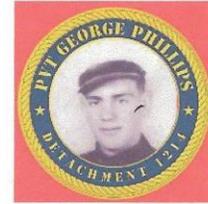




**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214  
Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box #1  
Ballwin, MO 63022**



**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**TO:**

**ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE**

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**All annual dues expire on August 31st of each year. Please renew prior to that date. Send dues of \$40.00 to Pvt George Phillips Detachment PO Box 1, Ballwin, MO 63022.**

**This newsletter and previous issues can be obtained from the **new** Detachment Website. <http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/>**

**Please contact the Editor to receive future issues electronically.**

***As a suggestion*, anyone wishing to provide material *should try* to have it to the editor no later than the *fourth Friday* of previous month. *(This doesn't mean don't submit anything at all if you need more time, instead please contact the editor.)* If sent via email, please note that newsletter submission should appear the subject line.**



**Next Meeting **1830** November 18, 2025**



**November 2025**

**Volume XXI – Issue 11**

**Commandant:**  
**Joe Gentile**  
314-488-9440

**Sr. Vice-Commandant**  
**John Cooper**  
314-712-0738

**Jr. Vice-Commandant**  
**Jason Lehr**  
314-800-4930

**Adjutant/Paymaster:**  
**Dennis Simpson**  
636-230-5976

**Judge Advocate**  
**Public Information**  
**Officer: Hugh Smith**  
636-484-4188

**Benevolence:**  
**Mike Cicchese**  
636-208-4676

**Sgt at Arms:**  
**Gerald Gerling**  
636-271-3778

**Chaplain**  
**Carl E. Ramsey**  
314-304-7915

**Web Sgt: Brad McNeil**  
636-225-2866



**Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday**  
**of Every Month**  
**1900 – 7:00 PM**



*News and Reflections by and for Marines*  
*And other Patriotic Americans*

**Published Monthly By**

**The Pvt George Phillips Detachment**

**Marine Corps League**

**Email**

[PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com](mailto:PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com)

**Detachment Webpage**

<http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/>  
[bmcneil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmcneil@sbcglobal.net)

**Mail:**

**Pvt George Phillips Detachment**  
**Marine Corps League**  
**P.O. Box #1**  
**Ballwin, MO 63022**

**Meeting Location:**

**225 Old Sulphur Springs Road**  
**Ballwin, MO 63021-5356**

**Detachment**  
**Membership as**  
**of October 31**

**68**

**Trustee 3Yr:**  
**Brad McNeil**  
636-225-2866

**Trustee 2Yr:**  
**Mike Cicchese**  
636-208-4676

**Trustee 1Yr:**  
**Andrew “AJ” Neely**  
314-550-8065

**Jr. Past**  
**Commandant**  
**Brad McNeil**  
636-225-2866

**Ways & Means:**  
**Open**

**Quartermaster:**  
**Brad McNeil**  
636-225-2866

**Eagle Scout**  
**Liaison:**  
**Joe Gentile**  
314-488-9440

**Editor/Historian:**  
**Carl E. Ramsey**  
314-304-7915

## Commandant's Corner

### ATTENTION ON DECK



Marines, detachment collections will be on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>, at Sam's in Kirkwood. [ Three shifts are available: 9 am-12 pm, 12 pm-3 pm, and 3pm-6 pm.] Don't forget to remember November 10, 2025, as the Marine Corps becomes 250 years old. You and a significant other are invited to the detachment Marine Corps birthday celebration. Join us for dinner on Tuesday, November 18 at American Legion Post 208 at 1830. Please RSVP with number of your guests so we know how much food to provide. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours. God bless and Semper Fi.

