

Marine Corps League Auxiliary

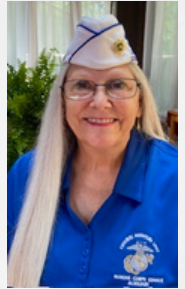


www.nationalmcla.org

Volume 7, Issue 7

March 2026

National President - Dotty Sanning



Ladies,

I am a little sorry to see February come to an end. I truly enjoyed watching the Olympics. Seeing United States female athletes encourage one another, and watching competitors from different countries support each other, was inspiring. It reminded me so much of our Auxiliary. We stand beside one another in our units, departments, and divisions, working toward common goals with the same spirit of teamwork.

What are you doing on March 8? It is International Women's Day, a great opportunity to support each other!

The aims of International Women's Day include:

- **Celebrating women's achievements** by recognizing contributions in every field and highlighting their influence, past and present.
- **Raising awareness of gender inequality** by bringing attention to issues such as pay inequity, underrepresentation in leadership, gender-based violence, and unequal access to education and opportunity.
- **Mobilizing action for equality** by encouraging individuals, communities, and organizations to build a more inclusive and equitable world.
- **Donating and fundraising for women-focused charities** and increasing awareness of their work.

Some of these efforts may feel more achievable than others, but each of us can take part in meaningful ways.

Celebrating women's achievements comes naturally to our Auxiliaries as we prepare our slate of officers for the coming year. We carefully elect leaders who will guide our units with strength and integrity.

≡ International Women's Day ≡



National President (Con't)

Raising awareness may be a little more difficult, but you can begin in your own community by supporting women-owned businesses. As you make those connections, you may also meet prospective Auxiliary members.

Mobilizing action can be as simple as encouraging participation. As you vote for your new slate of officers, consider how your leadership reflects the strength and vision of our organization. We have all seen women attend events alongside their spouses who are not members of the Auxiliary. Ask your detachment members to introduce you to their family members. A special family night at the detachment could be a welcoming way to share who we are and what we do.

Donating and fundraising for our charities can sometimes feel challenging. Many of us support Operation Little Angels, and fresh ideas are always welcome. There may be members in your unit who have creative suggestions but hesitate to speak up. Consider placing a “fundraiser idea jar” at your meetings, where anyone can submit a new idea - or revive one that was successful in the past.

When we bring in new members, we also bring in new ideas - ideas for fundraising, for serving additional charities in our communities, and for strengthening our voice at conferences and conventions.

I look forward to hearing what your units did to recognize International Women's Day when we gather at the Mid-Winter Staff Conference. Perhaps you will have a picture to send into Headquarters for the Programs of Pride section.

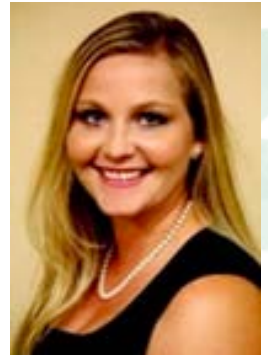
Dotty Sanning

MCLANatPres2024@gmail.com

From Ramona's Desk:

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

I hope this message finds everyone doing well and maybe even enjoying a little luck of the Irish!



It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Midwinter Conference and to see you shopping at our Ship Store. Your support and fellowship are always appreciated and truly make our events special.

I would like to share a quick reminder regarding email correspondence. I occasionally receive messages at the Gmail account that I use only for sending large distributions. I do not check that account regularly, and I would hate to miss something important from you.

For all correspondence, please be sure to use the official email address:

mclahq@nationalmcla.org

It is also almost time for Bylaw Proposals. Please remember that all proposed changes must be submitted 90 days prior to our National Convention so they can be reviewed by the appropriate Committees and Chairs. The submission deadline is April 1st. Be sure to plan accordingly so your proposals can be properly processed.

I will be searching for warmer temperatures and enjoying a bit of Spring Break soon. The office will be closed March 30 through April 2. During that time, the office phone will be forwarded to the National President should you have any questions or need assistance.

