



# OORAH NEWSLETTER

*Granite State Detachment #542  
Marine Corps League*

March 31, 2023 Quarterly Issue: 2023-001

## COMMANDANT'S CORNER



*BJ Byers*

Dear Detachment Members, Friends and Supporters,

***Welcome new member AJ. Hebert to the  
Granite State Detachment #542!***



**Semper fi, AJ**

## SR. VICE COMMANDANT



*Gary Gahan*

It is hard to believe that it is spring already wondering where the year has already been going. It is time to bring out the gardening tools to get the lawn and flower gardens ready. A bit of advice in doing these tasks is to be sure to wear a sunscreen to avoid a nasty sunburn that could ultimately turn into a skin cancer. And, be on the lookout for ticks! I had a tick bite on my back several years ago that I discovered. My primary care doctor prescribed the usual one dose of a particular medicine; however when I had my annual physical exam several months later as a precaution, he had my blood checked for tick related issues which turned up a particular parasite related to the tick bite that was treated.

We will be having several fund-raising options coming up soon. I will be reaching out to you all for any potential time commitment to these venues that you can allocated towards the greater cause and would hope that you will find time to help. Also consider extending an invitation to friends or neighbors to join you in the fun and camaraderie that tends to be a part of the venue. Each hour of donated time at one of these venues tends to bring in \$100 per volunteer. We have found it most beneficial to have at least two individuals at an event to help pass the time and to keep people engaged. I try to keep a shift to a maximum of three hours.

Sadly, we have lost several members to attend to eternal guard duty. Please keep your eyes and ears open to prospective members.....they do not need to necessarily be prior service Marines, Corpsman or Chaplains. We have some fine associate members in our detachment and would welcome more to join us.

Saeplus Exertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres et Sorores in Aeternum!

Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers and Sisters Forever

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



*Chaplain Joe Duquette*

Since the pandemic has begun, we have noticed a change in how we work and live. The pandemic has made us more aware of the fragility of life. We are more aware of the importance of sanitation and vigilance to avoid Covid-19. It has also caused a rise in diabetes and obesity. The vaccine breakthroughs have been lifesaving. The loss of life has been devastating.

Let's all remember the recent deaths of members of our MCL, Paul and Corey. We pray for them and hope they are watching over us as we travel through our own lives.

We pray for all military - currently serving, retired and veterans.

God Bless,



In collaboration with the **Manchester Veteran Administration Medical Center (MVAMC)**, Art for Vets is able to provide access to the art and wellness experiences in our galleries and classrooms on a **weekly basis, year-round.**

We aim to serve our veteran and active service members **by creating programs that align with the Whole Health philosophy of the MVAMC and promoting their individual wellness through creativity**; building a sense of accomplishment; uncovering new insights about themselves and each other; sparking effective, fluid, and transparent communication; inspiring overall camaraderie and shared support among all involved. **Meaningful and respectful dialogue, the pursuit of whole health, and the benefits of the creative process are the keystones of Art for Vets.**

**The Art for Vets program is for veterans, active military, and their immediate family members.**

### Veteran Creative Cohort

Connect socially through art-viewing, creative art explorations, and guided conversations in the galleries of the museum. The program emphasizes personal development, respite, relationship building, and mindful awareness. Offered virtually and in person.

Art for Vets (AfV) Studio Classes - these are studio classes specifically offered for AfV students. There is no limit and classes are free of charge.

### Studio Art Tutorials

The Currier Museum provides virtual, small group art tutorials for veterans with teaching artists. Fields of study include drawing, painting, collage, and mixed media, sculpture, and ceramics. There are a limited number of spaces for each camp (2 – 3), therefore families must register early. A scholarship application submission is required.

### Art for Vets Family Day

**The Currier Museum of Art welcomes New Hampshire's active military and veteran families on the third Saturday of every month from 11 am to 2 pm, for free admission\*, a free drop in art activity in our studio spaces, and a complimentary lunch (\$15 limit per person).**

Check-in with Guest Services and visit the Winter Garden Café anytime between 12pm – 2pm for your complimentary lunch and visit the galleries as well. Free admission is valid for veterans, active military, and their families.

### Museum Admission

The Currier Museum of Art offers veterans, active-duty military, and their families or one guest **free gallery admission at any time, not just during Art for Vets Family Days.**

**To learn more about Arts for Vets at the Currier Museum of Art, contact [artforvets@currier.org](mailto:artforvets@currier.org) or to reserve by phone, call 603.518.4946**

Art for Vets is supported by [Swim with a Mission](#)



## Life is Unpredictable.

Sometimes people from your past who you never thought you'd see again crop up out of no where. **That's what happened to a soldier named Todd Love. He saw the man who saved his life nine years later — on an airplane, of all places.**

**In 2010, Cpl. Todd Love was on a tour in Afghanistan. He'd been a Marine for a year at that point, and he was assigned to the 1st Recon Battalion. Then he stepped on an IED.**

Love lost the lower half of his body in the blast and almost lost his life. He was picked up by helicopter while an ongoing firefight raged around them. The pilot was able to get him out alive.

