



**CHESAPEAKE  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
DETACHMENT 853**



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**SITREP**  
**DETACHMENT 853 NEWSLETTER**  
**MAY 2025**

**Commandant:**  
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**Senior Vice Commandant:**  
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**Junior Vice Commandant:**  
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**Judge Advocate:**  
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## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MISSION

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**“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 – APRIL 2025**

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**During the month of April, Detachment 853:**

-  **Met With SNCOIC At Recruiting Sub-Station Chesapeake**
-  **Met With Chesapeake Jubilee Committee**
-  **Held Monthly Detachment Meeting**
-  **Sworn In New Member**
-  **Distributed Food Baskets to Applicable Junior Enlisted Marine Families**
-  **Sponsored A Concession Stand For Special Events At The Hampton Coliseum**
-  **Talked with SNCO At Marine Corps Training Company; NAS Northwest Annex**
-  **Retired Damaged American Flags**

## DETACHMENT COMMUNIQUÉ

### COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

May is a busy month for things going on for the league.

May 16-18 we have the Chesapeake jubilee with the ice sale,

that same weekend is the Department of Va. meeting in Richmond. We still have the food program for the 6 Marine families between paydays. We also have Memorial Day celebration at City Hall

at 11 AM. Last but not least do not forget Mothers Day on May 11th.

#### **Birthdays For May:**

May 1 ~ Mike Jeannotte

May 22 ~ Jim Beale

May 27 ~ George Freeman

#### **Marine History For May:**



May 2, 1946, Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks aid in suppressing 3 day prison riot at Alcatraz federal Penitentiary.



May 3, 2019, Autumn Taniguchi becomes first female Marine to graduation from the Urban Leader course.



May 4, 1943, The first Marine Corps class of female officer candidates' graduates and reports for duty.



May 7, 2005, Marines begin offensive campaign dubbed Operation Matador near the Iraqi-Syrian border



May 8, 1945, V-E Day



May 11, 1978, Margaret Brewer becomes the Marine Corps first female General Officer.



May 16, 1991, Operation Sea Angel begins after President Bush announces decision to dispatch Joint Task Force to Bangladesh.



May 17, 1949, ARMED FORCES DAY This day was dedicated to honoring and paying tribute to the men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces



May 18, 1984, Col. Jerome G Cooper advances to the rank of Brigadier General, becoming the first African American Marine General Officer in the Marine Corps Reserve.



May 22, 1912, Marine Corps Aviation birthday, 1stLt Alfred Cunningham reports to Navy's Aviation Camp in Annapolis Maryland.



May 25, 2005, The US Mint announces release of a commemorative coin in honor of the Marine Corps 230th anniversary.



May 30, 1997, Marines helped to evacuate 2,500 people from a natural disaster in Kinshasa, Zaire.



May 31, 1900, Marines defend Legation Quarter during the Boxer Rebellion.

Have a safe, month, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. If you would like to help at the Jubilee, send an email.

*Semper Fi !*  
*Joe Hoadley*

## SR VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

Once again, it's that time of year again, and another Chesapeake Jubilee. Last month our Commandant enlisted the help of approximately 30 Marines from the Marine Corps Training Company, stationed at NAS Northwest Annex, to assist our Detachment's endeavor at this year's Chesapeake Jubilee. The Marines will be under the supervision of a NCO. Also, for the first time in several years, the Chesapeake Marine Corps Recruiting Station will have a recruiting tent / table set up to discuss career opportunities with the Marine Corps

The Detachment is requesting our members, if possible, try to stop by, for a little while, sometime during one of the Jubilee days and show solidarity. Detachment member Frank Ashbrook will be walking point on this operation again this year. Last year, Frank was always the first one at our Detachment's CP and always the last one to leave. Every day he made sure our command post was up and running and made sure our CP was secure at night. Throughout the weekend, Frank took charge and cooked several cases of hamburgers and hot dogs for the Detachment's members, volunteers, and thirty hungry Marines with voracious appetites.

### DETEACHMENT HOURS AT THE JUBILEE:

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH	5 PM -- 10 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 17TH	10 AM -- 10 PM
SUNDAY, MAY 18TH	NOON -- 6 PM

### SICK CALL:

Our thoughts and prayers to go out to our Detachment's Marines: Wayne Smith, Willmont "Griff" Griffin and his wife, Mike Jeannotte, Woody Keating and all members' and their families that are dealing with health issues.

### REMINDERS:

- Anyone living in Chesapeake and needs a ride to our Detachment's meetings or activities, please contact me.
- Every Thursday from 1000 – 1200 hours, we have an informal working party to make improvements to our headquarters. Feel free to show up when you can spare the time.

