

# Maryland Muster

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## From the Commandant - Craig P. Reeling

Hello Marines! I hope we all had a great summer and were kept busy with MCL events. In June many of us attended the MCL Mideast Division Conference in Fredericksburg, Virginia. It is always interesting to see how the other Departments compare to us and how they do things differently. I always learn something new and take away a good idea. I believe our Detachments could learn a lot from visiting other Detachments. See how they do things, run a meeting, different events, etc. Coordinate with your District Vice and take a field trip. If you're on vacation, see if they have a MCL close by and stop in to say hello.



This summer has been especially busy for me personally keeping up with the various responsibilities of my office and participating in numerous MCL events. My highlight this summer was my 5600 mile trip driving to the National Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. My two youngest kids accompanied me and my 17 year old daughter helped with the driving. Some of our stops included Graceland, National Scouting Museum, Grand Canyon and the Alamo. You cannot put a price on creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Lots was discussed at the National Convention and you can read all about it in my separate Convention Report. Better yet, come to our Fall Dept Meeting and hear the news first hand. I am confident that the MCL is good hands with our newly elected National Board of Trustees and our Interim National Executive Director.

On 8 September, I was honored to install the leadership of our newest Detachment, the Sgt Jack Hettchen Detachment 1428 of Montgomery County. Congratulations go out to Paul "Doc" Gunther for working so hard to get the Sgt Hettchen Det up and running.

Keep up the good work, stay visible in your community and continue to bring in new members into our MCL family.

## Sr. Vice Commandant - Evelyn Remines

Welcome to Autumn! We have seven months until the 2016 Department convention in Ocean City. That may seem like a long time, but to me it is right around the corner. I am working on making a few changes to the process of planning and running the logistics of the convention, which I hope will make it a smoother and more enjoyable event for everyone involved.

One of the first changes is that the raffle prizes will be reduced. This is due to the poor sales we've had with the raffle tickets in the past. Most members attending aren't aware, but the Department staff has spent the last few years trying to get tickets sold at the last minute just to cover the price of the prizes. Since the raffle is supposed to raise funds to support the convention costs, this is counter-productive. If sales increase over the next year or so, I or my successor may increase the prize amount in the future. I am also working hard at getting food and alcohol donated by local Ocean City businesses. This will greatly reduce some of the monies spent for the hospitality rooms and hopefully give the ladies of the Auxiliary a break so that they can enjoy themselves at the convention and not spend the entire time working.

I have not booked entertainment for Friday night yet, so any input on what you would like to have would be appreciated. I have already heard that having a magician again would be nice.

Remember, this is YOUR convention. I need **everyone's** input to make it fun and successful!



## Jr. Vice Commandant - Bill Kelly

Greetings to all!!! If you didn't make the National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ, you missed an absolutely outstanding time. A job well done to the Arizona detachments. For the first time in my life I heard the Marine's Hymn sung in Navajo by a 94-year old Code Talker who is one of the three surviving members!! What a great experience.



Recruiting is still our primary thrust. The numbers of almost all detachments are steadily dropping. I'm sure that everyone is well aware of this, but the problem will not go away if we do not act. I have polled several other philanthropic organizations and the results are the same everywhere. Membership is decreasing and everyone is trying to increase membership or participation. Time after time an event is scheduled that can gain funds for the Detachment and the same members show up time and time again until it gets to the point that they become jaded and stop showing as well. I truly believe the way around this is to get new members involved!!! Do the fun things and then get them involved with some of the work. Recently, National Jr. Vice Dennis Tobin published an article regarding mentoring and establishing a program where

new members are assigned a seasoned member of the detachment to get them involved, let them know what is going on, and assist the new member to merge into the detachment. The mentoring program is normally one year in duration and only requires a small amount of effort on behalf of the seasoned member to ensure the "new member" is aware and engaged in the mainstream of the detachment.

It doesn't stop there. While the mentoring program helps to keep and retain members in the League, it is truly up to the members themselves to promote the league and make sure we are getting ourselves in front of eligible Marines who could potentially be new members. Recently, our detachment issued cards to our members with blank spaces to document the name and number of whoever is handing out the card. The card itself identifies most of our primary philanthropy as well as the meeting, date, place, and time. We believe this will be beneficial in recruiting more members. All the tricks, devices, and artifices in the world can never replace the one-on-one recruiting effort. The real message here is to get out there, shake hands with another Marine, and start a conversation. You never know where the next member and potential leader will be found!

