



The Straight Scoop

Department Newsletter of the
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 1224
Athens, OH 45701-1224



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COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains and Associate Members. I hope this finds you well. This is my final Straight Scoop article as your Commandant. As I write this, I cannot help but reflect on the last 2 ½ years. What a mixed bag of things the Department had to deal with for the last couple of years. Some of these things had never happened before. We had the Marine Corps trademark issue when we had to change the design of our Marine Corps League license plate. We had too many hearing boards over that time period. Nobody wants to go through this but in these cases, they were very necessary. One of which we had to involve the local authorities. We had to close a detachment and suspend the charter of another detachment (who is now operational again). And who could forget COVID19? Something that we are still dealing with. We've had to hold detachment elections via conference call. Some detachments are even holding their monthly meetings telephonically.

We got to do a lot of good things as well. We stood up 2 brand new detachments in WV. Beckley and Hurricane detachments made 14 detachments in the Department of WV. The first time in 14 years that the Department stood up a new detachment. We started the Department Challenge coin program as well. There are so many things for the members of the Department to be proud of.

The things that I am proud of are, that when all the dust settled, we continued to move forward. I am proud of all the members of the Department for not giving up, but continuing to march. I have made a lot of friends over the past couple of years. I want to thank my Staff for all of their support and dedication to our vision for the Department. I want to especially thank the following... my Adjutant/Paymaster Patti Leib. Without her keeping things administratively sound we would have been in big trouble. Rick Shank, Mike McLain and Roger Ware, without the mentorship of these Marines I would have been lost. I also want to thank the SR. Vice and Judge Advocate for all of their hard work assisting Detachment Commandants when there were issues.

In closing, I ask that you keep taking care of each other and continue to grow our Department. I look forward to supporting the new Commandant and his Staff and will be available to assist any Detachment that needs help. It has been a pleasure serving you as your Commandant.

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

Dear Lord,

I don't know who or what will cross my path today. But I do know that You are my Rock and my Fortress. You are my Shield and my Strong Tower. Help me to anchor myself to You today. Teach me how to stand strong in You and choose only Your way today. Help me walk by Your truth and not my feelings. Help me to embrace anything that comes my way as an opportunity to see You at work and as an opportunity to point others to You. Thank You that You love me and nothing can ever take that away from me! Even if I fail today and fall short, You whisper Your unconditional love deep into my soul and remind me that Your mercies are new every morning.

That truly amazes me, Lord. Thank You for meeting with me today. Would You wake me again tomorrow with the same sweet whisper of Your love? I can't wait to meet with You again.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Department of WV MCL Detachment Commandant's Report

2020 Department of WV Regular Meeting will be held on September 12, 2020 hosted by Wood County Detachment 1087 in Parkersburg, WV at the VFV Post 1212, 1630 Garfield Lane, Parkersburg, WV 26101. Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

The uniform code has been modified for the department regular meetings as members can wear polo shirts and black trousers, with fore and aft cover.

Department Regular Meeting Reports Jan 4, 2020 to Sept. 12, 2020. Detachment Commandants. The Dept. of WV requests that each detachment Commandant or appointed representative attend the department regular meeting to submit their detachment report. In the event that attendance by your detachment is not possible, please contact the Department Commandant to be excused and mail or email a copy of your report to the Dept. Adjutant/Paymaster Patti Leib before the date of the regular meeting. Bring 1 copy of your detachment report and give to the Dept. Adjutant/Paymaster.

No oral reports will be given as all will be submitted to Dept Adjutant Patti Leib for file. Use the following when submitting your reports:

Administration:

Have you elected your officers and submitted the ROI? Note Date filed

Have your annual audit and property inventory been completed and submitted? Have you submitted your IRS 990 N efile? Note Date filed

Have you completed your Annual Corporate Report to the Secretary of State? Note Date filed.

Have you completed your PLM (Paid Life Member) audit and sent to the Dept?

Membership and Retention Team:

List number of paid life members: paid members: total paid: and total unpaid as of Sept 1, 2020

Do you have a roster of every member that includes mailing address, phone number, date of birth, and email address? Do you have an accurate data base for all members?

Does your detachment's MRT report membership totals in your business meetings & list the unpaid members?

How do they contact the unpaid members? How often do they contact all members?

