



**CHESAPEAKE
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DETACHMENT 853**



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SITREP
DETACHMENT 853 NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2026

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MISSION:

“To promote the interest and perpetuate the traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.”



AFTER ACTION REPORT – MARCH 2026

During the month of March, Detachment 853:

-  Held monthly Detachment meeting
-  Met with the Commanding Officer and First Sergeant of Training Company, Marine Corps Security Force Regiment.
-  Met with the Chesapeake Jubilee Committee
-  Sworn in new member
-  Sponsored a concession stand for special events at the Hampton Coliseum
-  Retired damaged American flags



DETACHMENT COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

The Detachment kicked off the New Year on a high note by welcoming a new member. We've brought in new members for three consecutive months. Let's keep building that momentum! Bringing in younger Marines is essential for our Detachment's future, ensuring strong leadership for years ahead. Remember, every Marine who completes training at Parris Island or San Diego starts as a 0311, but every Marine Corps League member serves as an 8412, a recruiter. It's important to set achievable and practical goals. I encourage each one of you to aim to recruit at least one new member each year. THAT'S DOABLE! Consider this: if every member recruits just one new member each year, our membership will double, then triple, and continue growing in the years ahead ensuring Detachment 853's future and legacy.

Life Membership:

Bill Fogle is the Detachment's newest life member.... OoRah!

Reminder:

The Detachment's and the Department's Scholarships programs have been updated for 2026. The Scholarships qualifications and applications may be found on our website.



MEETING MINUTES

The Detachment's meeting minutes will no longer be included in our newsletter or distributed in printed form at meetings. Instead, the monthly meeting minutes will be sent via email to Detachment members one week prior to the scheduled meeting. Members are requested to review the minutes and report any discrepancies before the meeting.

Semper Fi!

Ed Pearia

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S MESSAGE

MARINES,



WALKING SAFETY MONTH

Walking is an excellent way to improve your life. It improves your mood and reduces stress. The actual work of walking improves both your health and balance, helps to maintain a healthy weight, and can lower your blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Walking outside, while enjoyable, can be dangerous. Unnoticed traffic and unstable terrain can result in injury or death, so there are ways to minimize your risk while increasing your benefits:

- 🕒 Walk facing traffic.
- 🕒 Be visible; wear light or reflective clothing, especially at night.
- 🕒 Whenever possible, use sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from the road as possible.
- 🕒 Always use crosswalks or intersections. Look right, look left, and make eye contact with drivers to be sure they see you.
- 🕒 Stay alert; stay off your phone and watch for vehicles.
- 🕒 Avoid mid-block crossings.
- 🕒 Walk with a buddy in unfamiliar areas and at night.
- 🕒 Wear adequate footwear.
- 🕒 Know your route, especially in busy areas or at night.
- 🕒 Carry ID and emergency contact information.

Enjoy your walks, be safe, and enjoy life.

Live long and prosper!

Semper Fi!
David Weber

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

I swear I was going to invite my neighbor to church, but I forgot. Then, I was going to watch the church service I missed on YouTube, but I got busy. Next, I was going to help with Counters, but they look like they've got it covered. Finally, I was going to join that small group, but I got scared of meeting new people who already knew each other so well. So, no, I didn't do that either.

Once again, let's go to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19, where Paul wrote, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the spirit." I've quenched the Spirit lots of times. I've ignored the Spirit's urging and guidance, thinking those impulses weren't important. Sometimes, I've doubted that Jesus is really telling me what to do, or sometimes I've told him outright that I don't want to do that. It's too hard; it's too complicated. It's just too me getting in the way of growing closer to God. Because that's the most ironic part: All these things that the Spirit tells me to do would kindle the fire in my heart that I so badly want. I want to feel Jesus' presence, to serve, and to be in fellowship with others, so why do I stop? I think sometimes the devil is definitely in those details because since he can't keep me from being a Christian, his best option is to make me an unhappy Christian. And when I keep myself, ignoring what the Spirit of God is telling me to do, I am definitely unhappy. Sometimes I'm scared to take on more than I can handle, to be inept at something, to look weird to others, etc., etc., etc. In other words, I can come up with 1'000 excuses, all of them as lame as those twelve disciples constantly misunderstanding what Jesus was trying to tell them when He was alive. In the end, though, I want to be like the eleven were after Jesus rose again. Once they had the Spirit, they took off running to start the church that would spread the Gospel and would save us all. The Spirit isn't urging me to start a new church, but He is telling me to get out of my own way, to be a part of something much bigger than myself.

