



October 2020 — November 2020

# SEMPER FI

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League



## Commandant's Corner



Hello Marines,

Well, 2020 is almost quickly coming to a close and it has been a trying year for all of us. So much has happened in this world, with our Nation, our Marine Corps, and our Marine Corps League that is hard to wrap our minds around what is going on now. However, one thing is for certain, we must continue to march on and support each other and our community and our fellow Veterans.

In August, we had our first Department in person meeting since February 2020. The meeting was held at Rocky Hill Veterans Facility, which is the new home of our Department Headquarters. After the meeting we inspected the suites that will potentially be assigned to the Department to determine the amount of work that we will need to do to make it our home. I am looking for members to be a part of the renovation committee that will be responsible for renovating the spaces once we get the go ahead from the powers to be at Rocky Hill.

Annual dues are due from all members, except Life Members, for 2021 to remain members-in-good-standing. So, if you have not submitted your dues to your Detachment PayMaster, please do so immediately. I would like for Connecticut to be one

of the first Departments to reach or come close to 100% renewals. It will be something that we all can be proud of.

Since the Department of Connecticut's annual Convention has been postponed to June 2021. This mean that emergency procedures are in effect and all current Department Officers will remain in place until the next Annual

Convention. However, Detachment emergency procedures are different. Electronic votes can be submitted by members if they are not able to vote in person. Hopefully, those Detachments who have held elections within the last 6 months have held elections in this manner.

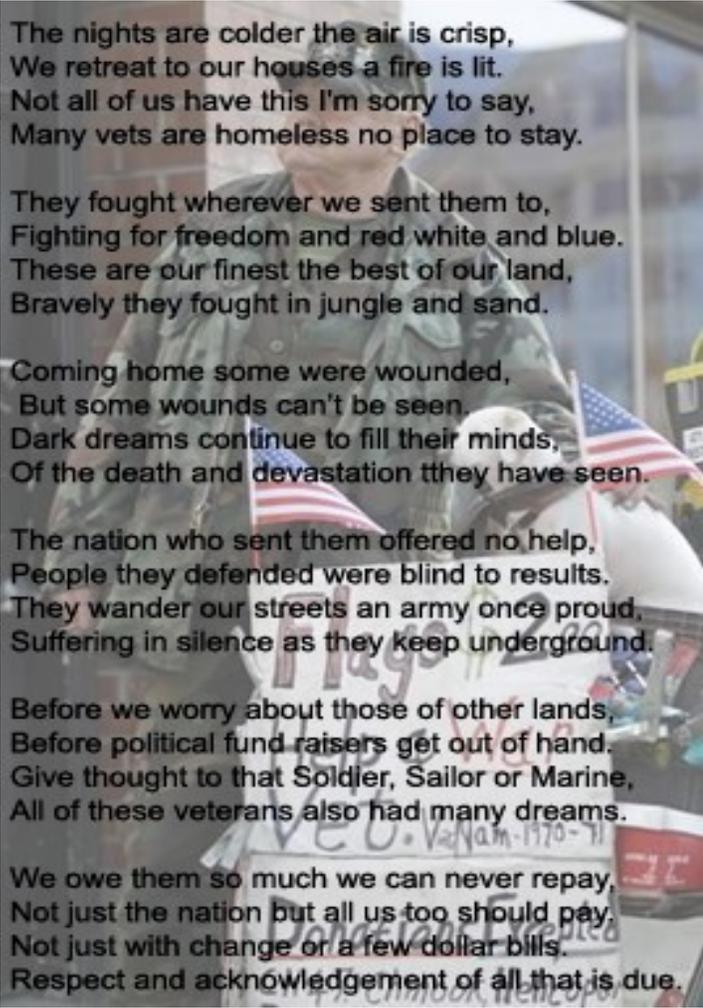
I pray that you are all doing well and staying safe. Please continue to reach out and check up on each other, especially those who may be alone and confined and those who you have not heard from in a while. It is a part of our Marine ethos; we take care of our own. I hope to see you all soon.

