



The Bulldog Bulletin

Commandants Corner

Jul, Aug, Sep 2025 Edition



Marine Corps League (MCL) Detachment 726's spring activities started with Commandant Gary Woodside and prior Commandant Matt Popovich attending an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on April 27, 2025, in Robinson Township. On May 3rd our detachment along with the Keystone Young Marines manned a table at the South Park Vendor Fair from 12 noon to 5 pm. MCL members G. Woodside, B. Radcliff, C. Burrow and H. Eason participated.

Parade/Color Guard Coordinator Joe Spinnenweber, directed our detachment in participating in following events:

1. Saturday, May 17th - Color Guard at the Community Day Opening Ceremony, Upper St Clair High School. MCL members G. Woodside, M. Popovich, T. Hazlett and J. Spinnenweber participated.
2. Sunday, May 25th - Carnegie Memorial Day Parade. MCL members M. Popovich, B. Malley, T. Hazlett, F. Ottena, J. Spinnenweber and E. Britz participated.
3. Monday, May 26th – Bethel Park Memorial Day Parade with MIA/POW Table. MCL members M. Popovich, E. Bietz, B. Malley, F. Ottena, J. Spinnenweber, H. Eston, B. Radcliff and the Keystone Young Marines participated.
4. Tuesday, May 27th, Friendship Village, Upper St. Clair Color Guard. MCL members G. Woodside, M. Popovich, J. Spinnenweber and T. Hazlett participated.
5. Saturday, May 30th - Castle Shannon Community Day, MCL members B. Radcliff and H. Eason participated.
6. Saturday, June 28th – Bethel Park Elks Club, Color Guard. MCL members G. Woodside, J. Spinnenweber, F. Ottena participated.

The Federation of War Veterans Societies of Allegheny's Pittsburgh Veterans Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2025. This is the 106th year for the Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade, honoring Vietnam Veterans. Parade details can be found at this link: <https://pittsburghveteransparade.com/>

On April 7, 2025, our detachment obtained Allegheny County Small Games of Change and Bingo licenses. MCL 726 is sharing these licenses with the Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade Committee to provide events sponsored by Steel Grill 51.

Bettina Radcliff and I remain active with the Keystone Young Marines. The Keystone Young Marines have three active Young Marines and one active recruit. Our 2025 goal is to increase Keystone Young Marine membership through community activities and awareness. If you know any potential Young Marine candidates, please contact myself or Bettina Radcliff.

Semper Fi

Gary Woodside

Commandant Gary Woodside

MCL Detachment 726



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Swearing in our newest member Frank Ottena by District 8 Commandant Matt Popovich on April 2nd meeting.

Eric Bietz being sworn in by Commandant Gary Woodside on May 7th meeting.



South Park Vendor Fair held on Saturday May 3rd at the community center attending Haya Eason, Joe Podolinsky and not pictured, Gary Woodside

Why We Chose To Become MARINES



When We Visited the Armed Service Recruiters We Were Told:
 Army: Be All That You Can Be!
 Navy: Accelerate Your Life!
 Air Force: Aim High...
 So We Chose To Do All Three!





Memorial Day Parade in Bethel Park.



COLOR GUARD

Frank Ottena and Matt Popovich



(L-R) Chiara Rocco, Bettina Radcliff, Antonio Rocco, Dominic Rocco, James Lomuscio, (front) Noah Emph (rear) and Gianni Rocco far left.



Bob Malley and the "Malley Mobile"



Air Force C-17 fly over, photo by Mrs. Emph

Upcoming Events



Brentwood Parade



**Rose Program to be held at
Sam's Club in W. Mifflin on
Saturday September 6th from
10 am to 2 pm**

PAST EVENTS



May 3, Saturday, 12 noon to 5pm 2025 South Park Vendor Fair Set up at 9 AM Starts at 12:00 noon to 5 PM, 225 2575 Brownsville Road South Park, PA. 1512

Saturday May, 17, 2025 8:30 AM to 4 PM 2025 Request Color Guard arrive at 9:00 – 9:15 AM Community Day Opening Ceremony 10:00 AM Upper Stair Clair High School Meet at H.S. Field Color Guard Parking at, so far, at High School Field subject to change as per Karen East.

