



# ***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. In preparing to travel to the National Convention in Billings Montana to represent each member of this great Department, I was reminded of how an all-volunteer organization such as the Marine Corps League, can be successful. Common courtesy! This courtesy is the only way an organization can continue to grow and operate in harmony with itself. Successful organizations have a chain of command that must be followed to ensure that everyone in the organization is kept informed and no one is caught off guard. Don't be the senior member with a secret. By that I mean there are certain questions that you should ask yourself. What do I know? Who else needs to know? Have I told them yet?

I have noticed in several instances of a breakdown of this common courtesy. For instance, a Commandant should know everything that is going on in his Detachment. If someone calls the Adjutant with an idea or a problem, the Adjutant shouldn't try to resolve the problem without first informing the Commandant. The Commandant should then brief his Board of Trustees and together handle the issue. If the Commandant is not informed, then they are caught off guard and this causes resentment and frustration. Always use your Chain of Command correctly. This works the same between the Detachment and the Department. If a Detachment Commandant has a question concerning leadership, he should contact the Department Commandant or Past Department Commandant for advice. If they are not available, then the Sr Vice should be contacted who will in turn use the common courtesy to brief the Commandant. These are just examples. You can insert your own examples but the point that I am making is that if common courtesy is not used, there is a breakdown in communication, and everyone pays the price. The reverse is also true; good communication benefits the Detachment, the Department, the membership, and fosters good will, trust, and progress; and, often a better solution can be reached with the contributions of more experienced leadership.

As soon as I return from the National Convention, I will compile all the pertinent information that we collect and report it to you as soon as it is available.

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

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### **Chaplain's Corner**

Eternal Father, I humbly adore Thee, and thank Thee for having created me, and for having redeemed me through Jesus Christ. I thank Thee most sincerely for having made me a Christian, by giving me the true faith and by adopting me as Thy son in the sacrament of baptism.

Eternal Father, I thank Thee for having, after the numberless sins I had committed, waited for my repentance and for having pardoned (as I humbly hope) all the offenses which I have offered to Thee, and for which I am now sincerely sorry, because they have been displeasing to Thee, who are infinite goodness. I thank Thee for having preserved me from so many relapses, of which I would have been guilty if Thou hadst not protected me. But my enemies still continue and will continue till death, to combat against me and to endeavor to make me their slave. If Thou dost not constantly guard and succor me with Thy aid, I, a miserable creature, shall return to sin and shall certainly lose Thy grace.

I beseech Thee, then, for the love of Jesus Christ, to grant me holy perseverance unto death. Jesus, Thy Son, has promised that Thou wilt grant whatsoever we ask in His name. Through the merits, then, of Jesus Christ, I beg, for myself and for all the just, the grace never again to be separated from Thy love, but to love Thee forever in time and eternity. Amen.

— Prayer by St. Alphonsus Ligouri (1696-1787)

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### **Subject: Member Library**

We have added a small level of security for our online files. We now have a Library and a Member Library. The member Library contains some of the files we feel would be better kept inside the League.

The password is dd4 and is available to all members. It should not be posted on social media for all the world to see.

The Semper Fi Magazine password is dd214 and is also available to all members.

NOTE: The Convention tab in the Library does have all necessary files, including the current Bylaws and Admin Procedures.

Bob Borka

COO/HQMCL

### **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 Audit 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. If a detachment does not certify its PLM List 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 Audit and verify the PLM members. **The Commandant and Paymaster must sign** a statement on the original that they certify and annotate that the life member list is audited and is True and Accurate and that there are no changes, or that it is True and Accurate including any changes noted. To make a change, simply line through the incorrect information (so it can still be read) and make a note in the righthand column, stating date of passing of the member. **The statement by the Commandant and Paymaster must also be dated.** Make a copy for your records after signing and then forward the original to Department Paymaster Patti Leib via US Mail to PO Box 1224, Athens, OH 45701-1224.

National Requires the ORIGINAL signatures, so please send her the original in the mail. She will collect all PLM Audits and send them in a group to the National Adjutant/Paymaster. You must send this signed Audit to Paymaster Leib with enough lead time for her to send it to National and arrive there by Dec. 31. To be on the safe side, she has requested all Detachments send them prior to the September Fall Quarterly Meeting in Logan.

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, which includes the two-year waiting period.

