



# Marine Corps League

Westchester County Detachment

PO Box 505 • White Plains • New York • 10602-0505

<http://www.mclwestchester.org>

## NEWSLETTER



Commandant Kevin O'Keefe (718) 644-3101

August 2016-January 2017

### MEETING NOTICE:

First Wednesday of the Month  
Next Meeting: 1 February 2017  
Location: American Legion Post 135  
57 Mitchell Place,  
White Plains, NY 10602

**NOTICE: NEW MEETING START TIME**

Muster: 7:30 PM Meeting: 8:00 PM

### MEMBERSHIP

FY 2016 (July-June): We are at 390 Members with 282 Life Members. Invite those Marines to associate with our Detachment.

**DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2017**

Renewal = \$36 New = \$40  
Active Duty: Renewal = \$15 New = \$20

### Think Life!

Life Member Dues:  
To age 35 = \$500; 36-50 = \$400; 51-64 = \$300;  
65+ = \$200

You can pay our dues online at

<http://www.mclwestchester.org/renew/>

It's quick and, easy, save a stamp and envelope and the check writing time. Try it, you'll like it!

**NOTICE: NATIONAL WILL NO LONGER BE SENDING OUT DUES NOTICES!**

### Welcome Aboard!

New Members: Patrick Smith of Rockaway Park, NY and Stephen O'Keefe of Milford, NH sponsored by Donald O'Keefe.

Elvira Sapienza of Yonkers, NY sponsored by Joseph N. Sapienza.

Michael Criscione of Stony Point, NY and Paul Hammond of Elmont, NY sponsored by Steve Topilnycky.

### SICK & DISTRESS

Contact: [chaplain@mclwestchester.org](mailto:chaplain@mclwestchester.org)

Detachment Life Member Reverend Solomon Phifer Sr. is ill with Dementia.

Detachment Life Member Nunzio Franchi passed away on 3 November 2016 at the age of 90. Please see his Obituary on page 6.

Member Carla Lucchino's brother's father-in-law, John Pastula of Ridge Field, CT. He served on the USS INCH as a Chief Petty Officer during World War II. Please see Obituary on page 6.

Detachment Life Member Anthony Rozzi passed away on 1 January. Please see obituary on page 6.

### CALENDAR

1 February 2017: Detachment Nominations and Elections at the American Legion Post 135, 57 Mitchell Place, White Plains, NY.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Detachment Nominations and Elections:

The First round of Nominations has taken place at the January Meeting:

First Round Nominations:

Commandant: Wilfredo Muniz Jr.  
Sr. Vice Commandant: -Open-  
Jr. Vice Commandant: Donald O'Keefe  
Judge Advocate: Drew McFadden  
Adjutant: Steve Topilnycky

The second round of nominations will take place at the February meeting on 1 February 2017. Immediately following the nominations, elections will be held.

#### DUES CHANGE:

Pursuant to a vote of the membership in September 2016, membership dues have now **increased by five dollars (\$5.00)** which took effect on 1 January 2017. Renewals have increased from \$31.00 to \$36.00 and New members have increased from \$35.00 to \$40.00. To complicate matters, National HQ at their annual convention has made a change to where every annual member dues will, upon renewal have an expiration date of 31 August. To facilitate the changeover there is



a pro-rate system in place:

Renewals:

If your expiration date is from July 2016 to December 2016, and you have not yet renewed, your renewal fee will be \$36.00 and your expiration date will be 31 August 2017. If you wish to renew to include 2018 then your renewal fee will be \$72.00 and your expiration date will be 31 August 2018.

If your expiration date is from January 2017 to June 2017, your renewal fee will be \$18.00. Your expiration date will be 31 August 2017. If you wish to renew for 2018 then the total due will be \$57.00 and your expiration date will be 31 August 2018.

New Members:

From now until February the new membership fee will \$40.00 and the expiration date will be 31 August 2017.

From March 1 until end of July the new membership fee will be \$22.00 and the expiration date will be 31 August 2017.

Please note that the National database does not support 31 August, therefore your cards will read as 1 September, however all annual memberships moving forward will expire on Midnight on 31 August.

Our online PayPal has been updated with the new rates, but cannot accommodate the adjusted pro-rates mentioned above. Reminder emails will be sent out which will include links options to pay via PayPal.

## MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Detachment Member Luis Henriquez who was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant. Just prior to his promotion to Gunnery Sergeant, GySgt Henriquez was presented a Certificate of Merit from Bronx Borough President



Ruben Diaz. Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant Donald O'Keefe was present at the ceremonies.

