



Boots Across Texas

FORGED BY THE CORPS! HARDENED BY TEXAS!



**Jarhead
Jam**

**ISSUE
1**

August 2025

**2025 National Convention
What To Expect!**

Detachment Spotlight

& So Much More!

Table of Contents

05

COMANDANT'S CORNER

07

DETACHMENT SPOTLIGHT

10

NATIONAL CONVENTION AND WHAT TO EXPECT

12

OPERATION LITTLE ANGEL

14

JARHEAD JAM



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GERMAN GARZA

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

TINA HARVEY

EDITORIALS

RANDY THOMAS

COMMUNICATIONS

JOHNNIE LOPEZ



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CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

TINA HARVEY

ERICKA HEDLIN

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

JOSHUA GILLESPIE

RANDY THOMAS





From the Editor

Boots Across Texas | Inaugural Issue

Marines, Veterans, and Proud Supporters,
Welcome to the very first issue of Boots Across Texas—a publication created with one mission in mind: to unite our Marine Corps League family across this great state and amplify the stories, service, and strength that define us.

Texas has always stood tall for freedom, and no one knows the meaning of service better than a Marine. From the front lines to the home front, our boots have marched with purpose—and they haven't stopped. Through community service, veteran support, mentorship, and remembrance, we continue to make a difference long after we've hung up the uniform.

This newsletter is more than just news. It's a testament to who we are and what we do—past, present, and future. Inside, you'll find highlights from detachments across Texas, upcoming events, ways to get involved, and the kind of stories that remind us why we still answer the call. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your continued commitment. And thank you for being a part of something bigger than yourself.

Semper Fidelis,
German C. Garza
Boots Across Texas
Editor-in-Chief

Boots Across Texas

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Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains, Associates, and Friends,

As we pass the midway point of the year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to each and every one of you for your continued dedication to the mission of the Marine Corps League and the values we hold dear. It is because of your commitment, discipline, and compassion that the Department of Texas continues to thrive and lead by example across the nation. This year has already been filled with incredible accomplishments.

From community service and fundraising efforts, to recruitment drives and veteran outreach, our detachments across Texas have proven once again that the spirit of Semper Fidelis is alive and well. You have honored our veterans, supported our Gold Star families, helped fellow Marines in need, and strengthened the bonds that keep our League and our communities united.

But our work is far from over. As we prepare for upcoming initiatives—including our support for Wreaths Across America, Toys for Tots, and the 250th Marine Corps Birthday celebration—we are reminded that our legacy is not just one of honor and courage, but of action and service. Let us continue to lead from the front, uphold the highest standards, and never forget the oath we once took to serve with pride and purpose.

To our Detachment leadership and members: thank you for your tireless efforts and for continuing to set the standard across this great state. To our new members and Associates: welcome to a family built on loyalty and tradition. And to our communities and supporters: thank you for standing with us. May we continue to march forward together, stronger than ever, and remain ever faithful to our mission, our Corps, and each other.

