



February 2025 — March 2025

SEMPER FI

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League



Department of Connecticut Commandant's Corner

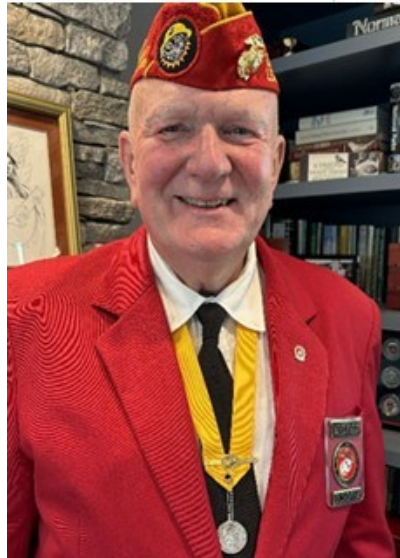


Happy 2025! We have made it through another year. We have suffered some difficult losses, certainly. Long-time member Richard Roderick, Commandant of the Southington Memorial Detachment 046 passed away last month.

The new Commandant, Rich Sorbello will assume the leadership role. But we have also accomplished a few things. We haven't grown by leaps and bounds but several Detachments have initiated new members.

We had a wonderful Toys for Tots season, surpassing prior years. Planning is well underway for our 2025 Department Convention. 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. 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.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS A NEW PAY-MASTER. Tom Jackson, Junior Past Comman-



dant of the Housatonic Detachment 1129, has stepped up to fill the vacancy. Tom has a lot of experience, having done the finances for American Legion Post 196. Tom was also the longtime Commander of the Post with oversight of the finances. Thank you, Tom, for taking on the position. And I know Walt Benson thanks you!

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned that we needed a New London County Commandant. Tom Peters has graciously agreed to continue in that role, despite some health issues. He likely will not attend our meetings but he and I will keep in touch. Thank you, Tom.

I hope to see everyone at our next Department meetings:

2 February in Rocky Hill

6 April in Rocky Hill

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

March 2 Pound 11:00 Pack 13:00
at Rocky Hill

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



On the Milford Green

Welcome Home

Saturday March 29, 2025

EVENT SCHEDULE

- Ceremonies on the Green: 11:00 AM.
- (Invocation, Pledge. Anthem, Music, Guest Speakers)
- Migrate to Veterans Auditorium: 12:30 PM.
- Special Ceremonies and Live Entertainment 1:00 To 4:00PM.
- Adjourn to City Hall for Veterans Social 4:00 PM

All Are Welcome
(Event Open to the Public)

Food Available At Restaurants On the Green

Shuttle BUS service available 10:00 to 4:00
(R.R.Station-Green- Auditorium)



www.Vnamvet50reunion.com

(For Event Info.)



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"During World War I, Opha May Johnson was the first of 305 women to be accepted for duty in the Marine Corps Reserve on 13 August 1918. Most women filled clerical billets at Headquarters, Marine Corps to release male Marines qualified for active field service to fight in France. Other women filled jobs throughout States. On 30 the war was were issued for women from the

Twenty-five women were man to fight." Corps Women's established in Before World total of 23,145 listed women re- in the Corps. Un- cessors, women World War II per-

military assignments. In addition to clerical work, their numbers included parachute riggers, mechanics, radio operators, map makers, motor transport support, and welders. By June 1944, women reservists made up 85 percent of the enlisted personnel on duty at Headquarters, Marine Corps and almost two-thirds of the personnel manning all major posts and stations in the United States and Hawaii. Following the surrender of Japan, demobilization of the Women's Reserve proceeded rapidly, but a number of them returned to service as regulars under the 1948 Act. "

The 1948 Act is when Women Marines became a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps on 12 June 1948 when Congress passed the [Women's Armed Services Integration Act \(Public Law 625\)](#), but they had already proved themselves in two world wars.

**First Female Marine
Opha Mae Johnson
August 13, 1918, in Marine Corps history.**

UNITED STATES
MARINES

MarineParents.com a Place to Connect & Share®

**SINCE
2003**

at recruiting sta- the United July 1919, after over, orders separation of all Corps.

years later, back to "free a The Marine Reserve was February 1943. War II ended, a officer and en- servists served like their prede- Marines in formed over 200

Jamie DePaola



CONNECTICUT



HOUSATONIC 13TH JAN. AWARDS DINNER





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HOUSATONIC 13TH JAN. AWARDS DINNER





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HOUSATONIC 13TH JAN. AWARDS DINNER