Congratulations to Detachment Member Zack Dempsey, who has been promoted to Corporal.

Department of New York Sr. Vice Commandant Ricardo Sheppard presented Detachment Commandant Kevin O'Keefe a Streamer for the Detachment, for its attendance at the National Convention. Sr. Vice Sheppard also presented the National Jr. Vice Commandants Citation for recruitment on behalf of National Jr. Vice Commandant Denis Tobin to

Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant Donald O'Keefe (5 new members) and Detachment Adjutant Paymaster Steve Topilnycky (8 new members).

Member Carla Lucchino was elected President for the Putnam County Republicans Women's Club.

## DETACHMENT ACTIVITIES

Commandant Kevin O'Keefe along with Jr. Vice Commandant Donald O'Keefe were at the American Legion Bajart Post, on Mclean Avenue in Yonkers manning a table for fund raising and recruitment

Detachment Adjutant Paymaster Steve Topilnycky and Member Kelly Topilnycky manned a table at the Greenburgh Town Veterans BBQ representing the League and Toys for Tots. Detachment Member Wilfredo Muniz represented the DAV.

Detachment Adjutant Paymaster Steve Topilnycky and Member Kelly Topilnycky manned a table at the Dobbs Ferry Festa event, and the Tarrytown representing the League and Toys for Tots.

Detachment Member Kelly Topilnycky and Sgt John Gonzalez, USMCR manned a table at the Hastings "Friday Night Live" representing the Detachment and Toys for Tots.

Detachment Member and County Legislator Jim Maisano held his annual Toys for Tots Drive at Dudley's in New Rochelle.



Detachment Members Kelly Topilnycky (Assistant Coordinator), Steve Topilnycky (Coordinator), Sgt John Gonzalez, USMCR along with Cpl. Daniel Berroa, USMCR manned the collection boxes at County Singers



Jessica Lynn Christmas Spectacular whose concert benefited Toys for Tots Westchester County, also assisting with the toy collection was Ms. New England Allyson Spellman.



Detachment Member Cpl Zack Dempsey, USMCR manned the collection box at the "Sway" concert in New Rochelle.



Commandant Kevin O'Keefe with Rockland County Commandant Dale Robinson and members of the Rockland County Detachment at the VAMC Patient Christmas party at VAMC Montrose on 21 December 2016. The Marines server approximately 28 patients of Ward C&D of Building 6.



Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant Donald O'Keefe presented the Mameluke sword to Gunnery Sergeant Lindsey Gonzalez, USMC who was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant at SUNY Maritime as a ceremony on 6 January at Fordham University. See Lt. Gonzalez biography on page 5.

## MARINE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

" Lest We Forget "

In memory of former Marine and fellow Detachment Member

SGT Anthony Kalladeen NYARNG  
KIA Iraq 8 Aug 2005  
Young Marines of White Plains

In memory of Westchester County Marines who were killed in the terrorist bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon October 23, 1983.

LCpl Craig Wyche USMC  
Ossining HS

Cpl James J. Jackowski USMC  
John Jay HS

Support our Scholarship Fund, donate today! You can send your donation to the Detachment PO Box with Marine Memorial in the memo section or donate online <http://www.mclwestchester.org/programs/donate.asp>.



Westchester County

Toys for Tots Westchester Wishes to acknowledge the following Detachment Members who participated in the 2016 Westchester County Campaign:

Zack Dempsey      John Gonzalez  
Jim Maisano      Wilfredo Muniz Jr.  
Roseanna Muniz      Peter Parente  
Mary Phifer      Kelly Topilnycky  
Steve Topilnycky  
and over 30 Civilian Volunteers

Toys for Tots Westchester County successfully delivered over 52,000 gifts to nearly 16,000 disadvantaged children in our community. We did have shortages in teen and infant areas. To help us get going for 2017 monetary donations are greatly welcome and appreciated. Checks payable to "Toys for Tots" and mail to:

Toys for Tots  
PO Box 1207  
White Plains, NY 10602

If you wish to donate via credit card, please visit <http://www.t4twestchester.org/donate/donate.asp> and click the Donate Button. Toys for Tots is a 503(c)3 charity and donations are recognized as deductible for tax purposes.



## YOUNG MARINES



The Oldest, Continuously Running  
Young Marine Unit in the Country

Support our Young Marines!

Visit: <http://www.youngmarineswp.org>  
(Note: New Web Site)

### Got Email?

Be sure to sign up for our newsletter. Send your request to:

[mailcall@mclwestchester.org](mailto:mailcall@mclwestchester.org)

Be sure to add [mailcall@mclwestchester.org](mailto:mailcall@mclwestchester.org) to your allowable senders list so that it is not blocked by your spam filter. Note: Detachment Announcements are also being sent from this email address. If you do not want to receive emails from the Detachment, please reply to the message and let us know. Thank you.