Father,

You are my beginning and my now and my future. You see me for who I am and love me anyway. I struggle to be the person that You know I can be. Help me, Father, to listen to Your Spirit and to then to reach up and say, "Yes, I can do that. I can do anything with You." In Jesus' powerful name I pray, Amen.

Prayer List:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our Detachment's Marines: William Sweeney Sr, Mike Jeannotte, Wayne Smith, Willmont "Griff" Griffin and his wife Tina, Pete Harris, Joe Hoadley and all members' and their families that are dealing with health issues or the life challenges in their lives.

Semper Fi!

Rev. Dana Lortie,
MSgt (Ret).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



HEADS UP!
MARCH DETACHMENT MEETING
THURSDAY, 23 APRIL, 1900 HOURS

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- April ~ Trustee Meeting; Date & Time To Be Decided (TBD)
- 23 April ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 1-17 May ~ Chesapeake Jubilee Ice Sale
- 25 May ~ Memorial Day
- 28 May ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 25 June ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- July ~ Trustee Meeting; Date & Time To Be Decided (TBD)
- 04 July ~ Fourth Of July
- 23 July ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 27 August ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 19 September ~ Chesapeake Mayor's Veterans Breakfast, 0800 Hours
- 24 September ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- October ~ Trustee Meeting; Date & Time To Be Decided (TBD)
- 22 October ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 10 November ~ Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 November ~ Veterans Day
- 21 November Detachment Members' Meeting, Saturday, 0900 Hours (Prep Thanksgiving Baskets)
- 7 December ~ Detachment Dinner / Installation of 2027 Officers
- 19 December Detachment Member Meeting, Saturday, 0900 Hours (Prep Christmas Baskets)





The 2026 Chesapeake Jubilee kicks off Friday, May 15th at Chesapeake City Park. **We are actively seeking sponsors, vendors, crafters and musical acts to fill the 2026 lineup.** With over 40 years under our belt, the Chesapeake Jubilee is more than a carnival, it's a family tradition experienced by more than 35,000 patrons annually.

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of an amazing community event while gaining exposure for your brand, band, or business!

Don't miss our Annual Fireworks Extravaganza produced by the world famous Zambelli Fireworks!

Bring the kids out for what is sure to be a memorable occasion.

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THURSDAY, MAY 14TH 6:00PM - 10:00PM	 ONLY RIDES & GAMES OPEN
THURSDAY, MAY 14TH 4:30PM - 7:00PM	 Kiwanis Club of Chesapeake
FRIDAY, MAY 15TH 5:00PM - 10:00PM	 AMUSEMENTS of AMERICA MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
SATURDAY, MAY 16TH 10:00AM - 10:00PM	 AMUSEMENTS of AMERICA MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
SATURDAY, MAY 16TH 9:00PM	
SUNDAY, MAY 17TH NOON - 6:00PM	 AMUSEMENTS of AMERICA MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

VFW, SSG Jonathan Kilian Dozier Memorial Post 2894

15th ANNUAL

CHESAPEAKE BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK: April 18, 2026



The purpose of this annual event is to honor and remember all those who endured one of the most harrowing events in US and Filipino history. Our goal is to educate today's generation on the sacrifices of the greatest generation. All donations will be graciously accepted and used for the Chesapeake Bataan Death March as well as to support the VFW Post 2894's ongoing mission to serve veterans.

The event will take place at the Dismal Swamp in Chesapeake, VA.

16.6 mile walk 7:00 AM start

5 mile walk 10:00 AM start

1 mile family walk 11:00 AM start

Closing Ceremony 12:00 PM start

Registration starts at 6:00 AM start

To Register, go to the following website:

<https://walkchesapeake.wixsite.com/chesapeakebataan/register>





THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: APRIL

3 April, 1945

On Okinawa, Marines of the III Amphibious Corps continued to make good progress all along their front, clearing Zampa Misaki and seizing the Katchin Peninsula, thus effectively cutting the island in two. By this date (D+2), III AC elements had reached objectives thought originally to require 11 days to take.

5 April, 1947

Five Marine guards were killed and eight wounded when attacked by Communist Chinese raiders near the Hsin Ho ammunition depot in Northern China. This last major clash between Marines of the 1st Marine Division and Communist forces occurred shortly after withdrawal and redeployment plans from China were issued for the 1st Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on 1 April.

