



The Straight Scoop

**Department Newsletter of the
Marine Corps League
Department of West Virginia
P.O. Box 11828
Charleston, WV 25339**



Volume 11, Issue 2, February 2018

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Veterans Visibility Day at the WV Legislature Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Veterans Visibility Day during the 2018 Legislative Session will be Wednesday, February 7 in the lower Rotunda.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains - February 3

February 3, 1943 is the date that four Army chaplains, George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington lost their lives. The Chapel of Four Chaplains memorializes the courageous act of these four Army Chaplains who gave their lifejackets to others when the troopship USAT Dorchester sank after being torpedoed on February 3, 1943, and honors the 672 men who perished. The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a national nonprofit organization, founded in 1947, which recognizes and encourages cooperation, brotherhood, and selfless service. The work of the Chapel is sustained solely by the cooperation and contributions of friends who share in the dedicated spirit of the Four Chaplains.

Many of the members in our department are recipients of the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award. The Chapel is a lasting tribute to those four Army chaplains who lost their lives on Feb 3, 1943 when the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German submarine. The Chapel will soon be mailing out donation requests to every member who has been inducted into the Legion of Honor, asking for their support in keeping the Chapel of Four Chaplains vibrant. The Chapel's motto of "Unity without Uniformity and the recognition of "ordinary people who do extraordinary things" continues to be manifested in so many ways all over the country, and to so many people. Please consider supporting the Chapel with adonation and mail to : The Chapel of Four Chaplains, 1201 Constitution Avenue, The Navy Yard, Building 649, Philadelphia, PA 19112-1307.

Membership Growth and Retention

The growth of the Marine Corps League depends not only on recruiting new members, but also on retaining current ones. These retention efforts for new members begin once he joins the League. In addition efforts must be made to retain longstanding members and to keep them enthusiastic about the League. Retention efforts must start immediately after a new member joins. Encourage the new member to get involved by attending your meetings and participating in your activities as soon as possible. Establish a "welcoming committee" of several detachment members to provide the member and his family with information on the detachment provide them with a snapshot page of what activities and events the detachment has conducted and answer questions they may have. Present the new member with a baseball cap or T-shirt emblazoned with the detachment's name. The Jr Vice Commandant should introduce him to other detachment members, help make him feel at home and inform him of the dates and times for detachment meetings and activities. Establish a car pool to bring new (and old) members to meetings. Also, as soon as the new member's application is approved, get new members interested in learning the bylaws and administrative procedures to help their knowledge and involvement in the league grow.

Fabricate a survey form and give to the new member to find out their interests. Giving a new member responsibilities and assigning him to program committees helps him feel that he is an important part of the detachment. Use the Member Survey to determine what activities and interests the new member wants to do The survey gives members the opportunity to list their preferences for possible committee assignments and indicate the areas that they find exciting, challenging and promising. There is also space for members to express their thoughts on how to improve existing programs. Ask them to also list new programs they think the detachment should consider.

Establish a Membership Retention team (MRT) to examine reasons why members become inactive and let their membership lapse. The MRT plans programs to conserve the detachment's membership and anticipate and solve problems that may cause membership delinquency. The Jr Vice Commandant should be the retention chairman and his committee be composed of the paymaster and one member well versed in the detachment bylaws and administrative procedures. After discovering problems, the MRT should work with detachment officers to remedy them.

The paymaster should provide the MRT with a list of members in danger of being delinquent. Contact these members and discuss their reasons for being inactive. Urge them to become active again. The paymaster can also furnish a list of inactive members. Contact former members who still meet membership eligibility requirements and ask them to rejoin.

Keep detachment meetings interesting and relevant. If a member asks himself, "Why am I here?" then something is wrong. Start meetings on time and keep discussions, comments, etc., within proper limits. The commandant should refer any nonessential matters to the appropriate committees. Hold meetings on a night convenient to most members. Allow all members to voice their opinions in an orderly way and try to keep meetings open and relaxed.

Encourage a free exchange of ideas on league programs and business during detachment meetings, but make sure the members remain focused on the issues under discussion. If possible, complete the business portion of the meeting within an hour.

Another way to help retain members is personal follow-up. Let a member know he is missed the first time he fails to attend a meeting or event. Consider sending a postcard letting the member know he was missed. Call him on the telephone or write a personal note at the bottom of the next meeting notice.

Marked decline in meeting attendance and committee involvement among formerly active members is a sign of lost interest. Although these members may have compelling reasons for reducing the amount of time they give, do not give up on them. Handle such members with tact and consideration. Make missing members feel valued and needed by asking them to take on a task that "only they can do," one which their experience truly counts. Ask them to give just a small amount of their time to one particular project. Explain that their contribution is very important. Take time to say thanks. Honor members with a luncheon, ceremony, award or certificate in recognition of their years of involvement and service.

Use monthly meeting minutes and newsletters to keep members up-to-date on important information vital to the successful operation of your detachment. Be in constant communication with all your members and keep them informed.

Look at your current programs and activities to evaluate whether your detachment's resources and members are being fully used. Do members express interest in these programs? Are a majority of the members participating? What type of league image do these programs project to the community? Are these programs meaningful, sincere and diversified enough to appeal to all detachment members?

If your detachment has lost good members, develop a campaign to retrieve those members. Organize a number of active members with good telephone personalities located throughout the geographic area your detachment covers. Give each volunteer a list of lapsed members in his neighborhood, with details of when they joined, what committees each served on and what each did for the league. Add to the list whatever personal data your records contain. This information serves as a good starting point for conversation. Supply these workers with up-to-date information about the detachment including present activities, future plans and membership meeting minutes.