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### **Dues expire August 31**

All detachments need to ensure they contact all their dues paying members and encourage them to renew their membership by paying their annual dues on time. Every member in your detachment should be contacted at least once per quarter or more often as necessary. A good way is to stay in touch via the internet by sending out a copy of your meeting minutes and sharing any relevant correspondence that might be important. In addition, the department newsletter has important information about pending meetings and events plus current VA information. Staying in touch with your members via phone calls, letters or personal visits reinforces that they are important members of your unit. Every member is a shareholder of the corporation and is entitled to all rights on an equal basis with every other member. Our members are the lifeblood of the League and we need to take care of them as well as ourselves. We need to extend outreach to the widows and children of our deceased members. This is an excellent source to increase your membership. Encourage them to join as Associate members because this validates that they are important and it gives them an opportunity to attend events and have some much-needed social activity. They are a valuable resource to the MCL and we need to make them welcome to our events and activities. Help them to honor their loved one by joining in his/her memory.

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### **Annual IRS 990-N**

Adjutant-Paymasters: Please Note! It is time for most Detachments to file their IRS 990-N electronically. Only a few detachments are on a calendar year schedule – most are on a Fiscal Year which runs July 1 to June 30 each year. It's a very simple process to go online to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and in the upper righthand corner under the search feature, enter 990N to access the instructions and online form. There is no fee for this submission, but there is a deadline and if you miss it 3 years in a row, you'll lose your tax-exempt status and it could cost you as much as \$600 to be reinstated. All you need to do is log in, answer a couple of questions, submit your 990-n and print the draft confirmation. After an hour or 2 you can print the page that says your 990-n was accepted; please send me a copy of your confirmation and/or acceptance page. You can email it to [pattileib024@gmail.com](mailto:pattileib024@gmail.com) or you can mail a printed copy to my PO box: Patti Leib, Adjutant-Paymaster, Dept. of WV – MCL, PO Box 1224 Athens, OH 45701-1224. If you have trouble or questions, please email or call me at (740) 591-8611 for assistance. Thank you!

## **Professional Development Training**

Sample letter to members about annual dues:

**Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956 Marine Corps  
League  
Department of West Virginia  
P.O. Box 852 Elkins, WV 26241  
304-636-4365**

August 1, 2019

Audie Murphy  
333 Blazing Guns Road Abilene, TX 23456

Dear Audie,

Marine Corps League National HQ has changed the expiration date for all annual dues to August 31 yearly. National will no longer send out dues renewal notices to dues paying members. This change will save National HQ over \$70,000 in postage and printing fees. Your current dues will expire on August 31, 2019. This is to let you know that you can pay your 2020 dues after August 1 and they will automatically expire on August 31, 2020.

To keep your membership current in the MCL, please send a check for \$26 payable to MCL Detachment 956 and mail it to the above address. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Audie, we thank you for your military service and for being a member of Detachment 956. We want you to remain a member of the Marine Corps League so you can enjoy reading the bimonthly *Semper Fi* magazine and can see what various detachments do within the state and across the nation. There is a special DMV, Marine Corps League license plate that you are eligible to have on your vehicle if you desire. We can send you information on this if you decide you want this plate. There are many Marine Corps units forward deployed aboard our Navy ships and land bases supporting missions around the globe. They have been doing an outstanding job and you can be especially proud that you also served in the greatest fighting force in the world and the Marines of today are still carrying the legacy of the Corps. November 10, 2019, the USMC will celebrate 244 years of being on the tip of the spear and you can be extremely proud that you were part of this. Please pay your dues so we can continue keeping you in good standing in our detachment. Our detachment meetings are the fourth Monday of every month at 6 PM at the American Legion Post 29 in Elkins. Our detachment is hosting the Department Convention in Elkins, WV May 16-18, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Express and American Legion Post 29. Come join us, meet some Marines from throughout the state and bring your ideas and thoughts.

Semper Fidelis, Roger Ware  
Commandant, Det 956

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### **Detachment Administration**

Desktop Procedures - Detachments need to maintain copies of National, Department and their own Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. In addition, the following is a guideline for other administrative reports, files and related correspondence that should be maintained for reference.

