



The Bulldog Bulletin



Apr, May, Jun 2024 Edition

Commandants Corner

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Our first quarter 2024 had limited community activities, however, we did have three Marine Corps League (MCL) meetings/conferences.

Prior Commandant/ District 10 Vice Commandant Matt Popovich attended both MCL Department meetings, the January 2024 Winter Meeting and the March 2024 Spring Meeting in Uniontown Gap, Pa. Matt's summaries for these meeting are included in this Newsletter.

Don and Joyce Bailey and I, attended the February 2024 National Mid-Winter Conference, Alexandria, VA. My summary is included in this Newsletter.

For community activities, I assisted with the annual Christmas Wreath Cleanup at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies on 20 Jan 24. We collected and sent to recycling over 6,000 wreaths.

On 7 February 2024, our detachment meeting included a social, which was well received. Thank you all for the outstanding food and beverages donated for our social. This may very well be an annual event!

Our detachment bylaws related to election of officers did not comply with the MCL National Bylaws. We revised the detachment bylaws to annual officer elections, which was accepted by the attending members at the 3 January 2024 department meeting. PA MCL Judge Advocate Joe Sofranko approved our revised bylaws on 11 February 2024.

We now are compliant with annual officer elections. Nominations for Detachment Officers will be held at the October meeting with elections at the December 2024 meeting. Installation of new officers will be held at the following January meeting.

The Federation of War Veteran Societies of Allegheny County is the organization that organizes, plans, and operates the Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade. The Federation is made up of representatives from all military groups in and around Allegheny County. Each group, The VFW, American Legion, Marine Corps League, Korean War Veterans, etc., is asked to provide 4 representatives to make up the board. The board meets 6 times a year at Soldiers and Sailors Hall in Oakland to make the necessary decisions for funding, invitations, set up and run the parade.

If you are interested in becoming a MCL Federation representative, please let me know, I am one of potential four MCL representatives.

I want to thank Sergeant-At-Arms Joe Spinnenweber for accepting the Color Guard Coordinator position from Bob Malley.

We still have the open Assistant Paymaster position to fill. If interested, please contact Jr. Vice Commandant/Paymaster Joe Turba for details.

Please remember, to continue as a successful Detachment, we need membership participation.

Semper Fi,

Gary Woodside,

Commandant South Hills Detachment #726.

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On January 3, 2024 an Installation of officers was held at South Hills, Pittsburgh, Detachment 726. The Installation Officer, District 10 Vice Commandant Matt Popovich giving the Oath.

The Officers are (R-L) Commandant Gary Woodside, SR. Vice Chuck Burrow, Jr. Vice Joe Turba, Judge Advocate Alex Papiernik.



Feb 2024 MCL Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.

Members attending were Commandant Gary Woodside and National Assistant Sgt-At-Arms Don Bailey and wife Joyce.

Photo on the left, Marines presenting Colors

Below,

Photo of group at National Museum of the Marine Corps.



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE RIBBONS

SHOWN IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE



Distinguished Citizen Gold



Distinguished Citizen Silver



Distinguished Citizen Bronze



Division Marine Of the Year



Department Marine Of the Year



Detachment Marine Of the Year



Distinguished Service Bronze



National Recruiter Gold



National Recruiter Silver



National Recruiter Bronze



National Staff Elected Silver



National Staff Appointed Bronze



Department Commandant



Department Staff Elected Silver



Department Staff Appointed Bronze



Department Recruiter Silver



Detachment Commandant



Detachment Staff Elected Silver



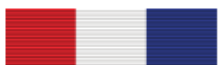
Detachment Staff Appointed Bronze



Detachment Recruiter Bronze



Community Service



Board of Trustees Commendation—V. Fisher



National Meritorious Unit Commendation



Department Meritorious Unit Commendation



Individual Meritorious Commendation



Kennel Dog of The Year



Chief Devil Dog Individual Commendation



Pack Dog Of the Year



Pack Leader Commendation—Individual



Pound Dog Of the Year



Pound Keeper Commendation—Individual



Past Chief Devil Dog



Pack Leader



Pound Keeper



Marine Corps League Membership



MCL Mid-Winter Conference, 22-24 February 2024. Arlington, VA

Upcoming conferences

1. 12-16 Aug 2024, 2024 National MCL Convention, Palm Springs, CA.

