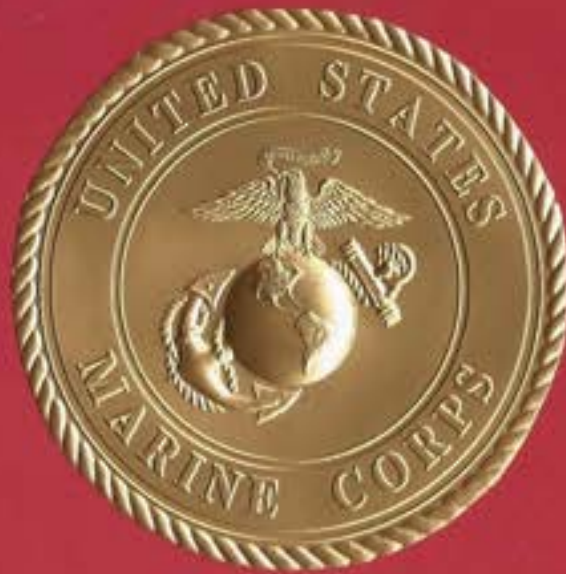




*248th
United States
Marine Corps
Birthday Ball*





*It is not something that can be inherited, nor can it be purchased.
No amount of money will buy it. It is not for sale and it may not be borrowed.
It isn't a birthright and it doesn't come easily. It must be earned. It requires honor,
courage and commitment. Its reward is the result of hard work and even spilled
blood. It is a sacrifice. It remembers those lives that went before. Once earned, it can
never be taken away. You, and the brotherhood of the Corps, maintain it forever;
the title*

United States Marine.



4 November 2023

It is my distinct honor on behalf of the Central-Pa Marine Associates (CPAMA) to welcome you to our United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

We celebrate this day, that on 10 November 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. On that day in 1775, the Continental Marines were established. Not only celebratory ... reflective is how we spend this day. We reflect on the customs and traditions of the illustrious history of our Corps - the past, the present, and into the future. We reflect on the men and women who dedicated their service to our country and to our Corps; and, let us collectively honor every fallen Marine that sacrificed and gave all

This year's ball highlights the 248th year of Dedicated and Distinguished Service to Our Nation! A breed of "Devil Dogs" that has been at the ready to answer this nation's call to defend her, in every clime and place.

Whether a Marine, veteran from another branch of the Armed Forces, or simply American Patriots who love our Marine Corps, thank you for your support; most of all, thank you for what you have done for our Veterans, and our Great Nation.

The members of CPAMA look forward to being together with you at next year's ball on 16 November 2024 at the Penn Harris Hotel, to resume our celebration.

Once a Marine, Always a Marine!
Happy Birthday and "Semper Fidelis"

L. E. Braxton

Larry E. Braxton
USMC/MSgt/Retired
President





Marine Corps League Department of PA

Thank you, to the Central PA Marine Association, on behalf of the Marine Corps League, Department of Pennsylvania, for inviting us to participate in your birthday celebrations this evening. The Marine Corps League was founded to help in preserving traditions like the celebration of our birthday, and we are honored to do that. In addition, we strive to provide fraternity with Marines and their families. I can't think of a better time to do that than while celebrating the 248th birthday of our beloved Corps. Since 10 November 1921, Marines have paused wherever they were and whatever they were doing to recognize and celebrate the birth of our Marine Corps. Our formal celebration is a little early this year, but we will celebrate with all due pomp and circumstance the founding of this great organization that has made us brothers and sisters.

It is with great pride that the Marine Corps League, founded to preserve the traditions of the Corps and ensure that those who follow our footsteps and their families are supported, is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2023. The League is dedicated to fostering the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism that makes this nation what it is.

We do this with our support of Toys for Tots, participating in Funeral Honors, and helping Marines and their families in times of need. We also have established programs for Marksmanship, scholarships, Scouting, and recognizing ROTC and JROTC members.

During the course of the coming months, I look forward to forging stronger links with the Marines of Echo Co 225, as well as other Marine units and veterans living in the wonderful state of Pennsylvania.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a very Happy Birthday this evening and hope that you enjoy the comradery and festivities this evening, and safe travels when you depart.

