



# MC-LEF

## MARINE CORPS-LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION

*Educating the children of those who sacrificed all*

APRIL 2020

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #59



**21ST ANNUAL PHILLY GALA**  
SEE PAGE 4



**2019 NYC VETERANS' DAY PARADE**  
SEE PAGE 7



## MC-LEF CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

SEE PAGE 3



**CIGARS AT THE CAPITAL**  
SEE PAGE 8



**38TH JOHN BASILONE PARADE**  
SEE PAGE 29



**LAKE LAS VEGAS GOLF**  
SEE PAGE 19



**BRESCOME BARTON GOLF**  
SEE PAGE 24



**24TH LONG ISLAND GOLF**  
SEE PAGE 32

FOLLOW MC-LEF



[www.mc-lef.org](http://www.mc-lef.org)



**Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation**

**OUR MISSION**

The Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation (MC-LEF) provides educational assistance to the children of fallen United States Marines and federal law enforcement personnel. Since our founding in 1995, MC-LEF has awarded over **\$79 million** in scholarships and other humanitarian assistance, and supported over 4,200 recipients.

MC-LEF relies on the commitment of volunteers and generous donors across the country, who organize events, provide financial support and recruit others to our cause. With only one part-time employee, MC-LEF is sustained by a network of people who believe that the brave men and women who protect our country and our communities deserve to have their families protected as well.

Thanks to our generous donors, MC-LEF is currently able to place a \$35,000 savings bond in a scholarship account for every child who loses a parent serving in the United States Marine Corps or any federal law enforcement agency. In recent years, we have expanded our mission to provide medical equipment and financial support to catastrophically wounded Marines, as well as financial support for mentally or physically disabled children of active duty Marines. In the past, MC-LEF has also aided the children of other military personnel who perished in terrorist attacks and in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MC-LEF is an approved IRS 501 (c) 3 organization that has been recognized for its excellence and efficiency by the Independent Charities of America. 98% of all donations to MC-LEF go directly to fund our mission.

Although MC-LEF is immensely proud of our work to date, there is still much to be done to support the families of America's Marines and federal law enforcement personnel. Please visit [www.mc-lef.org](http://www.mc-lef.org) to learn more and find out how you can help.

[www.mc-lef.org](http://www.mc-lef.org)

**MARINE CORPS - LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION**

273 Columbus Avenue • Office #10 • Tuckahoe, NY 10707

- None of the MC-LEF Directors or Officers receives compensation for their services -

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Lou Piantadosi



## MC-LEF Celebrates 25 Years

The Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation was created 25 years ago. We have proudly supported over 4,200 recipients of scholarships, humanitarian support and medical assistance. MC-LEF has awarded in excess of \$79 million dollars over the past 25 years. This amazing support has only been possible due to the efforts of our hard-working volunteer committees, our outstanding leadership, and most importantly the generosity of our wonderful donors. We look forward to fulfilling the Marine Corps motto, *Semper Fidelis*, for the next 25 years and beyond.

### MC-LEF THROUGH THE YEARS...

#### 1995

The Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation (MC-LEF) is created. Former Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office, FBI, James K. Kallstrom is named Chairman of the Board of MC-LEF. Pete Haas becomes the first President of the Foundation.

#### 1995

Oklahoma City Bombing  
Oklahoma City Bombing – results in MC-LEF’s first distribution of 32 scholarships awarded totaling \$260,300.00.

#### 1996

After just one year of fundraising, MC-LEF raises more than \$400,000 and distributes 47 scholarships.

#### 2000

USS Cole Bombing  
USS Cole Bombing- MC-LEF awarded in excess of \$100,000.00 in scholarship support for the eligible children left behind from the attack.

#### 2001

9/11 Terrorist Attacks & Invasion of Afghanistan  
After the terrorist attacks of September 11, fundraising more than doubled, totaling \$1.6 million, a million dollar increase over the previous year.

#### 2003

Invasion of Iraq  
U.S. begins invasion of Iraq; MC-LEF raises and distributes over \$11 million worth of scholarships to 402 recipients.

#### 2006

MC-LEF exceeds over \$25 million in scholarships awarded throughout our history.

#### 2011

MC-LEF exceeds over \$50 million in scholarships throughout our history.

#### 2014

Ed Boran is selected and becomes the second President of MC-LEF to replace retiring leader Pete Haas. Ed has been involved with MC-LEF since the FBI-USMC inception and has dedicated years of service to our cause and success.

#### 2015

MC-LEF exceeds over \$67 million in scholarships and humanitarian aid.

#### 2016

MC-LEF exceeds over \$70 million in scholarships and humanitarian aid.

#### 2018

MC-LEF exceeds over \$75 million in scholarships throughout our history.

#### 2019

MC-LEF Increases Educational Awards to \$35,000.00

**1995 - 2020**

# ANNUAL PHILADELPHIA MC-LEEF 2019

# Gala



by Mike Wallace  
Photos: Bob Castaldi



*Left: Annette and Gen. Conway with Hwy Patrol Escort, Mike Kelly.*

On October 5, 2019, the Philadelphia Dinner Committee of the Marine Corps- Law Enforcement Foundation held our 21st Gala at the SugarHouse Casino along the Banks of the Delaware River in Philadelphia.

Our festivities began on Thursday evening with the arrival of some of our guests with dinner at the legendary Villa Di Roma recently made infamous in the Movie "The Irishman".

Friday morning was golf at the Union League Country Club at Torresdale, for our military guests, along with appetizers and drinks afterwards. A short rest and then on to Malta Boathouse along the famous Boathouse Row on the Schuylkill River, and an informal barbecue for our guests of honor and committee that evening.

Saturday morning after breakfast, some sightseeing and a short rest we were off with with a Highway Patrol escort to begin the Gala on Saturday evening.

Our Gala opens with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres for all our guests before "the call to dinner". Our program begins in the able hands of committee member Tony Boyle as our emcee, beginning with introductions of the always loyal Medal of Honor Recipients who included Barney Barnum, Mike Thornton, Brian Thacker, and Tom Kelley, and Military and Law Enforcement Honorees. Followed by the Posting of the Colors, Salute to the Services and Law Enforcement and the POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony.

Our Honored Guests were Marine Chief Warrant Officer 5, Quint Avenetti recipient of the Semper Fidelis Award, and Insurance executive Anthony McIntyre, Eagle Globe and Anchor Award. These men were chosen because of their dedicated service to all branches of the Service. It was difficult to distinguish who was more appreciative of the awards and both speakers continually showed their appreciation by acknowledging by name, the bravery and dedi-



*EGA Honoree  
Anthony McIntyre*



*Semper Fi Honoree  
Quint Avenetti*

cation of many of the service men and woman in the audience, continually bringing attention, not to their own personal achievements, but to them.

A new addition to our annual Gala was the establishment of the Law Enforcement Guest of Honor and we were honored to have William M. McSwain, Esquire, United States Attorney for the EDA of Pennsylvania, as our speaker. Mr. McSwain who prior to attending Harvard Law School, served as a U. S. Marine Corps infantry officer and scout/sniper platoon commander for 1st Battalion, 4th



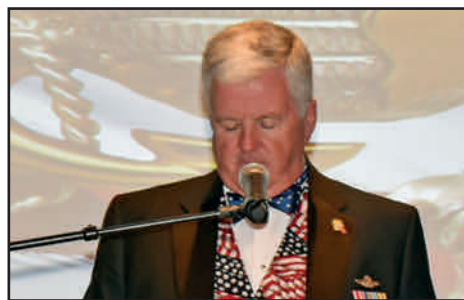
*Michael Thornton MOH, William McSwain United States Attorney EDA Law Enforcement Honoree, Tom Kelley MOH, Barney Barnum MOH, Brian Thacker MOH, Gen. James T. Conway, 34th Commandant, USMC.*



*Military Honoree General James T. Conway, 34th Commandant, USMC.*



*Law Enforcement Honoree William McSwain, US Attorney for EDA.*



*Tony Boyle Emcee.*

Marines and deployed with 1-4 to the Persian Gulf region in 1996. Completely in tune with our prior Honorees, Mr. McSwain was awed by the presence of so many Military legends in the audience. To say his remarks on law enforcement were well received would be a gross understatement.

Our Military Guest of Honor for his third visit in support of the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation, was the 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James T. Conway (Ret.). General Conway gave a brilliant history of the Viet Nam war up to and including pointed comments on present and continuing problems that affect many of our Viet Nam Veterans. The passion, intelligence and in-depth analysis of that conflict was something that had to be said and Gen. Conway said it so all could understand. A good portion of the audience were Vietnam veterans and they were very appreciative of Gen. Conway's comments espe-

cially about their return and many subsequent issues since then.

The Philadelphia Committee wishes to thank each and every participant, honoree and donor, who collectively contributed to our most successful year on behalf of "The Kids", whose parents made the ultimate sacrifice. As a very generous supporter replied after the dinner "You guys are making this the Philadelphia go to Military event of the year. Keep it up".

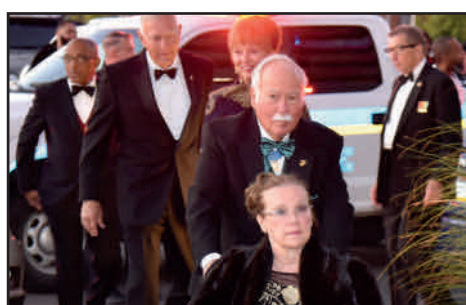
As General Coleman always reminds us," it's amazing how much you can accomplish when nobody cares who gets the credit".

Thank you and Semper Fi

*Continued on next page*



*Philadelphia Police and Fire Pipes and Drums.*



*Barney and Martha Barnum, followed by the Conways, entering the festivities.*



*Joan and Tom Kelley, MOH, with Hwy Patrol Escort.*



*Monsignor Michael Mannion.*



*William McSwain US Attorney, EDA, 94 year old Roland Scarinci USMC, with John Kitzenzer.*



*Gen. Ronald Coleman, Barney Barnum MOH, Mike Thornton MOH, and Tony Boyle.*

# PHILLY Gala... Continued from page 5



Martha Barnum and Rainey Thornton.



Brian Thacker, MOH, Philly Committee member Joe Waters.



Tony Boyle, Marita Reilly Jack Paulsen Awardee with Mike and Terry Reilly.



Brigadier General Matt Glavey.



Karen and Captain Ed Daly, US Army.



Commandant Conway with Katy and Rich Gresko, USMC Navy Cross recipient.

National President Ed Boran.



Board Members, Mike Wallace (L) Chris Isola (R) with Danielle and Tom and Nicolosi (C).



Vincent Cicatiello and fiancée Sarah Boucot, Vincent has attended since he was 10 years old.



*Recreation of Mt. Suribachi flag raising on MC-LEF Veterans Day Parade float.*

## 2019 NEW YORK CITY VETERANS' DAY PARADE

### Features MC-LEF as the Veteran Charity

In the USA, Veterans Day annually falls on November 11. This day is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, which ended the World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans are thanked for their services to the United States on Veterans Day.

Every year, the United War Veterans Council of New York City honors a different branch of the military at the NYC Veterans Day Parade. This year, the honored branch was the United States Marine Corps. The Council also selects a premier veteran charity from that branch, and this year The Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation was selected as the premier Veteran charity!

MC-LEF was given a float and positioned at the beginning of the parade directly behind the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps. Monday, November 11th was a glorious sunny fall day in New York City with the sun shining and the air brisk and fresh. The MC-LEF float was resplendent in Marine red and gold and bore the banners of the foundation proudly. Foundation Co-President, Ed

Boran, Foundation members John Eric Smith, Chris Gately and Jim Sullivan proudly carried the lead 10-foot MC-LEF banner up 5th Avenue. MC-LEF Board member Ray Kelly and Miss Universe Portugal stopped by our float to give us a shout out.

GySgt. Mario Monaco, SSgt. Domenick Monaco, MSgt. Mark Peer, Sgt. Stanley Zon, LCpl. Henry Zimmermann, LCpl. Mike Magliacane, Sgt. Luis Gomez and Mike Szymanski recreated the iconic Mt. Suribachi flag raising on our float. They were clothed in the authentic World War II uniforms and the crowds along 5th Avenue exploded in applause! Our group included Captain Maria Arnone, USMC, Captain Charles Palmer, USMC and their Marines from 1st District Garden City. Marching with MC-LEF was also Major David Rosenbrock, USMC from the Recruiting Station in New York with many of his Marines.

MC-LEF Board Director, Colonel G. F. Robert and Mrs. Lynn Hanke, USMCR (Ret.) graced the front of our float in his Dress Blues. The crowds along 5th Avenue offered him a hero's welcome and many "OORAHs!" were heard throughout the ride. Children of Foundation members also rode the float proudly waving American flags.

Always a fan favorite, Caffé the Bulldog, majestically rode the float with his owner, Sgt. Luis Gomez, USMC (Ret.) Again, the crowds just loved our mascot in his Dress Blues.

