



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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APRIL 2021
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APRIL MEETING NOTICE

The next in person General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday April 1st at 7:30 pm (1930)

Join us at the American Legion, Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica. The telephone number to the Post is (586) 731-9833. **Wear your mask.**

DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR APRIL



- Charles Bailey
- Charles Elert
- Paul Glesen
- Rick Kincaid
- James Kusiak
- Alice Lyon
- Francis Marella
- Jose Ramirez
- Hazel Ruehle
- Gerald Sargent
- Nick Simon
- Dennis Slattery
- John Sneed
- Irene Spooner
- April Tilton
- Norm Zatorski

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

First off, good news, I got my Covid-19 vaccine shot, second one in two weeks. I want to thank our Junior Vice for his help. Thanks John.

The MCL Department of Michigan is having their convention in Flint in June 12th and 13th. I urge that

all officers and members available try and get to some of the meetings. I will (God willing) be at all the meetings and will take notes for those that cannot attend.

There also a **membership drive in process** for the Department of Michigan. Get two birds with one shot. We're extending an invite to a few good men and women to join us. Pass the word and assist the Detachment 154 in reaching its goal this year.

Sad News. Our Chaplain's wife has contacted Covid-19, so our Chaplain has been put in dry dock for 14 days with his wife. Our thoughts and prayers to you and your family Jim. See you at our next meeting on April 1st. Yes, there will be a meeting!

Semper Fi,
Norm Pfaff, Commandant

I WANT YOU!
for the
Marine Corps League



Those who belong..
have the respect of a Nation
The loyalty of their own
and the pride of being a part of
history

AUXILIARY NEWS

The Auxiliary met for the first time this year in March. We had a lot of catching up to do, both with Auxiliary business and with each other. Remember, we haven't met since November 2020. Then we were finalizing the plans for the Birthday Party. We have some work ahead of us this year and I think we're ready for it.

Since we didn't have a December meeting or Christmas Party, we made our annual giving choices at our March meeting. Here's the list:

Wreaths Across America
Vet's Returning Home
Michigan Veterans Foundation
Veteran's Homeless Program, Piquette Square
Fallen & Wounded Warriors, Michigan
Navy-Marine Relief Fund
Miracle Quilts
VVA Chapter 154 Food Pantry

Our annual donation to these worthwhile charities may be late this year, but it's an important part of our commitment as an Auxiliary to help our Marines and our Veteran community.

Many years ago, our Auxiliary made a permanent motion to help with the cost of convention ads. The MCL & MCLA Convention is coming up, June 11 & 12, 2021 at the Gateway Centre, so we confirmed with the Detachment that we will be contributing half of the cost of the ad. We're always glad to do our part.

We have two tentative dates for our Rose Program and the Detachment's Flag Program. This is an important outreach for us. It makes us visible to the community, gives us a chance to recruit new members and at the same time, we can raise funds. The dates are April 17 and May 15. As mentioned, these dates are tentative, but mark your calendars now because we will need volunteers at the tables. Times and locations will be confirmed soon. A letter has been put together to present to merchants and vendors for donations. We'll discuss how best to approach this task at our upcoming meeting. As part of our annual giving, the Auxiliary set aside \$200 for the Detroit VA Hospital's annual baby shower for women veterans. The shower takes place the last Saturday of September, so we have time to work on this. I spoke with Bill Browning at the Detroit VA hospital to see if we made a cash donation for this event, would the VA get more "bang for the buck" than if we went shopping ourselves. Since the VA must buy from government approved vendors, it's very possible we could do better ourselves. This is another agenda item at our next meeting.

Another question about donations to the VA hospital came up at our last meeting. Is the VA

accepting paperback books and playing cards? With the COVID restrictions, books were not being accepted for a number of months because physical access to the VA hospital was limited. Mr. Browning, chief of Volunteer Coordinating, indicated that they would accept books (good condition, of course) if we brought them in. **New, unused playing cards are always in great demand.** Cards are a great way to cope with boredom when recovering from an illness or surgery. That's why they are in demand. We'll go over this at the next meeting and see about collecting books and cards and making a trip to the VA.

