



## DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Our next monthly meeting will be: **18 December 2019**

---

**244<sup>rd</sup> United States Marine Corps Birthday Cake  
Cutting Celebration**



Robert Graves, David Jensen, Nancy Lukasik, Jeanne Mosteller, Linda Miller, and Eddie Mosteller socializing before the start of the Cake Cutting.





Stephen Price, Amy Grinde, Lois Price and Ray Miller socializing before the start of the ceremony.



Ray Miller, Robert Graves and David Jensen.

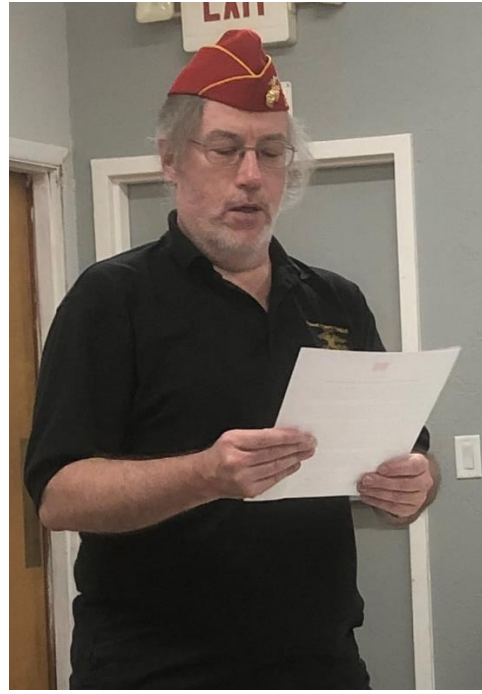
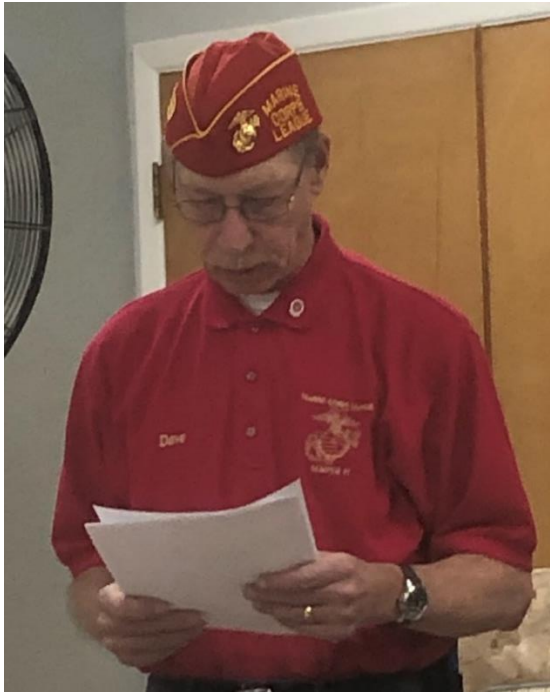


Junior Vice Stephen Price and Senior Vice Peter Bock (Photo Left); Lois Price, Amy Grinde, Jeanne & Eddie Mosteller, Thad & Nancy Lukasik, Linda Miller, Mike & Debbie Barker, Robert Graves, Commandant Dave Huber, Walter (Walt) Zajac preparing for the start of the ceremony (Photo right).



James (sitting) & Barb Swogger; and Steve Kanaga listening to ceremony (Photo Right).





Detachment Commandant Dave Huber reading the Birthday Message from Marine Corps Commandant Major General John A. LeJeune (Photo Left). Detachment Senior Vice Commandant Peter Bock reading the Birthday Message from Marine Corps Commandant General David H. Berger (Photo Right).



Commandant Dave Huber with the Youngest Marine present Matt Scott (43) {0311 Infantry & Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team (Fast)} and the Oldest Marine present Walter (Walt) Zajac (86) {1950-1954; 6413 Aircraft Mechanic; Korea 1951 – 1952}[Photo Left]. Matt Scott making the first cut of the cake, as Mike & Debbie Barker, Steve Kanaga and Rudy Grein look on [Photo right].



Walter (Walt) Zajac makes the second cut of the cake as Matt Scott and then Karen Reeves look on.



Commandant Dave Huber presents a piece of cake to the oldest and youngest Marines.





**The oldest Marine present went to Walter (Walt) Zajac (age 86), and the youngest Marine present went to detachment member Matt Scott (43). They are served first and take the first bites of the cake.**



**Everyone enjoying some United States Marine Corps 244<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake.**

Here is the Commandant's Birthday Message that was not printed in the November newsletter.



10 November 2019

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

This year, the Marine Corps celebrates 244 years of warfighting excellence and uncommon valor. United States Marines define the world's image of elite warrior-citizens. We take great pride in the legacy built by those who came before us and in carrying that legacy into the future. Capabilities, battlefields, and adversaries change, and Marines continue to adapt to every challenge – prepared to fight and win wherever and whenever our Nation calls. What does not change is the Marine spirit – a warrior spirit rooted in our core values.

