



October — November 2021

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Issue 1



Message From The Commandant



Welcome to the New England Division's first Newsletter. The New England Division is one of ten Divisions within the Marine Corps League. The New England Division represents: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The main purpose of the Newsletter is to strengthen the communication within the Division. The Newsletter will also be a great tool to spread useful knowledge throughout the Division. The Newsletter will allow Departments to inform the rest of the Division on upcoming events, and what outstanding work Marines have accomplished in their Departments. The Newsletter was created to bring the Division closer together as a family!

A little background on the Newsletter, the project has been in our plans for quite some time and I am excited to see a dream come alive, Thank You, Walt Benson, for making this happen. The newsletter's name has been an ongoing discussion for some time now. The newsletter was long overdue was created in memory of a great Marine who brought the New England Division together and turned it into a division so unique to stand out among the rest.

The newsletter contains a lot of information and a lot more will be added with each issue. I will take the lead on communication by using this page to pass along information from National as well as things you should be aware of to help us become the number one Division. Having the Department pages will allow all of to see what others are doing and benefit from sharing information. We will recognize Birthdays of our Marines, but this is a work in progress as we only have a list from Connecticut so if you have a list



please share. A page for Awards, to recognize those who have gone above and beyond. A page for humor and stories, a calendar which is very important to all of us as we get very busy at many times during the year. Information on the Young Marines ad what they are doing and what they can do together with us. A page for the MOOD for information on Growls, Awards and information from the Kennel. A page for Current News about Marines in the field. A page for Taps which is

for all Marines that have departed for their final post. If there is a Marine in your Detachment, or Department who passes, someone who knows him the best should forward the information about them. There is a Page for Recruiting with ideas and suggestions that others have found to be successful. The last page for Convention news Future Meetings and events as well as a Marine's Prayer. As with anything there is probably at least one thing we missed, if we did please let us know as well as anything you think we should have.

Enjoy this new endeavor and let us know how we can improve the newsletter. Please let us know what you think of it (pros and cons. Corrections and Omissions). We aim to strive for only the best. This Newsletter can only grow.

Semper Fi

David Porter

National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



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CONNECTICUT

Anniversaries

Today, is the anniversary of 9-11 and as we remember and mourn our losses, there are many positives all around us. One positive is an event being held today in Glastonbury Connecticut with the Peter P Monaco Detachment. Today they are holding their, Hike To Remember. Not remembering 9-11, although that will be on all our minds, but to remember the veterans we loose each year to suicide.

This hike, which was started in 2013 and raised \$30,000, has continued on through the years and this year was number nine. It started with less than thirty veterans hiking and in 2018 there were 260 hikers and they raised \$50,000. The numbers for this year were not available yet, but the hike went off today on schedule. In fact, the Department Commandant sent me a photo titled 13 and Done. I had a chit and was excused.

The Peter P. Monaco Detachment is in itself a success story and it is a reborn detachment. They learned to modernize, adapt, and

overcome, thereby attracting ne and diverse members. They like many detachments had fallen on hard times and were in danger of closing their doors. Now there are many stories about how many members they were down to, but there was one story about it being one Marine holding the Charter and the Guidon looking for Members in a snow covered field in sub zero temperatures. Well maybe not that drastic, but

at last count I saw they were up to 169 members, and that is success.

We have had Mike Monaco from the detachment come and speak at the Department Convention and tell us some of his ideas and what has worked for him but it's a lot like sales, what works for him might not work for you. I used to train salespeople and when you tell someone that you have to find what works for you, there is thousand ideas and opportunities that come to mind. The key is you never give up you just keep coming back. When you speak to a person asking about the league you need to find common ground and most times you already have that as the person you are speaking to is a Marine. Now is he a Vietnam Marine, a Korea Marine, A Desert Storm Marine, you get the idea. Next what does he or she do or like, do they have kids or grandkids? Do they belong to

other organizations? If they do you may want to suggest they come home because no matter what era of Marine you are we have a lot in common. Also, very important we want Associ-

