

# Semper Certior

## Official Newsletter of the Jack Maas Detachment 1379 Marine Corps League

**December 2025 / January 2026**



As many of you may know, I was on travel out of the country for most of November, which was a VERY busy month for the Detachment, with many events to cover. Due to the schedule constraints, and the upcoming holidays, I made the decision to publish a single newsletter to cover December '25 and January '26.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mike Chmielewski, Newsletter Editor

## Same Team. New Mission.

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## **DETACHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **December 2025**

13 Wreath laying ceremony at the grave of Col Jack Maas; 10:00 at the Quantico National Cemetery, followed by Detachment Meeting at the Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico. Lunch at Tun Tavern.

### **January 2026**

12 Detachment Officer's Meeting 18:30; VFW.  
17 Detachment Meeting 10:00; Moose Lodge.  
22 STP Dinner 18:00; Location TBD.

## **NATIONAL, DIVISION, DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Mid-Winter National Conference:**

26-28 Feb 2026; Arlington VA

## **DETACHMENT INFORMATION**

### **Membership**

Annual MCL memberships expire on 31 August, but as of 18 December, the following 15 members have not renewed your annual memberships: Brad Anderson, Tabitha Bartley, Felicia Beaulieu, Robert Crum, Brendan Dean, Tristan Dunlop, Robert Eckerfield, Jorge Fernandez, Alexa MacMurray, Jonathan Myers, Bernard Rogan, Kirk Ross, Alfred Rothschild, and Roger Wood. 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!

### **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 to eat at 6pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month. 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).

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Claude St. Dennis	11 Dani Butler
3 Todd Taylor	18 Sherman Brown
11 Kevin Brown	28 Brenden Dean

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

4 Bill Anderson	21 Jose Vazquez
10 Frances MacDonald	26 Jim Brant
17 Michael Diamond	26 Paul Nichols
21 Nelson Zapata	27 Jason Taylor

## **MARINE CORPS HISTORY IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

- 4 Dec 1950 LtCol Raymond G. Davis leads 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, into Hagaru-Ri, breaking through enemy lines in the vicinity of Chosin Reservoir. Davis later receives the Medal of Honor.
- 7 Dec 1941 Pearl Harbor is attacked, including Marine Corps facilities at Kaneohe Bay.
- 8 Dec 1941 Japanese forces attack Wake Island; Marines heroically defend it for over two weeks before being forced to surrender on 23 December 23.
- 9 Dec 1992 Operation RESTORE HOPE to provide humanitarian relief in Somalia begins.
- 15 Dec 1948 Marine Security Guard Program to protect U.S. embassies around the world begins.
- 20 Dec 1989 Operation JUST CAUSE to protect American lives and restore democracy in Panama begins.
- Jan 1968 Tet Offensive, Vietnam: Battles of Khe Sanh and Hue City.
- 3 Jan 1777 Battle of Princeton: Continental Marines fought alongside the Continental Army
- 10 Jan 1995 Operation UNITED SHIELD: Deployment of Marines to Somalia was announced to assist in the withdrawal of United Nations peacekeeping troops.
- 16 Jan 1991 Operation DESERT STORM: Air campaign against Iraq begins. Ground combat began on January 29 with an Iraqi attack on Khafji, Saudi Arabia, which was recaptured with support from the 1st Marine Division.
- 18 Jan 1951 Korean War Operations: Following their withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir, the 1st Marine Division began operations against guerrillas in South Korea.
- 20 Jan 1918 First Overseas Aviation Unit: The 1st Aeronautical Company was one of the first American aviation units to serve overseas, arriving in the Azores for anti-submarine duty.
- 22 Jan 1969 Operation DEWEY CANYON: Operations in the A Shau/Da Krong Valleys began, resulting in heavy enemy casualties and the recovery of large amounts of weapons and ammunition.

