



# SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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**MAY 2024**

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## Marines & Auxiliary Members:

### MAY MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **May 2nd at the usual meeting time of 7:30 pm**. Join us at the American Legion, Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica, always on the first Thursday of the month. The telephone number to the Post is (586) 731-9833.

### DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY



<b>Bill Ackerman</b>	<b>Ronald Parks</b>
<b>Kevin Brewer</b>	<b>Greg Pawlik</b>
<b>Gayle Brown</b>	<b>John Polanco</b>
<b>Linda Huckle</b>	<b>James Szczesny</b>
<b>Floyd "Scott" Metcalf</b>	<b>Dave Trevino</b>
<b>Jerome Nadolski</b>	<b>Robert Westfall</b>

### NEW MEMBER REPORTING IN



At the March General Membership Meeting, new member Marine Gary Micu was sworn in to the Detachment:

1976 - 1999

USMC Reserve Air Wing Selfridge  
BOOT CAMP - Parris Island  
MOS 0151 - Admin  
MOS 0491 - Combat service support

### DEPLOYMENTS

Cherry Point  
El Toro  
29 Palms  
Norway & Iceland



### COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

I had the privilege of meeting the National Commandant at the division conference. I also learned there is a MCL app for your phone, so you can know about the latest and greatest. You just need to know your profile ID. Please get with Don or I if you do not know yours. If you got a ticket for the vehicle raffle it is now just a drawing for around \$19,000, as only 3,000 were sold. It was nice to see the participation in the fun shoot at DSC. We had around 13 people shoot. Thanks to those also that showed up to the Great Shots Backyard in Clinton Township to have some family fun time. We are having a Memorial Day Ceremony at Clinton Grove at 11 am please join us if able to.

**History of Memorial Day** Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal

employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

### Memorial Day Traditions and Rituals

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day>

Steve August, Commandant

### JUNIOR VICE'S CORNER

Memorial Day draws near, which I have long regarded as a most sacred holiday for every U.S. veteran; we diligently spearhead the duties of keeping alive the memories of our dearly departed brothers and sisters-in-arms. We remember foremost those who died in combat during a war or global conflict, then also those who finished their years of service faithfully before living out their remaining years as civilians before passing away. Additionally, let us not forget those who died of agonizing, unseen wounds that cause premature death from suicide or addiction problems. These are the veterans with severe mental health cases that gave up hope and saw no other way out.

Most of you are no doubt familiar with the concept of 22 per day, which was the number of veterans committing suicide for which there are multiple movements and charities to combat the trend. To be accurate, this number is currently down to about 17 per day according to the VA, but is sadly still too high to believe the issue is resolved, and after 20 years of war in the Middle East this is not likely to go away anytime soon. There is much more work to be done.

I believe VSO's should be the vanguard in this effort as we are the best people to help those in serious need. Who can better listen to and relate to the stories needing to be told? Who can better help give direction on finding the proper treatments and navigating the VA? Fellow veterans are the optimal option for helping our

wounded warriors as we are the ones who know firsthand what is needed and how to get it.

In our quest to find fellow Marines who will bolster our ranks and help carry on the traditions of the Marine Corps League, let us focus not only on what the newer generation wants but first and foremost on what they need. Getting them help should aid in our recruiting efforts due to a sense of gratitude, but, at the very least, should reduce the number of monthly suicides and other untimely veteran deaths.

2023 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report.  
Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.mil

### AUXILIARY NEWS

Important: **There will be no Auxiliary meeting in May** due to a majority of our members being unable to attend.

VA Women's Vet Baby Shower Update: The baby shower is on May 17th. We will deliver our baby items to the VA the week of May 6th. If you are interested in donating either baby items or cash, please contact Irene Spooner at 586-466-5708 before May 6th.

We received more thank you notes from the charities we designated at our Christmas party. These include the Veterans Home in Chesterfield Township and Fisher House. We may not be mega donors, but our contributions are appreciated and acknowledged. It's a good thing our Auxiliary does year after year. Let's keep up the good work!

On a personal note, as we (meaning me, my husband Detachment member Mark Spooner, Detachment member Dave Trevino and his friend Marie) were driving through Michigan on our way to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Reunion, we stopped at a Michigan Rest Stop. What did we see but a Certificate of Appreciation awarded to MDOT from the Marine Corps League for "Publicly and Proudly Displaying the United States Flag". The certificate was signed by Detachment members Norm Pfaff and Scott Neff. This isn't the first one we come across as we drive around our beautiful state. It's always a surprise and a pleasure to see one of these certificates and it always makes me proud to see our flag flying high.



Memorial Day is at the end of May. We'll be sure to get the information out before then about what the Auxiliary will be doing at the upcoming ceremony at the Clinton Grove Cemetery.

Sick and in Distress: Please keep Nancy Haase, Loretta Balderson, Maureen Ailor, Joan Pfaff and Shirley Cichoski in your thoughts and prayers. That's it for now, short and sweet this month. Remember, no May meeting for the Auxiliary. Semper Fi,

*Irene Spooner, Treasurer/Secretary, Macomb County MCLA*

**HONOR GUARD**



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

**2024 Honor Guard Members:**

William Barron, Frank Petricevich, Norm Pfaff, Victor Racosky  
 Alternate's: Donald Lyon, Bruce Hartung, Lisa Fountain



Composition of the Color Guard, "c. A Joint Armed Forces Color Guard will consist of eight members; three Army, two Marine, one Navy, one Air Force, and one Coast Guard. The national color bearer and commander of a joint [full] color guard will be a Soldier. The respective service colors are aligned to the left of the national colors."

Order of Precedence of Flags. "2.11.7.20. In Joint Service Color Teams, the Army carries the United States Flag and commands the color team as the senior Service. The rifle guard nearest the United States Flag is Army and the rifle guard farthest from the United States Flag will be a Marine."

Source: <https://thedrillmaster.org/2022/05/17/the-why-of-the-color-guard-military-joint-service-order/#:~:text=A%20Joint%20Armed%20Forces%20Color,left%20of%20the%20national%20colors.%E2%80%9D&text=2.11.>

**2024 Upcoming Events:**

**May 27, 2024** Clinton Grove Cemetery, Utica Remembrance, TBD

**June 6, 2024** D-Day remembrance, GM Packard Proving Ground, 0900, Short Sleeve Shirt

The Corps needs you to help support these worthwhile events. Sign Up Today!

**FUN SHOOT RESULTS**

Name	Score
Matt Kondurak	189
Eric Gisec	183
Ron Hudas	181
Seth Baird	181
Ryan Kolean	178
Gary Titus Jr	174
Don Lyon	174
Rick Kincaid	172
Robert Balderson	160
Krysta Kincaid	159
Patrick Kincaid	156
Dennis Mikitchook	
Joe Politowicz	
Theo Politowicz	

**MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT**  
 Department of Michigan  
 Marine Corps League  
 INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS  
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 14656 Eastport Drive  
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Junior Vice Commandant	Justin Kane	(248) 750-7046	Junior Vice President	Maureen Ailor	(810) 310-6081
Judge Advocate	Christine Tonegatto-Salo	(586) 801-0081	Judge Advocate	Joan Pfaff	(586) 263-3448
Adjutant/Paymaster	Don Lyon	(586) 532-8225	Chaplain	Nancy Haase	(586) 992-9961
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**Change of Address:** Send to the Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster at:

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 Sterling Heights, MI 48313  
 Or email to [Macomb.marines@gmail.com](mailto:Macomb.marines@gmail.com)

*New Address (please print):*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_