

HISTORY OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Honorary National Commandant - General Alfred M. Gray Jr., USMC (Ret) 29th CMC
National Commandant - John V. Ryan
National Executive Director - Michael A. Blum

Mission Statement

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, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines 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.

History

The Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen, who proudly wear or who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor of the Corps. It takes great pride in crediting its founding in 1923 to World War I hero, then Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune. It takes equal pride in its Federal Charter, approved by An Act of the Seventy-Fifth Congress of the United States of America and signed and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937. The League is the only Federally Chartered Marine Corps related veterans organization in the country. Since its earliest days, the Marine Corps League has enjoyed the support and encouragement of the active duty and Reserve establishments of the U. S. Marine Corps. Today, the League boasts a membership of about 70,000 men and women, officer and enlisted, active duty, Reserve Marines, honorably discharged Marine Veterans and qualified Navy FMF Corpsmen and is one of the few Veterans Organizations that experiences increases in its membership each year.

The Marine Corps League is headed by an elected National Commandant, with 14 elected National Staff Officers who serve as trustees. The National Board of Trustees coordinates the efforts of 48 department, or state, entities and the activities of over 1000 community-based detachments located throughout the United States and overseas. The day-to-day operations of the League are under the control of the National Executive Director with the responsibility for the management and direction of all programs, activities, and affairs of the Marine Corps League as well as supervising the National Headquarters staff.

The prime authority of the League is derived from its Congressional charter and from its annual National Convention held each August in different major U.S. cities throughout the nation. It is a not-for-profit organization within the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c) (4), with a special group exemption letter which allows for contributions to the Marine Corps League, its Auxiliary and subsidiary units, to be tax deductible by the donor.

History of the Marines' Hymn

"From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli"

America declared war on the Barbary Pirates of northern Africa in 1805 because they had been raiding our ships in the Mediterranean Sea. During that conflict, Lieutenant Presley N. O'Bannon, USMC, and his small force of Marines participated in the capture of the city of Derne in Tripoli (which is today part of the country of Libya). As this was the first time that the American flag had been hoisted over a fortress in the Old World, the Colors (ceremonial flag) of the Marine Corps were inscribed with the words: "To the Shores of Tripoli." During the hardest fighting of the Mexican War, U.S. Marines were the first to breach the otherwise impregnable walls of Mexico City by capturing the Castle of Chapultepec, which was the palace of the great Aztec emperor, Montezuma. The Colors of the Corps were then changed to read "From the Shores of Tripoli to the Halls of Montezuma." Following the close of the Mexican War came the first great verse of the Marines' Hymn, written according to tradition by a Marine on duty in Mexico. For the sake of euphony, the unknown author transposed the phrases in the motto on the Colors so that the first two lines of the Hymn would read: "From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli." Many interesting stories have been associated with the Marines' Hymn. One of the best was published in the Stars and Stripes, the official newspaper of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe, under the date of August 16, 1918. "A wounded officer from among the gallant French Lancers had just been carried into a Yankee field hospital to have his dressing changed. He was full of compliments and curiosity about the dashing contingent that fought at his regiment's left. 'A lot of them are mounted troops by this time,' he explained, 'for when our men would be shot from their horses, these youngsters would give one running jump and gallop ahead as cavalry.

I believe they are soldiers from Montezuma. At least, when they advanced this morning, they were all singing 'From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli.'

The Marines' Hymn has been sung and played in all four corners of the earth and today is recognized as one of the foremost service songs.

The Marines' Hymn
 "From the Halls of Montezuma
 To the Shores of Tripoli;
 We fight our country's battles
 In the air, on land, and sea;
 First to fight for right and freedom
 And to keep our honor clean;
 We are proud to claim the title
 Of United States Marine.
 Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
 From dawn to setting sun;
 We have fought in every clime and place
 Where we could take a gun;
 In the snow of far-off Northern lands
 And in sunny tropic scenes;
 You will find us always on the job
 The United States Marines.
 Here's health to you and to our Corps
 Which we are proud to serve
 In many a strife we've fought for life
 And never lost our nerve;
 If the Army and the Navy
 Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
 They will find the streets are guarded
 By United States Marines"

