new DDs and one new pup; We said thank you to our outgoing Pack Leader, Tom Wortmann. We also elected and appointed the above Dogs into their positions, without bloodshed or mange infestation. Our fleas helps with hazing our new DDs with beautiful bras and hula skirts. All in all a good time was had.

### FOURTH

and probably most important, we donated 3000 BIG Bones to the St Joseph's Children's fund. Their representative was thrilled to almost gushing at our gift. These bones will go for equipment for preemies, many of whom have been abandoned to their care.

### MESSAGE

### FROM THE EDITOR

### DONNA HILDEBRANDT

You will notice that this edition is bit lengthy. There is a lot to share. Some of the information that was submitted was past deadline and a duplicate of someone else's, therefore, specific announcement may not be in this edition. While every attempt is made to include everything that is submitted, some things may be overlooked unintentionally. Please send it again for the following edition with the subject line of OVERLOOKED.

### LASTLY

At this time, I have plans to represent the Department of New York at the Supreme Growl in Daytona in Florid. I will have a report at our next Staff Meeting where I hope to see all you dogs then!

*Semper Fi ... WOOF WOOF!*

*Cathleen Wiggs, Pack Leader*

From Left to Right: Jim Ransom, Pam Kleine from St. Joseph's Hospital, Volker Heyde, Tom Wartman, Dave Wiggs, Cathie Wiggs



Out of respect, these brave Marines shall remain anonymous. Zoom in to enjoy more. Thanks to the fleas who contributed..





# Messages from Officers



## MEET THE INCOMING PAYMASTER JIM SAMPSON

Jim joined the Marine Corps League in August of 2021 from the Raiders Detachment #461 in Hornell. He proudly serves there as Adjutant / Paymaster.

Commandant Arcuri has appointed Jim as the Department of New York's new Paymaster, filling the Large boots that Ralph Luciani gladly removes.

Jim will train with Ralph until the beginning of the fiscal year, when he will share his contact information with the Department for correspondence.



*Jim served in the Army from 1980 to 1983. At the time of his discharge he was Sergeant functioning as a medic.*

*He was stationed at Fort Meade Maryland and later Illisheim, Germany.*

Jim has held several offices in American Legion, and the VFW out of state. When he moved to New York 10 years ago, he continued to hold offices at the American Legion and VFW in Hornell. In addition to being a life member of the VFW, he intends to become a life member at the Marine Corps League also.

## FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF DONNA HILDEBRANDT

Commandant Arcuri gave me a big vote of confidence when he appointed me as his Chief of Staff. It is my honor to serve, and I will do so to the best of my ability.

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN VINCENT ANNUNZIATA

I had the privilege to speak with 1-3 grade students about the history of our flag, and about being a U.S. Marine at St. Mary's Grammar School in Manhasset New York.



CHUCKLE  
CHUCKLE  
CHUCKLE



*Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most, never use it.*



# Important Dates



## 2022

- 04 July \_\_\_\_\_ INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 27 July \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS' DAY
- 04 August \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESS CHARTERED MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 1937
- 15 – 19 August \_\_\_\_\_ **99<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
*DOGS: GET YOUR PEDIGREE*  
 Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront  
 100 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118
- 16 September \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL POW / MIA RECOGNITION DAY
- 25 September \_\_\_\_\_ GOLD STAR MOTHERS' DAY
- 13 October \_\_\_\_\_ 247<sup>TH</sup> NAVY BIRTHDAY
- 27 October \_\_\_\_\_ NAVY DAY
- 10 November \_\_\_\_\_ 247<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF THE MARINE CORPS
- 11 November \_\_\_\_\_ VETERANS' DAY
- 07 December \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR DAY

### MEMBERSHIP\*

Total members.....	4,124
Regular .....	3,576
Associate .....	517
Multiple .....	31

\*Recorded on 20 June 2022



## DYNGUS DAY PARADE

*Dyngus Day, the day after Easter, celebrates the welcoming of Spring and signifies a rebirth. This year Spring weather was MIA.*

So it as cold, it was wet, and it was windy, yet the Color Guard of the Corad Kania Det. #230 marched on. The Marine Corps League was honored to lead the 2nd Annual North Tonawanda Dyngus Day Parade. They could have stayed warm, dry as the Motor T asset was on site, but nah, "In Every Clime and Place."





# EVENTS

## RIFLE & PISTOL



Here is latest info from the National Program.

The first "National MCL Team" event took place at Camp Butner North Carolina, a National Guard Facility Training Center.

The CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program) is the Match Director and Convening authority, the Match is called Eastern CMP Games.

This match was the first of the "Games" Matches, starting on Friday 22 April and ending on Sunday May 1st, with pistol and rifle matches taking place every day, along with "New Shooter" classes, pistol and rifle classes, and maintenance clinics.

These CMP "Games" will take place throughout the United States all summer long. The National Championships will take place in August at Camp Perry, Ohio. The end of the season match will be at the end of September in Vermont, just outside of Burlington.

Stanton and his "Sniper Team Event" shooting partner Vandyke Bergen, made the trip to shoot four different matches over three days.

The one event that is considered The "National MCL Team" event is called the Four Man Team Match. This match requires 1 Coach, 1 Team Captain & 4 shooting members. This is the type of match that will be the premier event to showcase the "National MCL Team." There will be one match at every "CMP Games" in the season.

All branches of the military, active duty and reservist's are welcome at these matches. We (Stanton & Bergen) shot against three Marine Corps Teams and two Army Teams, which are the best

shooters in the Country! We also shot against the very best civilian and prior military shooters in the country.

On game day, Vandyke and I met at the center line on the range at 07:00 to meet up with the rest of "Our Team." The other members of the "Team" were Dan Duitsman and Dwayne Lewis. Both chose not to shoot because of the requirement for "Coach" and Team Captain. These two guys are VERY good shooters and are great assets to the Program. Presently they are serving the Program administration.

Because this was the initial start of the National MCL Program there was not quite enough Detachment Members to fill the roster, which meant that two

other shooters had to be drafted from the "standby" pool of participants. Going forward this will not happen, thanks to editors like ours who continues to share information.

We ended up "dead last" even though We shot well but, as I said these people are the best in the country! Tough Competition to say the least!

Happily I can report that Vandyke and I, did very well at the Two Man Sniper Team Match, which is also inclusive of Our "National MCL Team Program. We finished 11th out of 41 Teams to take home a silver!



The beauty of this program will be that no matter where they live, MCL Detachment Members (if willing to travel) can participate as a Member of a "Team" event or individual event under the National Team affiliation, and as such will receive a 50% discount on registration fees as well!

*SUBMITTED BY LYNN STANTON*



HONOR, COURAGE & COMMITMENT

## MIKE TARGON

CONRAD KANIA DETACHMENT #230



At 18 in 1968, Mike is shown here at home on Leave from bootcamp.



Mike at the 2022 Chili Contest at Bett-Toomey Detachment. He cheered his team and continued to build cross-detachment comradery!

## HOWARD HART



In the top photo, **Howie** was a 19 year old PFC. He was in 3rd Shore Party (the guys with the red patches.) At the time of the photo he was running an LZ in the DMZ, supporting Alpha 1-4.



