

Marine Corps League Auxiliary



www.nationalmcla.org

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September 2026

National President Mary Brief



It is an honor and a privilege to represent the Marine Corps League Auxiliary and, in turn, our Marines.

My journey began when I attended my first Marine Corps Birthday Ball with my Marine, known to a few of you as my father, Keith Kuhne. He was a proud Marine and very active in his Detachment. His love, dedication, and respect for this organization and for Veterans were instilled in me throughout my life. I suppose I come by it naturally, as my husband and son are both Army Veterans.

My membership started 29 years ago as just that, a membership, but it has grown into something much more. I now belong to a family of individuals who share a common goal: helping and supporting others.

I truly appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in me, as well as all the support I have received throughout this journey. It is an honor to serve as your National President. I have taken an oath and solemnly promised, upon my honor, to carry out the duties of my office, and I will do everything in my power to fulfill that commitment.

I want to emphasize that this journey is not mine alone; it is ours. No one person can accomplish this alone, but together we can and will achieve great things.

I am excited to announce that we will have a new webpage soon that will allow us to share updates and news in a timelier manner. I also encourage you to explore the new Resource Center on our website. This will serve as a convenient location for members to access valuable information, including job descriptions, mini training videos, and S.W.A.P. (Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects). Our goal is for the Resource Center to continue growing as a helpful tool for our Units. Please note that it is not intended to replace our bylaws or administrative procedures.

The start of this new year has already been successful because we have an outstanding team of members who have stepped up to contribute in various ways. I look forward to embracing new ideas, exploring different approaches, and learning from one another as we work together toward our shared mission.

Please remember to always share the Newsletter and distribute it to all members of your Department and Unit.

As Henry Ford once said,

***"Coming together is a beginning; staying together is progress;
and working together is success."***

Mary Brief

marybmimcla@gmail.com





From Ramona's Desk:



As we welcome September, I want to thank everyone who attended our National Convention. It was wonderful seeing so many familiar faces, reconnecting with friends, and sharing another successful convention together. Your enthusiasm and support continue to make our organization stronger.

I would also like to acknowledge Dotty Sanning and express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to work with her over the past two years. Her leadership, support, and friendship have meant so much, and I am truly grateful for all she has done for the Marine Corps League Auxiliary.

Moving forward, this is a reminder that now is the time to submit your transmittals. Please be sure to include your Bond Forms along with your payment to help ensure timely processing.

A very special thank you goes to Debby and Collene for their incredible help in the Ship Store. They kept everything running smoothly while I attended meetings, ensuring our members could continue shopping without interruption. Your dedication and teamwork are truly appreciated.

Thank you as well to everyone who stopped by the Ship Store during convention. Thanks to your incredible support, the Ship Store had historic sales, making this convention a tremendous success! If you didn't have the chance to shop with us during convention - or if you'd like to place another order, there's still time. Please submit your order soon while supplies last.

September Highlights

September is filled with opportunities to celebrate, remember, and connect:

- **September 7** – Labor Day (U.S.) – Honoring the contributions of American workers.
- **September 11** – Patriot Day – A day to remember and honor those affected by the events of September 11, 2001.
- **September 17** – Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – Celebrating the signing of the U.S. Constitution and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- **September 21** – International Day of Peace – Promoting peace, understanding, and unity around the world.
- **September 22** – First Day of Autumn – Welcome the beauty and colors of the fall season.

We'd Love to Feature You!

Do you have special moments, chapter events, volunteer activities, or photos you'd like to share? We would love to showcase our members and celebrate your accomplishments. Please send your stories and pictures so we can highlight you in an upcoming edition of our newsletter. Your memories and achievements help keep our newsletter engaging and inspire members across our organization.

Wishing everyone a wonderful September! Thank you for your continued dedication and support. We look forward to another successful month together.

Ramona Smith
National Secretary



What a wonderful National Convention we had in Indianapolis, Indiana! The meeting room was warm, the meetings were well attended, and it was truly wonderful to see so many friends from across the country, as well as so many new faces.

Congratulations to our newly elected and appointed officers for the upcoming year. I look forward to serving as your National Senior Vice President. It is a true honor and privilege to have this opportunity to serve our Auxiliary.

At this time our current membership stands at 2,176 members, an increase of 149 new members. Way to go, ladies! Just imagine what our numbers could be if you each recruited just one new member. Together, we can continue to grow our Auxiliary and strengthen our Sisterhood.

