



The Straight Scoop

**Department Newsletter of the
Marine Corps League
Department of West Virginia
P.O. Box 11828
Charleston, WV 25339**



Volume 12, Issue 10, October 2019

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Letter from National Commandant Dennis Tobin (Commandant Kirby's Letter will resume next month)

Marines: Thank you for your vote of confidence. I will continue to move our league forward. Richard Gore and Wendell Webb have done an outstanding job the past four years, developing good business practices and fixing our IRS problems. We will continue to work forward for the good of the League. There are a few things I want to work on as we go forward. Our Mid-Winter conference and Convention business meetings are too long. At times there seem to be more members in the halls than in the meetings. Officer and Committee reports, all reports will be written and submitted to National HDQ's to be placed in the library. The top four Officers will also give a verbal report. Only certain committees will also give a verbal report with a time limit (TBD). My goal is to cut a business session in half and to institute a leadership/training session.

Awards are another time-consuming session. I'm going to work with the MODD and Aux. to see if we can put together a combined awards night, maybe some music and fun. We need to trim sessions down so members aren't rushing to make events and trips. Bylaws are another time consuming, out of control session. How do we shorten it? We start at the Detachment and Department levels. When the proposed bylaws go out, it's the Detachment's responsibility at a meeting to go over each proposed change and decide how they want to vote on each one. Then, at the Department Convention, the Commandant reviews them again with all the Detachments and decides how they will vote at the National Convention.

Now, at the National Convention, the by-laws will be on the big screen for your reading pleasure; the National Judge Advocate in the interest of time will not read the entire by-law and the change. He will read, "proposed

change #1” the committee recommends accept or reject, motion, second then during the discussion we will deal with any amendments. Again, Marines, it is the Detachment’s and Department’s responsibility to review with their members and know how they want to vote on each proposed change before they get to the National convention. These are a few ways I want to change up our conference and convention to give us a little more free-time.

Now some serious issues that need to be dealt with. Let’s start with IRS non-profit status. All Detachments and Departments must be a 501c4, under the National Parent Group 0955, with a deductible of 1; this allows corporations, companies and individuals to donate to you the same as a 501c3. If there is a problem, we also have a letter of exemption from the IRS to verify they can donate. If your detachment or Department is not a 501c4, Parent Group 0955 deductible of 1, you risk having your non-profit status revoked and your charter suspended. If you are having trouble getting your status corrected please contact the COO for assistance. Also, if you are not operating correctly the entire local board is subject to fines by the IRS.

Another serious problem is the ROI’s. There are Detachments operating that have not sent in their ROI in years. No ROI, you are not a Detachment in good standing and your charter will be suspended. I will be comprising a list of every Detachment and Department that do not have the proper IRS status or without ROI’s, and will be reaching out to each to try and correct the situations. These issues can be corrected.

Uniforms: Marines please, before you put on one of our uniforms, if you’re not sure what it consists of check the uniform code. Our cover is our main uniform; worn with civilian attire and you are in uniform. If you are going to wear any of our other uniforms please wear them correctly. If you are not wearing a uniform correctly you will be stopped by the Sgt/Arms and told to correct it or take it off.

In closing Marines, overall you are all doing an outstanding job. The work you do with T4T’s, Marine 4 Life, community, and funerals “is exemplary”. You are putting the Marine Corps League name out there. The Marine Corps knows what you are doing and they thank you and I thank you. Keep doing what you do.

National Vice Commandant Mideast Division Report

The Modern-Day Marine Expo which is held annually aboard Quantico MCB might be relocated to a site off base. 2020 is the expiration of the agreement with MCL National and Emerald Corporation. The Commandant of the USMC desires that the Expo be located in the Washington DC area which will allow more congressional representatives to review the military equipment displayed in the Expo.

The current membership of the MCL is over 63,000 members. The membership is down 6,900 from last year. There are 1100 detachments.

Detachments must be in compliance with IRS regulations and listed as a 501 (c) 4. IRS is looking at nonprofit organizations to ensure they file their annual 990 forms.

Detachment must file an annual ROI to be eligible for the Rust Insurance policy.

National is seeking someone to be a grant writer. If anyone is interested, they need to contact MCL HQ.

National wants to streamline the national convention and will require all reports to be submitted in time for them to be posted on the National Library site so members can review them before the convention. National is considering a half day leadership training at the convention.

National is looking to increase the life membership fees as they are losing the annual dues income. They are proposing that all new members must be a member in good standing for three consecutive years before they can apply for life membership

National is considering allowing a platoon of soon to be discharged active duty marines to attend the National Convention and see if this might give them more perspective on joining the MCL.

National does not want military rank used in the MCL.

The bond coverages for check signers only covers two signers and if another signer is used, they are not covered - the detachment might have to purchase additional coverage. In addition, the liability coverage for theft is \$10K with a \$1K deductible. National only pays the initial bond; if detachment has more than \$10K in their accounts, they need to consider purchasing additional coverage.

People are wearing various items of the MCL uniform with civilian clothes. Wearing the cover is considered in uniform. MODD Vests are not to be worn as part of the MCL uniform. A vest can be worn with the uniform while in a Growl.

Watch what you post on line when wearing parts of the MCL or MODD uniform.

Chaplain's Corner

Prayer in Union with Jesus

Lord Jesus, grant me the grace to empty myself and be filled with Your love, peace, patience, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and understanding. Let every beat of my heart and every breath that I breathe be for You. Let every word that I speak be reflective of You. Let every glance I give be a mirror of You. Let every hand I touch feel Your gentle care. Let every step I take be on Your path toward Your Light. Let every word of praise I may receive be directed to You in humble thanksgiving. Let every angry word said to me or against me be returned with words of love and mercy not anger and revenge. Let every desire I have be for You. Let my will conform to Yours. Touch every cell of my body, Lord, and make me the person, the servant, You want me to be. Amen.

Order of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary ~ Hopedale, Ohio
~ Chaplain Frank Armentrout ~

Recruiting and Retention

It's a typical stereotype image associated in locations where Veterans gather: a place to retreat and share kinship with men who became close because they stood side by side in conflicts like the Vietnam War, or met in Veteran outreach programs.

But it's not the image the next generation of Vets wants people to think of. As we attempt to change the image that most older Veterans portray, younger Veterans indicate it's time to go back to a grassroots campaign of family-oriented programs and community service.

The Marine Corps League, like the military itself, must shift and offer more personalized, tailored positions that give prospective members or those thinking of leaving the Marine Corps League a sense of purpose and belonging.

At some point in time, the MCL and other legacy service organizations, switched from being a community-centered focal point to being an exclusive social club. And that is switching back.

