



April 2025 — May 2025

SEMPER FI

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League



Department of Connecticut Commandant's Corner



2025 is a big year for the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League. We are celebrating 250 years of service, honor, and commitment exemplified by our illustrious history. Take pride in who we are and tell your stories so that the younger generations of Americans learn the history of the Corps and our individual parts in that history. REMINDER: Our 2025 Department of Connecticut Convention and MODD Grand Growl will be held 27-28 June 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Glastonbury. Rooms are available to reserve now. You can call 1-877-782-9444 and claim the Department of CT MCL group rate or use group rate MCL25.



a "V" in the Atlas system. Regular members, Marines, are easy to identify and mark appropriately. Associate members are a different story. Associate members may or may not have served in the military. To identify those who have, Detachment Commandants must mark-up their associates on their Atlas rosters and send them to me electronically. I will track them and forward them to National.

If you need an updated roster, let me or Walt Benson know. We can send you a new one but if there have been no changes within the last few months, the ones I sent out earlier should be adequate.

The Marine Corps League Foundation, a nonprofit agency, provides important financial assistance to Marines and their families, as well as other charitable causes. National is recommending that all Detachments donate to the MCLF annually. I will not be at our meeting on 6 April due to another commitment. I hope to see everyone at the Department

You can also make your reservations at <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/deptofctmarinecorpsleague/>. The group rate is also available for 26 June, if you're so inclined. Tom Jackson of the Housatonic Detachment will lead the effort for the hospitality suite. Now is the time to begin picking up goodies for the hospitality suite. AND prizes for our MCL and MODD raffles.

From the 2025 Mid-Winter Conference. VSOs and other nonprofit military organizations must prove that their membership consists of 80-90% veterans in order to maintain their 501(c) status. Fortunately, the MCL is exempt from this requirement, at least for the time being, because we are the only VSO chartered by Congress.

In order to be prepared, National is requiring that all Detachment rosters precede members' Profile IDs with

Convention.
Semper Fidelis.
Rich Daigle
Commandant
Department of
Connecticut



IMPORTANT DATES

Department of Connecticut Officers 2024-2025

Detachment Meetings

Brass City Detachment 31-	First Tuesday 17:00
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 Tuesday 19:00
Hardware City Detachment—781	First Wednesday 19:00
Housatonic Detachment-1129	Second Monday 19:30
Thames River Detachment-1334	Second Tuesday 19:00

GLAWACUS Pound & PACK GROWLS

May 4 Pound 11:00 Pack 13:00
at Rocky Hill

JUNE 27 Grand Growl , Glastonbury

DOG POUND



Commandant	Rich Daigle 860-222-5024 ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com
Sr. Vice Commandant.....	Walt Benson 203-768-8435 walt.benson5@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant.....	George Gutmann Jr. 203-446-6072 ggutmann@preferredtool.com
Judge Advocate	Doug Fisk 860-774-0378 the49thcdd@hotmail.com
Sgt. At Arms	Ray Burrington 860-918-6880 rayuconn@cox.net
Adjutant.....	Charise Hewitt 203-494-1250 charise.hewitt@gmail.com
Paymaster	Walt Benson 203-768-8435 walt.benson5@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	
Jr. Past Commandant	Pat McMahon 860-222-5024 ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com
Funeral Honors	John Reek 860-329-2419 dad7051@gmail.com
Chaplain	Peter Depaola 860-478-6802 pdepaolsr@gmail.com
The Worthy Pack Leader.....	Rich Daigle 860-222-5024 ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com
Young Marines Liaison ...	Peter Depaola 860-478-6802 pdepaolsr@gmail.com
Web Sergeant	Skip Hamel 203-527-8137 hamels52@att.net
Public Relations	Al Urso 860-877-9092 alurso@cox.net
Legislative Officer	Adele Hodges 203-843-1244 hodgesadele@yahoo.com



CONNECTICUT



IWO JIM FLAG RAISING 80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

Two Iwo Jima survivors, Joe Caminiti, of Bristol, and Peter Senick, of New Haven, attended the 80th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony. Members of the Marine Corp League from across the State were present to honor the two living Iwo Jima Survivors. It was also an honor to welcome 102-year-old WW2 Woman Marine veteran Corporal Dottie Dee.



The event took place in Davidson Hall at Central Connecticut State University. New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart served as the master of ceremonies for the event. The guest speakers included Ron Welch, Brigadier General, U.S. Army Retired, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, and Brigadier General Omar J. Randall from Headquarters Marine Corps. Special guest speakers included U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, the Mayor Jon Trister of Newington, CCSU President Zulma R. Toro.