Recruit delinquent members just as you would new prospects. Sell the league to past members. Ask them what they enjoyed most about their participation in the past. Keep questioning on a positive basis. Emphasize the aspects of the league the member is most likely to miss in allowing his membership to lapse.

FRIENDSHIP- A DETERRENT TO SUICIDE

In a study published late last year scientists looked at what impact friendship might have on suicide prevention. It has been well established that those dealing with emotional problems and/or physical disorders generally do better when they are surrounded by good support systems, such as family, friends, schoolmates, coworkers, and spiritual/religious encouragement. What made this study differ from those earlier studies was that the scientists wanted to see if there were any significant differences in a support system of friends in terms of quantity versus quality. In short, what they found was that the quality of friendship outweighed the quantity of friends when it came to influencing someone's reduction of thinking about taking their own life.

As typical members of the League there are many influences that may hinder initiating and maintaining strong friendships. If we are employed and/or volunteering that takes a big chunk of time and energy. It used to be, that for most of us, when we left the workplace we were done until our next scheduled time to work. However, with cell phones and computers we are always just a ring tone or email away from work. Family issues, especially in this complicated world, also are time-consuming. Technology has also enabled family issues that were previously somewhat insulated by distance to again be up close and personal no matter the time of day or distance, Additionally, as we age we are confronted by a reduction in mental and physical energy, having to deal with our own mortality, assumption of caregiver duties to ailing parents or spouses, and the onset of our own health issues common in aging. As Marines, we don't back off just because something is difficult. As a friend to a brother or sister vet there are several things that we can do to be a quality friend.

1. Trust your gut and instincts when you think your friend might be struggling with suicide. Know the signs: a. Loss of interest in things they used to enjoy.

b. Feeling hopeless.

c. Expressing that they are a burden to others.

d. Feeling helpless.

e. Feeling worthless.

f. Difficulty with sleeping.

g. Abusing alcohol and/or drugs.

h. Talking about suicide or being better off dead.

i. Self-hatred.

j. Saying that they have just given up.

2. As their friend, assist them in obtaining help has listed in the accompanying “Help Box” or resources to prevent suicide. Of course, if the veteran places themselves at immediate risk of suicide you will have to courageously assume the role of their best friend and call 9-1-1.

3. Be a good listener, but don’t try to be their therapist. Encourage them to talk about their problems and feelings. Listen, but try not to give advice unless it is asked for.

4. Let them know that you have their six.

5. Never let them forget that they are special Americans (Veterans), the small percentage that stepped up and said they were ready to sacrifice themselves for our Nation.

6. If they are Marines remind them that relatively few are special enough to have earned that title.

7. Keep in touch, don’t let your friendship fade with time and distance.

FRIENDSHIP- A DETERRENT TO SUICIDE

8. Encourage them to socialize with you, have fun. Detachment meetings and activities are easy examples.

9. Hang in there. Trying to be a good friend to someone who is struggling with emotional and/or physical disorders is like trying to rescue a drowning person. You must be

situationally aware or you risk being pulled down with them. Try to get additional help when you need it- call the resources listed here, and ask for assistance from other Marines when you need a break.

10. If you are reading this and struggling with thoughts about suicide, be a good friend to your brother and sister Marines who care for you and get the help that you need.

Hellen Keller said something that I think all Marines can relate to: Walking in the darkness with a friend is much better than walking in the light alone.

VA Benefits Eligibility A Few You May Have Overlooked

1. Any veteran who is service-connected for a disability for which he or she uses prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may receive an annual clothing allowance.
 2. VA provides pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service.
 3. A surviving spouse age 57 and older who remarries after December 15, 2003, is entitled to continue to receive benefits.
 4. Passports are available to family members free of charge for the purpose of visiting their loved one's grave or memorialization site at the American military cemeteries on foreign soil.
 5. A rating percentage is considered "protected" once it is in place for 20 years. There would be no danger of a decreased disability rating after the 20 year mark.
 6. A new imaging study has found that Gulf War veterans have what appear to be unique structural changes in the wiring of their brains.
 7. Disabled Veterans may be eligible to claim a federal tax refund based on: an increase in the Veteran's percentage of disability from the Veteran's Administration (which may include a retroactive determination or the combat-disabled Veteran applying for, and being granted, Combat-Related Special Compensation, after an award for Concurrent Retirement and Disability.
 8. Veterans who are 100% service-connected IU may be eligible for an additional monthly entitlement of \$62.50/mo for catastrophic injury.
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VA Dental Benefits Who's Eligible

The eligibility for dental care through the VA is not the same as it is for most other medical benefits. Following is a list of the only veterans and situations where VA dental is allowable. Veterans who:

Are rated 100 percent service-disabled either all their disability ratings add up to 100 percent or 100 percent IU (Individual Unemployability) are allowed any needed dental care. This does not include veterans who are temporary 100 percent due to extended hospitalization or convalescence.

Have been discharged from active duty within the past 180 days and received a discharge other than dishonorable: One-time dental care if DD Form 214 indicates a complete dental examination wasn't administered prior to discharge.

Have a compensable (10 percent or greater) service-connected dental condition: Any needed dental care.

Have a non-compensable (0 percent) service-connected dental condition: Any dental care

necessary to provide and maintain a functioning dentition. The treatment is only allowed for the tooth/teeth/condition(s) that are trauma related

Have a dental condition clinically determined by the VA to be associated with and aggravating a service-connected medical condition: Only treatment for the condition that has a direct and material detrimental effect to a service-connected medical condition.

