

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



Volume 14, Issue 6, June 2021

Department Officers:

Commandant: Jim Doss, 740-441-5638 Sr. Vice Commandant: Mike McLain, 304-464-5049 Jr. Vice Commandant: Greg Irwin ,304-704-5758 Judge Advocate: Randy Thomas 304-688-8

Jr. Past Commandant: Scott Kirby, 304-588-0318 Legislative: Hershel Williams, 304-743-1026 Public Relations: Jean Lamb, 304-595-1482

Historian: Mike Lynon, 304-419-0982

Asst Aide-de-Camp: Larry Goff ,304-752-2106

Adjutant: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611
Paymaster: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611
Chaplain: Frank Armentrout, 304-837-4011
Sgt-at-Arms: Shaun Scott, 304-532-4186
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: Allen Miller, 304-379-0731
Chief of Staff: Roger Ware, 304-636-4365
Web Sgt: Steven Swenton, 304-277-8872
Aide-de-Camp: Richard Sneigle 304-388-7901
Asst Chaplain: Roy Vanscoy, 740-538-1917

Department E-mail contact: <u>jsdoss@zoomnet.net</u>

Department Web site: http://www.mcleaguedeptofwv.org/
Department Adjutant/Paymaster: pattileib024@gmail.com
PO Box 1224 Athens, OH 45701-1224



Commandant's Letter ~ May 30, 2021

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

By the time you read this Memorial Day will have come and gone. This is a day for honoring and mourning our military men and women who have given their lives in the performance of their duties while serving in the military. I hope everyone was able, in one form or another, to honor all of our fallen heroes. We also don't want to forget our POW's and our wounded veterans who were able to make it home. Oohrah and Semper Fi Brothers.

Our Department Convention is over and was a great success. Officers were elected for the coming year and Awards were given to deserving League Members and Detachments. There was a great Professional Development class on Friday chaired by Rick Shank with classes by Patti Leib, Roger Ware and Scott Kirby. Saturday morning after posting of the Colors, the Veterans from all wars plus deceased Marine Corps League members were honored with a presentation of red roses. The rest of Saturday was taken up with Business Meetings with almost 60 members and 12 out of 14 Detachments represented. The Banquet with Jean Lamb as

our guest speaker, and the Woody William Scholarship Auction were on Saturday evening, and both were a huge success. Stan Legge from Huntington Detachment 340 was honored by being named the Department Marine of the Year. Also, those Detachments that picked up the new Department Brochures need to get them distributed everywhere you find brochure racks such as Visitors Centers and motels or bulletin boards at your local grocery stores, hospitals, restaurants, gyms, libraries, ball fields – any place that Veterans might go.

Cpl. William B. Fulks Detachment 1474 applied for and was approved to host the Department of WV Fall Quarterly Meeting September 18, 2021, at the Community Center in Winfield, WV. More information will follow in the coming months in this newsletter. Be sure to attend if at all possible, to support our youngest Det! Plus, the facility is really nice with a great view of the river, plenty of parking, it's non-smoking, and the food will be terrific.

MGM Detachment 1180, Point Pleasant, applied to host and was awarded the Department of WV Convention in May 20-21, 2022, so mark your calendars and make your plans to attend. (See the attached flier at the end of this newsletter for more information)

The location for the January Winter Quarterly Meeting is open so if your Detachment is interested in hosting the meeting, you can put in a bid, and it will be voted on at the September Meeting.

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

Semper Fi

Jim Doss, Commandant Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League

Chaplain's Corner A Farmer's Prayer

Lord, look on me with kindness I do the best I can. I try to feed my wife and kids From this worn and barren land. I work from morn to sunset With this sad unfertile dirt To feed and clothe my wife and kids; I love them till I hurt. I pray each day while working hard, I pray each day to You, So, help me, Lord, please understand I do what I know to do. Just smile on me and find me peace When it's time for me to go, And find peace, too, for the ones I love Because I love them so. So, when the time comes to touch on me With your warm and careful hand, Please take it slow and remember, please, Remember I'm just a praying man.

~ Chaplain Frank Armentrout

Department Convention in Elkins

The members of Detachment 956 were proud to host the 48th Department Convention in Elkins. We hope everyone had a good time and enjoyed their visit. Our goal was to ensure there was plenty of food, beverages, and camaraderie. It was really good to see our old friends after so many months of being isolated and forced to wear masks and keep our social distance. We thank everyone who attended and hope they enjoyed their experience in Elkins.

Semper Fi,

Roger Ware Commandant 956

Officers Installed during Department Convention in Elkins

The 2021 - 2022 Department Officers elected and appointed on May 15, 2021, are:

Commandant: James Doss - Detachment 1180

Senior Vice Commandant: Michael McLain - Detachment 1087

Jr. Vice Commandant: Greg Irwin - Detachment 956 Judge Advocate: Randy Thomas - Detachment 340 Jr. Past Commandant: Scott Kirby – Detachment 1087

Adjutant: Patti Leib- Detachment 1180
Paymaster: Patti Leib - Detachment 1180
Chief of Staff: Roger Ware – Detachment 956
Chaplain: Frank Armentrout - Detachment 947
Asst Chaplain: Roy Vanscoy – Detachment 957
Sergeant at Arms: Shaun Scott – Detachment 1065
Asst: Sergeant at Arms: Allen Miller -Detachment 342
Aide-de-Camp: Richard Sneigle – Detachment 1087

