THE GRINDER

Mike Clark, Commandant **Tina Hare, Editor**

A publication of Marine Corps League Detachment 260

Greensboro, North Carolina

May 11, 2026, Vol. 14 No. 5

www.mcl260.info

Officer Corps 2025-26

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CONTENTS

- Latest News
- Commandant's Letter
- Chaplain's Corner
- News Continued
- Calendar of Events
- Minutes of last month
- Triad HF Report
- Reverse Raffle Cont.
- Memorial Day Ride

What a wonderful time we had!

By George Orfanedes

Just take a look at the photos Steve Nash posted at photofrog.smugmug.com and you will see the smiles, laughter, and joy shared by everyone who attended.
A heartfelt THANK YOU! goes to Susan Carrera, Reverse Raffle Chairperson, for her dedication and commitment to our Detachment in making this the best Reverse Raffle ever. Susan and her outstanding team — Sue Orfanedes, Betty Atwell, Nancy Stotz, Rich Carrera, Tina Hare, Karen Nehlsen, Jim Nehlsen, Jim Hayes, and George Orfanedes — devoted countless hours to preparing every detail, from baskets and brochures to setting up the Elks' Hall and staffing the check-in tables.



The fearless trio of Jim, Jim, and George expertly guarded the entrance. To the best of their knowledge, no space invaders made it into the hall!

Everything unfolded beautifully according to Susan's plan. Dinner was served right on time, and the drawing began at about 7:30 PM. Winners of the many prizes and baskets were announced throughout the evening, adding to the excitement and celebration.

Two of the three Grand Prize finalists were present: Al Ruggerio, MCL Chaplain & Bingo Master, and Charles Moon, a member of Rich Carrera's Build Team, which has assisted MCL-260 with a variety of CSS projects. The third finalist, Sue Green, was reached via phone by Susan. With a unanimous decision to split the $3,000 Grand Prize evenly, all three winners were each awarded $1,000.

To say that everyone had a wonderful time hardly captures the true spirit of the evening. The joy, camaraderie, and fun were felt by all who attended, even by those who did not take home a basket or the Grand Prize. Having Judy Brenner in attendance made this event even more special!
Thank you, Susan, and your team, for creating such a joyful, memorable, and successful event for MCL-260!

*Photos courtesy of Steve Nash http://photofrog.smugmug.com/

Commandant's Letter

Mike Clark



Hello Marines, Navy FMF personnel and Associate Members,

I hope this finds you all doing well. It is hard to believe we are already a quarter of the way through 2026. As time has been passing fast, I am happy to report the initial success from Semper Bingo continues. Additionally, the return of the Reverse Raffle has gone well. My thanks to those that led those initiatives and everyone who assisted with them. There are other goals on the horizon to shift our focus towards now.

With the election coming up I wanted to add how proud I have been to be your Detachment Commandant. My intent, as stated, is to serve again. It is a pleasure to be associated with the "Fighting 260", all of you, and our continuing legacy. If elected, I will continue to serve to the best of my ability. One of the remarkable things about our elections is that we get to choose our own leadership.

Everything we do as a Detachment takes commitment from all of us. As seen from our successes, we can accomplish whatever we set ourselves to. Having a couple of things completed and more ongoing, that commitment must go on. As always, I am confident that we are up to the tasks at hand. Whatever the task may be, it is my pleasure to assist you in getting it done.

In June we will have Department elections, budget votes and more. The Detachment's input on these matters is important to ensure that we have a say in the direction the League takes at our local level.

Semper Fidelis,

Mike



Ginny Bull was presented with the Award of Excellence as discussed during the April meeting. There was one correction; it was her 89th birthday, not 87th.



Chaplain's Corner

Al Ruggiero



Fellow Marines, I would like to suggest five (5) good reasons to lift your spirits and maybe something to look forward to in May.