6 April, 1991

Iraq today accepted the U.N. Security Council's tough resolution formally ending the Persian Gulf War in exchange for President Saddam Hussein's agreement to give up all weapons of mass destruction and pay damages for its seven-month occupation of Kuwait. This step will pave the way for the return home of 373,000 American troops from the gulf region, some of whom said today that they were pleased by Iraq's acceptance of the resolution because it will speed their departure.

10 April, 1959

Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr. was named as one of the original seven Project Mercury astronauts selected for space training. The seven astronauts, all volunteers, were selected by NASA from an initial group of 110 leading military test pilots. Three years later, on 20 February 1962, Col Glenn would become the first American to orbit the Earth.

12 April, 1918

Marines of the 4th Brigade suffered their first gas attack on the night and early morning hours of 12-13 April when the Germans bombarded the 74th Company, 6th Marines near Verdun with mustard gas. Nine Marine officers and 305 enlisted Marines were gassed and evacuated, and 30 Marines died from the effects of the gas shells which hit in the middle of the reserve area cantonments in which they were sleeping.

15 April, 1962

Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 with its Sikorsky UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon. The task unit was called "Shufly" and its first operational employment involved lifting Vietnamese troops into battle.

18 April, 1983

One Marine Security Guard was killed and seven were wounded when a large car bomb exploded just outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. Lance Corporal Robert McMaugh was standing guard at Post 1, just inside the front entrance when the bomb exploded outside the door. The explosion killed 61 people including 17 Americans. LCpl McMaugh was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 26 April.

21 April, 1951

Marine carrier-based airplanes made their first aerial contact with enemy planes over the Korean front lines. Captain Philip C. DeLong shot down two YAK fighters and 1st Lieutenant Harold D. Daigh destroyed one more and damaged another in the heavily defended Pyongyang-Chinnanpo area. Both pilots were with VMF-312 flying from the USS Bataan.

27 April, 1805

First Lieutenant Presley N. O'Bannon, who with seven other Marines was part of a force of Greeks and Arabs led by American Consul William Eaton, raised the United States flag for the first time over a conquered fortress of the Old World at Derne, a stronghold of the Tripolitan pirates. Two Marines were killed and one wounded in the assault on the walled city.

28 April, 1993

The last A-6E Intruder departed from Marine Corps service. Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 332 transferred the last Marine A-6E to St. Augustine, Florida, and prepared for the squadron's transition to the F/A-18D and eventual movement from Cherry Point to Beaufort, South Carolina.

30 April, 1975

The fall of Saigon marked the end of the Vietnam War and the collapse of the South Vietnamese state. The North Vietnamese Army captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, and the city was renamed Ho Chi Minh City within 24 hours.





FORMER CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
General Colin Powell's
Thoughts On Leadership

THOUGHT #7

"Keep looking below surface appearances.
Don't shrink from doing so (just) because you
might not like what you find."

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is the slogan of the complacent, the arrogant or the scared. It's an excuse for inaction, a call to non-arms. It's a mind-set that assumes (or hopes) that today's realities will continue tomorrow in a tidy, linear and predictable fashion. Pure fantasy. In this sort of culture, you won't find people who proactively take steps to solve problems as they emerge. Here's a little tip: don't invest in these companies."

To Be Continued...



DID YOU KNOW.....

Former FBI Director, Robert Mueller, Was A Marine?



In 1968 Robert Mueller enlisted in the Marine Corps. That same year he was deployed to South Vietnam as a platoon leader with Hotel Co, 2nd Platoon , 2/4. During Operation Scotland II he earned the Bronze Star with V device for combat. April of '69 he was shot in a firefight; he recovered and returned to the field to lead his platoon until June '69. Robert Muller was discharged from the Marine Corps as a captain in 1971.

In 2009, he told a writer that despite his other accomplishments; he remained "most proud the Marine Corps deemed me worthy of leading other Marines. . Robert Muller passed away last month at the age of 81

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

NEWS

Office of Media Relations

February 19, 2026

VA Releases Annual Veteran Suicide Prevention Report, Updated With 2023 Data

VA recently released the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, which analyzes Veteran suicide from 2001 to 2023, the most recent year for which data is available.

The report shows there were 6,398 suicides among Veterans in 2023, down from 6,442 in 2022. The average number of Veteran suicides per day fell slightly, to 17.5 in 2023 from 17.6 in 2022.