The bottom photo was taken at the start of the Covid pandemic. My son made the tee shirt for me — notice that Yosemite Sam is wearing a mask.

## KENNETH G. CRANDALL

CONRAD KANIA DETACHMENT #230

Serving from June 1956 – April 1959, Cpl. Crandall proudly received a Rifle Marksmanship Award



circa 1958, after he scored a respectable 216 x 250. He was last stationed at Headquarters Marine Corp. in Washington, DC as a Disbursing Clerk.



Ken currently serves as the Paymaster of Conrad Kania Detachment #230 in North Tonawanda.

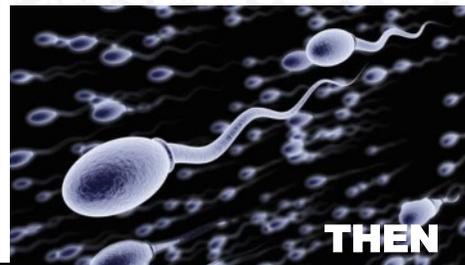
The photo to the left was taken November 9, 2019 after receiving the Marine of the Year Award.

## CHUCKLE

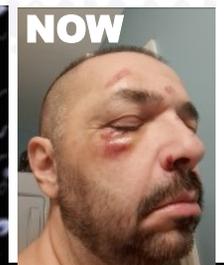
A SUBMISSION WAS REQUESTED,  
AND THIS IS WHAT WAS RECEIVED.

*Then & Now* MIKE PISCIOTTI  
STYLE

Leave it to Pisciotti



THEN



NOW

# Then & Now

**HONOR, COURAGE & COMMITMENT**



## SCOTT VANGROL

GENESSEE VALLEY DETACHMENT #223



Scott with Lt. Col. Wheeler during Team Spirit II, Korea

## TED WILLIAMS

YES, **THE** TED WILLIAMS

Ted Williams – Baseball star Ted Williams adopted the game early in his life, and by the time he was in high school he received offers from the New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals. At 19, he found himself with the Boston Red Sox and became a sensation early in his career. Despite success as an athlete, he joined the military in 1942 after the U.S. entered World War II. He spent two years as an aviator in the Navy, then earned a commission in the Marine Corps and served until 1946 in a reserve aviation unit. As soon as he returned to the civilian world he went straight back to playing baseball, but was later called back to serve during the Korean War. During the course of his service, he flew 39 missions.

Credit: Military.com



## STEVE CAPIRCI

BETT-TOOMEY DETACHMENT #216



I was so honored to have my Aunt Diane and Uncle Frank at my bootcamp graduation at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, 1988.



# Feature



## GySgt. CATHLEEN WIGGS

### JIM HATCH DETACHMENT #1201



I had two ultimately defining moments in my life... you know, the kind of instances where you make immediate changes to your way of life, your decisions and your thought processes.

I am speaking of the day that I earned my EGA, and the day I that held my first born.

My daughter made me realize that I was responsible for more than myself from that day onward, and the Marine Corps made me realize that I stood on the

shoulders of giants and was now carrying their legacy with me.

Grand words... I fully admit I didn't always live up to the ideals set before all Marines. There were times when my morale was rock bottom and I wondered if I had made the worse decision of my life when I walked

into SSgt Richard Zumpano's recruiting office.

I wasn't in boot camp more than a week before I knew that I would hate senior DI SSgt Brenda Walton with every breath that I took for the rest of my life. **In fact, I had many of these low morale points throughout my twenty year career but each passed... I got through them... and I did more than just survive... I flourished.**

The Marine Corps gave me much more than I personally

earned. SSgt Walton, Major Wolfe, MGySgt Howard, MSgt Palmer, and many others exemplified the Marine traits and principles. To all of the giants whose shoulders I stood on, you will forever have my heartfelt thanks... Semper Fidelis and Oorah!



### NEW PACK LEADER!

On behalf of the Department of New York, we extend our congratulations to Cathie for being elected as Pack Leader. We have confidence that you will shine at your newly elected position of Pack Leader! You are surrounded by a pack old dogs who will offer an abundance of assistance.

The Ground Pounder supports you!





# HIGHLIGHTS and PHOTOS from the

NE Division Conference ..... 1-2 April 2022  
 Meeting ..... 8-9 April 2022  
 91st Convention ..... 10-12 April 2022



- Flowers were presented in honor of all the Marines and Auxiliary who were lost in 2021.
- Bob Borka did a presentation for the Paymasters about the Member Portal. He demonstrated how to access and change information on the website.
- Robert Ziltz received the Victor T. Fisher Award and the NE Division Marine of the Year.
- Division Vice Commandant Waluk spoke about the challenges that we, as a League, face. He also stressed the importance of maintaining a balance in life. It can frequently become difficult to manage time because of the stressors of leadership. He emphasized that it is vitally important to maintain family relationships as part of the equation of a balanced life.
- Marshall Houston from Pennadelphia Detachment was awarded a Distinguished Citizen Gold.
- Diana Henry, Victoria McCoy, William Miller (Department of PA) received Distinguished Citizen Silver as did ADVC Thomas Wortmann, John Nardolillo (Department of NY) and George Gough (Department of NJ).



The Auxiliary Raffle at the 91st Convention

*With a heavy heart, that Commandant Tom Arcuri, opened the 8-9 April meeting by dedicating it to two of our members who have passed away, Gordon "Gordie" Williams and Donald Marsh.*

## BUSINESS SESSIONS

- At the NE Division Conference, Pennsylvania presented a donation at the Growl. As in a poker match, others kept raising the pot to an amazing \$5000.
- Our National Commandant Johnny Baker underwent cataract surgery and had some complications.
- One of the detachments that had their charter revoked, overcame obstacles and then flourished.
- There was discussion about the process of suspending a charter. The result was that the process will be revised to improve communication.
- The National Convention will be in Daytona on 15-19 August 2022. The rooms are booked, but there are nearby hotels but there will be shuttles. [The event hosts a golf tournament. See the E-blast.](#)
- Presently, the deceased records are kept active for 810 days. Research is being done to alter that.
- Reminder: If a Detachment fails to file their 990-N for 3 consecutive years, the IRS will automatically revoke their exemption status.
  - There is misinformation circulating, for clarification, refer to the bylaws.
  - Contact Skip Diamond about the Eagle Scout Program where outstanding youth are recognized. [skipdiamond13@gmail.com](mailto:skipdiamond13@gmail.com).
  - For supplies from the Ship Store, email Al Merrill at [al.merrill.amvets@gmail.com](mailto:al.merrill.amvets@gmail.com) or at 585-365-3398.
  - The Foundation helps Marines and their families through difficult times.