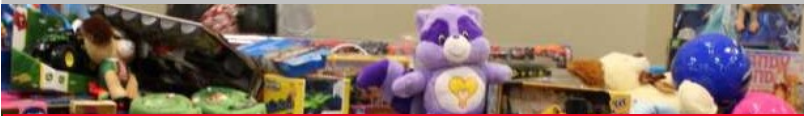


Pictured here are from the left Manuel Jimenez, SR. Vice Commandant. John Debigare Detachment Commandant and, Dave Rosa Department of Connecticut Commandant. Mike Monaco Jr. Past Commandant and of course the Hikers.

ate Members as well, we are all brothers and sister and all are welcome. If they say they don't have time just ask them to come to one meeting, some people do not realize how badly they want to get out of the house. Let's keep it simple when you come to a meeting ring a friend and when you get there introduce them to your friends. Semper Fi

Walt Benson

MAINE



Only 81 Days to Christmas!

MARINE



And so it begins with 81 days till Christmas. The 2021 Toys for Tots Campaign will be on its way in Maine. Boxes like those below will need to be assembled, distributed and finally collected so



that the needs of children will be met for the holiday. The Marine Corps League of Maine will take on this

task and will be seeking to place boxes in local businesses all over the State.

Toys for Tots began in 1947 as the brain child of Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks. Actually it was his wife, Diane, who was the real inspiration. She had a few handcrafted dolls and asked Bill to deliver them to an agency that supports children in need.

When Bill reported back to his wife that he could not find such an organization, she instructed him to "start one!". Maj Hendricks and the Marines in his reserve unit in LA collected and distributed 5,000 toys in 1947.

Seeing such successful community engagement in 1947, the Commandant directed all Marine Reserve Sites to implement a TFT campaign transforming it into a national community action program in 1948.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS recognized 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit charity, was established in 1991 at the behest of the Marine Corps to help run and support the Marine Toys for Tots Program.

The Foundation raises funds, purchases toys, provides promotional and support materials, manages all funds raised and donated, solicits corporate support, educates the public, and handles

day-to-day operations.

Presently, the Marine Toys for Tots Program distributes an average of 18 million toys to 7 million less fortunate children annually.

There have been several television commercials over the year but my personal favorite is the

Marine on Guard Duty and the boy comes up to him and asks if he is Santa, and goes on to say if you are him I have my list.



The Marine opens his white gloved hand and takes the list. While the narrator asks that you donate a toy to Toys for Tots. There are six commercials made over the years, follow the link below to see the others they are worth the time. <https://www.wearethemighty.com/lists/6-toys-for-tots-commercials-we-swear-didnt-make-us-cry/>

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation oversees the operations and conduct of all local Marine Toys for Tots Campaigns. Because local campaigns differ based on geographic location and community demographics the local campaign is the best point of contact for specific and most up to date information pertaining to the campaign on the following items:

- Donate Toys or Online to your Local Campaign
- Applying for Toys
- Questions about your Toy Application
- Applying to be a Toy Drop Location
- Holding a Marine Toys for Tots Fundraising Event
- Volunteering with your Local Campaign
- Any Additional Local Campaign Inquiry

MASSACHUSETTS

Brian Brooks was sworn in as Department Commandant and Jon Zwirblia as Senior Vice Commandant



National Sr. Vice Commandant Warren Griffin said, "it was my honor to swear in the new Department of Massachusetts Commandant Brian Brooks and Senior Vice Commandant Jon Zwirblia. Congratulations and good luck with all your future endeavors.

Department of MA. Marine Corps League

5th Annual Worcester Marine Corps League Golf Tournament
 Where: Green Hills Municipal Golf Course Worcester, MA
 When: Saturday October 16th, 2021
 Time: 10:30 AM Registration 11:00 AM 1st group Tees off

Attention Marines, family and friends. We will be holding the 5th annual golf tournament to help support the Worcester Marine Corps League located at 181 Lake Ave. Worcester, MA. This should prove to be another fun event with a chance to connect/reconnect with Marines of all ages. Immediately following the golf, we will reconvene to the Marine Corps League on Lake Ave where we will award score and raffle prizes, enjoy some food and libations and tell tales of the shots that were "oh so close"! For those interested in golfing please complete the attached registration form. We have sponsorship opportunities as well. Deadline for registration and sponsorship submissions is Wednesday October 13th, 2021.

