



April 2020 — May 2020

# SEMPER FI

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League

## Commandant's Corner

## In This Newsletter

I pray that you are all keeping healthy. With this current situation, we find that a new word and phrase has been added to our vocabulary that will resonate a cringing feeling when we think about the year 2020. The phrase is "social distancing;" the word is "coronavirus." The coronavirus/COVID-19 has caused us to re-think the way we communicate with each other and pass information. "Social distancing" keeps us from meeting and socializing. So teleconference has become the norm as a means to pass information and discuss thoughts and ideas. Our next department meeting is scheduled for 29 March at 1300. We will meet via a conference call and all are welcome to join in. You can do so by calling 515-604-9555. The access code for the conference call is 767112; then pound sign or hashtag (#). Announce yourself as you connected to the conference. Hope to hear from you then. The State convention is still in the planning stages. A decision will be made in the next month as to whether it will be conducted, cancelled, or rescheduled. Stay tuned for further information. If it is cancelled, all funds that were submitted will be returned. As we struggle to make sense of this pandemic virus, please keep yourself safe and healthy. Don't take any chances. Too many people are getting sick and some are dying. I don't want you to be one of those people. So, please stay safe, stay healthy, and hope to see you all as soon as social distancing is lifted.

**The upcoming Department meeting is scheduled for 29 March at 1300. The number to call in to the conference is: 515-604-9555. Once you call into the number, you will be prompted for the Access Code which is: 767-112 followed by the pound sign/hashtag sign (#). It will then prompt you to announce yourself if you are not the first to call in.**

Semper Fi,  
Adele Hodges  
Commandant, Department of Connecticut  
Marine Corps League

In this issue of the newsletter we find ourselves in the middle of the coronavirus/COVID-19, and there is so much information out there both factual and confusing as well as true and not so true. In my opinion and that is all it is, take the information you have been given and stay away from the television. The media has made this as they seem to do with everything lately and sensationalized it and the more you listen

to them the more frightened some people will become. Because of this the calendar does not have the meetings that were scheduled as they are no longer scheduled. Pack and Pound Growls have been cancelled. Department and detachment meetings as well will take

on other forms. We are receiving continuous update from the VA and National that are being forwarded to us by the commandant and if you are not getting them you might want to check to see if anyone has your e-mail.

This Newsletter belongs to all of us. All I do is assemble it and try to fill the blank spaces. However, the information should come from you. Photos of what is going on in your detachment or in your world can be shared with all of us. We would like to publish Birthdays each issue but we need to get the list from National and I'll work on that. This month there is a section for those we lost. This month it is dedicated to Leo Fitzpatrick. If you know someone who has passed tell us about him because we would like to know them as well.

Walt Benson  
Adjutant / Paymaster  
Newsletter Editor

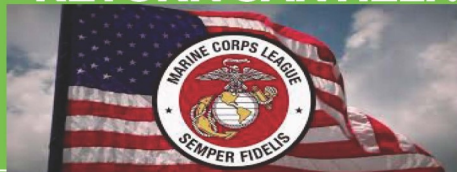
## H&R Block Supports Non—Profits

Walt Benson

Recently we signed up to be in the H&R Block program for Non Profit Organizations. We are not looking for anyone to change what they already do when it comes to filing Taxes. However, Thousands of people come to H&R Block each year for the first time as new clients. Adults, College Students, and kids doing their first tax return. These are our target audience. If they bring this number to the office when they file their taxes, it doesn't cost them anything extra, but we get \$20 for each one. So they do something they were going to do anyway and we get a \$20 donation. So no, although we are not endorsing H&R Block we just enjoy the money we can get from this donation. This is set up for the Department so for the first time in a long time The Department will receive money. To date we have 2 donations and the flyers haven't even been given to the majority of our members.

On a personal note I am working in Stratford, 1345 Barnum Ave. this year, for H&R Block. I get \$1000.00 a year to spend on Family and Friends, and since my family is not interested, and as all of you know I have no friends, I give that money away to veterans. In other offices it usually gave to those other than Marines, and that's okay but here

## LEARN HOW YOUR TAX RETURN CAN HELP.



### Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League

For every new client who files their taxes with H&R Block or Block Advisors, our organization will receive \$20\*.

**The amount we can earn is unlimited!**

Find an office near you at  
[hrblock.com](http://hrblock.com) or [blockadvisors.com](http://blockadvisors.com).

