



The Bulldog Bulletin



Apr, May, Jun 2025 Edition

Commandants Corner

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Marine Corps League (MCL) Detachment 726 started 2025 with cleaning the wreaths from veterans' graves at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Fortunately, a large growth of participants made the clean-up quick this year. The wreath clean-up took approximately three hours from picking up wreaths from the grave stones to loading the wreaths into trash bins.

Were fortunate to have our Communications Officer Chuck Burrow back home after a month in Oakland Veterans Hospital. Joe Spinnenweber, Matt Popovich and myself visited Chuck at the VA Hospital during his stay. Welcome Home Chuck!

During the week of January 26th, we lost MCL Life Member Raymond Bodnar. On January 29th, Matt P and I were honored to serve as pall bearers for Raymond. Save a place for us brother Raymond!

Because of the cold spells, January and February were rather slow months. Thank you, Matt P for manning Meals on Wheels, Food Bank and the South Hills Veterans Honor Guard. We took the downtime to develop a process to monitor and track PA MCL Reporting.

As a representative for our detachment, I remain active with the Federation of War Veterans Societies of Allegheny County. In January 2025, I was appointed as the Federation Treasurer. I am also active with the Federation's Pittsburgh Veterans Day Committee. 2025 will be the 106th year for the Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade.

We looked a few fund-raising options this quarter. The first was a TNT Fireworks tent. Unfortunately, the tent is open 10-days and is labor intensive. We will look at a joint effort with other MCL Detachments for 2026. A second venture involves Steel Grill 51 offering to run monthly Small Games of Chance and Bingo events for our Detachment and the Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade. This requires Detachment membership approval to apply for Allegheny County Small Games of Chance and Bingo Licenses. This will be an April 2025 project.

Bettina Radcliff and I remain active with the Keystone Young Marines. We are focusing efforts in growth the Keystone Young Marine unit. On March 14th, I met Brian Scholl, Bethel Park/Castle Shannon Rotary Cub at a BP/CS Chamber Networking session. Brian is assisting us with a Rotary Club grant for the Keystone Young Marines. We have two recruits ready to take their final exam to become Keystone Young Marines. Thanks to Luke Boyd, the Keystone Young Marines have their First Aid / CPR Certifications.

Semper Fi

Gary Woodside

Commandant

MCL Detachment 726





INSTALLED OFFICERS

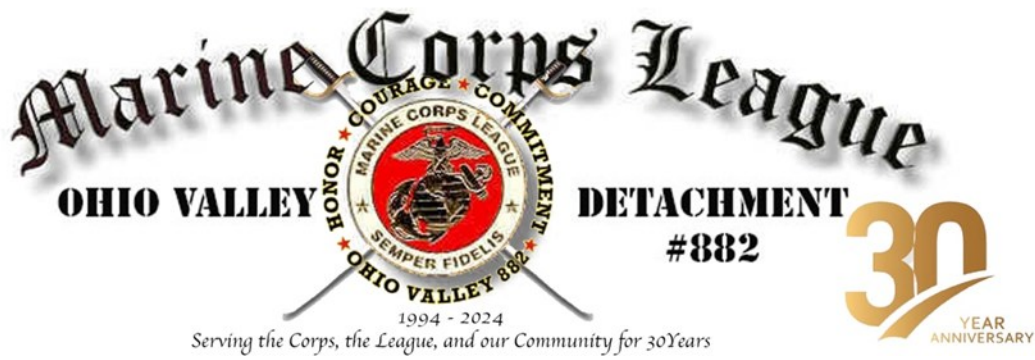
L-R, Commandant Gary Woodside, Senior Vice Matt Popovich, Junior Vice Joe Turba, Judge Advocate Alex Papiernik



MARINES

If you want it easy don't join this branch. Some of us may have gained a little weight. Some of us don't walk as well. Some of us can't stand as long as we use to. Kneeling is almost impossible. Our feet, knees and back are wore out at an early age. Let's face it, your body is put through pure hell. We even may be "Legends In Our Own Minds". Looking back and knowing what we know now, ask any Marine and they will say they'd do it all over again.

Semper Fi



**INVITES ALL MCL MEMBER SHOOTERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBER SHOOTERS TO
COMPETE IN**

2025 4th ANNUAL SPRING

MCL DETACHMENT #882 RIFLE MATCH

THIS MATCHES WILL QUALIFY FOR 2025 PA MCL MARKSMANSHIP RIFLE MATCHES

Saturday, April 12th

Spring Registration

Online: <https://www.ohiovalleymcl882.com>

or

Mail-In: **OHIO VALLEY MARINES**
654 CHARLETTE PLACE
SEWICKLEY, PA 15143

Registration Opens on

March 1st & Closes on April 9th

(Depending on attendance, food may be provided at the conclusion of the shoot)

Range Location

Millvale Sportsman's Club
170 Sunny Hill Road
Wexford, PA 15090

Match Fee

\$20.00

Department Fee

\$10 = Total \$30.00

| <u>Firing Position</u> | <u>PA MCL AWARDS</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 3 - Sighters | MCL Members and MCL Associate Members <u>ONLY</u> |
| 10 - Offhand | 1st, 2nd, 3rd Team Scores –Iron Sights <u>ONLY</u> |
| 15 - Sitting or Kneeling 15 - Prone | 1st, 2nd, 3rd High Shooters – Iron Sights |
| **All Single Load Firing** | 1st, 2nd, 3rd High Shooters – Optics Class |

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KEYSTONE YOUNG MARINES



We are the Keystone Young Marines, located in Pittsburgh, PA and are proud to be a part of our nation's premiere, award-winning program for boys and girls between the ages of eight and eighteen. The Young Marines strengthens the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building and leadership and promotes a lifestyle that is conducive to being productive members of society. The Young Marines is the premier youth organization in its Drug Demand Reduction efforts.

