



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



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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY USMC NOV 10, 1775 - 2021 -- 246 YEARS**



**Commandant's Letter - November 2021**

**Welcome to all MCL Members, Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains and Associate Members:**

Its November and many Detachments are having a Marine Corps Ball to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday. If there is one near you don't hesitate- ATTEND. We were born on November 10, 1775, at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This is our 246 Birthday Brothers so celebrate it.

I hope everyone read Octobers Straight Scoop. There was a ton of information in there. A page plus on Professional Development covering required reports that Detachments need to do. Also, a page plus on Duties of Board of Trustees which covers Detachments as well as the Department plus a good article on Recruitment and Retention of members.

Remember veterans will be receiving a 5.9% raise on their check as well as those on social security.

This is the start of the holiday season so we all need to keep in mind not only the joys, but the dangers associated with the time of the year such as dry Christmas trees also icy sidewalks and streets which can result in slips and falls which sometimes can be deadly. We need to check on our veterans and neighbors to insure they are safe and secure and to provide help when and if they need it. Many of our older citizens pass away throughout the winter months because they have no food or heat. We need to check on our veterans in nursing homes as there are always items they need such as personal hygiene/toilet articles and especially heavy socks so

wrap them up as a Christmas package. Many of them have no relatives that visit so visitation especially at this time of the year is welcomed and warms not only their heart but your also.

Remember this is our Birthday month so don't hesitate Celebrate **246 years young.**

**Please keep all members of our Armed Forces in your thoughts and prayers as they serve around the world in harm's way.**

Semper Fi

Jim Doss, Commandant

Department of WV – MCL

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### **HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE**

**Thank you to all our veterans for your service to your country.**

**Chaplain's Corner**

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### **MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE**

On November 1st, 1921, John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, directed that a reminder of the honorable service of the Corps be published by every command, to all Marines throughout the globe, on the Birthday of the Corps. Since that day, Marines have continued to distinguish themselves on many battlefields and foreign shores, in war and peace. On this Birthday of the Corps, therefore, in compliance with the will of the 13th Commandant, Article 38, United States Marine Corps Manual, Edition of 1921, is published as follows:

"(1) On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continent Congress. Since that date, many thousands of men have borne that name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the Birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

(2) The record of our Corps is one which bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war and in the long eras of tranquility at home, generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas so that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

(3) In every battle and skirmish since the Birth of the Corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term "Marine" has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

(4) This high name of distinction and soldierly reput we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the Corps. With it we also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation and has long been the distinguishing mark of Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the Corps."

The inspiring message of our 13<sup>th</sup> Commandant has left its mark in the hearts and minds of all Marines. By deed and act from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima, from Inchon to the Korean Armistice, in interventions from Lebanon to the Dominican Republic, and from the opening battles in Vietnam to the Mayaguez rescue, Marines have continued to epitomize those qualities which are their legacy. The success which they have achieved in combat and the faith they have borne in peace will continue. The Commandant and our many friends have added their hearty praise and congratulations on this, our 246<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**Professional Development Training**



10 November 2021

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS**

On 10 November 1970, Commandant Chapman challenged all Marines, active and inactive, young and old, deployed or recently returned from combat, “not to look back, but instead, to look to the future.” He insisted that we celebrate our anniversary, “not as an end of almost two centuries of dedicated service, but as preparation for new service, new dedication, and new achievement.” Those sage words resonate across time and are as applicable today as they were 51 years ago.

Our Corps holds to traditions that link us to the elite warriors who wore the uniform before us, but the traditions we hand down through the generations go far beyond tangible displays, symbols, or customs. The most important traditions that link us to our past and must be carried into the future are the intangible ones – traditions of courage, trust, discipline, loyalty, respect, perseverance, adaptability, and leadership. Today, 246 years since our warfighting legacy began, we celebrate those traits that have been forged in all Marines – past and present.

The character of Marines, our unwavering commitment and relentless pursuit of excellence, remains unchanged from that of past generations, even as the character of warfare is ever-changing. These changes will require us to do what Marines do best – adapt and innovate to win any battle or respond to any crisis. Just as Marines who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan over these past 20 years adapted to the demands of protracted counterinsurgency operations – which would have been all too familiar to the Marines of 1970 – we will adapt to the demands of the present and future, while learning the hard lessons from our recent past. We can’t know for certain where future battlefields will be, or how our methods of warfighting will be redefined as threats to our Nation evolve, but we can ensure that the Marines who fight those battles will be forged of the same courage, spirit, and warfighting excellence as all Marines before them.