Semper Fi,

Diana Henry
Commandant
Marine Corps League
Department of Pennsylvania



Sequence of Events

COCKTAIL HOUR

**MASTER OF
CEREMONIES**

**CARLA J. SANDS,
FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO
KINGDOM OF DENMARK**

MARINE CORPS PRAYER

**SHERRI B. CHIPPO,
CAPTAIN, USMC VETERAN**

POW/MIA READING

**MESSAGE FROM THE
COMMANDANT OF
THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS &
SERGEANT MAJOR OF
THE U.S. MARINE CORPS**

**GENERAL ERIC M. SMITH
SERGEANT MAJOR CARLOS A. RUIZ**

WELCOME

**MUSIC AND
CEREMONIAL
PRESENTATIONS**

**"THE COMMANDANT'S OWN"
USMC DRUM & BUGLE CORPS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE
COLORS**

NATIONAL ANTHEM

**CAKE CUTTING
CEREMONY**

**COLONEL WILLIAM P. DONNELLY III
SENIOR MARINE INSTRUCTOR
U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE, CARLISLE,
PA.**



Sequence of Events

**MESSAGE FROM THE
13TH COMMANDANT OF
THE MARINE CORPS**

GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE

**RETIREMENT OF THE
COLORS**

**U.S ARMED FORCES
SONG MEDLEY**

DINNER

**GUEST OF HONOR
INTRODUCTION**

**COLONEL MICHAEL RUDOLPH,
USMC, RETIRED**

**GUEST OF HONOR
MESSAGE**

**GENERAL JAMES T. CONWAY
34TH COMMANDANT,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
RETIRED**

REMARKS

**DIANA K. HENRY,
DEPARTMENT OF PA COMMANDANT,
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

**CHESTY SPONSORSHIP
RECOGNITION**

DANCE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES

PAST & PRESENT

248th Birthday Ball Challenge Coin



Challenge coins have a long history within the militaries of the United States and, indeed, around the world. Starting out as a form of identification, there is a tale of a downed World War I American pilot making his way back to friendly lines and showing his challenge coin as his only form of identification to the French soldiers. The French recognized the unit crest and rather than executing the would-be prisoner, gave him a bottle of wine and escorted him back to American positions. Today, challenge coins have been widely adopted not only throughout the military, but often by first responders such as police and fire units. Those in possession of a challenge coin are supposed to carry one on them at all times. If someone shows their coin in challenge to another, and the other person cannot produce their coin, they owe the challenger a drink. If they do have their coin, the challenger must buy.

Coins have also evolved to serve purposes of unit spirit and morale, and as an on-the-spot award or recognition. We are pleased this year to be recognizing the contribution of our sponsors through the presentation of challenge coins commemorating the 248th USMC Birthday.



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MARINE
ASSOCIATES

A NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION
501 (C)(3)

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1775-2023

The Army Song

Verse:

March along, sing our song, with the
Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who
have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our
name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim

Chorus:

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Refrain:

Then it's hi! hi! hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and
strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.



Marine Corps Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea.
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean; We are
proud to claim the title
Of United States Marines.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun; We have
fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun.
In the snow of far-off Northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes; You will
find us always on the job--The United
States Marines

Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve; In
many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve.
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes, They
will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines.



The Navy Song

Stand Navy out to sea, fight our battle
cry!

We'll never change our course so
vicious foes steer shy-y-y-y!
Roll out the TNT, anchors aweigh!
Sail on to victory, and sink their
bones to Davy Jones, hooray!

Anchors Aweigh, my boys, Anchors
Aweigh!
Farewell to foreign Shores, we sail at
break of day-ay-ay-ay;
Through our last night ashore, drink
to the foam,
Until we meet once more, here's
wishing you a happy voyage home!

Blue of the mighty deep, Gold of
God's great sun;
Let these our colors be, Till All of
time be done-n-n-ne;
On seven seas we learn, Navy's stern
call:
Faith, courage, service true, With
honor over, honor over all.