I would like to congratulate our Top Recruiters on the Year:

- **1st Place** - Patty Morgan of Central Division with 9 new members
- **2nd Place** - Lisa Delk and Christy Ellis of Bama Bells, each with 8 new members each
- **3rd Place** - Dawn Muscarello of Choctaw Unit with 6 new members

Thank to each and every recruiter for your dedication and commitment to growing our membership. Your efforts make a difference.

During the Division Vice / Assistant workshop, we discussed the importance of getting forms submitted on time and filled out correctly, as well as ways to recruit and retain our members. Proper paperwork and timely reporting help keep our units and Auxiliary running smoothly, while stronger recruitment and retention efforts help ensure a bright future for our organization.

As we begin another year, let us continue to work together, support one another, welcome new members and strengthen the Sisterhood that makes our Auxiliary so special!

Semper Fidelis,

Darlene MacCubbin
National Senior Vice President



Ladies,

Thanks to all your hard work and commitment under the leadership of past JR Vice, Darlene MacCubbin, we have grown as an Auxiliary this last reporting period. **WELL DONE!**

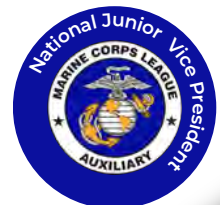
New members join when they see **real** impact, not flashy marketing. Active, meaningful service projects keep members engaged long-term. Some ways to do this is by sharing clear data of how your time and funds impact veterans. Don't overwhelm new people with a litany of information. Simplify the sign-up process and offer flexible involvement options. It is also important to plan family-friendly gatherings that welcome the entire veteran community. This will build your reputation as a service-focused organization and possibly bring you networking opportunities for future events.

If you show excitement and true commitment in what you're doing, others will see your enthusiasm and want to be a part of your endeavors.

As always, **don't forget** to send pictures of your efforts to the National Secretary so she can add them to the Facebook page. This will give others an opportunity to see your accomplishments and your Unit or Department shine!!

Lynn Cortright

National MCLA JR Vice



First, I would like to thank everyone for believing in me that I will be able to fulfill the position of your National Judge Advocate. Now let's get down to what a Judge Advocate's responsibilities are.

The Judge Advocate (JA) provides legal counsel and opinions on bylaws, policies, corporate regulations, and parliamentary procedures for the Unit, Department, or National. Remember she is not an attorney at law.

The JA is a member of the Board of Trustees who sets up policy and direction for the Unit, Department, or National. Her primary responsibility is to understand, interpret, and rule or provide opinions on the conduct of business.



Disagreements can arise in any organization. The bylaws provide a structured method for resolving conflicts. They serve as an objective reference point to address disputes minimizing disruption to the Auxiliary's mission. Also, the use of Robert's Rules of Order is an excellent reference to be used.

Speaking of Bylaws, does your unit have its own Bylaws, or are you using the Department's? When were they last updated and approved by the Department? The same question goes for the Department; when was the last time the MCLA National Judge Advocate approved them? National Bylaws must be approved by the Marine Corps League National Judge Advocate each year if we or they make any changes.

Remember the primary purpose of the JA is to keep the Unit, Department, or National on solid legal footing, and ensure that the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, and that federal and state laws are followed.



Greetings, Auxiliary Members,

The Rocky Mountain Division has been on the move! From meetings and fundraisers to patriotic ceremonies, our members have been keeping busy making a huge impact across Colorado.

Huge congratulations to Marion Fisher, who was awarded Auxiliary Member of the Year at the Department of Colorado Convention! As one of our incredible Chaplains, Marion stays on top of keeping our community connected through cards and constant support. Even while working full-time as a Realtor, traveling, and staying active with her family, she locks in our Children's Hospital blood drives each year—securing both a July drive and an upcoming October drive.

Over Memorial Day, Whipple-Coffey Detachment #1441 honored fallen heroes by placing flags at Ft. Logan National Cemetery, with the Rocky Mountain Diamonds teaming up with them the following weekend for flag removal. We are also proud to report that our Department OLA project raised over \$1,200 in donations, mostly in gift cards, for Life Stories in Greeley to support local families.

Out in the Pikes Peak region, our members have been working hard alongside the Pikes Peak Detachment. The unit paid tribute at the Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Memorial Park, supported Territory Days cash sales in Old Colorado City, and marched in the Monument 4th of July Parade.

