



# 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)

**DECEMBER 2025**

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:*

### DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be December 4<sup>th</sup>; we'll meet at **7:00** for a short meeting followed by our annual **Christmas buffet and 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



Richard Bourgeault

Fred Bullis

William Dilaura

Lisa Fountain

Richard Francis

Janice Meredith

Raymond Mrosewske

Scott Neff

Steven Smith

Christine Tonegatto-Salo

### COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

It was a busy November for our Marine Corps League and for many of you who support our Detachment in various ways. There were several important events that we supported in various ways. As a side note on a personal level, I attended the Michigan Parkinson Foundation yearend Gala at Ford Field on Friday night, November 8. For the first time in 40+ years, I donned USMC Dress Blues and attended with pride. In recognition of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Marine Corps, and to represent the importance of advocating for the disproportionate cases of Veterans diagnosed and living with Parkinson's Disease.



Commandant Nate Jolliff, Detachment 154 and Kristin Rossi,  
CEO MI Parkinson Foundation



Nate Jolliff and Family at Ford Field "Hope on the Field" Gala,  
November 7, 2025

I attended a 250<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball on Saturday, November 8 hosted by Detroit Area Marines Foundation at Mirage Banquet Center, and was attended by 350 Marines, veterans, family and friends. It was an excellent ceremony and a wonderful experience for my wife who had never attended a Marine Corps Ball. Very proud day, and special shout out to Rich Pointe, DAM Foundation Co-Founder and Marine veteran also battling Parkinsons.

This year's Marine Corps League Macomb Detachment 154 hosted a Marine Corps birthday party celebration on Monday, November 10. It was a well attended party of nearly 70 people. We enjoyed the USMC 250<sup>th</sup> video and our Commandant's message. After our guest speaker, Ron Robinson (State Representative for Michigan's 58<sup>th</sup> District), we served cake to our youngest Marine present, Justin Kane, our Senior Vice Commandant. It was my honor to recognize our oldest Marine present, Paul Gleson.



*Shout out to Justin Kane's wife Aimee for a great cake!*



*Ron Robinson, State Rep for Michigan's 58<sup>th</sup> District  
And Nate Jolliff, Commandant*

Finally, I was honored to be Master of Ceremonies hosting a Veterans Day ceremony on Tuesday, November 11 at Clinton Grove Cemetery. It was a cold and windy morning, however, our guest speaker was Lindell Holm who warmed our hearts with gratitude.

Lieutenant Colonel, Lindell Holm, USMC (Ret.), retired from the United States Marine Corps in 2013 and now serves as Director of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund which provides emergency grants to Michigan wartime-era veterans. LtCol. Holm served 25 years in the Marine Corps as a CH-53E helicopter pilot and completed several deployments in both combat and non-combat operations. He was an excellent speaker. After ceremonies, many of our Marines went to American Legion Post 4 for a complimentary lunch coordinated with Tim Shosey.



*Lieutenant Colonel, Lindell Holm, USMC (Ret.)*

So, as we all are fast-approaching the holidays and busy time, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much I enjoy being a part of our Detachment, connecting with many of you, and confident going into the new year 2026 that we will be successful.

Every Thanksgiving is a perfect opportunity to reflect honest gratitude for all that you do for us. I am humbly honored to you all for your continued support, comradery, and dedication to your Marine Corps League. We had a very fruitful, successful year in 2025, and all due to our collective volunteering, getting involved with planning committees, and overall support of what we do. Our numerous achievements this year would not have been possible without you. May your Thanksgiving be filled with Family, Food, and Football bountiful with continued blessings. Semper Fi!

*Nate Jolliff  
Commandant*





## SR VICE MESSAGE

Ready or not, the holiday season is upon us and with it the many obligations it carries. In our haste and busyness with preparations for December, let us not forget the many Marines deployed around the world who will not be enjoying this time with their families. They are making yet another sacrifice to ensure the security of our nation and should be honored for it.

