

THE JARHEAD REVIEW



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

MAY 2026

WWW.MCLDEPTOFGA.ORG



From the Editor

Hey y'all!

You might notice the newsletter looks a little different this time around, but don't worry, it still has the same great content. I like to switch things up now and then to keep it fresh and improve the overall reading experience. Please send in your submissions as soon as possible so your detachment can be featured. If your detachment already puts out a newsletter, feel free to add me to your distribution list. I can pull content directly for your feature. I may follow up with a few questions, but most of the work will already be done for you. Looking forward to seeing what everyone has been up to!

Candice

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DISPATCHES FROM THE DECK



Commandant-Lisa Delfe

To my Marine Corps League Family,

Twelve years ago, when Rex and I completed our applications for membership with Major Stephen W. Pless (MOH) Detachment 1196, I could never have imagined the path ahead. My intention was simple: to serve. I wanted to contribute, support our programs, and once again be part of something larger than myself. I wanted to help collect toys for Toys for Tots, honor our veterans through the Honor Guard, assist with

the Birthday Ball, and lend a hand wherever I was needed. Leadership was not something I sought.

Yet before that first year ended, I found myself in the role of Paymaster - a position I quickly learned is central to the success of any Detachment. That opportunity became the first step on a journey that has ultimately led me to the privilege of serving as your Commandant. I am profoundly grateful for the trust you have placed in me over the years. Your confidence has allowed me to witness firsthand the growth, strength, and resilience of the Department of Georgia.

At our convention this past weekend, we spoke often about legacy - the legacy of those we've lost, the legacy of those who may leave us sooner than we'd like, and the legacy each of us is building every day. We talked about sparks: those small moments, ideas, and inspirations that, with just a little encouragement, can grow into the brightest flames. Many of you shared your sparks with us, and together we discovered new ones.

As we move forward over the next twelve months, our work remains vital. There will always be new challenges to meet, new skills to develop, new goals to pursue, and new sparks to nurture. I look forward to advancing this mission alongside each of you.

One of my sparks has been the revitalization of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary within our Department. I am exceptionally proud of our Georgia Peaches and excited for the contributions they will bring to our shared mission.

The past twelve years have been shaped by countless experiences and supported by many individuals. I am deeply thankful for each of them - and for all of you who continue to serve with dedication, purpose, and heart.

It is an honor to stand with you and to serve as your Commandant.

Semper Fidelis,

Lisa Delfe



In Past Commandant-Rex Delfe

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of the Marine Corps League for your unwavering support, your dedication, and your camaraderie. Your commitment to our mission, to one another, and our communities is what keeps the League strong and growing. As we welcome the new Department board, I am filled with excitement and confidence for the good that they will do together. I have no doubt that, with our shared values and teamwork, the future holds great achievements for our Department and in turn our League. I can't wait to see what this board can do working side by side with you all. My best wishes to Lisa and her outstanding team for our continued growth.

Semper Fidelis

Rex

Gr. Vice Commandant - Atten Coleman



The Department of Georgia's 34th Annual Convention is now in the books and it was a success. Hats off to Detachments 1325 and 1196 for their hard work. Job well done. In addition to the silent auction and raffle prizes, this year's convention offered many things for attendees to take home with them. As for me, I would place PNC Johnny Baker's "Leadership Class" right there at the top. As opposed to a traditional classroom setting, attendees gathered in an informal environment and sat in a circle. Although the PNC remained standing for the duration, the class centered around one driving element, "Servant Leadership".

Servant Leadership is described as "a philosophy where leaders prioritize the growth, well-being and needs of others above their own." Easy enough, but what if one isn't a Detachment or a Department officer? Leadership does not happen once one has been appointed or elected to office. It is found in individuals no matter their rank or status.

So, what makes a "leader"? Here are some attributes one might find in a leader. **Empathy:** Understanding and valuing members' perspectives. **Listening:** Actively hearing the concerns and feedback of others. **Awareness:** Being conscious of the needs of individuals as well as the dynamics of the organization. **Persuasion:** Influencing others through guidance rather than authority. **Conceptualization:** Balancing day-to-day tasks with long-term vision. **Stewardship:** Taking responsibility for the organization and its people. And last, but not least, **Commitment to growth:** Encouraging personal and professional development.

Leaders make examples of themselves, rather than continually offering excuses. Unlike traditional leadership, which often emphasizes strategy, goals and performance metrics, servant leadership focuses on empowering and mentoring others, as well as creating opportunities for growth. In essence, servant leadership transforms the traditional power dynamic, creating a supportive, ethical and growth-oriented environment where both the organization and its members can thrive.

Semper Fi

Atten "Doc" Coleman

Jr. Vice Commandant - Reggie Brand



It is truly an honor and privilege to have been elected as the Junior Vice Commandant for the Marine Corps League Department of Georgia. I am deeply grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me by the members of this outstanding Department. I look forward to working alongside our dedicated officers, Detachments, and members as we continue supporting veterans, serving our communities, and preserving the proud traditions and values of the United States Marine Corps. Together, we will continue building on the strong foundation that has already been established while finding new ways to strengthen our programs, increase participation, and promote fellowship throughout the Department.

One of my highest priorities is being committed to helping each Detachment with their recruiting and retention efforts. Strong Detachments are the backbone of our organization, and I am committed to ensuring every Detachment has the support, resources, guidance, and encouragement needed to grow and remain successful for years to come. By sharing ideas, supporting one another, and working together as one team, we can continue strengthening the Department of Georgia and ensuring the Marine Corps League remains strong for future generations, I am excited for what we can accomplish together and look forward to serving each of you to the best of my ability.

SEMPER FIDELIS!

Reggie

Judge Advocate - Charles Gray



Marines and Associates,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department Judge Advocate. My home Detachment is the Major General Warren R. Johnson Detachment 1311 in Woodstock, Georgia, and I am honored to serve the members of the Department of Georgia in this role. We have begun the process of building the Department of Georgia Bylaws Committee, and I encourage any member who has an interest in helping shape the future of our Department to consider serving. This committee plays an important role in ensuring our policies and procedures continue to support the growth and success of our organization. Meetings will be conducted virtually, making participation convenient with very little travel required.

I also look forward to seeing more members at our quarterly meetings. This is YOUR Department, and together we can continue making it stronger for all members. I look forward to working with many of you in the coming year.

Semper Fi

Charles Gray

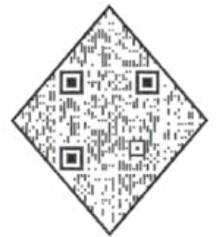
Paymaster - Edward Gizarra



Summer is approaching fast and this means it's time to start talking about membership renewals. Did you know that you can renew your membership at any time during the year? Yes, you can, when you renew your membership, you can renew for multiple years at once. Say you have your tax return and have a little extra funds – go ahead and turn in your membership dues to you Detachment Paymaster, you can pay for 1, 2, or even 3 years at one time. Your membership is important to the strength of the Marine Corps League, Our Department, and your Detachment. Membership dues need to be to

the Department Paymaster by August 15th – Don't wait.

