

December 2024— January 2025

SEMPER FI

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League



Department of Connecticut Commandant's Corner



I am disappointed that no one has stepped up to fill the Department Paymaster position. The role can be filled by a regular member or an associate member. It does not take an exorbitant amount of time and requires only six reports a year. It is critical that that Walt Benson can focus on role.

I have asked several position and, so far, no one We also need a New London be ideal if a Marine from the would take the position be-Detachment in New London

On a lighter note, I am



ington Memorial Detachment 046 is in recovery mode. Sr Vice Walt Benson and I attended their meeting on 19 November to conduct their elections and swear in the newly elected and appointed officers. Congratulations to:

MCL members to accept the has said, "Yes." But I'm hopeful. County Commandant. It would Thames River Detachment 1334 cause Thames River is the only County.

extremely happy that the South-

**Commandant Richard Roderick,
Sr Vice Commandant Rich Sorbello,
Jr Vice Commandant Joe Mayo, and
Judge Advocate Joe Salerno.**

Kudos and special thanks to Associate Members Melissa Wheelock, Adjutant/Paymaster, and Nicole Morin, Sergeant-at-Arms. These two young women exhibited Marine-like qualities and led the charge to re-establish the Detachment. I'm sure we've all been very busy with the Marine Corps birthday celebrations and Veterans Day parades and ceremonies. I know I was. I hope all our members spent quality time with other

Marines and military veterans. 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 Department of CT MCL group rate or use group rate MCL25. 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, Commandant of the Housatonic Detachment 1129, 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.

I hope to see everyone at our **next Department meeting on 1 December in Rocky Hill.**

Semper Fidelis.

Rich Daigle

Commandant

Department of Connecticut



IMPORTANT DATES

Department of Connecticut Officers 2023-2024

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 Thursday	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

Growls

The next Growl will be January 5th at Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital. This is for Glawackus Pound and the Pack.

If you are not a dog, why aren't you? Reach out find out how to be a dog



Commandant	Rich Daigle 203-506-8786 PopPop.Daigle@gmail.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 pdepaolasr@gmail.com
The Worthy Pack Leader.....	Rich Daigle 203-506-8786 PopPop.Daigle@gmail.com
Young Marines Liaison ...	Peter DePaola 860-478-6802 pdepaolasr@gmail.com
Web Sergeant	Skip Hamel 203-527-8137 hamels52@att.net
VSO Public Relations	Sal Sena 860-614-6188 4mermarine69@gmail.com
Public Relations.....	Al Urso 860-877-9092 alurso@cox.net
Legislative Officer.....	Adele Hodges 203-843-1244 hodgesadele@yahoo.com



CONNECTICUT



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL BRASS CITY MEMORIAL DETACHMENT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES

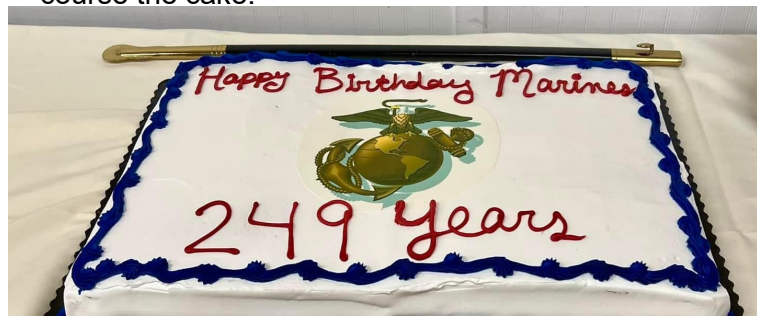


10 NOVEMBER 1775

SEMPER FIDELIS



MC, Detachment Commandant Jim Lauber < Blow L Renee Harvey , Guest of Honor, Below r, All Marines toast to Sam Beamon and Matty Giordano, and of course the cake.





CONNECTICUT



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL BRASS CITY MEMORIAL DETACHMENT



The Marine Corp's birthday cake-cutting ceremony is important to all Marines, as it is an annual renewal of each Marine's commitment to the Corps . . . and the Corps' commitment to our nations quest for peace and freedom worldwide. The birthday cake is traditionally cut with the Mameluke sword, as a reminder that we are a band of warriors, committed to carrying the sword, so that our nation may live in peace. The Mameluke sword gets its name from the cross hilt and ivory grip design, similar to swords used for centuries by Ottoman warriors. The Marine Corps tradition of carrying this sword dates from Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon's assault of Derna, Tripoli, in 1805, where he is said to have won the sword of the governor of the city.

