

# 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation Newsletter



31 January 2026

**The 3d Battalion, 11th Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation is an Internal Revenue Service-recognized 501(c)(3) charity incorporated in the State of Texas with Federal tax ID 46-4240572. There is no paid staff and an all-volunteer Board of Directors.**

## Mission

The mission of the 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation is to aid wounded Marines; to continue to support the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio; and to seek additional opportunities to help wounded Marines of every generation. Marine Wounded Warriors are defined as combat and non-combat wounded, ill, and injured Marines; Sailors attached to Marine units; and their family members.

**If you have a need or know of a Marine with a need that falls under our mission, please let one of the Directors or Advisers on page 2 know.**

## President's Message

As we enter a new year, I am reminded of the extraordinary courage, resilience, and sacrifice embodied by the wounded warriors we serve. Their strength continues to inspire our mission and guide every decision we make as a foundation. Each story of recovery, perseverance, and renewed purpose fuels our commitment to stand beside them – not just in moments of crisis, but throughout their lifelong journey of healing.

This past year, we witnessed remarkable progress: warriors reclaiming independence, families finding renewed hope, and communities rallying to ensure no veteran walks his or her path alone. These achievements were made possible because of our donors' unwavering support. Your generosity, advocacy, and belief in our mission have transformed lives in ways that words can barely capture.

The year ahead brings new opportunities to expand our programs, strengthen our outreach, and deepen our impact.

Thank you for standing with us.

Woodrow “Woody” Hall  
President

### **Board of Directors and Advisers**

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**Feel free to contact any Board Member with your concerns:  
[info@3-11marines.org](mailto:info@3-11marines.org)**

**If you are interested in serving on the Board as a Director or as an Adviser, please contact Board President Woody Hall via his personal email address in the box above or by phone at 931-242-8432.**

## **Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio (based on previous article written by Mr. Juan Ortegon; edited by Nanci Visser)**

Currently supporting eight recovering service members, the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio offers a structured environment to aid Wounded Warriors in their journey through recovery from injuries and illnesses, including cancer and the aftermath of training accidents.

The mission of the Detachment extends beyond physical healing. It emphasizes mental resilience, professional development, and the restoration of purpose. By providing tailored care and resources, the Detachment ensures that all Wounded Warriors have the tools to overcome adversity and to transition into the next chapter of their lives, whether returning to duty or pursuing civilian opportunities. With unwavering dedication, the Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio exemplifies the Marine Corps' commitment to leaving no Marine behind, honoring the sacrifices of its warriors, and supporting their recovery with dignity and strength.

On 20 July 2025, the first-ever reunion of Marine Wounded Warriors and Sailors who were ever attached to Marine Warrior Detachment San Antonio took place. Some brought family members, and the 3/11 Marines Foundation paid for the airfare and one-night hotel stay of a Gold Star widow and her son. The Semper Fi & America's Fund supported the entire reunion for approximately 80 people. James "Sarge" Carter, Marine Corps Veteran and Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio alum, hopes to coordinate another reunion in the next few years.

When the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio needed a new dishwasher last fall, the 3/11 Marines Foundation replaced the dishwasher as well as the hot water heater at the "Annex." The Commanding Officer of the Marine Wounded Warrior Battalion East presented the 3/11 Marines Foundation a Certificate of Appreciation.

As the 3/11 Marines Foundation has done the past several years, the Detachment "Annex" Committee, chaired by Sara Kliewer and comprised of Dick Popps and Barry Wortham, provided a Thanksgiving buffet lunch for 34 Wounded Warriors, staff, and families at the Marine Wounded Warrior San Antonio "Annex." It was much appreciated. See photo on the next page.



## **Upcoming Marine Artillery Association “Battery Adjust XX” Reunion**

**WHO:** All Marine Artillery Association Members, Family, and Friends — anyone who served or is currently serving with any USMC Artillery Unit.

**WHAT:** Battery Adjust XX Reunion

**WHEN:** September 22-27, 2026

**WHERE:** Seattle, WA

**DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport – Southcenter**

**HOW:** So far, Scott Brookens has posted this on Facebook (slightly edited):  
“Our hotel accommodations in Seattle for Battery Adjust XX September 22-27 are ALL SET!” We are excited to offer rooms in Seattle for \$171 per night (plus fees, taxes, etc.).

