

Semper Certior

Official Newsletter of the Jack Maas Detachment 1379 Marine Corps League



March 2026

In February our Detachment remembered the heroic struggle to capture Iwo Jima, and we celebrated our DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM veterans. In March we will honor our Members who answered the nation's call and served in Vietnam with honor.

Mike Chmielewski, Newsletter Editor

Same Team. New Mission.

JACK MAAS DETACHMENT 1379 OFFICERS, 2025 – 2026



Robert Icolari
Commandant



Jason Heirwarter
Sr. Vice Commandant



Mike Chmielewski
Jr. Vice Commandant



Ronnie Edwards
Judge Advocate



Michael Diamond
Jr. Past Commandant



Steve Hansen
Adjutant



Virgil Young
Paymaster



Mike Remington
Chaplain



Bob Singer
Sgt. At Arms



Bill Anderson
Public Affairs



Ernie Bartosh
Historian



Andy Dorman
Quartermaster



Sam McDonald
Quartermaster

Organization Email:

JackMaasDetachment@gmail.com

DETACHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

March

- 16 Detachment Officer's Meeting 18:00; Hope Presbyterian Church.
- 21 Detachment Meeting 10:00; Moose Lodge. Breakfast prior to meeting at 09:00 (\$10 cash)
- 26 STP Dinner 18:00; Location TBD.
- 27 Vietnam Veterans ceremony 10:00; Quantico Commissary.

April

- 13 Detachment Officer's Meeting 18:00; Hope Presbyterian Church.
- 18 Detachment Meeting 10:00; Moose Lodge.
- 23 STP Dinner 18:00; Location TBD.

Cigar Event

Commandant Robert Icolari is planning to hold a cigar enjoyment event for those who are interested at the Moose Lodge Picnic Pavilion in the May timeframe.

Pistol Shooting Competition

At the 17 Jan. detachment meeting, the members voted to sponsor a pistol competition this year, with the costs covered by the fees paid by the attendees or donations so that no detachment funds would be required. Commandant Icolari has already located a pistol range in northwest Stafford County and the Marine range owner has found a sponsor who will pay the range rental fee. We're looking for about 5 Marines to be on the Pistol Shoot Committee to help plan the shoot. In particular, we need help locating any certified Range Safety Officer that can help plan the course(s) of fire and ensure safety at the shoot. If you're interested in being on the committee, please contact Commandant Icolari or Paymaster Virgil Young.

Fred Nats Game

The Detachment is planning another get together at the Fred Nats game on Saturday, 5 September. Cost will be approximately \$40 per person, which will include ticket and food (hot dogs, hamburgers, sides, etc...). Kevin Brown is coordinating and will provide updates and details.

Detachment Picnic

The Detachment will hold our annual picnic, catered by Jeremiah Burns, at the Moose Lodge Picnic Pavilion on Sat 17 October.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE UPCOMING EVENTS

Mid-East Division Conference:

17-18 April 2026 at Rehobeth Beach DE. See Sherri Moore for more information.

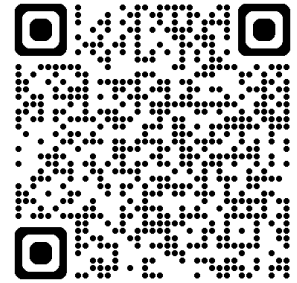
Department of Virginia Spring Convention:

29-30 May 2026, @ VFW, 2701 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg VA. Jack Maas Detachment will support the Hospitality Suite, similar to the Mid-East Division Conference last year. More details to follow.

DETACHMENT INFORMATION

Detachment Website

You can find it at jackmaasmcl1379.org, or use the following QR Code with your smartphone:



You'll be able to browse through a lot of good gouge, including the monthly newsletter and upcoming events on the public facing page, as well as a Members only section with our Detachment Roster, archived newsletters, and other information. Check it out!

Membership

Annual MCL memberships expire on 31 August. You can pay your \$35.00 annual dues at the detachment's monthly meeting by cash, check, or credit card. You can also pay your dues by mailing a \$35 check payable to "Jack Maas MCL Det. 1379" to PO Box 7515, Fredericksburg, VA 22404.

If you're interested in becoming a Paid Life Member (PLM), talk to Paymaster Virgil Young. To become a PLM and never have to worry about annual renewals again, you can make a single payment based on your age:

35 years of age and lower:	\$1,000
36-50 years of age:	\$800
51-64 years of age:	\$600
65-84 years of age:	\$400
85 years of age and higher:	\$100

If you haven't been to a Detachment meeting in a while, please join us at our monthly meetings! We meet at the Moose Lodge at 10:00 on the third Saturday of each month. We would love to see you again! And if you know any other Marines who might be interested in joining our brotherhood, bring them along with you!

