

Semper Certior

Official Newsletter of the Jack Maas Detachment 1379 Marine Corps League

September 2025



The title of this newsletter is the Latin phrase 'Semper Certior', which loosely translates to 'Always Informed'. The Jack Maas Detachment newsletter was started in March 2019 by the late Scott Pipenhagen, who gave it this name. This newsletter is dedicated to his memory.

Same Team. New Mission.

JACK MAAS DETACHMENT 1379 OFFICERS, 2025 – 2026

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DETACHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2025

Sep 8 Detachment Officer's Meeting 19:00.
Sep 20 Detachment Meeting 10:00;
Moose Lodge. Breakfast is at 09:00 (\$10).
Silent Auction to follow the meeting.

October 2025

Oct 13 Detachment Officer's Meeting 19:00.
Oct 18 Detachment Meeting 10:00;
Moose Lodge. BBQ Picnic to Follow.

DETACHMENT INFORMATION

Membership

Our Paymaster, Virgil Young, plans to mail out Membership ID Cards for those who have renewed or become a Paid Life Member (PLM). You can also pick up your ID Card at a Detachment meeting, or you can contact Virgil by email: youngvirgil44@gmail.com

Annual MCL memberships expire on 31 August, so please plan on paying your renewal dues of \$35 before then. You can pay at the detachment's monthly meeting by cash, check, or credit card. You can also pay your dues by mailing a 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

And 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'd 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!

Marine of the Year Award

Belated Congratulations to George Fenton for being selected as the Detachment Marine of the Year Award for 2023!



Commandant Robert Icolari presents the 2023 Marine of the Year Award to George Fenton

2025 Spirit of Hope Award



Tai Mamea

Congratulations to Faafetai 'Tai' Mamea for being selected to receive the prestigious Spirit of Hope award for 2025! The Spirit of Hope Award is a US Department of Defense award presented annually to individuals and organizations who demonstrate exceptional support for the military community, embodying the values of Bob Hope. It recognizes those who significantly enhance the quality of life for service members and their families, often through selfless dedication of time, talent, or resources.

The ceremony will take place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. EDT on Wednesday, Sept. 17, in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon, and you can use the DVIDS link to view the ceremony live or to access the recording afterward at your convenience: www.dvidshub.net/webcast/36648

Again, Congrats to Tai, and more info to follow in next month's newsletter!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By Virgil Young

Jose Vazquez was sworn in as a new member at the July detachment meeting. Jose is originally from Ponce, Puerto Rico. Both of his grandfathers are WW II Army vets, with one also serving in Korea and Vietnam. He grew up wanting to follow in their footsteps of military service, and he did, serving in the Marine Corps from 1994 to 1999.

Jose started recruit training at MCRD, Parris Island, in October 1994 and then went to Camp Geiger, NC, where he earned a Basic Mortarman MOS. From there, he was ordered to the Marine Corps Security Force Regiment (MCSFR) Basic Security Guard School at Chesapeake, VA. After that training, he served in Norfolk, VA with the Marine Corps Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST), a specialized unit within the MCSFR responsible for providing security for vital U.S. naval and national assets around the world. He finished his time in the Corps in the Weapons Platoon of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC.

After the Marine Corps, Jose served 24 years in law enforcement, starting as a corrections officer and then progressing to patrol deputy, SWAT operator, detective, task force officer, supervisor, and administrator. However, he says the best job was as a K9 handler when he worked with Hank, a Blue Heeler, for 4.5 years. They did a lot of work



Commandant Robert Icolari welcomes new Member Jose Vazquez to the Detachment

with the Virginia State Police Task Force, Homeland Security Investigations, and DEA. Hank was a single-purpose narcotics dog; the first canine to be certified in Fentanyl with the Virginia Police Canine Association. Hank now resides with Jose's family after he and Jose both retired from law enforcement. Jose has now started his second career working for the DoD Office of the Inspector General, doing oversight work.

Jose met his wife, Mary, in 1994, shortly after he joined the Marine Corps. They have been together 31 years and married 29 years. They have 4 kids. Their eldest child and only daughter, Ellie, started her first season with the Charlottesville Ballet Company this month. Their oldest boy, Jack, is prepping to go to college, and their two younger boys, Aidan and William, are busy being teenagers. In addition to Hank, they also have two more dogs, a Rat Heeler named Mr. Pickels and Gert, a retired military working dog. Jose adopted Gert last October after Gert was injured while stationed at Ft Bragg and had both of his rear knees operated on. Gert is now a couch potato enjoying his retirement along with Hank and Pickels.

