



*247th*

*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.***



5 November 2022

Marines across the globe will recognize and acknowledge 247 years of service to their country, the sacrifices made to defend our democracy, and the United States Marine Corps' enduring legacy as America's premier fighting force.

**On behalf of the Central Pennsylvania Marine Associates, I extend a sincere welcome to our 247th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps;** co-hosted with Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, and, co-sponsored with the Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League.

This evening, take great pride in celebrating annually, a birthday ball for the impetus of preserving the Traditions and illustrious History of our Corps.

The Corps' Birthday celebration is one of the biggest events on the Marine Corps' calendar. It is another occasion to honor and reflect on Marines - past and present; further, this ball is an opportunity to come together in a celebration of "esprit de corps" with our sister Branches of Service and our local Civilian Family.

The Continental Marines were established 10 November 1775. And since that date Marines have defended these United States of America in every climate and place.

"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in this world. Marines don't have that problem." - President Ronald Regan

BE PROUD TO HAVE EARNED THE TITLE "MARINE"  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Semper Fidelis!

Larry E. Braxton, MSgt/USMC Retired  
President

The 248th MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL WILL BE  
4 NOVEMBER 2023 AT THE PENN HARRIS HOTEL  
HARRISBURG (Camp Hill Bypass)



*1775-2022*



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
ECHO COMPANY  
2D BATTALION, 25TH MARINES, 4TH MARINE DIVISION  
2991 NORTH 2D STREET, HARRISBURG,  
PENNSYLVANIA 17110-1298

5 Nov 22

Dear guests,

Thank you for joining us in celebrating the 247<sup>th</sup> birthday of our United States Marine Corps! We are honored to have you here and grateful for your support not only to this event but to all our operations this past year. The last 12 months have seen the Company execute some of its most challenging training, culminating in the resoundingly successful completion of Integrated Training Exercise in Twentynine Palms, California – the Marine Corps' most advanced infantry unit exercise. The events of the world in the last 12 months have also reminded us why we train: we stand ready to defend our Nation, its way of life, and the cause of freedom globally. Tonight, however, we get to briefly secure our watch, don our finest regalia, and celebrate our unit, our fellow Marines, and our Corps.

I hope you enjoy the Birthday Ball tonight, but as you do, I ask one thing: keep in your hearts those who cannot join us today. Marines like Staff Sergeant Chris Slutman and Staff Sergeant Ben Hines of Echo Company, killed in action in Bagram, Afghanistan. Those who have served in in every campaign in every clime and place abroad, paying the ultimate sacrifice so we may gather tonight. Let us honor their legacy tonight. Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

N. R. ABBATE  
MAJOR, USMCR





**DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
P.O. BOX 6687, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112-0687**

November 5, 2022

MARINES, FAMILY, FRIENDS and SUPPORTERS,

The Marine Corps League Department of Pennsylvania is proud to join with all of you in the celebration of the 247<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our United States Marine Corps.

Founded on a cold November day in 1775 in a tavern in Philadelphia by an order of the Second Continental Congress, our Corps helped win our freedom in America's first war. We have since worked tirelessly to protect it – as we heard in the messages from Generals LeJeune & Berger. The smallest military unit in our armed forces, the Marines have served in every American conflict. They really remain the few and the proud. And the unique.

Since the establishment of the Marine Security Guard program in 1948, the State Department and the Marines have forged one of the strongest partnerships in the history of U.S. civilian-military relationships. The Marines who protect our embassies and Diplomatic Missions around the globe are a symbol of American values of integrity, courage, loyalty and commitment to every person who enters the Mission. Marines have risked and sacrificed their lives in defense of our diplomatic missions worldwide and epitomize the Corps' values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and they are specially selected for this assignment.

And since 1947 Marines have played a special role during the Christmas season. OUR Toys for Tots activity celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022 on the simple theme: *Every Child Deserves a Little Christmas*. The Marine Corps League is a critical partner with MARFORRES in this activity and others.

As described by our 37<sup>th</sup> Commandant General Robert Neller the League is the 'alumni association' of the Marine Corps; and as described by 38<sup>th</sup> Commandant General David Berger **'the League is our Legacy.'** The League stands ready to preserve the traditions of our Corps, provide fraternity for active and veteran Marines and promote the future as we support Marines on duty, their families, and our communities.