Wishing you all a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day!

Warm regards,

Ramona Smith
National Secretary

Returning from Midwinter Conference is always a powerful learning experience - one filled with new ideas, renewed purpose, and the joy of reconnecting with Marine Corps League Auxiliary members from across the nation. March is **National Women's History Month**, and this year's theme,

"Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future", beautifully reflects what our members do every single day.



Each year at Midwinter Conference and again at the National Convention in August, we come together to exchange ideas, share success stories, and learn about the inspiring ways our Units continue to uphold and strengthen our mission. These gatherings remind us that sustainability isn't only about resources; it's about people, dedication, and actions that create long - lasting impact.

Small Acts, Big Impact

Across our Auxiliary, Units are finding meaningful and creative ways to support Marines, Veterans, and the communities we serve:

- **Star Cards for Veterans:** Many Units create heartfelt "Star Cards" to thank veterans individually for their service and sacrifices. These small gestures carry enormous meaning and honor the freedoms these men and women helped protect.
- **Clipping Coupons for Military Families:** Some members may find it difficult to be active in public settings, yet they still make remarkable contributions right from their living rooms. By clipping coupons for military families, they provide real financial relief that stretches a household budget farther - proof that service takes many forms.
- **Quilts of Honor, Toys for Tots, and Operation Little Angel:** Our highly engaged Units support major initiatives such as presenting Quilts of Honor, assisting Toys for Tots, contributing to Operation Little Angel, and preparing baby shower donations for Veterans through VA hospitals.
- **Flag Education:** Flag Education is a powerful and meaningful project that helps teach the next generation about the sacrifices made by those who served - sacrifices symbolized by our nation's flag. Through this effort, we pass on a deeper understanding of what the flag represents: honor, service, unity, and the enduring commitment to protecting the freedoms we cherish. By educating youth about these values, we help ensure that respect for our country and for those who served continues for generations to come.

Every act - large or small - creates ripples of positive change. These efforts strengthen families, uplift communities, and reinforce the values upon which this organization was built.

The theme “*Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future*” celebrates women who rebuild systems and cultivate long-term resilience. Within the MCLA, our members embody this spirit every day. Your work doesn’t just address today’s needs - it builds the foundation for a stronger, more connected, and more compassionate tomorrow.

“I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for all your contributions. Your actions - each one guided by compassion, commitment, and heart - create a ripple effect far greater than you may ever see. You are touching lives, strengthening communities, and carrying forward a mission built on honor and service. I hope you feel the profound reward of knowing that what you do truly matters. Your dedication does more than support our mission - *it fuels it*. Because of you, it will remain strong, meaningful, and enduring for years to come.”