Are in the vocational rehab program (Chapter 31): Only dental treatment needed to gain entrance into the vocational rehab program; help the veteran achieve their goal in the program; prevent interruption of the program; hasten the return into the program if interrupted by leave status or if veteran stopped because of illness or injury (including a dental condition); or to secure employment during the period of employment assistance.

Are enrolled in a VA homeless program: One-time course of dental care that is determined medically necessary to relieve pain, assist the veteran with obtaining employment, or treat gingival and periodontal conditions. If you believe you are eligible for dental treatment, your VA health care provider will have to do a consult for you before you can be seen.

VA Emergency Room Care - Follow-Up Treatment

The Department of Veterans Affairs is employing a relatively simple fix to make sure Veterans receive the follow-up care they need after being treated in an emergency room. Launched in 2015 at the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center, the Rapid Access Clinic model is currently being used at about 20 VA medical centers throughout the United States. “Little tweaks to the system like this can sometimes result in major improvements to the care we give our Veterans.” “We’d like to see every VA emergency room adopt this best practice during the next year,” said Dr. Susan Kirsh, VA’s national director for clinical practice management. “It’s simple, it’s not that hard to do, it’s effective and it doesn’t cost anything. Most of all, it helps reduce the kind of fragmented care that afflicts so much of healthcare in this country today.”

So what, exactly, is the Rapid Access model? How does it work? Kirsh explains: “You’re a Veteran and you walk into a VA emergency room with a broken wrist. Our emergency room physician will treat you and make your wrist feel better. But you also need follow-up care with a specialist, probably an orthopedic surgeon. In the past we’d send you home from the E.R and tell you to make an appointment to see the specialist. We were basically leaving it up to you.” Kirsh said that’s how it usually works not just at the VA, but in private sector emergency rooms across the country.

“Not anymore,” she said. “Now we’re going to schedule your three-day follow-up appointment right then and there in there E.R, before we send you home. And equally important, our orthopedic surgeon will know you’re coming. Our ER department has already sent her your information. She knows you came into the ER on such-and-such a date with a broken wrist. She knows how you broke your wrist. She has your XRays. She knows exactly what the ER doctor did for you.” Kirsh described the Rapid Access model, also known as the Pittsburgh Model, as a relatively simple step toward achieving an elusive concept called coordinated care. “Follow-up care with a specialist is so important,” she explained, “and getting Veterans in for prompt follow-up care is something we just haven’t been terribly efficient at. The Pittsburgh model fixes that.” The Rapid Access Clinic model is the brainchild of Dr. Ali Sonel, VA Pittsburgh’s chief of staff. “With this model the specialist sees the patient quickly, within a few days at most,”

he said. "We've streamlined the process. Most importantly, we've taken the burden off the Veteran for arranging his or her own followup care." "The Pittsburgh model seems like such a simple procedural change, and I guess it is," said Dr. Kirsh. "But little tweaks to the system like this can sometimes result in major improvements to the care we give our Veterans. And that's what it's all about."

2018 MCL Department Convention Schedule
The Quality Inn, Gallipolis, Ohio
May 4-5, 2018

Friday, May 4, 2018

- 1300-1600 Professional Development & Leadership Training
- 1300-1600 MCL & MODD Registration
- 1200-1300 Lunch on your own
- 1300-1700 Department Audit Committee*
- 1600-1700 Commandant's Council for Detachment Commandants/Staff Officers Meeting
- 1700-1830 Dinner on your own
- 1700-2230 Hospitality Room open
- 1830-1900 MODD Pack Board Meeting - At call of Dept Commandant, Pack Leader, MODD
- 1900-2100 MODD Growl of the Pack

Saturday, May 5, 2018

- 0600-0930 Breakfast on your own
- 0800-1000 MCL registration
- 0800-0815 Flag-raising Ceremony - Dept Sgt-at-Arms
- 0820-0930 Memorial Services, all hands attending - Dept Chaplain
- 0930-0945 Department Budget Committee Meeting*
- 0930-0945 Department Nominations Committee Meeting*
- 1000-1200 MCL Business Meeting
- 1200-1315 Lunch on your own
- 1315-1600 MCL Business Meeting
- 1615-1640 New Officer Installation & Department Officers' Meeting
- 1800-1900 Formal Reception
- 1900-2200 Grand Banquet

* At call of Chairman for Audit, Budget and Nominations Committee

Military Order of Devil Dogs

Unlike some other organizations, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs are created equal. Only Marine Members in good standing in the Marine Corps League, with one continuous year may be "asked" to apply for membership. The success of the Pound is up to the membership and especially up to its leadership. The Kennel and the Pack will help, but will not do the work for the Pound, nor can they guarantee its success. The official publication of the Military Order of Devil Dogs is the *Woof-O-Gram*. This publication is sent out quarterly to its members.

The Order is organized in nearly every state where there is a Marine Corps League presence. Now in its 68th year, the Order boasts a semi-permanent headquarters in Michigan, a full-time Kennel Dog Robber, National Executive Secretary and Bookkeeper. The Order, the FUN and HONOR SOCIETY of the Marine Corps League, is comprised of only regular members of the League who have been recommended for membership by 2 members of the Order. Each member undergoes a series of initiations. First, as a Pup, in their Pound (the local organization, the basis of the Order); then, as a Devil Dog in their Pack (the State organization which meets during a Department Convention); and, finally, as a Pedigreed Devil Dog at the SUPREME GROWL held in conjunction with the National Convention of the League. Each degree must be held for one full year before candidacy for the next degree may be considered.

