



Semper Fi Highlights

Greater Greensburg Detachment #834

Marine Corps League

Volume 30 Issue 2

May 2025

Elected Officers for 2025

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Editor: Joyce Arrigoni (see above)

Paymaster: Frank Antoline (see above)

Quartermaster: Chris Demorest (see above)

Sgt at Arms: Doug Hurst 724-834-4542

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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, back entrance.. NO steps, NO smoke. Please consider coming to a meeting.

There will be NO MCL meeting after May until September.

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.

Meeting: 4th Saturday of the month.

Next Meeting: Saturday, 24 May 2025

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

Time: 1000 (10:00 AM) hours

The "count on deck" is: 49

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.

March 22nd Meeting

The following 6 members were on board:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Antoline, Frank | Demorest, Chris |
| Arrigoni, Joyce | Hurst, Doug |
| Blank, Denny | Lohr, Jim |

Meeting Highlights:

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

Membership Dues Reminder

If you are not a lifetime member your membership dues are due 1 September 2025.

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

1 May 1941: Marine Barracks New River is established (later renamed Camp Lejeune).

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.

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

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.

29 Aug 1943: Lt Ken Walsh shoots down three Japanese Zeros, running his total to 20 kills and becoming the first F4U Corsair pilot to earn the Medal of Honor.



The United States Honor Guard marches in the New York City Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11, 2019.

Trump plans to change Veterans Day into 'Victory Day for World War I'

By Leo Shane III; Friday, May 2, 2025

President Donald Trump in a social media post Thursday announced plans to rename Veterans Day as "Victory Day for World War I" and establish May 8 as "Victory Day for World War II."

"We won both wars, nobody was close to us in terms of strength, bravery, or military brilliance, but we never celebrate anything," Trump wrote in the late night statement. "That's because we don't have leaders anymore, that know how to do so! We are going to start celebrating our victories again!"

The move to rename Veterans Day — established to coincide with the end date of World War I — would overwrite 87 years of precedent in recognizing Nov. 11 as a national holiday celebrating all veterans.

During his last term in office, Trump issued a national proclamation for Veterans Day honoring the celebration as a chance for the country to “pause to pay tribute to all who have proudly worn our nation’s uniform.” He did not make any mention of the World War I origins of the date.

White House officials did not respond to clarification on whether Trump’s Victory Day name would replace or run alongside Veterans Day celebrations.

Trump also did not clarify if he expects May 8 will also become a federal holiday like Veterans Day, although a decision on that designation would fall to Congress.

In his post, Trump noted that many countries commemorate the end of World War II on May 8 “but we did more than any other country, by far, in producing a victorious result.”

May 8, 1945, was the end of major fighting in the European arena of World War II, but fighting in the Pacific for U.S. and allied troops continued for nearly four more months, until Sept. 2 of that year.

More than 400,000 U.S. troops were killed in fighting in World War II, according to the National World War II museum.



A BQM-177 is launched from the Marine Corps’ Medium Range Intercept Capability system as part of a quad-launch event at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

Marines have air defense, but need a way to defeat drone swarms

By Todd South; Wednesday, Apr 30, 2025

Marines are fielding a host of options for knocking down airborne threats, from small drones to cruise missiles. Still, what they need is a way to handle potential drone swarms, service officials said.

“The big thing that really keeps me up at night is swarms,” Col. Andrew Konicki, head of ground-based air defense for Marine Corps Systems Command, said at the Modern Day Marine military exposition in Washington on Wednesday.

Konicki set the scene with two anecdotes, one from the Ohio State University football game against the University of Maryland in 2023, which was delayed due to a drone over the field.

The other was the 2020 Beijing Olympics drone demonstration in which a coordinated drone swarm presented a light show to millions of spectators.

Both presented frightening prospects. The football game could have been a single drone dropping baby powder, which some might worry could be a biological threat, and the Olympics scenario raised questions about how a small Marine unit, or even a lone Marine, would counter hundreds or potentially thousands of drones targeting their position.

On the small-drone level, the Marines have deployed 13 of 21 Light Marine Air Defense Integrated Systems, or L-MADIS, over the past three years.