We who serve today represent an unbroken chain that stretches back 246 years. As we mark our anniversary, we remember those who went before us, and as we look over the horizon to “new service, new dedication, and new achievement,” solemnly swear to uphold their example of honor, courage, and commitment.

Happy 246th Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Berger".

David H. Berger

General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
National Headquarters

10 November 2021

From the National Commandant of the Marine Corps League  
246<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Message

Marines, 246 years ago, a Corps of Marines was founded at Tun Tavern, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since 1921 we who are Marines, celebrate the birth of our Corps on 10 November. For the past 246 years, our citizens have called upon and counted on the Marines to do what we do best, to defend American soil and protect the American way of life and freedoms. It is a mission that we all swore an oath to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

The Marine Corps League is a continuation of the esprit de corps that we all enjoyed while serving on active duty or the reserves. This common spirit and patriotism exist in all members of our League. We all share this inspiring enthusiasm, devotion, and strong honor of being a Marine. Within our Marine Corps League membership today, we have the greatest generation of Marines that served during World War II, Korean War, Vietnam, Beirut, Gulf War in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many other areas threatening our American way of life. Marines rose to the occasion then as they do now. America is proud of their Marines and rightfully so.

As Marines, we are extremely proud of our history and our legacy. The Marine Corps League also has its history and legacy and we are just as proud. As each of you celebrates the 246<sup>th</sup> year of the birth of the Marine Corps, I ask that you please remember our legacy and those that served before us. Think about and remember that esprit de corps that made us who we are today, United States Marines. Celebrate the bond that all Marines enjoy. Be proud of your Marine Corps and your Marine Corps League.

So, Happy Birthday Marines. Enjoy your celebrations throughout our country and continue to focus on each other and making our League stronger for all of us to enjoy! If you do not attend a formal celebration on the birth of our Marine Corps, please celebrate this day in your own way. Call a Marine that you haven't heard from in a while and just say, “Happy Birthday Marine!” Stay healthy and take care of one another.

Semper Fidelis,

Johnny Baker  
National Commandant  
Maine Corps League

## Membership Recruiting

Always be on the lookout for indications of whether or not someone is a Marine veteran. Look for bumper stickers or license plates in a parking lot. Are they wearing any veteran apparel as this is a way to determine if they are a Marine Veteran? If so, start a brief conversation, introduce yourself, and ask if you can call the person later when it is most convenient for them. Tell them you would like the opportunity to tell them a little more about the Marine Corps League. It may not always go smoothly, but if you don't put yourself out there, you'll never know. You must quit being afraid of being told no. Always remember to be respectful of the potential member's time. Keep the introductory conversations to a few minutes. There's nothing worse than being pushy because that's when you lose a potential member. Make sure to actually follow up in a timely manner. If you say you are going to call or visit in a few days, be sure to do it.

Here's a few pointers you might be aware of: Be sure to maintain a neat, professional appearance; shake hands; use everyday words when speaking; don't use profanity; Always say thank you; Acknowledge and talk to other individuals who might be with the veteran; put away all vices, such as tobacco products or cell phones; Address potential members as "sir" or "ma'am". Whether you are working a membership booth in a mall or festival or approaching someone in the grocery store parking lot, remember these four basic steps:

**Introduction:** Introduce yourself and make it clear you are with the Marine Corps League because not everyone will know what the MCL stands for.

**Qualification Questions:** Use specific questions to determine if the veteran is qualified to join the MCL.

**Show MCL facts:** Offer brochures and present facts about the MCL to illustrate what the organization does and why it is important for them to join.

**Ask them to join:** If you never ask them to join, they never will. Invite them to a meeting or event so they can see for themselves what we do.

The survivability of the MCL is reliant on good recruiting practices. Being courteous and respectful goes a long way in recruiting. Don't get discouraged and never give up.

## 2022 VA Compensation Rates

	Single	Married
10 %	152.64	
20%	301.74	
30%	467.39	522.466
40%	673.28	747.41
50%	958.44	1,050.57

60%	1,214.03	1,325.22
70%	1,529.95	1,659.15
80%	1,778.43	1,926.69
90%	1,098.52	2,164.70
100%	3,332.06	3,517.84

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### **Non-Service-Connected Pension**

Did you know if you are a veteran who is 65 years-old or older, or permanently and totally disabled you may be eligible for the VA Non-Service-Connected Disability Pension (NSC)? This 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.