## **MARINE OF THE YEAR**



Congratulations to Sam McDonald for being selected as the Marine of the Year for the Jack Maas Detachment in 2025! The Marine of the Year Award is annually voted on by past Marines of the Year. The award was well deserved; in addition to his duties as Quartermaster, Sam does much for the Detachment, most of it behind the scenes. Well done, Marine!

*Past Commandant Michael Diamond presents the Marine of the Year award to Sam McDonald.*

## **NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

By Virgil Young

We welcomed seven new members to our Detachment at our November meeting, a record number for a single month! Our new members are: Jim Brant, Jason McKinney, Raymond “Mike” Burns, Chris Rigopoulos, Paul Nichols, Edward Durant, and Richard Laczavics. Several “New Member Spotlights” follow:



*New members (L-R): Chris Rigopoulos (you can't see his face), Jason McKinney, Richard Laczavics, Jim Brant, Paul Nichols, Edward “Ted” Durant and Raymond “Mike” Burns.*

### **TED DURANT**

Edward “Ted” Durant, Colonel, USMC (Ret.), grew up in Bridgeport, CT and graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government in 1988. While attending the University of Connecticut Law School he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Aug. 1992 after completing Officer Candidates School (OCS), Quantico, VA. He later graduated from The Basic School at Quantico in April 1994 and the Naval Justice School in Newport, RI, graduating with honors and earning the 4402 (Judge Advocate) MOS. In Sept. 1994, Ted was assigned to Camp Pendleton, CA, where he served in a multitude of billets, including trial defense counsel. From July 1997 through May 1998, he attended Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, VA and was then selected to be a platoon commander at OCS for the summer of 1998. From Sept. 1998 to July 2001, he was assigned to the Navy-Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity (NAMARA), Washington, D.C., where he represented the government on appeals to the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

In Aug. 2001, Ted resigned from active duty and immediately joined the 4th Civil Affairs Group (CAG), Washington, DC. In May 2002, he attended the Army's Civil Affairs School in Washington, DC, where he was recognized as the distinguished honor graduate. He received a secondary MOS from this, 0530 (Civil Affairs Officer). From Aug. through Oct. 2002, he deployed to Kosovo as the Civil-Military Operations Officer attached to 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable. From Feb. through Sept. 2003, he deployed with the 4<sup>th</sup> CAG in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, serving as the Operations Officer for the CAG's detachment in Al Kut, Iraq. He also served as a civil-military team leader attached to 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines.

From Feb. 2004 through Sept. 2007, Ted served as an Appellate Defense Counsel at NAMARA and from Oct. 2007 through June 2012, he served as an instructor for the Marine Corps Law of War Detachment, Henderson Hall, VA, where he taught deploying Marines the law of armed conflict. In 2011, he served as an action officer for Joint Task Force North, Fort Bliss, TX. From July 2012 through Jan. 2014, Ted served as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Marine Forces Command, Norfolk, VA. From Jan. 2014 through Nov. 2016, Ted served as the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) for the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. In Dec. 2016, he was selected to serve as the Branch Head, Defense Services Branch, Reserve Legal Support, Judge Advocate Division. From 2018 through 2020, Ted served as the SJA for the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. From 2021 until his full retirement in 2023, he served as the Reserve Deputy Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Since Sept. 2001 Ted has worked as a trial attorney with the Department of Justice, Office of Immigration Litigation, Washington, DC. He lives in Fredericksburg, VA and is married to the former Tara Nance of Des Moines, Iowa. They have three children: Lindsay, Teddy and Camilla. In his spare time, Ted likes to workout, spend time with family and friends, preferably outside by a camp fire, watch college football, particularly Penn State, and go to Mass.