Post-9/11 vets find themselves more closely aligned to the League's founders, the World War I-era service members who were on a mission to give back to communities, build partnerships with local and state organizations and foster programs geared toward camaraderie and family events.

While the League has always maintained a responsibility to its purposes, those efforts at some point became less prominent. The image of a bunch of old guys sitting around complaining about the VA and swapping war stories was born.

They're fighting against their own perception of what the MCL is because the MCL is not a bar and they're fighting against the public perception because that's all they've done for the last several decades. There's most positive growth across the country in communities where the members are active and gaining exposure. Participating in numerous military themed events and civic activities is a huge aid in recruiting more members.

While old members are dying off, the young Marines aren't interested, as the Marine Corps League has lost its appeal. Acknowledging there has been the long-standing stigma of WWII veterans' verses Vietnam and today's veteran, because each vet has something different to offer either to their Detachment or to his or her community.

Standing up a new detachment is especially promising because they offer a fresh start and can be whatever they want to be. A lot of people think that they have to have a building. You can do it anywhere, really. Your home, a community location, a library... you just have to have a place to host your meetings. It could be someone's house. It could be a Denny's; it could be a virtual community through online video conferencing. It could be via face book or other media.

There is a larger, long-term strategy to bring in new members and the MCL is long overdue to incorporate more targeted conversations and marketing efforts to recruit and retain members. The MCL needs to capitalize on the talents of the people that we're recruiting.

The recruitment conversation can come down to picking a demographic, and it comes down to a question of, for lack of a better word, talent management and engagement.

The Defense Department has moved toward tailored messaging to a generation skeptical of service. The League has a struggle with talent management, where we have people that want to come in and do good work, they want to continue serving, but we haven't trained ourselves as an organization to identify and put those people in the right positions.

Retention is also a huge problem for similar reasons. If you don't capitalize on the skill set or the interest of the veteran, they're not going to renew. They don't want to come back if they can't get what they are looking for out of this organization, which we should be offering.

You have to ensure that you're providing something that is satisfying for all the members of your detachments across all demographics and generations. You really have to re-inflate that sense of purpose and direction so people know that what they're doing is making a difference. We have to engage them and get them into a committee where they are productive.

One main reason they do not join is because they have a family and there's a need to share time with them. The department had been going through a tough phase, but reinvigorating family time cookouts, fairs, and a little something for everyone became the catalyst it needed. The family is important and doing things where they can interact helps them see the benefit of belonging in addition to the social aspect. It's also about the outreach work with our mission of taking care of veterans and their families, widows and orphans and strengthening our community. When we do events and activities where our members physically participate, it helps bond them to our League.

Vet SSA Disability Benefits

Like many military members and veterans, you are probably aware that benefits are available from DoD and VA sources, but you may not be aware that the Social Security Administration (SSA) also may be able to provide you disability benefits if your medical conditions will cause a severe impact on your ability to work. SSA benefits are different than this from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application. If you are an active military service member or veteran and became disabled on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where your injuries occurred, you are eligible for expedited processing of disability benefits from the SSA.

The SSA pays disability benefits through two programs:

- Social Security Disability Insurance Program (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

For you or your family to receive SSDI benefits, you have to be considered "insured" by the SSA. This means you have worked long enough for Social Security taxes to meet the eligibility for benefits. In order to receive SSI benefits a financial need must be demonstrated. Also, your condition must meet SSA's definition of a

disability? You must be unable to do substantial work because of your medical condition(s) and your medical condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least one year or be expected to result in death. Social Security does not pay money for partial disabilities or short-term disabilities.

Being on active duty or getting military pay does not automatically prevent you from receiving Social Security benefits. You should still apply for Social Security if you think you are disabled. If you are receiving treatment from a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) and are working in a designated therapy program or are on limited duty. Social Security will evaluate your work activity to determine your eligibility for benefits (the actual work activity is the controlling factor – not the amount of pay you receive or your military status). You can apply for disability benefits while in the military or after separating from the military. This also applies if you are still hospitalized, in a rehabilitation program or undergoing outpatient treatment in an MTF, VA or civilian medical facility. You may apply in person at the nearest Social Security Office. Or, you can call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY – 1-800-325-0778) between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to schedule an appointment. To apply you or your representative must provide proof of identity to include:

- ☐ Proof of age
- ☐ Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency, if foreign born
- ☐ DD Form 214, if discharged from the military service
- ☐ W-2 Form or income tax return from the previous year
- ☐ Military or worker's compensation to include proof of payment
- ☐ Social Security numbers of your spouse and minor children
- ☐ Checking or Savings account number(s), if you have one

Medical records that you may have and/or that you can easily obtain from all military and civilian sources. Important: File your application for disability benefits as soon as possible with available documentation. Do not delay your filing because you do not have all of your documentation.

Your claim will be handled by the state Disability Determination Services (DDS) office that makes disability decisions. Medical and vocational experts from the DDS will contact your physicians where you receive treatment, in order to retrieve your medical records. The DDS may ask you to have an examination or medical test. You will not have to pay for these exams or tests. The length of time to receive a decision on your disability claim could vary. It depends on:

- ☐ The nature of your disability
- ☐ How quickly the DDS office obtains medical evidence from your doctor or medical sources
- ☐ Whether it is necessary to send you for a medical examination in order to obtain evidence to support your claim.
- ☐ Name, address and phone number of a contact person, in case you are unavailable

The Social Security Administration has announced 25 new Compassionate Allowances (CA) conditions. The CA program reduces the time it takes to make decisions on disability applications filed by Americans with the most serious disabilities, so they receive decisions on their claims within days, instead of months or years. The new conditions include a dozen cancers and disorders that affect the digestive, neurological, immune and multiple body systems. To see the newly added CA conditions, [click here](#). To see the entire list of conditions covered under Compassionate Allowance [click here](#). To see how to expedite your claim [click here](#)

Blue Water Navy Veterans and Agent Orange effective January 1, 2020

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure. This is a result of [Public Law 116-23](#), the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The law was signed on June 25, 2019, and takes effect on January 1, 2020.

If you serve on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, you may have had contact with Agent Orange

You may be able to get disability benefits if the below descriptions are true for you.