Let's talk about our department website. We will be looking at a refresh after the convention. As we move our website to a new host, we will be looking at our pages to see what works and what is not clear. If you have any suggestions, please email them to me at ga.paymaster@mcldeptofga.org. I look forward to hearing from you, keep the ideas coming in. This is your department. Use the QR Code to check out our website. Help us make this diamond shine.



Chaplain's Corner with Ronnie Griffin



When Hard times come, it is tempting to look back and long for things the way they were. But we are called to look forward, not back. That is where God is leading us . Look up not down-ahead, not back. Henry Ford said this: "when everything seems to be going against you, remember the airplane takes off into the wind, not with it." Struggles are a part of life, and we all need renewed courage from time to time. No one goes through life without moments like these. It is often in these tough times

that we find out where our trust lies. I trust in you and your greatness , O Lord. Please know that none of us are ever alone, for our God is with us always. Be strong in that knowledge, you are not alone, Amen.

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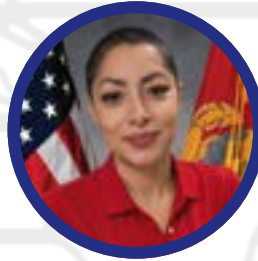
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MEET YOUR

District Vice Commandants

Your District Vice Commandant is here for you!

District Vice Commandants serve as the bridge between Department leadership and local detachments. They ensure that important information, updates, and guidance are shared clearly and consistently. This helps keep all of us aligned with the League's mission while also giving detachments the support they need to succeed. If you have questions or need assistance, reach out to your District Vice Commandant.



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Get to know your District Vice!
They welcome questions and are available to help.

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA SITREP

On May 7th - 10th the Department of Georgia held its 34th Annual Convention. The following are highlights from the Commandant's Council and business meeting

COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL MAY 7TH

Lisa Delk spoke about building a legacy far beyond our time in the league. She noted that we have a lot of Vietnam Era Vets who are the backbone of the League but they are getting older and not as physically able as they used to be. They have trained our generation of leaders but now it's our turn to train the next. But how?

Some ideas:

- Social time before or after meetings
- Get wives involved
- Learning what other Detachments are doing. Go to their meetings
- Being organized and active will help with prospective members
- What works for others may not work for your detachment or may need some tweaking

FIND YOUR SPARK!

Find something that motivates you. Find a need that isn't filled and fill it. Pour your heart into it and build a legacy.

DISTRICT VICE COMMANDANTS

Questions were asked about what the responsibilities of a District Vice Commandant are. Question was tabled so that this topic can be talked about with everyone present.

The following was not part of the meeting but answers the questions

DUTIES OF A DISTRICT VICE COMMANDANT

- Assist the Department Commandant and the Board of Trustees in communicating with, supporting, and assisting Detachments within their district.
- Visit Detachments within their district at least quarterly and pass on information from the Department Commandant, answer questions members may have and assist in recruitment programs.
- Offer advice and training in the proper procedures to conduct a meeting
- Let the Department leadership know where they can assist the Detachment
- In short, act as the liaison between the Detachment and the Department, assisting in any area that you may need help with.

Your District Vice Commandant is there for YOUR DETACHMENT. Do not hesitate to ask questions and seek guidance.

Grief & Distressed

Carol Varnet - husband passed away
Randy George (1020) - pancreatic cancer
Jim Berres, Randy Wynn, Bill Crawley (1373) - loss of family members
Bill Craig (1280) - home hospice
David Hague (783) - lung cancer, c diff
Donna Tindall (1333) - health is not good
Anna Laracy - pancreatic cancer
Harry McCann - Surgery
Pat Tasse(647) - passed away
Dave Hambrick - kidneys
Marshall Tuck (564) - passed away
Ed Gizarra - Mother-in-law passed away
John Burkes (SE DIV Chaplain) - hospitalized
Michael Habecker (brother of Marty Habecker 1373) - home hospice
Those affected by the tornados/wildfires



BUSINESS MEETING MAY 8th

Rex Delk: Last year at this time we had 1128 members. This year its 1201

Judge Advocate - If your detachment turned in bylaws but has not had them signed and approved it is because your signature page needs to be fixed or signed.

VSO - New Vet Tec 2.0 program. Electronic training is available during the month of June through the VA. The program is just now rolling out. It is a \$60 million program. *(More information in mission essentials section of the newsletter)*

The average cost of an ER visit is between \$1500 and \$3000. If you go to the ER, you have 72 hours to check in with the VA. They may or may not cover costs. The number to notify them is (844)724-7842. Make sure your family knows in case you aren't able to contact them yourself.

Try to call Ronnie on Tuesday or Thursday. He is currently booked 2-3 weeks out. Good things are happening in the VA – claims are being processed quicker now. Ronnie checks his cases every day. Be patient!

Newsletter - Send newsletter items to Candie at newsletter@mcldeptofga.org. Candie asks that detachments please participate, post on their Facebook. This is free advertising for your detachment. The public can see what you're doing and where donations are going. If you send something, it will go in minus photo infractions, political content, or crude content. J. Baker urged detachments to do a newsletter.

Web Sgt - We have transitioned to a new host. We are in the process of getting emails moved. Google Workspace allows for 1:1 meetings to be set up without having to go through the SVC. Ed stated that even if he is not at home, he still has his laptop and is still working. Lots of changes are coming but the purpose of the changes is to make things easier. Finally, if you have any great ideas you want to share, type them up and send them to Ed to put on the website.

Young Marines - Someone is needed in the Marietta area to head up a Young Marines unit. If you can't start a unit, then support one. Uniforms cost between \$275 and \$300. Money donated through the department will be used for all state units.

Getzie Lamar spoke about the closing of the Metro Atlanta Unit. With no leader, the members were absorbed by her unit which has relocated to Hiram and has tripled in size. They attend Vet Fairs to recruit. One is coming up in Columbus. The Regiment support officer wants to double the number of units. Units are being considered in Columbus, Athens and Unicoi. She is available to do a "Start a Unit" presentation for your detachment. Getzie also has a newsletter "Attention On Deck" for her unit. She gave us information on her next graduating class of recruits. The graduation will be at Liberty Plaza on May 29. A limited number of tickets are available.

Compliance Officer - Georgia was the first of seven states in SE Division to be fully compliant. Bob Borka sent out an email with detachments and departments that were not compliant. The Department of Georgia wasn't on the list nor were any Georgia detachments. Remember that IRS, SoS need to be done – all detachments are currently done except 1260. R. Broussard stated that "Georgia is pristine" when it comes to compliance and offered congratulations. If you have questions about compliance, see the board.

Convention - Detachment 1311 is looking to host next year, the third weekend in May. More info coming.