Aide-de-Camp: Larry Goff – Detachment 577

Legislative: Hershel L. "Woody" Williams - Detachment 340

Historian: Michael Lynon - Detachment 947 Public Relations: Jean Lamb - Detachment 947 Web Sgt; Steven Swenton - Detachment 771

Military Order of the Devil Dogs WV Pack Officers

Pack Leader	PDD	Michael L. McLain	304-464-5049	Pound 153
Sr Vice	PDD	Chuck Cooper	304- 937-2665	Pound 215
Jr Vice	PDD	Rick Shank	304-633-1814	Pound 215
Smart Dog	PDD	Scott Kirby	304-588-9606	Pound 153
Dog Trainer	PDD	Richard Lipscomb	304-965-0406	Pound 343
Police Dog	DD	William Miller	304-722-6616	Pound 215
Mad Dog	PDD	Richard Sneigle	304-588-7901	Pound 153
Dog Robber	PDD	Roger Ware	304-636-4365	Pound 358
Watch Dog	PDD	Greg Irwin	304-704-5758	Pound 358
Barking Dog	PDD	Steven E. Swenton	937-430-7441	Pound 153

2012 Pack Dog of the Year – Denny Wood – Pound 215

2013 Pack Dog of the Year – Mike McLain – Pound 153, Pound 358

2014 Pack Dog of the Year – Roger Ware – Pound 358

2015 Pack Dog of the Year – Richard Shank – Pound 215

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2018 Pack Dog of the Year – Greg Irwin – Pound 358
2019 Pack Dog of the Year – Roger Estep – Pound 215
2020 Pack Dog of the Year – Chuck Cooper – Pound 215
2021 Pack Dog of the Year – Scott Kirby – Pound 153
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Department Convention Summary

The Department Convention was held May 14-16 in Elkins, WV. During the business meeting on Saturday May 15th, the following were awarded:

Chapel of Four Chaplain Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion Award - Scott Kirby

Board of Trustees (Victor T. Fisher Award)

Jerry L. Bain, Det 1180 – Department Sr. Vice Commandant Greg Irwin, Det 956 – Department Jr. Vice Commandant Randy "Doc" Thomas, Det 340 – Department Judge Advocate Ronald Scott Kirby, Det 1087 – Department Jr. Past Commandant

Roger Ware, Det 956 - Department Chief of Staff

Distinguished Citizen Awards (Gold)

Patti Leib, Det 1180 – Department Adjutant-Paymaster Frank Armentrout, Det 947 – Department Chaplain Wayne Sarapata,

Distinguished Citizen Awards (Silver)

Jean Lamb, Det 947 – Department Public Relations and Guest Speaker

George O. Gill, Det 1065 – Department Scholarship, Finance, Audit Chairman

John Nanny, Det 771 – Department Scholarship Chairman

Frank Armentrout, Det 947 – Department Chaplain

Michael Lynon, Det 947 – Department Historian, Marine for Life

Hershel Woody Williams Det 340 – Legislative

Susan Paulson, Det 1180 – Outstanding Community Service

Rick Shank, Det 340 – Department Professional Development Chairman/Fire Team Leader

Steve Swenton, Det 771 – Department Web Sergeant, Young Marines

Mike McLain, Det 1087 – Department Professional Development Team

Patti Leib, Det 1180 – Department Professional Development Team

Distinguished Citizen Award (Bronze)

Jason Lowe, Det 1087 – Department Sergeant at Arms

Fred Brunner, Det 771 – Department Boy Scout/Eagle Scout Chairman (filled Dave Finley's position)

Allen Miller, Det 342 – Department Sergeant at Arms

Rich Sneigle, Det 1087 – Department Aide de Camp

Randy "Doc" Thomas, Det 340 – Department Awards Chairman

Shaun Scott, Det 1065 – Department Assistant Aide de Camp

Stan Legge, Det 340 – Department Pistol Raffle Chairman

Distinguished Citizen Award (Bronze) Detachment Commandant Recommendation

Jim McDade, Hurricane Det 1474

William "Ben" Edwards, Point Pleasant Det 1180

Tim Murphy, Martinsburg Det 1143

Jerry Smith, Parkersburg Det 1087

Gary Watkins, Ripley Det 1065

Dan Brewer, Princeton Det 957

Jack Marteney, Elkins Det 956

Richard Grandchamp, South Charleston Det 947

Dewayne Meeker, Wheeling Det 771

Danny Hopson, Logan/Henlawson Det 557

Wayne Kirby, Morgantown Det 342

Maria Cain, Huntington Det 340

Russell "Rusty" Jarvis, Richwood Det 339

<u>Distinguished Service Award – God, Corps, and Country</u> (All Det Commandants)

