



# SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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**MAY 2021**  
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*Annual Fun Shoot, April 17*

**MAY MEETING NOTICE**

The next in person General Membership Meeting **will be held** on Thursday May 6th 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 MAY**



Bill Ackerman  
Gayle Brown  
Jerome Nadolski  
Greg Pawlik  
James Szczesny  
Robert Westfall

Kevin Brewer  
Linda Huckle  
Ronald Parks  
John Polanco  
Dave Trevino

**MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT**

First off, I want to thank all the Marines who attended our fun shoot and especially all the Marines who shot position in lieu of shooting off the bench which allowed me to take the top shooter in the bench competition. Congratulation Commandant! Maybe, it was fear that held them back. On to bigger and better events.

May 30 a.m. we will be at Clinton Grove and the Wall in Mount Clemens for our annual Memorial Day event to honor Vets. Clinton Grove Cemetery is located on Cass Avenue about one half mile west of Groesbeck Highway or at the end of Moravian Drive. We will need the Color Guard for that event. Commandant and Auxiliary President will place a wreath at the cemetery and the Wall in Mount Clemens.

City of Utica Mayor, Gus Calandrino, wants to put on a Memorial service at the Veterans' Memorial in Utica on May 30 @ 2:00 P.M. The Mayor is requesting a Color Guard and a rifle team for a 21-gun salute to the Vets. This would require up to 13 Marines. I told him that we would do the best we can to help with the ceremony. Free pizza at the post after the ceremony.

The bike ride is fast approaching and any shooters that want to ride with the Commandant, you still time to get in shape. It's only 30 or 40 miles on the hills @ Stony Creek Metro Park. If you really want a challenge try and keep up with the Chaplain.

Semper Fi,  
*Norm Pfaff, Commandant*

### VA HOSPITAL SEEKS YOUR DONATIONS

What the VA **NEEDS**:

Hair brushes, Combs  
Women's Panties (new) size 8-10  
White socks (no elastic)  
N-95 masks/face masks  
Surgical Gloves  
New Briefs, T-shirts, boxers  
Crossword puzzle Books  
Men's jogging pants M/L/XL (new)  
Word Search books  
Small travel size: liquid soap, toothpaste, shampoo, hand and body lotion  
Tooth brushes  
Postage stamps  
Deodorant (no aerosol)  
Finger and toe-nail Clippers,  
Playing cards(new)  
Jig saw puzzles (new)  
Flip Flops (new) 8-13  
Winter hats, gloves, coats (new),  
Gift cards  
Checks or money orders should be made out to "John D. Dingell VA Medical Center"

Items they **CANNOT** use:

Bar soap, used playing cards, hard cover or paperback books, magazines  
Afghans or Blankets  
Hand sanitizer  
Cassette or VCR tapes, cell phones, baked goods,  
Matches  
Glass Containers  
Cigars, cigarettes

Checks and money orders should be made out to "John D. Dingell VA Medical Center." You can earmark the Rec fund, Canteen books, Chaplain's fund, Library, Women's Health Clinic and a dozen more, I'll bring the list to the meeting.

Semper Fi,  
*Norm Pfaff, Commandant*

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings Marines,

I am happy to report that my wife and I have kicked COVID in the teeth. We were both positive with

very little health effects. Thank you for thinking and praying for us while we were out last month.

We have a number of our fellow Marines that are experiencing health related issues for which I am continuing to pray. Please keep past Commandant Don Teeple in your prayers. He had a very bad accident; underwent 10 hours of surgery but he is on the road back.

As always, if I can be of any service to you or your family, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Semper Fi,  
*Jim Dewey, Chaplain*

### AUXILIARY NEWS

Our April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting took a quick change at the last minute and was pushed back to the following Thursday. It was held off-site at the County Inn Restaurant on Romeo Plank. This was a nice change of pace for us and maybe we'll plan other off-site meetings in the future. With the nicer weather coming, we had another idea to have our meetings outside, weather permitting, of course.

The May 15<sup>th</sup> fundraiser with the Detachment to hand out flags and roses has been put on hold. Apparently, some complaints have been made about stores and businesses allowing these types of events and most places have stopped this very helpful fundraising practice. Detachment and Auxiliary member Christine Tonegatto-Salo is continuing to look into this, but for the time being, we don't have any plans.

Keeping in touch with membership is a critical and crucial task for all organizations. At one time email was the most cost-effective and efficient way of doing this. This doesn't appear to be the case any longer. It's not uncommon to hear comments like, "I don't check my email anymore." Or "I get so much junk email, I don't bother with it." We'll be discussing this at our next meeting. The best way to keep in touch with our members needs to be updated to be more effective. Maybe texting is a good alternative. Or both texting and emailing.

We send our heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery to Detachment member Don Teeple who underwent surgery earlier this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with Don and his wife, Auxiliary member Sheri Teeple during this time of healing.

We're also are keeping Delores Tonegatto in our prayers. She's been a bit under-the-weather after



receiving her first COVID shot. Hope you're feeling better soon, Delores.

Memorial Day is at the end of the month. Normally we have our Memorial Day ceremony at Clinton Grove Cemetery. At the time of this writing, I don't have the final details. Final details will be confirmed at the May meeting.