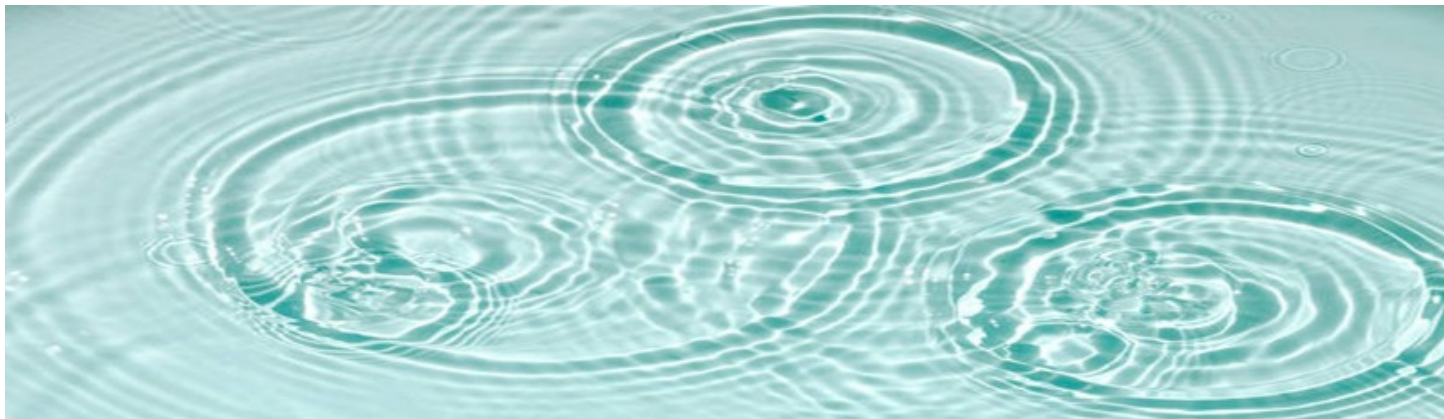
Semper Fidelis,

Mary K. Brief

National Senior Vice President



When a rock is thrown into a lake, it sends ripples across the surface, each one touching new places, reaching farther than the rock itself ever travels. Beneath the surface, the rock continues its own quiet journey, touching the water, the plants, and the sand all the way to the bottom. And even after the ripples fade and the lake appears still again, the place where that rock lands will be forever changed. So, whether you are a rock or a ripple, you have an impact on everything your touch- even if that impact lasts only for your lifetime. What you do matters, and the world is changed because you were here.



As promised, I will attempt to address what to look for in a potential leader (Officer).

A few characteristics and traits to look for: honesty, conscientiousness, decisiveness, openness and the ability to delegate.

A strong leader maintains clear, consistent communication with her members. Constant communication allows the members to understand the organization's vision and mission and gives them an assurance that they are working towards the desired goals. Communication is also important in establishing work expectations, giving constructive feedback and training new members. Remember lead by example! It may take a new member several examples before she fully understands how to do something.

Honesty is the foundation of both personal and professional relationships. A strong leader is the one that the organization and other members can trust because of her values, integrity and morals.



A quote that I encourage everyone to try to live up to: ***“leadership is about being of service to others, not being served by others. Be a mentor, not a boss.”*** Patrick – the – edutainer

A good leader is progressive and has a vision of future goals. She sets a framework for achieving those goals and sets priorities based on her values. Remember not all goals can be met in one or two years.

Persuasion and communication skills allow a leader to speak effectively in public. Both written and spoken messages should be appropriate to the audience around you. Choose your words carefully and the volume of your voice – it can affect positively and/or negatively.

An intelligent leader is broad-minded and fair-minded. She shows no prejudice, rather displays empathy and sensitivity to others' interests, values, feelings and well-being.

Good leaders are accountable and accept responsibility for the failures of the organization. Accountability is important for improving the effectiveness of organizational procedures or practices. When problems arise, a good leader must identify the issues and seek solution.

I leave you with another famous quote: ***“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other”*** President John F. Kennedy



MCLA Midwinter



Conference



2026





Americanism / Patriotism



Patriotism is fundamentally defined as a love for one's country, but it encompasses much more than mere affection. It includes identifying with fellow citizens and demonstrating concern for the nation's well-being.

A patriotic person loves, supports, and feels a strong sense of loyalty and pride in their country, often translating that feeling into actions like defending it, participating in civic duties (voting, serving), honoring its history/symbols, and working to improve it for all citizens, sometimes involving sacrifice for the nation's well-being. It's an emotional attachment encompassing appreciation for its culture, values, and freedoms, but it can manifest in various ways, from quiet community voluntary services to enlisting in the military.

Key Characteristics

- Love & Devotion: A deep emotional attachment to their homeland, similar to familial love.
- Support & Loyalty: Standing with their country, especially during challenging times, and being steadfast in allegiance. Throughout history, patriotism has seen its high and low points, often intensifying during significant events like wars or national crises, such as September 11, 2001, which united many Americans in grief and action.
- Action-Oriented: Moving beyond just pride to engage in activities that benefit the nation, such as:
 - Serving in the military.
 - Voting and participating in democracy.
 - Volunteering in the community.
 - Advocating for social issues.
- Appreciation: Valuing the nation's history, culture, language, and political freedoms.
- Sense of Responsibility: Feeling a duty to contribute to the country's betterment and uphold its principles.

