

OCT, NOV, DEC 2025 EDITION



The Bulldog Bulletin



Commandants Corner



Marine Corps League Detachment 726's participated in the Brentwood July 4th Parade. Parade participants included myself, Frank Ottena, Joe Spinnenweber, Bob Malley, Bettina Radcliff and Young Marine Pvt Emph and Young Marine Pvt Lomusico. Thank all you for your participation and representing our detachment and the Young Marines,

Our detachment conducted a very successful Rose Campaign on Saturday, August 16th at the West Mifflin Sam's Club. Sr. Vice Commandant Matt Popovich organized the event. Participants included myself, Matt Popovich, Joe Turba, Bettina Radcliff, Haya Eston, and Chuck Burrow. This Rose Campaign collected \$1,728 with a focus on veteran service dogs. Thank you, Matt for your direction during the Rose Campaign and to all the rest of the participants for your time during a hot summer day.

I am the Pittsburgh area Marine Corps League representative and the Treasurer for the Federation War Veterans Societies of Allegheny County (FWVSAC). FWVSAC hosts Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade Committee. The Parade Committee meets every two weeks. The Pittsburgh Veterans Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2025. This is the 106th year for the Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade, honoring Vietnam Veterans. There is a VIP Event at the Rivers Casino on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 for the Vietnam Veterans, Parade details can be found at this link: <https://pittsburghveteransparade.com/>. The Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade is the longest running Veterans Day Parade in the United States.

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.

The Castle Shannon Carnivale was held July 23rd thru July 25th. Bettina, myself and YM Pvt Emph, YM Pvt Lomusico and YM Recruit Weber manned the "Piggy Race" booth totaling 55 hours. Thank you all for supporting the Keystone Young Marines.

As a Young Marine Trainee School Director, I attended the Young Marine Division One, Junior Leadership School (JLS). Cheltenham, MD, from Saturday, July 5th thru Saturday, July 13th. The JLS is open to Young Marines in good standing, 12 years old, minimum rank of YM Lanc Corporal, has three Physical Fitness Training scores of 250 and has required Drug Demand Reduction hours for previous four quarters. The Young Marines arrived on Sunday July 6th and participated in a week of junior leadership training focused on building leadership skills. Of the 24 Young Marines attending, 100% graduated the July 2025 Junior Leadership School.

Semper Fi

Gary Woodside

Commandant MCL 726



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We received another quarterly check in the amount of \$100. for VVS (Veteran Volunteer Service) submitted to PA Dept. Our Commandant accepted a Detachment award (plaque) from Dist. 8 Commandant Matt POPOVICH



JA Alex Papiernik received a second place award for our Facebook page.



And we also received another flag ribbon for attendance at the convention.

Another event on the Rose Campaign trail



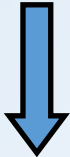
Veterans helping Veterans



Chesty likes that



Check us out with your Smart phone



Marine Corps League



SOUTH HILLS PITTSBURGH DETACHMENT 726

Celebrating the 250th Birthday of our corps on Saturday November 8th, 2025

Come and join us in our celebration

LOCATION: *Gianna Via Social Hall, 5311 Mc Anulty Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236*

4:00 pm Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

5:00 pm Presentation of colors and National Anthem

- * Opening Prayer*
- * Those who have gone before*
- * Cake cutting*
- * Missing man Table Ceremony*
- * Toast to the corps*
- * Invocation and dinner, served buffet style*
- * Announcements*
- * Commandants message*
- * Guest Speaker*
- * Presentations*
- * Closing*
- * Entertainment*



COST: \$40.00 PER PERSON... INVITATION FORM IS ON THE BACK

DRESS: MILITARY UNIFORM / MCL UNIFORMS / FORMAL ATTIRE, APPROPRIATE ATTIRE.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT JOE SPINNENWEBER AT 412-670-0561

GUESTS ARE WELCOME AND THE PUBLIC IS INVITED





MCL SH Det. 726 received its Charter Sept. 26, 1990, and its members are still supporting the veterans in the communities in which we live.

Each year we host a MC Birthday Ball the Saturday closest to Veterans Day, Nov. 8 at 4 p.m. This year we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the U. S. Marine Corps and would like to invite Marine and Navy Veterans and their families to join us as we celebrate our military service and the military service of others.

Enclosed in this flyer provides details about the scheduled event. If you would, please make this info available to your Veterans in case they might want to attend as membership is not required.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact... Joe Spinnenweber at 412-670-0561

CONTINENTAL MARINES

America's marines were raised just a month after the Continental Navy had been established. They were to provide the sailors with armed support, defending the ships or going onshore as landing parties.

The Continental Marines were formed on 10 November 1775 in Tun's Tavern in Philadelphia, and were the only armed service of the United States to be founded in a bar. As Marine Corps tradition would have

it, the men were recruited in the traditional British manner, by way of the recruiting party, with a fifer and drummer, literally "drumming up" recruits in the streets of Philadelphia and leading them to the tavern where they were plied with drink by the recruiting officer or sergeant. They were then "primed", given a shilling (in this case not a king's shilling but undoubtedly one issued by Congress), signifying their voluntary enlistment. Whether or not any of them were allowed second thoughts or to express reluctance when they sobered up the next day is not recorded.

