December 2022

Marines, Sailors & Associates:

Thank you to everyone who made time to attend our Fall meetings. We look forward to your participation next month as well. See the planned agenda in our next mailing (coming your way soon) or at the Calendar LINK at the top of the Department website. District One will host our hospitality room. Adjutant Jim Diamond took point on that project in October with a Breast Cancer Awareness & Fundraising effort. Thanks, Jim!

Thank you to the Detachments that participated in the Light the Night to commemorate the 240th anniversary of the Purple Heart Medal. Look for photos in this issue and your upcoming Semper Fi magazine. A salute to DVC Andy Burch who took point on this National project!

Thank you to Detachments that have filed their IRS 990 in a timely manner. If you haven’t, please do so promptly – the deadline for most of us was 15 November. After filing you are required to send a copy to the Department Paymaster (via email or snail mail to the PO Box) which is forwarded to National HQ (NAP Chapter Eight, Section 8000). If filing the 990N, please send the ‘ACCEPTED’ copy, not ‘PENDING.’

Thank you to the Detachments that have already submitted their annual PLM Audit. The deadline to do so is 31 December. This document is also sent to the Department Paymaster and forwarded to National HQ (NAP Chapter Seven, Section 7055). In some circumstances Detachments will forego this payment ‘because we don’t need the money.’ However, make the effort and get it anyway, then give it to a charity in your community or buy toys or send to the MCL of PA Foundation. Someone can use the money. Payments are expected in June.

Those of us with the VETERAN designation on our PA driver license have received a piece of mail from PENNDOT. The Pennsylvania Department of Veterans and Military Affairs and VISN-4 of the Veterans Administration are utilizing that mailing list in an outreach campaign to determine if you are getting all of the benefits you deserve. Don’t dispose of the information before reading it! You can decide what to act on – but note that many of the rules for VA healthcare have changed with the recent passage of the PACT ACT (including those of us who served at Camp LeJeune). Please take advantage of the opportunity, and the resources provided.

Ahead of our Winter meetings the Department will be conducting an outreach exercise during Military, Veterans and Families Day at the Pennsylvania Farm Show on Thursday, January 12 in Harrisburg. Let me know if you want to be a part of it. (The milk shakes alone are worth the trip!)

The last item to remind you of is the annual Detachment report – available in the Marine Corps League Library (mcleaguellibrary). Please complete and send to the Department email address (mclpa.department@gmail.com) no later than 31 January. We will forward that document to National HQ (following the instructions at the bottom). Your report is compiled with those of other Detachments by Commandant Baker and COO Borka to report of League’s efforts to CMC Berger. Be sure your Detachment is counted!

Thank you always for your continued service to the League, your community and all Veterans.

Be Always Faithful

Dave Brady, Commandant
717.600.6329 mclpa.department@gmail.com @MarineDaveBrady
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania
Preserving Traditions...
Providing Fraternity...
Promoting the Future

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 Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

Do you want to tell your story in Keystone Leatherneck? Submit your photos with captions to the Keystone Leatherneck!

Pictures must be jpg. Format and of high resolution. Keep a good light on the faces. Automatic cameras usually expose for the brightest object in the frame. So you want the brightest light on the faces.

Captions with the story should identify everyone in the picture. Please use this format: As you look at the picture, ID each person from left to right...just as you read a book. If people are in a group, try to list them by row from left to right. For example, Front row, left to right: name, name, name. Then 2nd row or middle row from left to right, etc.

In your paragraph explain what is going on. Use this checklist: Who was involved? What was the event? Where and when was the event?

Include your phone number and email so that I can clarify any details. Send to doug@graves.org — Editor

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania Foundation, Inc.
Assisting Marines in Need

250 HOMECOMING
NAVY MARINES
1775 2025
If you ever wanted to prove your Chili is the best, then consider submitting your croc-pot in the Department's First Annual Chili Cook-Off. Details are on the flyer and the point of contact is JVC Victoria McCoy. Submissions are only $10.00 for the Detachment's best entry! Prizes are a "Traveling Trophy" and bragging rights for one year! We hope to have this every year where the winner brings back the trophy and passes it to the new winner - or keeps it, if they prove to be the best again!
PITTSBURGH (Re-printed with permission of the author.)

