

March 2026

Monthly Newsletter



News & Updates 01 Mar 2026

MCL857.ORG
[Facebook](#)



President Trump Addressing the Nation on the Conflict in Iran

01 - 31 March Calendar

02, 09, 16, 23, and 30 Mar: Veteran's Breakfast at BBD II Diner

05, 12, 19, and 26 Mar: All Veterans Association Gathering

06, 13, 20, 27 Mar: Veteran's Breakfast at Mom's Family Diner

07 Mar: Chosin Few Breakfast Social

08 Mar: Daylight Saving Time Begins

08 Mar: Red Jacket Society Meeting - Jameson's

13 - 15 Mar: Southern Division Conference

14 Mar: Oklahoma Freedom Flight Fundraiser

14 - 15 Mar: R.K. Gun Show

17 Mar: St Patrick's Day

21 Mar: Bingo at the CVC

25 Mar: National Medal of Honor Day Ceremony

28 Mar: Detachment Meeting

28 - 29 Mar: Backwoods Hunting & Fishing Expo

29 Mar: National Vietnam War Veterans Day



Website [calendar](https://okveteranscalendar.com)



01 - 31 March Event Details

02 Mar 2026 (Every Monday)

09 Mar, 16 Mar, 23 Mar, 30 Mar

Veteran's Breakfast at BBD II Diner



Time: 0800

Dress Code: Civilian Casual

Location:

BBD II Diner

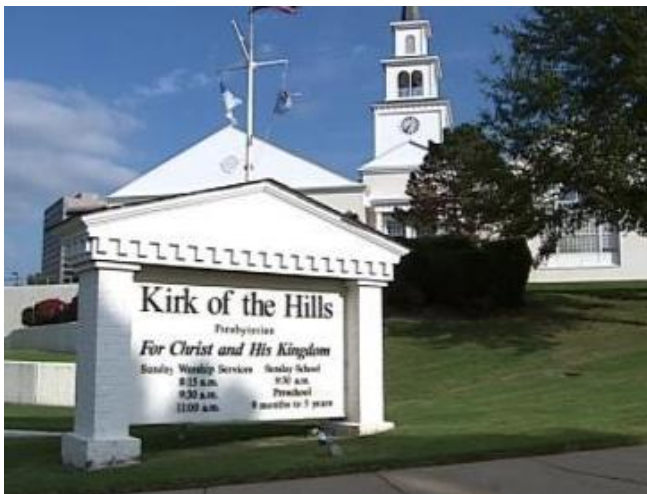
8218 S. Harvard Ave.

Tulsa, OK 74137

Just good eating, coffee and lots of fun & laughs (most arrive after 7:30 and we order between 8 & 8:30).

05 Mar 2026 (Every Thursday)
12 Mar, 19 Mar, 26 Mar

All Veterans Association Gathering



Tall tales and other war stories from our group of Veterans.

Time: 0930

Dress Code: Civilian Casual

Location:
Kirk of the Hills Church
4102 E. 61st St.
Tulsa, OK 74136

06 Mar 2026 (Every Friday)
13 Mar, 20 Mar, 27 Mar

Veteran's Breakfast at Mom's Family Diner



Just good eating, coffee and lots of fun & laughs (most arrive at 7:30 and we order around 8 or when the social chairman gets there).

Time: 0800

Dress Code: Civilian Casual

Location:
Mom's Family Diner
5230 S Yale Ave
Tulsa, OK 74136

07 Mar 2026 (Saturday)

Chosin' Few Breakfast Social



Northeast Oklahoma's Chosin Few

Organized in 1953 to Recognize and Honor the "Chosin Few", our Marine Veterans from the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir in 1950!

For anyone not attending the Detachment Meeting, you can join Paul McWilliams to remember our Veterans from the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

Time: 0900

Dress Code: Civilian Casual / Marine Corps Related Attire

Location: Golden Corral
8144 E. 21st St.
Tulsa, OK 74129

08 Mar 2026 (Sunday)

Daylight Saving Time Begins



08 Mar 2026 (Sunday)

Red Jacket Society Meeting



Join your fellow Marines for an adult beverage and some lively conversation!

