



# SOUNDOFF

The Official Newsletter of the Marine Corps  
League Choctaw Detachment 778



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**April 2026**

# We're Back!!! The Newsletter is finally back!!!



## From the Desk of the Commandant

Fellow Marines and Associate Member,

The strength of the Choctaw Detachment is not found in a title or position—it is found in the Marines who show up, step forward, and continue to serve long after active duty has ended. That dedication is what makes this detachment something special.

Whether you contribute through meetings, events, community service, or simply checking in on a fellow Marine, you are helping preserve the traditions and values that define the Marine Corps League. Our mission remains clear: to support Marines, honor our heritage, and give back to our community.

I appreciate each of you for what you do and who you are. Together, we will continue to build a strong, visible, and respected detachment that reflects the pride of the Eagle,

Globe, and Anchor.

Semper Fidelis,

E Earl Davis

Commandant

Choctaw Detachment 778



## Meeting Dates

**Detachment Meetings:** 1830 American Red Cross

- 7 Apr Election of Officers
- 7 May Installation of Officers & Awards Banquet
- 2 Jun Regular Meeting

## Department

- 5-6 Jun Department Convention Lafayette, LA

## Division

- TBD Mar 2027 Southeast Division Conference location—TBD

## National

- 10-14 Aug National Convention Indianapolis, IN

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**Web Sergeant**

Steve Brandt  
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steven.brandt@gmail.com



**Quarter Master**

Cheryl Ellis  
225-235-2330  
tiggermouse48@gmail.com

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Uniform of the Day
7-Apr	Detachment Meeting Election of Officers	American Red Cross	Cover
11-Apr	Rose Day	Oak Point 144485 Greenwell Springs Rd.	Red Detachment Shirt
25-Apr	5th Annual Crawfish Cook-off for the Corps	Pontchartrain Yacht Club 140 Jakcsong Ave. Mandeville	None
7-May	Detachment Officer Installation &	American Red Cross	Red Jackets
5-6 Jun	Department Convention	Homewood Suites Lafayette	Cover Red Jacket for Banquet

**Blast from the past**



1994 Installation of Officers: Installing Officer Department Commandant Albert Voltolina. Pictured L to R: Bob Clothier (Adjutant / Paymaster), Vic Beverson (Senior Vice Commandant), George Edmonson (Commandant), Johnny Gordon (Junior Vice Commandant), Bart Buckel (Sergeant-at-Arms).

# Installation of Officers and Awards Banquet

Please Register for our event:

\$30 per person

Red Jacket or Business Casual

7 May 2026

A night full of camaraderie, great food and recognition.



## Recruit New Members

Recruiting and retaining members is one of the most important missions of any Marine Corps League Detachment. Our continued strength—and our future—depend on it.

Every member can make a difference by recruiting new members or helping reinstate members who have fallen into inactive status. The Junior Vice Commandant oversees the Membership Committee and can assist with eligibility requirements and recruiting guidance. Pamphlets are available for members who wish to recruit on their own or take part in organized recruiting efforts.



Application QR Code

### Recruiting Awards:

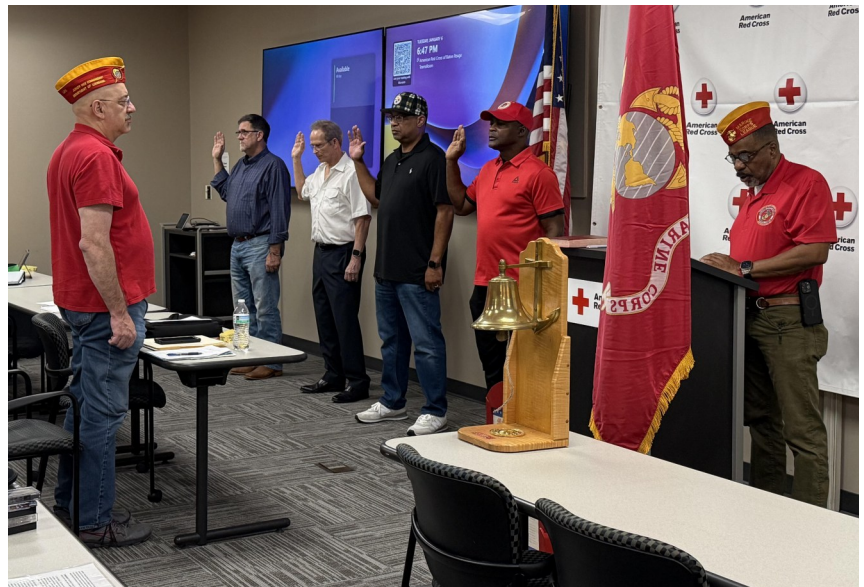
1. Recruit 5 or more members (June to May): Detachment Recruiting Ribbon
  2. Recruit 5 or more members (June to May): Department Junior Vice Commandant Certificate  
Recruit 10 or more (June to May): Submitted to Department for Department Recruiting Ribbon
  3. Recruit 5 or more (June to May): Submitted to National for National Junior Vice Commandant Certificate  
Recruit 25 or more (June to May): Submitted to National for National Recruiting Ribbon
- 25–49 recruits: National Recruiter Medal – Bronze and Distinguished Service Award
  - 50 or more recruits: National Recruiter Medal – Silver and Distinguished Service Medal
  - National Recruiter of the Year: National Recruiter - Gold , a plaque, and Distinguished Service Medal