What it Does

It promotes good fellowship amongst the members of different Marine Corps League Detachments. The Order provides amusement and entertainment at all gatherings of the League, when and where advisable. It assists in the accomplishment of all programs and objectives of the League, preserves and strengthens the principles and ideals of the League, and maintains true allegiance to the United States of America and its Constitution and Laws. It fosters and extends American institutions of freedom and defends America against all enemies whatsoever. The Order is also VERY active in raising funds for different charities.

Who Belongs

You must be a paid-up member and in Good Standing in the Marine Corps League, Inc. The applicant must be active in his or her Detachment in the League, and must be invited to join the Order. He or She must be recommended by his or her Detachment Commandant and be sponsored by two Devil Dogs or Pedigreed Devil Dogs. The applicant is then interviewed by the members of the Pound at Pound Growl (a meeting is called a Growl). If accepted, the applicant must undergo an initiation and obligation ceremony. Then He or She becomes a Pup in the Order.

Organization

The Pound is on a local level and is usually made up of members of different Marine Corps League Detachments. On the State level there is the Pack, and on the National level there is a Kennel. There are three different degrees in the Order. The lowest degree is that of Pup. The next degree is that of Devil Dog. The highest degree is that of Pedigreed Devil Dog. The head of the Pound is called the Pound Keeper. The head of the Pack is the Pack Leader. The head of the Kennel is also the head of all Devil Dogs and is called Chief Devil Dog. The Order's many charitable donations not only help people in need, but also build good public relations for the Order, the League, and the United States Marine Corps.

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 2018 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. The Chairman is Roger Ware - Department of West Virginia The

other committee members are: Bud Raines and Tony Begenwald - Department of Maryland, Richard Tanner - Department of Delaware, Mike McLain - Department of West Virginia and Jeffrey Jones - 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 2018 Mideast Division Conference, June 26, 2018 in Ellicott City, MD. Each letter of nomination must be mailed to the above chairman, registered return receipt, post marked not later than May 15, 2018. Mail to Roger Ware, 181 Weese St, Elkins, WV 26241. Telephone: 304-636-4365. The Marine of the Year Committee will announce the 2018 recipient during the Mideast Division Conference. The above provisions are for 2018 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 "Chairman, 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 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. 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 giving a point for each event, and a point giving for participation outside his detachment for either serving on department, division or national level and on any committees.

VA Compensation & Pensions - Involuntary Separation Pay Impact

Under federal law, until veterans pay back their involuntary separation pay, they can have their VA disability compensation withheld. The reason for this is due to 10 USC 1174, a federal law precluding duplication of benefits. The law requires that the VA recoup military separation benefits paid by the Department of Defense in cases where a veteran is subsequently awarded VA compensation. VA disability benefits can be withheld if a veteran receives readjustment pay, non-disability severance pay, separation pay, reservist involuntary separation pay, special separation benefits, voluntary separation pay, or disability severance pay. The VA is required to withhold some or all of a veteran's monthly compensation until recoupment is complete. The process can take months or years to complete.

Military Myths & Legends - Headstone Coins

Humans have been leaving mementos on and within the final resting places of loved ones almost from the beginning of the species. Excavations of even the earliest graves uncover goods meant to serve the deceased in the next world, such as pottery, weapons, and beads. The earliest known coins date to the late seventh century B.C., and as societies began embracing such monetary systems, the practice leaving of coins in the graves of citizens began yet another way of equipping the dear departed for the afterlife.

Mythologies within certain cultures added specific purpose for coins being left with the dead. In Greek mythology, Charon, the ferryman of Hades, required payment for his services. A coin was therefore placed in the mouth of the dear departed to ensure he would ferry the deceased across the rivers Styx and Acheron and into the world of the

dead rather than leave him to wander the shore for a hundred years. In England and the U.S., pennies were routinely placed on the closed eyes of the dead, yet the purpose of that practice was not clear - some say it was to keep the eyes of the corpse from flying open (even though the eyes, once shut by the person laying out the body, do not reopen).

In these more recent days, coins and other small items are sometimes discovered on grave markers, be they plaques resting atop the sod or tombstones erected at the head of the burial plot. These small tokens are left by visitors for no greater purpose than to indicate that someone has visited that grave. It has long been a tradition among Jews, for example, to leave a small stone or pebble atop a headstone just to show that someone who cared had stopped by. Coins, especially pennies, are favored by others who wish to demonstrate that the deceased has not been forgotten and that his loved ones still visit him.

Sometimes these small remembrances convey meaning specific to the person buried in that plot. For more than twenty years, every month someone has been leaving one Campbell's Tomato Soup can and a pocketful of change on the plain black granite tombstone that marks the grave of Andy Warhol. The soup can is easy to explain, given Warhol's iconic use of that commodity in his art, but the handful of change remains a bit of a mystery. In a similar vein, visitors often leave pebbles, coins and maple leaf pins at the grave of Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, the man who replaced Canada's Red Ensign with the Maple Leaf flag.

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave. A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect. For Military, leaving coins of different denominations denote their relationship with the deceased. Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited. A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him in some capacity. Leaving a quarter means you were there with them when they took their last breath.

