

# OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Our next monthly meeting will be: **16 October 2019**

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# “THE PRESIDENT’S OWN” UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

## FREE CONCERT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8 | 7:30 P.M.

SOUTH EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL

GYMNASIUM | 400 19TH AVENUE, EUGENE

DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 P.M.; TICKET HOLDERS SEATED BY 7:15 P.M.

FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: [MARINEBAND.TICKETLEAP.COM](http://MARINEBAND.TICKETLEAP.COM)

LARGE BAGS NOT PERMITTED

THIS CONCERT IS  
SPONSORED BY:



AT 7:15 P.M., NON-TICKET HOLDERS  
ADMITTED ON FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

[WWW.MARINEBAND.MARINES.MIL](http://WWW.MARINEBAND.MARINES.MIL)

 /marineband

 @marineband

 @usmarineband

The 3 people who have contacted Thad Lukasik about working should arrive per those discussions.

Thanks to Senior-Vice Commandant Peter Bock for doing a donation presentation to the Masonic Eugene Lodge #11 and the Masonic McKenzie River Lodge #195. They have donated a combined \$1,000.00 toward the United States Marine Band.

Peter kept at it and did a presentation to the Eugene Scottish Rite Mason's. They have donated \$525.00 toward the United States Marine Band.

**Outstanding work Peter!!!!**

As of 25 September 2019 – 1,613 Tickets Had Been Sold

As of 30 September 2019 – 2,026 tickets distributed (out of 2,340 – the 30% overprint).

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# **IN MEMORY OF:**

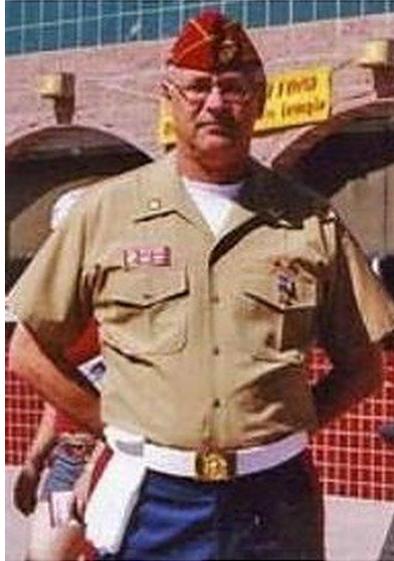
Robert Mason Shirley

Sergeant, United States Marine Corps

23 August 1955 – 28 August 2019

Age 64





2007 NamJam in Tucson AZ

Sgt Robert Shirley was a proud Marine and very humble about his peacetime service. One of his greatest pleasures was to be part of the Color Guard in the Marine Corps League. Robert was a member of the Tucson Detachment 007, Charter Member of Nighthawk 72 Marana Detachment 1344 and was serving as Judge Advocate at the Emerald Empire Detachment until August 28, 2019. The Marine Corps League will miss your participation.

Carl Byron

September 18, 2019 | Phoenix, AZ | Friend

Courtesy of Legacy.com Guestbook





I was notified on 28 August 2019 by Detachment Commandant Dave Huber, Detachment Adjutant Ray Miller, and Junior Vice-Commandant Stephen Price that Robert Shirley had passed away during the morning of 28 August 2019.

Dave had received a call from Robert's daughter Kelsey informing him of Robert's passing. This seemed to be very sudden, and I thought very unexpected since I did not know of any medical concerns for Robert. However, Kelsey informed Dave that Robert did have a heart condition that he was very private about. Kelsey also informed Dave that Robert's passing was connected to a Cardiac Event.

Detachment Chaplain Nancy Lukasik sent a Condolence Card on behalf of the Detachment to Kelsey and the family.

