



# SEMPER FI

April 2026 — May 2026

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League



I recently received The 12 Seasons of New England in a text. I got a kick out of it and thought you might enjoy it, too.

### The 12 Seasons of New England

- Winter
- Fool's Spring <----- We are here.
- Second Winter
- Spring of Deception
- Third Winter
- The Pollening
- Actual Spring
- Summer
- Hell's Front Porch
- False Fall
- Second Summer
- Actual Fall

This winter has seemed longer than those in recent memory. It certainly was snowier! But as I write this, it really feels as though "Actual Spring" is right around the corner. I am really looking forward to it.

In my last message, I warned about the risks when shoveling snow. I don't think we have to concern ourselves with that at this point.

Spring lends itself to many other outdoor activities such as golf, gardening, golf, mowing, golf, walking, golf, jogging, golf, hiking, etc. The key to enjoying oneself, especially at the ages of most of us MCLeaguers, is to warm up thoroughly and begin slowly, gradually increasing the level of activity over several days and weeks. So, get out and bask in the warmth of spring, my friends.

How is the MCL Department of Connecticut doing?

Quite well actually. Several Detachments have added new members, which is one of our primary goals: to grow membership. The other half of that goal is to increase participation by current members. Everyone can do something to support the League.

Every Detachment and the Department needs officers. New members can serve in appointed position, even elected positions. I was elected as the Junior Vice Commandant for the Housatonic Detachment mere months after joining the League. I know that is not a path for everyone, but it indicates what positions a "newbie" can fill.

If you can get new members involved at any level, do it! But do not leave them hanging. They will need support, mentoring, as we all do. Being in leadership positions need not be drudgery. There absolutely should be some fun involved. The more you participate, the more you learn. The more you learn, the more value you bring to your meetings, to the whole organization.

What began here ...  
... continues here.



*Semper Fidelis.*

*Rich Daigle*  
Commandant

# IMPORTANT DATES

## Department of Connecticut Officers 2025-2026

### Detachment Meetings

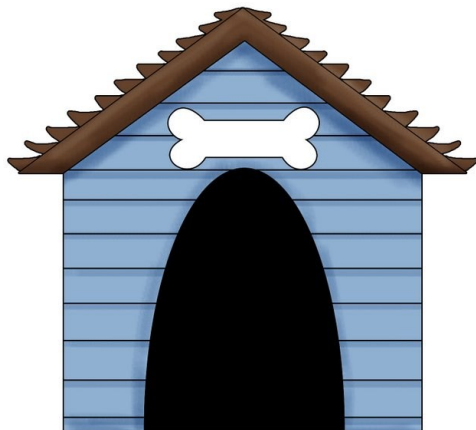
Brass City Detachment 31-	First Tuesday 17:00
Peter P. Monaco Jr. 40-	First Monday 19:00
Northwest Detachment 42-	First Tuesday 19:00
Ridgefield Detachment 44-	Third Wednesday 19:00
Silver City Detachment 45	Third Monday 19:00
Southington Memorial 46-	Third Tuesday 19:00
Valley Detachment 48-	Second 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

~~Sept 8 Pound 11:00 Pack 13:00 Peter Monaco~~  
~~Nov 2 Pound 11:00 Pack 13:00 Rocky Hill~~  
~~Jan 4 Pound 11:00 Pack 13:00 Rocky Hill~~  
~~Mar 8 Pound 11:00 Pack 13:00 Valley Det.~~ →  
 May 3 Pound 11:00 Pack 13:00 Rocky Hill  
 June Grand Growl TBD

### Department Meetings 2025-2026

DATE	LOCATION	FOOD
<del>AUGUST 24</del>	<del>Rocky Hill</del>	<del>HOUSATONIC</del>
<del>OCTOBER 5</del>	<del>Rocky Hill</del>	<del>HRDWARE CITY</del>
<del>DECEMBER 14</del>	<del>Rocky Hill</del>	<del>BRASS CITY</del>
<del>FEBRUARY 15</del>	<del>Rocky Hill</del>	<del>BRIDGEPORT</del>
APRIL 12	Rocky Hill	NVCDD
JUNE	TBD	