#1 Warm weather, I like a nice 88 degrees at 0700, reminds me of being back on Parris Island. The wonderful smell of brackish water on my morning walk and a full day of "fun" activities, it was great. Today I am a farmer and a beekeeper; honeybees, like me, also enjoy the warmth of summer. Flowers blooming, new leaves on the trees, the joy of mowing your lawn, and the great pleasure of getting outside without layers of thermal underwear and heavy coats. Summer is great, so enjoy the weather, it's the only weather you've got.

#2 Mother's Day, I cannot say enough kind words to describe our wonderful ladies and the important tasks they perform. Yes, they are moms first, their most important calling. While giving birth, they are very close to trauma, sometimes even death, but they know instinctively that they will deliver great joy, a new life, a gift from God through them. But also, a lifetime of great responsibility and hard work. Being a mom requires enormous sacrifice, heavy burdens, fearless leadership, supreme kindness, endless tenderness and sometimes the wrath of a mad bulldog, even if she is wearing Prada's and pink lip gloss. May the Lord bless all our sweet Moms and all that they do for us. And as your Chaplin, I proclaim every day, Mother's Day.

#3 Memorial Day, not just for picnics and grilling at the pool, for me this is a most solemn and reverent occasion. I always find time to reflect on and honor my brothers who gave me the right to live in a free country. The opportunity to speak without fear from my government in respect to my religious and political beliefs. I honor their sacrifices by staying the course, being involved, weighing truth in media and voting in good conscience with God-given principals. I will stand for the young and the old, I will defend any lady who calls for help. I will strive to make the sacrifices of those who came before me eternally and not be forgotten. And in their memory, "I will hold" in the words of Capt. Clifton Cates during WW1. May the Lord bless the Veterans who gave all, and may He protect those who are now in Harm's way and may they have great success.

#4 Semper Fi Bingo: For me, this fund-raising project has been a great opportunity for meeting new friends and creating lasting relationships. At every single event we have increased our support from Pinetop members and guests. This is important because it follows the guidelines of our business plan. But also, I have the pleasure of working with some of our 260 members and growing a stronger bond and friendship, which is the greatest value. For it is with all our efforts that we can do good for our community. With all our steadfast initiative, Semper Fi Bingo shall continue to be successful and a meaningful project. Thanks to all who come out to participate and serve!

#5 This will be my 70th May 19th, and I will celebrate on the course with my favorite golf buddy, my Granddaughter, Addison. She is the happiest person that I have ever met! Soon to turn 6 this July, as an aspiring athlete, gymnast, swimmer, chess player and golfer. Not the longest drive, but she always hits it straight, and she has never lost a golf ball in the woods or lake. We really don't keep score, or number of

strokes, but we always have a fun time together and mold memories of golf days with Addison and Granddad. I pray that there is someone in your life that gives you hope, happiness, a reason to stay young and strong and the will to 'stay the course' and keep America free. May God bless our grandchildren.

Looking forward to June, I will be forming a group to join me in the Marine Corps Mud Run (website: https://www.adventuresignup.com/Race/NC/Pinnacle/MarineCorpsLeagueMudRun) on Saturday, June 6. This is a most gratifying event and fund raiser that is hosted by our fellow Marines in Winston Salem and held in Pinnacle NC near Pilot Mountain. I promise that you will get wet, you will get muddy, you will get challenged and you will have a great time!

Semper Fidelis,

Al Ruggerio, Chaplain

Chaplain's Prayer List

Kevin Lucas and family
Sadie and Rusty Bell
Nancy Gruthrie and Family
Tony Ruggeiro
Judy Brenner

Guilford County Veterans Memorial installs Huey flown in Vietnam.



Pedestal in place waiting for Huey placement at Veterans Memorial at Country Park.

After a full ten hours... Success!



Committee Members Needed

As discussed at the April detachment meeting, I need a few folks to work on the arrangements for a Marine's Day Out this fall. We will plan a NC Zoo trip for the friends of the Fighting 260th. We may only need to meet via teleconference or in person twice over the next three months to accomplish our mission. Please contact Tina Hare via email at tina.hare69@gmail.com or cell (757) 710-7143, if you are interested.

