



JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Our next monthly meeting is: **17 July 2024**



Freedom is not free.
Remembering our Independence on this 4th of July 2024.
Have a Safe, and Happy 4th of July.

Take a moment to reflect upon the sacrifices of those who fought for our Independence. Also remember those in the past, those in the present, and those in our future who sacrificed/sacrifice to keep us
FREE AND INDEPENDENT.



Battle of Belleau Wood

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Belleau_Wood

(Brought to you by detachment Life Member Rudy Grein)



Members who pay their dues annually – Please get your renewal in As Soon As Possible. We need time to process and forward paperwork.

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE TO NATIONAL BEFORE 1 September 2024.





JULY BIRTHDAYS

26 July – Ronald Cooper, Sr. **Deceased**

26 July – Robert McGuigan

Please take a moment to remember, or recognize, each of them on the
“Anniversary-of-the-Day-They-Were Born.”



CORPSMAN



Dave Huber – Dave announced that his grandson Dave Michael Houghton Huber was born to his son Dave. Dave Michael Houghton Huber was born 1 month premature, but is doing well. Congratulations Grandpa, and dad.

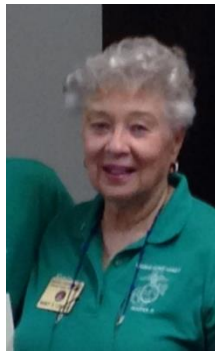
Keeping track of to whom you're speaking may become a problem later (Dave, Dave, or Dave).



Kim Lonberg – Kim had surgery on her right hand the day of the meeting. She was having quite some pain and discomfort. Detachment Commandant Joseph Lamm got her a bag of ice to help with the pain. She insisted on staying for the meeting instead of going home.



Thad Lukasik – Thad reported that he had a doctor’s appointment on the day before the meeting and that his counts were both up which is a good sign. He says he has a positive attitude, and that he is handling having 2 types of cancer. Thad will be going on the Honor Flight taking place on the 27th of September 2024. His escort is a resident of their retirement complex.



Nancy Lukasik – Nancy was not able to attend the June meeting due to her arthritis acting up.

Presentation and Recognition of United States Marine George C. Leber, and Namesake of the George C. Leber Detachment #1481, Marine Corps League, & June 2024



The day began with a gathering of George C. Leber Detachment #1481 members. Detachment Senior Vice Commandant Kevin Sweden, Jeanette Sump, Detachment Commandant & Department of Oregon Junior Vice Commandant William Sump, Detachment member Dick Leber son of George C. Leber and friends. Emerald Empire Detachment members attending included Junior Vice Commandant Paul Grinde, Detachment Paymaster Lois Price, and Detachment Senior Vice Commandant Stephen Price. They met to socialize and become acquainted. This occurred at the Coburg Café, Coburg, Oregon. The group then caravanned to the Springfield Memorial Gardens, Springfield, Oregon where George C. Leber and his wife Doris are buried.

Department Junior Vice Commandant William Bulldog Sump began the ceremony with an invocation. Then George C. Leber's son Don Leber read a biography of George's service during World War II as a United States Marine.

A photo painting of George's service, photos, and life was presented to the sons of George C. Leber. Son Dick Leber is a member of the George C. Leber Detachment and lives in Clackamas County, Oregon. Son Don Leber lives in Eugene, Oregon.

Following this, an Eagle, Globe and Anchor medallion and a George C. Leber Detachment #1481, Marine Corps League, Challenge Coin were affixed to George's headstone.

George C. Leber participated in the battles of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian. George was never wounded; however, he did develop malaria. The second occurrence got him returned to the states for treatment. The biography of George's service follows the pictures below.









(Left to right) Dick Leber, Lois Price, Stephen Price, Don Leber, Paul Grinde, William (Bulldog) Sump, Kevin Sweden.



Marine Corps League #1481, Lincoln County, Oregon

Posted by Jeanette Sump
2m · 🌐

Lincoln County Detachment #1481 was named in honor of George C Leber. Today, our Detachment along with Leber's two sons were able to honor his service to our Country and recognize him as a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. We permanently placed an Eagle, Globe & Anchor, and a George C Leber Detachment #1481 challenge coin on his headstone.

We would like to thank the Emerald Empire Marine Corps League Detachment 917 for joining us today to honor this highly decorated Marine.

Semper Fi

[Marine Corps League, Department of Oregon](#)
[MCL Detachment 917](#)

George C Leber

May 19, 1919 ~ August 21, 2004



The Lincoln County Oregon Marine Corps League, Detachment #1481 was established on April 16, 2020. During our application process, our fire team choose George C. Leber, a Radioman in World War II as the designee of our detachment.