NATIONAL COMMANDANTS AND CONVENTION SITES

NO.	YEAR	SITE	COMMANDANT	TERM	STRENGTH
1st	1923	New York, NY	*John A. Lejeune	23-24	787
2nd	1924	Washington, DC	*John A. Lejeune	24-25	1,279
3d	1925	Philadelphia, PA	*John A. Lejeune	25-26	2,042
4th	1926	Cleveland, OH	*John A. Lejeune	26-27	1,500
5th	1927	Erie, PA	*John A. Lejeune	27-28	1,500
6th	1928	Dallas, TX	*John A. Lejeune	28-29	1,100
7th	1929	Cincinnati, OH	*Wendell C. Neville	29-29	1,386
			*W. Karl Latons	29-30	
8th	1930	St Louis, MO	*W. Karl Latons	30-31	1,083
9th	1931	Buffalo, NY	*Carlton A. Fisher	31-32	N/R
	1932		*Carlton A. Fisher	32-33	510
10th	1933	Chicago, IL	*Carlton A. Fisher	33-34	610
11th	1934	Denver, CO	*John F. Manning	34-35	646
12th	1935	Newark, NJ	*John F. Manning	35-36	966
13d	1936	Boston, MA	*Maurice A. Illich	36-37	1,036
14th	1937	Akron, OH	*Maurice A. Illich	37-38	1,131
15th	1938	Washington, DC	*Florence O'Leary	38-39	1,553
16th	1939	Boston, MA	*Florence O'Leary	39-40	2,296
17th	1940	Detroit, MI	*Chris Cunningham	40-41	3,361
18th	1941	Indianapolis, IN	*Chris Cunningham	41-42	5,647
19th	1942	Chicago, IL	*Alexander Ormsby	42-43	7,448
20th	1943	New York, NY	*Thomas E. Wood	43-44	11,867
21st	1944	Sacramento, CA	*Alan A. Stevenson	44-45	17,143
22nd	1945	Springfield, IL	*Thomas F. Sweeny	45-46	27,664
23d	1946	Atlantic City, NJ	*Joseph F. Alvarez	46-47	25,202
24th	1947	Miami, FL	*George T. Bullen	47-48	19,094
25th	1948	Milwaukee, WI	*Theus J. McQueen	48-49	17,283
26th	1949	Boston, MA	*Clay Nixon	49-50	14,807