### Who Are You Going to Call?

General Communications:

Commandant Kevin O'Keefe  
(718) 644-3101 ■ [kevinnycl46@gmail.com](mailto:kevinnycl46@gmail.com)

Membership Questions:

Jr. Vice Commandant Donald O'Keefe  
(718) 796-6582 ■ [okeefebx@aol.com](mailto:okeefebx@aol.com)

Payment/Dues Issues / Meeting Minutes:

Adjutant / Paymaster Steve Topilnycky  
(914) 263-0840 ■ [spt1@mclwestchester.org](mailto:spt1@mclwestchester.org)

Sick & Distress/Taps:

Chaplain  
[chaplain@mclwestchester.org](mailto:chaplain@mclwestchester.org)

Bylaws/Grievances/Detachment Policy:

Judge Advocate Drew McFadden  
(917) 796-6638 ■ [drewmcfadden@aol.com](mailto:drewmcfadden@aol.com)

Newsletter Editor/Web Site Issues:

Web Sergeant Steve Topilnycky  
(914) 263-0840 ■ [spt1@mclwestchester.org](mailto:spt1@mclwestchester.org)

**NOTICE:** If you have changed your postal address, email address or phone number, please notify us with the changes so that we have current contact information for you. Send your changes to [paymaster@mclwestchester.org](mailto:paymaster@mclwestchester.org)

### Newsletter Team:

Editor: Steve Topilnycky  
(914) 263-0840 ■ [spt1@mclwestchester.org](mailto:spt1@mclwestchester.org)

Assistant Editor: Kelly Topilnycky

Got a new job, promotion, transfer or participated in a League activity or Corps event, or got some awesome news, we would like to hear from you! Contact our Editor using one of the methods above.

### Westchester County Veterans Service Agency

914-995-2145 / 2146

### Yonkers Veterans Service Agency

914-377-6700

### Veterans in Crisis

Free confidential support to Veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends. Save this number to your phone: 1-800-273-8255 (press 1 for Veterans). You can also chat online or text professional responders at 838255.



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<http://www.twitter.com/t4twestchester>



## Biography

NROTCU SUNY MARITIME COLLEGE

GUNNERY SERGEANT

LINDSEY GONZALEZ

GySgt Gonzalez was born in Kennewick, Washington on September 6th 1980. She completed recruit training with Oscar Company, 4th Battalion, MCRD, Parris Island, South Carolina in October 1999.



PFC Gonzalez completed Marine Corps Combat Training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina and was then sent to Marine Corps Communications Electronic School, at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twenty-nine Palms, California. She was an honor graduate and was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal.

LCpl Gonzalez then reported to Communications Company, Third Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan for duty as a communications technician. She attached to the 31st MEU and served as a member of an Evacuation Control Center Team. She participated in mock amphibious landings on both Iwo Jima and Shoal Water Bay, Australia.

LCpl Gonzalez then reported to Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38, Miramar California. She was promoted to Corporal in October of 2001. While there, she attended Marine Corps Martial Arts Green Belt Instructor Course. In February of 2003, Cpl Gonzalez deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Cpl Gonzalez then attached to 3rd Radio Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii where she worked as a Publications NCO, S&R Clerk, and a Platoon Sergeant. She was promoted to Sergeant in September of 2004. In 2006, Sgt Gonzalez transferred to Head Quarters Battalion G-6. Sgt Gonzalez served as the Civilian Billing Chief.

Sgt Gonzalez was then transferred to Twentynine Palms to attend Ground Data/ Communications Maintenance Management Technicians Course in 2007. She was promoted to Staff Sergeant in April of 2008.

In July of 2008 she attached to 6 th Communications Battalion; she served as a Platoon Sergeant, Company Gunnery Sergeant, MIMMS Chief, and Maintenance Management Chief. She also served as an Embarkation

and Food Service Chief. SSgt Gonzalez received orders to the Drill Field in May of 2012.

Staff Sergeant Gonzalez reported to Drill Instructor School in October of 2012. She graduated in December of 2012. She was the honor graduate and the class iron woman. SSgt Gonzalez reported for duty to 4th Battalion, Papa Company in February of 2013.

Staff Sergeant Gonzalez served as a Drill Instructor with Papa Company until September of 2014. It was at this time that she was promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. She was then transferred to Oscar Company where she would serve as a Senior Drill Instructor. In December of 2014 she was selected to the Marine Corps Enlisted Commission Education Program.

