



SKUTTLEBUTT

**NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY**



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SEPTEMBER 2021
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SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday September 2nd 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 SEPTEMBER**

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Clement Buck | Gordon Schick |
| Carl Chupa | Howard Schulte |
| Jackie Dennis | Mark Spooner |
| Margaret Helms | Bradford Steensen |
| Ed Mader | Don Teeples |
| Gene Meredith | Steve Whitfield |
| Paul Rangel | Will R. Wiggins Jr. |
| Terry Rigney | |

AUGUST MEETING

Christine Tonegatto-Salo won the 50/50 at the August 5th meeting.

The 50/50 proceeds help offset the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Currently I am mailing the newsletter to 56 members. If you have an email, or one of your family members has an email and can print it for you it will help save the detachment.

Charles Tyson would have won the attendance drawing had he been present.

September's attendance drawing starts at \$111.26

At the August meeting we had the first round of nominations for officers for the next term. If you are interested and able to serve in one of the elected positions, please let me know. You can nominate yourself or any regular member of the detachment for office, We will conduct the final round of nominations and the election at the September general membership meeting.

If you are nominated and cannot attend the meeting you may accept the nomination either in writing or by email.

Do you need a name tag (remember there is a \$0.25 fine for not wearing one at the meetings) I have the materials to make them so let me know.

*Don Lyon
Adjutant/Paymaster*

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Looking back at the last month, we had a good time at the Vets Picnic and bike ride. Now we're looking forward to our Golf outing and the Marine Corps Birthday Celebration. We are going to need a lot of help at both events so mark your calendar. We are going to have a last fundraising meeting before our next Detachment meeting at 1830 hours. I'm looking forward to seeing everybody there.

Norm Pfaff, Commandant

AUXILIARY NEWS

To sum it up in just a few words, this year's picnic was a good time for all. The weather cooperated and the food was just what you would want on a picnic, hot dogs and burgers, potato salad and beans, chips and cookies. We all need to be grateful to American House for their generous catering of this event. It's really nice to have someone else do the cooking and do it so well.



The Auxiliary did well with the raffle and the 50/50. Thank you to those who supported us with donations for the raffle and to those who bought tickets. Everyone looks forward to the raffle and it's fun to see the winner's reaction when the lucky number is called. While we're thanking people, we want to thank the Detachment for the planning and set-up of this year's picnic. This type of event doesn't just happen. It takes time and energy to put things like this together. A special thank-you to all the volunteers who made this possible.

There were a couple of other interesting things going on at the picnic as well. We had the huge American flag flying high thanks to the Utica Fire Department. What a great sight at any function. It was a perfect photo opportunity and there's a great shot of it in the picture page. It took at least a dozen of us to fold it at the end of the day.



Auxiliary members Alice Lyon, Treasurer, Irene Spooner & President Maureen Ailor posing with our flag, courtesy of the Utica Fire Department

Though not a part of our picnic, the Boy Scouts were there building a shed for American Legion Post 351. It was an Eagle Scout project. It makes you proud seeing this type of civic involvement with our young people. Both of these events added to our day. So the 2021 picnic is over. It was a wonderful way to spend a warm summer afternoon. The best aspect of any picnic or party is the people that attend. Thank you to all the attendees for showing your support. Your presence made the day and we look forward to doing this again in 2022.



Our next Auxiliary meeting is on Thursday, September 2, 2021. This is when we put together our 2021-2022 slate of officers for the October Installation. We discussed this at our August meeting. It's no secret that we are at a critical juncture. Simply put, if we don't have enough members stepping up to fill the positions of President, Sr. Vice-President, Jr. Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Judge Advocate, there will be no Auxiliary. We are at a serious crossroads and what happens at our September meeting will determine what happens to the Macomb County Unit.

*Semper Fidelis,
Irene Spooner, MCLA Secretary/Treasurer*



ANNUAL VETERANS' PICNIC IMAGES AUGUST 7



Welcome Desk manned by Don Lyon and John Myroniuk



Deputy Quartermaster John Sternicki and nephew David

Happy Attendees!





Oscar the Music Man



Judge Advocate, Christine Tonegatto-Salo



THIS MONTH WE LAUNCH A NEW SERIES, FEATURING OUR DETACHMENT PAST COMMANDANTS.