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

**VETERANS DAY EDITION**

## Fall Has Arrived

Fall has arrived and with the beauty and bright colors of autumn around us, we gravitate inside. The days get shorter, while definitely colder, we gather with family and friends to celebrate many holidays ahead, all focused on happiness and food. Halloween, Our Birthday and Thanksgiving, to name just a few. It is a good time to remember the many who do not enjoy these comforts and celebrations. There are many who are serving now far from home, as well as those who served and now for whatever reason are homeless. The Veterans that struggle with their demons everyday and those that lose that battle at a rate of twenty-two per day. This is the time of the year when the demons are strongest, and many battles are lost. I know some of us are put off because there are many fakes out there, but I don't want to not help a brother because I'm afraid of helping a fake. It's kind of like that statement let God sort it out.



The nights are colder the air is crisp,  
We retreat to our houses a fire is lit.  
Not all of us have this I'm sorry to say,  
Many vets are homeless no place to stay.

They fought wherever we sent them to,  
Fighting for freedom and red white and blue.  
These are our finest the best of our land,  
Bravely they fought in jungle and sand.

Coming home some were wounded,  
But some wounds can't be seen.  
Dark dreams continue to fill their minds,  
Of the death and devastation they have seen.

The nation who sent them offered no help,  
People they defended were blind to results.  
They wander our streets an army once proud,  
Suffering in silence as they keep underground.

Before we worry about those of other lands,  
Before political fund raisers get out of hand.  
Give thought to that Soldier, Sailor or Marine,  
All of these veterans also had many dreams.

We owe them so much we can never repay,  
Not just the nation but all us too should pay.  
Not just with change or a few dollar bills.  
Respect and acknowledgement of all that is due.

## Department of Connecticut Elected Officers, 2020-2021

Commandant .....	Adele Hodges 203-843-1244 hodgesadele@yahoo.com
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The Worthy Pack Leader.....	Jim Soder 860-342-1919 124redbone@frontier.com
Young Marines Liaison ... ..	Pat McMahon 860-222-5024 ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com
Web Sergeant .....	Skip Hamel 203-527-8137 hamels52@att.net
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Historian .....	Jack Savage 860-628-4827



# Veteran's Day

Walt Benson



Next month is Veterans Day and we may know the difference but most people don't know the difference between this and Memorial Day. That being said I still feel obligated to remember those who passed on, whether in battle or in life, as they too have served. We remember and salute you on this day. As I scrolled Google looking for a photo to go with this article I couldn't help but notice all the photos of big parades of the past and other celebrations that seem to have disappeared.

This day is set aside to honor all who served. From the Privates to Generals, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and The Marines, this is our day. There are many definitions of a Veteran but the one that sticks with me

is the one that states, "A Veteran is someone who at some point in their life wrote a blank check to The United States of America payable, up to and including their life". Yes, when you signed that paper and raised your hand you promised to die if necessary to defend this country and our way of life.

That makes you unique, and a member of a very small and elite group. Today, only one percent of the population serve in the military and those that serve today refer to us as old school, like we are somehow different from us. We all have had different experiences, just as we all have needs, obligations and desires. The one thing we all share though is our core values, beliefs and that check we all signed pledging to give our all. It binds old school and new school and those who will join us in the years to come.

I belong to quite a few Marine groups on Facebook and what I see lately are people asking about The Marine Corps League, as they are looking for something to join. They usually get the answer, "They are Old School"; but we are not, there are changes and change is a good thing. We have one Detachment, in our Department, that is growing with new members and they are young members, and that is Peter Monaco. I see many other responses on there showing that there are other Detachments across the country that are also bringing in young new members, and that is both a good thing and something we need.

Now I love the things that they do in the Peter

Monaco Detachment but I can't do those things so I do the things I can do. I could be wrong but I believe everyone here, comes here because they still want to be connected to what they did while on active duty. I know many would love to believe as Marines we are all 0300 and we are; but we are more. Communications, Motor Transport, MP, Machine Gunners, Air Wing, are but a few and there are many more. So we all have different experiences and talents just as we have different goals and desires. I think most people do participate and contribute as best they can to serve their individual Detachment or Department. If we are lucky enough to have a new member and they ask about doing something, or doing something we

do different, let them try it and support it. If we all said no to new things, we still wouldn't have indoor plumbing. When I came here, it was my boss that brought me and as I sat in the meeting I watched the clock and couldn't wait to get out. He brought me to a Rose Event, then a Balloon Festival and I met some people and started to feel different. After that I started to go to

more and more events until I found something that changed me forever.

