

TEXAS

**Robert "Bob" Way
Commandant**



MARINE

**Department of TEXAS
Marine Corps League**

SPRING

Edition



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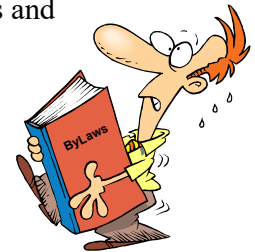
Commandant's Corner

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I AM LOOKING FORWARD to

seeing everyone at the June Convention in Bastrop. I know the Lost Pines Detachment has put in a lot of work to make your stay and the Convention a success.

We need to have as many delegates as possible from each Detachment at this Convention because there will be a major turnover of key members of the Board of Trustees and Department Staff/Committee chair positions. There will also be recommended changes to the Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures that will need to be discussed and voted on. Remember that this is our Department and it takes all of us working together to keep it running efficiently.



Polly Weidenkopf will be stepping down as the Department Adjutant/Paymaster after 12 years of keeping the money and paperwork of the Department squared away. And, let's not forget the many other committees and activities she has been involved with in the Department and Marine Corps League. She has done an outstanding job and is well deserving of a rest.



The dynamic duo of Bernie and Juanita O'Dell, after over 18 years, will be turning over their chairs for a much-needed rest and some family time. It will take a squad to fill the void that these two will be leaving - the *Texas Marine* newsletter, Americanism, Marine of the Year, Cam Posey Scholarship, Convention Credentials, MODD, Chapel of Four Chaplains, Southern Division Paymaster and Toys for Tots, just to name a few.

I thank them for all the help and advice they have given me over the years and know that they will continue to provide assistance to the Marine Corps League and the Department when needed.

Junior's Journal

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AS WE APPROACH our State Convention in Bastrop, I'm reminded of one of my favorite books, "*The Fifth Discipline*" by Peter M. Senge, captioned: The Art and Practice of The Learning Organization. Following are some highlights from the book I felt worth sharing.

THE FIVE DISCIPLINES OF CREATING A LEARNING ORGANIZATION:

A **Shared Vision** means all employees in a company share the same vision of where the organization needs to go (instead of a vision-statement where management has written where the organization should be going). Only when the vision is authentic and shared,

employees will automatically participate in the improvement processes to get the company closer to accomplishing its vision.

Senge describes a shared vision as follows:

people are not playing according to the rules of the game but feel responsible for the game.



Mental Models describe the presumptions and generalizations people have which influence their actions. The first step in having people change their Mental Models is to have people reflect on their own behavior and beliefs. One of the mental models in every organization is the official hierarchy. Personal values can overcome the shortcomings of hierarchical power. One important Value Senge describes is openness. One part of openness is to quit playing "power games" and be open and honest about what your real needs are.

Personal Mastery describes the strength of people to be proactive and keep on learning to continuously achieve results which are important for them. Two factors which are of importance in this discipline are: (1) defining what is important to us and (2) being able to see the current reality as it is.

Team learning includes two aspects:

- (1) effective teamwork leads to results which individuals could not have achieved on their own and
- (2) individuals within a team learn more and faster than they would have without the team.



The team members must be willing to shift their mental models and be open to learn from their colleagues.

System Thinking is used to analyze patterns in an organization by looking at it from a holistic viewpoint rather than small unrelated manageable parts.



Senge himself describes the elephant metaphor. When you split an elephant in two, you do not have two small elephants which you can take care of.

You can only take care of the one complete elephant. An organization is like a living organism and should, according to Senge, also be managed as one.

See you in Bastrop, and Semper Fi.



Chaplain's Comments

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GREETINGS MARINES and Associate Members:

Welcome to Spring!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming State Convention in Bastrop, TX.

Please remember to send me your death notices! (Any MODD member who passes on needs to have a death notice sent to me as well; I just happen to be the Texas Pack Dog Trainer too.) My mailing address: 704 Rancho Dr, Mesquite, TX 75149... or you can email me at: meadolarc@aol.com. **PLEASE NOTE:** The notices can no longer be handwritten; the form has to be filled out online (so it is typed) before you forward to me. National no longer accepts hand-written notices and will return them.



I will be reading the names of the deceased Texas Marine Corps League members at the Memorial Service on Saturday morning at the State Convention.

Please continue to keep our "sick and distressed" Marines in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you to everyone throughout the Texas

Detachments who keep us informed of Marines they find out about who are ill and if they are hospitalized, and what hospital they are in. Thank you as well to those who get out and visit these Marines.

Attention All Detachment Commandants! I need your Detachment Chaplain nominees. At the annual State Convention, we will award the Chaplain's Award to one of our deserving and outstanding Chaplains. I sent the District Vices an email notice about this with an attached form. They should have notified their Detachments. If your District Vice did not notify you, I do need an email or "snail mail" letter from the Detachment Commandant giving me your Chaplain's name, member of the Marine Corps League/your Detachment... and then let me know WHY your Chaplain is being nominated... what they do or have done that's

Spring

"over and above" the normal Chaplain duties. I must receive all nominations by **May 31**.

See you in June.