Detachment Meeting

At the meeting on 21 February, Darryl Shamble took the oath and became the newest member of the Jack Maas Detachment. Welcome aboard Darryl!



Darryl Shamble addressing the Detachment.



Darryl Shamble being sworn in.



Darryl Shamble being welcomed to the Detachment by Commandant Icolari.

The Detachment also recognized members who were veterans of Operations DESERT SHIELD / DESERT STORM with a cake to commemorate our victory in the Gulf War, 35 years ago.



Jeremiah Burns, the oldest DESERT STORM veteran present, cuts the cake with a Mameluke sword as Ronnie Edwards and Robert Icolari look on.



Our DESERT STORM veterans: (L-R) Joe Plummer, Jeff Ogilvie, "Skip" Lucado, Jeremiah Burns, Tim Hoernig, Mike Chmielewski, and Ronnie Edwards.



During the meeting, members approved an update to the Detachment's Bylaws, and approved the formation of a committee to plan for a Birthday Ball in November, in addition to a Birthday cake cutting ceremony at our November meeting. Expect to see more details about the Ball in future newsletters.

Also at the 21 Feb Detachment meeting, the members approved a motion to start using on-line payment systems like PayPal, Venmo, Zelle and Cash App to accept payments into our detachment bank accounts. Paymaster Virgil Young will let everyone know when and how on-line payments can be made.

Finally, Jeremiah Burns announced that he will be providing breakfast prior to our meetings, every other month beginning with our meeting on March 21. The cost will remain \$10 (cash). The menu for March will include Beef Gravy and Biscuits, Individual Western-style Quiches, Fried Potatoes with Onions, Link Sausages, and Cinnamon Rolls.

Vietnam Veterans Ceremony

There will be a ceremony to honor our Vietnam Veterans at the Commissary, Quantico Marine Corps Base, beginning at 10:00. If you served in the Vietnam War, consider participating in this celebration!

STP Dinner

STP stands for “Same Ten/Twenty/Thirty People”. We invite all members and their significant others to join us for future STP dinners; we choose a different restaurant to eat at, beginning at 6:30pm on the 4th Thursday of each month. This is another opportunity to socialize with fellow Marines outside of our monthly meetings. If you’d like to recommend and coordinate an upcoming STP dinner - or dinners! - please contact Mike Chmielewski.

This month we gathered at the Gogi-Go Korean Barbecue restaurant on 26 February:



CHALLENGE COINS!

If you are interested in owning a piece of our Detachment’s (and Marine Corps) history, there a still a limited quantity of Jack Maas 250th Marine Corps Birthday challenge coins available for purchase. Coins are \$20 each, with a \$0.70 service charge per coin for credit card purchases. All proceeds will go towards our Birthday Ball this coming November,



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3	Bruce "Doc" Norton	17	Chris Rigopoulos
4	Ronnie Edwards	20	Andy Dorman
7	John Ashburn	22	Jeff Kruger
7	John Habel	22	Eugene McKenna
7	Jack May	28	Mike Chmielewski
8	Jose Feliciano	29	Ernie Bartosh
16	Mike Remington	29	Ray Conklin

MARINE CORPS HISTORY IN MARCH

- 2 Mar 1867 Jacob Zeilin Becomes First Brigadier General Commandant in USMC History. This marked the first time Congress authorized this rank for the Marine Corps, however this statute was repealed in June 1874 so that the rank of Commandant would revert to Colonel upon Zeilin's retirement.
- 3 Mar 1776 200 Continental Marines, led by Capt. Samuel Nicholas, conducted an amphibious raid to capture Fort Montagu at Nassau on the island of New Providence in the Bahamas, seizing a large cache of gunpowder and artillery. It was the first major mission of the Marines during the Revolutionary War.
- 8 Mar 1965 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade Lands at DaNang, Vietnam, becoming the first American ground combat troops to arrive in the country. The 3,500 Marines arrived both via the beach with the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines Landing Team, and at DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines.
- 11 Mar 1778 Continental Marines aboard the Continental Navy frigate Boston participated in the capture of the British merchant ship Martha while enroute to France. John Adams, who would later serve as the second President of the United States, was on the ship and attempted to join in the action on deck with the Marines, only to be sent below-deck by the frigate's Captain for his own safety.
- 13 Mar 1943 The first group of 71 female Marine Officer Candidates arrived at U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts.
- 18 Mar 1967 The first female Marine to serve in a combat zone reported for duty in Saigon, Vietnam. Barbara J. Dulinsky served at the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) headquarters in Saigon, providing administrative support to the Marines.
- 25 Mar 1945 The assault on the island of Iwo Jima appeared to have ended after 35 days of intense fighting, however that night 300 Japanese troops launched a final, last-ditch counterattack near Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees, and Marines from the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the Japanese forces until morning but suffered heavy casualties. More than 100 Americans were killed and a further 200 were wounded. Almost all of the Japanese troops were killed in the battle.