When Love woke up several operations later, he had a long road of recovery ahead of him. But thankfully, he had survived.

Love struggled to accept his situation at first, as anyone would. He didn't even want to look at his injuries, and getting used to life without legs was certainly an adjustment.

With the support of his family, his resilient outlook, and his prior training, he was able to accept his situation and move forward.

"I think my gratitude for everything is what calmed my suffering the most," Todd said.

Nine years after the day that changed his life, Love had turned his disability into a way to help other people as well as help himself. Being able to share what happened to him with other people allowed him to truly accept it, and only made him stronger.

"It's humbling to know that these people are from many walks of life, each practicing their profession, from different nationalities, skin tones, and belief systems as well," he said. "All I know is I owe them my life."

Then, when he was in Denver with his old platoon for a fundraising training activity, a commercial airline pilot came up to him right after he boarded the plane.

**He introduced himself as Capt. Marc Vincequere, and asked him if he had been in the military. When he replied he had, Vincequere said "Afghanistan 2010."**

**Love was surprised.**

Then the pilot informed him that he was the pilot who had rescued him by helicopter during the firefight.

Love was shocked. He couldn't believe that the person who had saved his life was standing in front of him again.

They took a photo together, and then Love shared the whole thing online. Naturally, it went viral.



**What an incredible reunion!**

This story originally appeared at [Goodfullness](#).

## **GSD #542 DONATES \$1,000 TO JROTC MANCHESTER WEST HIGH SCHOOL**

At the February 14, 2023 GSD #542 membership meeting a donation check of \$1,000 was presented to JROTC instructor Arthur W. Stauff Capt. USN (Ret) to help Manchester JROTC Cadets attend the JROTC National Rifle Championship event in Sandy, Utah. In addition, matching funds of \$1,000 was generously donated to the JROTC project by GSD #542 member Richard Anagnost. During the check presentation, Arthur thanked the membership and said, "That for our students to be able to attend any National Championship is an amazing opportunity and feat for these young Cadets."



Cadet William Donovan, Gary Gahan, Sr. Vice Commandant; Arthur W. Stauff, Capt. USN (Ret); Cadet Lanna Bergeron; BJ Byers, Commandant

## **JROTC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FEBRUARY 2 - 4, 2023 SANDY, UTAH**

The JROTC National Air Rifle Championship is sponsored and conducted by the Civilian Marksmanship Program in cooperation with the **Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force JROTC Commands**. Teams consist of 4 members. Each team member fires a 3x20 on consecutive days to make up the team score. Individual scores are made up of two 3x20s. Starting in 2022, the final followed a three-position elimination format. Participating athletes accumulated scores at three different positions: three, five-shot series at kneeling and

prone and two, five-shot series in standing. Once the last standing series was completed, the lowest two places were eliminated, followed by single shots for single eliminations of the remaining athletes – ultimately determining the overall winners. (Finals prior to 2022 were fired for the top 8 shooters in each class on both competition days. These scores are averaged to determine the final rankings.) Over 6,000 cadets from across the United States participated in this event.

The Manchester JROTC squad finished 21st overall at the Navy JROTC National Championships, held from Feb. 2-4. This follows a 24th overall finish from last year's Nationals. The year-over-year improvement came despite extensive travel delays, with the cadets arriving just in time for a practice session. The six cadets, all competing at Nationals for the first time, were positive about the experience.



Cadets Derrick Dixon, Connor Bourgeois, Lanna Bergeron, Tonykus Hebert, Maura Doyle, William Donovan



**Congratulations to all of the hard-working  
young athletes of the  
JROTC National Championships**

## **BREAKFAST AND COMARADERIE AT THE AIRPORT DINER!**



### **COFFEE AND MORE!**

A huge **"THANK YOU"** to the **social breakfast organizers** for their unflinching dedication to the success of the gathering of GSD #542 members and guests on the last Saturday of each month.