Joe Gentile Commandant  
Pvt George Phillips Detachment #1214  
Marine Corps League  
[jgentile5550@gmail.com](mailto:jgentile5550@gmail.com)



### November 2025

- 7 – STL Veterans Ball – 1815 Westport Chalet (See brochure)
- 8 – 250<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball (See brochure)
- 10 – 250<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 – Veterans Day
- 12 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 18 – Membership Meeting – 1830 Post #208
- 20-23 – **Tarawa, 1943**
- 22 – Food For Vets – 0900-10:30  
VFW Post 3944 10815 Midland Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63114
- 27 – **Chosin Reservoir, 1950 thru Dec 13, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

### December 2025

- 7 – **Pearl Harbor, 1941**
- 8-23 – **Wake Island, 1941**
- 10 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 16 – No Membership Meeting

### January 2026

- 8 – **Battle of New Orleans, 1815**
- 14 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 20 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208
- 21 – **Khe Sanh, 1968 thru July 9**

### February 2026

- 11 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 17 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208
- 19 – **Iwo Jima, 1945 thru March 16**
- 23 – **Iwo Jima, 1945, Flag Raising**

### March 2026

- 11 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 14 – **Iwo Jima, 1945, anniversary of Pvt George Phillips falling on grenade**
- 17 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208

### April 2026

- 11 – Focus Marines Mess Night  
See brochure.

10 November 2025

**A MESSAGE FROM THE  
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE  
CORPS**

**Two hundred and fifty years ago, before our Nation declared its independence, a small group of men gathered in Philadelphia and formed a Corps of Marines. From that moment, our story has been bound to the story of America itself. A quarter of a millennium later, Marines remain at the center of our Nation's defense. Ready to fight, ready to win, and ready to uphold the trust placed in us since 1775.**

**Across centuries, Marines have fought on distant shores and in desperate battles, earning a reputation for discipline, toughness, and valor. From the Revolution to the World Wars, from Chapultepec to today's operations across the globe, every generation has proven worthy of the title Marine. They secured liberty, defended allies, and carried forward the promise of a free Nation, and a free world. We are the heirs of that legacy, and we are its stewards.**

**This anniversary reminds us that our standards are the foundation of our Corps. Honor, Courage, and Commitment are not abstractions, but the code that binds us to one another and to all who went before. Every Marine, in every clime and place, must hold true to these values. The conflicts ahead will demand nothing less.**

**I could not be prouder of the Marines I see serving today. At home, at sea, and across the globe, you carry forward our proud traditions with skill and ferocity. It is**

**your discipline, initiative, and fighting spirit that anchor our Corps. The battles of the next 250 years will challenge us in new ways, but I have no doubt we will prevail. Happy Birthday Marines!**

**Semper Fidelis,**



**General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps**



Submitted by Thomas Heintz

This year also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the 20-year involvement in Vietnam, which I was told at a banquet on Friday night ran from 1955-1975. The following is article on Vietnam veterans sent to me by Hugh Smith (who also sent me the commandant's message on the page above.).

**Vietnam Veterans: A Statistical Profile  
Submitted by Hugh Smith**

*Confusion reigns when it comes to numbers and the Vietnam War. Listed below are some figures that may help sort out fact from fiction in many media reports concerning veterans."*

**By VIETNAM VETERAN PROJECT  
IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY**

- Vietnam Vets: 9.7% of their generation.
- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era (Aug. 5, 1964 May 7, 1975).
- 8,744,000 personnel were on active duty during the war (Aug. 5, 1964 — March 28, 1973).
- 3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).
- 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965, to March 28, 1973).
- Of the 2.6 million, between 1 and 1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close combat support, or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack. 15% were in combat units.

- Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.
- 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.
- Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1969).

**CASUALTIES**

- Hostile deaths: 47,418.
- Non-hostile deaths: 10,811.
- Total: 58,229 (includes men formerly classified as MIA and *Mayaguez* casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total.
- 8 nurses died—1 was KIA.
- Married men killed: 17,539.
- 61% of the men killed were 21 years old or younger.
- Highest state death rate: West Virginia—84.1 per 100,000 males (national average in 1970: 58.9%).
- Wounded: 303,704—153,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured who required no hospital care.
- Severely disabled: 75,000 — 23,214 are 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
- Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than in Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII.
- Missing in Action: 2,338 (at war's end)
- Prisoners of War: 766 (114 died in captivity).