## Judge Advocate- Gerard Devlin

At the Departmental level things have been quiet. I have not had to referee any quarrels which is good and did not have to certify any by-laws for new detachments which is not good. I attended the National Convention in Scottsdale AZ which is always a lot of fun. In my capacity as National Parliamentarian there were some interesting moments on the floor and I was more active than usual in making parliamentary rulings with my trusty edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* always at my side. I repeated my offer to run classes on parliamentary procedure for those who need this training. I preached my usual sermon that badly run meetings are a major cause of new members taking walks after attending a couple of sloppily run meetings. The expected turmoil at the convention did not happen as major changes are taking place at National. I am happy to report that Mike McClain and Bruce Rakfeldt have been reelected as leaders of the Mideast Division.

I am always available to render assistance at [gerarddevlin@aol.com](mailto:gerarddevlin@aol.com)



## Mideast Division News

The Mideast Division Bulletin was sent out by Division Adjutant Roger Ware on 18 Aug 15. If you didn't receive this via email, please let Department Adjutant Paul Taylor know and he can forward it to you. This bulletin contains important information concerning the National convention as well as which bylaw changes were approved/rejected. Please be sure to read over this bulletin whenever you receive it.

The following is a message from Division NVC, Mike McLain:

The New National Commandant has made a lot of good changes since he took over. He is wanting everybody to look forward, not back. The New Website is being worked on everyday. There are a lot of great ideas and thoughts coming out also. He would like to get the Members on the UNPAID down to 7000 instead of 10,000. He is also hoping that each member go out and get one new member. This will also help with membership. He is also tasking everyone that signs up members, make sure you mentor them. Conduct your meeting in a professional manner. I will be getting more news out as I get it. Don't forget Modern Day Expo is coming in a little over a month. Neil could use your help, and there are other things going on such as Commandant of the Marine Corps awards different members of the Marine Corps and Navy. They also have the Marine Band and silent drill team. If you can mark your calendars for Sept. 21- 22 2015, to come help in Quantico, Va.



## District One Vice Commandant - Ed Elder

SICK, DISTRESSED & DECEASED: Robert Shafer experiencing medical issues

EVENTS: 23 July 2015 - I Attended Choptank Det. Meeting. Meeting was conducted per MCL Ritual With 11 members present. Each were covered and in MCL red shirts. This seems to be a very vibrant MCL Detachment.

### VETERAN SERVICES:

I was unable to make contact with the Mileo Detachment

I telephoned elected Officers and sent emails with no response.

My Detachments can contact me at 410-742-4781 or [eelder19@aol.com](mailto:eelder19@aol.com)

## District Two Vice Commandant - Donald Benson, Sr.



This past Quarter; I continue to attend Harford County Detachment Social events, to volunteer at Perry Point Veteran Hospital on a weekly basis, participate in Bel Air First Fridays, the 4th of July Parade in Bel Air, MD and in the Jarrettsville VFW Bingo Night (kitchen Detail), in an Honor Guard at Winters Run Golf Course In Bel Air and in an Honor Guard at the 20th Anniversary of Toy for Tots Golf outing at the Springwood Golf Course York, PA. I also attended Pound 204 Growl.

I gave a class on the History of the 21 Gun Salute to the Jarrettsville Young Marines. Attended the Mid-East Division Conference. Attended the National Convention as well as the 76 Supreme Growl in Scottsdale Arizona.

### District Two Report

Attended the LCpl. Gregory Scott Copenhaver held it installation of Officers. Department Sr. Vice Commandant Evie Remines, National Officer Guy Hall and myself were the Installing Officers.

My detachments include:

LCpl. Gregory Scott Copenhaver

Harford County

Baltimore

Anne Arundel County

Det. 1098 Elkton, MD.

Det. 1198 Jarrettsville, MD.

Det. 565 Baltimore City, MD.

Det. 1049 Glen Burnie, MD.

I have asked each Commandant of each Detachment to send me a copies of their Quarterly Reports and Newsletters at [msgte9don@yahoo.com](mailto:msgte9don@yahoo.com)

September 2015

## District Three Vice Commandant - Tim Hoernig

Attended memorial service for deceased MCL Member Tuni Numera on June 9th. Tuni was a member of Southern Maryland Leatherneck Detachment. An atta-boy needs to be given to Commandant Joe Fay of the Patuxent River Detachment for coordinating the desires of the family for this service.

I attended a tour and introduction of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and facilities with members of Department of Maryland and Patuxent River Detachment. The tour was very informative and enjoyable. I was introduced to a lot of the home's staff members.

