Celebrating our Members ~ Womens' History Month



Remember when we learned how to make our bunks with those perfect corners.

Semper Fidelis Marine *|FNAME|* *|LNAME|*

March is upon us and brings many different type events: Women's History Month, NCAA March Madness, St Patrick's Day, the first day of spring (even though meteorological spring already took place like in February!), National Craft Month, National Irish American Heritage Monthdesignated by Congress in 1995, National Nutrition Month, National Peanut Month, Red Cross Month and Social Workers Month. And most importantly, one of our founding members, Sue Sousa, has a birthday on 17 March! What a great shamrock this lady is!! Please let's all get in the spirit and send Sue birthday cards to help her celebrate! She and her partner Eileen Scanlon are living in an assisted living facility in Essex, Connecticut. Address: Essex Memorial Health Center, 30 Bokem Road, Essex Ct 06426 room #13

This month also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which allowed women to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. While a step forward, this legislation severely restricted the capacity for women to serve and greatly limited the number of those who could enlist, capping female enlistees at only 2%

per branch. Yet, that did not stop women from

This March serves as a reminder to find inspiration in those who advocate for change and aim to shift our culture. We need to continue to empower our women, find new and better ways of communicating, expand our networks and reach outside ourselves to grow. I have been hearing about a number of our members and former Marines who are going the entrepreneurial route in life! Good for you. WMA has been working to develop a strategic partnership with an organization call Bunker Labs – a group devoted to assist entrepreneurs in growing their networks, potential to obtain grants to open your business but also to help counsel and assist along the way. Be on the lookout for more great training opportunities to come within the next month that will be provided by Bunker Labs.

So, as we celebrate the month of March and Women's History Month, be intentional about encouraging your peers and mentoring those following your path. It will take continuous engagement to reach a place where there are no more "firsts" or "onlys" left ... where women are simply a foundational part of every team at every level — before, beside and behind each of us. To empower each other is definitely the answering the call to serve and pushing the limits.

The Korean War began two years later. More than 120,000 women signed up for active duty positions, serving as medics, caretakers, logisticians and communications operators. Then followed the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iran and Afghanistan and throughout it all we women have served in many more capacities and broken down

more barriers. We have come a long way to overcome gender-based discrimination, but there will always be room to grow. aim and intent of WMA. Semper Fidelis Marines,

Semper Fidelis, Ann Crittenden WMANatPresident@womenmarines.org



VP Notes wmavp@womenmarines.org **Patty Collins**

Happy St Paddy's day Marines. We have started our Chapter networking this past month. The topic for Feb and March is on Recruiting. It was a great meeting. We had over 30 members join us. There were some great ideas shared and I hope the great discussion will continue on March 28th. This is open to all members so please come join us. If you have any ideas of what you would like to talk about please let me know at listening@womenmarines.org.

We will be starting networking for members about different subjects every other quarter. We will do several each quarter in different time zones. If you have a subject you would like to discuss (ie. Finances, health and fitness etc) please let me know at listening@womenmarines.org

I wanted to thank NE-1 for the invite to your business meeting. You Marines are doing great things in your chapter and for your state. I enjoyed meeting all of you. If you would like me to pop in to one of your meetings please send me and invite at wmavp@womenmarines.org

Let's keep this momentum going.

WMA National President, Ann Crittenden and WMA National VP, Patty Collins are coming to FL Join us for a luncheon Sunday Mar 26th, 3pm at Mimi's Cafe in Ocala, FL. RSVP by Mar 20th. at: Krs4golf@gmail.com for directions.

Marine Corps Junior ROTC Presenters Wanted

Soon we will be sending out notices to the chapters and members at large asking for assistance in handling out the awards. If you have a unit in your area we hope you will take the time to personally attend and congratulate the Cadet for their achievements. For more information contact Laura Santiago at

mcjrotc@womenmarines.org

Reading Corner

Woman Marine: A Memoir of a Woman Who Joined the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II to Free a Marine to Fight

Woman Marine: A Memoir Of A Woman who Joined the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II to "Free A Marine To Fight" by Theresa Karas Yianilos is a true account of a girl of twenty-one who joined the Corps in 1943 and helped win a war along with nineteen thousand other courageous young women between the ages of 20 to 35 who had come together. As the battles for the Pacific Islands against Japan raged on for four years, claiming thousands of Marine lives, she realized what it really meant to "free a Marine". This book was placed on the Commandant's list of recommended reading in 1997

Deadlines for 2023 'Nouncements April 10 July 10 October 10 Chapters get your info in. We want to know what you are doing!



