



The Straight Scoop

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



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COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains and Associate Members. I hope this finds you well. The Mid East Division Conference is now behind us. A huge Bravo Zulu to Commandant Al Harmon and Detachment 957 for hosting a great conference. I have had compliments from all the Departments that attended. Congratulations to the new Division Vice Commandant for the Mid-East Division Roger Ware. I know you will do West Virginia proud. I need to also congratulate PDC Rick Shank on being selected as the 2019 Mid-East Division Marine of the Year. This goes to show that the Department of West Virginia is the "Cream of the Crop."

I am looking forward to seeing the Department Staff and Detachment Commandant's at the upcoming staff meeting on July 20th in Charleston. We will be discussing upcoming events and your plans to move the Department forward. An email will be coming out soon with the agenda for the meeting. We will also be discussing the upcoming National Convention in Billings Montana.

As of this Straight Scoop we have 14 Chartered Detachments in the State, with proof that 6 or 7 of them are actually performing their missions. I say this because on a monthly basis, I only receive that many sets of Detachment's meeting minutes. The Department bylaws state that minutes from your Detachment meetings are supposed to be sent to the Department Adjutant. The reason is two-fold. First it allows me an opportunity to see the great things that you are doing in your community and it also tells me if you may need help from the Department. Secondly, it shows me that your Detachments are actually holding meetings like you are required to do. As I said, about half of our detachments are sending in their minutes on a monthly basis. I am requesting that all Detachments step up and send in your minutes.

Independence Day is upon us. It is time to celebrate the greatest country in the world. Enjoy your family and friends and stay safe.

Please keep all members of our Armed Forces in your thoughts and Prayers as they serve in harm's way.
Semper Fidelis,

Scott Kirby

Commandant
Dept. of WV
Marine Corps League

Chaplain's Corner

Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze"

Why this verse?

Because God is with you – Always. No matter where you go, what troubles you face, God never abandons those whom He loves. You can rest in this knowledge, even when you face challenges. He will protect you!

Make Annual Verification of Paid Life Members

Paymaster Patti Leib sends a reminder to all detachments to verify their Paid Life Members (PLM) listed on the Paid Life Member List dated 6/30/19 from National. Upon receipt is the best time to do this so it's not forgotten. These are due at National before Dec. 31 and Paymaster Leib holds on to them until she has all Det reports to submit together; if you are late, you make EVERYONE LATE. If a detachment does not certify its PLM roster is true and accurate before the deadline, it will not receive its annual residual interest for its Life members. Take the original copy of the PLM Roster and verify the PLM members. The Commandant and Paymaster must Sign and Date a statement on the original that they certify and annotate that the Paid Life Member List is audited and is true and accurate and that any changes have been clearly marked. You may LINE THROUGH the name of a member who is deceased, but do not make it un-readable. Make a copy after signing and then forward the original to Dept Paymaster Patti Leib. She will send this to the National Adjutant-Paymaster. You must send this signed PLM Roster to Paymaster Leib with enough lead time for her to send it to National and arrive there by Dec. 31. Ref: National Bylaws Sections 645 and 646. The interest paid this year to each detachment was \$1.89 per paid member on your roster as of 9/30/17.

IRS 990-N e-file Postcard

There is a new procedure to file annual IRS 990 N- efile. Below is the new information now required. Read over the info and then log onto this site to get a new user name and password. <https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Annual-Electronic-Filing-Requirement-for-Small-Exempt-Organizations-Form-990-N-e-Postcard>

NOTE: IRS has changed how they accept the filings and does not send a confirmation back to your mail so when you finally get logged into the site and answer all the questions and file, make a copy of what you entered before sending. IRS does not send you a confirmation copy or acceptance. Once you create a user name and password, ***be sure to write it down or email it to yourself and file it under TAXES.*** Log into your email account and you will be given a code to enter your information. It's only good for 15 minutes. When you try to log into the site, you can enter your user name okay but you will have to enter your password twice as it will deny you on the first attempt. After logging in and answering all the question, copy off what you entered. After filing, wait for about an hour and log back into the site and see if IRS accepted your file. Copy off the IRS acceptance and send a copy to your Paymaster and or Dog Robber. If you need help, call Adjutant-Paymaster Leib (740) 591-8611 or ANVC Roger Ware (304) 636-4365.

Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations — Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

How to file:

To electronically submit Form 990-N, *Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990EZ*, use the Form 990-N Electronic Filing system (e-Postcard).

All organizations are required to register at IRS.gov prior to filing Form 990-N. You won't be asked to register again the next time you file. If you're a new Paymaster, you have to register and add your Detachment to your profile. Form 990-N must be completed and filed electronically. **There is no paper form.** Form 990-N filers may choose to file a complete Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead.

Use the Form 990-N Electronic Filing System (e-Postcard) User Guide while registering and filing.

For filing system and website issues, refer to the second question on the How to File: Frequently Asked Questions page. Prior to filing your form, please review the following information:

Who must file Most small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less can satisfy their annual reporting requirement by electronically submitting Form 990-N if they choose not to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead.

Exceptions to this requirement include: Organizations that are included in a group return, Churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches, and Organizations required to file a different return

- **Form 990-N filing due date**

Form 990-N is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. **You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends.**

Example: If your tax year ended on December 31, the *e-Postcard* is due May 15 of the following year. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the due date is the next business day.

If your 990-N is late, the IRS will send a reminder notice to the last address we received.

While there is no penalty assessment for filing Form 990-N late, organizations that fail to file required Forms 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for three consecutive years will automatically lose their tax-exempt status. Revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will happen on the filing due date of the third consecutively- missed year. Watch this IRS YouTube presentation for more information.

Information you will need when filing Form 990-N

Form 990-N is easy to complete. You'll need only eight items of basic information about your organization.

Search for Form 990-N filings to search for organizations that have filed Form 990-N and to view their filings, see *Exempt Organizations Select Check*. You can also download the entire database of Form 990-N filing.

Roger Ware elected as National Vice Commandant

Roger Ware, Past Department Commandant was elected as the Mideast Division National Vice Commandant during the Mideast Division Conference in Princeton, West Virginia on June 22. He will be installed during the MCL National Convention in Billings, Montana on August 9, 2019. Congratulations to him!

Richard Shank received Mideast Division MOY Award

Richard Shank, Past Department Commandant was presented with the 2019 Mideast Division Marine of the Year Award at the Mideast Division Conference banquet in Princeton, WV on June 22, 2019. Congratulations to him!

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act signed by President

President Donald Trump signed the Blue Water [Navy](#) Vietnam Veterans Act into law late Tuesday, June 25, 2019 a move that will fast-track disability compensation for personnel with medical conditions related to the chemical herbicide Agent Orange.

The enactment follows a decades-long fight by sailors, [Marines](#) and others who served off the coast of Vietnam. The law means they will now get the same presumption as ground troops that certain diseases are connected to Agent Orange exposure.

According to Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 90,000 veterans may be eligible for benefits under the law.

The legislation, [H.R. 299](#), extends disability compensation to personnel who served off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, within 12 nautical miles of the coast of Vietnam and Cambodia, along a line of demarcation spelled out in the law.

Those eligible include veterans with one or more of the presumptive diseases whose claims were previously denied. It also includes those with new claims.

The bill also covers veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone between Sept. 1, 1967, and Aug. 31, 1971, as well as children with spina bifida born to veterans who served in Thailand between January 1962 and May 1975.

While most veterans service organizations, including Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America, supported the bill, another group objected.

Military-Veterans Advocacy, a group that brought a lawsuit against the federal government for denying benefits to Blue Water veterans, said Wednesday that the law's wording may negatively affect up to 55,000 of the 90,000 veterans who served offshore.

John Wells, a retired Navy commander with Military-Veterans Advocacy, said the area noted in the bill may exclude some sailors whose ships were offshore, but outside the territorial seas.

"This includes a number of carrier sailors who were exposed [to Agent Orange runoff] by the surging waters of the Mekong River that discharged into the South China Sea," Wells said in a statement released Wednesday.

A legal victory earlier this year would have awarded benefits to veterans immediately, Wells argued, and wouldn't require VA to delay implementation by needing to raise funds to pay for it first.

"The battle for benefits for the Blue Water Navy should have ended with the signing of the legislation. Unfortunately, it did not. We will continue to work with the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association to win benefits for every veteran exposed," Wells said.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the bill could cost as much as \$1.1 billion over 10 years; the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has estimated the cost to be as high as \$5.5 billion.

The cost of the benefits is expected to be covered by raising fees levied on non-disabled veterans for VA-supported home loans, increases of .35 to .5 of a percentage point, depending on the type of loan.

After the Senate passed the bill June 12, Rep. Mark Takano, a California Democrat who chairs the House Veterans Affairs Committee and one of the original drafters of the legislation, said Congress has now "righted a terrible injustice."

"We can finally tell the tens of thousands of veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War but wrongly denied benefits that justice is finally coming," Takano said.