Tracey G. Killinger

National Senior Vice President

Spring Greetings from your National Bylaw & Administrative Procedure Chair

There are sample forms on the Webpage to assist any member who wishes to submit a Bylaw or Administrative Procedure Amendment to be considered at the MCLA National Convention. It is not required that you use the forms. They are offered for your convenience and as a learning tool. The forms have space for all the information that is required, as well as space for information that will assist the voting members to understand what the intended amendment is, why the amendment is being submitted and what the change will entail. It is hoped that no one will become confused nor will an amendment pass that does not truly reflect the wishes of the majority of the membership.

Bylaw and Administrative Procedure Amendments require a majority vote, as per National MCLA Bylaws, Article Eight, Section 800. If a roll call vote of Unit Strength is desired, a motion stating such must be made (by ten Delegates, as per National MCLA Bylaws, Article One, Section 110(c) prior to the vote being taken on the specific amendment. If not requested by ten Delegates, then the vote will be by the regular process in compliance with the Rules of Convention.

Before drafting an amendment, please read the MCLA National Bylaws, Article Eight, Section 800 and the MCLA National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Ten, Section 1015 and 1020. If this is done first, it will be easier to understand the information requested on the sample forms.

There is only to be ONE amendment on each form and the information that is added to the sample form must be TYPEWRITTEN. If a particularly long amendment is being proposed, the required information may be continued on the back of the form or on additional pages, always being sure to note that it is "Page 1 of 2" or Page 2 of 2", etc.

Please remember that Robert's Rules states, "In order to give the organization the greatest freedom to act within its objective, Bylaws should be made no more restrictive nor more detailed in specification than necessary." Be careful not to make a suggestion that is so restrictive that it may harm the future good of the organization. And, try never to propose a change to the National Bylaws and/or Administrative Procedures simply because of a personality conflict arising from the actions of one or two individuals.

It is hoped that this information will prove helpful. It is not meant to answer every question. We all become more valuable members of this Auxiliary by being challenged to learn new things. Please do not hesitate to use the chain of command if you need additional assistance. Those members you have elected to serve you are extremely important "links" in our chain.

Hope you all learn to enjoy the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures as much as I do!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS MUST BE IN TO THE NATIONAL

OFFICE BY 1 APRIL THIS YEAR!

PNP Ruth S. Mayse



National Memorial Fund 2026

Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Welcome to another season of snow and windy days! I know that the weather has been a bit wild again this year but, it too will pass. I'm certainly looking forward to Spring and getting ready to put those plants in the ground.

There have been a couple of changes to forms this year. The National Memorial Fund Donation should be updated to read 'In Memory of' / 'In Honor of'. Enclosure #36 (National MCLA Memorial Fund Guidelines) has also been updated and revised at National Convention at Grapevine, Texas in August 2025.

All requests for assistance must be sent to either MCLA National Headquarters or directly to the Committee Chairperson, Jan Crowe. The requests must be on MCLA Unit or Department letterhead. All approved requests received will be acknowledged with a thank you letter to the Unit or Department that made the request. The recipient of the Memorial fund will also be sent a letter of acknowledgement. If a donation is for a family member who is no longer with us, the acknowledgements will be sent to family members. Please be sure that we have received addresses for these family members.

The National Memorial Fund Committee is pleased to say that we have been able to assist families this year and have received several donations since National, however, the National Memorial Fund would not be sustainable without your help! All donations are welcome and are much appreciated.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Conference in Arlington, Virginia and National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Again, the National Memorial Fund is fully funded by donations, and the Committee certainly appreciates your help. There will be donation forms and a donation jar at the table. The donation form is also available on the MCLA National website in the library (www.nationalmcla.org). Checks should be made payable to MCLA National Memorial Fund. Please stop by the tables, visit with the ladies who are helping and purchase your raffle tickets for the items being raffled.