How many new members have joined your detachment since Jan 4, 2020? Has each new member been assigned a mentor?

What recruiting events has the detachment conducted since Jan 4, 2020?

Do you send your monthly meeting minutes to those members who do not attend meetings and to the Dept Adjutant?

Professional Development Training:

Is your detachment implementing Professional Development Training into your membership? Are you using the Guidebook for Det. Officers, Dept. DVD training disc to assist in training? What PDT classes have been conducted in your detachment meetings since Jan 4, 2020. What type of training would you like for the dept to conduct during the Dept Convention?

Chaplain's Report:

List deceased members from Jan 4, to Sept 12, 2020. Have death notices for these members been filed by your detachment Chaplain and forwarded to the Dept. Chaplain?

Detachment Awards:

How do you recognize your members? How many members have the Chapel of Four Chaplains award?

Dept Convention and Mideast Division Conference

How many members are considering attending to support the Dept Convention in Elkins in 2021?

Can you obtain auction items?

Americanism and Civic Events:

Summarize your most important activities or significant events.

Detachment Commandants additional Comments:

In this section of your report the Det Commandant can make any comments, requests and or suggestions to the Dept. of WV Staff.

MCL Honor Guard Report

Detachments, please submit your reports for the following directly to Department Adjutant Patti Leib so they will be compiled and forwarded to the Mideast Division Adjutant.

I'm John Clickener, Chair of our National MCL Honor Guard Committee and I'm requesting your assistance in collecting data of Honor Guard and Color Guard activities within each of your Divisions. This is essentially the same process that was used by T J Morgan in previous years. I hope to receive the data for your Division's Honor Guards and Color Guards by the end of August.

This could be an aggregating process with each of your Detachments submitting a simple report of the number of their activities/events during Calendar Year 2019:

Honor Guard Funerals_____Ceremonies_____Other Events_____

Color Guard Parades_____Ceremonies_____Other Events_____

This Detachment reports could be aggregated at the Department Level by listing the number of Honor Guards and Color Guards reported by the Detachments as follows:

of Honor Guards_____Funerals_____Ceremonies_____Other Events_____

of Color Guards_____Parades_____Ceremonies_____Other Events_____

Your Department's Aggregated Reports could be further aggregated by your Division Staff and sent to me by email or you may have your Departments send their reports directly to me with a CC to you (or your staff) and I will aggregate the information from Departments. Please ensure that the Division or Department reports are sent by email to:honorguard@mcleague.org or click03@verizon.net.

Thanks in advance for your assistance. Respectfully,

Semper Fi - John

Serving Those Who Served

John R. Clickener, USMC (Ret.) Cell/Text 804 761-3269

2020 Department Fall Quarterly Meeting will be Sept 12, 2020 at 10 AM at VFW Post 1212 Garfield Avenue Parkersburg WV 26101. Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

National Jr Vice Commandant letter on Membership

The following is a suggested letter that I am asking you to send to your Department Junior Vice Commandants who, I hope will send it along to their Detachment Junior Vice Commandants.

Marines,

With our new membership year to begin on 1 September I have some ideas/requests to hopefully let us grow while maintaining those members we already have.

First, let's get the renewal notices out now if you haven't already done so. Go back a couple of years on your roster and send along a notice/letter to those who may not have renewed to remind them we are here and still need their support. Send out a second or even third reminder to those who haven't renewed. Sometimes people put things aside and simply forget.

Colleges and universities have Veterans centers comprised of our new Veteran Marines. This would be a great place to start a new detachment. Upon graduation they may want to stay in that detachment or move into a detachment close to their new life. There will always be new freshmen Veterans coming in to continue the school's detachment.

Just for consideration, when a new member is initiated give them something as a welcoming gift. It could be a cover or something as simple as a letter indicating we are pleased that they joined us.

With everyone working together - we will be growing in membership. Thank you for your time and support.
Semper Fi,

Warren Griffin, National Junior Vice Commandant, Marine Corps League

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 membership PLM Audit dated 6/30/20 from National (sent the same time as the Roster). Upon receipt is the best time to do this so it's not forgotten. These are due to be submitted to National before Dec. 31 by the Dept Paymaster. If a detachment does not certify its PLM Audit 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 Audit and verify the PLM members. This is the form that prints Portrait, not landscape, and it has a column on the right that says True/False and one that says TAPS. If the page(s) you are looking at don't contain this information/format, then you are probably viewing the Roster, not the Paid Life Member Audit. The Det. 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 changes have been noted. If a member shows TRUE but has actually passed, then you need to list the date of death under the column labeled TAPS.

