



The 249th

**UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS**

Birthday Ball



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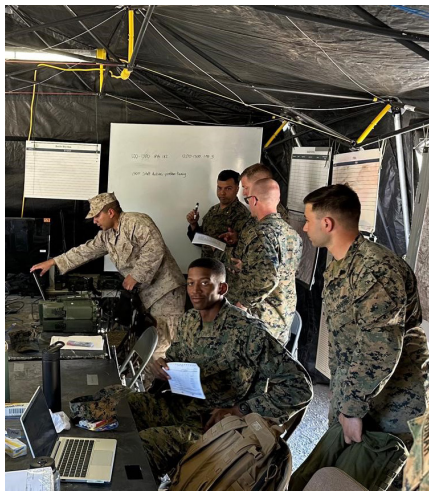
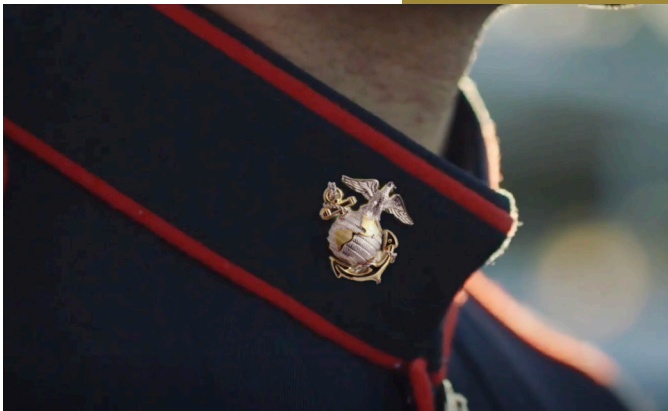
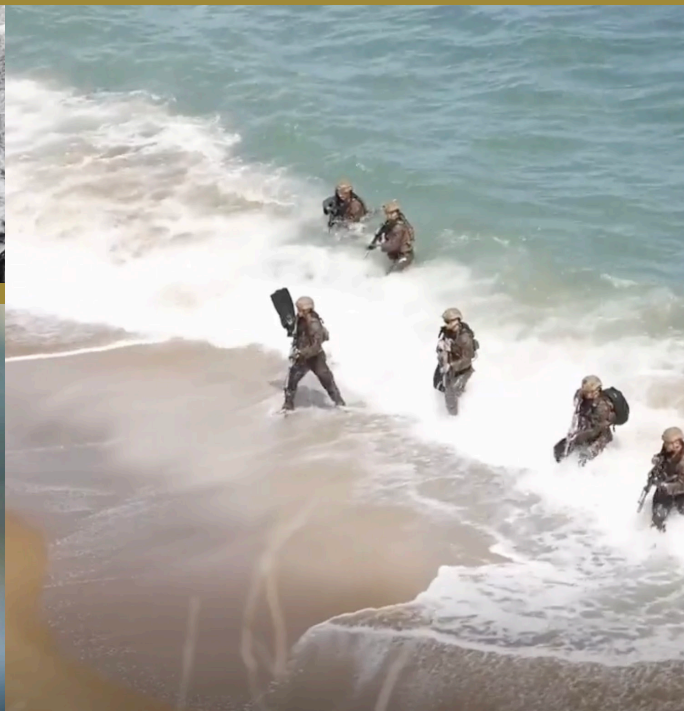
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Special Thanks



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.





UNCOMMON VALOR

Tonight, as we gather in celebration, we are reminded of the enduring legacy of the United States Marine Corps. From the hallowed grounds of Arlington, where the Iwo Jima Memorial stands in tribute, to every battlefield where Marines have given their lives in defense of our nation since 1775, we honor the bravery, sacrifice, and commitment of those who have come before us.



Welcome to the Central Pennsylvania Marine Associates United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball, celebrating the 249th Birthday of our Nation's Marine Corps!

On 10 November 1775, in Philadelphia, the Continental Congress passed a resolution that "two Battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces for Continental Navy. Since that day, Marines have celebrated the birth of our Corps by remembering the Marines who served before us at places like Tripoli, Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, Chosin Reservoir, Khe Sahn, Grenada, Fallujah, and Helmand Province, among others.

Marines have fought in every clime and place, distinguishing themselves in battle, taking care of the Marine on their right and on their left flank. There is no other brotherhood like earning the title of United States Marine, an earned title that we retain for the rest of our lives.

We reflect on the customs, traditions, and the battle tested mettle and history of our Corps. And tonight, we honor our fellow Marines who sacrificed their lives in defense of our Nation by placing the "fallen Marine" table front and center.