### Welcome Aboard

During the last quarter we welcomed 6 new members: Clarence Friendship, Eddie Kinchen, Dave Pellerin, Gary Stovall, Lionel Delferes, Louis Griffen and Richard Maloney.

### Recruiting Leaderboard:

1. Todd Messina—11
2. James Grayer—3
3. James Roy—2
4. Frank Muscarello—1  
Robert Reisz—1  
Mike Mayeux—1



L to R: JPC Todd Messina, Dave Pellerin, Gary Stovall, Clarence Friendship, Eddie Kinchen, and Detachment Commandant E. Earl Davis.

### Membership Committee:

Chair: Detachment Junior Vice Commandant Robert Reisz

The Membership Committee focuses on recruiting, retention, and welcoming new members into the Detachment. Committee members assist with onboarding, maintaining accurate records, and planning recruiting initiatives. If you want to help grow the Detachment and ensure its future, this committee is always looking for motivated Marines willing to step up and serve.

# Membership Renewal

— Due by 31 August —



Renew by scanning  
the QR Code



**Annual Members:** \$40 a year

Remember dues renewals take place on 1 Sep each year.

We have set the Detachment up with Zeffy to collect our dues. You can set auto renewal which will renew on 1 Aug each year. If you are setting that up do it after 1 Aug so you don't end up paying twice. Also you can set the 17% charge to other and put 0 or leave it blank.



## Life Members:

After one full year of membership in the Detachment a member becomes eligible to become a life member. Important to note, you must be a member in good standing so if you wait until after 1 Sep in any given year you will have to pay the new years dues and then pay your life membership. Prices are available in the same place as the Annual Members pay their dues. It is based on your age.

## Choctaw Detachment Marine of the Year

### Hillar C. Moore, Jr. Award

The Detachment Marine of the Year is the highest individual honor awarded by Choctaw Detachment 778. This recognition is reserved for a Marine whose service, leadership, character, and sustained commitment set them apart from their peers.

This is not simply an award for participation — it is a distinction earned through consistent dedication, reliability, and meaningful impact on the Detachment and the mission of the Marine Corps League.

Recipients are inducted into the Marine of the Year Honor Society, joining a distinguished group of Marines who represent the enduring standard of excellence within our Detachment. Because of its significance, this award is considered a once-in-a-lifetime honor.

The Marine of the Year reflects the very best of who we are — and who we strive to be — as Marines.



Year	Recipient	Year	Recipient
2025	Steve Kovach	2010	Ernest Watson *
2024	E. Earl Davis	2009	Don Hale *
2023	Mickey Brown *	2008	Woody Craft
2022	Todd Messina	2007	Ben Ashcraft *
2021	Ray Broussard	2006	Vic Beverson *
2020	Al Szur	2005	Bob Finley / Daryl Bickham *
2019	James Roy	2004	Richard White *
2018	Mike Coon	2003	Bob Clothier *
2017	Ray Gendron	2002	Pat Kane
2016	Frank Muscarello	2001	Bill Baker *
2015	Richard Ulrich	2000	Hillar Moore *
2014	Dick Brandt *	1999	Joe Corsentino *
2013	Marion Lee	1998	Vic Beverson *
2012	Frank Kern *	1997	VJ Bella
2011	George Edmonson *		

# Apr 2026 Issue

## Choctaw Detachment Associate Member of the Year Award

The Associate Member of the Year is the highest honor awarded to a non-Marine member of Choctaw Detachment 778. This distinction recognizes exceptional dedication, service, and unwavering support of the mission of the Marine Corps League.