May 31st

Secrets to Lasting Friendships

by Nancy Gibbs

Seldom do we have friends that last for a lifetime. Most relationships are short-lived. As children we vow to never part, but as we grow up, we often-times grow apart. A good friend, however, is a cherished possession. There are some things we must do if we want to maintain friendships that last forever. The following are six secrets that are essential to keeping your friendships alive:

#1 We must keep confidential information to ourselves. One slip of the tongue could ruin our relationships.



#2 We must be able to forgive. Our friends make mistakes just as we do.

#3 We must put forth the effort to keep in touch. Too often, we wait for our friends to call us.

#4 We must be there when our friends have a need. If they are long-distance friends, they are still as close as the telephone.



#5 We must remember birthdays, anniversaries and even those days that might bring tears to the eyes of our friends.

#6 We must be willing to listen and encourage our friends to follow their heart.



Sergeant-At-Arms Summary

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AS WE ALL KNOW

the State Convention is rapidly approaching. So now is the time to start focusing on the convention practices and procedures. Some tend to remember that every convention we send in our registration fees to



register for the convention but forget that there is a \$2 fee at the convention doors that the Department requires. Also, you are required to be

in uniform (the uniform of the day is your MCL cover) and bring your Marine Corps League Identification Card with you for the business meeting. If you are a new member and you do not have a cover you will need to inform the Sergeant-At-Arms so he can get special permission from the Commandant. If you're so new that you do not have an Identification Card yet, bring a copy of your Detachment roster that has your name on it. There is also an optional \$1 fifty-fifty drawing fee (this is at every convention). Remember the fifty-fifty drawing fee is totally *optional*. You do not have to participate in the fifty-fifty drawing.



Also remember to turn off all phones, I Pads, and electronic devices during all meetings. Please remember when addressing the person leading any of the meetings, to stand and identify yourself (name and Detachment), wait to be recognized, then make your statement or ask your question.

If you need to excuse yourself while the business meeting is in session, use the Navy's method of embarking and disembarking a ship. To leave the meeting: stand, salute colors, proceed to the exiting hatch, salute the Sergeant-At-Arms, leave. To enter

the meeting from outside: salute the Sergeant-At-Arms, salute the colors, proceed to your seat.

I know that a lot of you old timers do not need the reminder on this repetitive old information so please disregard the stuff you remember. This is mainly for the newcomer who has not been to one of our state conventions. It's also to my friends out there who have a memory like mine who need an extra kick once in a while. Yeah, I got a friend out there. I think I still do.

Any questions prior to the convention that pop into your brain housing group please feel free to call me at 936-552-6823.

Remember, there is no stupid question. I will be glad to talk with you, especially any new members.



Webmaster Writings

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Department of Texas Webmaster
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GREETINGS FROM THE WEB GURU!!!

With technology advancing so much in the last three years, it's gotten to the point that communications are now done by cell phones, the Web, Facebook or Twitter. We have Facebook and a web page as well as the capability of communicating with a cell phone. Newsletters are becoming a thing of the past. So now we are forced to become more proficient with the new tools that are available. May I suggest that as you nominate and elect new officers that they are proficient with the cell phones as well as the web access and the modern technology? The goal is to communicate with all the elected officers in the future in a real time mode. We will need to ensure that there are email addresses for all the elected officers.

I can now see where each Department-elected officer communicates with their counterpart at the



Detachment level. Department Sr. Vice with the Detachment Sr. Vice and so forth. This will now provide us with real time information and the Department efficiency will increase. So, as you elect new officers, the only obstacle that you will have is ensuring that they have email service and an email address.



The other issue that has come to light is the lack of preparation for a meeting. The person leading the meeting (Commandant) should have a written meet-

ing plan with all the topics that will be discussed. Just reading the guidelines of the meeting is not enough to look professional to the members. Remember the 6 Ps... **“Proper Preparation Prevents Piss Poor Performance.”** Each leader must have a written plan that is given to the Adjutant so that it can be filed with the Detachment minutes. In the future, I can see where there will be orientation processes sent out via email to each individual affected in the Detachments.

Juanita O’Dell is retiring as the editor of the *Texas Marine* newsletter after this issue. Thanks to Juanita for all the great information she has provided us in the past and we wish her the best.



(L-R) Jr. Vice Angie Maness, Brenda Pina, Cmdt. Jimmie Tadlock, John Rodriguez and Robert Pina.

During the March meeting, members Robert and Brenda Pina presented to the Alamo Detachment two ceremonial rifles that will be used in our developing Color Guard team. The weapons are M-1 replicas and will serve in future parades, funerals, memorial services and more. The Color Guard team is headed up by Jr. Vice Commandant Angela Maness, who has much experience in Marine Corps ceremony and Marine decorum for such a detail. The Detachment appreciates the donation from Robert and his wife Brenda. If you would like information regarding the color guard please contact Jr. Vice Commandant Angie Maness.

Secondly, we are selling a Memorial Day T-shirt as a fundraiser. See the ad below.

