



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



Norm Pfaff, Detachment Commandant – (586) 263-3448 – email: norjo2@yahoo.com
 Maureen Ailor, Auxiliary President – (810-310-6081) email: maureenailor52@gmail.com
 AUGUST 2021
 Elaine Arnold, Newsletter Editor – (248) 606-2600 email: elaine48178@gmail.com
 Detachment WEB Site: www.macombmarines.com

AUGUST MEETING NOTICE

The next in person General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday August 5th 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 AUGUST

William Barron
 A.F. Blumenthal
 Dominic Graziadei
 Paul McDermott
 Ron Oleksiak
 James Stevens
 Ray Tucci
 Robert Wagner

JULY MEETING

John Sternicki won the 50/50 at the July 1st meeting.

The 50/50 proceeds help offset the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Currently I am mailing the newsletter to 56 members. If you have an email, or one of your family members has an email and can print it for you it will help save the detachment.

Kirkor Merametsdjan would have won the attendance drawing had he been present. (understandable as he is on active duty.)

August's attendance drawing starts at \$100.76

For members who pay their dues annually it's that time again. I will be sending out renewal notices in August. Due date is 8-31-2021 if you are interested in becoming a life member, you must be a member in good standing at the time you apply for life membership.

Do you need a name tag (remember there is a \$0.25 fine for not wearing one at the meetings) I have the materials to make them so let me know.

National has started sending the new plastic membership cards. If you need a replacement card or a replacement for your life membership card you can order them on National's website.

<https://www.mclnational.org/>

Gold Plated Life Membership cards are \$20.00. Plastic Cards are \$10.00

Members with email may have noticed that their information can be updated on the member portal of the Marine Corps League Library's web site. You should get an email every time I make a change to your profile. You can access the portal at www.mcleaguelibrary.org/

Don Lyon
 Adjutant/Paymaster

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

Marines,

The annual **Veterans' Picnic** is August 7th. 46146 Cass Avenue, Utica, MI 48317 as well as the "**Bike-a-Thon to Benefit Veterans**," at Stoney Creek Metropark, same day. See you there!

Semper Fi
 Norm Pfaff, Commandant

AUXILIARY NEWS

It's hard to believe, but we're already into August. One of the best things about the summer is having outdoor activities, especially picnics. This is to remind all members that our **annual Veterans Picnic is coming up on Saturday, August 7, 2021**. The Bike-a-Thon to Benefit Veterans in the same day.

We support both of these events and encourage all members, Detachment and Auxiliary, to support and attend these as well. More detailed information about the picnic and Bike-a-thon are in this newsletter. The Auxiliary handles the raffle at the Picnic each year. We are always looking for help maintaining the prize table and selling tickets. We look

forward to seeing you there for an afternoon that's fun filled and just a great way to spend a summer afternoon.

As a reminder, all Auxiliary annual dues are due at the end of August. Reminders will be sent out to annual members with mailing instructions if you don't think you'll be at our next meeting. Dues are currently \$30 a year. If you're not already a Life Member and are interested in becoming one, here are the fees which are age based:

Up to 35 years old:	\$500
36 to 40 years old:	\$400
41 to 50 years old:	\$350
51 to 60 years old:	\$300
61 and older:	\$150

It was sad to hear that Detachment member A.F. "Blu" Blumenthal passed away in July. He was a great supporter of the Auxiliary and will be missed. My favorite memory of "Blu" was how he stepped up and called out the winning Auxiliary raffle numbers with his loud and commanding voice at the Marine Corps Birthday Party. He enjoyed the Birthday Party and was proud to be a Marine. Our condolences to his daughter, Amber and all his family.

Our next meeting is at 7:30 pm, Thursday, August 5. See you there!

Semper Fidelis,
Irene Spooner, MCLA Secretary/Treasurer

MARINE DOWN, SO LONG BLU



A.F. "Blu" Blumenthal, age 81 of Columbus Township passed away on Tuesday July 20, 2021; surrounded by his children & family

Blu entered the Corps in 1956 and was discharged in Sept. 1962. He went through boot camp in San Diego and afterwards on to Camp Pendleton for ITS (Infantry Training School.) He was assigned 1st Battalion, 9th Marines N. Camp Fuji Japan. While there, he climbed to the top of Mount Fuji twice, elevation: 12,388 feet. Of the entire regiment, he was the first to reach the top on that first climb. He remembers, "what a view from the top!" He could see clear to the ocean.