To my fellow Marines, how many holidays did you serve somewhere other than home? Were you on a ship sailing in the middle of the ocean somewhere? Were you deployed to some foreign country that didn't observe the same holiday? Perhaps you were merely the duty NCO sitting at a desk in the barracks, completely bored while others were enjoying the festivities.

Many Marines today are performing the same duties you did back in your day, so raise a toast to them at your table with your loved ones during your feast. Let us always remember that the security of these moments is brought to us by the United States Marine Corps.

*Justin Kane, Sr. Vice*



*Veterans Day memorial service at Clinton Grove cemetery  
11-11-2025*



*Nate Jolliff and Lieutenant Colonel, Lindell Holm, USMC (Ret.)*



*Sr Vice Justin Kane and Auxiliary President Alice Lyon*







*Veterans Day Memorial service at Mt. Clemens*

### **AUXILIARY NEWS**

A reminder for our December meeting: we're starting early this month at 7:00 pm. It's our Christmas party, so we'll have a short meeting and then it's dinnertime. As in the past, do not bring anything for our dinner buffet. Once again, American House is generously catering this event and they always bring more than enough food and desserts. This will be a fun evening of socializing and good cheer.

Before we start our festive evening, our Auxiliary decides which charities our donations will go to this year. Last year we donated to American Legion #351-SAL Food Pantry, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #154 Food Pantry, Fallen & Wounded Soldiers Fund, Miracle Quilts, MI Veteran Home in Chesterfield, and Wreaths Across America. We'll need to decide which charities to include and the amount of donation we want to make this year. As treasurer, I'll send out a text to our members with some additional information prior to our meeting so we can wrap this up quickly.

Another reminder for our Christmas party, we're all asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots. This is an important event for the Detachment and we want to support them in this collection.

It's been the Auxiliary's tradition to suspend our January and February meetings. After the holidays, we all deserve a much needed break. We'll bring this up at the December meeting for a vote to make it official.



On behalf of the Auxiliary, thank you to everyone who supported our Charity Raffle at the Birthday party for the Corps 250<sup>th</sup> celebration of their founding. Thank you to everyone who donated items, and to those who purchased tickets for the raffle. Because of your generosity the Auxiliary can continue making our annual donations to Marine, veteran and community charities. We also want to thank those who helped set up and clean up the hall and all the other things that made this event a success. We're looking forward to the 251<sup>th</sup> celebration next year.

Our Veterans Day ceremonies were a wonderful example of honoring our veterans, showing our love of country, and our patriotism. It was our Marine Corps League Detachment's turn to organize the event and they did a splendid job. We met at Clinton Grove Cemetery and the ceremony started at 11am. I was glad to hear the Pledge of Allegiance incorporated into the program. Our keynote speaker, retired Marine LtCol Lindell Holm gave a stirring speaker about honor, courage and commitment.

Besides the American Legion and VFW participating, the Knights of Columbus made a return appearance and new this Veterans Day, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) attended. It was all nicely done and a great way to celebrate Veterans Day. See you on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Irene Spooner, Treasurer  
Macomb County Unit, MCLA



### **Merry Christmas, My Friend**

*'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house, made of plaster and stone.*

*I had come down the chimney, with presents to give  
and to see just who in this home did live.*

*As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.  
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.*

*With medals and badges, awards of all kind,  
a sobering thought soon came to my mind.  
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.  
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.*

*I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,  
so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.  
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.*

*He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,  
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.  
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?*

*His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.  
I soon understood, this was more than a man.  
For I realized the families that I saw that night,  
owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.*

*Soon around the Nation, the children would play,  
And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas  
day.  
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,  
because of Marines like this one lying here.*

*I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone.  
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.  
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.  
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.*

*He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice  
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.  
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."*

*With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.*

*I watched him for hours, so silent and still.  
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.  
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,  
and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.  
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,  
with an eagle, globe, and anchor emblazoned so bold.  
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with  
pride,  
and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep  
inside.*

*I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,  
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and  
pure,  
said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."  
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,  
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.*

Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt, 1986





**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 \_\_\_\_\_