Family Activities in our Zoo Tours | North Carolina Zoo



May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 	6	7 	8	9
10 	11 X	12	13	14	15	16 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 X
24	25 	26 X	27	28	29	30
31						

May 11th – Regular, monthly dinner meeting at the Golden Corral beginning at 17:30

May 23rd – Semper Bingo at Pinetop Neighborhood Resort in G'boro, doors open at 17:00 Bingo starts at 18:30

May 26th – Marine Night Out at Rody's Tavern. Lots of fun and great food! Come on out and bring a friend.

Department EVENTS:

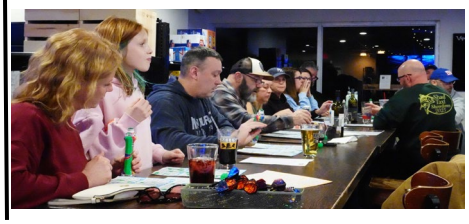
https://www.ncmcl.org/events

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND OUR NEXT BINGO

DATE May 23rd, 2026 ~6:00PM

PLACE: PINETOP NEIGHBORHOOD RESORT

LOCATED AT 3723 PINETOP ROAD, GREENSBORO





BINGO BOOKS ($20 FOR 10 GAMES) GO ON SALE AT 6 PM

April 2026 Meeting



38 members and guests in attendance

Meeting commenced at 1845

Golden Corral was presented with a check for $3,000 for Camp Corral.

All officers are present, and a quorum has been made.

Bylaws are in the process of being updated.

The minutes from the last meeting that's posted in The Grinder have been approved by the membership.

Paymaster's report presented, motion made and approved.

Jr. Vice-Commandant Brian Sowers reported that the 2026 golf committee is in full swing. Rob O'Hanlon, Scott Matthews, and Robert Hare were recognized for moving over 60 mattresses to the Servant Center. There will be another "volunteer" day at the Center to finish up the opening. Guilford County Veterans' Memorial had the flag poles installed, and a Huey helicopter will be on display.

Chaplain Al Ruggiero reported on the members and family that are needing prayers.

Susan Carrera reported that most of the tickets are now sold. She thanked all the special individuals who helped her get this event moving.

Rob O'Hanlon recognized Jim Hayes and Harry Youngblood for exceeding 10 Honor Guard missions.

Al Ruggiero reported and recognized the Semper Bingo games. Semper Bingo will be presenting 260 a check for $2,000 for the FY27 budget.

Grinder Editor, Tina Hare, spoke about a Zoo trip with the Detachment.

Scott Matthews reported on the Memorial Day event at the Carolina Field of Honor.

Jim Birdwell speaks about the FY27 budget, going over each line item and opening it to the membership for comments and review.

Commandant got a plaque for the last living Greater Greensboro 260 Charter member, Ginny Bull.

Jenny Barker spoke about her daughter aboard one of the carrier groups and provided an update on what is going on overseas.

<u>Nominations of Detachment Officers:</u>

Commandant: Robert Hare, Mike Clark
Jr. Vice-Commandant: Brian Sowers
Sr. Vice-Commandant: Scott Matthews
Judge Advocate: Charles Jones

Alan Atwell led the Detachment in singing the Marines' Hymn.



Meeting adjourned at 2004.

The trip of a lifetime

– Alan Atwell

Arriving at PTI at 6:10 am, we entered the main concourse, warmly greeted by so many well-wishers, an honor guard, music, and dozens of volunteers.
Food was everywhere, including Chick Fil A!



After check-in and boarding our flight, we were treated to a water canon salute as we made our way to the main runway. Impressive!



After a one-hour flight to DC, we arrived at Regan International to another water canon salute and warm greetings from DC citizens.





We boarded our buses to travel to the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, VA.



We had a group photo taken in front of it, which made me immensely proud of my heritage.