Gary Roberts, Richwood Det 339

Randy "Doc" Thomas, Huntington Det 340

Tom Hellyer, Morgantown Det 342

Jamie Summerlin, Morgantown Det 342

Michael Enoch Mounts, Logan/Henlawson Det 577

John Nanny, Wheeling Det 771

William "Al" Lipscomb, South Charleston Det 947

Roger Ware, Elkins Det 956

Rod Mayberry, Princeton Det 957

Shaun Scott, Ripley Det 1065

Rich Sneigle, Parkersburg Det 1087

Wayne Starcher, Parkersburg Det 1087

Christine Kain, Martinsburg Det 1143

James Doss, Point Pleasant Det 1180

Jason Clyburn, Beckley Det 1461

Jason Hunt, Beckley Det 1461

William Miller, Hurricane Det 1474

Department Americanism Award: Jack Marteney, Det 956

Department Heart & Soul Award: Maria Cain, Det 340

Department Community Award: MGM Det 1180

Department Commendation Award: Randy "Doc" Thomas, Det 340

Department Adjutant Award: Patti Leib, Det 1180

Department Paymaster Award: Susan Paulson, Det 1180

Department Commandant of the Year: Randy "Doc" Thomas, Det 340

Department Recruiter of the Year: Mountaineer Marine Det 957, Princeton

Department Service Officer of the Year: Jim Doss, MGM Det 1180

Department Marine of the Year Stan Legge – Det 340

Certificate of Appreciation Jean Lamb, Guest Speaker

<u>Distinguished Service</u> (No Ribbon – Civilian Award) Holiday Inn Express and Suites

Department Meritorious Unit Commendation

Hicks-Hamrick Det 339, Richwood

Huntington Det 340, Huntington

Earl Anderson Det 342, Morgantown

Danny M Greene Det 577, Logan/Henlawson

Jones-Wolin-O'Brien Det 771, Wheeling

Herbert J Thomas Memorial Det 947, South Charleston

Leland D "Crow" Crawford Det 956, Elkins

Mountaineer Marine Det 957, Princeton

Cpl Walter L Mann Det 1065, Ripley

Wood County Det 1087, Parkersburg

Eastern Panhandle Det 1143, Martinsburg

MGM Detachment 1180, Point Pleasant

Sgt Mecot Camara Det 1461, Beckley

Cpl William B Fulks Det 1474, Hurricane

The following members are authorized to wear Department Staff Medal (Elected):

Jim Doss Michael McLain

Greg Irwin Randy "Doc" Thomas

Scott Kirby

The following members are authorized to wear Department Staff Medal (Appointed):

Frank J. Armentrout Patti Leib

Hershel "Woody" Williams

Roger Ware

Shaun Scott

Roy Vanscoy

Allen Miller

Steven E. Swenton

Richard Sneigle

Jean Lamb

Larry Goff

Michael Lynon

VA plans expansion of benefits for disability claims for conditions related to certain toxic exposures New evaluation process to be applied in identifying future presumptive conditions

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced Thursday May 27, 2021, two major decisions related to presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange and particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia.

Agent Orange

VA will begin implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), adding three conditions to the list of those presumptively associated with exposure to herbicide agents, more commonly known as Agent Orange. Those conditions are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism.

"Many of our Nation's Veterans have waited a long time for these benefits," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. "VA will not make them wait any longer. This is absolutely the right thing to do for Veterans and their families."

VA will apply the provisions of court orders related to Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which may result in an earlier date for entitlement to benefits for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Vietnam War era Veterans and their survivors, who previously filed and were denied benefits for one of these three new presumptive conditions, will have their cases automatically reviewed without the need to refile a claim. VA will send letters to impacted Veterans and survivors.

Particulate Matter Exposures

The Secretary recently concluded the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rule making, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine report and other evidence. VA's review supports initiation of rulemaking to address the role that particulate matter pollution plays in generating chronic respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis, for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War and/or after September 19, 2001, or in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War.

"VA is establishing a holistic approach to determining toxic exposure presumption going forward. We are moving out smartly in initiating action to consider these and other potential new presumptions, grounded in science and in keeping with my authority as Secretary of VA," said Secretary McDonough.

VA is initiating rulemaking to consider adding respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, sinusitis, and rhinitis, to the list of chronic disabilities, based on an association with military service in Southwest Asia, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the covered periods of conflict. VA will conduct broad outreach efforts to reach impacted Veterans and encourages them to participate in the rulemaking process.

For more information, visit our website at Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures - Public Health (va.gov). If you have questions contact Susan.Carter2@va.gov, Randal.Noller@va.gov and Tatjana.Christian@va.gov

Professional Development Training Award Writing

There are numerous awards that a person can have a recommendation for. The first thing is what type of award. You want to tailor your recommendation for that particular award. All award recommendations must be submitted from the detachment or Pound level and be approved by the membership. The following awards require a cover letter with the detachment or Pound name on the recommendation. The Department MOY and any award recommendation that is submitted outside the Department or MODD Pack. Unless the award is for a department award, do not list everything the person is supposed to do in their position because that's their job duties and not relevant. Do not get into detail about them being involved in the MODD if it's an MCL award. If it's an MODD award, then expand on this. If they are in a paid position this is not relevant either.

The cover letter should state in the opening line what the name of the award is and the year. Example: Letter of Nomination for 2021 Department, Mideast Division or National Marine of the Year Award. Plus, there should be a statement with the members full name and that the recommendation was approved at a regular membership meeting which was approved by a majority or more of the members present with the date listed. The Commandant and Adjutant must sign and date the recommendation. If the Commandant is being nominated the Sr Vice Commandant must sign.

Next have the name of the Award at the top of the next page as per the example listed.

2021 MARINE OF THE YEAR AWARD RECOMMENDATION

Start your write up with the full name of the member and whether he is life member in good standing and total number of years in the League. State detachment or Pound name and number, city and state and repeat the name of the award and recommended for the following accomplishments: Example:

John Wayne is a life member in good standing of Cowboy County Detachment 1945 Tucson, AZ Department of Arizona and is recommended for the 2021 Marine of the Year for the following accomplishments:

Start off by listing full name and what position the member is currently serving and have an impact statement on why the member is being nominated. Expand on what the member did to be nominated. Do not just write what the duties of the position involved or required. What did the member do to stand out.