The nephew of Dr. George Gentile, the man behind the creation of the Iwo Jima Survivor's Monument, Mark Gentile, spoke about his uncle and the founding of the Iwo Jima Association that built the Monument in New Britain. This monument is special in that it has volcanic rocks from the island of Iwo Jima imbedded into the base. The names of the 100 people from Connecticut who were killed in the Battle of Iwo Jima were read at the close of the ceremony. Marines Joe Caminiti and Peter Senick are the last known Iwo Jima Survivors in Connecticut. The raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi is one of the most iconic photographs of all time and emblematic of the courage, honor, and commitment of all U.S. Marines.

S/F Peter DePaola



CONNECTICUT



NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY CEREMONY IN COVENTRY

On Saturday, March 29, 2025, there was a brief wreath-laying ceremony at noon at the CT Vietnam War Veterans Memorial located at 234 Lake Street in Coventry to honor and remember all Vietnam War veterans. Keynote speaker was the CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Ron Welch, BGen, U.S. Army (Retired). Rubyfruit A Cappella Choir will sing the National Anthem and the Natchaug Young Marines from Danielson will provide the Color Guard. There were a few other special participants who added to the ceremony as we saluted the Vietnam Veterans, both past and present.



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Commissioner of the
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Army
Rubyfruit A Cappella
National Anthem
Young Marines from
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a few other special
added to the cere-
the Vietnam Veter-

On March 28, 2017, Congress passed a law designating March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Approximately 2.7 million American men and women served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975. The Vietnam War took the lives of 58,479 U.S. service members, including 614 from Connecticut whose names are on this beautiful monument located in Coventry. Today, there are still thousands of Vietnam veterans who feel the long-term effects of the War from Agent Orange.



cut whose names are on
ument located in Coventry.
still thousands of Vietnam
the long-term effects of the
Orange.

The ceremony was open to the public to welcome home those who served our country. Additional parking was located across the street at Patriots Park, 172 Lake Street, Coventry. VietnamWarVeterans-Day@gmail.com.

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home those who served
tional parking was located
Patriots Park, 172 Lake
[VietnamWarVeterans-](mailto:VietnamWarVeterans-Day@gmail.com)



CONNECTICUT



2025 DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT CONVENTION

& MODD GRAND GROWL

27-28 JUNE 2025

Hilton Garden Inn

85 Glastonbury CT

Glastonbury CT 06033

860-659-1025



REGISTRATION FORM (DEADLINE 29 MAY)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ STATE & ZIP® _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DETACHMENT _____ DEPARTMENT _____

OFFICE/TITLE _____

A LIGHT DINNER BUFFET WITH CASH BAR WILL BE SERVED ON FRIDAY IN THE MEETING ROOM FROM 1715-1830 FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT WANT TO GO OUT BEFORE THE GRAND GROWL AT 1900.

NOTE: Dress for the Saturday evening banquet is semi-formal, i.e., mess dress, red blazer, suit, or sports jacket, and tie.

FRIDAY DINNER BUFFET	ATTENDING	@ \$25pp	= TOTAL	\$
		_____		_____
CONVENTION REGISTRATION	ATTENDING	@ \$10pp	= TOTAL	\$
		_____		_____
SATURDAY BANQUET	ATTENDING	@ \$50pp	= TOTAL	\$
		_____		_____
			GRAND TOTAL	\$

Make checks payable to **MCL Dept of CT**. Mail to:
MCL Dept of CT Convention, c/o SVC Walt Benson, 14 Luke Street, Prospect CT 06712.

For additional information, call 203-506-8786 or email: PopPop.Daigle@gmail.com



CONNECTICUT



Marine Corps League



Connecticut State Convention – 27JUNE -28JUNE 2025

Hilton Garden Inn

85 Glastonbury Blvd • Glastonbury, CT 06340

(860) 659-1025

Ad Book Form

Date: _____ (AD MUST BE SUBMITTED BY May 29, 2025)

MCL Member: _____

Ad size: ___ Full page \$100.00 B/W ___ 1/2 page \$80.00

___ 1/4 page \$60.00 ___ Business Card \$40.00

___ Inside Cover \$125

Name: _____ Street _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

PHONE# _____

Ad Description:

Webpage address to pull image from _____

Comments:

Submit ad electronically to:

Sue Tait Porcaro email: sue@2lipsartdesign.com cell:860-209-6063

Submit payment to:

Wal Benson 14 Luke St. Prospect CT 06712

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **Dept of CT MCL**



CONNECTICUT



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

LIVING THE MARINE CORPS VALUE OF HONOR

It is the Easter season. During this time, I like to reflect on the hope and joy it brings and to gain a deeper understanding of the meaning of the resurrection and victory over death, the power of forgiveness, and of new beginnings.

For others, it is a time to celebrate Passover, which commemorates freedom from slavery, oppression, and reminds people to return to God's ways.