The Pikes Peak Unit has plenty more on the horizon, including an ongoing virtual Pampered Chef fundraiser and donation collection for the Pikes Peak Region Marine Corps Ball Silent Auction. Be sure to catch them working the Pikes Peak Cash Sales tent at the Salute to American Veterans Rally in Cripple Creek from August 20th to 22nd, and mark your calendars to join them for the 1st Annual Bob & Mariane Smith Memorial Bowl-a-Thon on September 20th!

Dale Wingert

Rocky Mountain Division Vice President

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION





**Congratulations to
the Newly Installed
Officers of the
Marine Corps
League Auxiliary!**



**The Headquarters Project Committee
would like to congratulate the 2026
winners!**



**\$500 Rick Elliott
\$250 Maxine Taylor
\$100 Klye McIntyre**

**Thank you for supporting your
Auxiliary.**

NATIONAL CHAIR GIRLSCOUTS COMMITTEE



Greetings,

I hope you all had a great time at the convention! It is always nice to see old friends and make new ones. I was glad to be able to report the number of Gold Awards increased this year. This year 165 awards were given out, last year only 91 were given. The Department of Michigan and the Department of Wisconsin both gave out 54 awards. They were the top Departments this year. Great Job ladies! I greatly encourage each Department to give awards this year and honor our Girl Scouts. Meeting the requirements to receive the Gold Award is not an easy task and they deserve to be recognized for that hard work. I look forward to hearing about all your hard work with the Girl Scouts this year.

Angie Pitts

National Girl Scout Chair



Service at our many VA Medical Centers is vital to continue to serve Veterans. The VA Mission to fulfill President Lincoln's promise – "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan" – **by serving and honoring the men and women who are American 's Veterans.** We can and are a part of serving by volunteering for the many facets of the volunteer opportunities at the Veteran Medical Care Centers & Clinics across this great nation.

My thanks to the Auxiliary Members who serve as MCLA Representatives and Deputies. They are the key to keeping us informed of the various opportunities of service and needs at the hospitals & clinics. These individuals are required to attend quarterly meetings and complete a joint annual review. They are recommended by their Unit or Department President and appointer by the National Representative to the Center of Development and Civic Engagement office of the VA. Your Representatives and Deputies hold the key to what is available in your area.

If your VA Hospital does not have a Representative or Deputy, please recruit these valued individuals and fill out Enclosure #35, send email (evelyn.mrsjs@gmail.com).

The Volunteer opportunities for VAVS/ CDCE are varied depending on the Medical Center or Clinic. Ambassadors Escorts Transport Veterans, Golf Cart Drivers, Clinic Services Assistance with telephone calls, Reading to Veterans, Clinic Adm Support, Kiosk Support, Creative Arts, Exercise and Dance, are just a few. There are many events that need volunteers for special events throughout the year.

To the MCLA current Representatives: the VA Committee needs your current information. In recent years the tracking for the VA as well as our committee are not complete. Please send updated information for the Representatives and Deputies to evelyn.mrsjs@gmail.com and the VA you serve. The annual joint review for the Marine Corps League Auxiliary is in the month of October. The representative needs to contact the Chief of CDCE for an appointment to complete this important review. Please invite your Deputy to attend with you.

It is my joy to volunteer at the Mann Grandstaff VA Hospital Spokane, WA, and special events at the VA Clinic in Spokane Valley and Coeur d' Alene, ID

Debby Krueger and I will be attending the VAVS National Advisory Committee Meeting in Orlando in September. This is a business meeting with no training offered at this time.

You can Make a difference. Volunteer at your local VA!

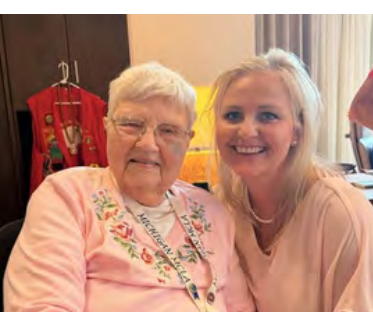
Semper Fidelis!

Evelyn Joppa

Debby Krueger



A Celebration for Mary Brief – Michigan threw a party to honor our upcoming National President, surrounded by many wonderful friends, laughter, and warm wishes.



Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects



We are working diligently to complete our new website, and we are excited that it will feature a new RESOURCE Center tab. Within the Resource Center, you will find **SWAP** (Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects). Now, we need your help to fill it with great ideas!

Everyone has ideas for projects, events, fundraisers, parade floats, membership recruitment, promotions, and more. A wonderful thing is that everyone does things a little differently, adding their own unique creativity and personal touch. As I have traveled around the state, including the Upper Peninsula, I have been amazed by the incredible ideas I have seen, many of which I had never encountered before. It reminded me just how much knowledge, creativity and talent we have within our organization.

How **SWAP** Works, when you have a great idea, document it and share it!

SWAP will give everyone an opportunity to showcase their successful ideas and explain how others can put them into action. These ideas are meant to encourage, motivate, inspire and spark creativity throughout our organization. Think of **SWAP** as a place where we can learn from one another and build on each other's success.

By sharing your ideas, you will help others discover new possibilities. More importantly, you will make a difference by building enthusiasm, encouraging participation and sparking new interest.

When submitting your idea, please include a photo. Step-by-step instructions or "how to". Whether your idea is big or small, we want to hear about it!

Please submit ideas to: mclaresourcecenter@gmail.com

I am looking forward to seeing all your great ideas! Stay tuned as the site will be going live soon!

Jane Dady
SWAP Chairman

LEGISLATIVE NEWS



Hello Members,

Each month the Legislative Committee plan to share legislation currently in consideration in the U.S. Congress. None of this information is biased one way or the other and the MCLA has no opinion on the legislation.

HR 3482 Veterans Community Care Scheduling Improvement Act

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an online program through which an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs may schedule an appointment for a covered veteran with a non-Department health care provider under the Veterans Community Care Program, and for other purposes.

This bill passed in the House on May 19, 2026, and goes to the Senate for consideration.

Sponsor- Rep. Tom Barrett Michigan 7th Congressional District

Summary

This bill requires the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to implement an electronic process for scheduling health care appointments furnished by the VA or through Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP). Under the bill, the VA must implement the electronic process not later than two years after the enactment of this bill.

The VA must implement a mandatory training program for VA schedulers or other employees involved in scheduling appointments regarding guidelines for the implementation of the electronic process. Additionally, the VA must prescribe performance benchmarks and outcome-based metrics for the electronic process.

Finally, the bill extends the limitation on pension amounts for certain hospitalized or institutionalized veterans through June 30, 2033.

To express your opinion on HR 3482 contact your Senator or Congress member. To find out who your members are go to [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) or [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and search your district or state.

Lisa Fountain

MCLA Legislative Committee Chairman

QUOTES FROM THE U.S. FOUNDING FATHERS

Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one.

Thomas Paine

That the said Constitution shall never be construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press or the rights of conscience.

John Adams



CELEBRATION!



2026 Award Recipients





SOCIAL MEDIA: HELPING THE MCLA TELL OUR STORY

By Becky Marcel, Chairperson, National MCLA Social Media Committee



SHARE • CONNECT • GROW

Social media helps the MCLA share our mission, celebrate our members, promote programs, recruit new members, and show communities what the Auxiliary is doing. Every photo, share, comment, and story can extend our reach far beyond the walls of our meetings and introduce the MCLA to people who may never have heard of us before.

FOLLOW THE CORRECT NATIONAL MCLA FACEBOOK PAGE

Official page: facebook.com/NationalMCLA

National MCLA does not have access to the former Facebook page. Please follow the current official page for National MCLA information and updates.

Follow • Like • Comment • Share



SCAN TO FOLLOW

HELP US SHARE YOUR STORY

Send photos, events, awards, service projects, fundraisers, milestones, and other Unit or Department news for possible National MCLA social media use. Include who, what, when, and where, plus names and Unit/Department information whenever possible.

SUBMISSIONS: mcla.socialmedia@gmail.com

WE NEED SOCIAL MEDIA-SAVVY MEMBERS

Facebook is only one corner of the social media world. We would like to hear from MCLA members who regularly use Instagram, TikTok, Threads, X, YouTube, or other platforms. You do not have to be a professional marketer. If you understand a platform and have ideas for reaching new audiences, please contact the committee.

Interested? mcla.socialmedia@gmail.com

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING POINTERS EVERY UNIT CAN USE

Use photos whenever possible. People notice pictures first. Photos of members doing the work usually outperform a flyer alone.