- 27 Mar 1953 The 5th Marines, supported by the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, counterattacked enemy-held positions in the first full day of fighting after Chinese forces launched an assault on *Outpost Vegas* the previous evening. Companies E and F of 2/7 managed to regain partial control of the outpost that day, despite being down to just three platoons between them.
- 29 Mar 1973 Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was disbanded, and the last United States combat forces departed the Republic of Vietnam. On 28 March 2017, President Trump signed the *Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017* into law, officially recognizing 29 March as National Vietnam Veteran's Day.
- 31 Mar 1801 The second Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant Colonel William W. Burrows, rode with then-President Thomas Jefferson in search of, "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." The two chose a square in Southeast Washington, at 8th and I streets, due to its proximity to the Navy Yard, as well as being within marching distance of the Capitol.

LCPL CALEB JOHN POWERS UNIT YOUNG MARINES

POWERS' PRIDE

by YM/Sgt Clevenger from the Lance Corporal Caleb John Powers Unit.

In both 2021 and 2022, Ian Ross earned the distinguished title of Division 2 Young Marine of the Year, a recognition that reflects not only his discipline and leadership, but also the compassion and dedication he brought to every aspect of the Young Marines program. For Ross, the award was never just about personal achievement—it was about the impact he made on the young people who looked up to him.



Now, as he prepares to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Ross is setting his sights on a new chapter of service. Later this year, he plans to join the United States Navy with the goal of entering its aviation program. It's a path that blends his love of challenge, his commitment to service, and his drive to keep growing as a leader.

From inspiring young people to pursuing a future in military aviation, Ian Ross continues to embody the values that earned him recognition in the first place: leadership, discipline, and teamwork. His journey is still unfolding, but one thing is clear—he's only just getting started.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER (VSO) OPPORTUNITY

The Marine Corps League National Headquarters has secured a dedicated office space within the new VA Clinic in Fredericksburg, to be staffed one day per week. This location will serve as a key service hub for transitioning service members from Marine Corps Base Quantico, as well as for veterans receiving care at Fredericksburg VA Clinic. This is more than just office space — it is a front-line post in the ongoing mission to serve those who have worn the uniform.

To fully use this space and fulfill our mission, **National Headquarters is seeking a local MCL member to serve as an accredited National Veterans Service Officer (VSO)**. This is a unique opportunity to directly support Marines and veterans in our community while representing the Marine Corps League as part of the national-level initiative.

To be eligible for accreditation, the members must:

1. Be a member of the MCL for at least 12 months.
2. Receive endorsements from both the Detachment Commandant and Department Commandant.
3. Successfully pass a VA background investigation.
4. Not currently employed by the Federal Government.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Detachment Member and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) officer Skip Lucado who can advise you of the training requirements: skip03@comcast.net

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Virginia Department of Veteran Services (VDVS) Newsletter:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/VADVS/bulletins/3f5e15f>

Department of Veterans Affairs News:

<https://news.va.gov/>

VA Is Rewriting Big Pieces of the Disability Rating Playbook:

https://www.military.com/feature/2026/02/15/va-rewriting-big-pieces-of-disability-rating-playbook.html?ESRC=marine_260224.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=marine&utm_campaign=20260224

VA Launches Plan to Expand Dental Care Access for Veterans:

https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-launches-plan-expand-dental-care-access-veterans.html?ESRC=marine_260217.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=marine&utm_campaign=20260217

Burial With Your Spouse in a National Cemetery: Here's What to Know

https://www.military.com/benefits/memorial-benefits/burial-your-spouse-national-cemetery-heres-what-know.html?ESRC=marine_260217.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=marine&utm_campaign=20260217

AROUND THE CORPS...