27th	1950	Washington, DC	*Maurice J. Fagan	50-51	14,137
28th	1951	Savannah, GA	*John C. O'Brien	51-52	13,141
29th	1952	Los Angeles, CA	*John C. O'Brien	52-53	13,287
30th	1953	Cleveland, OH	*Charles A. Weaver	53-54	10,458
31st	1954	Baltimore, MD	*George Shamgochian	54-55	9,583
32nd	1955	St Louis, MO	*William D. Webster	55-56	9,959
33d	1956	Miami, FL	*William Derderian	56-57	9,550
34th	1957	San Jose, CA	*John G. Hosko	57-58	9,081
35th	1958	Omaha, NE	*William Gardiner	58-59	8,733
36th	1959	Buffalo, NY	*Hyman Rosen	59-60	7,950
37th	1960	Grand Rapids, MI	*Walter Churchill Sr.	60-61	8,332
38th	1961	Atlantic City, NJ	*Wilson L. Peck	61-62	8,059
39th	1962	Tampa, FL	*Raymond B. Butts	62-63	7,814
40th	1963	Cleveland, OH	*Raymond B. Butts	63-64	8,412
41st	1964	Wichita, KS	*Burton Daugherty	64-65	9,389
42nd	1965	Harrisburg, PA	*Burton Daugherty	65-66	10,531
43d	1966	Albany, NY	*Claude H. Downing	66-67	10,822
44th	1967	Kansas City, MO	*Claude H. Downing	67-68	11,874
45th	1968	Bridgeport, CT	*Edward J. Bange	68-69	12,082
46th	1969	Miami, FL	*Edward J. Bange	69-70	13,350
47th	1970	St Louis, MO	*Sydney S. McMath	70-71	14,644
48th	1971	San Antonio, TX	H. Lynn Cavin	71-72	14,482
49th	1972	Anaheim, CA	*Gilbert E. Gray	72-73	15,294
50th	1973	Miami, FL	*Gilbert E. Gray	73-74	14,763
51st	1974	Tuscon, AZ	Richard J. O'Brien	74-75	13,035
52nd	1975	Philadelphia, PA	Patrick J. Cody	75-76	13,717
53rd	1976	Washington, DC	Edward A. Schramm	76-77	15,012
54th	1977	Indianapolis, IN	*James H. Frost	77-78	14,974
55th	1978	Atlantic City, NJ	*James H. Frost	78-79	14,339
56th	1979	Milwaukee, WI	Paul F. Hastings	79-80	13,865
57th	1980	Orlando, FL	Paul F. Hastings	80-81	17,601
58th	1981	Tuscon, AZ	*Joseph Mammone	81-82	21,284
59th	1982	Dearborn, MI	*James C. Kelly	82-83	22,959
60th	1983	Colorado Springs, CO	*James C. Kelly	83-84	23,534
61st	1984	Nashville, TN	*Robert N. Forsyth	84-85	23,702
62nd	1985	Lafayette, LA	Edward D. MacIntyre	85-86	N/A
63rd	1986	Boston, MA	William J. Galvin	86-87	N/A
64th	1987	Phoenix, AZ	William J. Galvin	87-88	24,223
65th	1988	Cincinnati, OH	Linwood P. Liner	88-89	26,397
66th	1989	Dallas, TX	*Raymond R. Berling	89-90	27,877
67th	1990	Sacramento, CA	*Raymond R. Berling	90-91	29,785
68th	1991	King of Prussia, PA	Lamar Golden	91-92	32,796
69th	1992	St Louis, MO	Lamar Golden	92-93	38,093
70th	1993	Orlando, FL	Francis J. Meakem	93-94	40,622
71st	1994	Cherry Hill, NJ	Lewis W. Loeven	94-95	42,563
72nd	1995	Milwaukee, WI	*Paul J. Seton	95-96	43,815
73rd	1996	Fort Mitchell, KY	*Paul J. Seton	96-97	45,794
74th	1997	Nashville, TN	Robert E. Becker Jr.	97-98	47,372
75th	1998	Syracuse, NY	Robert E. Becker Jr.	98-99	48,922
76th	1999	Denver, CO	Diana Dils	99-00	51,083
77th	2000	New Orleans, LA	Diana Dils	00-01	51,305
78th	2001	Dearborn, MI	John P. Tuohy	01-02	54,797
79th	2002	Harrisburg, PA	John P. Tuohy	02-03	55,698
80th	2003	Spokane, WA	Helen F. Hicks	03-04	58,170
81st	2004	Irving, TX	Helen F. Hicks	04-05	58,531
82nd	2005	Cleveland, OH	Frank S. Kish	05-06	60,060
83rd	2006	Quincy, MA	John Ryan	06-	N/A

*Deceased

Honorary Past National Commandants of the Marine Corps League

1945 *Stephen Brown
 1958 *Basil Pollitt
 1965 *Francis X. Lorbecki
 1978 *Jack Brennan
 1987 *Clem D. Russell
 1995 *Victor T. Fisher
 1995 *Charles D. Horn
 1996 Raymond R. Wilkowski
 1998 *Johanna Glasrud
 1999 *John "Jay" P. Kacsan
 1999 *William "Bill" R. Reichstein
 2001 Benny Dotson
 *Deceased

Military Order of Devil Dogs (Founded 1939 Boston, MA)