Keep posts easy to read. Use short paragraphs and put the most important information near the beginning.

Celebrate your members. Recognize awards, milestones, volunteer work, new members, leadership, and accomplishments.

Include the important details. For events, make the date, time, location, cost, and registration information easy to find.

Remember every post represents the MCLA. Proofread, be respectful, protect personal information, and remember prospective members and community partners may be watching.

Tell the story, not just the date and time. Explain what happened, why your members were there, and why it mattered.

Post consistently. You do not have to post daily, but an active page looks welcoming and current.

Show community involvement. Veteran programs, scholarships, patriotic events, fundraising, service projects, and partnerships show our mission in action.

Engage and ask members to share. Respond appropriately to comments and questions. Member shares can multiply your reach.

Small actions add up. A good photo, a clear caption, and one share can introduce the MCLA to someone new.

Our greatest marketing tool is our members. When we show Auxiliary members serving veterans, supporting Marines and their families, helping communities, presenting scholarships, welcoming new members, and enjoying fellowship, we show the public what the MCLA truly is. Social media gives every Unit and Department a chance to help tell that story.

TAKE THE PICTURE. • SEND THE STORY. • SHARE THE POST.

Help us make sure the Marine Corps League Auxiliary is seen, heard, and remembered.

It was truly an honor and a privilege to serve as your Madame Big Flea this past year. I am filled with pride and gratitude for the support, friendship, and wonderful memories we have shared.

As we, the Fleas, move forward, let us continue to honor and celebrate our Past Madame Big Fleas while welcoming and supporting our present and future Fleas. Our traditions are what make us special, and our friendship is what keeps us strong.

As we unite, let us continue to have fun, laugh together, and enjoy the wonderful fellowship we share as friendly Fleas. And, of course, we will continue to do what we do best - scratch those dogs!

Our Western Theme was certainly one to remember! The dogs had a great time being "pestered and pinched" by us Fleas as they came down the line. We proved once again that when the Fleas get together, there is always plenty of fun to be had!

You have honored me by allowing me to serve as your Madame Big Flea, and now it is my pleasure to ask you to give that same love, support, and honor to our new Madame Big Flea, Mitzy Abeyta.

Congratulations, Mitzy! May your year be filled with friendship, laughter, and many wonderful Flea memories.

Thank you all for the honor of serving you, for your friendship, and for the wonderful memories we have made together. I will always treasure this past year and the friendships we shared.

With love and appreciation,

Antonia "Toni" Hurtado

Past Madame Big Flea





FLEA SCRATCH 2026

Madam Big Flea
Antonia Hurtado

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SERVICE IN ACTION

PNP Norma A. Liner Unit, Marine Corps League Auxiliary

The PNP Norma A. Liner Unit is proud to recognize members **Jaunita Saunier** and **Debbie Chiasson** for putting the Auxiliary's spirit of service into action throughout the Houma-Thibodaux community.

Working with the Hampton Inn in Thibodaux, where Debbie serves as Head of Sales, they helped collect and distribute personal-care items including shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors and hand wipes. Donations were delivered to The Haven, The Bunk House, the veterans homeless shelter on New Orleans Boulevard, and Chateau Terrebonne Nursing Home.

Their message is simple: keep it local. A few useful items, a community connection, or a willingness to ask can make a real difference for neighbors in need.

Jaunita also showed how one question can open a door. During a routine dental visit, she asked Dr. Corey Porche whether he would like to support local homeless veterans. She left with 25 individually prepared dental-care bags containing toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss for donation.

She has also helped spread the word about the American Flag retirement mailbox on Highway 311 at Veterans Memorial Park. Residents may place torn, soiled, faded or damaged flags there, and Houma Terrebonne Marine Corps League Detachment 475 ensures they are retired with proper dignity and respect.

Thank you, Jaunita and Debbie, for representing the PNP Norma A. Liner Unit through compassion, initiative, patriotism and service. Just a little truly does go a long way.



Service in action: community donations, veteran support and respectful flag retirement.

Happy Birthday to our Fabulous Members with August and September Birthdays!

