

# Mideast Division



**MIDEAST DIVISION BULLETIN September 2022**

**[www.mclmideast.com](http://www.mclmideast.com)**



**In Memory of**

**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS**

**October 2, 1923 – June 29, 2022**

**West Virginia State Capital Charleston, WV July 3, 2022**

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## NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE



To the Membership of the Mideast Division,

It was a glorious National Convention! The Mideast Division once again shone brightly as the 2022 National Marine of the Year was selected. Your very own Assistant National Vice Commandant was selected above 16 other applicants for the Honor. Frank Mathers joins the National Marine of the Year Society as the newest member. As a very active member of the Department of Delaware and the First State Detachment, he has shown that his focus was to always make sure the Marine Corps League stood out as the premier veteran's organization. Send Frank congratulations at [mclmedanvc@gmail.com](mailto:mclmedanvc@gmail.com) .

This was the first year for the selection of the Associate Member of the Year at a National Level. Again, the Mideast division shone brightly as the Department of West Virginia's Adjutant was nominated by her detachment for the honor. Patti Leib's submission was selected over six others as the 2022 National Associate Member of the Year. Her support of the League, the community and faith are phenomenal. One would have to wonder when she has time to sleep. Welcome Patti, as the first member of the Associate Member of the Year Society. Send Patti congratulations at [pattileib024@gmail.com](mailto:pattileib024@gmail.com) .

I sincerely hope that those packages that were not accepted will be resubmitted next year. I ask that you pay close attention to the submissions protocols required for acceptance of the packages. Details, details, details. It is all in the details. Failure to have the correct signatures, failure to indicate that the candidate was selected by the detachment, indicating the wrong year you are submitting for, or failure to address the envelope correctly all reasons for rejection of the entire package. Requirements can be found in you National Administrative Procedures. Read it thoroughly...

*Semper Fidelis.*

*Rick Thomason*

National Vice Commandant  
Mideast Division  
Marine Corps League  
252-903-0386

**MED CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

O God, our Father, deliver us this day from all that would keep us from serving you and from serving our fellow human beings as we ought. Deliver us from all coldness of heart; and grant that neither our hand nor our heart may ever remain shut to the appeal of someone's need. Deliver us from all weakness of will; from the indecision which cannot make up its mind; from the irresolution that cannot abide by a decision once it is made; from the ability to say no to the tempting voices which come to us from inside and from outside. Deliver us from all failure in endeavor; from being too easily discouraged; from giving up and giving in too soon; from allowing any task to defeat us, because it is too difficult. Grant unto us today the love which is generous in help; the determination which is steadfast in decision; the perseverance which is enduring unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Semper Fidelis,  
*Scott Kirby*  
MED Chaplain

**MIDEAST DIVISION MCL MEMBERSHIP TOTALS**

As of 08/10/2022				
Department	PLM	Paid	Total Paid	Unpaid
Delaware	185	126	311	62
Maryland	709	278	987	247
North Carolina	1,296	830	2,126	460
Virginia	872	454	1,326	294
West Virginia	415	278	693	94
Division Total	3,477	1,966	5,443	1,157

**RECRUITING ARTICLE WOODY WROTE TO SUPPORT MCL RECRUITING EFFORTS**



***MARINES, YOU ARE NEEDED!***

**I want to encourage every Marine to become involved in the Marine Corps League. By being a member of the Marine Corps League, we continue to show our loyalty to one another and to the families of those Marines who never got to come home. America and our brother and sister Marines need us to come together to save those benefits we have earned and were granted by a grateful people. The only way to protect those benefits is through numbers of us supporting the League and Veterans Organizations who lead the fight for us. NUMBERS COUNT. I urge you to be faithful to your brother and sister Marines and their families with your membership and your active support of the Marine Corps League.**

***Semper Fi and GBU,  
Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams  
Huntington Detachment 340 MCL***



## **Now Hear This**

Marines:

Good day everyone. I hope all are well.

I hope that by now all members have received and read the Summer Edition of the Semper Fi magazine, especially NVC Rick Thomason's article on page 24. I encourage all members to attend their monthly Detachment and quarterly Department meetings.

I also encourage members to attend the Mideast Division annual conference, the MCL National Midwinter Conference and the MCL National Convention. Active participations is highly advised in all MCL activities.

