



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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NOVEMBER 2019

Elaine Arnold, Newsletter Editor, text or call (248) 606-2600
Detachment WEB Site: www.macombmarines.com



2019 installation of officers. L to R Clement Buck, Mike Hall, Don Lyon, PNC Jim Tuohy, Zone Commandant Tim McGee, Norm Pfaff, PNC John Tuohy, Jim Dewey, John Myroniuk

Marines & Auxiliary Members:

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **November 7th** at the usual meeting time of 7:30.

The General Membership Meeting will be held at the American Legion, Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica. The telephone number to the Post is: (586) 731-9833.

October 50/50 and Attendance drawings

You win some and you lose some, in this case Rick Kincaid won \$84.50 from the 50/50 raffle and Randy Hayes won \$27.81 from the attendance drawing.

OCTOBER MEETING

There were 28 members and 3 guests at the October meeting, Installation of Officers. A catered meal from Zio's Catering was provided by the Detachment.

DETACHMENT & AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER

Patricia K. Horton
David L. Cunningham
Joseph G. Wauldron
Vincent C. Peeper

Steven J. August
Dale Verhaeghe
Dean A. Miles
Michael P. Suhy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 7 **1930** General Membership meeting

Nov. 10 **1500-2000 hours**
Marine Corps Birthday Party

Dec. 6 **1900** General Membership meeting
 Detachment/Auxiliary Christmas Party

Jan 2 2020 **1930** General Membership meeting

Feb 6 **1930** General Membership meeting

DUES RENEWALS

Still waiting on renewal dues from the following members.

Mail \$32.00 to
 MCL Detachment 154
 Adjutant/Paymaster
 14656 Eastport Dr.
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Steven August	Raymond Mrosewske
David Auwen	Jerome Nadolski
John Blackburn	James Rhodes
David Burin	John Spehar
Bryan Daffran	Raymond Tucci
Rick Kincaid	Daniel Wertz
Gordon Lowrie	Malcolm Whitehouse



Presentation of service awards.
 David Trevino 25 years, A.F. Blumenthal 50 years,
 Paul Glesen 40 years



Stop the presses somebody caught
 Blu smiling!

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

Marines

Somebody once said "I'm looking for a few good men" I'm looking for a few good Marines to fill in 3 position: Quartermaster, Honor Guard commander, and Toys for Tots liaison. If interested, give me a call.

Everybody got their issue of Semper Fi Magazine and I hope there were articles read not just looking at the pictures. Everybody likes to look back at what they did. Well, guess what, that don't count anymore. I had a hillbilly boss tell me it's not what you did "Son", it's what you are doing. What have we done to better our Detachment? What have we done to help other Marines/Veterans? And the count goes on.

We got a break with Bingo at the VA hospital. Our next bingo won't be until the 4th Thursday in January. We meet at the YMCA in Mt. Clemens @ 1800 and car pool from there.

As always, Vets returning home need clean used clothes. If you have any bring them to our next meeting or just drop them at the post and tell the commander what and who they are for and I will get them to the Vets.

Remember, Red shirt (if you have one), name tag, and Marine Corps League cover and I've got a story to tell. Semper Fi and I'll see you on November 7, 2019. Semper Fi.

Norm Pfaff
Commandant

P.S. Here's some notes I made from the Dept. of MI Staff meeting (Oct. 26 in Bay City)

The 990 occupied the first 45 mins but with the help of GOD we were able to get the message.

Senior Vice passed out the tickets for the next Department ticket raffle and I will bring them to our next meeting.

Junior Vice reported that membership had dropped from last year so I looked at how it was when I was Department Commandant and it had dropped over 20% (2467 to 2015) in the last 4 years. We had dropped around 15%. We are going to make greater effort to secure more members.

Department Mid-Winter rally will be in Jackson Michigan on January 24 & 25.

Department Judge Advocate is updating the by-laws and they should be out in the next couple of months or by Mid- winter.

Department is looking for Department VAVS Rep – a very important job. If anybody is interested, I can get the word to the Department Commandant.

AUXILIARY NEWS

The Installation of Officers at our last meeting went very well.