The strength of our Corps is our Marines. Our success depends on all Marines embodying the values in which our Corps was founded; it requires leveraging the talents and ingenuity of every Marine to strengthen our Corps. Since 1775, courageous Marines have answered the call to fight for freedom and shaped our reputation as the most feared fighting force the world has seen. Marines from each generation approached every battle with a lethal combination of versatility, perseverance, and adaptability that has allowed us to prevail in any clime and place.

Throughout the 244-year history of the Marine Corps, our Nation has required Marines to adapt capabilities and fighting styles to defeat adversaries in all domains. The Marines who took to the seas with naval counterparts to combat the Barbary Pirates solidified our role as a naval expeditionary force-in-readiness. World War I saw Marines fighting sustained land campaigns and returning from those battles to immediately begin redesigning how to go to war. Those innovations laid the foundation for the amphibious landings of World War II. Combat operations in Korea and Vietnam brought harsh climates and unforgiving terrains that again forced Marines to adapt and overcome. In Iraq and Afghanistan, urban battlefields and counterinsurgency tactics demanded innovations in warfighting strategies and capabilities. Today, we find ourselves once again facing new and evolving threats in different operational environments. Like our predecessors, we will move forward with the lessons learned from past conflicts while redesigning the force and innovating for future conflict with any adversary who dares to fight.

Marines, congratulations on 244 years of excellence. Like the first birthday message published by 13th Commandant General John Lejeune in 1921, this message serves as a reminder of the legacy we are charged with upholding. Today is our day to celebrate our heritage and to honor the sacrifices of those who fought before us. It is also a day to recommit ourselves to our core values and resolutely pursue the strength of character that defines United States Marines. And it is a day to look toward future battlefields, to prepare to uphold the distinguished warfighting legacy of our predecessors wherever our Nation calls.

Happy Birthday, Marines!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Berger".

David H. Berger  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

---

**A Special THANK YOU to the VFW Post, Springfield, Oregon for hosting our  
Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony.**





## **CHAPLAIN & CORPSMAN**



**Ray Miller** – Ray attended the 244<sup>th</sup> United States Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony at the VFW on 10 November 2019, and the November meeting. Ray is moving around without the use of the walker. Outstanding progress Ray. Keep up the recovery.

**Lois Price** – Lois is scheduled to have a medical procedure to remove an area of skin cancer (not melanoma) from the top of her head.



**Nancy Lukasik** – Nancy was missed at the November meeting due to have a “cold.”

**Please keep Ray & Lois (and Stephen), and Nancy in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with these medical concerns and their recovery.**

---

## *NEW MEMBERS & GUEST*



During the November meeting, recent NEW MEMBER Tom Yackley was presented with his Marine Corps League Membership Pin from Emerald Empire Detachment #917 Commandant Dave Huber. Tom served as an Artillery Officer, and also an Aerial Observer in an OV-10 Bronco (among many other assignments during his Marine Corps Career).





Recent Guest Rudy Grein submitted his application for Membership to the Marine Corps League. Rudy's application was voted on by the members of the Emerald Empire Detachment #917 who were present at the November 2019 meeting. Rudy was unanimously accepted as the newest member of Emerald Empire Detachment #917. Rudy served in the Marine Corps from 1986 – 1989 as a Ground Support Equipment Mechanic at Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, California attaining the rank of Corporal. Rudy was medically discharged when a knee injury/surgery did not go well.



Justin Bahler attended the November meeting as a guest of Rudy Grein. Justin and Rudy both work at the Cottage Grove, Oregon, Dodge/Jeep Dealership. Justin served in the United States Marine Corps from 2004 –

2014/2015 at Camp Pendleton, California. He served 4 deployments to Iraq & Afghanistan. Justin's MOS was 6114 – Helicopter Mechanic.

Please give Tom Yackley, and Rudy Grein, an outstanding WELCOME ABOARD when you see them. We also hope and look forward with anticipation that Justin Bahler will decide to also apply for membership into the detachment.

---

## *Good of the League Announcements*

- December 7<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) the Springfield Christmas Parade will be taking place. This is one of the large toys gathering events. Detachment Commandant Dave Huber will again be driving his reindeer sleigh for toy collection. Dave has requested as many members as possible that can assist with collecting the toys from the crowd. Ray Miller was the only one who participated last year but with his back-surgery recovery more participants are needed. A request has also gone out for Young Marine support. Anyone who plans to participate should contact Commandant Dave Huber at his contact information at the end of this newsletter.
- Toys for Tots Distribution for 2019 has been set for: 13 (Friday/Set-up), 14 (Saturday/Distribution), 15 (Sunday/Distribution) December 2019 at the Reserve Center. They are already starting to drop off boxes – but the Marines will be short-handed this year so there is going to be an increased work load for the Marine Corps League.
- The final bills from the United State Marine Band concert have been received and paid. The outstanding bills are now at ZERO. There is approximately \$4,000.00 that will be distributed to other worthy non-profits in the future. \$750.00 was approved by vote of the members to go to the South Eugene High School AXE ANGELS (a non-profit providing assistance to South Eugene high school students to cover costs associated with their high school education). South Eugene High School went above-and-beyond in providing the venue, at a very reasonable cost,



to Emerald Empire Detachment #917 so we could Sponsor the United States Marine Band.

