



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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Marines & Auxiliary Members:

MAY MEETING NOTICE

Because of ongoing concerns with the COVID-19 virus the MAY General Membership meeting is cancelled. The board will keep you posted regarding future meetings as we as a nation cope with the situation.

if there are any members that need assistance, please let us know so we can make arrangements to get them the help they need.

DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY



William Ackerman
Kevin Brewer
Jerome Nadolski
Ronald Parks
Greg Pawlik
John Polanco
James Szczesny
Dave Trevino
Robert Westfall

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

Well, since COVID-19 has for the time being, taken control of how we can live our lives and since the governor has extended the restrictions to May 15th, we have cancelled our May Detachment meeting.

But, this doesn't mean life stops. Now is the time to renew personal goals and commitments. We have a Vet picnic coming up, our annual "bike a thon" would love to see 25 Marines riding around Stoney Creek with our Chaplain, Jr. Vice and Commandant. How about a little wager on this?

A golf outing is in planning stages which is taking a lot of time from a lot of Marines. Let set a meeting. we can use the post and our required distancing.

Remember, it's not the critic that counts, not the one who points out how the strong man stumbled or how the doer of deeds might have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat, dust and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes up short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself on a worthy cause.

Who if he wins, knows the triumphs of high achievement and if he fails, at least fails while doing greatly, so that this place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knows neither victory nor defeat. Semper Fi

Respectfully submitted

P. S. Any Ideas, my phone is always available.

Norm Pfaff
Commandant

AUXILIARY NEWS

As you can imagine, there's not too much to report since we haven't had a meeting since December 2019. That seems so long ago in light of recent events; the "stay at home" order issued by Governor Whitmer. However, there are a few things worth noting.

Be alert for email scams. It seems there are always nasty people out there in cyber world trying to take advantage of situations and this Covid-19 pandemic is no different. I received a cautionary message from Gerri Tuohy to that effect. An email went out asking for e-bay gift cards by someone identifying himself/herself as Gerri who needed help because of some unnamed problem. This was a hoax and not sent by Gerri. When receiving emails asking for cash or gift cards by someone you think know,

check the email address of the sender to see if the email in question was really sent by the person you know. As in this case with Gerri, the email address was not hers.

Also, be careful of opening any links you receive in your email unless you're really, really sure it's safe to do so. I've received links myself, sent by someone that I think I know with short messages like, "I thought you might like this." Or "Check this out." However, once I checked the email address of the sender, it's not from the person I know. The name and email address do not match. These links can be viruses that can damage your computer. Be alert and be aware.

We continue to receive thank you cards from the different charities we donated to this past December. Now more than ever there are more and more people in need. Our dollars are going to some of the neediest in our own community. If anyone in the Auxiliary would like a membership list, I can email it to you. Contact me at mispooner@wowway.com. If you don't use email, call me at 586-466-5708. I usually have updated lists at our meetings, but if you haven't received one, let me know and I'll get it to you.

I am aware there won't be a May meeting. Governor Whitmer indicated she'll be extending the "stay at home" order, so we'll see how that works out. I'm sure we're all looking forward to getting out and about again, but we need to be patient. So for the time being, stay home and stay safe.

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

MEET YOUR DETACHMENT LEADERSHIP

Continuing our series of introductions to the Detachment officers, this month we feature our Detachment Historian Greg Pawlik and Paymaster/Adjutant Don Lyon (who is also as the Detachment Webmaster www.macombmarines.com)

Historian Greg Pawlik BOOT CAMP MEMORIES

This is just a part of the story of my time as a nineteen year old male undergoing Marine Corps recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. I wanted to document this period in my life because I have told particular episodes from recruit training to people and got a great reaction from it, and I think it is a great story. I also wanted to put it to pen before time really eats away the memory. A copy of this entire journey has been placed in my recruit memories book that many of you have.

MAKING THE RACK

My mental videotape machine did not record every minute I was at the Recruit Depot, just the moments that made an impression on me. And there were a lot of them. I remember it was getting near dusk. I had arrived at the Depot very early the morning of June 26th 1969. Receiving barracks is a whole other story.



Pvt Pawlik

The DI's gathered the platoon together to show us how to make our bunks (rack) military style. After they demonstrated how to do it, they undid the bunk and then had a couple of recruits get in front of the platoon to try and do it. What a joke. They immediately began to screw it up and the DI's start screaming at them.

One of these fellows starts to cry. I remember SSgt Rivera going over to this kid and acting like he was consoling him, when suddenly, he slaps him across the face! There was an immediate "gasp" that came from all of the recruits. I had heard that this sort of thing could/would happen, but to see it, that's another thing. Then, SSgt Rivera's assistant DI, a thin wiry sergeant whose name I never cared to remember (I'll refer to him as Nameless), looks at us with this evil grin and says "you ain't seen anything yet! After your physicals, the real beatings begin."

It's time for lights out. After many attempts of jumping into our rack in a timely way to satisfy the DI's demand for precision, they finely turn out the lights. I'm in a top bunk. I'd never slept in one before.

