



# Marine Corps League Department of South Carolina SC Leathernecks



MARCH 2023

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See pg for more.  
For more information visit [mcleaguesc.org](http://mcleaguesc.org).



Editor & Publisher Deborah Stone (864) 884-6856

**[deborahstone2017@gmail.com](mailto:deborahstone2017@gmail.com)**

**NOTE: Please submit items in jpeg or png.**





National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. There are 5 objectives with Vietnam Commemoration and the other four are:

- Highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war
- Pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens
- Highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war
- Recognize contributions by our Allies

National Vietnam War Veterans Day will be observed on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Facebook and twitter will release short videos. You can download a special frame. There will be additional frames that say "I support Vietnam War Veteran's!"

Vietnam Veteran Lapel pins can be requested by visiting [whs.vnwar50th\\_events@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_events@mail.mil)

You must have served from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Visit [Veteran.com](http://Veteran.com) to see more on how to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. You can also visit the official [DoD VietnamWar50th.com](http://DoD.VietnamWar50th.com) for a full schedule of events.



# Department Commandant

**Helen Breen** [\*commandant@mcleaguesc.org\*](mailto:commandant@mcleaguesc.org)

This time of year is insanely busy for the League, both at your local Detachments and here at the Department. It's the time of year where the new officers are being elected and installed, new plans are being put into place and a new excitement is in the air.

I recently returned from the MCL National MidWinter Conference where a LOT of great information was shared. If you ever want to get a better understanding of how the National organization works, attend this Conference. Next year it will be held in Arlington, VA February 22 – 24 at the Sheraton Pentagon City. I will be sharing a lot of information from this trip at our next Quarterly Meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our Southeast Division Conference has come and gone and #803 had been BUSY getting everything together! All three of our top Officers were in attendance – MCL National Commandant Johnny Baker, MCLA National President Linda Chamberlain, and the 60<sup>th</sup> Chief Devil Dog Alan Sanning from the MODD was on site to share in the camaraderie and information shared during what I like to think of as our Southeast Division "Family Reunion"

Speaking of Family Reunions, it's hard to believe it's been just about a year since we all came together for the annual Convention last April and our next one is right around the corner! At this year's Convention we will be celebrating two milestones – our Department's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Marine Corps League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! I hope we will have a record turnout for Convention to celebrate! We also have eight of our Detachment celebrating 20-year Anniversaries, and two who hit 30 years last year. We have some great longevity in our Department!

As I said, our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention is coming up in June. The hotel booking link is already live on our Department website and in the next week or so the Delegate Registration, Convention Registration and Ad Forms will be live. All the forms will be fillable, so you can type out the form and send it in with your check or you can request to pay via credit card. Detachment #803 is working hard to truly make this an amazing celebration of our Department and League. It is VERY important that all forms are submitted by the listed Deadlines!!

As you are planning your budgets for 2023-2024, make sure to add the \$100 donation to the host Detachment and your \$100 full-page ad for the Convention Program Book. It truly helps the host Detachment to cover the expenses and try to keep things like the Banquet registration costs as low as possible. As I've said before, even if all 23 Detachments pay the \$100 fee, that doesn't even cover our meeting spaces for the weekend.

As always, I am here to support you all in whatever manner you need me. Our Department truly is nothing without our Detachments!

Semper Fi,  
Helen Breen

# Dept. Sr. Vice Commandant

**Buddy Ferguson** *buddyf22@gmail.com*



Senior Vice Commandant Buddy Ferguson Hello Marines! It is hard to believe that it is nearing the end of March and the Southeast Division Conference has come and gone. Low Country Detachment 803's hard work planning and preparing to host the Southeast Division resulted in an outstanding conference. It was good to see many of you there as we welcomed not only our brothers and sisters from the other six Departments that make up the Magnificent Seven but also several Marine Corps League dignitaries including National Commandant Johnny Baker and the 60th Honorable Chief Devil Dog Alan Sanning. Our Department's 30th Annual Convention 22-25 June in Charleston will be here before you know it. In preparation for the convention, I remind you that your Detachment should be working on your nominations for Department Marine of the Year and Department Associate of the Year. The guidelines for each award and forms can be found on our Department website at <https://mcleaguesc.org/forms>. Get your nominations in to me recognizing those individuals who have put in the effort for your Detachment. Please bring your Department Raffle ticket stubs and money to our Quarterly 15 April at American Legion Post 6 in Columbia. If your Detachment has not sold all of your allotment of your Department Raffle tickets bring the unsold tickets with you so they can be turned in and distributed to other Detachments that have sold out and want more to sell. If I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to email me at [sr\\_vice@mcleaguesc.org](mailto:sr_vice@mcleaguesc.org).

Semper Fi!

*Buddy*



# Awards Available

## 100th Year Anniversary



Original ribbon design

NOTE - this is the correct ribbon - the one posted previously was not the one approved by the membership in Daytona, this one was. ALL members in good standing or who join the League between January 1 and December 31, 2023 are eligible for to add this ribbon; only those who attend the 100th Anniversary Convention in Oklahoma City in August will be eligible to add the gold frame around it.

They are not yet available, but we will let everyone know when you can buy them.

1	9/64 Red PMS 187c	USMC Brand Guide
2	9/64 Yellow 143c	USMC Brand Guide
3	9/64 Red PMS 187c	USMC Brand Guide
4	9/64 Yellow 143c	USMC Brand Guide
5	5/64 Blue PMS 7690c	US Navy Brand Guide
6	1/32 Red PMS 193c	US Flag Color Guide
7	1/32 White	
8	1/32 Blue PMS 282c	US Flag Color Guide
9	5/64 Blue PMS 7690c	US Navy Brand Guide
10	9/64 Yellow 143c	USMC Brand Guide
11	9/64 Red PMS 187c	USMC Brand Guide
12	9/64 Yellow 143c	USMC Brand Guide
13	9/64 Red PMS 187c	USMC Brand Guide

Ribbon Dimensions per U.S Defense Logistics 1 3/8 (35mm) wide x 3/8 (9.5mm) tall  
Stripe width conversions .03125=1/32 - .078125=5/64 - .140625=9/64

## Square Knot Award

Are you a Marine Corps League (MCL) member and a registered leader with the #BoyScouts of America (#BSA)?



MCL members are eligible to be presented the Community Organization Award (#SquareKnot Award) for registered leaders to wear on their #Scouting uniform. The MCL member will need to fulfill the requirements set forth and submit the appropriate paperwork to be considered for this award. This is a BSA award created for partner organizations to give as a recognition/award for their members to wear on their BSA uniform. A reminder that the BSA has a policy that prohibits the wearing of non-BSA awards on its uniforms.

This paperwork has been added to the MCL Library web site in the Scout program area.

The BSA and the MCL have agreed to initiate a plan of mutual support to foster the ideals of #Americanism and patriotic #volunteerism among America's youth. Councils are encouraged to expand their involvement of support for causes specific to the MCL and our nation's veterans at large. MCL detachments are encourage to expand their involvement in support of BSA programs toward our mutual goals for a better and more patriotic America.

The MCL strongly believes that our youth are our future and that it is our responsibility to prepare them for that future. The Scout Oath and Law that the BSA instills in youth is a strong foundation for future success.



## Jr. Vice Commandant

**Frank Faulkner** *jr\_vice@mcleaguesc.org*

### Department of South Carolina

#### 2022-2023 action plan

Track Recruiting/Retention Numbers For 20.20.20.budget. Increase New Mbrs 259 or 11 per Detachment, PLM 152 and Decrease unpaid 84

GOAL	PLM	UNPAID	TOTAL MBR	
YEAR	914	133	1554	GOAL
MONTH	PLM	UNPAID	TOTAL MBR	-/+
APRIL	760	228	1288	0
JUNE	762	217	1295	+7
JULY	768	213	1297	+2
SEPT	771	169	1266	-31
OCT	777	342	1245	-21
JAN	775	154	1153	-154

### DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP as of March 31, 2023

	PLM	PAID	TOTAL PD	UNPAID
REGULAR	686	190	876	100
ASSOCIATE	71	74	145	24
MULTI	14	0	14	0
TOTAL	771	264	1035	124

Voting strength 876

## Dept. Judge Advocate

**Claude Davis, III** *[judge\\_advocate@mcleaguesc.org](mailto:judge_advocate@mcleaguesc.org)*



It is that time of the year when Detachments start the election process for the coming year. National and Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures mandate that each Detachment must hold their annual elections between October 1 and May 15. Both National and Department have reporting requirements that must be followed. I have listed information below that will help your Detachment with the process. Installing Officer — The Officers below are the only officers that can install your Detachment: National Commandant, Elected National Officer, Past National Commandant, Department Commandant, Elected Department Officer, Past Department Commandant, Detachment Commandant, Past Detachment Commandant Note: If you are requesting the Department Commandant or an Elected Department Officer. Required reports: Report of Officer Installation — This form is available by going to the National Headquarters website, [www.mcnational.org](http://www.mcnational.org). Type in "forms" in the search box and then "click" on Officer Installation. This will bring up the Report of Officer Installation form. Type in all the appropriate information required. Then print the completed form for your files. Obtain the signature of the Installing Officer and the individual completing the form and mail or email the completed form to the Department Adjutant within 10 days of the installation.



## Dept. Paymaster

**Jerry Holt** [jerryholt813@gmail.com](mailto:jerryholt813@gmail.com)

**Paymasters.....** If you have new members joining the League between March 1 and June 30, remember that their National dues are reduced from \$25 to \$15. (Use the appropriate code as indicated at the bottom left of the Transmittal form. The catch is that their regular annual dues payment is due again on August 31.

You should regularly compare your roster to a real headcount check with your members. A recent change in the member database will now drop members from your roster if they are more than one year overdue. If they are more than one year past due, and you send in enough for a single annual payment, they will still show up as delinquent because National will apply the payment received to the most delinquent year. Unfortunately, at this time you can't easily see how far behind a member is with your access from the Detachment level. Hopefully, that will soon be fixed, but in the meantime, if you have a member not on your roster, you can contact me and I can get more details on their payment history.

If you have a member who has dropped off your roster due to non-payment, you'll need to submit a new application along with the transmittal to get them restored.

Any Detachment officer can request a current roster by emailing me. I can pull them on demand and send a pdf copy to your email address.

**Change of address or phone number...** You should no longer use the Transmittal form to submit a change of address or phone number for your members. Detachment Commandants and Paymasters have access to the Database Portal in the Member Library. If you're not familiar with the portal, there is a training package in the Library. You access the Library by going to [www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org); then click on the *Visit Now button* next to the Marine Corps League Library. Click on *Member Library* to get to the training; click on *Database Portal* after the training in order to actually perform the updates. A password is required to access the Member Library. If you don't know it, contact me.

## TRAINING



101\_Video\_DETACHMENT  
Database Portal



101\_Detachment Database  
Procedures

One additional item on Transmittals... you only need to submit one single copy to me – along with a single check for the combined payment for the National and Department dues. Department dues are currently \$3 for each new member – and renewal. If a member is paying to become a Life Member, the annual dues must be current. If not current, the member must pay the annual dues amount before (or along with) the **Life Member** amount. If the member is already current, there is no separate amount due to the Department to become a Life Member. If delinquent, then pay the regular amount (plus the Department fee), then pay the Life Member amount (without the Department fee). A new member can join and immediately become a Life Member using the same Transmittal, but again, they must pay the regular annual fee in addition to the Life Member dues.

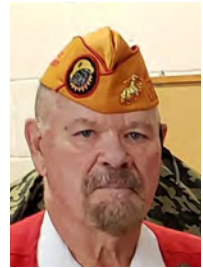
*Semper Fi*

*Jerry Holt, Paymaster*



# SC Pack Leader

**Jim Stone** [jimsn4@yahoo.com](mailto:jimsn4@yahoo.com)



Woof, Woof Dogs of the Order!

Thank you all who attended the SE Division Grand Growl. We had a howling good time.

It was great to have the 60th Chief Devil Dog, Alan Sanning and his Aide De Kamp Chuck Covert in attendance and meeting you great Dogs. He barks that he had a great time and enjoyed meeting everyone.

In my travels as the Vice Chief Devil Dog of the SE Division, I am learning a lot from other Packs and Pounds. This past week in Florida Pack Growl, I learned a lot about making the Growls fun ad not so much business. We are going to make ours fun and still do a little business in the future.

Another thing we are going to have to do is to do some heavy recruiting. Recruiting is our future and we have a built in pool of potential Pups. At each meeting, look around and find some active and worthy candidates to bring into our Dog houses. Then, make it fun so they stay.

I am in the process of collecting a group of fun games to be used during your Growl, as well as at our Pack Growls. Get everyone involved and really have fun !!!

Don't forget the upcoming events. Let's have a great turnout at our Pack Growl on April 15 at the Quarterly meeting. Then, the Pack Grand Growl at the Department Convention June 22-25 in North Charleston. It is a great venue and we will have a lot of fun! Don't forget that is where elections will be held for the coming year.

I hope to see your smiling faces and collect many bones for the children.

Semper Woof,

Jim

**Ship Store by Doc Wilson 803-466-7249**

***usmcdocwilsonhm2@yahoo.com***

If you are looking for anything, please contact me. Female covers in stock now!



A Note from Bob Borka at National:

All MCL, MCLA, MODD, & MCLF,

The quote below was provided to us by the Marine Corps Trademark Office. It is the desire that any of our (HQ, Division, Department, Detachment, Kennel, Pack, Pound, Auxiliary, Foundation) websites have this disclaimer at the bottom.

Disclaimer:

"The Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem and the name Marine Corps® are registered trademarks of the USMC. The Marine Corps League and its subordinate organizations support the USMC and its veterans, however it is not officially connected to or endorsed by the USMC, and the name and emblem are used with permission."

Please make sure that your website reflects this!



## **Chaplain's Corner**

**Jeremiah Palmer** *jeremiahepalmer32@gmail.com*

Fallen Marines February to March 31

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Argyle Wakeman    | 2. Jack Vicory           |
| 3. George Ziegler    | 4. Harold Schumacher     |
| 5. Jack Dudley Hills | 6. Clarence Del Williams |

Please remember their families and friends in you prayer.

Jeremiah Palmer

## VSO Stipend for Honor Guard Funeral Services

In June 2022, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster signed legislation (Act No. 225) entitled Veterans Service Organization Burial Honor Guard Support Fund, which provides a stipend to congressionally chartered veterans service organizations that provided an honor guard burial detail at the funeral of a qualifying South Carolina veteran.

The minimum stipend is fifty dollars (\$50) per funeral detail, but may not exceed the per funeral cap established by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. (The current cap is \$100 per funeral). To claim the stipend, you must download and submit a Request for Reimbursement to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs no later than the 15th of the month following the date the funeral was conducted.

You can find the form on the SC Department of Veterans Affairs website, [www.scdva.sc.gov](http://www.scdva.sc.gov). In the search box, type the word "documents" then look for "STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE. Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Burial Honor Guard Support fund." Prior to submitting the first request for reimbursement, you'll need to obtain a State Vendor Number for the Honor Guard unit.

A link to the instructions for this process is included in the form downloaded previously. As you go through that process, you may find it worthwhile to also sign up for direct deposit into the Honor Guard's bank account. Once you've registered as a vendor and prepared your reimbursement request form, you should submit the form electronically to [VSOHonors@scdva.sc.gov](mailto:VSOHonors@scdva.sc.gov). (This is not the address that is indicated on the form, but it is the one that will ensure that the form reaches someone who will take action on it).

If you have an issue, the best point of contact at the Department of Veterans Affairs is

Timothy R. Frambes;  
Director, Veteran Services;  
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs  
1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 305 Columbia, SC 29204  
[tim.frambes@scdva.sc.gov](mailto:tim.frambes@scdva.sc.gov)  
TEL: 803-734-4065

If you would like to contact an Honor Guard member who has been through this process, you may contact Jerry Holt, American Legion Post 34 Honor Guard, at [jerryholt813@gmail.com](mailto:jerryholt813@gmail.com), or phone (973) 897-9251.

**USMC HISTORY**

# DETACHMENT ROLL CALL

## DETACHMENT #803 Low Country

Monthly March Meeting: We installed 2 new members, John Jefferson and Scott Collins. Also held our annual elections of Officers. Congratulations to all: Commandant Kevin Patton, Sr Vice Cmdt– Victor Coachman, Jr, Vice Cmdt—Keith Conway and Judge Advocate Herman Green. Installation will be in April. Helen Breen, Commandant handed out may awards for everyone's hard work to make the SE Division Conference a success.





## DETACHMENT #939 James L. Hammons

### Presentation of Good Citizen Award



ROBERT NEAL AND MAJGEN LIVINGSTON  
AT MCL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



MGEN JAMES LIVINGSTON USMC (RET)  
MCL VETERAN DAY SPEAKER



(L) Marine Corps Ball with Lt General in the middle.





## DETACHMENT #1141 Speedy Wilson

1141 met on 9 March at @123 Gibson Road Lexington, and officers were elected and installed new Officers—plans for the upcoming Division meeting in Charleston. Mess Sgt Rummel served an Irish corn, beef, and cabbage meal. Plans for a stand up and other ways to bring in money were discussed.



## **Detachment 1146- Kershaw County Leathernecks**



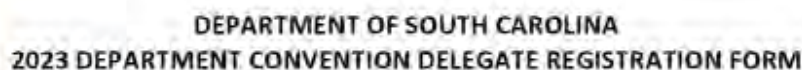
Detachment members enjoy breakfast together on Friday mornings.

## **Detachment 1154- Yellow Footprints**

April 11 Officer Installation and Awards. Dept. Cmdt. Helen Breen sworn in the Officers and 3 new members. There was a luncheon held afterwards.







Total Delegates: \_\_\_\_\_

Detachment Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Det. #: \_\_\_\_\_ Pg. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

1. In accordance with Department Bylaws (6/2019 edition) Section 110(b), Detachment Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention shall be determined based on the Detachment's membership on record with National Headquarters as of 31 March of the current fiscal year. The voting strength of each Detachment shall be as follows: for the first ten (10) regular members, one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate; for each additional block of ten (10) Regular members, one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate; for a partial block of ten (10) regular members, one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate. However, no Delegate's strength of a Detachment shall be computed by including Associate members or Honorary members in such Detachment's membership.
2. Registration fees are \$10.00 for ALL Delegates, Alternates, and Associates. Registrations are due by **7 JUNE 2023**. Registration after deadline will be \$11.00 each. There is no fee for a non-member spouse or guest for attendance. Use additional sheets as necessary for attendees.
3. Convention registration form **MUST** also be submitted for each Delegate / Alternate / Associate attending.

Officer Title / Member	Mark one:			Name	Member #	Attending		Convention Use Only
	Del.	Alt.	Assoc.			YES	NO	
Det. Commandant								
Det. Sr. Vice Commandant								
Det. Jr. Vice Commandant								
Det. Judge Advocate								
Det. Paymaster								
Det. Adjutant								
						<b>Total</b>		

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**FORM AND CHECK MUST BE MAILED & POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 7 JUNE 2023**

Make Checks Payable to Low Country #803 MCL

Mail Delegate Form to: SC Convention Credentials Committee

404 Mountain Laurel Circle, Goose Creek SC 29445

# AROUND THE SOUTHEAST DIV.



On February 20th, Helen and Jim Breen, Jerry Holt and Jim Stone attended the 78th Anniversary “BATTLE OF IWO JIMA” in Young Harris, Georgia.

Helen was the Speaker for the Ceremony. It was presented by Unicoi Detachment Det. #783. Below is their Detachment Commandant Alton “Doc” Coleman. The keynote Speaker was Brigadier General Denis Shortal (USMC, retired). The North Georgia Honor Guard laid the Wreath.

The Detachment Chaplain Richard Hoibraten prayed the Benediction.



Date\_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

This is to certify that the following Marine Corps League member has met the criteria (National Jr. Vice Commandant's Awards, Enclosure Four (4), Page XX, (National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures) by recruiting five (5) or more new members between 1 July and 30 June.

Only Regular Members are allowed to count as recruits. Associate, Honorary, reinstated or transferred members are not counted as new recruits.

Detachment\_\_\_\_\_ Number\_\_\_\_\_

Department\_\_\_\_\_ Division\_\_\_\_\_

Recruited by\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Card #\_\_\_\_\_

### Names of New Members

(1)\_\_\_\_\_ (11)\_\_\_\_\_

(2)\_\_\_\_\_ (12)\_\_\_\_\_

(3)\_\_\_\_\_ (13)\_\_\_\_\_

(4)\_\_\_\_\_ (14)\_\_\_\_\_

(5)\_\_\_\_\_ (15)\_\_\_\_\_

(6)\_\_\_\_\_ (16)\_\_\_\_\_

(7)\_\_\_\_\_ (17)\_\_\_\_\_

(8)\_\_\_\_\_ (18)\_\_\_\_\_

(9)\_\_\_\_\_ (19)\_\_\_\_\_ (

10)\_\_\_\_\_ (20)\_\_\_\_\_

(List additional Names on the Back of this Form) Certified true and correct:

\_\_\_\_\_ Detachment Commandant

\_\_\_\_\_ Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster

All Forms MUST be Received by 10 July each year.

Mail to: Marine Corps League

National Junior Vice Commandant

P.O. 1990

Stafford, VA 22555-1990

Or e-mail to: Recruiting@MCLeague.org Attn: "National Junior Vice Commandant"

If more forms are needed, this form may be reproduced.



# SOUTHEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE



Congrats to Jerry Holt for bring re-elected as National Vice Commandant and Ronnie Broussard as the Assistant National Vice Commandant.

A Big Thank you for Detachment 803 putting on a successful Convention.







## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE



TO: ALL Marine Corps League (MCL) members  
RE: 'MCL Commandants Corner' Zoom® schedule  
'MCL Membership Unplugged' Zoom® schedule

The MCL National Public Relations Committee (NPRC) informs you of the following scheduled Zoom® sessions and their respective topics. These sessions are coordinated/facilitated/produced by the NPRC and hosted by the MCL National Commandant; attendance is open to ALL members of the MCL. Information is pushed out via email through the National/Division/Department/Detachment chain of command; and, is also pushed out through social media.

All sessions begin, promptly, at 1900 (Eastern). Participants must log onto [www.Zoom.com](http://www.Zoom.com) and click '[join meeting](#)'.

They will be prompted to enter the following information:

- Meeting ID: 416 428 8328
- Passcode: MCL2023

### Schedule/Topic

- Tuesday, March 14: MCL Commandant's Corner – *MCL and the Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) Program*
- Thursday, March 23: MCL Membership Unplugged
- Tuesday, April 11: MCL Commandant's Corner – *Military Order of the Devil Dog (MODD)*
- Wednesday, April 26: MCL Membership Unplugged
- Tuesday, May 9: MCL Commandant's Corner – *MCL 100<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Oklahoma City*
- Monday, May 22: MCL Membership Unplugged

The *Commandant's Corner* is a recorded session with guest presenters/speakers and a designated topic of discussion. These recordings are edited and posted to the MCL National YouTube channel a few days following each session, for future viewing. These videos are available for anybody to access at [www.youtube.com/themarinecorpsleague](http://www.youtube.com/themarinecorpsleague).

The *MCL Membership Unplugged* is designed as more of a social and does not have an assigned topic or guest presenter/speaker. These sessions are not recorded and, as such, are not available for future viewing. These are intended to be an open Q&A addressing any topic within the MCL.

If you have any ideas/desires for future topics, please email the NPRC: [publicrelations@mclleague.org](mailto:publicrelations@mclleague.org).



# VETERAN AFFAIRS

RELEASE IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III on International Women's Day March 8, 2023

Today, on International Women's Day, the Department of Defense recognizes the tremendous, enduring contributions that women Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Guardians, and civilian employees have made in service to our country.

From America's first days, women have made profound sacrifices for our republic. They have made innovative contributions to our national security, blazed trails for future generations, and inspired us with their dedication, skill, and patriotism. Since the Revolutionary War, more than three million women have stepped up to serve their country in uniform, even before the military fully recognized their service.

This year, we mark the 75th anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which paved the way for women to officially serve in all U.S. military branches, and the 10th anniversary of opening all combat roles to women. The logic behind these decisions was clear and compelling: Our military needs the best warfighters in every domain. That remains true today.

Though the Department has made significant progress to break down stubborn barriers for women in the U.S. military, we know that we still have more to do to promote inclusion and well-being and to give all our teammates the opportunity to rise to their full potential. I am personally committed to this vital work.

To ensure that we continue to have the strongest fighting force in the world, we must draw on the full power of all our people. On this International Women's Day and every day, our country thanks the patriots in our extraordinary All-Volunteer Force for the sacrifices that they make to build a stronger, safer, and more secure world.

Thanks to all of our Women Marines



## U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 1, 2022

VA will propose adding rare cancers to the presumed serviceconnected list as related to military environmental exposure

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biologic plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

Based on these findings, VA's Secretary is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans. The cancers under consideration include:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung. •
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

"This is the right decision. The rarity and severity of these illnesses, and the reality that these conditions present a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence prompted us to take this critical action," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We'll continue to hold ourselves accountable to Veterans to provide more care, more benefits and more services to more Veterans than ever before."

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process.

Once rulemaking is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility



## New VA Life Insurance

VA Life Insurance policies have been serving our nation's Veterans, service members, and their families for over 100 years. Starting January 1, 2023, enrollment opens for [Veterans Affairs Life Insurance \(VALife\)](#)—a new program offering increased access for Veterans age 80 or under with any level of service-connected disability (0-100%).

Life insurance is a key component for future financial planning. With the right policy and coverage amount, life insurance can cover end-of-life costs, provide an inheritance to family, serve as income to a spouse, or cover some outstanding debts.

Those currently enrolled in VA's current policy for service-connected Veterans, [Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance \(S-DVI\)](#), may keep their coverage or switch to VALife.

## 2023 National Veterans Day Poster Contest

Open for submission by Terri Evans, outreach specialist for the VA

The winning poster will be distributed to VA facilities, military installations worldwide and across cities and towns in our nation. It will also serve as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day observance at Arlington National Cemetery, scheduled for Nov. 11, 2023.

Although creativity has no rules, there are a few submission guidelines:

- Artwork must be 18" x 24" at 300 dots per inch, with scaled down submissions to 9"x12."
- The design will be used for a 1" x 1.5" lapel pin. Simple designs look best scaled down to lapel pins. If you'd like to submit a modified design for the lapel pin based on the original poster design, you may do so.
- Submissions are not restricted to "human-centric" images, such as a joint color guard. Images of American icons, monuments or scenery can qualify.
- Submissions must be representative of all Veterans who served. The Committee may select a particular submission but ask the artist to modify the original design. Additional changes may be required prior to printing.
- Each design must include the words "Veterans Day," "November 11, 2023," and "Honoring all who served."
- All submissions must include sufficient information to demonstrate that the image is the artist's work and is not copyrighted material (i.e., photos and concepts).

Successful designs are very simple, with minimal imagery and verbiage. To view examples of past winning submissions, visit [The Veterans Day Poster Gallery](#).

Visit <https://news.va.gov/115113/2023-national-veterans-day-poster-contest-open/> to see more details and other Year's winners.

Submit electronic versions as jpg images or PDF files by email to [vetsday@va.gov](mailto:vetsday@va.gov) by April 1, 2023.



# 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION

## Omni Hotel

100 W Oklahoma City, OK 73109

Monday, 8/11– Friday 8/16

Alternate Hotel info

Fairfield Inn & Suites

404-604-5050 (Code MCL )

\$149 includes complimentary breakfast

Make sure to fill out your personal registration and also, the Delegate sheet  
for your Detachment.

# 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION

## Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort and Spa

71333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Monday, 8/12– Friday 8/16

\$159 Single includes taxes, resort fee and parking

\$169 Double includes taxes, resort fees and parking

Reservations open up the day after the 2023 concludes

# NATIONAL & DEPT. OFFICERS

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Natl Sr Vice Commandant	Warren Griffin	wgriffin@mcleague.org
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Awards Committee Chair	Frank Faulkner	jr_vice@mcleaguesc.org
Newsletter Chair	John & Cathy Stump	jcstump@hargray.net

For a complete list of National Officers visit: [mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)

For a complete list of Department Officers visit: [mcleaguesc.org](http://mcleaguesc.org)

# DATES TO REMEMBER



**April 15, 2023**

Quarterly Meeting at 1000  
American Legion #6 at 200 Pickens St/Columbia  
Coffee and donuts served at 0900  
Growl to follow  
A limited number of meals will be available for purchase.

**June 22-25**

Department Convention  
Hilton Garden Inn North Charleston  
5265 International Blvd  
North Charleston, SC 29418  
843-308-9330  
\$139/ + tax a night  
Visit [mcleaguesc.org](http://mcleaguesc.org) to register.

**Aug. 12-19**

100th National Convention  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
See Page 24 for details

**Ja. 20, 2024**

Quarterly Meeting at 1000  
American Legion #6 at 200 Pickens St/Columbia  
Coffee and donuts served at 0900  
Growl to follow  
A limited number of meals will be available for purchase.

**Feb. 22-24**

Mid-Winter Conference  
Sheraton Pentagon City  
900S Orme Street 22204  
Arlington, VA  
\$129/ + tax a night

**August 2024**

Palm Springs, California  
See page 24 for details