Pittsburgh leads national Light To Unite for Purple Heart’s 240th anniversary

HARRY FUNK  |  Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022 8:15 p.m.

As the sun set on Veterans Day, the land of the red, white and blue turned purple.

Starting in Pittsburgh at the Koppers Building and followed by New York’s One World Trade Center, reddish-blue illumination glowed across the United States for Light To Unite, an initiative to honor the 240th anniversary of the Purple Heart, the military’s oldest service award.

“When was the last time that we saw our country come together for something good and righteous?” Army veteran James McCormick said, citing the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as perhaps the latest example.

“But we’re together now. Maybe not every town, maybe not every community, is lighting the purple light. But every community, every state, knows about it.”

McCormick, who lives in West Virginia, joined Pittsburgh’s Light To Unite ceremony a few hours after serving as honorary grand marshal in the city’s Veterans Day parade.

Pennsylvania Marine Corps League member and 10th District Vice Commandant Jim Burch talks to a local news reporter about the National Flag Foundation’s honoring Purple Heart recipients as part of a national Light to Unite program held on Veteran’s Day.

“I cannot say enough about how important it is that I had the opportunity to have served. Not that it felt like an obligation, but it was an opportunity,” he told those in attendance at the Koppers Building.

“And for me, that opportunity brought me great things. It also brought some heartache and hardship.”

While serving his country, McCormick sustained injuries that resulted in his receiving three Purple Hearts, the same number of Bronze Stars he was awarded for heroic achievement. In 2021, he served as national commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, which works toward the mutual interest of all who have received the decoration.
Partnering with his group to organize Light To Unite was the National Flag Foundation, which was formed to honor and respect the pre-eminent U.S. symbol. Because the foundation’s headquarters is in the Koppers Building, the site was selected as the first to be lit purple.

Veterans in District 10 of the Marine Corps League, Department of Pennsylvania, performed color guard duties for the ceremony, a scene repeated from coast to coast as coordinated by Tarentum resident Andy Burch, who serves as chaplain of the league’s Allegheny Valley Detachment 827 in Springdale.

“Andy singlehandedly did that,” National Flag Foundation chairman Romell Nicholas said. “He assembled the Marine Corps League today, and he has initiated and brought to fruition all of those events across the coun-

Romell Nicholas, 
MOPH Commander 
James McCormick 
presenting DVC Andy Burch with MOPH 
Merit Award, John 
Banazak
Burch and Nicholas, a Mt. Lebanon resident, were among the recipients of medals inscribed with “Merit,” named for the Purple Heart’s original designation and presented by McCormick on behalf of his organization.

Also honored were Alicia MunzPhelps, National Flag Foundation administrator, and two members of the foundation’s board of directors who are veterans of both the military and the Pittsburgh Steelers:

- Rocky Bleier of Mt. Lebanon, a Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient who was wounded by a bullet and grenade shrapnel during his Army service in Vietnam. Although informed he would be unable to resume his football career because of his injuries, Bleier helped the Steelers win four Super Bowls.


“For me to be able to honor these patriots with the highest honor that I can bestow is an absolutely amazing day for me,” McCormick said. “Why is that? Because they earned it. Everything that they’ve done demonstrates character, leadership, integrity, discipline, courage, all of the things that we expect and we look for in people who are leaders in this community.”

George Washington first presented the Badge of Military Merit in 1782, and it was renamed as the Purple Heart by Douglas MacArthur 150 years later. The award recognizes service members who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in the military.

Although nearly 2 million Americans have received or are eligible for the Purple Heart, a publicly available master database is lacking. Two Republicans from Pennsylvania, Rep. Guy Reschenthaler and Sen. Pat Toomey, are among the members of Congress who introduced bipartisan legislation in their respective chambers to address the situation.

The Honoring Purple Heart Recipients Act would require the Department of Defense to include their names on its publicly accessible website that lists individuals who are recipients of certain military awards.

