



The Few. The Proud.

## The DuPage MCL Detachment 399

[mcleague399.org](http://mcleague399.org)

Meeting at DuPage Memorial VFW Post #2164 · 0N731 Papworth Rd. · Wheaton, IL 60187



### 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

#### Officers

Commandant: M Albertus  
 Sr Vice Comdt: H Quiroga  
 Jr Vice Comdt: P Beaudion  
 Paymaster/Adjutant: V. Cobbett  
 Chaplain: D. Kenyon  
 Judge Advocate: R Kollias  
 Sgt at Arms: R Gaden  
 Assistant: M Mikulecky  
 Jr Past Commandant: J. Olejnicki  
 Trustee: J. Meschi (2024)  
 Trustee: L. Olson (2025)  
 Trustee: C. Wingard (2026)  
 Trustee: E Weingartner (2027)

#### Committee Chairs

Bingo: R. Gaden  
 Color Guard: R Gaden  
 Eagle Scout: D. Kenyon  
 Fund-Raising: L. Olson  
 Historian: D. Igrisan  
 News Memo:  
 V. Cobbett/ D. Igrisan  
 Picnic: G. Bormann  
 Quartermaster: R. Kollias  
 Scholarship: V. Cobbett  
 Special Awards:  
 J Olejnicki/V Cobbett  
 TFT: R Kollias  
 VAC: J. Meschi  
 Valentine Party: L. Bellow  
 Web Sgt: J. Stanovich

#### Website

[www.mcleague399.org](http://www.mcleague399.org)

#### To contact any officer:

[websgt@mcleague399.org](mailto:websgt@mcleague399.org)

**29 APR** "Fall of SAIGON, the Official end to the Vietnam War" Remembrance Program event begins 1100 American Legion Franklin Park Post 974, 9757 W Pacific Ave, Franklin Park, IL 60131;

**23 MAY** INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & BUFFET DINNER VFW POST 2164, WHEATON  
**EARLY START** meeting begins 1800, dinner 1830 (will be an abbreviated meeting) no Zoom access;

**17 JUN** Sgt Tommy's Fishing Derby, Herrick lake

**22-25 JUN** Department 4th Staff and 79th Convention, Northfield Inn Suites&Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL. 217 523-7900

**27 JUN** #399 General Meeting begins 1930, Zoom access; Board meeting begins 1830

#### MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT #399

Hello fellow marines, we had a busy meeting this month with the nominations of officers for next year.

The new slate of officers was approved and voted in. Next month, May 23 will be the installation of new officers and a catered buffet-style meal by Addantes catering, don't miss this meeting.

We have 2 fund raising events: May 20 and May 27&28; looking for volunteers to help out for 4 hrs from 10 am till 2 pm, contact Larry Olson.

We have 1 Eagle Scout ceremony coming up in Naperville May 20 also. This will be a good start for the upcoming year.

Semper Fidelis, Merrill Albertus

#### MARINE ROSE FUNDRAISING

The following are dates and locations of our first fundraisers for 2023:

Saturday May 20, 10-2 pm

Jewel Food Store, 125 E Stearns Rd, Bartlett IL

Saturday and Sunday May 27 & 28 10-2 pm

Jewel Store, 2031 N Main St, Wheaton

Questions or to volunteer, call/text Larry Olson 630 569 7395 or email at [OLY18@comcast.net](mailto:OLY18@comcast.net) which days you can help; you will enjoy the experience. The Marine Rose is currently our only method for fund raising. If you can spare a couple of hours either date, you will be helping our detachment provide for the many services we try to provide to our Marine veterans in DuPage County.

## INSTALLATION DINNER

We will install our newly elected officers and present special awards on Tuesday 23 May at Wheaton VFW Post 2164. The event begins at 1800 and the buffet dinner at 1830. Desserts and appetizers are welcomed. There will be no ZOOM access. A ten dollar donation per person would be appreciated. RSVP Adjutant Cobbett at [v.cobbett@comcast.net](mailto:v.cobbett@comcast.net) or text 630-330-2571 your intent by 16 May.

