



**CHESAPEAKE  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
DETACHMENT 853**



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**SITREP**  
**DETACHMENT 853 NEWSLETTER**  
**FEBRUARY 2026**

**Commandant:**  
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**Senior Vice Commandant:**  
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**Junior Vice Commandant:**  
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**Judge Advocate:**  
**David Weber**  
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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 – JANUARY 2026

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

-  Held monthly Detachment meeting
-  Held Trustee meeting
-  Sworn in new member
-  Sponsored a concession stand for special events at the Hampton Coliseum
-  Received a monetary donation from a nonprofit organization
-  Attended Chesapeake Jubilee Executive & Logistics Committee meeting
-  Retired damaged American flags



## DETACHMENT COMMUNIQUÉ

### COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

#### MARINES,

January is almost over and we missed the big storm, now we are getting ready for February and hopefully no storms. Our life member Wayne Smith was at this month's meeting and was looking at the items that he has on display at the detachment. It seems there is a picture of Vietnam, that was painted by artist Waterhouse that was signed and has his mother's name on it, and on the back has his two son's names. It was presented to his mother by Waterhouse. If anyone remembers this painting being there let us know.

For those who have not heard, I will be moving to Florida in the next couple of months. As a Charter member of the Detachment and Commandant for many years, I will miss it very much. I will most likely be at the next meeting, and I know that I am leaving the Detachment in good hands.

#### Marines Celebrating Their Birthdays This Month:

Lindsey Boone 2/5

Dana Lortie 2/15

Dennis Phelps 2/28

If you should see these Marines wish them a Happy Birthday.

#### Marine Corps History For The Month Of February:

-  2/1/1967 Operation Prairie II begins in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3rd Marine
-  2/13/1943 Marine Corps announces women will be recruited to serve in the Reserves
-  2/13/2010 Battle of Marjah begins in Helmand Province Afghanistan.
-  2/19/1945 Marines land on Iwo Jima.
-  2/23/1945 Flag raisings on Iwo Jima.
-  2/24/1991 1st Marine Division's two task forces begin operations to liberate Kuwait.

#### Other dates for the month of February:

- 2/2 Groundhog Day
- 2/16 Presidents Day
- 2/17 Ramadan begins at sundown.
- 2/18 Ash Wednesday.

BE SAFE and *Semper Fi!*

**Joe Hoadley**

## SR VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

### MARINES,

The Detachment kicked off the New Year on a positive note by welcoming Sam Smith as our newest associate member. We hope this marks the beginning of a new tradition—inducting a new member at the start of each year.

Last month, I joined Detachment member Frank Ashbrook at the Chesapeake Jubilee's Executive and Logistics Committee Meeting. The session aimed to introduce new committee members to existing ones, and to discuss what went well and what could be enhanced from last year's Jubilee. The Committee has a history spanning more than forty years, and Frank has played an active role for twenty-eight of those years. The Members were exceptional pleased that Frank will be returning for his twenty-ninth year.

The 2026 Jubilee this year will be May 14th thru the 17th. As in previous years, the Detachment is tasked with selling ice to vendors on behalf of the city and delivering ice to various city departments, with Frank once again leading this operation. Our responsibility includes trying to recruit around thirty Marines from the Marine Corps Training Company at NAS Northwest Annex to support the Detachment's efforts during this year's Chesapeake Jubilee. The Detachment will also provide meals for the Marines and oversee the setup and breakdown of the tents used for our command post during this three-day event.



### **“Jack Schitt”**

You may not know Jack Schitt. Back in the day, when a Marine was asked a question that he didn't have an answer to, more often than not his reply would be: “I don't know Jack Schitt!” It was an expression that I've heard more than a few times throughout my life, and on occasion I've had the pleasure of responding “I don't know Jack Schitt!” For those of you not familiar with Jack Schitt and the Schitt family, I will give you the history of the Schitt family.