Department of MA. MCL RIP MARINES

13 HEROES

- U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31
- U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosariopichardo, 25
- U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23
- U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23
- U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22
- U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22
- U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20
- U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20
- U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20
- U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, 20
- U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20
- U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, 22
- U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23

K.I.A. Kabul, Afghanistan
 August 26, 2021



The Department of Massachusetts has been updating their website come by and check it out. There is a lot going on.

Oak Ridge Detachment #628 / Franklin County Fair



Back in September, Oak Ridge Detachment #628 was getting it done per our usual modus operandi. Work hard, play hard. Excellent day at the Franklin County Fair. Camaraderie was definitely had, and funds were raised to send back out to the community. To the Oak Ridge Officers who busted their tails off all day, thank you for your efforts, it is very much appreciated. Couldn't do it without you all. And finally, thank you to everyone who came out to see and support us, we always appreciate seeing you!

NEW HAMPSHIRE



November 10th is a special day for all Marines everywhere in the world. In New Hampshire, the Marine Corps League starts the day off at the Statehouse in Concord with the raising of the USMC flag over the Capitol building where it will fly for the day and into Veterans Day.

We arrive on site at 0730 and the ceremony begins at 0800 sharp. The color guard on hand is the MCJROTC from the Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, NH and they do a fine job every year. A graduated student of the MCJROTC will be singing the National Anthem.



General LeJeune's message, the Commandant of the Marine Corps' message, and a proclamation by the Governor of NH are all read to the assemblage of Marines and general public.

This significant event was started many years ago by Dillon Detachment member Joe Shea, who had a clear vision of the importance of this day. Joe has since passed on, but, his legacy and memory live on.

While this event is hosted by the Dept. of NH Marine Corps League, it is also attended by Marines from all over the general area. An assortment of motorcyclists from the Marine Riders, Nam Knights, and Jarheads MC will stand with us in formation and share in the event. Military music resounds and all Marines swell with pride during the playing of the Marine Corps Hymn. After the ceremony has concluded we head to a local restaurant to have breakfast and share in the camaraderie.

Later in the day, the celebration continues at the Manchester Expeditionary Brigade Birthday Luncheon where the Marine Corps League traditionally participates in the annual Cake Cutting Ceremony. A guest speaker will be on hand, a fine meal will be served, raffles will be held, and the annual collection of toys for the Toys for Tots program will start the holiday season.



For all Marines who may be in the area that day, we invite you to join us and celebrate this auspicious occasion.

John Jenkins,
Commandant,
Department of NH

RHODE ISLAND

Hello Marines,

We had the opportunity to grill some hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken for Transportation

Kent County Detachment Commandant, Paul Campbell is busy organizing our Birthday Ball. We all know it will have a different feel



Services Battalion CLB-25, Providence. Usually their cookout, better known as “Family Day” would have a lot more people but due to Covid we only cooked for the Marines. The families were not permitted to attend because of Covid but I believe the Marines still had a good time. It was also a chance for us to talk to them about the League and pass out a few applications and business cards.

due to Covid, at the same time wthe e know it gives us an opportunity to be able to join together, enjoy camaraderie that we all look forward to when you get together with leaguers and their families.



Bucci-Atwood Commandant, Wayne



Salisbury has been spending the last few Wednesday nights at drill with the Young Marines in Providence. He is giving a period of instruction on flag folding and from what I am being told the Young Marines are enjoying it immensely and are learning a lot from Wayne. Also, Wayne and his wife Carol had a few Young Marines helping out this past weekend with the wounded warriors. They assisted with getting them situated with whatever activities they chose to do and made sure they had a good day. Thanks to Wayne, Carol, YM's and their unit XO Wayne Hamilton for ensuring these warriors had a good day.

I would like to mention the 2022 Quad State which will be in RI. The dates are April 22 -24. I am hoping that this will be a quad state that is talked about for years to come. We are really looking forward to it, we have a great location that is in central RI right off of 95. We still need to finish up on some loose ends and then the official notification will be going out and we hope to see you all in RI in 2022.

Semper FI!!!