## **CHRIS RIGOPOULOS**

Chris grew up in Oak Ridge, TN and graduated from the Oak Ridge High School in 1984. He enlisted in the USMC in 1983 and went to MCRD, Parris Island, SC. He was then ordered to Marine Engineer School, Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune, NC where he received a Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 1371 (combat engineer). In Sept. 1984, he joined Delta Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion, USMCR, in Knoxville, TN. In 1990, they deployed to Saudi Arabia where they trained in explosive minefield breaching and then in 1991, he led a demolition team in combat in Kuwait, explosively breaching two mine-field belts under enemy fire. When he left Delta Company in 1997, he was a gunnery sergeant. During his time in Delta Company, his civilian job was as a firefighter in Knox County, TN. Over the course of 10 years, he rose to the rank of Fire Captain, eventually supervising all matters related to responses to Fire/EMS calls-for-service for firefighters assigned to engine companies in two fire stations. He also took classes at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, graduating in Dec. 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

In 1997, Chris began his career as an FBI Special Agent and by the time he retired, he was recognized as one of the FBI's foremost experts in bombing investigations. After completing the FBI's New Agent Training at Quantico, VA, he was assigned to the Philadelphia, PA Field Office. Later, he was certified as an FBI Special Agent Bomb Technician after training at the Hazardous Devices School, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL. He also started working on the office's Hazardous Evidence Response Team and eventually became the supervisor of the 24-person team. He led the team when they responded to Ground Zero in New York City after the 9/11 attack and led the team when it conducted searches and other investigations related to the delivery of anthrax-laced letters to public officials in Nov. 2001. Later, he was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a Combined Explosives Exploitation Cell that conducted render-safe procedures and forensic exploitation on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). He also became a canine handler with "Bandit" an explosive-detection-canine. In 2006, he was promoted and ordered to the FBI Laboratory's Explosives Unit in Quantico, VA. He then was deployed to many domestic and international bombing crime scenes to conduct post-blast investigations. He completed forensic

exams of numerous IED components and gave expert testimony in many high-profile cases. He also trained more than 8,000 investigators in that program and other elements of bombing investigations before he retired from the FBI in 2021.

From 2022 to 2024, Chris worked for a US DOJ program in Somalia as an advisor to the Somali Police Force on all matters related to bombing investigations. Since 2024, he has worked for Amentum, an engineering and technology solutions company with 50,000 employees in more than 70 countries, as a program manager providing counter-IED training and programs.

Chris and his wife, Yvonne, were married in 1993 and have lived in the Fredericksburg area since 2006. They have three adult children in the Virginia area. In his spare time, Chris enjoys riding his Indian motorcycle as a member of the Strength and Honor law enforcement motorcycle club.

## **JASON MCKINNEY**

Jason grew up in Henry County, GA, about 30 miles south of Atlanta, and graduated from Eagle's Landing High School in 2000. After completion of boot camp at Parris Island, SC in Dec 2000, he was ordered to Marine Corps Reserve 4<sup>th</sup> Force Service Support Group, in Rome, GA, where he served for 6 years as an ammo tech (MOS 2311). In 2003, he was activated for a deployment in Iraq of about 7 months supporting Combat Service Support Battalion 18 distributing ammo from Camp Viper to Baghdad. When he wasn't on active USMC duty, he worked in his civilian life first as a firefighter and then in elevator construction in Atlanta before returning to active duty in the Corps in 2007. He was again deployed to Iraq in 2007 to Al Asad Air Base as an ammo tech with Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 372. He submitted a lateral move package to join the Explosive Ordnance Disposal field (MOS 2336) and in 2008 he was ordered to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida to attend the Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). For the rest of his time in the Corps, he was assigned to this new MOS. He was initially ordered to Okinawa, Japan attached to MWSS-172 supporting wing and base operations as an EOD Tech. He was then deployed to Afghanistan in 2011-2012 to provide EOD support to various Forward Operating Bases. In 2013, he was ordered to Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA as part of the Base EOD Response Team before his final USMC assignment as an instructor at the Methods of Entry Course, Weapons Training Battalion, at MCB, Quantico. In 2018, he was medically retired as a SSgt with 18 total years of service.

