



**RITUAL**  
(2006 EDITION)

As Marines, as members of both the League and the Order, as veterans of all wars of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, as well as service in peacetime; we subscribe to the Devil Dog's Creed.

## DEVIL DOG'S CREED

By DD George E. Williams, August 1989

*I am an American, I was born in France. I have held the title of United States Marine, and understand the commitment of holding the title, Devil Dog. It is a tradition born at Belleau Wood in the year 1918, of a force in readiness and the "First to Fight." As a Devil Dog, I ask no quarter and give no quarter. I will do everything in my power to uphold the objectives of the Military Order of Devil Dogs and to carry out my duties to a swift and satisfactory completion.*

# **RITUAL OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS, INC.**

It was the intent of Chief Devil Dog Don Garland, in completely revising and revamping this Ritual, to give to the membership of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc. a guide for the proper procedure for the opening, conduct, and closing of growls; observance of the rites of installation, initiations and obligations; as well as funeral and memorial ceremonies befitting our departed members who were, at the same time, DEVIL DOGS and Marines.

Although we have observed a Ritual procedure for many years, the most recent version is unorganized in sequence and hard to follow. As the FUN AND HONOR SOCIETY of the Marine Corps League, Inc. we should ever bear in mind that the Ritual is a living document that provides the most sacred of ceremonies of the Order. It is the responsibility of the leadership to provide the best guidance and the Ritual is one of the main sources of our historic rights of passage. As our organization grows, so to should our Ritual.

Officers at all levels of the Order, especially those serving in leadership roles and especially those serving on Initiation Teams, are directed to familiarize themselves with this Ritual carefully, so that any ceremony of our Order is conducted with honor and dignity, setting an example for long-time members and new initiates alike.

Introduced at the Kennel Staff Growl, Falls Church, Virginia, 10 February 2006, this Ritual was adopted in its entirety by a unanimous vote of the Kennel Staff.

PDD Don Garland  
Honorable 51st Chief Devil Dog

PDD Leanna L. Dietrich  
Honorable Smart Dog

PCDD Gary O. Chartrand  
44<sup>th</sup> Chief Devil Dog  
Executive Secretary



## FOREWORD

In revising the procedure for the conduct of growls, the status of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc., as a viable, respected contributing subsidiary organization within the Marine Corps League has been taken into account. It has also been recognized that some Pounds, the very foundation of the Order, are comparatively small in membership. Nevertheless, we felt that the importance and dignity of the procedures and ceremonies of the Order should not be sacrificed to expediency.

In the case of small Pounds, the ceremonial occasions may be properly observed by assigning more than one portion to an individual, though this is not encouraged. We strongly feel that an initiate should receive a positive and lasting impression at the outset of their affiliation with the Order; and, that nothing, particularly during the Rites of Initiation and obligation to the Degree for which they have qualified, should ever discourage their continued membership and advancement. Keep ever in mind, non-Marines and new initiates will never respect or value the Order to any greater degree than the Order respects and values itself.

Non-members of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc. are permitted ONLY to witness opening ceremonies, the obligation of newly elected officers or charter presentation. Non-members SHALL NOT observe, attend or witness any other portion of the Order's growls.



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## INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Realizing for perhaps the past five years that this effort needed to be undertaken; I welcomed the challenge extended by our CHIEF DEVIL DOG last Fall when he offered me the opportunity to entirely revamp our Ritual. Over the ensuing months, as it became apparent that only a very few DOGS wanted to make any sort of real effort, I set out to produce "something" that would be of lasting value, reflecting where we are as the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League; and, yet capture the legacy of our fifty-three years of existence.

With an undertaking of this scope, one always tries to emulate an example – a mentor, one whom will always represent what this Order stands for and should be. In this regard, I was privileged to be able to draw from the strengths of two such individuals - PAST CHIEF DEVIL DOG JAY KACSAN and PEDIGREED DEVIL DOG ANTHONY SAVINO.

Both DOGS are about as close to icons as we will ever know; and, both have been my source of strength, knowledge and encouragement for many, many years. A handful of other PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS also provided guidance and moral support, these are valued friends -- PAST CHIEF DEVIL DOG Ken Farris, PDD Jim Powell, PDD Earl Herrington, PDD Jack Nash, PDD George Williams; and, our current HONORABLE CHIEF, Cliff Williams. PAST CHIEF DEVIL DOG Gil Gray also, at various times, was and is a source of inspiration. The final PEDIGREED DEVIL DOG who came through when asked and is, as always, truly an "unsung hero" -- our artist, PDD Mike Kneefe. He really gives 110%, every time you ask it of him.

Last, and without a doubt not the least, my typist, proofreader; and dearest friend - - my wife, **Carolyn**. Not even a member of the ORDER, she has spent more time and contributed more to this effort than even I have. Through her tireless efforts, we were able to deliver a completely "camera ready" proof to the printer, saving many, many hours of composition and typesetting costs. Without reservation, she saved us many hundreds of dollars we can instead devote towards the disabled and disadvantaged children to whom we have elected to direct our contributions.

This Ritual, then, is truly the product of those listed here who enabled me to complete the task I could not have accomplished without their effort and support.

PDD Paul L. Sutton  
Past Chief Devil Dog  
15 April 1992



## WHAT IS A DEVIL DOG?

The Marine Corps League, formed in 1923 by members of what had been the Marine Corps Veterans Association assimilated more than 40 existing marine oriented organizations that sprang up following the end of World War I. Comprised largely of veterans of the fierce fighting between the Fifth and Sixth Marine Regiments and the Germans, these returning veterans of the Great War (“the war to end all wars”) were called “Teufelhunde” by their German adversaries, literally meaning “Dogs of the Devil,” or as we now know, DEVIL DOGS. Legend has it that, because our Marines were so under supplied during the battle of Belleau Wood; that, when they engaged the Germans in hand-to-hand combat, they bit them!

These battle-hardened Marines who, for all time, earned for ensuing generations the title “Devil Dog”, coined years ago on 6 June 1918, were a part of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) commanded by General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing. They had set sail on 14 June 1917 under orders from Major General Commandant George Barnett as a “Force in Readiness.” At the time, the total strength of the Marine Corps, worldwide, stood at 511 officers and 13,214 enlisted men. Landing in Europe, they included two-time Medal of Honor recipient First Sergeant Dan Daly. Colonel A. W. Catlin, a Medal of Honor recipient at Vera Cruz, was evacuated from Belleau Wood after having been shot by a German sniper. Gunnery Sergeant E. A. Janson (who served in the Corps as Charles Hoffman) earned the first Marine Medal of Honor for saving his command, the 49<sup>th</sup> Company. At the end of the battle for Belleau Wood, 1,062 Marines lay dead. The French General commanding the Sixth Army ordered that Belleau Wood (Bois de Belleau) be henceforth known as “Bois de la Brigade de Marine.” Seven Marines would ultimately be awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions during World War I. Alphabetically, they were: Sergeant Louis Cukela, Gunny Sergeant Earnest A. Janson, Private John J. Kelley, Sergeant Matej Kocak, Corporal John H. Pruitt, Gunnery Sergeant Robert G. Robinson, Gunnery Sergeant Fred W. Stockham and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Ralph Tabot. The Medal for Stockham was not authorized until 15 July 1939; and, only after Commandant-designate Major General Clifton B. Cates prevailed on the Congress and President Roosevelt to enact special legislation awarding the medal posthumously on the recommendation of then Lieutenant Cates the day after the action.

Following the establishment of the Marine Corps League, the leadership of the League decided that the delegates assembling in convention needed some time during their serious deliberations to “blow off steam.” As a result, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs was organized and created in 1939, in Boston, MA and granted a charter as a subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League on 19 March 1940. From those early years, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs (the Order) has grown to strength of over 6,000 members.