Division/District/ Detachment Digest

ALAMO DETACHMENT SAN ANTONIO

Submitted by Orlando Garza
Past Detachment Commandant
(210) 551-8855 (C) • garza_orlando@yahoo.com

ALAMO DETACHMENT RECEIVES DONATION



ALAMODETACHMENT315
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Alamo Detachment 315 • PO BOX 831641 • SAN ANTONIO, TX 78283-1641

Order Now! Last day to order is May 9th.

Wear Your "Memorial Day Remembrance" T-shirt. This T-shirt fundraiser helps benefit Alamo Detachment 315 Marine Corps League programs like Marine Helping Marines, Veterans, Young Marines program, Scholarships and more.

T-Shirts
Small - X-Large \$20.00
2 X-Large & 3 X-Large \$22.00
* Includes Shipping

Available Colors
Black, Red, True Navy, True Royal, Maroon

Gildan T-shirt description

- 100% Heavy Cotton
- Double-needle sleeves and hem
- Taped neck and shoulders
- Tearaway label



Order online by visiting

www.alamodetachment315mcl.org

or mail your check to Alamo Detachment 315, PO Box 831641, San Antonio, TX 78283-1641
for more information you can call us at (210) 551-8855 or email us at alamodetachment315mcl@gmail.com.

Sizes S-3X (2X & 3X add \$2), Colors: Black, Navy, Royal, Red, Purple, Grey

Thank you for your support!

-Shirts are non-returnable-

**BIG D DETACHMENT
DALLAS**

Submitted by Melody Bronson, *Adjutant/Paymaster*
(469) 853-7681 (H) • *meadolarc@aol.com*

HELLO FROM BIG D!!



The Mid-Winter Conference has come and gone. Member Polly Weidenkopf attended and said it was the best one she has ever attended! So glad to hear this! By the time this newsletter comes out the Southern Division Convention will have come and gone... some of our members will be attending and I'm sure we will have some great reports! Let's hope Texas does well in the wine tasting event!



Our Detachment has already been busy with Eagle Scout Honor Courts and have several more planned over the next few months as well as MCROTC Top Cadet presentations. Big "D" presents the Top Cadet with a certificate and a USMC replica sword.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention in Bastrop, TX. We have several of our Detachment members attending this year.

And to all you MODD members: Let's raise a lot of BIG BONES at the GROWL and show our Worthy Pack Leader Taylor Rice that we are some Worthy Devil Dogs!!



W

**DEANE HAWKINS DETACHMENT
& DISTRICT 3
EL PASO**

Submitted by Robert Way
Detachment Jr. Past Commandant
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ANOTHER BUSY TIME for the Deane Hawkins Detachment...

Members were busy helping with the Young Marines and their training.



BSA Troop 435 after Eagle Scout presentation

The Honor Detail has been very busy and has provided Honors for 45 deceased veterans as well as two Memorial Ceremonies.



Tigua Indians at Ft. Bliss Cemetery, Vietnam Commemoration Ceremony

VVA Chapter 574 Color Guard for Commemoration Ceremony



We have also provided coffee and snacks at the VA clinic every month.

We are now getting ready for Memorial Day and the placing of flags at the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery.



On 29 March 2018 the city of Waco and the Vietnam Veterans Association added seven names to the Waco Memorial. State Representative for District 56 Charles “Doc” Anderson was in attendance to help recognize our Veterans.



HEART OF TEXAS DETACHMENT WACO

Submitted by Rolando Hernandez
Commandant
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THE HEART OF TEXAS Detachment closed out its first year of the Don't Mess with Texas campaign.



The United States Navy selected 15 cities throughout the United States to host Navy Week. The City of Waco was selected and held various events all over town. Members of the Heart of Texas Detachment #975 enjoyed a night out as the

Navy's Rock Band “The Destroyers” entertained the crowd.



Congratulations to Roger Sturdevant who was nominated as the Heart of Texas Detachment Marine of the Year.





League members pose with the Waco Harley team after the race.



Members of HOT and Louis Qualls Detachments enjoy a dinner night out.



**LOST PINES LEATHERNECKS
DETACHMENT
BASTROP**

Submitted by Tony Poletti, *Commandant*
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LOST PINES LEATHERNECKS

Detachment #1384 has a unique program that helps vets in the Bastrop area and reaches out from central Texas. The program is called the “Funding Assistance in Trying Hands.”

Activities during January 2018:

January 3rd... four members attended the monthly Bastrop Chamber of Commerce Luncheon and promoted the Department MCL Convention;

January 4th... Ken and Patsy Steffek attended a funeral of a fallen vet in Corpus Christi;

January 6th... Ken and Patsy Steffek assisted in repairing and organizing the home of a vet;

January 11th... Ken and Patsy Steffek, Patty Fenter, Charles Grant, Don and Robin Fannin, and Don Dorsey attended the monthly meeting of the Texas Association of Viet Nam Vets to promote the Department MCL Convention;

January 17th... Ken and Patsy Steffek visited a WW II vet and his wife to check up and spend time with the couple;

January 17th and 27th... Ken and Patsy Steffek and Porky Candelara visited the Restoration Ranch



Detachment members enjoy a great steak dinner provided by the VFW #6008. The HOT Young Marines were working this event.

facility to partnership and discuss the Department MCL Convention;

January 21st...