That tailored system was fielded to the 3rd Littoral Anti-Air Battalion with the 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment in 2024. It handles group I and II drone threats.

Recent fielding of the L-MADIS system with the Marine Expeditionary Units proved effective in maritime environment despite the system being built mainly as a ground-based air defense system, Konicki said.

For larger threats, the MADIS, a more powerful version of its light brother, will see seven more systems deployed by September in addition to the 13 already in the inventory, Konicki said.

“The rapid rise of [unmanned aerial systems], used for surveillance, targeting and attacks, has made advanced air defense systems like MADIS critical to protecting our Marines and preserving our combat effectiveness,” Lt. Col. Craig Warner, future weapons systems product manager, said in December 2024. “MADIS not only detects, tracks and defeats aerial threats but also serves as a powerful deterrent, signaling to adversaries that their aerial assets will not succeed against U.S. forces.”

On the even larger end of the spectrum, the Corps expects to field its first platoon with the Medium Range Intercept Capability, or MRIC, an anti-cruise missile system that’s proven “highly effective” in operational testing, the colonel said.

Over recent experimentation and operational testing, the Marines have identified key areas to improve.

A top priority is defeating swarms, Konicki said. Quickly following are munition-agnostic launch systems, enhanced passive sensing, a dismounted sensing and defeat capability and training support both in virtual and live spaces, he said.

The colonel would especially like to see passive sensing capability for the MRIC, he said.



Marine Corps Raiders are assessed for their cognitive ability to quickly adapt to new information systems, MARSOC leaders said at a defense conference Tuesday.

MARSOC is fusing traditionally rugged Marines with tech-curious ones

By Riley Ceder; Wednesday, Apr 30, 2025

The Marine Corps' stand-in forces need to possess physical toughness and a natural inquisitiveness in order to succeed, Marine Corps Special Operations Command leaders said Tuesday at an annual defense conference.

Maj. Gen. Peter Huntley, commander of Marine Corps Special Operations Command, spoke at a Modern Day Marine panel in Washington about how a changing military landscape requires multifaceted Marine Corps Raiders who possess both a grittiness synonymous with the Marine Corps and an eagerness to learn and adapt to evolving information systems.

"It's gonna be nasty, it's gonna be brutish, it's still gonna take tough, rugged people," Huntley said of what the global military landscape requires of the Marine Corps Raider.

But he said that environment would also drive the need for MARSOC personnel with the cognitive ability to adapt to new technologies and the desire to adapt.

Marine Corps stand-in forces, outlined in the Marine Corps' plan to prepare for future conflicts, dubbed Force

Design, are defined as small but lethal forces designed to operate within a contested area and disrupt the plans of an adversary.

MARSOC fits the definition.

The proliferation of unmanned defense systems and adversarial technological advancements, as observed in the Russia-Ukraine war, has served as a driving factor for MARSOC's modernization efforts, which have included acquiring leading defense technologies and recruiting physically tough, naturally curious Marines, leaders said at Tuesday's panel.

Col. Shane Edwards of MARSOC G-8, who also spoke at the panel, said MARSOC's current fleet of technologies includes unmanned surface and underwater vessels and more than 45 aerial drones.

He said artificial intelligence and small robotics, especially first-person view drones, are the biggest game changers for MARSOC.

These systems are pivotal for contested environments in which adversaries are ramping up their own modernization efforts and eclipsing the sophistication of their previous systems.

"We're going up against enemies that have way better tech," Edwards said.

Panelists reiterated that a military landscape evolving at breakneck speed doesn't alter the basic necessity for exemplary Marines.

What makes MARSOC unique, Huntley said, is that their personnel are constantly deployed forward, providing Raiders the opportunity to consistently set the theater for partner forces and be a key solver of problem sites.

"It allows us to do the things that are uniquely SOF [special operations forces]," Huntley said. "Whether it's to help our partners fend off aggression by adversaries or to set conditions."

That way, he said, if conflict does potentially arise, the Raiders will be prepared. They wouldn't be starting on game day, because they will have done their homework.