**H&R BLOCK** **Advisors**

[hrblockreferrals.com](http://hrblockreferrals.com)



Nonprofit Referral ID – for office use only 40010001102553  
ENTER NP ID INTO THE BW CLIENT TRANSACTION SCREEN



\*Only approved 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(6), 501(c)(10) and 501(c)(29) organizations are eligible to receive \$20 for each new client referred to a participating U.S. H&R Block or Block Advisors office when that person pays for the preparation of a federal (1040) income tax return from January 1 - October 15 of the current year. A new client is a person who did not have their taxes prepared by H&R Block or Block Advisors the prior year. Referral form must be presented prior to completion of the initial tax interview. Amended returns do not qualify and H&R Block and Block Advisors employees are not eligible. Allow approximately 8 weeks after May 1 for delivery of check. Offer may not be combined with any other referral program, coupon or discount offer. ©2018 HRB Tax Group, Inc.

## Department of Connecticut Elected Officers, 2019-2020

Commandant .....	Adele Hodges 203-843-1244 <a href="mailto:hodgesadele@yahoo.com">hodgesadele@yahoo.com</a>
Sr. Vice Commandant.....	David Rosa 203-974-9733 <a href="mailto:coyotyhunter1@yahoo.com">coyotyhunter1@yahoo.com</a>
Jr. Vice Commandant.....	Pat McMahon 860-222-5024 <a href="mailto:ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com">ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com</a>
Judge Advocate .....	Richard Daigle 203-506-8786 <a href="mailto:poppop.daigle@gmail.com">poppop.daigle@gmail.com</a>
Sgt. At Arms .....	James W. Morris 860-394-5111 <a href="mailto:mcl.ch46@gmail.com">mcl.ch46@gmail.com</a>
Adjutant/Paymaster .....	Walt Benson 203-768-8435 <a href="mailto:walt.benson5@gmail.com">walt.benson5@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor .....	Walt Benson 203-768-8435 <a href="mailto:walt.benson5@gmail.com">walt.benson5@gmail.com</a>
Funeral Honors .....	James W. Morris 860-394-5111 <a href="mailto:mcl.ch46@gmail.com">mcl.ch46@gmail.com</a>
Chaplain .....	Michael Bolash 203-368-1705 <a href="mailto:marinedb42@gmail.com">marinedb42@gmail.com</a>
The Worthy Pack Leader.....	Jim Soder 860-342-1919 <a href="mailto:124redbone@att.net">124redbone@att.net</a>
Young Marines Liaison ... ..	Pat McMahon 860-222-5024 <a href="mailto:ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com">ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com</a>
Web Sergeant .....	Skip Hamel 203-527-8137 <a href="mailto:hamels52@att.net">hamels52@att.net</a>
Public Relations .....	Sal Sena 860-614-6188
Historian .....	Jack Savage 860-628-4827



## Hardware City

## Department Meeting



### A Birthday Celebration

Jim Morris

On 13 of March we did a wake service with two representatives each from three different detachments, we had James Soder and Richard Michaud from Middlesex, Lawrence Sekscenski and James Morris from Hardware City, and Joe Balint and Pat McMahan from Thames River Detachment. After which we went to the Mystic Pizza Restaurant (of the movie fame) to celebrate Larry's Birthday which was on the same day. "Beware The Ides of March" Larry.



ST. Paddy's Day has Come and Gone, yet we who have embraced the GREEN, since Boot Camp, ie "Marine Green" have only come up with the photo of one lone Leprechaun. Probably the last one standing.

Remember our saying !!!

