

**The Forward Observer
December 2024**

Bethlehem

**Detachment 284, Marine Corps
League**



Motto: "Memento Missionem"

(Remember the Mission)

**Next Meeting: 6 p. m. on Wed. 13 Nov.
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. 11 December., 2024 at 6 p.
m. Hokey American Legion. USE THE SIDE DOOR—
GO AROUND TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BUILDING.*

Uniform: appropriate dress with red MCL cover.

3739 American Legion Dr, Hokendauqua, PA 18052

**Saturday 14 Dec. Wreaths Across America Color
Guard at Fountain Hill Cemetery; Call Sr. Vice Com-
mandant George Borman for information, or to
participate. Telephone or Text: 484-664-8862.**

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. Call Commandant Glenn Rader for information or
to participate: Telephone or Text: 610-509-2114

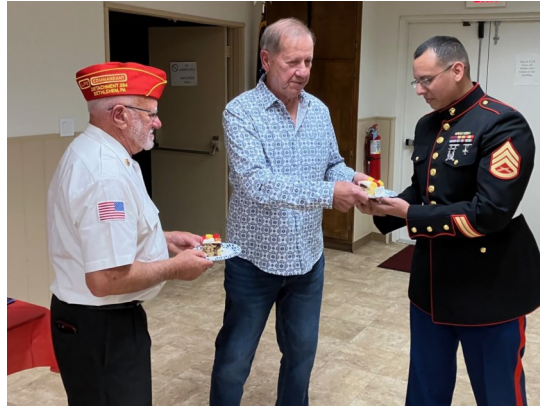
Three Kings Day Volunteers report at 11:30 a. m. Sunday,
January 5, 2025. The event will be 2-6pm. , SteelStax, Found-
er's Way, Bethlehem, PA. Call Immediate Past Commandant
Doug Graves to participate or for information. Telephone or
Text: 540-842-3241





Marines gathered at Cedar Beach Park in Allentown on Sunday, 10 Nov. to celebrate the 249th Marine Corps Birthday.





Following the ceremony at Cedar Beach Park, the Marines assembled at the Cetronia Social Hall where the traditional cake was cut and served.





The regular meeting of Bethlehem Det. 284 for November 2024. Standing left to right: Chuck Zhou-Phillips, Tom O'Rourke, Robert Marshall, George Borman, Claude Rone, Rich Kramlich, Lynn Crowley. Kneeling: Carl Kratochvil, Fred Gould. Not pictured: Doug Graves



Immediate Past Commandant Doug Graves (right) presents Commandant Glenn Rader a National Marine Corps League Membership achievement certificate for Bethlehem Det. 284.

History Making Marines from Pennsylvania

Medal of Honor Monday: Marine Corps Capt. James A. Graham



June 3, 2024 | By Katie Lange, DOD News

Marine Corps Capt. James Albert Graham could have fled to safety with the rest of his company during a firefight in Vietnam. Instead, he chose to stay behind with a comrade too injured to move. Knowing he wouldn't survive, Graham gave his life so a fellow Marine wouldn't have to die alone. His leadership and bravery earned him the Medal of Honor. Graham was born on Aug. 25, 1940, in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania. After his parents divorced when he was still small, he moved with his father to Accokeek in southern Maryland.

As he grew up, he helped his father run their own grocery store and gas station, but he wasn't happy there and constantly fled back to his mother's family in western Pennsylvania, only to be brought back to Maryland by his father, according to a detailed profile on Graham's life from the Frostburg State University Foundation.

According to the profile, when Graham was 15, he took his father's car and drove to El Paso, Texas, where he lied about his age to enlist in the Army. His father eventually figured out where he was and went to get him, but by that point, Graham had already served nearly two years on active duty as an officer's secretary.