**Graveside Service was held on  
Monday September 23, 2019  
at 12:30 PM**



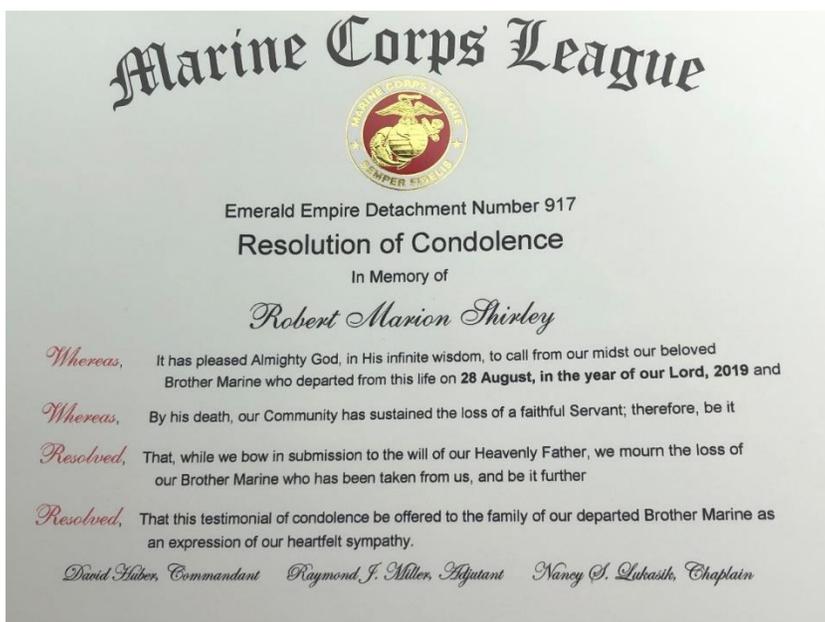
WILLAMETTE NATIONAL CEMETERY  
SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR  
9/23/2019

\*\*DO NOT PROCEED TO STAGING AREA ANY MORE THAN 20 MINUTES PRIOR TO SERVICE TIME\*\*

SERVICE TIME	NAME	STAGING AREA
9:30	WILMARTH, CHARLES	2
10:00	FISHER, JOHN	1
10:30	BANKS, NICHOLAS	2
11:00	REYNOLDS, DICK & EVA	4
11:00	OWENS, EDITH	1
11:30	MITCHELL, GORDON	2
12:30	SHIRLEY, ROBERT	4
1:00	EDWARDS, FLORENCE	2
1:00	BATTS, ELIZABETH	1
1:30	CULLISON, CECILIA	4
1:30	HUTCHINSON, ROBIN	2
2:00	KAHL, JAMES	4
2:00	HITT, GENE	1

Those that may wish to visit Robert's resting place should contact the Willamette National Cemetery. The staff will be able to provide the location and advise if the final marker plate has been installed.

A Celebration of Life was held following the graveside service at the Sandy River Airport and the Event Center Aviators Landing, Sandy, Oregon.



Emerald Empire Detachment Commandant Dave Huber reads the Resolution of Condolence from Emerald Empire Detachment #917 to the family during the Celebration of Life.

Detachment Commandant Dave Huber, Detachment Sgt-At-Arms/Web-Master Debbie Barker, Detachment Paymaster Lois Price, and Detachment Members Mike Barker, Ronald Cooper, Sr., and Paul Grinde attended the Service and the Celebration of Life. Also shown is Terry Byron.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division Association Honor Guard participated in the Graveside Service rendering Honors, presenting the family with a card signed by the participating association members, and an information sheet explaining the 13 Folds of the Flag presented by the United States Marine Corps Honor Guard which unfolded & displayed the flag, folded the flag, presented the flag to the family, and played Taps.

# Celebrating

The Life of



## Robert Shirley

Aug 23, 1955 - Aug 28, 2019

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Your life was a blessing  
Your memory a treasure  
You are loved beyond words  
And missed beyond measure

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Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 1:30pm  
Sandy River Airport  
42313 SE Oral Hull Rd  
Sandy, OR 97055



## It Matters Not

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Into the frivolous,  
furious fray  
Come on, my boys,  
it's a glorious day!  
We're marching to  
battle with heads  
held high  
It matters not  
that we must die

Youth and love  
we leave to others  
We'll be weary,  
bloodstained brothers  
For freedom  
is bought  
at painful cost  
It matters not  
our lives are lost

Our country calls,  
the bugles blow!  
Come on, my boys,  
It's time to go  
Life is cruel,  
But we'll soon sleep  
It matters not  
our widows weep