Gunnery Sergeant Gonzalez reported to Officer Candidate School in June of 2015. She graduated as an honor graduate and also received the

"Gung Ho" award. From here she returned to New York to complete her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications at Fordham University.

Gunnery Sergeant Gonzalez is married to her husband Patricio. Together they have 5 children: Skye 14, Emmanuel 12, Samuel 10, Noah 7, and Devin 7.

GySgt Gonzalez personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

### DATA SHEET

NAME: Lindsey Gonzalez

RANK: GYSGT

MOS: 2862

DATE CURRENT TOUR BEGAN: September 2, 2015

CURRENT UNIT: MCECP

CURRENT POSITION/DATE: Student

PREVIOUS UNITS: MCRD Parris Island, 6th Communications Battalion, Headquarters Battalion G-6, Kaneohe Bay, 3rd Radio Battalion, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Communications Company Okinawa.

PFT SCORE/DATE: 300/2016

CFT SCORE/DATE: 300/2016

DATE OF BIRTH: 800906

DATE COMMISSIONED: 170106

DATE OF RANK: 080401

COLLEGE ATTENDED AND MAJOR: Hawaii Pacific University and Fordham University



Major:

Communications and Media Studies, concentration in film, minor information science.

MARITAL STATUS: M

(CHILDREN) Skye 14, Emmanuel 12, Samuel 10, Noah 7, Devin 7

PERSONAL GOALS:

1. Compete in a triathlon.
2. Continue to raise healthy, happy, passionate children.

PROFESSIONAL GOALS:

1. To be successful in my current MOS and remain proficient in my primary MOS.
2. To continue to get promoted.
3. To build upon the foundation of the career that I have been built, and continue to grow as a person and a Marine.

## Obituaries



Nunzio Franchi, of Yonkers, passed away on November 3, 2016 at the age of 90.

Nunzio was born March 3, 1926 in the Bronx, the son of the late Frank & Rose (nee DeFalco) Franchi. Nunzio proudly served his country in the Marine Corp during World War II. He was the beloved husband of the late Anita who predeceased him in 2002. Loving father of Linda (Gary) Roskoski, Frank (Michele) Franchi, John (Linda) Franchi & Paul (Annemarie) Franchi. He is also survived by his grandchildren LynnAnne Roskoski/Ludwick(John Wilson), Gary Roskoski (GJ) (Dominic) (Allison), Kenny (Hillary), Melissa & Alison, Christopher, Michael (Brienne), John, Jr. (Katie) Franchi, Margaret Ann (Brian) Scheidel, Nicholas, John, & Luca Franchi. He also leave behind his great grandchildren Garet, Nate, Grace & Charlie Ludwick, Holden, Grace & Marshall Roskoski, Noah & Lucy, John & Nicholas, Emily

& Ashley, Anthony (AJ), & Samantha Franchi, & Lillian, Luke, & Cole Scheidel and his companion Rita Paradiso. Nunzio was predeceased by his brother and sisters Orienta, Lucretia, Helen and Ernest.

"Your smile will forever be what we see, your laugh will forever ring in our ears. Wherever we are your love will remain in our hearts and no matter what life brings we will face it with confidence and succeed because of the pride you had. You were one of a kind and We were blessed to have called you Dad, Popa & Big Popa. I am sure Nani had a big plate of lasagna waiting for you last night. I am sure you enjoyed it and danced the night away with her. Love you and miss you already."

Funeral Mass was held on November 8 at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Yonkers and the Interment immediately followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne.

John S. Pastula

John passed away in December 2016. John was a resident of Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Funeral Services was held on Thursday January 5 2017 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church; 351 Main Street Ridgefield CT. Private interment with US Military Honors will be at the CT State Veterans Cemetery Middletown CT.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to: Regional Hospice and Homecare 30 Milestone Road Danbury CT 06810.

Anthony Rozzi

It is with Deep regret that we announce the passing of Detachment Life Member Anthony Rozzi. Anthony was born on December 28, 1932 and passed away on Sunday, January 1, 2017. Anthony was a resident of Washingtonville, New York at the time of his passing. He was a graduate of A.B. Davis High School. He proudly served his country in the US Marine Corp as a Sergeant from 1951-54 in Korea with the 1st Marine Division Marine Air Group 33 Marine Tactical Air Control Squadron 2. He was married to Grace. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at on Friday January 6 at St. Mary's Church, Washingtonville with burial with military honors following in Rose Hills Memorial Park Putnam Valley NY. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be sent to a charity of choice in memory of Anthony Rozzi.