Panelists said MARSOC aims to support joint forces by providing information to help them achieve their objectives. In order to do that, the component is leveraging new technologies to provide Marine Corps Raiders with as much valuable information as possible.

MARSOC is experimenting with unmanned systems — autonomous and semi-autonomous — that possess an increased range of movement that would allow MARSOC to navigate larger geographical swaths, Huntley said.

Those might include surface maritime types of platforms that could travel long distances from shore to sea, or airborne ones as well, he said.



Marine Corps Championships at MCB Quantico

By Staff Sgt. Claudia Nix | Marine Corps Training and Education Command | April 28, 2025

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. -- Weapons Training Battalion – Quantico hosted the Marine Corps Championships, the culminating event of the Marine Corps Marksmanship Competitions, from April 10–18 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia.

The Marine Corps Championships brought together 80 top shooters from the Fleet Marine Force and the British Royal Marines for eight days of competition. The U.S. Marine competitors all earned the opportunity to compete in the Marine Corps Championships based on their performance in five regional marksmanship competitions held earlier in the fiscal year at U.S. Marine Corps installations across the world, including in Japan. At the Marine Corps Championships, competitors tested their skills in day and night courses of fire, including precision rifle, action pistol, action rifle, and multi-gun events using match-grade M16 rifles, M4 carbines, M18 pistols, and M27 Infantry Automatic Rifles.

The competition began April 10 with check-in, zeroing and holds, allowing competitors to adjust to range conditions and confirm zeroes. On April 11 the Heritage Match was held. Marines fired historic weapons in courses of fire inspired by significant battles and moments in Marine Corps history. The match served as a connection to the legacy of Marines who came before, reinforcing the enduring role of marksmanship in the Corps' history.

"The Heritage Match is a callback to key eras of Marine Corps history where marksmanship played a vital role," said Capt. John Bodzoich, the officer in charge of the Marine Corps Shooting Team. "It gives Marines the rare chance to handle historical weapons and use them in

scenarios that mirror how they were employed in past conflicts, creating a tangible connection to the legacy of those who came before us."

Competitors engaged in multi-gun matches, individual rifle and pistol matches, low-light night matches, and team competitions. Members of the Marine Corps Shooting Team observed performances to identify emerging talent, with some competitors receiving invitations to join the MCST on permanent orders.

One of the highlights of the championship was the Inter-Corps Cup match, where U.S. Marines and British Royal Marines competed. The event emphasized interoperability between NATO allies. U.S. and British Marines exchanged best practices, refined combat shooting techniques, and reinforced the importance of joint operations in operational environments. The match supported the Marine Corps' ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships with allied forces and enhance multinational readiness.

The championship concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing top performers. Staff Sgt. Payton Garcia, an expeditionary fuels technician and member of the Marine Corps Shooting Team, was named the top individual performer after winning the rifle, pistol, and multi-gun matches. He was awarded the McDougal Trophy for rifle, the Walsh Trophy for pistol, and the Lauchheimer Trophy as the overall top competitor, becoming the second Marine in recorded history to win all three in a single competition. As the overall winner, he also received the M1 Garand Trophy.

Garcia, described by his leaders as one of the most passionate shooters and marksmanship coaches in the Corps, chose to pass the M1 Garand to the High Tyro, Sgt. Kai Byrom, the highest-scoring first-year competitor, to encourage continued participation in competitive shooting. The Maj. Gen. "Hammer" Hartsell Trophy was awarded to the High Tyro, Byrom, a mortarman and marksmanship coach with Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Parris Island. Additional honors were presented to the winners of the Inter-Division Rifle and Pistol Team Matches and the Fleet Marine Force Combat Infantry Match.

"My biggest takeaway is that it's not about me, and it's not about who gets a medal or the medals themselves. It's about advancing marksmanship and increasing lethality across the force. Every Marine who competed here will return to their unit and share what they've learned, high-level marksmanship, on demand, under stress. That's the kind of training you can't get anywhere else." *Staff Sgt. Payton Garcia, expeditionary fuels technician, instructor and competitor with the Marine Corps Shooting Team, Weapons Training Battalion*

The Marine Corps Championships continues a tradition of marksmanship excellence dating back to 1899, when Maj. Gen. Charles Heywood emphasized improving marksmanship skills across the force, subsequently directing the creation of what we now know of as the Marine Corps Shooting Team in 1901. Since then, the Marine Corps Shooting Team has led the Corps' efforts to evolve its techniques and incorporate emerging technologies to meet changing combat requirements.