After his retirement from the Corps, Jason began working as a contractor for various companies supporting the EOD field for the Army and the Marine Corps. He currently works for Skylla Engineering, LTD, a business involved with the nation's defense, energy and environmental security located in Stafford County. Jason works on contracts related to logistics and engineering for EOD operations.

Jason and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Michelle, have a total of 4 children aged 5 to 21, with 2 still living at home. Michelle is a human resources representative for the VA Department of Health. Jason is recovering from a recent back surgery and is on what he calls a "weight loss recovery journey" that has already seen him lose 40 pounds. He says he's looking forward to being able to play softball and golf again. He also leads a ministry group called "Valor and Faith" for veterans and first responders at the Encounter Church of God in Fredericksburg. He holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Technical Management from Devry University and is working on a Master's of Arts degree in Christian Leadership from Liberty University.

## **RAYMOND M. (MIKE) BURNS**

Raymond M. (Mike) Burns, Colonel, USMC (Ret.) grew up moving frequently (8 times) as an Army Brat. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in math and physics from the University of Southern Mississippi and then received his USMC commission through the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) Program in 1965. He was also a Corporal in the Marine Reserves in 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon Company in

Mobile, AL. After attending The Basic School at Quantico, VA, he went to Naval Air Station (NAS), Pensacola, FL for the Basic Naval Flight Officer (NFO) Course. From there he was ordered to NAS Glynco, GA for Radar Intercept Officer (RIO) training where he got his NFO wings. He then went to Bombardier/Navigator (B/N) training at NAS Sanford, FL in RVAH-3, the Reconnaissance Attack (Heavy) Squadron for training in the TA-3, the trainer version of the A-3 Skywarrior, a Navy strategic bomber. In 1966, he joined VMA(AW)-225, a Marine All-Weather Attack squadron, flying the A-6A Intruder out of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Cherry Point, NC. There he picked up callsigns of Black Cloud, Big Tuna and finally Bones, as well as his 7583 B/N MOS.

In 1967, Mike was ordered to VMA(AW)-242, nicknamed the "Batmen," flying A-6A Intruders out of Danang, S. Vietnam. He flew 215 combat missions, with 110 of them over North Vietnam. His next assignment was to VMA(AW)-224 at MCAS Cherry Point, NC in 1968. After that assignment he served in Maintenance billets in various squadrons located in Iwakuni, Japan and El Toro, CA. From 1975 until his retirement, he rotated between command and staff positions at Headquarters Marine Corps, CNO OPNAV Staff in the Pentagon and Redstone Arsenal, AL. He served as the Commanding Officer of Marine Air Base Squadron (MABS) 12, Iwakuni, Japan in 1982; as CO of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron (H&MS)-14 at Cherry Point, NC in 1983, and as CO of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-12 (The Ready Group) in Iwakuni, Japan in 1988-1990. His final billet was as Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC) Quantico, VA from 1990 until his retirement in 1992. When he retired, he had served 27 years, 7 months and 26 days in the Corps.

During his Marine Corps career, Mike got a Master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Ordnance Systems Engineering in 1972, and he graduated from the USMC Command & Staff College, Quantico, VA in 1978. In 1986 he graduated from the Senior Officials in National Security (SONS) Program at the JFK School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

After his retirement from the Marine Corps, Mike spent 16 years in Business Development for 3 companies in the Defense Aerospace industry: Ferranti of Edinburgh, Scotland; Marconi Electronic Systems of Rochester, England; and BAE Systems of Farnborough, England. He moved from Aquia Harbour in Stafford, VA to Fredericksburg, VA in 2008.

Mike is now a full-time grandpa. His son Scott and daughter Stacey Burns Broughton are nearby, as are his son in law John Broughton and grandkids Caroline, Jack and Lauren Broughton.

