



OORAH NEWSLETTER

*Granite State Detachment #542
Marine Corps League*

March 31, 2022 Quarterly Issue: 2022-001

COMMANDANT'S CORNER



BJ Byers

Dear Detachment Members, Friends and Supporters,
Welcome to the 2022 first quarter "OORAH" Newsletter. Please take a look at this Newsletter as I'm sure you'll find something of interest. Please share any thoughts and/or ideas you may have for future issues with our editor Marge Romano.

I hope everyone's year is off to a great start. The weather is starting to warm up and summer will be here before you know it. I'm looking forward to spending time with my immediate family on our boat fishing and "hitting the links" on a more consistent basis than last year.

I am excited about the impact our Detachment and its members will have on our community this year. I encourage all our members to pick at least one of the events we will hold in 2022 and volunteer to help us in our **MISSION** to support our Marine Corps brothers and sisters as well their families. You'll be glad you did! Additionally, we support a number of charitable organizations throughout the state. We can't complete this mission without your help!! You can reach out to me personally by phone 910-467-5667 or email: commandant@granitestatemarines.com if you are interested. I am sure we can find an event that interests you. Your support is critical for the Detachment to complete our MISSION.

I'd also like to draw your attention to our Monthly Breakfast which is held on the last Saturday of each month at the Airport Diner on Brown Ave in Manchester. The number of attendees has been growing steadily and a good time is had by all. In addition to ordering breakfast (with a 25% discount) a 50/50 drawing is held exclusively for the attendees of the breakfast. I had the luck a couple months ago and I won a couple hundred dollars along with several certificates for local restaurants. I encourage you to "check us out" at the Airport Diner each month. It's a great time to socialize, share stories and enjoy being around our Marine Corps Family. I look forward to seeing you there.

In closing, I wish you all good health and hope that you enjoy 2022 surrounded by family, friends and loved ones.
Semper Fidelis

SR. VICE COMMANDANT



Gary Gahan

I am honored that Commandant B J Byers asked and nominated me to fill the position that unfortunately was vacated by John Jenkins for personal reasons. During his tenure, John was very successful in securing opportunities from local vendors to help support GSD

Fund-raising activities - bringing in over \$8,000 in 2021. GSD is now putting these funds towards various organizations that support Veteran's needs in the greater Manchester area communities. Kudos to John and the Detachment members and friends who have helped support these causes in the past.

What is the meaning of joining an organization such as the Marine Corps League and volunteerism? For me, joining the Marine Corps League was an opportunity to connect with both current active duty as well as prior service Marines to regain the comradeships that existed when I served on active duty with my beloved Marines. I find that there are many more Marines residing in our communities that are completely unaware that the Marine Corps League even exists. I will always get a hearty "Semper Fi" when someone notices my belt buckle, my cover, my vehicle, etc. I always ask them if they are aware of our organization and, more often than not, the answer is no. I then chat about the league and invite them as a way to reconnect with other likeminded men and women.

What is volunteerism? Think back to the time that you were entering the service. Perhaps you came to the Marine Corps first as a volunteer or perhaps had received the dreaded draft notice and chose to join the Marine Corps rather than be dedicated to a branch of service you may not have wanted to be in. When we became an active member of the Marine Corps, we all took an oath of office to defend and protect the United States from all enemies both foreign and domestic. Once we completed our contracted time and were relieved of active duty, that sacred oath never ended and only will end at our passing. As "volunteers" to our oath we were expected to do various tasks as either required or requested under the penalty of punishment if it was not followed through on. However, as Detachment members, this volunteerism takes on a new meaning. Nothing moves forward within the Marine Corps League unless, as members, under the new oath and obligation that we undertook when we joined the league that we agreed to step up to the plate when opportunities arise to assist within our organization; to grow and prosper or when we have fund raising opportunities to assist the needs of our communities. We all have been given the same twenty-four hours of the day of time to allocate to our needs. What I ask of our membership is that when an opportunity arises to serve the needs within the detachment or a need for fund raising that you would endeavor to dedicate to the endeavor willingly and commit what time and effort you are comfortable with.

Semper Fidelis

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Chaplain Joe Duquette

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Almighty God, we recommend to your gracious care all the men, women and children of Ukraine.

Protect them day to day by your heavenly grace.

Strengthen the people of Ukraine and give them courage to face the perils of war.

Grant them a sense of your presence wherever they may be.

Give the soldiers of Ukraine the courage and stamina to fight on and bless them Lord in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

God Bless You.

Inspiring Quote

When everything goes to hell, the people who stand by you without flinching - they are your family.

- Jim Butcher, author

**GRANITE STATE
DETACHMENT #542**

OFFICERS 2022

Commandant
BJ Byers
Sr. Vice Commandant
Gary Gahan
Jr. Vice Commandant
Chris Peirce
Judge Advocate
Open Position
Adjutant
Shawn Carboni
Paymaster
Gary Gahan
Chaplain
Joe Duquette
Quartermaster
John Petralito
Sergeant at Arms
Greg Krill
Web Sergeant
Chris Alberding

**THIS MONTH IN
MARINE CORPS HISTORY**

January 10, 1995

2,600 U.S. Marines were deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield to assist the final United Nations peacekeeping troop's withdrawal from the country.

February 2, 1944

The 4th Marine Division captured Roi-Namur and 8 other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the beginning of World War II.

