



## *The Straight Scoop*

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



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Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday in November

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY USMC ~ NOV 10, 1775 to NOV 10, 2022 ~ 247 YEARS**  
**~ HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE ~**

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



### **Commandant's Letter ~ November, 2022**

Greeting Marines, Associate members, Navy FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains:

Happy 247<sup>th</sup> USMC Birthday to all Marines. Thank you for your service and for your continued commitment and dedication to the Marine Corps League. The Marine Corps has never been beaten in battle. The Fourth Marine Regiment was forced to surrender in the Philippine Islands during World War II because they were ordered to give up by General Wainwright. The Japanese forces continued to kill our wounded along with countless women and children and were going to continue until all troops surrendered. Numerous Marines went into the hills and became attached to the Philippine resistance and worked behind the lines disrupting Japanese supply routes and communications. There were over 50,000 patriots and guerrilla forces waiting for General MacArthur when he returned to the Philippines.

From the time our nation created our military forces, family members have seen their loved ones depart for deployments or into combat zones. These families face this ordeal while waiting for their loved ones to return.

They hope and pray daily they are not killed or wounded, and this slowly develops into tremendous amounts of stress and anxiety. They had to make adjustments, always watching the daily news, and reading newspapers about battles their loved ones may have been in. They wrote letters and anxiously waited for letters from their loved ones. When they do not receive any letters for weeks, this compounded their fear as they wait and watch for the mailman. The most important thing family members could have done was take care of themselves. Families must be commended for their personal commitment and support they have given all our veterans during deployments and while their loved ones served in uniform.

Marines are usually ordinary young people performing remarkable acts of bravery and selfless acts of devotion to a higher cause bigger than themselves. They could have done something more self-serving but chose to serve knowing full well they could go in harm's way. The dedication and commitment of those who serve is unparalleled. They are heroes every day because they stand ready to go across the globe to defend our freedom and way of life. For those who never serve in the military, they should be obliged to all veterans because they came forward at the call of their country and served in your place. Their courage, honor and commitment was displayed every day as they served their country. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

In our travels we learned that life isn't very easy for most people in this world. And that we are blessed, to have won life's lottery, and to have been born in this country. Serving in the military taught us about physical courage, teamwork, the absolute virtue of a human being's great adventure and that all men fall. Committing yourself to serve in the military, makes you appreciate your own mortality and you realize the best quality of life is just getting home alive. Finally, our time in the service did more for us than we could have ever done for it, it gave us an extraordinary adventure to live that is ours, and that we will never for the rest of our life forget. It's your life, live it!

Happy Veterans Day everyone. Spent time with your loved ones over Thanksgiving.

My best, God bless and Semper Fidelis,

Mike

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### **Chaplain's Corner**

Have you ever heard of mission drift, the term that describes an organization's (or individual's) shift from their core values? Within corporate and non-profit management circles, leaders remain alert to the dangers of becoming distracted from their purpose. Those of us who are part of Christian communities know the danger too: we can begin to squabble and doubt, to fret over who's right and who's wrong, and then wander away from our mission: living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When the Gospel is our mission, we imitate Jesus Christ. As Jesus did, we welcome the marginalized, outcasts, sinners and the sick. We reveal and share God's love and fidelity while we accompany those who are broken. And we confront our own brokenness too, needing to forgive others and ask for forgiveness. Through our actions and love, our mission remains clear: we love like Jesus, ever mindful, as he was, of the poor.

Sr. Julia Walsh, F.S.P.A. Living Faith October 2022

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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 Continental 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 repute 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."

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10 November 2022

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

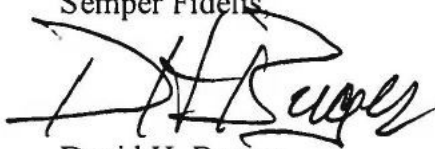
70 years ago, Army Major General Frank E. Lowe was quoted as saying, "The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, how they could fight." That testimonial rings as true now as it did then and will remain so tomorrow. As we celebrate the 247th anniversary of our Corps' founding, we reflect on nearly two and a half centuries of exceptional prowess, while also taking objective stock of where we are today and how we will prepare for future battlefields. Our birthday provides us a chance to focus on the one thing common to our success in the past, present, and future: the individual Marine. Victories are not won because of technology or equipment, but because of our Marines.