REVEILLE

"Get out of the rack..., get out of the rack..., **GET OUT OF THE M\$%^&* F!@#\$%*&^ RACK!!!!!!!!**", followed by the clanging of a metal garbage can tumbling end over end across the barracks floor. The lights are turned on simultaneously, so there must be two DI's at work. I roll right out of my bunk. Uh oh – the floor is six feet away!!! I manage to land flat on the cement. DID THAT EVER HURT! I pull myself up. Fear drives me to move. Don't want to draw the attention of the two lunatics running around. God, I hope there's some method to this madness.

Did I happen to mention I never had to use a combination lock in my entire life until now? Boy, did I live a sheltered life before I got here. I've got to open the lock to get into my sea bag to get at my clothes. The fellow from the bottom bunk is scrambling to get dressed. I grab him by the arm, "Man, you got to help me with this lock" I plead. He looks at me with this exasperated look and says "what's the combination?"

I tell him the combination and he quickly shows me how to open it. I'm forever in his debt.



Historian Greg Pawlik

Past Historians: 2010-2011 Guy Serafino, 2011-2012 Joseph Wozniak, 2014-2016 Dean Miles, 2017-2020 Greg Pawlik

Role of Historian

The Historian is primarily responsible for the historical records of the Detachment. He/she solicits articles, photos, and other media to maintain detachment archives and history.

Adjutant/Paymaster Don Lyon:

After graduating from Denby High School in Detroit, I went to work for a local pharmaceutical manufacturer. I worked there for about 6 months, until I got a position at Great Lakes Sugar and Warehousing in Detroit, a Uniroyal distribution center. Seems I always smelled of rubber. Not bad for 1973, I was making about \$100.00 per week.

One day that October, a buddy of mine came by the house. Brian had just gotten out of boot camp, and the scrawny guy I knew growing up had definitely changed. During our travels while he was home, we stopped by to say hi to his recruiter, Ken Milbocker. Of course he tried to recruit me on the spot, but I wasn't interested at the time.

At Great Lakes, I was a clerk that dispatched about 20 workers that filled the orders to Uniroyal dealers across the country. When I found out that the guys working for me (teamsters) were getting paid more than I was, I tried to get a raise. After the boss denied

me, I thought, well if that skinny ass Brian could make it in the Marine Corps, I probably could too. So I hauled my butt out to see Millbocker. I figured, what the hell, it couldn't be any worse than the dead end job I was in at the time. (My boss was only 6 years older than me and I needed him to get a promotion or retire to advance, and that wasn't likely).

So, I signed the papers to go in as an electrician. I took the test in downtown Detroit, and got sworn in. Multiple choice exams came easy to me, so I aced this one. So the OIC of the Marine recruiting detachment met with me, saying I could have any job I wanted in the Corps. The 5 or 6 Marines there convinced me that the air wing was the way to go. So we changed my MOS to aviation electronics, and my date to leave for boot camp was set for May 14, 1974.

Now, on May 14, 1974, myself and 4 other guys were waiting for the bus to take us out to Metro for our flight to San Diego. It's about 3:30 in the afternoon, and we're starting to get concerned. The flight is supposed to leave at 6:00 and we don't have our orders or tickets yet. Finally, we get a Staff Sergeant to check, and we hear from around the corner one of the many "Oh Shits" I would hear over the years to come.

We made it to the airport with about 15 minutes to spare, ran from the curb to the gate, (no security check points back then) and got to MCRD San Diego, after connecting through LAX, about 11:00 that night.

83 days later and 63 pounds lighter, I graduated from boot camp on August 8, 1974. I'll never forget the exact day, because the headline on the newspaper said, "NIXON RESIGNS" and I remember thinking, "Shit, now I have to learn a whole new chain of command."

I had ten days leave, then I was to report to NAS Millington, Tennessee for my A school. On my way home from the airport, I stopped by to see my dad at work. (He was a Detroit Fire fighter stationed at HQ downtown) They paged him when I got there, and when he came down to the desk, he looked right at me and said, "Yes, can I help you?" So, nobody recognized me when I got home, not even my dog Pluto, who growled at me for the first two days.

After school in Tennessee, I was off to MCAS Cherry Pointe in North Carolina. I had about 4 days to figure things out before they sent me up to NAS Oceana Virginia, for A-6 school. 6 weeks later, back at Cherry Pointe, and what would have happened when I check in? I get arrested for being AWOL! Seems they forgot to take me off the roster and the grunt they had running the casual company at the receiving barracks kept reporting me. Luckily, the

officer of the day figured it out and I didn't spend any time in the brig. Although the clown that reported me AWOL, still kept trying to get me locked up for about the next 6 months.



Don with his sisters and kid brother, home on leave from boot camp

Next, I was assigned to VMA (AW) 121, an A-6 squadron. So here I am, fresh from all of my schools, brain overflowing with knowledge, and I just can't wait to get my hands on an airplane. So, they sent me off to mess duty for 30 days, and then guard duty for another 30. Just enough time to forget half the stuff I'd learned.