DAVID TREVINO 1999-2000

David Ruben Trevino 2311323



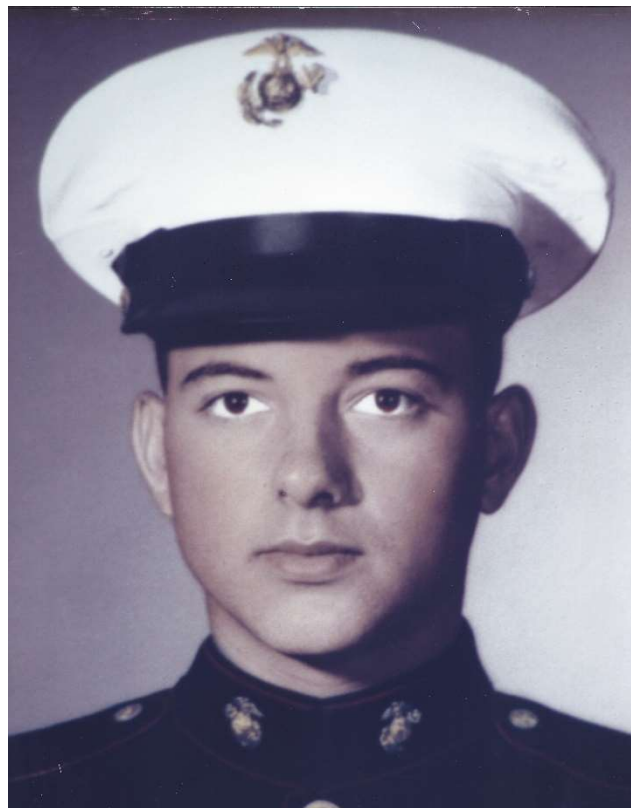
My decision to become a United States Marine began when I was just a little guy. My father and all four of his brothers were in WWII. My father enlisted in the Navy, but never talked too much about his time overseas, nor did my father's brothers talk much about their time overseas.

My mother had one brother, Tom. My uncle Tom was a Marine stationed in Korea. He was a grunt who handled the flame thrower. After Korea, my uncle Tom was in the Navy Reserves at Broadhead, and he was on the team for the Selfridge Air Show. My father would take the family to the air show and I would see uncle Tom on the air field in his Marine gear and holding the flame thrower. That's when I told my mom, dad, and seven siblings that when I was old enough, I would join the Marines. At that time, my family of nine was living in a two-bedroom house. Consequently, my parents would have one less mouth to feed and clothe, plus I would have my own bed to sleep in!

That takes me to the year 1966. I turned 17 years old on May 11, 1966, and on May 19, 1966, I was sworn into the United States Marine Corps. I took a 47-day delay and went to those yellow footprints in MCRD San Diego. That's when my life changed, July 6, 1966. BOOT CAMP-- no need to explain that to a Marine who went there in the 1960's.

Two stories of mine: 1) I entered boot camp weighing in at 190 lbs. at 5'9" tall. I was known as a fat boy and was sent to the rear in the chow line. Now to credit the Corps, my weight went down to 155 lbs. after 8 weeks of training. 2) Dress Right Dress. My

thumb would hang down (not good) and Sgt. Padilla warned me about that. One day, I was taught a lesson. Sgt. Padilla called out "Trevino, front and center with your M-14". He pulled back the slide and said, "put your thumb in the chamber," and he let go of the slide (immediate pain.) Sarge said, "put it in there again," which I did. The second time my thumb burst open and bled, and Sgt. Padilla said, "Trevino get back in formation." My thumb never hung down again.



Graduation from boot camp

After I.T.R everyone is given an M.O.S. and mine was 3371 (cook). Me and one other boot were the only ones going to a permanent personal duty station, the rest of the platoon was going to schools of some kind, and all were going to Vietnam.

My first duty was O.J.T. at MCRD San Diego. I remained there for 12 months before my C.O. called me and two other Marines to his office to tell us he had three positions to fill and they were all at Marine Barack duty stations. They were San Francisco, Great Lakes Chicago, and Rota Spain. Myself and another Marine wanted Great Lakes. The C.O. asked, "Trevino, what nationally are you?" I said, "Mexican." He said, "You are going to Spain."

Roto Spain: Before I went to Rota Spain, I got 5 days leave, during which I went home to Detroit, this is in July 1967. It took me two days to get to Marine barracks in Spain. There are only 75 Marines there, so they know that a new guy is coming in when another Marine is shipping out. On my first day, to greet me

was a black Marine from Detroit with the Detroit News in his hands. On the front page was a military tank on St. Jean and Mack with buildings burning in the background. The day after I left Detroit to go to Spain, the riots started in Detroit.

First thing, you have to get a secret clearance from the government in order to be at a Marine barracks. Second thing, you have to be squared away with the dress blues, and all the PT every day, and falling out for inspection. It was not for me because after being a cook in San Diego for my first years in the Corps, I wore whites like all cooks wear. I never fell out for P.T.; never had inspections, except for in the Mess Hall. I loved the country of Spain, but could not stand the duty of being at Marine barracks.

Again, my C.O. called me and two other Marines in to say that he has to let three Marines go to fill duty stations in Vietnam. Because I was known as a shit bird to the C.O. being a cook, I was one of the first to go.



Vietnam: I spent 13 months and 12 days in a country that was beautiful in so many ways. I had no idea why or what we were there for. I know we did not solve any of their problems, and we lost all those lives for what reason? By the time I got to Vietnam I was already a Lance Corporal E-3, with over a year and a half in time and grade, so they gave me Corporal stripes and made me the Chief Cook for the Mess Hall on my watch on Hill 55. In South Vietnam, Hill 55 was a big United States military base that could have 600 or 800 troops at any given time.