01-Aug - Elizabeth Devine
01-Aug - Kelly Watson
02-Aug - Lonita Love
03-Aug - Barbara Dillingham
04-Aug - Jamie Johnson
05-Aug - Chrystal Lyerla
06-Aug - Susan Elliot
06-Aug - Clara Evans
06-Aug - Teresa Todd
07-Aug - Sydney Owens
07-Aug - Catherine Rayl
07-Aug - Tammy Quaife
08-Aug - Bobbi-Jo Dodson
08-Aug - Susan Huntz
09-Aug - Valerie Szur
09-Aug - Emily Wolf
10-Aug - Dorothy Sanning
11-Aug - Gloria Fortin
11-Aug - Judy Essick
11-Aug - Kathy Marler
11-Aug - Rhonda Radel
11-Aug - Brenda Watson
12-Aug - Patricia Devlin
12-Aug - Patricia French
12-Aug - Tracey Killinger
12-Aug - Judith Ann Wonderly
13-Aug - Cheryl Macke
13-Aug - Janet Miller
13-Aug - Lorri Losey
15-Aug - Nancy Hicks
15-Aug - Janel Doyle
15-Aug - Ashlea Ugofsky
17-Aug - Patricia Sanderson
17-Aug - Michelle Hellmar
18-Aug - Nancy Pippin
18-Aug - Jennifer Wilson
19-Aug - Peggy Morse
19-Aug - Michelle Lundy
20-Aug - Janet Junker
21-Aug - Dorothy Nobile

21-Aug - Mary Brief
23-Aug - Linda K Rigg
23-Aug - Tenny Smith
25-Aug - Eretta Perrien
25-Aug - Luanna Rice
25-Aug - Kristine Waechtler
26-Aug - Malinda (Mindy) Brandt (Hatch)
29-Aug - Barbara Sauer
29-Aug - Denise Hartman
30-Aug - Ginger Treemear
31-Aug - Mary Lee Kolich
01-Sep - Jeanene Groff
02-Sep - Diane Phillips
02-Sep - Linda K Rigg
03-Sep - Judy Brown
03-Sep - Delva N Lantrip
03-Sep - Tonya Crosier
05-Sep - Joyce Schoch
05-Sep - Patricia Smith
05-Sep - Deborah Seymour
05-Sep - Trudy Moore
06-Sep - Kathy Monroe
07-Sep - Shirly Powell
08-Sep - Lorraine Zizzo
08-Sep - Helen Hill
08-Sep - Tawnia Rae Kamiakun
08-Sep - Courtney L Jones
09-Sep - Janice Baker
09-Sep - Anick Wallace
09-Sep - Kimberly Sawatzki
10-Sep - Jeannie Hom
10-Sep - Sherri Leyen
12-Sep - Breanna Witman
13-Sep - Jordan Clemons
14-Sep - Kathleen Lee
15-Sep - Elaine Lynch
15-Sep - Gloria Kozlosky
15-Sep - Marion Marosevitch
15-Sep - Taryn Forman

15-Sep - TJ Stone
17-Sep - Martha Garcia-Houghton
17-Sep - Ronda Branson
17-Sep - Catherine Murray
17-Sep - Marlene Campos-Cannon
19-Sep - Kathleen Deluca
19-Sep - Kathleen Cason
20-Sep - Claire Gendron
20-Sep - Vera Spicer
20-Sep - Pamela Sharp
21-Sep - Rebecca Allemand
21-Sep - Sandra Falter
24-Sep - Elizabeth Leach
24-Sep - Susan Jean Fry
24-Sep - Jennifer Arabi
25-Sep - Dawn Muscarello
25-Sep - Virginia Fisher
26-Sep - Maxine Hartwick
26-Sep - Ameena (Cena) Jones
27-Sep - Judy Blackmer
27-Sep - Bonnie E Mauritz
27-Sep - Elysee Jinkens
28-Sep - Betty Beverson
28-Sep - Rebecca Devlin
28-Sep - Leona Rowley
29-Sep - Patricia Mullins
29-Sep - Susan Taleho
30-Sep - Eleanor Billadeau
30-Sep - Barbara Howard
30-Sep - Sandra Prejean

We love recognizing our member's birthdays and would never intentionally leave out a celebration! Please make sure your member profile in the MCLA database has your birthday listed by ensuring membership transmittal forms accurately include the birthdate of each member or by sending an email to MCLAHQ@nationalmcla.org with the information.