I signed up to do Funeral Honors and the feeling that I got could not be compared to anything I had ever experienced. It was the most meaningful thing I did since I was on active duty. To offer final Honors to a fellow Marine is more of an Honor for you and you are truly humbled by it. It is a feeling and experience that I am glad I didn't miss. So we as an organization have much to offer to our new modern brothers and sisters; as well as some members here who may have not found what they were looking for here; but it is something to consider on this day.

In any event you get the idea. It was not my intention to preach but rather to point out how unique and special you are. Every time our country called you and people like you answered that call and gave all that was needed. So if I may be so bolds to overstep my authority, "On behalf of a grateful nation I thank you in their name. So to my brothers and sisters, Semper Fidelis; and to everyone else Happy Veterans Day.



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# On Veterans Day We Remember Then and Now



David Carrasquillo 1981 - Now



Jack Dougherty 1967 - Now



Paul Lesko 1953 - Now



Skip Hamel 1971 - Now



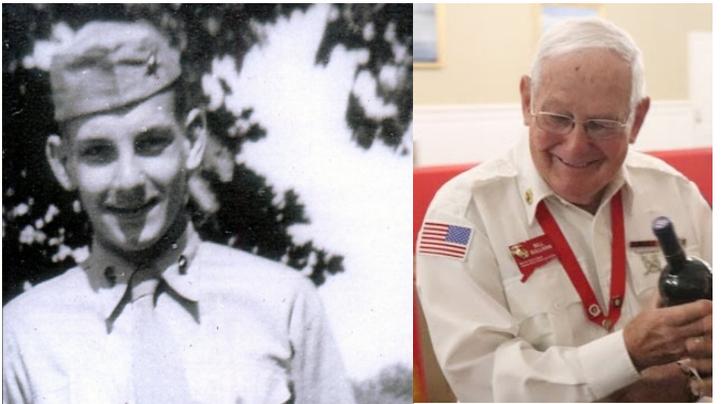
Walt Benson 1969 - Now



Bill Barnes 19 - Now



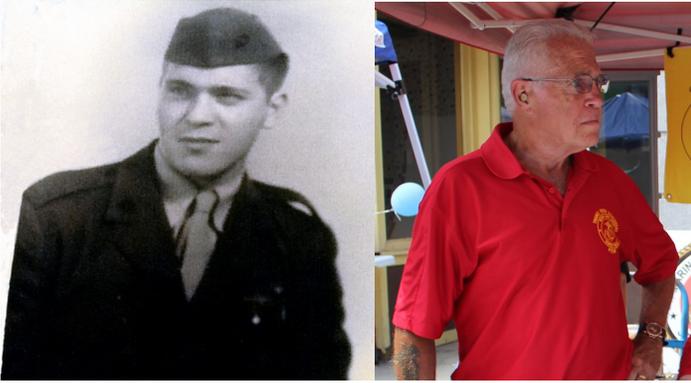
Bill "Top" Lee 1974- Now



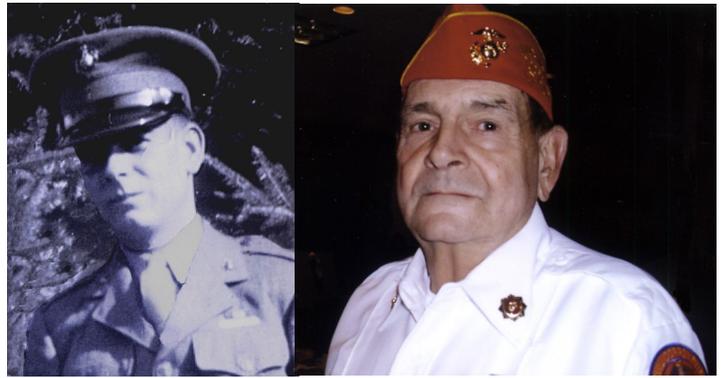
Bill Sullivan 19 - Now

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# On Veterans Day We Remember Then and Now