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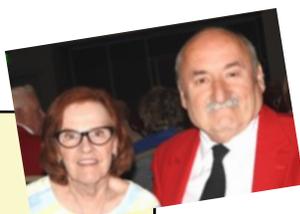


- Gratitude was expressed several times during the convention towards the Auxiliary. Their efforts supporting the MCL are appreciated!
- Jim Ransom, President of the NY MCL Foundation, explained that there is a difference between the State Foundation, and the National Foundation. When donations are made through the State, the money will be used in New York. For example, when Hurricane Sandy struck, the Foundation assisted veterans.
- To donate to our state Foundation, send checks to MCL, 307 Adams Street, Rome NY 13440. To apply for assistance, simply email Jim Ransom and cc: Tom Arcuri, Foundation paymaster.
- Sadly, detachments were under-represented at this convention. Officers suggested that **IF** a detachment is financially able, designate funds to send a member.
- Tom Wortmann will be conducting a class virtually about the **ABCs of Leadership**.
- Because NY winters can be treacherous, discussions about virtual meetings are ongoing.

- The Rifle and Pistol organization, encourages all, to participate. Score cards are submitted on the honor system. Civilians are welcome to participate. R&P has officially been granted a charter. The bylaws are complete, and the executive board is being created. Contact Mr. Lynn Stanton for information ([lwdstanton@gmail.com](mailto:lwdstanton@gmail.com)).
- Since funds were moved from a non interest-baring checking account to a Morgan Stanley account, the balance has increased by 1/3 since.
- It is now easier than ever to sign up to receive –the e-blast and/or Ground Pounder. Use the links on the front page of [mclnewyork.net](http://mclnewyork.net).
- Junior Vice, David Wiggs is chairing a poster contest with the theme of recruitment.
- David Brisbane and his detachment held several fundraisers and was able to raise just over \$50K and will send 4 checks for organizations for the prevention of Veteran Suicide. Look for more in the next edition.



Adjutant & Editor



*Privately, a Marine provided examples of how the Foundation assists.*

*When this Marine's brother was crushed between cars during a carjacking, massive injuries were sustained and he was in a coma for months. The foundation helped. Another example is when a Marine had gotten into a very bad motorcycle accident, and experienced a traumatic brain injury.*

*The Foundation provided assistance.*



Sorry folks, I couldn't help but put this in twice. Zoom in to enjoy!



**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

- Dean Lawton Sr. - Senior Vice Commandant
- David Wiggs - Junior Vice Commandant
- Michael Piscioti - Judge Advocate
- Thomas Wortmann - Jr. Past Commandant
- Ralph Luciani - Paymaster
- Stephen Topilnycky - Adjutant
- Gerald della Badia - Web Sergeant
- Scott Westcott - Sergeant at Arms
- Vinny Annunziata - Chaplain
- Timothy Forbes - East Area Vice Commandant
- Vinny Annunziata - Long Island Area Vice Commandant
- Volker Heyde - Metro-New York Area Vice Commandant
- Alex Kitts - North Area Vice Commandant
- Stan Lewosko - North Central Area Vice Commandant
- David Brisbane - North West Area Vice Commandant
- Michael Piscioti - South East Area Vice Commandant
- Dean Lawton Sr. - South Central Area Vice Commandant
- Albert Hazzard - South West Area Vice Commandant
- Earl Herrington - West Area Vice Commandant
- Robert Becker Jr. - Legislative / Veteran Affairs
- Albert Merrill - Quartermaster
- Aren Shank - Deputy Quartermaster
- Tina Olsen - Convention Credentials Chairwoman
- Lynn Stanton - Rifle and Pistol
- Raymond "Skip" Diamond - Eagle Scout Coordinator
- James Ransom - Convention Chairman
- Donna Hildebrandt - Newsletter Editor



*Earl shows-off the only part of his uniform that he can still fit into — a tie clip*

**MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION**

**FOR RECRUITING 16-20 MEMBERS**

- Sunrise Detachment #248
- Raider Detachment #461

**FOR RECRUITING 5-15 MEMBERS**

- Electric City Detachment #222
- Greater Syracuse Detachment #224
- Lockport Devil Dog Detachment #232
- Memorial #2 Detachment #233
- Rockland County Detachment #243
- Edward L. Smith Jr. Detachment #245
- Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment #246
- Suffolk County Detachment #247
- Lewis County Detachment #754
- LZ Old Corps Detachment #999



**MARINE OF THE YEAR  
ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR**



WE HAD A GOOD CHUCKLE THIS YEAR.

IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF VOLKER HEYDE, THE WINNER OF LAST YEAR'S MARINE OF THE YEAR, TO PRESENT THE AWARD TO THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT.

IN A MOMENT OF BRAIN HICCUP, VOLKER SAID THE WINNER THIS YEAR IS ... UH ... UM .... "JESUS CHRIST." AFTER SOME ASSISTANCE, HE THEN CORRECTED HIMSELF TO ANNOUNCE EARL HERRINGTON.

*Earl wouldn't stop talking long enough to get his picture taken. Then ... finally but notice, he's not smile when not talking.*



Congratulations to the winner of the 2022 **Marine of the Year**, West Area Vice Commandant, **Earl Herrington**.

The first ever **Associate of the Year** award went to **Donna Hildebrandt** from Bett-Toomey, the Ground Pounder Editor and newly appointed Chief of Staff.



**EARL KEPT HIS SPEECH LIGHT-HEARTED**

"If you think I'm at a loss for words, you're wrong. I'd like to thank the whole kit-n-kaboodle of you. I didn't get here on my own, it takes a lot of people helping you to achieve something like this. Some of them were pushers, some of them were pullers. So, if you were a pusher or a puller, I thank you.

*Now that I've spoken that I've spoken so that you can hear me, and stood up so that you can see me, I'm gonna shut, up so you like me."*

LEAVE IT TO EARL!



**DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FOR THE NEXT YEAR**

- Commandant..... Thomas Arcuri
- Sr. Vice Commandant ..... Dean Lawton, Sr.
- Jr. Vice Commandant ..... David Wiggs
- Past Jr. Commandant ..... Tom Wortman
- Judge Advocate ..... Mike Pisciotti
- Outgoing Paymaster ..... Ralph Luciani
- Incoming Paymaster ..... Jim Sampson
- Adjutant ..... Steve Topilnycky
- Chief of Staff..... Donna Hildebrandt
- Chaplain ..... Vinny Annunziata
- Sergeant at Arms..... Scott Westcott
- Pack Leader ..... Cathie Wiggs
- Auxiliary President..... Maureen Dunn
- Past Aux. President ..... Nancy Lewosko



**MARINE OF THE YEAR**



Last year's recipient, Volker Heyde awards the 2022 Marine of the Year to Earl Herrington



(Left to right) Tom Wortmann, Dean Lawton, Sr., Tom Arcuri, Dave Wiggs, Steve Topilnycky



**DoNY  
COMMANDANT  
ARCURI**



**JOHN NARDOLILLO**  
NEDIV Aid-de-Camp received a Certificate of Appreciation & Distinguished Citizen Bronze from Northeast Division Vice Commandant

Department of New York Commandant, Tom Arcuri receives a Certificate of appreciation from NE Division Vice Commandant, Mike Waluk.



Ray & Pat David



Marilyn Loeven  
Past National Auxiliary President



A post Banquet photo of some members of the Marine Corps League Department of New York, and the Marine Corps League Auxiliary and out guests having a terrific time.

Photo Credit: Karen (Collegian Hotel and Suites Staff)



# CLEAR PATH FOR VETERANS

Veteran wellness is our mission.  
Our support is unconditional.