The Order is organized in nearly every state where there is a Marine Corps League presence. Now in its 66<sup>th</sup> year, the Order boasts a semi-permanent headquarters in Michigan, a full-time Kennel Dog Robber, National Executive Secretary and Bookkeeper.

The Order, the FUN and HONOR SOCIETY of the Marine Corps League, is comprised of only regular members of the League who have been recommended for membership by 2 members of the Order. Each member undergoes a series of initiations. First, as a Pup, in their Pound (the local organization, the basis of the Order); then, as a Devil Dog in their Pack (the State organization which meets during a Department Convention); and, finally, as a Pedigreed Devil Dog at the SUPREME GROWL held in conjunction with the National Convention of the League. Each degree must be held for one full year before candidacy for the next degree may be considered.

It promotes good fellowship amongst the members of the different Marine Corps League Detachments. The Order provides amusement and entertainment at all gatherings of the League, when and where advisable, preserves and strengthens the principles and ideals of the League, and maintains true allegiance to the United States of America and its Constitution and laws. It fosters and extends American institutions of freedom and defends America against all enemies whatsoever. The Order is also very active in raising funds for different charities.



## QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

All officers and enlisted personnel on honorable active duty with the U. S. Marine Corps or serving as an FMF Corpsman and all officers and enlisted personnel honorably separated from the U. S. Marine Corps or have served as an FMF Corpsman who are bona fide, paid-up, active members of the Marine Corps League, Inc., shall be eligible for consideration for and election to membership in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc. This is also intended to include those holding life membership awards granted by the Marine Corps League, Inc. (i.e., recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Past National Commandants, Past National Adjutant/Paymasters, and individuals who “win” or earn such designation) who would otherwise qualify to enter the regular membership of the Marine Corps League, Inc.

You must be a paid-up member and in good standing in the Marine Corps League, Inc. The applicant must be active in his or her Detachment in the League, and must be invited to join the Order. He or she must be recommended by his or her Detachment Commandant and be sponsored by two DEVIL DOGS or PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS. The applicant is then interviewed by the members of the Pound at a Pound Growl. (A meeting is called a Growl.) If accepted, the applicant must undergo an initiation and obligation ceremony. Then he or she becomes a Pup in the Order.

You must earn the right to become a Pup and then keep right on working to earn your advancement to Devil Dog and Pedigreed Devil Dog. At the same time, you will belong to an exclusively select group within the Marine Corps League, Inc., the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc. How exclusive are we? There are approximately 60,000 members in the League; yet, only 6,000 Leaguers have been accepted into our Order. We're not for everyone! Reference should also be made to Article I, Section 101 of the Honorable Kennel Bylaws concerning membership eligibility in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc.



## OPENING CEREMONY

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** *(Gives one rap of gavel to bring growl to order)* Police Dog, you will satisfy yourself that all dogs present are qualified to remain for the deliberation of this body.

**NOTE:** At all levels of the Kennel, an official growl necessitates the presence of the American Flag and three other items; The Holy Bible, the Charter, and the Bone signifying the Presiding Officer's authority. In accordance with Article XI, Section 1107, these articles are considered "sacred"; and, Article II, Section 216(C), Article III, Section 316(D) as well as Article IV, Section 407(D) require the presence of these three "sacred" articles.

**NOTE:** In all references to "saluting"; this action is defined as the right arm raised parallel to the shoulder, with the forearm bent at the elbow, forming a 90-degree angle and with the paw clenched in a "human-like" fist, except that the right hand salute shall be given during honors to the colors.

**POLICE DOG:** *(Saluting)* I have inspected the qualifications of the members assembled, and find that all are qualified to remain. *(Exceptions must be reported.)*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Watch Dog, I now declare this Growl secure, and you will permit no one access to the Growl until after the completion of the opening ceremony. Police Dog, you will now advance the colors and lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. *(Presiding Officer gives two raps of the gavel to bring growl to its feet, and all Dogs present that are covered, salute, others stand at attention.)*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** The Dog Trainer will lead us in prayer.

**NOTE:** Before leading the assemblage in prayer, the Dog Trainer will open the Holy Bible to a scripture selected by that Officer. At the conclusion of the prayer, the Dog Trainer will close the Holy Bible, which will remain closed until the Dog Trainer is called upon for ceremonies (Rite of obligation, Rite of Installation, Memorial Service, Closing Ceremony, etc.) in which he takes the leading role. It is inappropriate to collect fines over an open Bible; and none may be collected nor assessed while the Holy Bible is open.

*Dog Trainer advances and takes post in front of Altar and gives opening prayer:*

**DOG TRAINER:** "Let us pray. Almighty God, Supreme Being over us all, we ask Thy Blessing upon this growl. We ask thy divine guidance during our deliberations, and keep us ever steadfast in the purposes and principles upon which the Marine Corps League and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs are founded. We ask Thy Blessing upon those Marines who have died in the service of our Country, and are now recorded on that Heavenly Roster, upon which all of us will in time be enrolled. Grant, Heavenly Father, that the League and Order may grow and prosper in the purposes and principles upon which they are founded. Amen."

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** I now declare this Growl of Military Order of the Devil Dogs, open for the Transaction of all business which may properly come before it. Watch Dog, you are now free to admit latecomers to this growl *(gives one rap of gavel to seat members).*



## ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Opening Ceremony (See page 7 of this Ritual)
- B. Roll Call of Officers
- C. Recognition of Dignitaries (Kennel, Pack & Pound)
  - 1. The Chief Devil Dog
  - 2. Past Chief Devil Dogs
  - 3. Honorable Kennel Officers
  - 4. Past Kennel Dog Robbers
  - 5. Worthy Pack officers (if a Pound Growl)
  - 6. Past Worthy Pack officers
  - 7. Distinguished Pedigreed Devil Dogs (i.e., Kennel Dog of the Year, etc.)
- D. Reading of dog scratchings of previous session
- E. Memorial service for members of the Order who have died since last Growl. (See page 10 of this Ritual for the abbreviated version and page 11 of this Ritual for the full service. The Dog Trainer will be instructed as to the appropriate memorial service.)
- F. Sickness and in Distress
- G. Reports (Dog Robber, other Officers, Committees)
- H. Old Business
  - NOTE:** If Elections are called for, they are to be held at this point, prior to obligation of candidates. In the case of the SUPREME GROWL, the Honorable Chief Devil Dog may obligate newly initiated PUPS and DEVIL DOGS at his discretion, prior to the SUPREME GROWL, if necessary. (See ceremony for Rite of Obligations on page 16 of this Ritual). The Election and Installation of Officers shall precede the Obligation of candidates. Balloting shall be according to Article I, Section 103 for candidates.
- I. Special Business Requirements
  - 8. Elections and Installation of Officers (See page 22 of this Ritual)
  - 9. Balloting upon and Obligation of Candidates (See page 16 of this Ritual)
- J. New Business
- K. Good of the order
- L. Announcements
- M. Closing Ceremony (See page 9 of this Ritual)

**NOTE:** When Elections of Officers are slated, it is incumbent to provide the Presiding Officer a list of their appointed officers PRIOR to the Election, so that officers may be readily announced and installed in order to expedite the growl.



## CLOSING CEREMONY

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Having passed through our regular order of business, I will proceed to close this Growl of the Order. Watch Dog, you will permit no one access to the growl until after the closing ceremony. Police Dog, you will retire the Colors. *(Gives two raps of the gavel to bring the membership to its feet. Those covered will salute, others stand at attention.)*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** The Dog Trainer will dismiss us with the closing prayer.

**NOTE:** The Dog Trainer shall open the Holy Bible, commence the prayer, and close the Bible when the prayer is concluded.

