

## Mideast Division



### MIDEAST DIVISION BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2020

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

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Aide-de-Camp to NVC  
Adjutant  
Chief of Staff & Paymaster  
Jr. Past NVC  
Aide-de-Camp to National  
Chaplain  
Sgt-at-Arms / Scouts Chair  
Sgt-at-Arms  
Web Sergeant  
Ambassador  
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Vice Chief Devil Dog  
MCLA Mideast VP  
Photographer  
Marine for Life Liaison  
Marine of the Year Chair  
Asst. Chaplain  
Chapel of Four Chaplains  
Young Marines Liaison  
Bulletin Editor**

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## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

National Headquarters

From: Dennis Tobin, National Commandant/CEO//MCL  
To: All Members of the Marine Corps League  
Subj: 2020 Birthday Message from the MCL National Commandant

The United States Marine Corps is celebrating its 245th Birthday. November 10, 1775 is celebrated in every clime and place where Marines may be. Regardless of job duty or tenure in the Corps, Marines hold our history in the highest of regards. Our beloved Corps of Marines continues to instill this deference in the newest recruits.

Founded in 1923 and chartered by the U. S. Congress in 1937, the Marine Corps League continues to preserve the traditions of our Corps. Our membership is spread across the Nation. We come from every city, county, and state just as the Marines currently serving in the Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps League is dedicated to services like funeral honors, Toys for Tots, and assisting transitioning Marines and their families. Our efforts, through patriotic volunteerism, directly support the Commandant of the Marine Corps and our Marines. Thank you for what you do every day.

We have strengthened our partnership with the Marine Corps Association and Foundation to foster the spirit and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps perpetuated by history on common ground dating back almost one hundred years to our common founder Lt. Gen John A. Lejeune. This partnership will further support the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Berger, and his successors.

As Marines around the world continue to serve in harm's way to keep us safe, let us take time to once again celebrate the glorious history of our beloved Corps.

Happy Birthday Marines

Semper Fidelis

*Dennis Tobin*

Dennis Tobin

National Commandant/CEO

Marine Corps League

## NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT MESSAGE



Greeting Marines, the virus is still out there so take all precautions to protect yourself and those you love. Nov 10, the USMC will celebrate 245 years of being on the tip of the spear. I wish all Marines a Happy Birthday and thank you for your service. The holiday season is around the corner, so I hope you enjoy these days and share time with each other. Thanksgiving and Christmas are special times so enjoy them. The virus has forced us to change how we conduct our meetings and fund raisers. Time will change everything, and a vaccine will be most welcome.

We still need to ensure we do all the required administrative tasks for our department and detachments. The Report of Officer Installation (ROI) is mandatory every year and must be submitted through the department level and on to National. Filing the report ensures your officers are bonded and covered under the Rust Insurance policy.

Filing of the IRS 990 N or 990 EZ is required within 5 months of the end of your fiscal year. If you do not file, then IRS can revoke your non-profit status, and this forces your state to revoke your corporation status. Some states require an Annual Corporate Report filing and without filing you are not in compliance with your corporate laws. You have to stay current within your state as the requirements differ from state to state.

The June 30 membership roster from National included a Paid Life Member (PLM) audit sheet. Checking over this list to ensure your paid member list is accurate and there are no changes is important as your PLM interest payment is based on the filing of the audit. It is always based on total PLM as of Sept two years back. This is 2020 so the interest check received will be based on those members on record as of Sept 2018. In the past National would send a check to your department or detachment paymaster, but National will no longer mail a written check to paymasters. National has asked all departments and detachments to send in their bank routing and account numbers so a direct deposit can be made into your bank accounts. This saves man hours, postage, and bank fees. Many of the checks were returned due to wrong addresses so National wants to reduce the fees by going to ACH deposits. If you have not sent your bank information to national, please get this done.

The first quarter membership roster ending Sept 30 is out and lists all your unpaid members. Take a look at this list and takes steps to contact all your unpaid and do what you can to have them continue their membership. If you write a letter to them asking them to pay their annual dues please ensure the address is listed for the paymaster as far too often no address is included and the member has no idea where to send their payments.

Look over the pending dates for the various meetings and conventions and make plans to attend as many as possible as it's a great learning venue. Take care of yourself, stay safe and plan on visiting some of the locations where our veterans or widows might be hospitalized or living if you can get access over the holidays.

Semper Fi,

Roger Ware  
NVC  
Mideast Division

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

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Father,

We thank you for this day and the blessings that you continue to send our way. Give us patience in dealing with the Covid restrictions and with each other. Help us to be aware of the hardships of those around us and grant us strength to help others when we are able. Keep us talking kindly with those who are reaching other conclusions. Help us to understand viewpoints we do not share and to show respect for others, especially during this season of high drama and family challenges. Be with our military troops both here and around the world. Watch over us all and keep us safe. Amen.

