



# OORAH NEWSLETTER

*Granite State Detachment #542  
Marine Corps League*

June 2022 Quarterly Issue: 2022-002

## COMMANDANT'S CORNER



BJ Byers

Dear Detachment Members, Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the Second Quarter's publication of the "OORAH" Newsletter - I am sure you will find something of interest in this quarterly issue. Please share any thoughts and/or ideas you may have for future issues with Editor Marge Romano.

Summer 2022 is here and the Detachment just completed a very successful fundraising event at the Bass Pro Shops and also at each of the Market Baskets located in Hooksett and Bedford, NH.

Last month, I sent out the call for our membership to step up and be active in our fundraising activities ..... and you did just that!! I am proud of the way you came together to accomplish this fundraising event! Special thanks to our Senior Vice Commandant, Gary Gahan, for executing his 5 paragraph order (SMEAC). Job well done!

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

Semper Fidelis

## SR. VICE COMMANDANT



Gary Gahan

## RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

As members, we are all responsible for recruiting new members for our very own Granite State Detachment #542 and for the Marine Corps League as a whole. When I look at our GSD roster of 55+/- members, I see that over 75% are of the age of sixty and above with other members of this group in their seventies, eighties and even some into their early nineties. As members, we need to ask ourselves the "why" question. Is it that there are far older members than younger? And, "why" are there not more younger and invigorated members? I personally believe that part of the problem is the lack of awareness that there is such an organization as the **Marine Corps League**.

I became aware of the MCL when I first met up with Maurice Labbe and Frank Diekmann at a public awareness event that was held years ago at the Manchester Riverfest where they had a booth with information regarding the MCL. After speaking with them, I chose to join the MCL GSD #542 here in Manchester, NH.

When out and about in the greater Manchester area, I wear a Marine Corps baseball cover indicating that I am

a Vietnam Veteran Marine. I find myself running into both older and younger prior service Marines. When I ask them if they know about the Marine Corps League usually the answer is no. I ask most of them to come to a meeting and or one of our monthly breakfast events. I encourage our Detachment officers and the membership to hold a meeting dedicated to this subject and include a brainstorming session as to how we ALL can work to change the face of the Granite State Detachment #542 to be **known by Marines for Marines and their families as an organization they want to be connected to.**

Semper Fidelis

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



*Chaplain Joe Duquette*

## Memorial Day Reflection

Memorial Day is a way for surviving Veterans, spouses, families and all Americans to pay tribute to those lost on the battlefield.

Because of these sacrifices, we have freedoms that no other country has.

As fellow Marines, it is our duty to keep an eye on these freedoms that are being challenged all the time.

Many Veterans live with the turmoil of war within us. I for one have dealt with this turmoil. I have often pondered why I made it home and others did not. I have had feelings of guilt about it.

Nothing can compare to our Veterans' bravery.

God Bless

## MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR

Dear American Servicemen and Servicewomen:

I thought of you today. I wonder if you died in battle defending our country or warm in your bed after a life filled with love and joy. Was your end peaceful or riddled with demons still waging war in your head? Did you find love and support from those who appreciate your sacrifice or were you met with sneers and bad will from those never knowing what you suffered, what you saw and how those images haunted you until the day you died?

Is your name on a wall in a military cemetery or on a private headstone overlooking a beautiful meadow?

Whatever your end story, I trust you are resting peacefully.

You're probably looking down on us today wondering what the heck is happening to the good ole' USA – food shortages, skyrocketing gas prices, polarizing political parties and hate crimes abound. And there is a general unease that permeates our country. But I promise you did not die in vain. I pray you show us the way with your collective guidance and steer the USA back to its intended glory.

No nation melds so many cultures, so many diverging thoughts into such a unique melting pot. Media highlights the bad, but they are few compared to the masses of good-hearted people that make up our great nation.

I thought of you today and found gratitude; for your service is humbling when reflecting on my own acts of service palling in comparison.

Whatever your story, whatever your ending, thank you for the part you played in building American history, you are truly appreciated.

*Author - Linda Murphy*



## NH STATE VETERANS CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

On Monday, May 30, 2022, the Department of NH Marine Corps League proudly hosted the Memorial Day Ceremony. The commemorate program included NH Governor John Sununu along with many federal, state and local dignitaries. The program was attended by a record setting crowd of hundreds of people.

**John Jenkins, Commandant of the Department of NH Marine Corps League**, did an excellent job in the planning and execution of the program which honored and paid tribute to our brave service members who are no longer with us.



**Gary Gahan, Sr. Vice Commandant** of the MCL GSD #542 served as Chaplain at the Memorial Day event at the cemetery.

An impressive **Firing Detail** was provided by Marine Corps League members from various Detachments throughout the state.



