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THE GRINDER

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A publication of Marine Corps League Detachment 260

Officer Corps 2024-25

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DEATH OF BILL MOSS



Founder and commandant of the Fighting 260, Bill Moss has passed into history. He died on the evening of January 28. Bill was one of a handful of people that started the detachment back in 1974. He was an idea man from the start. He had to his credit a successful lighting business, founded the Carolina Field of Honor, and was a leader of the 260. He had the charisma and charm to talk a person into anything, because of his good ideas. Countless members owe their membership to this remarkable man.

Probably his greatest achievement was turning a vision into a reality with the building of the Carolina Field of Honor. He assembled a great team to bring the vision to reality. Amazingly, he got the county commissioners of Forsyth County and Guilford County to work together for the good of all North Carolina veterans and their families. Located in Kernersville at Triad Park, it is now a place where families go as a destination location.

A celebration of life will take place on February 22, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Carolina Field of Honor. This will be rain or shine. The service will include the presentation of colors, a 21-gun salute by the MCL—260 Honor Guard, wreath laying and speakers.

The dress is scarlet jackets and cover, however, MCL covers are acceptable. Please bring a chair as seating is limited.

National Marine Corps League History

The Marine Corps League is the only congressionally chartered United States Marine Corps related veterans organization in the United States. The League boasts a membership of more than 60,000 men and women, officer and enlisted, active duty, reserve Marines, honorably discharged Marine veterans, qualified Navy FMF corpsmen and qualified Navy FMF chaplains. It is one of the few veteran organizations that experiences annual membership increases.

The Marine Corps League was organized at the All-Marine caucus held at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City from June 3-6, 1923. It was the offspring of the Marine Corps Veterans Assn. headed by Major Sidney W. Brewster, who presided at the caucus. He held that post until the election of Major General John A. Lejeune at the second annual convention. Miss Ray Sawyer worked almost day and night during those early days to obtain a place for the new organization.

The Marine Corps Veterans Assn. began to organize posts across the country. The first New York post unanimously elected Col. George C. Reid as post commandant on December 11, 1922. Detachments began to organize in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Cleveland, Chicago, Indianapolis, Houston and Pittsburgh.

The New York post and the McLemore detachment are the only remaining units of the Marine Corps Veterans Assn. that predate the Marine Corps League.

The following list of units is arranged in order of first publication appearance in the Leatherneck Magazine (no organization or charter dates mentioned):

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. New York (post) Detachment | New York City | N. Y. |
| 2. Anthony-Fagan Detachment | Albany | N. Y. |
| 3. Elias Jay Messinger Detachment | Tacoma | Washington |
| 4. McLemore Detachment | Houston | Texas |

The New York City detachment would be the first chartered at the “All Marine Caucus” under the national organization’s new name as **New York Detachment No. 1**, thus making it the League’s oldest continuous detachment. Col. George C. Reid was the detachment commandant. After the caucus, other detachments organized. Buffalo, N.Y. was the second and Newark, NJ the third. By 1928, detachments reached to the west coast.

The second national convention was held in Washington, DC, the third in Philadelphia and the fourth in Cleveland, Ohio.

Commandant's Letter

Scott Matthews

Marines, Corpsmen, Sailors, Associates and Friends of the Fighting 260,

As we are all aware, our Founding Member **Bill Moss** passed away a short time ago. Sad as it is, it was also very heartwarming to see the email tributes to him. So many stories about Bill and how he sought out and located so many of us and got us into the 260 family. Like many of you, Bill Moss found me while traveling with **Joe Vodenichar** one day. They pulled up to my office soon after I returned from three years active duty and my little vacation in Al Asad Iraq. I remember him coming in the front door and asking my receptionist to speak to the Marine in the building. Next thing I know Bill and Joe are pitching the 260 and I am filling out an application and writing a check for my dues. Then soon after that I am running for Detachment Commandant. I held the job for three years, plus a stint co-chairing the National Convention for the Marine Corps League in Greensboro. He did have a way of convincing you to join and participate. A truly remarkable man and an outstanding Marine. You will be missed Bill, RIP and SEMPER FIDELIS!!! We continue to have a number of robust activities that we are planning for in the near term.

* Honor Guard formulation and practice. They continue and they had successful events at Wreaths Across America and **Percy Sudsbury** funeral. Well done team!!! Give **Rob O'Hanlon** a call if you would like to join them. 804-615-1622

* Future fund raising events are being planned.

^ Do you have any ideas? Please let us know what interests you.

^ If you want to lend your smarts and talents in any of these endeavors or any other activity you are aware of in the Detachment, please let us know.

^ If you have any recommendations, please advise the Leadership Team.

We are still looking to pull together a trip to Quantico, VA for an overnight trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. This will be out of the pocket cost for your transportation, hotel and meals. The plan is to hire a minibus or larger coach in the March timeframe. We would drive up on day one and go directly to the museum, then check in to the hotel, have dinner and return to Greensboro the next day. Estimated cost per person is to be determined. It all depends on how many are interested in going.

Please remember that it is because of you we can plan events, raise funds and/gain sponsors for said events and then execute them. The 260 is a solid team that is focused and always determined to be successful!!! I know your elected leadership team will endeavor to continue this growing and successful movement with YOUR help.