The Young Marines is open to all youth ages 8 through the completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the youth must be in good standing at school. Since the Young Marines' humble beginnings, in 1959, with one unit and handful of boys, the organization has grown respectively with units throughout the country and overseas.

Upon joining a local Young Marine unit, youth undergo a 26-hour orientation program, generally spread out over several weekly meetings. This orientation is called Recruit Training. The youth learn general subjects such as history, customs and courtesies, close order drill, physical fitness, and military rank structure. After graduating from Young Marine Recruit Training, the youth have the opportunity to learn even more new skills, earn rank, wear the Young Marine uniform and work toward ribbon awards. Young Marines earn ribbons for achievement in areas such as leadership, community service, swimming, academic excellence, first aid and drug resistance education.



On February 27, 2025, Licensed Trainer Lucis Boyd, Before it's Too Late LLC, provided CPR/AED/First Aid Awareness training to the Keystone Young Marines at the Castle Shannon Municipal Building.

Instructor Boyd conducted the two-hour training to YM Recruit Emph N., YM PFC Kutz L., YM Recruit Lomuscio J., YM LCPL Rocco A., YM LCPL Rocco C., YM CPL Rocco D., YM PFC Rocco G., Adult Volunteers B. Radcliff (Adjutant/Paymaster) and G. Woodside (Commander).

Congratulations to the Keystone Young Marines for completing this essential life-saving training.

Thank you, Instructor L. Boyd, for donating your time and paying the cost of the CPR/AED/First Aid Awareness Certificates for all the Keystone Young Marines and Adult Volunteers.

Historical – USMC Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone January 8, 2025

John Basilone (November 4, 1916 – February 19, 1945) was a United States Marine Corps gunnery sergeant who received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Battle for Henderson Field in the Guadalcanal campaign, and the Navy Cross posthumously for extraordinary heroism during the Battle of Iwo Jima. He was the only enlisted Marine to receive both of these decorations in World War II.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps on June 3, 1940, after serving three years in the United States Army with duty in the Philippines. He was deployed to Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and in August 1942, he took part in the invasion of Guadalcanal. In October, he and the two machine-gun sections under his command held off an attack by a numerically far superior Japanese force. He was one of only three Marines in that group to survive. His actions at Guadalcanal earned him the Medal of Honor.

On October 24, 1942, during the Battle for Henderson Field (Guadalcanal) his unit came under attack by a regiment of about 3,000 soldiers from the Japanese Sendai Division using machine guns, grenades, and which fought for the next two days until only Basilone and two other Marines were left standing. As the battle went on, ammunition became critically low. Despite their supply lines having been cut off by enemies who had infiltrated into the rear, Basilone fought through hostile ground to resupply his heavy machine gunners with urgently needed supplies. Basilone moved an extra gun into position and maintained continual fire against the incoming Japanese forces, he then repaired and manned another machine gun, holding the defensive line until relief arrived.

When the last of the ammunition ran out shortly before dawn on the second day, Basilone, using his pistol and a machete, held off the Japanese soldiers attacking his position. By the end of the engagement, Japanese forces opposite the Marines' lines had been virtually annihilated. For his actions during the battle, Basilone received the United States military's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

On February 19, 1945, the first day of the invasion of Iwo Jima, he was serving as a machine gun section leader on Red Beach II. While the Marines landed, the Japanese concentrated their fire at the incoming Marines from heavily fortified blockhouses staged throughout the island. With his unit pinned down, Basilone made his way around the side of the Japanese positions until he was directly on top of the blockhouse. He then attacked with grenades and demolitions, single-handedly destroying the entire strong point and its defending garrison.

He then fought his way toward Airfield Number 1 and aided a Marine tank that was trapped in an enemy mine field under intense mortar and artillery barrages. He guided the heavy vehicle over the hazardous terrain to safety, despite heavy weapons fire from the Japanese. Basilone was killed as he moved along the edge of the airfield. Including the Medal of Honor, he has received many honors, including having base streets, military facilities, and two United States Navy destroyers named in his honor.

He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. His widow, Lena M. Basilone, died on June 11, 1999, aged 86, and is buried at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California. Lena's obituary notes that she never remarried and was buried still wearing her wedding ring.

GH Woodside, 1/6/2025

Marine Corps Funeral Honors is dedicated to ensuring all Marines who have served obtain the appropriate honors as a final salute to their life and the final demonstration of the country's gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our nation.

While every effort to ensure that the desires of the family are met. The Marine Corps Funeral Honors ceremony consists of, at a minimum, the folding and presentation of the American flag and the sounding of Taps by a detail of two uniformed members, in addition to a bugler, if available, of the Armed Forces. At least one of the detail's members shall be from the parent Service of the eligible beneficiary. Although the law dictates that two uniformed members will be the minimum, this will be the exception and not the rule for Marine Corps Funeral Honors details. We will make every effort possible to provide as many Marines as requested.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Navy Personnel who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.



TAPS

Raymond Bodnar..... 01/27/25