*Semper Fi !*  
*Ed Pearia*

## JR VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

The Detachment has plenty of embroidered CMCL regular and tech performance short sleeve polo shirts for \$30. Sizes are from Medium to XXL. Detachment covers may have to be special ordered. Call, text ,email or see me to special order or pick up.










*Semper Fi !*  
*David Perdue*

## JUDGE ADVOCATE'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

May is Electrical Safety Month. Electrical accidents and problems are the cause of many home fires each year. To increase your safety and decrease the chances of an electrical fire:



-  Avoid overloading electrical outlets. Don't plug too many devices into one outlet or one extension cord.
-  Don't plug a space heater into an extension cord.
-  Don't plug two extension cords together.
-  Don't use an extension cord as a permanent solution.
-  Use three-prong (grounded) extension cords both inside and outside.
-  Don't use frayed or worn electrical cords.
-  Don't run electrical cords under rugs or carpet.
-  Don't use electrical devices in wet or damp areas.
-  Don't unplug a cord by pulling on the cord; pull on the plug.

Most people leave electrical appliances and devices plugged in all the time. Arcing and overheated outlets can start a fire while you are sleeping or busy doing something else. Ensure you have working smoke detectors throughout your house, but especially in sleeping areas.

Safe practices and attention to detail will reduce your chances of suffering a home electrical fire. Take the time to routinely examine your electrical devices and electrical outlets. Stay alert and stay safe.

*Semper Fi !*  
*David Weber*

## ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

MARINES, CHESAPEAKE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
DETACHMENT 853  
MINUTES OF 24 APRIL 2025 MEETING

Our meeting was called to order by the Commandant at 1900 hours. Colors were posted and Pledge of Allegiance was made. Bible was opened and opening prayer was read.

Roll Call: 7 members present including the 4 elected officers:

Joe Hoadley, Commandant

Ed Pearia, Senior Vice Commandant

David Perdue, Junior Vice Commandant

David Weber, Judge Advocate

Bill Fogle, Adjutant

Rich Miller

Tim Lyman

Rich Miller was sworn in as a new member.

Minutes of March meeting were distributed to those in attendance. Motion was made that they be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

Paymasters Report was distributed to those in attendance. Motion was made that they be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Commandant stated we received correspondence from the Memorial Day Foundation and State Corporation Commission.

The Senior Vice Commandant stated the following health concerns:

Former Commandant, Bill Griffin, in need of a lung transplant,

Bill Griffin's wife is having surgery for a mass in her colon at the end of the month and Woody Keating had a pacemaker put in late February.

The Senior Vice Commandant informed the Detachment of the project to be performed by the Department of Parks and Recreation at our location this summer.

The Senior Vice Commandant stated that our Scholarships Webpage had 22 visits and three applications were downloaded. Three applications are expected to soon be submitted.

The Judge Advocate distributed copies of our Bylaws to those in attendance.

The Judge Advocate stated that six Marine families received bimonthly food baskets.

The Commandant stated that 30 Marines from Northwest will be assigned to The Chesapeake Jubilee. Also, there will be a meeting on 6 May 2025 at 1600 concerning the Chesapeake Jubilee.

The Judge Advocate Stated he would provide a wreath for the Memorial Day Ceremony.

A motion was made that our Detachment donate \$500.00 for the Department Conference. The motion was seconded and approved.

Closing was held with retiring of the colors, closing prayer, and playing of the Marine Corps Hymn.

*Semper Fi !*  
*Bill Fogle*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# MEMORIAL DAY