Thank you to my committee members who are always ready to help: Mitzy Abeyta, Carol Holmes, Susan Douglas and National President Dotty Sanning.

Semper Fidelis,

Jan Crowe
Memorial Fund Committee Chairperson





Any member of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Marine Corps League, or family member, is eligible to apply for the Marine Corps League Foundation's Scholarship Program. It is a one-sheet application, asking just basic questions. Each applicant will need a sponsor from either the Marine Corps League Auxiliary or the Marine Corps League. Scholarships may be awarded for a maximum of four years, and they do not have to be consecutive. However, applicants do need to apply each year, and scholarships are awarded on eligibility and program requirements.

Applications for 2026 are available on the Marine Corps League Foundation's website, under Youth Programs. Applicants will need to have their final certified school transcript sent with their application. Application and transcript can only be submitted online; no snail mail applications are accepted.

Make sure every line is completed, NO blanks.

The application can be hand carried to the school with the required signatures needed. The school will then send the application, along with the certified final transcript. I would suggest that you also take a copy of the instructions for the school to follow.

This is a "two-step process". The applicant, and sponsor, will be notified when their application is received and approved. Students approved will then need to complete their specific college "Student Data Sheet and Proof of Enrollment" form, from the college, by Sept. 21, 2026. Don't forget this step!

Reminders to submit this confirmation will NOT be sent. Without confirmation, you will not receive the award.

Go now to the Marine Corps League Foundation website and get that application completed. Then contact the school right after graduation for the certified transcript. Deadline for submission is July 21, 2026. Don't forget the second step upon being notified of acceptance.



Note – Auxiliary Ladies, "you" sign the application for your daughter, son, granddaughter, or grandson!

Last year there were very few Auxiliary sponsors, but tons of League sponsors. Tell your hubby that this year, you are going to sign those applications!

God's Blessings always,

Mary Lou Webb

Scholarship Committee
MCLA Southwest MO Unit
President
marylou@papermywalls.com

**We are the home of the
FREE because of the Brave!**





MCLA



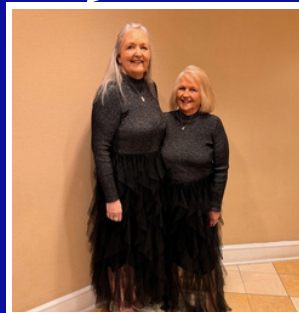
Midwinter

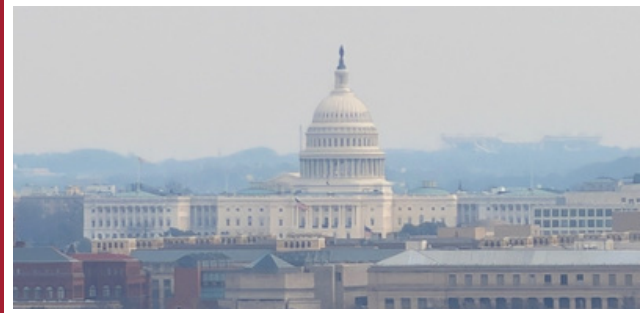
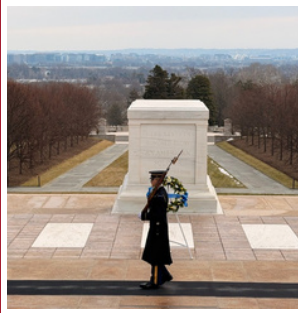