Many thanks to Mr. Mark Otto and the entire United War Veterans Council for selecting MC-LEF as the featured Veteran Charity of the 2019 parade. New York City gave our Veterans the respect they so richly deserve – well done BIG APPLE!

*Left: MC-LEF Board Director, Colonel Robert Hanke, USMC proudly salutes at the head of the MC-LEF Veteran's Day float.*



*Col Hanke with Iwo Marines.*



*Colonel and Mrs. Hanke after the parade.*

# Cigars at the Capital Event

On September 22, 2019, The Capital Grille held its third Annual Cigar Event. The event was hosted by Ms. Mo (Maureen) Warnock, Sales and Marketing Manager.

Upon check-in, guests were given complimentary cigars and an ID bracelet, which allowed them to take part in the afternoon's activities, one of which was a display of current as well as vintage Marine Corps weapons and field gear put together by Sgt. Dominic Monaco, USMC. Several guests were photographed "John Wayne style" wearing body armor, helmet, brandishing an (inert) M16 and wearing a "necklace" of linked ammunition.

Also displayed were items for a silent auction, the proceeds to be donated to the Marine Corps- Law-Enforcement Foundation. Among the auction items were a New York Giants helmet and football both autographed by Saquon Barkley, footballs autographed by New York Giant Alec Ogletree and Tampa Bay Buccaneers Pro Bowler Warren Sapp, baskets of cheer, luxury leather goods, and an autographed photograph of the Twin Towers taken about 2 weeks before 9/11. The photograph was taken by Captain Ben Cascio USMC, a highly decorated Vietnam Veteran, as he flew by the towers while piloting a restored 1951 USMC L-17.

While guests strolled the event, they were treated to a never-ending supply of hor d'oeuvres and beverages followed by an exquisite luncheon prepared by Executive Chef Luis Estacio. It was almost impossible to turn down any of the Chef's offerings!

As guests settled into their seats, MC-LEF Co-President Ed Boran was introduced and gave a summary of our mission and accomplishments since our inception. This was followed by a short video presentation showing the ways MC-LEF benefits the children of Marines and members of Federal Law Enforcement who lose a parent while on duty. The video drew enthusiastic applause from the audience.

MC-LEF would like to thank all who contributed to the success of this event, especially Ms. Warnock and Chef Estacio as well as Matthew Emmeret, VP and General Manager, US Concrete, and Robert Unanue, President of family-owned Goya Foods.

Also on hand was James Sullivan, MC-LEF General Counsel.



*Jim Sullivan, Ed Boran, Maureen Warnock and Sgt. Domenick Monaco.*



*Ed Boran, Ben Cascio, Auction winner, Matthew Emmert and Sgt. Monaco.*



*Display of current and vintage Marine Corps weapons and field gear put together by Sgt. Dominic Monaco, USMC.*



# MC-LEF Benefit Distribution Report



ST	BENEFIT TYPE	BRANCH	AMT.
CA	Medical	USMC	\$3,240.00
CA	Medical	USMC	\$3,240.00
NJ	Medical	FBI	\$567.97
NJ	Medical	FBI	95
NJ	Medical	FBI	148.99
NJ	Medical	FBI	150
NJ	Medical	FBI	40
Nj	Medical	FBI	163.46
NJ	Medical	FBI	282.8
NJ	Medical	FBI	416
NJ	Medical	FBI	30
NJ	Medical	FBI	174
NJ	Medical	FBI	2943.33
NJ	Medical	FBI	2478.5
NJ	Medical	FBI	165
NJ	Medical	FBI	1789.46
NJ	Medical	FBI	40
VA	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
NC	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
NC	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
TX	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
NC	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
NC	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
TX	Humanitarian	USMC	\$9,000.00
TX	Humanitarian	USN	\$9,000.00
TX	Humanitarian	USMC	\$9,000.00
TX	Humanitarian	FBI	\$9,000.00
TX	Humanitarian	USMC	\$9,000.00
MO	Scholarship Payment	DEA	\$6,535.87
TX	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00
NC	Humanitarian	USMC	\$2,860.00
PH	Humanitarian	PHIL. PO	\$8,227.05
CA	Medical	USMC	\$2,397.00
VA	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
NH	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
NH	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
MI	Scholarship Acct	TSA	\$35,000.00
MI	Scholarship Acct	TSA	\$35,000.00
CA	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
WV	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
NC	Scholarship Acct	DEA	\$35,000.00
CA	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00

## MC-LEF Benefit Distribution Report *Continued from page 9*

VA	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00	
NC	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Acct	USSS	\$35,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Acct	USSS	\$35,000.00	
AK	Scholarship Acct	USCG	\$35,000.00	
AK	Scholarship Acct	USCG	\$35,000.00	
AK	Scholarship Acct	USCG	\$35,000.00	
AK	Scholarship Acct	USCG	\$35,000.00	
FL	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00	
PA	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$15,000.00	
IA	Scholarship Acct	ATF	\$35,000.00	
IA	Scholarship Acct	ATF	\$35,000.00	
AZ	Scholarship Acct	DOJ	\$35,000.00	
TX	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00	
TX	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00	
NH	Scholarship Payment	USMC	\$7,628.00	
NC	Humanitarian	USMC	\$1,734.50	
VA	Humanitarian	USMC	\$3,030.47	
AZ	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	
AZ	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	
AZ	Humanitarian	USMC	\$9,816.87	
AZ	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$2,150.00	
NC	Scholarship Payment	USMC	\$3,124.28	
AZ	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	
MI	Scholarship Payment	FBI	\$8,531.00	
TX	Scholarship Account	DEA	\$35,000.00	
FL	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
OR	Scholarship Account	USN/NSA	\$35,000.00	
OR	Scholarship Account	USN/NSA	\$35,000.00	
UT	Scholarship Account	PO/FMR USMC	\$10,000.00	
SC	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
SC	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
SC	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
CT	Scholarship Payment	USMC	\$12,996.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,448.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,448.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$3,240.00	
PA	Humanitarian	FMR/USMC	\$2,742.35	
MS	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
MS	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	

## MC-LEF Benefit Distribution Report *Continued from page 10*

VA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
DE	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
DE	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
DE	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
AZ	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	
TX	Humanitarian	USMC	\$20,000.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,448.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,448.00	
CT	Scholarship Payment	JTF	\$5,000.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	
NC	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
NC	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
NC	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
FL	Scholarship Account	FBI	\$35,000.00	
TN	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
SC	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
TN	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Payment	FBI	\$3,654.00	
FL	Scholarship Payment	USMC	\$4,956.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	
VA	Scholarship Payment	Air Marshal	\$3,079.25	
	Scholarship Payment	Air Marshal	\$2,369.25	
WI	Scholarship Payment	DEA	\$8,566.28	
MI	Scholarship Payment	FBI	\$10,860.52	
NJ	Humanitarian	USSS	\$10,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Account	USSS	\$35,000.00	
VA	Scholarship Account	USSS	\$35,000.00	
NY	Scholarship Account	FBI	\$35,000.00	
NY	Scholarship Account	FBI	\$35,000.00	
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
NJ	Scholarship Account	USMC (Fmr.)	\$15,000.00	
NJ	Scholarship Account	USMC (Fmr.)	\$15,000.00	
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00	
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00	

## MC-LEF Benefit Distribution Report *Continued from page 11*

WI	Scholarship Payment	DEA	\$2,135.51
CA	Medical	USN/Corpsman	107.65
CA	Medical	USMC	106.66
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00
HI	Medical	USMC	\$6,596.33
TX	Scholarship Payment	USMC	\$10,554.86
LA	Scholarship Payment	USMC	\$7,858.63
NC	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00
NY	Scholarship Acct	USMC	\$35,000.00
CA	Scholarship Account	USMC	\$35,000.00
VA	Scholarship Account	USN-Seal	\$10,000.00
MS	Scholarship Account	DEA	\$35,000.00
MS	Scholarship Account	DEA	\$35,000.00
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00
CA	Medical	USMC	\$1,620.00
VA	Medical	USMC	\$2,000.00
VA	Humanitarian	USMC	\$29,900.00
VA	Medical	USSS	9704.99
TX	Scholarship Payment	DEA	\$24,915.00
IL	Humanitarian	FBI	\$15,000.00
OH	Scholarship	USMC	\$35,000.00
MO	Scholarship	USMC	\$35,000.00
LA	Scholarship	USMC	\$35,000.00
DE	Scholarship	USMC	\$25,575.00
			<b>\$3,094,009.83</b>

## Help Us Help Marines!

Designate CFC #10507



“The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence (Best of the CFC) is awarded to the members of Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities of America that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. These standards include those required by the U.S. Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, probably the most exclusive fund drive in the world. Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in U.S. today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this Seal.”

CFC IS COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN



# Letters



MC-LEF

273 Columbus Avenue, Suite 10  
Tuckahoe, N.Y. 10707

Subject: Sad

MC-LEF,

I received the following sad news from an article online that the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association is disbanding. Founded in 1958 and recognized by the United States Congress in 1985, it was an organization of World War II veterans whose members were on Pearl Harbor, or three miles or less offshore, during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor....

From the article:

*The San Diego chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, one of the largest in the nation, held its final meeting on Saturday with only seven service members in attendance, according to a report.*

*At its peak, the San Diego chapter boasted 586 members.*

*"It's certainly the end of an era, and it leaves me a little heartbroken," Chapter President Stuart Hedley, 97, told The San Diego Union-Tribune.*

*The chapter's vice president, Jacks Evans, died earlier this year at the age of 95. To continue, the chapter needed at least two survivors to serve on the board. But with no one willing or able to take the helm, the organization decided to yield to the reality of time's passage.*

Fair winds and following seas.

Alers Luis

# Letters

September 10, 2019

## SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

Mrs. Sina Compton  
34699 Chinaberry Drive  
Winchester, CA 92596

Dear Mrs. Compton:

Our Foundation was notified by the United States Marine Corps Casualty Division of the tragic loss of your loved one, CW02 Eric Daniel Compton, USMC. Please accept our sincere and heartfelt condolences on this loss. Since 1995, our Foundation has been dedicated to assisting in the education of the children of any United States Marine or Federal Law Enforcement Officer who has died while on active duty. Therefore, in deep appreciation and respect for Eric's service, we are honored to provide \$35,000.00 for each child in education accounts totaling \$140,000.00 for the children listed below:

Jonathan, Brandon, Aidan and Sarah Compton

Our Foundation is honored to have partnered with Merrill Edge to establish accounts for your children. Upon receipt of this letter, it is urgent that you contact the Merrill Edge Team at (888) 866-2189 to complete the account opening process. They are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday. Please reference "The Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation" when you call the dedicated Merrill Edge Team. They are knowledgeable specialists for help opening, funding and navigating your account. We have enclosed an information brochure in this folder to introduce Merrill Edge. It is very important to let them know immediately if you move so that they can retain your current address. These funds will be available to your children upon their 18th birthday.

The funds for these scholarships have been provided by our loyal supporters, Mr. and Mrs. Rush Limbaugh and these scholarships have therefore aptly been named "The Rush and Kathryn Limbaugh Special Scholarships". We believe that it is important for you to know that your fellow Americans stand with you at this most difficult time.

We do hope that fond memories of Eric help fill your family with peace to ease the pain of your loss. His service and sacrifice has not gone unnoticed.

Sincerely,

Edmond J. Boran  
President  
Enclosures

*Right: Front row, left to right:  
Brandon Compton, Aidan Compton, Jonathon  
Compton, Sarah Compton  
Back Row: LtCol Kenneth del Mazo*

Picture Respectfully Submitted,  
CW02 Shiflet, Roy  
CACO



# Letters

## SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

The Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation  
273 Columbus Avenue, Suite 10  
Tuckahoe, N.Y. 10707

Re: The MC - LEF Scholarships made in honor of FBI SSA Salvatore Cincinelli

Dear Mr Edmond J. Boran, President and members of The MC - LEF Foundation,

On September 13, 2019, I made the presentation of The Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation Scholarships to Danielle, Robbie and Bella Cincinelli.

Sal's wife, Danielle and the children, Robbie and Bella were all extremely grateful for The Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation's incredible generosity and support and expressed their thankfulness and immense gratitude.

Attached is a picture of The MC -LEF's Scholarship presentation letter. Thank you again for your incredible generosity towards Sal's family.

Sincerely,

Detective Gavin P. Shea, FBI SA - RET.  
C 516 492-6107



*Left to right, Bella, Danielle and Robbie Cincinelli.*

# Letters

## SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

*see page 17*

From: Gaddy, Kevin J.  
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019  
To: MC-LEF  
Subject: Presentation of the United States MC-LEF Scholarship to Audrey Voyles

Good Afternoon,

My name is Kevin Gaddy and I am the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Jackson District Office and responsible for the personnel and subsequent enforcement actions DEA conducts in the state of Mississippi. I am also a 10 year active duty veteran of the United States Marine Corps. I departed the Marines at the rank of Staff Sergeant to pursue a career in Federal Law Enforcement with the DEA.

