

Incorporated by act of Congress

P.O. Box 3070  
Merrifield, VA 22116-3070  
www.mcleague.org  
E-mail: mcl@mcleague.org



(703) 207-9588  
(703) 207-9589  
(800) MCL-1775  
FAX: (703) 207-0047

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

National Headquarters

### MARINE IDENTITY CAUSE

#### POINT PAPER

For over two and a quarter centuries, the Navy and Marine Corps have been partners and shipmates in answering the call to defend our great nation against any foe. From the beaches of New Providence to Iwo Jima and now in Iraq and Afghanistan, the strategic partnership of the Navy and the Marine Corps has served our nation well and gives America a maritime capability that is unmatched by anyone in the world.

This campaign is not intended to diminish the strength of that partnership. It is also not intended to change defense budgets or roles and missions. This campaign is intended to bring formal recognition to this partnership by re-designating the name of the Department of the Navy and its key civilian leadership to The Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

As a matter of fact, this Department does provide the civilian leadership to two military services – the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps. This has been codified in law for more than six decades. Changing the name to reflect this reality does not diminish the respect and admiration Marines and Sailors share with each other. Rather it strengthens this relationship for all the world to see. It also demonstrates Sailors and Marines will continue to serve together to defend our great Nation against any foe.

When a Soldier is killed in combat, his family receives a letter from the Secretary of the Army. When a Sailor dies in conflict his family receives a letter from the Secretary of the Navy. When a Marine dies in conflict, his family receives a letter from the Secretary of the Navy (on Navy letterhead) and nowhere in that letter is there an acknowledgement of his/her service as a Marine. Ask yourself if it would not be more appropriate and meaningful to that family if that letter were from the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps and acknowledged the loss of their Marine. Has not the time come for the Marine Corps to receive the recognition it has earned in war and in peace, to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Navy brothers in arms as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps?

Marine Corps Identity Cause is a grassroots effort founded in 2009 to focus the Nation's attention on this issue. Sponsored by the [Marine Corps League](http://www.mcleague.org), this effort has one simple—but important—goal: To change the name of the Department of the Navy to the "Department of the Navy and Marine Corps."

*“Once a Marine, Always a Marine”*

Address Packages and Express Mail to: 8626 Lee Highway - Suite 201 - Fairfax, VA. 22031

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Two bills are in Congress that would do just that:

- H.R. 24, introduced by North Carolina Rep. Walter Jones, would change the name and re-designate the Secretary of the Navy to the "Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps." The bill has so far received more than 378 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives.
- S.504, introduced by Kansas Senator and Marine veteran Pat Roberts, is an identical bill intended to fast-track the change in the Senate.
- Every year since 2001, Rep. Jones has introduced legislation that would give the Marine Corps the equal recognition it deserves. The Bill will likely come to the floor of the House for a vote in early April. It is expected to pass with little trouble.
- But the Senate is a different story.  
It is clear that most Senators are unaware of the bill and the importance of it to Marines, Marine parents and friends of Marines across the Nation. This grass-roots effort has been put in place to urge EVERYONE to call their Senators, either in their District offices or their Washington offices.
- The message is simple:
- Please tell Senator ----that I support the bill that would re-designate the Department of the Navy to be the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps and I want him to vote for it.

It is really that simple. If they don't hear from their constituents, they will never understand the importance of this issue.

For more information, please go to our website: <http://www.MarineCause.com>

***THIS IS NOT A POLITICALLY PARTISAN ISSUE - IT IS AN AMERICAN ISSUE – DO NOT LET POLITICS ENTER INTO THE DECISION TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT!***

***"Once a Marine, Always a Marine"***

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