### Peer and Family Support

As our "front line" program, peer mentors reach veterans where they are at to deliver individualized support to address their most pressing needs. The peer and family support program partners with local and national organizations to form an all-encompassing support network so that together, we can serve veterans and their families.

### Canine Program

Our service dogs begin training as 8-week-old puppies for a lifetime of service and undergo an 18-month intensive program with our certified trainers and technician, so veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress (PTS), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and/or experienced military sexual trauma (MST) can connect with their canine companions on a mutually beneficial level. Concurrently, veterans work with other staff members to identify and address barriers before being paired with their service dogs. This holistic approach distinguishes Clear Path because veterans can access an array of additional services, enabling them to resolve challenges proactively and more comprehensively.



### Warriors Working

Clear Path for Veterans has exclusive use of a proprietary career placement program that addresses both sides of the employment equation to ensure success for the veteran or transitional military member seeking a job, as well as for the hiring company. Warriors Working moves beyond traditional services such as resume writing and interview skills and matches the candidate with a peer mentor to consider the whole person.



## SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY HOME

Clear Path for Veterans serves veterans, military members, and their families unconditionally, regardless of era and branch of service, disability status, or characterization of discharge. It is that simple.

We welcome all veterans and their family members, supporting their journey home with world class experiences, life-altering programs, and enriching direct services at our main campus on 78 acres of fields and woodlands, offering miles of beautiful views and peaceful walking trails. We do so because when veterans thrive, communities thrive – and for us, there is no more important mission.

At Clear Path, veterans and their families find a place of connection and camaraderie, inclusion and inspiration. We recognize a community cannot survive without those charged with defending it, nor can these defenders survive without their community. This community-based warrior culture is a solemn obligation and defines all that we do.

## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

(315) 687-3300

[info@clearpathforvets.com](mailto:info@clearpathforvets.com)

[www.clearpathforvets.com](http://www.clearpathforvets.com)

1223 Salt Springs Rd, Chittenango, NY 13037

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE >>>





## Holistic Wellness

Wellness programming at Clear Path for Veterans leverages the National Wellness Institute's "Six Dimensions of Wellness" methodology, widely accepted as the industry standard. Regardless if a veteran or family member comes to Clear Path in crisis or looking to excel, we embrace a holistic warrior care model that meets them where they are and helps them to achieve the highest levels of emotional, intellectual, occupational, physical, social, and spiritual wellbeing.



## CULINARY PROGRAM AND CANTEN LUNCHEON

Modeled after the canteen originating in North Platte, Nebraska, the concept was adopted here in Chittenango by our co-founder Melissa Spicer. Clear Path opens its doors every Wednesday to prepare a home-cooked meal, complimentary for veterans, military members, and their families.

Similarly, we partner with local organizations to deliver world class culinary experiences by way of mobile canteens while also hosting holiday events including a Thanksgiving Dinner for veterans, Easter and holiday brunches, as well as a Valentine's dinner.

By sharing a meal together, we instill a sense of welcome, and from that welcome, the wellness journey can begin in earnest.

## Community Outreach

The journey home for veterans and their families begins with community. Wellness cannot be achieved without a sense of welcome and a willingness to collaborate. One might be first introduced to such transformative hospitality during a weekly Canteen, special event, or our monthly Summit meeting. Or perhaps it will be found in one of our classes or on a stroll around the grounds. But you will find it because a welcoming community defines all that we do.



## Volunteers

Our volunteers bring Clear Path to life and instill the sense of welcome fundamental to the wellness journey all veterans and their families take with us. From our culinary volunteers to our Canine Guardians, they give back to Clear Path and the veterans in our community in so many ways, every day. Regardless if they come only once or are here every week, our volunteers are the soul of Clear Path.

Come to Clear Path and see how we're helping make veterans' lives better through connection, community, and companionship.



### Service Area



## FOOD TRUCK OUTREACH

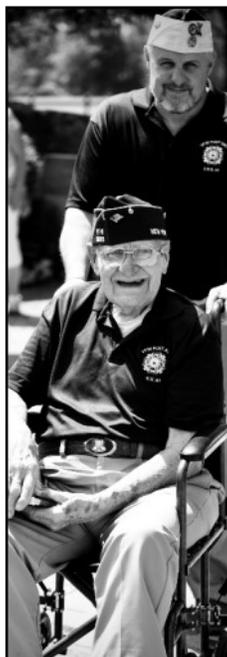
With the generous support of Chobani and SEFCU, Clear Path's culinary team launched a food trailer in 2022 to reach even more communities across New York State. The trailer highlights the culinary talents of our staff while eventually providing participants in the skills development course with hands-on experience.



# MEMORIAL DAY

## SOUTHTOWNS DETACHMENT #1136

Memorial Day Activities in Wales, NY



Pictures speak a thousand words



Professional photographs courtesy of *Renea Lauck*



# MEMORIAL DAY

## 2LT JOHN PAUL BOBO DETACHMENT #1118

American Veterans Memorial Monument in Niagara Falls, N.Y.



Right: Niagara Falls Veterans Memorial Chairman, Dave Fabrizio honors past commission member and USMC veteran **Duane Frost** while his son Steven holds his shadow box.

A Purple Heart parking place was dedicated to Duane who received the Purple Heart 3 times. He served 2½ tours in Vietnam. Duane was also a past Marine Corps League Department of New York Commandant and Lt. John Paul Bobo Detachment paymaster.

Left: Stephen and Rob Frost hold their fathers shadow box in front of the Purple Heart parking sign honoring him.



The American Veterans Memorial Monument in Niagara Falls, N.Y.



Color Guard Adjutant Bill Talarico and Sr. Vice John Attanasio stand at attention as Detachment Commandant Kingsley Chandler USMC GySgt (ret.) plays taps.



(Left to right) Judge Advocate Marine Dave Kindzia, 2Lt Bobo's brother William Bobo and his wife Ann, 2nd Lt. Bobo's brother in law Joe Colosi and 2Lt. Bobo's sister Mary Colosi, Sr. Vice Commandant John Attanasio and Adjutant Bill Talarico.



# MEMORIAL DAY

I wish all a safe and peaceful Memorial Day.  
For those who participated in parades, ceremonies or other remembrance events, thank you.

I attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at Saratoga National Cemetery and share a few of the words spoken by our Cemetery Director, Mr. Scott Lamb who gave an inspiring keynote address to the many people assembled there.

I am also including an article that concerns Veterans Deaths by suicide and how families are left to grieve their loved ones loss. It highlights one family who's son was a Marine who fought in Afghanistan. See pages 22-23.

Stay safe and Semper Fidelis

Tim Forbes, PNVC,PDC  
East AVC



## BETT-TOOMEY DETACHMENT #216

### Memorial Day services held at Veteran's Park in Lackawanna

This year's guest speakers were Mayor Iafallo and Congressman Timothy Kennedy.



Commandant  
Kenneth D. Blachura



Members of the Maritime Charter  
School Color Guard



Ann Toomey (Air Force) and friend,  
present flowers to Bett-Toomey  
in front of the monument.

