



June 2020 — July 2020

# SEMPER FI

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League

## Commandant's Corner



## What We Do



These are trying and confusing times. But I pray that you are all keeping safe and healthy. We don't know when this pandemic will end. Also, when it does end, if it will return worse than our current situation, as indicated. We cannot live in fear. All we can do is continue to follow the Center for Disease Control's instructions of being careful, washing our hands thoroughly, wearing masks, social distancing, and continue to march on.

The current situation has lead us to different methods of communicating and getting together. Our last Department meeting was held via Conference Calling. "Zoom" is the buzz word for meetings and gathering. We used Zoom for a Department Executive Board meeting on 25 April 2020. It worked well and we will use it again.

Currently, our Department of Connecticut annual Convention has been postponed until 2 and 3 October 2020. The Department of Massachusetts has canceled it's annual convention until next year and the Quad-State Convention has been postponed until July. The Marine Corps League National Headquarters has published instructions for both Detachments and Departments on how to conduct emergency elections for board of directors. Connecticut Detachment Commandants should have these instructions. The bottom line is Detachments can conduct elections via electronic means. However, the Department must hold physical elections. Therefore, our Department Board of Executives will not change until we can meet at a convention or a special mass meeting.

So, as I stated in our last newsletter, please keep yourself safe and healthy and do not take any chances. As we stay apart, lets stay together by reaching out to each other, especially those who we haven't heard from in a while, via phone, email, skype, zoom, conference call, or drive by. This too will end, but we need to come back together, stronger and motivated to carry on the Marine Corps League mission. I hope to see you all soon.

Semper Fi,  
Adele Hodges  
Commandant, Department of Connecticut  
Marine Corps League

The Marine Corps League is proud to support our Marines in many areas. We have 10 Divisions covering 48 Departments, and over 1,140 Detachments in communities across the Country.

We support the Toys for Tots efforts working with the Marine Corps Reserve and Toys for Tots Foundation to raise millions of dollars for the youth of America, collect and distribute millions of toys all across the United States.

The Ma-  
hon-

rine Corps League provides funeral support to over 10,000 funerals per year. This support allows the Marine Corps (Active and Reserve) to focus more of their resources on mission preparation.

The Marine Corps League supports the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Semper Fi Fund, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Mack's Marines, and the Young Marines. We have several scholarship/award programs including the Merchant Marine Academy Marine-Option Honor Graduate, Marine Corps University LtGen Lejeune (Iuhjern) Leadership Award, Delta Dental Scholarship, and college scholarships through the Marine Corps League Foundation.

One of our most critical missions is assisting transitioning Marines and their families in support of the Marine Corps' Marine for Life program.

With our partners at the Marine Corps Association and Foundation, we produce the Marine Military Expositions including Modern Day Marine Expo, Marine West Expo, and Marine South Expo.

The Marine Corps League produces a quarterly publication called the Semper Fi Magazine.

We have many programs supporting our Marines, their families, and our community:

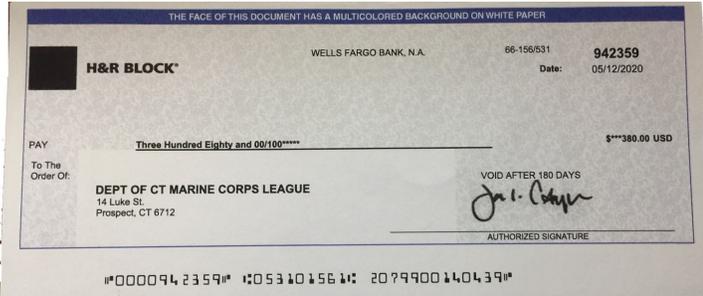
- Veteran Service Officers (VSO)
- Scouting/Eagle Scout Program
- Marine Roses Program
- POW/MIA Remembrance
- Rifle and Pistol Competition Matches
- Volunteer Assistance Veterans Service (VAVS)
- Color Guards

**Department of CT Meeting**  
Jun 7, 2020 13:00 Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83616362933?pwd=ejRJeDQxeU5jZHRhV3djak5MNjUjQQT0>  
**Meeting ID: 836 1636 2933**  
**Password: 385638**

## H&R Block Supports Non—Profits

Walt Benson

Well the official tax season is over, as unconventional as it was and we received our first Check from H&R Block. We raised \$380 through their non-profit program. Could it have been better absolutely, but as they say in Baseball, there is always next year.



