



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



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MARCH 2024
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Marines & Auxiliary Members:

MARCH MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **March 7th at the usual meeting time of 7:30 pm**. Join us at the American Legion, Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica, always on the first Thursday of the month. The telephone number to the Post is (586) 731-9833.

DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Loretta Balderson | Brett Jacokes |
| Charles Brown | John Myroniuk |
| David Burin | Keith Natale |
| Kim Hadley | Gary Nummer |
| Bill Heise | Jim Rhodes |
| Charles Tyson | |

COMMANDANT’S MESSAGE

We will try to have future guest speakers on different topics at whatever. Please let me know if you would like a specific topic and we will see if we can accommodate it. We have worked out a date for the golf outing and it is Sept 7th. We are working on a website to allow payment online and a new flyer.

We are going to a fun shoot at DSC April 20th as we have had in previous years. I will have flyers for this at the meeting. We still have raffle tickets for the Department vehicle raffle. It is a chance to win a vehicle up to \$50,000.00 or \$30,000.00 cash. Please get with me on specifics. The tickets are \$20.00 each. Please let

me know as always if you want to suggest something. I am more than happy to discuss.

Steve August, Commandant



AUXILIARY NEWS

We were just sharing holidays salutations and now it's already March. You know what that means. Our Auxiliary meetings will resume.

As we receive thank you letters from charities we've donated to this past Christmas, there's one in particular I want to mention. This is Miracle Quilts which is named after PFC Joseph Miracle who was killed in action in 2007 while serving in Afghanistan. This charity, which is run by the founder, Carole Carroll and has

delivered more than 10,000 quilts to wounded soldiers and Marines.



Quilts are presented to wounded troops at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington D.C., Michigan VA hospitals, for homeless vets and for troops currently serving and have been shipped to Landstuhl, Germany. Every year Miracle Quilts has an Annual Quilt Show & Display as part of their fund-raising efforts. This year it's on Saturday, June 8 at Independence Village, 701 Market Street, Oxford. I don't have all the details yet, but will make them available as I get them. If you are a quilter, interested in different crafts or like finding something handmade for purchase, this show is for you. I need to thank Auxiliary member Loretta Balderson for introducing us to Carole Carroll. This is really a wonderful charity.

Here's an update on the Detroit Fisher House. As I have previously written in past articles, Fisher House Detroit, located on Woodward Ave. and Bethune, less than 2 miles from the John Dingell VA Medical Center, will offer free lodging to military and Veteran families while their loved one is receiving treatment at the VA hospital. The Fisher House near the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center will have 16 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room.



I attended their "Topping Off" Ceremony on February 20, 2024. I had no idea what that meant until I got there. All the guests at this ceremony were invited to sign the 20-foot beam which was placed or "topped"

above the entry way to this facility. Paula Tutman from WDIV-TV Local 4 News was the Master of Ceremonies. Representative Debbie Dingell was one of the speakers. The Executive Director of Fisher House Michigan, Kate Melcher, predicts this facility will be up and running sometime in July 2024. This construction of Fisher House is privately funded with support from many, many corporations and individuals such as Delta Airlines, Masco Corp., Domino's Pizza, Student Veterans of America-U of M, the Van Elslander Foundation and such. I'm proud to say our own Auxiliary made a contribution to this very worthwhile project. I'll keep you posted as I get updates on Fisher House Detroit.

The Marine Corps League and Auxiliary will be having their Central Division Conference April 4-7, 2024 in Kalamazoo. The Central Division besides Michigan consists of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. In addition to providing leadership training and awards ceremonies, this is a great venue to exchange ideas on a variety of subjects critical to the Detachments and Auxiliaries. It's also a wonderful opportunity for meeting other members outside of Michigan and exchanging ideas. There will be a follow-up to this after the Conference.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:30pm.

Irene Spooner
Treasurer/Secretary, Macomb County MCLA

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Last call for interest in going to Washington DC to attend the Evening Parade at Marine Barracks Washington. There are 5 of us that want to attend the 10 May parade. We will leave for DC on Thursday 9 May and be back in Michigan on 12 May.

Jim Dewey, Chaplain

THIS MONTH IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

March 3, 1776: Today in Marine Corps history, the Marines descended on Fort Nassau in the Bahamas. The British military had been storing munitions in the Bahamas for use against the colonies in the Revolutionary War. Initially, more than 200 barrels of gunpowder were moved from Virginia to the Bahamas by the British. Learning of the cache, the newly formed Continental Marines sailed to the Bahamas with 235 Marines and captured not just full stores of gunpowder, but also other weapons. The British surrendered within minutes after the Marines came ashore.

March 2, 1968: Today in Marine Corps history, after 33 days of fighting in what is considered the longest and bloodiest battle of the Vietnam War, outnumbered

Marines fought a vicious battle in Hue City against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. The battle started with the Tet Offensive on the first night of the Vietnamese lunar new year and hundreds of attacks were launched across the country. In the end, after block by block fighting, the Marines retook the city.

March 19, 2003: Today in Marine Corps history, the U.S. military launches the invasion of Iraq first by air, then by land as Marines fight in Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein. While they served in many roles and in many fights, their most known is Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah in November 2004. The majority of Marine battles were fought in urban environments making the fighting challenging because of booby traps and an enemy that often used remotely detonated weapons to fight. Jason Dunham was awarded the Medal of Honor for action.