Patrick Maguire
Commandant
Department of Rhode Island
rimcl.org

VERMONT

The Donald G. Cook Detachment

About Us: We are one of 5 detachments of the Marine Corps League in Vermont and based in Burlington. We are honored to be able to name our detachment after Donald Cook who was a POW in Vietnam and repeatedly put the interests of his comrades before that of his own well-being. Giving the more needy men his medicine and drug allowance while constantly nursing them. He risked infection from contagious diseases while in a rapidly deteriorating state of health, eventually losing his life. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



Our Mission: Members of the Donald G. Cook Detachment provide assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and their families as well as conduct events and ceremonies together in fellowship and camaraderie in order to preserve the history and traditions of the United States Marine Corps and support our local community



The **USS Donald Cook DDG75** is the first naval war vessel named for an unreturned Prisoner of War. On 20 March 2003 the first Tomahawk missiles launched at the beginning of the Second Gulf War were fired from the USS Donald Cook



**July 4th Parade
Donald Cook Detachment
Burlington Vermont**



**Picnic 2021
Donald Cook Detachment
Burlington Vermont**



YOUNG MARINES



The Young Marines 3rd Annual R. Lee Erme Memorial Golf Tournament at The Medal of Honor Golf Course at Marine Corps Base Quantico VA, is in the books. It was a fun-filled day with beautiful weather, delicious food and beverages, and incredible golfers (someone almost made a hole-in-one to win the Toyota Highlander)!

Thank you to everyone who participated, especially our wonderful supporters who are listed below. Between sponsorships, raffles, and silent auction, the tournament was a huge success and raised over \$57,000 for the Young Marines program!



Sgt. Maj Black & Chief Hazelett
Commandant Johnny Baker
PNC Dennis Tobin



N.E. Division "Team to Beat"

To the right is my favorite photo! I could have chosen another and I can't prove this is Commandant Porter but this is classic Art Carney, "Hello Ball" If you have never seen it the link is below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNauiZRzHk>





YOUNG MARINES



Larry Chretien and Jack Ermev



Larry Chretien and Pat Maguire
I'm just thinking out loud, but shouldn't Marines be walking and carrying the bag? Asking for a friend.



**Pat Maguire,
Liz Anderson
and
David Porter**

OK I'm not an expert but I think you need clubs to play this game.

If I'm wrong I'll apologize

SCRATCHINGS FROM THE DOGS

Since this Newsletter is New and we are trying to find our way, I thought I would write something here that affects us all no matter what division, department or detachment we are part of. This past Sunday we had a Pound Growl for the Glawakus Pound, which I am the Pound Keeper for. As I began the Growl I noticed there was only one pup in attendance and upon further observation there was only one Dog, everyone else was a PDD. Therefore the first order of business was how can we improve this? That's easy we can recruit more pups, only whenever you mention recruiting, you can see the facial expressions change around the room, and almost hear the OH NO!!. Come on this is easier than recruiting for the League, these people are already members. Before we go there though lets see what we can do to boost the attendance of the Dogs we already have.

I just came back from the National Convention, my first one, yea a rookie, but it was fantastic. I got to meet other people from all over and discuss some different things they do. When I came back I looked at different websites for information and I went to one for Charlie Paul, (Hi Charlie), Now they have a system where they combine their Growl with the Department Meeting with lunch in-between. I thought wow that is a great idea and I'm going to use it but we are going to combine a Pound and Pack Growl separated by lunch. The dogs get to attend 2 events on the same day and acquire 2 stampings which you need if you are going to advance. Lunch will be provided by either the Pound or the Pack. We have tried this minus the lunch and it has boosted attendance and we voted this past Sunday to adopt this policy.

We still need to get new Pups so that was the next topic we addressed and we came up with each dog is going to look for another member to join. What about those that say they don't have time to come? Just ask them to come to one Growl and then at the next Growl they can decide if they can make it, you are not asking someone to commit to a five year contract and come to every Growl. We only have 4 Growls for the Pound and 6 for the Pack a year and they are or they are supposed to be fun. The other thing that I point out and I am very proud to be part of this, the Devil Dogs donate to the Children's Hospital in the city where the National Convention is held, who doesn't want to be part of that?

Now since I asked everyone else to go the extra mile what type of Dog would I be if I didn't do my part? I sent a letter to each Detachment Commandant who are part of my Pound for help and offered to come speak about the dogs at their meeting, call me for information. This year my Pack only sent 2 dogs to advance to PDD, we need to do better.