Jack Schitt is the son of Awe Schitt and Oh Schitt. Awe Schitt, a fertilizer magnate, married Oh Schitt, the owner of the Kneedeep Schitt Inn. Jack Schitt married Noe Schitt and they produced six children. Holy Schitt, their first, passed on shortly after childbirth. Next came twin sons, Deep Schitt and Dip Schitt; Two daughters, Fulla Schitt and Giva Schitt; And another son, Bull Schitt, Deep Schitt married Dumb Schitt, a high school dropout. Dip Schitt married Lotta Schitt and they have a son named Chicken Schitt, Fulla Schitt and Giva Schitt married the Happens brothers, The Schitt-Happens children are Dawg Schitt, Byrd Schitt and Holy Schitt. Bull Schitt just married a spicy little number named Pisa Schitt and they are awaiting the arrival of Baby Schitt. Now my friends you can proudly proclaim, “I know the true legacy of Jack Schitt!”

**Now You Know The Rest Of The Story!**

*Semper Fi!*  
Ed Pearia

## JR VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

### MARINES,

We now have all sizes in stock for the MCL cover. The Detachment also has plenty of embroidered CMCL regular and tech performance short sleeve polo shirts for \$30.00. Sizes are from Medium to XXL. Call, text, email or see me to special order or pick up. The price of MCL covers with anchor & globe is \$45.00.

*Semper Fi!*

David Perdue

## JUDGE ADVOCATE'S MESSAGE

### MARINES,



### HEART HEALTH AWARENESS

February is a good time to look at your heart health. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in women, and a major cause of death in men. Many factors are involved in this problem, and yet most are under one's control.

-  Smoking hurts your heart, really! It damages how it functions, the internal blood vessels, and the blood itself. Needless to say, it also damages your lungs.
-  Vaping also damages your heart, lungs, and brain. Individuals who vape have a 71% higher risk of stroke and a 59% higher risk of heart attack.
-  Lack of exercise and sitting on your duff too much increases your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and high blood sugar levels, all because you don't use those muscles in your legs! Using these large muscles increases the uptake of sugar from your blood and increases the breakdown of fatty acids. About every 30 minutes, get up and move.
-  Stress increases your blood pressure, your body fat, and inflammation in your arteries. Try to take mindfulness breaks during your day.
-  Poor diet can increase your risk of heart disease. Try to:
  - decrease eating processed foods
  - decrease your salt intake
  - decrease the amount of simple carbohydrates
  - decrease eating food high in saturated fats
  - decrease your use of added sugars
  - BUT increase your intake of vegetables and fruits

Be aware of your health. You can live longer and better! Lastly, learn CPR in case you need to help save the life of a family member or a comrade.

Live long and prosper!

*Semper Fi!*

David Weber

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

### MARINES,

Believe it or not, one must cultivate the discipline of waiting. You do not wake up one morning and declare from this point forward, I will not be impatient. I am going to wait from now on. Waiting is an attitude - a disposition of the heart. Waiting is developed through being obedient over the long haul.

In Psalm 5:3, the psalmist writes, "Every morning I bring my request to you and wait expectantly." The psalmist orients his life toward God, knowing that He is the one who knows us and desires to bless us. Yes, the psalmist has needs - requests - perhaps even desperate demands, but the psalmist places those requests before the Lord. Having made his requests known, he does not then take matters into his own hands. He knows that God's plan is better than anything he could concoct. So with anticipation and confidence in the character of God, the psalmist waits expectantly. I have a mental picture of the psalmist intently gazing upon the events which unfold throughout the day looking for God's answer to his requests, knowing that God may move in unexpected ways, confident that God's provision is best.

Proverbs 3:5-6 commands, "trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."

Lord, help me to turn to you at the beginning of each day, placing my requests before you, fully confident that you know me and my circumstances better than I do.

Increase my ability to trust in you, knowing that you care for me. Then empower me to wait expectantly. watching for how you will meet my requests and direct my steps, no matter how long it takes. In Jesus Name, 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 Paratus*

Rev. Dana Lortie,  
MSgt (Ret).

## ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

### MARINES,

CHESAPEAKE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
DETACHMENT 853  
MINUTES OF 22 JANUARY 2026

### Opening Ceremony:

- Meeting was called to order by the Commandant at 1907 hours.
- Colors posted
- Pledge of Allegiance was made.
- Bible was opened and opening prayer was read.