## 2023 ELECTED OFFICERS

Commandant: Merrill Albertus

Sgt at Arms: Roger Gaden

Sr Vice Comdt: Hector Quiroga

Jr Past Commandant: John Olejnicki

Jr Vice Comdt: Pete Beaudion

Trustee: John Meschi (2024)

Paymaster/Adjutant: Vicki Cobbett

Trustee: Larry Olson (2025)

Chaplain: Donald Kenyon

Trustee: Chuck Wingard (2026)

Judge Advocate: Rita Kollias

Trustee: Ed Weingartner (2027)

## APPOINTED OFFICES

Assistant Sgt at Arms: Mike Mikulecky

Historian: Dan Igrisan

Color Guard: Roger Gaden

Quartermaster: Rita Kollias

Eagle Scouts: Don Kenyon

Scholarships: Vicki Cobbett

Fundraising: Larry Olson

VAC: John Meschi

## SGT TOMMY' KIDS

The Sgt. Tommy's Kids Family Fishing Day was created to teach children about the outdoors and get them excited about spending time outside. It is our way of encouraging families to spend time together outdoors, and is hosted in appreciation of services provided by military, police, fire and medical personnel. All children ages 3-15 are welcome to attend with their families and friends. Participants must register in advance.

This year's signature event will be held on Saturday, June 17th, 2023 at Herrick Lake in Wheaton, Illinois. During this day, attendees will learn about and practice fishing, complete outdoor themed crafts and receive a brand new rod and reel with tackle to enjoy the sport after the day is complete.

This event is always completely free! Go to: <https://www.sgttommyskids.org/fishing-day.html> for complete information. **You must pre-register for the free event.**

## SCHOLARSHIP 2023

**NATIONAL MCL** The Marine Corps League National Scholarship program, [www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org) is open to all Marines and their family in the USA seeking an undergraduate degree. Requirements for applying and other FAQ's may be found at: <https://www.mclnational.org/youth-development-program-s.html>. Questions regarding the Program may be directed to Mike Rainbolt, [mike@1040Quick.com](mailto:mike@1040Quick.com), Phone: 609-744-5684.

**DETACHMENT #399 MCL** The Sgt. Thomas Gilbert Memorial Scholarship program is a grant that is available to detachment members and family. Application & Instructions may be downloaded at: [www.mcleague399.org](http://www.mcleague399.org). Hardcopies are available by request at every meeting. If you are planning to pursue or currently are obtaining any type of educational advancement whether scholastic or technical or vocational, apply for the scholarship. Your information is kept confidential and secure. All applications must be postmarked no later than **30 June 2023**. No online applications are accepted; postal mail only.

Any questions, contact Department scholarship and Detachment scholarship Chairwoman Victoria Cobbett: text 630-330-2571 or email [v.cobbett@comcast.net](mailto:v.cobbett@comcast.net) or telephone 630-257-6423 and leave a message.

**THE ILLINOIS MARINE** IS THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE. You can access information about all things Marine Corps League. The address is: <https://theillinoismarine.com/>

To contact The Illinois Marine: The Illinois Marine 1005 Prairie Street, St. Charles, IL 60174-3638  
Phone: 630 564-1804 fax: 630 377-9638 Email: [usmc1962@comcast.net](mailto:usmc1962@comcast.net) (Don Haines) or [lori@bwbgraphics.com](mailto:lori@bwbgraphics.com) (Lori Boyle)

## EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

An ES/COH was attended on 15 APR 2023 in Naperville IL, by Commandant Merrill "Doc" Albertus, ES Chair Chaplain Donald Kenyon and PDC Roger C. Kenyon. The MCL Good Citizenship Award and a USMC Ka-Bar were presented to Eagle Scout F. Daniel Pianetto.

On 20 MAY 2023 at 1300, an ES Court of Honor is scheduled for four (4) new Eagle Scouts. Each Eagle Scout to be presented the MCL Good Citizenship Award and three the USMC Ka-Bar. This Court of Honor will be held at Wesley United Methodist Church, 21 E Franklin Ave in Naperville. If you wish to participate, contact Vicki Cobbett.