Walt Benson



Connecticut Dog's



Dogs at Colors



Class Picture with the Chief



Dogs at Business Meeting



Class Picture with the Chief

☆☆☆ AWARDS ☆☆☆ HAPPY BIRTHDAY



James Brasile	9	11
Richard Cop, Jr.	9	17
James Cotter	9	21
Brian Dec	9	8
John DeConti	9	9
Victor Dydyn	9	19
Herb Drew	9	18
James Fiori	9	4
William Fleming, Jr	9	22
Harold Graham	9	26
Richard Kowalker	9	21
Robert Leonard	9	29
Ronald Levandowsky	9	11
Robert Lopa	9	5
Robert Ouellette	9	9
Eugene Polaske	9	16
Bernard Sniadack, Jr.	9	24
John Truhan	9	12
Anthony Villaggio	9	13
Harry Wennberg	9	26
James Alexander	10	26
Hans Andersen	10	19
Terry Blair	10	8
Ronald Bolduc	10	16
Ray Burrington	10	26
Ronald Ciezynski, Sr.	10	26
Robert Derosier	10	19
Gilbert Gioia	10	24
Steven Kowaleski, Sr.	10	24
Sean Lynch	10	16
Patricia Minard	10	20
Robert Quarti	10	17
Marc Sehrt	10	14
Terrence Stokes	10	19
David Williams, Sr.	10	11



Remember those Who Have Fallen In Afghanistan



Semper Fi

We've lost part of America today
As Marines answered their call
Afghanistan field crosses stand
Brave warriors until they fall

A message now delivered
Dress blues at the door
A gold star family now weeps
Men and women of the Corps

Twenty years they sacrificed
For freedom they fought and died
Americans are so proud of you
You fill our hearts with pride

Stand tall all the veterans
For your mission was complete
Politicians of our country
Are the ones who suffer defeat

We will fly our colors forever
As we look toward the sky
And stand at attention
For gold star families Semper Fi

A new gold star 's been added
To God's heaven for your reward
Placed there by fellow marines
Marching with their sword
Jim Barger USMC ©

As I looked at the photos one by one I couldn't help thinking that almost all of these were boot camp photos. A day when they were probably their proudest, being photographed in their Dress Blues as Marines for the very first time. They came from all over the country including Massachusetts. Today they join the ranks of those that made the ultimate sacrifice. Their photos and their names to view as we off silent prayers for our brothers and sisters who have gone on to their final post. Marine Corps **Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover**, 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah. Marine Corps **Sgt. Johanny Rosariopicar-**



do, 25, of Lawrence Massachusetts. Marine Corps **Sgt. Nicole L. Gee**, 23, of Sacramento California. Marine Corps **Cpl. Hunter Lopez**, 22, of Indio California. Marine Corps **Cpl. Daegan W. Page**, 23, of Omaha Nebraska. Marine Corps **Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez**, 22, of Logansport, Indiana. Marine Corps **Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza**, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas. Marine Corps **Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz**, 20, of St. Charles, Missouri. Marine Corps **Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum**, 20, of Jackson Wyoming. Marine Corps **Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola**, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California. Marine Corps **Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui**, 20, of Norco California. Navy **Hospitalman Maxton W. Soviak**, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio. Army **Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss**, 23, of Corryton, Tennessee. Thirteen of Americas Best who answered the call to serve and protect OUR country. Today only one percent of this countries young men and women answer that call. The poet Virgil wrote, "No Day will erase you from the memory of Time", you will indeed live in the Brotherhood of the Corps until we meet again. Semper Fidelis.

Walt Benson



TAPS / MEMORIES / FAREWELL



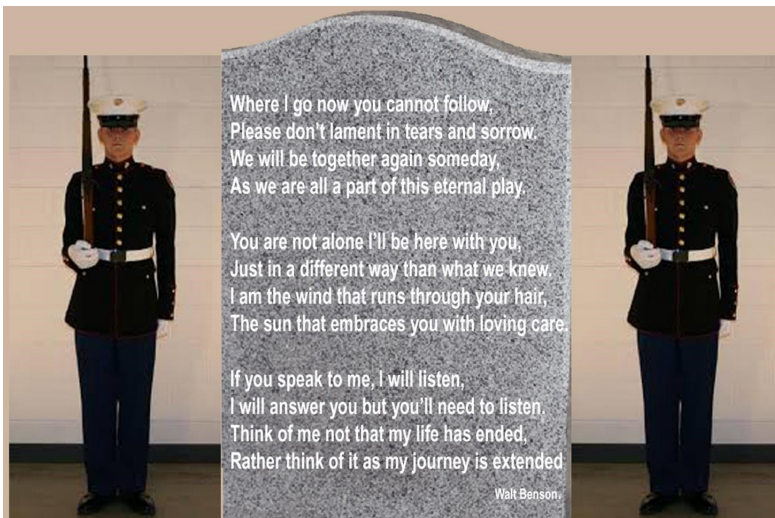
Joseph Charles Messina Jr., (73) of Monson, Massachusetts passed peacefully August 8, 2021 surrounded by his three sons, Joseph Charles Messina III, Joshua Michael Messina, and Jason William Messina. Joseph was born in Ware, MA to the late Joseph and Marie Messina on April 23, 1948.

