

Commandant, Chris Shaw  
Sr. Vice Commandant, Frank Marshal  
Jr. Vice Commandant, Ian Dugas  
Jr. Past Commandant, Larry Samples  
Judge Advocate, Jim Copeland  
Adjutant, Bonnie Shaw  
Chaplain, Phil Sears



Paymaster, Doug Forsythe  
Sergeant at Arms, Lawrence Garcia  
Trustee, Pat Powell  
Trustee, Emil Messsikomer  
Trustee, Dave Hetrick  
Trustee, Bob Whetstone

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25 January 2025

Marine Corps League  
Department of PA Commandant  
Diana Henry  
PO Box 6687  
Harrisburg PA 17112-0687

Madame Commandant:

To preserve the History and Traditions of the United States Marine Corps, we honor Major Samuel Nicholas as the Father & First Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Major Samuel Nicholas was buried in an unmarked Quaker burial ground in 1790. In 1997, the Friends Historical Library located at Swarthmore College documented Samuel Nicholas burial site at their historic cemetery, 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch streets Philadelphia, just blocks from Independence Hall.

In 2013, the Cpl Brandon Hardy Chester County Detachment 286, Marine Corps League, of Downingtown PA, obtained permission from the Society of Friends to place a burial marker at Major Nicholas's burial site. In 2015, a resolution was passed at the Marine Corps League National Convention requiring that the Father of the Marine Corps be honored on three occasions. In 2025, the dates for those occasions are the Sunday before Memorial Day (Sunday, May 25th, 2025), Independence Day (Saturday, July 5th, 2025), and on the Marine Corps Birthday (Monday, November 10th, 2025). Muster times are 1100 for Memorial Day and Independence Day, with muster time for the Marine Corps Birthday set for 0930, mustering for the wreath laying and taps at the Samuel Nicholas Memorial (Friends Meeting House at 4th and Arch Street, Philadelphia).

Please accept our invitation to attend any or all these wreath-laying ceremonies. Please confirm if you plan to attend so that you can be duly recognized.

If you can attend, please contact me by May 16th, 2025 by mail (5305 Lister Court, Chester Springs, Pa 19425), telephone ([610-827-9281](tel:610-827-9281)), or via email ([dforsythe007@gmail.com](mailto:dforsythe007@gmail.com)). We look forward to your attendance.

Semper Fidelis,

Douglas R. Forsythe  
Event Chairman