- Detachment Bylaws
- Department Bylaws with current changes
- National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures with current changes
- Guidebook for Detachment Officers
- Marine Corps League Ritual Charter
- Articles of Incorporation
- Permanent Business Certification - Business License

West Virginia requires Detachments to have a business license. Effective 2010 all license renewals were issued a permanent license. All non-profit corporations have no fee for their business licenses, although the Annual Corporation Report has a fee of \$26 per year and is due No Later Than June 30<sup>th</sup> each year!! If you file even one day late, you will incur a \$25 late fee. If your business license has expired and you have not renewed it, contact the WV State Tax Department at 1-800-982-8297 and a renewal form will be mailed to your detachment so you can receive a Permanent Business Certificate. Ensure you have this permanent business license with you anytime you conduct a raffle or a fund raiser. Suggest making a copy of it and covering in a plastic frame or laminate it, and keep your original in your detachment files.

Detachment Filing Procedures (yearly accounts) - Files should be set up according to years. Retain all pertinent files and reports into your yearly folder or large envelope. Example: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019... These should include: IRS 990 N, Annual Corporate Report, Insurance policy, Financial audits, Property inventory, and Rifle inventory (If you have weapons).

Due to annual files becoming pretty large, you can maintain the Paymaster Reports, Bank Account Statements, Detachment Meeting Minutes, and Annual & Quarterly Reports to the Department, in another file folder or large envelope, again, organized by year. Keep all of these records in a safe, dry location, preferably in a fire proof file cabinet or even a large safe.

Detachment Property Inventory - Should be performed prior to Officer Installation yearly to account for all detachment property.

Financial Records should include:

- (1) Bank Statements
- (2) Financial Audit - annual
- (3) Paymaster Reports
- (4) Dues Transmittals
- (5) Transfers
- (6) Paid Life Member Audits
- (7) Quarterly Rosters

Detachment Meeting Minutes - Should be maintained for reference and for any audit from state or IRS as your fund-raising events, donations, and detachment administrative activities are documented.

The Detachment will meet for regular meetings on a scheduled basis on the same day and same time once monthly or as necessary as ordered by the Commandant at a place to be designated. All members will be informed of the meeting date, time and location. Special meetings may be called by the Commandant or by the Board of Trustees upon reasonable notice to the members thereof.

**\*\*It is advisable** to also keep copies of all your Detachment documents on a couple of flash drives, and share them with your Commandant and maybe your Web Sgt or Sr. Vice, updating them quarterly or at least semi-annually. It's best to have this as back up in case of fire or flood or some other problem that could damage or destroy your hard copy files. Keep the flash drives in different locations rather than with your paper files.

### **Detachment Meetings**

The Detachment Commandant is in charge of all meetings and must maintain control of those meetings. Members are reminded that they took an oath to bring no harm to any of the members and that they would follow and obey the rules of the League. All guests including Department, Division or National officers while attending a detachment meeting also follow the same rules as the Detachment Commandant is in charge of his meeting room and has the authority to have the Sgt-at-Arms remove any disgruntled or unruly member from the meeting.

The opening and closing ceremonies will follow the Ritual provided by National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League. The Bible, national insignia, Charter and gavel will always be present. A minimum number of members required to transact the regular and legal business of the Detachment is a quorum. The majority vote of those members present is required to approve general business. Officer meetings require no less than three to conduct business.

The Commandant will have an agenda that indicates the occurring events and reports. The business meeting will be concise, and will serve to inform members of Detachment activities and affairs, and solicit member ideas, information, and response to activities and reports. The meeting will allow time for introduction of guests and new members, induction of new members, and time to welcome new members and introduce all the members. Membership meetings are where members can respectfully voice their thoughts or opinions so any potential conflicts can be calmly and professionally discussed and settled by the members.

The Detachment is a corporate entity and must be run like a business entity with minutes taken to comply with corporate laws. Copies of minutes from all meetings will be kept in the Detachment's permanent files and copies will be sent to the Department Commandant and Department Adjutant. Members through their action and/or verbiage will not do anything detrimental to the good order of a meeting. Committees will meet at time and place deemed necessary and nonmembers will be excluded from meetings when conducting official business.