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### **VA Accredited Representatives    Disability Claim Assistance**

An accredited representative is an individual who has undergone a formal application and training process and is recognized by VA as being capable of assisting claimants with their affairs before VA. Most accredited representatives work for veteran service organizations (VSOs) many of which are private non-profit groups that advocate on behalf of Veterans, Service members, dependents, and survivors. Accredited representatives may also work for state or county government entities. The accreditation process includes an examination, a background investigation, and continuing education requirements to ensure VSOs are providing the most up-to-date information. Recognized organizations and individuals, whether congressionally chartered VSOs or VA accredited claims agents or attorneys, can legally represent a Veteran, Service member, dependent, or survivor before VA. Non-recognized organizations and individuals can provide information, but cannot be a representative.

What is the role of an accredited representative? A VSO, along with state, county, and other local Veteran service representatives are trained to help you understand and apply for any VA benefits you may be entitled to including: compensation, education, vocational rehabilitation and employment, home loans, life insurance, pension, health care, and burial benefits. Additionally, your VSO can help you gather any evidence needed and submit a Fully Developed Claim on your behalf. Many VSOs provide their services free-of-charge, but they may request reimbursement for unusual expenses.

In addition to assisting Veterans and their families with VA claims, VSOs also sponsor a range of Veteran-centric programs such as providing transportation to and from VA medical center appointments, funds and volunteers for disaster relief, and grants. VSOs also lobby Congress on behalf of issues facing Veterans and help support requests for resources needed by VA to better serve Veterans, their families, and survivors. The VA Office of General Counsel maintains a list of VA-recognized organizations and VA-accredited individuals that are authorized to assist in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of VA benefit claims. For more information is available to veterans at <https://www.va.gov/ogc/accreditation.asp> on how to select a representative, find out who can charge fees relating to representation, file a complaint about your representative, or to dispute a charged by an agent or attorney based on reasonableness.

Fee for Service Unlike VSOs, VA accredited claims agents and attorneys may charge a fee for their services. For more information on what to do if you believe you were charged an unreasonable fee by a claims agent or attorney, see the fact sheet on How to Challenge a Fee at <https://www.va.gov/OGC/docs/Accred/HowtoChallengeaFee.pdf>.

How to find a Representative Online - You can find a local representative including a recognized VSO, attorney, or claims agent by state/territory, zip code, or by the organization's name online using eBenefits at your nearest VA regional benefit office. To find a VSO office located in or near your local regional benefit office, use VA's directory of VSOs <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/varo.asp>.

How to Appoint a VSO or Representative You may appoint an attorney, claim agent, or VSO to represent you or manage your current representative online using eBenefits. You may also appoint a VSO or representative by completing VA Form 21-22, Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative and mailing it to:

Department Of Veterans Affairs, Claims Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444

It is recommended that you first speak to the service organization before you submit your request to VA.

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### **VA Benefits Eligibility Based on Disability Rating**

Take a look at the eligibility matrix below to see what benefits you are eligible for based on your disability rating:

#### **Rating of 0% - 20%**

Certification of Eligibility for home loan guaranty.

Home loan guaranty fee exemption.

VA Priority medical treatment card.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling under Title 38 USC Chapter 31 (must be at least 10%).

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (Maximum of \$10,000 coverage) must file within 2 years from the date of new service connection.

10-point Civil Service preference (10 points added to Civil Service test score).

Clothing allowance for veterans who use or wear a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (artificial limb, braces, wheelchair) or use prescribed medications for skin condition, which tend to wear, tear or soil clothing.

Temporary total evaluation (100%) based on hospitalization for a service-connected disability in excess of 21 days; or surgical treatment for a service-connected disability necessitating at least 1 month of convalescence or immobilization by cast, without surgery of more major joints.

#### **Rating of 30%**

Additional allowance for dependent (spouse, child(ren), stepchild(ren), helpless child(ren), full-time students between the ages of 18 and 23 and parent(s).

Additional allowances for a spouse who is a patient in a nursing home or helpless, blind, or so nearly helpless or blind as to require the regular aid and attendance of another person.

### **Rating of 40%**

Automobile grant and/or special adaptive equipment for an automobile provided there is loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet, loss, or permanent loss of one or both hands or permanent impaired vision in both eyes with central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in better eye.

Special adaptive equipment may also be applied for if there is ankylosis of one or both knees or one or both hips.

### **Rating of 50%**

VA Medical outpatient treatment for any condition except dental.