Chaplains Corner

Have you lost a precious family member, cherished friend, or beloved pet recently? Do you find yourself reeling as emotions swirl around you? Do you feel like your heart has been ripped open?

Scripture can be a source of consolation. - Psalm 147:3 (NRSV) – "[God] heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." - Revelations 21:4 (NRSV) – "[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more...".

Sometimes grief can be so profound that we are unable to get our equilibrium back. We get stuck. There is help if that is how you feel. Your local hospital's social work department or hospice program(s) will know the resources available to you. If you have lost someone who was on active duty or was a veteran, call TAPS: National Military Survivor Helpline at 1-800-959The 2024 Atlanta Convention Atlanta Hilton Thursday 8/8/2024 – Monday, 8/12/2024

The WMA (Women Marines Association) 2024 National Convention, scheduled to be held at Atlanta Hilton from Thursday, August 8th, 2024, to Monday, August 12th, 2024, presents a unique opportunity for members of the association to connect with their fellow Marines and focus on the historic city of Atlanta.

Attending the convention will give members the chance to engage with others who share their passion for the Marine Corps and its history. This includes the opportunity to meet with veterans from various generations and branches of service, as well as active-duty Marines, providing a sense of camaraderie and a deeper connection to the military community.

In addition to the social benefits, the convention offers a chance to explore Atlanta's rich history. As the birthplace of the civil rights movement, 8277 (TAPS).
John O'Donohue writes in his poem, On the Death of the Beloved:
Though we need to weep your loss...
Let us not look for you only in memory,
Where we would grow lonely without you,
You would want us to find you in presence,
Beside us when beauty brightens,
When kindness glows
And music echoes eternal tones.
Your loved one would want you to get the help you need.
Melinda Townsend
WMA National Chaplain chaplain@womenmarines.org Atlanta is home to several historical sites, such as the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. By attending the convention, members of the WMA can gain a deeper understanding of the city's role in shaping America's history and its significance to the Marine Corps.

In conclusion, attending the WMA 2024 National Convention offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow Marines and to explore the history of Atlanta. This experience can lead to a deeper appreciation of the Marine Corps, its history, and its impact on society, making it a must-attend event for members of the WMA.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

****Homemade Irish Cream ****

Ingredients 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk 1 c. heavy cream 1 c. Irish whiskey (or milk for a nonalcoholic version) 2 tbsp. chocolate syrup 1 1/2 tsp. instant coffee or espresso granules 1 tsp. vanilla extract 1/2 tsp. almond extract Directions Step 1

Blend sweetened condensed milk, heavy cream, Irish whiskey or milk, chocolate syrup, instant coffee or espresso granules, vanilla extract and almond extract until smooth.

Step 2

Add a splash to coffee, pour it over ice cream or sip it on the rocks

Scholarship Information LAST CHANCE

The WMA Scholarship committee administers a variety of awards and the total number of scholarships granted is determined by the annual earnings from the investments (available funds) and the specific scholarship requirements. All submissions completed within the application period by qualified applicants get reviewed for consideration.

Application Period is 1 February – 31 March

Applications that are postmarked after 31 March will not be considered

Eligibility: All scholarship applicants must be sponsored by a WMA member in good standing (apart from Marine Corps JROTC cadets who have a special eligibility requirement as stated Proof of Military Service) and satisfy one of the identified criteria outlined in WMA Scholarship Procedures Applications must be submitted each year; they are not reoccurring.

PLEASE NOTE> MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE STARTING AT \$3,000

WMA Scholarship Procedures

March Dates

March Awareness

Women's History Month National Reading Month Disability Awareness Month World Wildlife Day Global Recycling Day International Day of Forests World Water Day

March History

March 1980 Sergeant Major Eleanor Judge becomes the first female Sergeant Major of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. 7 March 2023

13 March 1943 The first 71 female officer candidates arrive at the Midshipmen School at Mt. Holyoke for training.

13 March 2006 Captain Elizabeth A. Okoreeh-Baah becomes the first female MV-22 Osprey pilot. She is one of the first women to graduate from the United States Naval Academy with an aviation contract.

WMA Member Portal

The WMA Member Platform provides a place for members to access their membership records. You can add profile information, update your extended profile fields, and pay an open membership invoice if your renewal is upcoming.

There is also a membership directory that includes name, photo, phone, and email fields. Members with official WMA roles will also have their association role listed. On the directory page, you can click the Chapter Directory which will provide a dropdown of Chapters to view the associated member names. If you have not gotten your password please

contact wma@womenmarines.org

When you log in and update your information it is automatically updated in system and rosters.

Please keep your information updated

WMA Member Portal Guide

Women's History Month



