



**CHESAPEAKE
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DETACHMENT 853**



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SITREP
DETACHMENT 853 NEWSLETTER
JUNE 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 – MAY 2026

During The Month Of May, Detachment 853:



Held Monthly Detachment Meeting



Approved New Member Application



Received Two Additional Scholarship Applications



Sponsored A Concession Stand For Special Events At The Hampton Coliseum



Attended Chesapeake Jubilee's Executive Committee Meeting



Met With Chesapeake USMC Recruiting Sub-Station's Commander



Attended The Mayor's Commission On Veterans' Affairs Executive Meeting



Retired Damaged American Flags



Attended MCL Department Of Virginia Spring Convention



Met with NCOs from the Marine Corps Training Company; NAS Northwest Annex



Sold And Delivered Ice To Chesapeake Jubilee Vendors / City Departments



Attended And Participated In The Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs Memorial Day Ceremony



DEPARTMENT COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

Highlights/Summary from MCL Dept of VA Spring Convention 2026

Thank you all for showing up and participating so actively in our Spring Convention over the weekend. I greatly appreciate the support and active involvement in helping to run our Department. Our new Adjutant is working on the minutes, but I did want to share the highlights and decisions made at Convention, which will give everyone a heads up on a few things. Please share this with your membership and especially with the officers who may be impacted by some of these decisions.

We had 32 Marines/Associates from the Dept of Virginia present plus 2 Marines from Maryland and 2 from North Carolina present for our MCL Dept meetings. There were additional Marines that showed up just for the Pack Growl but did not attend the Dept meeting. These would be tracked by the Pack.

We had 8 Detachments represented: 329, 853, 890, 1085, 1205, 1256, 1317 & 1379

Thank you!

Our Chaplain conducted the Memorial Service at the start of our meeting.

Discussion highlights:

- Proposed recommendation for the JLC re: mandatory PTSD training for all 1st responders/public servants. (This has been sent out to all Det Cmdts with a request for response NLT 6/7/2026)
- PLM Audits: Only 7 Detachments submitted this year. Only 6 of those Dets will receive PLM Payouts. This is free money that Dets are just ignoring if they don't do the PLM audits.
- Everyone needs to watch their Veteran membership percentages and ensure it is at least 75% veterans to protect our VSO status.
- Dept Bylaws: An update was sent out in April with the intent of calling a vote at Convention. Not everyone has read through them, so, we deferred the vote til the Fall and will follow up with the Dets to engage the JAs in the review.
- Dept AP: These were also updated and sent out in April for review and potential vote at Convention. However, it has been suggested that the MOY/AOY Section be broken out into an SOP which would be maintained by the MOY/AOY Society. This suggestion was also made for the Scholarship section. It would be broken out into an SOP and maintained by the Jr Past Commandant, who is the Scholarship Committee chair.
- ANVC Laura Hamilton let everyone know that there is a big push by National to do as much as possible online vs. mailing everything in. This is a way to streamline processes and processing of MDTs, ROIs, etc. Change is coming or in some cases is already here and we need to switch to it.
- www.MCLeagueLibrary.org - Go there early and often and keep up with everything going on across the MCL. There are a LOT of training videos there.
 - Request account via MCLeague Link as this will allow more than just the Det Cmdt and Paymasters to see the MCL Natl database information.
 - Register for the MCL National events if you plan to go as this ensures delegates are recognized for any voting.

- It was also brought up that meeting 2x a year is not enough when it comes to sharing information and helping train our new Det staff. Periodic Zoom meetings were suggested. This was a great suggestion, and I will follow up on this.
- Dept SVC emphasized the need to track our volunteer work. This can be reported up through Dept right now, but Natl is working on a way to better capture and track it. It's important to show the value the MCL provides.
- Dept JVC went over ideas for both recruiting and retention. It is important to have activities for your members to engage in. Wear your MCL hats, shirts, covers while out in the community to generate interest. Use current social media outlets. Never do anything to bring discredit to the USMC or the MCL.
- Motions Approved/Decisions:
- Budget for 2026-2027 approved with minor amendment.
- \$250 donation to the MCL Foundation. Check to be presented at Natl Convention in August.
- \$250 to be paid to MCL Mideast Division for our annual 'dues'.
- Dept Meetings/Conventions:
 - Fall Meeting 2026: 9-10 Oct in Winchester (Det 890)
 - Spring Convention 2027: May in Richmond (Det 329)
 - Fall Meeting 2027: Oct in Fredericksburg (Det 1379)
- The Dept membership dues will increase from \$3.50 to \$5.00 for annual members as of 1 July 2026.
- Fall Meeting 2025 meeting minutes approved.
- Paymaster report approved subject to audit.
- Nominations/Elections/Installations conducted by Assistant National Vice Commandant Laura Hamilton who was visiting us from NC.
- We still need a M4L rep, a Dept Historian and we'd like a Sgt-at-Arms assistant/trainee.