The earliest reference to this practice we've found so far dates only to June 2009, when it appeared as a website post. A version now commonly circulated on e-mail appears to have been drawn from it, albeit some changes have slipped in, such as, "A buddy who served in the same outfit, or was with the deceased when he died, might leave a quarter", becoming "By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the Fallen when he/she was killed". According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

In the U.S., this practice became common during the Vietnam War, due to the political divide in the country over the war; leaving a coin was a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the Soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war. Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited. Today, military folk do

sometimes leave very special remembrances at the graves of deceased servicemen: challenge coins. These tokens identify their bearers as members of units and are prized and cherished by those to whom they have been given; thus, any challenge coins found at gravesites were almost certainly left there by comrades-in arms of the deceased.

Next time you visit a cemetery, leave a coin. And now you know.

Tet Offensive - Vietnam | Jan-Feb 1968

In late January 1968, North Vietnamese forces and the Viet Cong launched a massive offensive throughout South Vietnam. Hurling 84,000 personnel at South Vietnam, the communists struck 36 of the South's 44 provincial capitals and 100 cities, including Hue in the northern part of the country, Qui Nhon in the center and Saigon in the south. Timed to coincide with a Vietnamese holiday known as Tet, the operation came to be called the Tet Offensive. It was an unmitigated tactical-military defeat for the communists that turned into a strategic-political victory – and proved to be the turning point of the war.

WHAT IT MEANT. What began 21 JAN, with an artillery bombardment on the U.S. Marine outpost at Khe Sanh, exploded into an all-out offensive against the whole of South Vietnam nine days later, as most Vietnamese celebrated the Tet holiday. Hanoi's choice of Tet was no accident. "The communists had proclaimed a truce over this period," President Johnson later recalled. But North Vietnamese commander Gen. Võ Nguyên Giáp used Tet festivals and travels as cover for his audacious military-guerrilla operation. The communists suffered massive casualties and were defeated by every battlefield measure. By the end of February, 45,000 communist personnel had been killed and another 5,800 captured by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces. "Tet was a military disaster for Hanoi," historian Derek Leebaert writes in "The FiftyYear Wound."

For Washington, it was a political disaster. Washington's words couldn't overcome the images flowing out of Vietnam – and worse, those words didn't seem to reflect what was happening there. Just before Tet, LBJ's State of the Union address provided an upbeat report on U.S. involvement in Vietnam, highlighting successful elections, noting that "the enemy has been defeated in battle after battle," detailing how South Vietnam's government had gained control over more cities and cheering other "marks of progress." Similarly, not long before Tet, Gen. William Westmoreland called 1968 "an important point when the end begins to come into view."

What the commander in chief and his top general in Vietnam were saying proved jarringly out of step with what happened during Tet. In the first 48 hours of the communist offensive, 232 U.S. troops were killed and 900 wounded. In and around Saigon, the enemy seized radio stations and police stations, bombarded the airport and presidential palace, and assaulted the U.S. embassy. Wearing South Vietnamese uniforms, Viet Cong guerrillas breached the embassy's outer walls in the predawn darkness 31 JAN and occupied parts of the embassy for six hours. The attack "stunned American and international observers, who saw images of the carnage broadcast on television as it occurred," one battle history recounts. NBC News footage from the first

day of fighting featured breathless correspondents shoving microphones into the faces of GIs in the midst of gun battles, GIs crawling for cover, GIs scrambling to retake the embassy, GIs bleeding and dying, Saigon in chaos – all transmitted into America’s living rooms.

LBJ later criticized “emotional and exaggerated reporting.” Media coverage of Tet was not inaccurate, but it was incomplete – and strikingly different from coverage of World War II battles, which were equally brutal and bloody, equally chaotic and fluid. Imagine if World War II correspondents had beamed back images – virtually in real time – of the bloody beaches at Normandy and Okinawa, Allied squabbling and confusion at Sicily, the chaos and unpreparedness at Bastogne. Without filter or context, such images can have a devastating effect on public support and morale. Indeed, when the American people saw the images of communist forces laying siege to Saigon, they concluded that the commander in chief was either misleading them or out of touch. And when they absorbed the full costs of Tet – 3,895 Americans killed in what The New York Times called “the heaviest and most sustained” fighting of the war – they turned against the war.

Ho Chi Minh’s primary objective was always the conquest of South Vietnam and unification of the country under communism. But his secondary target was 9,000 miles away, in Washington, D.C. “We don’t need to win military victories,” he said. “We only need to hit them until they give up and get out.” Although it was a military disaster for Ho, Tet proved to be a smashing political success; after Tet, LBJ abandoned his bid for re-election and Westmoreland was reassigned, bringing Ho closer to his primary objective. “Ho Chi Minh thinks he can win in Washington as he did in Paris,” LBJ warned in 1967. He was right about Ho, and Ho was right about his read of American politics.

WHAT IT STILL MEANS. Vietnam was called the first “television war.” Tet illustrated how powerful and corrosive this new medium could be for a representative democracy at war. In an age of instantaneous communications, images matter more than body counts or battle damage assessments (BDAs), more than statistics or metrics, more than congressional testimony or Oval Office addresses. When the images don’t match the message, public support can erode rapidly. Thus, our enemies have become quite skilled at using media and media images to target the American people. Consider Iran’s humiliation of American hostages, Muammar Qaddafi’s claims that some of his children were killed and wounded by U.S. airstrikes, Iraq’s guided tour for CNN cameras of a bombed-out “baby milk plant” during the Gulf War, the beastly treatment of America’s fallen in Mogadishu, footage of snipers and IEDs killing U.S. troops in Iraq, and the beheadings and butchery livestreamed by al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

In short, our enemies continue to subscribe to Ho’s shrewd distinction between military victory and political victory. Recall Osama bin Laden’s taunt: “When tens of your soldiers were killed in minor battles and one American pilot was dragged in the streets of Mogadishu, you left the area carrying disappointment, humiliation, defeat and your dead with you ... It was a pleasure for the heart of every Muslim ... to see you defeated in the three Islamic cities of Beirut, Aden and Mogadishu.”

