



The Few. The Proud.

The DuPage MCL Detachment 399

mcleague399.org

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



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/L. Grezek
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

2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

1-15 Dec TFT warehouse: daily hours 0900-1600 Mon thru Fri
evening hours 1800-2100 Mon & Thurs
16-17 Dec Family Day TFT Warehouse
17-22 Dec Pack up for storage any remaining items in TFT warehouse
Volunteers needed every day
25 Dec Merry Christmas
31 Dec New Year Eve
Jan 1 2024 Happy New Year
23 Jan #399 General Meeting begins 1930, Zoom access;
Board meeting begins 1830
17 FEB 2nd District MCL (free) ALL HANDS CONFERENCE, 11001400
with MajGen James W. Lukeman (USMC Ret)
Philip H Sheridan Reserve Center, 3155 Blackhawk Drive,
Building 701, Fort Sheridan, IL. 60033, RSVP 847-702-6059

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT #399

We had a good last meeting for the year, well attended. We had our Marine Corps cake cutting ceremony and birthday cake and it was very good. Next year Bingo starts again on January 21, 2024 at Hines VA Hospital. Looking for help with the Toys for Tots campaign, go to the web sight for additional information or call Rita.

Hopping everyone has a safe and happy holidays, see everyone at the next meeting in January 23, 2024.

Semper Fidelis Merrill Albertus

MCL DEPARTMENT NEWS

THE ILLINOIS MARINE IS THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE.

<https://theillinoismarine.com/>

You can access information about all things Marine Corps League. Contact information: The Illinois Marine 1005 Prairie Street, St. Charles, IL 60174-3638, Phone: 630 564-1804 fax: 630 377-9638

Email: usmc1962@comcast.net (Don Haines) or

lori@bwbgraphics.com (Lori Boyle) to place news articles.

The detachment website is: mcleague399.org

2023 TFT

2023 DUPAGE TFT CONTACT INFORMATION

To volunteer for the 2023 TFT Campaign, you must first register at <https://dupage-il.toysfortots.org>

General Email: dupage.il@toysfortots.org

Phone: (833) 848 8762 * 833 USMC-T4T

Coordinator: Rita Kollias - dupage.il@toysfortots.org (Ext 0)

Asst Coordinator / Drop Site Coordinator: Linda Bellow - bellow.toysfortots@gmail.com (Ext 1)

Event Coordinator: GySgt AJ Aporongao - events.dupagetoysfortots@gmail.com (Ext 3)

Volunteer Coordinator: Claudia Dyrda - volunteers.TFTDupage@gmail.com (Ext 4)

Toys Request Coordinator: Nadia Baran - DuPage.toyrequest@gmail.com (Ext 2)

Toy Purchasing: Team Passero - fasfish67@comcast.net (Ext 5)

Santa's Workshop: Volunteers needed !

DuPage Website: www.dupage-il.toysfortots.org

Foundation Website: www.toysfortots.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dupagecountytoysfortots

11-12-23 Stuff the Truck Toys For Tots event

297 toys -100 SS- 32 books -\$cash and Target gift card



Patriotic Bear is Lynne Grezek, John Meschi, Linda Bellow, Mohamed Ali in Blues, Nadia Baran, Santa(John Humphries), Rita Kollias

Woman in Service Dinner was held the evening of 6 NOV 2023 at Gene & Georgetti's Restaurant in Chicago. This invite only event was hosted by the Chicago Bears in partnership with USAA and Chicago Bears reporter Lauren Screeden. In attendance were #399 members Victoria Cobbett and Nadia Baran. Special Guests included:

Chicago Bear Jerry Azuma,
General Antoinette Grant, Army
Captain Bette Horstman Army, WWII , the 100 years of age woman on the first all-female honor flight
Author Cassandra Taylor, "Why I Serve"



Nadia Baran, Chris Jobin, Victoria Cobbett, Lt. Bette Horstman, Cassandra Taylor, unk

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR RECOGNITION

9 NOV 2023 we participated in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 1300 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle. Eagle Scout Nicholas Shutes was presented the MCL Good Citizenship Award & a USMC Ka-Bar.



Merrill Albertus, Eagle Scout Nicholas Shutes, Don-

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

DuPage Marines are looking for Marines! Make sure you get credit for being a recruiter/sponsor. Five new members recruited in a detachment year (May 1-April 30) rates the Detachment Recruiter Ribbon.

LIFE MEMBERS

New Life Member – Michael Gilbert became a Life Member on 28 NOV 2023. Michael is an Associate Member and the father of the late Life Member Sgt. Thomas Gilbert, KIA 10/26/06 in Iraq.

If you want a printed certificate to record your date of life membership in the DuPage Marines MCL Detachment #399, contact Adjutant/Paymaster Cobbett (630-330-2571 or 630-257-6423) and one will be printed for you. The certificates were purchased years ago and are a nice addition to your MCL collection of certificates and awards.

LIFE MEMBER DUES NEW FEE SCHEDULE

Consider becoming a Life Member – After One (1) year of membership, any member can become a Life Member of the Marine Corps League.

Effective 1 JULY 2023, the Life Membership Fees Increased as follows:

\$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

A member's annual dues must be paid up-to-date and the member is in good standing. Any member desiring to become a life member this year must postmark their payment before 1 September or it will apply to next year. Use the SASE included with the annual dues reminder and return to Paymaster Cobbett, 733 Singer Avenue, Lemont, IL 60439-3912.

ANNUAL DUES

If you pay annual dues, they expire annually on 31 August 2023. If you have difficulty paying your dues, please contact Paymaster Vicki Cobbett, (v.cobbett@comcast.net, or text 630-330-2571) and confidentiality will be maintained. You are very important to our detachment. Anyone can experience financial problems, don't be so proud.

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Members who were sworn in to our detachment **over twenty years ago:**

Frank L. Foster – 22 Years, 26 December 2000

Members who were sworn in to our detachment **over fifteen years ago:**

James M. Gorski – 19 Years, 28 December 2004

Ed Weigartner – 18 Years, 27 December 2005

Members who were sworn in to our detachment **over ten years ago:**

None in December

PRAYER LIST

Please remember our own Bud Marks in your thoughts and prayers as he battles Camp Lejeune-related health issues. Cards may be mailed to: 1212 Hawthorne Ct. Hinsdale, IL 60521 and they will be brought to him or send your love & support in whatever way you choose.

Also, continue your prayers for health and healing of members and their family:

Marty Bourgeois, John Burlace, Charlie Castino, the Gaden Family, Roland Johnson, Kyle Michael Koener, Vito Markas, Mike Mikulecky, Richard Nazimek, Terry Owens, Harper Orbell, Sharon Passero, Read Rogers, Mrs. Karen M. Ferrara & family, and Thomas Stuckey need to remain in your thoughts and prayers; Also, keep Commandant Merrill Albertus in your prayers; Merrill is continuing chemotherapy infusions and it is taking a toll on his physical self.. 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 remain in our prayers.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

At our detachment meeting on 28 NOV 2023, we celebrated the USMC birthday with the cake cutting ceremony. The oldest Marine present, Chuck Wingard kept up our tradition by passing the 1st slice of USMC 248th birthday cake to our youngest Marine present, Rita Kollias. And of course, we sang the Marines' Hymn. The pizza was courtesy of George Bormann (who stepped on the yellow footprints sixty years ago 31 October 1963).

SEMPER FIDELIS!
IMPROVISE ADAPT OVERCOME