This award is not based on attendance alone, but on meaningful contribution — consistent involvement, reliability, leadership, and a demonstrated commitment to the Marines and veterans we serve.

The recipient exemplifies the spirit of service that strengthens our Detachment from within. Through their actions, they reflect loyalty to the Corps, respect for its traditions, and genuine dedication to supporting those who have earned the title Marine.

The Associate Member of the Year stands as a testament to the vital role Associate Members play in the continued success and growth of Choctaw Detachment 778.



Year	Recipient
2025	Steve Brandt
2020	Lydia Szur
2019	Doug Walker *
2015	Doug Walker *
2012	Jeannie Buckel
2004	Jeannie Buckel



# Apr 2026 Issue

## Choctaw Hounds Pound Dog of the Year

### Victor R. Beverson Award

The Detachment Marine of the Year is the highest individual honor awarded by Choctaw Detachment 778. This recognition is reserved for a Marine whose service, leadership, character, and sustained commitment set them apart from their peers.

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Recipients are inducted into the Marine of the Year Honor Society, joining a distinguished group of Marines who represent the enduring standard of excellence within our Detachment. Because of its significance, this award is considered a once-in-a-lifetime honor.

The Marine of the Year reflects the very best of who we are — and who we strive to be — as Marines.



Year	Recipient	Year	Recipient
2025	PDD E. Earl Davis	2007	DD Ben Ashcraft
2024	PDD Todd Messina	2006	PDD Vic Beverson
2023	PDD James Roy	2005	Cornellius “Doc” Whitley
2022	PDD Frank Muscarello	2004	DD Richard White
2021	PDD Richard Ulrich	2003	PDD Murphy Burke
2012	DD Pat Kane	2002	PDD Vic Beverson
2011	DD Ernest Watson	2001	PDD Hillar Moore
2010	PDD Murphy Burke	2000	PDD Vic Beverson
2009	PDD VJ Bella	1999	PDD VJ Bella
2008	DD George Edmonson		





# National News

## Marine Corps League National Mid-Winter Conference

The Marine Corps League National Mid-Winter Conference was held 26–28 February 2026 at the Sheraton Pentagon City in Arlington, Virginia. This event brings together MCL leadership and members from across the country to conduct essential business and guide the direction of the organization it focuses on national administrative matters, financial oversight, committee reports, policy updates, and preparation for the upcoming National Convention.

Choctaw Detachment 778 was proudly represented by one member in attendance. The Department of Louisiana had a total of four members present, representing three detachments across the state.



District 1 Vice Commandant Mike Cooley & Detachment Commandant E. Earl Davis representing Louisiana at the National Mid-Winter Conference

National Commandant TJ Morgan & Chief Devil Dog Joe DeAngelo



**Why This Matters to Our Members**  
National decisions shape every Detachment. By maintaining representation, we stay informed on policy updates, bring Louisiana’s voice forward, and return better equipped to strengthen Choctaw Detachment 778. Staying engaged nationally keeps us informed, credible, and mission-focused.

Dates: 10-14 August 2026 (suggested arrival on Sunday 9 August)

Location: Wyndam Indianapolis Airport Hotel  
2544 Executive Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46241



### Heading to the National Convention?

Be sure you book your hotel room and register for the banquet. (QR code to the left)

You will also need to let the Detachment leadership know you are attending so they can properly register you as a delegate for the detachment, this will ensure the Detachment has it’s full voting strength registered. (QR code to the right)



## 2026 Southeast Division Conference

The Marine Corps League Southeast Division Conference was held 4–7 March 2026 in Savannah, Georgia. Marines and Associate Members from across the Division gathered to conduct business, recognize outstanding members, and discuss initiatives affecting the future of the League.

During the conference, it was announced that **Montgomery, Alabama** will host the **2027 Southeast Division Conference**. A proposal was also approved establishing a **rotational schedule for the host Department**, beginning next year with the **Department of Alabama**. Based on the rotation schedule, the **Department of Louisiana is projected to host the Division Conference again in 2030**.

Several leadership updates for the **Marine Corps League Foundation** were also announced. **Past National Vice Commandant for the Southeast Division Jerry Holt** was named the new **President of the Marine Corps League Foundation**. Additionally, **Tom Green of the Department of Louisiana**, currently serving as the Department Compliance Officer, was appointed **Treasurer of the Foundation**.