This must be true: You have an illness we believe is caused by Agent Orange (called a presumptive disease)

And at least one of these must also be true:

Your military record must show that between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, you:

- Were aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, or
- Served on a vessel not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia (as detailed in [Public Law 116-23](#), the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019)

- **Below is a list of presumptive conditions linked to herbicides exposure**

- **Chronic B-cell leukemia**: A type of cancer that affects your white blood cells (cells in your body's immune system that help to fight off illnesses and infections)
- **Hodgkin's disease**: A type of cancer that causes your lymph nodes, liver, and spleen to get bigger and your red blood cells to decrease (called anemia)
- **Multiple myeloma**: A type of cancer that affects your plasma cells (white blood cells made in your bone marrow that help to fight infection)
- **Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma**: A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue (a part of your immune system that helps to fight infection and illness)
- **Prostate cancer**: Cancer of the prostate (the gland in men that helps to make semen)
- **Respiratory cancers (including lung cancer)**: Cancers of the organs involved in breathing (including the lungs, larynx, trachea, and bronchus)
- **Soft tissue sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)**: Different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues
- **AL amyloidosis**: A rare illness that happens when an abnormal protein (called amyloid) builds up in your body's tissues, nerves, or organs (like your heart, kidneys, or liver) and causes damage over time
- **Chloracne (or other types of acneiform disease like it)**: A skin condition that happens soon after contact with chemicals and looks like acne often seen in teenagers. Under our rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of contact with herbicides.
- **Diabetes mellitus type 2**: An illness that happens when your body is unable to properly use insulin (a hormone that turns blood glucose, or sugar, into energy), leading to high blood sugar levels
- **Ischemic heart disease**: A type of heart disease that happens when your heart doesn't get enough blood (and the oxygen the blood carries). It often causes chest pain or discomfort.
- **Parkinson's disease**: An illness of the nervous system (the network of nerves and fibers that send messages between your brain and spinal cord and other areas of your body) that affects your muscles and movement—and gets worse over time
- **Peripheral neuropathy, early onset**: An illness of the nervous system that causes numbness, tingling, and weakness. Under our rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of contact with herbicides.
- **Porphyria cutanea tarda**: A rare illness that can make your liver stop working the way it should and can cause your skin to thin and blister when you're out in the sun. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of contact with herbicides

Funerals: Ways to Make them Affordable but Not Cheap

Funeral planning is something most of us would prefer to avoid. But it's important to take control of this process. If you don't, you might needlessly spend thousands of extra dollars in costs. Following are some key ways to save on the costs of a funeral — whether you're planning your own or someone else's.

1. Shop around. Call funeral homes and ask for their "general price list." By law, this list must itemize charges. Having a list lets you compare costs accurately. Also, ask for the prices of packaged services. Disable these ads

2. Choose direct burial. A funeral home's least expensive option is a direct burial, in which the body is buried soon after death, with no embalming or visitation. A Federal Trade Commission pamphlet says: "Costs include the funeral home's basic 114 services fee, as well as transportation and care of the body, the purchase of a casket or burial container and a cemetery plot or crypt. If the family chooses to be at the cemetery for the burial, the funeral home often charges an additional fee for a graveside service."
3. Simplify the casket. Good funeral directors will help you find a casket that is within your budget. Watch out for up-selling, where a salesperson pushes higher-priced or unnecessary items.
4. Choose cremation; it can be a cheaper alternative to burial. Americans' preference for cremation is growing. According to the National Funeral Directors Association: "By 2040 ... the cremation rate in the U.S. is projected to be 78.7% while the burial rate is predicted to be just 15.7%, signifying that cremation is no fading trend; it is the new norm, set in motion by Baby Boomers' evolving end-of-life preferences."
5. Provide your own urn. Funeral homes and crematoriums usually give you the cremation ashes — called cremains — in a plastic bag inside a plastic box. An urn isn't needed if you intend to scatter the ashes. To keep cremains at home, you will want an urn or container. These are sold by crematoriums and funeral homes. You can skip this purchase by providing a nice box or container from home.
6. Opt for a 'green' burial. A "green" or "natural" burial is cheaper and avoids using toxic embalming chemicals and steel caskets, which don't biodegrade. Only a couple dozen "natural burial grounds" around the country accept shrouded bodies instead of those in a casket. But the green burial trend is growing. The Natural Burial Co. which distributes biodegradable burial products, has more information.
7. Hold the funeral at home; home funerals can include a variety of activities, from holding a memorial service to preparing the body for burial, holding visiting hours or a wake, or building the coffin. Threshold Care Circle offers workshops and education in home funerals and green burials. Another resource is the National Home Funeral Alliance. Reclaiming once-common death practices is done not only to save money but also to renew the meaning and intimacy of the rituals.
8. Have the funeral at church. A service at a church, mosque, temple or synagogue can be less expensive than one at a funeral home. Costs vary, so phone around for prices. Although clergy members typically officiate for free, it's customary — and thoughtful — to tactfully give an honorarium. The amount is up to you.
9. Learn about veterans benefits The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays certain burial and funeral allowances. Check out the VA website for eligibility and rules. For other benefits — including the presentation of an American flag and playing of taps at a veteran's funeral — ask your funeral director or call the VA at 800- 827-1000.
10. Check into Social Security help Social Security pays a lump-sum \$255 death payment to a surviving child or spouse who meets certain requirements. The Social Security Administration has details online. Or, you can call 800-772-1213 or visit a local Social Security office.
11. Donate your body to science. Making a "whole body" donation for use in scientific research and education brings funeral costs to zero. Afterward, cremation of the remains is done free of charge. For more information, check out Science Care, a company that connects donors with researchers and educators. The nonprofit Anatomy Gifts Registry does similar work.

VA Benefit Question and Answers

Q. Is it true that I can now file for conditions caused by Agent Orange if I am a Blue water Navy veteran?

A. Yes, The Federal Circuit court ruled in *Procopio vs Wilkie* that the VA must extend the Agent Orange presumptive to veterans who were in Vietnam's "territorial waters" meaning within twelve nautical miles of Vietnam's coastline.

Q. I never filed a claim for Agent Orange related conditions. How should I file?

A. As soon as possible, submit a VA Form 21-0966, Intent to file a claim to your VA regional Office or through

eBenefits. After that follow up with your local veteran's service officer, who will help you gather evidence and submit a VA Form 526EZ, Application for Benefits on your behalf.

Q. I filed for Agent Orange benefits years ago but was denied because I was Blue Water and did not appeal. What can I do now?

A. If your appeal period has lapsed, you can submit a VA Form 20-0995 Supplemental Claim with a statement explaining you were previously denied, but are now entitled to benefits because of the *Procopio* ruling citing this ruling will be considered "new and relevant evidence" needed to file the Supplemental claim and the VA should adjudicate your claim on the merits.

Q. My appeal for Agent Orange-related conditions is still pending. What should I do to get the appeal granted?

A. You and your service officer can make an argument to the decision review Officer at the regional Office or veterans Law Judge at the Board of veterans Appeals that you are now entitled to benefits as a Blue Water Navy because of the *Procopio* ruling.