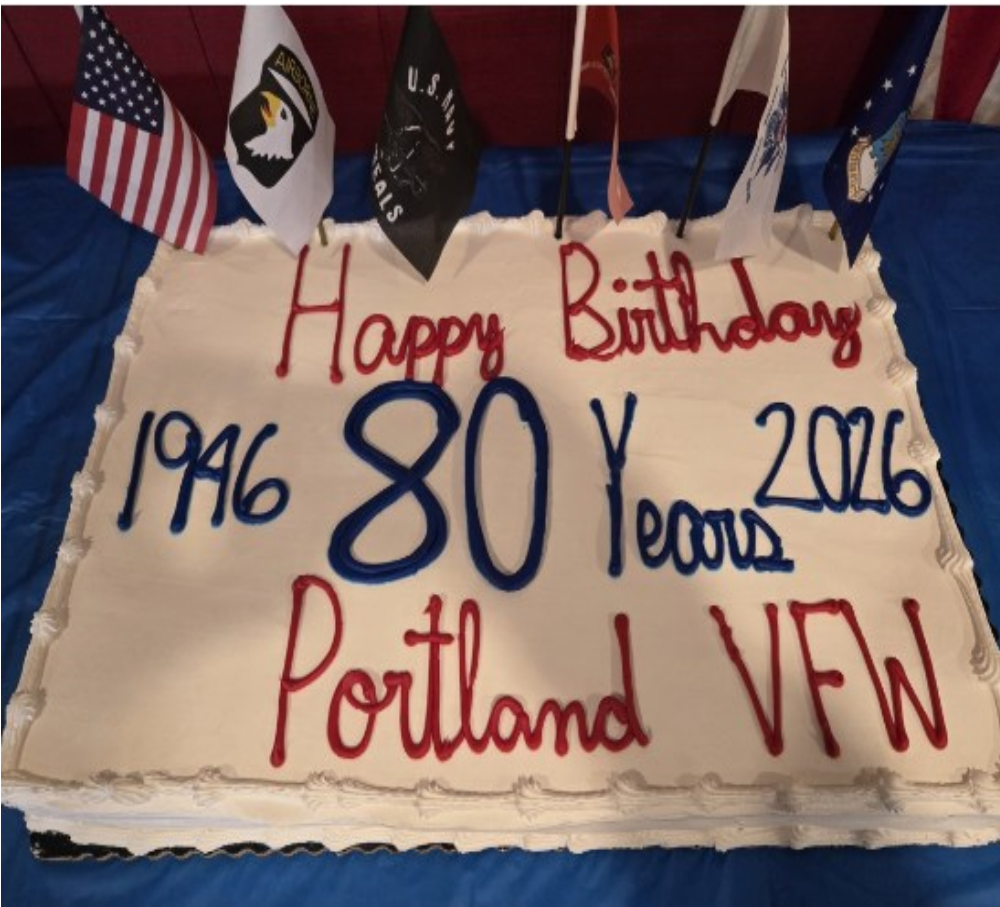
Commandant .....	Rich Daigle 860-222-5024 ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com
Sr. Vice Commandant.....	Walt Benson 203-768-8435 walt.benson5@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant.....	George Gutmann Jr. 203-446-6072 ggutmann@preferredtool.com
Judge Advocate .....	Doug Fisk 860-774-0378 the49thcdd@hotmail.com
Sgt. At Arms .....	Ray Burrington 860-918-6880 rayuconn@cox.net
Adjutant.....	Charise Hewitt 203-494-1250 charise.hewitt@gmail.com
Paymaster .....	Tom Jackson 203-257-2855 jackson.west@att.net
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.....	Walt Benson 203-768-8435 walt.benson5@gmail.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



## HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT



On Saturday February 28 th , Marine Corps League, Department of CT was honored to help celebrate VFW, Portland CT, Post 6126, 80th birthday party. Congratulations Post 6126. A good time was had by all.

Members of the Hardware City Detachment 781 are: Squad Leader Jim Soder, Armorer Larry Sekscenski, and rifleman, Al Urso



# CONNECTICUT



**AUGUST 22, 2026**



**Join us for our Annual Benefit Ride**

Meet up at **Hubbard Park** in Meriden, CT.

Registration is from 9:30 to 10:45 with kickstands up at 11:00.

Our ride will end at the **Svea Social Club**,

999 Kensington Rd, Kensington, CT 06037.

Come out rain or shine, with or without a bike. Enjoy food, music, and raffles.

All proceeds go toward scholarships and animals in need of medical attention.