This sums up our March meeting and as you can see, we have a lot of work to do. I encourage all members to come to our April meeting. We need your help, ideas and suggestions. Also, I'm still collecting dues for this year, Sept. 1, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2021. If you have questions about whether or not your dues are up-to-date, please call me at 586-466-5708. It's better to pay late than to let your membership lapse.

*Semper Fidelis,
Irene Spooner
MCLA Secretary/Treasurer*

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

As some of you may know, I spent a year of my enlistment as a Sea Going Marine, as part of the Marine Detachment on the heavy cruiser USS St. Paul, a World War II era ship. She was outfitted with three turrets each with three 8" guns, and five turrets with twin 5" guns. I was aboard on her last deployment to Vietnam in 1970.

All of the Marines had undergone a month's



training at Sea School at MCRD San Diego, learning naval terminology, getting fitted for dress blues, and

GUESS WHO?

really learning how to shine our brass, press our clothes, and look like a recruiting poster Marine. The new Marines assigned to the ship were required to be inspected by the St. Paul's Captain in our dress blues.

After the inspection I was told I was chosen to be the Captain's orderly. WOW, that was a nice surprise. One of the benefits with this assignment was that you had no other responsibilities but to be at his beck and call at all times, and did not get caught up in all of the other duties of the rest of the Marine Detachment.

So, every morning I would report to the Captain's cabin and remain outside his office. He would call for me during the day, often to go find one of his officers to report to his cabin. When he would walk throughout the ship, I would follow behind a few steps, ready to do whatever was needed. There were times he would tell me my services were not needed the rest of the day, and I was essentially off duty. I was never required to serve him food or coffee! He had his own personal Filipino steward to do that.

One day as we were sailing across the Pacific, I was on the bridge with the Captain while he was interacting with his officers. His Filipino steward came up to the bridge with a silver serving tray with coffee cups and a thermos of coffee. These were the officers of the deck. As they helped themselves to the coffee, the Captain turns to me and asked if I would like a cup, and of course I said yes sir! I remember turning around and the sailors watching me, shaking their heads and rolling their eyes (envious or disgusted?). Their looks made my day!

Unfortunately, I was not the Captain's Orderly for the entire deployment. I was to find out that our Captain of Marines liked to assign the job to other Marines after a month or so. I ended up when we were on the gun line off the coast of Vietnam down in the magazine passing 5" shells up a conveyor belt to the 5" turret manned by our Marines.

Being a Seagoing Marine was very special for me. My Dad was in the Marines in the late 1940's and was also Seagoing. He served on the USS Duluth, a light cruiser. Our ships ironically were both named for cities in Minnesota. Some coincidence!

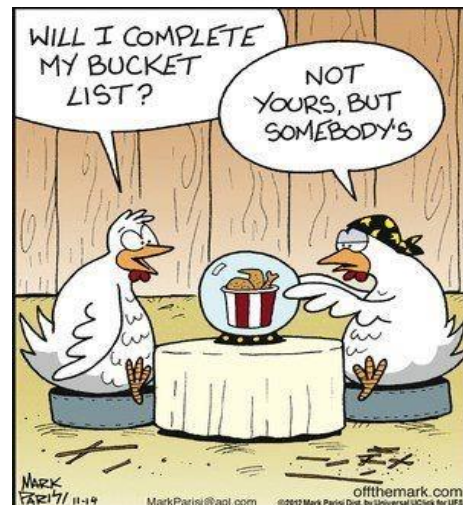
Greg Pawlik
Detachment Historian



A horse? This horse pictured with a 75mm recoilless rifle was awarded two Purple Hearts, a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, was included in her unit's Presidential Unit Citations from two countries, as well as other military honors.



Grilled Chicken



MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 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 15th of each month

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