When Graham returned home with his father, he got his GED certificate before attending FSU in western Maryland. Graham was a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity who earned good grades, even while working a full-time job at a local supermarket. During his college career, Graham also spent two years with the District of Columbia National Guard, a year with the Army Reserve and two years with the Marine Corps Reserve, respectively. (Continued on Page 12)



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 not 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

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 2025 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

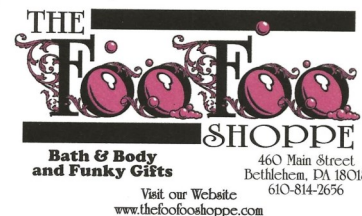
“The Forward Observer”
 Newsletter editor – Douglas Graves; send your newsletter articles with pictures to the editor, doug@graves.org or call 540-842-3241 with questions or suggestions. Editor Emeritus Sherwood Shaplin Jr., The Forward Observer 2010 – 2014. The Forward Observer is published monthly by MCL, Bethlehem Det. 284. It is distributed via email.. except for paper .



Red Robin
 4688a Broadway,
 Allentown, PA 18104



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



(Continued) Medal of Honor Monday: Marine Corps Capt. James A. Graham

It was During this time that Graham also met his future wife, Janice Pritchett. She introduced him to the Baptist church, which led Graham to become a born-again Christian, the FSU Foundation said. The couple married in February 1962.

About a year and a half later, Graham graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. According to the FSU Foundation, he received honors as the top student in that field.

On Sept. 30, 1963, Graham accepted a regular appointment to the active-duty Marine Corps. By Nov. 1, 1963, he had earned his commission. Graham then enrolled in flight school, but his wife said he couldn't get past the airsickness, so he had to find another path forward.

By this point, the couple had two children, a boy named John and a girl named Jennifer.

In January 1965, Graham was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. That April, he was part of a team that was sent to the Dominican Republic after an uprising in the Caribbean country's capital, Santo Domingo, threatened the lives of Americans living and working there.

In December 1966, a then-Capt. Graham was sent to Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Initially he commanded Company H before switching to command Company F in January 1967.

According to the FSU Foundation, Graham was known to be a strict disciplinarian, but one whom troops respected. He often led his company in prayer and sometimes held eulogies for those killed in battle.

"He was born to lead others in war," a fellow Marine once wrote, according to the FSU Foundation.

In late May 1967, the 5th Marine Regiment launched Operation Union II, a search and destroy mission that led Graham's unit to the Quang Tin Province. On June 2, several of the regiment's units launched an attack against an enemy-occupied position.

Company F helped lead the charge. As it proceeded across an open rice paddy about 1,000 meters wide, it came under heavy mortar and small-arms fire, which killed and injured several Marines. The second platoon in Graham's company was the hardest hit, having been pinned down out in the open by two concealed machine gun nests.

Graham did what he could to help. He gathered 10 men and led a fierce assault through the pinned-down unit's position, forcing the enemy to abandon one of the machine guns. The victory relieved some of the pressure on the platoon and allowed those who were injured to be evacuated.

Graham's men were hoping to take out the second machine gun, too, so they stood their ground in the hard-won enclave they had taken over and continued to fight. According to Graham's Medal of Honor citation, he was injured twice during this time, but he also managed to kill about 15 enemy combatants.

Eventually, however, the constant and heavy fire raining down on them took its toll, and Graham had to call for his team to fall back to safety. He, however, chose to remain at their location with a critically injured lieutenant who couldn't be moved.

In his last radio transmission, Graham reported being assaulted by a force of at least two dozen enemy soldiers. He died while protecting himself and the wounded man he refused to leave behind.

Graham's efforts that day kept the company's second platoon from being annihilated. For his leadership and sacrifice, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on Oct. 29, 1968. His wife received it from Navy Secretary Paul R. Ignatius during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Graham was subsequently buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Graham's children were very young when he died, but they said their mother kept his legacy alive for them.

"We were very fortunate that our mother made him an active part of our lives," Jennifer Graham said in 2003, recalling the stories and photos that her mother shared. "So many families handled it differently, and many children grew up in homes where they didn't talk about it."

They decided to follow in their father's footsteps. John Graham joined the Marines and became a helicopter pilot. Jennifer Graham attended the Air Force Academy and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1999, the pair went to Vietnam to find where their father had died. While there, they buried a time capsule in his memory, according to the FSU Foundation.

In the 1980s, Graham Hall at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, was named in the fallen captain's honor. A highway interchange in western Pennsylvania was also named for him in 2002.

Graham's Medal of Honor is located at the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee.