

Board of Trustees, PNC's and Department Commandants –

During a meeting of the National Board of Trustees at the Midwinter Conference -

There was an open discussion with regards to the decision by Congress authorizing Military Veterans to render a “hand salute” when not in uniform, and the ALMAR from CMC which seemed to indicate a different interpretation. There have been many questions from Marine Corps League members across the country, asking for direction.

The Board of Trustees issued this direction: “The basic Marine Corps League uniform item is the Marine Corps League cover (fore-and-aft cap or p-cutter as it is referred to). When a member of the Marine Corps League is outdoors and wearing his/her MCL Cover, they are considered to be in uniform and should render a hand salute as appropriate honors to the American Flag. When indoors at a League function (other than a Banquet, Dinner, etc.) it is appropriate to wear the MCL Cover. In that situation, it would also be appropriate to render a “hand salute” when the American Flag passes by (Colors are Presented). If you are uncovered indoors, “hand over the heart” is the appropriate action.

The decision as to whether to render a “hand salute” or “hand over the heart” when NOT in authorized Marine Corps League uniform (Marine Corps League Cover) is a matter of personal preference. In other words, whether you are wearing “no cover”, a baseball cap, etc., if the MCL uniform IS NOT involved, the decision is a “matter of individual personal preference”.

This subject will be covered in the upcoming “Semper Fi”, however because there have been so many questions regarding this issue, we are disseminating it now to ensure that all of us are on the same page when the question arises.

Semper Fidelis –

Mike

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