*Ann does not know if she  
is related to our namesake*



### RECRUITING POSTER CONTEST

David Wiggs, Jr. Vice announced the creation of the First Annual Membership Recruitment Poster Competition.

Submit your poster 30-days prior to the opening of the annual convention.

For competition details, see the Department’s website <https://mclnewyork.net/>

For additional questions, contact Dave Wiggs [dwiggs@stny.rr.com](mailto:dwiggs@stny.rr.com) phone (607) 738-3316.



### Tid Bit

#### FIND YOUR TRIBE

If you or a friend would like to join the MCL, go to the National website ([www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org)) and scan the box under are you ready “to find your tribe” [Tribe@MCLeague.org](mailto:Tribe@MCLeague.org)



### The War Against Veteran Suicide

This Challenge 22 event was an 8-12 month campaign, ending with an all day event on May 21 at the American Legion Post 256.

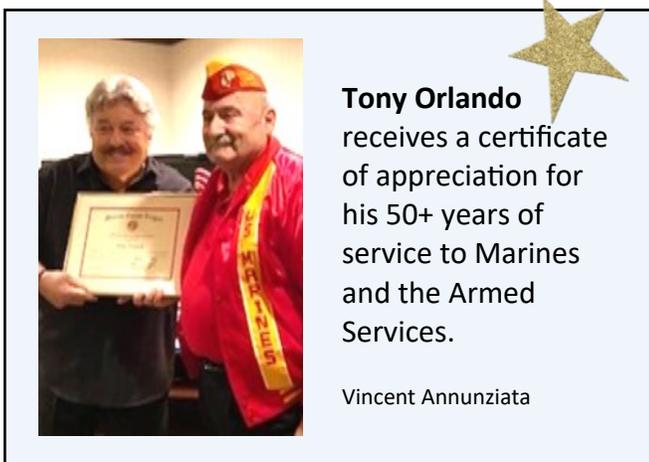
We ended up with over 100 sponsors and contributors.

We will have donations over **\$54,000!**

We will be cutting four checks over **\$12,000 each** to the local organizations that serve our veterans with services to prevent suicide.

Members of the MCL spearheaded the program. The AL was extremely helpful with facilities, events and funding. Together, this team worked to have an extreme success!

*Jim Wicker*



**Tony Orlando** receives a certificate of appreciation for his 50+ years of service to Marines and the Armed Services.

Vincent Annunziata

### ~ OATH OF MEMBERSHIP ~

Oath of Membership "I, (Your Name), In the Presence of Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will never bring discredit upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps League, so help me God. Incorporated by an act of Congress in 1937, the Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines who proudly wear or who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor of the Corps.



*Incorporated by an act of Congress in 1937, the Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines who proudly wear or who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor of the Corps*



## Every Minute of Every Day

Lauren Halligan — MediaNews Group

SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y. — Director of the cemetery, Scott Lamb, hosted The Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery’s annual Memorial Day ceremony to give thanks to the fallen.

The ceremony included the firing of a military rifle volley, the ringing of the USS Saratoga bell, a cannon salute and Taps.

“Every minute of every hour of every day, Americans enjoy the blessings of a free nation.... [that have been] protected by the selfless men and women in

uniform ...” Lamb continued, “For nearly two and a half centuries, millions of America’s finest citizens have answered the call to duty ... and defend the Constitution ... “Every single freedom and liberty we enjoy can be traced back to the battlefields ... of Lexington and Concord ... ”

*Original articles submitted by PNVC, PDC, Tim Forbes*



Lamb states, **“We honor those who paid the ultimate price ... for the country that ... [we] so dearly love.”**

More than five million Americans are buried in VA cemeteries. President Abraham Lincoln’s vowed “to care for him who shall have borne the battle,” Our VA provides headstones, markers or medallions for buried veterans.

Contact your local VA and search [VA.gov](http://VA.gov) for information.

## Can We Honor Deaths by Suicide on Memorial Day?

Edited and enhanced original article written by Dean Lambert, May 26  
submitted by Tim Forbes, PNVC, PDC

*Dean Lambert is the father of U.S. Marine Adam Lambert, who took his own life, founded The Love Always Project. It seeks to normalize conversations around the inevitability of the death of a loved one.*

Shortly after his son’s passing, Dean visited the grave of his son, Marine Adam J. Lambert, wrote that “The older you get, the faster time goes by.” The pain of losing a child does not make time go faster though.

Adam served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. He returned home in the summer of 2014 and died by suicide in 2015. He and others like him, who committed suicide after serving, are heroes who suffered inner wounds of a war and eroding mental health. Those wounds never healed.

Since then, I’ve spent a great deal of time focused on veteran suicide, and there’s a nagging question that resurfaces. Is it acceptable to honor our loved ones on Memorial Day, the a day set aside to honor those

military Americans who perish during our wars.

Our son did not die while serving in war, but rather from the mental wounds received in Afghanistan. For months after he returned, it was clear that our son was battling something that we could not understand. War changes even the strongest of people. Many families agree that the person who was sent to war, died there regardless if they returned alive or not.



When I found him lifeless, he was wearing his combat uniform and clutching his dog tags. It was obvious that he brought the war back with him. From his return until his death, his journal confirmed that he was dying from the mental struggles endured in war battles. Mental health wounds culminating in suicide are every bit as real as mortal wounds received in combat.

Continued on next page



### Memorial Day Honors?

Continued from the previous page.

A federal class action lawsuit, Manker v. Del Toro, made me reassess and conclude that Adam actually “died in Afghanistan.” In this lawsuit, the plaintiff had been dishonorably discharged due to a diagnosis of PTSD, and the plaintiff won.

The result was that the military was taxed with reviewing the discharge status for any veteran who was clinically diagnosed with a mental disorder which resulted in that a dishonorable discharge. Doing so would grant access to military benefits to the family and the legacy.

Like the plaintiff in the class action lawsuit, military doctors diagnosed Adam with symptoms of PTSD while serving in a theater of war. He was not eligible to receive disability benefits when he separated, nor was the family eligible for death benefits. Likewise, Adam was

Since Adam’s death was after active service, he too was not eligible to receive posthumous benefits.

By correlating a veteran’s suicide to combat-related PTSD, could bring a measure of comfort and closure for survivors as well as other VA benefits. It also assists with financial stability.

Knowing that we may celebrate our loved ones on Veterans Day and legitimately honor them on Memorial Day removes the mixed feelings.

What I have learned from the past seven years, is that we must make time to remember the full lives, not just his self-inflicted demise.

Let this not be “just another Memorial Day.” Please join me and my family in remembering the heroes who also lost their lives due to mental health injuries sustained on the same battlefields. While both are unthinkable and tragic, we’re starting to achieve results in preventing the latter due to greater awareness and advocacy.

## NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

HE — was destitute and without family when he died.

HE — was in the Third Marine Division in Vietnam.

HE — was **Navy Corpsman Richard Frankoitz.**

Rockland County Detachment members along with Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 333, stepped up. They purchased his coffin and held his funeral service to ensure that he was remembered by his military family.

The weather was less than hospitable for this somber occasion. Chapter President Roy Tschudy said, “Despite rain mixed with snow, despite wind conditions, despite freezing temperatures, a large turnout of Chapter members, along with members of the Marine Corps League, provided a solemn and respectful farewell funeral for Vietnam veteran Richard Frankovitz.”