Time: 1400

Dress Code: Marine Corps Casual Attire / Civilian Attire

Location: Jameson's Pub
1385 N. Aspen Ave.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

13 - 15 Mar 2026 (Friday - Sunday)

Southern Division Conference



This year's Southern Division Conference is taking place in Paris, Texas.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the conference's Facebook Page

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Conference Agenda

14 Mar 2026 (Saturday)

Oklahoma Honor Flight Fundraiser



[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Oklahoma Freedom Flight's Facebook Page for more details

14 - 15 Mar 2026 (Saturday & Sunday)

R. K. Gun Show



To volunteer to man the table for this gun show, contact:
Scott Williams (918) 695-6273
Bob Pittman (918) 697-2453

Times:

0900 - 1700 Saturday
0900 - 1600 Sunday

Dress Code: MCL Red Shirt
& MCL Cover / Marine Corps
Related Attire

Location: Tulsa
Fairgrounds Exchange Center
4145 E. 21st St.
Tulsa, OK 74114

17 Mar 2026 (Tuesday)

St. Patrick's Day



St. Patrick's Day is the feast day of St. Patrick, a patron saint of Ireland. Originally celebrated with religious feasts and services, St. Patrick's Day became a secular celebration of Irish culture when it reached the United States alongside Irish immigrants.

21 Mar 2026 (Saturday)

Bingo at the Claremore Veterans Center



Joe Menninger is looking for volunteers to help run the Bingo game at the CVC. Contact Joe at (615) 419-0238 or email him at joe.menninger@me.com

Time: 1000

Dress Code: MCL Red Shirt & MCL Cover / Marine Corps Related Attire

Location: Claremore Veterans Center (CVC)
3001 W. Blue Starr Dr.
Claremore, OK 74017

25 Mar 2026 (Wednesday)

National Medal of Honor Day Ceremony



John Camp is leading the charge again for this year's ceremony.

**Want to meet a living Medal of Honor recipient in person?
SP5 Dwight Birdwell will make a personal appearance at the event.**

Time: 1600

Dress Code: MCL Red Blazer & MCL Cover

Location: Tulsa International Airport
7777 Airport Dr.
Tulsa, OK 74115

MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

MARCH 25, 2026 • 4:00 pm

**HONORING OUR BRAVEST
REMEMBERING OUR HEROES**

**Guest of Honor
SPC5 Dwight Birdwell**

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S HEROES



Tulsa International Airport • Veterans Hall

28 Mar 2026 (Saturday)

Detachment Meeting



VFW Post 577
1109 E. 6th St.
Tulsa, OK 74120

Google [map](#)

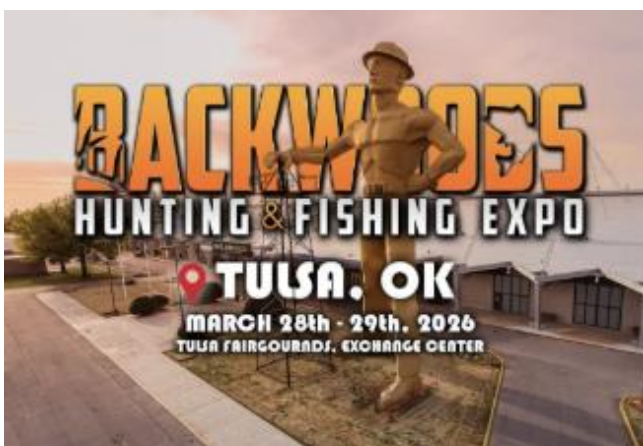
Breakfast
0800 - 0900
(minimum \$10 donation)

Meeting
0900 - Done

Can't attend the Meeting in person? Join via Zoom
[Detachment Zoom Instructions](#)

28 - 29 Mar 2026 (Saturday & Sunday)

Backwoods Hunting & Fishing Expo



Times:

0900 - 1900 Saturday
1000 - 1700 Sunday

Dress Code: MCL Red Shirt
& MCL Cover / Marine Corps
Related Attire

Location: Tulsa
Fairgrounds Exchange Center

The Detachment will have a table at the show to sell raffle tickets for a new rifle that will be announced soon.