Chief Dogs	Dog Robbers
39-41 *Gerald L. Bakelaar	39-40 *Charles Vaccaro
40-41 *Raymond Canfield	
41-43 *C. A. Gallagher	41-43 *Erastas Darling
43-44 *Joseph T. Alvarez	43-44 *Eugene P. Corey
44-45 *Walter Donnelly	44-45 *John Zak
45-46 *Clarence G. Young	45-46 *John Van de Woude
46-47 *John Zak	46-47 *Mortimer S. Libien
47-48 *John Van de Woude	47-48 *Clarence G. Young
48-49 *Joseph Probst	48-49 *John L. Baker
49-50 *Carl Burger	49-50 *Betty J. Mooney
50-51 *Francis X. Lorbecki	50-51 *Paul Corbin
51-52 *Stanley Bunn	51-52 *Charles A. Hellyer
52-53 *Charles A. Hellyer	52-53 *George W. Jorgenson
53-54 *George W. Jorgenson	53-54 *William W. Hurrell
54-55 *William Harvey	54-55 *Joseph L.T. Fortier
55-56 *William S. Craig	55-56 *Hyman Rosen
56-58 *Mason D. Wade	56-58 *Claude H. Downing
58-59 *Claude H. Downing	58-59 *James T. Fowler
59-60 James Koenig	59-60 *Paul Plache
60-61 *William Hurrell	60-61 *H. E. Allamon
61-63 John P. Kacsan	61-63 *H. E. Allamon
63-64 *Joseph Peterson	63-64 *H. E. Allamon
64-65 *John R. Spain	64-65 *John J. McNamara
65-66 Arthur M. Brokenshire, Jr.	65-66 *Steven Downey
66-67 *John J. McNamara	66-67 *Marshall Lundgren
67-68 *Marshall D. Lundgren	67-68 *John J. McNamara
68-69 #Hugh A. Maus	68-69 Antoinette H. Baisden
69-70 *Philip A. Calabrese	69-70 Antoinette H. Baisden
70-71 #Antoinette H. Baisden	70-71 *James J. Armstrong
71-72 *James J. Armstrong	71-72 Hugh A. Maus
72-73 *C. A. Boedigheimer	72-73 Virginia L. McDougall
73-75 #Virginia McDougall	73-75 *C. A. Boedigheimer
75-76 *Jack R. Liddell	75-76 *Manuel Valdez
76-78 William H. Brooks	76-78 ##Kenneth E. Farris
78-79 *Fred Agosta	78-79 *##Kenneth E. Farris
79-80 *##Kenneth E. Farris	79-80 Raymond E. Kania
80-82 #Edwin F. Gallagher	80-82 Paul L. Sutton
82-84 #Paul L. Sutton	82-83 John C. Muedler
83-84 *Francis A. English	
84-85 *##Gilbert E. Gray	84-85 Edwin F. Gallagher
85-86 *##Francis A. English	85-86 *##Kenneth E. Farris
86-87 *Donald L. Frost	86-87 *##Kenneth E. Farris

87-88 Thomas A. Banks	87-88 *#Kenneth E. Farris
88-90 Mary B. Krauss	88-90 *#Kenneth E. Farris
90-92 Clifton F. Williams, Jr.	90-92 *#Kenneth E. Farris
92-94 Gary O. Chartrand	92-94 *#Kenneth E. Farris
94-96 William C. Taylor	94-96 *#Kenneth E. Farris
96-98 Jack Nash	96-98 *#Kenneth E. Farris
98-00 Lamar Golden	98-00 Robert McCallum
00-02 Robert Lent	00- Robert McCallum
02-04 Douglas Fisk	Phil Ruhmshottel
04-05 George Barrows	Phil Ruhmshottel
05- Donald R. Garland Jr.	Phil Ruhmshottel

*Deceased
#PCDD who served as KDR

Marine Corps League National Marine of the Year

Year-Recipient-Department

1959 *I. D. Hale WI
 1960 Not Awarded
 1961 Raymond Wilkowski IL
 1962 Not Awarded
 1963 Not Awarded
 1964 Not Awarded
 1965 Russell Shaffer PA
 1966 *William W. Hurrell PA
 1967 Not Awarded
 1968 James Merna MD
 1969 Patrick J. Cody PA
 1970 *Gilbert Gray NY
 1971 George Hartman FL
 1972 *James Crenshaw KS
 1973 Richard J. O'Brien VA
 1974 *Raymond Butts VA
 1975 *Walter Churchill OH
 1976 *Charles Horn MD
 1977 *Joseph Mammone NY
 1978 Henry White IL
 1979 *Joseph Ryan AZ
 1980 *Irene Smoke VA
 1981 Bart Long, Jr. NJ
 1982 Joseph J. Marc-Aurele MA
 1983 Jack Davis PA
 1984 Robert B. Throm PA
 1985 *S. Johanna Glasrud MI
 1986 John Sullivan VA
 1987 Linwood P. Liner LA
 1988 Edward D. MacIntyre AZ
 1989 Paul F. Hastings PA
 1990 Lamar Golden PA
 1991 John "Jay" P. Kacsan PA
 1992 *Victor T. Fisher NY
 1993 *Elden S. Gebaroff WA
 1994 Robert P. Boon, Sr. NJ
 1995 Lucian J. Caldara NY
 1996 Horace Nick Hawkey PA
 1997 *William R. Reichstein NC
 1998 Dave Woods IL
 1999 Barry Georgopoulos CO
 2000 Ernie Lutz VA
 2001 George Barrows, Sr. NC
 2002 James L. Hackbarth IL