Preventative health care services.

Hospital care and medical services in non-VA facilities under an authorized fee basis agreement.

### **Rating of 60% - 80%**

Increased compensation (100%) based on Individual Unemployability (IU) (applies to veterans who are unable to obtain or maintain substantially gainful employment due to service-connected disability).

### **Rating of 100%**

Dental treatment.

Department of Defense Commissary privileges.

Veteran's employment preference for spouse.

Waiver of National Service Life Insurance premiums.

National Service Life Insurance total disability income provisions.

Specially adapted housing for veterans who have loss or permanent loss of use of both lower extremities or the loss of blindness in both eyes having light perception only plus loss of use of one lower extremity or the loss or permanent loss of use of one lower extremity with loss or permanent loss of use of one upper extremity or the loss or permanent loss of use of one extremity together with an organic disease which affects the functions of balance and propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes or wheelchair.

Special home adaptation grant (for veterans who don't qualify for Specially Adapted Housing) may be applied for if the veteran is permanently and totally disabled due to blindness in both eyes with visual acuity of 5/200 or less or loss or permanent loss of use of both hands.

### **Rating of 100% (Permanent and Total)**

In Addition to the Above:

Civilian Health and Medical Program for Dependents and Survivors (CHAMPVA). Survivors and dependents education assistance under Title 38 USC Chapter 35.

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**Marine Corps League** is a not-for-profit organization within the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c) (4), with a special group exemption letter which allows for contributions to the Marine Corps League, its Auxiliary and subsidiary units, to be tax deductible by the donor.

[PowerPoint Presentation \(mcleaguelibrary.org\)](http://mcleaguelibrary.org)

To be tax-exempt as a social welfare organization described in Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 501(c)(4), an organization must not be organized for profit and must be operated exclusively to promote social welfare. **The earnings of a section 501(c)(4) organization may not inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. If the organization engages in an excess benefit transaction with a person having substantial influence over the organization, an excise tax may be imposed on the person and any managers agreeing to the transaction.** See [Introduction to IRC 4958](#) [PDF](#) for more information about this excise tax. For a more detailed discussion of the exemption requirements for section 501(c)(4) organizations, see [IRC 501\(c\)\(4\) Organizations](#) [PDF](#).

New legislation enacted at the end of 2015 added Section 506 to the Internal Revenue Code. Section 506 requires an organization to notify the IRS of its intent to operate as a Section 501(c)(4) organization. The IRS has developed a new form – Form 8976 – that organizations should use to provide this notification. For information about applying for exemption, see [Application for Recognition of Exemption](#).

This requirement only applies to organizations intending to operate under Section 501(c)(4). Organizations operating under any other 501(c) section should not file this notice. To be operated exclusively to promote social welfare, an organization must operate primarily to further the common good and general welfare of the people of the community (such as by bringing about civic betterment and social improvements). For example, an organization that restricts the use of its facilities to employees of selected corporations and their guests is primarily benefiting a private group rather than the community and, therefore, does not qualify as a section 501(c)(4) organization. Similarly, an organization formed to represent member-tenants of an apartment complex does not qualify, because its activities benefit the member-tenants and not all tenants in the community, while an organization formed to promote the legal rights of all tenants in a particular community may qualify under section 501(c)(4) as a social welfare organization. An organization is not operated primarily for the promotion of social welfare if its primary activity is operating a social club for the benefit, pleasure or recreation of its members, or is carrying on a business with the general public in a manner similar to organizations operated for profit.

Seeking legislation germane to the organization's programs is a permissible means of attaining social welfare purposes. Thus, a section 501(c)(4) social welfare organization may further its exempt purposes through lobbying as its primary activity without jeopardizing its exempt status. An organization that has lost its section 501(c)(3) status due to substantial attempts to influence legislation may not thereafter qualify as a section 501(c)(4) organization. In addition, a section 501(c)(4) organization that engages in lobbying may be required to either provide notice to its members regarding the percentage of dues paid that are applicable to lobbying activities or pay a proxy tax. For more information, see [Lobbying Issues](#) [PDF](#).

The promotion of social welfare does not include direct or indirect participation or intervention in political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. However, a section 501(c)(4) social welfare organization may engage in some political activities, so long as that is not its primary activity. However, any expenditure it makes for political activities may be subject to tax under section 527(f). For further information regarding political and lobbying activities of section 501(c) organizations, see [Election Year Issues](#) [PDF](#), [Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities of IRC 501\(c\)\(4\), \(c\)\(5\), and \(c\)\(6\) Organizations](#) [PDF](#), and [Revenue Ruling 2004-6](#).