George C. Leber was born May 19, 1919, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to George and Florence Moore Leber. His childhood and early years were spent on the East Coast, and he graduated from Haddon Heights High School in Camden, New Jersey. After high school he became a lineman for Public Service Electric and Gas Company as well played semi-pro baseball.

In February of 1942, George enlisted in the US Marine Corps and went to boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina. Six months after completing basic training, and Radio Operators School in Quantico, Virginia, he found himself on Guadalcanal with an infantry unit, and for three months he battled the Japanese on that island. Following an attack of malaria and a rest in New Zealand, he returned to active duty and rejoined his unit in the battle at Tarawa. Their landing boats could get no closer than a few hundred yards off shore, making the marines "clay pigeons" for Japanese machine gunners. The enemy was entrenched in pillboxes of timber and concrete, most of them underground. There was no way of rooting them out with artillery fire so the Marines did it with rifles, bayonets and grenades.

His unit then went to Saipan, where things got even tougher, and he lost many of his close friends on the beaches there. They spent days under enemy artillery fire, with no time for sleep. The tension experienced in such a protracted ordeal was beyond description. Saipan had several large centers of population on it; as soon as the marines secured a beachhead, the inhabitants, who represented half a dozen races, made a beeline for the U.S. position to give themselves up, and get away from the Japanese.

George's unit went on to battle with the enemy on Tinian Island, and there they were more successful. On Tinian, George had a recurrence of malaria and was sent to the United States for treatment. In February of 1945 he was released from the Stratford Home, a rehabilitation center/sanitarium for malaria victims in Klamath Falls.

George Leber was honorably discharged from the US Marine Corps on July 9, 1945. For his service he received the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with four stars denoting that many campaigns, two Presidential Unit Citations, a sharpshooter's and bayonet experts badge. As luck would have it, George was in 4 major battle campaigns without being wounded, which was a rarity.

George married Jessie V. Starr on March 16, 1945, and took up residency in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He started working in the food distributing business. In 1948 he moved the family up to Eugene and continued in the food business. He and Jessie had 3 children, 2 sons and a daughter. George became a volunteer fire fighter for Danebo Fire District, which led to a career for him as a full time fire fighter for city of Eugene. He retired 22 years later, achieving the rank of Captain. George and Jessie divorced in 1973.

In 1975, George married Doris Dawson and they lived in a small neighborhood about 13 miles east of Waldport on the Alsea River for much of their retirement. He became an avid fisherman for those elusive salmon and steelhead. He enjoyed woodcrafts and travel. He attended church regularly and was a member of the Elks. In 2001, due to health issues, they moved to Springfield Oregon and lived there until his passing in 2004, at the age of 85.



From the Chaplain's Corner

Happy Independence Day! And thank you all who served to ensure that our independence continues!



As the weather heats up, be sure to use sunscreen when you're outside and hydrate! It's easy to lose track of the liquids we intake but it is essential to our wellbeing. You might refresh what too much sun exposure looks like to help those around you be safe! Sunstroke is NOT fun!



If you are traveling this summer, drive safely and have a good time.

If you're home, be sure to come to Marine Corps League to encourage and enjoy your fellow members!

You are missed when you're not seen on a regular basis. If you know someone whom we haven't seen in a while, don't hesitate to reach out to them. Sometimes we all need to be told we have been missed and that we would love to see them again.



Enjoy your July and all the fresh fruit & vegetables that come on. I'm looking forward to being able to share my tomatoes, squash & berries as they are ready.

Hope to see you soonest!

**Semper Fi,
Joy Cavin, Chaplain
Emerald Empire Chapter 917, MCL**





Fund-Raising Breakfast Service for Sunday, 16 June 2024 (Father's Day)



At the 16 June 2024 fund-raising breakfast, we served 41 meals (21 were free to fathers, and 1 bartender) and brought in \$200.00. The number 41 is not a record but it was getting close. We also received \$53.00 in tips, for a total of **\$253.00.**



JIM PILLING – Wants to pass along-
“On behalf of my family, I would like to thank all the Marine Corps League volunteers that cooked and served the Father's Day Breakfast. Great food and service. SEMPER FI!!”

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Kathryn Baarson

At the June meeting we had a guest, Kathryn Baarson. Kathryn has a couple ties to the Emerald Empire Detachment. She went to high school with associate member Joy Cavin, and she was at Boot Camp with Life Member Debbie Barker at Parris Island in October 1973. She was stationed at Camp Lejeune, spent time as a recruiter, and some time as a reservist. Kathryn is a member of the Marine Corps League out of Glendale, Arizona.



**Sure wish we were over there. Please say hello to all.
The Bowkers**



The Emerald Empire Young Marines participated in a 22 Long Rifle Qualification and Gun Safety Class conducted at a private range in the Veneta, Oregon area. The Emerald Empire Young Marines are looking for Adult Volunteers and more kids to participate in the Young Marines program.