**- Robert Shirley -**



## September Morn

By Robert Shirley

The towers stood in the morning light  
Symbols of America's wealth and might  
Tall and straight and proud they rose  
Stronger than any of freedom's foes

But hate was on the wing that morn  
And life is cheap to those who scorn  
The ideals Americans hold so dear  
These men would have us live in fear

First one aircraft, and then another  
The towers swallowed them each with a shudder  
Unbelieving, we watched in pain  
As each gleaming column erupted in flames

Plumes of thick, black smoke roiled high  
Corrupting what had been a perfect, blue sky  
In horror we watched, mouths agape  
As people plunged earthward, the only escape

On the streets far below, help soon arrived  
Policemen and firemen gave their own lives  
To save as many as could be saved  
Each of those heroes so selfless and brave

Then one of the towers, consumed by a cloud  
Stood there no more that had once stood so proud  
The other soon followed in hellish descent  
And the pride of a nation lay shattered and spent

Yet just for a moment, for out of that grave  
A symbol would fly and defiantly wave  
At the end of a pipe our flag was unfurled  
And the strength of our freedom we showed to the world

To friend and to foe let it oft be repeated  
We have been bloodied, but not defeated  
A new truth was born of that conflagration  
You can bring down a building, but not a great nation

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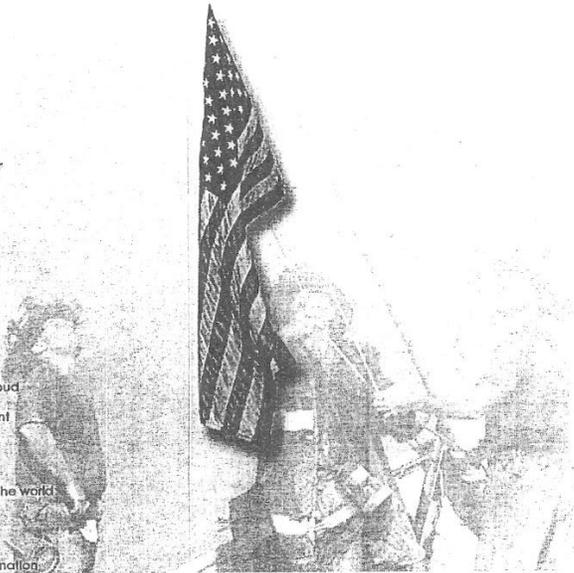
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Robert was a concert lover, reader, and a poet. His poem “It Matters Not” was even published in the “The Colors of Life, The International Library of Poetry.” The poem shown above was written by Robert following the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 attack and is provided courtesy of Terry Byron & the Honorable Judge Greg Gill (Eugene Municipal Court).

No 207  
**ROBERT M. SHIRLEY**  
 September 23, 2019 • 12:30 pm  
 VETERAN SECTION  
 Willamette National Cemetery  
 Portland, Oregon  
 64 25A 1  
 Sec Row Seat

MUSGROVE MORTUARY WITH WILLIAMETTE NATIONAL CEMETERY  
 PRESENTS

**ROBERT MASON ARCHIBALD SHIRLEY**

**FAREWELL TOUR • 8-28-19**

**AUG.**  
**25**  
**1955**

MON. MORN. at 12:30 P.M.  
 September 23, 2019

**VETERAN SECTION**  
 PORTLAND, OREGON • NO REFUND



64 25A 1  
 Sec Row Seat  
 No 207

No 459  
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 Willamette National Cemetery  
 Portland, Oregon  
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**ROBERT MASON ARCHIBALD SHIRLEY**