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### **VA MISSION Act: Answers to the top five questions about Urgent Care**

**Urgent Care** is one of the new benefits offered as part of the VA MISSION Act that gives Veterans greater choice in their health care. This benefit is offered in addition to the opportunity to receive care from a VA provider, as VA also offers same-day services. We are working to ensure Veterans understand how to use the new Urgent Care benefit as part of VA's comprehensive benefits package. **In this article, we answer some common questions about the new Urgent Care benefit.**

1. **What is Urgent Care?** Urgent Care is a type of walk-in health care for situations where you need help but don't have an emergency, such as colds, ear infections, minor injuries, pink eye, skin infections, and strep throat.
2. **Why are there different Urgent Care locations?** There are two types of Urgent Care network locations: Retail and Urgent.
  - Retail Care locations such as CVS or Walgreens are places where you can get care for minor ailments like a sore throat or earache.
  - Urgent Care locations provide more comprehensive walk-in care for illnesses or injuries that are not life-threatening, like splinting, casting, lacerations, or wound treatment.

Both Retail Care and Urgent Care locations are staffed with healthcare professionals who are licensed and credentialed.

3. **Are there Urgent Care providers near me?** VA launched the Urgent Care benefit on June 6, 2019, and we are working to expand our network of Urgent Care providers, adding more every week. Urgent Care providers are vetted and must meet strict standards of care and other requirements before they are added to VA's network. To find a location, use the VA facility locator at <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>. Select the link entitled "Find VA approved Urgent Care locations and pharmacies near you". If you arrive at an Urgent Care network location and have difficulty receiving care, call 866-620-2071 for assistance and more information.
4. **How do I get prescription medication with the Urgent Care benefit?** You can get up to a 14-day supply of prescription medication through VA, a VA-contracted pharmacy, or a non-contracted pharmacy. If you choose to fill an Urgent Care prescription at a non-contracted pharmacy, you will be required to pay for the prescription when you pick it up and then file a claim for reimbursement at your local VA medical facility. Prescription medication for longer than a 14-day supply must be filled by a VA pharmacy.
5. **Do I have to make co-payments for Urgent Care?** Co-payments for Urgent Care depend on your assigned priority group and the number of times you visit any Urgent Care provider in a calendar year. Urgent Care co-payments are not charged when you receive care from an Urgent Care provider, but are billed separately by the VA.

**For additional information about the VA MISSION Act, visit <https://missionact.va.gov/>**



## **Purple Heart Award: What It Is and Why It Is Awarded**

The Purple Heart is a US military decoration awarded to those wounded or killed while serving, on or after April 5, 1917, with the US military. With its forerunner, the Badge of Military Merit, which took the form of a heart made of purple cloth, the Purple Heart is the oldest military award still given to U.S. military members. The original Purple Heart (i.e. Badge of Military Merit) was established by George Washington – then the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army – on August 7, 1782. The Badge of Military Merit was only awarded to three Revolutionary War soldiers by General George Washington himself. General Washington authorized his subordinate officers to issue Badges of Merit as appropriate. From then on, as its legend grew, so did its appearance. Although never abolished, the award of the badge was not proposed again officially until after WWI.

Today the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces of the US who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the US Armed Services after April 5, 1917, has been wounded or killed. Specific examples of services which warrant the Purple Heart include:

- a) Any action against an enemy of the United States;
- b) Any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States are or have been engaged;
- c) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party;
- d) As a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces;
- e) As a result of an act of any hostile foreign force.

The Purple Heart differs from most other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria. A Purple Heart is awarded for the first wound suffered under conditions indicated above, but for each subsequent award an oak leaf cluster or 5/16-inch star (device) is worn in lieu of another medal. Not more than one award will be made for more than one wound or injury received at the same instant.

A "wound" is defined as an injury to any part of the body from an outside force or agent sustained under one or more of the conditions listed above. A physical lesion is not required; however, the wound for which the award is made must have required treatment by a medical officer and records of medical treatment for wounds or injuries received in action must have been made a matter of official record. When contemplating an award of this decoration, the key issue that commanders must take into consideration is the degree to which the enemy caused the injury. The fact that the proposed recipient was participating in direct or indirect combat operations is a necessary prerequisite but is not sole justification for award. The Purple Heart is not awarded for non-combat injuries.

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## **-VA Income Limits: Calculating Income for Benefit's Eligibility**

What some veterans and family members don't know is that all non-reimbursed medical costs are deductible in calculating their income. For example, for veterans who served during wartime and later became disabled and require aid either at home or in an institution, the VA can provide a pension supplement to bring net annual income up to \$20,795 for a single veteran or \$24,652 for a veteran and spouse.