Q. What other evidence can help my Blue water Navy claim other than giving the VA the name of the new case?

A. It would also be helpful to submit evidence showing the location of your ship. This can be found in deck logs. You can read archival deck logs in the National Archives catalog through the following link:

<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/logbooks/navy-online>

Additionally, the VA recently updated its ship list to include some Blue Water Navy vessels whose crew members may have gone ashore. This list is not exclusive and may be updated. Although you may now receive benefits even if you did not go ashore, this list may provide some evidence of your eligibility:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/docs/shiplist.docs>.

The VA is going to start awarding benefits effective January 1, 2020

Professional Development Training Leadership Principles

Be technically and tactically proficient; Before you can lead, you must be able to do the job. As a Marine Corps League Officer, you must be able to demonstrate ability to accomplish your mission; to do this you must be able to answer questions and demonstrate competence in your position.

Respect is the reward of the MCL Officer who shows competence. Tactical and technical competence can be learned by attending Leadership Schools, reading and becoming acquainted with the Bylaws, enclosures and Administrative Procedures and from on the job training. To develop this leadership principle of being technically and tactically proficient, you should seek a well-rounded education by attending all of the Leadership Schools that are provided by the detachment, department or division. You can also do independent reading and researching through the different manuals that are provided; Roberts Rules of order, the Uniform Manual, Public relations and most especially, the Bylaws, Enclosures and the Administrative Procedures. Seek out and associate with capable leaders, observe and study their actions.

Seek opportunities to apply knowledge through exercise of command. Good leadership is acquired only through practice. Prepare yourself for the job of leader at the next higher level. Know yourself and seek improvement, this principle of leadership should be developed by the use of leadership traits. Do self-evaluations to determine your strengths and weaknesses. You should work hard to strengthen your weaknesses and use your strengths to their fullest capabilities.

With a knowledge of yourself and your knowledge of group behavior, you can determine the best way to deal with any given situation. In dealing with membership in certain situations, you may have to be firm, however in many scenarios you may have to use the Big brother approach. But you must keep one thing in mind. You are dealing with Volunteers. In your capacity as a Detachment officer, do not hesitate to ask advice from those that have been there and done that. It will show that you have not put yourself above them.

Make an honest evaluation of yourself to determine your strong qualities and your weak points. Strive to

overcome any deficiencies that you may have. Seek the honest opinions of your friends and superiors to show you how to improve your leadership abilities. Learn by studying the cause for failure or success of other leaders. Develop a genuine interest in people and acquire the human touch. Master the art of effective writing and speech. Have a definite goal for the detachment and a plan to attain it. Know your members and look out for their welfare. This is extremely important. Know your member's capabilities. You do not want to assign someone to a committee chair if he/she is nervous and cannot work without supervision.

Remember, all members are to be treated the same whether they are the most active or only come around once in a while. If you show the same concern for all of your members, you will over time earn their respect and loyalty. Be approachable, let the members see you in action. Put your member's welfare before your own. Encourage individual development. Keep your members informed. Marines by nature are inquisitive. By keeping members informed, you are promoting efficiency and morale. You should promote initiative, enthusiasm, loyalty and convictions. Be alert to stop the spread of rumors by replacing them with the truth. Set the example; All too often as a Marine Corps Leaguer progresses through the ranks, he/she develops an attitude of "Do as I say, not as I do".

Show your members that you are willing to do the same things that you ask them to do. Be out front. Be well groomed and in the proper uniform. Insist that your members are too. Be the shining example. Maintain an optimistic outlook. Always conduct yourself so that your personal habits are not open to criticism. By your performance, develop the thought within your membership that you are the best officer for the position that you hold. Delegate authority and avoid over supervision in order to develop leadership among subordinates.

To be Successful:

You must be tolerant and be able to accept different personalities. You must respect the opinion of your members and never lose sight of the fact that these members are Volunteers. You must also accept being in the majority at times. You must try to envision the perception of others. What you say to them and how you say it is important. What may seem innocent and harmless to you may be perceived by others as Hurtful and Calculating. Listen, listen, listen. Understand the true meaning of argue and offer reasons to Dispute and Discuss and always accept the majority Rule. You don't have to like it, but you do have to accept it. What is best for the detachment is usually reflected by a majority Vote. Keep your meeting moving and keep the idle chatter to a minimum. You should follow an agenda and stay on course. You should also have a monthly Staff meeting and make them open to the membership.

If you have intentions to become part of the leadership, you must read the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and develop a working knowledge of the same.

Once elected:

Lead within the scope of your authority. Understand your limits. Make only the decisions that you are permitted to make. Accept the tasks that are assigned and exercise self-initiative tasks. Understand the Chain of Command and know where you stand within the chain. Keep everyone in the chain informed. Communication is the key to Success

U - Understand your role within the chain of command

S - Stay within your scope of leadership and delegate tasks. Stay out of the way and let them do their job

M - manage your time efficiently so you can be effective.

C - Communication is the key to your success or failure and do not hesitate to disseminate.

JUDGE ADVOCATE (JA) Duties

The Judge Advocate (JA) provides legal counsel and opinions on bylaws, policies, corporate regulations and parliamentary procedure for the Detachment. His/her chief role is to assure the legal and operating integrity of the Detachment within the framework of National, Department and Detachment by-laws and policies and any other legal entities such as state corporation requirements, for the Detachment.

The JA may also be called on to make procedural rulings during the course of business and officer meetings.

While the JA should be familiar with the operations, procedures, programs and activities of the Detachment in case he/she is called on to fill in for an absent officer, his/her primary responsibility is to understand, interpret and rule or provide opinions on the authorized and legitimate code for conduct of business.

The JA is a bona fide member of the Board of Trustees who establishes policy and direction for the Detachment. On the other hand, the JA must step aside from the role of policy making and make sure that policies, voted issues and procedures are in conformance with three levels of by-laws and policies - Detachment, Department and National. In addition, the JA must assure that the Detachment by-laws and policies are within the framework and spirit of the National and Department by-laws and policies.

A. Characteristics and Traits

- Ability to understand and interpret statutes and policies of the organization.
- Ability to weigh opposing views; evaluate complex issues and provide reliable opinions for deciding solutions.
- Effective communication skills for elaborating decisions.
- Ability to absorb details and research information.
- Interest in legal and judicial processes.
- Effective writing skills for issues that go beyond the Detachment.
- Knowledge of parliamentary procedures and the League Ritual.
- Ability to make rulings quickly where appropriate (i.e. parliamentary procedures at meetings).
- Understanding of Detachment's corporate position and regulations thereof.
- Ability to write, modify and/or amend Detachment by-laws and policies.
- Interest and ability in auditing procedures to assure conformance to by-laws, policies and regulations.

