



# SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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**JANUARY 2021**

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Wreaths Across America, Clinton Grove cemetery

## JANUARY MEETING NOTICE

Due to the restrictions in place regarding COVID-19, the January meeting will not be held.

## DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY



Preston Hawkyard  
Anthony Jablonowski  
Garry Music  
John Szajna

## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

There comes a time in everyone's life when you think what has happened to you. And you would like to help those who want to take advice or just move

on. This is not aimed at anyone in particular, only my own reflections.

Around the age of 65 I dropped a pencil on the floor and found it, and couldn't pick it up! My back or legs just wouldn't work enough to let me bend over to pick it up. At the same time, we (my brother and our wives) went on a Caribbean cruise. The cruise ships are fantastic and we ended up in the fitness center. I realized then it was time to change. Now that I'm pushing 80 years old and still feel pretty good, maybe I can tell others what I did.

AARP and the Mayo Clinic say that as you age, three things become very important. Diet, exercise and socializing. Forty pushups, forty sit-ups, or maybe riding a bike for 15 miles at a pretty good clip, not a big deal. But it all has to start someplace. Time is NOW.

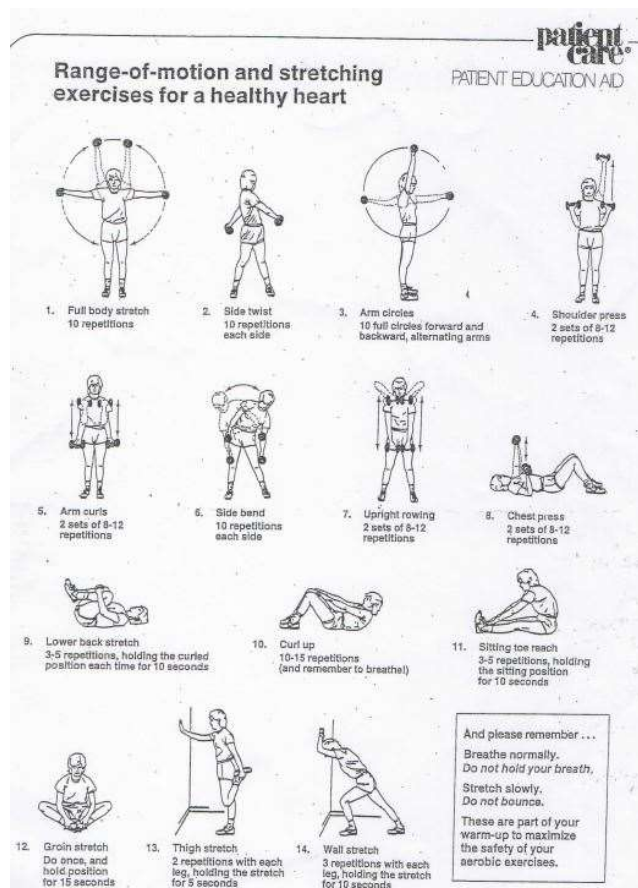
I'm including a startup sheet that shows a series of stretches and exercises. (see p. 4) Don't go crazy and buy a set of 20 lb. dumb bells. Buy a set of 1, 2, or 3 pound dumb bells and start off light, work your way up. Do about 1 set of 10 reps and work to 3

sets of 10 reps. When you feel comfortable you can get the bigger weights.

Final words:

Create a purpose in life  
Enjoy a healthy diet  
Maintain a healthy weight  
Challenge your brain  
Keep socially and spiritually connected.

Semper Fi, Norm Pfaff, Commandant



### AUXILIARY NEWS

We all know the old saying, "No news is good news." That's usually the case, but in our case, it's just unfortunate. Our meeting and Christmas party in December was cancelled because of the most recent COVID restrictions. Since that's the time we allocate donations to our charities, it won't be happening this year. However, we will make it a point to meet sometime in January to do what we didn't do in December. In the meantime, here's a list of the charities we gave to in 2019.

Fallen & Wounded Warriors Fund  
Michigan Veterans Foundation  
Navy-Marine Relief Fund  
Vets Returning Home

Piquette Square Veterans Program  
Miracle Quilts  
VVA #154 Food Pantry  
Wreaths Across America

I ask all our Auxiliary members to look over the list. If you aren't familiar with any of these charities, feel free to call me, Auxiliary Treasurer Irene Spooner, and I'll be happy to answer your questions. If any Auxiliary member has a charity to suggest, please let me know. We, as a group, discuss each charity, get information about what they do, and if it "passes muster", we'll add it to our list.

Auxiliary members Pres. Maureen Ailor, Sr. V.P. Loretta Balderson, Treasurer Irene Spooner along with Detachment Commandant Norm Pfaff, Past Commandants Mark Spooner and Dave Trevino and volunteer Marie Leonetti participated in Wreaths Across America this December. Our Auxiliary also donated \$150 to Wreaths Across America as stated in the list above. We're looking forward to doing this again in 2021.