**Non-Service-Connected Pension:** If you are a veteran who is 65 years-old and older, or permanently and totally disabled you may be eligible for the VA Non-Service-Connected Disability Pension (NSC). The VA NSC pension is a program that provides financial support to wartime veterans with a limited income. The amount payable under this program depends on the type and amount of income the veteran and his/her family members receive from other sources. Monthly payments are made to bring a veteran's total annual income (including other retirement and Social Security income) to an established level.

You may be eligible for the NSC pension if you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable

conditions, and you served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time\*, and your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law, and you are permanently and totally disabled, OR you are age 65 or older. See a Veterans Service Officer for more details.

\*Note: Anyone who enlists after September 7, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Service from August 2, 1990 to present is considered to be a period of war (Gulf War) in addition to other periods of war such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Calculating Survivors Pension You may be able to get this benefit if you haven't remarried after the Veteran's death, if the deceased Veteran didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, and if the Veteran's service meets at least one of the requirements listed below.

\*\*At least one of these must be true. The Veteran: 1) Entered active duty on or before September 7, 1980, and served at least 90 days on active military service, with at least 1 day during a wartime period, or 2) Entered active duty after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least 1 day during a wartime period or 3) Was an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months

\*\*\*And this must be true for you: Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth equals the value of everything you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe.

As of DEC 2018: the maximum survivor's pension (assuming you had no income) you could receive is \$9,078 without any children and \$11,881 with one child. Your net worth cannot exceed \$127,061. Unsuspecting survivors often experience shock and disappointment when they realize how much money the VA Survivor Pension actually pays

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### **VA Agent Orange Claims: VA's Plan to Provide Benefits to Those Eligible**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to process Agent Orange exposure claims for "Blue Water Navy" Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. These Veterans may be eligible for presumption of herbicide exposure through Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, which was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020.

They may also qualify for a presumption of service connection if they have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure. The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed. "VA is dedicated to ensuring that all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We are working to ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water Veteran community and minimize the impact on all Veterans filing for disability compensation."

Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit disability compensation claims for conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Veterans over age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing. Veterans who previously were denied for an Agent Orange related presumptive condition can file a new claim based on the change in law. Eligible survivors of deceased Blue Water Navy Veterans also may benefit from the new law and may file claims for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

The new law affects Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, as defined in Public Law 116-23. An estimated 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam- era Veterans may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans. To qualify, under the new law, these Veterans must have a disease associated with herbicide exposure, as listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e). Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis Chloracne or similar acne form disease,



- Chronic B-cell leukemias,
- Diabetes mellitus Type 2,
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease,
- Ischemic heart disease,
- Multiple myeloma Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma,
- Parkinson's disease,
- Peripheral neuropathy,
- early-onset Porphyria cutanea tarda,
- Prostate cancer,
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea), and
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma).

For more information about Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam waters (Blue Water Navy Veterans), visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-Vietnam>.

Veterans seeking more information should contact their Veterans Service Officer, call VA's toll-free number at 800827-1000 or visit the VA Blue Water Navy Agent Orange website

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### **CHAMP-VA Recipients Can Now Get Prescriptions Online from the VA**

If you are a CHAMPVA recipient, you can now get your prescriptions refilled via the VA's HealtheVet website.

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a health benefits program in which the VA pays part of the cost of certain health care services and supplies. The program is available to:

The spouse or child of a veteran who has been rated permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected disability by the VA.

- 1.The surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died from a VA-rated service- connected disability.
- 2.The surviving spouse or child of a veteran who was rated permanently and totally disabled at the time of death.
- 3.The surviving spouse or child of a military member who died in the line of duty, not due to misconduct. (In most of these cases, these family members are eligible for Tricare, not CHAMPVA.)

Like most insurance plans, you can get your prescriptions filled at a local pharmacy or through the provider's mail-order pharmacy. Effective immediately, CHAMPVA recipients can also use the My HealtheVet site in addition to the other two options.

Using HealtheVet adds a level of convenience to filling and renewing prescriptions. You are able to refill, review and track your prescriptions online using your computer or smart phone. You also have a record of all medications you are taking available at your fingertips. You can still get your urgent medications filled at your local pharmacy, but getting long- term or maintenance medications via the My HealtheVet website is faster and easier than using the mail-order pharmacy.