Chaplains Corner

Precious Memories

Anna Mae Serenka, a Life Member of the Keystone HQ Unit Inc. passed away, on March 3, 2026. Please keep her family in your prayers. Cards may be sent to her daughter Sara Serenka at: 3431 Pinewood Drive, W. Homestead, PA 15120



Anna Mae (Schmidt) Serenka, 98, passed peacefully at home on Wednesday evening, March 11, 2026. Born November 22, 1927, to the late Frank Joseph and Elizabeth Marie Schmidt of Etna, PA. She was the sister of the late Bette Marie (the late Frank) DeSimone and Richard F. Schmidt; mother of daughters, Bette (Jack) Giran, Fran Serenka, and Sara Serenka; she leaves a legacy in her grandchildren, Addy (Mike Zydel) Giran, Adam Giran, Kate Yonko (Cory) Savit, Tia (Jason Schwartz) Serenka Yonko, Abigail Catalano (Kevin) Eagan, Duncan Catalano, MacKenzie (Alex Victor) Catalano, and Wyatt Alexander Serenka; and great-grandchildren, Gabriella Zimmerman, Jaxon Giran, Liliana Yonko, Gennaro Giran, Constantinos Savit, Benjamin Schwartz, and Leonidas Savit. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Bette Jayne Serenka, and the families of Robert Serenka from New York and Russell Serenka from California; as well as her niece and nephew, F. Charles and Michelle DeSimone.

She graduated from Shaler High School and attended the University of Pittsburgh, where she studied English Literature while serving as an Executive Assistant to the CEO of General Tire in Oakland, and was a competition dance roller skater.

Anna Mae enjoyed her last 74 years as a proud resident of the Borough of West Homestead and was an avid gardener like her parents, and a still life artist from a very young age. As a young woman, she was a member of All Saints Parish of Etna, St. Anne's Church of Homestead, and Christ the Light of the World Parish of Duquesne. She was most recently a member of the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

She dedicated her life to serving others and after having three daughters, she volunteered at UPMC Braddock, local schools, the West Homestead Civic Association, St. Peter's Child Development Center, and served for years as Artist in Residence at Duquesne Catholic School. Supporting her husband and other veterans, Anna Mae was an auxiliary member of the Marine Corps League 297, the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, the Steel Valley Veterans and the Sharing and Caring Organization. She also coached cheer teams across the Northeast and at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Anna Mae reflected incredible strength and character for her girls and a few "other daughters", grandchildren, students, and the community. She taught discipline, patience, and perspective through crafting, teaching, and creating art in various media. She loved the sun and the shore, especially visiting the Carolinas with Fran and family, wintering in Florida with Bette and Jack and outings to Hilton Head Island with the Women Marines and Sara. Anna Mae also enjoyed ballroom dancing and attending the ballet, symphony, and theatre.



Chaplains Corner Con't.

Bernice Wirgau of the All Divisions Unit, Southampton PA, passed away on August 3, 2026. Please send cards to her Daughter Karen Yohe at 5121 Leeward Rd., Bensalem, PA 19020-4050. Members signed a card at the convention.

Susan Cummings of the Landis-McCleaf unit, Chambersburg, PA passed away August 3, 2026. Next of kin is Wayne Cummings, 69 McIlvaine Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17202. Members signed a card at the convention.

Prayers and cards:

Department of Wisconsin President, Lynnae Sievert lost her husband on June 6, 2026. Lynnae is a member and Judge Advocate for the Winnebago Unit. Please keep her in prayer and send cards to: Lynnae Sievert, 1510 N. McCarthy Rd. Apt.4, Appleton, WI 54913

Laura Baker, a member of the CPL. Mason O Yarbrough Unit, has been experiencing heart-related issues. She is doing better following a recent ablation procedure. Prayers and cards would mean so much during her recovery. Laura Baker, 2579 Old Toll Road, Jackson, MO 63755-3011

*Mary Lou Webb of the SW Missouri Unit, has been diagnosed with stage one breast cancer. Please keep Mary Lou in your prayers and send cards to her at: 2709 E. Madison St., Springfield, MO 65820. **Mary Lou strongly encourages us to please get our mammograms.***

Theresa Crum, wife of Department of CO Commandant Terry Crum, has lost her mother. Theresa is very active with the Pikes Peak Detachment, and Department of CO. Cards may be sent to her at: 7514 Wrangler Ridge Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80923

Rodney Cahallan, long-time boyfriend of CPL. Mason O Yarbrough member Jennifer Mc Bride, passed away on July 3, 2026. Services were held in Bunker Missouri on July 7, 2026. Cards of condolence may be sent to Jennifer at: P.O. Box 28, Delta, MO 63744-0028



Chaplains Corner Con't.