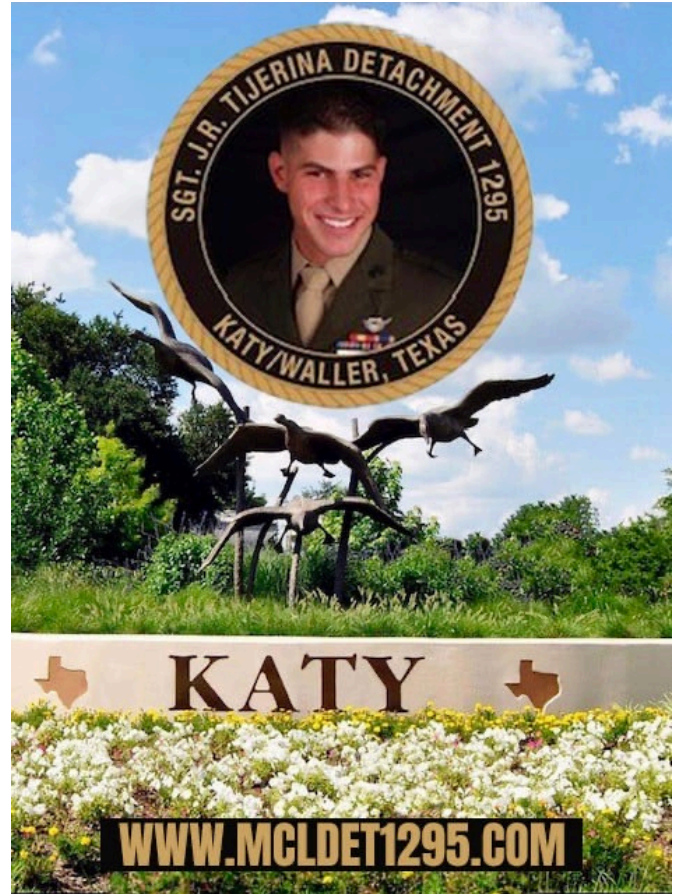
Semper Fidelis

Tony

Commandant's Corner

Boots Across Texas

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On behalf of the Sgt. J.R. Tijerina Detachment #1295, we proudly welcome you to the 2025 Marine Corps League National Convention.

Whether this is your first visit or your umpteenth trip to the Lone Star State, prepare to experience the rich cultural influences and deep, diverse history that make Texas truly one of a kind.

We invite you to continue your journey across Texas after the convention. From the Panhandle town of Perryton to the southern border in Brownsville, and from the deserts of El Paso to the piney woods of Orange — there's a story at every turn.

Texas history is rooted in the spirit of exploration and resilience. Spanish expeditions, Native American heritage, Mexican and European cultures — all have left their mark. Cowboys and vaqueros once drove cattle through the open ranges to the Fort Worth Stockyards. Oil first gushed at Spindletop. Cotton remains king in many regions. And don't forget: the first word spoken from the Moon was "Houston."

From the battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto — pivotal moments in the fight for Texas independence — to groundbreaking innovations at the Texas Medical Center, Texas continues to be a land of legacy and leadership.

And when it comes to food, everything's bigger and better. Dig into sizzling Tex-Mex, smoky BBQ, juicy T-bone steaks, fresh Gulf Coast seafood, pho from vibrant Vietnamese communities, Czech kolaches, and so much more.

Welcome to Texas, y'all — we're glad you're here.

Welcome To Texas

Boots Across Texas

FORGED BY THE CORPS! HARDEND BY TEXAS!

BY RANDY THOMAS



Detachment Spotlight

Marine League Detachment 668 of Galveston County, Texas would like to invite everyone to a couple of events coming up in November. The first event is the largest bike rally in Texas. The Lone Star Bike Rally will be November 6 -9 2025 in Galveston in the historic downtown around the Strand.

The detachment will be selling beer, wine, sodas, water and anything else they can get their hands on. There will be hundreds of vendors, concerts and more. Visit Galveston these four days and stop by Detachment #668 to get refreshed and tell a couple of war stories with fellow Marines. For more information go to lonestarrally.com

The next event coming up is the Marine Corps ball celebrating 250 years of our beloved Marine Corps. Local active duty Marines, veterans and of course their beautiful dates will have a fun filled night November 15, 2025.

If your detachment has something going on feel free to let me know. Randy Thomas, 903-646-6973 or email me at airpingwin56@yahoo.com. Let me know what's happening with your detachment and I will tell the state. Oh, and send pictures.



Upcoming Events



**SCAN
ME!**



VISIT US ONLINE

Catch the freshest features
Read anytime, anywhere

Convention Talk!



**"Any Day is
A Good Day
if you're in
TEXAS"**

On behalf of the Members, Associates, Auxiliary, Military Order of the Devil Dogs, and the family members of the Department of Texas, we welcome all of you to Texas to attend the 102nd MCL National Convention. Rose Conkwright, the Texas Director of Conventions and the Department and Tarrant County Convention Team, have produced a robust program of activities and events to entertain each Convention attendee.

There are over 19 activities and events that were listed on MCL250.org. Sunday will begin with a morning nondenominational church service and then the evening Meet and Greet BBQ and fun. Monday through Thursday, each night will have a signature event and a separate trip each night to visit one of the nearby cities for entertainment. The MODD will have events Tuesday through Thursday evenings. Friday night's Banquet will be the culminating event consisting of a Cake Cutting Ceremony and a special Guest of Honor.

Our Ship Store will have a variety of items to purchase plus various auction and specialty items, consisting of the collectable Convention Western-Style Belt Buckle, the iconic Texas-shaped coin, and a few others. The Department of Texas Public Relations Team has set up a series of special programs that will highlight portions of the 250 years of Marine Corps history. We welcome you and appreciate your attendance. We are glad you are here to enjoy Texas and all we have to offer!