### Upcoming events

2015 Toys for Tots campaign

2015 Veterans Day Parade Leonardtown, MD

Marine Corps Birthday Celebration, Leonardtown, MD 10 Nov.

My Detachments can contact me at 540-834-3881 or [nitehawk2008@live.com](mailto:nitehawk2008@live.com)



## District Four Vice Commandant - Marc Fisher



District 4 is pleased to welcome a new Detachment! Led by Commandant Paul "Doc" Gunther, the Sgt Jack Hettchen Det 1428 was presented its charter on 8 September, 2015 at the VFW in Rockville. Ooh Rah! Thanks to all of the hard work from Paul and the members of this Detachment.

Since the Convention, I have visited and participated in the activities of both the LCI Deane and Carroll County Dets. Carroll County hosted a car show at St. John's Church in Westminster which was well attended and an enjoyable time. The Young Marines assisted and sold beef sticks and flags as a fundraiser. It was also my pleasure to attend the Summer Family Picnic with my family hosted by Sr.

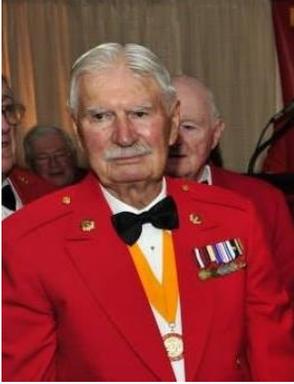
Vice Bill Bloom. It was great to hang out with Carroll County's members and their families.

LCI Deane Detachment participated in the Mount Airy Fireman's Parade in July. My daughter and I were privileged to ride in the military vehicles which were transporting the members of the Detachment present. The color guard came from the Carroll County Young Marines. Last year they took first place! It was an inspiring and motivating event, with all of the good folks lining the parade route and thanking the veterans.

I mention the Young Marines several times. The Carroll County Young Marines has a great relationship with both the Carroll Cty and LCpl. Deane Dets, and participates with them frequently. Both Dets heartily support the Young Marines and all they do.

In the coming months, I hope to be able to visit and participate in activities hosted by the other Dets in my District, namely SSgt. Taylor and Shangri La. It is great seeing the good work our members and Auxiliaries are doing!

## District Five Vice Commandant - Bud Raines



If you need any assistance with matters that cannot be resolved within your detachment, please contact Bud if you are a member of one of the following detachments:

- Antietam - Hagerstown
- Mountainside Marines - Cumberland
- Garrett County - Oakland

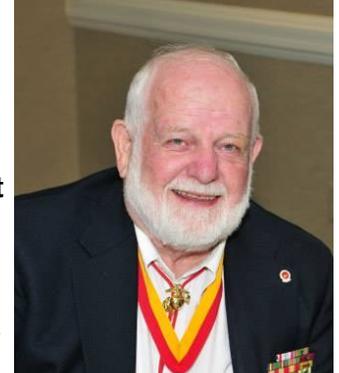
It is the District Vice Commandant's job to provide a link between the detachments and the Department Officers and staff.

Bud can be reached at [budraines30@comcast.net](mailto:budraines30@comcast.net) or 301-697-9994

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## Department Adjutant - Paul Taylor

Since the Department convention I have been busy getting Detachment Officers Installation reports filled out properly and forwarded to National. I continue to receive incomplete reports. Filling out the report is the responsibility of the Detachment Adjutant. In some cases the Commandant does it. In other cases the Paymaster does it. But no matter who does it, it is the Adjutant's job. Many, actually most, Detachment Adjutants do not completely fill out the report. On every occasion I can, I emphasize that all the information in the Department Directory comes directly from the installation reports. If they are incomplete, the Department Directory is incomplete. It appears as if most Detachment Adjutants are too lazy to properly fill out the installation report. It only takes a few minutes to insert telephone numbers and email addresses. Many reports are received without any member of the detachment having an email and some are received without any telephone numbers. This is the 21st century. In many reports, every member has the same address. The Department Directory is in publication at this time and will be distributed at the Department Meeting on 12 September. Look through it and you will see what I am writing about.



Information can be sent to me at [mdmgysgt@aol.com](mailto:mdmgysgt@aol.com)

## MODD MD Pack Leader - Jim Brady

Woof Woof (German for Woof Woof) to all the Dogs in Mer-Lin, from the best Maryland Pack Leader ever:

I have been instructed to bark, growl or write some words of wisdom so that we can fill up some space in this worthy newsletter.