Our Officers this year are:

President:	Maureen Ailor
Sr. V. P:	Loretta Balderson
Jr. V. P:	Sherri Teeples
Judge Advocate:	Joan Pfaff
Treas./Sec:	Irene Spooner
Co-chaplains:	Wendy Succarde and Delores Tonegatto

Our Auxiliary couldn't exist without the commitment of our membership to accept these leadership roles. A very special thanks to Gerri Touhy, Past National President, for acting as the Installing Officer and a special thanks to Peggy Touhy for her assistance as well. Both of these long time, life members of the Auxiliary have done so much for the MCLA, at the Unit level, the Department level and the National level, and continue to assist with their experience and knowledge. Thanks again to Gerri and Peggy.



Sharon Renaud, Wendy Succarde, Joan Pfaff, Dolores Tonegatto, Irene Spooner



Peggy Touhy, Maureen Ailor, Gerri Touhy

Also deserving of a thank-you is our own Detachment for providing the dinner and all the Auxiliary members that brought appetizers or desserts. Everything was delicious and made for a fun evening of socializing after the ceremony.

Time is running out to donate items for the Basket Raffle at this year's celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday on November 10th. This is the Auxiliary's biggest fundraiser of the year. We're looking for non-perishable food items like gourmet candies and cookies, crackers, summer sausage and the like. Also, bottles of liquor and wine are welcome. New gadgets for the kitchen or the workbench can be used, too. Your donations can be brought to the meeting on Thursday, November 7th. If you have any questions, call Irene Spooner at 586-466-5708.

Speaking of the Birthday Party, American House is generously catering this event. They do an absolutely wonderful job and we all greatly appreciate their involvement. In addition to the dinner they provide, we ask you to bring either a side dish or a dessert. We plan to have the traditional SOS along with all the other goodies. The more the merrier, so bringing guests is encouraged. A \$5.00 cover charge is also requested at the door. Our Detachment and Auxiliary are proud to celebrate the birth of the Marine Corps every year and we look forward to sharing this great tradition with our community.

The day after our Birthday celebration, we commemorate Veterans Day on November 11th. We'll have more information about this at our November meeting. With sadness and respect, we remember that it was the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month that the armistice was signed ending World War I and has become the day we thank our Veterans for their service to our country.

The end of the year is always busy. Right after the Marine Corps Birthday celebration and Veterans Day in November, we have our Detachment and Auxiliary Christmas Party in December. This is the time of year we, meaning the Auxiliary, designate which charity will receive a donation from us. This is our chance to play Santa. The Detachment also collects toys for the Toys for Tots program. We'll discuss the specifics about this and the Christmas party at our November meetings.

See you at the next meeting on November 7, 2019 at 7:30 pm. New members are always welcome.

Semper Fidelis,
Irene Spooner
Secretary/Treasurer
Macomb County Unit, MCLA



Vietnam Veterans President Paul Palazzolo,
Mark Spooner, Norm Pfaff, Don Lyon

The Detachment presented a \$1,000 check to benefit the Fisher House – a “home away from home” where military and Veterans’ families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment at the VA medical center.

244TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY **USMC COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE**

Today, as we celebrate our 244th birthday, we must remember who we are, where we came from, and why we're here. We value the sacrifices and contributions of every Marine and Sailor, as well as our family members without whose support we would not be able to accomplish our mission. And we remain committed to being our Nation's Expeditionary Force in Readiness that sets the standard for honor, discipline, and courage. I am proud of each and every one of you. Happy Birthday, Marines!

*General David H. Berger, 38th Commandant
of the Marine Corps*



The 244th Birthday Ball Coin, The Marine Shop, \$8.95

GERALD MIZE- HIS STORY (PART TWO)

Eventually Gerald's 18 months of overseas duty ended and in September 1961 he received orders to report to Marine Barracks Naval Air Station Key West Florida of all places!

With the base so close to Cuba one had to have a top secret clearance. We all know Gerald was a straight shooter so he had no problem acquiring that.

Notable events that happened during this time;

- On November 26, 1962 he got to meet President John F. Kennedy while manning the gate. The President spoke to him, but the particulars of that conversation are lost to history.