Source: *THE DEPOT*

Greg Pawlik, Historian



CHANGES TO VA BENEFITS' PAYMENTS

Starting April 20, 2024, the VA will no longer send a Veteran's or family members' benefit payments to more than one bank account. This change is made to help protect Veterans and families from fraud and ensure that the VA is able to pay Veterans on time, every time, without error.

Therefore, all Veterans and beneficiaries who receive GI bill payments and other benefit payments across multiple banking accounts are required to select one account by April 20, 2024.

This shift will impact nearly 50,000 of 800,000 total GI Bill beneficiaries. This change is part of VA's efforts to modernize the 50-year-old, antiquated GI bill payment system. Once fully deployed, the platform will improve claims processing and customer service by providing direct, online, one-stop access to GI Bill benefits and information.

The easiest way for beneficiaries to make this change is to log on to [Change Your VA Direct Deposit Information | Veterans Affairs](#).

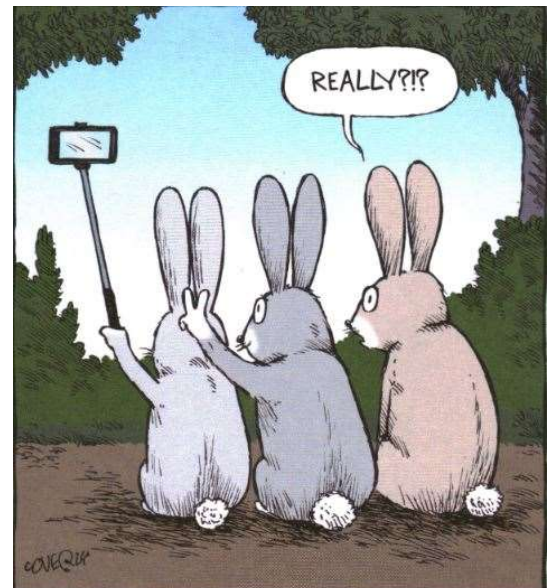
Importantly, no Veteran will miss a benefits payment of any type. For any students who do not consolidate their bank accounts for benefits by April 20, VA will consolidate them on their behalf, electing their non-education benefit pay account as their primary bank account.



GUESS WHO?



Do you know this Detachment member, former Detachment Commandant?





Marine Corps League

Macomb Detachment #154

Military Rifle Fun Shoot

Saturday 20 April 2024



Hosted by
Detroit Sportsmen's Congress ~ Rifle Committee

Location:	Detroit Sportsmen's Congress 49800 Dequindre, Utica, MI 48317 www.d-s-c.org 586-739-3300	Awards:	First Place Trophies for Marine, Non-Marine, Women and Bench Shooters First through Third Place Trophies for Juniors 16 and under shooting .22's
Match Date:	Saturday, 20 April 2024	Contact Info:	Match Director: Steve August 586-823-4434
Match Time:	Registration: 1300 (1:00 pm) Mandatory Safety Brief: 1330 (1:30 pm) Match first relay 1345 (1:45 pm)	Miscellaneous:	Range is covered with a cement firing line. Eye and Ear protection required for all.
Course of Fire:	20-shot aggregate, 5-shots each position Prone, sitting, kneeling and standing Bench shooting, allowed for those unable to shoot positions and for .22 juniors	Profits:	All profits support Marine Corps League, Macomb County Detachment charities
Arms & Ammo:	As issued U.S. military arms: 03 Springfield, M1, M1 Carbine, Ar-15 etc. Juniors: 16 and under can shoot .22's if you do not have a rifle, rifles will be provided. All ammunition provided. However, we offer a \$20 discount if you supply your own centerfire ammo. \$10 discount for your own .22 ammo. Minimum 20-rounds required.	Directions:	D.S.C. is approx. 8-miles east of I-75 & 2-miles north of M-39. (Dequindre exit) Range is east of Dequindre, off Juengel Road (200-yards north of Hamlin Road). Turn east on Juengel Road, go (500-ft.) to gate on north (left) side and follow road past the pistol ranges to the rifle range. GPS, the range is: N 42° 39.442', W 83° 05.311'
Registration:	Advance registration discount Save \$5 if you register by 8 April 2024		Clubhouse is north of Juengel Road past the shotgun building, turn right into the parking lot. Head to the tan building in the northeast corner.
Entry Fees:	Adult and Jr. (centerfire) day of shoot \$40. Junior (.22) day of shoot \$25.		

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Category: Marine Non-marine Women Junior Bench Junior 16 and under firing .22

Firearm: M1 M1 Carbine AR-15 Own rifle Entry Fee: _____

Ammo: 30-06 30 Carbine .223 Bringing ammo Early Reg. Discount: _____

Send completed form and check for total fee, payable to:

Macomb County Det. MCL

c/o Dan Lyon

14656 Eastport Drive

Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Ammo Discount: _____

Total Fee: \$ _____

MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
 INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS
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 14656 Eastport Drive
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313-5325

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 Or email to Macomb.marines@gmail.com

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Name _____

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____