

The Forward Observer ***October 2024***

Bethlehem

**Detachment 284, Marine Corps
League**



Motto: *"Memento Missionem"*

(Remember the Mission)

**Next Meeting: 6 p. m. on 9 October
2024 —at Hokey American Legion,
Jones-Quigg Post 739, 3739 American
Legion Drive, Hokendauqua, PA 18052**

*Uniform: Red MCL Cover with civilian
casual such as your Det. Logo shirt.*

Detachment Officers:

Commandant – Glenn Rader

Senior Vice Commandant—George Borman

Junior Vice Commandant - Claude Rone

Judge Advocate - Chuck Zhou-Phillips

Sgt-at-Arms – Carl Kratochvil Jr.

Adjutant Fred Gould

Paymaster Tom O'Rourke

Chaplain – Lynn Crowell

Assistant Chaplain— Larry Van Hise

VSO Officer—Glenn Rader

Web Master—Pete Kandianis

Scholarship Officer—John Pfeiffer Jr

Photographer— Miguel Goya.

Historian/Americanism Officer—Mike Carter

New Member Sponsors Carl

Kratochvil & Claude Rone

Marine of the Year Miguel Goya

Associate Member of the Year Mike Carter

Bethlehem Detachment 284



*Regular Meeting Wed. October 9, 2024 at 6 p. m.
Hokey American Legion. **USE THE SIDE DOOR—GO
AROUND TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BUILDING.** Uni-
form: appropriate dress with red MCL cover.*

3739 American Legion Dr, Hokendauqua, PA 18052

October Fest Support Team from 11 am to 5 pm on Saturday
12 Oct. at Arts Quest, Steel Stax, Founders Way, Bethlehem
Vounteers needed. Volunteers to report to Parker Ryan at
Visitor Center for ID badges. Send your name to Doug Graves
to get on roster/get badges prepared. (doug@graves.org)

Marine Corps Birthday celebration at Cedar Beach Park 10
Nov. 10 November 2024 at **1300** hours (it falls on a Sunday
so the start time is different than weekdays). Loca-
tion: 2600 Parkway Blvd, Allentown, PA The ceremony
lasts about a half hour and a cake cutting ceremony cele-
brating the oldest and youngest Marines immediately fol-
lows at the Cetronia Fire Company Social Quarters, 18 S. Sce-
nic Street, Allentown, PA 18104.

Marine Corps League Birthday Social Gathering. Drinks and
Bar Menu. 10 Nov.following the Cedar Beach Memorial
ceremnyony at Cetronia Fire Company Social Quarters, 18 S.
Scenic Street, Allentown, PA 18104. Details TBA.

Toys for Tots Dec. 18 from 9 am to 3 pm; and Dec. 19 from 9
am to 1 pm. At Salvation Army on at 144 N. 8th St. and W.
Turner St.

Three Kings Day Volunteers report at 11:30 a. m. January
(date TBA), 2025 , SteelStax, Founder's Way, Bethlehem, PA.



Daniel "PJ" Kohli and Christopher "Topher" Daniels were inducted as new members of the Bethlehem Det. 284, Marine Corps League at the last meeting.

, Christopher Daniel (left)

Here are some highlights from my career:

As a LCpl I was communication chief.

-I was attached to 8th Tank Bttn, then First Provisional Security Co.

I started as field wireman 0612, then a radio operator 0621, then a security liaison 03XX I was Stationed in 29 Palms, Lejeune, Parris Island, 8th Tank Bn.

I was deployed to OEF Djibouti Africa where served as Cpl of the Guard, served as Sgt of the Guard.

I led the ,Quick Reaction Force for the safety of the base and protection of the embassy and



Colonel and Mrs. Robert Daday celebrated the wedding of their daughter, Caitlin to Captain Mark Ames on Sept. 14.





Bethlehem Det. 284 fell out to support the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council Movie Day at the Emmaus Theater on Saturday, Sept. 21. Free classic war movies were shown to the public all day. Between the five of us, we represented the Air Force, the Navy, the Army and the Marine Corps. From left to right: Doug Graves, John Kukitz, Fred Gould, Mike Carter and Tom O'Rourke.

