



# SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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## NOVEMBER 2024

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### Marines & Auxiliary Members:

#### NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be November 7 at 7:30 our usual meeting time. Join us at the American Legion Post 351, (46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica,) or now via Zoom! The telephone number to the Post is (586) 731-9833.

Join the Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/71304963710?pwd=5xmb1Ch8k13NRXdz9aUbjuc7P5xg0Y.1>

Meeting ID: 713 0496 3710  
Passcode: 034987

#### DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER



David Cunningham  
Dean Miles  
Norm Pfaff  
United States  
Marine Corps

Patricia Horton  
Vince Peeper  
Michael Suhy  
Dale Verhaeghe  
Joseph Wauldron

#### COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

I want to congratulate all the officers that chose to serve for this upcoming year.

We will be having our Birthday Celebration on November 10th at 3pm until 8pm. A \$10.00 donation is being requested at the door. The following day we will be having our Veterans Day ceremony at 11am at the Clinton Grove cemetery. Black pants and red shirt. Please be there around 10:30. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Steve August, Commandant



Ray Rayl Commandant of the MCL Department of Michigan and Detachment Commandant Steve August

#### SR VICE REPORT

I would like to thank all of my fellow Marines in our Detachment for your vote of confidence at our October installation of officers. I am proud to serve as your Senior Vice Commandant and ask for a little patience as I grow into this elected position.

So a little of my background for those interested. Enlisted active-duty Sept 1984. Barracks duty Guam (15 months). Camp Hanson, Okinawa Japan (6 months). Norway/Denmark/Sweden – Extreme Cold Weather Training (3 months). I served in 3rd Battalion, 8th Mar Div, FMF Camp Lejeune. I successfully completed Scout Sniper School in January - March 1987 and worked hard

to earn the much coveted Honor Graduate distinction (Oorah!). I was Honorably Discharged in Sept 1988.

In July 2021, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. While on Long-Term Disability with my employer, I am active with Michigan Parkinson Foundation (MPF) as a board member, a mentor for those newly diagnosed, and Lead Facilitator for "Veterans With Parkinson's Support Group" which I launched in January 2024. I also fundraise for MPF, and have been very successful. Please check out our MPF "Hope on the Field Gala" on November 8 at Ford Field. I am honored to be the Keynote Speaker and would love to see you there. Click on the link: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/6xzbei/event/2024gala/> for more detail.

The VA classifies me as a 100% service-connected disabled veteran (contaminated water at Camp Lejeune) due to Parkinson's. However, I exercise fiercely every day and lead a very active lifestyle. Parkinson's has met its match with this Marine, and I am giving it hell!!



I may be reaching out to a few of you Marines for some sage feedback on several 2025 events that will likely be family focused, fundraising, or both. This will be a key part of my responsibilities as Sr Vice going forward. Semper Fi!

*Nate Jolliff, Sr Vice*



Here's Nate on WDIV-TV Local 4 news, Sunday morning October 27, along with Kristin Rossi (CEO of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation.) They were promoting the event "Hope on the Field" gala to be held at Ford Field on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **JR VICE REPORT**

Moving forward as your newly elected Jr. Vice Commandant. I plan on continuing with the good work that Justin Kane so diligently pursued during his tenure in the position. At times, it's difficult to maneuver the many obstacles we face here in the Detachment, but we always stay on track and succeed. I look forward to working with everyone and contributing where I can to have a great year for us. Remember: "We are always looking for a few good Marines, Spouses, and Associates to join our Family." Semper Fi!!