**Roll Call:** 9 members present including all elected officers:

1. Joe Hoadley, Commandant
2. Ed Pearia, Senior Vice Commandant
3. David Perdue, Junior Vice Commandant
4. David Weber, Judge Advocate

5. Keli Martin, Associate Member
6. Sam Smith, Associate Member
7. Clay Edinger, Member
8. Wayne Smith, Member
9. Gary Sneed, Member

#### **Order Of Business:**

- Application for membership:
  1. One application was submitted. Motion was made to have the application accepted, it was seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- Minutes of December 2025 meeting were distributed and read. Motion was made they be approved. Motion was seconded and approved.
- Commandant reported on correspondence since the last meeting
- Paymasters Report was distributed and read. Motion was made that they be approved. Motion was seconded and approved
- Report was given on any member or member's family sick or in distress by the Sr. Vice Commandant.
- Report from Officers:
  1. Commandant announced Frank Ashbrook will take responsibility of the running the ice sale at the 2026 Chesapeake Jubilee, The Detachment will be responsible for initiating the request for Marines assistance and taking the responsibility of purchasing the food to feed them. The Commandant announced that he has received one phone call in the last year on the Detachment's cell phone. He also reiterated that he will be relocating to Florida in the near future and Senior Commandant will be taking over the responsibility of Commandant with his departure. Next month, February, David Weber will be the Detachment's new Paymaster.
  2. Senior Vice Commandant : Nothing new to report at this time
  3. Junior Vice Commandant : Nothing new to report at this time
  4. Judge Advocate announced the Trustees held their quarterly meeting. The meeting included auditing the Detachment's financial records, and writing proposals for the 2026 budget, and 2026 meeting / event schedule.
  5. Quartermaster announced he placed a shirt order with our new shirt / embroider vendor.

#### **Unfinished business:**

- No unfinished business

#### **New business:**

- The quarterly audit report , 2026 proposed budget and the proposed meeting/event schedule were distributed. Discussions were held, motions were made that they all be accepted, motions were seconded and approved.
- A Motion was made to cancel the Detachment's cell phone account. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### **Closing Ceremony:**

- Closing was held with retiring of the colors
- Closing prayer
- Playing the Marine Corps Hymn
- Meeting Closed at 2015 Hours

**Semper Fi!**  
**Ed Pearia**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**HEADS UP!**

**FEBRUARY DETACHMENT MEETING  
THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY, 1900 HOURS**

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 26 February ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 26 March ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- April ~ Trustee Meeting; Date & Time To Be Decided (TBD)
- 23 April ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 14-17 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)





# **PASSING OF A MARINE: IMPORANT PHONE NUMBERS**



When a Marine passes away, it is important to notify several federal and, if applicable, military retired pay agencies to stop benefits and initiate survivor assistance.

## **Immediate Contact List (Within 1–3 Days)**

- **VA Benefits (Pension/Compensation):** 1-800-827-1000 (Request to speak to a representative to stop payments).
- **DFAS (Defense Finance and Accounting Service):** 1-800-321-1080 (For retired military to stop pay and initiate SBP).
- **Social Security Administration:** 1-800-772-1213.
- **DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System):** 1-800-538-9552 (To notify of death for Tricare/ID card purposes).
- **VA Life Insurance:** 1-800-669-8477.
- **SGLI/VGLI Insurance:** 1-800-419-1473.





FORMER CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

## General Colin Powell's Thoughts On Leadership

### THOUGHT #5

**"Never neglect details. When everyone's mind is dulled or distracted the leader must be doubly vigilant."**

“Strategy equals execution. All the great ideas and visions in the world are worthless if they can't be implemented rapidly and efficiently. Good leaders delegate and empower others liberally, but they pay attention to details, every day. (Think about supreme athletic coaches like Jimmy Johnson, Pat Riley and Tony La Russa). Bad ones, even those who fancy themselves as progressive "visionaries," think they're somehow "above" operational details. Paradoxically, good leaders understand something else: an obsessive routine in carrying out the details begets conformity and complacency, which in turn dulls everyone's mind. That is why even as they pay attention to details, they continually encourage people to challenge the process. They implicitly understand the sentiment of CEO leaders like Quad Graphic's Harry Quadracchi, Oticon's Lars Kolind and the late Bill McGowan of MCI, who all independently asserted that the Job of a leader is not to be the chief organizer, but the chief dis-organizer.

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To Be Continued...



## DID YOU KNOW.....

### Comedian and actor Rob Riggle is a Marine?



Comedian and actor Rob Riggle—who appeared on *Saturday Night Live*, *The Daily Show*, and in dozens of films, sitcoms, and commercials—retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 2013. His deployments included tours in Kosovo and Afghanistan and is a recipient of the Combat Action Ribbon.