FROM THE EDITOR



A STORY WORTH TELLING

Back in December as most of us were scrambling around to get the last all important Christmas present, or attending Christmas parties. Or just taking in the food and spirit which we embrace as Christmas, a group of Marines from the Department of Maine came together in the cold to begin a journey from Maine to Arlington. These Devil Dogs decided to embrace the spirit of giving as they formed a convoy on its noble journey. They traveled by visiting with veterans and supporters on will appear in the New England Division love, a mission to pay back the sacrifice of a lesson the world has never learned from veterans, brotherhood. As I looked at some of the images of the wreaths lying against the headstones on the blanket of fresh white snow, I could not help but feel the peace and tranquility in this place where those who died in battle now rest. I cannot speak for those who made the journey but if I was laying by read the name, to know more. Was he a Marine, a Soldier, a Sailor or Airforce, and what battle did he fall in and it stole all of his youth. I would make my way along the path and stop at every grave and before I left this field of rest I would say a little prayer and ask a blessing from above that they remain here in eternal rest. You have served your country and your fellow man with a sacrifice that cannot be repaid, but here and now at Christmas time we hope this simple tribute will honor you. Thank you Marines for this gesture you made and in the journey you solemnly made. This gift of love and honor you have given to those who gave it all. May the wreath we lay at the stone that marks your name, display the honor and respect we have for you, and the snow that covers you bring you peace and warmth as you lie at rest and the love of those you left behind.



of Maine came together in the cold to begin a journey from Maine to Arlington. These Devil Dogs decided to embrace the spirit of giving as they formed a convoy on its noble journey. They traveled by visiting with veterans and supporters on will appear in the New England Division love, a mission to pay back the sacrifice of a lesson the world has never learned from veterans, brotherhood. As I looked at some of the images of the wreaths lying against the headstones on the blanket of fresh white snow, I could not help but feel the peace and tranquility in this place where those who died in battle now rest. I cannot speak for those who made the journey but if I was laying by read the name, to know more. Was he a Marine, a Soldier, a Sailor or Airforce, and what battle did he fall in and it stole all of his youth. I would make my way along the path and stop at every grave and before I left this field of rest I would say a little prayer and ask a blessing from above that they remain here in eternal rest. You have served your country and your fellow man with a sacrifice that cannot be repaid, but here and now at Christmas time we hope this simple tribute will honor you. Thank you Marines for this gesture you made and in the journey you solemnly made. This gift of love and honor you have given to those who gave it all. May the wreath we lay at the stone that marks your name, display the honor and respect we have for you, and the snow that covers you bring you peace and warmth as you lie at rest and the love of those you left behind.

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



National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Join us as we honor and remember
our Vietnam War veterans

Wreath-Laying Ceremony

at the

CT Vietnam War Veterans Memorial

Saturday, March 29, 2025 at Noon

**Veterans Memorial Green,
234 Lake Street, Coventry, CT**

TOYS FOR TOTS



[Jim Lauber](#) is with [Prospect Business Association](#) and [Elaine Schieffer](#). Skip Hammel, Ray Carrier, Bob Bozzuto





CONNECTICUT



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

LIVING THE MARINE CORPS VALUE OF HONOR

The Marine Corps' core value of courage is the inner strength that enables us to do what is right, to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct, and to make tough decisions under stress and pressure (USMC.MIL)

Courage is the ability to confront fear, pain, danger, uncertainty, or intimidation despite feeling apprehensive. It is not the absence of fear, but rather the recognition of fear and the willingness to move forward anyway. True courage often manifests in various forms, each uniquely challenging and significant in its own right.

Courage, by definition, is something that is hard to do. If you do something without fear, then you are not being courageous – you're just being you! To be courageous, you have to be pushing through fear and uncertainty.

The story of the four Chaplains, a Catholic, a Jew, and two Protestants, stands out as an incredible act of courage to God, their fellow service members, and to our country. During World War II, the US Transport Ship Dorchester was part of a three-ship convoy traveling across the icy waters of Newfound-



land. During that brief time, through the chaos and pandemonium, the four Army chaplains set out to do their work. Quickly and quietly, they spread out among the soldiers. They tried to calm the frightened, tend to the wounded, and guide the disoriented toward safety. Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offering prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live.

When a soldier couldn't find his life jacket, one of the Chaplains took off his own life vest and gave it to the frightened

man. The four Chaplains comforted the fleeing men and prayed with them. One survivor recounted, "As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lit everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the four Chaplains praying for the safety of the men." Another survivor testified that "the Chaplains had climbed on the keel, and they were standing arm in arm" before they slid into the icy waters. Of the 902 lives onboard, only 229 survived. That night, the four Chaplains passed the ultimate test; in doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage, and selflessness. We may never be faced with the decision to go down with the ship to save others, but we can sacrifice time each day to be kind to others, listen to others, or give a call to others.

The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation continues to honor the legacy of the Four Chaplains with its Legion of Honor Awards program. This program recognizes selfless service in many forms throughout our communities, schools, veteran service organizations, and neighborhoods.

