



# SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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**JULY 2021**  
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**JULY MEETING NOTICE**

The next in person General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday July 1st 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 JULY**

- Ken Churchill
- Frederick Gillick
- Nancy Haase
- Roger Hamilton
- Bruce Hartung
- Joseph Kowalski
- Gordon Lowrie
- Don Lyon
- Joseph Nerone
- Edmond Page
- David Peltier
- John Tinsley

**JUNE MEETING**



**NEW MEMBERS  
REPORTING IN**

At the June meeting three new members were sworn in to the Detachment.



***Welcome Aboard Marines!***

**Scott Metcalf** – MOS – 0846 Artillery forward observer  
 YEARS SERVED  
 1967-1970 USMC  
 1976-1997 US AIR FORCE  
 Retired as Sergeant Major  
 Last duty station USMC - Camp Lejeune  
 Commander of the Macomb County Ritual Team



**Justin Kane** –  
 MOS – 0331 Machine Gunner  
 YEARS SERVED  
 2001-2005  
 Last Duty station - Camp Pendleton  
 1st Bn 5th Marines  
 Justin served in the Iraq War during the initial invasion in 2003 going from Kuwait all the way to Baghdad.

Then his unit came back the next year and fought in the initial battle of Fallujah. Both efforts of his unit have been recorded in published books; "A Table in the Presence" by Carey H. Cash and "Operation Phantom Fury" by Dick Camp.

Today, Justin is a product manager for a software development company who enjoys hunting white-tailed deer and running marathons and other adventure races



**Steve Smith** –  
MOS – 2531 Radio Operator  
YEARS SERVED 1992-1996  
Last duty station - Camp Lejeune  
Commander - Macomb County Young Marines

#### MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

Marines,

We have a lot of things happening so don't be late to the detachment meeting. The Fund-Raising committee will be meeting at 1830. Don't be late.

The annual **Veterans' Picnic** is August 7<sup>th</sup>. 46146 Cass Avenue, Utica, MI 48317 as well as the "**Bike-a-Thon to Benefit Veterans,**" at Stoney Creek Metropark, same day. See details in next newsletter.

I love history and I ran across this bit of history that you might want to think about....

In May of 1919 at Dusseldorf Germany, allied forces ran across this document labeled "The Communist Rules for Revolution" It reads as follows:  
A. Corrupt the young, get them away from religion, get them interested in sex, superficial things. Destroy their ruggedness.  
B. Get control of all means of publicity and thereby  
1. you can tell them whatever you want, to change their thoughts on issues.  
2. Divide the people into hostile groups, by attacking and lying about real issues and mention things of no importance.

3. Destroy the people's faith in their natural leaders by holding them up to contempt and ridicule.
  4. Always preach true democracy, but seize power as fast as possible.
  5. By encouraging government extravagance, destroy their credit, produce fear of inflation with raising prices and general discontent.
- C. Cause the registration of all firearms on some pretext, then start to seize them leaving the population helpless.

Does this sound familiar?

God, Country, Corps. God bless the U.S. A.

Semper Fi

Respectfully submitted,

*Norm Pfaff, Commandant*

#### AUXILIARY NEWS

Our plans to ask businesses for raffle donations seemed to go well. At our June meeting it was decided to canvas a number of businesses in the 23 Mile Road and Gratiot area asking for items for the September baby shower at the Detroit VA Hospital and for our Birthday Raffle in November. President Maureen Ailor, Sr. Vice Loretta Balderson and Treasurer Irene Spooner met for lunch to discuss our strategy. After lunch with donation letters in hand, we hit about a half dozen stores in the area. Depending on a store's corporate policy, some were more receptive than others. Only one, **Lowe's**, gave a raffle item on the spot. Some needed to process our request through their corporate offices before they could commit to a donation and a couple of stores indicated they supported veterans in a different way. So, we'll see how this works out and plan to do this again within the next couple of months.

On a separate note, Sr. Vice Loretta Balderson donated a bag full a hand sewn coloring book bags complete with coloring books and crayons for Operation Little Angel at the June Conference in Flint. President Ailor was more than happy to present these at the conference as well as other items that Auxiliary members donated for that very worthy cause.