This year, we celebrate the 249th year of our Corps' distinguished existence as our Nation's premier military service. We also welcome Veterans of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard whom we are proud to serve alongside as our teammates in defending our Nation. We appreciate the support of all American Patriots who love our Corps and have joined us tonight – thank you for your continued support of all military Veterans!

We look forward to celebrating the 250th Marine Corps Birthday next year on 1 November 2025 here at the Penn Harris Hotel.

Happy 249th Birthday Marines and "Semper Fidelis!"

L. E. Braxton

Larry E. Braxton

Master Sergeant, US Marine Corps (Ret)

President, Central Pennsylvania Marine Associates



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
COMPANY E
2D BATTALION 25TH MARINES
4TH MARINE DIVISION
2991 NORTH 2ND STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17110-1298

16 Nov 2024

Dear guests,

Thank you for joining us in celebrating the 249th 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 Mountain Warfare Training Exercise in Bridgeport, California – where Echo Marines relentlessly pushed their physical and mental limits to fight and win in treacherous terrain and tough conditions. 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 every campaign in every clime and place abroad, paying the ultimate sacrifice so we may gather tonight. Let us honor their legacy and never forget. Happy Birthday Marines!

Alexander LaBruno

A. J. LABRUNO



Sgt. Ben Hines, far left, **Sgt. Christopher Slutman**, back center, and **Sgt. Robert Hendriks**, far right, were killed by an improvised roadside explosive device that detonated near their vehicle in Afghanistan.

Source: LIHerald.com, courtesy Felicia Arculeo





MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Welcome to all, and thank you for allowing us to join you in celebrating the 249th Birthday of our beloved Marine Corps. Here is a little information on who we are: A veterans organization for Active, Reserve, Retired, and Veteran US Marines and FMF Navy personnel.

We were 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 Nationwide, with Pennsylvania being home to over 65 of them.

Membership Eligibility includes:

- Marines with honorable active or reserve service in the U.S. 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.

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 have also established programs for Marksmanship, scholarships, Scouting, and recognizing ROTC and JROTC cadets.

I hope that everyone enjoys great comradery this evening, and safe travels to all when you depart.

Semper Fi,

Diana Henry
Commandant
Marine Corps League
Department of Pennsylvania

Sequence OF EVENTS

Cocktail Hour	
Narrator Of Ceremonies	Staff Sergeant Eleazar J. Olivia
Presentation Of The Colors	Echo Company, 2dBn, 25th Marines
National Anthem	Matthew A. Robinson , Baritone
Marine Corps Prayer	Sherri B. Chipppo, Captain, USMC Veteran
Welcome	
Recognition of Distinguished Guests	
POW/MIA Reading	
Message From The 13th Commandant Of The Marine Corps	General John A. Lejeune
Cake Cutting Ceremony	Colonel William P. Donnelly III, Senior Marine Instructor, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA
U.S Armed Forces Service Songs	
Retirement Of The Colors	
Dinner	
Presentation	The Staff Sergeant Christopher Slutman & Benjamin Hines Award
Message From the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps	General Eric M. Smith
Guest Of Honor	Introduction: Colonel Michael Rudolph, USMC, Retired Guest Of Honor: Lieutenant General Robert R. Ruark, USMC, Retired
Remarks	Diana K. Henry, Department Of PA Commandant, Marine Corps League
Chesty Sponsorship Recognition	
God Bless the USA—Video	
Dance	



249th 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 to recognize the contribution of our sponsors through the presentation of challenge coins commemorating the 249th USMC Birthday.



CENTRAL-PA
MARINE
ASSOCIATES

A non-profit charitable organization 501(c)(3)

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U.S. ARMED FORCES *Service Songs*

We invite you to enjoy a special performance of the U.S. Armed Forces Service Songs. Each branch of the military has a proud tradition of music that has inspired service members throughout history. Once a vital part of the battlefield, military bands led formations into combat, boosting morale and courage.

Though their role has shifted to ceremonial duties, the powerful music continues to honor those who have served, are serving, and have made the ultimate sacrifice.

These service songs celebrate the unique histories of America's Armed Forces and offer a tribute to the enduring spirit of our military and their families.



THE ARMY SONG

U.S. ARMY



VERSE

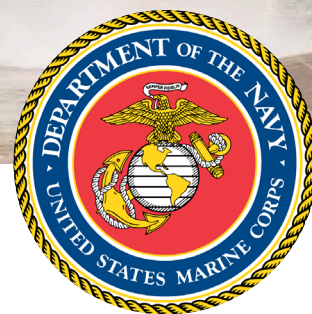
March along, sing our song,
with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true,
who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

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.