Semper Fidelis/Frater Infinitas,  
Frank Mathers, ANVC MED  
[mclmedanvc@gmail.com](mailto:mclmedanvc@gmail.com)  
<https://www.mclmideast.com>

## Associate Member of the Year

Associate Member of the Year Award Ribbon has been approved at the National, Division, Department and Detachment levels. This change/addition would be for a RIBBON ONLY. **APPROVED WITH "A" IN RIBBON VICE EGA**

Bronze A Device



Department Ribbon with A Device



Detachment  
ribbon  
with A device



Marine Corps League Department of West Virginia Junior Vice Commandant Greg Irwin of Elkins places a wreath and salutes in respect at the Beirut Bombing Memorial on the Randolph County Courthouse lawn in observance of the 38th anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, which claimed the lives of 241 Americans, including USMC Lance Cpl. David L. Cosner of Elkins, who was a close friend of Irwin. The monument bears the names of five West Virginians who died in the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing including Cosner, Cpl. Medot Camara of Hinton, Lance Cpl. Russell Cyzicle of Star City, Cpl. Timothy Runnigan of Princeton, and U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Martin Kees of Martinsburg. Killed in the bombing were 220 Marines, 17 Navy medical personnel and four Army soldiers in the largest single-day loss of U.S. Marines since the battle of Iwo Jima in February 1945. The wreath-placement ceremony was sponsored by Elkins Marine Corps League Detachment 956.

### **Mideast Division Marine of the Year**

Section 300 (h) of the National Administrative Procedures outlines the criteria for selection of the National Marine of the Year. Using these provisions, the following Mideast Division MOY recipients are the committee to select a 2022 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. The Chairman is Frank Mathers - Department of Delaware. The other committee members are Richard Tanner - Department of Delaware, Roger Ware, Mike McLain, Rick Shank and Scott Kirby - Department of West Virginia and Jeffrey Jones and Rick Thomason - Department of North Carolina. The guidelines in Section 300 (h) (2) of the above reference must be followed for each nomination. Please insert "Division" in lieu of "National," as appropriate. Any regular member from the Mideast Division can be nominated and the Mideast Division MOY will be presented at the 2022 Mideast Division Conference. Each letter of nomination must be mailed to the above chairman, registered return receipt, post marked not later than May 15, 2022. Mail to Frank Mathers, Mideast Division Chairperson Marine of the Year Committee, 17 Fairway Drive, Ocean View, Delaware 18870. Telephone: 301-520-8051. It must have a cover letter signed by the Commandant and Adjutant or other officers if one of them is nominated. An inner envelope must be addressed to the Mideast Division Chairperson Marine of the Year Committee. A second envelope must be addressed to the Chairperson. It must be sent Certified, Return Receipt Requested for your records, before the postmark deadline. The Marine of the Year Committee will announce the 2022 recipient during the Mideast Division Conference. The above provisions are for 2022 Marine of the Year selection only.

### **Division Marine of the Year Criteria**

This award shall be presented to a REGULAR MEMBER of the Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and/or performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League, or a meritorious deed(s) so identified as being within the scope of these rules shall be of such substance that the weight will or shall have brought acclaim and prestige to the Marine Corps League; or has enhanced and/or furthered the concepts of the duties of being a citizen of the United States of America; or a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety

Letters of nomination must originate only at the DETACHMENT LEVEL. No individual nor any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a letter of nomination.

All letters of nomination shall include a letter signed by the Detachment Commandant and Adjutant, stating that the nominee for Division Marine of the Year was approved at a regular meeting of the detachment by a majority vote. (In the event a nominee is the Commandant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Senior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant. In the event a nominee is the Detachment Adjutant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Detachment Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant).

Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to "Chairperson, Division Marine of the Year Society". THIS ENVELOPE SHALL THEN BE PLACED IN ANOTHER ENVELOPE and mailed, certified/return receipt requested, to:  
the Chairman at the address listed on the announcement.

The member must be a member in good standing and have served at least either an elected or appointed position within his detachment and department. List how many years he has been a member. List his positions and what was the significance of each if any. Is he a Detachment or Department Marine of the Year?