**Click on the link below or call the hotel directly and mention you are with the Marine Artillery Association to get your group rate!**

**<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=SEASPDT&arrivalDate=2026-09-21&departureDate=2026-09-28&groupCode=>**

ALL OTHER DETAILS for the reunion will be posted under the EVENT TAB on the Marine Artillery Association Facebook page once they have been confirmed. *(You can change the arrival and departure dates to suit your needs.)*

**LET'S GOOOOOOO! Semper Fi."**

**If you have any questions about Battery Adjust XX, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you in Seattle. Semper Fi!**

**Brian Seals, President, Marine Artillery Association [bseals2013@gmail.com](mailto:bseals2013@gmail.com)**

**Cell: (765) 580-2734 – Please call during evening hours.**

**Ed Peterson, Treasurer, Marine Artillery Association [ed66451@aol.com](mailto:ed66451@aol.com)**

**Here is a link to view ALL of the photos taken by Ben Vallance at last year's Battery Adjust XIX Reunion in Dallas/Fort Worth: <https://starlightstories.picturetime.com/-usmcreunion2025/gallery>. One of many photos is shown below.**



## **Suicide Awareness & Prevention (by Barry Wortham, M.D.)**

PTSD and Marine Veterans: Understanding the Reality – and the Hope

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a common and understandable response to the extreme stress and trauma many Marines experience during service. Combat operations, training accidents, loss of fellow Marines, and repeated exposure to danger can all leave lasting effects on the mind and body. PTSD is not a personal failure, a weakness, or something that means a Marine is “broken.”

Just as important to know: PTSD is not a lifelong, incurable condition. Many Marines live with symptoms for years believing nothing can change, or that it’s simply the cost of service. That belief is outdated. Even decades after trauma, the brain remains capable of healing, and effective treatment can significantly reduce, or eliminate, symptoms.

In recent years, treatment options for PTSD have advanced considerably. In addition to proven therapies such as Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE), newer modalities are offering hope to veterans who may not have benefited from traditional approaches. These include EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing), body-based and somatic therapies, neurofeedback, and emerging medication-assisted treatments. Care today is more trauma-informed, individualized, and focused on restoring function and quality of life.

PTSD does not define a Marine’s identity or future. Seeking help—whether months or years after service—is an act of strength, not weakness. Recovery is real, help is available, and no Marine has to fight this battle alone.

### **Call to Action**

If you’re a Marine veteran living with symptoms of PTSD—or if you recognize these signs in a fellow Marine—take the next step. Reach out to a trusted peer, a veteran service organization, or a mental health professional who understands military culture. The VA and community-based providers offer effective, evidence-based treatments, and many services are available regardless of when or where you served.

If you’re struggling right now, confidential support is available 24/7 through the Veterans Crisis Line at 988 (Press 1) or by texting 838255. Asking for help is not giving up—it’s taking back control.

## **REMEMBER:**

1. Suicide is not about wanting to die. It's about wanting to end pain -- whether it's physical, emotional, or spiritual. It's the end result when a person's coping mechanisms for dealing with pain are overwhelmed.
2. The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7/365 by dialing **988** then press 1, texting 838255, or chatting online.
3. The Veterans' Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020 provides free emergency suicide care to eligible veterans at any VA or non-VA health care facility. Benefits: Inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, Outpatient care for up to 90 days, Transportation costs, and Follow-up care. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.
4. Firearms contribute to most veteran suicides. Properly securing weapons and removing lethal means is vital to addressing this problem.
5. In spite of the VA and DoD being funded millions of dollars for suicide prevention programs and the recruitment of more mental health providers, veteran suicides remain virtually unchanged in number. Each of us can potentially make a difference with this problem by supporting our fellow veterans who are stressed; by reassuring them that they are not alone in their struggles, that we care about their well-being, and by helping them to seek mental health treatment. Be that friend ...  
"NO ONE BETTER FOR A MARINE TO TURN TO THAN ANOTHER MARINE."

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION GUIDELINES**

### **DO NOT COUNSEL THE PERSON YOURSELF; ENCOURAGE THE VETERAN TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP:**

- If you are struggling or know someone who is, hope is a reality, and help is available. CALL 1-800-273-8255 and PRESS 1 for toll-free, confidential help 24/7.
- DIAL 988 – the hotline for confidential help 24/7.
- Veteran Crisis Website: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/#Bethere#NSPW>

- If you are a veteran or family member who is struggling, you are not alone. Go to Focus Marines Foundation (FOCUS) at <https://focusmarines.org>.
- “BE THE ONE TO STOP ONE” FROM COMMITTING SUICIDE. Find out how here: <https://stopone.info/home>.

**Look for signs.**

**Empathize.**

**Ask questions.**

**Remove from danger.**

**Next steps for more care.**



## THE OLD BATTERY GUNNY SAYS: LISTEN UP, WARRIORS!



Last November, the United States Marine Corps celebrated its **250th Anniversary**, and I want to inform you of a few facts about our existence. While the first "marines" in a global sense were the **Marinus** of the Ancient Roman Navy, we are the true Marines.