Diabetes Update - Vet Rate Twice That of Non-vets

More than 20% of U.S. veterans have diabetes and 3.4% have undiagnosed diabetes, a combined figure that is more than double the diabetes rate in the overall U.S. population, according to findings published in Preventing Chronic Disease. In an analysis of five cycles of U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data conducted between 2005 and 2014, researchers also found that diabetes was most prevalent among veterans aged at least 65 years (27%), male veterans (22%) and veterans with less than 12 years of education (33.5%). Hispanic veterans had the highest prevalence of both diabetes (25.7%) and obesity (43.5%).

“The available evidence strongly suggests that problems faced by U.S. veterans in this area are severe,” Ying Liu, PhD, assistant professor in the department of biostatistics and epidemiology at East Tennessee State University College of Public Health, told Endocrine Today. “Based on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), diabetes in U.S. veterans was very prevalent. Disparities of diabetes also existed in U.S. veterans.”

In the analysis, the unweighted sample size for 2013-2014 was 491; sample sizes ranged from 472 to 685 for each cycle between 2005 and 2012. Diabetes was defined as HbA1c at least 6.5%, fasting plasma glucose at least 126 mg/dL, 2-hour plasma glucose at least 200 mg/dL or a diagnosis of diabetes. Researchers also found that the overall prevalence trend of diabetes increased from 15.5% in 2005-2006 to 20.5% in 2013-2014 and peaked in 2009-2010 at 22.6%. Both poverty level and education were associated with the odds of having diabetes.

“Unlike previously reported findings, our findings showed that the prevalence of diabetes by poverty level did not decline with increasing income, and this trend persisted over time,” the researchers wrote. “This persistence may be due to a small number of diabetes cases and some unidentified confounders.” The researchers noted that NHANES data can serve as a more appropriate resource vs. VA data when analyzing the rate of diabetes among veterans; in fiscal year 2014, more than 70% of veterans sought care outside the VA system despite being enrolled. Future investigations, the researchers wrote, should combine the nationwide data with VA data to obtain estimates that are more accurate. “Cost-effective prevention and intervention approaches are needed for U.S. veterans to lower the diabetes prevalence and ultimately improve their general health and life of quality,” Liu said. [Source: The Journals Plus | Regina Schaffer

Home Schooled

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

4. My father taught me LOGIC. " Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC . "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My father taught me IRONY. "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone.."
11. My mother taught me about WEATHER. "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY. "If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"
13. My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE. "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out..."
14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION. "Stop acting like your father!"
15. My mother taught me about ENVY. "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.. "Just wait until we get home."
17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING. "You are going to get it from your father when you get home!"
- 18 . My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE. "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."
19. My mother taught me ESP. "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"
20. My father taught me HUMOR. "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
21. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
22. My mother taught me GENETICS. "You're just like your father."
23. My mother taught me about my ROOTS. "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"
24. My mother taught me WISDOM. "When you get to be my age, you'll understand."
25. My father taught me about JUSTICE. "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

TRICARE - Exercise & Injury - Winter Emergencies - Holiday Blues

Exercise & Injury -- Are you planning to add more exercise to your daily routine in the New Year? If so, remember that injuries can be prevented through moderation, proper form and adequate rest. The goal should be to establish a solid foundation of fitness and strength, building up over time, to allow for pain-free and injury-free participation. Too

much too soon – or exercising for too long – can lead to injury. Avoid a sudden increase in activity level, duration, load and intensity and build up gradually. Also, concentrate on proper technique and form, especially during strength training and high-intensity exercises. Overuse injuries result from repetitive motions, so workouts should involve a mix of movements and intensities. Recovery time is essential for injury prevention. Without rest and recovery, the body eventually becomes overloaded and fatigued. Pay attention to prolonged soreness, joint pain, or any sharp pain after workouts. It's often a sign you're overdoing it. This New Year, get in shape the smart way – gradually, over time.

Winter Emergencies -- Are you prepared for winter emergencies? Here are some steps from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that you can take now to prepare yourself for cold temperatures, snow and ice. □ First, check you heating systems and have them professionally serviced. Inspect and clean all fireplaces and chimneys. Also make sure you have an alternative heath source and fuel, just in case. □ Next, install a carbon monoxide and smoke detector and check the batteries regularly. If the detector goes off, leave your immediately and dial 911. Carbon monoxide is an odorless gas that is produced any time fuel is burned in care, small engines, stoves, grills, lanterns, fireplaces, gas ranges, or furnaces. Carbon monoxide can build up indoors and poison both people and animals who breathe it. Common symptoms include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, check pain and confusion. □ Finally, you should stock food that doesn't need to be cooked or refrigerated, store extra water in clean containers, and keep an up-to-date emergency kit on-hand

Holiday Blues -- The holiday season is packed with activity. Between cooking, shopping, wrapping and get-togethers, the holidays can be a stressful time. It's important to remember to incorporate balance into your routine. That means to get enough sleep, exercise, eat nutritious food and relax with friends and family. Sometimes time spent with immediate or extended family can add to the stress of the holidays. Pressure to have a perfect get-together creates unrealistic expectations. It's normal to feel a little down or anxious. Letting go of the idea of a “perfect” visit, meal or gathering will help to manage expectations. Getting out and having fun is a great way to boost your mood. Eating well and taking care of yourself in the midst of the activities is important. Make enough time for adequate sleep and remember, you don't have to participate in every activity. If you're feeling truly down, reach out to someone you trust to talk about it. If you feel you may have more than just the holiday blues, seek help. TRICARE offers robust mental health coverage. For more information, go to www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth.