As in past years, we normally don't meet in January (because we're recovering from the holiday hustle and bustle) or February (it's just too cold and snowy). This year will be no different. No January or February meetings. We hope to meet in March, weather permitting. We'll keep you posted.

Just another reminder to members who pay dues annually, they're overdue. Look at your membership card. It tells you when your membership expired. If you have any dues related questions, please call me.

On our sick and in distress list, please keep Detachment and Auxiliary member Christine Tonegatto-Salo in your prayers. Get well soon, Christine!

On behalf of Auxiliary President Maureen Ailor and all the Auxiliary, we hope your Christmas was a Merry one and your New Year will be filled with peace, health and happiness.

*Semper Fidelis,*  
Irene Spooner  
MCLA Secretary/Treasurer

### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

It was almost noon on this particular snowy, overcast Saturday morning, December 19, 2020. A number of Detachment and Auxiliary members gathered at Clinton Grove Cemetery to volunteer for Wreaths Across America. This was our first year doing this and we were all looking forward to doing our part.





Mark Spooner, Irene Spooner, Norm Pfaff, Loretta Balderson, Maureen Ailor, Dave Trevino

Wreaths Across America is a national coordinated wreath laying ceremony held at Arlington Cemetery as well as over 2,100 other locations across all 50 states, at sea and abroad. Their motto is: "Remember, honor and teach".



Any activity this year is prefaced with words like "due to the pandemic", "to comply with social distancing", etc., etc. You know what I mean. Because of this, we were spread out across Clinton Grove, meeting at the four flagpoles located throughout the cemetery. Each group of 25 or less at the four flagpoles held their own opening ceremony which was a minute of silence at noon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. It was beautiful in its simplicity and since we were with other League members, I think it was very meaningful.

After that we had to wait for the wreaths to get delivered to our location. Thank goodness we drove our cars to our flagpole which was at the very back of the cemetery. We were able to wait in the warmth of our vehicles. A number of other volunteers who walked to this location were busy stamping their feet, trying to keep warm. Marines are always good at planning ahead! Anyway, before too long, the wreaths were delivered to our site. For those of you who have been to Clinton Grove Cemetery for Memorial Day or Veterans Day ceremonies, you are familiar with the Veterans Section



Keeping warm, Aux. Pres. Maureen Ailor and Sr. V.P. Loretta Balderson

where those events are held. This was not where we were located.



Commandant Norm Pfaff, opening up boxes





*Mark Spooner with Wreaths*

In the section where we were assigned, we needed to go up and down the rows of graves, searching for veteran markers and then respectfully placing the wreath. I will say this, with the light snow coming down and the quiet of the cemetery, you felt a special calm and peace as you were searching for our fallen veterans. We laid wreaths on the graves of veterans from all services from WWI to present day conflicts.



*Volunteer Marie Leonetti and Dave Trevino*



*Irene Spooner, finding a WWII USMC grave*

There are over 4,000 veterans buried at Clinton Grove Cemetery, ranging from the Revolutionary War to the present. This is the 8th year of participation for Clinton Grove with Wreaths Across America. 596 wreaths were laid by the volunteers this year. It was a meaningful event to be part of and we all look forward to doing this again in 2021. Thank you to all our volunteers.



*Mark Spooner and Dave Trevino, cleaning up afterwards*



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Goodbye 2020, hello '21. I am sure many of you would echo that thought as we look to this coming new year to bring back a little semblance of normalcy in our lives. One of the things I look forward to is being able to sit around the table and enjoy a meal with family members again. It has been over 18 months since I've seen my folks, making the holidays that much more difficult. Whenever I start thinking of those missed meals, I force myself to remember the Psalmist words when he said, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good."

God's goodness is all around us but our circumstances often cause us to focus on the problems at hand and not Him as our solution. When we do look to God everything else seems to fade out of focus, sort of like being at the rifle range and focusing on the front site post and not the target. I hope you are able to look back and see where God has been good to you this past year, and as we get ready for the new year may you focus where the goodness is found.

I look forward to seeing you all soon. Please let me know if I can be of service to you.

*Jim Dewey  
Chaplain*

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

short summary of potential events for the year 2021

1. 4 flag sales Christine to set up Aux supports
2. Vet picnic and bike ride 1st Saturday in August Mike Hall and the whole detachment.
3. Marine birthday party and Rifle/ pistol raffle Dean, Quartermaster will be in charge
4. Christmas Party, Toys for tots
5. Golf outing tentatively second Saturday in September
6. Possibles: Mini Ironman, run or walk, Commandant to check out

Hope everyone will have a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Semper Fi,  
*Norm Pfaff, Commandant*



***Dog treadmills  
GUESS WHO?***



**MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT**  
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