*“All Gave Some.... Some Gave All”*

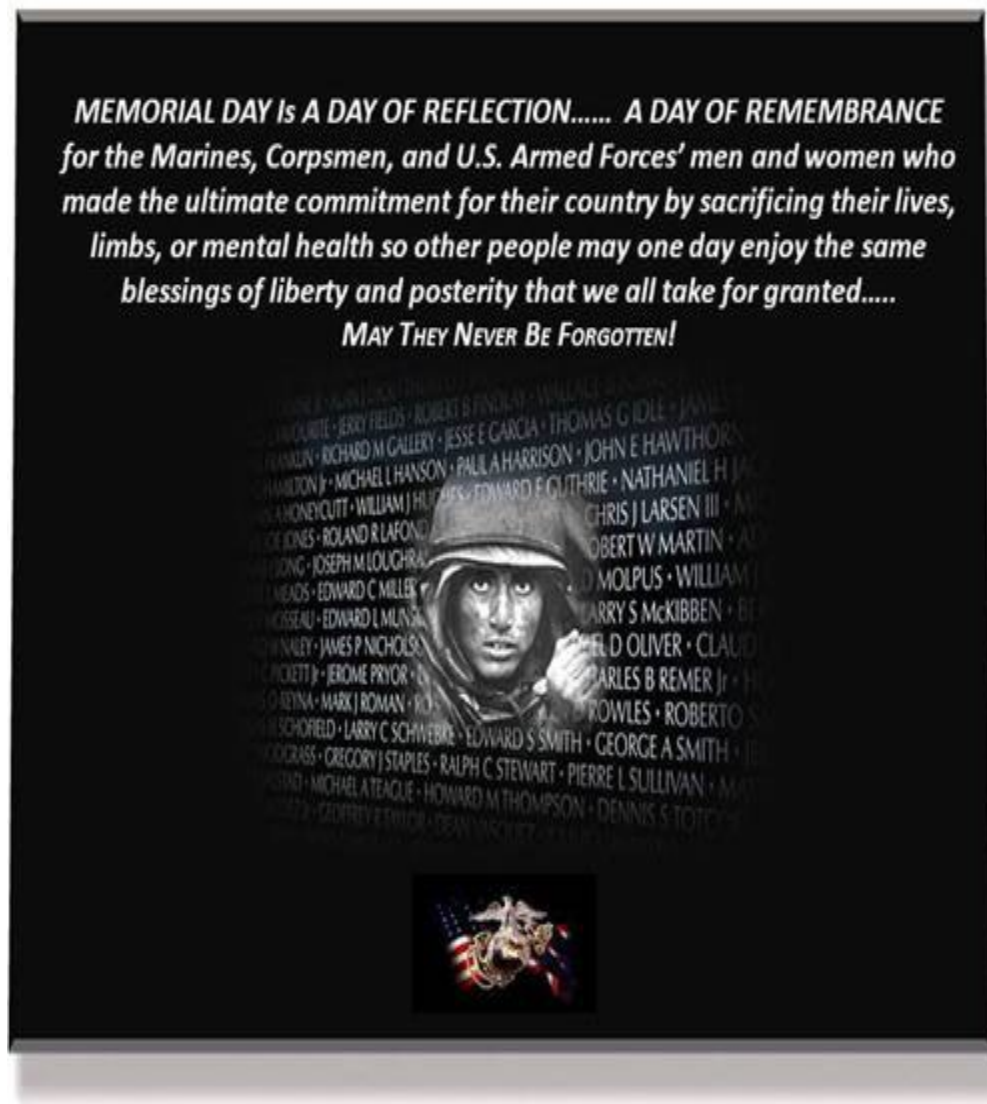
The Chesapeake, Virginia, Memorial Day is observed with an annual ceremony hosted by the Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs. The ceremony this year will be held on Monday, May 26 at 11:00 AM at Chesapeake City Hall, specifically in front of the Veterans Memorial. This event is free and open to the public. The City of Chesapeake holds the ceremony to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- **Location:** Chesapeake City Hall, 306 Cedar Road.
- **Time:** 11:00 AM.
- **Date:** The last Monday of May.
- **Event:** The Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs hosts the annual ceremony.



- **Purpose:** To honor and remember those who have died in military service.
- **Accessibility:** The event is free and open to the public.
- **Alternative Location:** In case of inclement weather, the ceremony may move to City Council chambers,



“Every day is MEMORIAL DAY somewhere”

- Ed Seagers, American Legion Post 105





THURSDAY, MAY 15TH  
6:00PM – 10:00PM

**AMUSEMENTS of AMERICA**  
ONLY RIDES & GAMES OPEN

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH  
4:30PM – 7:00PM



FRIDAY, MAY 16TH  
5:00PM – 10:00PM



**AMUSEMENTS of AMERICA**  
MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH  
10:00AM – 10:00PM



**AMUSEMENTS of AMERICA**  
MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH  
9:00PM



SUNDAY, MAY 18TH  
NOON – 6:00PM



**AMUSEMENTS of AMERICA**  
MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT



**HEADS UP!**  
**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1900 HOURS**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- 27 March ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 24 April ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 16 – 18 May ~ Department Meeting
- 16-18 May ~ Chesapeake Jubilee [Ice Sale]
- 22 May ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 26 May ~ Chesapeake Memorial Day Ceremony, 1100 Hours
- 26 June ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 4 July ~ Chesapeake 4th July Parade
- 24 July ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 28 August ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 20 September ~ Chesapeake Mayor's Veterans Breakfast, 0800 Hours
- 25 September ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 23 October ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- TBD November ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1200 Hours  
[Prep for Thanksgiving Food Baskets]
- 10 November ~ MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY
- 11 November ~ Chesapeake Veterans Day Ceremony – 1100 Hours
- TBD December ~ Detachment Members' Meeting - 1200 hours  
[Prep Christmas Food Baskets]
- 6 December ~ Chesapeake Christmas Parade ~ 15 Hours [Prep] – 1800 Hours (Parade)
- 7 December ~ Detachment Dinner / Installation of officers – TBD Hours



### *ATTENTION ON DECK!*

Detachment 853 Newest Member:  
RICHARD (RICH) MILLER

OORAH!



