

Kalamazoo Detachment Marine Corps League **The Scuttlebutt** January 2024

Happy New Year Marines



Jana Schulma, Dan Williams, Dave Leedy, Bill Smith, Larry Sweerin, Rich Walsh, Don Jarzambek, Bob Hencken, Kathy Kronke, and Tom Calvey

MCL members and friends serving coffee and doughnuts on New Year's Day at the VA in Battle Creek

MCL Commandant's Notes.....

Happy New Year, Marines! MCL Detachment #879 began the year with several members of our detachment up early on New Years Day to serve donuts and coffee to patients at the VA Hospital. The following weekend, we had an Elected Officers Staff Meeting to discuss several items to hopefully get the year started off right with new goals and strategies to keep the great momentum of 2023 going. As part of that, all appointed positions were discussed and appointed. Those are as follows:

- Web Sergeant – Rich Walsh
- Eagle Scout Coordinator – Rich Walsh
- Ft Custer Cemetery Liaison – Mick Hornev
- VA Liaison – Larry Sweerin

We also approved moving to the new website development and maintenance company. You can expect to see this launching in the next few months and will replace the existing website. Lastly, we covered some preliminary goals for the detachment for the year. Those include a recruiting goal to raise our membership from 76 to 90, have quarterly Veteran Service Office updates at our regular meetings, and have the Senior Vice head the Toys for Tots effort this year.

At our monthly meeting, we welcomed one new member, Andy Brasosky. We also had a guest speaker, Kellie Cody, who is starting an organization to bring together all veteran groups in the county to stay connected on activities and provide opportunities to join together in efforts as desired. We also learned that a young man, Lucas Lockner, just earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

As discussed during our January detachment meeting, please come to the February meeting with suggestions of what parades we will participate in. Also, any goals you think would be appropriate to consider. We look forward to seeing everyone on February 8.

2024 MCL Officers

John Hadder – Commandant

Michael Fry – Sr. Vice

Peter Green – Jr. Vice

Edward Engram – Judge Advocate

Don Jarzambek – Chaplain

Walter Baggott – Paymaster

Michael Hornev – Sgt at Arms

Michael Beahon – Adjutant

Larry Sweerin – Jr. Past Commandant

Marine Corps' Top Devil Dog Fetches Another Promotion



Chesty XVI stands at attention during his promotion ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, Jan. 17, 2024

The Marine has followed orders to sit at seven of Marine Barracks Washington's parades in 2023. He disobeyed those orders at the other half of the parades, according to his commanding officer, Col. Robert Sucher.

He has maintained his trim build by chasing after shadows. He refuses to attend the Marines' physical fitness test without being coaxed with food.

He has served as the public face of the Marine Corps at the White House, in Congress and at a Naval Academy baseball game. Attempts to train him to carry the first pitch to home plate had nothing to show for themselves besides several chewed-up baseballs.

Chesty's dogged efforts finally paid off in January 2024, when the Marine Corps mascot was promoted to lance corporal after 13 months as a private first class.

Article & photo courtesy of the Marine Corps Times.