## COVID 19 HUMOR



**In times like this Forrest makes as much sense as anyone else, maybe even more.**



## Department of Connecticut Elected Officers, 2019-2020

- Commandant .....Adele Hodges  
203-843-1244  
hodgesadele@yahoo.com
- Sr. Vice Commandant.....David Rosa  
203-974-9733  
coyotyhunter1@yahoo.com
- Jr. Vice Commandant..... Pat McMahon  
860-222-5024  
ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com
- Judge Advocate ..... Richard Daigle  
203-506-8786  
poppop.daigle@gmail.com
- Sgt. At Arms .....James W. Morris  
860-394-5111  
mcl.ch46@gmail.com
- Adjutant/Paymaster .....Walt Benson  
203-768-8435  
walt.benson5@gmail.com
- Newsletter Editor .....Walt Benson  
203-768-8435  
walt.benson5@gmail.com
- Funeral Honors .....James W. Morris  
860-394-5111  
mcl.ch46@gmail.com
- Chaplain .....Michael Bolash  
203-368-1705  
marinedb42@gmail.com
- The Worthy Pack Leader..... Jim Soder  
860-342-1919  
124redbone@att.net
- Young Marines Liaison ... ..Pat McMahon  
860-222-5024  
ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com
- Web Sergeant .....Skip Hamel  
203-527-8137  
hamels52@att.net
- Public Relations .....Sal Sena  
860-614-6188
- Historian .....Jack Savage  
860-628-4827



# What is Memorial Day



This U.S. federal holiday is observed on the **last Monday of May** to honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military. In 2020, Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 25. The Difference Between Memorial Day and Veterans Day is that on both days it is customary to spend time remembering and honoring the countless veterans who have served the United States throughout the country's history. However, there is a distinction between the two holidays:

**Memorial Day** commemorates the men and women who **died** while in the military service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. In other words, the purpose of Memorial Day is to memorialize the veterans who made the **ultimate sacrifice** for their country. We spend time remembering those who lost their lives and could not come home, reflecting on their service and why we have the luxury and freedom that we enjoy today. We might consider how we can support and safeguard their grieving families and loved ones who are left behind.

**Veterans Day** is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL who served—in wartime or peacetime—regardless of whether they died or survived. Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.

## Memorial Day Facts and History

Traditionally, on Memorial Day (U.S.), people visit cemeteries and memorials, and volunteers often place American flags on each grave site at national cemeteries. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time. The custom of honoring ancestors by cleaning cemeteries and decorating graves is an ancient and worldwide tradition, but the specific origin of Memorial Day—or **Decoration Day**, as it was first known—is unclear.

In early rural America, this duty was usually performed in late summer and was an occasion for family reunions and picnics. After the Civil War, America's need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor its military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated, and ceremonies centering on the decoration of soldiers' graves were held in towns and cities throughout the nation. After World War I, the day expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars.

No less than 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, and states observed the holiday on different dates. In 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday by an act of Congress; it is now celebrated annually on the last Monday in May. Since it all started with the Civil War, you might want to brush up on your knowledge of this event by visiting the Library of Congress Civil War collection, which includes more than a thousand photographs from the time. Why Is The Poppy A Symbol of Memorial Day?

In the war-torn battlefields of Europe, the common red field poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) was one of the first plants to reappear. Its seeds scattered in the wind and sat dormant in the ground, only germinating when the ground was disturbed—as it was by the very brutal fighting of World War 1.

John McCrae, a Canadian soldier and physician, witnessed the war first hand and was inspired to write the now-famous poem "In Flanders Fields" in 1915. (See below for the poem.) He saw the poppies scattered throughout the battlefield surrounding his artillery position in Belgium.

In November 1918, days before the official end of the war, an American professor named Moina Michael wrote her own poem, "We Shall Keep the Faith," which was inspired by McCrae's "In Flanders Fields." In her poem (also shown below), she mentioned wearing the "poppy red" to honor the dead, and with that, the tradition of adorning one's clothing with a single red poppy in remembrance of those killed in the Great War was born. Moina herself came to be known—and honored—as "The Poppy Lady."

The wearing of the poppy was traditionally done on Memorial Day in the United States, but the symbolism has evolved to encompass all veterans living and deceased, so poppies may be worn on Veterans Day as well. Not long after the custom began, it was adopted by other Allied nations, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, where it is still popular today. In these countries, the poppy is worn on Remembrance Day (November 11).

Today, poppies are not only a symbol of loss of life, but also of recovery and new life, especially in support of the servicemen who survived the war but suffered from physical and psychological injuries long after it ended.