SSgt David Willis (USMC, Retired) shown with Jess Wise and Tom Williams. This was taken at SSgt Willis' retirement ceremony in 2015. David's mother Becky Willis told detachment member Kim Lonberg that David is "doing really well." David was a member of the Emerald Empire Young Marines, and was one of those who "took down" the Thurston High School shooter.



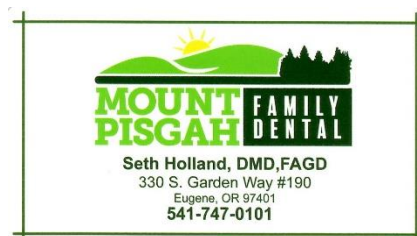
David's parents Richard and Becky Willis.

Oregon Veterans' Home, Lebanon, Oregon



Emerald Empire Detachment collected hygiene items that were in need at the Oregon Veterans' Home, Lebanon, Oregon.

A shout out goes to Jim Pilling and his family for donating many items. Some even came from one of his daughter's employers.



The detachment also purchased \$300.00 worth of items (to include an electric razor for a man and one for a woman).

On 20 June 2024, detachment Life Member Paul Grinde, and detachment member Dan Stombaugh delivered the items to the home. They were very pleased to receive the items including the zero sugar drinks which they had just run out of.



Dan was camera shy and insisted on taking the photos.

Marine Corps League “Mission Statement”

Marine Corps League Mission Statement (As shown on our detachment website)

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

The Mission of the Marine Corps League (as shown on national website)

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 Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

LEAGUE PATCHES ARE IN



The detachment bought Marine Corps League patches (regular and associate). These are available for purchase for those persons wishing to buy new league shirts, or replace old league shirts.



Regular Patches are \$4.00 each
Associate Patches are \$7.00 each

Emerald Empire Detachment #917 Advertising Pens



The pens are available to detachment members for \$1.00 each pen. This covers the cost of the pens and earns the detachment approximately 23 cents per pen.

The pens are for handing out to Marines, Corpsmen, Chaplains, and persons we want to try and recruit for membership.

HATS & VISORS



Eagle, globe, anchor & “Semper Fi” White Sun visors and Black Marine Corps League hats - **\$1.00 each** – **What a Deal.** Hats/Visors are now available at the **monthly meetings.**



DETACHMENT COINS / CHIPS



Available for \$1.50 each which off-sets the cost of buying them and earns the detachment 45 cents on each one purchased. They are available for purchase in-person during the monthly meetings and from the detachment paymaster.



You can carry one on you as your representation of the detachment when “challenged.” You can also give them out to Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains, and persons who may want to be associate members as recruiting tools; or as gifts to family, friends, and acquaintances who are veterans themselves.

EMERALD EMPIRE DETACHMENT # 917
OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION:

Commandant Joseph Lamm
(541) 337-0539
mrbugpest@aol.com

Senior Vice-Commandant Stephen Price
(541) 741-1772
lostrose7@msn.com

Junior-Vice Commandant Paul Grinde
(541) 704-0150
beavers@epud.net

Judge Advocate Thad Lukasik
(541) 913-5477
thadlukasik42@comcast.net

Adjutant Raymond J. Miller
(H) (541) 689-9456
ray.miller.usmc@gmail.com

Paymaster Lois J. Price
(541) 741-1772
lostrose7@msn.com

Chaplain Joy Cavin
(541) 554-7982
Nightlight@comcast.net

Web-Master Debbie Barker
(541) 746-9295
GunnyB7@charter.net

Sgt-at-Arms Matthew Scott
(541) 870-2703
Uneedmas4@gmail.com

Junior Past-Commandant Dave Huber
(541) 554-1894
dave_huber@outlook.com

Moose Lodge 1726
2011 Laura Street
Springfield, OR 97477-2100
Phone: (541) 746-3321
3rd Wednesday of the Month

Dinner @ 1800 hours

Meeting Starts @ 1900 hours

Mailing address:
Emerald Empire Detachment #917
PO Box 70455 Springfield, OR 97475

Detachment E-mail Address:
mcldet917@gmail.com

Detachment Facebook Page: [MCL Detachment 917](#)

Detachment Web Site: www.mcl917.org

Department Web Site: <http://www.mcl-oregon.org>

National Website: www.mclnational.org

2024 Meeting Dates

MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDARS NOW

17 July 2024 (Hot Dog, Fresh Corn on the Cob, Apple Pie)

21 August 2024

18 September 2024

16 October 2024

20 November 2024

18 December 2024

2024 Fund Raising Breakfast Dates

MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDARS NOW

~~21 July 2024~~ SWITCHED TO:
28 July 2024 (4th Sunday of July)

18 August 2024

15 September 2024

20 October 2024

17 November 2024

15 December 2024