Looking ahead, the Marine Corps plans to continue refining its marksmanship program by integrating precision attack drone technology and expanding low-light and night vision events. The Marine Corps Attack Drone Team, established in January 2025, will support future competitions by enhancing target acquisition and strike capabilities through small unmanned aerial systems, including first person-view drones, which have rapidly proliferated across modern battlefields.

"This competition isn't just about winning, it's about building warriors and constantly reinforcing our culture of every Marine being, first and foremost, a rifleman," said Col. Scott Cuomo, commanding officer of Weapons Training Battalion, Quantico, and captain of the Marine Corps Shooting Team. "When Marines push themselves to the edge, shoot under pressure, and learn from the best, they don't just get better, they become more lethal, more confident, and more prepared for the fight ahead. There's real pride in knowing that every Marine who walks off this range is going back to their unit ready to raise the bar."



A Legacy of Honor and Valor: The 80th Annual Reunion of Honor & 250 Years of the Marine Corps

By 2nd Lt. Taiyo Tatara & Lance Cpl. Jennifer Le | III Marine Expeditionary Force | March 31, 2025

IWO TO, Japan -- As the nation marks the 250th year since the founding of the Marine Corps, this year's Reunion of Honor was a milestone for the Marine Corps and a tribute to those who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The reunion brought together Marines and Japan Self Defense Forces from all generations, ranging from those who served during World War II to those currently serving in active duty. Their stories were a living testament to the struggles experienced during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The event began with a ceremony where U.S. service members and Japan Self Defense Force members, veterans, and dignitaries spoke on the significance of the gathering. The crowd stood in solemn respect as a color guard presented the flags of the United States and Japan. A moment of silence was observed, during which attendees reflected on the Marines and Japanese soldiers who lost their lives during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

"To the fallen American and Japanese - you are not forgotten. Your legacy is not just in the history books. It lives in the friendship of our nations, in the strength of our alliance, and in the peace we are committed to preserving." Gen. Eric M. Smith, 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The ceremony featured speeches by dignitaries, a water ceremony, and a wreath laying. The dignitaries spoke about the sacrifices made and the hardships endured during the battle, honoring the bravery of those who fought. During the water ceremony, Japanese dignitaries were given a ladle of water to pour onto the Battle of Iwo Jima memorial and bowed to show respect.

The ceremony concluded with performances of "Furusato" and "Amazing Grace" by the Japan Ground Self Defense Force Central Band and the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band, respectively, followed by a rifle salute by the U.S. and Japanese color guards.

The day's events concluded with attendees participating in a guided tour of key historical sites, including the beaches where the battle unfolded and Mount Suribachi. The tour provided a deeper understanding of the battle's challenges.

The 80th Annual Reunion of Honor was not only a remembrance to the Battle of Iwo Jima but also a reflection of the future. The event reminded all who attended of the history and strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance.

"The U.S.-Japan Alliance shows those brave men of 1945 how yesterday's enemy has become today's friend. Our Alliance has been, and remains the cornerstone of freedom, prosperity, security, and peace in the Indo-Pacific. And it will continue," said the Honorable Peter Hegseth, U.S. Secretary of Defense.

As the sun set on a day filled with reflection, remembrance, and pride, those present knew that the Marine Corps will continue to stand strong, just as it has for 250 years. And the spirit of the Marine Corps—one of unity, resilience and sacrifice—will remain an

unbreakable bond for all who have served and those who will follow in their footsteps.



When is Trump's birthday? Here's when, how he plans to celebrate with Army birthday parade

By Lori Comstock, USA TODAY NETWORK; May 8, 2025

The Army is planning a massive military parade with nearly 7,000 soldiers to celebrate its 250th anniversary on Flag Day, which is also President Donald Trump's birthday.