We invite you to join with us as we enter our centennial year in 2023! Yes, we have a Detachment near you!

BE Always Faithful,

Dave Brady, Commandant



# SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

## COCKTAIL HOUR

## CEREMONY

### HONOR GUARD AND PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

ECHO COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 25TH REGIMENT,  
4TH MARINE DIVISION

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

### MARINE CORPS PRAYER

PASTOR SHELDON AMES

### WELCOME

### RECOGNITION OF "GOLD STAR" FAMILIES

CPL JONATHAN DEAN FAIRCLOTH (MARINE)  
1LT ROBERT A. SEIDEL, III (ARMY)  
CAPT. BRYAN WILLARD (MARINE)

### POW/MIA READING

### MESSAGE FROM THE 13TH COMMANDANT

GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE

### CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY

### SERVICE SONGS



RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS

DINNER

PRESENTATION - THE STAFF SERGEANT  
CHRISTOPHER SLUTMAN & BENJAMIN HINES AWARD

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF  
THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

GEN. DAVID H. BERGER  
&  
SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS  
SGT. MAJ. TROY E. BLACK

GUEST OF HONOR INTRODUCTION

MAJOR CHRISTOPHER KENNEY - USMC  
INSPECTOR-INSTRUCTOR HARRISBURG, PA

GUEST OF HONOR REMARKS

COLONEL KEITH B. BURKEPILE

REMARKS

WARREN GRIFFIN  
NATIONAL SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

"GOD BLESS THE USA"

VIDEO RENDITION

DANCE

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

**SSGT ELEAZAR OLIVA**

**ADJUTANT**

**1ST LT JOHN KEPPLER**

**HONOR GUARD**

**CAPT NICHOLAS BERGER    CAPT BRENDAN DOUGHERTY**  
**GYSGT JUSTIN SMITH        SSGT JAMES MARTINEZ**  
**SGT JOSE RODAS            SGT VALLIANT COCCHI**  
**CPL JACOB MURAWSKI        CPL ROBERT LEWULLIS**

**COLOR GUARD**

**SGT JARRED DRONEBURG    CPL JACOB COPPOLA**  
**LCPL CAMRON ANDERSON    LCPL MIGUEL AMARO**

**CAKE CUTTING DETAIL**

**LCPL ANTHONY ASHFORD**  
**LCPL CHRISTOPHER O'DONNELL**  
**LCPL SETH STERNBERG**  
**LCPL KYLE SUMMERS**

**GUARD/DETAIL - ALTERNATES**

**LCPL KEVIN KAHWATY        LCPL DAVID MILLER**  
**PFC LAIF JENNING            PFC KEVIN SCOTT**





## 247TH USMC BIRTHDAY 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 247th USMC Birthday.



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# 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.





GUEST OF HONOR

COLONEL KEITH B. BURKEPILE





## Colonel Keith E. Burkepile

Colonel Burkepile is originally from Carlisle, Pennsylvania and is a 1992 graduate of West Virginia University where he earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1985 and attained the rank of Sergeant in the Marine Corp Reserve prior to attending Officer Candidates Course in January of 1994. He immediately attended The Basic School and Officer Basic Course at Ft Sill which upon graduating he was given the designation of field artillery officer.

His initial assignment was to Battery "I", Third Battalion, Eleventh Marine Regiment where he served as a Forward Observer, Fire Direction Officer, and Executive Officer. After two and a half years in Battery "I", he was assigned as the battalion maintenance management officer/embarkation officer/S-4A.

In January of 1998, First Lieutenant Burkepile was transferred to Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Atlantic at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Norfolk, Virginia and subsequently promoted to Captain. He was assigned as a fire support instructor and course manager for the fire support coordination course. He also instructed in the Tactical Air Control Party course that certified forward air controllers, Special Operations Spotters Course, and Supporting Arms Coordination Center Course. In March of 2000, Captain Burkepile attended the Field Artillery Captains Career Course at Ft Sill Oklahoma and graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduate.

In August of 2000, Captain Burkepile was assigned to First Battalion, Twelfth Marine Regiment in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He initially served as Assistant Liaison Officer to Third Marine Regiment and then was assigned as the Assistant Operations Officer. Captain Burkepile assumed command of Battery "C" in November of 2001 and executed a unit deployment to Okinawa. He relinquished command of Battery "C" in May of 2003.