What is Operation Little Angel? Good question and one that has been asked every time our Auxiliary gets a request for a donation. Operation Little Angel is a charity started and sustained by the MCLA. In 2000 a National Marine Corps League Auxiliary President and two police officers, also members of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary (MCLA) put their heads, hearts and minds together and the Operation Little Angel© (OLA) program was formed. It started out small with only the idea of stuffed toys being put into police vehicles to be given to frightened children. The dream grew and today, not just toys, but clothing, food

and items necessary for survival are placed in the hands of those agencies that can best serve the “little angels” who are the most vulnerable victims of crime and abuse.

Departments and Units can support local agencies on their own under the name of Operation Little Angel or they can collect funds and needed supplies and bring their donation to specific events: the Mid-Winter Conference held in February/March or the August National Convention. As you can see, this is a very good cause and one worth our time and effort to support.



President Ailor and Treasurer Spooner also had the opportunity to visit the new Michigan Veterans Homes in Chesterfield Township. It's a beautiful facility situated on the former site of military housing for those stationed at Selfridge. It's on Sugarbush Road, next to the Chesterfield Township municipal

offices. It has capacity for 128 veterans or other eligible individuals. Michigan has two other Veteran Homes, one in Grand Rapids and one in Marquette. This facility is divided into 4 neighborhoods, each measuring 29,000 square feet, with each having a shared kitchen, dining room and community room and private bedrooms for the residents. All buildings are connected by heated and air-conditioned corridors ensuring ease of movement, all surrounding a 33,000 square foot community center. Eight veterans have already moved into the facility in Chesterfield with more on the waiting list. For more information, go to their website at [michigan.gov/mvh](http://michigan.gov/mvh) and click on the locations tab to find the Chesterfield Township location.

We want to thank all Unit and Detachment members for attending the Memorial Day ceremonies at Clinton Grove Cemetery, downtown Mt. Clemens and in Utica. It's important to remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for this great country of ours. It's also important that we set an example to the younger generations that the men and women who died for our country and our freedom will never be forgotten. Once again, thank you to those who participated. To those who weren't able to make it this year, Memorial Day is an annual day of remembrance, so you can start planning to join us in 2022.

We were saddened to learn that Detachment member Bill Brown, husband of longtime Auxiliary life member Gayle Brown recently passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Brown family.

We'll have a few updates and reports on Auxiliary events at our next meeting that is on Thursday, July 1, 2021, starting at 7:30 pm. See you there!

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

### **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

*The following is adapted from what I shared at the Utica Memorial Day event.*

While a seminary student in Birmingham, Alabama I “served” as the chaplain for the local Marine Corps reserve unit. These Marines had returned from Iraq two years prior and needed someone to care for them, so I was breaking all of the rules by “serving as their chaplain.” I didn't get paid or collect reserve drill points but I would go to the field with them and be present when they needed someone.

In March 2008 the unit was in Fort Rucker Alabama for a weekend field exercise. On Friday, Lance Corporal David Miles came up to me and introduced himself. He was a new Marine, just finished boot camp and was struggling with how to be a Christian and a Marine at the same time. David and I spent some time together on Friday and Saturday talking through these issues. He was one of only a few Marines that attended the worship service on Sunday.

Later that day, the Marines boarded their charter bus to head home to Birmingham Alabama. The driver of the bus was speeding on the winding road on base, overcorrected and the bus flipped. Five of my Marines were ejected from the bus. One paralyzed from the waist down, several with major injuries, and David Miles was left unconscious and placed on life support.

On Monday after his mother and father arrived, David was taken off life support and he entered eternity knowing that he was going to the Lord he loved. I was able to share with David's family the conversations we had and the hope found in the Lord. They asked me to preach David's funeral and lent me his bible. In it were these words he had written “I want something good to die for, to make it beautiful to live.”