LPL#1384 had its Officer Installation. District 4 Vice Commandant Ken Steffek was the installation officer.



Activities during February 2018:

February 9th and 10th... Department Commandant Bob Way came to Bastrop to conduct a convention site visit where he received a detailed presentation and situation update by the Detachment Convention Committee;

February 16th... Detachment supported one vet by building him a wheel chair access ramp. We helped another vet by paying several of his bills through the F.A.I.T.H. Program. One of our members (Lupe Moncebaiz) received a donation of \$100 that was directed toward the F.A.I.T.H. Program;

February 16th... LPL#1384 had ten members who attended the Annual Bastrop 80th Chamber of Commerce Banquet and Annual Meeting. We participated in creating a great drink and when the votes were counted, our Detachment came in second;



February 17th... Don Fannin, Lupe Moncebaiz, Ken and Pat Steffek, and Mike and Jane Keppler, who participate as members of the Bastrop County Honor Guard, assisted in rendering Military Honors for a fallen veteran in Bastrop County;

February 24th... members Don Fannin, Lupe Moncebaiz, Ken and Pat Steffek, and Mike and Jane Keppler participated in the Veterans Honor Guard Banquet;



February 25th... Ken and Patsy Steffek spent the day visiting a vet in Taylor, TX, and enjoyed a great lunch and fellowship;

February 26th... members Ken and Patsy Steffek, Porky Candelara, and Kelly Walraven visited Restoration Ranch to install a gate on a storage barn, make repairs, and paint fences.

Activities during March 2018:

LPL #1384 assisted one vet by paying his rent in Bastrop County and helped another vet in Harris County (Hurricane Harvey Flood victim) by installing a portable wheel chair ramp;

March 6th, 7th, 9th and 31st... members Don Fannin, Lupe Moncebaiz, Ken and Pat Steffek, and Mike and Jane Keppler participated in the Bastrop County Honor Guard assisting in rendering Military Honors for several fallen veterans in Bastrop County;



March 14th... members help rebuild a disabled vet home damaged from Hurricane Harvey;

March 17th... members Patsy and Ken Steffek, Jane and Mike Keppler, and Lupe Moncebaiz participated in a Bastrop Chamber Luncheon that we sponsored. They networked and presented information about the F.A.I.T.H. Program and sponsorships for the upcoming Department MCL Convention;



March 17th... Commandant Tony Poletti and his wife Kathy attended the National MCL Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA.

March 24th... members assisted in helping with construction clean-up of a Medal of Honor Recipient in Bastrop County.

March 24th... Ken and Patsy Steffek and Wayne Mercer worked a booth at the Lake Bastrop Acres opening of a new Fire House.



Auxiliary Announcements

Johnnie Lopez, *MCL Auxiliary President*
(254) 405-9404 (H) • luizjohnnie@yahoo.com

HI EVERYBODY...

It has been an eventful year for the Department. We have been working on growing the auxiliary units in Texas. It is a slow process, but one that needs to continue. In my opinion, if the Department and the League work together we will achieve our goal.



Before we know it, it will be time for the State Convention. It will be wonderful to see everyone again. I have missed seeing

everyone due to health problems, so it will be even nicer to catch up with all of you.

We will hold elections at State and I hope members from all auxiliary units will be there. Participation is so important.



Devil Dog Doings

Taylor Rice
Pack Leader, Pack of Texas
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WOOF WOOF...

It won't be long until we meet for the Department Grand Growl. For those dogs who want to advance to DD and PDD they need to get their forms to the Department Dog Robber for signature. The dogs MUST be paid up on their dues.



This June will be my last days as Pack Leader. Its been a great two years and thanks for your support.

Viola Trevino
Southern Division Vice President
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GREETINGS LADIES...

Despite all the crazy weather changes we've had this year I've been very busy this past two months. I managed to attend two Conferences and they were very productive.

In March I was honored to represent Southern Division at Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, VA, March 1st – 4th, bringing back some information to report to Division members.



In April I attended the Southern Division Conference in Springdale AR, that was hosted by the Northwest Arkansas Detachment #854. On behalf of the Southern Division Auxiliary members in attendance, I would like to extend our Thanks



for their hospitality and very warm welcome.



Our Division held a very productive meeting covering topics on EIN filing, Activity Reports, National Scholarships, Girl Scout Awards and more. Elections was the last order of business.

I would like to congratulate the New Officers for Southern Division to be installed at the National Convention in Buffalo, NY, in August 2018...

Southern Division Vice President:

Terri Gothard

Assistant Southern Division Vice President:

Jackie Deen.

Units represented at Southern Division Conference were:

Department of Texas: Big D, Coastal Bend, and Heart of Texas.

Department of Arkansas: River Valley Claude Rogers.