SE DIV Conference - Will be in Florida (2027)

BUSINESS MEETING MAY 9th

- The MCLA Georgia Peaches received their charter, members were initiated and officers installed
- The Department held elections for Department Officers. Your new officers are as follows:

COMMANDANT: LISA DELK
SR. VICE COMMANDANT: ALTON COLEMAN
JR. VICE COMMANDANT: REGGIE BRAND
JUDGE ADVOCATE: CHARLES GRAY



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE WEEK

- WHEREAS:** In 1937, the Seventy-Fifth Congress enacted, and the President signed into law, legislation incorporating the Marine Corps League; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Marine Corps League is to preserve the traditions and promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps by uniting active-duty and honorably discharged Marines in fellowship and advancing the ideals of American freedom and democracy; and
- WHEREAS:** The Marine Corps League honors the service and sacrifice of Marines and Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen, maintains allegiance to American institutions, fosters comradeship, supports Marines and their families, and preserves the history of the United States Marine Corps; and
- WHEREAS:** The Department of Georgia, The Major Stephen W Pless (MOH) Detachment 1196 and the Sgt Clyde Thomason (MOH) Detachment 1325 of the Marine Corps League will be cohosting the Marine Corps League Department of GA's annual convention May 7-10, 2026, at the Peachtree City Hilton Hotel and Conference Center; and
- WHEREAS:** The twenty-three statewide Detachments will gather to honor all Marines and Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia proudly recognizes the Marine Corps League and the generations of Americans whose courage and sacrifice have preserved the blessings of freedom and democracy; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 3-9, 2026, as MARINE CORPS LEAGUE WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 10th day of April in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST


CHIEF OF STAFF

34TH DEPT OF GA CONVENTION

From May 7-10, the Marine Corps League Department of Georgia proudly held its 34th Annual Convention. It was a wonderful weekend filled with learning, fellowship, fun, and camaraderie as members from across the Department came together to strengthen old friendships and build new bonds. During the Convention, a new Board of Trustees was elected, a new MCLA Auxiliary was formed, and many important ideas were shared for the future of our organization. A special thank you goes out to Detachments 1196 and 1325 for the countless hours of hard work, dedication, and planning that made this Convention such a success.

Department Awards



**DEPT OF GEORGIA
MARINE OF THE YEAR**
**RANDY BARNES
DETACHMENT 1196**



**CANDIE BRAND
DETACHMENT 1373**
**DEPT OF GEORGIA
ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR**



**PDD RODNEY RIGGS
POUND 364**
**GEORGIA PACK
PACK DOG OF THE YEAR**

AND THE GRITS BOWL GOES TO...

Department of Georgia



With 8% growth the Department of Georgia keeps the Grits bowl for the 2nd consecutive year!



**REX DELK WITH DEPT OF ALABAMA
COMMANDANT NANCY BURTRON**



**BIG AL MEAD AWARD - DISTRICT 3
Detachments 647, 1311, 1325**



**GLASER F. BURKHARDT AWARD - DET. 1311
88% growth**

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN MEDAL SILVER

Jim Berres
Reginald Brand
Adriana Crump
Eric Crump
Lisa Delk
Ed Gizarra
Ronnie Griffin
James Murphy

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN MEDAL BRONZE

Getzie Lamar

INDIVIDUAL COMMENDATION

Randy Barnes
Brandi Creel
JR Millhorn
Russ Vermillion

Karaoke

At the Department Convention, we brought back karaoke after its huge success at the Southeast Division Conference, and once again it was a crowd favorite! It was great seeing so many members get out there and show off their talents, singing everything from the Beastie Boys to "Chattahoochee." Some of the men needed a little encouragement before taking the microphone, but deep down we all know they secretly loved every minute of it!



Lisa Delk and Amy Cudihy



Brandy Creel & Ash Todd



Candie & Reggie Brand



Charles Gray



Johnny Baker



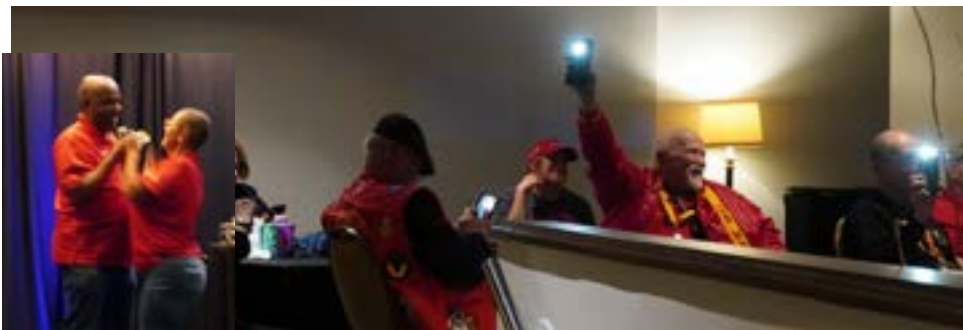
Olin Lundy



Ash Todd



Reggie Brand



David Knopf with the Bama Belles as backup dancers



Terry Holland, Trever Wood, Bob, Gina Wood



Dave (970) and his wife

Random Shots



Leadership Training with Johnny Baker



Department Staff



Columbia County Young Marines Color Guard



Chapel of the Four Chaplains Ceremony



Business Meeting

Installation



NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Junior Past Commandant Rex Delk, Judge Advocate Charles Gray, Sr. Vice Commandant Alton Coleman, Commandant Lisa Delk, Jr. Vice Commandant Reggie Brand



PNC Johnny Baker passing the gavel to newly elected Commandant Lisa Delk

Change of Command



Rex Delk passing the Department Colors to the new Commandant Lisa Delk



Banquet



Det. 1333 members JR Millhorn, Jerry Dyal and Scott Barwick with PNC Johnny Baker 1373



Terry Holland & Trever Wood 1402



Claudia and John Entwisle 783



Jim Breen (Dept SC) receiving his 50/50 winnings from Rex Delk



Bebe & Marty Habecker, Joe Jennings, Johnny Baker, Jim Berres, Candie & Reggie Brand, Peter & Carol Paciorek 1373



Carolyn and JR Millhorn 1333

A FEW GOOD UPDATES

Dept. Newsletter submissions

Please send all submissions to:
newsletter@mcldeptofga.org

To be featured in the "Around The League in Georgia" section of the newsletter please include the following:

- Detachment Name
- Clear Photos/flyers
- Individuals in the photos
- Event name/date
- Details about event
- Other pertinent details.

To submit an article, please submit in a Word document and include your name and detachment.

Please do not submit screenshots.

Political content will not be accepted

If sending pics of children please get release signed

Facebook Post submissions

If you would like to have a Detachment FB post shared on the Department FB page, please tag **Marine Corps League Department of Georgia** in your FB posts so it can be seen and shared.
Posts that violate FB standards or MCL policies will not be shared

Website submissions

Do you have an upcoming event or raffle that you want everyone to know about? Send your flyer to Ed Gizara at ga.paymaster@mcldeptofga.org and have it showcased in the Upcoming Events section of the Department website. This is a great way to reach members, generate excitement, and make sure your event gets the attention it deserves. Don't miss your chance to get noticed!