MARINES' HYMN

U.S. MARINE CORPS

VERSE 1

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
Marine.

VERSE 2

Our flag's unfurled to every
breeze From dawn to
setting sun;
We have fought in ev'ry 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.

VERSE 3

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

U.S. NAVY



VERSE 1

Stand Navy out to sea,
Fight our battle cry;
We'll never change our
course,
So vicious foe steer shy-y-y-y.
Roll out the TNT,
Anchors Aweigh.
Sail on to victory
And sink their bones to Davy
Jones, hooray!

VERSE 2

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.

VERSE 3

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

THE AIR FORCE SONG

U.S. AIR FORCE

VERSE 1

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 2

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 3

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

U.S. SPACE FORCE



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

U.S. COAST GUARD

VERSE 1

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.

Message from the
**COMMANDANT OF THE
U.S. MARINE CORPS**



U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Eric M. Smith

ERIC M. SMITH

GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For 249 years, Marines have served as our Nation's sentinels of freedom. As we celebrate our Corps' birthday this year, I encourage all Marines to reflect on our legacy forged in blood on battlefields since 1775, and to rededicate ourselves to carrying that legacy untarnished into the future. Collectively, we who wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor have an obligation to uphold the ideals of self-discipline, warfighting proficiency, professionalism, and personal conduct that define what it means to be a Marine. I know you are all up to the task.

Twenty years ago this month, Marines fought and won the Second Battle of Fallujah, a brutal, grinding house to house fight, whose victory ultimately paved the way for the stabilization of the Republic of Iraq. Often in Iraq there were no true front lines, and by necessity, Fallujah was a battle in which every Marine fought, demonstrating once again our cornerstone philosophy that Every Marine is a Rifleman.

Our history bears witness to Marines of all stripes picking up their rifles and fighting for Corps and Country when the call came. From Wake Island to the Chosin Reservoir to Khe Sanh to Camp Bastion, every Marine fought. Our future battles will be no different. Our rear areas will be as vulnerable as our front lines and every Marine from our infantry battalions to our aviation squadrons to our headquarters and support elements will have to stand-to when called.

Preparing for the threats of the future requires the same exceptional standards and ironclad discipline that are the hallmarks of our Corps. Twenty years ago in Fallujah, our predecessors staunchly adhered to these virtues, earned our Nation's trust, and ensured the U.S. Marine Corps would remain the most feared fighting force in the world. It is our sworn duty to uphold those standards and stay true to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Though technology and equipment change, the Marine Corps' culture of excellence must not. The road ahead is far from certain, but our ethos will never change — *Every Marine a Rifleman and Everyone Fights*.

As I've said before, it is the honor of my lifetime to be a Marine and serve as your Commandant. I'm proud to stand alongside each of you, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for our Corps. When I travel to visit Marines here at home and deployed around the globe, I find absolute confidence that this generation of Marines has what it takes to uphold our Corps' legacy and prevail in any conflict we face. Happy Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,



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

Guest of Honor & **FEATURED SPEAKER**



ROBERT R. RUARK

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS, RETIRED

Lieutenant General Robert R. Ruark, USMC (Ret.), became the 25th President and Chief Executive Officer of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in late 2022. The Society provided a record \$50M in financial assistance and relief to Sailors, Marines and their families in 2023.

He most recently served nearly 4 years as the Chief Executive Officer at the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation following a 36-year career in the Marine Corps. During his tenure at the Scholarship Foundation, he oversaw significant growth of their client base, scholarship students, average award amounts, outreach and endowment. In 2021, the Scholarship Foundation awarded over 2500 scholarships worth \$9M to the sons and daughters of Marines and Navy Corpsmen who served with Marines.

LtGen Ruark graduated from Miami University (Ohio) via the NROTC program in 1981 and began his career at 2d Battalion, 3d Marines in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, making 3 Western Pacific deployments. Subsequent tours included duties as a Series and Company Commander at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC; in various command and staff positions during multiple Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments at 2d Force Service Support Group, and as the Humanitarian

Intervention Officer at the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy, deploying in 1997 to Kigali, Rwanda. As a Lieutenant Colonel, he attended Penn State University as the Marine Corps Fellow to the SMEAL College of Business. As a Colonel, he commanded Combat Logistics Regiment 35 in Okinawa where his Marines and Sailors earned the 2007 Phoenix Award as the top Maintenance Unit in the Department of Defense.