Well by now you all should have heard that as your humble (stop laughing) leader, the Pack of Maryland has completed its duty and created the Kennel Pack and Pound Trophies to be given out every year at the Kennel Growl for the most passport bones collected. The Past Chief Devil Dogs were very impressed with the overall affect and were appreciative of the fact that Pound 204 and Maryland Pack shared in the cost associated with getting these done. It was also very fitting to note that both Maryland Pack and Pound 204 were the first two year recipient of these awards and our names are for all eternity on the trophies. The "Take Home Bone Trophy" will be shown at the September Pack Growl and August Pound 204 Growl and both will reside at their respective homes and be brought out at every growl.

It is also very respectful to note that as a whole all the dogs in Mer-Lin donated a little over \$5,000.00 which equates to 17% towards the \$31,000.00 donated to the Children's Hospital in Phoenix Arizona. This is the largest amount of Passport Bones ever donated and it is the hope that these trophies continue to stimulate this kind of giving. Remember it is for the kids we do this, not for ourselves.

During the course of the presentation of the trophies it was overheard from three (3) other Packs that they will make sure they knock Maryland Pack off the trophy next year. Our own Manny Airey laughed in there face and said "No way", so let's not make Manny out to be a sniveling mangy cur with his tail behind his dearie and get those passport bones in to your dog robber.

On another well important note and one I am sure many others will write about is that our very own Maryland Past Pack Leader Jack Severn was made the 4th Honorary Chief Devil Dog in our 76 year history. This now makes Maryland the Pack who has two (Jimmie Lee Howard) of the four Honorary Chief Devil Dogs, that is something to Howl about. Be sure to congratulate Jack on his exceptional accomplishment.

Going forward in to 2016, it is my fondest hope to continue to have fun at the growls make them worth attending and getting more dogs involved at every level to which they wish to participate in. I will have to rein in Bob Rossi every once in a while but he does make our growls very different and interesting.

As so many say "It is an Honor to be a Devil Dog" so let's go forth and do wonderful things for ourselves, our Pounds, our Pack, our Detachments, our Department and our Marines, Semper Fidelis.

Jim Brady

PDD 05-288

MD Pack Leader (extraordinary)



## Toys for Tots - Marian James



Greetings.

I would like to make personal contact with everyone who will be coordinating the Toys for Tots Program for their Detachment. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if all Toys for Tots Detachment Chairs would please provide me with their contact information. The information can be sent to me via e-mail at [ehpierce@comcast.net](mailto:ehpierce@comcast.net) or you may call me at 410-358-5727 if you do not have access to e-mail.

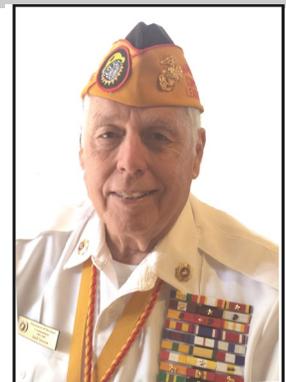
I am looking forward to networking with the respective Leagues. Thank you in advance for all that you do to put a smile on the faces of our children in need and I am sure that we will have another successful year as we promote our Toys for Tots Program.



## Chief of Staff - Jack Severn

I attended the National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ, and had a wonderful time. Yes it was a little warm, I'm glad it was a "DRY heat", instead of 114 degrees it felt like 112 degrees.

I couldn't have been more proud of our Department and Pack. Ben Wells, Ray Sturm, Manny Airey and Jim Brady presented a check for \$15,000 to Marines Helping Marines. The Gold Medal was awarded to our Commandant, Craig Reeling and to myself.



Jim Brady and Manny Airey presented the magnificent trophies to the Kennel for the most Bones received in the Kennel Pack and Pound. Jim and Mike Hadley designed this great piece of artwork. I would especially like to thank the Kennel and all Dogs for bestowing me such a great honor as Honorary Chief Devil Dog. I can't put into words how much I appreciate everyone's support.

I think everyone in the League and Kennel now know where "Mer-lin" is on the map. Great job!!