History Making Marines from Pennsylvania

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM P. BIDDLE, USMC



Major General William Phillips Biddle, the 11th Commandant of the Marine Corps and a member of the prominent Philadelphia Biddles, was born in that city 15 December 1853 and was educated in private schools in the vicinity, by touring and in the University of Pennsylvania. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps 22 June 1875 and after short tours of duty in Washington, New York and Philadelphia, made the first of his many tours of sea duty on which he passed nearly half of his active service. After three years on the Hartford and Powhatan, 2dLt Biddle again went ashore for duty at Philadelphia and New York. He returned to sea duty on the Kearsarge in March 1882, and was promoted to first lieutenant in 1884. With a break of less than three years at the same stations as his previous shore duty, he again went to sea for three years on Swarta. He returned to Philadelphia for duty in February 1891, where he was promoted to captain in 1894. He resumed sea duty on board the Baltimore in June 1895, and was shortly afterwards transferred to the Olympia on which he served during the Spanish-American War and participated in the Battle of Manila Bay.

Soon after the close of the war, Capt Biddle returned to Philadelphia for duty but was soon called to join the Fourth Battalion of Marines organized for duty in the Far East. With that battalion he arrived in China in time to take part in the famous relief expedition to Peking in 1900. After the affairs of the Boxer Rebellion had been somewhat adjusted, Capt Biddle was transferred with his battalion to the First Brigade of Marines, Philippine Islands, where he served a little over two years, and then returned to the United States for duty at Headquarters. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel 23 March 1903. In December of that year he was sent to Panama in command of the battalion of Marines on the Dixie, which arrived in time to participate in affairs when the independence of that country was declared.

He returned to the United States soon afterwards and served for short tours of duty in Philadelphia and at Headquarters, Marine Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel Biddle was promoted to colonel in February 1905 and during the following year, returned to the Philippine Islands where he commanded the First Brigade of Marines for about two years. He reported for duty at Headquarters in May 1908, and was soon afterwards detailed in Philadelphia and sent to Panama to reinforce the troops protecting the construction of the Canal, and for potential duty in Nicaragua.

(General Biddle Continued)

He returned to Headquarters in April 1910, where he continued to serve the remainder of his active duty. During the closing months of MajGen Elliott's commandancy, Col Biddle acted as Commandant most of the time.

Colonel Biddle was chosen as Major General Commandant of the Marine Corps on 3 February 1911. Col Biddle's tour of duty as Commandant was a comparatively quiet, short and uneventful one. He concerned himself primarily with the routine affairs of the Corps. Several minor expeditions took place, including the first intervention in Nicaragua. Under his administration, the Advance Base Force, forerunner of today's Fleet Marine Force, was also established in December 1913.

After nearly three years in office, MajGen Commandant Biddle applied for retirement on the ground of having completed more than thirty years' service, and he was retired on 24 February 1914. He was recalled for active duty during the World War and served primarily on court-martial duty at San Diego, California.

Major General Biddle died in Nice, France, on 25 February 1923 and was buried a month later in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Courtesy of Marine Corps University





Marine Corps League Membership Bethlehem Detachment #284 Application

Please Print Legibly



Full Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Date of birth: ____/____/____ (mo/day/yr) E-mail: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? No Yes If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the MCL.

Type of Application: New Renewal Please check either *New or Renewal*
Associate Dual Regular Please check *Associate Dual or Regular*

Regular Membership:

Date of enlistment/commissioning: ____/____/____ Date of discharge/Separation/Retirement: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Marine Corps League and enclose \$31.00 for membership from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 (includes a one-time new member fee of \$5). Your membership will start the date the application is accepted and end on 31 Aug 2024. The MCL has a fiscal year of 1 Sep to 31 August. You will be sent a renewal notice in July of 2024 for the next fiscal year

**Includes subscription to "Semper Fi", The Magazine of the Marine Corps League*

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps, on active duty for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, or have served or am currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device or Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon authorized for FMF Corpsmen. If discharged, I am in receipt of an honorable discharge or DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (IMPF, and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service. (*Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws Article 6, Section 600) (Please attach a copy of Honorable Discharge or DD 214 and please black out your Social Security number)

Oath of Membership – Regular Members

I, _____, in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of the Marine Corps League here assembled, being fully aware of the symbols, motto, principles, and purposes of the Marine Corps League do solemnly swear or affirm that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the Marine Corps League. I will never knowingly wrong, deceive or defraud the League as to the value of anything. I will never knowingly wrong or injure or permit any member or any member's family to be wronged or injured if to prevent the same is within my power. I will never propose for membership, one known to me to be unqualified or unworthy to become a member of the League. I further promise to govern my conduct in the League's affairs and in my personal life in a manner becoming a decent honorable person and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League, so help me God.

