Robert Ziltz marine1975@comcast.net

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Members of the Marine Corps League,

Today I am announcing that I will be a candidate for the office of National Judge Advocate at the National Convention in Palm Springs this coming August.

My announcement is a direct result of the decision by the National Commandant not to seek a second term in office. One obvious impact of that decision was to change the landscape in the upcoming election as the current National Officers shifted from reelection to running for the next office, leaving the office of National Judge Advocate open and without candidates. This letter is intended to fill that void.

Many of you may recall the contested election for National Judge Advocate that was held last summer at the National Convention in Oklahoma City. As one of the candidates in that election, I can appreciate the sheer volume of information that was provided then and likely will be provided again for this election. It can be overwhelming. For those who I met last summer, I can assure you that my qualifications are as strong or stronger now than they were last summer, and I have included an updated Bio with this letter. I will be providing more thoughts in the near future and as we get closer to the election. My pledge to all members today is this: If elected, I will work full time as your National Judge Advocate, I will listen first, then act, I will approach the job with an open mind and I will not hesitate to ask questions. And I will always put the interests of the Marine Corps League ahead of my own.

I was as surprised as anyone in the Marine Corps League with Commandant Griffin's decision. I too, cannot imagine the strain of working full time as Commandant, while one's heart and mind are elsewhere and wrapped up in concern for one's spouse. As human beings, care of our own families should always come first. As Marines, taking care of our own is always our top priority. And as members of the League, we should always make sure we are sensitive and offer support when needed. We should all keep Commandant Griffin and his wife Cheryl in our thoughts and prayers.

Making the decision to run was difficult. For me, it is the best way that I know to help the League move forward. I humbly ask for your support in the upcoming election.

Semper Fidelis,

Robert Ziltz Candidate for National Judge Advocate 2024 BIO

Robert Ziltz currently serves the Marine Corps League at the National, Divisional and Department levels and has done so since joining the League in 2003. Current positions include Chairman of the National Budget and Finance Committee, Assistant National Vice Commandant for the Northeast Division and President of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania Foundation, a 501c(3) charity that provides humanitarian assistance to Marines, FMF Navy Personnel and their families. Outside of the Marine Corps League, Ziltz serves as a Director for a 501c(3) charity dedicated to supporting the local Marine Reserve unit and the Marine students at the US Army War College.



Robert Ziltz, PDC, served for 10 years at the Department level including 3-years as Commandant and 5-years as Paymaster for the Department of Pennsylvania. Ziltz has been active in several Detachments holding the offices of Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, Paymaster, Chaplain and fundraising chairman. Ziltz is a member of Washington County and Keystone Headquarters Detachments, both located in Pennsylvania.

Robert Ziltz, PE, retired in 2018 after a 38-year career in engineering and applied science that spanned two distinctly different industries. The first half of Ziltz's career focused on development of product technology for the emerging fiber optic communication industry. During this period, Ziltz learned to adapt quickly as he established and led organizations in new locations and countries. Starting in 2001, Ziltz career went in a different direction. Soon after 9-11, many companies struggled and Ziltz became unemployed. To support his family, Ziltz worked as a consulting engineer (he held a PE license since 1993) and in this field everything was different; larger projects, smaller staffs, clients not customers, and "products" were designs and approvals. Improvise and adapt isn't just a slogan to Robert Ziltz. It's a part of life.

Ziltz demonstrated an ability throughout his career to develop organizations, mentor people and adapt to change. The hallmark of Ziltz's career is applied leadership and he was often recognized as the "go-to" leader when organizations experienced changes.

Marine Ziltz enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1975 while attending college. He served in the infantry (Bravo Co. 1st Bn 25th Marines) and was honorably discharged in 1981.

Robert Ziltz completed a BA degree (Physics) in 1978 and an MS degree (Physics) in 1980 and is a registered Professional Engineer (PE) in Mechanical Engineering since 1993.

Contact me at: <u>marine1975@comcast.net</u> Once a Marine, always a Marine. It is who we are. Semper Fidelis.