The Air Force Song

(Verse I)

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

(Verse II)

Brilliant minds fashioned a crate of thunder,
Sent it high into the blue;
Valiant hands blasted the world asunder;
How they lived God only knew!
Boundless souls dreaming of skies to conquer
Gave us wings, ever to soar!
With scouts before and bombers galore. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

(Verse III)

Here's a toast to the host
Of those who love the vastness of the sky,
To a friend we send a message of the brave who
serve on high.
We drink to those who gave their all of old
Then down we roar to score the rainbow's pot of
gold.
A toast to the host of those we boast, the U.S. Air
Force!



Space Force Anthem

To the Moon, to Mars,
Into space, far beyond,
The future of our country lies in the stars.
We march onwards!

Deep into the darkest night,
We shall bear a torch of light,
We defy the abyss with all of our might.
We fight! We are!
The United States Space Force!

We fly upwards, blast through the void,
And we rise into space, fighting for freedom.
All of mankind looks to our people
To safeguard the peace in the search for
salvation.

We swear to be defenders of Earth.
We are The United States Space Force.
We march onwards!

The future of our great nation lies in our
determination
To triumph with glory into the stars.
We march onwards!

Not a foe nor any terror, not an alien invader,
Shall hinder our destiny to go forth.
We fight! We are!
The United States Space Force!



The Coast Guard Song

From Aztec shore to Arctic zone, to Europe
and Far East.
The Flag is carried by our ships in times of
war and peace;
And never have we struck it yet in spite of
foe-men's might,
Who cheered our crews and cheered again
for showing how to fight.

Chorus:

So here's the Coast Guard marching song,
We sing on land or sea.
Through surf and storm and howling gale,
High shall our purpose be.
"Semper Paratus" is our guide, Our fame,
our glory too,
To fight to save or fight and die! Aye!
Coast Guard we are for you!

Verse 2

"Surveyor" and "Narcissus," The "Eagle" and
"Dispatch,"
The "Hudson" and the "Tampa," These
names are hard to match;
From Barrow's shores to Paraguay, Great
Lakes or Ocean's wave,
The Coast Guard fights through storms and
winds, To punish or to save.





SEMPER

FIDELIS

U. S. MARINE

"THE

COMMANDANT'S

OWN"

DRUM & BUGLE CORPS



10 November 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For 248 years, Marines have earned a reputation as the most disciplined and lethal warfighters in the world. This legacy of honor, courage, and commitment passed on to us was paid for in sweat, blood, and sacrifice. From Belleau Wood to Inchon and Tarawa to Sangin, Marines have stepped forward to defend our Constitution when others either could not or would not. Our history is filled with heroes like Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hershel "Woody" Williams, Private First Class Hector Cafferata Jr., Sergeant Major Dan Daly, and thousands of others who performed acts of bravery which went unseen in the heat of battle. We stand on the shoulders of these Marines, and we owe it to them to earn our title "Marine" each and every day.

Marines have given, and have been willing to give, their lives for Country and Corps in every fight our Nation has entered. Our actions turned back the tide of tyranny in Europe during the Great War, defeated fascism in Asia during World War II, fought for democracy in Korea and Vietnam, and offered the hope of self-determination in the Middle East. We go to war whenever our Nation calls, and in the interwar periods we train, we prepare, and we innovate. We have chosen a life of service and sacrifice – an honorable life that has meaning. We sacrifice so our fellow citizens don't have to, and we seek nothing in return but a chance to be first to fight. Most will never understand why we choose to attack when others do not, why we revel in being covered in mud, why we snap to attention when "The Marines' Hymn" is played, or why we say, "Ooh Rah." We understand it, and this message is for us, for the Marines.

As Marines, we live on a war footing because someone must. This means that we ruthlessly adhere to our standards of excellence – Marine standards – as we know this will best prepare us for the wars of the future. Our high standards are a prerequisite of professional warfighting, and how we keep our honor clean in the cauldron of combat. They prepare us for the most difficult mission there is: fighting from and returning to the sea. Most importantly they shape our unique Marine culture which is respected at home and across the globe.