The Legion of Honor Award Program consisting of six honorable awards, publicly recognizes and pays tribute to outstanding members of society whose lives model the giving spirit and unconditional service to community, nation, and humanity without regard to race, religion, or creed exemplified by the Four Chaplains. This program has recognized many of our Marine Corps League & Auxiliary Members who have

performed selfless acts. For more information about the Four Chaplains and the Legion of Honor Awards program, click on the link: (<http://www.fourchaplains.org/>)

Peter DePaola
Department of CT Chaplain



land toward the American Base in Greenland. The Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service members, crew, and civilians. On February 3, 1943, at 0055 hours, the ship was struck by three enemy torpedoes. Within 25 minutes, the USAT Dorchester would roll onto its keel and sink.



CONNECTICUT



THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT, HARDWARE CITY DETACHMENT, 781

Many of our members visited the Veterans Inc. at 232 Arch St., New Britain, CT in November. The members were so impressed with what you folks do for homeless Veterans, that at our next monthly meeting we voted to make a donation to you.

Offering Veterans transitional housing and then assisting them to find permanent housing is really working. All of the things that you do for them is outstanding. Please accept our donation to be used for your residents. Thank you so much for what you do.

Pictured below is from left to right: Kevin Kearney Employment & Training, Navy Vet, Veterans Inc., Dan Wilson, Regional Manager –CT, USAF – retired, Veterans Inc. Marine Al Urso and Marine Fred McGoldrick members of the Hardware City Detachment, 781, New Britain, CT.



Richard J. Roderick May 1, 1944 - December 17, 2024

As all of us come to the end of our time here, it is my hope that we are remembered for more than our obituary. That being said that obituary is who we were and should not be ignored and so here is the link to access it and read the facts of Richards life, <https://www.ericksonhansen.com/obituary/richard-roderick>.

When I joined the Southington Memorial Detachment, I had transferred from Hardware City and as it is in the Marine Corps League, at the second meeting I was volunteered to be the Adjutant which I took over from Rich, and Rich assumed other duties. He sat right next to me at the meeting and if you knew Rich he always on, Rich was whispering jokes in would laugh and at times Joe Mayo as well , while the Commandant on. It must be in Marines DNA that going to go with the laugh. He was with the smile and never an unkind

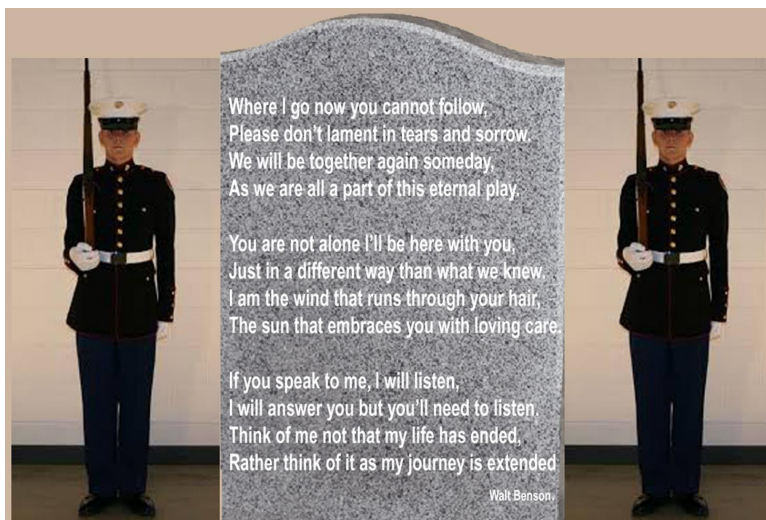


had jokes. And as the meeting went my ear one after another and we would hear one of them and laugh would stop to ask what was going no matter the risk we are always always at the meetings, and always word to anyone.

A couple of years ago he dogs because the Chief DD gave performed at home. PCDD Doug and I know this made Rich very accomplishment as he was always seen wearing the yellow collar and dog tag.

was able to become a PDD in the permission for the ceremony to be Fisk presided over the ceremony happy and he was proud of that ac-

When the previous Commandant stepped down, Rich despite battling his own health problems stepped up and took over as Commandant. He stated that after being a member for over thirty years, he wasn't going to let it go under. It was a happy night that we swore in the officers of the Southington Memori-



proud of the effort bring the detachment Rest easy my watch. As you strut heaven and you de- God a Joke, don't be you the duty for the per fi my brother, you

al Detachment. I was they made to try to back to its former glory brother we have the down the streets of cide to stop and tell surprised if he assigns next fifty years. Sem- will be missed.

Walt Benson



2025

FEBRUARY

2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

							1
2 GROUND HOGS DAY	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15	
16 PRESIDENTS DAY	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28 MID WINTER CONFERENCE		



2025

MARCH

2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1
2	3	4	5 ASH WEDNES- DAY	6	7	8
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	10	11	12	13 THE IDES OF MARCH	14	15
16	17 SAINT PATRICKS DAY	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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



2025 MCL Convention

Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport

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

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



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