The Marine Who Crossed a Minefield Unarmed to Wipe Out Japanese Defenses on Iwo Jima:

http://links.ei1.email.military.com/ctt?m=13506309&r=MTEwOTg4OTUzNTA2OQS2&b=0&j=MjQwMDg0NzU2MgS2&k=NEWSLETTER&kx=1&kt=12&kd=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.military.com%2Fdaily-news%2Finvestigations-and-features%2F2026%2F02%2F20%2Fmarine-who-crossed-minefield-unarmed-wipe-out-japanese-defenses-iwo-jima.html%3FESRC%3Dmarine_260224.nl%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dmarine%26utm_campaign%3D20260224

Was the M1 Garand the Wrong Choice?:

https://www.thearmorylife.com/m1941-johnson-rifle/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&kx=jYYaXJBU5mIZUOBs5XKJ9uvxdj1vrTXEU EliZbZtyE8.ThiEKg

And check out this article about the first M16 Rifles in the Vietnam War:

https://www.thearmorylife.com/first-m16-rifles-in-the-vietnam-war/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&kx=UJDMGVCR-LNbYHQ9ASf4sGRn352zibU5KBB-qdtrq9k.ThiEKg

The Youngest American Killed in Vietnam Enlisted in the Marines at 14:

https://www.military.com/daily-news/investigations-and-features/2026/02/11/youngest-american-killed-vietnam-enlisted-marines-14.html?ESRC=marine_260217.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=marine&utm_campaign=20260217

This 20-Year-Old Sacrificed His Life and Became the First Black Marine Medal of Honor Recipient:

https://www.military.com/daily-news/investigations-and-features/2026/02/02/20-year-old-sacrificed-his-life-and-became-first-black-marine-medal-of-honor-recipient.html?ESRC=marine_260210.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=marine&utm_campaign=20260210

Marines Field Anduril Loitering Munitions for Infantry in 2026:

https://www.military.com/feature/2026/01/23/marines-field-anduril-loitering-munitions-infantry-2026.html?ESRC=eb_260130.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20260130

Think tank calls for keeping Guam-bound Marines on Okinawa to counter China:

https://www.stripes.com/branches/marine_corps/2026-02-09/okinawa-guam-marines-relocation-20676544.html

US Marine attack helicopters to field long-range missiles by 2027:

<https://www.defensenews.com/air-warfare/2026/02/04/us-marine-attack-helicopters-to-field-long-range-missiles-by-2027/>

Marines Release Aviation Plan:

https://media.defense.gov/2026/Feb/10/2003873872/-1/-1/0/260210-USMC-2026-AVIATION-PLAN.PDF?oref=d_brief_nl&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20D%20Brief:%20February%2012%2C%202026&utm_term=newsletter_d1_dbrief

Marines will use Air Force-tailored drone to help develop its robot wingman:

https://www.defenseone.com/business/2026/02/marines-will-use-air-force-tailored-drone-help-develop-its-robot-wingman/411379/?oref=d_brief_nl&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20D%20Brief:%20February%2012%2C%202026&utm_term=newsletter_d1_dbrief

... AND AROUND THE WORLD

China's New J-35 Stealth Fighter Is Getting So Many Upgrades It Will Now Fly Until 2050:

<https://nationalsecurityjournal.org/chinas-new-j-35-stealth-fighter-is-getting-so-many-upgrades-it-will-now-fly-until-2050/>

US military builds up the largest force of warships and aircraft in the Middle East in decades:

<https://www.newsday.com/news/nation/us-military-iran-buildup-nuclear-program-j04772>

DETACHMENT CLASSIFIEDS



Flatter Inc.
10700 Spotsylvania Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
www.flatterinc.com
(540) 658-1922

Valerie
Flowers by Val



(540)-371-4509
1230 Emancipation HWY
Fredericksburg Va, 22401

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Fredericksburg VA 22407
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GARDNER & BURKS, P.C.

9108 Courthouse Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
Phone: 540-582-6333
Fax: 540-582-2134

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THE USO OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS
OF DAILY OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS IN
THE USO WARRIOR AND FAMILY CENTER AT FORT BELVOIR

CINCINNATI
USO TRIBUTE
TO THE TROOPS

24th National Champion 1st p BBQ Winner

2019 USMC
National Armed Forces
Champion

First Place
Military
Cook Off
National Capital
Washington, D.C.

2019 USMC
National Armed Forces
Champion

1st Place Military Chef
Cook Off
National Capital BBQ Battle
Washington, D.C.



Metropolitan Washington



DETACHMENT QUARTERMASTERS:

The Ship's Store carries Marine Corps League and Jack Maas Detachment gear. The Detachment Cover is the "official uniform" of the Detachment. Items not in stock may be ordered. If the item is not claimed in 12 months, it will be put into inventory for sale. Payment is by cash, check, or credit card. If you have any ideas for new merchandise, talk to us.