B. Objectivity: Ability to stand alone in rendering unpopular opinions.

C. Legal Counsel of the Detachment While this officer position does not require being a lawyer, some of the skills and interest are probably desired. The governing laws of the Marine Corps League are contained in the By-Laws and the Administrative Procedures, which are published by National and the Department. Each Detachment should also develop by-laws and policies in conformance with National and Department, to be used as the legal guidelines for carrying on business as a Detachment. The Judge Advocate should be a participant in the writing of these documents if they are not already in place.

It is important for the JA to have a thorough understanding and working knowledge of all bylaws and policies. On his/her own initiative, questionable issue should be brought to attention of the Board of Trustees and/or general membership for review and opinion. Questions regarding issues or policies brought by the membership or officers need to be resolved by the JA in an objective and expedient manner where practical. The JA may also call on the Department and National Judge Advocates for advice, counsel and interpretation.

A primary purpose of the JA is to keep the Detachment on solid legal footing, and to assure that Marine Corps League and state laws are complied with by the Detachment.

D. Render Opinions Based on Policies, By-Laws, or Precedents of the Detachment The most common issues to be brought before the Judge Advocate will be Detachment questions, which should have their findings in the Detachment by-laws and policies. In the absence of specific Detachment references, Department and National by-laws and policies apply. In addition, if there are precedents for specific issues not covered in the Detachment by-laws and policies and if these precedents are within the framework and spirit of the National and Department by-laws, such precedents can apply in rendering an opinion.

In cases where a member(s) is embroiled in an issue, the JA should render opinions as quickly as possible and as objectively as possible, to avoid disruption to the Detachment. If the issue cannot be solved without going beyond the Detachment, the Administrative Procedures by National and Department will be in effect.

Generally, 99.5% of the problems can be addressed at Detachment level, if immediate action is taken and that action references by-laws and policies.

E. Advice on By-Laws and Policies of the Marine Corps League: The governing laws for all organizations within the Marine Corps League are the national by-laws, policies and administrative procedures. The Judge

Advocate (JA) should be thoroughly familiar with these documents and 5 those of the Department, to advise the Detachment on any questionable issues and/or problems. Assistance may be gained from the Department and National Judge Advocates if necessary.

Generally, questions in this area arise when developing and/or modifying Detachment by-laws, policies and administrative procedures. In addition, there can be questions regarding attendance at Department and National meetings, processes for submitting changes to by-laws and policies, awards, discussion topics for agenda and other.

F. Assure that Detachment Abides by The By-Laws of the Detachment, Department and National: The Judge Advocate is the “watchdog” and “policeman” for assuring that strict adherence to all three levels of by-laws and policies are followed. The purpose is to assure conformity to the letter and spirit of accepted laws and policies of the Marine Corps League in general and to ensure that conditions of charter and incorporation are maintained. The JA should review motions and votes, eligibility of voters, and activities on a regular basis to assure compliance. Any discrepancies need to be addressed immediately with the Board of Trustees and/or the membership. Documentation of issues and instances should be made for the record, for review in the future in any similar instances.

G. Audit of Procedures, Signature and Finances the Detachment Commandant may direct the Judge Advocate to perform periodic reviews of procedures and finances to assure compliance with Detachment policies and procedures. Included in this process is reviewing how work and transactions are processed in conformity to Detachment written policy and procedure.

The JA should check bank accounts and checks to assure that dual signatures and procedures for expenditure of funds are being followed according to Detachment procedures. The JA may also be assigned to review the audit trail of funds received, the application of funds in accordance with procedures and accounting practice and assure the integrity of monies received and disbursed by the Detachment. Such procedures may include checking receipts for expense checks and determining the legitimacy of expenditures within budget policy.

The JA should make a written report to the Board of Trustees at least once per year (preferably twice a year), if directed to engage in the audit process.

H. Renders Opinions and Rulings During Meetings Procedure:

The Judge Advocate should be well versed in issues of parliamentary procedure, ritual and business order during meetings. The Commandant or presiding officer may refer questions of procedure to the JA. Normally these questions are relevant to motions, amendments, order of business and other meeting procedures. Questioning of a procedure from the floor must be channeled through the presiding officer to the JA. The JA should also advise the Commandant or presiding officer on the meeting Ritual and procedures decided by the Detachment.

I. Other Duties: Other duties of the Judge Advocate may include:

- Acting in the absence of another officer(s).
- Maintaining a log/report, on questions, issues, opinions and rulings.

J. Summary As with any effective organization, the Marine Corps League has established by-laws, policies and procedures at the National level to safeguard its charter, and to provide a framework for co-existence among many and varied subordinate organizations (Departments and Detachments). Detachments are expected to incorporate and establish their own written bylaws, policies, and procedures within that framework.

The Judge Advocate is the keeper, protector and counselor of those laws, policies, and procedures within the Detachment. He/she must be diligent in assuring conformance to these credentials that allow the League and the Detachment to exist in an orderly manner. As with laws in our daily lives, we may not agree with them all, but they exist for the purpose of providing a common structure within which we can operate and mutually respect the rights of others.

The Judge Advocate has the right and obligation to suggest meaningful change to the statutes from higher levels and a procedure for being heard. The Judge Advocate enforces through the Board of Trustees and advises

members and officers of the Detachment, with the objective of maintaining order within the Marine Corps League organization.

Pending Calendar

2020 Department of WV Winter Quarterly Meeting will be January 4, 2020 hosted by MGM Detachment 1180 at American Legion Post 23, 100 Second Street Point Pleasant, WV 25550. Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting. Lunch will be provided by the Detachment.

2020 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference will be Feb 26 – Mar 1, 2020 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside - 777 Waterside Dr, Norfolk, VA 23510 group code: MCL Phone: (757-622-6664) Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. \$129.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 14%) Resort Charge: \$3.00. Please make your room reservation direct to the hotel. Reservations should be made by calling the hotel at 1-800-325-3535 and mentioning the Marine Corps League Mid-Winter Conference. Breakfast: Complimentary 2 per room daily. Internet: Complimentary High Speed. Banquet Dinner: \$50 max inclusive. Parking: Complimentary Self-Parking if staying at hotel.

2020 Department of Maryland Convention will be 7-9 May 2020 at Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842. Reservations call 1-410-524-7777. Mention 'Marine Corps League' to get group room rate. Fri AM - Opening Ceremony. Fri PM -Pack Growl. Sat AM -MCL Meeting. Sat Night -Banquet More details to follow.

2020 Department of Delaware Convention will be May 9, 2020 Heritage Shores Golf Clubhouse, One Heritage Shores Circle, Bridgeville, Delaware 19933. Lunch will be served. POC- Frank Mathers, Commandant Department of Delaware, mcldeptdecommandant@gmail.com, call 1-301-520-8051 to register.