## "We Shall Keep the Faith"

by Moina Michael, November 1918

*Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,  
Sleep sweet – to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And holding high, we keep the Faith  
With All who died.*

*We cherish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led;  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields. Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought*

*And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields*

## *In Flanders Fields.*

by John McCrae, May 1915

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow*



# Memorial Day

**By: Young Marine LCPL Lana Kolpa  
The Brass City Young Marines**



It's not about the mouthwatering barbeque and breathtaking parade, there is such a more profound meaning to it. Memorial Day is the day where we put aside our differences and focus on the true meaning of it, honoring our fallen. It truly is disheartening, sickening, to see people not even give thought to what it means. These courageous men and women knew there was a price that would have to be paid in defense of our country when they signed their names so willing on that dotted line. They knew deep down that they might not come home, they knew they might not live the life they dreamed of living, they knew that no matter what that they would go to hell and back, but they were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice. These true heroes bear hardships that we cannot even begin to imagine, they've seen horrors right before their very eyes that stayed with them in all those long nights. As the fighting commenced, the cry for help rattles their ears. With hearts beating so furiously, they made a choice, such a selfless choice, to run towards the sound of gunfire and to help all those in need. The pounding of their boots running in the night shook the earth, dust kicked up and they couldn't even see inches ahead, and bullets whizzed by their faces. As the dust settles, their friends, a brother, a sister, who once ago now lay lifeless on the see their Officer white as a around them comes crashing their minds. Their adrenaline their mind flickers back to the loved ones, the laughs with moments they've created. In and another soldier hit the plumes fill the starry night sky. their daze. They realized this in their hearts, they knew they knew that their brothers and had a picture of their beloved thought was needed in this that this could be their last thought, but their soldiers. do, this is what they signed up and runs through the smoke He grips onto the soldier's



stood next to them just seconds ground. They look around and ghost. They pause as the world down. Flashbacks to home flood courses through their veins as precious memories with their their friends, and the special seconds, another shot rang out ground. Pitch-black smoke-filled They're shaken abruptly out of wasn't any ordinary firefight but, had to do the right thing. They sisters to their left and right also family in their pocket, so no decision. They knew very well breath, their last step, their last This is what they were called to for. The soldier takes a breath to his fellow brother and sister. torn uniform and drags him to

safety. No, this worn soldier's job is not finished yet, as they run back to save more. When the smoke is cleared, they look up and with a thump they fall to the ground. As the sound of the crossfire intensifies, the Sergeant yells, "We've got a soldier down!" Chaos fills around this worn and torn soldier, shouts cry out in the night, but all he can hear is the laughter of his children. An overwhelming sense of calmness washes over him as he reaches in his pocket and pulls out a muddy, wrinkled picture of his family. He looks down at his three beautiful children and wife and knows he did what he was meant to do. His heartbeat slows and he looks up at the starry night sky. One bright big star sticks out of the thousands of them and he can't help but wonder if his family is looking at the same one halfway around the world. He smiles to himself knowing that they are safe at home in the greatest country in the world. He squeezes the picture one last time and knows he did a job well done.

These heroic soldiers gave up everything they had for us. We can wake up tomorrow morning and live any life we wish to live. We can laugh, smile, and enjoy life's precious gifts all thanks to these valiant people. Although they may seem like it, they don't have superpowers and bionic abilities, they were just ordinary people. They lived ordinary lives as mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, as well as aunts and uncles. However, their unbreakable love and devotion to each other, their family, and their country wasn't ordinary. They paid such a tremendous price so that we can live the fullest life, so that we can live freely. We're able to enjoy those Memorial Day cook-outs and those entertaining parades because of every Soldier, every Marine, every Sailor, every Airmen, and every Coastguardsmen. Memorial Day is about them and every tribulation that they had to deal with as soldiers. If I were in charge, I would make every day Memorial Day. These strangers, these heroes, fought tirelessly day and night. They gave up their lives for you and me. The least we can do to honor these brave men and women is to show them our thanks every day and especially on Memorial Day.

# THAMES RIVER DETACHMENT #1334 REMEMBERS

Marine Patrick McMahon  
Thames River Paymaster

This year, Memorial Day was Monday May 25, 2020. For decades, the City of Norwich has held a Memorial Day Parade followed by a remembrance ceremony and wreath laying. The Norwich Area Veterans Council (which the Thames River Detachment belongs to) has participated in said parade and event following our Charter June 2009.



This year, the City of Norwich cancelled the parade in light of the COVID19 issues, however agreed to a short-ened remembrance ceremony and a wreath laying event. Three of our members had prominent roles in this year's event. Associate Member Robert Murphy was the Master of Ceremonies. Marine Thomas Callinan, Connecticut's Original Troubadour provided music and Marine McMahon represented the Marine Corps in laying a wreath. The local pa-

per was in attendance and the photographer took pictures of two of the three of us



## Memorial Day Marines 2020



### A Marine Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold. If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.

*Semper Fidelis*

# Marine Corps Ranked Worst Service Branch To Join, and I Love It

By Stan Mitchell

This article on Yahoo written by Ron Johnson completely made my day. The writer was asked to rank best military branch to serve in.