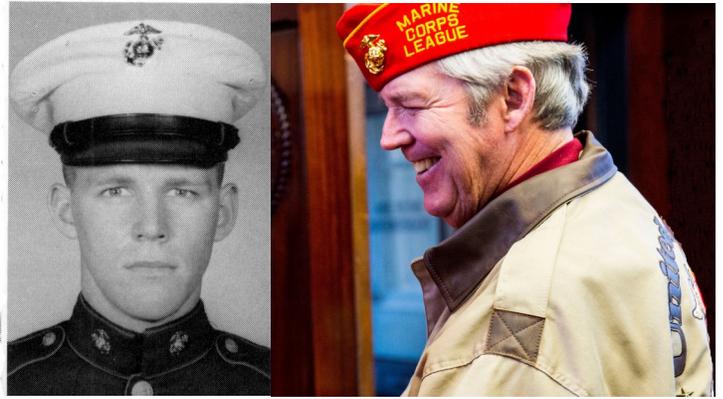
Bob Pierce 19 - Now



Corney Banta 19 - Now



Dave Kargul 19- Now



David Hersant 19 - Now



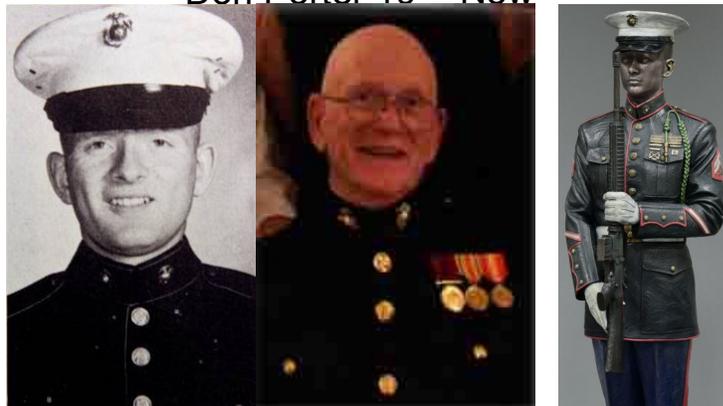
Tom "Doc" Williamson 19 - Now



Don Porter 19 - Now



Frank Piotras 19 - Now



Jim Ried 19 - Now

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# On Veterans Day We Remember Then and Now



Joe Balint 19 - Now



Joe Gardiner 19 - Now



Ken Blair 19 - Now



Ken LeCara 19 - Now



Kenny Rechin 19 - Now



Rob Montminy 19 - Now



Steve McElreath 19 - Now



Ted Larson 19 - Now

# On Veterans Day We Remember Then and Now



Pat McMahon 1978

Pat & Connor Now

Connor McMahon 2017



Tom Callinan 1970 - Now



Tom Peters 1959 - Now



Tom Taylor 19 - Now



Jack Savage 1963 - Now



Jim Morris 1971 - Now

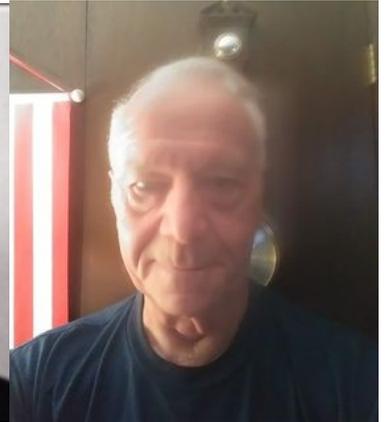


Jack Hubert 1981 - Now

# On Veterans Day We Remember Then and Now



Jamie DePaola 1975 Now



Rivers Mccallop 1955 - Now

Rich Michaud 1962 - Now



Rose Taylor 1978 - Now

Dave Rosa 1978 - Now

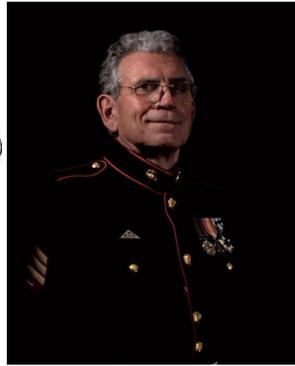


Adele Hodges 1978 - Now

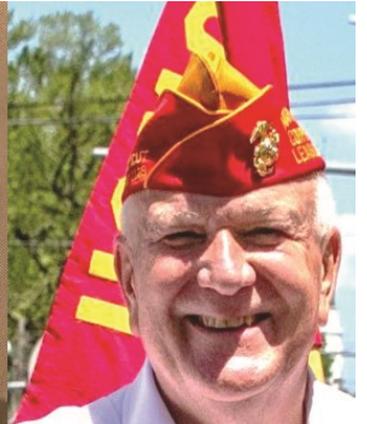
Marine Corps League Convention

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# On Veterans Day We Remember Then and Now