Aug 2025, 250th National MCL Convention, Grapevine, TX near Dallas Fort Worth Intl Airport.
Topics of Discussion

1. Help a Marine Save a Life (HAMSAL):

- a. VA Suicide Hot Line - Dial 988, Press1

Link MCL website, <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/helping-marines-family/>

- a. MCL Phone App provides several resource links to MCL services – Helping Marines & Families.

- b. Subscribe to MCL U-Tube for convention briefings, Toys for Tots, MCL Commandants Corner/Scuttlebutt, MCL Auxiliary, Historical & Americanism, and more.

The MCL Library has several reference links. <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/home/>

- a. Order Uniforms.
- b. Detachment Documents.
- c. Holiday Documents.
- d. Media Documents/Video Links.
- e. Honor Guard/Color Guard.

Toys for Tots (TFT).

Need a TFT Coordinator, TFT website: <https://www.toysfortots.org/>

- g. Marksmanship.

Scholarships.

Application for child or grandchild.

Complete application.

Student / financial institution data sheet.

Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service.

Other Items

Military Historical Tours, Inc., www.militarytours.com.

2025 is the 250th Anniversary of the Marine Corps. Homecoming 250 Navy / Marine, <https://www.homecoming250.org/>

The Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation, rebuild Tun Tavern, 10 Nov 2025, approximately 250 yards from the original site: <https://thetun.org/>

G. Woodside

2/26/2024



Winter Meeting Notes

Courtyard of Honor Michael Horrocks graduated from Derry HS class of 81. Served as a Marine fighter pilot in the middle East during the war. He was the Co-pilot of the second plane that hit the towers. Flight 175. The only flight deck member to not have a memorial in his hometown.

In 1943 3 bronze plaques were placed as a memorial donated by Milton Hershey for WWII veterans and the land was recently repurposed and the plaques were leaning against a wall at the borough building where no one could see. The Courtyard of Honor is going to fix this mistake.

Detachments, please post events on the Facebook page, pictures are great, but they would prefer more. Just pictures don't tell the whole story. Your local Facebook page should be public so people could reach you. However, be careful of what gets posted.

Leadership class scheduled for April; place not picked yet but will be in the East.

A lot of forms have been updated so if you have old forms saved go to the website and re-download new forms.

For Paymaster/Adjutant, when filling out the new ROI form please notice the dues change at the bottom of the page. If filled out wrong the 2 are added together by the National and that is why the total for your membership dues are wrong on the report the department gets.

No more Gold life member cards, they will be plastic, and all regular member cards will no longer have the member number printed, they will just have the profile number. No, I did not get an answer as to why. No cards will be issued for dual members, they will only get a card for the detachment they have voting rights.

Scholarship application is new and has been redone. Please if you use scholarship download from website.

When doing installations and using a ritual book please note, none of them are correct no matter the date. If you are doing the long version, the correct statement is now "FMF Navy Personnel" instead of "FMF Navy Corpsman". You can now give the same oat to associate members, there is only one. I do not hold any detachment as a slave to how you conduct your installation, short or long if it is done with decorum and reverence.

Please get your 990 in, the IRS is slow to respond so get a jump on it. PLM audit deadline was 31 December if you have not submitted the department will take away your birthday this year. Rifle Inventory needs to be done by end of year.

Finally, the 2025 Department meeting is in Scranton/Wilkes barre area June 12-15th It looks like the hotel rate will be 124.91 for single 178.00 for a double. Parking free and breakfast included. More information to come.

District 10 Vice Commandant Matt Popovich

Upcoming Events



Com'on, put on your soft cover and come and join us, if the Young Marines can why can't you? Meeting the public can be delightful meeting people and guess what, you never know when you will meet another Marine or Veteran. Veterans will come to you.



Yes, it is that time when we bring the **Rose Program** back to life and accept donations to support veterans and organizations.