Conference

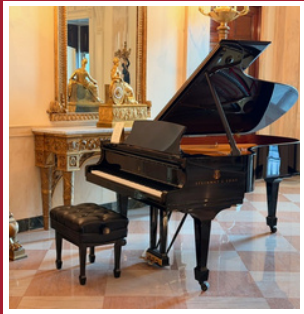


2026 - Banquet





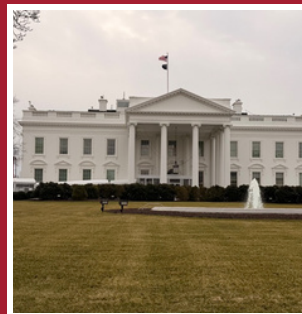
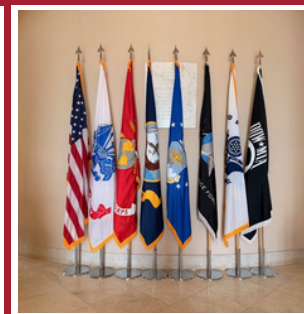
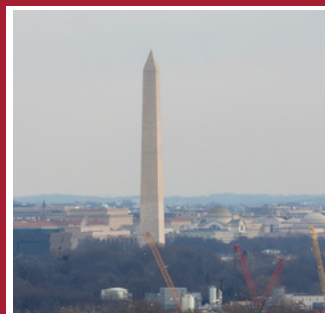
MCLA Midwinter



Conference



2026



Happy Birthday to our Fabulous Members with March Birthdays!

- 1-Mar Doreen Jabr
- 1-Mar Ellen Saporito
- 1-Mar Linda Stidham
- 4-Mar Sheila Busch
- 4-Mar Theresa Keyes
- 4-Mar Karren Ogg
- 6-Mar Judith Denoyer
- 6-Mar Nancy Frye
- 6-Mar Mavis Gordon
- 7-Mar Teresa Burgess
- 7-Mar Carol Rogers
- 7-Mar Brittany Strong
- 8-Mar Lori Messina
- 8-Mar Miranda Watson
- 8-Mar Bernice Wirgau
- 9-Mar Sue Herst
- 9-Mar Barbara Mader
- 9-Mar Elizabeth Michael
- 11-Mar Rachel Bourn
- 11-Mar Loretta Undercuffler
- 13-Mar Jacqueline Holt
- 14-Mar Corinne Keyes
- 15-Mar Linett Sturch
- 15-Mar Elizabeth Wendling
- 17-Mar Mary S Regner
- 19-Mar Kathryn Smith
- 20-Mar Patricia Martinez
- 22-Mar Debra Trombley-Zarazua
- 23-Mar Barbara Nobile
- 23-Mar Deanna Quenzer
- 23-Mar Gerri Tuohy
- 24-Mar Doris Bujanowski
- 26-Mar Nancy Rocheleau
- 27-Mar Jeanne Parker
- 27-Mar Emily Tejral
- 27-Mar Jacqueline Trainor
- 29-Mar Beverly Eggen
- 29-Mar McKenzie Erne
- 30-Mar Sandra Sadnick
- 31-Mar Paula Masel
- 31-Mar Alicia Tejral

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.



Chaplain's Corner

As we get ready to travel to Mid-Winter I have been doing a lot of thinking. As I said before, this has been learning experience. Having been a Unit and a Department Chaplain, I realize how much easier it was to be aware of members and their needs because we see each other on a regular basis and know each other as friends and family because our Units and Department is smaller. As National Chaplain, every time I receive a request for prayer or cards, I realize how many members that I do not, nor will ever know. It breaks my heart to know that so many members are suffering and that we have lost so many members. We can never replace the ones that we have lost. They will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Precious Memories

Anna Mae Hudson of the Smedley D. Butler Unit passed away on Jan. 15, 2026. Cards may be sent to: The Hudson Family, 36 Radnor Rd., Newtown Square, PA 19073-4211

Eileen Bargerhuff of the James Earl Kennedy Unit passed away August 7th, 2025. William Bargerhuff was listed as next of kin. No address was listed.

June Coombs of the James Earl Kennedy Unit passed away May 1, 2024. Jessica Davis was listed as next of kin. No address was listed.

Selma Loveland of the James Earl Kennedy Unit passed away October 31, 2022. Frances Connelly was listed as next of kin. No address was listed.

Saxon Thatcher of the James Earl Kennedy Unit passed away January 4, 2025. Karen Schneider was listed as nest of kin. No address was listed.

Nancy Barclay of the James earl Kennedy Unit passed away on December 9, 2024. David Barclay was listed as next of kin. No address was given.