**\$20/Per Bike**  
Includes  
Passenger

**\$10/Person**  
not on Ride

**For any questions, please call/text us!**

**Arnold 860-637-3834**

**Tina 860-637-3834**

**Sheri 203-848-7524**





# CONNECTICUT



## NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

On Sunday afternoon, March 29, 2026, veterans and friends gathered at the CT State Vi-

etnam War Memorial in Coventry, CT to honor and remember all the Vietnam War veterans and to salute their patriotism, and to remember the 613 who did not make it home from the battle-field. Coventry is the keeper of the CT Vietnam War Veterans Memorial where the 613 names are etched in black granite. Coventry has held a brief



### Invocation—John Waggoner, VVA Chapter 270 Norwich

wreath-laying ceremony each year since 2017 when Congress passed a law designating March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Members from the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 270, Norwich, CT, provided the flag detail and the invocation was given by VVA member John Waggoner. The Natchaug River Young Marines from Danielson, CT provided the Color Guard while UConn students from the Rubyfruit A Cappella Choir sang the National Anthem. Guest speaker, Ron Welch, CT Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner, Briga-





# CONNECTICUT



## NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

adier General, U.S. Army (Ret), spoke about our deep appreciation and respect we all have for our



Vietnam veterans and how their perseverance in their fight for their rights and benefits paved the way for today's veterans. Following his speech, Coventry High School Junior, Madison Tiberio, played Taps during the wreath laying by American Legion Post 52 members, Len Theroux and Carl Zetterstrom. The ceremony ended with The Vietnam War took the lives of 58,276 U.S. service members. 613 were from Connecticut. Today, there are still thousands of Vietnam veterans who feel the long-term effects of the War from Agent Orange, which exposed over 2 million veterans serving in Vietnam.

"Amazing Grace" being performed by bagpiper, Matt Hickey.

Semper Fi,  
Jamie DePaola



**Tim Ackert, CT State Representative District \*, Air Force Veteran, State Senator Jeff Gordon, Ranking Member on Veterans Affairs Committee, BGen Ron Welch, DVA Commissioner, Peter DePaola, Jamie DePaola and Tom Brown, USMC Veteran VVA Norwich Chapter 270**



# CONNECTICUT



## DEPT. OF CT. RAFFLE

The Department of Connecticut is raffling off a Bird House to help with the cost of our one day convention. This Birdhouse was

built and donated by Rich Michaud of the Hard-Detachment. It is a real Blue Peaks Lodge in New Zealand near a Bird Sanctuary.



There is a Bird Sanctuary. It was originally to offer tickets but due to my control we could not

We are originally going to offer tickets online but due to issues beyond my control we could not

offer tickets but due to my control we could not

in the convention Raffle. The raffle will be held during the convention, and it will be a combined raffle, Department and Pack. Both organizations will split the earnings. The schedule of the Convention will be tight as the goal is to get everything completed and get everyone out at a reasonable time which will include Convention and Growl.

I ask if you have any items to donate please bring them to the convention, or bring them to the April 12th Dept. meeting. I would ask the dogs to bring in their usual item below \$20 value to help make our raffle a success.



# CONNECTICUT



*Do You Ride?*

**Ride <sup>for</sup> a Reason**

**Come Meet us!**

**B.A.C.A.**

**Connecticut Chapter**

Invites you to their Public Meeting  
**First Monday of Every Month**  
at 6:45pm

**St. Joseph's Polish Society, Inc.**  
395 South Main Street Colchester, CT

[BACAworld.org](http://BACAworld.org)

**BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE**



# FROM THE WORTHY PACK LEADER



Woof, Woof Dogs,

As we approach our Convention and our Grand Growl, we have some housekeeping issues to address. At the Grand Growl we will need to hold elections for next years officers. That being said all officers that plan to run for election, will need to announce their intention at the May Growl. There are 7 elected positions and we will need to have someone in place for all of them. I would urge you to think about taking one of the elected or appointed positions, what you gain is so much more than what you contribute. The knowledge alone is priceless, not counting the new contacts and friends you will make, and your contribution to the advancement of the Order is something you can be proud of.

We will have a raffle at our Grand Growl. It will be either run by the dogs or it will be combined with the league and we will share in a percentage of that raffle. So please bring an item for the raffle no more than 20 Big Bones.

We have been focused on trying to get back to making these Growls more fun and we have a few things we are discussing. First of all any ideas you have for an activity please share them. We have also discussed having a position for a fun dog, who would be in charge of dispensing fun and he would be called Fun Dog, or Happy Dog, or we will hold a naming contest to name him. I would like to thank PCDD Doug Fisk for providing the entertainment for the past few growls, and I will try yo catch up on the entertainment.