From 2008-9 he served as the Commanding General of 1st Marine Logistics Group, Multi-National Forces West during combat operations in Iraq. Subsequent assignments included the Director of Logistics J-4 for the US Central Command during Operations IRAQI FREEDOM/ENDURING FREEDOM, Director of the Logistics, J-4, The Joint Staff; and as the Military Deputy to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

He is married to LCDR Christine Coetzee, USN (Ret), who served initially as a Marine Officer and later as a Navy Orthopedic Physician Assistant. They reside in Arlington, VA and enjoy working on their farm in Prince William County and taking care of their 2 shar-peis.





HONORING OUR HEROES

Saluting their Service

In this section, we pay tribute to the remarkable individuals who have served our country with honor and courage. Here, you will find profiles and photographs of our oldest and youngest Marines, as well as heartfelt remembrances from Gold Star Families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving. We also honor our World War II veterans, whose bravery laid a foundation for the freedoms we cherish today. Join us in celebrating their legacies and the enduring spirit of service that unites us all.



OLDEST MARINE

DAWSON EDGAR FLINCHBAUGH

**SERGEANT,
U.S. MARINE CORPS, RETIRED**



SERVICE DETAILS

HOMETOWN: York, PA

ENLISTMENT DATE: October 1962

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY (MOS): Door Gunner, Interpreter

YEARS OF SERVICE: ~3 years of active duty, with continued involvement in Marine Corps Reserves

DEPLOYMENTS:

- 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit to Rota, Spain
- Conducted joint operations in Norway
- Stationed in Da Nang, Vietnam

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS:

- Marine Reserve Unit at Andrews Air Force Base, MD
- 24th MEU, Cherry Point, NC
- Marine Observation Squadron #6 as a door gunner
- Amphibious Assault Ship, LPH Iwo Jima, for naval assault operations

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

- Attended Vietnamese language school for interpreter duties
- University of Miami, Marine PLC program

Dawson was born as a war baby in York, PA; on September 14, 1943, the son of Elaine and Dawson Eli Flinchbaugh who worked at York Corp making tanks during WWII and Korea. From an early age, Dawson was an avid reader, and still remembers his mom bringing him home a book at age 9 entitled "Marines." A dedicated Boy Scout, he earned the Eagle Scout and God and Country awards before graduating from Allegheny High School in 1961.

In 1962, he proceeded to Boot Camp - Paris Island for a life-changing 4 months to become a U.S. Marine. After completing weapons training, Dawson served with a Marine Reserve unit at Andrews Air Force Base, later receiving assignments to Cherry Point, NC, and overseas deployments in Rota, Spain, and Norway. Dawson eventually served in Vietnam as part of Marine Observation Squadron #6, where he trained in Vietnamese, served as an interpreter, and worked as a UH-1 Huey helicopter door gunner. He completed nearly three years of service before returning to the U.S. in 1967.

Dawson and Betsy Ann Oxley were married on November 10, 1976. They lived on a horse farm in Lewisberry, PA with their 4 children for over 12 years where they boarded show horses. In 2001, Dawson opened Flinchy's, a restaurant in Camp Hill, PA with his son Matthew. Over the years, Dawson joined the active reserves and continued to be involved in Marine Corps activities. For over 20 years, he has helped to coordinate an annual Marine Corps birthday luncheon at Flinchy's. He has also been heavily involved with Toys for Tots, both as a volunteer and sponsor. Dawson says that in his life, there have been two things that he achieved that no one can ever take away. Number one, he is an Eagle Scout, and number two, he is a proud United States Marine—Semper Parati!



YOUNGEST MARINE

JACOB J. KEATING

**LANCE CORPORAL,
U.S. MARINE CORPS**

Born on April 11th, 2005, Lance Corporal Keating was raised in Jefferson Township, PA.

At the age of 17, he enlisted in the delayed entry program while completing his senior year of high school. After graduation from North Pocono High School in 2023, Lance Corporal Keating went to Parris Island on July 17th, 2023 to begin Marine Corps Boot Camp.

After completion of Boot Camp, he then proceeded to the Infantry Training Battalion and gained the MOS designation of 0331, Machine Gunner.

LCPL Keating is currently assigned to Echo Company, 2D Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment.