Welcome to the Jack Maas Detachment, Jose!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

by Virgil Young

Glenn Patterson joined the Detachment at the 19 July 2025 meeting. Glenn grew up in a very "Marine" family. His dad served first in the US Navy and then in the Marine Corps in WWII and Korea before settling in Staten Island, NY. After he got out of the Corps, Glenn's dad became very active in MCL Det. #1 in New York City, the oldest detachment in the League, and at one time he was the NY Dept. Commandant and the MCL's National Judge Advocate. He married Glenn's mother but when they divorced Glenn stayed with his dad. After the divorce, Glenn's mother also went into the Marine Corps, married another Marine and both she and Glenn's stepdad eventually reached the rank of Sergeant Major. After high school on Staten Island, Glenn went to Niagara University in Niagara Falls, NY, on an academic and track scholarship. However, Glenn admits that he partied a little too hardy, so at the end of the first year he decided to follow a counselor's advice to go into the military. Without telling his dad, mom or stepdad what he was doing, he enlisted in the Corps and started boot camp at MCRD, Parris Island, in Sept. 1969. Glenn said he had a relatively blissful 11 weeks at PI before his DI found out about his Marine Corps connections, but he graduated as the Honor Recruit anyway.



After boot camp, Glenn went to Camp Lejeune and then on to Okinawa and finally to Vietnam as a basic infantryman. In March 1970, he joined the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, at the An Hoa Combat Base in Quang Nam Province south of Danang and was assigned as an ammo tech at the base ammo dump. Unfortunately, after only a month and a half in-country, he was wounded by shrapnel during a mortar attack and was medevacked, eventually ending up at the Naval Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. After a hospital stay and convalescent leave, he was assigned briefly to the Schools Demonstration Troops at MCB Quantico, VA before he was given an early release from his enlistment contract. He went back to school, taking mostly computer classes, and in 1972 he was contacted by a Marine recruiter asking him to come back into the Corps in the growing computer field. He did so, earning a computer programmer MOS, and working first at Headquarters Marine Corps then in Okinawa, Japan, and finally at MCB Quantico, VA before leaving the Corps in 1980 with a total of about 11 years in the Corps. He spent the next 30 years in the computer field, first as a programmer and then as a consultant with various companies.

After Glenn married in 1980, he and his family lived in Northern VA until about 2002, when he and his wife amicably separated and eventually divorced in 2024. Glenn moved to Stafford County in 2011, first working for Cox Communications and then he started his own landscaping business before retiring completely in 2017. Glenn and his wife had 2 daughters, one of whom now lives near Philadelphia, PA and the other lives in Winnipeg, Canada. He has 2 grandsons and 3 granddaughters.

Glenn says he joined another MCL detachment for a few years, and tried the American Legion for a while, but they seemed interested in just sitting around drinking and telling war stories, so he didn't keep those memberships for long. He thinks he's found the perfect fit with our detachment.

Welcome to the Jack Maas Detachment, Glenn!

STP Dinner

Several members of the detachment gathered at Billiken's Smokehouse restaurant in downtown Fredericksburg for our monthly STP Dinner. STP stands for "Same Ten/Twenty/Thirty People". We invite all members to join us for future STP dinners; we choose a different restaurant at 6PM on the 4th Thursday of each month. Our next dinner will be at the Five Chop House in Fredericksburg on 25 September. If you'd like to recommend and coordinate an upcoming STP dinner, please contact Mike Chmielewski (see contact info in the listing of officers above).



Jack Maas Detachment 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball

by Committee Chair Virgil Young

BAR BQ FUNDRAISER



We had another 3-day Bar BQ event 25-27 July, and handed out flyers along Rte. 3 on Fri., 25 July announcing the event, since our flyers have brought in a lot of customers in the past. Jeremiah Burns presented the Detachment with a donation of \$1,000 from the proceeds of the fundraiser!

Thanks to all of the members who helped, and special thanks to Jeremiah for supporting our Birthday Ball Fundraisers!

Jeremiah Burns presents a check for \$1,000 to Commandant Robert Icolari

PURCHASE CHALLENGE COINS!

At the July meeting, the Jack Maas Detachment began a pre-order sale for a new commemorative challenge coin in celebration of the 250th birthday of our beloved Corps. The proceeds of the coin sales will go to fund the Detachment's Birthday Ball. Only 200 coins will be struck, and once we sell out, we will likely not be ordering more. If you are interested in purchasing a piece of our Detachment's (and Marine Corps) history, you can pre-order coins at our next Detachment meeting. Coins are \$20 each, with a \$0.70 service charge per coin for credit card purchases. We hope to have the coins delivered at the September Detachment meeting, and any remaining coins will be available for purchase.



SURPRISING DONATION

Jack Maas Detachment received a surprising contribution towards our Birthday Ball fund recently, when Mr. William Vakos, Jr. donated \$1,000. Mr. Vakos, a Marine Infantry Officer during the Vietnam War, met with our Commandant Robert Icolari, Junior Vice Commandant Mike Chmielewski, and Paymaster Virgil Young for a lengthy discussion of our shared history and values. It was a pleasure to meet with Mr. Vakos, and we hope he will join us at our Birthday Ball in November!



Virgil Young, Mr. Vakos, Robert Icolari, Mike Chmielewski

Mr. Vakos is a well-known and respected Real Estate developer in the Fredericksburg area. A very private and humble man, Mr. Vakos is not as well known for his combat exploits in Vietnam where he was awarded the Silver Star.