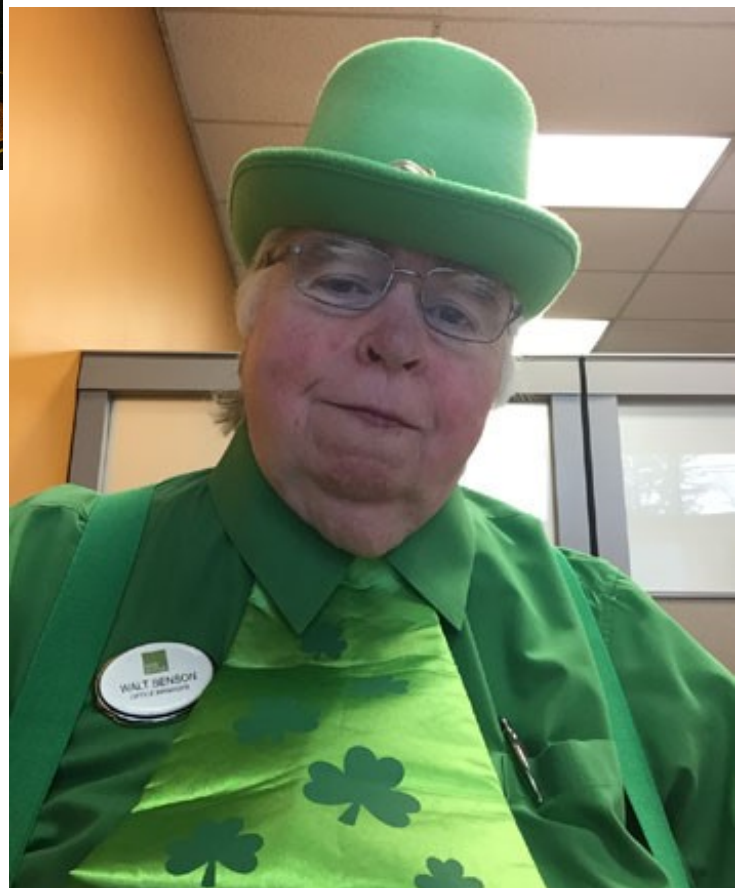
**"You're always Lucky When  
You're with a Marine"**

To All:

I hope that everyone is doing well and staying healthy. In an effort to keep within the procedures of social distances, our next department meeting will be held via teleconference as indicated in my 16 March 2020 email.

The upcoming Department meeting is scheduled for 29 March at 1300. The number to call in to the conference is: **515-604-9555**. Once you call into the number, you will be prompted for the Access Code which is: **767-112** followed by the pound sign/hashtag sign (#). It will then prompt you to announce yourself if you are not the first to call in. If you want to test the procedures before the meeting, you can call test it at any time. Hope to hear from you at the meeting time.

Semper Fi  
Adele





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## **Young Marine Attends Three Day Course on Public Affairs**

**YM SSGT Samira McCord  
Three Rivers Young Marines**

I have recently been afforded the opportunity to go to a Public Affairs Course in Dumfries, Virginia. In this course I gained an abundance of experience and knowledge. Alongside nine other Young Marines, I was able to grow relationships as well as practice skills that I would need to know when on a Summer program covering the event. The role of a Public Affairs Officer is to be able to take an event and document it in such a way that the viewers feel as though they are with you on the trip. This task is large, but if done correctly can be very rewarding, for you as well as all of the people who see your work.

During this 3 day course, classes and practical applications were conducted to teach us the basics of photography and videography. On the second day we took a trip to the National Mall in Washington, DC and created videos based on the theme of leadership. These videos were made in teams of 3 and were filmed, and edited by Young Marines with little help from the adult volunteers. On the third day, we were lucky enough to be the first group to view the Young Marine documentary and be there for the ribbon cutting for the Young Marine classroom in the National Marine Corps Museum. These were once in a life experiences only limited people could endure

Throughout this course, I learned about my personal strengths and weaknesses, as well as understanding and acknowledging the strengths of my team. With these skills I can apply them to any of the jobs that I am on, as well as sharing my knowledge with any of my fellow Young Marines so that they will also have the ability to show the public what the Young Marines program is really about. That is the importance of being a Public Affairs Officer- getting the message out about the Young Marines.



**2020****April****2020**

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
5	6 Peter P. Monaco 19:00	7 Northwest Det. 19:00 Bridgeport Det. Meeting 19:00	8 Mahackemo Det. 20:00 Brass City Det. 19:30 Hardware City	9 Middlesex Det. Meeting 19:00	10	11
12 Valley Det. Meeting 19:00	13 Housatonic Det. Meeting 19:30	14 Thames River Detachment 19:00	15	16	17 Rocky Hill Veterans Home Bingo 19:00	18
19	20	21 Silver City Det. Southington Me- morial Det. 19:00 Hat City Det. 20:00	22 Lock City Det. 19:30 Ridgefield 19:00	23 Paul C. Hough- ton 19:00	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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**2020****May****2020**

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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# Peter P. Monaco Detachment

