



Marine Corps League
Pikes Peak Detachment
 P.O. Box 10536
 Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536
www.mclpikespeak.org



Commandant
Russ Miller
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 719-235-1058

Hello Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Associate members, and guests. We had a great 17 January meeting and I wish to say thank you to all who attended. At our January meeting Gunny Gibson was able to give a few much deserved awards to some more of our members that were unable to attend the December awards ceremony. Congratulations again to



Award Presentation (L-R) Doc Evans, John Kowall, Terry Boston, Mark Davis & Gunny Garry Gibson

everyone who makes our Detachment such a fun and rewarding place to invest our time and talents. In addition, thank you for extending a hand of camaraderie to our guests. As Gunny Gibson has repeatedly stated and you will no doubt hear me say often as well, he or any one of us may invite a guest to one of our meetings, but it's everyone else at the meeting that helps them feel welcomed and makes our



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detachment something they want to become a part of. While it is easy to look back over the past few very successful years of parades, erecting of monuments to those who came before us, assisting with Wounded Warrior Games, and cash sales events to raise money to allow us to pursue these endeavors, I believe we need to continue setting our focus on the future of our detachment. As those of us on the bereavement team have become so abundantly aware, the sad reality is, we are losing more and more of our brothers and sisters. It is critical for us to be diligent in securing new members for our Detachment. One way to do so is to

keep an eye out for those Marine Corps license plates; they don't just give those to anybody, only The Few and The Proud or in the case of our wonderful WM's, The Fewer and Prouder. Now I'm not advocating that you follow some poor unsuspecting soul around town for thirty minutes and the second they park run up and bear hug them till their eyes bulge out of the sockets. But when the opportunity arises say Hi, or Semper Fi, or grunt loudly, whatever works to get their attention.



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Now I may be the biggest and ugliest one in the detachment but no one has run away from me screaming, (yet) and every person I have asked if I could forward our newsletter to have said yes. Do they show up at the very next meeting? NOPE. But I learned early on in outside sales that it takes seven approaches to a potential client or customer before the first sale is made. Now if I was as good looking as Garry Gibson or Jim Woods my batting average might be a bit higher. But, you play the cards the good Lord deals you. There are a million ways to skin a cat, and there are probably just as many when it comes to recruiting anyone to the League, but we have to ask ourselves a sobering question, "Will we always be the chiseled Greek-god-like specimens of health and vitality that we are today"? If you came up with the same answer I did, which should not be repeated in polite company, then we need to get after determining which one of the million ways works for each of us and start training up the next couple generations of Marine Corps Leaguers. Next month I will give you a report on the Guide Dogs for Our Heroes Banquet. And please, if you are even remotely considering attending the Colorado Department Convention 11-14 June in Denver, please contact me ASAP for more details. Semper Fi!

Semper Fi, Russ



Senior Vice Commandant
Terry Crum
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Greetings Devil Dogs, Devil Docs and awesome Associates. Thanks are directed to all those that attended the January 2015 Pikes Peak Detachment meeting. The Army brags

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about its tanks, the Air Force talks up their jets, the Navy boasts of its wonderful warships; however, the Corps brags about the Marines that fill the rank and file. It is all about the people. The concept that the U.S. Marine Corps is the finest fighting organization in the world is because of the people whom earned the title "Marine." The reputation of the Corps and the Pikes Peak Detachment is borne from the collective sum of its Marines' performance, their willingness to

the detachment is time well spent and important to seeing the fruits of our labor. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Take care and Semper Fi
Terry Crum



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participate, to go the extra mile, to dedicate themselves to their fellow Marines. No member is unimportant, together Marines hear the recognition of a fire team, squad, and platoon's performance as well as the individual. It takes an individual to inspire others to step up and it takes a team to make an organization stand out! The following events are in our near future and at the next meeting I will be asking for volunteers to make the detachments presence at these events possible: **St Patrick's Day Parade** 14 March 2014, we will need a color guard in dress blues, a banner detail, and side walkers; **Territory Days**, Memorial Day Weekend, May



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23rd – 25th 2015 in Old Colorado City; we will need motivated volunteers to work the booth. We make a little money and we will generate a lot of good will within the community and it is an opportunity to recruit new members. On a closing note, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. The time each of us gives to the good of our community in general and to



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Chaplain's Corner
Russ Miller
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Greetings Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Associates, and Friends; we were glad to see Orlando Rodriguez and Joseph G. Martinez at our January meeting and I ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers for their further recovery and healing. Thank You for the faithful service of our bereavement team to the families of our recently deceased fellow Marines. If you are aware of any of our members, member's families or Marines residing in our community that are sick or in distress, please contact me day or night 719-235-1058 so that we might lift them up in our thoughts and prayers and see how we might otherwise comfort them and be of assistance in their time of need.