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## Southeast Division Annual Awards

The following members were recognized for their outstanding service to the Marine Corps League and the Southeast Division:

**Southeast Division Marine of the Year**

**William D. Carter Award**

Jerry Holt — Department of South Carolina

**Southeast Division Associate Member of the Year**

Jerry Vaughn — Department of Florida

**Southeast Division Devil Dog of the Year**

PDD Helen Breen — South Carolina Pack

**Southeast Division Auxiliary Member of the Year**

Becky Marcel of the Department of Louisiana



**National Vice Commandant  
of the Southeast Division  
PDC Ronnie Broussard**

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## Semper Fi

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**Heading to the Southeast Division Conference?**

Be sure to check back for more information about SE Division Conferences or the conventions from its Departments please scan the QR code. Also be sure you book your hotel room and register for the banquet. (QR code to the left)

You will also need to let the Detachment leadership know you are attending so they can properly register you as a delegate for the detachment, this will ensure the Detachment has it's full voting strength registered. (QR code to the right)



## Department News:

The **Department of Louisiana Spring Meeting** was held on **March 21, 2026**, in Erath, Louisiana, and was graciously hosted by the Lt. Dronet Detachment 1304 at the Erath Community Center. The meeting brought together members from across the state for a productive day of discussion, planning, and fellowship.

During the meeting, several key topics were addressed. Attendees received updates and insights from the recent **National Mid-Winter Conference**, including important information and initiatives that will impact the Marine Corps League at all levels moving forward. These updates were shared to ensure all detachments remain informed and aligned with national priorities.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming **Department Convention**, with discussions centered around planning, participation, and ensuring a successful and well-organized event. Members were encouraged to remain engaged and support the convention in any capacity possible.

The Department also had the opportunity to hear from Marine Corps League member **Sean Fairburn**, who spoke about his organization, *1st Maker Battalion*. His organization's mission and impact were well received, and the Department proudly voted to make a donation in support of his efforts. Members were encouraged to learn more about the organization and consider ways their respective detachments may support or collaborate with similar initiatives that benefit veterans and the community.

Looking ahead, discussions were held regarding future Department events, including the search for a host location for the upcoming **Fall Department Meeting** as well as early planning for the **2027 Department Convention**. The importance of securing strong host detachments was emphasized to ensure continued success and participation statewide.

Members of the Jans F. Hursey Detachment expressed interest in exploring the possibility of hosting a future event and indicated they would be discussing the opportunity further with their leadership, as well as coordinating with the LCpl Justin D. McLeese Detachment as a potential joint hosting effort.



**Department of Louisiana  
Commandant  
Tim Neal**



### Heading to the Department Convention?

Be sure you book your hotel room and register for the banquet. (QR code to the left)

You will also need to let the Detachment leadership know you are attending so they can properly register you as a dele-



**Funeral Honors Detail:**

Funeral Director: E. Earl Davis      225-273-1700      earl.davis@youngmarines.org

I need to put here an explanation about why we do this... the whole 9 yards with ega to the time we die what semper fidelis really means. To volunteer to be a part of this detail. Contact the funeral director.

**There is no obligation to attend funerals regularly this detail is as your schedule permits.**



Pictured: (L to R) Mike Mayeux, Earl Lee, Bryan Powell, Sid Gale, Frank Muscarello, & Al Szur.

**Needed uniforms to participate in the Detail:**

1. Summer Funerals—White short sleeve, Dress Blue Trousers, a Red Cover ONLY
2. Winter Funerals & Funerals for MCL Members—Red Jacket, Black Trousers, white gloves, and a Red Cover ONLY

For more information please contact our funeral director.

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

## CHOCTAW DETACHMENT



UNITED STATES - MARINE CORPS



# SHIP STORE



Pound Officers



**Pound Keeper**  
PDD E. Earl Davis  
225-273-1700  
earl.davis@youngmarines.org



**Senior Vice Pound Keeper**  
PDD Todd Messina  
225-955-7480  
tmessina3@cox.net



**Junior Vice Pound Keeper**  
PDD George Haase  
985-646-1760  
gmhaase@hotmail.com



**Smart Dog**  
PDD Mike Cooley  
531-333-0100  
americanmike24@yahoo.com



**Mad Dog & Junior Past Pound Keeper**  
PDD James Roy  
225-572-4994  
verouchi@gmail.com



**Dog Robber, Barking Dog, & Compliance Dog**  
PDD Frank Muscarello  
225-278-3625  
fjmuscar@bellsouth.net

PICTURE

NOT

AVAILABLE

**Police Dog**  
DD Bill Romano  
225-276-0913  
acousticman59@hotmail.com



**Dog Trainer & Watch Dog**  
PDD Steve Kovach  
225-500-2558  
stevek07@gmail.com

### Pack News:

Members of the Pack gathered at the Spring Pack Growl in Erath, Louisiana on March 21, 2026. The Choctaw Hounds were well represented with nine members in attendance, and a great time was had by all as we enjoyed fellowship with our fellow Pack members.