4145 E. 21st St.
Tulsa, OK 74114

Volunteers are still needed for the following dates and times:

28 Mar (Saturday):

- 1300 - 1500 - 1 person
- 1700 - 1900 - 2 people

29 Mar (Sunday):

- 1250 - 1500 - 1 person
- 1500 - 1750 - 2 people
- 1750 - 1900 - 1 person (includes teardown and loading)

29 Mar 2026 (Sunday)

National Vietnam War Veterans Day



29 March is National Vietnam War Veterans Day in the United States. First observed in 2012, it honors the US military members who served during the Vietnam War (1955 - 1975).



Official American Flag-Flying Day

April Upcoming Events

01 Apr: April Fools' Day

- aka All Fools' Day
-

03 Apr: Good Friday

- Commemorates Jesus' crucifixion
-

04 Apr: Chosin Few Breakfast Social

- 0900 - Golden Corral 21st & Memorial
-

05 Apr: Easter

- Celebration of Jesus' resurrection
 - Official American Flag-Flying Day
-

14 Apr: Operation Homecoming

- 2030 - Tulsa International Airport, Concourse A
 - Oklahoma Warriors Honor Flight return
-

15 - 18 Apr: Annual Medal of Honor Host City Program

- Gainesville, TX
-

21 Apr: Anniversary of 1stLt Sarah Deal getting her wings

- First female pilot in the Marine Corps (1995)

22 Apr: Earth Day

- The 2026 theme is Planet vs. Plastics
-

25 Apr: Detachment Meeting

- 0900 - VFW Post 577
-

25 Apr: Bingo at the CVC

- 1330 - Claremore Veterans Center
-

28 - 30 Apr: Modern Day Marine

- Washington, DC
-

01 - 28 February Events

31 Jan - 01 Feb - Broken Arrow Gun Show



\$713 net proceeds taken in this weekend.

Scott Williams, Bob Pittman, Michael Chancellor, Harold Davis, and Verle Randolph were the Hard Chargers who worked this show.

07 Feb - Detachment Meeting



This meeting was the meeting postponed from **January 2026**.

The meeting started with Jean Jones willing the 50/50 raffle.

A list was distributed for volunteers to sign up for the Detachment Rifle Team and for the Grant/Fundraising Committee.

A reminder that the 2026 Southern Division Conference is approaching, and after a motion was approved the Detachment will place a full page ad in the program.

Having 'business cards' printed to pass out to Member prospects was recommended by Chris Campbell.

Jean Jones encouraged anyone who wanted to volunteer for the breakfast at the Reserve Center to contact her.

Weyden Flax is once again looking for Presenters for the JROTC Awards Banquets that will take place in the near future.

Joe Menninger reminded everyone that he is the Volunteer Specialist for the VA, and that Brady Orr is the Deputy. A volunteer position is open.

John Camp once again provided a very informative slide show on Marine Corps history for the month.

After nominations were read, a vole for Marine of the Year and Associate Member of the Year took place.

2025 Marine of the Year - Joe Menninger, Jr.

2025 Associate Member of the Year - Leigh Ann Willis



Beer Towers

Two Schwab Detachment Traveling Beer Towers were unveiled at the meeting. Each tower holds the equivalent of 100+ ounces of beer, and will be available for various functions.