The U.S. Marine Corps was founded on November 10, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress, which authorized raising two battalions of "Continental Marines" for naval service during the American Revolutionary War.

The primary duty of Marines was to serve as seagoing soldiers aboard Continental Navy vessels:

- **Onboard Security:** Their most critical task was protecting the ship's captain and officers, ensuring sailors obeyed orders and maintaining discipline to prevent mutiny.
- **Naval Combat Sharpshooters:** During ship-to-ship engagements, Marine sharpshooters were stationed in the "fighting tops" (platforms on the masts) to pick off enemy officers, gunners, and helmsmen.
- **Deck Fighting:** On the main deck, Marines helped man the ship's cannons, repelled enemy boarding parties, or acted as the primary force for boarding enemy vessels.

The title "**first Marine**" in the context of the United States refers to **Samuel Nicholas**.

- **First Officer:** On November 28, 1775, Samuel Nicholas received the first commission issued to a Marine officer by the Continental Congress.
- **Traditional First Commandant:** Nicholas is traditionally recognized as the first Commandant of the Marine Corps, though the formal title was not established until 1798.
- **First Recruiter:** Captain **Robert Mullan** is credited as the first Marine recruiter. He was the owner of **Tun Tavern** in Philadelphia, which served as the first recruiting station for the newly formed Continental Marines in late 1775.

- **First African-American Marine: John Martin** (also known as Keto) is recognized as the first Black Marine, having enlisted in April 1776.
- **First Female Marine: Opha May Johnson** became the first woman to join the Marine Corps when she enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on August 13, 1918.
- **First Marine Aviator: Alfred A. Cunningham** was the first Marine officer assigned to flight duty in 1912.
- **First Marine 4-Star General: Alexander A. Vandegrift** became the first Marine to serve in the grade of a four-star general on April 4, 1945.

**NOW, GET DOWN AND GIVE ME PUSHUPS!!!**

**In case you missed this from the VA in 2025:**

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**MEDIA CONTACT**

[vapublicaffairs@va.gov](mailto:vapublicaffairs@va.gov)

**VA to extend caregiver support program eligibility for “legacy” Veterans, caregivers**

**7/18/2025 11 a.m. ET**

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that it will soon propose a rule to extend Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers eligibility for certain Veterans and their family caregivers through Sept. 30, 2028.

The new rule will extend program eligibility for legacy participants, legacy applicants and their family caregivers for three years while VA continues the rulemaking process to refine the program. The extension will ensure that legacy participants and applicants can maintain their benefits and stability during this time.

Legacy participants are Veterans, service members, and their family caregivers who were participating in PCAFC as of Sept. 30, 2020, and legacy applicants are Veterans, servicemembers, and their family caregivers who applied for PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, and were accepted into the program on or after Oct. 1, 2020.

“Legacy caregivers have helped shape VA’s Caregiver Support Program for many years,” **said VA Secretary Doug Collins.** “This decision underscores VA’s commitment to Veterans and caregivers across the nation and will help provide consistency and stability to nearly 15,000 legacy participants for years to come.”

PCAFC is part of VA’s broader Caregiver Support Program, and offers enhanced clinical support for family caregivers of eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty, and meet other eligibility criteria. PCAFC benefits include education and training, respite care, counseling, technical support, a monthly stipend and access to health care through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and certain travel expenses.

## **The 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation is Your Foundation**

### **TIMELY WAYS TO GIVE**

Even though most people no longer itemize and take the standard deduction because of the change in the tax code, it is still important to give. No matter how you give, every gift supports the mission of helping Marine Wounded Warriors of every generation. The Federal Tax ID is **46-4240572**.

~ **Online.** If you like the convenience of just a few clicks to make it happen, go to the Donate page of the website <https://3-11marines.org/index.php/donate/> , and click on the yellow Donate button.

~ **By check.** If you're a traditionalist and like good, solid paper that gets the job done, mail your check to:

**3/11 Marines Foundation  
106 Wellesley Wood  
San Antonio, TX 78231**

~ **Donor-Advised Funds.** Do you have a donor-advised fund? Please put those philanthropic dollars to good use in 2026 on behalf of the 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation. Contact your financial institution or manager.

~ **IRA Distribution.** If you have a traditional IRA and are 73 or older this year, you can make your tax-free, qualified charitable distribution (QCD) while supporting our mission. Visit <https://3-11marines.org/index.php/donate/> to read more by scrolling to the bottom of the page.

Thank you. Semper Fidelis!