

# Westfield River Valley Detachment 141 Scuttlebutt



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Editor/Publisher: Roger Beer  
January 2022

Chartered November 28, 1945

January

## Marine Corps League



### 141 Upcoming Events

**Detachment 141 Meetings have resumed  
Saturday breakfast remains suspended**

**VA Chapel of Four Chaplains Ceremony  
VA Leeds  
February 6 at 1400**

### Saturday Coffee

Since 2021 the detachment has been offering coffee on Saturday mornings

**Get Involved, Volunteer!!  
Uniform Up!**



**Elected Officers:**

**Commandant:**

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**Commandant's Corner**



Commandant  
Chris Cekovsky

Hello,

Hello Detachment 141,

I hope all of you are doing well and staying healthy through this cold winter. As we move into February, we will have a four chaplains service in the chapel at the VA in Leeds, Ma at 1400/2:00pm on Feb 6th. Veterans and their families are cordially invited.

Our big fundraiser aka Flag Pin sales will be at Geissler's Supermarket in Agawam on Mother's Day weekend and at Walmart in Westfield on Father's Day weekend. Be sure to sign up for a time slot at the barracks.

Be sure to stop by the barracks on Saturday morning for coffee, camaraderie, and pastry, with JR.

Lastly, be safe and we'll see you at our meeting on February 14th.

Semper Fi,  
Chris Cekovsky  
Commandant

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**Detachment 141 meets monthly on the second Monday at 1900. Social hour at 1800. Detachment phone number is 413-562-4850.**

**Appointed Officers:**

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From the Paymaster:**

Annual membership now expires August 31. Please remember to submit your dues for 2021-2022 to the Paymaster as soon as possible.

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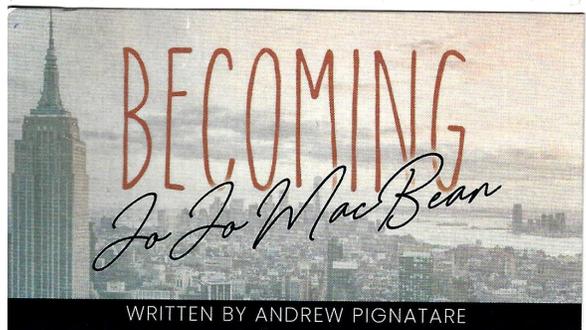
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## THE ROAD TO IMMORTALITY

By Bill Federman

Chinese philosopher Confucious said: “Roads were made for journeys, not destinations.” I can see his point; getting there is supposed to be half the fun. But you can have it both ways when driving Massachusetts Route 9 between Northampton and Pittsfield, along with a bit of history.

This visually stunning 41-mile portion of the 135-mile Massachusetts section of the highway was part of a tangled tale that took more than 50 years to unravel. A commonwealth act of unknown sponsorship designated the winding, idyllic segment in 1960 as the United States Marine Corps League Highway and signs to that effect were posted along the way. That name runs contrary to the bill establishing the Marine Corps League (no “United States”) approved by Congress in 1937 – an apparent slip-up that went unnoticed in Massachusetts until 2010, when detachment 141 Life Member John Rutovich and his wife saw one of the signs while on a drive. JR’s interest was piqued by the discrepancy and, after initial research, he began efforts to correct it.

The answer, JR discovered, was to submit new legislation to the commonwealth to rescind the original act and replace it with one using the proper name. JR found a sponsor and ramrodded the project (“What a great learning experience”) while it wound its way through the commonwealth bureaucracy until it gained final approval on January 8, 2013. Once again, the adage “Adapt, Improve, Overcome” led to victory.

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Confucious was right about the pleasure of the journey – in this case through the beauty of the Berkshires – and seeing those Marine Corps signs always sent me into a kind of reverie focused on my three years in the Corps, a golden time in my life. But he downplayed the value of the destination. Mine was usually Wahconah Park, home to an ever-changing lineup of minor-league baseball teams. Baseball and the Marines have a mutual history – do I need to mention Ted Williams? – and driving a road dedicated to Marines that leads to a field of dreams covers all the bases as far as I'm concerned.

There are a whole raft of road designations in the commonwealth; if there is another Marine Corps League highway I haven't found it. And that's all right; this one is special; this one is ours.

Semper Fidelis