**Gary Gahan, Merry Master-of-Ceremonies**



**Kevin Brown, Raffle Ticket Meister**



**March 2023 Breakfast attendees**

## **INSPIRING QUOTES**

**"Leadership is the sum of those qualities of intellect, human understanding, and moral character that enables a person to inspire..."**

- Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune

## **National Vietnam War Veterans Day: March 29, 2023.**



## **Thanks, Doc**

(Ed. Note: This letter first appeared in Camp Pendleton's newspaper, "The Pulse Beat." It was submitted to the Dry Dock by a corpsman at this hospital who "knows just how much something of this nature can mean to someone who has been with the Marines" and hopes it is as much a letter of thanks to someone else as it was to him.)

**by Gunnery Sergeant Tom Segel,  
USMC**

We have watched you working long into the night, hours after the Marines under your care had completed their tasks. We have seen you too, on those long marches and pushing through the jungles. While we made the trip only once, we have watched you make the journey time and time again helping each man in need from the front of the column to the rear, and back you came again.

When you were almost out on your feet, you still found time to care for us before you rested. It didn't matter who made the call, you were always there.

Those jibes which we seemed to hurl in your direction at every opportunity were really given with an inward smile. If we were prone to joke and razz you too much, it was only because the feelings of tough Marines are hard to put into words.

Each of us knows that the pills you are always pushing and the shots you make sure we get, are important. But still we have a hard time letting you know how we really feel.

Did you know that most of the time we forget you wear a brand which reads United States

Navy? You see, Doc, in that helmet and dungarees, with that five-day-old beard and mud covered face, you don't look any different from the rest of the platoon. We know more about you than you think, Doc. The times you risked your own life to help us are not recorded, but we remember. We have seen you braving rains of death-seeking lead to reach the side of our wounded. You were watched as you used your skill to stop our pain and then stood guard over us until we were safe again.

There were tears in your eyes when we fell and happiness if you discovered we were not seriously hurt.

We can't count the times, Doc, but we remember you were there on the hill, in the jungle, by our side in the foxhole and sitting with us waist-deep in the water of a rice paddy.

Many time we were blind with pain, but we knew you were caring for us. We felt your hand grasping ours, and grew stronger because of your touch.

You were there yesterday, just as you are today and will be tomorrow, and though we can never seem to find the right words, there will always be a special place for you in our ranks and in our hearts.

## NEW MILITARY POEMS by David "Doc" Freschi

MCL GSD #542 member, David "Doc" Freschi, served together with Marines as a Navy Corpsman during the Vietnam Conflict. Through his poems he reflects and shares on past experiences and memories.

### Brother Encounters

The ritual the same  
 Older now, much older  
 70 not really the new 40, not close  
 Dialects different but understood  
 Eyes touch a badge, a cap, recognition  
 They meet only to dart away  
 Returning searching out the signal  
 Not a mine here, no booby trap  
 A nod, "When were you there?" or "What years?"  
 First exchange done, next  
 "Who were you with or where?"  
 Ceremony done, sniffing over  
 Maybe a conversation.... or not  
 Brief touch or long, feeling shell lifting, settling  
 Tiny exchanges parceled out with care  
 Cross a profound abyss  
 An eye might shine with a tear  
 Desperately fought back  
 A face might light, pure joy  
 Or covered pain, hard to tell  
 Maybe the bitterness of a damaged soul  
 Unforgiving, still searching  
 An icy wave rolls sadness through your heart  
 Last steps of the ritual pass on  
 A nod, a touch, a "Welcome home."  
 Move on- this one meant something

### The Wait

Just sitting in a waiting room  
 Browsing, months old magazine  
 An oil change, not a long wait at all  
 Muffled voice rubs my mind and  
 Muzzle blasted ears  
 Don't grab syllables as well anymore  
 One more thing left behind  
 In a fire- laced paddy years ago  
 Voice strengthens, "Excuse me"  
 "You were in Viet Nam?"

A nod in return, can't deny the hat  
 "I want to thank you for your service."  
 Heard it before, always appreciate it  
 "Something else, I owe you  
 An apology, I was one of them  
 Welcomed you with jeers and revulsion."  
 A second's pause while tamped bitterness  
 Rips its roots and marches past  
 In this grandmother's eyes  
 Sincerity glows, touching, touching  
 A wordless nod, eyes moisten  
 Forgiveness offered, taken, a bit  
 Of light enters under heart's scars  
 A step is lighter, a smile broad

### Levels of Treatment

Say doc, from the young marine  
 To the old fmf corpsman  
 You gonna take care of me?  
 Sure, son got it covered.  
 You sure? Absolutely  
 You see we use five levels of treatment in the field  
 Minor stuff is level one  
 "Suck it up whiner and change those socks."  
 Level two, a bit more serious  
 "Take two of these and walk it off. Oh  
 By the way, change those socks."  
 Level three, hmm maybe....  
 "Here's a bandage, put some pressure on it,  
 Take two of these and check those socks."  
 Now level four, now we're talking  
 "Looks bad, gonna need a tourniquet  
 Maybe a splint, and a little happy shot.  
 Be back on duty day after tomorrow."  
 Here's the big one- level five  
 "Crap what a mess! I'll call the padre.  
 That's gotta smart  
 Can I have your canned peaches and those clean socks?"

