



August 2020 — September 2020

SEMPER FI

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League

Commandant's Corner



Then and Now



Marines,

We are on the down side of 2020 and it has been while since we have come together for MCL business or socially. But we will get through this. Although we haven't seen each other, a lot has happened since our last face to face meeting.

1. We now have a home base of operations at Rocky Hill Veterans Home in Rocky Hill, CT. Our first face to face meeting will be held on Sunday, 9 August at 1300 at Rocky Hill.
2. Our Department Convention has been postponed until June 2021.
3. The National Convention has been cancelled for a year as well.

Please remember that everyone's MCL dues are due by 31 August. If you do not send in your dues by that date, you will be late.

I hope to see most of you in the near future. But until then, stay well and stay safe.

Semper Fi,

Adele Hodges

Commandant, Department of Connecticut

Marine Corps League

I found this idea on FaceBook back in June and liked it. So I ran the idea past a few people and they agreed with me that it is something we would like to do and maybe even have some fun with it. For the next newsletter, which will cover Veterans Day we would like to publish pictures of Dress Blue Boot Camp Pictures and your picture

from today. If you have sons or daughters that followed you, you may want to consider publishing all of your Dress Blue

Photos and span the generations. An example of this I have shown here of my Then and Now pictures. Some will say that I am brave to put my pictures up here twice to show how ugly I was and how much uglier I have become, but I feel My photos should be listed as how good looking Marines are. So as the saying goes. "Show us what you've got" because we all know, "No guts No glory".

Department of CT Meeting
Sunday August 9th at 13:00
Rocky Hill VA Hospital
Ask at the Gate for the meeting location



Walt Benson

8 Marines & 1 Sailor Die In Training Exercise

CNN's Michael Callahan and Hollie Silverman

Sixteen servicemen were on board the AAV for shore-to-shore operations Thursday when crew members reported they had taken on water, the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit said Sunday in a news release.

Five were rescued and taken aboard the USS Somerset, while at least one died and eight others were presumed dead, the release said. Those rescued were wearing normal combat gear including body armor and an inflatable vest. Some were found floating, Gen. David Berger, commandant of the US Marine Corps, said.

Lance Cpl. Guillermo S. Perez, 20, of New Braunfels, Texas, was pronounced dead at the scene before being taken by helicopter to Scripps Memorial Hospital in San Diego. He was a rifleman with Bravo Company, Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1/4, according to Sunday's release.

The eight others presumed dead were identified Sunday:

- Pfc. Bryan J. Baltierra, 19, of Corona, California
- Lance Cpl. Marco A. Barranco, 21, of Montebello, CA
- Pfc. Evan A. Bath, 19, of Oak Creek, WI, a rifleman
- USN Hospitalman Christopher Gnem, 22, of Stockton, CA
- Pfc. Jack Ryan Ostrovsky, 21, of Bend, OR, a rifleman
- Cpl. Wesley A. Rodd, 23, of Harris, Texas, a rifleman
- Lance Cpl. Chase D. Sweetwood, 19, of Portland, OR a rifleman
- Cpl. Cesar A. Villanueva, 21, of Riverside, CA , a rifleman

The search ended Saturday night after 40 hours, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force said. Similar training has been suspended while officials learn more about the incident.

"It is with a heavy heart, that I decided to conclude the search and rescue effort," said Col. Christopher Bronzi, a commanding officer.

Marines all over the country are asked to Lite a candle and observe a moment of Silence on Saturday August 8 at 20:00 PST or 23:00 EST. Semper Fidelis

Department of Connecticut

Elected Officers, 2019-2020

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



Gunny Occhi Remembered.

PDC Jim Lord



Edison Charles Occhi.

Widely known as Gunny Occhi. "I may be the only one" Gunny Occhi told. Maybe his Brother Ted (also a Marine) knew. Gunny Occhi was promoted to 1st Sgt. but turned it down because as a Gunnery Sargent you were closer to the heart of the Corps, the enlisted who were the worker Bees of the Corps.

He was 88 when a rare disaster happened and resulted in him dying several days later. His new gas clothes dryer exploded the first time he went to use it. This was a tremendous loss to his family and all his Marine friends and there were many!