In June of 2003, Captain Burkepile was transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. He was assigned as Battalion Executive of Support Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment and subsequently promoted to Major in September 2003. In March 2004, he was assigned as Director of Drill Instructor School and held that position until May of 2006.

In May of 2006, Major Burkepile was transferred to Officer Candidates School, Quantico Virginia. He was assigned as Commander of Company "K". In July of 2006, Major Burkepile was assigned as a student to the School of Advanced Warfighting and graduated in June of 2007 with a Master's Degree in Operational Studies.

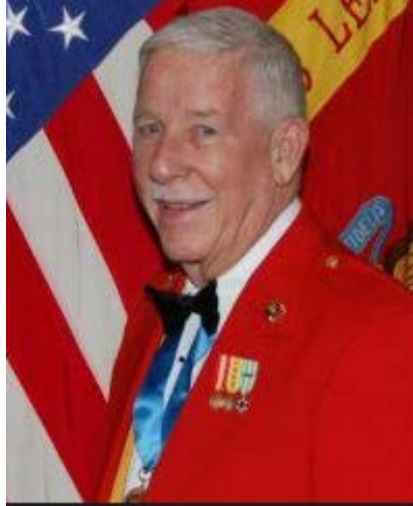
In June of 2007, Major Burkepile was assigned as a planner in II Marine Expeditionary Force and immediately deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. He was assigned as a Ground Combat Element planner, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). He redeployed in February of 2008. He again assumed duties as a planner in II Marine Expeditionary Force and was reassigned to II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) in June of 2008. Major Burkepile deployed in support of OIF 09 as the Deputy Team Chief/ Operations and Plans Officer for the Anbar Operations Command Advisor Team. He redeployed in September 2009.

Lieutenant Colonel Burkepile was assigned as Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion 10th Marines from 4 December 2009 to 22 November 2011. He assumed duties as the 10th Marine Regiment Executive Officer on 5 December 2011. In July 2012 he was assigned as a student to the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy and graduated in June 2013 as a Distinguished Graduate with a Master of Science degree. He assumed duties at USAFRICOM, J5 in July 2013 serving as Branch Chief of Future Plans and Campaign Plans. He assumed duties as II MEF Future Operations and Plans Officer in July 2016 and was promoted to his present rank on 1 October 2016. Colonel Burkepile was assigned as Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Forces Pacific from 7 July 2017 – 3 July 2019.

Colonel Burkepile reported to the U.S. Army War College in July of 2019.

His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star, and the Selective Marine Corps Reserve Medal. He is married to the former Kimberly Harms of Oak Park, Illinois; they have three sons, Marcus (25), Wyatt (17), and Benjamin (13).

**SPECIAL DIGNITARY**  
**WARREN GRIFFIN**  
**NATIONAL SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT**  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**



Graduated from Natick High School in 1967. Enrolled in Framingham State College. After 1 year left to join the Marine Corps. Graduated from Parris Island in Dec 1968. Attended Naval Shore Control Party School in Little Creek, VA. Stationed with 2nd ANGLICO at Camp Lejeune. Volunteered for duty in Viet Nam. Camp Pendleton staging then after which was assigned to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA to study Vietnamese. Assigned to Viet Nam 4th Marines in Dong Ha for 3 weeks then volunteered to remain in Viet Nam as the 4th Marines were being rotated out of country. Assigned to 1st ANGLICO Sub Unit 1 in the Mekong Delta for the rest of the tour working with the 21st ARVN Division. Returned to Framingham State College graduated in 1973 with a BA in History. 1976 MA in Guidance and Counseling from Framingham State College. Graduated Certificate from U Mass Boston 1992. Boston School Department 1971 – 2006. Custodian, social studies teacher, special ed teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal. Joined the Marine Corps League as a member of the 1st detachment of the new millennium the Metrowest Detachment 1037 in January 2000. Held all elected positions in the detachment. Appointed by Commandant Richard Gore as the Department of Massachusetts Legislative Officer for the Marine Corps League in 2007. Served in all elected positions for the Dept of Mass culminating with Dept Commandant 2012 – 14. Served as National Assistant Vice Commandant 2015, National Division Vice Commandant 2016 -17, National Judge Advocate 2017 -19, National Junior Vice Commandant 2019 – 21, National Senior Vice presently. Married Cheryl Lynn Souza 2003