In 1968 Joseph left Monson MA for Parris Island on his journey to become a United States Marine, an event that guided the remainder of his life. As proud as Joseph was of his own accomplishment, he took great pride when his son Joseph and later his grandson Jadon followed in his footsteps in becoming Marines. After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Joseph worked at Milton Bradley and Sullivan's Trucking before landing at the United States Post Office. Joseph began his career at the Post Office loading and unloading bags of mail and later became a letter carrier. Joseph retired from the Post Office after 34 years of service, the majority of which was spent delivering mail out of the Indian Orchard branch

After Joseph retired from the United States Post Office, he

filled his time by carrying on his love for the Marine Corps by being active in the Marine Corps League at the local and national level, at his peak holding the office of National Assistant Vice Commandant as well as the National Seat for the New England Division.

Joseph took great pride in his service to the Marine Corps League and especially his planning of the yearly convention for the New England Marine Corps League over the past several years. Joseph was recognized for his service and devotion to the Marine Corps League earning the distinction of Marine of the Year in 2004, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Distinguished Citizen Award. In addition to the regular Marine Corps League operations, Joseph found great enjoyment with the Military Order of the Devil Dogs



Joseph's joy with his activity in the Marine Corps League and the NRA was only trumped by his love for his family. Joseph forever looked forward to the visits and time he was able to spend with his sons and grandchildren and will be looking down on them with joy and love for the rest of their years.

TAPS / MEMORIES / FAREWELL

On March 19, 2021, Bob Borka COO of the Marine Corps League sent out a notice to the entire Marine Corps League that James Laskey Sr., Past National Commandant of the League had passed away on March 16, 2021. This was followed by information on the wake and Funeral from Dennis Tobin the National Commandant and David Porter the Division Commandant. An obituary was written and posted:

Jim enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1960 in Boston, MA. After graduating from Parris Island, he spent two years on sea duty aboard the USS Lake Champlain and USS Essex. Duty included recover operations of Commander Alan Shepard's first U.S. manned outer space flight and served during the Cuba Blockade in 1961. Jim served in Vietnam as operational deployment casualty field reporter until 1967. He also served as a Military Police and Correctional Field with duty in Hawaii and New Hampshire. First Sergeant Laskey retired from 20 years of service as while stationed at Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in 1980.

A member of the Marine Corps League for 53 years, Jim served many capacities including National Commandant from 2008 to 2010. He was a mentor, leader, and guide who served the Marine Corps League and Young Marines with passionate volunteerism. His servant leadership, kind



heart, and devotion to family and our Corps will be dearly missed.
Fair winds and following seas.

Semper Paratus, Marine!

And so we mark the passing of a loved and honored leader and friend. But to many there was so much more. I did not know Jim that well but of what I did know I liked and re-

spected. The first time I saw him was at a department Convention, where he was the speaker. He was quick with the joke but never let it deter from the message he was trying to get across. When he spoke you wanted to give the man what he asked for he had that effect when he spoke. As I read his bio of his career in the Marine Corps, he served in many areas and he saw a lot of History as it happened. Fifty three years in the Marine Corps League, if it was the longest tour there couldn't be many others with that kind of time. The legacy he left behind is in the people that he developed and mentored. You see it the way they perform their duties and how they speak and relate to others. They personify his devotion and dedication everyday. I was at this year's Massachusetts Convention and the cover of the

publication on one of the tables had his photo and June 4, 1943 to March 16, 2021, I remember telling my wife God brought him home for the holiday.