**DOG TRAINER:** (Advancing to front of Altar) Let us pray. Supreme Being, we pray that thy blessing will rest upon the good we have accomplished in this growl, and we ask thy forgiveness if any wrong has been done. We ask thy loving care accompany us as we go our several ways, and remain with us until we meet again in growl assembled. Amen.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** I now declare this Growl of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs closed until (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ when it will be convened for the transaction of official business. *(Gives one rap of the gavel to formally close the growl.)*



## **ABBREVIATED MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**DOG TRAINER:** Dogs of the Order, we are gathered in this place to pay honor and respect to those members who have answered the final call on this earth. Please rise and uncover for the opening prayer.

### **PRAYER**

Let us Pray. O God, we come to Thee in prayer, remembering how many others have labored before us, and that we have entered into the harvest of their labors; and that greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his country and friends. We thank Thee, O God, for the lives and labors of our departed members whose memories we gather to honor. For their vision, their devotion to duty and principle, their courage, and their sacrifice and self denial, we give Thee thanks. Help us, the living, to abide faithfully in all things, and to work for the right in which they believed, to prove ourselves worthy of their trust, and to make our lives achieving and successful in the work of our Order. Amen.

**DOG TRAINER:** Please join in singing the Marine Hymn.

### **THE MARINE HYMN (with accompaniment or A Capella – one verse)**

**DOG TRAINER:** Please join me in observing a Moment of Silence followed by the closing prayer for those members who have passed away this past year.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, we ask Thy blessing upon those assembled here, and upon those of our departed members who have preceded us in death. Especially, Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee on behalf of those who have died in battle with none of their dear ones to comfort them, and with little opportunity to prepare to report before Thy Judgment Throne. For all of our fellow members who faithfully served our country and who sacrificed and bled that our people might have freedom, justice, and the right to worship Thee in their own way, we pray for Thy tender care and the everlasting hope that some day we may be reunited at Thy feet, in peace and that war and all its attendant evils will no more demand the sacrifice of the flower of human kind. Thou has said unto us, Greater love hath no man, that he lay down his life for his country and friend. Reward these of our members who have made sacrifice of their life, in a way possible only with Thee, for we know Thy ways are just. Amen

**NOTE:** The Dog Trainer shall be responsible for the secular needs of the Order. They may appoint such assistants as they deem necessary for the proper, appropriate and reverent needs of this observance.



## FULL MEMORIAL SERVICE

**DOG TRAINER:** Dogs of the Order, we are gathered in this place to pay honor and respect to those members who have answered the final call on this earth. Please rise and join me in the National Hymn and the Marine Hymn. *(The following is the formal or “long” service suggested for use at the Grand Growl of the Pack or at the direction of the Chief Devil Dog.)*

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN “National Hymn”

(May be repeated in unison without music)  
God of our fathers, whose almighty hand,  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry bank;  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.  
Thy love divine hath led us in the past,  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast  
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,  
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.  
From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever-sure defense  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.  
Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never-ending day  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine. Amen.

*C.D. Roberts, 1876*

### THE MARINE HYMN (with accompaniment or A Capella)

**DOG TRAINER:** Please uncover for the opening prayer.

#### A PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thou has seen fit to remove from our midst these members of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. Grant O God, that we who are left behind will always keep their memory and carry forth their spirit as, you Lord, would will it. Bless our order and our cause—make us worthy to have had them our members. Amen.

**DOG TRAINER:** Cover and please be seated. *(Optional the following may be played, sung or recited while the Dog Trainer prepares for the Litany and Roll Call)*



## OH GOD, OUR HELP

(May be sung by choir)

O God, Our help in ages past, A thousand ages in thy sight  
Our hope for years to come, Are like an evening gone;  
Our shelter from the stormy blast Short as the watch that ends the night  
And our eternal Home Before the rising sun.  
Under the shadow of thy throne Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Thy saints have dwelt secure bears all its sons away;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, they fly, forgotten as a dream  
And our defense is sure. Dies at the opening day.  
Before the hills in order stood, O God, Our help in ages Past  
Or earth received her frame, Our hope for years to come,  
From everlasting Thou art God, Be thou our guide while life shall last,  
To endless years the same. And our eternal home. Amen

*William Croft, 1708*

**DOG TRAINER:** Please join me in the Responsive Reading.

### RESPONSIVE READING

**Dog Trainer:** O God, You have called us to peace, for You are Peace itself.

May we have the vision to see that each of us, in some measure, can help to realize these aims:

**Dog Trainer:** Where there are ignorance and superstition,

**All:** LET THERE BE ENLIGHTENMENT AND KNOWLEDGE.

**Dog Trainer:** Where there are prejudice and hatred,

**All:** LET THERE BE ACCEPTANCE AND LOVE.

**Dog Trainer:** Where there are fear and suspicion,

**All:** LET THERE BE CONFIDENCE AND TRUST.

**Dog Trainer:** Where there are tyranny and oppression,

**All:** LET THERE BE FREEDOM AND JUSTICE.

**Dog Trainer:** Where there are strife and discord,

**All:** LET THERE BE HARMONY AND PEACE.

**DOG TRAINER:** Please uncover for the Roll of Honor followed by a Moment of Silence.

### ROLL OF HONOR

(Presented in an Order to be determined by the Dog Trainer, with Reverence).

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

**DOG TRAINER:** Please remain uncovered for the closing prayer. If your religious beliefs allow please join me



## **A PRAYER**

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make us aware of thy presence and obedient to thy will. Keep us true to our best selves, guarding us against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping us to live so that we can face our fellow members, our loved ones and thee without shame or fear. Protect our families. Give us the will to do the work of a Devil Dog and to accept our share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant us the courage to be proficient in our daily performance. Keep us loyal and faithful to our superiors and to the duties our country and the Marine Corps, Marine Corps League, and Military Order of the Devil Dogs have entrusted to us. Make us considerate of those committed to our leadership. Help us to wear our uniforms with dignity, and let them remind us daily of the traditions, which we must uphold. If we are inclined to doubt, steady our faith; if we are tempted, make us strong to resist; if we should miss the mark, give us courage to try again. Guide us with the light of truth and grant us wisdom by which we may understand the answer to our prayer. Amen.

## **THE EVENING PRAYER (Optional)**

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage; we humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy Goodness and obedient to thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and moral values. Save us from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many nations and tongues. Imbue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace in our land, and that through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among all the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble suffer not our trust in thee to fail, all of which we ask in your Name. Amen.

**DOG TRAINER:** If your religious beliefs allow please join me Lord's Prayer using trespasses and trespass.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**DOG TRAINER:** Please cover and join us in singing (or reciting) the Navy Hymn and America.



**NAVY HYMN (Optional - All stand while choir sings or repeated A Capella)**

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bid'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea!

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly  
Through the great spaces in the sky,  
Be with them always in the air,  
In darkening storms or sunlight fair.  
O hear us when we lift our prayer  
For those in peril in the air.

Eternal Father, grant we pray,  
To all Marines both night and day,  
The courage, honor, strength and skill  
Their land to serve, Thy law fulfill;  
Be thou the shield forevermore  
From every peril to the Corps. Amen.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN "America"**

My country, tis of Thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From ev'ry Mountainside  
Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee,  
Land of the noble free.  
Thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills,  
Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills  
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,  
And ring from all the trees  
Sweet freedom's song;  
Let mortal tongues awake,  
Let all that breathe partake,  
Let rocks their silence break,  
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God to thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by thy might,  
Great God, our King. Amen

*Samuel Francis Smith, 1832*

**DOG TRAINER:** This concludes our Memorial Service.



# **INITIATION AND OBLIGATION OF CANDIDATES**

## ***ARTICLE VI – INITIATION***

### ***PREAMBLE***

In order to fulfill the purposes and to further strengthen the ideals of the Marine Corps League, Inc., and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc., there shall no longer exist in the initiation procedures of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc., any form of “Hard Core” hazing. This will include Kennel, Pack and Pound initiations. To insure that this takes place, there is no longer any touching of advancing DEVIL DOGS allowed. The need to help the “Sick, Lame or Lazy” who are advancing, where it is in a helping manner, is acceptable. This preamble is to insure that there will be no objects, smells or foreign materials of any type placed on any advancing Dogs. It is the purpose of this Initiation Preamble to insure that all Dogs are created equal, and will be treated as such.

