



Semper Fi Highlights

Greater Greensburg Detachment #834

Marine Corps League

Volume 29 Issue 3

May 2024

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Detachment Birthday Corner

May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Marine Thomas Keaton.

Summer Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Marines Richard Bortak, Richard Johnson, Caleb Seigh, Brian Winfield, and Christopher Demorest.

If you would like to have this newsletter wish you a Happy Birthday, **please contact the editor with your birthdate.**

Detachment #834 Meeting

Greensburg Detachment will meet at Hose Company #7 at 625 E Pittsburgh St, Greensburg. NO steps, NO smoke. Please consider coming to a meeting.

Newsletter by Email

If you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter by email, please send an email to the editor.

New MCL Life Membership Information

Effective **1 July 2023**, the Life Membership Fees increased as per the following chart:

\$1,000.00 – 35 years of age and lower
\$ 800.00 – 36-50 years of age
\$ 600.00 – 51-64 years of age
\$ 400.00 – 65-84 years of age
\$ 100.00 – 85 years of age and higher

The above Fees are only available if the member's annual dues have been paid and the member is in good standing. Any member desiring to pay their Life Membership Fees at the current rate, must do so and be post-marked no later than 30 June 2023. Any Life Membership payments after that date are listed above.

Meeting: 3rd Saturday of the month.

Next Meeting: Saturday, 25 May 2024

Place: Hose Co. #7 at 625 E. Pittsburgh St, Greensburg

Time: 1000 (10:00 AM) hours

The "count on deck" is: 53

If you know any active, retired, or former Marines who are not members of the Marine Corps League, please invite them to come as guests to our next meeting. All Marines are always welcome at our meetings.

Membership Dues Reminder

If you are not a lifetime member your membership dues is due by 1 September 2024.

Make checks, for \$30, payable to MCL Greater Greensburg. Please send your dues to the Paymaster:

Frank Antoline
405 Julie Dean Dr
Jeannette, PA 15644

March 23th Meeting

The following 5 members were on board:

Antoline, Frank	Hurst, Doug
Arrigoni, Joyce	Younkin, Barry
Burkett, Gary	

Meeting Highlights:

- NO meeting was held as there were not enough members present.

Please pick up your copy of the minutes at the Sgt-at-Arms desk when you attend the meeting.

Websites of interest

Detachment #834:

www.greensburgmarinecorpsleague.org/

Westmoreland Toys for Tots:

jeannette-pa.toysfortots.org

Westmoreland Toys for Tots **FACEBOOK** page:

[www.facebook.com/Westmoreland County](http://www.facebook.com/WestmorelandCounty)

PA Toys for Tots

Marine Corps League Uniforms Buy-Sell-Trade:

www.facebook.com/groups/mcluniforms

Dept. of PA MCL: www.pamcleague.com/

MCL National HQ: www.mclnational.org

MCL National HQ: www.mclnational.org/member-library

Password protected, ask your local leadership for this password. This library holds meeting minutes, forms, nation bylaws/administrative procedures manuals to include MCL uniform guidance and MCL awards guidance, etc.

DOD public website: www.defense.gov

A Bit of Marine Corps History

23 May 1957: Sgt. Maj. Wilbur Bestwick is appointed as the first Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, serving as the Marines' senior enlisted advisor.

28 May 1941: The 1st Parachute Battalion is organized at Quantico, VA.

4 Jun 1942: Japanese naval aircraft bomb Midway inflicting heavy damage on the Marine defenses.

12 Jun 1919: Marines establish their first airfield for land-based planes at Quantico, VA.

12 Jul 1948: Congress authorizes the enlistment of women into the regular armed forces.

15 Jul 1800: Marine Commandant William Ward Burrows becomes the first Marine to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel.

13 Aug 1990: The first pre-positioned ships with Marine equipment begin arriving in Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Storm.