08 Feb - Feed the Reservists

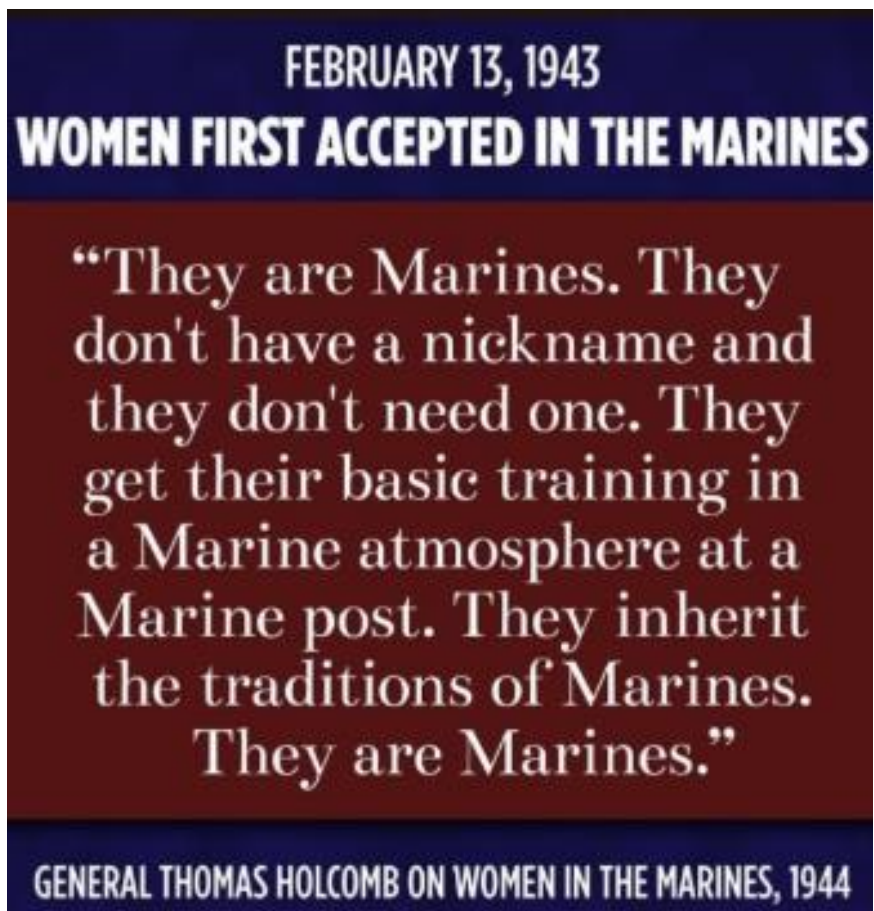


Jean Jones spearheaded the volunteer group.

Marty McKnight's grandson Nathan was present at the breakfast. Here is a reprint of a note Nathan gave to Marty:

"Them serving breakfast legitimately makes everyone's day way better, in case nobody every told you guys. Coming from the actual Marines, not the Staff and O who don't actually know what the Marines are feeling. We all genuinely appreciate it when you guys come out. The issued breakfast this morning that our ComRats paid for (mandatory) was two corn dogs and an orange, if that frames the picture any better."