## Seargant-at-Arms - Howard Koontz

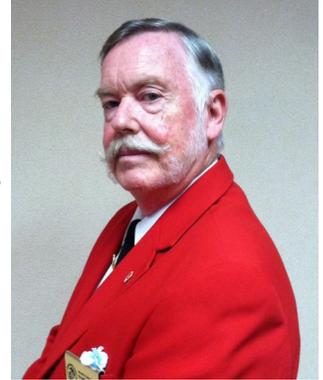
Dear fellow Marines,

My Name is Howard Koontz, a Member of MCL Baltimore Detachment 565. I am the Jr. Past Commandant and currently hold dual offices of Chaplain and Medical Officer. This year I have been appointed to the Department as Sgt at Arms. My job description for this position includes the

- Ability to keep a pleasant demeanor in all situations
- Ability to keep control of difficult situations
- and the ability to keep peace at the meetings

I am also;

- Responsible for all sign in sheets and meeting setups
- Keeps order during the meetings
- Responsible for keeping inventory records pertaining to the state detachment
- and Retrieving any materials upon leaving the meeting



The Sergeant at Arms, under the direction of the presiding officers, maintains order and decorum among the members and all persons present at a meeting and may even expel persons from the meeting. He may act as doorkeeper and is responsible for admitting only eligible persons. He acts as usher or directs the ushers and is generally responsible for the comfort and convenience of the assembly. It is his duty to arrange the meeting equipment including the sound system(s), flags, and the MCL Maryland State Charter. I ask that each member to sign in upon entering the meeting with their name, office currently holding or held, e-mail and telephone number. The sign in book will be on the table as you enter. This information will allow me to verbally recognize each officer by name and office held or currently being held.

I am a retired U. S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Hospital Corpsman (8404). I served in the 2nd BN, 6th Marines, 4th CBTENGBN, 2 field evac hospital and many Naval Hospitals on the East Coast and Naples Italy. I made 2 Carb and 2 .5 Med Floats. I entered the Navy December 13 1968 and retired Aug 13, 2003 with the rank of Lt/Nurse Corps, USNR. I hope to meet with many of you during my tenure at Sgt at Arms.

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## Historian - Jack Severn

As your new Department Historian, I would like to ask all Past Department Commandants, and any other members to look around to see if you have anything pertaining to our Department, such as awards, certificates, articles, photos, reports and books. If you find anything please bring them to a meeting. If you can't make a meeting, I will be glad to come and pick them up. I am also looking for suggestions on a permanent home to display our awards. Contact me at 301-865-1962 or [jack7m@comcast.net](mailto:jack7m@comcast.net)

Let's get our History back where it belongs.

Thank you and Semper Fi

## Department Paymaster - Ed Dahling

I have worked with Department Commandant Craig Reeling on starting up two new accounts; a main account for checking and the other for the Department Convention by transferring the money from the old account into the two new accounts.

I have also been working on setting up a spread sheet in excel to keep track of money being received and our expenses. This will help to keep the accounts in balance.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at 410-987-5714 or [umpire86@aol.com](mailto:umpire86@aol.com)

Ed Dahling MCL

Department of Maryland Paymaster



## Legislative Chairman - Gerard Devlin

Since the legislature adjourned its Constitutionally mandated 90 day session on April 7 and will not meet again until the second Wednesday in January, 2016 there is really not much news to report. I will be meeting with my Senator Doug Peters, co-chair of the Legislative Veteran's Caucus, in the near future to discuss legislation expected to be introduced next year. Doug is a decorated veteran of Desert Storm and is a past commander of the VFW and American Legion posts in Bowie. I will have more report at the next staff meeting.

## 70th Anniversary of WWII Ending

On September 2, 1945 President Harry S. Truman proclaimed V-J Day and the end of World War II after the formal surrender of Japan took place.

Be sure to thank a member of the *Greatest Generation*. They are being lost at an alarming rate and should know how much their sacrifices are appreciated, even to this day.



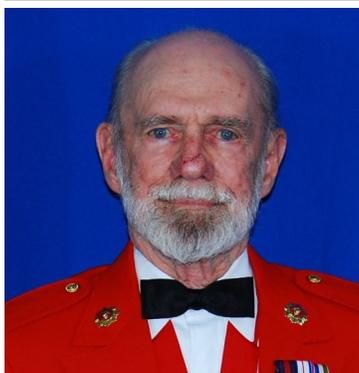
## Young Marines East - Bruce Vanden Bos

As Department of Maryland, Young Marines Liaison East, the Southern Maryland Young Marines took a trip to the 8th & I evening parade on the 7th of August along with a trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Plans are being made to visit the other Young Marine units in the East Division in the near future.

