



# SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



Nate Jolliff, Detachment Commandant – (248) 464-3258 – email: [natejolliff@comcast.net](mailto:natejolliff@comcast.net)  
Alice Lyon Auxiliary President – (586-216-0523) – email: [alicelyon88@gmail.com](mailto:alicelyon88@gmail.com)

## FEBRUARY 2026

Elaine Arnold, Newsletter Editor – (248) 606-2600 email: [skuttlebutt.editor@gmail.com](mailto:skuttlebutt.editor@gmail.com)  
Detachment WEB Site: [www.macombmarines.com](http://www.macombmarines.com)

### Marines & Auxiliary Members:

#### FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on our usual first Thursday of the month on **February 5th** at 7:30. 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 FEBRUARY



Nate Jolliff	Catherine Samuel
Don Moeller	John Sternicki
Stephen Patercsak	Gerald Susko
Joan Pfaff	James Thiede
Gary Titus	

#### COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Marines, Associate Members, Auxiliary Members, and Devil Dogs!!

Are we thinking Spring? It's another character-building month of record low temperatures, and a ton of cold gusting winds that invoke hypothermia if you are not careful. Stay safe and know that days will now begin to gradually start becoming longer, warmer (less cold lol) and slowly usher in the beauty and warmth of April/May.

I really enjoyed attending my first Mid-Winter Conference hosted by the Marine Corps League Department of Michigan 2026 Mid-winter Conference January 23 – 25. As advertised, it proved a great learning opportunity and networking event. Those who attended from our Detachment 154 included myself, Gary Mico,

Lisa Fountain, Don & Alice Lyon, and Christine Tonegatto-Salo.

The conference was held at the Courtyard Mount Pleasant at Central Michigan University. Over this past weekend of Mid-Winter Conference, our unit was recognized for 2 specific awards:

1. Distinguished Citizen Award for meritorious service in the interests of the USA, United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps League supporting Michigan Parkinson Foundation, elected as Detachment Commandant-Det 154, and for Service to Veterans & People of Macomb County, Michigan. I am honored and grateful to wear this Distinguished Citizen Medal (Silver).

2. Meritorious Unit Commendation (Department Level) to our Macomb County Detachment #154, specifically, awarded for Michigan Parkinson Foundation Fundraising. This reflects very highly for our Detachment #154, and the cool thing is we all receive and have authorization to wear the ribbon. "Authorization for the wear of the Department Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon by each member of the entity to which this award was made during the period indicated, is approved. I am pictured in the photo with Dept. Commandant Tracey Tippett. Ooh-rah!





Have you purchased your Kimber raffle ticket yet? So far, I have personally sold 86 raffle tickets and turned in more than \$800. Please come see me if you'd like to actively support this raffle (drawing is May 25, 2026) fundraiser. Tickets/Donation is \$10 each, or 6 for \$50. My "ask" is for you to purchase tickets, and join our team of ticket "Sellers".



Nate Jolliff, Commandant

### SR VICE MESSAGE

The annual chili cookoff is scheduled for March again this year, and the chili committee has officially been formed and begun our planning. Volunteers will be

needed as usual to help with the various duties of the event. We need some members to bring cornbread, water, desserts, napkins, bowls, plates, and spoons. If you are interested in donating any of these items, a sign-up sheet will be available at the next regular meeting. However, if you would like to donate but can't make the meeting or would like to sign up for donations earlier, please contact me via phone or email.  
248-750-7046 [kane\\_75\\_189@yahoo.com](mailto:kane_75_189@yahoo.com)

We also need help with cleaning up at the event's conclusion, so please plan on sticking around after stuffing your belly with chili if you are an able-bodied member.

Also, as explained in last month's meeting, the golf outing committee will likely be purchasing event management software soon to launch our event's website. As I write this, I have already received demonstrations of two competing products and will see two more before the end of the week. The team will then be meeting to hear my recommendations and hopefully decide on the desired platform. After that, we can make the purchase and get started collecting sponsorships and advertising for our sponsors on our site right away.

