



# SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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**NOVEMBER 2025**

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## *Marines & Auxiliary Members:*

### NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be at our usual meeting time of **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 NOVEMBER



Steve August	Norm Pfaff
David Cunningham	Michael Suhy
Patricia Horton	Dale Verhaeghe
Dean Miles	Joseph Wauldron
Vincent Peeper	

### COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations again to the newly elected and appointed officers in our detachment that were installed into office on the General Membership Meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We appreciated having our guest Raymond Rayl preside over the evening's installation of officers. I appreciate all who were recognized by certificates of appreciation that night by outgoing Commandant Steve August. I feel we have a good team, and look forward to a productive and exciting 2026!

Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune wisely said, "Leadership is the sum of those qualities of intellect, human understanding, and moral character that enables a person to inspire." So my fellow Marines, it is definitely not about perfection, but about showing up consistently and doing my/our best as elected teammates. Going forward, we will need more volunteers to get involved

with various committees of interest such as our annual Chili Cookoff, Summer Picnic, and Golf Scramble fundraiser, to name a few. Your support and active participation are critical for our beloved Detachment. If interested in volunteering, please see Nate Jolliff (248-464-3258).

*Nate Jolliff*  
Commandant



*Commandant Steve August (not pictured) presented Individual Meritorious Commendations to the 2024-2025 Detachment Officers and Appointees at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting*

### *Results of the Election*

<b>Commandant</b>	Nate Jolliff
<b>Senior Vice Commandant</b>	Justin Kane
<b>Junior Vice Commandant</b>	Open
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Christine Tonegatto-Salo
<b>Adjutant</b>	Lisa Fountain
<b>Paymaster</b>	Don Lyon
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Gary Muci
<b>Chaplain</b>	Jim Dewey
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Steve August
<b>Deputy Quartermaster</b>	John Sternicki
<b>Historian</b>	Greg Pawlik
<b>Honor Guard Commander</b>	Don Lyon
<b>Skuttlebutt Newsletter Editor</b>	Elaine Arnold



*Past Department Commandant Raymond Rahl swears in elected Detachment Officers. Past Detachment Commandant Dave Trevino assisting.*



*Don Lyon, Raymond Rahl, Nate Jolliff*



*Christine Tonegatto-Salo, Gary Muci, Lisa Fountain, Don Lyon, Nate Jolliff, Justin Kane, Jim Dewey*



*Steve August, Raymond Rahl*

### **SR VICE MESSAGE**

Last month I attended the annual Fall Staff Meeting for the Department of Michigan of the Marine Corps League at the behest of our detachment commandant. The meeting was conducted via the Zoom application, just like some of our past detachment meetings, which proved to be an effective way to get many department members to attend. Here are some noteworthy points of interest for our detachment members:

- Future meetings are being planned and scheduled.
  - Mid-winter Rally will likely be in Mt. Pleasant.
  - Central Division Conference will be located in Kentucky in March.
  - The Summer Convention for the department will be in Lansing in June.
  - The next National Convention will be held in Indiana.
- The scholarship process needs to be followed through fully.
  - 13 young people are receiving college scholarships this year.
  - Over 20 applied, but several didn't complete the secondary portion of the process and thus won't receive scholarship money.
- Marine Corps League memberships seem to be on the decline.
  - Thousands of national memberships remain unpaid.
  - Several detachments have folded in the Department of Michigan recently.



I will be speaking in more detail about these topics during my report at our November meeting. Hope to see you all there.