Awards:

- Newsletter Competition for 2026:
 - 1st: Det 1379; 2nd: Det 329; 3rd: Det 853
 - Awards will be sent/delivered later, but these are the winners.
- Dept MOY for 2026 is Roy Smith (Congratulations!!!)
- No submissions received for Dept AOY, so Jim Ralls continues on as our Dept AOY Committee chair.
- Scholarships: 1 very qualified application was received, and a \$1500 scholarship will be provided for Kaitlyn Jones out of Williamsburg. She was submitted by Det 332/Virginia Beach.
- Distinguished Service Awards were presented to the following Marines for their stellar support of the Dept's efforts in hosting the MCL MED Conference in June 2025:
 - Phil Parsons
 - Trish Manghelli
 - Tommy Evans
 - Robert Icolari

That's the quick summary and all of the details will be in the minutes. I want to again thank the Jack Maas Detachment 1379 for hosting our Spring Convention and thank everyone for attending and supporting.

Take care.

Semper Fi,

Sheri Moore

Commandant

MCL Dept of Virginia

DETACHMENT COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

As you can see from our "May After Action Report", last month was a very active and productive for our Detachment. However, those accomplishments have been overshadowed with the passing of our life member, friend, and brother-in-arms, Donald "Don" W. Doherty who passed away on 17 May. Unfortunately, we were not informed of his passing until 27 May. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

2026 Chesapeake Jubilee



The highlight of last month was working alongside 41 active-duty young Marines, fresh out of Infantry Training Battalion (ITB) / Infantry Marine Course (IMC), Camp Geiger/Camp Lejeune who volunteered to help us during the Chesapeake 2026 Jubilee.

Many thanks go out to member, Frank Ashbrook, who took point on "Operation Chesapeake Jubilee". Frank executed an exceptional job leading the efforts. Frank and volunteer Scott Hooper also took on the responsibility of becoming the Detachment's chef, skillfully cooking for the perpetually hungry Marines and volunteers. His contributions, along with the support of the other volunteers and Detachment members, were instrumental in making this year's Jubilee a resounding success.

Detachment 853 Jubilee Volunteers

Marines From Training Company; [NAS Northwest Annex](#)

Detachment Members:

Joe Hoadley
Frank Ashbrook
David Weber
Ed Pearia
Vince Amos

Detachment Volunteers:

Fred Ebeling
Austin Ebeling
Kourtney Ebeling
Scott Hooper
Andrew Ashbrook
Kevin Goodey

Best Wishes to our members who have birthdays this month. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Stay Safe.

Semper Fi!

Ed Pearia

SR VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

The Virginia Beach Marine Corps League, John A. Lejeune Detachment #332, is trying to get a Military Order of the Devil Dogs unit started locally. If anyone is interested in joining the Military Order of the Devil Dogs get in touch with me and I'll get you in touch with the Virginia Beach detachment member. For more information, their website is militaryorderofthedevildogs.org/ Or email Thomas Coursey at sycamoresouth@gmail.com

Semper Fi!

David Perdue

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S MESSAGE

MARINES,



JUNE SAFETY TIP: RISK REDUCTION MONTH

Risk reduction is practicing safety all the time. There are key factors to reducing your chances of incurring injury or death in our everyday activities:

Risk Avoidance:

- 🍷 Reduce your work and play activities during the heat of the day.
- 🍷 Practice good fire safety when grilling outdoors or cooking over a campfire.
- 🍷 Be careful at the beach. Even moderate surf can be dangerous. Designate someone to watch the little ones.
- 🍷 Make sure life jackets are available and used when boating.
- 🍷 Avoid outdoor activities in periods of extreme weather.
- 🍷 Risk Reduction.
- 🍷 Maintain a healthy weight.
- 🍷 Exercise regularly to maintain strength and balance.
- 🍷 Use a minimum of SPF 30 sunscreen when outdoors. Use DEET repellent to reduce insect bites.
- 🍷 Do not rush through activities or tasks, especially if using power tools.
- 🍷 Use handrails on steps and steep inclines.
- 🍷 Practice good defensive driving.
- 🍷 Maintain a home first aid kit.
- 🍷 Plan on evacuation preparedness. Have a plan and supplies.