It will be the duty of the Kennel Staff and every DEVIL DOG within the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc., to insure the Initiation Preamble is adhered to, for the “Good of the Order.”

### ***SEVEN RULES GOVERNING INITIATION***

1. One hour total initiation (two-hour limitation at SUPREME GROWL) with all proper forms filled out prior to initiation, accompanied with proper initiation fee, dues, etc., required.
2. All candidates should be questioned as to any restrictions due to health or disability, with proper consideration being given to each candidate in relation to their disability.
3. No candidate be permitted to take the initiation of any degree if intoxicated or under influence of drugs. (To be determined by Mad Dog with approval of Pound Keeper, Pack Leader, or Chief Devil Dog.)
4. No obscene actions or suggestion of same:
  - a) The candidate or those conducting the initiation will permit no obscene language.
  - b) No disrobing of any kind.
5. Initiations to be conducted by a responsible Mad Dog and only by assistance such as they deem necessary to conduct the initiation.
  - c) No Mad Dog or assistants will be allowed to conduct the initiation under the influence of alcohol or drugs. (This is determined by the Pound Keeper, Pack Leader, or Chief Devil Dog.)
  - d) The safety of each candidate is to be the paramount concern when conducting initiations.
6. All initiations to each degree will be conducted in private, attended only by members of the Order.
7. No physical force shall be used.



## THE RITE OF OBLIGATION FOR THE DEGREE OF PUP

When candidates for initiation are assembled, the Presiding Officer shall say:

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Fellow Marines, you have been honored by the DEVIL DOGS of this order (and by your own Detachment), in having your name placed in nomination for the Degree of PUP, in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. This means you have been performing some outstanding service of merit in your Detachment, you have been active in obtaining new members for your Detachment, and you have been successful in having delinquent members reinstate themselves in your Detachment. In a short while, you will be given your Oath of Obligation in the Order. In this Oath of Obligation, I assure you there is nothing that will in any manner interfere with your religious or political beliefs. Are you willing to take and assume such an Oath of Obligation? If so, state "I am." (*Pause for answer*) You will also be called upon to pass through a ceremony of initiation. In this ceremony, I assure you there is nothing you will be asked to do, that should under any consideration whatsoever, be assumed by you to be of a personal, spiteful, or vengeful nature. Are you willing to participate in such an initiation? If so, state "I am." (*Pause for answer*) Mad Dog and Police Dog, you will retire with the candidates and prepare them further for initiation.

**NOTE:** Generally, the Growl during which this portion is read will then move on to its regular business. The Presiding Officer should then return to the regular order of business.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Dogs of the Order we are about to enter upon the obligation of candidates for the Degree of PUP, in the Order. During the administration of the Oath of Obligation and the instruction of the candidates in the purposes of the Order, you will refrain from smoking, maintain a quiet and respectful decorum, and do nothing which will detract the attention of the candidates from the seriousness and solemnity of the Oath of Obligation and the instructions, under penalty of a fine, or a sentence by the Chair. I now declare this Pound, ready for the obligation of candidates for the Degree of PUP in the Order.

**DOG ROBBER:** Presiding Officer, I find the following named candidates awaiting obligation into the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. (*Dog Robber reads the names of candidates and their Detachment affiliations. Dog Robber then salutes, and on his way to his post, hands a copy of his list to the Mad Dog.*)

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Sir Mad Dog and Sir Police Dog, you will escort the candidates to a position in front of the Altar.

**MAD DOG:** Presiding Officer, I present to you, the members of Military Order of the Devil Dogs, the following Marine Corps Leaguers who desire obligation into the Degree of PUP, in the Order. (*Mad Dog reads off the names, steps back of line of candidates.*)



**PRESIDING OFFICER:** (Addressing the candidates). You will raise your right paw above your shoulder with your elbow bent, and repeat after me, the following Oath of obligation as a PUP, using your name where I use mine:

I, (*your name*) , in the presence of Almighty God ... and the members of the Order ... here assembled, ... being fully aware of the symbols, ... mottoes, ... principles, ... and purposes of the Marine Corps League ... and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, ... do solemnly swear ... that I will uphold and defend ... the Constitution and Laws ... of the United States of America; ... the Constitution and Laws ... of the Marine Corps League; ... the Constitution and Laws ... of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, ... and the Laws, ... Rules, ... and Regulations of Pound \_\_\_\_\_ ...or of such other constituent body thereof, ... of which I may later become a member; ... that I will never knowingly wrong, ... deceive or defraud ... the League or Order, ... or any constituent part thereof, ... of the value of anything; ... that I will never knowingly ... wrong or injure ... any of its members ... or their families, ... or permit any member ... or member's family ... to be wronged or injured, ... if to prevent same ... shall be within my power; ... that I will never reveal, .. by word, ... act, ... or deed, ... to anyone not a member ... in good standing in the ... Military Order of the Devil Dogs, ... any of the ceremonies and rituals ... of the Order; ... that I ever govern my conduct ... in the affairs of the Order, ... and in my personal life, ... in such a manner ... as will never bring reproach ... or disrespect to the Marine Corps League, ... to the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, ... or any constituent part thereof, ... so help me God.

You may lower your paws. The Dog Trainer will now lead us in prayer.

**DOG TRAINER:** (*Uncover*) Let us pray.

Our Heavenly Father, we ask thy divine blessing on these persons who as members of the Marine Corps League, are joining with us as members of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. It is our prayer, O God, that each one of us shall increasingly become aware of our duty to our Country, to our family, to our fellow man, and to our religious beliefs. Grant that, as time goes on, and as our daily life unfolds, we shall learn to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that we shall do unto others, as we would have them do unto us. Keep our Nation, O Lord steadfast in its purposes, and may it ever be right in all things and ever guided in the precepts of Thy Holy Writ. Amen.

*Dog Trainer retires to his post. The Presiding Officer gives one rap of the gavel to seat the growl.*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** By virtue of the authority vested in me I declare each and every one of you fully admitted into the degree of PUP in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. You are hereby vested with all the authority, privileges, rights and duties pertaining to that Degree. Over this Altar, upon which rests the Flag of our Country and the open Bible, I wish to congratulate each of you personally on your election, initiation, and obligation to the Degree of PUP in our Order, and extend to you a hearty welcome to Military Order of the Devil Dogs.

**NOTE:** The Presiding Officer now customarily grants a five (5) minute recess for the membership to welcome the new PUPS before resuming the business of the Growl.



## THE RITE OF OBLIGATION FOR THE DEGREE OF DEVIL DOG

**NOTE:** In accordance with Article III, Section 305(A) and Section 316(A), The Degree of Devil Dog may only be conferred during the GRAND GROWL of the PACK (usually held in conjunction with the League's Department Convention) at the Pack Level. In some cases, the Worthy Pack Leader may, of necessity, exercise discretion and obligate candidates apart from the regular business session of the GRAND GROWL of the PACK due to distances or unavoidable commitments on the part of the newly initiated candidates who, once obligated, may be dismissed by the Worthy Pack Leader, providing that all necessary forms have been executed, all dues remitted and the rite of initiation completed successfully.

When the candidates for the Degree of Devil Dog have successfully completed the rite of initiation.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** (Gives one rap of the gavel to bring the growl to order.)