Social Security Reduced Benefits - Working While Collecting

Are you collecting Social Security, but also thinking about getting a job? Before you do, know the drawbacks of working while collecting benefits. It's perfectly legal to work while taking Social Security benefits. But it's not always worth it financially. MoneyTalksNews talked with a Social Security expert — Webster Phillips, senior policy analyst at the National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare — who

explained the rules. It's important to know them before claiming Social Security so you can see what you're getting into. When it comes to claiming Social Security early, know the following: □ Claiming earlier in life can hurt you. The younger you are when claiming benefits, the smaller your monthly check will be. □ Benefits typically remain fixed. Once you claim Social Security, you're generally stuck with that same monthly amount — except for cost-of-living increases — for life. □ You might regret the decision. Many American workers who get Social Security claim their benefits as soon as possible, at age 62. But depending on your health and the work you do, 62 can be too young to retire. Many people want to or need to keep working after applying for Social Security. Also, some retire, and then return to work — or even retire and return to work several times.

You could lose money Depending on how much you earn, you risk losing some or most of your Social Security check if you collect benefits and work before what the Social Security Administration calls “full retirement age” (FRA). Your FRA is 66 if you were born between 1943 and 1954. For those born in 1955 and later, it increases gradually until reaching age 67 for those born in 1960 or later. When you claim benefits before your FRA, you'll get less Social Security than by waiting until your FRA. The Social Security Administration can help you determine your FRA. We asked Phillips how going in and out of work — or staying on at work — affects a worker's Social Security benefit checks. Phillips previously worked for the Social Security Administration for 31 years. He has advice if you aren't yet at FRA: Before applying for Social Security benefits, estimate how much you'll earn from work, and look into Social Security's rules if you intend to work. Special rules apply for workers collecting benefits before their FRA. Know that:

□ There's no penalty — no matter how much you earn — for working while taking benefits after your full retirement age. Once you hit FRA, you can keep 100 percent of what you earn plus all your Social Security benefits. The Social Security Administration website has a calculator to help you find your FRA. □ If you work while taking benefits before your full retirement age, you may need to repay part of your Social Security checks during that period.

Under the rules as updated for 2018, if you work before reaching your FRA: □ You can earn up to \$17,040 and keep every penny of your Social Security benefits — no penalty. □ For every \$2 you earn over \$17,040, you must repay \$1 to Social Security. □ In the year you reach full retirement age, the rules aren't as strict. So in 2018, those who reach full retirement age during the year can earn up to \$45,360 before the penalty kicks in, and the rate of the penalty is lower. You repay \$1 for every \$3 earned over \$45,360 in the months before your birthday month. Starting with the month you reach FRA, the penalty for working ends and you receive 100 percent of your benefits check. (Example: If you turn 66 on April 23, 2018, you would pay \$1 on every \$3 earned in January, February and March in excess of the \$45,360 limit. Beginning with April, the penalty stops.) □ Don't be too sad about the money taken from your Social Security checks for the penalties described above. You'll get it back. The Social Security Administration explains:

It is important to note that any benefits withheld while you continue to work are not

“lost.” Once you reach NRA (normal retirement age), your monthly benefit will be increased permanently to account for the months in which benefits were withheld.

Figure out if you’d pay a penalty, and how much Phillips emphasizes the importance of planning so you know the effect working will have on your Social Security benefits before you start taking them. To estimate whether you’d pay a penalty and how much you’d owe, use the SSA’s Retirement Earnings Test Calculator. Whether it makes sense to start claiming Social Security before your FRA depends on the size of your benefit checks and the amount you plan to earn. For purposes of illustration, suppose you expect to earn around \$60,000 in 2018. Here’s how to calculate the effect on your benefit checks. (Or, make an appointment at your local Social Security office, where they’ll use a computer program to do the calculations.): □ Subtract \$17,040 from \$60,000 to find the amount on which you’d pay a penalty: \$42,960. □ Divide \$42,960 by 2 (the penalty is \$1 for every \$2 earned) for your annual penalty: \$21,480. □ Divide \$21,480 by 12 months to find your monthly penalty: \$1,790.

Your earnings and benefits will vary from this example, of course, so it’s important to run your own numbers. The calculator above makes it easy.

Boost your Social Security checks by working On the bright side, regardless of your age, working while collecting benefits might help you increase the size of your monthly benefits. There are two ways to do this:

□ Grow your benefit pool: Your Social Security benefit is based on your earnings in the highest-paid 35 years of your work history. If you have not worked for a total of 35 years, your nonworking years count at \$0 in calculating your benefits. Continuing to work and taking Social Security when you are older can increase your benefits if you replace lower-earning years with higher-earning years. “If you are filling in a zero, the increase that results from your earnings late in your career can be pretty significant,” Phillips says. And even if you have already worked 35 years or more, your pool of benefits can grow if you replace lower-earning years with higher-earning years.

□ Recalculation: If you worked while claiming Social Security early, once you reach full retirement age your benefits will be recalculated. The penalties you paid are put back into your checks to make them higher. Every full month’s worth of benefits lost to penalties leads to an increase in your future benefits.