Since 1775, Marines have fought courageously and tenaciously in every conflict our country has faced. Through the Revolution, the Spanish-American War, World Wars in Europe and the Pacific, conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, and operations in the Middle East, Marines consistently earned a reputation as the world's elite fighting force. We inherit and take pride in this reputation, evolved over time by Marines acquitting themselves with honor and distinction on every battlefield in every clime and place. Battlefields change, and Marines have always adapted to the environment and the changing character of war - but the reason we fight and win is

immutable. It's the individual warfighters, and their love for each other, that makes our Corps as formidable a force today as it has been for the past 247 years. It's our ethos and our unapologetic resolve to be the most capable and lethal fighting force that sets us apart from the rest.

Current events around the world remind us that peace is not guaranteed. While we are justifiably proud of our past and pay tribute to the remarkable warfighters who came before us, we understand that the stories of yesterday cannot secure our freedom tomorrow. We must be ready to respond when our Nation calls. It falls on Marines who are in uniform today to write the next chapter of our Corps. The solemn responsibility of maintaining our illustrious warfighting legacy rests upon your shoulders. I know that you are up to that task. The battlefields of tomorrow are uncertain. The future characteristics of warfare are uncertain. But one thing is certain - wherever Marines are called, they will fight and win - today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Happy 247th Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis  
  
David H. Berger  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

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### **Professional Development Training Membership Recruiting**

Always be on the lookout for indications of whether someone is a Marine veteran or not. Look for bumper stickers or license plates in a parking lot. Are they wearing any veteran appeal 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 another time 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. But 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 are 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 4 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 them 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.

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.

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### **Toys for Tots**

The US Marine Corps has tasked all Marine Corps League units to support area Toys for Tots Program by assisting with toy collections and transport to the nearest distribution point. Here are several Toys for Tots local coordinators in WV that are approved to conduct an annual campaign. We have been asked to give as much support as possible.

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### **2023 VA Compensation Rates**

	Single	Married
10 %	165.92	
20%	327.99	
30%	508.05	567.84
40%	731.86	812.29
50%	1,041.82	1,141.83
60%	1,319.65	1,440.31
70%	1,663.06	1,804.37
80%	1,933.15	2,094.03
90%	2,172.39.	2,353.92
100%	3,621.95	3,823.89

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### **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**

The [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) (DIC) benefit paid by the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) to survivors of certain deceased veterans will be increasing by 8.7% for 2023.

### **What Is DIC?**

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of certain deceased veterans. There are two main types, one for [surviving spouses](#) and [one for surviving parents](#).

The surviving spouse DIC is a congressionally mandated monthly benefit which is adjusted annually based on the Cost-of-Living.

Under most circumstances, a surviving spouse under 57 years old who remarries cannot receive DIC. Spouses, however, are eligible for increased benefits if they have children under 18, or if they have a disability themselves that requires living assistance.

Parent DIC is based on the parent's income. Typically, only those parents whose income is below a certain level are eligible.

## How Much Is DIC?

The basic monthly tax-free DIC benefit will increase from \$1,457.66 for 2022 to \$1,584.48 for 2023, with additional amounts also seeing the 8.7% increase.

## Phaseout of Widows Tax

In 2023, affected surviving spouses who receive DIC and [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) payments from the deceased veteran's military service will no longer see their SBP payments decreased by the monthly DIC amount. This is due to the [phaseout of the so called "widows tax"](#) that becomes complete in the upcoming year.

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## What you need to know about VA benefits in the aftermath of Hurricanes Fiona and Ian VA resources in the wake of disaster

Recent [hurricanes](#) have caused incredible destruction, leaving millions to grapple with the devastating impact and loss of life. Veterans and their families in regions affected by hurricanes Fiona and Ian can access VA resources and benefits to get the support they need after a natural disaster.

One of the first places you can visit to receive help and resources is your state's VA Regional Benefits Office. You can look up your office's hours of operation, services, and location [on our facilities locator webpage](#).

## Additional resources in the wake of a disaster

### Veterans Crisis Line

If you are in a crisis—or are concerned about someone else in crisis—get free, confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Veterans Crisis Line is available by phone, text, or chat:

- Dial **988**, then Press **1**.
- Send a text to **838255**.
- Chat [online](#).
- Support for deaf and hard of hearing: Call **1-800-799-4889**.

### Housing Assistance

If you or a Veteran you know needs immediate housing assistance in the aftermath of a hurricane, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at **1-877-4AID VET (877-424-3838)**. Calls are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Learn more about housing assistance [here](#).

### Benefits Delivery

If you or a beneficiary were not able to receive a benefit payment after a hurricane, call the VA National Call Center at **1-800-827-1000**. Call center representatives can guide you on how to request a one-time special payment.