### Grand Growl

The Grand Growl of Louisiana Pack will be at the Department Convention. Be sure to get registered for this event. If you are a PUP with at least 1 year in the MODD you have the opportunity to move up the Degree of Devil Dog. Check with your Pound Mad Dog to make sure you have completed your Initiation Book for the Pack.

Members can already register for this event taking place at the Homewood Suites in Lafayette, LA. Choctaw Hounds 261 should have a great representation as it continues to lead the Pack in participation: Operation Chowhound, attendance, enthusiasm, and overall presence. Dogs will bring their guide on and members of the Pound are ask to sit near the guide on in a display of pride for our Pound.



### Pound News:

The Pound currently stands at a total membership of **23 Devil Dogs**, continuing to show strong participation and engagement.

Members of the Pound gathered at the **American Red Cross in Baton Rouge, Louisiana**, on **28 March 2026**, for a productive and spirited Growl. During the meeting, members discussed the potential acceptance of **two prospective mongrels** into the Pound. These individuals will be contacted and are expected to attend the next Growl, where they may be properly initiated into the order.

The Pound collected **78 Big Bones in fines**, contributing to the continued support of MODD initiatives and charitable efforts. In support of **Operation Chowhound**, the Pound successfully collected and donated **470 pounds of dog food** to the **Companion Animal Alliance**. This outstanding contribution reflects the Pound's ongoing commitment to community service and support for local organizations.

Members were also encouraged to attend the upcoming **Grand Growl of the Pack**, which will be held in **Lafayette, Louisiana, on June 5, 2026**. All Devil Dogs are urged to register and participate in this important Pack event.

Overall, the Growl was a success, demonstrating the strength, camaraderie, and continued dedication of the Pound. To register for the next Pound Growl scan the QR Code to the left, it will take place on 20 June 2026 at 1330, at the American Red Cross.



## MCLA Choctaw 531 Unit News:

Marine Corps League Auxiliary units— Support Marines: Veterans, Active Duty, Family, and Each Other; \* Support Veterans Legislation: Inform, Write letters to support State and Congressional initiatives; \* Support Youth & Community: Young Marines, Operation Little Angel, local outreach; \* Support MCL Detachments: Birthday balls, parades, memorials, fundraisers, conventions, family events; \* Support Active Duty Marines: Gift boxes, Wounded Warriors, families at home.



**Are you someone who may be interested of may know someone who may be:**  
Contact Unit President Dawn Muscarello 225-978-7441 or [dmmuscar@bellsouth.net](mailto:dmmuscar@bellsouth.net)

**Edgibility:** 16 years of age and the following

**Regular Members-** Wives, Widows, Mothers, Grandmothers, Sisters, Daughters, Granddaughters, Stepmothers, Stepsisters, Daughters-in-Law, Aunts, Nieces, Mothers-in-Law, Sisters-in-Law of a Marine or a US Navy FMF Corpsman or FMF Navy Chaplain, eligible to belong to the Marine Corps League, Inc., and Women Marines.

**Associate Members** - Women not meeting the above requirements may join as associate members.

## Committee Chairs

Audit:	Todd Messina
Budget & Finance:	E. Earl Davis
Bylaws:	PDC James Roy
Fundraising:	Todd Messina
Membership:	Robert Reisz
Nominating:	Todd Messina
Special Operations:	PDC James Roy

## Program Leaders

BR Soldier Outreach:	E. Earl Davis
Color Guard:	James Grayer
Disaster Relief:	E. Earl Davis
Eagle Scouts:	Frank Muscarello
Funeral Honors:	E. Earl Davis
Color Guard:	James Grayer
Parades:	Robert Reisz
Rose Day:	Todd Messina
Scholarships:	Frank Muscarello
Shooting Team:	James Grayer
St. Vincent de Paul:	Steve Brandt
Toys 4 Tots:	Todd Messina
VA Clinic:	E. Earl Davis
Young Marines:	E. Earl Davis
Veterans Homes:	Sid Gale

**For more information about the Choctaw Detachment please visit our website:**