The program ended at 7 p.m. with the playing of **TAPS**. The “100 Nights of Remembrance” begins on Memorial Day and **TAPS** will be played every night at 7 p.m. through September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## SUPPORT FOR NEW ENGLAND VETERANS WITH PTSD

### ***Boston Red Sox Run to Home Base Event***

My name is Richard Marsh and I am currently writing a book on the **History of the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. My website is [www.images-of-new-hampshire-history.com](http://www.images-of-new-hampshire-history.com)

My most visited page is related to photos of Veterans Memorials around New Hampshire. I visited the NH State Veterans Cemetery in 2017 and took enough photos of the “**Memorial Walkway**” to start a new page on my website: <http://www.images-of-new-hampshire-history.com/new-hampshire-state-veterans-cemetery.php>. I have always wanted to write a book about New Hampshire, so I decided on the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery with its rich history and beautiful memorials and landscape.

Besides documenting the Veterans memorials around the Granite State, I also support **Veterans with PTSD** by participating in the **Boston Red Sox Run to Home Base** which raises money for the **intense two week program at Massachusetts General Hospital for Veterans and their families coping with PTSD**. Typically we assemble at Fenway Park in Boston and after the opening ceremony with state and military dignitaries, we walk around Boston ending up stepping on Home Base.

Due to COVID-19, meeting in Boston was not an option in 2020, so I chose the route from the NH State Veterans Cemetery to the NH State Veterans Home in Tilton. The “**Heroes**” at the Veterans Home received few visitors at that time and warmly greeted someone carrying a flag to their home. The reception was amazing.

Last year, to obtain more sponsors, **my daughter Laura and I walked from the NH State House to the Veterans Home – 19 miles**. I had hoped for local media attention, but unfortunately we left from an empty courtyard. Again, the warm reception we received was worth hiking up Mountain Road to the Veterans Home.

This year with my involvement in the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the NH State Veterans Cemetery** (I am on the Celebration Committee), I decided once again to walk from the NH State Veterans Cemetery to the NH State Veterans Home.

**This year, on July 30<sup>th</sup>**, Laura and I start from the Gold Star Families Memorial because the ceremony in Boston always begins with a salute to the Gold Star Families.

Home Base Director, Brigadier General Jack Hammond has indicated that the **Veteran Suicide rate is at an all-**

time high due to COVID 19, the withdrawal from Afghanistan and the images from the Ukraine.

I appreciate any support you can manage for this worthwhile cause. Thank you, Richard Marsh.



Richard Marsh and daughter Laura

## GSD #542 FLAG FUNDRAISERS



**MAY 22, 2022**

**BASS PRO SHOPS, HOOKSETT, NH**



Gerry Tanguay, Joe Duquette and Commandant BJ Byers

**JUNE 25, 2022**

**MARKET BASKET, BEDFORD, NH**



Paul Coutu, Market Basket employee, and Eric Anthony

**MARKET BASKET, HOOKSETT, NH**



Jim Ambrose and Marge Romano

**HAND CRAFTED BEAUTIFUL WOODEN FLAG  
DONATED BY GSD MEMBER DON MITCHELL**



At the June fundraiser, folks who voluntarily donated \$20 or more were offered the option to fill out a ticket with their name and phone number for a chance to win the above pictured wooden flag. The drawing of the ticket for the lucky winner of this beautiful wooden flag will be held during the Detachment membership meeting on July 12th.

A sincere thank you to **master woodworker Don Mitchell** for his generous donation of the hand crafted flag which added to the overall success of this June's Detachment fundraiser.

**Also, a huge thank you to all of the following Detachment volunteers for the contribution of their time which enabled the success of the event:**

Gary Gahan, Kevin Brown, Pauly Labbe, Gerry Tanguay, Paul Coutu, Eric Anthony, Jim Ambrose, Marge Romano, Joe Duquette, Dan Fedor, John Bogdanowicz.

**Also, a special thank you to the non-member volunteers:** Marine Sgt. Isaiah Chavez, Marine Sgt Alfredo Martinez, Mary Ann (Diekmann) Landrum and Diane Howd.

## APPRECIATION PLAQUE PRESENTATIONS

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to the companies below for their organization's support in the interests of the Marine Corps League, Granite State Detachment #542 in allowing us the use of their facility to raise donations that benefit local Marines, Veterans and Veteran programs in the Greater Manchester, NH area.



**BASS PRO SHOPS - HOOKSETT, NH**  
Employees with BJ Byers, Joe Duquette and Gerry Tanguay



**MARKET BASKET - HOOKSETT, NH**  
Dan Fedor and the store Manager



**MARKET BASKET - BEDFORD, NH**  
Paul Coutu with the store Manager and Eric Anthony

## PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST FRANK A. DIEKMANN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In tribute to the memory of Frank A. Diekmann, the Granite State Detachment #542 established an academic scholarship in his name.

**Mary Ann Diekmann** presented the \$2,060 award check to **Emma Hamlin** at the June 14, 2022 Detachment membership meeting.

Emma is a sophomore student at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia and she is studying pre-law.

Emma thanked the membership and she stated that it was an honor to be the recipient of the first annual scholarship award established in Frank's memory.