## **TOYS FOR TOTS**



**OUR 2025 GOAL: 1000 TOYS!!**

The Toys for Tots Foundation drive began last month, and continued through mid-December. Last year we collected nearly 900 toys; this year we collected a total of 2,595 toys, and almost \$600 in donations! Our efforts this season were led by Ernie Bartosh. Ernie and his "elves" put out over 100 boxes at local businesses and organizations, and spent 30 hours working at the Toys for Tots distribution center. Toys are distributed throughout 16 counties in central Virginia. Congratulations to Ernie and his team for their extraordinary efforts! All members supporting the drive will be awarded The Toys-For-Tots Lapel Pin, and will receive a certificate of appreciation from Dumpy, our Jack Maas Detachment Elf Liaison from the North Pole!

## **VA HEALTH CARE CENTER BENCH PROJECT**

Bring your plastic grocery-type bags to our next meeting so they can be recycled into a bench at the VA Health Care Center. See Ernie Bartosh for details.

## **SPOTSYLVANIA SHERRIF'S DEPARTMENT VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION**

The Detachment participated in the Spotsylvania County Sherrif's Department Veteran's Day celebration on Saturday 1 Nov. In addition to celebrating Veterans, our Detachment made contact with 4 potential new members!



*Andy Dorman mans the Detachment recruiting table.*



*Ronnie Edwards renders a hand salute.*



*Virgil Young places his ball cap over his heart.*

## **FREDERICKSBURG AREA VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION**

The Detachment participated in the Fredericksburg Area Veterans Council (FAVC) ceremony on Veterans Day, Tuesday 11 November. The event began with a march at 10:30 beginning at the Memorial Park and concluding with a ceremony at the Fredericksburg Area War Memorial.



*Chuck Zingler (USN Ret), Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.  
Photo courtesy of John Sims via Hyperbole social media site.*



*Commandant Robert Icolari and other members attend the ceremony.*

*Photo courtesy of John Sims via Hyperbole social media site.*



*Ernie Bartosh and other members march to the ceremony.*



*Commandant Icolari and others render a salute during ceremony.*

*(Photos courtesy of Ted Schubel at B-101.5/NewsTalk 1230)*

## **MARINE CORPS' 250TH ANNIVERSARY**

By Steve Hansen

On Monday, 10 November of this year, Ray Conklin and I went to the Museum of the Marine Corps to celebrate our Corps' 250th anniversary. Attendance at the Museum rivaled its opening day. Lines were extremely long. When we finally got into the museum, they had opened a small section that visitors could see significant displays honoring the Corps' long existence. While there, Ray and I met T.J. Morgan who is the Marine Corps League National Commandant.



*(L – R) Steve Hansen, MCL National Commandant T. J. Morgan, and Ray Conklin.*

Ray Conklin and I had lunch at the Museum's Tun Tavern. At the end of the meal and when tabs were paid, they presented each of us with a 250th anniversary coin.



*A picture of both sides of the Marine Corps 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary challenge coin presented at the event.*

## **JACK MAAS DETACHMENT #1379 BIRTHDAY BALL CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF OUR CORPS**

On Sat., 8 Nov., at Moose Lodge #1655, the detachment held a very successful birthday ball with about 160 attendees celebrating the founding of the United States Marine Corps. A beautiful ball program was on each attendee's plate when they arrived at their assigned table. After a social hour beginning at 17:00 with drinks and hors d'oeuvres, the attendees were shown the official birthday video message from the Marine Corps Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps on a large screen to kick off the birthday celebration. Detachment Commandant Robert Icolari then escorted Guest of Honor Lt. Col. R. L. "Wild Bill" Cody, USMC (Ret.) into the ballroom. The colors were presented by our new detachment color guard consisting of Detachment Members Jason Hierwarter, Kevin Brown, Ernie Bartosh and Clayton Hill. After the national anthem was played, Detachment Chaplain Mike Remington gave an opening prayer before the traditional cake-cutting ceremony began.