He ranks them as:

1. Army



2. Air Force



3. Navy



4. Coast Guard



## Marine Corps (Worst Military Branch)

Here's what he had to say about the Marine Corps:

"Of all the military branches, the Marine Corps ranks as the least attractive choice for this author. Technically part of the Navy, the Marine Corps are the elite war fighters of the United States military. The leathernecks of the USMC are truly fearsome fighters, tough as nails and ready and willing to fight all comers. The Marines turn recruits into stone-cold killers and they make no secrets about that fact. Marines live tough lives, sleeping on board Navy ships, charging through the surf and crawling in the sand with one goal in mind: engage the enemy. Unfortunately, when Marines fulfill their obligation and exit the service, they seem to find difficulty in turning this Marine Corps attitude 'off'. Whereas an Army or Navy veteran will likely become softer, Marines stay Ma-United States and you will find a someone's house. You will rarely, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard branches tend to relax a little bit as Marine will be quick to remind you Marine, always a Marine." I don't sergeants are doing to their re-



"Is that a bad thing? Well, that de- ing a military enlistment. If you my, the Marine Corps is for you do. Either you want that or you want a challenge, any other branch of the military will provide you with plenty of opportunities to test yourself. Army Rangers and Green Berets, Air Force Pararescue Jumpers, and the Navy Seals all offer extreme physical and mental challenges outside of the Marine Corps. So if you are considering joining the Marine Corps, think long and hard about what that means before going to a recruiter and signing up."

pends on your reasons for consider- have a strong desire to kill the ene- because that is what the Marines don't, plain and simple. If you simply



# **Lest We Forget**

**My Brothers and Sisters I Humbly Pray**

**On this year's Memorial Day  
As I contemplate our great losses.  
I wish I had something great to say,  
Instead I can only kneel and humbly Pray.**

**May I be worthy of the gift you gave me,  
May I treasure it through all my days.  
May I remember others may need to follow,  
In those large footprints you have blazed.**

**May I be ready when my turn comes near,  
Fight as fierce as you without any fear.**

**The price of freedom is very, very dear,  
And I will defend it throughout all my years.**

**Amen**



2020

June

2020



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Department of Connecticut Meeting 13:00 Via Zoom	8 Peter P. Monaco 19:00	9 Northwest Det. 19:00 Bridgeport Det. Meeting 19:00	10 Mahackemo Det. 20:00 Brass City Det. 19:30 Hardware City	11 Middlesex Det. Meeting 19:00	12	13
14 Valley Det. Meeting 19:00	15 Housatonic Det. Meeting 19:30	16 Thames River Detachment 19:00	17	18	19 Rocky Hill Veterans Home Bingo 19:00	20
21	22	23 Silver City Det. Southington Memorial Det. 19:00 Hat City Det. 20:00	24 Lock City Det. 19:30 Ridgefield 19:00	25 Paul C. Houghton 19:00	26	27
28	29	30				

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The Department of Connecticut website is located at [www.mcldeptct.org](http://www.mcldeptct.org)

Please also visit The National website at [www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org)



2020

# July

2020



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
5	6 Peter P. Monaco 19:00	7 Northwest Det. 19:00 Bridgeport Det. Meeting 19:00	8 Mahackemo Det. 20:00 Brass City Det. 19:30 Hardware City	9 Middlesex Det. Meeting 19:00	10	11
12 Valley Det. Meeting 19:00	13 Housatonic Det. Meeting 19:30	14 Thames River Detachment 19:00	15	16	17 Rocky Hill Veter- ans Home Bingo 19:00	18
19	20	21 Silver City Det. Southington Me- morial Det. 19:00 Hat City Det. 20:00	22 Lock City Det. 19:30 Ridgefield 19:00	23 Paul C. Hough- ton 19:00	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# Marine Motto From Vietnam

**“READY FOR ANYTHING  
COUNTING ON  
NOTHING”  
Never Forget**

Regardless of the situation, the Marine Corps has an answer for almost everything.

## A Marines Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.

Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.



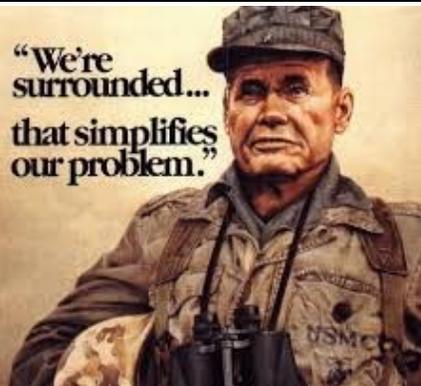
**NOW RECRUITING**

Become active in the Marine Corps League and you can make a difference.



## Attention To Orders

The next meeting of The Department Of Connecticut  
To Be Determined



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