This is a true demonstration of ‘No one left behind.’



Submitted by PDC Tim Forbes

## VA SURVEY VOTING CHALLENGES IMPORTANT

VA wants to learn more about the Veteran voter registration experience and how you participate in our nation’s democratic process. Please refer to the following websites for information. Copy and paste the link into a browser to explore more.

Survey <https://survey.voice.va.gov/oHzifR-NP25S2KNRXHxvKa>

And <https://www.va.gov/initiatives/vote/?msclid=a25ac7e0a97811ec99d0bad55d4d3680>



# AUXILIARY WANTS YOU



The Dept. of New York MCLA is trying to build their membership, which is a difficult task. There are only 3 Auxiliary Units in New York. The Auxiliary is actively seeking to recruit new members.

The one downstate is the North Shore Queens Unit, Midstate has the Herkimer County Unit and Upstate is home to the Massena Unit.

- If you are a*
- Marine wife*
- widow*
- mother*
- daughter*
- stepdaughter*
- stepmother*
- sister*
- niece*
- grandmother*
- granddaughter*
- daughter in-law*
- aunt*
- mother in-law*
- sister in-law*

- Or if you are a*
- Woman Marine*
- FMS Navy Chaplain*
- FMF Corpsman*
- an Associate member*
- or eligible for the*
- Marine Corps League*

**We welcome you to join one of our existing Auxiliary units as a new member or start a new unit with just 7 ladies.**

We meet 4 times a Year, in October, January, April and June. All are in alignment with the Marine Corps League meetings. This June we celebrate our 91st Convention and I look forward to seeing everyone.

Your email is welcome: [dunngunner0811@aol.com](mailto:dunngunner0811@aol.com).

Semper Fi ,  
*Maureen Dunn*  
President, Dept. of N.Y. Auxiliary

# PRESERVING HISTORY

**PLEASE READ**

## MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION'S HISTORY BRANCH WANTS YOUR HELP



**The History Branch is interested in conducting oral history interviews with Marines, Corpsmen, or others serving with Marines.**

This detachment is composed of experienced officers and SNCOs who are interested in preserving physical Marine Corps history. They are interested in everything historical, such as documents, photographs, and artifacts. Their biggest interest is in interviewing World War II and Korean War Marines but are open to input from all Marines and their families of all eras. Interviews can be conducted with your preferred method, either in person, over the phone, using Skype or Zoom.

If interested or have questions, please contact LtCol Timothy Heck at [timothy.heck@usmcu.edu](mailto:timothy.heck@usmcu.edu)

**Help them preserve the history of the Corps**



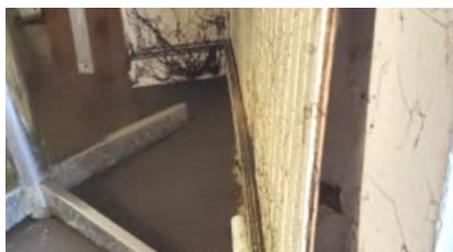


# MCL Westchester County Detachment #254 is the First to Donate to the Resurrection of American Legion #1574



American Legion Gilbert Rauh Post #1574 in Thornwood was the host site to MCL Westchester County Detachment #254, as well as several other community groups. When an uninvited Ida intruded, the water levels outside the post surpassed 7ft. She devastated the building, its contents, and took with her, the meeting place for so many in the community.

Since pictures speak a thousand words, these pictures will tell the story of devastation from Hurricane Ida, by themselves.



The flood waters caused doorways to buckle. All the appliances and TV were destroyed, shelving warped, all contents of that level was destroyed.

With the amount of devastation, the members of the Legion thought that because of the extent of damage, that the cost to restore the building would be prohibitively expensive to repair.

If the members of the American Legion accepted defeat, they would be obligated by contract to sell the building back to the Town of Mount Pleasant for just \$400.



Detachment Officers presenting the donation check. Pictured (left to right): Drew McFadden (American Legion Gilbert Rauh# Post #1574 Commander), Wilfredo Muniz, Jr. (Detachment Commandant); (rear) Donald O'Keefe (Jr. Vice Commandant); Steve Topilnycky (Adjutant Paymaster/Department Adjutant); Michael J. Waluk (Sr. Vice Commandant/NE Division Vice Commandant)

Fortunately, determination prevailed. The community rallied for the non-profit and groups began to clean up and tackle what appeared to be insurmountable.

An architect and contractors are being hired to redesign and restore the post with consideration to mitigating future flooding.

**This restoration will be funded entirely from donations.**

To contribute, make checks payable to the American Legion. Send to American Legion Post #1574 P.O. Box 92 Thornwood, N.Y. 10594

At the April 2022 Detachment's meeting, the Westchester County Det. #254 presented a check to the American Legion Commander, Drew McFadden.

For full story visit: <https://www.mclwestchester.org/2022/04/veterans-group-in-thornwood-to-rebuild-after-ida-aftermath/>

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



# SUMMARY OF NATIONAL VIRTUAL COMMANDANT'S CORNER ZOOM MEETING

HOSTED BY VICTORIA McCOY, *Public Relations Chair*



*DUE TO OVERWHELMING POSITIVE RESPONSES, THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN EDITED AND REPRINTED*

**PURPOSE:** Connecting with the community to build a strong next generation.

**ACCEPTANCE:** To be accepted as a Young Marine (YM) the applicant must demonstrate an array of quality characteristics.

**The opportunity to become a Young Marine is a privilege, not a right.**

There is strict criteria for acceptance into the program, and sadly, the number of eligible candidates has decreased tremendously from previous generations. The lessons learned as YM will have far-reaching effects for future generations.

**OPPORTUNITY:** Once accepted, the YM can rise through the ranks just as in the Marines. Although the rank of officer is difficult to attain, it is possible with persistence and hard work. Leaders believe that there is a real need for this program in every community. Some schools agree, and have implemented the YM program as mandatory. Some members of Congress also support the program.

**HELP:** **Adult volunteers are needed.** The volunteers do not need to be a Marine or former military. Quality citizens are encouraged to lead.

**HOW:** Finding a group near you, an application to start a new unit, or to become an adult volunteer see <https://youngmarines.org/public/page>

## APRIL 2022

### MARINE CORPS LEAGUE FOUNDATION

At the Virtual Commandant's Corner, The MCL Foundation emphasized their mission to help veterans' and their families. They are proud to be able to provide support to our brothers and sisters in need. Assistance is offered in the form of grants, scholarships, and help with other necessities. Primarily the benefits are for the family of Marines and Auxiliary members. However, other applicants may apply and be considered.

The guest speaker stated that the group has been struggling lately and National Commandant Baker is appealing to our sense of brotherhood to keep them afloat. Fund raising strategies were discussed.

To assist, National Commandant, Johnny Baker is presently taking classes in grant writing and planning to use his newly acquired skills soon.

### FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

This is a group that has historically donated to the MCL Foundation as well as supported other national and international needs. They take pride to interact with youth on many levels, including providing training to become a first responder.



Certificates of appreciation can be presented to outstanding community members who are not required to be part of the MCL.