## **DRAFTERS VS. VOLUNTEERS**

- **25% (648,500) of total forces in-country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members in WWII were drafted).**
- **Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.**
- **Reservists killed: 5,977.**
- **National Guard: 9,000 served; 22 KIA.**

## **RACE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND**

- **88.40% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics); 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races.**
- **86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian; 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races.**
- **170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of the total) died there.**
- **86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races.**
- **14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among blacks.**
- **34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms.**
- **Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.**
- **Religion of the dead: Protestant—64.4%; Catholic—28.9%; other/none 7%.**

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS**

- **76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower-middle/working-class backgrounds.**
- **Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level, and 50% came from middle-income backgrounds.**
- **Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial, or technical occupations.**
- **79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered military service. (63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWI vets had completed high school upon separation.)**

## **WINNING AND LOSING**

- **Nearly 75% of the general public agrees that it was a failure of political will, rather than a lack of arms.**
- **82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of a lack of political will.**

## **AGE & HONORABLE SERVICE**

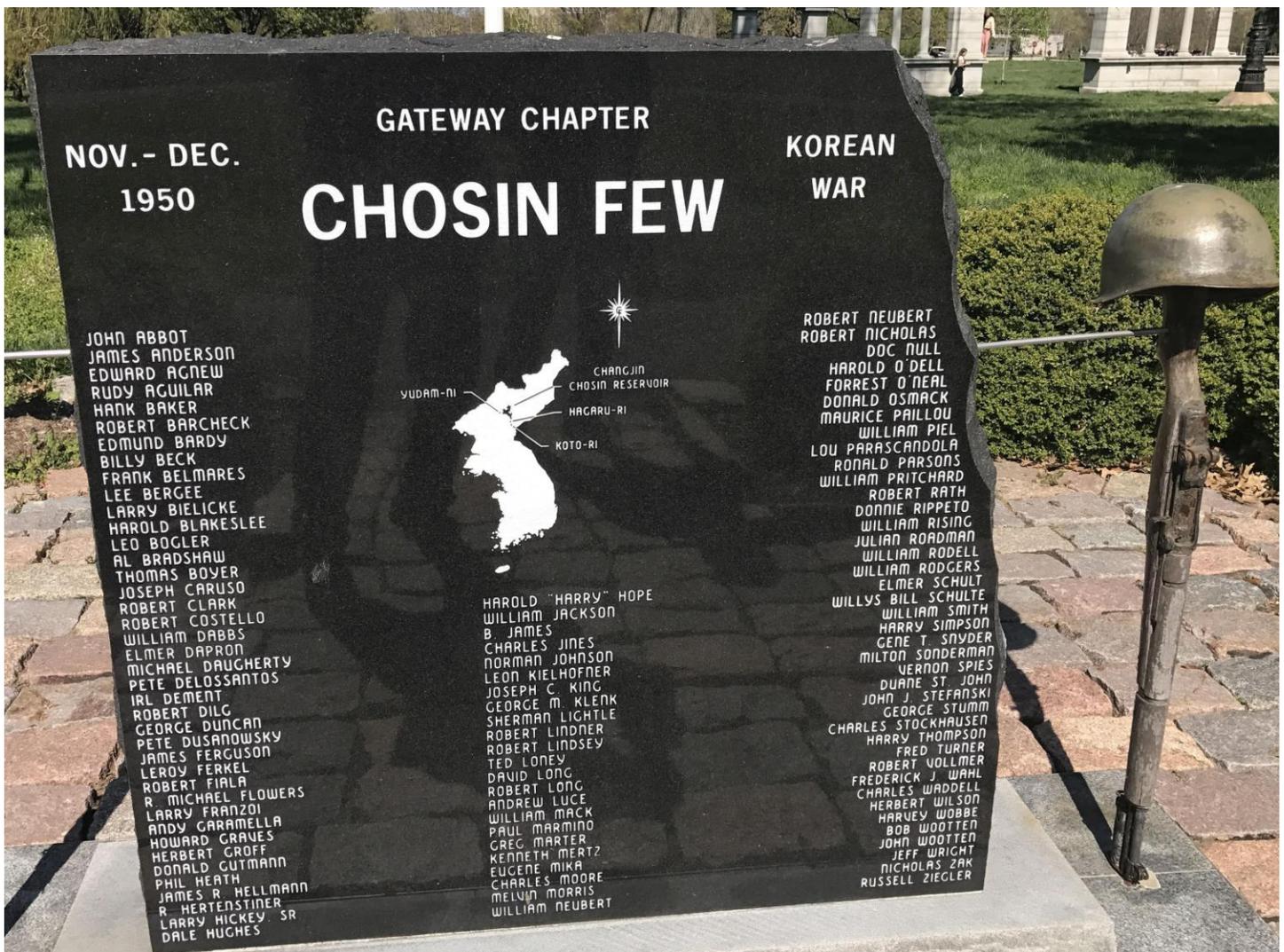
- **The average age of a Vietnam War GI was 19 (compared to 26 for WWII).**
- **97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.**