DIVISION RECRUITING

In each edition I would like to share ideas from everyone in the Division as to what they are doing to recruit new members, keeping in mind we are better together than individually. The first and most important thing you will have to overcome is the objection that they belong to other VSO's.

Why join the Marine Corps League?

The most important benefits are those that occur at the Detachment level. The comradery that comes with associating with fellow Marines from all eras and various units. For the sense of accomplishment and achievement by partaking in Detachment endeavors such as the Young Marines, Toys for Tots, or other detachment community projects, the Marine way. Also the one that hits home for me is Funeral Honors, it is one of the most meaningful functions we preform for our fellow Marines.

The first thing we have to accomplish is to contact fellow Marines. The easiest way to do this is through Social Media, ask Marines to join and give them the information of How, When, and Why. The great thing about Social Media is that it is free and you can use it over and over. Just this past summer I found a great way of reaching out, which was The Patch. You can open a free account on the local patch and post notices about joining the league and when and where the meeting is. This should be done at the Detachment level, so as to gear it to each Detachment. A sample of that ad is below:



Event Details

Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM

[Add to calendar](#)

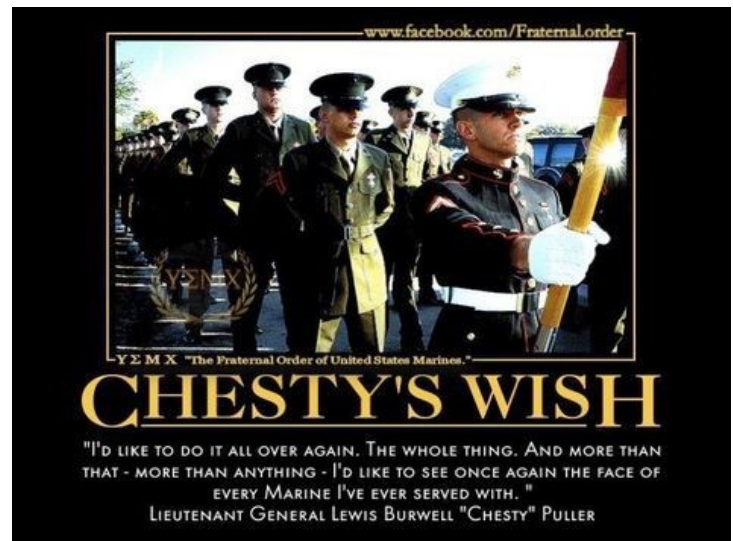
American Legion, 64 Main St, Southington, CT, 06489

The next meeting of The Southington Memorial Marine Corps League will be held on September 21st at 7 PM. We are looking for New Members, and we would like to speak to you. What is The Marine Corps League? We are a Veterans Service Organization and we do many, many things for not only Veterans but the community as well. We have done home modifications for disabled Veterans, donated to community food banks, and helped families that have fallen on hard times at Christmas and during the year. We look to be an active part of the community and serve the community in many ways. If you are a returning Vet we can offer you help in getting started readjusting to civilian life. We do the little things as well, reaching out to the sick and infirmed by way of email, mail, and phone, to let people know that they are not forgotten. We honor those Veterans who now lie at rest and we provide Honor Details for Veterans' funerals every day to provide them the Honors they deserve. Come check us out at the meeting or Contact Walt Benson 203-768-8435, or walt.benson5@gmail.com.

Interested (1) Reply (3) Share

This is just one method but there are many avenues to achieve our goal.

The next important factor to consider is, if they come how will you keep them coming back? At the Connecticut Department Convention in June, Mike Monaco from the Peter P. Monaco Detachment spoke on how they recruited and how they retained their members. When a member comes to a meeting they are there sometimes with the member that invited them or alone. I remember my first meeting and my friend brought me but he was a Detachment Officer and sat up front and I was alone. I looked at the clock on the wall and pleaded with God to let the time pass so I could get out of there. Mike had a great idea and that was assign a new member a mentor to sit with. Someone from the same era, same MOS, someone with common ground that the new member would have a connection with. That member in turn should introduce the new member to his or her friends at the meeting and maybe also they could make arrangements to ride together to the next meeting. The one thing I would suggest is to keep it simple. Just one meeting at a time don't look for the new member to commit to a life membership. I remember when I joined it was several months before I wanted to go to a meeting and that was because of a new friendship I developed so be prepared to invest time into a new member, they are worth it. We all started as new members. Look back and see how far you have come. See what you have accomplished and as a group look at what we have given to others. I often tell others when they are talking to people about recruiting and they are talking to perspective members, please don't say we are a veterans organization and we help veterans. Spell it out tell