I can be contacted at 301-904-6623 or [bavanderbos@gmail.com](mailto:bavanderbos@gmail.com)



## Young Marines West - Joe Clemente



The Young Marine West Liaison is responsible for the following Young Marine units:

- Carroll County
- Hamilton
- Jarrettsville
- Mountaineer Platoon
- Central MD
- Elkridge
- Maryland Line

If your Young Marine unit has an events, please contact Joe so he can try to attend. It is Joe's job to form a link between his Young Marine units and the Marine Corps League.

Joe can be reached at 301-829-5455 or [jrc1172@aol.com](mailto:jrc1172@aol.com)

## Charlotte Hall - Bruce Vanden Bos

A collaboration between Marine Corps League, Patuxent River Detachment 1305 and the Southern Maryland Young Marines hosted a cookout for the residents at Charlotte Hall Veteran's home.

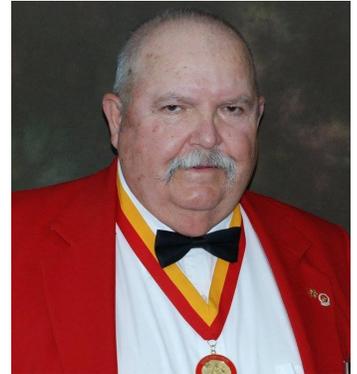
A visit by some Department Officers, including a walkthrough to see the diverse offerings available, was enjoyed. Plans are being made for additional activities in 2015.



## Chaplain - Tony Begenwald

As Chaplain of the Department of Maryland it is my responsibility to tend, to the best of my ability, to the needs of the members and members' families in times of distress, illness, and/or death. In order to accomplish this it is each member's responsibility to keep me informed of situations and issues of need that require my involvement. Such involvement could include visitations to members/families who are sick, or who have lost a loved one; involvement if funerals as required; and publicize special medical needs of the member/family. I will send appropriate "Get Well" or "Sympathy" cards to the members and/or their families. I will forward to MCL National the Death Notice forms whenever one of our members passes on. I will perform the appropriate Invocations at the Opening and Closing of business meetings and other functions as required. Finally, I will perform other duties as requested by the Commandant.

I can be reached at 301-262-4869 or [caroletonybeg@aol.com](mailto:caroletonybeg@aol.com)



## Marines Helping Marines East Coast Director - Tony Begenwald

As the Director – East Coast for the Marines Helping Marines (MHM) Foundation I will make visitations and coordinate the visitations of other members to the wounded Marines and FMF Corpsmen at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center – Bethesda and other venues where they and/or their families assemble. I will actively pursue fund raising activities to enable the MHM to provide comfort and support to the Wounded Marines. I will report the status of the program and solicit program needs to the members at each Staff meeting.



## Web Sergeant - Mike Hadley

As the Web Sergeant, I am your contact if you see anything that needs to be updated or added on the Department's Website. Feel free to contact me at [mrh0815@verizon.net](mailto:mrh0815@verizon.net)

The Department would also like to list any events that you are having in your area . There may be members in other Detachments that would like to attend and support their fellow League members.

I will update the Newsletters as they are published, as well as convention information and any other items deemed important by the Department Officers and Staff. We will also be adding a section with the reports from each Department meeting, so you can review them if you were not able to attend.



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Toys for Tots Campaigns are kicking off all around the Department. Contact your local coordinator in order to help give a child a Christmas. You can contact Department Toys for Tots Representative, Marian James if you are not sure where your local campaign is being hosted.

The Marine Corps Birthday will be upon us soon. If your Detachment is hosting a Marine Corps Birthday Ball, please let us know so we can disseminate the information to the membership.

The January Department meeting will be hosted by the Carrol County Detachment in Westminster. Date will be posted as soon as it is available.

*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*

*-Helen Keller*

Be sure to send us **any events** that you would like to have posted in the *Maryland Muster*. Send to Evie Remines at

[mclchick@hotmail.com](mailto:mclchick@hotmail.com)

or Don Benson at

[msgte8don@yahoo.com](mailto:msgte8don@yahoo.com)

**Maryland Muster**  
Newsletter for the  
**DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND**  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

*Once a Marine, always a Marine*



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/MarineCorpsLeagueMaryland](http://www.facebook.com/MarineCorpsLeagueMaryland)

The members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorable discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marine and former Marines and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.



Marine Corps League license plates are always available! As long as you are a member in good standing you qualify for these plates. If interested, please contact Craig Reeling at [Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org](mailto:Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org)

***If you would like something posted in the next issue of the Maryland Muster, email either Evie at [mclchick@hotmail.com](mailto:mclchick@hotmail.com) or Don at [msgte8don@yahoo.com](mailto:msgte8don@yahoo.com)***