Peter Galgano 1966 - Now



Allen Storm 1958 - Now

Richard Daigle 1971 - Now

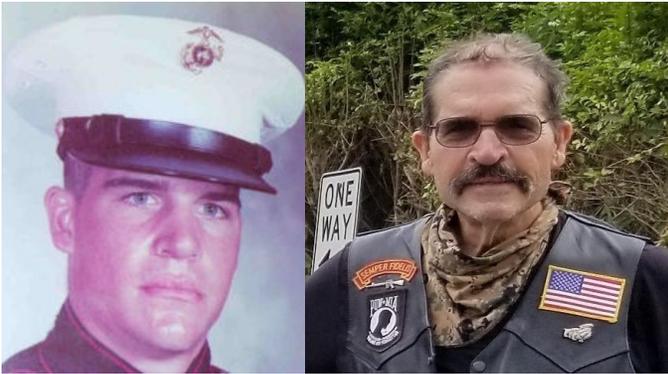


Donald Donaldson 1977 - Now



Steve Kinsella 1991 - Now

# On Veterans Day We Remember Then and Now



Jim Lauber 1974 - Now



James v. Lauber 1951 - August 15, 2020



## Take A Moment To Thank A Veteran

When you see someone in a uniform,  
Someone who serves us all,  
Doing military duty,  
Answering their country's call

Take a moment to thank them  
For protecting what you hold dear;  
Tell them you are proud of them;  
Make it very clear.

Just tap them on the shoulder,  
Give a smile, and say,  
"Thanks for what you're doing  
To keep us safe in the USA!"

*By Joanna Fuchs*



**Woof Woof !! Devil Dogs**

There will be a Growl for Glawacus Pound on October 24th at 13:00 at Rocky Hill Building 50. We haven't had one in quite a while so think about attending, it will give you an opportunity to check out the new place and hopefully have some laughs. Bring plenty of bones as the dog robber is hungry.

The next meeting of the Connecticut Pack will be November 15 at The Valley Detachment, 56 West Street, Seymour, CT 06483.

Elections will be held at this Growl. At the last growl a motion was made to donate all of the money collected at this Growl to the Kennel meaning it will be included in the bones donated to the Children's Hospital at the next Grand Growl in August, 2021. The total sent to the Kennel was a check for 445.35 big bones. The breakdown.....26 for stampings, 5 for equip. fines, 107.35 for general fines, 307 from the auction! For anyone that doesn't know the auction comes from the four pups that moved up to Dogs. After the initiation we bid on them to raise additional Bones (money) for the Kennel and the annual donation to the Children's Hospital at the Grand Growl. The Military Order of Devil Dogs, is the fun side of the Marine Corps League, please consider joining us, not that the Marine Corps League is not fun but we have more.

Walt Benson

This time of year, college-bound high school seniors are busy completing college applications. For those who serve in the Young Marines, we have a great advantage. The Young Marine program "builds tomorrow's leaders today" and as such it positions us well for a successful college application process. First, community service requirements with the Young Marines help fulfill that obligation on college applications. Second, there are many leadership opportunities as well as awards for Young Marines that help us stand out above others in the selection process. Lastly, for those who aspire to attend a military academy or participate in a college ROTC program, the Young Marines' physical requirements keep us in great shape for the physical assessments that are part of the application process. Applying to college can be a daunting task, but Young Marines are much better prepared for the process as a result of their commitment in the Program. While some Young Marines in their senior year are applying to college, others are planning to enlist in the military. The Young Marines program is also very helpful to those who will enlist. Basically, the Young Marines program positions all of its members for success regardless of the path they choose.

YM GySgt Tanner Linhard

2020 Samuel K. Beamon,  
Sr Young Marine of the Year

# PETER P. MONACO HIKE VII -HIKE TO REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 12, 2020



# PETER P. MONACO HIKE VII -HIKE TO REMEMBER

## SEPTEMBER 12, 2020





# DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT Patrick T. McMahon



Email: [ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.net) / Cell: 860.222.5024