Department of Texas Activity Report Chairs:

Americanism	Brenda Tomonelli	110 Mac Lane Pottsboro, TX 75076
Child Welfare	Karren Ogg	840 FM 1503 Deport, TX 75435-4609
Civics	Dorcas Simpson	1474 Chapel Rd. Lorena, TX 76655-3007
Rehab	Johnnie Lopez	1001 Hamilton St., Waco, TX 76705-3809
VAVS	Viola Trevino	3337 Casa de Amigos Dr., Corpus Christi, TX, 78411-3309

Once again, thank you Southern Division members for your support, confidence, and loyalty these past six years as your Division Vice President. I look forward to seeing you all at Department Convention in Bastrop, TX, in June.

Flea Fiddlings

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THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

Flea Hide (including our Arkansas sisters) hopped up to Springdale, AR, for the Southern Division Conference in April. The Flea Scratch theme was "50s Rock & Roll Flea Fling." The Fleas

were greeted with a Rockin', Rollin', B-Boppin' decorated Flea Room. Scratchy Flea Brenda Tomonelli installed New Crawler



Frances Wilson from

Claude Rogers Arkansas Unit. They also pestered and sang "You Ain't Nothing but a Hound Dog"

to three Pups in their quest to be Dogs. The Fleas, all uniformed in their 50's poodle skirts, jeans, and saddle shoes "B-Bopped" into the DD Growl and plied the Dogs with



candy for their Bone donations. The fines and bone donations were split between the Arkansas Units and the Department of Texas Operation Little Angel Funds.

The costumed Fleas "strolled" for the judges,



who then awarded the 50's Rock & Rollin' costume prizes to 1st Place winner Frances Wilson and 2nd Place winner Jackie Deen.



They followed up with refreshments of Twinkies, Pink Sno-balls, Cokes, and peanuts.

Scratchy Flea Brenda invited all MODDFleas to attend the Department of Texas Grand Scratch in Bastrop in June where we will install new Flea Officers. Big Flea Johnnie Lopez has stated that the theme for the Grand Scratch will be "Doggie Day Care" - all things Dog related (dog bowls, leashes, hydrants, etc.). Flea Fun and Dog pesterin' to ensue!



The Fleas also issue invites to Marine Corps League spouses/ladies to visit and share in our Flea Fun and see what the Auxiliary and the Fleas are all about. We would all welcome new members to join us in our very strong commitment to our Marines, Veterans, children, and communities. See you in Bastrop!!

Reminder: visit websites: texasmcl.org and nationalmcla.org and nationalmoddfleas.org for more info.



Announcing for Department Office

The following Department of Texas members have stated their intention to run for office at the Department State Convention in June, 2018:

Commandant Charles "Chuck" Bones
 Sr. Vice Commandant John Grafflin
 Jr. Vice Commandant Melody Bronson
 Judge Advocate Paula Land
 Adjutant/Paymaster Mark Oldmixon

National News

Commandant
Wendell W. Webb
 (774) 239-6067



Spring 2018
Semper Fi Magazine

MARINES...



A program started before Desert Storm One that was operating fairly well, then Marines went to war, and the program was shelved for many years. That program is Marine for Life Network (M4L), and it is currently reaching out to Marines. It has become of significant importance in the Marine Corps' plan for transition from active duty to civilian life at any location the Marine family settles. The goal here is to address family needs, invite them to the local Marine family, encourage higher education, develop mentor relationships, network for employment and recommend registration with the local Veterans Affairs office.

If you go to the website (www.usmcmccs.org/services/career/marine-for-life-network) you will find "Marine for Life Network (M4L) connect 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."

Marine Corps League (MCL) plays an important part in this Master Plan. Thirty-thousand-plus Marines transition from active duty to civilian life annually in towns all over America. The League has local Detachments in over 1,000 locations coast to coast, where we can have one-on-one relationships, providing a continuing network from active to veteran Marines. The MCL has an optional solution for a locality that does not have a Detachment, and that is starting a fireteam of Marines, FMF Corpsmen and FMF Chaplains. We will have a Standard Operating Procedure approved for starting and growing a fireteam into a Detachment by the time you read this article.

MCL Leadership is working on the agreements allowing us to be part of the transition education program at local Marine facilities across the nation. The MCL will be generating material to share and allow modification for the local Department and Detachment to show their unique services, local network, mentoring and job opportunities in their community.

Excerpt from M4L website:

What can the Marine for Life Network do for me?
Did you know that 80% of jobs are found through networking? Marine for Life connects transitioning Marines, Veteran Marines, and Marine family members to employment resources and to other associations, such as education and community services that aid in career and life goals outside of military service. We facilitate networking through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.



How does the Marine for Life Network do that?
Virtual Network: *Connect with the Marine for Life Network on LinkedIn, over 3,500 strong and growing daily. Marine for Life Network has four regional groups, allowing us to provide targeted resources, employment opportunities, and networking near you. To connect, start by setting up a profile, begin networking, and use the personal and professional connections of our Marine Corps Veterans in the community.*

Face-to-Face Network: *Focuses on connecting you to our field staff. We have four Regional Network Coordinators and over 50 Marine for Life Representatives who will help you build relationships and provide you with the opportunities to network with employment, education, and community resources in your current area or the area where you plan to move.*

The Marine Corps League has a great opportunity to welcome Marines and their families back home or to a new home.

Bob Borka
National Chief Operating Officer



Spring 2018
Semper Fi Magazine

MARINES...

