



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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MARCH 2020

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Detachment WEB Site: www.macombmarines.com

Marines & Auxiliary Members:

MARCH MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday March 5th 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.

DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH



Charles Brown
David Burin
Kim Hadley
William Heise
Brett Jacokes
John Myroniuk
Gary Nummer
Jim Rhodes
Charles Tyson

FEBRUARY MEETING

At the February General Membership Meeting there was no 50/50 raffle as the attendance was low. Bad weather., Marine John Tinsley would have won the Attendance Raffle had he been present and paid his 25¢. The Attendance Raffle works like this – when you arrive at a meeting, you sign-in and put 25¢ into the kitty. You have an attendance number assigned to you based on when you joined the League. After the meeting a number is drawn and if the member is present, they would receive the total amount in the kitty. If not present, it rolls over to the next meeting until someone present wins. Another good reason to attend the meetings!

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

I hope everyone is starting to snap in and get ready for our fun shoot. You have two months to get ready. Get out the old rifle and clean the bore and oil it down and practice your position. Prone, kneeling, sitting and off hand. Remember, if you have a hard time getting into position, you can shoot off the bench. This is a fun shoot. We give a trophy for top Marine, bench, female, non-Marine and 1st, 2nd & 3rd place for under 15.

Our rifle team took 2nd place in the expert division, 2nd place in the individual expert division and 2nd place in the Master division. Congratulation to Ron Hudas, Gary Titus and Gary Titus Jr., Rick Kincaid, and Dean Miles.

I don't know how or who did it, but I received 3 Valentines on Valentine's Day. The envelopes were addressed to me, but there was no return address on them. My wife was/is still upset about this and my stuttering didn't help. Fess up you Bastards.

I joined the Macomb Ritual team and helped to honor our Vets in four funerals in the first 2 weeks. See you at our next Detachment meeting

Norm Pfaff
Commandant

MEET YOUR DETACHMENT LEADERSHIP

This month we feature Senior Vice Mike Hall and Sargeant at Arms Clement Buck

Senior Vice Commandant Mike Hall entered into the DEP between his junior and senior years of high school. One week after graduation he found himself in beautiful southern California. After boot camp Mike went to 29 Palms for Comm school then to Camp Lejeune NC for his duty station. As a radio operator he was attached to several other units for deployments. He went from Puerto Rico to Panama where he was attached to 6MEB during combat operations in the canal zone.

Mike says his worst shock was leaving Panama, flying back to North Carolina where he took a weeks' leave to get married then went to Wisconsin for cold weather training. After returning from training Mike was offered an early out due to budget cuts. He wanted to stay in and was looking to reenlist but couldn't get a lat move to where he wanted so he got out. Two weeks later Iraq invaded Kuwait. And he was activated for one day during Desert Storm.



Mike Hall

Past Senior Vice Commandants: 2010-11 Scott Neff, 2011-13 Norm Pfaff, 2013-15 Christine Tonegatto-Salo, 2015-17 Don Teeple, 2017-19 Dean Miles, 2019-20 Mike Hall

Role of Senior Vice Commandant: The SVC's responsibility is to assist and support the Commandant, to prepare for the succession to the Commandant's office and to back up the Commandant when absent.

Sargeant at Arms Clement Buck in his own words...

The Marine Corps took possession of me in late 1969. I became a genuine Hollywood Marine, schooled in California and stationed at Camp Lejeune.

Before I went on my southeastern Asia vacation, they sent me to a place called the staging Battalion. Kind of a funny prelude to a vacation. Spent a lot of time on that vacation as a fire directions controller for 18 self-propelled howitzers. Sent to another tropical paradise called Okinawa. Later I was put on a flat bottom boat that was like a Bar of Ivory soap in the bathtub.. Next thing I know I was at Mount Fuji Japan for cold-weather training. Sent to school for meteorology. Did some brig chasing.

One of the highlights of my career was going to school to become a projectionist so I could be a backup projectionist at the local flick on base. MOS numbers:0844,0848. Never a dull moment.



Clement Buck

Past Sargeant at Arms: 2010-11 Craig Brozowski, 2011-14 Alan Opra, 2014-15 Don Teeple, 2015-16 Bill Lafave, 2016-17 Bill Heise, 2017-18 Mike Hall, 2019-20 Clement Buck

Role of Sargeant at Arms:The SA is responsible for the physical setting up for meetings including sign in sheets, and maintaining Order at meetings, making sure guests and new members are properly introduced and welcomed.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Spring is right around the corner and our Michigan weather is improving, finally. With that, our two month winter break is over and we will have our first Auxiliary meeting of 2020 this month on Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 pm. We'll pick up where we left off last year and get back on track. See you at the meeting. Semper Fi,

Irene Spooner
Secretary/Treasurer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Contact Commandant Norm Pfaff for details of the following events if not provided below....

