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# Marine Corps League

SSgt Karl G. Taylor, Sr.  
Detachment 1084



HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

A Marine may leave the Corps...  
... but the Corps will NEVER leave  
the Marine!

**ONCE A MARINE,  
ALWAYS A MARINE**

## Who are we?

We are a non-profit organization comprised of active duty, reserve, retired, and former Marines\*. The League was founded by Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune, in 1923 and chartered by an Act of Congress on August 4, 1937. The SSgt Karl G. Taylor, Sr. Detachment was created with a founding group of 21 members in May 2001.

## Why do we exist?

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps. This is accomplished by banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service; voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and former Marines and to their widows and orphans; and by perpetuating the history of the United States Marine Corps through fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

## What have we done?

- Sponsored a Patriotism Essay.
- Attended Marine Silent Drill Team and marching band performances at 8<sup>th</sup> and I.
- Participated in numerous rifle and pistol matches.
- Awarded several thousand dollars in scholarships to outstanding Howard County graduates.
- Provided emotional support to wounded Marines in the hospital.
- Took a trip to Parris Island.
- Picked up hundreds of bags of trash as part of the Adopt-a-Highway Program.
- Volunteered in the Toys-for-Tots Program.
- Attended Marine Corps birthday ball celebrations.
- Hosted Marine Corps birthday cake cutting ceremonies.
- Provided a color guard to march in various local parades.
- Organized golf tournaments.
- Held numerous fun parties.
- Participated at numerous local town festivals.
- Donated hundreds of dollars and material goods to the Marines Helping Marines Program.
- Provided free lunches to veterans on Veterans Day.

## Where and when do we meet?

The SSgt Karl G. Taylor, Sr. Detachment meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 1900 (7pm) at **Yingling-Ridgely Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Auxiliary Post 7472, 4225 VFW Lane, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043**

\* Corpsmen who served in the Fleet Marine Force for a period of at least 90 days are also eligible.

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**SSgt Karl G. Taylor, Sr.** was born and raised in North Laurel, Howard County, Maryland. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was sent to fight in the Vietnam War on January 21, 1968. On December 8, 1968, he died heroically at the age of 29 while fighting the enemy in Quang Nam, thereby earning the nation's highest wartime achievement, the **Medal of Honor**.

His citation reads as follows:

*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving at night as a company gunnery sergeant during Operation MEADE RIVER. Informed that the commander of the lead platoon had been mortally wounded when his unit was pinned down by a heavy volume of enemy fire, SSgt. Taylor along with another marine, crawled forward to the beleaguered unit through a hail of hostile fire, shouted encouragement and instructions to the men, and deployed them to covered positions. With his companion, he then repeatedly maneuvered across an open area to rescue those marines who were too seriously wounded to move by themselves. Upon learning that there were still other seriously wounded men lying in another open area, in proximity to an enemy machine gun position, SSgt. Taylor, accompanied by four comrades, led his men forward across the fire-swept terrain in an attempt to rescue the marines. When his group was halted by devastating fire, he directed his companions to return to the company command post; whereupon he took his grenade launcher and in full view of the enemy, charged across the open rice paddy toward the machine gun position, firing his weapon as he ran. Although wounded several times, he succeeded in reaching the machine gun bunker and silencing the fire from that sector, moments before he was mortally wounded. Directly instrumental in saving the lives of several of his fellow marines, SSgt. Taylor, by his indomitable courage, inspiring leadership, and selfless dedication, upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the U.S. Naval Service.*

## How do I join?

- Fill out the “Application for Membership.” This will be available at the meeting.
- For retired and former Marines, bring a copy of your DD214 (discharge papers).
- For active duty Marines and reservists, bring your military I.D.
- Bring \$30 to cover the cost of one year’s membership.

## Find us on the web

<http://hcml.iwarp.com/>