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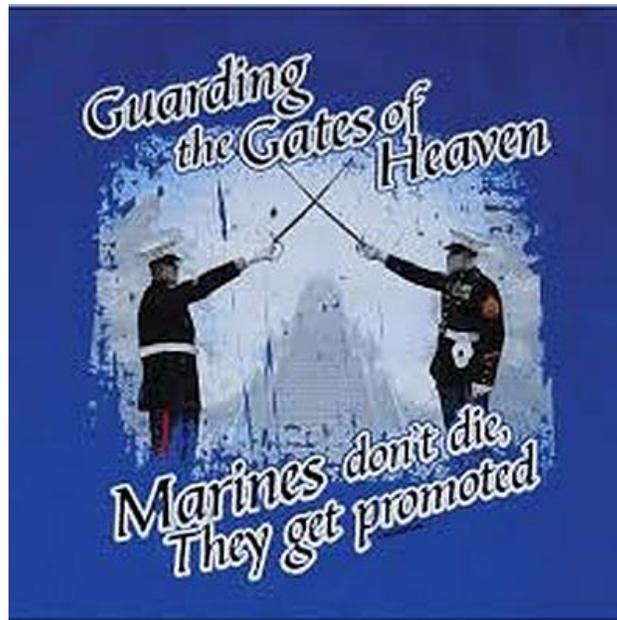
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**VETERAN SECTION**  
 PORTLAND, OREGON • NO REFUND



64 25A 1  
 Sec Row Seat  
 No 459



**SEMPER FI ROBERT – YOU HAVE A NEW DUTY  
 STATION - MARINE BARRACKS DUTY ON  
 HEAVEN'S SCENE**

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# **IN MEMORY OF:**

Edward (Eddie, Ed) DeWayne Lagrone  
16 March 1966 – 19 August 2019  
(Age 53)



It is with continued sadness that we lost a former detachment member, and former co-worker of mine, Edward (Eddie, Ed) LaGrone.

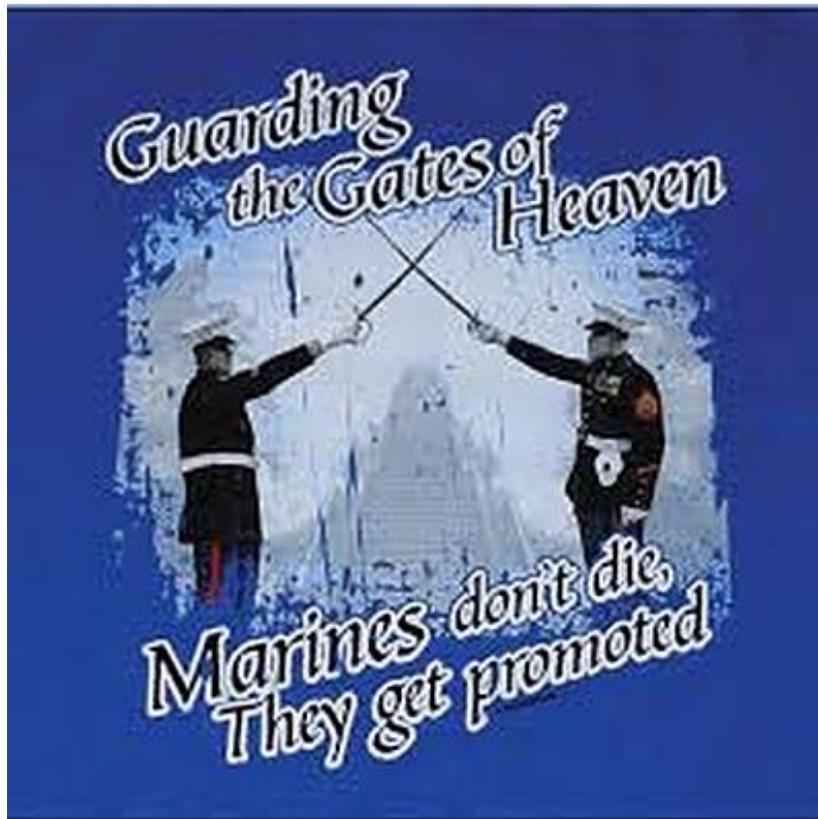
There was no obituary, and by the time we learned of Eddie's passing, the Military Honors Graveside Service {6 September 2019 (Friday), 1 P.M.} at the Roseburg National Cemetery, Roseburg, Oregon and the Celebration of Life, Saturday, September 7th, 2019 at 3pm, First Baptist Church of Junction City, Oregon had already occurred. During the Military Honors part of the service the playing of taps was done by a good friend and former co-worker of Ed's (Loren Corner).

Eddie worked for and retired from the Lane County Sheriff's Office, Lane County, Oregon.

Eddie is survived by his sons Dillon (USMC) and Ben. Detachment Chaplain Nancy Lukasik is attempting to make contact with Dillon.