As is our custom, the first piece of cake will be presented to our guest of honor. By tradition, the second piece of cake is presented to the oldest Marine present. The third piece of cake is presented to the youngest Marine present. The youngest Marine present is also the guest of honor.





FROM THE EDITOR



A STORY WORTH TELLING

Last night I attended a detachment meeting with my Department Commandant Rich Daigle to conduct elections and swear in the new officers. This detachment lost its commandant last spring due to personal family issues. They reached out to cease to exist. Through some hard back members who had stopped at new roster of detachment officers, and sion. Several Marines in the Department on how to proceed but these elite members who are no longer active, and why they cannot do this anymore but embrace our motto, and what the Marine Corps League is all about. I am so proud of this group that I cannot begin Everyone accepted their office with experience, some with health issues, but going, and building it back to a time where the detachment was much stronger than today. But stronger is a confusing term as you don't have to be able to run the confidence course to be strong or be a positive role model, you need to be present. What you have to offer can be given from a chair, a cart or a walker. Your mind and voice are powerful tools to recruit, motivate, and inspire new members. I've been here ten years and the people who talked to me, harassed me, and were brothers to me, I remember every day. Without those connections I would have never stayed, I would have never volunteered to do anything. Each one had declining health issues before they passed but they were here and active till the last day. Those were and are Heroes, and the members of the detachment we swore in last night are following in those footsteps. There was a scene from "Full Metal Jacket" where private Joker was promoted to squad leader and the DI said, that Joker was silly and ignorant but he had guts and guts was enough. If you have the guts we're saving a place for you.



to me as they did not want the detachment work on their part they managed to bring tending, and as of last night they have a the dedication needed to rise to the occasion stepped up to give advice and guidance few did all the work. We often chase after reluctantly listed to the long list of reasons here is a shining example of a group who rine Corps League is all about. I am so to pay them the recognition they deserve. thusiasm and honor, some without any ex- fully determined to keep the detachment

Walt Benson

**OPEN FOR ALL
MEMBERS OF THE MCL
& MCL AUXILIARY**

**MCL
SCUTTLEBUTT**



Have you joined any of these meetings? Well if you missed any of them, they are available on You Tube and there are a lot of good topics to choose from



CONNECTICUT



CT VETERANS DAY RACE HONORS AND SALUTES OUR MILITARY VETERANS

Hundreds gathered at Patriots Park in Cove try on Saturday, November 2 nd , for the 9 th annual CT Veterans Day Race. The Park was full of excitement, energy and patriotism with over 300 participants registered for either the 4-mile race, 3-mile walk, or 3-mile rucksack on a perfect autumn day. “This is more than just a road race. The event honors the service and sacrifice of Connecticut’s many



veterans. It’s an event to welcome them home and honor their service and sacrifice, as well as to share with the CT community some of the many services available to them through various Veteran Service Organizations.” said Peter DePaola, Race Director, and MCL member of the Peter P. Monaco Jr. Det. 40.

This year the CT Veterans Day Race was selected by the Veterans Day National Committee in Washington, D.C. as the regional site for the Veterans Day Com-

memoration. The opening ceremony was patriotic and motivating with the UConn Army ROTC providing the color guard followed by Rubyfruit A Cappella Choir, also from UConn performing the National Anthem. Meaningful re-

marks were provided by retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major, John Ploskonka, about “what is a veteran”. John Ploskonka is the Commandant of MCL Peter P. Monaco, Jr. Det. 40. Students from the UConn Crew and Sailing Teams and the Natchaug River Young Marines all volunteered to make the day a huge success. Additionally, active-duty Marines and Soldiers proudly set up their static displays in the park and enjoyed sharing their stories and knowledge with over 600 guests in Patriots Park. The park was filled with pride and respect for veterans.

Tim Ackert, President of the race committee, also shared the great news that since they began the race in 2016, over \$105,000 has been donated directly to 18 different CT Veteran Service Organizations. This year, 2024, \$20,350 was donated to six different organizations. Veterans Day is a great time for all Americans to salute our military veterans and say, “thank you,” but also to discover a way to support the thousands of veterans in need. In addition to financial donations, there





CONNECTICUT



VETERANS DAY RACE CONTINUED



Choir, also from UConn performing the National Anthem. Meaningful remarks were provided by retired Ma-

were overflowing bins full of non-perishable food items and daily essential items for the homeless and at-risk veteran; all donated by race participants and the local communities.