Sergeant Major Ruiz and I are proud of all that you have done this past year to protect and enhance our reputation as America's best warriors. We hope you know that we will be with you every step of the way as we prepare for the fights ahead. We ask that every Marine - active, reserve, and veteran - honor the legacy of those who went before us by continuing to uphold our high standards.

Protect your fellow Marines and our shared legacy. Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Guest of Honor



GENERAL JAMES T. CONWAY USMC (RETIRED)

34th Commandant Of The United States Marine Corps

General James T. Conway, the 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, was born in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, on 26 December 1947 and is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University. He was commissioned in 1970 as an infantry officer. His company grade assignments included multiple platoon and company commander billets with both the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions; Executive Officer of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63); series and company commander at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California; aide to the Commanding General, and Director, Sea School.

As a field grade officer, he commanded two companies of officer students and taught tactics at The Basic School; he also served as operations officer for the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit to include contingency operations off Beirut, Lebanon; and as Senior Aide to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Promoted to lieutenant colonel, he was reassigned to the 2d Marine Division as Division G-3 Operations Officer before assuming command of 3d Battalion, 2d Marines in January 1990. He commanded Battalion Landing Team 3/2 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Selected for colonel, he served as the Ground Colonels' Monitor, and as Commanding Officer of The Basic School. His general officer duties included Deputy Director of Operations, J-34, Combating Terrorism, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.; and President, Marine Corps University at Quantico, Virginia. After promotion to major general, he assumed command of the 1st Marine Division. In November 2002, MajGen Conway was promoted to lieutenant general and assumed command of the I Marine Expeditionary Force. He commanded I Marine Expeditionary Force during two combat tours in Iraq. In 2004, he was reassigned as the Director of Operations, J-3, Joint Staff, in Washington, D.C. Gen Conway assumed the duties of Commandant of the Marine Corps on 14 November 2006. He retired from the Marine Corps on 1 November 2010.

General Conway graduated with honors from The Basic School, the U.S. Army Infantry Officers' Advanced Course, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the Air War College.

General Conway's personal decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with palm, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.



Corporal GEORGE IVANOFF, USMC

George Ivanoff was born in Harrisburg PA on February 24, 1925. He attended High School at Harrisburg Catholic. He left High School early to join the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943.

After his initial training he was designated an Infantryman. He was assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division and deployed to the Pacific. His first action was on the Island of Peleliu. After fighting there for a short period of time his Corpsman was wounded. While he was carrying him out to be medevacked a mortar shell landed near them and killed the Corpsman he was carrying. George was also wounded and was medevacked to the Hospital Ship AD Admiral Allen.

After his recovery he was sent back to join his unit. He was promoted from Private First Class to Corporal upon his return. His unit's next assignment would be the attack and landing on Okinawa, Japan. He had been fighting on Okinawa for 45 days when he was advancing toward an enemy position, he jumped in an artillery shell hole. When he looked out to try to spot the enemy he was shot through the face. He passed out and was unconscious for an unknown period of time. When he regained consciousness, he felt a huge hole in his face. George thought that he would certainly die so he asked the Lord to forgive him of his sins. He laid back down and went unconscious again thinking that he would never wake up again.

When Corporal Ivanoff woke up once again he couldn't believe that he was still alive. He looked around and saw a couple of Marines hiding behind some rocks so he went over them. The sniper that shot George was hiding and still shooting at them. He said to the other Marines give me a Rifle and I will take this sniper out, because I am going to die anyway. They pushed him away and said get out of here.

Then some Marines and a Corpsman came and found him they put him on a stretcher and carried him to the Hospital Tent. A chaplain gave him his last rights and again Corporal Ivanoff thought that this was it he would die on the stretcher. Evidently all the Docs and Nurses thought he was dead, so they didn't attend to him. Finally, a doctor came over and said "Hey this guy is still alive". Miraculously, George was stabilized by the Docs and Nurses who attended to his wounds.