17 Aug 1941: Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point is established in North Carolina.

25 Aug 1942: The first African American Marine recruits arrive at Montford Point, NC.



The reconstructed Tun Tavern, shown here in an architect's rendering, would serve as a functioning tavern and restaurant.

Tun Tavern, traditional birthplace of Marine Corps, set to get rebuilt

By Irene Loewenson; Monday, Apr 29

When the Marine Corps turns 250, Marines may get to raise a pint to the Corps in the place where it supposedly all began.

The nonprofit Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation announced in a news release Monday it has acquired land to rebuild "an authentic reproduction" of the tavern where, as legend has it, the few and the proud got their start.

The plan is to establish the reconstructed Tun Tavern in time for the Marine Corps' 250th birthday in November 2025, according to Sue Hamilton, a spokeswoman for the foundation.

Retired Lt. Gen. Charles Chiarotti, president and CEO of the Marine Corps Association, said in the release, "With the Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation leading the way, Marines of past, present and future will have their rightful gathering spot in the very city where the Marine Corps was formed."

In November 1775, when Samuel Nicholas was tasked with raising two battalions of Continental Marines, he headed to Philadelphia's Tun Tavern, according to

traditional Marine Corps lore. Though Tun Tavern was destroyed in 1781, it has enjoyed a long afterlife as a symbol of the Marine Corps' birth.

Tun Tavern has retained its title as the traditional birthplace of the Marine Corps despite doubts raised by one prominent Marine historian about in which bar, exactly, Nicholas launched his recruiting efforts. In his 1974 book "The United States Marines: A History," Brig. Gen. Edwin Howard Simmons, then the director of Marine Corps history and museums, asserted that the Conestoga Waggon — a tavern owned by the Nicholas family — was more likely where Nicholas snagged his first recruits.

The Marine Corps is not the only organization that regards Tun Tavern as a hallowed site in its history.

Tun Tavern also is the birthplace of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania. The St. George, St. Andrew and Friendly Sons of St. Patrick societies were founded or held meetings in the tavern, according to the foundation.

And Tun Tavern "purportedly" is where John Adams and the Naval Committee met in 1775 to write the documents structuring what is now the Navy, the foundation said in the release.

The Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation plans to create a functioning tavern and restaurant, with historical exhibits and special events geared toward educating visitors about the establishment's history. Profits will go to the causes of the organizations founded at the tavern, according to the news release.

The land sits at 19 South 2nd Street in Philadelphia's Old City neighborhood, within 250 yards of the original Tun Tavern site.

Acquiring the land was the first step, Rob Brink, the foundation's board chair and deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Free and Accepted Masons, said in the release. The next step is fundraising.

Funds are coming from private donations, corporate partnerships, foundation support, and federal and state grants, according to the release.

The foundation plans to hold a groundbreaking ceremony in November 2024, according to the release.

The Marine officer who saved 8,000 lives at the 'Frozen Chosin'

By Claire Barrett; Apr 30, 03:06 PM

Kurt Chew-Een Lee spearheaded preparations in December 1950 for 500 Marines to embark on a daring rescue mission. The first lieutenant's undertaking came during the vicious Battle of Chosin Reservoir, as tens of thousands of Chinese troops streamed in from North Korea and threatened to cut off an American unit.



Traversing five miles across treacherous mountainous terrain, Marines battled against blizzard conditions that cut visibility to almost zero. Temperatures oftentimes plummeted to 30 below.

Despite bullet wounds and a broken arm suffered during a previous engagement, Lee, along with his unit, went on to relentlessly engage the enemy while under intense fire. By the end, their exploits would help preserve a crucial evacuation route for American troops fighting as United Nations forces. Approximately 8,000 men were saved from certain death or imprisonment at the hands of the Chinese.

Born on January 21, 1926, in San Francisco, the slight-of-build Lee — all of 5-feet-6 inches tall and roughly 130 pounds — is believed to be the first Asian-American officer in Marine Corps history. Still, Lee "brought outsized determination to the battlefield," according to an account in the New York Times.