March 31, 1801

The second Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant Colonel William W. Burrows, rode with then President Thomas Jefferson in search of, "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." The two chose a square in Southeast Washington at 8th and I streets due to its proximity to the Navy Yard, as well as being within marching distance of the Capitol.

Officers Meeting 1800 – 1830

followed by the

Membership Meeting

1830 – 2000

on the

2nd Tuesday of the month

at the

Elks Lodge #146
290 Granite Street
Manchester, NH

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 3857
Manchester, NH 03105

Website:

www.granitestatemarines.com

Marine Corps Breakfast

08:00 Last Saturday of the Month

Airport Diner, Brown Avenue

Manchester, NH



Did you know ...?

The Marine Corps' official flag, or "Battle Color," is decorated with 55 colored streamers representing each of the branch's unit awards and periods of service since the American Revolution.

Chesty the Bulldog, the Marine Corps' mascot, is named after Marine Lt. Gen. **Louis B. "Chesty" Puller**.

The Marines are recognized as one of the most elite military forces in the world!

What Separates the Marines From the Other Branches?

- The Marines operate as a Part of the Department of the Navy.
- The Marines are often first on the ground.
- The Marines Guard U. S. Embassies
- Marines Learn Martial Arts.
- Marines award the title of "Honorary Marines" to individuals who earn the title by making noteworthy contributions to the Marine Corps.
- Marines have a special Holiday Mission – "Toys for Tots".

German soldiers nicknamed Marines "Teufel Hunden," or "Devil Dogs," after their heroic fighting on the battlefields of France in 1918.



MARCH 29**NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR
VETERANS DAY**

March 29 was chosen as National Vietnam War Veterans Day because on March 29, 1973, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was disbanded and the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam. The last unit was elements of MACV's Infantry Security Force (Special Guard).

On March 29, 2012, President [Barack Obama](#) proclaimed March 29, 2012, as Vietnam Veterans Day. The proclamation called "upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that commemorate the 50 year anniversary of the Vietnam War.

On December 26, 2016, the Vietnam Veterans Day Coalition of States Council presented a letter to President Elect [Donald Trump](#) and Congressional leadership outlining the history and timeline of cause to establish March 29 as Vietnam War Veterans Day and requesting that it be one of the first legislations passed and signed into law during the 115th Congress.

On March 28, 2017, President Trump signed the [Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017](#). This act officially recognizes March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Act also includes the day among those days on which the [US flag](#) should especially be displayed.

**Town of Hooksett and the Hooksett
Bicentennial Committee Sponsor
The Vietnam Moving Wall Event**



Is Coming To
Hooksett, New Hampshire

The Moving Wall is a Half Size Replica of The Vietnam Wall Located in Washington, D.C and will be on display 24 hours a day at
ARTHUR DONATI MEMORIAL FIELD
Directly behind Town Hall @ 35 Main Street, Hooksett, NH

May 5, 2022 – May 8, 2022
Escort from the Fairfield: Thursday, May 5 at 10:00 A.M.
Opening Ceremony: Thursday, May 5 at 5:00 P.M.
Closing Ceremony: Sunday, May 8 at 5:00 P.M.

Volunteer opportunities: <https://www.signupgenius.com/qo20F0F4DA5A62EA7FC1-vietnam>

This event is sponsored by the Town of Hooksett and the Hooksett Bicentennial Committee

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

Marine For Life Network (M4L) connects transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service. The Marine For Life Network offers Marines and family members connections to military-friendly employment, education, and other Veteran and community resources.

For more information contact GSD #542 member:

Shawn Carboni
New England Division M4L Liaison
Department of New Hampshire M4L Liaison
Granite State Detachment 542 M4L Liaison
Carbs10@yahoo.com
(603)203-8266

or

National Marine Corps League
Marine For Life Contact
David Ossian
dossian@mcleague.org

Website address: <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/services/career/marine-for-life-network/>

Inspiring Quotes

When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.

- Malala Yousafzai

Whatever you want to do, if you want to be great at it, you have to love it.

- Maya Angelou

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES**JANUARY**

James Ambrose
Dick Anagnost
Jacob Bowen

FEBRUARY

Chris Aberding
Joey Duquette
Joseph Duquette
Keith Gagne
Robert Gannon
Nancy Gero
Robert Goulette
Pauly Labbe
Christopher Peirce
Richard "Doc" Plichta
Gerard Tanguay

MARCH

Jim Covatis
John Fallon
Daniel Fedor
David Freschi
William Gibbons
Ronald Hayward
John Jenkins
Frank A. Silva

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they
just have the heart.

Elizabeth Andrew, writer

MEMBERSHIP BIRTHDAYS**JANUARY**

Jacob Bowen
Robert Callahan
Jeffrey Corcoran
Gary Gahan
Richard Plichta

FEBRUARY

NONE

MARCH

Charles Clough
Robert A. Gannon

Count your age by friends, not years.
Count your life by smiles, not tears.

- John Lennon



**Attention
Veterans,
Veterans' Families,
Caregivers and Survivors.**

VA News

Disability Compensation and Benefits Available to Vietnam War Veterans

For more information please visit www.va.gov to learn more about the available benefits and services. You can also call the VA at 800-827-1000 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST Monday through Friday to speak with a representative.

HAPPY SPRING 2022, MARINES



“SEMPER FI”

Editor-in-Chief, Marge Romano