Youngest Marine



LANCE CORPORAL EDUARDO ZAGADAHERNANDEZ

Lance Corporal Eduardo Zagada-Hernandez was born on March 30th 2003, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Upon graduating from Southern Durham High School in June 2021, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps out of Recruiting Station Raleigh, North Carolina. Lance Corporal Eduardo Zagada-Hernandez attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina on August 30th, 2021 and graduated November 23rd 2021. After completing recruit training, Lance Corporal Eduardo Zagada-Hernandez was assigned to the School of Infantry to attend Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina, graduating on January 19th 2022. He then attended Military Occupational Specialty School training at the Marine Corps Service Support Schools in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he received the Military Occupational Specialty of 0111 (Administrative Specialist). On February 1st, 2022, Lance Corporal Eduardo Zagada-Hernandez was promoted to Private First Class. In April 2022, Lance Corporal Eduardo Zagada-Hernandez received orders to 4th Marine Corps District, where he currently serves as the Unit Diary Clerk for the District's Personnel Administration Section where he supports the daily administrative needs of over 850 Marines, Sailors, and civilians. On October 1st, 2022, he was promoted to his current rank of Lance Corporal. Lance Corporal Zagada-Hernandez's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award), and a Letter of Appreciation. Lance Corporal Eduardo Zagada-Hernandez's favorite quote is "Who's gonna carry the boats" – David Goggins. Lance Corporal Eduardo Zagada-Hernandez believes it emphasizes the importance of teamwork and perseverance in achieving success in the most challenging situations.



Gold Star Family



Army Specialist Zachary R. Clouser

Specialist Zachary Ryan Clouser was killed in action July 18, 2007 in Iraq. He was 19 years old. Zach graduated from Dover Area High School in 2005 and enlisted in the U.S Army on September 27th , 2005. He completed One Station Unit Training as an 11B Infantryman assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 54th Infantry at Fort Benning Georgia. On February 1st , 2006 he was assigned to 1st Platoon, "Apache" Company 1st Battalion 26th Infantry "Blue Spaders" in Schweinfurt Germany as a M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle Driver. SPC Clouser Deployed August 2006 in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2006-2008. He was always dedicated to mission accomplishment and displayed unwavering courage and commitment to Soldiers, Leaders and the United States Army. SPC Clousers awards and decorations include, The Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Zachary will continue to touch lives through the support of the community & through the Foundation created by his parents Ron and Deb Etheridge.





Marine Cpl Jonathan Dean Faircloth

Corporal Jonathan Dean Faircloth was born in York Pennsylvania on May 7th 1988. The second child of Dean and Beverly Faircloth. He and his brother James were best buddies. Jonathan graduated from Mechanicsburg High School in 2006. He joined the Marine Corps in 2006. Jonathan served as an Aerial Observer Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing from April 2007 to March 2011. During his tour, Jonathan achieved over 4,000 flight hours while serving as a CH53D Aerial Observer. Jonathan successfully flew 408 hours of which 284 were in support of combat operations. He personally trained over six Collateral Duty Inspectors and 10 Plain Captains. For his exemplary service, Corporal Faircloth was awarded Four Air Medals, Two Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Iraq Campaign Medal, The Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Jonathan brought joy and laughter to his peers. All who knew him enjoyed his light hearted attitude and encouragement he gave to others during their long deployments. He would bring laughter to them and was always for the underdog. Jon had a big heart of compassion for others. Jonathan's helicopter came down on the evening of March 29 2011 during training maneuvers in Kaneohe Bay Hawaii.





A1C Trent A. Grove

Trent joined the Air Force and never looked back. He graduated with honors in basic training and distinguished honors in security forces. He had hopes of being a State Police Officer. Trent was selected by his superiors out of 400 candidates to serve on the RAM tactical team. This was a true honor to Trent. He was also chosen while serving overseas to guard the vice president's plane. Trent worked very hard in keeping that promise to serve and protect. He influenced, motivated and guided others toward achievements of a goal. His nickname was "The Golden Boy" which I never knew until passing.

Trent distinguished himself by meritorious service as Response Force Member, 436th Security Forces Squadron, 436th Mission Support Group. His professional and leadership skills were essential to the success of the wings demanding Global Mobility Mission. While performing police services at the DAFB, Trent was the initial responder to an attempted suicide of a senior Airman at the base mortuary, while keeping calm and using verbal tactics he was able to neutralize the situation.