2003 Resigned
 2004 Vic Voltaggio, FL
 2005 John Hopkins, SC
 2006 Joe Blick, NC
 *Deceased

Iron Mike Award

Year Recipient
 1967 Bob Hope
 1967 Larry Burrows
 1967 Lee Marvin
 1967 John Russell
 1968 Howard K. Smith
 1969 Barry Zorthian
 1970 H. Ross Perot
 1971 John Wayne
 1972 Donald E. Johnson
 1973 Hon. John Warner, Sec. of the Navy
 1974 General Lewis W. Walt
 1975 General Louis H. Wilson
 1976 Edward McMahan
 1977 Father Corvet
 1978 Dewey F. Bartlett
 1979 Congressman Robert Wilson R-CA
 1980 Ambassador Kenneth Taylor
 1981 James Brady
 1981 Thomas Delehany
 1981 John McCarthy
 1982 Phil I. Berman
 1983
 1984 Robert Conrad
 1985 Robert W. Olian
 1986 Donald T. Regan (Chief of Staff)
 1987 Honorable James Webb (SecNav)
 1988 Congressman John P. Murtha D-PA
 1989 Congressman David O. B. Martin D-NY
 1990 Congressman C. W. Bill Young R-FL
 1991 General A. M. Gray, Jr., USMC 29th CMC
 1992 Senator Simms
 1993 Arnold Punaro (Staffer for Senator Sam Nunn D-GA)
 1994 Major General Walter A. Churchill, PNC
 1995 Congressman Gerald B. H. Solomon R-NY
 1996 Congressman Ike Skelton D-MO
 1997 Senator Dirk Kempthorne R-ID
 1998 Senator Conrad Burns R-MT
 1999 Senator Chuck Robb D-VA
 2000 James F. Jordan, Esq.
 2001 Senator Zell Miller D-GA
 2002 Alfred Lerner
 2003 Senator John W. Warner (R-VA)
 2004 General Raymond G. Davis, MOH, USMC (Ret.) (Posthumously)
 2005 Congressman Jerry Lewis (R-CA)

Dickey Chappelle Award

Year Recipient
 1967 Martha Raye
 1968 Mrs. Lucy Caldwell
 1969 Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post
 1970 Mrs. Verona Devney

1971 Esther Clark
1972 Betty Donovan Rentrop
1973 Mrs. Donald Spicer
1974 Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson
1975 Mrs. Nguyen "Gewn" ThiKhang
1976
1977
1978 Sister Veronica PA
1979 Mary Lou Keisweitter
1980 Phylis Stensgaard & Carole Darlington
1981
1982
1983
1984 Sally Ride (Astronaut)
1985
1986 Colonel Hazel E. Benn, USMC (Ret)
1987 Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, USN (Ret)
1988 Congresswoman Beverly B. Byron D-MD
1989
1990 Major Robin Higgins, USMC
1991 Mrs. Yvette M. Sommers
1992 Mrs. Beverly Pope Spyridon
1993 Mrs. Betty Cooper
1994 Mrs. Carl E. Mundy
1995 Ms. Elaine B. Rogers (Exec. Dir., USO WASH)
1996 Ms. Carmella La Spada & Ms. Lois Braymes
1997 Mrs. Susan Braaten
1998 Mrs. Zandra Meyers Krulak
1999 Mrs. Stephanie Bates
2000 Mrs. Katie K. Dixon
2001 Mrs. Clara Miller
2002 Mrs. Diane J. Jones
2003 Mrs. Rita McMichael
2004 Mrs. Karen Guenther
2005 Mrs. Brenda Nyland & Mrs. Carol Sefton