# TAPS

## MARINE PAUL SORENSEN

October 1, 1931 - March 15, 2023



MCL Granite State Detachment #542 member Paul A. Sorensen died on March 15, 2023 at Southern NH Medical Center following a brief illness.

Paul served in the United States Marine Corps from 1950 until 1952. He was a very active participant as a member of the GSD #542 and during the years of membership, Paul enthusiastically volunteered his time in the Department's many fundraising endeavors.



**REST IN PEACE, PAUL – SEMPER FI**

**GRANITE STATE  
DETACHMENT #542**

**OFFICERS 2023**

Commandant  
BJ Byers  
Sr. Vice Commandant  
Gary Gahan  
Jr. Vice Commandant  
Dennis Mitchel  
Judge Advocate  
Eric Anthony  
Adjutant  
Kevin Brown  
Paymaster  
Gary Gahan  
Chaplain  
Joe Duquette  
Quartermaster  
John Petralito  
Sergeant at Arms  
Paul Coutu  
Marine 4 Life  
Shawn Carboni  
Web Master  
TBD



**Officers Meeting**

1800 – 1830

followed by the

**Membership Meeting**

1830 – 2000

on the

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month**

at the

Elks Lodge #146  
290 Granite Street  
Manchester, NH

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 3857

Manchester, NH 03105

Website:

[www.granitestatemarines.com](http://www.granitestatemarines.com)

**Marine Corps Social Breakfast**

**08:00 Last Saturday of the Month**

**Airport Diner, Brown Avenue**

**Manchester, NH**

**Did you know ...?**

1. The Corps' first amphibious raid was only weeks after its creation; Marines successfully stormed a British weapons cache in the Bahamas. (via USO)
2. The license plate of the Commandant of the Marine Corps reads "1775." (via USO)
3. In 1798, the Marine Corps began issuing "one stock of black leather and clasp" to Marines. The item was worn to protect their necks when fighting with swords. Today, the standing collar on the dress coat of the Marine Corps uniform is a vestige of the "leatherneck" tradition. (via Mental Floss)
4. Ed McMahon, Drew Carey and novelist Robert Ludlum (who wrote the Jason Bourne books) all served in the Marine Corps. (via Mental Floss)
5. "The Marines' Hymn" is the oldest official anthem of any U.S. military service. (via [www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org))
6. President Andrew Jackson (in office 1829-1837) wanted to abolish the Marine Corps, thinking it no longer necessary. (via [www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org))
7. During the cake-cutting ceremony every Marine Corps birthday, the first three pieces are presented to the guest of honor, the oldest Marine present and the youngest Marine present. This tradition is also part of the Corps' birthday celebration on the battlefield, if possible. (via We Are The Mighty)

THE DEVIL WHISPERED IN  
MY EAR, "YOU'RE NOT  
STRONG ENOUGH TO  
WITHSTAND THE STORM."



TODAY I WHISPERED IN THE  
DEVIL'S EAR, "I AM THE  
STORM."







## Attention Veterans, Veterans' Families, Caregivers and Survivors.

### VA News

#### Legal and Financial Planning Services are Now Available for Family Caregivers

The Caregiver Support Program (CSP) is introducing a new nationwide service offering comprehensive legal and financial planning services to Primary Family Caregivers enrolled in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). A network of licensed attorneys and certified financial counselors are readily accessible to provide expert-led consultative services and personalized concierge case management to ensure the timely resolution of any presenting issues. **Starting April 24, 2023, this important resource is now available to Primary Family Caregivers nationwide.** To access these critical resources, interested caregivers can contact their local [Caregiver Support Team](#), who will provide the necessary information.

##### About the Caregiver Support Program

The Caregiver Support Program promotes the health and well-being of all Veterans' Caregivers through education, resources, support, and services. Visit [CSP's website](#) to learn more about the Program of General Caregiver Support Services and PCAFC.

To learn about CSP and specific aspects of the program, listen to CSP's [Podcast with VA SITREP](#).

##### Need help? Reach out to your CSP team

Every VA facility has a CSP team that provides support and referrals to services. They provide valuable information about resources that can help you stay informed and supported as you care for your Veteran. Reach out to your [CSP team](#) to learn about more resources and events in your local area.

## ENJOY THE SPRING SEASON 2023 MARINES!



**“SEMPER FI”**

*Editor-in-Chief, Marge Romano*