For information on the just-completed 2022 MCL National Convention go to <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/convention/>, FILES & REPORTS, BYLAW AND ADMIN PROCEDURE CHANGE SUBMISSIONS.

The 2023 National Midwinter Conference will be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel  
777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

2/23/2023 – 2/25/2023 (check in 2/22, check out 2/26)

<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/conference/>

REMINDER: Current address for the Marine Corps League National is: Marine Corps League National P.O. Box 1990 Stafford, VA 22555-1990.

Semper Fidelis/Frater Infinitas,

*Frank Mathers*

Assistant National Vice Commandant

Mideast Division

Chair of MED MOY Committee

[mclmedanvc@gmail.com](mailto:mclmedanvc@gmail.com)

<https://www.mclmideast.com>

301.520.8051



It was good to see everyone at the MED Conference and National Convention. As we start to approach Fall, it is a time to get kids, grandkids, friends' kids back to school, football starts, baseball begins to wrap up, and Toys for Tots starts to gear up. I would like to extend an invitation for everyone to look at the Detachment Adjutant Training PowerPoint I put together. [Detachment Adjutant Training 2020.pptx \(live.com\)](#) There are good nuggets for every member of a Detachment in here.

The Detachment Adjutant needs assistance from every member of the Detachment to help maintain good records. This also goes for the Department level. Each Department is different in their needs as we all have a different number of Detachments, we have to collect data from. Do you know how many Detachments each Department in the MED has? Who has the most or least Detachments?

How well do you know your MED? Here are a few stats.....

Department	Size in Square Miles	Population	# of Detachments
North Carolina	53,819	10.45 M	51
Virginia	42,775	8.65 M	20
West Virginia	24,230	1.79 M	14
Maryland	12,407	6.19 M	18
Delaware	1,981	0.99 M	5

One of the things I would like to emphasize is COMMUNICATION.

Communication is important to all members of the League. Except for a couple of the National folks, EVERYONE is a volunteer. We all try or should try to do our jobs to the best of our ability. Communication between each level is very important to make the League operation effectively and efficiently. Most communication is still done with emails. If your officer positions do not have an email, then please help them get one.

I do encourage that each position has one that can be passed on to the next occupying person. This helps with consistency and history of sent/received things. In this day and time, there should be no reason that a detachment or department cannot provide a computer to be passed along from one person to another in the key positions....Adjutant/Paymaster, Commandant, Judge Advocate, maybe Sr Vice or Jr Vice. Minimum a thumb drive with all of the data should be provided and passed along.

Barking out orders to folks is not productive. Remember, for the most part, none of us are on active duty and have other things in our lives in addition to the League. Honey can help produce better results. Yes, a lot of emails get sent out. Some of the information may only apply to a few, but those few may need it. Please forward the emails. Hope to see you at the next meeting or growl!

Semper Fi,

*Laura Hamilton*

Mideast Division Adjutant

[mclmideastadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:mclmideastadjutant@gmail.com)

704-460-0972



## MARINE FOR LIFE

CONNECTING MARINES WITH OPPORTUNITY



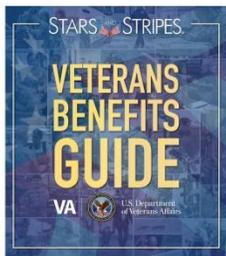
Marines, In the past year, the M4L Network augmented our outreach to assist Marines on a national level as well as offering many new resources to better suit their needs. Marine4Life is working! Instead of sitting back and enjoying the sunshine, the Network is expanding with every Hiring event and Contact meets all over the country. Our regional support under the direction of David Ossian has been superlative. He keeps me in the know for everything that is going on within our division and offer nothing but gratitude for his service.

### DIRECTIVES :

1. Make your presence known. Identify yourself as a Marine4Life Detachment Liaison.
2. Know all of your support contacts. Keep a Roster close.
3. Prepare reports on M4L activity/intervention monthly. Any info, even if “None to Report” helps our National Committee to account for the numbers.
4. Integrate Detachment-Level support into regular meetings by making your members aware of who you are and what M4L functions they are currently performing. Be sure to take into account any interaction or assistance that you perform with the Department by reporting to Department M4L Liaison at each Department Quarterly Meeting.
5. Stay prepared to assist by having an accurate accounting of the Mideast Division MCL / M4L Liaisons for connecting Transitioning Marines to MCL assets.