*"If a Boy Scout obtains the rank of Eagle Scout and then enlists in the Marine Corps and completes boot camp that it [meaning Eagle Scout] is an automatic promotion to PFC."*





## MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS WHO WERE SWORN IN TO OUR DETACHMENT OVER **TWENTY** YEARS AGO:

Norman V. Mareci – 44 years, 9 May 1979

Michael D. Peters – 33 years, 21 May 1990

John R. Olejnicki – 24 years, 25 May 1999

Richard J. Schie – 23 years, 23 May 2000

## DUES

Effective 1 July 2023, the **Life Membership Fees will increase** as per the following chart:

\$1000.00 – 35 years of age and lower

\$ 800.00 – 36-50 years of age

\$ 600.00 – 51-64 years of age

\$ 400.00 – 65-84 years of age

\$ 100.00 – 85 years of age and higher

The above Fees are only available if the member's annual dues have been paid and the member is in good standing. Any member desiring to pay their Life Membership Fees at the current rate, must do so and be post-marked no later than 30 June 2023. Any Life Membership payments after that date are listed above.

## DEPARTMENT OF IL MCL 4TH STAFF AND 79TH CONVENTION

The convention will be held at the Northfield Inn Suites and Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., IL. 217 523-7900. Room rate 92.00 + 14% tax = \$104.88. Call the hotel directly to use the MCL rate. The convention is your chance to voice your opinion, vote, be involved with the activities your Department MCL has to offer, meet with other IL Marines, and have a good time. You would be surprised that many other MCL Members are just like you!

If you are able to attend, the detachment pays your delegate fee. We can have a huge influence on all things Department, but first, you must attend

## PRAYER LIST

We are happy to report the following:

Beth Gaden is recovering after a successful heart transplant; Charlie Castino (Don Kenyon's grandson) is recovering after successful brain surgery; and our Commandant Merrill Albertus is healing from his heart valve implant and kidney surgery and is currently receiving specialized chemotherapy; Richard Nazimek is home after a short hospitalization. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

The prayers for healing of members and the family of Pete Beaudion, Linda Bellow, Marty Bourgeois, John Burlace, Mike Deegan, the Gaden Family, Roland Johnson, Kyle Michael Koener, Vito Markas, Mike Mikulecky, Richard Nazimek, Terry Owens, Harper Orbell, Sharon Passero, Read Rogers, and Thomas Stuckey needs to remain in your thoughts and hearts. **Many of our members have long term illnesses or disabilities or are recovering from medical problems and other health issues.** A word of good cheer or a card may brighten their day; some have recent illnesses or hospitalizations and some are on their way to recovery. Some of the names on our prayer list have lost their Marine and some are in long-term residences away from family and friends and some are pre-

cious family members and some are friends of the detachment. If you need an address for a card or a number for a phone call, contact Chaplain Don Kenyon or Adjutant Vicki Cobbett.

**Some of our members wish to remain anonymous, but still need to be in our prayers.**

## GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

### VETERANS' COMMUNITY GARDEN

Cantigny Park, 1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton 60189 will be allowing Veterans to plant and maintain vegetable, herb, or flower gardens from 20 May to 7 October 0830-1030 every day. U of I Extension Master Gardeners will be available for advice and instruction. Space is limited so contact [karencimbora@gmail.com](mailto:karencimbora@gmail.com) if interested.

### USMC 250th CELEBRATION

November 10, 2025, will mark the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. In an effort to commemorate this significant event, the Marine Corps has launched the Marine Corps 250 effort. Go to <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/098ba311-1892-40ea-89b8-152bb28cd154/downloads/USMC%20250%20PDF.pdf?ver=1679151947220> for information.

### SEMPER FI FUND

For information about Tax Deductible Donations to the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund go to [www.semperfifund.org](http://www.semperfifund.org). If you have questions about this organization, please see Col. Chris O'Donnell or Jim Baisley, ESQ. Information about the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is available from me and several others who are usually in attendance, just ask! It's never too early to consider your 2023 charitable giving. Marines helping Marines!

### MARINE CORPS LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM

Marine Corps License Plates may be issued to any Illinois resident who served in the United States Marine Corps. Proceeds from this plate go into the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund, to be used for scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, and career and technical education and certification, financial assistance, or monetary awards to veterans or veterans' families that are located within the State of Illinois.

## SEMPER FIDELIS



Improvise!

Adapt!

Overcome!