**MAD DOG:** (Saluting) Presiding Officer, I am pleased to advise that the ceremony of initiation of the candidates into the Degree of Devil Dog in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs has been completed, and I present these candidates before the Altar to receive the Oath of Obligation as a Devil Dog.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** DEVIL DOGS and PUPS of the Order we are about to enter upon the obligation of candidates for the Degree of Devil Dog in the Order. During the administration of the Oath of Obligation and the instruction of the candidates in the purposes of the Order, you will refrain from smoking, maintain a quiet and respectful decorum, and will do nothing which will detract the attention of the candidates from the seriousness and solemnity of the Oath of Obligation and the instructions, under penalty of a fine, or a sentence by the chair. I now declare this Pack ready for the initiation and Obligation of candidates for the Degree of Devil Dog in the Order.

**DOG ROBBER:** Presiding Officer, I find the candidates awaiting obligation into the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. Dog Robber then salutes, and on his way to his post, hands a copy of his list to the Mad Dog.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Worthy Mad Dog and Worthy Police Dog, you will escort the candidates to a position in front of the Altar.

**MAD DOG:** Presiding officer, I present to you, the members of the Pack, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, the following members who desire initiation and obligation into the Degree of Devil Dog in the order. (Mad Dog reads off the names, steps back of line of candidates.)



**PRESIDING OFFICER:** (Addressing the candidates) You will raise your right paw above your shoulder with your elbow bent, and repeat after me, the following oath of obligation as a Devil Dog, using your name where I use mine:

I, (*your name*) , in the presence of Almighty God ... and the members of the Order ... here assembled, ... being fully aware of the symbols, ... mottoes, ... principles, ... and purposes of the Marine Corps League ... and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, ... do solemnly swear ... that I will uphold and defend ... the Constitution and Laws ... of the United States of America; ... the Constitution and Laws ... of the Marine Corps League; ... the Constitution and Laws ... of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. ... I will never knowingly wrong, ... deceive or defraud ... the League or Order, ... or any constituent part thereof, ... of the value of anything; ... that I will never knowingly ... wrong or injure ... any of its members ... or their families, ... or permit any member ... or member's family ... to be wronged or injured, ... if to prevent same ... shall be within my power; ... that I will never reveal, .. by word, ... act, ... or deed, ... to anyone not a member ... in good standing in the ... Military Order of the Devil Dogs, ... any of the ceremonies and rituals ... of the Order; ... that I will ever govern my conduct ... in the affairs of the Order, ... and in my personal life, ... in such a manner ... as will never bring reproach ... or disrespect to the Marine Corps League, ... to the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, ... or any constituent part thereof, ... so help me God.

You may lower your paws. The Dog Trainer will now lead us in prayer.

**DOG TRAINER:** (*Uncover*) Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father, we ask Thy divine blessing on these DEVIL DOGS who as PUPS have been faithful members of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. It is our prayer, O God, that each one of us shall increasingly become aware of our duty to our Country, to our Family, to our fellow man, and to our religious beliefs. Grant that, as time goes on, and as our daily life unfolds, we shall learn to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that we shall do unto others, as we would have them do unto us. Keep our Nation, O Lord, steadfast in its purposes, and may it ever be right in all things, and ever guided in the precepts of Thy Holy Writ. Amen.

*(Dog Trainer retires to his post. The Presiding officer gives one rap of the gavel to seat the growl.)*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** By virtue of the authority vested in me, I now declare each and every one of you fully admitted into the Degree or Devil Dog in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. You are hereby vested with all the authority, privileges, rights and duties pertaining to that Degree. Over this Altar, upon which rests the Flag of our Country and the open Bible, I wish to congratulate each of you personally on your election, initiation, and obligation to the Degree of Devil Dog in our Order.

**NOTE:** The Presiding Officer may now grant a five (5) minute recess, so that the new DEVIL DOGS may be appropriately welcomed before resuming the regular business of the Growl.



## THE RITE OF OBLIGATION FOR THE DEGREE OF PEDIGREED DEVIL DOG

**NOTE:** In accordance with Article IV, Section 416; and, under the provisions of Article I, Section 101 (B) (3), the SUPREME GROWL ONLY may initiate and obligate PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS. Of necessity, ONLY the Honorable Chief Devil Dog may invoke Article I, Section 101 (B)(4). Because of the distances some candidates must travel to attend the SUPREME GROWL and other constraints upon candidates outside the influence of the Order; the Honorable Chief Devil Dog may, at his discretion, obligate candidates who have successfully completed the rite of initiation apart from the regular business session of the SUPREME GROWL and dismiss them, providing that all necessary forms have been properly executed and all dues paid. When the candidates for the Degree of Pedigreed Devil Dog have successfully completed the rite of initiation and are ready for presentation to the order:

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** (*Gives one rap of the gavel to bring the growl to order.*)

**MAD DOG:** (*Saluting*) Honorable Presiding Officer, I am pleased to advise that the ceremony of initiation of the candidates into the Degree of Pedigreed Devil Dog in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs has been completed, and I present these candidates before the Altar to receive their Oath of Obligation.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS of the Order, we are about to enter upon the obligation of candidates for the Degree of Pedigreed Devil Dog in the Order. During the administration of the Oath of Obligation and the instruction of the candidates you will refrain from smoking, maintain a quiet and respectful decorum, and do nothing which will detract the attention of the candidates from the seriousness and solemnity of the Oath of obligation and the instructions, under penalty of a fine, or a sentence by the Chair. I now declare the Kennel ready for the obligation of candidates for the Degree of Pedigreed Devil Dog.

**MAD DOG:** Honorable Presiding Officer, I present the candidates for obligation as PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS into the Military Order of the Devil Dogs.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Honorable Mad Dog and Honorable Police Dog, you will escort the candidates to a position in the front of the Altar.

**MAD DOG:** Honorable Presiding Officer, I present to you these members of our order who desire obligation into the Degree of Pedigreed Devil Dog.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** (*Addressing the candidates*) You will raise your right paw above your shoulder with your elbow bent, and repeat after me, the following oath of obligation using your name where I use mine:

I, (*your name*), in the presence of Almighty God, ... and the members of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs ... here assembled, ... having aspired to, ... and been initiated in, ... the high and honorable ... Degree of Pedigreed Devil Dog, ... and realizing the responsibilities ... and privileges ... incurred by such honor, ... do solemnly swear ... that I will uphold and defend ... the Constitution and Laws ... of the United States of America; ... the Marine Corps League ... and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. ... That I will never reveal ... any of the ceremonies or rituals ... of the Order, ... and will ever govern my conduct ... in the Order ... so as to establish ... an example for those ... who will follow me ... in this high Degree, ... so help me God.

You may lower your paws. The Dog Trainer will now lead us in prayer.



**DOG TRAINER:** *(Uncover)* Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father, we ask Thy divine blessing on these new PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS who have now attained the highest possible Degree and who have acquitted themselves in a superior manner as members of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. It is our prayer, O God, that each one of us shall increasingly become aware of our duty to our Country, to our Family, to our fellow man, and to our religious beliefs. Grant that, as time goes on, and as our daily life unfolds, we shall learn to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that we shall do unto others, as we would have them do unto us. Keep our Nation, O Lord, steadfast in it's purposes, may it ever be right in all things, and ever guided in the precepts of Thy Holy Writ. Amen.

*(The Dog Trainer retires to his post. The Honorable Presiding Officer gives one rap of the gavel to seat the growl.)*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** By virtue of the authority vested in me, I now declare each and every one of you fully and finally obligated as PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS. For some of you, this journey began only three years ago. For others many, many years have passed since you first started your journey as a PUP. Over this Altar upon which rests the Flag of our Nation and the open Bible, I convey to each of you the authority, privileges, rights and the duties now incumbent upon you as a Pedigreed Devil Dog. Go forth now from this place, always setting an example for the PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS yet to come, with the wisdom and courage you have so abundantly displayed by arriving at this point so that the League and our Order may always prosper and do all manner of good works, now and unto eternity. You are dismissed to take your rightful place with your fellow PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS.