13 Feb 2026 - 83rd Anniversary of Women in the Corps



20 - 22 Feb - Starbird Car Show



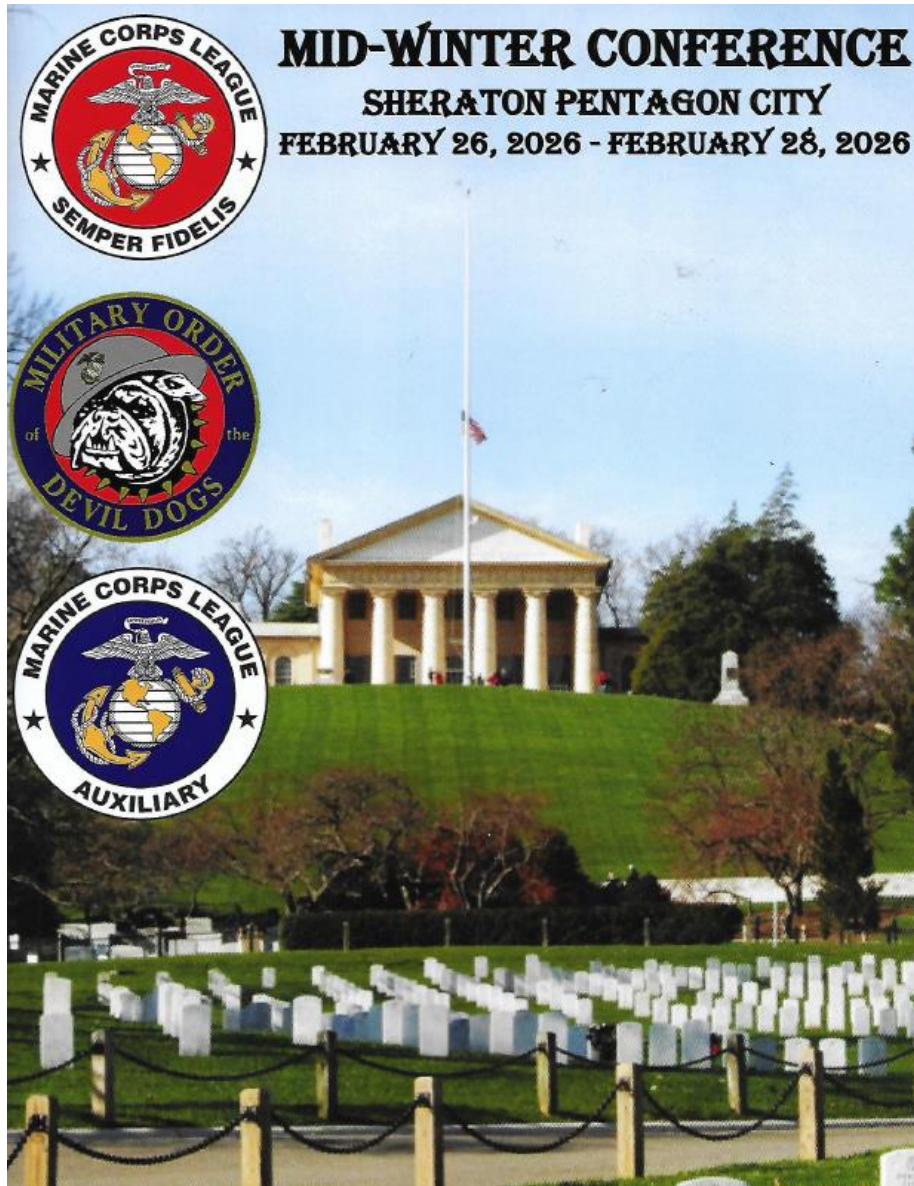
Scott Williams and Bob Pittman, along with their crew, sold \$2,210 of raffle tickets which brought in net proceeds of \$1,610. Scott and Bob's crew included Silas, Greg, and Chris.

21 Feb - Bingo at the CVC



It appears that everyone at February's Bingo Game at the CVC had a good time!

26 - 28 Feb - Mid-Winter Conference



A lot of information was shared at the conference this year. Monitor your email inbox for a separate email devoted to the activities that took place during these 3 days.

28 Feb - Detachment Meeting



**2025 Schwab Detachment Marine of the Year
Joe Menninger, Jr.**



**2025 Schwab Detachment Associate of the Year
Leigh Ann Willis**



**Current and Past
Marine of the Year and Associate Member of the Year Recipients
in Attendance**

Joe Menninger introduced his friends and family members in attendance at the meeting.



Alan Allday (pictured above) introduced himself and was sworn in as the newest Member of the Albert E. Schwab Detachment.

Welcome Aboard Marine!

All Detachment Officers reviewed their reports included in the meeting handouts.

Last meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Jean Jones presented the new Schwab Detachment patch. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that alternative versions of the patch will be created for consideration at the 28 Mar 2026 Detachment Meeting.

Scott Williams announced that \$2,935 has been raised so far on the current rifle being raffled. The current raffle winner's name will be drawn at the R.K. Gun Show on 14-15 Mar 2026.

Rus Anderson announced that he is still trying to get information on the M1 rifles the Detachment is looking to acquire for the rifle squad.

Weydan Flax is still looking for volunteers for the JROTC awards banquets taking place in the coming months. He also mentioned the Veterans Day and Memorial Day banners in Broken Arrow.

Joe Menninger announced the next CVC Bingo game in March on the 21st. He also reiterated the need for VA volunteers.

Rus Anderson spoke about the Thunderbird Youth Academy and their need for about \$3,000 for 30 drill rifles. The Detachment approved a

\$1,500 donation. Rus also mentioned that academy cadets will be available for service hours in the future.

John Camp discussed the details of everything that is happening on the day of the Medal of Honor Day Ceremony 25 Mar 2026.

John Camp also had another slideshow presentation with Marine Corps history from the month of February.

A MODD Growl took place after the close of the meeting.