Every Friday fish fry's at Post 351 until Easter

March 14	Vets returning home banquet
March 27	John Sottrel's memorial service
April 2	1930 General Membership mtg
April 14	NRA banquet
April 18	Fun shoot
May 7	1930 General Membership mtg Meeting at Dingell for VAVS Rep
May 9	Blessing of the bikes at Post 351
May 16	Free USO Entertainment Show for Veterans 1-4 p.m. at American Legion Post 351
May 24	Memorial Day Ceremonies at Clinton Grove Cemetery then Mt. Clemens Veterans Wall
May 25	Sterling Heights Memorial Day Ceremony & Parade
June 4	1930 General Membership mtg
June 12-13	MCL Summer convention
July 2	1930 General Membership mtg
August 1	Annual Joint League & Legion Veterans Appreciation Picnic & Annual Bike-A-Thon Fundraiser
August 6	1930 General Membership mtg 1 st round of nominations
August 4-10	MCL National Convention Daytona Beach, FL
August tbd	Department of Michigan MCL Annual convention. Flint, MI
Sept. 3	1930 General Membership mtg Election of Officers
Oct. 1	1900 General Membership mtg Installation of officers
Nov 5	1930 General Membership mtg
Nov 10	1500-2000 Marine Corps 245th Birthday Party
Nov 11	Veterans Day Ceremonies at Clinton Grove Cemetery then Mt. Clemens Veterans Wall
Dec 3	1900 General Membership Meeting & Detachment Christmas party

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Project 100,000 – Part Three

These Project 100,000 inductees were spread throughout the US military – 71% to the Army, 10% to the Marine Corps, 10% to the Navy, and 9% to the Air Force.

How did this apply to the Marine Corps?

The Marine Corps was accepting Category IV (one third of all recruits) during the Korean War. These recruits were more than two times likely to fail boot camp than the higher category recruits. In an effort to emphasize the Corps "elite" image, the Corps weaned itself from accepting Category IV recruits, and by 1963 Category IV accepted was below 4%. After the infamous Ribbon Creek incident in 1956, the Marine Corps established the Special Training Branch, charged with rehabilitating recruits having difficulty with boot camp. Many of you will remember this as the physical conditioning platoon, motivation platoon, and correctional custody platoon. Parris Island also had a "proficiency platoon" for those that had difficulty with reading & writing. By 1965 15% of all recruits visited the Special Training Branch. The Corps took pride in turning these recruits into Marines. Despite the Corps objections to Project 100,000, by 1967 and the escalation of the Vietnam War and its unpopularity, Marine recruiters were exceeding their Project 100,000 quotas.

The end results

These "New Standards" inductees failed to complete 18 months of service, when compared to 12% who joined in the same period. In boot camp one third had to go to the Special Training Branch. New Standards men were twice more likely to be killed in action than other Marines.

Remember that the original intention of Project 100,000 was to give these "marginal's" a skill to take back to civilian life? Proportionally the Corps contributed a larger portion of its strength to the Vietnam War than the other services. Its emphasis on ground combat left few opportunities to learn anything useful in the civilian world.

"New Standards" men were limited to two year enlistments, resulting in 80% being assigned to combat arms, half of these in the infantry.

Did "New Standards" affect Marine performance in Vietnam?

There is little data on the performance of these low score men during Vietnam. Often, simpler tasks were found for them. Others were so incompetent they were removed from combat. Their presence never interfered with the Marines accomplishing their missions.

Sadly, over half of the 354,000 taken into the armed services under Project 100,000 received discharges "under conditions other than honorable", that would haunt them for years to come.

Source; Capt. David A. Dawson, *THE IMPACT OF PROJECT 100,000 ON THE MARINE CORPS* (History and Museum Div., HQMC 1995)

Greg Pawlik
Detachment Historian

VETERANS HONORED.ORG

Alex Duran, honorably discharged United States Marine (Weapons Company, Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran,) is a man on a mission who decided to continue his efforts at home by serving the military members and retirees in his community and around the nation. He is a sought after speaker on the subject of bullying, youth motivation and fitness in schools across the country. Duran has published five books, including "[Veterans: Our Honored U.S. Heroes](#)" and "[Lean But Not Mean.](#)" This latest book has been designed to teach youth about United States Military members and who they are in the military and who they become outside of uniform. His book educates children on what makes the service branches unique from one another while providing colorful depictions of service men, women, and dogs of all backgrounds.