National Convention... and what to expect

The Marine Corps League National Convention is a time-honored gathering that brings together Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Auxiliary members, and supporters from across the country. It's more than just a meeting—it's a celebration of service, brotherhood, tradition, and purpose. Here's what you can expect:

● Camaraderie & Brotherhood

Reconnect with old friends and make new ones who share a common bond. From casual conversations in the hospitality room to official dinners and social events, the spirit of Semper Fi runs strong throughout the week.

📄 Business Meetings & Elections

Delegates and members will participate in important national business, including:

- League and Auxiliary reports
- Bylaws and administrative changes
- Election of National Officers
- Committee updates and presentations

These sessions help shape the future of the League.

💡 Workshops & Seminars

Take part in informative sessions on:

- Leadership training
- Membership growth
- Detachment operations
- Veterans benefits
- Youth programs and scholarships

Stay updated, get inspired, and take new ideas home to your local detachment.





🏆 Awards & Recognition

Recognize the hard work and dedication of Marines, members, and detachments across the country. Ceremonies highlight outstanding service, community impact, and achievements in MCL programs.

🌟 Banquet & Formal Events

Cap off the convention with the Formal Banquet, where members dress in their finest, enjoy a great meal, and reflect on the week. It's a time to honor traditions, hear from keynote speakers, and toast to the future.

💛 Auxiliary & MODD Participation

The MCLA (Auxiliary) and MODD (Military Order of the Devil Dogs) hold their own sessions and activities, but come together in shared mission and fun. Events like the MODD Growl always bring laughter and spirit.

🎉 Fun, Food, & Local Flavor

Each host city brings its own personality to the convention. Enjoy local cuisine, entertainment, excursions, and hospitality. There's always something to explore between sessions!

Whether you're attending for the first time or the fiftieth, the National Convention is a powerful reminder of who we are, where we've been, and the mission that continues.

Semper Fidelis – and we'll see you there!



Operation Little Angel

WHAT IS OPERATION LITTLE ANGEL?

Operation Little Angel (OLA) is a heartfelt initiative of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary (MCLA), launched in 2000 by a National President and two law enforcement officers—all members of the MCLA. What began as a simple idea of placing stuffed toys in police vehicles for frightened children has grown into a national program that provides toys, clothing, food, and essential items to support children in need across the country.

Sadly, many children—through no fault of their own—face difficult circumstances. OLA helps ease their burden by supplying agencies like child protective services, shelters, and police departments with items to brighten young lives and support struggling families. By helping a child, we indirectly support the caregiver, giving families a better chance to recover and thrive.

You can make a difference by reaching out to local child-focused organizations, identifying their needs, and starting a collection or donation drive. Common needs include:

- Baby essentials
- Socks and underwear
- Warm coats and blankets



Department of Texas Auxiliary
President Viola Trevino





HOW TO GET INVOLVED & FUNDRAISE

Want to support Operation Little Angel in your community? Start by contacting local agencies such as:

- Child Protective Services
- Children's Homes
- Family or Abuse Shelters
- Police Departments

They'll provide a list of needed items or wish lists.

Simple fundraising ideas include:

- Ice Cream Social
- Paint Night
- Themed Food Nights (e.g., Spaghetti Dinner)
- Item drop-off socials among unit members

You can also contribute during MCLA's two annual events:

- Midwinter Conference (Feb/March)
- National Convention (August)

Local agencies are chosen by the OLA Committee to receive gifts, with many purchases made in the host community to boost the local economy.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED & FUNDRAISE

1. Bring new items to national events
2. Donate gift cards (Target™, Walmart™, McDonald's™, etc.)
3. Mail checks (payable to MCLA, memo: OLA)
4. Fundraise locally and deliver gifts at national events
5. Donate directly to the OLA Committee during events



SCAN ME

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO REQUEST BROCHURES, VISIT:

WWW.NATIONALMCLA.ORG

✉ EMAIL: OPERATIONLITTLEANGEL@NATIONALMCLA.ORG



Jarhead Jam

BY JOSHUA GILLESPIE

Where Veterans, Families, and Community Come Together for a Greater Cause

Jarhead Jam Back to School Bash has always been more than just an event — it's a movement grounded in purpose, patriotism, and the unwavering belief that community can change lives. Founded by Veterans and supported by neighbors, families, and local businesses, this annual celebration was created to bring people together for a full day of fun, connection, and impact.