Semper Fidelis,

Chaplain Lee Taylor  
Mideast Division  
Marine Corps League

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**Mideast Divison MCL Membership**

<b>As of 10/20/2020</b>				
<b>Department</b>	<b>PLM</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Total Paid</b>	<b>Unpaid</b>
<b>Delaware</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>603</b>
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>West Virginia</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Division Total</b>	<b>3,541</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>4,572</b>	<b>1,302</b>

**GET THE WORD AND STAY INFORMED WITH THE LEAGUE!**

**Periodicly vist the websites below for the latest updated MCL information and  
Professinal Development Training.**

**[www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org)**

**[www.mcleaguelibrary.org](http://www.mcleaguelibrary.org)**

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

**[www. Militaryorderofthedevidogs.org](http://www.Militaryorderofthedevidogs.org)**

## **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 2021 Mideast Division Marine of the Year.

**The Chairman is Frank Mathers- Department of Delaware.** The other committee members are: Bud Raines - Department of Maryland, Richard Tanner - Department of Delaware, Roger Ware, Mike McLain, and Rick Shank- Department of West Virginia and Jeffrey Jones and Rick Thomason - Department of North Carolina.

The guidelines in Section 300 (h) (2) of the above reference must be followed for each nomination. Please insert "Division" in lieu of "National", as appropriate. Any regular member from the Mideast Division can be nominated and the Mideast Division MOY will be presented at the 2021 Mideast Division Conference, April 17, 2021 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Each letter of nomination must be mailed to the above chairman, registered return receipt, post marked not later than March 17, 2021.

Mail to Frank Mathers, Mideast Division Chairperson Marine of the Year Committee, 17 Fairway Drive, Ocean View, Delaware 18870. Telephone: 301-520-8051. It must have a cover letter signed by the Commandant and Adjutant or other officers if one of them is nominated. An inner envelope must be addressed to the Mideast Division Chairperson Marine of the Year Committee. A second envelope must be addressed to the Chairperson. It must be sent Certified, Return Receipt Requested for your records, before the postmark deadline. The Marine of the Year Committee will announce the 2021 recipient during the Mideast Division Conference. The above provisions are for 2021 Marine of the Year selection only.

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

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

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

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

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

The member must be a member in good standing and have served at least either an elected or appointed position within his detachment and department.

List how many years he has been a member. List his positions and what was the significance of each if any. Is he a Detachment or Department Marine of the Year.

There commendation 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 committee.



October 20, 2020 – Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams pictured in his famous Slingshot Hot Rod, is doing fine, and staying active. He recently petitioned Delegate Daniel Linville, West Virginia House of Delegates District 16 as Vice Chairman - Committee on Technology and Infrastructure to update the sign of a county bridge dedicated to honor Marine Cpl. William Bradley Fulks.

The request was made to include Brad’s rank and branch of service on his sign. Great job Woody!!





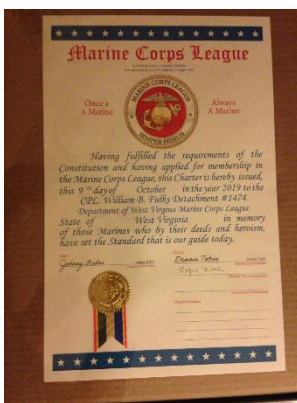
Marine William Bradley Fulks was a spring baby – born to mother, Kimberly, and father, William the first week of May. He grew up in the area around Ona and Milton, Cabell County, West Virginia.

Brad was a multi-faceted youth proving himself both a scholar and an athlete. He graduated with honors from Cabell Midland High School in 2001. Always an active lad, he excelled in many sports, including basketball, football, baseball, and track for the “CM Knights.” A gifted pugilist, Brad also competed in the Golden Gloves Boxing Championship as a member of the Milton Boxing Club. In the process, he earned two State Championships.

He went on to Marshall University after graduation. The classroom, however, could not contain his bold spirit. Following his family’s military tradition, Brad enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. After extensive training, he deployed to Afghanistan for several months in 2004 with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines. Brad took up more advanced training when he returned to the states. In April 2006, he shipped out to Al Anbar, Iraq with the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion.

An improvised explosive device (IED) detonated beneath his Humvee on 1 May near Fallujah, Iraq. The blast inflicted second and third degree burns over 60 percent of his body. Corporal Fulks also sustained massive internal injuries. Brad succumbed to his wounds on Thursday, 18 May 2006 – just three days after his 23rd birthday. His fellow Marines universally liked and respected him. Marine Corporal Jeff D. Elmore, speaks of Brad as “. . . always the guy with a beer or a song for me when I was bored or had a bad day.” First Lieutenant, Tommy Waller was Brad’s Recon Platoon Commander in Iraq. In a memorial tribute to his fallen comrade, Lieutenant Waller recalled a quiet and humble professional. “It was easy for me to tell that the men in the platoon felt comfortable around Brad whether out in town or outside the wire – they felt protected.”