Supporters urge members of the public to contact their federal elected officials to express support for the legislation.
## 2023 Department Winter Meetings - January 20-21, 2023
Meetings at Headquarters Building, Ft. Indiantown Gap
Accommodations - **Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey** (I-81 Exit 80)
   604 Station Road Grantville, PA 717-469-0661
Online Reservations at [http://www.stayholiday.com/](http://www.stayholiday.com/) choose Group Rate & block **M3C**
$96/night (ask for M3C block)  **Deadline: 20 December 2022**

## National Mid-Winter Conference  February 23 - 25 2023
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA 23210
Phone (757) 622-6664  **DEADLINE 24 JANUARY**
or click the link at [mcleaguelsection.org/conference/](http://mcleaguelsection.org/conference/)
$129/night + 14% tax + $3.00 resort fee (Complimentary SELF parking on-site)

## 2023 Department Spring Meetings - March 17-18, 2023
Meetings at Headquarters Building, Ft. Indiantown Gap
Accommodations - **Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey** (I-81 Exit 80)
   604 Station Road Grantville, PA 717-469-0661
Online Reservations at [http://www.stayholiday.com/](http://www.stayholiday.com/) choose Group Rate & block **M4C**
$96/night (ask for M4C block)  **Deadline: 16 February 2023**

## 2023 Northeast Division Conference  31 March - 1 April 2023
Crowne Plaza Princeton - 900 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, NJ
(609) 936-4200  $115/night (+tax) - Group Rate Block **MCL**
Online registration at [https://www.princetonnep.com/](https://www.princetonnep.com/)
WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION @ [http://nedmcl.org/](http://nedmcl.org/)

## 2023 Department of PA Convention June 1 - 4
DoubleTree Hotel Pittsburgh/Monroeville Convention Center
101 Mall Boulevard, Monroeville, PA  412-373-7300  (more details [HERE](#))
$109/night + tax - ask for Marine Corps League Rate (includes breakfast)
Deadline: **10 May, 2023** - Check-in 4pm - cancellation penalty 48 hours prior to arrival

## 2023 National Convention  -  August 13-19 2023
Oklahoma City, OK - Omni Oklahoma City
$166/night + parking $10/day - 100 Oklahoma City Boulevard
Watch “Semper Fi” Magazine for additional information AND [mcleaguelsection.org/convention/](http://mcleaguelsection.org/convention/)

**ALL events subject to change!**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Listed below are things that many of us take for granted daily, most have the funds to purchase as much and as often as we would like. Many of our Marine families and community members are not so lucky. “Semper Supply” was created with those families in mind. Most funding from state and local charities assists with past due bills and food, not the necessities needed to survive daily life and thrive in a working environment.

Please donate where you can and inform your members that may be in need, they can reach out confidentially to either their Detachment Commandant, District Vice or to me directly at the number below.

Listed are some of the items we collect and distribute. We are not limited to ideas, but those donations must be non-perishable (no expiration date):

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap/shaving cream/razors
- Diapers and wipes
- Adult incontinence supplies
- Laundry supplies
- Toilet paper/paper towels

Collection and pickup can be arranged anytime but is suggested during our Department quarterly meetings.

There are many items we currently have on hand that can be dispersed through the headquarters building at the Gap. If the need arises drop shipping may happen. Please during these hard times pass this information along. I am available to answer your calls on how we can help.

Phil McCoy
717-675-9919
philipmccoy@rocketmail.com
Semper Supply Liaison
Armorer, Department of Pennsylvania
Thank you to all who made time in their busy schedule to attend the Fall Quarterly Membership Meeting at the Headquarters Building at Fort Indiantown Gap in October. We were able to conduct all of the business of the Auxiliary and League with kindness, dignity and respect. A wonderful time of renewing old friendships and making new ones occurred. Following the last couple of difficult years, our members seem to enjoy their time together even more than before the pandemic hit.

Everyone is encouraged to attend local Unit meetings, to attend Department District meetings, to become active on the Department level and to attend their National Division Conference. The enthusiasm is contagious and it is amazing how much information is shared at each of these meetings. If you have a question or need an answer, there is always someone on board who will personally know the answer or, at the very least, know where to turn to find the answer. Often hearing a totally different point of view from another member can help to solve a problem. Share your ideas and respectfully listen to the ideas of others. Lively discussions, debate and brainstorming are wonderful communication tools.

You have elected knowledgeable ladies this year that are dedicated to the Auxiliary. Allow them to fulfill the responsibilities of their position. Encourage them and assist them. Membership in any organization must have more meaning than just belonging or carrying a card. The Marine Corps League Auxiliary is your organization and your input is vital to its growth and success. A good organization must have spirit and that spirit must be generated from within each individual member. Is your spirit showing?