PDD Rich Michaud donated a Bird House to be raffled off and I am trying to set up an online raffle to increase the number of people bidding on it. The house is quite nice and if it were bigger I would move in, Thank you Rich.

Lastly, at the mid-winter Growl, The Kennel has determined we are behind in our efforts to recruit more Dogs to the order. Our new dogs have to come from the larger detachments because most of the smaller detachments do not have many if any new members and they are dogs all be it inactive. I will gladly speak at any detachment Meeting.

Semper Woof,  
PDD Walt Benson  
Worthy Pack Leader.





# CONNECTICUT



## HOUSATONIC DETACHMENT



Recently,  
PDC, PWPL, David  
Rosa was Wrapped  
by the Quilts of Val-  
or Foundation





# CONNECTICUT



## SUPPORT OUR IWO JIMA MONUMENT



*SPONSOR OUR ETERNAL FLAME  
"IN MEMORY" OR "IN HONOR OF"*

***\$15 FOR A DAY***

***\$100 FOR A WEEK***

***\$400 FOR A MONTH***



**Donate on our secure website at [www.IwoJimaMemorial.org](http://www.IwoJimaMemorial.org)**

**Or mail a check to: Iwo Jima Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 31516**

**Newington, CT 06131**

**Questions: Contact Elaine at [IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com](mailto:IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com)**



# CONNECTICUT



## Coffee with Veterans

**9 AM - 11 AM**

**1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 68 HALL**

**COME ENJOY FREE COFFEE, HOT BREAKFAST & GOOD CONVERSATIONS!**



*Feel free to bring **ONE** guest!*

**IF YOU NEED A RIDE PLEASE CONTACT:**

**MO JORDAN**

**860-268-8969**

**AMERICANLEGIONAUXPOST68@GMAIL.COM**

**154 Porters Pass, Berlin CT 06037**



# CONNECTICUT



This April 22 nd, we pause to remember two Marines, Cpl. Jonathan Yale and Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter, 22 and 20 years old respectively. They stood the watch at the entrance gate of an outpost that contained a makeshift barracks housing 50 Marines and 100 Iraqi police. In 2008, this area of Ramadi was known as ‘the most dangerous city on earth’ and owned by al-Qaeda.

As Marines on duty, the eleven General Orders served as

their guide to all possible on duty might encounter, and they de- conduct you must hold on duty. Within an hour of duty, their lives and the sleeping in the bar- changed forever.



scenarios a guard scribe the proper yourself to while assuming their lives of those racks would be

General Kelly delivered a speech, now called ‘Six Seconds to Live’, to the Semper Fi Society of St. Louis on Nov. 13, 2010, four days after his son, Marine 1st Lt. Robert Kelly, was killed in action in Afghanistan. These excerpts are from General Kellys speech. Please take a few minutes to read his entire speech. [Six Seconds to Live | The American Legion](#)

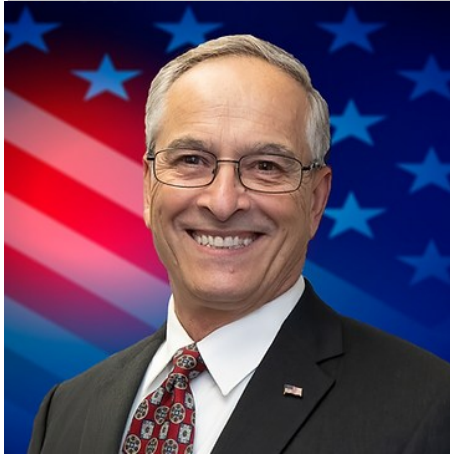
Semper Fi Marines!

Peter DePaola  
 Chaplain  
 Department of CT





# CONNECTICUT



## Notification to Department Chaplain on Deceased Members

The Notice of Death form (NOD) should be completed by the Chaplain and forwarded to the Department Chaplain for deceased members of the Detachment. This form should be completed and transmitted immediately upon notification. In addition to other administrative reasons, deceased members are honored with a memorial service at Department, Division, and National meetings.

Completing the Notice of Death is streamlined by using the fillable electronic version of the NOD. The completed form is easily sent via email to the Department Chaplain and may be stored electronically for Detachment records. Use this link to access the fillable NOD form: [7b36bc\\_18a2668aaf93411d8eeb639f2d16fc16.pdf](#). Once complete, the following is the sequence for submitting the NOD – using email simplifies the process.