Narrator Clinton Firstbrook read the traditional birthday messages from former Marine Corps Commandant John A. Lejeune and current Marine Corps Commandant Eric M. Smith. Detachment Commandant Icolari then used Detachment Member Bill Anderson's Mameluke sword to cut the cake, with the first piece going to the Guest of Honor. Sharing a piece of the ceremonial cake, were Detachment Member Claude St. Dennis, who was born in 1928 and was the oldest Marine present, and Lance Corporal Miah Hierwarter, USMC, who was born in 2004 and was the youngest Marine present. She is the daughter of Detachment Member Jason Hierwarter.

At the conclusion of the cake-cutting ceremony, attendees were treated to a delicious meal prepared by Detachment Member Jeremiah Burns, his wife Sheila, and their staff, followed by the Guest of Honor's remarks. Lt. Col. Cody gave a moving presentation, reviewing some of the highlights of the 250 years of Marine Corps history from the perspective gained from his 30 years in the Corps and from his perspective as a military historian. We were pleased that we were able to host 12 of Lt. Col. Cody's family members at the ball to hear his inspiring talk. After the Guest of Honor's remarks, Sam the DJ provided dance music for the attendees. As the attendees left the ball late that evening, they were given a commemorative glass to help them remember the ball.

Professional photographers took candid and posed pictures all evening. Here's a link to the photos, which are available for purchase: <https://kryskenllc.pic-time.com/HyJqhT9AIKcsQ>

The ball was a resounding success and stood out for a number of reasons, including the following:

- As the first ball the detachment has ever sponsored, the size was certainly impressive. Since the detachment has slightly more than 100 members, to get 160 attendees was remarkable.
- Since other birthday balls in the area were charging from \$75 to \$140 per person, the fact that we could charge only \$30 per ticket to our detachment members was also very impressive.
- That the detachment was able to put on the ball without dipping into any of the detachment's pre-existing funds was certainly remarkable. In fact, we raised more than \$16,000 in cash through a variety of means to pay all the ball's expenses.
- In addition to the cash, we got numerous large and small donations-in-kind to support the ball. One of the most important was the large donation by Flatter, Inc. of the ceremonial rifles and gear for our new color guard. With the training provided by Detachment Member Ronnie Edwards, our detachment color guard will now be available to represent the detachment at many activities in the future. We also got a donation of the ball birthday cake by Wegman's and donations of gift cards and other goods from numerous local vendors.
- And, finally, while conducting fundraising and other activities related to the ball, we came into contact with many Marines and other individuals who had not previously been aware of our detachment's existence. As a result, we have already gotten new members, and we will continue to get additional new members that can be directly traced to our ball activities.

The following pictures are just a small sample showing the pageantry and fun at the ball:



*Narrator Clinton Firstbrook addresses the Ball participants.*



*Commandant Robert Icolari and Guest of Honor Col "Bill" Cody.*



*Members of the Color Guard, L-R: Jason Heirwarter, Kevin Brown, Sam McDonald, and Ernie Bartosh.*



*Commandant Robert Icolari presents the first piece of Birthday cake to the oldest Marine present, Claude St. Dennis.*



*Guest of Honor, LtCol "Bill" Cody delivers his remarks.*



*LCpl Miah Hierwarter enjoys a piece of Birthday cake as the youngest Marine present.*



*Participants render honors during the National Anthem.*



*Some of the ladies showing their moves on the dance floor.*



*Kevin Brown (center) and others having fun dancing.*

## PURCHASE CHALLENGE COINS!

If you are interested in owning a piece of our Detachment's (and Marine Corps) history, there is still a limited quantity of Jack Maas 250<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday challenge coins available for purchase at our next Detachment meeting. Coins are \$20 each, with a \$0.70 service charge per coin for credit card purchases.