As we move forward to the colder days of winter, please don’t forget all those that count on the Auxiliary. Remember our Veterans and visit with them as often as possible. Remember the families of those serving in harm’s way. Check to see if there is any way that you can help to make their lives less stressful. Our “Little Angels” can always use our help. The Young Marines of the Marine Corps League and the young people that participate in the Youth Physical Fitness program need to know that we are there to help in any way. Ask your local groups if there is anything you can do to help them further the program in your area. There are members of the Marine Corps League family that count on scholarship awards to help them further their education. Consider adding one or more of these programs to your agenda and/or budget for the year. Choose the programs that are most important to you, your members and your community and devote as much of your time and talent as possible.

Be on the lookout for new members! Hopefully you were able to recruit some of the ladies who attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in your area. Have one of your members request to talk at a League meeting to encourage the Leaguers to have their loved ones who qualify join the Auxiliary. Remember that membership is everyone’s business…and everyone’s responsibility.

As always, please remember all our service men and women who are serving in harm’s way. May God see that they all return unharmed to their families.

Ruth S. Moyse
PNP Ruth S. Moyse
President
MCLA of PA, Inc.
March is Women Veterans Month
Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA
Is proud to sponsor the
Women Veterans Conference
March 24-26, 2023
Pittsburgh, PA

All women veterans in Pennsylvania are welcome to attend.
You do not need to be a member of the VFW in order to attend.

Please join us for a weekend of fellowship, camaraderie, and informational workshops by, for, and about women veterans—and the issues that matter and impact them directly.

Preregistration is required; please see the VFW Dept. of PA Website for forms and the tentative agenda, or contact Amy MacKenzie (info below)

Final Registration 01/31/2023 (or until sold out)

www.vfwpa.org (under the “resources” tab)

This event is organized by the
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Pennsylvania, with financial contributions from Districts, Posts, Auxiliaries, & Individuals.

Location: Pittsburgh Marriott North, 100 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Agenda Includes: Veterans Benefits and how to access proper health care and benefits for women; presentations by several women veterans’ advocacy groups; leadership seminars; a motivational speaker; networking and comraderie and much more

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA Women Veterans Chairperson
Amy MacKenzie
717.575.3982 quartermaster@ephratavfw.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 28, 2022

Pennsylvania Commission for Women Opens Nomination Period for 2023 Female Veterans Day Celebration

Harrisburg, PA – Continuing the Wolf Administration's effort to support women in the commonwealth and recognize those women who have served their country through the military, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women is seeking statewide nominations for its seventh Female Veterans Day Ceremony as part of Women's History Month in March 2023.

"It's an honor to join the Commission for Women in celebrating Pennsylvania's female veterans this year, and every year," Governor Tom Wolf said. "It's important for all of us to come together to recognize the sacrifices our female veterans make to serve our commonwealth and our nation, and to thank our female veterans for their dedication to protecting their fellow Americans."

"Every year in March, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women recognizes outstanding women who have served in every branch of the military. It is a true honor to award these selfless women for their bravery and dedication to our nation," Commission Executive Director Moriah Hathaway said. "We look forward to meeting the next class of nominees and celebrating their tremendous accomplishments during Women's History Month."

This year, the Female Veterans Day nomination form is available online. Nominees must be current Pennsylvania residents and have served at least four years in any branch of the U.S. military. The deadline for nominations is January 6, 2023.

For additional information on the nomination process, please contact the Commission for Women at women@pa.gov.

MEDIA CONTACT: Moriah Hathaway, women@pa.gov

Gregory J. Holler | Administrative Officer | SVC Coordinator

PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Bureau of Veterans Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration, and Outreach (PIRO)

Edward Martin Hall, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003

Phone: 717-861-6510 | Fax: 717-861-9084

www.dmva.pa.gov
The Marines of the Marine Corps League Pennsylvania Detachment #306. Congratulations to our newly elected officers! Thank you all for stepping up! Performing the installation of officers is DVC Doug Forsythe and Past Commandant for Chester County Detachment Jerry Myers.