[www.fourchaplains.org](http://www.fourchaplains.org) describes the mission to promote interfaith cooperation and selfless service in individuals and organizations.



(ZOOM MEETINGS CONTINUED)

## MAY 2022

**MARINE FOR LIFE IS A MARINE CORPS PROGRAM, NOT THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE.**

The Marine Corps League is assisting the Marine Corps with this valuable service. Participation is not intended to be a recruiting tool.

**THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF M4L IS TO ASSIST WITH TRANSITIONING FROM MILITARY INTO CIVILIAN LIFE.**

### MARINE FOR LIFE (M4L)

[WWW.MARINEFORLIFE.ORG](http://WWW.MARINEFORLIFE.ORG)

Guest speakers of the M4L program were Co-chairmen, David Ossian ([dossian@mcleague.org](mailto:dossian@mcleague.org)) and Mark Munger.

Since the days when many MCL members were discharged, a severe gap has been noticed regarding the transition from military to civilian life. This networking program is here to close that gap. At its core, the M4L premise is simple. It is to support our brothers and sisters and to build a Tribe. Those recently discharged have little knowledge that this service exists. Since 9/11/01, the deployment rates are higher, and therefore the need is greater, too.

The DOD has calculated that the recent suicide rate is now 66/day, which is a sharp increase from the previously calculated, 22/day. Participation aims to reduce mental health crisis and suicides.

The process of being a recipient begins when outreach is made to the M4L network. The first chore is to learn what type of help is needed immediately and connect recipient with an appropriate mentor. Not all mentors who apply are a good fit, so mentorship will be selective.

The M4L network is slowly expanding as networks are being built. Some of the assistance may be as



simple as helping to a neighborhood, location of the local VA or more complex like making connections for employment.

The Chamber of Commerce uses similar tactics and is good place to become involved within a community.

The utilization of these services is not limited to those who are newly discharged, it can also be used by those who have been out of the service for years who are seeking to redefining themselves. An additional aspect of M4L is to steer Marines to connect with other Marines in the community and use their services. Those who have walked the same path are the best to associate with. The introduction may be on a professional or social level.

**IF WE AREN'T CARING FOR THOSE MARINES WHO HAVE JUST BEEN DISCHARGED, WE ARE NOT HONORING OUR COMMITMENT AS A MARINE.**

Some large businesses have agreed to serve as a Skill-Bridge for those seeking to obtain a marketable skill, such as trade jobs or businesspeople.

*The recorded version of this discussion is available on the National YouTube site.*

<https://youtu.be/GWnYhAWgfvw>



# A Farewell SALUTE

## Fredric Hillmann

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Detachment Life Member Fredric D. Hillmann. He entered eternal rest on 8 December 2021 in his home in Pleasantville, NY.

Fred proudly served in the USMC 1/9, known as The Walking Dead, during the Vietnam War, and was awarded the Purple Heart. After Vietnam. Fred joined IBM where he worked for 30 years, and met his wife of 41 years.



Fred loved anything with an engine — vintage cars, motorcycles, planes. He even held a private pilot’s license & was building his own BD5 plane.

He was an honored member of Veterans’ & Military organizations, including the Nam Knights of America MC, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 49, Military Order of the Purple Heart, 1/9 Assoc. & Marine Corps League.

Fred is survived by his wife Bea, and daughter Erica.



## Donald H. Marsh, Sr. (1937—2022)

At 85 years-old, Donald Marsh Sr. entered into eternal rest in March, at Albany Medical Center Hospital.



Marsh had a long history serving his country, first in the United States Marine Corps from 1953 to 1962 during the Korean War, and then the National Guard from 1970 to 1990. He retired as a Sergeant Major.

Don loved America and was a true patriot. He was a member of the Capt. William Dale O'Brien Marine Corps League; the 210th Armored Association; the O'Connor and Sullivan VFW Post; the American Legion Post 178 in Murrells Inlet, N.Y.; and the Grand Strand Detachment Marine Corps League in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Those wishing to remember Donald H. Marsh Sr. in a special way may send a contribution to

Mohawk Hudson Humane Society  
[mohawkhumane.org](http://mohawkhumane.org)

3 Oakland Ave.  
Menands, NY, 12204

or

[St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](http://St. Jude Children's Research Hospital),  
501 St. Jude Place  
Memphis, TN, 38105

Fair Winds & Following Sails



# U.S.S. THE SULLIVANS

## WORLD WAR II ERA DESTROYER'S LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

The historic Destroyer, U.S.S. The Sullivans was renamed in honor of the five Sullivan brothers who served in WWII and perished. U.S.S. The Sullivans Destroyer has been a staple to downtown Buffalo's waterfront for generations.

At 78, she has already outlived her life expectancy, and was denied the necessary maintenance. As a native Western New Yorker, it's been known for years, that U.S.S. The Sullivans has needed repair. Even so, the breaking news of her taking on water so rapidly, and listing up to 45° was both shocking and



Derek Gee / The Buffalo News



Photo: Spectrum News 1

*Our collective hearts sink*

heart-breaking. By midday of 4/14/22 she had taken on so much water that she sunk to the level of her top deck. Fortunately, she is by the shallows of Lak Erie. Without that, her injuries would have been catastrophic. The holes in her hull, not only caused her to list severely, but also allowed leakage of thousands of gallons of oil and contaminates. Attempts to save her began immediately.

While local media reported that the hull's failure is due to the harsh winters that Buffalo experiences, it is my personal opinion that the efforts to prevent this tragedy were not taken, and the upkeep was grossly insufficient.

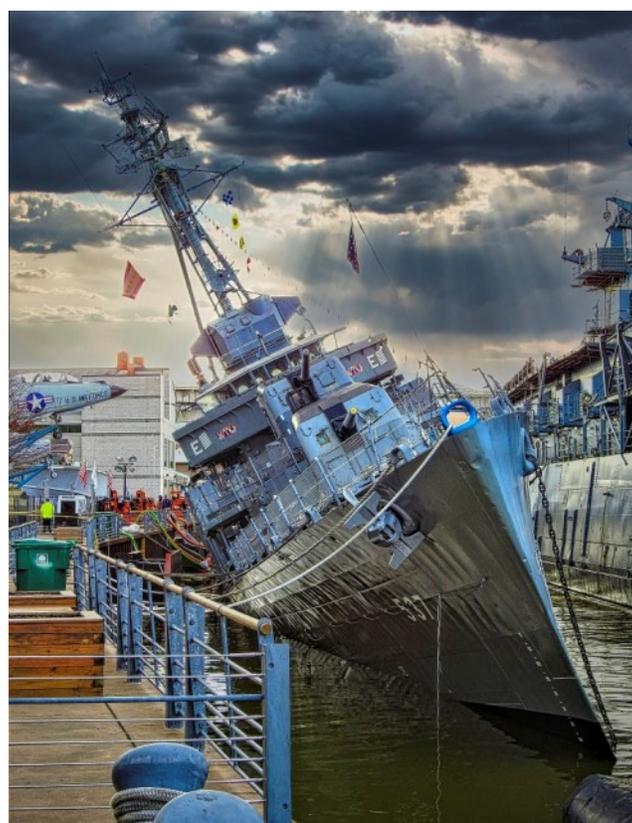
It was the 5/5/22 that WGRZ, Channel 2 from Buffalo, broadcast that finally, after 22 days, The Sullivans was finally given back some of her dignity and righted. Workers repaired **55 holes in May** and there were still more. Pumping out the oil and diesel fuel was helpful to right her but it came with a hefty price tag.