### RESOURCE UPDATES:

## VETERANS BENEFITS GUIDE



Stars and Stripes and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) presents the 2021-22 Veterans Benefits Guide. This guide created for veterans, service members, and their families contains information about financial assistance, career planning and guidance, home loan assistance, and more!

The VBA operates under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and provides a variety of benefits and services to service members, veterans, and their families. Visit [www.benefits.va.gov](http://www.benefits.va.gov) for additional information.

**Warriors Connected, is the Marine for Life**

**Newsletter.** <https://usmc-mccs.org/services/career/marine-network/> Linked In:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-lifenetwork>

Visit our LinkedIn site to download and read a copy.



**Network  
for-life-**

For additional information or to volunteer as a Detachment or Department level M4L Liaison, please contact the Division Liaison at [airlock@mcleague947.com](mailto:airlock@mcleague947.com). Semper Fidelis!

R. Michael Lyon

Mideast Division M4L Liaison

### **MCL Members Help with Bridge Dedication in Randolph County WV**

He fought in agonizing freezing weather and on exceedingly rough terrain, dying nearly 72 years ago of injuries sustained in one of the most brutal battles of the Korean War. Now a bridge near his childhood home bears the name of the 19-year-old Randolph County soldier who lost his life in service to his country. The U.S. Army PFC Donald L. Stuckey Memorial Bridge is the span formerly known as the Stalnaker Run Bridge at the intersection of U.S. 291 north and Stalnaker Run Road near the Gilman community. Approval for renaming the bridge in Stuckey's memory was granted this year by the West Virginia Legislature and a ceremony to mark the change was held Saturday in the parking lot outside the nearby Refuge Church. Elkins Marine Corps League Commandant Roger Ware, instrumental in efforts to name local bridges in memory of Randolph County servicemen killed in combat, served as master of ceremonies for the bridge-renaming ceremony.

Ware said the newly renamed bridge is small, "yet will serve as a constant reminder of who Donald Lee Stuckey was." Born in Elkins on Aug. 13, 1931, Stuckey attended the eight-year Stalnaker Run School; then while attending Elkins High School, "he rode a school bus countless times over the bridge now named in his honor," Ware said. "On Stalnaker Run he grew up into a young man who loved life and his family and eventually joined the U.S. Army answering his country's call when it sent a United Nations force to Korea in 1950 to counter North Korea's invasion across the 38th parallel." Private First Class Stuckey served as a light weapons infantryman with the U.S. Army's 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

On Nov. 27, 1950, the Chinese Army surprised United Nations Forces at the Chosin Reservoir, resulting in a brutal 17-day battle in sub-freezing weather on rough terrain. Also known as the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, the Battle of Chosin Reservoir was a decisive action during the Korean War. Between Nov. 27, 1950, and Dec. 13, 1950, 30,000 United Nations troops were encircled and attacked by about 120,000 Chinese troops under devastating conditions, which led to 17,000 U.N. Forces being killed, wounded, or missing in action. Stuckey suffered traumatic injuries at the beginning of the Chosin Reservoir battle and died of his wounds on Nov. 27, 1950. He is remembered at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and is buried at Little Arlington Cemetery near the Cravensdale community. For his bravery and sacrifice, Stuckey was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Marksmanship Badge, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Citation, Republic of Korea War Service Medal, and United Nations Service Medal.

Ware said following World War II, "our nation had become like a flock of sheep" with citizens "content when someone else was courageous enough to fight off the wolves. As long as someone volunteered to stay out there protecting those within the flock, they were safe," Ware said. "Since a few volunteers were enough to keep the wolves at bay, all those in that flock became complacent, and weren't concerned if one of the volunteers lost his life fighting the wolves. After all, it was just one of the volunteers and not one of them, so they experienced no pain or suffering. Donald was one of the volunteers who wanted to protect the flock, so he joined the U.S. Army and was extremely proud to wear our nation's colors." Elkins resident Loren Chenoweth, who as a youngster knew Stuckey's family, worked in conjunction with West Virginia House of Delegates member William "Ty" Nestor (R-66th District) to submit House Concurrent Resolution 39 to gain approval from the West Virginia Legislature to rename the Stalnaker Run Bridge in Stuckey's memory.