May 27 Tuesday, Starts at 2:00 (14:00) Arrive at 1:15 -1:30 PM. 2025 Request Color Guard Friendship Village 1290 Boyce Road Upper St. Clair 15241

May 25 Sunday, Starts at 2pm (14:00) Arrive at 1 - 1:15 pm (13:00) 2025 Borough of Carnegie Parade One Veteran Way, Carnegie, PA. 15106 Color Guard and 2 Vehicles Meet at Borough Building. The best way to arrive is to Exit off 79 North at the Carnegie Exit Right turn on to Main Street and left at Red light and over the train tracks and a quick right into the parking lot. We are usually ay the far end of the parking lot. Parade ends at the American Legion, 421 Jane Street, Carnegie, PA. 15106

May 26, Monday Parade starts at 10:00 AM, Arrive at 9:15 – 9:30 AM Munic. Of Bethel Park 5100 West Library Ave, Bethel Park, PA. 15102 Parade starts in front of the Municipality Building and travels over to the Bethel Presbyterian Church- Cemetery, 2669 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park, PA. 15102

June 8, Sunday, 25 Elks Lodge 2213 Arrive at 12:00 – 12:15 PM, Starts at 1:00PM 2789 South Park Road. Bethel Park, PA. 15102. Start with an Indoor ceremony and once that completed the Detachment will proceed to the Parking lot Flag Pole and Lower the existing Ensign, Fold and hand over to M.C. Bob Preksta and in turn will hand The New Ensign to Color Guard to be raised and tied off in place. Food will be offered to those who wish to stay

Community Day in Castle Shannon

KYM leader Bettina Radcliff doing face painting



HISTORICAL SECTION

Sgt. Maj. John L Canley

The Marine Corps announces the passing of Medal of Honor recipient retired Sgt. Maj. John L. Canley on May 11 after a decades long battle with cancer. Sgt. Maj. Canley passed away in Bend, Oregon, with his family at his bedside.

Sgt. Maj. Canley was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2018 for his actions in 1968 during the battle Hue City, Vietnam. While serving as the company gunnery sergeant for Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Sgt. Maj. Canley and his Marines fought off multiple attacks as they patrolled the city streets to relieve another company of Marines. According to the award citation, Sgt. Maj. Canley repeatedly rushed across gunfire-swept terrain to carry wounded Marines to safety during firefights with the enemy forces. After his company commander was severely wounded during a fight, Sgt. Maj. Canley took command of his company for three days and led the Marines through battle in Hue City.

Under his leadership, Alpha Company Marines destroyed fortified enemy positions throughout the city as Sgt. Maj. Canley continued to carry wounded Marines to safety. On February 4, 1968, Sgt. Maj. Canley led a group of Marines into an enemy-occupied building to eliminate their stronghold. In an effort to draw out the enemy and expose their position, Sgt. Maj. Canley moved into an open area, receiving machinegun fire. His Marines located and destroyed the threat and completely took over the building from the enemy. Two days later during a fierce firefight at a hospital compound, Sgt. Maj. Canley twice scaled a wall in full view of the enemy to carry wounded Marines to safety.

Because of his undaunted courage, selfless sacrifice and unwavering devotion to duty, Sgt. Maj. Canley was awarded the Medal of Honor. His other awards also include the Bronze Star with Combat "V," the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V," and the Combat Action Ribbon.

"The actions in the face of danger Sgt. Maj. Canley took are incredible and remarkable," said Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Troy Black. "Sgt. Maj. Canley was a leader and a warfighter who undoubtedly contributed to the battles won in Vietnam. His first priority was and has always been his Marines - a true example of Semper Fidelis. I'm saddened by the loss of such a great Marine, yet I'm grateful for the legacy he established for generations of warriors."

Sgt. Maj. Canley was born on December 20, 1937, in Caledonia, Arkansas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1953 and retired in 1981 as a sergeant major. He deployed on three combat tours to the Vietnam War and served as a rifle platoon leader, company gunnery sergeant and company first sergeant.

Sgt. Maj. Canley's legacy will live on through the USS John L. Canley currently preparing for its christening scheduled for June 25 in San Diego. The ship is a 90,000-ton expeditionary sea-base and will be forward deployed in the Western Pacific.

Sgt. Maj. Canley will be buried with full military honors at the Arlington National Cemetery at a later date to be determined.

G. Woodside

Chaplain's Corner



We're blessed with the opportunity to stand for something - for liberty and freedom and fairness - and these are things worth fighting for, worth devoting our lives to.
—Ronald Reagan

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.



*It Can Not be Inherited
Nor Can it Ever be Purchased
You or No One Alive
can Buy It for Any Price
It is Impossible to Rent
and It Can Not be Lent
You Alone and Our Own
have Earned It
with Your Sweat, Blood and Lives.
You Own It Forever
The Title*

"UNITED STATES MARINE"



TAPS
NO CASUALTY REPORTED

