

October 2023 — November 2023

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Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League



Department of Connecticut Commandant's Corner



A Moment in Time

Greetings fellow CT
MCLeaguers.

I am hopeful that this newsletter finds you and yours well. I had prepared to write a fun little article about the passing of summer and all that it entails. However, this past Saturday (09/16/23), I had the privilege and honor of participating in the XI th annual Peter P. Monaco Detachment Hike to Remember. This event has been a staple for this detachment for the past eleven years, and its main goals are to bring awareness to; raise monies for; and provide for the eradication of Veteran Suicides (22 a day).

Before I get too serious though, this year's hike was my second, and honestly my first hike was a bit more enjoyable. I say that because at my first, I had no idea what to expect, and the Peter P. Monaco Det and all of its supporters did a fabulous job. Additionally, my first experience at last year's hike, I was blissfully unaware that the last three miles were uphill, finishing with 22 4-count push-ups. So, to my point for this article. During the hike, there were three stops. The first (about 3 miles in) is a stop at a local cemetery to pay respects for one of Glaston-



bury's own who was KIA in 2005. The second, and most enjoyable (about 7 miles in) is at a local Irish pub for a hearty breakfast and plenty and appropriate hydration. It is here, at this stop, at this year's hike, that changed me. This year's hike was dedicated to one of Peter P Monaco's members who succumb to the darkness and took his own life earlier this year.

After breakfast, just prior to saddling up to continue the hike, the group was introduced to SFC Harington's wife. She spoke of the moment her life changed forever with her husband's death, and through her tears and with a tremendous amount of strength urged all within ear shot of the importance of listening, reaching out and if need be, asking for help.

So, in closing I say this. WE all need to keep being aware of those around us. Buddy checks, social media, text, Instagram, etc. And if ever the darkness starts to creep in reach out to someone, ANYONE! We simply cannot afford to keep losing our brothers and sisters.

Semper Fi
Patrick T. McMahon
Commandant
Department of Connecticut
Marine Corps League

IMPORTANT DATES

Department of Connecticut Officers 2021-2022

Detachment Meetings

Brass City Detachment 31 —	First Wednesday 19:00
Hat City Detachment 36—	3rd Tuesday 20:00
Mahakemo Detachment 37—	First Wednesday 20:00
Peter P. Monaco Jr. 40 —	First Monday 19:00
Northwest Detachment 42—	First Tuesday 19:00
Ridgefield Detachment 44—	Third Wednesday 19:00
Silver City Detachment 45—	Third Tuesday 19:00
Southington Memorial 46—	Third Tuesday 19:00
Valley Detachment 48—	Second Sunday 19:00
Bridgeport Detachment 654—	First Tuesday 19:00
Paul C. Houghton 681—	Third Thursday 19:00
Hardware City Detachment 781	First Wednesday 19:00
Lock City Detachment 910—	Third Wednesday 19:30
Housatonic Detachment 1129—	Second Monday 19:30
Thames River Detachment 1334	Second Tuesday 19:00

Growls

Glawackus Pound Growls are held prior to the Pack Growls, Pound 11 AM Pack at 1PM

The next Growl will be November 5 2023 at Rocky Hill

**Hooch Pooch Pound Growls are held separately at Valley Detachment.
Schedules to follow**



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The week after the convention, on August 26th, Peter DePaola ran 7.46 miles (12K) in Quantico VA to honor and remember our fallen brothers and sisters from two years ago who were killed in the August 26,

EGA 46 years ago and became a Marine officer.



2021 bombing at the Abbey Gate in Afghanistan.