"Delegate Nestor wanted to not only memorialize PFC Stuckey's service in this small way, but also to have it be a memorial for our society in general about the sacrifice that this individual, as well as other servicemen and servicewomen, have given to protect our independence as a country," Ware said. "Now as we reflect upon this fallen soldier and his great sacrifice, we recognize the naming of this bridge will serve as a lasting symbol of our remembrance," Ware said, adding it will "ensure future generations are aware of his sacrifice in the cause of freedom."

“It is with respect and dignity that we are here today to remember him, honor him and pledge never to forget him as this bridge will forever serve as a silent sentinel of his service “ he said during the ceremony. Ware said Nov. 27, 1950, is the day Stuckey’s family would remember that Donald Stuckey forever remains 19 years old. “It’s been 72 years since Donald died and he was a true American hero,” Ware said. “No action or gesture can adequately express our gratitude for his service. It’s my sincere hope that his family and friends and our entire community can take pride and solace in today’s dedication, which will forever serve as a reminder of Donald’s courage and commitment to his country.

The naming of this bridge is a wonderful way of remembering this brave young soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. “For those who cross this bridge every day, the signs will serve “as a silent reminder that freedom has a price, and Donald Stuckey gave his life to help pay for this freedom, “Ware said. “We also dedicate this memorial as a place where those coming after us will recognize our desire to acknowledge those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom, and they will be encouraged to place the same importance on this site as we do here today. Donald was never properly honored for his sacrifice. This was long overdue, “Ware said. “He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die, that freedom might live and grow and increase its blessings. Freedom lives, and through it, he lives.”



Elkins Marine Corps League Commandant Roger Ware, foreground, who has been instrumental in efforts to rename Randolph County bridges for servicemen killed in action, delivers remarks during Saturday's ceremony to rename the Stalnaker Run Bridge near Gilman as the U.S. Army PFC Donald L. Stuckey Memorial Bridge. Participating in the ceremony were, left to right, U.S. Army veterans Keith Williams and Charlie Gear, House of Delegates member William "Ty" Nestor (R-66th District), and MCL members Greg Irwin and Judy Gum. Also assisting but not pictured is Judith Ware.



**Article submitted by Commandant Mike McLain Department of WV MCL**

## EDITOR'S CORNER



August 29, 2022 – Huntington Detachment 340 Commandant Rick Shank presented the Walmart gift card raffle winner Mrs. Gerrie Smith from Kenova, WV with the \$1000.00 Walmart Gift Card. The ticket was drawn at the detachments 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Huntington Det. 340 MCL Memorial Car and Bike Show on August 27, 2022. Huntington Detachment 340 would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket to support our Veteran Outreach Programs.

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Thank you to the MED Division Officers and Staff for your MED Bulletin articles.

**Department Commandants!** If your Department would like to submit an article and or photo to the MED Bulletin of a significant event that took place in your department please do so. Our next MED Bulletin will be ready to go out in January 2023. Shoot me an email with your info and I will be glad to help you with your submission. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Semper Fidelis,  
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**ARE YOU A VET STRUGGLING WITH THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE,  
DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, PTSD?**

**YOU'RE NOT ALONE! HELP IS CLOSE AT HAND:**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988

National Mental Health Hotline: 866 – 903 – 3787

If you are struggling with anxiety, bipolar, depression, panic attacks, PTSD, or schizophrenia connect with a trained crisis counselor.

V. A. Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800 – 273 – 8255, press 1 or text 388255 on your smart phone.

Online Live Chat: [veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net)

Vet2vet Crisis Line 1-887-VET2VET (838-2838) to speak to a trained vet Crisis Text Line for Veterans: text “connect to 741741” to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

Give an Hour: [giveanhour.org](http://giveanhour.org) licensed counselors offering free in-person counseling for veterans.

Stop Soldier Suicide: [stopsoldiersuicide.org](http://stopsoldiersuicide.org) get help with emotional issues, financial aid, housing, alternative therapies, vet/family retreats, education, and service dogs.

Check for state, municipal, and private programs in your area that specialize in assisting veterans with mental health issues.



## PENDING MCL EVENTS

**2023 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference** will be 2/23/2023 – 2/25/2023 (check in 2/22/23, check out 2/26/23) 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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 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.

**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 all other animals is \$165.00 charge per week. Rate good for 3 days prior and afterwards. Reservation open August 22, 2022 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.