Other key findings from the report include:

- 61% of Veterans who died by suicide in 2023 were not receiving VA health care in the last year of their life.
- The suicide rate per 100,000 Veterans rose for both male and female Veterans in 2023. For women, the rate rose from 13.7 to 13.9, and for men, it rose from 37.3 to 37.8.
- Suicide rates are elevated for Veterans aged 18 to 34 years, and those with certain risk characteristics, including homelessness, health problems and pain. Among Veterans who died by suicide from 2021 to 2023 and whose deaths were reported by VA suicide prevention teams, the most frequently identified risk factor was pain.

To read the complete article go to: <https://news.va.gov/145131/va-veteran-suicide-prevention-report-2023-data/>

**VETERANS IN CRISIS OR CONCERNED ABOUT ONE?
24/7, CONFIDENTIAL CRISIS SUPPORT
FOR VETERANS AND THEIR LOVED ONES**

BE THE ONE

To **ASK** veterans in your life how they are doing

To **LISTEN** when a veteran needs to talk

To **REACH OUT** when a veteran is struggling



TEXT: 838255

Chat Online: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/>

FROM THE OBVERSATON POST



“Death Is Not a Destination – It’s a Doorway”

— Jack Carr, USN Seal



- Anyone living in Chesapeake and needs a ride to our Detachment's meetings or activities, please contact us at **ChesapeakeMCL@gmail.com** or call or text one of our officers.
- I-RIDE, a service from the Peninsula Agency on Aging, offers rides to and from local VA clinics at no charge to veterans age 60 and over. The clinics include those in Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, and the newest one, the North Battlefield VA Clinic at 70 Knells Ridge Blvd, Chesapeake. You can book your ride at (757) 461-9481. **Make the appointment today!**



ATTENTION ON DECK!
DETACHMENT 853 NEWEST MEMBERS:

Eric Dessart
Barry "RIC" Sutton
OORAH!

DETACHMENT BIRTHDAYS FOR APRIL:



Frank Ashbrook ~ 04 April
HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRANK!!!



OUR MARINE CORPS

By Daniel Terrill

Tuesday, Mar 17, 2026

Marines Approve Red Dot Optics For Pistol Qualification — Under One Condition...



Marines can now complete their handgun qualification using a pistol equipped with a red dot optic, according to a policy change announced in a Marine Administrative Message last week. However, there is a caveat: the optic — an M17 Romeo red dot — must be purchased and issued by the Marine's unit.

Exactly how many Marines will receive the optics remains unclear. Military Times requested comment from the Marine Corps' Marksmanship Program Management team and Training and Education Command but did not receive a response in time for publication.

Over the past decade, pistol-mounted red dot optics have surged in popularity among civilian shooters and police. Today, most major handgun models offer optics-ready variants.

Experts say the system provides a clear advantage over traditional iron sights. Rather than aligning the front and rear sights, shooters can focus on the target while placing a projected aiming point over it — a literal red dot. It not only simplifies the shooting process, especially under stress, but affords quicker target acquisition.

The Marine Corps update follows a broader set of changes developed through the service's Marksmanship Campaign Plan, an initiative launched in 2024 to overhaul training and improve combat lethality.

Additional changes announced in the March 12 message include:

- A shift from annual qualification to deployment-focused training cycles;
- Replacing "destroy" targets with "drill" targets during annual rifle qualification;
- Adoption of updated Lethality Factor scoring metrics at combat schools.

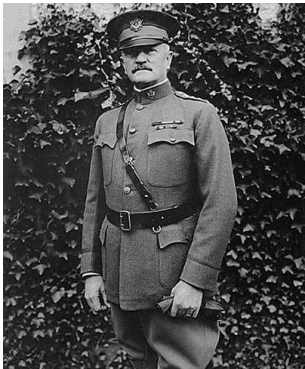
Similar to the red dot policy, a limited number of Marines will also be authorized to qualify with Glock pistols instead of the standard M17 or M18. That exception applies only to Marines assigned to Marine Forces Special Operations Command and embassy security duty, the only units in the Corps currently issued Glock handguns. As the "M17" designation implies, the optic is designed for use with the military's M17 and M18 handguns, both of which — along with the optic itself — are manufactured by SIG Sauer.

In October 2024, SIG announced that the Army officially endorsed the Romeo red dot by adding it to the Approved Accessory List for the M17. And a year before that marked another milestone, when the optic received a NATO Stock Number, or NSN.

As the company explained in a press release, an NSN identifies the product as a "standardized material," which in turn "streamlines the procurement process for all NATO members and partner countries."



THE MARINES



“Why in hell can't the Army do it, if the Marines can? They are the same kind of men; why can't they be like Marines?”

-- Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, USA;

12 February 1918

“

Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni

Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni

"Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever"