It was my honor to present the scholarship award granted by the foundation to Audrey Voyles on November 7, 2019. I have submitted a photograph of the presentation and I have also included a short synopsis of the event for your consideration.

If I can be of further service or you need anything additional regarding this matter please don't hesitate to contact me. If you decide to utilize the photo in your bi-annual newsletter I would be honored to receive a copy.

Semper Fi,

Kevin J. Gaddy  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC)  
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)  
Jackson District Office

## SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

*...excerpt from an email from Mrs. Swegginnis, widow of Lt. Col Robert Swegginnis acknowledging the scholarships the MC-LEF presented to her children, Sedona and Lincoln.*

Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation,

Thank you for your condolences. We miss Bob so much. I continue to be amazed at the outpour of support we have received. He loved serving as a Marine, and I have no doubt that he is looking down and feeling honored himself, that you would bestow such a blessings as this scholarship upon his children in his absence. I don't have the words to adequately express my gratitude. I'll just say, God's great blessings upon you and your Foundation, and may He continue to bless your kind and generous work..

Mrs. Robert Swegginnis



### SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

## MC-LEF bestows Scholarship to the children of TFO Jeremy Voyles



*Left to Right; Chickasaw Chief Deputy Keith Roberson, Chickasaw Sheriff James Meyers, Audrey Voyles, ASAC Kevin J. Gaddy, Narcotics Agent Michael Fowler.*

After his tragic line of duty death, an application was submitted to the United States Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation on TFO Jeremy Voyles behalf in hopes of securing college education funding for Arrington and Lola Voyles. In November 2019, the United States Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation awarded Arrington (7) and Lola (4) college education funding totaling \$70,000.00 for college educational expenses in honor of their father’s sacrifice to our country.

On November 7, 2019, ASAC Kevin J. Gaddy of the DEA Jackson District Office, a Marine Corps Veteran, RAC Don Douglas of the DEA Oxford Resident Office, Chickasaw County Sheriff James Meyers, Chickasaw County Chief Deputy Keith Robertson, and Narcotics Agent Michael Fowler presented Audrey Voyles with the

United States Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation education award.

The United States Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation is an independent organization that assists fallen Agents Families in times of need with funds from donors who want to honor law enforcement for their sacrifice to our country and its citizens. These funds have assisted the Voyles Family in their time of need with the tragic loss of Jeremy.

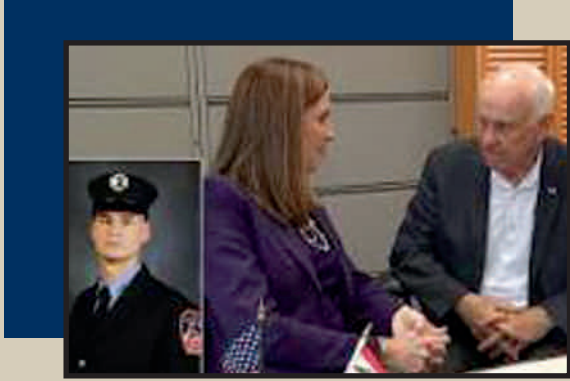
DEA as a family humbly appreciates the efforts of the United States Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation for what they do for our family in times of need.

### SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

## Young Nikayla Tejada, Daughter of Sgt. Wilson A. Tejada, Jr., USMC presented with Scholarship from MC-LEF

*Daughter of Sgt Tejada, Nikayla Tejada, (front left) shown with Master Sergeant Thomas Lyons, (left) and to his right are loving family members: parents of Sgt Tejada, Wilson Tejada, Sr, and Maria Lopez, brother, Pablo Tejada, girl-friend of Sgt. Tejada, Wendy Razo-Cruz, and Sgt Tejada’ s sister, Kiarha Tejada.*





*EXCERPT FROM AN INTERVIEW BY  
NBC CHANNEL 4 WITH THE MC-LEF STAFF  
AT THE OFFICE IN TUCAHOE, NY.*

## Charity that benefits the children of U.S. Marines killed in the line of duty

By Marcus Solis

TUCKAHOE, Westchester County (WABC) -- Marines helping Marines. That's the simple mission of a Tuckahoe-based charity that benefits the children of U.S. Marines killed in the line of duty.

Since its founding in 1995, the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation has awarded over \$79 million to more than 4,200 recipients.

Recently, MC-LEF assisted the family of a fallen FDNY firefighter killed while deployed as a Marine. Staff Sergeant Christopher Slutman, 43, was killed April 8 in a roadside bomb attack near Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan.

Slutman's three daughters received \$35,000 each towards the cost of their education. "It makes sure the girls have no limits," says Slutman's widow Shannon. "They can go to college, they can go to grad school, they can be doctors - it gives them options. They've already gone through enough, they need to be able to do whatever they can in their lives."

MC-LEF also provides support to the children of federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

Certain medical expenses that are not covered by military insurance or federal benefits are covered by the foundation.

"I truly wish we didn't have to do as much as we do," says MC-LEF Co-President Edmond Boran. "I wish we didn't have a need for it. But we do have a need for it."

Funny how some people  
who achieve stardom and celebrity,  
in the end, take more pride in  
being a Marine.

Lee Marvin chose to be  
memorialized as a PFC.



**If you want it easy don't join this branch.  
Some of us may have gained a little weight. Some  
of us don't walk as well. Some of us can't stand as  
long as we use to. Kneeling is almost impossible.  
Our feet, knees and back are wore out at an early  
age. Let's face it, your body is put through pure hell.  
We even may be "Legends in Our Own Minds."  
Looking back and knowing what we know now,  
ask any Marine and they will say  
they'd do it all over again.**

**Semper Fi**

## 2019 LAKE LAS VEGAS MC-LEF ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



*Above: Marines from Nellis Airforce Base after raising the flag for the first time.*

Once again, our Annual Charity Golf Tournament benefitting the Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation was held at the beautiful SouthShore Country Club at Lake Las Vegas. On another perfect day in Henderson Nevada, a suburb of Las Vegas, a full field of golfers took to the links and played in a scramble format. Just prior to the event this year, SouthShore Country Club erected a new 50-foot flag pole, and the day of the tournament the American Flag was raised for the first time as resident Sharon Sharp sang the National Anthem.

At the base of the flag pole a plaque was placed in honor of Mike Tobey and Jim Sierk, the founders of the tournament. Jane Sierk, the wife of the late Jim Sierk attended the event. “I want to thank the Country Club and the wonderful people that put on this tournament every year for honoring Mike and my late husband Jim, Jane said. Jim felt very strongly about taking care of our men and women in uniform and he would be very proud of what this great tournament has become”. Mike Tobey said, “when Jim and I were contacted by the headquarters of MC-LEF some 14 years ago, I for one had no idea that it would ever become this successful. The highlight for me personally was the year we had the widow and the two children of the Metro LV Sgt that was killed at the October 2017 shooting on the Las Vegas strip attend the opening ceremony of our tournament. We presented each child with a \$20,000 scholarship. Not a dry eye in the crowd”.

“I am just so thankful to have such great support from fellow committee members Judy Crouch and Vern Jennings in the development of this tournament each year”, Mike added.

During the banquet following the tournament, we were honored to have John Connor, co-president of MC-LEF provide participants with an overview of the great service MC-LEF provides to the families of our fallen heroes. “We are blessed to have the support of the SouthShore MC-LEF Committee and the SouthShore Community”, John said. “The generosity shown each year by participants of this tournament truly makes a difference in the lives of children.

This year’s tournament raised \$170,000, after expenses. The tournament was the 4th highest money generator of the 14 events held on behalf of MC-LEF across the country in 2019 and the highest money generator of all golf events. Since the first tournament in 2005 the annual events have raised over \$1.7 million. To augment the funds generated from the fees to play golf, there are several other fund-raising activities that take place during the tournament, including a raffle, a 50/50 drawing, and a very popular silent auction. Business owners from the local Lake Las Vegas community as well as those from the greater Las Vegas area contribute items including dinners, hotel stays, golf, wine and more.

Work is already underway for the 2020 tournament which will be held on November 9, 2020; once again at SouthShore Country Club in Lake Las Vegas. For information about participating or contributing, contact Mike Tobey via email at: [mrtees39@gmail.com](mailto:mrtees39@gmail.com).

*Right: Mike Tobey and Jane Sierk showing commemorative plaque.*



## MARINE CORPS - LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION



# ATLANTIC CITY

## 9th Annual Cpl. Marc Ryan 5K Run/Walk Benefits MCLEF

by Lisa Spengler

On November 16, 2019, the 9th Annual Cpl. Marc Ryan 5K Run/ Walk was held in Gloucester City, New Jersey.

The Cpl. Marc Ryan 5K Run/Walk was established because of Cpl. Ryan's ultimate sacrifice. The mission of MC-LEF Atlantic City committee member and Gloucester City resident, Bob Morrell was to not only keep Marc's memory alive, but to be able to pass on Marc's legacy of dedication to this country and to those who serve.

With the participation of 325 runners/walkers and 100 volunteers, this year's once again reminded Marc's family of the impact he continues to make within his community.

Since 2010, the Cpl. Marc Ryan 5K is a place where family, friends and, even those who don't know Marc, can come together to share stories and to pay tribute to Marc and to others who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Each year the city of Gloucester comes together and demonstrates their commitment to Marc's legacy. As the runners and walkers line up to begin the race, their support and love for the Ryan family can be felt throughout the cheering crowds.

It was 15 November 2004, that Cpl. Marc Ryan made the ultimate sacrifice during his fifth combat tour in the Battle for Ramadi.

It is said that the Battle Ramadi was where the heaviest urban combat took place since the Battle for Hue City in Vietnam in 1968. Shortly after the terror attacks of 9/11, Cpl. Ryan served in Afghanistan completing a full deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After a short time back in the States, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

With his dedication to his fellow Marines, He deployed again to Iraq with the 2nd Bn. 5th Marines where, on this tour, he made the ultimate sacrifice.

Participating in this year's event, were coaches Ed Malone, Leon Harris and Rob Bryan. These three coaches represent the last 35 years of coaching football at Gloucester High School. Harris coached Marc Ryan, a 1998 graduate of Gloucester City Jr./Sr. High School, where he was a standout football player and captain of the Gloucester City High School Football Team.



Cpl. Marc T. Ryan



Pictured left to right: Ed Malone, Leon Harris and Rob Bryan.

It was the perfect day for Kerri Hancock to run her first Cpl. Ryan 5K. She was filling in for her daughter which made the pressure to complete the course ever so strong. Her son Ryan and his friend Brian Long provided strong support and encouragement as they moved towards the starting line.

Also, running their first race, were Corrado Speranzo and Zachary Joyce from Bridgeton, NJ. Speranzo and Joyce are Class A police officers serving their Bridgeton community.



Top: Kerri Hancock, Ryan Hancock and Brian Long.  
Middle: Corrado Speranzo and Zachary Joyce.  
Bottom: Gloucester City Police Academy Recruits

The Atlantic City committee is extremely grateful to Bob and Cheryl Morrell and to all those who helped with this year's event, especially, Gregg Woodhouse, Dave Thomas, Elwood Wrigley, Ryan Chiodi and Julie Durham. Their tireless efforts ensured another successful event for MC-LEF and the children of our fallen heroes. But, most importantly, it showed the Ryan family that Marc remains in the hearts of so many.



The opening ceremony for the 9th annual 5K included the presentation of colors by the Navy ROTC Cadets of Gloucester High School and the Pipe and Drums of the Camden County Emerald Society.



Representatives from the Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation (MC-LEF) came to thank the runners, walkers, volunteers and the Ryan family. All proceeds benefit the Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation.

Pictured left to right: MC-LEF co-president Ed Boran; Atlantic City committee co-chair Michael Fedorko; Bob Morrell, Atlantic City committee member and Cpl. Ryan 5K founder and organizer; Michael DiFrancesco, Atlantic City committee co-chair; Atlantic City committee member Jay Renwick and James Sullivan, Esq., MC-LEF General Counsel.



## SAVE THE DATE

*10th Annual Cpl. Marc T. Ryan 5K Run / Walk  
Saturday, November 14, 2020*

*The event begins 0900 at the DFW Post 3620 located at  
27 N. Burlington St., Gloucester City, New Jersey.*

*For more information,  
go to Facebook / Cpl. Marc Ryan 5k*

*All Proceeds benefit the  
Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation.*

*\*Helps us to never forget our fallen\**

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS CAN BE FOUND AT: [WWW.MC-LEFAC.ORG](http://WWW.MC-LEFAC.ORG)  
GO TO EVENTS/ PAST EVENTS PHOTO GALLERY

## 25TH ANNUAL MARINE CORPS – LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION’S CAPTAIN PETER MUCCI AWARD RECIPIENT RETIRES FROM ATLANTIC COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT



Surrounded by family and friends, Sheriff’s Officer Nathaniel “Nate” Lewis retired from the Atlantic County Sheriff’s Department on January 2, 2020. Lewis entered the Atlantic County Police Academy in March 2007. After serving as class president, Sheriff’s Officer Lewis graduated from the Police Academy in August 2007.