*John Myroniuk, Jr Vice*

### **HONOR GUARD**



Once again, I am looking to expand the Honor Guard to provide a 4 Marine Color Guard, 3 to 7 Marine Rifle detail and numerous alternates to support both. If interested, contact me, Frank Petricevich, [fpetricevich@gmail.com](mailto:fpetricevich@gmail.com) or (586) 531 5726

### **2024 Upcoming Events:**

Nov 1, 2024 – Veterans Day event, Chesterfield Twp Office, 1st Bn 24th Marines Memorial wall. 0900 hrs, 4 man color guard

November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day event, Clinton Grove Cemetery. 1000 hrs, 4 man color guard



*Vendor show, GM Packard Proving Grounds  
L-R William Barron, Frank Petricevich, Donald Lyon, Bruce Hartung*

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Congratulations to our new Auxiliary Officers. October's Installation gets us off to a new year with goals and challenges ahead of us. Department of Michigan President Kathy Rayl was our Installing Officer this year. We sincerely thank Kathy for doing this important job for us. Thank you to Christine Tonegatto-Salo for acting as our Sargeant-of-Arms. Our officers for the 2024-2025 year are:

President: Alice Lyon  
Sr. VP: Loretta Balderson  
Jr. VP: Maureen Ailor  
Judge Advocate: Nancy Haase  
Treas/Sec.: Irene Spooner  
Chaplain: Nancy Haase

Thank you to our new officers for stepping up to the plate for the coming year. Good luck to them and to the Auxiliary in meeting all their goals for the upcoming year.



I'm happy to say we were able to get together this past month and audit the Auxiliary records. Officers A. Lyon, M. Ailor, L. Balderson and I. Spooner met at the Savory Diner, had a delightful breakfast and got down to business afterwards reviewing the financial records for the last year. All went well and I'm glad to say it's done. We were pretty busy over the last month having two fundraisers.



*Auxiliary officers along with Kathy Rayl, President of the Dept. of Michigan MCLA*

On Saturday, Sept. 28, we held a Marine Rose Day event at the Richmond Tractor Supply. The store manager, Frank Cesena was so helpful and gracious allowing to set up our table in front of his store. We presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation which

he will proudly display in his store. Also, we had fundraiser at Buddy's Pizza on Wed., Oct. 16th. Thank you to all Auxiliary and Detachment members who attended. The food was great, the atmosphere was fun and the company was superb.



*Jr.  
VP Maureen and President Alice Lyon presenting store manager Frank Cesna with Certificate of Appreciation*



*Members and friends at Buddy's fundraiser.*

*L to R Dave Trevino, Mark Spooner, Frank Beeckman, John Myroniuk, Don Lyon, Robbie Balderson, Loretta Balderson, Alice Lyon, Linda Beeckman, Irene Spooner & Marie Leonetti*





*Titus family at Buddy's fundraiser October 16*

Each year there are a number of days that are designated as "Days of Service" that honor our patriots and remember extraordinary events in our Nation's history. Recently, Jr. VP, Maureen Ailor organized a Day of Service event that was truly remarkable. Maureen with her grandsons Nolan Maday, Nathaniel and Nicolas Mailoux, friends Maggie Reichling and Kim Davis, spent an afternoon cleaning veteran headstones at Clinton Grove Cemetery. It was a laborious task, but they were able to clean 78 headstones. What a great way to honor our veterans. Thank you Maureen and your dedicated crew.



*Jr. VP Maureen Ailor with friends and family for Day of Service at Clinton Grove Cemetery*

Our annual Marine Corps Birthday party celebrating the 249th anniversary of the establishment of the Corps is coming up fast. Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 10, 2024. The Marine Corps was formed on November 10, 1775 by the Second Continental Congress, with the first Marines enlisting under Commandant Samuel Nicholas. But it was not until 1921 that the Corps began celebrating that historic day officially as its birthday. It's a great tradition, so support the Corps and your Auxiliary and Detachment by attending. Since it's open to the public, bring your

family and friends to help celebrate. We'll have the posting of colors, the cake cutting ceremony and the reading of Commandant John A. Lejeune's message, Order No. 47 (1921) establishing the Birthday.