## **PRIDE IN SERVICE**

- **91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country.**
- **66% of Vietnam vets say they would serve again if called upon (polled in the 1980s).**
- **87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem.**

Here's the direct link to the information shared above: <https://vietnamveteranproject.org/statistics-2/>  
Source: <https://cherrieswriter.com/2025/10/25/vietnam-veterans-a-statistical-profile/>

This Year and month is also marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chosin Reservoir. Below is the memorial in Forest Park which includes the name of detachment member Harry Hope, first name top of center.



Harry Hope

***Birthday Scroll  
November***

***Michael Drake  
Christy Duval  
Gerald Gerling  
Robert Howard  
James Hubbard  
Jack Jackson  
Phillip Schroeder  
Alan Taylor  
Bernard Widdis, Jr.***

**Chaplain's Report by Carl E Ramsey**

**Jack Bickerton is doing better since his fall in Colorado and will to attend the November meeting.**

**Mike Erzleben is doing okay and would like me to assist him with the writing and editing of his military journal.**

**Elliot Glassman is still at home taking care of his wife, and because of his own health issues is no longer able to drive.**

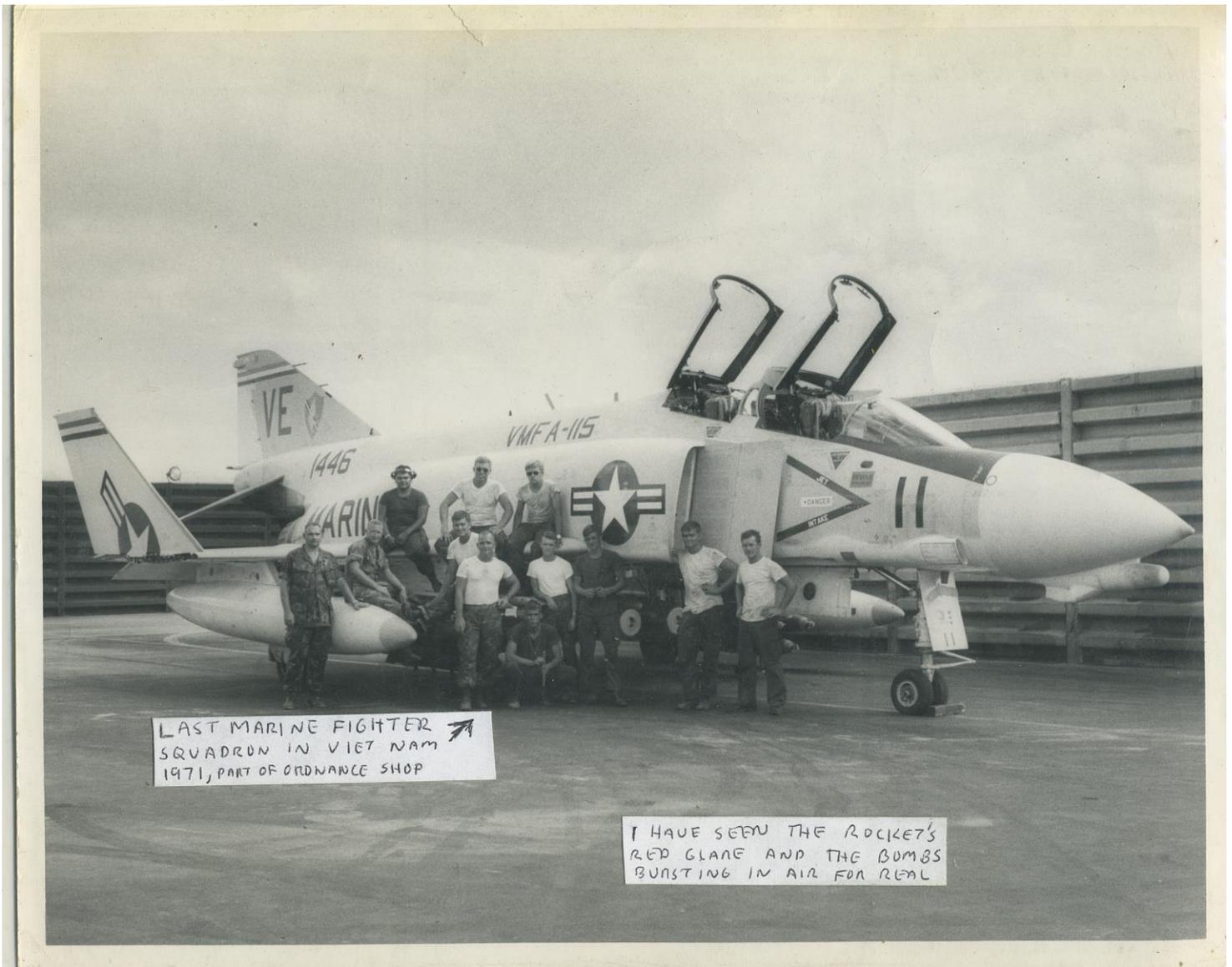
**Thomas Heintz, who sent me the Marine Corps birthday cartoon, is living with his daughter in Springfield until he moves into his own Assistance Living apartment at the end of the month.**