Department Chief of Staff Roger Ware and Department Sgt-at-Arms Greg Irwin stand beside a sign naming a bridge in Adolph, WV that was dedicated on Saturday, July 27, 2019 in memory of Spec 5 Garry Monzel "Michael" Shannon who was killed in Vietnam.

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## Frank Mathers, Mideast Adjutant

New West Virginia military operations center named for WWII Medal of Honor recipient

By: The Associated Press: Hershel "Woody" Williams speaks during a hangar dedication ceremony at the Capital Jet Center in Charleston, W.Va., July 26, 2019. (Staff Sgt. William Holdaway, Marine Corps)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Officials at the Charleston, West Virginia, airport have unveiled a new armed forces operations center named after the state's last surviving Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipient from World War II. The 2,000-square-foot facility at Yeager Airport was named in honor of Barboursville resident Hershel "Woody" Williams on Friday. Williams was awarded his medal for heroic actions at Iwo Jima in 1945. The Herald-Dispatch reports that Williams wiped tears from his eyes during the dedication as he learned of the surprise gesture. The Woody Williams Military Flight Operations Center is on the grounds of Yeager's general aviation area. It will be used for training missions in the area. Airport Assistant Director Nick Keller told the paper 67 military units have based training operations or make fueling stops at Yeager.

Additionally:

### **Q&A with Marine flame-throwing war hero on ship naming, his new mission**

By: Matthew L. Schehl      January 24, 2016

Hershel "Woody" Williams, Marine survivor from the battle of Iwo Jima and the last living Medal of Honor recipient for his actions during the battle, poses for a photo during the Iwo Jima Battle Survivors and Family Association 70th anniversary reunion at Wichita Falls, Texas, February 14, 2015. Williams has started the

Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, which encourages, with the assistance of the American public and community leaders, establishing permanent gold star family memorial monuments in their communities throughout the United States to honor gold star families who have sacrificed a loved one in the service of their country.

The last surviving Marine Medal of Honor recipient from the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima is about to have a Navy ship named for him. And while the ship will enable Marines and sailors to carry out new missions around the world, Hershel "Woody" Williams is setting out to complete one of his own — to get a Gold Star monument built in all 50 states.

Williams will become the namesake of the Navy's newest expeditionary-sea-base ship, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus formally announced at a ceremony in Charleston, West Virginia, earlier this month.

The Navy named the vessel, slated for delivery in 2018, for the 92-year-old war hero at the prompting of Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and after an 18-year campaign by Ron Wroblewski, president of the West Virginia Marine Corps Coordinating Council.

On Feb. 23, 1945, over a four-hour period in the struggle for the 8 square mile island, Williams took out a network of enemy defensive positions holding up his 3rd Marine Division's advance — with a flamethrower. President Harry S. Truman personally awarded Williams the nation's highest military honor on Oct. 5, 1945, for his valor above and beyond the call of duty.

"Quick to volunteer his services when our tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through a network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines and black, volcanic sands, Corporal Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine-gun fire from the unyielding positions," his Medal of Honor citation reads.

Williams continued to serve in the Marines after the war until 1963, when he retired as a chief warrant officer four. He then continued in public service for a further 35 years with the Veterans Affairs Administration. In 2012, he established the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, a charitable non-profit through which he is seeking to establish Gold Star Family memorials in all 50 states to honor the families of the fallen.

Marine Corps Times recently caught up with Williams to talk about that mission, and how he hopes his legacy will continue to live on through sailors and Marines aboard the new vessel named for him.

Q. What does it mean to have a ship named after you?

A. Well, others made it possible for it to be named for me. Secretary Mabus asked me the same thing. When you name something after someone, it means they're dead. They named it for me. I'm still living, and I'm not going anywhere.

Why would I, as a country boy from West Virginia, have a U.S. Navy ship named after me? The only reason is that others made it possible.

So I accept it as an honor on their behalf, not mine; it makes me very humble. I'm still trying to comprehend its meaning to my family to have my name on it. There's no way I could ever adequately express appreciation for what this country has done on my behalf.

Q. How do you hope this will help carry forward your legacy?

A. I'm not a predictor of the future, except for years there might be those who inquire and wonder who this ship is named after. Who was it that merited this honor? What's his story? I don't know the answer.