The recommendation should summarize what the member has done in his detachment, and or department. It should be brief and only impact areas where the candidate performed a service or task that brought credit upon his detachment and not merely list that he performed the duties expected of his position and or attended meetings. What were the results of any activities he participated in that were above the normal expected duties of his position? List those activities where he was the chairman or committee lead. Examples: Toys for Tots for 15 years and how many toys collected and how many children benefited. Was he Chairman of numerous fund-raising events that benefited detachment or selected charities? What was the total amount generated? Did he teach flag etiquette or flag folding to children? How many classes and how many kids for how many years?

What civic projects or volunteer did he do to enhance the league? If he did not participate as a league member in an event or activity, do not list it. What did he do as a volunteer outside of his detachment for the league? Was he recognized within his community for a project?

The nomination should be a snapshot of the member's achievements and not just listing his MCL awards. Did he attend his department quarterly meetings or convention, Mideast Division Conference, National Mid-Winter Staff Conference, National Convention?

The Division MOY Committee has developed a point system to aid them in their selection process. Consideration can be given a point for each event, and a point given for participation outside his detachment for either serving on Department, Division or National level and on any committee.

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### **VA Health Care Priority Groups Enrollment Number Assignment Criteria**

The number of veterans who can be enrolled in the health care program is determined by the amount of money Congress gives VA each year. Since funds are limited, VA set up Priority Groups to make sure that certain groups of veterans are able to be enrolled before others. Once you apply for enrollment, your eligibility will be verified. Based on your specific eligibility 26 status, you will be assigned a Priority Group. The Priority Groups range from 1-8 with 1 being the highest priority. Based on eligibility and income, some veterans may have to pay copay for treatment, and some may not be eligible for enrollment.

You may be eligible for more than one Priority Group. In that case, VA will always place you in the highest Priority Group for which you are eligible. Depending on your Priority Group, the VA may reimburse you for your travel costs from your home to a medical facility. Following are the criteria for assignment to a group number:

#### **Priority Group 1**

Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 50% or higher

Veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions

Priority Group 2 - Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 30% - 40%

#### **Priority Group 3**

Veterans who are former Prisoners of War (POWs)

Veterans awarded a Purple Heart

Veterans whose were discharged for a disability

Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 10% - 20%

Veterans awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C., § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation"

Veterans awarded the Medal of Honor

#### **Priority Group 4**

Veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits

Veterans who have been determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled

#### **Priority Group 5**

Nonservice-connected veterans and non-compensable service-connected Veterans rated 0% disabled by VA with annual income below the VA's and geographically (based on your resident zip code) adjusted income limits.

Veterans receiving VA pension benefits

Veterans eligible for Medicaid programs

### **Priority Group 6**

Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 0%

Veterans exposed to Ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Project 112/SHAD participants

Veterans who served in Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975

Persian Gulf War veterans who served between Aug. 2, 1990, and Nov. 11, 1998

Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for not fewer than 30 days beginning Aug. 1, 1953, and ending Dec. 31, 1987

Combat veterans who were discharged on or after Jan. 28, 2003, are eligible for enhanced benefits for 5 years after discharge.

### **Priority Group 7**

Veterans with gross household income below certain limits and who agree to pay copays

**Priority Group 8** - Veterans with gross household income above certain limits and who agree to pay copays

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### **Safety and Well-Being**

Last month Past Department Commandant Rick Shank put out a challenge to all the Department of WV, to check up on our elderly, homebound, widows, and missing members, and I want to add, do this whether they are current with their dues or not. PDC Rick Shank provided a great photo taken when he visited Ben Fetty's widow, Linda, in her new home and the smiles on their faces was so encouraging and rewarding!

We also posted a photo of Ron and Cheryl Wroblewski visiting with Ron's Aunt, and again, it looks like they all had a wonderful visit!

It doesn't take a lot of time and effort to do this, and I guarantee you'll be rewarded with hugs and happy smiles and a warm feeling.

But it's especially important to check on our friends, family & members or widows during the coming Holidays and the cold winter months ahead. This can be a lonely and difficult time for people, since as we age, we lose more and more of our friends and loved ones. Make sure they have sufficient heat and groceries, or maybe there is an organization that provides meals – encourage them to sign up if cooking is difficult for them. Let's all accept Rick's challenge to check on our friends!