Plot: Section Cold Row C Site 22



**SEMPER Fi Eddie– you have a new duty station - Marine Barracks Duty on Heaven's scene**

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# “Calm Seas and Fair Winds” to Eddie & Jeanne Mosteller



The 18 September 2019 meeting was the last one for Eddie & Jeanne before heading out for the great state of South Carolina. As the cake above read...You Will Be Missed!

Eddie made an emotional thank you to Mike Barker for Changing the Quality of Their Lives with Mike's expertise in Veteran Benefits.

We Wish Them Safe Travels and a Successful Search for Their New Home.



I reminded Eddie that he knows where our website is (since he started it) so they can keep in touch, and he has all of our email addresses.

If you are planning a future trip to the East Coast you have Marine Corps League friends in South Carolina and to look them up.

On September 6, Eddie along with Lois & Stephen Price, Kelli & Craig Myers, and Paul Grinde went fishing aboard the Gracie K out of Newport, Oregon. We informally called this the Eddie Mosteller “Farewell Tour.”

Needless to say, we limited out the boat on fish, and we collected and divided 100 crabs between the boat (5 fish per person and 8 crabs per person).

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**CHAPLAIN &**

**CORPSMAN**



**Ray Miller** – Ray is recuperating from his back surgery, and was able to attend the September monthly meeting. At the time of the meeting he was not cleared for driving so Linda is his primary source of transportation at this time.

**Please keep Ray & Linda in your thoughts and prayers as Ray continues to recover.**

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## **Good of the League Announcements**

### **Visitor/New Members**

**Tom Yackley** – I promised to get a photo of Tom and here it is. (see the September 2019 newsletter)



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**Steven Horton** – Steven is a native Texan who married an Oregonian. He served in the USMC from 1999-2019 (20+ years); 16 years in the EOD (Emergency Ordnance Disposal) and 4 years in the Infantry. Steven is married to Rebecca and they have 2 children. He likes to fly fish and is an amateur radio operator. He runs his own landscaping and hard-scaping business. Steven has filled out an application for membership and it will be taken up at the October meeting.



**Rudy Griem** – Rudy served in the USMC for 3 years and was 6072 Ground Support Maintenance in the Air Wing. He is married and has a daughter and granddaughter. Rudy is originally from Washington and served at Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, California (the place with all the old Blimp Hangars). He is now the Parts Manager at the Dodge Dealership in Cottage Grove. Rudy's wife is the HR Vice-President at Bi-Mart. Rudy is considering membership.



So, when you see these three Marines make sure to introduce yourself and give them an Outstanding Welcome Aboard.

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## Announcements

- With the passing of Robert Shirley, Thad Lukasik has volunteered to become the Judge Advocate and Debbie Barker has volunteered to become the Sergeant-At-Arms. They were so appointed by Detachment Commandant Dave Huber at the September meeting to serve in those positions until the next election (June 2020).

Thank You to Thad and Debbie for stepping up in our time of need.

- November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (Sunday) (approximately 1500 hours) the 244<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States Marine Corps will occur. There will be a Cake Cutting Ceremony at the Springfield VFW on Main Street. Details will be available at the October monthly meeting, and released via email and the November newsletter, so keep your eyes peeled and your ears open.
- Detachment Web-Master Debbie Barker has done some updating on the Web Site and the Detachment Facebook page so go check them both out and see the changes.

- Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms, and Web-Master Debbie Barker places a shiny penny upon the First Marine Division Memorial at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon. This is the common meaning of leaving coins on headstones/memorials: A coin left on a headstone lets the deceased soldier's family know that somebody stopped by to pay their respect. Leaving a penny means you visited. A nickel means that you and the deceased soldier trained at boot camp together. If you served with the soldier, you leave a dime. A quarter is very significant because it means that you were there when that soldier died.



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## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



3 October – Russell Smith **Deceased**

3 October – Paul Grinde  
5 October – Chuck Lang  
28 October 1939 – David Denton **Deceased**  
28 October – Nancy Lukasik

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

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## **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.

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## **HATS & VISORS**

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

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## **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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sgt-at-Arms 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)