*Justin Kane, Sr. Vice*

### MEET YOUR DETACHMENT LEADERSHIP

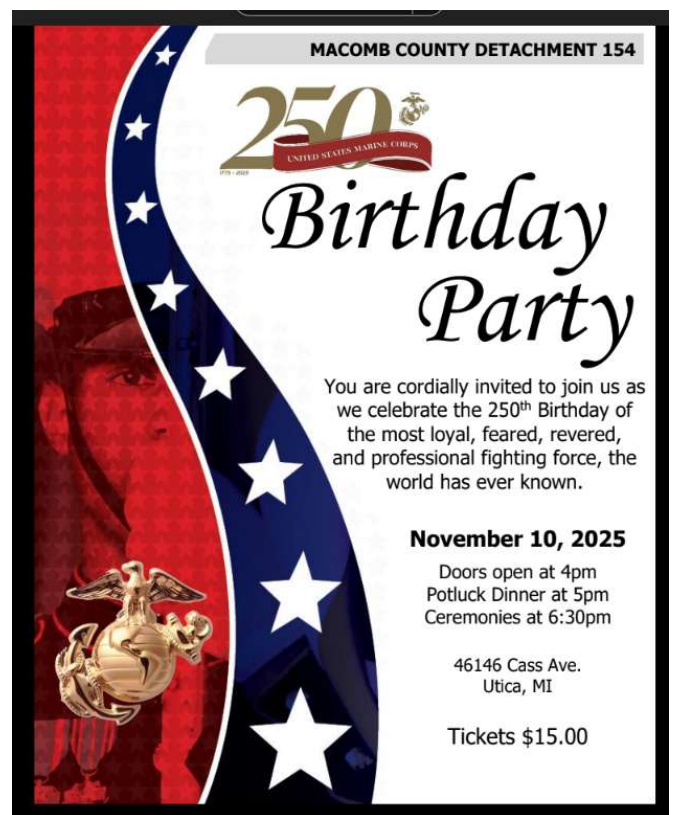
Get to know newly elected Sergeant at Arms, Gary Micu



USMCR  
Enlisted 8 Apr 1976, Retired 1 Aug 1999  
Highest Rank: MGySgt  
Boot Camp: Parris Island, SC  
24 Sep 1976, HMM 766, Selfridge ANGB, MI 0151 Admin Clerk  
1 Oct 1976, Det A, H&GMS-47 Selfridge ANGB, MI 0151 Admin Clerk  
1 Oct 1979, Det HQSQDN-47, MWSG-47, Selfridge ANGB, MI  
0121 SRB Clerk  
1 Feb 1983, Det HQSQDN-47, MWSG-47, Selfridge ANGB, MI  
MWSG 47 Operations Chief 0491 Combat Service Support Chief  
1 Aug 1983, Marine Wing Support Sqdn 472, Det B Selfridge ANGB, MI  
9999/0191 1st Sgt/Admin Chief  
1 Jan 1997, Marine Wing Support Sqdn 472, Det B, Selfridge ANGB, MI  
9999/0191 SgtMaj/Admin Chief



*In front: Loretta Balderson, Cathy Rahl Dept of Michigan Auxiliary President, In rear: Lisa Jolliff, Irene Spooner, Alice Lyon, Nancy Haase, Maureen Ailor*



### HISTORIAN'S CORNER

## **DESPITE THE CONTROVERSY, OUR CORPS ENDURES**

Over the decades, the Marine Corps has had to endure threats to its existence, not just from enemies abroad, but within the United States.

### **Notable Attempts and Ideas**

**19th-century proposals:** Between 1829 and the start of World War II, at least five more attempts were made to eliminate or marginalize the Corps.

**1894 Bill:** In 1894, a bill was introduced in Congress that would have eventually dissolved the Marine Corps and absorbed its functions into the Army, though it received little attention from the press at the time.

**Later Proposals:** Discussions about disbanding the Marine Corps have continued, with arguments made about potential benefits in military streamlining and budget efficiency, even as public sentiment supported the Corps' continued existence.

President Truman had a notoriously complex and shifting opinion of the Marine Corps, publicly criticizing the institution while ultimately acknowledging its value and relying on it during a time of war. His animosity stemmed from interservice rivalries and the post-World War II push for military unification, but intense public and congressional backlash forced him to apologize and acknowledge the Corps' importance.

### The 1950 "Police Force" controversy

In August 1950, shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War, Truman sparked a firestorm of controversy with a letter to Congressman Gordon L. McDonough. In his letter, Truman referred to the Marine Corps as "the Navy's police force" and stated that "they have a propaganda machine that is almost equal to Stalin's".

While serving as Army Chief of Staff and later as president, Dwight D. Eisenhower was openly hostile toward the Marine Corps, frequently attempting to diminish its size and role. He felt the country could not afford two land armies and worried the Marines were duplicating the Army's mission. He even wrote in private letters that he wanted to abolish the Marine Corps altogether but feared public backlash.

### Eisenhower's pre-presidential efforts to limit the Marine Corps

During the post-World War II period, a push for military unification led to a significant interservice rivalry. As Army Chief of Staff, Eisenhower led a campaign to restrict the Marine Corps' mission and size.

- **Limiting missions:** Eisenhower sought to relegate the Marines to minor naval raids and security details, arguing that the Army had demonstrated its capability for large-scale amphibious assaults during the war.
- **Consolidating aviation:** He proposed merging Marine aviation into naval aviation or transferring it to the Air Force.
- **Cutting personnel:** Eisenhower suggested severely limiting the size of the Marine Corps

to between 50,000 and 60,000 men, a fraction of its wartime strength, with no expansion in case of war. This would have also effectively eliminated the Marine Corps Reserve.