As a United States Marine Corps Veteran Alex believes that educating our youth to have a degree of military cultural competency is paramount for the long-term well-being and defense of our great nation.

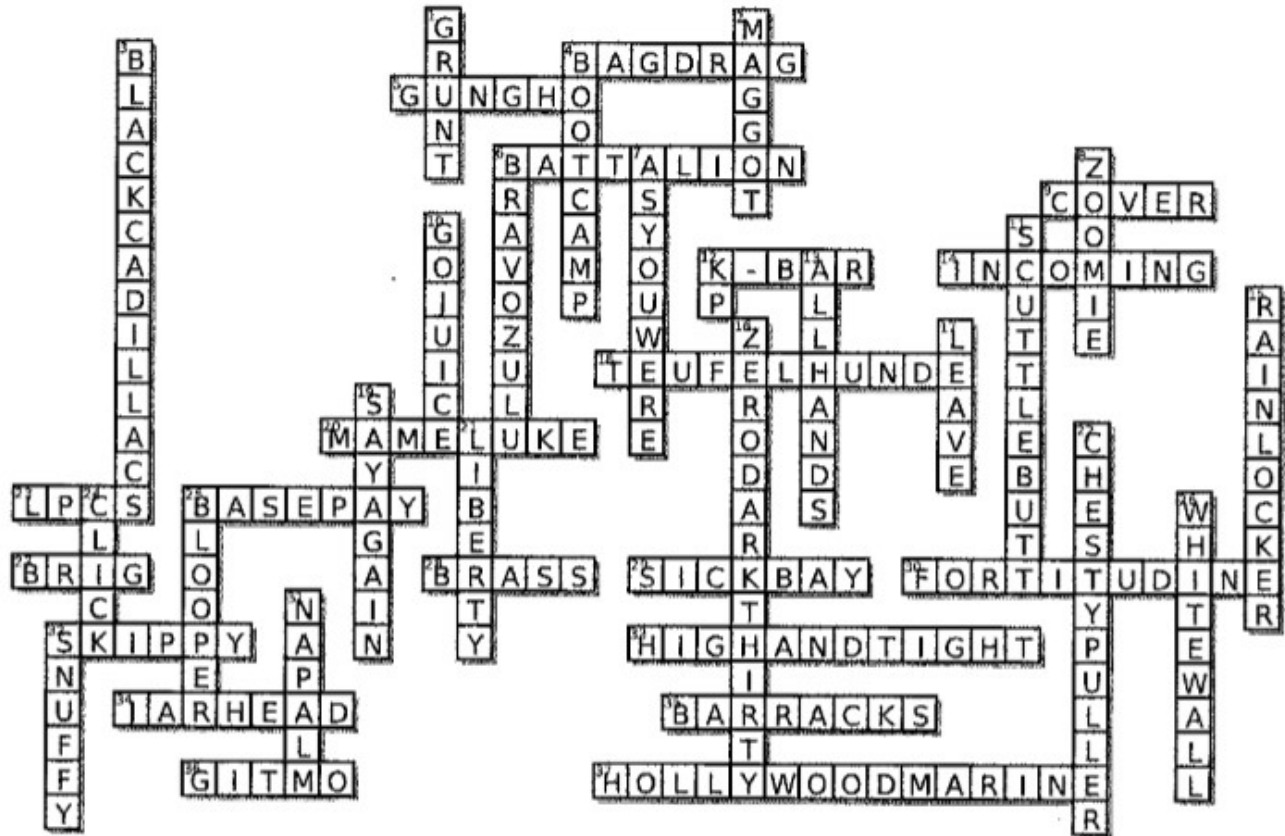
Alex's message to members of our Detachment, "If I can help in any way, thank you for adding to mission in helping educate our children while bringing awareness to a population of our nation's finest citizens, Veterans: Our Honored U.S. Heroes"
www.veteranshonored.org



GUESS WHO?



Marines' Lingo



This puzzle was created with the help of a 31-year career Marine.

Did you get 'em all?

 **Once a Marine, always a Marine.**

MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
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New Address (please print):

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Street _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____