# OLDEST MARINE

## Paul Hastings Major USMC (Ret)

On March 1, 1950, Paul Hastings a 17 year old high school senior enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve unit in Harrisburg Pennsylvania. After graduation in June 1950, he attended Amphibious training at Little Creek, Virginia. At the outbreak of the Korean War the Reserve Unit was ordered to active duty in August 1950. Paul transferred to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Marines in Quantico then reassigned to the Schools Demonstration unit at Quantico where he served the remainder of his 18 months of active duty. He returned home and was immediately accepted for return to active duty with the Inspector-Instructor staff of the newly reformed Reserve Unit in Harrisburg.



While serving with the I-I staff Paul was selected for commissioning under the Meritorious NCO Program. Following his officer training, Paul was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division where he served as the Executive Officer and then Commanding Officer of E-2-3. Following his overseas assignment he served in several units throughout the Corps including Marine Corps Base, Camp LeJeune, the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, then again with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division on Okinawa, the Marine Corps Supply Activity in Philadelphia, the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina, the Republic of Vietnam and lastly at the Headquarters, Fleet Marine Forces in Hawaii where he served until being ordered to the Philadelphia Naval Hospital for processing in connection with a medical disability. He subsequently was placed on the disability retired list of Marines on April 1, 1972.

Hastings served in the enlisted grades Private through Technical Sergeant and as an officer of Marines, Second Lieutenant through Major. He is authorized to wear the Korean Serve Medal, United Nations Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal with "V", and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal. In addition, he earned the Marine Corps' Silver Distinguished Marksmanship Badge.

Hastings is a life member of several Veteran organizations, including the Marine Corps League; The Veterans of Foreign Wars; the American Legion; the Disabled American Veterans; the AMVETS; the Retired Officers Association; the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association and the Navy League.

Hastings became very active in the Marine Corps League and he was elected to the office of National Commandant of the Marine Corps League after serving at the Detachment and Department levels. In 1984, Governor Dick Thornburgh appointed Paul to serve as the Vietnam Veteran representative on the Pennsylvania Veterans Commission. He was re-appointed by several Governors to continue serving until 2010. In 1991, he was elected Chairman of the PA Veteran's Commission and his peers re-elected him annually for the next 19 years. He was also appointed to serve on the PA Veterans Memorial Commission and the Vietnam Veterans Herbicide Commission. Hastings was awarded two Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medals and the Commendation Medal by the PA National Guard. Paul was one of the initial six veterans to be inducted into the Pennsylvania Veteran's "Hall of Fame". Paul also served as Executive Director of the U. S. Marines Youth Foundation.

Upon his retirement from the Marine Corps he became an independent businessman starting P. Hastings Corporation in New Cumberland until he retired. Hastings remarried Carol after the loss of his first wife, Joan. Joan and Paul were married for 60 years and were the proud parents of Gary, Dona and Jodi. He and Carol reside in Michigan enjoying their retirement years by the lake. Paul and Carol enjoy spending time with family to include, his three children and their spouses, eleven grand- children and twenty great- grandchildren in Pennsylvania as well as Carol's family in Michigan.



# YOUNGEST MARINE

## PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RYAN BONILLAJUSTINIANO

Born on October 6th, 2003. He was raised in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and enlisted into the Marine Corps Reserve as an infantryman. PFC Bonillajustiniano is currently assigned to Echo Company, 2d Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment.



# GOLD STAR FAMILIES

## **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.

## **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 2 nd Battalion, 22 nd Infantry, 1 st Brigade Combat Team, 10 th 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.

# GOLD STAR FAMILIES



## **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

# *Sponsors*



THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF  
CENTRAL PA MARINE ASSOCIATES'  
**247<sup>th</sup> MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL**



*The Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania  
consists of 70+ Detachments supporting over 30 programs  
supporting Marine Veterans, their families, and our mission of  
Preserving Traditions, Providing Fraternity and Promoting the Future*

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P. HASTINGS CORPORATION



# Happy 247th Birthday United States Marine Corps!

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## **Walnut Bottom Gulf**

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# Happy 247th Birthday USMC!