The CT Veterans Day Race provides the opportunity to show our American pride to the many military service men and women. We all say, "Thank you for your service, and welcome home." CT Veterans Day Race Honors and Salutes our Military Veterans Hundreds gathered at Patriots Park in Coventry on Saturday, November 2nd, for the 9th annual CT Veterans Day Race. The Park was full of excitement, energy and patriotism with over 300 participants registered for either the 4-mile race, 3-mile walk, or 3-mile rucksack on a perfect autumn day. "This is more than just a road race. The event honors the service and sacrifice of Connecticut's many veterans. It's an event to welcome them home and honor their service and sacrifice, as well as to share with the CT community some of the many services available to them through various Veteran Service Organizations." said Peter DePaola, Race Director, and MCL member of the Peter P. Monaco Jr. Det. 40. This year the CT Veterans Day Race was selected by the Veterans Day National Committee in Washington, D.C. as the regional site for the Veterans Day Commemoration. The opening ceremony was patriotic and motivating with the UConn Army ROTC providing the color guard followed by Rubyfruit A Cappella

rine Corps Sergeant Major, John Ploskonka, about "what is a veteran". John Ploskonka is the Commandant of MCL Peter P. Monaco, Jr. Det. 40. Students from the UConn Crew and Sailing Teams and the Natchaug River Young Marines all volunteered to make the day a huge success. Additionally, active-duty Marines and Soldiers proudly set up their static displays in the park and enjoyed sharing their stories and knowledge with over 600 guests in Patriots Park. The park was filled with pride and respect for veterans. Tim Ackert, President of the race committee, also shared the great news that since they began the race in 2016, over \$105,000 has been donated directly to 18 different CT Veteran Service Organizations. This year, 2024, \$20,350 was donated to six different organizations. Veterans Day is a great time for all Americans to salute our military veterans and say, "thank you," but also to discover a way to support the thousands of veterans in need. In addition to financial donations, there were overflowing bins full of non-perishable food items and daily essential items for the homeless and at-risk veteran; all donated by race participants and the local communities. The CT Veterans Day Race provides the opportunity to show our American pride to the many military service men and women. We all say, "Thank you for your service, and welcome home."

SgtMaj. Jamie DePao-



CONNECTICUT



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING BRIDGEPORT MEMORIAL DETACHMENT



Staff at Tashua Knolls



Dept. Commandant Rich Daigle, Bridgeport Commandant Adele Hodges, MajGen James Battaglini, Housatonic Commandant , Tom Jackson



Gunny Alan Storms And Bridgeport Commandant Adele Hodges



PDC David Rosa, George French, Roy Molgard



The Bpt Military Academy's Navy JROTC or Guard/ LtCmdr Travis Brewster



Janet and Rich Daigle, Connie Lauber, Jane Col-Dougherty, Jim Lauber.



CONNECTICUT



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING BRIDGEPORT MEMORIAL DETACHMENT



Housatonic Commandant Tom Jackson,
Housatonic SVC Ray Cruciani, Dept Commandant
Rich Daigle



Family and Friends



Teri Benson, New England Division Adjutant Walt
Benson Bpt Chaplain Mike Bolash, and Wife



Joe Kubic and Wife, and assorted friends and
Friends

Bottom Tables friends and family





CONNECTICUT



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING BRIDGEPORT MEMORIAL DETACHMENT



On November 14th The Bridgeport Memorial Detachment and the Housatonic Detachment Combined to celebrate our Birthday, in a simple cake cutting ceremony. The evening included Gen Lejunes letter, The MCL Commandants Message, and the commandant of The Marine Corps Message. A speaker MajGen James Battaglini, a Raffle, a presentation by Jane Dougherty of a quilt of Valor to the General.. A great time was had by all.



CONNECTICUT



HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT VETERANS DAY



Hardware City Veterans Day Ceremony. Larry Sekscenski, John Reek, Merriam Wilson, Fred McGoldrick and, Squad Leader Rich Michaud. On the right John Lynch, and New Britain Mayor, Erin Stewart.



HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT TOYS 4 TOTS



Hardware City Detachment Toys 4 Tots attended a concert at Central Connecticut State University, where they collected 5 boxes of new toys. MCL Members, Al Urso Detachment Commandant, Rivers McCallop, Brendan Boyle, And Ray Burrington. The Marines from Fox Company in Plainville will appear again in the next newsletter as I did not have



their names. The Marine Corps League is always looking for a few good Marines! But still Ooh-rah Marines!!



CONNECTICUT



HOUSATONIC DETACHMENT VETERANS DAY PARADE



BRASS CITY DETACHMENT TOYS 4 TOTS



Brass City Toys 4 Tots. Antonio Pina, Joe Oneil, Dom Falcone, Jim Lauber Det Commandant Skip Hammel, and Bob Bozzuto. Above left Commandant Jim Lauber with Rick and Lisa accepting a large donation of toys.