From the moment you arrive, you feel it — the energy, the laughter, the pride. Whether it's the iconic "Miss Jarhead Jam" Pinup Pageant, a side-splitting comedy show designed to uplift and entertain, or powerful live music performed by Veterans from all branches of service, there's something for everyone. Veterans sharing the stage. Families sharing picnic tables. Kids dancing near the speakers. Strangers becoming friends over shared stories and sizzling BBQ.



Where Veterans, Families, and Community Come Together for a Greater Cause

This isn't just another community event — it's a place where camaraderie thrives, service is honored, and compassion takes the lead.

At its heart, Jarhead Jam is about giving back. Every ticket, every raffle, every vendor partnership helps raise funds to support our mission: providing school supplies to children in need throughout our local communities. With the proceeds, the Marine Corps League is able to equip students with the backpacks, notebooks, pencils, and resources they need to succeed in the classroom — tools that can empower a child to step into the new school year with pride, confidence, and dignity.

We understand that not all families have the same resources. Some are led by single parents working multiple jobs. Others are rebuilding after hardship. Some are raising grandchildren or facing unexpected challenges. Whatever the story, our mission is clear: No child should walk into school feeling less than, left out, or unprepared.



Jarhead Jam bridges that gap. Together.

And that “together” is the secret to this event's continued success. The strength of our Veteran community. The generosity of local businesses and sponsors. The dedication of volunteers. The participation of vendors, entertainers, and everyday citizens who just want to help. Each year, this event grows — not just in size, but in heart.

We're proud to say that through this effort, hundreds of children have already been given a brighter start to their school year. And we're just getting started.

So whether you're a Veteran, a supporter, a business owner, or a family looking for a day of fun with purpose — we invite you to join us. Come out for the music, the BBQ, the laughs, the raffle prizes... but leave knowing you were part of something greater.

Jarhead Jam: Because when community shows up, children rise.



Iwo Jima

**"Among the
Americans who
fought on Iwo Jima,
uncommon valor
was a common
virtue"**

Iwo Jima, now officially called Iwo To, is a small volcanic island in the Pacific Ocean, famous for the fierce Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. It was strategically important for the US as a potential base for fighter planes supporting B-29 bombers targeting Japan. The battle, fought between US Marines and the Imperial Japanese Army, lasted from February 19 to March 26, 1945, and resulted in heavy casualties for both sides. The iconic image of the flag raising on Mount Suribachi is a lasting symbol of the battle.

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Legacy:

The battle is remembered for the courage and sacrifice of the Marines and the fierce determination of the Japanese defenders.

The iconic image of the flag raising is a powerful symbol of the battle and of the Pacific Theater of World War II.

The battle influenced the decision to use atomic bombs on Japan, as it highlighted the potential cost of invading the mainland, [according to the National Museum of the Pacific War](#).

In 2007, the island was officially renamed Iwo To, which is the older, more accurate name for the island.

Location:

Iwo Jima is one of the Japanese Volcano Islands, located south of the Bonin Islands.

Strategic Importance:

The island had two airfields that could be used as a base for US fighter planes supporting bombing missions on mainland Japan.

The Battle:

The battle began with a US invasion on February 19, 1945.

Japanese forces, under the command of [General Tadamichi Kuribayashi](#), had heavily fortified the island with extensive tunnel systems and defensive positions.

The fighting was brutal and characterized by close-quarters combat and fierce resistance from the Japanese.

The iconic flag raising on Mount Suribachi occurred on February 23, 1945.

The island was officially declared secured by the US on March 26, 1945.

Casualties:

The battle resulted in significant casualties for both sides. Over 6,800 US Marines were killed, and over 19,000 were wounded.

It is estimated that all but 200 of the 21,000 Japanese defenders were killed, [according to History.com](#).



Semper Fi Moments



Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Present

We're shining a light on the incredible stories within our ranks. From unforgettable moments in uniform to the bonds we've built through events like [insert recent event], our members continue to show what it means to live a life of service. Be on the lookout for photos from recent gatherings and throwback stories that remind us all why we wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor with pride. If you have a story or photo you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you!

Email your stories to bootsacrosstexas@gmail.com

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19



Photo
Gallery



Meet Andrew "AJ" Cox at the 2025 MCL National Convention

The Department of Texas, Marine Corps League is proud to introduce Andrew Cox, known to friends as AJ. Originally from Vian, Oklahoma, AJ now resides in Sallisaw, OK, just 30 minutes from the Arkansas border.