Sponsor

Applicant's Signature

Date

Please return completed application (if regular member or associate with prior service). Make a check out to "MCL Bethlehem Detachment" for \$31.00 and mail to:

Thomas O'Rourke
4125 Salem Drive
Emmaus, PA 18049

Thank you for applying for membership in the Marine Corps League. Your application will be reviewed at our first regular meeting after receipt. We would request you attend at least one regular meeting so you may be officially sworn into the Detachment (Special exceptions are made on a case by case basis. (i.e. Active Duty Deployed, Nursing home). Meetings are held at 6 PM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Hockendaqua Legion Post 739, 3739 American Legion Drive, Whitehall, PA 18052. If you have any questions, please call Tom O'Rourke at 484 554-9398.

Once a Marine, Always a Marine



Glock pistol raffle is here! Part of the proceeds go the Marine Youth Program. One ticket is \$10 or three tickets for \$25. Order yours from Junior Vice Commandant Claude Rone at 610-730-1703, or buy them at the next meeting.

The Drawing will be 10 November, 2024.



Scholarships

Department of Pa. MCL Scholarship applications are due May 31, 2025

There are two scholarships available for college bound family members: Both applications are not up but will be live 1 January 2025. Please be mindful of the deadlines. Signatures must be gotten for the applications before they can be sent in. Please allow time for this to happen.

Information about the *MCL National Scholarship*

The website is <https://www.mcsf.org/apply/>

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

1. Paid members of the Marine Corps League or paid members of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary in good standing.
2. Spouses, Children, Step Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren of paid members of the Marine Corps League or paid members of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary in good standing.
3. Children of U. S. Marines, FMF Navy Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains (serving with a Marine Unit) who were Killed in Action.
4. The above students must currently have a Cumulative (Unweighted) GPA of at least 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale).

Information about the *Marine League of Pennsylvania*

Website: <https://pamcleague.com/scholarships/>

Department of Pennsylvania, Marine Corps League and Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Members, Member Spouses, Children and Grandchildren and children of U.S. Marines, FMF Corpsmen and FMF Navy Chaplains (serving with a Marine unit) who were killed in combat are eligible for a scholarship award.

Make sure you submit by the expiration dates.

When the application is filled out, it can be emailed to me and I'll get the signatures and get it back to you. My email is jpfeiffer@ptd.net

S/F

John Pfeiffer, Jr., Ed.D.
2523 Rising Sun Rd. Slatington, PA 18080
cell# 610-849-6044

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Our new Challenge Coin is here! It's beautiful! It is 1 and 1/4 inches in diameter. Being solid metal, it has a nice heft. It is from Texas the Lone Star State. It is Red, White and Blue.

It really says "Bethlehem" with its 3-D Bethlehem Star. The other side is our iconic Marine Corps League EGA emblem.

"Semper Fidelis" on one side; "Memento Missionem" (Remember the Mission!) on the other side!

Much thanks to our design committee Vince Poandl and Roz Schroeder!

*Get yours now: **Limited supply. \$10 each coin plus postage** or pick up yours at our monthly meeting.*

Contact Paymaster Tom O'Rourke for your Challenge

Coin. Email: TomORourke1@Yahoo.com or Phone: 484-554-9398





Let's all do our part. Buy some Youth and Scholarship raffle tickets for the 2024 Drawing! Support our Veteran & Youth Programs!

Call George Borman for tickets.
484-664-8862

New! *Veteran & Youth Programs 50 – 50 Drawing at each meeting.*

Put your money in the 50 –50 box, get your tickets. If you have the winning ticket, then you get half the money at the end of each meeting. .

The other half goes to buy Veteran & Youth Tickets made out to the Detachment's general fund.

Click to see 2024 winners:

<https://pamcleague.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-VY-Winners.pdf>

Know the Rituals and rules of the Marine Corps League!

2021 Edition Marine Corps League National Administrative Procedures is the governing document we go by.

<http://www.ncmcl.org/forms/2021-National-Administrative-Procedures-COMplete.pdf>

Excerpt: Section 10005. Respect

a. The Bible shall be opened, placed on an Altar which is covered with a clean and attractive Altar Cloth, during all the meetings of the Marine Corps League. No disrespect to the Bible, by act or word, shall be tolerated. No one shall use the Altar for physical support, and shall not, under any circumstances, use the Altar or Bible as a resting place for any item or material. All space between the Altar and the Chair shall be considered as hallowed ground and shall not be traveled upon while the Bible is open.

b. The Ritual of the Marine Corps League shall be observed and employed at all meetings and appropriate functions to the maximum extent possible.