Q. Why did your senator push for this to happen?

A. First, you have to remember the name of the Marine Ronald Wroblewski, a Vietnam veteran who started this project in 1997. He had been through Norfolk and saw a ship being named after a Medal of Honor recipient. He knew there was a Medal of Honor recipient living back home in West Virginia, so why not do it for a living one?

I told him, "I'm not dead, so stop wasting your time." But he didn't, and by 2005 or 2006 he had submitted some 70,000 documents — signatures, resolutions, and the like — to the U.S. Navy. The Navy said it was the largest file they ever had to name a ship after someone.

My grandson, Brent Casey, a Desert Storm veteran, was familiar with what Wroblewski was doing. We went to Iwo Jima for the 70th anniversary of the battle. Secretary Mabus was there so Brent asked him about it. Secretary Mabus looked into it and said the reason nothing ever happened was there was no ship to name and no authority to name one after someone living. Brent then asked Senator Manchin about it and he agreed to send a letter to Secretary Mabus, who worked to change the rules so a ship could be named for someone living.

Q. You're now working to establish Gold Star family memorials in all 50 states. Why is that such an important project for you?

A. Many Gold Star families have never been recognized. People don't really know what a "Gold Star Dad" is. We as a country have done a pretty good job recognizing Gold Star Mothers, but other family members haven't always been recognized.

When you lose a family member, everyone pays a price, everyone grieves. For many of them, these memorials are the first time in many years anyone has ever said, "Thank you for sacrifice you made when you lost a loved one."

Q. What is the goal of that project?

A. We set up the foundation in 2012 with the idea of having a memorial in each state. In 2013, we had the first dedication in West Virginia, the first in the U.S.

We needed a specific goal for the foundation, so we decided to try to have at least one in every state. We changed the wording to at least one so there'd be no limitations. Now in West Virginia we have three; Kentucky will have three and California, Texas and Ohio will have two.

The goal: Whatever it takes for our communities to be able to honor our Gold Star families, that's what they should do. There are about eight completed memorials in six states and 18 more memorials at different stages of completion.

Q. Today's generation of Marines still read your Medal of Honor citation and learn about what you did that day so many decades ago. What do you recall most about the day you earned your MOH?

A. I can't say with certainty that one moment stands out above the rest, but if I had to choose, it was the moment the Japanese came charging out of their pillbox with their rifles, with bayonets fixed, toward me.

Fortunately, I still had fuel in the flamethrower and was able to get the igniter to work to set the fuel on fire. I just got them before they got me.

Q. What do you hope young Marines take away when they read that citation and hear about your story?

A. The best advice I'd give is to pay attention to every detail, because you never know what the circumstances will be that your life will depend on something you thought at the moment would never impact you.

Learn everything about your job so you'll be prepared should the unexpected happen.

On Feb. 23, 1945, it wasn't my job to know how a flamethrower works. My job was to make sure those guys had the gear and fuel they needed. But when it got around to me, there was no one left and I had to do it. That couldn't have been planned, but if I didn't know how to work it, I wouldn't be here talking with you today.

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2019/07/29/new-west-virginia-military-operations-center-named-for-wwii-medal-of-honor-recipient/>

## **Bravo Zulu Woody!**

**Semper Fidelis,**

**Frank Mathers, Adjutant**

**Mideast Division**

**Marine Corps League**

**P.O. Box 903**

**Ocean View, DE 19970**

[mclmideastadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:mclmideastadjutant@gmail.com)

<http://www.mclmideast.com/>





During the 2019 Marine Corps League Mideast Division Conference held in Princeton, WV, a donation challenge for the Hershel “Woody” Williams Medal of Honor Foundation was announced during the banquet to all Marine Corps League members and guests in attendance that evening. A grand total of \$1,550.00 was collected. 2019 MED MOY Rick Shank presented MOH Hershel’ Woody” Williams with the check on behalf of the Mideast Division in Huntington, WV on July 29, 2019.



## The Herald-Dispatch Huntington man named "Marine of the Year" by WV Marine Corps League

The Herald-Dispatch Jul 8, 2019

MORGANTOWN — At the Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League 2019 State Convention in Morgantown, Denny Wood was awarded the "Marine of the Year" (MOY).