### VA Home Loans

If you need help making a mortgage payment, VA can:

- Ask lenders to put a 90-day freeze on foreclosure.
- Encourage lenders to waive late charges.
- Work with your mortgage lender to apply pre-payments already made to your upcoming payment.

Learn more about VA Home Loans [here](#).

## GI Bill

If your school is temporarily closed due to a hurricane, VA will continue payments through the end of the term or for up to four weeks (28 calendar days) from the date of school closure, whichever is earlier. Learn more about the GI Bill [here](#).

## Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)

If you are displaced due to a hurricane and receive employment services from VA, you may qualify for two additional months of Employee Adjustment Allowance (EAA). Learn more about VR&E [here](#).

## Mail Contingency

If hurricane-related mail service disruptions impact the timeliness of VA receiving important claims paperwork or information from you, know that VA accounts for these disaster-related impacts and will not penalize you for subsequent mail delays. You may also submit claims and upload any other relevant benefits information through your [VA.gov](#) account.

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## 2022 Veterans Day Restaurant Discounts Veterans Day Free Meals

To honor members of the military, these restaurants are offering veterans free meals on or around Veterans Day, November 11.

[Applebees](#) Veterans and active-duty military receive a free meal when dining in from a special menu on **November 11**. And when dining in [Applebee's on](#) November 11, military guests will receive a \$5 bounce back card to redeem for dine-in, To Go, or delivery *to be used within three weeks*.

[Bob Evans](#) -- Veterans and active-duty military get a free meal from a select menu on **November 11**. *Dine-in only*.

[Buffalo Wild Wings](#) -- Veterans and active-duty service members get a free order of 10 boneless wings and fries on **November 11**. The offer is available for dine-in or takeout (*online ordering excluded*).

[Cracker Barrel](#) -- Veterans get a complimentary slice of Double Chocolate Fudge Coca-Cola Cake in-store or online on **November 11**.

[Denny's](#) -- Veterans and active military personnel get a free Build Your Own Grand Slam on **November 11**, from 5 a.m. to noon. *Dine-in only*.

[Dunkin' Donuts](#) -- On **November 11**, veterans and active-duty military receive a free donut at participating locations. Offer available *in-store only*.

[Golden Corral](#) -- Golden Corral is hosting their Military Appreciation Night on **November 11** from 5pm to close. This includes a free "thank you" meal when *dining in*.

[Huddle House](#) -- Active-duty military members and veterans get a free MVP Breakfast Platter on **November 11**.

[IHOP](#) -- Veterans and active-duty military get free Red, White & Blueberry Pancakes at participating locations on **November 11**. *Dine-in only*.

[Little Caesars](#) -- Veterans and active-duty military get a free Lunch Combo at participating stores on **November 11**, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



[Outback Steakhouse](#) -- Veterans, active-duty service members and spouses get a free Bloomin' Onion with any Coca-Cola beverage on **November 11**.

[Red Lobster](#) -- Veterans, active-duty military and reservists get a free appetizer or dessert from a special menu on **November 11**. *Dine-in only*.

[Sheetz](#) -- On **November 11**, Sheetz offers veterans and active-duty military personnel a free half turkey or ham sub and a regular size fountain drink. Sheetz will also provide a free car wash to veterans and active-duty military.

[Shoney's](#) -- Veterans and active-duty service members get a free All You Care To Eat, Freshly Prepared Breakfast Bar on **November 11** until 11 am. *Dine-in only*.

[Texas Roadhouse](#) -- Texas Roadhouse will hand out dinner vouchers at the stores' parking lots on **November 11**, from 11am to 2pm. Veterans and active-duty military can redeem their dinner vouchers when the restaurant opens for dinner, *through May 30, 2022*.

Wendy's Active-duty military and veterans get a free breakfast combo on **November 11** at participating locations from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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### **It's More Than Adventure It's about Family**

When I first joined the MCL I was welcomed into a wonderful culture and family I never knew I had. And it felt great. That's how I feel about the League. Until I received help with my VA claim and attended my first detachment meeting in 2002. I didn't know anything about the organization. But I quickly discovered it's a welcoming family of fellow Marines. We're all from different backgrounds, branches, and eras, but we're bound together by a common thread.