It is quite amazing to see the history of the Marine Corps League's magazine laid out on tables. Bravo Zulu to Bill Watson for his awesome help with this task. We have sorted through issues going as far back as 1925. Each is now chronologically placed and on a shelf in our conference room ready for members to visit. It is a journey that dates almost as far back as the Battle of Belleau Wood in France only seven years earlier. The Marine Corps League was formed right after World War I, and we continue to honor and remember those who have served the cloth and fought for the person to the left and right. Marines today continue to uphold that commitment, and we stand ready for them to return to their last duty station – home.

We continue to strengthen the relationship with the Marine Corps and our efforts to assist fellow Marines as they transition to civilian life. The Marine Corps has strengthened programs such as Marine for Life Network, Transition Assistance Program, Education, Military Spouse Employment Program and other family support services. We are developing a plan to assist continuity to the families as they move home. Local Detachments can guide and mentor Marines because they know their areas, realtors, tradesmen and employers, and can use their own experiences to help these Marine families as they return to civilian life.

Speaking of families, I would like to take a moment to tell you about a company that has been there for me for 25 years. No matter where I have been around the globe, USAA has been there for my family. I use their car buying service (free) to get guaranteed best pricing on car purchases. The best part is my children qualified for accounts. My son is in the Navy (Asian-Pacific aboard ship), and his USAA account is working for him. USAA used to be a program for military officers, and a little more than 10 years ago they began to allow enlisted members to join. They have been there for my family, and I



hope you will give them a call. Tell them you are with the Marine Corps League.

Our Marine Corps family continues to mature and develop. We are working out the bugs on the new database system from Member Clicks and are also working on smartphone applications. Looking forward to a bright future.



From the Front

Lost in Battle, Found by Amateur Sleuths: An “Unknown” Marine

The New York Times, By Dave Philipps
April 17, 2018...

Digitized records and DNA tests are allowing civilian volunteers to pitch in and help put correct names on unidentified remains in American military cemeteries.

**Private 1st Class
Herman Mulligan,
who died on Okinawa
during WW II**



WASHINGTON — A mystery that went unsolved for 73 years began when Herman Mulligan threw a grenade.

In the thick of some of the most vicious fighting of World War II, on the island of Okinawa, Private First Class Mulligan’s grenade clattered into the dark maw of a Japanese bunker and blew up a cache of ammunition. The huge explosion obliterated most of the hillside and blasted the 21-year-old Marine beyond recognition.

Amid the chaos, his unidentified body was buried in a hasty battlefield grave, while the Marine Corps listed Private Mulligan as missing in action. In the years after the war, he was reclassified as “unrecoverable,” and the family that knew him

gradually died off, until his memory was almost as lost as his bones.

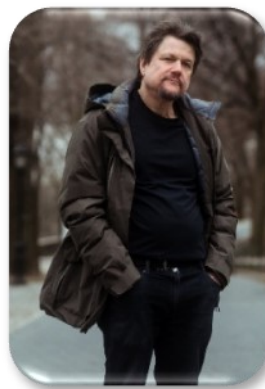
The private’s story could have ended there, among the roughly 72,000 American troops from World War II who have not been accounted for. But the ending has been rewritten by a black-and-white snapshot found in a Marine veteran’s trunk.

The photo inspired an informal network of volunteer sleuths to track down survivors of the battle, pore over forgotten maps and comb through yellowed files until they had traced Private Mulligan’s likely remains to a burial plot under a marble cross in Manila. Then they found a cousin, James Patterson, who could provide DNA for matching.

In March, Marines in dress uniform knocked at the Patterson home near Charlotte, NC, where the private’s Purple Heart and dog tags have been on display for years near the front door. Private Mulligan, they said, had been found.

Until recently, the kind of detective work that brought the lost Marine home was largely handled by a small group of federal researchers at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the arm of the Pentagon responsible for finding and returning lost war dead. Now, though, terabytes of digitized military records can be searched and shared over the internet, and a growing number of war dead are being found by members of the public, often working in their spare time.

In many cases, it turns out that the dead are not missing, just their names. American military cemeteries like the one in Manila hold 8,500 unknown remains, most from World War II, but the Accounting Agency generally does not focus on those cases. Troops in cemeteries, even if unidentified, have at least been buried with honor, the agency argues, so it concentrates instead on locating remains that never made it to a cemetery: infantrymen lost in a jungle ambush, say, or aircrews scattered by a mountainside plane crash.



**Dale Maharidge, whose
book started the search
for Pvt. Mulligan**

That has left thousands of open cases that attract amateur investigators.

“A lot of these guys are pretty easy to sort out, but the agency has other priorities,” said John Eakin, a Vietnam veteran who waged a five-year legal battle with the agency, trying to compel it to test the remains in a grave in the Philippines where he believed his cousin was buried. (He turned out to be right.)

The accounting agency, with an annual budget of more than \$130 million, has long been criticized for clearing few cases. On average it identifies only about 100 remains a year; the figure rose to 201 in 2017 mainly because it started exhuming more unknowns like Private Mulligan.