Next list all positions and committees the member held in his detachment.

Next list all positions and committees the member held in his departments

Next list what previous awards the member received, MOY, C4C Award, Various department awards and high-level awards from national, division of department with date .Example 2009 Detachment MOY, 2010 Department MOY

Next list the total number of detachment meetings, department quarterly meeting, department, division or national conventions the member attended and any other significant event they participated in Midwinter or Modern-Day Marine Expo. Anything where the member represented their detachment and or department.

Next use bullets to outline what the member did to be recommended for the award. Tell a good story about your accomplishments because a weak write up does not help you. It's important that the accomplishments stand out in separate paragraphs so that they are readable and engaging Do not have waste a lot of words on irrelevant activities. Look back over your detachment minutes to see what activities your detachment participated in and the role of the awardee. Think outside the box and what did the nominee do to better his detachment or get them recognition. Was there any civic or community involvement from the member? Look over your theme holidays or military tributes for reference. Examples: toys for tots, youth sports, fundraisers, special projects, flag classes and or decorating graves, honor guard, birthday ball or BBQ planning, parades, festivals, recruiting booths, career history projects, public speaking, church projects, assisting veterans in need, nursing home visits, VAVS and or other projects.

Organize activities and events into separate sentences. Veteran or military activities together, civic or community projects or activities together, committee projects or detachment activities together, special or significant impact projects into separate sentences.

Summary page should list why you think this member should receive the award and repeat at the end the members full name and the name of the award and that he was approved by the membership and date approved. Read it over, looking for proper wording, spelling and punctuation mistakes before mailing.

Last ensure you follow the instruction for addressing and mailing the nomination paying attention to postmark deadline and how the envelope is addressed.

For writing department awards – select those members for designated awards in January depending on what awards you nominate them for. Have selected committee start to write down bullet comments about their

nominates and ensure you have one writer for every award recommended. Meet in two -three weeks and go over each award where committee members can comment about each award being recommended. In February start to finalize the write ups for submission in early March. Go back over the detachment meeting minutes and look for activities or events where one of the nominees may have participated. Look at the award recommended and tailor the write up to match your nominee with the write up. Brainstorming ensures a good write up for every candidate

Department Quarterly or Convention Bid

Any Detachment can submit a bid to host a Department Quarterly Meeting or Convention. The membership of the Detachment must approve the bid and the Detachment Commandant must submit the bid during a regular Department meeting or at Convention. This bid can be oral or in writing to the Time and Place Committee.

When a Detachment considers a bid, it must ensure a site large enough to accommodate those members attending the event. For the convention, a suitable hotel with adequate rooms, meeting spaces for the MODD Pack Growl, business meeting and banquet is available on site. In addition, when considering a hotel, visit 2-3 to compare prices per room and select one that provides free breakfast and parking with the room price. Get the hotel to donate space for the Hospitality Room and give them a free ad. Have a Hospitality Room on Friday night from 5 PM till 11 PM. Have a business donate items for this. Leverage one against the other for best price for those members attending. The lower the cost, the more members who attend. When considering a site, factor in the distance to travel, room rate plus tax, meals, banquet and incidental costs to attend.

Wait until your bid has been approved before you do anything. Form a Convention Committee with a Chairman. The host detachment receives the advance registration fee at \$5 each member. An ad book is where your Detachment makes money as you keep everything after the print expense. Prices for various pages in the book have usually been: \$100 full page, \$50 half page and \$25 quarter page and a price for business card ads. The detachment can shop and get the best price for printing in black and white. Detachments will often purchase an ad in your book, but it is not mandatory. Detachments are also asked to donate funds toward the expense. In selling ads, use a previous ad book from a recent convention to sell suggested ads. Be sure to go to your local Visitors Center and any Veterans organization. Give free ad to businesses for food items for the Hospitality Room as well as for room decorations and or door prizes. Give free full-page ad to printer. Suggest ad to match cost of items. In selling ads, have members target selected businesses in your area. Brainstorm and write them down during one of your meeting as it saves time. Suggest those businesses that visitors might want to use. Don't waste your time trying to see fast food establishments if they are corporate because it takes too long to get the ad back. Accept free coupons from them to help promote event. Have the business make a check out to your Detachment and give them a pre-made receipt. There is no limit on the number of pages you can have in your ad book. Suggest making 100 copies and give a free copy to any business that purchases a half page or more. Suggest inviting VIP's and dignitaries for the banquet that are long-time supporters of your Detachment. Be sure to coordinate with the Department staff thus ensuring smooth event.