Trent deployed as part of a 13-person team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where he served as a Random Antiterrorism Fire Team member. After returning home Trent was killed in a car crash in December 2007; he lives in the memory of his parents, Robert and Rhonda Grove.





Army 1Lt Robert A. Seidel, III

A 2004 graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point, Rob was Airborne and Air Assault qualified. After graduating from Ranger School, he reported to his assignment as an Infantry Platoon Leader with the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Ft. Drum NY. Rob died May 18, 2006, when his Humvee hit an IED during combat operations in the Abu Ghraib sector of Iraq. Rob had plans to put in for Special Forces on his return from Iraq. Rob's dedication to his country will always be remembered by the Warriors he served with, the many friends, and family; most especially by his parents - Robert II and Sandy Seidel





Marine Capt. Bryan Willard

Bryan Douglas Willard graduated from East Pennsboro High School, Enola, Penna, in June 1990. He attended Lock Haven University where he specialized in sports medicine. After graduating from Lock Haven, he furthered his education by securing accreditation in Mortuary Science and served his apprenticeship at Jesse H. Geigle Funeral Home, Harrisburg Penna. Bryan was attending a military exhibition on City Island, Harrisburg, when he was so impressed, at the age of 27, he decided he wanted to be a member of the Marine Corps, and serve his Country; his only request was that he wanted to fly. Captain Willard was assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, Marine Air Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing II, Marine Expeditionary Force, New River, N.C. His flight training took him to the Naval Aviation Training Center near Pensacola, Florida. During his last leave period in the U.S., Bryan volunteered to fly reconnaissance missions to rescue residents of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He was recognized for his bravery and service in a Time Magazine article in 2005. A decorated Marine helicopter pilot, Captain Willard, at the age of 33 years, died Friday, 17 February 2006, during an anti-terrorist training mission in the Godoria Range area when the CH-53 helicopter crashed in Northern Djibouti on the Horn of Africa, near the Sea of Aden. Bryan is buried in Arlington Cemetery, Section 60.

Article submitted by his mother, Bonita J. Lewis



*World War II
Veterans
"The Greatest Generation"*



Irvin C. Gers, YN3 USN WORLD WAR II - VETERAN

Irvin C. Gers was born August 21, 1926 in Osceola Mills, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. In 1944 he graduated from Osceola Mills High School. Irvin answered the call to service to his country within the military, U.S. Navy, at 18 years of age. His enlisted "boot camp" was spent at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Sampson, New York. His military specialty training, as a Seabee, was spent at Camp Davisville, Rhode Island. Soon after additional Seabee training at Port Hueneme, California, he was assigned to a construction battalion which deployed to islands throughout the South Pacific theater (including Okinawa, Japan) during World War II. Irvin was honorably discharged in 1946 from the U.S. Navy. He returned to his home of record in Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania. He obtained employment with a coal mining company for the next 2 years. During the following 36 years he excelled in a career within the Insurance sector; he retired during 1984. Irvin was married to Alice (Conklin) Gers for 61 years.



World War II Veterans "The Greatest Generation"



William A. Caparella, US Navy WWII

William A. Caparella, was born January 16, 1923, to Italian immigrant parents, Maria Domenica (Sgrignuoli) Caparella and Berardino Caparella, both from the Italian province of Abruzzo. He had three sisters and five brothers. An older sister and brother passed away when they were very young. He grew up during the depression in a South Harrisburg neighborhood called Shipoke. His childhood home still evokes fond memories and stories. In order to help the family finances, he and his brothers would sell fresh vegetables from the family garden to neighbors and other residents of Harrisburg. He also sold newspapers and with that money he was allowed to keep it and buy clothing for himself. For entertainment, his family would invite friends over and roll up the rugs in large rooms and play music and dance. Since they lived on Front Street, he would play football in Riverfront Park and go swimming in the Susquehanna River. Bill's mother passed away when he was 12 years old, which left a lasting effect on his spirit. His father passed away five years later when he was 17 years old. His father signed the deed to the house over to Bill's older sister who was married with the agreement that they would allow the children to continue living there and raise the younger ones.