The agency said in a statement that “staff are systematically reviewing unknown files to see if a case for exhumation can be made,” and that to go ahead, officials must be persuaded the remains are “more likely than not” to be positively identified.

The search for Private Mulligan started with a blood-flecked Japanese flag that Dale Maharidge, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author who teaches journalism at Columbia University, found among his father’s things after he died.

Mr. Maharidge’s father had been a Marine on Okinawa, and the flag was a souvenir taken from the brow of a dead Japanese soldier and signed by more than a dozen Marines. His father had come home from the war haunted by combat and unwilling to talk about it, but for the rest of his life, he kept a dog-eared snapshot of a buddy he lost in combat — Private Mulligan.

Mr. Maharidge decided to track down the men of the flag, and ultimately the man in the snapshot.

“I thought by finding Mulligan, maybe I could finally understand my dad, and put some of his demons to rest,” Mr. Maharidge said.

He hunted for years, cold-calling hundreds of men with names like those on the flag, and eventually found a few Marine veterans who helped him piece together what happened on Okinawa. He wrote a book about the search, “*Bringing Mulligan Home*.” But he finished it resigned to the idea that the man in the snapshot would never actually be brought home.

Private Mulligan worked in a textile mill as a teenager in Greenville, SC, before the war, and lied about his health to get into the Marines, hiding his hemophilia. He saw fierce fighting in Guam and then hit the beach on Okinawa, where his regiment fought for weeks to pry Japanese defenders from the hillside tombs that they used as bunkers.

On May 30, 1945, Private Mulligan threw his fateful grenade into one of the tombs, not knowing it was packed with explosives.

“The whole hillside blew out at him,” a veteran told Mr. Maharidge. “He got hit in the face.”

A few men remembered carrying the bloodied private to an aid station but did not know what happened to him after.

Mr. Maharidge asked the accounting agency for help finding Private Mulligan in 2011, but “I just ended up getting shuffled around,” he said. “No one ever did anything.”

By the time he published “*Bringing Mulligan Home*” in 2013, the title had changed from a quest to a metaphor — a reminder that the past can be as acrid and hard to grasp as battlefield smoke. His



Private Mulligan’s Marine unit on Guadalcanal

failure to find answers left him so drained that he didn’t write again for more than a year.

But once in the public eye, Private Mulligan’s story took on a life of its own.

An amateur genealogist in Virginia named Bridget Carroll heard Mr. Maharidge give a radio interview and sent him an email offering to help. “I love a mystery,” she told him. Before long, she had found Private Mulligan’s cousin, James Patterson.

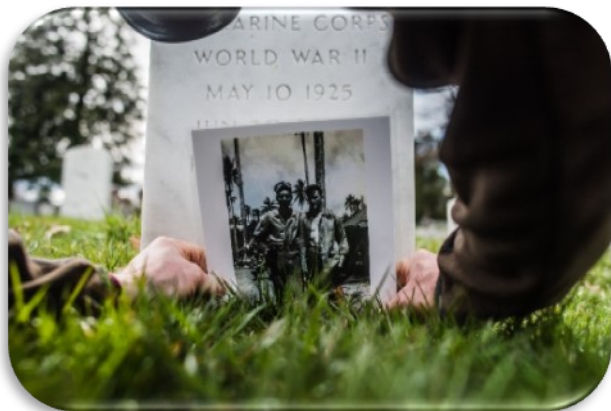
“We had his Purple Heart sitting here in the house, but didn’t know a thing about it,” said Mr. Patterson’s wife, Jean. “But then I read the letters of his family trying to find him after the war, and it broke my heart.”

She joined the search. The family provided DNA to the agency that could identify Private Mulligan, and urged the agency to begin a search, but she said the agency seemed to do little. Two years later, she spotted a Facebook post announcing that dozens of Marine remains had been recovered by independent researchers on the island of Tarawa, and posted a comment saying she hoped Private Mulligan was among them.

Robert Rumsby, a former Army lieutenant who had worked on the Tarawa excavations, saw her

comment and responded. He had developed a passion for World War II, and though he was only 26 at the time, he had already spent years indexing unknown graves from the war.

“This guy was a nobody, just a grunt everyone had forgotten,” Mr. Rumsby said of Private Mulligan. “But that’s why we had to find him. Nobody deserves to be left behind.”



Mr. Maharidge placed a picture of his father and Mr. Mulligan at his father’s grave in Arlington National Cemetery.

Credit Ryan Christopher Jones for The New York Times

Mr. Rumsby knew that World War II dead were typically buried in temporary cemeteries close to the fighting, in rows usually filled chronologically. He used an old map of the plots on Okinawa to look for unknowns buried shortly after Private Mulligan died. There were only two, and one of them, in a grave labeled X-35, looked promising.

After the war, the Army recorded details of each set of unknown remains in records known as X files that are now digitized and widely shared by researchers. The files showed that X-35 had been exhumed and sent to Saipan to be identified, along with thousands of others. Although the grave contained socks stenciled with the name Mulligan, no match was made, and the remains were reburied in 1950 in an American cemetery in Manila.

Mr. Rumsby compared the file for X-35 to Private Mulligan’s personnel file in 2016 and found several points of agreement. A group of dentists then volunteered to examine dental records and found that they matched.