- The Blue Angels came down every six weeks to train at the air station so he got to see their air show regularly.
- He was in a movie "PT 109" as an extra. Paid \$25 a day and a box lunch. Sometimes dressed as a Marine, sometimes as a sailor. Obviously not a speaking role. He said it was a lot of hurry up and wait to shoot a scene. He remembers they used three PT boats during the filming, but only one was sea-worthy after filming. This boat was turned over to Base Special Services and used as a fishing boat.



Gerald was awarded the Good Conduct Medal on 5th October 1962, and was Honorably Discharged at the rank of Lance Corporal in August 1963.

Gerald has continued to serve our Detachment. He has been part of the highway cleanup detail, managed the Toy for Tots collection for the Detachment, and is an active member of the Detachment Color Guard. He has been awarded the Detachment the "Marine of the year" Award for his efforts. Pretty impressive for a youthful 79 year old!

*Greg Pawlik
Historian*

LIEUTENANT COLONEL COMMANDANT ANTHONY WAYNE GALE

18 Oct 2019 marks the 199th anniversary of the cashiering of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Anthony Wayne Gale, our fourth Commandant, of the Marine Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel Gale left behind a legacy of brawling, public drunkenness, and cavorting with ladies of questionable moral fiber, along with several other specifications under the charge of conduct unbecoming an officer.

While his activities on liberty would certainly not be appropriate today, I suspect that many of you, like me can't help but admire his thirst for adventure. I would go so far as to suggest that many of us could be similarly indicted for some of our own youthful indiscretions.

Therefore, I ask that you pause for a moment to remember Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Gale and join me as I raise a glass in his memory.

*Semper Fidelis
Col McBride*

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Gale, fourth Commandant of the Marine Corps, was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 17 September 1782. Fewer records survive concerning him than any other Commandant but it is known that when he was commissioned a second lieutenant on 2 September 1798, he was one of the first officers commissioned after the reestablishment of the Marine Corps in 1798. Thereafter he fought, in fairly quick succession, the French, the Barbary pirates, the British, and one of his Navy shipmates.

The last encounter, involving an affront to the Corps, brought about the naval officer's sudden demise and Commandant of the Marine Corps William

Ward Burrow's approval for Gale's defense of his Corps' honor. As the story goes, Gale was Ship's Company Commander aboard USS Ganges in November 1799 when Navy Lieutenant Allen McKenzie had one of the Marines put in irons without first consulting Gale. When Gale inquired about the incident, McKenzie called him a "rascal." The rest of the story is related in correspondence by Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Burrows: "The Captain took no notice of the business and Gale got no satisfaction on the cruise. The moment he arrived he called (McKenzie) out and shot him. Afterwards politeness was restored." McKenzie died of his wounds and Burrows went on to say, "It is hoped that this may be a lesson to the Navy Officers to treat the Marines, as well as their Officers, with more respect."

Unfortunately for Captain Gales, increasing rank brought other difficulties not resolved so directly. In 1815 Burrow's successor as Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel Franklin Wharton, was charged by Congress with over-spending on the construction of Marine Barracks Philadelphia. He, in turn, accused the Commandant of the barracks, Anthony Gale, of building "extravagant" officers' quarters. Gale was ordered to stand before a Court of Inquiry, but was exonerated. It was shortly after this that Wharton was again called to account to Congress. This time he was accused of fleeing Washington rather than leading his Marines into the Battle of Bladensburg. When convened, his Court Martial consisted of three Navy Captains and one Captain of Marines, Captain Anthony Gale. The Court decided that Marines ashore were subject to Army, not Navy Courts under the Articles of War, and the charges were ultimately dropped. His duties on his Commandant's Court Martial complete, Gale was promoted to Major and transferred to command Marine Barracks New Orleans.

Soon afterwards a letter to the Secretary of the Navy reported that Naval officers had, "frequently seen Major Gale intoxicated at New Orleans and that his associates were of such a description and his habits of such a nature as to prevent the respectable officers of that station from having any social or friendly intercourse with him." Daniel T. Patterson, Commander of the New Orleans Naval Station, wrote to the Secretary, "It is reluctantly and with extreme regret that I have again to address you relative to the Marines of this station, but longer to remain silent would be to neglect my duty. The Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates are, without exception, the most depraved, abandoned, and drunken set of men ever collected together."