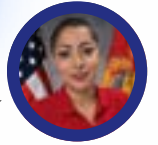
START YOUR DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER TODAY!

If you need help please reach out to the Dept. Newsletter Editor at newsletter@mcldeptofga.org

Let's be honest, our Detachments are doing incredible work every single day. From community outreach and volunteer efforts to fundraising and special events, there's no shortage of impact being made. The problem? If no one sees it, they may never know it's happening. That's where social media, especially Facebook comes in.



Why Facebook Matters



Candie Brand - Newsletter Editor

Think of Facebook as your Detachment's digital front porch. It's often the first place people go to learn who you are and what you do.

When you regularly post photos, updates, and stories, you're not just sharing information, you're inviting people in. You're showing them the faces behind the mission, the moments that matter, and the difference you're making in real time. And here's the thing, people connect with people, not just causes. A quick post about a volunteer going above and beyond, a snapshot from a community event, or even a behind-the-scenes look at a meeting can go a long way. These small glimpses build a bigger picture and help others feel like they're part of something meaningful.

Social media also builds trust without you even realizing it. When your page is active and engaging, it shows that your Detachment is alive, involved, and making things happen. That matters to potential members, donors, and supporters. They want to know their time, energy, or money is going somewhere that's active and making an impact.

Even better, Facebook helps spread your message further than you could on your own. One post can be shared, commented on, and seen by people far outside your immediate circle. It's like word-of-mouth, but faster and with a much wider reach. The best part is that it doesn't have to be perfect. It just has to be real. A simple photo and a few sentences about what you're doing is enough. Consistency matters more than polish.

At the end of the day, if your Detachment is out there doing great things, don't keep it a secret. Share it. Celebrate it. Let people see it. Because the more people who know about your Detachment, the Marine Corps League and our mission, the more people you can inspire to be part of it.



- Assign a social media person/team
- If you are new to FB, start with trying to post at least once a week (event, meeting reminder) then boost up to 3x.
- If you post daily, limit to 2 posts a day.
- Use visuals, photo, infographics and videos
- Sharing is caring but DO NOT rely solely on shared content.
- When sharing DO NOT "empty" share. That means share without adding commentary. The FB algorithm prioritizes shares WITH commentary.
- DO NOT post a bunch of posts/shares consecutively.
- TAG the Dept Facebook page!!!



BEWARE OF SCAMMERS!

Scammers use apps, AI, and fake email addresses to trick you into thinking you are getting calls, texts, or emails from legitimate businesses or government agencies. Always disconnect the call if someone you don't know is requesting your personal or account information. Always double-check before communicating any type of personal identifiable information (PII).

Warning signs in texts, emails, or calls:

- Suspicious sender address
- Poor grammar and typos
- Links or attachments
- Urgent or threatening language
- Requests for sensitive info – passwords/pins
- Pressure to stay engaged on the call
- Unexpected requests for urgent payments

What to do:

- Stop and think, talk to someone
- Don't click the link
- Disconnect. Do not respond to texts with suspicious links.
- Verify business or agency information

Don't be fooled or take the bait. Disconnect, double-check, and stop scammers in their tracks! Learn more about spoofing fraud and reporting resources at [FBI.gov](https://www.fbi.gov).

Veterans who suspect they have experienced fraud can find out more and report to the appropriate agency at [VSAFE.gov](https://www.vsafe.gov) or by calling (833) 38V-SAFE.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS FACEBOOK PAGE

CONGRATULATIONS TAMMY COLEMAN ON A JOB WELL DONE!



On Feb 28th at the Midwinter Conference in Arlington, Virginia, Tammy Coleman (Unicoi #783) received a plaque for 2nd place in Platoon Division of the Americanism Project Competition.

WHAT IS THE AMERICANISM PROJECT?

In short it is a pictorial account (digital or book bound) of what your detachment has done through the given timeframe set by the National Committee. Think of it as the Detachment's Yearbook.

More info will be shared at the next quarterly meeting



Show your solidarity for U.S. service members who are currently deployed around the world. On Friday wear red clothing as a visible reminder to keep deployed troops in our thoughts and to honor their sacrifices until they return home safely.

SEND IN YOUR RED FRIDAY PICTURES!

AROUND THE LEAGUE IN GEORGIA

"Around the League in Georgia" is our ongoing effort to highlight the outstanding work and activities of Marine Corps League detachments across the state. Each issue will showcase the camaraderie, events, traditions, and community engagements that strengthen our League and reflect the spirit of Marines serving their communities. Whether celebrating historic milestones, honoring veterans, supporting local initiatives, or strengthening fellowship within our detachments, every effort contributes to preserving Marine Corps heritage and expanding our impact throughout Georgia. We invite all members to stay engaged, share their activities, and continue celebrating the work being done by Marines and Marine Corps League members across our great state.

"The spirit and character of our Nation and Corps are reflected in the service of our volunteers."

**-GEN. ERIC M. SMITH
COMMANDANT OF THE
MARINE CORPS**

CENTRAL GEORGIA #1373

PERRY, GEORGIA ...

Detachment 1373 had a busy and rewarding month filled with meaningful moments. One of the highlights on April 18th was meeting Sergeant Major Roy Hess, a 98-year-old China Marine who served during World War II. It was truly an honor to spend time with him. His family was especially grateful for the visit, making the moment even more special for everyone involved. Another highlight was heading out to the ballfield on April 24th to support our sponsored team, the 9U Braves. Members enjoyed cheering them on and showing their support, strengthening our connection with the community and the next generation.



Marty, Reggie, Bill C, Joe, Johnny & SgtMaj Hess



Levi, Keith, Reggie, Freddie and Nikki



Bill Crawley, Johnny Baker, and Marty Habbecker with SgtMaj Hess and his son



The team with Candie, Bill C, Levi and Reggie



Detachment 665 flag detail participants, John Wilson, R. (Dutch) Hut, John Caldwell, David Criss, Beth Brandon, and Eric McBee.

FLOWERY BRANCH, GEORGIA ...

Members of Marine Corps League (MCL) Detachment 665 conducted a flag raising ceremony on Saturday, April 11th to help kick-off the 2026 Boating Season at the University Yacht Club in Flowery Branch, GA. In charge of the Flag Detail was John Wilson, who guided participants through practice sessions prior to the event. These rehearsals paid off handsomely with an almost flawless routine and performance during the actual event. The University Yacht Club's General Manager, Jason Stoval, shared glowing and very positive feedback about the performance he heard from club members that were in attendance. Additionally, the new Commodore for the Yacht Club was so impressed that he has already invited them back to perform next year.



NORTH GEORGIA
#1280

JASPER, GEORGIA...

Sharing a meal may seem simple, but for Marine Corps League detachments, it's an important way to build camaraderie and strengthen bonds. Around the table, members connect on a personal level, welcome new faces, and build relationships that carry over into everything the detachment does. These gatherings also help keep members engaged, creating a relaxed setting where conversation flows and friendships grow. It's a reminder that the League is not just about meetings and business—it's about fellowship and taking care of one another. In the end, something as simple as getting together to eat helps keep the spirit of the Marine Corps alive within the League.