Saturday May 11th at **Sam's Club** from 10 am to 2 pm depending on how many attend located at **2251 Century Dr., West Mifflin.**

Sunday May 26th, Carnegie Memorial Day Parade, at 2 pm, assemble at the Municipal Bldg. our Color Guard will be present.

Saturday August 17th annual picnic will be held at **Reihl Park** in Castle Shannon located at **899 Killarney Dr.** off of Route 88.

Also, planning for this years Birthday Ball Celebration is underway it will be held at the same venue as the past years. A guest speaker and clergy have NOT been secured the celebration will be on Saturday November 9th, so plan accordingly, more information will be passed as the time gets near.



Marine Corps League Detachment 726

Historical USMC Col. Mitchell Paige

Colonel Mitchell Paige is the sole surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the ground battle for Guadalcanal, America's first ground offensive of World War II. Paige enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 1936, and he went to recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina.

Paige has held practically every rank and assignment in a Marine Corps Infantry battalion, from private to commanding officer. He received a Field Commission from platoon sergeant to second lieutenant at Guadalcanal in December 1942. His field experience has taken him to Cape Gloucester, China, Cuba, Guadalcanal, Japan, Korea, New Britain Island, New Guinea, Pavuvu, the Philippines, the Russell Islands, the Solomon Islands and Vietnam.

For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty while serving with the Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division, in combat against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands area on October 26, 1942. When the enemy broke through the line directly in front of his position, Platoon Sergeant Paige, commanding a machine-gun section with fearless determination, continued to direct fire of his gunners until all of his men were either killed or wounded.

Alone, against the deadly hail of Japanese shells, he manned his gun, and when it was destroyed, took over another, moving from gun to gun, never ceasing his withering fire against the advancing hordes until reinforcements finally arrived. Then, forming a new line, he dauntlessly and aggressively led a bayonet charge, driving the enemy back and preventing a breakthrough in our lines. His great personal valor and unyielding devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

After retirement in July 1964, Paige researched and developed miniature rockets, miniature rocket weapons systems, penetration aids, and hypervelocity acceleration. He assisted in the design and development of a four-inch rocket launcher capable of firing 13mm gyro-jet flares, smoke, radar chaff and explosive rounds while working at MB Associates Science and Rocketry in San Ramon, California. He used the 13mm hand gun and 13mm Foliage Penetrating Signal Distress Kit in combat in Vietnam in 1967, with orders from President Johnson. Paige was involved in research and development of air-inflated devices and related recovery equipment. He invented the "TUPIT" (The Universal Paige Inflatable Tent), which he donated to the Army laboratories in Natick, Massachusetts.

Paige is the author of an autobiography, "A Marine Named Mitch," published in 1975, and he is a member of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, Army and Navy Legion of Valor, Military Order of the Purple Heart, First Marine Division Association, Marine Corps League, British Royal Marines, Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans, National Order of Battlefield Commissions, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Naval Order of the United States, and the Marine Corps Mustang Association.

Paige was "special ambassador," representing the president, with the United States State Department in the Solomon Islands, at the 10th anniversary celebrating Guadalcanal's independence. He is the liaison officer from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to the FBI and works with an assigned special agent exposing Medal of Honor imposters.

Commandant Gary Woodside
South Hills Detachment 726
March 12, 2024

Mission Statement

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Navy Personnel who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

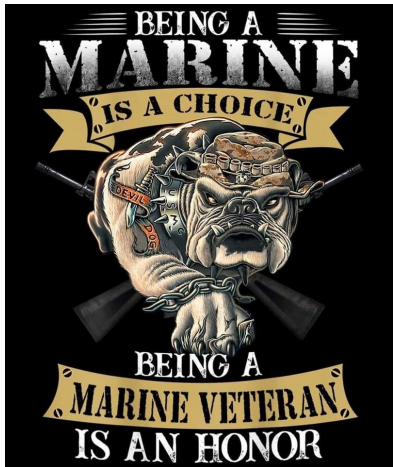
NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org



988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE



Do you have any unit patches that represent where you were stationed or deployed?



An editor's work is never done. Nothing like a faithful companion by one's side.. Easy with those "Choppers" Chesty.



TAPS

No Casualty Reported