I have never seen anyone else who had instant recall of so much of Marine Corps history. He could tell you the month and year many battles started and finished. I asked him many, many questions in the 27 years

I have known and re-
once did he have to
ny was a Korean War
Chosin Reservoir and
and we were outside
often told stories about

He held every of-
and was our Commam-
else. He was also
Connecticut Commam-
and respect to every-
many Veterans. He
Detachments for many

He was also a
of Foreign Wars and
He organized and exe-
for all three organiza-
member of.



spected him and not
say "I don't know". Gun-
Veteran who fought at
when it was cold out
complaining about it, he
how cold it was there.
fice in our Detachment
dant longer than anyone
elected Department of
dant. He brought class
thing he did and from
was a member of 2
years.

member of the Veterans
the American Legion.
cuted many Ceremonies
tions that he was a

You only had to look at him in his Dress Blues to know he was a Marines Marine. He brought class and dignity to every ceremony he was in.

There was a time when the Department of CT had a Rifle Team. We attended many Rifle Matches and the only time he wasn't the highest scorer on our Team was once at the Department of Pennsylvania's Annual Rifle Match at the Fort Indian Town Gap Army base and I watched him take his first shot and I saw a piece of the rifle fly off. Luckily he wasn't hurt but we didn't have spare parts. I'm sure if that hadn't happened he would have been high shooter then also.

Gunny Occhi you can't imagine how much you are missed by so many Marines and other people. We hope to see you again in Heaven. I'll bet you'll be the highest shooter there too!

MCL Department of Connecticut Young Marine Liaison

Patrick T. McMahon

Greetings:

Your Department of CT MCL YM Liaison has had a busy couple of months. I facilitated the board and selection of our 2020 Samuel K. Beamon SR YMOY {described below} and attended the “retirement” of a Three Rivers Young Marines, YM GySgt Kiera McCord, and presented her with a National Distinguished Service Award authorized by our National Marine Corps League Commandant Marine Dennis Tobin.



On Sunday, 28JUNE2020, the Department of CT MCL held its annual YMOY selection board {via Zoom}.

There were two candidates submitted for consideration who met the pre-requisite for consideration. At the conclusion of said board, and calculating the submitted scoring sheets (which covered Young Marine Resume; Young Marine Essay; and YMOY Board), the following Young Marine was selected with an overall score of: **93.83**

**2020 Samuel K. Beamon Sr. Dept of CT YMOY
YM GySgt Tanner Linhard of the Rivertown Young Marines**

The selection board consisted of:

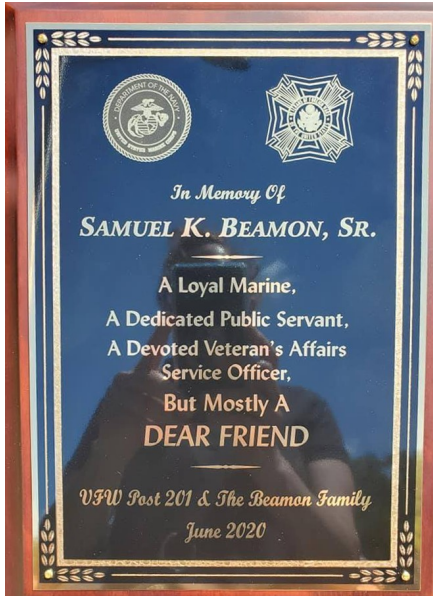
- Marine Bruce Katz: New England Division MCL YM Liaison / Dept of NH MCL Cmndt
3rd YM BN CO / Unit Commander of the Boston Young Marines
- Marine Doug Fisk: Original Regimental Commander of the Southern New England Regiment
Original Commander of the 1st Young Marine Division
Over 22 years as a Young Marine adult volunteer
Member of the Paul C Houghton MCL Detachment
Past Chief Devil Dog
- Marine David Rosa: Dept of CT Sr Vice Commandant
Former Commandant of the Housatonic MCL Detachment
- Marine Rich Daigle: Dept of CT Judge Advocate
Former Commandant of the Housatonic MCL Detachment
- Marine Pat McMahon: Dept of CT YM Liaison / Dept of CT Jr Vice Commandant
Former Commandant of the Thames River Detachment MCL
Over 21 years as a Young Marine adult volunteer

We are one of the few MCL Departments that I know of that has adopted a formalized process in recognizing a worthy Young Marine within our State and we as the originating MCL Department should be proud.