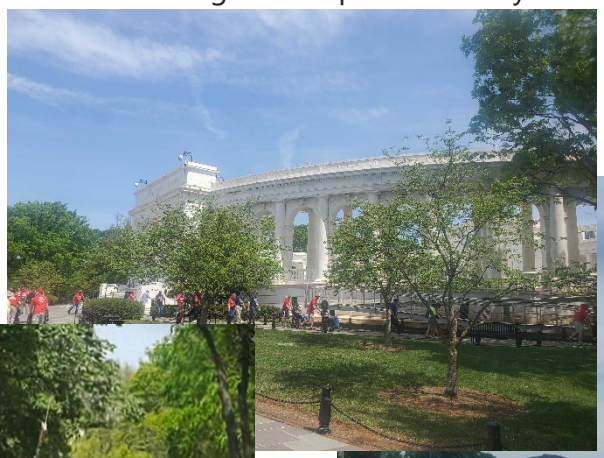


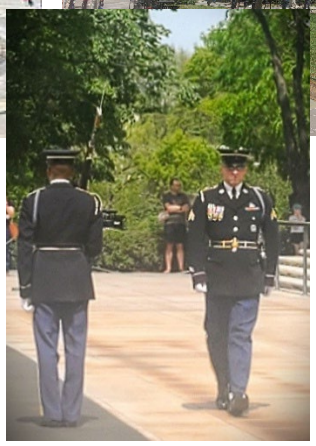
We then went to Arlington National Cemetery. It is a sobering place to go, with over 400,000 buried there.

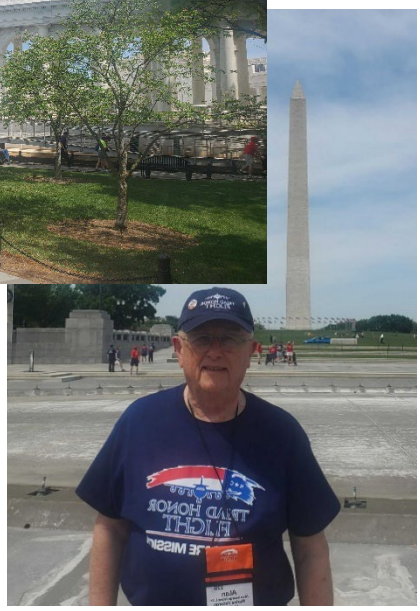


From there, we traveled into DC and saw the WWII Memorial, Korean Memorial, Viet Nam Wall, the Lincoln Monument and Washington Monument. Each one is so different, they evoke many different emotions. The Korean War monument was the most relevant for me as it was a group of statues of soldiers on the move with combat gear and ponchos. Very lifelike.









We boarded our return flight and arrived home around 8:30 to 9:00. We were met by hundreds of people at the main concourse.



They were cheering us and shaking our hands. Never in my life have I ever felt so appreciated.



I had a great guide for the trip, Scott Matthews. He kept me on a straight line the entire day. We had fun. If you have not taken the Honor Flight, I suggest you sign up for it. For those needing assistance, they have wheelchairs, nurses, and doctors to look after you. You will never regret taking the trip!

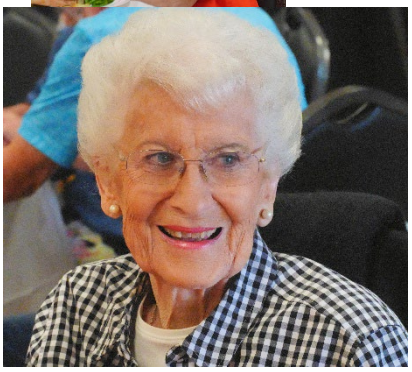


Reverse Raffle FUN!







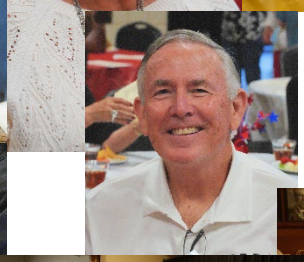


















Memorial Day Ride

WHAT: Veteran Biker Run on Memorial Day weekend

WHEN: Saturday, May 23rd, 10am Line up, Kickstands up promptly at 1100!!

WHERE: @ the Obelisk of the Carolina Field of Honor Veterans Memorial,

9652 East Mountain Rd. Kernersvill, NC – escort to

The BOAT 800 Bailey Farm Rd. Statesville, NC

**** See Scott Matthews for more info***