In Sept. 1957 his regiment left the Fuji Camp for Okinawa, then on to the Philippines and later Formosa (Taiwan). In June 1958 Blu returned to Camp Pendleton, COMM Company, he had a double MOS as a rifleman and a radio operator.

When the Corps asked for volunteers in Oct. 1958 to do a tour of duty at MB/NAS (Marine Barracks/Naval Air Station) Kodiak Island, Blu was among them. At that time Alaska was a territory, but in July 1959, Blu was the corporal in charge of the color guard that mounted the first 49 star US Flag at the Naval Base. He reminisced "when the territory became a state, the base lost their overseas pay - \$10 a month!" From Feb. 1960 to Sept. 1962 Blu was in Fort Benning Georgia for jump school, then was assigned to 2nd Force Recon Company. Training included SCUBA school in St Thomas V.I., and Pathfinder school... "We'll put you in a cold one and get you out of a hot one."

After leaving the Marine Corps, Blu joined the Mt. Clemens Police Dept and retired after 26 years as Detective Sergeant. Blu also spent 23 years (1969-1992) as instructor and unit commander of the Young Marines of Macomb County and was named Instructor of the Year by them.

In Sept. 1969 Blu joined the MCL Wallace B. Emery detachment which later became the Macomb County Detachment. A Life Member, he held every office but one (Chaplain.) He was honored by the Detachment as Marine of the year in 1977 and 1984, and also by the Dept. of MI in 1977.



MEET YOUR DETACHMENT LEADERSHIP

This month, being August, we appropriately feature Steve August who is currently responsible for the redesign of the Detachment website and manages the social media Facebook account.



In his own words....

I grew up in Sterling heights MI in the exact city where I reside now. I went to Boot Camp at Parris Island, South Carolina on May 20th, 1993. I then went on to SOI (School of Infantry) at Camp Geiger, a satellite facility of Camp Lejeune in North Carolina on August of 1993 for basic rifleman training after boot camp. Next, I went onto MOS school for 3361 Subsistence Supply Clerk and graduating from there in Dec 1993 I was given my first orders to a duty station for Camp Fuji, Japan.



I was to supply the food to the Mess halls that had both permanent personnel as well as the training units that came in at North Camp. I was meritoriously

promoted to Lance Corporal as the only person above me was a Gunny and then the Colonel of the Base. So, the Staff Sergeants didn't like that a Lance Corporal was telling them NO on certain orders of food.

I had the privilege of climbing Mount Fuji to several different levels and got a stamped walking stick on the way up. I then got orders to go to Camp Pendleton (Edson Range) California at the end of 2005 where I was working with Drill Instructors daily and having recruits call me Sir. That was a little different as well. I had them clean my refrigerators and freezers.



Tim Hindley and I after Boot Camp on August 20th, 1993. I was the Rank of Private, at Parris Island, South Carolina

I decided to cross train at that time to become a cook and at times cook up to 2,000 meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner for permanent personnel as well as recruits who were doing the rifle range at boot camp for San Diego MCRD. While I was there, we were awarded the Nay-Hill award in the year of 1996. This award means we were the best mess hall in the world on any Marine base as far as Operations, Cleanliness and Food Quality.

I then went from Active duty to reserves in Selfridge Air National Guard base in Mount Clemens, Mi. I chose to switch MOS's to 1141 to become an Electrician. I did a total of 11 years in the Corps and got out as a Sergeant. I decided to use my G.I. Bill and got an Associates' degree in Computer Networking, a Certification in Information Security and a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. (Six Sigma is a methodology based on statistical analysis rather than guesswork to improve processes with unknown problems.)

Currently I am managing the Detachment's Facebook page and website; looking for any events to bring more awareness to the Marine Corp League and

its partners. We try to keep the website up to date with all current or upcoming events or news. Please let us know of anything that can be posted to create traffic and awareness at Macomb.marines@gmail.com or if you wish, post an event on Facebook by emailing me Wildone48038@yahoo.com.

The Website is www.macombmarines.com or on Facebook visit Macomb County Detachment, Marine Corp League.



My Wife and I at the Marine Corp Birthday Ball 2001. I was the Rank of Corporal.

HISTORIAN’S CORNER

This month in Marine Corps History

1 August 1944: After nine days of fighting in a battle termed "the perfect amphibious operation of World War II," MajGen Harry Schmidt, commander of V Amphibious Corps, declared the island of Tinian secured. The combination of surprise, heavy pre-assault bombardment, and effective logistical support was responsible for Tinian's recapture with a much lower casualty rate (344 killed and 1550 wounded) than had been experienced in previous landings.