This form must also be dated. Make a copy for your files after signing, then forward the original to Department Paymaster Patti Leib. She will send this to the National Adjutant/Paymaster.

You must send this signed roster to Paymaster Leib with enough lead time for her to send it to National and arrive there by Dec. 31. Ref: National Administrative Procedures Section 7055. The interest paid this year to each detachment was \$2.15 per paid member on your roster as of 9/30/18

Annual Dues Expire August 31

Paymasters, it's time to generate and mail a letter to all your dues paying members with a reminder that their dues expire August 31. National does not send out a reminder notice so you have to be proactive and send them one. Be sure to inform them the amount of their dues payment and to make the check payable to your detachment. Most important is to include your mailing address so they know where to send their payment. You need to track all those who pay and a good idea is to use a copy of your last quarterly roster you received from National and just mark paid in the margin beside their name. In addition, if you join new members they should be included on your list. If a member passes away make a notation on the list. If you have any address changes you must make changes on your master list, and send a transmittal to the Dept. Adjutant-Paymaster showing one line with the old address and one line with the new address. Each month you should review your list and make contact with all those who do not pay their dues with your initial mailings.

Professional Development Training

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. 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. We suggest making a copy of it and covering in a plastic frame, 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. Example: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021. These should include: IRS 990 N, Annual Corporate Report, Insurance Policy, Paymaster Reports, Bank Statements, Financial Audits, Property Inventory, Rifle Inventory (If you have weapons), and Detachment Meeting Minutes

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

Financial Records

- (1) Bank Statements
- (2) Financial Audit - annual
- (3) Paymaster Reports
- (4) Dues Transmittals

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.

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 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 a 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 or Ritual 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 introduction of all the members. Membership meetings are where members can voice their thoughts or opinions so any potential conflicts can be 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; copies will be sent to the Department Commandant and Department Adjutant-Paymaster. 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 non-members will be excluded from meetings when conducting official business.

Recruiting Points

We as Marines, all have the honor of belonging to the premier service organization in the world. One of the Marine Corps League's primary responsibility is to not only identify but to recruit new members.

The first point is to create a list of the great things about the Marine Corps League.

Another point is to enlist younger members to join the League; they bring fresh ideas and energy. We want to attract young people who want to get involved. When trying to recruit new members, talk about the League wherever you go, noting work, parties, sporting events, family gatherings, and church to name a few.

There's never a place that's inappropriate to talk about the League. The fear of rejection shouldn't stop current members from seeking out new members. I think that people, even if they are not interested in joining, just appreciate being asked. It's like getting asked to go to a party whether you're going to go or not. There's never a wrong time to ask a potential member to a meeting. You never know when or where you'll meet your next new member.

While speaking to someone about joining the League be sure to emphasize the service aspect of the organization. Being a member provides a pathway to getting involved in the League but also in the community and provides an excellent network to civic projects.

Embracing diversity is another point and be sure to congratulate your new members once they join. Make sure your new members feel wanted and welcome.

IRS 990 -N -e-file - postcard

All detachments MODD Pounds, WV Pack, and Department of WV are required to file an annual IRS 990 N-e-file. It should be filed after your fiscal year ends. For most it is June 30. You can file commencing July 1 but please note: even though you have 5 months to file, do it as soon as possible so it doesn't get overlooked. Below is the information required. Read over the info and then log onto this site to get your 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 email so when you finally get logged into the site and answer all the questions and file, make a copy of what you entered before and after sending. The IRS does not send you a confirmation copy or acceptance. Once you create a user name and password, be sure to write it down. 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 questions, copy off what you entered. After filing, wait for about an hour and log back into the site to see if the IRS accepted your file. Copy off the IRS acceptance and send a copy to the Department Paymaster and or Dog Robber

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.

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.

DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Dear Officers & Chairmen:

As we draw close to the Election and Installation of new Department Officers, and in accordance with Department Bylaws, I need each of you to submit an Inventory of All Department Property that is in your possession. This includes Department copies of Bylaws, Equipment such as our Flags and Flag Cases, Name Plates, the Traveling Plaque, Tables, Flash Drives of Records, Challenge Coins - everything that belongs to the Department of West Virginia. You may be retaining your position in the coming year, or you may be surrendering it to the new Officer who will assume that position; either way, a complete inventory must be submitted to me to account for all Department Property.

Please submit your inventory one week prior to the Department Quarterly Meeting in Parkersburg Sept. 12th. You may send a hard copy to my home address, or email it to Ronald.krby@yahoo.com no later than Saturday, September 5th.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt attention to this matter.

Semper Fi
Scott Kirby
Commandant
Department of WV - MCL

Around the State:



Members of Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956 of Elkins recently hosted a bridge renaming ceremony in honor of PFC Dennis Warren Baxter who was KIA on January 26, 1967 on Operation Tuscaloosa while serving with Hotel Company, 2nd Bn 5th Marines in Vietnam. Members from left: Judy Gum – Chaplain, Greg Irwin – Judge Advocate, Ron Bodkin – Sr Vice Commandant, Wayne Starcher – Wood County Detachment 1087 who served in Echo Co, 2nd Bn 5th Marines during Operation Tuscaloosa in 1967 and Roger Ware- Commandant who served with Baxter in Hotel Co, 2nd Bn 5th Marines in Vietnam. Not pictured is Det. 956 Adjutant Judith Ware.



Members of Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956 recently hosted a bridge renaming ceremony in honor of PFC David Henry Shifflet who was KIA May 11, 1969 in Vietnam while serving with 618th Maintenance Company, 62nd Maintenance Battalion, 45th General Support Group, 1st Logistical Command. Members from left; Roger Ware – Commandant, Judy Gum – Chaplain, Greg Irwin – Judge Advocate. Not pictured is Det. 956 Adjutant Judith Ware.



Members of Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956 recently hosted a bridge renaming ceremony in honor of CPL Russell Allen Taylor who was KIA in Vietnam on August 26, 1969 while serving with D CO, 4th Bn, 31ST Infantry, 196TH Infantry Brigade American Division. From left are Det. Commandant Roger Ware, Chaplain Judy Gum and Judge Advocate Greg Irwin. Not pictured is Adjutant Judith Ware.

There is a bridge dedication Saturday September 5, 2020 at 11 a.m at the old Elkins Rite Aid building site on the Beverly 5 Lane near Fordland for a Marine that was KIA in Vietnam in a helicopter crash, LCpl Fred Kerns. We are renaming the Isner Creek Bridge in his honor. Please pass this info to all concerned.

Thanks and Semper Fi,

Roger Ware

Overpass dedicated to fallen soldier

ELKINS — An overpass spanning Laurel Mountain Road near Elkins will be renamed Saturday in memory of a 20-year-old Elkins soldier killed in the line of duty in South Vietnam. The U.S. Army SPEC 4 Roger Dale Griffith Memorial Bridge will be dedicated in a ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at Laurel Mountain Bridge, located on U.S. Route 48, Corridor H, near the Laurel Mountain Road exit.

Griffith served as a light infantry weapons soldier in A Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

He lost his life Jan. 4, 1968, after his platoon was attacked by a large North Vietnamese Army force while on a patrol in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam near the Cambodian border.

During the past legislative session, the West Virginia Legislature approved House Concurrent Resolution No.23 to allow the bridge to be renamed in Griffith's honor.



Members of Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956 recently hosted a bridge renaming ceremony in honor of Spec 4 Roger Dale Griffith who was KIA January 4, 1968 in Vietnam while serving with A Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. Members from left; Judy Gum – Chaplain, Ron Bodkin- Sr Vice Commandant, Roger Ware – Commandant, Greg Irwin – Judge Advocate. Not pictured is Det. 956 Adjutant Judith Ware.