Over the next 2 years, my squadron did deployments to Spain, Italy, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, England, Bermuda and the Azores. It seemed like we never stayed in the same place for longer than 3 months. (I think our CO was working on getting a star). Besides the trips across the Atlantic, we bounced around the country, Fallon NV for the bombing range, 29 Palms to work with the grunts, even dealt with a hurricane evacuation to Wichita Falls Texas, where we got to mess with the Air Force (and the chow was better).

In May 1977, the whole squadron got transferred for a 13 month tour to Iwakuni Japan, with side trips to Subic Bay in the Philippines, and Korea in the winter.

I was due to get discharged in May of 78. The Lt. called me into the personnel office and asked if I wanted to reenlist. At the time I was really looking forward to getting out, so I told him no -to which he told me that the group of us that were due to get out, were

being involuntary extended at the convenience of the government. I thought, "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot", why would they do that? Apparently because *Idi Amin Dada Oumee* was in the process of trying to kill off most of his countrymen, and we had been put on alert for possible deployment to the Indian Ocean for combat operations. Well, it didn't happen, so on June 14th, 1977 I collected my stuff, got my final pay, and caught a flight back to Detroit.



Don Lyon

Past Adjutant/Paymasters: 2010-2012 George Wittstock, 2012-2013 Greg Rubenstein, 2013-2016 Scott Neff, 2016-2017 Mark Spooner, 2017-2020 Don Lyon

Role of Adjutant

The Adjutant is the recording secretary of the detachment meetings and affairs, responsible for agendas, minutes, records of attendance and for the official notifications to the members.

Role of Paymaster

The Paymaster is the Detachment Chief Financial Officer. He/she receives all monies that come into the Detachment including members' dues. Paymaster

maintains the "books" which are subject to an annual audit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOTE: Stand by for latest updates due to precautions related to COVID-19.

May 7 General Membership Mtg
 CANCELLED

Tentative future plans: Subject to change

May 24 Memorial Day Ceremonies at Clinton
 Grove Cemetery then Mt. Clemens
 Veterans Wall

May 25 Sterling Heights Memorial Day
 Ceremony & Parade

June 4 General Membership Mtg

June 12-13 Department of Michigan, MCL
 Summer convention hosted by Flint
 Detachment

GUESS WHO?

Who is this couple?He trained for over 30 Years in the Korean art of Tae Kwon Do attaining the rank of 4th degree Black Belt. She trained for 20 years at the same Do Jang and attained the rank 1st degree red belt. She was referred to by the students as Iron Grandma. The high lite of their careers was winning double Gold medals (forms and fighting) at U.S.A. National Competitions for 3 years in a role.

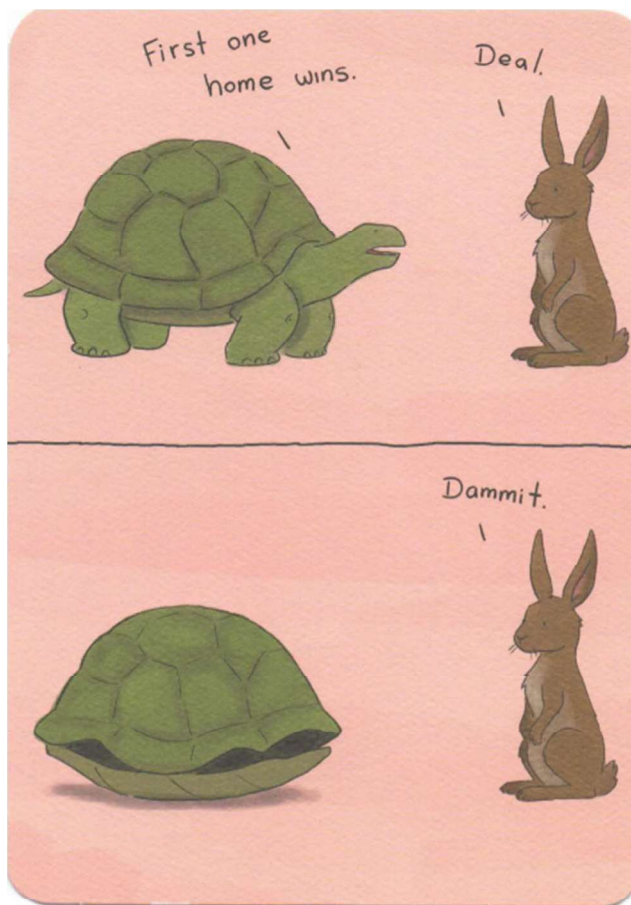


GUESS WHO?

Our mystery photo from April..... If you guessed Norm Pfaff you were right! *Too easy, right?*

"Uncommon Valor"

Refers to the victories in World War II, especially at Iwo Jima, the largest all-Marine battle in history. Admiral Nimitz's ringing epitome of Marine fighting on Iwo Jima was applied to the entire Marine Corps in World War II: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."



Source: www.thelittleworldofliz.com

staying in
is the new going out.
enjoy your day!

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