While Gale was preparing to go to Washington to answer the preceding charges, Commandant Wharton died. At his Court Martial, Gale was found not guilty and returned to duty. As he was the next senior

officer in the Marine Corps, he was nominated to become Commandant. Despite the vigorous protests and political maneuvering of the Paymaster of the Marine Corps and Major Archibald Henderson (each of whom felt themselves better qualified for the position), on 5 March 1818 Gale was confirmed as the fourth Commandant of the Marine Corps. With it came promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

His tenure was to be brief. Soon came troubles with Navy Secretary Thompson, who frequently countermanded LtCol Gale's orders in a humiliating manner. Finally, LtCol Gale courageously submitted a letter analyzing the proper division of functions between himself and the Secretary, and respectfully pointed out the impossibility of his position. This official reaction to infringements of his authority, he paralleled by unofficial retreats to alcohol. On 18 September 1820 he was arrested and charged with offenses of alcoholic and related nature.

The first charge was that he was publicly intoxicated in the city of Washington on six specified dates---during the month of August. There were also several specifications under the charge of "Conduct Unbecoming an Officer." First, that he had visited a house of prostitution near the barracks, "in an open and disgraceful manner" and second, that on 1 September he had, before witnesses, called the Paymaster of the Marine Corps, "a damned rascal, a liar, and a coward." Other charges concerned his breaking house arrest and maintaining a Marine as a personal servant. Gale's unsuccessful defense was temporary insanity. He was cashiered from the Marine Corps on 18 October 1820, leaving 46 other officers on active duty in the Corps. Archibald Henderson succeeded him as Commandant.

From Washington, Gale went first to Philadelphia where he spent several months in hospitals, then took up residence in Kentucky. Armed with proof that he had been under the strain of temporary mental derangement while Commandant, he spent 15 years attempting to have his court-martial decision reversed. Eventually, in 1835, the government partially cleared him and awarded him a stipend of \$15 a month, which was later increased to \$25, and continued until his death in 1843 in Stanford, Lincoln County, Kentucky. Today no trace of his grave exists and Anthony Wayne Gale is the only Commandant of whom the Marine Corps has no portrait.

The preceding account partially compiled from: The U.S. Marine Corps Story by J. Robert Muskin, and U.S. Marines: 1775-1975 by Brigadier General Edwin Simmons USMC (Retired)



Outgoing Commandant Don Teeple was presented a gift from new Detachment Commandant Norm Pfaff – a coloring book to help occupy his time now that he has released his duties. Norm advised Don to “stay within the lines!”

MARINES & VETERAN MARINES

The Macomb County Detachment and Auxiliary of the Marine Corps League invites you to the 244th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps

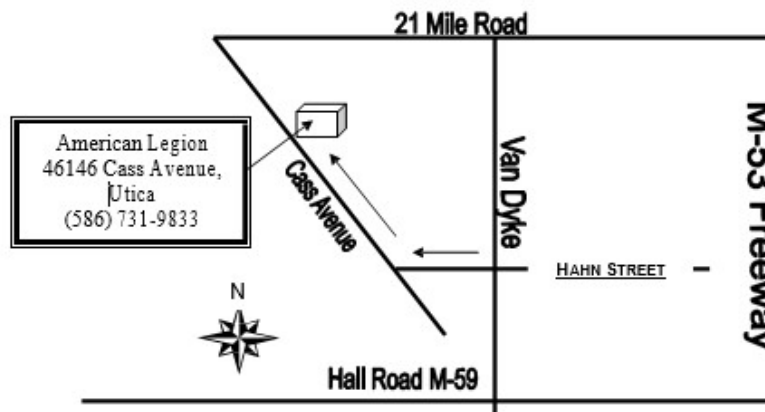


Sunday, 10 November 2019
1500 to 2100
American Legion, Post 351
Utica, Michigan



A donation of \$5.00 is requested at the door.
Refreshments will be provided.
Cake Cutting Ceremony at 1900
Charity Basket Raffle at 1930

Unique Marine Corps and Marine Corps League Gear will be available for sale.



From the south:
Turn left at the first traffic light north of Hall Road (Hahn Street), then turn right on Cass.

From the north:
Turn right on 21 Mile Road from Van Dyke, then turn left on Cass.

MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

Mailing Address:
 14656 Eastport Drive
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313-5325

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Name _____

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____