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## MEMBERSHIP AND BELONGING

I continue to serve as your Department of CT Junior Vice Commandant with both pride and humility. One of my duties is to ensure that Detachments are doing their best to maintain the members they have and to continue promoting the Marine Corps League in hopes of increasing their rolls. All of you, each and every one of you are ambassadors of this great Marine organization and we owe it to those Leaguers who came before us to keep this a thriving and respectable organization. Colin Powell once said; *Every organization needs*



to be introspective, transparent, and honest with itself. This only works if everyone is unified on the goals and purposes of the organization and there is trust within the team. High-performing, successful organizations build cultures of introspection and trust and never lose sight of their purpose. Ours is not different



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I hope that all of you regular members, feel the I do, that it is a privilege to not only be eligible but to actual be



belong as regular members {and our Associate Members as well} of this League. Just take a moment and reflect on



what it took to be eligible. In these uncertain times, we as Marine Corps Leaguers can be sure that we have each other's backs, that we will not leave a Marine in need behind, that we will continue to serve our communities such as Toys for Tots, the Young Marines and our work with the Boys/Girls Scouts.



2020

# October

2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2	3
4 Department of Connecticut Meeting 13:00 Via Zoom	5 Peter P. Monaco 19:00	6 Northwest Det. 19:00 Bridgeport Det. Meeting 19:00	7 Mahackemo Det. 20:00 Brass City Det. 19:30 Hardware City	8 Middlesex Det. Meeting 19:00	9	10
11 Valley Det. Meeting 19:00	12 Housatonic Det. Meeting 19:30	13 Thames River Detachment 19:00	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Silver City Det. Southington Memorial Det. 19:00 Hat City Det. 20:00	21 Lock City Det. 19:30 Ridgefield 19:00	22 Paul C. Houghton 19:00	23 Rocky Hill Veterans Home Bingo 19:00	24 Growl Glawacus Pound 13:00 Rocky Hill Veterans Home
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 

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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

# November

2020



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

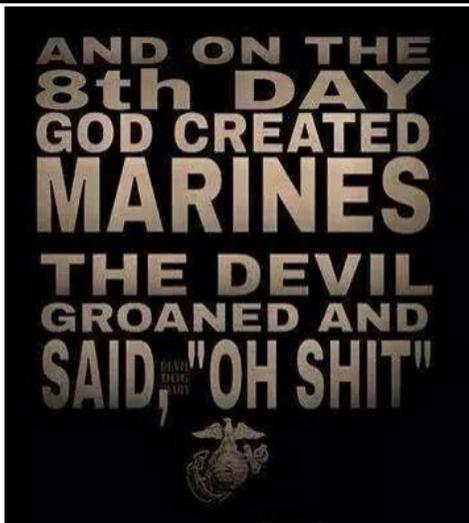
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	2 Peter P. Monaco 19:00	3 Bridgeport 19:00	4 Mahackemo 20:00 Brass City 19:30 Hardware City 19:00	5 Middlesex Det. Meeting 19:00	6	7
8 Valley Det. Meeting 19:00	9	10 NW Det. 19:00 BPT Det. 19:00 Thames River 19:00 <b>USMC 245TH BIRTHDAY!</b>	11 	12	13	14
15 Pack Growl Valley Det 13:30 Elections	16 Housatonic Det. Meeting 19:30	17 Hat City Det. 20:00 Silver City 19:00 Southington Memorial Det. 19:00	18 Lock City Det. 19:30 Ridgefield 19:00	19 Paul C Houghton Det. 19:00	20 Rocky Hill Veterans Home Bingo 19:00	21
22	23	24 Hat City Det. 20:00	25	26 	27	28
29	30					



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 un-

## Reminder !!

# It is October and we switch to long sleeve shirts and ties

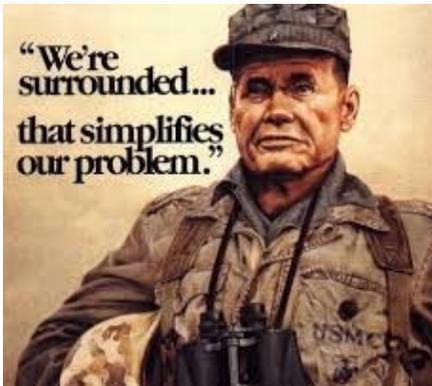
**NOW RECRUITING**

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



**Attention To Orders**

The next meeting of The Department Of Connecticut  
 October 4, 2020 at Rocky Hill  
 Connecticut Veterans Home and Hospital  
 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT, 06067-3501  
 Building 50



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

