



SEMPER FI

February 2026 — March 2026

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League



Welcome to 2026 and wishing all a Happy New Year ... however belated.

It's been quite a winter thus far. I've shoveled what feels like 100 inches of snow with more in the forecast. I cannot wait for spring.

That being said, be careful! Some sources indicate that anyone over age 45, but especially those with existing heart-related issues, should not shovel. A two-decade Canadian study said that for people over 65, there is a 16% increase in sudden heart attacks and a 34% rise in deaths after a big storm.

Use common sense. Don't lift and throw snow. Push it or use a snowblower. If you must lift it, don't fill the shovel, especially if it is wet snow.

Better to be slow and safe than quick and at risk.

Our Department meeting, originally scheduled for 1 February, is being postponed. Sunday the first, we are expecting dangerously cold temperatures with high winds and the possibility of more snow. Rather than putting people at risk driving to the meeting, we have moved the meeting to Sunday, 15 February. The eighth is Superbowl Sunday so another reason for the 15th.

Our National Mid-winter Conference is scheduled for the end of February. I have only heard from two Commandants about their Detachments' activities since August 2025. Please send me and Walt Benson reports on your various activities. These might include Toys for Tots, USMC birthday celebrations,

Rose Days, and any other activities your Detachments held or participated in.

I need this information to share with the New England Division National Vice Commandant in time for the National Midwinter Conference.

This year our required annual Department Convention will be a one-day event to include our business meeting and the Grand Growl for the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. The date will either be 6 June or the 7th, depending on availability at the Veterans Home. The hours will likely be 0800 – 2100.

We are still working out the details so watch your email for more information.

Our Committee Chairs are:

Audit: Bill "Top" Lee

Budget: Tom Jackson

MOY & AMOY: Jack Dougherty

Rules: Jim Lauber

Committee meetings will be conducted on ZOOM, except for the Audit (in person) and MOY/AMOY (via email), in advance of the Convention. The agenda will include elections for 2026-2027, raffles, etc.

Food will be provided but those details are still being worked out.

Obviously, this scenario is different than in past years. We have to meet prior to the New England Division 6-State Conference to be held in Springfield MA, 11-14 June. This is the first year of the rotation of the NEDiv conference among the six New England states. It will be the Department of Connecticut's turn to host the NEDiv conference in 2029.

Be safe and stay warm!

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

~~AUGUST 24 Rocky Hill HOUSATONIC~~

~~OCTOBER 5 Rocky Hill HARDWARE CITY~~

~~DECEMBER 14 Rocky Hill BRASS CITY~~

FEBRUARY 15 Rocky Hill BRIDGEPORT

APRIL 12 Rocky Hill NVCDD

JUNE TBD



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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



PETER P. MONACO TOYS FOR TOTS



TOYS FOR TOTS
2025

Accepting Donations Through
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Drop-off Location: Monaco Ford Dealership
767 New London Tpke,
Glastonbury, CT

CONSIDER DONATING NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS
AND HELP A CHILD SMILE THIS SEASON!

For more information: joshua.stark01@gmail.com

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARINE CORPS
LEAGUE AND DETACHMENT 40.

MONACO
DETACHMENT 40
MARINE CORPS RESERVE





CONNECTICUT



BRASS CITY MEM. TOYS FOR TOTS



Members of the Prospect Fire Dept and Police Dept with MCL members Robert Bozzuto, Domenic Falcone, Antonio Pina, Jim Lauber, and Skip Hammel

PETER P MONACO



Peter P Monaco Detachment receives a donation from the GHADA Foundation and the CT Auto Detailers Association in support of their work with Veterans





CONNECTICUT



CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



Adele Hodges and Mike Monaco being escorted into the ceremony



MC Marine Gil Simmons

The induction Class of 2025



LT. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, Adele Hodges, Gov. Ned Lamont, Brigadier Gen. Ret. Ron Welch Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

LT. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, Mike Monaco, Gov. Ned Lamont, Brigadier Gen. Ret. Ron Welch Commissioner of Veterans Affairs