Service to and love for one's nation are good things, and because of service members like David we have a great opportunity to live beautiful lives. My encouragement for us this Independence Day is to look for that beauty in our lives so that we may honor

the words of David and honor all of our fallen heroes. Thank you for allowing me to keep David's memory alive by sharing his story. May each of you be blessed in your own service to those in your lives.

*Jim Dewey  
Detachment Chaplain*

### HISTORIAN'S CORNER

25 years ago in Marine Corps History

30 Jul 1996 - General Charles C. Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, unveiled his plan "Transformation" that would be a process of making Marines for the 21st century. General Krulak's vision of what the 21st century holds for U.S. Marines led to a new approach in training Marines for warfighting. The Commandant called for making Marines tougher physically, mentally and morally. The biggest change would occur in the eleventh week of boot camp when both male and female recruits would be tested by the "Crucible," a 54-hour event which would offer highly focused physical and mental challenges. Major changes under the transformation program would begin at the recruit depots during October.

*Greg Pawlik, Detachment Historian*

### NATIONAL VETERAN RESOURCES MOBILE UNIT VISITS AM LEGION POST 351



The National Veteran Resources Mobile Unit is a non-profit 501C3 raising awareness to PTS, mental health and suicide. Since 2017, the National Veteran Resources Mobile Unit (pictured above) has traveled more than 90,000 miles, from city to city and state to state providing Resources for Active-Duty Military (Including National Guard and Reservists) and Veterans. Their stated mission is "to help active-duty military, veterans and first responders get the help they need for PTS and to help prevent suicide in our nation's heroes". Their newest initiative is MAVS (Mothers Against Veteran Suicide.)

The mobile unit stopped by the American Legion Post 351 on Sunday June 27. Michele Ladd is the founder of this group bringing awareness and help to those in need. Jr. Vice John Myroniuk reported that

although the event was small in attendance, it did save a life, renewed the spirit of a mother of a recently fallen veteran of suicide, and provided information to veterans in attendance to assist other fellow veterans. This was the unit's 2nd stop and has unfortunately 40 more visits to go to provide comfort to those moms who have lost veteran or first responders sons or daughters to suicide.

### **For More Information:**

<http://nationalveteranresources.com>  
[support@nationalveteranresources.com](mailto:support@nationalveteranresources.com)

Facebook

<http://facebook.com/nationalveteranresources.com>  
888-562-5552

### REMINDER: THE 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. See Commandant Norm Pfaff for more info.



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT 154**  
**GOLF FUNDRAISER BENEFITING DETACHMENT 154 CHARITIES**

Registration Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**LEANING TREE GOLF COURSE**  
 7860 Smith Creek Rd Wales Twp., MI.

**September 18th, 2021**

**Registration Start 9:00am**

**SHOTGUN 18 HOLES 10:00 AM START TIME**

**RAFFLES, PRIZES, & DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE**

POC: MIKE HALL; 586-604-4834; hallsfirearmservice@gmail.com – STEVE AUGUST; 586-823-4454; wildone48038@yahoo.com – NORM PFAFF; 586-263-3448; Norjo2@yahoo.com.

\*\*\* All Electronic Payments Accepted Thru PayPal at "<https://www.Paypal.me/macombmarine>".\*\*\*  
 1. Select Option; "Send to a Friend" 2. Complete Process. 3. Select Option; Add a Note, and fill in with MCL 154 Golf Outing. Make all Checks Payable to the Marine Corps League DET 154 with notation in memo for MCL154 Golf Fundraiser. Send all other Correspondence via USPS to: MCL Det 154 c/o AL Post 351 P.O. Box 180035 Shelby Twp., MI. 48316 NOTE: "24 hour notice on any and all refunds"

Event Sponsor	\$200.00		
Hole Sponsor	\$100.00		
Contribution	\$50.00		
Golfer \$75.00 X 4	\$300.00		

TEAM CAPTAIN - POC AND MEMBERS:

• NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \*\* \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• Ph# \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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• NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**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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***Change of Address:*** Send to the Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster at:

14656 Eastport Drive  
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313  
 Or email to [Macomb.marines@gmail.com](mailto:Macomb.marines@gmail.com)

*New Address (please print):*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_