County bridge number 06-23-1.15 (10460) sits at Yates Crossing in Cabell County where Brad spent his pre-Marine Corps years. In response to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 36 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 32, West Virginia has designated that landmark as the “USMC Corporal William Bradley Fulks Memorial Bridge.” This is a small but lasting token of the state’s appreciation and gratitude for Brad’s ultimate sacrifice. Semper Fidelis, Marine!



On December 1, 2019, the CPL. William B. Fulks Detachment 1474 Dept. of WV Marine Corps League was Chartered in Hurricane, WV.



## **VA PLANS TO OUTSOURCE ALL COMPENSATION AND PENSION EXAMS**

Military News 21 Oct 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs is eliminating its in-house compensation and pension exam program and will outsource all of the exams, which are crucial to determining whether veterans are eligible for VA benefits.

In a letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie on Tuesday, Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va., said the plan was developed with no notice to Congress. She's concerned the move could slow work to reduce a backlog of compensation and pension exams, commonly referred to as C&P exams, and she's worried about the VA's ability to oversee the contractors. Luria also criticized the department for cutting federal jobs during a pandemic.

"For many veterans, thorough and accurate C&P examinations are crucial to securing service-connected benefits," Luria wrote. "VA's quiet decision to carry out a major reorganization of its C&P program without a plan to make key improvements, reduce backlog, or retain employees is unlikely to deliver the high-quality results we expect."

Luria leads the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, part of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. During a hearing she led last year, the VA said it would contract with more outside medical providers to perform C&P exams. Lawmakers were led to believe the contracted examiners merely supplemented the existing program, primarily to help rural veterans and those veterans facing long wait times, Luria said.

Recently, however, VA staff told Luria's office about the department's plan to shutter the C&P program at the VA and contract with the private sector for 100% of the exams.

"VA privately advised my staff of the decision after it was made, without a press release or communication to the affected veterans, advocates, or labor representatives," Luria said. "Such a consequential decision should have been communicated directly to the chair and ranking member of this subcommittee and should not have moved forward during the turbulence of the pandemic."

The VA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The change comes as the VA is working through a backlog of requests for exams. The department suspended the exams in April, as coronavirus cases grew across the United States. During that time, the backlog grew to about 350,000 requests.

The VA resumed in-person exams in some locations May 28. As of mid-October, exams were being scheduled in all areas of the U.S. In all the new instructions about the resumed exams, the VA notes that a "VA contract medical examiner" would be in touch to schedule them.

During a C&P exam, a health care provider examines a veteran to help determine whether his or her disabilities are connected to military service. The information gathered during the exam is used by the VA to make a decision on a veteran's claim and to issue a disability rating. The rating determines how much monthly compensation the veteran is due.

The VA has increasingly relied on contractors to perform the exams -- spending nearly \$6.8 billion on exam contracts in 2016. Recently, contractors were performing about 60% of exams, Luria's letter states.

The Government Accountability Office reported in 2018 that the department doesn't track whether contractors are meeting quality and timeliness standards. The VA has not yet implemented the recommendations the GAO made in that report, Luria said. She's worried that as the VA expands its use of contractors, the department lacks the ability to oversee them.

"More than two years later, [the VA] has not fully implemented these recommendations it agreed were necessary for proper oversight," Luria wrote to Wilkie. The "failure to implement these recommendations raises concerns about its ability to oversee contractors as they increase their workload from 60% of C&P examinations to nearly 100%."

Luria sent a list of questions to Wilkie, including how many C&P examiner jobs the VA would eliminate and whether those employees would be able to remain at the agency in some capacity.

Luria also wants to know whether the VA has considered maintaining in-house exams for veterans suffering from Gulf War Illness, military sexual trauma and traumatic brain injury--all conditions unique to veterans and that often call for specialists. She asked for responses by Nov. 16.

#### **Projected Department for hosting Mideast Division Conference**

- 1 Delaware – 2021
2. North Carolina – 2022
3. Maryland – 2023
4. West Virginia – 2024
5. Virginia – 2025

#### **EDITOR'S CORNER**

Hello Members of the Mideast Division,

Hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. If any member of the Division would like to submit a story, report, picture etc. for the MED Bulletin, please submit your entries through your Department Commandant. Thank you for your support. Here is my contact info:

Rick Shank  
PO Box 512 Huntington, WV 25710  
Hard-charger@suddenlink.net

Bulletin Editor  
Mideast Division MCL



## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MIDEAST DIVISION

### MIDEAST DIVISION MCL/M4L LIAISON NEWS

R. Michael Lyon,

Mideast Division M4L Liaison

Marines,

It has been a tough year for many of us dealing with COVID. In the upcoming year I am hopeful that we can recover, retain, and even increase our number of M4L Liaisons to make a stronger network in our Division.