I hope to provide a demonstration of our new event site during the February meeting. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Justin Kane, Sr. Vice

### AUXILIARY NEWS

Just a reminder to all Auxiliary members: **we do not have meetings in January and February.** Our regular meetings restart on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Irene Spooner, Treasurer, Macomb County Unit, MCLA

### HISTORIAN'S CORNER

#### **The history of the Marine Corps Reserve, Part two**

#### **Between the Wars**

The years 1919 – 1939 can be thought of as "What to do with the Marine Corps Reserves". The massive reduction in force post WW 1 and the lack in interest in the military by the public left the Corps struggling to justify the Reserves and filling their ranks.

Luckily Commandant John J. Lejeune wanted "to recreate the Reserve as a constituent part of the wartime strength of the Marine Corps". He managed in the early 1920's, authorization to retain 4,000 – 6,000 officers and men, constantly struggling to keep these numbers in the reserves. The authorized number of regulars was roughly 20,000. Recruitment for regulars and reservists was

abysmal during this period and by June of 1922 reservist numbers dropped to 550 officers and enlisted. Headquarters Marine Corps did not give any direction specific to the reserves, and the Army Reserves were far more organized, and were soliciting marine officers to come over to the Army.

The tide was turning however in 1925, and a whole new future was in sight. With an act of Congress on February 28<sup>th</sup> "to provide for the creation, organization, administration, and maintenance of a Marine Corps Reserve". Simply put, the reserves were now much more on equal footing with the regulars such as drill pay (same as the National Guard), uniform issue, retirement pay, and compensation for injuries in the line of duty.

Commandant Lejeune was very pleased with the Act of 1925, which slowly triggered enlistment in the reserves so that by 1928 there were 8,800 officers and enlisted in the reserves. Reserve organization divided the country into four districts, each forming a battalion. In 1930 these units became the 20<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment. By 1935 there were five more regiments. In 1938 reserve enlistment strength was nearly 15,000. All reserve training was conducted on the national guard camps in their respective districts with periodic training at Marine Corps camps.

Source: *The Marine Corps Reserve, A History*

Greg Pawlik  
Detachment Historian



Joe Rosenthal's Associated Press photograph

**This month marks the 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Battle for Iwo Jima**

**23 February 1945:** Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short fire-fight with Japanese defenders

emerging from several caves, the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island.

**Macomb County Detachment 154**  
Marine Corps League

**A FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING LOCAL VETERANS**

**SATURDAY MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**6pm – 8pm**

\$15/person for chili dinner which includes delicious award-winning chili and cornbread.

**Prizes awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place chili favorites**

Those bringing chili to share and/or be entered in the contest need to arrive at 5 pm for setup.

**American Legion Post 351**  
**46146 Cass Ave, Utica**

Volunteers needed to help clean after event.  
Please contact **Justin Kane** 248-750-7046 or [kane\\_75\\_189@yahoo.com](mailto:kane_75_189@yahoo.com)



**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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

Commandant	Nate Jolliff	(248) 464-3258	Auxiliary President	Alice Lyon	(586) 216-0523
Senior Vice Commandant	Justin Kane	(248) 750-7046	Senior Vice President	Loretta Balderson	(810) 392-2590
Junior Vice Commandant	vacant		Junior Vice President	Maureen Ailor	(810) 310-6081
Judge Advocate	Christine Tonegatto-Salo	(586) 801-0081	Judge Advocate	Nancy Haase	(586) 992-9961
Adjutant	Lisa Fountain	(810) 841-5472	Chaplain	Janice Meredith	(586) 872-8063
Paymaster	Don Lyon	(586) 925-5010	Secretary	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Chaplain	James Dewey	(910) 333-2224	Treasurer	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Sergeant at Arms	Gary Micu	(586) 899-6498			
Editor, Newsletter	Elaine Arnold	(248) 606-2600			
Honor Guard Commander	Don Lyon	(586) 925-5010			
Quartermaster	Steve August	(586) 823-4454			
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 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 \_\_\_\_\_