**NOTE:** The regular business of the Supreme Growl should now resume.



## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Installation Team shall be the Installing Officer, the Installing Dog Trainer and Installing Police Dog. In all cases, the Installing Officer MUST be a Pedigreed Devil Dog. For Installation of Pound officers, the Pedigreed Devil Dog shall be a Past Pound Keeper or an incumbent or Past Pack Officer. For Installation of Pack Officers, the Pedigreed Devil Dog shall be a Past Pack Officer or an incumbent or Past Kennel Officer. For the Installation of new Kennel Staff, the Pedigreed Devil Dog shall be a Past Chief Devil Dog.

### INSTALLATION CEREMONY

(The present Dog Robber will satisfy himself that the dues of all incoming officers are fully paid up in Kennel, Pack and Pound for the fiscal year. The Dog Robber will prepare a list for the use of the Installing Police Dog, showing names of officers and the office to which they have been elected or appointed.)

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** I am about to enter upon the solemn ceremony of the installation of the incoming officers of Military Order of the Devil Dogs, to serve for the coming fiscal year. By virtue of my office as Installing Officer, it is incumbent upon me to determine the qualifications of these newly elected or appointed officers whom I am about to formally induct into office. Dog Robber, have all of these incoming officers been duly elected or appointed in full accordance with the Bylaws of The Military Order of the Devil Dogs?

**DOG ROBBER:** *(Saluting)* They have.

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** Dog Robber, are the dues of the incoming officers, including Kennel, Pack and Pound dues, fully paid for the current fiscal year?

**DOG ROBBER:** They are.

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** Dog Robber, have the incoming officers complied fully with all other qualifications of the Bylaws of this Order, as to their eligibility to hold office to which they have been Elected or Appointed?

**DOG ROBBER:** They have. *(Salutes and resumes his seat.)*

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** Police Dog, do you have a roster of the Incoming Officers for the coming fiscal year? Will you please read it?

**POLICE DOG:** Installing officer, I have the roster of the incoming officers for the coming fiscal year. As each name is called, leave your seat and take a position in front of the Altar, facing the Installing Officer. (Elective Officers are called first, Appointive Officers secondly.) Installing Officer, I have the honor and pleasure to present to you, the Incoming Officers, to serve for the coming fiscal year.



**INSTALLING OFFICER:** Newly Elected (and Appointed) Officers, you have been chosen to lead the affairs of the Order for the coming year by your fellow DEVIL DOGS. This is to be construed by you as meriting your highest sense of responsibility. They have indicated that it is their belief that you are fully qualified and capable of fulfilling the duties of the office to which you have been elected (or appointed.) I will say to you, that at times you may find your duties to be heavy and the responsibilities of your office may conflict with your personal arrangements and convenience. You should immediately acquaint yourself with the duties of the office to which you have been elected (or appointed.) You shall ever bear in mind the mandates, rules, and regulations of the Bylaws of the Order, and the traditions of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, and of its close affiliation with the Marine Corps League. You must remember that there is no difference in the standing of all DEVIL DOGS; one is equal to the other. Civilian or military status or rank shall bear no distinction in your dealings with fellow DEVIL DOGS. NEVER permit political or sectarian matters to enter the course of your official acts. You shall respect and honor the departed of our Order, and of the Marine Corps League, and be ready to assist, to the best of your ability, any of your fellows who may be in need of your assistance, advice or protection. Always take advantage of every opportunity to advance the welfare of the Order and the Marine Corps League so that when your tour of duty is complete, you may justly deserve and merit the accolade, "Well Done!" The Oath you are about to take will not, in any way, interfere with any religious or political beliefs you may hold. With this assurance, and with full consideration of these admonishments, are you willing to accept the Oath of office? If so, answer "I AM".

**NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS:** Response.

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** (*The Installing Officer gives three raps of the gavel*) All Rise You will raise your right paw and repeat after me, using your name where I use mine, the following "Oath of Office."

I, (*your name*), do solemnly swear, ... that I will bear true allegiance ... to the United States of America, ... to the Marine Corps League, ... and to the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, ... that I will enforce and uphold, ... and will myself obey ... and comply with ... the Rules, ... Regulations, ... and Laws of the Order, ... and of \_\_\_\_\_ ... to which I have been elected ... or appointed as an Officer; ... that in the discharge ... of the duties of my office, ... I will ever bear in mind ... the purposes and principles ... upon which the ... Military Order of the Devil Dogs ... and \_\_\_\_\_ were founded; ... that I will ever subordinate myself ... to the best interest ... of the Order, ... and will never personally ... benefit at the expense ... of the Order or Pound ... in the slightest degree; ... that at the close of my term of office, ... will surrender my office ... to my duly ... elected or appointed ... and qualified successor, ... and to account for any and all property ... that may have been entrusted ... to my charge and keeping. ... All this, I solemnly swear, ... so help me God. Amen.

You may lower your paws. The Dog Trainer will now lead us in prayer.

**NOTE:** The Dog Trainer will open the Holy Bible, repeat the prayer and immediately close it.



**DOG TRAINER:** *(Advances to a position on the left side of the Installing officer, facing the Group and recites the "Installation of officers" prayer.)* Let us pray. Our Father, who art in Heaven, we come to Thee in prayer at this time, asking Thy divine blessing on the members of our Order, who have just been installed into office. Theirs is a position of Trust and Responsibility, which has, with confidence, been placed upon them by their fellow members. Grant that they will ever discharge the duties of their office to the best of their ability, and that they will ever keep in mind the purposes and principles of our Order, and be guided in their leadership by the Golden Rule, and the mandates of our order.

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** Police Dog, you will instruct all of the newly installed Officers, with the exception of the \_\_\_\_\_, to be seated. You will then escort the \_\_\_\_\_ to the podium. Sir, upon you is the most important responsibility, to see that the affairs of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs are carried out in such a manner as will fully comply with the Constitution and By Laws of the Order. I present you with this gavel, your emblem of authority; use it wisely and justly. By this symbol, and by virtue of the authority vested in me, I now declare and proclaim that the officers of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, are duly installed into office, and I congratulate each of you, and wish you a successful administration. To the membership, I especially wish to say you have exercised care and prudence in your selection of Officers to serve you for the coming year. It is your duty to work with them, as it is their duty to work with you; and by doing this, the Order will ever grow and prosper.

**NOTE:** The Installing Officer may, at this point, grant a five minute recess before the newly-installed Presiding Officer resumes the regular order of business.

## COMPARISON OF TITLES

### MODD

HONORABLE CHIEF DEVIL DOG  
 WORTHY PACK LEADER  
 SIR POUND KEEPER  
 THE KENNEL  
 THE PACK  
 THE POUND  
 A STRAY

### MCL

NATIONAL COMMANDANT  
 DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT  
 DETACHMENT COMMANDANT  
 THE LEAGUE (ENTIRE U.S.)  
 THE DEPARTMENT (STATE)  
 \* THE DETACHMENT (LOCAL)  
 MEMBER-AT-LARGE

\*A Pound is often comprised of Dogs who belong to several Detachments that are separated by great distances, or the Detachments represented are small (in quantity of membership).



## **JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

### **PACK LEADER/POUND KEEPER**

Shall preside at all Pack (Pound) Growls and Pack (Pound) Initiations. He shall require the obedience of all laws, rules and regulations. He may appoint other officers and committees that he deems necessary. He shall be the custodian along with the Dog Robber of all monies, property, securities, and records of the Pack (Pound). He shall countersign all orders for the disbursement of monies when approved by the proper authority. He shall perform such other duties and issue such other orders as are necessary.

### **SENIOR VICE PACK LEADER/SENIOR VICE POUND KEEPER**

Shall assist the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper); shall preside at the Pack (Pound) Growls in the absence of the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) and, at his request, shall be responsible to the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) for the growth and expansion of the Pack and Pounds (Pound); shall perform such other duties as the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) may direct. They will help the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) supervise all other Pack (Pound) officers in the performance of their duties.