UPCOMING SILENT AUCTION AT OUR 20 SEPTEMBER DETACHMENT MEETING

We will conduct a silent auction at the end of our next detachment meeting to raise funds for the ball. If you have some “lesser treasures” lying around your house that you think some other detachment member might enjoy, please bring them to the meeting and we’ll put them on display for people to bid on. Plan to arrive at least half an hour early so we have time to set all the treasures up so other members can see what items are available for bid. If you email me (youngvirgil44@gmail.com) a short description of the item before the meeting, I’ll put it on the sheet of paper where people can list their bids for the auction. If an item has some historical significance or connection to a famous Marine, for example, make sure you include that information in your description.

Finally, if you have a neighbor, a relative, a friend or a business you deal with regularly that you think might support our celebration of the 250th Birthday of our Corps, talk to them about becoming a donor or a sponsor. Print out and give them copies of the Donor/Sponsor Flyer you’ve received, identifying what benefits a donor or sponsor gets for supporting the ball at varying levels, and the letter describing our tax-exempt status.

250TH BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, GENERAL ERIC SMITH

ALMAR 034/24

On 10 November 2025, the United States Marine Corps will celebrate our 250th birthday — a momentous occasion that honors two-and -a-half centuries of service, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to our Nation. Since our founding in Philadelphia in 1775, Marines have answered the call and fought bravely in every clime and place. Each generation forged warriors who have embodied our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. For 250 years, Marines have served at the tip of the spear, standing ready when our Nation was least ready and resolute in the face of adversity – from the shores of Tripoli to the mountains of Afghanistan. This incredible legacy fortifies everyone who earns the title Marine, creating an unbreakable bond that ties us to the generations of Marines who came before us and ensuring that the ideals on which our Nation was founded will endure. As we approach this significant anniversary, let us reflect on the extraordinary journey we share as a Corps. Our 250th birthday offers a unique opportunity to honor our veterans who paved the way, to connect deeply with our fellow Americans, and to inspire future generations to fight under the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. Throughout 2025, we will engage in a nationwide campaign, featuring two national-level capstone events and six Marine Weeks across major cities, where we will proudly showcase the heart and soul of our Corps. I call upon each of you — Marines, past and present — to participate in these celebrations with enthusiasm. Organize events within your commands, share stories of valor and comradeship, and let the world know what it truly means to be a Marine. Reflect on the reasons you joined, the sacrifices Marines have made, and the extraordinary bond that unites us. Together, let us celebrate not just our past, but the spirit that drives us forward. As we stand on the brink of this historic celebration, remember that being a Marine is not just a duty – it is a calling that demands the best of us. Let us carry forward the torch of honor and commitment, illuminating the path for those who will follow. The future of our Corps shines brightly because of the legacy we build today. Together, we are not just part of a military branch. We are part of something greater than ourselves — an extraordinary journey marked by bravery, sacrifice, and unyielding loyalty.



LCPL CALEB JOHN POWERS UNIT YOUNG MARINES

POWERS' PRIDE

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

During the week of August 13th–16th, Young Marines from across the nation came together at Window Rock, Arizona, for one united purpose and one shared mission: to honor the legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers. These brave Native American men played a vital role in helping the United States win World War II by using their native language to transmit secret military messages.

To pay tribute, Young Marines participated in parades, engaged in community service, and helped preserve the memory of the Navajo Code Talkers during the official day on August 14th, Navajo Code Talkers Day.



In addition to the formal tributes, the Young Marines immersed themselves in the rich cultural heritage of the Navajo Nation, gaining a deeper appreciation for the resilience and sacrifice of the Code Talkers. This experience fostered a sense of unity, pride, and purpose, reminding every participant that honoring history means carrying its lessons forward with respect and resolve.

Four Generations of Fentons in the Marine Corps



*Then-Col Francis I Fenton Sr in prayer over
Pvt M.J. Fenton Okinawa, Japan 8 May 1945*



*Then-Captain Ike Fenton USMC
Baker Company, 1st Bn 5th Mar;
Obong-ni Ridge, Natong Bulge,
Korea 1950*



*Then-LtCol George P Fenton USMC,
S3 24 MEU (SOC), Somalia 1993*



*Then-Captain G. Patrick Fenton USMC
FAST Plt Cmdr, US Embassy
Sanaa' Yemen 2013*

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...

DETACHMENT CLASSIFIEDS



Jeremiah's Kansas City Style BarBQ
M/GySgt Burns, Jeremiah USMC, Ret
MCB QUANTICO

web:jeremiahskansascitystylebarbq.com

email:jeremiahbbq@comcast.net

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4TH ANNUAL

QUANTICO 24-HOUR WALK, RUN & RELAY

OCT 4 & 5
235 Potomac Ave, Quantico, VA, 22134

\$40
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Registration includes:
T-Shirt, hat, swagbag, snacks, midnight
pizza party, pancake breakfast and more!
Benefits Semper Fi & America's Fund
1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Team Mileage Awards
1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Male & Female Mileage Awards
Prizes for fastest 5K, 10K, half, full, 50K

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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