SERVICE DETAILS

HOMETOWN: Jefferson Township, PA

ENLISTMENT DATE: 2022

MOS: 0331, Machine Gunner

YEARS OF SERVICE: 2023 - present

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS:

Echo Company, 2D Battalion, 25th
Marine Regiment

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

- Completed Marine Corps Boot Camp at Parris Island
- Infantry Training Battalion, specializing as a Machine Gunner



GOLD STAR FAMILY

MARTIN WILSON KONDOR

SPECIALIST (SPC),
U.S. ARMY

SERVICE DETAILS

HOMETOWN: York, PA

ENLISTMENT DATE: November 5, 2001

MOS: M240 Machine Gunner

YEARS OF SERVICE: 2001–2004

DEPLOYMENTS: Ba'Qubah, Iraq
(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

- Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for valor
- Purple Heart

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS:

Personal Security Detail (PSD),
Headquarters Company, 3rd
Brigade, 1st Infantry Division

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

- Trained as a "Tanker" with the 1st Infantry Division's 1st/63rd Armor Regiment, Vilseck, Germany
- Intensive security training for convoy and personnel protection
- Machine gunner on M240 Bravo, specializing in high-risk combat situations

Martin Wilson Kondor was born on November 5, 1983, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Cherriney Kondor. He enlisted on November 5, 2001, into the United States Army.

Specialist Martin Wilson Kondor died on April 29, 2004, (age 20) from severe injuries he sustained in combat from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Ba'Qubah, Iraq, on April 9, 2004. SPC Kondor was assigned to a Personal Security Detail (PSD) that was ambushed; he was operating his M240 machine gun while assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SPC Kondor demonstrated personal courage and military excellence in the face of a determined enemy during this devastating ambush. SPC Kondor's exceptional Warrior Spirit saved the lives of many of his fellow warriors, in keeping with those soldierly virtues that reflected great credit upon himself, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and the United States Army. SPC Kondor was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and the Purple Heart for his unquestionable bravery, valor, and gallantry in combat.

The death of Specialist Martin Wilson Kondor inspired an initiative by his parents to establish a healing space for themselves and their community—a space dedicated to our Pennsylvania Fallen and those who serve in the Global War on Terror: **The Veterans Memorial Gold Star Healing and Peace Garden**, located at 1000 Vander Avenue, Memorial Park, York, PA 17403. Website: GoldStarGarden.com



GOLD STAR FAMILY

ROBERT A. SEIDEL, III

FIRST LIEUTENANT,
U.S. ARMY

SERVICE DETAILS

HOMETOWN: Gettysburg, PA
(formerly of Emmitsburg, MD)

ENLISTMENT DATE: West Point, 2004

MOS: Infantry Officer (Platoon Leader)

YEARS OF SERVICE: 2004–2006

DEPLOYMENTS: Baghdad, Iraq

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

- Purple Heart
- Bronze Star Medal
- Army Achievement Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Service Ribbon
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Army Overseas Service Ribbon
- Ranger Tab
- Parachutist Badge

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS:

Rifle Platoon Leader, Company
B, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry
Regiment, 10th Mountain Division,
Fort Drum, NY

EDUCATION & TRAINING:

College: U.S. Military Academy at
West Point, Class of 2004

A 2004 graduate of the United States Military Academy at 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 at Ft. Drum, NY.

Rob died on May 18, 2006, when his Humvee hit an IED during combat operations in the Abu Ghraib sector of Iraq. He had plans to apply for Special Forces upon his return from Iraq.

Rob's dedication to his country will always be remembered by the warriors he served with, his many friends and family, and most especially by his parents, Robert II and Sandy Seidel.



U.S. ARMY

GOLD STAR FAMILY

BRYAN D. WILLARD

CAPTAIN,
U.S. MARINE CORPS



SERVICE DETAILS

HOMETOWN: Hummelstown, PA

ENLISTMENT DATE: 2000

MOS: Marine Helicopter Pilot

YEARS OF SERVICE: 2000-2006

DEPLOYMENTS:

- Anti-terrorism training, Djibouti
- Reconnaissance missions during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

- Air Medal on ten occasions
- 2 Navy Achievement Awards
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Navy Unit Commendation
- National Defense Service Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- 3 Sea Service Deployment Awards

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS:

- Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464
- Marine Air Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing II, Marine Expeditionary Force, New River, NC

EDUCATION & TRAINING:

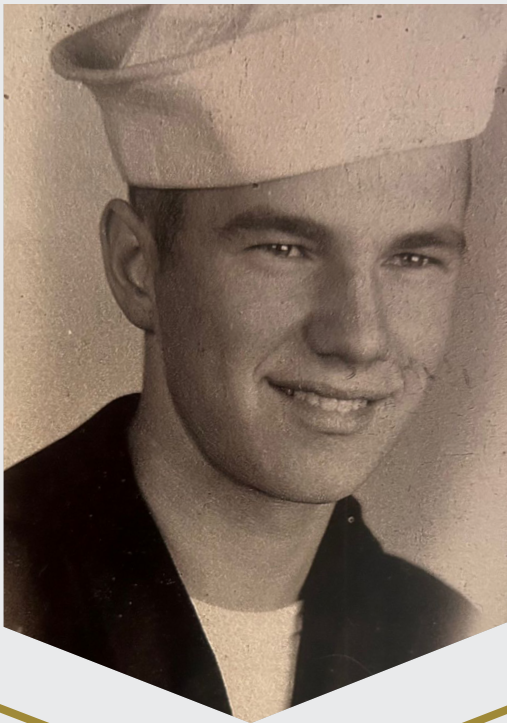
- Lock Haven University
- Flight training at the Naval Aviation Training Center, Pensacola, FL

Bryan Douglas Willard graduated from East Pennsboro High School, Enola, Pennsylvania, 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 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Bryan was attending a military exhibition on City Island, Harrisburg, when he was so impressed that, 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, North Carolina. 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, died on Friday, February 17, 2006, during an anti-terrorist training mission in the Gadoria 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.



"The Greatest Generation"

WORLD WAR II VETERAN

IRVIN C. GERS

**YEOMAN THIRD CLASS,
U.S. NAVY**

Irvin C. Gers was born on August 21, 1926, in Osceola Mills, Clearfield County, PA. In 1944, he graduated from Osceola Mills High School.

Irvin answered the call to service for his country in the 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 took place at Camp Davisville, Rhode Island.

After additional Seabee training at Port Hueneme, CA, he was assigned to a construction battalion that 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 and returned to his home of record in Osceola Mills, PA. He obtained employment with a coal mining company for the next two years. During the following 36 years, he excelled in a career in the insurance sector and retired in 1984. Irvin was married to Alice (Conklin) Gers for 61 years.

SERVICE DETAILS

HOMETOWN: Osceola Mills,
Clearfield County, PA

ENLISTMENT DATE: 1944

**MOS (Military Occupational
Specialty):** Seabee

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1944–1946

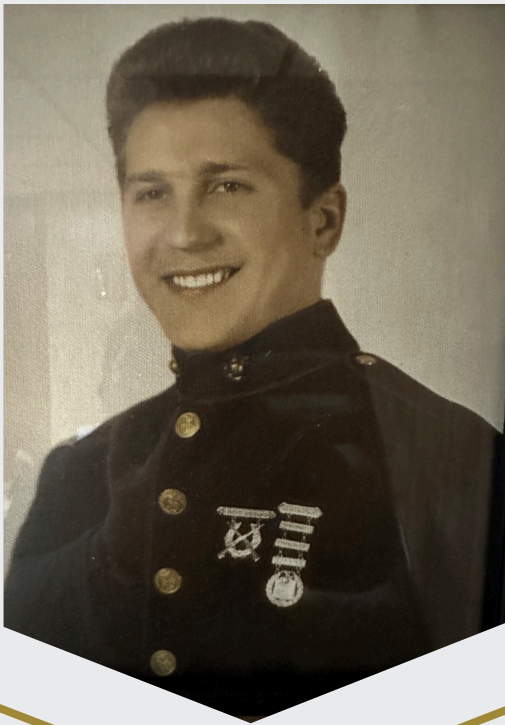
DEPLOYMENTS: South Pacific theater
(including Okinawa, Japan)

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS:
Construction battalion in the South
Pacific

EDUCATION & TRAINING:

- Boot camp at U.S. Naval Training Center, Sampson, New York
- Specialty training as a Seabee at Camp Davisville, Rhode Island
- Additional Seabee training at Port Hueneme, CA





"The Greatest Generation"

WORLD WAR II VETERAN

GEORGE IVANOFF

**CORPORAL,
U.S. MARINE CORPS**

SERVICE DETAILS

HOMETOWN: Harrisburg, PA

ENLISTMENT DATE: 1943

MOS: Infantryman

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1943 - 1945

DEPLOYMENTS:

- Peleliu, Pacific Theater
- Okinawa, Japan

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS:

Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th
Marines, 1st Marine Division

EDUCATION & TRAINING:

Initial training as an Infantryman in
the U.S. Marine Corps

George Ivanoff was born in Harrisburg, PA, on February 24, 1925, and attended Harrisburg Catholic High School before leaving early to join the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943. After his initial training, he was designated an Infantryman and assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, and deployed to the Pacific theater. His first action was on the island of Peleliu. While evacuating his wounded Corpsman, a mortar shell exploded nearby, killing the Corpsman. George was also wounded and medevacked to the hospital ship AD Admiral Allen. After recovering, he rejoined his unit and was promoted to Corporal.