### **JUNIOR VICE PACK LEADER/JUNIOR VICE POUND KEEPER**

Shall assist the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) and the Senior Vice Pack Leader (Pound Keeper); shall be responsible for all activities seeking to increase the revenue of the Pack (Pound), and for the supervision of the entertainment and amusement provided at all Pack (Pound) Growls, and perform such duties as the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) may direct. They will work closely with the Pack (Pound) Dog Robber, be responsible for and supervise all Devil Dog roasts, registrations desk, sales of Devil Dog supplies and raffles.

### **DOG ROBBER**

Shall be responsible to the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) for all records and accounts of the order. Shall see that someone keeps the minutes at all Pack (Pound) Growls; shall be the custodian along with the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) of all monies, properties, securities, and records of the Pack (Pound). They shall keep on deposit in a reputable bank all monies and securities of the Order; shall perform such duties customarily executed by recording secretaries, financial secretaries, and treasurers. They shall make full and correct accounting and reports, including financial statements to the Pack (Pound) Growls; shall perform all duties assigned to him by the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) or any other competent authority. He is also to work with the Junior Vice Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) in preparing Pack (Pound) roasts, the registration desk and sales and ordering the Devil Dog and Ship's Store gear and raffles.

### **SMART DOG**

Shall interpret and explain the Constitution and By Laws of the Pack (Pound) and any and all rules and regulations set up by the Kennel or Pack (or Pound), the Kennel or Pack Staff (or Pound Staff) or the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper). They will be responsible to the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) and the Senior Vice Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) and perform any other duties, as the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) desires.



### **MAD DOG**

Shall be responsible for all initiations at the GRAND GROWL (Pound Growls). They will supervise all PUPS attending Pack Growls (initiates attending Pound Growls) and will closely monitor their behavior. They will inform the Pack (Pound) Staff prior to initiations just what the initiation will entail. They will perform any other duties assigned to him/her by the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper).

### **DOG TRAINER**

Shall act as chaplain at all Pack (Pound) Growls, memorial services, and ceremonies. They shall hold services (memorial) at all GRAND GROWLS (Pound Growls). They shall keep the Pack (Pound) and Kennel informed of any deceased Dogs and shall send sympathy cards to the next of kin. The Dog Trainer will also keep the Pack (Pound) informed of any Dogs that are sick or in distress. He shall also perform any other duties designated by the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper).

### **POLICE DOG**

Shall maintain order and decorum in all Pack (Pound) Growls; shall expel from the Growl any Dog exceeding the bounds of decency, creating a disturbance or hindering the orderly conduct of the Growl; shall perform other duties as the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) may direct. They will be responsible for the setting up of the location where the Growl will be held, see that the Bible, Colors and charter are displayed correctly. The Watch Dog and the Barking Dog are to assist him in those duties.

### **WATCH DOG**

Shall guard the portals of the Pack(Pound) at all times, permitting no one to enter without authority. They shall be responsible to the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) for the worthiness and eligibility of every Dog at the Growl, and shall perform other duties as the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) may direct. They shall assist the Junior Vice Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) and Dog Robber at the registration desk, the sales of Devil Dog gear and raffles. They will assist the Police Dog in setting up the Growls.

### **BARKING DOG**

Shall supervise all publicity for the Pack (Pound). They will assist the Junior Vice Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) and Dog Robber in handling the registration desk, the sales of Devil Dog gear and raffles, and the Police Dog in setting up the Growl.

### **LIAISON OFFICER/LEAGUE**

Shall be responsible for the exchange of information that is of mutual benefit to the order and the League. They shall also perform any other duties assigned to him by the Pack Leader (Pound Keeper). They will assist the Junior Vice Pack Leader (Pound Keeper) and Dog Robber at all Growls.



# PRESENTATION OF POUND OR PACK CHARTER

(AT AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING)

**OPENING CEREMONY:** *The opening ceremony can be found on Page of this Ritual*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** *(Presiding Officer rises and inquires of the Organizing Officer)* Before presenting you with your Charter, I wish to make certain inquiries. Are you prepared to or have you already elected Officers:

**ORGANIZING OFFICER:** Yes Sir

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** *(When Installing a PACK say)* Will your PACK hold an Annual GRAND GROWL of the PACK in accordance with the KENNEL By Laws and such other GROWLS of the PACK as may be determined by you?

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** *(When installing a POUND say)* Will your POUND hold an Annual GROWL of the POUND and at least three other POUND GROWLS as called for in the KENNEL By Laws?

**ORGANIZING OFFICER:** Yes Sir

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** By the direction of and by the approval of our Honorable Chief Devil Dog I present to you this Charter and wish you every success in the continued growth of this Pound/Pack.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** I will now give you, your elected officers and members additional instructions. Each member who signed your charter application shall sign this Charter and then it should be framed. At all future growls this Charter, the National Colors and a Bible must be displayed. You must elect a Pound Keeper, Senior Vice Pound Keeper, Junior Vice Pound Keeper, Mad Dog, Police Dog, Dog Trainer and a Smart Dog. You should appoint a Watch Dog, Barking Dog and a Dog Robber; and such other officers as are necessary. Future elections must be held annually. The Pound/Pack officers and members should acquaint themselves with the Kennel by laws. *(At this time, all members present should be given the Oath of membership. If officers have already been elected or appointed, they may now be installed.)*

**CLOSING CEREMONY:** *The closing ceremony can be found on page 7 of this Ritual*



## THE UNIFORM

The official insignia of the Military order of the Devil Dogs, Inc., shall be the head of an English Bull Dog, wearing a trench helmet. The official uniform of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc., shall be as follows:

1. An embroidered official insignia may be worn on the right sleeve of the shirt with the top of the insignia one and one-half (1 ½) inches below the shoulder seam.
2. Shirts worn as part of the uniform shall be white. The Sunburst insignia will be worn on the collar. MCL ribbons or USMC ribbons may be worn, but not a mixture of both. Shirts bearing the embroidered official insignia and lettering of the Order on the back may also be worn.
3. The cap patch of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc. is to be sewn on the right-hand side of the Marine Corps League cap, centered over the piping, (gold piping on the Detachment member cover and the Department Officer cover, red piping on the National Officer cover); so that one-half (1/2) of the patch extends from either side of the piping. The eyes of the Bulldog on the Patch should be level to the “deck” and the Gold Trench Helmet will be canted to the left side of the Bulldogs head. The bottom line of the helmet touching the Bulldogs head on either side should be parallel to the piping on the cover. The Patch shall not touch the piping on the top of the cover or the bottom edge of the cover, nor shall it touch any lettering on the cover. No pins, stars, medals, or any other devices shall be worn on the cover without the official approval of the Kennel. Kennel officers may wear gold caps, but they must revert to the cap they are authorized after their term of office. Only Past Chief Devil Dogs may wear the Gold cap after their term of office and the dates of tenure must be sewn on the cap. (See the illustration at the end of the Ritual.)
4. The individuals name and Pound number may appear above the left pocket of the shirt and officer’s title may appear above the right breast pocket with the height of the letters not to exceed three-quarters of an inch (3/4). Letters must be all one color, gold, red, or black.
5. A GOLD Beret with gold tassel and red lettering shall be optional head gear for all PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS while in that Degree.
6. A RED Beret with a red tassel and blue lettering shall be optional head gear for all DEVIL DOGS while in that Degree.
7. A BLACK Beret with a black tassel and white lettering shall be optional headgear for all PUPS while in that Degree.
8. Attached to the Beret shall be a DEVIL DOG shoulder patch, the affixing of which will indicate the front of the Beret.
9. Lettering in colors indicated by Paragraphs “5”, “6”, and “7” of this section and appearing on the left side of the Beret shall indicate the office held and the dates of tenure and lettering on the right side of the Beret will indicate the Pound name and number.
10. Marine Corps Dress Blue w/red stripe or black trousers may be worn with the DEVIL DOG uniform.