Required reports following Officer Installation

Following reports and where they are sent:

- *Report of Officer Installation (ROI) completed and mailed to Department Adjutant
- *Annual Corporate Report will be completed ONLINE after office installed on the WV Sec of State website at cost of \$25.00 (Copy to Department Adjutant-Paymaster, or done by the Department Adjutant-Paymaster)
- *Paymaster Report due each membership meeting
- *Department Convention Report from Detachment for Quarter ending April 30
- *National Convention Delegate Registration Form
- *Annual IRS 990N efile due after June 30 or 5 months after fiscal year expires (Dept Adjutant-Paymaster can advise you when your fiscal year ends and when your IRS990-N is due)

- *Paid Life Member (PLM) Audit June 30 on Audit Form, must be submitted to Department Adjutant-Paymaster no later than November 30
- *Financial Audit and Property Inventory should be conducted before Installation; verification sent to Department Adjutant prior to Convention, by April 30
- *Letters mailed to all dues paying members in June & July informing them that their dues expire August 31
- *Letter to Bank to change signature cards adding new Commandant and Paymaster after a motion to make change approved by members. A copy of the Det Minutes showing this vote should accompany the letter.
- *Copy of Monthly Detachment Minutes has to be forwarded to Department Commandant and Department Adjutant following every meeting as per Department Bylaws.
- *Membership update to Dept Jr Vice Commandant Monthly, submitted by the Det MRT/Det Jr. Vice
- *Department Quarterly Meeting Report due September and January, sent via email to Department Adjutant
- *Dues transmittals are submitted when members pay their dues to the Department Paymaster as all dues expire August 31 yearly.
- *Death notices are filled out and a dues transmittal form coded NOD for \$0.00 is sent to the Department Paymaster for submission to National HQ and copied to the Department Chaplain and Asst Chaplain

Annual Corporate Report

Every detachment must be incorporated within the state so after annual officer installations are complete, the Detachment must complete and file a Corporation Annual Report prior to 30 June each year on the WV Secretary of State, Business and Licensing Division website. If Officers are installed or changed after 1 July, the Detachment must file an Application Online to Appoint or Change Officers, and/or Office Addresses with the WV Secretary of State. Once the form is submitted online, a copy should be mailed to the Department Adjutant for record purposes. Every detachment that is incorporated must file an Annual Report for Corporations. The cost is \$25 and is payable to the WV Secretary of State's office. This should be done as soon as you have your Elections and your Officers Installed. The Secretary of State has recently sent an email to all Detachments and Pounds that they must file their ACR online. They will no longer accept a paper copy. Detachments and Pounds that do not file their annual reports on time are at risk of being administratively dissolved or revoked and will be assessed a mandatory late fee of \$25 (twenty-five dollars) for nonprofit organizations as required by West Virginia code, in addition to the annual fee of \$25.

Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship

John B. Nanny, Chairman, Scholarship Foundation presented three recipients who were granted a 2021 Department scholarship a check for \$1000 each during the Department Convention Banquet in Elkins, West Virginia on May 15, 2021. The other five will receive their checks from their Detachment Commandants. Since the inception of the program, a total of 150 scholarship have been awarded with \$132,000 total to date.

IRS 990-N e-file Postcard

All detachments MODD Pounds, WV Pack and Department of WV are required to file an annual IRS 990 Nefile. It should be filed after your fiscal year ends. For most it is after June 30. You can file commencing July 1. Below is the information required. Read over the info and then log onto this site to get a new username and password.

https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Annual-Electronic-Filing-Requirement-for-SmallExempt-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 you submit. IRS does not send you a confirmation copy or acceptance. Once you create a username 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 username

okay, but you will have to enter your password twice as it will deny you on the first attempt. After logging in and answering all the question, copy off what you entered. After filing, wait for about an hour and log back into the site to see if 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 (ePostcard

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**.

If you are uncomfortable filing, contact the Department Adjutant-Paymaster and she will file it for you.

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) <u>User Guide</u> while registering and filing.

For filing system and website issues, refer to the second question on the <u>How to File: Frequently Asked Questions</u> 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 <u>tax year</u>. **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 used. 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 <u>automatically lose their tax-exempt status</u>. Revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will happen on the filing due date of the third consecutively missed year. Watch this IRS <u>YouTube presentation</u> 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

Make Annual Verification of Paid Life Members (PLM)

Paymaster Patti Leib sends a reminder to all detachments to verify their Paid Life Members (PLM) listed on the PLM Audit Form dated 6/30 each year from National. Upon receipt is the best time to do this so it's not forgotten. Paymaster Leib submits all forms at the same time, so if you delay, you will be holding up the entire

Department. If you fail to submit this Audit to Paymaster Leib, then National will not send you the interest you your Detachment deserves. These are due at National before Dec. 31. If a detachment does not certify its PLM roster is true and accurate before the deadline, it will not receive its annual residual interest for its life members. Take the original copy of the roster 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 they should note the changes by adding notes, but Do Not white out or black out the information! National must be able to read the original entry, plus your notes. This must also be dated. Make a copy after signing and then forward the original to Dept Paymaster Patti Leib. She will send this to the National Adjutant/Paymaster. You must send this signed roster to Paymaster Leib with enough lead time for her to send it to National and arrive prior to the due date, but as she spends the Christmas Holidays with her family in Arizona, she has requested all Audits need to be in her possession no later than November 30.