Corporal Ivanoff's next major battle was the attack on Okinawa, Japan, where he fought for 45 days. Advancing toward enemy positions, he jumped into a shell hole to take cover, but as he looked out to locate the enemy, he was shot through the face by a sniper. When he regained consciousness, he felt a huge hole in his face and thought he would certainly die, so he asked the Lord to forgive him of his sins. He laid back down and went unconscious again, believing he would never wake up. When Corporal Ivanoff woke up once more, he couldn't believe he was still alive. He looked around and saw a couple of Marines hiding behind some rocks, so he went over to 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 told him to get out of there. Then some Marines and a Corpsman found him, put him on a stretcher, and carried him to the hospital tent. A chaplain gave him his last rites, and once again, Corporal Ivanoff thought this was it and that he would die on the stretcher.

All the doctors 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 doctors and nurses who attended to his wounds.



"The Greatest Generation"

WORLD WAR II VETERAN

SAMUEL W. WORLEY

**TECHNICAL SERGEANT,
U.S. AIR FORCE**

SERVICE DETAILS

HOMETOWN: Fannettsburg, Franklin County, PA

ENLISTMENT DATE: September 19, 1942

MOS: Technical Sergeant / NCOIC, Intelligence Unit

YEARS OF SERVICE: Active duty from 1942 to 1945, continued in the Air Force Reserve

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS: Intelligence Unit, 8th Air Force's First Bomb Division, stationed in England; decoded orders for bombing missions over Germany

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: High school graduate (1939, Fannett Township High School); attended Shippensburg State College

103-year-old Samuel W. Worley was born on a farm in Fannettsburg, Franklin County, PA, on June 13, 1921. He graduated in 1939 from Fannett Township High School in Dry Run. He had a summer job helping build the Pennsylvania Turnpike, where he earned money to attend Shippensburg State College. Sam received his draft notice from "Uncle Sam" in 1942 and was drafted into the United States Army Air Corps on September 19, 1942. After stateside training, he was stationed in England in the intelligence unit for the 8th Air Force's First Bomb Division. His job was to decode incoming orders for bombers and their fighter escorts to pinpoint targets during bombing runs over Germany.

Samuel had one sister, Nora, who worked during WWII at Fairchild Aircraft as a "Rosie the Riveter." Samuel was honorably discharged on October 31, 1945, with the rank of Technical Sergeant / NCOIC and continued his service in the Air Force Reserve. Samuel is a past commander of American Legion Post 46 in Chambersburg, PA, and the Pennsylvania State American Legion Scholarship Chairman.