As we age, our abilities decline. Accept physical limitations. Evaluate the possible risks when planning events, trips, and activities, and then decide on how to reduce those risks. Practice these tips, have a wonderful summer,

Live long and prosper!

Semper Fi!

David Weber

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

As we wrap up another month, we see that there is no end in sight to the struggles and challenges we face, individually and corporately. With that truth bearing down on us, we may be inclined to want to quit, stop making strides forward, but do not be discouraged. Our God is one who never stops, never deviates, and never ever gives up on us. Cling tightly to Him and hold onto hope. Faith Brings Joy

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his Love.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his son while we were still enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."

Lord God,

We rejoice in our affliction as it brings us closer to you. Praise you for your steadfast love and patient endurance. Open our eyes to see the joy set before us. Continue to move in our lives, consoling us, comforting us, providing for us, healing us. We don't deserve a moment of any of this goodness and yet we are treasures that you love to love. We love and praise you, Amen.

Prayer List:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our Detachment's Marines: William Sweeney Sr, Mike Jeannotte, Wayne Smith, Wilmont "Griff" Griffin, Pete Harris, Joe Hoadley, David Weber, Gary Insley, Jen Edinger, Don Doherty's family 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).

QUARTERMASTER'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

At the Detachment, we try to keep a number of the official Marine Corps League red covers and Eagle globe and anchor emblems available for our members. We also have a selection of red embroidered, polo shirts in various sizes.

Prices:



The Marine Corps League cover is \$35



Eagle globe, and anchor emblem is \$7.



The polo shirts are currently \$30.

We do not mark up prices. In fact, the Detachment absorbs the shipping costs from National.

The Semper Fi store sells embroidered polo shirts for \$45, and they are not specific to our Detachment.

I currently buy the EGA cover emblems at the Camp Elmore Marine Corps Exchange for about \$3 less than what the Semper Fi store is selling them.

We have a bunch of MCL ribbons if you need them.

If there is anything that you need ordered from the Semper Fi store at National, you can either go through me or you can order items for yourself.

Note- The only required item for a uniform is the red Marine Corps League cover.

The website for the Semper Fi store is: <https://the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com/>

Semper Fi!

David Perdue

ANNOUNCEMENTS



HEADS UP!
DETACHMENT MEETING
THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 1900 HOURS

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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
6-15 August ~ MCL National Convention
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)
9-10 October ~ Department Fall Meeting; Winchester, VA
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)



Mayor's Commission on Veteran's Affairs Memorial Day Ceremony



Detachment 853 members and Marines from the Marine Corps Security Force Regiment Training Company attending this year's Memorial Day Ceremony at Chesapeake City Hall



“OPERATION CHESAPEAKE JUBILEE”

DETACHMENT 853 COMMAND POST, MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND MARINES:





THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: JUNE

2 June 1913

The German 28th Division attacked American troops on the Paris-Metz Road, hitting the American 2nd Division, including the 4th Marine Brigade. The Marines opened fire with deadly accuracy, helping hand German troops a setback that set the stage for Marine victory at Belleau Wood which would soon follow.

8 June 1996

A Marine recovery team from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit stationed on board the *USS Kearsarge* rescued American pilot Captain Scott O'Grady, USAF, who had been shot down over Bosnia six days earlier

10 June 1889

The First Marine Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Huntington, landed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

12 June 1961

President John F. Kennedy signed a Presidential Proclamation calling for the American flag to be flown at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, "at all times during the day and night."

15 June 1944

The V Amphibious Corps assaulted the west coast of the island of Saipan in the Mariana Islands. The assault was preceded by hours of naval gunfire and airstrikes and by nightfall the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions had established a beachhead 10,000 yards wide and 1,500 yards deep despite heavy Japanese resistance.