Ray Stith, 100-year old veteran of Point Pleasant, visits with Medal of Honor recipient Hershel Woody Williams on Friday. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



Parade participants fill Birch Avenue in Point Pleasant, honoring 100-year old veteran Ray Stith. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



The parade lineup honoring 100-year old veteran Ray Stith. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



Parade participants fill Birch Avenue in Point Pleasant, honoring 100-year old veteran Ray Stith. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



Hershel Woody Williams, pictured, is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Battle of Iwo Jima. He visited Point Pleasant on Friday to honor a fellow Marine. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



Parade participants fill Birch Avenue in Point Pleasant, honoring 100-year old veteran Ray Stith. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



Veteran Ray Stith is honored by the City of Point Pleasant, represented here by Mayor Brian Billings and City Clerk Amber Tatterson. Also pictured, members of Marine Corps League Mason-Gallia-Meigs Detachment 1180. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



Commissioner Rick Handley honors veteran Ray Stith at his home Friday evening on behalf of the Mason County Commission. Also pictured, members of Marine Corps League Mason-Gallia-Meigs Detachment 1180. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



Medal of Honor recipient Hershel Woody Williams signs a birthday banner for fellow Marine, Ray Stith. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



Fellow Marines Ray Stith and Hershel Woody Williams visit on Friday at Stith's home in Point Pleasant. (Beth Sergent | OVP)



The parade lineup honoring 100-year old veteran Ray Stith. (Beth Sergent | OVP)

POINT PLEASANT, W.Va. — U.S. Marine Corps veteran Ray Stith celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday with a parade, proclamations in his honor and a visit from Medal of Honor recipient, and fellow West Virginian, Hershel “Woody” Williams.

During the parade lineup near Stith's home on Birch Avenue, Williams, who is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Battle of Iwo Jima, spoke to the *Register*, explaining why he felt he needed to attend the celebration.

“Not everybody reaches to be 100 years old and besides, he's a Marine, and we Marines stick together,” Williams said. “So, I felt obligated to come and celebrate this day for him, not with him, but for him.”

When asked about his feelings regarding the importance of honoring veterans, particularly at this point in time, he said,

“Especially right now, we need to get back to more patriotism than we’ve..., well, we’ve lost it,” Williams said. “I think the veterans are the individuals that if we can all come together and begin thinking together, we can have a tremendous influence on the future of this country.”

Lining up behind Williams were motorcycles, cars, trucks, vans, American flags and signs that read “thank you” and “happy birthday.”

Once Williams arrived at Stith’s home, the two visited and shared stories, watching the parade of well-wishers.

Then, following the parade, Stith was presented with proclamations of recognition by representatives from U.S. Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, as well as Congresswoman Carol Miller. Gov. Jim Justice’s Chief of Staff Mike Hall presented Stith with the Distinguished West Virginian Award on behalf of the governor. Mayor Brian Billings and City Clerk Amber Tatterson also



honored Stith with a framed proclamation from the city honoring him as a citizen of Point Pleasant who served his country in WWII.

Commissioner Rick Handley, who played a part in helping organize some of the festivities along with Stith’s brothers in the Marine Corps League Mason-Gallia-Meigs Detachment 1180, presented the veteran with a proclamation honoring him on behalf of the Mason County Commission.

Stith joked it only took him 100 years to receive all this recognition.

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Legion Riders Motorcycle Club, Pt Pleasant



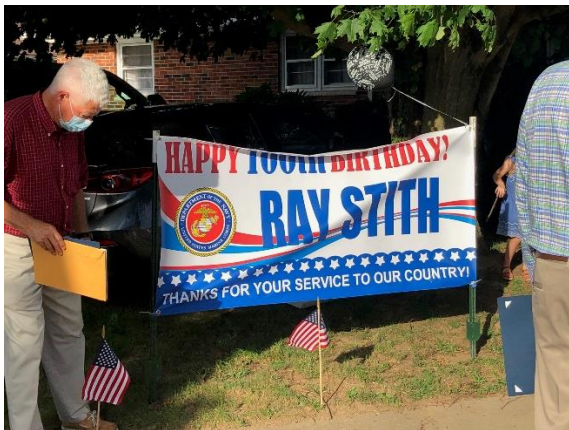
Lining Up



Desk plate with vile of sand from Iwo Jima – one of the gifts to Ray from MGM Det 1180



Another gift to Ray from MGM Det 1180



Sara & William Edwards, MGM Det 1180



Jerry Bain put this all together – Jr Vice Dept of WV and Sr Vice, MGM Det 1180



Ron Wroblewski, MGM Det 1180 COS





Woody Williams left Naval Station Norfolk late last month for its first deployment, which is slated for a focus on operations in U.S. Africa Command, [USNI News recently reported](#).