## LCPL CALEB JOHN POWERS UNIT YOUNG MARINES

### POWERS' PRIDE

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



On 8 Nov., I had the incredible honor of being one of two Young Marines to receive the Young Marine Jimmy Trimble Award and scholarship at the 28th annual American Valor Honor Gala in Washington, DC hosted by the American Veterans Center. Trimble was a star athlete who passed up the chance to play professional baseball so he could serve in the Marines during World War II.

It felt amazing to have my hard work recognized, and it reminded me how grateful I am for the people and experiences that have shaped me in the program. Getting invited to the red-tie gala was something I'll never forget. The whole event felt bigger than anything I'd ever been part of, and standing there to receive my award was both exciting and a little surreal.

One of the coolest parts was meeting Rob Riggle and seeing Wilmer Valderrama in person. It's not every day you get to be in the same room as actors you've watched on TV for years. Moments like that made the whole experience even more special.



(Photo and caption courtesy of the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star) Faith Clevenger, right, is one of two national recipients of the Jimmy Trimble Award and scholarship. She's shown with fellow Young Marine Jadan Rogers, left, of Honolulu and Rob Riggle, an actor and comedian who's also a retired lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps.

# DONATIONS PRESENTED TO HELP SEND A YOUNG MARINE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2025 PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL SERVICE

by Detachment YM Liaison, Virgil Young



*Commandant Robert Icolari presents  
A check to YM/Sgt Faith Clevenger.*

In our Nov. newsletter, we asked our members to consider donating funds to help send YM/Sgt. Faith Clevenger and her mother to join other Young Marines at the Pearl Harbor, HI memorial activities around the anniversary of the deadly attack on our 7th Fleet on 7 Dec. 1941 - and you all came through! At the 15 Nov. detachment meeting, we collected \$1,215 in cash and checks to help pay their trip expenses.

As shown in the photograph at left, Detachment Commandant Icolari presented the funds to YM/Sgt. Clevenger at the beginning of the Lance Corporal Caleb John Powers YM Unit drill at the VFW Hall on Sat., 22 Nov., and gave her our best wishes that she have a wonderful trip.

The photo below was taken at the National Military Cemetery of the Pacific.

## REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR



PROVIDED BY YOUNG MARINES

The LCpl. Caleb John Powers Young Marines from Fredericksburg was among 24 Young Marines units from across the nation to participate in ceremonies for the 84th anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The local unit participated in a beach cleanup on Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay, the wreath-laying ceremony at "The Punchbowl," the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, in memory of those interred at the site, a Klipper Ceremony at Marine Corps Base Hawaii and the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Honolulu. Young Marines performed a color guard and carried the banners of the 12 capital ships that were attacked and assisted with floats in the parade.

*Photo courtesy of the Free Lance Star.*

## **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](mailto:skip03@comcast.net)

## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES (VDVS) NEWSLETTER**

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

## **NEW FOUR PART DOCUMENTARY ON MARINES**

On Thursday Netflix released its first trailer for “Marines,” a four-episode documentary series on the U.S. Marine Corps. All four episodes are set to air on the service’s 250th birthday on Nov. 10:

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2025/10/17/netflix-drops-trailer-for-upcoming-marines-documentary/>

## **THE RIFLE, THE CREED AND THE GENERAL**

Interesting article honoring the Legacy Of Major General William H. Rupertus (Marine Corps Association):

[https://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/the-rifle-the-creed-and-the-general/?utm\\_source=Klaviyo&utm\\_medium=email&kx=QOgT3A7JNYzu2vhDEr5d5XVx5T8ikax8j5eZqiLDK7IV9OtFFIDzCTj6FDd66sAd.JRP9hF](https://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/the-rifle-the-creed-and-the-general/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&kx=QOgT3A7JNYzu2vhDEr5d5XVx5T8ikax8j5eZqiLDK7IV9OtFFIDzCTj6FDd66sAd.JRP9hF)

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## **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 <sup>th</sup> 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.*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Survived By</b>	<b>Internment</b>
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*