Sgt at Arms Duties

- 1) Shall preserve order at all Department or Detachment meetings, to keep an attendance roster of all meetings and to perform such other functions within the category of that office as many be assigned by the Commandant. The Sergeant-at-Arms is empowered to deputize such Deputy Sergeants-at-Arms as may be necessary for the proper performance of his duties. In addition, the Department or Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms shall:
- 2) Take custody of all department or detachment property (Colors, Charter, Gavel, Bible, etc.) and shall ensure that such properties are present and in their proper place at all meetings and as may be directed by the Department or Detachment Commandant.
- 3) The Sgt at Arms will be well versed in his part of the Ritual and will ensure the Meeting Room and/or another event room is properly set up and will ensure the place is cleaned afterwards.
- 4) He shall have a working knowledge of the National, Department and Detachment Bylaws and Administrative procedures
- 5) The Sgt at Arms will be in charge of all military protocol activities and will take charge of all military themed events and activities thus ensuring necessary personnel are in proper dress and knowledgeable of the activity or event.
- 6) The Sgt at Arms will escort all visitors to the podium and will remain to escort them out of the meeting.
- 7) The Sgt at Arms will notify the Commandant of all dignitaries, guests or visitors before the meeting. He shall obtain their name and title or position.
- 8) The Sgt at Arms will set up the meeting room and take down all equipment after the meeting.

Aide de Camp duties

The Aide de Camp duties include checking with the Commandant upon arrival at every meeting to see if he can assist with any functions and or help the Sgt at Arms set up the meeting room. The Commandant will assign him tasks as necessary to ensure the orderly function of the meeting. He can serve as a protocol officer and greet guests or dignitaries as specified by the Commandant.

Message from Woody Williams

Marine: Hope all of you are well. I finally got a time for the Monument dedication. It will be 2:30 pm, Sunday June 20th at the Cultural Center in Charleston. I'm working with Randall Smith and Lee Dean on logistical support (sound system, chairs, etc.). I have secured Chaplain Allen for the invocation and benediction, Buzz for the Pledge, Lee Dean will sing God Bless the USA. I'll get in touch with the WVNG for the presentation of colors. I believe Cathy Mullins will be singing the National Anthem. We want to see a sea of Red Blazers at this event – It's the Largest of the Gold Star Family Monuments anywhere! Thanks to all for all your help. Semper Fi, Woody

Pending Calendar

2021 Department of North Carolina Department Convention will be June 25-26, 2021, at Hilton Charlotte University Place, 8629 JM Keynes Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28262, 704-547-7444. 75 Deluxe rooms are blocked for Friday night, 50 Deluxe rooms for Saturday MCL rate is \$119/night + (\$137.15), Reserve Before: June 1, 2021, to be guaranteed a Deluxe room. Reservations made after June 1 will be guaranteed the MCL rate, but the room might not be available if these rooms are all booked. MCL rate is in effect for stays the nights of June 22 & 27 Breakfast for 2 is included

2021 Department Fall Meeting will be September 18, 2021, at 10 AM hosted by Cpl William B Fulks Det 1474 in the Winfield Community Center, 178 Second Street, Winfield WV 25213. The 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 pants, with fore and aft cover. The uniform code must be followed for the Department Convention.

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** Modern Day Marine Expo will be Sept 21-23, 2021, at MCB, Quantico, VA
- <u>MCL Midwinter Staff Conference</u> 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.

2022 Department of West Virginia Convention will be May 20-21, 2022 at The Quality Inn, Gallipolis, OH 577 State Route 7 North, Gallipolis, OH 45769. Phone: (740) 446-0090. MGM Detachment 1180 will be the host detachment. Room rate: \$85.00 plus tax Banquet includes choice of: Prime Rib \$25, Chicken \$20 Dinner or a Vegetarian Option, includes salad, 2 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. 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: 866-536-8477 or 1-800-HILTONS (toll free, 24-hour reservation center); 386-254-8200. Room rate: \$127.00 plus 12.5%.

To view photos of the 5K/10K race hosted by Cpl William B Fulks Det 1474 May 22, 2021, go to this link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8izk3pdc7hyxrio/AABtqBwkiM73BM2vdGl8urcWa?dl=0

Congratulations to Tim Conrad, Wheeling Det 771, Winner of the Pistol Raffle!!

Around the State:



Chapel of the Four Chaplains Award

Department of West Virginia Past Commandant Scott Kirby, second from right, receives the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Bronze Medallion on May 15 during the 2021 MCL Department of West Virginia Convention in Elkins. Previous recipients are, from left, Roger Ware, Jerry Smith, Mike McLain and Rick Shank. The Chapel of the Four Chaplains was established to memorialize four clergymen who gave away their lifejackets to save crewmen aboard the US Dorchester, which sank after it was torpedoed by a German submarine on Feb. 3, 1943, during World War II. The Bronze Medallion Award was presented to Kirby in honor of his extraordinary contributions to the well-being of others; for his giving spirit and unconditional service to the Marine Corps League, his church, community, and humanity as exemplified by the Four Chaplains; and for upholding America's precious values and traditions. (Photo by Judith Ware)



2021 Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year

Stan Legge, front row, left, is named the 2021 Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year on May 15 during the MCL Department State Convention in Elkins, WV. Congratulating Legge are previous recipients including John Nanny, center, and Roger Ware, right; and background from left, George Gill, Chuck Cooper, Greg Irwin, Steve Swenton, Mike McLain, Scott Kirby, and Rick Shank. (Photo by Judith Ware)

MCL: Blue Water Navy - Nehmer

Inbox



Frank Mathers, Mideast Adjutant

Fri, May 14, 10:31 AM

to bcc: me

Original message -----

From: Veterans Benefits Administration < Veteransbenefits@messages.va.gov>

Date: 5/14/21 09:33 (GMT-05:00) To: fmathers@mediacombb.net

Subject: Update: Blue Water Navy - Nehmer

Blue Water Navy - Nehmer

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will re-adjudicate claims for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

This review is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration's implementation of the November 5, 2020, U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California decision to re-adjudicate previously denied claims as applied in Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will automatically have their claims re-adjudicated.