Peter is an active member of MCL Peter P. Monaco, Jr. Det. 40. The challenging course, organized by the Marine Corps Marathon, goes through the grounds of the Officer Candidates School (OCS) at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA. It offers a unique access to the training area for future Marines. There were 630 finishers in the event and

Peter placed first in his age division. Peter was commissioned in August 1977 upon graduation from OCS. He was excited to return to where he earned his

Remember the Fallen

August 26, 2021



Pictured above, not in order, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas. Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23, of Sacramento, Calif. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31, of Salt Lake City Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tenn. Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, Calif. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20, of Jackson, Wyo. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, 20, of Norco, Calif. Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, of Lawrence, Mass. Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22, of Logansport, Ind. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20, of St. Charles, Mo. Navy Hospital Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23, of Omaha, Neb.

Semper Fi,

Jamie DePaola



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U.S. MARINE CORPS 248th BIRTHDAY BALL

Presented by

The Brass City Memorial Detachment - Marine Corps League

Saturday, November 4th 2023

Elks Lodge #265

283 West Main Street

Waterbury, CT

In the Banquet Hall (Ground Floor)

\$50.00 per person

*******Raffle Prizes, DJ music and dancing*******

Guest Speaker: Colonel Adele E. Hodges USMC(Retired)

6 pm to 7 pm: *Open Bar with Hors d'oeuvres, followed by a Cash Bar*

Buffet Style Dinner, Coffee, Tea and Birthday Cake

(Dress is formal attire)

For Info call:

PDC Jim Lauber 203-217-0438

Roland "Skip" Hamel 203-527-8137



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RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

As of this issue I have sent post cards to all delinquent members of the Department and I have a follow up list for all of the detachments. We have to start somewhere so let us start with this. I have sent out 84 post cards to members who were delinquent as of the Convention. A copy of those names will be sent out to each Detachment along with the current roster to follow up on these members and this should help our retention.

Nex we need to move onto recruiting. If you talk to the other members around the league you will hear the same comment over and over, "we need new blood". This is true but we keep talking about how to get it but do not act on it. I have actually signed up to join other Department and Detachment FaceBook pages and constantly look there for ideas, and there are a lot of ideas out there but I have come up with a combination of some. I would like to try and hold an event at Rocky Hill, and it should not be a meeting but a recruiting event. We serve coffee, water and snacks and spend time talking to the people that come. We can distribute flyers to Veterans groups throughout the State. VFW, American Legion, Most colleges have a Veterans group on campus, The VA, Friends and Contacts. We are looking for Marines but the invitation is open to all. If we fail it will cost us a pot of Coffee some water, cake and some chips. I would like to propose we do this at the next Department Meeting. We have money in the budget put aside for Bingo at Rocky Hill which is still not coming back. I would like to propose we move some of this to start some real recruiting. If you are against it come to the meeting, if you are for it come to the meeting so you can be heard.

Now even if this is a good or even great idea, it will take more than this to succeed. There has to be friendships made and follow up to get these people to come back. Maybe phone calls, reminders, and most importantly getting them in-

involved. Because without that follow up we will lose them. None of us are getting any younger and it make no difference how good our intentions are, the mind may be willing but the body, well that's another story. Look around and see how many events we have difficulty staffing and getting attendance for. My goal for the upcoming year is to be more proactive. The dues we are looking for today is not as important as having those members in our ranks and having them be active.

Active brings me to my next topic. Over the summer I attended two events. I went to Family Fun Day in Rhode Island, hosted by the Dept of Rhode Island. The cost was \$5 per person or \$20 per family, there was enough food there to feed a small country, and the only requirement was to sit, eat and enjoy the camaraderie. I'm sure most of us could meet that challenge. The following day was the Paul C Houghton Picnic, free and also an endless supply of food. There should be many more people at these events. There is little to no cost, there are no expectations, except for good food and great friends. Recently I saw this quote on FaceBook, and since it was on FaceBook it must be true, "Life has an expiration date". No one adds on extra days because you stayed home alone and didn't go anywhere. Besides that people do want to see you, spend time with you.

I have gone through a lot of ideas here but they are only ideas, we have to act on them to become a reality and just because I have come up with these does not mean you don't have great ones as well. We really would like to hear your and not only listen to them but see them put to use as well.

