



Semper Fi Highlights

Greater Greensburg Detachment #834

Marine Corps League

Volume 29 Issue 4

September 2024

Elected Officers for 2024

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Adjutant: Joyce Arrigoni (see above)

Chaplain: Gary Burkett 724-493-5958

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Quartermaster: Chris Demorest (see above)

Sgt at Arms: Doug Hurst 724-834-4542

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Detachment Birthday Corner

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Marine Dennis Blank.

October Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Marines Robert Johnson, Thomas Pack, and Ronald Schwartz.

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, back entrance.. 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: 4th Saturday of the month.

Next Meeting: Saturday, 28 Sep 2024

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

Time: 1000 (10:00 AM) hours

The "count on deck" is: 51

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.

May 23th Meeting

Meeting Highlights:

- NO meeting was held as there we could not get into the new meeting location.

Membership Dues Reminder

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

Past due memberships:

Haines, Robert Seigh, Caleb
Tray, Patrick

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

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

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

3 Sep 1950: Marines launch a counterattack against the North Koreans in the Nakdong Bulge.

5 Sep 1776: The Continental Congress establishes the first regulation uniform for Marines.

6 Sep 1966: The Marine request Women Marine volunteers for service in the Far East.

9 Sep 1949: The Marine Corps begins integrating African Americans throughout the Corps.

24 Sep 1918: Elements of the 5th Marine Brigade arrive in France.

28 Sep 1918: While flying over France, Lt Everett S. Brewster and GySgt Harry B. Wersheimer become the first Marines to shoot down an enemy plane.

6 Oct 1962: Five Marines are killed in a helicopter crash in Vietnam; they are the first Marines killed in Southeast Asia.

13 Oct 1951: Marines begin tests of a Navy-designed flak jacket in Korea.

14 Oct 1918: Marine aviation units conduct their first independent air operation of World War I against German targets in Belgium.

20 Oct 1978: The Marine Corps Commandant becomes a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Unveiled: minted USMC coins for 250th anniversary

18 Jul 2024 | Shaemus Sawyer

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, VA --The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the U.S. Mint unveiled a trio of commemorative coin designs honoring the 250 years of Marine Corps service and sacrifice during a minting ceremony July 17, 2024, at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

The last coin minted in honor of the Marine Corps was for the Corps' 230th anniversary in 2005, and the generated funds enabled the construction of the NMMC, where the 250th commemorative coins were officially revealed.

"This is a way for everyone in America to recognize the importance of 250 years of what the Marine Corps means to this country," said retired U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. James W. Lukeman, the president and CEO of the MCHF.

The images on the coins, he said, cover 250 years of “every Marine is a rifleman.” The gold coin depicts the Marine Corps Color Guard while the flag raising of Iwo Jima is on the silver coin, and the clad coin features two Marines: one dons the continental uniform of 1775 with a musket, and the other in modern-day camouflage utilities wielding a M4 service rifle.

On July 26, 2023, President Joe Biden signed into law the 250th Marine Corps Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act following its passing through congress, authorizing the minting of over 1 million commemorative coins.

“It’s so special for each of us, because there is so much care that goes into the design of these coins,” said Kristie McNally, the deputy director of U.S. Mint, regarding all the people involved in the design process of the coins. “It’s exciting to actually get to share them with the public.”

All surcharges generated from coin sales will support the MCHF and the NMMC’s future educational, historical, and cultural programs that preserve, showcase and educate the public on Marine Corps history, traditions and culture.

The commemorative coins become a part of the next year’s national celebration of the Marine Corps’ 250th anniversary, and this set will be the only commemorative coins minted in 2025.

Specifically, the signed legislation authorized the Department of Treasury to mint 50,000 five-dollar coins, 400,000 one-dollar coins, and 750,000 half-dollar coins.

“I am grateful to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, congressional leaders, and all those who made this coin possible,” said Smith. “We are honored that they would bestow this symbol of appreciation upon us.”

To view the Marine Corps’ 250th Anniversary Commemorative Coins, please visit <https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/commemorative-coins/us-marine-corps-250th-anniversary>.

Sales will be available early 2025, at <https://www.usmint.gov/>.