Lee, who enlisted in the Marines at the end of World War II, told the Los Angeles Times in 2010 that he identified most with the Corps due to its reputation of being first into battle.

"I wanted to dispel the notion about the Chinese being meek, bland and obsequious," he said.

Lee was assigned during WWII as a Japanese language instructor in San Diego. Swallowing his disappointment at not being sent to the Pacific, he chose to remain in the Marine Corps after the war and commissioned as an officer in 1946.

As the U.S. entered into the Korean War in June 1950, Lee was placed in charge of a machine gun platoon that was tasked with advancing deep into North Korean territory.

Before the fighting began, many of Lee's fellow Marines questioned whether he was capable of killing Chinese soldiers. Behind his back some even used racial epithets, calling him a "Chinese laundry man."

For Lee, the questioning of his devotion to his nation was ludicrous.

"I would have ... done whatever was necessary," he told the Los Angeles Times. "To me, it didn't matter whether those were Chinese, Korean, Mongolian, whatever — they were the enemy."

Lee's Chinese ancestry, however, came as a boon on the night of November 2, 1950. Conducting a solo reconnaissance mission amid heavy snowfall, he began to lob grenades and fire rounds at the enemy with the intent of exposing the location of Chinese soldiers who were firing upon his men.

Undetected, Lee crept up on the enemy outpost and utilized his working knowledge of Mandarin to confuse the enemy combatants, who hesitated briefly as Lee called out in their native tongue, "Don't shoot, I'm Chinese."

That pause allowed just enough time for Lee's unit to reposition and drive back the Chinese. For this, Lee was awarded the Navy Cross, the second-highest honor a Marine can receive.

"Despite serious wounds sustained as he pushed forward, First Lieutenant Lee charged directly into the face of the enemy fire and, by his dauntless fighting spirit and resourcefulness, served to inspire other members of his platoon to heroic efforts in pressing a determined counterattack and driving the hostile forces from the sector," his citation reads.

Less than a month later, while Lee was still recovering in a field hospital from a gunshot wound to the arm he sustained during the early November fighting, the Chinese launched its Second Phase Offensive — aimed at driving the United Nations out of North Korea. Tens of thousands of Chinese forces converged on the mountainous region near the Chosin Reservoir, overrunning the nearly 8,000 American troops stationed there.

Undeterred by his wounds, Lee "and a sergeant left the hospital against orders, commandeered an Army jeep and returned to the front" to link up with the 1st Marine Battalion, according to the New York Times. Lee's arm was still in a sling.

Using only a compass to traverse the snowy mountain terrain, Lee and his 500 Marines managed to find and reinforce the surrounded Americans, repeatedly driving back Chinese soldiers, according to the Times, and ensuring "the vastly outnumbered Americans were able to retreat to the sea."

The fighting was so fierce that roughly 90 percent of Lee's rifle company was killed or wounded, but thanks to Lee's indefatigable efforts, the evacuation route remained open.

"Certainly, I was never afraid," Lee told the Washington Post in 2010. "Perhaps the Chinese are all fatalists. I never expected to survive the war. So I was adamant that my death be honorable, be spectacular."

Lee survived the war, retiring from the Marines in 1968 after serving in Vietnam as an intelligence officer. In addition to the Navy Cross, Lee was awarded a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

The men he commanded never forgot their officer.

"I didn't care what color he was," Ronald Burbridge, a rifleman in his unit in Korea, said in an interview for a 2010 Smithsonian documentary.

"I have told him many times, thank God that we had him."



Pfc. Nicolas Brooklier, a former Army captain, marches on the parade deck during a graduation ceremony at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, April 26.

How a former Army captain fared at Marine boot camp

By Irene Loewenson; Apr 30, 09:34 AM

After four years in the Army, Nicolas Brooklier wasn't sure what to do next.

Brooklier, who had served as a transportation and logistics officer and attained the rank of captain, mulled getting his master's degree in criminal justice or joining the civilian workforce.