28 Feb - Start of Conflict in Iran (aka 2026 Iran War)



On 28 Feb 2026, Israel and the United States launched a coordinated joint attack on various sites in Iran codenamed **Operation Roaring Lion** by Israel and **Operation Epic Fury** by the U.S. Department of War. The attack included the assassination of the second supreme leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei.

**Schwab Rifle Detail ('SRD')
aka The Boys of SRD**



A Detachment rifle detail was formed during the 07 Feb 2026 Detachment Meeting. Delivery of the M1 Garand rifles is expected in the near future.

Initial team members include:

- Marcus Flores (Leader)
- Keith Wiesman
- Charlie Willis
- Chris Schutte
- Harold Davis
- Tony Fuller
- David Lynch
- Richard Moss
- Jason Fairchild
- Terry Stemkowski

Any Detachment Member who would like to join the Schwab Rifle Detail can contact Marcus Flores (562) 881-7371.

Marine Corps League
2026 Southern Division Conference



Marine Corps League & MCL Auxiliary

Holiday Inn
3025 NE Loop 286, Paris, TX
Phone: 903.785.0088



Comfort Inn
3035 NE Loop 286, Paris, TX
Phone: 903.272.1105



*Hotels
share
parking lot*

**1 King Standard or 2 Queen Standard Room
(Free Breakfasts included)**

**\$120.00 plus tax per night
(Use group code MCL when making reservations)**

Room rate applicable for early arrivals on the 12th and stayovers on the 16th.

***Friday Night an old-fashioned hamburger and hot dog dinner will be cooked at the hotel parking lot by the Sgt Jay M. Hoskins Detachment. Drinks and chips will be included, donations appreciated, but not required.*



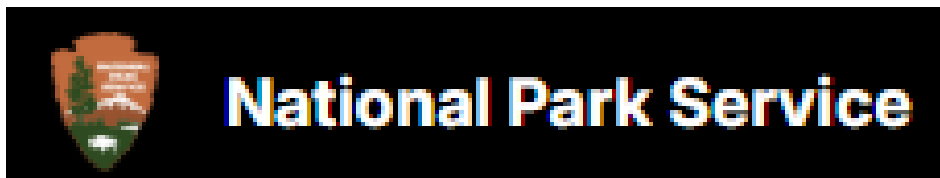
For more information contact
Sgt Jay M. Hoskins Detachment 1364
mcldet1364@gmail.com

**★ PARIS, TEXAS ★
MARCH 13-15, 2026**



mclsouth.org

Free Entrance to National Parks



Current US military and dependents, Gold Star Families, and US military veterans are eligible to receive free annual or lifetime passes which cover entrance or standard amenity (day-use) fees at national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other federal recreational

lands. These free passes are a way to thank US military members for their support of our country and to encourage them to explore recreational opportunities on their public lands and waters.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more

VA Benefits and Taxes



Tax season is here! Many VA benefits are exempt from taxes. Before filing, always review the Veterans Tax Information and Services page on the [IRS website](#). To safeguard your identity from scams, visit [Fraud Prevention](#).

Learn more about [tax season](#) at VA News.

2025 Toys for Tots



In 2025, Toys for Tots help deliver 24 million toys to nearly 11 million children in need

Chis Schutte, the 2025 Schwab Detachment Toys for Tots Coordinator, was a prime example of 'leading from the front lines' in last year's local campaign.

VA and Other Veteran News



[CLICK HERE](#) to learn how the VA offers benefits that can help Veterans buy, retain, or modify a home; earn a degree; start a career; stay health; and do much more in life after the military.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the article on the VA hiring more than 300 employment counselors and specialists

[CLICK HERE](#) for information on the heart health research from the VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP)

[CLICK HERE](#) for the VA's new findings on substance use, diabetes, and PTSD

[CLICK HERE](#) for the VA's YouTube video on yearlong VA community care and discounted life insurance for Veterans

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about the future of mental health care at the VA

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the VA YouTube video on home-based primary care

YouTube videos on VA home loans

- [CLICK HERE](#) to watch Part 1
- [CLICK HERE](#) to watch Part 2
- [CLICK HERE](#) to watch Part 3

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn how it's possible, starting this year, for Veterans to deduct VA funding fees on their taxes

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about home loan offers that sound too good to be true