One more thing; everyone should look around at your meeting place and evaluate the safety of your facility. Is there a door to a stairwell where someone could fall? Make sure the door is clearly identified as STAIRS or paint it with red and yellow stripes and the word CAUTION so people will be more alert to a possible danger of falling. Install motion activated lighting that comes on the minute a door is opened so they can see where they are and watch for hazards. Check the chairs to make sure they are in good condition and not likely to fall apart or tip over when someone sits down. Look for extension cords that cross the paths where people walk, or throw rugs or uneven flooring that a person could trip over. Make sure handrails are sturdy and strong. Then have your Sgt at Arms or other members watch as people are leaving the building or walking through the parking lot to their cars... someone could fall outside and no one's around to help them up or see if they're injured. Or worse yet, if your facility is in a bad part of town, there could be thugs waiting to prey on members as they leave. If it's wet, snowy, or icy, make sure walkways are treated with rock salt or other material to melt the ice and keep people from slipping.

Just do a thorough evaluation of your facility for any type of unsafe area or furniture, and let's look out for each other so we can have a safe and happy Holiday season with no injuries or problems!

Semper Fi

Patti Leib

Adjutant-Paymaster

Department of WV – MCL



## Around The State:

Profile on Sr Vice Commandant William “Ben” Edwards, MGM Det 1180:

While stationed in Beirut there were several times Ben says God saved his life, (which is a common statement from many Marines stationed in harms’ way) when he was shot at and a bit too close to explosions... he believes God saved his life because He had a job for him to do here at home. For a long time now, Ben has been picking up all kinds of food and delivering it to Veterans, widows of Veterans, and others in need in several communities – even other counties from where he lives. He provides this service a couple of times a month, and it’s making a difference in the lives of the people he quietly serves – his wife, Sara (an Associate Member), sent these photos in as an example of how he spends his days... including doing home repairs and in the photo below, building a ramp at the home of an 86 year old widow. Thank you for your continued service, Sr Vice Ben Edwards!



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## Pending Calendar

**Department of WV Spring Quarterly Meeting** will be January 15, 2022 hosted by Mountaineer Marine Detachment 957 in Princeton, WV. Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. Lunch will be served and the WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

**2022 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference** will be February 23– 27 2022 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. 2/24/2022 – 2/26/2022 (check in 2/23, check out 2/26) Thursday arrivals & stores are open in the afternoon, Friday opening session & agenda items, Saturday sessions continue

**2022 Marine South** will be March 30-31, 2022, at Camp LeJeune, NC

**2022 Modern Day Marine Expo** will be 10 – 12 May 2022 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

**2022 Department of West Virginia Convention** will be May 20-21, 2022, at The Quality Inn Gallipolis, 577 State Route 7 North, Gallipolis, OH 45769. Phone: (740) 446-0090. MGM Detachment 1180 will be the host detachment. Rooms rate: \$85.00 plus tax. Banquet includes choice of: Prime Rib \$30, Chicken \$25 Dinners, or a vegetarian option \$25 and all entrees include salad, two vegetables, rolls, beverage, and dessert. Amenities: Group Rate includes free WiFi, free parking, free cable, free in-room coffee, free breakfast for two guests per room (each additional guest in a room pays \$6) Breakfast is 6 a.m. – 10 a.m. Pre-registration due by April 15, 2022. There will be a hospitality suite and cash bar open each evening. For information call Jim Doss: 740-441-5638, Jerry Bain: 304-593-9519, or Patti Leib: 740-591-8611

**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: 800-774-1500 code MCL22. Room rate: \$127.00 plus 12.5% tax. Room reservation opened 0800 August 16, 2021. Rates good 4 days prior and 4 days after convention.

**2023 MCL National Convention** will be August 14-18, 2023, in Oklahoma City, OK. At Omni Oklahoma City Hotel, 100 W Oklahoma City Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73109, (405) 438-6500. Room rate \$165.48 includes tax. Parking not included but is \$10 per day. Pet friendly with service animals no charge but others is \$165.00 per week. Rate good for 3 days prior and afterwards.



**For First Time In Nearly 100 Years,  
Public Authorized to Approach Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier Plaza**

ARLINGTON, Va. — For the first time in nearly 100 years, and as part of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration, **the public will be able to walk on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Plaza** and lay flowers in front of the Unknown Soldier on Nov. 9 and 10, 2021.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration Public Flower Ceremony, a two-day event, will be free and open to the public and will allow them to personally pay their respects to the Unknown Soldier. This is a rare opportunity for the public to walk next to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a privilege otherwise given only to the sentinels of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, “The Old Guard.”