Marine Corporal awarded Navy Cross **55 years after Vietnam heroics**

By Todd South; Aug 30, 2024

It was a few weeks into a months-long operation in Vietnam’s A Shau Valley on Feb. 13, 1969, when Marine Corps Cpl. Daniel “Duke” Heller stepped off on patrol to find the elusive North Vietnamese soldiers who permeated this area of South Vietnam near its border with Laos.

That day, three squads of Marines with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, known as “The Walking Dead,” cut through tall grass that surrounded them and obscured their view.

Suddenly, enemy rifles, machine guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades burst through the air.

They’d walked into an ambush.

Another squad leader yelled at Heller to take his squad and flank the enemy position.

The team’s German Shepherd working dog was killed, and its handler, the squad point man, took a bullet in the leg.

Heller, 21, threw the man on his shoulders and began hauling him up a hill as an enemy machine gun opened fire.

He returned to the fight, clearing one of his fellow Marines’ jammed M60 machine gun. He then came upon a second wounded comrade and began carrying him up the hill.

As he carried the Marine to medical attention, an RPG struck the hillside, spraying shrapnel into his face and shoulder.

Over the course of the harrowing gun battle, Heller would save four Marines, lead his squad in outflanking the enemy, kill multiple North Vietnamese soldiers and send the attackers fleeing.

For all this, later in the deployment, he received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a combat "V" device, noting it was for valor.

But it was not until Wednesday, more than half a century later, at the Marine Corps Barracks, Washington D.C., that Heller's actions were fully and finally honored.

"It's not often we get the opportunity to correct an oversight that's nearly 60 years old," Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Eric Smith said during the ceremony. "This is not just about correcting the record. It is about ensuring that the legacy of Marines like Cpl. Heller is honored in the way it should be."

Smith called Heller's trips to save his comrades a "journey through hell."

"Just think about that, think about that hell raining down on you, machine guns, mortars, automatic rifles and RPGs," Smith said.

The top Marine then pinned a Navy Cross, the nation's second-highest award for combat valor, on Heller's shirt collar. Since its creation during World War I, more than 5,400 individuals have received the award, according to [Military Times archives](#).

Smith recounted the rest of the ambush and how Heller's actions changed history for a few squads of Marines.

Bloodied by RPG shrapnel, Heller waved off the company corpsman. Heller said he was fine and went back down the hill.

He pulled two more wounded Marines to safety before rushing back into the fight. As his remaining squad members advanced, he came face-to-face with four North Vietnamese soldiers and killed all four. He later recalled shooting at nine, hitting six and seeing three flee.

The three squads managed to beat back the North Vietnamese ambush, sending enemy soldiers fleeing.

That episode was only three weeks into Operation Dewey Canyon, which lasted from late January to mid-March 1969. An estimated 130 9th Marine Regiment Marines were killed and another 920 wounded during the operation.

Over an 18-month deployment to Vietnam, Heller's squad would survive eight ambushes. He would be wounded three times but only received two Purple Hearts, because on one occasion he was wounded twice within 24 hours.

"When the corpsman put it in, they said 'one per day,'" Heller said.

At Wednesday's ceremony, broadcast by the Marine Corps on Facebook, Heller wore a black-and-gold Purple Heart combat veteran ballcap as he received the Navy Cross.

He first thanked his platoon commander and his since-deceased platoon sergeant for their efforts to see that he received the award 55 years later.

"That day I didn't do it for a Navy Cross," Heller said as he choked back tears. "Hell, I never even heard of a Navy Cross."

He thanked his family for making the trip from Ohio for the ceremony.

"It's been a long, winding road here but here I am," he said, spreading his arms wide. "Amazing."

The 76-year-old then concluded his brief remarks.

"I just want to say Semper Fi," he said, rendering a salute. "And how 'bout them Jarheads."



Koa Moana 24: U.S. Marines Transform Pohnpei Public Library in Community-Centered Initiative

by 1st Lt. John Carter | 1st Marine Logistics Group | August 14, 2024

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia -- In a demonstration of international camaraderie and community spirit, U.S. Marines and Sailors from Koa Moana 24 have delivered a transformative makeover to the Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library. This significant initiative, led by Combat Logistics Detachment-East from Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, has revitalized the library, turning it into a vibrant beacon for local families and youth.

The project, which started in late June, was executed in three phases. The initial focus was on the library's exterior, where Marines and Sailors meticulously cleaned

and upgraded the playground and benches. They pressure-washed the benches, assembled new swings, and scrubbed the playset to create a safe and welcoming space for Pohnpei's young residents.