He instead chose to make a return to the military. Just not as an officer.

Brooklier, 29, enlisted in the Marine Corps in January, chasing a lifelong dream of earning the eagle, globe and anchor.

The cut in pay from captain to private first class — from more than \$6,806 a month to \$2,261, according to [the military's pay tables](#) — didn't throw him off.

"For me, it's just about the experience," he told Marine Corps Times in an interview Wednesday, two days before his boot camp graduation. "You only live once."

As a kid growing up in Los Angeles, Brooklier felt inspired by the Marine Corps' "Semper Fidelis" motto.

But Brooklier pursued Army ROTC at Washington State University, and received his Army commission after graduating in 2018. After more than four years on active duty, he decided it was time to start fresh.

Enlisting appealed to Brooklier more than pursuing a commission for two main reasons, he said.

First of all, he wanted to do the Crucible, the grueling, 54-hour-long exercise that caps off the enlisted-only boot camp.

Second, should he ever receive his commission in the Corps, he felt he would be a better leader of Marines for having been an enlisted Marine himself, he said.

Brooklier went through the Marine Corps enlistment process with a recruiter in Killeen, Texas: Staff Sgt. Lafayette Halmon.

“I respected his high-level of commitment and conviction,” Halmon said in a news release. “It was a slow process, but he was willing to step backwards, basically from scratch, to move forward and earn his way into the Marine Corps. It motivated me in a way to put in the work for him and give him the opportunity to earn his title.”

When Brooklier stepped off the bus at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in the winter, it was a “shockwave,” but a good shockwave, he said. He was no longer an individual: For the next few months, he would be a part of a platoon.

In the 35-minute interview with Marine Corps Times, Brooklier didn’t complain once about boot camp.

“I knew it was going to be very hard, but just the title of becoming a Marine was all I stuck onto,” he said, adding, “I came here for a reason.”

Brooklier said he wasn’t sure what his drill instructors made of him. They didn’t treat him differently from the other recruits, he said, though they did encourage him to share with the rest what he had learned from his time in the Army, including the ethos that even small tasks serve a broader mission.

The biggest difference between his Army ROTC training and Marine boot camp was that Brooklier was around his fellow recruits 24/7, living with them for three months straight, he said.

Another difference was the emphasis on details, like squared-away uniforms, according to Brooklier. As a budding Army officer, he had been trained to focus on the bigger picture.

Toward the end of boot camp, Brooklier finally got to do the Crucible. And it was indeed challenging, both physically and mentally — especially during the nighttime hikes, he said, when attention to details like proper gear and lighting was critical.

When Brooklier finally received the eagle, globe and anchor insignia signifying he had earned the title of Marine, he teared up, he said.

During the interview with Marine Corps Times, a few days before graduation, he said he was looking forward to putting on his service uniform and marking how far his platoon had come.

His plan for his post-boot-camp leave? Return to Los Angeles. Check in with his family. Sleep. Recover from training. Eat some sushi. Keep up his fitness.

After that, Brooklier will head to the School of Infantry-West at Camp Pendleton, California, to train as an infantryman.

And maybe one day he will pursue a commission, again, and become a Marine officer.

“Only time will tell,” he said.



Marines with 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment during Force Design Integration Exercise on Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, on September 27, 2023.

Marine Corps’ new Force Design approaches are paying off in operations

By Todd South; Thursday, May 2

WASHINGTON — Changes made to the Marine Corps structure, equipment and approach to deployments are giving the service new ways to react to crises across the globe.

As the Marines continue Force Design — their manpower, equipment and operational shift to fight peer competitors such as China — pieces of those changes already in the operating force are proving their combat-worthiness, two senior generals said Thursday at the Modern Day Marine Expo.

Lt. Gen. Karsten Heckl, deputy commandant of combat development and integration, pointed to a recent exercise and the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine as examples.