### DID YOU KNOW.....

**Montel Williams, actor - TV host, began his career in the United States Marines Corps and reported for boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina in 1974.**



Williams enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1974. He completed the one-year Naval Academy Preparatory School course and then in 1975, he was accepted as the first black Marine into the four-year officer training program at the U.S. Naval Academy. After 17 years of active duty and five more as a reservist,<sup>1</sup> Williams retired in 1996 from the Naval Reserve at the rank of lieutenant commander<sup>1</sup> after 22 years of service.

April 29, 2025









## VA marks 100 days of putting Veterans first

WASHINGTON — Today marks 100 days of the second Trump Administration. During this time, VA has launched a host of major reforms to refocus the department on its core mission: providing the best possible care and services to Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors.

Secretary Collins discussed the historic progress VA has made in a new video on X and in this op-ed.

As Secretary Collins said, “One hundred days into the second Trump administration, and VA is no longer content with poor results. Under President Trump’s leadership, we have already stripped away many of the costly distractions that were coming between VA beneficiaries and the benefits they have earned. And we’re looking to make even more historic reforms to better serve our Veterans.”

VA’s accomplishments during the first 100 days include:

-  Providing Veterans the health care choices they were promised under the MISSION Act
-  Opening six new health care clinics around the nation
-  Taking thousands of employees off of remote work and bringing them back to the office, where they can work as a team to better serve Veterans
-  Phasing out treatment for gender dysphoria and directing all savings to helping paralyzed Veterans and amputees
-  Processing record numbers of disability claims
-  Accelerating the deployment of VA’s electronic health record system after the program was nearly dormant for almost two years under the Biden Administration
-  Ended DEI at the department, stopping more than \$14 million in wasteful DEI spending
-  Redirecting hundreds of millions of dollars from non-mission-critical efforts to health care, benefits and services that directly support VA beneficiaries

## Back to 13-Marine squads and a new company for infantry battalions



NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – The 13-Marine squad is back, and the Corps is creating a new company within the infantry battalion to meet its modern war-fighting needs.

Commandant Gen. Eric Smith announced those changes Monday at the Navy League’s annual Sea, Air and Space Exposition.

The fighting unit had grown to 15 Marines during infantry battalion experiments in recent years. That included adding an

assistant squad leader and a squad systems operator to manage the many sensing and firing platforms being added to the unit’s arsenal.

Dropping back to the 13-Marine configuration still gives Marines more personnel than the standard nine-soldier U.S. Army squad. It also returns the squad to its previous size, but instead with a sergeant, rather than a staff sergeant in charge of three fire teams and an organic precision fires specialist in the ranks.

The infantry battalion will also see the formation of a reconnaissance and fires company outside of the headquarters and service company ranks. That new company will include the battalion’s 81mm mortars, organic precision fires, such as drones, and the scout platoon for reconnaissance assets, Smith said.

The decision was made this past week, the commandant said. When the Corps concluded phase one of its Infantry Battalion experiments in 2023, it reduced the size of the infantry battalion from 965 Marines to 811 and added new technologies for sensing, striking, communication and power generation.

Each of the battalion’s three rifle companies hold individual operations, signal, logistics, electronic warfare and medical sections. Recent plans also called for a Navy corpsman available for each squad.

The Marine Corps first unveiled the 15-Marine configuration in 2018. Prior to that, the service had used the 13-Marine squad model since at least the 1950s, with three fire teams of four Marines and a squad leader.

In 2018, then-Commandant Gen. Robert Neller initially announced he would cut the squad from 13 to 12. That changed after his own experiments recommended otherwise. The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, had conducted six months of experimentation with new configurations and gear. Following that work, an article published in the professional journal Marine Corps Gazette recommended a 15-Marine squad.

Iran uses an even larger formation — a 16-soldier squad with a squad leader, sniper, a two-soldier rocket team and three fire teams of four soldiers, all with automatic rifles, according “Infantry Building Blocks,” published in a 2018 issue of Military Review.





# ***THE MARINES***



**"We're not accustomed to occupying defensive positions. It's destructive to morale."**

— Lt. Gen. H. M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith, Iwo Jima, 1945

**"In our Corps, without responsibility and discipline, we would not have won the Battle of Iwo Jima."**

- Lt. Gen. H. M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith; After Action Report on Iwo Jima, 1945

Lt. General Holland Smith is called the father of modern U.S. amphibious warfare, but he is perhaps more known as the poster child of inter-service rivalry during the Pacific War.

During the war, much friction existed between the services, the Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

***Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni***

*"Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever"*