Read Social Security’s pamphlet at <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10069.pdf> titled “How Work Affects Your Benefits” to learn the details. Or make an appointment to talk with a benefits adviser at your local Social Security office. Contact the Social Security office nearest you by looking it up at the Social Security Administration website <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>. [Source: MoneyTalksNews | Marilyn Lewis | December 14, 2017.]

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold. -- Gregory, age 5

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it. -- Olive, age 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. Then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes. -- Matthew, age 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God Has to go do something else. -- Mitchell, age 7

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science. -- Henry, age 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!! -- Jack, age 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up To heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. Daniel, age 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado. -- Reagan, age 10

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. -- Sara, age 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his Son, who's a very good carpenter. -- Jared, age 8

All angels are girls because they gotta wear Dresses and boys didn't go for it. -- Antonio, age 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got A big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. -- Ashley, age 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal Sick animals and pets. And if They don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it. -- Vicki, age 8

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone Is in love, they shoot arrows at them. -- Sarah, age 7

A Pub With No Beer

In 1943 US troops had liberty in an Australian town - A farmer rode his horse into town, and wrote this poem.

It's lonesome away from your kindred and all
By the campfire at night where the wild dingos call
But there's nothin' so lonesome, so dull or so drear
Than to stand in the bar of a pub with no beer

Now the publican's anxious for the quota to come
There's a faraway look on the face of the bum
The maid's gone all cranky and the cook's acting queer
What a terrible place is a pub with no beer

The stockman rides up with his dry, dusty throat
He breathes up to the bar, pulls a wad from his coat
But the smile on his face quickly turns to a sneer
When the barman says suddenly: "The pub's got no beer!"

There's a dog on the verandah, for his masters waits
But the boss is inside drinking wine with his mates
He hurries for cover and he cringes in fear
It's no place for a dog round a pub with no beer

Then in comes the swagman all covered with flies
He throws down his roll, wipes the sweat from his eyes
But when he is told he says, "What's this I hear?
I've trudged fifty flamin' miles to a pub with no beer?"

Old Billy, the blacksmith, the first time in his life
Has gone home cold sober to his darling wife
He walks in the kitchen: she says: "You're early, me dear"
Then he breaks down and tells her that the pub's got no beer

It's lonesome away from your kindred and all
By the campfire at night where the wild dingos call
But there's nothin' so lonesome, so dull or so drear
Then to stand in the bar of a pub with no beer

2018 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference will be March 1-3, 2018 at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conf Center, 2801 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. group code: MCLMDWINTER17 Phone: (540) 786-8321 Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. TBA per night + prevailing tax (currently 11.3%) Please make your room reservation direct to the hotel no later than TBA at 540-786-8321.

2018 Department of West Virginia Convention will be May 4-6, 2018 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 \$25, Chicken \$20. Dinners include 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.

2018 Mideast Division Conference will be June 15-16, 2018 at the Turf Valley Resort, 2700 Turf Valley Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Phone: 410-465-1500 or 888-883-8873. Room rate: \$109.00 plus tax Use Group Code: 2944UW. Hosted by Department of Maryland.

2018 MCL National Convention will be August 12-17, 2018 at the Buffalo Hyatt, Two Fountains Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14202. Phone: (844) 612-8010. or 716-856-1234 (Ask for Laci) or Call 888-421-1442 for reservations. Cut off date is July 9, 2018. Reservations open 0801 21 August 2017. Buffalo.hyatt.com . Room price \$113 for one and \$130 for 2 people plus room tax.. Free parking, free breakfast and free wifi.

2018 MCL National Convention will be August 2019 in Billings, Montana.

Department Marine of the Year Announcement Letter

Attention: Detachment Commandant:

Subj: Department Marine of the Year (MOY)

This letter is to inform all Commandants of the rules and regulations for the Department Marine of the Year (MOY).

Marine of the Year nominee shall be submitted for any regular member in good standing according to the Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures Chapter 3, section 301(8) of the AP section.

As per the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures please ensure that you place the letters MOY on the outside flap of the envelope. This will ensure the letter will not be opened until the MOY Society meeting. If the envelope is accidentally opened prior to the MOY meeting, your nomination will not be eligible for consideration of MOY. (Reference: chapter 3, section 301(8) (d) 1)

Please mail your nominations to me:

Steven E. Swenton
President, Department of West Virginia
Marine of the Year
209 Shaffer Street :
Aliquippa, PA 15001-3538

All envelopes for nominees of MOY have to be postmarked no later than 1 March 2018. Any envelopes received postmarked after this date will not be accepted as a nominee.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Swenton
President, Marine of the Year Society

**Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year
Nomination Form**

Detachment_____, Department of West Virginia nominates:

As Marine of the Year for 2018. Our Detachment has used the following information.

He was approved by a majority vote of Detachment____members during a meeting on _____, 2018 and is nominated for the Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year.

I certify the nominee was voted upon and accepted by the members of my Detachment at our _____, 2018 meeting.

Commandant:_____ Adj/Paymaster:_____

Signature:_____ Signature:_____

Date:_____

Note: All letters of nomination shall contain a statement that the nominee (1) has been a member in good standing for a minimum of two (2) years and has maintained a minimum of 70% attendance rate at the Detachment and 50% attendance rate at Department meetings (2) has held, or is holding an elective or appointed office in their detachment or the department. Please submit in accordance with Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Ensure that outside flap of envelope is marked with letters: MOY and post marked no later than 1 March, 2018. Submit to: Steven E. Swenton, President, Department of West Virginia, Marine of the Year Society, 209 Shaffer Street, Aliquippa, PA 15001-3538