Slay Marines,

I hope this message finds everyone in good health. I know it has been a few months since my last correspondence to the detachment. The world is a crazy place. In recent months, our country has faced many obstacles, and it seems our world is quite different. It is truly heart breaking to see our beloved country change overnight. Many businesses have shut their doors and thousands of people are unemployed. I can only hope that things will return back to normal. When that will be? Unfortunately, I do not have the answer to that question. However, our country has always fought its way through, and we will do it again.

With the pandemic and the restrictions that were set by our government, we couldn't even hold our monthly detachment meetings. However, we still kept in contact with one another never leaving a fallen Marine behind. That is what makes the Marine Corps unique. No matter what we face, we are right there for each other.

Over the last several weeks, I have run into so many Marines. Many are from the Iraq Freedom or Desert Storm era and many have never heard of the Marine Corps League. All seemed extremely interested and very enthused about our detachment. I hope they will come and see for themselves what a great detachment we have. I know they will feel right at home once they step foot in the door (or the yellow footprints.)

As many know, we have been conducting our last three detachment meetings at the American Legion in Goochland, VA, because our normal meeting location at Lakewood Manor was closed due to the pandemic. The American Legion was extremely nice and had all the necessities to hold our meetings. I want to personally thank Jim Ralls for putting this in place. Jim does so much for this detachment. Even though he is a solider, his heart is truly of a Marine. Again, thank you Jim for all your help.

In September, we will return to Lakewood Manor and things may be different than before. Please understand that Lakewood Manor is taking all the necessary precautions for their residents. We need to adhere to all the guidelines they have set it place. Their first priority is to the residents, and we are visitors. So be kind, patient and understanding and we will get through this together....AS MARINES!

Well Devil Dogs, that is all for now. Everyone be safe, be vigilant and as always Semper Fidelis.

Mark Moore, Commandant James M. Slay Detachment #329 Marine Corps League