Assistant Needed

by YM GySgt Tanner Linhard / Rivertown Young Marine

On July 26, I had the privilege of attending the Samuel K. Beamon Sr. Memorial Scholarship Com-



mittee's "Day of Remembrance," dedicated to honor Marine Beamon's extensive community work. This dedication took place on the Samuel K. Beamon Sr. Memorial Bridge in Waterbury, CT.

The Brass City Young Marines, Marine Beamon's former unit, presented the colors. The Brass City Unit was the very first Young Marine Unit, founded in 1959, six years before the Young Marines was chartered as an official detachment of the Marine Corps League.



Brass City YM LCpl. Damean Pare, an incredibly motivated Young Marine, was honored with the inaugural *Samuel K. Beamon Young Marine Alumni Award*. This award personifies Marine Beamon's efforts to keep youth communi-
exemplifies the mission the lives of Youth,' and our proud of him," City Unit Com-Spring. The with Reginald Beamon's aging everyone charity of their Beamon's the "Day of Reginald Beamon brother "was people. He was a great giver."



involved in their ty. "LCpl. Pare Young Marine 'strengthening America's unit is incredibly stated Brass mander Bill event concluded Beamon, Mr. brother, encour-to support the choice in Marine name as part of Service." Re-shared that his always giving to



DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE JR VICE COMMANDANT

Patrick T. McMahon

E: ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.net / C: 860.222.5024

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*



Greetings Marines; Yes, it is that time of the year!!!

As we all know, those of us who pay annual dues now have to pay during the month of August as the membership of annual dues members expire 30AUG of every given year. As of the June 30, 2020 posting of the Department of CT membership roster we have 81 Regular Members and 21 Associate Members who have yet to pay their FY20 dues. The FY21 annual dues is due now!!

Please don't make your Detachment Jr Vice Commandants and/or Paymasters chase you around for your annual dues. PAY UP orrrrrrr consider becoming a Paid Life Member and this annual dues issue is no longer an issue for you.

Brought to you by your Department Jr Vice Commandant – Marine McMahon



**2020****August****2020**

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1
2 Department of Connecticut Meeting 13:00 Via Zoom	3 Peter P. Monaco 19:00	4 Northwest Det. 19:00 Bridgeport Det. Meeting 19:00	5 Mahackemo Det. 20:00 Brass City Det. 19:30 Hardware City	6 Middlesex Det. Meeting 19:00	7	8
9 Valley Det. Meeting 19:00	10 Housatonic Det. Meeting 19:30	11 Thames River Detachment 19:00	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Silver City Det. Southington Me- morial Det. 19:00 Hat City Det. 20:00	19 Lock City Det. 19:30 Ridgefield 19:00	20 Paul C. Hough- ton 19:00	21 Rocky Hill Veterans Home Bingo 19:00	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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2020

September

2020



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

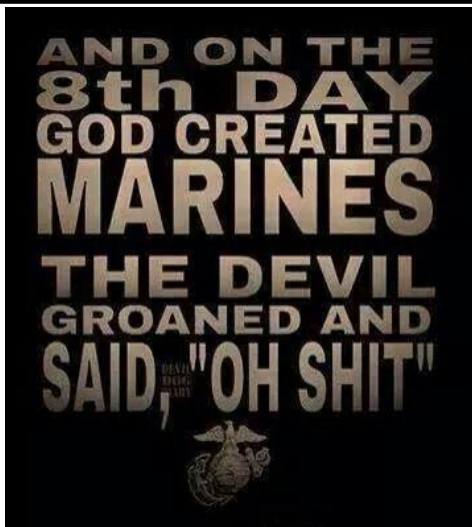
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
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27	28	29	30			

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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 un-



As Labor Day and the end of summer approaches, let us remember 9-11 and all of those we lost that day to what has become an everyday word, Terrorism. This year marks 19 years since that tragic day and we still have not defeated it. This and 245 years of service to keeping us Free is why we stand for the Flag and Our National Anthem, We Remember

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
To Be Determined



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