## Dr. Kaffman from Newington VAH Provides Guidance on PTSD

**Jamie B. DePaola**

A big thanks to Don Davis for inviting Dr. Kaffman to attend our monthly detachment meeting in March! Dr. Kaffman is a Psychiatrist from the Newington VA Hospital and briefed the members about how they are managing PTSD. With over 50 members in attendance, Dr. Kaffman stressed



that the most high-risk veterans are those not receiving therapy and who are on their own and isolated. All of us are on the front lines in this fight to help our fellow veterans as we have the best chance to identifying the vets and facilitate their entry into the VA system. Dr. Kaffman's extension at the VA is #6994



## Upcoming Events

**April 5, 2020:** POSTPONED: Addison Bog Trail clean up. Will replace mulch with stone dust. Will need rakes, brooms, backpack blowers, etc.

**April 7, 2020:** CANCELLED: Easter Egg Hunt

**April 23, 2020:** Financial Planning Event. Patrick Ramsey announced there will be a free class in financial planning at the Welles Turner Library, Glastonbury at 1830. (THIS MAY BE POSTPONED)

**April 25, 2020:** VIRTUAL EVENT: MS Walk in support of Jess & Jeremiah Knowles.

**May 16, 2020:** Annual Hike To Remember





# DoD COVID-19 UPDATE

March 25, 2020

## Key Developments

- Beginning March 31, 2020, all Military Treatment Facilities and Dental Treatment Facilities will postpone most elective surgeries, invasive procedures, and dental procedures for 60 days. This allows DoD to apply its vital healthcare resources for higher priority demands in response to COVID-19.
- The U.S. Army has issued deployment orders to three combat support hospitals to deploy to locations in New York and Washington in order to provide medical support. Designed to serve as trauma hospitals, they function as full-service hospitals, including intensive-care and intermediate-care beds.
- The U.S. Army is increasing the HPCON level for all of its installations to Charlie in order to maintain operational readiness and protect the force. Installations will limit all access to essential personnel only and limit the numbers of access points. Additionally, extra measures are being implemented to protect immediate contingency response forces to prevent exposure to COVID-19 should they need to deploy.
- USNORTHCOM has a total of 346 passengers from Grand Princess at Travis AFB (82), Lackland AFB (7), MCAS Miramar (129), Dobbins ARB/Clay (128).

## DoD Totals, 0500, March 25, 2020

	Current Cases*	Hospitalized	Recovered	Deaths
<b>Military</b>	227 (+53)	12 (+3)	19 (+2)	0
<b>Civilian</b>	81 (+22)	6 (+2)	1	0
<b>Dependent</b>	67 (+6)	2 (-1)*	0	0
<b>Contractor</b>	40 (13)	2	0	1

\*Total DoD Cases (Current and Recovered) is 435

\*\*Changes due to Air Force no longer reporting retiree dependents.

## Today's Events

- 0900: USD Ellen Lord, Acquisition and Sustainment
- 1330: OSD Press Secretary Alyssa Farah and Joint Chiefs of Staff Surgeon Brigadier General Paul Friedrichs
- 1500 USNORTHCOM Commander General Terrence O'Shaughnessy