CONNECTICUT



WOOF, WOOF CONNECTICUT DOGS



Worthy Senior Vice Pound Keeper PDD Walt Benson, presents PDD Ray Burrington with The pound dog of the year award 2024.

Worthy Pack Leader PDD Rich Daigle, deliver a check to the CT Humane Society from our Chow Hound fund





CONNECTICUT



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



LIVING THE MARINE CORPS VALUE OF HONOR

Honor, Courage, Commitment. These are our core values and are the standard that guides every Marine throughout their lives.

As stated on the website "Marine.com" the first of the core value is HONOR. This value is fundamental to the character of Marines and veterans and is a

guide for our behavior. Honor guides Marines to exemplify the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior. Never lie, never cheat or steal; abide by an uncompromising code of

integrity; respect human dignity and respect others. Honor compels Marines to act responsibly, to fulfill our obligations, and to hold ourselves and others accountable for every action. Our values are defined by the way they are lived. HONOR our fellow veterans: "Give honor to whom honor is due." (Proverbs 3:27-28). As Marine Corps League members, we help others when we offer encouragement, see their value, and speak well of others. Not only is this doing a good deed, but we are doing what God expects us to do. We can honor others with uplifting words or positive actions. Reaching out to a fellow veteran is a powerful way to bless others. (IGY6). Give to others with words or actions, and we too will be healed. HONOR our departed: It is our duty, and an honor, to remember our departed MCL Members. To share this news with others, complete the Notice of Death (NOD). The following is the sequence for submitting the NOD.

1) Detachment Chaplain fills out the form then sends a copy to the Department Chaplain (my email is pdepao-

lasr@gmail.com). Retain a copy for the detachment records.

2) The Department Chaplain is responsible to send a copy to the Marine Corps League National Headquarters and the MCL National Chaplain, (MCLnationalchaplain@gmail.com) retaining a copy for department records.

3) The Detachment Paymaster must attach this form when submitting a Notice of Death via Transmittal.



Use the PDF fillable form: https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/08/Notice-of-Death_2021_new.pdf

S/F
Peter DePaola
Chaplain
Department of CT



CONNECTICUT



MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

Connecting transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service.

ONCE A MARINE,
ALWAYS A MARINE!

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



Career & Technical Opportunities



Educational Opportunities



Entrepreneurial Endeavors

NETWORKING IS KEY

LinkedIn



Our online network utilizes LinkedIn to help Marines network with one another and connect with employers who want to hire Marines.

Face to Face Network



We focus on connecting Marine Veterans to local and national resources, as well as encouraging networking through Marine For Life events and meet ups.

[company/marine-for-life-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network)

marineforlife.org

866-645-8762

[/MarineForLifeNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/MarineForLifeNetwork)



2024

DECEMBER

2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Years eve				



2025

JANUARY

2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

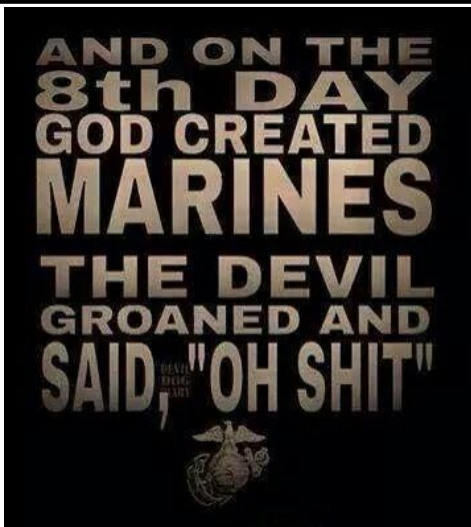
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 New Years Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	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.

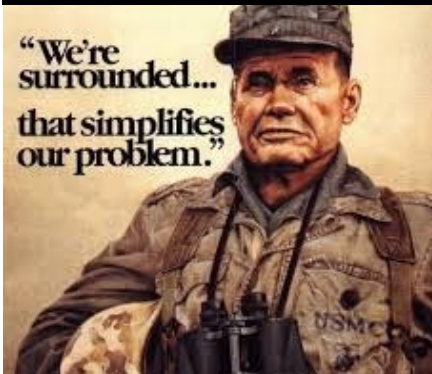
Amen

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

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



Attention To Orders
THE NEXT DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT MEETING
December 1, 2024
Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital
287 West St, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Building 50



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