CONNECTICUT



CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



Adele Hodges & Mike Monaco



Brigadier Gen. Ret. Ron Welch Mike Monaco & Adele Hodges



Brigadier Gen. Ret. Ron Welch Mike Monaco & Adele Hodges



Charles Pickett , Mike Monaco & Adele Hodges



FROM THE WORTHY PACK LEADER



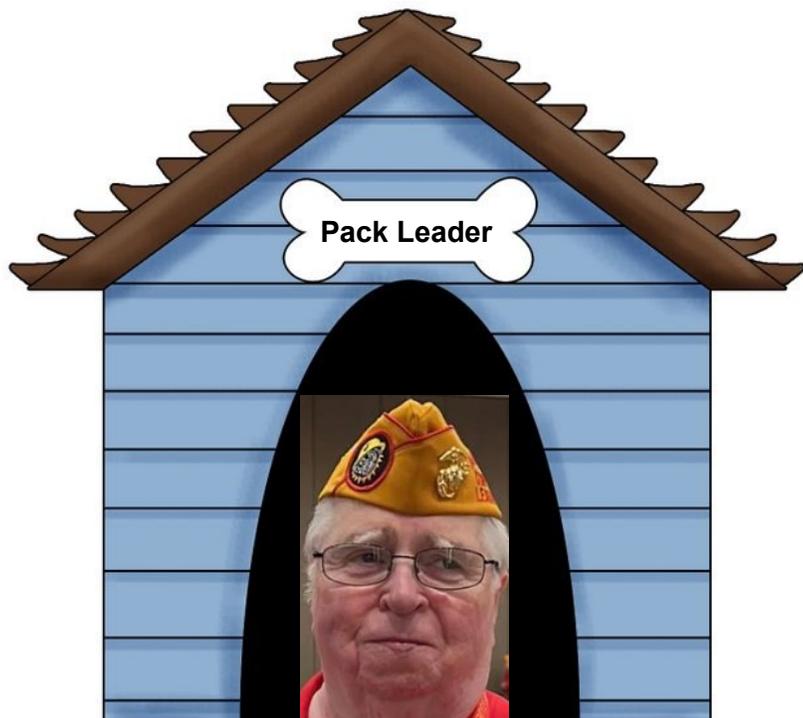
Happy New Year, to the Dogs of the Order and your families. Thanks to the 49th PCDD, PDD Fisk, we have had some games at the past two growls revving up some great competition. The first GROWL we played Pictionary, where I served as a judge and let me just say judging was never so difficult. At the second GROWL we played Family Feud, where I again served as Judge, slightly easier but there were some feuds. This was a fun thing to do and we are looking for more to do. More games more activities more mayhem. I have been doing my part in being fined, almost to the point of considering a Go Fund Me Page. Here is my proposed ad below. Please send BONES.

With the new year we have many upcoming events. WE have our one day convention in June with our GRAND GROWL, followed by our Division Conference in June and that GROWL and our National Convention in August with the SUPREME GROWL this year in Indiana. Why do I bring these up? Because they are opportunities to gain stampings in your passbook which will enable you to advance and if you are not yet a PDD you want to do this. You can only become a PDD at a SUPREME GROWL and the following year that is in Buffalo. Therefore, if you get your stampings and have your time in, you will be able to advance. Now as in everything with the dogs how you advance is not divulged but let me say that it is a total experience where knowledge, teamwork and comradery all meet and are passed down to you in order to make you a better dog, a better Marine, a better leader. Think of it like the cake cutting ceremony where the oldest feeds the youngest but in this case you are given all of these qualities and more by those who have gone before you. In any

event the experience will change you. There is a link in the Division Newsletter to help you start the process, but you can always ask myself or any of the pack or pound officers, especially George for help.

I hope to see you all at the Next GROWL where I will try to find a game or activity to entertain you. Bring bones and be prepared for fun. And if you're not a PDD think about advancing.

Woof Woof





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

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



2026

February

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





2026

March

2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

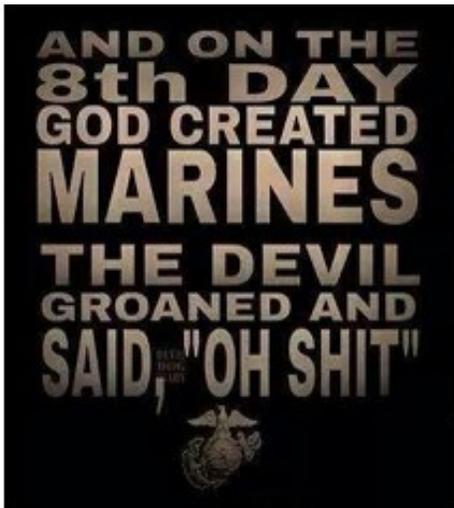
WEDNESDAY

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				



FEBRUARY 2026

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

SHERATON PENTAGON CITY HOTEL

- 900 South Orme Street Arlington, Virginia, USA, 22204

Hotel rate is \$131 per night plus tax

- Parking: On-site garage parking is \$10 per day
- Any cancellations after February 10, 2026, will forfeit the one-night deposit
- Free shuttle to/from Reagan Airport (DCA)

The hotel overlooks Arlington National Cemetery and is right near Henderson Hall and the Fort Myer Exchange.

NOW RECRUITING

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



Attention To Orders
The Next Department of Connecticut Meeting
February 15, 2026
Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital
287 West St., Rocky Hill CT 06067
Building 50





What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