Members of Detachment 1280 at their April Social at Johnny's New York Style Pizza



BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA ...

THE ROCKPILE

Khe Sanh, Da Nang, Dong Ha, Saigon, these are just a few names of landmarks commonly associated with the Vietnam War. On Monday, March 30th, members of MCL Unicoi Detachment 783 gathered and held a dedication ceremony for a tribute to the Marine Corps' 9th Marine Regiment who defended The Rockpile from 1966 to 1969.

Also known as Elliot Combat Base, The Rockpile is a solitary jagged karst rock located 10 miles south of the former Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone. It was recognized for its strategic importance early on. At 790-feet tall the monolithic formation gave a commanding view of the area and served as both an artillery base and as a vital observation post. Located at the juncture of five major valleys, U.S. troops could monitor the North Vietnamese Army movements to and from the DMZ.

Duty on The Rockpile was generally considered to be safe, compared to other more exposed positions in the DMZ. Climbing the formation was nearly impossible and left those who might attempt it literally exposed. The only reasonable access was by helicopter. The top of the Rockpile is about 40 feet long and 17 feet at its widest point. With the exception of a makeshift helipad, there were no flat surfaces to be found at the top making daily life uncomfortable.

During the late 1960's the 9th Marine Regiment played a vital role in keeping Elliott secure by conducting numerous operations around The Rockpile. The regiment's commitment, courage and determination during this time were decisive factors in successful operations such as Operation Hastings and Operation Prairie in 1966, Operation Buffalo in 1967 and Operation Pegasus in 1968.

The Rockpile tribute was spearheaded by Detachment 783 member LtCol. Roger Pilcher, U.S.M.C. RET. A captain at the time, the retired Marine describes his exposure to The Rockpile as being one of only a few minutes at a time. Everything had to be flown in and out via chopper, including men, supplies and any administrative needs. It was Pilcher's job to take care of the needs of all the 1st MAW Marines at Chu Lai, Quang Tri, Da Nang and Khe Sanh as well as all civilian employees. This duty included The Rockpile. According to the retired LtCol., "Choppers would occasionally break down due to the vertical climb, but thanks to the 9th Marines, we never lost one that I was aware of". Pilcher accredits this to men like Detachment 783's Commandant John Entwisle, who served as a grunt with a weapons platoon, in I Company, 9th Marines in 1967 and 1968. Part of I Company's responsibilities were to defend the base of the mountain and to patrol Route 9 near the DMZ. The result was numerous firefights and artillery duels.

According to Pilcher, "I was not a hero and though I was always armed, I never fired a face to face shot with the NVA. On my last day in country, I escorted some burn cases out of Khe Sanh where Marines had been hit by incendiaries. Those were the real heroes. It was my privilege to construct a small tribute to those Marines". After the conclusion of the ceremony, MCL members and guests alike placed rocks upon the tribute in remembrance of those who defended The Rockpile, including those who gave the last full measure



GRIFFIN, GEORGIA ...

For a Marine Corps League Honor Guard, properly folding the American flag is a solemn act of respect and tradition. Each fold must be done with precision, reflecting the dignity owed to those who have served. Regular practice ensures that members perform flawlessly during ceremonies and funerals, where families and fellow veterans expect the highest level of professionalism. There is no room for error in these meaningful moments. Practicing together also builds teamwork, discipline, and attention to detail. Most importantly, it shows a deep commitment to honoring the flag and all it represents.



Honor Guard members, Rex Delk, Randy Cooper, Russ Vermillion, Randy Barnes, and Frank Goalen,

SGT CLYDE THOMASON MOH
#1325



Back row L to R: Vic Bakunas, Jason Cunningham, David Epps, Dawn Marie Cramer
Front row L to R: Gordon Johnson, Birthday Boy Buddy Shaver and Michael Keeve

PEACHTREE CITY, GEORGIA ...

Detachment 1325 had a great meeting on March 10th. It was highlighted by several memorable moments. Members celebrated Buddy's 95th birthday, heard from two outstanding speakers, and welcomed five new members. Peter Merrill from East Coweta High School Marine JROTC attended with two of his cadets, who spoke during the meeting. Kyle Butcher from Camp Southern Ground also shared information about their ongoing support of veterans. The Detachment will be providing financial support to both organizations this month. New members (not pictured) Brent, Cliff, Dawn, Marcus, and Patrick.



E. Coweta HS
JROTC Cadets

Peter Merrill

Kyle Butcher



From left to right:
Helen Hurst, Herb Crowe, Terry Holland, Galina Shehane, Rusty Hurst, CSM Ret Martin S. Celestine, Bob Dimitroff, Michael Wilson, Brent Eaton

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA ...

On Saturday March 28th, 2026 the National Infantry Museum brought together veterans, families, and community members at the Vietnam Wall to honor those who served and sacrificed. As part of a meaningful weekend of remembrance, visitors experienced Vietnam-era artifacts, guided tours highlighting the legacy of Hal Moore, and a powerful message from retired Command Sergeant Major Martin Celestine reminding every veteran that their service matters and will never be forgotten. The ceremony was made even more special with a heartfelt wreath presentation by Marine Corps League Detachment 1402 in honor of Vietnam Veterans Day. Today was more than an event, it was a moment of gratitude, reflection, and unity for all who have worn the uniform.

LAKE BLUE RIDGE
#1438



BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA ...

Detachment # 1438 Blue Ridge, GA, was recognized for its decade of service to children in Blue Ridge and beyond by Fannin County Toys for Tots. Represented by Jim Brumbelow and Dale Greene, the detachment has brought joy and hope to thousands of families by collecting new, unwrapped toys and distributing them to children in need during the Christmas season.

CENTRAL GEORGIA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
RAFFLE

\$5 PER TICKET **6 PRIZES TO CHOOSE FROM** **\$5 PER TICKET**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
PROCEEDS BENEFIT VETERANS IN CENTRAL GEORGIA
Drawing will be held 4 SEP 2026 or when the tickets sell out. Whichever comes first. Must be 18 and over to win.

WE CARE VET FAIR
Northwest Georgia

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **AdventHealth**

FORUM 301 TRIBUNE ST. ROME, GA 30161
FREE PARKING • FREE ADMISSION

OPEN TO VETERANS, CURRENT MILITARY, FAMILY MEMBERS, CAREGIVERS & SURVIVORS

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

VA • **GDVCS** • **WE CARE VET FAIR**

VETERANS OF ALL AGES: THERE IS SOMETHING HERE FOR YOU!

Free Outdoor Concert in Honor of Our Nation's Heroes
Open to the Community - Bring a Lawn Chair & Join Us!