Joan Rapp of the Wisconsin-Globe & Anchor Unit passed away October 11, 2025. Cards may be sent to her daughter: Donna Boldt, 5026 County Rd. K, Frankville, WI 53126

Sandra Morris of the Upper Darby Unit passed away January 11, 2026. Cards may be sent to: John Morris, 624 Mohawk Ave., Norwood, PA 19074



Chaplains Corner Con't.

Junita Chaisson, an inactive member at large and former member of the Houma Terrebonne MCLA Unit passed away November 4, 2025. She was a past National Chaplain, Past SE Division VP, Past (old) Department of Louisiana President and Houma Terrebonne MCLA Unit President. No information to send cards.

Wonda G. Snoddy of the Middle TN Unit passed away November 16, 2025. She was 90 years old. Wanda was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Leslie C. Snoddy. She is survived by daughter Karen S. Reeves (Terry) and grandchildren Lesli (Russ) Robertson, Larry K. (Joni) Nesbitt and Angie (Tom) DE Jarnette. Seven great grandchildren: Parker, Austin, Reesi, Elye, Jones, Sophia, and Jack. Services were held November 18, 2025, at the Crieviewood Baptist Church and Internment we at Woodlawn Cemetery. Family and friends served as pallbearers. No address for cards was given.

Ruby J. Enders of the Flint Unit passed away August 17, 2024. No next of kin were listed.

Anne M. Schultz of the Flint Unit passed away in 2024. No next of kin were reported.

Rest in Peace. These beautiful ladies are gone but not forgotten.

Prayers and/or cards were requested for the following:

Prayers for quick healing and recovery due to a health issue were requested for Sharon Russo (Judy Blackmer's daughter) of the Burbank Unit.

As previously reported, Jeanie Raney of the Southwest Missouri Unit is undergoing radiation treatment. In January she was in a bad car accident and was in the hospital for 6 days with 9 broken ribs, injured sternum and other injuries. Her birthday was February 6th. Let's send healing prayers and birthday wishes. Jeanie Raney, 4541 S. Meadowlark Dr., Springfield, MO 65810.

In January PNP Deborah Evens fell injuring her knee (not broken) and her right arm was sore. Added to that, they were out of power due to storms that came through their area. Prayers were requested for this wonderful lady.



Chaplains Corner Con't.

Joan Kuhne, a Flint Unit member for 29 years had her 90th birthday on February 12th. Such an amazing milestone. Cards may be sent to: Joan Kuhne, 243 Walnut St., Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Glenda Martin of the Bama Belles lost her husband Charles. Charles was a member of the Northeast Ala. Detachment. Please keep the Martin family in your prayers. Glenda Martin, 293 CR 408, Grove Oak, AL 35975

My grandson, Elijah and my daughter-in-law, Cindy Atencio lost his grandfather and her father, Larry. She is a member of the Rocky Mtn. Diamonds Unit. Cards may be sent to: Cindy Atencio & Elijah Abeyta, 445 Dennis St., Monte Vista, CO 81144

Blessings to everyone,

*Semper Fi,
Mitzy Abeyta
National Cha*

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Dotty Sanning	MCLANatPres2024@gmail.com
Sr. Vice President Mary Brief	marybmimcla@gmail.com
Jr. Vice President Darlene MacCubbin	darlenemaccubbin@gmail.com
Judge Advocate Janice Hartley	jghartleykdr@gmail.com
Jr. PNP Linda S. Chamberlain	ssgtnwife@verizon.net

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
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Southwest Div VP	Shannon Lopez	mclasouthwestdivision@gmail.com
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National Regent	Lynn Cortright	lyncortright27@gmail.com
National Big Flea	Antonia Hurtado	rtaco68@aol.com
Operation Little Angel	PNP Barbara Nobile	pnpBarbMCLA@yahoo.com



Marine Corps League Auxiliary
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Stafford, VA 22555-3038

Dated Material: March

Address Service Requested