“As the stewards of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, it’s our honor to lead the centennial commemoration of this site,” said Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of Army National Military Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery. “The Tomb has served as the heart of Arlington National Cemetery. It is a people’s memorial that inspires reflection on service, valor, sacrifice and mourning. As a sacred memorial site and the grave of three unknown American service members, the Tomb connects visitors with the legacy of the U.S. armed forces throughout the nation’s history.”

The public flower ceremony information and instructions include:

- **Registration is required** at EventBrite.com: <https://anctomb100.eventbrite.com/>
- The flower ceremony will be held Tuesday, Nov. 9, and Wednesday, Nov. 10.
- The hours to participate are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Visitors are encouraged to bring their own flowers, but complimentary roses, gerbera daisies and sunflowers will be distributed.

-more-





# ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

HONOR · REMEMBER · EXPLORE

NEWS RELEASE  
OCTOBER 12, 2021

- Trams will be available free of charge for the public to participate in the ceremony at the Memorial Amphitheater. Follow all signage and staff directions to access the Memorial Amphitheater and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- The flower ceremony will start on Nov. 9 at 8 a.m. with representatives from the Crow Nation placing flowers at the Tomb and reciting the prayer given 100 years ago by American-Indian Chief Plenty Coups.
- Interpretive talks will be given from the Memorial Amphitheater west steps (side closest to Mast of the Maine Memorial) throughout the day.
- Educational and directional signage will be along Memorial Avenue and at the Memorial Amphitheater.
- This event will take place rain or shine.
- The event is ADA accessible as well as stroller friendly.
- The ceremony will end on Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. with the original benediction recited by the Army Chief of Chaplains, Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Solhjem.
- **All visitors must have a government issued ID for access.** Cemetery entrances include:
  - Ord and Weitzel Gate (Pedestrians only)
  - 123 Service Complex (Pedestrians only)
  - Old Post Chapel Gate (Family pass holder vehicle access/General public pedestrian access)
  - Memorial Ave (Family pass holder vehicle access)
  - Welcome Center (Pedestrian access)
- Family pass holders will not be authorized to drive near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or park on nearby streets. Presentation of family pass for your loved one's grave location will be required when driving near the Memorial Amphitheater.

2-2-2



# ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

HONOR · REMEMBER · EXPLORE

NEWS RELEASE  
OCTOBER 12, 2021

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the public will be invited to observe a joint full honors procession (meant to replicate elements of the World War I Unknown Soldier's 1921 funeral procession), and a joint service flyover (aerial review) with aircraft from all branches of the military. The public is invited to stand along a special procession route to participate.

Due to COVID protocols, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs is hosting an *invitation only* Presidential Armed Forces Full Honor Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the National Veterans Day Observance at the Memorial Amphitheater. **A virtual program may be viewed at @ARLINGTONNATL.**

"Throughout this year, the cemetery has held events leading up to the centennial ceremony," said Charles "Ray" Alexander Jr., superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery. "We encourage the public to experience and participate in the commemorative events in many ways, both at the cemetery and virtually."

Other events include:

- Two new complementary historical museum exhibits at the ANC Welcome Center and the Memorial Amphitheater Display Room, including interpretive panels, artifacts and historic photographs and films. Online videos of both exhibits are currently in development and will be available on Arlington National Cemetery's website ([www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)) and social media platforms (@arlingtonnatl).
- The release of a free educational module for students and lifelong learners of all ages titled "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," which is available at: <https://education.arlingtoncemetery.mil>
- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier official commemorative guide will be published by the U.S. Army Center of Military History and distributed in print and online (Fall 2021).

3-3-3



# ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

HONOR · REMEMBER · EXPLORE

NEWS RELEASE  
OCTOBER 12, 2021

As part of Arlington National Cemetery's new education program, an educational module on the history and significance of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is available at:  
<https://education.arlingtoncemetery.mil>.

The module is a resource for teachers, students and adult "lifelong learners." It includes lesson plans, assignments and primary-source readings for elementary, middle and high school students, as well as self-guided walking tours that can be used to explore the cemetery either virtually or in person. Lesson plans align with national and state social studies standards and can be easily adapted for homeschooling or virtual learning.

Please visit [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Tomb100](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Tomb100) for the most up-to-date news and information, including entrance and security requirements regarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration.

Additional information regarding the National Veterans Day Observance, virtual attendance and on-line viewing information will be made available soon.

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EDITORS NOTE: The #Tomb100 Resource Guide, which will be available on the ANC website ([www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)), provides downloadable graphics, images, links to historic videos and photographs, quick facts, historical documentation and more. The Resource Guide will be updated throughout the year.