My goals, and I hope yours as well, for the 260 moving forward are:

- * For every member to have fun and enjoy and respect our group Camaraderie
- * Develop and/refine Fundraising Programs
- * Continue to Support Community Outreach and Veterans Programs
- * New Membership Recruitment (get your Membership Recruitment Handout Cards)

Our future success in helping our Veteran Community depends on all of us. If you have not been involved in a program or an event, or its been awhile, my request of you is to pick one activity and participate in it during the coming year. To those already involved, **THANK YOU and Stay the Course.** There is no doubt that what we do is helping veterans and their families all around Guilford County and beyond.

Semper Fidelis,

Scott Matthews
Commandant

P.S. I am looking for a new Paymaster. Let me know if you are interested. Thanks



Fellow Marines and members of the Fighting 260,

In this month's issue I would like to lift up our wives and the ladies who support us and work side by side with us in our fundraising efforts and charity events. Sometimes they carry out the mission all on their own. They never ask for a pat on the back, or for special endorsements. Often as I attend our functions, they are the ones on the front lines. Always cheerful, busy and most capable of their duties. They show up early, well prepared and stay late, evenings, weekends and holidays. How much more difficult it would be to complete our mission or even be successful without their cooperation and help. I am very grateful to have them in our ranks to serve and advise. They often take the lead in the activities. So, let's pause and give them thanks and credit for the respect they have earned.

Semper Fi ladies. **Happy Valentines Day** to all, (and don't forget the cards, candy and Smoochie Smoochie!)

Congratulations to **Brian Sowers** for a well deserved honor, **Marine of the Year**. He has a deep commitment for service to others. Unselfishly giving time and energy to those causes that enrich the lives of others.

He is a very busy guy, enlisting his savvy business skills, years of experience and leadership. Brian heads up our very successful Charity Golf Tournament. This leadership requires months of preparation, planning and organization. He is a natural leader and motivates those around him to strive for excellence and success. He doesn't stop there, he works very closely with the Servant Center, is on several community service boards, rings the bell for Salvation Army and much more. It is a privilege to call this outstanding Marine a great mentor and friend.

Semper Fi Brian

Al Ruggiero,
Chaplain

In Memoriam

Victims and families of the two aircraft midair collision in Washington, DC and Bill Moss

Chaplain's Prayer List

Judy Brenner, Michelle Moore, Ann Ruggiero, Shelia Johnson, Maurice Parent, Dale Wallace, North Carolina Flood victims and the Los Angeles fire victims

A TRIBUTE TO BILL MOSS

By Colonel Charles A. Jones USMCR (Retired)

Yes, I am in that large group of people who were the targets of persuasive power of the one and only Bill Moss. We lost him on Tuesday 28 January, 2025.

My association with Bill began when we attended a military program in 2016. My mistake? I was easily targeted by the Moss radar as a potential “candidate” for the Marine Corps League Detachment by wearing a Marine Corps ball cap. I cannot remember what he said to me, but whatever it was, I obeyed.

So the next event I remember is being in a detention facility on Friendly Road writing a check for dues to join Marine Corps League Detachment 260.

How I thank God that I wore the ball cap that day and Bill saw it and me.

To say he was a master of persuasion is a gross understatement. I think Bill could sell anything to anybody and persuade anybody to do anything. I am surprised he did not figure out a way to become or to impersonate the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Talk about institutional change if Bill Moss had worn four stars on each of his collars.

Bill was a small guy physically, but one must consider how much energy and willpower were found in his small physique. The old saying “you don’t tell a Marine ‘no,’” certainly applies to Bill Moss.

My best memory of Bill Moss is his legacy; he left us the powerful and beautiful Carolina Field of Honor, a sacred place where veterans past and present—including Korean War era veteran Bill Moss—are celebrated and remembered in a country that does not always celebrate and remember its’ veterans as it should.

Thank you for that legacy Bill—without you we would never have had it. You might be done, but your spirit and presence will be at the Carolina field on Honor forever.

Semper fidelis our lost Brother and Friend.

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 X	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 X
23	24	25 X	26	27	28	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

February 10- Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Restaurant

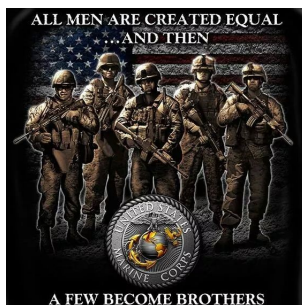
5:30 PM

February 22- Bill Moss celebration of life service at the Carolina Field of Honor

11:00 AM

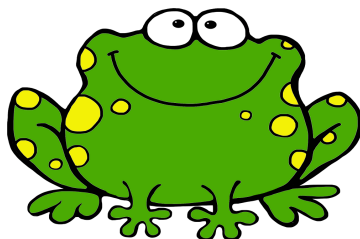
February 25- Marine Night Out at Rody's Tavern

5:30 PM until. Bring a Marine, your spouse, best friend for a good time



Photos from the January Dinner Meeting

PHOTO
FROG



STEVE NASH
Official Photographer
MCL Det. 260



DETACHMENT COOK BOOKS FOR SALE

Photos from January Meeting



Dept. Commandant Robert Hare



Friends having a great time together.



Sir, is this your third serving?



Are you deaf? I know I told this to you before.



The Winning Power Ball Number is.....