Phase two introduced crucial enhancements, including reinforcing the swing set to ensure it could safely support children and installed new security screens to cover the windows around the library's perimeter. The team also revamped outdoor picnic tables, creating a pleasant area for communal meals and reading.

The final phase saw Marines scaling new heights — literally. They painted the library's roof which required detailed safety protocols for the elevated work. Additionally, they refreshed parking lot lines. These final touches completed the library's stunning transformation, making it a big win for the Pohnpei community.

Beyond the physical upgrades, Koa Moana 24 made a significant impact on the community's daily life. Marines and Sailors committed to visiting the library twice a week to read to local youth, fostering a love for literacy. They also assisted in unloading and delivering hundreds of new books to enhance the library's collection. Additionally, the medical team trained library staff in basic life support and first aid, strengthening their ability to serve the public effectively.

The culmination of this project was celebrated on August 8, 2024, with a heartfelt certificate-of-appreciation ceremony. Attended by Jennifer Johnson, the U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library Board Chair, Suzanne Gallen, other library staff, and community members, the event highlighted the profound effect of the Marines' work.

"It was so heartwarming to see the Koa Moana Marines and Sailors making a difference in our community by reading to youth in the library, providing medical training to library staff, and engaging in various beautification projects. I commend our Marines and Sailors and all the local volunteers whose personal efforts are so impactful to all library users." *said Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Jennifer Johnson*

Trueleen Albert, the head librarian, expressed deep appreciation. "We are incredibly grateful for the support and hard work of the Koa Moana 24 team. Their upgrades to our library, engagement with our children, and staff training have made a significant impact," Albert said.

Hainrick Panuelo, Director of the FSM Office of Veterans Affairs, also recognized the Marines' contributions. "The work of Koa Moana 24 is transforming Pohnpei," Panuelo said. "Their dedication and selfless service are evident in every project, and their impact on our community is deeply appreciated."

1st Lt. Elissa Boyle, officer in charge of CLD-East, reflected on the project's success. "Seeing the Marines and Sailors come together to support the Pohnpei community has been an honor," Boyle said. "Their efforts not only reflect our commitment to service but also our dedication to building lasting relationships with our partners."

LtCol Brian McCarthy, commanding officer of Koa Moana 24, emphasized the broader significance of the project. "Our mission here is about more than just physical improvements," McCarthy noted. "It's about strengthening partnerships and contributing to regional stability. The work we've done with the Pohnpei Public Library is a clear example of how we can make an impact that is meaningful to current local leadership that also lasts for generations to come."

As Koa Moana 24 continues their mission across the Pacific, their legacy of goodwill and collaboration promises to reinforce the enduring bond between the United States and its Pacific partners. This project stands as a testament to the power of community-focused initiatives and international cooperation, embodied by the Compact of Free Association.



Marine Training Systems Mitigate BOP Concerns, Enhance Fleet Lethality

By Story by Johannes Schmidt, MCSC Office of Public Affairs and Communication | Marine Corps Systems Command | August 22, 2024

Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. -- When Lt. Gen. Lewis "Chesty" Puller famously quipped, "Hit hard, hit fast, hit often," there's a good chance he had Marine Corps mortarmen in mind.

From the Spanish-American War through the 21st-century War on Terror, the Marine Corps has consistently employed artillery and other fire support systems to achieve decisive results. Today, as the Corps continues to modernize with Force Design as its strategic blueprint, its focus remains squarely on agility, precision, and rapid response—with capabilities like mortars and the Multi-

Role Anti-Armor Anti-Personnel Weapon System--
serving as proven force multipliers ahead of the future
fight.

At Marine Corps Systems Command, the Program
Manager for Training Systems (PM TRASYS) is fielding
cutting-edge capabilities that allow Marines to train
seamlessly on these fire support systems, prioritizing
safety while ensuring the highest levels of readiness
through training that closely mirrors real-world conditions.

"We developed the mortar and MAAWS ISMT to provide
Marines with ample repetitions to maintain and sharpen
their skills." *Todd Butler, project officer for ISMT*

In recent years, there has been growing concern that
Marines and other servicemembers regularly exposed to
heavy blasts—or blast overpressure (BOP) —have
suffered a higher rate of adverse effects on brain health
and cognitive performance.