As we all know, keeping a family together requires everyone's effort. I certainly didn't join the League to be just a member. I came to offer help. Because before I was even a member, The League was there for me as I began facing the issues haunting me from my time at An Hao in Vietnam leading up to the Tet offensive in 1968. It's an honor to give back to the organization that has done so much for me. I have a diverse background. I was a FMF corpsman with 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in I Corps in Vietnam and was an aircrew and flight corpsman on Huey gunships in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam with HAL (3) Seawolves. I served with Cargo Handling Group One at Williamsburg, VA and was a flight corpsman with VRF-31 at NAS Norfolk, Va. I attended advance Independent Duty School in Portsmouth VA and served aboard the following Navy ships: USS El Paso LKA -117, USS Neosho AO -143, USS Mississippi AO-144, USS Boulder LST -1190, I served with the Fourth Marine Airwing at Aurora, CO and returned to Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek Virginia as a Senior Chief Corpsman aboard USS Pensacola LSD - 38. Upon advancement to Master Chief Corpsman I was assigned to Physician Assistant School at Portsmouth, VA and commissioned as CWO 2 upon graduation. I was stationed at NAS Pensacola, FL and then to Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, VA. I was assigned to Officer Candidates School at Brown Field and Camp Upshur for seven years. My next assignment was aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt CVN -71 for forward deployment to the Persian Gulf and Desert Storm. Finished up back at Quantico Marine Base at The Basic School for five years and retired as CWO4 with 32 years active duty.

These experiences have given me countless stories to share, some true, but more importantly, they're provided me with the ability to relate to lots of different people. It's been a joy to connect with others and point them to the League and the activities and events we do. The work I have done with VA claims helps so many receive benefits they deserve which helps them and their family.

Through that work, our League has a renewed energy. We're reconnecting with our roots of proactive volunteer service. To me there's no better feeling than helping fellow marines and their families. When we nurture this feeling, more Marines will know how much we care about them.



The military events and theme activities we do in our areas is also attractive to younger Marines and others in the various military community, many of whom are looking to join an organization that's focused on service and activities. We should all be proud of how we provide assistance to distressed Marines and their families the ability to live with respect and dignity.

Semper Fi,  
**Roger Ware**



Elkins Marine Corps League Commandant Roger Ware of Elkins places a wreath at the Beirut Bombing Memorial on the Randolph County Courthouse lawn in observance of the 39th 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. 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. (Photo by Judith Ware)

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### **Pending Events**

**2023 Department of WV Spring Quarterly Meeting** will be January7 , 2023 hosted by the Hershel Woody Williams Detachment 340 in Huntington, WV at American Legion Post 16, 1421 6th Avenue Huntington, WV

25701 Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

**2023 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference** will be 2/23/2023 – 2/25/2023 (check in 2/22, check out 2/26) Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfsi-sheraton-norfolkwaterside-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.

**2023 Department of WV Department Convention** will be May 19-21, 2023 at Comfort Inn & Suites, 167 Elizabeth Pike, Mineral Wells, WV 26150. Phone: 304-699-0886. Room rate: \$85.00 Free breakfast, WIFI, parking. Rooms have refrigerator and microwave. **Do not call the hotel for room reservations** as they are being booked via Detachment 1087 to use tax exemption. **Contact Don Dearth, 304-481-9595 for rooms, banquet and advance registration.** The banquet rate is \$30.00. Make check payable to MCL Detachment 1087. If you want to use your points or credit card, then contact the hotel. They will give you the block rate but will charge you tax. The hotel has 22 jacuzzi rooms so when you call Don Dearth to book your room, let him know if you need an ADA room or want a King bed or want one of those jacuzzi rooms. If you are not sure if you are attending, go ahead and book your room, as you can always call and cancel. You do not have to make payment for rooms, banquet and \$5.00 pre-registration now but need to before the cutoff date. If you cannot reach Don Dearth, contact the Dept of WV through Patti Leib, Adjutant-Paymaster for additional assistance.

**2023 Modern Day Marine Expo** will be June 27-27, 2023 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

**2023 MCL National Convention** will be August 14-18, 2023 in Oklahoma City, OK. At Omni Oklahoma City Hotel Resorts , 100 W Oklahoma City Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73109 , (405) 438-6500 Room rate \$165.48 includes tax. Breakfast is included. Parking not included but is \$10 per day per car. Pet friendly with service animals no charge but others is \$165.00 per week. Rate good for 3 days prior and afterwards. Reservation open August 22 at 0800.

**2024 MCL National Convention** will be August 11-16, 2024 in Denver, CO at Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center, 7800 East Tuffs Ave, Denver, CO, 80237. 303-779-1234 Room rate is \$167.84 includes tax, parking \$10 per day per car, breakfast not included but host detachment will pay.