“In this complex maritime environment, a ship like this enables options to project power with a persistent presence,” Vice Adm. Gene Black, U.S. 6th Fleet commander, said in a statement. “The ship is ideal for missions in this theater as it can readily integrate with the Marines and our allies and partners in many of our operations throughout the region at varying levels of complexity.”

The crew includes both civilian mariners and sailors aboard the ship and is the second in the Lewis B. Puller-class of expeditionary sea-base vessels.

Before leaving Norfolk last month, *Woody Williams* Blue Crew Commanding Officer Capt. David Gray said the crew was prepared to participate in a wide range of missions, including non-combatant evacuations and anti-piracy operations. The ship has the capacity for four helicopters on its flight deck, can launch unmanned assets, and includes command and control systems.

While the Navy has a more limited presence in AFRICOM compared to the other combatant commands, Gray said ahead of the deployment that *Woody Williams*’ presence in the region can help other naval assets like amphibious ships or destroyers focus on higher-end operations.

“We’ve already got a great mission set setup, where we’re going, what we’re going to do and who we’re going to work with. And I tell you, it’s going to be very exciting,” Gray said at the time.

The Navy in March [commissioned](#) *Woody Williams* in Norfolk after [disclosing plans earlier this year](#) to commission all ESB vessels as warships, instead of Military Sealift Command ships eligible for brief warship designations.

Pending Calendar

2020 Department Fall Quarterly Meeting will be Sept 12, 2020 at 10 AM at VFW Post 1212 Garfield Avenue Parkersburg WV 26101. Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

2020 Department of North Carolina Department Convention: The 50th Anniversary Convention date has moved to 25-26 September, 2020 It will still be held at the Hilton Charlotte University Hotel, 8629 J M Keynes Dr., Charlotte, NC 28262. Reservations: 800-445-8667 or 704-547-7444 use Block Code – NCMARI. Hosted by Pfc Bruce Larson Detachment #1242 and Charlotte Detachment #750. MCL rate is \$119 ++ (Regular Rate: \$129 ++ to \$149 ++). Reserve before 8/31/2020. 75 Rooms are blocked until 8/31/2020. Reservations made 9/21 to 9/28 will be guaranteed the MCL rate but the room might not be available if the hotel is filled. MCL rate is in effect for stays between 9/21 and 9/28. Room choice is one King or two Double beds. Breakfast for 2 is included. No charge for parking. **CANCELED**

2020 Modern Day Marine Expo will be Sept 22-24, 2020 at MCB, Quantico, VA. **CANCELED**

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 will be 16, 17, 18 April 2021 hosted by Department of Delaware at 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.** *Reservation 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 Modern Day Marine Expo will be May 4-6, 2021 at MCB, Quantico, VA

2021 Department of West Virginia Department Convention will be May 14-16, 2021 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, 2021. 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 will be a pending flyer which can be used for advance registration, hotel and banquet. There is no pre- registration fee or ad book.

2021 Department of North Carolina Department Convention will be June 11-13, 2021 in Hickory, NC. It will be hosted by Catawba Valley Detachment # 1163

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 Reservations open August 17, 2020. Overflow hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton, 701 E. Adams St, Springfield, IL Phone: (217) 544-8800 Website: doubletree1.hilton.com . Contract rate for MCL starts Aug 31, 2020.

2021 Marine South Expo will be Sept 29-30 at MCB, Camp Lejeune, NC

2022 MCL National Convention will be August 15-20, 2022 at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL, 32118 Phone: 866-536-8477 or 1-800-HILTONS (toll free, 24-hour reservation center); 386-254-8200. Room rate: \$127.00 plus 12.5% tax,

Commandant Scott Kirby would like to thank Governor Jim Justice and the Veteran's Affairs Department of West Virginia for their generosity and support of the Veterans Organizations in our state, and specifically our Detachments, MODD Pounds and Pack, and the Department. We sincerely appreciate the grant monies that are being distributed to each Veteran Organization/Chapter in the state of West Virginia. OooRah!!