**Philipp Peterson's number has been discontinued and is no longer in service.**

**Larry Schwartz is home bound because of his legs until further notice.**



**On a sad note, 102 year old Marine Corsair pilot, Bill Hodson, whom editor Carl Ramsey got to meet at the VMFA 115 reunion in September, 2024, passed away Tuesday, October 28. He would have been 103 on Christmas Day,**



**VMFA 115 as the last Marine F4 squadron in Vietnam as of September, 1971, at Danang. I recognized its tail letters of VE when I watched it return to Danang to help halt the spring invasion, on the evening news in 1972. Andy Riggle who many in our detachment know, is leaning the jet intake. Newsletter editor Carl Ramsey is crouching in front.**



**Andy Riggle**



**Newsletter editor  
Carl Ramsey**



# FOCUS MARINES FOUNDATION

HONOR \* COURAGE \* COMMITMENT

## MESS NIGHT GALA

**April 11, 2026 Sunset Country Club**

Since 2010, nearly 1,200 Veterans have participated in our 7-Day program designed to support their transition to successful civilian lives after military service. FOCUS equips veterans with the tools and strategies they need to build the life they deserve, all at no cost to them. The Mess Night Gala serves as our annual fundraiser to support these sessions.

**Guest Speaker: John O'Leary**

Author, Motivational Speaker, Podcaster,  
Soul on Fire Movie Inspirator

## We are looking for sponsors

Sponsorship includes advertising & acknowledgment with the \$5K and \$10K levels receiving a table.

- NTL Defense \$250
- Silver Star \$2,500
- Purple Heart \$500
- Stars & Stripes \$5,000
- Bronze Star \$1,000
- Combat Valor \$10,000

[www.focusmarines.org](http://www.focusmarines.org)  
501 c 3 ID#27-2081900

Holly 314-712-5192  
[onecau.se/focusmessnight](http://onecau.se/focusmessnight)



# Marine Corps League Application for Membership



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application--- New  Renewal  Membership Type--- Regular  Associate  Dual

Have you ever been convicted of a Felony? YES  NO  If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

I hereby apply for membership in the Pvt. George Phillips #1214 Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$40.00 for one year's membership.

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety(90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor;\*or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy FMF Sailor who has earned the FMF Device or FMF Ribbon. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

### OATH OF MEMBERSHIP-REGULAR/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, In the Presence of Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will never bring discredit upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps League, so help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor (Where Applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

Please locate a Detachment using the locator on The Marine Corps League National website. Upon completion submit this form and attach a copy of your last DD-214 (Service 2 or Marine 4)\*, as well as any applicable fees as defined by the Detachment. If you desire to join as a Member At Large, please go to The Marine Corps League National website and apply using the online form.

\*Regular Member applicants only

# Marine Corps League Application for Membership



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Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sponsor (Where Applicable)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant's Signature**

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