20 June 1993

The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) returned to Mogadishu, Somalia, to be ready to provide support to United Nations peace-keeping troops if needed. Earlier that month, the 24th MEU had cut short Exercise Eager Mace 93-2 in Kuwait to be on hand for possible operations in Somalia.

25 June 1966

On June 25, 1966, *Operation Jay* began approximately 20 miles northwest of the central Vietnamese city of Hue. The operation, which lasted nine days, saw the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines land north of the North Vietnamese 812th Main Force Battalion



FORMER CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

General Colin Powell's Thoughts On Leadership

THOUGHT #9

"Organization charts and fancy titles count for next to nothing."

“Organization charts are frozen, anachronistic photos in a workplace that ought to be as dynamic as the external environment around you. If people really followed organization charts, companies would collapse. In well-run organizations, titles are also pretty meaningless. At best, they advertise some authority, an official status conferring the ability to give orders and induce obedience. But titles mean little in terms of real power, which is the capacity to influence and inspire. Have you ever noticed that people will personally commit to certain individuals who on paper (or on the organization chart) possess little authority, but instead possess pizzazz, drive, expertise, and genuine caring for teammates and products? On the flip side, non-leaders in management may be formally anointed with all the perks and frills associated with high positions, but they have little influence on others, apart from their ability to extract minimal compliance to minimal standards.”

To Be Continued...



DID YOU KNOW.....

Former U.S. Senator and Virginia Governor is a *US Marine Corps Officer*?



Robb Served in the Marine Corps 1961-1970 . He was discharged at the rank of Major He was a Vietnam Veteran and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Presidential Service Badge.

Robb and Lynda Bird Johnson's was married at the White House, December 9, 1967



Master Sergeant Donald W. Doherty, USMC (RET)

June 12, 1946 - May 17, 2026

Life Member Chesapeake Marine Corps League, Detachment 853

Obituary: <https://www.hollomon-brown.com/obituaries/Donald-W-Doherty?obId=48451016&shem=rimsouwouoe>,

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**NEWS**

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 OBSERVATION POST



“What counts in making a happy marriage is not how compatible you are but how you deal with incompatibility”

- Leo Tolstoy



- 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!**
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***ATTENTION ON DECK!
DETACHMENT 853 NEWEST MEMBER:
ROBERT "BOB" BLACKBURN
OORAH!***

DETACHMENT BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE:



Joe Hoadley ~ 01 June
Gary Snead ~ 07 June
Willie Bradshaw ~ 21 June



OUR MARINE CORPS

THE MARINE TIMES

By J.D. Simkins
Jun 2, 2026,

Parris Island Drill Instructor Found Deceased In Florida Hotel



A drill instructor assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot-Parris Island was found deceased in a hotel room in Starke, Florida, on May 30, the service confirmed.

Sgt. Albert Haynes II, 24, was in Florida to attend a poolee function with U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Station-Jacksonville at the time of the incident, a Marine Corps spokesperson told Military Times.

The incident is currently under investigation by the Bradford County Sheriff's Department.

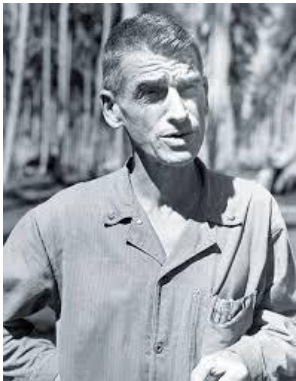
Haynes, a native of Austin, Pennsylvania, was assigned to Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion at the time of his death, according to his service record.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps as an 0811 Field Artillery Cannoneer, attending the Field Artillery Basic Course in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, after graduating recruit training and Marine Combat Training.

His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with a gold star in lieu of a second award), the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (with two bronze stars in lieu of a third award) and the National Defense Service Medal.



THE MARINES



Evans Fordyce Carlson commanded the Second Marine Raider Battalion with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He led his Marines on the raid on Makin Island, 17 August 1942, earning him a Gold Star in lieu of a second Navy Cross. A second Gold Star was awarded him for heroism and distinguished leadership on Guadalcanal in November and December of that year. While on Guadalcanal, Lt Col Carlson is credited for incorporating the first fireteams into platoon squads. He retired as a Brigadier General.

Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni

"Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever"