Organization

The marines were initially authorized as a battalion in strength, and generally kept at that level throughout the war. They were modelled on the British marines and their initial traditions, kept until the present time, were also modelled on their British forebears. They were a well-disciplined and trained arm of the service and served at sea as ships' detachments, and were also engaged at times on land with the Continental Army. They served ashore in the Trenton/Princeton campaign and were noted for their useful service by Washington.

Service Afloat

The Continental Marines performed the same function as that of the British marines. They served as detachments onboard warships that manned the



◀ OFFICER, CONTINENTAL MARINES, 1775

The Continental Marines were raised on 10 November 1775 at Tun's Tavern in Philadelphia. They were always a small organization, and were known for the smartness of their uniforms, their discipline, and their fighting ability. They served both at sea and ashore, and fulfilled the same duties as their British forebears. The officer's uniform was the same as that of the enlisted men, except for the headgear.



▲ PRIVATE, CONTINENTAL MARINES, 1775
Dark green was chosen as the marines' uniform colour, faced and lined with white. It was simple, elegant, and completely functional. The handsome roundhat, jauntily turned up on one side, was an excellent choice for service at sea. More utilitarian and comfortable than the usual tricorne, it was also very military in appearance.

=====Detach here and return bottom portion with your payment=====

_____ I will attend the Birthday Celebration. Enclosed is my check for _____.

Member _____ Guest _____

Spouse _____ Guest _____

Guest _____ Guest _____

Guest _____ Guest _____

Sender Phone # _____ If we need to get in touch with you

Email _____ so we can email as well for future send out

_____ I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____.

Make check payable to: South Hills Pittsburgh Det. 726, MCL., Inc.

Mail to: MCL., South Hills Detachment 726, P.O. Box 533, Bethel Park, PA 15102



HISTORICAL

Guy Louis Gabaldon

Guy Louis Gabaldon was an extraordinary figure in World War II, a U.S. Marine whose unique and audacious methods during the battles for Saipan and Tinian saved countless lives and earned him the moniker "The Pied Piper of Saipan." Born in Los Angeles in 1926, Gabaldon, a Chicano, developed an unusual upbringing that would prove pivotal to his wartime exploits. As a teenager, he was taken in by a Japanese-American family, the Nakanos, and during his time with them, he learned to speak Japanese fluently, including the nuances of street dialect. This cultural immersion, tragically interrupted when his adopted family was sent to an internment camp after Pearl Harbor, would become his most potent weapon.

Upon joining the Marine Corps at the age of 17, Gabaldon quickly found himself in the Pacific Theater. It was during the brutal Battle of Saipan in June 1944 that his unconventional approach emerged. Rather than engaging in direct combat with every enemy soldier, Gabaldon, often operating alone and against military protocol, would venture into enemy territory. Using his Japanese language skills, he would call out to Japanese soldiers and civilians hiding in caves and tunnels, urging them to surrender. His message was simple yet profound: surrender and you will be treated humanely, provided with food and medical care, and your lives will be spared. This was a stark contrast to the Japanese military's "no surrender" doctrine and the prevailing fear among many Japanese that American soldiers would torture and kill them. Initially, his superiors reprimanded him for leaving his post, but Gabaldon's results were undeniable. In one of his most remarkable feats, he convinced over 800 Japanese soldiers and civilians to surrender in a single day. Over the course of the Saipan and Tinian campaigns, Gabaldon is credited with single-handedly persuading between 1,000 and 1,500 Japanese individuals to lay down their arms, a staggering number that saved not only their lives but also the lives of countless American Marines who would have otherwise faced a bloody, protracted fight.

Gabaldon's heroism, though initially recognized with a Silver Star, sparked controversy regarding higher commendation. His commanding officer, Captain John Schwabe, recommended him for the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration for valor. However, due to various factors, including the unconventional nature of his actions and, arguably, racial biases of the era, the Medal of Honor was not awarded. In 1960, his Silver Star was upgraded to the Navy Cross, the second-highest U.S. military award for combat heroism, a testament to the belated recognition of his extraordinary contributions. After the war, Gabaldon continued a life of adventure and advocacy, including running businesses and working with troubled youth. His story gained wider public attention with the 1960 film "Hell to Eternity," which brought his unique wartime efforts to the big screen. Guy Gabaldon passed away in 2006, leaving behind a legacy that transcends traditional military heroism, highlighting the power of empathy, communication, and courage in the face of conflict. His actions on Saipan stand as a powerful reminder that sometimes, the greatest victories are won not through firepower, but through persuasion and the preservation of human life.

Erik Bietz,

MCL 726 Historian

July 30, 2025

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.

NATIONAL
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidpreventionlifeline.org

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE



TAPS

NO CASUALTY REPORTED

Prayer for our Nation



*Father, I don't know where to begin
For there is much evil in the world we live in
Many of us have no say on what goes on
and we don't agree with what is voted on
Help us keep our hearts and eyes focused on You
Knowing that You will pull us through
Help us do what we can
To spread Your word across this land
Help us pray for our government
when they want to give away every cent
Help us get off this road of destruction
with repenting and Bible instruction
Thank you for the great privilege of prayer
Knowing that you listen and always care*