On June 8, 2019, Lewis was honored at the Atlantic City Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation’s 25th annual gala held at Tropicana Atlantic City. He was presented with the Captain Peter Mucci Award. Each year, the award is presented to a member of the law enforcement community who has had a distinguished career in that field.

Lewis, is a faithful friend and supporter of the Foundation. Each year, he coordinates and serves as part of the escort and security team for the Medal of Honor Recipients and other dignitaries. Assisting the Atlantic City committee, Lewis provides a group of cadets from the Atlantic City Sheriff’s Office for gala directional and logistical support. The cadets are young men aspiring towards military or law enforcement careers.

Prior to the Atlantic County Sheriff’s Office, Lewis enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17. After successfully completing boot camp at Parris Island SC, he attended Marine Corps Combat Engineer Basic School.

In his career as a United States Marine, Staff Sergeant Lewis’ deployments included: Operation Provide Promise aboard the USS La Moure County in the Adriatic Sea; Operation Deny Flight aboard the USS Nassau (LHA-4) in the Adriatic Sea; Operation Sharp Guard aboard the USS Nassau (LHA-4) in the Adriatic Sea; Operation Sea Signal in Guantanamo Bay Cuba and Operation Desert Shield & Operation Desert Storm in Southwest Asia.

His extensive deployments took him all over the world. Lewis is authorized to wear the Bronze Letter V awarded for distinguished action in combat. He also served as Instructor Fortification Training and Fleet Anti-Terrorism Instructor and Demolitions Instructor; Marine Corps Security Force Battalion Combat Engineer; Chief Staff NCOIC Lead Instructor Anti-Terrorist Forced Protection and Dynamic Entry Instructor and Obstacle Breaching Instructor.

Staff Sergeant Lewis’ personal decorations include: Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal; Combat Action Ribbon; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Navy Unit Commendation; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal; Armed Forces Service Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon; NATO Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia); Kuwait Liberation Medal (Emirate of Kuwait).

After retiring from the Marine Corps. at age 37, Lewis returned to New Jersey and joined the Marine Corps League Detachment; 208 Semper Marine Detachment and operated the Young Marine Program as the Senior Drill Instructor.

*Photo Credit: Kelly Brown, MC-LEF Atlantic City Committee*



# *Save the Date*

MARINE CORPS - LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION

26TH ANNUAL GALA

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020

TROPICANA CASINO & RESORT ATLANTIC CITY

HONORING

REAR ADMIRAL THOMAS C. LYNCH, USN (RET.)

COST: \$175 PER PERSON

THE TROPICANA IS ONE OF ATLANTIC CITY'S PREMIER DINING, RETAIL AND ENTERTAINMENT PROPERTIES WITH THE QUARTER AS A DESTINATION EXPERIENCE.

[HTTP://WWW.TROPICANA.NET](http://www.tropicana.net)

ROOM RESERVATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED AT: [HTTP://TROPAC3.NET/OFFERCODE/HMCLEP2](http://tropac3.net/offercode/HMCLEP2)

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

ATLANTIC CITY COUNTRY CLUB IN NORTHFIELD, NJ,

COST :\$250.00 PER GOLFER

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES, INCLUDING AD SPONSORS FOR THE 25TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM BOOK AND HOLE SPONSORS FOR THE GOLF TOURNAMENT

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON THE  
26TH ANNUAL MARINE CORPS-LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION GALA AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

PLEASE EMAIL LISA SPENGLER AT:

[MCLEFAC@AOL.COM](mailto:MCLEFAC@AOL.COM)

OR

VISIT THE ATLANTIC CITY WEBSITE AT [WWW.MC-LEFAC.ORG](http://WWW.MC-LEFAC.ORG).



# 2019 Brescome Barton Golf Outing

by MIA GINTER

Monday, September 16, 2019, the Brescome Barton/Worldwide Wines Eighth Annual Golf Tournament started with a crisp breeze and the bustling sounds of suppliers setting up their tables, breakfast spread being prepared, and the MC-LEF crew of Sue Boulhosa, Leslie Sepe, Mia Ginter, and Paula Demery getting everything ready to go for the day's event. And of course, the staff at New Haven Country Club cannot go un-noticed, they do an amazing job each year preparing and staging the event to keep the day running like a well-oiled machine.

Even though the day started overcast, you could not help but feel the brightness in the air as the golfers began to arrive and smiled as they greeted each other and prepared to play the clouds away. The presentation of the Colors was provided by New Haven I & I Color Guard comprised of Corporal D. Armstrong, Lance Corporal C. Vargas, Sgt. C. Figueroa, and Lance Corporal N. Phaneuf. After which, Gene Sepe welcomed and thanked all the golfers for coming and supporting MC-LEF, by raising close to three quarters of a million dollars over the last 8 years.

Throughout the day you could hear the players laughing and cheering each other on as they each tried to hit a "hole in one" and win the 2019 Dodge Charger donated by



*Overcast skies didn't cloud the enthusiasm of these tournament players as they all attempt to hit a "hole in one!"*

Robert's Dodge. There were many great moments seen and heard on the course, as you drove to your next hole or to grab a delicious lunch on the course. The sun burst out at 3:00 pm once the players finished their last hole and joined together for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on the patio overlooking the beautiful course and fall colors. After which a delicious dinner feast was served for all to enjoy, and enjoy we did!

Brescome Barton President and CEO Gene Sepe thanked all those that supported and participated in this year's event as well as the committee members who worked tirelessly to pull it all together. Followed by MC-LEF'S very own Sue Boulhosa, who also provided thanks to all for the support received on behalf of the many families served in their time of need. Sue introduced one such family, this year's keynote speaker, Mrs. Kiley Frederick, wife of Captain Jake "Red Stripe" Frederick, through a video of thanks. The

*During opening ceremonies, Gene Sepe thanks all supporters and participants in this year's tournament.*





## BRESCOME BARTON GOLF OUTING

Frederick family's life was forever altered in December 2016; and again, when the children of Captain Frederick became the recipients of scholarships for each child provided through MC-LEF. The room silent, as people listened to Kiley explains how the support of MC-LEF gave her and her family hope again, hope that was only possible thanks to the many donors and supporters of MC-LEF.

The evening ended with Brescome Barton's very own Ryan Fisher calling out the winners' names for the many raffle prizes and hole contest winners for the day! Thank you to all who supported this outing, in our hearts – everyone was a winner this day!!

*Top Right: Gene Sepe (left) and Sue Boulhosa (right) flank the marines of the Color Guard from New Haven I & I.*

*Right: Tournament participants listen intently to a video featuring Mrs. Kiley Frederick, wife of Captain Jake "Red Stripe" as she describes the difference that MC-LEF supporters have made in her family's life.*



## MC-LEF COMMITMENT

Members of the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation believe that our nation's most precious resource is its youth. Their educational development is of primary importance in their becoming meaningful members of their families and of society.



Mentally or physically disabled children of the Marine Corps family may receive financial aid for medical equipment or tutoring. Scholarship bonds are provided for children of Marines who died while on active duty.

Scholarship bonds are also provided for children of Federal law enforcement personnel who died while on active duty. Special circumstances may be considered for humanitarian, death or medical cases.

Since it was founded in 1995, the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation has provided millions of dollars for the children we serve. We try to make the world a better place for the children.

CFC #10507

273 Columbus Avenue • Office #10 • Tuckahoe, NY 10707

(877) 606-1775 • [www.mc-lef.org](http://www.mc-lef.org)



## When 30,000 People Came to Raritan ... JOHN BASILONE'S 1943 Welcome Home Parade

After John Basilone was awarded The Congressional Medal of Honor for heroics at Guadalcanal, he was ordered home to help sell war bonds. Before he was sent on the bond tour, he would be granted a couple of weeks leave at home. The town of Raritan was proud that one of their own had been awarded the country's highest honor and plans were made to have a homecoming parade in his honor.

The parade chairman was Judge George Allgair. He served as a judge in the Somerville court system and the town's attorney. He immediately set the bar high for this event saying "It will be the greatest day in the history of Raritan". The day when Johnny would come marching home was set for Sunday, September 19th, 1943. The organizers called it "John Basilone Day".

Anticipating the public would turn out in vast numbers for the parade, the organizers realized that the town of Raritan would not be big enough, so they planned to start the parade in Somerville and end it in Raritan.

After much planning and anticipation, John Basilone Day arrived. At 8 AM, John Basilone was picked up by members of the parade committee at Marine Headquarters in New York City. He was then driven to meet with the Bridgewater/Raritan Township Committee. Waiting until the day of the parade to bring John into town, as opposed to days before, added to the excitement.

At 10 a.m., mass was said in his honor at St. Ann's Church on Anderson Street in Raritan. He asked that mass be said in honor of his buddies still in Guadalcanal. Mass that day was given by Father Robert Graham - a priest from Somerville who was very active on the homefront during the war. He said in his sermon "Sergeant Basilone's life will be a guide to American Youth. God had spared him for some important work."



At 11:30 a.m. there was a lunch in Basilone's honor headed by the reception committee at The Raritan Valley Farms Inn - a popular restaurant that was located on the Somerville Circle where the Super 8 Motel is today.

Then at 1 p.m., the parade started. The streets of Somerville and Raritan were packed. The local papers later gave estimates of the attendance with the lowest estimate 30,000 and the highest 50,000. The number of groups marching in the parade was also very large and diverse. Some of the groups marching included The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), state and local police, service men on leave, French Navy Soldiers, Coast Guard, Drum and Bugle Corps, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Red Cross Units, Air Raid Wardens, The Italian American Society, Raritan First Aid Squad, sol-



diers from Camp Kilmer, and various marching bands.

One parade marcher was another Congressional Medal of Honor winner, John Reilly, who had won his honors in The Spanish-American War way back in 1898.

John Basilone rode in an open car with his parents Sal and Dora - who beamed with pride throughout the day. Also in his car was Private Stephen Helstowski of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Stephen had fought with John at Guadalcanal and had been injured in the battle. John sat on top of the back seat (between his parents) acknowledging cheers from the crowd. His car moved slowly allowing John to shake hands with various people, including a group of veterans from World War I.

The atmosphere along the parade route was impressive. Signs were hung saying "Welcome Home Sergeant J. Basilone". There were flags everywhere and John Basilone's picture was in many storefronts. Raritan resident and business owner, Charley Glaser, in a 2005 interview, perhaps summed the day up best describing it as "electrifying". The residents were amazed that such a big event was held in Raritan with so many politicians and celebrities in attendance.

It was a very emotional parade, as the war had consumed people's lives in many ways, through missed loved ones overseas, the rationing of goods, the constant news reports, and the ever increasing number of casualties of the local men who were fighting the war.

The parade itself was only the first half of the festivities that day. The parade route had ended in a large field that was just over the Nevius Street Bridge. (Tobacco heiress, Doris Duke owned this property.)

In this field, a platform and sound system would be set up. Behind the platform was the grandstand where 250 important people from the state, military and entertainment world sat. John's parents were seated in the front of the grandstand. At 3 p.m., the sec-

ond half of Basilone Day began. Speeches were given. Songs were sung. Bonds were sold. A blimp, a big deal in 1943, flew overhead. The master of ceremonies was Harry Hershfield, a popular New York Columnist, who was also host of a radio show called Can You Top This. The program started with the singing of The National Anthem by a local rising singing star from Raritan, Catherine Mastice. Then Father Russo of St. Ann's said the invocation.

Next a \$5000 war bond was presented to John Basilone by parade organizer George Allgair. John Basilone addressed the crowd:

"I want to thank you Judge Allgair and these very good home folks of Raritan for this wonderful gift. For all my buddies overseas on the front lines - that they really appreciate everything you wonderful people are doing by backing the attack and buying these war bonds. Today is like a dream to me. Thank you all for everything from the bottom of my heart."

One Speaker was former Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen Sr. - whose son was at that time in an enemy POW camp. Frelinghuysen said, "Today, on the far flung battle fronts of the world, some 600 brave lads from Raritan have answered the drum beat of war; and you John are living witness that they fight valiantly and not in vain. Sergeant Basilone ... may I express personally to you the feeling of respect and admiration I have for the fine honor you displayed when, in recounting your experiences you said so modestly 'I think only a part of this medal belongs to me; pieces of it belong to the boys who fought by my side.'"

While Frelinghuysen was speaking, John Basilone's 5 year old niece, Janice, who was his brother Angelo's daughter, snuck up on the platform and sat with John. The crowd roared in response. Janice remained with John for most of the program.

Another speaker was ex-New York City Mayor James J. Walker. He praised Raritan and its Italian heritage.

Those present said that he was the most dynamic, inspiring speaker of the day. Highlights from his talk were:

"The Italian-American and the Italian Soldier are as valiant as exist when they've got something to fight for. Sergeant Basilone is an inspiration, not only to other Italian-Americans, but to all Americans."

For entertainment, there was a singing quartet from the Coast Guard, who came wearing their uniforms and sailor hats. The Somerset Messenger Gazette said they "stole the show". They received a terrific round of applause after each song. They were even called back for an unplanned encore.

Two Hollywood stars, Louise Allbritton and Virginia O'Brien, were present at the parade and rally. Louise Allbritton surprised and delighted everyone when she kissed John Basilone on stage. The crowd let out a tremendous roar. She then repeated the kiss a second time, in order to give the cameramen a chance to get their pictures. John's sister Mary, who was close by, later wrote how John turned bright red upon his kiss with the beautiful movie star.

Three stars of New York Night Clubs were on hand - Maurice Rocco, Bob Morris, and Danny Thomas - who was at the beginning of his career. (Thomas would later have his own T.V. show, The Danny Thomas Show.)

Catherine Mastice, who had earlier sung The National Anthem, returned to the microphone to sing a new song especially written for the event. It was called Manila John.

*Continued on next page*



## Basilone Parade...

*Continued from page 27*

Toward the end of the event, Master of Ceremonies Harry Herchfield talked John's dad Salvatore into saying something to the crowd in Italian. Many understood his message, as Raritan was then a second generation Italian town, where the older people often spoke Italian. The two hour program closed with God Bless America.

The parade was covered by all the local papers and The New York Times. Life Magazine ran a four page story on Basilone Day. The Fox Movietone News made a newsreel that was shown at movie theatres throughout the country. The next week the local people flocked to the theatres to see this short footage, and oh yes, to see the regular movie as well. This newsreel footage which is just one minute and ten seconds long is a true delight. The first scene of the newsreel shows John riding in a car on Main Street in Somerville. The camera's position was high above and the video shows the large enthusiastic crowd on both sides of the street. The whole spirit of the event is captured in this shot. The real gem is at the end of the newsreel, when John Basilone speaks to the crowd at the rally. This audio of Basilone talking is just 1 of the 2 that is known to exist.

John Basilone Day was an overwhelming success. Newspapers raved about how wonderful everything went. Judge Allgair who had led the organization of the parade had made good on his promise that it would be "The greatest day in the history of Raritan" – for it definitely was. Even the weather turned out perfect for John Basilone Day.

On his big day, John Basilone did not disappoint anyone who came to see him. He acknowledged the crowd throughout the day and spoke briefly at the bond rally. However, personally he said that he was overwhelmed by it all. On the speakers stand he wished he would have said more, but the words just would not come out. Some friends said he was not himself the day of the parade. Everyone wanted to shake his hand or touch the medal. Some security people were necessary during parts of day to keep the well-meaning crowd back. John Basilone remained in Raritan for a few weeks after the parade. During this period the town was thrilled to have him back. A couple times kids would gather outside the Basilone home (which was located where the Shell Station is today at the corner of 202 and First Ave.) and chant for John to come outside to talk with them. John was always happy to talk with the local kids.

After a few weeks at home he went on the Bond Tour along with celebri-

ties Virginia Grey and John Garfield. After the tour the top military brass told John that he had done enough for the war on the battlefield and his orders were now to work a desk job on the homefront. However, "Manila John" felt a Marine in wartime doesn't belong at a desk, thus he asked to go back in action. Eventually he was granted his wish to return to the boys.

On February 19th, 1945 Basilone helped get a stalled attack started at Iwo Jima, but he was killed later that same morning. For his heroics at Iwo Jima he was awarded The Navy Cross.



This year is the 70th anniversary of that fabulous 1943 parade. Those who attended in 1943 are encouraged to make sure to attend this year's John Basilone Parade on September 22nd. T-Shirts are currently being made for those who were there in 1943 to wear at this year's parade. They say "I was there at the 1943 Basilone Welcome Home Parade". Details on how to obtain a T-shirt will be forthcoming in the September issue of the Breeze and at [www.raritan-online.com](http://www.raritan-online.com).



## "HELP US KEEP OUR FOUNDATION STRONG!"

Search "Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation (MC-LEF) on Facebook and become a fan by clicking "Like" at the top of the page. The announcements, links, and photos we post will automatically appear on your News Feed.

Fans are also invited to start discussions and post messages and photos on our wall.

*Don't be shy – WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!"*

# 38TH ANNUAL RARITAN PARADE HONORS WWII HERO JOHN BASILONE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 • PHOTO CREDIT: DAWN WILDE

RARITAN - The 38th Annual John Basilone Memorial Parade took over Somerset Street Sunday, with veterans, marching bands, scouts, officials and Grand Marshall Bob Vaucher, of Bridgewater, marching to honor the late Congressional Medal of Honor and Navy Cross recipient, John Basilone.

In addition to the parade, and guest speaker Lt. Gen. Richard Natonski USMC – whose father was in the Marines with Basilone – the later ceremony included a dedication of the road between the Basilone statue and Veterans Park as Colle Sannita Way.

The street is named in honor of the borough's sister city in Italy, where Basilone's father grew up before moving to the United States. The city in Italy, in August, designated Manila John Street, after Basilone's nickname.

The ceremony following the parade also included a proclamation and tribute to John Pacifico, who chaired the Basilone Parade Committee for 33 consecutive years and who died in July.

Basilone was a United States Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant who was killed in action during World War II. He received the Medal of Honor for heroism above and beyond the call of duty during the Battle for Henderson Field in the Guadalcanal Campaign, and the Navy Cross posthumously for extraordinary heroism during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

He was the only enlisted Marine to receive both of these decorations in World War II.



*The 2019 John Basilone Parade steps off down Somerset Street in Raritan, NJ.*



*Retired Marines on the reviewing stand show their enthusiasm as the parade participants pass.*



*Far left: Children enjoying the parade for their hometown hero!*

*Left: Marine Corps League*

*Bottom: This Marine Corps Mascot has the best seat in the house!*



*Continued on next page*

## 38TH ANNUAL JOHN BASILONE PARADE *Continued from page 29*

He enlisted in the Marine Corps on June 3, 1940, after serving three years in the United States Army with duty in the Philippines. He was deployed to Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and in August 1942, he took part in the invasion of Guadalcanal. In October, he and two other Marines used machine guns to hold off an attack by a far numerically superior Japanese force. In February 1945, he was killed in

action on the first day of the invasion of Iwo Jima, after he single-handedly destroyed an enemy blockhouse and led a Marine tank under fire safely through a minefield.

He has received many honors including being the name-sake for streets, military locations, and two United States Navy destroyers. The Raritan Borough Post Office is also named in his honor.



*Marine Reserves kick off the Basilone Parade.*



*Parade participants and Marine Reserves Support Group L-R: Col Lou Piantadosi, CWO4 Nick D' Andrea, 1st Sgt Sonya Sellers, Lcpl Alayo Diego, Sgt Doug Immanuel, MSgt Steven McCandless, LtGen & Mrs. Richard Natonski, USMC (Ret), SSgts Jacques Ash, Alexander Rua, Luis Perez, Ramon Perez, Sheriff Frank Provenzano.*



*High School Marine Unit.*



*UNICO float honoring John Basilone.*



*2019 Grand Marshal, Bob Vaucher.*



*The annual Wreath laying at the Basilone Statue.*



## Members On the Go...



*3 Amigos, L-R: Pete Haas, Mike Fedorko and Lou Piantadosi enjoying a pre-Christmas lunch at Pete's favorite watering hole, The Grain House at the "Old Mill Inn" in Bedminster, New Jersey.*

*Left: MC-LEF member, Korean War veteran, George Schaudel and his wife, Loretta, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on a cruise to the Bahamas (before Dorian). They married on 8/1/1959; they posed for this on the cruise 8/1/2019. **Congratulations!***



### MC-LEF is an Eligible Charity for AMAZON SMILE

The Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation is now an eligible charity for the Amazon Smile Program. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support MC-LEF every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.05% of the purchase price to The Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)), you need to select a charitable organization (Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation) to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation to MC-LEF.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

# 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MC-LEF LONG ISLAND GOLF OUTING

by Chris Gately

September 23, 2019 marked the 24th anniversary of the Marine Corps- Law Enforcement Foundation Long Island Golf Classic at the prestigious Huntington Country Club on the North Shore of Long Island.

In the pre-dawn light as the sun began to crack the eastern horizon, a crew of retired Local 3 IBEW volunteers were hard at work assembling goodie bags, hanging banners and signs, setting up registration tables, confirming work assignments for the rest of the day, and running up the Marine Corps Colors under Old Glory on the clubhouse flagpole. The work went quickly and smoothly, as these same volunteers have been donating their time at this event for years.

The day began with a sumptuous breakfast and continued with everyone assembling at the flagpole for Morning Colors presented by a Color Guard from the 1st Marine Corps District accompanied by the Pipe Band from Local 3 IBEW. After that it was into the carts and off to the links for a shotgun start to a day of relaxation and fun.

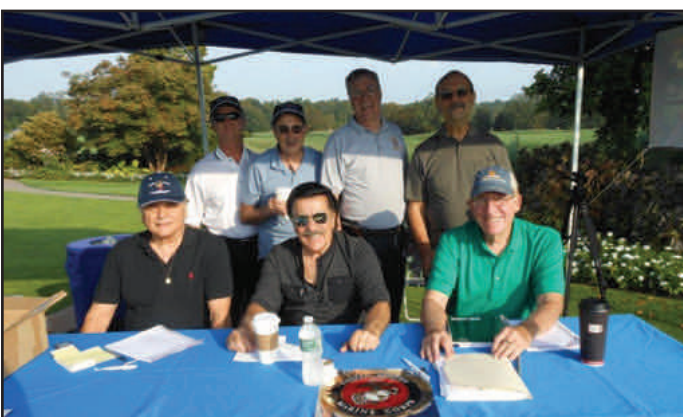
After the tournament it was back into the clubhouse for cocktails and an outstanding raw bar while a slide show of photos from the last 8 tournaments played in the background. After everyone had quenched their thirst and sampled the oysters, shrimp, and clams, golfers and guests were piped into the dining room to the airs of patriotic music. This year's military dignities included



*Huntington Golf Color guard.*



*L-R: Ed Boran, MC-LEF President, Maj. Lindsay Pirek, USMC, John Keenan, Capt. Charler Palmer, USMC.*



*Front row, L-R: Tony Vitalino, Lenny Coppicotto, Mark Hansen Back row, L-R: Lou Calerdone, Elliot Greenblatt, Chris Gately and George Landi.*



*GOLD SPONSOR - FOREST ELECTRIC- L-R: Rich Lomler, George Marie, Eamon Brennan, Tom Riley.*



Col. Ivan Monclova, Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Corps District, and Maj. Lindsay Pirek, Public Affairs Officer for Marine Corps Recruiting Command. Major Pirek was also our guest speaker.

After some brief opening remarks and an introduction by Foundation Co-President Ed Boran, Major Pirek stepped up to the podium and captured the hearts of everyone in the room by telling of the tragic death of her fiancé, Captain Stanford Shaw III, and six other Marines in a helicopter training accident off the coast of Florida in 2015. She didn't relate this story to elicit sympathy but used it to emphasize the importance of organizations like MC-LEF to the families of those who have lost loved ones in the service of our country. As a remembrance of the day, Major Pirek was presented with a beautiful Waterford crystal vase with the foundation logo etched into the glass.

After Major Pirek spoke, Ed Boran took the podium again and announced that due to the generosity of our donors, the Foundation has been able to increase each educational award to \$35,000. So far in 2019 the Foundation has awarded just over \$2.3 million. He also reminded us that since our founding in 1995, MC-LEF has awarded more than \$79 million in scholarships and other humanitarian assistance to over 4,200 children.

As dinner was winding down, long time MC-LEF member and new Golf Committee Chairman, Mark Hansen took over as MC to announce the winners of the golf contests and to pick the winning raffle tickets. Jet Blue Airline tickets for 2 to any destination where Jet Blue flies, as well as tickets and lodging for next year's Gala at Cipiani's on Wall Street were among the valued prizes. Three autographed baseballs donated by the Rusty Staub Foundation were auctioned off as was an autographed, framed photograph of the Twin Towers taken from the air by Marine pilot Captain Ben Cascio several days before the tragedy of September 11th. Captain Cascio was severely wounded in Vietnam while evacuating several wounded marines. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and Silver Star.

As always, all proceeds from this charity event will go to educational awards for children who lose a parent while



*Golfers enjoying dinner.*



*Maj. Lindsay Pirek, USMC (Guest Speaker) and Ed Boran (President of MC-LEF).*



*Mr. Gerry Griffin - MC-LEF Huntington Golf Former Chairman of 23 years and former Foundation General Counsel.*

serving in the United States Marine Corps, as Navy Corpsmen or Federal law Enforcement.

Please plan on joining us next year for our 25th Annual Golf Classic which will be held on Monday, September 21, 2020.

## ARIZONA MC-LEF

### “Honor Our World War II Veterans”

In 2019, the Arizona Chapter of the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation embarked on a new tradition. The Chapter voted to start each year by honoring veterans of specific wars and wars of a specific era. So, in January 2019, the Chapter hosted its first kickoff event by “Honoring Our World War II Veterans”.

The event was enthusiastically supported and the Arizona Chapter was honored to welcome nine World War II Veterans at the

Grayhawk Golf Club on January 17, 2019 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The evening began with the Presentation of Colors by the Marine Corps League (Ira Hayes Detachment 002 of Phoenix) and the National Anthem was magnificently sung by Cassandra Kahla. This was followed by Arizona MC-LEF Chaplain, Sgt. Nick Gervase, USMC (Ret), giving the Invocation and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Guests we honored that night are members of the Greatest Generation who answered the call to defend our country against those who sought to destroy it.

Their courage and their sacrifice protected this great country and their valiant service paved the way for future generations to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

#### OUR HONOREES INCLUDED:

#### CAPTAIN LLEWELYN JENKINS - US ARMY

Capt. Jenkins was assigned to the 101st Field Artillery Battalion (the Yankee Division) that became famous throughout Germany during WWII. Capt. Jenkins fought with General George Patton’s 3rd Army in the Battle of the Bulge. In May, 1945 he was awarded the Bronze Star for his untiring efforts that contributed substantially to the successful operations of his Battalion in giving close artillery support to friendly rifle companies. We also wished Capt. Jenkins an early Happy Birthday as he turned 100 years old in August, 2019!

#### CAPTAIN VINCE LACY, USMC

Capt. Lacey graduated High School in May, 1945 and joined the U.S. Navy V-5 Naval Air Corps. He was in pilot training for 6 months. He then attended college and when the Korean War started to heat up he enlisted in the USMC. As a 2nd Lt., he took his Platoon to Korea and was discharged as a Captain in Inchon a year later in December 1952.

#### SGT CLYDE BRANDT, USMC

Sgt. Brandt served during WWII but did not see overseas duty. He was discharged in 1949 but was later called back and served in the Korean War.

#### CPL JERRY CLARELLI, US ARMY

Cpl. Clarelli enlisted in the Army immediately after High School in 1944 and was a radio lineman in the Pacific theatre. Cpl. Clarelli was part of the Occupation Force assigned to Sendi, Japan and spent 2 years there. Part of his duties included patrols in the mountainous areas where recovery missions were conducted for U.S. planes and service members who had been shot down. He has 68 parachute jumps to his credit and also earned his Glider wings by participating in 6 missions where vehicles and Howitzers were delivered to the occupation troops.

#### CPL JAMES HEAD, USMC

Cpl. Head joined the Marines in 1943 when he was 17 years old. He trained as a baker, but all Marines were riflemen! He shipped out in July 1944 to Hawaii and left for Saipan in January, 1945. From there, he went to Iwo Jima where he landed on the beach on the 3rd day of the battle. While there, a Japanese shell hit his tent killing one Marine and wounding another. While still on Iwo Jima, he became very sick with a 105 fever and

*Continued on next page*

**ARIZONA MC-LEF**  
**“Honor Our World War II Veterans”**

was sent to Guam to recover. Shortly after, Cpl. Head went back to Hawaii to join his old outfit. While there, Japan surrendered and he was sent to Sasebo, Japan as part of the Occupation Force and was subsequently discharged in February 1946. Sadly, Cpl. Head passed away this past December.

**CPL MARIO MOBILIA, US ARMY**

Cpl. Mobilia was drafted in 1943 immediately after High School. He was assigned to the 1st Army and trained in tanks at Ft. Knox. Cpl. Mobilia served in the Pacific Theatre and was part of the Occupation Force in Tokyo, Japan. While there, he came down with pneumonia and was transferred to Saipan where he spent two months in the hospital. Cpl. Mobilia was discharged from service in 1945.

**PFC DENNIS KAVANAUGH, USMC**

After graduating from Johns Hopkins University with a degree in Engineering, PFC Kavanaugh enlisted in the Marines in 1944. He went to Parris Island for Basic Training and became an Expert Rifleman. After that, he was trained in the use of demolitions, dynamite and flamethrowers. In November, 1944 he was assigned to the 4th Marine Division and shipped out to Hawaii. Six weeks later, he was on his way to Iwo Jima. PFC Kavanaugh landed on the beach on Day 1 of the invasion where Marines fought their way off the beach toward one of the airfields they intended to capture. There were many casualties along the way. PFC Kavanaugh participated in heavy fighting for the next 39 days it took to capture the airfield and was wounded during the fighting. After Iwo Jima was secured, he returned to Hawaii to train for the invasion of Japan. While there, the Japanese surrendered, and he then went to Peleliu for two months and was discharged in 1946.

**PFC GLEN THOMPSON, USMC**

PFC Thompson enlisted in the Marine Corps on his 18th birthday in 1942. He went to Parris Island for his basic training and became a radio specialist and an expert at high speed Morse code. He was assigned to the newly formed 4th Marine Division and shipped out to the Roi-Namur which is part of the Marshall Islands. After that, he went to Tinian & Saipan before finally being sent to Iwo Jima. One of the things he still recalls vividly is when the flag was raised on Mt. Surabachi and how symbolic that still is to all Marines.

**CORPSMAN ROBERT E. MORRIS, US NAVY**

Our 9th Honoree was unable to attend but we want to highlight the bravery that Corpsman Robert Morris and all Navy Corpsmen displayed in battle. Many Marines owe their lives to these Corpsmen who put their lives on the line, under fire, to treat Marines who were wounded. It was through their efforts that countless Marines were able to survive.

Also honored in remembrance were  
WWII family members of our Arizona Chapter colleagues:

- LAWRENCE BENEDICT BYRNE, USMC**
- PFC BENTON GRAYSON NUMM, US ARMY**
- MICHAEL PAVICH, US ARMY**
- WILLIAM PROSCHEL, US ARMY**
- NICHOLAS SERTICH, US ARMY**

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## ARIZONA MC-LEF

# “Honor Our World War II Veterans”

*Continued  
from page 35*

As stated previously, three of the veterans honored were IWO JIMA Marines:

CPL James Head; PFC Dennis Kavanaugh, and PFC Glen Thompson. To have THREE Iwo Jima Veterans in attendance was indeed a great honor for us.

As the Guests of Honor were introduced they were enthusiastically recognized and saluted by the many patriots in attendance, both individually and as a group, for their sacrifice and service to our country.

USMC SGT Robert Jenkins, a member of the Arizona Chapter,

also spoke of the mission of MC-LEF and upcoming Arizona Chapter events in 2019 in support of the Foundation’s mission.

The evening concluded with a video of Riley Jo Martens, who fourteen years earlier was the recipient of an educational account following the death of her father, Corpsman Robert Nathan Martens, US Navy. There was no doubt in anyone’s mind of how proud he would be of the young lady Riley has become. She spoke passionately about the mission of the Foundation and how important it is to the chil-

dren like her of our nation’s fallen heroes.

Guests were then able to meet our Honorees and have their pictures taken with these heroes. In 2020 the Chapter kicked off the New Year by honoring the Veterans of the Korean War, and will follow suit in 2021 by honoring Veterans of the Vietnam War. These Veterans are a national treasure and it is our desire to honor and thank them while we still have the opportunity to do so.



*WWII honorees, Jerry Clarelli, Clyde Brandt, Vince Lacy, Jim Head, Mario Movilia, Glen Thompson, and Dennis Kavanaugh with MC-LEF supporters.*



*Marine Corps League, Ira Hayes Det. 002 Color Guard.*



*Chief John Bennett.*



*Jack Sera with WWII honorees and Iwo Jima Marines, Glen Thompson and Dennis Kavanaugh.*



*WWII honoree Clyde Brandt with Chief John Bennett.*



*Steve and Chris Dillman with WWII honoree, Vince Lacy.*

## ARIZONA MC-LEF

### *“Honor Our Korean War Veterans”*

In January 2020 the Arizona Chapter of the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation continued its tradition of honoring Veterans from past wars. This year, our event was to “Honor Our Korean War Veterans” at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa in Phoenix, Arizona.

The chapter’s Honorary Chairman, SGT Robert J. Mitchell, Jr., (USMC), Navy Cross Recipient, welcomed those in attendance.

Presentation of Colors was again done by the Marine Corps League (Ira Hayes Detachment 002, Phoenix) and the National Anthem performed by Rozanne

Workman. Rozanne’s son is a member of the USAF and currently deployed to Afghanistan. Her rendition was incredible! The Invocation was given by the Arizona Chapter’s Chaplain, SGT Nick Gervase, USMC (RET) who also led us Pledge of Allegiance.

Six extraordinary veterans of the Korean War were introduced to the patriots in attendance who gave them a very warm and sincere welcome.

The Korean War has been called the “Forgotten War” but it should never be forgotten by patriotic Americans. It began in response to the invasion of South

Korea in June of 1950 by North Korea’s attempt to spread communism throughout the entire country. For the next 3 years and 1 month of terrible fighting over 54,000 Americans were killed, over 103,000 Americans were wounded and over 8,000 Americans were and are still MIA.

The six honorees that were recognized answered the call of their country to help those who were oppressed, and it was their sacrifice that helped keep South Korea free from the bonds of communism nearly 70 years ago. The Arizona Chapter was honored to introduce the following:

#### **CAPT. VINCE LACY – U.S.M.C.**

Vince was deployed to Korea and served honorably with the 1st Marine Division. Vince attained the rank of Captain and was honorably discharged in December 1952. Among his awards are the Korean Service Medal with 2 battle stars, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the United Nations Service Medal and the Republic of Korea War Medal. Vince has been married to Gay for 67 years and they have 5 children and 9 grandchildren.

#### **STAFF SGT. JERRY SCHOMMER – U.S.M.C.**

Jerry enlisted in the Marine Corps in August 1948 and reported to Parris Island for boot camp. In February 1950 he reported to Adak Island, AK which was the furthest U.S. outpost in the Aleutian Islands. When the Korean War began in June 1950 he was ordered to remain on the island and all enlistments were extended for 1 year. He left Adak in December 1951 and was sent to the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, NC where he was promoted to Platoon Sgt. and trained on 81mm mortars. He was discharged in August 1952.

#### **SGT. NICK GERVAASE – U.S.M.C.**

Nick enlisted in the USMC right out of high school and the Korean War broke out a couple of weeks later. In Korea, Nick fought against Chinese communist troops and pushed them back across the Yalu River and back into China. He was sent to the area of Bunker Hill to defend it against the onslaught of Chinese troops. It was there that he was fortunately issued one of the first flak jackets (new equipment at the time) which saved his life in a later action. Nick was a Platoon Leader and carried a light machine gun. The Chinese kept trying to push them back from Bunker Hill to the south and, in a bitter fight, he kept going between his own position and two others of his squad’s positions. The enemy kept attacking and he defended those positions with his machine gun until he was hit from behind by a Chinese mortar shell. The flak jacket did its job, but Nick still lost two ribs in the blast and suffered a traumatic brain injury. The Chinese were defeated in the battle and Nick was evacuated but spend 16 months in military hospitals until he was medically retired at the ripe old age of 21. For his actions, he was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. Nick’s service to his

*Continued on next page*

## ARIZONA MC-LEF

### **“Honor Our Korean War Veterans”**

*Continued  
from page 37*

country and to the Marine Corps didn't stop with his retirement. Among other voluntary endeavors, he has served as the Arizona State Chaplain for the Military Order of the Purple Heart and has served as the Chaplain of the AZ Chapter of MC-LEF for the past several years as a regular contributing member.

#### **ROBERT JOHNSON - U.S.M.C.**

Robert joined the Marine Corps Reserves in 1948 and re-enlisted in May 1950 just one month before the outbreak of the Korean War. He landed in Inchon after the North Koreans had captured Seoul and fought to drive them out through an amphibious attack while mines were being cleared. He eventually wound up near the Chosin Reservoir and, the day after Thanksgiving, the Chinese attacked with nearly 10 times the number of troops our friendly forces had. At night, Chinese troops walked across the frozen Yalu River to surround the Marines who battled to keep them at bay. The Marines fought valiantly for 12 days as they made their agonizing withdrawal over 70 miles in bitterly cold weather. Thankfully, Robert was one of the survivors of those terrible 12 days but is a part of a special fraternity called the “Chosin Few.” His arms and legs are still numb from the cold and frostbite he encountered at the Chosin Reservoir. Robert returned to U.S. soil on September 1951 and married Arlee, (his wife of 68 years) the next month. He and Arlee have four children, 8 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

#### **CPL. GUSTAVO “GUS” MENDEZ - U.S.M.C.**

Gus graduated from boot camp in San Diego in 1951 at the age of 17. After completing 5-day cold weather training, he sailed for Korea and arrived three weeks later after a stop in Kobe, Japan. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment on the eastern front of Korea and participated in the amphibious landing at Inchon. In August 1952 he fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill where he was wounded and then again at Outpost Vega and the battle for the “Hook” in October 1952 earning 3 battle stars. Some of his proudest moments were that he was the only Marine to carry and use 2 different weapons – the M-1 and the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) which he says saved his life. Gus was honored during one of his reunions by retired Col. Peeler who said how much he admired Gus' bravery, fighting skills and compassion for his fellow Marines. Col. Peeler also said that when he was a Battalion Commander in Vietnam, he would have made Gus one of his Company Commanders because he was a true warrior.