Court Decision Paves Way to Faster Appeal Decisions for Some Vets

A recent ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims could accelerate adjudication of thousands of veterans' disability claims appeals, but only for cases awaiting certification from the VA.

The court ruled June 13 that VA needed to move forward on certifying the claims of veterans who have waited more than 18 months for the designation, saying the affected veterans already have faced delays that were "particularly intolerable because they consist of nothing but waiting in line."

For a veteran to appeal a disability claims decision, he or she must fill out an Appeal to the Board of Veterans Appeals form, known as a VA Form 9, and the department must review the case to ensure it contains all the necessary documentation. If the claims appeal is complete, VA then certifies it to the Board of Veterans Appeals.

But for at least 2,700 veterans, VA has taken no action, letting their appeals sit, unopened, for more than two years.

One of the plaintiffs in the recent case, Pamela Whitfield, has waited more than six years. The court found this and the VA's inaction "intolerable."

"We are not content to wait for the [VA] secretary to remedy these unreasonable delays on his own," wrote the court in a 2-1 decision. "The secretary has had many years to act and initiate pre-certification review of class members' cases, and he has failed to do so."

The court ordered VA to determine who has waited 18 months or longer for certification and identify them by Aug. 12. VA must then certify their appeals by Oct. 11.

The board then will consider the claims by docket number, with the oldest going first, explained Bart Stichman, executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program, which, along with law firm Covington & Burling LLP, represented the plaintiffs in the case, *Godsey v. Wilkie*.

While the case was brought by four plaintiffs, the decision will affect all veterans who have filed a Form 9 and waited 18 months or more for certification. This is because the court, for its first time, ruled the case a class-action suit.

The judges decided that a class-action decision "is a more efficient and effective vehicle for resolving this case than a precedential decision" focused on each individual veteran.

The class action marks a milestone for the court, which, since its inception in 1988, maintained it did not have the power to certify a class-action suit. In 2017, however, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled that the veterans court had always had the authority.

Stichman said the June 13 ruling will "help ensure consistency and fairness across the VA's processes," because class-action lawsuits can bring about corrections to address a large affected population, instead of addressing -- or not addressing -- individual plaintiff's issues separately.

"It has been a long time coming," Stichman said of the class-action certification. "At last, this order opens the door for veterans to receive efficient, consistent and fair adjudications just as Congress intended."

Veterans seeking more information and who have a Form 9 but have not been certified, can contact NVLSP at info@nvlsp.org.

Pending Calendar

Department of WV Staff Officers and Detachment Officers Meeting: Saturday July 20, 2019 at 10:00 am hosted by the Department of WV Commandant Scott Kirby and Herbert J Thomas Memorial Det 947. Address is 4605 MacCorkle Ave. SW, South Charleston, WV. This is an important meeting that ALL Detachments should send a representative to. We will be planning for the coming year's events, so **Don't Miss It**. Lunch will be served.

2019 MCL National Convention will be August 4-10, 2019 hosted by Eugene Sara Detachment 418 at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings. Montana.

Telephone: 1-406-248-7151. Room rate: \$99.50 plus tax. Free breakfast, parking and WI fi. Link: www.mclnationalconvention2019.

2019 Department of WV Fall Quarterly Meeting - September 14, 2019 hosted by Danny M. Greene Detachment 577 in Logan, WV at the old Henlawson Grade School & Vet Center. Dept Staff Officer Meeting is 9:30 AM with general business meeting at 10 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept Meeting.

2019 Modern Day Marine Expo will be Sept 17-19, 2019 at MCB, Quantico, VA

2020 Department of WV Winter-Spring 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.

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 made by calling the hotel or 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 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 plus room tax. Phone: 304-630- 2266. Reservations can be made now and mention code: MCL or Marine Corps League and give dates. 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.**

Our detachment will be making reservations when you send us your payment. Once we receive your hotel payment, we will submit names to the hotel. This is to take advantage of our tax-exempt status. You will not be charged any tax.

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

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. **Reservation open on Monday August 12, 2019 at 10 AM EST.**

Around the Department:



Members of Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956 of Elkins conducted a ceremony on Saturday, June 29, 2019 to dedicate a bridge in memory of U.S. Army SSGT Thomas Gavin Hess who was killed in action on May 3, 1970, in the Ashau Valley in Northern I Corps of Vietnam. SSGT Hess gave his life to save the members of his platoon after they were ambushed and trapped by a battalion of North Vietnamese Army troops.