Semper Fi,
Russ Miller, Chaplain

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Please send your membership dues (annual renewal) to the Pikes Peak Detachment address (located at the top of the Newsletter).

New Member and Renewal Dues - \$36.00
Think about becoming a Life Member!!!

Life Membership Costs:

- Age 35 - below - \$500.00
- 36 - 50 - \$400.00
- 51 - 64 - \$300.00
- 65 & over - \$200.00

Semper Fi, Denise



Adjutant
 Terry Boston
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 719-393-3141

Minutes of the 17 January 2015 Meeting of the Marine Corps League Pikes Peak Detachment (Note: Draft until accepted at the 21 February

2015 meeting).

- Commandant, Russ Miller opened the 17 January 2015 meeting of the Marine Corps League Pikes Peak Detachment for Official business at 0900 with Salute to Colors and opening prayer. All officers were present.
- Guests / Application for Membership:
 - Brokk Tollafson joined the Marine Corps at 17 and served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom as a 0352, TOW Gunner. His application to join is in!



Brokk Tollafson Speaks to the Members

- Don Rhodes served from 1966-69 with 2nd Marines, 2nd Marine Air Wing and 3rd Marine

Air Wing. After his service, he went to Graduate School and is now retired.



Don Rhodes Speaks to the Members

- We were honored to have Bob Cowan, Past Department Commandant as our guest. Bob was in attendance to conduct a Devil Dog Growl following the meeting.



Bob Cowan Speaks to the Members

- Guest David Owens from the Windsor MCL Detachment in Aurora CO, served from 1968-1977 in Kansas City and Camp Smith as a Data Processor. The Detachment welcomed all and looks forward to new members.



Dave Owens Speaks to the Members

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- Minutes: Commandant Miller made a motion to accept the November minutes, as no business was conducted during the December meeting. Member Barry Farris seconded the motion and the motion carried. Peggy Baldwin made a motion to accept the December minutes. Member Bob Hill seconded the motion and it carried.
- New Correspondence: Conejos County thanked the Detachment for its participation and Toys-for-Tots donations during the Cumbres and Toltec Railroad promotion. Donations provided support to 500 children and the local food bank.
- Report of Officers:
 - Pay Master – Pay Master Denise Wickersheim has the financial report. See her if you have questions or want a copy. Members should provide her change of address information.
 - Chaplain – **The Detachment is still looking for a Chaplain.** Member Pat Thompson is heading-up the phone tree for the bereavement committee. Until the Detachment finds a permanent Chaplain, Commandant Miller will handle Chaplain responsibilities. If you have news of sick or distressed members, let Commandant Miller know.
 - Commandant and Quartermaster – Commandant Miller thanked the Detachment for entrusting him with the responsibilities of the offices he holds.
 - Senior Vice – Sr. Vice Terry Crum provided initial information on the 14 March 2015 St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Color Guard participants are needed. Contact him if you can participate.
 - Junior Vice / Adjutant – Junior Vice Terry Boston announced that someone had left a book on Medals and Awards during a previous meeting and the owner can claim it from her at close of business.
 - Judge Advocate, Sergeant at Arms, and Web Sergeant had nothing significant to report.
- Standing Committees:
 - Toys-for-Tots – Coordinator Russ Miller thanked all those who supported last year’s effort and stated the Cumbres and Toltec Railroad will hold its promotion again this year. He encouraged all to attend. Over 10,000 children in 5 counties were served in 2014. Additionally, a member of the community provided a \$5000.00 donation to T4T which was used to purchase toys. **WELL DONE Russ and to your TEAM!!!**
 - Jim Woods solicited members for the Scholarship Committee. Roger Baty and

Peggy Baldwin volunteered. Bob Cowan imparted information on Department and National scholarships that are available.



Jim Woods discusses the Scholarship Committee

- Unfinished Business:
 - Junior Past Commandant Gibson announced that 73 awards were presented during the December 2014 meeting, and he presented awards for Frank “Doc” Evans, John Kowall, Terry Boston and Mark Davis. These awards were handed-out after the meeting. Gunny also passed that the 2015 event calendar would be passed via email and placed on the Detachment’s website www.mclpikespeak.org



Gunny Gibson discusses Awards and the Event Calendar for 2015

- The Guide Dogs for Heroes benefit dinner and silent auction will occur on 31 January 2015 in Cañon City at the Abbey. There is still one of the 10 seats available for the Detachment. See Commandant Miller, if you are interested.
- New Business: None.
- Good of the League: Bob Cowan mentioned a book on disabled veterans’ benefits is available. If you haven’t done so, look up ebenefits.gov and contact the VA. Web Sgt Roger Baty provided his personal story with the VA, and advised to apply for all potential disabilities – don’t take no for an answer.
- With no additional business at hand, the 50 / 50 drawing was held. Member Peggy Baldwin won

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and donated the winnings to the Scholarship Fund.
 Way to go, Peg!