The event took place in May and honored Wood, who is a life member from Huntington and belongs to the Marine Corps League (MCL) detachment 340 in Huntington.

This award is presented to a member demonstrating outstanding performance and dedication above and beyond expectations of the principles of the MCL, the department said an announcement about the award.

"Marine Wood is being recognized for his contributions and unselfish dedication for military and civic activities involving memorial and remembrance services for veterans and their families," the announcement said.

Wood has held, and is holding, multiple elected and appointed offices in his detachment and the department.

Some of Marine Woods' accomplishments in the league are:

- \* Member of the MCL for 18 years
- \* MCL Distinguished Citizen Gold awarded 2017
- \* Detachment Final Salute Chairman 16 years
- \* Detachment MOY 2013
- \* Legion of Honor Award Chapel of Four Chaplains 2014
- \* Dept. of WV Dist. Citizen Silver 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- \* Detachment 340 Sgt. At Arms 10 years
- \* Detachment Chief of Staff 4 years
- \* Detachment Commandant 2 years
- \* Detachment Recruiter of the year 5 years
- \* Department Awards Committee Chairman 4 years
- \* Department Sgt-At-Arms 2 years
- \* Department Pistol Raffle Chairman 4 years



Wood is active in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs and has served two years as Pound Keeper of Minutemen Pound 215 WV Pack and has received the Pack and Pound Dog of the Year awards.

The Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League is an all-volunteer Marine Veterans Organization and has been active in the state since 1947. There are currently 13 Detachments and more than 800 members in West Virginia.

Some of the many programs they support include WV Legislative Programs supporting Veterans rights and benefits, Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services, the Dept. of WV MCL Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Fund, Toys-For-Tots and the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Foundation.

Detachments support one another as well as other VSO's in Veteran and Community based programs and events. It is not unusual to see a Marine Corps League Color Guard or Honor Guard detail in their red blazers at various events in the community.

For information on the Dept. of WV Marine Corps League, visit [mcleaguedeptofwv.org](http://mcleaguedeptofwv.org)

*(Pictured: MED 2019 MOY Denny Wood, Past Commandant Rick Shank, MOH Woody Williams and Past JPNVC Mike McLain)*





MOH Woody Williams at Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, to formally place Medal of Honor and Gold Star Family grave markers



Revealed Medal of Honor grave stone for Darwin Kyle



New MOH grave stone (covered) for MOH Darwin Kyle



First Gold Star Family member grave stone designed for Betty Kyle, wife of MOH Darwin Kyle



2019 Mideast Division Conference, Princeton WV



The Chosen MED Marine of the Year, Rick Shank





## Around the State...



Swearing in New Officers for Det 947 S Charleston



Passing the Gavel to Det 947 Commandant Al Lipscomb



Dept. Commandant Kirby swearing in Det 947 Officers



Certificate of Appreciation for MED Conference: Patty Hamilton, Paymaster, Host Detachment 957 Princeton



Guest Speaker Woody Williams, Mideast Division 2019 Conference, Princeton, WV business meeting June 22



## Mideast Division 2019 Conference, Princeton, WV



MED NVC Roger Ware at the Beirut Bombing Memorial



Dept of WV JVC Jerry Bain, Past Commandant Rick Shank, MED NVC Roger Ware & Dept of WV Sr Vice Jim Doss at the Beirut Memorial, Princeton, WV



MED Adj-Paymaster Frank Mathers, ANVC Roger Ware, Dept of WV Commandant Scott Kirby ready for Flag raising, MED Conference, Princeton WV



MED 2019 Conference – National Officers



Awards to Department of WV Officers



Leaning or Learning??



When the Marines Landed... the hotel looked fine!!  
Then the fun began...



But when we left, it was another story...!



## Pending Calendar

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](http://www.mclnationalconvention2019).

2019 Department of WV: Fall Quarterly Meeting - September 14, 2019 hosted by Danny M. Greene Det. 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 Quarterly Meeting: will be January 4, 2020 hosted by MGM Det. 1180 at the 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. Complimentary High-Speed Internet. 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. 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](mailto: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 Mideast Division Conference: will be June 19-21, 2020 hosted by Dept of Virginia at Holiday Inn, 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia 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 making your reservations 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. **Reservation open on Monday August 12, 2019 at 10 AM EST.**



**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**



**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](mailto: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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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\$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