AJ served our nation honorably for 25 years in the United States Marine Corps, retiring at the distinguished rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant.

A promotional graphic for Andrew Cox. It features a portrait of a man with a beard and a hat, wearing a blue shirt, set against a dark red background. The background has a torn paper effect on the right side. Text in orange and white is overlaid on the left. Logos for the Marine Corps League and TIL Valhalla Project are included.

**THE LOST ART WITH
ANDREW COX PODCAST**

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
AMBASSADOR**



**TIL VALHALLA PROJECT
AMBASSADOR**



thelostart.podbean.com

🎙️ Podcast Host – The Lost Art with Andrew Cox

AJ is the creator and host of “The Lost Art”, a powerful podcast available on all major streaming platforms. Visit his website:

🔗 thelostart.podbean.com

The podcast is dedicated to preserving the voices, stories, and lessons of American veterans. It explores the “lost art” of military life—leadership, discipline, teamwork, and resilience—and how these values shape lives long after service.

Each episode features real stories told by veterans, giving them a voice to share their experiences in their own words. The show also includes “Fireside Chats” with experts discussing key issues like navigating the VA, PTSD support, and veteran resources.

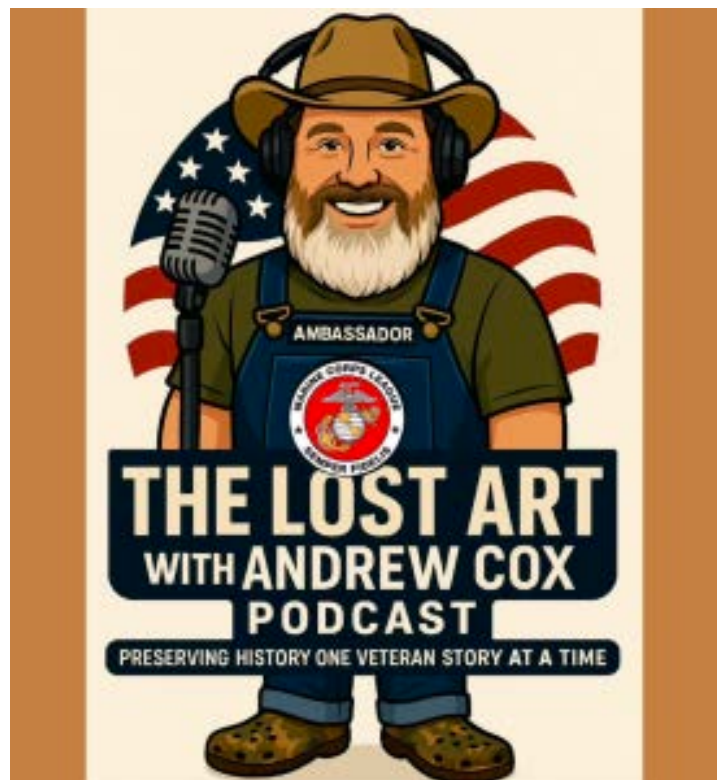
📍 Visit AJ at the 2025 National Convention!

AJ will be at the 2025 MCL National Convention in Dallas/Fort Worth from Monday, August 11 through Friday, August 15, with a booth set up at the Hyatt Regency.

Stop by to:

- Meet AJ in person
- Explore The Lost Art project
- Share your story or record your military experience

AJ invites all veterans to visit, chat, and help preserve the legacy of service—one voice at a time.



The Texas Scuttlebutt **RADIO SHOW**

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Final Salute

In Honor of Our Departed Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and Auxiliary Members

As Marines, we live by the values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. In life and in death, we stand by our brothers and sisters. Today, we pause to render a Final Salute to those who have reported for duty to the Supreme Commandant.

They marched beside us, shared in our triumphs and trials, and lived lives marked by service, sacrifice, and loyalty. Their devotion to the Marine Corps League, to their fellow veterans, and to this great nation will never be forgotten.

Though their voices are now silent, their legacy echoes through the halls of our detachment homes, in the laughter of children they helped, and in the flag they swore to defend.

We honor them—not with grief alone—but with gratitude.
May we carry forward their mission, uphold their memory, and live lives worthy of their sacrifice.

"If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes,
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines."

Rest easy, Marines.
We have the watch.
Semper Fidelis.