2020 Department of West Virginia Department Convention will be May 15-17, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Express, 50 Martin Street, Elkins, WV 26241 hosted by Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment #956. Room rate \$100.00 per night. Phone: 304-630-2266.

. Hotel registration deadline is April 29, 2020. Free parking and continental breakfast 6-10 a.m. Banquet \$30 and will be buffet style. POC is Roger Ware 304-636-4365 or rrware@yahoo.com. **Please do not call the hotel to make your reservations** as Detachment 956 will make reservations when you send them your payment. Once your payment is received your name will be given to the hotel under the Code MCL. This is to take advantage of the tax-exempt status. There is a flyer attached which can be used for advance registration, hotel and banquet.

2020 Department of North Carolina Department Convention 50th Anniversary will be June 12-13, 2020 at the Hilton Charlotte University Hotel, 8629 J M Keynes Dr. Charlotte, NC 28262. 833-238-5101 Hosted by Pfc Bruce Larson Detachment #1242 and Charlotte Detachment #750

2020 Mideast Division Conference will be June 19-21, 2020 hosted by Dept of Virginia at Holiday Inn, 5655 Greenwich Road, VA Beach, VA 23462. Room rate \$120 plus 14% tax – total \$138.80, 1-800-567-3856 or 757-499-4400 – (dial 0) use code: MED. You can start reservation after July 12, 2019.

2020 MCL National Convention will be August 10-15, 2020 at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL, 32118 Phone: 888-217-5507. Room rate: \$145.00 includes tax, Wi-Fi, parking and breakfast. **Reservations opened on Monday August 12, 2019 at 10 AM EST.**

2021 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference February 24– 28 2021 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfsi-sheraton-norfolk-waterside-hotel/> Group Code: MCL Phone: (757-622-6664) Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. \$129.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 14%) Please make your room reservation directly to the hotel.

2021 Mideast Division Conference hosted by the Department of Delaware 16, 17, 18 April 2021 Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center (Oceanfront) 1 Baltimore Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971 Phone: 800-

422-0600 | 302-227-2511 <https://atlanticsandshotel.com/> Room rate \$105.00 plus fees. Discounted breakfast, parking included. **Reservations may be made now** by calling 1-800-422- 0600; refer to the **Mideast Division Marine Corps League Block #9579** arriving Friday, April 16, 2021. **Reservations are open.**

2021 MCL National Convention will be August 6-14, 2021 at Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E Adams St, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Room rate is \$129.95 with tax included. Free breakfast, free parking and WiFi. Pet friendly. wyndhamhotels.com Phone. 217-789-1530

Modern-Day Marine Expo, Quantico, VA Sept. 17-19, 2019



Mike McLain, Bud Raines, Roger Ware, Chuck Cooper, Roy Marcum, John Roberts and Rick Shank – Modern-Day Marine Expo, Quantico, VA Sept 17-19, 2019

COMMITTEE HONORS CEDAR GROVE FALLEN SOLDIERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2019

Jean Lamb

304 595-1482

During the Vietnam War, three residents of Cedar Grove, West Virginia, PFC Earl Russell Cobb, SPC4 Carl B. Goodson, and SSGT George T. Saunders Jr., answered the “call for action” and selflessly and courageously gave their lives for their country.

On Saturday, September 21st the Glasgow Cedar Grove Lions Club and VFW Post 8363 honored these heroes of the Cedar Grove community by naming a bridge in recognition of their sacrifice. The Route 60 Cedar Grove Overpass bridge was officially named as the ***“U.S. Army PFC Earl Russell Cobb, SPC4 Carl Bradford Goodson, and SSGT George T. Saunders Jr., Memorial Bridge.”*** There is no greater sacrifice to one’s community or country than giving one’s life to protect others.

Families of the fallen soldiers in attendance listened proudly as the community came together to honor their sons by dedicating a bridge in their honor.

Video excerpts can be seen on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoNjbK7NibYCDPwAw1gSOD-B7oFvdpGoW>

Two members of the Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Detachment 947 assisted in the preparations for the ceremony and were honored to do so.





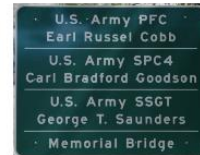
MEMORIAL BRIDGE DEDICATION CEREMONY

For The U.S. Army
PFC Earl Russell Cobb,
SPC4 Carl Bradford Goodson
and
SSGT George T. Saunders Jr.
Memorial Bridge



Hosted By:
The Glasgow-Cedar Grove Lions Club, Glasgow, WV
And
VFW Post 8363 - Chesapeake, WV

September 21, 2019
11:00 AM
Route 60, Cedar Grove, WV



PLEASE NOTE:

The October 2 Gold Star Family Monument dedication at the Charleston WV Capitol Ground has been cancelled and is presently being rescheduled for some time in the Spring of 2020. Please pass on to all concerned.

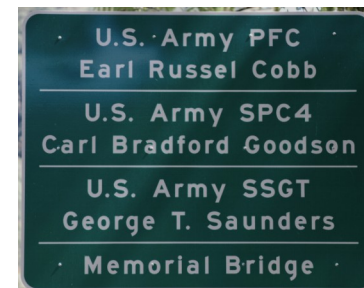
Further information will be provided as it becomes available



MEMORIAL BRIDGE DEDICATION CEREMONY

For The U.S. Army
PFC Earl Russell Cobb,
SPC4 Carl Bradford Goodson
and
SSGT George T. Saunders Jr.
Memorial Bridge

September 21, 2019
11:00 AM
Route 60, Cedar Grove, WV



Hosted By:
The Glasgow-Cedar Grove Lions Club, Glasgow, WV
And
VFW Post 8363 - Chesapeake, WV

PROGRAM

Presentation of Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Sung by Nikki Atkins

Invocation

Reverend John Massey

Welcome Remarks and Acknowledgement of Fallen Soldiers' Families and Dignitaries

Remarks By Dignitaries

Remarks and Reading of Legislative Resolution

The Honorable Larry Rowe.

West Virginia House of Delegates

Guest Speaker

James L McCormick II,

National Junior Vice Commander

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Sign Unveiling

Caisson Song "The Army Goes Rolling Along"

"Amazing Grace"

"Taps"

Benediction

Reverend John Massey

There is no greater sacrifice to one's community or country than giving one's life to protect others. We are here today to honor three heroes of our community by naming a bridge in recognition of their sacrifice.

They served in Vietnam and like over 58,000 other American Soldiers killed, they were also casualties during the war. Their names are among the thousands of others on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, D.C.

THE HONORED

Earl Russell Cobb, known throughout his life as "Russell", was born on October 24, 1946, and grew up in Kanawha County; and graduated from Cedar Grove High School in the Class of 1966. Russell entered the United States Army to serve as a Private First Class in the 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division; and was killed in action on September 4, 1967, just five months into his tour of duty in Vietnam and is buried in the Ward Cemetery at Ward, West Virginia.