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## WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL POST 109

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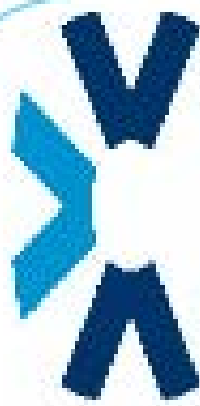
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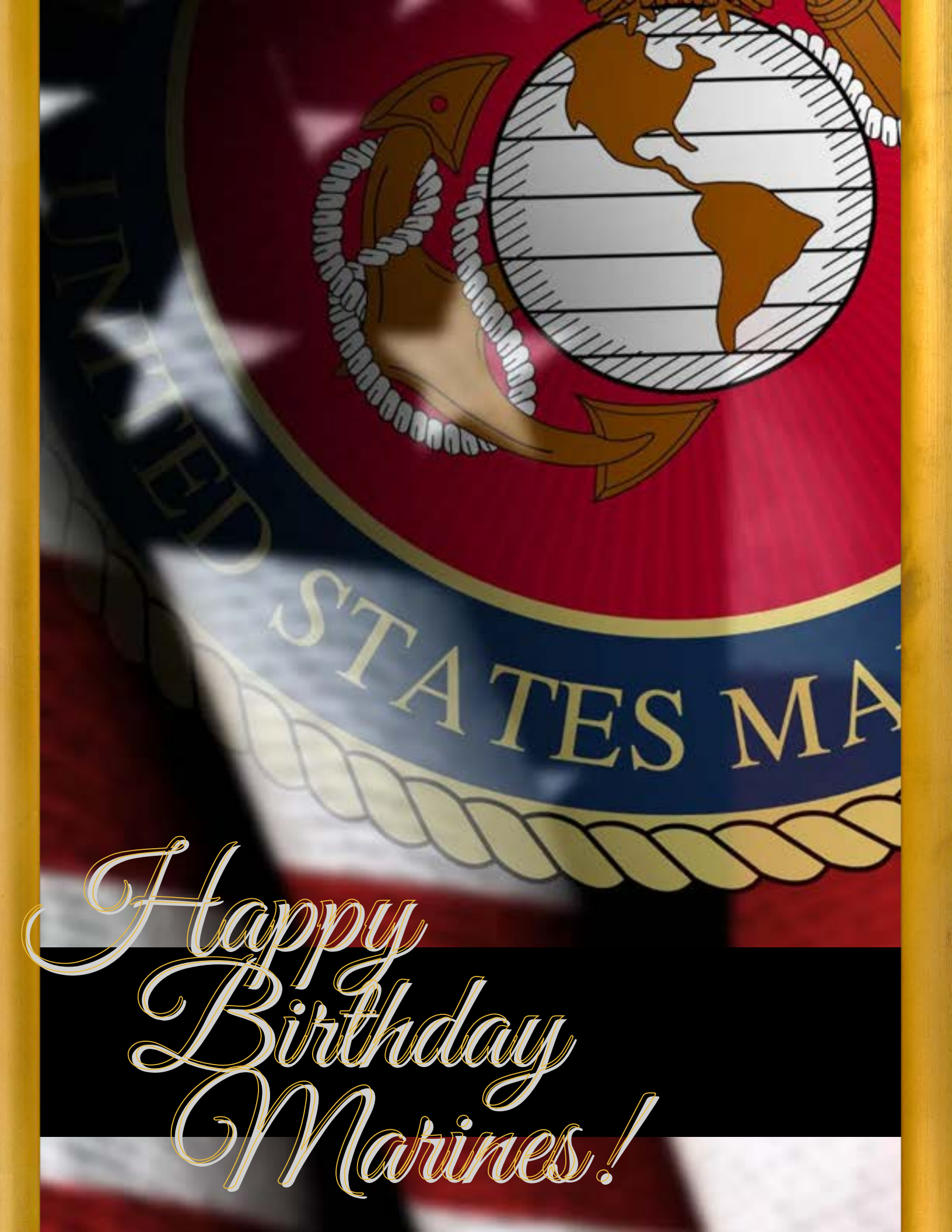
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