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

NEWS

The Virginia-Pilot

27 December 2025

## VA SIGNS LEASE FOR NEW CLINIC IN VIRGINIA BEACH

### \$355M Outpatient Clinic Planned To Be Near Outlet Mall

A Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic is coming to Virginia Beach. The Veterans Health Administration signed a lease for a \$355.7 million health clinic at the northeast corner of Northampton Boulevard and Premium Outlets Boulevard, according to a Dec. 19 announcement from U.S. Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner. “We are thrilled to announce the awarding of this new clinic lease in Hampton Roads,” the senators said in the announcement. “The veteran population in the region continues to grow, and this facility will fill a critical gap by expanding access to high-quality, convenient care for the veterans who have served our country.” The 20-year lease is for 182,230 square feet of medical space and 1,250 parking spaces, according to the contract award document. The contract was awarded to Nevada-based Molasky Development. The clinic was first authorized in 2022 as part of the PACT Act, which expanded VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to various toxins. However, updated cost estimates and rent bids prompted government agencies to seek reauthorization from four congressional committees this year. Kaine and Warner, both Democrats, also used the announcement to oppose a plan by Present Donald Trump’s administration to cut up to 35,000 VA positions across the country, according to a Dec. 13 Washington Post report. The VA already has reduced staffing by 30,000 positions this year through buyout offers and attrition. According to the VA, the staffing reductions have decreased bureaucracy and improved efficiency. Additionally, the department plans to reorganize the management structure of the Veterans Health Administration, according to a Dec. 15 announcement. The reorganization is designed to eliminate layers of middle management and create efficiency without reducing staffing levels.

**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/>**

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**FROM THE OBVERSATON POST**



**“Success Is Stumbling From Failure To Failure With No Loss Of Enthusiasm”**

**— Winston Churchill**



- 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:  
SAM SMITH  
OORAH!***



# OUR MARINE CORPS

Military.com | By Kevin Damask

January 07, 2026

## 105-Year-Old Massachusetts Veteran Believed to Be The Nation's Oldest Marine



Louis Tanzer, a retired 105-year-old staff sergeant, raises his fist after eating cake during the United States Marine Corps 250th birthday celebration in Boston. (Photo from Matt Stone/Boston Herald)

The World War II veteran was surrounded by family, friends, first responders, local politicians, reporters and state officials, including a representative from Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey's office who presented him with a commendation. After the representative finished reading the commendation, Tanzer quipped, ***"Will that reduce my taxes?"***

When the U.S. entered World War II in 1941, Tanzer was set to join the Navy. There was one problem: he was rail thin. Barely tipping the scales at 121 pounds, he didn't meet the Navy's weight requirement. Fortunately, he was one pound over the Marine Corps' 120-pound guideline.

The Marine could have opted for military deferment since his mother was totally deaf and depended on Tanzer's income. However, his older brother had entered the war and Tanzer followed in 1942.

"Friends of mine were going in and my conscience was bothering me, so I enlisted at the same time they all went," he said.

It wasn't long after boot camp that Tanzer found himself on Funafuti, a small base in the South Pacific. He also spent time on the Marshall Islands and the Ellice Islands. Serving in the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Tanzer was promoted to staff sergeant. On the USS Altamaha, he helped ferry troops and supplies up and down the Pacific.

"They tried to sink us, but I lived through that all right. ... I don't know if you get fearless, but your tour of duty is just an ordinary thing once you're out there and in danger."

He witnessed the audacity of war up close.

"There were bloody battles," he said. His first night on the ocean, Tanzer had to keep an eye out for enemy submarines while a mighty storm rocked the ship like a cradle.

"I got sick as a dog," Tanzer said. "(My relief) was stuck on double duty, so I just said, 'The heck with this' and laid down on the deck."

His ship was attacked but he survived.



# THE MARINES



“A MARINE IS A MARINE

THERE’S NO SUCH THING AS A FORMER MARINE!”

“You’re a Marine, just in a different uniform and you’re in a different phase of your life. But you’ll always be a Marine because you went to Parris Island, San Diego or the hills of Quantico.”

- General James F. Amos; Marine Corps Commandant 2010-2014

*Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni*

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