- 1) Detachment Chaplain fills out the form then sends a copy to the Department Chaplain ([pdepaolasr@gmail.com](mailto:pdepaolasr@gmail.com)) retaining a copy for detachment records.
- 2) Department Chaplain sends a copy to the Marine Corps League National Headquarters and the MCL National Chaplain ([MCLnationalchaplain@gmail.com](mailto:MCLnationalchaplain@gmail.com)) retaining a copy for department records.
- 3) Detachment Paymaster must attach this form when submitting a Notice of Death via Transmittal.

Thank you,  
  
Semper Fi  
Peter DePaola  
Chaplain  
Department of CT



**VETERANS**  
 3rd ANNUAL  
**PICNIC**

**SATURDAY | JULY 25<sup>th</sup> AT NOON**  
 Join us for a day of  
**Celebration, Honor, & Fun!**

**WINDHAM**  
**FISH & GAME CLUB**  
 276 JERUSALEM ROAD, WINDHAM CENTER

**RESERVATION REQUIRED:**  
 Call Tom Curtin  
**860-655-0602**

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED**



# CONNECTICUT



## AGENDA

# 85 TH DEPT. OF CONNECTICUT CONVENTION

**SATURDAY, 06 JUNE 2026 \* GOLD STAR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**

**CONNECTICUT VETERANS HOME & HOSPITAL**

**287 WEST STREET \* ROCKY HILL CT 06067**

- 0730 Registration
- 0800 Opening Ceremonies
- 0820 Memorial Service – Peter DePaola & Jack Dougherty
- 0850 Business Session
- TO INCLUDE UNDER NEW BUSINESS:
- Rules Committee – Jim Lauber
- Credentials Committee – Jim Soder
- Budget Committee – Tom Jackson & Walt Benson
- Bylaws Committee & Policy Change – Doug Fisk
- 1000 Break – raffle ticket sales – Adele Hodges & Jim Soder
- 1020 Business Session resumes
- TO INCLUDE UNDER NEW BUSINESS:
- Audit Committee – Bill Lee
- MOY Committee – Jack Dougherty
- Elections & Installation of Officers
- 1200 Lunch on site – raffle ticket sales – Adele Hodges & Jim Soder
- 1300 Raffle drawings
- 1330 Grand Growl



# YOUNG MARINES



**YM PFC Brosnan, C, YM PFC Stamper, W, YM PFC Mitchell, C, and YM SgtMaj Steele, M. and BGen Ron Welch DVA Commissioner.**

On Sunday afternoon, March 29, 2026, the Young Marines from Natchaug River Unit. Provided a Color Guard at the CT State Vietnam War Memorial in Coventry, CT to honor and remember all the Vietnam War veterans and to salute their patriotism, and to remember the 613 Service Members who did not make it home from the battlefield. The Young Marines take part in many community service projects throughout the State and could serve as a vital part of some of the activities the Marine Corps League conducts. Please consider inviting them to help in those activities as well as inviting them to social events as well.



**YM PFC Brosnan, C, YM PFC Stamper, W, YM PFC Mitchell, C, and YM SgtMaj Steele, M. Thank you to Shanna Steele, for supplying the photos.**



2026

# April

2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
5 HAPPY EASTER 	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 TAX DAY	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



2026

# May

2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

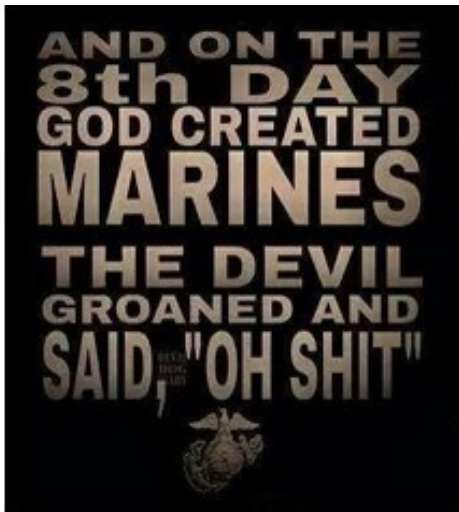
WEDNESDAY

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							



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

**2026** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**NEW ENGLAND DIVISION**  
**CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT CONFERENCE**  
 THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 - SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026



**More details to follow**

**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 12, 2026**  
 Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital  
 287 West St., Rocky Hill CT 06067  
**Building 50**



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....