As always, the dinner is as follows: the Detachment provides the main course and members bring side dishes and desserts. We will serve SOS which is another time-honored tradition. Additionally, we continue to collect donations for the Auxiliary's Charity raffle. Bring your items to the November meeting. We collect liquor, wine, Marine and patriotic items, small kitchen and workbench tools, non-perishable food items, gift cards and we'll accept cash as well. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year with all of our funds going to local and Michigan veteran charities. If you have any questions, see Treasurer Irene Spooner at the next meeting.

On a sad note, we were notified recently that Life Member Jackie Dennis passed away a couple of months ago. Our most sincere condolences to her family.

*Irene Spooner, Treasurer, Macomb County Unit*



*Marines cut the cake, Korea*



*Marines cut the cake 1969*

## THE STORY OF VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military – living and dead – whether in wartime or peace. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who serve have sacrificed and done their duty.

Veterans Day was first known as Armistice Day as a celebration of the resolution of World War I, a peace recognized historically on the date and time of that event, November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m., and salutes surviving service members as well as those who have passed away since their service. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day and called upon Americans everywhere to re-dedicate themselves to the cause of peace.

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11:00 a.m. E.T., a color guard made up of members from each branch of the military renders honors to America's deceased Veterans during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds "Taps."

On October 7, 2016, President Obama signed the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act. The law requires that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe a two-minute nationwide moment of silence on Veterans Day at our time 2:11 p.m. (Eastern standard time.)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For 249 years, Marines have served as our Nation's sentinels of freedom. As we celebrate our Corps' birthday this year, I encourage all Marines to reflect on our legacy forged in blood on battlefields since 1775, and to rededicate ourselves to carrying that legacy untarnished into the future. Collectively, we who wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor have an obligation to uphold the ideals of self-discipline, warfighting proficiency, professionalism, and personal conduct that define what it means to be a Marine. I know you are all up to the task.

Twenty years ago this month, Marines fought and won the Second Battle of Fallujah, a brutal, grinding house to house fight, whose victory ultimately paved the way for the stabilization of the Republic of Iraq. Often in Iraq there were no true front lines, and by necessity,

Fallujah was a battle in which every Marine fought, demonstrating once again our cornerstone philosophy that Every Marine is a Rifleman.

Our history bears witness to Marines of all stripes picking up their rifles and fighting for Corps and Country when the call came. From Wake Island to the Chosin Reservoir to Khe Sanh to Camp Bastion, every Marine fought. Our future battles will be no different. Our rear areas will be as vulnerable as our front lines and every Marine from our infantry battalions to our aviation squadrons to our headquarters and support elements will have to stand-to when called.

Preparing for the threats of the future requires the same exceptional standards and ironclad discipline that are the hallmarks of our Corps. Twenty years ago in Fallujah, our predecessors staunchly adhered to these virtues, earned our Nation's trust, and ensured the U.S. Marine Corps would remain the most feared fighting force in the world. It is our sworn duty to uphold those standards and stay true to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Though technology and equipment change, the Marine Corps' culture of excellence must not. The road ahead is far from certain, but our ethos will never change — *Every Marine a Rifleman and Everyone Fights.*

As I've said before, it is the honor of my lifetime to be a Marine and serve as your Commandant. I'm proud to stand alongside each of you, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for our Corps. When I travel to visit Marines here at home and deployed around the globe, I find absolute confidence that this generation of Marines has what it takes to uphold our Corps' legacy and prevail in any conflict we face. Happy Birthday, Marines!

*Commandant of the Marine Corps,  
General Eric M. Smith*



[https://www.marineband.marines.mil/Portals/175/Docs/Audio/Ceremonial/the\\_marines\\_hymn.mp3](https://www.marineband.marines.mil/Portals/175/Docs/Audio/Ceremonial/the_marines_hymn.mp3)

**MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT**  
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 Marine Corps League  
 INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS  
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Published monthly for members of the Macomb County Detachment and Auxiliary. SKUTTLEBUTT Newsletter is a non-profit monthly publication for the use of the Macomb County Detachment/Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League. Article deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

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