In an August 8 memorandum, the Pentagon announced
plans to strengthen the monitoring of cognitive health
among service members through regular assessments
and issued policy guidance to establish procedures and
standards for training and operations.

As stated by Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks,
"This policy is not meant to preclude or unreasonably
restrict commanders from conducting mission-essential
weapons training. Rather, this policy establishes
requirements for practical risk management actions to
mitigate and track BOP exposures across the DoD."

Understanding the risks associated with repeated blast
exposure, PM TRASYS has fielded the Indoor Simulated
Marksmanship Trainer, which allows Marines across the
installation to maintain their proficiency with various
weapons systems without the need for live ammunition.
This cutting-edge system is an advanced interactive
audio/visual simulator that offers both basic and
advanced marksmanship training, weapons employment
drills, and tactical decision-making exercises for a range
of weapons, including the M252 81 mm mortar and the
iconic M3A1 MAAWS. The ISMT also offers shooting with
Night Vision Goggles (NVGs), and the Annual Rifle
Qualification (ARQ) courses fire was recently added to the
database.

"We developed the mortar and MAAWS ISMT in close
collaboration with all stakeholders, including PM Infantry
Weapons and the Navy's Occupational and
Environmental Medicine team, to ensure the form and fit
are precise," said Todd Butler, project officer for ISMT.
"The goal is to provide Marines with ample repetitions to
maintain and sharpen their skills. Simulated weapons are
designed to closely replicate real ones, allowing for
multiple repetitions and the firing of rounds without the
cost of live ammunition. This approach ensures that

Marines can sustain their lethality in the ISMT at any time,
seven days a week."

Central to the Marine Corps' Project Tripoli—a
groundbreaking initiative aimed at delivering a persistent,
globally accessible Live, Virtual, and Constructive
Training Environment (LVC-TE) across all domains and
echelons—the mortar and MAAWS ISMT capabilities
help sustain unit readiness in locations where range or
training facilities are not available while also mitigating
BOP concerns.

"From a safety perspective, we are committed to
preventing negligent discharges," said Tripp Elliott,
MCSC Head of Command Safety. "We're also focused on
mitigating the impacts on hearing and preventing
traumatic brain injuries. This has a huge impact. It's
crucial that while training, personnel do so correctly. For
instance, when they drop a round into the mortar system,
they must remember to move their hand, as in real life, a
mortar will soon shoot out of that tube, and we want to
avoid injuries like losing fingers."

Ultimately, the ISMT exemplifies how constant
communication between the fleet and the acquisition
community allows for proactive adaptation to evolving
Pentagon guidelines. By providing Marines with realistic
training experiences that closely mimic live fire
exercises—while mitigating the most significant risks,
such as BOP exposure and potential injuries—the ISMT
enhances safety and operational readiness. Additionally,
each use of the ISMT conserves valuable resources,
reducing costs without compromising the Marine Corps'
lethal capabilities. In an era where every shot counts,
ISMT ensures the warfighter remains sharp, ready, and
as lethal as ever.



Join Us for

BINGO

October 27th 2024

1pm to 5 pm

Ticket Includes: Bingo to start @ 2 pm

15 Bingo Sheets

1 Dabber

Lunch

Lots of Fun

\$25

Greensburg Masonic
Center

349 Donohoe Rd.
Greensburg PA 15601

Proceeds benefit 

Sponsored by Greater Greensburg MCL #034

Lunch includes Soup and Salad Buffet, Desserts, and Beverages

50/50 for additional fun!

Contact Sarah Litzinger with questions

(814)-592-9487 OR SARAHGRACE1995@YAHOO.COM

tickets available at door or pre sale

2024 Calendar of Events

September	October	November
		<u>Sunday, 3 Nov</u> Daylight Saving Time Ends
	<u>Monday, 14 Oct</u> Columbus Day	<u>Tuesday, 5 Nov</u> Election Day
<u>Sunday, 22 Sep</u> Fall Starts		<u>Sunday, 10 Nov</u> Marine Corps Birthday
		<u>Monday, 11 Nov</u> Veterans Day
<u>Saturday, 28 Sep @ 1000</u> Greensburg Detachment meeting	<u>Thursday, 31 Oct</u> Halloween	<u>Saturday, 23 Nov @ 1000</u> Greensburg Detachment meeting
		<u>Thursday, 28 Nov</u> Thanksgiving 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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Irwin, PA 15642