Mason Thompson
Thursday, June 11, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Town Green at Forum River Center

ENTRANCE: LEGAL SERVICES • HEALTHCARE • MENTAL HEALTH • COMMUNITY RESOURCES

UNITEDMILITARYCARE.ORG | QUESTIONS? (770) 973-0914

FINAL OORAH



We pause to honor and remember those members of our Department who have made their final formation and said their final OORAH this year. Each name listed below represents a life of service, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to our Corps and our community. They were Marines, brothers, and friends. Individuals who carried the spirit of Semper Fidelis long after their time in uniform. Their presence strengthened our Detachments, and their absence will be deeply felt. As you read their names, do so with respect and gratitude, remembering not only their service, but the camaraderie and fellowship they shared with us all.

Though they are no longer with us, their legacy lives on in the traditions we uphold and the bonds we continue to carry forward.

Fair winds and following seas, Marines.

John R. Melford 2JAN2026 (Det 1498)

Richard H. Brown Sr. 18JAN2026 (Det 1040)

Charles L. Baker 2FEB2026 (Det 1333)

Robert G. Crowder 2FEB2026 (Det 1040)

Russel Potter 2FEB2026 (Det 1196)

Marshall Tuck 7APR2026 (Det 564)

Hugh H. Dunkin 11APR2026 (Det 1020)

Al Bowers 18APR2026 (Honorary Member Det 783)



On April 16, 2026, member Nancy Kunz was notified that Captain Al Bowers, a Vietnam era Marine had suffered a stroke and had been placed under hospice care at home. On Friday, April 17th, Detachment 783 mobilized, and in collaboration with Appalachian Hospice and the Misty Mountain Quilters, presented Captain Al with a Quilt of Valor. On Saturday, April 18th, Captain Al went home one last time.

L-R: Media Bragg (Appalachian Hospice), Derek Kunz, Nancy Kunz, Claudia Entwisle, and John Entwisle, Commandant of 783

MISSION ESSENTIALS

Important Websites

MCL Department of Georgia Website:

mcldeptofga.org

Southeast Division Website:

<https://sediv.org>

MCL National Website:

www.mcleaguelibrary.org

VA Website:

<https://www.va.gov>

VA REACH Program:

<https://www.va.gov/REACH/>

Georgia Dept. of Veterans Affairs:

<https://veterans.georgia.gov>

Georgia Veteran's Benefits:

<https://veterans.georgia.gov/state-benefits>

Georgia Hud:

<https://www.hud.gov/states/georgia>

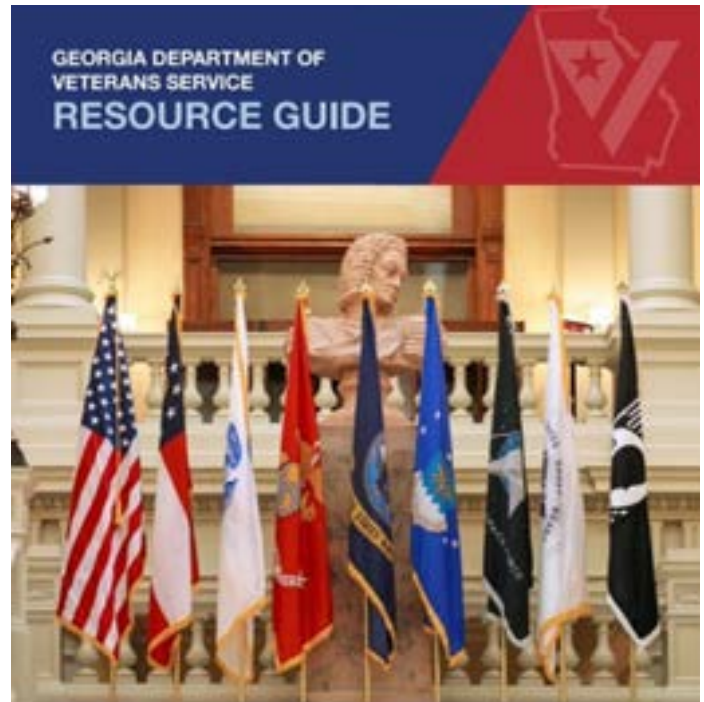
MyHealthVet:

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/manage-health/?next=loginModal&oauth=true&verification=required>



The Veterans Crisis Line is free and confidential.

When you call, chat, or text, a qualified responder will listen and help. You decide how much information to share. Support doesn't end with your conversation. Responders can connect you with the resources you need. You DO NOT need to be enrolled in VA benefits or healthcare to connect.



[GET THE GUIDE HERE](#)

WHY SHOULD YOU CREATE A LOGIN.GOV OR ID.ME ACCOUNT?

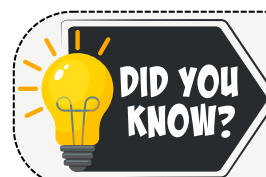
Both accounts offer you access to manage your VA benefits and care and other government benefits online. This includes your MyHealthVet account.

Scan or click the link to create a Login.gov or ID.me account



www.va.gov/sign-in/

Then select either Login.gov or ID.me



You can click on any of the underlined text in the newsletter to take you to the webpage

Accessing Care and Assistance

Patient Advocate
(734) 222-7100

Community Care
(734) 222-8936

VA Health Connect
833-940-1624

24/7 help with pharmacy, scheduling, messaging, and nurse triage

MyVA411
800-698-2411

one stop phone line to access all VA benefits and services and verify eligibility

Pharmacy
(734)769-7100,press 1

Scheduling
(734) 845-5500

72 Hour ER Notification
844-724-7842

Report any non-VA emergency room visit or hospital admission within 72 hours

Note: They MAY or MAY NOT PAY

Urgent Care Locator

Always confirm with the urgent care clinic that they are in-network

VET TEC 2.0 (high-tech program)

Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses 2.0 (VET TEC 2.0) is a program that helps eligible Veterans and active-duty service members develop skills to start or advance their career in a high-tech industry such as Computer programming, Computer software, Data processing, Information sciences and Media application.

Am I eligible for VET TEC 2.0?

You may be eligible if you meet the requirements listed here.

1 of these must be true:

You're a Veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, or

You're an active-duty service member who's within 180 days of separating from service

And you must meet both of these requirements:

You served at least 36 months on active duty, and

You're under 62 years old when we approve your application

Note: This program is limited to 4,000 paid participants in a fiscal year, but Congress may change the number of participants at any time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK HERE



VET TEC 2.0




MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

VETERANS LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

25
JUNE

 **BUCKHEAD CLUB**
3344 PEACHTREE RD NE #2600
ATLANTA, GA 30303

 **8:30 - 10 AM**

GEORGIA
VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION



SCAN ME!

MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS



GEORGIA PACK

Advancement

**Congratulations to the PUPS
who advanced to DEVIL DOG**



Peter Paciorek	322
Gregory Fisher	206
Calvin Triplett Sr.	206
Richard Milner Jr.	364
Gordon Johnson	364
Robert Dimitroff	403
Robert Mason	322
Patrick Seals	206
Katrina Watson	414
Olin Lundy Jr.	350

MIDDLE GEORGIA POUND #322

On April 16, 2026, members of the Detachment who are also part of Middle Georgia Pound #322 came together to smoke and sell Boston butts as part of a dedicated fundraising effort. The event brought members together in true spirit of teamwork, service and community. All proceeds from the event will go directly to support the local children's hospital.