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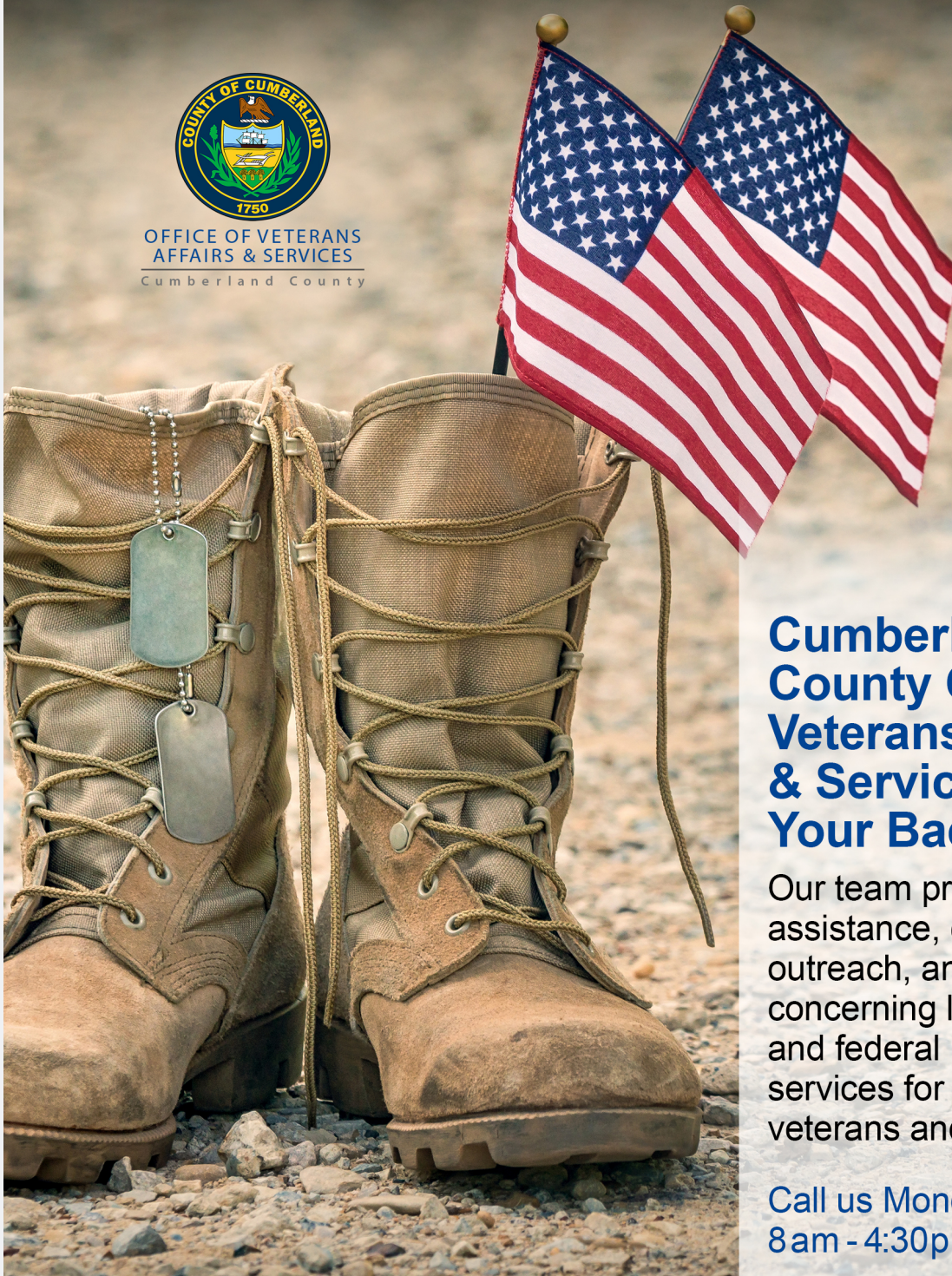
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The owner, Joe Staudt is a retired Marine Sergeant Major and a combat veteran. He has been a firearm enthusiast and a collector of firearms for many years. He opened Staudt's Gun Shop in June of 2011. Joe is married and has four sons and four grandchildren.



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Escort	Marine: 2nd LT Nicholas M. Jordan Marine: SSgt Benjamin K. Wagner Marine: Sgt Amadteus E. Fitzgerald Marine: Cpl Glen Wolf	Marine: 1st Lt Carsten J. Boast Marine: SSgt John K. Munies III Marine: Sgt Adam E. Night Marine: Cpl Harley C. Cheatham
Cake Escorts	Marine: LCpl Lukas B. Adames Marine: LCpl George M. Chrencik	Marine: LCpl Shalom I. Olukunle Marine: LCpl Nicolas D. Sherm
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Bugler	Dr. Donal Roeder, MD; Veteran, USN - Commander	

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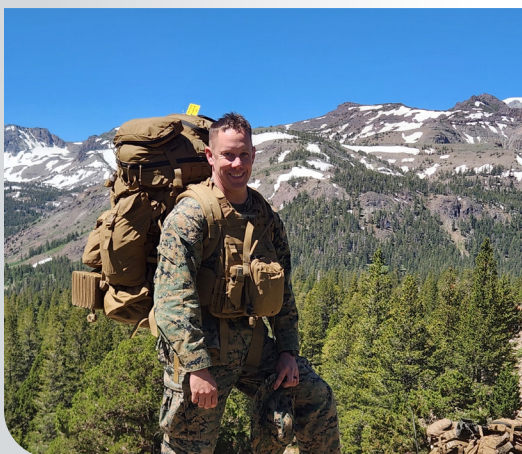
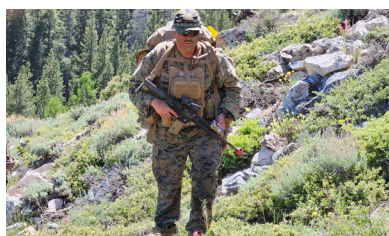
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