Re-adjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection for one or more herbicide related conditions on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways. This review will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam era Veterans.VA is dedicated to ensuring all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

VA ensures that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of the Veteran community. Eligible survivors of deceased Veterans may also benefit from the policy and may be eligible for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

Veterans who have a condition caused by herbicide exposure during military service can learn more about Agent Orange exposure at this <u>website</u>.

Semper Fidelis/Frater Infinitas,
Frank Mathers, Adjutant
Mideast Division
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 903
Ocean View, DE 19970
mclmideastadjutant@gmail.com

http://www.mclmideast.com/

From Roger Ware, MED NVC:

VA Herbicide Related Claims Previously Denied Vet & Survivor Ones to be Adjudicated

Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will have their claims automatically re-adjudicated by VA. The department began re-adjudicating claims in April for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War but were denied for one or more herbicide related conditions, on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways. "Re-adjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection benefits," said Acting VA Under Secretary for Benefits Thomas Murphy. "We have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Veteran community and will ensure all eligible Veterans' and their survivors' claims are examined thoroughly and fairly."

The review also applies to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam-era Veterans and is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration's implementation of the Nov. 5, 2020, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California order in Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, requiring VA to re-adjudicate previously denied claims. VA will determine if benefits for qualifying disabilities can now be paid retroactively to the date of previously denied claims. The court's decision requires automatic re-adjudication in such cases without requiring a new claim, and potentially paying benefits to the survivors or estates of deceased beneficiaries. More information is available regarding VA disability benefits based on Agent Orange exposure. [Source: VA News Release | May 14, 2021 ++]

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: Betsy Atwater <batwater@suddenlink.net>

To: William Lipscomb < williamlipscomb55@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021, 11:29:30 AM EDT

Subject: Howard Atwater

Sir: I am the widow of Howard Atwater and an associate member of the Marine Corp League . I applied and my late husband was accepted as a 2021 inductee into

The Vietnam Memorial Fund. Attached please find the press release naming my husband and 6 other servicemen from West Virginia as inductees . My husband is the only Marine. I wish to share this honor with all of you.

if you have any questions, please let me know.

Semper Fi. Betsy Atwater, widow

Of Howard B Atwater

https://www.vvmf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/West-Virginia-IM-2021.pdf

(You can paste this link into your browser to read about this Marine and other Veterans, and maybe even honor some of your member's memories by applying to have them inducted into this Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund)

2022 Department of West Virginia Convention Hosted by MGM Detachment 1180, Pt Pleasant will be May 20-21, 2022 at

The Quality Inn Gallipolis, 577 State Route 7 North, Gallipolis, OH 45769. Group Code: "MCL" Phone: (740) 446-0090.

Dept Preregistration is \$5 or \$7 at the door.

Dept Preregistration is due by April 30th, 2022.

MGM Detachment 1180 will be the host detachment.

Room rate: \$89.00 plus tax. <u>Use Group Code 'Marine</u>

Corps League' for this discounted block of rooms.

A block of 30 rooms has already been set aside to accommodate everyone.

Banquet includes choice of: Prime Rib \$25, Chicken \$20 or a Vegetarian option \$20. Dinners include salad, 2 vegetables, rolls, beverage, and dessert.

Amenities: Group Rate includes free Wi-Fi, 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.

For additional information, please call: Jim Doss at (740) 441-5638 or Jerry Bain at (304) 593-8519 or Chuck Cooper at (304) 593-8002 or Patti Leib (740) 591-8611

A Brief History of Memorial Day:

"Be it remembered, however, that liberty must at all hazards be supported. We have a right to it, derived from our Maker. But if we had not, our fathers have earned, and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure, and their blood."

-John Adams

As Americans mark the unofficial start of summer with cookouts, getaways, and time with family and friends this Memorial Day weekend, it can be easy to forget what the holiday is truly about – honoring the untold thousands of selfless patriots who have laid down their lives for our country in wartime.

So, amid the merriment and jubilation we feel at the coming of summer following a long pandemic, let us take a few moments to remember what Memorial Day is really all about. There is no better way to do so than to recall the unexpected story of the holiday's origins – a story that holds important lessons for our country today.

While Memorial Day did not become an official federal holiday until 1971, its beginnings go all the way back to the immediate aftermath of the deadliest conflict in the history of our nation, the Civil War.

In Charleston, South Carolina, there was a horse racing track called the Washington Race Course and Jockey Club. During the Civil War, it was used by the Confederacy to imprison Union captives. Nearly 300 Union soldiers died of disease and exposure there while being held in the open-air prison. Their bodies were placed in a nearby mass grave.

But almost immediately after the war came to an end, emancipated slaves came to do honor to those soldiers who had given their lives so that millions formerly enslaved could know freedom. They exhumed the bodies of the fallen soldiers and gave them a proper burial in a new cemetery on the same site. On the whitewashed fence they erected around the cemetery, they inscribed the words, "Martyrs of the Race Course."

Weeks later, on May 1, 1865, a crowd of approximately 10,000 people – mostly freed slaves, and some white missionaries – gathered at the same spot. Veterans of the black 54th Massachusetts Regiment (the heroes of the 1989 film *Glory*, starring Morgan Freeman, Matthew Broderick, and Denzel Washington), and other black regiments were there, and performed double-time marches. Three thousand black children brought bouquets of flowers while they sang "John Brown's Body," a popular Union marching song inspired by the famous abolitionist John Brown. Black ministers were also present, and recited parts of the Bible.

