



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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DECEMBER 2024

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Marines & Auxiliary Members:

DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be December 5 at 7:00, earlier than our usual time in order to have our annual Christmas party. 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 DECEMBER



Ethan Bartley
James Borlase
Richard Bourgeault
Fred Bullis
William DiLaura
Rich Francis

Janice Meredith
Raymond Mrosewske
Scott Neff
Sharon Renaud
Steven Smith
Christine Tonegatto-Salo

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

First, I want to thank all who attended the 249th Marine Corps Birthday Celebration. We had around 86 people attending. The oldest Marine Present was Gerald Mize at 84 years young. The youngest Marine was D.J Himmel at age 37. They were presented with the first and second piece of cake. Also, a big thanks to Amy Kane for the beautiful and delicious cake she baked for the birthday party.

Please bring your unwrapped toys for the Christmas Party starting at 1900 on day if the meeting. Hope to see you all there.

Steve August, Commandant



Steve August, Macomb County Detachment Marine Corps League Commandant, and Alice Lyon, Macomb County Auxiliary Unit Marine Corps League President, march to place our Veterans Day wreath at the Mount Clemens Veterans Day wall near the Clinton River in Mount Clemens, Mich, while our color guard and Detachment members stand at attention.



Members and friends of the Macomb County Marine Corps League Detachment and Auxiliary Unit stand at parade rest during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on the Clinton River in Mount Clemens, Mich.

SR VICE REPORT

The Michigan Parkinson Foundation (MPF) hosted a "Hope on the Field Gala" at Ford Field on Friday, November 8. There were more than 300 attendees. I was honored to be the Keynote Speaker that night to talk about my journey with Parkinson's Disease, my service in the Marine Corps, and how it's touched my personal and professional life.



The following was provided by Kristin Rossi, CEO of MPF:

Thank you for attending the Michigan Parkinson Foundation's Hope on the Field Gala on November 8!

Because of your overwhelming support, we were able to raise over \$200,000! Your generosity helps fuel our programs and services all year round through community support, exercise, education and respite.

We'd also like to thank our keynote speaker, Nate Jolliff for his wonderful and moving presentation and our emcee, Sandra Ali from CBS Detroit!

On behalf of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation Board of Directors, Professional Advisory Board and Staff, we thank you and wish you a happy holiday season to come. We encourage you to keep connected and stay involved.

There is a very positive upside to connecting our beloved Marine Corps League with Michigan Parkinson Foundation. There are some shared objectives and resources that can be leveraged between both organizations going forward.

I lead a "Veterans with Parkinson's Support Group" that meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 2-4:00PM in Sterling Heights. See attached flyer for details and meeting dates in 2025. Next year's MPF fundraiser walk at Jimmy John's Field on Saturday, Sept 13 will again include our outstanding Honor Guard and welcomes even more of our Marine Corps family

connected to Parkinson's in some way to come out and support.



MEETING DETAILS

When: 3rd Thursday of the Month
at 2:00 p.m.

Location: DC3S
7205 Sterling Ponds Ct.
Sterling Heights, MI. 48312
see reverse side for location details

Contact: Nate Jolliff, 248.464.3258,
natejolliff@comcast.net or
Marc Trail, 586.693.0434,
mtrail@carepatrol.com



Scan the QR Code to join
our Facebook Group

Monthly meetings feature guest
speakers and provide a safe space
to seek support and build
connections within your community.
Remember, you are not alone!



The Michigan Parkinson
Foundation is proudly
dedicated to supporting our
Veterans and individuals
living with Parkinson's.

2025 Meeting Dates

January 16
February 20
March 20
April 17
May 15
June 19

No July meeting

August 21
September 18
October 16
November 20
December 18



Directions to DC3S

7205 Sterling Ponds Ct, Sterling Heights, MI 48312



North of E 14 Mile Rd. & West of Highway 53



Parking @ DC3S

Semper Fi! **Nate Jolliff, Sr Vice**

JR VICE REPORT

I'd like to encourage everyone in the detachment to invite any non-members to our functions to see what we are about and how they might Luck to all. The goal is to get us to number one in the State.

Any questions feel free to reach out to me.
Respectfully Submitted,
John Myroniuk, Jr Vice



Pictured above is the group that works and supports our Toys for Tots program. Sgt Larry Bogus (P), John and Feebe from English Gardens and myself, not to mention Clement Buck who has established this great friendship. Tentative amount raised this evening was about \$ 2,500.00. Plus, an additional \$205 in cash and a dozen toys. SGT (P) Larry Bogus will be get the final check in a couple of days and will let Clement Buck know the final total for this nights' fundraiser. Big Shout out to English Gardens at M-59 and Hall Rd!
John N. Myroniuk
Toys for Tots Liaison



AUXILIARY NEWS

November's Marine Corps Birthday celebration is over and we're getting ready for December's Detachment and Auxiliary Christmas Party. A reminder to all, December's meeting starts at 7:00 pm. This is ½ hour earlier than usual, so don't be late!

After all the hustle and bustle for the Birthday party, the Christmas party is an evening of relaxation and socializing for us. American House is once again, catering the party. Roxanne and crew will bring the food which is always delicious. Another reminder to all, don't bring anything for the food table. American House has been such a great supporter of ours for years. They did a great job for our picnic and they will do a great job for our Christmas party. Yummm.....

Another reminder for our December Christmas party, it's our annual **Toys for Tots** collection. Please bring an **unwrapped toy** to donate. We've always collected a good amount of toys in the past and I'm sure everyone will be as generous as always.