★ ★ ★

Carl Bradford "Punkin" Goodson was born on October 14, 1948, and grew up in Kelly's Creek outside of Cedar Grove; he graduated from Cedar Grove High School in the Class of 1966 and was a member of the Church of God at Ward, West Virginia. He served in the United States Army, Light Weapons Infantry, 101st Airborne Division with the rank of Specialist 4; and was killed in action on April 6, 1970, just five months into his tour of duty in Vietnam and is buried in the Ward Cemetery at Ward, West Virginia.

★ ★ ★

George Thomas Saunders Jr. was born on February 28, 1942, and grew up in the community of Cedar Grove; and he graduated from Cedar Grove High School in the Class of 1959; and George joined the United States Army, served six years, and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. Staff Sergeant Saunders was posted to the First Military Police Company in the First Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam in 1965; and was killed in hostile fire on October 31, 1965, less than two weeks into his tour of duty and is buried at Woodland Cemetery in Cedar Grove, West Virginia.

244TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2019

**Hosted by: Earl Anderson Marine Corps League
Detachment 342**

ITENARY

- 1700 Social Hour & Cocktails (Cash Bar)
1830 Ceremony
-Sound Attention
-Sound Adjutants Call
-Guest of Honor Escorted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps League
-Honors to the Colors
-Reading of Traditional Commandant's Marine Corps Birthday Ball Message
-Cake Escorts Enter Ballroom
-Cake Cutting Ceremony Oldest and Youngest Marines
-Color Guard Retires
-Introduction of Guest of Honor & Remarks
1915 Dinner
2015 Live Music & Dancing

UNIFORM, REGISTRATION, & HOTEL ROOMS

Visit [HTTP://MCL342.ORG](http://MCL342.ORG)

Door Prizes & Raffles

Earl Anderson Marine Corps League Detachment 342 will be providing door prizes throughout the evening, along with a 50/50 drawing.



**MORGANTOWN
MARRIOTT AT
WATERFRONT PLACE**

TWO WATERFRONT PL
MORGANTOWN, WV
26501

**1700-1830 RECEPTION
1830-1915 CEREMONY
1915-2000 DINNER
2000-2200 DANCING**

TICKET PRICES

INDIVIDUAL \$65
COUPLE \$130

SPONSORED TABLES

GOLD STAR (8 SEATS) \$600

**FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT
COMMANDANT
CLIFF VANGILDER
(304)-612-0053**

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR UP TO DATE
INFORMATION
"EARL ANDERSON MARINE
CORPS LEAGUE
DETACHMENT 342 "



EARL ANDERSON MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 342

2019 Marine Corps Ball

November 2, 2019 - Morgantown - Hosted by Detachment 342

Will be held at the Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place, 2 Waterfront Place, Morgantown, West Virginia 26501. Hosted by Earl Anderson Detachment 342. Room rate: \$97.00 plus tax.

Banquet: Buffet includes: 2 salad options, chicken, steak, fish option, 2 vegetables, starch options, desert, coffee, tea.

Cost: \$65.00

Mail advance registration for Marine Corps Birthday Ball to: Earl Anderson MCL Det. #342, PO Box 1507, Morgantown, WV 26507.

Directions:

Travel North on I-79 to I-68 junction in Morgantown, take I-68 exit 148 exit 1 on Rt 119 North and follow to Don Knotts Blvd for 3.4 miles. and you will arrive at Waterfront Place on your left.

Travel South to Morgantown. I-79 to Morgantown, exit 152 on Rt 19 East., travel to Rt 119. Turn right onto Don Knotts Blvd and travel South to Waterfront Place on right.

Please print off and mail in for advance registration and for your name tag.

Attendee

Name _____

Address _____

\$65.00 Ball Ticket Each \$ _____

Attendee Guest

Name _____

Address _____

\$65.00 Ball Ticket Each \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Attendee

Name _____

Address _____

\$65.00 Ball Ticket Each \$ _____

Attendee Guest

Name _____

Address _____

\$65.00 Ball Ticket Each \$ _____

Total \$ _____

The Intelligencer. Wheeling News-Register

September 22, 2019

Gold Star Monument Dedicated at Heritage Port in Wheeling

WHEELING — A monument to honor those who gave all they had for their country and the loved ones left behind will stand in Wheeling Heritage Port.

On Saturday, area residents, veterans and officials gathered for the dedication of a Gold Star Family memorial monument.

Hershel “Woody” Williams, West Virginia’s only living Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, spoke at the ceremony. At age 96, Williams was enthused by the monument and recognition of fallen servicemen and their families. He related the history of Gold Star families, originating in World War I when families would hang a blue star in a window designating service, and gold star for those who lost their lives.

“We are in a sense educating America about what Gold Star families really mean. We have never done that before in this country,” he said, adding that the practice continued into World War II and onward.

“My mother had three (blue stars) hanging in her front window because three of us at that time were in the war. Two brothers in Europe, and I was in the Pacific,” he said.

“Wheeling is one of West Virginia’s most historic communities,” he said. *“It’s again making history by placing this monument here in this community. It is the community that did it. ... It honors the families of this area, and there are a lot of them we do not even know. Perhaps even this morning, Gold Star families learned who another Gold Star family was because of our gathering here this morning. Because we have not made an effort in this country to bring those people together. They all suffer the same heartache. The pain never goes away.”*

John Nanny served as moderator, having spearheaded the fundraising effort to make the monument a reality. He recognized members of the monument committee members Vernon Anderson, current West Virginia State commander of the VFW Post 4442, John Powell of American Legion Post 1, Demetrius Lathon of American Legion Post 89, Gold Star Sister Karen Schubert Garvin, Harry “David” Schoenian of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott, and Wheeling spokesman Jessie Mestrovic.

He gave special thanks to Susan Whitlatch and the West Virginia Patriot Guard Riders, Fritz Sweeney the Marine Corps League construction consultant, Mark Sharpsky of Sharpsky Printing for providing programs at no cost, Savage Construction for cutting the bill for the monument, and Smith Concrete for completing work at no charge.

The Intelligencer. Wheeling News-Register

September 22, 2019

Nanny said thanks to donations from Wheeling, Ohio County, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Ogden Newspapers, the Wheeling Elks and other businesses, law firms, veterans organizations and individuals including Gold Star families, the effort raised more than \$62,000 and paid for the monument in full.

Several area Gold Star family members stepped forward at the dedication and gave emotional testimonials about their lost loved ones.

"I think it's beautiful," Garnet Clutter-Mudge of Wheeling spoke about her brother, Charles Elwood Clutter, who died in France in World War II said.