#### **CPL. PETER HAAS - U.S. ARMY**

Pete enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1951. Since he was fluent in five languages, he was hoping to be stationed in Europe. But, after basic training at Fort Ord, he was sent to Hawaii to complete basic training and was shipped to Korea. There, he was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division, 21st Regiment which was a heavy weapons company. There, he was part of a machine gun squad. While in combat in October 1951, he was hit by an 80mm mortar shell. Thankfully, he recovered and was discharged in February 1954.

We can never repay these heroes for the sacrifices they made during their service to our country. But we can recognize and thank them. It is with great humility that the Arizona Chapter of MC-LEF wishes to recognize these veterans and their families. We were very fortunate last year

to have the opportunity to honor eight WWII Veterans and to follow up this year with six Korean War Veterans. What an honor. We recognize there are many veterans of these wars that are not able to attend or are no longer with us, and it is our intent that by honoring those who are able to be

with us at these events, that we honor all of the men and women who served and sacrificed during these conflicts. In 2021 we look forward to honoring Vietnam Veterans as we begin the New Year and invite you to join us in doing so.

## ARIZONA MC-LEF "Honor Our Korean War Veterans"



*Korean War Honorees Vince Lacy, Jerry Schommer, Nick Gervase, Robert Johnson, Gustavo Mendez, and Peter Haas.*



*Invocation by Honoree Sgt Nick Gervase, USMC.*



*Sgt Bob Jenkins with honorees Sgt Robert Johnson and Cpl Peter Haas.*



*Michael Mendez with father and honoree, Gus Mendez, and AZ Chapter member Kirk Tushaus.*



*Marine Corps League (Ira Hayes Detachment 002) Color Guard with Rozanne Workman.*

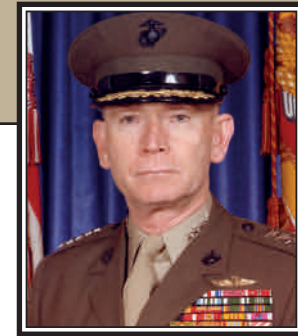


*AZ Chapter members, Sgt. Bob Jenkins and Josh Aylesworth.*

## In Memoriam: General P.X. Kelley

*The Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation mourns the passing of the 28th Commandant. He was a dear friend and longstanding director of our foundation. His service to our Nation and the Marine Corps will not be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Barbara and their family. **SEMPER FI***

**PAUL X. KELLEY,**  
Former Marine Corps Commandant  
Dies at 91



Gen. Paul X. Kelley, who was only four months into his tenure as Marine Corps commandant when a suicide bomber drove a truck with thousands of pounds of explosives into the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983, killing 241 U.S. service members in the single largest loss of U.S. military life since World War II, died Dec. 29 at a retirement community in McLean, Va. He was 91.

The cause was Alzheimer's disease, said his daughter, Chris Kelley Cimko.

Gen. Kelley served 37 years in the Marine Corps before his retirement in 1987 as commandant, a post that accorded him membership on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He had been nominated by President Ronald Reagan, whom his daughter described as a friend. She recalled that her father sometimes rode the president's horse and jokingly described himself as Reagan's "exercise boy."

Gen. Kelley had distinguished himself during the Vietnam War, where he received the Silver Star, among other decorations, during two tours of duty. He was a battalion commander in 1965 and 1966, later returning to the war zone in 1970 to lead the last Marine regiment to serve in combat during that conflict.

During the Carter administration, Gen. Kelley led what was then known as the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force, a team created to heighten U.S. preparedness for crises in the Persian Gulf. Today it is known as the U.S. Central Command, or Centcom, and in recent years has overseen the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

But his highest-profile assignment, and the one that led to what he described as "the worst emotional trauma of my life" with the terrorist

attack in Beirut in the early morning hours of Oct. 23, 1983, was as Marine Corps commandant.

"I've been a Marine for all of my adult life," Gen. Kelley told reporters the day after the bombing. "And, yesterday, I have to say to you in all sincerity and honesty, was the hardest day of my life."

He rushed to the scene in Lebanon, where the Marines had been tasked with establishing a stabilizing presence amid a years-long civil war.

"In the aftermath of the bombing," the New York Times later reported, Gen. Kelley "was the symbol of the Corps. He hastened to the scene, comforted the wounded, mourned the dead, all in the style that has closely identified him with the marine in the trench, an emotional link to the fighting man."

In one poignant encounter at a U.S. military hospital in what was then West Germany, Gen. Kelley visited Lance Cpl. Jeffrey L. Nashton, who had sustained wounds in the bombing including a fractured skull, collapsed lungs and a broken leg and was temporarily blinded.

"When he heard me say who I was, he grabbed my camouflage coat, went up to the collar and counted the stars" as if to confirm his rank, Gen. Kelley later recounted. "He squeezed my hand," then wrote on a piece of paper provided by a nurse: "Semper Fi."

When the wounded Marine returned to the United States, Gen. Kelley presented him with the stars he had worn during their meeting, saying, "They belonged more to him than to me."

Paul Xavier Kelley was born in Boston on Nov. 11, 1928. His mother, who had immigrated to the United States from Ireland, was a librarian.

His father, also of Irish heritage, was an Army major who was wounded in World War I and was later

recalled to active duty when the United States entered World War II. He died during that conflict of a sudden illness, said Gen. Kelley's daughter.

P.X. Kelley, as the future general was known, received a bachelor's degree in economics in 1950 from Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where he studied on an ROTC scholarship, and was then commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marines. He rose through the ranks to positions including the Marine Corps deputy chief of staff and assistant commandant in 1981 before assuming the commandant's duties two years later.

Besides the Silver Star, Gen. Kelley's decorations included the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, three awards of the Legion of Merit, two awards of the Bronze Star and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

After his military retirement, Gen. Kelley served on various corporate boards and devoted himself to honoring fellow veterans during two terms as chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission. He helped bring to fruition the World War II Memorial, which opened in Washington in 2004, and more recently worked to establish the memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower that is scheduled to open in May.

In addition to his daughter, of Burke, Va., survivors include his wife of 68 years, the former Barbara Adams of Washington; a sister; and a granddaughter.

*Information excerpted from article  
By Emily Langer, Washington Post*

*Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation*





**Jan Gray,  
Beloved  
Wife of  
Former USMC  
Commandant,  
Al Gray  
Dies**

*originally published in the  
Jacksonville Daily News*

Jan Gray, 76, beloved wife of General Al Gray, United States Marine Corps (Ret), passed away peacefully Thursday, 30 January 2020, after a brief hospitalization.

Born on 3 July, 1943, along with her twin brother Jackie, in Houston, Texas, where her father, then 1stLt Ralph J. Goss of the U.S. Army Air Corps, had been stationed prior to going overseas as a B-24 Pilot during World War II. Then Captain Goss was shot down over Sardinia in the Mediterranean Sea on his 26th mission. He was picked up by a German PT Boat and was a Prisoner of War for nearly three years.

Jan and Jackie were abandoned by her mother on a Houston doorstep at age one. They were brought to Burlington, Vermont, by their loving Uncle Bud Brand and their Aunt Celia, who raised them for several years. Their father returned after the war and subsequently married Madeline (Babe) Walker of Rutland, VT. Later, Jan and Jackie joined them as her father remained in the U.S. Air force serving in Texas, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Alaska until retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel. While serving at Wright-Patterson in Ohio, Jackie, then nine years old, was struck by a car and invalidated for life, passing in 2008.

After high school, Jan graduated from Kathryn Gibbs Secretarial School in Boston and was employed for many years with the Mitre Corporation in Boston, Washington, DC and McLean, VA. She served as an analyst and secretary to the Engineer Department in sup-

port of the Defense Communication Planning Group (DSSG) at the U.S Naval Observatory. The DSSG was heavily involved in applying Sensor Technology, and other capabilities in Southeast Asia, during the Vietnam conflict. While there, she met then LTCol Gray who then headed the DSSG Intelligence Department in February 1968. They had their first date during the Labor Day weekend of 1969 upon his return from special operations in Vietnam. On that evening they fell in love forever.

In 1973, she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis but it remained passive. She survived cancer twice as well as several other major surgeries and medical challenges. Throughout the years, she always remained optimistic and upbeat. She always had time for everyone and had a special smile for all. She had a particular interest and caring thoughts for the young people and their families who serve in our Armed Forces.

Over the years, she was deeply devoted to looking after Al's mother, particularly when he was overseas or on special assignments.

In 1979, Jan accepted a special assignment in Brussels, Belgium. While visiting at Quantico, VA prior to her departure, she observed his mother's health condition and arranged for her to see a doctor for evaluation. After the doctor discovered a Sciatic Nerve problem, she took a leave of absence from the Mitre Corporation and helped the mother to full recuperation during an extended stay in Florida. After a brief engagement, she and Al were married on 27 July 1980 in Burlington, VT.

In addition to serving at Quantico where Al Gray commanded the Development Center, Jan was at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina from 1981 thru 1984 while her husband commanded the 2d Marine Division and then in Norfolk from 1984 to 1987 when he commanded Fleet Marine Forces (FMF) Atlantic, FMF Europe and the II Marine Amphibious Force. From 1987 to 1991, she carried out her responsibilities to Marine and Navy

personnel, and their families, as the Marine Corps Commandant's wife. She was also a strong supporter of local activities in the Washington, DC area.

In 1991, at a private ceremony, she was awarded the Department of the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award for her dedication to a wide range of family and family support programs. The citation read: "Recognizing the direct relationship between combat readiness and family well-being, Mrs. Gray gave unselfishly of her time and efforts to improve the quality of life and to increase the support for all members of our military family. Of particular note was her efforts to support the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, the Marine Corps Scholarship Program, the Navy Wifeline Program, the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program, and her support for the families of casualties of the Beirut Bombing. Mrs. Gray's contributions have reflected great credit upon herself and have been of inestimable value to the Department of the Navy."

She was awarded the Marine Corps League Distinguished Service Award in 1985. Mrs. Gray was granted sponsorship of the dock landing ship USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) in 1988. Throughout the years after her husband's military retirement, she remained steadfast in support of our military service personnel and their families.

Unable to have children, Jan had a great love for dogs, particularly her large Poodles Sport and Noir. She also cherished her miniature Poodles, their Portuguese Water Dog and her husband's many Labrador Retrievers through the years. She lost her precious last miniature Poodle Cozy III (pictured) in August 2019. She is survived by her husband and her step-mother, Madeline Goss.

Funeral and Burial Services will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date with her husband, as per her wishes. Jan's favorite charities were the Semper Fi Fund/America Fund [www.org](http://www.org) and the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation [www.mclef.org](http://www.mclef.org).

## *Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima*

*‘If fear takes over, you become useless’ —*

### **Medal of Honor recipient recounts the Battle of Iwo Jima**

J.D. Simkins, Navy Times



*Hershel 'Woody' Williams, 96, wearing the Medal of Honor he received for his actions on Iwo Jima 75 years ago. (J.D. Simkins/Staff)*

Hershel “Woody” Williams’ eyes still sparkle with a country boy optimism not even memories of unimaginable horrors can dull.

Along the walls of his quaint West Virginia home hang an array of artifacts that symbolize a distinguished Marine Corps career. Plaques, commemorative coins, a Marine noncommissioned officer sword, and other ornamental tokens chronicle an unforgettable story of a fabled, yet remarkably humble life.

At 96, the Medal of Honor recipient who grew up on a farm just miles from his current residence maintains an indefatigable lifestyle that would wear down men 50 years his junior. He travels often and will soon be embarking on

a multi-city trip to promote the Hershel “Woody” Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, an organization that provides support to Gold Star families.

On this chilly afternoon in the tiny community of Ona, Williams, one of just two Medal of Honor recipients remaining from World War II, settles into his favorite brown leather recliner and adjusts his glasses before tapping into his extraordinary memory to discuss the reason for our visit — the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

His life, he says — a sly smirk washes across his face — would have taken an entirely different path had the Marine Corps simply maintained their initial height requirement.

## Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima

At just 5 foot 6, Williams, whose keen sense of humor is rivaled only by his exceptional recollection, was two inches shy of the Corps' cutoff point in 1942 when he attempted to enlist.

Like many Americans at the time, Williams was spurred on to join the military following the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, a place, he admits, he had never heard of before Dec. 7, 1941.