Walt Benson



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IMPORTANT EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

**Stand Down 2023 is
in the books!**



Jamie DePaola with Lori Webster Marriott working at the VA Stand Down. This is a great opportunity for Veterans to get help in all area, such as Medical, legal, taxes, food and clothing. It takes place at various locations in CT every September. Veterans Can get help with many everyday needs.



The Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs [DVA] hosted its annual Stand Down event on Friday, September 22, 2023. Stand Down took place statewide across five locations, including Norwich at Veteran's Rally Point, Bristol at St. Gregory the Great CCD Center organized by Veteran Strong Community Center, Inc., Bridgeport at the University of Bridgeport, Danbury at the City of Danbury War Memorial, and at the DVA's main campus in Rocky Hill.

Concurrent Stand Down locations allow for Veterans and active service members to access a multitude of local programs and providers in the communities in which they live. This year, over 130 state, federal, and community providers were available to assist Veterans and active-duty military with a range of services including flu vaccines, dental, hearing, and vision screenings, legal services, CT Department of Motor Vehicle services, VA Healthcare, employment services, transportation to Stand Down provided by the Department of

Transportation, lunch, and an array of free items ranging from toiletries to winter coats. Over 1,200 Veterans and service members attended CT Stand Down 2023 across the five locations. It was an incredible day which showcased how inter-agency partnerships equate to robust and comprehensive services being provided to our Veterans and military communities.

CORRECTION

In the last issue we had a picture and listing of all the prior Department Marines of The Year and inadvertently one very important Marine was missed. I apologize to PCDD Doug Fisk for leaving him off that list





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IMPORTANT EVENTS AROUND THE STATE



Greetings from South Eastern CT. Thames River Detachment #1334 recently lost one of its Charter Members, Thomas "Doc" Williamson. He was 79 years old. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and then became a Navy Corpsman. His actions during the Vietnam War caused the enemy to put a \$150,000 bounty on him, dead or alive. Between Vietnam tours he served on the medical staff of Pres. Nixon. While in country he suffered numerous wounds which affected his health his whole life.

Both legs were amputated as a result of the war. Many sections of his DD214 were classified, a partial listing of his awards include: The Silver Star, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf, and five Purple Hearts. He was medically discharged after serving twenty years at 100% disability with the rank of Chief Hospital Corpsman (E8). In 2021 he was inducted in the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. Although he was physically incapacitated, Doc was always there with a happy greeting and a smile. Always ready to offer advice but never overbearing. With his husband Bill, his service dog Peaches, he was always a welcome sight. His wish was to be buried in his Marine Corps green uniform in Arlington National Cemetery. He will be buried there on November 9th.

Semper Fidelis

Tom Peters
NL County Commandant



Hardware City Manned a tent at the Plainville Balloon Festival to raise money through the Rose Program, and recruit for new members. At the table are Al Urso, Rivers McCallop, Fred McGoldrick, and taking the photo is Brenden Boyle. I like the jacket hanging in the back of the tent, it was a nice touch.

The Rose Programs helps the Marine Corps League raise money for scholarships for children and grandchildren of Marines. It also helps with money used for other programs the Marines Corps League does helping Marines and other Veterans, and their families.





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PETER P. MONACO JR. HIKE TO REMEMBER XI



Zero Dark Thirty and the Hikers arrive! But from the photo we see that not all the hikers were racing to leave their vehicle. But many more were willing to step into the darkness and brave the chill of the September air.



Dawn has arrived and the convoy moves forward. First are the trucks and vehicles followed by the Hikers in route step. It was another good turn out but there is always room for more. Things like this bring attention to the Marine Corps League and help us in our mission, and in this case it is mission critical as it not only affects Marines but all veterans as well. If you did not read the letter on the first page from the Commandant please go back and do so. It explains the Hike in detail as well as the purpose and some of the things we can do better to change some outcomes for our brothers and sisters.





