

Commandant's Message

November 26, 2019

Thanksgiving is just two short days away, and I know everyone is getting ready for the festivities. I am sure many will be traveling out of town to visit family. I pray that the Lord will guide you and keep everyone safe. Thanksgiving is an extremely busy day, but I hope it is filled with laughter, joy and a full belly.

While you are enjoying the day with your families, I want each of you to remember two great Marines that we lost in the past few weeks. As many know, we lost Dr. Bruce Heilman and Sergeant Major Cecil McNair. Please keep their families in your prayers. This will be the first holiday that their families will be looking at an empty chair. I know when I lost my father, I felt an emptiness inside me when I looked across the table and he was not there. So please keep them in your thoughts. Bruce and Cecil may not be here on earth but they are enjoying Thanksgiving with the Lord.

We all know that death is a part of life but we never know when it will come. The Bible says, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. The good news is that Bruce and Cecil are with the Lord and his angels. We will all see them again, but until then we will keep them in our hearts and the memories that each of us share. They will never be forgotten!

I want to thank the Honor Guard and every Marine that took part in their funerals to ensure military honors was rendered. I see requests for the Honor Guard at least three to four times a week. I want to take this time to say thank you to the Honor Guard Commander, Spike Williamson and his team of Marines for an outstanding job. Their devotion to duty, countless hours of travel, ceremonial drill, and the weather ensures that each veteran is given the proper military funeral. Recognizing the number of requests, the Honor Guard is receiving, I know they could use the help. If you are interested in joining the Honor Guard, please see Spike.

Next month on December 7th is our 1st Annual Toys for Tots Christmas Gala. I am absolutely amazed of the outpouring support for this event. The Fundraising Committee led by Jim Ralls, our Detachment Paymaster Fred Marotta, Past Commandant Jim Barrett, and others having done a tremendous job coordinating this event. We have over 100 Marines, families, and friends coming. Honestly, I did not think we would get this many to attend. Each of you should have received an email from me about the Christmas dinner with the time, location and agenda. If you have not please let me know so I can forward that information to you. There will be additional information in the next few days so keep an eye out. Thank you, Marines, for supporting this event. We are going to have a great night with food and entertainment. Next year there are plans to coordinate the Toys for Tots event with our very own Marine Corps Ball. I am sure the number in attendance will double next year.

Well that is all for now I would like to wish everyone and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and I will see everyone at our Christmas Gala in December. Until then....

Semper Fidelis,

Mark Moore
Commandant, James M. Slay Detachment
Marine Corps League