Some thoughts to consider as we approach Memorial Day... Memorial Day is an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. We observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season. So many of these activities and more have been curtailed because of the COVID virus. It's been hard on many of us, our families, friends and acquaintances having to deal with the illness itself, the isolation many of us have felt and the concern that comes with wondering when things will get back to normal. Now is the time to be the best possible version of yourself by being a little more patient, by being a little kinder, by being more helpful when you can. Memorial Day is a solemn time to honor and remember our fallen heroes in our military. With that thought, let's also remember each other and look forward to much, much better times to come.

Our next meeting is at 7:30 pm, on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. See you there!

*Semper Fidelis,  
Irene Spooner  
MCLA Secretary/Treasurer*

**“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” – President Harry S. Truman**

### **FUN SHOOT**

Ten competitors shot in the Annual Marine Corps League Fun Shoot Saturday, April 17, held at the Detroit Sportsmen's Congress in Shelby Township.



Fun Shoot Winners, Ron Hudas, Norm Pfaff, and Alina & Andrei Grib



Ron Hudas & Don Lyon



Norm Pfaff



### HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Marine Corps 25 years ago, May 1996

5 May - A new memorial to American servicemen who died in El Salvador, 1981-1992 was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery. The black granite marker shares the memory of five Marine Corps security guards who were among 21 U.S. military personnel who died while assigned to duty in the then-embattled Central American country. The memorial was sponsored by No Greater Love, a Washington-based nonprofit organization that holds tributes for the families of those who died serving their country overseas.

11 May - General Merrill B. Twining died at Fallbrook, California at the age of 93. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1923, General Twining helped plan the landing on Guadalcanal in World War II and later fought in the Korean War. He is credited with creating the 1st Marine Division patch of World War II and for authoring the famous statement given by General Vandegrift before the 1946 Congress, "The bended knee is not a tradition of our Corps. If the Marine as a fighting man has not made a case for himself after 170 years of service he must go. But I think you will agree with me he has earned the right to depart with dignity and honor, not by subjugation to the status of uselessness and servility planned for him by the War Department."

14 May - More than two decades after the final shots were fired in the Vietnam War, President Clinton signed an executive order ending the country's designation as a combat zone. The recommendation to end the combat zone status came from the Pentagon. The designation had been preserved for people declared missing from the Vietnam War, but

the last government-acknowledged prisoner of war was declared dead 19 September 1994.

21 May - Marines from the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) responded to U.S. Embassy security requirements in the Central African Republic following a request from the Ambassador for security assistance due to civil unrest following an army mutiny. Marines in Operation Quick Response processed departing personnel, conducted communications, and reinforced existing security for the embassy. The 22d MEU(SOC) continued to provide security at the American embassy in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, in Operation Assured Response.

*Greg Pawlik, Detachment Historian*

### GUESS WHO?



Sgt. Reckless was a war horse for the US Marines during the Korean War. Purchased for just \$250, the Mongolian mare proved to be an important addition to the Marines. During the Battle of Outpost Vegas in 1953, Sgt. Reckless made 51 trips in a single day to carry ammunition from the supply camp to the front lines. The majority of these trips, Reckless completed by herself. The mare carried close to five tons of ammunition; walking almost 35 miles while under enemy fire. She also carried wounded soldiers from the front lines on the return trip. Even after being wounded herself, Sgt. Reckless didn't slow down or stop.

She was loved and respected by the Marines she served with and her amazing performance during the Battle and throughout the war lead to her being promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Sgt. Reckless was given two Purple Hearts along with many other Military Decorations for her service. Sgt. Reckless died in May of 1968 and was buried with full military honors at Camp Pendleton.



Source: <https://kyhorsepark.com/equine-theme-park/park-memorials-statues/sculptures-of-the-park/>



Sgt. Reckless bronze in Kentucky Horse Park, sculpted by Jocelyn Russell, 2018.

For further info see:

<https://www.americasbestracing.net/lifestyle/2020-the-story-sergeant-reckless-korean-war-horse-served-valor>

### HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that: The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit. During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery. This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Mississippi; Macon, Georgia; Richmond, Virginia; Boalsburg, Pennsylvania; and Carbondale, Illinois. In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May

5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags. By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.) Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Also, it is customary for the president or vice-president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. About 5,000 people attend the ceremony annually.

**“It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.” — General George S. Patton**

### MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

The Detachment will be participating in a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Clinton Grove Cemetery on Sunday, 29 May 2021 at 1100. It is located at the end of Moravian Drive on Cass Avenue in Clinton Township. Form up at 1030 with the ceremonies starting at 1100. The services last approximately 30 minutes. We need at least four Marines for in the Marine Corps League Uniform for a Color Guard. If you do not have a Marine Corps League Uniform, please wear your Detachment Cover and weather permitting your red Detachment Jacket if you have one. If you don't have any of the gear mentioned, please show up anyway, it will be appreciated. After the ceremonies at Clinton Grove Cemetery, we will proceed to the Veterans Wall in downtown Mt. Clemens for another salute to our fallen veterans.

**“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.” – President John F. Kennedy**



**MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT**  
 Department of Michigan  
 Marine Corps League  
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