them what we do all of it big and small. When someone asks for us to reach out to talk to a Marine alone in hospice care is just as important as anything else we do. Many of you have a motto on your e-mail signature line, "Once a Marine Always a Marine", it's not just a good quote it's a way of life. Look around your neighborhood, at cars you pass on the highway and you will see that there is no other branch of service that is as proud and vocal about it than the Marines. We are always looking for a few Good Marines, we are looking for more of US.

Walt Benson



A Marine's Toast

I have told this story several times to some friends but I want to use it once more before I put it away. A few years ago I flew to Florida with my wife and on the way back I printed our boarding passes at the hotel. When we got to the airport we went through security and I went through fine but my wife was detained. When I printed the boarding passes I printed my name as Walt and my wife's as Teri, I handed the man my pass and my license and he passed me through but when my wife handed him hers he said no. He was comparing her License which had Theresa to the pass which said Teri. We argued back and forth and I was getting more and more angry till we finally got a supervisor, who still held the same position even though I showed him they accepted mine even though there was the same difference. So as the argument got more and more heated and he eventually decided to pull us out of line. I told him I had to go get my bag as I had already passed through. I got the bag and put it over my shoulder and things changed immediately. It was a bag I had purchased from Semper Fi Magazine, which had my Name on it with two Stars and the Marine Corps Emblem. He looked at that bag and his whole attitude changed. He gathered up all the paperwork and turned to me saying, I think everything will be alright I see it is all in order come with me and I will take you through the line. I know quite a few of us bought that bag because I see them around and evidently they are worth more than you think. However it doesn't say too much for airport security.

Walt Benson

The wonderful love of a beautiful Maid,
 The love of a staunch true man,
 The love of a baby, unafraid,
 Have existed since time began.

But the greatest of loves, The quintessence
 of loves, even greater than that of a mother,
 Is the tender, passionate, infinite love
 of one drunken Marine for another.

DETACHMENT PURPOSE

The purpose of a MCL detachment is:

- To preserve the traditions and to promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps;
- To band those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service together in fellowship, that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy;
- To fit its members for the duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve as ably as citizens as they have served the Nation under arms;
- To hold sacred the history and memory of the men who have given their lives to their Nation;
- To foster love for the principles which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic;
- To maintain true allegiance to American institutions;
- To create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who have returned to civil life;
- To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines and former Marines as well as to all their widows and orphans;
- To perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

How Is your Detachment?





2021

October

2021



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1	2
3 Dept. of CT Meeting 13:00 Rocky Hill Veterans Home & Hosp.	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 10:30 am Worcester 5th annual Golf Tournament	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31 							



2021

November

2021



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6 Brass City Birthday Ball 6:00 to 11:00 Housatonic Birthday Ball 6:00 to 11:00
7	8 Semper Fi Soc. Bday Luncheon AT Boston Conv CTR 11:00 Reg. 12:00 to 3:00	9	10  Paul C Houghton Birthday Ball VFW Plainfield	11 	12	13 6:00 to 12:30 pm Worcester Det. Birthday Ball 6:30 to 11:30 Oak Ridge Birthday Ball
14 Glawacus PND- Growl 11:00 to 12:15 Lunch CT Pack Growl Following lunch Rocky Hill	15	16	17	18 Dept. of RI meeting 18:30 at VFW 29 S Main ST. Coventry RI	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Regardless of the situation, the Marine Corps has an answer for almost everything.

A Marines Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.

Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.

Amen

Marine Corps League

National Convention 2022

Daytona Beach Florida

August 15th through August 19th

Banquet is Friday August 19th

\$127.00 a night Code MCL22

800-774-1500

4 days prior and 4 days after the event

at that price. There are 850 Rooms

SEE YOU THERE !!!



Detachment Recruiter Bronze



We Are All Recruiters

Bring A Friend



What Started Here.....



SOME PEOPLE

spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. The Marines don't have that problem.

Continues Here.....