- With all business completed Commandant Miller closed the meeting at 0940. The next meeting will take place on 21 February 2015.

**Terry P. Boston, Adjutant Marine Corps League,
 Pikes Peak Detachment**



Sergeant-at-Arms
Ron Asmussen
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 719-648-0071

Next Meeting

21 February 2015 0900 at TREA – Come early (0730), drink coffee, eat breakfast and tell stories



January Meeting

Upcoming Events

- Department quarterly meeting - February 28, 2015, American Legion Post #178, Lunch 1130 to 1300, and meeting starts promptly at 1300
- St Patrick's Day Parade 14 March
- Territory Days - Memorial Day Weekend 23-25 May
- Department of Colorado and Rocky Mountain Division Convention – 11-14 June, Denver
- Monument 4th of July Parade – 4 July



Toys for Tots
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Well, we are about to start wrapping up the 2014 Campaign. I want to share a couple of stories with you that really made it all worth the long days and short nights. First, a young Marine Captain and his children dropped by the warehouse one afternoon to drop off some toys they had bought and so the little

crumb crunchers could see there was more to the Marine Corps than just what Daddy does. I was touched by his response when one of them asked why Marines give toys at Christmas. He said, **“cause we can find the little boys and girls that Santa can’t.”** I’m engraving that on a plaque and hanging it over my desk for next year! Second, a young lady called and was adamant that she would not sign up to receive toys but insisted that she be allowed to come and work at the warehouse to “earn” toys for her children. Her husband had recently separated from the Army and one week later she was laid off from her job. They were “getting by” on his separation pay and their savings but just needed a way to provide (not receive) Christmas gifts for their kiddos. She and her neighbor who was in financial straits as well came and spent a day working at whatever we threw their way. Our bins were nearly empty, so we told them we would take them over to a nearby store and they could pick out a couple items and Toys for Tots would pick up the tab. I



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was promptly informed by this wonderful fireball that they weren't done working yet, and that they would let me know when they thought they had earned their toys. Five, 6-7 hour days later, when their children were released from school on Christmas break, they insisted they would find a babysitter so they could continue to come in. I know what you're probably thinking, how many toys did these girls expect to receive? I was as surprised as you are, **ONE!** They both balled their eyes out as we insisted on blessing them with a lot more than one toy. I have one more story but I'm afraid my keyboard will get wet and short out, so maybe next time. The bean counters came and went this past Sunday morning. It was an interesting day as we started off with our numbers matching almost exactly those in the Foundation's software. And then one short tornado of auditor's activity later, poof, 500 toys gone. Don't worry we found them. Probably should move the delete button and enter button further apart. The long and the short of it is..... we are done.

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Everything is packed up, cleaned up, and stored away till early October when we do it all again. And no, I can't wait. Please join us at our February monthly meeting when we will honor some members of our detachment and some of our active duty Marines for their service in the Toys for Tots 2014 Campaign.

Semper Fi, Russ

Quarter Master

Russ Miller

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Much thanks goes out to Trammel Davis, he has stepped up in much the same capacity that I worked last year with Gunny for cash sales. He has graciously offered to man the table at our monthly meetings as well as some of our outside events. After looking at the events calendar for this year and dates where outside cash sales events conflict with our monthly meetings, I have decided to have cash sales at our monthly meetings only in the odd months, Jan., Mar., May., etc....

Semper Fi...Russ



Trammel Davis handles Cash Sales

This Month in History

Dates of Marine Corps Historical Significance

1 February 1967: Operation Prairie II was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed.

2 February 1944: The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.

6 February 1968: Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.

11 February 1922: BGen John H. Russell was appointed U.S. High Commissioner and personal representative of the President to the government of Haiti. This nine-year assignment placed this future Commandant in supreme command of both the occupying American force and the Haitian Gendarmerie.

15 February 1998: One hundred years ago this date, 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship Maine was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. Though no definitive evidence linked the Spanish with the sinking, the cry went up, "Remember the Maine!", and by late April the U.S. and Spain were at war.

17 February 1967: The first full day of Operation DECKHOUSE VI, which lasted until 3 March, was conducted near Quang Ngai city. The Special Landing Force (BLT Y4 and HMM-363) accounted for 280 enemy killed.

23 February 1945: Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short fire-fight with Japanese defenders emerging from several caves, the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island.

24 February 1991: The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm. The 1st and 2d Marine Divisions stormed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses while heavily armored allied forces attacked the Iraqi defenses in Iraq from behind. In 100 hours, U.S. and allied forces defeated the Iraqi Army.

28 February 1991: Operation Desert Storm ended when the cease-fire declared by President George Bush went into effect. I Marine Expeditionary Force has a strength of more than 92,000 making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history. A total of 24 Marines were killed in action during the Gulf War.



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