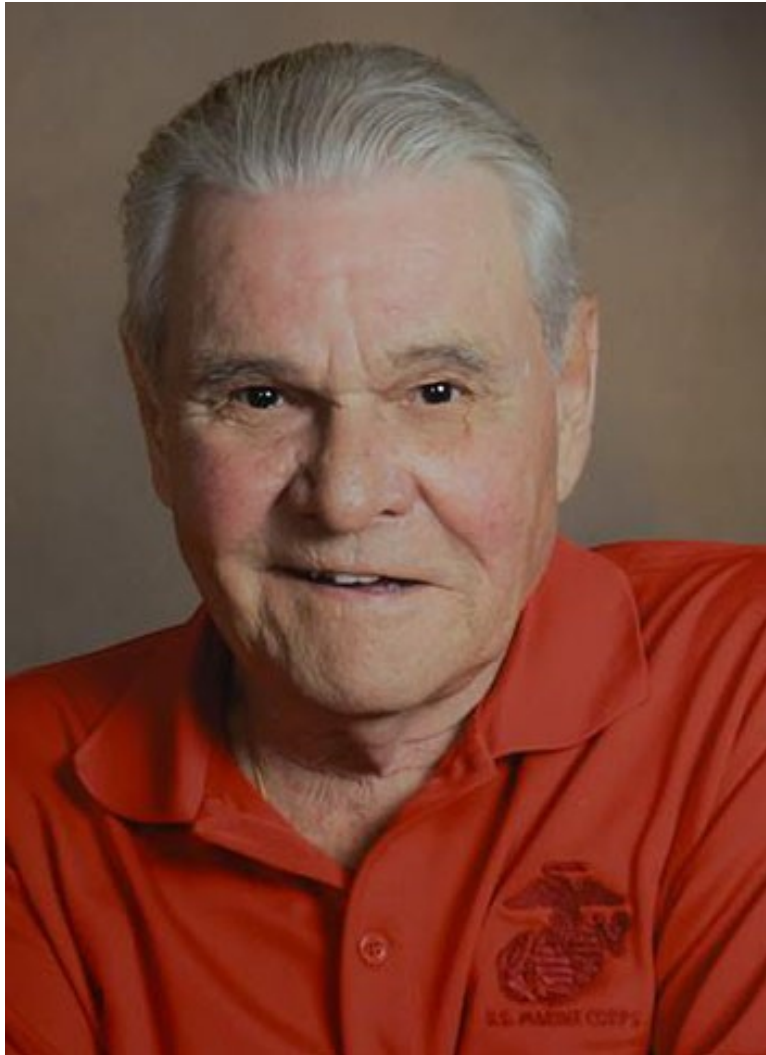


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# Less We Forget

Walt Benson

Why I thought of this now I have no idea but I think maybe its something we should consider doing. I am happy to say I know quite a few of the Marines in this Department, as our paths have crossed at events because of my inability to say no, so I serve with them on committees and at events. I wanted to say something about the loss of our brother Leo Fitzpatrick. Because of our constantly loosing would be nice if about them to may not have well. I knew Leo him doing the Newington and Guard team with and I was friends on that great solicitation Face-several stories I but my favorite working with him gram in Newington have a small me-Bear that played Hymn which used kids. We used to gram on Memorial and Veterans Day ple in Newington used to bring us the summer or but the time I re-



er Leo Fitzpatrick. age we are con-Brothers and it someone spoke those of us who known them that as I worked with Rose program in was on the Honor him several times with his wife Judy cial media news ap-book. There are could tell about Leo would have to be at the Rose pro-ton. Leo used to chanical Marine the Marine Corps to fascinate the work the Rose Pro-al Day weekend weekend. The peo-were great and water and soda in something to eat member was the

Veterans day we both worked and it was cold for November and Leo and I were outside moving back and forth trying to keep warm. This woman came up to us and asked how we were doing today to which Leo responded "were freezing our Butts off" Well some time went by and this woman comes back out and stops to give us a donation and then handed us each a blanket that she had purchased in the store and told us to keep warm. That's one of my Leo memories and I think it would be good and appropriate for others who knew the brothers we lose to share a little about that Brother that they knew so that all of us could know him better. Not that they were great or exceptional we know that they all were but their softer or funnier side that we never got to know. Thank you Leo it was an honor to know you, Semper Fi.

# Vets4Warriors Newsletter

Delivering information, resources, opportunities and people that can help you to overcome any challenge.

[View online](#)

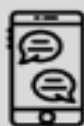


Vets4Warriors understands the concerns many of you may have regarding the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). We want to assure you that we have worked through contingency plans that allow our peers to remain standing by 24/7 to talk with you and connect you to needed resources. No matter the issue, please don't hesitate to reach out to a peer, who is prepared to stay connected with you until the issue is resolved. **You are not alone.** Together, there is no problem that can't be solved and no challenge that cannot be overcome.

If you haven't already, save our contact information, share it with others and never hesitate to reach out - we are ready to serve and support 24/7. Reach us by calling 1-855-838-8255 or by visiting [Vets4Warriors.com](https://Vets4Warriors.com).

If you would like to connect to someone right now  
Our peer support specialists are always standing by

Call



Email



Text



Chat



# Marine Motto From Vietnam

**“READY FOR ANYTHING  
COUNTING ON  
NOTHING”  
Never Forget**

Regardless of the situation, the Marine Corps has an answer for almost everything.

## **A Marines Prayer**

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.

Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.



**NOW RECRUITING**

Become active in the Marine Corps League and you can make a difference.



## **Attention To Orders**

The next meeting of The Department Of Connecticut MCL will be

The Department Convention on June 13, 2020

At The Holiday Inn Main St Bridgeport Connecticut



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