### Post-WWII Disbandment Efforts

- **Truman Administration:** After World War II, President Truman and his Secretary of Defense, Louis Johnson, seriously considered disbanding the Marine Corps, viewing its amphibious role as obsolete and advocating for a more streamlined, bomber-focused Air Force-centric military structure.
- **National Security Act of 1947:** The Eisenhower-Spaatz proposal, outlined in JC 1478 papers, aimed to reduce the Marine Corps to smaller units, limit its wartime expansion, and confine its missions to guarding naval ships and minor shore operations. This proposal was influential in the discussions around National Security 1947, although it did not result in the Marine Corps' elimination.

### Why the Marine Corps Endures

- **Public Support:** Despite arguments for its disbandment, the American people have consistently supported the Marine Corps, leading to the preservation of the service.
- **Distinctive Role:** The Marine Corps' unique role as a combined air-ground force with specialized amphibious capabilities continues to be valued.

Sources: *US Naval Institute*

*Marine Corps University*

*Greg Pawklik, Detachment Historian*

### **HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE THE CORPS?**

On this 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Marine Corps, your Skuttlebutt Newsletter editor asked the officers of Detachment 154, how do they celebrate the Corps. Here's what they had to say.....

"I celebrate the Corps by continuing to wear the tie clip I was issued in boot camp every time I get dressed up and wear a tie. Although the EGA symbol is relatively small on the tie clip, it is still noticed by some people I meet with when wearing it."

Justin Kane, Sr Vice

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As I reflect on the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our mighty United States Marine Corps, I contemplate "How do you celebrate the Corps?" Well anyone who knows me, understands how proud I am of the title we all earned, United States Marine, and proud of being a highly skilled scout sniper (8541) during my active duty. Half of my

wardrobe it seems has the USMC logo emblazoned on shirts, shorts, sweatshirt hoodies, coats...you name it! I celebrate every day, but on November 10<sup>th</sup>, I always reach out to a small handful of Marines I've keep close to my heart over the years, and wish them "happy birthday". Ooh-rah!

Nate Jolliff, Commandant

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Besides attending a birthday celebration with other Marines, I celebrate the birthday by sending a birthday email to a lot of the Marines I served with. I also make phone calls to the Marines that I associated the closest with and helped my career throughout my 24 years serving.

As for other than the day of the birthday, the values and lessons learned from my parents and the Corps, guide me every day. Mission accomplishment, work hard, treat people with respect, take care of yourself and your Marines (and in my civilian job, my firefighters), keep learning, and when the s\*\*\* hits the fan, stay calm, work the challenge and move forward.

As I learned from Captain Leo Williams III (retired as a MajGen) I served with, "There are no problems, just new challenges."

"Everyday is a holiday, every meal is a feast and every formation is a family reunion". Learned that one from Angelo Lema back in 1977. Happy 250th Birthday Semper Fi!

Gary Micu, Sergeant at Arms

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How do I celebrate the Corps? ...little things every day. I fly the flag and things in my everyday life. I still make sure my shirt, belt buckle and trousers are all in alignment. Trousers length is with a slight break on top of my shoes. Small things that were beaten into to me in boot camp and are still there fifty years later.

Don Lyon, Paymaster

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I celebrate the Corps by supporting our Detachment 154, quoting the Sergeant at Arms... "as my circumstances allow" ... Attending meetings and activities like the summer picnic, publishing the Skuttlebutt newsletter every month. For me I think, isn't that the least I can do?

Elaine Arnold, Newsletter Editor



Skuttlebutt readers, Gary Nummer, Paul Glesen, Mike Giffer

## A Message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps 10 November 2025

Two hundred and fifty years ago, before our Nation declared its independence, a small group of men gathered in Philadelphia and formed a Corps of Marines. From that moment, our story has been bound to the story of America itself. A quarter of a millennium later, Marines remain at the center of our Nation's defense. Ready to fight, ready to win, and ready to uphold the trust placed in us since 1775.

Across centuries, Marines have fought on distant shores and in desperate battles, earning a reputation for discipline, toughness, and valor. From the Revolution to the World Wars, from Chapultepec to today's operations across the globe, every generation has proven worthy of the title Marine. They secured liberty, defended allies, and carried forward the promise of a free Nation, and a free world. We are the heirs of that legacy, and we are its stewards.