11. The official identification disc of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc., shall be a metal one, which can be gold or silver-plated. The disc shall be one and one fourth (1 ¼) inches in diameter, on the face of which is the official insignia surrounded by the lettering of the official title of the order and below the insignia the words “Pound No.” allowing space for the number of the member’s Pound. on the top of the reverse side shall appear the words “Presented to” below which shall be a space for the name and state of the member, at the bottom the words “License No.” which space is for the member’s license number. (Examples are shown at the end of the Ritual.) The disc is to be perforated and suspended by a one (1) inch ribbon of approximately thirty-six (36) inches in length to permit the disc to be worn as a pendant about the neck in colors herein described:
  - (a) All active PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS shall wear a gold ribbon.
  - (b) All active DEVIL DOGS shall wear a red ribbon.
  - (c) All active PUPS shall wear a black ribbon.
  - (d) Gold disc shall be worn by all Past and Present Kennel Staff. The pound number, the name and dog tag number of the member should be engraved on the disc upon receipt. At the completion of service on Kennel staff or at the termination of office as Sr. Vice Chief Devil Dog the name of the highest office held and the fiscal year of tenure should be engraved on the second line on the reverse side of the disc.
  - (e) The Regular Identification Discs, having a silver or nickel plating, shall be worn by all Past Pack and Pound Officers and shall be similarly inscribed with the highest Pack office or Pound office held and the fiscal year(s) of tenure on the second line on the reverse side of the disc.
  - (f) The Regular Identification Discs, having a silver or nickel plating, shall be worn by all other members of the Order and shall be inscribed as delineated in the primary paragraph.
12. The metal disc, which had been given to all delegates registered at the National Convention of the Marine Corps League, Inc., in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1948, and one and one-half (1 1/2) inches in diameter, having on the face thereof the official insignia of the order, being seventeen sixteenth (17/16) inches in diameter and surrounded by the wording “I am a Devil Dog” “Marine Corps League” with the reverse side thereof being without design or lettering and mounted on a double metal loop with a “Leatherette” ribbon, five-eighths (5/8) inches wide, in several different colored “Leatherette” shall be permissive uniform. The difference in the colored ribbons in which the Milwaukee souvenir tag were issued shall be without significance in the determination of degree of membership held by the wearer when the color is not in keeping with the provisions of Section 703-A, 1, 2, and 3, Article VII of the By Laws.
13. A maximum of two emblems, plus the official Dog Tag Disc, may be worn, at any one time, on the Dog Collar. Emblems may include the American Flag, Marine Corps emblem, Marine Corps League, Inc., membership pin, Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc., membership pin, emblem showing highest office held in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Inc., and the Bulldog. All other emblems shall be subject to one fine for each unauthorized emblem.

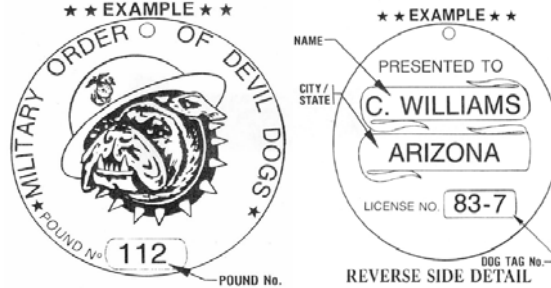


14. The incumbent Honorable Chief Devil Dog shall wear the Chief's Badge of Office, presented to the Kennel by Past Chief Devil Dog, Edwin F. Gallagher, on 27 August 1982, in Dearborn, Michigan. This Gold Medallion, with gold chain, shall be passed on to each succeeding Honorable Chief Devil Dog.
15. Only Past Chief DEVIL DOGS may wear the special gold, red and black Dog Collar, from which shall be suspended the miniature Chief's Badge of Office, 1 3/8 inches in diameter authorized at the 51<sup>st</sup> SUPREME GROWL in Sacramento, CA. All others are subject to disciplinary action.
16. The fiftieth anniversary medallion issued to all present and registered at the SUPREME GROWL in Dallas, Texas, in 1989, may be worn with, or in lieu of, the official identification disc (Dog Tag) of the Order. (See illustration at the end of the Ritual.)

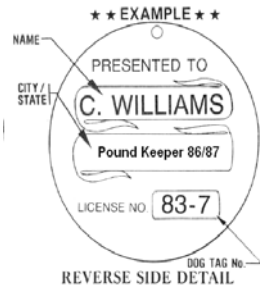


# HOW TO ENGRAVE YOUR DOG TAG

## Basic Dog Tag



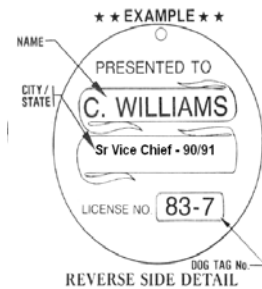
## Show Highest Pound Office Held



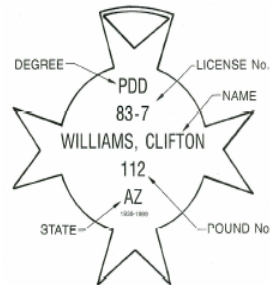
## Show Highest Pack Office Held



## Show Highest Kennel Office Held



## 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Dog Tag

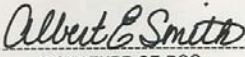


## HOW TO PLACE COVER PATCH



## HOW TO FILL IN YOUR PASSPORT INFORMATION

**IMPORTANT:** This passport must be signed by the bearer  
Unofficial changes are prohibited.

NAME <i>SMITH ALBERT E</i> <small>Last First Initial</small>		M.C.L. NO. <i>123456</i> M.C.L. P.L. NO. <i>12345</i> D.D.L.M. NO. <i>1234</i>
SEX (Check one) B <input type="checkbox"/> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIRTHPLACE <i>Boston, MA</i>	
BIRTHDATE <i>12 2 99</i> <small>Day / Month / Year</small>	ISSUE DOG TAG NO. <i>99-800</i>	
HOME POUND NAME <i>Mangy Mutts</i>	NAME NO. <i>999</i>	PACK OF <i>PA</i>
Present Devil Dog Office Kennel <i>Dep Police Dog</i> Year <i>05-06</i> Pack <i>Mad Dog</i> Year <i>05-06</i> Pound <i>Smart Dog</i> Year <i>05-06</i>	 SIGNATURE OF DOG	

**NAME** your legal name

**MCL No.** your number

**MCL PLM No.** your number

**DDLM No.** your number

**SEX:** B M

**BIRTHPLACE:** Place you became a Devil Dog.

**BIRTH DATE:** Date you became a Devil Dog.

**ISSUE DOG TAG No.** 00-000 (Issued by Kennel)

**HOME POUND NAME:** your pound name

**NO.** your pound number

**PACK OF:** your pack name

**Present Devil Dog Office** list those that apply

**SIGNATURE OF DOG:** yours



## THE MARINE'S HYMN

From the Halls of Montezuma,  
To the shores of Tripoli,  
We fight our country's battles  
In the air, on land and sea.  
First to fight for right and freedom  
And to keep our honor clean;  
We are proud to claim the title of  
UNITED STATES MARINE.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze  
From dawn to setting sun;  
We have fought in every clime and place  
Where we could take a gun;  
In the snow of far off northern lands  
And in sunny tropic scenes,  
You will find us always on the job —  
THE UNITED STATES MARINES.

Here's health to you and to our Corps  
Which we are proud to serve;  
In many a strife we've fought for life  
And never lost our nerve;  
If the Army and the Navy  
Ever look on heaven's scenes,  
They will find the streets are guarded by  
UNITED STATES MARINES