"This is wonderful," Patricia Pockl of Wheeling said. She spoke of her brother, Michael Paluch, who died in 1944 and was laid to rest in Rome. *"I was only three and a half when he died."*

Nanny said he has known Pockl for some time and this was the first he had heard of the story.

Veterans in attendance also spoke afterward.

"I think it's one of the greatest things to ever hit Wheeling, West Virginia," Stephen Duncil of the Marine Corps League said, adding he was honored to meet Williams.

Duncil indicated his Purple Heart and Bronze Stars. *"I was wounded three times. ... I managed to come home. This monument's for those who didn't come home. I think it's wonderful and John Nanny deserves a lot of credit for this."*

"People need to see what they need to remember. There's too many of us dying now that are forgotten, and the families need to be honored," David Rock of Wheeling said. *"I've seen quite a few that didn't come back."*

Williams recognized Nanny and Elliott as honorary members of the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation for their leadership.

Ohio County Commissioner Randy Wharton, member of the Marine Corps League, spoke for the commissioners.

"We were very proud to be able to be part of helping you to bring this monument to fruition," he said. *"Semper Fidelis. God Bless America."*

Wheeling Vice Mayor Chad Thalman and council members and officials also attended the event and commended the accomplishment of answering Williams' challenge to join communities across the country in erecting a Gold Star monument.

The Intelligencer. Wheeling News-Register

September 22, 2019

"The monument has become a reality, thanks to donations from local organizations, government entities, churches and individuals," he said. "We are pleased to be just of seven monuments in the State of West Virginia. ...Gold Star families, it's because of you that we are here."

A representative from U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., also spoke.
An effort is also underway to bring a monument to Moundsville.



Photo by Robert A. DeFrank - John Nanny of the Marine Corps League, welcomes attendants Saturday to the dedication of a Gold Star Family memorial monument at Wheeling Heritage Port.

*Press Article Digitally captured by R. Michael Lynon, Historian – Marine Corps League Department of WV
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****Shown in the reflection of the Monument is Gold Star Mother Rose Schilling of Moundsville**



**DEPARTMENT
OF
WEST VIRGINIA
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**



2020 DEPARTMENT OF WV MCL CONVENTION
MAY 15-17, 2020 - Elkins - Hosted by Detachment 956

Will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 50 Martin Street, Elkins, WV 26241. Hosted by Leland D "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956. **Room rate: \$100.00** includes free continental breakfast, free parking and wireless Internet. POC Roger Ware: 304-636-4365 Email rrware@yahoo.com
To receive the block price, reservations must be booked by **04/28/20**. Make checks payable to Det. 956, MCL to avoid paying taxes. \$5 early registration fee for conference, \$7 at the door.
Banquet Cost: \$30.00 Mail registration fee, hotel room rate, and banquet reservation to:
Leland D "Crow" Crawford MCL Det. #956, PO Box 852, Elkins, WV 26241.

Member

Name _____
Title _____
Detachment _____
Address _____
Email Address: _____

Guest

Name _____
Title/Relation _____
\$100.00 Hotel Reservation \$ _____
\$5.00 pre-registration each \$ _____
\$30.00 banquet each \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Member

Name _____
Title _____
Detachment _____
Address _____
Email Address: _____

Guest

Name _____
Title/Relation _____
\$100.00 Hotel Reservation \$ _____
\$5.00 pre-registration each \$ _____
\$30.00 banquet each \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Member

Name _____
Title _____
Detachment _____
Address _____
Email Address: _____

Guest

Name _____
Title/Relation _____
\$100.00 Hotel Reservation \$ _____
\$5.00 pre-registration each \$ _____
\$30.00 banquet each \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Member

Name _____
Title _____
Detachment _____
Address _____
Email Address: _____

Guest

Name _____
Title/Relation _____
\$100.00 Hotel Reservation \$ _____
\$5.00 pre-registration each \$ _____
\$30.00 banquet each \$ _____
Total \$ _____



**DEPARTMENT
OF
WEST VIRGINIA
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**



**2020 MCL Department Meeting Schedule
Department of West Virginia
Elkins, WV
MAY 15-16, 2020**

Friday, May 15, 2020

0600-0945 Breakfast

0900-1200 MCL Registration

1000-1200 MODD Registration

1200-1300 Lunch on your own

1300-1600 MCL Registration

1300-1600 MODD Registration

1300-1600 Professional Development Training

1300-1700 Department Audit Committee

1600-1700 Commandant's Council - Detachment Commandants/Staff Officers meeting

1700-1830 Dinner on your own

1700-2230 Hospitality Room open

1830-1900 MODD Pack Board Meeting*

1900-2100 MODD Growl of the Pack

* At call of Department Commandant, MCL; Pack Leader, MODD, PMOY Chairman

Saturday, May 16, 2020

0600-0930 Breakfast

0800-1000 MCL registration

0800-0815 Flag-Raising Ceremony

0820-0930 Memorial Services, all hands attending

0930-0945 Department Budget Committee Meeting*

0930-0945 Department Nominations Committee Meeting*

1000-1200 MCL Business Meeting

1200-1315 Lunch on your own

1315-1600 MCL Business Meeting

1615-1640 New Officer Installation & Department Officers' Meeting

1800-1900 Formal Reception

1900 Grand Banquet

* At call of Chairman for Budget and Nominations Committee

**2020 MCL Mid-Winter Conference February 27 –
March 1, 2020 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel 777
Waterside Drive
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 622-6664**

Fact Sheet

Room Rate: \$129 + tax Rate: \$14% Resort Charge: \$3.00

Parking: Complimentary Self-Parking if staying at hotel, otherwise its \$13 per day.

Valet Parking is \$26 per day

Breakfast: Complimentary 2 per room daily

Internet: Complimentary High-Speed

Banquet Dinner: \$50 max inclusive

**Reservations made by calling the hotel or 1-800-325-3535 and mentioning the Marine Corps League
Mid-Winter Conference**

**All reservations will be charged one-night room and tax deposit at time of
confirming reservation. This deposit will be applied toward your final bill. If you cancel within the
cancellation period, the deposit will be refunded**

**Cancellation period is from time of making reservation until February 10, 2020. Any cancellations after
February 10, 2020 will forfeit the one-night deposit**

**Marriott Rewards points can be earned with the group rate This is a smoke free hotel, any smoking in
non-smoking rooms will incur a \$200 cleaning fee.**

Each room has a mini refrigerator

On site restaurant next door to the Waterside District featuring restaurants and bars.

3 blocks from downtown mall

**6 to 11 miles, depending on route, from Norfolk International Airport shuttle service will be arranged
at a later date, stay tuned**