"In fact, most of us didn't even know we had a Pacific Ocean," he laughs.

Two of Williams' brothers were drafted into the Army in the wake of the attack. From time to time they would return to the farm on leave, and Woody would see them walking up the road wearing "that old drab, brown wool uniform that looked horrible," he jokes.

Woody knew then that he wanted to be a Marine. "I decided I didn't want to be caught in that thing."

With Marine casualties mounting on a small island in the Pacific called Guadalcanal, the Corps loosened its height restrictions. Woody, with his now-permissible stature, made an immediate trip to the Marine Corps processing station, where he was greeted, in true military tradition, by a stack of paperwork and a long line.

But as he approached the receptionist, Woody realized he had left one section of the paperwork blank. At the top of the required space was the word "Religion."

"I'd never been to church in my life. I had never heard anything about Methodists or Episcopalians, or Baptists," he says. "As I'm standing in line there was this Italian boy in front of me and he had his paper filled out. So, I peeked! I looked at his and he had the letter 'C' in there. I thought, 'Well, that must be what goes in here.'

"I became a Catholic right then," he says, shifting in his chair to accommodate a bout of laughter. "I got to boot camp and I had to go to mass. Couldn't understand anything anybody said — they were still talking in Latin back in those days!"

Boot camp eventually gave way to infantry training, during which time Williams was approached by a gunnery sergeant who informed him he had been selected to train on the flamethrower.

"There were no instructions of how you use the thing — nothing," Williams said. "It had a manual in there that

showed all the parts, how to take it apart, put it back together, and the fuel that was to be used. But how do you use it in combat? There was no indication."

Those assigned to use flamethrowers would experiment with various types of fuel in an effort to maximize the weapon's efficacy. First the Marines tried kerosene, which didn't burn hot enough. Next they tested motor oil, gasoline, and diesel, each with underwhelming results.

It wasn't until Williams' gunnery sergeant brought back a mystery drum of 130 octane aircraft fuel, which was subsequently mixed with diesel, that the flamethrower's performance really began to shine.

"Nobody knew where he got it or how he got it, but here he is with it," Williams laughs. "If you fired it into the ground 15 to 20 yards in front of you, it'd roll like a big ball of fire at 3,500 degrees Fahrenheit."

The Marines had turned it into an effective weapon, but no one knew how instrumental the shoulder-carried inferno would be in the months to come.

### IWO JIMA

Williams found himself floating on a ship in the Pacific by the time the 1945 calendar turned to February.

There he remained on Feb. 19 as the first waves of Marines waded ashore through Iwo's black sand, the ship far enough from the volcanic island that Williams was unable to hear or see any of the carnage being unleashed on the beach miles away.

"We had been told on the way from Guam to Iwo that we would probably never get off ship because of the size of the island," Williams recalls. "Of course, we had no intelligence on how many Japanese were there. Didn't know that they had miles and miles of tunnels dug out — none of that information was available."

To their surprise, mounting casualties on the island meant the service of Williams' unit would be needed after all. So, on the morning of Feb. 20, Woody, along with hundreds of other Marines, climbed into dozens of circling Higgins boats awaiting the signal to move ashore.

*Continued on next page*

## Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima

*Continued from page 43*

But the signal never came, and each Higgins boat, which carried 35 Marines packed in so tightly that the men had to take shifts standing or sitting, continued on in circles.

“We rode in those Higgins boats all day long,” he says. “The waves were running 10 to 12 feet. You were wet all day long — there wasn’t a dry spot anywhere. Everybody got sick. It was a horrible, horrible day. We had no chow, and each of us carried two canteens, but that water didn’t last very long.

“By the time we got back on the ship that night, not only were we exceedingly hungry, but we were dehydrated. I remember getting aboard at about 11 that night. I got up on the top deck and that’s where they found me the next morning. I just couldn’t move anymore.”

Williams climbed back into a Higgins boat the following morning and relived much of the previous day’s misery. This time, however, the Marines got the signal to push toward Iwo. Landing on that wretched beach would change Woody’s life forever.

“There are some memories that you would just love to eradicate from your mind and can’t,” he says. “I can

remember running out of the Higgins boat and on both sides were cordwood stacks of bodies. We had no place to put our dead, so they had rolled them in their ponchos and just stacked them up — just rows of them. That memory will just never, ever go away.”

With orders to move inland, Williams had no choice but to press on.

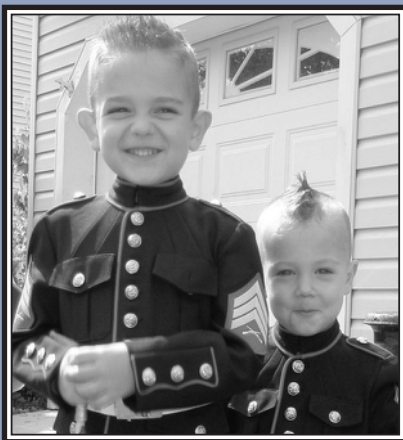
Marines who landed on the beaches of Iwo Jima were weighted down. Each man carried two heavy bandoliers of ammunition around their necks, grenades in their pockets, two canteens on their hips, a bedroll attached to their backs, and of course, their rifles. With only one free hand, digging through Iwo Jima’s soft, black sand proved to be an excruciating ordeal.

“It’s like digging in BBs or trying to dig a hole in a hill of corn,” Williams says. “You dig but it just keeps coming back in.”

Williams’ unit eventually made it beyond the beach to the edge of the Japanese airfield. Looking out, Marines could see hundreds of bomb craters — courtesy of American shelling bombardments in the time leading up to D-Day — that provided the only protection

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## Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima

Marines could muster while trying to cross the exposed field of fire.

Scattered men desperately ran from crater to crater — Marines were trained to select a destination before each maneuver to avoid any uncertainty in the open — clinging to the ground to avoid withering Japanese small arms fire and mortars that ripped apart anything that dared move.

“These shell craters weren’t very large, so, contrary to everything we’d ever been taught — don’t bunch up — protection is protection, so, there’d be 10 or 12 of us in this little shell crater.”

Marines were being picked off left and right. Those who managed to make it across the airfield, like Williams, were greeted by a maze of pillboxes that were covered with sand to make them harder to locate. Additional enemy fighters hid in 50 gallon barrels buried in the ground.

“They would get down in that barrel and they would just lift that lid long enough to shoot at you, and then close the lid,” Williams recalls.

Japanese pillboxes had an opening running across the front of each enclosure approximately just eight inches in height, leaving the Marines with excessively small targets. Wave after wave of Marines charged on the series of pillboxes but were stifled or cut down. For some, terror began to set in.

“I have always said hundreds of times that there’s always fear,” Williams says. “Anybody that tells me they

were not afraid when they’re being shot at — I don’t believe that. But if fear takes over, you become useless.”

In those moments of all-consuming fear, one’s ability to rationalize, react, or even move can prove insurmountable.

“I’ve heard them call for mom,” Williams remembers. “There’s something about moms that have a healing effect on us that dads don’t even have. When I was growing up, if I fell and skinned my knee, I’d go to mom. She’d kiss it and it’d get all well. It did something psychologically where it didn’t hurt as much afterwards. Moms are special.”

By Feb. 23, Williams’ commanding officer and two others were all that remained of the company’s officers. Most of the squad leaders had been killed. Junior Marines were taking on jobs they never dreamed of performing.

After two days of intense fighting, Williams’ commanding officer held an impromptu meeting in the cover of one of the larger bomb craters. Officers and senior enlisted were told to attend.

Williams was ordered to join. Due to the lack of senior NCOs, then-Cpl. Williams suddenly found himself elevated to acting sergeant.

“Of course, acting sergeant,” Williams jokes. “I want to get paid for my acting!”

In the crater, the commanding officer looked at Williams and asked an earnest question. Could he use a flamethrower to take out the pillboxes?

*Continued on next page*



*Distraught Marines console one another during a lull in battle on Iwo Jima. (USMC Archive)*

## Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima

*Continued from page 45*

"I have no idea what I said, but after the campaign was over with, somebody made the statement that I had used the words, 'I'll try,'" Williams recalls.

Williams was ordered to move out with a team of four Marines. Looking at his small fireteam, he didn't recognize the faces of two of the men.

"We were so disorganized at that point," he says. "What outfit you belonged to didn't make a difference."

Williams told the two unfamiliar faces to take an indirect route toward the pillbox and fire at its small opening the moment they spotted the acting sergeant approaching the enclosure.

"You know, to keep them from being able to shoot me."

With one Marine at his side, Williams crawled into a bomb crater within view of a pillbox that had been tearing the advancing Marines to shreds. Mustering courage, Williams crawled on his stomach toward the face of the enemy bunker. Unlike Woody, his partner raised up slightly to move in a crouch.

"A bullet hit him, went through his helmet, hit the liner and went around," he says, tracing the circumference of a helmet with his hands.

"It took him right back in that hole. I heard the hit. I looked around and he's not there. So, I crawl back in the hole with him. Of course, I thought he was gone. His eyeballs were rolling around and he's muttering. He was still alive, so I just went on. But he survived and he took that helmet home, I guarantee it."

Japanese small arms fire was so intense on Iwo Jima that one Marine officer once remarked, "You could've held up a cigarette and lit it on the stuff going by." But Williams kept going, eventually reaching the air vent of the first pillbox and inserting the nozzle of the flame thrower.

Williams pulled the trigger and the Japanese gun fell silent.

The unassuming Marine from West Virginia repeated this process on a series of pillboxes, breaking only once to set fire to two enemy riflemen who charged at him with bayonets.

Woody would find out years later that the other two Marines tasked with helping him that day had been killed.

"It changed the whole significance of what this Medal represents," he said. "It really does."



*U.S. Marines of the 28th Regiment, 5th Division, raise the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, on Feb. 23, 1945. Strategically located only 660 miles from Tokyo, the Pacific island became the site of one of the bloodiest, most famous battles of World War II against Japan. (AP Photo/Joe Rosenthal)"*

## Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima

### COMING HOME

To no surprise, life back home would never be the same for Williams. The self-described “shy, bashful farm boy” who “was scared to even get up in front of a class in school” now had the eyes of the nation on him.

Despite the uncomfortable celebrity that came with being awarded the nation’s highest military honor by President Harry Truman — and the ensuing public speaking engagements — Woody now admits it was a blessing in disguise.

“I was forced to become public, I had no choice,” he says. “And it was probably one of the best therapies that I could have had because I couldn’t withdraw into myself. I was forced to talk about it, and eventually I could rationalize it and say, ‘That’s in the past, so leave it there.’”

As he was in the years following the war, Williams remains focused on the future. In March, he’ll travel around the globe and step foot on the same tiny island where his heroics would cement his name in the pantheon of Marine Corps legends.

You would never know by talking to the vibrant, youthful 96-year-old that he’s endured more in his life than most would in 10 lifetimes.

That’s just what a mission against tyranny necessitated, he says. He has no regrets.

Still, Williams admits, taking human lives leaves one with an indelible impression.

“I was raised in an era where the family taught you that you do not kill anything. Not even a bird. Nothing, unless there’s a purpose for it,” Williams says.

“I know there’s no way you can win a war without eliminating the other party. That’s war. But there’s still something within every human being of sound mind that says, ‘There’s only one life. You can’t restore it.’”

Pausing for a moment, Williams adds that despite the horrors of war in the Pacific, he bears no ill will toward anyone.

“[The Japanese] never did anything to me personally,” he says.

“They were trying to do something to my country, and I wasn’t gonna let them do that.”

## Medal Of Honor



Woody Williams' Medal of Honor. (J.D. Simkins/Staff)

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IRISH PUB AT 20TH & WALNUT  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103

**ARIZONA MC-LEF  
GATHERING OF HEROES**

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 34  
CAVE CREEK, ARIZONA 85331

**16TH ANNUAL ARIZONA  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020  
9:00 AM SHOTGUN  
WILDFIRE GOLF CLUB  
5350 E MARRIOT DRIVE  
PHOENIX, AZ 85054

**26TH ANNUAL MC-LEF GALA**

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020  
6:30 PM 10:30 PM  
TROPICANA RESORT  
ATLANTIC CITY NEW JERSEY 08401  
CONTACT: LISA SPENGLER  
MCLEFAC@AOL.COM

**2020 ATLANTIC CITY  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
ATLANTIC CITY COUNTRY CLUB  
1 LEO FRASER DRIVE NORTHFIELD, NJ, 08225  
CONTACT: LISA SPENGLER  
MCLEFAC@AOL.COM



**25TH ANNUAL  
LONG ISLAND GOLF OUTING**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020  
HUNTINGTON COUNTRY CLUB  
483 MAIN ST.  
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

**PHILADELPHIA MC-LEF GALA**

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RIVERS CASINO, (FORMERLY SUGARHOUSE)  
6:30 PM - 11:00 PM

**45TH MARINE CORPS MARATHON**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020  
8:30 AM 5:30 PM  
ARLINGTON VIRGINIA, 22209

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