- Detachment Commandant Dave Huber spoke with Dr. LeBow of Veteran's Legacy. Veteran's Legacy is currently interviewing for the 1<sup>st</sup> full time resident.
- The Emerald Empire Young Marines have their Public Service Announcement (PSA) ready to go, and they will be airing it on KPNW and several other area stations. The Young Marines are looking for Young Marine participants and Adult Leaders. The PSA will also be posted on the Emerald Empire Detachment #917, Marine Corps League, website so check it out.
- Toys for Tots is well underway. They have already had their 1<sup>st</sup> Toy Collection at the Bi-Mart on Willakenzie. This was followed up by the event at Cabela's where they had a fire truck, ambulance, Eugene Police Department Sergeant with his patrol vehicle, and a Springfield Police Department display along with a K-9 Unit. Those who donated toys received rides in/on the emergency vehicles. The Marines delivered Santa to the event in a 5-ton truck. The event was a success and will most likely be repeated next year. This event replaces the one that use to take place at ShopKo in previous years.
- The League will be providing food service for the Marines and Core Volunteers during the 2 days of toy distribution at the Reserve Center, Springfield, Oregon. Please refer to the previously forwarded email from Joy Cavin.

---

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



18 December – Peter Bock

22 December – Norman Hart

23 December – James McKee **Deceased**

**Take a moment to remember those who will celebrate, or would have celebrated, their birthdays during the month of December.**

---

## **Emerald Empire Detachment #917 Advertising Pens**



The pens are available to detachment members for \$1.00 each pen. This covers the cost of the pens and earns the detachment approximately 23 cents per pen.



The pens are for handing out to Marines, Corpsmen, Chaplains, and persons we want to try and recruit for membership.



---

## **HATS & VISORS**

Eagle, globe, anchor & “Semper Fi” White Sun visors and Black Marine Corps League hats – FOR SALE - \$5.00 each – What a Deal

---

## **DETACHMENT COINS / CHIPS**



Available for \$1.50 each which off-sets the cost of buying them and earns the detachment 45 cents on each one purchased. They are available for purchase in-person during the monthly meetings and from the detachment paymaster.

You can carry one on you as your representation of the detachment when “challenged.” You can also give them out to Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains, and persons who may want to be associate members as recruiting tools; or as gifts to family, friends, and acquaintances who are veterans themselves.

---

## **EMERALD EMPIRE DETACHMENT # 917** **OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Commandant Dave Huber  
(C) (541) 554-1894  
[dave\\_huber@outlook.com](mailto:dave_huber@outlook.com)

Junior-Vice Commandant Stephen Price  
(541) 741-1772  
[lostrose7@msn.com](mailto:lostrose7@msn.com)

Adjutant Raymond J. Miller  
(H) (541) 689-9456  
[ray.miller.usmc@gmail.com](mailto:ray.miller.usmc@gmail.com)

Chaplain Nancy Lukasik  
(541) 461-1160  
[nlukasik@comcast.net](mailto:nlukasik@comcast.net)

Sgt-at-Arms Debbie Barker  
(541) 746-9295  
[topbranchor@q.com](mailto:topbranchor@q.com)

Senior Vice-Commandant Peter Bock  
(541) 799-8446  
[sr32mason@yahoo.com](mailto:sr32mason@yahoo.com)

Judge Advocate Thad Lukasik  
(541) 461-1160  
[thadlukasik42@comcast.net](mailto:thadlukasik42@comcast.net)

Paymaster Lois J. Price  
(541) 741-1772  
[lostrose7@msn.com](mailto:lostrose7@msn.com)

Web-Master Debbie Barker  
(541) 746-9295  
[topbranchor@q.com](mailto:topbranchor@q.com)

Springfield BPOE Elks Lodge #2145  
1701 Centennial Blvd Springfield, OR 97477  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month

**Dinner @ 1800 hours**

**Meeting Starts @ 1900 hours**

Mailing address:  
**Emerald Empire Detachment #917**  
**PO Box 70455 Springfield, OR 97475**

Detachment E-mail Address:  
[mcldet917@gmail.com](mailto:mcldet917@gmail.com)

Detachment Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-League-Det-917/214059775343828>

Detachment Web Site: [www.mcl917.org](http://www.mcl917.org)

Department Web Site: <http://www.mcl-oregon.org>

National Website: [www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org)