Looking back to our celebration of the 249th Anniversary of the Marine Corps, our party last month was a terrific success. Thanks go out to all of you who volunteered time and effort in all aspects of throwing a wonderful event like we had. A special thank you to Amy Kane who created a unique and scrumptious cake for the party. She's done this for a number of years and each of her cakes is a work-of-art.



USMC 249th birthday – cake prepared by Amy Kane

We also need to thank those of you who donated items to our Auxiliary Basket raffle. Our ability to support the many veteran and community charities that we do are made possible by your donations. Thank you for helping us in this very important effort.



One of the happy basket raffle winners (Jonei Scott with Irene Spooner and in back, Alice Lyon with Christine Tonegatto-Salo



Aileen Lema (Mrs. Angelo Lema) buys tickets for the basket raffle from Auxiliary Sr Vice Loretta Balderson (as her son Robbie looks on)

The food that evening was above and beyond expectations. Thanks go out to the Detachment and Auxiliary for putting together such a wonderful feast. We want to thank the Young Marines for posting the colors at the beginning of the evening's ceremonies. They did a fine job as the prelude to the annual Commandant's message and the traditional cake cutting ceremony.



Young Marines posting the colors



Sr Vice Nate Jolliff cuts the cake.



Detachment Historian and Past Commandant Greg Pawlik delivers the opening blessing

After an evening of fun and socializing, clean-up is the last thing anyone wants to think about. So, thank you to everyone who stayed a little longer to clean up the hall. When we all work together, even the biggest task is sized down. As you can see, this was really a group effort putting together an event worthy of the Marines. Thanks and Semper Fidelis.

Sick and in distress: keep Joan and Norm Pfaff in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with health issues.

That's it for now. See you at our December meeting/Christmas party, starting at 7:00pm on Thursday, December 5, 2024. God Bless the Auxiliary and Detachment,

Merry Christmas to all,
Irene Spooner, Treasurer, Macomb County Unit



The oldest Marine present was Gerald Mize at 84 years young and the youngest Marine present was D.J Himmel at age 37. (Commandant Steve August in the middle)

HISTORIAN'S CORNER NEWS

Four Major Military Events That Happened on Christmas:

1776: Washington's Famous Crossing of the Delaware
Late Christmas night, Washington and his troops hopped in boats and waded across the icy Delaware River to test his theory — and he was right. At dawn on Dec. 26, about 2,400 frozen Continentals pushed into Trenton, and they did indeed surprise the enemy, who surrendered within an hour and a half.

1864: The First Battle of Fort Fisher
For most of the Civil War, North Carolina's Fort Fisher saw very little combat. But that changed on Christmas 1864, when the Union decided it wanted to capture the last port the Confederates held on the Atlantic Ocean. It was a debacle for the Union. First, the Union tried to pack a warship with explosives and blow up the fort's walls — but that didn't work. It just blew up their ship and alerted the Confederates of an imminent attack. So on Christmas Eve, the Union tried again, bombarding the fort with heavy gunfire, most of which fell short or missed its target.

On Christmas morning, Union commanders decided to shell an area north of the fort so troops could land and come ashore. But when they did, more disappointment followed — the fort's heavy artillery was completely unscathed, so that was a no-go, too. It was only then that the Union ordered troops to retreat.

1972: Operation Linebacker II in North Vietnam
American troops were in the middle of the biggest bombing mission in military history during the

Christmas season of 1972. The air campaign, called Operation Linebacker II, has largely been considered the action that ended U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

President Richard Nixon ordered the bombings to begin on Dec. 18 after North Vietnamese delegates walked out on peace talks. Nicknamed the "11 Days of Christmas," the operation consisted of 11 successive days of raids by B-52 Stratofortress bombers flown in from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

The only day that both sides got a reprieve was Christmas, when troops were given a 36-hour break to celebrate. During that time, Nixon ordered the North Vietnamese to return to the bargaining table. The North Vietnamese refused, so the bombings continued until Dec. 29, when they agreed to resume peace talks. In 11 days, Linebacker II dropped 15,000 tons of bombs via 729 U.S. Air Force sorties involving about 12,000 airmen. Defense Department records show the raids destroyed or damaged 1,600 structures, 500 rail targets, 10 airfields and 80 percent of North Vietnam's electric-generating capacity. Fifteen U.S. B-52s were also destroyed in the process, killing 35 men and leading to the capture of nearly 40 American prisoners of war.

The resumed peace talks that came from the campaign led to the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973. The U.S. ended its involvement in the war soon after, but the last American troops wouldn't leave the country for another two years

1896: "Stars and Stripes Forever" is Written
While this wasn't exactly a military action, it's definitely a symbol of America's military might.

John Philip Sousa, who grew up during the Civil War, was a talented musician who became a long-time director of the U.S. Marine Band. Known as the "March King," he was a rock star of his time, eventually starting his own band in 1892.

On Christmas Day 1896, while crossing the Atlantic on his way home from a European vacation, Sousa's lasting legacy came to him. He said the notes for "Stars and Stripes Forever" were born out of homesickness and fond memories of his time as the Marine Band's leader. The iconic song officially became America's national march in 1987.

Source; Department of Defense

Greg Pawlik, Detachment Historian



MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
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Junior Vice Commandant	John Myroniuk	(586) 739-1929	Junior Vice President	Maureen Ailor	(810) 310-6081
Judge Advocate	Christine Tonegatto-Salo	(586) 801-0081	Judge Advocate	Nancy Haase	(586) 992-9961
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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

New Address (please print):

Name _____

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____