



# DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

---

*John Cleary*

*Sr. Vice Commandant*

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Murray J. Sklar” Role Model Award

In June, 2018, the Department of New Jersey has begun sponsoring the **Murray J. Sklar Role Model Award**, which will be presented at the Department’s annual 2020 convention banquet. Although the recipient need not be present at the convention, this is a prestigious honor that merits the presence of those well deserving recipients therefore attendance is highly encouraged.

Nominations can be submitted by anyone and the award will be available to anyone (includes regular members, associate members and civilians alike) who meet the necessary criterion set forth in the Qualifications portion of this letter.

#### **A Brief Biography of Murray J. Sklar.**

Murray J. Sklar was born on June 11, 1924. He was one of three siblings growing up in Newark, NJ. Murray graduated from Weequahic High School, Newark, in 1943 and soon after enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during World II and valiantly participated in the campaigns of Saipan and Okinawa.

Murray later attended Newark College of Engineering (Presently NJIT) where he earned his Master Degree in Engineering. Murray was married to Harriet Sklar for 68 years and had a son, daughter and grandson whom he held in high regard.

Murray was a man of faith and a long standing member of Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston. He served as Temple President and as President of the Temple’s Men's Club. Murray joined the West Hudson Detachment #209, Marine Corps League in 1987 and a Life Member in 1990. During his tenure, he served as detachment Commandant in 1990-1991 and continued to serve as a Staff member. Murray also served as state Chaplain for the Dept of NJ, Marine Corps League for 14 years and was awarded the honorary position of Past State Commandant for the Department and he was awarded Marine of the Year for both the West Hudson Detachment and Department of NJ in 2015.

He was also a member of the Jewish War Veterans Post 740 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2856 and was responsible for starting the annual Veterans’ Day Appreciation Ceremony at Temple Beth Shalom each November beginning in 1986.

## **Purpose.**

Anyone who has ever had any affiliation Murray could attest to Murray's character. He always greeted his fellow Leaguers with a friendly smile and emanated a warm, positive aura that was highly contagious. Nobody was immune to Murray's optimism and genuine belief that anything is possible if you put your heart and mind into your endeavor.

Murray was a wise and trusted counselor who was willing to dedicate his time and efforts for the benefit of others. He had a genuine love for the U.S. Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League and his fellow Marines. He demonstrated exceptional leadership through conviction, confidence, courage, patience, pride and self-discipline. Murray portrayed friendliness, fairness, respect and responsibility for oneself and treated others with the same compassion. Simply put, Murray was a man of extraordinary character; a man of joy, understanding, compassion and intelligence, all of which he was willing and wanting to share with others so they too could become mentors for others.

Although Murray was the epitome of the Role Model, there are others amongst us who possess the same qualities as Murray and have the same impact upon others as he did. The Department wishes to acknowledge such people – both their accomplishments and their persona, as a means for recognizing just how important role models are to each of us.

## **Qualifications.**

As stated, the ideal candidate will be one who exemplifies his or her self as a role model to others. This award **IS NOT** intended to be an achievement award, but rather, it was designed to recognize that person who selflessly puts him or herself before others. A person who is personable towards others, warm and friendly and capable of putting strangers at ease upon first meeting them. A person who is curious and has a genuine desire to learn more about others. A person who is both a confidant and problem-solver. A person having devotion to his or her faith, family and country. A person having a sense of responsibility and optimism that any challenge can be overcome with strength, support, love and passion. A person who sets the example for others to follow and does so in such a way that others want to follow. These were the attributes of Murray Sklar, and serve as qualifications of a role model.

## **Nominations.**

Nominations will be open from January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year and must be submitted in narrative form to the Committee Chairman via U.S. Regular Mail. Nominations need to be written in detail and supporting documentation such as letters of reference and media articles can be included with the nomination letter in order to emphasize a nominee's qualifications. Nominations are now due no later than **Friday, June 4, 2021**, and the award will be announced on June 26, 2021 at the Department's Convention Banquet.

---

Department of New Jersey - "Murray J. Sklar" Role Model Award

---

Please mail all nominations to:

**John Cleary, P.C.  
SVC – Dept of NJ  
122 Becker Avenue  
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662-4326**

If you have any questions you can call me at (201) 401-3079 or via email [Colonel.whd209@gmail.com](mailto:Colonel.whd209@gmail.com).

Thank you and Semper Fidelis,



John Cleary  
Sr. Vice Commandant  
Dept of NJ - MCL