SW Missouri Detachment Commandant, Jack Childers mother passed away on 6-28-2026. Cards may be sent to Jack at: 1110 E. Norton Rd., Springfield, MO 65803

Dale Wingert, Rocky Mountain Division V.P. is home recovering from a surgical procedure. Prayers for speedy recovery and cards of encouragement may be sent to Dale at: 4267 Fern Ave., Broomfield, CO 80020

Jackie Hunter was unable to attend the National Convention due to a fall. Please keep Jackie in your prayers. Cards may be sent to 1820 Bald Hill Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101

A sympathy card was signed at national for Jason Reimann for the loss of his mother. Please keep Jason in your prayers. His address is 2301 Church Road, Arnold, MO 63010

Prayers were requested for Janice Millers brother, Russell Brennon for medical issues. Please keep Russell in your prayers.

A thinking of you card was signed for Mike Marcel, brother-in-law of Becky Marcel.

A thinking of you card was signed for Carol Hastings who is undergoing treatment for bladder cancer. Let's send Carol our powerful prayers and cards to 7213 Ketchel Drive NE, Comstock Park, MI 49321

A get-well card was signed for Linda Hartwick who is still battling serious medical condition. Keep Lynda in your prayers and cards may be sent to 278 Grand View Dr., Lake of the Ozark, MO 65049

A get-well card was signed for Betty Naguin, 108 Glynn Ave., Hovma, LA, 70363

A thinking of you card was signed for PNP Carol Smith. Her address is 1411 W Walnut St., Jacksonville, IL 62650



Chaplains Corner Con't.

A thinking of you card was signed for Sandi Prejean. Her address is 112 Tulip Drive, Houma, LA 70360

A thinking of you card was signed for Joanne Bryan. Her address is 2100 black Horse Dr., Warrington, PA 18974-2117

A thinking of you card was sent to Dawn Moore. Her address is 4516 NC 903 S., Winterville, NC 28590-8731

We received a thinking of you request for Jon and Grace Ostler. Jons mother has been recommended for hospice. They could use our support at this difficult time. Address is 51015 County Road 57, Ault, CO 80610

It has been an amazing year for me, and I have learned a lot. Especially that there are so many members that I do not know and wish I could meet. Until you are in a position such as this, you don't realize just what the job entails. But I am learning on a daily basis and thank all the special ladies who have helped me along the way.

Blessings to all,

*Mitzy Abeyta
National Chaplain*

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Mary Brief	marybmimcla@gmail.com
Sr. Vice President Darlene MacCubbin	darlenemaccubbin@gmail.com
Jr. Vice President Lynn Cortright	lyncortright27@gmail.com
Judge Advocate Janice Hartley	jghartleykdr@gmail.com
Jr. PNP Dotty Sanning	MCLAux2012@gmail.com

DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS

Central Div VP	Patti Morgan	pattimorgan20@gmail.com
Mideast Div VP	VACANT	
Midwest Div VP	Jan Crowe	mwdvp2024@gmail.com
New England Div VP	VACANT	
Northeast Div VP	Karen Mastriana	mastrianiama@aol.com
Northwest Div VP	PNP Evelyn Joppa	evelyn.mrsjs@gmail.com
Rocky Mountain Div VP	Dale Wingert	DaleWingert1021@gmail.com
Southeast Div VP	Rebecca Marcel	SoutheastDivisionVP@gmail.com
Southern Div VP	Antonia Hurtado	rtaco68@aol.com
Southwest Div VP	Shannon Lopez	mclasouthwestdivision@gmail.com
National Chaplain	Mitzy Abeyta	MitzyAbeyta@gmail.com
National Regent	Mary Lou Webb	marylou@papermywalls.com
National Big Flea	Mitzy Abeyta	MitzyAbeyta@gmail.com
Operation Little Angel	PNP Barbara Nobile	pnpBarbMCLA@yahoo.com



Marine Corps League Auxiliary
PO Box 3038
Stafford, VA 22555-3038

Dated Material: September

Address Service Requested