The Patterson family submitted the findings to the agency in the fall of 2016 with fingers crossed, knowing that strong evidence was no guarantee that the agency would act. Some seemingly rock-solid cases have languished for decades.

Pressed by the family and their senators and

congressmen, the agency exhumed X-35 in the spring of 2017 and sent a section of tibia to the military’s DNA lab in Maryland to be compared with the sample supplied by James Patterson (he died in July 2017). The results were a match.

“I don’t believe in closure; I don’t think we ever really get over anything,” Mr. Maharidge said a few days after hearing the news. “But this feels pretty good.”

Earlier this month, Mr. Maharidge, the author who started the quest, walked through the ghostly marble headstones of Arlington National Cemetery with Mr. Rumsby, the researcher who had connected the crucial dots. They stopped at the grave of Mr. Maharidge’s father and Mr. Maharidge produced a bottle of respectable 10-year-old bourbon.

There was an empty plot three spaces to the north, where they hoped to bury Private Mulligan. The sun was setting, and in the distance, a bugler sounded taps at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Mr. Maharidge poured glasses of bourbon, then paused to splash a bit from the bottle onto the grass.

“The dead drink first,” he said.

Marine Corps History



WHAT IS THE MARINE CORPS JARGON?

The **Marine Corps** culture is truly unique. It has its own way of dressing, acting, and talking. At times, the talk seems like code. Much of the jargon stems from Marine and Naval history, and acronyms are widely used. At first, it can be hard to understand.

O-Dark Thirty - After midnight, but before working hours

Office Hours - Appearing before the Commanding Officer for discipline

PCS - Permanent change of station
PFT - Physical Fitness Test
PT - Physical Training
Piece - Rifle

Pogey bait - Candy or any non-issued food or drink item. The term possibly derives from the term “pogue,” used to describe anyone working in an administrative capacity. One would use “pogey bait” to bribe a “pogue” into doing a Marine a favor.

Portholes - Thick-framed – and particularly ugly – glasses. Also known as “BCGs” – an abbreviation for “birth-control glasses.”

Pogue - Anyone not in the infantry (especially administrative personnel). Derives from the acronym POG - Personnel Other than Grunt

Rack - Bed
Ruck - Backpack

SNAFU - Situation Normal, All Fouled Up
Scuttlebutt - Rumor; Gossip / water fountain
Secure - lock up, close, take care of, finish for the day

SOS - Creamed beef on toast, a Marine delicacy

Skivvies - Underwear

Slop Chute - Bar

Smedly - An enlisted man who caters to officers and staff noncommissioned officers in the mess hall. Coined in reference to Marine legend Smedly Butler’s last name

Smoking Lamp - A shipboard tradition which indicates permission to smoke (lit) or not to smoke (out)

Sparks - A Marine whose MOS is radioman or field communications

Squad bay - The long open room that houses a squad, platoon or other unit

Squid - Sailor

Swab - Mop

TARFU - Things Are Really Fouled Up
Ten (10) Percenter - One of the small number of nonhackers in any unit
Topside - Upstairs

UA - Unauthorized absence

Water Buffalo - A large water tank on wheels

Whitewall - Standard Marine haircut

Zoomie - Anyone in the U.S. Air Force

Upcoming Events



Department of Texas State Convention

Hampton Inn & Suites
240 S. Hasler Blvd., Bastrop, TX
(512) 321-2898

June 22nd - 24th, 2018



MCL National Convention

Hyatt Regency Buffalo/Hotel & Conference Center
Two Fountain Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14202
(888) 421-1442

August 12th - 17th, 2018



Marine Military Expo Modern Day Marine

Marine Corps Base • Quantico, VA
September 25th - 27th, 2018



**DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
STATE CONVENTION**



Hosting Detachment: Lost Pines Leathernecks

BASTROP, TEXAS • June 22-24, 2018

HOTEL: Hampton Inn & Suites Bastrop, 240 South Hasler Blvd,
Bastrop, TX 78602 • (512) 321-2898
(Rooms sold out; only suites available @ \$119/night)



Overflow Hotels:

The Comfort Suites (200 yards from Hampton); Rooms \$95/night - (512) 321-3377

The Best Western - Rooms: \$93/single king and \$99 for queen doubles

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: June 1, 2018



REGISTRATION FEES: MCL/MCLA Members, Spouse - \$5/person

FRIDAY NIGHT MEET & GREET: \$15/person
Transportation - \$5/person

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET: \$35/person
Entrees: Beef, Chicken, Vegetarian



DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION, SOCIAL & BANQUET: ?

Make checks payable to "LPL1384"

Mail to: PO Box 366, Bastrop, TX 78602-0366



ADS FOR PROGRAM:

Inside Front Cover/Inside Back Cover/Back Cover ...	\$150 (all taken)
Full Page	\$100 Half Page ... \$ 50
Quarter Page ...	\$ 25 Business Card ... \$ 20

DEADLINE FOR ADS: Must be received NO LATER than MAY 31ST

Make checks payable to: "The Lost Pines Leathernecks"

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