There are more ships in the Erie County Naval and Marine Park, a Submarine, called The U.S.S. Croaker — and Battleship, The U.S.S. Little Rock. I pray that they will be cared for well enough to avoid the same situation in the future for them.

Buffalo has been fortunate to have her for so many years. By addressing proper preventive measures, may allow us more glorious years. I find it sad that she requires such overwhelming repair. Her loss would cost us dearly, not only financially, but also historically.

Photo to the right is courtesy of Gary Hildebrandt.

Donna Hildebrandt—Information was gathered from multiple sources and opinion.





# EVENTS



## Fordham University Commissioning Ceremony

20 May 2022

### Mameluke Sword Presentation

#### Honoring Second Lieutenant Jamil Arroyo

Marine Arroyo has an impressive resume. The following is a partial summary of how he earned the Mameluke Sword.

*The Westchester County Detachment, once again, was present at SUNY Maritime Collage to present the Mameluke Sword to the top Marine graduate, SSgt Jamil Arroyo.*

*He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 20 May 2022.*

Staff Sergeant Arroyo reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in February 2014 for recruit training, where he achieved the Company Honor Graduate.

He subsequently completed Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina, primary and secondary Aviation Ordnance Naval Air Technical Training at Pensacola, Florida, and Cherry Point, North Carolina, respectively.

In November 2014, SSgt Arroyo received orders to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 11, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Miramar, California, to serve as an Aviation Ordnance Systems Technician for Armament Weapons Support Equipment (AWSE).

From March 2015 to September 2015, he participated in a Unit Deployment Program (UDP) to MALS 12,

*Continue reading at the link below.*

<https://www.mclwestchester.org/2022/05/top-marine-graduate-awarded-mameluke-sword/>



MCL Westchester Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster presents the prestigious Mameluke sword to Marine Jamil Arroyo who is being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant

Photo Credit: MIDN Faith Rockwell 1/C (SUNY Maritime College)

**Norah Burns** was commissioned as an Ensign, by her father, **Captain Mark Burns**, Commanding Officer Naval Support Activity Washington who was also the guest speaker.



Family members pinning the bars onto Second Lieutenant, Marine Arroyo.

Photo Credit: MIDN Faith Rockwell 1/C (SUNY Maritime College)



# EVENTS



## Fordham University Commissioning Ceremony

20 May 2022

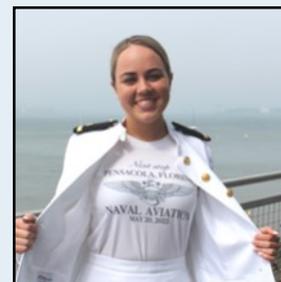
### Mission of the NYC NROTC Unit

*Our Mission is to develop Midshipmen mentally, morally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty and loyalty, and with the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.*



Captain Timothy Gibboney, USN Commanding Officer  
Major Andrew Ehrefeld, USMC Executive Officer  
Elliot Wehrle, 2LT  
Jonathan Hegedus, 2LT  
Jamil Arroyo, 2LT  
Norah Burns, Ensign  
Savanna Urban, Ensign  
Elias Garcia, Ensign  
Michael Henniscke, Ensign

Photo Credit: MIDN Faith Rockwell 1/C (SUNY Maritime College)



Norah Burns is showing-off her pride as a Student Naval Aviator



Jamil Arroyo Marine Corps Officer  
Jonathan Hegedus, Marine Corps Officer  
Elliot Wehrle, Marine Corps Officer  
Norah Burns, Student Naval Aviator  
Elias Garcia, Submarine Warfare Officer  
Michael Henniscke, Surface Warfare Officer  
Savanna Urban, Surface Warfare Officer

Photo Credit: MIDN Faith Rockwell 1/C (SUNY Maritime College)

### Class of 2022

JAMIL ARROYO \_\_\_\_\_ Marine Corps Officer  
JONATHAN HEGEDUS \_\_\_\_\_ Marine Corps Officer  
ELLIOT WEHRLE \_\_\_\_\_ Marine Corps Officer  
NORAH BURNS \_\_\_\_\_ Student Naval Aviator  
ELIAS GARCIA \_\_\_\_\_ Submarine Warfare Officer  
MICHAEL HENNICKE \_\_\_\_\_ Surface Warfare Officer  
SAVANNA URBAN \_\_\_\_\_ Surface War Office



## Parris Island Marine Band is Nominated 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Regional Emmy Award

Credit: KARL PUCKETT THE ISLAND PACKET • May 9, 2022

*Mark Pellon, the Parris Island Marine Band director and Chief Warrant Officer 3 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot*

*Lakin Pellon, a frontline nurse, Pellon's wife, and inspiration for the composition*

*Onsby Rose, composer and former member of the Marine Band*

*Staff Sgt. Victor Norris, band member who wrote the accompanying narration*

As Covid-19 introduced itself to the United States, Mark Pellon observed his wife, Lakin struggle daily because of her job as a nurse. Even though stressful, she faced our enemy daily. As a nurse she was considered a frontline worker.



Pellon admits that it was hard to watch his wife face this seemingly unending battle. It was Lakin Pellon who became the inspiration for the composition called "You Were There."

While Lakin was the inspiration, it is dedicated to **ALL** essential workers.

Mark Pellon recognizes that Marines are typically the first to answer the call, but this time, it was the everyday worker who became the hero.

The composition is a salute to them, and the message is one of gratitude.

While the idea was Pellon's, it was a collaboration that brought it to life.

Onsby Rose, a former Marine band member, director, and composer, was contacted by Pellon to create the piece.



Staff Sgt. Victor Norris, a saxophonist in the band, wrote the accompanying narration.

Pellon admitted that he was shocked when the composition was nominated for a regional Emmy, which is a first for the Marine Band at Parris Island in Port Royal.

The 48th annual Southeast Regional Emmy Awards will be June 18.

UPDATE: Although they did not win the Emmy, they are very proud of their accomplishment.

Original story:

[Parris Island Marine Band is up for an Emmy; here's how a South Carolina nurse inspired the piece | Stars and Stripes](#)

Link to "You Were There"

[You Were There by Dr. Onsby C. Rose \(Rehearsal Recording May 2-2021 w/ Parris Island Marine Band\) - YouTube](#)

*Submitted by Timothy Forbes, PNVC, PDC*



# TAPS

**D**ay is done  
Gone the sun  
From the lakes  
From the hills  
From the sky  
All is well  
Safely rest  
God is nigh

**F**ading light  
Dims the sight  
And a star  
Gems the sky  
Gleaming bright  
From afar  
Drawing nigh  
Falls the night

**T**hanks and praise  
For our days  
Neath the sun  
Neath the stars  
Neath the sky  
As we go  
This we know  
God is nigh