This anniversary reminds us that our standards are the foundation of our Corps. Honor, Courage, and Commitment are not abstractions, but the code that binds us to one another and to all who went before. Every Marine, in every clime and place, must hold true to these values. The conflicts ahead will demand nothing less.

I could not be prouder of the Marines I see serving today. At home, at sea, and across the globe, you carry forward our proud traditions with skill and ferocity. It is your discipline, initiative, and fighting spirit that anchor our Corps. The battles of the next 250 years will challenge us in new ways, but I have no doubt we will prevail. Happy Birthday, Marines! Semper Fidelis,

Eric M. Smith  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps



## AUXILIARY NEWS

October's Installation was a real success. Cathy Rayl, current Department of Michigan President was kind enough to serve as our Installing Officer. We all appreciated her attendance which added to our Installation Ceremony. Cathy also awarded us with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department for our past activities. Our Auxiliary may be small in size, but we are big in getting things done. Cathy's husband, Ray Rayl, past Department Commandant, installed the



Detachment Officers. We really appreciated Cathy's and Ray's attendance. Our ceremony went off beautifully. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank our current Auxiliary Officers. It's a big commitment to accept a position of trust in our Auxiliary, but without that commitment we wouldn't have an Auxiliary. After the ceremonies were over, we enjoyed a tasty dinner and an evening of

socializing. The Detachment brought the main course and we added the desserts and appetizers. Thank you to all who pitched in to make this event the success that it was.

Our Buddy's Pizza fundraiser was a success. A number of us gathered for a fun time of pizza, pasta and libations at the Buddy's on Hayes in Shelby Township. We appreciated everyone who set aside time to attend and help us raise funds for our charities. I think our chaplain, Nancy Haase went above and beyond the call of duty. She was there for lunch with a few of her friends and then came back with Jr. Vice Maureen Ailor for dinner. I guess you just can't get enough Buddy's pizza.

Our November meeting is the last meeting before our Marine Corps Birthday Celebration on Monday, November 10, 2025. If you want to donate any items or gift cards for the Auxiliary Basket Raffle, this is the time to do it. If you have any empty baskets, we can use them. If you have any questions about what to donate, contact Auxiliary Treasurer Irene Spooner at 5865-466-5708.

Here are the particulars concerning the buffet at the birthday party. The Detachment is supplying the

main course. We are asked to bring side dishes and appetizers only. We can discuss who's bringing what at the November meeting. Detachment and Auxiliary member Christine Tonegatto-Salo is bringing the desserts that are being donated by Sam's Club and Walmart. The doors open at 4 pm and we'll be serving the SOS as soon as the doors open. The buffet will be ready at 5 pm. **If you plan to bring a dish, please have it there by 5pm.** The ceremonies which include the annual Commandant's message, recognizing the oldest and youngest Marine present and the cake cutting ceremony start at 6:30 pm. The cost this year is \$15 per person which includes 2 drinks. This is the first cost increase the Detachment has ever made. Wristbands

will be issued at the door which is another first. I understand the Detachment will be selling souvenir 250<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday rock glasses. Our Basket Raffle will follow the ceremonies as usual. Let's make this the best Birthday Party ever. We're celebrating 250 years of Marine Corps pride, so it has to be the best. Semper Fidelis!

The day after our party is **Veterans Day**, November 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll meet at **Clinton Grove Cemetery** to lay wreaths. We will gather at **10:30**, ceremony begins at 11 am. The uniform of the day is Auxiliary cover, red auxiliary or blue Department jacket, if you have one and black pants. Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day celebrating the end of World War I. The Armistice with Germany was signed November 11, 1918. This is remembered as being signed the "11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. World War I was called the "War to End All Wars" and "the Great War". Sadly, we know this wasn't meant to be seeing the many conflicts our country has endured. The name of this holiday was officially changed to Veterans Day, a day honoring all U.S. veterans, by Congress on June 1, 1954.

Auxiliary President Alice Lyon attended the Fall Staff meeting a few weeks ago in Flint. Topics of the meeting that will be discussed at our next meeting will include recruiting and keeping up with our reports.

It's not too early to think about Christmas or is it? We're just getting done with Halloween and stores have their Christmas displays already. Whatever happened to Thanksgiving?!? Anyway, keep in mind that December is our Detachment and Auxiliary Christmas Party. We collect for Toys for Tots, so remember to bring a toy to the December meeting. Just giving everyone an early heads-up. More party details in next month's Skuttlebutt.

That's it for now. See you at our November meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

*Irene Spooner, Treasurer  
Macomb County Unit, MCLA*

**MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT**  
 Department of Michigan  
 Marine Corps League  
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