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Scholarship news! Congratulations to three Bethlehem Detachment 284 student 2024 scholarship winners:

Olivia Chappie

Emma Frey

Cora Nemesh

Order form for MCL Detachment 284's BLACK or RED golf shirt with new "Bethlehem Star" logo. If you want both a BLACK shirt and RED shirt, double the cost of your



Mail your check to:
 Doug Graves
 1335 Russett Road
 Allentown, PA 18104

Step 1. select your size:

S, M, L, XL, 2XL,
 3XL, 4XL \$20.00

Embroidered LOGO: \$15.00

OPTIONAL Name on
 right side of shirt:
 SPELL OUT in BLOCK
 letters \$ 5.00

OPTIONAL POSTAGE

If you want your shirt
 mailed to you add
 Postage: \$9.45

Add up your order
 TOTAL \$ _____

Make your check out to
 Bethlehem Det. 284, MCL

What color?



Black? Red? Or Both?
 Circle your choice.

Be a mentor to a new member! It helps them get oriented and to get off on the right foot with the Marine Corp League.

Volunteer now!

<https://www.mclbethlehem.org>



The Commandant's
 Goals:

For every Regular Member and Associate Member to have their red Marine Corps League cover. Suitable for all occasions. Required by National By-laws.

A Casual Uniform AND an Undress (Short Sleeves) Uniform or every member who thinks they may want to help honor our fallen at a funeral, attend a patriotic ceremony, or attend a regular meeting where special occasions may be celebrated. Check out this link for more info:

https://www.mclnational.org/uploads/1/0/3/1/103183322/pdp_lesson_4.pdf



<https://the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com/collections/uniform/products/wa13>

<https://the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com/collections/uniform/products/wa110>

COMMANDANT'S GOAL: All officers attend the Leadership Class.

This local company sells the short-sleeve and long-sleeve white shirts that can be worn with the Undress Uniform. They also sell the high-gloss dress shoes.
MP Outfitters - Tactical at
2733 W Emaus Ave #7, Allentown, PA 18103
Tel: (610) 797-6900 Prompt 5

Be a Mentor to a new member!

It's not easy to come in to the MCL and learn all the ropes.

Can you help a new member, one-on-one, to get uniforms, insignia, and to get a head start on customs in the Marine Corps League.

Call Glenn Rader if you want to be a MENTOR! (610) 509-2114.

Put the odds in your favor by getting vaccinated!

Unvaccinated people face a 10 times greater risk of testing positive and 20 times greater risk of dying from Covid-19 than fully vaccinated people who have also received a booster, according to data published recently by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Thank you to these generous merchants for providing gifts or services in support of the Bethlehem Detachment 284, Marine Corps

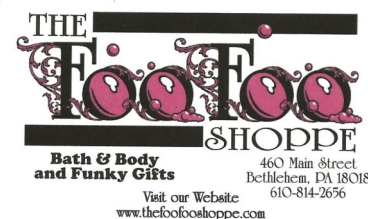
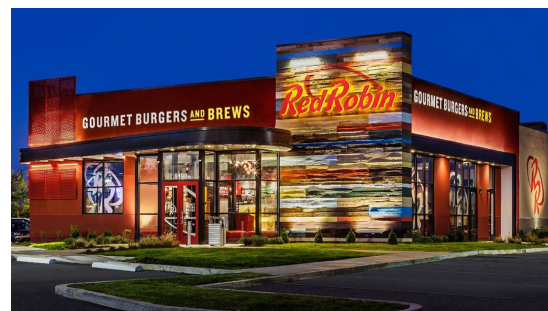
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Red Robin
 4688a Broadway,
 Allentown, PA 18104



<https://www.grazecraze.com/west-allentown-pa>
 610-871--1734
 4612 Broadway Rd.
 Allentown , PA 18104





At the March meeting Bethlehem Detachment 284 adopted a change to the by laws establishing the Sergeant Robert Brandl Memorial Scholarship.

Also approved was the purchase and embroidery of four red windbreaker jackets for the color guard.



Attention,

Associate Members! In case you didn't get the wordyou need to know the Marine Corps Hymn by heart. **THERE WILL BE A TEST!** But don't worry—because we will all be singing together. The main thing to remember: **We will be louder and more enthusiastic than our Navy, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard friends.**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5kCqvsO_7c

The Marine's Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma
 To the shores of Tripoli
 We fight our country's battles
 In the air, on land, and sea.
 First to fight for right and freedom
 And to keep our honor clean; We are proud to claim
 the title
 Of United States Marines.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
 From dawn to setting sun; We have fought in every
 clime and place
 Where we could take a gun.
 In the snow of far-off Northern lands
 And in sunny tropic scenes; You will find us always
 on the job--The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our Corps
 Which we are proud to serve; In many a strife we've
 fought for life
 And never lost our nerve.
 If the Army and the Navy
 Ever look on Heaven's scenes, They will find the
 streets are guarded
 By United States Marines.