Left to right are Greg Irwin, Department Sgt-at -Arms; Bill Hartman, WV House of Delegates member; Jake Roberts, U.S. Army Special Force Vietnam veteran; Roger Ware, Department Chief of Staff; and Don Hurlbutt from Connecticut and Pete Agriostathes from Nevada, both members of SSGT Hess's platoon.

(See attached Program from the Service)



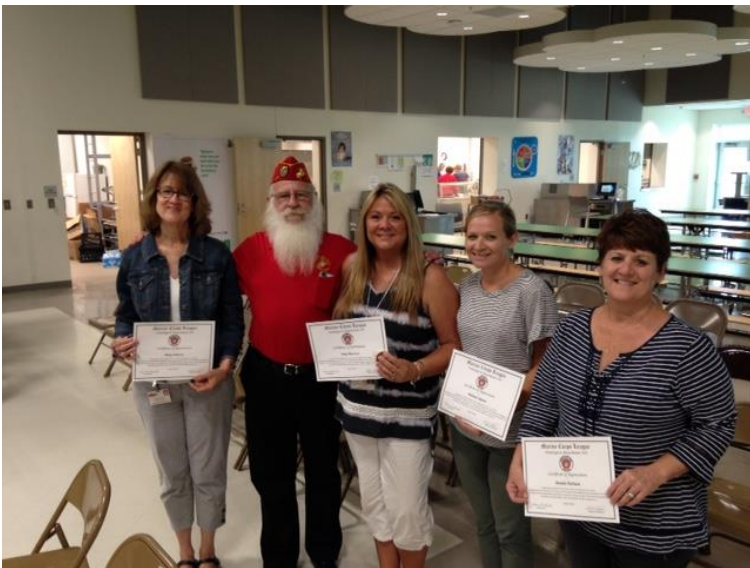
Beirut Bombing Memorial in Princeton, WV – Members visited the local Memorial while in Princeton for the Mideast Division 2019 Conference hosted by the Department of WV and the Mountaineer Marines Detachment 957. Pictured left to right: Jr Vice Commandant Jerry Bain (Det 1180), Jr Past Commandant-Fire Team Leader and MED MOY Rick Shank (Det 340), ANVC Roger Ware (Det 956), and Sr Vice Commandant Jim Doss (Det 1180)

Following photos:

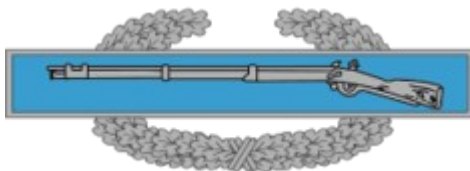
ANVC Roger Ware at the Beirut Bombing Memorial, showing the name of Marine Sgt Mecot Camara who is now memorialized by naming Beckley Det 1461 after him.

Huntington Detachment 340 Commandant David Hicks with children at Ceredo Elementary Third Grade Class who made “Thank You for Your Service” cards for hospitalized Veterans at the Hershel Woody Williams VAMC in Huntington.

Huntington Detachment 340 Commandant David Hicks presenting the 3rd Grade Teachers at Ceredo Elementary School with Certificates of Appreciation for teaching the children appreciation for our Veterans



**B CO, 1st Bn, 501st Infantry,
101st Airborne Division**



BRIDGE DEDICATION CEREMONY

U. S. Army

SSGT Thomas Gavin Hess

Memorial Bridge

Saturday, June 29, 2019, at 11 a.m.

**Spillway Bridge on Georgetown Road
Elkins, WV**



*SSGT Thomas Gavin Hess
Killed May 3, 1970
Quang Nam Province
Republic of Vietnam*

Bridge Dedication Ceremony
U.S. Army SSGT Thomas Gavin Hess
Memorial Bridge
Saturday, June 29, 2019, at 11 a.m.
Spillway Bridge on Georgetown Road
Elkins, WV

Master of Ceremonies	Roger Ware, Commandant Marine Corps League
Presentation of Colors	Sgt-at-Arms
Pledge of Allegiance	Sgt-at-Arms
Invocation	Judy Gum, Chaplain
Welcome Remarks	Roger Ware
Honored Guests	Roger Hess, brother Peter Agriostathes -friend
Legislative Resolution and Comments	Delegate William Hartman D-Randolph, 43rd District
Closing Remarks	Roger Ware

“Caissons Song”	Bagpiper
“Amazing Grace”	Bagpiper
“Taps”	Bagpiper
Benediction	Judy Gum, Chaplain
Sign Ceremony and Presentation of Bridge Signs to Hess Family by Del. Hartman	





**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 _____
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Detachment _____
Address _____
Email Address: _____

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Name _____
Title/Relation _____
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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

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 Reward 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