#### **DIRECTIVES FOR 2020 -2021**

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.

#### **UPDATES:**

- COVID has caused the network to use electronic communications whenever possible. Always follow your local COVID guidelines.
- Nationally, the M4LNetwork has been working to set up more resources for housing, healthcare, employment and educational assistance. The Network is fully functional everywhere.

If there are any changes or additions, please contact the Division Liaison at [airlock@mcleague947.com](mailto:airlock@mcleague947.com) to report.

The M4L Network Website is here:

<https://usmcmccs.org/services/career/marine-for-life-network/>  
Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-lifefnetwork>

Warriors Connected, is the Marine for Life Network Newsletter. Visit our LinkedIn site to download and read a copy.

Semper Fi!



## PENDING MCL CALENDAR

**2021 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference** February 25– 27 2021 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfsi-sheraton-norfolk-waterside-hotel/> Group Code: MCL Phone: (757-622-6664) Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. \$129.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 14%) Please make your room reservation directly to the hotel.

**2021 Mideast Division Conference** will be 16, 17, 18 April 2021 hosted by Department of Delaware at Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center (Oceanfront) 1 Baltimore Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971 Phone: 800-422-0600 | 302-227-2511 <https://atlanticsandshotel.com/> Room rate \$105.00 plus fees. Discounted breakfast, parking included. Reservations may be made now.\*Reservation may be made now by calling 1-800-422-0600, refer to the Mideast Division Marine Corps League Block #9579 arriving Friday, April 16, 2021. Reservations are open.

**2021 Modern Day Marine Expo** will be May 4-6, 2021 at MCB, Quantico, VA

**2021 Department of West Virginia Department Convention** will be May 14-16, 2021 at the Holiday Inn Express, 50 Martin Street, Elkins, WV 26241 hosted by Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment #956. Room rate \$100.00 per night. Phone: 304-630-2266. .Hotel registration deadline is April 29, 2021. Free parking and continental breakfast 6 -10 a.m. Banquet \$30 and will be buffet style. POC is Roger Ware 304-636-4365 or [rrware@yahoo.com](mailto:rrware@yahoo.com). Please do not call the hotel to make your reservations as Detachment 956 will make reservations when you send them your payment. Once your payment is received your name will be given to the hotel under the Code MCL. This is to take advantage of the tax-exempt status. There will be a pending flyer which can be used for advance registration, hotel, and banquet. There is no pre-registration fee or ad book.

**2021 Department of Virginia Convention** in the process of confirming the dates and location, maybe somewhere in the Richmond, Virginia area. Details to follow.

**2021 Department of Delaware Convention** will be 8 May 2021 at the Heritage Shore Golf Club One Heritage Shore Circle. Bridgeville, Delaware 19933, 1000-1400. Lunch will be provided. Contact Frank Mathers, Commandant 301-520-8051.

**2021 Department of Maryland Convention** will be 6-7-8 May 2021 Thursday-Sat at the Princess Royale Hotel 9100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**2021 Department of North Carolina Department Convention** will be June 11-13, 2021 in , Charlotte, NC. It will be hosted by Catawba Valley Detachment # 1163.

**2021 MCL National Convention** will be August 6-14, 2021 at Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E Adams St, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Room rate is \$129.95 with tax included. Free breakfast, free parking, and Wi-Fi. Pet friendly. [wyndhamhotels.com](http://wyndhamhotels.com) Phone: 217-789-1530 Reservations open August 17, 2020. Overflow hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton, 701 E. Adams St, Springfield, IL Phone: (217) 544-8800 Website: [doubletree1.hilton.com](http://doubletree1.hilton.com). Contract rate for MCL starts Aug 31, 2020.

**2021 Marine South Expo** will be Sept 29-30 at MCB, Camp Lejeune, NC

**2022 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference** February 24– 26 2022 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfsi-sheraton-norfolk-waterside-hotel/> Group Code: MCL Phone: (757-622-6664) Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. \$129.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 14%) Please make your room reservation directly to the hotel.

**2022 MCL National Convention** will be August 15-20, 2022 at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL, 32118 Phone: 866-536-8477 or 1-800-HILTONS (toll free, 24-hour reservation center); 386-254-8200. Room rate: \$127.00 plus 12.5% tax.