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the Press Release where the VA released its annual Veteran suicide prevention report updated with 2023 data

[CLICK HERE](#) for information on the 2026 National Veterans Day Poster Contest

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the article on how the VA is moving to improve dental care access for eligible Veterans

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about how much money it would take to end Veteran homelessness

[CLICK HERE](#) for the VA Press Release on how the VA moves to speed delivery of survivors' benefits

[CLICK HERE](#) to read an article on how the VA undoes decades-old wrongs and protects Veterans' Second Amendment rights

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the YouTube video on aging strong with the VA: Homemaker and Home Health Aide Services

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about the new VA findings on Agent Orange, Parkinson's disease, and opioid use

[CLICK HERE](#) for the top 5 questions VA recruiters are asked

[CLICK HERE](#) to read how the VA cares for Caregivers

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about the VA benefits claims backlog is now under 100K for the first time since 2020

[CLICK HERE](#) for the YouTube training video on the VetRide Self-Service Portal

[CLICK HERE](#) for the YouTube video on aging strong with the VA's Veteran Direct Care



Call the [Women Veterans Call Center](#) at 1-855-VA-WOMEN to connect with pregnancy loss support and treatment, and visit the [Women's Health Pregnancy Loss](#) page for more information. Additionally, your local [Women Veterans Program Manager](#) can assist you in accessing care.

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for the Women Veteran Newsletter

[CLICK HERE](#) for the VA article on American Heart Month: What women Veterans should know



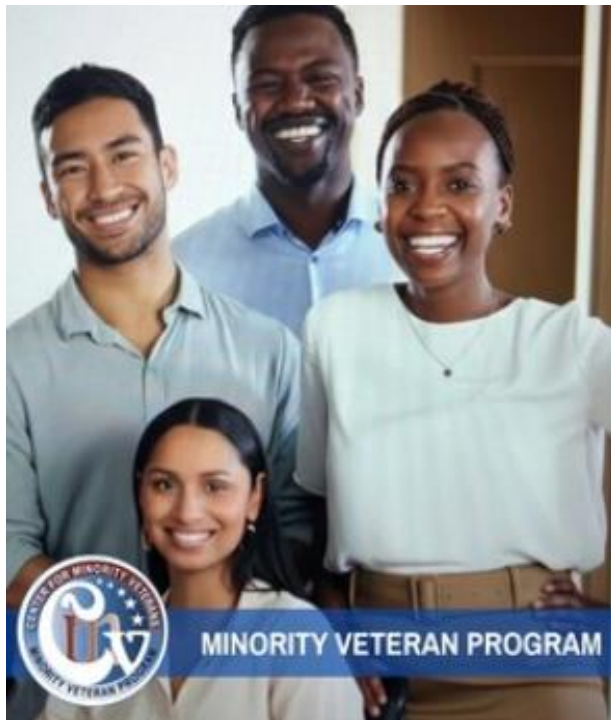
[CLICK HERE](#) to take the short survey that helps bring this initiative to life

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Center for Minority Veterans



Do you know about the Minority Veteran Program?

The Minority Veteran Program helps keep the promise to Veterans by putting a "Veteran Comes First" philosophy into action. From national leadership to local facilities, Minority Veteran Program ensures Veterans are informed, supported, and connected.

There is an MVPC located in each state's Regional Office, Health Care Facility, and National Cemetery to educate and assist with your eligibility of benefits and services. Discover how they can help you today.

Contact the Minority Veteran Program

[CLICK HERE](#) to read VA's Object 54: Civil War Recruiting Broadside for 'Men of Color'
[CLICK HERE](#) for the VA's Black History Month Veteran Spotlights

Did you Know?

Mike Farrell, the actor from the TV series M*A*S*H, is a United States Marine?



[CLICK HERE](#) to read about Farrell's career in Hollywood and how the Corps influenced his life

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Detachment website where you can view previous monthly editions of the Albert E Schwab Detachment 857 Newsletters.

Public Affairs Officer's Contact Info

Name: Keith Wiesman

Email: PAO@MCL857.org

Phone: 918.924.6766



Marine Corps League, Albert E. Schwab Detachment #857
Website: mcl857.org