The Ships Store is open before and after the Detachment Meeting but closed during the meeting. It is suggested that members wishing to purchase item(s) do so at least 15 minutes before the meeting begins (30 minutes might be even better).

Price List: (as of 1 Jan 2025)

Detachment Cover (Complete)	\$65.00
Detachment Patch	\$10.00
Detachment Challenge Coin	\$10.00
Birthday Ball 250 th Birthday Challenge Coin	\$20.00
Name tag (Paid when ordered)	\$18.00
Sweatshirt (no hood, S-XL)	\$36.00
Sweatshirts (hooded, S-XL)	\$40.00
Sweatshirts (zippered hoodie, S-XL)	\$45.00
Sweatshirts (2XL and Larger, Add \$5.00)	
Polyester Polo (short sleeve, S-XL)	\$35.00
Polyester Polo (long sleeve S-XL)	\$40.00
Polyester Polo (2XL and Larger, Add \$5.00)	
Cotton/Poly Blend Polo (short sleeve, S-XL)	\$45.00
Cotton/Poly Blend Polo (2XL and Larger, Add \$5.00)	
Dress Shirt (short sleeve, S-XL)	\$40.00
Dress Shirt long sleeve, S-XL)	\$45.00
Dress Shirt (2XL and Larger, Add \$5.00)	
Detachment Ball Caps	\$25.00
Detachment Watch Caps	\$25.00
Fleece Jacket (S-XL)	\$50.00
Fleece Jacket (Add XL and Larger, Add \$5.00)	
Fleece Vest (S-XL)	\$45.00
Fleece Vest (2XL and Larger, Add \$5.00)	
Tank Top Shirt (S – XL)	\$22.00
Tank Top Shirt (2XL and Larger, Add \$3.00)	
Striated Fleece Jacket (S – XL)	\$65.00
Striated Fleece Jacket (2XL and Larger, Add \$5.00)	
Detachment Patches (Up to 12" wide x 13" tall)	Cost varies with size

In Memoriam

Dedicated to perpetuating the memory of those members of Jack Maas Detachment #1379 who have preceded us in reporting to our Supreme Commandant for assignment to their Final Duty Stations. May we ever remember them and honor their service and sacrifices.

Name	Date	Survived By	Internment
Chris Bennett, Major	<u>24 Nov 2024</u>	<u>Oesuk</u>	Quantico
Billy C. Henry, Major	<u>8 Aug 2024</u>	<u>Family</u>	Arlington
William Zlater, MSgt	<u>24 July 2024</u>	<u>Denise</u>	Unknown
Scott Pipenhagen, CWO3	<u>28 April 2024</u>	<u>Suzanne</u>	Quantico
Tiffany Zapata, Cpl	<u>15 May 2023</u>	<u>Nelson</u>	Private Burial
Ralph Wilcox, MSgt	<u>12 April 2023</u>	<u>Children</u>	Quantico
William Bovee, Capt	<u>16 Dec 2022</u>	<u>Margaret</u>	Quantico
Joseph Venable, MGySgt	15 Nov 2022	Jane	Quantico
Robert Guest, GySgt	1 Sep 2022	Mother	Not Stated
Dennis Chambers, Private	25 May 2022	Family	NH State Vet Cemetery
Lawrence "Doc" Rephanshek	12 May 2022	Irene	Quantico
John Hopkins, Major	4 Dec 2021	Daughter	Quantico
Ron Hardisty, SSgt	6 Nov 2021	Son	Quantico
Joseph Bongiovi, Sgt	25 Sep 2021	Barbara	Quantico
Alan Roberts, SgtMaj	19 Sep 2021	Donna	Private Burial
Russell Lloyd, LtCol	7 May 2021	Jean	Quantico
Donald Shiffert, MSgt	19 Oct 2020	Jean	Quantico
Theodore Hartung, LCpl	22 Aug 2020	Betty	Quantico
William Woolf, Sgt	31 May 2019	Lillie	Quantico
Marv Pixton III, Col	15 Jan 2018	Missy	Arlington
Francis Spalding, Unk	27 Mar 2016	Family	Amhurst Cemetery, VA
Anthony Arbisi, Capt	3 June 2015	5 Children	Arlington
Robert Lyman, Major	19 May 2015	Carol	Quantico
Louis Orlando, Capt	21 Sep 2011	Mary	Quantico

Semper Fi