3 August 1950: Eight Corsairs of VMF-214, the famed "Black Sheep" squadron of World War II, launched from the USS SICILY and executed the first Marine aviation mission in the Korean War in a raid against enemy installations near Inchon. After the F4Us delivered their incendiary bombs and rockets on their targets, the Marines concluded their greeting to the Communist troops with a series of strafing runs.

21 August 1968: PFC James Anderson, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy, Paul R. Ignatius, for heroism in Vietnam while serving as a rifleman with Company F, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines in February 1967. This was the first Medal of Honor presented to an African-

American Marine. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson, Sr., received the award during ceremonies at Marine Barracks, 8th and I.

23 August 1984: The last Marines to serve peace-keeping duty in Lebanon arrived home. The 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) arrived off the coast of Lebanon on 9 April to relieve Marines of the 22d MAU who were guarding the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The 24th MAU left Beirut on 31 July, marking the last presence of U.S. combat troops in Beirut since Marines entered almost two years earlier.

Greg Pawlik, Detachment Historian

1st Battalion, 24th Marines Memorial

4th ANNUAL (NON POKER) POKER RUN,
SATURDAY, August 28, 2021

NO REGISTRATION OR FEE. SHOW UP AT 11:00 AM,
CHESTERFIELD TWP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
47275 SUGARBUSH ROAD, A QUARTER MILE NORTH OF 21 MILE ROAD

MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE AT 12:00 - RAIN OR SHINE
KICKSTANDS UP AT 1:00 PM, SHORT RIDE TO AMVET POST 29
**1/24 MEMORIAL RIDE PATCH, TEE SHIRTS AND A GUN RAFFLE TICKETS
WILL BE SOLD AT AMVET POST 29**

NO COST TO PARTICIPATE AT THE MEMORIAL

DRINKS, BURGERS & HOTDOGS TO BE SOLD AT AMVETS POST 29
1 AMVET DRIVE MT CLEMENS, MI 48043

PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT TO BENEFIT THE 1ST BN, 24TH MARINES MEMORIAL PROJECT, TO BUILD A PERMANENT MEMORIAL TO THE 'FALLEN 22 OF 1ST BATTALION, 24TH MARINES, WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING SERVICE IN IRAQ. THE MEMORIAL IS LOCATED AT THE CHESTERFIELD TWP MUNICIPAL BUILDING 47275 SUGARBUSH ROAD, A QUARTER MILE NORTH OF 21 MILE ROAD

QUESTIONS... FRANK PETRICEVICH AT (586) 531-6726 - FPETRICEVICH@GMAIL.COM

The 1/24 Memorial Committee is a 501(c)(3) organization EIN: 30-0746065

WANT TO DONATE?
Dept. of Michigan, Marine Corps League, In Memo Line: 1/24 Memorial
Send to: Dept. of Michigan, Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 450117
Selfridge ANGB, MI 48045

GUESS WHO?



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

Published monthly for members of the Macomb County Detachment and Auxiliary. SKUTTLEBUTT Newsletter is a non-profit monthly publication for the use of the Macomb County Detachment/Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League. Article deadline is the 15th of each month

Commandant	Norm Pfaff	(586) 263-3448	Auxiliary President	Maureen Ailor	(810) 310-6081
Senior Vice Commandant	Mike Hall	(586) 604-4834	Senior Vice President	Loretta Balderson	(810) 392-2590
Junior Vice Commandant	John Myroniuk	(586) 739-1929	Junior Vice President	Sherri Teeples	(586) 292-8132
Judge Advocate	Christine Tonegatto-Salo	(586) 801-0081	Judge Advocate	Joan Pfaff	(586) 263-3448
Adjutant/Paymaster	Don Lyon	(586) 925-5010	Co-Chaplain	Wendy Succarde	(248) 930-8230
Chaplain	James Dewey	(910) 333-2224	Co-Chaplain	Delores Tonegatto	(586) 781-6839
Sergeant at Arms	Clement Buck	(586) 383-3940	Secretary	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Editor, Newsletter	Elaine Arnold	(248) 606-2600	Treasurer	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Honor Guard Commander	Ron Hudas	(586) 264-2575	Auditor	Joan Pfaff	(586) 263-3448
Quartermaster	Dean Miles	(586) 457-7008			
Deputy Quartermaster	John Sternicki	(586) 468-1014			
Historian	Greg Pawlik	(586) 979-2986			
Web Sergeant	Don Lyon	(586) 925-5010			

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

14656 Eastport Drive
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313
 Or email to Macomb.marines@gmail.com

New Address (please print):

Name _____

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____