During exercise Nordic Response in February, Marines teamed with NATO allies, serving as the stand-in force in Norway, operating a ground/air task-oriented radar, tracking airborne threats near the Russian border, Heckl said.

The G/ATOR is a key piece of equipment added to the Marine inventory as it shifts part of its focus to how it can provide unique capabilities to the other military

But moves such as were happening back in 2022 when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Speaking with reporters following his panel appearance Thursday, Heckl stopped short of providing operational details, but said that Marines at the time with Task Force 61/2, part of end Marine expeditionary brigade, responded almost immediately, “with equipment we fielded directly because of force design that would not have otherwise been there and we did quite a bit of stuff with that, G/ATOR’s one of them but I’ll leave it at that.”

That new Marine focus, sensing threats and passing data, has been part of how force design has evolved, Heckl said.

“As we went on this force design journey, we started out we initially thought of blowing stuff up, very kinetically oriented, now we realize through the stand in force it’s really the capability of sensing and making sense,” Heckl said.

Lt. Gen. James Bierman, deputy commandant of plans, policies and operations, widened the scope of what the service has seen as it implements force design changes within units.

Bierman pointed to Houthi rebel strikes on maritime vessels in the Red Sea as evidence of how adversaries can create choke points and countering such attacks, “is going to be the business of the Marine Corps.”

In 2023, when Bierman commanded III Marine Expeditionary Force, the unit conducted exercise Azure Dragon. The focus was on the force’s ability to operate as a stand-in force in the first and second island chains.

The force is headquartered in Okinawa, Japan, within the first island chain that rings China. At the same time, the Marines have purpose built the 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment in Hawaii and recently stood up the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment, also in Okinawa, centered around force design concepts of sensing and striking within range of enemy forces.

“There’s been a lot of focus on the MLR, very appropriately so, what we were trying to do in Azure Dragon is validate our ability to stand in as a MEF, as a (Marine Air Ground Task Force),” Bierman said.

But having the force, a unit with 25,000 Marines, running as the stand in force sets up units such as the regiments to better exploit enemy weaknesses, Bierman said.



President George W. Bush presenting the Medal of Honor to Tibor Rubin during a 2005 ceremony.

The Holocaust survivor who became a Medal of Honor recipient

By Jon Guttman; Friday, May 3

When [Tibor Rubin](#) received the Medal of Honor in 2005, he largely had his sergeant to thank. Said sergeant constantly sent him on missions intended to get him killed. By then, however, Rubin had a history of defying the Reaper.

Born in Pásztó, Hungary, on June 18, 1929, Tibor Rubin was 13 when the Nazis sent him to Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. He survived 14 months before the U.S. Third Army liberated the camp. His family was less fortunate — his stepmother and sister died in Auschwitz and his father perished in Buchenwald.

In 1948 Rubin emigrated to the United States, working first as a shoemaker and then a butcher in New York City. He also strove to fulfill a promise that “if the Lord helped me go to America, I’d join the Army.”

He failed the language test in 1949 but enlisted after a second try. In July 1950 Private First Class “Ted” Rubin was shipped to Korea as a member of Company I, 8th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

There he discovered the persistence of American anti-Semitism, particularly from his sergeant, Arthur Peyton, who made a policy of “volunteering” him for the most hazardous missions. During one, Rubin defended a hill against waves of attacking North Koreans for 24 hours.

“I didn’t have too much time to get scared,” he explained afterward, “so I went crazy.” For that and other outstanding actions two of Rubin’s commanders recommended him for the Medal of Honor, but both

officers were subsequently killed and Peyton “lost” the paperwork.

That October the United Nations forces were advancing into North Korea when the Chinese intervened, reversing fortunes in Korea for the second time since the war began. Manning a lone machine gun, Rubin covered his regiment’s retreat until the ammunition ran out. He was shot in the chest, arm and leg, and was captured.