The plan calls for 6,685 soldiers, 152 vehicles, 50 aircraft, seven bands and potentially thousands of civilian onlookers. The pricey event would roll past a reviewing stand for Trump near the White House and would include a heavy tank battalion, armored fighting vehicles, Humvees and Howitzer canons, with most having to be brought in by train or flown in, according to documents reviewed by USA TODAY.

While some equipment and troops were already included in the Army's birthday celebration at the National Mall, a parade was not part of the initial plans. The Army appears on-board with adding a parade, which according to a U.S. official was an idea pushed by the White House.

Here's when Trump's birthday is, Flag Day and when the military parade is planned, as well as the costs associated.

When is Trump's birthday? When is Flag Day?

President Donald Trump's birthday is June 14, 1946. He will be 79 this year. His birthday is on Flag Day, which commemorates the date in 1777 when the U.S. approved the design for the national flag. The date this year also falls on the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

How much will Trump's parade cost? Cost of Army parade

An early estimate places the cost of the parade and static displays in D.C. at \$45 million, according to NBC, who

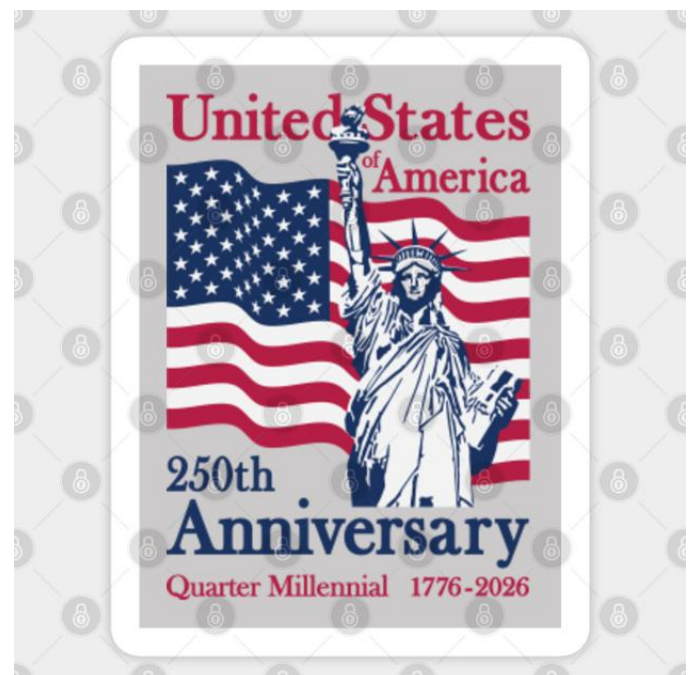
cited two defense officials. That could change as the plans still evolve.

Costs would also include the movement of military vehicles, equipment, aircraft and troops from across the country to Washington, D.C. and the need to feed and house thousands of soldiers.

Who is paying for Trump's military parade, Army parade?

Individual Army units would bear the cost of the parade, according to NBC, citing three officials. In some cases, units would have to spend more than \$1 million to participate.

The parade is scheduled to last nearly four hours and be capped off with a fireworks display.



2025 Calendar of Events

| May | June | July |
|--|--|--|
| <u>Monday, 5 May</u> Cinco de Mayo | <u>Saturday, 14 June</u> Flag Day | <u>Friday, 4 July</u> Independence Day |
| <u>Sunday, 11 May</u> Mother's Day | <u>Sunday, 15 June</u> Father's Day | |
| <u>Saturday, 17 May</u> Armed Forces Day | <u>Thursday, 19 June</u> Juneteenth | <u>Sunday, 20 July</u> Parents Day |
| <u>Saturday, 24 May</u> Greensburg Detachment meeting | | |
| <u>Monday, 26 May</u> Memorial Day | <u>Friday, 20 June</u> Summer begins | |

PA Marine Corps League Specialty License Plate

Make your check in the amount of \$49.00 payable "Marine Corps League of PA, Inc." Personalizing the plate is an option offered by PENNDOT and the fee for that is an additional \$128.00.

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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