PUP Peter Paciorek & PDD Alan Camp



PDD Jim Berres, PDD Alan Camp, PDD Marty Habecker and PDD Levi McKenna



YOUNG MARINES IN ACTION

MIDDLE GEORGIA WARNER ROBINS

Middle Georgia Young Marines held a spring encampment on April 18-19 and it was a tremendous success. Throughout the weekend, they experienced a perfect balance of fun, learning, and growth. From working together to set up tents, to fishing, shooting, and even some nighttime skeet shooting, the encampment provided hands-on opportunities to build confidence and skills. Just as important, it strengthened teamwork and camaraderie as the Young Marines bonded and supported one another. The weekend also included promotions and graduations, recognizing the hard work and dedication these young leaders continue to demonstrate. Events like this highlight the importance of the Young Marines program, developing discipline, leadership, and a strong sense of responsibility, all while creating lasting memories.



GRADUATION



PROMOTIONS



Setting up their tents



Cosmic Skeet shooting



RA giving instruction



Learning to fish



Dress right dress



Some hang out time



MCLA - GEORGIA PEACHES

On May 9th, the MCLA Georgia Peaches officially became a chartered Auxiliary, marking a very special moment for the Department of Georgia. Members proudly received their charter, participated in initiation ceremonies, and installed their new officers. This Auxiliary has truly been a labor of love for Lisa Delk, who has worked tirelessly to help make this dream a reality. Seeing it all finally come together was an emotional and unforgettable moment for her and everyone involved. Congratulations to the Georgia Peaches on this exciting new chapter!



Unit President Michelle Lundy with Treasurer Lisa Delk



Initiation of members



Installation of Officers

JOIN US!
Marine Corps League Auxiliary
Georgia Peaches
SUPPORT OUR VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES
BECOME A MEMBER!
★ VOLUNTEER
★ PROMOTE USMC TRADITIONS
★ MAKE A DIFFERENCE
READY TO SERVE?
Contact us to learn more about how you can get involved with the Marine Corps League Auxiliary and help make a difference.
Contact information: georgiamcla@gmail.com



The Georgia Peaches added some extra fun to the Convention by hosting an earring bar led by Judge Advocate Candie Brand, giving attendees a chance to create something unique. The Bama Belles also brought plenty of laughs and friendly competition by hosting a trivia event that kept everyone entertained.

SE DIVISION FIELD REPORT



Attending Department Conventions within the Magnificent 7 is a valuable opportunity to grow and stay connected. These events allow members to exchange ideas, learn new approaches to fundraising and outreach, and bring fresh perspectives back to their own detachments. They also help build relationships across the Division, strengthening camaraderie and reinforcing the bond we share. Just as importantly, your presence shows support and unity, reminding us that we are all part of one Marine Corps League. By participating beyond our own Department, we help strengthen the League as a whole while continuing to grow as members and leaders.



April 18, 2026
Installation of Officers
for the Department of
Mississippi by National
Jr Vice Commandant
David Porter

The Department of Mississippi held their convention on April 17-19. Rex and Lisa Delk attended.



CLICK THE UNDERLINED LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

The following is the list of Magnificent 7 Conventions left for the year. If anyone attends any of them please send pictures to newsletter@deptofga.org



JUNE 4-7

FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION



JUNE 5-6

LOUISIANA STATE CONVENTION



JUNE 11-14

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE CONVENTION



JUNE 18-21

TENNESSEE STATE CONVENTION



JUNE 18-21

ALABAMA STATE CONVENTION

79th SE DIVISION CONFERENCE

The Southeast Division Conference was held March 5–8, 2026, in Savannah, Georgia, bringing together Marine Corps League members from the “Magnificent 7” states. Over several days, members shared Division updates, engaged in productive discussions, and enjoyed meaningful fellowship. The conference offered a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas, address key issues, and strengthen the bonds that unite us across the Division. Events like this reinforce our commitment to the mission of the Marine Corps League while building the camaraderie that defines our organization. The conference concluded with a formal banquet, presentation of Division awards, and a Guest of Honor, Maj Gen Livingston.



GUEST OF HONOR

Maj Gen Livingston



When he was asked what the medal means to him, MajGen Livingston said, "The MOH is the reflection of the experience I had in Vietnam, but most of all, it's the reflection of the fine young Marines I wear it for. I try to wear it in remembrance of them."

Southeast Division Awards

SE DIVISION MARINE OF THE YEAR Jerry Holt



Cliff Addison (MS), Jim Stone (SC),
Ronnie Broussard (LA), Jerry Holt (SC),
Johnny Baker (GA), and John Gionet (FL)



PNC Johnny Baker placing
the Div MOY medallion on
Jerry Holt



Rick Thomason,
PNC Johnny Baker

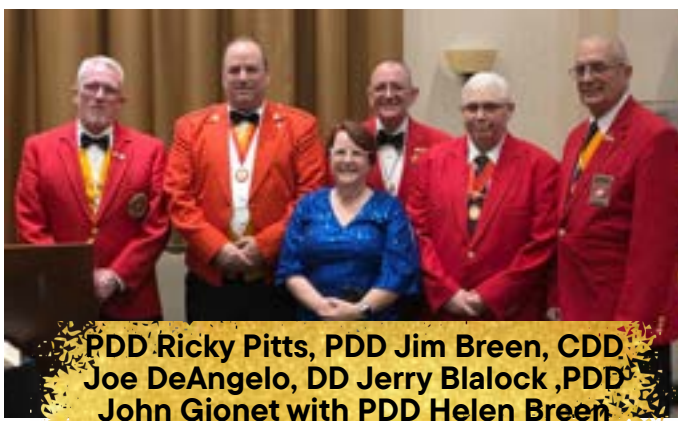
Acknowledging achievements whether through awards or a simple thank you reinforces commitment, builds pride, and encourages others to step up. By recognizing those who go above and beyond, we strengthen morale and uphold the spirit of Semper Fidelis within our League.

SE DIVISION ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR Jerry Vaghn



Jim Stone, John Gionet,
Rebecca Marcel

Dept of Florida Commandant John Gionet accepted the award on
??? behalf



PDD Ricky Pitts, PDD Jim Breen, CDD
Joe DeAngelo, DD Jerry Blalock, PDD
John Gionet with PDD Helen Breen

SE DIVISION DOG OF THE YEAR Helen Breen

Dept of Georgia In the House



Sr. Vice Commandant
Lisa Delk



Commandant
Rex Delk

PNC Johnny Baker
and his wife Janice



Larry & Sandra
Heard



Reggie & Candie
Brand



Levi Mckenna





Russ Vermillion, Randy Barnes, Olin Lundy, Carol Griffin, Michael Vernon, Larry Heard



Judge Advocate Getzie Lamar



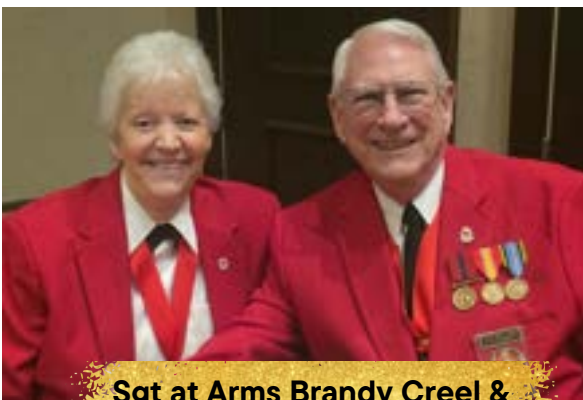
Darryl and Kelly Hockett



**Jr Vice Commandant Alton Coleman
Adjutant Tammy Coleman**



Sgt at Arms JR and Carolyn Millhorn



Sgt at Arms Brandy Creel & Ash Todd



Jim Berres



*****If you were at the SE Division Conference and not included, it's because I didn't have pictures**

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel
2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241
Dates: Monday August 10, 2026 to Friday, August 14, 2026



Welcome Everyone!
Semper Fidelis, Marines, families, and honored guests,

Welcome to the 2026 Marine Corps League National Convention! It is with immense pride and gratitude that we gather to celebrate our shared legacy, honor our traditions, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as Marines. Whether you're a veteran, active-duty Marine, family member, or friend of the Corps, your presence here underscores our unwavering commitment to camaraderie, service, and the values that define us.

This year's convention is a time to reflect on our past, engage in meaningful discussions about our future, and pay tribute to those who have served and sacrificed. Expect a week filled with inspiring events, workshops, and opportunities to connect with fellow Marines from across the nation. From our opening ceremony to the annual banquet, every moment is designed to celebrate our motto: Once a Marine, Always a Marine.

We are thrilled to host you in Indianapolis, a fitting backdrop for our gathering. Take time to explore the local area, share stories, and forge new memories with your Marine Corps League family. Your dedication to our mission keeps the spirit of the Corps alive, and together, we will continue to uphold the proud traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

Thank you for attending. Let's make this convention a memorable celebration of honor, courage, and commitment.

Semper Fidelis!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](https://mclindy2026.org/)

Source: <https://mclindy2026.org/>

MCL FOUNDATION



The Marine Corps League Foundation raises and distributes charitable funds to support Marines and their families through scholarships, youth character-development programs, disaster and humanitarian relief, and other

Initiatives that uphold the values of
Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Marines Helping Marines — Investing in America's Future

www.mclfoundation.org

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY FOR A MONTHLY

DONATION OF \$15

YOU CAN HELP SO MANY

WWW.MCLFOUNDATION.ORG

DONATE NOW

Win a fiddle autographed by Charlie Daniels.

Drawing to be held on August 15.

Need not be present to win.

Scan the QR code for info



THIS MONTH IN USMC HISTORY

2 May 1946: Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of Warrant Officer Charles L. Buckner, aided in suppressing the three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay. WO Buckner, a veteran of the Bougainville and Guam campaigns, ably led his force of Marines without suffering a single casualty.

5 May 1983: In Beirut, Lebanon, a UH-1N helicopter carrying the commander of the American peace-keeping force, Colonel James Mead, was hit by machine gun fire. The six Marines aboard escaped injury. Colonel Mead and his crew had taken off in the helicopter to investigate artillery and rocket duels between rival Syrian-backed Druze Moslem militiamen and Christian Phalangists that endangered French members of the multinational force.

8 May 1995: In the wake of the most devastating storm to hit the New Orleans area in more than 200 years, a group of Marines and sailors from Marine Forces Reserve demonstrated the quick response synonymous with the Navy/Marine Corps team. Within 24 hours of being called, Marines assisted in the evacuation of 2,500 civilians, and Navy corpsmen treated scores of flood victims.

10 May 1945: The 22nd Marines, 6th Marine Division, executed a pre-dawn attack south across the Asa River Estuary and seized a bridgehead from which to continue the attack toward Naha, the capital of Okinawa.

15 May 1862: Corporal John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service in the USS GALENA during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond.

16 May 1945: The 22nd and 29th Marines continued the attack against Half Moon Hill, a day characterized by the 6th Marine Division as the "bitterest" of the Okinawa campaign. By the 18th, the famed "Shuri line" had been breached.

22 May 1912: First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine officer to be assigned to "duty in connection with aviation" by Major General Commandant William P. Biddle, reported for aviation training at the Naval Aviation Camp at Annapolis, Maryland, and Marine aviation had its official beginning.

23 May 1988: The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas, facility. More than 1,000 representatives from the military, industry, and media, gathered to hear various speakers, including Gen Alfred Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps, praise the versatile rotor craft designed to meet the needs of 21st Century battlefields.

26 May 1969: Operation Pipestone Canyon began when the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines began sweeps in the Dodge City/Go Noi areas southwest of Da Nang. It terminated at the end of June with 610 enemy killed in action at a cost of 34 Marines killed.

29 May 1991: Elements of a joint task force that included the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade departed the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Bangladesh after nearly two weeks of disaster relief operations following a devastating cyclone. The joint task force delivered tons of relief supplies using helicopters, C-130s, and landing craft in Operation Sea Angel.



**MAJ GEN
WARREN R JOHNSON
#1311**

**LAKE BLUERIDGE
#1438**



**NORTH GEORGIA
MOUNTAIN
#1280**

**MIDDLE GEORGIA
#970**



**LT COL JIMMIE DYESS
#921**

**GEORGIA DEVIL DOG
#952**



**GEORGIA AT LARGE
#1498**

**1st SGT
CHARLES F WALLER
#1040**



**GEN RAY DAVIS MOH
#1188**

**SGT CLYDE
THOMASON MOH
#1325**



**WEST CHATHAM
#1326**

**CURRAHEE MOUNTAIN
#1303**

Thank you Rex Delk

The Department of Georgia would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Rex Delk for his dedicated service as Commandant over the past two years. Under his leadership, the Department has continued to grow stronger, more connected, and more engaged within our communities. His commitment to the mission of the Marine Corps League, along with his steady guidance and vision, has made a lasting impact across the state. Rex has led with integrity, professionalism, and a genuine passion for supporting Marines, veterans, and their families. Throughout his tenure, he has worked tirelessly behind the scenes, supporting detachments, encouraging membership growth, and ensuring the continued success of programs that make a difference. His leadership has not only strengthened the Department but has also inspired others to step up and serve. We thank Rex for the time, effort, and heart he has given to the Department of Georgia. His contributions will have a lasting effect, and his legacy of leadership will continue to be felt for years to come.

SEMPER FIDELIS





The Jarhead Review

WWW.MCLDEPTOFGA.ORG

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