This remarkable event was reported in *The New York Tribune* and *The Charleston Courier*, and has since been recognized as the earliest Memorial Day commemoration on record. The newspaper reports also spoke about how freed slaves organized the first Memorial Day observances at least a year before other American cities, and three years prior to the first national observance.

Today, Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday of every May. That first observance on May 1 was on a Monday as well. By the late 1860's, many American towns and cities were making similar tributes. One of them was Waterloo, New York, which first celebrated Memorial Day on May 5, 1866 – about a year after the emancipated slaves of South Carolina conducted their ceremony at the racetrack. On May 5, 1868, former Union General John A. Logan called for a national Memorial Day holiday. He actually called it "Decoration Day," given that on that day observers would decorate the graves of the soldiers who had perished, just as the emancipated slaves had done. Logan suggested May 30 be the date of the holiday, given that no noteworthy battle took place on that day. "Decoration Day" gradually became known as "Memorial Day."

In 1966, the federal government officially recognized Waterloo as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. But thanks to researchers who discovered the earlier story, historians now recognize that the holiday originated with those liberated black Americans in South Carolina, who came together to recognize the supreme sacrifice that so many had made to end the evil of slavery and secure their freedom.

Those who once lived in chains knew the value of what they honored on Memorial Day. Those of us who have never had to live in chains should honor the memory of countless American heroes who gave their lives to secure our own liberty all the more.



Jane Legge, Randy Doc Thomas, MOH Hershel Woody Williams, Stan Legge, and Rick Shank, Honor Guard from Huntington Det 340 (May 2, 2021)



Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze Department of WV Recipients, Roger Ware, Jerry Smith, Mike McLain, Scott Kirby, Rick Shank



Stan Legge, Det 340, 2021 Department of WV Marine of the Year



Dinner at a Chinese Restaurant in Elkins on Thursday evening prior to the Convention; Thank you to our host, Elkins Det 956!!





Swearing in and meeting your Department Appointed Officers for FY2021-2022



Department of WV Marine of the Year Recipients L to R George Gill, Chuck Cooper, Stan Legge, Greg Irwin, Steve Swenton, John Nanny, Mike McLain, Scott Kirby, Rick Shank (behind) Roger Ware



Det 957 Commandant Mike "Doc" Atwell receiving the Recruiter of the Year Award for his Detachment



Department of WV Grand Banquet Guest Speaker Jean Lamb (Det 947) and Randy Doc Thomas



Mideast Division Conference where Scott Kirby was awarded 2021 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. Pictured left to right, Dept of DE Commandant/MED Adjutant Frank Mathers, MED MOY Scott Kirby, MED NVC Roger Ware, Assist National Vice Commandant Rick Thomason, April 17, 2021 – Rehoboth, DE











Top to bottom, left to right: Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Recipients Roger Ware Det 956, Jerry Smith Det 1087, Mike McLain Det 1087, Scott Kirby Det 1087, Rick Shank Det 340; Patti Leib Det 1180 Adjutant of the Year and Randy Doc Thomas, Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Recipients for WV, Jerry Bain accepting an award for Susan Paulson Det 1180, Randy Doc Thomas and Maria Cain Det 340 receiving the Heart and Soul Award

Photos from the 2021 Department of WV Convention, American Legion Post, Elkins WV hosted by the Leland D "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956





2021 Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship Recipients: Krista Stone, Austin Patrick Coleman, Joelie Meadows, Madyson Cox, Gavin Winter, Houston Wayne Kessell, Kenly Arbogast, and Nathan Wroblewski – (Woody Williams presented Kenly Arbogast her award on Memorial Day in Gallipolis & Nathan Wroblewski in Huntington)





At the Department Convention, Chairman John Nanny and Co-Chair George Gill presented the Scholarship Awards to Krista Stone, Austin Coleman, and Joelie Meadows

The rest of the Awards were presented by the Detachment Commandants at their monthly meeting back at home.



5K/10K Race hosted by Cpl William B Fulks Det 1474, Hurricane WV May 22, 2021



Members of Hurricane Det 1474 Left to Right: Patrick Flynn, Randy "Doc" Thomas, Wm Ben Edwards, Stan Legge, Chuck Cooper, Jim Doss, Warren Bryant, Vince Turley (race coordinator), Cpl Fulks' father, Jim McDade, (Front kneeling) Cpl Fulks' Mother, Lorn Limanen, Will Miller



Adjutant-Paymaster Jim McDade, Cpl Fulks' Father, Commandant Will Miller



Gold Star Mother, Cpl Fulks' Mother



Honor Guard in memory of Cpl William B Fulks birthday May 18, 2021 (annual event with the family) L to R Doc Thomas, Maria Cain, Warren Bryant, Al Lipscomb, Vince Turley, Stan Legge, John Roberts – Bugler Jane Legge; Commander Roy Marcum



Commandant Will Miller addressing the Fulks family

Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony, Gallipolis OH



Marine Martha Carson & MOH Woody Williams



MOH Woody Williams & Marine Ben Edwards



Patti Leib, MOH Woody Williams, Sara Edwards



MOH Woody Williams & Commandant Jim Doss



Cheryl Wroblewski



Commandant Jim Doss by Woody's Ride