Both of these invoke the profound, spiritual and emotional forces drive us to our God, who made us and to whom we belong. Like our connection to the military community, we also belong to the heavenly community. We are often reminded that our time here is short. This is a real-life story that happened in mid- March of this year. A friend and a sister Ma-



rine veteran lost her husband, also a Marine veteran. His passing was sudden and shocking. Both were in their early 50's, with teenage daughters. He and his girls served with the local fire department. While doing a service project for a disabled Marine veteran, he dropped dead. No warning, and no underlying conditions.

The family and community are devastated. At the funeral Mass, the wife gave a powerful testimony to their 30 years together. It was a message of a full and beautiful life together. A life of love, and dedication and of hope for life to go on. In the hardest moment of her life, she said 'I will see you again, but I have to finish the work you started here with the girls.'

This is a beautiful Easter story. Through the tragedies of life, when our darkest days are upon us, our Lord is there for us. Let us be there for each other. Let us forgive and renew relationships. Let us care about others, be helpful to others, and let us reach out to those who don't always deserve our kindness but need it the most.

May you and your loved ones enjoy a beautiful Easter full of peace and joy.

Semper Fidelis

Peter DePaola

Department of CT Chaplain



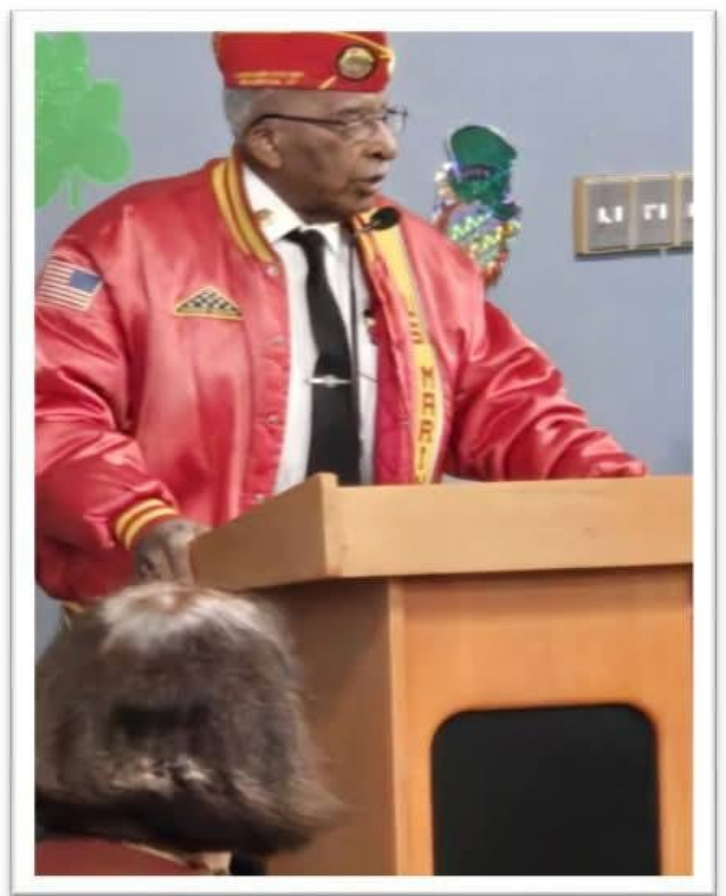


CONNECTICUT



QUILTS OF VALOR

Quilts of Valor are special quilts awarded to service members and veterans who have been touched by war. They are made to express gratitude for their service and sacrifice, with the mission of providing comfort and healing. Each quilt must meet specific criteria, including size and labeling, and must be awarded rather than given as a gift. The Quilts of Valor Foundation, founded in 2003, has awarded over 327,000 quilts to date, reflecting a commitment to honoring those who serve. These quilts are crafted with high-quality materials and are intended to be a civilian award.



ON March 21st 2025 at the senior center in Bristol, Rivers McCalop of the Hardware City Detachment was awarded a Quilt of Valor. Congratulations sir it is very well deserved. Now you can sit in the cold, doing roses with your detachment and still remain warm. You make us all proud of your dedication and commitment to the Marine Corps League. Semper Fi



2025

APRIL

2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18	19
20 Easter	21	22	23	24	25	26 Quad State Division Conference
27	28	29	30			



2025

MAY

2025

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	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Memorial Day Weekend						

**AND ON THE
8th DAY
GOD CREATED
MARINES
THE DEVIL
GROANED AND
SAID, "OH SHIT"**



2025 MCL Convention

Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport

HYATT REGENCY DFW AIRPORT

**2334 N. INTERNATIONAL PKWY
DFW AIRPORT TX 75261**

PHONE FOR RESERVATIONS

1-800-233-1234 Group CODE G=MCL5

MONDAY AUG 11 TO FRIDAY AUG 15

RATES ARE \$159,

PARKING IS FREE

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.

Amen

NOW RECRUITING

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



Attention To Orders

THE NEXT DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT MEETING

April 6th

Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital

287 West St, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Building 50

"We're surrounded... that simplifies our problem."



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