At home prior to being sent to Viet Nam

So, on the other watch, Corporal "Ski" (that is what I called him because he was Polish and I didn't know how to pronounce his last name) and I would take turns to go to Da Nang to get chow (food) to bring back to the hill to feed the Marines. We had to go through five villages to get from Da Nang to our Hill 55, with many rice paddies in between each village. The United States built roads to get from camp to camp. These roads were built between the big cities and the field outposts, like Hill 55 – 41 – 10, and many, many more United States base camps. The roads were made 10 to 15 feet above the rice paddies, and you could barely get to sixbys to pass each other because that's how narrow the road was. At any given time, you could get attacked by small arm's fire, mortars or rockets.

This main road was known as Highway One. On Saint Patrick Day, March 17, 1968, on Highway One, myself and three other Marines were coming from Da Nang to Hill 55. We were taking small arm's fire from the rice paddy. The driver lost control of the truck and we rolled down the embankment, rolling over three times before the truck landed on its side. There were four of us Marines trapped beneath the truck. It took hours to get the truck raised off of us. The results were two Marines killed and two of us medevac'd to a field hospital. I spent 10 days at the hospital before I was sent back to the field on Hill 55. The result of my injuries suffered from this accident were a punctured left lung, left leg and left foot injuries. Because of the injury to my foot, I have had many operations on my

left foot, but eventually half of my foot had to be amputated.

On account of this truck accident, I always felt safe during my next 11 months in Vietnam because I had this idea that if you get hurt or killed when you first arrive in Vietnam or are getting to be a short-timer, you will be safe. Well, I was hurt early on during my time in Vietnam, therefore I was going to make it back to the States.



Coming Home, March 1969: Most veterans, with so many months remaining on their enlistment, were granted an early out. But not me because my primary M.O.S. was 3371 “cook”, which the Marine Corps considers a critical M.O.S., and therefore would not let me out, and stated that I could choose any Marine Corps base in the United States. There are only a few, and the closest base was at Quantico Virginia—Headquarters for the Marine Corps. This base was only 550 miles from Detroit. I could come home every other weekend, which made it nice for me.

In May 1969, I was informed, during the first week of the month, that I made Sargent. Outstanding! Although by the second week, I’m getting an Article 15 for being disrespectful to a senior N.C.O. It cost me a \$250 fine and my Sargent stripes. Two months later I was asked to reenlist, informing me that I would get Sargent reinstated. I said, “No”! I got out but to this day I regret not staying in. I love the Marine Corps. I live by what I learned in the Marine Corps every day of my life.

My life has not changed over the years and I have not forgotten the military. I belong to three organizations, which are: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 9, which I joined in 1984 and was the president for many years, and am currently the second vice president for the group; Marine Corp League Det 154, which I joined in 1994 and was Commandant in the 1999 or 2000 years; V.F.W. which I have been a member of the Village Stinson Post 9021 since the mid-1990’s. I am a life member of all three organizations.

While being Commandant at the Marine Corps League Det 154, I was privileged to be sitting on the stage with President Bush, Governor Engler, and Secretary of State Candice Miller. They were the guest speakers.



I married Gail in 1973 and we had a daughter, Jennifer, who followed in the family tradition and joined the Navy in 1994, and is still in the Navy Reserves. Her husband, Chip, is a retired Navy Chief who I am proud of to have as a family member. I have one grandchild, Jackson, who just maybe will follow down that military road. Semper Fi.

YOUR DETACHMENT MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

The City of Utica held its' annual Gasoline Alley Event on 14-Aug-21. Great weather, cars, people, and exposure for the Detachment.



Senior Vice Mike Hall took the lead and advantage to expose our organization to the General Public on the 14th of August 2021. Also, this opportunity allowed us to sell some raffle tickets, get a few donations, solicit for our golf fundraiser and "press some flesh." Mike Hall Sr. Vice, John Myroniuk, Jr. Vice, Chaplin Jim Dewey, Sgt of Arms Clement Buck, and Associate Member/Deputy Quartermaster John Sternicki, all participating - "Job well done!"

Note: Sgt of Arms Clement Buck is absent from photo, but was in the crowd doing what he does best!

**MCL GOLF FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT
DETACHMENT 154 CHARITIES**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

LEANING TREE GOLF COURSE
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM

POC: Mike Hall 586-604-4834; Steve August 586-823-445; Norm Pfaff 586-263-3448

100 YEARS OF MAKING MARINES

This year marks the 100-year anniversary of Marine Corp Base San Diego, known as MCRD San Diego to many of us.

Greg Pawlik
Detachment Historian

GUESS WHO?



John Sternicki & Mike Hall



If you guessed Leon Spinks...you were right!



John Myroniuk & Jim Dewey



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Junior Vice Commandant	John Myroniuk	(586) 739-1929	Junior Vice President	Sherri Teeples	(586) 292-8132
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