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PETER P. MONACO JR. HIKE TO REMEMBER XI



The Column moves on down the road to the first stop of the hike which is the cemetery in Glastonbury to visit the grave of a Glastonbury's own that was KIA in 2005.





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PETER P. MONACO JR. HIKE TO REMEMBER XI

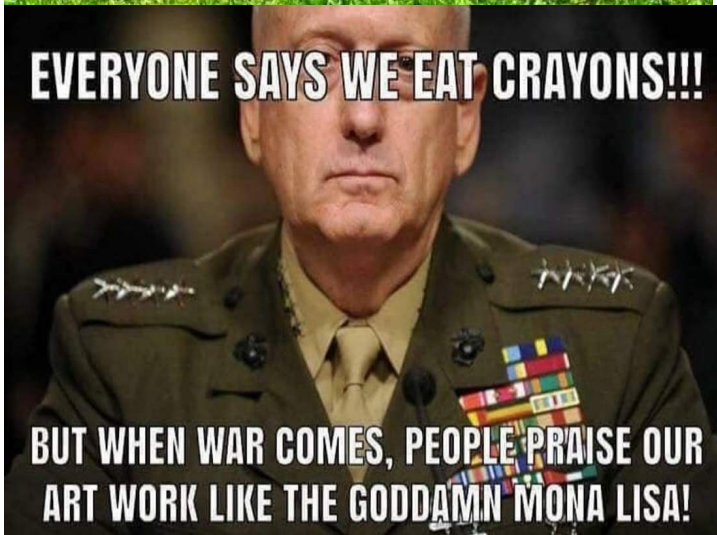


As we approach Monaco Ford in Glastonbury with a Police assist with the Traffic and the Colors Flying High we can close the books on another Hike to Remember with the hope that someday we can remember something else.





HUMOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Alexander	James	R.	10	26	10/26/42
Andersen	Hans	J.	10	19	10/19/39
Blair	Terry	E.	10	8	10/08/35
Bolduc, Sr.	Ronald	J.	10	16	10/16/32
Burrington	Ray		10	26	10/26/45
Ciezyński, Sr.	Ronald	L.	10	26	10/26/36
Derosier	Robert	R.	10	19	10/19/46
Gioia	Gilbert	J.	10	24	10/24/40
Kowaleski, Sr.	Steven	S.	10	24	10/24/49
Lynch	Sean	P.	10	16	10/16/91
Minard	Patricia		10	20	10/20/48
Occhi	Edison	C.	10	21	10/21/27
Quarti	Robert	J.	10	17	10/17/36
Sehrt	Marc		10	14	10/14/63
Stokes	Terrence		10	19	10/19/65
Williams, Sr.	David	H.	10	11	10/11/49
Archambault	Lawrence	F.	11	4	11/04/35
Chupron, Jr.	Leo		11	12	11/12/42
Dinardi	Frederick		11	30	11/30/41
Gates	Donald	B.	11	16	11/16/38
Goodale	Rodney		11	23	11/23/47
Hunt	William	E.	11	27	11/27/33
Jurczak	Joseph	G.	11	3	11/03/39
Kingsbury	Charles	H.	11	4	11/04/32
Newell	H. Rick		11	6	11/06/48
Norton	Paul		11	6	11/06/73
Orzel, Sr.	Craig	D.	11	25	11/25/71
Pawlikowski	Richard	J.	11	7	11/07/44
Pietras	Chester	S.	11	8	11/08/25
Ringrose	Michael		11	1	11/01/65
Roy	Gary		11	21	11/21/62
Tweeddale	Russell	E.	11	27	11/27/35





THE YOUNG MARINES



TRIPPING TO THE ADIRONDACKS BALLOON FESTIVAL

YM GySgt Mason Steele

The last place I expected to be on a Friday night was standing in the middle of a Target parking lot, yet there I was surrounded by Young Marines waiting to leave. By car it was about 4 hours to travel so we anticipated a late arrival. We were heading to the Adirondack Balloon Festival in upstate New York.