After high school, he worked in construction helping to build warehouses at Mechanicsburg Naval Depot. In 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy. He was commissioned to become a Seabee because he had knowledge and experience in the construction industry. In the US Navy, he trained at Camp Allen and Camp Perry in Norfolk, VA. He trained with the Marines for combat in Camp Perry. He was sent to the Aleutian Islands and spent much time at Dutch Harbor, Kiska and Attu. He later shipped off to the Pacific island of Ulithi and Guam where he swam near the Challenger Deep of the Mariana Trench; at 7 miles in depth, the deepest part of the ocean on Earth. He was in the Battle of Okinawa while Kamikaze pilots bombed his ship and other ships in the harbor. He and his ship both survived Kamikaze attacks in the South Pacific. He was one of a group of veterans that were the first to fulfill military service and was honorably discharged after three years. After his discharge, he went to work for the Pennsylvania Railroad as a brakeman for a short time and then started his 40+ year- long career with Pennsylvania Power and Light Company. He was married to Flora Margaret (Pinti) Caparella just two months shy of 78 years before she passed away on January 25, 2023. They had three daughters, Victoria, Cathy and Patricia, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. During his life he took Arthur Murray dance lessons, built the home in which he still resides, built an organ and taught himself how to play it and built a computer, and taught himself how to use it. His motto has been to work hard and play hard. In his later years, he took up tennis, golf and swimming to stay in shape and enjoyed reading books about American politics, great classics like The Odyssey and of course, the Bible.

October 1942 - November 1945

Carpenters Mate Second Class Seabees

American Theater Campaign, Aleutian Islands and Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign, Battle of Okinawa

April 1945 - November 1945

** He and the ship he was on survived Kamikaze attacks in the South Pacific.





Sponsorships

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Pennsylvania Foundation, Inc.**



Assisting Marines in Need

***THE MCL OF PENNSYLVANIA FOUNDATION
IS AN INDEPENDENT, 501C(3) CHARITY
ESTABLISHED IN 2009 TO PROVIDE
HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF
ASSISTANCE TO MARINES AND THEIR FAMILIES.***

***THE FOUNDATION DIRECTLY SUPPORTS THE
MCL OF PENNSYLVANIA AND IS THE
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION
AND VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.***

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL marine1975@comcast.net OR CALL (717) 215-0520.

MARINES HELPING MARINES SINCE 2009.



Thank you for allowing us to join you in celebrating the 248th Birthday of our beloved Marine Corps. Here is a little information on who we are:

Marine Corps League ...

An organization for Active, Reserve, Retired, and Veteran US Marines and FMF Navy personnel.

The Marine Corps League is a veterans organization founded to perpetuate the traditions and spirit of all Marines who proudly wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor of the Corps.



There are over 1,000 detachments across the United States.

Membership Eligibility includes:

- Marines with honorable active or reserve service in the US Marine Corps for no less than 90 days active service.
- FMF Navy personnel who have earned the Marine Corps Device and served no less than 90 days with an active Marine FMF Unit.
- Friends and family who want to support the mission of the Marine Corps League are eligible to join as Associate members.

Want to know more about us or how to join? This QR code will take you to a sign up page to put you in contact with a detachment near you. There is no obligation, but there is opportunity to learn more.





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HAPPY 248TH BIRTHDAY USMC!



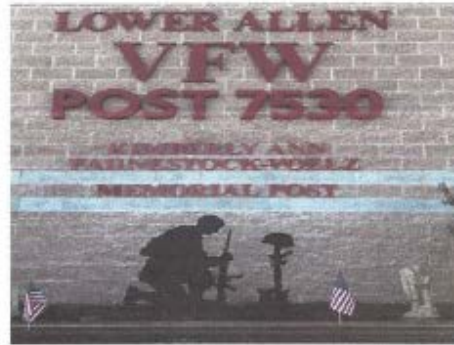
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Our team provides advice, assistance, education, outreach, and advocacy concerning local, state, and federal benefits and services for eligible veterans and their families.