**Mary Ann Diekmann, Emma Hamlin and Gary Gahan**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2022 FATHER'S DAY HONOR FLIGHT  
MANCHESTER AIRPORT**



**Gary Gahan joins the send-off group for the senior military heroes flying to Washington, D.C.**

**VETERANS HELPING VETERANS**



At the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GSD #542, BJ Byers, Commandant welcomes guest speaker David Gray, State Director of the **NH Hometown Hero Outdoors** non-profit organization.

After David's video presentation of a recent HHO outing in NH, the membership voted on a donation to HHO in the amount of \$1,000 towards an outdoor adventure for NH men and women who serve our nation and our community which includes

Veterans, Service members and Law enforcement. These outdoor activities include hunting, fishing, backpacking, foraging, camping and so much more.

For more detailed information, visit the website at:  
**Hometownherooutdoors.org**  
or  
email David at  
**newengland@hometownherooutdoors.org**

**NJROTC CEREMONY AT  
MANCHESTER WEST  
HIGH SCHOOL.**

On May 20, 2022, Gary Gahan, Sr. Vice Commandant, of the GSD #542, presented **Cadet Lt. Lottie Emery** with the **Marine Corps League "Community Service Award"** for loyalty and participation to our country.

The award is in recognition of exemplary service above and beyond the service activities performed by the unit of which the Cadet is a member; or has held a key leadership position and/or directly contributed to the planning, coordination and implementation of high-service/volunteer projects.

**Congratulations Cadet Lt. Emery!**



## ***BREAKFAST AND COMARADERIE AT THE AIRPORT DINER!***



### **COFFEE AND MORE!**

What a "FUNDAY" way to begin the weekend celebration of our wonderful country's **INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

After the Pledge of Allegiance to our beautiful flag and country, it was a very pleasant surprise for all attending the gathering to be entertained by Pat Anthony (wife of new GSD #542 member, Eric Anthony) playing **America the Beautiful, The Marine Corps Hymn** and other patriotic musical selections on her flute.



Pat Anthony plays The Marine Corps Hymn and several other patriotic musical pieces

Enthusiastic conversation amongst the group ensued with many sharing personal stories of how folks first met their spouses.

The very popular **voluntary FUNDAY raffle** was held before the meals were served with three very happy winners.

- **Pauly Labbe was the winner of the third month 50/50/50 raffle for \$155 plus a \$100 gift card to Market Basket.**
- **Joey Duquette won a \$50 gift card to Market Basket.**
- **Kevin Brown won a \$50 gift card to Market Basket.**



Pauly Labbe winner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month 50/50/50 FUNDAY voluntary raffle



This smiling group indicates a "good time" was had by all!

**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

**MEMORABLE QUOTES**

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.

- Abraham Lincoln

Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible.

- Unknown

Where liberty dwells, there is my country.

- Benjamin Franklin

**Officers Meeting 1800 – 1830**

followed by the

**Membership Meeting**

1830 – 2000

on the

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.granitestatemarines.com)**

**Marine Corps Breakfast**

**08:00 Last Saturday of the Month**

**Airport Diner, Brown Avenue**

**Manchester, NH**



**Did you know ...?**

**The Marine's mission is unique among the services.**

**Marines** serve on U. S. Navy ships, protect naval bases, guard U. S. embassies and provide an every-ready quick strike force to protect U. S. interests anywhere in the world.

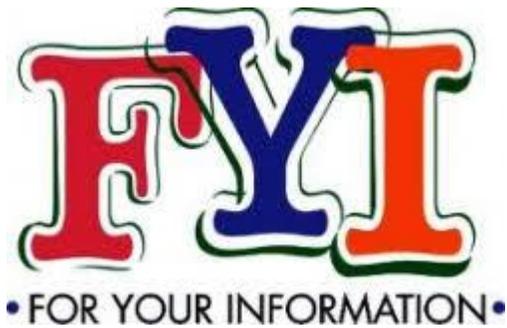
The **Marine Corps** handles "amphibious" operations which means they can carry out operations on land and water and they have a goal to preserve the peace and security of the nation.

**Marines** are distinguished by their mission, their training, their history, their uniform and their esprit de corps. You would not call a sailor a soldier, an airman a soldier, and certainly you should not call a Marine a soldier.

A **Marine** is primarily a warrior, skilled in the art of warfare. Still, Marines hold themselves to the high standards of the Corps, no matter what they are doing.

There are **five locations** that the majority of **new Marines** will be stationed at after they have completed the School of Infantry and Military Occupation Schooling. The **two largest** are Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC and Camp Pendleton in San Diego, CA. The **other three Marine Bases are located** in Hawaii on the island of Oahu, Okinawa Japan, and Quantico in Washington D.C.





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

## **VA News**

### **New Health and Benefits Mobile App**

The VA is making it easier to take charge of your benefits and health care with **its new Health and Benefits mobile application**. Download VA Health and Benefits with the click of a button and get access to the resources you need – wherever you are and whenever you want them.

**VA Health and Benefits App is available via the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.  
Download today!**

## **ENJOY SUMMER 2022 MARINES!**



**“SEMPER FI”**

*Editor-in-Chief, Marge Romano*