When we arrived at our location we were greeted and then we began the usual procedure of setting up our tents and racks and prepping for lights out.

It was brisk the next morning with the cool wind stinging our faces as we pulled on our gear and began the day. Our plan for that day was to head to the airport down the road to watch the balloons be blown up and take off. Upon arrival at the airport, we could see from a distance how busy it already was despite the early time. At one point the Young Marines were called upon to assist with the set up of one of the balloons. We had Young Marines holding the balloon and helping unravel and unpack it. All this happened while the balloon pilots filled the massive space with hot air from the propane torches. Slowly we watched the balloons as they rose into the air. As the balloons all started to take off, we piled into the backs of the vehicles and drove back to the site. Because of the location of the site and because there is so much room available several balloons tended to land on the property. We ended

up with two different balloons landing on the field and they offered tethered rides. This allowed for the

Young Marines to all take turns going up in the balloons. After the conclusions of the balloon, we all headed back to the house to hang out until we would be leaving for the apple orchard. We headed to the apple orchard around noon. While at the apple orchard, we went apple picking and had a great time going on a hay ride. We headed back to the campsite from

the apple orchard around evening chow. Later that night we went to the Moonglow event, which is where they blow up the balloons at night but they have the whole balloons covered with lights and decorations. We were able to see some of the balloons with lights go up but most stayed grounded. Even with that being so it was still incredible to see all of them lit up. We headed back to base and got ready to hit the rack after a quick snack.

The next morning we slept in a bit but then commenced with the usual ordeal of packing up and policing all the areas around where we went. After we made sure we'd left everything better than we found it we gave thanks to our hosts and were on our way. As we drove away we couldn't help but look to the sky in the hope of seeing more balloons and anticipating next year.





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OPENING CEREMONY / 9:45AM - RACE START / 10:00AM



Saturday • November 4, 2023

Choose to run either the live or the virtual 4-mile certified course, or a 3-mile walk or ruck sack course. This Veterans Day event is the premier race in CT where 100% of the proceeds benefit local Veteran Service Organizations.

PATRIOTS PARK

172 LAKE STREET • COVENTRY, CT 06238



VISIT US ONLINE
CTVeteransDayRace.com

**2023****OCTOBER****2023**

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Marines capture John Brown at Harpers Ferry	19	20	21
22 1983 Beirut Ma- rine Barracks Bombing Killing 241	23	24	25 1983 Operation Urgent Fury Commences in Grenada	26	27	28
29	30	31  Halloween				



2023

NOVEMBER

2023



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

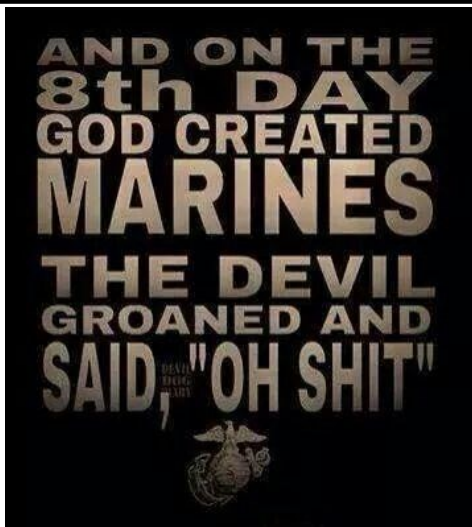
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 2004 Operation Phantom Fury Iraq	8	9	248 BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS SEMPER FI !	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						2001 First Marines land in Afghanistan
26	27	28	29	30		



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.



Marine Corps League National Convention 2024

Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort and Spa
71333 Dinah Shore Drive,
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

August 12th through August 16th
Banquet is Friday August 16th

NOW RECRUITING

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



Attention To Orders

THE NEXT DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT MEETING
CT Veterans Home and Hospital
287 West St Rocky Hill CT 06067 Building 50
OCTOBER 1, 2023 Lunch at 12:00 Meeting at 13:00



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