On November 12th Detachment 296 held its Annual Ball for the Marine Corps Birthday. We had the honor of having some Marines, from the local Reserve Unit, provide our color guard for the evening. Traditional ceremonies were held including the Commandant Speeches, and the Cake Cutting Ceremony. Our guest speaker Victoria McCoy, Dept. of PA Jr Vice Commandant, gave an inspirational speech about her experiences in the Marine Corps. Our Detachment Adjutant—Paymaster Colyer James was presented with the Detachment Marine of the Year Award. After all the formal ceremonies were concluded several of our members and guests danced the night away.

Bethlehem Detachment 284 cuts the Marine Corps Birthday cake at the Centronia Social Hall in Allentown.

First Capitol Detachment #521, Marine Corps League, York PA celebrated the 247th Marine Corps Birthday.
News from around the Pennsylvania Department

Cpl Brandon Hardy, Chester County Detachment

George Pron/Paul Seton Detachment, Spring City Pa.

Marine Corps Ball 2022
Brookside Country Club

Marine Corps League, General Smedley D. Butler Detachment, Newtown Square, PA.

Schuylkill-Carbon Marine Corps League Det. 626 provided a color guard in Palmerton.
INVITES ALL MCL MEMBER SHOOTERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBER SHOOTERS

TO COMPETE IN THE
4TH ANNUAL SPRING & FALL
MCL DETACHMENT #882 RIFLE MATCH

THIS MATCH WILL QUALIFY AS ONE OF THE 2022 PA MCL MARKSMANSHIP RIFLE MATCHES

WHEN
Spring – Saturday, April 29th
Fall – Saturday, September 9th

WHERE
Millvale Sportsman's’ Club
170 Sunny Hill Rd
Wexford, PA 15090

PA MCL AWARDS
MCL Members and MCL Associate Members ONLY
1st, 2nd, 3rd Team Scores – Iron Sights ONLY
1st, 2nd, 3rd High Shooters – Iron Sights
1st, 2nd, 3rd High Shooters – Optics Class

DETACHMENT #882 COMMITTEE
Gary Farole
PA Department & Millvale Club Liaison
412.741.7898 mgfarole@verizon.net
Michael Shaffer
724.601.3890 mshaffer777@gmail.com

DETAILS
Sign-ups begin at 0800
Shooting commences at 0900
- 200 yard firing point
- 10x targets
- MCL rules apply
- Pit duty is required
- Shooting undercover available

CLASSIFICATIONS
-Iron Sites & Open Class
-Optics (4x max) are permitted and will compete in Open Class
-Match Teams any Class (MUST have 5 shooters)
- PA MCL Teams Iron Sights ONLY

FIRING POSITIONS
3 - Sighters
10 - Offhand
15 - Sitting or Kneeling
15 - Prone
**All Single Load Firing**

REGISTRATION
ON-SITE
OR
MAIL-IN
OHIO VALLEY MARINES
654 CHARLETTE PLACE
SEWICKLEY, PA 15143

MATCH FEE
$20
ONE TIME DEPARTMENT FEE
$10
**If you participate in 3 matches you will pay $30.00 for the first match and then $20.00 for each additional matches you participate**

HTTPS://WWW.OHIOVALLEYMCL882.COM
Every Detachment in Pennsylvania may (and should) submit a nomination for *Northeast Division Marine & Associate of the Year!* However, each Department must review the nominees and submit ONE of each candidate to the Division MOY Society for consideration by 1 April. In order to meet that deadline, *nominations must be received by the DEPARTMENT MOY Society no later than 1300 21 January, 2023.* All nominations must be submitted in writing that is legible to the reader and it is preferred that such nominations be typed rather than handwritten. For detailed rules see [https://tinyurl.com/4zatw9tc](https://tinyurl.com/4zatw9tc) OR by email to [mclpa.department@gmail.com](mailto:mclpa.department@gmail.com). AOY instructions are not written, but will follow the same procedure. Each nomination must be submitted within a sealed envelope (marked as noted in the instructions). That (or those) envelope(s) must then be placed within a separate envelope and mailed to

MOY Society MCL of PA  
Attn: NE Division MOY  
PO Box 6687  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

**All Detachments take note that nominations for Department Marine & Associate of the Year are also encouraged and due to the Department MOY Society by 1 June (Thursday of Convention Week)!**