It wasn’t until April 20, 1953, that Rubin was released in a prisoner of war exchange. Although sick and weak, he claimed that Chinese treatment, harsh though it was, was a cakewalk compared to Mauthausen, from which he’d developed survival techniques that came into play again, such as stealing food and medicine from his captors or using maggots to treat gangrenous wounds, all of which he did for fellow POWs as “mitzvahs” (good deeds).

Learning that he was not yet an American citizen, the Chinese repeatedly offered to repatriate him to Hungary if he wished. Given the oppressive Communist regime there, Rubin declined.

After his honorable discharge with two Purple Hearts, Rubin attained citizenship and settled in Long Beach, California, mainly working at a liquor store with his brother Emery. After meeting him at later reunions, however, veterans of I Company and men who knew him in captivity began a campaign to get Rubin the recognition they thought he’d long deserved.

Finally, in 2005, President George W. Bush presented him with the Medal of Honor, with a citation that described all he’d been witnessed to have done:

“Corporal Tibor Rubin distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism during the period from July 23, 1950, to April 20, 1953, while serving as a rifleman with I Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in the Republic of Korea. While his unit was retreating to the Pusan Perimeter, Corporal Rubin was assigned to stay behind to keep open the Taegu-Pusan Road link used by his withdrawing unit.

During the ensuing battle, overwhelming numbers of North Korean troops assaulted a hill defended solely by Corporal Rubin. He inflicted a staggering number of casualties on the attacking force during this 24-hour personal battle, single-handedly slowing the enemy advance and allowing the 8th Cavalry Regiment to complete its withdrawal successfully.

Following the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter, the 8th Cavalry Regiment proceeded northward and advanced into North Korea. During the advance he helped capture several hundred North Korean soldiers. On October 30, 1950, Chinese forces attacked his unit at Unsan, North Korea, during a massive nighttime assault. That night and throughout the next day, he manned a .30 caliber machine gun at the south end of the unit’s line after three gunners became casualties. He continued to man his machine gun until his ammunition was exhausted. His determined stand slowed the pace of the enemy advance in his sector, permitting the remnants of his unit to retreat southward.

As the battle raged, Corporal Rubin was severely wounded and captured by the Chinese. Choosing to remain in the prison camp despite offers from the Chinese to return him to his native Hungary, Corporal Rubin disregarded his own personal safety and immediately began sneaking out of the camp at night in search of food for his comrades. Breaking into enemy storehouses and gardens, he risked certain torture or death if caught. Corporal Rubin provided not only food to the starving soldiers, but also desperately needed medical care and moral support for the sick and wounded of the POW camp. His brave, selfless efforts were directly attributed to saving the lives of as many as forty of his fellow prisoners.”

Rubin’s nephew, Robert Huntly, who was inspired by him to join the Army, described him as having a Hungarian accent and a Jackie Mason sense of humor.

Tibor “Ted” Rubin, the only survivor of the Nazi genocide to earn the Medal of Honor, died in Garden Grove, California, on December 5, 2015.

2024 Calendar of Events

May	June	July
<u>Sunday, 12 May</u> Mother's Day	<u>Thursday, 6 June</u> D-Day	<u>Thursday, 4 July</u> Independence Day
<u>Saturday, 18 May</u> Armed Forces Day	<u>Friday, 14 June</u> Flag Day	
<u>Saturday, 25 May @ 1000</u> Greensburg Detachment meeting	<u>Sunday, 16 June</u> Father's Day	
<u>Monday, 27 May</u> Memorial Day		

PA Marine Corps League Specialty License Plate

Make your check in the amount of \$45.00 payable "Marine Corps League of PA, Inc." Personalizing the plate is an option offered by PENNDOT and the fee for that is an additional \$112.00.

Send Application to: Marine Corps League of PA
 ATTN: MCL License Plate Program
 PO Box 6687
 Harrisburg, PA 17112-0687



Applications sent (directly) to the Commonwealth will be returned to the sender and not processed. Checks made payable to the "PA Dept. of Transportation" will also be returned not processed. Only form MV-904SP (7-19) can be used.



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