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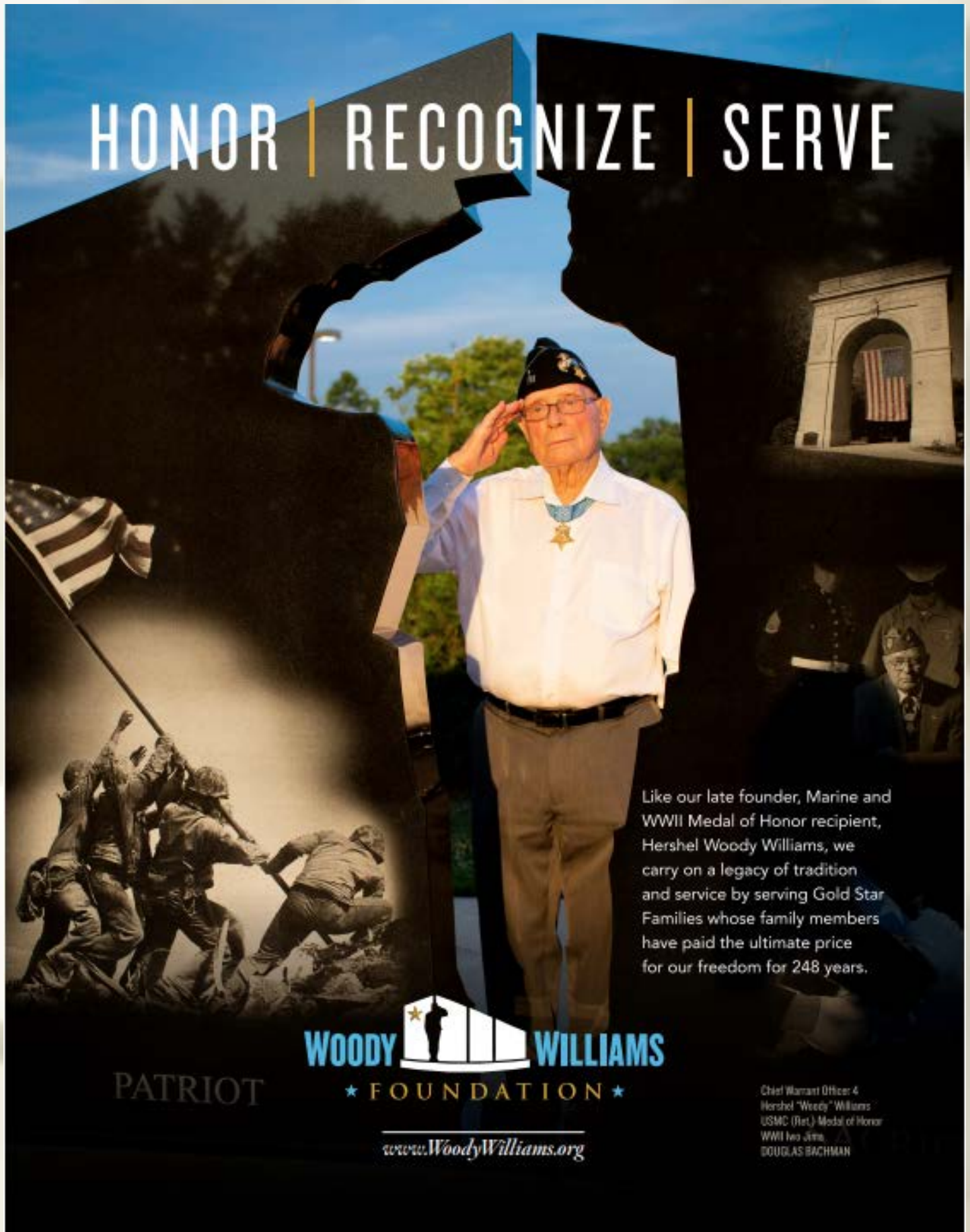


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717.240.6178

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Like our late founder, Marine and WWII Medal of Honor recipient, Hershel Woody Williams, we carry on a legacy of tradition and service by serving Gold Star Families whose family members have paid the ultimate price for our freedom for 248 years.

PATRIOT

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www.WoodyWilliams.org

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Remarks

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